



<b>Policy, Finance and Development Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, 03 February 2026</b>	<b>Matter for Information and Decision</b>
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**Report Title:****Cemetery and Burial Strategy (2026 - 2036)****Report Author(s):****Ben Wilson (Head of Neighbourhood Services)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To inform Members of the outcome of the consultation and to adopt the proposed Cemetery and Burial Strategy.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The report sets out the Council's approach to the provision of burial services over the next 10 years.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>A. That the content of the report appendices and consultation responses be noted; and</b> <b>B. That Committee adopts the Cemetery and Burial Strategy (at Appendix 1).</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	Ben Wilson (Head of Neighbourhood Services) (0116) 257 2711 <a href="mailto:ben.wilson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">ben.wilson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Teresa Neal (Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2626 <a href="mailto:teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>
<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Partners (SO5)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	Customer & Community Focused (V1)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4) Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. Initial EA Screening (See Appendices)
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.

Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	None.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Appendices:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cemetery and Burial Strategy (2026 - 2036)</li> <li>2. Cemetery Rules and Regulations (September 2025)</li> <li>3. Memorial Safety Policy</li> <li>4. Equalities Impact Assessment</li> </ol>

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has not previously had a formalised Cemetery and Burial Strategy. The benefit of the strategy is that it not only outlines the aims and ambitions relating to the maintenance and improvement of burial grounds but, provides an opportunity to look at the broader long-term possibilities.
- 1.2 The ethos and aims of the strategy are based on an understanding of best practice, and with consideration to the opinion and responses of the consultation.

## **2. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 2.1 Adoption of the strategy and the associated policies /procedures will address the fact that there is currently no Cemetery strategy in place and set out our ambitions for cemeteries and burials for the next ten years. We also want to ensure that policies relating to burials and memorials are clear, well communicated, and consistent. Providing a framework which enables the service to effectively manage our cemeteries and provide future focus.
- 2.2 A strategy that provides a clear direction of travel and guidelines for current management, helps to ensure that burial grounds are maintained and developed well. It also ensures consistency and provides an opportunity for strategic aims to be explored.
- 2.3 The aim is to provide cemeteries for Oadby and Wigston residents that are beautiful, peaceful and well used and to offer burial spaces that support a diverse range of cultural and individual needs. To ensure that our policies relating to burials and memorials are clear, well communicated, and consistent and to ensure that procedures for the purchase and use of burial sites and memorials are clear, efficient, and compassionate.

## **3 Overall Consultation & Response Information**

- 3.1 At the Policy, Finance and Development Committee held on the 9 September 2025, Members approved for the strategy to go out for consultation.
- 3.2 The consultation was open from December 2025 to February 2026 and a supplementary report will follow once the consultation closes and prior to the Policy, Finance & Development Committee (on 3 February 2026).