

Public Art Protocol – Stoke-on-Trent City Council



The Public Art Protocol guidance is set out below:

Main Principle/Recommendation

Any regeneration scheme in Stoke-on-Trent involving a site that contains a work of art, heritage asset or listed structure – must have signed (Stoke-on-Trent City Council) Director approval for the scheme before work may commence – and that this approval must be based on an assessment of its cultural value.

Management Process – Current Commissioning and Caretaking Commissioning

To ensure that:

- Applications (for newly installed or relocated public artworks) are made to the (City Council) Planning Team and considered as part of a planning application and processed within: the Local Plan Policy/Local or Unitary Development Plan (Local Development Frameworks); the National Planning Policy Framework (incorporating the National Design Guide/National Design Code); and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Decommissioning:

- Any proposals for removal – where removal is required as part of a regeneration scheme or where an artwork is deemed at risk to the public – must have signed (Stoke-on-Trent City Council) Director approval for the removal; and that this removal must be based on an assessment of its cultural/heritage value and in consultation with (City Council) Planning/HERs (Historic Environment Records) Officer.
- (Stoke-on-Trent City Council) Cabinet Member consultation should also ensure that the rationale for removal is made absolutely clear to why/what the Cabinet Members are being asked to do/review and where delegated decision-making authority lies.
- Any proposals for removal – should also involve prior engagement/notice with the relevant communities/residents – aligned to the ongoing city-wide register/inventory of public art with heritage/cultural value (and in reference to the Waverley Criteria* as a basis going forward).

Ongoing Monitoring – Current Caretaking

Ensuring that the compilation of a city-wide register/inventory of public art with heritage/cultural value is published within the public domain and monitored regularly.

Key Considerations (prior to the development of a policy/strategy)

Definition of Public Art** to be used as the current basis – but not limited to/and to be reviewed/developed going forward:

- Designated features that are part of the built or natural environment
- Permanent features as part of buildings
- Landscaping or street furniture
- Landmark sculptures
- Trails and wayfinding features (of public artworks only)
- Temporary installations.

Public Art Applications – Process

To consider:

- That the proposed commission is technically and financially viable – with a clear plan in place for handover; including insurance, ownership or custodianship, and with appropriate funding for ongoing maintenance, care and conservation.
- The materials used are considered for their robustness and suitability for the intended lifespan, their ongoing maintenance and the context of their setting.
- There is a risk management plan – including an assurance statement for public safety guarantee during install and for the lifespan of the work (public liability insurance with the artist/organisation) – and consideration of insurance against theft or damage for the lifespan of the artwork.

* Waverley Criteria:

***Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS): Waverley Criteria**

Waverley 1 – History	Waverley 2 – Aesthetics	Waverley 3 – Scholarship
Is it so closely connected with our history and national life that its departure would be a misfortune?	Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?	Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?

** Definitions of Public Art:

Organisation:	Definition of Public Art:
Historic England	“...as fixed artworks which members of the public are able to access and appreciate. Works may be sited in the public, civic, communal or commercial domain, in semi-public or privately-owned public space, or within public, civic or institutional buildings. Artworks which form part of the structure or decoration of buildings may also be categorised as public art”
Tate	“The term public art refers to art that is in the public realm, regardless of whether it is situated on public or private property or whether it has been purchased with public or private money”
Public Art Online	“The term public art refers to artists and craftspeople working within the built, natural, urban or rural environment.

	It aims to integrate artists' and crafts people's skills, vision and creative abilities into the whole process of creating new spaces and regenerating old ones, in order to imbue the development with a unique quality and to enliven and animate the space by creating a visually stimulating environment"
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