**Action:** Enquire with cemeteries staff to obtain update on the capacity of burial sites within the borough to 2041.

**Statement:**

The Inspectors were concerned with the age of our cemeteries strategy (2013) which informs infrastructure requirements over the Plan period with regards to its proposed growth. We have liaised with the Councils Cemeteries team to get an updated position with regards to burial capacities over the Plan period. They have undertaken recent work (December 2019) which assessed the burial requirements of different faith groups, which will help the Council understand what the demand is, and where it will likely come from. Using this information, and considering historic data, the Council currently has approximately 7 years of burial capacity remaining. This is predominantly within Carpenders Park which is out of borough. In addressing future needs, the Council has recently recruited a new project officer who’s role will involve looking into alternative burial space.

The Council is therefore satisfied that it can meet its short term infrastructure requirements for burial, and is in a strong position to see that future demand is also planned for. The current provision of 7 years capacity takes us beyond the 5 years within which the Council has a statutory requirement to review its new Local Plan whereby it can re-evaluate its position on burial space. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is also a live document, and will be updated annually to reflect emerging evidence and changing demands, including for cemetery burial space.