

Title of Report:	Officer Presenting: Head of Culture
DCSDC Public Artwork Portfolio Maintenance	Author: Arts and Culture Manager

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To provide Members with details concerning the recommissioning and ongoing maintenance requirements for the public artwork portfolio in the DCSDC area and to highlight the budget implications for the full implementation of a proposed maintenance schedule.
- 1.2 To seek Member approval to approach relevant government departments to seek a recurring contribution to maintenance costs for the Public Artwork portfolio within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

2 Background

- 2.1 The current public artwork portfolio has been strengthened over a number of decades with both the former Derry City and Strabane District legacy councils as well as key statutory agencies, including DfC, having invested significant resources in the creation of a valuable and well regarded range of art pieces.
- 2.2 In addition to the artwork commissioned by or sited on land belonging to Council there are a significant number of pieces that were commissioned by other statutory agencies and community organisations. Often located in or adjacent to the public realm, Council have absorbed the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of many of these pieces and their environs as no other group or agency was fulfilling this role.
- 2.3 The schedule developed is inclusive of the pieces that Council have commissioned directly where Council was a partner in the commissioning process, those located on Council property and those pieces that Council now maintains as a matter of default.

- 2.4** An internal audit of the Arts & Cultural Development identified that *"A Strategy / Policy for the Development & Maintenance of Public Arts is not in place"* and that *"...there is no 'budget' for repair & maintenance of Public Art Works in Council's costing structure and any remedial work is carried out on an 'ad hoc' basis and may/may not be undertaken"*.
- 2.5 This paper is concerned with the budget implications for the ongoing maintenance of our public artwork portfolio. Officers will compile and submit for approval a Public Artwork Policy in a subsequent paper.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 There is no defined maintenance budget for any of the public artwork detailed within the schedule which includes up to eighty art works. In most instances the requirement for a recurring maintenance budget was not considered at the commissioning phase. Where a requirement for a maintenance budget was identified the recurring resource was not secured. Therefore, all maintenance currently undertaken on our Public Artwork portfolio is absorbed within the existing, member approved Property Services budget.
- 3.2 The review of the public artwork portfolio included site visits and the compilation of individual risk assessments. This process identified if the individual artworks required any immediate remedial work and provided the basis for establishing ongoing maintenance requirements.
- 3.3 The final database was compiled by the Arts & Culture team with Property Services providing the detail concerning recommissioning and ongoing maintenance requirements and costs.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 An initial estimate regarding recommissioning costs for the entire artwork portfolio has been calculated at £257,800. Officers will undertake a detailed review of individual proposed recommissioning/decommissioning works including work scheduling and budget implications with regards to each. The provision in 2020/21 of a £20,000 per annum recurring budget will enable Property Service to schedule the required recommissioning/decommissioning works over an extended period of time.

- 4.2 The proposed maintenance schedule detailed in the database will require a total budget of £76,339 per annum but this falls short of what is required for comprehensive maintenance. The majority of budget cover is presently provided for within the general Property Maintenance budgets. Any request for general maintenance outside of safety critical matters is therefore considered in terms of the other budgetary pressures associated with this service including for example repairs to buildings, infrastructure, heating, electrical systems etc. Property Services are working to clarify the overall shortfall and will work to identify sources of funding to present to members.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 For Members to note the cost implications for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the public artwork portfolio.
- 5.2 For Council to approach relevant government departments to seek a contribution to costs for ongoing maintenance of the public artwork portfolio in the DCSDC area. Members will be presented with a subsequent paper detailing the outcome of these negotiations.

Background Papers

None.