

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
DATE	5 September 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Remembering Together Public Art Work
REPORT NUMBER	RES/23/265
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Reilly
REPORT AUTHOR	Steven Shaw
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a background to the national Remembering Together initiative being managed by Station House Media Unit on behalf of Culture Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council. The report also provides details on the proposed new public artwork and recommends a preferred location to site this artwork.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approves the preferred location for the Remembering Together Public Artwork as Bon Accord Gardens; and
- 2.2 Notes that the full costs of designing, fabricating, and installing the statue will be met by the Remembering Together project being managed by Greenspace Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, and at no cost to the council.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Scotland's Covid Community Memorial Programme, Remembering Together, is being delivered by Greenspace Scotland at the request of the Scottish Government, as announced by the First Minister in March 2021. The programme involves commissioned artists working with partners, communities, faith groups and those most affected by Covid in all 32 local authority areas to co-create Covid memorial projects.
- 3.2 Every project is being carried out in 2 phases. Phase 1 supported artists/creative practitioners, with a budget of £20k (commission and delivery/access costs), to co-create with communities to shape ideas that reflect local people's experiences of the pandemic. For Aberdeen's Remembering Together project, they commissioned an artistic cooperative Roos Marie Dijkhuizen, Maja Zeco, and Caitlyn Main, all locally based and very experienced in this type of co-design creative consultation. The project steering group that

oversaw the process was made up of representatives from Third Sector organisations, ACVO, Culture Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council.

- 3.3 The report of phase 1 process and recommendations is contained at Appendix A.
- 3.4 The main recommendations for the Public Art commission, from consultation include:
- Placed in an outdoor and green space.
 - Accessible (this was important to people of all generations).
 - A space where people can gather and be together because public benches are often far away from each other.
 - The space ideally will allow interaction and enable people to leave a trace, or mark, that contributes to the space over time, such as flower beds.
 - Circular, oval shape feature or seating. A circle was mentioned a lot in relation to support, gathering, continuity, grief, life, etc.
 - Motivation for people to engage.
 - Nourish creativity ('creativity saved the day').
 - Giving space for healing.
 - Site – Bon Accord Gardens – good proximity to the city centre, but still has opportunities for quiet reflection and encourage local community involvement.
- 3.5 For phase 2, funding of circa £100k will be available to each local authority area to realise these projects. Greenspace Scotland will continue to support the programme through delivery, learning, connecting, reflecting, and ensuring legacy for all involved.
- 3.6 The funding for phase 2 has been secured and is being managed by Station House Media Unit (as in phase 1).
- 3.7 The proposed 2nd phase commission document has been seen and advised upon by the newly formed Aberdeen City Council Public Art panel. (Appendix B)
- 3.8 A meeting has been held with Ferryhill Community Centre in preparation of holding a public meeting there once permission has been given to promote Bon Accord Gardens as our preferred site. The location is supported by ACC's Environmental Services.
- 3.9 Meetings have been held with Mental Health Aberdeen regarding their involvement in the longer-term promotion and development of the gardens as a centre for wellbeing, through a new charitable group.
- 3.10 The commissioning process for phase 2 will be undertaken in 2 parts. The first part, once we have permission to promote our preferred site at Bon Accord Gardens, will be an open call for proposals. From these proposals three artists will be shortlisted and requested to deliver a more in-depth proposal including visuals and modelling. From the result of this process, we will be able to make a detailed application to the planning department (Appendix C).

- 3.11 The North East Culture Collective team will undertake the managing of the project. The commissioned artist will take responsibility for the designing, permissions, fabricating, and installing of the public art piece. Once completed the project team will transfer the statue and ownership to Aberdeen City Council.
- 3.12 Once in position the art piece will require very little maintenance. The piece will be very durable and will require no more than a yearly clean. Any landscaping involved will be supported by ACC's Environmental Services.
- 3.11 If approved, the timeline for the unveiling of the new public art piece will be at a public ceremony in the summer of 2024.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The estimated total project cost is £100,000.
- 4.2 The full cost of managing, designing, fabricating, and installing the public artwork will be met through the grant received from the remembering together project.
- 4.3 Though on-going maintenance costs are minimal, an agreed amount of the budget will be set aside to cover additional expenses in the initial stages for the existing parks team. Otherwise, the regular maintenance will be covered within existing ACC's Environmental Services budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

- 7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve. Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *Taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
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Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Compliance	No significant risks identified.	Alternative sites identified	L	Yes
Operational	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Financial	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Reputational	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified.	NA	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Supports the delivery of Aberdeen City Council Policy through the Council's commissioning intentions, aligned to the LOIP key drivers, and stretch outcomes.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The Remembering Together Artwork will contribute to the city as a visitor destination linked to heritage tourism, specifically supporting the following areas of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26, "We will seek to develop a City of Learning approach that empowers people and communities to put lifelong learning at the heart of their civic and cultural identities."

	Key Driver 1.1 “Diversification of the economy into other growth sectors including wider energy related sectors; tourism; food and drink; life sciences; health and social care and construction.”
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The project would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Remembering Together Artwork supports the delivery of stretch outcome - 13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. 15. Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026.
Regional and City Strategies	Contributes to the targets and objectives in a range of regional and city strategies including Regional and Local Transport Strategies, Strategic and Local Development Plans, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Aberdeen Adapts, Local Housing Strategy and Net Zero Route map for the city.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Assessment Impact	Full impact assessment not required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NA

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A - Report from phase 1 of the remembering together Aberdeen process.

11.2 Appendix B – Public Art Panel Aberdeen Recommendations

11.3 Appendix C – Artists Callout.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Steven Shaw
Title	Environmental Manager
Email Address	stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	Tel: 07786976381