

1. FUTURE USE OF THE ROBERT McDOUGALL GALLERY

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INTRODUCTION

At the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on Monday 12 August 2002 further information was requested regarding the use of the Robert McDougall Gallery by the Canterbury Museum.

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the outcome of discussions between the Property Manager and the Director of the Canterbury Museum with regard to the purpose(s) for which the Museum propose to use the Robert McDougall Gallery.

BACKGROUND

The Robert McDougall Subcommittee put together a purpose statement for the proposed Local Government Bill which took into account the various submissions received, including the submission from the Canterbury Museum.

A number of submissions were received from community art/craft groups seeking continued access for their respective art/craft exhibitions.

The purposes clause in the draft Bill submitted to the Strategy and Finance Committee was as follows:

“a gallery principally for the display of Canterbury Art and Craft”

At its meeting on 12 August the Strategy and Finance Committee requested staff to define the purpose statement more precisely in consultation with the Director of the Museum and report to the Council.

UPDATE OF PURPOSE

The Property Manager has met again with the Director of the Canterbury Museum and has talked further with regard to better rationalising/defining the purpose(s) for which the Museum would intend using the Robert McDougall Gallery.

In rationalising the availability of exhibition space for the likes of the Weavers' Guild, the Quilters' Guild etc, the Museum have confirmed that they will make exhibition space available in either the McDougall Gallery or in the Museum proper, to suit museum programme/security and other arrangements.

The Director also advised that the “Canterbury” qualification was too restrictive because Canterbury artists, potters, weavers, quilters, craftspeople etc will want to see the best of what the world is doing for inspiration/education. Accordingly, the purpose should not, for instance, exclude an international quilting survey exhibition.

The Director of the Canterbury Museum would be comfortable with the purpose being as follows:

“as a gallery principally for the display of art and decorative arts and crafts”

“Decorative arts and crafts” includes:

- Paintings and drawings
- Photographs
- Architectural plans
- Costumes and textiles
- Furniture
- Oriental and European decorative arts

The purpose indicated above in italics will assure the community that the Robert McDougall Gallery will be used principally for “art-related” purposes leaving the rest of the museum complex available for broader, general museum purposes.

With the purpose being widened from “Canterbury” it would also be appropriate to remove the reference to “principally” in the purposes clause.

Staff

Recommendation: That clause 6 of the Bill provide for the Robert McDougall Gallery to be used for the display of art and decorative arts and crafts.

Chair's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.