

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**

DATE: **18<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

DIRECTOR: **Annette Bruton**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Progress report on proposals to redevelop Aberdeen Art Gallery**

REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/10/089**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides the Committee with an update on proposals to redevelop the Art Gallery and seeks support to ascertain the potential for contributions from the business and wider community.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee:

1. Notes the work to date;
2. Agrees that a fundraising campaign be progressed, at no net cost to the Council.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in the campaign; the proposal is to ascertain the level of interest and financial commitment from the business and wider community to support the redevelopment of the Art Gallery. It is envisaged that this will be by way of pledges, and receipt of sponsorship and donations.

It is intended that the services of a fundraising expert be secured. They will generate their own income commensurate with the actual income achieved.

An amount of seed funding will be required and it is intended that this be sought from external funds. No commitments will be entered into unless seed funding has been secured.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none. The fundraising campaign will be clear about the commitment being sought from sponsors and donors, and in what circumstances funding received might be returned to them, should the redevelopment not progress.

## **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

The Committee considered a progress report at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010, as did the Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June. At that time, it had been hoped to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in September. Since then, internally, the review of the Non Housing Capital Programme has been in train; in addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund changed both the terms of the application process, and the timeline for applications. The Fund has increased the amount of funding available to applicants and changed how and when applicants can progress from Stage One to Stage Two. The next opportunity to apply now is November 2010.

The work necessary to apply to the Fund has continued as instructed; the Council has now received the first draft of the Supplementary Report, which covers the necessary assessment of the building's architectural value and current condition. The report explains in detail that there is a need to carry out a number of works to ensure that the current building is protected, as a matter of priority. In particular, the report highlights the need to address the poor condition of the existing roof and gutters which in the past resulted in water penetration. There have also been incidents in the past where flooding has occurred in the former gallery space beneath the Cowdray Hall and action is required to address this issue. In addition, the report has highlighted that the external shell of the building has a poor environmental performance (the building deteriorating because of climatic changes) which impacts on the running costs of the complex.

The proposed redevelopment will deal with a number of these works and the project team is working to assess how the Council can best utilise existing budgets to be included in the overall assessment of the costs of the redevelopment. In other words, by doing so, it will identify the estimate of what additional Capital Funding from the Council would be required, subject to successful private, commercial and Heritage Lottery funding.

The recommendation seeks the Committee's agreement for a fundraising campaign to be developed, to find out what level of support will be available from the local business and wider community. As indicated above, this will be at no cost to the Council. It will be used to generate enthusiasm and commitment to the project. The fundraiser will be procured using the Council's established procedures.

Should the project not succeed, the campaign itself it is hoped will engender interest in the Art Gallery, the City and the wider North East. Equally, the campaign will ensure that as and when funding opportunities allow that the Council will be better placed to achieve success.

Separately, however related, the current "Option D", complete redevelopment proposal has been included in the Tax Incremental Fund project. Dependent on the outcome of the latter project, this would change the emphasis of the fundraising campaign and this will be built in the brief for appointing a fundraiser.

## **6. IMPACT**

The report links to outcome 4 in the Single Outcome Agreement, 'Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens' and outcome 13 in the Single outcome agreement, 'We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity'. In particular, the activities are aimed at helping learners of all ages develop skills, confidence and knowledge about their heritage and the changing patterns of life. Museum collections are held in trust for all of society.

The report also relates to the key aims set out in the Arts, Heritage and Sport strand of the community plan, in particular:

- To encourage access to and participation in the City's cultural life
- To support cultural activities which have a positive impact on the social, economic and cultural development of the City
- To strengthen support for and ownership of the city's distinctive cultural character

The development also links with the Environment strand of the community plan, in the protection of its built environment and in particular:

- Protect Aberdeen's unique granite heritage

The report has clear relationship with the cultural objectives set out in 'Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking':

- Recognise the contribution of sport, culture and the arts to promoting the area as a tourist destination
- Promote the City as a tourist destination

There are also linkages to the City's cultural strategy, 'Vibrant Aberdeen' as the options seek to increase community engagement in cultural activity, to improve the city's cultural profile and through working with partners to increase investment in cultural activity.

This report is likely to be of interest to the public as it relates to a key and unique city centre institution, with local heritage, national and international interest.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Education, Culture and Sport Committee, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Report to Council, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Best Value Review, Report to Education and Leisure Committee, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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