



APPENDIX 1

**Street Art Management
Policy 2026**

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Introduction

South Holland District Council is committed to providing safe and welcoming public spaces and supporting its artists and broader creative community.

Unwanted graffiti can negatively impact the appearance of our towns and villages, shaping how both residents and visitors perceive local areas. South Holland District Council is committed to tackling illegal or antisocial graffiti while taking a balanced, positive approach to legal street art that enhances local environments. South Holland District Councils general approach towards graffiti enforcement is covered within the Corporate Enforcement Policy

This policy supports the priorities of the Council as set out in the Sub Regional Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 and provides a clear framework for how street art proposals will be assessed, approved and managed. It is intended to support creatively while ensuring high-quality, responsible and appropriate use of public and private spaces.

For enforcement matters, this policy should be read alongside the Corporate Enforcement Policy [Appendix A Revised Corporate Enforcement Policy.pdf](#).

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Provide a consistent and transparent approach to managing street art within the district.
- Support high-quality, authorised street art that contributes positively to the local area.
- Set out a fair process for considering applications from property owners, community groups, artists, and partner organisations.
- Protect the local environment, heritage assets, and community sensitivities.

The policy applies to all street art proposals visible from public spaces, regardless of whether they are on public or privately owned land.

Definitions

This policy defines Street art as:

Street art: *“Any work of art on building facades or infrastructure with permission that complements the public space in which it is situated”. “Such a work will not detract, defame or depreciate the area. It could be a painting, land art, sculpture, etc.”*

Graffiti: *“Unauthorised markings, writing, symbols, or drawings applied to any surface without permission. Graffiti is subject to removal under the Council’s Corporate Enforcement Policy”*

Approach to Legal Street Art

South Holland District Council recognises the importance of legal street art in contributing to a vibrant local community. When appropriately designed and authorised, street art can enhance the appearance and amenity of public spaces in the district that people can visit and enjoy.

In recognition of this the Council may support street art proposals where they meet the acceptance criteria and do not negatively impact the environment or local community.

If a property owner wishes to apply an artwork to their property they must inform the Council at the earliest opportunity. Where graffiti has already been applied to a property, but the owner of the property considers the graffiti to be street art the property owner must notify the Council that they would like to keep the work. In both circumstances a decision not to remove the work will be based upon a test of whether street art or graffiti are considered to be detrimental to the local environment and enjoyment of the location by users and therefore the final decision will rest with the Council at all times.

The list below highlights **key considerations**:

- Can Street Art be seen from areas the public are entitled to frequent?
- Is the “Street Art” offensive in its nature, gang related, racially, politically or religiously aggravating, insulting and against public interest?
- Are the images considered to be contextually detrimental including but not limited to: Encouraging illegal graffiti proliferation, inappropriate for the location e.g. near schools, out of keeping with surrounding area?
- Saturation (Consideration of the number of images already present in the area)
- Risk of encouraging illegal graffiti or tagging
- Complaints received.
- Alignment with other council policies
- Whether the artwork is intimidating, explicit or defamatory
- Whether the building is listed or protected

This list is not exhaustive. Officers must apply judgement based on the specifics of each proposal.

The Council reserves the right to remove any street art at any time.

Approval

There may be occasions when it is difficult to make a clear decision whether a piece is street art and for this reason the following approval process supports this policy.

- If South Holland District Council owns the land on which the street art is to be completed, application should be made to Assistant Director – Housing and Communities who will nominate a contact officer for the project. The application should state the proposed location of the work, the nature and duration of the project and the persons or body responsible for carrying it out. The contact officer will also offer advice on the policy as required. You can contact the Community Leadership team at community@sholland.gov.uk

- The contact officer will notify the following:
 - The Neighbourhoods team who will in turn notify the local parish, town council or Spalding Town Forum and the relevant South Holland District Council Ward Members.
 - The Senior Planning Officer
 - Group Manager for Safer Communities
- In the case of land owned privately or by other agencies, South Holland District Council cannot insist upon compliance with this policy statement, although such compliance will be encouraged. In this case the owner of the land would be invited to co-operate with the contact officer throughout the process.
- The local community, Ward Members and the relevant Parish, Town Council or Spalding Town Forum must be consulted prior to any work being done under this policy. Consultation need not be laborious. It is designed to ensure that the community has an opportunity to “own” the project as far as possible.
- At a minimum, residents in the immediate vicinity or within sight of the proposed project should be contacted, and as far as possible their opinions should be taken on board. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to carry out the consultation, although assistance may be given by the contact officer in conjunction with Neighbourhoods team and the relevant Parish, Town Council or Spalding Town Forum. Evidence of the consultation and its result must be provided at the request of the contact officer.
- Local people should be engaged as fully as possible in the street art project. This could, for instance, involve them working in a group with a specific artist in order to design and complete the project. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to involve local people in the project, although the contact officer may offer advice and assistance when appropriate.
- The work of art should be designed by a recognised artist(s) to be attractive and a positive addition to the locality. Its design should minimise the risk of attracting offensive material and must not glorify or promote tagging. The work may be signed by the artists.
- Before the work can be carried out, the design should be approved by the contact officer in conjunction with other stakeholders. These stakeholders will be the Assistant Director – General Fund Assets representing the owner of the land, the relevant Parish, Town Council or Spalding Town Forum or those delegated to act on their behalf. This is not intended to be a laborious process and nor should it stifle creativity. The purpose is to ensure that the policy works well.
- The Applicant may prepare the surface in advance and may treat the completed artwork with an anti-graffiti coating.
- The work is unlikely to be permanent. In time it may be painted over or renewed according to the needs of the next generation of young people or local residents and businesses.
- Requests for decommissioning should be handled in the same way as applications for producing works of art. Initial referrals should be made to the Assistant Director – Housing and Communities who will follow this policy document.

Key Steps

The following key steps provide an overview of this policy in relation to Street Art:

Submit Application - Application for Street Art proposal to South Holland District Council

Community and stakeholder consultation – Consultation with local community, Ward Members and the Parish/Town Council or Spalding Town Forum

Approval decision – Council Officers review the application, ownership and responsibility and design proposal and approve or reject.

Maintenance – Agreed maintenance and ownership responsibility

Delivery of artwork – Approved artwork is delivered in the agreed timeline

Disclaimer

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