

TITLE	Carnival Hub Public Realm Art Installation
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday, 29 September 2022
WARD	Wescott;
LEAD OFFICER	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers
LEAD MEMBER	Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Business and Economic Development- Clive Jones

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

The Executive is asked to approve the Council entering into a loan of sculptural artwork 'the Arc', from Arts4Wokingham, to be located in the external public realm at the Carnival Hub, Wokingham.

Executive approval to the loan is required under Part 12.1.13.7 of the Council's Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive:

- 1) Approves the Council taking a loan of the public artwork, known as 'the Arc', on the terms detailed within this report.
- 2) Notes the termination and reinstatement provisions within the terms detailed in this report.
- 3) Notes the financial implications for the Council of the agreement, and that the costs for insurance and maintenance will be included in the Carnival Hub estates management budget;
- 4) Delegates authority to the Director of Assets and Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Business and Economic Development, to implement the agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has been partnering with Arts4Wokingham, a local charity, in their vision to deliver a piece of public artwork at the Carnival Hub in Wokingham. The delivery of this piece of public artwork also supports some of the Council's strategic aims in its arts & culture strategy. Arts4Wokingham have commissioned an artwork installation called The Arc and have responsibility for the funding, commissioning and installation of this artwork.

The Carnival Hub and the external public realm areas around it are in the freehold ownership of the Council. To include this artwork within the Carnival Hub public realm a

formal agreement between the Council (as landlord) and the Arts4Wokingham (as commissioner and owner of the artwork) is required.

Terms have been provisionally agreed for a loan of 'The Arc' to Wokingham Borough Council and through this report the Executive is asked to approve the loan of the public artwork from Arts4Wokingham to the Council on these terms.

The Loan and the installation of the 'Arc' at Carnival Hub will be at no cost to the Council. The Council will be responsible for the annual costs of insurance and cleaning and maintenance.

Agreement to the principles and proposed Heads of Terms of the loan will demonstrate the Council's commitment to the provision of this public artwork.

BACKGROUND

In 2020 Wokingham Borough Council consulted with the local community on an Arts & Culture Strategy to create an ambitious vision for the area -

By 2030 Wokingham Borough will be recognised regionally and nationally as a dynamic cultural hub, a Borough of surprises that delight across all our towns and villages, a Borough where everyone can access or get involved in creating high quality cultural experiences and where creativity is nurtured across all age-groups.

There are strong evidenced links between Arts & Culture and increased economic, social, and intrinsic outcomes. The Arts & Culture agenda is very important to the council going forward and public art is a component of this. Arts and Culture outcomes are rooted in our corporate priorities as a council. Arts & Culture helps to promote community engagement, cohesion & resilience, health & wellbeing, educational outcomes, equality, diversity, & inclusion and placemaking, economic development & growth.

As part of our Arts & Culture strategy by 2030 we have a vision for the borough to: enhance quality of life, strengthen communities, and grow the boroughs reputation as a great place to live, to visit and to work in. Public art contributes to this vision and is a great example of enhancing our cultural identity and sense of 'place'. It helps to create interest and excitement across the borough and put Wokingham 'on the map'. This enhances the boroughs cultural offer and increases cultural engagement which in turn can drive future growth, investment, and economic success.

As part of this ambitious vision the Borough Council has brought together an Arts & Culture Alliance made up of key representatives from the Council, artistic and cultural groups and the community.

Arts4Wokingham

Arts4Wokingham (A4W) is a member of Wokingham's Arts and Culture Alliance. As a newly formed charity, its aim is to champion and promote artistic and cultural endeavours to ensure the Borough meets the changing needs of the 21st Century and becomes known as the place to live and enjoy life. In partnership with Wokingham Borough Council. A4W encourages public art, including commission and funding where appropriate, as part of its responsibilities.

The Carnival Hub

The Carnival Hub forms part of the Council's Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration project and provides opportunities for fitness and leisure, a new library and cultural and community uses, utilising a multi-use performance hall and studio spaces.

The Carnival Hub is located in the centre of Wokingham town and is a highly prominent development with significant external public realm areas.

Public Art Vision for the Carnival Hub

Arts4Wokingham's vision is to commission and create a major, permanent, free-standing artwork for Wokingham, located outside at the main entrance of The Carnival

Hub, that will foster a sense of wellbeing whilst enhancing economic prosperity and drawing in visitors from further afield.

Commissioning

Arts4Wokingham have undertaken a competitive process to commission the design of the artwork for the Carnival Hub. In February 2022 Nicola Anthony was announced as the winning designer, with her design proposal of The Arc.

BUSINESS CASE

Proposed agreement

The Carnival Hub and the external public realm areas around it are in the freehold ownership of the Council. To include this artwork within the Carnival Hub public realm a formal agreement between the Council (as landlord) and the Arts4Wokingham (as commissioner and owner of the artwork) is required.

Proposed Heads of Terms

Draft Heads of Terms have agreed for the loan of the Arc from Arts4Wokingham to Wokingham Borough Council in order that it can be included as part of the Carnival Hub public realm. A copy of the full Heads of Terms is included in appendix 1 of this report, the main terms of the loan are summarised below.

- a) **Lender:** Arts4Wokingham
- b) **Borrower:** Wokingham Borough Council
- c) **Property:** 'The Arc' Sculptural Artwork.
- d) **Setting:** Carnival Hub Public Realm, Wellington Road, Wokingham
- e) **Term:** 150 years
- f) **Loan Fee:** £nil
- g) **Planning Consent:** Arts4Wokingham will secure all necessary planning consents to permit installation of the Arc.
- h) **Installation:** The Lender/Artist will be responsible for the installation of the Arc at the Setting.
- i) **Early Determination:** both parties may determine the loan on service of 18 months' notice.
In the event the loan is determined by the Lender, the Lender will be responsible for the removal of The Arc and the full reinstatement of the Setting/Location in line with the Carnival Hub Masterplan.
- j) **Insurance:** The Borrower will insure the property at a value equivalent to its cost of construction.
- k) **Maintenance:** The Borrower will be responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the Arc.

Budget

Arts4Wokingham will fund the design, construction and installation of Arc by public subscription, sponsorship and grants.

The Council will be responsible for the cost of insurance and cleaning & maintenance, which is estimated at circa £1000 per annum. A growth bid has been submitted for the financial year 2023/24 and onwards for the estates management of the public realm of the Carnival Hub, and the costs for insurance and maintenance would be included within this budget.

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to approve the loan of the public artwork from Arts4Wokingham to the Council on the terms set out in this report.

Agreement to the principles and proposed Heads of Terms of the loan will demonstrate the Council's commitment to the provision of this public artwork

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Nil	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£1000	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£1000	Yes	Revenue

Other Financial Information

Arts4Wokingham will fund the design, construction and installation of Arc by public subscription, sponsorship and grants.

A growth bid has been submitted for the financial year 2023/24 and onwards for the estates management of the public realm of the Carnival Hub, and the costs for insurance and maintenance would be included within this budget.

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

Consultation was undertaken by Arts 4 Wokingham as part of the commissioning process for the Arc and will be ongoing through the design process.

Public Sector Equality Duty

A Stage 1 EqIA has been completed on this decision and there will be no impact or no disproportionate impact on protected groups.

Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030

The decision will have a limited impact on the Council's carbon neutral objective.

List of Background Papers
None

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