



Subject:	Future Burial Provision and Engagement with Neighbouring Councils
Date:	4 June 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw Strategic Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
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 to update the Committee following on from the previous updates in December 2018 and April 2019 committee on the assessment of future burial provision, the development of an Expression of Interest for burial land for the north and west of the city and the recent requests from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) to engage together in areas of mutual interest.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that preparation is underway for an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be issued for new burial land as agreed by the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group at its meeting in December 2018 and ratified by the People and Communities Committee in April 2019. • Note the attached requests, attached as Appendix 1, in respect of Consultation and Engagement by LCCC with neighbouring Councils and approve formal engagement with adjacent councils to consider and progress discussions, if appropriate, a sub regional options proposal on burial space and crematorium provision.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><u>Review of Burial Policy</u></p> <p>Members agreed at the April 2019 Committee that as part of the previous review of burial policy an EOI should be undertaken to identify potential burial land that would serve the north and west of the city. Officers are currently working on drafting the necessary paperwork to undertake this process.</p>
3.2	<p>Members were advised at the April 2019 Committee meeting 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 set 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 would have the potential to reduce the overall capacity to around 8.4 years.</p>
3.3	<p>Given the good practice guideline that our Council maintains a ten year capacity, the adoption of this scenario means that it is appropriate that the Council now seeks to acquire between 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 May Council subsequently recommended for the EOI, the acquisition of between 5.5 hectares and 8.6 hectares of burial land.</p>

	<u>Proposed Consultation and Engagement with Neighbouring Councils</u>
3.4	Members are also advised that the Chef Executive (CE) has received a written request from the CE of LCCC on the 25 th April (appendix 1) seeking support to work in collaboration on the need and search for Burial space and Crematorium provision. LCCC are advocating, where possible, that a sub- regional approach should be considered given the vested interest in our joint needs given the complexity of finding and resourcing key projects such as this.
3.5	An initial discussion was hosted by Senior officers from LCCC between ourselves, and representatives from Ards and North Down and Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils in May 2019.
3.6	LCCC shared a document at that meeting which they are currently engaging with our Planning Colleagues in BCC, on their approach to their Local Development Plan (LDP).
3.7	LCCC are keen to engage in joint discussion and sharing of information on both the area of burial and crematorium provisions and use this approach to develop Senior officer discussions on other areas of mutual interest. It is proposed that Terms of Reference are agreed by senior officers with subsequent reports and updates being brought to committee as options develop.
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The work to date on future burial land provision has been undertaken within existing budgets.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Letter from CX of LCCC, 25 th April 2019.