

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 5 March 2014

Subject: Capital Programme - Fine Art and Museum Storage

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress made in enhancing the existing storage and accessibility of the Council's fine art and museum collections; to seek approval to progress with the planned programme of capital improvements; and to request delegated authority for the Executive Director of Educational Services to award contracts following tender process.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report and the positive progress made in securing £94,157 external funding to support the planned improvements to the storage, conservation and accessibility of the Council's fine art and heritage assets.
- (ii) grant approval to proceed with the proposed capital improvements 2013-16 amounting to £240,000, and delegating authority to the Executive Director of Educational Services to award contracts following tender process.

3. Background

3.1 A total of £90,000 capital expenditure over 3 years was approved by members at Council on 6 February 2013 to enable improvements to the Council's fine art collections, and on the basis of this programme securing the projected external match funding estimated at £150,000 across the life of the project. Updated information was reported to Council on 6 February 2014 advising of a probable outturn of £130,000 in 2013/14.

3.2 Details of the expected spend across the project are shown below.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
West Dunbartonshire Council	£ 50,000	£20,000	£20,000
External match funding	£110,000	£20,000	£20,000
Total	£160,000	£40,000	£40,000

- 3.3** The stores are currently accessed by the public in particular volunteers. This programme involves a series of improvements across 3yrs and will conserve the most valuable items within the collections, ensure environmentally controlled conditions, promote accessibility and allow works to be displayed to the public.
- 3.4** In seeking to create a centralised Collections and Archives Store, to house the Council's museum's collection, fine art, archives and the Nationally Recognised Sewing Machine Collection and Singer Archive, advice has been provided from Harley Haddow, Consulting Engineers, to create an environmentally sustainable collections area meeting PAS198:2012 Specification for Managing Environmental Conditions for Cultural Collections and PD5454:2012 Guide to the Storage and Exhibition of Archival Materials.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Over the last year a total of £94,157 match funding has been awarded to West Dunbartonshire Council's Libraries & Cultural Services to support the identified improvements. The programme is now in a position to progress to tender for structural improvements amounting to £90,000. A copy of these plans is attached as Appendix 1. A list of grants received and their use is also attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.2** Results of an Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) your Heritage Grant for £37,600.00 is pending due 31 March. A number of further external funding applications are in the development stages aimed at maximising use of the Council's capital allocation to generate further external income investing in fine art and museum collections.
- 4.3** In addition to conservation of the fine art assets; an important aspect of this programme is to promote public accessibility, creating an online interactive heritage portal, using maps, historic photographs and other artefacts to illustrate the heritage of West Dunbartonshire.
- 4.4** It was originally anticipated that there would be a spend of £160,000 in 2013/14. This has been delayed due to the extended time period involved in meeting the timeframes of external funders. The project however is now on course, funds in place and plans ready to go to tender with immediate effect.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** As agreed by Council on 6 Feb 2013 the total programme of improvements will be £240,000 with match funding from West Dunbartonshire Council amounting to £90,000 and external match funding projected at £150,000 across the life of the project as shown in 3.1.

A total of £144,157 is currently in place to progress improvements including structural works amounting to £90,000 subject to tender. An inability to progress with capital works at this time may result in the Council having to return grants of £94k which were awarded on the basis of carrying out the proposed improvements.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 Members must consider the potential reputational risks should the programme not progress; in particular the necessity to hand back funds for grant giving bodies.

7.2 In addition, non- progression of capital works will result in an increased risk to the long-term condition of the Council's fine art and museum assets.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No issues were identified in a screening of this project.

9. Consultation

9.1 The development of plans and tendering has been carried out in consultation with the Council's asset management and procurement teams. In addition consultation has taken place with external funders to seek guidance on required conservation and storage standards.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The General Services Capital Plan contributes to both Social and Economic Regeneration and the Asset Management Strategy in relation to the regeneration and marketing of West Dunbartonshire Council's infrastructure, educational attainment and achievement, modern schools and care homes amongst others. This individual programme will aim to contribute to these outcomes. In addition to protecting and conserving the Council's cultural assets, it will promote volunteering and support employability and learning through increased accessibility to collections.

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Date: 11 February 2014

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Appendices:

1. Collections Store Plans
2. External Grants Awarded

Background Papers:

General Services 10 Year Capital Plan and Update to the Long Term Financial Strategy - 6 February 2013

General Services 10 Year Capital Plan Update
– 6 February 2014

Equalities Impact Screening

Wards Affected:

All wards affected