



Report on results of feasibility consultation

Registered topics: Public Art (no. 137)

This topic was registered by Cllr Chris Hogg in May 2006. The following officers have been consulted about these topics and have provided a response based on their professional knowledge.

Response from Executive Member:

I agree in principle with this Scrutiny Topic and would welcome its being undertaken.

Response from Head of Arts and Culture, representing Assistant Director for Lifelong Learning and Leisure

Does this overlap with work in your area or another area of the Council you are aware of and if so what?

Will overlap with aspects of Planning and Economic Development (both sections of City Strategy).

Can you see the positive potential in progressing this topic? Please give reasons.

Will tie in with development of LDF

Will allow the development of systems to ensure adopted policy will be effective in practice

Will promote mechanisms to improve cross directorate working

Will allow the stakeholders and group representatives the ability to review best practice elsewhere and adopt a practical approach to how we review and implement the policy for the benefit of the city.

Can you see any immediate pitfalls to progressing this topic?

Securing involvement of the appropriate officers in Planning.

Public debate on this topic will be lively as there will always be conflicting views about what constitutes value and quality in public art. We should be aware of this but not be put off by this, we are not examining the merits of a single artwork or proposal we are trying to put in place the mechanisms where we can secure resources, review current policy and implement agreed or revised policy .

If the topic were progressed would you encourage officer support from your area?

Yes but would also need input from Planning and EDU

Are you aware of existing papers or research documents that might help Members (e.g. a recent Audit report or feedback from regulatory bodies)? If so what and could you provide them?

There are various web sites and reports that could be made available for members but in the scrutiny process. We would also be approaching best practice exemplars to come and talk through their approach with the members. We may also want to organise a site visit if members feel it appropriate.

Response from Performance Improvements Team:

The Thriving City theme within the Community Strategy talks about aiming to be "ranked as an international quality leisure and business visitor destination" and "providing a strong and distinctive cultural sector, enriching the lives of residents and visitors". I think that public art would probably contribute towards these aims. In addition, within the cultural theme we aim to "encourage creative expression and talent" and "raise the quality of provision"

Response from Policy Unit

The only policy thing I can think of is to check that there's no overlap between the proposed scrutiny topic and what initiatives may already be planned in the Arts and Culture Service in the Council or through the LSP's cultural strand at www.yorkfestivals.com , and whether any of these link to developments in the city e.g. through the Local Development Framework. I'm not sure whether these would take into account the 1% funding element - I had not heard of this policy before.

Response from Neighbourhood Pride:

The York Pride agenda is focused on improving the environment within the City in terms of cleanliness, safety and combatting anti- social behaviour. To date we are not aware of any proposals that have been put forward by residents or wards to allocate funds or obtain funding for public art. (I know that there is a bronze of the Emperor Constantine by the Minster but do not know who funded it). Members did make a decision that they did not want to see graffiti walls or boards within the City as this legitimises the offence.

We suggest the Museums Service may be able to help if this was to be considered by any Ward Committees.

Response from Marketing and Communications:

We are not aware of any specific national or local media interest in the underlying issues highlighted by this topic. No market research has been done on this topic

Response from Performance Monitoring Team:

We have received no complaints about public art

Response from Equalities Officer

This could be an interesting aspect for Scrutiny to investigate - how can public art help to reflect and celebrate the increasing diversity in York? What role does this policy have in promoting this?

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For further information please contact the author of the report