

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	5 July 2023
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Commemorative Plaque to BBC on Belmont Street
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/23/197
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Richard Sweetnam
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Jenny Brown
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.1.1

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the erection of a commemorative plaque on 15-17 Belmont Street to mark the site of the BBC's first radio broadcast in Aberdeen.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the erection of the proposed commemorative plaque at 15-17 Belmont Street, Aberdeen.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 BBC Scotland has proposed to erect a commemorative plaque to the first radio broadcast by the BBC at 15-17 Belmont Street.
- 3.2 The proposal is for a Place Plaque (see Appendix 1 for an example) to be erected on the west wall of the building, above an existing commemorative plaque (see Appendix 2).
- 3.3 The proposed location meets the requirement for Place Plaques as set out in Appendix 1 (5.3 Location) of the Plaques Policy as the building was used for the broadcast on 10 October 1923, an event of cultural significance. BBC Scotland 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 be erected. The wording proposed is:-

BBC

2BD

The first radio studios  
of the BBC in Aberdeen  
were based here  
1923-1938

3.4 2BD was a local radio station launched by the BBC at 9pm on 10th October 1923 at 17 Belmont Street by the Marquis of Aberdeen and Temair, followed by a live performance from the Band of the 2nd Gordon Highlanders. The entrance to the studio was subsequently established at 15 Belmont Street as part of redeveloping the location. It was the second BBC station to open in Scotland, following on from Glasgow in March 1923, and provided local content for the North East including drama, music and religious programming. Aberdeen was host to the first broadcast in Gaelic on 2nd December 1923, with a religious address, and in 1924 started the first regular sports broadcasts in Scotland with Peter Craigmyle, an international referee, on air every Thursday. The BBC moved to new premises at Beechgrove in 1938.

3.5 This plaque will form part of a national trail of plaques coordinated and promoted by BBC Scotland.

3.6 The Council's Planning Service and the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord have approved this location for the plaque.

#### 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 BBC Scotland.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The written consent of the owner of the building will need to be obtained before the plaque can be erected (it is understood that the Council is the owner) and notice given to tenants (if applicable)

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.2 The manufacturer of commemorative plaques is based in the UK and uses recycled aluminium sourced from within the UK, supporting sustainable procurement.

#### 7. RISK

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?

<b>Compliance</b>	Installation does not comply with the Council's Plaque Policy.	Officers confirm specific location on building in line with policy guidelines and in agreement with nominator and building owners.	L	Yes
<b>Reputational</b>	Risk of not acknowledging the significance of these aspects of Aberdeen's heritage.	Officers recommend erecting these plaques and promoting in line with the Council's Plaques Policy.	L	Yes

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b><u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u></b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	The proposals in this report support the Council's commitment to work with partners to develop heritage and online services with a special emphasis on local history and stories of our heritage. The Commemorative Plaques Scheme promotes important heritage sites within the city.
<b><u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u></b>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 2 - 400 unemployed Aberdeen City residents supported into Fair Work by 2026. The paper seeks approval to enhance the Commemorative Plaques scheme which helps attract visitors to our city, supporting labour market to recover from impact of Covid-19 on employment.
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	The proposals within this report support the Tourism and Strategy Action Plan in encouraging tourists to engage with aspects of Aberdeen's heritage.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Not required.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required.

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Commemorative Plaques Policy  
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Plaques-Policy-final.pdf>
- 10.2 “THE BBC IN SCOTLAND: The First Fifty Years” written by David Pat Walker, published by Luath Press, 2011
- 10.3 [https://genome.ch.bbc.co.uk/schedules/service\\_rt\\_2bd/1923-10-10](https://genome.ch.bbc.co.uk/schedules/service_rt_2bd/1923-10-10)

## 11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Examples of Place plaque
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Proposed location of plaque

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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