



Subject:	Update in relation to a permanent memorial to mark the Baby Haven in the City Cemetery
Date:	6 th August 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 to update Members on the consultation process and progress to design, produce and install a permanent memorial at Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery, known as The Baby Haven.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the final count of babies buried in the Plot as outlined in this report; and• Agree to the holding of a ceremony to unveil the memorial as outlined in this report.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 208 421 237"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 257 1465 638">3.1 Members are reminded that Plot Z1 is an area in the City Cemetery in which many babies are buried and that following requests from relatives of those buried in the plot, the Council agreed to the design and installation of a permanent memorial of the site. As part of the process it was agreed to establish a Focus Group, as an informal advisory body, made up of representatives of families who have relatives buried in the plot. Previous reports have outlined our partnership approach working with the Focus Group, to oversee the design in an efficient and effective manner which respects the sensitive manner but also cognisant of Council's protocols and policies.</p> <p data-bbox="165 712 1465 1193">3.2 Regular reports on the progress of this project were taken to the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group, and Members are reminded that a report was brought on 21st November 2018 which detailed the final design and landscaping. In this report Members were advised that The Focus Group had requested that Belfast City Council confirm the number of babies buried in the plot and that this number be inscribed as part of the wording on the memorial. The Bereavement Administrative team has undertaken a detailed count of burial records for Plot Z1 and has validated this against original Burial Orders. The final verified number of babies buried in the Plot is 7,160. This number was discussed with the Focus Group and was then provided to the sculptor. A copy of the design of the memorial is attached as appendix 1.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1267 1465 1547">3.3 Ground works on site will commence in late July and it is anticipated that the memorial will be erected on site in early August. Following the installation of the memorial, the area around it will be landscaped and it anticipated that it will take a few weeks to undertake this. As is common practice a ceremony will be held to unveil the memorial and it is proposed that a request is made for the attendance of the Lord Mayor at the dedication event.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1608 1465 1953">3.4 The Focus Group has requested that as part of this ceremony the Council organise a religious aspect to the ceremony as families were unable to hold funeral ceremonies for their babies when they were buried. As Members will appreciate there are babies of all faiths and none buried in Plot Z1 and therefore there are sensitivities around the holding of a religious ceremony. It is proposed that the Council takes advice from the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum to include an inclusive spiritual element within the ceremony that recognises the faiths of all those buried within the plot.</p>

3.5	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>Subject to Members' approval, it is planned that the commemorative and dedication event takes place in the middle of September. It is anticipated that given the number of babies buried in the plot that this event will be very high profile with attendance from across Northern Ireland. There has already been media interest in this project and it is likely that there will be continued interest in the unveiling ceremony.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The associated costs are planned for and covered within respective revenue budgets</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Equality and good relation implications need to be considered when planning the commemorative and dedication event for September, particularly in relation to the request from the focus group for a 'spiritual event'.</p>
3.8	<p>To take a positive approach to the promotion of equality and good relations, facilitation of the event should include advice and guidance from the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum, whose main aim is to promote mutual understanding between different faith traditions.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Memorial design