



COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date 19.09.2023

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

3. CULTURAL STRATEGY

To receive an update on the Cultural Strategy from officers engaged in this work and from the Executive Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Information Technology, Cllr Loraine Rossati.

Pages 3 - 14

4. PRE-SCRUTINY OF THE REVISED HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

To carry out a pre-scrutiny assessment of the revised Housing Allocations Policy ahead of the policy being considered at a meeting of the Executive. The Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing & Housing Development and Housing Officers will attend to answer Members questions.

Pages 15 - 28

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Update to CSC on the Cultural Strategy

Clr Loraine Rossati – Portfolio Holder, Culture, Leisure and IT

Rob Gregory, Operations Director – Housing and Communities

Sam Daisley, Museum & Cultural Development Officer

Page 3



Agenda Item 3

Stevenage Re-imagined: Making Stevenage a Destination Creative Town

2015 – Portfolio Holder commissions cultural journey

2017 – Issued brief for Consultants

2017 – Joint commission appointed ArtReach

2018 – Stevenage Re-Imagined launched

2018 – Arts & Culture officer appointed

2018 – Cultural Forum established

2018 – Junction 7 Creatives formed

2019 – Public Launch event

2020 – Successful funding bids ACE, National Lottery & NLHF



Page 4



Our Vision

- Flagship performing arts, museum and heritage facilities
- An iconic public realm arts programme
- Creative industries spaces and hubs, including digital media, to attract and develop talent
- Support for wellbeing, skills development and economic growth



Our cultural ambitions

- Major public art programme and trail
- Establishment creative industry hubs
- Enhance the depth and artistic quality of festivals and events
- Upgrading of the Gordon Craig Theatre
- A new museum
- High quality music facilities for the town
- Link arts and heritage with sport to build on the town's substantial sporting heritage
- Support innovative arts and health projects
- Hertfordshire Cultural Education Partnership



Our priorities

- Widen the cultural offer
- Increase cultural involvement
- Connect and advocate cultural opportunities
- Celebrate the heritage of Stevenage
- Develop opportunities for children and young people
- Improve health and wellbeing

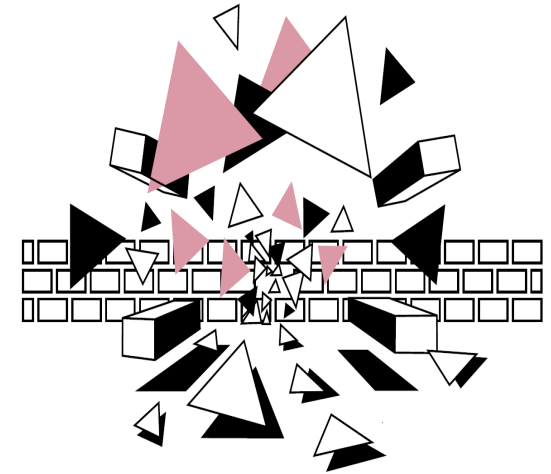
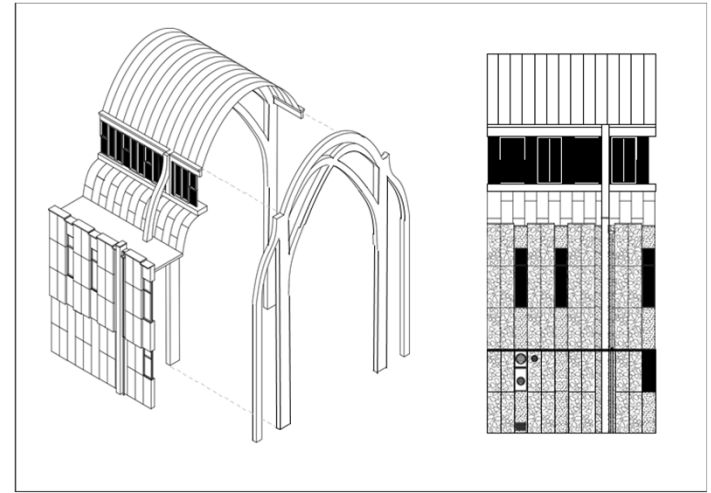


Page 7



What we have done so far

- Mainstreamed Cultural and Museum officer role
- Junction 7 Creatives formed with Meanwhile space
- Battle of the bands – Practice Roomz 50 local performers
- New Town; New Art – Out in Stevenage
- Underpass BLM project – Community partners
- Details Project – partnership with MK
- Stevenage Schools Network
- Stevenage Day
- Covid Cobra – community and youth
- New Bus station artwork
- Stevenage History Timeline
- Stevenage Hall of Fame
- Dedicated Health Strategy officer & new Leisure Contract
- Resident Card – target 32,400 by 2024



Page 8



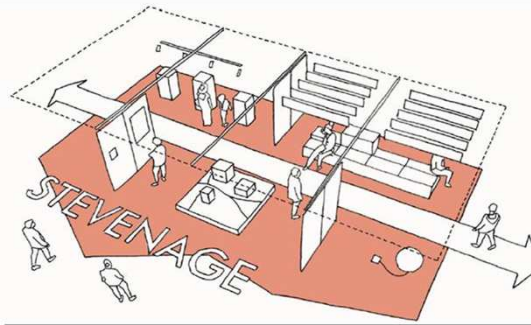
Culture-Led Regeneration

Local Government Association - Culture, tourism, leisure and sport report: helping to create places where people want to live, work and visit.

Event Island



New Town Museum



Focus groups with heritage consultant, Clare Adler



Page 9

Arts & Heritage Trail

STEVENAGE TOWN CENTRE	STEVENAGE TOWN CENTRE	STEVENAGE TOWN CENTRE
 Joy Ride Franta Belsky, 1958 Bronze sculpture	 C.W.S. Mural Gyula Bajó, 1958 Ceramic tiles	 Wall Sculpture Peter Lyon, 1964 Welded aluminium
HERITAGE TRAIL	HERITAGE TRAIL	HERITAGE TRAIL

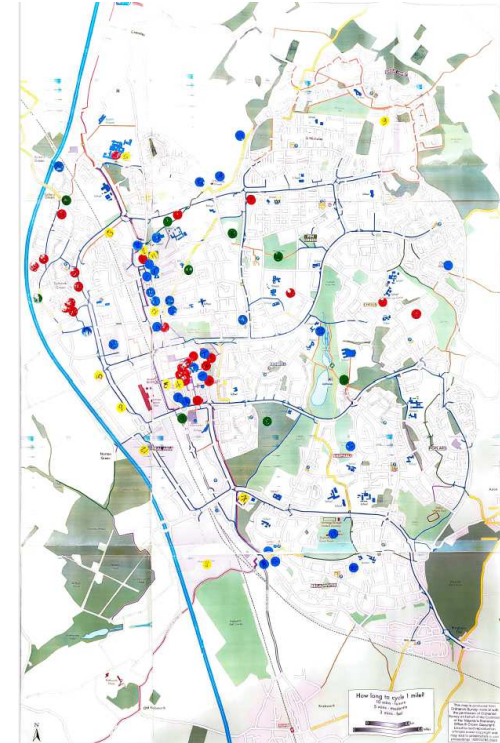


Plan and deliver a major public art programme and trail



Arts & Heritage Trail

- Visitor attraction linking health and wellbeing with civic pride and history
- Plan and deliver a major public art programme and trail as part of cycleway improvements



Page 10



Encourage the establishment of artist studios and creative industry hubs



Work with Junction 7

- Community and artist engagement.
- Bringing art to the town centre and beyond
- Encourage the establishment of artist studios and creative industry hubs by working closely with Junction 7 Creatives



Enhance the depth and artistic quality of festivals and events

THE PECULIAR MARKET



Barrio Fiesta day

I have just come back from the Barrio Fiesta Filipino day at Events Island on Saturday, August 12 and just felt that I need to say what a fantastic event it was.

Such a wonderful spirit of community – so many happy people. I've not seen that for a long time – people talking, laughing and joking, children playing, it made the town centre come alive.

There were food stalls and information tables with loads of seats/tables for people to sit at – the Filipino people certainly know how to make a go of the event – and the entertainment on the stage and joyride was also first class.

Thank you and happy Filipino Day and well well done.

Ann M
Stevenage



Event Island

- Programme of events for the year
- Community input and access
- Catalyst for culture and support town centre vibrancy
- Enhance the depth and artistic quality of festivals and events through the centralised location of Event Island



Facilitate a new central Stevenage home for the Museum while continuing a high-quality programme

Page 13



New Museum

- Part of a PSHub
- Moving to design stage
- Audience Development Plan and outreach
- 21st century facility and community asset
- Facilitate a new central Stevenage home for the Museum while continuing a high-quality programme



Hemel Hempstead Forum, Dacorum

A forum building within the same area and with many of the same functions with the exception of patient facing health services.

Some weak points about the scheme were identified in stakeholder sessions, but it would be useful to understand these in more detail on site.



Tower Hamlets Town Hall

A building primarily focussed on workspace and democratic/public spaces and the interactions between them, this would also provide a reference for architectural quality.



St Albans Library

A Tier 1 Library run by HCC which will help to demonstrate opportunities and challenges with the brief.



Young V&A

A newly designed museum space designed around interactive exhibits and learning spaces.



Future Ambitions

- Take a 'people-powered art' approach: encouraging and supporting local people of all ages to have the opportunity to be creative – working with existing community organisations and new; thinking creatively about sourcing external funding to increase support to local groups
- Expand opportunities for art in underpasses
- Create an online Stevenage photo gallery, enabling local photographers to showcase their photos of our town



Allocations Policy Update

Community Select Committee – 19 September 2023

Tracy Jackson

Operations Manager

Agenda

- Background
- Proposed changes applied following feedback from Community Select Committee
- Additional changes in policy

Background

The Allocations Policy

- Required by law
- Outlines the process for applying for social housing
- Makes best use of stock
- Maximizes access and choice for applicants

Page 17



Aims of the review

- Respond to increasing demand for not enough homes
- Fair and transparent for customers
- Help those in greatest need
- Meet legislative changes e.g. Homelessness Reduction Act, Domestic Abuse, Armed Forces Covenant

Proposed change one

“Do you agree that we should only accept applicants onto the Housing Register if they have a housing need?”

Consultation - Agree – 69%

Community Select Committee – Agree

Applied to new policy as a qualification rule



Proposed change two

“Do you agree that those with sufficient savings or income should be disqualified from applying for social housing?”

Consultation Agree – 63%

Community Select Committee – Agreed to investigate further

Page 20

Resource heavy

Cost of Living – what is “affordable”?

Not applied to new policy



Proposed change three

“Do you agree that SBC should introduce a New Generation scheme?”

Priority to 1 bed need adults to enable downsizing of tenants

Consultation Agree – 89%

Community Select Committee – Need to review criteria

Stock levels not sufficient to support New Generation scheme

Not applied to new policy

Will continue to review impact of new allocation policy



Proposed change four

“Do you agree that the number of bands that applicants can be placed into should be reduced?”

Consultation Agree – 78%

Community Select Committee – Agreed to make easier for applicants. Suggested Numbers for Bands

Applied to new policy - Band 1, 2 and 3



Proposed change five

“Do you agree that applicants who haven’t placed a bid in 12 months should be removed from the register?”

Consultation Agree – 75%

Community Select Committee – agreed in principle with communication to applicants about how to bid

Page 23

Applied to new policy
Officers to communicate bidding



Proposed change six

“Do you agree that we should let homes based on housing need only, removing the sharing between bands?”

Removing “quota”

Consultation Agree – 75%

Community Select Committee – Agree

Applied to new policy



Some direct allocation needed for aids and adaptations, temporary accommodation or leaving home for an emergency

Proposed change seven

“Do you agree that the bedroom standard should be changed to allow for more household members to share, without requiring their own bedroom?”

Increasing age to 21 for sharing from 16

Consultation Agree – 56%

Community Select Committee – Did not agree with age

Page 25

Changes to new policy:



- Bedroom standard changed to age 18 for same sex
- 2 bed need not able to bid on 3 bedroom properties

Additional question

Do we want to give additional priority to Foster Carers?

Community Select Committee – did not agree

Not applied to new policy



Other Proposed Changes

- **Care leavers** – able to bid on 1-bedroom properties and higher priority – increase chances of securing
- **Homeless Prevention Duty** – priority given if families can stay with friends or families for additional time
- **Housing Need** – adults without children with no other housing need unable to join the register
- **Statutory Homeless Duty** – Discretion applied and must qualify otherwise – such as residential local connection
- **Owed Relief Duty** – same priority as Main Duty which will reduce strain on temporary accommodation

Questions and Discussion

Any further questions?

