

Art that involves, inspires and intrigues

# Public Art Strategy 2014 - 2017



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#### INTRODUCTION



"Public Art provides opportunities for artistic self-expression; community dialogue; education and enjoyment; inspiration for participation in appreciation and creation of art;

community problem solving; enhancement of the physical infrastructure and environment; and a celebration and transformation of place. It is a key component of our Community initiatives at Ward level and across the Borough.

This strategy provides a framework to guide anyone who wishes to commission art for the public realm in the Borough. It stands as a model of best practice, and articulates the Council's aspiration to involve its residents in activities and events that enhance their experience of living and working in Test Valley."

**Councillor Tony Ward**, Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This strategy is intended as a framework within which to commission public art in Test Valley. It provides guidance for developers, the Council and other potential commissioners within the Borough on good practice. By setting out methods to enable contributions to be spent in ways that benefit the communities within the Borough and providing a transparent process for commissioning, it will help ensure that public art projects meet the Council's Corporate Objectives and involve communities across the Borough in that process. It seeks to ensure that best possible value is obtained for the communities of the Borough in the commissioning of public art works over the next three years.

The key themes that it promotes involve the accessibility of artworks, opportunities for people to be involved in the development of artworks, links between artworks and the places they are sited and interactivity through participating in development or of the artworks themselves.



Public art is... 'accessible work of any kind that cares about, challenges, involves, and consults the audience for or with whom it was made, respecting community and environment'.

Lucy Lippard, writer/art critic

#### WHY A PUBLIC ART STRATEGY

Public Art can take a variety of forms, permanent or temporary. Public art projects can involve community engagement and consultation, be used to initiate discussion about a place, or commissioned directly from an artist identifying themes inspired by a site. It can take the form of a focal point, a way marker, a gateway feature or a temporary installation. It can reflect and celebrate the lives and imaginations of communities and special features of the environment. Public Art's unique relationship to the environment and communities in which it is placed can help to articulate aspirations and hopes and engender a sense of place.

The Council recognises that public art can play an important part in developing quality places and helping communities to engage with the environments in which they live. There is an increasing evidence base that shows that participation in arts and culture enhances well-being. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has published several papers on the subject in the past few years, and cultural well-being and good design are included for the first time in the National Planning Policy Framework which came into force on the 27th March 2012. It states that the social role of the planning system should create 'a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being'.

This Public Art Strategy aims to provide a framework for the next three years to deliver high quality art projects that benefit communities in Test Valley, and connects with longer term planning in the Borough such as Andover Vision and Romsey Future. It is intended to act as a guide of good practice for councillors, officers, developers and other organisations looking to commission art in the public realm in Test Valley. By adopting a clear strategy, a unified approach to public art can be developed that provides opportunities for people living and working in the Borough to participate in enjoyable and memorable activities and events, is specific to Test Valley and will deliver on targeted aims and objectives.





#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Public Art Strategic Aims:**

- Accessibility
- · Aesthetic Integrity
- Strong relationship to place and people
- Interactivity



"The most powerful role of a piece of public art is as a representation of the community's feelings and spirit."

(participant in Test Valley Borough Council Public Art Survey 2012)

#### **Meeting the Council's objectives:**

Protecting and enhancing the Borough's built and natural landscape

Through implementation of this Public Art Strategy we will seek to engage people with the places they live and work in the Borough. Commissions will involve people in their development and use places for inspiration. As a result of this participation, communities will be encouraged to feel a sense of ownership and an interest in the preservation and care of the landscape. It is the intention of the strategy to ensure aesthetic integrity for all public artworks in relation to their surroundings, and promote the enhancement of the diverse landscapes throughout the Borough.

Encouraging all of our communities to reach their full potential

This strategy is underpinned throughout by the involvement of communities in the process of developing public art commissions. It will provide opportunities for participation in creative events of all kinds that will encourage community cohesion, engagement with place and improve confidence and wellbeing in people throughout Test Valley.

#### **PUBLIC ART STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- **1.** To understand the existing arts offer of the Borough through publishing an on-going cultural audit and assessment.
- 2. Ensure robust practice in commissioning artists, upholding a distinctive quality of art to provide opportunities for local, regional and national artists.
- **3.** Ensure that public artworks are accessible, both physically and conceptually, to the community in which they are placed and to a wider audience.
- **4.** Ensure efficient and thorough management procedures for public art projects.
- **5.** Promote Test Valley Public Art to a wide audience to encourage visitors and engage with tourism aspirations.
- **6.** Encourage and inspire communities to engage with their surroundings through connecting with its history, geography and visual landscape.
- 7. To be considerate of the environment in the Borough, promoting well designed and professionally crafted public art that is sensitive to the site and the use of materials that are relevant to the local environment.







#### THE CONTEXT FOR PUBLIC ART IN TEST VALLEY

The Council has a good record of commissioning artwork from local and regional artists. A public consultation, which ran from August – December 2012, sought to pull together some idea of expectation and aspiration in the Borough in relation to Public Art. An online survey and a series of seminars and open events collected people's views on existing public art and how they would like to see public art in the Borough developing in the future. Over 100 people took part in the survey, and the key themes that emerged were a desire for accessibility, aesthetic integrity, relationship to place/people and interactivity. The findings have informed the development of this strategy.

To support this strategy and fully understand what is already on offer, it is intended that a full audit of the cultural assets of the Borough is broadened. This will include listing physical assets such as buildings used for cultural purposes (theatres, libraries, parks, galleries, shops); venues used for temporary cultural events; a database of creative practitioners working/living in the Borough (the Test Valley Creative group); a list of creative resources. The audit will be carried out on a ward by ward basis in consultation with ward Members, Area Officers and creative professionals. The cultural profile that this provides will be an on-going and evolving database resource for the Borough which can be used to inform public art projects and other arts activities where appropriate, and will be made public through ward profiles.

There are a number of arts initiatives across the Borough that are starting to attract regional and national attention. For example, The Chapel Arts Studios in Andover, run by Test Valley Arts Foundation and the Artists Residencies programme 'A Place for Art', at Mottisfont, are building their profiles to draw in different audiences and communities to the arts and funding for the area. The ambition of both organisations is to maximise the opportunities for as many people as possible to have access to the arts. In delivering this strategy we will seek to work with partners such as Test Valley Arts Foundation, Mottisfont and Hilliers to increase the potential that joint resources can bring, developing opportunities for artists, attracting new audiences, working with communities, sharing spaces and encouraging tourist interest in cultural attractions in the Test Valley.

## **Case Study** - Mottisfont 'A Place for Art' Artist Residencies



Photograph by Anna Cady

'A Place for Art' project is in its second year at Mottisfont, the National Trust property near to Romsey in the South of the Borough. Six artists over two years have been invited to create wonderful art inspired by the rich stories of the place, funded by Arts Council England. Artists are working with staff and volunteers to create work specifically for Mottisfont and its visitors. Resident artists include: Anna Cady, Hywel Davies, Heinrich and Palmer, Louise O'Reilly, Lizzie Sykes and artgroup ADEPT. The support of Arts Council England for this project reinforces the quality of the work that is going on in the Borough.

#### **PUBLIC ART AND PLANNING**

The Council has an excellent track record in promoting public art within the Borough and has secured a number of contributions for public art from developments across the Borough. Recognising the benefits that Public Art can bring in terms of urban design and social impact, the Council promotes the inclusion of public art within new developments, both commercial and residential, and in off site locations. It is committed to continuing to seek contributions for public art through Section 106 contributions and will work with developers to provide provision for public art to enhance urban design and help create a sense of place within the Borough's built environment. The strategy will set out our approach for continued project delivery as contributions are received through the planning process, and look for opportunities to contribute unique detail and bespoke design to future developments.

The Council's current approach to seeking contributions from developments is set out in the Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2009). It will be revised when the Council introduces its Community Infrastructure Levy, scheduled for 2015.

Some developments could provide opportunities for joint-working across local authorities, particularly in Southern Test Valley. Such opportunities would be welcomed to increase the scope and potential of projects within the Borough and the wider region.





'It is through dwelling and living in and through places that we come to know our world, and it is through representations of the wider world that we come to know other peoples and communities in places beyond our experiences.'

Exploring Hullness: towards a sense of place for Hull, David Atkinson University of Hull



#### **VISION**

Four key themes emerged from the 2012 Public Art Survey. These were a desire for accessibility, aesthetic integrity, relationship to place and people and artworks that include elements of interactivity. The Council's vision is to improve the quality of life for all people living in the Test Valley and in its Corporate Plan, it has recognised the diversity of the different communities living in the Borough with the introduction of ward profiles helping to identify specific issues that relate to each ward. A public art programme with a clear community engagement policy can work with communities to reinforce the distinctive identities, vibrant spirit, rich history and diverse visual landscapes of Test Valley. Collective community experiences help to banish stereotypical ideas of place and begin to build conversations that relate to both place and people. Good public artworks, commissioned from high quality professional artists, can interpret these conversations into a tangible form. By working with strategic partners with similar priorities to our own, sharing resources, aspiration and expertise, the potential to facilitate high quality projects for Test Valley can become a reality.

- Accessibility
- Aesthetic Integrity
- Strong relationship to place and people
- Interactivity

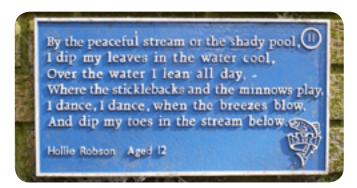


#### **KEY STRATEGIC AIMS:**

#### **Accessibility**

By definition the word public implies that an artwork is accessible to all. This was a recurring theme in responses to the public art survey, and for many defined what public art was. Public Art for Test Valley will continue to aim to be accessible to a wide section of the community, both physically and conceptually. Working closely with community groups and the Council's Ward Area Officers, opportunities will be provided for community engagement activities and events. Commissioned artists will be required to ensure that they involve communities and potential audiences in the development of the artwork at whatever level is appropriate, helping to make the work understandable and engaging. Arts Council England's ten year vision is "Achieving great art for everyone". Its goals include celebrating artistic excellence and ensuring that more people experience and are inspired by the arts. In line with this, it is the ambition of this strategy to structure our development of a Public Art Programme that will bring opportunities for everyone to participate in great art throughout Test Valley. All projects and participatory activities will be in line with the Council's equal opportunities policy.

The geographical sites will be assessed according to each project, and the best methods for physical access evaluated according to location.





"For an artwork to be public, it must invite engagement not only from different groups but between them. If negotiation between diverse social identities is not invited, then the artwork is not public".

Ixia Report: Public Art Practice, Audiences and Impact, January 2010

"Contemporary art usually requires you to think, to reflect, to place yourself into a position of asking questions'.

Gill Nicol, lightsgoingon.com

#### **Aesthetic Integrity**

Aesthetics, by definition, relate to the appreciation of beauty or good taste, both of which are governed by subjectivity. Art is an area which everyone has an opinion on, and rarely is there a consensus. Undoubtedly, however, the professionalism and experience of an artist will reflect in the quality of the final piece. Artists who work in the public realm today are equipped with a diverse variety of skills that range from the more traditional understanding of space, form and colour, to working collaboratively with a wide variety of communities and professionals using creativity to engage people in reimagining their environment.

A Test Valley Public Art Programme will seek through the careful development of artists' briefs and recruitment process, to ensure that each artist or

artist group commissioned, has a working practice that is in sympathy with the particular demands of a site. These will

range from aesthetic sensibility to experience of engaging social groups. Projects will be overseen

by a carefully selected commissioning panel, including experienced arts professionals,

who will evaluate and approve the final designs and installation requirements for

each artwork in collaboration with the artist and project manager.

'True works of art contain their own theory and give us the measurement according to which we should judge them'.

Goethe,

18th century philosopher and writer

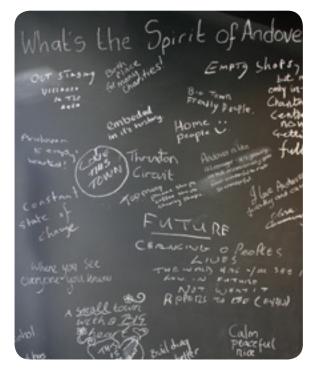


#### Relationship to place and people

Site-specific art is artwork created to exist in a certain place, and the character of place is made not just by the landscape and architecture of that place, but by the people who live in it. By getting involved in the shaping of the place in which they live, work or study, people of all ages can be encouraged to take pride in and feel some ownership of their surroundings. The relationship between a public work of art and the place and people who spend their days where it is sited, is crucial. The manner in which this relationship develops will vary from project to project, it may be through direct visual or material connections to the physical site, or relate to stories and experiences of people in the community, but the site specific nature of the work will be a core principle in developing projects for the Borough.

'A dynamic place is created by the ongoing social relationships and negotiations between people that happen in it.'

Prof Doreen Massey and Dr Gillian Rose, Personal Views: Public Art Research Project, 2003.



#### **Case Study** - Encounters Shop Andover



#### Photograph by Encounters Arts

The Encounters Arts project took place in an empty shop in Andover High Street for five weeks during May/ June 2014. The project brought together local people to encourage them to think about Andover past, present and future and express these thoughts in a variety of creative and informal ways. They were invited to join in leaving memories of the town, recipes for the future of the High Street and visions of how the town might be in five years time. The ideas, experiences and stories generated are helping to inform a programme of public art for the town centre, and to shape the town for the future.

#### Interactivity

The public art survey revealed that being able to interact with an artwork can help to increase people's enjoyment of the work and retain interest. Walking Man in Andover by Clare Norrington was used as an example, with people regularly dressing the statue to reflect major events that are going on locally or nationally, helping the artwork to remain relevant over time. The potential to incorporate interactive elements into an artwork will be assessed according to each project, and may not always be appropriate. In some cases this will be through a functional work such as seating, a gateway, signage or shelter, in others it might be introducing interactive features that relate to specific age groups, such as young people, or sensory elements like movement, tactile components or digital content such as sound or film which can be replaced at periods to update the content. Interaction can also be defined as being part of the processes of the commission, from designing through fabrication, installation and presentation through community participation and/or consultation.

"I know he is not there to be dressed but to see him included in local events always brings a smile to my face".

Talking about the sculpture 'Walking Man' by artist Clare Norrington in Andover, participant in Test Valley Borough Council Public Art Survey, 2012

## **Case Study - Walking Man Claire Norrington, Weyhill Road, Andover**



Walking Man, or Millenium Man as he has become known, was commissioned as part of the Millenium celebrations. A bronze statue, designed and made by artist Claire Norrington, he is placed on the site of Andover's floral clock and orientated so he functions as a sun dial. The people of Andover have taken the statue to their hearts, and on special occasions in the town or nationally, he is dressed up in appropriate clothing. These have included football strips for important games, a bikini, a snowman and Bradley Wiggins during the 2012 Olympics. He provides a great example of an artwork that interacts with the community, through their own interventions.

#### CONCLUSION

There are four key aims that form the core of the strategy. These will be delivered through specific strategic objectives outlined in the action plan and will provide a continuing benchmark for measuring quality and relevance during commissioning processes. The establishment of clear processes for commissioning will ensure transparency and work towards advocating good practice in public art projects across the Borough. We will aim through delivery of the strategy to develop an exciting and accessible programme of art projects that helps to enhance the lives of people living in the Borough, inspires reflection on the beauty of our environment and provides opportunities for involvement in creative activities that bring a smile to the faces of people in Test Valley.







#### **PUBLIC ART ACTION PLAN**

#### **Meeting Strategic Objectives**

The following Action Plan sets out a scheme for how the strategy will be implemented and evaluated. Developing clear guidelines, procedures and reporting processes to ensure on-going integrity in its delivery. The strategy will be monitored by a public art working group who will meet regularly to assess, review and update the strategy and the planned accompanying programme of projects.

#### 1. To understand the existing arts offer of the Borough through publishing an on-going cultural audit and assessment

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Develop cultural ward profiles	Develop form to distribute to Ward Members, Area Officers and Test Valley Creative professionals  Audit the cultural offer in each ward  Work with the Community Development Officer to upload a cultural profile for each Ward onto TV Website  Assess how resources can be used within the public art programme	To provide a database of facilities/ resources available in each ward for artists, community groups, creative professionals to draw on for arts related projects/work/events.	Arts Officer Community Development Officer Ward Members Area Officers Community Groups/ Arts professionals	Initial profiles online by Spring 2015.

#### 2. Ensure robust practice in commissioning artists, upholding a distinctive quality of art to provide opportunities for local, regional and national artists

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Establish a Working Group for Public Art	Develop a working group including internal and external experts to oversee the development of the public art programme and the implementation of the strategy.	To ensure the quality and integrity of each project is maintained in line with other TV services and departments.  To provide advice and guidance on different aspects of each project.  To provide a broad range of experience in commissioning work.  To ensure the strategy is kept up to date	Arts Officer External experts Planning Officer	Spring 2015
Develop clear guidelines for artists' briefs	Produce a standard template for artists' briefs which relate to the aims and objectives of the TVBC Public Art Strategy.	To ensure clarity in communication of the intention for each commission  To ensure proposals for commissions can be assessed against a clear set of criteria	Arts Officer Public Art Working Group Advice from arts bodies such as IXIA and ACE	On-going

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Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Develop a clear and open process for commissioning	Identify method for engagement of artists dependent on scale of each project.  Develop clear guidelines for procurement  Establish a commissioning panel to oversee each commission  Develop clear protocols for decision making and reporting/evaluation	To ensure engagement of the best artist for the project through targeted advertising of commission opportunity  To ensure a clear and transparent commissioning process  To ensure all interested parties are involved in the commissioning process	Arts Officer Head of Legal and Democratic Senior Legal Assistant Public Art Working Group Others as invited to commissioning panels	On-going
Provide opportunities for local/early career artists	Identify projects where there is potential for the commissioned artist to mentor local, early career artists/graduates	To provide opportunities for local or early career artists to be mentored to help progress their careers	Arts Officer Commissioned artist Creative networks Chapel Arts	On-going -identified as part of each project plan
Develop public art programme	To develop programme of projects in line with Section 106 funds that meets the objectives of the strategy and identifies areas where additional funding might be sought	To develop programme of projects To develop costings associated with that programme To identify areas where additional fundraising is required	Arts Officer Public Art Working Group	Ongoing

## 3. Ensure that public art artworks are accessible, both physically and conceptually, to the community in which they are placed and a wider audience

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Risk assessments carried out on each site for public art	Assessment of suitability of sites for public art commission  Define viewing points/access points  Identify potential security risks and safety hazards	To assess installation requirements  To ensure the physical accessibility of the work to the public  To assess security and maintenance requirements	Arts Officer Commissioned artist Planning Department Estates Department	On-going -identified as part of each project plan
Clear and accessible interpretation of artwork	Assess each artwork for the best method of interpretation.	To ensure that the artworks are accessible to a wide range of people	Arts Officer Project Manager Commissioned artist	On-going -identified as part of each project plan
Involve the community in the development of the artwork	Develop participatory activities as part of each project.	To ensure that communities contribute to the development of the artwork.  To ensure that communities develop understanding of the work and its relationship to the site	Arts Officer Project Manager Commissioned artist Area Officers and Community Leaders	On-going -identified as part of each project plan
Develop programme for public art in schools	Work with schools in the Borough to identify opportunities for young people to be involved in public art projects	To develop opportunities for young people to work with professional artists  To create opportunities for young people to shape their environment	Arts Officer Test Valley Schools Chapel Arts Studio/ Test Valley Arts Foundation	On-going - identified as part of the public art programme

### 4. Ensure efficient and thorough management procedures for public art projects

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Project management plans	To develop individual project management plans  Assign project manager as appropriate for each project	To ensure the efficient management and running of each projects	Arts Officer Public Art Working Group – to include planning officer	On-going -identified as part of each project plan
Contracting	Draw up a contract for each commission  Set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the commissioning process  Identify milestones for reporting, monitoring and evaluation.	Ensure the project is efficiently planned and clear deadlines are set for different stages of the process  To ensure clear reporting procedures for effective communication to be maintained throughout the project with individual responsibilities identified.	Arts Officer Legal Services Commissioning panel	Adapted to individual commissions On-going
Embed equal opportunities policy in public art projects.	Ensure that all projects comply with the Council's equal opportunities policy through commissioning process and in community engagement.	To ensure equality in appointing artists and involving people in community engagement	Arts Officer Policy Team	On going

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Develop individual project budgets	Develop comprehensive individual budgets for each project	To ensure the efficient and effective financial management of each project  To ensure all costs are taken into consideration including project management fee (where appropriate), marketing and interpretation and participatory work.  Ensure sufficient funds are identified for maintenance schedule of artwork	Arts Officer Project Steering Groups Commissioned Artist Project Manager Service Accountant	On-going - overall budget to be identified as part of Public Art Programme  Individual budgets to be developed as part of each project
Maintenance and Decommissioning	Establishing maintenance procedures  Establish an evaluation framework for assessing maintenance needs  Establishing decommissioning strategy and schedule	Ensure that each commissioned artist presents a maintenance schedule for artwork with clear guidelines on equipment/materials/procedures required for maintenance and costs identified.  Negotiate a realistic decommissioning schedule for each artwork depending on its cost, material composition and life expectancy.  Develop a decommissioning strategy for work where lifespan of artwork has not been identified by Artist.  To assess the on-going safety and condition of public art works.	Arts Officer Commissioned Artist Parks and Countryside Manager Estates	On-going as part of each project

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Evaluation	Develop clear procedures for evaluation of individual projects and on-going annual evaluation of the Public Art Strategy	To ensure potential problems can be identified early enough to enable action to be taken to mitigate for them  To ensure the Public Art Strategy stays relevant to the changing and evolving programme  To assess the impact and value of each commission, and the benefits it has brought.	Arts officer with commissioning panel  Arts officer Public Art Working Group	On-going as part of each project and annually for Public Art Strategy

### 5. Promote Test Valley Public Art to a wide audience to encourage visitors and engage with tourism aspirations

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Establish marketing programme for each public art project	Identify marketing opportunities through social media and other existing marketing resources  Identify costs to be included in project budget  Work with local and national press to ensure regular publicity of projects to encourage participation and interest  Work in partnership with Tourist Information throughout the Borough and Hampshire to establish public art in TV as a visitor destination where appropriate.  To be aware of other arts/cultural projects in the region and nationally that have potential for partnership to widen marketing reach	To raise awareness and profile of the project to as wide an audience as possible  To raise awareness of projects among new audiences through maximising the potential of marketing opportunities at partner organisations	Arts Officer TVBC Communications Dept Project Manager Test Valley Creative HCC Arts Council South West Mottisfont Artist Residencies	Identified as part of each project plan and the planning of the Public Art Programme
Develop temporary artworks/events	Ensure the public art programme includes temporary art installations/events.	To give opportunities to explore ideas for artworks that might not be suitable for permanent works but encourage community cohesion  To create memorable events for people that promote enjoyment of their surroundings and community.	Arts Officer Public Art Working Group	On-going - identified as part of the Public Art Programme

# 6. Encourage and inspire communities to engage with their surroundings through connecting with its history, geography and visual landscape

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Identify appropriate community groups for participation activities	To work closely with Area Officers, Community Development Officers and Community Leaders to identify community groups to work with for each project.	To ensure the inclusion of a wide a range of people in each project  To encourage engagement and understanding of public art  To inspire engagement in the arts	Arts Officer Community Officer Ward Area Officers	On-going -identified as part of each project plan
Develop research profiles	Develop initial outline research profiles for each site  To ensure the commissioned artist/s develop a detailed research profile for each site that informs the final artwork.	To inspire communities to learn and engage with the place in which they live  To ensure that the artwork produced is site specific and relates to the environment/place in which it is to be placed.	Arts Officer Commissioned artist Community Leaders History societies/ museums	On-going - identified as part of each project plan

7. To be considerate of the environment in the Borough, promoting well designed and professionally crafted public art that is sensitive to the site and the use of materials that are relevant to the local environment

Action	Detail	Aim	Partners	Date
Produce guidelines for sustainable practice in public art development	Develop guidelines for procurement and practice in public art commissions that encourage sustainable practice.	To reduce environmental impacts of projects  To promote use of local suppliers and materials where possible	Arts Officer TVBC sustainability Commissioned Artist	Summer 2014
Assess the environmental impact of each artwork	Where appropriate, conduct an assessment of each site to establish the impact on the environment of the proposed artwork	To ensure consideration is given to the impact the artwork might have on the immediate environment	Arts Officer Commissioned Artist Appropriate TVBC officers	On-going -identified as part of project plan for each project



