

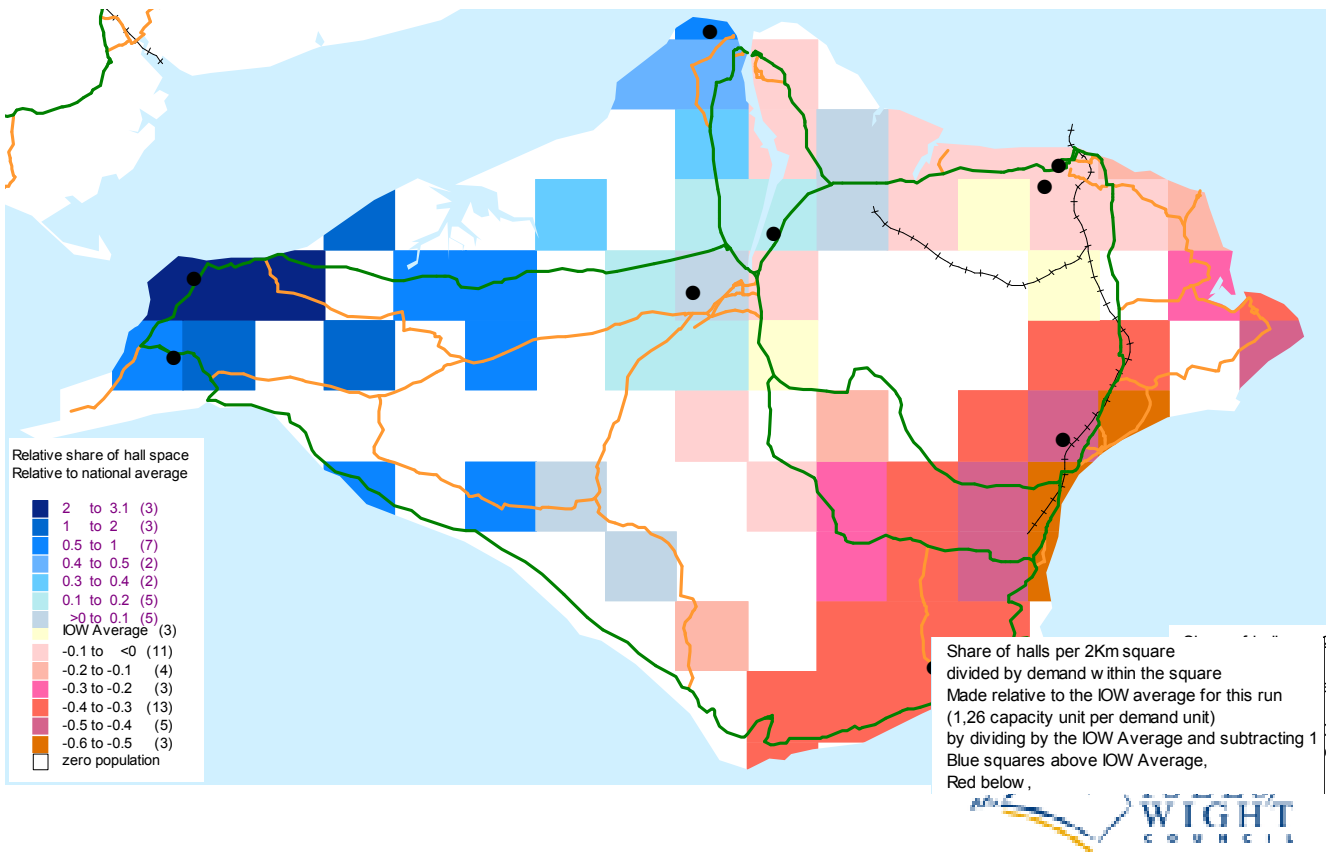
Cultural Facilities and Leisure Opportunities on the Island Bullet Point List of Data and Consultation Findings

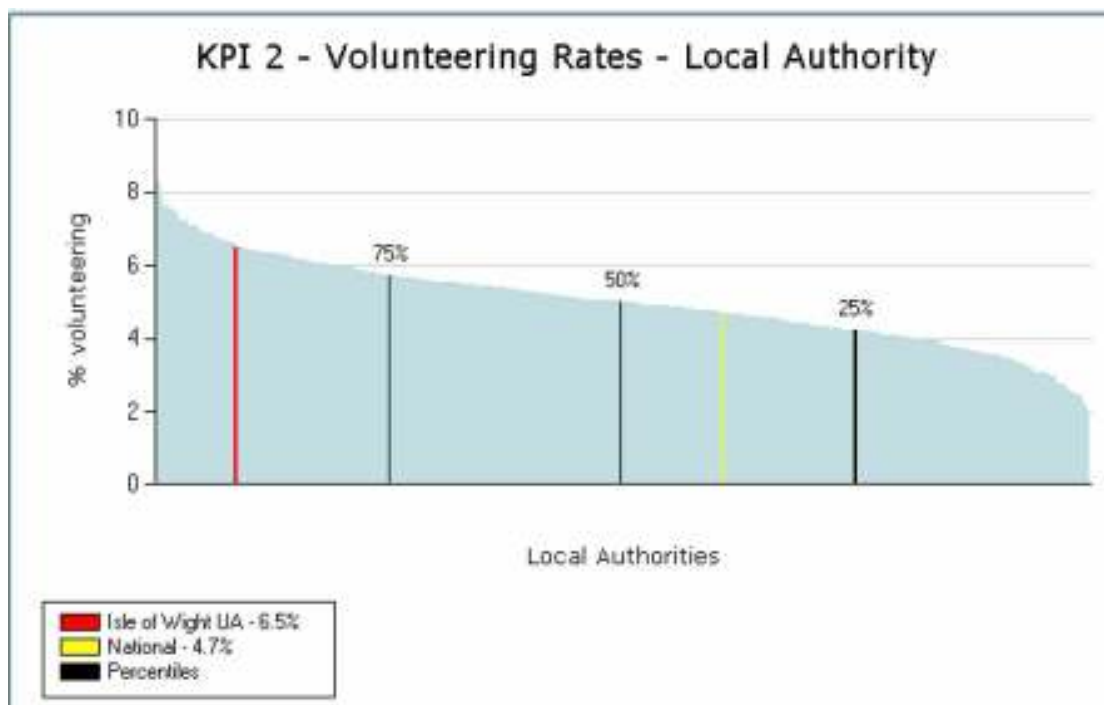
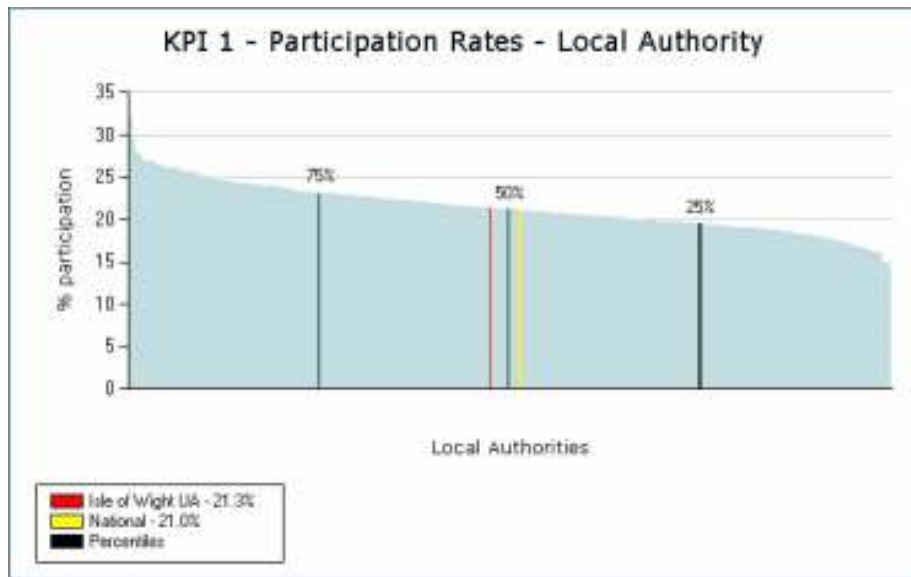
The richness of the Isle of Wight's cultural diversity is reflected in the provision of an estimated 380 leisure and visitor centres and attractions on the Island by public, private, not-for-profit and voluntary organisations.

Both English Heritage and The National Trust are active on the Island, with Osborne House and The Needles Old Battery respectively notable interests.

The Island has a rich mix of both indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities. All of these facilities are easily accessible to Island residents, visitors, schools, businesses, clubs and groups.

IW Sports Halls – Relative Share





Volunteering in many forms from providing care to heritage is relatively high compared to the rest of the UK. The activity and heritage sectors are particularly well supported by volunteers.

Arts and theatres are supported across the Island. The principal facilities are Ryde, Shanklin, Apollo and Trinity Theatres, together with Quay Arts and Medina in Newport.

There are more than 250 parks, gardens and open spaces on the Island, together with 35 playgrounds and 1100 public seats. 64 miles of coastline are managed, and there are 11 miles of award winning beaches.

Ventnor Botanic Garden consists of 22 acres of maintained garden containing 8000 plant species, plus a plant production facility and visitor centre. Residents, visitors, researchers, schools and businesses all use the Garden.

The Library Service has 11 static and 2 mobile libraries and records over a million visits per year (the fifth highest per capita among unitary authorities). The Service provides a broad range of services, activities and events for adults and children including reading groups, a literature festival, support for local community activity, lifelong learning and free internet access.

The Museums Service runs 4 public museums, including the very popular Dinosaur Isle, which all together attract 120,000 visitors a year. 5,500 school children and other groups visit the museums each year, as well as national and international researchers. The Service also gives advice to the 25 museum related organisations on the island. The Museums Schools Service provides teaching support for the 150 school classes that visit Carisbrooke Castle

Museum each year, in addition to outreach activities, loan of materials, curriculum support and teacher advice to the Island's schools.

The Record Office acquires and stores historic documents relating to the Island, and makes its archive available for public use by the island's residents, national and international researchers, charities, solicitors and councils.

The Library, Museums and Records Services all have vitally important roles to play in enabling the Island community to capitalise on its natural assets.

The School's Music Service provides tuition to pupils, and helps introduce new musical activities and experiences to young people. They also manage the IOW Music Centre, which attracts 380 students per week.

Branstone Farm provides teaching support for the 250 visiting classes, in addition to outreach activities to the Island's schools.

In addition to the provision of physical facilities, the School's Music Services and Branstone Farm both provide curriculum support, advice and training for teachers of local schools.

Also, the use of sports and art in the advancement of social and economic regeneration and development is promoted by the Arts Development and Theatres Service, and the Sport and Recreation Development Service.

There are also a host of events on the Island each year, running into the hundreds and ranging from big strategically important events such as Cowes Week, the Isle of Wight Music Festival, Walking Festival, Cycling Festival and WhiteAir; to small parish events. Many of the events are organised by voluntary organisations, of which there are a very large number, spanning all aspects of cultural activity.

The Island has a wide range of Cultural Facilities, Events and Traditions

The Isle of Wight has a rich diversity of 'attractions' for all resident and visitor interests: -

Significant buildings and sites include:

Apollo Theatre
Fairway Sports Centre and Track
Northwood House and Park
Appuldurcombe House
Guildhall Museum
Osborne House
Archaeological Centre, Clatterford
Heights Leisure Centre
Planet Ice
Bembridge Windmill
IW Libraries
Quay Arts Centre
Blackgang Chine
IW Record Office
Ryde Theatre
Brading Roman Villa
IW Steam Railway
Shanklin Theatre
Carisbrooke Castle
Medina Leisure Centre
Smallbrook Speedway
Cineworld
Medina Theatre
Trinity Theatre
Dimbola Lodge Museum
Needles Battery
Ventnor Botanic Garden
Dinosaur Isle
Newport Roman Villa
Waterside Pool
West Wight Sports Centre

Major Island events include:

All Island Carnivals
IW Walking Festival
Round the Island Yacht Race
The Chale Show
Mottistone Jazz
Ryde Carnival
County Show
The Isle of Wight Festival
Skandia Cowes Week
Garlic Festival
Old Gaffers Festival
WhiteAir - Extreme Sports Festival

IW Cycling Festival
Osborne House Classical Prom
Wight 2BHeard
IW Music Festival
Powerboat Festival
Woolverton Manor Fair

Traditions

The Isle of Wight is world famous for Yachting, with Cowes Week as the pinnacle.

Carnivals have been a tradition on the Island since the late 1800's and Ryde Carnival is now an extremely impressive event.

Research and consultations told us that:

- 93% of residents say they visit beaches and esplanades at least once a week. And 92% say they visit the countryside, over half of these at least once a week. There is high public satisfaction with these opportunities and parks & gardens, and access to them.
- The top 3 aspects for tourists were the outstanding natural scenery, the beaches, and the peace and quiet.
- There is a desire for all parts of the Island to have local heritage centres.
- The built heritage, including archaeology, is considered the most overlooked area of culture and in need of more support.
- It was suggested that the public needs to be more aware of the history of the Island and its environment.
- There is a desire to ensure that cultural development is diverse and rooted in local identity and interest.
- The idea of parking charges was generally supported, as it would encourage the use of public transport.
- The IWC need to provide a greater range of cultural activities and interests regarding the historic environment of the island.
- The IOW branch of the National Federation of Sea Anglers sees the continuous loss of sections of the coastline to development as a major problem.
- It was considered that cultural activities and services could promote adult learning and bring benefits.
- For most people, lack of time is the key issue in explaining why they do not spend more time taking part in leisure activities.
- More effort needs to be put into promoting walking as an all year round activity
- Most adults asked felt that the IWC should be responsible for providing their preferred leisure activity/facility.
- The 2 most popular leisure activities that people would like to do more of in the future were

swimming and keep fit/yoga.

- Only 21% had taken part in vigorous activity in the past week.
- There is a need for more integration of sport with community safety, education, regeneration, health and tourism. Also between commercial and voluntary sectors.
- Lifelong learning needs to be embraced more within the museum environment, and there should be the creation of an education strategy that involves all the museums.
- Need more opportunities for families to learn together.
- It was very strongly felt that cultural activity could help develop young people and bring benefits.
- Younger people are more likely to take part in 'active' pursuits such as sports.
- There is a low public satisfaction with children's play activities and facilities for young people.
- Nearly half of people asked wanted to see more facilities/activities for young people and at reduced rates.
- There is a demand for more family focused activities at weekends.
- A large venue is needed for music gigs and entertainment
- When asked what would make them use the public transport systems on the island more often, most people said lower ticket prices for the buses, and more places to reach on the Island line trains.
- Expense was the most important reason given to explain why young people don't take part in more leisure activities.
- A third of groups classified their members as 'male and female adults'. Only 7.5% were 'Male and Female young people'.
- A quarter of people asked were dissatisfied with the provision of activities/facilities for young people on the island, and this was the area that was seen as most needing action
- There is a need to extend leisure opportunities to improve the quality of life.
- Public transport to cultural facilities and events needs to be improved.
- Improvements to museums are greatly in demand.
- Arts Development on the Island should be better supported.
- 21% of groups/organisations do not have a sufficiently qualified administrative support or managers to extend their activities.
- More recognition of horse riding/eventing as an important sport on the island is needed, with an increase in facilities and funding.
- 49% of groups felt that lack of facilities is a problem.
- It is thought that the range of cultural facilities and activities on the Island is good, although more could be done to encourage their use such as decreasing prices, especially for the young, and increasing public transport access.
- Island theatres need re-organisation and more funding.