

Local Government Association Culture peer challenge

22 and 23 November 2023

Version 1.1

We would like to welcome the peer challenge team to Telford & Wrekin Council

At Telford & Wrekin Council, we see culture as an essential part of delivering our vision to 'protect, care and invest to create a better borough'. That is why we have continued to invest in cultural assets and events, despite the increasingly challenging financial climate we have faced in recent years.

We believe that when times are tough, cultural activities are needed more than ever – bringing people into our towns and high streets, building community pride and, most importantly, creating a feel-good factor.

Our aim is to make culture as accessible as possible, for example through our <u>free events</u> <u>programme</u>, community grant schemes and our 'kindness tickets' which enable families on low incomes to come to Telford Theatre.

We were delighted to secure more than $\mathfrak{L}25m$ of Levelling Up funding earlier this year, building on $\mathfrak{L}22m$ we were awarded in 2021 for the Telford Town Deal. Together, this funding will help to regenerate a number of areas of the

borough and broaden participation in culture. Projects benefiting from this funding include the creation of a new cultural quarter in Oakengates by remodelling Telford Theatre and developing a new enlarged outdoor events space, and refurbishing the Orbit – a community arts centre in Wellington.

The peer challenge is a timely opportunity for our organisation to reflect on how we can maximise the impact of this funding and deliver an inspiring, accessible but financially sustainable cultural offer for generations to come.

We look forward to your challenge, ideas and suggestions which will help shape our future direction and inform the development of a new cultural strategy.





Cllr Shaun Davies Council Leader





David Sidaway Chief Executive





Cllr Carolyn Healy Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage and Leisure





Overview of the Borough of Telford and Wrekin

At the heart of Telford town centre is Southwater – a civic space developed in 2014 through a public/private partnership led by the council to develop a night-time economy. Southwater adjoins the award-winning Town Park, and together these areas host a wide variety of cultural activities and events throughout the year. Telford International Centre, a conference and event venue, is also located in Telford Town Centre and is a major business tourism centre.

The wider borough is made up of a number of communities that existed before the designation of Telford New Town in 1968, including the towns of Madeley, Oakengates, Wellington, Newport and Dawley. Oakengates is the home of Telford Theatre, however each of these towns has its own distinct cultural identity (see Section 6 – community cultural assets).

What great fun the Human Line Beacon on The Wrekin was... the whole event was fabulous...I thought it was a great idea....Good job Telford & Wrekin Council! The borough also includes the Ironbridge Gorge UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) – the birthplace of the industrial revolution, which is celebrated in an annual cultural festival.

In January 2023, the population of the borough was 185,482. Telford and Wrekin is one of the fastest growing areas in England, meaning that by 2032 the population is projected to increase to just over 200,000. Over this period, there is expected to be a 9% increase in the 16-64 age group and a 40% increase in residents aged over 65, demonstrating a burgeoning requirement for cultural activities at both ends of the spectrum, both for learning and leisure.

However, Telford and Wrekin is a place of contrasts. On the one hand, the borough has a successful growing economy with 'General Value Added' (GVA) growing significantly faster than the England and West Midland average rates. Tourism currently brings in over £3.5 million visitors each year with a £113m economic benefit, in part underpinned by the cultural offer within the borough.

On the other hand, there remain inequalities. The borough has 18 neighbourhoods ranked amongst the 10% most deprived nationally for health, skills, employment and housing. Telford and Wrekin's most deprived neighbourhood is ranked 346th nationally, and more than a quarter (26%) of our residents live in the 20% most deprived areas nationally. This inequality is reflected in participation in culture locally (see Figure 1). The combined impact of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis have exacerbated these inequalities and have also had an adverse impact on the borough's diverse SME businesses, including those in the tourism and cultural sector.



Figure 1 - Participation in and views on culture

We asked:

Is it important to have a theatre/
performance venue in Telford and Wrekin?

99% of people surveyed agreed or strongly agreed¹

An increase from 2012 when 95% of people agreed⁵

In addition, 97% of people
agreed or strongly agreed
(74% strongly agreed) that
taking part in arts and
cultural activities benefits
the local community

Highlighting the importance of the theatre to Oakengates:

41% of people who visited the town say they did so to attend the theatre

(the 2nd highest reason to visit Oakengates after shopping)³

88% of people agreed that the venue is easy to get to⁵

Central, local and convenient

82% supported a bigger and enhanced public realm area outside the theatre

76% supported improved lighting

Both will be delivered through the Towns Fund investment

55% of people said that a more attractive environment and 29% said an enhanced theatre facilities/programme³, would encourage them to visit Oakengates town centre

more often

The potential for audience development stimulated by the theatre redevelopment is estimated at a

16,518 visit uplift,

representing approximately 25% of the 2019/2020 total attendance Growing faster than the UK average, Telford's population projections suggest that

the theatre's catchment areas will be 3.5% larger in 2026

than it was in 2022 – presenting even greater opportunities

User satisfaction with Telford Theatre

97% of customers would recommend
Telford Theatre to family or friends¹

79% of customers were satisfied with performances at the theatre⁵

93% of promoters who bring shows to the theatre rated the welcome and technical service they received as 8-10 (on a scale of 1-10)²





Average theatre capacity

ACHIEVED IN 2019

Nationally 56%8

Telford Theatre 67%

Average theatre capacity

ACHIEVED IN 2018

Nationally 56%8

Telford Theatre 65%

*Sources

- 1. Theatre consultant, LUF
- 2. The Place (Telford Theatre) Survey, June 2022;
- 3. Oakengates Towns Fund Survey (March 2022)3
- 4. Theatre Exit Survey (2019)4

- 5. Theatre Survey (2012)5
- 6. A mystery customer review (2019)6;
- Recent customer reviews/feedback7 e.g. TripAdvisor, Google, Facebook.
- 8. UK Theatre for regional theatres with 500 to 1,000 seats)

Overview of Telford & Wrekin Council

Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC) is a unitary council formed in 1998. The borough is divided into 32 wards with 54 councillors. The last full council elections were in May 2023, with the next election due in 2027.

The current political make-up is:

Labour – 38 Conservative – 8 Liberal Democrat – 6 Independent – 2

The council operates a strong leader model, supported by nine cabinet members. The designated lead member for culture is Councillor Carolyn Healy, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage and Leisure.

The council's 2023/24 net budget is £160m. Despite the financial challenges currently facing local government, the council has frozen general council tax for the last two years and has maintained its position as having the lowest council tax (band D) in the Midlands and the second lowest of all English unitary authorities, whilst also delivering £7.9m of savings. The council has a workforce of 2,249 full time equivalent employees.

TWC is also a Co-operative Council, which brings an ethos of working together with our residents, partners and local organisations to collectively deliver the best we can for Telford and Wrekin. We believe that how we do things is just as important as what we do, reflected in the co-operative values of openness and honesty, ownership, fairness and respect, and involvement that guide the way we work.





Strategic context for culture in Telford and Wrekin

The Council Plan provides the overall strategic context for the organisation and sets out our vision to 'protect, care and invest to create a better borough' and the organisation's priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- Our natural environment is protected, and the council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency
- A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services

Culture is a cross-cutting area that contributes to all of the council's priorities. To drive delivery, each directorate of the council has a service strategy that sits below the Council Plan. Culture is part of the communities, customer and commercial services directorate, and directly contributes to a number of the service strategy aims, including:

- Inspire our residents by encouraging more people to take part in world class arts and culture and developing local talent
- Create pride of place amongst residents and retain the Telford £ through cultural events and itineraries that encourage more local people to explore the borough
- Deliver the best possible customer experience through high quality, value for money and safe services and facilities that are accessible to all

As a Co-operative Council, TWC also recognises the need to work in partnership to create a better borough. This has led to the publication of Vision 2032, developed with a range of local partners and in consultation with the community, setting out our collective ambitions for Telford and Wrekin over the next 10 years (Telford Vision 2032 - Telford & Wrekin Council):

Ambition 1 - Inclusive, carbon neutral economy

Ambition 2 - Inclusive communities that are vibrant, safe and clean

Ambition 2 - Inclusive healthy, independent lives

As with the council's priorities, culture has a key role to play in the delivery of this shared vision, particularly ambition 2, which specifically refers to the future development of Oakengates as the 'home of a thriving performing arts sector centred around the Telford Theatre', and 'all parts of our increasingly diverse community are visible and celebrated through a variety of events'.

The events programme has been developed very much out of a joint officer and member approach. The Leader and Cabinet Member have been hugely supportive of the developing programme and are involved in regular discussions, providing leadership and offering their suggestions and commentary for this community focused offer.

Visit Telford

Visit Telford is the destination management organisation for the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, administered by the local authority, with private sector membership of just over 300 businesses and local stakeholders, supporting the role, remit and programme of works and benefitting from this collective approach to build a high-quality high value tourism sector for the destination. Recent investment has seen the development of the VISIT brand, a new destination website and a new destination management plan is currently in development, to be published in spring 2024.



A key priority for the next 12 months is to develop a new cultural strategy, informed by the feedback from the peer challenge and reflecting the varied linkages that culture has to other key strategies and plans, including:





Overview of the council's current cultural service

Telford and Wrekin culture service is made up of a 640-seat theatre, outdoor events programme and the visitor economy service.

The Telford culture team's focus has been on developing participation levels, improving access to cultural events, supporting the health and wellbeing of residents, as well as promoting the borough as a great place to live, work and visit.

'Being part of the great events has helped my whole wellbeing.' Volunteer 2022

Cultural strategy

In 2009, Telford & Wrekin Council and Shropshire Council adopted a joint approach to a cultural strategy for the geographic area of Shropshire. 'Evolution, Revolution and Innovation' was a five year plan. The cultural strategy sought to set out the priorities for cultural development over the years to come and the ways in which culture needed to be firmly embedded in planning and development. The strategy also set out the ways in which we could release the full potential of culture to drive our economic sustainability and our long-term community wellbeing, making Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire both great places to live and rewarding places to visit.

The joint strategy was not renewed. However we remain in contact with Shropshire Council over opportunities for joint working, eg supporting tourism businesses during the covid period. Telford & Wrekin Council is committed to resourcing a strategy in 2024/25.

Telford Theatre in Oakengates is a 640-seat repurposed theatre – originally a town hall built in the 1960s and refurbished in the 1980s and 2005. This council-run building currently houses the theatre, the requisite backstage facilities, a theatre bar and a council library. It also houses a coffee shop run by an external business, a children's nursery and business tenant offices.

The theatre programme consists mainly of one-night shows totalling over 200 shows annually, providing an eclectic mix of genres from comedy to music and tribute acts to performance and dance. Our biggest income comes from our annual pantomime which consistently surpasses its income targets each year. Gross income in 2022/23 was £1,590,957 and provided a gross profit of £834,370. The net cost position for year-end was £236,215. Higher costs of utilities and rising internal charges have impacted on profitability.

Telford Theatre has enjoyed a strong relationship with its audiences over many years. Currently, it has a customer database of over 73,000 people, which is large for a venue of this scale and nature.

In June 2022, Telford & Wrekin Council carried out a customer survey to better understand the views of customers and residents aged 16 and over.' and usage of Telford Theatre. The views were collected via a survey conducted between 24 May 2022 and 6 June 2022.



Of the 1,590 people who responded to the questions, 99% agreed or strongly agreed (91% strong agreed) that it was important for Telford and Wrekin to have a theatre/ performance venue. Also 97% of respondents said they would recommend Telford Theatre to friends or family. This customer support has translated into further engagement of residents in the venue and its activities, with 65% visiting "two or three times per year". Customer Survey June 2022

Telford Theatre has consistently performed well and demonstrated excellent post-covid recovery, with audiences increasing from around 85,000 in 2019/20 to 100,000 in 2022/23.

The theatre is run by a team of nine staff, three of whom are part time, plus a team of casual theatre stewards.





There is a limiting factor to the theatre in terms of its capacity and facilities for larger scale shows and artists. This means that the programme is defined by the mid-scale localities offer and we are confident that the planned redevelopment of the theatre and the larger capacity auditorium, better facilities and offer for audiences and artists will improve our options in the market and with competitors. Open comments from our surveys reinforce that the current offer does not appeal to some groups and comments suggest interest in both more 'big name' and 'high culture' acts, with residents travelling outside of the borough to see these at other venues, particularly the West Midlands.

The **Headline Events programme** of large scale outdoor events attracts around 100,000 people per year to a calendar of established events plus one-off additional events as required.

Over the past decade, the programme of outdoor events for Telford has grown and developed. In recent years, a significant amount of investment has been made into growing the outdoor events programme. This was in response to a survey carried out in 2016.

The 2016 survey revealed that only 29% of Telford communities attended live events several times a year and 26% never attended. However, around 85% of those people indicated that they agreed that taking part in cultural activities helped people to be happy and healthy. (Council Community Survey 2016)

This led in 2018 to more than 100,000 people attending a range of large-scale new events in the town and 130 volunteers signing up to a unique volunteering scheme supporting the 50th

anniversary events, 45% of whom had never volunteered before. (Telford @ 50 Evaluation)

In addition, 43 community events were supported with council funding, resulting in local audiences of around 37,000 attending activities on their doorstep. As a result of this specific project, community funding has continued to be rolled out annually, with a focus on national events such as VE Day, Commonwealth Games, Diamond Jubilee and Coronation with a total value of around £313,470. The council remains committed to supporting communities to deliver their own local events.

Post Covid, the headline events programme re-established and grew again into a large scale programme with more than 100,000 attending again each year – 75% of the audience is local, with visitors travelling from the West Midlands, Mid Wales, the North West and beyond to attend our larger scale events such as the Telford Balloon Fiesta and Christmas Drone Show. (Event Evaluation 2021/22)



The events service has a reserve budget first determined in 2019 with an allocation of £2 million. This puts us in a privileged position and means we can programme well in advance.

In 2022/23, our expenditure was £460,000. This was a full programme year with our new drone event included. There are three core team members and we have financed additional resource as required. This has meant that the events team has been able to determine an annual calendar and plan in advance for the last three years. Moving forward, we are exploring alternative means of funding and sustaining an events programme.

We have worked with a range of artists, performers and creative agencies over the years and attracted Arts Council funding. We always have ambitions to attract more national and international talent to the town. Our challenge is to make this possible without significantly impacting our 'free events' offer.

Supporting community events

The Telford culture team offer significant support to town and parish councils, local community organisations and individuals seeking to put on events on council-owned land. This support comes in the form of advice, guidance, funding and promotion. As a result, we have a thriving calendar of activity across the year happening at a very local level.



I have had such a wonderful time as a GEM for Telford @50. Just getting out to meet people and being useful has been a real boost.' Volunteer Golden Event Maker Telford @ 50

Public art

The culture team also oversees local public art projects in the area, commissioning a number of new pieces for the town, continuing the legacy of the Telford Development Corporation. Our most recent commission has been a covid memorial sculpture in the town park.

A fabulous free family day enjoyed by thousands including my family and a great way to showcase Telford.



Engagement

Day trips
account for
>90% visits

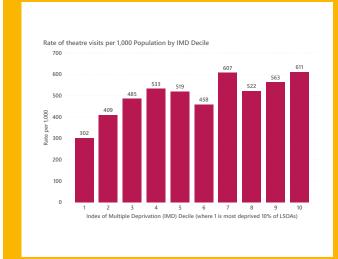
and 69% spend

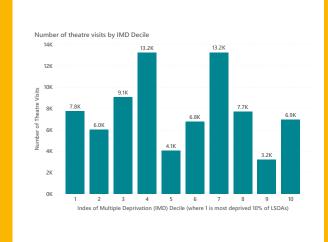
Balloon festival social media

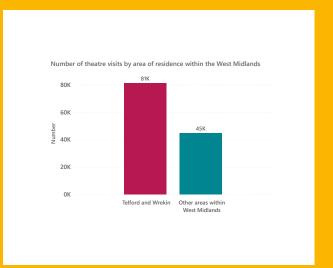
1.6m Impressions

Engagement 1.11%

3.5M visitor trips resulting in £113m spend







Telford's cultural infrastructure and assets

The following examples are not an exhaustive list but we hope they will give a snapshot of the cultural landscape of Telford and Wrekin.

Telford Town Park

One of Telford's greatest assets is the award-winning Telford Town Park, adjacent to the town centre but stretching 450 acres down to the south of the borough and acting as a green lung for central Telford. In 2022, voted one of the Top 10 UK Parks in the People's Choice Awards, and West Midland Resilience and Innovation Award winner, the park has benefited from millions of pounds of Parks for People and council investment to ensure its continued development and improvement.

The Town Park QEII Arena provides the location for the headline events programme and hosts a range of other commercial and business events.

Originally declared as a Local Nature Reserve in 1992 and extended in 2015, Telford Town Park Local Nature Reserve occupies a 92 hectare portion of the town park. Over 14 miles of cycle-friendly footpaths weave visitors past pools, lakes and heritage sites, and through meadows, heaths and woodland.

As well as one of the biggest free attractions for residents and visitors, the Town Park hosts a number of leisure businesses including Wonderland, Exotic Zoo, Sky Reach (high ropes) and the Bike Hub.

Telford and Wrekin Library Service

Telford has nine public libraries, four run by the council itself and the other five community managed by local partner organisations. Situated from Newport in the north to Madeley in the south and with a library in the heart of the Southwater town centre development, Telford's libraries occupy key locations across the borough.

By providing access to council services, digital connectivity, thousands of books, and calm safe spaces to study and meet they are vibrant parts of the cultural infrastructure.

A number of the libraries host writing groups, bounce and rhyme for babies and toddlers, have hosted writers and poets, provided performance spaces.

The 10 by 10 initiative

The 10 by 10 initiative was adopted by the council to ensure that all young people in Telford of primary age have the opportunity to take part in the a number of activities, includes social, sports and the arts.

The initiative was launched with the view that participation of the offer would be done in partnership The council has set up a dedicated website for 10 by 10 Currently there are over 2000 children signed up.

Young people have had an opportunity to do the following:

- Summer reading challenge
- Introduction of community libraries
- Telford Sings organised by the Telford Music Service, hosted at Telford Theatre (included schools, Afghan children and home educated children)
- Telford Music Service, funding for pupil premium grant pupils to learn a musical instrument. Partnership working with secondary and primary schools to provide instruments and tuition
- Encourage oracy, debating events to work in partnership with other schools
- Increase partnership with the Ironbridge UNESCO heritage site e.g attend Blist Hill visits
- Special offers provided by National Heritage Organisations such as the National Trust
- Swimming offer and holiday leisure offer supported by the council



External promoters/large-scale events

Thanks to the investment in promoting and demonstrating Telford as an event destination over the years, Telford also welcomes a range of external promoters to its open spaces with events including headline concerts such as Olly Murs, Bryan Adams and Tears for Fears, Music and Food Festivals, plus sporting events such as the 2012 Torch Relay and Commonwealth Baton Relay in 2022 and charity events such as Race for Life.

The Town Park and the QEII Arena provide the central location for these attractor events.

Telford International Centre

The Telford International Centre provides one of the top 10 conference and event spaces in the UK, hosting a wide range of business events as well as a programme of public events from Dairy Day to Scale Modellers to Performance Car shows. Business tourism is a huge economic benefit to the town. TIC – Telford. Event. Readv.



Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust

The World Heritage Site of the Ironbridge Gorge is home to 10 museum spaces in the care of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. As a key cultural asset in the borough, Telford & Wrekin Council works closely with the Museum in a number of ways including through education, skills development, events and the visitor economy. This area contains the highest concentration of heritage assets within the borough, including the iconic world's first iron bridge, and 10 other museums and sites that together make up Ironbridge Valley of Invention, run by the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust. Ironbridge Valley of Invention.

The Orbit, Wellington

The Orbit is a good example of a community-owned cultural facility. The Orbit began its development in Wellington borough town in 2016 when the 'Friends of the Clifton' – who had set out to save the old Wellington Clifton Cinema – took on the former HSBC building in the town, adapting their project to developing a dedicated centre for culture and the arts. The Orbit opened first as a cinema in 2019 and has recently been part of another Levelling Up funding award which will see the rest of the building developed as an arts centre. Home - Wellington Orbit

Town and parish councils and local venues

Town and parish councils have augmented their calendars of events annually and many now employ their own event officers. Investment

has increased in delivering a local cultural offer. Consequently, a large number of locally-led events and festivals now take place across the town, most of them free to access. Annual events such as Dawley Day, Oakengates and Newport Carnivals are highlights of a busy community calendar. Local community theatre and dance has long been an important part of Telford's cultural offer and with the advent of more locally run community centres, libraries and venues we have seen a developing local programmes from dance and music events to performance, exercise and crafting groups. Culture has never been more accessible to residents. There are a number of local theatre groups and amateur dramatic groups including The Arts Centre Telford (TACT) and Telford and District Light Operatic Players (TADLOP). There are also a host of local dance schools in the borough towns who also use the theatre as their main showcasing space annually.

Other local cultural attractions or community assets that host cultural events include Little Theatre Donnington, The Anstice (Madeley), Coalbrookdale (Ironbridge) Community Centre, Dawley Town Hall and Harper Adams University in Newport.

Leading music venues such as Albert's Shed have provided a stage for local music but now more independent promoters are leading the way with local music activities in towns such as Oakengates with Pale Fire Music introducing new genres and independent music to the town.

Landscapes and green spaces

It is worth briefly mentioning the importance of green space in Telford. Telford has a wealth of Local Nature Reserves, parks, woodland and informal spaces that are a large part of how people connect with the area.

Across Telford and Wrekin are more than 300 'green guarantee' sites that the council has protected from development, including parks, open spaces and nature reserves, which also provide venues for local cultural events. The borough is surrounded by beautiful countryside and a protected green network that covers 2,600 hectares, with more than two thirds of the borough classified as rural.

Fantastic gig and wonderful venue. Salon Perdu is brilliant, fantastic wonderful, well done on making this so special and thank you for the wonderful festival of Imagination

'Wow, just Wow - that was the best experience we have ever had!'

Event audience comment (2018)

Our future priorities

Telford Theatre and Oakengates town regeneration, public realm.

Recently awarded £15.5m in Levelling Up Funding and £5.5m match funding from Telford & Wrekin Council, the theatre is about to undergo a much needed refurbishment which will see the majority of the building demolished. The new theatre will include a larger 750 capacity auditorium, a new 100-seat studio theatre, new community art and rehearsal space, new backstage facilities, new public bar and foyer areas and dining experience. The project will take over two years, with the theatre closing in May 2024 until December 2026.

This improvement will transform the current facilities and provide the opportunity for significant audience development as well as renewed access to programme and artists. We will extend the theatre's profile, attract a wider range of producers and shows, which will then create a positive 'spiral' resulting in growth in participation, financial sustainability and engagement in the arts from the people of Telford and Wrekin and the surrounding areas.

From the consumer surveys undertaken during the consultation on the LUF project, the top two reasons **why customers visit other venues** are 'better choice of shows I enjoy' (60%) and 'bigger named shows' (43%). There was also a desire for more local acts/groups to perform at the theatre and to use the venue more for

community cultural activities, eg classes, theatre groups, etc, which is where the studio space will be utilised.

In tandem with the theatre redevelopment, previously secured Towns Fund investment will remodel the Oakengates Theatre Quarter, adjacent to the theatre, regenerating the heart of Oakengates town centre, boosting footfall into Oakengates and transforming the 1960s shopping precinct into a modern, welcoming shopping experience for residents and visitors alike. This complementary project began in September 2023, and will make the town centre more attractive, welcoming and business friendly as well as providing a new public realm space for additional events from markets to live music, food and craft fairs and summer family events.



Artist Impressions from the LUF Project





Headline events programme

We strive to continuously improve, develop and innovate in our headline events programme. Telford has always been an early adopter and we want to bring new products and content to our event programme, putting Telford at the front of new experiences. We will seek to resource and attract national and international creative organisations and artists and broaden our visitor appeal as well as continuing to invest in our local audience.

Developing/regenerating cultural assets

We have cultural assets in the town we want to see developed or brought back into use.

With the LUF investment, Wellington Orbit will be developed as an arts centre as well as a successful cinema.

The Town Park Amphitheatre was created as part of the Telford Development Corporation masterplan and we want to bring this lakeside outdoor theatre back into use. A much-loved facility for musical and performance events in the 1970s to the 1990s, the structure has fallen into

disrepair and we would like to see investment into its refurbishment.

The council recently applied for Arts Council funding to refurbish the amphitheatre, but was unsuccessful. We continue to explore options to bring this facility back into use.

Developing grassroots arts and cultural organisations

Telford & Wrekin Council continues to invest in local community groups and organisations which can bring colour and vibrancy to the borough events calendar, but we know there is more that can be tapped into. The Telford and Wrekin co-operative working and ethos is to cultivate aspiration, working hand in hand with our communities, enabling and encouraging them to be the purveyors of their own cultural landscapes. Communities are nurtured, upskilled and trained to become the mentors of the next generation of creatives.

We also know that local people feel comfortable in their own localities so we want to support the local community to develop their own programmes. A Culture on your doorstep approach would help to drive up participation by providing relevant and localised activities in a range of traditional and non-traditional cultural spaces and hopefully also support the development of our own locally grown participatory arts sector.

Satisfaction feedback social media quotes from the public

Balloon Festival and the night glow are our go to event every year, it is such a highlight - we absolutely love it.

Thank you Telford & Wrekin

Smashed it, we loved it

events organised by the council after the times where we all had to stay locked up... here's to more in the park! Thank you again Telford and Wrekin, your doing a fantastic job all year round, well done

The whole weekend was brilliant, well organised and left me feeling very proud not only to work for TWC but to live here too.

What a wonderful display. Absolutely stunning. Thank you Telford & Wrekin Council fabulous!!

"The Telford venue puts some of the big city centre theatres to shame, the whole team have a real passionand that is why you have such a loyal and supportive audience... it is the personal touch and welcome that keeps shows, artistes and audience returning"

Theatre Promoter

Key lines of enquiry

- 1. How can the council broaden participation in culture across Telford and Wrekin using the investment that is being made, such as Levelling Up Funding?
- 2. In its leadership role, how can the council work effectively with partners and local communities to develop their cultural capabilities and to support more community-led cultural activity.





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