

**Decommissioning Public Art Policy**

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Economic Regeneration and Leisure Committee
<b>Lead Head of Service</b>	John Foster, Head of Regeneration & Economic Development
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Ann-Marie Langley, Arts & Culture Officer
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	ALL

**Executive Summary**

Maidstone Borough Council currently has no formal policy or procedure for decommissioning public artworks.

The proposed policy addresses both the decommissioning of existing public art and planning for the decommissioning of new works.

**Purpose of Report**

Decision

**This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:**

1. That the Decommissioning Public Art Policy be adopted

**Timetable**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Economic Regeneration & Leisure Committee	19 April 2022

# Decommissioning Public Art Policy

## 1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure</li> <li>• Safe, Clean and Green</li> <li>• Homes and Communities</li> <li>• A Thriving Place</li> <li>• We do not expect the recommendation will by itself materially affect achievement of corporate priorities. However, it will support the Council’s overall achievement of its aims as set out in section 3 [preferred alternative].</li> </ul>	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development
<b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage is Respected</li> <li>• Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced</li> <li>• Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected</li> </ul> <p>The recommendation does not impact on the four cross-cutting objectives</p>	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development
<b>Risk Management</b>	Refer to paragraph 5 of this report	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development
<b>Financial</b>	The cost of monitoring public art and taking steps to decommission any artworks in line with the policy will need to be managed within existing available budgets.	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team
<b>Staffing</b>	We will deliver the recommendation with our current staffing.	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development

<b>Legal</b>	Acting on the recommendation will require future contracts for public art commissions to include specific clauses on life expectancy, maintenance and decommissioning.	Team leader, Contracts & Commissioning
<b>Privacy and Data Protection</b>	Accepting the recommendation will not increase the volume of data held by the Council.	Policy and Information Team
<b>Equalities</b>	The recommendation does not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment	Policy & Information Manager
<b>Public Health</b>	We recognise that the recommendation will not negatively impact on population health or that of individuals.	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	Accepting the recommendation will have no impact on Crime and Disorder.	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development
<b>Procurement</b>	The recommendation does not require any procurement activities	Head of Regeneration & Economic Development  Section 151 Officer
<b>Biodiversity and Climate Change</b>	The implications of this report on biodiversity and climate change have been considered and action should be taken to ensure that, where an artwork is to be decommissioned, all materials are recycled/reused wherever possible.	Biodiversity and Climate Change Officer

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Public art is most commonly located outdoors where it is exposed to all weathers and daily wear and tear. It is also vulnerable to vandalism and site redevelopment. Public artworks may begin to look tired, out of context or lose relevance for a site.
- 2.2 It may sometimes become necessary to relocate or temporarily/permanently remove a piece of public artwork.
- 2.3 Maidstone Borough Council currently has no formal policy or procedure for decommissioning public artworks.

- 2.4 This policy seeks to address the decommissioning of existing public art and planning for the decommissioning of new works
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### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Committee may choose to keep the status quo. This is **not recommended** as there is currently no guidance for officers charged with decommissioning public art.

This means best practice may not be followed and opportunities to relocate/repurpose artworks may be missed.

- 3.2 The Committee may choose to adopt the policy.

This will ensure that public artworks are recorded and maintained, retaining relevance to their location and available for public enjoyment.

In the event that decommissioning becomes necessary, it will establish a formal procedure that is a fair, reasonable and transparent experience for all participants.

It will also provide guidance for new commissions regarding contracts and decommissioning clauses.

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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Option 3.2 is the preferred option as this will provide clear guidance for officers dealing with any future decommissioning or relocation of public artworks.
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### **5. RISK**

- 5.1 The risks associated with this proposal, including the risks if the Council does not act as recommended, have been considered in line with the Council's Risk Management Framework. We are satisfied that the risks associated are within the Council's risk appetite and will be managed as per the Policy.
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### **6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

- 6.1 The Arts & Culture Officer was recently tasked with looking into decommissioning the 'Morning Thoughts' public artwork. The officer sought internal guidance on correct procedures for this but discovered the Council has no formal policy. They were therefore asked to develop a suitable policy to address this.

6.2 The proposed policy is the result of desk-based research into this subject, including national guidance (Arts Council England, IXIA: public art think tank) and best practice from other local authorities.

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## **7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

7.1 The next steps will be for the policy to be implemented by the Arts & Culture Officer

7.2 The policy will be added to the Maidstone Borough Council website

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## **8. REPORT APPENDICES**

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Decommissioning Public Art Policy
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## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None