

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources Special Committee
DATE	31 July 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
DIRECTOR	N/A
CHIEF OFFICER	Richard Sweetnam
REPORT AUTHOR	Christine Rew
TERMS OF REFERENCE	General delegation 4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for officers to accompany a work of art on loan to and from the More Museum in the Netherlands.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 that the Committee: -
- (a) Approves the international travel by an officer (to be identified by the Chief Officer - City Growth) to accompany the painting 'Two Schoolgirls' to and from the More Museum in the Netherlands; and
 - (b) Delegate authority to the Chief Officer - City Growth, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Customer, to authorise international travel of officers to accompany works of art to and from overseas venues – where such works of art are being loaned to such venues and where all costs are covered by the borrower.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The More Museum, the largest museum of Modern Realism in the Netherlands, has submitted a request to borrow a painting called the 'Two Schoolgirls' by Aberdeen artist James Cowie. They wish to include this artwork in a major exhibition called the '*British Realist Painting*'. The artwork will be exhibited from 14 September 2019 to 5 January 2020.
- 3.2 The 'Two Schoolgirls' artwork is not scheduled to be on display at the Aberdeen Art Gallery. Participation in the exhibition will allow it to be accessed by a new

audience and wide range of people. The exhibition is supported by the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art who are publishing a catalogue containing this to coincide with the exhibition. The More Museum receives over 300,000 visitors a year. This publicity will provide an opportunity for further research into the artwork and will raise awareness of Aberdeen City Council's art collections.

3.3 This report seeks to obtain approval to send an officer to accompany the artwork to and from the More Museum. The officer will oversee the transportation, handling, installation and deinstallation of the artwork. The officer will be required to take two separate trips to the Netherlands. The initial trip will be to ensure the safe installation of the artwork. The second to ensure the safe deinstallation and return of the artwork to Aberdeen.

3.4 Special Meeting Approval

3.4.1 The More Museum loan request was received after the Loans of Works of Art to Overseas Venues report [RES/18/039], which was approved on 19 June 2018 by the City Growth and Resources Committee. The opportunity was inadvertently omitted from the Trade and European Partnerships Travel Plan 2019/20 report [PLA/19/230] approved by the City Growth and Resources Committee on 25 April 2019.

3.4.2 This report has been brought to the Special City Growth and Resources (For Accounts) Committee because the travel takes place before the next ordinary meeting in September 2019.

3.4.3 New loan requests are received throughout the year. The Committee is asked to consider delegating authority to approve officer travel overseas for the purpose of accompanying works on loan when all costs are covered by the borrower. This delegation will allow flexibility on timing and allow the Council to respond efficiently and positively to loan requests.

3.5 Loan Details

3.5.1 Lending to partner and international galleries and museums raises the profile of Aberdeen and its collections. The presence of loans from the city's collections contributes to the international promotion of Aberdeen and its attractiveness as a cultural tourism destination. International loans of works of art enable us to showcase the quality of the collection to a new segment of potential visitors, broadening access to the collection and reaching new audiences. Items which might otherwise be in storage are available to the public.

3.5.2 Loans provide an opportunity for fresh research by leading experts in their field, often resulting in the city's works of art featuring in exhibition catalogues. In agreeing to key loans, the city places its collections beside other major institutions in Europe and further afield. Consistently lending fosters partnerships with other Museums and Galleries and in turn strengthens the opportunities for reciprocity for future loans.

3.5.3 Aberdeen City Council has officers who are trained to accompany works of art on loan. Officers are assigned to accompany valuable works of art when they are lent to UK and international art galleries and museums. Officers travel with the item to ensure that it is handled safely throughout, to oversee packing/unpacking, undertake a full condition check and to oversee the installation/deinstallation. This ensures that the Council's assets are handled appropriately.

3.5.4 The significance, high value and fragility of the artworks managed for the Council mean that works travelling internationally need to be accompanied by qualified, trained and experienced in-house officers. They are assigned according to an officer's experience and knowledge and the value and nature of the works on loan. For continuity the officer travelling on the outward journey often acts as courier on the return journey. This conforms with the service's Accreditation status and complies with the UK Registrars Group international loan guidance.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report as all loan costs, including travel and subsistence are covered by the borrowing institution. Travel arrangements are made direct by art handling shipping agents appointed by the borrower. With wi-fi and mobile technology, couriers may continue working remotely as appropriate whilst travelling.

4.2 Delegation of travel authorisation to the Chief Officer - City Growth will quicken the travel approval process and allow the service to respond efficiently to the travel arrangements made by the borrowing institution's appointed art handling agents.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The service complies with the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property which was ratified by the UK with effect from 1/11/2002.

5.2 Current guidance from the UK Government (DCMS), Scottish Government and Museums Galleries Scotland regarding travel to restricted countries is also implemented.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation

Financial	Travel costs Cost of repairing damage or loss during transit	L M	Travel and subsistence costs are borne by the borrowing institutions. Confirmation of Insurance against damage and loss required from Borrower before artwork is permitted to travel; officer oversees packing and handling to reduce risk of damage during transit.
Legal	Seizure of Works of Art by host country or terrorist attack	L	The risk is assessed on a case by case basis. UK Government (DCMS), Scottish Government and Museums Galleries Scotland advice regarding travel and loans to countries with a high security risk rating is implemented.
Employee	Personal injury due to mis-handling of works of art	L	Officers are trained in courier and manual handling processes, including gaining experience in the UK prior to going overseas; trained art handlers employed by borrowing institutions. Officers are insured by the Art Handling agents whilst accompanying works of art overseas. Risk assessment completed by service.
Customer	International priorities and increased visitor exposure to the Collections not met	L	Lend works of art to international venues.
Environment	Travel results in Co2 emissions	L	Shared transport arranged where appropriate.
Technology	N/A	N/A	N/A

Reputational	Council's reputation of caring appropriately for its assets adversely impacted if works of art are damaged whilst travelling unaccompanied	M	Trained officers travel with works of art to oversee transit and installation.
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	<p>Delivers on Regional Economic Strategy and LOIP primary driver of Internationalism.</p> <p>Works of art on loan to overseas venues strengthens the city's international links, raises the profile of the city and its art collections and drives tourists to visit as a cultural tourism destination.</p> <p>Delivers on tourism priority for the city.</p>
Prosperous People	<p>Sense of pride for our people as works of art are loaned to prestigious international venues. Borrowers promote and publicise the exhibitions extensively.</p>
Prosperous Place	<p>Enhances Aberdeen and the wider city region's inward investment and internationalisation offer by presenting the strength of the city's collections and cultural offer to overseas visitors.</p> <p>Our international place; supports international trade priorities, international exposure to tourism markets etc.</p>

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	None
Organisational Design	None
Governance	None
Workforce	None

Process Design	None
Technology	None
Partnerships and Alliances	Participation in external international partnerships results in new opportunities for joint working and international collaboration

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA not required
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

10. APPENDICES

None

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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