

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Arts and Heritage Committee – 17 September 2001

**REPORT ON:** Camperdown House

**REPORT BY:** Director of Arts and Heritage

**REPORT NO:** 560-2001

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To consider progress on proposals regarding seasonal opening of Camperdown House.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

2.1 Note that the Friends of Camperdown do not wish to progress with a lease for Camperdown House at this time and do not feel in a position to commit to operating seasonal opening.

2.2 Approve, in principle, the staging of an exhibition as a promotional event at Camperdown House in 2004 to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Admiral Duncan.

2.3 That a sum of £20,000 be included in 2003/2004 Common Good Fund as a contribution to this proposed promotional event at Camperdown House.

2.4 Remit to the Director of Arts and Heritage to explore the potential of a seasonal catering operation in part of the house.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 At this early stage it is not possible to estimate the cost of the proposed exhibition. However, a sum of £20,000 will be allocated from the Common good Fund in 2003/04, and the Arts and Heritage Department will allocate an element of its revenue budget (from within existing limits). This funding will be used to lever additional funding from other sources such as Heritage Lottery Access Fund.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposals contained within this report are consistent with the key themes of Local Agenda 21 specifically to ensure that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The proposals contained within this report are consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

## **6.0 PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 6.1 Report 625-2000, Arts and Heritage Committee Report remitted the Director of Arts and Heritage to agree detailed proposals for limited seasonal opening of part of the house and an associated catering facility in conjunction with the Friends of Camperdown.
- 6.2 The report further remitted the Director of Arts and Heritage, Finance and Support Services to develop an appropriate lease agreement with the Friends of Camperdown.

A lease was drawn up through Support Services and sent to the Friends of Camperdown in May 2000. A response has now been received which indicates that the Friends do not support the signing of such a document and that the Friends and Trustees are neither qualified for, nor have the time to commit to the undertaking suggested.

- 6.3 The major redevelopment of Camperdown House would require a significant multi-million pound application to Heritage Lottery Fund with a requirement for local match funding. Given Heritage Lottery Fund's current commitment to projects in Dundee, they have informally indicated that the timing of any application relating to Camperdown House would have an impact on its likely success given their requirements to geographically spread funding throughout the country. There are also no allowances within the Arts and Heritage Department's Capital Plan. So far, the Friends of Camperdown have not been successful in raising significant funds to support any bid from external sources. As a result of these factors it is unlikely that a major project would be possible until 2005/6. This would see current HLF commitments largely concluded in the city and following the proposed redevelopment and restoration of McManus Galleries, Arts and Heritage in a stronger position to consider supporting a future initiative.
- 6.4 Given the long lead in time for any full scale development at Camperdown House the Friends are anxious to find a short term focus to maintain a momentum and slowly build on their fundraising achievements thus far.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL**

- 7.1 August 4<sup>th</sup> 2004 is the 200th anniversary of the death of Admiral Duncan. This anniversary presents an opportunity to mount an exhibition on Duncan and the subsequent development of the house which would provide a useful 'stepping stone' to further development and keep up a profile for the Friends and the project.
- 7.2 It is likely given the current timetable for the McManus Galleries Restoration and Development Project that McManus Galleries would be closed for restoration for a significant part of 2004 thus diminishing the heritage offer of the city. If such an exhibition could be staged in the principal rooms of Camperdown House it would contribute to the city's heritage offer for the period and be a productive use of staff and resources during the summer.
- 7.3 Such an exhibition would help to develop and cement our continuing partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Museum of Scotland towards the project.
- 7.4 The Arts and Heritage Departments ability to stage such an exhibition is contingent on the use of freed resources which would only become available if the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for McManus Galleries is successful.
- 7.5 It is now clear that the potential for the operation of seasonal catering will not be realised through the Friends of Camperdown. It is therefore proposed to explore the potential to operate seasonal catering through a catering franchise as a temporary use of part of the House.

**8.0 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of Leisure and Parks, Director of Economic Development and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report.

**9.0 PREVIOUS REPORTS**

Report 391/1998, Arts and Heritage Committee  
Report 625/2000, Arts and Heritage Committee

Director of Arts and Heritage \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_