

Artist reveals results of 'stay in city' project



PHIL MILLER

SHE was at the centre of a row after being handed £15,000 not to leave Glasgow for a whole year.

Now artist Ellie Harrison has revealed the first fruits of her residency in the city.

Harrison is to publish a lengthy document calling for a radical shake-up of higher education on her website.

She is also working on projects to highlight the need to improve public and sustainable transport in Glasgow.

Since January Harrison, who is living on £8,400 of the Creative Scotland grant this year and using the rest of the money for materials and publications, has not left the city boundaries and is travelling by bicycle.

She said she had no regrets over the title or main image of her project – chips – despite the controversy it caused.

Harrison said it was artists' duty to provoke and

pose difficult questions.

She said: "I create spectacles, I like to get people's attention, if you are not doing that, then what's the point? And if artists cannot ask difficult questions, then who can?"

She added: "There was an anti-art, or an anti-artist thing running through it: I think people find it hard to imagine why someone would expose their own flaws, or draw attention to their own privilege, in order to raise questions about what is going on."

As part of her year she is working on several projects, including looking at sustainable energy and transport, and said she was appalled by the building of a new road, the £60 million East End Regeneration Route which goes through residential areas.

Ms Harrison said: "Everytime they invest in roads in this city they are perpetuating inequalities, because only 43 per cent of households in the east end have access to cars – households, not people."



ELLIE HARRISON: Has not left the Glasgow boundaries this year and is travelling by bicycle. She has criticised a new relief road being built in the east end.