

April 5th, 2022

## **Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 7th April 2022 at 7:00 pm** in **via Zoom**.

# Agenda

## Zoom Guidance

[Guidance for virtual Council meetings.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## Agenda

(Attached)

[Agenda RDC7.04.22.pdf](#)

*Page 1*

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Covid 19 Revitalisation Funding Update**

Report attached

[3.0 Covid Funding Update 24mar22.pdf](#)

*Page 3*

## 4. High Street Task Force

Report attached

[4.0 High Street Taskforce Call for Evidence Response update report 24mar22.pdf](#)

*Page 9*

[4.1 High Street Task Force - Delivering a 21st Century High Street.pdf](#)

*Page 11*

[4.2 High Street Task Force - Call for Evidence 2022 Report.pdf](#)

*Page 35*

## 5. Notices of Motion

### 5.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Walker & Alderman McDowell

That this Council - recognising the potential difference we could make to the lives of residents and businesses throughout our Borough if we were to have full responsibility for a Regeneration budget as envisaged in the Review of Public Administration - does agree to write to the Minister for Communities requesting that they undertake to devolve such powers to Local Councils within the period of the new Assembly Mandate. And further, that Officers are tasked to bring back a report outlining a programme of engagement with other Councils, SOLACE, and NILGA to present a united campaign to secure the

Minister's support.

## 6. Any Other Notified Business

**\*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

## 7. Tender Report on Seaflag Harbour Project, Portavogie – delegated authority to approve

Report to follow

## 8. Pickie Q3 report – 1 Oct-31 Dec 2021

Report attached

[8.0 Pickie Quarter 3 report 1 Oct-31 Dec 2021.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## 9. Exploris Q3 report 1 Oct-31 Dec 2021

Report attached

[9.0 Exploris Quarter 3 report 1 Oct-31 Dec 2021.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## 10. Memorandum of Understanding with the Strangford Lough and Lecale Tourism Cluster

Report attached

[10.0 MOU with the Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster.pdf](#)

*Not included*

[10.1 Appendix 1 - MOU with the Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster.PDF](#)

*Not included*

[10.2 Appendix 2 - SLTC MOU Members List.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## 11. Tourism Events Grants – Formal appeals

Report attached

[11.0 Tourism Events Grants Formal Appeals.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## 12. PGA EuroPro Tour, NI Masters 24-26 Aug 2022

Report attached

[12.0 PGA EuroPro Tour NI Masters 24.26 Aug 2022.pdf](#)

*Not included*

[12.1 Appendix 1 - Summary Marketing Coverage EuroPro NI Masters 2021.pdf](#)

*Not included*

### **13. Cockle Row Cottages Update Report**

Report attached

 *13.0 Cockle Row Cottages update report.pdf*

*Not included*

### **14. Portaferry Ropewalk Improvement Scheme Update**

 *14.0 Ropewalk update report.pdf*

*Not included*

## **ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

1 April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the Regeneration and Development Committee of the Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held on **Thursday, 7 April 2022**, commencing at **7.00pm virtually via Zoom**.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

### **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Covid 19 Revitalisation Funding Update (report attached)
4. High Street Task Force (report attached)
5. Notice of Motion
  - 5.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Walker and Alderman McDowell

That this Council - recognising the potential difference we could make to the lives of residents and businesses throughout our Borough if we were to have full responsibility for a Regeneration budget as envisaged in the Review of Public Administration - does agree to write to the Minister for Communities requesting that they undertake to devolve such powers to Local Councils within the period of the new Assembly Mandate. And further, that Officers are tasked to bring back a report outlining a programme of engagement with other Councils, SOLACE, and NILGA to present a united campaign to secure the Minister's support.

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11. Tourism Events Grants – Formal appeals (report attached)
12. PGA EuroPro Tour, NI Masters 24-26 Aug 2022 (report attached)
13. Cockle Row Cottages Update Report (report attached)
14. Portaferry Ropewalk Improvement Scheme Update (report attached)

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Alderman Girvan	Councillor Brooks
Alderman Menagh	Councillor Cummings
Alderman McDowell (Chairman)	Councillor Dunlop
Alderman Wilson	Councillor Gilmour
Alderman Smith	Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Adair	Councillor McClean
Councillor Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor McKimm (Vice Chair)
Councillor Blaney	Councillor Walker

Unclassified

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## ITEM 3

## Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	07 April 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	23 March 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Covid 19 Revitalisation Funding Update
Attachments	None

**1. Background**

As members will be aware the Department for Communities (DfC) issued a Letter of Offer for c£1.75M for Covid 19 revitalisation projects. This funding comprised of DfC, Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA) contributions in response to the impact of the pandemic on the local area and to assist the revitalisation of towns and rural areas.

**2. Projects delivered**

The following projects have been undertaken:

**Item 1 – Business Adaptation and Improvement Scheme – Urban**

Budget allocation: £740,000. Funding stream: DfC Capital

Grants up to £2,500 for businesses to adapt and/or improve their premises/practices regarding the impact from Covid-19.

Total number of applications received: 478

Total number of Letters of Offer issued: 390

Total number of claims processed and paid to applicants to date: 341 (9 claims to be submitted and processed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

Total amount of grant paid to date: £699,396.35

Status: **Completion end of March 2022**

## Unclassified

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**Item 2 – Solar Bins - Urban**

Budget allocation: £42,510. Funding stream: DfC Capital

Installation of 10 solar bins across the towns.

Status: **Complete**

**Item 3 – Flower Sculptures - Urban**

Budget allocation: £40,000. Funding stream: DfC Capital

Five living sculptures were installed within each of the Town Centres. Each sculpture was individually themed to represent a key aspect of the town centre (Bangor-Mermaid | Comber-Brent Goose | Donaghadee-Waves | Hollywood-Golfer | Newtownards-Spitfire)

Status: **Complete**

**Item 4 – Donaghadee Copelands Court - Urban**

Split budget:

Budget allocation: £43,631. Funding stream: DfC

Budget allocation: £76,369. Funding stream: DfI - Total allocation: £120,000.

Environmental Improvement Scheme at Donaghadee Harbour Copeland Court which included levelling of area, new drainage, lighting, resurfacing, planting and a mural.

Status: **Complete**

**Item 5 – Comber Town Improvement Scheme Part 1**

Budget allocation: £30,000. Funding stream: DfI

Phase 1 minor town improvement scheme; providing a linkage from the new cycling infrastructure and the greenway entrance.

Status: **Complete**

**Item 6 – Cycling Infrastructure – Urban**

Budget allocation: £60,000. Funding stream: DfI

Design, production and installation of a range of cycling infrastructure within the town centres to assist and promote active travel.

Status: Tender complete, equipment received – **installation to take place March/April**

**Item 7 – Hollywood Green Scheme – Urban**

Budget allocation: £2,815. Funding stream: DfI

This project relates to the second of three Hollywood Town Subway schemes, administered and supervised by 'Subways Action Group' a focus group within Hollywood Residents Association. The project transformed the subway at Redburn Square to improve the appearance of this key gateway to the town.

Status: **Complete**



## Unclassified

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**Item 8 – Cycling Infrastructure – Rural**

Split budget:

Budget allocation 1: £8,631. Funding stream: Dfl

Budget allocation 2: £31,369. Funding stream: DAERA - Total allocation: £47,400.

Design, production and installation of a range of cycling infrastructure within the various villages of the Borough to assist and promote active travel.

Status: Tender complete, equipment received – **installation to take place March/April**

**Item 9 – Business Adaptation and Improvement Scheme – Rural**

Budget allocation: £161,614. Funding stream: DAERA

Grants up to £2,500 for businesses to adapt and/or improve their premises/practices regarding the impact from Covid-19.

Total Number of applications received: 134

Total number of Letter of offers issued: 98

Total number of Letters of Offer claims processed: 81

Total amount of grant paid to date: £161,614

Total number of applications received: 87

Total number of Letters of Offer issued: 73

Total number of claims processed and paid to applicants: £161,614

Total amount of grant paid to date: £161,614

Status: **Complete.**

**Item 10 – Marketing Campaign (Part 1)**

Budget allocation: £15,000. Funding stream: DfC Revenue

'Shop Local' marketing campaign across the Borough to promote the offerings and assist recovery.

Status: **Complete**

**3. Projects still on-going**

The following projects are still continuing and funding has been extended to September 2022 for their delivery. Confirmation of this has been received from DfC.

**Item 11 – Hollywood Covering - Urban**

Budget allocation: £100,000. Funding stream: DfC Capital

Design, production and installation of a bespoke, waterproof, modular structure located Hibernia Street. Approx.24m length.

Status: Ongoing – Tender complete and appointment of contractor. Planning application submitted – awaiting outcome. **Expected completion September 2022**

**Item 12 – Parklets - Urban**

Budget allocation: £200,000. Funding stream: Dfl

## Unclassified

6

Design, production and installation of 10 parklets within the town centres. Providing flexible, safe and inviting spaces for a range of uses that will help support the local economy.

Status: DfI approved obtained, planning application submitted – awaiting outcome. **Expected completion Summer 2022.**

**Item 13 – Professional and Technical Fees**

Budget allocation: £24,000. Funding stream: DfC Revenue

Professional and technical fees associated with the range of projects/ interventions within the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme.

Status: ongoing. **Expected completion September 2022**

**Item 14 – Post Project Evaluation**

Budget allocation: £15,000. Funding stream: DfC Revenue

Appointment of consultants to deliver a Post Project Evaluation to include post project shopper and user surveys and evaluation report.

Status: **Expected delivery approx. 3months following scheme completion.**

**4. Projects not going ahead****Item 15 – McKee Clock Covering - Urban**

Budget allocation: £50,000. Funding stream: DfC Capital

The proposed project was to install a covering at McKee Clock to provide a sheltered area for the use of markets, animation, and performance.

Due to constraints regarding statutory consents, the impact of the Bangor Waterfront/Queen's Parade schemes, it was agreed at a meeting of the Bangor Town Advisory Group to dismiss this project and reallocate the budget to Parklets. This was recommended by the Bangor Town Advisory Group.

Status: **Reallocated.**

**Item 16 – Electrical Vehicle Charging Points - Urban**

Budget allocation: £20,000. Funding stream: DfI

The proposed project was to install a number of electrical vehicle charging points within the town centres. Due to constraints with the electrical contractor for electric feeds this was not feasible in the timescale.

Status: **A reduced scheme to be incorporated within Item 17 (Comber Public Realm Phase 2) – for consideration.**

## Unclassified

**5. Underspend**

The following shows the underspend after projects have been completed or not proceeding:

<b>DfC Capital</b>	£91,859.00
<b>DfI</b>	£20,185.00
<b>DAERA</b>	£34,589.40
<b>DfC Revenue</b>	£5,500.00

The Funders have now agreed to extend the scheme until at least 30 September 2022.

**6. Additional Projects**

The following projects have been identified following internal consultation on what could be reasonably delivered within the timescales required. These have also been supported by the appropriate Town Advisory Group. These projects also meet the criteria set by the three Departments and approval in principle has been received.

**Item 17 – Comber Town Improvement Scheme Phase 2 (Bridge Street/ Leisure Centre Car Park)**

Proposed budget: £82,074. Funding stream: DfC £61,859 | DfI £20,185.

**Phase 2 Comber Town Improvement Scheme (Bridge Street/ Leisure Centre Car Park)**

The proposed project aims to:

- improve linkages between the existing greenway, leisure centre and the retail core of the town centre
- promote connectivity by enhancing the existing area to create a safe and attractive environment
- encourage and support active travel by providing a safe route for people to walk and cycle
- introduction of LED lighting which will support active travel in the evenings and improve residents and visitor's safety and security
- provide infrastructure for the future installation of Electrical Vehicle Charging Points

It should be noted that the proposed scheme is currently being costed and as such these are indicative costs.

Project constraints to be aware of are statutory consents and external issues such as rising contractor and material costs.

**Item 18 – Bangor Lighting Improvement Scheme (Castle Park/ Abbey Street)**

Proposed budget: £30,000. Funding stream: DfC

**Lighting Improvement Scheme (Castle Park/ Abbey Street)**

The proposed project aims to:

- improve linkages to the retail core of the Town Centre
- promote connectivity by enhancing the existing area to create a safe and attractive environment
- improve safety and accessibility for all users (pedestrians, wheelchair users, cyclists, parents with prams, etc)
- encourage and support active travel by providing a safe route for people to walk or cycle
- support active travel in the evenings and improve residents and visitor's safety and security

It should be noted that the proposed scheme is currently being costed and as such these are indicative costs.

## Unclassified

Project constraints to be aware of are statutory consents and external issues such as rising contractor and material costs.

Note - this project has been raised on a number of occasions by elected members and the public, but due to budget constraints this was not progressed.

**Item 19 – Rural Signage Scheme**

Proposed budget: £43,192.89. Funding stream: DAERA £34,589.40 | ANDBC £8,603.49 (existing budgets)

Production and installation of village entrance signage.

The proposed project aims to:

- provide new and improved physical infrastructure and environment in which opportunity can flourish in economic, social and cultural terms to develop our attractiveness as a home, place of business, and tourist destinations
- providing villages with its own identity and creating a sense of welcome and arrival in the village
- making the villages a more attractive place to live, work and visit, whilst encouraging a sense of pride within communities
- similar design that will connect and link the rural settlements
- the signage will reflect the heritage of the village

It should be noted that the proposed scheme is currently being costed and as such these are indicative costs.

**Item 20 – Marketing Campaign (Part 2)**

Proposed budget: £5,500. Funding stream: DfC Revenue.

To deliver a second phase of the 'Shop Local' marketing campaign across the five town centres of the borough.

To provide a further boost to the local traders during the summer period and reiterate the message of 'Shop Local/ Support Local'

Campaign to include a range of outdoor advertising, social and print.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the extension for the delivery of the scheme and agrees to:

1. progress the reallocation of budget lines within the various projects/interventions and
2. approve the proposed projects (Items 17-20) to utilise the identified underspend.

Unclassified

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## ITEM 4

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	07 April 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	24 March 2022
File Reference	RDP206
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	High Street Taskforce
Attachments	Appendix 1: High Street Taskforce - Delivering a 21 <sup>st</sup> Century High Street report Appendix 2: High Street Taskforce - Call for Evidence report

At the meeting of the Regeneration and Development Committee held on 9 December 2021 members were advised that the Executive had announced a new High Street Task Force for NI which was tasked with considering and addressing the key issues affecting businesses. This was part of a wider announcement outlining several Executive actions in relation to Covid-19.

The Executive stated that it was clear that towns face a range of economic and social challenges. Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic undoubtedly exacerbated the situation, many of the challenges are longstanding, stemming from the financial crisis of 2009, prolonged underinvestment in infrastructure, and changing patterns of consumer behaviour.

The Executive then issued a 'call for evidence' covering a range of topics including Partnerships, Management of High Street, Investment, Village and Town Masterplans, High Street Environment, Stimulation of the Economy, Capacity Skills, Greener Environments, Living in/around High Streets, Journeying to High Streets, Tourism, Digital Innovations, Village Developments and Localism. A Council response was prepared and submitted.

Unclassified

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The High Street Task Force launched its Report on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, 'Delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century High Street', copy attached, as well as a copy of their 'Call for Evidence Report'.

The report summarises the findings and advice of the High Street Task Force including 13 recommendations across the immediate, medium and longer term, to deliver the vision: "Sustainable city, town and village centres which are thriving places for people to do business, socialise, shop, be creative and use public services as well as being great places to live."

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the report.



Northern Ireland  
Executive

[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)



# High Street Task Force

Delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century High Street





# Delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century High Street

A Report and  
Recommendations by the  
High Street Task Force –  
**March 2022**



Shipquay Street,  
Derry~Londonderry

# 1. Introduction

## The High Street Task Force Report

- 1.1. This report summarises the findings, advice and recommendations of a High Street Task Force (HSTF), appointed by Ministers in August 2020, to deliver the following agreed vision:  
*“Sustainable city, town and village centres which are thriving places for people to do business, socialise, shop, be creative and use public services as well as being great places to live.”*
- 1.2. The report represents a genuine collaboration across sectors, including expertise from central and local government, academia and the third sector, as well as businesses that are based on the high street. It is accompanied by and reflects the views contained within the [“Call for Evidence Report 2022”](#) on the extensive consultation and engagement which got us to this point. This report has been developed by the independent HSTF<sup>1</sup> to prioritise those actions that can drive delivery and build momentum. It cannot capture all of the views expressed, but those views will be taken on board as we move ahead.
- 1.3. That collaborative approach must continue over the coming years to deliver high streets, village, town and city centres that are fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The HSTF proposes that, in the first instance, there is a five-year programme of work to reinvent our high streets led by the Executive and the Assembly.

## The Challenges

- 1.4. Our high streets have experienced constant and increasing change, particularly in recent years. Technology has changed how we shop and communicate for ever. This fundamental change, together with a global financial crisis, and, most recently, COVID-19, has created a huge set of challenges for the high streets that we value so much.

<sup>1</sup> The HSTF also comprised officials from a number of government Departments who brought information and insights to the process. The HSTF report is not an expression of government policy.



Commercial Court – Belfast

## The Opportunities

- 1.5. There are also new opportunities: specifically, to create a more diverse high street; to address social needs as well as economic sustainability; and to deliver green growth. More than ever before, it is clear that our actions must focus on people and communities. Rather than viewing the empty premises in our town centres as derelict buildings or eyesores, let us be ambitious and see them as homes for new enterprises of the future.

## The Approach

- 1.6. We need our high streets to be clean, green, fun, family-friendly destinations that are welcoming for everyone, including residents, visitors, entrepreneurs and workers.
- 1.7. Meeting the challenges which have been identified will include significant changes in planning, business rates, regeneration, and infrastructure investment. That, in turn, means involving and working closely with everyone who has a key interest in and ability to transform our high streets in line with the vision.
- 1.8. The approach that we set out here is not about top-down or one-size-fits-all solutions; it is about empowering people and communities to reshape and repurpose their local villages, towns and cities. The role of central and local government should be to support local leadership and encourage and resource the local action, working across sectors, to realise our vision.

## 2. Building on Existing Work

- 2.1. While recognising that urgent changes are needed, the HSTF acknowledges that important actions have already been undertaken by the Executive to support the high street as part of other regeneration strategies and in response to the pandemic. These are set out in our [“Call for Evidence Report 2022”](#), and they range from rates holidays that have been so crucial for high street businesses throughout the pandemic, to targeted interventions such as the Spend Local voucher scheme and a range of other interventions supported by Executive Departments for village, town and city centres, as well as the development of city and growth deals.
- 2.2. Local government has worked closely with central government Departments on place-based regeneration for many years, and the HSTF welcomes the transformation that has happened as a result in places such as Ebrington in Derry~Londonderry, Belfast City Centre and seaside towns such as Newcastle and Portrush. These efforts should continue, but should be informed by our proposals on the importance of local leadership and our strong recommendation that such places become much more diverse in their role as places to live and socialise as well as to work and do business.



Old-style High Street sign

## 3. OUR PROPOSALS

- 3.1. The HSTF completed an extensive Call for Evidence to capture the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The submissions received, together with the views of HSTF members, have informed our proposals. These are presented to the incoming Executive for Ministers to consider. Some solutions need to be developed and implemented over the longer term, but others can be delivered more quickly.
- 3.2. The HSTF members were encouraged by Ministers to be challenging and innovative, and we recognise that government will have more work to do to develop our ideas further.
- 3.3. The HSTF acknowledges the important role played by our cities and city regions. They play an important role as centres for commerce, employment, foreign direct investment, culture and tourism, entertainment and learning. They are critical in terms of opportunities for economic growth that benefit the whole of the region, and they can be home to shared services so that duplication is avoided and that development can take place in a sustainable way. It is important that our city centres become places for living. With more homes come more people, and this will help sustain the vibrant mix of living, working and doing business, as well as community and leisure services that we want to see on our high streets. Consideration needs to be given by the Executive as to the required investment that is required to drive this forward.



Enniskillen Castle,  
Fermanagh



## Recommendation 1: Executive Support for Our Cities and City Regions

- 3.4.** The HSTF therefore recommends that the Executive continues to support our cities and city regions as key drivers of economic growth and prosperity, and considers the support needed to strengthen their role in positioning the region for investment and innovation and to address the objectives of increasing city centre living.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS – YEAR 1

- 3.5.** The HSTF's view is that every high street, village, town and city centre has its own unique set of specific issues, strengths and assets, as well as facing many common challenges. Early work should therefore focus on understanding each place and developing bespoke plans; learning from others.
- 3.6.** For example, Los Angeles launched a programme in 2013, recognising that streets are the city's largest public asset. This involved substantial investments, partnerships with communities and grants to transform an underutilised asset into vibrant spaces that reflect the unique character of their communities.
- 3.7.** We propose a Living High Streets approach, working in partnership with local communities to design the vibrant spaces that they need. The Ministerial Advisory Group on Architecture and the Built Environment<sup>2</sup>(MAG) has developed a way to lead local co-production on the future of high streets and town centres. The Living High Streets Craft Kit sets out why the high street is important, who should be involved in shaping it and how to go about doing so. The "how-to" focuses on a series of questions that should be asked about a place. This will provide a better understanding and combine social, environmental and economic insights to determine what should be done.



St George's Market,  
Belfast

<sup>2</sup> An arm's-length body of the Department for Communities.

## Recommendation 2: Living High Streets Programme

- 3.8.** The HSTF has endorsed the Living High Streets Craft Kit and now recommends that it is rolled out with the necessary support for implementation in each high street, village, town and city centre that is prioritised for action by the relevant district council.
- 3.9.** In each place, the Craft Kit approach will lead to local actions that can be implemented quickly. At the moment, many creative proposals fall because there is no clear route to secure resources.

## Recommendation 3: Living High Streets Fund

- 3.10.** The HSTF therefore recommends that a fund is created to support such initiatives. We describe this as an agile or pop-up fund, and we suggest that it is made available for projects that are sponsored by district councils and delivered by a competitive process in which the HSTF has an advisory role.

## Recommendation 4: Immediate Rates Relief

- 3.11.** The Executive should reinstate the Back in Business Rate Relief Scheme to encourage vacant properties to be brought back into use and should ensure that there is ongoing protection for small and start-up businesses by extending the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. The Executive should also bring forward proposals to improve the Rates Hardship Fund and look at ways of establishing a Capital Allowance Rate scheme to support business growth.

## MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS – YEARS 2 TO 3

- 3.12.** The HSTF is convinced that, over the next three years, real progress is possible by utilising the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme, the city and growth deals and the Investment Strategy. High-street-related projects will complement the major projects that these initiatives will deliver. For example, at present, these programmes involve restoring and renovating some key properties that can act as centres of rejuvenation for high streets. We need to maximise the impact of those investments and ensure that the benefits are realised by local communities. That can only happen by way of partnerships between central government, local government and local communities and businesses.



Hill of the O'Neill,  
Dungannon

## Recommendation 5: High Street Investment Programme

- 3.13.** The HSTF urges the Executive to prioritise the delivery of place-making by developing and implementing an investment programme for blue-green infrastructure, cleaner and greener public realm and sustainable transport. Through the programme, the Executive must ensure that investment is balanced across the region. Rural communities should see their village centres become home to community hubs that make use of heritage buildings where possible.



Donaghadee

## Recommendation 6: High Street Council Plans

- 3.14.** The HSTF strongly recommends that district councils each develop dereliction strategies and action plans and that they use their existing powers to transform streets and village centres. By investing in such proposals, they will attract new levels of footfall, retain spending power in their districts and benefit from a growing rates base. This will complement the programme under Recommendation 5.
- 3.15.** While technology has created problems for our high streets — particularly for our retailers — it can also bring opportunities. With many employers offering hybrid working in which their staff can work in an office, at home or a third place, there is a need to ensure that our regional towns and villages are able to provide an attractive place for workers.

## Recommendation 7: Smart High Streets

- 3.16.** Alongside investment in the quality of place, the HSTF therefore recommends that the Executive identify a lead Minister to champion Smart High Streets. This will optimise the role of high streets through universal WiFi access, the Internet of Things, augmented reality and a range of other initiatives which can secure the benefits offered by digital technologies.

## Recommendation 8: Fair Work on Our High Streets

- 3.17.** Our high streets are also workplaces. The HSTF supports the promotion of good work and fair work policies for workers in our high streets. To that end, the HSTF recommends that the Executive implements the commitments made in the New Decade New Approach agreement<sup>3</sup> to promote this policy and ensure best work practices and high standards in our high streets.

<sup>3</sup> See [New Decade New Approach](#), Appendix 2, paragraph 1(x)

## LONGER-TERM PROPOSALS – TOWARDS 2050

- 3.19.** The draft Investment Strategy Infrastructure 2050, agreed recently by the Executive and currently out for consultation, sets out what we need in which to enhance our communities and places:

*“Our towns and villages need to regain and then retain their vibrancy, purpose and sense of place. High streets of the future should be safe and attractive gathering points for whole communities, where people can live, work, shop, learn, do business, use public services and enjoy their leisure time...”*

*Significant intervention will be required to help our towns and villages. In cases of market failure, the public sector may need to rethink the location of service delivery and administration investment or pump-prime regeneration, at least in the short term, to encourage private and community investment. This can support the long-term evolution of our high streets from retail centres, helping them to redefine their purpose, to embrace a broader role servicing local social, environmental, housing and economic needs.”*

- 3.20.** The HSTF strongly supports proposals to put important public services and amenities right in the middle of the high street which are accessible by sustainable forms of transport. Whether these are libraries, healthcare facilities, places for education and community use, or simply more and better housing, these investment choices will help to create vibrant, people-focused places in line with our vision.



Belfast Bikes

- 3.21.** This requires innovation in projects and investment programmes, but it will only be possible if it is supported by the right policy and legislation. Our policy should support and protect the distinctiveness of our high streets, including their cultural and built heritage; these are the things that people value. Our planning and fiscal policies and systems, therefore, need to be up to the task, and our delivery arrangements need to be agile.
- 3.22.** In line with Infrastructure 2050, the HSTF supports investment that enables sustainable development of our villages, towns and city centres. This means ensuring that there is enough capacity in our water, power and telecommunications systems to support new homes, business and other facilities and that places are designed and laid out thoughtfully in layperson terms.

## Recommendation 10: High Street Investment Programme – Long Term

- 3.23.** We recommend that the High Street Investment Programme is developed within the overarching Investment Strategy. This should include strategic investment decisions required to progress the vision set out above.



Planning Drawing

## Recommendation 11: Review of Planning Processes

- 3.24.** We suggest that, together with the right long-term spending decisions, it is important that our planning system works efficiently and effectively. We therefore recommend that the Executive works to implement the recent review of the Planning Act 2011 to ensure that it acts as an enabler of sustainable development in city, town and village centres. We also recommend that, in Year 1, the Executive review the operation and implementation of the existing Town Centre First Retail Planning policy to ensure that it is working, and, where it is not working, identify appropriate measures to fix it. This will apply to councils and central government.
- 3.25.** Where possible, opportunities should be taken to streamline processes so that the changes identified as necessary for town centres through local initiatives — such as the Living High Streets Craft Kit — can be implemented without delay or undue cost. This includes reducing the need to submit planning applications for minor developments in town centres by reviewing permitted development rights and the Use Classes Order.

## Recommendation 12: Local Government Powers

- 3.26.** The HSTF heard views during the Call for Evidence that the Executive should devolve further powers to local government, including those needed for regeneration. We recommend that, during the next mandate, Ministers engage with elected representatives from local government and the Assembly to explore the benefits of extending powers in this way.
- 3.27.** We have seen how, over many years, the rates burden has fallen on non-domestic ratepayers to such an extent that the relationship between rent and rates for our local businesses has become unbalanced. The rates burden is a major obstacle to investment.

## Recommendation 13: Review of Fiscal Policies

- 3.28.** It is recommended that there is a fundamental review of non-domestic rates. We recognise the need to raise revenue for public services and suggest that the Executive review its fiscal policies as a top priority; this should look holistically at the impact of taxing businesses and households here. We look to the new Fiscal Council to engage with stakeholders in our village, town and city centres as it develops its advice for Ministers.



The Diamond, Coleraine

## 4. Making it Happen

- 4.1. With the commitment of Ministers and the involvement of people and organisations across many sectors, the HSTF is confident that real change is possible. We strongly recommend that a focus on implementation is seen as a priority now and in the longer term. We see the lifetime of our proposals for at least five years and they should be regarded as the Executive's programme for our high streets for the entirety of the next Assembly mandate.



Generic High Street Sign

- 4.2. This means that substantial resources will have to be made available as part of the core functions of several Departments and by local government to deliver meaningful change. The resources needed to continue the engagement that has now started are comparatively modest. The allocation of roles and responsibilities will be for the agreement of the Executive, but a coordinated programme-based approach will be required with senior responsible owners appointed by Ministers.

### Recommendation 14: A Five-Year Programme

- 4.3. We recognise that our high streets exist in an ever-changing environment and we will see changes in transportation, homes, workplaces and much more besides. The programme that we have set out here must be equally dynamic. We therefore recommend that the HSTF is kept in place for the next five years — refreshing its membership as necessary — with support from central government for monitoring, evaluation, research and outreach. Such support should extend to resourcing the creation and maintenance of a web-based resource or micro-site to provide helpful advice, case studies and other material that can be used to support local action.





Carnlough

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1.** The HSTF members have welcomed the opportunity to engage with government over the last 18 months on the future of our high streets. We are hugely grateful to all those who took the time to share their views with us, and we believe that we have reflected those views in a set of realistic proposals for consideration by Ministers.

## Membership of the High Street Task Force

### Business Alliance

Department for Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs

Department for Communities

Department for Infrastructure

Department for the Economy

Department of Finance

Federation of Small Businesses

Hospitality Ulster

Mr Chris Sutor (Business Owner)

NI Council for Voluntary Action

NI Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

NI Local Government Association

NI Retail Consortium

Queen's University Belfast

Retail NI

Social Enterprise NI

SOLACE – The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

Ulster University

USDAW – The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

## Annex A - Image Index

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# High Street Task Force Call for Evidence Report 2022

# CALL FOR EVIDENCE REPORT 2022



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## 1. Introduction

On 6 August 2020, the Executive announced that it would establish a cross-departmental High Street Task Force (HSTF) chaired by the Junior Ministers in the Executive Office. It has members from a wide range of sectors including retail, hospitality, academia, central and local government, and the community and voluntary sectors. Collaboration, both inside and outside of government, has been at the heart of its approach.

The HSTF has the aim to deliver the following bold and ambitious vision:

***“Sustainable city, town and village centres which are thriving places for people to do business, socialise, shop, be creative and use public services, as well as being great places to live.”***

The HSTF has a long-term focus on addressing the pressing need for the transformation of our high streets in response to fundamental societal and economic changes. It has brought forward recommendations on priority work areas and potential funding opportunities, as detailed in the [“Delivering a 21st Century High Street”](#) report.

The HSTF met in plenary format and established four bespoke subgroups reflecting the four functions or work streams of the HSTF, namely:

- Influencing Policy and Strategy;
- Developing Capacity;
- Developing and Promoting Good Practice;
- Influencing and Shaping Intervention and Investment.

## High Street Task Force – Call for Evidence Report

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The subgroups took evidence, for example from the Ministerial Advisory Group on Architecture and the Built Environment<sup>1</sup>, and from the High Streets Task Force in England. They developed issues papers on a wide range of themes, ranging from housing, regeneration and getting to and from high streets, which were reflected in the [Call for Evidence](#) (CfE).

On 25 October 2021, the deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA, and Junior Minister, Gary Middleton MLA [launched the High Street Call for Evidence](#), which sought views to help shape the way forward in creating vibrant and sustainable city, town and village centres.

This report summarises the findings from the Call for Evidence. The significant stakeholder engagement provided a wide range of suggestions and proposals. The HSTF Secretariat have endeavoured to summarise the responses without judgement or interpretation.

Common themes were identified and issues were raised in response to each question; considering those in support of as well as those that disagreed on the issues raised. It does not aim to cover the entire breadth of the consultation responses.

This report is designed to publicly air and test the emerging findings to stimulate and further progress the conversation on high streets, taking into account the benefits, costs and practical implications. Ultimately, it will be for the next Executive to determine and agree the steps needed to deliver on the ambitions of the HSTF. This report sets out the summary findings for each of the 46 CfE questions.

It should also be noted that the views expressed in this report are representative of the responses received.

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<sup>1</sup> [MAG - Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment in Northern Ireland | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

## 2. Methodology

The Call for Evidence ran between 25 October 2021 and 6 December 2021. It consisted of 46 questions based on the issues papers that had been developed by the HSTF Members (see Annex A). The questions were tested beforehand with the HSTF subgroups' chairs, members, and with policy officials and analysts. These were a mix of structured, semi-structured and short open questions that were intended to be answered by all respondents and designed to allow people to share their experiences and views. Respondents could answer as few or as many questions as they wished. The questions are listed in Annex E.

In total, 64 responses were received to the CfE. Responses were received in the following formats:

- **Citizen Space:** Using this online consultation tool, respondents could choose which of the 46 questions they wanted to answer. The CfE was hosted on the Citizen Space platform as it provided robust data security and a suite of analysis tools. 34 responses were received via Citizen Space, equally divided with 17 each from organisations and individuals. Statistical analysis of the Citizen Space responses are in Annex F.
- **Email Responses:** In recognition that not all sections of society have access to or the ability to complete surveys online, it was made clear that the consultation could be responded to via e-mail or via post, if necessary. Printed copies were made available and distributed on request to anyone who asked, in line with environmental considerations.

There were 30 email responses which were structured (making direct reference to the questions) and unstructured (a general response without specific reference to consultation questions). A qualitative analysis was carried out on the responses received.

No postal responses were received.

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In addition, nine workshops to allow in-person views to be heard and discussed were held at various locations: Ballymena, Belfast, Cookstown, Derry~Londonderry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Newry, Portadown, and via Zoom. A total of 119 people attended these events ranging from members of the public, elected representatives and on behalf of organisations. The dates and locations of workshops along with attendance figures are provided in Annex D. The views of those who took part in the workshops are reflected in this report.

The HSTF Secretariat and HSTF Members engaged with the community to seek views to inform this report. To promote interest and encourage participation, the Call for Evidence and workshops were promoted through a press release, media reports, Departmental websites, social media and by mailshot to over 550 organisations. Ahead of workshops localised emails were sent to over 1300 recipients.

### 3. Responses Received

Responses received varied widely in length, style, and the volume and nature of evidence cited.

Among the most common forms of evidence cited were government reports and articles from peer-reviewed or trade journals and academic books; private and third sector consultancy reports; policy briefings; and fact sheets produced by the respondents themselves. See list at Annex B.

The Department for Communities (DfC) provided the secretariat support for the HSTF. DfC policy officials and analysts logged responses for each of the 14 themes set out in the CfE:

1. Partnerships;
2. Follow Best Practice;
3. Investment;
4. Planning;
5. Public Realm;
6. Fiscal – Including Rates;
7. Capacity;
8. Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability;
9. Housing and Other Infrastructure;
10. Getting To and From the High Street;
11. Tourism;
12. Digital High Streets;
13. Rural Settlements; and
14. People, Localism and Well-being.

Each piece of evidence referenced was logged, noting its source (e.g. a scientific journal article, a policy paper produced by a charity) and a brief analytic commentary was recorded.

**Annex C** lists the organisations that provided either an organisational response or whose members of staff responded to our CfE. This list does not include details of members of the public who provided responses to the CfE.

## Limitations

In total, we received 64 Citizen Space and email responses from individuals and organisations, in addition to the many responses which were received at the workshops. The data reflects the views of the public and those who have direct experience of high street issues. However, such a process naturally has limitations.

As an online call for evidence is self-selecting, it is most likely to be answered by those with an interest in the subject area. The majority of responses were from people who work in the high street and related sectors, or who have a direct interest in the policy area. Their views are likely to be more informed about the subject, but also potentially more influenced by current practice. As such, findings should be treated as qualitative research and not robustly representative of the population.

## Responses arranged by theme.

**Partnerships**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Must have joined-up thinking between the community, local government, the business community, road service, the Assembly and Executive, government Departments, sporting associations, arts etc.</p> <p>Ensure that all views are equally taken into consideration whether from business or the people who use high streets.</p> <p>Facilitate for the future, get it down on paper and invest the time to do it well.</p> <p>Offer incentives, authority and funding to make partnerships inclusive and effective.</p> <p>Avoid partnership fatigue among businesses.</p> <p>Ownership of the high streets is too fragmented.</p> <p>Limitations on what can be done due to a lack of willingness from private landlords or land owners to engage in development initiatives.</p> <p>Councils fail at 'real' consultation, council officers try to tell business owners what they need, what they can have and cannot have. This is an incorrect strategy and often fails to have implementation support past the initial stages.</p> <p>Local partnerships do not need additional powers to make them more effective.</p>	<p>The current NI High Street Task Force needs to become more of an advisory group which will begin to actively communicate and work more closely with councils.</p> <p>A single point of contact to put forward views and suggestions is needed.</p> <p>Partnerships should involve high street businesses and the people who use them.</p> <p>Fund key partnerships.</p> <p>Funding and easier ways to ask for government assistance are required.</p> <p>A 'Regeneration Partnership' to lead and incentivise such regeneration and acquire derelict properties / sites compulsory acquisition.</p> <p>Have a champion. Success is in finding a council with an executive Mayor able to pursue its own direction.</p> <p>Faster delivery of public services.</p> <p>Better communication.</p> <p>Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and utility providers should work with councils and traders to avoid disruption to the consumer. Set up a partnership to manage utility works.</p> <p>Have a "make that call" service for businesses to help businesses know what they can avail of and what grants are available etc.</p>



Issues Raised (Partnerships)	Proposed Solutions
<p>Business participation and the willingness to co-invest at a local level in town centres is weak due to economic uncertainty.</p> <p>Making sure that consultations are wide ranging and fully capture everyone's opinions and needs.</p> <p>Maximising ownership of the issues for those involved in any partnership will be key.</p> <p>Community work undertaken by sports organisations needs to be recognised.</p> <p>For model partnerships to work, there is a need for human and financial resources to work together at strategic and local levels.</p> <p>Have clear objectives/outcomes against local needs.</p> <p>COVID-19 has affected partnerships with increased demand on time and made it harder to get involved.</p> <p>Business improvement districts (BIDs) work in city centres or parts of them, but not everywhere.</p> <p>The community should be actively involved in decision making, and community planning could be important in facilitating this work.</p> <p>HSTF too Belfast-centered.</p> <p>Big disconnect between councils and Stormont.</p>	<p>Encourage working together, e.g. two, three or more councils.</p> <p>Establish a central pilot 'Challenge Fund' to explore new concepts. This would be valuable to inform future strategy approaches.</p> <p>Replicate / adapt the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) rural catalyst model.</p> <p>Councils and community planning partnerships should be given greater autonomy to deliver local solutions.</p> <p>Create a centrally determined "Bespoke Fund".</p> <p>It is important that additional mechanisms are not created but that existing ones are used including the involvement of town centre forums and regeneration partnerships, chambers of commerce, community planning and public realm partnerships.</p> <p>Set up a body such as the Laganside Corporation to kick-start community efforts.</p> <p>Inclusion for those with a disability, which accounts for 21% of our community, young and older people.</p> <p>It is important that proper resources are put in place to allow council-led partnerships to access and progress investment opportunities.</p> <p>The current HSTF needs to extend its reach beyond Belfast and to have strong rural representation from areas such as Mid Ulster.</p> <p>As an "interim win", MAG local partnership pilots could be dispersed across the 11 councils.</p>

Issues Raised (Partnerships)	Proposed Solutions
<p>There is a disconnect with the NICS and governments Departments in what is happening at street level and getting feet on the ground.</p> <p>The key issues with partnerships is the lack of communication and involvement in government projects from the outset.</p> <p>Lack of funding for partnerships can also be a struggle as plans can at times exceed budgets and there's little to no opportunity for further funding.</p> <p>Enniskillen Business Partnership lacks support from the council. Who is going to risk starting a new business with no start-up money available?</p> <p>Lack of engagement with council. There needs to be someone who is prepared to meet with businesses and to have those difficult conversations.</p> <p>Councils needs to be held more accountable for their decisions.</p> <p>Private sectors feel that councils do not live in the real world and do not know what it's like to run a business.</p> <p>There are partnerships on paper, but not in practice.</p> <p>Councils need to have local pride in the area and actively assist local traders.</p>	<p>Partnership and co-design with the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). Arrange NICS secondments to business and charity sectors.</p> <p>Partnerships need to have incentives.</p> <p>Partnerships will be strengthened by the involvement of a broad spectrum of interests. Engagement with the public is also important.</p> <p>Resources to fund partnerships are needed.</p> <p>The town needs continual entrepreneurial spirit to grow.</p> <p>Any partnerships must include the Arts.</p> <p>A critical ingredient to success is the development of a genuinely cross-departmental partnership, including the private sector, to achieve our shared aim of reviving our high streets.</p> <p>Convince local businesses and communities to agree common objectives and plans for the future high street.</p> <p>Partnerships should be business-led with councils, places of worship, schools and charities being equal partners.</p> <p>Develop a HSTF Strategic Policy Framework.</p> <p>The Police Service NI (PSNI), Department of Justice and Association of Town &amp; Centre Managers (ATCM) should be members of the HSTF.</p> <p>Use technology to engage with different consultees and build partnerships.</p> <p>Need to have a town centre Champion / Manager.</p>

Issues Raised (Partnerships)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Development and training on "soft skills" helping with the ability to approach and speak to other partnerships, and to develop facilitation and meeting skills.</p> <p>Create a dedicated fund-of-scale which brings together multi-departmental, council and other sources of funding into an aggregate multi-annual fund.</p> <p>Improve regeneration powers for councils.</p> <p>Less focus on the daytime economy.</p> <p>Cross-border engagement is needed.</p> <p>Align the Living High Streets Craft Kit (MAG) approach to funding streams, and a commitment from all to agile working to deliver on the action plan and outcomes.</p> <p>Legislation needs to be implemented to allow for local remodeling, regeneration and further vesting of land.</p>

**Follow Best Practice**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>The overuse of urban design consultants with no real knowledge of the street or area is questionable.</p> <p>Town centre manager worked well until the merger of the councils.</p> <p>Local solutions must be determined at a local level.</p> <p>Risk aversion. Too many people do not want to take risks.</p>	<p>Legislate to enable councils to have place-making powers along with the strategic alignment and the transfer of government's regeneration budgets to councils to support our urban development efforts.</p> <p>Adopt a policy as implemented in the city of Cork - there needs to a descriptive and not a prescriptive approach.</p> <p>Have an economic development manager who has a specific role to help those applying for grants. This should be a long-term strategic role.</p> <p>Expert help should be provided for private land and business owners to help with feasibility studies and business-case preparation.</p> <p>Best practice requires resources to maintain momentum.</p> <p>Best practice should be adaptable and not focused on one sector.</p> <p>The NI Local Government Association (NILGA) should be able to assist with best practice as they work across the councils.</p> <p>Urgent decisions are necessary to devolve and transfer regeneration powers to councils.</p> <p>'Lessons learnt' case studies should be used when looking at best practice.</p> <p>Use existing public sector skills.</p> <p>Adopt 'Key Principles of Inclusive Street Design' for accessibility.</p> <p>An effective and integrated approach to public transport and car parking.</p>

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<b>Issues Raised (Best Practice)</b>	<b>Proposed Solutions</b>
	<p>The HSTF Developing and Promoting Good Practice subgroup provided direction on mapping and that the MAG should be offered resources, along with councils, to tailor best practice to suit unique local needs.</p> <p>Provide investment and statutory support cross-departmentally in community plans for the 11 district councils - similar to that provided in Scotland via the, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This should happen here without delay.</p>

**Investment**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Future plans for infrastructure, housing, schools, health and where people live are needed.</p> <p>How much will we receive from the Levelling-Up Fund?</p> <p>Private investment is needed, but without the correct infrastructure there is no buy-in.</p> <p>City and growth deal funds – consider how the Magherafelt bypass improved the town centre.</p> <p>High Street Scheme, Cathedral Quarter Belfast scheme or a Hong Kong resident’s payment.</p> <p>The need for much more seismic stimulus funding.</p> <p>Business incubation units are an integral element to the high street, and this model has been a proven success.</p> <p>Businesses and new start-ups should complement and/or merge activities.</p> <p>Less money will be invested the longer that planning decisions take.</p> <p>Planning has not moved with the times. The planner’s opinion of what is in keeping with the town or area, may not be attractive and/or modern enough to attract inward investment.</p>	<p>Introduce a Residential Living Fund to promote and encourage residential living, a Community Services Fund to promote and encourage wider provision of services and develop a High Street Transformation Fund.</p> <p>The Urban Development Grant scheme should be revived.</p> <p>Have a sector-specific Hospitality Fund and an Events Fund.</p> <p>Place-based budgeting is required.</p> <p>Develop a “buy local” gift card scheme or a payment similar to that made to Hong Kong residents.</p> <p>Financial assistance for councils to purchase or vest properties within town centres.</p> <p>Support for social enterprises and community interest companies.</p> <p>Cut down on the application process time for “change of use” applications.</p> <p>Financial assistance to the private sector to identify commercial options for their properties. This would act as an incentive to trigger action to the benefit of the town.</p> <p>Set a time-limit for “agreed consent”, so that if the planners have not made a decision before a certain date, it is presumed to have been agreed.</p> <p>Adopt temporary planning to see if things work, experiment and see how it goes, then apply for full planning.</p> <p>Funds for consultancy support costs for development briefs.</p>

Issues Raised (Investment)	Proposed Solutions
<p>Physical decline of the high street – vacancy rates and dereliction.</p> <p>A miss-match exists between available commercial business space and current business needs, i.e. high streets are dominated by traditional retail stores.</p> <p>Clarity on priority investment areas is needed.</p> <p>There is a miss-match between what funding is available to support high streets and what is needed on the ground.</p> <p>Investment has been challenged by the decentralisation of retail, online shopping and general changes in consumer behaviour.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to test new ownership and investment models such as cooperative investment funds and community shared funds.</p> <p>Affordability of community infrastructure over the longer term for youth services, and social enterprise models which can help build community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Do not penalise the traders who are trying to help the city; outcomes need to drive the behaviours.</p> <p>Business owners find the funding process cumbersome.</p> <p>No investor wants to be left carrying a cost for a building that they can't sell or generate an income from.</p>	<p>Reduce commercial risk for investors.</p> <p>Targeted incentives should be used for long-term dereliction and a robust approach should be taken for buildings in disrepair.</p> <p>Incentives to deal with long-term vacancies.</p> <p>Incentivising property owners to develop their properties.</p> <p>Incentives need to be directed at multi-use solutions that encourage town centre living, commercial and community use, however, it is important that business remains a focus in our town centres.</p> <p>Neighbourhood investment and services should be developed in accordance with local economic and community planning.</p> <p>Prioritise the development and growth planning for councils, and the funding for human resources needs to be transferred to achieve this.</p> <p>The return of the urban development grants, Living Over the Shops (LOTS) and 'Empty to Occupied' programmes are also useful initiatives that could be introduced as interim measures to encourage urban reinvigoration.</p> <p>A shared property fund for councils should be set up, with a requirement for transparency and openness.</p> <p>Local taxation system to replenish and generate funds for councils.</p> <p>Develop contributory special funds, such as those used for the Linen Quarter, which were supported by Belfast City Council (BCC).</p> <p>Low cost finance.</p>

Issues Raised (Investment)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Investment / funding applications and process of payments should be faster.</p> <p>The funding process should be simpler for business owners.</p> <p>Removal of the moratorium on funding for hotel capital projects within a 10-mile radius of Belfast.</p> <p>Ring-fence Department underspends and consider having this as a sinking fund; a rainy day fund.</p> <p>There should be joined-up funding for small towns.</p> <p>There needs to be equality in grant applications.</p> <p>Provide investment through the Future High Streets Fund and the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund.</p> <p>Set up an infrastructure commission with Executive backing for a longer timeframe for funding provisions, not just for three or four years or tied to electoral cycles.</p> <p>Move away from grant funding being the basis for decision making (e.g. north or south Belfast Glider route).</p> <p>A place for students to try out their business ideas and encourage entrepreneurs. Hopefully, it will spill out into the wider community to develop more businesses outside of the cities.</p> <p>It is important that once new businesses are established in starter units they are encouraged and supported to move into town centre premises to allow for business growth.</p>



**Planning**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Planning is perceived as a barrier to development.</p> <p>There has been unsuitable development in conservation areas.</p> <p>Policies require a town or city centre first approach for retail, leisure and other community related developments. Emerging trends indicate that town and city centres are increasingly thought about as 'destinations'.</p> <p>The physical linkage between businesses and residential areas often have poor road infrastructures. As an example, a five-lane road separates a student living area from the university buildings and the city centre. In the future, an additional 14 to 15 thousand students will be coming into Belfast, living in and around that very busy road.</p> <p>Restrictions are placed on development by government Departments.</p> <p>Access to the town centre causes difficulty with development.</p> <p>There was considerable investment, £45k, on the development of a town masterplan, but the merger of councils put an end to that.</p> <p>Planners cause delays and partnerships have broken down because of it.</p>	<p>A ban on out-of-town development needs to be assessed on the location, as well as the social and economic impact for the area.</p> <p>Local development plans and community plans are fundamental documents and must be used to support high street development.</p> <p>A simpler planning process for change of use should be adopted to reduce time.</p> <p>Adopt the use of a temporary planning permit before formal approval process, as is used in England.</p> <p>For change-of-use decisions, establish a department to allow quicker change of use, as in Dublin, to prevent investments going elsewhere.</p> <p>A joined-up approach should be taken to change the perception of the planning function being seen as an enabler rather than a barrier to development.</p> <p>There is a requirement for policies to be updated to make our town centres "Destinations".</p> <p>Set up an agency to purchase vacant land and convert it for multi-use purposes.</p> <p>Masterplans should be used for place-shaping to make good things happen.</p> <p>Flexibility in the planning process with earlier input from government Departments is needed to get the right scheme and infrastructure built.</p> <p>There needs to be autonomy for the development of masterplans.</p>

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<b>Issues Raised (Planning)</b>	<b>Proposed Solutions</b>
<p>The Downpatrick Planning Group had planning responsibility, however, it was moved to Newry, away from the local planning groups who knew what was best for the area.</p>	<p>Refresh existing masterplans for all towns.</p> <p>Full regeneration powers for councils.</p> <p>Regional mayors to drive forward specific city goals.</p> <p>Planning should revert back to local management.</p>

**Public Realm**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Royal Avenue / Donegall Place should be for pedestrians, however, no one is brave enough to make this decision due to risk aversion.</p> <p>Public areas are lacking animation, it's not enough to just make them greener.</p> <p>Existing high streets are not welcoming.</p> <p>No vision or public shared space.</p> <p>Some public realm work has been destroyed (bins, for example) and not been replaced.</p> <p>Utility re-instatement legislation needs to be reviewed and/or updated.</p>	<p>Investment needs to be planned and prioritised to support and pay for maintenance, and to develop gateway sites, carparks, linkages and peripheral works.</p> <p>The high street should be welcoming, well designed, promote public safety and be designed to encourage investment.</p> <p>High-quality public realm investment is needed for pedestrian-friendly places that are multi-purpose streets that have a greener feel.</p> <p>There needs to be a responsibility for public realm upkeep after the initial work has been done.</p> <p>A car-parking strategy is needed.</p> <p>The role of the (DfI) in maintaining the high street to the standard required to attract investors, shoppers and visitors needs be reviewed and clarified.</p> <p>Enforcement is needed to make utilities quickly make good on their remedial works.</p> <p>An investment strategy, that combines private and public sector finance, should be set up.</p> <p>Investment is needed for better transport to improve accessibility, stimulate a nighttime economy and provide safer streets. Translink should conduct a data analysis for public transport.</p> <p>Incentives should be used to tackle dereliction.</p> <p>Public spaces should be neutral spaces.</p>

Issues Raised (Public Realm)	Proposed Solutions
<p>In London there is a "Night Time Borough Champions Network" – giving a clear picture of what happens across the city from 6pm-6am.</p>	<p>An analysis of what happens through the night should be adopted as in London.</p> <p>Pilot temporary pedestrianisation in Donegall Place.</p> <p>Investment of £100M is needed for cycle lanes.</p> <p>Manage bin collection and deliveries at night.</p> <p>Create new partnerships to design hospitality zones, using private sector funds and allow these to levy charges.</p> <p>Legislate for electric scooter use.</p> <p>Extend the area used by the Christmas Market out to Donegall Place/Royal Avenue, similar to markets in European cities.</p> <p>Create more of a café culture.</p> <p>Have dedicated hospitality zones.</p> <p>Use "pedestrian friendly" rather than "pedestrianise".</p> <p>Create more green areas and art space to attract the younger generation.</p> <p>More useable facilities, skate parks, benches, climbing walls etc.</p> <p>Provide covered areas for outdoor concerts and include benches and seating.</p> <p>Aim for aesthetic standards and use heritage assets.</p> <p>Improve car park environments and make them gateways to town centres. This will help with traffic management.</p>

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<b>Issues Raised (Public Realm)</b>	<b>Proposed Solutions</b>
Many villages, towns and city centres are untidy.	<p>Councils should be tidying the streets and be responsible for the upkeep of the town. For example, Warrenpoint has a weekly cleaning regime.</p> <p>Utility re-instatement legislation needs to be updated. Councils should have a role to manage the six-month reinstatement for utilities.</p>

**Fiscal – including Rates**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>The freeze of rates during the pandemic has been beneficial.</p> <p>NI housing rates are £500 less than the rest of the UK, that's a lot of missing funds. Society are getting a lot of "free" services (prescriptions), if these are not used by most of the public, free up this money to ease the rates for businesses.</p> <p>Rates have to go.</p> <p>In some instances, rates are higher than rents which is forcing shop closures.</p>	<p>Action needs to be taken on rates as soon as possible.</p> <p>The two previous reviews of rates, one undertaken by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and the other by Sue Gray, need to be acted upon.</p> <p>Set up a more user-friendly rates support service with a manned helpline of qualified personnel to answer questions and to help navigate this complex area.</p> <p>Minimise tax and the rating system. It should be more progressive on a business's ability to pay. Adopt a sliding scale of rates to allow a new business time to become firmly established.</p> <p>A community wealth building pilot scheme is strongly supported.</p> <p>A tax on large online businesses needs to be considered.</p> <p>Consider incentives for businesses affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>Minimise corporation tax.</p> <p>A more progressive rating system should be based on business turnover and/or profit.</p> <p>Vacant land tax or incentives to reuse sites and properties.</p> <p>Changes to the rates policy has to be future proofed for the next generation.</p> <p>Investigate new ways to generate revenue.</p> <p>Remove rate exceptions.</p> <p>A differential rate initiative is needed.</p>

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Issues Raised (Fiscal)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Consider a rates holiday for startups. Follow Sheffield's example where the rates relief for start-ups is 100% for the first two years.</p> <p>Have a rates development area with 50% off rates for a number of years.</p> <p>Reform of Value Added Tax (VAT) for refurbishing buildings.</p>

## Capacity, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Review learning points from capacity mapping in England.</p> <p>Identify gaps in infrastructure capacity, digital capacity and town centre aesthetics.</p>	<p>The Executive should provide funding and supportive policies so that councils can target specific groups, champion entrepreneurship and create career pathways.</p> <p>Invest in local partnership programmes run by colleges to support businesses in upskilling and reskilling staff.</p> <p>Use capacity pilots to develop employment skills that will help improve the aesthetics of town centres.</p> <p>Develop a cultural and historical map for towns and villages.</p> <p>Explore business incubation models.</p>

**Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Existing work by agencies such as Sustainable NI should be reviewed and adapted.</p> <p>Sustainability should not only be limited to natural assets; the continued use of heritage assets is important.</p>	<p>Funding and incentives should promote greener urban environments, including Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging, active travel, public infrastructure, waste collection and sorting of waste. EV charging points need to use the most recent technology now.</p> <p>Climate change initiatives need funding. This can be assisted by increasing parking rates for commuters and using income from this to support public transport.</p> <p>Develop smart town elements, water harvesting, local energy supply, EV charging and cycle infrastructure.</p> <p>Reintroduce the Solar Panel Incentive scheme and have incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy use.</p> <p>Maintain shop fronts and make shop units from traditional and renewable building materials, not shipping containers.</p> <p>Conservation standards need to change to reflect modern use of materials.</p> <p>Adopt a "use it or lose it" planning policy.</p> <p>Legislate for removing ownership if a site is not developed.</p> <p>Provide suitable bins for recycling that are larger and durable.</p> <p>Start a waste reduction campaign, providing the infrastructure for collection and sorting of waste, allowing surplus raw materials to be shared with other users rather than becoming landfill.</p> <p>Provide tax cuts for green businesses.</p>



Issues Raised (Energy...)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Use sustainable development action plans to 'restore, revive, thrive', as used for the Enniskillen Workhouse.</p> <p>Promote public transport with active travel given priority within local and regional action plans.</p> <p>Promote sustainable travel models, micro-buses, pooled transport and connected active travel plans throughout the 11 council areas.</p> <p>New transport priorities to address the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Vulnerable users</li> <li>2 - Pedestrians</li> <li>3 - Cyclists</li> <li>4 - Public transport users</li> <li>5 - Vans and deliveries</li> <li>6 - Individual car drivers</li> </ol> <p>Instead of building new roads, adapt existing ones.</p> <p>Remove on-street parking.</p> <p>Introduce congestion charges and use these funds for infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Greenways must be prioritised and further investment is required to build safe and green routes for people to use going to and from work and for exercise.</p> <p>DfI Roads needs to be more flexible in its approach to climate change. York Street Exchange should be pedestrian and bike friendly. Pocket parks should be used to create green central reservations, such as Dunbar Link, having movable containers for plants and trees.</p> <p>More greenery, shrubbery and plants along "Boulevards".</p>

Issues Raised ( Energy...)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>An indoor purpose-built market should be developed at the Jordan's Mill site.</p> <p>Councils should use "Guerilla" greening for neglected spaces, making pocket parks and community gardens and bringing alleyways back to life with green rooftops in town centres, all with the aim of gaining Green Flag Awards.</p> <p>The Housing Executive believes that ideas like a "Climate Change Charter" should be developed by councils to allow businesses and organisations to pledge to take actions to reduce carbon emissions and to introduce sustainable practices. This charter should be displayed to encourage businesses and organisations to change their behaviours. An environmental rating system should be adopted to allow users to make sustainability choices when choosing services.</p> <p>Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be adopted to replace paved areas with grass, trees and shrubs to slow the advance of surface water into rivers and to mitigate flood risk.</p> <p>All housing developments, including conversions, should have regulations on space standards, natural light, decent home standards and thermal comfort to support quality of life.</p> <p>Vacant properties, heritage properties, vacant spaces and parks should have funding provided to bring them back into use. This can be achieved through a cocktail of funding from a range of public bodies and charitable partners to regenerate areas of heritage blight (e.g. High Street Heritage Action Zones) using environmental grants and incentives to allow the repurposing and reactivation of town centres.</p>

**Housing and Other Infrastructure**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>One-third of the local workforce commutes to Belfast each day.</p> <p>Significant investment is needed along with policy change to deliver quality housing developments that will attract people to live in the high street. This must include housing developments with living space above commercial units and the required infrastructure for services.</p> <p>Waterways infrastructure is not funded. This prevents development along the waterways and takes business away from these areas.</p>	<p>Access to healthcare (health hubs), affordable housing, amenities and innovatively designed public realm with green spaces are required to enhance health and well-being.</p> <p>Grants and incentives are needed for landlords to limit rent increases.</p> <p>Existing public buildings should become catalysts for services; a "one-stop shop" providing information for businesses and communities. This will bring life back into town centres. Localised NICS hubs should be created to reduce the need for travelling out of town into Belfast.</p> <p>Introduce targeted rent controls across NI, particularly in urban and rapidly urbanising areas where rents are steadily climbing.</p> <p>Adopt a "Housing First" policy to support homeless populations, focusing on providing housing and socio-economic stability as a means to address the other issues that they may be experiencing.</p> <p>Shrink the retail offering in town centres, encourage residential living by creating clusters and LOTS, supported by traffic management and car-parking strategies.</p> <p>Improve and expand council powers to reprimand landlords/estate agents for maintaining unsuitable accommodation (i.e. where tenants are living in unsuitable conditions or where the property is not maintained).</p> <p>Adopt a 50/50 social/private quota for new housing developments, enshrining the creation of more social housing in law.</p>

Issues Raised (Housing..)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Introduce a progressive tax on multiple-property ownership, targeting landlord monopolies and multinational investors, preventing them from purchasing large quantities of housing stock.</p> <p>All services and facilities must be available in towns, including social housing for families. Provide play areas for children, good street furniture, public art and interesting buildings.</p> <p>Set up champion prizes for best streets.</p> <p>Launch a wide-ranging property buy-back scheme, funded through taxation on multiple-property ownership.</p> <p>More affordable city centre living is the single most important improvement that Belfast needs.</p> <p>Establish an expert inquiry into housing reform in NI, with the aim of moving to a de-commodified housing system.</p> <p>Consider grants and interest-free loans for landlords to refurbish derelict premises.</p> <p>Adopt an "Empty to Occupied" scheme throughout NI.</p> <p>"Backlands" should be improved - (Land that lies behind a primary development and that may not be visible from the high street).</p> <p>Housing Executive grants need to be made available for businesses.</p> <p>The community planning process needs to have local town centre teams and chambers of commerce working alongside community and voluntary networks.</p>

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Issues Raised (Housing..)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>A stimulus package is needed to boost the nighttime economy.</p> <p>Portadown - the town footprint is built on its heritage. The focus should be on repurposing the town so that this character is not lost.</p> <p>A mixed approach to engagement requires digital, written and face-to-face communications.</p> <p>BCC should allow residential building developments on city centre car parks.</p> <p>Provide clean air zones now, and clean the streets in the early hours before the morning commute.</p> <p>VAT should be reduced for building work.</p> <p>No VAT when refurbishing buildings.</p>

## Getting To and From the High Street, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Public transport is often seen as insufficient in rural towns and villages.</p> <p>There is a lack of park and ride facilities.</p> <p>Ballynahinch has a five-year plan. However, they are building 400 new houses but there is no direct greenway link back into the town.</p> <p>Public transport is too expensive.</p> <p>NI transport is the least funded in the UK, bringing about higher prices.</p>	<p>Provide free home-to-school transport services to reduce traffic congestion.</p> <p>Trial free local bus services into towns including stops at park and ride areas.</p> <p>Trial free parking for a six-month period, either all day free or only after 10.30am.</p> <p>A joined-up approach is needed to promote active travel, train and bus services, shop mobility and rural community transport.</p> <p>Greater investment is needed from central government for pilot transport programmes.</p> <p>Use loading bays for parking when they are not in use, on Saturdays and on public holidays.</p> <p>Smarter pricing for bus journeys and promote lower fares.</p> <p>Link transport to leisure, parks and town centres.</p> <p>Pedestrianisation is good, but have gates to allow the buses in.</p> <p>Trial a Glider-type service between Lurgan and Portadown.</p> <p>Put a cycle infrastructure in place between Lurgan, Portadown and Armagh.</p> <p>Improve parking for bicycles and electric bikes.</p>

**Tourism**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Little or no help from Tourism NI to help promote Downpatrick. There is a lack of branding for the town. St. Patrick should be a significant draw for tourists.</p> <p>Infrastructure needs to be right. Themes cannot sit in isolation.</p> <p>Belfast is seen as the centre for tourism.</p> <p>The Newry Canal infrastructure has been neglected.</p>	<p>Tourism, infrastructure, the evening economy, tourism experiences and the high street should all be closely linked.</p> <p>There is a need to develop unique visitor attractions and visitor experiences on our high streets.</p> <p>A legislation review is required to promote an evening economy.</p> <p>The whole of the Newry canal should be developed along rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Review licensing laws.</p> <p>Combine local history, geography, built heritage, culture and arts (both local and international) to enliven public places.</p> <p>Incentives are needed to encourage investors to have the confidence to invest in accommodation and new and exciting visitor attractions.</p> <p>In Downpatrick all of the attractions need to establish an event culture. Use Hillsborough as a model of good practice.</p> <p>Regenerate the towns and villages adjacent to the major destinations.</p> <p>Pedestrian areas should have links to parks and green areas. Review the planning system for pavement/outdoor space and having tables outside premises.</p> <p>Provide seed funding for the development of pop-up or longer-term experiences such as tasting sessions, comedy nights, sector-specific markets and heritage walks.</p> <p>A signature hotel is required in the centre of a town.</p>

Issues Raised (Tourism)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Use existing buildings / spaces for visitor centres to showcase local points of interest.</p> <p>Pilot the use of a heritage building as a hotel.</p> <p>Let the local community build on history, features and culture.</p> <p>Better signposting to the Quoile River Walk and the route of the Ulster Way. Across NI, these type of attractions should be promoted by Tourism NI and DAERA to bring more people into the area and support the surrounding towns. Other examples are Hollymount Forest, Moltalto Estate and the Columban Way.</p> <p>Funding or loans for tourist attractions.</p> <p>Create incentives for businesses to stay open later in the evening.</p> <p>Funding for events such as local culture nights.</p> <p>On a regular basis have, for example, a singer/busker in a town and/or an artisan market. This will draw people into the town.</p> <p>Villages and towns need a bold and strong focal point, for example, a town square that is the face of the town.</p> <p>Increase PSNI resources to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Need to improve skills in the tourism and hospitality sectors.</p>



**Digital High Streets**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>The infrastructure around smart technology and contactless systems is lacking.</p> <p>Social media has helped to keep some businesses afloat during COVID-19 and Instagram, for example, has been the "shop window".</p> <p>There is a lack of understanding and awareness of the benefits that digital high streets can provide.</p> <p>Parking software applications often have no connectivity in certain areas, which causes frustration.</p>	<p>A high street click-and-collect pilot should be considered to allow businesses to work collectively.</p> <p>Develop a software application for phones based on a traditional grocery store delivery service.</p> <p>Create digital platforms for local independent traders allowing them to compete with online retailers.</p> <p>Educate businesses on electronic commerce, with colleges providing workshops and seminars to help retailers and signpost these programmes.</p> <p>Councils should provide support for social media webinars and/or classes for local independent retailers.</p> <p>Businesses should assign a member of staff to manage social media.</p> <p>Bespoke digital solutions should complement the Project Stratum roll-out.</p> <p>Fund business hubs for business champions.</p> <p>Centralise depots and collection services for multiple retailers.</p>

**Rural Settlements**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>The loss of key services in rural areas has seen a decline in footfall causing dereliction.</p> <p>There is limited connectivity and access to high-speed affordable broadband.</p> <p>Broadband is lacking and there are no resources for funding.</p> <p>A joined-up approach is required for continued development of our rural settlements.</p> <p>The proliferation of rural dwellings has implications for infrastructure and rural transport services. This growth highlights the need for local development plans to consider land usage planning, incorporating strategic park and ride facilities and ensuring access to public transport for communities.</p>	<p>A costed action plan and the opportunity for long-term funding is required to continue place management for rural settlements. This should enable co-design of programmes and activities, provide multipurpose hubs, tackle dereliction and make place management easier.</p> <p>Rural settlement schemes should be more focused and timely.</p> <p>Funding is required to update council rural plans and deliver on them.</p> <p>The process for tiering towns needs to be overhauled.</p> <p>An integrated approach is needed to encourage changes in travel patterns using sustainable transport services. Community transport providers should link into Translink's bus and railway services. This will require funding and changes in legislation to allow for new licensing.</p> <p>Review the population threshold for funding and focus on village regeneration. Do not allow ribbon development, and reduce the number of buildings in the countryside.</p> <p>Provide quality residential living options in a pleasant and well-connected (physical and digital) environment.</p>

**People, Localism and Well-being**, our Call for Evidence found:

Issues Raised	Proposed Solutions
<p>Crucial for success is the inclusion of local stakeholders in decision making and planning for our town centres.</p> <p>A key to developing town centres is flexibility in support, either experiential, financial or consultative.</p> <p>Put people and places at the heart of decision-making.</p> <p>Localism should be at the core of any regeneration project.</p> <p>Towns need to focus on keeping the local theme.</p> <p>Community groups and networks can facilitate community engagement and decision making. They should be involved more in the community planning process.</p> <p>Localism can be thematically generated.</p> <p>Sporting organisations can bring a lot to the local community.</p> <p>There is no sense of place.</p> <p>Some shop fronts were refurbished for a film and have not been refreshed.</p> <p>There were no Christmas lights on in our town this year while other local towns and villages were lit-up.</p>	<p>Provide community space for shared facility hubs and allow flexible working to ease the costs of childcare.</p> <p>Create community assets, such as cafés or a place for cookery skills workshops that become consultation venues in the evenings.</p> <p>Make the town and villages visually attractive using the local skilled workforce.</p> <p>Small business startup options for local crafts / products / markets.</p> <p>“Shop local” incentives for large private enterprise employees.</p> <p>Incentives for the community and voluntary sectors to use vacant or derelict spaces.</p> <p>Towns should have a neutral and inviting environment.</p> <p>Have a nighttime economy to get people back into the town.</p> <p>The public should be informed so that they can be involved in the preparation of local development plans.</p> <p>Investment in infrastructure is needed and should not just be for physical infrastructure, water, wastewater, transport etc. — but also for health and education.</p> <p>Funds need to be made available to support the upkeep and restoration of our historical buildings in our city centres, to attract people into the city centre, and allow them to appreciate these buildings.</p>

Issues Raised (People...)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Projects and funding incentives for the high street such as 'People, Localism and Well-being' should have related outcomes. This can be achieved by re-purposing buildings into community hubs, creating open and green spaces and pocket parks close to the high street to keep local services.</p> <p>Streets should be clean, green and bright.</p> <p>There should be a more cohesive approach by central government and local authorities to make community planning work in a more uniform way across all of NI.</p> <p>Landlord and community involvement in property can be key to 'pride of place' and a feeling of community ownership. Dundalk is a great example. The Seek Dundalk and Facades project turned dilapidated, neglected property into a canvas for art. This linked to the rich history of the town that the community could be proud of.</p> <p>Consider the establishment of a capital enabling grant scheme to bring neglected buildings into community ownership to help revitalise town centres and trigger regeneration.</p> <p>More than ever, there is a need for a Future High Street Fund in NI.</p> <p>Replicate the Irish Government initiative, "SuperValu TidyTown Awards" in allowing civic pride to be generated.</p> <p>A "call-in" shop for people to express ideas.</p> <p>A place for high-school art to be displayed in village, town and city centres.</p>

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Issues Raised (People...)	Proposed Solutions
	<p>Use empty retail spaces for mixed use and mixed tenure to bring life back to urban centres.</p> <p>Design places such as parks, parklets, town squares and heritage spots which are safe and attractive to socialise in.</p> <p>Dfi should invest in better lighting in connected spaces to make people feel safer at night.</p> <p>Tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Develop history maps of towns and local villages.</p> <p>Town centre managers should promote more flexible shop opening hours in the evenings and on Sundays.</p> <p>Have events that straddle shop opening and closing times.</p> <p>Invest in LOTS as this will increase safety in village, town and city centres.</p> <p>Businesses should provide more support for towns, not just flowerbeds at roundabouts.</p>

## Annex A: Membership of the HSTF

### Business Alliance

Department for Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs

Department for Communities

Department for Infrastructure

Department for the Economy

Department of Finance

Federation of Small Businesses

Hospitality Ulster

Mr Chris Sutor (Business Owner)

NI Council for Voluntary Action

NI Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

NI Local Government Association

NI Retail Consortium

Queen's University Belfast

Retail NI

Social Enterprise NI

SOLACE – The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

Ulster University

USDAW – The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

## Annex B: Case Studies / Information / References

Government reports (from international, national and local government); articles from peer-reviewed or trade journals and academic books; private and third sector consultancy reports; and policy briefings and fact sheets cited by respondents.

### Case Studies

Place	Details	Type of best practice
Skipton, England	Skipton High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ). <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/skipton/">https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/skipton/</a>	Heritage
Clonakilty, Ireland	"Great Town" prize at the 2017 Urbanism Awards. Local distinctiveness, pedestrian priority, civic stewardship and free maintenance of public space. <a href="https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/clonakilty/">https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/clonakilty/</a>	Heritage-led urban design plan.
Dumfries, Scotland	The Stove Network, award-winning arts and community project. <a href="https://thestove.org/about/">https://thestove.org/about/</a>	Arts/ Community
Altrincham, England	'Best High Street' in England 2018. In 2019 selected as the pilot for a National High Street Perfect Day, helping to boost footfall that year by 3.1 percent. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-strategy-to-regenerate-high-streets">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-strategy-to-regenerate-high-streets</a>	Regeneration pilot scheme
Lisburn	Light festival. <a href="https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/news/Lisburn-Light-Festival-returns-in-2021/">https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/news/Lisburn-Light-Festival-returns-in-2021/</a>	Events /Community
Portadown	Markets – Country Comes to Town <a href="http://www.countrycomestotown.co.uk/">http://www.countrycomestotown.co.uk/</a>	Events
Armagh	Georgian Day Events. <a href="https://visitarmagh.com/festivals/armagh-georgian-weekend/georgian-day-events/">https://visitarmagh.com/festivals/armagh-georgian-weekend/georgian-day-events/</a>	Heritage
Settle, England	2010 Rural Yorkshire Awards Green Business Category. A Pioneering, Community-Owned, Hydroelectric Scheme. <a href="http://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/hydropower-plant-wins-awards-settle">http://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/hydropower-plant-wins-awards-settle</a>	Sustainability/ Heritage/ Rural/ Partnerships
Preston, England	The Preston Model. <a href="https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/1792/How-we-built-community-wealth-in-Preston/pdf/CLES_Preston_Document_WEB_AW.pdf?m=636994067328930000&amp;ccp=true#cookie-consent-prompt">https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/1792/How-we-built-community-wealth-in-Preston/pdf/CLES_Preston_Document_WEB_AW.pdf?m=636994067328930000&amp;ccp=true#cookie-consent-prompt</a>	Community Wealth Building.
Waterford, Ireland	A little slice of European Café Culture The Waterford Apple Market. <a href="http://theapplemarket.ie/">http://theapplemarket.ie/</a>	Public Space Regeneration
Westport, Ireland	"Ballybrilliant" Heritage-led Regeneration in 5 Irish Towns <a href="https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Ballybrilliant.pdf">https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Ballybrilliant.pdf</a>	Heritage-led regeneration.
Belfast	Bank Buildings - Fire Response.	Heritage
Frankfurt, Germany	Frankfurt's "new old town" – The DomRömer Quarter. <a href="https://www.domroemer.de/english-information">https://www.domroemer.de/english-information</a>	Heritage.
Aarhus, Denmark	Aarhus, Smart Aarhus, Cycling City Aarhus. <a href="https://www.aarhus.dk/english/collaborate-with-the-city/urban-development/">https://www.aarhus.dk/english/collaborate-with-the-city/urban-development/</a>	Sustainability.

## Information

<b>Theme 1 – Partnerships</b>	
Ards and North Down Borough Council (AANDBC) Town Advisory Groups.	
PCSP model Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.	<a href="https://www.pcsp.org/">https://www.pcsp.org/</a>
Adopt best practices developed by of ATCM [Association of Town & City Management], IPM [Institute of Place Management] and IDA [International Downtown Association].	<a href="https://www.atcm.org/knowledge-exchange">https://www.atcm.org/knowledge-exchange</a> <a href="https://www.placemanagement.org/">https://www.placemanagement.org/</a> <a href="https://downtown.org/">https://downtown.org/</a>
Belfast City award of over £690K awarded to help business clusters and community groups revitalise Belfast.	<a href="https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/Over-%C2%A3690K-awarded-to-help-business-clusters-and-c">https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/Over-%C2%A3690K-awarded-to-help-business-clusters-and-c</a>
Live Here Love Here, a civic and community pride building movement.	<a href="https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=1">https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=1</a>
Supervalu TidyTowns - largest sustainability initiative in Europe.	<a href="https://www.tidytowns.ie/">https://www.tidytowns.ie/</a>
High Street Heritage Action Zones - Historic England.	<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/#schemes">https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/#schemes</a>
Gracehill and Belfast's Cathedral Quarter.	<a href="https://gracehillvillage.org/">https://gracehillvillage.org/</a> <a href="https://cathedralquarterbelfast.com/">https://cathedralquarterbelfast.com/</a>
Pop-up cycle lanes Belfast – Derry~Londonderry were implemented in 3 weeks -previous protected cycle lanes took - average of three years.	<a href="https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-announces-new-walking-and-cycling-measures-derry-city-seize-its-chance-change">https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-announces-new-walking-and-cycling-measures-derry-city-seize-its-chance-change</a>
"Manchester's Bee in the City Project".	<a href="https://www.visitmanchester.com/ideas-and-inspiration/bee-in-the-city">https://www.visitmanchester.com/ideas-and-inspiration/bee-in-the-city</a>
Devenish Partnership clean and collect rubbish from the area.	<a href="https://devenishpartnership.com/">https://devenishpartnership.com/</a>
Environmental Non-governmental organisations can advise on how to maximise biodiversity, such as how to build swift boxes into new builds, and appropriate tree planting etc.	<a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/build-a-birdbox/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/build-a-birdbox/</a>
"Make That Call" – an example for getting information.	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/benefits-and-pensions/make-call-mtc">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/benefits-and-pensions/make-call-mtc</a>
Institute of Place Management - High street changes update 25 factors 2019.	<a href="https://v1.placemanagement.org/news/high-street-changes-update-25-factors/">https://v1.placemanagement.org/news/high-street-changes-update-25-factors/</a>
France and Spain exemplify sustainable use of city streets and city centre living.	<a href="https://francesustainablecity.org/">https://francesustainablecity.org/</a> <a href="https://en.nicetourisme.com/bus-and-tramway">https://en.nicetourisme.com/bus-and-tramway</a>
Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP).	
'TidyTowns' initiative - Ireland	<a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/49a380-tidy-towns/">https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/49a380-tidy-towns/</a>



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20-minute neighbourhoods Scottish Programme for Government.	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland-governments-programme-scotland-2020-2021/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland-governments-programme-scotland-2020-2021/</a>
DAERA rural catalyst pilots.	<a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/ps42million-innovative-village-catalyst-programme-launched-caledon-woolstore">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/ps42million-innovative-village-catalyst-programme-launched-caledon-woolstore</a>

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<b>Theme 2 – Follow Best Practice</b>	
Carnegie Trust's Community Planning.	<a href="https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/a-toolkit-for-co-production-in-community-planning/">https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/a-toolkit-for-co-production-in-community-planning/</a>
Community Empowerment Scotland Act (2015).	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/</a>
"Project for Public Safety - What Can We Learn about Road Safety from the Dutch?" Feb 28, 2010.	<a href="https://www.pps.org/article/what-can-we-learn-about-road-safety-from-the-dutch">https://www.pps.org/article/what-can-we-learn-about-road-safety-from-the-dutch</a>
Mathew Carmona (2015) analyses London high streets. Carmona M. London's local high streets: The problems, potential and complexities of mixed street corridors. Progress in Planning. 2015;100:1-84	.
Policy paper, "Build Back Better High Streets" Published 15 July 2021.	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005041/Build_Back_Better_High_Streets.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005041/Build_Back_Better_High_Streets.pdf</a>
Roeslare, Belgium.	<a href="https://www.propertyweek.com/features/the-belgian-city-showing-how-high-street-regeneration-should-be-done/5101748.article">https://www.propertyweek.com/features/the-belgian-city-showing-how-high-street-regeneration-should-be-done/5101748.article</a>
Best Practice Turner prize winners 2021, Array-Collective.	<a href="http://www.arraystudiosbelfast.com/array-collective.html">http://www.arraystudiosbelfast.com/array-collective.html</a>
Chicago Invest South/West, USA	<a href="https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/invest_sw/home/about.html">https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/invest_sw/home/about.html</a>
Liverpool "Invest to Save" model.	<a href="https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/documents/s38186/Liverpool%20City%20Region%20Cycling%20and%20Walking%20to%20Work%20Fund%20Programme.pdf">https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/documents/s38186/Liverpool%20City%20Region%20Cycling%20and%20Walking%20to%20Work%20Fund%20Programme.pdf</a>
Sir John Timpson report – "The High Street Report".	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766844/The_High_Street_Report.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766844/The_High_Street_Report.pdf</a>
Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance (STBA) - 'From Retrofit to Regeneration 2021'	<a href="https://stbauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/From-Retrofit-to-Regeneration-2021-STBA.pdf">https://stbauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/From-Retrofit-to-Regeneration-2021-STBA.pdf</a>

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<b>Theme 3 – Investment</b>	
Greater London Authority strategy revenue raising congestion charge.	<a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/car-free-zones-in-london-as-cc-and-ulez-reinstated">https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/car-free-zones-in-london-as-cc-and-ulez-reinstated</a>
DAERA Marine Litter Capital Grant (closed September 2021).	<a href="https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=66">https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=66</a>
Hartlepool – Teeside – with funding, businesses have changed these towns.	<a href="https://teesamp.co.uk/regeneration/">https://teesamp.co.uk/regeneration/</a>
Central Cardiff enterprise zone in its city centre.	<a href="https://businesswales.gov.wales/enterprisezones/h">https://businesswales.gov.wales/enterprisezones/h</a>
Atlantic Link Campus Derry~Londonderry .	<a href="https://atlanticlinkcampus.com/campus/project-kelvin/">https://atlanticlinkcampus.com/campus/project-kelvin/</a>
Cathedral Quarter Gift card.	<a href="https://cathedralquarterbelfast.com/cq-bid-joins-belfast-city-centre-gift-card/">https://cathedralquarterbelfast.com/cq-bid-joins-belfast-city-centre-gift-card/</a>
Hong Kong Residents payment.	<a href="https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3087965/hong-kong-permanent-residents-can-apply-hk10000">https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3087965/hong-kong-permanent-residents-can-apply-hk10000</a>
City and growth deal funds – consider how the Magherafelt bypass improved town centre.	
The Bangor Courthouse was the first Community Asset Transfer but took six years to go through the process.	<a href="https://www.openhousefestival.com/court-house/">https://www.openhousefestival.com/court-house/</a>

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<b>Theme 4 – Planning</b>	
Internet sales as a percentage of total retail sales (ratio) (%).	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/retailindustry/timeseries/j4mc/drsi">https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/retailindustry/timeseries/j4mc/drsi</a>
Compulsory purchase powers.	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/compulsory-purchase-listed-building-using-direction-minimum-compensation-detached-house-roseangle/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/compulsory-purchase-listed-building-using-direction-minimum-compensation-detached-house-roseangle/</a>
Townscape heritage scheme (or similar).	<a href="http://corkcocoplans.ie/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2018/02/Adopted-Variation-to-the-Kinsale-Town-Development-Plan-2009-12th-Feb-2018.pdf">http://corkcocoplans.ie/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2018/02/Adopted-Variation-to-the-Kinsale-Town-Development-Plan-2009-12th-Feb-2018.pdf</a>
Temporary planning permit England.	<a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/72">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/72</a>

<b>Theme 5 – Public Realm</b>	
People and Places public realm document issued by DSD. DSDNI People and Place – A Strategy for Urban Renewal June 2003	
Clovelly in England.	<a href="https://www.clovelly.co.uk/">https://www.clovelly.co.uk/</a>
Cork, Ireland.	<a href="https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/planning">https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/planning</a>
Queen's University during 2021 (Open Botanic Report).	<a href="https://www.qub.ac.uk/social-charter/SocialCharterNews/OpenBotanicReportlaunched.html">https://www.qub.ac.uk/social-charter/SocialCharterNews/OpenBotanicReportlaunched.html</a>
Ormeau parklet and Sailortown parklet.	<a href="https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/Belfast-s-first-parklet-tests-expansion-of-outdoor">https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/Belfast-s-first-parklet-tests-expansion-of-outdoor</a>
Glasgow City Centre Strategy.	<a href="https://www.glasgowcitycentrestrategy.com/high-street-area-strategy">https://www.glasgowcitycentrestrategy.com/high-street-area-strategy</a>
Wayfinding - Lisburn Castlereagh Public Scheme.	
Best practice - Causeway Coast and Glens Council for The Open Golf Championship.	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/portrush-regeneration-programme">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/portrush-regeneration-programme</a>

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<b>Theme 6 – Fiscal – Including Rates</b>	
UK Infrastructure Bank.	<a href="https://www.ukib.org.uk/">https://www.ukib.org.uk/</a>
Sheffield, England business rate relief.	<a href="https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/business/business-rate-relief">https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/business/business-rate-relief</a>
Rochdale and Barnsley, England.	<a href="https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/news/next-phase-of-town-centre-public-realm-improvements-to-begin/">https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/news/next-phase-of-town-centre-public-realm-improvements-to-begin/</a>
Drogheda gift card. Ireland.	<a href="https://lovedrogheda.ie/gift-card/information-for-businesses/">https://lovedrogheda.ie/gift-card/information-for-businesses/</a>

<b>Theme 7 – Capacity</b>	
The Housing Executive's Social Housing Enterprise Investment Scheme.	<a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Community/Community-Involvement/Social-Housing-Enterprise-Programme">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Community/Community-Involvement/Social-Housing-Enterprise-Programme</a>
Capacity building pilot studies, NILGA and the associated subgroup has drawn an action document together to do this.	
Preston 2012 - Community Wealth, England.	<a href="https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/1792/How-we-built-community-wealth-in-Preston/pdf/CLES_Preston_Document_WEB_AW.pdf?m=636994067328930000&amp;ccp=true#cookie-consent-prompt">https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/1792/How-we-built-community-wealth-in-Preston/pdf/CLES_Preston_Document_WEB_AW.pdf?m=636994067328930000&amp;ccp=true#cookie-consent-prompt</a>

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<b>Theme 8 – Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability</b>	
Improve other parks and green spaces to help bring them to Green Flag standard.	<a href="https://greenflagaward.org/">https://greenflagaward.org/</a>
Emoji Garden in West Belfast to Wildflower Alley in South Belfast.	<a href="https://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/05/15/news/-emoji-garden-helps-locals-remember-loved-ones-1025887/">https://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/05/15/news/-emoji-garden-helps-locals-remember-loved-ones-1025887/</a> <a href="https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/keepnorthernirelandbeautiful/documents/007112.pdf">https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/keepnorthernirelandbeautiful/documents/007112.pdf</a>
Sustainable NI, COP26.	<a href="https://www.sustainableni.org/">https://www.sustainableni.org/</a>
Solar Panel Incentive Scheme.	<a href="https://www.uregni.gov.uk/files/uregni/media-files/19%2005%2001%20Updated%20NISEP%20List%20of%20Schemes%202019-20%20Final.pdf">https://www.uregni.gov.uk/files/uregni/media-files/19%2005%2001%20Updated%20NISEP%20List%20of%20Schemes%202019-20%20Final.pdf</a>
DLUHC English councils as a benchmark in this regard.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-strategy/towns-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-strategy">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-strategy/towns-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-strategy</a>
Green Bonds and the CCLA / Public Sector Deposit Fund / UK Investment Bank.	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002578/20210630_UK_Government_Green_Financing_Framework.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002578/20210630_UK_Government_Green_Financing_Framework.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.ukib.org.uk/">https://www.ukib.org.uk/</a>
Martire, 2021.	<a href="https://viewdigital.org/opinion-its-time-to-put-words-into-action-to-show-that-cycling-can-be-a-vehicle-for-a-healthier-future/">https://viewdigital.org/opinion-its-time-to-put-words-into-action-to-show-that-cycling-can-be-a-vehicle-for-a-healthier-future/</a>
Compulsory purchase options but need incentives to use – Stockton-on-Tees Local Development Scheme 2016 to 2019, England.	<a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2522/Local-Development-Scheme-2016-to-2019/pdf/local-development-scheme-2016-2019.pdf?m=637810628714200000">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2522/Local-Development-Scheme-2016-to-2019/pdf/local-development-scheme-2016-2019.pdf?m=637810628714200000</a>
ARC21.	<a href="https://www.arc21.org.uk/">https://www.arc21.org.uk/</a>
Kilroot Power station.	<a href="https://www.epuki.co.uk/">https://www.epuki.co.uk/</a>
Coventry shopfronts, England.	<a href="https://www.heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk/historic-coventry-trust-2m-funding-for-regeneration-of-the-burges/">https://www.heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk/historic-coventry-trust-2m-funding-for-regeneration-of-the-burges/</a>
COP26 Wright Bus new fleet of buses.	<a href="https://wrightbus.com/en-gb/ballymena-buses-feature-in-showcase-uk-zero-carbon-campaign">https://wrightbus.com/en-gb/ballymena-buses-feature-in-showcase-uk-zero-carbon-campaign</a>
Washington DC – Golden Triangle, USA.	<a href="https://goldentriangledc.com/">https://goldentriangledc.com/</a>

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<b>Theme 9 – Housing and Other Infrastructure</b>	
CommonPlace.	<a href="https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/">https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/</a>
Hillsborough	<a href="https://www.hrp.org.uk/Hillsborough-Castle/#gs.sq4k1o">https://www.hrp.org.uk/Hillsborough-Castle/#gs.sq4k1o</a>
Purple Flag scheme (also in Theme 11 Tourism).	<a href="http://www.100ways.org.uk/purple-flag.html">www.100ways.org.uk/purple-flag.html</a>
The Townscape Heritage Initiative.	<a href="https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/publications/townscape-heritage-initiative-evaluation">https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/publications/townscape-heritage-initiative-evaluation</a>
The Housing Executive's Heritage in Housing programme.	
"Gentle Densities" report for DfC Housing Division (Martire, Skoura 2021).	
StreetSpace Project.	<a href="https://www.streetspaceresearch.com/about">https://www.streetspaceresearch.com/about</a>
Boots transformation project in Nottingham, England.	<a href="https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/650m-plans-transform-nottingham-boots-3833233">https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/650m-plans-transform-nottingham-boots-3833233</a>
Manchester Investment Fund, England.	<a href="http://www.manchesterpartnership.org.uk/info/5/public_service_reform/34/about_manchester_investment_fund">http://www.manchesterpartnership.org.uk/info/5/public_service_reform/34/about_manchester_investment_fund</a>  <a href="https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/investment/">https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/investment/</a>
Bristol is a good example of for city centre residential living, England.	<a href="https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/34520/Urban+Living+SPD+Making+successful+places+at+higher+densities.pdf">https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/34520/Urban+Living+SPD+Making+successful+places+at+higher+densities.pdf</a>
Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce, Scotland	<a href="https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5f73555fbfe93_VDL%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations.pdf">https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5f73555fbfe93_VDL%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations.pdf</a>
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) derelict buildings - Empty to Occupied programme.	<a href="https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/business/empty-to-occupied/">https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/business/empty-to-occupied/</a>
Cork - carry out empty vacant property surveys and capacity studies for housing, Ireland.	<a href="https://vacanthomes.ie/">https://vacanthomes.ie/</a>
Reform of building regulations to consider reaching net Zero Energy Building standard.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nearly-zero-energy-buildings-requirements-for-new-buildings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nearly-zero-energy-buildings-requirements-for-new-buildings</a>

<b>Theme 10 – Getting To and From the High Street</b>	
Dungannon's circular walking and cycling path.	<a href="https://www.midulstercouncil.org/visit-or/things-to-do/walking/dungannon-earls-trail">https://www.midulstercouncil.org/visit-or/things-to-do/walking/dungannon-earls-trail</a>
BIKE Life Belfast.	<a href="https://www.sustrans.org.uk/bike-life/bike-life-belfast/">https://www.sustrans.org.uk/bike-life/bike-life-belfast/</a>
Park and Ride, Amsterdam, Netherlands	<a href="https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/parking/park-ride/">https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/parking/park-ride/</a>
Greater London Authority - revenue raising congestion charge, England.	<a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/questions/2021/0586">https://www.london.gov.uk/questions/2021/0586</a>
Bristol park and ride, escooter hire via software application, England.	<a href="https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/e-scooter-hire-trials-begin-in-bristol/">https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/e-scooter-hire-trials-begin-in-bristol/</a>
Barcelona superblocks, low and zero-traffic neighbourhoods, Spain.	<a href="https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/en/bodies-involved/citizen-participation/superblocks">https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/en/bodies-involved/citizen-participation/superblocks</a>
Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) 15 minute neighbourhoods (page 18).	<a href="https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/9233/rtpi-net-zero-transport-january-2021.pdf">https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/9233/rtpi-net-zero-transport-january-2021.pdf</a>



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<b>Theme 11 – Tourism</b>	
Ards and North Down Borough Council, Community Planning Service Delivery Plan. Outcome 4: “All people in Ards and North Down benefit from a prosperous economy.”	<a href="https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/images/assets/CP_Service_Delivery_Plan_2021-22_Community_Planning.pdf">https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/images/assets/CP - Service Delivery Plan 2021-22 - Community Planning.pdf</a>
Best Bar None UK-wide accreditation scheme	<a href="http://www.bbnuuk.com">www.bbnuuk.com</a>
Purple Flag UK-wide scheme.	<a href="http://www.100ways.org.uk/purple-flag.html">www.100ways.org.uk/purple-flag.html</a>
Game of Thrones and Armagh City tourism experiences.	<a href="https://www.gameofthronesstudiotour.com/">https://www.gameofthronesstudiotour.com/</a>
Tourism NI - Build your Business.	<a href="https://www.tourismni.com/build-your-business/home/">https://www.tourismni.com/build-your-business/home/</a>
Heritage tours / foodie tours / ghost trails / literary tours / poetry tours / walks etc.	<a href="https://discovernorthernireland.com/food-and-drink/tours-trails-and-experiences">https://discovernorthernireland.com/food-and-drink/tours-trails-and-experiences</a>
Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Seamus Heaney Open Ground.	<a href="https://seamusheaneyhome.com/">https://seamusheaneyhome.com/</a>
The Giant Spirit.	<a href="https://www.tourismni.com/build-your-business/sector/mice-travel-trade/mice-and-travel-trade-trends-and-opportunities/northern-ireland---embrace-a-giant-spirit/">https://www.tourismni.com/build-your-business/sector/mice-travel-trade/mice-and-travel-trade-trends-and-opportunities/northern-ireland---embrace-a-giant-spirit/</a>
Green key – environmental standard for hospitality.	<a href="https://www.greenkey.global/criteria">https://www.greenkey.global/criteria</a>
Splash Waterpark, a former quarry private sector initiative.	<a href="https://splashni.com/">https://splashni.com/</a>
Titanic Belfast, a heritage themed attraction.	<a href="https://www.titanicbelfast.com/">https://www.titanicbelfast.com/</a>
Lisburn Castlereagh’s Vision for Tourism 2018 – 2022.	<a href="https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/planning/SUBDOC-074%20LCCC%20Vision%20for%20Tourism%202018-2022.pdf">https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/planning/SUBDOC-074%20LCCC%20Vision%20for%20Tourism%202018-2022.pdf</a>
Rural Tourism Collaboration Experiential Project (funded by DAERA) across Historic Moira to Royal Hillsborough.	<a href="https://www.visitlisburncastlereagh.com/royal-hillsborough-and-historic-moira">https://www.visitlisburncastlereagh.com/royal-hillsborough-and-historic-moira</a>
Tourism NI holiday at home tourism campaign.	<a href="https://www.tourismni.com/industry-news/economy-minister-welcomes-launch-of-holiday-at-home-tourism-campaign">https://www.tourismni.com/industry-news/economy-minister-welcomes-launch-of-holiday-at-home-tourism-campaign</a>
Hallowe'en (Derry~Londonderry City & Strabane).	<a href="https://derryhalloween.com/">https://derryhalloween.com/</a>
The Saint Patrick Centre, Downpatrick.	<a href="https://discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/the-saint-patrick-centre-p677011">https://discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/the-saint-patrick-centre-p677011</a>
Visit Dubai, tourist promotional videos, Dubai.	<a href="https://www.visitdubai.com/en/dubai-video/videos">https://www.visitdubai.com/en/dubai-video/videos</a>

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London Underground (LU) Busking Scheme, England.	<a href="https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage/busking">https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage/busking</a>
Canary Wharf, England, was the result of a strategic pathfinder investment.	<a href="https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/canary-wharf-redevelopment">https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/canary-wharf-redevelopment</a>
Kerry and Dingle, Ireland.	<a href="https://www.discoverkerry.com/en/">https://www.discoverkerry.com/en/</a>
Artisan markets – English Market, Cork and Milk Market, Limerick, Ireland.	<a href="https://www.corkcity.ie/en/english-market/">https://www.corkcity.ie/en/english-market/</a> <a href="https://www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/shopping/markets-and-fairs/limerick-milk-market">https://www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/shopping/markets-and-fairs/limerick-milk-market</a>
The town should look towards the River Bann, as the Peace Bridge in Derry~Londonderry looks towards the Foyle.	<a href="https://discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/peace-bridge-p701951">https://discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/peace-bridge-p701951</a>
The Big Fish in Belfast celebrates the regeneration of the River Lagan.	<a href="https://visitbelfast.com/partners/big-fish/">https://visitbelfast.com/partners/big-fish/</a>

### Theme 12 – Digital High Streets

Just Park software application.	<a href="https://www.justpark.com/">https://www.justpark.com/</a>
Freely accessible public libraries can be found in the high streets of villages, towns and cities across NI.	<a href="https://www.librariesni.org.uk/Libraries/">https://www.librariesni.org.uk/Libraries/</a>
Entrepreneurs are a launch pad to success.	<a href="https://www.derrydaily.net/2021/09/27/new-scheme-offers-entrepreneurs-a-launch-pad-to-success/">https://www.derrydaily.net/2021/09/27/new-scheme-offers-entrepreneurs-a-launch-pad-to-success/</a>
Toast Office website is an example of how to promote digitally for a small business.	<a href="https://www.toastofficebelfast.com/">https://www.toastofficebelfast.com/</a>

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<b>Theme 13 – Rural Settlements</b>	
Pat Murphy's House, Ederney. The re-use of historic buildings at risk.	<a href="https://ahfund.org.uk/projects/pat-murphys-tearooms/">https://ahfund.org.uk/projects/pat-murphys-tearooms/</a>
Caledon Regeneration Partnership Ltd. Woolstore regeneration to provide childcare facilities.	<a href="https://ahfund.org.uk/projects/caledon-wool-store/">https://ahfund.org.uk/projects/caledon-wool-store/</a>
The Chandlers House, Rathfriland Repair and adaptation to provide community space and social housing.	<a href="https://ahfund.org.uk/news/latest/chandlers-house-renovation-to-revitalise-rathfrilands-village-square/">https://ahfund.org.uk/news/latest/chandlers-house-renovation-to-revitalise-rathfrilands-village-square/</a>
Gracehill a former post office converted to a B&B as a training facility for people with learning difficulties and autism.	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/village-catalyst-pilot-case-studies">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/village-catalyst-pilot-case-studies</a>
Irish Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Cork, Ireland.	<a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/01125e-town-and-village-renewal-scheme/">https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/01125e-town-and-village-renewal-scheme/</a>
Future of small market towns in Ireland. Irish Towns Ignite Research 2015	<a href="http://www.freemarket.ie/">http://www.freemarket.ie/</a> <a href="https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/irish_towns_research.pdf">https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/irish_towns_research.pdf</a>
Simplification of funding applications as used for the Tackle Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) grant.	<a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/trpsi-application-form-and-guidance-notes">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/trpsi-application-form-and-guidance-notes</a>
Scotland 20 minute neighbourhoods.	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-position-statement/pages/5/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-position-statement/pages/5/</a>

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<b>Theme 14 – People, Localism and Well-being</b>	
Fáilte Ireland grants part of the 'Project Ireland 2040' Strategy.	<a href="https://www.failteireland.ie/Identify-Available-Funding/Platform-for-growth/Platform-1.aspx">https://www.failteireland.ie/Identify-Available-Funding/Platform-for-growth/Platform-1.aspx</a>
St Patrick's day / "Spot the stranger" in the shop window - a family event.	<a href="http://www.thedownrecorder.co.uk/pages/?title=Countdown+to+meeting+on+four-day+festival+proposals">http://www.thedownrecorder.co.uk/pages/?title=Countdown to meeting on four-day festival proposals</a>
Carnegie's wellbeing report as an urgent authority has strong, clear recommendations.	<a href="https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/towards-a-wellbeing-framework-short-report/">https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/towards-a-wellbeing-framework-short-report/</a>
Live Here Love Here, Adopt A Spot, Big Spring Clean, helps to create cleaner, greener outdoor spaces.	<a href="https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/">https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/</a> <a href="https://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=20">https://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=20</a>
Community carbon literacy.	<a href="https://carbonliteracy.com/">https://carbonliteracy.com/</a>
Studio2 in Derry~Londonderry - providing direct access to the arts for disadvantaged communities.	<a href="https://www.studio2derry.com/about-1">https://www.studio2derry.com/about-1</a>
Alleyway transformation schemes.	<a href="https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-fund-greening-alleyways">https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-fund-greening-alleyways</a>
A support network for local crafters helping to regenerate Ballymena town centre.	<a href="http://www.midtownmakers.co.uk/">http://www.midtownmakers.co.uk/</a>

## References

<b>Scotland's Centre for Regional Inclusive Growth (SCRIG) Case Studies</b>	<a href="https://www.inclusivegrowth.scot/community-wealth-building-case-studies/">https://www.inclusivegrowth.scot/community-wealth-building-case-studies/</a>
Young Enterprise Scotland.	Community building and developing disadvantaged youth.
Linlith-Go-Solar.	Grant funded renewables project.
GrowBiz.	Rural Micro-Enterprise Recovery Fund.
Warmworks.	Deliver Warmer Homes Scotland.
Bute Produce.	Local community garden on the Isle of Bute.
Argyll and Bute Council.	Sustainable school meals.
The West Harris Trust.	Demographic change.
Sustainable Procurement.	Help Scotland's public sector organisations implement sustainable procurement.
North Ayrshire Council.	Scotland's first Community Wealth Building Council.
Perth and Kinross Council.	Sustainable Procurement Policy - Community Benefits Wish List.
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn(Galson Estate Trust).	Community Investment Fund 22 - rural crofting townships.
The Crunchy Carrot.	"It's a whole lot more than a fruit and veg store".
Jerba Campervans.	Employee ownership model.

Other Locations	
Joint Nature Conservation Committee - Roadmap for the Blue Green Infrastructure Manual, Bridging the knowledge gap in the field of Blue Green Infrastructures, November 2019.	<a href="https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/blue-green-infrastructure/#the-bgi-manual">https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/blue-green-infrastructure/#the-bgi-manual</a>
High Streets & Town Centres - Good Growth By Design, Adaptive Strategies – London Mayor, January 2019.	<a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ggbd_high_streets_adaptive_strategies_web_compressed_0.pdf">https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ggbd_high_streets_adaptive_strategies_web_compressed_0.pdf</a>
A Framework for Town Centre Renewal Retail Consortium Forum, April 2017. Ireland.	<a href="https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/A-Framework-for-Town-Centre-Renewal.pdf">https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/A-Framework-for-Town-Centre-Renewal.pdf</a>
The Town Centre Database statistics for 41 urban towns and cities in NI.	<a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/town-centre-database">Town Centre Database   Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)</a>
Balbriggan, Ireland	<a href="https://www.fingal.ie/balbriggan">Our Balbriggan   Fingal County Council</a>

## Annex C: Organisations that provided either an organisational response or whose members of staff responded to our call for evidence.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council  
Ards & North Down Borough Council  
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council  
Association of Town & City Management  
Ballyclare Chamber of Trade  
Ballymena BID Limited  
Belfast Buildings Trust  
Belfast Chamber  
Belfast City Council  
Belfast Civic Trust  
Burns & Co (Maghera)  
Business Partnership Alliance, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon  
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
City Centre Initiative (Derry~Londonderry)  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Destination Cathedral Quarter BID  
Department for Communities  
Executive Office Committee, NI Assembly  
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council  
Heritage Trust Network (NI)  
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful  
Land and Property Services  
Larne Renovation Generation  
Libraries NI  
Lisburn & Castlereagh Council  
Lisburn Chamber of Commerce  
Markethill District Enterprises Ltd

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Menarys Retail Limited  
Mid and East Antrim Council  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Musgrave  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
Northern Ireland Local Government Association  
Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations  
Royal National Institute of Blind People  
Royal Society of Ulster Architects  
Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland  
Sustrans  
Translink  
Tyburn and Wheelwright Residents Group  
Ulster University Economic Policy Centre  
USDAW  
Western Innovations Network  
Women's Resource and Development Agency

## Annex D: Dates and locations of workshops

Stakeholders that attended workshops included: community representatives; members of the public; voluntary groups and social enterprises; councillors, Members of the Local Assembly and a Member of Parliament; businesses – independent traders, retailers, hospitality operators, estate agents; chambers of commerce and industry; business improvement district managers; district councils and government Departments.

Date	Workshop Location	Attendance
09 November 2021	Cookstown	6
17 November 2021	Enniskillen	12
23 November 2021	Newry	9
24 November 2021	Derry~Londonderry	13
26 November 2021	Portadown	18
01 December 2021	Ballymena	14
02 December 2021	Downpatrick	19
03 December 2021	Zoom	11
06 December 2021	Belfast	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>



## Annex E: Call for Evidence questions

### **THEME 1 - PARTNERSHIPS**

**Q1. What are the key issues for partnerships?**

**Q2. What powers should local partnerships have to make them more effective?**

**Q3. What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures could transform partnerships on the high street?**

### **THEME 2 - FOLLOW BEST PRACTICE**

**Q4. What is best practice for the management of the high street?**

**Q5. What expert help is needed to develop best practice?**

**Q6. What changes are needed to legislation, procedures and processes to improve best practice and transform community planning on the high street?**

### **THEME 3 - INVESTMENT**

**Q7. What are the key issues for investment?**

**Q8. Is information on funding easy to find?**

**Q9. Which of the following funds would support the development of the high street? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)**

- High Street Transformation
- Residential Living
- Urban Development Grant
- Other (please comment below)

#### THEME 4 - PLANNING

**Q10. Are you aware of village, town and city centre masterplans? YES or NO**

**Q11. What are the key planning issues?**

**Q12. Would you support a temporary ban on out-of-town retail developments?**

**YES or NO (If yes, for how long?)**

**Q13. What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures could transform high street planning for the better?**

#### THEME 5 - PUBLIC REALM

**Q14. What are your views on the high street environment?**

**Q15. What could be done to change the perception of the Public Realm?**

**Q16. What improvements are needed in your high street?**

**Q17. What is a priority for Public Realm projects in the high street?**

**Q18. What would make town-centre living more attractive?**

#### THEME 6 – FISCAL – INCLUDING RATES

**Q19. What tax and rating reforms are needed to help stimulate the high street economy?**

**Q20. What actions should be taken to reduce vacancy rates on the high street?**

**Q21. Do you believe that legislation is required to change fiscal policy?**

**THEME 7 – CAPACITY**

**Q22. What is the priority for capacity mapping and pilot exercises?**

**Q23. What capacity skills need to be developed?**

**Q24. What should be created to support the development of high street capacity?**

- Community funds
- Locality budgets
- Sector schemes
- Expert advice
- Workshops
- Collaborative approach
- Other (please comment below)

**THEME 8 – ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**Q25. What actions should be adopted to provide greener urban environments?**

**Q26. What incentives should there be for repurposing buildings? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)**

- Environmental grants
- Loans
- Reduced rates
- Other (please comment below)

**Q27. Should existing buildings, including our heritage assets, play an enhanced role in transforming the High Street?**

**YES or NO**

### THEME 9 - HOUSING AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

**Q28. What strategies are needed to encourage people to live in and around the high street?**

**Q29. What key services should be available for high street residents? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)**

- Health
- Housing
- Education
- Leisure
- Other (please comment below)

**Q30. How do we engage communities more effectively?**

**Q31. How will housing developments improve areas of deprivation in high streets, rural villages, town and city centres?**

**THEME 10 - GETTING TO AND FROM THE HIGH STREET**

**Q32. How do you get to your high street? (Tick all that apply)**

- Walk
- Car
- Bus
- Train
- Cycle
- Taxi
- Other (please comment below)

**Q33. What would make your journey to and from your high street easier?**

**Q34. What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures would encourage walking and cycling?**

**Q35. What are your views on high street parking?**

**THEME 11 - TOURISM**

**Q36. How do we engage with communities to promote tourism?**

**Q37. What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures should be made to develop tourism on the high street?**

**Q38. Are you aware of an innovative tourism project that could help your high street?**

**THEME 12 - DIGITAL HIGH STREETS**

**Q39. What aspects of a digital high street are important?**

**Q40. What digital innovations would help your high street?**

**Q41. What more needs to be done to improve digital skills?**

**THEME 13 - RURAL SETTLEMENTS**

**Q42. What changes to legislation, process and procedures are needed for village developments?**

**Q43. How could funding for rural settlements be made easier?**

**Q44. What innovative initiatives would improve village economies?**

**THEME 14 - PEOPLE, LOCALISM AND WELL-BEING**

**Q45. Are you aware of any initiatives that would improve localism in your community?**

**Q46. What is the most important aspect for creating well-being in the community?**

**ANY FURTHER COMMENTS?**


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# Annex F: Citizen Space Responses

Completed responses: 34

In the following tables, 'Total Responses' is a count of respondents who answered one or more parts of the question.

### Page 1: Introduction

Question Number	Title	Total Responses												
	<p>Are you responding as an individual or organisation?</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="391 694 1157 795"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Individual</td> <td>20</td> <td>59.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organisation</td> <td>17</td> <td>50.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Total	Percent	Individual	20	59.00%	Organisation	17	50.00%	Not Answered	0	0.00%	34 (100.00%)
Option	Total	Percent												
Individual	20	59.00%												
Organisation	17	50.00%												
Not Answered	0	0.00%												

### Page 2: Introduction - Continued

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
	What is the name of your organisation?	18 (52.94%)

### Page 3: Theme 1 - Partnerships

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
1	What are the key issues for partnerships?	30 (88.24%)
2	What powers should local partnerships have to make them more effective?	31 (91.18%)
3	What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures could transform partnerships on the high street?	27 (79.41%)

### Page 4: Theme 2 - Follow Best Practice

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
4	What is best practice for the management of the high street?	32 (94.12%)
5	What expert help is needed to develop best practice?	29 (85.29%)
6	What changes are needed to legislation, procedures and processes to improve best practice and transform community planning on the high street?	24 (70.59%)

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**Page 5: Theme 3 - Investment**

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
7	What are the key issues for investment?	30 (88.24%)
8	Is information on funding easy to find?	28 (82.35%)
9	Which of the following funds would support the development of the high street? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)	30 (88.24%)

FUND	Total responses	Percent
High Street Transformation	24	70.59%
Residential Living	22	64.71%
Urban Development Grant	22	64.71%
Other (please comment below)	16	47.06%
Not Answered	6	17.65%

**Page 6: Theme 4 - Planning**

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
10	Are you aware of village, town and city centre masterplans?	31 (91.18%)
11	What are the key planning issues?	28 (82.35%)
12	Would you support a temporary ban on out-of-town retail developments?	33 (97.06%)
13	What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures could transform high street planning for the better?	28 (82.35%)

Aware of masterplans	Total	Percent
Yes	21	61.76%
No	10	29.41%
Not Answered	3	8.82%

Temporary ban on out-of-town retail developments	Total	Percent
Yes	21	61.76%
No	10	29.41%
Not Answered	3	8.82%



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**Page 7: Theme 5 - Public Realm**

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
14	What are your views on the high street environment?	31 (91.18%)
15	What could be done to change the perception of the Public Realm?	28 (82.35%)
16	What improvements are needed in your high street?	30 (88.24%)
17	What is a priority for Public Realm projects in the high street?	27 (79.41%)
18	What would make town-centre living more attractive?	30 (88.24%)

**Page 8: Theme 6 - Fiscal - including rates**

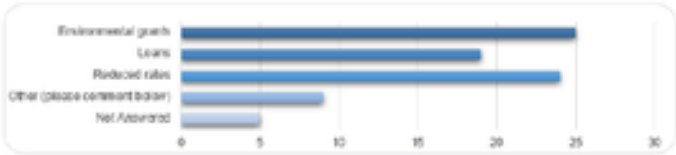
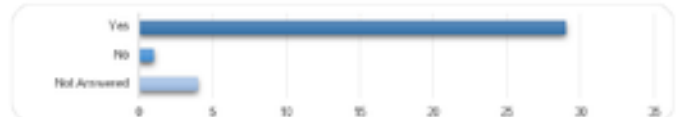
Question Number	Title	Total Responses
19	What tax and rating reforms are needed to help stimulate the high street economy?	30 (88.24%)
20	What actions should be taken to reduce vacancy rates on the high street?	30 (88.24%)
21	Do you believe that legislation is required to change fiscal policy?	26 (76.47%)

**Page 9: Theme 7 - Capacity**

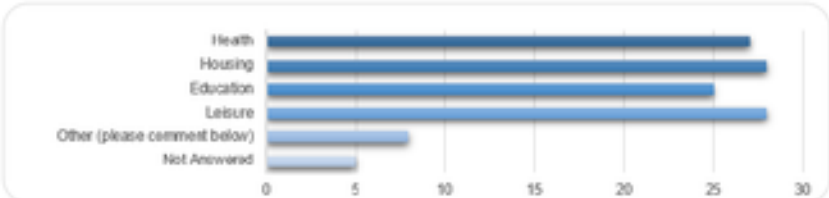
Question Number	Title	Total Responses																											
22	What is the priority for capacity mapping and pilot exercises?	20 (58.82%)																											
23	What capacity skills need to be developed?	20 (58.82%)																											
24	<p>What should be created to support the development of high street capacity? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Community funds</td> <td>17</td> <td>59.09%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Locality budgets</td> <td>18</td> <td>52.94%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sector schemes</td> <td>14</td> <td>41.18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expert advice</td> <td>15</td> <td>47.06%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops</td> <td>12</td> <td>35.29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaborative approach</td> <td>20</td> <td>58.82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please comment below)</td> <td>5</td> <td>14.71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>9</td> <td>26.47%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Total	Percent	Community funds	17	59.09%	Locality budgets	18	52.94%	Sector schemes	14	41.18%	Expert advice	15	47.06%	Workshops	12	35.29%	Collaborative approach	20	58.82%	Other (please comment below)	5	14.71%	Not Answered	9	26.47%	26 (76.47%)
Option	Total	Percent																											
Community funds	17	59.09%																											
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Collaborative approach	20	58.82%																											
Other (please comment below)	5	14.71%																											
Not Answered	9	26.47%																											

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Page 10: Theme 8 - Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability

Question Number	Title	Total Responses																		
25	What actions should be adopted to provide greener urban environments?	27 (79.41%)																		
26	<p>What incentives should there be for repurposing buildings? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="432 568 1118 712"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Environmental grants</td> <td>25</td> <td>73.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loans</td> <td>19</td> <td>55.88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reduced rates</td> <td>24</td> <td>70.59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please comment below)</td> <td>9</td> <td>26.47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>5</td> <td>14.71%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Total	Percent	Environmental grants	25	73.53%	Loans	19	55.88%	Reduced rates	24	70.59%	Other (please comment below)	9	26.47%	Not Answered	5	14.71%	30 (88.24%)
Option	Total	Percent																		
Environmental grants	25	73.53%																		
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Other (please comment below)	9	26.47%																		
Not Answered	5	14.71%																		
27	<p>Should existing buildings, including our heritage assets, play an enhanced role in transforming the High Street?</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="432 920 1118 1012"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>29</td> <td>85.29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>1</td> <td>2.94%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>4</td> <td>11.76%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Total	Percent	Yes	29	85.29%	No	1	2.94%	Not Answered	4	11.76%	30 (88.24%)						
Option	Total	Percent																		
Yes	29	85.29%																		
No	1	2.94%																		
Not Answered	4	11.76%																		

Page 11: Theme 9 - Housing and Other Infrastructure

Question Number	Title	Total Responses																					
28	What strategies are needed to encourage people to live in and around the high street?	29 (85.29%)																					
29	<p>What key services should be available for high street residents? (Tick as many or as few as you wish)</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="355 1518 1187 1720"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td>27</td> <td>79.41%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>28</td> <td>82.35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>25</td> <td>73.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leisure</td> <td>28</td> <td>82.35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please comment below)</td> <td>8</td> <td>23.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>5</td> <td>14.71%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Total	Percent	Health	27	79.41%	Housing	28	82.35%	Education	25	73.53%	Leisure	28	82.35%	Other (please comment below)	8	23.53%	Not Answered	5	14.71%	30 (88.24%)
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Other (please comment below)	8	23.53%																					
Not Answered	5	14.71%																					
30	How do we engage communities more effectively?	24 (70.59%)																					
31	How will housing developments improve areas of deprivation in high streets, rural villages, town and city centres?	26 (76.47%)																					

## High Street Task Force – Call for Evidence Report

### Page 12: Theme 10 - Getting To and From the High Street

Question Number	Title	Total Responses																											
32	<p>How do you get to your high street? (Tick all that apply)</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Walk</td> <td>21</td> <td>41.76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car</td> <td>25</td> <td>73.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus</td> <td>13</td> <td>38.24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Train</td> <td>9</td> <td>26.47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cycle</td> <td>10</td> <td>29.41%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taxi</td> <td>7</td> <td>20.59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please comment below)</td> <td>3</td> <td>8.82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>5</td> <td>14.71%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Total	Percent	Walk	21	41.76%	Car	25	73.53%	Bus	13	38.24%	Train	9	26.47%	Cycle	10	29.41%	Taxi	7	20.59%	Other (please comment below)	3	8.82%	Not Answered	5	14.71%	30 (88.24%)
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Taxi	7	20.59%																											
Other (please comment below)	3	8.82%																											
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33	What would make your journey to and from your high street easier?	30 (88.24%)																											
34	What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures would encourage walking and cycling?	26 (76.47%)																											
35	What are your views on high street parking?	29 (85.29%)																											

### Page 13: Theme 11 - Tourism

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
36	How do we engage with communities to promote tourism?	24 (70.59%)
37	What changes to legislation, policies, processes or procedures should be made to develop tourism on the high street?	18 (52.94%)
38	Are you aware of an innovative tourism project that could help your high street?	23 (67.65%)

### Page 14: Theme 12: Digital High Streets

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
39	What aspects of a digital high street are important?	23 (67.65%)
40	What digital innovations would help your high street?	19 (55.88%)
41	What more needs to be done to improve digital skills?	18 (52.94%)

### Page 15: Theme 13 - Rural Settlements

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
42	What changes to legislation, process and procedures are needed for village developments?	16 (47.06%)
43	How could funding for rural settlements be made easier?	13 (38.24%)
44	What innovative initiatives would improve village economies?	15 (44.12%)

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**Page 16: Theme 14 - People, Localism and Well-being**

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
45	<a href="#">Are you aware of any initiatives that would improve localism in your community?</a>	22 (64.71%)
46	<a href="#">What is the most important aspect for creating well-being in the community?</a>	24 (70.59%)

**Page 17: Any further comments**

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
	<a href="#">Please let us know if you have any other comments regarding any of the themes raised in the High Street Task Force Call for Evidence</a>	18 (52.94%)

**High Street Task Force – Call for Evidence Report**

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