**What is Public Art?**

Public art can form a part of the infrastructure of the physical built environment, or it can form a part of the community engagement process of developing or redeveloping an area. It could be a temporary site-specific work, or could form part of a festival. The National Planning Practice Guidance Portal defines public art as “permanent or temporary physical works of art visible to the general public, whether part of a building or free-standing. For example, sculpture, lighting effects, street furniture, paving, railings and signs.”

For the purposes of the Public Art Strategy, this wider definition will be used: more or less temporary artworks situated in the public realm as a response to its location, and including artwork commissioned for, or designed into a public space, as well as artist-led projects and activities which reflect or comment on the local environment.

**GLOSSARY (taken from the Government Planning Portal www.planningportal.gov.uk)**

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area. *Birmingham is planning to introduce CIL in April 2015.*

Section 106 Agreement: A legal agreement under section 106 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between a planning authority and a developer, or undertakings offered unilaterally by a developer, that ensure that certain extra works related to a development are undertaken. *The criteria for what can and cannot be funded through Section 106 agreements in Birmingham will be changing in April 2015.*

Public Open Space: Urban space, designated by a council, where public access may or may not be formally established, but which fulfils or can fulfil a recreational or non-recreational role (for example, amenity, ecological, educational, social or cultural usages).

Public Realm: Those parts of a village, town or city (whether publicly or privately owned) available, for everyone to use. This includes streets, squares and parks.

**What is the Public Art Gateway Group?**

The Public Art Gateway Group was set up in 2012 by officers from Birmingham City Council Culture Commissioning Service and Planning and Regeneration Service. The Group maintain an overview of public art commissioning linked with major schemes within the city, and ensure the correct processes were adhered to in order to balance Birmingham City Council’s interests in artistic quality, planning suitability and maintenance obligations.

The four aims of the Public Art Gateway Group are to:

* provide a centralised function for ensuring the commissioning, monitoring and decommissioning of public art works and schemes across Birmingham have been undertaken correctly, including consideration of artistic quality, planning suitability and maintenance obligations
* signpost organisations wishing to commission or install public art works to relevant advice and guidance
* work with partners to effectively and regularly communicate public art developments and opportunities; advocate for the inclusion of public art works within the city, and contribute to relevant policies and strategy documents
* respond to enquiries involving the planning and commissioning of public art and to relationship manage external organisations and individuals leading on public art projects as relevant

The Group will ensure that the correct processes have been carried out to satisfy the following:

* the quality of proposed new public art work or public realm schemes in which public art is being placed is of a high standard
* the quality of materials and the methods of installation are appropriate, safe, hard-wearing and vandal-proof
* the location of a proposed new public art work is physically, aesthetically and culturally relevant, appropriate and is safe (and that a risk assessment has been completed)
* the relevant officers have been contacted within Birmingham City Council and organisations/ stakeholders (such as West Midlands Police, private landowners or whether there has been public consultation)
* that a maintenance budget has been allocated for post-installation, and the individuals/ organisation responsible for upkeep have been confirmed.

The Group will also signpost individuals and organisations to relevant advice and guidance (via ixia/ public art online etc.). Advice and guidance information could include the following:

* the quality of public art and designed urban spaces
* materials and installation, longevity and maintenance
* good practice information on procurement and writing artist briefs & contracts
* who should be on decision making panels
* considerations that would need to be taken regarding risk, liability and insurance
* planning application process and public consultation requirements
* good practice for public consultation about public art
* section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy queries
* any other relevant advice and guidance

The Public Art Gateway Group is made up of named representatives from the following City Council teams and partner organisations: City Centre Design & Conservation Team; City Centre Area Team, Highways, Culture Commissioning Services (Birmingham City Council) and the Museums Trust Ltd. Representatives from other organisations will be invited to meetings as and when required.