

Film Office & Screen Development Agency Feasibility study

Commissioned by:
Creative Network South
Partnership South Hampshire
Portsmouth City Council
Southampton City Council
Fareham Borough Council
Southampton Solent University
Solent Partners
Partnership for South Hampshire



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Background

1. The past two decades have witnessed an unprecedented global increase in screen production, driven by high public demand and across all genres. The UK is now recognised as the dominant setting for film production, attracting both national and international companies. In 2023, UK film and high-end television production (HETV) expenditure amassed £4.23 billion, with 68% from HETV and 32% from film production. Meanwhile, internationally led inward investment – via co-produced films and HETV shows – accrued £3.31 billion, comprising 78% of the combined production spend¹.

Despite the unforeseen challenges of COVID-19, the proliferation of streaming channels and broadcasters tightening budgets as well as US strikes impacting upon all areas of screen production, the UK remains highly attractive to production companies. It offers an internationally recognised crew-base, an effective national/ regional infrastructure and unique locations. In addition, the industry is underpinned by established, globally competitive production incentives, enhanced in the Government's latest budget announcement. At a regional level, the case studies² developed during this investigation provide further detail regarding the many benefits of investing in a regional film office (e.g., income generation; training and skills development; increased employment opportunities; cultural tourism).

Although production spend across Solent and Hampshire is not currently being tracked, several high-profile films and HETV productions have been made in the area over the past years, including The Crown in Winchester; Napoleon in Portsmouth; Tenet in Southampton; The Beast Must Die on the Isle of Wight. At present, the region's local authorities focus upon delivering production support, without the capacity or mechanisms to track spend and/ or activity. Inevitably or to develop marketing - opportunities are not being maximised to attract further, significant production activity to the area.



Background

Film and HETV production has a significant economic impact for the regions, generating employment and revenue for local suppliers, freelancers, locations and councils. Attracting screen production to an area leads to job creation for residents, via e.g. accommodation, construction, catering, transportation and location support. In addition, it encourages expenditure by visiting artists, filmmakers and their crews, boosting the local economy while providing new opportunities for audience engagement and visitor development. Importantly, it would contribute to Solent's wider policy objectives, including those of e.g. arts, culture and tourism; economic development and sustainability; residents' health and wellbeing³.

Currently there is no appropriate benchmark for income generation, direct spend or production levels across the Solent and Hampshire area due to lack of tracking of production activity. It does take time and resources to put this evidence base in place. The Kent Film office started off with an evidenced spend of less than £1m over 15 years ago that has increased in 2023 to £12m direct production spend which does not count the leverage of a minimum of 3 times that. Sussex have increased their production days over recent years to 1300 days in 2023. Bristol has supported over £20m of direct spend last year. The South East production spend has been increasing year on year since 2019 when the direct production spend was £469m. If the Solent region can aim secure even 5% of that, we would see a significant uplift in industry activity and the benefits that come with it.

Against this background, Creative Network South⁴. (which is funded by the Partnership for South Hampshire PfSH⁵.), Solent Partners⁶ and the partner local authorities (i.e., Portsmouth City Council; Southampton City Council; Fareham Borough Council⁷), have commissioned this feasibility study to investigate potential models of partnership working to support the development of screen production across the Solent and possibly wider central south area.

The focus of the study is on considering the setup of Solent Film Office and Screen Development Agency. "The Solent Screen Industries Cluster Network", an initial regional consultation funded by Solent University in the Spring of 2022, led to the founding of a Screen Industries Cluster Network under the auspices of Creative Network South. Subsequently there have been two Screen Industries Clusters Meetings hosted by Fareham College. Both meetings were well attended by local government officers, regional economic sector development agencies, as well as representatives from FE/HE and the screen industries.

This study builds upon insights from the Screen Industries Cluster Meetings at Fareham College (2022 & 2023), facilitated by the Southern Policy Centre and previous research undertaken by Solent University and Creative Network South including 'Unleashing Economic Potential'⁸.

Setting

2. The Solent is anchored around the Isle of Wight, the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton, the New Forest, the M27 corridor and the Solent waterway.

Representing a coastal economic area of approximately six hundred square miles, it encompasses the New Forest National Park, is bordered by the South Downs National Park, and has a natural geography comprising three islands and two peninsulas with renowned heritage, countryside and coastline.

With a population of more than 1.25 million and over 42,000 businesses, Solent is an internationally recognised key economic region with a significant Maritime focus. The M3 motorway and train service provide direct links to London, with airports in Southampton and Fareham. Solent is served by four universities with two more in neighbouring counties.

The area has benefited from a high level of cross border Local Authority collaboration. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, the predecessor to the PfSH, was viewed as model of good practice for collaboration on planning and economic development in the late 2000s. The partnership included; Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, New Forest District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Havant Borough Council, Test Valley District Council, Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council. From 2010-2024 Solent LEP led on Economic Development, while PfSH work has focused on the environment, culture and planning.



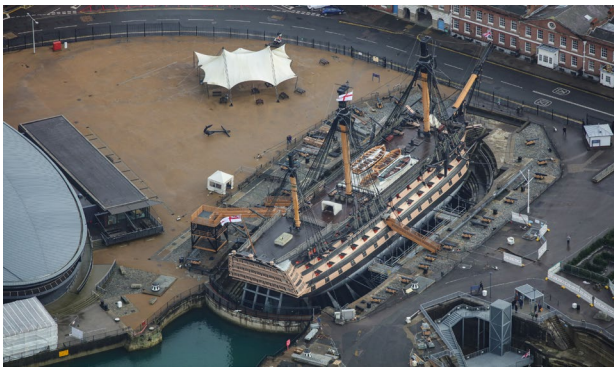
Setting

The region offers excellent location film-friendly options for production including historic sites, coastal settings and unspoiled countryside as well as city and urban landscapes, making it an attractive setting for both film and TV. It has been a popular location due to its diverse scenery and distinctive historic landmarks, including Winchester Cathedral, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Beaulieu and Highclere Castle.

Certain locations have established processes in place to facilitate screen production and some councils have experience with production as well as extensive experience delivering large scale events which offer valuable transferable skills. However, the potential for increasing production shooting is not currently being maximised, a fact recognised by Creative Network South, Solent Partners and the partner local authorities⁹.

In this context, the present study was commissioned with two overarching aims:

- To investigate the current situation regarding screen production support services and opportunities within and across Solent and Hampshire.
- Review the effectiveness of the regions Location and Crew databases
- To determine whether there exists a need and/ or ambition to galvanise the region's Film, TV and digital production offer¹⁰.



Methodology

3. The study took place between February and June 2024, engaging with 38 representatives from regional industry, councils and national organisations.

It comprised both quantitative and qualitative strands, including: interviews with the region's Councils, Film Offices and Universities as well as interviews with cultural organisations who support local film and screen activity; meetings with six national leads for film production support and inward investment; meetings with four regional Film Offices to gain a more granular understanding of their work; desk research and scoping review of publicly available data pertaining to the UK's film industry, comparative film agencies across the country and wider data from BFI/ other national sources.



At each stage, the study sought to answer the following key questions:

- Would the provision of an outstanding production environment maximise opportunities for the regional, national and international screen production sector?
- Does the region need the support of a regional Film Office and Screen Sector development agency to achieve this?



The Current Situation

4.1 Film Culture, Festivals and Networking

The Solent area boasts a vibrant film culture with several cinemas and film clubs as well as some high-profile local festivals e.g., Isle of Wight Film Festival; Making Waves in Portsmouth; Purgatory in Southampton; Shorts::Cut in Portsmouth and Southsea; Southampton Film Week and Southampton International Film Festival¹¹, cumulatively engaging with many thousands of residents and visitors each year.

These events showcase local talent, while fostering collaborative and networking opportunities. Working in partnership with Solent's Universities, they enhance the region's cultural fabric, offering independent film screenings, industry Q&A sessions, workshops, and camps for children and young people (CYP). In addition, Portsmouth's DV Film Challenge has catalysed new work, producing a significant number of short films. Each provides a springboard for expansion, resulting in economic growth and audience development.



4.2 Training and Skills Development

The Solent area provides a broad programme of workshops, meet-ups, training and skills development. City Eye in Southampton, operates a resource-rich centre, encouraging the exchange of ideas and collaboration amongst local filmmakers, in addition to managing the BFI Youth Film Academy. Portsmouth Creates and Southampton Forward have cultivated wider creative industry connections primarily aimed at fostering sustainable sectoral growth, while building networks, showcase events and festivals. Isle of Wight's Ventnor Exchange, with its Brave Network offers innovative creative experiences for CYP, while Young Creatives, Portsmouth provides film activities and cinema clubs for young people.

Many of these young people and well as adult returners attend FE colleges across the region, which deliver significant transferable skills including construction, electrics, engineering, hair & beauty, fashion, arts and media.

Solent's Universities (i.e. Portsmouth, Southampton, Solent and Winchester), meanwhile deliver competitive film/ digital courses, offering ground-breaking national initiatives, including XR and virtual production, while providing resources, facilities and national/ international professional expertise. Supporting regionally based sector growth and regional production, many HE and FE teaching staff continue to work across the screen industry via directing, technical production, VFX, XR, writing as well providing expert historical, scientific and marine research roles.

Each of these presents untapped opportunities for expansion via a regional screen focussed partnership. In line with the regional Local Skills Improvement Plan, they are crucial for developing pathways into the industry yet require financial and strategic support to grow.

The Current Situation

4.3 Production and Location Support

Solent's local authorities currently offer location support to Film and TV production companies interested in using the region's unique sites for screen production. Most councils signpost and support access to resources, facilitate permits and have web pages outlining processes for gaining agreement to film in the area.

Some council districts have lists of council locations and some local services. There are some good private location, services who also have agreements with significant national site owners and some crew database providers. But many regional locations and locally based crew do not appear to be on a region wide database



Funded by BFI as part of Creative UK, Filming England provides support where possible, with a focus on feature films and high-end drama. In Solent, they have supported the Filmwight and New Forest Film Offices. Data and feedback suggests Film England finds both organisations efficient and proactive, however the potential of their work has not been fully realised, in comparison to other areas across the UK.

Filming England has a national database for locations and crew which can be presented on a regional basis, however data needs to be uploaded by someone from the region and this does not appear to have been maximised.

The Opportunity

5.

Although much evidence for potential sectoral growth exists, the Solent area is not currently maximising the opportunities within production and across services for the industry.

The local authorities propose a proactive, well supported film offer is needed for attracting companies to the area. This would position the region positively, raising its profile both domestically and internationally, thereby driving additional investment and growth.

Data suggests a regional film office for Solent and Hampshire would result in the following impacts UK: See [5.1- 5.4](#) below.

5.1 Growth of local economy

Investment in Solent's film and screen industry would bring significant economic benefits for the region. The new Government is building on the previously committed £50 billion to bolster the creative industries, with one million more jobs by 2030; £77 million is allocated to the sector, with £50 million designated for the establishment of new 'creative clusters'. This sits alongside the prioritising of the Creative Industries in the new Industrial Strategy proposals. Solent now has a unique opportunity to harness the economic potential of the sector, by establishing a Film Office and Screen Industries Sector Development Agency. There is also the opportunity to link in more actively with wider Hampshire County partnerships.

5.2 Tourism and destination appeal

In a recent report Visit Britain highlighted significant leverage opportunities for engaging with film tourism at a regional level¹².

- Amongst UK visitors who have taken a leisure trip in last 10 years, 7 in 10 have visited a film or TV location in the UK, demonstrating a sizable opportunity to leverage.
- Film and TV locations are of significant interest amongst those considering a leisure trip to the UK; 9 in 10 potential visitors would be interested in visiting a film or TV location in the UK in the future.

The BFI 2021 Business Report by Olsberg.SPI estimated that in 2019, inbound tourists spent an estimated £892 million. This spending generated 17,660 FTEs and the GVA impact of film-related screen tourism was an estimated £898 million in 2019. The trajectory of these figures has been increasing year on year.

Promoting Solent and the wider area as a filming location, a Film Office and Screen Development Agency will attract productions, showcasing the region to a global audience, while driving tourism and benefiting local businesses.

The Opportunity

5.3 Growth of screen related industry

The British Film Institute reports indicate production spend increased from £3.4 billion in 2017 to £7.02 billion in 2023-2024, driven by inward investment features with HETV and the rise of high-quality productions made for streaming platforms. Significant content is made outside of London/ South East, with the potential to grow. In 2021, the UK film industry employed approximately 106,000 people, of which more than three-quarters – around 85,000 – worked in production and distribution. The film exhibition and distribution accounted for 14,000 and 7,000 of the sector's workforce.

In June 24 research commissioned by ScreenSkills, the industry-led skills body for UK screen, estimates that continued growth will require the equivalent of between 15,130 and 20,770 additional full-time crew within three years. Timing on this may need to be adjusted due to ongoing shifts in demand relating to impact of US strikes and commissioning rates. This has resulted in a recent downturn in employment and activity, but the long term trajectory is still positive.

A new Screen Sector Agency or consolidated Network with a focus on skills and CPD could collaborate with the Film Office and Solent's Universities, offering training and facilitate partnerships between industry professionals and aspiring talent, equipping individuals with the necessary skills to excel in the sector. Through actively attracting new productions, fostering local talent and supporting sectoral growth, Solent will become a significant job creator, ensuring sustainable employment for residents, while contributing to the economic prosperity of the region

5.4 Promoting strategic policies

A Film Office and Screen Industries Sector Development Agency/Network for the Solent region would provide the ecosystem to support the long-term growth of the sector, while supporting wider policy initiatives¹⁵. Similar dedicated agencies have nurtured local ecosystems and fostered the growth of screen-related supply chains, talent, innovation and enterprise. They have engaged stakeholders in a film friendly partnership, promoting their region(s) as Green Friendly, while working with local authorities to support a more sustainable approach to filming across the UK. This could be enhanced by having a wider Solent and Hampshire partnership.



Proposed Business Models

6. This study seeks to provide suggestions for a more cohesive approach, maximising opportunities for Solent film and screen industry, while meeting the aspirations of partners and other stakeholders across the county. The process has included: the development of regional/ national case studies; investigating ways for improving the current service; exploring potential business models; recommendations for next steps. Further details may be found in the appendices¹⁶, with a summary of potential business models for a regional Film Office described below.

An initial one-off investment to cover set up and start up costs would greatly enhance the likelihood of success especially if the spend supports marketing across all film services. This investment would need to be approximately £60k.



Option 1: Publicly Funded Regional Film Office

Create a Regional Film Office, core funded by the Solent Partnership and potential partnership with Hampshire County, with a minimum of two staff members for a two-year pilot (i.e., fully funded with salaries, overheads and expenses). To be accommodated within a partner's office; staff would be Council employees, working alongside departments of e.g., Arts and Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Events and Communications, thereby enhancing this new service and providing in-house support.

Costs: c.£120k each year for two years, excluding office accommodation and overheads (as based on combination of Kent/ Surrey Film Office models) This model would require ongoing revenue funding, but could both promote film locations in the area and support the delivery of skills and sector development work.



Proposed Business Models

Option 2: Independent Regional Film Office

Create an outsourced Solent (and possibly wider Hampshire) Film Office, to deliver at arm's length from the Partnership. This model could be more agile and responsive to local needs and expectations; less answerable to local authority agendas, less bureaucratic and/ or political. Such an organisation may not gain membership of Film Office UK but could be profit driven and therefore self-funding once established.

Seed funding should be considered for communications, PR and database to be shared by Councils/ regional partners and assist other regional film office which would expediate the success of an independent office but is not an essential requirement.

This model option would focus on developing the use of locations in the area and crew as well as tracking data collection. A separate organisation is likely to be needed to support skills and sector development work.

Costs: In order to become self-funding, the independent film location agency, may need to generate circa £150k per annum. It would be the responsibility of the independent agency to generate this revenue. This could be achieved through percentage charges on fees, permits etc, locations and other services. Partner Local Authorities would need to agree a common MOU including a common schedule of fees as well as perhaps provide final sign off on council property areas.

Discussions which took place during the research phase of the study suggests several existing organisations would be interested in tendering to run the film location agency on this basis. It is therefore recommended that an open procurement process is used to select an appropriate partner to run the agency.

The agency would not have a remit for sector developments or skills, this work would require separate funding.

Option 3: Regional Film Office within not-for-profit organisation

A Solent Film Office with potential to broaden partnership with wider Hampshire, sitting within not-for-profit stakeholder or partner organisation, funded by Council and income generation. Would require dedicated accommodation and marketing budget(s), with two full time staff members (e.g. Film Officer and Production Coordinator) to deliver. Would liaise with Council regarding production specific matters: data collection pertaining to production enquiries; filming; expenditure and impact(s).

Costs: c.£150k per annum, in addition to start-up costs, drawn from Council (combination of models 1 and 2 above)

Recommendation

7

In response to the increasing interest from national and international production companies seeking filming locations within the Solent and Hampshire area, we recommend establishing a freestanding film location agency to serve districts and cities in South Hampshire and possibly Hampshire if they wished to be partners.

7.1 This Agency would work in partnership with existing agencies such as Filmwight which is the favoured agency for the Isle of Wight supported by Isle of Wight Council.

To optimise the location agency, a set up investment of around £60k would be required. This might be funded through a combination of residual LEP funding, University funding and small Subscriptions from partner Local Authorities. It is understood that to meet the requirements of Local Government Auditors all Local Authorities in the partnership benefiting from the work of the agency would need to make a financial contribution.

All Hampshire Districts, Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, The South Downs National Park and the New Forest National Park will be invited to join

The work of the location agency would need to be subject to evaluation from inception and it is recommended that its operation be reviewed after 3 years.

7.2 It is recommended that in parallel to establishing the Film Office Agency with a focus on locations and crew, a collaborative model for sector skills and talent development be explored. Core partners would include Southampton Forward, Creative Island and Portsmouth Creates alongside local authority and university partners. City Eye is well placed as a specialist agency to lead the development of this work, but its role would be to steer rather than necessarily directly deliver in all locations.

The true beneficiaries of a Solent led Film Office will be the region and its many residents. The commercial elements of such an initiative would allow for ongoing charges/ income, from e.g., permits, consultancy, location management and a wide range of sector specific services.

A collaborative approach to Screen Sector Development would meanwhile leverage longer term investment, through e.g., talent development and skills programme grants; funding applications to national organisations; a series of local, regional and international partnership programmes. Data collected from regional film offices for the present study, (i.e. Berkshire Film Office, Kent Film Office, Sussex Film Office, Liverpool Film Office Bristol Film Office, Cornwall Screen) demonstrate how investment has increased industry skills, nurtured emerging talent, attracted significant production companies to the region and driven sectoral growth.

However, such achievements take time, significant evidence gathering and investment. In conclusion, it would appear both timely and necessary to invest in both establishing a self-funding Film location agency and Screen Sector Development partnerships.

Next Steps

8.

It is proposed that the existing steering group made up of representatives from Creative Network South, PFSH, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Isle of Wight Council, Fareham Council, Southampton Forward, Creative Island and Portsmouth Creates, take forward the proposals outlined in this study.

This partnership will need to be resourced and recruited to as there is no capacity within the existing partnership to take this work forward. The partnership should be expanded to include other interested parties who wish to partner in the location work - local authorities, universities, sector organisations.

It would be effective to continue the Solent Partners collaboration and to build on the Screen Industries Cluster network who initiated this research and initiatives undertaken around the development of the region's film and screen production programme.

It is recommended the commissioners of this report work in partnership to identify the resources to take forward (1) the establishment of the Film Office and (2) the Screen Development agency. This will need to be undertaken in the context of wider regional changes.

Having identified the resources and capacity, the work programme should focus on:

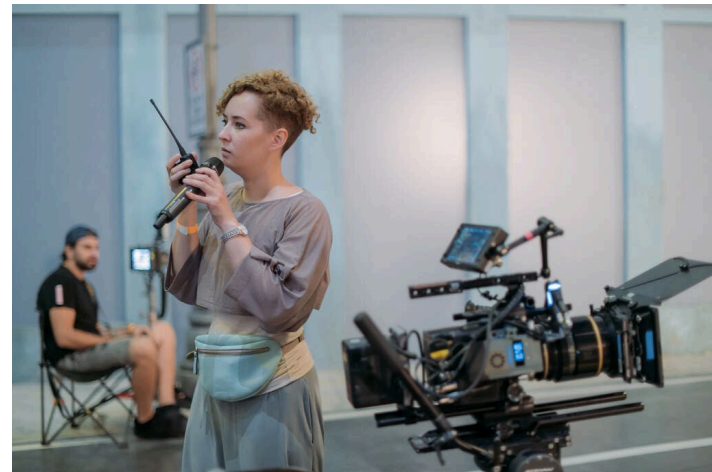
- a) Developing and implementing an agreed procurement approach to take forward option 2
- b) Developing and agreeing on a partnership MOU, taking it through the relevant governance processes, to support the Film Office partnership
- c) Developing and agreeing a bespoke MOU with Filmwight, in parallel, to support the partnership
- d) Building on the work of the Solent Screen Industries Cluster Network to collaborate on a range of activities including advocacy, fundraising, skills development.
- e) Align this work to the wider regional economic and culture agenda, to support economic growth, skills development and capitalise on the opportunities across the region.

Appendices

- i. Film and Screen Production Spend in English Regions
- ii. Definition of a Film Office: Filming in England
- iii. SWOT Analysis for Solent and Hampshire Film Office/ Screen Development Agency
- iv. Solent and Hampshire's Film and Screen Industry: Current Status
- v. Film Office Case Studies: Solent Regional Examples
- vi. Film Office Case Studies: National Examples



- vii. Proposed Business Models
- viii. Partnership MOU Outline
- ix. Future development work
- x. Interview Register
- xi. References
- xii. Acknowledgements



Appendix i.

Film and Screen Production Spend in English Regions

Retrieving current data on production spend across the English regions is challenging. However, the most recent statistics published by Creative England (2017-19), are detailed below. It is important to note these figures will have increased during the past years, since 2019.

Figures for film and screen production	2017-2019
North West	£469.2m
Yorkshire & Humber	£114.2m
South West	£111.8m
East of England	£65.7m
South East (including Hampshire and Isle of Wight - but excluding Buckinghamshire and Surrey)	£469.2m
Full-time industry employees (FTEs) in South East	3,952 FTEs
Metro London (including Buckinghamshire and Surrey)	£3.14bn

Non-HETV (i.e., budget TV) format/ series production expenditure across the regions is increasing year on year, e.g. Channel 4 out of London commissioning increased to £228m in 2022, while BBC's spend on television content totalled £1,869m in 2022-23. The BBC saw significant growth in TV commissioning spend in the English regions, currently at 60% of its total. The BBC worked with 351 independent production companies, with 65 of those being new suppliers in 2022-23. Productions made in neighbouring regions during 2023, meanwhile include:

South-East

Film: The Amateur; Deadpool 3; Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire; Heads of State; Here; Paddington In Peru; Sonic The Hedgehog 3.

HETV: Call The Midwife (Series 13); The Devil's Hour (Season 2); Ghosts (Series 5); Knuckles; Mary & George; Mr Bates vs The Post Office; Midsomer Murders (Season2); The Sandman (Season 2).

South-West

Film: Heretic; The Salt Path; Speak No Evil; Surviving Earth; Winter Of The Crow.

HETV: Beyond Paradise (Series 2); Boarders; The Hoard; The Killing Kind; McDonald & Dodds (Series 4); The Outlaws (Series 3); Playing Nice.

Appendix ii.

Definition of a Film Office: Filming in England

Filming in England¹⁷ defines a ‘Film Office’ as an organisation sitting within – or having the formal backing of a Council to deliver production support and facilitation services to the film and broadcast industries. These are further defined by having at least one dedicated member of staff, the majority of whose time is to deliver filming liaison and facilitation services within the Film Office domain. The primary role of the Film Office is to ensure all filming activities are in compliance with the law and considerate of the residents and businesses within its jurisdiction.

This Quality Standards Framework sets out the minimum standard(s) expected of a Film Office Partner, to ensure effective service delivery to the film and broadcast industries at a local level; this is based upon the aspiration of both partners, promoting the UK’s standing as a world-class destination for film and television, while maintaining a film-friendly environment through provision of an outstanding service to the sector.



Quality Standards Framework: Filming in England

Locations	Ensure a thorough representation of filming locations on National Locations Directory via Partner Access	✓
	Ensure up-to-date, high level quality location imagery	✓
	Ensure regular cleansing of location data	✓
Filming Facilitation	Ensure an effective and timely response to all filming enquiries within the Film Office domain	✓
	Maintain effective partnerships with necessary and relevant agencies within the Film Office jurisdiction	✓
	Work in partnership with Filming in England to successfully negotiate industry troubleshooting requirements in the Film Office domain	✓
Production Enquiries	Respond to national enquiries within a prescribed deadline, typically a minimum of five working days, including if a nil response	✓
	Ensure any location suggestions from the Film Office jurisdiction are on brief, and in principle available for filming and as represented	✓
	Present location suggestions to Filming in England via single URL link with division of categories where appropriate	✓

Appendix iii.

SWOT Analysis for Solent and Hampshire Film Office

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
- Experienced Council Officers in Communications, Tourism and Events who support well. - Filmwright and New Forest Film Office have frameworks in place and part of UK Network. - Unique filming locations across the region. - Easy travel for studio clusters around London. - Proactive Councils - Some pockets of good private provision for filming support. - Good support for road closures, permits, etc. - Supportive highways and constabulary - Information on Council website(s), with online permit application; some have contact numbers - Generally welcome approach.	- Most of film service is reactive - No marketing/ promotion at national/ international level - Service usually delivered by council personnel without film office in JD - Limited tracking/ data collection due to lack of capacity - Value (£) of industry to region unclear due to lack of evidence and tracking - Locations/ crewing database reported to be out of date across many areas. - No agreed standard for regional code of conduct for production - No film friendly partnerships agreements in place - Need to improve reputation and communication - Industry lack of awareness of the region - Several regional websites out of date - Lack of suitable infrastructure - No Green shooting strategy in place - No regional funding incentives or investments for sector. - No level playing field on fees across the region.	- Region. Goodwill from Councils - Supportive/ enthusiastic stakeholder network. - Partnership opportunities with Creative Industry networks across Solent area. - Good travel connections - Solent and Hampshire an underused resource that industry could become very excited about. - Chance to re-frame production service support within and across the region. - Growth in production will help retain graduates, improve skills and build confidence. - Positive tourism opportunities if securing landmark TV and film productions. - Increased regional GVA for the sector	- Region is fragmented and currently working in silos - Council budget cuts - Competition from other Film Offices and regions. - Lack of significant spend on PR at national and international level means other regional areas will look more competitive. - Lack of diversity and inclusion strategies - Lack of dedicated funding - Competition between service providers and supply chains - Lack of clarity over financial impact - Lack of effective tracking and data collection to support strategy. - Industry economic threats - Councils increasingly stretched across all areas

Appendix iv.

Solent and Hampshire's Film and Screen Industry: Current Status

Current Status: Portsmouth	Current Status: Southampton	Current Status: Isle of Wight	Current Status: New Forest
Portsmouth Film Office website has information on fees and application process, as well as Flickr page of local sites. Enquires dealt with by Communication and Events personnel. Regular enquiries but fewer confirmations. Reactive rather than proactive, but very supportive approach with excellent expertise across team for large scale logistics. No crew, services, or location database links. Portsmouth Creates have good cross-arts network who can support wider creative production needs. Portsmouth University very keen to support across all areas. Visit Portsmouth welcome film activity and would like to develop more film tourism activity.	Visit Southampton hosts website filming information in the city, provided and updated by Council's Events team. Website and enquires dealt with by Events and Communications personnel – council officer who deal with filming enquirers are well respected but lack significant capacity to make more opportunities. Website has useful information, including police and road closure contacts. They also signpost to Filming in England for crew and locations. City Eye provide support with advice and guidance as well as local crew support. Gillian Tully's Hampshire Independent Film office currently signposted as support for area and supports a lot of students and independents as well as providing Fixer services. Southampton Forward keen to support activities across Film Office agenda, as they provide coordinating leadership on Tourism and Festivals and Events and support economic growth and attracting investment Solent University very keen to support across all areas.	IOW Council is considering delegating full production support to Filmwight. To date, Council's Communication Dept. have dealt with enquires and permits and in recent years, passed on to FW for further support and exert production guidance. Service delivered by part time Film Officer. FW is a member of Film Office UK and liaises with Filming in England. Need for support in attracting production at national/ international level. Isle of Wight Film Fixers is a pro-active agency that provide services across all areas of production who have brokered several Productions on the Island including recent Bollywood Movies. Lobster Locations support locations and work closely with the National Trust and others to maintain high level location services. All support production on the Island, across TV and film, as well as commercials and photo shoots. Many screen industry professionals live or visit the island regularly.	New Forest Film Office sits with the Regeneration Team, with personnel and overheads support. Initially the Council worked closely with Filming in England to set up the office and had part-time dedicated officer. The Film Office website has locations information. No charge for general filming in the area on council external land. There are Charges for parking and Council's property use. Typically, a fee only charged for filming on Council land if there is cost implication, such as closure of road or car park. They no longer have a dedicated film officer, and enquiries are dealt with by the Economic development team – which is small. Would like to be more pro-active but not enough time. The Forest and clearing are in demand, but use has is very restricted and managed carefully by the Forestry commission. There is a community of interest filmmakers in the area who have been supportive.

Appendix iv.

Solent and Hampshire's Film and Screen Industry: Current Status

Current Status: Gosport	Current Status: Havant
Minimal information on website. Mainly handled by Portsmouth. Portsmouth Dockyard Property Trust has considerable untapped land and buildings in Gosport and are willing to allow on-site filming.	Communications and Marketing personnel are best placed to help with permits, etc. for filming within the Borough. Little information on website but appear welcoming when in contact.



Current Status: Fareham	Current Status: Eastleigh
Requests and permission to film in Fareham are handled by Borough's Communication Team. They are supportive and welcome filming in the area. They have direct line on their website, which is good. They do not charge for filming in the Borough, suggesting a donation be made to one of Mayor's Charities. List of Council good properties for filming, but not advertised. Would like to see more filming but not sure they have capacity to deal with enquiries that may not lead anywhere. Believe Film shoots have a positive influence on local communities.	Filming enquires are handled by the Events Dept. Process and timings for permissions are outlined on their website and are part of general events are, and enquiries dealt with as part of the events advice. Permissions and fees are by negotiation.

Appendix v.

Film Office Case Studies: Solent Regional Examples

A. New Forest: Revitalisation of the Local Film Industry through a District-Level Film Office

Introduction: In 2016, a district-level start-up was launched to provide a professional film office setup to support both incoming and local productions. This initiative injected £3m into the local economy, revitalising activity and boosting screen tourism, particularly during the off-season.

Unique Selling Points: The region's appeal was bolstered by its unique selling points, including stately homes, historic houses, picturesque landscapes, woodlands, open heathlands, and a beautiful coastline. These features, along with new restaurants and accommodations, attracted filmmakers and tourists alike.

Challenges: However, challenges arose when the part-time Film Officer role became vacant in May 2023 and was not filled. The Film Office struggled with limited capacity, leading to a reduction in support for extensive projects and a need to decline student enquiries, due to unrealistic expectations and lack of budget.

Operational Constraints: The Office has 110 private locations but faces constraints in monitoring enquiries and shoot days. The nature of filming risks on heathlands and a nature reserve means that while many enquiries were received, the inability to permit filming on open heath and forest lands (which are not owned by the Council) has led to missed opportunities.

Outreach and Development: Previous outreach efforts, such as crew nights and networking events, had been curtailed due to capacity issues. Although brochures and an online database of images and services were created, there was a need for updated data retention and a review of developmental work.

Strategic Partnerships: The potential for a partnership with a wider Film Office network was considered and thought to be potentially viable. There were concerns about measuring the return on investment. The Film Office operates on a direct fee recovery system, primarily charging only for parking suspension while liaising with local authorities on community impacts.

Collaboration Opportunities: A partnership would require involvement from Solent and Hampshire Councils, but local delivery would still be necessary, particularly in issuing permits and managing coastal and park areas. The Film Office expressed interest in collaboration, especially in PR, to enhance connections across Solent Maritime and Portsmouth Dockyard offerings. The use of Moviesite as a location database highlighted the opportunity for a more comprehensive regional location offer.

Conclusion: The case study underscores the importance of strategic investment and capacity building to support the film industry at a regional level. With the right partnerships and updated infrastructure, there is potential for significant growth and contribution to the local economy and cultural landscape.

Appendix v.

Film Office Case Studies: Solent Regional Examples

B. Filmwright: Catalysing the Creative Sector in the Isle of Wight

Background: The Isle of Wight's burgeoning creative sector identified a gap in support for film and TV production, which led to the establishment of the Filmwright Film Office in March 2021. As part of Venture South, a not-for-profit organisation, Filmwright aimed to simplify the production process on the Island, while stimulating economic growth and employment opportunities.

Initiative Launch: Stephen Izzat, a renowned creative industry professional, along with lawyer Linda Sullivan and other local creatives, founded Venture South. Their vision was to foster investment in the creative industries and enhance employment on the Isle of Wight. The Filmwright Film Office was set up as a central point of contact for the industry, filling a crucial gap in services.

Development and Support: With support from the Isle of Wight Council, Creative England and Arts Council England, Filmwright appointed a part-time Film Officer known for their effective production support skills. Despite operating on a minimal budget, Filmwright managed to secure a sponsorship deal with a local ferry company and generate income through direct cost charges.

Collaboration and Streamlining: Prior to Filmwright, the Isle of Wight Council Communications Dept. and Visit Isle of Wight handled film-related liaisons. Filmwright is now responsible for receiving and responding all film enquiries on the island. They have a service level agreement in place with the council, who have effectively outsourced the film/ TV/Ad handling to Filmwright. The Office also oversees screening productions for risk assessments, insurances and shooting protocols.

They also grant permissions for locations owned by the council and arranging road closures and filming permissions with Island Roads. Although outsourced, there is, no financial support or payment by the council to Filmwright.

Achievements and Services: Filmwright is the Isle of Wight's official Film office and operates with the endorsement of the Isle of Wight Council. It is the primary point of contact for advice and management of filming across the Island. Filmwright is also a member of Film Offices UK (FO:UK). Filmwright has negotiated reduced ferry costs and provided logistical and location support, successfully facilitating a wide range of projects. They emphasise collaboration with other local Island based service providers who have been facilitating Screen led activity on the island for many years. They aim to be a conduit for employment opportunities across the Island.

Future Prospects: A studio development is underway, promising further development within the region. Filmwright aspires to provide top-tier services, leveraging talent and resources available on the Island.

Marketing and Promotion: While Filmwright participates in Focus, a major London event for locations, there is a recognised need for more aggressive marketing to promote the Island's offer at a national and international level. The challenge remains to balance local identity with broader promotional efforts within the constraints of a limited budget.

Conclusion: Filmwright's case study exemplifies the impact of strategic support and centralised coordination in enhancing a region's creative sector. With continued development and effective marketing, the Isle of Wight can solidify its position as a prime location for film and TV production, offering significant economic and cultural benefits.

vi. Film Office Case Studies: National Examples

A. Kent Film Office

Introduction:

Established in 2006 as an economic development initiative by Kent County Council, the Kent Film Office has become a cornerstone of the region's film industry. Situated within the Economic Regeneration Department, its primary objective is to drive inward investment through filming activities, thereby bolstering the local economy. By fostering partnerships and streamlining administrative processes, the Kent Film Office plays a pivotal role in ensuring Kent remains a desirable and film-friendly destination.

Objectives:

- To maximise inward investment from filming activities in Kent and Medway
- To provide a timely, consistent, and first-class service to the creative industries
- To promote film tourism initiatives to enhance regional economic growth
- To establish and maintain collaborative partnerships with Las, police, and private stakeholders.

Key Strategies:

Inward Investment: The Kent Film Office actively seeks to attract filming projects to the region, generating over £12m of direct production spend in 2023. Despite anticipated industry slowdowns, the Office remains committed to maximising investment opportunities.

Kent Film Partnership: Established in 2008, the partnership ensures Kent's status as a film-friendly region by centralising filming enquiries through the Kent Film Office. This streamlined approach minimises administrative burdens and enhances service delivery to the creative industries.

Film Tourism Initiatives: The Kent Film Officer spearheads film tourism initiatives, including trails based on popular productions, including e.g., The Darling Buds of May; Dickens; The Tudors.

These initiatives, available online, not only promote the region but also stimulate local spending and tourism.

Stakeholder Engagement: Maintaining open and transparent communication with stakeholders is paramount. The Film Officer liaises proactively with various entities, including highways, police, Las and environmental agencies, to ensure smooth coordination of filming activities while safeguarding community interests.

Performance Metrics:

In 2023, the Kent Film Office generated more than £12m of inward investment, marking a significant contribution to the local economy. Film tourism initiatives, such as themed trails, have increased regional spending and attracted visitors interested in exploring filming locations.

Challenges and Future Directions:

Anticipated industry slowdowns and external factors, such as US strikes, may impact filming activity and investment in the upcoming years. The Office aims to continue diversifying its revenue streams and expanding its range of services to support the growth of the local film industry.

Business Model:

Core funding of £80k from Kent Council, supplemented by revenue streams such as permit fees and direct services (c.£30k per annum), sustains operations. Income generated supports District Councils and covers essential expenses, including salaries, travel, and database maintenance.

Conclusion:

The Kent Film Office exemplifies effective collaboration between public and private sectors in driving economic growth via the film industry. Through its partnerships, innovative initiatives and a robust business model, the Office continues to position Kent as a premier destination for filming, while nurturing the region's cultural, heritage and tourism sectors.

vi. Film Office Case Studies: National Examples

B. Sussex Film Office

Introduction:

Sussex Film Office, an independent and privately-owned entity, has been a vital contributor to the region's film industry for over eight years. Operating in collaboration with nearly all local councils, the Office acts as liaison between production companies and stakeholders, streamlining the process of obtaining permits and permissions for filming activities. With a focus on efficient communication and proactive engagement, Sussex Film Office has become an indispensable partner for both local authorities and production teams.

Objectives:

- To facilitate/ expedite process of obtaining permits and permissions for filming activities in Sussex
- To foster collaboration between production companies and local stakeholders
- To promote Sussex as a desirable filming location
- To provide support and resources to enhance the local film industry.

Key Strategies

Stakeholder Engagement: Sussex Film Office maintains working Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Council partners and liaises closely with events teams and economic development departments. Named Council Officers ensure effective communication and coordination, facilitating timely approvals and sign-offs for filming permits.

Partnership with Key Stakeholders: Exclusive contracts with key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and Historic England streamline the process of obtaining permissions for filming in environmentally sensitive or historically significant locations.

Comprehensive Database Management: The Office manages a comprehensive database of locations, crew members and service providers, facilitating efficient location scouting and hiring. They use the bespoke FamePro database, providing access to Las to assist with database management and permit processing.

Proactive Marketing: The Office actively promotes Sussex as a filming destination, leveraging partnerships with Creative England and Filming Partnerships. Word-of-mouth referrals drive the majority of enquiries, supplemented by online marketing.

Performance Metrics:

Over the past year, Sussex Film Office facilitated approximately 1,300 shoot days, primarily consisting of short-term productions. The breakdown of production types facilitated includes TV (18%), feature films (15%), documentaries (11%), commercials (10%), photoshoots (10%), short films (9%), music videos (8%), online content (6%), and others.

Challenges and Future Directions:

Despite the region's appeal, there is intense competition in the film industry, leading to challenges in securing significant business opportunities initially. The Office aims to diversify its offerings, including skills and talent development initiatives and investment brokerage for local productions, to further enhance its role in supporting the Sussex film industry.

Business Model:

The Office operates on a model funded primarily through active business income, with no charge to Councils for services rendered. The Office is staffed by three full-time employees and one part-time employee, with office space capable of accommodating up to ten individuals. Revenue is generated through a percentage of permit costs, location fees, and service-level support provided to production companies. Annual operational costs amount to approximately £140k, funded through business income.

vi. Film Office Case Studies: National Examples

C. Berkshire Film Office

Introduction:

Established in 2019, Berkshire Film Office stands as a pivotal initiative spearheaded by the not-for-profit production company and training provider, Resource Productions CIC. Serving as a central hub for facilitating filming activities across Berkshire, the Office operates through joint funding from the county's six Unitary Authorities: Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham. Within a collaborative governance model, the Office balances operational autonomy with strategic partnerships to optimise delivery and promote economic growth within the local film industry.

Operational Framework:

Operating under the auspices of legal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with each Council, the Berkshire Film Office employs a tailored approach to address the unique needs of filmmakers while maximising value for local stakeholders. Through separate contracts with individual Councils, the Office gains flexibility in addressing filming enquiries directly, streamlining processes, and fostering a culture of proactive engagement. Emphasising the importance of understanding producer requirements, the Office focuses on upselling services to strike a balance between revenue generation and facilitating activities.

Strategic Partnerships and Service Offerings:

Collaborating closely with Filming in England, the Berkshire Film Office harnesses synergies to generate leads and co-host networking events, fostering a vibrant ecosystem for production crews and talent. Via a web-ad led facilities database with paid subscriptions, the Office monetises services such as scouting support, administrative assistance and shoot attendance, optimising revenue streams while enhancing operational efficiency. A robust tracking system and CRM infrastructure enable comprehensive data collection, empowering Councils to assess the tangible impact of their financial contributions.

Revenue Generation and Cost Structure:

A full-time Film Office Manager, a full-time Film Officer and dedicated support from an accountant/ bookkeeper operate with an annual budget of c.£120k. Funding sources include Council contributions, a percentage of fees collected for services rendered and revenue generated from service delivery. Additional support from the wider Resource Team, including the CEO, ensures seamless integration across all operational facets, further optimising resource allocation and service delivery.

Conclusion:

The Berkshire Film Office partnership with Resource Productions exemplifies a pioneering approach to fostering filmmaking endeavours within the County, epitomising the power of collaborative governance and strategic partnerships, in driving economic growth and cultural enrichment. Aligning operational strategies with producer needs and council objectives, the Office strikes a balance between revenue generation and facilitating filming activities, thereby maximising value of their physical position around high-end film and TV studio hubs, providing a positive impact for all stakeholders involved. Through continued proactive engagement and a commitment to service excellence, the Berkshire Film Office continues to shape the narrative of Berkshire – and surrounding areas – as a premier destination for filmmakers and creatives alike.

vi. Film Office Case Studies: National Examples

D) Surrey Film Office: Navigating Local Film Industry Dynamics

Introduction:

Surrey Film Office, a division of Surrey County Council, emerged as a response to the burgeoning film industry's needs within the region. Initially funded through an economic development grant from the Council, the Office now operates as a self-sustaining entity, driven by revenue from location fees, permits, and contributions from various districts. This transition reflects a strategic shift towards fostering a vibrant local film industry while maintaining a non-profit and public service ethos.

Context:

The Film Office operates within an income-generating department and is based in the Events Department, to optimise resources. This collaborative framework allows the Film Officer to extend support to broader event management initiatives, enriching the service portfolio while maximising operational efficiency. The decision to establish an in-house service was motivated by a collective desire among Council partners to retain direct oversight and streamline administrative processes, recognising the inherent power of safeguarding local communities and businesses.

Operational Strategies:

A cornerstone of the Surrey Film Office's approach is its commitment to facilitating seamless interactions between the film industry and local stakeholders. Through strategic partnerships and close collaboration with industry players, the Office endeavours to streamline permitting processes and enhance the overall filming experience. Leveraging the Council's extensive property portfolio, including libraries, learning centres and parks, the Office offers a rich tapestry of locations to prospective filmmakers, bolstering Surrey's appeal as a premier filming destination.

Key Partnerships and Resources:

As an active member of The Film Office UK, Surrey Film Office serves as the primary liaison for Surrey-based productions, facilitating access to a wealth of resources and industry insights.

While maintaining a robust location database through platforms like MovieSite, the Office acknowledges the value of external databases such as Filming in England, employing their comprehensive crew and supplier networks to augment service offerings.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Operating with limited personnel presents inherent challenges, necessitating a balance between operational demands and resource constraints. However, the Office recognises the potential for growth through strategic expansion, advocating for additional staffing to bolster promotional efforts and database management. Ensuring equitable distribution of filming opportunities across districts remains a focal point, requiring proactive engagement with local networks to optimize resource allocation.

Business Model:

Currently staffed by a single individual with intermittent support from other Council colleagues. Sustained through partnership contributions ranging from £3k to £5k via Council partners, supplemented by deductions from charging fees for permits and locations. Integrated within Surrey Economic Regeneration Dept. costs, ensuring alignment with broader economic development objectives.

Conclusion:

The Surrey Film Office is a proactive and collaborative approach to supporting the film industry, serving as a conduit between filmmakers, local stakeholders and regulatory authorities. It remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a film-friendly environment and maximising the socio-economic benefits derived from the film sector. Through strategic partnerships, operational agility, the Office continues to shape Surrey's narrative as a premier filming destination.

vii. Proposed Business Models

Option 1: Publicly Funded Regional Film Office

Create a Regional Film Office, core funded by the Solent and Hampshire Partnership with a minimum of two staff members for a two-year pilot (i.e., fully funded with salaries, overheads and expenses). To be accommodated within a partner's office; staff would be Council employees, working alongside departments of e.g., Arts and Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Events and Communications, thereby enhancing this new service and providing in-house support.

- One stop coordinated service across Solent and Hampshire
- Develop partnerships and transition to a charging model in two years
- Develop revenue streams that allow Office to grow its team and wider offer
- Concentrate on core production and crew support services across Solent area
- Target extra revenue of c.£30k to 50k per annum to support outreach and promotion
- Promotion/ advertisement driven opportunities on website
- Charge % fees: location and crew provision; permit costs and direct delivery services; bespoke pitch decks; hotel booking service across the region; service supply chain

Costs: c.£120k across two years, excluding office accommodation and overheads (as based on combination of Kent/ Surrey Film Office models)

Option 2: Independent Regional Film Office

Create and Independent Solent and Hampshire Film Office, to deliver at arm's length from the Partnership. This model would be more agile and responsive to local needs and expectations; less answerable to Council agendas, less bureaucratic and/ or political. Such an organisation may not gain membership of Film Office UK, as may not be in receipt of public funding and could be profit driven. Could deliver most of point addressed in Option 1. Would require seed funding for communications/ PR and database to be shared by Councils and other regional film offices.

- No core funding required but advisable to inject cash incentive for initial set up
- Could seek access to business grants/ loans, as not in receipt of public funding
- Would need MOUs with each Council/ LA

Costs: Would need to generate revenue circa £150k per annum; an initial investment of @£60K required (as based on Sussex Film Office model)

vii. Proposed Business Models

Option 3: Regional Film Office within not-for-profit organisation

Solent and Hampshire Film Office sits within not-for-profit stakeholder or partner organisation, funded by Council and income generation. Would require dedicated accommodation and marketing budget(s), with two full time staff members (e.g., Film Officer and Production Coordinator) to deliver. Would liaise with Council regarding production specific matters. Data collection pertaining to e.g., production enquiries; filming; expenditure and impact(s).

- Film Office with dedicated office and marketing budget
- Liaising with councils and local services on specific production matters
- Attendance at national/ international events to represent and promote Solent and Hampshire including digital marketing



- Responsible for organising familiarisation trips for producers and local industry events
- Managing locations, production service and crew databases
- Facilitate sector training, networking and other screen related events
- Engaging with Film Offices elsewhere in the UK to share best practice
- Track data related to production enquiries, filming, spend and impact

Costs: c.£150k per annum, in addition to start-up costs, drawn from Council (combination of models 1 and 2 above)



viii. Partnership MOU Outline

DRAFT OUTLINE

Memorandum Of Understanding Between Councils
For Setting Up and Supporting an Independent Regional Film Office Service

Agreement Purpose This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and other councils XXXX is to outline an agreed approach to the roles and responsibilities of parties for enabling support of Screen Industries Production in the region.

- Each Council will appoint an officer who will endeavour to communicate and co-operate with the set up and oversight of regional film office to deliver consistent and streamlined service to the Screen production industry.
- To collectively promote and encourage a 'film friendly' supportive environment for screen production activity in the region.
- Support and promote effective production Policies including Codes of Conduct and Sustainable Production through its websites and engagement – to be supplied by appointed Film Office.
- Develop a supportive relationship with an appointed Film Office.
- Agree a Council employee to act as Film Office Liaison contact through its Economic Development Team/Communication/Events Team to filter enquiries permission requests regarding location filming to the appointed Film Office.

- Actively engage with appointed Film Office on joint strategies and promotions to encourage and support filming activities.
- Agree Standard Terms & Conditions of Contract between appointed Film Office and Council.
- Agree to liaise promptly with appointed Film Office on permit applications and location requests.
- Provide up-to-date images of the council area and assist appointed Film Office in ensuring an up-to-date location library.
- Agree and update appointed Film Office on any implementation or changes to fees, or to any organisational processes relating to film permits.
- Provide guidance on general Health and Safety and community safeguarding requirements as set out by the Council.
- Put steps in place to direct screen clients to appointed Film Office when permitting is needed, as well as other industry needs including directing any filming enquiries to appointed Film Office via website and other media.

viii. Partnership MOU Outline

Council should expect appointed Film Office to

- Actively promote the area as a great film location.
- Maintain an attractive webpage profiling the region as a filming location.
- Provide regular updates on film activities occurring in the region and forward notice of prospective film opportunities.
- Work with the Council's Economic Development Team/Communication/Events team to encourage inbound film companies to use local acting talent, facilities, and services.
- Encourage film production companies to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of the region's Council and its community, in addition (and where possible) to giving credit to any areas featured.



- Provide prompt notification to the Council of any issues or concerns regarding the activities of any film production company working or wishing to work in region.
- Ensure that any prospective film production company wishing to work in the region has a valid and adequate level of Public Liability Insurance, as determined by the insurance company, to cover their intended filming activity.
- Ensure that any prospective film production company wishing to work in the region has provided a Health and Safety Plan, and a Risk Assessment
- Set up regular meetings with the Council to discuss what's going on in the region and any potential high-impact filming, including reviewing any relationship needs.



ix. Future Development Work

Potential areas of focus for future development work to be agreed by the partnership aligned to regional strategies (e.g. Prosperity, LSIP, Solent Culture Plan) and where sufficient capacity and resource to enable this to happen.

I. Initiating a film festival network

Create a collaborative network of creative and cultural partners to foster long-term stability and growth within and across the festival circuit. Seek support to back a regional Festival Fund.

II. Securing funding for major festivals

Seek financial resources to host a prominent national/international film festival, thereby boosting the region's reputation within the global film arena.

III. Strengthening creative industry networks

Invest in and broaden the scope of existing creative networks to support and develop Solent's film and screen industry link with festival networks to create local and regional networking opportunities.

•

IV. Expand educational partnerships

Utilise educational programmes (e.g., Solent's Universities; BFI Youth Film Academy; local film clubs and societies), as platforms to cultivate emerging talent.

V. Commit to industry investment

Maintain active investment in the film and screen industry, to ensure continued participation, while providing cultural and economic benefits for the region.

VI. Commitment to Skills and Talent Development

Coordinate the development of skills in response to industry needs and open pathways to employment for local students seeking work in the industry

x. Interview Register

Screen South would like to thank all of those who have given their time and resources to assist in the completion of this report. Thanks, are also due to those regional and national Film Offices and wider sector professionals, who have shared their insights and experiences via interviews in support of the study.

RESEARCH INTERVIEWS		
Dominique Unsworth	Berkshire Film Office	CEO, Resource Productions
Susan Beckett	City Eye	Managing Director
Gavin Stride	Creative Island	Director
Gillian Tully	Expo South - Hants Independent Film Office	Managing Director
Jan Lasnon	Fareham Council	PR & Marketing Manager
Jane Hardy	Fareham Council	Economic Development Officer
Hayley Armstrong	Filming England -Creative UK	Head of Production Services
Stephen Issat	Filmwright Film Office	Managing Director
Emma Noyce	Hampshire Council	Assistant Director Regeneration & Growth (Lead for Culture and Communities)
Theresa Høegsberg	Hampshire Council	Hd. of Economic Development
Sally Foster	Havant Borough Council	Senior Communications Officer
Andy Newman	IOW Council	Communications and Campaigns Officer
Max Nicol	IOW Council	Community Wealth & Special Projects Officer
Dadina Saggar	IOW Film Services	Managing Director
Gabrielle Lindeman	Kent Film Office & Film Office UK	Film Officer & Chair of Film Office UK
Lisa Henry	Lobster Locations	Managing Director
Kathy Azopardi	Location Manager	Independent
Sally Igra	New Forest Film Office/Council	Head of Regeneration

x. Interview Register

Cllr Steve Pitt	Portsmouth Council	Leader
Gemma Nichols	Portsmouth Creates	CEO
Hannah Prowse	Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust	Director
Lois Cheadle	Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust	Head of Visitor Experience and Marketing,
Alex Counsell	Portsmouth University	Technical Director of CCIXR,
Ajay Perekh	Producer	Independent
Christine Benson	Producer	Independent
Graham Benson	Producer	Independent
Bruce Webb	Producer/Director	Independent
Solent Partners	Solent Partners	Head of Enterprise and Skills
Roy Hanney	Solent University	Associate Professor Media
Carolyn Abel	Southampton Council	Head of Culture & Tourism
Claire Whitaker	Southampton Forward	CEO
Helen Hart	Southampton Forward	Tourism Manager
Vicki Brown	Surrey Film Office	Film Officer
Kelly Mikulla	Sussex Film Office	Managing Director
Jo Stark	University of Winchester	Head of Innovation
Jack Whitewood	Ventnor Exchange/Brave Island	Co-Director
David Howells	Visit Portsmouth	Digital Marketing Officer

xi. References

Data Sources

- (1) <https://www.bfi.org.uk/industry-data-insights/reports>
- (2) See Appendices vi. and vii. for regional and national case studies
- (3) See Appendix xi. for full list of references
- (4) <https://www.creativenetworksoth.co.uk>
- (5) The partnership for South Hampshire PfSH [Home - Partnership for South Hampshire](#)
- (6) www.creativenetworksouth.co.uk; www.solentlep.org.uk
- (7) www.portsmouth.gov.uk; www.southampton.gov.uk; www.fareham.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk
- (8) <https://makingwavesfilmfestival.com/lets-make-waves>; <https://southernpolicycentre.co.uk/film-solent-growing-south-hampshires-film-economy>; <https://www.creativenetworksouth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Unleashing-Economic-Potential.pdf>
- (9) [Home - Portsmouth City Council](#); [Southampton City Council](#); [Fareham Borough Council](#); [Hampshire County Council](#) | [Hampshire County Council](#)
- (10) The present study uses BFI definition of screen industry, to include film, television, video games, animation, programming and VFX.
- (11) [Isle of Wight Film Festival](#); [Making Waves Film Festival Portsmouth](#); [Purgatory Film Festival](#); [Shorts::Cut Film Festival](#); [Southampton Film Week](#)
- (12) [Screen Tourism | VisitBritain.org](#)
- (13) <https://www.bfi.org.uk/industry-data-insights/reports/uk-screen-sector-economy>
- (14) <https://www.bfi.org.uk/industry-data-insights/reports/bfi-skills-review-2022>
- (15) See Appendix x. for full list of references
- (16) See full list of appendices at end of this report, attached as a separate document.
- (17) filminginengland.co.uk



xi. References

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<https://creativeisland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Creative-Island-Isle-of-Wight-Cultural-Strategy-FINAL.pdf>
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/fCityofPortsNH_CulturalPlan2023_FINAL.pdf
<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/eomegosd/southamptons-cultural-strategy-2021-2031-01222.pdf>

Partner Organisations

Creative Network South: www.creativenetworksouth.co.uk
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership: www.solentlep.org.uk
Fareham Borough Council: www.fareham.gov.uk
Hampshire County Council: www.hants.gov.uk
Isle of Wight Council: www.iow.gov.uk
Portsmouth City Council: www.portsmouth.gov.uk
Southampton City Council: www.southampton.gov.uk
University of Portsmouth: www.port.ac.uk/
Solent University: www.solent.ac.uk/
University of Southampton: www.southampton.ac.uk/

Wider Stakeholders

British Film Institute: www.bfi.org.uk
Filming in England: www.filminginengland.co.uk
The Film Office: www.filmoffice.co.uk
Historic England: www.historicengland.org.uk
Southern Policy Centre: www.southernpolicycentre.co.uk
Visit England: www.visitengland.com

xii. Acknowledgements

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Carolyn Abel	Southampton Council	Head of Culture & Tourism
Claire Whitaker	Southampton Forward	CEO
David Howells	Visit Portsmouth	Digital Marketing Officer
Gavin Stride	Creative Island	Director
Gemma Nichols	Portsmouth Creates	CEO
James Ford	Solent Partners	Head of Enterprise and Skills
Jane Hardy	Fareham Council	Economic Development Officer
Roy Hanney	Solent University	Associate Professor Media

Research and Editors		
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