



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Request to provide and install a Circle of Life statue at Botanic Gardens</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The Director of Parks and Leisure has received a letter from the Northern Ireland Transplant Forum requesting permission to install a Circle of Life statue with associated legend board in Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>The stone statue is approximately a 2 metre high granite candle feature, symbolizing the light of humanity through organ donation. The purpose of this stone statue is to provide a focus for a Commemorative garden for organ donation. There are other similar Commemorative gardens in Galway and Newtownards. The sponsors for the proposal are NI Kidney Patients Association, NI Transplant Forum Charity representatives and the Giving Of Life Foundation – GOAL. The organisers have stated that purpose of the stone statue is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For the lives and generosity of spirit of the people of Belfast, their families and friends at home and abroad who gave life to others through organ donation, medical care, fundraising and <i>research</i>.</li><li>• To provide a place of comfort and inspiration to all affected by issues relating to health and well being organ donation and altruistic giving</li><li>• As a shared place of thanksgiving and reflection for those who have given and those who have received the gift of life's new possibilities and are deeply connected through sorrow and joy</li><li>• To promote and encourage support and awareness of the sick and those in need of new organs, the research and medical advances possible and the heroic leadership taken to help others in Northern Ireland</li><li>• To provide a significant new attraction and amenity in Botanic Gardens for residents and tourists alike.</li><li>• Sending a positive message about organ donation from Belfast reaching out to the whole country and beyond.</li></ul>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The Botanic Gardens is an historic garden that has heritage and horticulturally interesting features. It is visited by a wide range of visitors including both citizen and tourist. Adjacent to the Gardens are the Ulster Museum, Queens University, Lyric Theatre and City Hospital.</p> <p>Initial assessment of a location within the Gardens would indicate that an appropriate location for placement of the Circle Of Life statue and associated legend would be within the herbaceous borders adjacent to the rose garden. This location would provide a quiet area for reflection and commemoration.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b>Finance</b> The provision and installation of the Circle of Life statue shall incur no costs to the Council.</p> <p><b>Human Resource.</b> The project shall require officer time in supervision of the installation of the statue.</p> <p><b>Assets</b> A Legal Agreement shall be drawn up to regulate responsibilities both for installation and post installation of the stone statue.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	The project may require Planning approval and this shall be investigated.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>Committee is requested to Grant permission for the donation of a Circle of Life statue subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Circle of Life statue shall be placed in Botanic Gardens</li> <li>• an appropriate legal agreement, to be prepared by the Town Solicitor is completed; and</li> <li>• the Council shall not incur any financial costs.</li> </ul>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	GOAL – Giving of Life Foundation