

**To:** Sport, Leisure and Culture Policy Board

**On:** 5 March 2015

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**Report by:** Chief Executive

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**Heading:** Arts and Museums Recognition fund application

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The Paisley Shawls and pattern books are part of Paisley Museum and Art Galleries collections and are recognised by Museums Galleries Scotland as 'collections of national significance to Scotland'. This status means that they are identified as collections of national and international significance and as such are eligible for funding through the recognition scheme.
  - 1.2. The recognition scheme is managed by Museums Galleries Scotland and was established in 2007. The main purpose of the scheme is to highlight collections in Scotland and widen access for more people to enjoy them by providing funds for improvement.
  - 1.3. In October 2014 the Arts and Museums Service submitted an application to the recognition scheme for the digitisation of the Paisley shawls and pattern book collections. The proposed project would create digital images with associated interpretative information which would be made publicly accessible within Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, thereby improving access to the collections for visitors.
  - 1.4. In December 2014, it was announced that the application was successful and the Arts and Museums Service was awarded the full amount of £39,672 to complete the project. The project is scheduled to begin in February 2015 and to run for 13 months.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Sport, Leisure and Culture Policy Board note the contents of this report.
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### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The Libraries and Arts and Museums Services conducted a joint pilot in 2013 to digitise aspects of the archives collections including the core photograph archive, 35mm slides and 'Dean of Guild' architectural plans. This project also allowed for the training of Libraries staff in the digitisation process and at the end of the project 6385 items were digitised.
- 3.2. In December 2014 the application to Museums Galleries Scotland to digitise the Shawl and pattern books collections was approved and the full amount awarded.
- 3.3. The digitisation of the shawls and pattern books will significantly contribute to the aims of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy, by raising awareness of the collections and recognising the importance of the shawls and pattern books as important cultural assets for Paisley and a significant cultural attraction to both local and national audiences.
- 3.4. Currently approximately 50% of the shawls collections are recorded in transparency format and this project would transfer the transparencies in to digital images. The project will allow for the digitisation of 1,200 shawls and 1,700 pattern books and the creation of digital interpretation of the collections to be accessible to the public within the museum.
- 3.5. The outcome of the digitisation of the Shawl and pattern book collections will be a digital resource which will be made available to the public via digital technology within the museum. The resource will include images, descriptions and interpretation of the objects. This resource will enhance the visitor experience and be a valuable learning tool for visitors and schools.
- 3.6. The digital resource will form part of an essential building block for the creation of an online resource of the Arts and Museums and Libraries collections. This resource is being developed as part of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy and will contribute to the overall visitor figures to the town centre.

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### **Implications of this report**

#### **1. Financial Implications**

None

#### **2. HR and Organisational Development Implications**

None.

#### **3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

Children and Young People

- To enhance and support learning provision across Renfrewshire by improved interpretation of the Shawl collections.

Community Care, Health and Well-being

- A place becomes more attractive when it has a thriving cultural sector, and can provide high quality cultural experiences.

Safer and Stronger

- Our approach to efficient government results in improved services to, and best value for, our customers.

**4. Legal Implications**

None.

**5. Property/Assets Implications**

None.

**6. Information Technology Implications**

None.

**7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

**8. Health and Safety Implications**

None.

**9. Procurement Implications**

None.

**10. Risk Implications**

None.

**11. Privacy Impact**

None.

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**List of Background Papers**

None.

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MC/JL

17 February 2015

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