



PRESS RELEASE

Success for Shepperton Studios as Spelthorne Borough Council support plans

London, 12th February 2019: Spelthorne Borough Council's Planning Committee has resolved to grant outline planning permission for the improvement and expansion of the world-renowned Shepperton Studios site in Surrey, England.

This decision will allow the progression of Pinewood Group's £500 million investment to expand the world-class facility, increasing capacity for film and high-end television production in the UK. It is expected that the development project will result in a £300 million annual boost to the UK economy if given final approval. The application will now be referred to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for his consideration.

In response to the Committee decision, Paul Golding, Chairman of Pinewood Group Limited, said: *"We are encouraged by this outcome and believe it marks an important step-forward in the strength of Shepperton Studios. With support from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, this decision will allow us to continue our investment in the Studios and brings considerable benefits to the community of Spelthorne. Throughout the evolution of the project we have partnered with residents, businesses and members of the film industry and we thank them for their input and support."*

The UK film industry is expected to create around 10,000 skilled jobs over the next five years and Spelthorne Borough Council's decision to approve the expansion of Shepperton Studios supports this growth. The expansion of the Studios will secure a number of job opportunities, including 1,500 construction jobs and a further 3,000 jobs at the Studios upon its completion.

Commenting on the plans, Adrian Wootton, Chief Executive, British Film Commission said: *"The UK screen industries make a hugely significant contribution to our economy and are an invaluable part of our creative and cultural global leadership. The decision to support the Studios expansion provides the opportunity to enhance the UK's offer, attracting even more producers and directors from around the world, whilst maintaining Shepperton's position at the forefront of the global production facilities market."*

The plans will see the development of new studio space, which will include sound stages, offices, workshops, backlots, car parking and additional infrastructure.

Further details on the application can be seen at: www.sheppertonstudiosconsultation.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

SHEPPERTON STUDIOS

Part of the Pinewood Studios Group, a leading provider of studio and related services to the global film and television industry. Shepperton Studios has been a leading destination for the makers of film, television and commercials since opening its doors as a film studio in 1932.

Comprising 14 sound stages, an exterior backlot, and post production facilities and services. The Studios also offer easy access to the world's most experienced crews as well as the expertise of complementary media companies based on the lot.

Recent film productions that have used the Studios' facilities include, *The Mummy*, *Christopher Robin*, *Assassin's Creed*, *Life, Beauty and the Beast*, *Mary Poppins Returns* and *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*.

Notes to Editors

1. The application will now be referred to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for his potential consideration given the Green Belt status of part of the site.
2. The Secretary of State will decide to return the application to Spelthorne Borough Council to grant planning permission or 'call-in' the application for his own decision following a public inquiry.

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