

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE  
19 JUNE 2012**

**PRINCESSHAY – ARTWORK TO COMMEMORATE VISIT  
BY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is to inform Members of the proposals for an artwork in Princesshay to commemorate the visit to Exeter by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 2 May 2012, and to report the authorisation of expenditure for this artwork under Financial Regulation 21.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Land Securities invited the City Council to work with them to develop proposals for a new artwork in Princesshay to commemorate the Queen's visit.
- 2.2 Due to the short timescale following the announcement of the royal visit it was not possible to follow a conventional procurement and consultation process. A cross party working group of Members (Cllr Rachel Sutton, Cllr Yolanda Henson and Cllr Kevin Mitchell) have therefore been working with Land Securities to develop the design of the artwork during March and April 2012.
- 2.3 International artists Studio Roso presented their portfolio of work to the Working Group. The Working Group supported Studio Roso's approach and ethos and invited them to develop a site specific artwork to be located in Princesshay.
- 2.4 After an initial briefing meeting the working group agreed a location for the artwork on the curved red sandstone wall at the entrance to Princesshay from Southernhay, and supported Studio Roso's proposed design. The art proposal, titled 'Evergreen' is illustrated at Appendix 1. The design for the artwork references the recently felled Beech tree; taking the form of a raised relief of sculptural stainless steel leaves which will cast shadows and reflect sunlight onto the south-facing curved stone wall.
- 2.5 Landscape proposals for the space in front of the wall will be developed in due course, including new tree planting.

**3.0 PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 A display illustrating the design with a full size section of the final artwork was presented to the Queen during her visit on 2 May 2012.
- 3.2 The artwork will require planning consent. It is intended that a planning application would be submitted shortly, and should consent be granted that the final artwork is installed by Autumn 2012.

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The budget for the artwork is £80,000 split equally between Land Securities and the City Council. It is proposed that Exeter City Council's contribution of £40K is

taken from our New Homes Bonus allocation.

- 4.2 Due to the tight timescale for developing the design of the artwork in order to present the design to Her Majesty on 2 May 2012 the budget for the City Council's contribution needed to be approved at short notice. The £40K expenditure was therefore approved under Financial Regulation 21 by Richard Short, Assistant Director City Development, in consultation with:
- Cllr Rachel Sutton, Portfolio Holder Sustainable Development and Transport,
  - Cllr Margaret Baldwin, Chair of Scrutiny Committee – Resources; and
  - Phillip Bostock, Chief Executive;
- 4.3 At present no budget has been identified for the associated landscaping works although the Council has received an offer from a private individual to pay for a replacement tree in this location.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 That Executive note that:

- the proposed public artwork to commemorate the visit to Exeter by Queen Elizabeth II on 2 May 2012 is commissioned on a joint basis by Land Securities and Exeter City Council,
- the design of the artwork has been determined by a cross party working group,
- that the artwork is funded through New Homes Bonus as set out in 4.1 and 4.2, and
- that the funding for the artwork has been approved in accordance with Financial Regulation 21.

**KARIME HASSAN  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR**

**ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Image of Artwork Design, Studio Roso