

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 29 OCTOBER 2002

PURCHASE OF JAMES WATTERSTON HERALD PAINTING

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

The oil painting 'Pictures Now on View' by James Watterston Herald was purchased for the Forfar Collection with the aid of the National Acquisitions Fund. Homologation of the Leader of the Administration's decision to purchase is sought.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee homologate the decision by the Leader of the Administration to purchase the oil painting 'Pictures Now on View' by James Watterston Herald.

2. BACKGROUND

The oil painting 'Pictures Now on View' by James Watterston Herald hung in the Meffan from at least 1975 until 1986, on loan from it's owner.

Oil is a rare medium for Herald, and he seems to have painted it as a poster for an exhibition of his work in the Baillie Gallery in London in 1910. While Angus Council a has a fine collection of Herald paintings, the rarity of the medium, and its close association with the Forfar collection in the Meffan make the painting a valuable addition to our collections.

The painting appeared at a sale in Bonhams in August, but we received too short notice to secure funding for a bid, and in any case the guide price of £6-8,000 was in our view well above a realistic valuation.

Bonhams was contacted, however, and they agreed to contact us should the painting fail to reach its reserve price. This transpired, and we were invited to bid £3,000 - £3,500 to Bonhams on behalf of the owner.

Four Forfar Councillors agreed to the purchase of the painting, and with the use of the Forfar Common Good Fund for the purpose. A grant from the National Acquisitions Fund of up to 50% could be available, but prior to application, Council agreement was required. In view of the short time scale the Leader of the Administration gave the necessary permission to apply for grant aid.

Grant aid of up to 50% of the purchase price was awarded by the National Acquisitions Fund, and the offer of £3,000 was made to Bonhams for the painting, which was duly accepted. The painting requires some minor attention, but following this, will be added to the collection in the Meffan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

£1500 towards the purchase of the painting will be provided by Forfar Common Good, with the remaining £1500 being awarded by the National Acquisitions Fund

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.