

Summary of Taunton Deane Borough Council's Policy Statements on Public Art and Design

Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan – now out for consultation

Policy ED 2 on Public Art states that:

All developments in excess of 15 residential units or 2500 square metres (gross) of commercial floorspace will be required to contribute towards the provision of public art and public realm enhancements through either a commuted sum or by commissioning and integrating public art into the design of buildings and the public realm to the value of one percent of development costs. Locational decisions for public art will be informed by the Design Code SPD.

The Design Code states that Public Art is promoted as an integral element of the design of buildings and the public realm. The Design Code identifies several locations as specific public art and design sites (described as Designated Public Art Sites in the policy).

The Council's preferred option is to ensure developers integrate art and design within the design process rather than secure a commuted sum.

Designated Public Art and Design Sites

	Designated Public Art and Design Sites	Notes and Action
I	The River Tone frontage creating a pedestrian and cycle leisure corridor from the Park and Rides, East and West with legible links into the Town Centre	ACTION CC collate list of partners involved Review Design Code on river frontage and TCCAP Discuss consistency of good design and raise questions on the co-ordination of the Design Code mechanisms, and potential of commissioning a design master plan for the river leisure corridor
li	Pedestrian Routes from the train station and main car parks into the town centre.	ACTION include riverfront routes, legibility, permeability, consistency of excellent design into the master plan above
lii	The Cultural Quarter including Coal Orchard, Goodland Gardens and Castle Green	ACTION include in above except for Castle Green (already planned by LDA)
Iv	The public realm of the Market Cross	Development Control to respond with developers' public art and design guidelines when retail developers make initial enquiries. ACTION CC to develop guidelines
V	The Inner Relief Road, Third Way Bridges and main arterial routes	JB: To report progress on planning applications and design of Third Way Bridge and Northern Inner Distributor Road with SCC highways department
Vi	Outer Gateways such as the new M5 Park and Ride	Development Control and planners to respond with public art and design guidelines
Vii	Inner Gateways to the Town Centre such as Corporation Street, East Reach, Station Road and Wellington Road.	Inner Gateways removed from the Town Centre Area Action Plan and aim to identify public realm plans needed instead (includes understanding of Gateway concepts)
viii	Multi Storey Car Parks	ACTION CC Raise public art and design policy and guidelines with John Lewis SC: Potential for parking 'tanks' on lower levels as in Bristol?

Ix	Residential developments of significant size (15 dwellings or above) or visible from the riverfront.	ACTION CC, DC and other panel members to respond to planning applications with the Public Art and Design statement and guidelines
X	Retail, employment and mixed use developments of 2,500 sq metres or above.	ACTION CC, DC and other panel members to respond to planning applications with the Public Art and Design statement and guidelines

3.2 Design Code guidelines on public art

The Design Code G013: states that:

- 1 Details of creative design opportunities or the involvement of a public artist should be discussed with TDBC at the outset of a development proposal affecting any of the designated art and design sites above.
- 2 Developers must submit a public art statement of intent at the earliest possible stage of master planning for the public realm.
- 3 Developers must also address the issues of community response, sustainability and provision for maintenance costs.

The panel agreed that these statements be included in the developers guidelines, along with the following:

Include in point 2: Developers must submit a public art or creative design statement of intent at the earliest possible stage of master planning, and particularly within the Access statement of any planning application.