

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 OCTOBER 2018

WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO, MONTROSE

REPORT BY HEAD OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

This Report considers the current management of the William Lamb Studio, and proposes measures to secure the operation of the William Lamb Studio via the Friends of William Lamb Studio supported by Angus Council.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The Committee is requested to:

- (i) note the positive discussions with the Friends of William Lamb Studio;
- (ii) agree to the proposed management and operational arrangements for the William Lamb Studio;
- (iii) note ANGUSalve will continue to care for and manage the collection of William Lamb which forms part of the collections of Angus Council for the people of Angus and Infrastructure will manage the property; and
- (iv) note the liaison meetings with the Friends of William Lamb Studio, Angus Council, ANGUSalve and the Montrose Elected Members

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN

ECONOMY

- 1. An inclusive and sustainable economy
- 2. A skilled and adaptable workforce

PLACE

- 3. Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- 4. An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The William Lamb Studio (WLS) was bequeathed to the Montrose Town Council by the local artist and sculptor on his death in 1951. It has been administered since by the Town Council, Angus District Council, and, until 30 November 2015, Angus Council. It is now administered on behalf of Angus Council by ANGUSalve, the culture, sport and leisure trust for the county of Angus.
- 3.2 The William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee comprises the four Montrose & District elected members, a representative of the artist's family, currently Mr Ian Lamb, and two representatives of the Friends of the William Lamb Studio (FOWLS), supported by officers from ANGUSalve and Angus Council democratic services and finance services. It normally meets twice per year, and considers/reviews the arrangements for the public opening of the Studio over the summer months, maintenance/development needs and opportunities for the Studio, and means of promoting the artist's work in Montrose and further afield. The minutes of the Committee are submitted to the Communities Committee of the Council.

- 3.3 The Friends of the William Lamb Studio, formed in 1977, mainly assists with the opening of the Studio during the summer and on other occasions throughout the year as they determine to be appropriate. FOWLS' most recent activity was the funding of the creation of the William Lamb Art Prize in conjunction with Montrose Academy. The new bronze figure of one of the Studio's exhibits, Aberdeenshire Carrier, now forms the William Lamb Trophy for Art Senior Expressive and was first presented in June 2017 as one of the National 5s Awards at the school's senior prize giving. FOWLS also presented a second copy of the bronze to Angus Council for display at the Studio.
- 3.4 ANGUSalve has managed the WLS and cares for the William Lamb Collection. Activities include cataloguing, researching, interpreting and making accessible the collection. It is also responsible for the property itself and associated supplies and services. ANGUSalve manages WLS membership of the VisitScotland Quality Assurance Scheme and ensures that the WLS is managed to the standard required for retention of its status as an Accredited Museum.
- 3.5 Management of the WLS and care of the collection previously involved ANGUSalve employee time for recruitment, induction and management of the WLS Seasonal Museum Assistant, conducting out-of-season visits and school visits, enquiry work, collections work, exhibition work, liaising with FOWLS (including the administration of sales of goods), arranging the season studio opening reception and other receptions that may be required, gathering information and preparing documentation for submission to standards bodies, and attendance at the site for property work to be undertaken. ANGUSalve employees involved in the management of the WLS include Montrose Museum Staff, Collections Officer, Visual Arts Officer, Exhibition Designer, Exhibition Assistants, Curators, and Senior Manager - Libraries, Customer & Culture.
- 3.6 The annual running costs of the Studio in 2000/2001 were £4,551. At that time, the Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of Angus Council agreed to continue to administer the Studio under existing arrangements, with the Montrose Common Good requiring to meet annual running costs "in the region of" £5,000. Revenue costs for 2017/18, detailed in **Appendix 1** show a rise to £9,998 of the actual running costs for 2017/18. The meeting of the William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee on 17 November 2017 expressed its awareness that both Angus Council and ANGUSalve were carrying out significant reviews of their respective activities against an increasingly uncertain financial background, and that it would be necessary to consider both the interim and long term future of the Studio.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Following a series of meetings with the Chair of FOWLS, representatives of Angusalve and representative of the Place directorate and have agreed a future management arrangement as set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.2 ANGUSalve will continue to care for and manage the collection of William Lamb which forms part of the collections of Angus Council for the people of Angus as per Section 3.4 above in regard to cataloguing, researching, interpreting and making accessible the collection; managing membership of the VisitScotland Quality Assurance Scheme; and ensuring retention of Accredited Museum status.
- 4.3 ANGUSalve will review any request to change the items on display in the Studio in the same way as a loan request for collection items that will be displayed in sites not operated by ANGUSalve. Items would be made available following the required assurances that they would be handled and displayed safely and securely.
- 4.3 Periodic liaison meeting will continue to be held between the Friends of William Lamb Studio, Angus Council, ANGUSalve and the Montrose Elected Members as the William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee to discuss the WLS and collection.
- 4.4 The property aspects will be managed by the Infrastructure team as per the existing arrangements and other council properties.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The running costs associated with the operation of the WLS as set out in 3.6 will be avoided by the Montrose Common Good Fund and ANGUSalive with the roles being undertaken by FOWLS allowing the Studio to continue to be opened and be an destination asset for Montrose.
- 5.2 The property costs of the Studio will continue to be met through Infrastructure property budget, with the potential for future consideration of alternative funding sources.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Discussions with the Friends of William Lamb Studio have been and continue to be positive with detailed arrangements for the operation of the Studio through the Friends reaching a conclusion. The Friends of William Lamb Studio, Angusalive and Angus Council have been working in partnership to agree future arrangements. The establishment of an operational leadership by the Friends of William Lamb Studio mirrors the positive arrangements in other communities where knowledgeable, passionate and motivated community experts are utilising the model of community empowerment to provide a dedicated and focussed level of support that would otherwise see the facility closed.

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

REPORT AUTHOR: Ian Cochrane, Head of Infrastructure

EMAIL DETAILS: CommunitiesBusinessSupport@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices - Appendix 1 - Revenue costs for 2017/18
 Appendix 2 - Key Points of Proposed Arrangements

William Lamb Studio

Revenue Costs (as at 15.11.17)

| | | Annual Cost |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Employee Costs | Seasonal Museum Assistant Salary plus A/L entitlement not taken | £1,725.37 |
| | ANGUSalve employee time for recruitment, induction & management of Seasonal Museum Assistant, conducting out-of-season visits and school visits, collections work, FOWLS liaison (including administration of sales of goods), studio opening and attendance for property work [Montrose Museum Staff, Collections Officer, Visual Arts Officer, Exhibition Assistants, Curator, Senior Manager - Libraries, Customer & Culture] | £2,566.50 |
| | SUB-TOTAL | £4,291.87 |
| Property Costs | SAVAT security, energy costs, cleaning costs, other property costs | |
| | SUB-TOTAL | £4,901.25 |
| Supplies & Services Costs | | |
| | Telephony, VisitScotland Quality Assurance Scheme membership | |
| | SUB-TOTAL | £805 |
| TOTAL | | £9,997.92 |

KEY POINTS OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

- 1 - The Friends (FOWLS) would be responsible for the opening and closing of the Studio for everything except repairs and maintenance.
- 2 - The Friends would organise all events in the Studio, ensure the building was cleaned and ready for the events then tidy and clean after each event.
- 3 - Keys for the building would be retained at Montrose library for named volunteers to sign out on presentation of valid ID during scheduled opening hours. FOWLS note the possible restrictions of this arrangement which mirror those for all other partners collecting keys.
- 4 - Keys would be securely deposited back to the library after each event by FOWLS.
- 5 - The possibility of a keysafe is to be explored by the FOWLS
- 6 - Out of hours calls would be managed by the council, at the moment, via the Infrastructure team
- 7 – Property repairs are to be reported through the ACCESS online and ACCESSline
- 8 – The FOWLS will supply a list of Friends who will be trained on the role of building manager (it was noted that the training originally scheduled on 28 June 2018 was cancelled at the request of the Friends and has now taken place on 14 September 2018)
- 9 - Accredited Museum Status - ANGUSalive will provide appropriate collection management documentation and make available for reference other public documents that formed part of their own accreditation return, for the Friends to use when researching and drafting their own application directly with Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS). MGS has made it clear they would want to engage directly with the new managing body and ANGUSalive will provide update to MGS on future arrangements once these have been confirmed.
- 10 - Montrose Museum will continue to act as a post box for Friends application forms as it does now
- 11 - Collections– Angus Alive has completed an inventory of the items in the Studio. As part of ANGUSalive's collection development plans, the Lamb collection items will be included and work on these items will be undertaken according to the wider collection work schedule developed by the trust. including utilising the museum and library.
- 12 - FOWLS would undertake display or design work for the Studio and would be responsible for transporting items.
- 13 - Insurance and risk – as with other community projects the insurance cover is arranged by the council and it has been confirmed that FOWLS members are covered by the volunteers' extension to the council's existing policies. This provides the volunteers with the same level of cover as would be in place should it be council staff opening / closing the Studio. The All Risks cover that provides protection for our works of art remains in place for the Studio irrespective of who is opening / closing the building.
- 14 - Publicity - positive joint media publicity agreed and requirement for a professionally produced sign at the Studio to point visitors to FOWLS website for Studio visits and events or to ANGUSalive for research and collections enquiries in future.
- 15 - Liaison meetings - every 6 months with advisory meeting held in between the Liaison meeting

16 – VisitScotland – ANGUSalve propose to delay withdrawal from the Quality Assurance Scheme until the end of October to facilitate a smooth transition to the new managing body who will be required to register from November 2018 at the start of the new scheme year to maintain membership.