

KINTORE RAIL STATION ARTWORK

PUBLIC ART DESIGN BRIEF

1. The Commission

The new Kintore Rail Station is expected to open in December 2019, following the recent granting of planning permission for the platform, car park and access road. As part of the project, Aberdeenshire Council wishes to appoint an experienced artist to provide strategic vision and input with regard to artistic elements to be interwoven into the design of the new Kintore Station.

The first phase of this work will involve the identification and development of an “artistic theme” through undertaking research on the project, and creative consultation with the local community. A design process for the car park will be being undertaken simultaneously and we would like the artist to consult and liaise with the design team to assess how the identified theme can be interwoven into the car park design.

Aberdeenshire Council recognises that there is an opportunity, especially within the car park, to make the landscape and wider station environment a little more individual to Kintore. It is envisaged that this could be through a range of features within the station grounds, which could include:

- Designs incorporated into hard landscaping or pavements;
- Features included within the soft landscaping;
- Proposed smaller scale artist features or installations that could be incorporated into the routes leading up to the station.

On the station platforms, there are more limited opportunities for the inclusion of artwork, due to rail regulations and associated maintenance regimes. However hard-surfaced mosaics as present at Laurencekirk Station are a possibility. The commissioned artist should also be aware that Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans have recently secured two historic benches at auction that once formed part of the original Kintore Railway Station. It is anticipated that following the refurbishment of the benches, they could form part of the new station, providing a tangible link to the station’s history.

Finally, there may in the longer term be a possibility for a freestanding piece of art within the grounds of the car park at a future stage of work. However, this commission should maintain focus on the development of a theme for inclusion within the design of the station.

2. Background

Kintore is said to be one of the fastest growing commuting towns in Aberdeenshire. It is situated 13 miles west of Aberdeen and 4 miles from Inverurie. The community is finally set to see the reopening of its rail station, a long awaited facility for the people of Kintore. It will improve people's general accessibility to key locations such as Dyce and Aberdeen, as well as locations served by the wider UK rail network.

The new Kintore Rail Station will consist of two new platforms linked by a pedestrian footbridge with stairs and a lift. It will be an unmanned station, with ticket machines, customer information and help points, CCTV coverage and waiting shelters.

The site has a long history as a transportation route. The timeline below outlines the history of the site and the various forms of transport which have passed through the site since the 1800s.

Prior to the 1800s	Turnpike Road historically linked Kintore. The remains of this Toll Road can be seen in the field to the south of the interchange.
1806	Aberdeenshire Canal opened and passed through the site. A canal milestone can be seen at Bridgend House (which was previously the old court and council house).
1850s	Kintore Rail Station opened, which was part of the Great North of Scotland Railway. The station was situated approximately 1km to the south east of the site and is now used for housing. The mainline was constructed first, connecting Aberdeen and Kintore. A branch line to Alford was constructed subsequently.
Early 1960s	Kintore Railway Station and the branch line were closed and decommissioned.
1960s	The original trunk road went past the site. This alignment included a bridge over the railway branch to Alford, just to the east of Overdon.
1970s	The bridge was removed and the road was straightened out. The trunk road moved approximately 20 metres to the south of Overdon.
1998	The Kintore bypass and Tavelty grade separated junction were constructed. This required the realignment of the trunk road, and the creation of a new link to the junction with the A96 which we see today.
Mid-1990s	A series of studies commenced to investigate upgrades to the railway line and the possibility of a new railway station at Kintore.

As has been introduced elsewhere (e.g. at Laurencekirk Station), there is a desire to include artistic elements within the design of the station to help showcase Kintore in its best light.

As part of a Public Consultation Event, members of the community were asked what they felt any artwork development should represent. Overall, the community told us that they want something to represent the community of Kintore and many wanted the people of Kintore to be involved in the development of ideas, especially involving the town's school pupils. The concept of reflecting the history of the site was warmly received, although other ideas have included references to the area's Pict history, or alternatively references to the wildlife and River Don valley which will be able to be viewed from the station platforms.

We would like the artist to work with the design team and the community to come up with themes which could be incorporated into the design. This may include features designed and/or created by the selected artist and, depending on their chosen medium, there is a small allowance within the budget for the car park design to allow for the upgrading of a standard material or the addition of decorative features into the detailed design. However, each proposal will be assessed on its merit.

It is appreciated that the implementation of major artworks cannot be included within this current commission. However, the process may eventually inform further commissions for appropriate pieces of public art on the platforms or in the car park area at a future date.

3. Context & Vision

The aim of this commission is to:

- Enhance the physical appearance of the new station through the introduction of artistic elements into the design;
- Create a welcoming vibe for people in the community coming to use the station; and
- Introduce design elements that are thoughtful, creative and visually stimulating.

In addition, this commission will seek to:

- Provide a legacy for the Kintore community;
- Support the building of positive relationships and a sense of ownership with the wider community around this project;
- Endorse best practice when working with professional artists in the built environment; and
- Build community capacity so that there is greater familiarisation with the arts and the creative process.

4. Artist's Role

At this stage, we are looking for an Artist with evident experience of working in the public realm to work closely with the design team and the local community and lead

the development of a vision with regard to artistic elements which could be interwoven into the design of the new Kintore Station.

This phase of work will involve the development of a theme through undertaking research and creative consultation to engage the local community. A design process for the car park will be undertaken simultaneously and we would like the artist to consult and liaise with the design team to assess how the identified theme can be interwoven into the car park design. We anticipated that, at a minimum, a subsequent phase of the project will include small artworks or features designed and created by the commissioned Artist.

The Artist should have a clear history of working alongside other design professionals and creatively engaging the interest and input from relevant stakeholder groups.

Artists should be aware of Kintore Station background documents available on the Nestrans website at: <http://www.nestrans.org.uk/projects/rail/documents-rail/> and the planning application available at: <https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=P6CTV3CAIT100&activeTab=summary>.

The specific tasks that the selected artist will be required to undertake are as follows:

1. Inception – Following confirmation of award, a meeting in Aberdeenshire to meet core members of the team, and to visit the project site etc.
2. Consultation – This should be undertaken with school pupils, community council, elected members, other identified project or community stakeholders. A community drop-in could also be considered.
3. Background Review – It is envisaged that the identified theme should be able to reference the history of Kintore, considering background documents referenced above, and possibly interface with local interest organisations, such as Garioch Heritage Society.
4. Design Review – Familiarisation with the outline design and emerging detailed design.
5. Identification of Theme – Collation of findings to produce options for an artistic theme for the station, and the recommendation of a preferred theme.
6. Proposals for Artistic Interventions – Develop alternative packages of artistic interventions fitting within the identified theme.
 - a. It is suggested that one package should be developed to be deliverable within the station construction programme and be considered to be affordable within existing budgets.
 - b. A second package could build on the first package, but express an ambition that could be realised by the Artist with already identified funding sources, although still completed within a year of station opening;
 - c. A third package could express a longer term vision of what might be achievable if more significant funding were available.

The above packages should be presented to include visual representations for each intervention suggested.

It is the intention that following the development of the above proposals, specific art works could then be commissioned from the chosen Artist, or incorporated into the final design works, as the second phase of the project.

5. Location

The site is located to the north of Kintore, near to the A96 Tavelty junction. Aberdeenshire Council is currently finalising the process of acquiring the land associated with the Compulsory Purchase Order, which incorporates the land to the west of the railway line, and closing off on the voluntary acquisitions (land to the east side of the railway).

The site was chosen due to its proximity and convenient access to residential areas of the town and due to the availability of space for the Transport Interchange.

There will be a landscaping scheme implemented throughout the proposed site, which will seek to maintain the rural character of the site and provide screening for visual amenity. Existing vegetation will be retained wherever practical, and native plants will be chosen for new planting with a view to improving biodiversity. It is envisaged that the Artist could work in conjunction with the landscaping team to weave in artistic elements where it is feasible to do so.

6. Timescale

The commission start date will be immediate following appointment and this initial phase of work is expected to conclude in December 2018.

Subsequent phases of work will be determined dependent upon the outcomes from the first phase of work, to include working up detailed specifications / designs / art commissions to enable the practical realisation of the artist's themes within the final design and construction of the project.

7. Finance and Contractual

A fee of £5,500 has been allocated to this commission for the first phase of work.

This sum is fixed and will cover all Artist's costs including fees, travel and accommodation, research, consultation, and collaboration/meetings.

The fee will be paid in stages according to the Artist's proposed programme delivery.

The successful applicant will report to Paul Finch, Strategic Transportation Projects Manager, who will offer support throughout the commission.

It is expected that the Artist will provide verbal and written updates at key stages of the project via weekly phone calls, and monthly bulletin updates.

8. Application Procedure

Artists should submit:

- A current CV that demonstrates their creative, technical and design skills. Experience of public realm projects is essential, as is past experience of working with young and old. There should be clear demonstration of the ability to address a range of visual elements including colour, texture and 3D. These skills and experience should show clear links to this brief. Indicate any sub-contracted work where appropriate.
- Demonstration of successful consultation, liaison and partnership work with an engineering design process
- A proposal of around 500 words indicating how they would approach this commission, including an outline work schedule to suit the timeframe showing details of methodology, key milestones and expected number of days working on the commission, including those spent in Kintore.
- Visuals of previous work that are relevant to this commission (clearly marked with Artist's name) with a brief description and date of creation.
- A copy of their Professional Indemnity Insurance and Public Liability Insurance.
- Member of PVG scheme.
- The names and contact numbers of two referees.

Please note that any supporting material submitted is done so at your own risk and will be returned only if requested. Do not send actual art work.

9. Tendering Procedure

The deadline for submissions is 00:00 on 02/10/2018.

All applications should be marked Kintore Rail Station Artwork and emailed to paul.finch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or alternatively post to:

Paul Finch
Strategic Transportation Projects Manager
Aberdeenshire Council
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen AB16 5GB

10. Selection Procedure

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising officers of Aberdeenshire Council.

Short listed Artists will be invited to make a short presentation and discuss their response to the brief. The selection panel intends to make an immediate appointment but reserves the right not to choose any Artist.

Interviews are expected to be carried out on Wednesday 10th October and a small budget is available to cover interview expenses.

11. Further Information

Paul Finch. Strategic Transportation Projects Manager.
paul.finch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or 01467 534759