

Transforming Our Town Programme

1.1 Programme Aims

- **Create a vibrant town centre where people want to live, work and play**

1.2 Programme Outcomes

- A new vibrant town centre delivered through a phased regeneration programme
- A healthy, sustainable and vibrant town centre for the 21st Century
 - Reflecting on our new Town's heritage
 - Enhancing sustainable transport
 - Transforming the town centre for businesses, residents and visitors
 - Upskilling and providing opportunities
 - Supercharging businesses of our national and international base

1.3 During 2021/22 this programme will focus on:

- SG1 preparation and Phase 1 to start on site, and developing plans for SG1 acceleration.
- Delivery of Queensway North Development.
- Delivery of Town Square and the new North Block.
- Delivery of the Bus Interchange.
- Development of business cases and plans to implement the £37.5m Towns Fund programme for Stevenage.
- A programme of communications and engagement.
- Developing proposals for the regeneration of Marshgate.
- Supporting plans for a thriving life sciences cluster in Stevenage.

More Social and Affordable Homes Programme

1.4 Programme Aims

- **Increase the number of social and affordable homes in Stevenage**

1.5 Programme Outcomes

- Increased number of social and affordable houses in Stevenage

- Improved access to the housing market in Stevenage for greater number of residents

1.6 Next year this programme will focus on:

- Delivering 21 new homes at North Road.
- Delivering 29 new homes at Symonds Green.
- Develop a pipeline of new homes to 2025 /2026.
- Continuing to deliver the regeneration of Kenilworth Close - by end of 2021/ 22 we will have completed the Malvern Close element of the site, as well as the first homes at site A4 (bordering Stirling Close). Substantial progress will also be made on blocks A1 (flats and retail) and A2 (independent living scheme).
- Developing options for housing and bringing forward new homes at a number of Council-owned sites (subject to planning).
- Achieving sales of individual units at North Road and Malvern Close.
- Developing proposals to access funding for accelerating affordable housing including engaging with Hertfordshire Growth Board on acceleration options.
- Setting up and operating the Wholly Owned Company (WOC) to provide new homes in Stevenage.

Co-operative Neighbourhoods Programme

1.7 **Programme Aims**

- **Work with our communities to improve our neighbourhoods**

1.8 **Programme Outcomes**

- Clean and green neighbourhoods.
- Residents feel that they can work with the Council and other organisations to help meet the needs of the local area.
- Staff better understand the town's communities and through doing so are more able to deliver the change that is required, including through community plans.
- Public spaces to be seen as community assets – officers to work with the local communities to rejuvenate the spaces in a co-operative and co-productive way. This will encourage their use, make them more attractive, engender ownership and responsibility, and result in them being better cared for by the Council and residents.
- The community centres are efficiently run, well-managed and most importantly, meet local needs.

- Improved quality and safety of the Council's built assets in neighbourhoods including council housing, garages and community buildings.

1.9 During 2021/22 this programme will focus on:

- Embedding the Co-operative Neighbourhood Model as a modern, agile operating model for the delivery of council services in local areas.
- Completing community plans for each of the 6 neighbourhoods, informed by communities drawing from the principles of the Community Engagement Framework and championed by ward members. SBC will seek to work in a co-productive way with local groups, businesses and partner agencies.
- Supporting residents in becoming more active members of their community who make a positive contribution to the town and local area.
- Developing and maintaining a Corporate Community Engagement Plan for the next 18 month period.
- Creating a more streamlined approach to increase and enhance volunteering within the Council.
- Working with the Social Inclusion Partnership to support funding bids contributing to the recovery of VCSE sector.
- Implementing a Community Centre Forward Strategy through the Locality Review Programme and continuing to offer support to Community Associations to aid recovery from the pandemic.
- Delivering the Housing and Garage Major Improvement Programmes and the Locality Review Programme, to improve the quality of council homes, garages and community buildings.
- Developing 'Clean and Green' targeted initiatives and enforcement campaigns in neighbourhoods pro-actively tackling fly-tipping, littering, dog fouling etc.
- Improving recycling facilities and opportunities at neighbourhood recycling banks and flat blocks.

Clean, Green, Safe and Thriving Town

1.10 Programme Aims

- **Improve the quality of life of Stevenage residents and enhanced experience for visitors**

1.11 Programme Outcomes

- Working to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of Stevenage residents

- Building resilient communities, reducing crime and disorder and helping people feel safe
- Making Stevenage a 'destination creative' town
- Unlocking opportunities for the local economy and our residents, ensuring that future regeneration and growth in Stevenage works for everyone
- Achieving net zero Council emissions by 2030 and leading work to achieve this aim for the town, its businesses and residents
- Establishing Stevenage as a leader in sustainable transport
- Enhancing Stevenage's biodiversity by conserving, restoring, recreating and reconnecting wildlife habitats, whilst increasing awareness and appreciation of Stevenage's wildlife

Community Safety

1.12 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:

- Embedding and implementing the Community Safety Strategy action plan including:
 - The introduction of the No More Youth Service to help divert young people from becoming involved in crime and ASB
 - Developing the work of the Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse Service to provide safe reporting and support to domestic abuse survivors and victims of modern slavery
 - Working with partners to encourage reporting of crime and address perceptions of crime, and develop new initiatives to tackle emerging community safety issues such as the safety of women and girls.

Culture and Leisure

1.13 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:

- Undertaking a visioning exercise for the future offer of leisure and culture across the town and using this to inform a Leisure Management Options Appraisal and implement an agreed procurement strategy.
- Developing new museum plans and activity for re-location.
- Developing plans for a new wet/dry leisure facility and replacement for Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre.
- Delivering an Arts & Heritage programme including the 75th New Town anniversary and the delivery of Creative Use Schemes and arts and heritage trails.

Healthy Stevenage

1.14 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:

- Launching the Diabetes Prevention Service through the Healthy Hub.
- Further progressing plans for the development of a Young People's Healthy Hub.
- Supporting health partners with the development of integrated care system plans with a particular council focus on supporting activities to reduce health inequalities emerging from Covid-19.
- Further work with sport and physical activity partners to tackle obesity.
- Further driving work with mental health partners to tackle mental ill health and social isolation.

Community Wealth Building

1.15 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:

- Development of a Social Value Portal for council procurements.
- Supporting a County-wide adoption of a Community Wealth Building approach - including an early county-wide CWB project scope / bid against Hertfordshire Growth Board project funds.
- Sourcing support to grow and develop community and social enterprises.
- Further developing Stevenage Works as a programme to drive employment and training opportunities for local residents and young people, drawing on and adding to the current CITB programme.
- Driving the commitment of anchor institutions to community wealth building in Stevenage.

Climate Change

1.16 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:

- UK100 Pledge – working towards COP26 Climate Change Summit and pledging to at least one inclusive climate change action (Glasgow, November 2021).
- Implementing the Climate Change Action Plan.
- Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) – continued development of partnership, co-produce four key Action Plans for: water, biodiversity, carbon and transport.
- Developing a Communication and Collaboration Plan with our residents, businesses and the LEP. The Plan will be a medium term approach to support our collective goal across the community of Stevenage for zero carbon by 2030.

Sustainable Transport

- 1.17 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:
- Securing potential funding through HCC's Sustainable Travel Towns programme, subject to review of opportunities and any constraints.
 - Developing the Area Action Plan for the Stevenage Connection Gateway.
 - Continue promoting cycling and walking and seeking funding for infrastructure improvements.
 - Implementing actions resulting from Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership Transport plan.

Biodiversity

- 1.18 During 2021/22 the programme will focus on:
- Developing additional areas of meadow managed grasslands.
 - Raising awareness of the links between biodiversity loss and climate change and provide a range of opportunities for the residents to support the delivery of the town's Biodiversity action plan.
 - Implementing the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document.
 - Actions resulting from Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership Biodiversity action plan.

Making Your Money Count Programme

1.19 Programme Aims

- **Ensure sufficient resources are available to deliver on the Council's priorities while remaining financially resilient to withstand the impact of COVID and/or recovery phase**

1.20 Programme Outcomes

- To improve the customer journey and experience by enabling customers to engage and communicate with the Council when and how it best suits them including the provision of enhanced digital interventions
- To improve the productivity of the workforce through the introduction of streamlined processes and ways of working
- To retain wealth locally and support local employment through the insourcing of contracts wherever it is deemed viable to do so

- To ensure the Council remains financially resilient in order to continue to deliver its key priorities and operate its services for residents & businesses

1.21 During 2021/22 the programme will be renamed the Making Your Money Count programme and will focus on:

- Ensuring delivery and implementation of the approved 2021/22 savings options and fees.
- Developing and implementing a productivity focused Transformation programme and the associated governance to ensure delivery of the 2022/23 savings and beyond. (Further detail regarding the Transformation programme will be provided in a future report to the Executive.)
- Integrating transformational projects from internal programmes such as Excellent Council Homes, Performing at our Peak, Employee of Choice and Connected to our Customers, to help maximise the use of resources and the benefit for residents.
- Identifying commercial options and insourcing opportunities which will support the Council's financial security.
- Identifying further budget options to ensure the continued viability of the Council, should the impact of COVID or associated factors on the Council's finances be worse than budgeted.