

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11th July 2018
Subject:	Review of the Public Art Strategy and Lighting Strategy		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Claire Haslam – Principal Planning Officer		
	Email:	claire.haslam@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396825
Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members with a review of the Public Art Strategy (2006) and Gloucester Lighting Strategy (2008) and to set out a programme for putting in place a new set of key principles for public arts in Gloucester.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE**:

- (1) that progress the City Council has made in delivering the Public Art Strategy and Lighting Strategy be noted; and
- (2) to **RECOMMEND** that officers prepare a new Public Arts Key Principles document outlining the council's expectations and guidelines for those undertaking the commissioning and delivery of public arts.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 There are many benefits associated with public art. If done in a considered manner public art can positively influence the social and cultural aspects of a place. It can build upon local distinctiveness, adding to the character and sense of place, which in turn has a positive impact on economic development and tourism. It can also improve community cohesion and transform the ways in which individuals interact with public spaces.
- 3.2 Public art has previously been delivered across the city in a number of ways:
- Contributions through the Planning Process
 - Through the work of the Public Art Officer, Urban Design Officer and Landscape Architect.

- Through partners such as Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC) and the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA).
- Through community groups, local initiatives or individuals.

3.3 The current key documents directly relating to public art are the Public Art Strategy (2006) and the Lighting Strategy (2008).

3.4 **Public Art Strategy**

In August 2006 GHURC commissioned Ginkgo Projects Ltd to produce a Public Art Strategy (PAS) for Gloucester. The document was focussed around GHURC's key sites and objectives. The document was not intended to be a Council document and was therefore not adopted by the City Council.

3.5 The PAS looks at best practice with an audit of Gloucester's public art. It recommends a five strand approach focussing on:

1. Art and Public Spaces
2. Routes and Destinations
3. Art and Buildings
4. Art at Night
5. Art and Change

The PAS is not city wide but does comprehensively focus on the GHURC regeneration areas of Kings Square/Whitefriars, Greyfriars, Blackfriars/Westgate Quay, The Canal Corridor, Gloucester Docks, Quays, Railway Triangle and the additional site of Castlemeads open space. It proposed public art schemes in these areas requiring over £4million of public funding. The majority of these schemes have not been implemented.

3.6 There have been a number of recent public art installations. Many of these have come about irrespective of the PAS. A selection of these include:

- Docks 2009/10: Candle, Victoria Docks enhancements (directional signage, interpretation boards, maps, reinstatement of industrial artefacts)
- St Kyneburgh's Tower 2012 and feature wall at Kimbrose
- Restoration of gate street mosaics
- Kalwall lighting feature at Gloucester Quays
- Wood carvings at Robinswood Hill, Gloucester Park, Barnwood Park and Clock Tower Park
- Project Pilgrim features
- Kings Square Rugby World Cup seat
- Railway triangle sculpture
- Hollie Gazzard memorial bench
- Railings at St Mary de Crypt

3.7 The PAS has a number of limitations:

1. It is now out of date;
2. It was written in a different economic and planning climate;
3. It is not city wide;

4. It does not reflect the more recently adopted Gloucester's Cultural Vision and Strategy 2016-2026;
5. It is not user friendly;
6. The focus is purely on public art rather than incorporating culture and the arts.

3.8 **Lighting Strategy**

In 2008 the City Council commissioned the Gloucester Lighting Strategy (GLS). The aim of this document was to enhance the night-time economy, strengthen local distinctiveness and to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The document was never fully adopted but was partially implemented.

39 As well as identifying a number of lighting projects, the GLS also set out a comprehensive framework and analysis of lighting within the city, and provides information on implementation, management and funding options.

3.10 The GLS also outlines a number of creative ideas and aspirations such as linking lighting to the city's festivals and events, creating lighting awards and a new night time attraction in the form of the Son et Lumiere.

3.11 The GLS identified a number of short, medium and long term lighting projects. In all 16 buildings or monuments were successfully architecturally lit. This has improved the night time appearance of the city and highlighted some of our best architectural assets.

3.12 The lighting projects completed as part of the GLS include:

- The Cathedral Tower
- Bishop Hooper's monument
- St Oswald's Priory
- Infirmary Arches
- Guildhall Eastgate Portico
- South Porch at the Cathedral
- St Mary's Gate
- College Green
- St Mary de Crypt
- St Michael's Tower
- St Peters Church
- Eastgate Viewing Chamber
- Lock Warehouse
- Constitution House
- St Magdalen's Chapel

3.13 Detailed designs exist but have not been implemented for St Nicholas' Church Westgate Street and the Old Bell Southgate Street. The Old Bell is currently lit with existing lighting equipment to a different design than the one produced through the implementation of the GLS. Preliminary designs also exist for the war memorial in Lower College Green, Robert Raikes statue in the park. Concept ideas and discussions for the relighting of The Cross in partnership with the County Council Highways Lighting Department also exist.

3.14 Despite being an important document in the successful implementation of a number of projects, the GLS is no longer being implemented due to the following reasons:

1. No resources identified to implement the remaining projects.
2. The technical information is now dated and would benefit from updating by an accredited Institute of Lighting Engineer.

3.15 **Going Forward**

More recently, due to the economic climate and viability, it has been difficult to secure public art through the planning process. The regeneration function previously provided by the now defunct GHURC and SWRDA has been taken on internally by the City Council.

3.16 The Council has adopted a new Regeneration Strategy and the Gloucester's Cultural Vision Strategy 2016-2026. The way that public art is delivered and what constitutes public arts has evolved.

3.17 Public art is increasingly produced by community groups, local initiatives, businesses or individuals. Whilst this is to be encouraged, in order to reap the benefits of public art and incorporate the aims of the Gloucester's Cultural Vision and Strategy 2016-2026, it is important that the process of engaging, commissioning and producing the art is inclusive, well-thought-out and of good quality.

3.18 It is therefore proposed that the City Council produces a Key Principles document to help guide and inform anyone interested in contributing to the public arts across the city. It is intended that the Key Principles documents will be easily accessible, user friendly, clear, concise and reflect the fact that public arts will be delivered by a wide variety of different people and organisations in the future.

3.19 Officers intend to bring the final Key Principles document to Cabinet for adoption before the end of the year. The document will be prepared by officers, working closely with the Culture Trust and informed by liaison with key stakeholders.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 The production of a Key Principles document will provide clarity to those in the community who wish to engage in the public arts. This will make it easier for communities to plan projects and communicate with the City Council about their intentions and ideas.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 Two other alternative options have been considered

5.2 Firstly do nothing. Allow anyone to produce public art anywhere without any guidelines, guidance or standards. This could lead to poor quality art installations which may have been produced without proper engagement and consideration. This could detract from the overall character and appearance of the city.

- 5.3 Secondly produce and adopt a new Public Arts Strategy which incorporates the key information from the Lighting Strategy. This would be more costly and time consuming. Given that less art is being commissioned through the planning process, adopting a full document would be a disproportionate amount of work compared to how much the document would be used. Also a planning document is a technical piece of work that would not be as user friendly or as flexible as a concise Key Principles document.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 Public art can be delivered by community groups, local businesses, stakeholders and partners. It is important that the Council put in place a Key Principles document to help guide and inform that process. This will ensure that public art is commissioned positively with artist input, active community engagement and produced to a high standard.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 7.1 The Key Principles document will be produced by the Head of Cultural and Trading Services in collaboration with Gloucester Culture Trust. The Key Principles Document will be presented back to Cabinet for adoption.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no additional financial implications.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 Key principles not delivered in a timely fashion. However, the City Council and Culture Board have committed adequate resources to this project.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 12.1 Not applicable.

Sustainability

- 12.2 Not applicable.

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 Not applicable.

Background Documents:

- 1 **Public Art Strategy 2006** - <http://www.publicartonline.org.uk/resources/practicaladvice/policiesguidance/strategies/documents/APlaceForArtFinal.pdf>
- 2 **Lighting Strategy 2008** - <http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/environmental-planning/urban-design/Pages/Gloucester-Lighting-Strategy.aspx>