ABOUT Your Romford

Havering Council is committed to protecting and strengthening Romford Town Centre and the surrounding area, to make sure it continues to be a place

that people live, visit and enjoy.

Since January 2019, we've been gathering your priorities, ideas and aspirations for Romford Town Centre. Your feedback is helping to shape a new Masterplan, which will guide future development in the area.

This first exhibition is an opportunity for you to see how feedback shared so far is shaping early ideas for the Masterplan. Take a look around and tell us what you think.

WHAT IS A MASTERPLAN?

YOUR ROMFORD

A Masterplan is a long-term planning document that outlines a vision to guide growth and development of an area. It isn't a detailed design or planning application, but is:

- A document that sets out how a particular area should develop in the future
- A high-level plan that sets out objectives and strategies to manage development and change over time
- A process that defines what is important about a place and how its character and quality can be protected and improved

www.yourromford.co.uk #YourRomford



THE JOURNEY & WHERE WE ARE

Gathering Insight

January - Spring 2019

YOUR ROMFORD MASTERPLANNING TIMELINE*

Pop-ups in & around Romford Town Centre

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We will be moving around Romford Town Centre to talk to people on the street and find out what their priorities for change are.

Tagging on to local events & activities

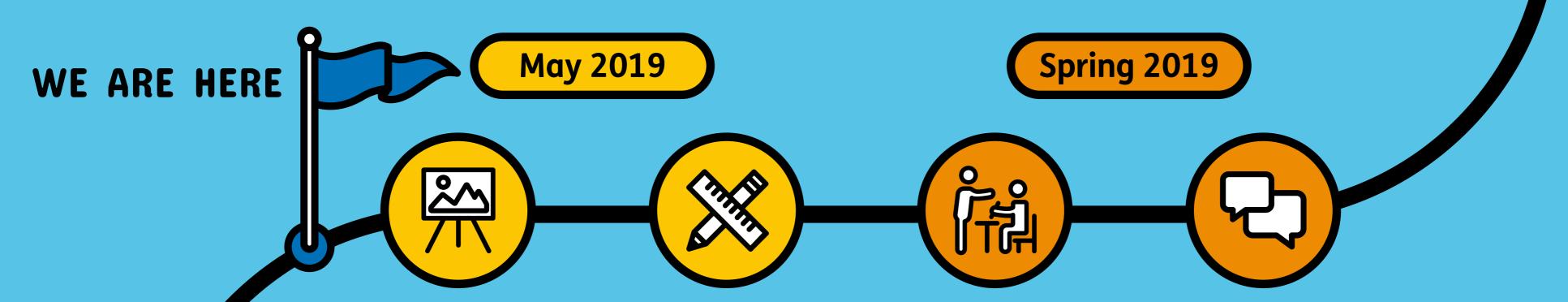
We will be attending other people's events to make it as easy as possible for people to meet us in person and share their ideas.

Online - you can send your feedback & ideas to:

yourromford.co.uk If you do not have time to comment in person, you can always do it online.

Your Priorities

Once we have completed our initial conversations with local residents and stakeholders, we will pull together a list of priorities which can be used to assess designs going forward.

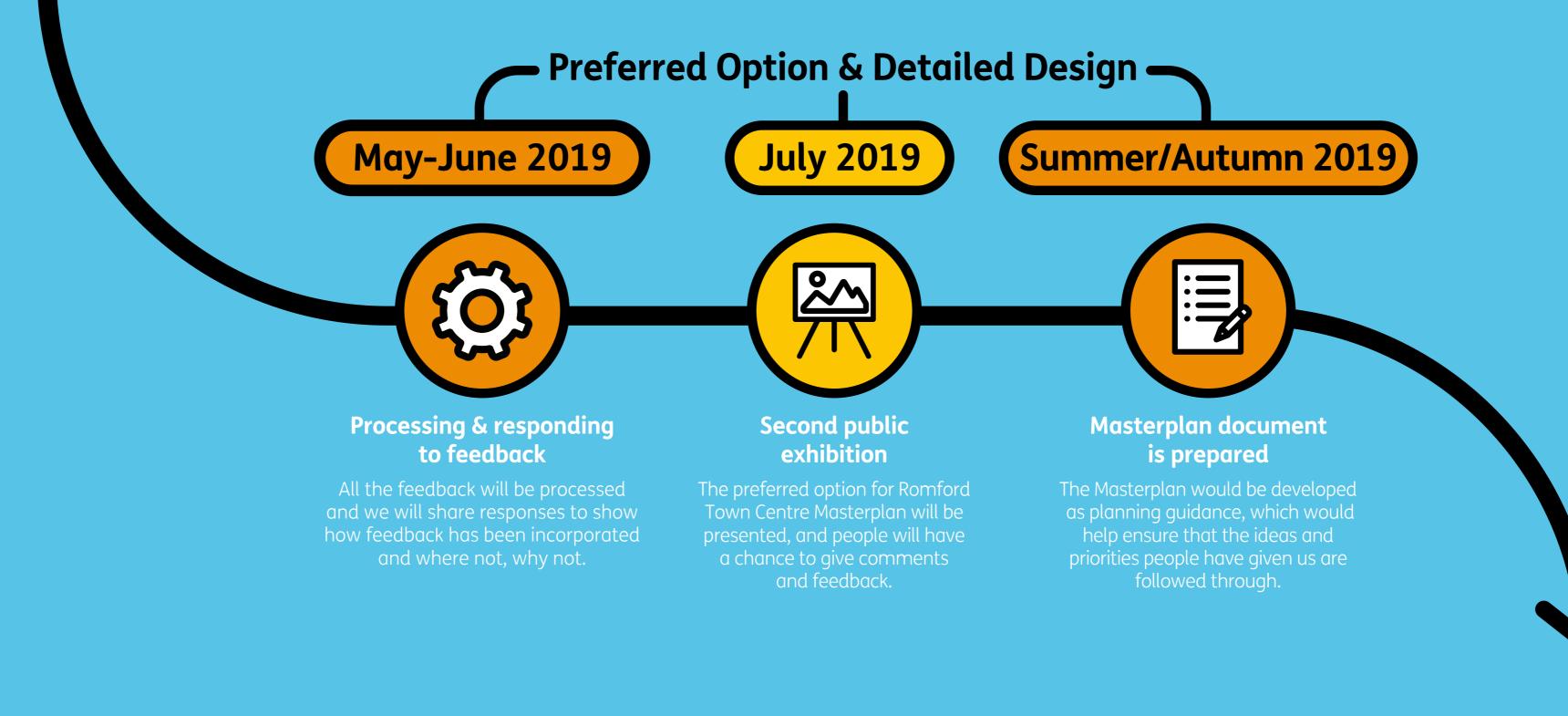


First public exhibition Init

Initial proposals Public workshops

Discussing ideas

After processing all the feedback the design team will present their first ideas for Romford Town Centre Masterplan at a public exhibition. People will be invited to provide feedback. Workshops will be undertaken with different community and stakeholder groups. All insight gathered to date will be discussed and used to create initial proposals.





FUTURE USE OF THE MASTERPLAN

An adopted Masterplan will set an overarching vision for the place Romford should become. It will set out parameters for investment by the Council, the Mayor of London, landowners, developers and others and help set a framework for deciding planning applications.

yourromford.co.uk #YourRomford

* Please note this timeline is indicative and may be subject to change.

Adoption of planning document

Winter 2019/20

Havering Cabinet will make a decision to adopt the planning document meaning that it will become a piece of formal planning guidance.

Consultation on Masterplan

Autumn 2019

Once a Masterplan document has been prepared, there will be a further opportunity for people to feedback. Havering Council will then prepare a summary of these comments and how they have responded.



MaccreanorLavington



Formal Process

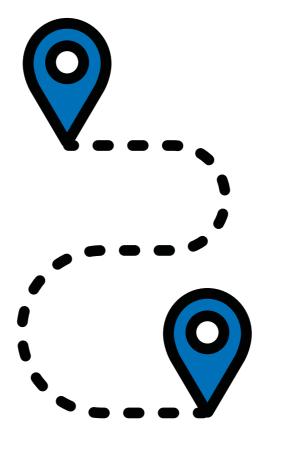


WHAT'S THE FUTURE PEOPLE WANT TO SEE FOR ROMFORD?

GROUND FLOOR USE

ROMFORD NEEDS TO BE A DESTINATION FOR PEOPLE BOTH LOCALLY AND THE WIDER AREA, IN ORDER FOR **IT TO THRIVE LONG INTO** THE FUTURE. CREATE A LOOK AND FEEL THAT PEOPLE CAN **BE PROUD OF.**

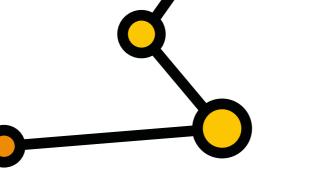
DESTINATION

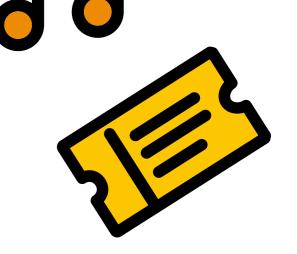


NEW USES AT GROUND FLOOR FROM OFFICES, EATERIES, INDEPENDENT **BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY** SPACES, ARTS AND CULTURE.

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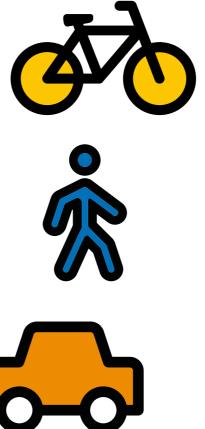
ATMOSPHERE COHESIVE ENSURE THAT THE THE TOWN CENTRE **CURRENTLY DOESN'T FEEL ATMOSPHERE AND OFFER** LIKE ONE CONNECTED PLACE. FEELS INCLUSIVE AND **ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO MOVE** WELCOMING. MORE EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, ARTS **BETWEEN DESTINATIONS TO** AND CULTURE TO REINJECT EXPERIENCE THE WHOLE TOWN CENTRE. LIFE AND BUZZ INTO THE **TOWN CENTRE.**





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MAKE IT EASY TO GET TO AND **MOVE AROUND THE TOWN CENTRE SEAMLESSLY ACROSS DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT (E.G. PUBLIC** TRANSPORT, CARS, BIKES & **PEDESTRIANS) WHILE MAINTAINING PLEASANT ENVIRONMENTS WHICH ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO WALK.**



ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES IN ROMFORD E.G. OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES TO TEST OUT IDEAS, SMALLER UNITS OR BUSINESS SUPPORT.

> HEALTH, WELLBEING & **ENVIRONMENT**

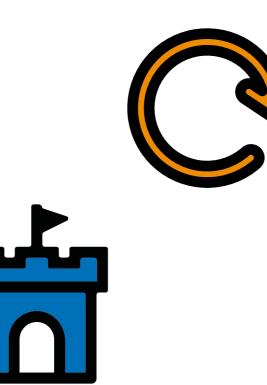
UNIQUE



MARKET

ACCESS

THE MARKET IS AT THE **HEART OF ROMFORD'S HERITAGE AND IDENTITY AND THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE REINVIGORATED** AND REFRESHED.



A TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENT THAT FEELS CLEANER, GREENER, MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR OLDER PEOPLE **OR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES,** SAFER AND MORE SECURE. **TACKLE POLLUTION AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY.**







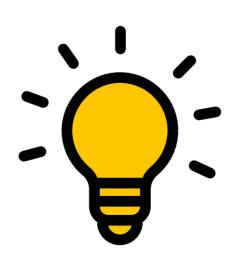






ATTRACT DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES (E.G. TECH / CREATIVE) FROM SUPPORT LOCAL THE CITY TO THE TOWN CENTRE **INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES WITH** EXTRA WORKSPACES, WORKSHOPS & RETAIL

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID ABOUT



MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HAVERING'S YOUNG PEOPLE AND THOSE FACING BARRIERS TO **EMPLOYMENT.**

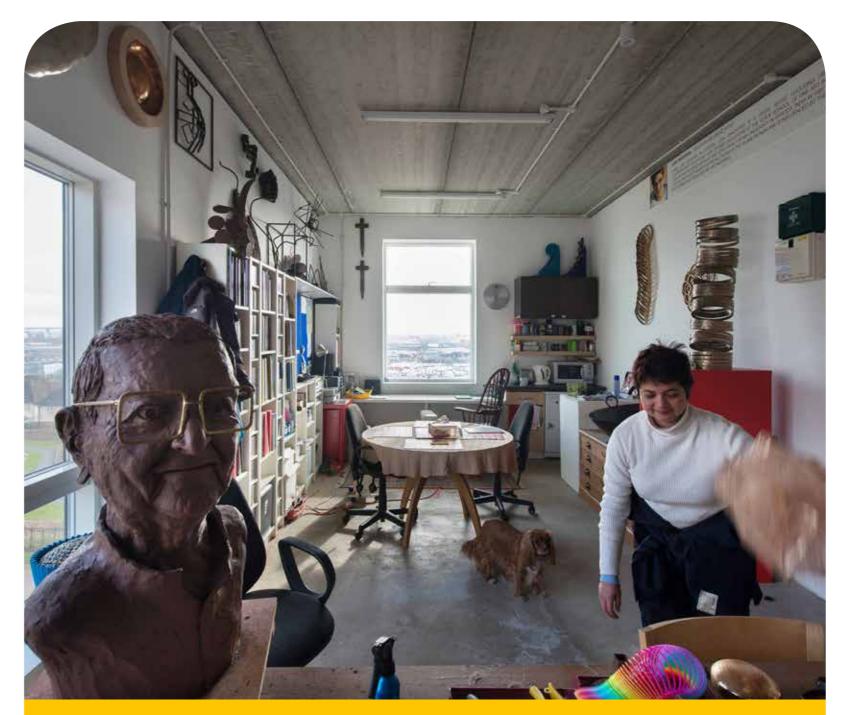
FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

Evolving Working Practices

Our economy is becoming increasingly diverse. Technology and creativity are the drivers of economic growth and have revolutionised how businesses can operate in urban environments.

As working patterns change, more businesses will be able to have bases in different locations as people seek to reduce commuting times. At the same time new technology such as 3D printing will make product development, prototyping and small batch production economically competitive in London. Romford occupies a unique location that allows businesses to service clients across London and Essex and draw on a deep and well skilled workforce. There is an opportunity to attract new business activity to the Town Centre, but this will require a new generation of business workspaces to be delivered, including light industrial units, modern offices and co-working spaces.





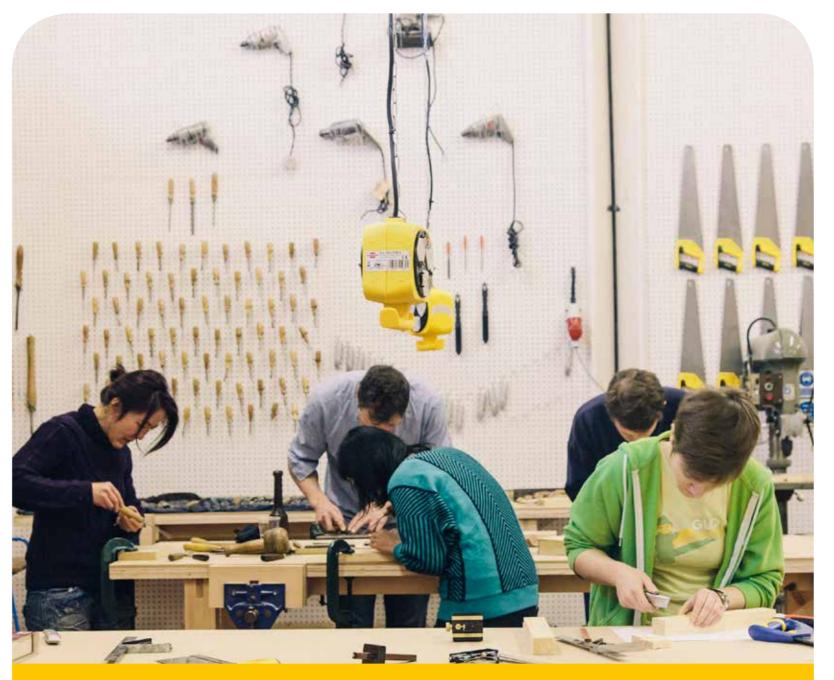
Incubating emerging businesses

Co-working spaces for new and emerging local businesses – *Hub, Westminster*

Studio spaces

Creating spaces for artists to work and develop - High House Artists Studios, Thurrock





Modern offices

Small self-contained offices without the need for shared reception and lobby areas to support local businesses – *Tariff Street offices, Manchester*

Industrial workspaces

Spaces for making and small-scale manufacturing that can co-exist with other uses of the Town Centre – Blackhorse Workshop, Walthamstow

make:good



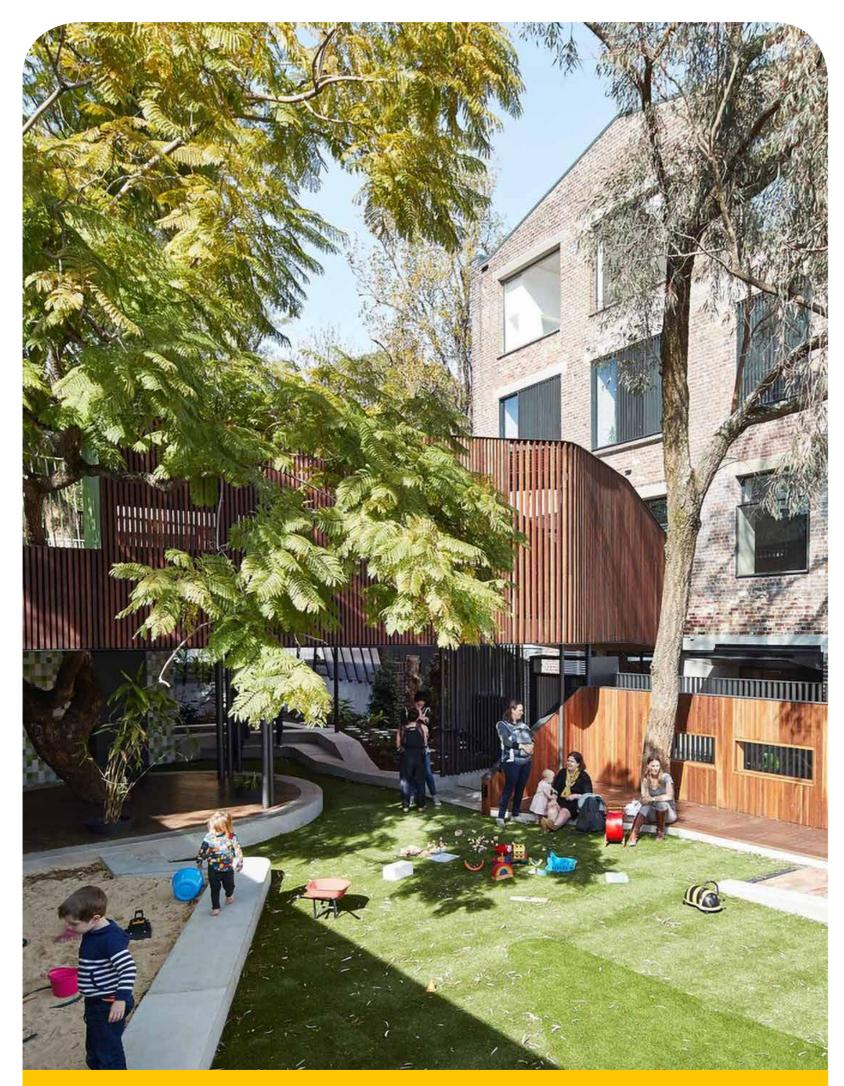




COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Resources to Support Growth

To be successful, growth needs to be supported by additional services. A new primary school and health centre is already planned as part of the forthcoming development. The Masterplan will help work out what further services for children, school, health and the community are needed to serve a larger population and to improve connections with existing resources – including Queen's Hospital. Given the likely continued increase in Romford's Town Centre population the masterplan will need to carefully consider how best to integrate further community resources, and to determine where best to place them. Some of these can be located in the same building - such as healthcare alongside fitness and leisure - while others can be used to support local cultural activities, such as in community halls and spaces.





Town Centre community facilities

Local childcare centres and community spaces in the Town Centre - East Sydney Early Learning Centre

Integrating health services

Placing health services alongside other Town Centre uses - Kentish Town Integrated Care Centre



Community halls and spaces

Spaces for the community and special events - Storey's Field Centre, Cambridge





Town Centre primary schools

Schools integrated within the community - Grange Primary School, Bermondsey

Playspace to support Town Centre activity

Informal play alongside cafes – Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

make: good





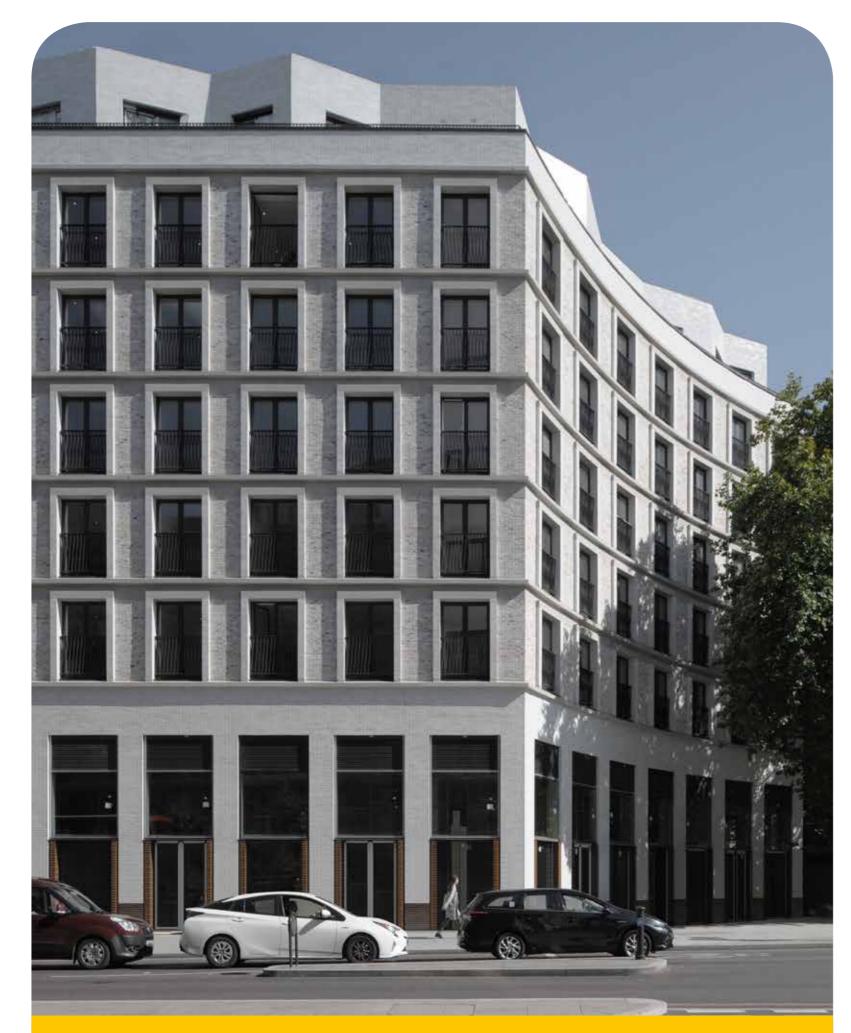


TOWN CENTRE LIVING

Delivering a Mix of Homes

Havering needs more housing and Romford is a good location, with good access to public transport and services. The draft Local Plan calls for at least 6,000 new high-quality homes in the wider Romford area by 2031, with at least 5,000 by 2026. New housing will be well designed so that it provides attractive places to live which are well integrated with the existing community. The Masterplan will show how a range of housing types and sizes can be provided to meet community needs (e.g. affordable, family, older persons, co-living) alongside new shopping, leisure, business and community uses. The Elizabeth Line is expected to be in full operation by March 2021 and helps make Romford a good place to develop new buildings. The wider Romford area is to be an Opportunity Area in the Mayor of London's London Plan and parts are already in a Housing Zone. There are a number of opportunity sites that could be developed to provide much needed additional housing and other uses and to make the area more attractive.

The Masterplan can support living and working locally, looking to not simply create a dormitory commuter town, but a lively and attractive place. New housing can help reinforce the Town Centre's desirability, bringing activity at different times of day, supporting Romford as an attractive place to live, work and visit.



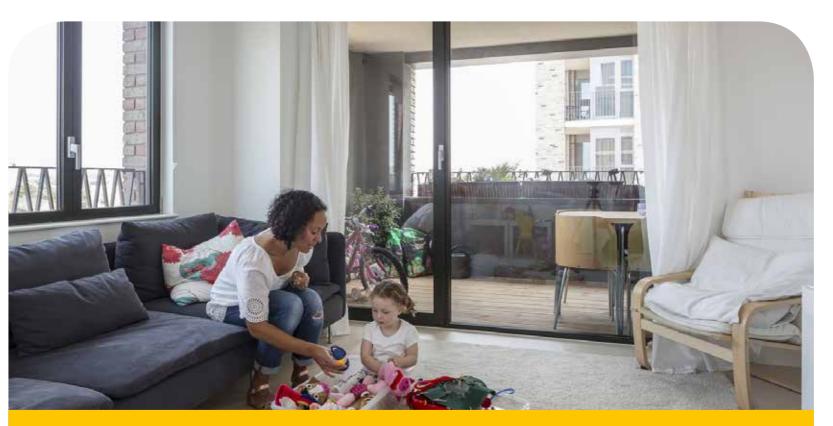


A mix of apartments and shops

Town Centre apartments at an appropriate scale – Blackfriars Circus, Newington

Urban living with shared amenity spaces

High quality courtyards and spaces – Elephant Park, Elephant & Castle



Focussing on liveability

High quality private outdoor spaces and living spaces - Saxon Court, King's Cross







Creating positive public environments

Pleasant spaces and green links that are also residential streets - St Andrews, Bromley-by-Bow

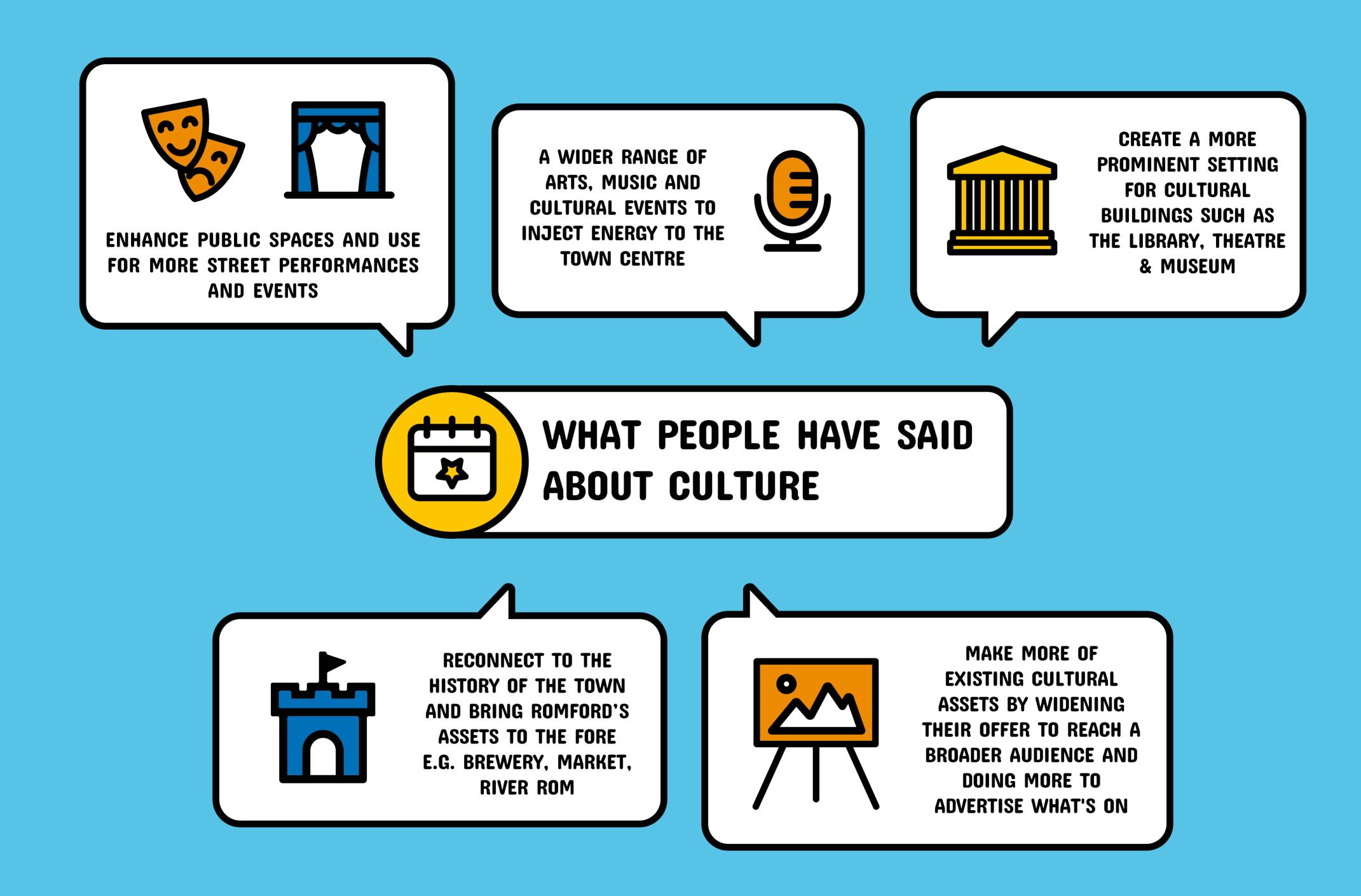
Integrating shops with apartments above

High quality apartments with positive ground floor engagement - The Scene, Walthamstow

make: good







CULTURE

Seeding Culture

Successful cultural events can be supported over the longterm through seeding and nurturing. Cultural activity can grow step-by-step and be trialled and supported to help further the cultural character of Romford. Local theatre groups, musical groups, performers, entertainers and artists can all be encouraged to showcase in the Town Centre. In the future this may mean that a new venue could arrive.

'Meanwhile' uses – such as temporary buildings, pavillions, and shops – can be used to trial events, and can measure how successful a more permanent intervention may be. A cultural programme of events can be used to invite people to use their town, and to further define Romford's distinctiveness.

The Masterplan can capitalise on historical assets – such as the market and Market Place, St Edward the Confessor Church, and the many beautiful building frontages around these and along South Street and the High Street – and use these to support Romford's cultural future.







Town Centre events that will grow over time

The Market Place and other spaces in the Town Centre can be used to host new events and cultural activities – Manchester International Festival





Nurturing local activities and performances

Seeding further cultural activity through temporary performance spaces - River Festival, Bedford

Pop-up cultural activity

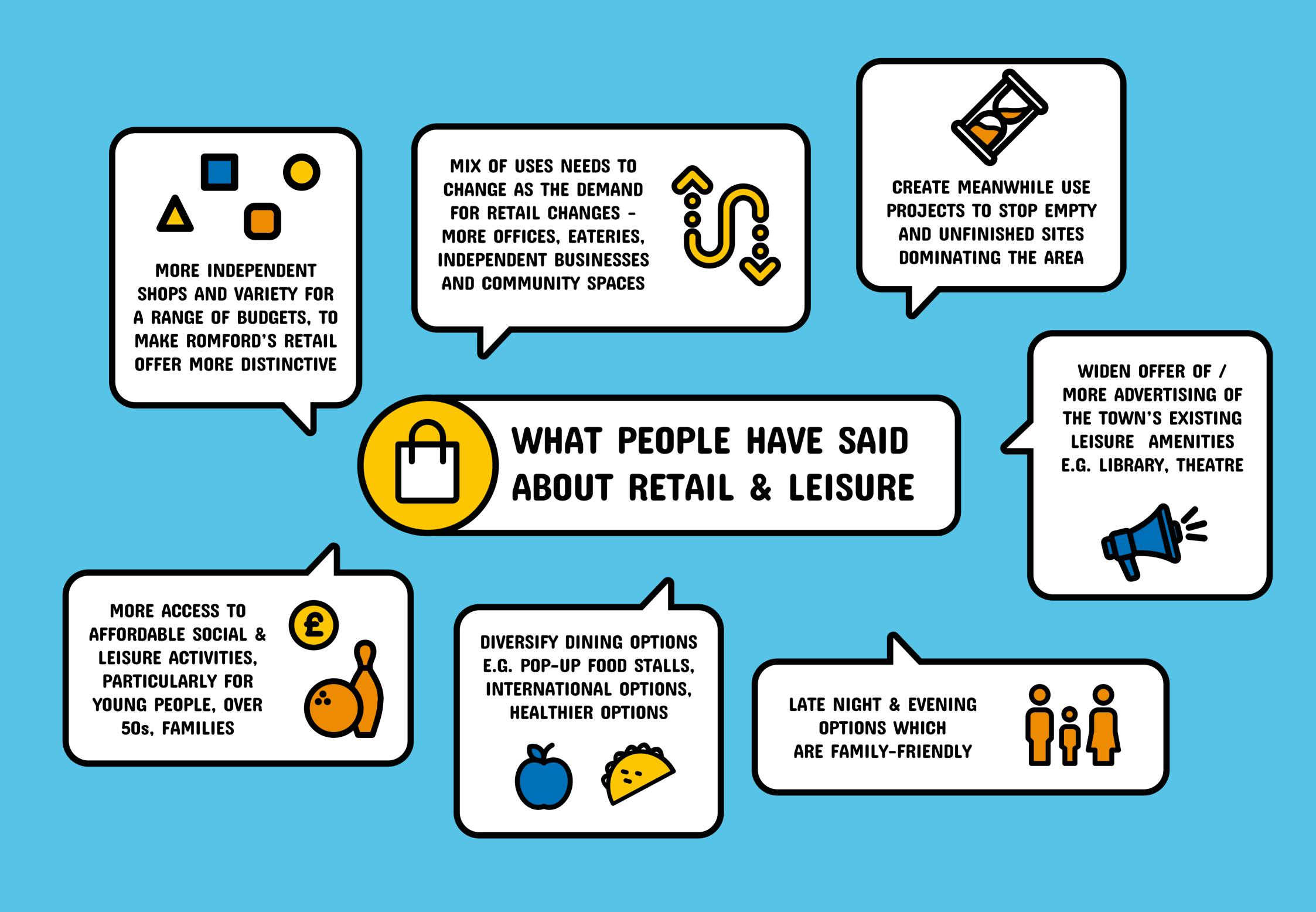
Temporary structures will trial different cultural uses and seed local enthusiasm

- The Playing Field, Southampton

make: good







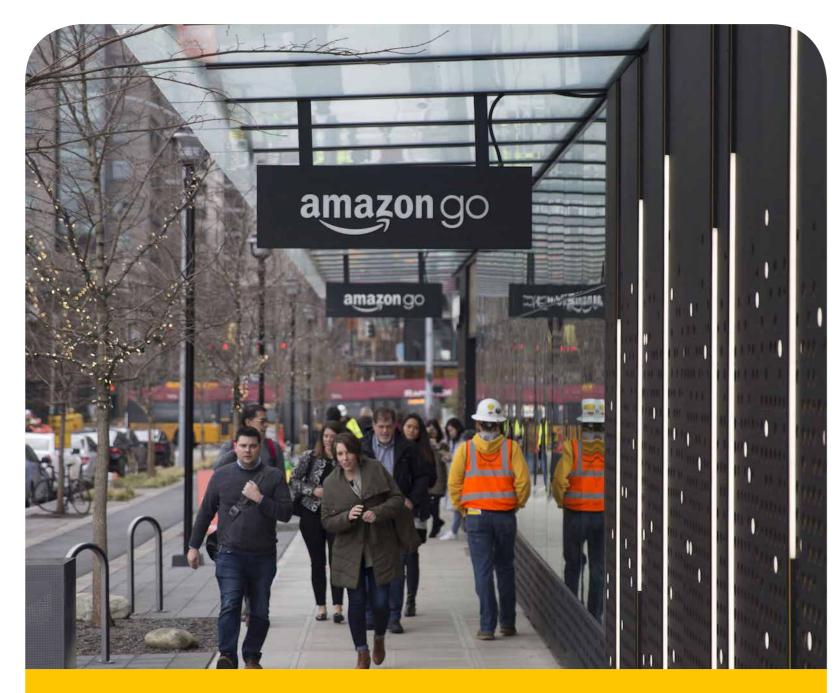
RETAIL & LEISURE

Changing Dynamics

Shopping habits have changed dramatically. The UK is one of the fastest adopters of online shopping which has had a significant impact on the high street and caused a number of retailers to close.

With more shopping now done online we are changing how we use our leisure time. Recent trends have refocused retail to experience-led activity and locally relevant offers as we seek distinctiveness. New types of leisure facilities draw on the human desire to socialise. The future of Romford as a Town Centre will be influenced by engaging with these trends, with the opportunity to provide a distinctive and unique mix of retail, leisure, personal service and entertainment activities that is attractive to residents and draws visitors to Romford.

Experience and leisure can become a much more integrated part of the future of Romford, with an improved food and drink offer and enhanced public spaces.





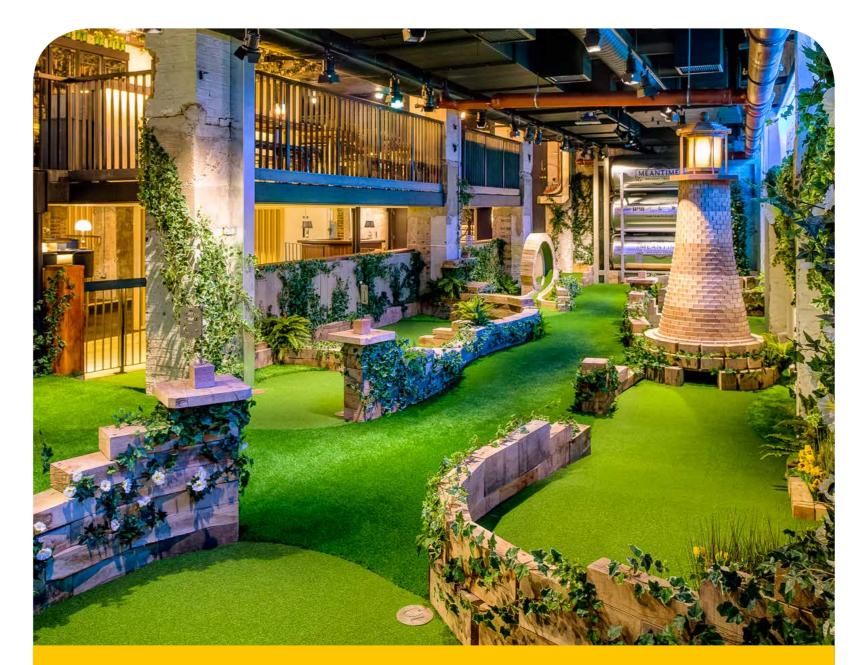
The future of retail

Retail habits are changing with increasing online use, but this still can have a presence in the Town Centre – 7th Avenue, Seattle, USA

Growth in the range of leisure options

Leisure is becoming an increasingly more popular part of the shopping experience - Pink Alley, Vancouver, Canada





Increase in informal activity

Creating spaces to shop, eat, drink and also work informally - Central Parade, Walthamstow

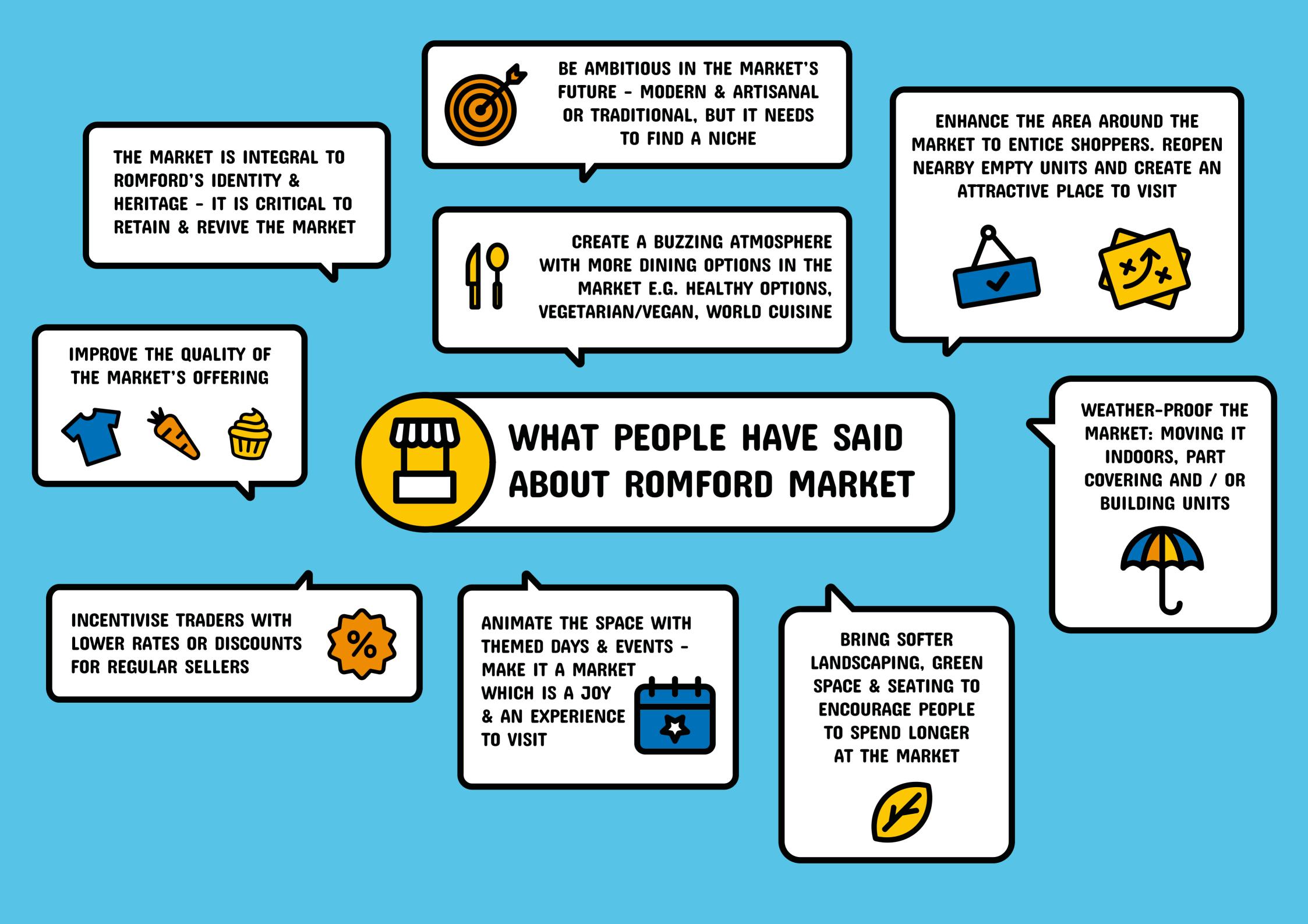
Greater emphasis on experience

Leisure activities, food, drink, and pleasant public spaces can all form part of the Town Centre experience alongside shopping - Swingers City, Aldgate

make:good







ROMFORD MARKET

A Distinctive Local Asset

Romford's market is a huge asset, which will be enhanced to help define Romford's future and distinctiveness. Work is already underway to improve the outlook for the market's future. The Masterplan will support this work, and will use the Market Place as a key component in setting out a future vision for Romford.

The Market Place is a unique space, which can be positively used in a number of ways. It can support events, eating and drinking spaces, and of course also the market itself. In order for the market to be as popular as possible there is an opportunity to test a variety of ideas. There is potential for it to offer a more varied selection of goods, including food, and for these goods to be locally sourced – building the local economy through locally branded products contributing to local distinctiveness: Made in Romford.

Romford is in the unique position of being located within minutes of nearby farmland. Mawneys, for instance, can be included in the production of very local food. Other locally sourced products and wares such as honey, cheese, clothing and artwork can ensure the local and distinctive offer of Romford is celebrated to its full potential.





A varied and diverse offer

There is potential for a facelift for the market with fixed stalls and to extend its opening days throughout the week - Norwich Market





Made in Romford

Local produce by local people, for everyone - Slow Food & Living Market, Camden

Local grocery

Food options can also include locally sourced staple foods and groceries and involve local farmland production – *Kingston Market*.

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DELIVERING DISTINCTIVENESS:

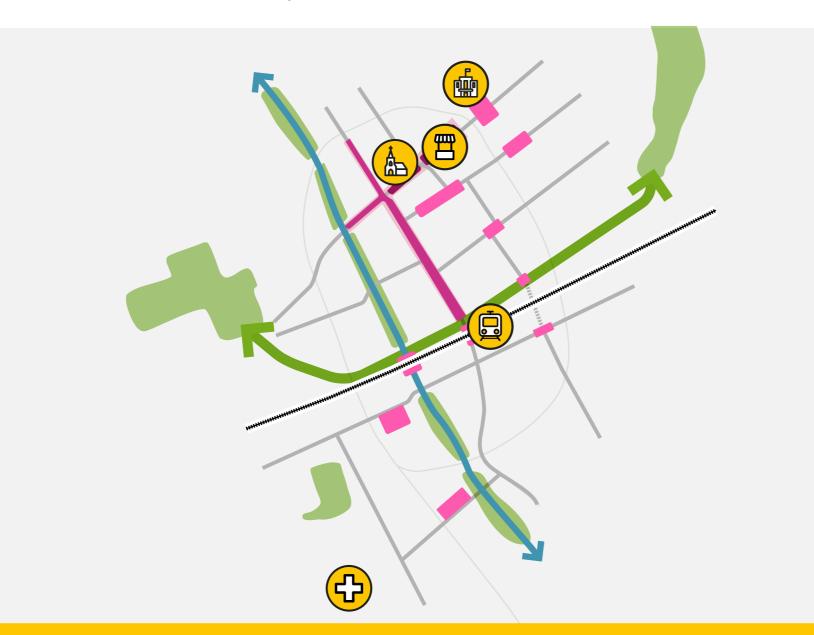
SPACE & LANDSCAPE

SPACE & LANDSCAPE



A Network of Spaces

The space and landscape strategy will create a network of interconnected public spaces across the Town Centre. These spaces will have a variety of characters ranging from larger landscaped town squares with some hard landscape to smaller green pocket parks. Each will be designed to allow for differing activities throughout the day and into the early evening, and will include places to sit and dwell, places to socialise and places to be more active.





Attractive social spaces

Attractive spaces to encourage activity - Bonn Square, Oxford



Connecting the landscape

Connecting green spaces, high quality hard landscaping and social spaces together

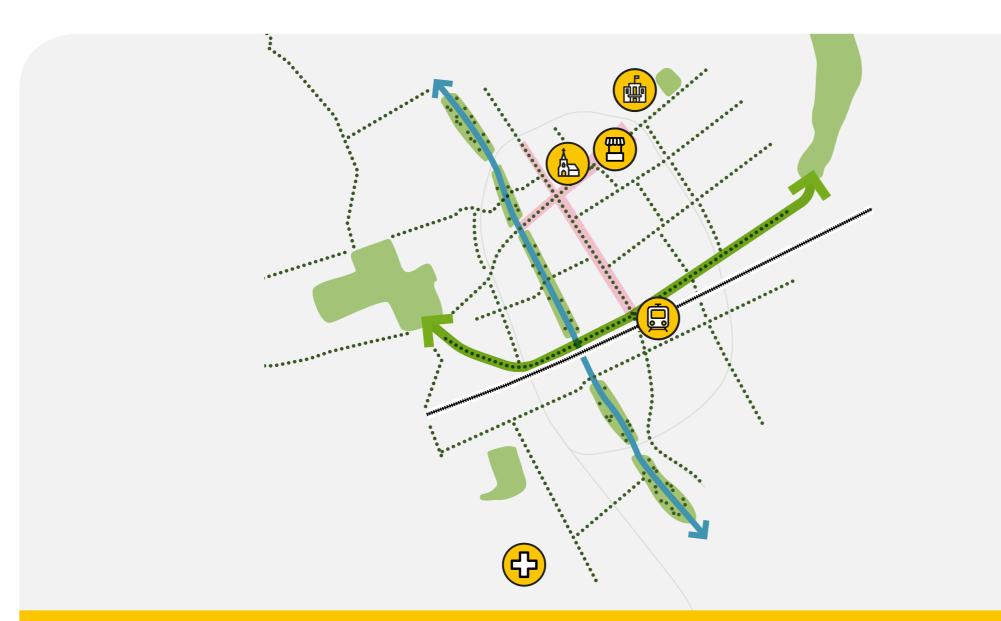
Enhancing the townscape

Celebrating heritage with an improved setting - Grand Central, Chelmsford



The space and landscape strategy will also introduce green connections across Romford to connect nearby parks and spaces such as Harrow Lodge Park and Cottons Park. These connections can be

made up of green spaces, the re-opening of the River Rom and also tree-lined streets. This can support local biodiversity and create attractive and pleasant spaces across the Town Centre.





Connecting nearby green parks

Celebrating the local parks and spaces - Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch



Connecting the surrounding area

Connecting new spaces with larger established green spaces outside the Town Centre



Green links and biodiversity

Trees, planting and green spaces across the Town Centre - Ruskin Square, East Croydon

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DELIVERING DISTINCTIVENESS:

A NETWORK OF STREETS

A NETWORK OF STREETS

Moving around the Town Centre

Romford is very well connected by public transport and by vehicle, with the arrival of the Elizabeth Line further improving this. However, the ring road is a major barrier which limits local connectivity, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

In and around the Town Centre there is potential to create a more inviting and attractive collection of streets across Romford for walking and cycling, encouraging active travel and aiming to improve health and wellbeing. Different characters of routes will connect the Town Centre, across the ring road and along the River Rom. This can also contribute to improving air quality and the environment of the Town Centre.





Improving street quality

Creating spaces for all modes of travel - Fisher Gare, Preston



New & Improved Routes

A shared network of walking and cycling links across the Town Centre that create an inviting environment and help break down the barrier of the ring road

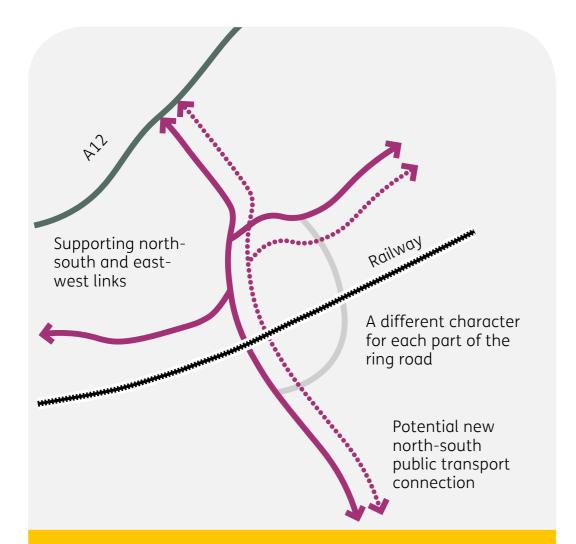
Creating pleasant environments

Streets will be mixed social environments - Venn Street, Clapham

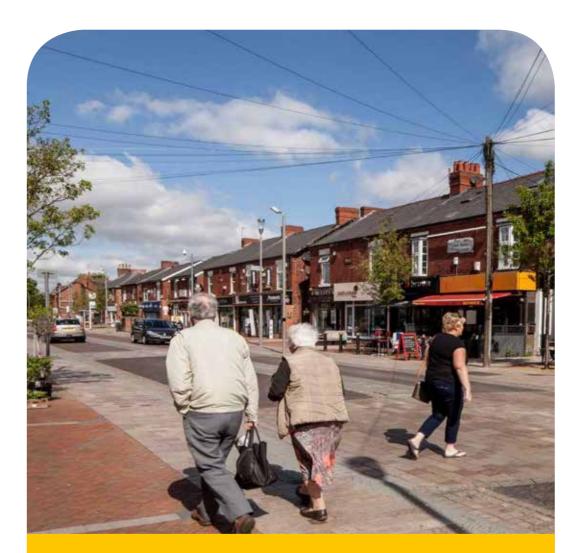


Encouraging active travel

Creating attractive routes to walk and cycle that will encourage active travel – Mini-Holland, Waltham Forest







Supporting strategic links

Supporting wider public transport and vehicular connections

Urbanising the ring road

Creating a more pleasant environment with better frontages and new crossings - Kensington High Street.

Recharacterising the ring road

Introducing a quieter street quality - Park Lane, Poynton

make:good





DELIVERING DISTINCTIVENESS:

A RICH MIX OF CHARACTERS

A RICH MIX OF CHARACTERS

A Vibrant & Diverse Romford

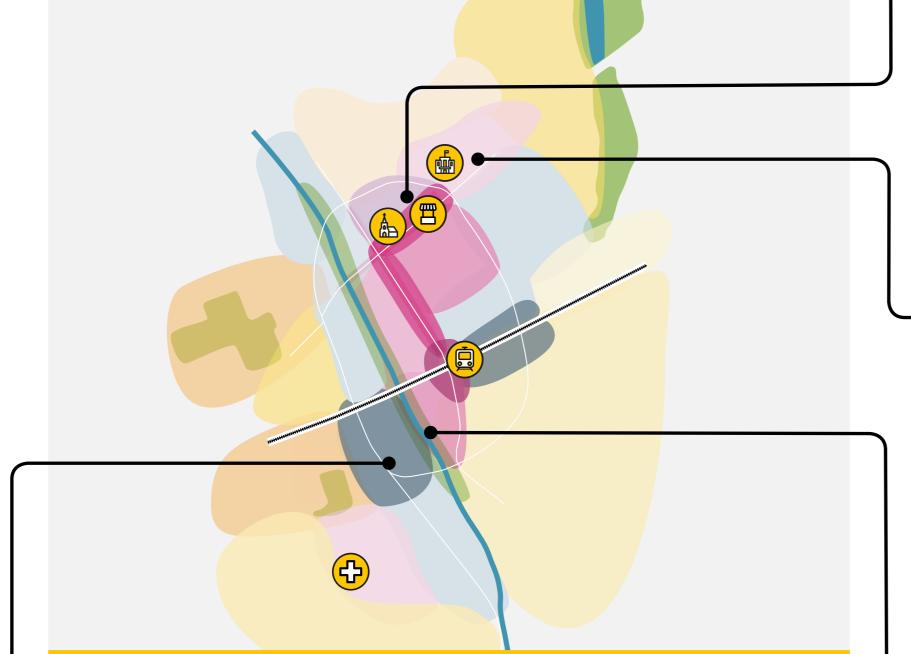
Romford is unique. It is busy and well connected, and the Market Place, St Edward the Confessor Church, the town hall and South Street are just some of its hugely distinctive assets. There is potential to increase its vibrancy and diversity through sculpting a mix of character areas – these can be based on existing assets such as the town hall and the market, and can also be borne out of new and rediscovered assets such as re-opening the River Rom.

Clusters of activity can have a strengthened relationship to support one another and act as focal points – such as between the Civic Quarter and the Market Place, and around the station. These can encourage activity between them as they bring footfall across the Town Centre. The Town Centre can also be larger than the Ring road without needing to be defined by it, feathering into the communities around.



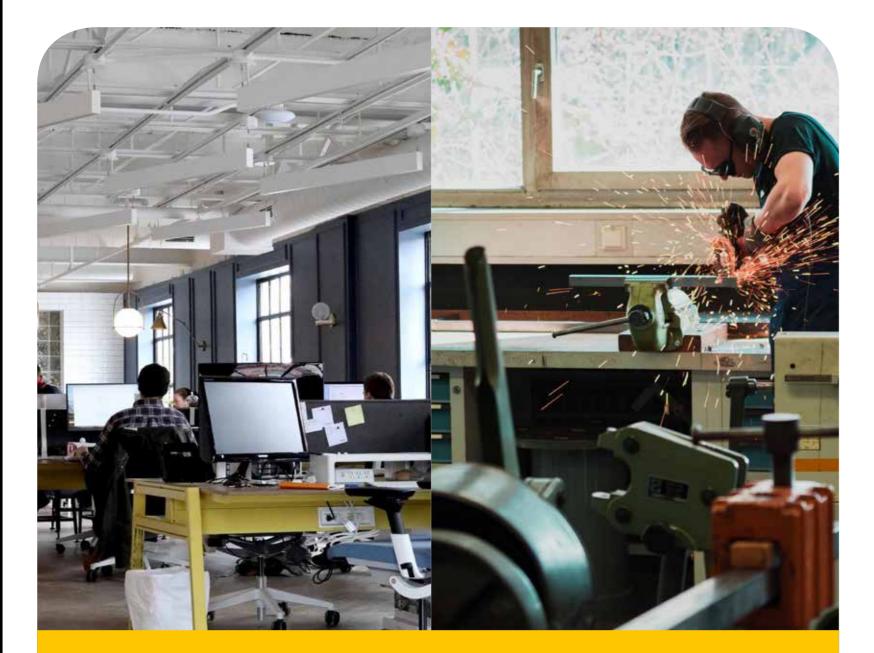
Celebrating the Market

The Market Place will be used for events as well as the market - Kingston Market



Increasing Diversity

A figurative illustration of a rich mix of character areas across Romford





Civic Quarter

Creating an attractive cluster of community uses around the town hall - LB Waltham Forest Town Hall campus



Mixed employment

Encouraging a mix of employment uses: maker spaces, co-working spaces, offices and studios

Re-naturalising the River Rom

A public amenity space with walking routes along it – *Porter Brook, Sheffield*

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DELIVERING DISTINCTIVENESS:

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

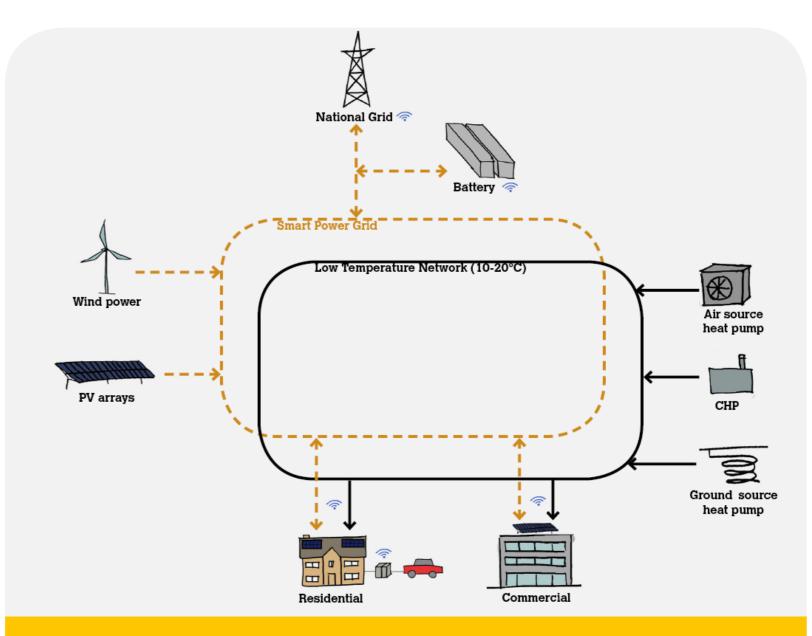
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Low Energy & Low Carbon

The way we consume energy is changing. We are using more renewable energy technologies and shifting towards more local energy production.

There is an opportunity for Romford to take a stake in its own energy generation and gain from supporting the overall decarbonisation of the UK. By doing so, Romford will deliver affordable and low carbon energy to its residents.

There is potential to establish an energy company for Romford powered from renewable resources, which will support local social enterprise and bring positive returns for Romford that benefit the community as a whole.



Creating Romford's own energy supply

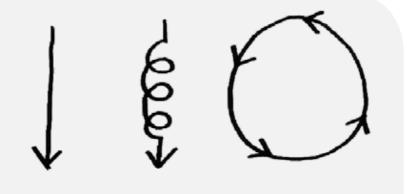
Using renewable energy potential for the benefit of Romford residents

Promoting a Circular Economy

The Circular Economy minimises waste through reuse and long-lasting materials. With a Circular Economy we will handle products and commodities in such a manner that we produce the least possible waste and harmful emissions, such as with better products, with a longer life-cycle re-using products wherever possible and generating new products from 'waste'.

Romford has seen a significant increase in the recycling of waste in recent years. The Circular Economy offers further opportunities to retain the value of waste materials through the construction and operation of the Town Centre, creating new business opportunities in the process. Reduced waste also has a benefit in improving the public

in improving the public realm through enhanced collection approaches.



Linear Recycling Circular Economy Economy Economy

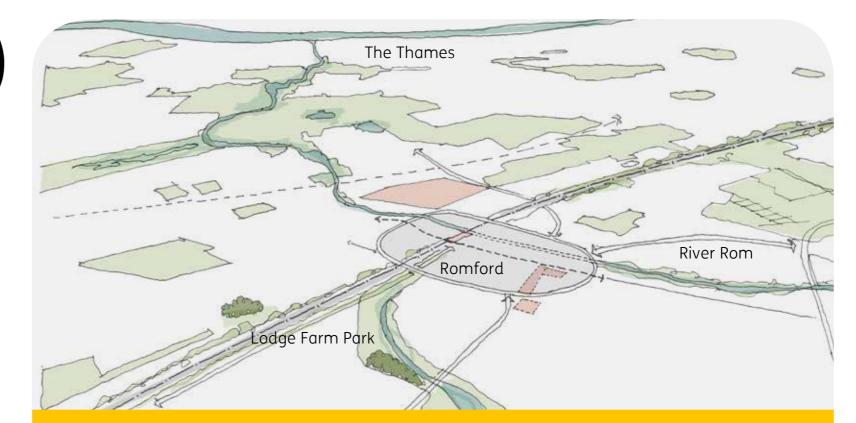


Regeneration and reuse

Left: a 'repair cafe' where people can repair broken items with the help of volunteers. Right: communal recycling facilities for new developments with enhanced collection approaches



Restoring & Connecting the Landscape



Reconnecting and restoring the natural landscape will be a key focus of the Masterplan. Romford has an incredible green context that includes large open parkland and even farmland. Opportunities include the restoration of the River Rom, planting through the Town Centre and connecting up green spaces to create wildlife corridors. In addition to habitat creation, this will bring a wide range of benefits including contributing to sense of place, enhancing wellbeing, cooling of the urban realm and reduction of flood risk.

Reconnecting Romford with its green hinterland

The centre of Romford will be criss-crossed with green links to better connect it with nearby green spaces

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