

LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE PUBLIC ART PROCUREMENT OUTLINE BRIEF FOR ARTISTS

Introduction

You are invited to submit an **expression of interest** to develop and deliver a new permanent art work for an exciting new sports, leisure and community development at Leigh Sports Village.

Leigh Sports Village is a pioneering multi-sector development and is the biggest investment in public sports, recreation and education facilities in the Wigan Borough for many years. It has transformed Leigh into one of the finest hubs of activity in the north-west. Leigh Sports Village is a unique and bold development that takes an innovative step to bring the community together through sharing quality opportunities with state-of-the-art facilities.

Leigh Sports Village is also a major partnership development and the partners of the Sports Village range from the public, private, commercial and voluntary sectors through to professional and amateur sports clubs and organisations. Throughout the continuing development of the Sports Village, the original partnership ethos has grown from strength to strength and there is a real spirit of collaboration between all key partners of the Village. Each Partner recognises the benefits of working together and that having a co-ordinated approach provides real added value.

The Key Partners of Leigh Sports Village are:

- Leigh Sports Village Company Ltd
- Wigan Council
- Greenbank Partnership
- Leigh Centurions Rugby League Club
- Leigh East Amateur Rugby League Football Club
- Leigh Harriers Amateur Athletics Club
- Leigh Sports Trust
- Wigan & Leigh College
- Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust
- Park Inn Hotel
- Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
- Intrahealth
- Blackburn Rovers Football Club
- Wigan and Leigh Disability Partnership
- Inspire 2 Independence

Leigh Sports Village provides state of the art facilities for sport, education, physical activity, health, leisure and culture that serve the local community and the region as a whole. Leigh Sports Village facilities include:

- 11,000 capacity stadium
- Conference & banqueting suites

- Corporate hospitality boxes
- Athletics stadium
- 400m running track & covered sprinting area
- Sports pavilion
- Floodlit grass and 3G artificial pitches
- Indoor sports centre & swimming pool
- Sixth form college
- High quality hotel
- Morrisons Supermarket

Further background on the development and the Leigh area can be found at:

www.leighsportsvillage.co.uk

www.wigan.gov.uk

www.wlct.org

Please read the outline brief and follow the instructions for submitting your expression of interest. On the basis of these, 4 or 5 artists will be shortlisted for interview.

Why public art?

The Leigh Sports Village development is a significant investment in the town, and as it develops is becoming a source of pride for local people. As part of the development, public art is being commissioned to help celebrate this new chapter in Leigh's history.

What are we looking for?

The outline brief tries not to be overly prescriptive to encourage the most innovative and exciting schemes to come forward.

The artwork could take the form of a substantial 'arrival' feature at the main entrance to the site or alternatively a series of smaller installations at points around the complex.

Ideas for the artwork do not need to be restricted to 'traditional' sculptures and could include light installations or other features. The development is a new facility in an edge of town context and at this stage, nothing is ruled out!

Elements you may wish to consider...

Although at this stage we are not looking for firm proposals, here are some ideas that may be helpful.

- **Sporting activity** – Leigh has a rich sporting heritage and the new stadium is the home for the town's professional rugby league club. The new facility aims to provide opportunities for sport and recreation for the whole community.
- **Negatives into positives** – Like many northern towns, Leigh can suffer from an outdated image of cloth caps, whippets and dark satanic mills. We are looking to shake off this perception.
- **A bright future** – A number of new developments have taking place in Leigh at the moment, including a new town centre supermarket and cinema and a new foodstore on this site. This regeneration is a real positive for the Leigh area.
- **A centre for learning** – The Sports Village is the main Leigh Campus for Wigan and Leigh College and is a popular destination for students.
- **Saving Energy** – Reducing energy use and using more sustainable sources is a priority for the council and its partners. You might wish to consider how this project could promote or develop this.

Other factors

There are a few other factors that artists will need to consider:

- **Robustness** – the artwork will be outdoors and will need to be able to withstand the rigours of a Lancashire winter and crowds visiting the stadium and other facilities. The final scheme design will need to include a detailed maintenance schedule.
- **Low maintenance / energy use** – the artwork must be designed to have low maintenance costs and energy requirements. If power is required, if possible this should be provided through photovoltaic cells or other sustainable sources.
- **Safety considerations** – It is likely that the artwork will be sited in publicly accessible locations. A health and safety assessment will also be required for the final design which will include method of installation.

Locations

A number of potential locations for the artwork have been identified within the Leigh Sports Village complex. These include:

- The main site entrance from Atherleigh Way
- The new Piazza area to the Stadium Main Stand
- Other pedestrian access points to the site

A detailed plan of suitable sites will be given to the selected artist(s).

Budget

The budget for the project is **£90,000**, including all fees, expenses, materials, production costs, transport and installation. The funding is available and has been provided by the site developers through a Section 106 contribution.

Any ongoing or future costs of the instalment this will need to be identified early on in the development process.

Expressions of Interest – What to submit

Please send:

- A brief statement saying why the project interests you.
- Any initial ideas or concepts for the project
- Up to 15 images of previous work referenced with description, location and budget (these can be printed, or preferably as jpegs on a cd-rom).
- Your contact details including postal address, telephone number and e-mail address
- Details of your website (if you have one) or other websites which feature your work.
- Any press coverage of your work
- 2 references from recent clients.

Please do not send original images or work – it will not be possible to return material to you unless a pre-paid self addressed envelope is included.

Date for submission

Expressions of interest should be submitted by **Friday 27th January 2012**

These should be sent to:

Leigh Sports Village Artwork,
C/o Kathryn Brindley,
Wigan Council,
Places Directorate,
PO Box 100,
Wigan
WN1 3DS

Contact details – k.brindley@wigan.gov.uk or Tel. 01942 489231

The shortlisting and selection process

Expressions of interest will be considered by an internal shortlisting panel which will include:

- Steve Thompson, Principal Planning Officer, Wigan Council
- Martyn Lucas, Visual Arts Officer, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
- Melissa Phillips, Business Development Manager, Leigh Sports Village Management Company
- Sue Gambles, Head of Economic Development, Wigan Council

Shortlisting will be completed by **Friday 10th February 2012** and the 4 or 5 shortlisted artists will be notified by **Friday 17th February 2012**. If you have not heard by this date, we are sorry but on this occasion you have not been shortlisted.

Shortlisted artists may then be required to attend an interview or provide additional supporting information.

A wider consultation panel will help to select the successful artist and this will include:

- Leigh Sports Village Partner representatives (Wigan and Leigh College; The Wigan and Leigh Primary Care Trust; Leigh Harriers; Park Inn; and Morrison's);
- Leigh Sports Village Senior Management & Board

The successful artist will be notified by Friday 9th March 2012.

Next stages

Following appointment, the successful artist will be required to work up their initial ideas into detailed designs for final approvals.

As part of this process, the artist will be expected to discuss their ideas with the local community and interested partners and we can help facilitate these discussions if needed.

The completed artwork should be installed on site by no later than **30 September 2012**.