**Guidance Note:**

**How to quantify the public benefit of your Theatre using Value estimates**

**A Resource for Understanding the Value of Theatres**

**2021**

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**Contents**

[Overview 3](#_heading=h.1fob9te)

[Glossary of technical terms 7](#_heading=h.tyjcwt)

Section 1: [How can you estimate the value that your institution creates? 8](#_heading=h.3dy6vkm)

1.1 [Values for ‘non-market’ institutions? 9](#_heading=h.1t3h5sf)

1.2 [Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture 11](#_heading=h.17dp8vu)

Section 2: [Applying Values to your Business Case: Worked Example 16](#_heading=h.26in1rg)

2.1 [Initial scoping 18](#_heading=h.lnxbz9)

2.2 [Business case/SCBA calculation 20](#_heading=h.1ksv4uv)

2.3 [Possible application to changes in the site (marginal value estimation) 25](#_heading=h.z337ya)

Section 3: [Checklist on application of values 28](#_heading=h.4i7ojhp)

[Conclusion 30](#_heading=h.2xcytpi)

[Appendix 31](#_heading=h.1ci93xb)

[A.1. Designing a Contingent Valuation survey to elicit Willingness to Pay 31](#_heading=h.3whwml4)

[A.2. Calculation of WTP 33](#_heading=h.2bn6wsx)

[A.3. Contingent Valuation Survey Template 34](#_heading=h.qsh70q)

[Further reading 41](#_heading=h.3as4poj)

# Overview

This Guidance Note has been written for theatres looking to develop their understanding of valuation estimates and how they can be applied in practice, such as to business cases and funding applications. The valuation approach outlined in this Guidance Note aligns with the Social Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA) methods in the UK HM Treasury Green Book Guidance (2020) and DCMS’s Culture and Heritage Capital Framework[[1]](#footnote-2),[[2]](#footnote-3). The Green Book (2020) states that evaluation of public goods and services should account for the total costs and benefits to society in a way that goes beyond market prices.

The note aims to provide a resource to help you understand the value of your theatre in ways that extend beyond traditional measures that look at market impacts e.g., GVA and job creation. The valuation approach described provides a more comprehensive account (when presented with other economic methods) as it attempts to include the value of the theatre as a whole to both visitors and the local population that is not fully captured in commercial transactions. Without considering the latter, the estimated value could be a serious underestimate.

Arts and Cultural institutions provide a broad range of value to places and their communities. This Guidance Note, and accompanying research, seeks to estimate in monetary terms the value held by society that is not captured in existing economic measures like access fees or economic spend. Economists often use *market prices* to estimate the value that people place on a good, because if people thought a good was worth less than the price, they would not buy it. The valuation of theatres is different to the valuation of other cultural institutions which are often free. That is, people already pay to access the theatre by buying a ticket, whereas access to public museums comes at no charge. As such, the valuation from this Guidance Note on theatres has a different interpretation to the other Guidance Notes produced on museums and galleries. The theatre valuations in this Guidance Note relate to the value that visitors and non-visitors would be willing to pay to prevent the theatre from moving to another region. To reiterate, the theatre valuations estimated in this Guidance Note do not relate to how much a visitor valued the theatre visit but the value, above the ticket price, to keep the theatre in their local area. .

Whilst every care has been taken to explain key terms, the guide assumes some familiarity with more traditional techniques to assess value, such as economic impact, or experience in producing business cases, such as when making a funding application.

This note is divided into three sections:

1. Section 1: How can you estimate the value that your institution creates. This section gives a **brief explanation** of what Willingness-To-Pay and Contingent Valuation techniques are (and how to use them) and why these should be included in your decision-making and business cases, which is in line with Green Book Social Cost Benefit Analysis principles.
2. Section 2: Applying Values to your Business Case: Worked Example. A **step-by-step guide** to estimate your theatre’s total annual public benefit by transferring a representative Willingness-to-Pay (WTP) value calculated from other regional theatres. This is based on a technique known as Benefits Transfer (BT). This note covers when and how this technique can be used and is directed specifically at theatres in regional cities. **The Guidance Note sets out how to use these values in business cases and in Social Cost Benefit Analysis.** However, **guidance on the application of non-market values to business cases for *options appraisal* is in a developmental phase** and will be explored in more detail within the development of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) [Culture and Heritage Capital (CHC) framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuing-culture-and-heritage-capital-a-framework-towards-decision-making).Before applying these values to your own business case or Social Cost Benefit Analysis **DCMS recommend consulting a valuation professional/economist at Arts Council England or other expert organisations.**

1. Section 3: Checklist on application of values. A **checklist** to refer to when producing valuation estimates.

The **Appendix** provides an overview on how to undertake Contingent Valuation survey and a worked example of BT. There is also a reading list for those wishing to further their knowledge on BT techniques.

# How to use this Guidance Note

This Guidance Note does not show how to estimate the standard market value (financial) impacts in Gross Value Added (GVA) terms associated with tourism, employment, volunteering, and spend on goods and services. This is available, for example, in the Association of Independent Museum’s (AIM) toolkits.[[3]](#footnote-4) &[[4]](#footnote-5)&[[5]](#footnote-6) However, an evaluation that focuses only on market prices underestimates the full public value of a cultural institution. Rather, this Guidance Note shows you how to **estimate the public benefit that your institution produces in monetary terms** in a way that aligns with the Green Book principles of Social Cost Benefit Analysis. Non-market value can then be included in your business case alongside GVA economic impact evaluations.[[6]](#footnote-7)

This Guidance Note and worked example should be used in combination with the set of pre-estimated and pre-validated **non-market** values for culture, which is based on valuations previously established from other cultural institutions. A **Benefit Transfer Table of Values** has been developed by ACE and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) using valuation estimates derived from new and previous work by this note’s authors – the latter also funded by Historic England and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

* Non-market values for a regional theatre can be estimated from average WTP values of theatres with broadly similar characteristics which have already been surveyed (Birmingham Repertory Theatre (Birmingham), Leeds Playhouse (Leeds), Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre (Manchester), and Theatre Royal (Plymouth)).
* The estimated average regional theatre willingness-to-pay (WTP) for visitors (or users) and non-visitors (or non-users) consists of the average from the pooled set of survey responses, across all four theatres, for visitors (use WTP) and non-visitors (non-use WTP) respectively. Willingness to pay is not a direct ‘cashable’ market price, but rather represents the value of a good or service in terms of its consequence for personal *welfare*. The pooled average then contains the variation in WTP values for the public within and between institutions. Assuming that the regional theatres are indeed characteristically similar, this procedure should give a more robust and representative estimate of valuations for a regional theatre than estimates based on a single site, and is therefore the value we recommend that you should use in your business case. We note that these values provide a ‘point estimate’ for the non-market value of the institution as a whole. The research has not as yet produced values that can be varied for different investment and cost options (known as marginal values). This is something that will be explored going forward as part of the DCMS [Culture and Heritage Capital (CHC) Framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuing-culture-and-heritage-capital-a-framework-towards-decision-making).

To create this Guidance Note, we spoke to professionals working in the cultural sector to determine their working knowledge of economic methodology for valuing cultural sites (see the ‘[Measuring the Economic Value of Culture Research Project: Summary of interviews with sector participants on valuation’ report](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/ACE323%20Measuring%20the%20Economic%20Value%20of%20Culture%20Research%20Project%20V2%20%281%29.pdf)). The finding from these interviews was that further guidance is required, specifically around practical uses of economic methods for the development of business cases. This Guidance Note seeks to address that.

As with all business case evidence, the onus is on institutions to be realistic and proportionate in the value they attribute to their activities and assets. Exaggerated estimates or those making unrealistic assumptions (such as when using estimates based on dissimilar institutions) will deter funders. The use of WTP values derived from this note should include adequate scoping of the comparability between your own theatre and the theatres that the valuations are based on. Applications of WTP values from this note should also provide evidence that the principles provided for business case valuation in this Guidance Note have been followed to reduce the risk of overestimation of values.

This Guidance Note is ACE’s first attempt at providing direction on the way to include the social value of theatres in a Social Cost Benefit Analysis. The Guidance is therefore open to iteration as the programme of work to better assess the value of culture continues and methodologies become more developed.

# Glossary of technical terms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Benefit Transfer** (also known as Value Transfer) | The method of applying an estimated value (or benefits) of one or more sites to another site. This may be done by Simple, Adjusted, or Function Transfer. |
| **Contingent valuation (CV)** | A survey method which looks to identify an individual’s maximum Willingness To Pay (WTP) or Willingness To Accept (WTA) for an institution. In this method, a hypothetical scenario is presented in which the continuation of the institution in its current state is contingent on the individual’s willingness to pay or in which its discontinuation is contingent on the individual’s willingness to accept. |
| **Double-counting** | When a particular benefit is contained in two different value estimates leading to a risk of overattributing benefit if adding these estimates together. |
| **Gross Value Added** | The value of output minus the value of intermediate inputs; it is a measure of the economic contribution made by an individual institution, industry, or sector. |
| **Non-use value** | **Non-use value refers to the value for the cultural institution stated by those who have not visited or engaged with it within a designated period** (e.g., the past three years). While these are expected to be *primarily* non-use values, non-visitors may hold elements of use value, such as the option value to visit the theatre in the future or having used it online for research or recreational reasons. |
| **Policy site** | **The site to be valued.** This is the site where there are no direct valuation estimates and to which the value will be transferred to. |
| **Study site(s)** | **The site(s) from which the value is transferred from.** These sites must be similar in characteristics to the policy site for values to be appropriately transferred. |
| **Total Economic Value (TEV)** | **Total Economic Value refers to the whole estimated value of the institution.** This includes both Use and Non-Use Values held by visitors and the wider public (non-users). It then accounts for the direct and indirect benefits from engaging with and knowing a cultural institution exists. |
| **Use value** | **Use value refers to the value stated by those who have visited or otherwise engaged with the cultural institution within a designated period** (e.g., the past three years). While these are expected to be *primarily* use values, visitors may also hold non-use values for the preservation and maintenance of theatre collections. Use value within this note refers exclusively to the WTP values held by theatre visitors (i.e., users) for accessing the theatre. |
| **Willingness to pay (WTP)** | The maximum amount of money a person is willing to pay to continue to enjoy a good or service at its current ‘business as usual’ level. This can also include their willingness to pay for a change or improvement in the good or service, but this scenario is not covered in this Guidance Note., |



# Section 1: How can you estimate the value that your institution creates?

Imagine that you are in the management team at a regional theatre. You have been asked to prepare a business case to outline the value that your theatre creates for society, or to support a funding bid. This may be a business case for new investment (such as an expansion or refurbishment of the theatre).

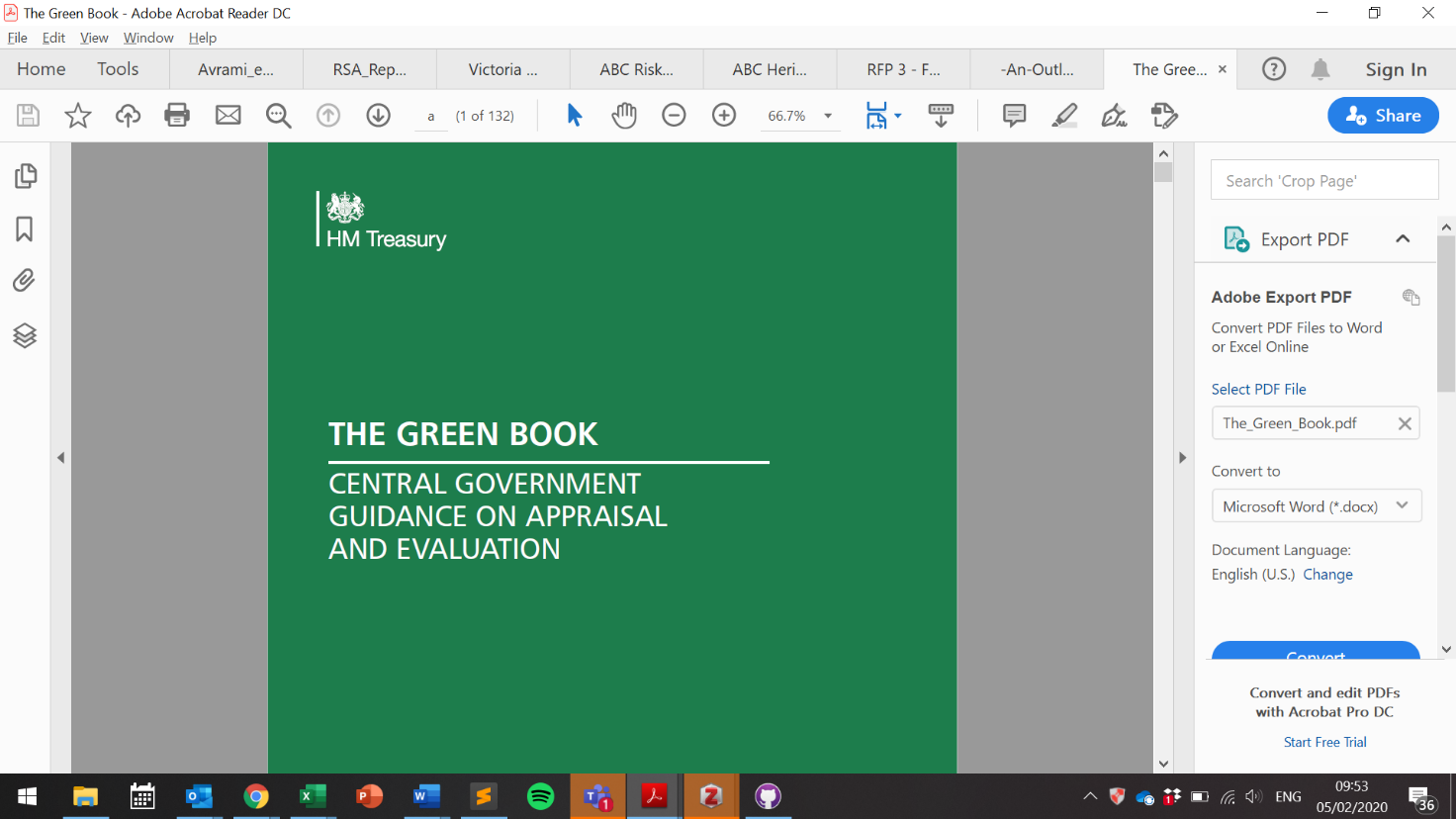
You know that your institution is important because thousands of people visit it annually, because it expands awareness of and appreciation for culturally important plays and performances, and because of its entertainment, education, and outreach work for the wider community.

You also know, anecdotally, that even people who have never visited the theatre value its presence, perhaps due to a sense of regional pride or awareness of the benefits that others gain from it.

However, none of this is necessarily reflected in market prices (i.e., the ticket prices people pay). This may be because ticket prices are partially subsidised, such as if the theatre receives government funding or private donations to encourage more visitors to the theatre. This may also be because ticket prices for a performance represent only a partial indication of the total value of the theatre..

## 1.1 Values for ‘non-market’ institutions?

The problem that many theatres find is that the benefits they provide to society are not reflected in market prices. These benefits are termed ‘non-market’ goods or services because people benefit from them, but do not have to pay to enjoy them. This means that they do not show up on traditional monetary balance sheets. Consequently, they often are not considered in economic business cases. There are, however, ways in which these non-market benefits can be quantified and understood within an economic framework.

When monetary estimates are provided to demonstrate the value of these institutions, it makes a stronger case that culture and the arts should continue to receive funding to benefit society. This is because Government guidance in the HM Treasury’s Green Book (2020) and DCMS’s Culture and Heritage Capital Framework recommends that non-market goods like culture be valued in monetary terms. An approved method to do this is the use of Stated Preference (SP) surveys. 

*Figure 1 Business cases for cultural institutions should follow HM Treasury Green Book Guidance for Appraisal and Evaluation*

## 1.2 Stated Preference Surveys, Willingness-to-Pay and Contingent Valuation

SP surveys present relevant groups (visitors, users, residents, the general public) with information about a cultural good or service (e.g. a theatre with free entry) and asks how much they would be willing to pay to continue to enjoy that theatre in a hypothetical scenario where entry was no longer free of charge.[[7]](#footnote-8) This method is currently used by other government bodies, such as the Department for Transport, in policy making and decisions around the value of transport-related impacts on iconic heritage sites.

This SP research technique is known as Contingent Valuation (CV). At the heart of CV is the careful design of surveys asking respondents directly to report their values:

* A **maximum Willingness To Pay (WTP)** for a positive change or to avoid a negative change. For example, what would be the maximum value that the respondent would be willing-to-pay to have extended open hours for a theatre, or how much would they be willing-to-pay to prevent the closure of a theatre in order to continue visiting it.
* A **minimum Willingness To Accept (WTA)** in compensation for a negative change or to forego a positive outcome. For example, how much compensation would visitors require if this theatre were to close.

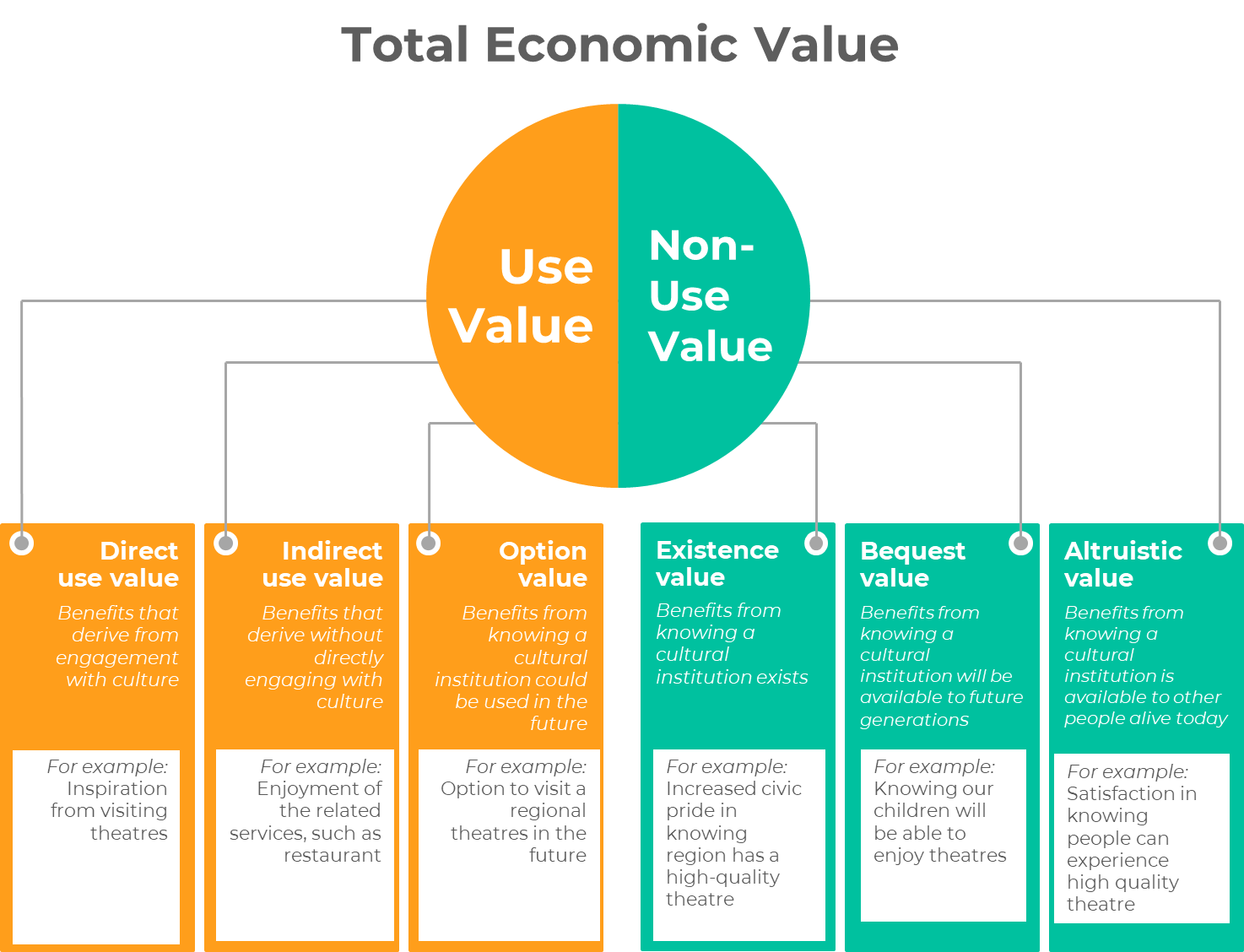
The advantage of the CV method is that it can estimate the values that visitors obtain from an institution as a whole (direct and indirect use value, see Textbox 1 and Figure 2), as well as the optional value that they may get from being able to use it in the future and the values that individuals who do not use the institution may place on its continued existence and provision of its services to others (non-use value). While non-use values may contribute to the overall value of an institution, we urge caution when incorporating estimates in your analysis: there is a risk of over-estimation if a disproportionate population size is used for aggregation. Note again that in all cases in this report the values are for the theatre as a whole and not for changes in the service offering of that theatre.

*Textbox 1 Use value and Non-Use value*

**Use value refers to the WTP stated by those who have visited or otherwise engaged with the cultural institution within a designated period**. While the latter are expected to be *primarily* use value, visitors may also hold non-use values for the preservation and maintenance of collections. Use value within this study refers exclusively to the WTP values held by theatre visitors (i.e., users) for accessing the theatre.

**Non-use value refers to the WTP stated by those who have not directly visited or engaged with the cultural institution within a designated period.** While the latter are expected to be *primarily* non-use values, non-visitors may hold elements of use value, such as the option value to visit the theatre in the future or having used it online.

***Figure 2 Total Institution Value by components***



## 1.3 Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture

The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture contains average estimates of WTP values for different categories of cultural institutions and heritage sites (including regional theatres). This database is based on research work undertaken to date by this note’s authors for ACE, AHRC and Historic England. It is a foundation for DCMS’s Culture and Heritage Capital Framework project which is creating a broader database of cultural and heritage values for the sector.[[8]](#footnote-9)

There are multiple benefits for your institution from using the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture**:**

* Business cases/cost benefit analysis/impact assessments can incorporate a fuller value of the theatre as a whole in terms of its contribution to society
* It reduces the need to perform costly data collection
* It makes it easier to estimate the value of your work
* It provides an advantage in a competitive funding environment, where funders are looking for more robust rationales for using public money to invest in institutions

The WTP values for regional theatres are estimated through primary data collection, surveying visitors to a theatre (‘users’) as one sample, and people who had never visited that theatre (‘non-users’) in another.

Four theatres have been surveyed, with a minimum of 200 visitors and 200 non-visitors in each case. Each survey respondent was asked what was their **maximum willingness to pay as an increase to their household tax to keep the theatre in its respective city,** or as an increase to their household tax **to keep the theatre open, in the case that they had never visited**. As such, this represents respondents’ value for their local regional theatre beyond ticket prices, estimating respondents’ willingness to pay for knowing the local theatre exists, the option for them and others to visit it potentially in the future, and acknowledging that their community benefits from having the theatre.

Each person asked provided a maximum willingness to pay estimate, providing us with a range of WTP values across the sample. From this, we take an **average WTP value visitors** and an **average for non-visitors** for each institution. The law of large numbers, in statistics, states that as a sample size grows, the sample average gets closer to the ‘true’ average of the whole population. For example, an average WTP taken from 200 visitors is more representative than an average WTP from twenty visitors and **an average WTP from a pooled sample of across four regional theatres is more representative than an average WTP from one regional theatre**. This allows you to transfer the WTP values from the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture to estimate the WTP per person/per household for your theatre.

You can take this average estimated WTP value and apply it to similar cultural institutions using a Benefit Transfer method. For this, we take an average WTP value from each of the study sites and calculate a *pooled average* representative of all study sites. We can apply this average to our theatre to be valued (policy site). However, an average value will always be an approximation, and some error will be introduced if we assume that other theatres have that same WTP value, because no two sites are the same. The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture tests for the robustness of the WTP values obtained by analysing the four regional theatres’ responses.

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To do this, we follow best practice in European Union and UK Government studies[[9]](#footnote-10) by **transfer testing**. It is generally recommended that at least four source sites should be used to transfer the value onto the valuation site. To test whether the transfer of a predicted theatre value to the business case theatre is likely to be accurate, we compare the value of each one of the study sites to the pooled average of the other three study sites. This procedure recreates the process of transferring values from study sites to a policy site for business case purposes. The fewer sites that are used the more likely it is that the value cannot reliably be transferred, so ideally, we would have even more than four sites. A close up of a sign

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The WTP values in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture have been ‘transfer tested’ in this way to estimate the amount of ‘error’ that is introduced when transferring these values to another regional theatre. Transfer error is introduced when the theatres surveyed as ‘study sites’ (and how people value them) are not representative of or comparable to other theatres that you wish to value as a ‘*policy site*’. As theatres are not identical, we expect some error on the value of the policy site. The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture recommends only transferring ‘study site’ WTP values which are within ‘acceptable’ levels of transfer error.[[10]](#footnote-11)

The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture provides representative estimated WTP values for visitors and non-visitors to regional theatres that can in principle be transferred to other comparable regional theatres in England.

The next section provides a step-by-step guide on how to incorporate values from the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture into your own business cases or cost benefit analyses, outlining the kind of information required, and the decisions needed to ensure that your business cases accord with best practice Government guidance.

We have also set up some simple rules for designing and analysing CV surveys in the Appendix, as well as a survey template that can be adjusted to the needs of your own institution if instead you prefer to produce your own survey estimates of WTP/WTA. Institutions are encouraged to seek professional advice in transferring estimates or collecting survey data, to avoid unrealistic or biased evaluations.

**Summary Section 1**

**Willingness to Pay (WTP) is an established Treasury-approved method for estimating the monetary value of museums to society**. This provides important evidence for cost benefit analysis, business cases and funding applications to demonstrate the value of cultural institutions.

**WTP consists of both use and non-use values**; use value representing the value held by visitors, whereas non-use values are held by those who still appreciate the museum but have not yet visited. Non-use values should only be incorporated in your analysis with realistic estimates of the population they are applied to in the theatre’s surrounding catchment area due to the risk of over-estimation if the incorrect population size is used for aggregation.

**The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture** provides value estimates for comparable theatres that you may be able to use to value your own institution (rather than conducting your own willingness to pay research).

The next section provides a **step-by-step guide** to the kind of information you need to be able to incorporate values from the **Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture** into your own business cases.

# Section 2: Applying Values to your Business Case: Worked Example

A Benefit Transfer (BT) is the exercise of taking estimated values from a sample of sites and applying them to another site. By valuing one or more sites, referred to as the *study* sites (i.e., the sites with previously estimated values in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture), we can obtain transferable values that apply to a business case site (otherwise termed ‘*policy* *site*’ in the technical literature, i.e., the institution that you want to value in your business case or SCBA).

This worked example is a first attempt at providing guidance on how to include the social value of theatres in SCBA. It may be revised as the programme of work to better assess cultural value continues and methodologies become more developed.

The values in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture represent a baseline for different types of cultural institutions that provide an understanding of their value. We recommend that these values should be adjusted to the specific features of each institution, using data on visitor and local populations, and that this may be augmented through fresh survey data collection and potentially varied according to other observed characteristics of each institution.

The following is a worked example of Benefit Transfer of regional theatre WTP values. In this example, a benefit transfer is conducted for a hypothetical regional theatre based in Manchester in the North-West of England; this will be the ‘policy site’ for our business case.

A step-by-step checklist is provided in this Guidance Note. However, it is the responsibility of each institution to ensure that they use the best available data about their institution and that they consider the appropriate number of visitors and local population groups when calculating the value of their theatre. We provide guidance below for each of these steps, to help you to construct the most realistic and robust business case for your theatre, but institutions must be realistic about the reach and impact of their theatre, to avoid over-attributing their value.

**Over-attribution** typically occurs where the business case over-estimates the positive societal impacts of their institution. Common mistakes include:

**Over-estimating the number of people who benefit from it**: Overstating the number of annual visits or the museum’s reach into the local population (catchment area) leading to a corresponding overestimate of value.

**Assigning a value for a larger theatre** (such as a regional theatre) which is not commensurate with the size of the theatre in your business case: An example might be if an otherwise characteristically similar small local theatre assumed that the WTP value for regional theatre could be applied to its own visitors. This could lead to an over-estimated value.

We outline the steps by which WTP values in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture can be applied to your own business case or impact assessment.

**What you need to know:**

**Initial scoping:** How similar your institution is to the four regional theatres in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture: annual visitor numbers, regional location, reach and size of the theatre

**Business case calculation:** Information about annual number of visitors and the broad ‘catchment area’ or ‘local reach’ of your theatre (to be done with advice of experienced valuation specialist/economist)

## 2.1 Initial scoping

The prospective business case writer should first consult the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture and establish whether any of the categories match their institution.

The values are shown in Table 1 (below) and in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture. It provides a robust set of WTP values which have been previously validated for Benefits Transfer (and is based on the study sites listed below).[[11]](#footnote-12)



*Figure 4 Regional theatres surveyed for the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture: Theatre Royal (Plymouth), Manchester**Royal Exchange Theatre (Manchester), Leeds Playhouse (Leeds), Birmingham Repertory Theatre (Birmingham).*

In the case of ‘Regional Theatres’ the first consideration is:

* *Can your theatre be classed as a ‘regional theatre’?*

This classification is to some extent subjective and will be improved through continued engagement with the sector and application in case studies. Suggested definitions include:

A theatre:

* with a minimum of at least 150,000 individual visits per year. Any institutions below this range are defined as being a smaller theatre and so are not comparable with the regional theatres surveyed for the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture.
* based in a major city within its County (for instance, Plymouth in Devon, Manchester in Greater Manchester, Leeds in West Yorkshire, or Birmingham in West Midlands).
* with ‘reach’ beyond the city in which it is based. This is defined broadly as having at least 25% of your annual visitors travel from an origin outside of the city boundaries.
* that produces its own performances and may feature big commercial shows that may be more recognisable to the public.

**Theatres where the values are less likely to be applicable**

Based on the criteria above, there are circumstances where the estimated valuations for regional theatres in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture may not be applicable. Institutions should consider carefully whether any the following apply to them:

* **Local theatres**: For instance, those based in smaller towns and villages and/or those with performances of importance mainly to the local population (such as theatres for local theatres groups). Transfer of regional theatre WTP values to these institutions **may lead to over-estimation of value** in SCBA and business cases. Companion guidance provides valuation estimates for these.
* **Central London theatres**: The characteristics of London’s national theatres, for example the National Theatre, are different to those of regional theatres, with significantly larger performances (original and touring), visitor numbers and a higher proportion of international visitors. London’s population also has a very different demographic profile compared with England as a whole. These factors make the London theatres less comparable with the regional theatres in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture. Transfer of regional theatre WTP values to these institutions may lead to under-estimation of value in business cases. However, it may be feasible to transfer these values to London theatres located outside the centre. As no testing has been done for such transfers however there is still a **risk of inaccurate estimation** of value in business **cases.**
* **Only theatre in a town or city:** If your theatre is the only theatre in the town/city and has no competitors in the immediate vicinity then it may not be comparable to the regional theatres in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture which have other theatres in their local area. This may affect the values people hold for the theatre leading to over or under-estimation (under-estimation if your theatre does not have potential substitute institutions nearby and over-estimation if the absence of other theatres in the city/town suggests that the theatre is not of comparable size to those that the estimates are based on). Transfer of regional theatre WTP values to the institution should therefore consider carefully how comparable it is to those the valuations are based on.
* **Seaside towns:** WTP for regional theatres are not in general applicable to seaside communities due to large differences in reach and demographic characteristics.[[12]](#footnote-13) Transfer of regional theatre WTP values to these institutions will lead to **inaccurate estimation of value** in business cases.
* **Less applicable outside of England:** WTP values have been collected for regional theatres in England and therefore may not be representative of valuations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; care should also be taken to consider cultural differences to avoid **inaccurate estimation of value** in business cases.

If your theatre is not comparable due to the dissimilar visitor and local population characteristics and does not meet the initial scoping requirements, we recommend consulting a valuation professional/economist on whether a BT method is available that accounts for these differences for your business case (refer to Economic Value of Culture report[[13]](#footnote-14)).

## 2.2 Business case/SCBA calculation

If your theatre passes the initial scoping exercise and can be considered comparable to the regional theatres surveyed in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture, this suggests that it may be eligible to transfer the WTP estimate from the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture to calculate the WTP per person/per household for your theatre.

The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture provides two types of estimated WTP values for the theatre as a whole: visitors (user WTP) and non-visitors in the general population (non-user WTP). We discuss both in turn. Note, the total value of visits and non-visitor values can be added together to form the total non-market value of the theatre’s continued existence (see Figure 2 in this Guidance Note) in the final business case, provided that the correct decisions have been made at each stage in the calculation below.

### 2.2.1 Visitor (user) WTP: Data required

The main data required to transfer WTP to maintain the theatre in the local area from the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture to your own theatre are estimates of the number of household visits to your theatre each year. [[14]](#footnote-15) If you do not have data on the number of visitor households, and cannot conduct your own visitor survey to gain this information, we recommend that you divide your annual visitors figure by 2.33 (the average UK household size in 2021) for a rough estimate of visitor households. Alternatively, if you know your local catchment area of your theatre, subtract 20% of households from your local catchment area to estimate your visitor household number.

### 2.2.2 Non-visitor (non-user) WTP: Data required

Non-use value is an important element of the societal benefits that theatres and other cultural institutions provide to the public. However, the quantification of non-use value is also in its early stages, meaning that many uncertainties still exist around how to apply non-use values in SCBA and business cases.[[15]](#footnote-16) We recommend that non-use values should be aggregated in the most conservative way possible. One approach to addressing these uncertainties would be for non-use values to be aggregated to a realistic catchment area – typically this should be the local region to avoid over-attribution of non-use value to any single institution. For transfer of non-visitor WTP to your local population, it is important that you select an appropriate catchment threshold for your ‘local non-visitor population’. An unrealistically large catchment area will lead to over-estimation of non-visitor value in your business case, which will reduce the credibility of your results. Definition of the non-visitor population will differ depending on each institution. It is to some extent subjective, but through continued engagement with the cultural sector it is hoped to improve the guidance for performing this analysis over time. The suggested approach is defined below:

* **Local catchment area**: The appropriate local catchment area may be defined as the geographical area within which residents are likely to have heard of your theatre even if they have never visited. Typically, an area will be considered outside the catchment area if its residents are more likely to visit/have heard of a theatre in another city than your theatre. We note that this definition of ‘local reach’ is subjective, and urge institutions to be cautious when extending the reach of your theatre, as this is the most common way values can be over-attributed, making business cases less credible. Where possible, primary data collection may be undertaken to better understand the local population’s awareness of, and engagement with the theatre. Note that for consistency with HM Treasury’s Green Book (2020), overseas visitors should not be included in business case estimates.
* **Evidence and assumptions used to define the non-visitor population must be clearly presented.** Where supporting empirical evidence is not available, you should provide justification for the definition of the non-visitor population used. See the Eftec Valuing Environmental Impacts (2009) Report for ideas (in the Further Readings list within the Appendix).
* **Number of households in local area**: Non-visitor WTP values are based on a willingness to pay per household for adult residents. Once you have defined your local catchment area, estimate how many households there are in this area. **We expect that theatres will already have a sense of their catchment area and the size of the population within it from existing audience and community engagement research**. If not, public resources do exist such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS’s) 2011 census data at the local authority, country, and regional level.[[16]](#footnote-17)

In all cases it is the **responsibility of the theatre** to ensure that the catchment area is an accurate reflection of its reach and does not lead to over-attribution of values in the business case.

**Table 1** presents the average estimated WTP values in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture. Subject to the guidance presented in this document, these values may be transferred into business cases for your own theatres to provide a fuller estimate of their value to society than one that is based only on market prices. You should identify the value that best fits your own institution (by choice of visitor or non-visitor population group) and follow the steps outlined above.

**Table 1 Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture: Regional Theatres**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Willingness to pay for Regional Theatres**.  Based on WTP values for Birmingham Repertory Theatre (Birmingham), Leeds Playhouse (Leeds), Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre (Manchester), Theatre Royal (Plymouth) | |
| **Population group** | **2020 WTP value** |
| **Visitor WTP to maintain theatre in local area- User value** | |
| Visitor WTP by household | £13.10 (£11.08) |
| **General population WTP to maintain theatre in local area - Non-user/Non-visitor** | |
| **Non-visitor (non-user) WTP by household** | £5.01 (£4.32) |

*Note: All WTP values are based on the lower bound of the 95% confidence interval (CI). This is recommended wherever CV values are applied to business case aggregation to account for biases that can operate on hypothetical surveys, following HM Treasury Green Book (2020, A5.9) “Optimism bias should be applied to operating costs and benefits, as well as capital costs. Where there is no appropriate measurement of typical bias, the confidence intervals of key input variables can be used.” All values reported can be transferred to business cases with acceptable levels of transfer error (<40% transfer error within their respective transfer method of adjusted transfer for user WTP and simple unit transfer for non-visitor WTP).*

### 2.2.3 Estimate combined visitor and non-visitor value for maintaining your theatre in its local area

Please note that the valuation for theatres being estimated is not a WTP to visit the theatre, rather an annual household WTP for the continued existence of the theatre. This differs from the Guidance Notes produced for the other cultural institutions due to the already existing paid element of theatres through ticket prices.

* **Step 1.** Multiply annual domestic number of households that have visited your theatre[[17]](#footnote-18) by the relevant average visitor (use) WTP value.
  + In the worked example, our theatre is based in Manchester and has 426,367 individual visitors per year. Dividing by 2.33 (the average UK household size), we calculate this as 182,990 domestic household visits per year (Table 2). Multiply visit numbers by the average WTP for the continued existence of the local theatre in the North-West from Table 2 £11.08).
  + **The total (aggregate) value of maintaining your theatre in its current area to its visitor households is £2,027,529** **per year** (as in Table 2).
  + This value estimate can be included in your business case alongside estimates of GVA impact. Note that if you have included valuations based on RP methods such as travel cost or house price uplifts, then you should not add WTP values to your business case as this will lead to double counting of benefits.
* **Step 2.** Multiply number of households in your local catchment area by the relevant average non-visitor (non-user) WTP for maintaining the theatre.
  + Average Non-visitor (non-user) WTP in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture is £4.32.
  + The worked example uses the population for the Manchester region according to the 2011 Census.[[18]](#footnote-19) This is arguably appropriate given that the hypothetical theatre is based in the centre of Manchester, and its catchment area (the area in which people will have heard of the theatre and would be more likely to visit that theatre than one in another city) may not extend to other regions like Wessex for example.
  + To avoid double counting of visitors who live in the local catchment area and local non-visitors, the number of local visitors should be subtracted from the local resident population (i.e., household numbers). In cases where this data on local vs non-local visitors is not available, we recommend subtracting a plausible percentage of local resident population to provide a more conservative estimate of the total non-visitor (non-use) value.
  + To derive accurate estimates of visitors in the local population, we recommend that analysts run a bespoke survey of the local population. In the absence of accurate local survey data, one way of deriving a plausible percentage of visitors in the local population is to use an estimate from national data as a proxy. In this case, we take data from the Understanding Society survey, a nationally representative UK household survey which seeks to estimate how many UK households interact with arts and culture. This survey suggests that 38% of the national sample had visited a museum or gallery in the past 12 months. In the absence of data on the proportion of the local resident population who have visited a theatre or single institution, therefore, we might use the figure of 38%. However, as the estimate from Understanding Society is a measure for visiting *any* institution this is likely an over-estimate. We suggest using a lower threshold of 20%, that is, subtract 20% of local households from the local catchment area when aggregating non-visitor (non-use) values.[[19]](#footnote-20)
  + **Subtracting 20% of presumed visitors (137,493) from the local population** **(687,466 local households)** gives an estimated local population of non-visitors of 549,973.
  + **The estimated total non-market value of the theatre to its local non-visitor population comes out as £2,375,883 per year** (as in Table 2).
* **Step 3.** Combine annual user WTP (**£2,027,529**) with the local population non-user WTP (**£2,375,883**)to calculate the total (non-market) value of your theatre’s continued existence (**£4,403,413**in the worked example).

*Table 2 Worked example: Benefit transfer from Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture to case study of a theatre in Manchester (2020 prices)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Visits (user WTP) | Local population non-visitor (non-user WTP) |
| Worked example theatre WTP | £11.08 | £4.32 |
| Worked example relevant  group | (426,367 individual visitors/2.33) 182,990 household visits | 636,157 local households of non-visitors (**549,973** local households – 20% of possible local visitors) |
| **Aggregate Value** | **£2,027,529** | **£2,375,883** |
| **Total non-market value for theatre’s continued existence: Combined User and Non-User WTP** | **£4,403,413** | |
| **Indicative annual theatre operating costs** | £1,978,146 | |

Note: All monetary values are uprated to 2020 values using the CPI. Given the uncertainty in the original estimates rounding to the first decimal point is reasonable for total values (i.e., £2.3 million and £4.4 million).

For the purposes of SCBA, it is necessary to place these non-market benefits alongside the operating cost of running the theatre (e.g., programmes, marketing, cost of generating funds, governance, overheads, care, conservation and acquisition of collections). In this example, the cost of running a theatre of this size in North-West England might be assumed to be £1,978,146.[[20]](#footnote-21) And earned income for a theatre of this size might be assumed to be £1,065,450 (in addition to public funding subsidies of £210,378).[[21]](#footnote-22) The total non-market value estimated in this worked example is larger than that of the total running cost of the theatre, suggesting that the theatre has a positive Benefit-Cost-Ratio, and therefore provides net social benefits to society. Likewise, the total non-market value is more than the total income received by the theatre, which suggests that non-market value is a substantial part of its overall societal offering of this theatre, and that failing to account for it substantially underestimates the benefits that the theatre provides to its visitors and the local population. The combined earned income and non-market value could then be presented in a business case which attempts to demonstrate the total value of the theatre to funders and the public.

## 2.3 Possible application to changes in the site (marginal value estimation)

This Guidance Note is primarily focused on the Total Economic Value[[22]](#footnote-23) of a theatre in its current (baseline) state using the Benefit Transfer method. This is the value of the existence of the theatre, in terms of the estimable non-market benefits it provides to society. In many cases, the WTP values in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture might be presented alongside estimated market impacts (such as on GVA) from traditional impact assessments. Note that this represents a point estimate for the theatre as a whole, rather than an estimate of what the value of a change to the site (marginal value) would be.

However, with careful consideration of National Audit Office Value for Money requirements[[23]](#footnote-24) and adjustments for different options appraisal, the BT technique listed within this guidance note may also be applied to valuing other theatre activities when combined with new primary data collection. This falls outside of the scope of the current Guidance, but might include:

1. **Theatre Expansions**, where a theatre might want to value a building extension (for example, new or refurbished facilities) based on user and non-user satisfaction with their institution as it currently stands. For example, the use value can be applied to estimate the value of an investment that increases the number of visits to the site, based on the visitor experience remaining the same.
2. **Maintaining and conserving theatre collections and assets**, where the theatre’s collections (not in current performances) need to be valued.   
   Future research by DCMS may provide an evidence-based theoretical framework for the value of such cultural collections to society.
3. **Conducting community outreach work**, where a theatre wishes to value the community work it undertakes, whether that work is community Theatre groups, special shows, or understanding visitor wellbeing.

**Section 2 Summary**

This section provides a **worked example** to follow if you wish to estimate a value for your regional theatre using the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture.

The values can be **aggregated** using your theatre’s annual visit numbers and local catchment area population to estimate the **total economic value of your theatre** and place it alongside operating costs and other sources of income for business cases and funding applications.

Importantly, applications of WTP values from the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture should have **adequate scoping** of the comparability between the site of interest and the theatres in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture, and **evidence that the principles of this Guidance Note have been followed** to reduce the risk of overestimation of values.

**Before applying these values to your own business case or SCBA we recommend consulting a valuation professional/economist at Arts Council England or other expert organisations.**

# Section 3: Checklist on application of values

The table below is a quick checklist to break down the steps involved in conducting a Benefit Transfer.[[24]](#footnote-25)

***Table 3 Benefit Transfer Simple Checklist***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Step | |  | Completed  (Checkmark) |
| 1 Identify context for the Benefit Transfer | | Conduct initial scoping by comparing your theatre’s characteristics to the database sites’ characteristics. |  |
| Identify what information/data is required |  |
| Seek advice from qualified valuation professionals/economists |  |
| Identify the relevant population (i.e., users, non-users) |  |
| Identify the relevant context: Do you need a baseline non-market value of the theatre in its current condition?  **If Yes**, proceed with estimates from Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture  **If No**, and you are making a business case for a change in the theatre service offer (e.g. expansion, extension of opening hours, change in collections on display), then this will need new primary data collection using the Contingent Valuation Survey Template |  |
| 2 | Identify and collect data | Identify what data you already have (Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture, visitor numbers, catchment area, etc.) |  |
| Provide justifications for definitions of survey populations |  |
| Collect primary data (if required) to collect specific information on your visitors and local catchment area, potentially using the Contingent Valuation Survey Template to elicit valuation estimates specific to your theatre |  |
| 3 | Conduct Benefit Transfer | Conduct Benefit Transfer following the worked example in this Guidance Note |  |
| Record what form of benefit transfer (simple unit transfer, adjusted unit transfer or function transfer) was applied and the reasons why |  |
| 4 | Conduct post transfer procedures | Aggregate values to relevant population using the Worked Example in this Guidance Note and with reference to the HM Treasury Green Book Guidance on Social Cost Benefit Analysis (2020) |  |
| The Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture is based on 2020 prices. If you require to uprate, calculate inflation using the ONS Consumer Price Index |  |
| 5 | Report | Include values in business cases with assistance of valuation professional/economist |  |
| Reference this Guidance Note by providing evidence that the principles for business case valuation have been followed in full to reduce the risk of overestimation of values |  |

# Conclusion

The **checklist provides detailed steps to calculate BT values and the Appendix provides information on designing CV surveys**. However, this document is intended to be used as a guidance and not an in-depth assessment of a specific site. Always consult a valuation professional/economist and Government Guidance, including the HM Treasury Green Book (2020).

The estimates provided in the worked example can still help to inform the development of a business case and the **value for money** of proposed investments.

**The Guidance Note outlines a simple method for estimating values for museums**; however, our recommendation is that the design and analysis of such methods should generally be conducted by an expert for a more robust analysis.

All applications of WTP values from the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture should include **caveats that the robustness** of benefit transfer is **dependent on adequate scoping** of the comparability between the site of interest and the museums in the Benefit Transfer Table of Values for Culture, and that the **principles of this Guidance Note have been followed in full** and to always consult an economist to reduce the risk of overestimation of values.

# Appendix

## A.1. Designing a Contingent Valuation survey to elicit Willingness to Pay

CV surveys estimate a value for a cultural good or service by presenting a hypothetical scenario in which the respondent’s continued enjoyment for themselves or for others - either through use, access, or maintenance in its current condition - is *contingent upon* their being willing to pay some monetary amount. Stated preference surveys require that respondents find the hypothetical scenario to be meaningful and realistic, and that it reflects as closely as possible a real-life payment decision. This approach assumes that respondents will make choices consistent with what they would do in a real life scenario. The survey results will then be an accurate reflection of how people would behave if markets for these cultural goods actually existed.

We note that the design and analysis of contingent valuation data should be performed with detailed sensitivity analysis and validity testing which requires more sophisticated analysis. If you are not experienced in quantitative survey work, it is recommended that experts should be consulted.

There are four key elements to consider in the design of a CV survey:

1. **Is it believable that the cultural good or service really will be taken away, lost, or deteriorate in the way suggested?** For example, the hypothetical permanent closing of a local theatre would probably be an unlikely scenario if the theatre receives a high number of visitors and is one of the main things to do in the city.
2. **Who is the relevant group to survey about the value of the cultural institution?** Visitors, users, passers-by, local people, professionals, or the wider national population may all be relevant sample groups. But they may require different survey questions and their WTP values may need to be reported separately. A theatre visitor may hold very different sets of values for a theatre they visit regularly compared with a member of the public who lives in a different part of the country but appreciates the existence of the theatre now and for future generations. They may also be demographically distinct, with theatre visitors possibly being older, more affluent, and more personally interested in cultural heritage than the average member of the general public. We would therefore want to report the average WTP of a theatre’s visitors separate to the average WTP of a member of the public who does not visit the theatre in question.
3. **Would the respondent be expected to pay in the way suggested?** For instance, would raising a national tax on the general population be proportionate to protect a small local theatre? Options for WTP payment mechanism include:

* **Entry fee**: Applicable where access is currently free and public access can in principle be restricted (e.g., theatres and museums). It is less applicable where the public good is freely available, such as sculpture parks or street art. *Advantage*: it is then a compulsory payment (it is impossible to ‘free-ride’ and continue to enjoy the cultural good/service without paying). *Disadvantage*: the introduction of entry fees can be a sensitive issue with the public who may believe they are entitled to the good (i.e., free entry), even when hypothetical.
* **Tax (local or national):** Applicable to all publicly funded cultural goods, whether paid or free, publicly accessible or excludable. *Advantage*: it is then a compulsory payment. *Disadvantage*: taxes can be unpopular, leading to strategic behaviour among respondents. This behaviour typically occurs when a respondent answers untruthfully by overestimating their WTP to bias the results, which they believe will allow the institution to receive more funding without them having to pay any increased taxes.
* **Donation**: Applicable to all cultural goods, whether paid or free, publicly accessible or excludable. *Advantage*: the donation can be made to an independent not-for-profit fund which therefore avoids strategic behaviour and payment sensitivity issues. *Disadvantage*: it is a voluntary payment, where it is therefore possible to ‘free-ride’ and continue to enjoy the cultural good/service without paying.

1. **Consideration should also be made to the payment term**: One-off, recurring annual, and fixed period payments will result in different value estimates and will therefore affect the total calculated value of the theatre in the business case analysis. This decision should be based on the most realistic payment approach for your institution. In the DCMS Museums Benefit Transfer report (2018), a one-off entry fee was elicited for each of the four museums selected, even if the respondent reported they had visited only two of the four museums within the past three years. This one-off entry fee method established a WTP use and non-use value for four museums; a recurring payment would by contrast have likely resulted in skewed WTP values as respondents would have likely reduced their WTP due to the number of sites to value within the same survey.
2. **How is the value elicited from the respondent?** In other words, how do we get respondents to state a maximum £ value they would pay? The following options are ordered in terms of robustness. We recommend using a payment card (see example template below). This method offers respondents a range of monetary amounts to choose from. This provides respondents with a visual aid and simplifies decision-making. This method is also more appropriate when sample sizes are smaller (i.e., below 300 respondents per sample group). However, the selected range can bias responses if not carefully calibrated (i.e., presenting a lot of low numbers will draw the respondent to the lower end of the scale, while a very high maximum value will skew their responses upwards).[[25]](#footnote-26)

## A.2. Calculation of WTP

CV surveys have the advantage that WTP estimates are easy to calculate.

* Average WTP is simply calculated across the total sample. An important step is to include those who would not be willing to pay in principle, to ensure that their legitimate statement of no value[[26]](#footnote-27) is included in the average WTP amount as £0 values.
* An additional analytical step is introduced through the use of a payment card elicitation mechanism, which means that respondents’ stated WTP values must be taken as a lower bound of their actual willingness to pay (Bateman et al. 2002). This is because the actual amount they are willing to pay will lie somewhere between the amount they choose (e.g., £10) and the next amount on the payment card (e.g., £15). To overcome this, a midpoint is taken between all stated WTP values and the next value up. For example, the midpoint between £10 and £15 would be £12.50.[[27]](#footnote-28)

Further advanced analysis can also be performed. The following steps represent optional but good practice techniques to improve the accuracy of WTP results:

* Explore invalid WTP values (which may be £0 or larger positive values than the norm) by analysing the reasons given by respondents for being willing to pay. For example, we may classify invalid responses for those who state they do not ‘believe [they] would have to pay' as an indicator of severe bias. In short, the hypothetical scenario may not have appeared real enough for the respondents to answer as they would in reality.
* Those familiar with regression techniques[[28]](#footnote-29) can check the estimated values to their expectations on cultural engagement. For example, we expect individuals with higher income and those with an interest in culture to have higher WTP value on average. If income and cultural interest produce a positive and statistically significant value in regression, we can then confirm our expectation that higher income individuals report higher WTP values. We would therefore have greater confidence in the robustness of our study.
* One subset of validity checks test the certainty in which respondents express how sure they are that they would pay the stated fee to attend a theatre (i.e. theatre visitor; user WTP) or an increase to their household tax to support the theatre (Bedate et al. 2009).

## A.3. Contingent Valuation Survey Template

In this section we provide **a template example of a valuation survey** for use by practitioners who wish to perform primary data collection.

This provides an easy-to-use template valuation survey for contingent valuation, in appropriate ordering, with placeholders for institutions to input their own specific information (Blank spaces here and elsewhere to be completed with the corresponding institution’s/activity’s details).

*First, ensure the respondent is the appropriate target audience. For example, if the cultural good was a regional theatre in the North-West, the survey would be targeting respondents from this region.*

***Q.1. Where are you currently living in the UK?***

* *North-East*
* *North-West*
* *Yorkshire and the Humber*
* *West Midlands*
* *East Midlands*
* *South-West*
* *South-East*
* *London*
* *East of England*

Or***What is your closest town/ city?***

*Ask whether the respondent has been to any similar cultural goods (including the good to be valued), and whether they have visited this site recently (consider what time limit you would like to impose – 12 months? 2 years?)*

***Q.2. Which of the following sites have you visited for recreational and/or educational purposes?***[[29]](#footnote-30)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *A museum or gallery or theatre* | *Monument such as a castle, fort, or ruin* | *Historic building open to the public (non-religious)* | *Site of archaeological interest (i.e., roman villa, ancient burial site)* | *Historic park or garden open to the public* |
| *Site connected with sports heritage (i.e., Wimbledon) (not visited for the purpose of watching sport)* | *A place connected with industrial history (i.e., an old factory, dockyard, or mine) or historic transport system (i.e., old ship or railway)* | *A historic place of worship attended as a visitor (not to worship)* | *None* | *Don’t know/ rather not say* |

***Q.3. Which of the following sites have you visited within the last (timeframe)?***[[30]](#footnote-31)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *(Example Art Gallery site)* | *(Example Historic site)* | *(Policy Theatre site)* | *(Example Library site)* | *(Example Sports Heritage site)* |

*Second, investigate whether the respondent is a current member of an organisation related to the cultural good? For example, if the respondent is a current member of the Theatres Association, that may be important information for later analyses.*

***Q.4. Are you a member of any heritage, conservation, cultural, or environmental organisation?***

* *Yes, Member of the National Trust or English Heritage*
* *Yes, Member of the Theatres Association*
* *Yes, Member of another heritage, conservation, cultural, or environmental organisation*
* *None*

*Third, investigate the respondent’s values:*

***Q.5. Which of the following are the top five do you think are deserving of government funding?***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Education* | *International Aid* | *Environment* | *Healthcare* | *Sports* |
| *Heritage* | *Public order & safety* | *Arts* | *The economy* | *Transport* |
| *Housing* | *Other* | *Rather not say* |  |  |

*Fourth, introduce the good to be valued and provide the respondent with clear and concise information on the good:*

***The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, located in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, was established in \_\_\_\_ and is home to the (main collection). It has also housed (exhibitions). It hosts around \_\_\_\_\_\_ visitors per (year). The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provides educational services for schoolchildren and* (*hosts outreach community programs, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).***

***Entrance to the \_\_\_\_\_\_ is (free/ entry fee/ donation). Theatre running costs and conservation of collections of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are funded by Arts Council England (\_\_%) and theatre donations.***

*Following this, check whether the respondent was already aware of the information provided.*

***Q.6. How familiar were you with this information?***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Not familiar at all* | *Slightly familiar* | *Moderately familiar* | *Very familiar* | *Extremely familiar* |

*Provide a hypothetical scenario where the cultural good may be closed indefinitely or for a certain period, will continue to function in its current state or whether the state of the good will decline without funding. Payments are thereby being sourced from the community, and possibly public funds, through voluntary payments, increases to council taxes, or entry fees.*

*Pose the payment question to determine the respondent’s WTP (or in rare cases WTA if appropriate), by using the payment card format.*

***Q.7. In this question we will ask you to imagine a scenario where due to reduced public funding to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will result in a (temporary/ permanent) closure.***

*For users (i.e. those who have visited the theatre), a hypothetical scenario where the theatre might have to start charging an entry fee to cover ongoing costs.*

* ***Entry fees to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be charged in order to keep the theatre accessible to all and continue running its’ (outreach programs, educational courses, etc.).***

*If, however, the theatre already charges an entry fee, the entry fee scenario cannot be suggested, rather a donation will be elicited:*

* ***(Donations collected from the community/ council taxes will be raised) in order to keep the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ accessible to all and continue running its performances. These payments will be (a one-off donation / an ongoing annual fee) to ensure the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ continues to be maintained for generations to come.***

*Include an oath script or remind respondents of other costs:*

***Studies have shown that people answering surveys say that they are willing to pay more than they would pay in reality. Please answer what you believe you would pay for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in reality. Please keep in mind your household budget.***

*Present the Payment card:* ***Which of the following values would you be willing to pay/ accept if the \_\_\_\_\_\_ were to close:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *£0.00* | *£0.01* | *£0.10* | *£0.50* | *£1.00* |
| *£1.50* | *£2.00* | *£2.50* | *£3.00* | *£4.00* |
| *£5.00* | *£7.50* | *£10* | *£15* | *£20* |
| *£25* | *£30* | *£40* | *£50* | *£75* |
| *£100* | *£150* | *£200* | *Other amount* | *Don’t know/ Rather not say* |

*Enquire the respondents reasoning for their WTP/WTA value. This provides a validity check; it provides information on the reason why respondents provided the stated value and whether they were protesting (stating £0 because they don’t believe they should have to pay for it).*

***Q.8. Please tell us the reasons for your allocation choice:***

* *I think the \_\_\_\_\_ is in need of funds*
* *I think the preservation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is more important than similar sites*
* *I frequently visit the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
* *The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is important for this area*
* *The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is important and should remain open for others to enjoy*
* *I may want to visit the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the future*
* *The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is not important to me*
* *I don’t think the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in need of funds*
* *I should not have to pay for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
* *I did not fully understand the question*
* *I would not pay anything for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
* *I cannot afford it*
* *Other reason*
* *Don’t know*

*Lastly, collect demographics and thank the respondent for their participation. Provide an open response for respondents to make any final comments on the survey.*

***Q.9. What is your age group?***

* *18-24*
* *25-34*
* *35-44*
* *45-54*
* *55-64*
* *65+*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.10. What is your gender?***

* *Male*
* *Female*
* *Other*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.11. How many dependent children (younger than 16 years) do you have?***

* *0*
* *1*
* *2*
* *3*
* *4+*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.12. What is your current legal marital status?***

* *Single and never married or never in a legally recognised civil partnership*
* *Married*
* *A civil partner in a legally recognised partnership*
* *Separated but legally married*
* *Divorced*
* *Widowed*
* *Former civil partner*
* *Co-habiting*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.13. What is your highest educational level or qualification?***

* *Primary education*
* *O level/GCSE/GCE*
* *A level/HNC/HND/etc.*
* *Professional qualification*
* *College/University degree*
* *Higher degree (Master’s, Doctorate)*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.14. What is your current work status?***

* *Self-employed*
* *Employed full-time (>30hrs/week)*
* *Employed part-time (<=30hrs/week)*
* *Student*
* *Unpaid family worker*
* *Retiree*
* *Inactive – not seeking work*
* *Inactive – unable to work*
* *Unemployed*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.15. What is your ethnicity?***

* *Asian/ Asian British*
* *Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British*
* *Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups*
* *White British*
* *White Other*
* *Other ethnic group*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.16. Do you consider yourself a disabled person?***

* *Yes*
* *No*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.17. What is your total annual household income before tax?***

* *£0-14,999*
* *£15,000-19,999*
* *£20,000-29,999*
* *£30,000-39,999*
* *£40,000-49,999*
* *£50,000-59,999*
* *£60,000-79,999*
* *£80,000-99,999*
* *£100,000-149,999*
* *£150,000+*
* *Prefer not to answer*

***Q.18. Please use the box below to provide any final comments on the survey.***

# Further reading

The following readings are recommended if you would like to find out more about Benefit Transfers and how they have been applied in the cultural sector:

DCMS (2017), ‘[Tailored Review of Arts Council England](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610358/FINAL_Arts_Council_England_Tailored_Review_Report.pdf)’.<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610358/FINAL_Arts_Council_England_Tailored_Review_Report.pdf>

DCMS (2018), ‘The Economic Value of Culture: A Benefit Transfer Study Executive Summary’, Nesta and Simetrica: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-value-of-culture-a-benefit-transfer-study>

Eftec (2009) ‘Valuing Environmental Impacts: Practical Guidelines for the Use of Value Transfer in Policy and Project Appraisal’, Eftec: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuing-environmental-impacts-guidelines-for-the-use-of-value-transfer>

Mendoza, N. (2017), ‘[The Mendoza Review: an independent review of museums in England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-mendoza-review-an-independent-review-of-museums-in-england)’, DCMS. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673935/The_Mendoza_Review_an_independent_review_of_museums_in_England.pdf>

Ready, R., & Navrud, S. (2006). International benefit transfer: Methods and validity tests. Ecological economics, 60(2), 429-434.

UK Treasury’s The Green Book (2020) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-governent/the-green-book-2020

1. The UK HM Treasury released a 2020 update to the 2018 Green Book, which can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-governent/the-green-book-2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. 2 Sagger, H., Philips, J., Haque, M., (2021), ‘Valuing culture and heritage capital: a framework towards informing decision making’, DCMS  [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. We advise that analysts always check that any toolkit they use is compatible with HM Treasury Green Book and Magenta Book Guidance. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Evidencing-Social-and-Environmental-Impacts-of-Museums-AIM-Advocacy-Toolkit.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/AIM-Economic-Impact-Toolkit-2014.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Note, if you have included valuations based on travel cost or house price uplift studies, then you should not add WTP values to your business case as this would lead to double counting of benefits. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The HM Treasury Green Book places market and so-called revealed preference (RP) methods above stated preference in terms of robustness. RP methods use observations on actual choices made by people to measure preferences. However, in many cases stated preference is the only method available to capture many of the non-market benefits that cultural institutions provide, and the only method which can capture hypothetical future changes in service provision and capture both use and non -use value.  [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. See the DCMS Rapid Evidence Assessment: Culture and Heritage Valuation Studies: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rapid-evidence-assessment-culture-and-heritage-valuation-studies [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. (Fujiwara et al. 2018; Lawton et al. 2018; Mourato et al. 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. The literature recommends a generous 40% transfer error threshold. Tests to verify that the estimated WTP values have low errors when transferring the value from one institution to another (i.e., Transfer tests) were performed between all four sites. All transfer errors scored below the recommended 40% threshold, for simple unit transfer, and for the transfer of visitor values using two more sophisticated approaches called adjusted and function transfer. This indicates that the WTP values can be considered representative of a comparable museum site with acceptable margins of error (Ready and Navrud, 2006). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. The primary research used bias reduction techniques to avoid survey respondents stating more than they would be willing to pay in real-life based on their everyday budget constraints. This ensures the values provide the most realistic estimate possible for Theatres. The Regional Galleries and Theatres Benefit Transfer Report outlines more information on how these values were elicited and their caveats:  
    https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Arts%20Council%20England%20-%20Regional%20Galleries%20and%20Theatres%20Benefit%20Transfer%20Report.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Such as higher levels of residents over the pension age, lower employment rates, higher seasonal work, and higher deprivation rates than the national averages. These differences are detailed in the ‘England’s Seaside Towns: A Benchmarking Report’:

    <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7624/englishseasidetowns.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/745780/The\_Economic\_Value\_of\_Culture\_-\_A\_Benefit\_Transfer\_Study\_-\_Final\_report.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Note that in the Regional Galleries and Theatres Benefit Transfer Report, this use value was elicited based on visitors on behalf of their household. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. For discussion of the issues and uncertainties around non-use WTP values, see Bandara and Tisdell 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?opt=3&theme=&subgrp=> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. We recommend only counting domestic visitors to your theatre if this information on visitors is available. This is consistent with the position of the Green Book (2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Census data retrieved from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. This is a conservative estimate, as we expect that some people in the local area will have visited the museum and therefore cannot be counted towards the non-visitor group. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. This figure was the average value provided by the National Portfolio Organisations and Major Partner Museums Annual Submission within Arts Council England’s Annual Data Survey 2018-19. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. This figure was the average value provided by the National Portfolio Organisations and Major Partner Museums Annual Submission within Arts Council England’s Annual Data Survey 2018-19. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. The Total Economic Value of a theatre represents the estimated value of both Use and Non-Use values held by visitors and the wider public. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. https://www.nao.org.uk/successful-commissioning/general-principles/value-for-money/assessing-value-for-money/ [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. For an in-depth checklist, we recommend reading the Eftec (2009) ‘Valuing Environmental Impacts: Practical Guidelines for the Use of Value Transfer in Policy and Project Appraisal’ document and following the Value Transfer Checklist provided. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. Other options for elicitation method include dichotomous choice which randomly presents respondents with an initial bid (“would you be willing to pay £10?”). The best practice is to include ‘double-bounded’ dichotomous choice, which then asks a second question (“If yes, would you be willing to pay £15, or if no, willing to pay £5?”). Although the dichotomous choice method is more incentive compatible (i.e., it follows how people make transactional decisions in real life) it is also more difficult to apply in practice as it requires large sample (500+) and extensive piloting of WTP values. Open end: generally avoided in modern CV studies, this method asks respondents to give their maximum WTP with no visual guides. It is equivalent to ‘picking a number from the air’ and produces unpredictable and unreliable WTP estimates. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. There are examples where the recording of a zero WTP is a ‘protest vote’ and does not reflect the actual benefit to the individual of the good. However, identifying protest zeros requires more in-depth exploration of the data and should only be performed with expert consultation.  [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. Where an iterative-bidding technique is employed, such as dichotomous choice survey questions, the true WTP value falls between the interval of the bid amount. For example, if a respondent said they would be willing to pay more than £5 but less than £12, the true WTP value would lie between £5 and £12. Thereby, the average WTP can be calculated from the midpoint of the bid function in a regression analysis. This bid function includes the bid levels and any explanatory variables. Follow-up bids, or variance in bid selections between respondents, are highly recommended to shorten this interval in order to obtain a valid WTP value. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. Regression analysis allows the researcher to simultaneously explore multiple relationships between variables, holding other social and demographic factors constant. This allows us to isolate the association between changes in a variable of interest, such as cultural engagement, on an outcome, like WTP. Regression analysis can be performed in statistical packages like R, Stata, and SAS, or in simple form in excel. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. These answers are standardised and have been taken from the DCMS Taking Part Survey, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. This question specifically determines users and non-users for the policy site by asking respondents whether they have visited the site in question, amongst other sites, before the respondent is aware that they will be valuing the policy site. We have included examples of sites that you may like to replace with examples from your region. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)