

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	4th April 2012
ACTING DIRECTOR	David Leng
TITLE OF REPORT	Gordon Highlanders Commission – gifting of Maquette
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/12/016

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval for the maquette made as part of the commission process for the Gordon Highlanders statue, by artist Mark Richards, to be donated to the Gordon Highlanders Regimental Museum in Aberdeen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Elected Members accord with the request of the former Gordon Highlanders working group and approve the gifting of the maquette to the regimental museum.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

£125,000 was allocated over two years (2010/2011 and 2011/12) from the Common Good to pay for the full commission and related activity. The value of the maquette is £5,000, was paid as part of this allocation and is owned by Aberdeen City Council. It is currently in the care of Aberdeen City Council's Museums and Galleries section.

There are no financial implications arising from the gifting of the work to the regimental museum.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are legal or other implications arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The Council meeting on 24th 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 to complete the commission. The artist worked closely with costumiers, the Gordon Highlanders Museum and regimental representatives to ensure complete accuracy in the representation of the figures. The figure consists of two figures from different periods of the history of the Regiment.

The statue was publicly unveiled by HRH the Duke of Rothesay, Prince Charles, on Saturday 15th October 2011 in the Castlegate. Press coverage of the event, and feedback from members of the public has been very positive. Residents of the City have expressed pride in seeing the regiment being formally acknowledged in the form of a public sculpture.

A maquette is produced to provide the organisation or individual concerned with commissioning a piece of sculpture with a scale model of the finished work at various stages. The maquette for the Gordon Highlanders has been produced in bronze.

On 23rd February 2011 Council gave permission for Officers to explore the potential for the marketing and production of a limited edition of maquettes to be produced from the original. However, following extensive research, the cost of producing said reproductions would provide no significant profit to the Council or the artist, and in fact may have yielded no return at all.

Following this advice, the working group agreed to request permission of Council to gift the original maquette to the Regimental Museum in the spirit of the original Council motion. The Gordon Highlanders regimental museum have expressed a wish to accept such a gift should the recommendation be approved.

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 some public interest in this report given the City's longstanding history with the Gordon Highlanders. Representatives from the regiment were heavily involved in both the working group and the public unveiling of the commission.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports and minutes from the Gordon Highlanders working group, 1 October 2002 – 4 October 2011.

Report to Council 23 February 2011

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Lesley Thomson
Culture and Sport Commissioning manager
lthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522499