

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | City Growth & Resources |
| DATE | 21 June 2022 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | JJR Macleod Memorial Statue |
| REPORT NUMBER | OPE/22/106 |
| DIRECTOR | Rob Polkinghorne |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Mark Reilly |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Steven Shaw |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 4.1 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides a background to John James Rickard Macleod and the proposed memorial statue and recommends a preferred location to site the memorial statue.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approves the preferred location for the JJR Macleod memorial statue as Duthie Park; and
- 2.2 Notes that the full costs of designing, fabricating, and installing the statue will be met by the JJR Macleod Memorial Statute Society, and at no cost to the council.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 At the full Council meeting on 13 December 2021, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Lumsden MSP in the following terms:-

That this Council:-

1. notes the achievement of Aberdonian JJR Macleod and his role in the discovery and isolation of insulin.
2. notes that JJR Macleod jointly received the Nobel prize for his work in 1923.
3. notes that 2022 will mark the centenary since insulin was first used in a patient.
4. agrees that the work of JJR Macleod has made a significant difference to the lives of millions of diabetics across the world.
5. welcomes that a group has been created to fund a memorial for JJR Macleod.

6. instructs the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services to work with the group to establish a preferred location for the memorial; and
 7. instruct officers to report to a future meeting of the City Growth & Resources Committee for approval of a preferred location and to report on any potential costs to Council.
- 3.2 The Council Decision resolved to approve the notice of motion.
 - 3.3 John James Rickard Macleod shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923 as a co-discoverer of insulin, one of the greatest medical achievements of the 20th century. Professor Macleod is directly responsible for saving the lives of millions of people with Type 1 diabetes over the past century and deserves the highest accolades for his contributions to humanity.
 - 3.4 Educated at Aberdeen Grammar School, Macleod graduated from Aberdeen University in 1898 and went on to become a renowned academic physiologist and biochemist. Most notably, he guided a team of researchers at the University of Toronto towards one of the world's greatest medical discoveries – insulin. This life-changing breakthrough in 1922 would never have happened without Professor Macleod's expertise and leadership.
 - 3.5 The JJR Macleod Memorial Statue Society seeks to raise funds to commemorate him with a life-sized statue cast in bronze. This statue will be an enduring memorial that celebrates Macleod's accomplishments and provides individuals with diabetes and their families a long overdue opportunity to pay tribute to the man responsible for their very existence.
 - 3.6 The Society has commissioned renowned Scottish sculptor John McKenna for this project. Some of his works include sculptures aboard the Queen Mary 2 and statues of Jock Stein, Jimmy Johnstone, Billy McNeill, AC/DC front man Bon Scott, Ben Bouden the poet of Dudley, the Shipbuilders at Port Glasgow and Rifleman Khan, canine war hero and Dickin Medal recipient.
 - 3.7 The statue will depict a seated figure of Professor Macleod on a bench, gazing over the park with a 1923 newspaper at his side bearing the headline, "Nobel Prize for Medicine Awarded to Co-Discoverers of Insulin." The bench will sit on a terrace of Aberdeen granite featuring specially-designed pavers with sponsors' names. There will also be a mounted bronze plaque with key details about Macleod.
 - 3.8 The Society has proposed situating the statue in Duthie Park, a short distance from Macleod's final resting place in Allenvale Cemetery and overlooking the park's common green. The location is supported by ACC's Environmental Services and the Friends of Duthie Park.
 - 3.9 The Society will undertake designing/fundraising/fabricating the statue, and once completed will present the statue to Duthie Park / Aberdeen as a gift.
 - 3.10 Once in position the statue will require very little maintenance. The statue will be very durable and will require nothing more than a yearly clean and application of wax to protect it from the elements.
 - 3.11 If approved, the statue will be unveiled in situ at a gala ceremony in the summer of 2023.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The estimated total project cost is £100,000.
- 4.2 The full cost of designing, fabricating, and installing the statue will be met by the JJR Macleod Memorial Statue Society.
- 4.2 On going maintenance costs are minimal and will be covered by the existing parks team within existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

- 7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

| Category | Risks | Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level | *Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions | *Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set? |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Strategic Risk | No significant risks. | NA | NA | Yes |
| Compliance | No significant risks. | NA | NA | Yes |
| Operational | No significant risks. | NA | NA | Yes |
| Financial | Funding not secured. | Project will not proceed. | NA | Yes |
| Reputational | No significant risks. | NA | NA | Yes |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----|----|-----|
| Environment / Climate | No significant risks. | NA | NA | Yes |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----|----|-----|

8. OUTCOMES

| <u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u> | |
|--|--|
| | Impact of Report |
| Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement | Supports the delivery of Aberdeen City Council Policy through the Council's commissioning intentions, aligned to the LOIP key drivers, and stretch outcomes. |
| Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan | |
| Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes | The memorial at Duthie Park will contribute to the city as a visitor destination linked to heritage tourism, specifically supporting the following areas of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26, "We will seek to develop a City of Learning approach that empowers people and communities to put lifelong learning at the heart of their civic and cultural identities." Key Driver 1.1 "Diversification of the economy into other growth sectors including wider energy related sectors; tourism; food and drink; life sciences; health and social care and construction." |
| Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes | The project would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact. |
| Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes | The project would have had minimal impact on the stretch outcomes and the recommendations will have no negative impact. |
| Regional and City Strategies | |
| | Contributes to the Regional Economic Strategy 2018-2023 Action Plan's internationalization theme point vii): Delivery and marketing of cultural, heritage and tourism attractions. They can also play a role in the tours and maximise opportunities for the local market of the Socio-Economic Recovery plan (actions 3.4 and 3.1 of the Place Theme). |
| UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes | |
| | No impact identified |

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Integrated Impact Assessment | Not required. |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not required. |
| Other | None |

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NA

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Artist’s rendering of the memorial statue and a map showing proposed location at Duthie Park.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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