CULTURAL CITIES RECOVERY

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Chair's foreword

Dame Jayne-Anne Gadhia, Independent Chair of the Enquiry

In 2019, the UK Cultural Cities Enquiry conceived a new vision for how we can radically improve the ability of towns and cities across the country to use culture to drive inclusive growth. This vision is based around stronger, more strategic place-based leadership through the creation of Cultural Compacts. Since then, with significant government support, rapid progress has been made, with the establishment of a network 23 Cultural Compacts across England.

In the wake of the extraordinary economic and social disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we resolved to reconvene the Enquiry to take an urgent look at how investment in culture can contribute to the recovery effort. We brought together leaders from the cultural sector, education, hospitality and tourism, real estate, and investment, alongside local council leaders, to generate practical, high-impact, scalable proposals.

We looked at how we can use cultural investment to stimulate the reanimation of places, and boost the recovery of retail, tourism and hospitality. We also addressed the role of culture in helping to drive change in the places which struggle to attract business investment or to develop and retain talent, which lack high quality jobs, and innovative local enterprises – so they are able to cultivate their own creative industries or high tech clusters, to underpin future prosperity and tackle inequality.

We have put together a plan that we believe will not only sustain the vital contribution of culture to our cities and towns, but also provide a powerful stimulus to recovery and renewal, as part of the process of 'levelling up'. This plan is contingent on upholding public support for culture. As we head into a Comprehensive Spending Review we ask that funding for culture is maintained at least at current levels in real terms; that local authorities' financial challenges are addressed in a manner that enables them to secure funding levels for the sector; and that government provides additional funding for the innovations and changes that will supercharge culture's contribution to national recovery from Covid-19.

We propose six key strands of action, which act together to support urban reanimation and employment in the short term, and to underpin growth of high value industries and job creation over the medium to long-term:

Leadership: We see the potential for Cultural Compacts to be a key vehicle for delivering local recovery and renewal in places, providing strategic leadership, and promoting local capacity and efficient, sustainable use of resources. **We recommend that Compacts are embedded in national policy and programmes, and that additional funding is provided to extend the network of Compacts.**

Reanimation and recovery: Towns and cities are keen to deploy cultural programmes to reanimate places, encouraging people back into urban centres, boosting recovery in retail, tourism and hospitality sectors. Creative use of transitional spaces (both inside and outside) can open up Covid-secure venues for cultural events and spillover commercial activity. **We recommend a capital programme for small-scale investments to repurpose existing buildings and public spaces.** Alongside this, a **demand stimulus scheme to subsidise ticket prices –** a cultural *Eat Out to Help Out* scheme if you like – could be deployed to great effect to attract consumers back into high streets and town and city centres.

Investment for renewal: Co-ordinated place-based plans can maximise economic returns from culture – including footfall, retail and hospitality revenue and place brand value, with read-through to land values, and talent stickiness. **We recommend that government considers incentivising business investment in local places through the taxation system**, for example through making any future increase in Corporation Tax able to be offset against evidence of positive local impact.

Chair's foreword

Talent, innovation and employment: By investing in the cultural infrastructure and creative ecosystem of a place, we can stimulate its ability to attract and retain talent. Compacts can support place-based approaches to develop local talent, and cultivate local creative enterprises. Alongside this, small amounts of investment can open up under-utilised space for cultural activities and host early stage creative ventures, creating a positive feedback effect. **We recommend a package of measures to improve the talent pipelines for the creative and cultural sectors, including an adjustment to the Apprenticeship Levy rules, plus funding for place-based consortia approaches to training and enterprise incubation –** including participation in *Kickstart*. This way, culture can play its part in the Government's Plan for Jobs.

Property and Place: We are yet to capitalise in full on the wealth of cultural and heritage property assets that exist across our towns and cities, including post-industrial buildings. Unlocking value from these property assets can under-pin sustainable regeneration of left-behind areas. **We recommend that government makes strategic investments to support Compact-backed regeneration schemes,** which would have a transformative effect on local places, and where value would be recycled into communities. **We also urge government to ensure that changes to the planning system promote the potential for culture-led recovery and renewal.**

Diversity and youth: In order to fulfil both the levelling up agenda, and to ensure maximum potency of local plans to develop vibrant leading edge industries, we must ensure that culture-led recovery and renewal plans reflect the full diversity of our communities, and give a key role to young people. This principle must permeate everything we do. **We recommend that Compacts make diversity a priority, and include young people on their boards.**

My thanks go to the Enquiry's advisory board, the Arts Council of England, Core and Key Cities for turning their energy and ingenuity to address this pressing opportunity for our towns and cities across the country. I'm confident that these measures can strengthen places' economic recovery and support employment over the critical period of the next 12 months, and can provide a significant boost to the prospects of longer-term renewal.

> We have put together a plan that we believe will not only sustain the vital contribution of culture to our cities and towns, but also provide a powerful stimulus to recovery and renewal.

Advisory Board Members

Syima Aslam	CEO and Director of Bradford Literature Festival
Tom Bloxham MBE	Founder & Chair, Urban Splash
Cllr Clare Coghill	Leader, Waltham Forest Council – representing London Councils
Cllr Julian German	Leader, Cornwall Council
Julia Goldsworthy	Director of Strategy and Economy, West Midlands Combined Authority
Tom Ilube CBE	CEO of Crossword Cybersecurity Founder and Chair of the African Gifted Foundation
Dame Julie Kenny	Chair of the Sheffield Cultural Compact and Chair of the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust Former Commissioner and Chair of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills
Charles Landry	Founder, Comedia
Denise Murray	Director of Finance, Bristol City Council
Kate Nicholls	CEO, UKHospitality
Dame Alison Nimmo	Non-executive director of Berkeley Group. Former CEO of The Crown Estate
Dame Seona Reid	Chair of the British Council Scottish Advisory Committee and Chair of the National Theatre of Scotland
Sir Nicholas Serota CH	Chair, Arts Council England
Shain Shapiro PhD	Founder and CEO, Sound Diplomacy
Mary Stuart CBE	Vice Chancellor, University of Lincoln
Nisha Tandon OBE	CEO of ArtsEkta
Cllr Huw Thomas	Leader, Cardiff city council – representing Core Cities
Annabel Turpin	CEO & Artistic Director ARC Stockton Chair of the Tees Valley Cultural Industries & Visitor Economy Task Force
Edward Wakefield	Independent corporate financier and Chair of the Virgin Money Foundation
Cllr Alan Waters	Leader, Norwich city council – representing Key Cities

Image of child looking in drawer
in Wessex Gallery, Salisbury Museum
Photo © The Salisbury Museum / Ash Mills

Overview of recommendations

We identified the main challenges that the cultural sector and cities and towns face in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as opportunities where culture can play a key role in supporting the social and economic recovery of places:

1 LEADERSHIP

Cities and towns can benefit from increased strategic leadership and coordinated action to enhance culture's contribution to recovery and renewal post Covid-19 and its role in 'levelling up' opportunities across places. Strategic investment in culture and a more efficient use of existing assets can increase places' ability to stimulate and capture future economic growth opportunities.

Cultural Compacts can be a key vehicle for delivering local recovery and renewal in cities and towns, providing strategic leadership, increasing local capacity and promoting a efficient, sustainable use of resources to increase places' ability to attract investment, build local talent and enterprises, and reanimate city and town centres.

2 INVESTMENT

Sources of investment into the cultural sector and early stage creative enterprises are narrow, and use of loan finance remains limited. Depressed commercial revenue due to Covid-19, along with strains on local public investment, threaten the sustainability of the cultural sector, and cultural assets (property, data, brand value, content) are often under-utilised.

A strong local cultural ecosystem can drive economic, social and financial returns. Coordinated place-based plans can maximise these returns, contributing to footfall, retail and hospitality revenue and place brand value, adding to land values and talent retention. Under-utilised cultural assets can be deployed more effectively to stimulate local investment and enterprise.

3 TALENT

- The ability of a place to grow, attract and retain talent is key to its prosperity. Career pathways into the cultural and wider creative industries are often narrow, and the small scale of enterprises within the sector makes it difficult for them to benefit from and contribute to national training schemes and structured training programmes.
- Covid-19 is restricting local opportunities for young people, especially in places with lower economic resilience and communities already at risk of exclusion. At the same time, the cultural sector doesn't always reflect the diversity of local communities – especially young people.

- Investment in the cultural infrastructure and creative ecosystem of a place can enhance its ability to attract and retain talent. Improving the talent pipeline for the creative and cultural sectors can help the recovery of places and raise opportunities for young people.
- In order to level up opportunities within cities and towns and support vibrant industries, culture-led recovery plans must reflect the diversity of local communities, giving a key role to young people where they can benefit from and have a voice in local renewal.

4 PLACE

- The pandemic has intensified pressures on local high streets, with a reduction in footfall heightened by the closure of retail and hospitality venues and an absence of office workers. Cultural venues are suffering depressed demand from audiences and face capacity limits due to Covid-secure regulations.
- Covid-19 has struck already left-behind towns, city centres, and post-industrial areas. Cities and towns have an untapped wealth of cultural assets to support regeneration; however, places often lack capacity and resources to optimise their value. Planning policy must support the optimization of cultural activity to fully realise its benefits for places.

- Cultural programmes can be deployed by to help reenergise economic activity within city and town centres and highstreets. Creative use of transitional and vacant spaces can provide Covid-secure venues for cultural activity, and spillover commercial activity.
- Capital investment in culture can catalyse sustainable economic development in places. Places should take full advantage of their cultural and heritage property assets, and unlock value from these assets to underpin sustainable regeneration of left-behind areas and generate returns for reinvestment.

We can support cities and towns to make the best use of their cultural assets to promote local recovery and renewal post Covid-19 through the following recommendations:

1 LEADERSHIP

Cultural Compacts – Cultural Compacts provide strong strategic leadership for place-based plans that coordinate actions to promote the recovery of cities and towns, reanimation, employment and enterprise, and talent development. Compacts can promote efficient, sustainable use of existing resources and leverage new investment through increased capacity and coordinated action.

- We recommend that government embeds Cultural Compacts within national policy and programmes as a key vehicle for delivering culture-led local recovery and renewal, and provides additional funding to extend the network of Cultural Compacts to 100 cities and towns.

2 INVESTMENT

Investment for renewal

- Develop incentives for business investment in local places through the taxation system, for example offsetting future Corporation Tax increases against evidence of positive local impact.
- Support the expansion of programmes promoting enterprise development in cultural organisations, to support organisational strength and financial resilience.
- Support the development of the Cultural Compacts network to bring together local partners to consider incentives for investment, and promote inward investment.

3 TALENT

Talent, innovation and employment

- Adopt a package of measures to improve the talent pipelines for the creative and cultural sectors, including an adjustment to the Apprenticeship Levy rules, and provide funding for place-based consortia approaches to training and enterprise incubation.
- Compacts can support place-based approaches to develop local talent, and cultivate local creative enterprises.

Diversity and young people

- Public support for culture must guarantee opportunity, ensuring that investment for growth in culture increases engagement in all communities, and supports a growing workforce which offers opportunities to people from every background.
- Cultural Compacts should make diversity a priority and set targets for the local cultural sector, and include young people on their boards.

4 PLACE

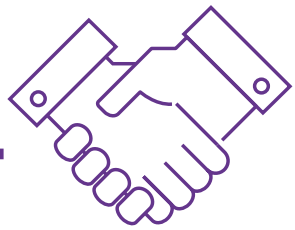
Reanimation and recovery

- Develop a capital programme for small-scale investments to enable places to repurpose under-utilised buildings and public spaces for cultural activity to reanimate city and town centres.
- Develop a demand stimulus scheme to subsidize ticket prices – a cultural *Eat Out to Help Out*, to attract consumers back into high streets and town and city centres.

Property and place

- Strategic investments to support Compact-backed regeneration schemes that unlock value of existing assets with a transformative effect on local places, and where value would be recycled into communities.
- Ensure that changes to the planning system promote the potential for culture-led recovery and renewal.

Leadership



Leadership: Cultural Compacts

Cultural Compacts provide strong strategic leadership for place-based plans to:

- Support cultural interventions that reanimate places to reactivate local economies.
- Regenerate and rebrand city and town centres, through high quality cultural content and strategic use of cultural and heritage property assets.
- Support enterprise development in the cultural and creative industries.
- Develop talent pools for cultural and creative industries, including:
  - Talent development pathways, to ensure local young people from all backgrounds have opportunities for high quality careers in the cultural sector.
  - Recruitment and retention, by providing employment opportunities within the sector and creating an attractive environment to live and work.
  - Support a vibrant creative and cultural ecosystem that contributes to innovation and growth across all sectors of the local economy.

Compacts can promote efficient, sustainable use of resources by:

- Increasing the return on existing expenditure and investment by building local capacity for delivery and ensuring a coordinated approach, reinforcing activity towards agreed local priorities.
- Leveraging additional funding within a place by bringing new partners to the table, and by raising the profile of culture-led activity.
- Leveraging additional external funding by increasing local capacity and through better coordination of external funding bids.
- Ensuring clear Compact business plans and annual reports with measurable outcomes, providing better data on economic and social impact.
- Supporting better management of existing cultural assets, by adopting a place-based portfolio approach.

Compacts can have a transformational effect on local recovery and renewal by:

- Coordinating local actions to promote recovery and aligning activity between Compact partners – e.g. plans to pedestrianise high streets; stimulate local tourism.
- Using targeted small-scale investment to create and sustain cultural opportunity and creative enterprise through capital grants to open up under-used or liminal spaces, and speedy cash grants to creatives.
- Facilitating creative use of the public realm to transform the experience and 'brand' of a place.
- Bringing young people into local decision-making to promote youth experience of culture and creative output, including the development of leading-edge creative content.
- Ensuring Compact plans will draw value from and provide benefits to all sectors of society, including excluded and deprived communities and places and especially young people.

Places adopting Compacts testify to benefits of strategic leadership, partnership, governance and accountability, plus increasing 'brand value.' Compacts are based on existing best practice. We acknowledge that not all places will choose to adopt a Compact – some will keep existing structures, some will set up something slightly different. The point is to endorse the characteristics of successful Compacts – in arrangements that are called Compacts or in Compact-like structures.

Recommendations to government:

- Endorse Cultural Compacts within policy frameworks as a key vehicle for delivering local recovery and renewal, and to embed them within broader policy priorities and programmes, e.g. Stronger Towns Fund, Future High Streets Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Securely embed Compacts within the system of local, regional, and national structures, especially: Business Improvement Districts, Local Enterprise Partnerships, and Combined Authorities.
- Support the development of Compacts so that the full potential of culture within place can be realised, and places can effectively deliver against local social and economic recovery priorities.
    + New investment to support **Cultural Compacts in 100 cities and towns**. This investment would facilitate the development of Compacts in places where culture is central to local recovery from Covid-19, and/or in places that are recipients of place-based development initiatives (e.g. Stronger Towns Fund or activity funded through UK Shared Prosperity Fund) over a 3 year period. This could be at the level of upper tier council, cities and city regions, towns or over a rural geography. Compacts would contribute at least 30% match-funding.
        o £15m investment over 3 years: £50k per Compact, equivalent to £5m a year.
    + Financial support to establish and coordinate a **national network of Cultural Compacts**, that can provide learning and development opportunities, facilitate peer support and tailored support. The national network would be developed over 1 year, and then handed off to Cultural Compacts to lead over the next 2 years.
        o £100k funding in the first year.

Investment

Investment for renewal

Culture drives economic returns

Places across the UK and beyond have proven that a strong cultural ecosystem, underscored by high-quality cultural content, can drive economic, social and financial returns, with a measurable impact on:

- place brand value
- footfall in urban centres
- retail and hospitality revenue
- land values

This has clear read-through to economic growth, including key drivers such as talent recruitment and retention, location of high value enterprises and employment (especially in the creative and digital sector), and inward investment.

But how do we support all places to capture this potential?

The key question is how do places with under-developed cultural ecosystems and limited local capacity – arguably those with the greatest need when it comes to the recovery and renewal agenda – capitalise on this opportunity?

Sources of investment into the sector are limited

Despite the fact that cultural enterprises have broadened their revenue base in recent years (notably growing their commercial income), the sources of investment for the sector remain narrow. Use of loan finance is limited, and the sector has been slow to take up the expanding availability of social investment. Assets – property, data, brand, creative content – are often under-utilised. Historically, the sector has drawn around 50% of its income from local authorities, which have been an important source of funding for project finance and capital investment. However, most local authorities now have very limited budgets available for culture. Commercial revenue will be depressed in the immediate post-Covid period due to the persistence of social distancing and reduced consumer confidence.

Compacts can promote investment into places

Given the economic impact of culture in a place, partnerships with local business and landowners, and public institutions with aligned interests such as universities, or housing associations, are an under-developed source of investment. Closer co-operation and co-ordination between the cultural sector and local partners in the context of a Cultural Compact can help support co-investment within places. In addition to financial investment, Compacts can help identify a broad array of tangible and intangible returns for partners – including promotion, data, talent retention and development, access to spaces, and brand value. Compacts can also help put together funding packages from multiple external sources – which might include public funds, alongside private capital, some of which might be scheme-supported (SITR, EIS among others).

Fiscal measures could promote business investment in Compacts

Businesses could be incentivised to contribute to recovery and renewal in places through the taxation system. We would like to see local business making a greater investment in the community in which they are situated. For example, any future increase in Corporate Tax could be offsettable against positive local economic and social impact, with a focus on contributions towards levelling up. Offset measures could include: business rates paid; salaries and P11 benefits paid (based on place of work – weighted to provide extra credit for most deprived wards); investment in schemes securing SITR, investment in BIDS; and investment in young people and training schemes. Any additional headline tax rate could be reduced back to zero with evidence of investment in communities and social action. This could provide a powerful stimulus for social initiatives including community regeneration, support for culture and training for young people.

Recommendations to government:

- Support the expansion of programmes promoting enterprise development in cultural organisations, to support organisational strength and financial resilience.
- Any future additional rate of Corporation Tax should be capable of being offset against measurable evidence of positive social impact.
- Support the development of the Cultural Compacts network:
  + Compacts should support co-development of local recovery and renewal plans, bringing together local partners, and exploring the full toolbox of local incentives – including sharing of data, physical space and human resources.
  + Compacts should promote inward investment through supporting the development of investment proposals, including sharing and resourcing professional expertise.

The Wheel House by Acrojou
Photo © Acrojou / Steve Edwin Photography

Talent

Talent, innovation and employment

The ability of a place to grow, attract and retain talent is key to its prosperity, and a place's culture is more often than not, what makes people want to live and work there. There is a strong relationship between a thriving cultural ecosystem and the development of the creative industries within a place. We also know that the ability to attract and retain talent is a driving factor in where value-generating science and technology companies chose to locate, and in their growth rates. However, pathways into the cultural and creative industries are narrow and the small scale of enterprises within the sector makes it difficult for it to fit within national training schemes.

Before the pandemic, culture (as part of the broader creative industries) grew faster than other sectors and was providing 700,000 jobs. These jobs were more productive, attracted higher wages and had higher skill levels than the economy as a whole. They also supported employment in other sectors, such as hospitality and tourism. The UK government's commitment to growing this sector, through a Creative Industries Sector Deal and targeted investment like the Cultural Development Fund, was matched by the devolved administrations, and local government's aspirations for culture to transform places and young people's opportunities.

We can help recovery of places and raise opportunity for young people by improving the talent pipeline for the creative and cultural sectors – and helping to ensure the cultural sector can play a full role in the Government's Plan for Jobs.

Recommendations to government:

- Where Combined Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships have prioritized and will strategically support the cultural and creative sectors, government should:
  - + Give companies in those places freedom to invest more than 25% of their Apprenticeship Levy to other employers which are creative and cultural organisations, and redirect unspent levies to this sector.
  - + Encourage and provide small scale revenue funding to Cultural Compacts to cover the administrative of costs of setting or enabling existing partnerships between cultural organisations, LEPs and MCAs, HE and FE organisations to ensure that supply of quality apprenticeship opportunities meets demand within places, using local knowledge to match young people to jobs – with young people able to find a range of entry routes to working in the sector.
  - + Direct funding from the proposed Innovation Roadmap to create more start up and incubator opportunities, working between Universities and Compacts, particularly occupying under-utilised space in urban centres, linked to micro-grants for enterprise.
- Government, local government and the cultural sector need to respond to the opportunity provided by the *Kickstart* scheme to give young people opportunities that will help them find good jobs in the cultural sector, and tackle the impact of Covid on them and their communities.
  - + To help deliver *Kickstart* Cultural Compacts should work with partners to identify a representative to help cultural organisations collaborate to create the minimum 30 placements that they would not be able to provide alone and collaborate with the UK arts councils and sector skills councils on national programmes as appropriate.
  - + Government can help *Kickstart* placements transition into enhanced skills and stable employment through extending the deadline for payments to employers for new apprentices beyond 31 January 2021 where a *Kickstart* beneficiary in a cultural organisation can take up an apprenticeship.

Talent

Diversity and Young People

Covid-19 is restricting the life chances of young people, particularly those in places and communities already at risk of exclusion and with less resilient economies. Culture must play its part in avoiding the tragedy of a lost generation.

This potentially devastating challenge brings into sharp relief the Cultural Cities Enquiry's emphasis on culture's role in recognizing the diversity of our communities and implementing actions to ensure that diversity is valued as a strength and inequalities are tackled. We must reassert this commitment now. The Enquiry report's recommendations on opening up talent pathways to young people from all communities, and on diversity targets within the cultural sector, have renewed validity in helping young people share in renewal and recovery, and also in getting the sector to return to growth.

Recommendations to government:

- The cultural sector needs to give young people a voice, agency and a chance.
  - + Young people and local diversity should be represented on Cultural Compacts, and their member organisations should be encouraged to do the same.
  - + Funders should offer 16-24 year olds micro-grants to support them to develop creative enterprises alongside their employment or study. The Arts Councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships and larger cultural organisations, working with local Business Growth Hubs should provide support to help their business grow – including start up training.
- Public support for culture must guarantee opportunity.
  - + Government should ensure that investment for growth in culture increases engagement in all communities, and that it actively supports a growing workforce which offers opportunity to people from every background.
  - + Compacts should set and monitor local diversity targets for the local cultural sector, and for every activity where they provide strategic oversight, governance or delivery.

Carleen Anderson at St George's Bristol 2017
Photo © Simon Camper

Place

Reanimation and recovery

Towns and cities are keen to use carefully planned cultural programmes as a means to help rekindle economic activity within urban centres in the wake of the pandemic, promoting the stabilisation of businesses and employment in the retail, hospitality and tourism sectors.

In the expectation that social distancing rules will be maintained in the short to medium term, there is an opportunity to repurpose existing buildings and use transitional space – car parks, public squares, railway arches – to create Covid-secure environments to host cultural projects and related commercial activity.

Building on the success of the *Eat Out to Help Out* scheme, the government should support a similar scheme to encourage audiences back to cultural venues and promote consumer confidence. Subsidising ticket prices for cultural venues in the first months of 2021/22 will enable reopening organisations to expand their cultural offering and encourage audiences to return. This could align with destination marketing campaigns to stimulate the visitor economy and to provide footfall to places, high streets and destinations to increase the market for the hospitality sector.

Recommendations to government:

- Make funds available for a small-scale capital funding programme in 2021-24 to repurpose under-utilised high street and city and town centre spaces for cultural activity, in addition to the heritage improvements envisaged in Heritage Action Zones.
  + £80m investment over 4 years.
- Develop a demand stimulus scheme to encourage audiences back to cultural venues, to be locally delivered in line with place-based recovery plans.

Library of Birmingham, The Secret Garden
Photo © Birmingham City Council

Place

Property and place

Cultural investment can catalyse sustainable economic development

Cultural activity has a powerful capacity to catalyse economic development in a locality, and is particularly important for sustaining the growth of the wider creative industries. Publicly owned cultural properties can be strategic assets for cities and towns in driving regeneration. However, culture is vulnerable to displacement and returns on public assets are not always optimised.

There is an opportunity to deploy capital investment into cultural and heritage assets and other publicly owned spaces as a means to stimulate regeneration in a way that provides a recurring and sustainable income for re-investment in culture and other public benefits. Unlocking greater value from their asset base will help the sector recover from Covid-19 and overcome the restrictions on revenue arising from the persistence of social distancing and reduced consumer confidence.

Key success factors in achieving this are:

- Collective management of property assets to increase efficiency, cross-subsidy, long term financial viability.
- Private sector expertise in regeneration and property asset management deployed for civic gain.
- Maintaining civic, community, and/or cultural sector ownership (or part-ownership) of property assets to recycle returns.
- Strong co-ordination with local civic partners and local economic plans alongside robust governance – i.e. via a Cultural Compact.

This approach has been demonstrated to be successful, generating sustainable economic returns in places across the UK and could be deployed more widely. We recommend that public investments into such schemes could be deployed as a stimulus to economic renewal in places that would otherwise struggle to raise private capital to transform their cultural and heritage property assets, and where they can demonstrate strong local leadership and planning for such proposals – e.g. via Compacts.

Planning policy is a key enabler

In order to achieve this potential, planning policy must support culture's contribution to recovery and renewal. Governments in all parts of the UK should ensure that planning acts to support culture's contribution to recovery and renewal and does not hinder it. Governments must be clear on the characteristics of planning policy that will help promote sustainable regeneration of city and town centres and post-industrial places, expanding cultural activity within the public realm (including liminal space), and promoting a vibrant cultural ecosystem and quality of life.

Recommendations to government:

- Establish a clear set of principles outlining the characteristics of planning systems that support the provision of cultural opportunity and infrastructure in line with this government's ambitions for vibrant, prosperous places and for levelling-up across the UK.
- Provide funding to support innovative pathfinder projects, proposed by Compacts, that would have a transformational effect on their places (building on the recommendations of the UK Cultural Cities Enquiry, e.g. innovative asset portfolio approaches) – allocating funds on an annual basis, to support innovation and enable learning to be shared.
  + £75m investment over 3 years.
- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to identify and promote within government the characteristics of a planning policy that will help promote the Cultural Cities vision – particularly in terms of sustainable regeneration of town and city centres and post-industrial places, expanding cultural activity within the public realm (including liminal space), promoting a vibrant cultural ecosystem and quality of life.

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