

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**  
Improving Places Select Commission – 06 June 2019

**Report Title**  
Update report on the Agreement between Dignity Funerals Ltd and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**  
No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**  
Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**  
Louise Sennitt  
Superintendent Registrar  
01709 8255566  
07795542990  
louise.sennitt@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**  
All Wards

**Summary**  
To provide an update on the report presented to the Improving Places Select Commission on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**Recommendations**

1. That Members note the content of this report.
2. That Members note the content of the Annual Performance Report.

**Background Papers**  
Report to Improving Places Select Commission on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**  
Not applicable

**Council Approval Required**  
No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**  
No

## **Update Report on the Agreement between Dignity Funerals Ltd and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008, the Council entered into a 35 year contractual agreement with Dignity Funerals Ltd (Dignity) for the provision of bereavement services for Rotherham. This partnership enabled the transfer of significant risks from the Council to Dignity and saw Dignity take on the responsibility for capital works and maintenance of the East Herringthorpe cemetery and crematorium along with the maintenance of the eight other municipal cemeteries located throughout the Borough. The Council retained the risk in relation to cemetery chapels, associated buildings and boundary walls on some cemetery sites.
- 1.2 Since March 2018 the Regeneration and Environment Directorate has been working to improve performance monitoring of the Agreement. The performance management framework was refreshed and regular monitoring and reporting arrangements have been put in place.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the progress made against the recommendations from Members, set out in the Improving Places Select Commission meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 At the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Improving Places Select Commission set a range of actions:
  - 2.1.1 That the 2018/19 annual performance report be submitted to the June Improving Places Select Commission.
  - 2.1.2 That the results of the pilot relating to extended hours for burials at East Herringthorpe cemetery be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission once known.
  - 2.1.3 That the extended burial time pilot includes the issues raised at the Improving Places Select Commission meeting i.e. the possible impact of the traffic on the surrounding road network.
  - 2.1.4 That communication about the pilot is sent to churches in outlying areas of the Borough.
  - 2.1.5 That minutes from the Project Liaison Group be submitted to the Select Commission for information.
  - 2.1.6 That consideration is given to the submission of any complaints received in an anonymised format.

- 2.2 An update of actions taken in relation to each of the recommendations made by the Improving Places Select Commission in the meeting that took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 is provided.

2.2.1 Annual Performance Report 2018/2019.

The Annual Performance Report submitted is appended to this report for the Improving Places Select Commission. The report incorporates performance against all key performance targets and service improvement requests in a red, amber, green rated format.

- 2.2.2 Results of the pilot to extend the time of latest burial at East Herringthorpe cemetery from 15:00 to 18:30 between 1st April and 30th September.

The ability to extend burial times has provided Rotherham residents with more flexibility during a burial. At the time of submission of this report eight burials have taken place after 15:00. The pilot will continue to run, as planned, until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Full results will be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission on completion of the pilot evaluation.

- 2.2.3 Impact of the pilot on the surrounding road network.

To date no complaints have been received about increased funeral traffic in the Herringthorpe area since the pilot commenced and we will continue to monitor this.

- 2.2.4 That communication about the pilot is sent to churches in outlying areas of the borough.

Letters explaining the pilot were sent to Clergy across the borough in February 2019.

- 2.2.5 That minutes from the Project Liaison Group meetings are submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission for information.

This submission was made in February 2019.

- 2.2.6 That consideration is given to the submission of any complaints received in an anonymised format.

This submission was made in February 2019.

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 This is an update report and Members are asked to note and comment on the progress made.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 This is an update report there is no proposal for consultation.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 This report is for information only, no decision is requested.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)**

6.1 This report introduces no additional financial or procurement implications.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)**

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 This report introduces no specific implications in relation to Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 Issues relating to Faith burials are being addressed via the Project Liaison Group.

10.2 The Equality Analysis process will be progressed via the Project Liaison Group.

## **11. Implications for Partners**

11.1 This report introduces no additional implications for partners or other Directorates.

## **12. Risks and Mitigation**

12.1 Risks relating to the Agreement are monitored via the performance management framework.

12.2 Financial risks are monitored via the Council's annual review of the finance model.

## **13. Accountable Officer(s)**

Polly Hamilton Assistant Director, Culture Sport and Tourism.

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Shokat Lal	28/05/19
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer Jonathan Baggaley	28/05/19
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Stuart Fletcher	23/05/19
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	John Crutchley	28/05/19
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	Click here to enter a date.

*Report Author: Louise Sennitt  
Superintendent Registrar  
01709 8255566  
07795542990*

*[louise.sennitt@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:louise.sennitt@rotherham.gov.uk)*

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