



**CORNWALL
COUNCIL**

one and all • onen hag oll

Cornwall Cultural Strategy

Strateji Gonisogeth Kernow

2026 – 2036

Cornwall – a Cultural Nation

Delivering quality, enjoyment, prosperity and wellbeing for Cornwall through culture and creativity.

Portfolio Holder's Introduction

Cornwall's culture is our superpower. This Strategy sets our route to 2036 – making culture part of everyday life, growing our creative economy, and celebrating the unique identity of our places. It connects five clear ambitions directly to Cornwall Council's priorities so partners and communities can see how everything fits together – and how to get involved.

Cornwall is extraordinary: a land shaped by centuries of heritage, alive with a proud cultural identity and breathtaking natural beauty. From our Celtic roots and the Cornish language to a mining legacy admired across the globe, our story is one of resilience, creativity and community spirit. Our traditions, festivals and shared sense of belonging bring this story to life every day.

Together, we celebrate the people, culture and identity that make Cornwall a place like no other – and invite everyone to be part of this vibrant journey.

Our vision is simple:

'Delivering quality, enjoyment, prosperity and wellbeing for Cornwall through culture and creativity'.

Every person should have the opportunity to engage with culture; our towns and villages should have vibrant community life; and our creative industries should thrive, providing fulfilling jobs and contributing to Cornwall's economy.

Cllr Sarah Preece

Portfolio holder for Tourism, Localism and Planning

Klr Sarah Preece

Synsyas Plegell rag Tornyaseth, Leelieth ha Towlenna

Why Culture Matters

Cornwall is recognised for its distinctive landscape, rich storytelling traditions and unique heritage. We will build on this reputation by positioning Cornwall as a leading place for creativity and innovation – where culture is embedded in everyday life and accessible to all.

Culture forms one of four pillars that tells our Nation's story :



It tells the story of a cultural nation from Lamorna to Launceston, from Padstow to Par. It builds upon our national assets through to our home-grown folk history and grass roots sector, ensuring there is an offer for everyone and that our creative sector can grow, develop and thrive.

By telling our Nation's story, and through our strategic overview, we will demonstrate how we can make a strong offer that extends beyond the reach of Cornwall itself. Cornwall is recognised across the UK and internationally as a growing cluster of creative innovation and excellence.

How culture supports Cornwall Council's *six* priority outcomes

Council Priority	How Culture Contributes
A safe and vibrant community with more decent and affordable homes	Culture builds belonging and civic pride, activates town centres and supports vibrant community life.
A clean, green Cornwall with healthy rivers and seas	Cultural organisations are working to lower their carbon footprint and through low carbon creative events inspiring others to change behaviour.
A resilient economy creating growth and jobs	Creative industries provide training and work for local people, create new business opportunities and attract investment.
A caring place for families where children build a bright future	Creative activities and learning build confidence and skills from early years to adulthood.
Supporting people to live healthy and dignified lives	Creative health and social prescribing activities improve wellbeing and can reduce demand on health services.
Connected, safe and reliable roads and transport	Culture supports access to local activities and events and provides accessible resources and services online.



LEFT: PAR teeE PART 4
© Steve Tanner



RIGHT: Woodland Wonder,
intoBodmin

Priorities and Ambitions

We are embracing a bold future that places sustainability and innovation at its core, while empowering creativity in every community. By prioritising inclusive opportunities and under-represented voices, we will shape a resilient, dynamic cultural landscape that impacts across the UK and beyond.



THE HERDS: Pupils practicing parading the puppet

Our vision is underpinned by four priorities:

PEOPLE



PLACES



PARTNERSHIP



PROSPERITY

Every person in Cornwall has the opportunity to participate in and enjoy culture and creativity, finding enjoyment, confidence + connection.

Our city, towns and parishes have vibrant cultural and heritage offerings, enhancing our communities and connecting people to the uniqueness of Cornwall.

Building cross-sectoral partnerships and unlocking funds to address community needs, enhance wellbeing and improve quality of life.

Cultural businesses, creative practitioners and freelancers have the conditions to thrive, creating jobs, re-energising towns and contributing to the Cornish economy.

The Strategy is structured around five Ambitions which reflect the different roles of culture and creative industries. Culture and creativity is for everyone. It can be things that are part of the community such as our festivals or clubs, or larger events where we can see amazing performers or spectacles. But culture is also important for the chance for people to learn skills, get work, start a business or even improve the place where they live. And for Cornwall, our culture and heritage is an expression of our confidence and distinctiveness as the UK's Fifth Nation.

Cultural organisations and creative industries will be meeting one or several of these ambitions all at the same time and people in the sector work incredibly hard for our communities. By working in partnership, we can increase opportunities for everyone while building up a strong and resilient creative sector that showcases Cornwall to the rest of the world.

Our Five Ambitions



- 1 **Joining In**
- 2 **Supporting People**
- 3 **Growing Our Economy**
- 4 **Improving Our Places**
- 5 **Celebrating Cornwall**

Fireside in St Michael's Church, Newquay. Emma Mac Photography

Ambition 1: Joining In

What this means

Everyone in Cornwall should be able to access and enjoy culture, regardless of who they are or where they live. The Council will work with partners to reduce barriers, widen participation, and create inclusive, high-quality cultural opportunities for all communities.

What we will do

- 1. Encourage exciting, diverse culture for everyone.**
We want Cornwall to be known for its cultural excellence and diversity — showcasing local talent alongside exciting touring work. We will support a lively year-round programme, including large-scale events that celebrate Cornwall's unique identity and attract people from all backgrounds. We will support organisations in providing a programme of events and activities through the Cornwall Council Culture and Creative Investment Programme and we will advocate and support cultural organisations in seeking investment and encourage a broader base of funding, for example, philanthropy and business investment.
- 2. Make sure culture includes everyone.**
We recognise that barriers such as affordability, transport, access and lack of representation can prevent some people from taking part. We will champion inclusion and equity, promoting best practice in diversity and accessibility, and working with specific communities to ensure culture reflects all voices. We will work with partners to improve physical access in venues, address sensory and cultural needs, and help create welcoming, trusted spaces where people feel they belong.
- 3. Bring people together and support wellbeing.**
Taking part in culture and creative activities is a good way to meet people and be a part of the community. For all of us, this boosts our sense of well-being and contributes to healthy lifestyles. This preventative approach helps individuals and helps manage demand on more acute services. We recognise the vital role of community festivals, local arts groups, and clubs in shaping social life and building resilient communities. We will extend provision of creative health opportunities through the CloS Creative Health and Well-Being Partnership and we will work with partners to improve the evidence base for culture's social value.

Key Facts

Cornwall Council's Culture and Creative Investment Programme supports

19
cultural organisations across Cornwall.

Through this programme in 2024/25:

1 million+
total live audience

65,000+
participants in performances, activities and classes

15,000+
people from under-represented groups took part

3,633
paid opportunities were provided for artists and performers

3,000+
volunteers helped support the work

This programme is just a fraction of Cornwall's cultural activity in the community.

Ambition 2: Supporting People

What this means

Cornwall's creative future depends on its people — their talent, energy, and imagination. Supporting people means investing in the full creative journey: from early inspiration in schools, through building confidence at events, to finding work and training. Skills England predicts that creative industries will be one of the fastest-growing sectors up to 2030 and prioritises creativity for skills development.

What we will do

1. Inspire creativity in education

We will champion creative learning as a foundation for curiosity, confidence and aspiration. We will support partners to provide creative experiences and cultural visits for schools and young people, encourage uptake of creative GCSEs, and support national curriculum reform to strengthen creativity in schools. We will develop Curriculum Kernewek to link 'National Curriculum in England' subjects with Cornwall's culture and heritage, and improve access to creative work experience and apprenticeships.

2. Strengthen pathways through further and higher education

Further and Higher Education are vital for developing expertise and leadership. We will work with FE and HE partners to create clear career pathways, lifelong learning opportunities, and new training routes that build advanced and specialist skills for the creative economy.

3. Open access to creative careers

We will ensure that everyone can access information and opportunities to start a creative career. We will work with the Careers Hub and Cornwall Opportunities to provide clear, engaging creative careers information and partner with the Skills Team to expand apprenticeships and early-career opportunities for the creative sector where current provision is limited.

4. Support growth and development

We will collaborate with the Growth Hub to strengthen business and planning skills in the sector. We will work with partners to develop sector-specific support such as Creative Kernow Associates to provide mentoring and networking. We recognise the value of expertise within the sector and the potential to train others, and we will work with national organisations such as Creative UK to improve investment readiness and long-term sustainability.

Key Facts

£700k

Innovate UK funding to 10 businesses in Cornwall in 2022/3

1000+

freelancers are members of Creative Kernow Associates

80+

businesses from Falmouth University's Launchpad programme

61

businesses supported by Create Growth Devon & Cornwall programme to increase turnover and develop new products



Miracle Theatre Twelfth Night 2025 at The Buttermarket, Redruth

Ambition 3: Growing Our Economy

What this means

Cornwall's creative economy is a broad ecosystem that nurtures talent, attracts investment, and delivers long-term value. The creative industries work across sectors, from manufacturing to the visitor economy, and Cornwall's strong creative sector is well placed to contribute to this fast-growing UK industry. Creative industries add an estimated £124bn to the UK economy each year and the UK Creative Industry Sector Plan is part of the Government's Industrial Strategy.

What we will do

1. Provide opportunities for networking and support

65% of Cornwall's creative sector are freelancers so connection and collaboration are essential. Stronger networks are developing through Creative Kernow Associates and sector-wide events, and collaboration across disciplines sparks new partnerships. Business support is needed to focus on resilience, digital skills, and export readiness.

2. Identify access to funding

Creative organisations are having to develop sustainable business models, diversify income and retain value. Sponsorship, philanthropy and commissioning by other sectors can also provide income. We will seek to unlock investment and improve access to advice on investment readiness. Shared approaches to commercialisation and managing IP are needed to maximise benefit from creative work.

3. Provide workspace and infrastructure

Access to affordable, flexible workspaces is vital. We will develop planning policies that integrate creative space in regeneration projects, require the provision of flexible workspace, and protect existing facilities. We will support development of creative hubs and co-working spaces and safeguard existing creative infrastructure.

4. Support research, innovation, and development

Cornwall has always been a centre of innovation and investing in research fuels growth. We will work with the Creative Industries Sector Body, HE and FE to encourage innovation and support experimentation. We will support the HE sector in developing a Creative Cluster initiative to secure investment in creative R&D.

5. Collate evidence and share insights

We will maintain the Creative Census to monitor employment and collaborate with the universities to research the sector and identify opportunities for innovation. We will improve evidence of the social impacts of culture and share insights to support small businesses.

Key Facts

£291m

GVA contribution to the Cornish economy

7,350

people work in the creative sector in Cornwall

1,175

creative industries companies in Cornwall – mainly SME's

Source: Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Good Growth Plan

Key creative subsectors in Cornwall are:

Film, TV, Video, Radio and Photography

Music, Performing, and Visual Arts

Museums, galleries, libraries

Design: product, graphic and fashion

The War of the Worlds, Truro Cathedral, October 2025.
Dan Weatherly



Ambition 4: Improving Our Places

What this means

Culture in Cornwall is deeply rooted in our landscapes, towns, industries and communities. Culture and heritage have the power to lead regeneration of our towns.

What we will do

1. Place-based culture

Cornwall has a unique heritage of outdoor performance from the times of 'Plen an gwari' that has carried through to outdoor events today. Cornwall has inspired music, art, theatre and film that is known around the world. Key actions include delivering the Cornwall Events Strategy to support community festivals and major events, and backing initiatives such as Town of Culture, Flamm and FEAST to celebrate our culture and traditions. We will also work with partnerships such as Cornwall National Landscape and Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site to commission creative work across the Duchy.

2. Clusters, networks and momentum

Cultural and heritage organisations play a leading role in town regeneration and cultural assets will be protected and reused through the Valuing Local approach. Collaboration makes best use of skills and resource, and even informal local networks can help partners work together. Town and parish councils will be encouraged to take a lead on cultural programming, event management, coordinating local assets and sharing good practice. Targeted investment and advice will prioritise areas with fewer cultural assets and higher levels of deprivation.

3. Facilities and cultural infrastructure

Venues, museums, theatres and community spaces are important landmarks and are key to thriving community life, but this infrastructure is hard to sustain in a region of scattered towns and villages. Twenty-eight cultural buildings were upgraded through SPF and Town Deals, and these schemes have a variety of business models to sustain them. We will work with these partners to maximise impact and share good practice. The Cornwall Council/ Museum SW Museum Development Service provides support to the museum sector and a new museums strategy will guide the sustainable management of Cornwall's 80 museums and encourage innovation.

4. Regeneration, conservation and development

Cultural investment and creative activity are strong drivers of town-centre regeneration, attracting footfall and using empty shops. Policies in the Local Plan will promote mixed-use developments that include cultural space, creative workspace and use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund cultural facilities in growing communities. Our built heritage will be conserved through the Strategy for Cornwall's Historic Environment (2022-2030) and the work of Bord Ertach Kernow.

Key Facts

Creative clusters in:

Falmouth, Penzance,
Redruth and Truro

Emerging clusters in:

Bodmin, Camborne,
Liskeard, Newquay and
St.Austell

80

museums

50+

venues

300,000+

people go to Hall for
Cornwall each year

240,000

people visit Tate St Ives
every year

200,000+

visit Minack Theatre each
year

58,000

people go to Boardmasters
each year

40,000

people celebrate Mazey Day
each June in Penzance as
part of the Golowan festival

40,000

people go to Eden Sessions
each summer

Ambition 5: Celebrating Cornwall

What this means

Our landscape, language and traditions have all shaped Cornwall's distinctiveness and global recognition. Cornwall will be recognised for its diverse, green and distinct cultural life and for new high quality, innovative cultural work.

What we will do

1. Promoting Cornwall throughout the UK and beyond

Cornwall's culture is a powerful national, UK and international asset. We will position Cornwall as a vibrant cultural part of the UK and encourage events to strengthen community pride and belonging. We will develop coordinated marketing and events programmes to showcase creative excellence. Partnerships with Cornish cultural organisations will amplify Cornwall's cultural offer through digital storytelling, festivals and year-round cultural tourism.

2. Environment and sustainability

The cultural sector will contribute to Carbon Neutral Cornwall and nature recovery through embedding sustainability in production and events, encouraging low-carbon festivals and outdoor theatre, reusing historic buildings, and collaborating with sectors such as technology and energy. The Cornwall Creative Sustainability Action Plan provides guidance and sharing good practice will help position Cornwall as a leader in sustainable cultural delivery.

3. Promoting the Cornish language

The Cornish Language Strategy 2035 aims to protect and grow use of Kernewek over the next decade. Priorities include developing digital media and film, expanding use of Cornish in schools, providing more diverse ways of learning, supporting creative projects such as music and performance, and encouraging businesses and communities to find new ways to use Kernewek.

4. Cornish distinctiveness and heritage

Our distinct heritage shapes Cornwall's identity today. We will preserve and promote the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site, Bord Ertach Kernow will develop a register of Cornish cultural traditions, and Kresen Kernow holds the world's largest collection of archives related to Cornwall. We will support projects that share traditional Cornish culture and sport to ensure that this is passed on and opened out to new audiences.

5. International opportunities

Through diaspora links and Celtic partnerships, Cornwall will pursue exchanges, events and international touring, reinforcing its role as a global creative hub rooted in strong identity. The **Cornwall Diaspora Strategy** will connect Cornish communities and share contemporary Cornish creativity internationally. Partnerships with other Celtic nations, events such as **Festival Interceltique de Lorient and opportunities for Cornish artists to tour all** reinforce Cornwall's international profile.

Key Facts

Part III
status

for Cornish language

900,000

people go to Lorient
Interceltique Festival in
Brittany each August and
see Cornish performers

2650

dancers take part in Flora
Day each May in Helston

200

jynnji or engine houses
in the Cornwall & West
Devon Mining Landscape
World Heritage Site

70+

B-Corp companies in
Cornwall – highest
number outside London

40

brass/silver bands across
Cornwall

30

primary schools provide
Cornish language
activities through
GoCornish

Cornwall Since 2021 – Achievements

Investment

2021–2025



Delivering much of Cornwall's shortlisted UK City of Culture bid from 2022.



Creative work hubs

Pixel

Penzance

40

studio spaces

The Workshed

Liskeard

16

work spaces, co-working
and outdoor event space

Krowji

Redruth

130

units – Cornwall's
largest creative hub

Cultural Infrastructure

- Hall for Cornwall reopened in 2021 – seating increased to 1,352 and joined the West End touring circuit.
- 28 buildings improved via SPF, including The Ladder (Redruth), Creation Works (Par) and Sterts Arts & Environmental Centre (Bodmin Moor).
- Historic chapels in Helston, Penryn, Redruth and Liskeard transformed into venues and artists' studios.
- Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery – main galleries transformed; Museum of Cornish Life (Helston) – roof and windows improved with ACE MEND funding.
- New Emily Hobhouse museum opened at St Ive near Liskeard (The Story of Emily).

Events and activities

Flamm visual arts festival
launched in Redruth

13,000
visits

Held in Bodmin Feb/Mar 2026

Celtic Media Festival
hosted in Newquay

Reflecting growth in film and digital media: Screen Cornwall, Cornish language films from FyImK and internationally recognised work by Bosená/Mark Jenkin.

2023

2024

2025

Cornwall Council's **Culture and Creative Investment Programme** supported 19 organisations over 4 years who in 2024/25 alone provided activities with:

1 million
total audience

65,000
participants in activities

15,000
taking part from under-represented
groups.

Culture and Creativity in Cornwall Today

Strengths and Opportunities

- » Cornwall has global recognition through books, films, TV, plus strong connections via trading history, diaspora and Celtic links.
- » Cornwall has a global reputation for authentic, environment-rooted culture; flourishing festivals from Flora Day and Obby Oss to Boardmasters.
- » Cornwall has a rich ecosystem of theatres, galleries, museums and community venues, including UK institutions such as Tate St Ives and National Maritime Museum, and important institutions for Cornwall at Hall for Cornwall, Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery and Kresen Kernow.
- » There are strong networks of freelancers and leadership from organisations such as Creative Kernow and Hall for Cornwall.
- » Cornwall has access to world-class education and research at Falmouth University, University of Exeter, University of Plymouth and Arts University Plymouth, with cutting-edge facilities and business incubation.
- » There is strategic alignment with Cornish and UK bodies prioritising the creative sector and the Good Growth Plan identifies the Visitor, Creative and Cultural sectors as core sectors at the heart of Cornwall's economy.



Haunted bunker Testing Room

Challenges

- » Access to finance and investment readiness; shift from grants to mixed-model funding requiring commercial skills.
- » Infrastructure pressures – affordable housing and transport; limited workspace; costly maintenance of historic buildings; limited affordable overnight accommodation for touring.
- » Geography – peninsula distance to markets and networks; scattered settlements; external perceptions underplaying innovation and talent.
- » Business environment – majority freelance workforce under-represented in data; few large firms to anchor clusters and provide career pathways; lack of tailored growth support; community value not fully evidenced.

An evidence-based case for investment in Cornwall

Cultural and creative industries represent one of Cornwall's most distinctive economic strengths. These industries are foundational to Cornwall's identity, its visitor economy, and its future growth potential. Investing in culture is not only an investment in creativity and heritage - it is an economic, social, and place shaping strategy with proven returns.

1. ECONOMIC VALUE AND UK GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The UK's creative industries contribute an estimated £124bn annually to the UK economy, making the sector one of the country's fastest growing engines of productivity and innovation. Cornwall is well positioned to play a larger role in this growth story, with strong clusters emerging across the creative, cultural, digital, and visitor related sectors.

Key Sector Statistics for Cornwall

Indicator	Visitor Economy*	Creative & Cultural
Employment	49,175	7,350
Business Count	3,790	1,175
GVA	£1,912m	£291m
Productivity	£38,884	£39,544
Concentration	1.52	0.92

Source: Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Good Growth Plan

* The visitor economy includes accommodation, food, drink and amusements, as well as parts of the creative and cultural sector. Figures overlap and cannot be totalled.

These data illustrate that Cornwall already hosts a significant cultural workforce, with productivity levels on par with UK benchmarks and strong sectoral concentration—particularly where culture intersects with hospitality and tourism.

2. CORNWALL'S DISTINCTIVE CULTURAL ASSETS

Cornwall has a unique cultural landscape shaped by its language, heritage, artistic traditions, and natural environment. This distinctiveness fuels creative excellence recognised across the UK and internationally.

Strengths include:

- » A recognised creative cluster (identified by NESTA), with strong linkages to the visitor economy.
- » Major cultural institutions—Minack Theatre, Hall for Cornwall, Tate St Ives, the Cornwall Museum & Art Gallery and the University of Falmouth - anchors with a UK profile.
- » A strong pipeline of businesses across design, games, digital media, fashion, and performing arts.
- » Rapid growth in film and TV production, with spend in Cornwall rising from £1.6m in 2021 to £16.5m in 2023, supported by Screen Cornwall's ambition to become the UK's leading rural screen agency.

Cornwall's cultural and creative ecosystem is not only vibrant but globally connected, environmentally conscious, and rich in entrepreneurial microbusinesses and freelancers.

3. SKILLS, TALENT, AND INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Falmouth University provides Cornwall with an anchor institution of UK significance:

- » Ranked Number 1 Arts University (Times & Sunday Times 2017, 2023).

- » TEF Gold (2017) and Silver (2023).
- » Contributes over £100 million annually to Cornwall's economy.
- » Listed among the top 50 undergraduate game design schools globally (Princeton Review, 2024).
- » Hosts the Launchpad Programme, driving high growth startups.

Other leading digital and creative companies—such as Headforwards, N coders, Affinity Digital, Vitamin Studios, Software Cornwall, and innovation centres at Tremough—reinforce this skills and R&D ecosystem.

4. A SECTOR WITH UK SIGNIFICANCE

Cornwall's cultural sector aligns strongly with UK priorities, including:

- » Arts Council England's Let's Create Strategy – for everyone's creativity to be given the chance to flourish and for access to high-quality cultural experiences.
- » National Lottery Heritage Fund's 10-year strategy "Heritage 2033" - for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future.
- » Historic England's Future Strategy - for heritage that is valued, celebrated and shared by everyone.

Cornwall's offer to the UK stage includes:

- » A living, contemporary culture rooted in a distinctive national identity.
- » Environmentally sustainable creative practice, with a high concentration of B Corp certified creative businesses (e.g., Block Design, KAST Architects, DART, LEAP, Hutch).
- » A fast growing, rurally dispersed content production cluster with ambitions for international impact.
- » A proven link between cultural engagement, wellbeing, community cohesion, and inclusive growth.

A formal social return on investment analysis conducted by Roundhouse (2023) found:

- » £42.25 of social value created for every £1 invested in film and digital projects
- » £21.88 of social value created for every £1 invested in audio projects

Cornwall has benefited from £61.8m investment between 2021 and 2025 from key funders. Even taking a conservative estimate, of £15 social value for every £1 invested, this would generate around £100m of value to the economy. Cornwall is keen to build on this investment and demonstrate the value of its creative sector's value, locally, nationally, to the UK and internationally.

Cornwall can serve as an exemplar for rural cultural investment—showing how creativity can drive economic development, innovation, skills, sustainability, and prosperity.

5. WHY INVESTMENT IS NEEDED NOW

Despite strong foundations, the sector faces challenges:

- » Fragmented funding landscapes and reliance on short term project grants
- » Infrastructure pressures, particularly in rural areas
- » Skills gaps in digital, technical, and production roles
- » Volatility in freelance and microbusiness models

Targeted investment would unlock:

- » Increased productivity in high growth creative clusters
- » Stronger place identity and visitor economy resilience
- » Enhanced skills pathways for young people entering creative and digital industries
- » Greater UK and international reach for local cultural organisations
- » More sustainable, net zero aligned cultural production

Cornwall's creative and cultural sectors are a unique strategic asset. They deliver economic impact, drive innovation, raise Cornwall's profile, and enhance community life. With coordinated investment, Cornwall can become a leading rural creative exemplar, delivering inclusive, sustainable growth aligned with UK cultural priorities.

Delivery

The Culture Strategy Ambitions contribute to key parts of other strategies and the work of various boards and key partners, and in turn we will seek to place culture into the mainstream of those strategies. Appendix 1 sets out the connections with key strategies and boards that are already in place and leading on some of our Cultural Ambitions.

Role of Cornwall Council

A strong and thriving cultural sector is good for the nation of Cornwall and Cornwall Council, as an emerging Foundation Strategic Authority, will play a leadership role, advocating and lobbying for culture and creative industries. Cornwall Council will seek to maximise impact by collaborating with partners to influence funding and promote recognition for Cornwall. We will seek to develop a strong creative sector across Cornwall, and local councils, networks and key organisations will develop strong clusters and town regeneration, promoting our offer within Cornwall, across the UK and further afield, including to the Cornish diaspora.

Our place-based approach demonstrates the Council's role as enabler, supporter and facilitator, following the Valuing Local ambition to work in partnership towards a more local, community-led service delivery, support people's sense of belonging, and plan and deliver services in a way that gives more power to local people and organisations. We will seek opportunities through cross-sector collaboration, resource sharing and the exchange of ideas to deliver meaningful outcomes for people and communities across Cornwall.

Cornwall Council's various services can all play a part in working with different communities through culture and creativity, such as Together for Families, Planning, Resettlement, Libraries, Public Health and Localism.

As well as the formal boards and organisations set out in the table in appendix 1, partnership working with the voluntary sector, the business sector, with neighbouring authorities and with local councils will all add to what culture and creativity can achieve in Cornwall.

Population Growth and Planning

Significant population growth is projected over the next decade, with some towns growing faster than others. It will be vital to invest in new and existing cultural facilities and networks to meet the needs of growing communities. Local Plan policies can allocate provision for cultural facilities on new sites and protect existing facilities, while the Community Infrastructure Levy can provide funding as part of social infrastructure.

Parts of Cornwall face persistent deprivation and cultural organisations have a part to play in place-based strategies to improve health and wellbeing and create opportunities. We will seek to extend outreach with under-represented groups and those who find it difficult to access activities.

Funding and Investment

Cornwall Council will work with cultural organisations and partners to secure a broader base of funding for culture and creativity. We will use the ambitions and principles of this Strategy as 'investment guidelines'. Projects will normally be expected to:

- » Meet more than one of the Strategy's ambitions.
- » Extend provision across Cornwall and to different communities.
- » Provide evidence of match funding and business models that ensure future viability.
- » Demonstrate alignment with relevant strategies – UK Government, Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England and Cornwall Council.
- » Demonstrate how the funding will support pathways to self-sustainability.

The Hodge Review of Arts Council England in 2025 points to the need to pivot away from reliance on direct government grant funding to a more diverse mix of funding such as philanthropy, tax incentives and investment finance. There are already various funding models in place for cultural organizations in Cornwall and we will seek to build up resilience in the sector by working in partnership to open up new investment opportunities, through giving circles, individual philanthropy and new business models of delivery.

Devolution to Cornwall Council as a Foundational Strategic Authority creates opportunities to

Pipeline Projects

Cornwall's cultural vitality depends on a rich mix of events and projects. The following pipeline priorities will help deliver our ambitions and specific projects and actions will be set out in an action plan to accompany this strategy:

- » Town Deals (2026/27) – new facilities at Leach Pottery (St Ives), a new culture and heritage centre in Camborne, and improvements to Penlee Gallery and Museum (Penzance).
- » Festival growth – Flamm 2026 in Bodmin; coordinated support for large and small events through the Cornwall Events Strategy.
- » Workspaces – expansion and optimisation of creative clusters (e.g. Pixel, Workshed, Krowji) to improve access and affordability.
- » Creative Health – strengthen partnerships and programmes that support wellbeing and social prescribing.
- » Heritage reuse – protect and repurpose cultural assets through Cornwall Council's Valuing Local approaches (e.g. chapels, libraries, civic buildings).

Evidence and Monitoring

- » Employment: Annual Cornwall Council Creative Census – insights into the economic strengths and needs of the sector.
- » Research collaboration with higher education (e.g. Great South West 'Creative Industries in the South West').

maximise investment in the creative sector. This will include creating a new culture strategy board to ensure that cultural investment meets the needs of the community as a whole and secures a good deal from government agencies such as Arts Council England and National Lottery. Devolution may also create opportunities to use tax incentives to encourage investment in creative enterprise, and culture and heritage will be priority sectors for investment from any future visitor levy in recognition of their role in attracting visits to Cornwall and supporting a year-round visitor economy.

Endelienta Ensemble, St Endellion Church



- » Community and social impact – commission the Social Value Engine or similar to capture and compare outcomes.
- » Programme monitoring – audience, participation, employment and training data for the Culture and Creative Investment Programme.
- » Creative Conversations – regular events to share insights and explore audience and visitor trends.
- » Sustainability – use of the Cornwall Sustainability Action Plan for the Creative Sector and collaboration with the Cornwall Council Carbon Neutral Team.

One and All

Cornwall's creative sector faces challenges – reduced funding opportunities, cost-of-living impacts on audiences, rising costs for buildings and operations. Yet our sense of belonging and identity as the fifth nation, places us in a prime position to collaborate in themes and places, ensuring that culture and creativity in Cornwall thrives. All of us can join in and work together to create joyful, inclusive and resilient culture for One and All in Cornwall.

Appendix 1: Delivery framework

Key strategies and Boards that lead on elements of the Cultural Strategy

Ambition	Strategy	Board or Partner
1	Joining in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornwall Culture Strategy Cornwall Events Strategy Cornwall Plan & Belonging Strategy Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
2	Supporting people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Workforce and Skills Strategy
3	Growing our economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornwall Good Growth Plan
4	Improving our places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan Historic Environment Strategy Valuing Local Plan
5	Celebrating Cornwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornish Language Strategy Cornish Diaspora Strategy & Cornwall.gov Fifth Nation Working Group Action Plan