

## View results

Respondent

3

Anonymous

08:11

Time to complete

## 1. Organisation leading the project. \*

## 2. Lead Councillor or Officer \*

## 3. Job Title \*

## 4. Contact Telephone \*

## 5. Contact Email \*

## 6. Project Title \*

## 7. How much funding are you applying for?

You can submit a bid for between £10k - £20k depending on the complexity of the project. \*

## 8. Summary of project idea (150 words max)

This text will be used on the CCIN website should your application be successful \*

Arts & Culture for social cohesion – Culture and arts can be strong drivers of development, social cohesion and change. At the heart of social cohesion is social inclusion. Communities with low social cohesion often have low involvement or access to civic engagement, economic opportunity, and social participation. Supporting the role of culture is vital to building social cohesion. Culture is essential for avoiding conflicts and for conflict resolution. It is an ideal means of communicating across language barriers, empowering people and facilitating social cohesion, including among refugees, migrants and host populations. It prevents marginalisation of people based on their cultural identity, socio-economic status, age and other factors. The Community Engagement Panel regarding Arts & Culture considered how increasing Arts & Culture offerings in town centres encouraged people to use town centres with a knock-on effect of increased footfall to retail, hospitality businesses and dwell time.

**9. Which other CCIN members will work on this project?**

*A key requirement of Policy Lab Funding is that you work in partnership with other CCIN members. We recommend engaging a minimum of three other CCIN members (Affiliates and Associates should bid alongside Full Council members) to create a working group to support the development of your project.*

\*

Stevenage  
Oldham  
(Cheshire West and Chester are tentative)

**10. What is your idea and how will you allocate the budget?**

*Explain how you identified the need or opportunity for the proposal and how the money will be spent.*

\*

We would like to show-case what arts and culture activities are available locally (perhaps via a video) as well as how local creatives and activity organisers communicate and work together via networks to improve the arts and culture offering.

Arts and culture can play a key role in breaking down barriers between and communicating across different parts of the community, and in building civic engagement and social participation. We would therefore also like to explore good practice with regard to widening the reach of arts and culture offering, review what gaps exist with regard to these offerings and which groups or voices are not being represented within current offerings.

The money will be used to create a video to showcase local arts and culture offerings and we will produce a case study report to give an overview of learnings and best practice.

**11. What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?**

*What are the outcomes you hope to achieve through this project and how will you know if your outcomes are achieved? What is your measure of success?*

\*

We hope to:

- Raise the profile of arts and culture events and activities locally
- Widen engagement with arts and culture offerings by developing an understanding of how to reach a broader range of the community
- Understand what other kinds of arts and culture events/activities we could be offering
- Understand what groups and voices could be better represented within arts and culture activities (for example, this could include more LGBTQ exhibitions, or history events related to a particular culture)

**12. How does your project support the aims and objectives of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network?**

*The Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network aims to frame the debate on the future of sustainable solutions to public sector challenges. Our work will ultimately improve outcomes for communities by enabling Members to develop radical innovation in policy and practice, sharing best practices and learning, and enabling innovators to chart new territory together. Please provide details of how your project will support this aim.*

\*

This project will allow us to work with partners and other CCIN members collaboratively to demonstrate co-operative working, both within and across local areas. For example, we aim to showcase how creatives are facilitated to work together via arts and culture networks, as well as demonstrate how neighbouring authorities can work together on arts and culture offerings. The project will also help us identify how to drive change by understanding how we can reach a broader section of the community to engage in our arts and culture offerings and ensure they are represented in the events and activities that occur. In doing so this could help to improve outcomes across a number of fronts including social cohesion, social and civic participation, life satisfaction and health, as well as the local economy. The project therefore supports the aims and objectives of the CCIN by looking to drive change across a number of fronts and for a broad range of people in local communities. Increasing participation in Arts and Culture is also highly topical in the aftermath of the pandemic.

**13. How does your project support the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles?**

See Statement : <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/values-and-principles/>\*

**Social Partnership** – The project aims to develop connections between residents, communities, creatives, and the Council through understanding how we could improve and better promote arts and culture offerings, which can be used to strengthen connections between community groups.

**Democratic Engagement** – Democratic Engagement is linked to social participation – those who participate socially may also be more likely to engage in civic and democratic processes. The project aims to improve cohesion via increasing social participation through arts and culture.

**Enterprise and Social Economy** – Improving the arts and culture offerings and widening their reach to a broader range of the community can help to increase footfall in our town centres and support a community-based approach to economic development. It could also help improve opportunities for creatives from a diverse range of backgrounds.

**Maximising Social Value** – Arts and cultural engagement has links to improved economic outcomes, improved social outcomes (including cohesion) and interpersonal relationships, plus better life satisfaction and physical and mental health.

**Learning** – In this project we want to gain an understanding of best practice and learn how we can improve our arts and culture offerings to involve a broader community, thereby improving cohesion and engagement and driving positive change for all.

14. **How will you share your learning across the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network? \***

A video to showcase local arts and culture offerings will be shared, as well as a case study report on learnings and best practice of how to widen engagement with arts and culture in order to improve social cohesion.

15. **I agree that the final report will clearly show the Co-operative Difference that this project will deliver. \***

Agree