

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	27 th March 2014
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Art Gallery redevelopment programme – procurement of the Museums Collections Centre
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS//2014
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides an update on progress to develop the Museums Collections Centre, including confirmation that design work has been completed and an application for planning permission lodged. The next step is to publish the Invitation to Tender, which requires committee approval. The report therefore seeks approval of the total estimated expenditure.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1) The Committee notes the progress to date with the development of the Museums Collections Centre;
- 2) The Committee notes the success in achieving grant funding, through two separate bids from Museums Galleries Scotland. The grants will contribute towards the costs of providing picture racking and shelving, and storage;
- 3) The Committee approves the total estimated expenditure as stated in this report and instructs officers to issue the Invitation to Tender to the shortlisted tenderers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has committed £3.7m from its Non-Housing Capital Fund within the forthcoming financial year towards the overall costs of realising the new Museums Collections Centre. The expected expenditure of £3.85m reflects the costs identified within the total development design to meet the Council's insurers and underwriters requirements particularly in relation to fire, other damage, and security. It also has the required levels of inflation included within the overall

timeline. Committee approval of the total estimated expenditure of £3.85m is sought.

The revenue costs of existing facilities, including those at Crombie Road and Kittybrewster, and those estimated for the new Museums Collections Centre, and also the redeveloped Art Gallery, have been reviewed to make an overall assessment of changes to operational budgets.

The existing revenue budgets within the service are expected to sustain increases within the first four years of the current five year budget plan. In 2018/19, there will be increases required in the revenue budgets and officers will assess these in more detail as the whole life costs of the Art Gallery are developed within the final specifications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The location of the Museums Collections Centre at Granitehill will become an “anchor” development on the site; the building will be as sustainable as possible and its setting will improve the environment in what is currently an industrial “brown field” site.

The Museums Collections Centre will be built to comply with PD5454, standard for archival storage and PAS198, standard for museum storage of mixed material collections.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 The Museums Collections Centre will be the main location for the Council’s Collections of historical objects and artworks, while not on public display. When scoping the Centre, it had been planned to house all items “in store” at Granitehill, however this has not been possible within the available funding and the financial constraints the Council operates within.

5.2 The design brief has been reviewed and refined in an effort to achieve the balance between the initial aspiration, and an achievable and financially viable solution. This has taken some time to undertake and while officers are now content that the overall vision will still be realised, the time taken to re-assess has resulted in the development being later than planned, by around twenty-three weeks.

5.3 The current timeline for completion of the Museums Collections Centre is April 2015, with occupation a month later to allow environmental equipment and systems to have bedded-in. As the Collections Centre is an enabling project to support the Art Gallery redevelopment, the later start and completion dates have been factored-in by the Art Gallery project team, and efforts will be made to limit the extent of the extended timeline, as far as possible. A separate

report on the Art Gallery procurement process will follow to a later meeting of the Committee.

5.4 As members are aware, the Museums Collections Centre will be a new public space in Northfield and for the wider city. With the project now being at a point where there is a design, purpose and location to discuss, officers will shortly begin to engage with the wider community about what will be on offer. Within the discussion, the opportunities for the community to access the Centre, once opened, will be shared. It is expected that until the Art Gallery has closed, access will be initially low key while items are relocated to the latter. Efforts will be made to welcome visitors to the new spaces thereafter.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – The report relates to the Council's Five Year Corporate Business Plan, 'Aberdeen - the Smarter City', where "we will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another."

Specifically in terms of Smarter Living (Quality of Life):

- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond

This report is consistent with the Education, Culture and Sport priorities, and the City's Cultural strategy, 'Vibrant Aberdeen' as the proposal will improve the City's cultural profile. The report also relates to the Council's Strategic Infrastructure Plan and explicitly the realisation of the Art Gallery redevelopment.

Public - this report is likely to be of interest to the public, given the nature and location of the development.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Risk relates primarily to the timeline to procure a contractor, their completing the development to time and it being completed to minimise the delays in commencing the construction phase of the Art Gallery redevelopment.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Museums Collections Centre – site appraisal, Education, Culture and Sport, 28th March 2013;
Aberdeen Art Gallery redevelopment programme, Urgent Business Committee, 29th November 2012;
Aberdeen Art Gallery redevelopment, Education, Culture and Sport Committee, 7th June 2012 and Finance and Resources Committee, 21st June 2012;
Condition and Suitability Programme 2012-13, Finance and Resources Committee 15th March 2012
Progress report on proposals to redevelop Aberdeen Art Gallery, 18th November 2010
Progress report on proposals to redevelop Aberdeen Art Gallery and Report on improving access to the Museums and Galleries Collections, Culture and Sport Committee, 27th May 2010;

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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