

**REPORT TO: ARTS AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2000**

**REPORT ON: CAMPERDOWN HOUSE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE**

**REPORT NO: 625-2000**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider proposals regarding seasonal opening of Camperdown House.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 Remit to 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.
- 2.2 Remit to the Directors of Arts and Heritage, Finance and Support Services to develop an appropriate lease agreement with the Friends of Camperdown.
- 2.3 Remit to the Directors of Arts and Heritage, Leisure and Parks and Economic Development to explore an annually renewable lease with Camperdown Golf Club.
- 2.4 Remit to the Director of Arts and Heritage to work with the Friends of Camperdown to prepare a Heritage Lottery Fund Access bid.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Revenue costs will be minimised through the seasonal facility being operated by volunteers although the security requirements of the collections and house will require paid invigilation. The cost is estimated to be £800 and this can be met from existing Arts and Heritage Department Revenue budgets.
- 3.2 It is proposed to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the development of Camperdown House. This will cover both capital and revenue costs and be submitted by the Friends of Camperdown House. A report on this bid will be submitted prior to its submission.

## **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 391/1998 on the Department's Annual Action Plan outlined the Department's intention to form partnerships with other agencies to develop Camperdown House as a historic house, museum & art gallery.

## **7.0 CURRENT POSITION**

7.1 The Camperdown House Project is a partnership of Dundee City Council, the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Museums of Scotland and the Friends of Camperdown House working together to plan the restoration and development of Camperdown House as a historic house, museum and gallery. Ownership of the house is vested in Dundee City Council; the National Museums of Scotland and National Galleries of Scotland have sizeable historic collections associated with Admiral Duncan, the Duncan family and the House.

### **7.2 Friends of Camperdown House**

The Friends of Camperdown House were formed in May 1999; their membership currently stands at 158 and is drawn from all over the UK. They have their own charitable trust status, 'the Admiral Duncan Camperdown Trust', in order to receive financial donations. Their membership currently includes a number of locally influential people who may be of significant assistance in a heritage development of the House. The Friends have already helped with financial support for current elements of the Project.

The Friends are currently evaluating the proposal of evolving long-term into a management trust to run the House. The Friends have only been in existence for 15 months and have no paid staff currently. To reach the management trust stage they will have to recruit more specialised personnel to assist in their work and gear up to a higher level of fund-raising than they have operated at previously. This is an important factor in recommending a longer rather than a shorter-term approach to the Project. The Friends will require a significant lead in time to submit a major application for HLF funding.

## **8.0 SHORT-TERM SEASONAL ACCESS**

8.1 Given the scale of any major development and the likely lead in time, the Arts and Heritage Department proposes exploration of an interim, partial seasonal opening of part of the Camperdown House facility to assist developing the Friends' skills and their ability to manage a public facility.

8.2 The Project Proposal is to open the Portico/ Entrance Hall, the Grand Salon and the Dining Room to the public. A limited catering provision could be provided from the Dining Room, operated by Friends volunteers. The Friends could mount a small information display about the aims of and fund-raising for the Camperdown House Project in the Grand Salon. The Arts & Heritage Department would hang a selection of glazed framed paintings on the walls of the Dining Room. The intention would be to trial 'taster' weekends during the summer of 2001 which would allow guided visits to the house at specified times or the arrangement of a series of open days. These activities would maintain and develop public interest in Camperdown House and may also allow the recruitment of further 'Friends'. This seasonal access could be expanded upon during season 2002 linked to Heritage Lottery Fund support.

8.3 To assist the financial viability of this project it is proposed that it be remitted to the Director of Arts and Heritage to agree the leasing of Camperdown House to the Friends of Camperdown on an annually renewable basis. If a mutually satisfactory arrangement can be drawn up, it is anticipated that the Friends Trust as tenant would be eligible for rates relief, which could then be used to support the Trust undertaking seasonal opening and fund-raising. On this basis the operational costs of this limited opening will be contained within the existing Arts and Heritage Revenue budget.

- 8.4 If the seasonal access in 2001 proves successful, an expansion would be planned for 2002, linked to a Heritage Lottery Access Fund bid. This would include resources for a seasonal part-time post, required to supervise the security and running of the facility. Modifications to the security systems (including the alarm) will be needed to protect the security of the remainder of the House and collections while access is allowed to part of the Ground Floor. It is anticipated that these costs would be met by the Friends through the Heritage Lottery Fund Access bid.
- 8.5 Camperdown Golf Club currently lease part of Camperdown House on a month to month basis. Given the seasonal partial access proposals, it is recommended that it be remitted the Directors of Arts and Heritage, Leisure and Parks and Economic Development to explore an annually renewable lease arrangement to provide greater security to the Golf Club.

## **9.0 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.

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

