

Report No:	RCS12-03-10
File No:	
Date:	1 March 2012
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Community Services Committee
Meeting Date: 8 March 2012
Report Author: Robert Cant, Senior Property Officer
Subject: **Proposal to Sell Murchison RSA Hall**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council publicly notified the intention to sell the Murchison RSA Hall. The notification drew two objections, one of which was accompanied by a petition signed by 140-150 mostly local signatories.

This paper seeks to explain the options available to the Committee and recommends the organisation of a public meeting in Murchison to reassess community feeling.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the submitters be invited to present their submissions to a meeting to be held in Murchison.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Community Services Committee receives the Murchison RSA Hall Report RCS12-03-10 and delegates the chair of the Community Services Committee and Crs Bryant (and one other) to hear the submissions to the proposal to sell the Murchison RSA Hall.

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of public notification of the intention to sell the Murchison RSA Hall, and recommend the best way to progress the matter.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In July of 2011, the Community Services Committee received a report (RCS11-07-05) considering the disposal of the Murchison RSA Hall. The disposal of the hall had been proposed following the construction of the new community centre.
- 2.2 The Committee agreed to consult with the Murchison community regarding the disposal of the hall. A public notice was issued on 16 December 2011 and closed at the end of January 2012
- 2.3 Two submissions were received. One was from an individual submitter (Dot Bradley), and a second from the Murchison Community Resource Centre (MCRC). The submission from the MCRC attached a petition signed by approximately 140–150 mainly local residents.

3. PRESENT SITUATION/MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The submissions need to be considered before a final decision is made on the sale of the hall.

4. FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Neither submitter has commented on how the significant costs of retaining the hall might be funded. The cost of retaining the hall was a significant driver behind the proposal to sell it.

5. OPTIONS

- 5.1 Given the public notice asked for submitters to state whether or not they wished to be heard, it may be appropriate to provide a forum to put their views to a Council Committee. Both submitters have asked to be heard.
- 5.2 Council could consider the objections without a hearing. There is no specific requirement to hear the submitters.
- 5.3 Council could allow the objections without the need for a hearing. This would mean the Council retains the ownership of the hall, with associated costs for the meantime.

6. PROS AND CONS OF OPTIONS

- 6.1 Unless the Committee favours option 5.3, it is considered that the two submitters should be invited to present their submissions.

7. EVALUATION OF OPTIONS

- 7.1 Because the proposal has created local interest, a hearing of the two submissions in Murchison is suggested.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.1 This is not a significant decision under Council's Significance Policy.

9. RECOMMENDATION/S

- 9.1 The Chair of the Community Services Committee and Councillors Bryant (and one other) hear the submissions to the proposed sale of the RSA Hall.

10. TIMELINE/NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 Confirm availability of submitters and Councillors and arrange the hearing.

11. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Community Services Committee receives the Murchison RSA Hall Report RCS12-03-10 and delegates the chair of the Community Services Committee and Crs Bryant (and one other) to hear the submissions to the proposal to sell the Murchison RSA Hall.

Robert Cant
Senior Property Officer

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