



Subject:	Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development
Date:	4 th December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is update committee on the key issues discussed at the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meeting held on 21 st November 2018
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	That the People and Communities Committee:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 21st November 2018.

<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>Main report</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group is a Working Group of the People and Communities Committee which consists of an elected member from each of the political parties.</p> <p>The minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group are brought before the Committee for approval.</p> <p>The key issues discussed at the 21st November meeting were:</p> <p><u>Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery</u></p> <p>The Working Group were given an update on the progress with a permanent memorial to mark the Plot Z1 Baby Plot in City Cemetery. It was reported that the Focus Group are satisfied with the design of the memorial. The group are also pleased with a landscape design for the immediate vicinity which will facilitate access for all to view the rear of the memorial. Work is ongoing to verify the recorded number of babies buried in the plot and the group want this included as part of the inscription. The Focus Group requested that the generic name ‘Baby Public’ be replaced with the name ‘Baby Haven’ in Council maps and literature. The Working Group found this name change acceptable, subject to Committee approval.</p> <p><u>Update on New Burial Lands</u></p> <p>The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with an update on the progress to date associated with the acquisition of a new burial land to meet future demand. In particular, he referred to a private planning application for burial land at Dundrod, which had been refused. Subsequently the applicant has requested the assistance of Belfast City Council to appeal this decision at the Planning Appeals Commission. The Strategic Director confirmed that there remained a need for additional burial ground, and in particular, identified the gap in provision in North and West Belfast.</p> <p>The Working Group agreed that it wished the matter to be referred to the People and Communities Committee and that, in the interim period, the matter be debated at Party Group level, prior to a decision being taken by the Committee.</p>
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3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implication/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group’s meeting on 21st November 2018.</p>

**STRATEGIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of Meeting of 21st November, 2018

Members Present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford and
Councillor Corr.

In Attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services,
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Policy and Business Development
Officer,
Mr. M. Patterson, Bereavement Services Manager, and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd October were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

**Update on Permanent Memorial to mark
Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery**

The Policy and Business Development Officer provided the Working Group with an update on the consultation process and progress to date, to design, produce and install a permanent memorial at Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery. She reminded the Working Group that the design of the proposed memorial had been approved by the Focus Group after which, a public consultation process had been undertaken which had been completed by 31st August, 2018. It was reported further that the Focus Group had been satisfied with the design of the memorial however, it had requested that the inscription on the front of the memorial be amended to cite the recorded number of babies interned within the baby plot. She confirmed that she would report back to the Working Group with information in regard to the recorded number of babies interned in the Baby Plot.

The Members were reminded that a number of complaints had been received in regard to the ground conditions and access issues to the rear of the proposed memorial. The Focus Group were very satisfied with a landscape design to address those issues. She reported also that the Focus Group had requested the generic name 'Baby Public' be replaced with the name "The Baby Haven,". She stated that the name Plot Z1 would remain as the official name retained on Council records. The Working Group was advised that signage and local maps would require to be amended to reflect the name change, should the Members accept the recommendation of the Focus Group.

The Policy and Business Development Officer stated that, if approval were granted on the design of the memorial, it was anticipated that work on the memorial sculptor would commence in early 2019, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee and Council ratification.

The Working Group agreed to the memorial design, inscription alteration and proposed name change, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee.

Update on New Burial Lands

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with an update on the progress to date associated with the acquisition of a new burial site to meet future burial requirements. He referred to the fact that the planning application, pursued by a private individual, in respect of the Dundrod site had been refused. Subsequently the individual has requested the assistance of Belfast City Council to appeal this decision at the Planning Appeals Commission. Importantly the deadline to submit any appeal is February 2019. The Strategic Director confirmed that there remained a need for additional burial ground, and in particular, identified the gap in provision in North and West Belfast. He referred to the decision to construct a new Crematorium at the Roselawn site and outlined the impact that would have in respect of a reduction in burial capacity at Roselawn Cemetery.

The Working Group agreed that it wished the matter to be referred to the People and Communities Committee and that, in the interim period, the matter be debated at Party Group level, prior to a decision being taken by the Committee.

Maintenance of Cremators at Roselawn Crematorium

The Bereavement Services Manager reported that due to unscheduled essential maintenance work to one of the cremators at the City of Belfast Crematorium, it would be necessary shut down for a period of three working days. He reported that it was proposed that the last cremation would take place at lunchtime on Friday 30th November, 2018, with cremations commencing again on Tuesday, 4th December, 2018.

The Working Group noted the information provided.

Date of Future Meetings - 2019

The Working Group agreed dates in respect of its future meetings for the period 1st January 2019 till 31st March, 2019.

Chairperson