

**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
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24th January 2025

Mr Tariq Abdulkarim

Dear Mr Abdulkarim

Question to Council – Wednesday 15th January 2025

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 15th January 2025. I have set out the question and my response below.

Having clear public art guidelines would help ensure that all communities feel represented and that artistic expression is treated equitably.

Would the council create formal public art guidelines outlining:

- 1. Criteria for approving or rejecting public artworks**
- 2. Ensuring equal opportunities for cultural expression**
- 3. The process for reviewing and challenging decisions**
- 4. Ensure Fair consistent and transparent decisions**

I can advise that the Council does not regularly commission public art, and where it does this tends to be small scale, targeted works of art undertaken in response to a specific site with a specific community where funding and opportunity arise. For example, the recent project at Clifton Learning Partnership as part of a Historic England funded programme to secure an appropriate location for the work.

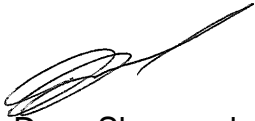
In general, Public Art is commissioned by partners with support from the Council to enable these works, for example the recent commission of James Capper's Camelia sculpture which was commissioned by Gallery Town with support from the Council.

Flux Rotherham has recently taken on the management of the Gallery Town programme and will be working towards developing a set of principles and guidelines for future commissioning of Public Art as part of this programme.

We agree that clear guidelines for public art are valuable and help to ensure that there is equal representation, a framework of quality principles and due care and consideration given to maintenance, repair and decommissioning as part of any public art proposals. It will be supporting the development of this work through its role as part of the Cultural Partnership Board but is very happy to take views from Elected Members and ensure that they are included as part of this process.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working