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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee**

**Customer Services**

**11 October 2016**

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**Civic Furniture and memorabilia - Helensburgh**

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The council has agreed a protocol for dealing with items of furniture and memorabilia following building refurbishments and/or office rationalisations and which are deemed to be of historical or local significance. As a result of the office rationalisation project in Helensburgh a number of items have been identified. This report outlines the protocol and asks Members to give consideration to the future of these items in line with the agreed protocol.

**Civic Furniture and memorabilia - Helensburgh**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 As a result of the recent office rationalisation project in Helensburgh, a number of items have been identified in buildings which have been subject to disposal. This report asks Members of the Area Committee to give consideration to the future of the items identified in line with the protocol which has been agreed for dealing with such items.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Area Committee agrees:-

- (1) That arrangements are made for the items identified at 4.3.2 and 4.4.2 to be moved to the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre and displayed at appropriate locations within the building;
- (2) To loan the Boer War Memorial to the Heritage Trust and to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Customer Services to draw up such legal agreement as required;
- (3) That the William Yellowlees painting is relocated to the Helensburgh Library to be part of the permanent exhibition on Henry Bell;
- (4) To delegate to the Area Committee Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to identify a suitable location within Helensburgh for the display of the ceremonial chairs located in the Municipal Buildings and in the Marriage Rooms, and if no location can be identified that they are subject to formal valuation and arrangements are made for them to be sold; and
- (5) That the furniture identified at 4.3.1 and 4.4.1 is subject to formal valuation and arrangements are thereafter made for the sale of this furniture to be progressed with the proceeds from the sale being used to facilitate the display of the civic items

**4.0 DETAIL**

4.1 The Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting held on 17 March 2016 agreed a protocol for dealing with furniture and memorabilia following building refurbishments and/or office rationalisations.

4.2 The protocol states:-

- (1) When a building is to be disposed of (a) any furniture of historical or local significance will be identified, as will (b) any art work or other civic items.
- (2) The building user as at the date of departure, together with nominated officers from Community and Culture and Governance and Law, will detail the items specified at (a) and (b) above and will determine if any item may have a significant value. Any such item will only be disposed of after consideration by the relevant Area Committee and referral to Policy and Resources for final determination.
- (3) All other items in category (a) will then be considered by the relevant Area Committee to establish:
  - If the items should be stored for future use by the Council
  - If the items should be offered for sale locally
  - If the items should be offered free to a local community group, having first sought expressions of interest by notice on the Council website, either on loan or as a disposal
  - If the items should be released for recycling
- (4) All other items in category (b) will be considered by the relevant Area Committee, which shall receive the views of the Provost prior to their consideration of the matter, and who may determine:-
  - If the items should be stored for future use by the Council
  - If the items should be offered for sale locally
  - If the items should be offered free to a local community group, having first sought expressions of interest by notice on the Council website, either on loan or as a disposal
  - If the items should be given into the custody of the Archivist or the museum service, or lent to a Private Archive
  - If the items should be released for recycling
- (5) If there is any dispute as to whether an item is of significant value the matter will be determined by the Executive Director of Customer Services after such inquiry as he determines reasonable.
- (6) In reaching a determination on such matters the Area Committee will have regard to the local interest in any items and will be guided by the principle of the strength of local connection and identity with any of the items as may be ascertained by the Committee.

#### 4.3 Municipal Buildings, Helensburgh

- 4.3.1 This building is currently under offer to purchase. The following items have been identified as falling into category (a) furniture of historical or local significance:-

<b>Municipal Buildings, Helensburgh</b>	
Category (a) any furniture of historical or local significance	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1 large wooden and leather inlay table (Photograph Appendix 1(a))	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
2 small wooden and leather inlay tables (Photograph Appendix 1(b))	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
1 large and 2 smaller ceremonial chairs – wood and red leather (Photograph Appendix 2)	Locally significant, options to be discussed for relocation.
1 red fabric and wood footstool (Photograph Appendix 3)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
3 wooden court benches (Photograph Appendix 4)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
17 wooden chairs, red leather seat (Photograph Appendix 5)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
4 wooden chairs, green leather seat (Photographs Appendix 6(a) and 6(b))	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.

4.3.2 The following items have been identified as falling into category (b) art work or other civic items:-

<b>Municipal Buildings, Helensburgh</b>	
Category (b) art work or other civic items:-	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1 civic crest (Photograph Appendix 7)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
War memorial, commemorating Boer War (Photograph Appendix 8)	To be offered to the Helensburgh Heritage Trust on a loan basis.
2 framed photographs of Queen Elizabeth II (Photograph Appendix 9)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
1 framed photograph of Duke of Edinburgh (Photograph Appendix 10)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
1 wooden wall plaque, listing Provosts prior to 1975 (Photograph Appendix 11)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
Studio of WILLIAM AIKMAN Lady Helen Sutherland nee Colquhoun (1717-1791) Oil on Canvas 127 x 101.6 cm Valued at £4,000* (Appendix 12)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
SYBILLA MARY DOWNIE Anna, Lady Colquhoun and Luss Signed lower left, oil on canvas 81.5 x 61 cm Valued at £800* (Appendix 13)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
JAMES GUTHRIE George Maclachlan, Esq, Town Clerk Signed lower left, oil on canvas 91.7 x 70 cm Valued at £2,500* (Appendix 14)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
NORMAN MACBETH Sir James Colquhoun (1844-1907), 26 <sup>th</sup> Bt of Colquhoun, 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Luss (1873-1907), full length Oil on Canvas, painted 1882 Valued at £8,000* (Appendix 15)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
WILLIAM YELLOWLEES Henry Bell, Esq, First Provost of the Burgh of Helensburgh (1807-1809) Oil on Canvas 76.2 x 63.5 cm Valued at £1,800 *(Appendix 16)	Painting to be moved to Helensburgh Library to become part of the exhibition on Henry Bell.

\*Valuations on these paintings were carried out by an independent valuer on behalf of the libraries service in April 2015.

#### 4.4 Marriage Room – West King Street, Helensburgh

4.4.1 This building is currently under offer to purchase. The following items have been identified as falling into category (a) furniture of historical or local significance:-

<b>Marriage Rooms, West King Street</b>	
Category (a) any furniture of historical or local significance	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1 large bookcase (Photograph Appendix 17)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
1 large leather inlay table (Photograph Appendix 18)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
1 wooden ceremonial chair (Photograph Appendix 19)	Locally significant, options to be discussed for relocation.
9 wooden and red leather chairs (Photograph Appendix 18)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.

4.4.2 The following items have been identified as falling into category (b) art work or other civic items:-

<b>Marriage Rooms, West King Street</b>	
Category (b) art work or other civic items	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
3 plaques/crests (Photograph Appendices 20 (a), (b) and (c) )	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

#### 4.5 Expressions of interest

4.5.1 The Provost has agreed that the William Yellowlees painting detailed above will be moved to Helensburgh Library to be part of a permanent exhibition on Henry Bell.

4.5.2 The Helensburgh Heritage Trust have expressed interest in obtaining the War Memorial which commemorates the Boer War. It is intended that an exhibition of Boer War related items will be displayed at the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre. It is suggested that a loan of the war memorial to the Heritage Trust could be arranged.

4.5.3 Discussions have previously taken place with the Libraries Service with a view to the paintings from the Municipal Buildings being displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

#### 4.6 Provost's view

4.6.1 In line with the protocol, the Provost has been consulted in terms of his view in relation to the items which have been identified at 4.3.2 and 4.4.2. The Provost has advised that it would be his view that a suitable display space be found within the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre for these items.

### 5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Council has agreed a protocol for dealing with furniture and memorabilia which have been identified during office rationalisations. As part of the Helensburgh office rationalisation project, the former Marriage Room, West King Street and the former Municipal Buildings are both under offer of purchase. The items identified in this report fall under the agreed protocol and it is for the Area Committee to determine the next steps in terms of the protocol.

Recommendations have been made in regard to each of the items which have been identified, taking account of the protocol and the views of the Provost where this is appropriate.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy - in line with the protocol agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 6.2 Financial – dependent on final decision there could be financial implications.
- 6.3 Legal – dependent on decision may require input from Governance and Law.
- 6.4 HR - none
- 6.5 Equalities - none
- 6.6 Risk - none
- 6.7 Customer Service - none

### **Executive Director of Customer Services**

**Policy Lead** Councillor Dick Walsh

4 October 2016

**For further information contact:** Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager, Tel:  
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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Appendix 20 (c) photographs of various items.