

The Cattle Market Makers project

What is it?

The Cattle Market Makers project will provide small workshops and shared space in a new creative hub. There will be business and other support for craftspeople and makers and opportunities to try new crafts for those just starting out. We know there is a real demand for this locally and it will provide a major boost to creative businesses and help build a community of makers.

A project manager and assistant will manage the space, organise training and events and provide business support.

As far as possible, we will find creative ways to reuse and recycle materials in the project.

Who can take part?

We will be working with three main groups:

Established makers, who can rent workshop space, benefit from tailored business support and work as trainers and technicians.

People wanting to grow a hobby into a job, who need space for making, and support in setting up a business and reaching customers.

People who have not worked for some time, who can take part in creative and craft activities to boost their skills and confidence as steps towards education, job search or self employment.

Due to the funding conditions, the project is mainly aimed at people who live or work in central parts of Liskeard, where there are high levels of deprivation. That will include anyone renting workshop space and we will also be able to include some others.

It will also provide business support, events and networking opportunities for other existing businesses in the town.

What will it look like?

The creative hub will be a small-scale modular development based on shipping containers, which will include small workshops for rent, shared making and training spaces and an office for the project staff. One of the shared spaces will house a satellite of the Plymouth College of Art Fab Lab, providing ways to learn, experiment and create with digital technology. There will also be space for makers to exhibit their work.

Planning permission has been submitted, with detailed designs.

Who is involved?

The project is led by Liskeard Town Council, who will manage the staff. It has been developed working in partnership with other organisations. Cornwall Council are providing the match funding and delivering the creative hub as well as advice and support. Plymouth College of Art have contributed their specialist knowledge to develop the project and will help with practical workshops, events and access to their facilities. Liskeard Town Council have also talked to a wide range of local organisations about how they can be involved, including local schools, the Liskerrett Community Centre, Liskeard Together, Community Treasure Chest, Lighthouse Centre, and adult education.

When will it happen?

The application was considered by the South East Cornwall Local Development group on 27 May 2021 and grant offer letters were issued by July 2021.

The aim is to have the Project Manager and assistant in post by autumn 2021 with training and support starting in autumn 2021 and the creative hub units in place by the end of 2021.

The activities will be funded until December 2022 and the staff posts to end January 2023. The aim is to establish a self-sustaining set up and the creative hub units will be in place for at least five years.

How is it being funded?

Liskeard Town Council has applied for £427,000 of European funding for the project. This is from the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) fund, which brings together EU funding which supports business with funds to help people who are economically inactive. Cornwall Council is providing £326,000 of match funding, which will mainly be spent on providing the creative hub units. Liskeard Town Council is putting in a small amount of match funding as well as the considerable work to apply for funding and develop the project.

How does it relate to other developments on the site?

The Cattle Market site is being re-developed in stages, in line with public consultation. The Cattle Market Makers project will be one of the earliest parts to be up and running, making use of the site while larger projects are being worked up.

There will be good links with the Cornwall Council-led Creative and Digital Workspace scheme which will provide larger workspaces. Makers who start out in the small workshops can grow into the larger studios, and businesses in the Creative and Digital workspaces can benefit from business support and facilities in the Cattle Market Makers project.

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