

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Special Economy Committee – 12 September 2024
SUBJECT:	Coastal Catalyst – Place Partnership Fund
LEAD OFFICER:	Nat Slade, Group Head of Technical Services
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Nash, Economy Committee Chair
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
Fulfilling Arun’s economic potential	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase opportunities for more high-quality, well-paid employment, encouraging more people to live, work, study and visit Arun.• Use regeneration opportunities to attract new and relocating businesses to the district.• Encourage the development of the district as a key tourist destination, supporting and enabling improvements and activities to increase visitor spend.• Make best use of our natural assets to help drive the economy.	
Furthering corporate objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating the conditions that will support high tech businesses including the creative digital sector and green businesses, reducing the need for the workforce to commute out of the district.• Working with partners to support a district-wide skills audit, to understand what businesses need and what skills we have in the community. Work with local colleges and the University of Chichester to assist them to run courses that will match local skill needs for those at all stages in their working life.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
The Council’s Economic Development Strategy includes the following ‘Building Blocks’ and priorities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shaping our places for people to live, work and visit.• Attracting investment and success giving businesses the space and support to grow and prosper.• Putting people centre stage: healthy, happy, prosperous lives.• Growing business population.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
There is no financial commitment or funding contribution from Arun District Council within the project. There is also no financial gain to the authority.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the committee of the Coastal Catalyst Place Partnership Fund (Funded by Arts Council, England) awarded project and to seek Committee's support for the inclusion of the Arun District in the scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committee supports Arun District's inclusion in the funded project.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Coastal Catalyst is a project led by Peter Chivers at Future Creators (Part of Brighton Dome and Festivals Limited). They have been successful in being awarded £900,000 by Arts Council, England to deliver youth-based project work.
- 3.2 Arun is a 'levelling up for culture place' area and is included in the bid, at no cost to the authority. Proposed interventions will primarily be in the towns of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with a view to supporting and including other areas of the district. The committee paper seeks approval from the committee to pursue this.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 Place Partnership Fund is awarded via the Arts Council, England. The fund (PPF) is designed to support specific types of projects that aim to make a step change in the cultural and creative opportunity in places through the Place Partnership Strand within Project Grants. These are projects that seek to transform an aspect of cultural or creative provision in line with Let's Create (Arts Council, England strategy) and the strategic cultural development aspirations of the place the activity benefits.
- 4.2 The type of change Arts Council, England wish to see is projects that necessitate partnership working. Arts Council England are especially interested in projects that create opportunities for children and young people to experience and engage with cultural and creative activity.
- 4.3 Brighton Dome & Festival Limited have been successful in being awarded £900,000 of funding to work within several local authority areas along the coast of West and East Sussex. This is being managed by Future Creators (as part of Brighton Dome & Festival Limited) and Talent Accelerator, being overseen by a dedicated programme manager. There is also funding from Brighton Dome, Brighton Festival, De La Warr Pavilion and University of Brighton. Bringing the total value to around £1.1million. The bid covers local authority areas including Arun, Bexhill, Brighton, and Hove (East), Eastbourne and Newhaven. These areas fall within the levelling up for culture places. The funding was granted in May 2024 and must be spent by the end of March 2026.
- 4.4 Existing delivery partners included in the bid are as follows:

- Artswork (National Portfolio Organisation – operating in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton)
- Arun District Council
- Audio Active (National Portfolio Organisation – operating in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton)
- Badge Nation
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Chichester College Group
- Create Music
- Creative Newhaven
- Culture East Sussex
- Cultureshift
- De La Warr Pavilion
- Department of Work and Pensions
- East Brighton Trust
- East Sussex College
- East Sussex County Council
- Enterprise Adviser Network
- Good Space, Make Good Trouble
- Sussex Chamber of Commerce
- Sussex Learning Network
- The Maker Space/Making Theatre
- The Royal Society of the Arts
- University of Brighton
- West Sussex County Council

4.5 The project is focused on investing in infrastructure to support development of new talent, locally based professionals, and expertise as well as new audiences and culturally engaged citizens. This is vital for the sector locally and will create more opportunities for young people aged 14 - 25 to learn the skills needed to fill tangible employment gaps, leading to the growth of the creative/digital economy. The programme will utilise digital badges to provide a permanent digital record of learning and recognition of their non-academic accomplishments.

4.6 Coastal Catalyst will strengthen and grow existing infrastructure through two key work strands: Creative Skills Infrastructure and Research & Development. The programme will also facilitate the establishment of 3 new Creativity Hubs (in Arun, Eastbourne/Newhaven and Bexhill) and a satellite hub in East Brighton.

- 4.7 Arun is one of the 109 (outside of London) 'Levelling Up for Culture Place' local authority areas, identified by the previous government until 2026. These areas are a focus for additional investment and engagement. Arun has a dedicated Relationship Manager to the Arts Council, England where numerous meetings and discussions have already taken place.
- 4.8 Arun District Council has previously submitted a Place Partnership Fund bid but was not successful. By being a delivery partner in a wider bid, this provides further investment to the area and grows our funding profile, as well as our role within promoting the creative industries and sector within the Arts Council, England.
- 4.9 The authority has been engaged with the project since its inception and have had regular dialogue with Future Creators. A letter of support from Arun District Council was also provided as part of their application, with officers facilitating meetings with relevant local partners. An officer from Arun will sit on the 'mobilisation board' with the initial kick off meeting scheduled for September 2024.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Initial meetings with local partners have taken place, with organisations operating in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton including both Audio Active and Artswork, who are National Portfolio Organisations (subsidised by Arts Council, England). This also includes local educational providers at Further and Higher Education operating in Arun. Further meetings will be planned with stakeholders, to implement the bid, once the programme manager is in place.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The alternative to the recommended option is to decide not to support the Coastal Catalyst project.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 7.1 The funding has been awarded to an external body who wishes to spend the funds along the South Coast of which Arun is one of the locations. There is no funding or financial commitment required from Arun District Council. Any involvement from council officers is minimal which will be met from existing resources and existing budget.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There is no financial risk to the authority. The project is fully funded, the risks sit with Brighton Dome and Festivals Limited who have accepted the funding and are responsible for delivery.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 Legal Services will be closely involved and will be advising on the use of the emerging agreements, grant terms or framework. There are no other legal or governance implications at this stage.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 Officers have a facilitator role which will include attending occasional meetings with partners which can be undertaken within existing resources.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 No direct health and safety impacts identified in relation to the proposals in this report.

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 None

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 None

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 None

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 None

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 None

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 None

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Matt Gover

Job Title: Economic Regeneration Projects Officer

Contact Number: 07385 412134

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

[Arts Council, England 'Let's create' strategy](#)

[Place Partnership Fund](#)

[Arun Economic Strategy](#)