

Appendix C – Making Stevenage Even Better Priorities 2026-27

Making Stevenage Even Better Priority	Project Title	Milestones
Transforming Our Town - Enterprise & Skills	Stevenage Works	- Secure social value benefits, including jobs, training and local opportunities, through key contracts and projects across Housing Investment, Housing Development and Regeneration. - Extend Stevenage Works into health and social care pathways, helping residents access employment, training and progression opportunities in the sector. - Publish the annual Stevenage Works impact report and deliver the Community Chest Fund.
	Talent Development	- Support and evaluate the first apprenticeship cohort, while exploring the opportunity to establish a second cohort. - Provide work experience placements for local people. - Evaluate the first leadership programme cohort and establish a second cohort, including Level 3 and Level 5 development opportunities.
	Business Technology Centre Contract Renewal	- Following completion of the procurement process, confirm the operator for the next Business Technology Centre contract period. - Mobilise the renewed contract arrangements, ensuring continuity of support for businesses based at the Centre.
	Enterprise and Skills: PYSF Phase Two	- Deliver Pioneering Young STEM Futures Phase Two activity across the academic year, monitoring participation, reach and progression. - Establish and support the Youth Advisory Board, including oversight of the Youth Innovation Fund. - Complete an interim evaluation and year-end impact update for Phase Two.
	Impact Reporting & Communications	- Build on the existing communications approach, using resident and partner stories alongside clear measures of reach and impact. - Publish the first combined Enterprise & Skills impact report, showcasing case studies and performance data.
	Adult Cohorts Pilot Project	- Agree the pilot scope, delivery model and outline proposal. - Confirm target cohorts, referral routes, success measures and the approach to evaluation. - Launch the pilot, monitoring resident participation, progression and case studies. - Review pilot outcomes and recommend next steps for 2027/28.
	Pathways & Signposting	- Complete a review of skills, employment and business-support pathways. - Publish refreshed resident-facing information and signposting across Council and partner channels.

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Transforming Our Town - Regeneration	Maximising lettings in town centre	• Deliver a targeted lettings programme for vacant units in the Plaza, supporting continued activity ahead of SG1 regeneration. • Deliver a targeted lettings programme for vacant units in Town Square, supporting continued activity ahead of SG1 regeneration.
	Deliver Local Plan Review and Partial Update 2026 and development of new Local Plan beyond 2031	• Carry out the partial update and review of the Council's Local Plan. • Produce a visioning document exploring how Stevenage can continue to contribute as an economic and growth hub within future local government arrangements.
	Planning and Infrastructure Bill	• Prepare the planning service for anticipated changes arising from the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
	Indoor Market Growth	• Agree and implement an action plan to improve occupancy, income performance and operational arrangements at the relocated Indoor Market.
	Station Gateway	• Progress external infrastructure funding opportunities. • Establish a strategic delivery programme for the scheme. • Undertake community consultation on the emerging proposals.
	SG1 - Claxton House	• Complete construction of the first phase of homes.
	Sports and Leisure Centre	• Progress construction of the new facility in line with the approved delivery programme. • Complete the new facility by 2028. • Complete demolition of the existing swimming pool to enable the next phase of development.
	SITEC 2nd Phase	• Complete construction of the new Town Centre Construction Campus in the former Indoor Market. • Complete feasibility and design work for Phase 2b, supporting further skills capacity, then seek cabinet approval to proceed.

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	Towns Fund	- Gunnelswood Road Infrastructure - Work with the private developer to introduce new infrastructure at a key roundabout to support the GSK development. - Cycling & Pedestrian Connectivity - Deliver a new ground-level pedestrian and cycle crossing linking the town centre with the new leisure facility. - Deliver the Stevenage Arts Trail, including community engagement, artwork production and installation. - Diversification of Retail - Complete works to create a new entrance to the Westgate retail area.
More Social, Affordable & Good Quality Homes - Building New & Sustainable Homes	Bragbury End	- Conclude the marketing process for the site. - Finalise the sale of the land, enabling development proposals to progress.
	Brent Court - Independent Living	- Begin main construction works on site. - Reach the topping out stage, with the building's main structure completed to its full height.
	Cartref	- Begin main construction works on site. - Reach the topping out stage for the affordable homes block, with its main structure completed to its full height.
	Courtlands	Commence and complete sales of the homes at Courtlands to generate a capital receipt and enable Marshgate Ltd to repay its loan to the Council. * * The delivery programme has been affected by delays to power connectivity. Regular reports will be brought to Cabinet on Marshgate Ltd's performance and sales progress.
	Burwell Phase 2	Reach the wind and watertight stage, with the homes enclosed so internal works can progress.
	Ellis Avenue	- Reach the topping out stage, with the building's main structure completed to its full height. - Reach the wind and watertight stage, with the homes enclosed so internal works can progress.
	Kenilworth Phase 2	- Complete the legal process required to alter existing highway arrangements. - Reach the wind and watertight stage for the first phase, with the homes enclosed so internal works can progress. - Open a show home so prospective residents can view the completed standard of accommodation.

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	Neighbourhood Developments	Seek planning permission for a pipeline of new housing schemes that will support investment in Stevenage's neighbourhoods and neighbourhood centres.
	Bidding for Social & Affordable Homes Funding	Develop funding proposals and submit bids, where appropriate, to support current and pipeline social and affordable housing schemes, in line with Cabinet-approved priorities.
	The Oval	- Reach the topping out stage for the new Community Centre, with the building's main structure completed to its full height. - Reach the topping out stage at Roland Court, with the building's main structure completed to its full height.
	Shephall View	- Secure grant funding to support delivery of new homes. - Complete the legal agreements needed to progress the scheme. - Complete the development and hand over the new homes for occupation.
More Social, Affordable & Good Quality Homes - Maintaining Good Quality Homes	Key Enablers for Journey to C1	- Deliver the priority actions within the Housing Improvement Plan, building on the Council's previous inspection score and supporting progress towards a C1 consumer grade from the Regulator of Social Housing. - Move the NEC housing management system to cloud hosting. - Prepare for the new Regulator of Social Housing Competency and Conduct Standard.
	Targeted Investment in Homes	- Review the existing Housing Asset Management Strategy and seek approval for an updated strategy. - Complete the Asset Programme Review, setting out future investment priorities for Council homes. - Complete further review of the Independent Living Schemes to inform future investment decisions. - Deliver the final year of the Major Refurbishment Contract programme. - Present options and recommendations for high-rise refurbishment to Cabinet.
	Warm and Safe Homes	- Deliver the Building Safety Action Plan. - Prepare for and implement the next phase of Awaab's Law requirements.
	Optimising Repairs and Voids Services	Complete and evaluate the repairs and voids pilot and agree the next steps for the future service model.

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	Tenancy Management and Resident Support	• Deliver the Resident Engagement Strategy and Framework, including embedding the new scrutiny panel. • Implement the agreed Fair Access improvements, making it easier for residents to access housing services. • Draft a new tenancy agreement. • Develop a Landlord Housing Strategy.
Thriving Neighbourhoods - Clean Neighbourhoods & Green Spaces	CIL Review and Spending Protocol	• Adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule. • Allocate Community Infrastructure Levy funding to strategic and neighbourhood projects that benefit Stevenage.
	Forster Country Park	• Complete the phase 1 handover of Forster Country Park in line with the legal agreement and approved design specification. • Confirm arrangements for the park's long-term maintenance and management. • Deliver a communications and marketing plan to support the opening of the new country park.
	Play Equipment Replacement	• Complete the planned programme of improvements to priority play spaces across the town.
	CCIN Policy Lab	• Deliver the second year of a two-year Cooperative Councils Innovation Network Policy Lab, co-led by Stevenage Borough Council and the London Borough of Brent with five other member councils, to strengthen community leadership and innovate local service delivery through cooperative, place-based approaches.
	Pride in Place	• Establish the St Nicholas Neighbourhood Board and supporting governance arrangements. • Build the St Nicholas evidence base, confirm the programme geography and review the local pipeline of projects and activity. • Deliver early community engagement and use capacity funding to support board development, plan preparation and early community-backed priorities. • Prepare and submit the St Nicholas Pride in Place Plan, including the first four-year investment plan.
	Renters' Rights Act	• Prepare for the implementation of new requirements arising from the Renters' Rights Act. • Provide training for relevant staff and ensure the necessary capacity is in place to deliver the new requirements.
Thriving Neighbourhoods - Community Safety	County Lines	• Deliver a targeted prevention and awareness programme with police, schools and other partners on county lines, exploitation and grooming.

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	SoSafe Action Plan	Deliver the priority actions within the SoSafe partnership plan, supported by quarterly progress reviews with partner organisations.
	Prevention of Homelessness	Expand the Community Drop In to reach more residents who need advice, support and signposting.
Thriving Neighbourhoods - Culture & Leisure	PlayZone Programme	Create an inclusive and accessible all-weather 3G football pitch at King George V Playing Fields.
	Town of Culture Bid & Review of Cultural Strategy	- If successful, progress development of the Town of Culture bid. - Undertake a proportionate review of the Council's Cultural Strategy, reflecting current ambitions.
	Stevenage 80th Celebrations	Develop and deliver a programme of activities marking Stevenage's 80th anniversary.
	Ridlins 2027/28 Preparations	Complete a feasibility study and engage users to inform future investment in facilities at Ridlins.
	New opportunities SALC	- Work with partners to define the scope, specification, costs and business case for potential new opportunities at Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre. - Explore opportunities for wider public-service use, including with health partners. - Progress development of the scheme in line with the approved Capital Strategy, with the aim of opening in June 2028.
Tackling Climate Change	Reviewing Fleet Options	Develop a strategy setting out how and when the Council fleet will transition to lower-emission and / or electric vehicles through to 2028.
	Climate Change Community Fund	Launch and operate the revised Climate Change Community Fund, supporting community-led climate projects across Stevenage.
	Sustainable energy projects	- Prioritise Council sites for further investigation of energy-generation opportunities. - Complete initial feasibility assessments for priority sites. - Complete a community energy assessment and strategy.
	Bidding for Energy Supply Funding	Submit bids to relevant funding programmes to support energy-efficiency investment and reduce energy costs.

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	Warm Homes Programme	Deliver the Warm Homes Local Grant by identifying and supporting eligible households to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs.
	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	- Allocate the Council's remaining funding from its existing Biodiversity Net Gain pot to priority nature-recovery and environmental improvement projects. - Bring proposals for the use of West of Stevenage Biodiversity Net Gain funding to Cabinet for approval, as required.
	Tree Planting	- Create new micro-woodlands. - Plant trees in areas with low tree cover, helping to increase Stevenage's tree canopy.
	Simpler Recycling (including Flat Block Recycling)	- Review kerbside collections in response to new national recycling requirements and implement the necessary changes. - Improve recycling facilities in flat blocks and deliver targeted resident communications to increase participation.
Local Government Reorganisation	Section 24 Preparation	Prepare for Section 24 Directions following the Structural Change Order, including the internal processes and governance arrangements needed to support implementation.
	Designing and delivering the programme to take Stevenage through LGR	Deliver the Council's Local Government Reorganisation readiness programme, ensuring the Council is prepared for a Government decision and the transition arrangements that follow.
	Local Government Reorganisation - Preparation for Shadow Elections	Following a Government decision, prepare for shadow authority elections to the new unitary councils, in line with the statutory arrangements then in place.
Balancing the Budget	Business Change & Digital - Financial Returns	Deliver the agreed housing management letters, payment card security compliance and archive storage projects, generating additional income, savings or avoided costs.
	Corporate Landlord: Non-Housing	- Complete required statutory compliance inspections across corporate buildings and address priority actions. - Complete a year-end compliance assurance review and agree a prioritised 2027/28 compliance investment programme.

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	Corporate Estate Energy Performance Improvement	Complete an energy-performance review of the corporate and commercial estate and agree a prioritised programme of energy-efficiency improvements.
	HRA Savings 2026/27	- Deliver the approved Housing Revenue Account savings programme for 2026/27. - Develop proposals to support a balanced Housing Revenue Account budget for 2027/28.
	General Fund 2026/27	- Deliver the approved General Fund budget for 2026/27. - Review fees and charges, supporting service areas to develop proposals for approval. - Develop proposals to support a balanced General Fund budget for 2027/28.
	Garage Site Sales	- Progress planning and funding requirements for the initial programme of garage site disposals. - Generate the first capital receipt from the programme, subject to completion of the relevant transactions.
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	Stevenage Equalities Commission Legacy Group	Support development of the Stevenage Equalities Commission Legacy Group, including its formalisation as a multi-stakeholder cooperative.
	Armed Forces Covenant	Deliver the first year of the Armed Forces Covenant support programme, including building relationships with veterans and partners, establishing referral pathways and progressing the development of a local support hub.
Health & Wellbeing	Age & Dementia Friendly Communities	Create and begin delivery of an Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly Action Plan.
	Healthy Stevenage Strategy Revision	Refresh the Healthy Stevenage Strategy in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, Public Health and other partners.
Technology & Innovation	Business Change & Digital - Service Improvements	Deliver the agreed digital service-improvement projects, including a website chatbot, improved repairs processes, electronic signing, Microsoft 365, microfiche digitisation, and improved handling of Member and MP enquiries.
	Digital Strategy	Deliver the agreed 2026/27 Digital Strategy implementation plan, focused on self-service, automation, website improvements and responsible use of artificial intelligence.
	Cyber Accreditation Programme (CAF)	- Complete the Cyber Assessment Framework baseline assessment. - Deliver the improvements needed to meet the Framework's requirements. - Work towards achieving Cyber Assessment Framework accreditation.