

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Education

Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee: 13 December 2011

Subject: Refurbishment of Clydebank Museum

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise and update the Corporate Cultural Sub Committee of plans for and the programming of the proposed refurbishment works to Clydebank Museum.
- 1.2** To advise committee of plans for forthcoming exhibitions in the refurbished museum and link gallery.

2. Background

- 2.1** With the refurbishment of Clydebank Town Hall and the redesign of Clydebank Museum, partnerships have been formed with organisations such as the National Galleries of Scotland to bring high quality visual art exhibitions into West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.3** In order to meet the requirements of hosting nationally prestigious exhibitions, significant investment in the museum space within Clydebank Town Hall needs to take place. Details of current plans are outlined in this report.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In order to become a suitable venue for exhibitions from institutions such as the National Galleries, which will appeal to local and national audiences, increase tourism and improve the museum's performance in Statutory Performance Indicator reporting; significant capital investment in the museum space is necessary. In addition to core WDC investment identified, external funding opportunities are being explored with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All, Museums Galleries Scotland and Creative Scotland.
- 3.3** The refurbished Town Hall provides two new opportunities for temporary exhibitions these being: Clydebank Museum and a new 'link' gallery in the South East of the building. Areas within the main and north foyers are also to be developed for permanent display from the museum collection.
- 3.4** The display and gallery areas will function in different ways:
 - i.** Clydebank Museum Gallery can host a rolling programme of high status touring exhibitions, in addition to a programme of exhibitions from the WDC Collections and works on loan from other agencies.

- ii. The Link Gallery is a small gallery space and can house a changing programme of exhibitions featuring high quality community exhibitions such as local art clubs, art competition winners and high quality local artist work.
 - iii. Permanent display areas are located in the main and north foyers and can display items from the museum collection in particular Singer and John Browns along-side interpretation panels.
- 3.5** In addition a cafe and shop are being established in the north foyer adjacent to the museum. This will be themed around Singer with sewing machines on display and Singer artefacts built into the fittings e.g. sewing machine treadle tables in the cafe.
- 3.6** Investment in refurbishing the gallery spaces is planned to meet requirements. The following improvements are planned prior to re-opening:
- i. Purchase and installation of new environmental monitoring and control systems including; humidifiers, dehumidifiers, temperature controls and Lux metres to monitor lighting levels.
 - ii. Installation of improved security including CCTV, and magnetic door locks.
 - iii. Repainting, and flooring of museum rooms and upgrading of display lighting.
 - iv. Purchase of industry standard display cases and display plinths, and security barriers.
 - v. Provision of permanent interpretation panels illustrating museum artefacts including those relating to Singer, and John Browns.
- 3.7** Exhibitions are currently being planned for 2012-2013. To mark the reopening of the Town Hall the museum will host a major exhibition on 20th Century Scottish Art featuring works by major Scottish artists on loan from the National Galleries in addition to those from the WDC collection.
- 3.8** Libraries & Museums are also currently in negotiations with the National Portrait Gallery to bring one of its prestigious touring exhibitions to West Dunbartonshire in 2013 such as 'Romantic Camera' featuring photographic works or 'Out of the Shadow': Women in the 19th Century.
- 3.9** To mark the reopening the Link Gallery will also host an exhibition of contemporary photography through a West Dunbartonshire Photography Competition. Forthcoming exhibitions in the Link Gallery include:
West Dunbartonshire Open Art Show Nov-Dec 2012 featuring contemporary artists work for sale.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** Libraries & Museums have an excellent track record of attracting external funding to West Dunbartonshire. However failure to achieve sufficient external and internal funding will mean that proposals outlined in this paper may not be achieved or will need to be scaled back.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Failure to secure sufficient funding will mean that WDC Libraries and Museums will have to decline partnerships with national institutions such as The National Galleries of Scotland, and in particular the National Portrait Gallery.
- 6.2** Outcomes for this project include increased tourism to West Dunbartonshire, in particular Clydebank, and increased visits to museums as measured through Statutory Performance Indicators. Without investment in the enhancements outlined in this report, this project could not produce these outcomes.
- 6.3** Failure to achieve external funding will also lead to the scaling back of exhibitions and artefacts throughout the Town Hall redevelopment, including display of important aspects of Clydebank heritage, including models of HMS Vanguard and RMS Rangitane and extremely rare models of Singer sewing machines.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified for potential equality impact in this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 How will this help make best use of our money?

The proposals within this report aim to achieve Best Value for the Council. In addition to having committed 30k from Educational core funds, external funding is being sought from a number of funders for the refurbishment of Clydebank Museum including improvements to environmental monitoring and security. Securing external funding will potentially more than double the investment by West Dunbartonshire Council.

8.2 How does it make better use of our physical and human assets?

In addition to the resulting Best Value use of existing budgets and maximisation of external funding this project enables significant capital investment in Clydebank Museum. Enhancing the venue and enabling it to host exhibitions of national calibre. This will provide the only venue of this standard in West Dunbartonshire.

8.3 How does it change or impact on service provision?

The enhancement of Clydebank Museum will result in a Museum and Gallery suitable for exhibitions from institutions such as the National Galleries, which will appeal to local, national and international audiences, increase tourism and improve the museum's performance in Statutory Performance Indicator reporting.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 The committee is asked to note the content of this report and progress being made in relation to the refurbishment plans and future exhibition programmes for the refurbished Clydebank Museum, and Link Gallery.

9.2 Committee is also asked to note the significant efforts being made to enhance service delivery, to increase visitor figures through the plans to enhance Clydebank Museum, and partnerships with National agencies in order to attract exhibitions of national quality, to improve tourism and increase Statutory Performance Indicator results.

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Wards Affected: All Wards