

## **Minute Extract from Strategy and Resources Committee of 2nd December 2024**

### **Minute 87: PROCUREMENT OF PUBLIC ART (CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT)**

The Committee considered a report by the Culture Manager (circulated previously) regarding Procurement of Public Art (Cultural Development Fund project).

The Culture Manager highlighted the following:

- Flourishing Barnstaple, a North Devon Council initiative aimed at revitalising the town through arts and culture, was commissioning public art installations for Barnstaple town centre.
- The programme was funded through the Cultural Development Fund, delivered by Arts Council England on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and included a number of individual permanent artworks in specific locations, for example sculpture or land art.
- The value of the contract was £200,000 to be awarded to one or several artists depending on the detailed designs submitted through the tender process.
- The process for selecting artworks had already begun with the Town Team for Culture Public Art subgroup.
- To ensure delivery within the funded period we had to select artists to work up their designs in December 2024, for full tender in February 2025 and 12 months for delivery.
- A Call Out to Artists was put out through local, national and international networks, resulting in over 100 enquiries for details of the commission and over 60 completed Expressions of Interest.
- Ten bursaries of £500 would be allocated to allow artists to work up their proposals.
- Selection would be made by the Town Team for Culture Public Art Subgroup, which comprised artists, community representatives and businesses who had been involved in the process of setting themes and locations for the artworks, and who were best placed to comment on artistic quality and suitability.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the full requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules be waived so;
- (b) That access to the tender opportunity for public art for Barnstaple Town Centre be restricted to 10 artists, selected on the basis of the quality of their previous work and any other suitability criteria proportionate to this contract.