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DOVER BIG LOCAL

YEAR FOUR PLAN



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

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Introduction

Dover Big Local (DBL) has had an exciting year 3 of delivery, progressing well on all themes included in our plan. In particular, the partnerships that we have developed and strengthened are offering a range of opportunities for local people. This includes our relationship with Folkestone MIND and the Kent Live It Well programme, providing local services for residents with mental health issues. Our partnership with Kent County Council's One You programme allows residents to access healthy living support, in the friendly and accessible setting of our Hub. More recently, partnership with Red Zebra's Roma in the Lead project has seen people from Dover's Roma community accessing main stream services, such as Kent's One You programme. For the past two years we have part funded the Pop Up Business School; this has been so successful we have secured 100% external funding for this year. The Destination Dover project, a broad partnership initiated and part funded by DBL, is now showing exciting progress. During the upcoming year we will work more closely with Destination Dover, ensuring that activities are complementary and that we avoid duplication. For example, Destination Dover has developed a [website](#) with a comprehensive 'what's on' page; DBL will link to this rather than replicating local information.

DBL will continue to focus on the themes included in our plan, with a focus on further developing ways to actively involve local people in DBL and in the community. We will adopt a slightly different approach to our community chest programme, targeting groups operating across our geographical area and involving representative demographic groups.

We are taking a more strategic approach to our 'local economy' workstream, working in partnership with Dover District Council to create a business incubation centre. We will submit a separate proposal to progress this.

Arts and Culture

Dover Big Local is proud of the impact that arts and culture has in Dover. Started as a sub-committee of DBL, ART31 is a dynamic group of local art practitioners. It identifies and encourages local talent and champions creativity in Dover, raising aspirations and securing significant external funding. DBL has provided support to Future Foundry, working with young people to develop the first 'creative space' in Kent. -DBL supported the River Tales project, a hugely successful initiative that used local interest in the river Dour to encourage residents to explore the river and its environment through poetry, song and music. ART31 is exploring the notion of developing an Arts Award centre, potentially delivering the Arts Award for young people and will continue to support the annual Big Draw event, the world's largest drawing festival that unites people in celebrating the power of drawing

DBL is aware of the positive impact that art and creativity has on wellbeing and will continue to encourage and support local activity

Local Economy

Dover Big Local will continue to support initiatives and entrepreneurs with the capacity to impact and improve the local economy. We have delivered the Pop-Up Business School for the past two years; giving confidence to partners to provide full funding for the upcoming year.

Dover Big Local has been working in partnership with Dover District Council to create a business incubation and community leisure space for Dover. Whilst this is well advanced, we intend to submit a separate application, together with a detailed business plan for the operation of this. This plan incorporates the remaining capital required to complete refurbishment works.

We will continue to offer a programme of learning opportunities, to support wellbeing and employability.

Destination Dover

Now entering its third year, this collaborative project continues to bring focus to Dover's tourism sector. Whilst the basic strategies will remain unchanged and work will continue, expanding influence with the Cruise industry and developing continental partnerships, as well as ensuring that Dover's tourism offer continues to improve, the town has to be ready to adapt to external influences that may arise from Brexit. Until the final form of a Brexit Agreement is concluded, Destination Dover has to be prepared to cover a number of possible outcomes. This will undoubtedly exert a heavy burden on the group's resources and so Dover Big Local's continued support will be ever more valuable. One of the plans under consideration is to develop a series of very specialist visitor opportunities, which are not generally available elsewhere, thereby improving the attractiveness of Dover as a destination. This approach will inevitably involve outlets and venues that presently do not have a high profile, and so will encourage the expansion of economic benefits of tourism to the town.

UnLtd

Dover Big Local is an UnLtd partner and will continue to develop entrepreneurial opportunities for local people.

Health and Wellbeing

Over the next year, DBL will continue to focus on building and maintaining successful collaborations. We will continue to work closely with Kent's One You service and with Folkestone MIND, offering personalised local support in the community. DBL has made good progress in supporting networks and better joined up services; we will continue to do this, signposting people to existing provision.

A key aim is to encourage the development of more resident-led activity, such as the stitching group, where people create opportunities for themselves, increasing their confidence and building social networks.

Environment & Green Spaces

The Dover Big Local area has been extended to incorporate Connaught Park and Western Heights, including Drop Redoubt. The partnership will actively seek local residents who are interested in developing environmental community projects, particularly to expand the use of these beautiful local assets.

Community Grants Programme

Dover Big Local will build on its experience of offering a small grants programme to actively facilitate greater local involvement. The themes contained in the plan remain unchanged, but the partnership will identify groups across the geographical area and representing different demographic and interest groups. We will develop appropriate processes that engender deep rooted decision making and procedures to allow us to work with local groups to support them to design and implement activities.

Communication

Dover Big Local has, year on year, improved its communication processes and mechanisms and will continue to do this.

We will further develop our online presence

- Create an area on the website with up to date stories and images
- Provide electronic newsletters (some printed copies will be produced)
- Improve publicity of national opportunities, including those offered by Local Trust
- Improve use of social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat etc.
- Link effectively to the Destination Dover online resources

The urban fete has become a popular annual event and will again be delivered this year.

Support costs

The year 4 plan contains a commitment to providing the DBL “Hub” and continuing to contribute to the Wellbeing “Hub”. DBL will maintain its staffing at broadly the same level as in year 3, namely its Hub worker, Community Development Worker and development capacity, as well as the part time events coordinator.

These roles are all part time and serve different and complementary functions:

- Ensuring that the Hub is a welcoming and accessible space
- Facilitating local events, activities, groups and organisations
- Engaging with more local people
- Providing advice, information and practical support to new groups
- Supporting the Partnership to develop its strategic relationships
- Applying for external funds
- Providing administrative support to the Partnership

We recognise that the cost of running these Hubs and providing paid staff forms a significant part of DBL’s expenditure and as such in this new Year 4 Plan close attention will be paid to ensure that appropriate value is transferred into the community.

The Partnership will continue to develop ways to raise awareness of and signpost local people to the range of local activities and opportunities.

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Budget

DBL Year 4 budget			
1 Arts & Culture			£ 10,000
2 Local Economy			
Capital spend for Co-Innovation		30,000	
Training budget		3,000	
UnLtd match funding		7,500	£ 40,500
3 Destination Dover			£ 25,000
4 Health & Wellbeing			£ 10,000
5 Environment & Green Spaces			£ 10,000
6 Communications		5,000	
Engagement activities	Marketing, refreshments, activities	1,000	£ 6,000
7 Community Chest			£ 12,000
8 Support Costs			
DBL Hub & Wellbeing Hub		15,000	
Staffing	Includes travel	60,000	£ 75,000
		Total Year 4	£ 188,500