

Title of Report:	REQUEST FOR MUSLIM BURIAL SPACE
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	10th November 2020
For Decision or For Information	FOR DECISION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our natural environment
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: 12 th October 2020
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 12 th October 2020
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 12 th October 2020
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 12 th October 2020
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

Council have been approached by representatives from the Muslim community asking if Council would provide a section of a cemetery, preferably in the 'Triangle' area, to accommodate Muslim burials.

2.0 Background

An Imam (Muslim religious leader) and other leaders approached Council to highlight the growing Muslim population in the Causeway Coast area and the lack of burial space for the Muslim community. Their current concerns are being exacerbated by the growing numbers of Muslim refugees in the area. They are asking if a section of a Council cemetery could be made available to them for burials. As part of their traditions the deceased is laid to rest with the coffin orientated in a south- west/north-east alignment. Site meetings confirmed that Coleraine Cemetery was currently orientated in a manner that met their needs and a section could be easily be set aside to accommodate them.

Given their small but growing population in the Borough it is feasible to set aside a section of Coleraine Cemetery which would meet their need for the next 20 years + (8 to 10 burials per year). The attached plan below shows how Council could facilitate their request.



3.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee recommend that Council provide a section of Coleraine Cemetery to accommodate Muslim faith burials.