

Leicester  
City Council

Cabinet

WARDS AFFECTED: All

11 May 2009

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## DEVELOPMENT OF BURIAL LAND AT GILROES CEMETERY

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### Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To enable Cabinet to approve the burial land extension scheme of £420,000 included in the 2009/10 Capital programme approved in March 2009.

#### **2 Summary**

- 2.1 Existing developed burial land at Gilroes cemetery will run out within two years. To ensure service continuity a £420,000 scheme was approved by Council in the 2009/10 Capital programme to carry out the necessary infrastructure works to develop a further 10 acres of allocated burial land.
- 2.2 On completion the extension should provide the Cemetery with an additional 12-15 years of new burial space.

#### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Cabinet are recommended to:  
Approve the burial land extension scheme of £420,000 at Gilroes Cemetery which was included in the 2009/10 Capital programme as a scheme approved by the Council but requiring Cabinet approval prior to implementation.
- 3.2 Request a further report setting out the longer term strategic requirements for the provision of land for burials and cremations in the future.

#### **4. Report**

- 4.1 Gilroes cemetery is the largest operational cemetery in Leicester conducting approximately 3,400 cremations and 800 burials a year. While cremation remains the most popular method of disposal of the deceased burial continues to be a preferred choice for several faith communities. Gilroes cemetery offers a choice of burial plots including traditional graves where kerb sets are permitted requiring a higher level of grounds maintenance and lawned graves where kerb sets are not permitted allowing grass mowing to be undertaken more easily.
- 4.2 While alternative burial facilities are provided at Saffron Hill Cemetery, demand for new burial plots at Gilroes cemetery remains constant with approximately 800 burials being conducted annually. Factors determining choice of Cemetery

include geographical location and proximity to family members. At the current rate of burial it is estimated that available land at Gilroes cemetery will be fully utilised within the next two years. To ensure service continuity it is therefore essential to develop a further 10 acres of allocated burial land during 2009 /11.

The works proposed to start in 2009/10 include

- Land drainage and grading
- Road layout design including car parking
- Landscape planting
- Amenity services e.g. water points

4.3 An additional £420,000 has been allocated in the Capital Programme 2010/11 to enable the completion of development of the burial land extension.

## **5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1. Financial Implications**

5.1.1 This scheme require Cabinet approval prior to implementation following its inclusion in the 2009/10 Capital programme.

5.1.2 The scheme cost is based on an estimated cost per acre plus professional fees.

5.1.3 The additional revenue costs including grounds maintenance of approximately £20k pa will be absorbed within the services existing budget.

*Martin Judson, Head of Finance, ext 297390*

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

5.2.1 There are no legal implications. Although, provision of a burial ground is not a statutory requirement, the City Council has powers to provide and regulate cemeteries under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.

*Jeremy Rainbow, Team Leader / Senior Litigation Officer, ext 296369*

## **6. Other Implications**

<b>OTHER IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN THE REPORT</b>
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	4.2
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

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**7. Risk Assessment Matrix**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood L/M/H</b>	<b>Severity Impact L/M/H</b>	<b>Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)</b>
<b>1</b> Development of the additional reserved burial extension land at Gilroes cemetery does not proceed	L	H	If no funding is approved, we will be unable to develop future burial space and consequently continue to provide new burial facilities at Gilroes cemetery
<b>2</b> Budget overrun	M	H	Less burial land would be developed to ensure that costs remain within the allocated budget

L - Low

M - Medium

H - High

L - Low

M - Medium

H - High

**8. Background Papers**

- Local Government Act 1972
- Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977

**9. Consultations**

**Consultee**

Property Services  
Financial Services  
Legal Services

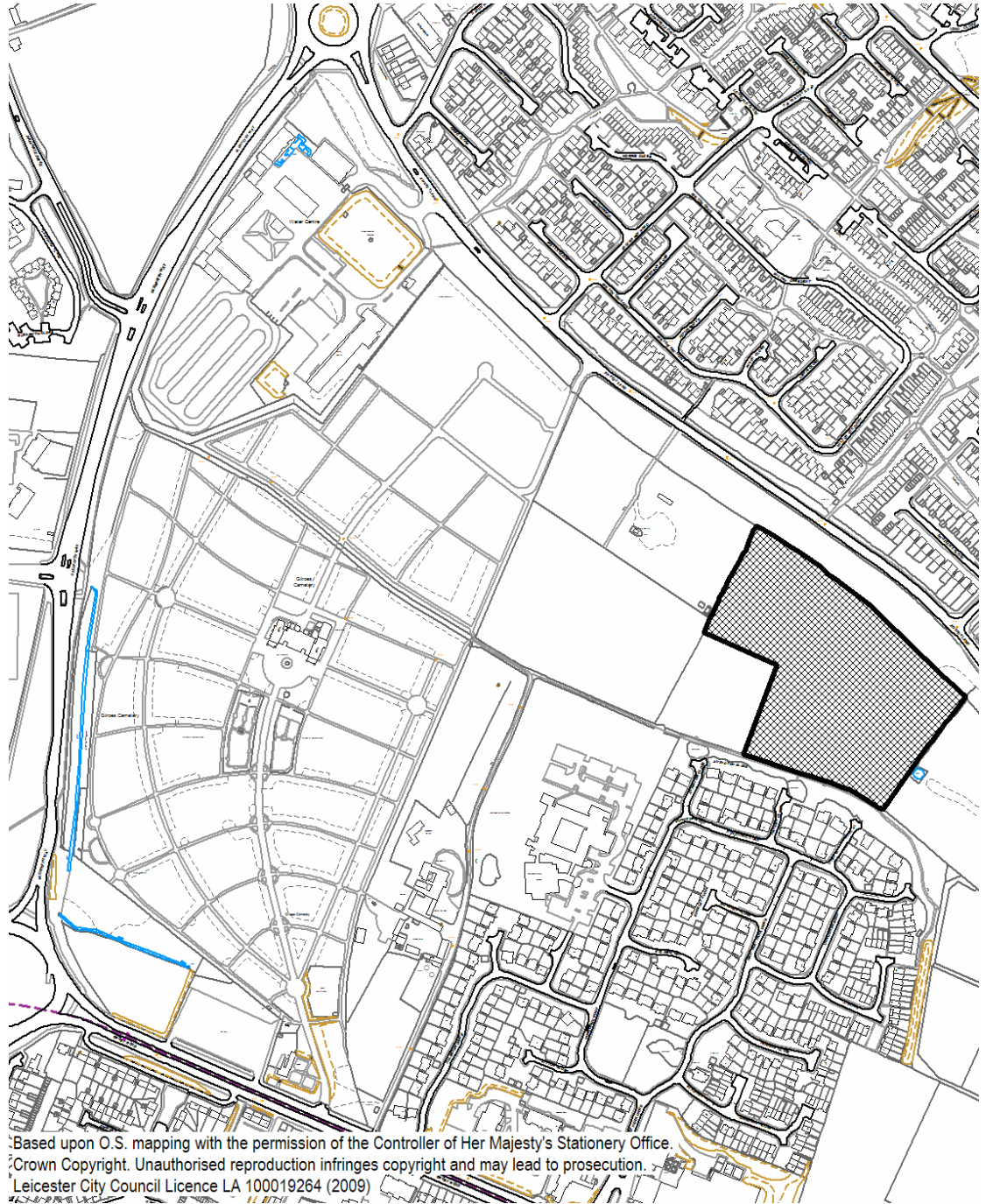
**Date Consulted**

March 2009  
March 2009  
March 2009

**10. Report Author**

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New Walk Centre  
Leicester  
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<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



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