

## **Cabinet – 3 February 2010**

### **Plaster Cast Model of Sister Dora Statue**

**Portfolio:** Councillor M Bird, Leader of the Council

**Service:**

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** No

#### **1. Summary of report**

The purpose of this report is to consider a request received from the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust that the plaster cast model of the Sister Dora Statue be relocated from the Council House to the entrance hall of the new hospital.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve in principle the request received from the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust the relocation of the plaster cast model of the Sister Dora statue to the entrance hall of the new hospital on loan, and on the understanding that the model remains the property of the Council.
- 2.2 That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, agree with the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust the terms of the relocation and loan.

#### **3. Background information**

- 3.1 The Council has received a letter from Sue James, Chief Executive of Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust, regarding the plaster cast model of the Sister Dora Statue which is currently in the foyer of the Council House. The hospital would like to highlight the link of Dorothy Pattison's (Sister Dora's) role in local health provision and has requested that the Council consider relocating the model to the entrance hall of the new hospital building.
- 3.2 The plaster model of the statue of Sister Dora has been in the Council's ownership since it was offered to the Council in 1921 by the daughter of F J Williamson, the sculptor of the statue that currently stands on the Bridge, Walsall. In November 1948, the Council approved that the model be moved to Walsall General Hospital and it remained there until approximately 1974 when, following damage to the model, it was removed and restored before being placed in the foyer to the Council House.

- 3.3 The Council has previously received a request for the model of Sister Dora's statue to be placed at the hospital. Land and Property Committee in February 1990 received a report regarding this request and resolved that the statue remain on display at the Council House.

#### **4. Resource considerations**

##### **4.1 Financial:**

There are no direct financial considerations regarding the request received as the Hospital Trust will be responsible for arranging the removal and display of the model.

##### **4.2 Legal:**

There are no legal implications arising from this report. It is proposed that if the Cabinet agrees to the model's relocation, the hospital is advised that the model is on loan and remains the property of the Council and the terms of the loan will be agreed in advance with the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust.

##### **4.3 Staffing:**

None arising from this report.

#### **5. Citizen impact**

The work and heritage of Dorothy Pattison is a source of pride for the Borough. The original statue of Sister Dora is a recognized landmark on the Bridge in Walsall Town Centre. Placing the model of the statue in a prominent location in the new hospital would further highlight Sister Dora's link to the care and public health of the people of Walsall.

#### **6. Community safety**

None arising from this report.

#### **7. Environmental impact**

None arising from this report.

## **8. Performance and risk management issues**

### **8.1 Risk:**

If the Cabinet agrees to relocate the model on permanent loan, the terms of loan will include that the model is safely located and displayed at the hospital and that the Hospital Trust agrees to maintain and repair any damage that may be caused to the model during the period of the loan.

## **9. Equality implications**

None arising from this report.

## **10. Consultation**

Relevant officers of the Council.

## **Background papers**

Letter from Sue James, Chief Executive, Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust  
– 30 October 2009

## **Author**

Ruby Bacha

☎ 652006

✉ [bachar@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:bachar@walsall.gov.uk)



Paul Sheehan  
Chief Executive

11 January 2010



Councillor Mike Bird  
Leader of the Council

11 January 2010