

Date of Meeting: November 6 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Funding Requests

Report summary:

That the Forum consider two grant requests. These proposals will be presented in more detail at the Arts and Culture Forum where we will hear from Mair George from Villages in Action and David Salas from Screen Devon.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That the Arts & Culture Forum support the two following funding requests for the next financial year 25/26 and that these be put forward to Cabinet for consideration and a final decision:

1. Villages in Action is seeking an uplift of £5,000 to their annual contribution from EDDC (currently £10,000) to support the recruitment of a new Network Lead in East Devon.
2. Screen Devon is seeking £10,000 from EDDC (this year £10,000 was contributed via the UK SPF Cultural Programme budget and Sustainable Tourism Budget).

Reason for recommendation:

By continuing to financially support these two organisations EDDC is progressing in the delivery of the [East Devon Cultural Strategy](#), in particular:

- Strengthening and Supporting 'the-people-that-do'
- Cultural Tourism
- Creative Enterprise and Skills
- Connectivity
- Cultural Leadership

Supporting these two organisations will help us reach our strategy goals. These are that by 2031:

1. East Devon's cultural offer is perceived by residents as high quality, interesting, fun, relevant, accessible and well-promoted
2. Residents who have taken part in cultural activity feel that their health, happiness and wellbeing have improved as a result
3. Children and young people across the district feel they have ample opportunities to take part in cultural and creative activities

4. More people work in the cultural and creative industries in East Devon, backed up by more training, skills and pathways to employment
5. Cultural organisations, artists and creative businesses feel connected, resilient and creatively ambitious (professional and voluntary sectors)
6. Investment into arts, museums and heritage through earned income, grants, sponsorship and philanthropy has increased
7. The number and diversity of visitors, audiences and participants in culture and creative activity in East Devon has increased
8. Culture is helping to tackle the climate emergency

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Climate Action and Emergency response
- ☐ Coast, Country and Environment
- ☐ Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- ☒ Tourism, Sport, Leisure & Culture
- ☐ Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- ☐ Economy and Assets
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

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Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; .

Links to background information .

Link to [Council Plan](#):

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ Outstanding Place and Environment
- ☒ Outstanding Homes and Communities
- ☒ Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
- ☐ Outstanding Council and Council Services

Report in full

By supporting Villages in Action with an additional £5,000, this will cover a new role in their team, based specifically in East Devon, which aims:

1. To galvanise the East Devon network - to act as a local support for new promoters and members of the network, offering on the ground support for first-time events, risk assessment and other event management training.
2. To represent Villages in Action at co-creation meetings with partners, wider networking events, meeting representatives from other organisations to better collaborate, plan and co-design shared projects with a focus on community-based asset development.

3. To offer paid employment opportunities, and a chance to grow the team in line with our longer-term ambitions to grow the East Devon hub of Villages in Action.

Mair George, Creative Director at Villages in Action will provide a more detailed explanation of this new role at the Arts & Culture Forum.

Screen Devon is a new initiative which came about through a team of researchers from the University of Exeter's Department for Communications, Drama and Film who identified a need to develop a Regional Screen Agency to provide a holistic approach to stimulating economic activity in the film and TV industry in Devon, supporting education, training and talent development in the region.

By financially supporting Screen Devon, in line with other District Councils across Devon, we will assist in delivering the aims of Screen Devon, which are:

- Develop a proactive strategy for growing the screen industry in Devon.
- Boost the local economy: increase incoming production investment from film and TV into Devon, through marketing and coordinated support for production companies, co-ordinating with councils, Screen Cornwall and national bodies.
- Create opportunity for local talent and grow the production base.
- Identify and coordinate opportunities in screen skills training from entry-level through to exec education with a focus on EDI, advocate for local interns to be placed on large and medium incoming productions.
- Champion screen culture: publicise and support film communities, film heritage, film festivals and events in Devon.
- Develop and promote environmentally sustainable practice by local and incoming productions.
- Raise funds through revenue and grant capture to support agency core funding and future local production schemes.
- Develop regional production incentives for film and TV.
- Be data-driven: tracking and analysing Devon's film and TV production data and Screen Devon's performance.

Further details will be given in a report by David Salas, Lecturer in Film Practice & Exhibition, Exeter University at the Arts and Culture Forum, where there will also be the opportunity to ask questions.

Financial implications:

If recommendation is made to Cabinet the financial implication of the increased contributions should then be considered as part of the wider 2025/26 budget production process.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.