

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – BIDDING PROCESS

1	Scheme name	Cemeteries Investment Programme			
2	Responsible portfolio, department and lead officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Matt Perry 			
3	Brief description of scheme	<p>Due to the lack of infrastructure investment and subsequent maintenance in recent years the condition of all seven cemeteries are now showing signs of decline, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadways; • Bins; • Benches • Buildings/toilets; • Boundary fences and gates; • Drainage <p>As a result, the cemeteries across Blaenau Gwent are not being maintained to an acceptable standard and this lack of investment to maintain the infrastructure within the cemeteries has resulted in a poor visitor experience for the community, especially bereaved families.</p>			
4	The total capital investment cost of the scheme BGCBC Funding Contribution	Amount Bid for 19/20 to 23/24 £	Amount Bid for 24/25 £	Amount Bid for 25/26 £	
		360,000			
5	Evidence that the scheme is linked to the Council's Corporate Plan (2018-2022)	To improve the access to and quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors.			
6	Evidence the scheme is a National Priority	The national definition of sustainable development aims to enable people to meet their needs without compromising the quality of life of future generations. Burial space in the UK is becoming scarce at an ever increasing rate. The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) has estimated that within the next five to ten years, 30% of UK local authorities will have run out of burial space.			

7	<p>Details as to whether the scheme addresses mandatory /statutory service needs or discretionary service needs.</p>	<p>This scheme will contribute to the statutory cemetery service we provide to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. ‘Local Authority Cemetery Order 1977 - 4.-(1) <i>A burial authority may enclose, lay out and embellish a cemetery in such manner as they think fit, and from time to time improve it, and shall keep the cemetery in good order and repair, together with all buildings, walls and fences thereon and other buildings provided for use therewith.</i></p> <p>Cemeteries provide a useful resource for the local community. A wide variety of habitats can often be found supporting the other open space types such as areas of semi-natural and natural areas. Whilst a place for the laying to rest of the deceased, cemeteries provide an open space to be used on an opportunity–led basis – i.e. in cemeteries there are opportunities for wildlife and use of the open space by the public for walking and relaxing. Thus assisting the Health and Well-being agenda</p>
8	<p>Is the scheme an existing legal/contractual commitment</p>	<p>No but financial investment in infrastructure to ensure safe access and egress to and around cemeteries is an essential requirement</p>
9	<p>Is there any external grant aid or any other funding such as prudential available to fund the project? Are there any similar schemes across the Authority utilising other funding sources?</p>	<p>Money was allocated to Blaenau Gwent from the Gwent Crematorium to the sum of £247,000, which has been built into Reserves. This application is utilise £360,000 from the Capital Programme to improve the cemeteries.</p>
10	<p>Is the scheme of an ‘Invest to Save nature or is it likely to generate revenue savings? Conversely is the scheme likely to result in an additional cost pressure to the revenue budget?</p>	<p>This is not an ‘Invest to Save’ scheme. It will not impact negatively on the future revenue budget.</p>
11	<p>To be completed by Accountancy in line with capital strategy : MRP/Interest implications</p>	

CAPITAL PROGRAMME ADDITIONAL PROFORMA - NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS

Scheme Name	Cemeteries Investment Programme		
Blaenau Gwent Well-being Objectives	Select which Objective your scheme contributes to	Well-being Objective links to National Well-being goals	How will your scheme deliver benefits to the Council's Well-being objectives under the National Well-being goals?
<p>Create a better, enhanced environment and infrastructure that will benefit our communities, businesses and visitors</p>	<p>X</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">A prosperous Wales</p> <p style="background-color: red;">A healthier Wales</p> <p style="background-color: blue;">A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>Investing in the infrastructure of the seven cemeteries will increase public satisfaction and improve the visitor experience within the cemeteries.</p>
<p>Continue to improve learner outcomes and well-being so that all children and young people thrive and realise their full potential</p>			
<p>We will be a modern, smart Authority, providing leadership to enable people and communities to thrive</p>			
<p>Take a preventative and early intervention approach to support the most vulnerable ensuring, where appropriate, they are protected and supported to achieve personal outcomes and well-being</p>			
<p>Maximise the employability of local people through skills development at a local and regional level</p>			
<p>Enabling older people to feel valued and empowered to maximise their independence and lead healthy and engaged lives</p>			
<p>Support citizens to take an active and empowered role in their communities to provide resilience</p>			

Sustainable Development

How does your scheme fit the '5 Sustainable Ways of Working'? (give details)	
Thinking in the Long Term	The recommendations would benefit the community during an already traumatic and stressful time for those directly affected. The approval would improve cemetery management and would mitigate future challenges and reputational damage to the Council.
Taking an Integrated Approach	Bereavement Services is a highly sensitive and emotive frontline service, which impacts on the Health and Wellbeing of those who use the services provided. The approval would allow for clear and consistent service delivery, thus reducing the risk of stress and anxiety associated with the bereavement.
Involving People	Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee have been involved through a Task and Finish group to ascertain the investment required within the seven cemeteries.
Collaborating	Blaenau Gwent is an active member of the continuous improvement forum for bereavement services, which is a forum of Welsh Local Authorities who network and benchmark issues relating to cemeteries and crematoria provided across Wales.
Prevention	A major factor of the recommendations made within this report has been the impact any decision will have on the local community along with the reputation of the Council.

National Well-being Goals Description

A prosperous Wales	<i>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</i>	Improved infrastructure within the cemeteries, will help improve the appearance of the cemeteries for communities to visit.
A resilient Wales	<i>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</i>	
A healthier Wales	<i>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</i>	
A more equal Wales	<i>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</i>	
A Wales of cohesive communities	<i>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</i>	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	<i>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</i>	
A globally responsible Wales	<i>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</i>	