



Subject:	Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development
Date:	9 th October 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services Michael Patterson, Bereavement Services Manager Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is update committee on the key issues discussed at the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 5 th September 2018 and 3 rd October 2018.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 5th September and 3rd October 2018.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group is a Working Group of the People and Communities Committee which consists of an elected member from each of the political parties.</p> <p>The minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group are brought before the Committee for approval.</p> <p>The key issues discussed at the 5th September meeting were:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Memorial Safety</u></p> <p>In compliance with a recommendation from the recent fatal accident investigation in Scotland, all our cemeteries were assessed in a risk-zoning exercise. This was facilitated by an expert witness to the above investigation. The old City Cemetery was identified as the highest risk because of the size and condition of the monuments and the volume of public and staff in proximity to them.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Proposed Memorial Headstone for Titanic Survivor</u></p> <p>The Working Group were asked to make a decision on whether the Council should provide a headstone on the unmarked grave of Titanic survivor Mary Sloan. There were concerns about precedence, acceptable wording and the rights of unknown family members. Members declined the request at this time stating that there were other external organisations with a vested interest in promoting the Titanic story and which might be in a position to fund such a venture.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Authorisation to Erect Memorial Plaques</u></p> <p>The Bereavement Services Manager provided some clarification on this in response to a Member's question. A rudimentary check is undertaken to ensure that the applicant was from the same family as the tree owner. Comprehensive checks are undertaken in</p>

identifying who is authorised to collect the cremated remains and after this, the means of disposition are at that person's discretion.

The key issues discussed at the 3rd October meeting were:

3.5 Update on Plot Z1 Memorial

The public consultation has been completed with mostly positive responses. The next stage is to re-consult with the Focus Group. The Members of the working group requested a site visit to obtain a detailed view of the site – subject to approval from People and Communities Committee.

3.6 Proposal to make Clifton Street Graveyard Safe for Public Access

In response to a Member's request to open Clifton Street Cemetery to the free public access during day-time hours, Members of the Working Group considered the proposal. The key issues are a small number of large monuments which are unsafe, and the risk of anti-social behaviour. Members requested additional information around costs and funding sources and that local consultation is undertaken to understand the current risk around managing this and to allow time to engage with local stakeholders.

3.7 Update on the implementation of Plotbox

Members were given an update on the implementation of Plotbox as the Bereavement Services Business System. It is planned that the system will be operational by November.

3.8 Report on Stream Diversion in Roselawn Cemetery

Members were made aware of a recommendation to undertake essential maintenance work on a partial diversion of a stream which runs through Roselawn Cemetery, in order to avoid flooding to the cemetery or potential adjoining properties. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to nearby residents making them aware of the risk of flooding and notifying them of the intention to undertake the work.

3.9 Update Report on Children's Bereavement Charges Waiver

Members were advised that subsequent to Council ratification on 1st October the waiver was applied from 2nd October 2018.

3.10	<p><u>City Cemetery Heritage Project</u></p> <p>Members were given an update on plans to protect and enhance the existing heritage in City Cemetery which is funded by the Heritage and Lottery Fund. It is anticipated that work on site will begin in Autumn, subject to a 'Permission to Start' from H.L.F. The Members of the working group requested a site visit to obtain a detailed view of the site – subject to approval from People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Damage to Memorial Trees in Storm Ali</u></p> <p>Members were made aware that Storm Ali had destroyed 28 memorial trees and damaged 12. Every effort was being made to replace these as quickly as possible.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Headstone Foundations</u></p> <p>At both meetings of 5th September and 3rd October the Chairperson requested information on the responsibility to maintain grave foundations in Council Cemeteries. It was agreed that a report would be compiled on this issue.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Proposed Burial Site at Dundrod</u></p> <p>The Chairperson requested clarification on the Council's requirement for new burial ground. This was in response to a recent press article regarding the proposed site at Dundrod.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group's meetings on 5th September</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group's meetings on 3rd October 2018.</p>