

## **Report Purpose:**

Public Art Report

## **Author:**

Town Clerk

## **Background**

Over the last few years, the town has been transformed into an open air art gallery through a broad range of public art interventions, many of which have been delivered by Cheshire East Council. These span from large scale murals, to micro galleries in public spaces. Some of the most well known of these include:

- A gable end mural of singer Ian Curtis on Mill Street
- A gable end mural on the side of the Snow Goose Café Bar on Sunderland Street, inspired by Tunnicliffe's bird illustrations
- A trail of accompanying shutter art pieces down Sunderland Street

The Town Council has contributed with:

- The murals on the substation in Churchill Way carpark
- The 01625 Gallery (phone boxes outside the Town hall)
- The Artwork at the Station

The aim of the public art for the town is to:

- Create pieces of art that appeals to the local community, visitors and businesses, bespoke to the local environment
- Complements the surrounding area and views
- Reflect Macclesfield's rich creative and artistic talents
- Increase the appreciation of public art in the Borough
- Increase tourism and inward investment / visitor economy within the town

The Macc on Foot project budget aimed to include public art, however, this has been reduced to increase the budget for the Indoor Market changes, and thus this project can no longer be financed by this UKSPF funding. CEC regeneration did explore the possibility of a mural on the corner of Mill St and Roe St, on the side of Olive deli and have permission for artwork. Macclesfield is often referred to as the 'Women's Town', due to strong influence of women in the foundation of local industry, including roles in the Silk Mills, button making and craft based cottage industry roles and this was the theme chosen for the mural.

## **Proposal**

The proposal is to fund this mural with a budget of no more than £10000, which can be taken from the public realm budget.

If agreed, 3 Councillors should be proposed to work with Officers to agree design.