

WAYFINDING SIGNS (PHASE 2) PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATION - PLINTHS

1.0 Introduction

Barnstaple is a town with a rich and varied history located on the shores of the River Taw, in North Devon, and home to a vibrant community. In 2023, Barnstaple secured funding from the Cultural Development Fund to create a Wayfinding and Public Art strategy for the town centre. This fund has helped commission a review of the existing wayfinding network and analysis of current navigational devices and suggestions on how to enhance the wayfinding offer.

Urban Foresight, the way finding specialists who were contracted for the consultation, have delivered their findings and we are now in a position to implement their ideas.

New signage is key to development of the new market quarters and cultural developments that are currently happening within the town.

2.0 Requirements

North Devon Council (NDC) requires the production of signage as part of the on-going development of wayfinding throughout Barnstaple. We are looking for a company to fulfil this brief.

The details are as follow:

PLINTHS

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Sign type: Major information node

Purpose: Provides users with key mapped out information of the greater wayfinding network and town centre.

Plinths include more information than fingerposts, including a range of locations and a map. Their use is not only to direct people to the points of interest, but to also allow them to plan their whole journey and see the wider context. They also can act as a designated meeting point for people.

They are divided into four zones:

1. current location or greeting (e.g. Barnstaple - High Street);
2. cultural points of interest;
3. transport directions (e.g. railway station or car parks); and
4. a map.

This is consistent throughout the plinths to aid with navigation.

They also provide an opportunity for art, decorative or creative elements (e.g. on the sides of the signs).

Plinths are 2200mm tall, with the map being 500mm tall to allow a diverse range of people to read it.

They take up more space than fingerposts, therefore all locations have been considered for placement and clearance space to aid physical accessibility and the recommended locations have been checked to make sure the signs do not introduce accessibility issues.

Sign: P5-005

The diagram illustrates four different plinth sign types. From left to right: 1. A large plinth (600mm wide) with a map at the bottom and a list of locations above. 2. A narrow vertical plinth (100mm wide) with a decorative pattern and the text '//stands grace during'. 3. A medium plinth (600mm wide) with a map at the bottom and a list of locations above. 4. A narrow vertical plinth (100mm wide) with the text 'Welcome to Barnstaple'. A scale on the right indicates heights from 0mm to 2500mm. A silhouette of a person is shown for scale reference.

Comprising:

- 29 Plinths

3.0 Materials

PRIMARY MATERIAL: The primary material recommended for signage is recycled aluminium is an excellent material for long-term wayfinding signs, due to its durability, versatility and aesthetics. Aluminium is lightweight, which means lower environmental costs from transport. Crucially, the material is highly customisable and can be coated and printed on with ease. It is also highly recyclable. It is a cost-effective choice due to its longevity.

We are open to discussion and are happy to enter into discussion about alternative, sustainable materials

4.0 Design

The design of these aspects should follow the guidance that has been prepared for us by Urban Foresight. This can be found in the accompanying document alongside this specification.

Plinths – We require individually centred maps from provided base map.

All icons and base graphics will be provided.

5.0 – Suitability for installation

Although installation is not part of this brief, the process by which this will occur will need to be considered. The finger posts will be installed in many different types of ground and will therefore need to be tailored to either base plate installation or being sunk into their location.

6.0 Time Frame

The successful contractor will be selected on the basis of the lowest priced compliant quote and evidence of completed previous projects.

The timescales for the project are shown in the table below.

Issue Date: 12 August 2024

Deadline for quotes: 26 August 2024

Evaluation period: 2 weeks

Notification of contract award: 11 September 2024

Delivery of Goods: TBC (subject to planning permission)

Terms and Conditions the contract will be subject to the Councils standard terms and conditions (www.northdevon.gov.uk/goodsandservices).