
TAPESTRY PETITION

Briefing Note by Corporate Transformation & Services Director

PETITIONS & DEPUTATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 1 October 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This note sets out the background in respect of decisions made by Council in respect of the Great Tapestry of Scotland.**

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Council considered this matter on three separate occasions. These were

- a) Thursday 29 May 2014 (Item 8) Report and Minute at Appendix A

The purpose of that report was to inform Council of the possibility of locating the Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders on a permanent basis and to seek authority to prepare a detailed business case in respect of that proposal.

The report set out the background of the Great Tapestry of Scotland. It explained that the Tapestry's Trustees were considering a permanent location in Scotland. The Council had by then completed initial work in respect of a possible permanent location in the Borders with Tweedbank being the most likely viable option.

An initial feasibility assessment had been completed and this indicated that there was merit in proceeding to evaluate the costs and benefits of the proposal via a full business case. It was recommended and agreed that a detailed business case should be prepared

- b) Thursday 18 December 2014 (Item 12) Report and Minute at Appendix B

[Prior to this Council meeting a seminar for all Elected Members was held that allowed full discussion of the matters to be reported at Council on 18 December]

The purpose of that report was to inform Members of the outputs following the feasibility design proposals and detailed business case for the Great Tapestry of Scotland that had been requested by Council in May 2014. The report sought approval of the proposed permanent location for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank.

The report highlighted the ambitions contained in the 'Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: a Blueprint for the future' that was announced by the then First Minister in November 2014. The Blueprint confirms the important role that the development of a permanent home for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders could play in achieving the ambitions set out in that document.

The report indicated that this was a unique opportunity for the Scottish Borders to obtain an exhibition of national significance with strong ties to the textile heritage and wider history of the area. It would provide a potential hub for local and international events. A location at Tweedbank has the opportunity to create a destination for the area with direct links to other local attractions such as Abbotsford House and Melrose Abbey, together with the further development of Tweedbank and the emerging proposals for a Central Borders Business Park.

An initial design for a new building had been completed by Page Park Architects who spoke at the Council meeting. This work provided a good basis for initial costs. The detailed business case prepared by Jura Consultants, who spoke at the Council meeting, (including costs from the Page Park work) confirmed that the project can be financially viable based on the visitor projections and anticipated operating costs.

c) Thursday 12 February 2015 (Item 9)

At this meeting the matter considered was the necessary Capital Funding for the Project as part of the Capital Budget setting process. Councillor Ballantyne, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, moved in terms of Standing Order 57(a) that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the consideration of a Motion relating to funding in respect of the Great Tapestry Building. On a show of hands Members voted as follows:-For suspension 11votes, Against suspension 19 votes. Standing Orders were therefore not suspended and there was no further debate on the matter.

2.2 The reports and minutes appended record in detail the process followed by Council and the decisions taken.

Approved by

Name **Rob Dickson** **Signature**
Title **Corporate Transformation & Services Director**

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Rob Dickson	Corporate Transformation & Services Director 01835 825075

Background Papers: Set out within the report

Previous Minute Reference: Set out within the report

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

Contact us at Rachel Wigmore at Council HQ on 01835 826614 or rwigmore@scotborders.gov.uk