



Subject:	Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group
Date:	3 rd March 2020
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 meetings held on 5 th February 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is recommended to:- - Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 5 th February 2020.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Update on New Crematorium Development</u> Members were advised that a crematorium design specialist had been appointed as part of the project management team. There is a requirement for Members, Officers and the design team to visit a new crematorium development in GB, subject to Committee

	<p>approval. Not all Members of the Working Group are familiar with cremation process and burial processes so there is also a requirement to visit the City of Belfast Crematorium and Roselawn Cemetery, subject to Committee approval.</p> <p><u>Update on Heritage Project – City Cemetery</u></p>
3.2	<p>Members were advised that the tender exercise to appoint a contractor is now complete. Work will commence soon to relocate the existing service yard and subsequently to replace it with a visitor centre. Members were also advised of the plans to restore key heritage structures on the site. As Members were unfamiliar with these various locations, it was requested, subject to Committee approval, that a site visit is provided.</p> <p>Members were also advised of the non-capital elements of the project, such as the successful recruitment of an Engagement Officer, and planned activity plan and tours.</p> <p><u>Update on Expression of Interest on New Cemetery Land</u></p>
3.3	<p>Members were advised that only three of the applications for new cemetery land remained viable and two require physical ground investigations and planning permission. All of the three are outside the Belfast boundary, and as such the Council will continue to engage with neighbouring Councils on a co-ordinated approach for cemetery provision. Members requested subject to Committee approval that they visit each of the sites to inform their opinion on accessibility to Belfast residents.</p> <p><u>Options for Cremated Remains</u></p>
3.4	<p>Members were presented with a list of options for cremated remains memorials across the city. It was noted that it is possible to bury cremated remains in most existing family graves and this provision would be promoted. Members were informed that a limited number of ‘cremated remains only’ graves would now be made available at Roselawn Cemetery, with potential to develop more across the city depending on demand. Members were informed of the potential for ‘gardens of remembrance’ to be developed in cemeteries and appropriate open spaces including a new ‘babies garden’ at Roselawn. Members were given a number of options for the provision of columbaria, but these are associated with significant capital development. Members noted the options and will refer back to their parities for further consideration.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implication / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.6	<p>None</p>

4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Working Group on 5 th February 2020