



Subject:	Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development
Date:	2nd April 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 19 th March 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to :- - Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 19 th March 2019.
3.0	Key Issues
	<u>Presentation by Department of Health on Death Certification</u>
3.1	Members were given a presentation on the Death Certification process in Northern Ireland and were made aware that this cuts across the areas of responsibility of DoH, DoJ, DfC DfF

as well as District Councils which provide burial and cremation services. As result of the Harold Shipman Inquiry the NI Executive made some improvements to the system in 2009. However, the recent local Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths has made a specific recommendation that the role of an Independent Medical Examiner of Death is introduced in NI – similar to the scheme already adopted in Scotland however this needs a legislative change at the Assembly. The adoption of a future IME scheme in NI if the legislation was made would impact on how Councils and Funeral Directors carry out their burial and cremation functions. The IME recommendation offers an opportunity to update the cremation legislation and process which the Council currently comply with to provide its cremation service. Members were given assurance that the IME Working Group which DoH currently chairs includes officers from the Councils Bereavement Service to input into any discussion. Members were also advised that it would be difficult to adopt these improvements without the function of an NI Executive.

3.2 Future Burial Provision

Members were advised of a report which had recently been commissioned to help the Council make a determination on the amount of burial land remaining and its future requirements. Members were advised that this is a complicated calculation based on many societal and personal preference factors and the report sets out three different scenarios. The most realistic scenario takes account of the declining burial space in all other cemeteries leaving Roselawn as the only source of new burial land with around 15.2 years of burial capacity. In addition to this, account should also be made of guidance from Central Government which indicates that the Council should retain around 3,000 graves for emergency planning contingencies. This reduces the overall capacity to around 8.4 years. Given the good practice guideline that Councils maintain ten years capacity, the adoption of this scenario means that it is appropriate that the Council now seeks to acquire 5.51 and 8.66 hectares of new land for burial. The Director recommended that this information could be used in the BCC response to a recent Planning Appeal application . The Working Group considered the information which had been provided and agreed to the recommendation associated with the acquisition of between 5.5 hectares and 8.6 hectares of burial land to meet the future requirements of the city, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee.

3.3 Update on Plot Z1 City Cemetery

Members were given an update that the commissioned sculptor had taken possession of a very large piece of Kilkenny Limestone and has begun to shape it. This work will take approximately three months. The Focus Group has expressed their satisfaction with the progress and Members will be given an update prior to completion.

3.4	<p><u>Update on New Crematorium Development</u></p> <p>The Working Group was given an update on the new crematorium development at Roselawn. Members were reminded that capital monies has been committed to a new twin chapel crematorium at the Roselawn site. The Project Sponsor advised Members progress and answered a number of queries from members.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Update on Dundonald Cemetery Gates</u></p> <p>The Working Group raised questions on to the delay to repair the gates at Dundonald Cemetery after a road traffic collision. The Bereavement Services Manager advised that it has been in part due to legal exchanges in connection with the RTC but this should be concluded soon.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any associated costs will be borne within operational budgets.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality / Good Relations Implications or Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Working Group of 19 th March 2019