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| <b>Report To:</b>       | <b>Regeneration Committee</b>                              | <b>Date:</b>       | <b>12<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b> |
| <b>Report By:</b>       | <b>Corporate Director –<br/>Regeneration and Resources</b> | <b>Report No:</b>  | <b>RC/09/03/07/SJ<br/>/WW</b>     |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Head of Economic and Social<br/>Regeneration</b>        | <b>Contact No:</b> | <b>01475 712321</b>               |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Loan Request – Sculpture of Robert Thom</b>             |                    |                                   |

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee that there has been a request for the loan of a sculpture of Robert Thom from the collection of the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust).

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The request comes from the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The Park is mounting a new exhibition featuring the history of the Cut in the Cornalees Visitor Centre.
- 2.2 The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park wishes to borrow the marble bust entitled 'Robert Thom, C.E. of Ascog, 1774 – 1847 by Patrick Park, signed 'Park Fecit 1835', for a period of five years.
- 2.3 The Park will be responsible for the collection and return of the work and will arrange all transport, insurance and handling.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the request outlined above for the loan of the marble bust of Robert Thom to the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park from the period of five years, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Head of Economic and Social Regeneration.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Robert Thom was the engineer responsible for the creating the Greenock Cut and its associated reservoirs, his finest achievement. The Cut, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is of national importance in archaeological and historical terms. The Cut played a critical part in Greenock's development and has recently been the subject of a major restoration courtesy of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The marble bust in the McLean's collection is of considerable historical value as it is the only known representation of Robert Thom.
- 4.2 The McLean Museum regularly lends works of art from its collection to exhibitions organised by suitable bodies. The high quality of the collection has resulted in the McLean loaning works internationally to Japan, Canada and France as well as contributing significant pieces to major shows in Dublin and London. Long term loans of objects from the Museum's collections must be for a set term.
- 4.3 The bust of Robert Thom will have a key place in the new visitor attraction at Cornalees Centre.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: Any financial implications with regard to the loaning of the sculpture will be met by Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

Financial Implications – One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Year | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| n/a         | n/a            | n/a         | n/a                        | n/a           | n/a            |

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact | Virement From (if Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| n/a         | n/a            | n/a              | n/a               | n/a                           | n/a            |

- 5.2 Personnel: None.
- 5.3 Legal: The work is part of the collection of the McLean Museum and Art Gallery. It was donated to the Museum by Mrs Eliza Thom and the Museum has full legal title to the work.
- 5.4 Equalities: None

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 None

## 7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None