



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

TOPIC – KITE FLYER SCULPTURE, PARCHMENT STREET

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officer:

Marilyn Michalowicz, Arts Development Officer, Tel 01962 848 175, Email: mmichalowicz@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator:

Ellie Hogston, Tel: 01962 848 155, Email: ehogston@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

- The Kite Flyer Sculptural Arch in Parchment Street has been commissioned by the Council in order to help the economic sustainability of the northern sector of Parchment Street, where retailers are concerned by a decline in trade.
- The purpose of the commission is to create a unique landmark which assists visitors and shoppers to locate the street and encourages footfall in the street.
- Planning consent was granted for the project on 20 August 2008.
- The total cost of this commission is estimated at £27,250.

- Financial support has been obtained from the Winchester Business Improvement District company in the form of a £5,000 cash contribution towards the above sum. This will be paid to the City Council.
- £7,500 was allocated from the LABGI funds set aside for Winchester Year of Sculpture to cover the artist selection process, preliminary design fees, public consultation and other up front costs in 2007/08.
- The balance of £14,750 is now required to complete the fabrication and installation. The sum of £15,000 is already allocated for the purpose in the capital programme, as previously approved by Cabinet (CAB1607, February 2008).

Corporate Strategy Reference:

Economic Prosperity: ensuring that Winchester District economy meets the challenges of the 21st century by ... supporting vibrant city, town and village centres.

DECISION

To approve the release under Finance Procedure Rule 6.4 of £15,000 from pre-allocated capital funds, to finance the fabrication and installation of The Kite Flyer Sculptural Arch in Parchment Street.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

This project is designed to support Winchester's urban economy by raising the profile of Parchment Street's speciality retailers, in line with targets in the cultural services business plans for both 2006/07 and 2007/08 which were approved by Members.

It will not be possible without the allocated capital contribution. Partnership funding from Winchester's business community has been secured. Other sources of external funding have been explored but are not available for this project.

Key risks for the project at this stage are:

- a) Lack of finance to complete the commission: potential damage to the City Council's reputation in supporting the city's retail trade and as a centre for creativity;
- b) Poor quality of finished sculpture: this is a low risk, as a result of the sound selection process employed; the involvement of public and professional colleagues in refining the proposals, and the detailed artist brief;

- c) Public/media debate over finished sculpture: most public art promotes debate, and so there is potential for reputational damage to the Council in the event of widespread criticism of the arch. However, the risk is very low as a result of the public and business engagement process during the selection, and the clear 'fit' of the chosen design with other pieces of public art in the city.
- d) Failure to secure the artist to complete the project: the professional artist selected has other work engagements and may choose to prioritise these if there is any delay in decision-making processes. A costly phase of the project is imminent (ie the casting of the figure in bronze), and can only proceed if the full fee is available. Any delay at this stage would reflect badly on the Council's project management abilities and potentially waste the £7,500 already invested in the first stages of the project.
- e) No installation or legal difficulties are foreseen at this time; however Hampshire County Council Highways Division, which has been kept fully informed throughout the project, has yet to formalise its approval of the scheme. Officers are making every effort to obtain the necessary consents from County colleagues, and will ensure these are in place before the final works are contracted.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
NOTICE**

n/a

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR
OFFICER CONSULTED**

n/a

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A one-off £15,000 spend from previously allocated and approved capital funds.

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

2.01.09

Councillor Frederick Allgood - Portfolio Holder for Finance & Efficiency