

**REPORT TO:** CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 27 FEBRUARY 2025

**REPORT ON:** OPERATION OF BROUGHTY FERRY CASTLE, MUSEUM AND GROUNDS

**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND CULTURE DUNDEE

**REPORT NO:** 85-2025

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report details the outcome of engagement by officers of Dundee City Council and Leisure and Culture Dundee with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Scottish Ministers and other interested parties, over the long-term funding and management of the Broughty Ferry Castle, Museum and Grounds. The report makes recommendations on the future operation of Broughty Castle, Museum and Grounds for a one-year period to allow further engagement with local and national partners.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee agrees to:-

- (a) continue the current lease arrangement between Dundee City Council and Historic Environment Scotland as set out in para 6.1;
- (b) agree to the installation of floodlighting as set out in para 6.1.5 and authorise the Executive Director of City Development to award these capital works;
- (c) continue to support the operation of the castle, museum and grounds by Leisure and Culture Dundee with an operating model of summer opening hours as set out in para 6.1.6; for a one-year period;
- (d) remit the Chief Executive and Director of Leisure and Culture Dundee to implement all other changes proposed in this report; and
- (e) remit the Director of Leisure and Culture to continue to engage with national and local partners on options to deliver a future sustainable model for Broughty Ferry Castle.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The approval of the above recommendations would result in the following costs/(savings) for Dundee City Council:-

- Maintain revenue funding of £30,000 per annum for property maintenance for a one-year period that will be funded from the existing City Development Revenue Budget;
- Provide additional revenue funding of £50,000 towards the LACD management fee for a one-year period for operation of the castle, museum and grounds by Leisure and Culture Dundee;
- One-off capital costs of £15,000 for the installation of floodlighting, which will be met in 2025/2026 from District Shopping Funds that are included within the Built Resilient and Empowered Communities Section of the Capital Plan 2025-2030.

## **4 BACKGROUND**

Report 323-2024 of City Governance Committee on 2 December 2024 (Article II - Items (ii) and (iii) refers) updated elected members on the results of the consultations on the proposals to change the services provided by Leisure and Culture Dundee (LACD) and made recommendations on changes to be implemented.

- 4.1 The report proposed that Dundee City Council cease to operate Broughty Castle Museum resulting in it closing at the latest on 31 October 2025. It also recommended that the Council committed to continuing with the investment from the District Centre Fund, which would see the installation of floodlighting at the Castle in 2025.
- 4.2 The decision of the Committee was to:
- defer a decision on the closure of Broughty Ferry Castle, Museum and Grounds to allow officers of Dundee City Council and Leisure and Culture Dundee to fully engage with Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Ministers over the long-term funding and management of the castle, museum and grounds and that Officers return to Committee no later than February 2025 with a report detailing the outcome of these discussions and fully engage with any other interested parties regarding the long-term funding and management of the castle, museum and grounds; engage with Historic Environment Scotland regarding the future of the Castle and its illumination.

## **5 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**

### **5.1 Historic Environment Scotland (HES)**

- 5.1.1 Since the City Governance Committee held on 2 December 2024, a series of meetings have taken place between officers from Leisure and Culture Dundee and Historic Environment Scotland to discuss possible options for the future of the Castle, including reduced opening hours as an alternative to full closure and potential wider project activity onsite.
- 5.1.2 The Castle is recognised as having key historical significance (remaining as a property in care), however, HES has confirmed that at present there are no planned actions which would provide a like for like operation in place of those that LACD have provided. If the current lease agreement with Dundee City Council is terminated HES would continue to manage the wider scheduled area as well as the external castle building fabric, however the castle building would not be open to the public on a regular basis.
- 5.1.3 Positive links have been developed between HES, LACD and local voluntary organisations to ensure that all avenues have been explored for different operating models.
- 5.1.4 If the castle, museum and grounds remain open, there is commitment from HES to work with Leisure and Culture Dundee and Dundee City Council to continue discussions around a longer-term sustainable business model.
- 5.1.5 The Director of Culture and Major Events with Scottish Government has been contacted to ask for consideration into financial support towards the operating costs of the castle museum, and for information on any advancements in the review of the potential to implement a charge to visit museums. Officers await a response from this.

### **5.2 Interested Parties**

- 5.2.1 Officers from Leisure and Culture Dundee have had productive meetings with Broughty Ferry Traders which have resulted in a series of positive marketing campaigns and press articles. This was to inform the level of public appetite for activities focusing on the castle and grounds, delivered in partnership with the Traders.

- 5.2.2 Agreement has been reached between HES and the Traders to allow key holder responsibility which would ensure access to the castle grounds during times when the building is not open to the public.
- 5.2.3 Discussions have been held with local community groups to discuss the potential for the Castle to be operated by volunteers. These included Broughty Ferry Rotary Club and Giving Back Dundee, with links made with HES. A volunteer-led model would require the removal of the museum collection.
- 5.2.4 Engagement has also taken place with representatives from a number of other parties including a Broughty Ferry based Arts organisation, a local tour business and a wellbeing business, who have expressed interest in discussing potential opportunities for delivering events and activities in partnership with Leisure and Culture Dundee if the museum remains open.
- 5.2.5 A national Virtual Reality tourism company based in Dundee and the USA has offered to work with us to develop a visual representation of the history of the castle as an added attraction, providing support in fundraising.

## 6 FUTURE OPERATION OF BROUGHTY CASTLE, MUSEUM AND GROUNDS

### 6.1 Changes to Operation

- 6.1.1 Following the positive discussions with Historic Environment Scotland and the enthusiasm and commitment of a range of interested parties, and the positive public response to the recent focused promotional activities, it is proposed that the lease arrangement with Dundee City Council for the castle, museum and grounds remains in place for a further 1-year period.
- 6.1.2 The Castle currently operates the following opening hours:
- Winter Opening Hours from October - March, Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 12.30 - 4pm;
  - Summer Opening Hours: April -d September, Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 12.30 - 4pm

The majority of visits to the Castle take place between April and October, as illustrated in the table below:

<b>Visitor figures for Calendar Year 2024</b>	
January	1505
February	2342
March	2681
April	3802
May	5134
June	3986
July	6504
August	5689
September	3185
October	2899
November	1881
December	1481

- 6.1.3 It has been clarified that consideration of reduced opening times is acceptable to HES, particularly in terms of the option of summer opening as an alternative to full closure. A reduction in opening hours to six months a year would reduce the operating costs from £80,000 (for the current model of winter and summer opening hours) to £50,000.

- 6.1.4 The work undertaken since December 2024 has established positive relationships with key partners including HES, Broughty Ferry Traders, and other interested parties, as well as potential funders who are interested in supporting upgrades to the exhibition offer. The media campaign has illustrated the possibilities for engaging with a wider customer base going forward.
- 6.1.5 Dundee City Council are supporting new tourism focused developments such as a new coach parking area in Broughty Ferry which would make it easier to attract tours. In addition, following the granting of planning permission in December 2024, and approval from HES, the Council commits to installing replacement floodlighting at the Castle during 2025. The capital cost of the proposed floodlighting is estimated to be £15,000 funded from the District Shopping funds that are included within the Built Resilient and Empowered Communities Section of the Capital Plan 2025-2030.
- 6.1.6 Given the demonstrated interest in supporting the Castle, it is recommended that Broughty Ferry Castle, Museum and Grounds remains open to the public on a reduced operating model of summer opening hours operated by Leisure and Culture Dundee. Priority will be given to the development of a business plan for the Castle which will identify potential funding streams.

## **7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

## **8 CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**GREGORY COLGAN**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**19 FEBRUARY 2025**

**JUDY DOBBIE**  
**DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND CULTURE DUNDEE**

# Integrated Impact Assessment

**Committee Report Number:** 85-2025

**Document Title:** Operation of Broughty Castle, Museum and Grounds

**Document Type:** Service

**Description:**

This report details the outcome of engagement by officers of Dundee City Council and Leisure and Culture Dundee with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Scottish Ministers and other interested parties, over the long-term funding and management of the Broughty Ferry castle, museum, and grounds. The report makes recommendations on the future operation of Broughty castle, museum, and grounds.

**Intended Outcome:**

Continue the current lease arrangement between Dundee City Council and Historic Environment Scotland, continue to support the operation of the castle, museum and grounds by Leisure and Culture Dundee with an operating model of summer opening hours

**Period Covered:** 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026

**Monitoring:**

This is a continuation of an existing service on reduced hours and usage will be monitored over the period for which continued funding is available.

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# Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

## Impacts & Implications

**Age: Positive**

This report follows on from an earlier report 323-2024 in December 2024 which proposed the closure of the castle, museum, and grounds. The decision of the Committee was to defer the decision to allow engagement with Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Ministers over the long-term funding and management of the castle, museum and grounds and engagement with any other interested parties. This report recommends that the castle, museum, and grounds remain open over the summer period, reflecting the level of visits over this time, with access to the grounds maintained over the winter months, which will ensure a positive impact for older people to retain a level of access.

**Disability: Positive**

Results of the previous consultation process undertaken in 2024 highlighted that the castle is not currently seen as fully accessible; however, continuation of the funding to allow summer opening would mean that a level of access is retained.

**Gender Reassignment: No Impact**

**Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact**

**Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact Race**

**/ Ethnicity: No Impact**

**Religion or Belief: No Impact**

**Sex: No Impact**

**Sexual Orientation: No Impact**

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

## Fairness & Poverty

### Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	No Impact
Lochee:	No Impact
Coldside:	No Impact
Maryfield:	No Impact
North East:	Positive
East End:	No Impact
The Ferry:	Positive
West End:	No Impact

### Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

# Household Group Impacts and Implications

**Carers: No Impact**

**Lone Parent Families: No Impact**

**Single Female Households with Children: Positive**

**The recommendation to fund the summer opening of the castle, museum and grounds would retain access to a free venue.**

**Greater number of children and/or young children: Positive**

**The recommendation to fund the summer opening of the castle, museum and grounds would retain access to a free venue.**

**Pensioners - single / couple: Positive**

**The recommendation to fund the summer opening of the castle, museum and grounds would retain access to a free venue.**

**Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact**

**Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact**

**Homeless: No Impact**

**Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact**

**Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact**

# Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

**Employment Status: No Impact**

**Education & Skills: No Impact**

**Income: No Impact**

**Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact**

**Affordability and accessibility of services: Positive**

**The recommendation to fund the summer opening of the castle, museum and grounds would retain access to a free venue.**

**Fuel Poverty: No Impact**

**Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact**

**Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact**

**Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: No Impact**

**Employment Opportunities: No Impact**

**Education: Positive**

The recommendation to fund the summer opening of the castle, museum and grounds would provide opportunities to engage with partners to deliver learning opportunities.

**Health: No Impact**

**Life Expectancy: No Impact**

**Mental Health: No Impact**

**Overweight / Obesity: No Impact**

**Child Health: No Impact**

**Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Positive**

Following on from report 323-2024 which recommended the closure of the castle, museum and grounds, the positive recommendations contained in this report to continue to operate during the summer period will impact positively on neighbourhood satisfaction.

**Transport: No Impact**

## **Environment**

### **Climate Change Impacts**

**Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact**

**Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact**

### **Resource Use Impacts**

**Energy efficiency & consumption: Not Known**

The reinstatement of floodlighting at the castle will result in a slight increase in energy consumption.

**Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No Impact**

**Sustainable Procurement: No Impact**

### **Transport Impacts**

**Accessible transport provision: No Impact**

**Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact**

### **Natural Environment Impacts**

**Air, land & water quality: No Impact**

**Biodiversity: No Impact**



**Open & green spaces: Positive**

Access to the castle grounds will be maintained.

## **Built Environment Impacts**

**Built Heritage: Positive**

Access to the historic building will continue.

**Housing: No Impact**

**Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?**

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

## **Corporate Risk**

### **Corporate Risk Impacts**

**Political Reputational Risk: Positive**

The actions taken since the City Governance Committee agreed to defer the decision to close Broughty castle, museum and grounds as outlined in report 323-2024 has enabled officers to fully engage with key partners to establish actions which would enable summer opening to continue. This should result in a positive impact on reputation.

**Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Negative**

Although there is a saving resulting from the recommendation to move to summer opening, there are still operating costs of Â£50,000 as well as continued building maintenance costs of Â£30,000.

**Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: Positive**

Continuing summer opening will ensure that visitors to the castle and grounds will ensure opportunities for social interaction. The enthusiasm from interested parties indicates that there will be opportunities to implement a programme of activities and events in the castle and grounds which will also have a positive effect.

**Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact**

**Environmental: No Impact**

**Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact**

**Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact**

**Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:**

There are moderate levels of risk associated with the subject matter of this report. However, having undertaken a full analysis of the upside and downside risks there is a clear benefit in what is proposed and we are satisfied that adequate controls are available to mitigate the downside risks. The downside financial exposure to the Council is less than Â£250,000 and this together with other areas of risk can be effectively managed