

By: Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee -
12 October 2016

Subject: **Partnership Agreement: Kent Film Office and Shepway District Council** (Decision Number 16/00106)

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: All Shepway Wards

Summary:

Shepway District Council agreed a policy framework for supporting filming and photography shoots across Shepway which sets out defined procedures for supporting film and television companies, including a charging schedule for a range of different services.

The policy framework is underpinned by a proposed Partnership Agreement between SDC and Kent County Council's Kent Film Office, which sets out the functions and services that each will provide in a joint working relationship. The Partnership Agreement will be reviewed annually by Shepway District Council and Kent Film Office.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development on his proposed decision to authorise the Director for Economic Development as shown at Appendix A to:

- (a) sign, on behalf of Kent County Council, the Partnership Agreement between the Kent Film Office and Shepway District Council for the period 2016-17, and
- (b) implement the financial and governance arrangements set out in section 2 therein.

1. Background

- 1.1 Last financial year, filming activity generated £4.8 million of direct spend into the Kent economy which made it a record year for the Kent Film Office. This was achieved through 1045.5 filming days and included projects such as Churchill's Secrets, Wonderwoman, The Tunnel series 2, Jekyll and Hyde, Eastenders and Cadbury's, Rugby World Cup and Ford commercials, as well as photoshoots for Marie Claire, Vogue, Tatler and Mazda.
- 1.2 The Kent Film Office already has a signed film partnership with all districts and Medway Council.
- 1.3 The Kent Film Office is in a good position to offer an extended filming service to its district partners to administer, contract and invoice for filming.
- 1.4 In recent years fewer resources have been available from partner organisations to support Kent Film Office's aim to increase economic benefit to Kent through filming.
- 1.5 When Kent Police authorised Kent Film Office to issue low impact permits on their behalf in February 2014, the effect was a substantial saving in staff time for both partners and the policy has been a successful working practice since then.
- 1.6 The next step was an automated permit system in partnership with Thanet District Council, which resulted in similar savings.

2. Proposed agreement with Shepway District Council

- 2.1 Most districts do not charge for filming on their land, because they find that the burden of administering this is not cost effective for them.
- 2.2 Advantages to Kent Film Office managing filming for districts would be:
 - Facilitation of the permit process for production companies and savings of Kent Film Office and District staff time
 - More money into Kent economy due to more districts charging for filming
 - Kent Film Office income of 10% of any income generated on district land
- 2.3 Kent Film Office was approached in early 2015 by Shepway District Council film contact to assist in the development of a policy framework for supporting filming and photography shoots across the district and proposed a partnership with the Kent Film Office:
- 2.4 Under the terms of its Partnership Agreement with Shepway District Council, the Kent Film Office will:
 - Seek to maximise inward investment in the Shepway economy from film and television production.

- Promote the district through filming and photography to encourage visitors and boost tourism.
- Seek to ensure that filming and photography is conducted safely and that adequate public health liability insurances and risk assessments are in place as set out in the Kent Filming Guidelines.
- Seek to minimise any disruptive effect that filming and photography may have on others.
- The Kent Film Office will collect payment on behalf of Shepway District Council in line with the agreed Film Charging Schedule as set out in Section 12 of Shepway District Council's Filming and Photography Policy.
- Kent Film Office will hold all payments accruing to Shepway District Council and Shepway District Council will invoice once a year (during March) for the charges that have been made, less 10% being the agreed management fee for Kent Film Office.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 Since March 2014, the Kent Film Office has raised £12.5K through highways permits and support for filming and television companies across Kent for Kent County Council Highways, Kent Film Office and various parish councils. In the current financial year it is anticipated that the proposed joint working arrangements with Shepway District Council could raise several thousand pounds from charging, of which 10% would be retained by the Kent Film Office.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications.

6. Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development on his proposed decision to authorise the Director for Economic Development as shown at Appendix A to

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Further Information:

1. Filming and Photography Policy, Shepway District Council, June 2016 - <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=Film%20and%20Photography%20Policy%20-%20June%202016&ID=4835&RPID=11258646>
2. [Kent Filming Partnership](#)