

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

Subject: Redesign of Dalmuir Gallery, Dalmuir Library**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on proposals to redesign the existing gallery space in Dalmuir Library

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee:
- note the contents of this report
 - agree that a report will return to a future Committee providing developed proposals for the gallery space and improved visitor experience

3. Background

- 3.1** In November 2019 Cultural Committee considered a report on Creating a Destination Gallery Space in Dalmuir. This report described a scoping exercise undertaken to inform the future operation of the Backdoor Gallery within Dalmuir Library, and identified a number of areas for improvement. In addition, a recommendation was made to undertake a rebranding exercise to relaunch the gallery as the Dalmuir Gallery.
- 3.2** The report highlighted possible actions which would improve the overarching visitor experience, including
- visibility of the main entrance to the library/gallery from the car park/public realm
 - visitor journey from the main entrance of the library building to the gallery space
 - the footprint of the existing gallery space
 - the potential for modular display elements to enliven and elevate exhibitions within the gallery space
 - the potential for a flexible events space
- 3.3** In order to develop this project, budget was allocated to progress redesigns that would address the points noted above, and provide visualisations of how a transformed exhibition gallery might look and feel.

- 3.4** To ensure that design proposals developed met appropriate sector standards in terms of the display and care of artworks – while considering how both the gallery and library services could best function within the existing footprint of the building – it was proposed that specialist input be sought to inform the redesign and associated technical requirements.
- 3.5** Following discussions with the Corporate Procurement Unit (CPU), Brown + Wallace were appointed in early 2020 to lead a feasibility study on the new gallery space. The consultants engaged a multi-disciplinary team to deliver an imaginative concept for the redesign of the exhibition galleries and an associated technical specification.
- 3.6** 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 the Mount Stuart conservation project; the conversion of Campbeltown Town Hall; and the refurbishment of St Andrews Cathedral.
- 3.7** McGinlay Bell Architectural Studio was further engaged by Brown + Wallace to inform the architectural elements of the redesign proposals. McGinlay Bell has recently completed work on the conversion of Glasgow Film Theatre, leading the interior alterations of the building and refurbishment throughout.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Brown + Wallace were due to commence site surveys Dalmuir Library 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 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 Dalmuir Library building. This report considers all relevant technical issues, including
- lighting design
 - environmental monitoring and control (humidity and temperature)
 - structural elements
 - accessibility
 - the building's multi-use nature
- 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 Assets Management, Planning and Building Standards, and Library Services. Detailed consideration is being given to the report findings and recommendations. On completion of this review, a developed proposal 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** There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report as no decision is being requested of Committee at this time. Any future financial implication from the gallery redesign will be dependent on the nature of the final proposal brought back to Committee. No funding has been set aside for this project from within the Cultural Capital Fund of £4m, although unallocated funds remain that could be used if Committee agreed a future proposal report.

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 gallery space within Dalmuir Library will not lead to a viable proposal and therefore to investment in the Dalmuir Gallery. This will be mitigated by ongoing consultation with relevant officers across Council departments.

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 MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) proposals made.

10. Consultation

- 10.1** The redesign proposals for the Dalmuir Library building have been assessed and developed in discussion with officers from Arts & Heritage, Library

Services, 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.

Malcolm Bennie

Strategic Lead – Communication, Culture, Communities & Facilities

Date: 28 October 2020

Person to Contact:	Malcolm Bennie Strategic Lead for Communication, Culture, Communities & Facilities Malcolm.bennie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
Appendices:	N/A.
Background Papers:	<u>Creating a Destination Gallery Space in Dalmuir:</u> Report by Strategic Lead, Communications, Culture and Communities to Cultural Committee on 25 November 2019.
Wards Affected:	All Wards.