



Chichester City Council

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC ART GUIDELINES

Introduction

Public art enriches Chichester by supporting placemaking, building community identity, and contributing to the city's cultural and strategic goals. These guidelines outline principles for commissioning, funding, maintaining, and decommissioning public art within the city that the Council owns or supports.

Guiding Principles

Public art projects must:

1. **Align with Council Objectives:** Support the Council Plan's four overarching objectives and be clearly integrated into strategic and capital programmes of Chichester City Council.
2. **Reflect Community Values:** Address the needs, values, and narratives of Chichester's communities, seeking to build and develop new communities and opportunities to incorporate minority and marginalised groups in the culture of our city
3. **Secure Funding:** Identify funding sources, including planning processes (e.g., Community Infrastructure Levy, S106 funds), grants, or private donations.
4. **Maintain Quality:** Focus on quality rather than quantity, ensuring robust and sustainable artwork made from high-quality materials and processes to ensure durability

The Council will consider projects that meet these criteria and demonstrate alignment with broader regional priorities (e.g., Arts Council England, Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council).

Public Art Definition

Public art encompasses the creation, curation, and commentary of temporary or permanent artworks in public spaces. These works serve as cultural, social, and political expressions that enhance the city's identity.

Commissioning Public Art

To propose public art on City Council land or buildings:

1. **Contact the Council:** Outline the project and secure initial agreement via the relevant committee

2. Follow the Process: Develop a clear proposal including:

- Purpose and site specifics.
- Engagement plans for community involvement.
- Funding, maintenance, and liability details.
- Clear timelines, consultation process, and project milestones.

Key Commissioning Requirements

In order to be considered by the Council, a proposal must:

- Build a sense of place and reflect local cultural narratives.
- Align with the Council Plan and other strategic goals.
- Engage the community through consultation and design processes.
- Be robust in design, material, and execution.
- Include clear funding and maintenance provisions.
- Identify decommissioning plans and responsible parties including longevity of the project, its permanence, and any potential reasons for early decommissioning
- Have a clear and transparent process for the appointment of an artist or artists

Please note that the Council does not accept:

- Ad-hoc requests or gifts without prior agreement.
- Proposals for permanent projects that have a likely life-span of less than 20 years.

Consultation and Engagement

Any project which is subject to Council approval or support must have a clear and exemplified plan for consultation. The Council will not support projects that do not have clear support from the community or that have not undergone robust consultation.

Effective consultation should:

- Clarify the project's purpose, benefits, and implications.
- Involve local communities and stakeholders early in the process.
- Foster ownership, reducing vandalism risks.
- Example clear support from the community #

Consultation should include:

- Engagement with ward councillors and residents.
- Input on design and impact.
- Consideration of educational or participatory opportunities.

Funding Public Art

Potential funding sources include:

- Community Infrastructure Levy or S106 funds.
- Local authority capital funds.
- Grants and private donations.

Key Funding Notes

- The Council does not have a dedicated public art fund; funding must be identified at the project's outset.
- The focus will remain on securing high-quality, sustainable projects.

Decommissioning Public Art

The Council may decommission public art for reasons such as:

- Natural end-of-life or irreparable deterioration.
- Significant public objection.
- Safety concerns, liabilities, or insurance issues.
- Planning permission failure.
- If the artwork is repeatedly vandalised

Decommissioning Process

1. Legal and Funding Considerations:

- Ensure no legal or funding restrictions apply.
- Funds from decommissioning must support future public art.

2. Consultation and Records:

- Notify the artist, councillors, and stakeholders.
- Maintain full records of decisions.

3. Options for Artwork:

- Return to the artist or agreed parties.
- Offer to museums or other authorities.
- Relocate, store, or—if necessary—destroy.

4. Site Restoration:

- Budget for restoring the site if removal occurs.

New artworks must include:

- A decommissioning date, with provisions for extension if necessary.
- Demonstrated availability of decommissioning funds.

Conclusion

Chichester City Council aims to foster high-quality public art that enhances the city's cultural landscape while reflecting community values. These guidelines ensure that public art projects are thoughtfully planned, funded, and maintained, contributing to the city's vibrancy and heritage.

Recommended at:

- Community Affairs Committee – 9 December 2024 – minute ref. 72

Approved and adopted by:

- Full Council – 18 December 2024 – minute ref. 67b