



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Application for consent to exhume the remains of the late Mr Michael Murphy
<b>Date:</b>	15 April 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	John MacFarlane, Bereavement Services Manager

### Relevant Background Information

The Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request for an exhumation. Council officers are awaiting further information, however the position as currently understood is as follows.

Mr Michael Murphy died on the 29 December 2009 and subsequently his remains were interred under the Welfare Services Act within a grave owned by the Health and Environmental Services Department as the authorities were unable to establish the next of kin. The interment took place on 8 January 2010.

However, next of kin have now come forward and the Council has received a request from them for exhumation. Officers are currently liaising with the next of kin and the appropriate authorities to complete the necessary documentation and to seek the necessary approvals, which should be completed in advance of the Committee meeting.

### Key Issues

The Committee will be aware that exhumation is only recommended in exceptional circumstances. In this case, it is the conclusion that in these circumstances approval should be granted.

### Resource Implications

#### Financial

The cost of exhumation is £3,407. These costs are to be met on this occasion.

#### Human

Staff are asked to volunteer for this task, the additional cost is incorporated within the fee.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee accede to the request to exhume the remains of the late Mr Murphy, subject to appropriate documentation and all necessary approvals being received.

**Decision tracking**

The Bereavement Services Manager will be responsible for implementing the decision of the Committee.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.