

To: Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

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

Subject: **Turner Contemporary Update**

Classification: Unrestricted

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**Summary** To update members of the committee of the latest position regarding the construction of the gallery, operational developments and transition to the Turner Contemporary Trust.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This is the third 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.

### **2. Background**

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

Turner Contemporary aims to:

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

- 2.2 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). 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.

### **3. Gallery Construction**

- 3.1 Work is proceeding well on the building contract with the underground services, the main structure of the retaining wall to Fort Hill and the substructure works, including piling and completion of the ground floor slab, now completed.

- 3.2 Work is also well advanced on the superstructure works with the walls from ground to first floor virtually completed and approximately 70% of walls from First Floor to the roof completed. First floor slabs have been constructed over almost the entire building, with the inclusion of both pre-cast concrete floor beams and in-situ concrete beams. It is now possible to walk through the building and gain a good appreciation of the sequence of rooms and the size and character of the different spaces. On current planning the building will be fully watertight in early 2010, with the building complete by autumn 2010. It is anticipated that the building will open to the public in spring 2011.
- 3.3 A 'topping out' ceremony will be held on site on 1<sup>st</sup> December to mark the occasion of reaching the highest point of gallery construction. The ceremony will be a good opportunity to celebrate progress on the construction project to date. A further significant celebration is being planned for late autumn 2010, to mark the completion of the construction programme and the handover of the building to the Turner Contemporary Trust.
- 3.4 The development of the external landscape design by Gross Max Landscape Architects and David Chipperfield Architects has been finalised and the design team are working on the completion of the RIBA Stages E and F (Production Information). The landscaping is primarily a hard landscape comprising basalt setts, cast iron steps leading to the sea front, a chalk garden on Fort Hill, new seating and public furniture and improved connectivity with the Harbour Arm.
- 3.5 There are now opportunities for KCC members / officers and other partners / stakeholders to be able to make site visits to review progress.

#### **4. Operational Developments**

##### 4.1 Staffing

- 4.1.1 Paul Gray has been appointed as the new Head of Operations and Resources and will start in post on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009. Paul is currently Head of Venue Hire and Commercial Events at Kew Gardens Enterprises Limited and will bring a great deal of experience, energy and expertise to the team.
- 4.1.2 A final review of the staffing structure is currently underway, following which a series of key posts within the marketing, fundraising and education functions will be appointed to the Turner Contemporary Trust. The personnel arrangements are currently being put in place to enable these posts to be recruited and for the Trust to be able to operate independently after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.
- 4.1.3 The existing KCC staff within Turner Contemporary will TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment) from KCC to Turner Contemporary on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. A staff consultation is being planned which will take place in the coming months. The TUPE of KCC staff will be subject to a Cabinet Member decision and will shortly be on the forward plan of key decisions.

##### 4.2 Turner Contemporary Trust and Transition of Operational Responsibility

- 4.2.1 The Turner Contemporary Trust is established and fully operational and is working towards the transfer of operational responsibility from KCC on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. A variety of transitional arrangements are being implemented, including the staffing and personnel requirements, IT planning, Finance and Grant arrangements.
- 4.2.2 KCC intends to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Turner Contemporary Trust. The Grant Agreement is currently under preparation and will be completed by January 2010 and will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. The Grant Agreement sets out the various conditions upon which the KCC funding is contingent, including the monitoring and review arrangements. The Grant Agreement will be subject to a Cabinet Member decision and is currently on the forward plan of key decisions.
- 4.2.3 KCC intends to lease the gallery building to the Turner Contemporary Trust. The Lease is currently under preparation, will be completed by January 2010 and effective from autumn 2010 upon completion of the gallery building. 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 will be subject to a Cabinet Member decision and is currently on the forward plan of key decisions.

#### 4.3 Artistic and Educational Programme

- 4.3.1 Turner Contemporary continues to offer a lively and varied programme of contemporary art, learning and outreach work. Until 6<sup>th</sup> September Turner Contemporary operated from the Project Space in the former Marks and Spencer building on Margate High Street; however this space has now closed to enable detailed planning to take place for the new gallery once it opens.
- 4.3.2 Turner Contemporary will retain a significant profile in the period prior to the gallery opening through an ongoing programme of outreach and audience development work within the community and through key events. A recent joint commission with Stour Valley Arts showing the work of Bethan Huws, was held on 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> September in Kings Wood near Ashford and two text pieces are currently showing in Margate. Turner Contemporary is also working with BBC Radio Kent and the University of Kent, delivering a programme called Time of Our Lives, which is being funded through a successful application to the Transformation Fund. The project will enable young people and older people to work together to explore their experiences of being a teenager. This artist led project will run from September 2009 to March 2010 with free sessions taking place every two weeks.
- 4.3.3 Turner Contemporary, Margate and Thanet have continued to be the recipients of good national press, including recent articles in the Observer and the Guardian. Turner Contemporary is also pursuing the opportunity of being part of a BBC documentary charting the progress of the organisation in the period prior to the gallery opening in 2011.

### 5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members of the POC are asked to note the latest developments on the Turner Contemporary project.

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