



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Commonwealth War Graves request</b>
<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure Ext.3400
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jacqui Wilson, Business Support Manager, Parks and Leisure Ext. 3403

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	Correspondence was received by the Cemeteries Office from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding the marking of graves of those deemed to be casualties of war and have been buried in our facilities.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>In 2008 Council approved of the replacement of 5 special Memorial Headstones within the City Cemetery. The commission has reviewed this position and wishes to remove the special Memorial Headstones and erect headstones to the actual place of burial. They have provided details of 4 sites where they wish to do this within the Glenalina section. They will ensure that the ground where the memorial is being removed from will be fully restored. One headstone will remain where it is as it is not possible to mark the actual grave.</p> <p>The Commission has identified two new war graves that require marking, one at Belfast City Cemetery and one at Dundonald Cemetery. As with previous requests the memorial would be a standard war pattern headstone manufactured in Irish Limestone and should be placed at the head of the grave. They have also confirmed that the War Commission will cover all the costs of any works or future upkeep of the memorials.</p> <p>The cemeteries administration office has confirmed the details of the individuals identified as accurate. Legal Services advice was provided about the impact of any subsequent disputes and is content with the request by the War Commission.</p> <p>The Commission has also requested that any normal memorial fees would be waived in this instance.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<u>Financial</u>

	<p>The foundation and erection fee for the grave in City Cemetery- Glenalina Extension would be approx £365 and £125; The foundation and erection fee for the grave in Dundonald Cemetery would be approx £285 and £125. This would result in a loss of income to the Council of £900.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>No additional human resources required.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>All future costs of upkeep would be at the expense of the Commission and this will be confirmed in a written agreement.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
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<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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	Committee is asked to agree to the placing of the headstones and to waiving the normal memorial fees on the graves identified subject to further information and legal agreements.
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<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
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	Agreements to be drawn up and signed, Legal Services and Business Manager.
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<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
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<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
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