

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was:

To review cemeteries in the Borough, concentrating on:

- Maintenance and health and safety requirements
- Amenities and facilities
- Financial implications

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around amenities and facilities within the Borough's cemeteries

The required outcomes being:

- To ensure that the Borough's cemeteries are easily accessible, well maintained with adequate amenities and facilities available for visitors to use.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Vicky Culbard (Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Panel), Mohammed Aziz, Alan Bottwood, Dennis Meredith and myself (Chair); together with other non-Executive Councillors Arthur McCutcheon and Andrew Kilbride. The Scrutiny Panel benefitted from the expertise of the co optee, Simon Hollowell of Hollowell's Funeral Services.

The Scrutiny Panel received both written and spoken evidence from a wide variety of expert advisors. Desktop research was carried out by the Scrutiny Officer. Representatives undertook site visits to various cemeteries around the borough and also visited the cemetery at Kettering. All of which produced a wealth of information that informed the evidence base of this high profile Scrutiny review.

Following the collation of the evidence, the Scrutiny Panel drew various conclusion and recommendations that are contained in the report.

The Review took place between June 2017 and March 2018.

I would like to thank all those people acknowledged below who gave up their time and contributed to this Review.



Councillor Brian Sargeant

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 - Cemeteries

Acknowledgements to all those who took part in the Review: -

- Councillors Vicky Culbard (Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Panel), Andrew Kilbride, Mohammed Aziz, Alan Bottwood, Dennis Meredith and Arthur McCutcheon who sat with me on this Review
- Simon Hollowell, co-optee, for sitting on this Scrutiny Panel
- Councillor Mike Hallam, Cabinet Member for Environment, Ruth Austen, Environmental Services and Licensing Manager for attending a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel and providing information to inform the Review
- Hollowells Funeral Services, War Graves Commission for providing a written response to the core questions of the Panel
- Thomas Appleyard, Margaret Pateman, Mrs Coolman and Mr Abdul Ali, St George's Mosque, members of the public, for attending a number of the meetings of the Scrutiny Panel, providing written evidence and addressing the Panel