

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	23rd February 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Gordon Highlanders Commission
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/11/007

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Elected Members with an update on progress regarding the commission and seeks approval for the artist to proceed with the manufacture of maquettes, and to inform Elected members of visits by appropriate Regimental representatives and Elected Members to view the progress of the Commission.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- i) The approval of permissions for the contracted artist (Mark Richards) to produce and market, as discussed in the body of the report, maquettes of the commission; and to delegate powers to the Director of Education, Culture and Sport to agree the preferred option for a limited edition maquette and the loan of the original maquette, and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to ensure that satisfactory legal agreements are in place;
- ii) To agree that any profits arising to the Council from the share of the sale of reproductions is returned to the Common Good.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

£125,000 has already been allocated over two years (2010/11 and 2011/12) from the Common Good Fund. All other costs will be met from existing staffing resource.

There are no state aid implications arising from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal implications for the sale of limited edition maquettes have been considered and addressed as part of this report. There are no other implications.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Progress on commission

The Council meeting on 24 June 2009 agreed a motion requesting that 'Aberdeen City Council funds and erects a commemorative statue to the Gordon Highlanders'.

The Gordon Highlanders working group, consisting of Elected Member and Regimental representation, on 4th August 2010, after a formal selection process, chose Mark Richards, a sculptor with a history of public commissions, to create the work. The sculpture will consist of two figures from different periods of the Gordon Highlanders history and will be sited in the Castlegate area early in October 2011. The artist is working closely with costumiers, the Gordon Highlanders Museum and representatives of the regiment on the technical detail required.

Work is currently underway to ascertain which utilities on the site may need to be relocated to make way for the statue and plinth. The two full size figures will be ready for inspection and comment by members of the working group in early April. This will necessitate a visit to the artists studio in Shropshire. Following this, the figures will be sent to the foundry. The figures will be complete by 1st September ready for the October installation.

Sale of maquettes

The artist has requested that consideration be given to the sale of limited edition maquettes. This requires the approval of Aberdeen City Council due to the nature of the contract for the commission, whereby '*Copyright and all intellectual property rights in relation the work shall vest with the artist. However, the artists undertakes not to sell editions of the work or maquettes relating to the work without the co-operation and permission of the Commissioner*'

Aberdeen City Council will not make any financial contribution to the marketing or production of the maquettes: however, subject to a formal agreement, on the basis of a 50:50 income split the Council can expect some income to be made from this venture. The following aspects are to be agreed with the artist:

- Potential buyers and the market
- Maquette sizes: 9" or 18" is proposed
- Numbers in edition
- Marketing, and an agent to undertake the work
- Timing of the sales

The cost involved in the making of the maquettes and casting will be borne by the artist if approval is given. The artist's proof copy will be photographed and exhibited with orders taken. No further casts will be made without orders mitigating the risk of producing work which will remain unsold.

Loan of the maquette

The original scale model remains, following the completion of the commission, the ownership of Aberdeen City Council. The working group seeks the permission of the Council to discuss the loan of the work to the Gordon Highlanders Museum, with the relevant City Council officers ensuring the appropriate loan agreement and credits are in place prior to the model being loaned. Delegated powers are sought in this regard, as reflected in the recommendations.

Visits to the artist studio

The artist has begun work on the full size figures and these are due for completion early April 2011. Following a visit from members of the Gordon Highlanders Commemorative Working Group, the work will be sent to the foundry for casting. Whilst a regular blog has kept members informed of ongoing progress, a visit is needed to ensure the work meets the working group's satisfaction. It is anticipated that one further visit in September will be required in advance of installation. Two representatives from the working group will attend each visit, and the Council is asked to approve the attendance of an elected member on the working group on both of these visits.

6. IMPACT

The report links to Outcome 13 in the Single Outcome Agreement, 'We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity'

The report 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 report also links to the cultural objectives set out in 'Vibrant, Dynamic and forward looking'

- Promote the City as a tourist destination

The City's cultural strategy 'Vibrant Aberdeen' has five strategic objectives:

- Establish a cohesive cultural sector
- Increase community engagement in cultural activity
- Improve the City's cultural profile

- Increase investment in culture
- Effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of culture

There is likely to be considerable public interest in this report given the City's longstanding history with the Gordon Highlanders. Representatives from the regiment have been heavily involved and will continue to be in the process of managing this project through to completion.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports from the Gordon Highlanders Working group 1st October 2009
– 24th March 2011

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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