

Report of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

Cabinet – 21 October 2014

**BOULEVARD AND WATERFRONT CONNECTIONS
PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

Purpose:	To present the proposals for public art projects.
Policy Framework:	City Centre Strategic Framework
Reason for Decision:	To provide awareness of the public art proposals prior to formal planning applications being submitted.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Cabinet note the public art proposals for the Boulevard and Waterfront Connections areas as outlined in this report 2) Cabinet authorises the Director of Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development & Regeneration to finalise the public art feature in the Museum Green area. 3) Cabinet authorises the Director of Place in conjunction with the Chief Operating Officer and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Procurement to negotiate and finalise the terms of any legal document including Variation of Leases necessary to progress the Projects
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Access to Services Officer:	Kirsty Roderick

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A Public Art Framework was developed to identify potential locations for public art along the Boulevard corridor and was reported to Cabinet 09/08/2012. The Framework was refined through the appointment of public

art consultants Addo and was the subject of public and stakeholder discussions.

1.2 The Public Art Framework formed the basis of a successful bid to the Arts Council for Wales. This secured an Arts Council grant of £150k which was matched by £50k s106 funding from the Meridian Quay development and £100k from the Waterfront ERDF programme, giving an overall fund of £300k for public art features.

1.3 To oversee the development of the proposals, an advisory Steering Group was set up (see Cabinet report on the public art delivery 09/08/2012). The members of the Steering Group are as follows:

- § Councillor Phillips
- § Councillor Crouch
- § Arts Council for Wales representatives
- § Mission Gallery Director
- § Community representative

1.4 With the involvement of the Steering Group and public art consultants Addo, specific public art commissions were defined within public art zones as follows:

Wind Street Crossing zone – commission for residency project and lighting feature in the crossing/ Museum Green area

Princessway Crossing zone – commission for public art on the LC (as always intended) and separate commission or screen/ gates between the LC service yard and Museum Park

Waterfront Connections zone – linked commission for public art in both the marina area and the Paxton Street tunnel

1.5 The public art commissions were widely advertised and a number of strong tenders were received. The tenders were assessed and interviews carried out by Officers with the Arts Council for Wales observing. The Steering Group supported all the recommended appointments and the artists were engaged in January 2014. Their designs have now been finalised, they were presented to Regeneration Programme Board on 8th September and the proposals are outlined on the following pages.

2.0 Public art proposals

LC Climbing Wall - Assemble

2.1 London based artistic collective Assemble were appointed to undertake this commission on the basis of their track record of delivering innovative artworks in the public realm and the participatory and people-centred nature of their approach.

- 2.2 The past refurbishment of the LC created an area for public art on the north elevation facing Princessway. This public art area is apparent in the rendered panels between the buttresses as opposed to the timber cladding on the rest of the building. The artistic concept is now to add a large-scale three-dimensional graphic of a mountain (see appendix 1) to create a striking feature in the city that communicates the function of the LC. This mountain graphic is split into seven vertical panels by the existing buttresses and these vertical panels are proposed to be equipped with climbing equipment to make this public art feature interactive. The artists have liaised with experienced climbing organisations such as Dynamic Rock in Clydach. The graphic is designed to be aesthetically pleasing when not being climbed. Features to deter out of hours climbing will be incorporated and the detail of these will need to be agreed with the LC Management.
- 2.3 The artists have met with the LC Management and Board on a number of occasions. The LC is supportive of the proposals as it would expand the activities on offer and increase the profile of the building. It is proposed that the management and operation of the climbing wall will be the responsibility of the LC and a legal agreement will need to be drawn up to underpin this. Discussions about the details of the project and the legal agreement is ongoing with the LC management.

Museum Green Screen/ Gates - Freshwest

- 2.4 Tenby based artists Freshwest were selected for this project due to their strong track record in product design which crosses over into the design of street furniture.
- 2.5 The position and size of the 2m high screen/ gates that divide the service area of the LC from Museum Green is determined by practical requirements. The artists are proposing aluminium sand cast gates with a repeating design (see appendix 2) that incorporates elements from a beach casting community day. The gates would be kept locked most of the time and would be manually opened to allow vehicle access to Museum Park.

Waterfront Connections - William Dennisuk

- 2.6 Finnish based artist William Dennisuk was selected for this commission on the basis of his calm and thoughtful past works which was considered necessary due to the close proximity to people's homes.
- 2.7 The proposal for the Paxton Street Tunnel which is a grade II listed structure of national historic importance is a lighting feature attached to the underside of the tunnel ceiling. This will provide basic safety lighting whilst casting light ripples onto the floor. The feature lighting will be computer controlled and the ripples will lead towards the marina and could be supplemented by a low key sound installation. The lighting unit would use standard internal fittings with a shell that is finished in corten steel.

- 2.8 The artist has selected the northwest corner of the marina as the location for a water sculpture taking inspiration from ripples. This is an un-used corner of the marina and the location has been agreed in principle with the Marina Management Team. The proposed circular sculpture would be in the region of 5.5m high (from water level) and some 2.5m higher than the surface of the dockside walkway. It would be constructed from a series of marine grade stainless steel rings to create a circular vase like form that is see through. The design has to strike a balance between making an impact in the public realm and the relationship to the apartments nearby.

Museum Green

- 2.9 London base artists Abberant were appointed on the basis of their strong track record of public engagement and contemporary legacy features. The artist David Chambers is originally from Clydach and has made connections with his former Primary School (Ynys Tawe) as part of this project. This commission has two elements; residency and legacy feature.
- 2.10 The residency element had been ongoing for the past 6 months hosted by the Mission Gallery on Gloucester Place. The artist has been working with local individuals and organisations to design 'Swansea Coins'. These take inspiration from the copper coins used locally in the 1800s.
- 2.11 The legacy proposal was a 3.7m high sculpture in Museum Green which made reference to the international nature of the copper industry. It was also proposed that the sculpture could be opened up to allow small-scale cultural events to take place. However this feature was not supported by Regeneration Programme Board and the artist has been asked to redesign a new feature this in the Museum Green area. Given the limited time available, it is recommended that Cabinet authorises the Director of Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development & Regeneration to finalise the public art feature in this area.

3.0 General Issues

- 3.1 The proposals as outlined above have been developed by the artists with the full involvement of the Steering Group via a programme of meetings. The artists have contacted many council departments such as Highway Engineers, Street lighting, Landscape Design, Marina Management. The Climbing wall proposals have been developed in discussion with the LC management and the LC Trust. The water sculpture in the marina has been discussed with the Meridian Quay representative as this is part funded from the S106 contribution by this development. All proposals have been discussed with the Police via their Secure by Design specialist.
- 3.2 All the public art features will require planning consent. Works associated with the Boulevard are covered by a blanket Cabinet minute with regard to the planning submissions. Briefings have been held with the Development Control Officer from the City and Bay Team so they are aware of the proposals and the timescales involved.

Maintenance

- 3.3 The artist contracts state that the features should be designed to last 20/25 years, whilst the WEFO guidelines stipulates a minimum life span of 5 years. The artists have all confirmed that they are designing to the 20/25 year period. The features are designed to be robust in the public realm. They are all designed to discourage inappropriate use, but this cannot be completely designed out.
- 3.4 With the exception of the Museum Park Screen/gates all the art features include an element of feature lighting. The artists have been in discussion with the Councils Street Lighting Team about the lighting specifications and the ongoing energy costs will be confirmed for the Corporate Briefing meeting on 23rd September.

Management

Climbing Wall

- 3.5 Interactivity is key to this public art project. It has been designed to be aesthetically pleasing when not 'in use', but the whole point is that the mountain graphic is climbable to communicate the leisure function of the LC. Clearly this will require a high degree of management and it is intended that complete responsibility will be passed to the LC for the management of this feature by varying the existing lease for the main building, this will include:
- § Ensuring that the climbing wall is unclimbable when not in use.
 - § Inspecting the climbing wall and equipment at the required intervals to accord with the safety and insurance requirements
 - § Programming times that the climbing wall can be used and ensuring that appropriately trained staff are present.
 - § Setting up the climbing wall and associated barriers
 - § Programming deliveries and servicing around the use of the climbing wall
 - § Ensuring no conflict with the fire strategy
 - § Ensuring that the necessary certifications and insurances are in place
 - § Providing times of concessionary charges for use by residents in Target Wards
 - § Undertaking future maintenance as required

Waterfront Connections

- 3.6 The two features (marina sculpture and tunnel lighting) do not require any management. They are not intended to be interactive. The only requirement will be occasional inspection (as per all public art) to check if any reactive maintenance is required.

Museum Park Screen

- 3.7 Again the screen/ gate is not intended to be interactive. It will be kept locked in the closed position and can be manually swung inwards towards the LC to provide vehicle access to Museum Park for events. It will not affect servicing of the LC. The only requirement will be occasional inspection (as per all public art) to check if any reactive maintenance is required.

Museum Green

- 3.8 The instruction from Regeneration Programme Board is that the revised Museum Green feature should not require additional management.

Programme

- 3.9 As the project is part funded by WEFO, this imposes a target of the end of March 2015 for the completion of fabrication and installation. The public art projects were conceived a completion target of around January 2015, but the contingency has been eroded significantly due to resourcing issues. Therefore there is a risk that some (or all) of the public art projects may not be completed by the end of March 2015.

- 3.10 At present the programme is as follows:

23 rd September	Report to Corporate Briefing
21 st October	Report to Cabinet (deadline 6 th October)
End October – End December (8 weeks)	Planning application process
November	Public engagement alongside formal planning process ('meet the artists event')
End December	Receive planning consents
Jan 2015 – March 2015 (3 months)	Fabrication and installation on site
April 2015 onward	Contingency and defects

4.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Form has been completed for this project. This indicates that a full EIA report will not be necessary at this stage, but each individual aspect will require a separate screening to ensure access, Welsh language and any other equalities considerations are taken into account.
- 4.2 The detailed consideration of access for all to the public art features will be explained and justified in the Design and Access Statement as part of the formal planning application.

5.0 Financial Implications

Capital

- 5.1 Funding of £110k is allocated to the public art projects through the Waterfront City Programme. Match funding has been identified from a confirmed Section 106 agreement at Meridian Quay (£50k), and grants which have been secured for expenditure in 2014/15 from the Arts Council for Wales (£100k for Boulevard and £50k for Waterfront Connections). This adds up to a total public art investment of £300k. The S106 funding is the only source of funding that could meet the costs of initiating a £30k Public Art Maintenance Fund which leads to a £280k capital budget that is divided amongst the projects as detailed below. At present all projects are in the design stage and they will only progress to the implementation stage if the necessary consents are secured.

	Artist design fee	Implementation budget
LC Climbing Wall	£5k	£60k
Museum Park Screen/ gate	£5k	£35k
Waterfront Connections	£10k	£90k (for tunnel lighting and water sculpture)
Museum Green feature	Artists residency and design fee £15k	£60k

- 5.2 The Waterfront City Centre project is mainly funded by WEFO Convergence grant. In order to claim this grant spend must be claimed by 30 June 2015 or will be lost.

Revenue

- 5.3 In the past, maintenance costs arising from investment in public art has not been properly resourced. Therefore a Public Art Maintenance Fund has been established for the Boulevard and waterfront Connections projects outlined above. This is an allocation of £30k that will be held within an ongoing cost centre, under the control of the Head of Economic Regeneration and Planning.
- 5.4 No additional revenue resources have been allocated to meet future maintenance costs.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The terms of the funding/ grants as set out in paragraph 1.2 are likely to be legally binding and the Director of Place should ensure that the Council is able to comply with the requirements.
- 6.2 It is probable that various legal agreements including Deeds of Variation and access agreements and Licences may be required to progress the

Projects with Bay Leisure and other land owners and advice should be sought from the Chief Operating Officer and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Procurement. Consideration should be given to entering into legally binding agreements with the various artists and again advice should be sought.

Background Papers:

City Centre Strategic Framework

Boulevard and Waterfront Connections Public Art Framework

Appendices:

1. LC climbing wall
2. Museum Park screen/ gates
3. Paxton Street tunnel lighting feature
4. Marina water sculpture

Appendix 1: LC climbing wall

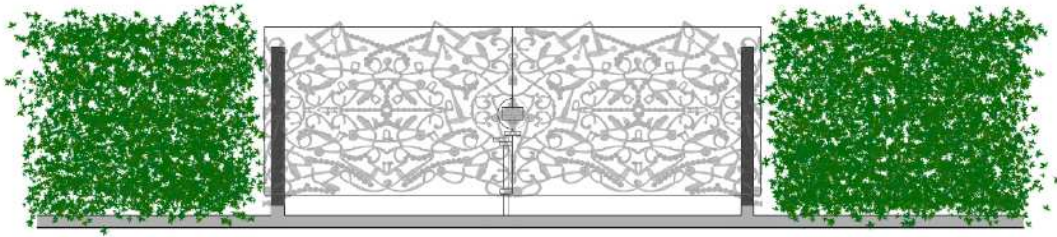


Proposal for three dimensional mountain graphic



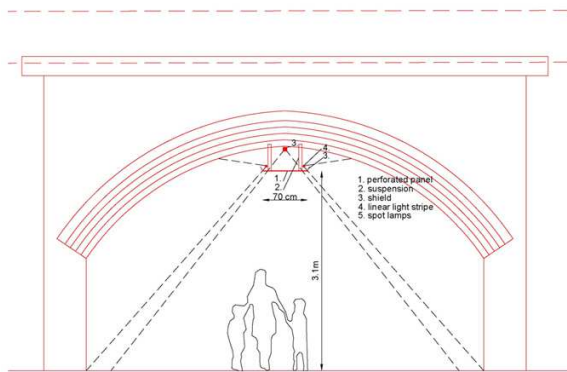
Image showing how the climbing wall could appear when in use

Appendix 2: Museum Park screen/ gates



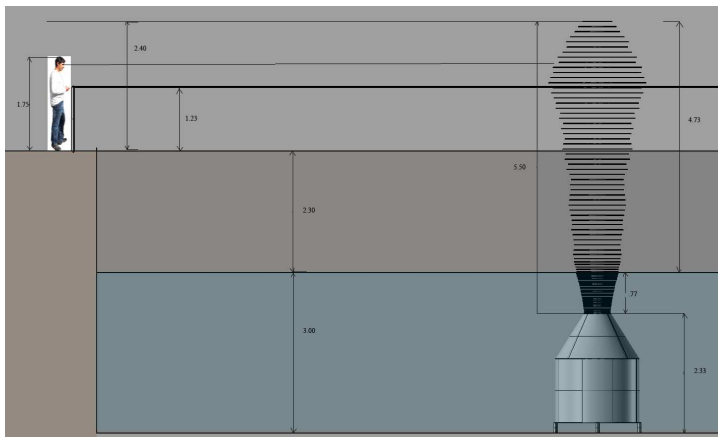
Museum Green Screen/ gate design

Appendix 3: Paxton Street tunnel lighting feature



Paxton Tunnel lighting feature

Appendix 4: Marina water sculpture



Section drawing showing dockside walkway and proposed water sculpture with underwater base.



Image of water sculpture