



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                   |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Green Graves                                  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 10 February 2011                              |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure |

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
|           | <p>Members will be aware that the committee has made a number of decisions in recent months regarding future provision for cremation and burial.</p> <p>Reports on options for cremation and on natural burials will be brought to committee in March 2011.</p> <p>A site visit to the two potential new sites at Dundrod was undertaken by the Committee on 31 January 2011 and arrangements will now be made to have initial site investigations undertaken at the site brought forward by Strategic Planning as part of the expressions of interest process which was undertaken last year.</p>  |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
|           | <p>The council continues to examine new and innovative solutions to future burial needs. This not only includes changing customer requirements such as the trend towards natural burials but also new technology, for example 'resomation'. Previously the former Chairman of the Parks and Leisure Committee and I met with representatives of a local company "Green Graves" who, with support from the University of Ulster, are developing an innovative pre-formed cemetery system. The company has been trialling the system in New Blaris Cemetery in Lisburn. They have requested an opportunity to present their system and findings from their trials to the council.</p> <p>It is proposed that a meeting of the Cemeteries Working Group be convened to meet with representatives of the company.</p> |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|           | None.   |

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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b> |
|           | None.   |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
|           | It is recommended that a meeting of the Cemeteries Working Group be convened at a suitable time to consider the issue. |

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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision tracking</b>  |
|           | The Director of Parks and Leisure to implement the decision of the committee by March 2011. |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Guide to abbreviations</b> |
|           | None.                         |

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| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents attached</b> |
|           | None.                     |