

## THE WATERFRONT, TEMPLE QUAY CENTRAL, BRISTOL

### Public Art Statement of Intent

Castlemore Securities Limited have prepared a Public Art Strategy in the context of the May 2003 outline planning permission for the overall Temple Quay 2 area. This Strategy was agreed by the City Council through the discharge of Condition 19 of the outline permission (BCC Ref: 01/01606/P). This Strategy has influenced the proposed design of the Waterfront area, and Castlemore are committed to producing a revised Public Art Plan, which takes forward the principles of the approved strategy as part of the planning application for Plots ND2 – ND5.

The development programme and masterplan for the wider Temple Quay 2 area has been designed to be flexible, and it is intended that the revised Public Art Plan should also be flexible. Nevertheless, the key themes established by the approved Strategy have been and will be taken forward and applied in relation to the Waterfront site. It is therefore intended that the revised Plan will continue to act as the framework for artwork across the site, thus ensuring consistency within the overall Temple Quay 2 scheme.

Following further discussions with the Council's Public Arts Officer (Jonathan Banks), the Public Art Strategy approved in relation to the outline planning application was subject to an addendum (March 2005). The approved Strategy and its subsequent addendum are attached for reference. During more recent discussions with the Council's design officers, a focus has been made on delivering specific public art within the Harbourside area/public realm. In the meantime, as part of separate proposals, detailed artworks are coming forward on plots ND8 (Shelagh Wakely) and ND9 (Simeon Nelson).

It is intended that the revised Public Art Plan for the Waterfront area will:

- Comply with Bristol City Council public art policy;
- Ensure the effective delivery of artwork within a workable timeframe and budget;
- Contribute to the overall image of the Temple Quay 2 area;
- Set the context for the provision of landmark elements and recognisable markers;
- Secure the integration of public artworks within the public realm; and
- Secure art that contributes to the sense of arrival.

It is intended that in preparing the revised Public Art Plan, Castlemore Securities Limited will work in partnership with Bristol City Council's new Public Arts Officer (Emma Johnston) to secure the following strategic commitments to public art:

- The pedestrian/cycle bridge

This is currently the subject of a separate planning application, but forms an integral part of proposals for the Waterfront area. The revised Plan will reflect the appointment of the artist, Martin Richman, during the course of the design process. The artistic element is concentrated on the lighting of the bridge and is reflected in the current submission.

- The Harbourside area

This represents a strategic component of the artistic development of the site. Following the removal of the central tower (as shown in the May 2003 regulatory masterplan), an opportunity has been created to make a special artistic experience, which accords with the principles and sight-lines previously established. This opportunity will be reflected in the revised Public Art Plan but will focus on the ground level areas and the water's edge.

In accordance with the approved Strategy, the American artist Vito Acconci was appointed. A copy of the artist's brief is attached for reference. The revised Public Art Plan will set out Vito Acconci's concept design for a high-profile work on the axis of Avon Street and the Waterfront. It has been agreed with Bristol City Council that the design will be exciting and dramatic and provide the 'gravitas' and presence to act as a beacon for the whole development.

Ideally the Acconci proposal should have a function that would also help in terms of future maintenance. Acconci's initial concept design is attached for information. This design will be progressed during the lifespan of this application and include testing on its feasibility.

A budget for the project will also be agreed with the City Council that ensures the fabrication and installation of the work in accordance with the agreed designs and as set out and overseen by the Artist. These details along with a procurement and delivery programme will be incorporated into the Public Art Plan. A management and maintenance regime for the proposal should also be included. The Public Art Plan will need to be finalised and agreed prior to the application being reported to Committee.

The Acconci artwork will be implemented prior to the occupation of ND3.

Castlemore acknowledges that it is essential to have a public art strategy, which can be further developed in the event of any unforeseen problems with the current proposed work. Therefore, in parallel with this work, Castlemore will commission a 'fall-back' Public Art Plan [Public Art Plan 2] to be implemented in the event that a feasible and viable design for the Acconci artwork does not come forward within the lifespan of this application. Castlemore will appoint a Public Art Co-ordinator both to oversee the Acconci work and devise the Public Art Plan (including Public Art Plan 2). Bristol City Council will advise on Arts Consultants.

- ND5

In considering public art within the development overall, it should be noted that the proposals for Plot ND5 remain in 'outline' form only and opportunities exist for an artist's involvement in the subsequent design stages. The Public Art Plan will set the scope for an artist's involvement in the design elements of this building.