

## UK Shared Prosperity Fund Report

**Project: Screen Devon**

**Date of Report: March 2026**

### Project Summary to Date:

In its first year, Screen Devon has successfully positioned Devon as a production-ready destination. Activity has focused on building strategic partnerships, delivering production support, and unlocking the county's diverse locations—laying the foundations for a more connected, competitive, and sustainable region.

A key priority has been commitments to nurturing talent and supporting the regional economy with a growing database of crew, suppliers, and locations, alongside an increasingly engaged community of creatives and industry stakeholders.

In East Devon, this has included targeted partnership activity to champion film-friendly approaches, strengthen connections with the local creative community, and create pathways for skills development through training opportunities and one-to-one filmmaker support.

Significant progress has also been made in strengthening key tools in promoting productions and supporting inward investment. Screen Devon will shortly launch a new, enhanced website, alongside a robust, industry-standard locations directory.

As Devon's screen sector continues to develop, Screen Devon has identified the following priorities:

- Making Devon a film-friendly destination
- Skills development
- Culture, profile and storytelling
- Economic impact and advocacy
- Relationships and partnerships
- Sustainability

*A note on the industry landscape.* While the UK production landscape remains uneven, with fewer large-scale studio projects impacting the wider production pipeline, there are clear signs of resilience. A gradual return to more stable and sustainable production levels, alongside continued industry demand for distinctive locations, supports a positive outlook for Devon's screen sector. Screen Devon has remained an active member of Film Offices UK, Screen Alliances South West and West Country Film Offices as well as engaging with Filming in England on a regular basis. Screen Devon has also recently joined The Production Guild.



**UK SPF Outputs and Outcomes Achieved:**

Outcome / output	Target	Target achieved	Details of how this number was achieved
<p><b>Number of local events or activities supported in East Devon</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Screen Devon exceeded its target for local engagement activity in East Devon, delivering and supporting a range of events aimed at strengthening connections, building skills, and increasing awareness of screen sector opportunities.</p> <p>Screen Devon partnered with the East Devon Tourism Network to present an overview of regional screen activity at their November event in Sidmouth. The session supported local businesses to better understand how to engage with filming opportunities and position themselves for involvement. The event was well attended, generated a positive response, and resulted in new connections, including potential locations, suppliers, and future collaborations for the Screen Devon network.</p> <p>Through <i>Making Waves</i>, Screen Devon secured grant funding to deliver a four-week documentary filmmaking workshop for 16–19 year olds in East Devon, hosted at Propeller. The programme provided participants with foundational skills in documentary storytelling, while building confidence and enabling them to share personal stories. Targeted outreach ensured accessibility for a broad range of young people, including those harder to reach. The programme engaged 17 participants and resulted in the production of four short films.</p> <p>Screen Devon also presented at the ACED Arts and Culture Forum, engaging directly with the local creative community. This provided an opportunity to raise awareness of Screen Devon’s role and impact, while fostering new relationships and collaborations. The event also enabled greater understanding of the existing creative landscape in East Devon, helping to align Screen Devon’s activity with wider cultural initiatives in the area.</p>



<p><b>Number of East Devon organisations receiving non-financial support</b></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Screen Devon has supported a broad range of organisations across East Devon through both light-touch engagement and more structured advisory approaches, extending the impact of the programme beyond direct funding.</p> <p>Support has focused on enabling organisations to become more film-friendly and better positioned to benefit from production activity. This has included guidance on unlocking locations, preparing to host production crews, and identifying opportunities within quieter periods of their annual cycle to maximise economic return. Advice has also helped organisations recognise and promote assets that may attract future filming. Examples include Crealy, Clyst St George Fire Station and Escot.</p> <p>Screen Devon has worked with venues to explore how their spaces can be utilised more effectively, broadening cultural activity and creating opportunities to engage new users and audiences through screen-related initiatives. Propeller hosted our Making Waves workshops and conversations have been had with Kennaway House.</p> <p>With a unique insight into Film Exhibition Screen Devon has supported two organisations with advice on acquiring licences, curating programmes and setting up pop-up exhibition formats.</p> <p>In addition, Screen Devon has used its platforms to amplify opportunities from partner organisations, helping to extend reach, connect with new audiences, and strengthen regional networks from emerging production companies to film-watching networks.</p> <p>Engagement has also included collaboration with larger organisations that have strong links to East Devon communities, supporting greater alignment with regional and national screen activity and creating pathways for future opportunities. Including the East Devon portfolio holder for National Trust, and Clinton Estates.</p> <p>Through its industry connections, Screen Devon has further supported organisations to leverage opportunities linked to broadcast activity from productions filmed in East Devon,</p>
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			including <i>Masters of the Universe</i> and <i>Bergerac 2</i> , helping to build visibility and maximise ongoing impact.
<b>Number of East Devon enterprises receiving non-financial support</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<p>Screen Devon has provided non-financial support to a wide range of enterprises and individuals across East Devon, exceeding expectations through a combination of advisory support, skills development, and network-building activity.</p> <p>Engagement has spanned multiple sectors, including tourism, exhibition, filmmaking, and local business owners. This has included participants from the East Devon Tourism Network, who received guidance on how to engage with filming opportunities and position their businesses to benefit from production activity.</p> <p>Targeted one-to-one support has also been delivered to a number of local practitioners and organisations. This includes a festival operator exploring opportunities for film exhibition and events. Major support was offered to a filmmaker and workshop facilitator supported through the delivery and promotion of a locally produced film where introductions were made across the region to unlock further exhibition opportunities. Emerging filmmakers and crew have also been supported, including those transitioning into employment within East Devon’s cinema sector.</p> <p>Screen Devon has also supported new and existing locations and businesses to connect with the screen sector. This includes engagement with venue owners to bring forward new locations for the Screen Devon database, collaboration with local markets and independent traders to explore opportunities linked to production activity, and support for unique heritage sites to develop creative programming and strengthen their offer to film and media projects.</p> <p>In addition, Screen Devon has engaged with students and early-career individuals based in East Devon, providing advice, signposting, and industry insight to support progression into the screen sector.</p> <p>Collectively, this activity has strengthened the local ecosystem by increasing awareness of screen opportunities, building confidence across sectors, and creating new</p>



			pathways for East Devon enterprises to engage with and benefit from the screen industry.
<b>Improved engagement numbers in East Devon</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>70</b>	<p>Screen Devon has significantly increased engagement in East Devon through a targeted programme of events and outreach activity. Across the year, a series of key events—including the sponsorship of <i>Two Short Nights</i> film festival social, the East Devon Tourism Network coffee morning, the <i>Making Waves</i> documentary workshop for 16–18 year olds, as well as wider industry events across Devon—have collectively broadened reach and participation as well as making Screen Devon more visible.</p> <p>These activities have engaged a diverse cross-section of audiences, from young people and emerging creatives to local businesses and tourism partners. By working across different sectors and settings, Screen Devon has strengthened awareness of screen opportunities and increased participation in East Devon’s developing screen ecology.</p> <p>Screen Devon was privileged to host the sell out preview of <i>Jo in the Water</i>, an East Devon production which welcomed a significant East Devon audience.</p>
<b>Number of enquiries processed relating to filming in East Devon</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<p>Of the national enquiries received, 16 included locations in East Devon as part of the pitching process. These inquiries spanned a range of production types, including high-end television (HETV) series, mid-budget feature films, and major studio productions.</p> <p>The locations proposed reflected strong demand for East Devon’s distinctive offer, with heritage buildings and natural landscapes most frequently sought after—particularly for period drama, location doubling, and horror genres.</p> <p>This enquiry activity has not only positioned East Devon as a competitive filming destination but has also contributed to the ongoing development of Screen Devon’s locations directory. In several cases, responding to briefs has helped</p>



			identify and unlock new locations, further strengthening the county's production-ready offer.
<b>Number of East Devon suppliers/creatives logged on new database</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<p>21 new East Devon crew entries.</p> <p>There was a spike in new sign ups in autumn as graduates prepared to find work with their new skills. We also saw an increase when we were calling for crew to put forward for a large HETV series filming in Devon.</p> <p>9 new suppliers.</p> <p>This included accommodation, catering and one company who could support filming logistics.</p> <p>Our supplier database increased during a period of support for a major feature film shooting on Dartmoor and our reach broadened as the production needs became quite niche. We have plans to see this increase with further work in partnership with Devon Chamber of Commerce who have invited us to collaborate on their summer event.</p>
<b>Increased number of followers across social media platforms/newsletter subscribers</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>693</b>	<p>Instagram: increase from 396 &gt; 1089 = increase of 693 (175% increase, audience is now 2.75 x larger).</p> <p>Facebook: now just under 1.5k.</p>
<b>Number of successful enquiries/engagements leading to filming in East Devon</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<p>In 2025–26, Devon welcomed 254 filming days, representing a 190% increase on projected outcomes and demonstrating strong regional demand.</p> <p>Within East Devon, Screen Devon engaged with five productions specifically interested in the area, providing location support and film office services. Of these, two productions progressed to filming in East Devon, reflecting the competitive nature of location decision-making while highlighting the value of early engagement and support in attracting inward investment. A number of national enquiries and production engagement is yet to be finalised with conversations for some productions still on going.</p>



			<p>Titles included BERGERAC 2, over two blocks of filming and a micro budget feature GIANTS (confidential) which are in the process of planning their shoot taking advice and support from Screen Devon and reaching into our directories for local crewing. Shooting is scheduled to start later this month and will run into May 2026.</p>
<p><b>Number of East Devon based individuals mentored</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Screen Devon exceeded its target for mentoring East Devon–based individuals, providing tailored, one-to-one support to emerging and established creatives at different stages of their careers.</p> <p>Across 2025, Screen Devon delivered over 30 hours of direct mentoring, offering practical guidance, industry insight, and targeted connections to support progression within the screen sector.</p> <p>This support included:</p> <p>Toby (Filmmaker):</p> <p>Exmouth   20-30 Supported through a commissioned short film project, with guidance on script development, crew expansion, and production planning. Screen Devon also facilitated introductions to more experienced filmmakers, enabling the team to navigate specific challenges such as shooting on film and working with young actors.</p> <p>Sam (Sound Recordist &amp; Filmmaker):</p> <p>Exmouth   20-30 Supported through promotion of his latest work and engagement with exhibition opportunities, including attendance at <i>Two Short Nights Film Festival</i>. Ongoing mentoring has focused on festival strategy, audience development, and strengthening industry networks. Sam has also contributed to Screen Devon activity through voluntary support on the <i>Making Waves</i> programme.</p> <p>Becks (Producer):</p>



		<p>Exmouth (40-50) Supported to diversify her skills and explore new career pathways. Screen Devon facilitated access to a regional producer development programme (PPN) and connected her with new short film opportunities. This has led to expanded networks, including female-led filmmaking groups, and potential progression towards BFI NETWORK funding.</p> <p>Rupert (Exhibitor/venue operator):</p> <p>Sidmouth   60+ Provided with advisory support on developing outdoor cinema activity within an East Devon venue. Screen Devon offered guidance on licensing, programming, and audience development, helping to align ambition with operational and budget considerations. Further support is planned through site visits and continued consultation.</p>
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**Promotional Activity and Opportunities**

IMPACT REPORT - [HERE](#)

JO IN THE WATER PREVIEW / MAKING WAVES IMAGES - [HERE](#)

TWO SHORT NIGHTS - [HERE](#)

PRIORITIES - [HERE](#)



## **EAST DEVON CULTURAL STRATEGY - OUR GOAL IS 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

We would be grateful if you could help us track progress by completing the following questions, if relevant, using quantitative and qualitative data, for activity between April 2025 and March 2026. Please keep answers to a maximum of 100 words.

- 1. How are you tracking if audiences are finding your work high quality, interesting, fun, relevant, accessible and well-promoted? What feedback have you had?**

Screen Devon gathers feedback through a combination of informal and structured methods, including direct participant feedback at events, follow-up conversations, and ongoing engagement with partners and stakeholders.

Across our East Devon activity, responses have been consistently positive. Events such as the East Devon Tourism Network session and *Making Waves* workshop generated strong engagement, with participants highlighting the relevance of content, the accessibility of sessions, and the value of practical insights into the screen industry.

Feedback from young people involved in *Making Waves* particularly emphasised increased confidence, enjoyment, and the opportunity to tell personal stories in a supportive environment. Industry and community stakeholders have also responded positively to Screen Devon's role in connecting sectors and creating new opportunities.

- 2. What evidence do you have that your audience's and volunteers' health, happiness and wellbeing have improved as a result?**



Programmes such as *Making Waves* have directly contributed to participant wellbeing by creating a supportive, creative environment for young people to build confidence, express themselves, and develop new skills.

Participants reported increased confidence, a sense of achievement through completing films, and improved social connection through collaborative working. The programme's inclusive approach, particularly its outreach to harder-to-reach young people, supported positive engagement and reduced barriers to participation.

More broadly, Screen Devon's activity has fostered a sense of belonging within the local creative community, with events and networking opportunities helping individuals feel more connected, confident and supported.

### **3. How many children and young people (under 25) have been able to engage with your offer?**

Screen Devon has engaged a significant number of young people through its East Devon activity.

*Making Waves* documentary workshop: 17 participants (aged 16–19)

Additional engagement through events such as *Two Short Nights Film Festival* (student attendance) and outreach activity

**Estimated total:** 25+ young people engaged directly through targeted activity.

### **4. Have you been able to offer job opportunities in the cultural and creative industries? Or training, skills and pathways to employment?**

Screen Devon has supported pathways through a combination of training, mentoring, and industry exposure.

- Delivery of *Making Waves* (skills development in filmmaking)
- One-to-one mentoring for emerging creatives (4 individuals supported)
- Supporting progression into employment (e.g. volunteers moving into cinema roles)
- Facilitating industry connections, networking and funding opportunities
- Creating a growing database of local crew and suppliers

This activity has helped participants build practical skills, industry awareness, and professional networks—key stepping stones into employment within the screen sector.

### **5. Which partnerships (eg: cultural organisations, artists or creative businesses) have been key to building your resilience and creative ambition?**



Key partnerships have been central to delivery and impact. These include:

- East Devon Tourism Network
- Local venues and cultural organisations - Propeller, ACED Forum, South West Museums, Sideshore and Kennaway House.
- Education partners - Exeter College and wider HE/FE network.
- Regional and national partners (e.g. National Trust, Clinton Devon Estates)
- Pip Piper has been instrumental in the delivery of our activity this year.

These collaborations have strengthened Screen Devon's reach, enabled knowledge-sharing, and supported the development of a more connected and resilient creative ecosystem.

**6. Has the funding from East Devon District Council helped you leverage increased funding?**

Yes—funding from East Devon District Council has been instrumental in enabling Screen Devon to leverage additional support.

For example, Screen Devon secured external grant funding to deliver the *Making Waves* programme, building directly on the foundations created through SPF support. The funding has also strengthened partnerships and credibility, positioning Screen Devon to attract further investment and collaboration opportunities.

**7. How many visitors/audiences/participants in East Devon have you reached this year? And how does that compare to last year?**

Screen Devon has significantly increased engagement in East Devon this year through direct engagement, light touch impressions and remote access. This represents a substantial increase in reach, driven by a programme of targeted events, workshops, and outreach activity. This also establishes a strong baseline for future growth.

**8. Are you monitoring diversity, equality and inclusion in your audiences and cultural teams? For example do you have a breakdown of your work force/audiences by age groups, ethnic groups, disability, sexual orientation and gender?**

Screen Devon is committed to inclusive practice and widening access to the screen sector. Programmes such as *Making Waves* were designed with accessibility in mind, including targeted outreach to ensure participation from a broad range of young people, including those who may face barriers to engagement. While formal demographic monitoring is still developing, Screen Devon is actively working towards more structured data collection to better understand and reflect the diversity of its audiences and participants across age, background, and lived experience.



**9. How has your work helped to tackle the climate emergency? Are you monitoring the environmental impact of your work?**

Screen Devon supports sustainable practices within the screen sector by promoting local filming, which reduces travel and associated carbon impact, and by encouraging productions to utilise local crew, suppliers, and locations.

By strengthening Devon’s production infrastructure and local supply chains, Screen Devon contributes to more environmentally sustainable production models.

Environmental considerations are also being embedded into future planning, with sustainability identified as a key strategic priority.

**10. What challenges have you faced in the last year?**

The primary challenge has been the wider context of the UK production industry, which has experienced an uneven recovery, with fewer large-scale productions and reduced studio activity impacting the volume of opportunities.

At a local level, converting initial enquiries into confirmed filming activity remains competitive, particularly within a national and international marketplace. Additionally, as a new organisation, Screen Devon has been building awareness, partnerships, and infrastructure simultaneously, which requires time and resource. Despite these challenges, strong engagement levels, exceeded targets in several areas, and growing industry interest demonstrate positive momentum.

