



Subject:	Update from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group
Date:	2 nd May 2024
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Seamus McBride, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the matters noted at the recent Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group held on 24 th April 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	That the People and Communities Committee agree the following recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group.
2.2	Procure an operator for the management of the Visitor Centre at City Cemetery that will assist in realising the wider benefits for tourism and communities.
2.3	Approve the minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group meeting held on 24 th April 2024
3	Main report
3.1	<u>New Crematorium Development</u> Members of the Working Group noted an update on the new crematorium development including an update on the programme timeline. The updated timescale for tender award is June 2024 with the handover of the new build in January 2026. Members noted that a special Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group workshop has been scheduled for 29 th May 2024 to consider cremation price points as part of the new development.
3.2	<u>Bereavement Services Operational Update</u> Members of the working group noted an update on Bereavement Services Operations. Members were updated on progress to facilitate work at Shankill Graveyard to erect a memorial stone to PTE Bernard McQuirt who was awarded a Victoria Cross. The unveiling of the Memorial will be in August 2024.
3.3	Members were also updated on a meeting with the family of the late WJ Pirrie and their ambitions to have the family grave at City Cemetery reinstated. More information will follow, in the meantime Members were advised that the family are planning a ceremony

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>to mark the Centenary of his passing at the City Cemetery, on 7th June at 11 am. Members are invited to attend.</p> <p><u>City Cemetery Visitor Centre Operating Model</u></p> <p>Members received a further update on the City Cemetery Visitor Centre operating model following the request at People and Committees Committee in March for the working group to further consider this proposal.</p> <p>Members considered and noted the recommendation to procure an operator of the visitor centre at City Cemetery. The proposed model is similar to the heritage aspect of the recently refurbished Templemore Baths, operated by Eastside Partnership and aligns to Council ambitions regarding heritage and legacy, neighbourhood tourism and inclusive growth.</p> <p>The proposal allows Council to support the third sector community VCSE/ SME interest, supports ambitions aligning to the ‘inclusive spaces’ element of the draft inclusive Growth program with the potential to grow the local economy, nurture local entrepreneurship and contribute to sustainable growth and inclusive development within local communities.</p>
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Update on the new Crematorium Development.</p> <p>The project is on the Capital Programme at Stage 3 Committed.</p> <p>Update on Bereavement Services Operations</p> <p>Matters covered within the update are being delivered within existing budgets.</p> <p>Visitor Centre Operating Model</p> <p>To be delivered within existing resources. The site and asset will remain within the Councils control. A management fee would be awarded to the successful provider on an annual basis to run the centre. Building operating costs would continue to be met by Council within existing budgets and this would be specified within relevant procurement documentation. Detail on this will be further worked up if Council agrees to exploring this operating model. Any HR implications will be managed in line with Council policies and processes.</p>

5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	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.
5.2	Bereavement Services Operations No equality or good relations implications.
5.3	City Cemetery Visitor Centre Operating Model No equality or good relation implications. A procurement exercise to appoint a suitable operator will be conducted in line with existing procurement guidelines and subject to necessary approvals.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group on 24 th April 2024 (to follow).