

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee - Screen Industries

7 March 2023

Catherine Auld

Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration

Overview

- BBC Memorandum of Understanding
- NE Screen Industries Partnership
- North East Screen – highlights to date
- Key developments

BBC Memorandum of Understanding

- Signed by all 12 local authorities and 3 combined authorities – September 2021
- Targets BBC investment of £25m in regional programming and content, supported by investment across the North East
- North East Screen Industries Partnership established
- Workstreams – production office, business development, skills, Production Fund

North East Screen Industries Partnership

- Board – strategic oversight, with rotating Chair alongside representatives from 3 x CAs, HE, FE, BBC, NE Screen
- Investment Panel – to oversee Production Fund
- Skills Group
- Steering Group
- Marketing & Comms Working Group

North East Screen

- Office opened in Sunderland
- Regional launch of new brand and programme at City Hall, June 2022, attended by over 150 industry leaders
 - followed by a crew event at Fire Station for 230
- Filming Friendly Charter - signed by Sunderland in December 2022
 - showing the industry Sunderland is open for business and welcomes productions
 - highlighted all NE signatories at Focus trade event, December

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Production Office - Sunderland highlights

- 'Charlotte in Sunderland' new series for BBC 3
- BBC Rickshaw Challenge, Children in Need
- BBC Breakfast & Question Time
- 'Cooking with Gills' for C5
- Vera for ITV
- Robson Green's Weekend Getaways – with Jill Scott as one of the guests

Business Development - Sunderland highlights

- North East Screen - took part in the Sunderland Business Festival, Sunderland Shorts Film Festival engagement
- MCC Media - business development activity, awarded BBC Indie Funding and Commissioner support
- Fulwell 73 - studio development plans, skills development plans and location attraction guides
- NWD – business development activity, developed innovative new products, application for Innovate UK funding

Production Fund

- To be launched April 2023, informed by best practice
- Early pilot – MCC Media - Channel 5 children's show 'Cooking with the Gills' which was recently nominated for a Royal Television Society Award

Skills

- 'In conversation with ... Lord Puttnam' large scale event held at the Fire Station - over 350 in attendance
- 5 x North East Screen Crew Academy events (entry level) held in partnership with Sunderland University
- 3 Trainees with places on productions made in Sunderland; 2 early career crew have had longer term placements in Sunderland Indies
- 30 crew and 7 crew Academy supported in addition.
- 131 Sunderland based attendees overall at North East Screen events and activities delivered across the region.

Key Developments

- Crown Works Studios – FulwellCain Studios
 - Fulwell73, Cain International
- Pallion Shipyard Studios - Pallion Engineering
 - Metalwork Pictures USA, Broadwick Live, Kajima Corporation of Japan



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