



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



Officer Delegated Decision

9th April 2024

Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and
s151 Officer

To seek approval to release funding from the Grantham Special Expense Area (SEA) Reserve for the Grantham Cemetery drainage works

Contact

Gyles Teasdale
Property Services Manager



07980 794584



gyles.teasdale@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer.
Decision:	To seek approval to release funding from the Grantham SEA Reserve for essential drainage works at Grantham Cemetery
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	Part 3(c) of the constitution: 20 - Management of Services To manage services: Provides the Deputy Chief Executive delegated authority. a) In accordance with any policy decisions made by, or guidelines issued by, the Council b) Within budgets made or approved by the Council

c) In compliance with all Rules of Procedure and Codes set out in the Constitution
And to take such decisions or actions as they are required or authorised to take in:
d) Understanding orders adopted and decision made by the Council for implementation e) Their role as proper officers of the Council as defined in Section 270(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

1.1 There is a requirement to provide funding in order to facilitate essential drainage works to Grantham Cemetery. The cost is estimated at approx. £30,000. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the funding from the Grantham SEA Reserve can be authorised by the Council's Chief Finance Officer.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

1.2 Implications identified are set out in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.3 of this report.

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

Procurement –

1.3 A contract of this value would usually require 3 quotes under SKDCs contract procedure rules, however, the value of the works are under the Public Contract Regulations threshold so would not pose a risk to challenge.

There is a requirement for 'Ditches and Dykes' due to be tendered for by the Public protection team and it is recommended that Property Services work with Public Protection to add in a basic scope for drainage to this tender to ensure SKDC have a compliant route to a supplier who can carry out this work for resilience in the future.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To seek approval to release funding from the Grantham SEA Reserve for essential drainage works at the Cemetery, Grantham.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Option 1 – Release of £30,000 from the Grantham SEA Reserve to enable essential drainage works at the Cemetery, to address health and safety risks associated with digging graves, the excavations of which collapse due to the water levels.
- 3.2 Option 2 – Not to release funding for the drainage work. This is not a recommended option as there are health and safety risks evident from collapsing grave excavations due to the water levels.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1 – Release of £30,000 from the Grantham SEA Reserve to enable essential drainage works to be undertaken.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 A report was undertaken by a drainage specialist who found the following issues:
- Much of the existing pipework is only 200mm deep, leading to poor water absorption and saturation of the surrounding areas. Adequate pipework depth, ranging from 350-450mm, is crucial for managing both surface and ground water.
 - The existing geotextile membrane is in poor condition or absent, allowing soils and fines to clog the perforations. Properly wrapping pipework in geotextile membrane is essential to prevent soil and other fines from obstructing pipe perforations.
 - Insufficient gravel was found during the inspection, indicating either inadequate installation or erosion. Consequently, many sections have deformed or collapsed, reducing efficiency and, in some instances, completely blocking the pipe. Perforated pipework should be adequately bedded in and covered with a substantial layer of gravel.
- 5.2 Increases in rainfall have meant that the existing drainage system is inadequate and needs to be extended to the upper levels of the cemetery so that these new land drains can connect to the existing drainage system.
- 5.3 The existing land drains are ineffective and incorrectly sized for the amount of water to be drained, so a number of these need to be replaced. Similarly, the existing French drain is in poor condition and needs to be replaced.

- 5.4 During the course of excavating new graves the cemetery team experience the sides of the excavated grave collapsing due to the high water content of the soil. This leads to health and safety risks to the operatives which will be prevented by the proposed works. The works will provide a long term solution to these issues.
- 5.5 Due to the urgent nature of the works an Exemption Request has been completed. The issue with inadequate drainage is causing health and safety risks to the cemetery team when digging graves, as the high water levels cause the grave excavations to collapse. The Property Services team have obtained a written quotation from a specialist contractor for £29,586 including VAT which will deliver a long term solution to the problem.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **09.04.24**