

PUBLIC REALM COMMISSION - ANNUAL UPDATE

People & Places Advisory Committee - 1 March 2022

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Officer- People and Places

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: Cllr Hogarth, Commissioner for the Public Realm will provide his annual update on the activities and achievements of the Public Realm Commission.

This reports support the Key Aim of: Community Plan.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Lesley Dyball

Contact Officer(s): Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474

Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee:

That Members note the report.

Introduction and Background

1. Sevenoaks District Council recognises that the public realm forms an integral part of the public face of the Sevenoaks district. Great places are those places where celebrations are held, social and economic changes occur, friends run into each other and communities mix.
2. It feels strongly that the public realm should be inclusive, accessible, sustainable and environmentally conscious; and that the process of its creation should be open and transparent.
3. In 2020, the Council created the role of Public Realm Commissioner to lead a district-wide the Public Realm Commission. The Public Realm Commissioner is accountable to the People and Places portfolio and the Cabinet.

The Commissioner's role is to:

- Understand current public spaces across the district and what purpose or uses they serve.
- Identify what new developments are planned and has the public realm been considered, designed or planned.
- Understand what makes good public space.

- Facilitate funding and other philanthropic contributions to enable the delivery of an annual public realm programme.
 - Ensure public art celebrates the particular story of a place and engages with the community in its making.
4. Cllr Rodderick Hogarth was appointed as the Public Realm Commissioner for the Sevenoaks District and is supported by an independent panel of volunteers, which includes local artists, community leaders and businesses, who are able to provide the Commissioner with advice and support, as appropriate. Together they work on local community initiatives including art projects.
 5. Cllr Hogarth provides an annual verbal update to the People and Places Advisory Committee regarding the Public Realm Commission activity and achievements.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

None.

Key Implications

Resources

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal or risk issues arising from this report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Conclusions

At its last meeting, the People and Places Advisory Committee, requested a verbal update from the Public Realm Commissioner regarding the Public Realm Commission at its next meeting.

Appendices - None

Background Papers - None

Sarah Robson

Deputy Chief Executive and
Chief Officer for People & Places