

Council culture and leisure services

Key facts and figures

English councils are responsible for:

- 3,000 libraries
- 350 museums
- 116 theatres (and provide core funding/own the building for many more)
- Numerous castles, amusement parks, monuments, historic buildings and heritage sites
- 27,000 parks and green spaces
- 2,727 leisure centres
- 33 per cent of all swimming pools
- 31 per cent of grass pitches
- 20 per cent of all health and fitness facilities
- 13 per cent of sports halls

In comparison, the Ambassador Theatre Group owns or runs 39 theatres in England and Wales.

In comparison, PureGym owns 294 sites and David Lloyd owns 99 sites.

Council services reach people

Leisure centres

8.9 million participants

165 million unique visits

Three quarters of grassroots clubs depend on public leisure facilities to survive

Libraries

7.6 million active borrowers

Over 40 million visits

33% of adults use online library services at least 3 or 4 times a year

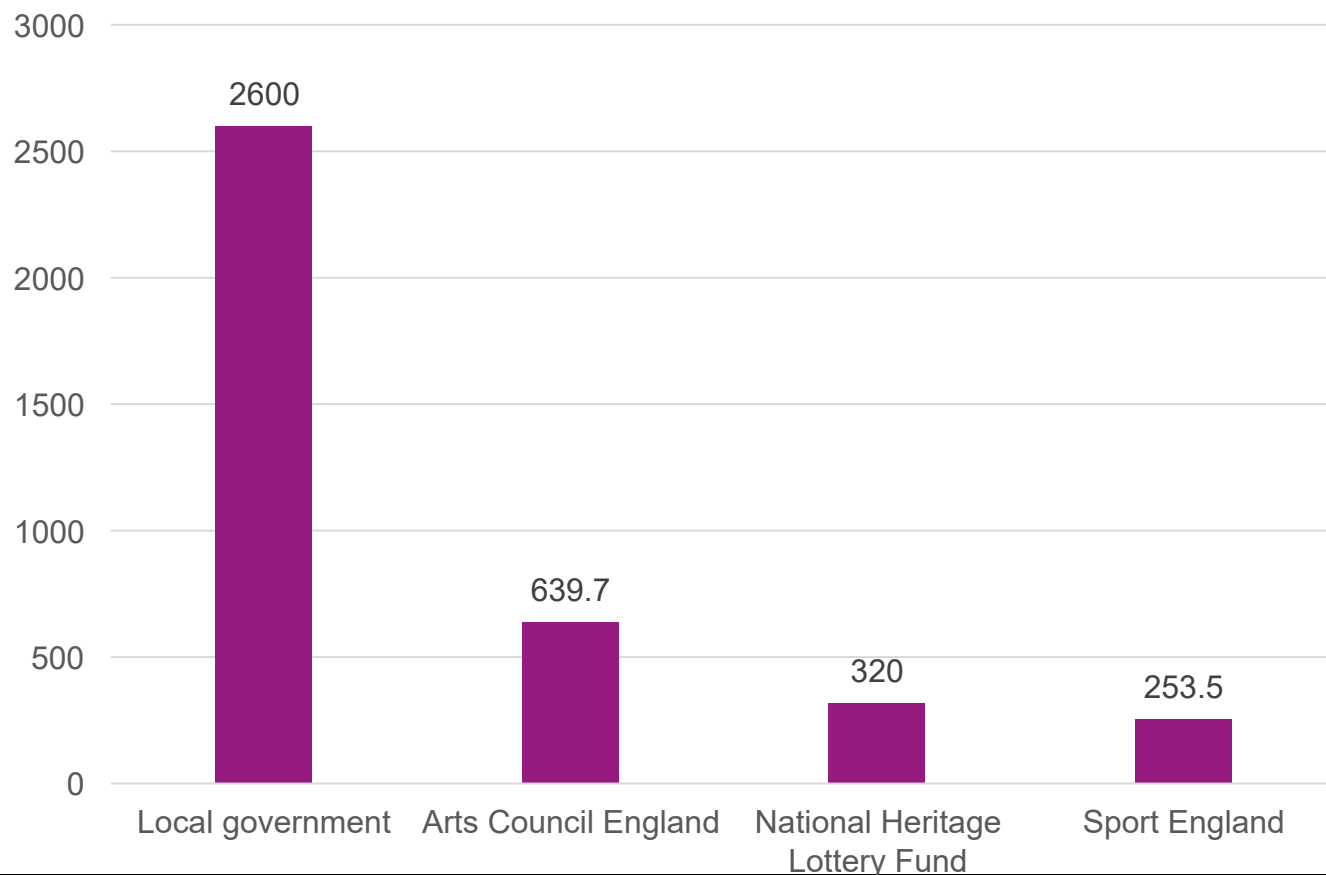
Per year, councils invest:

- **£1.2 billion in cultural activity per year**, making them the largest public investor in cultural attractions, including £678 million on libraries, a statutory service.
- **£1.4 billion per year** in sport, leisure, parks and green spaces, playgrounds and community halls, providing communities with access to vital facilities to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.
- **£0.82 billion per year** in tourism

Apart from libraries, this spend is all discretionary.

Government invested £1.87 billion in the Cultural Recovery Fund, £100 million in the National Leisure Recovery Fund and £60 million in the Swimming Pool Support Fund.

Annual spend on culture, heritage and sport in England (millions)



Council investment delivers results

East Riding of Yorkshire Council - saved the NHS £2.5 million

- Council designed IT system to allow GPs to book patients directly on to the exercise on-referral scheme
- Half of people achieved at least a 5 per cent weight loss
- Reduced number of bariatric surgery operations from 100 to 20 pa in the area in 8 years (most expensive type of operation for the NHS)

Bradford Metropolitan District Council – young careers in film and tv production

- Partnership between council and Screen Yorkshire, and later West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Provided work placements to young people from diverse backgrounds aged 18 to 30
- 73 per cent were in work after the Beyond Brontës programme, with 14 per cent having returned to education

Some programmes are working well

Heritage Action Zones	Business & Intellectual Property Centres	Local Football Facilities Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locally-led• Central expertise and advice• National profile• Aligned funding streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National/local partnerships• Central coordination• Local delivery & local knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centrally funded consultancy• Strategic local planning• Targeted investment• Long lead in time

As the biggest providers of culture and sport services, our offer is:

- Help you design funding and policy approaches to **maximise** local impact and uptake
- Share insight into **what really works** locally, and promoting this nationally
- **Champion the value** of investment in culture, tourism and sport – locally and with other parts of government
- **Identify system change** and connections with other departments, public bodies, private sector, and civil society

As the biggest providers, we need a special relationship with the Department.

Our ask is:

- **Regular and close engagement** at ministerial and official level
- **Honest and open conversations** about what problems you want to solve
- **Early engagement** in design of funds, and join up of funds
- **Time to engage with our communities** to build lasting proposals