

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	17th November 2016
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	AWPR Public Art
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/16/064
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	YES

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report provides a response to the request that officers consider the feasibility of a major item of public art alongside the route of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral route.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that Committee:-

- a. Approves the content of the report.
- b. Should, in the future, a source of funding be identified, instruct officers to report to committee on the options for commissioning a piece of public art.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No funding is currently in place for the construction of a major piece of public art along the site of the AWPR. Officers have assessed Trusts and Foundations and other sources of external capital funding and do not consider, at this stage, that there are appropriate grants which the initiative would be eligible for. Any future grants would, in all likelihood, require significant match funding from Aberdeen City Council.

In addition to the one off capital resources, there would be an ongoing need for maintenance of the work which could not be assessed and established until the work was commissioned.

The process of appointing an artist to undertake the commission would be an open call following an agreed brief. There would therefore be no State Aid implications arising.

4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications at this stage.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Council motion

- 5.1 On the 8th October 2015, Council approved a motion by Councillor Yuill:

‘That this Council instructs officers to report on the feasibility of locating a major item of public art at an appropriate point alongside the route of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and what the potential sources of funding for such a project might be’

- 5.2 The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route is due for completion in late 2017. Due to the ongoing works, it would be impracticable to undertake a commission of this nature until the construction work is complete.

- 5.3 There are a number of considerations to be taken into account when considering a commission of this scale, including:

- Location and site of a suitable size and the requirement for visitor facilities and adjacent infrastructure
- Air traffic control and flight paths
- Ownership of and access to land, and approval from the appropriate national agencies
- Planning permission
- Ongoing maintenance and the costs related
- Agreement on the commission by the neighbouring local authority.
- The current proposal for a sculpture on private land at the northern end of the AWPR.
- It is anticipated that the lead in time for the commissioning of a project of this scale would be three years.

- 5.4 Comparator projects

Projects of this nature vary in scale and size and the following are given as examples of the potential costs required:

Date	Artwork	Location	Cost	Weight/height/footage
2014	The Kelpies	Falkirk Helix	£5-7m	300 tonnes each 30m high 50,000 square feet 1,200 tonnes steel reinforced concrete foundation each
1998	Angel of the North	Gateshead	£800,000	
2012	Arcelor Mittal orbit	Olympic Park, London	£22.7m	114.5m tall sculpture and observation point
1997	Darlington Train	Darlington	£760,000	15,000 tonnes 600m square

				23ft high 130 ft long
1999	Big Heids	Eurocentral-M8	£273,000	Each head 10m high Each head 18 tonnes Sit on 7m high containers

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

A major public art commission would, with the right infrastructure and visitor experience, make a significant contribution 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, any budget available for the commission would be maximised.

Corporate –

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan:

- People experience Aberdeen as the best place to invest, live and visit

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

Public –

It is likely that the public will be interested in any intention to undertake a project of this scale, the subject matter, 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.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks in relation to this project are at this stage in securing the investment required to commission a work and the subsequent timescale. Given the limited opportunity to source a significant sum to deliver a project of this scale, at this stage officers would not, therefore recommend further action on this matter, unless a source of public funds becomes available.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda and minutes of the 19th August 2015 Council meeting.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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