



Report to: Cabinet Meeting - 10 December 2024
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rowan Cozens, Heritage, Culture & the Arts
 Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities & Environment
 Lead Officer: Dennis Roxburgh, Project Manager Construction, Ext. 5645

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open report, non-key decision
Report Title	Proposal to site the 'Kiddey Stones' at Castle House, Newark
Purpose of Report	To put forward for Cabinet consideration, the outcomes from the public consultation on a previous in principle decision by the Cabinet to site the Kiddey sculptures at Castle House and to consider comments from Members of the Policy, Performance and Improvement Committee, following the consultation report presented to them on Monday 25 November 2024.
Recommendations	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the report on the public consultation on the Kiddey sculptures at Appendix B to the report; b) consider the comments from the Policy, Performance and Improvement Committee at Appendix A to the report; c) confirm the earlier, in principle decision taken on 4 June 2024, to site the Kiddey sculptures at Castle House, Newark; d) subject to c), a sum of £87,430 is added to the capital programme funded by the Change Management Reserve, to fund the installation at Castle House; and e) Subject to c) and d), the Council's Director of Communities and Environment be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to enter into an agreement with the Town Council for a loan of the Kiddey Sculptures.

<p>Alternative Options Considered</p>	<p>The Kiddey Stones are part of Newark’s heritage. For around 40 years they have been under tarpaulin in the town’s cemetery. Without funding and a suitable location to site the stones, it is highly likely they will continue to remain away from public view. However, it is an option not to invest in the project.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendations</p>	<p>The recommendations align with the Community Plan objectives in relation to heritage and culture, particularly the specific actions around increasing the quantity and quality of public art in the district. At the June Cabinet meeting, Members approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In principle, the design and location of the Kiddey Stones to be installed at Castle House, Newark; 2. Support a period of public consultation on the proposals to enable residents and stakeholders to have their views on the plans, including the Town Council in whose ownership the stones are in; and 3. Agreed that a report is brought back to Cabinet in September 2024 to formally endorse the scheme or otherwise with a budget to be included in the Council’s capital programme.

1.0 Background

1.1 Robert Kiddey was born in Nottingham in 1900 and died in Newark in 1984. In the 1920s, he is credited with the frieze of figures around the top of Nottingham’s Council House on the Market Square and a carved panel called ‘The Devine Tragedy’ which was accepted for the Royal Academy’s annual exhibition in London. His work became known internationally at this point. In 1931 he moved to Newark and took up a teaching post at the newly opened Technical College where he remained for some 50 years. There is a plaque to him in Mill Gate where his studio was located.

1.2 The Kiddey stone tablets have been stored at Newark Cemetery on London Road for many years. They comprise 12 pieces of stone forming 4 panels of 3 pieces each. The individual tablets measure just over 2m in height and 1m in width. The tablets are created from carved sandstone in bas-relief and each depict a different aspect of electricity production and were originally commissioned and installed at Wilford Power Station. When the power station closed in the early 1980s, the tablets were given to the Town Council. The tablets were briefly reassembled in the early 1990s when a Town Council working party was asked to explore options for their future. It is not known what happened after this, other than that the stones were stored at the Cemetery under tarpaulins.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

2.1 The results of the consultation are set out in Appendix B to this report. They were presented to the Policy, Performance and Improvement Committee on Monday, November 25. Attached at Appendix A are the themes which emerged from those deliberations which are also being presented to Cabinet for consideration. Members will be aware that the plan presented to Cabinet in June was suggesting the report on the

consultation would be presented back to Cabinet in September. However, Appendix B references a request for the consultation to be guided by a member working group which was unable to meet until August. Further, members will also note the sheer volume of responses that have been received and analysed.

2.2 The cost to deliver the scheme was also forecast within the June Cabinet report at £81,240, inclusive of the build costs for the four panels, seating and interpretation panel, lighting, fees and contingency. A detailed cost plan was included in the appendices to the June report. That cost plan was based upon the latest cost information in April. Subject to a Cabinet decision to approve the scheme, it is now likely that tendering would take place in the new year with the work taking place in the spring. As such, inflation has been added to the original cost plan and a new cost estimate has been forecast at £87,430. Clearly, the actual cost will not be known until the works have been tendered and are complete.

2.3 Subject to Cabinet decision, the Town Council and NSDC would need to enter into a formal agreement for a lease of the Kidney Sculptures. Subject to formal agreement, the principles of the loan would include:

- The Town Council would devolve authority to the town clerk to seek legal advice, if necessary, to draft an agreement with NSDC to loan the Kidney Stones to NSDC for a period of 40 years, subject to regular review at the end of every five-year period
- All costs being met by NSDC, including return of the stones to Newark Town Council at the end of the agreement or at the end of one of the review periods
- The interpretation panel to acknowledge the loan of the Kidney Stones by Newark Town Council, and this signage/acknowledgement to be in place throughout the length of the loan
- Intellectual property rights to be retained by Newark Town Council, but with full permission granted to NSDC to publish photographs and illustrations of the Kidney Stones in their literature and website

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN24-25/153)

3.1 A budget of £20,000 was made available to carry out the feasibility works. To date £15,175 of the £20,000 has been incurred and committed. The remaining £4,825 is not needed as part of the feasibility works and could be used to contribute towards the capital works.

- 3.2 The Change Management Reserve has sufficient funding within it in order to accommodate the £87,430 to fund the project. This will be duly added to the Capital Programme.
- 3.3 It is expected that any additional revenue costs for cleaning and maintaining the stones going forward could be contained within the existing revenue provision for the service teams.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cabinet Report, June 4, 2004 – Kidney Stones, Appendices 1 - 6