



Subject:	Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development
Date:	5 th March 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services

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 meeting held on 25 th February 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	That the People and Communities Committee:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 25th February 2019.

3.0	Main Report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.1	<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. 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 25th February meeting were:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Update on Revisions to Memorial Management Policy</u></p> <p>The Memorial Management Policy was agreed by Council in 2016 and was presented to the Working Group again to approve revisions, which reflect good practice elsewhere. The Bereavement Services Manager explained that a key element of the revised policy centred around the introduction of a three stage categorisation for memorials incorporating unsafe, unstable and safe. Members were reminded that aside from a British Standard (BS 8415:2018), the Memorial Management Policy is the most effective means of ensuring the quality of work of Monumental Sculptors who are contracted by families to work in our cemeteries. The Working Group agreed to adopt the revised policy subject to People and Communities approval.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Update on Memorial Safety Inspection Programme</u></p> <p>The Working Group was provided with an update on the Memorial Inspection Programme which began in April 2016. Inspections have been completed in Balmoral Cemetery, Shankill Graveyard and Clifton Street Graveyard. 11,000 headstones have been inspected in Roselawn. In response to a fatal accident report from Glasgow. The Council undertook a 'risk zoning' exercise which placed the old City Cemetery as the highest priority for inspections. Inspections are now focused on sections in City Cemetery which contain large historic monuments built in the 1800s, and where necessary engineering specialist advice and support may be required.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Update on New Commonwealth War Graves</u></p> <p>Members were reminded of our partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in that the Commission have built and maintain around 800 memorials and monuments across all our cemeteries. Recent research has identified the unmarked graves of two casualties of WW1 who died later, from their injuries. The Commission has applied to</p>

	<p>mark these graves with a headstone, one in Dundonald and one in City Cemetery. Given that the Commission is a not-for-profit organisation, that there are no interested families, and that these cases are going to be extremely rare, Members were asked to approve waiving of headstone application and work-permit fees, totalling £32 in each case. The Working Group recommended that these fees be waived in these specific circumstances, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any associated costs will be borne within operational budgets</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality / Good Relations Implication or Rural Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Working Group of 25th February 2019</p>