



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	26 th June 2024
SUBJECT:	Street Art Policy
PURPOSE:	To consider adopting the Street Art Policy to establish street art in Boston to provide safe and welcoming public spaces for our communities.
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Sarah Sharpe, Culture Portfolio Holder
REPORT OF:	Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure & Culture
REPORT AUTHOR:	Rachel Rowett, Interim Cultural Services Manager
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report sets out the proposals for the adoption of a new Street Art Policy to enable the development of street art in the borough and in support of the *Boston Town Centre Strategy & Action Plan 2023 – 2027*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

1. Provide feedback and approve the Policy.
2. Delegate to the Assistant Director Leisure & Culture, in consultation with the Culture Portfolio Holder to make any minor amendments to the Policy
3. Note the outcome of the Piloting phase which took place in South Holland
4. Review the policy after one year (April 2025)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This policy enables a safe space for local artists to create and develop street art while empowering the Council to remove art that does not meet the required standards. The policy is based on best practice policies in operation across the country and internationally.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing, no space is provided for this type of art.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A Street Art Policy was developed by South Holland District Council after they received a local petition requesting a street art wall from local residents and artists in 2021.
- 1.2 In response to this a Task Group was formed from the Policy Development Panel (PDP) to develop the governance framework to support the opportunity for street art in South Holland.
- 1.3 A policy was drafted following detailed work by the Task Group, this was then tested with a Pilot project in 2023
- 1.4 It is now the intention to work towards adoption of the Policy across the South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership (S&ELCP) sub-region.
- 1.5 The Street Art Policy was presented to Environment & Performance Committee on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The proposed policy is set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 It is the aim of the policy to deliver best practice in managing graffiti across the borough while providing space for street art.
- 2.3 For the purposes of this policy street art is defined as:
 - *“Any work of art on building facades or infrastructure **with** permission that complements the public space in which it is situated. Such work will not detract, defame or depreciate the area. It could be a painting, land art, sculpture etc.”*
- 2.4 For the purposes of this report graffiti is defined as:
 - *“Defacement of building facades or infrastructure **without** permission by use of paint or another form of marker. This is always a form of criminal damage.”*
- 2.5 In South Holland the Street Art Policy has been in place for one year and has been well tested. During the Pilot phase one artist chose to go against the approved artwork for one of the two pieces of art and create a different piece about the cost of living crisis. This was a clear breach in the terms of the policy and as a consequence of the policy guidelines this piece of artwork was defined as graffiti and removed.
- 2.6 The policy was also utilised for a community youth based street art project in St Paul’s Ward in Spalding where an artist worked with the community to create street art around the skate park. In this case the policy was followed, with designs approved and implemented successfully. Photographs of the final artwork are included in Appendix B.

3 PILOTING OF THE POLICY

- 3.1.1** The proposed policy would be piloted in Boston through a project working with partners, including schools and colleges to test the following steps in the policy:
- **Step 1** – Application for Street Art proposal to Boston Borough Council
 - **Step 2** – Consultation with local community, ward members and the Parish Council or BTAC
 - **Step 3** – Approval or rejection
 - **Step 4** – Street Art work to be carried out with approval
- 3.1.2** A number of potential sites have been identified through the Public Realm Group, however for an initial project Central Park has been chosen as the pilot opportunity to test the policy in support of the ongoing work to achieve Green Flag status.
- 3.1.3** The pilot process for the policy will be planned as follows:
- **Step 1** – Seek funding and establish partners (eg Transported Arts)
 - **Step 2** - Create artist commission and share widely
 - **Step 3** – Pilot location and art ideas presented to relevant Portfolio Holders and Ward Councillors for approval.
 - **Step 4** – Successful artist commissioned and artwork produced
 - **Step 5** – Results of Pilot presented to Cabinet
- 3.1.4** Appendix B contains images of the street art created during the pilot and subsequently in South Holland.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The proposed policy has been developed and tested in South Holland resulting in examples of where it has enabled the successful delivery of street art in the community. It has also enabled the council to remove street art where it did not meet the guidelines laid out in the policy.
- 4.2** The policy also enables the potential for using street art to engage with young people and provide the opportunity to work with artists to develop their creativity in dedicated spaces rather than going down the route of illegal graffiti.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

There is opportunity for this policy to be adopted across the S&ELCP sub-region to enable consistency in the management of street art and graffiti and the development of street art opportunities working across the Partnership.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Street Art & Graffiti Policy supports the S&ELCP Sub-regional Strategy, in particular Boston Borough Council's local priorities to:

- Support improvements to Boston Town Centre, Markets and Events – the Town Centre Strategy, including the PE21 project.
- Promote our Arts, Culture and Heritage offer and associated projects

STAFFING

There are no staffing implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

The policy will be co-ordinated by the Leisure & Culture division of the Communities Directorate for the S&ELCP in liaison with the other key divisions within the Directorate.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Boston Borough Council has various statutory powers under which it can enforce against illegal graffiti – including as landowner and under its enforcement powers. As a landowner the Council can choose to permit street art.

The proposed policy does not form part of the Policy Framework of the Council and is therefore an executive function to be determined by the Leader or Cabinet.

DATA PROTECTION

The Partnership shares information and data and suitable data protection arrangements for the Partnerships have been established.

FINANCIAL

The proposals can be contained within existing budgets with the exception of the Pilot Project for which external funding will be sought, for example through the NPO programme.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Consultation will take place as part of the Pilot Project.

REPUTATION

The management and governance of street art is key to the successful introduction of street art in Boston. The policy has been developed with this in mind. The policy also includes clarity in relation to Graffiti management.

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

The proposals contained within this report will improve the overall street scene and environment for our local places on behalf of our local communities. It is recognised that the policy will support the reduction of crime and disorder.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

(Use this section to highlight any links to the 12 missions contained in the Levelling Up White Paper set out below. Delete any which are not applicable. If none, insert the word 'none'.)

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the following Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

ACRONYMS

NPO – National Portfolio Organisation

S&ELCP – South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

<i>APPENDIX A</i>	Street Art Policy
<i>APPENDIX B</i>	Examples of Street Art in South Holland

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Rachel Rowett, Interim Cultural Services Manager
Signed off by:	Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure & Culture
Approved for publication:	