

PLYMOUTH 2029 UK CITY OF CULTURE

Scrutiny Committee 4th Feb 2026



Introductions



Process Update



Local response



Case Studies



Plymouth Proposition & Alignment

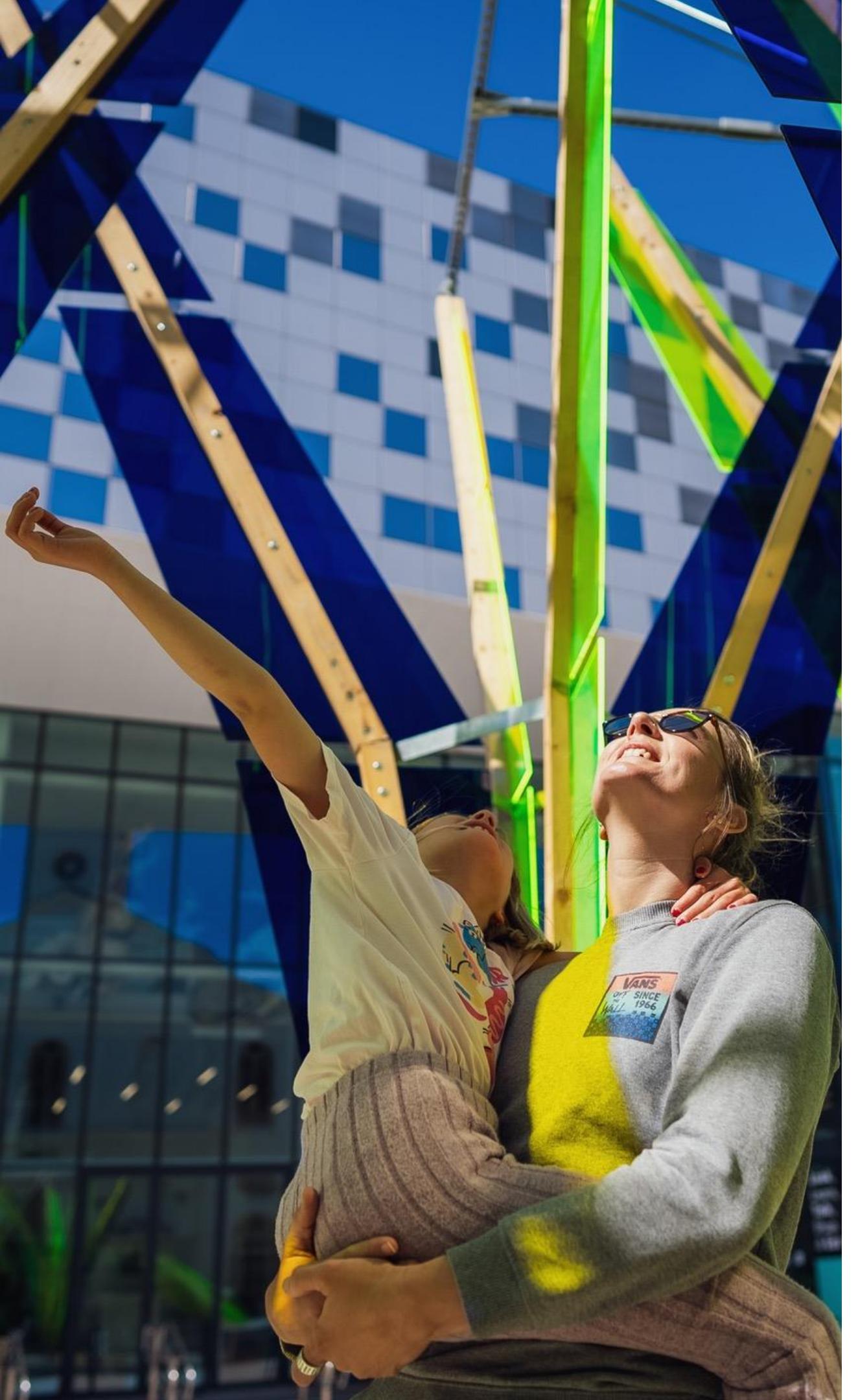


Expression of Interest (EOI) Stage

Submission required 8th February 2026

The following places have declared an intention to bid:

- **Wrexham**
- **Portsmouth**
- **Ipswich**
- **Bristol**



Engagement Update

Sector briefings

3 sessions held reaching over 290 creatives from across Plymouth and surrounding areas

Useful feedback reflecting the need for the bid to reference:

- Young people – opportunities and challenges of engagement
- Schools and cultural education/ creative careers
- Inclusion and accessibility
- The significance of our location – moors and sea
- Spaces for culture – existing and needed
- Social enterprise, impact and engagement and how all are strong in Plymouth
- Community voice and citizen-led decision making
- Excellence in the cultural offer but also the links to research, innovation and international reach
- The importance of freelancers



Engagement Update

Community drop-in sessions

Three community drop-in sessions held across the city - Saltram, Drake Circus and The Beacon North Prospect.

Partner organisations have also hosted discussions with community groups including – Real Ideas, FotoNow, Scrapstore, Barbican Theatre, Waterfront Partnership, Destination Plymouth, University of Plymouth, Arts University Plymouth, PCC Public Health teams

Local response

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Plymouth to bid to become City of Culture 2029

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News

Plymouth to make first City of Culture bid since 2017

Hull won the UK City of Culture title nine years ago, but leaders in Plymouth believe the city has invested sufficiently in its cultural infrastructure to win the 2029 bid.

Plymouth Chronicle

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Plymouth's £10m Culture Bid: What the 2029 Race Means for the City's Future

YEARS OF... the **PRSD** Republic of South Devon (est.2006)

News | Culture | Society | Future Journalists

PLYMOUTH 2029 UK CITY OF CULTURE

Seen Voices Shared Voices Raised Voices.

MA Museums Association

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Museums Journal | News | Plymouth and Bristol announce plans to bid for UK City of Culture 2029

MUSEUMS JOURNAL

NEWS — CITY OF CULTURE

Plymouth and Bristol announce plans to bid for UK Culture 2029

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Bristol and Plymouth set sights on UK City of Culture 2029 bid

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Bristol mulls UK City of Culture 2029 bid while Plymouth confirms it has entered race



City of Culture Case Studies

Overall Impact

- Stimulated investment of £1b across the cities (excluding Bradford)
- 70% of all attendees reported a greater sense of pride in place
- Bradford - attracted audiences of 1 million, reached 11k pupils and engagd 2k volunteers in the first 6 months



City of Culture Case Studies

Lessons Learnt



The schools programme in Derry did not achieve the key stage 2 attainment targets because it didn't alignment with additional programme support



Audiences aged 16-34 were under represented in Hull



Timing coincided with the pandemic - there were communication issues across the partnership and the newly formed Trust could not embed to gain trust and goodwill



The proposition

- Cultural ambition - this is a growth proposition
- The story of Plymouth is the story of the nation
- We offer a blueprint for culture led regeneration in coastal towns & cities
- We are showcasing and celebrating all that makes Plymouth unique and reclaiming our position as a global engine for change



Plymouth Alignment

- The cultural ambition shown through bidding for UK City of Culture will help to amplify other work across the city
- It will support community engagement and cohesion leading to civic pride
- It will complement the new towns and city centre developments through cultural placemaking
- It will be a mechanism to achieve inclusive growth ambitions set out by Team Plymouth



Thank you

Stay connected, back the
bid, get involved

<https://www.plymouthculture.co.uk/city-of-culture>