
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area
Committee**

Customer Services

12 October 2016

Civic Furniture - Oban

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 office rationalisation in Oban a number of items have been identified to be dealt with in accordance with this protocol. This report outlines the protocol and asks Members to determine the future of these items in line with the agreed protocol.

Civic Furniture - Oban

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 As a result of office rationalisation in Oban, a number of items have been in storage which should now be dealt with in accordance with the Council's protocol relating to civic furniture and memorabilia. This report asks Members of the Area Committee to determine 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 is asked to determine the future of items of furniture noted below at 4.3.1 in accordance with the protocol outlined at section 4.2.

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, Oban

- 4.3.1 Items of furniture from this building have been in storage locally, having been removed from the building at the time of its refurbishment. Since this time, the items have been stored within other Council-owned buildings or in commercial storage. The following items have been identified as falling into category (a) furniture of historical or local significance:-
- 1 large desk in three sections, noted as having dents and scratches apparent;
- 6 wood and leather carver chairs (Photograph Appendix 1); and
- 23 wood and leather chairs (Photograph Appendix 2), with some damage noted.
- 4.3.2 It should be noted that the desk and all chairs have required treatment for woodworm.
- 4.3.3 Members should note that some items of particular local or historical significance, removed from the Municipal Buildings along with the items of furniture noted at 4.3.1, above, have been separated from the items noted above and are now sited in the Corran Halls.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Council has agreed a protocol for dealing with furniture and memorabilia which have been identified during office rationalisations. The items identified in

this report fall to be dealt with under the agreed protocol and the Area Committee are asked to determine the next steps in terms of the protocol.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy - none
- 6.2 Financial – dependent on determination there could be financial implications, e.g. storage costs (particularly for storage for an indeterminate period), advertising costs, disposal costs.
- 6.3 Legal – none
- 6.4 HR - none
- 6.5 Equalities - none
- 6.6 Risk – disposal of items of local or historical significance may result in damage to reputational or financial assets.
- 6.7 Customer Service - none

Executive Director of Customer Services

Policy Lead [enter policy lead]

September 2016

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Photo of carver chair

Appendix 2 – Photo of chair