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## **MOVEABLE ASSETS INVENTORY**

**Report by Depute Chief Executive, People**

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### **HAWICK COMMON GOOD SUB COMMITTEE**

**15 November 2016**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report summarises the research presented to the Hawick Common Good Sub Committee on 25 May 2015 regarding the potential Common Good ownership of heritage objects held in Hawick Museum and Hawick Town Hall. The report further updates Members as to research carried out over 2016 and makes a number of recommendations where ownership should be reclassified to Hawick Common Good rather than Scottish Borders Council.**
- 1.2 Following concern that there were potential omissions in the Hawick Common Good Moveable Asset Register, the Council's (now Live Borders) Museum Service agreed to undertake a review of heritage collections and some civic collections held by Scottish Borders Council to see if any items held in Hawick Museum and Hawick Town Hall should be reclassified as belonging to Hawick Common Good. The report lists the assumptions used and the collections reviewed. Based on evidence available, the report concludes that there are 14 items in the fine art collection, one museum item and 22 items in the Town Hall which should be so classified

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Sub Committee:-**
- a) Notes the suggested reclassification of those moveable items listed herein and in Appendix 2 as assets belonging to Hawick Common Good;**
  - b) Makes a recommendation to Council to add the said moveable items to the Hawick Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory.**
  - c) Agrees to commission a valuation report on the items so listed in this report.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 In May 2015 officers updated the Hawick Common Good Committee (HCGC) as to research they had undertaken into the possible common good ownership of a number of items held in Hawick Museum and Hawick Town Hall. Since May 2015 staff and volunteers at Hawick Museum have continued this research and are now in a position to make a number of recommendations regarding ownership.

#### **3.2 Assumptions**

The flow chart attached as Appendix 1 which was prepared by Scottish Borders Council's Legal Services Section and previously tabled to HCGC, was used to inform decisions when considering ownership. In addition the following assumptions, again previously tabled to HCGC, were used:

- i. Items listed in the Hawick Archaeological Society (HAS) Transactions as additions to the museum collection prior to the 1906 Minute of Agreement between (HAS) and Hawick Town Council (HTC) are assumed to have belonged to HAS and are therefore now part of the SBC (Hawick Museum) collection.
- ii. Items listed as originally part of the Hawick Art Club collection are assumed to belong to SBC (Hawick Museum) collection.
- iii. Where mention is made of the works being specifically 'for the benefit of the town, the people of Hawick etc', they should be classified as being Common Good.
- iv. Where no such common good declaration exists, but the works are of a civic nature and are currently displayed in Hawick Town Hall should be assumed as being Common Good

#### **3.3 Sources consulted**

- i. Museum Inventories, accession registers and files
- ii. Roxburgh District Council Museum and Art Gallery Paintings, Prints etc Relating to Hawick
- iii. Scottish Arts Council Gifting Scheme
- iv. Hawick Town Council and Roxburgh District Council Minutes, documents and letter files
- v. Local Newspapers

#### **3.4 Collections Reviewed**

The following are the main collection areas have been reviewed in the period Jan 2015 to September 2016.

- i. Flags and Banners
- ii. Local Art Collection
- iii. Fine Art Collection
- iv. Framed Photographs
- v. Miscellaneous Framed Works
- vi. Miscellaneous
- vii. Hawick Town Hall Civic Collections

#### **3.5 Summary of works carried out January – May 2015**

- i. An Inventory of collection of paintings, photographs and objects in the Council Chambers and Provost's Room at Hawick Town Hall was completed and submitted to committee in February 2015. These items in the Town Hall are largely civic and therefore do not fall within the remit or responsibility of the Museum Service but have still

- been considered in the overall review of what should or should not be classified as Common Good. The inventory is attached as Appendix 2.
- ii. In the general museum collection it was established that one set of Steve Hislop leathers were purchased using Common Good funds. An initial survey was made of the flag and banner collection and findings reported with further investigation to be carried out. Work was started to review the art collection and an initial report made which recommended further interrogation of the museum collection and records.

### 3.6. Summary of works carried out to October

- i. **Flags and Banners**  
There are 29 flags and banners in the Hawick Museum collection. They are mainly political/trade banners carried at Franchise Demonstrations in Hawick (10), and Hawick Common Riding flags (11), plus a few others, e.g. military and friendly society banners (8).
- ii. No evidence has been found to suggest that political/trade banners and the military and friendly society banners could be classed as common good.
- iii. **Common Riding Banners**  
There are 11 Common Riding banners in the collection. Some flags have been donated to the museum by individuals who could be assumed to not have had 'ownership' as such and for others we have no donor information. Research suggests that eight were originally commissioned/paid for by Hawick Town Council (the first being recorded in the 1707 Town Council Minute Book) and one by Hawick Common Riding Committee which was subsequently donated to the museum by that organisation. The two remaining banners are not official Common Riding banners, one is a Hawick Grammar School Common-Riding flag and the other, the West End Common-Riding flag, of 1809 was carried by the unofficial Cornet elected by the inhabitants of Hawick. Use of the flow chart (Appendix 1) would suggest that none of the banners could be classed as Common Good.
- iv. **Fine Art and Framed Works collection**  
From January until mid-March 2016 a team of curatorial staff and volunteers worked on the stored art collection at Hawick Museum. This involved upgrading and reorganisation of the store but also condition and catalogue checking all framed works. The Area Curator and Visual Arts Officer focused on establishing any Common Good ownership of the collection using the sources consulted in 3.3.
- v. In total 528 works were examined (144 fine art works; 250 'local' framed works; 134 framed photographs). Fourteen paintings were identified as likely being Common Good and these paintings are listed below. There is a second list of works where no paperwork has been located to establish how they came to be in the museum. These works tend to be of nominal value but are in the museum due to their local connection or relevance. It is possible that in the course of the continuing day to day business of the museum evidence may come to light that might suggest that these works that should be re-classed as Common Good and if this is the case it will be reported to the Common Good Committee. The most useful source of evidence, where donor information is not listed in the museum records, is local newspapers.
  - a) Hawick Common Riding, 1846 by Andrew Kennedy. HAKMG: 7748. Presented to the Burgh of Hawick in 1909.

- i. NB painting reframed and restored by SBC Museums with financial assistance from Hawick Archaeological Society in 2014.
- b) Hawick from Wester Braid Road by John McNairn. HAKMG: 7711. Presented to the Burgh of Hawick along with above Andrew Kennedy painting. Note in Hawick News *"A letter was read from Messrs Thomas Purdom & Sons, solicitors on behalf of the Trustees of the late Sheriff Anderson, asking the Council's acceptance of behalf of the community of the painting of Hawick from the West Braid Road in 1872 by J. McNairn<sup>1</sup> and the painting of Hawick Common-Riding of 1846, by Andrew Kennedy, and relative key thereto, to be hung in the Municipal Building or the Archaeological Society.*
- c) Common Riding Procession at Tower Knowe, 1890 by James Tait. ID No: 24.
  - i. Presented to the Town of Hawick by Rev Johnman, June 1891 'for the encouragement of native art'.
  - ii. NB Painting restored and framed in 2016 by SBC Museums using a private bequest made to Hawick Museum.
- d) Thomas Purdom by Frank Wood. HAKMG: 7736
  - i. Donated by Robert Purdom, 1891. Recorded 'Presented to the Burgh'.
- e) Hawick from Crumhaughhill by Andrew Richardson: HAKMG 7741. Presented to the Town, 1910 by W Wilson.
- f) Deuchars Hill, Yarrow by Tom Scott RSA. HAKMG: 7502
  - i. Purchased with Common Good funds, 1981 for £950.
- g) Hermans Law by Tom Scott RSA. HAKMG: 7507.
  - i. Bequeathed to the town of Hawick.
- h) Return to Hawick from Hornshole 1514 by Tom Scott RSA. HAKMG:7500.
  - i. Bought by public subscription in 1914 – limited edition prints were purchased to raise money for the painting which was then gifted to the people of Hawick.
- i) Covenanters by Tom Scott. No museum ID.
  - i. Purchased 2002 by Hawick Common Good for £950. This is currently stored in Hawick Town Hall but it is recommended that it would be better stored in Hawick Museum.
- j) Harbour Lights by Hector Chalmers. HAKMG:7525.
  - i. Gifted to Hawick by the artist.
- k) Harvest Scene by E. A Walton. HAKMG:7523 Presented to Hawick Town Council for the town, 1947.
- l) Border Scene by T H Laidlaw. HAKMG: 7707
  - i. Bequeathed to the Burgh of Hawick, 1976.
- m) Neidpath Castle by T H Laidlaw. HAKMG:7704
  - i. Bequeathed to the Burgh of Hawick, 1976
- n) Minto Crags by T H Laidlaw. HAKMG:7708
  - i. Bequeathed to the Burgh of Hawick, 1976

3.7 **It is therefore considered that the above 14 works should be reclassified as being owned by Hawick Common Good Fund and be added to the Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory.**

3.8 21 fine art paintings are still to be reviewed and this will be completed by end of February 2017. If evidence is uncovered to suggest any of these painting should be reclassified as Common Good this will be reported to the HCGC.

3.9 Miscellaneous Museum Items

In the general museum collection it was established that a set of Steve Hislop leathers. Hawick Museum Entry No. 2005:E8 were purchased using Common Good funds. This item was recently valued at £1,500. **It is considered that this item should be reclassified as being owned by Hawick Common Good Fund and be added to the Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory.**

### 3.10 Hawick Town Hall Collection

The attached inventory (Appendix2) was prepared by Scottish Borders Council Museum Services in February 2015. For three paintings there is clear evidence to suggest that the items are Common Good. For the majority there is no written evidence to support their provenance but there are grounds to suggest that the intention of their commission or acquisition means that a further 19 should be considered as Common Good.

**3.11 It is considered that the 3 paintings in the Town Hall collection clearly identified as Common Good should be classified as being owned by Hawick Common Good Fund and be added to the Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory. Further, it is considered that an additional 19 items so identified on the Town Hall inventory should also be classified as being owned by Hawick Common Good Fund and be added to the Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory.**

### 3.12 Valuation of Common Good Items – Museum Collections

There are no up-to-date insurance valuations for the artworks listed in the collection as CG. It is relatively simple exercise to obtain a valuation report and quotations received suggest this would cost approximately £250-£500 for all the works identified in 4.5. **It is recommended that Hawick Common Good Committee commission a valuation report.** The Steve Hislop leathers (4.7) have recently been valued at £1,500.

### 3.13 Valuation of Common Good Items – Town Hall Collection

Given the nature of the majority of the works in the Town Hall inventory it is not felt that a blanket insurance valuation would be a worthwhile exercise nor would it significantly add to the total value of assets held on the Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory. Live Borders Museum Service have undertaken to review the collection and recommended which, if any of the items should be individually valued. Assuming that only a few works may require to be valued it is felt that this could be done at the same time as the museum collection works are valued and without significantly affecting the cost of the exercise.

### 3.14 Care of Common Good Items – Museum Collections

All but one of the works identified in 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7 are stored or displayed in Hawick Museum or Borders Textile Towerhouse. With the recent upgrades to the storage facilities the recommendation is that this remains the best option for storage when items are not on display. Covenanters by Tom Scott RSA is currently stored in the cells at Hawick Town Hall. It recommended that it would be better would be better stored in the climate monitored store at Hawick Museum.

### 3.15 Care of Common Good Items – Town Hall Collection

It should be noted that the responsibility and care of Common Good Civic Collections, including the items listed in the Town Hall inventory, is not the responsibility of Live Borders Museum Service. It is suggested that no action is currently required regarding the display or care of the items listed in Appendix 2.

3.16 It should be noted that this has been long and staff intensive exercise.

### 3.17 Summary of Recommendations

- i. Following the research undertaken by Museum Service staff it is recommended that the Sub-Committee notes that the following items should be reclassified as being owned by Hawick Common Good Fund and, makes a recommendation to Council to add the following items to the Common Good Moveable Assets Inventory.
  - a) Fine Art and Framed Works
    - Hawick Common Riding, 1846 by Andrew Kennedy. HAKMG: 7748.
    - Hawick from Wester Braid Road by John McNairn. HAKMG: 7711.
  
    - Common Riding Procession at Tower Knowe, 1890 by James Tait. ID No: 24.
  
    - Thomas Purdom by Frank Wood. HAKMG: 7736
  
    - Hawick from Crumhaughhill by Andrew Richardson: HAKMG 7741.
  
    - Deuchars Hill, Yarrow by Tom Scott RSA. HAKMG: 7502
  
    - Hermans Law by Tom Scott RSA. HAKMG: 7507.
  
    - Return to Hawick from Hornshole 1514 by Tom Scott RSA. HAKMG:7500.
  
    - Covenanters by Tom Scott. No museum ID.
  
    - Harbour Lights by Hector Chalmers. HAKMG:7525
  
    - Harvest Scene by E. A Walton. HAKMG:7523
  
    - Border Scene by T H Laidlaw. HAKMG: 7707
  
    - Neidpath Castle by T H Laidlaw. HAKMG:7704
  
    - Minto Crags by T H Laidlaw. HAKMG:7708
  - b) Miscellaneous Museum Items
    - Steve Hislop Leathers. Museum Entry No. 2005:E8
  - c) Hawick Town Hall
    - The 22 items so identified in the Town Hall Inventory, Appendix 2.
- ii. It is recommended that the HCGC commission a valuation survey for the items listed in 5.1i and 5.1ii above and once received this valuation be added to the Common Good insurance register along with the £1,500 valuation for the Steve Hislop leathers.
- iii. It is recommended that advice is sought from Live Borders Museums Service as which, if any, of the items from the Town Hall Inventory should be separately valued for insurance purposes and that HCGC commission a valuation survey for the items and once received this valuation be added to the Common Good insurance register

## 4. IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1 Financial

The financial implications of recommendations contained in the report will be the cost of obtain an insurance valuation of the items listed in 5.1i, 5.1ii and 4.12. The cost for this should be in the region of£500. It is not expected that this exercise will impact on the premium the Council pays for insuring works of art or heritage items.

### 4.2 Risk and Mitigations

The Council's primary aim with regard to this matter is to have accurate Asset Registers. If the Council fails to amend the Moveable Asset Register to take account of the findings of the research the Council may be subject to adverse public comments and legal challenge. The risk is mitigated by considering this report and the suggested changes to the Moveable Asset Register noted herein.

### 4.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

### 4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no impacts on acting sustainably

### 4.5 Carbon Management

There are no impacts on the Council's carbon emissions

### 4.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

## 7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, Corporate Communications and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

7.2 This report has been co-authored by officers from SBC and Live Borders.

### Approved by

**Jeanette McDiarmid**  
**Depute Chief Executive, People**

**Signature .....**

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Ian Brown	Peoples Department, ext 6606
Shona Sinclair	Area Curator, Live Borders, 01450 373457

### Background Papers:

**Previous Minute Reference:** HCGC, 25 May 2015

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Ian Brown can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Ian Brown, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA.