

Public Document Pack

**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)

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Subject:	City Cemetery Heritage Project
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?	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	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update provided

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p data-bbox="316 304 507 331"><u>Current Status</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 349 1500 685">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.</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="316 752 576 779"><u>Professional Teams</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 797 1500 1088">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.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1155 1500 1335">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.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1402 1500 1581">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.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1648 1500 1850">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.</p>
3.3	<p data-bbox="316 1917 507 1944"><u>Pilot Initiatives</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 1962 1430 1989">A range of pilot initiatives are also currently being undertaken on site designed to test</p>

	<p>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.</p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p><u>Temporary Structure</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>As such a temporary office/classroom type accommodation is being located on site (at the site of the existing bell yard).</p>

3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>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 application</p> <p>Temporary Accommodation</p> <p>£45 per week for approx 6 months = £1,170 + £350 install costs + utility costs (heat/light) which is covered in HLF budget.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>