

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 7 December 2023

## Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery Commissioning Phase 2

Executive/routine  
Wards

Routine  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is asked to note:
  - 1.1.1 The current limited burial space in the city, and the space currently available at Craigmillar Castle Park cemetery; and
  - 1.1.2 The intention to implement the Phase 2 development at Craigmillar Castle Park cemetery.

#### Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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## Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery Commissioning Phase 2

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report updates the Committee on the remaining capacity for burials at Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery (CCP) and proposes to implement Phase 2 of the planned development of the site.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The provision of space for burials is a statutory requirement upon the Council. The City of Edinburgh Council owns and operates 43 cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds across the city.
- 3.2 On 16 November 2021, as part of a wider report on the city's cemeteries, Committee noted an update on CCP and the need to implement the Phase 2 expansion to provide city-side capacity moving forward. The report committed to bring a further report to Committee when the funding options had been investigated, which is the purpose of this report.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 It is currently estimated that, without further commissioning of the remaining phase at CCP, the city only has sufficient grave space for the next three years (930 spaces). Current space available is shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 As reported to Committee in November 2021, the development of Phase 2 of CCP has Planning consent and could meet the expected demand for burials in the city for approximately 10 years. A site drawing for the proposed Phase 2 development is attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.3 While individuals and organisations including the Muslim community, 'Friends' groups, some Community Councils and MSPs have expressed a desire to identify additional cemeteries across the city, to replace or add to some of the existing 43 which have either limited or no space remaining, however there is no provision in

the capital budget for the commissioning of additional cemeteries beyond what is proposed for CCP in this report.

#### **‘Phase 2’ development at CCP**

- 4.4 Since the report of November 2021, the Council has awarded £1.2m capital funding to meet both essential cemetery repairs and the extension of CCP. To date, over £0.3m has been spent on various repairs and it is proposed to use the remaining funding to implement Phase 2 expansion at CCP.

### **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Should the Committee approve the recommendations in this report, officers will arrange to commence Phase II commissioning at CCP, using the capital funding currently allocated to cemetery repairs.

### **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 It was estimated in early 2020 that it would cost around £0.85m to commission Phase 2 at CCP.
- 6.2 Of the previously allocated £1.2m capital for city cemeteries, £0.893m remains and will be utilised to progress the Phase 2 extension at CCP.

### **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 Lairs for Muslims (and certain other faiths) require more land than other lairs, and burial space within the city is coming under increasing pressure. This creates a risk that Muslims from Edinburgh may not be able to be buried in Edinburgh without further commissioning of Phase 2.

### **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 The land for Phase 2 at CCP has already been allocated for burials and been granted the appropriate planning consent.

### **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 The Council has a statutory requirement under the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 to have available burial sites in Edinburgh. Continued reliance on CCP without further expansion also risks the inability to provide lairs at that site and thus associated reputational damage.

- 9.2 There is currently a lack of space for burial locations across the city apart from at CCP. Without this commissioning, there is a risk that the Council will be unable to discharge its statutory duties.
- 9.3 There is also a risk that the available budget will be insufficient to meet the project costs. In this event, officers would consider options to either bring the project within budget or seek additional funding.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 [Culture and Communities Committee – 16 August 2022](#) ('Cemetery Management Rules – Outcome of Consultation')

## **11. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 – Available lairs across the city (31 August 2023).

Appendix 2 – Phase 2 site drawing.

## Appendix 1

<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Available lairs</b>
Saughton	67
Queensferry new	14
Liberton	36
Comely Bank	7
Morningside	101
Corstorphine Hill	41
Portobello	18
Ratho	142
Craigmillar Castle Park (Phase 1)	447
Kirkliston	35
Currie	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>930</b>

# Appendix 2



**PLANNING**

Rev.	Description	Date	Cdn
1	Original submission	09/09/00	ASD

**EDINBURGH**  
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**CITY DEVELOPMENT  
PROPERTY SERVICES**  
329 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1PN  
Tel. 0131 206 2000 Fax. 0131 529 7077

Project:  
Castlepark Cemetery  
Old Dalkeith Road  
Edinburgh

Project No.  
**G0207**

Drawing No.  
**2100511 PL**

**Site Plan**  
08 OCT 2011

Drawing No.  
**AL(P)003**

Purpose/Issue:  
Date:  
16/12/2011

Scale:  
1:500 @ A1

Drawn:  
JG

**DO NOT SCALE THIS DRAWING**

Appendix 2

