



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject</b>	Rapid Transit – potential impact on City Cemetery
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>Members will be aware of the proposals regarding a rapid transit transportation system for the City. This is being delivered through the Department for Regional Developments Transport Project Division. One of the proposed routes is to link the Colin Town Centre in West Belfast with Belfast City Centre; the route will incorporate the Falls Road. As part of the process DRD has undertaken a feasibility study to look at a number of options regarding access and egress arrangements at Belfast City Cemetery. Members will be aware that the cemetery remains operational, although there are no new burial plots available. The current main gate access is only adequate to accommodate a single vehicle at a time and this is the only vehicle access point.</p> <p>The Department has considered 4 options which are set out in the report attached as Appendix A.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that there are currently three potential access points:</p> <p>Access 1 is the the current main entrance at the roundabout at the junction of Falls Road / Whiterock Road;</p> <p>Access 2 is further along the Falls Road, as indicated in figure 2.1 (page 3) of the appended report</p> <p>Access 3 is further up the Whiterock Road, as indicated in Figure 2.1 of</p>

	<p>the attached report</p> <p>The Department considered 4 options within the context of the current potential access points.</p> <p>Option 1 – Signalisation of the current access point at the main entrance (Access 1);</p> <p>Option 2 – Provide separate access and egress arrangements which would require retaining the existing entrance as ‘in only’ and creating a new ‘out only’ egress in to the Whiterock road, adjacent to Foxes Lodge (Access 3);</p> <p>Option 3 – Opening of the Falls Road gateway, (Access 2 in Figure 2.1)</p> <p>Option 4 – Opening of the Whiterock gateway (Access 3 in figure 2.1)</p> <p>The report outlines a series of benefits and dis-benefits associated with each of the options together with indicative costs.</p> <p>The Department has concluded that Option 2 is the preferred option 2 on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That this represents a least cost option;</li> <li>2. There is minimal disruption and associated construction works;</li> <li>3. The administration of the cemetery can continue as at present with no alteration to its location; and</li> <li>4. The signalisation of the junction at Whioterock Road / Falls Road can be implemented with again minimal disruption</li> </ol> <p>Council Officers have revised the proposals and agree in principle, subject to further discussion with DRD, that Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>
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<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Members are asked to note that discussions need to continue to establish the precise nature of the alterations required to accommodate a one way in one way out vehicle management system and to agree costs.</p> <p>In addition, as noted in the report it will be necessary to control access to the gateway and these discussions will need to take place. The attached report, Page 12, refers to these issues.</p> <p>It is anticipated that consultation with local residents will be required as part of this process.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
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	<p><b>Financial.</b></p> <p>There are no financial implications for Belfast City Council at this time..</p> <p><b>Human Resources</b></p> <p>There are no Human Resource implications other than officer time.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality implications.
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Committee note the report and support in principle option 2 and authorise Officers to continue discussions with DRD to reach an appropriate agreement with.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking.</b>
	A further report will be brought to Committee at a later date upon conclusion of discussions with DRD.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	DRD – Department for Regional Development
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix A – Options Report