

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR HIGH STREETS AND TOWN CENTRES

## HAVE THEIR OWN IDENTITY

- Town centres are vibrant community hubs for activities, shops and services
- High streets and secondary parades as unique offerings with creative planning, that serve local needs and can attract visitors. They should not be homogenous and dominated by the same brands
- Local organisations that are well supported in their post-pandemic recovery and empty spaces that are repurposed. Further closures are avoided.
- Town centres are built around food, drink, entertainment and independent businesses.

## OFFER A FULL RANGE OF SHOPS AND SERVICES FOR LOCALS

- All key services accessible locally. The 20 minute-neighbourhood concept means that everything residents need should be within walking or cycling distance, from food and activities to banks and post offices.
- Small businesses and start-ups need to be greatly supported, encouraged, and incentivised
- Sustainable options are available, such as zero-waste or repair shops. Town centres that encourage the circular economy and sustainable futures.

## ARE FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY SPACES

- Outside dining options are plentiful and available. Riverside space is well utilised for providing community meeting points and al-fresco dining.
- There is a good balance between pedestrianised spaces and travel routes.
- Spaces are used flexibly to provide places for interest groups, classes and hybrid working
- Town centres are clean, pleasant, and green

## ARE ACTIVITY HUBS

- Local events are plentiful, easily accessible and well promoted. It is easy to see what's on. Cultural events are held regularly, such as art trails, community exhibitions, live music, summer fairs and festivals.
- Town markets and farmers markets are regular and have a lot on offer
- Children and young people have plenty of local clubs, activities, games and sports facilities to enjoy.

## ARE CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE

- Streets and roads are not congested and dominated by traffic or clutter
- Parking spaces, EV points and bike storage areas are plentiful where needed, with clear signposting
- Street, shops, and services are easily accessible for the elderly and disabled
- A connected borough - it is easy to travel between town centres without driving
- Digital solutions are used creatively to support town centres

