

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources
DATE	25 April 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Alexander Ogston Plaque
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/19/208
DIRECTOR	N/A
CHIEF OFFICER	Richard Sweetnam
REPORT AUTHOR	Jenny Brown
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Purpose 6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the erection of a plaque to Sir Alexander Ogston, Professor of Surgery at University of Aberdeen at 252 Union Street, Aberdeen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the erection of a plaque to Sir Alexander Ogston, Professor of Surgery at 252 Union Street.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society have proposed to erect a commemorative plaque to Sir Alexander Ogston, Professor of Surgery at Aberdeen University.
- 3.2 The proposal does not meet the requirement for appropriate location set out in the Guidelines for the Nomination on Commemorative plaques (see Appendix 1.1), as the proposed address is not the original building.
- 3.3 A court style plaque (see Appendix 3 for an example) is proposed because all other requirements set out in the Guidelines have been met and there is no suitable alternative building. The wording proposed is:-
- 3.3.1 Sir Alexander Ogston (1844-1929) Professor of Surgery, surgical innovator and distinguished military surgeon lived in a house on this site from 1870 to 1929.
- 3.3.2 In 1881 Ogston discovered the Staphylococcus organism in a laboratory he constructed in his garden.
- 3.3.3 Sir Alexander Ogston was a highly regarded operator and teacher, distinguished military surgeon and, most famously, discoverer of the staphylococcus organism following researches in his laboratory located in the

garden of his house at 252 Union Street. See Appendix 1.2 and Appendix 2 for a full account of Alexander Ogston's life.

- 3.4 The inclusion of a plaque to Sir Alexander Ogston in the plaques scheme is especially relevant now as he is included in current plans for the new displays at Provost Skene's House, scheduled to open to the public in 2020.
- 3.5 Planning and the building owners have approved this location for the plaque. 252 Union Street are currently applying for a grant to remove the cladding (as the fixings are failing) and to reinstate with a more suitable fixing method. It is proposed to erect the plaque after completion of these works.
- 3.6 Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society as the promoters of the plaque will be responsible for obtaining all necessary statutory and other third party consents to allow the commemorative plaque to Sir Alexander Ogston to be erected at 252 Union Street.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. All financial costs shall be covered by the nominating body as outlined in the Plaques Guidance (see Appendix 1.1).

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The building owners and Planning have been consulted about the location of the proposed plaque as outlined in the Plaques Guidance (see Appendix 1.1). Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society as the promoters for the plaque will be responsible for obtaining all necessary statutory and other third party consents to allow the commemorative plaque to Sir Alexander Ogston to be erected at 252 Union Street.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employee	N/A	N/A	N/A
Customer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technology	N/A	N/A	N/A

Reputational	Risk of not acknowledging the significance of Sir Alexander Ogston's achievements appropriately	L	The erection of the plaque would provide suitable acknowledgment of notable individual
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	The plaque may attract local visitors or tourists, who then may visit other businesses in Union Street.
Prosperous People	The plaque may inspire those who see it in place to take pride in their local heritage.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Partnerships and Alliances	Working with Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society is a good example of fostering a relationship with a local heritage group.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Assessment	Not Required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required as all personal information recorded on the plaque is already in the public domain.
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not Applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Plaque Application for Sir Alexander Ogston from the Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society.

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix 1.1- Details of requirements of the Plaques Scheme;
Appendix 1.2- Details of the Nominee (Sir Alexander Ogston) and reasons for application;
Appendix 2- Short biography of the Nominee (Sir Alexander Ogston) provided by Applicant; and
Appendix 3- Example of a court style plaque

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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