

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture, Communities & Facilities****Cultural Committee: 23 November 2020**

Subject: Redesign of Clydebank Town Hall Exhibition Galleries**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the spatial redesign of the Clydebank Town Hall exhibition galleries, which forms a key part of the Town Hall renovation project.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee:
- note the contents of this report
 - agree to a further detailed report being presented to a future Committee on the developed design for the new gallery space

3. Background

- 3.1** In November 2019 Cultural Committee considered the business case for improvement works to Clydebank Town Hall, and agreed significant renovations with the aim of maximising visitors and increasing income generation opportunities.
- 3.2** The report to Committee detailed a series of challenges associated with the existing exhibition galleries in the Town Hall, and the associated museum displays. This included:
- constraints placed on the display and interpretation of works due to the physical layout of the inter-linked exhibition galleries
 - a lack of coherence in presentation across changing exhibitions and museum object displays
 - challenges in managing the gallery environment to sector standards
 - lack of visibility of the exhibition galleries within the wider Town Hall complex
- 3.3** It was further noted that the current layout of the exhibition galleries in the Town Hall does not offer equality of experience to all visitors due to a lack of level access, and accessibility issues associated with wayfinding throughout the complex.
- 3.4** In response to the challenges identified, the report described an aspiration

to redesign the exhibition galleries as a contemporary, open-plan gallery space. This proposal included

- increasing the footprint of the gallery space by encompassing the existing coffee shop servery and seating area;
- introducing a modular wall hanging system to maximise opportunities for imaginative display; and
- ultimately creating a flagship gallery to lead West Dunbartonshire's cultural offer.

- 3.5** In order to ensure that any gallery redesign met sector standards – in relation to both display and care of artworks – it was proposed that specialist input be sought to inform the technical requirements of the gallery space.
- 3.6** Following discussions with the Corporate Procurement Unit, Brown + Wallace were appointed in early 2020 to lead a feasibility study on the new gallery space and deliver an imaginative concept for the redesign of the exhibition galleries. They were also tasked with providing an associated technical specification.
- 3.7** Brown + Wallace are a Glasgow based multi-discipline construction consultancy, offering expertise in Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying, Project Design and Principal Designer services. Brown + Wallace hold a diverse portfolio, including involvement in:
- Mount Stuart conservation project
 - conversion of Campbeltown Town Hall
 - refurbishment of St Andrews Cathedral.
- 3.8** McGinlay Bell Architectural Studio was further engaged by Brown + Wallace to inform the architectural elements of the redesign proposal. McGinlay Bell has recently completed work on the conversion of Glasgow Film Theatre, leading the interior alterations of the building and refurbishment throughout.
- 3.9** Given the significance of the gallery redesign element of the Town Hall renovation works it was agreed that a further report would come to Committee with more detailed proposals for final agreement.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Brown + Wallace were due to commence site surveys at Clydebank Town Hall in March 2020. However, due to the Covid 19 crisis these surveys could not go ahead as planned and works were paused. In line with Scottish Government guidance, Brown + Wallace recommenced work on the project in August 2020.

- 4.2** In late October 2020 a first draft Feasibility Report was submitted by Brown + Wallace, making a series of proposals and recommendations regarding the spatial redesign of the exhibition galleries. This report considers all relevant technical issues, including
- lighting design
 - environmental monitoring and control (humidity and temperature)
 - structural elements
 - accessibility
 - wayfinding
- 4.3** The Arts and Heritage team are now in the process of reviewing the draft report with Brown + Wallace, as well as colleagues from other Council services including Asset Management and Planning and Building Standards. Detailed consideration is being given to the report findings and recommendations. Upon completion of this review, a developed proposal for the gallery redesign will be brought to a future Cultural Committee.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no direct people implications arising from this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** The anticipated cost of the overall Town Hall renovation proposal approved by Committee in November 2019 was £1.408m. It was agreed that this budget would come from the £4m Cultural Capital Fund, which is already part of the Council's Capital Plan.
- 6.2** There are no procurement implications arising from this report as no decision is being requested of Committee at this time.
- 6.3** Any future financial implication arising from the gallery redesign will be dependent on the nature of the final proposal brought back to Committee.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There is a risk that review of the feasibility report and associated technical specification required for the spatial redesign of the Town Hall exhibition galleries will not lead to a viable proposal and therefore to the desired transformed gallery space within the Town Hall. This will be mitigated by ongoing consultation with relevant officers across Council departments.
- 7.2** There is a risk that the nature of the Town Hall as a listed building will

constrain opportunities for structural changes to the existing exhibition galleries. This will be mitigated by early discussion with officers from Planning and Building Standards.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on the final proposal for the gallery redesign.

9. Environmental Sustainability

- 9.1** The Brown + Wallace draft report considers environmental sustainability as part of the overall project strategy, describing a 'fabric first' approach, whereby any elements of the building fabric being altered are upgraded as far as possible within the limits of budget and construction constraints.

- 9.2** New services infrastructure recommended in the draft report consider the use of renewables first, where appropriate. Detailed solutions in the context of environmental sustainability are considered within the mechanical, electrical and plumbing proposals made.

10. Consultation

- 10.1** The proposal to undertake a spatial redesign of the exhibition galleries at Clydebank Town Hall has been assessed and developed in discussion with officers from Arts & Heritage, Asset Management, Corporate Procurement, Communications, and Planning & Building Standards.

11. Strategic Assessment

- 11.1** The proposals within this report support the following strategic priorities:
- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

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Date: 28 October 2020

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: [Business Case for Clydebank Town Hall Improvement Works](#): Report by Strategic Lead, Communications, Culture and Communities to Cultural Committee on 25 November 2019.

Wards Affected: All Wards.