

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>29 March 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Chief Executive</b>

Subject:	<b>Springbank Farm – Proposed Use for Cemetery Provision for Lanark</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Inform Committee that part of Springbank Farm, Lanark, has been identified as a potential location for a new cemetery for Lanark.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that approval is given in principle for part of Springbank Farm, Lanark to be used for the provision of new cemetery facilities for Lanark, subject to suitability and relevant approval including planning consent and SEPA, and, in terms of the Burial Ground Scotland Act 1855, approval from full council.

## 3. Background

3.1. Springbank Farm, consists of a farmhouse, outbuildings, and fields extending to 53.53 hectares located at Ayr Road, Lanark. The subjects are held in the Lanark Common Good Account.

3.2. At the meeting of the Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee of 31 August 2010, approval was given for the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) to market the existing dwelling house and outbuildings at Springbank Farm, Ayr Road Lanark, together with suitable sized adjacent fields for disposal.

3.3. At the same meeting the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) was given approval to market the remaining lands for let.

3.4. Part of the remaining land to be marketed for let has been identified by Community Resources and Enterprise Resources as a potential location for a new cemetery for Lanark.

3.5. Enterprise Resources have advised that no work has commenced on the marketing of the property as this would be considered inappropriate until the current tenancy expires in May 2011.

#### **4. Requirement for New Cemetery at Lanark**

- 4.1. Community Resources have reviewed cemetery provision throughout the Council area and assessed the remaining capacity of existing cemeteries.
- 4.2. The review identified Lanark as an area where there is a need for new cemetery provision.

#### **5. Identification of Possible Sites**

- 5.1. Over the past two years, Enterprise Resources have identified a number of sites, both Council and privately owned in the Lanark area, however, these proved to be unsuitable mainly due to ground conditions or approval not being granted by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

#### **6. Springbank Farm**

- 6.1. Springbank Farm has been identified as a potential location for a new cemetery for Lanark, however as yet no approval or commitment has been given by the Planning and Roads Services or SEPA. A map showing the potential cemetery site is appended to this report.
- 6.2. Approval, in principle, is requested for the use of part of the asset known as Springbank Farm for the provision of new cemetery facilities for Lanark, before any further work is progressed in gaining approval from Planning, Roads and SEPA.
- 6.3. In terms of the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855, Members should be aware that there is a formal process to be followed for the designation of burial grounds which involves the consideration of the matter by a special meeting of the Council convened solely for that purpose.

#### **7 Employee Implications**

- 7.1 None

#### **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. As noted in 3.3 and 3.4, approval has already been given for the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) to market land at Springbank Farm for let.
- 8.2. The use of part of this land for the provision of new cemetery facilities for Lanark will reduce the annual rental payable to Lanark Common Good in the event that the land is let.
- 8.3. Compensation would be required to be paid to the Lanark Common Good Fund for the use of their asset.
- 8.4. The compensation will be set by Enterprise Resources who will provide a value for the land equal to that which Community Resources would be expected to pay if the land was in private ownership. This compensation would be treated as a capital receipt to the Lanark Common Good Fund.

## **9. Other Implications**

- 9.1. There is a risk that this proposal will have an adverse impact on the annual rental that would be payable to Lanark Common Good Fund in the event that the land is let, however this is mitigated by the capital receipt that will be received.
- 9.2. There is a risk that cemetery provision in Lanark is insufficient to meet demand. In order to mitigate this risk sites for a new cemetery have been identified but proved to be unsuitable. Springbank Farm has been identified as a possible solution.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 10.2. A copy of this report has been sent to the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council.

**Archibald Strang**  
**Chief Executive**

4 March 2011

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Improvement Themes/Objectives**

- ◆ Value: Accountable, efficient and effective

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee 31 August 2010

### **List of Background Papers**

None

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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