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Title of meeting:	Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting
Subject:	Hotwalls Studios Update Report
Date of meeting:	16 November 2021
Report by:	Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

1.1 Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To update the Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development on the work and activities of the Hotwalls Studios over the 20 past months.
- 2.2 To update the Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development on the events activities of the Hotwalls Studios planned from October for the remainder of the financial year 2021/22 and for 2022/23.

3. Information Requested

3.1 Background

- 3.2 The Hotwalls Studios development is a historic regeneration scheme of the 19th Century Point Battery arches in Old Portsmouth into 13 new studios and an eatery, providing a dedicated artistic and cultural hub and securing a sustainable future for this Scheduled Ancient Monument and its listed buildings.
- 3.3 The city council manages this award-winning site which supports both the development of creative businesses in the city and the sustainable re-use of these historic assets.



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- 3.4 This development addresses the lack of affordable studio space in the city and has developed an incubator space for start-up artists to produce high-quality and unique pieces supported by a creative community.
- 3.5 The project has challenges and opportunities presented by its unique geography which is the closeness of local residents on one side and the marine environment on its seaward side. The site continues to rise to these challenges and has successfully realised many of the ambitions in the coastal communities bid which are outlined below.
- 3.6 The Hotwalls Studios had previously provided a brief update of their activities as part of the update of July 2020 which considered the scope and breadth of actions achieved by all Culture and Leisure teams across the Directorate, in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

4. Funding

- 4.1 There were a number of successful bids secured from various funding sources over the past 20 months, which represented further investment into the site in addition to the standard operational spend under revenue and landlord's maintenance works.
- 4.2 The initial Government business support grants for Covid-19 were awarded to all artists over the lockdown period. All creative businesses were supported individually through a successful application for the initial £10,000 business grant from the Government and our Finance & Revenues Rates Office. This represented £298,000 of central Government funding supporting the Hotwalls creatives.
- 4.3 Further top up payments were made to certain business in January, March and April of an additional £12,900 per studio ensuring that these creative businesses secured the financial resilience to continue working and surviving the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.4 An application for Emergency Funding from Arts Council England was successful in May 2020, and the £15,000 award was used to commission Hotwalls Studios artists to create new artwork reflecting their personal experience of the pandemic.



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- 4.5 The report to the Cabinet Member in October 2020 outlined the funding secured for 21 micro commissions to each Hotwalls Studios artist and to purchase a small amount of equipment to be able to display the work in the Round Tower. In addition, two freelancers were commissioned, a videographer and photographer, whose reflective content was part of the final exhibition.
- 4.6 The pieces of work produced an emotive and thoughtful exhibition, very well received in March 2021. Many of the pieces of work are now part of Portsmouth Museum Service Covid-19 collection, creating a legacy for the Hotwalls Studios artists and for the city, of which we are very proud.
- 4.7 In January 2021, a £160,000 joint bid was successful as part of the second round of the Cultural Recovery Fund, in partnership with the Museum Service and Portsmouth Music Hub. The Hotwalls Studios were granted £25,000 of this fund which was used to make improvements to our digital offer by contracting freelancers to update the website, develop an online gallery and develop a new social media strategy. These improvements increased the interaction with our audience and visitors through digital platforms. The funds were also used to purchase equipment to allow the studios to open safely with social distancing measures in place as well as minor maintenance works that arose through have a long period of closure.
- 4.8 Artist Alice Hume from Studio 9 was also awarded £17,000 from Arts Council England for her project, Interactive Weaves: A Community Textiles project delivered in 2021. This Community Weave project had support from PCC in the bid writing, contingency funding, profiling, and logistical support for delivery of the series of workshop events. PCC corporate communications team also supported the project through press releases and publications such as Flag It Up and Something for the Weekend to profile the workshop events and final exhibition.
- 4.9 The Hotwalls Studio was pleased to welcome a six month Kick-start placement in 2021, to further develop digital marketing and social media reach and engagement, to deliver many of the actions outlined in the social media strategy enabled by the Cultural Recovery Fund award. The programme funds up to £1,000 of wraparound costs for equipment and training which was used to support external training the use of WordPress and purchased digital equipment to support this role. As the Kickstart programme has been extended we will be seeking a second post in the coming months. This continues the opportunities offered through the Hotwalls Studios for young people to gain experience to help them step into the creative industries role following on from the success of



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apprentice that had previously work with us for two years and is now employed in the sector full time .

5. Economic Development achievements - March 2020 to September 2021

5.1 The Hotwalls Studios economic development achievements in the 3 years pre pandemic had exceeded many of the original ambitions for the site. These included:

- 15 permanent jobs including the initial construction staff on site.
- 25 individual artists had operated from the studios.
- In excess of 45 businesses were supported through markets and events held throughout the year.
- Supported secondary spend in business in the area through increased visitor footfall of 130,000 footfall.

5.2 The Hotwalls Studios remained operational throughout the pandemic and all business continued to work from the site even when not open to the public. Many creatives developed their on-line offer / commissions as the commercial opportunities through passing footfall were limited for the majority of the year.

5.3 Portsmouth City Council did not furlough the 2 part time posts that managed the site as there remained a significant workload to deliver in order to ensure the facility remained operational as a workspace for the artists and prepare for public opening and post pandemic operation:

- to maintain our profile in the public eye through digital development and delivering online events.
- identify and complete funding applications.
- supporting the businesses through mentoring and help them increase their engagement online.
- interview and engage the right creative tenants to replace those that had moved on to different spaces in the city.
- respond to the changes through each stage of the pandemic and the safe opening to the public through operational changes and new equipment required for opening.
- routine maintenance and repairs to safeguard the site for it to remain operational as a working space both for the 13 studios, the Round Tower, the Canteen, and the parade ground.



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- 5.4 Despite a period of transient trade and engagement opportunities over the past 18 months due to the forced closure or and limited access to the studio and site, the Hotwalls Studio supported the secondary economy in a number of ways.
- 5.5 The surrounding business enjoyed in excess of 58,000 visitors from March 2020 to September 2021 that were attracted to the area
- There were 7 exhibitions held in the Round Tower
 - 23 individual artists had operated from the studios
 - More than 60 businesses were supported through markets and events held throughout the year.
- 5.6 The Canteen delivered an attractive catering addition to the Hotwalls Studios and was an important part of the visitor experience during the past 20 months. The business adapted to the changes in trading and social distancing rules throughout the pandemic offering a takeaway menu and also used food delivery services.

The Canteen also took part in the national Help out to Eat Out scheme in August 2020 and throughout the lockdowns offer 10% discount to NHS keyworkers and donated food to food banks.

6. Business support

- 6.1 The Hotwalls Studios committed to join The Design Trust in 2020 which is a specialist online business school for designers, makers, and professional creative business owners. This membership allowed access to many online courses developed and delivered by mentors working in the creative industries and this information and knowledge was shared with our studio artists.
- 6.2 The Hotwalls Studios artists also benefited from dedicated business support through the activities of the Development Manager. Throughout 2020 and 2021 the annual business reviews were replaced with more regular contact with the Hotwalls Studios creatives, collating, digesting, and sharing the information on the many grants, support groups, new online training, and webinars.
- 6.3 A transition period of 121 monthly artist meetings are planned over the winter with the return to annual business reviews in the early part of 2022. The annual reviews are an opportunity to understand how the business is developing and identify areas of further support, to build financial resilience, and through constructive feedback help inform the operation for the future.



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- 6.4 As many of the current studio tenants will be nearing the end of their maximum term in July 2022, these reviews will also consider how the Hotwalls Studios and the Council can support these businesses into move on spaces.
- 6.5 This business support to the artists also includes constructive advice on bid writing and seeding support, which was success this year, as one of the artists secured funds to develop her art in the community from the Arts Council.
- 6.6 Training was also offered to the creatives in the form of social media strategy sessions enabled through the Cultural Recovery Fund and de-escalation training provided by Motive8 as part of the Street Strong Youth Project managed by Active Communities Network support in the summer, to help improve our understanding and management of ASB in the summer at the site.
- 6.7 Portsmouth Creates offer creative business support through a programme developed by Abri through webinars and workshop sessions aimed specifically for creative businesses. Information on this programme has been shared with the Hotwalls Studios creatives.

7. Creative Successes and our artists and makers

- 7.1 The 13 Hotwalls Studios artists currently include artists working with paper and canvas, ceramics and sculpting, digital techniques within their work, jewellery making through a mixed range of materials, a range of textile artists including the practice of ebru and printmakers.
- 7.2 The pandemic brought many exhibition opportunities to a halt throughout 2020, however as restrictions started to lift in 2021, the artists were involved in national exhibitions over this period, growing Portsmouth's reputation as a creative vibrant city. Our artists have had work commissioned, accepted, and exhibited in various locations as well as using many opportunities to develop their practice over the last 20 months including:
- The Resilient Self, Espacio London (Steve Dodd).
 - Portsmouth Revisited II, Portsmouth Museum (Steve Dodd, Karl Rudziak, Annie Flitcroft, Sadie Tierney).
 - Royal Institute of Watercolour 2021, Mall Galleries London (Katie Munro).
 - Art Through Glass, Jack House, Portsmouth Karl Rudziak, Katie Munro).
 - The Royal Academy Summer Show, London (Karl Rudziak, Sadie Tierney).



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- Solo exhibition for foursandeights, Portsmouth Guildhall (Marie Cleaver, Darren Page).
- Chelsea Flower Show 2021, London (Alice Hume).
- Back and Fill Festival, Portsmouth as part of country's coastline (Various).
- Contemporary British Painting, Online (Steve Dodd).
- Affordable Art Fair 2021, Battersea London (Louise Braithwaite, Lizzie Cornelius).
- Both the Hampshire and Emsworth Arts Trails (Various).

- 7.3 Hotwalls Studios artists have received commissions from around the UK and the world, artists work has found homes across the UK as well as Greece, Australia, USA, and Canada. This also included a national Estee Lauder Mother's Day Campaign for James Moulard to design artwork for marketing and products.
- 7.4 Closer to home our creatives have contributed to the community project Portsmouth Creates' well-being activity books, developed the *Oi Dinlo* sticker campaign, donated work both to the *Orchard Park Project*, and *Wilder Portsmouth* Exhibition and took part in the *We Create* markets delivered by Portsmouth Creates. A selection of our artists have also been commissioned to develop artwork for the Southsea Coastal Scheme.
- 7.5 Foursandeights achievements were recognised, nominated and shortlisted for Inspirational Women Awards, and also nominated and shortlisted for Best Visual Artist 2019.
- 7.6 Hotwalls Studio artists have found funding success with 3 ACE funded projects for In Motion (foursandeights), Interactive Weaves and the separate Community Weaves project (Alice Hume). Our creatives have also had opportunities for their own development taking advantage of the Round Tower for first time solo shows and taking part in our ACE funded *Pause, Reflect, Create* project.
- 7.7 Artists workshops were negatively impacted throughout lockdown due to social distancing restrictions but some of the studio artists adapted and developed online workshops and tutorials covering a variety of themes such as marbling, litho printing and weaving. These on-line offers were promoted through the Hotwalls Studios online platforms but also through *Visit Portsmouth* and PCCs weekly *Flag it Up* newsletter.



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- 7.8 Enrolment for these courses were positive and 500 weaving kits were sent to online recipients as part of an ACE Emergency fund project, especially supporting keyworkers, improving mental wellbeing and helped ease the loneliness of people experiencing lockdown on their own
- 7.9 The studio tenants are beginning to slowly welcome visitors back to their workshops across all their specialisms. Residents and visitors have returned to book workshop spaces enjoying this creative community and the breadth and depth of what it can offer.
- 7.10 Over the 20-month period there have been changes to the tenant's profile , as part of the natural churn of the site, four businesses moved on in 2020/21 but as the studio spaces remained in demand, these vacancies were filled retaining 100% occupancy';
- Studio 3 - originally a shared space, one of the creatives moved their business solely online and the remaining business was able to take on the entire studio to further develop and grow their jewellery business *Laura Bennett Jewellery*, in October 2020.
 - Studio 7 - this was home to designer makers, the *Company of Makers*. In the summer of 2020, they moved to larger premises at Fort Cumberland, and we welcomed 2 painters as a result of this, *Katie Munro* and *Louise Braithwaite*, who joined the studios in October 2020.
 - Studio 10 - the design business decided to move to a different business model, impacted by the pandemic and in October 2020 project artist *Rebecca Robinson* was welcomed to the space.
 - Studio 11 - Artist *Sadie Tierney* , with the Hotwalls Studios since 2016 relocated to the Isle of Wight . *Katie Munro* took the opportunity to take on her own studio space moving into Studio 11 in October 2021.

8. Facilities Developments

- 8.1 The marine environment, heritage aspects and location of the Hotwalls Studios site and The Round Tower pose conservation and maintenance challenges. It is 5 years since the original development, and the repairs and maintenance schedule and consequent costs has now increased, in order to maintain the facility in good condition and fit for purpose.
- 8.2 The intended improvements or repairs to the site, continue to be discussed internally with the heritage officers and the planning service and agreed through application to Historic England, this process can take many months, and is



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closely monitored. In most cases, the type of materials are restricted and specialist contractors are commissioned to ensure the regeneration continues to be sympathetic to the high quality of the original design.

8.3 During the pandemic the challenge was for the Studios and Round Tower to remain ventilated, dry and for issues such as pest control and fire alarm systems to be monitored to ensure a safe working space and environment for tenants and visitors.

8.4 The pandemic and the resulting social distancing rules meant changing how we work with contractors and other members of staff with many day-to-day operations and services either not available or delayed due to any ways of working. Despite these restrictions and the time these processes take, there have been several projects that have been delivered or are in progress:

- The Round Tower doorway has been made safe from failing brickwork and has had sections of flooring damaged by water replaced.
- The Parade Ground paving scheme started in 2021 to replace damaged paving with new materials better suited to the environment.
- The installation of lights into trees improved the lighting in the area.
- Studio electric cabling has been replaced in one unit and there are discussions with HNBS for further works across site.
- The office has been fitted out providing a PCC presence on site to support artists, offer opportunities to engage with the local community and ensure site is operating well and working safely.
- Due to storm damage the decking for The Canteen terrace was repaired and in sections replaced.

8.5 Further maintenance works are planned for the winter of 2021 which will continue to ensure the facility and heritage asset continue to be an attractive venue to both work from and visit safely.

9. Events Programming and achievements

9.1 The events programme has continued to develop over the last 20 months and is led by the Event and Operations Officer post, which we are now pleased to say is a permanent part of the team to fully support the site post pandemic.

9.2 Throughout 2020, there was as concentration on virtual and online events and physical events on site only began in July 2021, delivered both directly and in



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collaboration with our partners. The Open Studios events are currently running every 3rd Sunday of the month giving visitors the opportunity to experience the studios when all the artists opening collectively on the same day.

9.3 The programme of events are listed on the Hotwalls Studios website, delivering a varied style of events throughout the year and highlight our creatives and their many different specialisms.

9.4 Despite not being fully operational until the end of May 2021, the events programme was reshaped, and our spring and summer programme were combined to deliver a range of events including:

- The World of Jane Austen - Studio 6 Exhibition.
- Hotwalls Studios Online Market.
- DIY Marbling, Litho printing and Weaving workshops - Online Tutorials.
- Digital Open Studios - Online Event.
- Heritage Open Days Virtual Tour - Online Event.
- Portrait Painting Workshop - The Round Tower.
- Anglepoise Pop-Up Sale.
- "Back and Fill", a collaborative arts festival, initiated by Marine Studios in Margate.
- Christmas Market December 2020 and Creative Market May 2021.
- Pause, Reflect, Create Exhibition.
- Interactive Weaves Workshops x 8.
- Hotwalls Studios Summer Celebration.
- At Edge of Light - Alumni artist exhibition.
- Beside the Sea - Hotwalls artist solo exhibition.
- Portraits of Pompey - Hotwalls artist solo exhibition.
- Lipstick Traces - Alumni artist exhibition.
- Interactive Weaves Exhibition.

9.5 In 2022/23 we plan to deliver a full events programme (please refer to appendix 1) whilst still supporting the artists digitally and to encourage them to continue with the online elements of their work that was developed in the pandemic.

9.6 Our aim will be to increase the diversity of events, to appeal to a greater diversity of audience and to try to engage with different community groups to provide a more inclusive offer. However, audience development remains a challenge for the operation and an ambition would be to seek external funding



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for dedicated resources and partners to explore and deliver a complimentary alternative programme in the medium term.

10. Digital Developments

- 10.1 New technologies have been introduced which were externally funded over the past 20 months, to adapt to new circumstances during the pandemic and to respond to change post pandemic.
- 10.2 In June 2021 the Hotwalls Studios Team developed a Social Media Strategy (please refer to Appendix 2) as part of the works commissioned through the Culture Recovery Fund. This fund helped us commission a digital specialist to improving our social media platforms. Online training sessions, learning about each specific platform and how they work best, gave an insight on how to engage and increase followers. The aim is that these followers convert into physical visits to the Hotwalls Studios site through persuasive targeted posts.
- 10.3 As part of this work and our continued business support, Hotwalls Studio artists were offered training session to manage their own social media accounts, to attract visitors and customers and how to combine Hotwalls Studios digital offering.
- *Instagram* is our best platform to promote the artists and events, and to communicate with our followers. It works perfectly within the art community as it is a photo-based app and can reach several accounts including non-art profiles. The current reach average is 2,000 accounts a month and 25,000-35,000 impressions (number of times our content is seen). The follower count is slowly increasing, currently at 3,700k.
 - *Twitter* has been re-invigorated as a result of the strategy, is more fast paced and is the best site to communicate and gain relationships with other businesses, galleries, and public figures and within the first month of actively using Twitter daily, we gained 18.k impressions and 1.8k profile visits, the numbers are growing steadily through retweets from businesses promoting our events.
 - *Facebook* is the most consistent personal platform for friends and family to stay connected, for people to follow to see our content. The average reach is 2,000 engagements each month, 15,000-20,000 post reaches and 250 page visits with almost 3,500k followers.
 - *YouTube* channel has been created to post creative content through the form of film. This will include artist's interviews, exhibition highlights and workshops/demos. It will be an alternative source to encourage artist's



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involvement, for the public to get to know them and to encourage people to do arts and crafts from home.

Currently the October targets look likely to be achieved, which was a 15% increased engagement and 450 new followers across current platforms

- 10.4 The Hotwalls Studios website promotes the events calendar, artists listed with bios and uploads blog posts. It's where the public can view all the information they need in one place. In the last month the website has:

2,018 sessions (session of a single user) an increase of 46%
4,449 page views an increase of 23%

We are currently working with a local company to refresh the current website, making it more user friendly and this work will be completed November 2021.

- 10.5 The second element of the digital development from the Culture Recovery Fund is the design and delivery of an Online Gallery. This gallery will allow our studio artists to sell work from the Hotwalls Studios website and gives them another avenue for exposure and revenue. It will feature high quality products and we will receive a small commission from these sales. It will also give us the opportunity to apply as a collective to major exhibitions such as Collect or the Affordable Art Fair. The cost of applying for such shows can be prohibitive for some artists, having the ability to apply as an online gallery will open up opportunities for many of our artists.

- 10.6 The work for the online gallery is planned to be completed for November 2021.

11 Partnership working

- 11.1 There are many stakeholders and partners that have supported the Hotwalls Studios creative community over the past 20 months and we are hoping to grow this creative network as our offer become more diverse and inclusive.

- 11.2 Portsmouth Creates has been a welcome partner over the past 20 months in both the *We Believe* arts trail in August 2020 and the *We Create* market offer in the autumn of 2020. Our artists were also part of the creative offer that participated in the Victorious Festival 2021.

- 11.3 The Hotwalls Studios were part of the Portsmouth Festivities annual event, holding a Summer Celebration event as well as artist Alice Hume running an additional weaving workshop as part of her *Interactive Weaves* project.



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- 11.4 The partnership with Artsreach this year as part of the *Journeys Festival International*, showed artist installations displayed across the Hotwalls Studios site for the duration of the 10-day festival. The festival this year takes place in Manchester, Liverpool, and Portsmouth.
- 11.5 Throughout the pandemic, virtual meetings were hosted for the Studio Providers Network and are now planning to return to a mix of physical and virtual meetings. This network allows studio providers across the region to meet, network and share knowledge. Funding for this group is kindly donated by Creative Network South and is administered by the Hotwalls Studios
- 11.6 The Hotwalls Studios has taken part in Creative Network South meetings, as one of the representative of Portsmouth City Council, and we will continue to engage with this regional group on a virtual basis. The Hotwalls Studios are also part of regional network groups such as South West Visual arts
- 11.7 There are a number of campaigns and interventions that the Hotwalls Studios are involved in through the Street Strong Youth Project managed by Active Communities Network and Operation Nautical led by Hampshire Constabulary, to ensure we keep everyone safe on the site and this public space remains enjoyable for everyone throughout the summer months visiting the Hotwalls beach, the Parade Ground and enjoying our summer programme.
- 11.8 Finally, we are building our work connecting with Hotwalls Studios Alumni artists and this year we have supported solo shows in the Round Tower and continue to share news, knowledge, and opportunities with these artists to continue to support them in their careers.

12 Community Involvement

- 12.1 From the onset of the project, the residents and local association were involved in this scheme and in the interpretation of the heritage and character of the area.
- 12.2 Our involvement with the local community was curtailed for most of the past 20 months but the intention is to reignite the connections such as attending local resident meetings such as FOOPA, and neighbourhood forum groups, Portsmouth Society and Local Neighbourhood forums. To also continue to work with other local business and organisations such as the Square Tower, Jack House Gallery and Portsmouth Cathedral.



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- 12.3 The opportunities to engage beyond the local community are planned to continue post pandemic such as, working with community groups on beach cleans, guided tours of the Studios, delivering heritage open days, and working with Portsmouth Creates on their community projects such as arts trails. The studios will continue to be involved in community arts projects where our creatives have received direct funding awards, and there is often a match in terms of PCC resource of in-kind support to help deliver the event and in exhibition management, an example of this is Alice Hume's Community Interactive Weaves project.
- 12.4 In the future, one of the community engagement ambitions is to work with specific communities through the funding we hope to secure from different sources to shape our programming and to be relevant to a wider audience as possible. The right resourcing is required for a scheme to improve the digital and physical infrastructure in the Round Tower, which is our only indoor shared events space, to be able to better respond to developing a more inclusive programme.
- 12.5 An example of a targeted project could be working to rebuild confidence post pandemic, especially among young people, in the viability of a career in the creative industries with the funding for free workshops and developing exhibition and curator and digital skills. If the right funding was secured, there are a wealth of opportunities for those who may not engage with our offer currently.
- 12.6 The Hotwalls Studios have continued to support a number of community events to promote collaborative working within the cultural and creative sector, as reflected in the events programme previously in this report. In 2021 the specific events currently programmed, on a free use basis from the Round Tower, include supporting *Wilder Portsmouth* exhibition and the *Portsmouth Ambassador Post Cards* project.

13 Operational Plans to March 2022

- 13.1 The key areas of work will continue for this financial year aligned with strategies recently agreed the City Vision 2040 and Portsmouth City Council corporate plan 21 to 24:
- To continue to build financial resilience through events programming, for community and visitor use income generation projects.
 - To continue to follow the rental model as agreed by members.



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- Continuing to build Portsmouth's reputation as a creative hub by broadening our reach to partnership organisations and audiences, to work across the city and regionally to support the creative economy in the Solent area and improve its visibility.
- To continue to develop different ways to support the growth of the creative business on the site and support as many creative industries as possible within the future business model agreed. To specially support the freelance community who historically have had least access to public funding for the arts and have been hardest hit by the pandemic.
- To continue to manage and develop the heritage asset and take forward the priorities in the capital programme including capital investment to the Round Tower, lighting improvement to the access to the Round Tower viewing platform and complete the repairs to the Parade Ground.

14. Challenges moving forwards

14.1 Although the Hotwalls Studios has remained resilient throughout a difficult period of the past 20 months, we are not naïve regarding the challenges that are to be tackled if the success of this creative space and community is to continue to develop. There remain areas of challenge which will be addressed in the forthcoming business plan for the site:

14.1.1 *Round Tower Investment and ambition*

14.1.2 In 2019, the number and breadth of private hire opportunities and community uses had increased at the Round Tower, from acoustic music gigs to theatre production and gong baths, as the Round Tower use gained momentum from the increased activities at the Studios. This had generated a limited income stream, but the key success is the opportunity to attract a greater depth and breadth of audience as our only large indoor event space. However, unless significant investment is made into the internal and external fabric of the building, it would be challenging to extend this event programme or for the wider community to use in a safe way, post pandemic.

14.1.3 Therefore, investment in the physical infrastructure of the Round Tower will be an important ambition in our forthcoming business plan to conserve this much-loved historic structure for future generations to maximise its use as a creative community space. This will be part of the forthcoming Heritage Strategy to be approved for the city.



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14.1.4 The Round Tower plans for the roof investigation works to mitigate water egress had been outlined to Historic England and a pre-application process submitted for a Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent for improvement works in 2020. However, these roof works were not completed as the funds from the capital programme were removed. An Expression of Interest has been submitted in this capital round 2022 /23 for internal and external works, some works urgently needed to maintain the fabric of the building and to tackle H & S issues. The second element of the works is transformational improvements to realise our ambitions for the Round Tower to become an inspirational creative and community space, to improve access and the physical and digital infrastructure and increasing the value of this creative heritage asset for the city and improve the quality of experience and depth of engagement.

14.1 5 There will also be an Expression of Interest submitted in this capital round by Housing Neighbourhood and Building Services to improve the lighting to the approach to the Round Tower, to the surrounds and to the entrance to the viewing platform.

(The City Vision 2040 and Portsmouth City Council corporate plan 21 to 24 links this investment are : Encouraging clean growth and culture led regeneration / Supporting the local economy to recover from the pandemic / A healthy and happy city / A city rich in culture and creativity / A city with a thriving economy/ A city of lifelong learning / Supporting your people / Supporting people to live long and healthy lives / Building aspiration and encouraging ambition for our city and its residents / Encouraging everyone to learn and develop new skills / Creating opportunities for employment)

14.2 Artist's development: move on spaces

14.2.1. The second biggest challenge will be identifying suitable move on spaces for the six business from the original 15 that have remained with us over the past 5 years, as their 6-year tenancy term comes to an end in 2022: as outlined in Hotwalls Studios operational plan model agreed by members. This is in order to continue to offer the opportunities the site provides to as many creative businesses as possible in their earliest stages of their creative journeys.

14 2.2 There are currently discussions with a number of partners and spaces across the city to identify spaces over the next 9 months. We will be working with all our creative business over the following months to support them in this transition as this is key to a number of City Vision ambitions and PCC priorities .*(The City Vision 2040 and Portsmouth City Council corporate plan 21 to 24 links this are : / Supporting the local economy to recover from the pandemic / A city rich in*



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culture and creativity / A city with a thriving economy/ A city of lifelong learning / Supporting your people / Supporting people to live long and healthy lives / Building aspiration and encouraging ambition for our city and its residents / Encouraging everyone to learn and develop new skills / Creating opportunities for employment)

14.3 Secure funding streams to improve programming and digital infrastructure and access a wider audience

14.3.1 The Hotwalls Studios is a growing and developing business in itself. This operational team is a small, part-time team, supported by many corporate teams whose input we appreciate and could not run this facility without, such as the finance team, building services, legal and property teams and the communications team, all play vital parts.

14.3.2 If the Hotwalls Studios is to continue to grow and develop and support a wider creative community, identify and develop our audience and to deliver the development initiatives outlined in the Social Media Strategy, then there are a number of steps we need to take to realise these ambitions. To continue to identify opportunities to leverage in external funding to add additional value to our internal investments, maximise efficiency, to enable operational improvements and improve access. It's important we merit public investment and time will be spent identifying and applying to appropriate funding streams such as the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery funding amongst others, over the coming year.

14.3.3 There is so much more that the Hotwalls Studios and the Round Tower could provide given the right resources to improve the quality of our work and develop a more inclusive public spaces in which to engage with and enjoy creativity and culture. The potential is there waiting for us.

14.3.4 Continued capital investment aligned with a rich and varied programming could be a transformational step for the city in the coming years and to support both the growth of the creative industries and help deliver the culture led regeneration vision for the city.

15. Business Plan

15.1 The Hotwalls Studios Business plan will be presented in 2022 to meet emerging and changing priorities, provide a sustainable business model for the future and

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)

build resilience into the operation, to continue the successes over the past 6 years.

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Signed by
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Events Listing 2022/23**
- Appendix 2: Social Media Strategy**

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