

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Cllr Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council

From: Deputy Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council

CITY OF ADELAIDE – MEETING WITH MR (name 1 redacted)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide the Leader with an update following a meeting with Mr (name 1 redacted)– (Marine Technology firm name redacted) to discuss proposals to seek an alternative solution to secure the future of the City of Adelaide Clipper Ship.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Deputy Chief Executive met with Mr (name 1 redacted) on behalf of the Leader on Wednesday 25 September 2013. Also in attendance at the meeting were Mr (name 2 redacted), Mr (name 3 redacted) (Mr (name 4 redacted)'s associates) and (name 5 redacted) (Museums, Heritage and Arts Manager).

2.2 Mr (name 1 redacted) presented to the Deputy Chief Executive a proposal to secure an alternative solution for securing the future of the City of Adelaide Clipper Ship.

In broad terms, the proposal would involve sheathing the ship in a material known as (name of material redacted to protect intellectual property rights) which Mr (name 1 redacted) considered would make the ship sound and watertight. Further Mr (name 1 redacted) advised that with additional steel bracings secured, this method would ensure the ship is strong enough to be re-floated and towed back to Sunderland. The sheathing would then be removed to reveal the ship as she was prior to the process.

2.3 When the sheathing is removed it can also be reassembled to form a mould, an exact replica of the original ship. Mr (name 1 redacted) suggested the replica ship could potentially be seen as a "cultural centre-piece" for the city i.e. to be a part of any plans for a proposed Maritime Heritage Centre.

2.4 Mr (name 1 redacted) is requesting the City Council give serious consideration to this proposal in the form of offering financial support to fund the project. It is understood that this would primarily involve funding to support the ship's transportation back to Sunderland and the materials and equipment required to reassemble it and the production of a replica. There was, however, no detail provided by Mr (name 1 redacted) of the actual costs associated with this proposal and limited detail in regard to the full restoration of the original clipper ship.

2.5 Mr (name 2 redacted) offered his support to the idea of returning the ship to Sunderland with the potential to provide skills and training opportunities for the city whilst capitalising on future investment opportunities, however it was recognised that this would be challenging to achieve.

3.0 SUNDERLAND POSITION

- 3.1 The Deputy Chief Executive reiterated the position of the City Council providing Mr (name 1 redacted) with background of the Leader's meeting in 2012 with Fiona Hyslop, Scotland's Minister for Culture, in which a pledge was made by the Leader that should the Australian bid fail in any way, the City Council would be willing to step in with an alternative solution to protect the future of the ship. Mr (name 1 redacted) was also advised that the City Council would not interfere with the wishes of the Scottish Government who were working closely in partnership with the Scottish Maritime Museum and CSCoAL to transfer the ship to Australia.
- 3.2 The Deputy Chief Executive outlined that funding to support Mr (name 1 redacted) proposal could not be made available or indeed be prioritised. Mr (name 1 redacted) was asked if he or his colleagues had engaged with other organisations to seek to campaign collectively to return the ship to Sunderland. Mr (name 1 redacted) confirmed that he had tried unsuccessfully to engage other groups.

The Museums, Heritage and Arts Manager was asked to make some tentative enquires with other groups such as The Jack Crawford Trust, and SCARF (Sunderland City of Adelaide Recovery Foundation) with regard to Mr (name 1 redacted)'s proposal.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The City of Adelaide Clipper Ship was transported by CSCoAL to Greenwich in September 2013. Originally named "The Carrick" (1923) a renaming ceremony (hosted by HRH Duke of Edinburgh) will take place on the afternoon of Friday 18 October to revert the ship's name to "The City of Adelaide".
- 4.2 A newly formed organisation "Save our Ship (SOS) City of Adelaide" is actively challenging the validity of the process followed by the Scottish Maritime Museum in allowing CSCoAL to remove the ship from the Irving Slipway and transport to London where it will leave UK shores for Australia. (name redacted) of the Jack Crawford Trust met with Audit Scotland in August to raise concerns with regards to the awarding of the grant to fund the ship's removal. Audit Scotland has agreed to investigate this further.
- 4.3 SOS City of Adelaide suggests "serious errors" have been made by DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport) and Arts Council England to grant a licence to export the ship. DCMS have responsibility for the administration of cultural goods export regulations and have delegated this responsibility to Arts Council, England. It has been suggested by (name redacted, representative of Jack Crawford Trust) that any heritage asset with "demonstrable national importance" requires an individual evaluation for the case of a ship being exported which it would appear has not been undertaken.
- 4.4 The Jack Crawford Trust (part of Save our Ship City of Adelaide) has written to Mr Archie-Miller Bakewell to request these issues are brought to the urgent attention of HRH Duke of Edinburgh prior to the renaming ceremony taking place.
- 4.5 It is understood SOS City of Adelaide have also written to Ed Vasey - Culture Minister, English Heritage and National Historic Ships to raise concerns at the ships removal.

4.6 Following the renaming ceremony, it is expected the ship will leave UK shores to travel to Rotterdam where it will undergo a decontamination treatment prior to entering Australia. It is estimated the ship will reach Australia in Spring 2014.

4.7 The Museums, Heritage and Arts Manager is currently in the process of making contact with SCARF and the Jack Crawford Trust to ascertain views on the proposals put forward by Mr (name 1 redacted).

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Leader is requested to note the above for information and receive further updates as appropriate.