
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	27 October 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education and Communities	Report No:	RC/11/10/AE/ AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Libraries Manager	Contact No:	01475 712347
Subject:	Disposal of Exhibit from McLean Museum and Art Gallery		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval for the transfer or disposal of an item from the collections of the McLean Museum and Art Gallery.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since 1977, the McLean Museum and Art Gallery has been in possession of an engine from the Clyde buoy tender vessel "Torch" although due to its size, weight and state of incompleteness it has never been possible to either store it or display it in the Museum.
- 2.2 The engine may be of interest as an exhibit to other museum collections which specialise in holding actual engines of large size.
- 2.3 The engine can no longer be accommodated in its present location.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the transfer of the "Torch" engine to a suitable museum, its sale, or its disposal in accordance with the McLean Museum's agreed Acquisition and Disposal Policy if it is not accepted by another institution.
- 3.2 That the Committee approve the use of £1,000 from the Watt Trust fund to facilitate the transfer or disposal of the engine, if required.
- 3.3 That the Committee remits the outcome of its consideration of this report to the next meeting of the Council for its formal decision as Trustee.

Angela Edwards
Head of Educational Planning and Culture

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 1977 the engine from the Clyde buoy tender vessel “Torch” was gifted to the McLean Museum by the Clyde Port Authority. The engine was built at the Ailsa shipyard in Troon, and not in Inverclyde.
- 4.2 As the engine is very large in size and also heavy, as well as missing a number of components it has never been possible to display it at the Museum, or even to store it there. It remained in the former Scott Lithgow premises at James Watt Dock until 1998, and since then has been stored in a garage behind Glenburn School. It has now become necessary to vacate these premises.
- 4.3 In 2003, a report was commissioned into the feasibility of external display of the engine. The consultants, Heritage Engineering, found that it would cost £23,107.34 to prepare the engine for proper and safe exhibition. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to do this was turned down in 2003. Consequently, the engine is unable to be used in any way.
- 4.4 In terms of the McLean Museum’s Acquisition and Disposal Policy previously approved by this Committee, any decision to dispose of an exhibit from the collections, whether by exchange, sale, gift or destruction must have Committee approval and that in the first instance any item for disposal should be offered to another museum.
- 4.5 Transferring the engine to another Museum, or disposing of the engine, will incur costs for transport and labour. Sale of the engine would be on a ‘buyer collects’ basis and would not incur costs.
- 4.6 If the engine is transferred or disposed of, it will be necessary to utilise the Watt Trust funds to defray costs incurred. If the engine is sold, there will be no adverse impact on the fund. As the eventual outcome is unknown, authority to utilise the fund is required now to progress the disposal and the potential need for fund support.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee approve the transfer or disposal of the “Torch” engine from the collections of the McLean Museum.
- 5.2 It is also proposed that the Committee approve the use of £1,000 from the Watt Trust fund to facilitate the transfer or disposal of the engine, if required.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Finance:

Financial Implications – One Off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Trust Funds	Watt Trust		£1,000		Fund Balance £163,764.69 as at 8.8.11

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: There are no Personnel implications.

6.3 Legal: The Watt Trust funds can be utilised for the purposes described in relation to the redundant engine. The engine is not currently displayed and cannot easily be displayed and is outwith the curator's assessment as significant for local display. The curator confirms the proposal follows the approved policy for disposals and firstly seeks alternative Museum display (and only thereafter any commercial sale). Any eventual receipt (Museum or disposal) can be used defray transport costs or other costs to the fund.