

# Agenda



## Cultural Committee

**Date:** Monday, 25 February 2019

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**Time:** 10:00

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**Venue:** Council Chambers,  
Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank

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**Contact:** Craig Stewart, Committee Officer  
Tel: 01389 737251 [craig.stewart@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:craig.stewart@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

Dear Member

Please attend a special meeting of the **Cultural Committee** as detailed above.  
The business is shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

**JOYCE WHITE**

Chief Executive

### Distribution:-

Bailie Denis Agnew (Chair)  
Provost William Hendrie  
Councillor Karen Conaghan (Vice Chair)  
Councillor John Millar  
Councillor Brian Walker

Chief Executive  
Strategic Director of Transformation & Public Service Reform  
Strategic Director of Regeneration, Environment & Growth  
Chief Officer of West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Date of issue: 12 February 2019

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**CULTURAL COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2019**

**AGENDA**

**1      STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING**

The Chair will be heard in connection with the above.

**2      APOLOGIES**

**3      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and the reasons for such declarations.

**4      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS 5 - 12**

Submit for approval as correct record, the Minutes of Meetings of the Cultural Committee held on:-

- (a) 26 November 2018 (Ordinary); and
- (b) 17 January 2019 (Special).

**5      OPEN FORUM**

The Committee is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

**6      NOTE OF MEETING OF TOWN TWINNING WORKING GROUP 13 - 14**

Submit for information, the Note of Meeting of the Town Twinning Working Group held on 19 December 2018.

**7      TOWN TWINNING UPDATE To Follow**

Submit report by the Manager – Democratic & Registration Services providing an update in relation to the above.

**8      ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY MUSEUM AND IMPROVEMENT      15 - 22**  
**WORKS**

Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting for approval the proposal to install a lift at Alexandria Library, create a museum celebrating Alexandria and the Vale’s history and heritage, and fit out a new multi-use space for the benefit of the local community.

**9      A PERMANENT MUSEUM CELEBRATING CLYDEBANK’S      23 - 28**  
**HISTORY AND LEGACY**

Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting proposals to progress concept designs for the creation of a permanent museum in the basement of Clydebank Library.

**10     FUTURE OPERATION OF THE BACKDOOR GALLERY IN      29 - 32**  
**DALMUIR**

Submit report by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting a proposal to undertake a scoping exercise to inform the future operation of the Backdoor Gallery in Dalmuir, including branding and marketing.

## **CULTURAL COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Cultural Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Monday, 26 November 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Karen Conaghan and Brian Walker.

**Attending:** Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation and Public Service Reform; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture and Communities; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; George Hawthorn, Manager of Democratic and Registration Services; Amanda Graham, Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

**Apology:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor John Millar.

**Bailie Denis Agnew in the Chair**

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Bailie Agnew and Provost Hendrie declared a non-financial interest in the item under the heading 'Soldiers by Tom McKendrick – Acquisition Proposal' in view of their connection with Artist Tom McKendrick. Having taken legal advice, both Members advised that they would remain in the meeting and take part in the decision in respect of this matter.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Following discussion, the Minutes of Meeting of the Cultural Committee held on 17 September 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the undernoted correction:-

In regard to the Item under the heading 'Cultural Working Groups', Paragraph 2 be amended to read "that authority be delegated to the relevant Strategic Lead to call Member/Officer working group(s), in consultation with the Convener, whenever an area of specific focus arose".

## **OPEN FORUM**

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

## **NOTE OF MEETING OF TOWN TWINNING WORKING GROUP**

The Note of Meeting of the Town Twinning Working Group held on 12 October 2018 was submitted for information and noted.

## **NOTE OF MEETING OF EVENTS (MONTE CARLO RALLY)**

The Note of Meeting of the Events (Monte Carlo Rally) Working Group held on 12 October 2018 was submitted for information.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that it would be helpful for a Members' Briefing Note to be produced, outlining the current position with regard to the event preparations and organisation; and
- (2) to note the possible requirement for a Special Meeting of the Committee to be called prior to the event taking place.

## **NOTE OF MEETING OF TOWN HALL WORKING GROUP**

The Note of Meeting of the Town Hall Working Group held on 12 October 2018 was submitted for information and noted.

## **TOWN TWINNING UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regulatory providing an update on progress being made in relation to developing international links with potential partners.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services and the Strategic Director in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that, subject to the Clydebank Property Company Board's approval, a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board providing details of a proposal to erect a plaque to commemorate the Polish Warship, ORP Piorun, near the Titan Crane site;

- (2) to await formal responses from the authorities in Gdynia, Poland and Donegal, Republic of Ireland in relation to the Committee's proposals to form friendship links with Gdynia and Letterkenny, before considering the next steps;
- (3) that the Council should host an event in the Clydebank Town Hall to celebrate its European connections and: (i) to request the Strategic Director of Transformation and Public Service Reform, to make the appropriate arrangements for the event in consultation with the Working Group; and (ii) that the event be funded from the Cultural budget but should not exceed £2000; and
- (4) that, in view of (3) above, a meeting of the Working Group be held at 12 noon, or immediately following the conclusion of the Planning Committee, on Wednesday, 19 December 2018 which would consider arrangements and planning for the event in February/March 2019 in Clydebank Town Hall to celebrate its European connections, which could involve representation from the Polish, Irish and French consulates.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS, CULTURE & COMMUNITIES DELIVERY PLAN 2018-19: MID-YEAR PROGRESS**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities setting out progress to date in delivery of the actions detailed within the Communications, Culture & Communities (CCC) Delivery Plan 2018/19 for those services which are delegated to the Cultural Committee, these being 'Clydebank Town Hall', 'Arts and Heritage' and 'Communications'.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the progress achieved at mid-year; and
- (2) to note that the Delivery Plan had also been submitted to the Corporate Services Committee to enable scrutiny of CCC services delegated to Corporate Services (Performance and Strategy, Libraries, and Citizen Services).

#### **CATERING PROVISION AT CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities seeking approval to commence a tendering process for catering services at Clydebank Town Hall.

After discussion and having heard the Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve an open tender exercise in line with European legislation and Council Standing Orders involving issuing an Invitation to Tender to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and Public Contracts Scotland Tender to obtain catering services to support events at Clydebank Town Hall; and
- (2) to note that, following the conclusion of this process, a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Tendering Committee, seeking approval to appoint successful tenderers for a two-year fixed term contract with the option to extend the contract for an additional 12 month period, taking the maximum term to 3 years.

### **SOLDIERS BY TOM McKENDRICK – ACQUISITION PROPOSAL**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities presenting to Committee for approval the proposal to acquire by purchase a painting from Tom McKendrick's *Soldiers* collection.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the proposal to spend £1,000 from the Cultural budget.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

After hearing Bailie Agnew, Chair, the meeting adjourned for a short time for Members to consider their preference with regards to the painting to be acquired by purchase.

The Committee reconvened at 11.16 a.m. with all Members listed in the sederunt in attendance. Thereafter, the Committee also agreed:-

- (1) to express a preference for the painting featuring Royal Navy Reserve S. Lt. Michelle Ping QVRM MiD and Ellena Rae;
- (2) to approve the proposal to leverage additional funding via applications to The National Fund for Acquisitions and/or The Art Fund; and
- (3) that should no external funding be available, the purchase of the painting would not proceed.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.



## **CULTURAL COMMITTEE**

At a Special Meeting of the Cultural Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Thursday, 17 January 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Karen Conaghan and Brian Walker.

**Attending:** Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation and Public Service Reform; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture and Communities; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; George Hawthorn, Manager of Democratic and Registration Services; Amanda Graham, Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

**Apology:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor John Millar.

**Bailie Denis Agnew in the Chair**

### **MINUTE OF SILENCE**

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting, Bailie Agnew asked the Committee to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Pawel Adamowicz, the Mayor of the Polish city of Gdansk, who was tragically murdered at a charity event on Sunday, 13 January 2019.

### **STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING**

Bailie Agnew advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

### **CATERING AT CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL**

A verbal report was given by the Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager on the current position with regard to catering at Clydebank Town Hall.

After discussion and having heard the Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the current position with regard to the contract arrangements.

### **MONTE CARLO RALLY UPDATE**

A verbal report was given by the Strategic Director on preparations and arrangements for the Monte Carlo Rally.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Director in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the discussion and that all actions were progressing as planned for the event on Wednesday, 30 January 2019 at 6.00 p.m.; and
- (2) that a written update would be provided to Members of the Committee, giving further information and details of the event planning and preparations.

### **TOWN TWINNING UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regulatory providing an update on progress being made in relation to developing international links with potential partners.

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

- (1) to note that, a site visit to establish a suitable location for the plaque to commemorate the Polish Warship, ORP Piorun, near to the Titan Crane site, would take place after this meeting;
- (2) that the wording for the plaque, to be unveiled by Provost Hendrie, be as follows:-

DEDICATED TO THE CREW OF THE POLISH SHIP  
O.R.P. PIORUN  
IN DEFENCE OF CLYDEBANK  
DURING THE CLYDEBANK BLITZ  
13 MARCH 1941

subject to identification of a suitable location, and to note that the Provost and Convener would liaise with relevant officers to finalise arrangements for the ceremony and civic reception;

- (3) that, in view of (2) above, it was considered that the plaque should be made in a material that was durable, and therefore it was the preferred option for the plaque to be made from bronze;
- (4) to note that responses had been received from both Letterkenny Municipal District and the City of Gdynia, the terms of which were made known at the meeting;
- (5) to note that the focus of the event to celebrate this Council's European connections would be on the proposed new friendships agreements with Letterkenny Municipal District and the City of Gdynia, subject to agreement and further discussion with both Consulates; and
- (6) subject to (5) above and in order to allow flexibility given the timescales involved, to delegate authority to relevant officers to finalise arrangements for the above event including meeting with representatives from Letterkenny and the City of Gdynia or their respective Consulates to agree the terms and arrangements for the signing of the proposed friendship agreements, in consultation with the Convener and the Provost.

The meeting closed at 10.34 a.m.



## **CULTURAL COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP (Town Twinning)**

Note of Meeting of the Cultural Committee Working Group (Town Twinning) held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 19 December 2018 at 12.00 p.m.

**Present:** Bailie Denis Agnew (Chair)  
Provost William Hendrie  
Councillor Karen Conaghan  
Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation and Public Service Reform  
George Hawthorn, Manager of Democratic and Registration Services  
Amanda Graham, Communications, Town Hall and CEO Manager  
Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Regulatory Services

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors John Millar and Brian Walker.

### **NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Note of Meeting of the Cultural Committee Working Groups (Town Twinning) held on 12 October 2018 was submitted for information and noted.

### **TOWN TWINNING UPDATE**

A report was submitted by Strategic Lead – Regulatory providing an update on progress being made in relation to developing international links with potential partners. It was noted that this report had been considered by the Cultural Committee at its meeting on 26 November 2018.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services and the Strategic Director in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Working Group agreed:-

- (1) to note the update given by George Hawthorn concerning the position with regard to hearing back formally from the authorities in Gdynia, Poland and Donegal, Republic of Ireland in relation to the Cultural Committee's proposals to form friendship links with Gdynia and Letterkenny, before considering the next steps;
- (2) to note that no response had yet been received from the French Consulate;

- (3) to note the discussion points, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting, around a proposed event to celebrate the Council's European connections, which was scheduled to be held on Saturday, 2 March 2019 in the Clydebank Town Hall;
- (4) that in view of (2) and (3) above, the proposed event should focus on the new friendships with Poland and Ireland. The preferred date for the event would be Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 and would commence with a civic ceremony where the proposed friendship agreements would be signed by the appropriate dignitaries from Gdynia and Letterkenny, subject to their agreement. In the meantime, contact will be made with the all three consulates to keep them informed of developments.  
**Action: George Hawthorn**
- (5) that, with regard to the proposal to erect a commemorative plaque to mark the O.R.P. Piorun, Members of the Working Group would be invited to attend the Titan Crane site with regard to identifying a suitable location for the Piorun plaque to be positioned; and  
**Action: George Hawthorn**
- (6) that, in view of (5) above, George Hawthorn would contact Members with regard to identifying a suitable date for the site visit, and a draft proposed wording for the plaque to be unveiled by the Provost at a civic event on 13 March 2019 would also be sent to Members for their comments.  
**Action: George Hawthorn**

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Working Group would be communicated to all Members of the Working Group in due course.

The meeting closed at 1.07 p.m.

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities Cultural Committee: 25 February 2019**

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**Subject: Alexandria Library Museum and improvement works**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1.** This report presents to Committee for approval the proposal to install a lift at Alexandria Library, create a museum celebrating Alexandria and the Vale's history and heritage, and fit out a new multi-use space for the benefit of the local community.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1.** The Committee is invited to:
- note the contents of this report, including the internal options appraisal undertaken regarding the use of space on the first floor of the Alexandria Library building;
  - approve the proposal to install a lift to enable level access to the first floor of Alexandria Library;
  - approve the proposal to create a permanent museum about the Vale of Leven in the Committee Room on the first floor of Alexandria Library;
  - approve the proposal to create a multi-use space on the first-floor;
  - approve an allocation of £0.331m from the Cultural Capital Fund for these purposes

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** Alexandria Library is located on Gilmour Street, Alexandria, in the Vale of Leven. The building was gifted to the community and first opened its doors in 1884 as the Ewing Gilmour Institute for Men. Its construction was paid for by William Ewing Gilmour (a partner at Messrs John Orr Ewing & Co, Turkey Red dyers) in memory of his uncle, John Orr Ewing. A reading room formed a key element of the original institute, the overall purpose of which was to 'provide a place for mental recreation and moral improvement'.
- 3.2** From the late 1920s onwards the building housed various facets of local government administration, alongside a public lending library, before being handed over for the sole use of the library service at the end of the 1980s. There is no lift to the first floor of the building and this creates accessibility issues, meaning Alexandria Library is one of the lowest scoring public buildings operated by the Council.

- The Library attracts more than 60,000 visitors per year making it one of the most popular branch in West Dunbartonshire. It is regularly used by a host of community groups such as the Leven Litts Writers and is currently working with the Rag and Bone Project on establishing a tool lending service.
- 3.3** The main lending areas of the public library are now housed on the ground floor of the original building, comprising adult and junior lending areas and a non-fiction lending area in the Reading Room. There is also a Learning Centre Computer Suite where public access PCs are available and computer courses take place. In addition, the Livingstone Suite provides a separate, bookable space where various community/special interest groups meet, and where additional library activities take place. There is no charge associated with booking the Livingstone Suite.
  - 3.4** Also housed within the Alexandria Library building on the ground floor is a WDC One Stop Shop where Council Information Officers deliver a wide range of services, including assisting members of the public with making payments, applying for grants, and assisting with queries regarding various other Council services.
  - 3.5** The first floor of Alexandria Library is accessed via a main staircase. From the landing, doors open into a large open plan space, beyond which is a smaller room that was previously used as a Council Chamber. This combined area is currently described as 'The Upstairs Training and Activity Zone'. In practice, however, the occupancy of these rooms is limited due to the accessibility issues. It is also impossible to use both spaces concurrently as access to the old Council Chamber room is through the larger activity space room. This means the old Council Chamber is rarely used. The main activity space is used as a meeting space by some community groups; as a drop-down and training space for Working 4 U; and by the West Dunbartonshire Youth Theatre as a meeting and practice space one night per week. Elsewhere on the first floor there is a meeting room for use by Council staff and the library staff room.
  - 3.6** As previously stated there is no level access to 'The Upstairs Training and Activity Zone'. Level access to the ground floor of the Alexandria Library building is via a rear entrance.
  - 3.7** Council officers were asked to consider ways in which the first floor area of the library building could be better utilised to build capacity within the building and to support increased community use and access. Following consultation with library staff, WDC Youth Theatre leaders, and the Council's Arts and Heritage team a number of suggestions were made, including creating a permanent museum to host heritage displays in the old Council Chamber, and erecting partition walls to sub-divide the main activity space and make for a more coherent layout. Foremost, however, was acknowledgement of the need to ensure level access to the first floor of the building through the installation of a lift.



#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1.** Alexandria Library is a well-used and much valued community resource in an area rich in heritage. The library building itself is an example of the exceptional built heritage, and tells its own story of industry, philanthropy and social history. At present, however, there is no formal museum or exhibition space within Alexandria that tells the story of the area, despite some of West Dunbartonshire's major heritage narratives being rooted in the Vale of Leven. This includes the globally important Turkey Red dye works; the story of the Argyll Motor Works; and the Vale's substantiated claim to being an early powerhouse of Scottish football. The opportunity to create a permanent heritage display in the old Council Chamber on the first floor of the Alexandria Library building will enable the Council's Arts and Heritage team to tell these stories, and make accessible objects and ephemera from the Council's heritage collections to new and different audiences.
- 4.2.** Available to go on display in Alexandria are some key objects that describe the process of Turkey Red printing, including tools associated with factories in the area and two printing blocks that provide insight to the intricate, labour-intensive process of historic textile printing. West Dunbartonshire Council currently holds the Scottish Motor Museum Trust archive on behalf of the trust, providing access to a range of materials and ephemera that illustrate the story of Argyll Motor Works. This particular archive is further augmented by the Council's own Local History photographic collection, which is rich in images associated with the Vale's car manufacturing past. Already the Scottish Football Museum has intimated its willingness to support the celebration of the Vale's footballing heritage via the short-term loan of its replica Scottish Cup, and has intimated it's willingness to discuss potential additional loans of other objects and ephemera that relate to Renton and the Vale of Leven FC.
- 4.3.** The old Council Chamber lends itself to the proposed purpose of a heritage space and any displays will seek to augment the room and not detract from the aesthetic of the existing wood panelled walls. To this end, the possibility of restoring to their previous location the two Ewing Gilmour portraits from the Council's fine art collection that once hung in the old Council Chamber will be explored. Furthermore, in the design and delivery of the heritage room particular consideration will be given to including elements that engage and entertain younger audiences. This will encourage repeat visits, particularly with families already using the library service, and develop an early interest in the history of the area among younger visitors. Cumulatively, the proposed museum within Alexandria Library will seek to be a meaningful and valued extension of West Dunbartonshire's Museum Service going forward.
- 4.4.** The proposed nature of any museum displays within the heritage room will ensure the safety and integrity of all collection objects. Objects or artefacts will be housed in lockable, museum-standard cases. Any AV elements will be available via secured devices. Any artwork will be fixed to the wall using mirror plates and security screws and glazed, as appropriate. Lastly, the inclusion of CCTV within the heritage room and on the first floor of the

library building mean that there is no further requirement for constant invigilation within the space, so these proposals do not represent a need for additional staffing.

- 4.5. The success of any such heritage space is, however, contingent on the physical accessibility of its location. In consideration of this, and the wider issues raised with regards the first floor layout in Alexandria Library, outline plans have been developed that include the installation of a lift connecting the ground and first floors of the building.
- 4.6. The proposal also includes partition walls to sub-divide the main activity space, from a connecting corridor between the first floor landing, lift and the old Council Chamber heritage display. Off this corridor would be doors to give access to the large room. This room can be further divided by a temporary partition wall to allow two bookable spaces if required.
- 4.7. Considering potential uses for this main activity space, and with a view to ensuring maximum flexibility for a variety of users/groups, it is further proposed that an area of permanent tiered seating be installed within the space. This would provide a focal point within the room that could variously be used as an audience area; a development space for performances; a reading group area; a crafting area, etc. Outline costs for these proposals are estimated to be £0.331m. Appendix 1 illustrates the amended floorplan.
- 4.8. By enacting these key changes in a currently underused area of an otherwise vibrant and well-used library long-term benefit is brought to the community of Alexandria, not only in terms of access to additional community space and celebration of their heritage, but also in terms of raising the profile of Alexandria both within West Dunbartonshire and further afield. Installing a lift within the building future-proofs use of the space, and dramatically improves access. This also brings Alexandria Library into line with Clydebanks Library where level access is now possible to all public areas of the building. These works also contribute to WDC's suitability and accessibility ratings across all Council buildings accessed by the public within the authority area.
- 4.9. The Strategic Lead for CCC and the Asset Management team led an internal options appraisal, with participation from Libraries and Culture, Communications, Finance, and Procurement to consider the option of doing nothing versus undertaking the improvement works as described above. These were judged against the following criteria:
  - Impact/benefits (particularly with regard to regeneration)
  - Commercial and financial sustainability (particularly with regard to the revenue budget)
  - Physical fit in space
  - Likely demand
  - Level of risk (inverse)
  - Potential for displacement (inverse)
  - Public Access
  - Attraction of additional visitors to West Dunbartonshire
  - Restoration of a cultural asset

- Likelihood of attracting external funding

#### 4.10 The exercise illustrated the following:

Option	Overall points score
Undertake improvement works to provide a lift, heritage area, and bookable space	130
Do nothing	67

In the interests of the service and the future usability of Alexandria Library, the option to pursue improvement works was clearly preferable and scored particularly highly on financial sustainability, likely demand and the restoration of a cultural asset.

## 5 People Implications

- 5.1** There are no direct people implications arising from this report. As previously stated officers do not believe there will be any requirement for additional staffing with this proposal.

## 6 Financial & Procurement Implications

- 6.1** The anticipated cost of this proposal is £0.331m. If this was repaid over a 40- year period the cost per year of the interest charges would be an average of £0.0013m per annum. In March 2018 the Council created a £4m Cultural Capital Fund and it is the recommendation of officers that this Fund should support the costs of this project in entirety. If this was approved by Committee then there would be no additional cost to the Council beyond what is already agreed within the Council's Capital Plan.
- 6.2** Since the new museum space would be unstaffed then there is no additional revenue cost to the Council for this proposal beyond the initial capital investment.
- 6.3** Officers would also seek to maximise this investment by leveraging additional external funding. This would augment the final heritage offer through a programme of events and activities to further engage the community of Alexandria with the stories being told as part of this new heritage space.
- 6.4** All procurement activity carried out by the Council in excess of £0.050m is subject to a contract strategy. If approval is given, and before the tender is published, the contract strategy for Alexandria Library will include, but not be limited to: Service Strategy/Forward Plan, Supply Market Status: Social Benefits, Procurement Model and Contract Management.

## **7 Risk Analysis**

**7.1** Should the improvement works as described not go ahead a number of risks have been identified:

- Public areas of the Alexandria Library building will continue to be inaccessible to those with mobility issues
- The rich history of Alexandria and the Vale will not be maximised and celebrated by this Council
- Alexandria Library will be unable to maximise its assets and serve the local community and visitors to its full potential

**7.2** Should the improvement works as described go ahead, the following further risks have been identified:

- New issues with the historic building will emerge that will require additional investment. This is mitigated by the fact that Alexandria Library has benefitted from extensive investment and the lift aside, the work will mostly be low-risk.
- Visitor numbers will be low for what could be perceived to be a niche offer. This is mitigated by the fact the museum will be unstaffed and that an interactive area is planned that will attract traditional library visitors to use the space.

## **8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**8.1** An Equality Impact Assessment identified positive impacts for users of the Alexandria Library building. The EIA will be kept under review and updated as works progress.

## **9 Consultation**

**9.1** This proposal to undertake improvement works at Alexandria Library has been developed by the Team Lead Arts & Heritage, with specialist input from officers across Libraries and Cultural Services, and Asset Management.

**9.2** In September 2017 Libraries and Cultural Services undertook a consultation with more than 500 service users. Overwhelmingly 76% of respondents confirmed a desire to see investment in both libraries and museums, with over half of respondents rating improved accessibility as either 'very important' or 'important'. Similarly, over half of respondents identified gallery/exhibition spaces, local history archives, and museum exhibitions respectively as either 'very important' or 'important'. This proposal would fit in with those wishes from residents.

## **10 Strategic Assessment**

**10.1** The proposals within this report support the following strategic priorities:

- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.
- Meaningful community engagement with active empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged

**Malcolm Bennie**

**Strategic Lead – Communication, Culture & Communities**

**Date 08/02/2019**

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**Person to Contact:**

**Sarah Christie**

**Team Lead Arts & Heritage**

[sarah.christie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.christie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendix:**

**Alexandria Library 1<sup>st</sup> floor floorplan**

**Background Papers:**

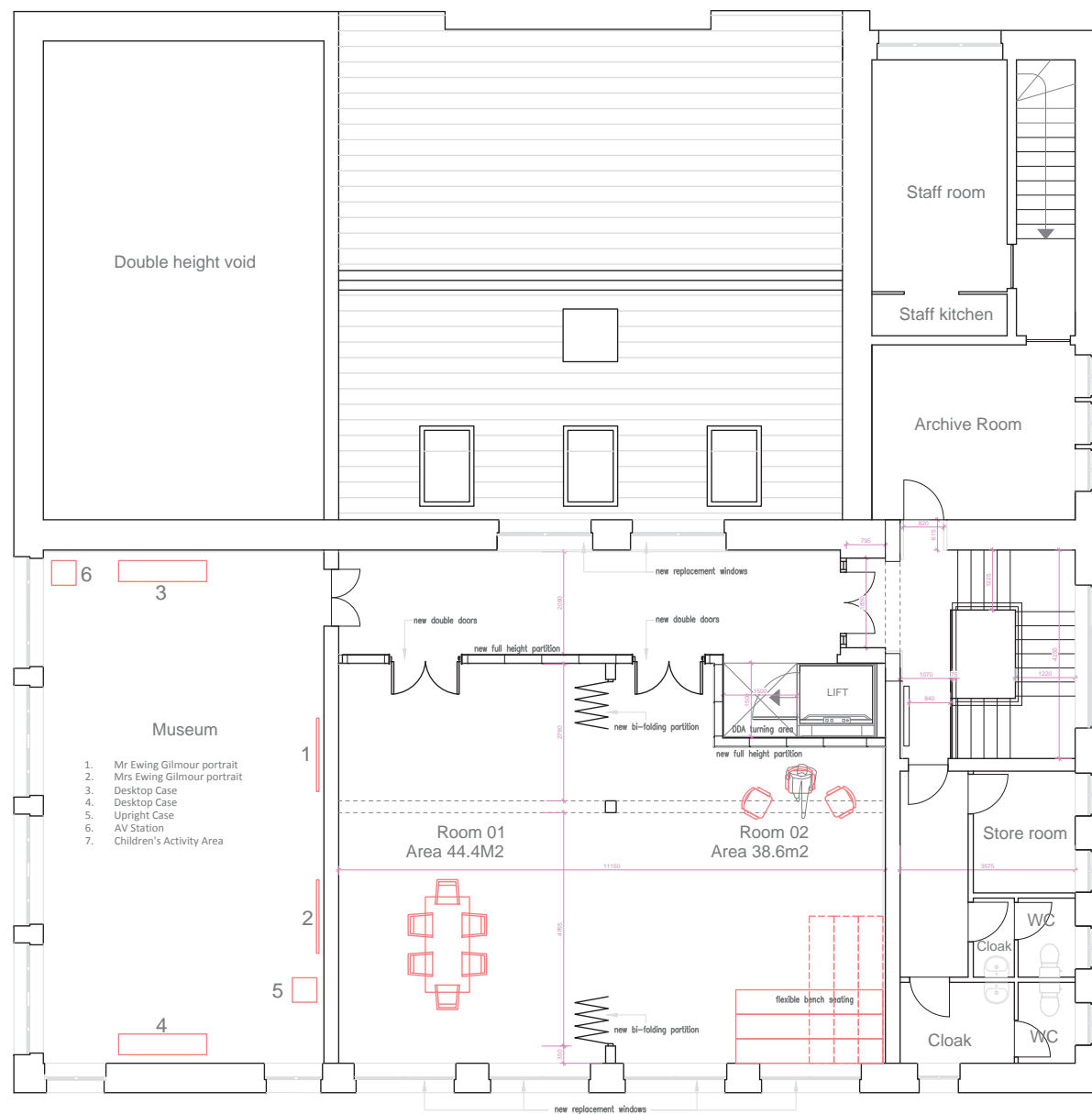
**N/A**

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**Important**  
Do not scale from this drawing.  
Any discrepancies to be reported to the  
Contract Administrator.

## Appendix 1



First Floor Plan – As Proposed

Rev.	Amendments	Date	By

Job Title
Alexandria Library
Page 22

Drawing Title
Proposed First Floor

Scale	Sheet	Date	Drawn
1:100	A3	Feb'19	
Job No.	Drawing No.	Rev.	
	AL(--)-302		
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**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL****Report by Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities****Cultural Committee: 25 February 2019**

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**Subject: A permanent museum celebrating Clydebank's history and legacy****1. Purpose**

- 1.1.** This report presents to Committee proposals to progress concept designs for the creation of a permanent museum in the basement of Clydebank Library.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1.** The Committee is invited to:
- note the contents of this report;
  - approve the proposal to allocate £15,000 from the Cultural Capital Fund for this purpose;
  - agree that a further report will return to the Cultural Committee making further recommendations on progressing the installation of a permanent museum in Clydebank Heritage Centre

**3. Background**Clydebank Library

- 3.1.** Clydebank Library, located on Dumbarton Road in Clydebank, opened in 1913 as a public lending library, part-funded by the Scottish philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Following celebration of its centenary year in 2013, a new programme of improvement works commenced, focused on restoring various architectural elements of the building. Within the building, the lift was completely renovated and now serves the first floor of the library building, enabling level access to all floors of the building for the first time. Phase One of these improvement works was recently completed. Phase Two works to improve the internal fabric of the library are due to commence in spring 2019.
- 3.2.** The basement of the building now houses Clydebank Heritage Centre and West Dunbartonshire's Local History collection, including a dedicated heritage exhibition space. The Heritage Centre hosts a programme of changing exhibitions, showcasing items from West Dunbartonshire's heritage collections and exploring some of the major heritage narratives of the area. Local History and Reference staff are also available to facilitate access to the Council's Local History collection for the purpose of research and learning.

### Shipbuilding

- 3.3.** Clydebank is synonymous with shipbuilding the world over. It is no coincidence that the town is perfectly situated on the confluence of the River Clyde and the River Cart: it was this geographic detail that led to the founding of Thomson's shipyard on a site formally known as the Barns O'Clyde.
- 3.4.** West Dunbartonshire Council's heritage collections hold over 4,000 items that relate to shipbuilding in West Dunbartonshire, including fine art, photographic records, silver and commemorative ware, and items of social and industrial history. Proportionally, however, Clydebank's shipbuilding heritage is under-represented in West Dunbartonshire Council's heritage collections. The ship models currently on display in Clydebank Town Hall represent the only permanent display relating to shipbuilding from the Council's collections.

### The Sewing Machine Collection and Singer Archive

- 3.5.** The Local History collection holds elements of West Dunbartonshire Council's Singer Archive which, alongside its Sewing Machine Collection, is a Recognised Collection of National Significance. This collection is second only to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, in terms of its international importance.
- 3.6.** At the core of West Dunbartonshire Council's Sewing Machine Collection and Singer Archive are the machines collected by Singer's own research department – including competitor models – as well as photographs, ephemera and other materials that collectively tell the story of Singer's factory operation and its wider impact on the communities of Clydebank. Museum officers continue to actively collect sewing machines where gaps exist in the collection. To date, the collection comprises over 800 sewing machines and extensive archival holdings.

### The Clydebank Blitz

- 3.7.** The Clydebank Blitz saw the sustained bombardment of the former Burgh of Clydebank over the nights of the 13th and 14th March 1941. According to official records, 528 people were killed and 617 seriously injured. There is currently no permanent museum display within West Dunbartonshire that tells the story of the Clydebank Blitz. In 2009 a Room of Remembrance was instituted within the Clydebank Town Hall complex to house memorial panels commemorating those individuals killed during the Clydebank Blitz.

## **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** Clydebank Library together with Clydebank Town Hall and the Morison Memorial URC Church collectively represent the traditional town centre of Clydebank. The richness and importance of Clydebank's heritage merits a permanent museum installation within the town. The opportunity to create this permanent space within Clydebank Library answers this need, and anticipates a renewed interest in the history and heritage of Clydebank as new residents and businesses move into the area and the cultural programme launches.



- 4.2** The intrinsic heritage of the Clydebank Library building, and its basement area in particular, lends credence to the proposal to create a permanent museum installation within Clydebank Library. The existing Clydebank Heritage Centre is an integral element of the Council's wider Arts and Heritage offer, however officers believe that the basement area of Clydebank Library represents an, as yet unrealised, opportunity to reimagine the space, creating a new museum within the building and bringing elevated status and sustained focus to the major heritage narratives of Clydebank.
- 4.3** In order to shape this vision, officers propose to engage an external exhibition design company to work with the service and wider stakeholders to develop a concept design. This intention is that this will illustrate the potential of Clydebank Library to accommodate a new permanent museum dedicated to Clydebank stories. The three major heritage narratives of shipbuilding, the Singer Sewing Machine Factory and the Clydebank Blitz will represent the core offer of this museum, with opportunities to explore further the wider heritage of the Clydebank area from ancient to modern times.
- 4.4** Parallel to the concept design will be work with the asset management team to cost proposals, which will be included in a business case for securing grant funding for a new permanent museum in Clydebank Library. Anticipating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz in 2021, officers believe that any such grant application will be considered all the more timely and appropriate. Initial discussions with external funders have indicated that, subject to submitting successful applications, there is potential support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Museums Galleries Scotland Museum Development Fund and/or Recognition Fund.
- 4.5** Taking cognisance of the information provided above, the Committee is invited to approve the proposal to allocate £15,000 from the Cultural Capital Fund to progress the creation of concept designs for a permanent museum installation in Clydebank Heritage Centre.

## **5 People Implications**

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

## **6 Financial & Procurement Implications**

- 6.1** It is the expectation of officers that this project can be delivered for less than £15,000. This allocation will be sourced from the £4m Cultural Capital Fund. Depending on the final bids received from external providers, procurement will be progressed either via the Quick Quote process or in line with West Dunbartonshire Council's Best Value guidelines and a minimum of three quotes.
- 6.2** Officers acknowledge that there could be a future impact with regards finance and procurement in light of any recommendations informed by these concept designs and associated costings. Any such impact will be detailed in a future report to the Cultural Committee, with the proposal that recommendations be

realised in part via the Cultural Capital Fund and with additional grant support, following approval by the Committee.

- 6.3** Concept design and costing works with the asset management team will include work to identify any additional operating or revenue costs for the new museum proposal.

## **7 Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** Should this proposal not progress it is likely that the rich history and heritage of Clydebank will not be maximised and will remain an under-utilised resource in engaging new and existing audiences with the story of Clydebank.
- 7.2** There is a risk that the concept design work will not lead to a viable proposal and therefore to investment in a new museum for Clydebank. Additionally there is a risk that all external provider quotes are returned with a significantly higher value than the budget allocated for concept design and that the work is therefore unable to progress.

## **8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Equality Impact Screening did not indicate any further action required in relation to any recommendations.

## **9 Consultation**

- 9.1** This proposal to create a permanent museum in the current Clydebank Heritage Centre in the basement of Clydebank Library has been developed by the Team Lead Arts & Heritage, with specialist input from officers across Libraries and Cultural Services, and Asset Management.

## **10 Strategic Assessment**

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

**Malcolm Bennie**  
**Service Lead – Communication, Culture & Communities**  
**Date 22/01/2019**

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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Wards Affected:** All



## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities**

**Cultural Committee: 25 February 2019**

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**Subject: Future operation of the Backdoor Gallery in Dalmuir**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report presents a proposal to undertake a scoping exercise to inform the future operation of the Backdoor Gallery in Dalmuir, including branding and marketing.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Committee is invited to:
- note the contents of this report;
  - approve the proposal to undertake the scoping exercise;
  - agree that recommendations for next steps will be reported to a future Cultural Committee.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** The Backdoor Gallery is located in Dalmuir Library in Clydebank. Established in 2004, the gallery provides a venue which hosts a mixed programme including touring exhibitions, shows by local artists and works from the WDC collections. The Backdoor Gallery has, over time, hosted a number of prestigious touring exhibitions such as works by Picasso and Matisse from the Hayward Collection, and by Elizabeth Blackadder and John Houston from the City Art Centre, Edinburgh.
- 3.2** In recent years the Backdoor Gallery has shifted in focus to provide a platform for emerging and amateur artists from West Dunbartonshire and the surrounding communities to showcase their work. The Gallery hosts seven exhibitions per year of works by local artists or groups, with the majority of exhibitions featuring works for sale at a range of price points.
- 3.3** The establishment of a Cultural Committee, and Cultural Capital Fund, in 2017 has led to the development and delivery of an ambitious cultural programme for West Dunbartonshire, which will launch in 2020. As outlined in other reports to this Committee the programme involves establishing a West Dunbartonshire Museums and Galleries brand with local venues.
- 3.4** A key factor in determining the nature and scale of future exhibitions in the Back Door Gallery programme is the cost associated with appropriate insurance cover. The Council's heritage collections are covered by its own fine art insurance policy and typically works displayed in The Backdoor Gallery are added to this policy, with minimal or no additional cost to the service.

#### **4. Main Issues**

**4.1** The Backdoor Gallery has proven itself to be a versatile exhibition space since its launch in 2004 and has potential to become a destination venue, hosting an enhanced exhibition programme as part of a more ambitious West Dunbartonshire cultural programme. In support of this, a range of improvement works from both an aesthetic and security perspective are likely to be necessary.

**4.2** In order to fully understand the improvement works required for a future Backdoor Gallery offering, and identify both opportunities and constraints of the venue a scoping exercise is proposed. This exercise would include activity to:

- review existing use of the building (exhibitors and visitors) in order to understand current audience needs and expectations
- review the branding and marketing of The Backdoor Gallery to include potentially renaming the gallery to better reflect future aspirations for the space.
- identify comparator venues and seek input from professional colleagues to anticipate and understand possible challenges and/or opportunities associated with any model of future operation
- identify and engage with possible new partners, including cultural institutions; further and higher education institutions; artist collectives; and individual artists in order to anticipate future exhibitor needs
- engage with relevant sector bodies to ensure compliance with any relevant professional standards
- liaison with professional colleagues within the Council to inform costings around any physical improvement works

**4.3** There are a number of factors which are key in shaping expectations with regards the future of The Backdoor Gallery:

##### **Security**

**4.4** If there is a desire to secure high value works on loan from other major public collections, consideration must be given to how insurance costs can be met. As an alternative to commercial insurance, borrowing institutions can access the Government Indemnity Scheme, which provides cost-free indemnity cover for loss or damage to art or cultural items on short or long-term loan. Access to this scheme is, however, contingent on the borrowing institution's ability to comply with the standards set by the National Security Advisor (employed by Arts Council England, who administer the scheme UK-wide).

**4.5** To inform the parameters of the scoping exercise, input was sought from the National Security Advisor in the first instance. An appointed Security Consultant made a site visit in October 2018, resulting in a number of recommended potential interventions to increase the level of protection and security for works on display. Overall, however, recommendation was made that only low value works are suitable for display in the venue.

## **Environmental**

- 4.6 In accordance with national standards and to meet lender requirements, environmental monitoring equipment and controllable lighting are likely to be required in support of any programme that would include the display of external loans from cultural institutions.
- 4.7 Taking cognisance of the information provided in 4.2 – 4.6 above, it is recommended that approval is given by Committee to undertake this scoping exercise. This scoping exercise, to be carried out internally, will inform a report and suite of recommendations in relation to future operation of the Backdoor Gallery for consideration at a future meeting of this committee.

## **5. People Implications**

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

## **6. Financial & Procurement Implications**

- 6.1 At this stage, there are no financial or procurement issues associated with this report. The scoping activity will be carried out by the existing team using exiting budgets. There may be a future impact with regards finance and procurement in light of any decisions taken by committee following reporting of the scoping exercise. Any such impact will be detailed in a future report to the Cultural Committee, with the proposal that recommendations be realised via the Cultural Capital Fund following approval by the Committee.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1 Should this scoping exercise not be undertaken, there is a risk that future programming of The Backdoor Gallery will fail to augment or enhance West Dunbartonshire's cultural programme and that the potential of the venue to contribute positively to raising the profile of West Dunbartonshire Museums and Galleries Service be compromised.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Screening did not indicate any further action required in relation to any recommendations.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1 This proposal to undertake a scoping exercise to consider the renewal and relaunch of The Backdoor Gallery has been developed by the Team Lead Arts & Heritage, with specialist input from officers across Libraries and Cultural Services and from Asset Management.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1 The proposals within this report support the following strategic priorities:

- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

**Malcolm Bennie**  
**Service Lead – Communication, Culture & Communities**  
**Date 21/01/2019**

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**Appendix:** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All