



Subject:	Update from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group
Date:	22nd September 2022
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services Sinead Grimes Director, of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Sabine Kalke, Project Sponsor Seamus McBride, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>After Council Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<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 seek Committee approval on key recommendations made at the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group held on 24 th August 2022
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approve the minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meeting held on 24th August 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve the recommendation from Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group to write to Department of Finance, encouraging a workable solution to be found allowing the electronic transfer of documentation relating to burials and cremations to continue on a permanent basis. The Coronavirus Act Provisions which currently enables electronic transfer are due to expire on 24th September.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Update on the new Crematorium Development</u></p> <p>Members of the Working Group received an update on the new crematorium development. As reported previously the Planning Application for the new crematorium has been submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in June 2022 and validated. The application included the very extensive Environmental Statement which contains 22 chapters. A hard copy can be accessed by the public at Roselawn Cemetery's Public Office. Visuals of the latest design of the new crematorium building were presented to Members of the Working Group. A timeline setting out the extensive work which has been undertaken to date and the next steps that need to be undertaken with a project of this size and nature was also reviewed by Working Group Members.</p> <p><u>Update on City Cemetery Heritage Project</u></p> <p>The Working Group received an update on the City Cemetery Heritage project. Members were advised that all capital works are almost complete and work is ongoing following the Strategic Policy and Resource committee decision in June regarding dual language signage and content.</p> <p><u>Update on Bereavement Services Operations</u></p> <p>The Working Group received an update on Bereavement Services operations. Members were advised that the Reflections Café reopened at the City of Belfast Crematorium on 4th July. Members may recall that the Coronavirus Act 2020 contained provisions which have allowed the electronic transfer of statutory documentation relating to burials and cremations. These provisions are due to expire on 24th September which, if not extended will impact on Bereavement Services Administration and on Funeral Directors as the relevant statutory forms will be required to be completed and lodged in hard copy. Working Group Members have recommended writing to the Department of Finance encouraging a workable solution to be found allowing the electronic transfer of such documentation to continue on a permanent basis.</p>

	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.4	Update on the new Crematorium Development. The project is on the Capital Programme at Stage 3 Committed.
3.5	City Cemetery Heritage Project Heritage Lottery Fund contribution £1.687m with Council contribution up to £620,000 Service Yard move – Council contribution of up to £421,000 DfC contribution £75,000
3.6	Update on Bereavement Services Operations Being delivered within existing budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	Update on new Crematorium Development An Equality Screening has been carried out and concluded that no EQIA is necessary; a Rural Needs Assessment has been carried out.
3.8	City Cemetery Heritage Project None required
3.9	Update on Bereavement Services Operations None required
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group on 24 th August 2022