

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 9 June 2008

REPORT ON: Awards of Funding for Conservation of Works of Art from: Museums Galleries Scotland's Recognition Scheme and the Woodmansterne Trust

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 311-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report two awards totalling £42,840 for the conservation and glazing of works of art and request committee approval for appointing contractors to undertake the works.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the recommended proposals, as detailed in 4.4 to undertake remedial conservation of 20 easel paintings, remedial conservation of 5 picture frames and the supply of specialist glass.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This expenditure, of £42,840, can be fully contained within the £40,000 awarded by Museums Galleries Scotland (formerly the Scottish Museums Council) and from an award of £2,840 from the Woodmansterne Trust.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Work is underway to prepare objects and artworks from the collections for the new displays to be installed in the refurbished McManus Galleries and Museum. Whilst much of this work is being undertaken in-house, some painting conservation is required to be carried out by external specialists.
- 4.2 The award from the Woodmansterne Trust relates specifically to Henry Raeburn's portrait of George Paterson, which was purchased by Dundee City Council in 2006.
- 4.3 In 2007, four painting conservation studios were invited to provide condition reports and costs for eleven paintings. This exercise involved a robust overview of the work required for each painting, as well as illustrating the different approach to remedial treatment advocated by each studio. As a result of this exercise, curatorial staff were able to make informed decisions about the level of conservation each painting should receive and to allocate work to the different studios as appropriate. This approach enables work to be completed to a realistic timescale and spreads any risk to the Council.
- 4.4 It is recommended that the following proposals are approved as follows:

Christine Bullick, Art Conservator, Edinburgh:	£12,000
The Conservation Studio, Art Conservators, Edinburgh	£4,000
Egan, Matthews and Rose, Art Conservators, Dundee	£10,840
Derek Halliday, Picture Frame Restorer, Edinburgh	£6,000
Glass and Mirror Ltd, Specialist Glass Merchants, Oldham	£10,000
	<u>£42,840</u>

Both grants were awarded on the basis of competitive quotes submitted with the applications and meet the full cost of the work.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact and Risk Assessment. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

**STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
16 MAY 2008**