



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Sustainable Burial Options
Date:	2nd December, 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Restricted Report

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention a motion entitled 'Provision of Sustainable Burial Options' which the Standards and Business Committee considered on 20th November.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor T. Brooks, was referred to the Committee for its consideration:
3.2	<u>Provision of Sustainable Burial Options</u> <i>"That this Council recognises the significant environmental impact of traditional burial and cremation practices, including high carbon emissions, chemical pollution, and long-term land use challenges, as highlighted in the All-Party Group on Climate Action's briefing paper "Beyond Burial and Cremation".</i> <i>This Council further acknowledges the growing public interest in more sustainable, dignified, and low-carbon alternatives to conventional practices – such as natural (green) burials, tree pod interment, and other emerging end-of-life methods.</i> <i>Natural burial, which involves the use of biodegradable materials, avoids embalming, and often takes place in woodland or meadow settings with minimal ongoing maintenance, has already been successfully implemented elsewhere as a simple and ecologically restorative option. Accordingly, this Council agrees to:</i> <i>1. Explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds or woodland burial areas within our district; and</i>

4.0	2. <i>Provide an update report on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally.</i>
5.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion.