

CHECKMATE PRODUCTIONS



Love Your Town 2026

Programme Call Out Brief

Got an idea? We want to hear it.

What are we looking for?

Love Your Town 2026 is all about celebrating **Grimsby and Cleethorpes** – the places we call home, the people who make them special, and the creativity that already lives here.

This festival is rooted in **local love**. Love for your town. Love for yourself. Love for each other. We're looking for activities that bring people together, make them smile, spark curiosity, or help them see their town in a new way.

Got a brilliant idea that's ready to go? Amazing.
Got a half-formed idea you've been itching to try? Even better.

If your activity fits the spirit of Love Your Town, we'd love to hear about it.

We'll always prioritise **local individuals and organisations**, but applications are open to everyone. We're open to all kinds of creative, cultural and community activity, including:

- Indoor and outdoor live performance – music, dance, street theatre, circus, spoken word and more
- Walking trails, tours and roaming or walkabout acts
- Wellness, heritage and food or cookery-based activities
- Talks, discussions and debates
- Workshops and classes
- Activities or events hosted at your own venue

We are especially keen to hear from people and organisations who identify as **at risk of exclusion**, or from communities that are currently **underrepresented in festival programmes**. Love Your Town is for everyone – genuinely.

Where will it all happen?

Venues are still being confirmed, and we'll be working closely with local partners, stakeholders and venues across **Grimsby and Cleethorpes**.

If you already have a venue or location in mind, great – let us know by emailing **hello@checkmateproductions.co.uk**. If you don't, that's absolutely fine too. You **do not** need to have a venue sorted at the point of applying. The Checkmate team can help match your idea with a suitable space.

We also welcome **fringe events** – things like open days, exhibitions or special activities happening at your own venue that can be wrapped into the wider Love Your Town programme.

Let's talk money

There are **artist fees available** for work presented as part of Love Your Town. This fee should cover some or all of your project costs.

For a single event, we ask that proposals don't exceed **£500 + VAT** (if you're VAT registered). That said – if your idea costs more, **please still apply**. We want to hear from everyone, and we'll always try to be flexible where we can.

There may also be opportunities to take part in **both events**, so if you're able to offer a multi-event discount, let us know.

Please include a clear breakdown of your costs in the application. Value for money will be part of the selection process. Budgets and space are limited, so not every idea will make it in – but we'll do our very best to include as many people, voices and activities as possible.

The (important but boring) paperwork bit

If your application is successful, you'll need to provide:

- Public Liability Insurance
- A Risk Assessment specific to your activity

We'll guide you through this if needed – you're not on your own.

How we'll choose

Applications will be assessed on:

- How well the idea fits the Love Your Town aims and themes
- The quality and clarity of the proposal
- How strongly it connects with local people and place
- Potential audience reach and engagement
- Value for money

If you've got questions, ideas you want to sense-check, or you're just not sure if something fits – drop us a line at **hello@checkmateproductions.co.uk**. We're happy to chat.

