



Subject:	Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development
Date:	8 th January 2019
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 19 th December 2018.
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 Development Working Group meetings held on 19th December 2018.
3.0	Main report

3.1	<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. 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 19th December meeting were:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Update on Headstone Foundation Policy</u></p> <p>Between 1950s and 1980s the Council provided individual concrete foundations at each grave at the time of burial. Prior to this, contractors acting on behalf of grave owners installed foundations. From the 1980s onwards, the Council provided strip foundations when the entire grave section is constructed. Where there are repeated excavations and ground settlement at some sites, individual foundations can subside slightly. There are approximately 21,000 graves with individual foundations in Roselawn Cemetery alone. A recent visual survey across all Council cemeteries revealed that 47 out of 364 single foundations revealed signs of slight subsidence and five showed signs of further failure. There could be significant costs around the replacement of these. Members asked for a further report to establish clarity about who is responsible for the repair and replacement of these.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Update on National Association of Funeral Directors</u></p> <p>Rev. Dr. Haire (President of the N.I. Federation of National Association of Funeral Directors) has written to the Chief Executive expressing concerns that the current legislation relating to all aspects of bereavement and especially cremation legislation was not fit for purpose. The letter alleges that the current legislation causes unnecessary difficulties for families and impedes the services Belfast City Council offer to the bereaved.</p> <p>The Working Group agreed that Dr Haire be invited to present this information to the Working Group on 22nd January and an invitation be extended to the Members of the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Update on Crematorium</u></p> <p>The Working Group was provided with an update on the capital works associated with the new crematorium facility at Roselawn. There was a discussion around road access to the site.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>

	None
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implication/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group’s meeting on 19 th December 2018.