

Agenda



Special Meeting of Cultural Committee

Date: Monday, 17 January 2022

Time: 10:00

Format: Video Conference

Contact: Email: committee.admin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Dear Member

Please attend a special meeting of the **Cultural Committee** as detailed above.

The Convener has directed that the powers contained in Section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 will be used and the meeting held remotely.

The business is shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

JOYCE WHITE

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

Bailie Denis Agnew (Chair)
Provost William Hendrie
Councillor Jonathan McColl (Vice Chair)
Councillor John Millar
Councillor Brian Walker

Chief Executive
Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution and Property
Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture and Facilities

Date of issue: 12 January 2022

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CULTURAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 17 JANUARY 2022

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 any interests in the items of business on this agenda and the reasons for such declarations.

4 RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee is asked to agree that all votes taken during the meeting be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

5 OPEN FORUM

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

6 WEEKEND OPENING OF CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL

5 - 13

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Cultural Committee held on 20 December 2021, submit report by the Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities responding to a request from the Cultural Committee to detail adjustments that could be made to reduce the additional costs associated with opening Clydebank Town Hall to the public at weekends.

7/

7 UPDATE – WDC SCOTTISH ART ACQUISITION FUND 15 - 23

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Cultural Committee held on 20 December 2021, submit report by the Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities providing an update on acquisitions previously approved for purchase via the West Dunbartonshire Council Scottish Art Acquisition Fund (established May 2021): future plans on this fund and recommending a series of acquisitions for approval by Committee.

8 REFURBISHMENT ON TOWN HALL to follow

Submit report by the Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities****Cultural Committee: 17 January 2022**

Subject: Weekend opening of Clydebank Town Hall**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to respond to a request from the Cultural Committee to detail adjustments that could be made to reduce the additional costs associated with opening Clydebank Town Hall to the public at weekends.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** It is recommended that the Committee:

- notes this report and the results of the review of costs associated with Option 2; and
- notes the feedback received from the Joint Trade Unions.

3. Background

- 3.1** At the Special Cultural Committee on 7 October 2021 Elected Members agreed a motion that called for a report to be brought back to the next Cultural Committee meeting detailing options and recommendations for weekend opening hours at Clydebank Town Hall.

- 3.2** At the Cultural Committee on 29 November 2021 Elected Members agreed the following motion:

(a) to continue this report to a future meeting (time and date to be set by the Convener); and

(b) that the report should provide more detail on the required staffing and changes to staff work patterns that would be required to implement weekend opening and also more detail on how we might operate a six month pilot of weekend opening.

- 3.3** At the Cultural Committee on 20 December 2021 Elected Members agreed the following motion:

(a) to note the contents of the report;

(b) to proceed with Option 2 as detailed within the report and close the Town Hall to members of the public on Mondays and Tuesdays weekly allowing it to open on Sundays; and

(c) that a report be brought back to a special meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held mid-January 2022 detailing adjustments that could be made to reduce the additional cost of adopting Option 2 opening hours.

- 3.4** The B-listed Clydebank Town Hall incorporates elected member and office accommodation, a museum, gallery and coffee shop as well as providing bespoke space for a range of corporate, civic and cultural events.

The building is currently closed following the national lockdown. Prior to this, the Town Hall was open from 8.45am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday. The museum and gallery were open 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday and the coffee shop was open 11am to 1pm, Monday to Friday.

- 3.5** Following a request to bring forward a report outlining a six month pilot of weekend opening, in December 2021 officers presented a report outlining two options for opening on Saturdays and Sundays, however recommended retaining the existing Monday to Saturday opening hours. The Cultural Committee did not approve the recommendation and agreed a motion to proceed with Option 2 - opening the building, inclusive of the museum and coffee shop, from Wednesday through to Sunday and to close the building to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays. Elected Members and Elected Member Support Services access to the building Monday to Friday would be maintained and therefore the building would be operational seven days a week.

- 3.6** The report highlighted that although the full team would not be required when the building was closed to the public, there would still need to be a Facilities Assistant as well as a Team Leader and Events Assistant onsite on these days. It was estimated that this expanded team would cost approximately £30,000 per year. Closing on a Monday and Tuesday and opening on a Sunday would mean there was one less day per week than present to undertake events at the Town Hall. In addition, there would be one day less to meet event organisers on site for tours to secure future bookings. As a result it was noted there is likely to be an impact on future income targets. There would also be the increased property costs associated with seven day operations. In total, this option would create additional revenue costs of approximately £50,000 per year, £25,000 for the duration of the pilot.

- 3.7** The report also recognised the significant disruption to existing employees for whom contractual working is Monday to Friday, or Monday to Saturday working. It was highlighted that in order to move these employees to new working patterns involving permanent weekend working, a contractual change would be required. It was noted that employees unable or unwilling to work every Saturday and Sunday during the trial period could find themselves displaced, presenting a risk of refusal and consequential employee relations issues.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** In response to the request from committee, officers have again reviewed each element of the £50,000 cost per annum attributed to Option 2 and confirm that

this cannot be reduced further. The cost comprises of £30,000 for employees, £10,000 for property costs and £10,000 from loss of income.

- 4.2** The new structure presented introduces a new team to support opening of the building on the two days the building is not open to the public but is open to employees including members' services and elected members. The proposed model ensures resilience and is based on the experience in practice of managing the building. The team leader and events assistant are proposed to be on site from 8.30am to 5.45pm on a Monday and Tuesday to maintain the current level of access for members, with a half day shift on a Wednesday. Any reduction to the Town Hall structure presents a risk that the building fails to open due to inadequate staffing, particularly a Monday and Tuesday, risks impacting adversely on employees' work life balance through additional working beyond contracted hours and potentially breaches the Working Time Regulations 1998 if there was a failure to observe the 11 hour rest period between shifts. The Council's commitment to fair working practices includes offering both stability of employment alongside a minimum number of hours of work each week and the proposed structure reflects and supports this.
- 4.3** It is recognised that the short-term nature of the contracts will limit their appeal and could lead to increased turnover as the pilot progresses and employees are potentially drawn to longer term or more secure job opportunities. It would be difficult to fill vacancies which did arise given the limited duration of the contracts and this could lead to gaps in service. It is hoped that offering 21 hour contracts will assist in making the temporary six-month roles attractive in what is currently a highly competitive job market within the hospitality industry.
- 4.4** As indicated in the previous report to committee, opening seven days a week will result in an estimated increase in utility costs of £10,000 per annum. Although the building will be closed to the public two days per week, this will have little if any impact on these costs given there will still be employees and elected members accessing both the ground and first floor of the building and therefore heating, lighting and also cleaning requirement will remain the same.
- 4.5** Pre-pandemic, the conferencing market was a key target for generating income and marketing materials had been produced and approaches made to a number of private and public sector organisations to promote the venue for meetings and events, Monday to Friday between standard opening hours. In addition a number of dance school bookings for shows and displays were held Monday to Wednesday as well as the regular bi-annual bookings from Clydebank Musical Society which run Sunday to Saturday. It is anticipated that the closure of the building to the public, and unavailability of the venue on a Monday and Tuesday, balanced with the additional opening of the Town Hall on a Sunday, could result in a potential £10,000 reduction in income. The loss of revenue is based on bookings pre-Covid as until the building reopens, the market is untested.
- 4.6** Officers will continue to review options to ensure the team is as efficient as possible while also maintaining services. A further report will be presented at the conclusion of the pilot highlighting visitor numbers, costs and revenue to inform members and provide recommendations on the future approach. This will take

cognisance of any opportunities for partnership working and maximise any available external funding for employment or training.

Trade Union engagement

- 4.7** As is expected with any significant change to an employee group, trade unions have been engaged following the decision at December committee and in preparation of this report. GMB, Unite and Unison have raised significant concerns over what they describe as a fundamental, unnecessary and unacceptable change to employee contracts and the risk of employees either being displaced or having their contracts terminated and reissued. They have highlighted the impact this change will have on employees, their wellbeing and work or caring commitments and indicated they would oppose any move to impose new contracts incorporating weekend working on individuals without their explicit consent. They have also advised this situation would put the Council at risk of subsequent claims from affected employees and questioned whether the decision demonstrates best value for the organisation.
- 4.8** Formal consultation with the affected employee group will follow however it should be noted that early indications from the five employees is that they would not accept a change to their contract which would introduce permanent weekend working. The employee group has been flexible to support the needs of the service in the past however cannot commit to working every Saturday and Sunday and have confirmed that they would not have applied for their current roles had this been required.

5 People Implications

- 5.1** As noted above, the decision to proceed with a six-month pilot of opening the building Wednesday to Sunday and opening to members and employees only on Monday and Tuesday requires a contractual change for up to five existing employees and a process of consultation will now begin in line with the Council's policy for managing change. Employees unable or unwilling to work every Saturday and Sunday could find themselves displaced or dismissed and re-engaged. There is a risk of refusal to accept the contractual change and consequential employee relations issues and/or tribunal claims.
- 5.2** There will also require to be a recruitment process for two part-time fixed-term posts to cover Monday to Wednesday operations at the Town Hall.
- 5.3** The changes would need to take effect in 2022/23 to allow for the contractual discussions with employees and parallel recruitment processes. Recruitment for the new posts could not begin until after the budget setting in March and therefore the new employees would not be in place to support weekend opening until July 2022.
- 5.4** It should be acknowledged that the Equality Impact Assessment accompanying the December report on weekend opening highlighted that Option 2 would have a negative impact on one equality group, namely women, as the existing employees affected by the contractual changes are exclusively women. This

contravenes the Council's policies in respect of caring responsibilities, supporting women returners, fair work and our equality actions.

6 Financial & Procurement Implications

- 6.1** The decision to revise opening hours has an estimated additional revenue cost of £50,000 per year. Should employees be unwilling to accept a change to their contract and if suitable alternative roles could not be identified, there would be a further cost to the Council for paying the notice period to current employees, this would be circa £21,000.
- 6.2** The Cultural Committee has delegated powers to implement its functions, remit and responsibilities as detailed above. The additional revenue costs would need to be considered by Council when the 2022/23 budget is agreed in March 2022.
- 6.3** There are no procurement implications from this report.

7 Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There is a risk that the additional revenue cost of weekend opening may not be matched by significantly increased visitor numbers. This could lead to concerns over the Best Value of such an approach.
- 7.2** There is a risk that employees do not agree a change to their contracts and as a result are displaced and, if they cannot be redeployed, the Council will have to dismiss and re-engage.
- 7.3** There is a risk that the Trade Unions oppose the change resulting in action/claims against the Council and reputational damage.

8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in preparation of the report on weekend opening and this highlighted that opening a public building seven days a week could be viewed as increasing access. There is a potential negative impact of implementing Option 2 and changing employees' contracts on one equality group, namely women as the current employee group is exclusively female.

9 Consultation

- 9.1** This report has been consulted on with Finance, Legal and HR
- 9.2** HR colleagues have highlighted the risk to both employee and industrial relations. The temporary nature of the proposed amendments to employee contracts presents difficulties in terms of identifying alternative roles for employees should they be unwilling to accept the change. The employees may also be displaced as a result and move onto the Council's Switch register with a view to an alternative role being identified for the duration of the pilot. The

process of identifying an alternative suitable matched post can take time and also incorporates a trial period.

9.3 The service would continue to pay the employee's salary until an alternative role could be secured. If the process is unsuccessful the service would be in a position of paying the employee's salary for their notice period - which will vary between one and three months dependent on length of service - while also paying a salary for another employee to undertake the substantive post and support the operation of the Town Hall.

9.4 The potential for all employees to be displaced would be highly disruptive to the service and presents a risk in terms of maintaining delivery. In these circumstances, in addition to being in a position of having to recruit to all existing posts on a fixed term basis to cover the trial, the additional costs incurred will not be budgeted for. The only alternative would be to impose the contracts by dismissing all employees and thereafter re-engaging on the alternative terms and conditions including Wednesday to Saturday working.

10 Strategic Assessment

10.1 The proposals within this report are linked to the following strategic priorities:

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

Amanda Graham
Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities
Date: 10 January 2022

Person to Contact: **Amanda Graham**
Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities
16 Church Street
Dumbarton, G82 1QL
amanda.graham@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: **1 - Equality Impact Assessment**

Background Papers:

Wards Affected: **All wards**

AssessmentNo	420	Owner	mrodger
Resource	Transformation		Service/Establishment Communications, Culture and Communities
	First Name	Surname	Job title
Head Officer	Amanda	Graham	Comms, TH, CEO Office Manager, CitizenCultureFacilities
	(include job titles/organisation)		
Members	Moira Rodger, Communications Officer Ricardo Rea, Performance and Strategy Team		
	<i>(Please note: the word 'policy' is used as shorthand for strategy policy function or financial decision)</i>		
Policy Title	Weekend opening of Clydebank Town Hall		
	The aim, objective, purpose and intended out come of policy		
	The proposals respond to a request from the Cultural Committee to examine the possibility of weekend opening and include any potential revenue implications.		
	Service/Partners/Stakeholders/service users involved in the development and/or implementation of policy.		
	Services		
Does the proposals involve the procurement of any goods or services?		Yes	
If yes please confirm that you have contacted our procurement services to discuss your requirements.		No	
SCREENING			
<i>You must indicate if there is any relevance to the four areas</i>			
Duty to eliminate discrimination (E), advance equal opportunities (A) or foster good relations (F)		Yes	
Relevance to Human Rights (HR)		No	
Relevance to Health Impacts (H)		No	
Relevance to Social Economic Impacts (SE)		Yes	
Who will be affected by this policy?			
Staff, actual potential visitors/users of Clydebank Town Hall			
Who will be/has been involved in the consultation process?			
Discussions with staff			
Please outline any particular need/barriers which equality groups may have in relation to this policy list evidence you are using to support this and whether there is any negative impact on particular groups.			
	Needs	Evidence	Impact
Age	Accessible community spaces contribute to community cohesion	Older people are less like to be digitally included	Identifying a sustainable path in terms of opening hours for the town hall would be a positive impact
Cross Cutting	Accessible	Sharing spaces and	Any option adopted

	community spaces contribute to community cohesion Any changes to opening hours needs to be clearly communicated to members of the public	social contact can help foster good relations and support community cohesions	needs to take these factor into consideration
Disability	Accessible community spaces contribute to community cohesion	Some disabled people are less likely to be digitally included Accessible spaces are therefore very important Feed back from Deaf/BSL users for example has noted a preference for this venue for engagement	Identifying a sustainable path in terms of opening hours for the town hall would be a positive impact
Social & Economic Impact	We need to consider the impact of major decisions in line with the October 2021 Statutory Guidance on the Fairer Scotland Duty	CTH sits in an area of major regeneration including 'Connecting Clydebank'	Any option adopted needs to take these factor into consideration
Sex	To consider any differential impact of women versus men in terms of employment	Relative impact on employees needs to be considered, if people are displaced by one option	Mitigation by switch policy if option 2 is selected
Gender Reassign			
Health			
Human Rights			
Marriage & Civil Partnership			
Pregnancy & Maternity			
Race			
Religion and Belief			
Sexual Orientation			
Actions			
Policy has a negative impact on an equality group, but is still to be implemented, please provide justification for this.			
Will the impact of the policy be monitored and reported on an ongoing bases?			
Q7 What is your recommendation for this policy?			
Introduce			

Please provide a meaningful summary of how you have reached the recommendation

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken and this highlighted that opening a public building seven days a week could be viewed as increasing access. However, opening an additional day would make only a marginal difference, given the building is already open six days and visitor numbers are limited. The equality impact has been examined and there is no impact from retaining the current position. There is a potential negative impact on one equality group, namely women, should committee move to seven day opening depending on which option is taken.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities****Cultural Committee: 17 January 2022**

Subject: Update – WDC Scottish Art Acquisition Fund**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report provides Committee with an update on acquisitions previously approved for purchased via the West Dunbartonshire Council Scottish Art Acquisition Fund (established May 2021); future plans for this fund; and recommends a series of acquisitions for approval by Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to:
- note the contents of this report
 - approve the acquisition of works as proposed, to enhance and augment the Council's fine art collection
 - agree that a report outlining recommendations for the balance of this fund be brought to a future committee as appropriate

3. Background

- 3.1** In March 2018 the Council agreed to create a £4m Cultural Capital Fund to invest in West Dunbartonshire's cultural and heritage infrastructure in order to unlock regeneration, increase tourism and raise the reputation of the area. The 2018/19 Budget Document pointed to the transformation of the waterfront at Clydebank and the perfect opportunity this created to undertake bold and exciting projects that revitalise Council assets and change the way people look at our area.
- 3.2** Enabled by the Cultural Capital Fund, work is already underway to enact improvements to Clydebank Town Hall, including an expansion of the existing gallery exhibition space. Funds have also been allocated to realise a new museum for Clydebank in the basement of Clydebank Library, bringing new prominence to Clydebank's rich history and heritage.
- 3.3** In May 2021 further funds were allocated to establish a Scottish Art Acquisition Fund, intended to enable the purchase of artworks by Scottish artists – and in particular Scottish women artists – to augment and enhance West Dunbartonshire Council's existing fine art collection.
- 3.4** The Council's fine art collection includes a notable collection of works by the Scottish Colourists, alongside which sits a small selection of works by Scottish women artists contemporary with, influenced by, or who followed the

Colourists. Cumulatively and through judicious acquisition, an important and representative collection of Scottish art has been formed. Through development of this collection by acquisition, a transformational resource that can be used to educate and inspire residents young and old will continue to grow, significantly improving West Dunbartonshire's citizens' access to high quality culture on their doorstep.

3.5 In November 2021 a series of recommended acquisitions were brought before Committee. All works listed were identified via a process of research, including review of the existing fine art collection and consideration of the Council's existing Acquisitions, Disposal and Collections Development Policy. Of these works, 14 were approved for acquisition, as listed below:

- *The Castle, Gotha* by F C B Cadell, 1906, watercolour
- *Tenements in the Snow* by Joan Eardley, 1953, oil on board
- *Little Interior* by Elizabeth Blackadder, 1972, watercolour
- *Japanese Garden, Kyoto*, by Elizabeth Blackadder, 1992, etching
- *Part of a Stream*, by Mardi Barrie, c.1965, oil on board
- *Spotted Dog (Henry Dooley)* by Pat Douthwaite, c.1983, pastel
- *Goddess*, by Pat Douthwaite, 1974, oil pastel & charcoal on buff paper
- *Orchid, Paphiopedelum Lawrenceanum* by Elizabeth Blackadder, 1998, watercolour
- *November III (St Andrews)* by Wilhelmina Barns-Grahame, 1991, screenprint
- *Kyleakin* by Anne Redpath, lithograph on paper
- *The Little Posy* by Anne Redpath, colour lithograph, 1957
- *Flowers in a Teapot* by Anne Redpath, watercolour
- *Tobermory* by Penelope Beaton, watercolour on paper
- *Winter Walk* by Frances Walker, screenprint, 1990

3.6 At a subsequent meeting of the Cultural Committee on December 20 2021, two further works were approved for acquisition. These were:

- *Nude Study* by SJ Peplow, 1930, conte drawing
- *Reading* by SJ Peplow, 1913, conte drawing

3.7 Following both the November and December Committee approvals, all relevant galleries were contacted to secure acquisition of works approved for acquisition. Only one work was no longer available at point of contact. This was: *Flowers in a Teapot* by Anne Redpath. Final confirmation is also pending on the availability of *The Little Posy* by Anne Redpath, although the gallery in question has been closed for an extended period between December 2021 and January 2022.

3.8 In order to maximise the potential of the WDC Scottish Art Acquisition Fund, officers recommended pursuing additional external funding to support the acquisition of *Tenements in the Snow* by Joan Eardley. 2021 was celebrated as Eardley's centenary year, and the Council's fine art collection already includes two works by this important artist. It was felt that a strong case could be made to achieve additional support for this purchase, to which end an application is in progress to the National Fund for Acquisitions. The selling

gallery has supported this application by agreeing the requisite museum discount on the purchase price.

- 3.9** Taking cognisance of Committee feedback, and building on research already undertaken, officers have continued to consider further fine art acquisitions that would answer the aspirations of the fund, and augment the existing WDC fine art collection. This includes consideration of Scottish women artists broadly contemporaneous to those listed at 3.5 above, such as Alison Watt, Christine McArthur, Jacki Parry, Kate Cameron and Mary Armour. In addition, works by earlier 20th century artists including Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh and Francis Macdonald will continue to be pursued should they become available, whilst opportunities to acquire work by 21st century Scottish women artists is also being explored.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Officers have continued to research acquisition opportunities and correspond with various selling galleries during December 2021 and into January 2022. A particular focus of this activity has been on identifying works by Alison Watt currently available on the open market. It has not been possible to bring any firm recommendation to Committee on purchasing any works by Watt at this time. This is in part due to the short timeline available for research, compounded by festive closures; price on application listings; and the need to balance the financial viability of any possible acquisition against the collecting priorities outlined in the WDC Acquisitions, Disposal and Collections Development policy. Should a suitable work by Watt be identified by officers, they will seek to bring this before Committee as a matter of urgency.
- 4.2** Officers are able to recommend the purchase of three additional works, as listed in appendix 1, which answer Committee's aspiration to broaden focus to acquire works by 21st century Scottish women artists. The curatorial context for these recommendations is set out below. None of the artists listed are currently represented in the WDC fine art collection, but acquisition of these works would undoubtedly complement and enhance the established collection.

Susie Leiper

- 4.3** Born in Glasgow, Leiper now lives and works in Edinburgh as both a painter and calligrapher. She is particularly well known for her beautifully created handmade artist books, but is equally at home painting or writing on varied surfaces, from walls to canvases to small pieces of wood. The acquisition of this work presents the opportunity to explore narratives around urban townscapes; regeneration; and place. It also provides future opportunities to explore Leiper's work through links to bound volumes in the fine art collection.

Cate Inglis

- 4.4** Cate Inglis' first solo show in 2016 explored the transience of urban structures and the relentless process of growth and change. Her interest in the transient

nature of the built environment has led her to explore the industrial and post-industrial landscapes of the urban environment, inviting questions that focus on ideas of place and the inherent, intangible heritage therein. This work unlocks opportunities within the WDC fine art collection to explore narratives of regeneration that would link equally well to the work by Susie Leiper recommended for acquisition, as well as works by – for example – Joan Eardley already held in the collection.

Elaine Cunningham

- 4.5** Inspired by her coastal upbringing, Elaine Cunningham’s atmospheric approach to sea and landscapes has helped establish her reputation. She has described her approach to seascapes as an emotional response to the sea, striving to capture movement and mood whilst retaining a sense of scale and power. In this, her artistic approach and motivation echoes that of Joan Eardley, who was similarly bewitched by the North Sea. Cunningham is now based in Angus, where she seeks to explore her relationship to the sea in all its moods – from meditative to tempestuous.
- 4.6** Officers are confident that the acquisitions recommended in this report continue the expansion and elevation of WDC’s fine art collection in a way that is at once ambitious and considered. The works selected provide depth and reach that makes for a representative collection, with the potential to continue to grow in the future.
- 4.7** As noted above, opportunities to grow the West Dunbartonshire Council fine art collection will continue to be pursued by officers, with a particular focus on artists noted at 3.9 above. Should any additional funds be allocated or secured to support fine art acquisition in the future, these would be used to pursue the inclusion of other major Scottish artists in the collection, increasing its overall relevance, representation, and significance accordingly.

5. People Implications

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

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** Acquisitions will be taken forward on a work by work basis, via the relevant selling gallery. To ensue best value, where appropriate and/or possible, a museum discount will be sought on the advertised purchase price of artworks.
- 6.2** Committee approved the establishment of a Scottish Art Acquisition Fund in May 2021, allocating £100,000 from the Cultural Capital Fund for this purpose. The total committed expenditure to date is £65,515, leaving a balance of £34,485.
- 6.3** The total cost to acquire by purchase those works listed in appendix 1 is £7,800. Thereafter, an unallocated balance of £26,685 remains.

- 6.4 Should the funding application in support of Joan Eardley's *Tenements in the Snow* be successful, this balance will increase by up to £13,275, giving a potential maximum total of £39,960.
- 6.5 Art works purchased will be added to the Council's existing fine art insurance policy. Given the anticipated value of individual works proposed for acquisition it is unlikely that this will see a notable uplift in the cost of this policy.
- 6.6 Advice and guidance will be sought from the Corporate Procurement Unit, as required, to ensure due process is followed at all stages of purchasing.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1 There is a risk that the investment in fine art could lead to a poor use of public funds with either inflated prices paid for works, or works depreciating in value. This has been mitigated by in-depth market research, negotiation on price, and application of a museum discount, where applicable. Works to be purchased will form part of the Council's permanent museum collection; they have been selected in a curatorial context with primary consideration given to artistic merit and inherent cultural value; works will be accessioned in accordance with the Council's approved Acquisitions, Disposal and Collections Development policy. Although valuations will be retained for the purpose of insurance, as an accredited museum service there is no expectation that works will be resold in the future unless an ethical and meaningful case for disposal can be made.
- 7.2 There is a risk that this investment in fine art could be negatively perceived by some members of the community at a time when Council budgets are under pressure. This is mitigated by the fact that the investment is being made from a designated Fund created for the direct purpose of cultural investment. It will also be mitigated by community-focused programming across West Dunbartonshire's cultural venues, and by providing access to works purchased in the context of learning, engagement, and creative activity. Officers will ensure that the purchased artwork is displayed as soon as possible, for public benefit and enjoyment.
- 7.3 There is a risk that the Council will fail to purchase artwork of suitable quality and relevance in time to fill the newly developed gallery space at the Clydebank Town Hall. This has been mitigated by the application of specialist knowledge by officers in the Arts and Heritage service; proactive research of available artworks; and adherence to the collecting principles outlined in existing policies.
- 7.4 There is a risk that should this proposal not go ahead the Council will lose the opportunity to enhance the fine art collection and fail to capitalise on the investment in the new gallery space at the Town Hall.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1 An EIA screening has been completed and no impacts were identified.

9. Consultation

9.1 This proposal to acquire by purchase artworks by Scottish women artists has been developed by the Team Lead Arts & Heritage, with specialist input from officers across Arts & Heritage, Performance and Strategy, Corporate Communications, and the Corporate Procurement Unit. Consultation has also taken place with Legal and Finance.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The proposals within this report support delivery of efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

Amanda Graham
Chief Officer – Citizen, Culture & Facilities
11 January 2022

Person to Contact:	Sarah Christie, Team Leader - Arts & Heritage Email: Sarah.Christie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Scottish Women Artists Acquisition Fund – recommended acquisitions January 2022
Background Papers:	Acquisition Fund for Scottish Art, Cultural Committee 17 May 2021 Acquisitions Proposal - Scottish Art, Cultural Committee 29 November 2021
Wards Affected:	All

Appendix I

Scottish Art Acquisition Fund – January 2022

The works listed below are recommended for purchase by West Dunbartonshire Council, via the Scottish Art Acquisition Fund.

All works listed were available for purchase in January 2022. Images are included for reference and may not show the full composition.

Susie Leiper

Architecture of disruption, title from Norman MacCaig

Oil, graphite and casein paint on canvas

180 x 160 cm

£3,500

Open Eye Gallery



Cate Inglis

Break-In (Shipyard Site)

Monoprint and oil on board

40 x 100 cm

£2,000

Open Eye Gallery



Elaine Cunningham

Harbour I

Oil and beeswax on canvas

120 x 120 cm

£2,300

Scotland Art

