



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Damage to War Memorial at City Cemetery
<b>Date:</b>	15 September 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager South and West Belfast

### 1.0 Relevant Background Information

Committee is aware there are several World War memorials in the City Cemetery. They are located in the old part of the cemetery and in the Glenalina section of the cemetery.

Approximately 6 weeks ago a small fire was placed against the granite stone work of the War Memorial in the old section of the City Cemetery. This caused some scorch damage to the grass and to the memorial. At the time it was considered to be minimal damage, however over a period of 3 weeks small cracks appeared in one of the granite slabs, presumably as a result of the fire. Over another three weeks more cracks appeared in a total of three granite slabs located adjacent to the original fire. Small segments of the granite started to crumble and this deterioration has continued.

On the weekend of 13 - 14 August large chunks of granite crumbled from the same area causing a hole to appear at the top of the wall of the memorial. Graffiti of a non sectarian nature was also sprayed on the memorial approximately three weeks ago and this was removed immediately.

The War Graves Commission, who is responsible for the maintenance of the memorials, was informed of the damage and they have agreed to view the monument on their next visit to the cemetery. The Cemetery Manager will meet with the War Graves Commission to examine options to reduce the risk of further damage to this and other war memorials.

### 2.0 Key Issues

The War Graves Memorials are an important part of the heritage of the City Cemetery and attract significant tourism and interest to the local area. Considerable effort has been made by local community representatives to recognise the value and sensitivity of the War graves.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> The War Grave Memorials are the responsibility of the War Graves Commission and they are liable for any costs incurred in repairing memorials.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no immediate Human Resource issues.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The War Graves Memorials are an important part of the heritage of the City Cemetery. A professional assessment of the damage to the asset will be undertaken when the Commission Officers inspect the memorial on their next visit.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	N/A

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None.

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.