

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth & Resources
DATE	19/6/2018
REPORT TITLE	Loans of Works of Art to overseas venues
REPORT NUMBER	RES/18/039
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Richard Sweetnam
REPORT AUTHOR	Christine Rew
TERMS OF REFERENCE	General delegation 4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for officers to accompany works of art on loan to international venues

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 Approve officer international travel to accompany works of art on loan as detailed in the International Loans Plan; and
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Chief Officer-City Growth, in consultation with the Chief Officer-Customer Experience, to authorise the travel necessary to implement the International Loans Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Lending to partner and international galleries and museums raises the profile of Aberdeen and its collections. The presence of loans from the city's collections contributes to the international promotion of Aberdeen and its attractiveness as a cultural tourism destination. International loans enable us to showcase the quality of the collection to a new segment of potential visitors, broadening access to the collection and reaching new audiences. Items which might otherwise be in storage are available to the public. Participation in a major exhibition of Monet's works in Denmark saw 217,902 new visitors view a work on loan from the collections.

- 3.2 Loans provide an opportunity for fresh research by leading experts in their field, often resulting in the city's works of art featuring in exhibition catalogues. In agreeing to key loans, the city places its collections beside other major institutions in Europe and further afield. Consistently lending fosters partnerships with other Museums and Galleries and in turn strengthens the opportunities for reciprocity for future loans.
- 3.3 Couriers are assigned to accompany valuable works of art when they are lent to UK and international art galleries and museums. Couriers travel with the item to ensure that it is handled safely throughout, to oversee packing/unpacking, undertake a full condition check and to oversee the installation/de-installation. This ensures that the Council's assets are handled appropriately. The input of couriers is particularly required for large loans (in terms of size or number of objects); complex or delicate handling needs; complicated installation and high value loans (items of high monetary value or of national or local significance)
- 3.4 The significance, high value and fragility of the artworks managed for the Council mean that works travelling internationally need to be accompanied by qualified, trained and experienced in-house couriers. Couriers are selected from a rota of Museums and Galleries staff, assigned according to an officer's experience and knowledge and the value and nature of the works on loan. For continuity the outward courier often acts as courier on the return journey. This conforms with the service's Accreditation status and complies with the UK Registrars Group international loan guidance. Where appropriate, courier assignments are shared with other Accredited institutions as part of a sustainable and environmental approach to overseas travel.
- 3.5 Through training and experience couriers from the Museum and Galleries team have the knowledge and skills to deal with unexpected situations such as:
- What to do in the event of a breakdown;
 - customs inspections at ports;
 - non-loading (or "bumping") of freight by the airline;
 - breakdown of vehicle/mechanical apparatus;
 - a road accident;
 - re-routing e.g. change of aircraft/destination airport;
 - damage to the object whilst in transit.
- 3.6 Planned international loans in 2018 and 2019
- 3.6.1 *John Singer Sargent* at Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden 4/10/2018-13/1/2019
This is the first major monographic exhibition in Scandinavia of Sargent's work. It is also the first temporary exhibition on the re-opening of the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm so our work will be seen by large numbers. The museum has engaged several international Sargent specialists to contribute to the exhibition and accompanying catalogue and has secured important loans from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Museum of Fine Arts Boston and the National Gallery in Washington.

3.6.2 *Parabola of Pre-Raphaelitism* at 3 venues in Japan – the Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo, 16/3/2019-9/6/2019; Kurume City Art Museum, Kurume, 18/6/2019-8/9/2019 and Abeno Harukas Art Museum, Osaka, 5/10/2019-15/12/2019

The organisers of this Japanese tour have a long-standing reputation for delivering high profile touring exhibitions in Japan in partnership with British Institutions. The venues for this exhibition are situated across Japan meaning that our works will be seen by many visitors. Christopher Newall, an expert in the Pre-Raphaelites is curating the show in partnership with Stephen Wildman Director of the Ruskin Library. Aberdeen has a strong Pre-Raphaelite collection and continuing connections with Japan.

3.6.3 *Fernand Léger* at Institut Valencia d'Art Modern, Spain 2/5/2019-15/9/2019

This exhibition originates at Tate Liverpool and tours to Valencia as a second venue. The work by Léger in the collections is key to the narrative of the exhibition and setting his work in context. Additionally, the work requires re-glazing prior to loan, and the service has negotiated with the borrower to pay for all costs incurred to carry out this work.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report as all travel and subsistence costs are borne by the borrowing institutions. All loan costs are borne by the borrower. This often includes conservation/ framing/ glazing and can be a valuable opportunity to conserve works that we might not have the resources to treat. All courier costs (travel and subsistence) are covered by the borrowing institution and an administration fee is also charged. Travel arrangements are made direct by art handling shipping agents appointed by the borrower. With wi-fi and mobile technology couriers can continue working remotely whilst travelling.
- 4.2 Delegation of travel authorisation to the Chief Officer-City Growth, in consultation with Chief Officer-Customer Experience, will quicken the travel approval process and allow the service to respond efficiently to the travel arrangements made by the borrowing institution's appointed art handling agents.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The service complies with the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property which was ratified by the UK with effect from 1/11/2002.
- 5.2 Current guidance from the UK Government (DCMS), Scottish Government and Museums Galleries Scotland regarding travel to restricted countries is also implemented.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	Travel costs Cost of repairing damage or loss during transit	L M	Travel and subsistence costs are borne by the borrowing institutions Confirmation of Insurance against damage and loss required from Borrower before art work permitted to travel; officer oversees packing and handling to reduce risk of damage during transit
Legal	Seizure of works of art by host country or terrorist attack	L	Works of Art are not lent to countries with high security risk rating; UK Government travel advice implemented
Employee	Personal injury due to mis-handling of works of art	L	Officers are trained in courier and manual handling processes, including gaining experience in the UK prior to going overseas; trained art handlers employed by borrowing institutions Officers are insured by the Art Handling agents whilst accompanying works of art overseas Risk assessment completed by service
Customer	International priorities and increased visitor exposure to the Collections not met	L	Lend works of art to international venues
Environment	Travel results in Co2 emissions	L	Shared transport arranged where appropriate
Technology			

Reputational	Council's reputation of caring appropriately for its assets adversely impacted if works of art are damaged whilst travelling unaccompanied	M	Trained officers travel with works of art to oversee transit and installation
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	<p>Delivers on Regional Economic Strategy and LOIP primary driver of Internationalism</p> <p>Works of art on loan to overseas venues strengthens the city's international links, raises the profile of the city and its art collections and drives tourists to visit as a cultural tourism destination.</p> <p>Delivers on tourism priority for the city.</p>
Prosperous People	<p>Sense of pride for our people as works of art are loaned to prestigious international venues. Borrowers promote and publicise the exhibitions extensively.</p>
Prosperous Place	<p>Enhances Aberdeen and the wider city region's inward investment and internationalisation offer by presenting the strength of the city's collections and cultural offer to overseas visitors.</p> <p>Our international place; supports international trade priorities, international exposure to tourism markets etc</p>
Enabling Technology	

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	None
Organisational Design	None

Governance	None
Workforce	None
Process Design	None
Technology	None
Partnerships and Alliances	Participation in external international partnerships results in new opportunities for joint working and international collaboration

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA not required
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

International Loans Plan 2018-19

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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