

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	City Growth and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	26 September 2019
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Commemorative Plaque for Louisa Lumsden
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	PLA/19/331
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	N/A
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Richard Sweetnam
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Jenny Brown
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	6

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the erection of a commemorative plaque to Louisa Lumsden, suffragist and pioneer of women's education:

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the erection of a commemorative plaque to Louisa Lumsden, Suffragist and Pioneer of Women's Education, at 214 Union Street.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Aberdeen Women's Alliance have proposed to erect a commemorative plaque to Louisa Lumsden, suffragist and a pioneer of women's education.
- 3.2 The proposal meets all the requirements set out in the Guidelines for the Nomination of Commemorative plaques (see Appendix 1). Louisa Lumsden is considered to be of at least national significance in the field of pioneering education for women, as recognised by her elevation to DBE. Her role within

the Aberdeen Association for Women's Suffrage is considered to be of outstanding local significance. She worked within the proposed location at a significant period in this capacity.

3.3 A standard round commemorative plaque is proposed. The draft wording proposed is:

3.4 "Louisa Lumsden DBE

1840-1935

Pioneer of Women's Education, President of Aberdeen Association for Women's Suffrage worked here"

3.5 Louisa Lumsden was one of the Girton pioneers – recruited for a new women's college at Hitchin, near Cambridge, led by Emily Davies. Davies believed that in order to be accepted at a men's university, women must complete the course on precisely the same terms as men. Lumsden continued to promote the belief in equal access to education throughout her life, pioneering education for women and helping found of St Leonard's School and University Hall, St Andrew's. In retirement, she was asked to be President of the Aberdeen Suffrage Association. In 1911 Louisa Lumsden was awarded an honorary LLD degree by St Andrews University. In 1925 she was made DBE in recognition of her services to education.

3.6 Planning and the building owners have approved this location for the plaque. Aberdeen Women's Alliance as the promoters of the plaque will be responsible for obtaining all necessary statutory and other third-party consents to allow the commemorative plaque to be erected.

3.7 Officers are currently reviewing the operation and associated guidance for the commemorative plaques scheme in order to ensure it is fit for purpose, and will bring recommendations to Elected Members once complete.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. All financial costs shall be covered by the nominating body as outlined in the Plaques Guidance (see Appendix 1).

4.2 Commemorative plaques are made from cast aluminium and have proved to be long-lasting with no maintenance cost to the Council. The Council does not currently seek to replace plaques which have been removed by property owners.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The building owners and Planning have been consulted about the location of the proposed plaque as outlined in the Plaques Guidance (see Appendix 1.1).

#### **6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Financial</b>	N/A		N/A
<b>Legal</b>	N/A		N/A
<b>Employee</b>	N/A		N/A
<b>Customer</b>	Risk of customer demand not being met	L	The erection of the plaque would meet customer demand
<b>Environment</b>	N/A		N/A
<b>Technology</b>	N/A		N/A
<b>Reputational</b>	Risk of not acknowledging the significance of the nominees' achievements appropriately	L	The erection of the plaque would provide suitable acknowledgment of a notable individual

## 7. OUTCOMES

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Prosperous Economy</b>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP for Prosperous Economy, Primary Driver 1: Investment in infrastructure - Aberdeen City is a robust and resilient economy providing a vibrant built environment and attractive place for residents, students, business and tourists. The proposals within this report support the improvement measure and aim to increase footfall in Aberdeen's Business Improvement District by 10% by 2026.</p> <p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP for Prosperous Economy, Primary Driver 3: Inclusive economic growth - A skilled workforce for the future that provides opportunities for all our people by ensuring that the North East of Scotland is a great place to be – as a visitor, worker, entrepreneur or resident. The proposals within this report support the</p>

	improvement measure and aim to increase tourists to Aberdeen by 30% by 2026.
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<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	Working with Aberdeen Women’s Alliance is a good example of fostering a relationship with a local heritage group.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required as all personal information recorded on the plaque is already in the public domain.
<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	Not applicable

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* ‘Lumsden, Dame Louisa Innes (1840–1935)’ by Elizabeth J. Morse (2004)

## 10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix 1- Details of requirements of the Commemorative Plaques Scheme;

## 11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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