

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	17th August 2016
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Fishing Industry Memorial Working Group
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/16/051
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report lays out the proposed roles, remit and membership of a short life working group, to be established to commission a memorial to the fishing industry.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Council:-

- a. Establishes the Fishing Industry Memorial Working Group comprising four people: the Lord Provost, the Cultural Policy and Partnership Manager and two industry experts.
- b. Approves the remit for the working group as being to agree (a) a budget for the commission and installation of the works; (b) the preferred site for the piece; (c) the commissioning process, shortlisting and selection of the artist and art form; (d) the timescale for completion; and (e) any formal opening event, including the invitation of dignitaries; and
- c. Agrees that the working group meets cyclically, or more frequently as required, on the understanding that during the construction of the piece, if there is no business for consideration, progress reports will be sent to each member of the group.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In the Common Good budget for 2015/16 Council approved £50,000 towards a commission to commemorate the fishing industry. A further contribution from the fishing industry is being considered. There is no lower or upper limit and the commission will be budgeted accordingly. A full budget will be agreed by the working group.

The process of appointing an artist to undertake the commission will be an open call following an agreed brief. There will therefore be no state aid implications arising.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services be required to scope and agree the commission and resulting contract. Committee Services will provide clerking for the working group. In relation to the installation of any artwork, subject to the agreed art form, resources may be required to excavate or otherwise investigate a proposed location in order to ascertain the implications for siting the work. Aberdeen City Council has developed a best practice Public Art toolkit which provides online support and best practice when commissioning artworks. The working group will use this framework to ensure the project is carried out to maximise the benefit of the investment.

Officers in Education and Children's Services will manage the commission process.

Depending on the nature of the final commission, ongoing costs for maintenance will need to be considered and this will be factored into the budget for the work.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

On 17th December 2014 Council approved the following motion by Lord Provost George Adam:

'That Aberdeen City Council agrees to take forward approaches from associates of the local fishing industry to create an appropriate and lasting memorial to the men and women who lived, worked and died in it, in peacetime and in war, and to commemorate the major contribution which fishing has made to the city's life and heritage. Officers are instructed to report on the establishment of a small working group, the scope of a commission, and confirmation of a budget with a view to obtaining contributions to build on external funds already secured'

Establishing a small working group:-

The working group will comprise four people, being the Lord Provost, the Cultural Policy and Partnerships Manager, one external member involved in work already undertaken and one further external industry adviser. The Lord Provost has suggested that Mr Douglas Paterson be appointed as one of the external representatives given the work he has undertaken in bringing the project to its current position.

Frequency of meetings:-

At least cyclical, with more frequent meetings held as business requires it. If there is no business for consideration during construction, then instead progress reports can be sent to members of the group.

Future role:-

This is a short life Working Group which will exist for the lifetime of the project.

Remit:-

The working group will agree: (1) a budget for the commission and installation of the works; (2) the preferred site for the piece; (3) the commissioning process, shortlisting and selection of the artist and art form; (4) the timescale for completion; and (5) any formal opening event, including the invitation of dignitaries.

The scope of the commission:-

At the first meeting of the Fishing Industry Memorial Working Group, officers will propose the scope of a commission. This cannot be determined until the budget is confirmed and the site agreed.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

Aberdeen has a proud heritage relating to the fishing industry, and there is considerable interest in how the city commemorates and reflects that heritage. A recent public petition further highlighted this interest. Recognising the contribution of the industry to the life of the city in a very public manner will contribute significantly to civic pride and the cultural life of Aberdeen. .

Improving Staff Experience –

No impact has been identified.

Improving our use of Resources –

By using an open and transparent procurement process, the budget available for the commission will be maximised.

Corporate –

The Single Outcome Agreement: Culture is a multi – lateral priority
Strategic Infrastructure Plan: A better image for Aberdeen:

- Boost the external appearance of the city as a place to live, visit and invest
- Foster greater civic pride
- Celebrate and showcase existing strengths

Education and Children’s Service Plan priority 2-Culture

City Centre Masterplan objectives 1 and 8:

- Changing perceptions- promoting the view of Aberdeen as an energetic, inclusive and fascinating place
- Culturally distinctive – ensuring the city centre reflects its distinctive local culture so it is like no other place

Smarter Aberdeen: Quality of Life

- Enhance the well-being of our communities by creating a stimulating environment for them to work through the delivery of high quality arts and cultural services

- 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
- 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

Public –

The fishing industry has been recognised as having a significant long term impact on the City of Aberdeen. It is likely that organisations and individuals associated with the industry will be interested in the City's intentions to commemorate this aspect of heritage, and what the completed art work will look like, including where this is sited. This can be addressed through timely staged press releases and other means of communication, including social networking.

The motion from the Lord Provost recognises the contribution of both men and women to the industry, and the Working Group will ensure that the commission reflects this.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks in relation to this project are primarily relating to the timeline which will be developed to make sure the project is delivered timeously and within budget. The commission will specify a sum within which the artwork is to be delivered, and a timescale, ensuring the commissioned artist is complying with all dates and deadlines. Payments will be made according to agreed progress a final payment will not be made until completion. Depending on the agreed location, some consideration may need to be given to any related building or construction works which could affect the

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda and minutes of the 17th December 2014 Council meeting.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Lesley Thomson, Cultural Policy and Partnerships Manager
lthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522499

Roderick MacBeath, Head of Democratic Services
rmacbeath@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523054