

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 MARCH 2006**

### **CEMETERY MEMORIAL SEATING**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To invite Committee to adopt a formal agreement to cover the placing of memorial seating within the cemeteries and churchyards of East Ayrshire.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In recent years the Council has received many requests to place memorial seating within cemeteries and churchyards. There is currently no formal process in place to cover these requests.
- 2.2 Seating within the cemeteries and churchyards offers resting places for the bereaved and other people visiting the sites, however the location and maintenance of seats needs to be controlled to ensure that seating is placed in areas that do not obstruct users or maintenance operations.. The introduction of a formal agreement will allow seats to be placed and maintained in the best interests of the donor and the Council.

#### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Under the terms of the agreement, members of the public would be able to supply a suitable seat/bench or have the Council supply a seat/bench. The Council would install all seats/benches and a charge of £60.00 to cover costs would be made. This charge would be reviewed as part of the Council's annual budget process. The agreement to site a seat would be for a period of 10 years. Applicants will be responsible for all maintenance and repairs during this time. All applicants shall require to sign a form of agreement and an application form.
- 3.2 On receipt of a notice from the Council that a seat/bench is in disrepair or has been vandalised, then the applicant or their successor shall be given 30 days to carry out repairs. Failure to carry out repairs within an agreed period may result in the Council removing the seat/bench from the cemetery. Seat/benches, which constitute a health and safety risk, shall be removed immediately.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There will be a charge to the applicant of £60.00 for installation of seat/benches.

#### **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil

#### **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 By adopting a Formal Agreement, the Council will be better able to monitor the placement of seats/benches within cemeteries and churchyards and will be able to keep accurate records of owners.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Committee are invited to:-

- (i) agree the introduction of a Formal Agreement for the placing of memorial seating within the cemeteries and churchyards of East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) otherwise note this report.

William Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH

9<sup>th</sup> March 2006

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Application Form
2. Form of Agreement

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 578179 and ask for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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