

CORPORATE CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee held on Thursday 20 March 2008 in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors Ronnie McColl and Marie McNair.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; Ken Graham, Manager of Lifelong Learning; Billy McCabe, Section Head – Events and Halls; Gill Graham, Section Head – Culture; Janice Rainey, Section Head – Accountancy; Aileen Douthwaite, Education Support Officer – Music Instruction and Shona Barton, Committee and Members' Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors George Black, Douglas McAllister and Iain Robertson.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Sub-Committee heard from the Chair, Provost Denis Agnew, who welcomed all those present to the first meeting of the Cultural Sub-Committee. It was noted that the Executive Director of Educational Services, Mr. Terry Lanagan, would be the lead officer for the Sub-Committee. It was also noted that it was the intention of the Chair for all those Members on the Sub-Committee to take responsibility for specific remits with regard to the business of the Sub-Committee.

REMIT OF CORPORATE CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS FOR 2008

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing a copy of the remit for the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee and seeking consideration of dates for future meetings in 2008.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Legal Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:

- (1) to note that at present the Sub-Committee had been given no delegated powers;

- (2) to note the remit for the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (3) that a report would be prepared and submitted to a future meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee asking for determination on the powers to be delegated to the Sub-Committee; and
- (4) that the Clerk would liaise with appropriate officers and Members to schedule the remaining quarterly meetings for 2008.

PROPOSED UTILISATION OF CAPITAL PROCEEDS OF THOMAS HILL PAINTING

In terms of remit from the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 19 December 2007 (Pages 670/671 refer), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) informing of the background to the sale from the Council's Fine Art Collection of 'Sir Donald Peak and Selkirk Glacier' by artist Thomas Hill; and
- (b) presenting a proposal of four spending themes to enhance the Council's fine art assets and museum collections, utilising the residue of the capital proceeds from the sale of the Thomas Hill Painting.

After extensive discussion and having heard the Manager of Legal Services in clarification of a number of legal points and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report, and its aim to meet the aims of the Council's Cultural Strategy within a Best Value Framework. Promoting public access to the council's Fine Art and Museum Collection, conserving its fine art assets, and proposed bid for National Recognition; and
- (2) to endorse a previous Council decision which stated that the proceeds of the Thomas Hill Painting be used to acquire paintings by female artists, both from the local area and Scotland wide.

PROPOSED LONG TERM LOAN OF COLOURIST WORKS FROM WDC FINE ART COLLECTION

In terms of remit from the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 19 December 2007 (Pages 671/672 refer) a report was submitted by the Director of Educational Services advising of a proposed long term loan of Colourist works from the WDC fine art collection to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA) and seeking approval to enter into negotiations to facilitate the loan.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the proposal for a long term loan of the Colourist works from the fine art collection to the National Park Authority;
- (2) to instruct appropriate officers to initiate dialogue with the National Park Authority with a view to addressing the issues raised within the report;
- (3) subject to the above issues being resolved satisfactorily, to a long term loan of the colourist works to the National Park Authority. This loan being reviewed by annual reports to future meetings of the Cultural Sub-Committee; and
- (4) that if the long term loan to the National Park Authority was not realised, officers look at other venues in the Balloch area which may be appropriate for displaying these works.

EXHIBITIONS/VISUALS ARTS PROGRAMME 2008

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the proposed Exhibitions and Visuals Arts Programme for 2008.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Section Head – Culture in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the proposed exhibitions programme for 2008 as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (2) that the Council's Colourist Collection should be retained in its entirety and paintings should not be removed to be displayed individually; and
- (3) to ask the Head of Finance and ICT to give consideration to allocating £10,000 from the Culture Sub-Committee budget for 2007/2008 for use in promoting the visual arts with specific reference to the illumination of public monuments such as Dumbarton Castle, and that this money be carried over for use in the following financial year 2008/2009.

SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL INSPIRE FUND – CREATING A CULTURAL HUB IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services asking that consideration be given to an application to the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) Inspire Fund.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the consultation and development of a bid to the Inspire fund of the Scottish Arts Council for an arts hub in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) to instruct the Manager of Lifelong Learning to investigate whether it would be possible to reinstate to the Council artefacts of local interest which are held and displayed by other local authorities; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee providing information on museum space and exhibition space within West Dunbartonshire.

TOWN TWINNING – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on Town Twinning activities and asking for consideration to be given to making a grant award to a local dance group.

After discussion the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to award a grant in the sum of £500 to Lees School of Dance to assist them with travel costs for their trip to Argenteuil to take part in the International Dance Festival, this grant to be paid from the Twinning budget.

2008 EVENTS PROGRESS REPORT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising of the progress made to date in organising major events for 2008.

After discussion and having heard officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report;
- (2) to agree with the approval of the budget allocation of £25,000 from the Culture Sub-Committee budget within the 2008/09 Revenue Estimates to allow the 2008 RSPBA Championship event to be staged successfully;
- (3) to instruct the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to continue with planning and delivery of the Events Programme 2008-2011;

- (4) to instruct the Executive Director of Housing, Environment and Economic Development to provide a progress report to a future meeting of the Culture Sub-Committee;
- (5) to acknowledge that a report on securing sponsorship would be brought to a future meeting of the Culture Sub-Committee;
- (6) to ask the Head of Finance and ICT to give consideration to allocating £30,000 from the Culture Sub-Committee budget for 2007/2008 for use in assisting to offset the shortfall in funding for major events following the withdrawal of funding sources from Scottish Enterprise (Dumbartonshire), and that this funding be carried over for use in the following financial year 2008/2009.

2009 – YEAR OF HOMECOMING

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising the Cultural Sub-Committee of the progress towards organising events for the 2009 – Year of Homecoming.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head – Events and Halls in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CREATION OF A MEMORIAL WALL IN CLYDEBANK

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing an update on proposals for the creation of a Memorial Wall in Clydebank to commemorate service personnel who lost their lives during active service with the armed forces and civilian victims of the Clydebank Blitz.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head – Events and Halls in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (4) to note the contents of the report; and
- (5) to ask the Head of Finance and ICT to give consideration to allocating £25,000 from the Culture Sub-Committee budget for 2007/2008 for use in the Memorial Wall project, and that this money be carried forward for use in the next financial year 2008/2009.

The meeting closed at 12.07 p.m.