

OPPORTUNITY

Call for a Transition Chair for Creative Medway

We are inviting statements of interest to be submitted for the important role of Transition Chair of the new Creative Medway Compact.

We are looking for an individual to lead an engaged and ambitious set of partners, through a 12 to 18-month transition period, to secure the new Cultural Compact model that will start to deliver Medway's new Cultural Strategy 2020 to 2030.

The context

In 2019, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Arts Council England, the Core Cities Group and the Key Cities Group undertook the 'UK Cultural Cities Enquiry', an independent enquiry into the cultural resources of Britain's cities. It recommended that cities consider setting up "Cultural City Compacts". The approach aims to co-create and co-deliver a holistic vision for culture in a place, to work together with broader partners to provide leadership and strategic capacity, and to provide a step change in the sustainability and impact of culture in that locality.

Medway was identified as an early adopter and with support from Arts Council England, Medway Cultural Partnership and Medway Council began the development of a Compact and Cultural Strategy for Medway.

Creative Medway

The Creative Medway is the governance and delivery model for Medway's new cultural strategy. A more detailed description can be found in the Creative Medway overview document and, in summary, Creative Medway is formed of three key elements:

- Creative Medway Compact
- Creative Medway Working Groups
- Creative Medway Congress

Creative Medway Compact

The Compact is the core strategic group that brings together partners to co-deliver a step change in the sustainability and impact of culture in Medway via the new Strategy. This new partnership approach clearly sets out the ways in which cultural investment can support the transformation of Medway for children and young people, regeneration, the local economy, social well-being and health.

The Cultural Strategy is a cornerstone of our bid for UK City of Culture 2025 and will concentrate its shared ambition, focus and energy on identifying the priorities, managing resources and expediting change. It will look beyond 2025, leading the legacy of the City of Culture bid and identifying opportunities for investment and development that support its longer-term vision and ambitions.

The Compact brings together the Chair, five Working Group Champions, six connected sector specialists and the Compact Facilitator to:

- Ensure that the Strategy is owned by a Medway-wide partnership that has shared goals, mutual respect and strategic leadership at its core.
- Ensure the Vision and the ambition of the Strategy is understood and aimed for.
- Ensure that through the Strategy, culture positively contributes to health and wellbeing, education, voluntary sector, regeneration and economic growth by connecting programmes, partners and strategies to create shared ambition.
- Provide oversight of the implementation of the Strategy and its action plans.
- Agree action plans and associated timetables, resources and partnerships.
- Monitor and evaluate the overall performance ensuring an embedded cyclical evaluation approach is fully developed and implemented.
- Act as an advocate for Medway's culture, both within Medway, regionally and nationally.
- Advise and support the Working Groups and their Champions.
- Plan and deliver the annual Creative Medway Summit with a broad group of interested parties to review, reflect and plan.

Meetings and communication

Meetings will be held quarterly, apart from in specific circumstances where more are needed. Communication will be open, with sharing with all Creative Medway partners.

All Compact meetings will be supported by the Compact Facilitator, ensuring meetings happen and are noted, facilitating membership and good relationships with the Working Groups, and working closely with the Chair on supporting the smooth operation of the delivery model. This will be initially delivered through Medway Council's Head of Culture & Libraries.

Creative Medway Chair and Working Group Champions may need to meet separately between the Creative Medway Compact meetings to ensure each group's remit is being followed.

Creative Medway Transition Chair

The Creative Medway Transition Chair acts as a chairperson for the Creative Medway Compact and as an external advocate for the activities of the Compact, its Working Groups and broadest partners.

We are looking for a Transition Chair that will:

- Provide confident but distributed & generous leadership.
- Lead an engaged and ambitious set of partners, through a 12 to 18-month transition period.
- Ensure the ambition and the long-term vision are clear in the delivery of actions and in the responses to opportunities and challenges.
- Lead and be a mentor to the Working Group Champions, supporting and advising them to manage and deliver action plans that meet the Vision of the strategy.
- Act as the face of, but not the owner of, the Creative Sector.
- Actively network within the creative sector to encourage engagement in the cultural strategy and Creative Medway.
- Network on behalf of Creative Medway outside of the sector to encourage engagement in and partnership with Creative Medway to deliver the cultural strategy, connected strategies and plans.
- Work closely with the Facilitator and the Working Group Champions to ensure the right agenda is prepared for Creative Medway to ensure the Compact can best fulfil its purpose.

Please note

- This is a voluntary role with only some travel and expenses able to be recovered.
- This role is expected to take up to ten days per year including: quarterly Compact meetings; meetings with Working Groups, Champions and other groups, organisations and individuals; the annual Creative Medway Summit, and preparation time for all of the above.

The process

1. If you are interested in this role, we invite you to submit a statement which is no longer than one side of A4, summarising why you should be considered for the role and reflecting on the above qualities and skills we are looking for as defined above.
2. The deadline for statements to be submitted is 2pm on Monday 16 November 2020.
3. Statements should be submitted to paul.cowell@medway.gov.uk with the subject heading 'Creative Medway Transition Chair submission'.
4. Each statement will be reviewed by the five elected Working Group Champions.
5. A shortlist may be produced and those on the shortlist may be asked to meet with the Working Group Champions to further discuss the role.
6. The Working Group Champions will then vote in the Transition Chair.

The timetable

The timetable below is estimated and dates may move depending on circumstances.

Deadline to submit statements	2pm on Monday 16 November 2020
Statements reviewed and shortlisted	Friday 20 November 2020
Potential meetings with Working Group Champions	Week beginning 23 November 2020
Working Group Champions vote	Friday 27 November 2020
First meeting of the Creative Medway Compact	5pm Wednesday 9 December 2020

Further information

If you wish to discuss the opportunity further, please email paul.cowell@medway.gov.uk