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Briefing Note

Introduction of Half Burial Plots (Ashes Only) – T Section

For Finance, Governance and Estates Committee 14 May 2026

Introduction

This briefing note proposes the introduction of “half plots” within the cemetery, to be designated as the ‘T Section’. These plots are intended for ashes interments only and are smaller than a full burial plot. They will accommodate up to two sets of ashes and allow for the installation of a full headstone, providing an alternative option for families who prefer a headstone memorial rather than a plaque in the Garden of Rest.

Demand for ashes interments continues to increase. Since the start of 2025, 55% of ashes interments have been placed within burial plots and 45% within the Garden of Rest.

Location and Works Required

It is proposed that up to 14 half plots be created within the ‘S mound’ area, between existing benches, forming the ‘T Section’. Works required:

- Levelling and alignment of existing benches
- Cutting back of vegetation behind the proposed area
- Numbering of plots and updating cemetery records and maps

A quotation for the required works is being obtained from contractors.

Justification

The introduction of half plots provides an additional burial option for ashes interments, responding to increasing demand for memorials with headstone provision.

This option allows families to have a dedicated memorial space without the need to purchase a full burial plot. It is also proposed that the option for ashes interments within full-size burial plots be phased out. This will help ensure that full burial plots are preserved for coffin burials, while still providing suitable alternatives for ashes interments through the Garden of Rest and the proposed half plots. (In a small number of cases ashes are interred on top of a coffin burial and this can continue.)

The proposed pricing level of £375 ensures the half plot option sits appropriately between:

- Garden of Rest interments (£200)
- Full burial plots (£500)

This ensures the option reflects the provision of a dedicated memorial space with headstone rights, without replacing existing Garden of Rest provision, which remains readily available.

Each half plot is expected to generate:

- £375 plot purchase
- £125 second ashes interment (where applicable)
- £185 memorial permit

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee AGREE:

- The introduction of half burial plots within the ‘T Section’, including up to 14 plots within the ‘S mound’ area;
- The proposed pricing level of £375 for 2026/27; and
- That no further sales of full-size burial plots for ashes interments be permitted.

Cemetery map with location of additional half plots

Bench																						
S1	S18	S35	T1																			
S2	S19	S36	T2																			
S3	S20	S37	T3																			
S4	S21	S38	T4																			
S5	S22	S39																				
S6	S23	S40																				
S7	S24	S41																				
S8	S25	S42	T5																			
S9	S26	S43	T6																			
S10	S27	S44	T7																			
S11	S28	S45	T8																			
S12	S29	S46																				
S13	S30	S47																				
S14	S31	S48	T9																			
S15	S32	S49	T10																			
S16	S33	S50	T11																			
S17	S34	S51	T12																			
S56	S54	S52	T13																			
S57	S55	S53	T14																			

Benches to be levelled, vegetation to be cut back. Spaces between benches leaving space in front for a pathway between the S section

