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| Subject: | Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development |
| Date: | 11 October 2016 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department |
| Contact Officer: | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer |

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to report to Committee on the key issues discussed at the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group meeting held on 5 October 2016. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group meeting held on 5 October 2016. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | The Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group is a Working Group of the People and Communities Committee which consists of an elected Member from each of the political parties. |
| 3.2 | The minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group are brought before the Committee for approval. |
| 3.3 | The key issues discussed at the 5 October meeting were: |

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| 3.4 | <p><u>Opening Arrangements for Christmas/ New Year and Extra-Statutory Holidays</u></p> <p>Members noted the information provided in relation to the arrangements for burials and cremations over the Christmas and New Year holiday periods and were advised that cremation services and burial operations will be provided on five out of six days over both this period. They were also reminded that cemeteries are open to the public as open spaces 365 days a year.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Update on the Use of Shoring at Roselawn Cemetery</u></p> <p>Members noted the initial update on the introduction of the trial use of shoring to minimise the risk of subsidence of graves in Roselawn Cemetery. The trial use of shoring commenced in mid-May will continue until the end of November when it will be reviewed and recommendations made around options for going forward.</p> |
| 3.6 | <p><u>Update on the Council's Memorial Management Policy</u></p> <p>Members noted the initial update on the introduction of the Memorial Management Policy. The Memorial Management Policy came in to effect from 1 April 2016 and outlines the process for dealing with the historical problems we have faced in managing memorials and ways of dealing with unstable, hazardous and unauthorised memorials. An initial review of the implementation of the policy will take place in November 2016, to assess how successful the first 6 months have been.</p> |
| 3.7 | <p><u>Customer Survey of Users of the City of Belfast Crematorium</u></p> <p>Members noted the introduction of a customer survey of users of the City of Belfast Crematorium and agreed that the customer survey includes the question around the nomination process for recycled metals.</p> |
| 3.8 | <p><u>Update on Crime/ Anti-Social Behaviour at Cemetery Sites</u></p> <p>Members noted the recorded incidents of crime/anti-social behaviour at cemetery sites across Belfast and the actions being taken to address these issues.</p> |
| 3.9 | <p><u>Update on Loughview Park Cemetery Planning Application</u></p> <p>Members noted the update on the Loughview Park Cemetery Planning Application. This application relates to a site at Dundrod and the application has been made by a private developer. Members were advised that officers will continue to keep a watching brief on the progress of the application and will update Members as appropriate.</p> |

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| 3.10 | <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes for this meeting which are attached as appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> |
| 3.11 | <p>The costs associated with the implementation of the various items outlined will be met through existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> |
| 3.12 | <p>The Memorial Management Policy was equality screened in line with the Council's process. Any changes to policy will be equality screened in line with the Council's equality process.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| 4.1 | <p>Appendix 1 – Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group's meeting on 5 October 2016.</p> |