

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

**Report to:- Carlisle City Council**

**Date of Meeting:- 17th July 2007**

**Agenda Item No:-**

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**Public**

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**Title:- TULLIE HOUSE MUSEUM: GALLERY IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT: MATCH-FUNDING THE GRANT FROM  
DCMS/WOLFSON FUND**

**Report of:- Director of Community Services**

**Report reference:- CS 41.07**

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## **Summary:-**

Tullie House has been awarded £66,000 from DCMS/Wolfson Fund to help assist a major re-display project. Existing Council held funds would be used to match this sum and enable the project to be undertaken.

## **Recommendation:-**

Council approves the release of £33,000 from the G B Routledge Fund revenue balance towards the gallery improvement project.

**Contact Officer:** Mark Beveridge

**Ext:** 7351

04 July 2007

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None**



# REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

## PORTFOLIO AREA – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Date of Meeting: 2<sup>ND</sup> July

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Public

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Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

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Inside Policy Framework Yes

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**Title:** Tullie House Museum: gallery improvement project: match-funding the grant from DCMS/Wolfson Fund

**Report of:** Director of Community Services

**Report reference:** CS 41.07

**Summary:** Members are asked to approve use of £33,000 from service-related balances to match-fund a grant award that would enable a major redisplay project at Tullie House in 2007.

**Recommendations:** The Executive approves the release of £33,000 from the G B Routledge Fund revenue balance towards the gallery improvement project.

**Contact Officer:** David Clarke

**Ext:** 242 (Tullie House)

**Note:** in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

- 1.1 As widely reported at the time, Tullie House was awarded £66,000 from the DCMS/Wolfson Gallery Improvement Fund for renewing the display of the social life gallery in 2007. The overall project budget is £99,000, of which the Council is required to contribute £33,000 (33%). The grant was sought in order to improve services at Tullie House.
- 1.2 Permission is now sought to access the GB Routledge Funds that the Council has accumulated, which relate directly to the museum service. These funds derive from income from sale of parts of the George Bell Routledge Stamp Collection under the direction of the then City Librarian pre 1974.
- 1.3 The collection came to the City in 1935 and had been gifted by Routledge's executor, he having died intestate. There were no particular conditions attaching to the gift.
- 1.4 Tullie House Museum took over management of the residue of that collection as a consequence of Local Government re-organisation in 1974, and some additional material for the collection was purchased under a new policy in the 1980s.
- 1.5 As stated in the museum's Acquisition & Disposal Policy (adopted by Council for Museum Accreditation purposes in 2005), the stamp collection is now a 'closed collection' - which will not be expanded or contracted. It is documented, stored and accessible by appointment.
- 1.6 A Capital balance from the original disposals has remained under the control of the Council, and continues to accrue interest (as the Revenue Fund).
- 1.7 Access to use of some of these funds for museum purposes was granted by the City Council in the 1990's – which included computer resources for documenting the collections.
- 1.8 In terms of museum ethics, it is appropriate to apply funds derived from disposals of collections to the purposes of the museum service: our Policy includes wording to this effect. The most common solution is that funds from disposals are used to provide alternative acquisitions, but it is also acceptable to use them for improvements that would directly benefit collections and access to them.

- 1.9 Agreement to use £33,000 from these funds in support of the DCMS/Wolfson project 2007 is now sought to ensure the project can go ahead. Design work on the sort of improvements which could be achieved is at a preliminary stage and will need to be tendered, because of the specialist nature of the work.
- 1.10 Subject to permission being approved, the gallery project is likely to complete very early in 2008. It will result in a new and lively approach to Carlisle's recent history, with much improved flexibility for changing displays, and built-in facilities to engage the local community and present their stories. It will be a useful 'test-bed' for working towards the more comprehensive re-development planned for the galleries.
- 1.11 Conclusion
- 1.12 The improvement of the gallery spaces at Tullie House over time is important to ensure that displays remain relevant and in keeping with the expectations of local people and visitors alike. The work of the learning and access staff has been significant in engaging young people in the museum and probably played a part in the Council being successful in being awarded the DCMS/Wolfson grant. Should members decide not to approve access to the Routledge fund this could delay or possibly prevent acceptance of the grant because the match funding cannot be met from existing resources.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

### **2.1 Consultation to Date.**

PFH

### **2.2 Consultation proposed.**

PFH and Executive. The Senior Curator & Collections Manager has consulted the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council on professional ethical matters relating to the use of the funds, and has received a letter from them fully endorsing the proposed action.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That release of £33,000 from the G B Routledge Funds is approved for the purposes of matching the DCMS/Wolfson funding award.

### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The use of the funds is deemed appropriate, given their origins, and this use is also approved of by the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council.
- The project to be supported could not go ahead without the matching funding

### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- Staffing/Resources – Due to the specialist nature of the work it will be tendered under the relevant financial regulations
- Financial – The G B Routledge Bequest does not relate to any other Council service. The current balance on the Revenue element of the Fund is almost £39,000 and it is suggested this should be used as the source of the City Council's estimated contribution of £33,000.
- Legal – Council has power to expend funds to facilitate, or which would be conducive to, the discharge of its functions. The tender process will need to be followed in the appointments for the project work.
- Corporate – The enhancement of a significant Council asset will help Tullie House contribute fully to the Learning City priority over and above the current range of work carried out
- Risk Management – the overall project budget for which the funding is requested is a fixed figure and will be managed accordingly and include reasonable allowance for contingencies using the corporate risk policy in place
- Equality Issues – will be responsive to changing the social composition of the City.

- Environmental – the most energy-efficient equipment will be sourced.
- Crime and Disorder – a positive contribution to development of community-awareness and local pride.