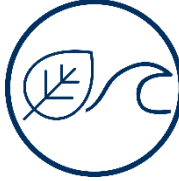


ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2025

REPORT FOR DECISION

ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECTED 2025/26 OUTTURN AND PROPOSED 2026/27 BUDGET

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
✓	✓		✓			✓

Recommendation to Penzance Council:

1. The projected out-turn for 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.
2. The Arts and Culture proposed budget for 2026/27, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.
3. The level of existing earmarked reserves and their respective contributions in 2026/27, as set out at Appendix 2 to this report, be approved and adopted.

Background:

INCOME

Projected outturn 2025-26

Penlee House Retail income has had a difficult year and is expected to return an adverse variance of £64,100 in comparison to the original set budget for 2025/26, therefore the budgets have had to be revised down to update the new projected outturn for the year. 2024-25 saw very high visitor figures with hugely popular exhibitions, Harold Harvey Painter of Cornwall and Flora: Curated by Kurt Jackson. 2025-26 has seen a reduction in visitor numbers. As an indoor attraction, the unusually

high levels of sunny days has had an impact on our summer visitors, this is supported by evidence from elsewhere, with sites that have accompanying outdoor space (such as National Trust properties), seeing strong footfall, but sites such as museums and art galleries seeing a reduction in visitors compared to previous years. Income is impacted by this reduction in visitors, but additionally, in the midst of a cost of living crisis, there is evidence of a reduction in secondary spend amongst those who are visiting galleries which is reflected in our reduced retail income in 2025-26.

Grant funding and sponsorship income has been on target, the capital receipts from 'Other Grant Funding' of £250,000 is from the Town Deal Enterprise grant which was awarded for the Coach House café refurbishment which is currently ongoing and due to be finished by the end of the year, this amount is not included in the revenue income as it is match funding and placed into the capital project account for the Coach House to support this spend. During the year, the Art Fund Going Places project was commissioned which was not known when the budget was agreed, this increases the income but also increases the expenditure at the same level. The Going Places programme partners Penlee House with OnFife and Museums Worcestershire, who are working together to develop two touring exhibitions. The first will be displayed at Penlee House in Summer 2026 and will focus on women artists. The second in summer 2028, will focus on childhood. Each exhibition will be accompanied by community engagement work, including, at Penlee House, working with Care Free Cornwall.

The Orangery café franchise income has been on target, and it is projected that the outturn will be slightly improved to the level that was set in the agreed budget.

Overall net income from the Arts and Culture Committee is projected to decrease by £27,488 within the current financial year, in comparison to the agreed budget.

Proposed budget 2026-27

Admissions income is projected to remain in line with the projected outturn for 2025/26 but is still a reduction on the original agreed budget for 2025/26. Admissions income in the financial year 2026-27 is anticipated to be comparable to 2025-26. This is due to the proposed exhibition programme. The Going Places programme is being delivered with the Art Fund. Whilst it is anticipated that the exhibition relating to this will prove popular, a core audience will be Art Fund members, who receive free admission to the gallery (as a condition of financial grant support provided over a number of years by the Art Fund for acquisition of artworks).

Merchandise income is set to be slightly higher than the out-turn for this year due to the provision of bespoke goods to accompany the Going Places exhibition in May-September 2026 as well as the provision of a book being produced to accompany the touring show from the Bowerman Trust which will be on display from October – January 2026-27.

Education workshop income is budgeted to be in line with the current year's projected out-turn.

Grant funding income is appearing lower due to the unknown factor of whether Arts Council England is able to provide funding for 2026/27, in the current year they provided £80,000, which was also reflected in the expenditure. Arts Council England (ACE) have notified all those currently in receipt of funding that there will be an extension to the programme for 2026-27. However, at present ACE have not received their financial settlement from DCMS and therefore cannot confirm the level of financial commitment to organisations for 2026-27. Going Places funding is for a period of five years, and the amount set for 2026/27 is the agreed value from the funder which matches the expenditure.

Other points of note for the draft budget 2026-27 for income:

- Café franchise income is maintained at the projected income for this year, despite the new café opening at the Coach House with a much-increased amount of covers, it is unknown what the levels of income will be. This will be monitored carefully with performance meetings with the operator once the new agreement begins, which is expected by 1 April.
- In line 400/2/5, Other Grant income is set at zero because there is no confirmed grant income for next year. However, applications will be made for suitable funding opportunities as they arise and historically have always generated income in this line.
- The Buildings Appeal continues to bring in a small amount of income, but the roof project is due to be completed imminently with funds already made available, so there won't be any campaign for the building appeal fundraising at this time.

EXPENDITURE

Projected outturn 2025-26

The projected net outturn for expenditure is anticipated to be at a similar level as the original agreed budget.

Salary costs are anticipated to be around £9,000 less than expected and this is because during the financial year there has been turnover of some posts and periods of vacancies before re-recruitment where salary costs haven't been incurred, combined with new members of staff starting at the bottom of their salary scale range where the predecessors were at the top of their scales; the pay award for the current financial year was 3.2% when a 5% allowance was included in the budget, giving a further 1.8% saving.

Shop expenditure is anticipated to be lower due to the equivalent lower projected sale demand, so the variable costs, merchandise for resale, has been projected down, but not so much that it would restrict further income generation.

Gallery exhibitions and museum related costs have been revised down, mainly around the specific exhibition costs; this is due to transportation and loan costs being less this year. This is as a result of exhibitions being installed which were predominantly from single sources, in the case of the Biddy Picard and Lamorna Birch exhibitions, or with a higher proportion of local works, in the case of the Birds exhibition.

The Coach House budget line appears significantly higher than the original budget, but includes capital costs funded from reserve, not from the revenue budget. £519,915 of this is funded from The Coach House reserve, £250,000 of this is match funding from the Town Deal Enterprise Grant as referenced from the income.

The Art Fund Going Places project was not included in the original budget, the same as with the income, so was added during the year to the same value as the income level, so they have no net effect as they balance each other out.

Golowan Festival budget has been revised up slightly due to recalculation of payments due for the service level agreement with Golowan Festival CIC, payments in preparation for the 2026 festival also include index linking for inflation which was at 3.8%. Also included in this budget is the provision for Golowan fireworks and the Golowan youth stage project.

Proposed budget 2026-27

Officers have been mindful to make cost savings wherever possible in the budget looking ahead and have made the following considerations:-

- **Salary costs** - a 4% increase for pay awards in 2026-7 has been allowed for across all Council employees, equating to a predicted increase of c.£16,000 for the Penlee House department. For reference, this current year the pay award impact on the salaries budget was a 3.2% increase upon the previous scales. The salaries budget includes two of the Art Fund Going Places funded roles, where costs are recouped through the income next year, it also includes the existing two Arts Council funded posts, the Learning Assistant and Marketing Assistant, as an extension has been made to their current posts which would have ended 31 March, to 31st July as resolved by Council on 10 November 2025, this is a contingent cost as it is expected that Arts Council will award funding for the whole of 2026/27 and the funded projects will be able to continue. The salaries budget for 2026/27 also includes the additional capacity to the Director role and Visitor Experience and Retail Manager on a temporary basis up to 31 March 2027 as was also resolved by Council on 10 November 2025. Despite the changes, the salaries budget is still at a similar level of the original agreed 2025/26 budget, this is because currently the two Arts Council

funded roles are included on a full-time basis for the whole 12 months this year, and only included for four months at present in the draft 2026/27 budget, if Arts Council funding is agreed between the time of writing this report and is accepted by Penzance Council, then the budget will be amended, but with no net effect as the additional expenditure will be off-set by the additional income.

- Due to inflation, where appropriate, external contracts have had 4% added as these costs are beyond the Council's control or where officers have already been informed of price increases, they have been able to include the actual increased amount.
- Electricity expenditure is predicted to remain the same, a slight increase on unit charges being balanced out by both a reduction on standing charge and predicted usage reduction due to café relocation resulting in the same predicted spend for 26/27. Gas expenditure is predicted to follow the same trend with a small increase on unit charge being balanced out by a reduction in usage being seen, resulting in a predicted 2k saving on projected out-turn for 25/26 and draft budget for 26/27.
- Line 4100/2/9 - Capital Refurbishment – has £27,000 added to it to facilitate the refurbishment of the retail space to provide an enhanced customer retail experience, which will take place once the Coach House project has been completed. This was originally planned to be done in January 2026, but it cannot progress until the Coach House Café operation has commenced which is expected by April 2026, and the works will need to be planned in for January 2027 when a closure period can take place.
- Line 4100/4/1 – Merchandise for Resale – has been reduced in line with the expected demand of income from retail sales, this is in line with the expected bespoke products and exhibitions planned for 2026/27.
- Line 4100/5/1 – exhibition costs have been calculated based on the programme of exhibitions within the 2026/27 financial year taking into account the transportation and loan costs for each. Officers have included agreed funding from the Friends of Penlee House at £7,000 in 400/2 Grants and Funding to support some of the exhibition costs and also some of the Art Fund Going Places funding is towards exhibition costs.
- Line 4100/5/5 – Volunteer refreshments costs have increased with inflation due to increasing food and drink costs. However, for the time investment made by these volunteers (over 10,000 hours per year), this represents very good value for money.
- Line 4100/7 – The Coach House budget line has now reduced following the capital project, an amount for utilities and maintenance has been included for contingency, while it will be the operator that is responsible for most areas, this

contract has not been awarded and so there is no confirmed start date as of yet.

- Line 4100/8/1 – Council Funded Educational Activities. This budget line has reduced due to Arts Council funding being unconfirmed, in 2025/26 this was £22,350 of the education budget. If the Arts Council funding is awarded, then it would be calculated how much of this would be assigned to education and the additional grant income would off-set this.
- The Golowan Festival SLA in 2026/27 will be the second year of the 3-year festival agreement, as per the agreement it was agreed that each year the amounts paid to the CIC would be reduced slightly with the intention that they raise additional funding from sponsorships and commercial agreements to make them more financially sustainable. The budget also includes, in addition to the SLA, £6,000 for youth stage provision.
- As agreed from last year, Christmas lights were handed over to Penzance BID to organise, but the Council would keep a budget for contribution to the cost of this. In 2026/27's budget, it is proposed that the same level of funding is provided with no increase.
- Town Flags and Banners budget for commission and rigging for the 2026 year has been reduced, this is due to the type of flag now produced, which has meant that many of the flags can be re-used for a second season, with only part of them needing replacement. The rigging contract will still be required, but the budget for the flag procurement has been reduced due to the reduction in flags needing replacement.

Earmarked Reserves

- Penlee House Building Fund – the roof replacement works which Council agreed last year are still pending, with up to £180,000 allocated for these works, this project is now expected to be completed in Spring/Summer 2026. A further contribution of £8,000 is recommended to the Building Fund to address the outstanding issues identified in the Building Condition survey of 2023, which will include interior works and to continue contributing to the reserve for future unexpected replacements.
- Penlee House Plant Fund – a contribution of £96,000 in the 2026/27 is proposed in order to build back up to the level required to undertake the upgrade works to the plant equipment, once the exterior work with the roof has been completed the plant project will be re-considered, looking at the different options. The upgrade of the plant equipment would be more environmentally friendly and reduce energy consumption once completed, having a positive impact on the environment and financial savings.

- Penlee House Visitor Experience – a £3,000 reserve contribution is proposed to bring up to £10,000; this reserve is currently called the Orangery Equipment Replacement, but once the Coach House Café opens this reserve will be used to develop the visitor experience space where the current shop and Orangery café is now. The catering equipment used by The Orangery is owned by the Council and this can be used in the space to provide light refreshments, so provision will be still needed in a reserve for replacement of this in the future anyway.
- The Coach House – this reserve which was previously used for the Coach House development project as match funding for the Town Deal Enterprise grant will now be used for future repairs and replacement of catering equipment and building improvements as this will be the responsibility of the Council to the operator of the café. A £9,000 contribution is proposed with the intention this level will be sustained on an annual basis (in addition to an inflationary increase) for 10 years, as this is likely when some of the larger items of catering equipment will need replacing.
- Christmas Lighting Infrastructure – this reserve is no longer required as this was handed over to Penzance BID and therefore does not meet the criteria to be held as an earmarked reserve, therefore it is proposed to be released in the 2026/27 budget to help reduce the precept requirement.

Increases to Budget Analysed

Referring to the budget summary in Appendix 1 -

2025/26 Out-turn

Projected net expenditure is expected to be £982 less than agreed in the original budget, which is a favourable variance, but projected income is expected to be £27,488 less than agreed in the original budget, which is an adverse variance, meaning there is a projected shortfall between income and expenditure of £26,506. This shortfall needs to be considered alongside the other committees' budgets to see if this shortfall can be absorbed due to underspends in other areas, if not then the General Fund or another reserve may be required to meet this.

2026/27 Proposed

In comparison to the original agreed budget set for 2025/26, projected expenditure in 2026/27 has decreased by £66,858, earmarked reserve contributions have remained at the same level, of £116,000 and there are releases from reserves totalling £51,285 which includes £27,500 from Christmas Lighting Infrastructure and up-to £23,785 from the HR Contingency reserve to cover the potential cost of the Arts Council funded posts extended for four months into 2026/27 if Arts Council funding is not awarded. This makes the net expenditure to be £938,814 which is £118,143 less than in the original agreed budget for 2025/26.

Income for 2026/27 in comparison to the original agreed budget set for 2025/26 is £82,777 less, due to the reasons mentioned in this report.

The difference between the expenditure, releases from reserves and the projected income is £633,547 and this is the projected amount from The Arts and Culture Committee required from the Council precept. In comparison to 2025/26 requirement, this is £35,336 less.

Appendix 1 - Budget Summary and Spreadsheet

Appendix 2 - Earmarked Reserves

Verity Anthony

Director, Penlee House (maternity cover) / Visitor Experience and Retail Manager

Cameron Sil

Finance Manager

Arts and Culture Budget Comparison 25/26 and 26/27

	2025/26 BUDGET	2025/26 OUTTURN	2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET	Change from previous year agreed	% change
Expenditure (excl. EMRs):	940,957	1,447,454	874,099	-66,858	-7.1
Income:	388,044	360,556	305,267	-82,777	-21.3
Earmarked Reserves:					
Budget Additions	116,000	116,000	116,000	0	0.0
Other Additions					
Releases		-507,479	-51,285	51,285	-100
Total Expenditure:	1,056,957	1,055,975	938,814	-118,143	-11
Projected Precept Requirement:	668,913	695,420	633,547	-35,366	

Arts and Culture Committee - Projected Out-turn 2025/26 and Draft Budget 2026/27

2023/24 Actual £	2024/25 Actual to 30.09.24 £	2024/25 Actual £	INCOME		2025/26 Agreed Budget £	2025/26 Actual to 30.09.25 £	2025/26 Projected Out-turn £	2026/27 Draft Budget £
			400	Penlee House Gallery & Museum				
			400/1	Shop				
86,920.84	89,678.58	133,277.76	400/1/1	Admissions	115,000.00	64,191.67	95,000.00	95,000.00
99,232.82	73,665.19	107,061.78	400/1/2	Sale of Merchandise	110,000.00	43,468.12	65,000.00	80,000.00
871.11	1,277.14	1,462.49	400/1/3	Image Licensing Fees	1,200.00	293.94	1,000.00	1,000.00
1,072.00	293.00	1,050.00	400/1/4	Education Workshops	400.00	944.67	1,500.00	1,500.00
21.11	68.91	93.40	400/1/5	Till Discrepancies	0.00	23.81	0.00	0.00
188,117.88	164,982.82	242,945.43	400/1/1	Total	226,600.00	108,922.21	162,500.00	177,500.00
			400/2	Grants and Funding				
0.00	0.00	0.00	400/2/2	Capital Build Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50,475.75	20,824.90	35,085.81	400/2/3	Friends of Penlee Funding	24,324.00	0.00	24,011.00	21,245.00
80,104.94	40,000.00	80,827.63	400/2/4	Arts Council	80,000.00	40,000.00	80,000.00	0.00
21,085.00	2,000.00	6,050.00	400/2/5	Other Grant Funding	0.00	15,752.18	250,000.00	0.00
0.00	5,443.54	40,223.23	400/2/6	Building Projects Donations	0.00	1,485.58	1,600.00	0.00
0.00			400/2/7	Art Fund - Going Places		32,900.00	34,376.00	57,149.00
151,665.69	68,268.44	162,186.67	400/2	Total	104,324.00	90,137.76	389,987.00	78,394.00
			400/3	The Orangery Café				
45,822.58	31,106.97	54,136.03	400/3/1	Franchise Payments	48,000.00	31,829.29	50,000.00	48,000.00
5,623.63	4,765.31	8,742.70	400/3/2	Utility Re-charges	7,800.00	4,587.88	8,000.00	0.00
51,446.21	35,872.28	62,878.73	400/3	Total	55,800.00	36,417.17	58,000.00	48,000.00
1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	400/4	Community Toilet Scheme	1,320.00	0.00	1,320.00	1,373.00
187,370.34	328.74	819.41	400/5	Miscellaneous	0.00	348.34	349.00	
579,700.12	270,552.28	469,930.24	400	Total	388,044.00	235,825.48	612,156.00	305,267.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	495	Miscellaneous Arts & Culture Income	0.00	0.00		
579,700.12	270,552.28	469,930.24		Subtotal on all Arts & Culture Income	388,044.00	235,825.48	612,156.00	305,267.00
				Additional Contributions to reserves		15,752.18	251,600.00	
579,700.12	270,552.28	469,930.24		Arts & Culture Total Income	388,044.00	220,073.30	360,556.00	305,267.00

2023/24 Actual £	Actual to 30.09.24 £	2024/25 Actual £	EXPENDITURE		2025/26 Agreed Budget £	2025/26 Actual to 30.09.25 £	2025/26 Projected Out-turn £	2026/27 Draft Budget £
323,262.03	183,009.59	384,093.25	4000	Penlee House Salaries	431,315.00	203,602.24	421,622.00	432,330.00
			4100	Penlee House Gallery & Museum				
			4100/1	Administration				
385.51	502.37	708.79	4100/1/1	Staff Travel	750.00	283.75	750.00	750.00
11,609.66	6,087.27	12,420.27	4100/1/3	IT Provision	12,900.00	6,828.28	13,200.00	13,720.00
380.70	107.91	358.81	4100/1/4	Office Postage	400.00	118.26	400.00	450.00
150.00	150.00	150.00	4100/1/5	Website	350.00	150.00	150.00	350.00
963.44	404.43	923.88	4100/1/6	Office Supplies & Equipment	1,500.00	409.80	1,500.00	1,500.00
1,500.00	1,469.60	1,487.60	4100/1/7	Subscription & Membership Fees	1,800.00	1,640.52	1,800.00	1,900.00
23,518.22	11,501.64	23,765.82	4100/1/8	Insurance	26,000.00	12,592.74	26,000.00	27,300.00
16,895.68	0.00	0.00	4100/1/9	Agency Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
55,483.21	20,223.22	39,815.17	4100/1	Total	43,700.00	22,023.35	43,800.00	45,970.00
			4100/2	Penlee House Building				
0.00	0.00	0.00	4100/2/1	Non-Domestic Rates	0.00			
14,467.15	9,836.37	16,336.29	4100/2/2	Gas	16,000.00	6,471.75	14,000.00	14,000.00
40,267.47	31,895.88	51,250.68	4100/2/3	Electric	50,000.00	29,728.28	52,000.00	50,000.00
5,385.06	3,367.29	6,040.18	4100/2/4	Water	6,200.00	5,599.83	9,400.00	9,500.00
10,648.71	5,662.36	12,527.50	4100/2/5	Cleaning Contract & Materials	20,000.00	9,743.15	20,000.00	20,000.00
8,969.04	3,580.78	5,383.65	4100/2/6	Maintenance & Repairs	9,000.00	5,170.74	9,000.00	9,000.00
2,262.39	1,208.94	2,504.35	4100/2/7	Fittings	3,000.00	574.19	3,000.00	3,000.00
19,717.08	13,161.43	30,824.70	4100/2/8	Contracts	25,000.00	16,310.96	30,000.00	33,000.00
7,125.00	7,125.00	19,678.79	4100/2/9	Capital Refurbishment	25,000.00	1,120.00	0.00	27,000.00
108,841.90	75,838.05	144,546.14	4100/2	Total	154,200.00	74,718.90	137,400.00	165,500.00
			4100/4	Shop				
53,682.21	36,514.89	55,076.82	4100/4/1	Inventory Purchases	55,000.00	20,858.43	35,000.00	40,000.00
125.73	51.43	85.04	4100/4/1/1	Merchandise for resale	200.00	83.17	200.00	200.00
53,807.94	36,566.32	55,161.86	4100/4/1	Total	55,200.00	20,941.60	35,200.00	40,200.00
1,113.36	1,303.27	1,377.48	4100/4/2	Till & Consumables	2,000.00	1,069.31	1,500.00	2,000.00
3,080.86	2,485.36	4,244.33	4100/4/3	PDQ Charges	4,600.00	1,958.79	4,000.00	4,200.00
1,449.08	663.00	1,329.25	4100/4/4	Cash Collection	1,470.00	708.90	1,470.00	1,600.00
111.61	155.13	277.72	4100/4/5	Carriage outwards for orders	450.00	122.35	300.00	400.00
59,562.85	41,173.08	62,390.64	4100/4	Total	63,720.00	24,800.95	42,470.00	48,400.00
			4100/5	Gallery Exhibitions & Museum				
50,425.01	19,148.33	45,433.46	4100/5/1	Exhibition Costs	40,000.00	9,285.32	32,000.00	32,000.00
8,711.86	7,367.87	8,397.33	4100/5/2	Marketing	11,000.00	6,490.73	10,000.00	11,000.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	4100/5/3	Art Conservation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	9,800.00	4100/5/4	Consultancy Work	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4,394.65	1,721.38	3,995.59	4100/5/5	Volunteer Refreshments	4,500.00	1,679.65	4,500.00	4,750.00

		0.00	4100/5/6 Acquisitions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
63,531.52	28,237.58	67,626.38	4100/5 Total	55,500.00	17,455.70	46,500.00	47,750.00
916.82	859.08	1,638.82	4100/6 The Orangery Café				
1,696.16	0.00	2,954.40	4100/6/1 Equipment Maintenance & Replacement	1,500.00	772.76	1,500.00	1,500.00
2,612.98	859.08	4,593.22	4100/6/2 Capital Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
898.53	505.50	1,298.12	4100/6 Total	1,500.00	772.76	1,500.00	1,500.00
696.74	309.91	687.28	4100/7 The Coach House				
798.40	478.40	798.40	4100/7/1 Electric	1,750.00	295.31	1,750.00	1,750.00
791.83	65.00	1,451.00	4100/7/2 Water	750.00	725.23	750.00	750.00
6,600.50	625.00	13,607.50	4100/7/3 Non-Domestic Rates	800.00	478.40	42.00	0.00
9,786.00	1,983.81	17,842.30	4100/7/4 Maintenance & Cleaning	1,200.00	522.56	1,200.00	2,000.00
1,965.94	704.43	1,999.48	4100/7/5 Capital Refurbishment	50,000.00	305,846.18	582,479.00	0.00
22,378.95	9,276.72	22,638.30	4100/7 Total	54,500.00	307,867.68	586,221.00	4,500.00
6,023.74	4,780.71	6,968.36	4100/8 Education				
30,368.63	14,761.86	31,606.14	4100/8/1 Council Funded Educational Activities	12,500.00	5,909.18	10,000.00	12,500.00
0.00	194.70	344.45	4100/8/2 Art Council Educational Activities	22,350.00	7,668.56	22,350.00	0.00
65,459.81	0.00	250.00	4100/8/3 Other Funded Educational Activities	6,000.00	3,150.00	6,000.00	7,100.00
395,646.90	183,271.38	369,014.44	4100/8 Total	40,850.00	16,727.74	38,350.00	19,600.00
25,214.82	16,804.83	19,191.18	4100/9 Fundraising Activities	72.00	179.70	210.00	
7,462.95	100.00	6,100.00	4100/10 Miscellaneous	0.00	0.28	1.00	0.00
32,677.77	16,904.83	25,291.18	4100/11 Art Fund - Going Places	0.00	9,339.23	29,930.00	31,149.00
1,201.94	77.50	884.25	4100 Penlee House Gallery & Museum Total	414,042.00	473,886.29	926,382.00	364,369.00
23,685.83	1,790.00	23,575.38	4200 Town Flags and Banners				
23,685.83	1,790.00	23,575.38	4200/1 Projects	24,000.00	18,274.95	24,000.00	15,000.00
19,000.00	13,000.00	19,000.00	4200/2 Erection and hanging	6,500.00	150.00	6,150.00	6,500.00
0.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	4200 Total	30,500.00	18,424.95	30,150.00	21,500.00
6,000.00	4,500.00	6,000.00	4300 Penlee Open Air Theatre	1,500.00	415.64	1,500.00	1,500.00
25,000.00	20,100.00	27,600.00	4400 Christmas Lights				
0.00			4400/1 Contribution to BID	13,800.00	0.00	13,800.00	13,800.00
801,474.47	405,153.30	830,458.50	4400 Total	13,800.00	0.00	13,800.00	13,800.00
0.00	0.00		4500 Events				
20,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	4500/1 Golowan Festival	44,800.00	36,000.00	49,000.00	40,600.00
20,000.00	0.00	0.00	4500/2 Cultural and General Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10,000.00	0.00	0.00	4500/3 Annual Firework Display	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	4500 Total	44,800.00	36,000.00	49,000.00	40,600.00
20,000.00	67,000.00	67,000.00	4600 Cultural Strategy	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
5,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	Subtotal on all expenditure	940,957.00	732,329.12	1,447,454.00	874,099.00
0.00			4995 Earmarked Reserves				
75,000.00	116,000.00	116,000.00	4995/1 Penlee House EMRs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	-9,950.00		4995/1/1 Penlee House Conservation	31,000.00	31,000.00	31,000.00	8,000.00
876,474.47	511,203.30	946,458.50	4995/1/2 Penlee House Building	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00
			4995/1/4 The Coach House	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
			4995/1/5 Penlee House Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
			4995/1/6 Penlee House Acquisitions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
			4995/1/7 Penlee House Plant Fund	80,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	96,000.00
			4995/1/8 Penlee House Visitor Experience	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
			4995/2 Christmas Lighting Infrastructure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
			4995 Total	116,000.00	116,000.00	116,000.00	116,000.00
			Additional Contribution to reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
			(Release from reserves)	0.00	-207,546.02	-507,479.00	-51,285.00
			Arts & Culture Total Expenditure	1,056,957.00	640,783.10	1,055,975.00	938,814.00

Arts and Culture Committee Earmarked Reserve Balances and Contributions in 2027/26 Draft Budget			
Fund	Description	Estimated 31 st March 2026	2026/27 Contributions
Penlee House Acquisition	This fund was established to help with bidding/purchasing new pieces of art for the gallery to cover some of the costs or match fund.	£8,930	£0
Penlee House Conservation	This fund was established to use if pieces of art require repairing or restoring.	£2,426	£0
Penlee House Building	This fund is in place for capital refurbishment and replacement of infrastructure of Penlee House building (excluding the plant).	£239,472	£8,000
The Coach House	This reserve is in place in order to support future equipment spend for the Coach House after the expiration of warranties, and to enable future refresh and refurbishment of the Coach House Café.	£12,436	£9,000
Penlee House Plant	This reserve is in place to allow for the undertaking of a revised plant specification covering all	£154,001	£96,000

	areas of the plant infrastructure and will enable replacement of the existing plant and associated works.		
The Orangery Equipment Replacement Penlee House Visitor Experience	Previously The Orangery Equipment Replacement, this reserve will allow for any required replacement of fixtures and fittings relating to the Penlee House retail space, including replacement equipment such as tills, fittings and furniture.	£7,349	£3,000
Christmas Lighting Infrastructure	This fund is no longer required as Penzance BID is now responsible for lighting infrastructure and is proposed to be released to help reduce the precept increase in 2026/27 budget	£27,500	£0
TOTALS:		£452,114	£116,000

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2025**REPORT FOR DECISION****DISPOSAL OF ASSET – TRANSFER OF PAINTING TO THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						

Recommendation to Penzance Council:

The oil on canvas painting '*The Battle of Tubabacelong*' by Louis Chevallier Desange be transferred to the National Army Museum, London.

Background:

Louis William Desanges (1822 – c.1887)

The Capture of Tubabacelong, Gambia, 1866

Oil on canvas

This painting commemorates the heroism of Lance-Corporal Samuel Hodge of the 4th West India Regiment, who was the first soldier of African descent to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Col. D'Arcy, who took a distinguished role in this battle (and who also features in the painting), was a resident of Penzance following his retirement from the army.

In the late 1850s, Louis Desanges, a British painter descended from an aristocratic French émigré family, embarked on a series of portraits of soldiers and sailors who had been awarded the recently instituted Victoria Cross for their actions during the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny. Some of these paintings were displayed at the Crystal Palace in 1862 and there were numerous unsuccessful moves to acquire the collection for the nation.

The collection was eventually given to Wantage Town Council and later dispersed; this one being given to Col. D'Arcy. Upon his death, he bequeathed it to his neighbour, Mrs Nicholas Paul who, in turn, gifted it to Penzance Museum in 1931.

Its inclusion in the exhibition *Africa's Sons under Arms: The West India Regiments and the British Empire*, held at the Museum of London in 2017, highlighted the national significance of the painting. After discussion and consideration by the Curatorial and Directorial staff at Penlee House, as the work does not fit with Penlee House Gallery & Museum's Collecting Policy, which seeks '*To collect, preserve, display and interpret art depicting the far west of Cornwall and art associated with that area*' it is felt that the painting should be transferred to an institution where it has a greater connection to the context of the existing collection, thereby giving it a stronger narrative, and where it can be accessed by a much larger audience.

The Museums Association Disposals Toolkit framework advocates that items for disposal be transferred to a more relevant, preferably public, institution.

We have therefore contacted the National Army Museum which owns several other works by Desanges, including many from this series to see if they would be willing to accept the transfer of the painting into their collections.

They state: 'This is a donation that will certainly build on our representation of work by the artist Desanges and in re-telling the associated VC history of Samuel Hodge. In the collection we already have a VC document which details early VC recipients, of which Samuel Hodge is featured. It feels fitting that this painting can be re-homed in the context of the National Army Museum'.

The painting was recently valued at £145,000.

Verity Anthony
Director (maternity cover) / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager, Penlee House
Gallery & Museum

Katie Herbert
Curator/Deputy Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum
7 November 2025