

To: Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

From: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member and Amanda Honey, Managing Director

Date: 11th January 2011

Subject: **Turner Contemporary Update**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update members of the committee on the latest position on the construction of the gallery and its future operation.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 This is the fifth regular report to this Committee, providing an update on all aspects of the project including the building, operational issues and the transition to the Turner Contemporary Trust.

1.2 Turner Contemporary is a visual arts organisation based in Margate, founded in 2001, which celebrates JMW Turner's association with the town

1.3 Turner Contemporary aims to:

- (a) Construct a landmark gallery on the seafront at Margate, providing a new facility for the visual arts in the South East
- (b) Offer visitors unsurpassed opportunities to see first class exhibitions of historical and contemporary art and to participate in our programmes
- (d) Ensure there will be works by JMW Turner in the gallery at all times
- (e) Make a major contribution to the regeneration of Margate, Thanet and East Kent
- (f) Be a commercially viable organisation

1.4 The Architects are David Chipperfield Architects, who have an international reputation and have completed a number of successful gallery and museum projects.

1.5 We have successfully applied for £4.1m of capital funding from Arts Council England (ACE) and £4m from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). A significant proportion of these funds have now been secured.

1.6 We are also working to raise £2.9m through the Turner Contemporary Arts Trust (TCAT) and the remaining £6.4m necessary to fund the capital project will be provided from the KCC capital programme.

2. Gallery Construction

2.1. Practical Completion has been certified under the building contract for the gallery building and handed over to Turner Contemporary on 10 December 2010. Scaffolding and the tower cranes have been recently dismantled and the building can now be viewed across the bay, as shown in the architects illustrations.

2.2. The external works and landscaping are ongoing and are to be completed in March 2011. The landscaping design is very simple, with paving of basalt setts across the whole site and a remodelling of the steps to the sea front walkway. Upon completion, there will be four car-parking spaces for the disabled and the reinstatement of the Viking Coastal Trail through the Rendezvous site, a popular walking and cycling route along the North Kent Coast. Car-parking for the gallery is expected to be provided in the College Square car-park accessible through the Margate Old Town.

2.3. There will be no planting on the main part of the site because it is too exposed to the sea and hence too hostile for planting. There will however be some planting at the at the Fort Hill boundary in the wide verge from the back of the retaining wall.

2.4. The location of the RNLI building within the site has been a major constraint in the construction of Turner Contemporary, with the need to keep the route open to the sea so that the lifeboat may be deployed when required. The construction of the landscaping has meant that the lifeboat has been temporarily relocated to the beach until the work is complete.

2.6. The main contractor, R Durtnell and Sons Ltd, is carrying out other works at the boundary of the site to strengthen sea defences on behalf of Thanet District Council. This work is being done so that all construction works in the Turner Contemporary site will be completed before the gallery opens to the public in April 2011.

3. Operational Developments: Turner Contemporary Trust and The Transition of Operational Responsibility

3.1. In April 2010, operational responsibility of Turner Contemporary transferred from KCC to the Turner Contemporary Trust ('the Trust'). The Lease, the Grant Agreement and Transfer agreement formed part of this operational responsibility.

3.2. KCC intends to lease the gallery to the Trust for a peppercorn rent upon practical completion of the construction works. The lease governs the use of the building and sets out the responsibilities both of Turner Contemporary as the Tenant and KCC as the Landlord. The Lease has been agreed between KCC, the Turner Contemporary Trust, ACE, SEEDA and the HMRC and is awaiting engrossment.

3.3. KCC has entered into a Grant Agreement with the Trust which sets out the various conditions upon which the KCC funding is contingent, including the monitoring and review arrangements.

3.4. KCC entered into a Transfer Agreement with the Trust to set out the assets to be transferred from KCC to the Trust, the TUPE arrangements for staff and the liabilities of both parties. Turner Contemporary has been accepted as an Admitted Body to the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Trust will continue to offer the pension to staff who TUPE across.

3.5. Since April 2010, The Turner Contemporary Trust has been recruiting staff in readiness for the public opening of the gallery in April 2011. The senior management team are now in place along with some of the finance, administrative, education and curatorial staff. Recruitment is continuing in the lead up to the public opening.

3.6. The Turner Contemporary Trust has announced that the gallery will be opened to the public on 16 April 2011.

4. Funding and Fundraising

4.1. Funding has been confirmed from Children and Families and Education (CFE) of £50K in 2010/11 and £100K in 2011/12. The funding is to directly support the establishment of a sustainable schools education programme to be delivered through the gallery.

4.2. The Turner Contemporary Art Trust (TCAT) continues to actively fundraise to achieve a contribution of £2.9m towards the capital costs of the gallery. Prospective donors have been shown around the site from time to time and a number of trusts and foundations are currently considering how they may contribute to the gallery.

5. Artistic and Educational Programme

5.1. Turner Contemporary continues to offer a lively and varied programme of contemporary art, learning and outreach work in Margate.

5.2. A new Tracey Emin neon was launched on the façade of Droit House on 30 April, and this will remain in place until the gallery opens.

5.3. The opening exhibition in the new gallery has been confirmed as *Revealed: Turner Contemporary Opens* and will contain a series of new commissions as well as existing works by contemporary artists alongside the

Turner painting *The Eruption of the Soufrière Mountain on the Island of St Vincent*. This will be accompanied by a dynamic Public Programme comprising 10 days of events from Saturday 16 April to Monday 25 April to celebrate the opening.

5.4 The neon artwork *Turning Pages* by Michael Craig Martin has been installed in the gallery reception area. This work was the artist's first public commission, originally installed on the façade of Margate Library in 1975. A new version of the work has been commissioned for permanent display in the building.

6. Learning Programme

6.1 Sea Whisperers

This autumn Droit House has been transformed into a 'Curiosity Sea Shop', enabling visitors to share stories and objects that relate to the sea.

This project has been developed to engage with groups and members of the local community that would not ordinarily visit the gallery, particularly those who are hard to reach and who live or work within walking distance of the new building.

6.2 Page Turner

A competition for pupils and teachers at secondary schools, and students and staff in further and higher education across Kent, run in partnership with University for the Creative Arts (UCA) and Aim Higher Kent and Medway. Artworks in any medium, and stories or poems (up to 400 words) inspired by the title, 'Nothing in the World but Youth' can be uploaded into a digital book. The Page Turner website will go live on 4 January 2011 with the closing date for entries on 4 March 2011.

7. Conclusion and Recommendation

7.1 Upon practical completion the gallery was handed over to Turner Contemporary and the lease took effect on 10 December.

7.2. Members of the POSC are asked to NOTE the latest developments on the Turner Contemporary project.

Chris Gabriel
Senior Client Project Manager
Capital Projects Section, Property Group
01622 696279