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Democratic Services Section Chief Executive's Department Belfast City Council City Hall Belfast BT1 5GS

8th May, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 9th May, 2017.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

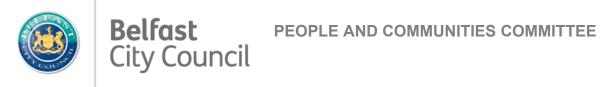
Chief Executive

AGENDA:

(d) City Cemetery Heritage Project (Pages 1 - 4)



Agenda Item 4d



Subject:

Date:	9 th May 2017		
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department		
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services		
	Department		
	Alistair Charles, Project Sponsor		
Restricted Reports			
Is this report restricted?			
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?			
After Committee Decision			
After Council Decision			
Some time in the future			
Never			
Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?			

City Cemetery Heritage Project

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To give Members an update on the development of the Council's City Cemetery Heritage Project.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to Note the update provided

3.0	Main report
	<u>Current Status</u>
3.1	Members will recall that in July 2015 the Council received a development grant of £165,800
	from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop up a Stage 2 application for a project designed
	to protect and enhance the existing heritage in Belfast City Cemetery. An update on the
	progress was given to Committee in October 2016 when Members were informed that two
	professional teams – Conservation Architects and Interpretive Planners had been
	appointed to assist with the project. Since this time officers have continued to work with
	the appointed teams and Members are asked to note the following updates.
3.2	Professional Teams
	Alastair Coey Architects have now developed the first draft of a Conservation Plan for the
	project. This document basically identifies the existing heritage within the site, why it's
	important and to whom and suggests policies to protect it. A Management and
	Maintenance Plan will then also be developed which will develop these policies into new
	and improved ways of working to ensure the heritage of the site is preserved and enhanced
	for future generations.
	In addition Alastair Coey have also developed an initial condition survey which provides an
	analysis of the main heritage assets within the site, their current condition and suggested
	remedial works. This survey is now being costed by the project's QS with a view that these
	costs will be included in the Stage 2 application.
	A draft Biodiversity Plan for the project has also been developed and outlines a number of
	initiatives designed to increase habitat creation and enhance the existing biodiversity on
	site. This plan also highlights a number of potential actions designed to encourage
	community and volunteer involvement in the site.
	Based in the Conservation and Biodiversity Plans our Interpretive Planners are also
	currently developing their plan for the site which will outline the various stories we want to
	tell and recommend various tools to do this such as signage, information panels, interactive
	apps etc.
3.3	Pilot Initiatives
	A range of pilot initiatives are also currently being undertaken on site designed to test

certain ideas that if successful will be included in the stage 2 application with a view to being rolled out in the delivery phase. An educational outreach project designed to engage school children with the site is currently underway and we also have plans to deliver a pilot project around employability and training with respect to the site in areas such as horticulture, stone masonry, tour guiding etc.

3.4 Consultation

Due to the size and scope of the project it is necessary to consult and engage with a vast array of stakeholders both internal and external to Council. As such a detailed stakeholder engagement plan has been developed and is currently being implemented. Officers continue to engage with all stakeholders through a number of methods such as one to one meetings, facilitated consultations and presentations. This engagement will continue to evolve throughout the development phase and beyond.

3.5 Next Steps

Over the next 6 months Council officers will work alongside the professional teams to produce detailed plans for the project in advance of submitting a further application to HLF. Members are asked to note that the City Cemetery project is currently a Stage 2 – Uncommitted project on the Council's Capital Programme and any final Council investment decision by SP&R will be subject to a successful HLF Stage 2 bid and going through the Council's three stage approval process for capital projects.

3.6 Temporary Structure

As part of the development phase consideration is currently being given to installing some type of temporary structure on the site. There is currently very little shelter on site and this has proved a problem for the delivery of the educational outreach aspect of the programme as the young people involved currently have nowhere to shelter during inclement weather. Our interpretive planner has highlighted the need to have some sort of physical presence on site to act as a 'consultation hub' where people can come and learn more about the project and air their views.

As such a temporary office/classroom type accommodation is being located on site (at the site of the existing bell yard).

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.0	None Paramenta Attachad
3.8	Equality or Good Relations Implications
	£45 per week for approx 6 months = £1,170 + £350 install costs + utility costs (heat/light) which is covered in HLF budget.
	Temporary Accommodation
	application
	The City Cemetery project is currently a Stage 2 – Uncommitted project on the Capital Programme and any final investment decision will be subject to a successful Stage 2 – HLF
3.7	Financial & Resource Implications