

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Environmental Services Committee

POLICY ON PROVISION OF MEMORIALS (PRIMARILY BENCHES)

6 October 2015

For Decision

1.0 Reporting to Council

Linkage to Corporate Plan	
Strategic Priority	Harmonisation of Policy on Provision of Memorials
Objective	Consistency across Borough
Lead Officer	Gareth Doyle
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A – Full cost recovery

1.1 Background

Legacy Councils had different approaches for dealing with requests by members of the public who wished to sponsor the provision of a memorial in memory of a deceased family member. In some cases no policy existed and there was an ad hoc arrangement to such requests.

1.2 Detail

Over the years a number of benches have been provided and sited throughout the Borough. Since 1st April there have been 7 separate requests to have a memorial bench placed in memory of a loved one in Council parks/open spaces. If Council were to accede to each request, this will present difficulties in the management and, in particular, the cost of maintaining benches (vandalism etc). There is also the issue of finding suitable locations as the sites preferred by relatives are becoming saturated. There are also the sensitivities around the removal of benches which have reached the end of their lifespan or need to be moved for operational reasons. In 2012 Coleraine BC discontinued their policy of facilitating every request and offered the alternative of planting a tree. All costs associated with the tree planting to be borne by the requester.

1.3 Recommendation

Council are asked to consider adopting Coleraine BC policy of making provision for a tree to be planted in memory of a loved one rather than the provision of a bench (or wall, pillar etc) in response to each request.