

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

**Subject** : Public Art  
**Committee** : Community Services Committee  
**Date** : 20 June 2022  
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## 1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report introduces a plan for the allocation of the Public Art budget 2022/23 to a project of 'participatory art in the public realm', delivered via open call commissioning of artist(s)

## 2. Background:

- 2.1. In January 2022 as part of the 22/23 budget, £10,000 was allocated for public art.
- 2.2. Following discussion on public art in Services Committee (April 2022) a meeting with Council Leaders, other interested Councillors and the City Clerk took place on the 25 Apr 2022. The Communities Manager was invited to provide expertise on participatory public art commissioning.
- 2.3. Given the £10,000 budget it was decided that the Council is unable to directly commission a piece of traditional public art
- 2.4. Following this meeting, the Communities Manager was asked to write a brief for artists to deliver a participatory art project on behalf of the Council, exploring themes important to residents and the role of public art in the city. This brief is the focus of this report.
- 2.5. It was also noted that the ambition at the end of 2022/23 is to develop and publish a Salisbury City Council Public Art Strategy for the Council.

## 3. Ideas and Proposals:

- 3.1. The brief is broken into two documents, a context document and an artist's brief
- 3.2. The brief represents a plan for the Council to commission its own arts project, which can be described as 'participatory arts in the public realm'. This involves a broad understanding of Public Art as outlined in the context document.
- 3.3. The Council would seek to engage local, socially engaged, artist(s) to deliver this project both as a piece of public art and as a consultative process designed to inform future public art spending
- 3.4. The concept of socially engaged art is central to the brief. Definitions are provided in the context document.
- 3.5. The primary aims of the project are
  - 3.5.1. Improving health and wellbeing of participants
  - 3.5.2. Developing audiences for, and participants in art and arts practice
  - 3.5.3. Supporting the local creative and social economy
  - 3.5.4. Development of a public art strategy
  - 3.5.5. Developing Salisbury City Council's distinct approach to socially engaged public art
  - 3.5.6. Engaging residents in public dialogue

- 3.6. The project would be commissioned by open call for proposals from artists who are locally based or who can evidence a deep connection to Salisbury through their prior work via the process outlined in the brief document.
- 3.7. Proposals that address themes concerned with exploring what public art is and can be, emerging social themes related to the emergence from the pandemic and the role of participation in public art, are invited.
- 3.8. Artist(s) proposals must provide scope for certain outcomes, set out in the parameters section of the brief document.
- 3.9. It is estimated that the proposed budget allows for 20 – 24 artist days, enabling us to reach around 8 participating groups. Proposals will need to commit to working in a minimum of 5 of the 8 wards. This will allow scope for open public sessions and/or the engagement of specific targeted participant groups to enable the inclusion of marginalised populations.
- 3.10. The project would be managed and overseen by the Communities Manager and supported by the Communities Team.
- 3.11. The proposed timeline, within the brief, would see a commissioned artist in place by early September and activity commencing no earlier than the end of September 2022

#### **4. Other Considerations:**

- 4.1. Before starting the commissioning process issues of intellectual property and copyright, as well as a decommissioning policy must be considered.
- 4.2. Other bodies and individuals are working on public art projects within the city and the next step would be to liaise with these bodies to ensure transparency and avoidance of duplication
- 4.3. Councillors may also wish to provide input on who should be involved in the selection and commissioning process.

#### **5. Recommendation:**

It is recommended that:

- 5.1. The Community Services Committee approve this brief, timeline, budget for this Participatory Art in the Public Realm Project for publication on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.

#### **6. Wards Affected: All**

#### **7. Background papers:**

- 7.1 Participatory Art in the Public Realm – Context Document – DOC86650
- 7.2 Participatory Art in the Public Realm – Project Brief – DOC 86577

#### **8. Implications:**

- 8.1. **Financial:** Allocation of £8500 of the public art budget 2022/23, with £1500 contingency retained
- 8.2. **Legal:** Intellectual property and copyright
- 8.3. **Personnel:** None identified as yet

- 8.4. **Environmental Impact:** To be considered later when proposal considered in detail
- 8.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** Equalities impact assessment for the project proposed will be undertaken. The brief will also be shared with the Disability Interest Group for Salisbury before publishing.