

10th August 2007

Our ref: R00009

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – SEEDA's Funding of the Creative Foundation in Folkestone

Your Request:

Please provide information under the Freedom of Information Act 2005 in regard to the Agency's funding of The Creative Foundation in Folkestone.

Information Response:

Summary of Funding

SEEDA Funding to The Creative Foundation is summarised in the following table.

Projects	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Total
Directly funded projects						
University Centre Folkestone	£0	£0	£460,000	£900,000	£260,500	£1,620,500
Devolved funded projects						
University Centre Folkestone	£0	£30,250	£0	£320,000	£0	£350,250
Folkestone Creative Quarter	£305,000	£85,000	£0	£150,000	£0	£540,000
Performing Arts and Business Centre	£0	£0	£0	£0	£500,000	£500,000
Living Landmarks	£0	£0	£4,500	£0	£0	£4,500
Channel Corridor Partnership office accommodation	£0	£7,000	£7,963	£8,309	£11,500	£34,772
Folkestone Enterprise Gateway	£0	£0	£0	£14,761	£0	£14,761
Total	£305,000	£122,250	£472,463	£1,393,070	£772,000	£3,064,783



Working for England's World Class Region

The majority of SEEDA's funding to The Creative Foundation has been through the devolved grant programmes of Single Regeneration Budget, Believing in Folkestone SRB programme that ended in 2003/04, and the Channel Corridor Area Investment Programme (AIF) that will end in the 2007/08 financial year. With the devolved programmes, SEEDA devolves responsibility for project approval and management to a local strategic partnership. For SRB, this was the Believing in Folkestone Partnership that dissolved in 2004 when the programme ended. The AIF programme is currently being managed by the Channel Corridor Partnership. This is a strategic economic partnership covering Shepway, Maidstone and Ashford.

The only direct funding from SEEDA that The Creative Foundation has benefited from is through the University Centre Folkestone project.

Please note that 2007/08 funding is planned expenditure rather than actual expenditure.

Description of projects:

University Centre Folkestone

The University Centre Folkestone has bought together Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich at a shared campus in the heart of Folkestone's Creative Quarter. The £10M project is being funded by the Creative Foundation, SEEDA, the Higher Education Funding Council and the two Universities.

SEEDA's funding contribution is mainly capital funding for refurbishment and fit out of the University.

Folkestone Creative Quarter

The Creative Quarter is located in the Old Town area of Folkestone. The initiative, led by the Creative Foundation, aims to refurbish a range of vacant and derelict properties to provide space for studios, galleries and live/work space for those in the creative industries. Properties are provided at a subsidised rent to encourage new business start-ups and to attempt to retain recent graduates in the area in order to grow the sector. SEEDA funding has contributed towards the refurbishment of a number of properties.

Performing Arts and Business Centre (FPABC)

The creation of FPABC is a project being led by the Creative Foundation and Kent County Council, with SEEDA and the Channel Corridor Partnership as partners.



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FPABC has two key objectives:

- To create a medium sized Performing Arts space in the heart of Folkestone's emerging creative quarter, located next to the new University Centre.
- To accommodate a range of hatchery units for start up businesses in the creative industries. The proposed Business Centre will offer approximately 16 office units, together with meeting rooms and other facilities.

The Centre is currently under construction and will be open in 2008. SEEDA capital funding of £500,000, through the Channel Corridor Partnership, will be used on build and fit out costs.

Living Landmarks

In 2006, SEEDA worked with a number of partners in Folkestone, including the Creative Foundation, to put forward a bid to the Big Lottery Living Landmarks Scheme. The project bid was based on the Seastreet concept, regenerating Folkestone Pier into an iconic landmark for the town. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful.

SEEDA funding was used to contribute towards some of the marketing and consultants costs in preparing the bid.

Channel Corridor Partnership Accommodation

The Channel Corridor economic partnership is a SEEDA funded partnership. The executive team of the Partnership are co-located at the Creative Foundation's offices in Tontine Street and pay rent and accommodation costs to the Foundation.

Folkestone Enterprise Gateway

The Enterprise Gateway in Folkestone, a SEEDA supported initiative, is also co-located at the Creative Foundation offices in Tontine Street and therefore pays rent and accommodation costs to the Foundation.