

Title of meeting: Culture and City Development Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 19 July 2019

Subject: Portsmouth Creates

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek authorisation from the Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development for financial support towards the establishment of Portsmouth Creates which in turn will act as leverage for funding from other key stakeholders including Arts Council England and the University of Portsmouth.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That officers are authorised to support the creation of Portsmouth Creates as a new independent organisation to deliver the outcomes of the Cultural Strategy.**
- 2.2 **That a grant of £50,000 is confirmed for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 to support the establishment of Portsmouth Creates but that this will only be released on confirmation of securing of funding from other key partners.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In late 2017 Victorious Festival, approached Portsmouth City Council with the offer of personal funding to support the provision of a new Creative and Cultural Strategy to harness the energy and enthusiasm which was developed out of the bid for UK City of Culture 2021.
- 3.2 The former Cabinet Member, Cllr Linda Symes, was in agreement that this was an important and overdue piece of work and welcomed the opportunity for it to proceed to address some of the core issues:
- The current state of creative and cultural provision and delivery in the city.
 - What is the vision for culture in the city over the next 5 years?
 - What are the priority objectives resulting from this vision?

- How will the city deliver this vision and these key objectives in the next 5 years?

- 3.3** Funding was also secured for this strategic project from Arts Council England and Stephen Browning was appointed by James Ralls to co-ordinate and deliver this work including identifying an appropriate structure which would be able to drive the findings forward, and incorporate how the creative industries in Portsmouth could support, and contribute to this process.
- 3.4** From the perspective of the council there was an important story that needed to be told; a story that shows how culture in Portsmouth has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. We also viewed this as a starting point for Portsmouth's future strategy, understanding what has been achieved and the impact that this has had on the city and the local community as well as looking ahead to the next 5 years, with the aim to present an exciting and practical vision for culture in Portsmouth, one which can inspire individuals and organisations in the city to participate in a proactive and dynamic way.
- 3.5** The development of the strategy involved a mix of desk research, telephone consultation, meetings, and data analysis and culminated in a sharing of the information at a presentation by Stephen Browning in early March 2019. It was felt that it would be best for a new organisation, Portsmouth Creates, to be established to deliver the next phase of the works in order to achieve the initial aspirations.
- 3.6** The Council has continued to facilitate a range of meetings following the presentation of the strategy in early March with organisations and key individuals such as Arts Council England and the University of Portsmouth in regards to potential funding contributions for the development of the next stage. Additionally we have approached Tim Rusby who has agreed to be the interim chair the new organisation.
- 3.7** We understand that the positive conversations with the Arts Council are likely to result in new funding being secured to support work in Portsmouth which was important as it was essential that any new organisation did not take existing Arts Council funding to cultural organisations in Portsmouth. We anticipate that the Arts Council funding will be confirmed once the Council has confirmed their funding position.
- 3.8** Consideration is currently being given to appropriate legal models for Portsmouth Creates and we have asked the Arts Council to provide some example Governance documents from other successful models to assist. No payments will be made to the organisation until the Legal structure for the new organisation is established and the necessary Service Level Agreement and evidence of any other partner agreements is in place.
- 3.9** Officers can also confirm that the relationship between Portsmouth Creates and Portsmouth City Council will be defined through a detailed Service Level Agreement which will clearly outline the expectations and outcomes for delivery

against the funding provided and will also reflect on the other strategic funding which the organisation secures.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 Initial discussions have already identified a number of possible strategic priorities which might emerge during the initial period of operation including:

- Skills development and training
- Leadership development
- Support for governance
- Opportunities for young people to be employed in the creative sector
- Improved use of existing resources (buildings, equipment, people)
- New funding sources
- A raised profile for the creative industries
- Interest in Portsmouth mounting a bid for UK City of Culture in 2025

4.2 The establishment of a new independent organisation with support from new stakeholders is critical to the aspiration for the delivery of the Cultural Strategy. The diminishing role local authorities can take with their reducing financial base means that an independent organisation will be better placed to maximise the returns from the breadth of funding routes which are available and which are not available for local authorities to bid into. Additionally the personal support and funding provided by James Ralls is likely to lever in other philanthropic support which we feel would be very advantageous.

5. Equality impact assessment

5.1 A preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment is attached.

6. Legal implications

6.1 There will be a need to consider the legal structure and governance arrangements proposed for 'Portsmouth Creates' in order to gain assurance for the Council and its partners that the new body's decision making procedures will be robust and effective and will provide adequate transparency and accountability in relation to funds to be entrusted to it.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 Grant payments of £50,000 per year for 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be funded from the portfolio reserve.

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Signed by:

Stephen Baily

Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

Appendix A: Portsmouth Creates Presentation by Stephen Browning of 6th March 2019

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
None	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development