

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Expressions of Interest – Visitor Project at the City Cemetery</p>	<p>Officer Presenting:</p> <p>Head of Environment</p> <p>Author:</p> <p>Head of Environment</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Member’s approval with regard to a visitor / tourism opportunity relating to the City Cemetery and to seek approval to engage Land and Property Services (LPS) in determining a rental premium in terms of office space offered relating to this proposal.

Background

- 2.1 Members may be aware of a start up tourism and genealogy business located within the city focused on the historical aspects of cemeteries and in particular the City Cemetery located on Lone Moor Road.
- 2.2 The promoters had previously secured some funding through the Go For It Programme to start the business and have been undertaking organised visits to the Cemetery guiding visitors to the many historical graves located there.
- 2.3 In discussion with Council the promoters were keen to develop the business potential and had approached the Council seeking support both in terms of having a physical presence at the site and assistance in developing the business as a tourism project.
- 2.4 The proposals were discussed internally with relevant officers from both the Environment and Business and Culture Directorates resulting in agreement in terms of a pilot / feasibility project. Council would offer office space at the cemetery with Business and Culture providing some financial and business support over a two year period.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 In consideration of the above Council initiated a procurement exercise inviting interested parties with an interest specifically in developing the visitor potential of the Cemetery to submit Expressions of Interest setting out how their proposals in terms of the above. Details of the procurement exercise are included as Appendix 1.

- 2.2 Adverts inviting Expressions of Interest were placed in local media outlets as well as on Councils website.
- 2.3 One number response was received from Seamus Breslin in response to this call and this was evaluated in consideration of the published Evaluation criteria.
- 2.4 The Evaluation Panel - consisting of Councils Procurement Manager, Head of Environment and the Tourism Development Project Officer – reviewed the submission and are satisfied that the proposal meets the specification and is therefore acceptable.

3 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 3.1 The proposal received included detail on proposed rental income for the office space provided and Members are asked to authorise engaging LPS in reviewing and determining an appropriate rate for this element.
- 3.2 The proposal will run for an initial 2 year period with both parties then reviewing the opportunity and considering how then to progress the project.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 That Members agree to the proposal received by Council from Seamus Breslin with regard to the Expression of Interest Issued and;
- 4.2 LPS be engaged to determine an appropriate rental income with regard to the office space provided under the proposal.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Procurement Exercise Cemetery