

## **APPENDIX 4 Street Art Advisory Panel**

### **1. Context**

The increase in street art and the visit from Banksy in May 2021 has sparked the imagination of Reading, with a lot of interest and engagement with the pieces. It has also served to demonstrate how making space for street art can support Reading's place making ambitions, by encouraging cultural tourism and creating a sense of place through artwork inspired by shared history, heritage and community stories, thus lifting and unifying communities. It has also supported the development of the visual arts sector and its recovery after Covid by creating renewed interest in the sector.

The current procedure for graffiti or street art is covered in 'The Street Cleansing Policy Appx 1'. This procedure outlines the circumstances and methods by '*which any picture, letter, sign or mark which has been painted, inscribed or affixed on a surface*' can be removed and where these can be removed from.

However, it does not provide guidance on what to do with graffiti or street art that perhaps should remain or how to deal with street art that the community would like to leave in place.

The positive community response towards the Banksy and other street art pieces means we need to look at how the graffiti/street art definition could be updated to better support and inform artists and provide guidance to the Street Care teams. It is proposed therefore that a Street Art Advisory Panel is established.

### **2. Purpose and Role of the Street Art Advisory Panel**

- a. The purpose of this group will be to advise the Reading Borough Council on:
  - How street art and graffiti can be incorporated into Reading's public art offering
  - How it can be managed moving forward, in terms of communications and support for the Street Care Team
  - The process of defining 'what street art is'
  - How it is to be identified and conserved or removed as necessary.

#### **b. Outcomes**

In the first instance the panel will be brought together to advise how street art in Reading could be managed. They will also advise on how the graffiti/street art definition could be updated to better support and inform artists.

#### **c. Membership**

Membership will be representative of Reading's diverse communities and reflect the variety of interests in street art including the visual art community, heritage and wider civic representatives, highways and street care.

#### **Accountability**

This group will meet to advise the council, they will not be accountable for decisions made around the above outcomes. They will meet as and when needed, to ensure that the group is reactive and supporting the needs of the community.

#### **d. Decision Making**

OFFICIAL

This will be an advisory panel only and will therefore not have any decision-making authority. The panel will be available to offer advice, but final decisions will remain with Reading Borough Council.

OFFICIAL