

Committee(s): The Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	Dated: 7 th June 2022
Subject: Update on Filming Activity in the City of London	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 9, 10 and 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk & Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs	For Information
Report author: Joanna Burnaby-Atkins, Film Liaison Manager: Town Clerks Department	

Summary

This report is a regular update on filming activity.

There has been an exceptionally high level of filming in the City and filming income generated via the Film Liaison Team for the financial year 2021-2022 was £1.3m which is more than double the average of the previous five years.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Filming Industry is going through a global boom, fuelled by American streaming companies. Since the pandemic there has been exceptionally high level of filming in London.

Current Position

2. Large-scale productions that have filmed in the City in the last 4 months include:
 - Netflix TV drama Treason filmed on Southwark Bridge
 - Apple TV filmed Lockwood at the Barbican Centre and Barbican Estate.
 - Netflix TV drama The Crown filmed at Mansion House and Freeman's School.
 - Apple TV production Kanji filmed on Cornhill, in Leadenhall Market, on Austin Friars and Finsbury Circus
 - Marvel superhero feature film Spiral filmed for two weekends on London Wall, two weekends on Ludgate Hill and an evening on Millennium Bridge
3. The Film Liaison Team have provided administrative support to our Open Spaces sites assisting them to facilitate productions including large scale shoots such as Netflix drama 'The Witcher' and Disney's 'Merry'.
4. In addition to filming on City streets and on our sites the City has also supported a large amount of filming in privately owned buildings throughout the City, arranging parking through the Traffic Management Team to make filming in these sites possible.
5. The increase in filming has meant income brought into the City Corporation via the Film Liaison Team for the financial year 2021-22 was £1.3 million, an increase of over 100% on the average figure of £572k for the previous five years.
6. Several productions are lining up for the months ahead with a possible return of 'The Crown', the next seasons of Apple drama 'Embankment' and Netflix drama 'Straightshooter'
7. Recent news states that Netflix has had reductions in subscriptions and going forward it remains to be seen if this and the current rise in the cost of living will impact on the levels of filming coming into the City.
8. We are building on the increased demand for filming by establishing a Film Location Library to better market our sites to film makers as approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 8th July 2021:
<https://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s155059/Establishment%20of%20London%20Location%20Library%20to%20Promote%20Filming.pdf>.
9. Filming income is distributed amongst the City Corporation departments that host and manage the filming allowing all departments engaging with filming to benefit financially. The Film Liaison Team's costs are drawn back each year proportionally from those sites who raise filming income and administrative fees are charged.

Options

None

Corporate and Strategic Implications

None

Proposals

None

Resource Implications

None

Legal Implications

None

Equalities implications

None

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

Conclusion**Appendices**

- None

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