



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting
Subject:	Seafront Arts Programme
Date of meeting:	15 March 2024
Report by:	Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Pitt
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

1.1 The Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

2. Purpose

2.1 To update on the progress of the creative enhancement programme for the Southsea Coastal Scheme.

3. Information Requested

3.1 Portsmouth City Council has committed to delivering a creative programme to enhance the Southsea Coastal Scheme. The enhancements are being coordinated by the Seafront Arts Programme Officer who came into post in September 2023. This is a Portsmouth City Council post but working very closely with Coastal Partners colleagues.

3.2 The seafront arts programme aims to:

- Enhance the coastal scheme for local residents
- Attract visitors to the seafront from outside the city
- Celebrate Portsmouth's communities, identity and heritage
- Feature a combination of works, large and small, by local, national and internationally recognised artists
- Include both permanent and temporary artworks in a range of artforms
- Provide new opportunities for local artists to exhibit their work



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

3.3 Additionally, it should take into consideration a range of practical requirements:

- Offer good value for money to the taxpayer
- Fit appropriately within the Southsea Coastal Scheme
- Be suitably robust for the public realm
- Be suitably robust to withstand harsh coastal conditions

3.4 A steering group has now been established to guide the programme. The purpose of the group is to ensure that there is a transparent, balanced and effective approach to the programming, commissioning and selection of artworks. The group, made up of partners from across the city's creative sector, will meet every six weeks.

3.5 The process of applying for additional funding from Arts Council England is now underway. The application will bid for a project grant to fund a series of public art commissions.

3.6 While much of the programme is still in development, the first commission is underway. Portsmouth City Council is commissioning a high-profile British writer to pen a new poem which will be integrated into the area of the scheme in front of Southsea Castle, referred to as the 'Theatre of the Sea'.

.....

Signed by

Stephen Baily

Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location