

Report To: Regeneration Committee

Date: 25th May 2010

**Report By: Corporate Director Regeneration and
Environment**

**Report No:
RC/AM10/05/02/SJ/AM**

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**Subject: Request for Loan of Paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery
(the James McLean Trust)**

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 two paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust), including one work from the Caird Collection.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The request comes from Fife Council Leisure & Cultural Services who are mounting an major exhibition entitled '*McTaggart's Children: a centenary celebration*' at Kirkcaldy Museum & Art Gallery from 3 July – 3 October, 2010.
- 2.2 Fife Council wishes to borrow the oil paintings '*The Wind among the Grass, 1894*' (Caird Collection) and '*Where the Smugglers Come Ashore, 1889*' (Walter Graham Bequest) by William McTaggart for this exhibition.
- 2.3 Fife Council will be responsible for the collection and return of the works and will arrange all transport, insurance and handling. The venue houses an important collection of Scottish art and the security arrangements and the climatic controls appear to be satisfactory.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the request outlined above for the loan of two paintings to Fife Council from June until October, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries Manager.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Kirkcaldy Museum & Art Gallery holds one of the finest collections of paintings by William McTaggart in the country. This major exhibition marks the centenary of William McTaggart's death. The exhibition will bring together oils and watercolours from Kirkcaldy's extensive collection with paintings, sketches and related material from public and private collections across the UK. The principal theme of the show will be the artist's depiction of children and the display will be the Museum's main exhibition for 2010.
- 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. These shows increase the profile of the institution and Inverclyde Council as lenders and thereby increase the reputation of the Museum's holdings. Lending works from the Museum's collection encourages reciprocity when the McLean applies to borrow items from the collections of other organisations for special displays.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the loan of this work to the exhibition by the McLean Museum will promote the quality and extent of the holdings of paintings by the artist William McTaggart in the collection and encourage visits to the institution.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Finance: No implications as the borrower is liable for all costs.

Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments

- 6.2 Personnel: The preparation for the loan of the work will be carried out by staff of the McLean Museum.
- 6.3 Legal: One work is part of the Caird Collection. Under the terms of the James McLean Trust the collection shall be, so far as is practicable, kept together as a single collection and retained within the Watt Institution. As, however, the main object of the bequest was the promotion of art in the town of Greenock, advice from the legal section indicates that approval for a loan of a Caird Collection work for a limited time frame is permissible within the terms of the Trust as this advertises the Collection to a wider public.