

REPORT TO: ARTS & HERITAGE COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2001

REPORT ON: MCMANUS GALLERIES - HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE

REPORT NO: 138-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek authority to submit a Phase One bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Restoration and Development of McManus Galleries.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee authorises the Director of Arts and Heritage to proceed to submit a Phase One bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund as outlined in this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The estimated total project costs are £4,918,000 of which a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be made for £3,500,000. £918,000 will require to be sourced from a combination of grants from Historic Scotland, European Funding and other private sector trust funding. The Council contribution of £500,000 will require to be included within the Arts & Heritage Capital Plan 2001/2 to 2003/04.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposals in this report would make a substantial contribution to ensuring that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A major element of development proposals would be to address equal opportunities implications. The development would be accessible for all sections of the community including visitors with disabilities, the elderly and those with young children.

6.0 MCMANUS GALLERIES RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

- 6.1 The Arts & Heritage Committee meeting of 12 September 2000 noted the current position regarding issues at McManus Galleries and remitted to the Director of Arts & Heritage to develop an application and report back to the committee prior to submission.
- 6.2 The previous report identified that urgent repair & maintenance work at an estimated cost of £1,670,000 will be required over the next five years. The inclusion of this work within broader proposals enhances the visitor attraction and maximises the level of external resources attracted to the project by utilising the Council's Capital Plan allocation.
- 6.3 The McManus Galleries Restoration and Development Project proposes to restore the complex of buildings to their former splendour through stripping out the accretions of the past 130 years to reveal the glory of the original architecture creating the original complex of open light spaces. Within these spaces will be modular displays allowing change in content, exploration of differing perspective and a balance between objects, interpretation and hands on access.

- 6.4 Education and engagement will be at the core of the new displays which supported by trained staff and demonstrators will allow fully inclusive access to Dundee's cultural treasures and its history.

The restored building, with state of the art interpretation of its displays will have excellent visitor facilities with improved shop, café/bar, toilets and lifts making the building more accessible and welcoming and showing visitors they are valued.

7.0 THE PROJECT

7.1 Elements of the Project

The main elements of the project are:

Conservation and Restoration of the Building and Conservation of the Collections

- underpin the west end of the building to stabilise the foundations
- re-create a portico to the main north entrance of the building
- creating a shallow 'dry' moat around the perimeter of the building to house services and lighting
- remove the non-original features that impede visitor flow around the building
- undertake repairs which ensure the building's conservation, replacing and restoring original features where practical
- improve the environment in the building for the collection and visitors
- upgrade the building's electrical and heating and ICT infrastructure to improve energy efficiency
- review and rationalise storage increasing density and removing to outstore collections as appropriate

Improved Access to the building and collections

- re-landscape the areas around the new portico to make access to the site and building safer and easier for all visitors
- greatly improve physical access and particularly vertical access throughout the building by the provision of a new public lift
- achieve great improvements in the emotional, intellectual, aesthetic and physical access to the collections in ways that will help achieve Dundee's educational and social inclusion objectives and life long learning
- create displays that are easier and less costly to change in response to new research and visitors' interest and needs
- increase visitor services and facilities and upgrade and reposition existing ones to make them more accessible at the core of the building creating a warm and welcoming environment
- It is anticipated that these proposals will increase the number of visitors by 20% on a sustainable, long-term basis, including repeat attendance by existing visitors, and recruitment of new visitors from target groups, eg young people, people living in poverty, members of ethnic minority communities and disabled people
- provide a high quality visitor attraction for tourists enabling discovery and enjoyment of Dundee's history

These proposals are part of an integrated plan that improves significantly the conservation of the building and collections allowing access to them both physically and intellectually. Through working with and enhancing many of the Victorian educational and public ideals expressed through the building and the collections, we will create a museum that rises to the challenge of being an integral part of the city's identity as we enter the 21st century.

7.2 **Estimated Costs of the Project**

The estimated total project costs inclusive of allowance for inflation over three years is £4,918,000. This cost comprises £1,437,000 on fabric repairs, £2,491,000 on internal alterations and renewal of services and £990,000 on refitting and redisplay of galleries.

7.3 **Project Income**

Initial discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and European Funds have been positive and would indicate a funding package in the region of:

- Heritage Lottery Fund £3,500,000
- Historic Scotland £800,000
- ERDF/Other £200,000
- Dundee City Council £500,000

7.4 The project team as authorised through Report No 561-2000 have now worked up a suitable application and it is intended to submit this by the end of March 2001. The assessment period means a decision will be given within six months allowing progress to be made on a Phase Two (final) bid.

8.0 **CONSULTATION**

8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report.

9.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Report No 561-2000.

Director of Arts and Heritage _____ Date _____