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| Report to: | Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee |
| Date: | 29 November 2024 |
| Subject: | Response to Budget |
| Director: | Felix Kumi-Ampofo, Director Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture |
| Author: | Helen Pheby, Head of Culture, Heritage & Sport |

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| Is this a key decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If the report does contain exempt information, what is the reason for exemption: <i>(indicate in the adjacent box the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1 – see Access to Information Rules)</i> | |

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the implications of the autumn 2024 budget for Culture, Heritage and Sport in West Yorkshire.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee note the contents of the report and provide any steer deemed necessary to inform policy and activity.

3. Information

Autumn Budget 2024

- 3.1 The first female Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, gave her long anticipated budget on 30 October, with direct and indirect implications for Culture, Heritage and Sport in West Yorkshire.

Levelling Up Fund Commitments

- 3.2 The Government ‘is minded’ to withdraw unfunded Culture Capital Projects” but allowed a 13-week consultation period (of which six is time for sponsors to make the case). This impacts the £5m earmarked for National Poetry Centre; £10m for British Library North and £14.4m for Bingley Pool.
- 3.3 Funding previously announced for Wakefield and Keighley was confirmed. In Keighley, this translates as £19.8m for Keighley Worth Valley Rail as well as Brownfield Sites Programme and development of an Automation and Robotics Institute. In Wakefield, this unlocks funding earmarked for The Hepworth Wakefield and for Langthwaite/Production Park creative cluster – aligning with plans for One Creative North.

Creative Industries

- 3.4 Also aligned with One Creative North is the Government’s stated intention to support the Creative Industries. The extension of Create Growth, which since June 2024 has helped 46 businesses, is welcome. This skills-based programme enables businesses to navigate the complexities of finance and investment with a view to accelerating their growth. The current programme was oversubscribed so this extension will help to serve need. It is anticipated that this will be an extension of the programme for existing partners with additional funding enabling more businesses to take part.
- 3.5 £3m was announced to extend the Creative Careers Programme, giving school children the chance to learn about creative career routes, directly engage with workplaces, and help fill skills gaps. Awaiting further details as to how this might benefit West Yorkshire.
- 3.6 Tax reliefs announced are intended to provide £15bn support for the next five years. These include 39% for film and high-end TV; UK visual effects being exempt from Audio-Visual Expenditure Credit’s 80% cap on qualifying expenditure.
- 3.7 Business rate relief for entertainment and hospitality continued at 40%, but this is a decrease on current 75% up to £110k.

Sport and Physical Activity

- 3.8 Acknowledgement of the need for multi-use facilities is encouraging with respect to WYCA’s ambitions for a 5k-10k seater arena.
- 3.9 Unfortunately, West Yorkshire is unlikely to directly benefit from Euro 2028 as none of the matches will take place here. It’s anticipated that elite athletes in the region will benefit from Olympic and Paralympic funding.
- 3.10 £100m for cycling and walking infrastructure aligns positively with active travel and physical activity ambitions.

CHS Sector Impacts

- 3.11 The DCMS funding settlement implications which include capital funds for National institutions, are not yet clear. DCMS priorities are described as ‘support for creative industries, cultural institutions and sports facilities so that they continue to be world leading’. Additional capital investment to support cultural organisations across the country was announced, but details not yet available.
- 3.12 Cultural tax relief was set at 40% non-touring, 45% touring.
- 3.13 Changes to National Insurance and Living Wage will have a significant impact on organisations in the sector.

3.14 Major events to mark WW2 anniversaries and COVID-19 were listed.

4. Risks and Mitigations

4.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

5. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

5.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

6.1 There are no Inclusive Growth Implications directly arising from this report.

7. Equity and Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no Equity and Diversity Implications directly arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications of the budget are being worked through.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

10. External Consultees

10.1 No external consultations have been undertaken in the preparation of this report.

11. Background Documents

None

12. Appendices

None