

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Guldry & Mortification Funds Sub Committee
DATE	21 January 2015
ACTING DIRECTOR	Ewan Sutherland
TITLE OF REPORT	Hamilton Monument Repair
REPORT NUMBER	CG/15/02
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Inform the Committee of the balance of funds within the Graveyards Mortification Fund.
- b) Inform the Committee of the request from Aberdeen City Heritage Trust for funding towards the repair cost of the Hamilton Monument.

2. It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Consider the request from Aberdeen City Heritage Trust and agree to provide £2,000 towards the repair cost of the Hamilton Monument.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An approach has been made by Aberdeen City Heritage Trust for funding towards the cost of repairing the Hamilton Monument within the south-west corner of St Nicholas Churchyard. Repair work will cost in the region of £12,000.

The Churchyard Mortifications Fund currently stands at £27,400.

If the Graveyard Mortification Fund provides £2,000, Aberdeen City Heritage Trust will pay for the remainder of the cost of repairing the Hamilton Monument.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Unless repair work is carried out there could be a safety risk from the collapse of the monument.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Dr Hamilton's Monument is located in a prominent position towards the South West corner of St Nicolas Kirkyard, Union Street, Aberdeen.
- 5.2 The structure, along with other structures in the Kirkyard is recognised as being of architectural or historic interest and is included in the Statutory List at Grade B.
- 5.3 The Monument was designed by John Smith and constructed in 1843 as a Doric aedicule raised on a plinth in granite ashlar construction to enclose a stone funerary urn. It is probably the finest complete work of classical architecture in the Kirkyard.
- 5.4 The monument is surrounded by 8 mini obelisks which appear to have once been connected by an iron bar or chains. These are probably contemporary with the construction of the original monument.
- 5.5 The funerary urn has been toppled by vandals, has fallen and chipped an adjacent grave table and landed wedged immediately to the south of the monument. This event happened a number of years ago.
- 5.6 It is understood that the monument is still owned and the responsibility of the Hamilton family. We expect that there will be no traceable line of family responsibility, although this is continuing to be explored.
- 5.7 Repairs are anticipated to be in the regions of £12,000 and Aberdeen City Heritage Trust consider that the preservation of the Hamilton Monument to be a high priority, given the architectural significance of the monument and it's current state of disrepair.

6. IMPACT

The St. Nicolas Kirkyard is a major contributor to the high visual impact of Union Street, enjoyed both by residents and visitors alike. The historical significance of the monuments is recognised by a grade 2 listing identifying a duty to preserve these historic monuments to be enjoyed by future generations.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Without repair, the monument could further deteriorate to the point of collapse with the potential loss of a class 2 listed structure and potential injury to people in the Kirkyard.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Survey of the Hamilton Monument by Aberdeen City Heritage Trust
February 2011(not attached).

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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