

ITEM 5



COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR LEISURE AND DIRECT SERVICES 1 AUGUST 2007

Report of the former Environment Commission

Recommendations arising from the former Environment Commission's Review of Public Art in Derby

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Direct Services encourages Council Cabinet to adopt the recommendations of the former Environment Commission as outlined in Appendix 2

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 31 July 2006 the Environment Commission resolved to undertake a review of public art in Derby
- 2.2 The objectives of the review were to:
 1. Understand the role of the Public Art Officer Working Group and Steering Group and become familiar with 2001 Public Art Strategy
 2. Understand the process whereby S106 monies can be used to provide public art
 3. Look at existing public art in the city and find out what public art has been commissioned and installed in the last five years and the mechanism by which it was achieved
 4. Find out how other Cities go about obtaining public art and how successful they have been
 5. Look in detail at the use over the past five years of S106 monies to procure public art and at the outcomes and costs of this process
 6. Develop recommendations for the future use of S106 monies to procure public art for Derby.
- 2.3 In order to achieve the proposed objectives it was considered that the Commission would need to:
 1. Understand the role of the Public Art Steering Group and Officer Working Group and become familiar with 2001 Public Art Strategy

2. Understand the process whereby S106 monies can be used to provide public art and look at how it had been used recently, or was planned to be used to procure public art
3. Look at existing public art in the city and find out what public art has been commissioned and installed in the last five years and the mechanism by which it was achieved
4. Find out how other Cities go about obtaining public art and how successful they have been
5. Look in detail at the use over the past five years of S106 monies to procure public art and at the outcomes and costs of this process

- 2.4 A full copy of the report of the review can be provided by the Co-ordination Team. The significant findings of the review and the Commission's recommendations are provided in Appendix 2.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| For more information contact: | David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk |
| Background papers: | Appendix 1 – Implications |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 2 – Recommendations of the review |

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Enhanced public art in the City will benefit to all Derby people

Corporate Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives,
 - Making us proud of our neighbourhoods
 - Creating a 21st Century City Centre
 - Giving you excellent services and value for money

Significant Findings arising from the review

The following findings of the review are considered significant so far as the review objectives are concerned:

1. The witnesses told the Commission that the role of public art was to provide something for people to aspire to, to raise the aesthetic goals of the City and to give it a visual identity.
2. There was consensus among the witnesses that although Derby had some attractive pieces of public art they were generally quiet, bland and low key with nothing in particular that gave a recognisable identity to the City. This view was supported by the Commission's inspection of the city's public art.
3. The Commission were advised that Section 106 agreements were seen as a key mechanism through which public art was funded. Members were told this was covered by Policy E30 of the City of Derby Local Plan and that where a contribution for public art is secured, the Policy anticipates it will be incorporated into the development rather than it being offered as a financial contribution that the Council can spend.
4. The Commission were told that the aim of the Council was to try and get a S106 agreement that allocated 1% of the total cost of the agreement for public art.
5. The Commission were informed that where the S106 contribution was offered as a financial contribution it was possible to bring together relatively small sums of S106 money from different developments and to pool these to make a larger sum which could be used with match funding to undertake a bigger project. This approach was also used by Cardiff Council.
6. A Steering Group member advised the Commission that when it came to delivering a piece of public art under an S106 agreement, businesses did not usually take into account what the Council wanted. The Steering Group member said the Councils got what the businesses wanted to give them and then had to deal with any adverse effects.
7. The Commission were informed that at present the Council has about £0.5 million of S106 money allocated for public art. However this was distributed around the City between the centre and the suburbs.
8. Members were told that a Supplementary Planning Document for public realm enhancement in the City centre was being prepared by he

Regeneration and Community Directorate and that it would set the scene for the management of S106 monies.

9. Members were told that in order to provide a coherent plan for the development of public art in the city it would be necessary to develop a wish list and that this would be one of the tasks of the co-ordination groups.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

There should be a clear overall plan for public art in Derby. This plan should include details of the type, size and location of the public art pieces that it is considered desirable for the city to acquire. It is also considered that as part of this process the aim should be to include one or more iconic pieces that would give Derby a new visual identity.

Reasons 1

Unless there is a clear plan for public art in the city it will be difficult to break away from the current situation whereby public art is provided or procured on an ad hoc, piecemeal basis with no overall concept of how it is intended to fit together or fit into the structure of the city.

The Commission considers that a demonstrable public art strategy is valuable when seeking to attract investment.

Recommendation 2

When developing its plan for public art in Derby the Council's approach should favour pieces which are recognisably 'art' rather than 'functional'.

Reasons 2

The Commission considers that the public are much more likely to appreciate and relate to a piece of public art that they can see as having been created by an artist rather than to a piece of 'street furniture' no matter how high quality or well designed that may be. The exception to this is where art can be combined with function, for example Cardiff's 'Beastie Benches'.

Recommendation 3

Arrangements should be put in place to pool the S106 monies acquired from developers for the purposes of providing public art. The pooled monies should be used to procure the pieces of public art that have been identified as needed by the plan.

Reasons 3

This approach will assist in the delivery of the public art identified in the plan and by pooling the money there is a greater likelihood of obtaining match funding that can be used to procure more significant pieces of public art.

Recommendation 4

Where developers wish to provide a piece of public art rather than contribute financially, they should be encouraged to provide something that conforms to the Council's public art plan. Ideally, the piece of public art provided by the developer should be located in accordance with the plan.

The Public Art Steering and Working groups should be involved at the earliest opportunity in the selection and approval of pieces.

Reasons 4

This approach will ensure that the public art provided by the developer makes the greatest contribution to the Council's plan for public art in the city.

Recommendation 5

Where appropriate, public art procured by the Council should be the subject of public competition and local artists should be encouraged to compete.

Reasons 5

To ensure that the City acquires high quality relevant public art and to promote 'local ownership' of public art in Derby

Recommendation 6

Consideration should be given to the procurement of a large, spectacular, piece of public art that could be positioned at a strategic location in the northern half of the City centre.

Commission members were of the view that this would provide Derby with the opportunity to acquire an iconic piece that would in future years come to be seen as representative of the City. It was thought that the piece selected should have a clear historic or regional link to Derby, such as an interpretation of Joseph Wright's Orrery.

Reasons 6

The Commission considered that a piece of public art of this significance would provide the focus for a visual and cultural centre of attraction that would to some extent off-set the expected southward bias of the Westfield development