



**AN EVENING AND
NIGHTTIME ECONOMY
FRAMEWORK FOR**

WALTHAM FOREST



Waltham Forest

CONTENTS

1. Foreword	
2. Introduction	→
3. Waltham Forest at night	→
4. Our nighttime areas	→
5. Producing the Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework	→
Key action areas:	
6.  CURATION AND PROMOTION TO IMPROVE THE NIGHTTIME EXPERIENCE	→
7.  SUPPORTING AND INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NIGHT	→
8.  STRENGTHENING BUSINESS FRIENDLY LICENSING, REGULATION AND POLICY	→
9.  IMPROVING SAFETY AND WELLBEING AT NIGHT	→
10. Monitoring and impact	→
11. Funding, delivery and next steps	→

FOREWORD

We are thrilled to bring you our plans and vision to improve Waltham Forest’s Evening and Nighttime Economy.

Over the past few years, we’ve seen a fantastic evening offer emerging across Waltham Forest for residents, workers and visitors, building on our legacy of being the first London Borough of Culture in 2019. We recently celebrated the opening of the Grade II* listed former Granada Cinema building with our new operators, Soho Theatre Walthamstow as a multi-purpose cultural venue, helping to bring more life to the area after 6pm.

We’re entering a new chapter of national recognition of the value of nighttime activity, including proposed changes from government to licensing regulation across the country and new powers for the Mayor of London being piloted. This is a crucial moment where we can build on the growing momentum of Waltham Forest’s evening offer ensuring that it contributes to inclusive growth and supports safe, accessible and joyful experiences after 6pm, creating new jobs, boosting footfall and spend on our high streets.

The Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework celebrates the fantastic initiatives already in place to support our borough after dark. It sets out how we’re going to promote the nighttime experience, support employment opportunities, improve safety and wellbeing at night and strengthen licensing, regulation and policies for businesses with all our partners. We have created tailored delivery plans linked to key action areas which outline priorities to create better nighttime experiences and opportunities for everyone in Waltham Forest.

This document demonstrates our focus on ensuring that people can feel safe and move confidently through Waltham Forest from 6pm to 6am and that the evening offer includes and welcomes everyone. Now more than ever the nighttime has an essential part to play in tackling issues of inequality, supporting local prosperity and the economy.

This is just the beginning to truly making Waltham Forest glow in the dark for everyone.



Councillor Ahsan Khan
*Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member
for Housing and Regeneration*



Councillor Rosalind Doré
*Cabinet Member for Libraries,
Culture, Sports and Leisure*

INTRODUCTION

Our vision for Waltham Forest at night

Waltham Forest’s evening and nighttime economy is evolving like never before. In recent years, the borough has seen the growth of a vibrant evening offer. The Council has played a key role in securing investment and facilitating the launch of exciting cultural venues like Soho Theatre Walthamstow and the rise of business led nighttime activity like the Blackhorse Beer Mile and emerging business offer in and around Leyton Midland Road.

Our new Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework will build on this momentum and help to shape safer and more welcoming experiences across our town centres and neighbourhoods so that everyone can enjoy the borough after 6pm.

We see a future where Waltham Forest continues to grow into a dynamic, inclusive and thriving place alive with creativity and culture at night.

The evening will become more than an extension of the day and act as a space for opportunity and joy. By working in partnership with businesses, residents and local organisations, we will support an evening offer that becomes a vital part of Waltham Forest’s future, strengthening communities, supporting enterprise and the local economy and providing employment.



Walthamstow's Ravenswood Industrial Estate
Photo credit: Jenna Selby

INTRODUCTION

What do we mean by the evening and nighttime?

Our definition of ‘evening’ and ‘night’ encompasses everything that happens between 6pm and 6am. This goes far beyond the traditional association of pub and club activity, and includes everything from eating out, shopping, running errands, socialising, sport, exercise, culture, creativity, live music, performances, dance, play, studying and learning new skills. Across London, around 1.6 million people regularly work during these hours, making the nighttime an important part of the economy and our residents’ daily lives.

Why do we need an Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework?

The Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework acts as a guide to shape how the Council works with partners to tackle the diverse needs and challenges of our businesses and residents, supporting inclusive, safe, sustainable and accessible places to live, work, do business and access leisure and culture into the evening. As outlined by the Mayor of London the night is a time of an opportunity when we can reimagine our high streets and neighbourhoods.

Why we’re creating a nighttime framework now:

- 1. There are Government plans to reform licensing and regulation processes, creating a more modern and proportionate process to improve the process of gaining a licence enabling business activity at night.
- 2. The Mayor of London’s Summer Streets programme delivered a series of outdoor and evening events in Leyton Midland Road and in Francis Road during summer 2025. The events evidenced that alfresco dining and drinking at nighttime can boost businesses and local economies.

➔ REFORMING THE LICENSING SYSTEM

➔ ALFRESCO DINING HOTSPOTS



INTRODUCTION

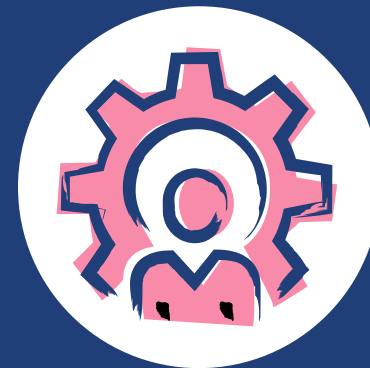
We know there are challenges to address, like ensuring people feel safe and able to move around confidently at night. But we also recognise the significant potential the evening and nighttime economy holds, from creating new jobs to boosting town centre footfall and spend and strengthening community connections.

This framework focuses on four key action areas to guide our work with partners and support the borough to thrive after 6pm.

These are key priority areas are:



**CURATION AND PROMOTION TO
IMPROVE THE NIGHTTIME EXPERIENCE**



**SUPPORTING AND INCREASING
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NIGHT**



**STRENGTHENING BUSINESS FRIENDLY
LICENSING, REGULATION AND POLICY**

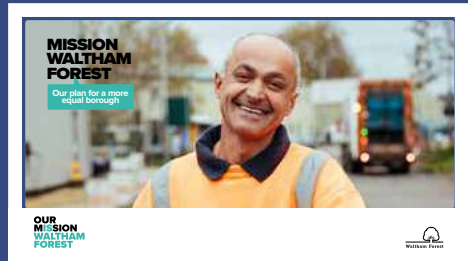


**IMPROVING SAFETY AND
WELLBEING AT NIGHT**

The Council uses different strategies and tools to shape how it supports its communities through the evening. This includes:



The Local Plan sets out the vision for inclusive growth within the borough over the next 15 years. Policy 44 ‘Evening and Night-Time Economy Uses’ provides further detail regarding proposals for evening and night-time economy uses.



Mission Waltham Forest which sets out our vision for a more equal borough where everyone can make the most of their strengths to live the life they want to lead.



The Inclusive Growth and Economy Framework which aims to create a more inclusive and sustainable local economy for Waltham Forest.



The Town Centre Framework which sets out how we work in partnership with local businesses, community groups, residents and organisations to unlock social, environmental and economic benefits in our key town centres, including supporting the evening economy.



The Cultural Action Plan which is designed to enable us to develop stronger communities through culture and creativity, including unlocking spaces for nighttime activation.



The Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework brings this work together, highlighting what we have already delivered and uses the four key action areas to set out a clear plan to continue to harness the full potential of our borough at night.



WALTHAM FOREST AT NIGHT

Over recent years the borough's nighttime offer has been growing, with new investment in exciting venues and creative and cultural operators.

Waltham Forest is entering a new phase of growth, driven by evolving social habits and increasing demand for evening and nighttime experiences from all parts of our community.

By embracing innovation and shaping a vibrant nighttime economy, the borough is well-positioned to unlock significant economic opportunities and expand the local benefits of investment in this sector.

Despite this, Waltham Forest's evening footfall compared to other London Boroughs could still be improved, and some of our nighttime businesses are struggling due to rising costs and changing consumer trends.

The arrival of the University of Portsmouth campus and the growth in co-living and student accommodation in the borough will bring younger, socially connected residents, fuelling demand for vibrant, diverse and experience-led nighttime activities. This emerging audience is reshaping expectations of what the borough offers after dark.

At the same time, our existing communities are increasingly choosing to spend their leisure time locally in the evenings, with these groups also needing a safer, inclusive and varied nighttime offer.

There is an important opportunity for services across the Council to work together with external partners to support our existing and emerging nighttime offer to make sure that it maximises its potential to support local prosperity and quality of life for our residents.

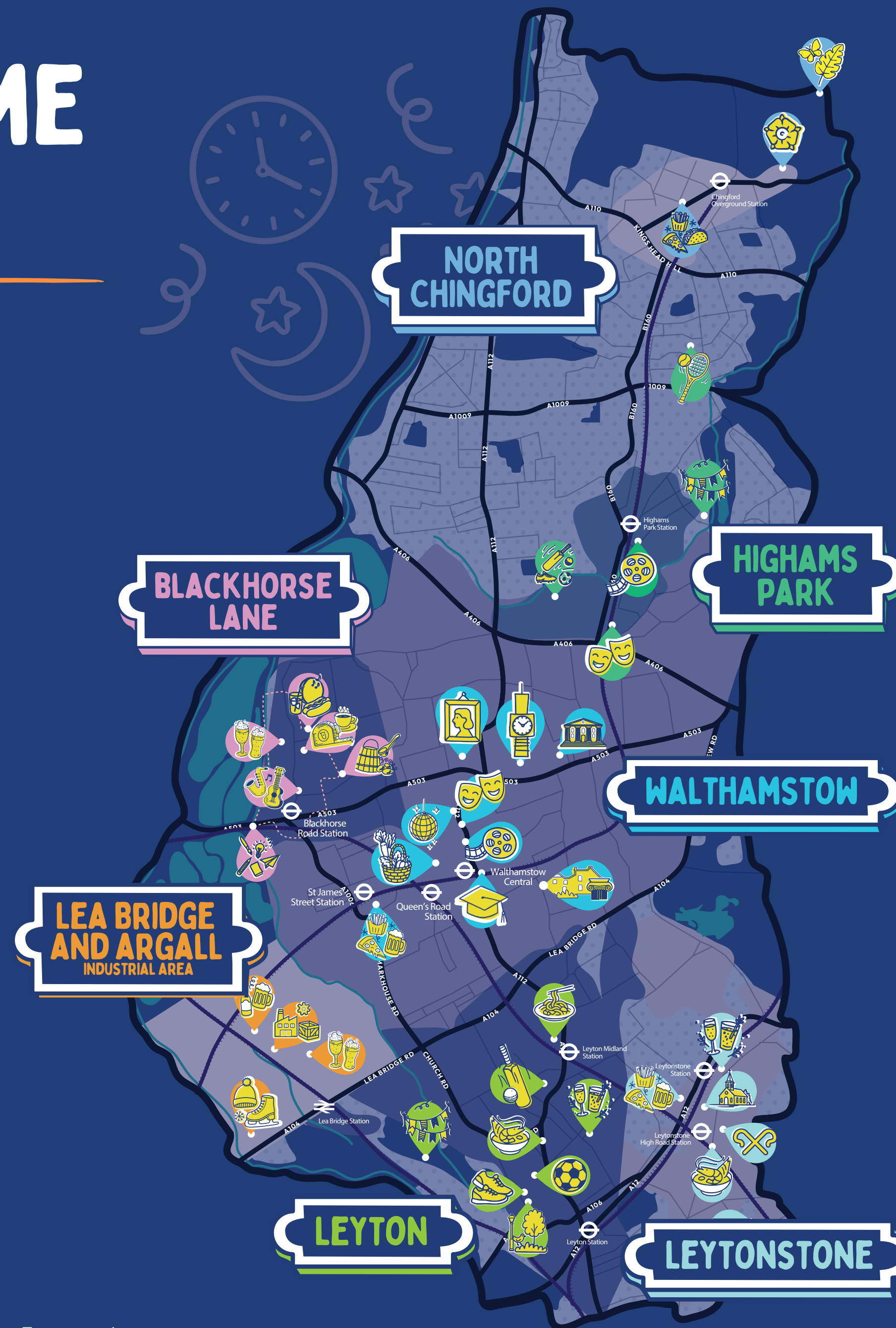


Projections by Idea Space in Leytonstone
Photo credit: Jenna Selby

OUR NIGHTTIME AREAS

We have identified seven key nighttime areas in the borough. These are locations where there might already be a concentration of evening uses and activities, places where people work or travel through at night or settings where there are clear opportunities for nighttime activities to be better supported. Each area has its own unique offer as well as exciting opportunities to respond to and challenges to overcome.

We will also continue to make sure we improve how our communities experience the night across the wider borough.



WALTHAMSTOW

-  17&Central and Walthamstow Market
 -  CRATE St James
 -  Fellowship Square
 -  Forest Cinema
 -  Soho Theatre Walthamstow
 -  University of Portsmouth
 -  Walthamstow Assembly Hall
 -  Walthamstow Trades Hall
 -  William Morris Gallery
 -  Vestry House Museum

LEYTON

-  Coronation Square
-  Francis Road
-  High Road
-  Leyton Orient FC
-  Leyton Sports Ground
-  Score Centre
-  Seasonal Events in the Park
-  Tilbury and Leyton Midland Road

HIGHAMS PARK

- Rolls Park
Tennis Club
- Forest
Community
Theatre
- Peter May
Sports Centre
- Regal
Cinema
- Seasonal
Events in the
Park

NORTH CHINGFORD

- Epping Forest
- Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge
- Station Road Cluster

BLACKHORSE LANE

-  Big Penny Social
-  Blackhorse Beer Mile
-  Blackhorse Workshop
-  Community Sauna
-  Creative Enterprise Zone
-  Future New Standard Music Venue

LEA BRIDGE & ARGALL

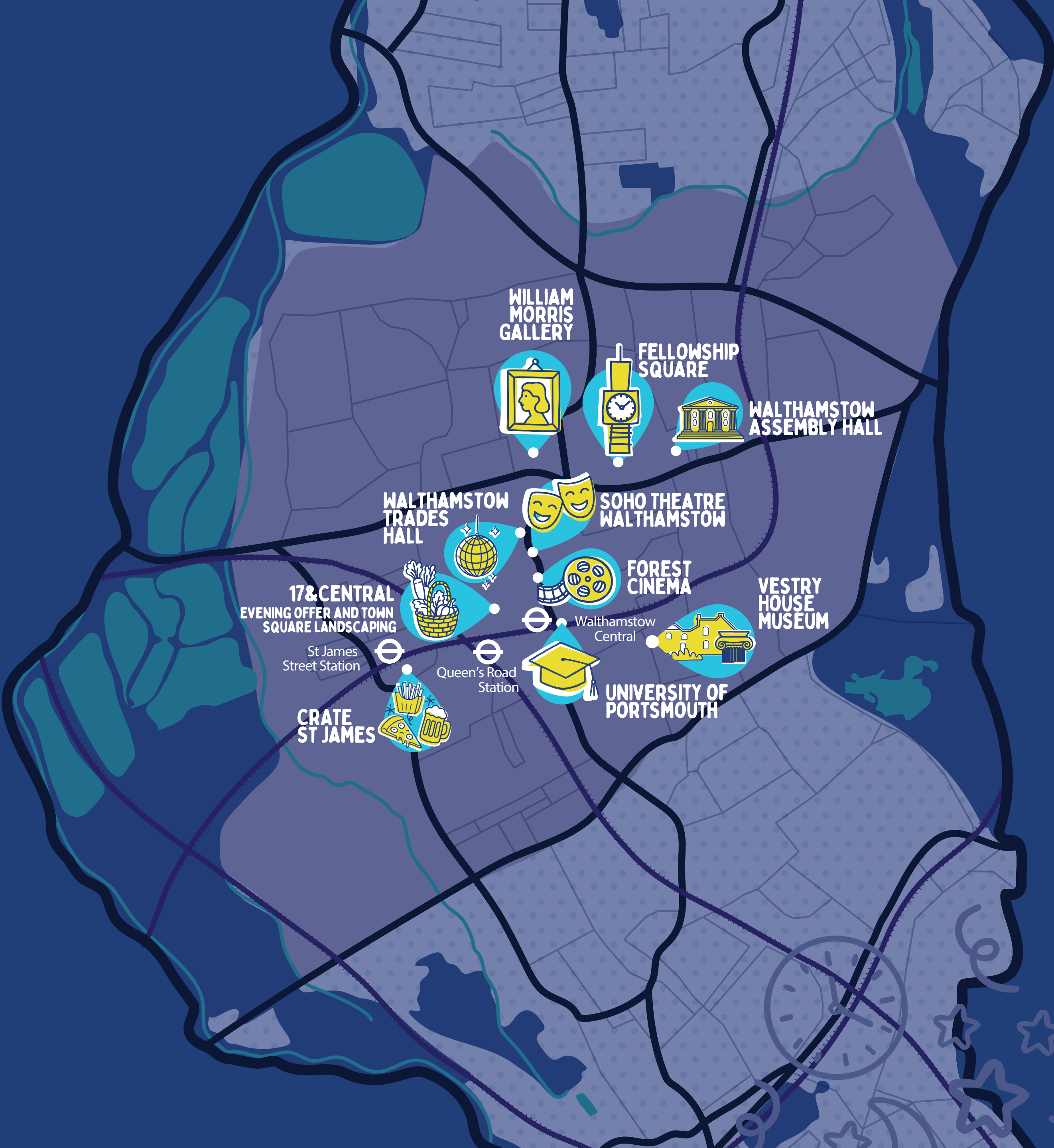
- 
- Argall Business Improvement District
 - Lee Valley Ice Centre
 - Argall Industrial Area Breweries

LEYTONSTONE

- 
-  Good Shepherd Studios
 -  High Road Leytonstone Venues
 -  New Luna Lounge
 -  Filly Brook
 -  Winchelsea Road Arches
 -  St John's Church

WALTHAMSTOW

Walthamstow is the borough’s largest town centre with a vibrant cultural evening and nighttime offer. Walthamstow currently attracts over 7.4 million people a year and has the highest nighttime footfall and spend figures within the borough. Walthamstow has an average of 22,500 daily visits, and over 30% of these are visits in the evening (data sourced from the Greater London Authority (GLA) High Street Data Store, recorded from January to December 2024).



We know that crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspots remain in Walthamstow, which is in the highest 15% for ASB incidents in London (recorded over 12 months up until the end of September 2025). This Nighttime Framework (and our linked Town Centre Framework) sets out how we propose to work closely in partnership with Police and other partners to tackle ASB so that all in our community can enjoy time in their local town centre.

Nighttime footfall to Walthamstow has been boosted by the launch of 950-seat comedy venue Soho Theatre Walthamstow in May 2025 and associated investment in evening leisure, hospitality, food and drink offers. Nighttime spend already constitutes 20% of total spend, with clear opportunities to continue to improve the evening and nighttime offer in Walthamstow and grow the nighttime economy.

As part of the expansion of the 17&Central shopping mall, 495 new homes have been delivered in the heart of Walthamstow town centre, including below market rent homes for key workers such as teachers and social workers. Alongside this, over 1,000 new homes have been delivered, including at Juniper House, Central Parade and Jazz Yard in St James Street, with more homes and student accommodation planned over the next few years. This increase in residents and students in the town centre will significantly increase footfall and natural surveillance, improving community

safety around Walthamstow Central Station and the Town Square. The development also includes facilitating a new step-free entrance to the Victoria Line which runs as the Night Tube on Friday and Saturday nights. The investment will redesign the Town Square to provide new landscaping, green spaces, play spaces and new food, drink and leisure offers which will be open into the evening and nighttime.

Walthamstow's exciting cultural offer includes William Morris Gallery in Lloyd Park which over recent years has attracted a more diverse audience through careful curation of exhibitions and evening events programme. University of Portsmouth's new London Campus in Walthamstow Central is bringing thousands of students to Walthamstow which is fuelling demand for a different offer in the evening and nighttime. Walthamstow Central is bringing thousands of students to Walthamstow which is fuelling demand for a different offer in the evening and nighttime.

The current £17.3m programme of investment in Walthamstow's cultural assets (Vestry House Museum, Chestnuts House, Hatherley Mews) and improving the appearance, safety and biodiversity of Hoe Street, High Street and St James Street from the Government's Local Regeneration Fund will transform Walthamstow as a safe and attractive cultural destination in the evening for both residents and visitors.



Soho Theatre Walthamstow
Photo credit: David Levene

Hatherley Mews, a characterful cobbled mews adjacent to the new Soho Theatre Walthamstow hosts a range of small businesses offering food, drink and leisure into the evening, with new opportunities that have been boosted by the launch of the theatre in May 2025. Hatherley Mews has also benefited from recent public art and lighting improvements through the Local Regeneration Fund.

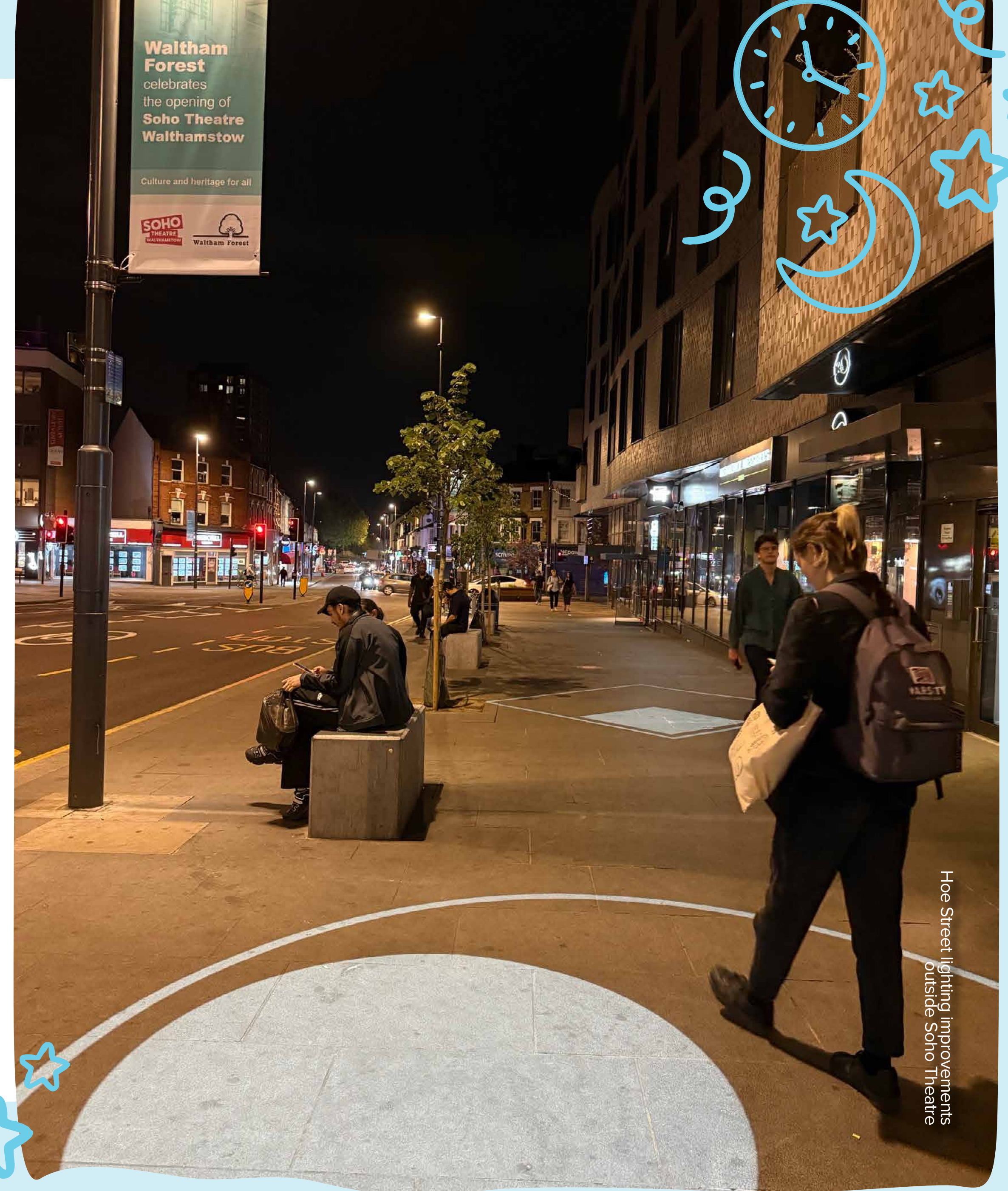
Chestnuts House, an iconic and historic Grade II* heritage building on Hoe Street located between Walthamstow Central and Bakers Arms, has long needed essential repair and restoration work, and is now being refurbished through the Local Regeneration Fund to be transformed into new artist studios with community offers, which will include a bar/café open to the public, adding to the activation of this area of Hoe Street into the evening.

Vestry House Museum in Walthamstow Village is also currently being restored and revitalised as part of the Local Regeneration Fund to create a more accessible and inclusive cultural venue with workspace curation, and food and drink offers during the day as well as diverse and exciting cultural programmes into the evening when the refurbished museum and facilities reopen to the public in 2026.

Walthamstow Street Market, said to be the longest Street Market in Europe, is one of the borough's major assets, providing good quality and affordable food, clothes, fabrics, household goods etc., generating Walthamstow's fantastic diversity and vibrancy. In recent years the Sunday Social has added to this mix, offering street food, music and community events which attract visitors from across London. The expansion of market operations into weekends and evenings presents exciting opportunities to bring added vibrancy to Walthamstow High Street in the evening/nighttime, supporting small businesses and traders, helping to improve community safety.

Across Walthamstow town centre the Local Regeneration Fund is being used to deliver public realm improvements. On Walthamstow High Street improvements are being delivered during 2025/26 to create safer, more accessible, inclusive and greener spaces.

This is focused on improving the experience of the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists to increase footfall, and support businesses to grow and expand further into evening and nighttime uses.



Hoe Street lighting improvements outside Soho Theatre

Improvements to public spaces and pedestrian routes around Walthamstow Central station including working with Network Rail to improve the appearance and safety of the Overground Station gateway at Selborne Road and along Hoe Street. These improvements will transform this key gateway to the town centre into a safer, more welcoming and accessible space for all.

This includes a series of upgrades to lighting, wayfinding and public artwork designed to elevate Walthamstow's evening experience including a trail of theatrical and nature-inspired gobo projections and landmark artwork murals which make the journey between key venues and destinations and the transport hub more navigable and inviting after dark.

Enhancements to the pedestrian environment at the top/eastern end of the High Street (around Rosebank Villa's pedestrian entrance to Walthamstow Station) and The Scene will create

a more inclusive, flexible and visually appealing public space, better suited to the area's diverse mix of uses. These enhancements will reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts, support outdoor dining and strengthen the hub of evening activity centred around Forest Cinema and the food and drink venues.

At Waltham Forest Town Hall, Fellowship Square is an exciting day/evening location for a diverse and existing programme of events and activities, and the reopening of Walthamstow Assembly Hall will offer high quality live music and cultural performances and events from 2026.

St James Street

At St James Street, which is at the western end of the Walthamstow High Street, Crate enterprise hub has been in operation since 2019, transforming the evening and nighttime offer, providing natural surveillance which is improving community safety at this end of the High Street.

We are building on this success through longer-term targeted business support and active curation of new business investment to ensure high-quality operators which add to the evening food, drink and leisure offer in St James Street. The Local Regeneration Fund investment in St James Street is focused on improving the public space around St James Street Station and Courtenay Mews, with new paving, planting, artwork, lighting and CCTV as well as the opportunity to open and fit out some of the railway arches in Courtenay Mews for evening/nighttime commercial use (subject to feasibility and landlord agreements).

Alongside these physical improvements, we are working with St James Big Local and St James Collective, and have worked proactively to take targeted Planning enforcement action on unsafe and unattractive commercial properties, and to co-ordinate community safety measures which support a St James Street which is a safe and attractive destination for evening and nighttime activity.

The St James Economic Impact Zone has also been created to help stimulate economic growth and increase footfall through events and activations, amending pavement licences, signage, public art and conducting enforcement where current issues occur.

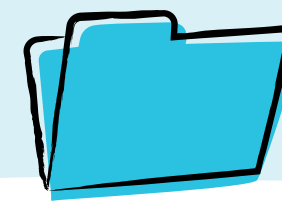
Opportunities are also being explored for the conversion of railway arches near St James Street Station to potentially provide commercial space for local businesses.

Crate St James Street





Photograph of mural designed in collaboration with Wood Street Business Forum in 2024



Wood Street

Wood Street has undergone significant transformation in recent years. In 2018, the first phase of the Marlowe Road Estate regeneration was completed, introducing new amenities and the new town square, Troubridge Square.

Since then, there has been a steady shift in amenities, moving away from retail and services towards hospitality, with cafés, restaurants and taprooms becoming more prominent. Some daytime businesses have also experimented with evening supper clubs, such as The Old Station Yard café and the Clapton Craft depot.

In 2024, nighttime footfall increased by 15%, a proportionally greater rise than daytime footfall, accompanied by a 2% increase in nighttime spend compared to 2023 (GLA High Street Data Store).

Although 2025 has brought challenges for many London high streets, reflected in lower footfall and spend, Wood Street has recorded a 7% increase in nighttime spend from January to October 2025 compared to

the last 10 months of 2024 (GLA High Street Data Store).

The business community is well known for its collaborative spirit and commitment to shared benefits, with a strong interest in community projects. Through the 'We are Wood Street' business forum, local businesses co-designed a new mural delivered by Wood Street Walls, which now welcomes visitors arriving from the train station. They also play an active role in community events at Troubridge Square, helping to facilitate event planning, entertainment, and market stalls.

Recognising that greater activation supports local growth, the forum is currently exploring opportunities to plan coordinated evening events featuring live music, food and drink across multiple businesses.

BLACKHORSE LANE

Blackhorse Lane is rapidly becoming one of Waltham Forest's most distinctive evening destinations, rooted in its industrial heritage and creative spirit. It is home to the GLA supported Creative Enterprise Zone, known as Blackhorse Collective Zone, which champions cultural activity in the area, including the development of new music and cultural venues that will operate late into the evening.



10 INDEPENDENT DRINKS
PRODUCERS ALONG
BLACKHORSE BEER MILE



BETWEEN 6PM AND MIDNIGHT
RANKS SECOND FOR FOOTFALL AMONG
THE BOROUGH'S NIGHTTIME AREAS



**BLACKHORSE ROAD STATION WAS THE
11TH BUSIEST UNDERGROUND STATION
OUTSIDE ZONES 1 AND 2 IN 2024**



Ongoing regeneration through the Blackhorse Lane Masterplan presents a clear opportunity to curate new uses that meet growing demand. These efforts aim to support local nighttime businesses, enhance the public realm for evening users, and ensure inclusive and safe access to cultural and social activities after dark.

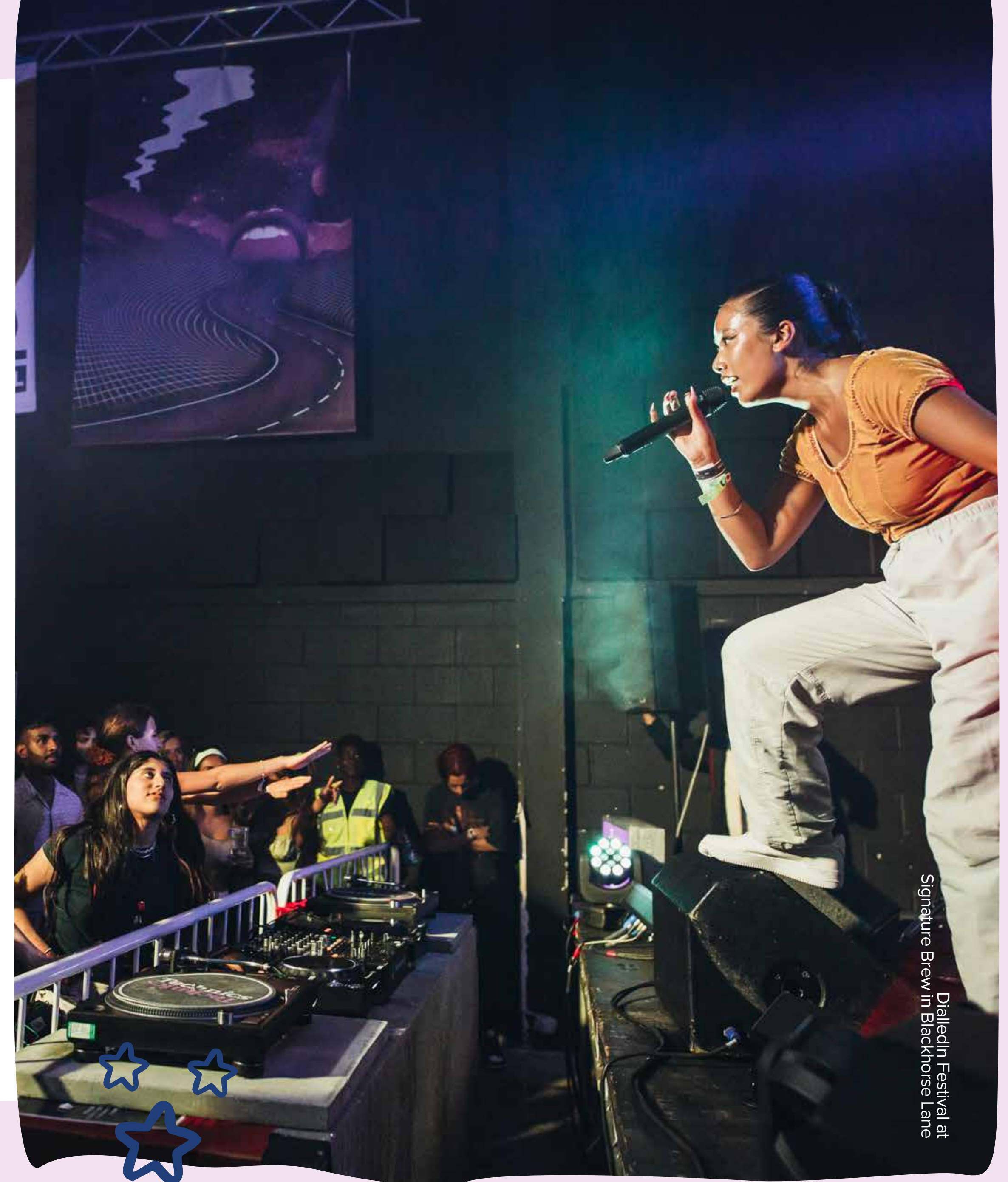
The area has long supported live music through the legendary Standard venue, which hosted acts like Phil Lynott and Wilko Johnson. This legacy will soon be revived with the reopening of The New Standard on the ground floor of the 1 Blackhorse Lane development, restoring its role as a cultural anchor for the borough.

Breweries and drinks producers have played a leading role in shaping Blackhorse Lane's evening economy, anchored by the popular Blackhorse Beer Mile, a curated trail stretching along Blackhorse Lane to Lockwood Way and featuring 10 independent breweries and drinks producers. Several of these venues also double as music and event spaces, helping to establish the area as a cultural destination on a London wide scale.

These locations offer a vibrant mix of beverages, live music, and community programming. Events range from comedy nights and film screenings to family discos, craft markets, DJ sets, and a dedicated games hall, creating inclusive experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The evening economy also includes flexible workspaces and active leisure with facilities open until 10pm, alongside a climbing centre, yoga studio and café, creating a hub for creative professionals and climbers alike. This sits alongside other creative workspaces in the area which are open late into the evening, which contribute to the area's vitality.

A Community Sauna on Sutherland Road offer a unique evening wellness experience, open until 10pm most nights. The site features three electric saunas, six cold plunge pools and accessible facilities. Adjacent to the sauna is a community garden, which hosts weekend gardening sessions and provides a tranquil green space for relaxation and social connection.



Signature Brew in Blackhorse Lane

LEYTON

Leyton has the potential to evolve into a vibrant destination after 6pm, building on its diverse community and status as one of the borough's major growth areas whilst helping to address challenges around inequality and safety.

40% of Leyton's 2.5 million annual footfall occurs at night, the greatest proportion of evening versus daytime footfall in of all our nighttime areas (GLA High Street Data Store, data recorded from January to December 2024).

Ongoing investment is helping to shape a safer, more dynamic nighttime experience.



40%

OF LEYTON'S DAILY
FOOTFALL OCCURS AFTER
6PM



The Council's own investment and partnership with Transport for London (TfL) has secured further Government Funding to enable the transformation of Leyton Underground Station's capacity and accessibility, improving the overall experience of travelling to and from the area at night. The Night Tube which provides 24-hour service on Friday and Saturday also plays a vital role in people's ability to travel to and from the area at night.

The phased development of the Council owned Coronation Square offers a unique chance to curate new uses and activities that enhance the town centre's evening appeal, including through the activation of new commercial premises like Moot Hall. In 2025 residents welcomed the 'The New Score Centre' as part of the development which is one of the largest new sports halls in the country and open until 10pm on weekdays and 9pm on weekends creating an inclusive evening offer outside of traditional nighttime activity.

This growing sports and leisure offer can also be seen at Leyton Sports Ground where access to the Cricket Hub has recently been extended to 12am to meet demand and the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre at Eton Manor is also open until 10pm on weekdays with future ambitions for an enhanced offer here too.

Leyton is home to Leyton Orient Football Club which plays a significant role in attracting footfall to the town centre, supporting the local economy into the evening. There are exciting opportunities for this to be further developed as part of the Council's commitment to work with the Football Club to secure a new multi-purpose ground.

The Mayor of London's Summer Streets Fund is also helping to put Leyton on London's nighttime destination map featuring it as one of four hotspots with a diverse food and drink offer. As part of the fund we collaborated with the Francis Road Collective who are a local business group working to coordinate activity on Francis Road to extend their opening hours, help bring footfall and kick start a vibrant evening and nighttime offer. This builds on the exciting daytime offer presented by the new KERB Street Market at Francis Road.

Tilbury Road and Leyton Midland Road are also becoming evening destinations with new restaurants, cafés and bars opening in the railway arches and there are clear opportunities here to support local businesses through curated uses and events.

Leyton is also home to Leyton Más, the People's Carnival, which was held in 2024 and 2025 and showcases the area's culture, creativity, and community.



Leyton Mas in Coronation Gardens in 2025. Image courtesy of GB Carnival. Photo Credit: Vicki Couchman

LEA BRIDGE AND ARGALL INDUSTRIAL AREA

From filmmakers to food caterers, beauty brands to breweries and manufacturing to pottery, Lea Bridge and Argall Industrial Area is home to over 400 businesses.

The area brought a total footfall of over 1 million people in 2024. 30% of daily visitors came to the area at night (GLA High Street Data Store, data recorded from January to December 2024). The estate has the highest proportion of footfall from workers on weekdays of all nighttime areas, so there are clear opportunities for continued work with landowners, employers and the Argall Business Improvement District (BID) to support a welcoming nighttime environment.



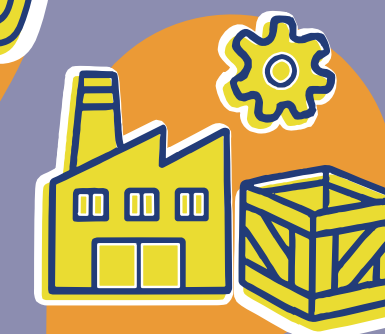
30M

INVESTMENT IN
THE LEE VALLEY
ICE CENTRE

ARGALL AVENUE
BREWERIES



ARGALL
BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT



STAFFA ROAD
BREWERIES



LEE VALLEY
ICE CENTRE



Lea Bridge Station

The Council has been working hard to work with the BID to ensure the Argall Industrial Estate is safe at night. This partnership approach has resulted in a measurable reduction in crime by taking action against antisocial behaviour, including enforcement against serial flytippers.

Businesses include traditional manufacturers, but in recent years places for spending time at night like brewery taprooms have started to open too. There is a community of businesses who want to connect with one another and promote their offer to residents and potential customers, with clear opportunities for activation into the evening. This is demonstrated by strong participation in the William Morris Design line open studios events held in 2024 and 2025 where businesses opened their doors to showcase their offer, as well as by the 80 businesses which have signed up to be a part of a '[Argall Industrial Area](#)' map which promotes the industrial estate.

The Lea Bridge and Argall Industrial Area is on the doorstep of The Lee Valley Ice Centre which opened in 2023 following £30 million investment by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority with support from the Council, creating a regionally and nationally significant ice centre open seven days a week until 11pm offering a strong evening leisure offer. Low Hall Sports Ground, which is Council operated, also offers access to its football and cricket pitches until 10.30pm.



LEYTONSTONE

Leytonstone attracts 2.7 million visitors every year, and 30% of its daily footfall occurs after 6pm (GLA High Street Data Store, data recorded from January to December 2024).

There are a high number of services such as hairdressers and estate agents, which tend to close early, however there has been an increase in the opening of leisure businesses since 2021, such as restaurants and cafés, which continue to improve and support the nighttime economy in Leytonstone (GLA High Street Data Store). Community safety and ASB has been raised as an issue by residents, with a marked growth in shoplifting since 2023, an issue for all high streets, and one that the council is working closely with the Police, local businesses, Leytonstone Town Team, Ward Councillor Champions and other partners to tackle.



2.7M

PEOPLE VISIT
LEYTONSTONE
EVERY YEAR



Leytonstone is home to many good quality pubs, bars and the live music venue, formerly Luna Lounge, where we are in the process of finalising plans for a new operator in this council-owned live music venue, which is part of a wider live music and performance offer in Leytonstone. There has also been recent investment in microbreweries and food and drink outlets which add to Leytonstone’s appeal and footfall. Recent new investment in railway arches around Leytonstone High Road Overground Station, in Winchelsea Road and at the Filly Brook on Grove Green Road, alongside work with TfL and Network Rail to address littering and informal parking has improved the appearance and safety of this key gateway into Leytonstone.

Leytonstone’s proximity to Whipps Cross Hospital means that it is an important destination and public transport link for health workers, particularly in the evening and nighttime, and there are opportunities to expand this offer and ensure nighttime workers have better and safer options for travelling to and from work as well as enjoying the town centre in their leisure time.

Through Leytonstone Town Team (an active partnership of local businesses, residents and Council Officers and

Councillor Champions) an exciting and eclectic programme of annual community festivals and events have been jointly planned and funded and have now become established in Leytonstone. This includes Open Leytonstone, Light Up Leytonstone, Summer/Winter in the Stone, Shake the High Road music festival and other events hosted in St John’s Church including the St John’s community pop-up Cinema, which offer free evening and nighttime community events to bring Leytonstone’s community together.

Leytonstone’s diverse and exciting offer has been jointly coordinated by businesses and the community and captured in the online interactive Leytonstone Entertainment Guide and widely promoted via the Leytonstone Loves Local platform.

➔ LEYTONSTONE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

➔  LEYTONSTONE LOVES LOCAL



St John's Church Community Cinema



Photograph of a performance during Shake The High Road, Leytonstone at Luna Lounge
Photo credit: John Williams

HIGHAMS PARK

Highams Park has a strong, creative and organised community with the Highams Park Planning Group (HPPG) organising regular events and activities in and around the town centre. There is an associated established business group supporting and connecting town centre businesses which includes several restaurants, pubs and bars, contributing to the nighttime economy. The Regal Cinema refurbishment has planning permission, to restore to its former Art Deco glory. The cinema along with its proposed new food establishment will boost the nighttime economy and bring more visitors to Highams Park. There are plans to pedestrianise part of the station car park to create a space for regular markets and community activities as part of the Local Regeneration Fund. This will also support the nighttime economy with evening food markets and entertainment opportunities.



30%

**OF HIGHAMS PARK'S
DAILY FOOTFALL OCCURS
AFTER 6PM**

**PETER MAY
SPORTS CENTRE**



**ROLLS PARK
TENNIS CLUB**



**SEASONAL
EVENTS IN
THE PARK**



Highams
Park Station

**REGAL
CINEMA**



**FOREST COMMUNITY
THEATRE**



30% of daily footfall and spend in Highams Park takes place after 6pm (GLA High Street Data Store, data recorded from January to December 2024).

The opportunity presented by the Nighttime Framework is to work with existing and new businesses and operators, such as the new Regal Cinema, to facilitate increased footfall, dwell time and spend, with a safer and more inclusive evening economy which is customised to the character of Highams Park, supports local businesses and venues, and is welcomed by local residents.



NORTH CHINGFORD

North Chingford has an established evening food and beverage offer with a row of popular restaurants and bars along Station Road close to Chingford Station. The Overground Station is the gateway to Epping Forest and Queen Elizabeth Lodge, as well as offering access to good quality food and drink venues and classic pubs such as the King's Head. Alongside these well-established venues, new restaurant openings are bringing more evening footfall to the area strengthening North Chingford, Station Road as a destination.

Seeing over 1.3 million daily visitors a year, North Chingford's nighttime footfall increased by 8% in 2024 compared to 2023 (GLA High Street Data Store).



30%

**OF NORTH CHINGFORD'S
DAILY FOOTFALL OCCURS
AFTER 6PM**



North town centres (Highams Park, North Chingford and Chingford Mount) are in the bottom 35% for ASB incidents in London recorded over 12 months up until the end of September 2025.

The Nighttime Framework represents an opportunity to work with the newly established North Chingford Business Forum, to focus on North Chingford's successful evening economy, based around good quality restaurants and bars, supporting existing and new businesses to be successful, and to provide an evening economy offer which is safe, inclusive and welcomed by North Chingford residents.



PRODUCING THE EVENING AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY FRAMEWORK

Development of the Nighttime Framework has been informed by local engagement with residents, businesses and other stakeholders over the past five years. We have also engaged with local business and community groups like The Leytonstone Town Team, The Leyton Midland Collective, Love North Chingford, Highams Park Planning Group, Walthamstow Traders and St James Big Local and Business Forum.

The engagement activity carried out between 2023 and 2024 to develop the Cultural Action Plan and Town Centre Framework has also been built on in this document and is reflected in our four key action areas.



Mural at Central Parade located on Hoe Street, Walthamstow

OUR KEY ACTION AREAS

Introduction

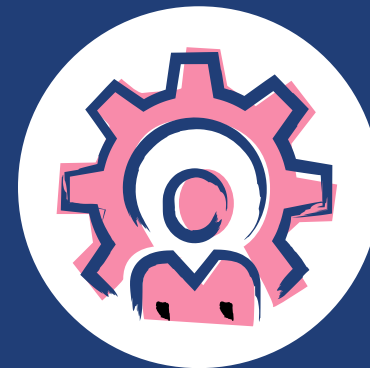
We have identified four key action areas, based on extensive recent resident and business feedback, which will help to focus our partnership work on improving the nighttime and evening economy.

Each action area includes information on the work we are already doing to support these priorities including a selection of case studies, followed by a delivery plan which outlines priorities, actions and outcomes to support our communities after 6pm.

These are key priority areas are:



**CURATION AND PROMOTION TO
IMPROVE THE NIGHTTIME EXPERIENCE**



**SUPPORTING AND INCREASING
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NIGHT**



**STRENGTHENING BUSINESS FRIENDLY
LICENSING, REGULATION AND POLICY**



**IMPROVING SAFETY AND
WELLBEING AT NIGHT**



CURATION AND PROMOTION TO IMPROVE THE NIGHTTIME EXPERIENCE

Unlocking the full potential of Waltham Forest's nighttime economy is not something we can do alone, it relies on the energy and innovation of our communities.

Our role is to be an active, supportive partner and we want to work with local businesses, community groups, operators and landowners to bring their ideas to life.

The Mayor of London's Nighttime Enterprise Zone programme showed the potential to more than double high street footfall after 6pm with events and later opening hours. Local spend increased by up to 70% when events were on and over 69% of people surveyed said they felt safer.

Working collaboratively to secure joyful, safe and inclusive evening uses in Council and Commercial assets is essential. Through cultural programming after 6pm and promotion of the rich activity happening across our borough, we can ensure Waltham Forest grows as a diverse creative destination at night. This will offer high quality cultural experiences and, in turn, boost footfall, spend and jobs.

What are we already doing?

As London's first Borough of Culture in 2019, we delivered a year-long programme of exciting, inclusive and diverse cultural events that laid the groundwork for a lasting evening and nighttime offer. Through our Cultural Action Plan, we are working to develop stronger communities through culture and creativity, including unlocking spaces for nighttime activation.

We have worked hard to invest in and secure cultural and creative evening uses in the buildings that we own, including Soho Theatre Walthamstow and Forest Cinema in Walthamstow Town Centre and are currently investing £17.2m in projects that unlock Walthamstow's potential as an inclusive, safe and welcoming cultural destination through the government's Local Regeneration Fund. This includes significant investment in refurbishment to create new inclusive cultural destination spaces at Hatherley Mews (next to Soho Theatre Walthamstow), Chestnuts House on Hoe Street and Vestry House Museum in Walthamstow Village. The intention is that the investment will increase footfall in the Town Centre throughout the day and evening,

widen cultural participation, generate opportunities for creative enterprise and create pathways into employment and training for residents.

We are growing our evening leisure offer into the evening to make sure Waltham Forest has something to offer for everyone past 6pm. The New Score Centre in Leyton and Waltham Forest Feel Good Centre are open until 10pm on weekdays and 9pm on weekends and access to the Cricket Hub at Leyton Sport Ground has recently been extended to 12am to meet demand.

We have supported businesses and community organisations to deliver their own activities that boost footfall in our nighttime areas. This includes supporting the Leyton Midland Collective to deliver 'Leyton Arts Festival' which brought Leyton Midland to life into the evening through programming in businesses, bars and cafés in summer 2025 to working with the Leytonstone Town Team to promote an annual programme of free events including Light Up Leytonstone, Leytonstone Loves Film, Open Leytonstone and Shake the High Road music festival.



CASE STUDIES

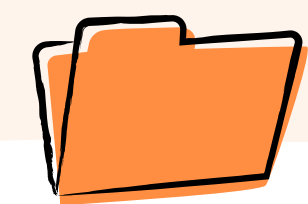


Photograph of Walthamstow Market
Photo Credit: Lloyd Ramos

Extension of the evening offer at 17&Central

We are working closely with 17&Central Mall to ensure that existing business are in a position to benefit from the 495 new homes, investment in town square re-landscaping and extension of the shopping centre. The planned extension of the 17&Central shopping mall includes vibrant new food, drink and leisure outlets which will face onto the newly landscaped town square,

offering opportunities for alfresco dining and increasing natural surveillance in the Town Square, which will help improve community safety. Alongside the Crate Food Hall, The Scene food & drink businesses, Forest Cinema and Soho Theatre Walthamstow, this significant new investment will make Walthamstow a safer and more diverse evening and nighttime destination.



Nighttime activation at Hoe Street Cluster

The council owns a cluster of key commercial spaces around Hoe Street, an area which has already seen major investment in housing, civic and cultural spaces and public realm improvements. To help expand and support the existing nighttime offer we are working to prioritise evening and nighttime uses in our properties, including at The Scene, Central Parade and Hatherley Mews.

Hatherley Mews is currently undergoing extensive capital works to create a welcoming space with new paving and lighting and fully refurbished units. The focus for this site will be cultural and food and beverage uses with a key drive towards businesses that remain open into the evening.

New anchor institutions, including recently launched Soho Theatre Walthamstow and University of Portsmouth, are also housed in council-owned properties. We are working to develop a nighttime network with these partners along with council officers, local businesses, community/creative organisations and a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) officer. The aim of this collaborative approach is to support the development of evening animation and activities creating a welcoming and safe space for residents, workers and visitors as well as boosting evening footfall, dwell time and spend. This is supported by the cultural offer at William Morris Gallery which has also previously hosted gallery lates events.



Hoe Street lighting improvements
outside Soho Theatre



Artist's illustration of proposed improvements to Regal Cinema.
Image credit: Mammoth Capital

Regal Cinema, Highams Park

The historic Regal Cinema in Highams Park town centre, completed in 1911, was acquired by Mammoth Capital. It is now being developed retaining its art deco facade and will be brought back into use as a cinema, with two screens and a ground floor café/bar, as well as 33 new homes on the floors above.

The new cinema and food and drink options will boost Highams Park's local offer bring vibrancy and footfall which will improve community safety into the evening, as well as employment and training opportunities for local residents.



Good Shepherd Studios

Good Shepherd Studios is a fantastic creative studio space which also delivers community events which have been supported by Council investment in the building. An operator led by a three local people manage and run the building and the space includes a regular programme of inclusive events into the evening including cinema screenings, yoga and life drawing.



Film screening at Good Shepherd Studios
Photo credit: Good Shepherd Studios



Good Shepherd Studios
Photo credit: Jenna Selby



Blackhorse Beer Mile, local collaboration driving night-time growth

The Blackhorse Beer Mile is a stand-out example of local businesses working together to create a compelling and collaborative night-time destination in Waltham Forest. Blackhorse Lane is also home to Blackhorse Collective Creative Enterprise Zone, helping to invite further investment in the area to support creative businesses thrive by securing workspace, supporting start-ups, and connecting creative industries with local development.

Stretching from Blackhorse Lane to Lockwood Way, the trail includes 10 independent breweries and drinks producers, all within walking distance of Blackhorse Road Station, making it easily accessible to visitors from across London.



William Morris Design Line Event at 40ft Brewery

In 2025, the Beer Mile gained fresh momentum with the arrival of two new breweries, East London Brewing Co. and 40FT Brewery, both opening taprooms on Lockwood Way in Council owned premises. Their arrival, along with other food and beverage businesses located nearby, has helped to support the hospitality offer of the area by expanding and drawing new audiences.

To celebrate this growth, the Beer Mile now hosts an annual series of events, including the Harvestfest in October. This multi-venue celebration features live music, DJs, food trucks, and limited-edition merchandise for visitors who collect stamps at all seven venues.

Importantly, the Beer Mile is not just about drinking alcohol. Venues like Signature Brew offer a 300-capacity live music space, regularly hosting gigs and DJ nights, while Big Penny Social, one of the UK's largest beer halls, features a packed programme of events including comedy, film nights, family discos, and community markets. The future New Standard will also offer opportunities to access culture. Waltham Forest want to encourage and enable other businesses to continue this level of innovation to expand the nighttime offer in partnership.



William Morris Design Line Event at 40ft Brewery

OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Priority 

Actions 

 These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years

Outcomes 

1. Secure good quality evening operators and tenants in publicly owned venues and commercial properties

- Continued promotion and curation of a varied and diverse nighttime offer in Council owned units in Blackhorse Lane at Lockwood Way.
- Curate a live music evening offer at Luna Lounge in Leytonstone.
- Supporting nighttime economy opportunities linked to key anchor organisations including continued collaboration with Soho Theatre Walthamstow to maximise the theatre’s impact on the area’s wider evening economy, including at Hatherly Mews, the Scene and Central Parade.
- Re-establish Walthamstow Assembly Hall as a live music and cultural events venue.
- Activation of Coronation Square in Leyton to improve evening offer, footfall and town centre safety.
- Continued promotion of Forest Cinema in Walthamstow diversifying the town centre offer for students and young professionals.
- Establish partnership with a new operator for The Regal cinema.
- Support the nighttime offer in locations next to railway and underground stations.

Enhanced nighttime economy and a vibrant evening offer across the borough.

2. Enable inclusive and accessible programming after 6pm

- Build on our current programmes to continue to work with partners to deliver business and community-led annual events, street markets and activities after 6pm.
- Continued leisure offer into the evening in Council owned spaces, including sporting activity at the New Score Centre and Leyton Cricket Hub.

Increased resilience, footfall and spend for businesses.

Inclusive activities that keep residents active, improving health outcomes.



OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Priority 

Actions 

 These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years

Outcomes 

3. Work with landowners and developers to enable evening and nighttime uses

- Working with developers in Blackhorse Lane like Scape to introduce new evening destination spaces like The Standard live music venue to the area.
- Work with landowners to support business curation and events at Leyton Midland Road.
- Support continued curation of high-quality restaurant offer along Station Road in North Chingford.
- Work with landlords to fill vacant units across our nighttime areas and encourage uses that support the evening economy.
- Help to facilitate innovative evening and night-time meanwhile uses in vacant premises which helps with higher footfall, overlooking and a sense of safety in numbers.
- Activate green and open spaces through seasonal hires, offering opportunities to enjoy an evening festival offer and driving investment to support our parks and grassroots culture. E.g. : Music festivals in Leyton Jubilee Park or Revel Puck Circus at Walthamstow Town Square.

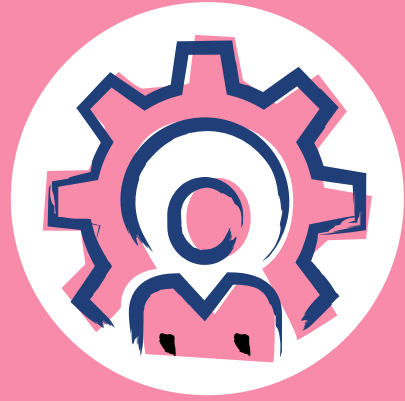
Enhanced evening offer improving footfall, spend, safety and business resilience at night.

4. Promoting evening experiences

- Continued promotion of all nighttime area’s varied creative, cultural and hospitality offers.
- Promote business led evening events as part of the Blackhorse Lane Creative Enterprise Zone programme.
- Build on GLA funded ‘Summer in Leyton’ programme including KERB partnership.
- Build on the success of Leytonstone’s established varied annual programme of evening events, festivals and live music and performances, including Open Leytonstone and Shake the High Road.

Local business community is well connected, strengthened and supported.

OUR KEY ACTION AREA 2



SUPPORTING AND INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NIGHT

Between 30-35% of Waltham Forest's residents work at night, this is higher than 50% of other London boroughs. As we expand our evening and nighttime offer this figure will grow further. We have a unique opportunity to ensure that this growth translates into high-quality, accessible employment opportunities for residents across all communities and improves conditions for those already servicing this sector.

A third of Waltham Forest's jobs are located in its industrial areas, with manufacturing being the largest sector, often characterised by shift work and operations beyond traditional hours. These areas are vital to the borough's economic resilience and offer a foundation for expanding nighttime employment in logistics, food production, creative industries and green tech.

At the same time, our town centres have seen significant job growth since 2015. These centres are not only commercial hubs but also key social and cultural anchors. By supporting businesses to extend their operating hours and diversify their evening offer, we can unlock new job

opportunities in retail, hospitality, health and social care and the creative sector.

By embedding employment into our Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework, we will consider the needs of:

- Shift workers who need reliable transport and services after dark.
- Young people seeking flexible employment and creative outlets.
- Communities who want alternative social spaces and cultural programming without alcohol.
- Local entrepreneurs who can benefit from targeted support to launch or grow nighttime ventures.
- Gig economy by promoting better working conditions for delivery services

This will unlock opportunities for residents and businesses :

- Creating pathways into good jobs for residents, especially those under-represented in daytime employment.
- Strengthening town centres and industrial

zones as vibrant, multifunctional places.

- Ensuring placemaking efforts reflect the needs of workers, not just consumers.
- This approach aligns with our broader goals for inclusive growth and economy making Waltham Forest a borough where the nighttime economy is a source of opportunity, creativity and pride.

**BETWEEN
30-
35%**

of Waltham Forest's residents work at night, this is higher than 50% of other London boroughs.

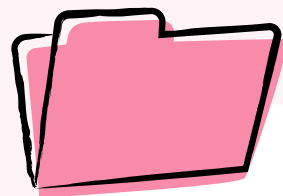
33%

of Waltham Forest's jobs are located in its industrial areas, with manufacturing being the largest sector.



Aerial image of Argall Industrial Area

CASE STUDIES



Recruitment Drive for Forest Cinema

Waltham Forest Council’s Employment and Opportunities Team led an extensive recruitment drive to support the opening of the borough’s flagship Forest Cinema in 2024, ensuring local residents were at the heart of its workforce.

As a result of this targeted effort, 31 job offers were made to local residents. Notably, eight of these individuals were previously economically inactive and registered on the Council’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, which supports residents facing barriers to employment. A further 14 successful candidates were supported through the Individual Placement Support (IPS) programme, designed to help residents with long-term health conditions, including mental and physical disabilities, into sustainable work.

This inclusive recruitment approach demonstrates how the Council is embedding social value into the nighttime economy, ensuring that new cultural venues like Forest Cinema create meaningful opportunities for local people.

Stephen Bush, General Manager - The Forest Cinema:

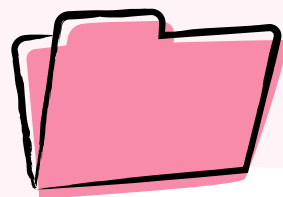
“Waltham Forest Council has exemplified excellence in their recruitment process for the selection of Team Members for our flagship cinema. Their success can be attributed to a meticulous and comprehensive approach to hiring, which began with clear job descriptions provided by myself. By accurately outlining the skills and experience necessary for each position, the council team, ensured that only the most suitable applicants were passed on to the next stage of the selection process.”

This case study highlights how strategic employment initiatives can support both economic inclusion and the growth of a vibrant, community-rooted nighttime economy.



Forest Cinema sign in Walthamstow Town Centre

CASE STUDIES



Soho Theatre – Future Formed Recruitment & Training for Nighttime Roles

As part of its commitment to inclusive employment and creative sector growth, Soho Theatre Walthamstow has partnered with Waltham Forest Council to deliver the Future Formed programme, an initiative designed to support local residents into backstage and technical roles within the nighttime economy.

Through Future Formed, residents have accessed paid placements and training in areas such as sound engineering, lighting design, and stage management, helping them build careers in theatre and film production. One participant, Natalie Brady, shared how the programme boosted her confidence and broadened her career ambitions:

“I discovered that there are so many roles in theatre, from production manager to laundry assistant. My placement week at Soho Theatre expanded my understanding of how theatre is run and the creative decisions behind it.”

The programme has also supported local talent development through partnerships with organisations like Revel Puck Circus, offering training, shadowing, and performance opportunities during their winter festival in Walthamstow Town Square in winter 2025 / 2026. This collaboration enabled residents to gain hands-on experience in live event production, contributing to the borough’s vibrant evening and cultural offer.

Since 2023, the Future Technicians Programme has run six successful cohorts, equipping 91 Waltham Forest residents with in-demand technical skills, across 16 London theatres, with 73% of previously unemployed participants securing work in relevant sectors

within six months. The programme has also advanced sector diversity, with 65% of participants from the global majority and 25% identifying as gender non-conforming.

Following the opening of Soho Walthamstow in 2025, the programme has directly supported the venue’s operations by supplying trained talent for its lighting and technical teams. Through Future Formed, additional pathways into creative and hospitality roles have been established, enabling residents to secure employment as Front of House staff, Soho Labs Facilitators and as an Assistant Stage Manager.

These initiatives demonstrate how strategic partnerships and targeted training can unlock new opportunities for local people, while supporting the growth of a diverse and inclusive evening economy in Waltham Forest.



Soho Theatre Walthamstow
Opening Night

OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Priority 

Actions 

 These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years

Outcomes 

1. Access to evening economy jobs and training for residents

Continue to proactively work with venues (like Soho Theatre Walthamstow and Forest Cinema), businesses in our town centres and industrial areas and organisations (like the NHS) to connect them with residents looking for work and ensure good-quality training opportunities.

Increased employment and training opportunities for residents.

2. Improving pathways into work for seldom heard communities

- Continue to offer young Waltham Forest residents insight and exposure to the creative industries, as well as mentoring and professional advice through Future Formed Programme, supporting participants into paid work placements and freelance work.
- Continued collaboration with local schools, colleges and universities (like Big Creative Education and University of Portsmouth London Campus in Walthamstow) to connect young people entering the market with employers.
- Continued support for carers, older workers and residents with physical or mental health disabilities.

Increased employment opportunities for young people within the borough.

3. Supporting an attractive nighttime work offer

- Partner with employers in manufacturing and logistics to improve understanding and needs of nighttime services (e.g. food, transport, wellbeing).
- Work with TfL to improve safety around rail stations, night bus routes, and safe cycling infrastructure near industrial zones and town centres.
- Ensure town centre regeneration and public realm projects consider infrastructure to support nighttime and gig economy workers (e.g. lighting, rest areas, 24hr toilets).

Improves safe and inclusive access to jobs and reduces barriers to employment as well as retention.



OUR KEY ACTION AREA 3



STRENGTHENING BUSINESS FRIENDLY LICENSING, REGULATION AND POLICY

Nighttime experiences have the potential to better support Waltham Forest's economy, helping tackle the inequality challenges faced by our residents.

Our businesses, venues and live events play an important role in supporting the vitality of our evening economy and should, whilst recognising residents' needs, be supported to succeed.

Licensing and planning policy are a key to this, guiding new nighttime uses and ensuring nighttime activity is well managed.

The role of regulation in strengthening the evening economy is recognised at a national level and in autumn 2025 central government launched a fast-track review of what it describes as 'outdated' licensing rules with the aim of creating a modern, proportionate, and enabling system that supports economic growth, revitalises high streets and fosters vibrant communities.

The review explores plans to extend opening hours and for pubs and bars and make it easier for venues to serve food outside and host live

music. Long standing venues will be better protected from noise complaints from new developments, new 'hospitality zones' will be introduced where permissions for alfresco dining, street parties and extended opening hours will be fast-tracked and it will be made easier for new cafés, bars and music venues to open in place of disused shops helping to bring footfall the high street.

The role of regulation in keeping the public safe is emphasised at a national level too and "Martyn's Law" will advise venues on new obligations and support available for making venues secure against potential acts of terrorism.

At a London level the Government is piloting new powers for the GLA to "call in" licensing applications, which means the Mayor of London can intervene in certain licensing decisions. This pilot aims to streamline the licensing process to encourage more alfresco dining and extend operating hours for the hospitality sector, with the goal of boosting the city's nighttime economy.

This current London Plan and the emerging new London Plan (which sets out how London should develop over the next 15 years) includes clear policy on supporting the nighttime economy and advises on the importance of boroughs having their own nighttime strategies.

NEW HOSPITALITY ZONES

are proposed to be introduced by central government where permissions for alfresco dining, street parties and extended opening hours will be fast-tracked

MARTYN'S LAW

will advise venues on new obligations and support available for making venues secure against potential acts of terrorism



Crate St James Street



Leyton Midland Harvest Event 2025. **Photo credit:** Robert Ernstzen @robert_ernstzen

What are we already doing?

The Council recognises the important role regulation can play in supporting a thriving evening economy and we are focussed on how our own policies and initiatives can help, as well as what the proposed new government licensing legislation means for the borough.

In 2025 the Council launched a new pre-application advice service to help organisations with the process of applying for a premises licence.

We want to work with businesses to help them to become a success, and it is important to us that they feel they can come to us for advice when they need it once they have secured their licence too. We won't take enforcement action just because they tell us that they have a problem, and we will always provide advice that supports compliance, and is appropriate for the circumstances.

We have worked hard to ensure that our planning policies facilitate evening uses and Policy 44 of our Local Plan Part 1 states that proposals for evening and night-time economy uses that contribute to the vitality and viability of the borough's designated centres - in particular, Walthamstow Town Centre - will be encouraged where they support a balanced mix of uses, prioritise safety and amenity, minimise environmental impact and ensure inclusive access.

This provides more certainty for businesses in the sector looking for new premises that these areas are suitable for late night uses, encouraging more evening activity and at the same time helps to manage the local impacts on the environment, transport, and perceptions of safety.

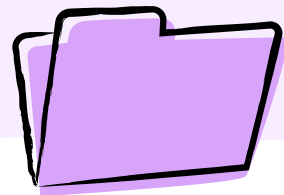
CASE STUDIES



Aligning licensing and planning decisions at Blackhorse Lane

To support the future delivery of a high quality cultural venue on the site of the old Standard venue at Blackhorse Lane, Planning and Licensing Officers adopted a collaborative, cross departmental approach to regulatory oversight. Both teams worked in tandem to align planning and licensing regimes, ensuring that licensing considerations are embedded in the planning process.

This integrated approach is helping to enable early identification of potential regulatory challenges, streamlined decision-making and reduced duplication across departments. This stands as a model for joined up working that supports vibrant, well-managed nighttime destinations.



Francis Road Lates

Francis Road E10 is a local high street of 32 shops, made up of an interesting collection of new and long-standing businesses, offering a mix of retail, hospitality, food and beverage and services.

Despite the vibrant mix on offer, the area has struggled with low footfall and only a few of the businesses are currently open into the evening, despite a desire locally for family-friendly early evening activities, which extend later into the evening for the adult population.

The local business group the Francis Road Collective (FRC) wanted to co-ordinate activity and extend their opening hours to help bring footfall and kick start a vibrant evening and nighttime offer. However, there were considerations around licensing and the pedestrianised street reopened to traffic at 8pm.

After a successful bid to the Mayor of London's Summer Streets fund in 2025, we have been able to work with the Francis Road Collective, to launch Friday Lates, where businesses open later alongside a regular programme of entertainment, which has included: a Reggae music evening, ceilidh, silent disco and

outdoor cinema. To help facilitate this and support the process for the Francis Road Collective, we have implemented an Experimental Traffic Management Order to extend the road closure times on Francis Road from 8pm to 10pm. This will allow for more evening events and activities to safely take place safely on the street, while we gauge residents' opinions on the amendments.

The Council licensing team is helping support the Francis Road Collective obtain a premises licence for the street to avoid the need for Temporary Event Notices for drinking and entertainment. This is a first for the borough.





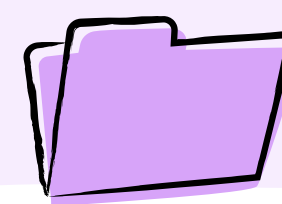
Artist illustrations of potential improvements to public spaces around St James Street
Image Credit: Feix and Merlin Architects

St James Street Economic Impact Zone

St James Street is located at the western end of Walthamstow's bustling street market. Among the cluster of diverse businesses, new high quality restaurants and cafés have established, including Crate St James Street, with some offering outdoor seating.

The Economic Impact Zone aims to pilot flexibility on licensing, pavement licence fees and regulation to support hospitality

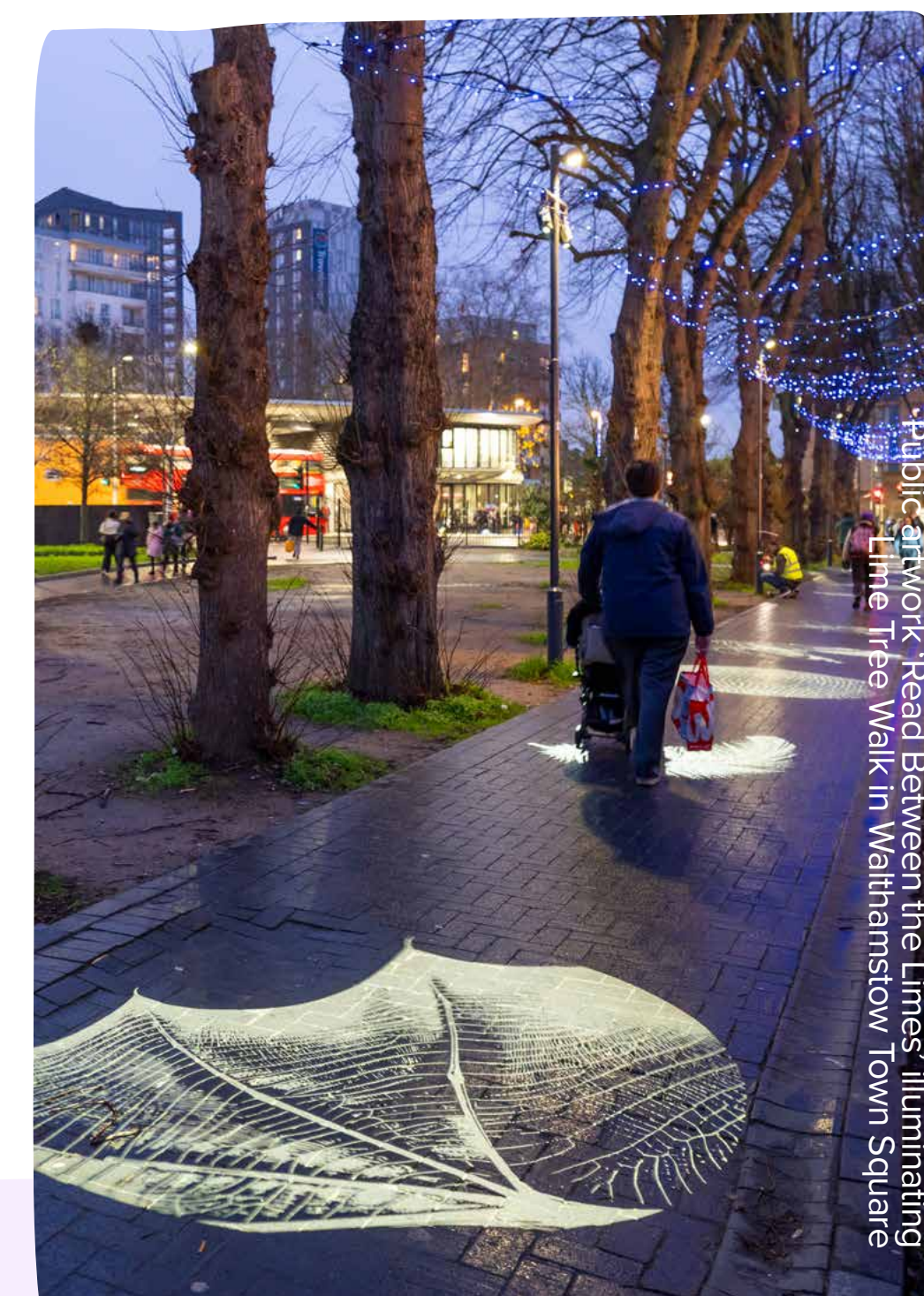
businesses. Improved wayfinding and co-created public art, creating a distinct identity for St James Street. This is accompanied by the installation of new lighting, CCTV cameras and public art as part of Walthamstow 'Culture for All' Local Regeneration Funded programme, and is delivered in partnership with the St James Street Business Forum.



Walthamstow Nighttime Enterprise Zone (NTEZ)

Walthamstow was selected as the capital's first ever NightTime Enterprise Zone pilot in October 2019. The exciting High Street Adventures programme of activities, and support for businesses operating in the evening was financially supported by the GLA 24-hour team. This included an exciting and varied series of creative workshops, performances and a parade throughout the evening and into the nighttime, hosted by 28 small business premises along the High Street, curated by Artillery, a collective of 40 local artists and creatives. As well as demonstrating how the High Street can be an exciting and creative place for all in our community after dark, it also supported our local small businesses with increased footfall and appreciation of their offer, encouraging return visits. The programme was informed by extensive business, resident, community group and creative and cultural stakeholder engagement. A clear set of recommendations were developed [Walthamstow NTEZ report](#). As part of the NTEZ, an innovative business-friendly toolkit was also produced, to support businesses with late opening, outdoor seating and licensing, which has been expanded across the borough for this Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework.

Since the 2019 NTEZ pilot Walthamstow's evening and nighttime offer has been transformed by the launch of Soho Theatre Walthamstow in May 2025, as well as new business investment in food, drink, hospitality and creative and cultural sectors in Hoe Street, High Street and in St James Street (see case study), which has boosted Walthamstow's attractiveness, diversity and inclusivity as a destination in the evening and nighttime.



Public artwork 'Read Between the Limes' illuminating Lime Tree Walk in Walthamstow Town Square

OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Priority 

Actions 

 These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years

Outcomes 

1. Business-friendly approach to regulation to support businesses to diversify activity in the evening	<p>Implementing and piloting new government legislation and GLA guidance on licensing, examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopting new licensing regulation to create a new Economic Impact Zone at St James Street including outdoor seating, markets and evening economy businesses in the railway arches.• Continued business friendly licensing to support and promote evening economy uses in the arches at Leyton Midland Road.• A new market and event space at Higham’s Park Station forecourt as part of the Local Regeneration Fund programme.	<p>Diversified evening offer supporting local prosperity.</p> <p>Businesses feel that any guidance on new regulation is clear and easily understood.</p>
2. Guiding businesses through the licensing process	<p>Continued implementation of new pre-application advice service, creating an opportunity for applicants to seek advice before submission.</p>	<p>Businesses feel supported and the licensing process does not feel like a barrier to evening activity.</p>
3. Balancing resident concerns with ensuring vitality and viability of our evening and nighttime economy	<p>Maintain proactive communication with businesses and encourage quick interventions in order to resolve any issues and reduce complaints.</p>	<p>Businesses and residents feel supported.</p>
4. Aligning licensing process with planning decisions	<p>Coordinated approach to planning and licensing applications for evening uses, giving developers and operators the confidence to invest in the borough’s evening offer.</p>	<p>More evening use proposals.</p>
5. Support for grassroots community businesses without experience to support evening activity	<p>Facilitating connections between businesses supporting buddying and sharing of business-to-business resource. Build on recommendations of NTEZ toolkit including implementing the business-friendly toolkit and business-led activation programmes.</p>	<p>Support for inclusive and grassroots uses.</p>

OUR KEY ACTION AREA 4



IMPROVING SAFETY AND WELLBEING AT NIGHT

Waltham Forest ranks in the safer third of London boroughs, with overall crime below the London average.

ASB hotspots remain in Walthamstow, which is in the highest 15% for ASB incidents in London town centres in the 12 months to the end of September 2025. In contrast, North Waltham Forest town centres (Highams Park, North Chingford and Mount) are in the bottom 35%. Targeted multi-agency interventions have driven reductions in crime and ASB, for example there has been a 70% decline in ASB incidents and an 85% decrease in drug-related ASB in Leyton between January 2024 and September 2025.

A safe and accessible nighttime experience encourages more visitors and greater social

connection and inclusion. That's why we know it's vital to work closely with the Metropolitan Police to address anti-social behaviour and crime, and to continue to embed safety into the way our borough functions after dark. This includes supporting nighttime workers, particularly those in the gig economy and essential services like the NHS and TfL who rely on safe, well-connected environments to do their jobs.

We also recognise the importance of designing out crime after 6pm from the start. Safety must be built into public space improvements and new developments, through careful planning and collaboration with developers. Recent engagement has made it clear that women and girls often feel unsafe travelling through or

spending time in our town centres after dark. We are committed to tackling this through targeted Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and anti-sexual harassment initiatives.

Creating inclusive nighttime spaces also means ensuring all communities can enjoy evening activities safely. We are committed to increasing feelings of safety among our young people, and our [Space4All programme](#) offers free, safe and fun activities in neighbourhoods across the borough. We will continue to work within our communities to improve feelings of safety and inclusion for all our residents, so that everyone can use and move confidently and comfortably through our borough at night.

**HALF
OF ALL**

police ASB
related calls
are made
after 6pm.

**70%
DECLINE**

in ASB incidents
in Leyton between
January 2024 and
September 2025.

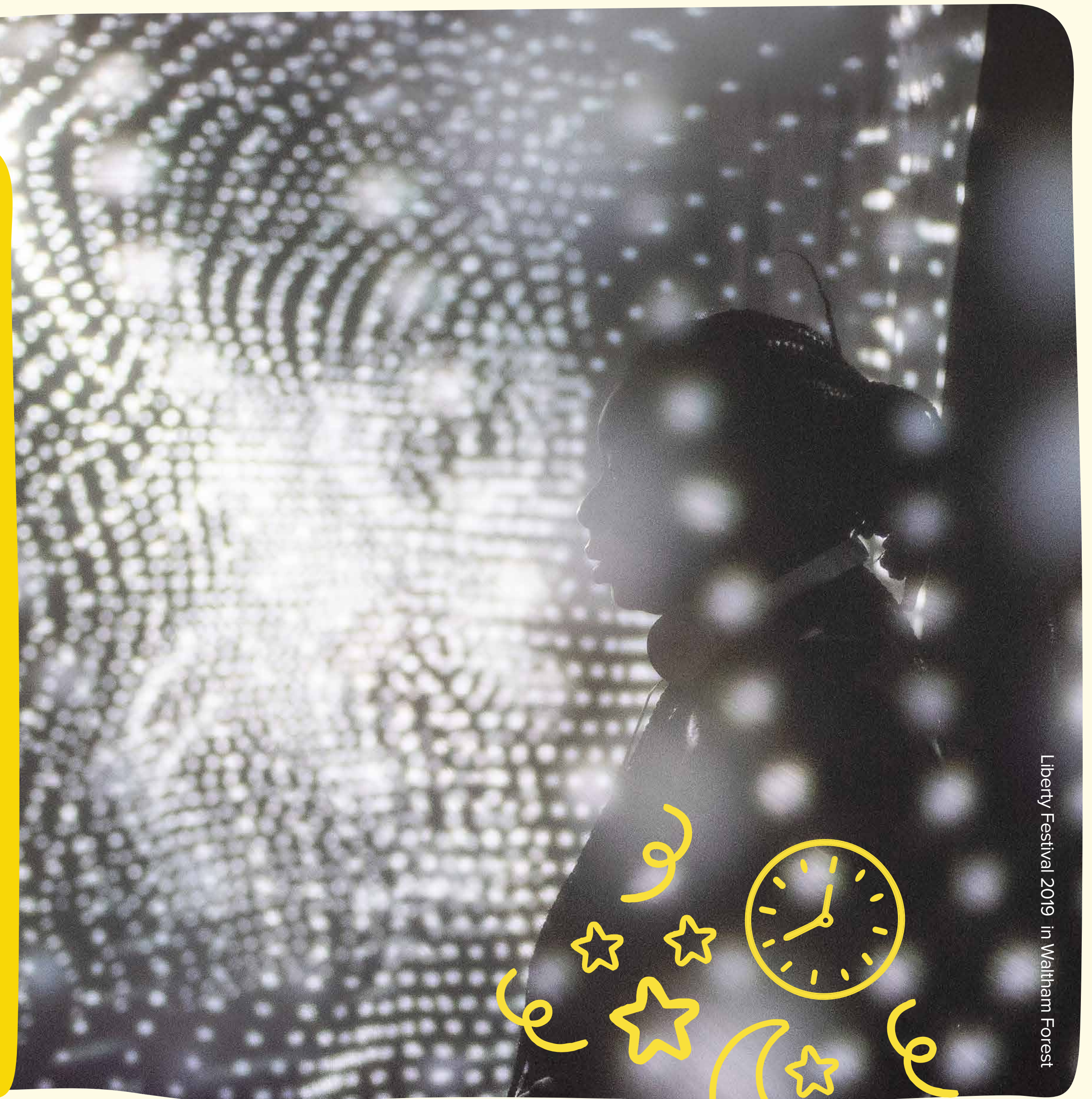


What are we already doing?

Feedback from our communities makes it clear that community safety is a key priority. In response to this feedback, we have been focused on addressing community safety issues after dark, working in partnership with the Police, the GLA, TfL and local businesses to tackle national, London-wide as well as local issues.

In terms of public transport in the evening and nighttime, Waltham Forest has excellent public transport links, including the night tube at all our tube stations complemented by 24-hour bus services. we are coordinating with TfL and British Transport Police to improve safety of nighttime travel through better lighting, CCTV coverage and other local initiatives.

Improvements to public spaces in our town centres, including the areas around railway stations like Walthamstow Central and Leytonstone High Road, are being designed, delivered and monitored in partnership with Police, other organisations and local businesses so that they reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, making our town centres safer, more inclusive and accessible for all in our community. This includes seating which is carefully designed and located to minimise ASB introducing new lighting, CCTV cameras and improving sightlines to reduce hidden corners. All of these investments combined make our town centres safer and our communities feel safer when enjoying, working and travelling in our town centres.



Liberty Festival 2019 in Waltham Forest

CASE STUDIES

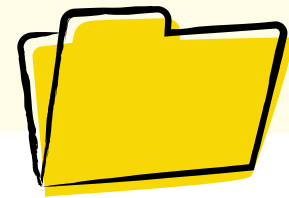


Walthamstow Women's Safety at Night Audit
Photo credit: Nina Robinson

Women's Safety at Night Audit

As part of the Mayor of London's Violence and Women and Girls Strategy, a series of [Women's Safety Audits](#) have been carried out in Walthamstow Central in partnership with TfL, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and local community researchers. The aim of this audit is to capture women and girl's experiences of safety in Walthamstow's

public spaces in order to create safer, more inclusive spaces which women and girls can enjoy, day or night. We will be reviewing the recommendations from the audit and working with partners to implement these improvements, with lessons for other parts of the borough.



Walthamstow 'Culture for All' Local Regeneration Fund Investment

Across Walthamstow town centre £17.2m Central Government funding (Local Regeneration Fund, formerly Levelling Up Fund) is being invested to deliver improvements in our heritage assets: Vestry House Museum, Chestnuts House and Hatherley Mews next to Soho Theatre Walthamstow, and in our public spaces. Along the length of the High Street improvements are being made during 2025/26 to create safer, more accessible, inclusive and greener spaces. This is focused on improving the experience of the town centre through Design out Crime measures, lighting and CCTV and to increase natural surveillance through increased footfall at night. These measures combined support existing and new businesses

to grow and expand further into evening and nighttime uses.

Improvements to public spaces and pedestrian routes around Walthamstow Central station and along Hoe Street will help transform this key gateway to the town centre into a safer, more welcoming and accessible space for all. This includes a series of upgrades to lighting, wayfinding and public artwork designed to elevate Walthamstow's evening experience including a trail of theatrical gobo projections and landmark murals which make the journey between key venues and destinations and Walthamstow Central Station more navigable and inviting after dark.



Hoe Street and Walthamstow Aerial View
Photo credit: Dead Ready



Not on our streets: action against street harassment

Cirque Bijou collaboration with London Borough of Waltham Forest as part of the Lumiere London festival in 2018

Waltham Forest Safe Streets app was launched by the Council as an easy way for residents to report incidents of street harassment in the borough. The app gives users the choice to; report anonymously for information only, access specialist support, report the incident for formal investigation by police or council. The app also provides a route through to the 24/7 Stop Hate UK helpline.

By using the app, residents and visitors are able to help pinpoint areas where women and girls are being harassed by men so that the council can work with partners such as the police, to make our streets safe.

Waltham Forest Council is committed to doing everything in our power to build a borough where women and girls feel safe.

The Safe Streets app is helping us tackle violence against women and girls and send a clear message that street harassment will not be tolerated in Waltham Forest.



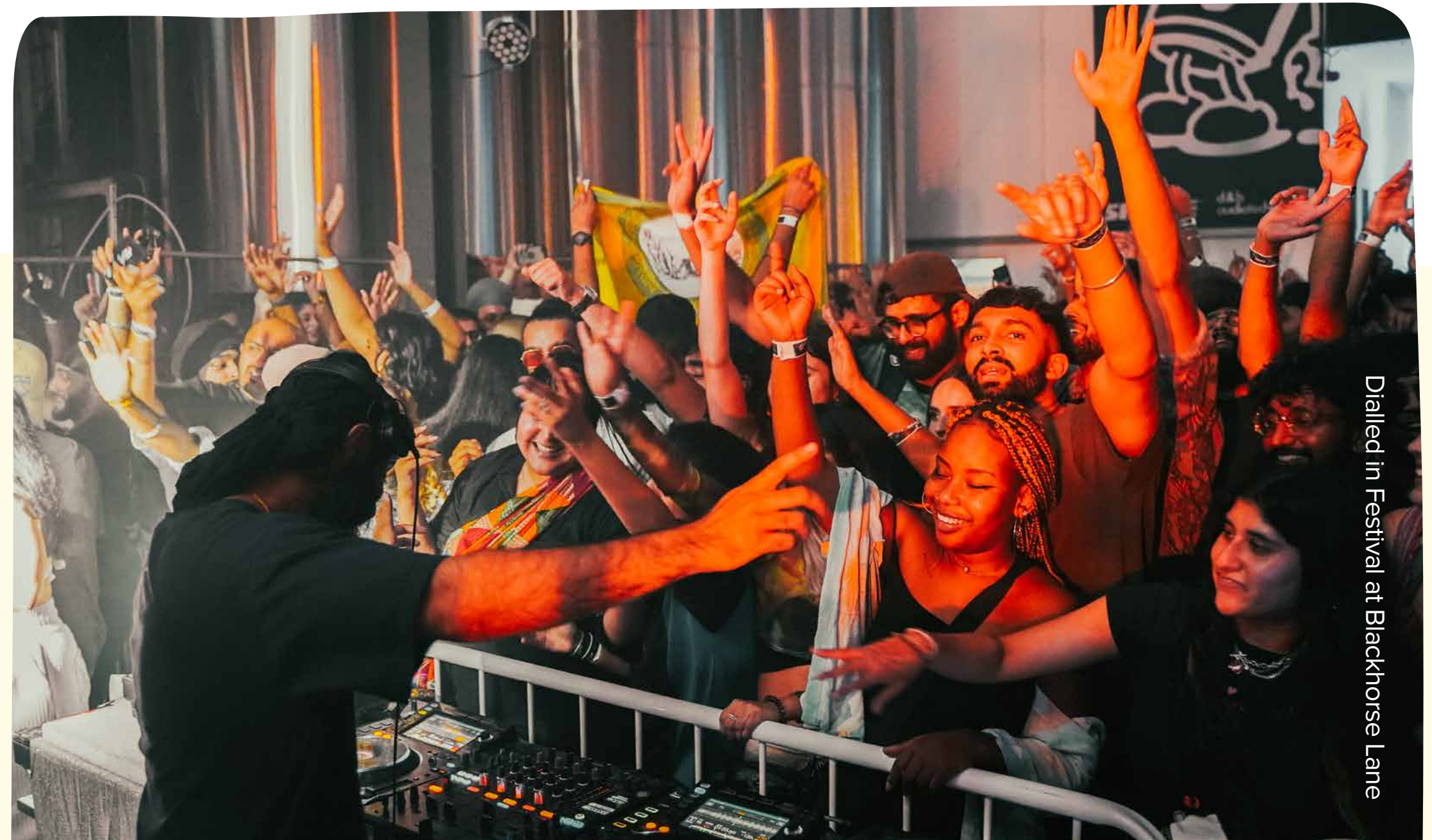
Promoting alcohol free options at venues

In autumn 2025 pubs, bars, cafés and social clubs across Waltham Forest joined a new campaign to promote alcohol-free drinks. Window stickers reading 'Alcohol Free Drinks Sold Here' and 'Alcohol Free Beer on Tap', were given to hundreds of Waltham Forest's licensed venues to help encourage foot traffic from residents who don't drink or want to drink less.

As alcohol-free options become more popular, we want to promote them to

interested residents, helping to support our local economy and ensuring residents that don't drink or want to cut down, know that social spaces including those that are typically associated with evening activities, are available for them.

With excessive drinking also linked to antisocial behaviour and violence, more moderate drinking can help create safer and more enjoyable neighbourhoods and social spaces.



Dialled in Festival at Blackhorse Lane

OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Priority 

Actions 

 These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years

Outcomes 

1. Coordinated approach to improving community safety

Work in partnership with Police, GLA, TfL, Community Safety teams and local businesses to tackle crime and ASB issues.

Continued partnership working with the Police and TfL to improve lighting and CCTV and sightlines through stations.

Supporting design out crime initiatives in public space projects and working with developers throughout the planning process to design out crime in new developments.

Work in partnership across the council and with external stakeholders and employers to support the continued safety of nighttime workers in town centres and industrial areas.

People feel safe in our town centres day and night.

Transport hubs feel safer improving the nighttime experience and footfall.

Workers feel safe and the nighttime work offer is more attractive.

2. Empowering businesses to improve nighttime safety

Encourage businesses to provide nighttime uses which increase footfall to improve sense of safety, and to report crime so the Community Safety teams and the Police can take action.

Stronger positive relationships with businesses proactively acting as part of the solution.

3. Supporting inclusive nighttime spaces

Enhanced safety for our LGBTQIA+ communities, sharing training resources with businesses and venues.

Continued promotion of Council campaign to promote alcohol-free options at venues.

Promotion of ‘Ask for Angela’ and Welfare And Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training which is delivered by the Met’s licensing officers and Safer Sounds supporting venues to help customers who may be in a situation that makes them vulnerable or unsafe.

Continued delivery and promotion of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and anti-sexual harassment initiatives.

Support for Sports England’s ‘Let’s Lift the Curfew’ campaign which raises awareness of women’s safety issues and fears when getting active, especially after dark.

The nighttime experience is safer and more inclusive for all our communities.

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE EVENING AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY FRAMEWORK

As we support Waltham Forest to meet the needs of residents, visitors and workers beyond traditional hours, it is essential to establish a data-informed approach to monitoring the impact of our evening and nighttime actions.

Outputs and outcomes

We hope that opportunities outlined in this document will help to deliver the following economic, social and environmental outputs and outcomes, which will be further refined and tailored as activities and projects are developed and funding and investment is secured:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Increase in overall footfall, dwell time and spend after 6pm, supporting local businesses. | 6. Contribution to reducing crime and ASB in the wider nighttime areas (through increased footfall and surveillance) |
| 2. Increase in the number of businesses open after 6pm, including new nighttime businesses. | 7. Expanded programme of cultural activity at night including increased activation and use of public space after 6pm through a sustainable events programme, bringing together diverse communities and age groups |
| 3. Increase in the number venues open after 6pm, including new nighttime venues. | 8. Creating training and volunteering opportunities, particularly for young people |
| 4. Improvements to areas of public realm to create better lit and safer spaces to pass through at night | 9. Creation of new jobs and employment opportunities |
| 5. Improvements to transport hubs and gateways improving the evening experience in nighttime areas and travelling to and from work at night. | |








Fellowship Square event as part of London Borough of Culture in 2019
Photo credit: Jenna Selby






MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We will establish a baseline of the latest data on Waltham Forest at night and continue to collect data to monitor progress, evaluate impact and track the delivery of outputs. This includes:



Theme 	Indicator 	Type of Measure 	Update frequency 	Data Source 
Nighttime Activity	Nighttime uses	% of total units within the nighttime area	Record changes every six month	TCHC (Town Centre Health Check), which involves bi-annual in-person on the ground data collection
	Opening hours	% of total units within the nighttime area open after 6pm	Record changes every six month	TCHC
	No. of business with a premises licence	% share of total licences across borough for each nighttime area	Record changes every six month	LBWF licensing data
	Cultural activities and events	Number of events delivered per nighttime area	Recorded over 12 months	Events programme, event evaluation
Safety and wellbeing	Crime & ASB Hotspots	Reduction in number of recorded offences	Total over 6 months, set against a trend over a longer period	Met Police and Safer Neighbourhood Team statistics
	Public realm improvements including lighting	Improvements m ² of public realm improved and new / upgraded cctv and lighting	Tracked over 12 months, subject to funding to progress	Before and after photos, feasibility work and drawings

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Theme 	Indicator 	Type of Measure 	Update frequency 	Data Source 
Vitality	Footfall after 6pm	% increase and number of visitors and workers	Collected for 12 months, set against a trend over a set of years	GLA Datastore
	Expenditure after 6pm	Mastercard Retail Location Index	Collected for 12 months, set against a trend over a set of years	GLA Datastore
	High street vacancy rates	% decrease in vacancy rates	Collected twice a year	TCHC which involves bi-annual in-person on the ground data collection
Transport	Visitor origins and travel patterns	% increase in use of transport hubs & public transport	Collected for 12 months, set against a trend over a set of years	TfL Network Statistics
Employment and skills	New jobs	Number of jobs linked to evening economy filled supported by LBWF employment and skills team.	Annual, compared to previous years	LBWF Employment Team

This data will be collected from a range of sources including the GLA’s High Streets Data Service, Nighttime Observatory and Creative Enterprise Zones data repository, from Council services including our Culture, Business & Skills, Community Safety, Neighbourhoods and Highways teams as well as on the ground data-collection through our Town Centre Health checks.



FUNDING, DELIVERY AND NEXT STEPS

This final section provides a toolkit for delivering the priorities identified within the framework. The aim is to maximise their value from a social, economic and environmental perspective and align with our Mission Waltham Forest and Inclusive Economy ambitions. The following themes underpin this approach and should act as a guide for project delivery:

Working in partnership

Working in partnership – a partnership approach is essential to successfully deliver safe, inclusive and joyful nighttime experiences of the borough that support local prosperity. The opportunity to work with partners to maximise opportunities and address challenges should be considered at every stage. This includes the Metropolitan Police, GLA, TfL, landowners, investors, employers, cultural organisations, local businesses and communities.

An inclusive approach

Involving and making sure the needs of our diverse local communities are considered in all nighttime actions and initiatives, particularly those who are less likely to engage in pub and club activity traditionally associated with nighttime activity. This will help to build a safe, thriving, sustainable and inclusive evening and nighttime economy for everyone.



Photograph of High Street ADVENTures 2022 in Walthamstow



Building on best practice

A fantastic amount of work has already gone into thinking about and delivering opportunities to support the nighttime economy and our communities after 6pm within Waltham Forest and beyond. This includes the GLA’s nighttime strategy guidance as well as examples of good practice in other London Boroughs. Delivery should build on our own past successes, implementing recommendations and learnings as well as making the most of other’s resources to develop innovative and creative opportunities to support our communities after 6pm.



**1.6M PEOPLE
ACROSS LONDON**

regularly work between 6pm and 6am, making the nighttime an important part of the economy and our residents’ daily lives.

Supporting inclusive growth

Ensuring that investment in our nighttime offer by stakeholders supports our residents, including work with local employers and partners such as the GLA and TfL to ensure that workers in Waltham Forest feel safe, and that the nighttime economy offers good quality training and employment for local people.

Resourcing and funding our delivery plan:

Like other Councils, Waltham Forest faces the pressing challenge of increasing demand and diminishing resources.

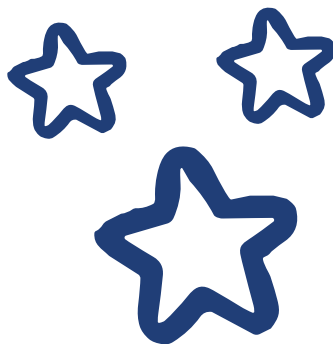
We will need to work in new creative and innovative way to deliver and fund nighttime opportunities and will continue to coordinate ambitions with partners and stakeholders to draw on a combination of funding sources and maximise resources, this includes:

- ➔ Direct private sector investment from developers, landowners, businesses and wider investment partners
- ➔ Corporate sponsorships working with key local organisations and businesses
- ➔ Establishing where nighttime priorities can be embedded into existing Council and community programmes
- ➔ Developer contributions funding secured through the planning process linked to key sites
- ➔ Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy supporting smaller local projects
- ➔ Central Government Grants, such as through the government’s Local Regeneration Fund
- ➔ GLA grants, such as recent investment into Leyton Summer Streets activity, Blackhorse Lane’s Creative Enterprise Zone and the Walthamstow Nighttime Enterprise Zone pilot. Understand emerging GLA thinking around tourist levy.





Key Priority Area	Priority	Actions	Outcomes
CURATION AND PROMOTION TO IMPROVE THE NIGHTTIME EXPERIENCE	1. Secure good quality evening operators and tenants in publicly owned venues and commercial properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued promotion and curation of a varied and diverse nighttime offer in Council owned units in Blackhorse Lane at Lockwood Way.Curate a live music evening offer at Luna Lounge in Leytonstone.Supporting nighttime economy opportunities linked to key anchor organisations including continued collaboration with Soho Theatre Walthamstow to maximise the theatre’s impact on the area’s wider evening economy, including at Hatherly Mews, the Scene and Central Parade.Re-establish Walthamstow Assembly Hall as a live music and cultural events venue.Activation of Coronation Square in Leyton to improve evening offer, footfall and town centre safety.Continued promotion of Forest Cinema in Walthamstow diversifying the town centre offer for students and young professionals.Establish partnership with a new operator for The Regal cinema.Support the nighttime offer in locations next to railway and underground stations.	Enhanced nighttime economy and a vibrant evening offer across the borough.
	2. Enable inclusive and accessible programming after 6pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build on our current programmes to continue to work with partners to deliver business and community-led annual events, street markets and activities after 6pm.Continued leisure offer into the evening in Council owned spaces, including sporting activity at the New Score Centre and Leyton Cricket Hub.	Increased resilience, footfall and spend for businesses. Inclusive activities that keep residents active, improving health outcomes.
	3. Work with landowners and developers to enable evening and nighttime uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working with developers in Blackhorse Lane like Scape to introduce new evening destination spaces like The Standard live music venue to the area.Work with landowners to support business curation and events at Leyton Midland Road.Support continued curation of high-quality restaurant offer along Station Road in North Chingford.Work with landlords to fill vacant units across our nighttime areas and encourage uses that support the evening economy.Help to facilitate innovative evening and night-time meanwhile uses in vacant premises which helps with higher footfall, overlooking and a sense of safety in numbers.Activate green and open spaces through seasonal hires, offering opportunities to enjoy an evening festival offer and driving investment to support our parks and grassroots culture. E.g. : Music festivals in Leyton Jubilee Park or Revel Puck Circus at Walthamstow Town Square.	Enhanced evening offer improving footfall, spend, safety and business resilience at night.
	4. Promoting evening experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued promotion of all nighttime area’s varied creative, cultural and hospitality offers.Promote business led evening events as part of the Blackhorse Lane Creative Enterprise Zone programme.Build on GLA funded ‘Summer in Leyton’ programme including KERB partnership.Build on the success of Leytonstone’s established varied annual programme of evening events, festivals and live music and performances, including Open Leytonstone and Shake the High Road.	Local business community is well connected, strengthened and supported.

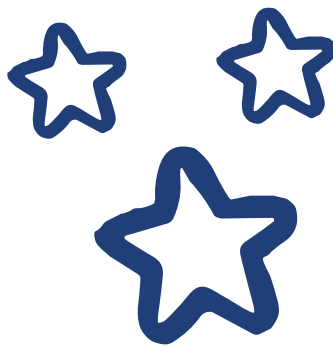




These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years



Key Priority Area	Priority	Actions	Outcomes
SUPPORTING AND INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NIGHT	1. Access to evening economy jobs and training for residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to proactively work with venues (like Soho Theatre Walthamstow and Forest Cinema), businesses in our town centres and industrial areas and organisations (like the NHS) to connect them with residents looking for work and ensure good-quality training opportunities.	Increased employment and training opportunities for residents.
	2. Improving pathways into work for seldom heard communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to offer young Waltham Forest residents insight and exposure to the creative industries, as well as mentoring and professional advice through Future Formed Programme, supporting participants into paid work placements and freelance work.Continued collaboration with local schools, colleges and universities (like Big Creative Education and University of Portsmouth London Campus in Walthamstow) to connect young people entering the market with employers.Continued support for carers, older workers and residents with physical or mental health disabilities.	Increased employment opportunities for young people within the borough.
	3. Supporting an attractive nighttime work offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partner with employers in manufacturing and logistics to improve understanding and needs of nighttime services (e.g. food, transport, wellbeing).Work with TfL to improve safety around rail stations, night bus routes, and safe cycling infrastructure near industrial zones and town centres.Ensure town centre regeneration and public realm projects consider infrastructure to support nighttime and gig economy workers (e.g. lighting, rest areas, 24hr toilets).	Improves safe and inclusive access to jobs and reduces barriers to employment as well as retention.
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS FRIENDLY LICENSING, REGULATION AND POLICY	1. Business-friendly approach to regulation to support businesses to diversify activity in the evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementing and piloting new government legislation and GLA guidance on licensing, examples include:Adopting new licensing regulation to create a new Economic Impact Zone at St James Street including outdoor seating, markets and evening economy businesses in the railway arches.Continued business friendly licensing to support and promote evening economy uses in the arches at Leyton Midland Road.A new market and event space at Higham’s Park Station forecourt as part of the Local Regeneration Fund programme.	Diversified evening offer supporting local prosperity. Businesses feel that any guidance on new regulation is clear and easily understood.
	2. Guiding businesses through the licensing process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued implementation of new pre-application advice service, creating an opportunity for applicants to seek advice before submission.	Businesses feel supported and the licensing process does not feel like a barrier to evening activity.
	3. Balancing resident concerns with ensuring vitality and viability of our evening and nighttime economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain proactive communication with businesses and encourage quick interventions in order to resolve any issues and reduce complaints.	Businesses and residents feel supported.
	4. Aligning licensing process with planning decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinated approach to planning and licensing applications for evening uses, giving developers and operators the confidence to invest in the borough’s evening offer.	More evening use proposals. .
	5. Support for grassroots community businesses without experience to support evening activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitating connections between businesses supporting buddying and sharing of business-to-business resource. Build on recommendations of NTEZ toolkit including implementing the business-friendly toolkit and business-led activation programmes.	Support for inclusive and grassroots uses.





These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years

APPENDIX

Key Priority Area	Priority	Actions	Outcomes
IMPROVING SAFETY AND WELLBEING AT NIGHT	1. Coordinated approach to improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work in partnership with Police, GLA, TfL, Community Safety teams and local businesses to tackle crime and ASB issues.Continued partnership working with the Police and TfL to improve lighting and CCTV and sightlines through stations.Supporting design out crime initiatives in public space projects and working with developers throughout the planning process to design out crime in new developments.Work in partnership across the council and with external stakeholders and employers to support the continued safety of nighttime workers in town centres and industrial areas.	<p>People feel safe in our town centres day and night.</p> <p>Transport hubs feel safer improving the nighttime experience and footfall.</p> <p>Workers feel safe and the nighttime work offer is more attractive.</p>
	2. Empowering businesses to improve nighttime safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage businesses to provide nighttime uses which increase footfall to improve sense of safety, and to report crime so the Community Safety teams and the Police can take action.	<p>Stronger positive relationships with businesses proactively acting as part of the solution.</p>
	3. Supporting inclusive nighttime spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced safety for our LGBTQIA+ communities, sharing training resources with businesses and venues.Continued promotion of Council campaign to promote alcohol-free options at venues.Promotion of 'Ask for Angela' and Welfare And Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training which is delivered by the Met's licensing officers and Safer Sounds supporting venues to help customers who may be in a situation that makes them vulnerable or unsafe.Continued delivery and promotion of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and anti-sexual harassment initiatives.Support for Sports England's 'Let's Lift the Curfew' campaign which raises awareness of women's safety issues and fears when getting active, especially after dark.	<p>The nighttime experience is safer and more inclusive for all our communities.</p>





These actions will be delivered within the next 5 years