

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING  
CULTURAL STRATEGY**

**A GOOD LIFE 2025-2028**

**HAVERING LONDON**

# HAVERING'S CULTURAL STRATEGY



This strategy has been developed by the **public, private** and **voluntary** sector in Havering, and represents the planned strategic work of a broad range of organisations and groups.

It is a **partnership** strategy designed to act as a three-year catalyst for nurturing and growing the cultural life of a rapidly changing place.

It is designed to be used by **anyone** developing, making and building cultural activity in Havering.

It supports a **shared** vision across a networked borough.



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**WE BELIEVE IT'S TIME  
TO PUT HAVERING  
FIRMLY ON THE  
LONDON MAP”**

# THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A GOOD LIFE

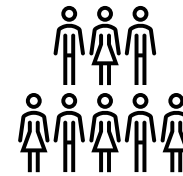
**Bidding for London Borough of Culture throughout Autumn 2023 sparked a profound sense of hope for Havering.**

Havering Council led extensive workshops involving its leadership, officers and members. Collaborative sessions with local voluntary organisations and industry stakeholders empowered grassroots organisations to actively shape the bid. The participation of more than 50 organisations and 1,000 members of the public in consultation signified more than endorsement. The process revealed a public, private and voluntary sector sense of unity surrounding Havering's plans and a collective recognition of the imperative to celebrate a forward-looking borough.

So much momentum has been shown in rapidly developing the borough's cultural offer and in response to the bid, strategic partners have expressed a keen interest in harnessing and supporting this moment of transformational opportunity. This document sets out the borough's next steps cultural strategy, as an action centered manifesto for meaningful change through partnership.

Significantly the process has:

- > **Raised the profile of culture within the Council**
- > **Embedded culture within the Council's Corporate Plan**
- > **Created new Havering Together events, bringing the public, private and voluntary sectors together**
- > **Generated new or different strategic partnerships with Historic England, Arts Council England and the National Heritage Lottery Fund**
- > **Established Havering London, a new cultural placemaking and fundraising organisation**
- > **Seen a new sense of unity and purpose across a wide range of culture partners in Havering**



**1000 MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC CONSULTED**



**MORE THAN 50  
ORGANISATIONS  
CONSULTED**

# HAVERING'S CASE FOR CULTURE



## **There are many definitions of culture.**

This strategy adopts the definition from the Mayor of London's Cultural Strategy, 'Culture for all Londoners':

“

**... takes a broad view of culture, from arts institutions, creative industries, the historic environment and museums, to community festivals, pubs and nightclubs, busking pitches, skateparks and street art.**

”

# HAVERING HAS SPOKEN

Some feedback from the extensive consultation

**CHOIR INCLUDING ALL AGES, SINGING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE A VARIETY OF MUSIC.**

Glenda

**A FESTIVAL OF ALL THAT IS GOOD IN HAVERING. WE HAVE SO MANY TALENTED PEOPLE, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND OTHERS THAT WE CAN HIGHLIGHT.**

Denise

**ROMFORD MARKET THROUGH THE AGES.**

Martin

**SHOWCASING OUR STRENGTHS AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND GREENEST OF THE LONDON BOROUGHS VIA OPEN SPACE EVENTS.**

Nii

**WORKSHOPS THAT ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THEIR LOCAL BUILT ENVIRONMENT.**

Sophia

**LOCAL PEOPLE, AND GROUPS, USING ART AND FOOD, IN A SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS WAY.**

Laurie

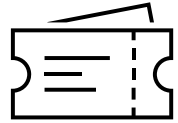
**DEVELOP A PERMANENT COMPREHENSIVE WEBSITE SHOWCASING ALL CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BOROUGH.**

Pamela

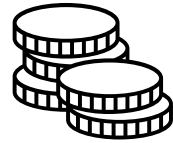
**A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INTERACTIVE DIGITAL ART PROJECT THAT CELEBRATES INVITING RESIDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE PERSONAL STORIES, PHOTOS, AND TRADITIONS.**

Nilay

# HAVERING'S CASE FOR CULTURE



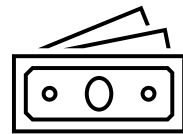
**50%** OF ADULTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES ON THEIR HIGH STREETS (5)



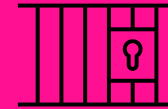
**£3.2B** IS CONTRIBUTED TO LONDON'S ECONOMY DIRECTLY FROM HERITAGE (1)



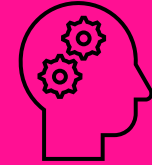
**38%** MORE LIKELY TO REPORT GOOD HEALTH (4)



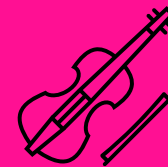
**£115.9BN** IS THE AMOUNT THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ARE WORTH TO THE UK ECONOMY (6)



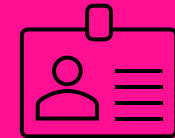
**18%** OF YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO TAKE PART IN ARTS ACTIVITIES ARE LESS LIKELY TO RE-OFFEND (3)



**17%** INCREASE REPORTED IN COGNITIVE ABILITY FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN STRUCTURED ARTS ACTIVITIES (2)



**67%** OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA, SAW REDUCED ANXIETY AND THE NEED FOR MEDICINE BY ENGAGING WITH MUSIC THERAPY (7)



**1 IN 6** JOBS IN THE CAPITAL ARE IN THE CREATIVE SECTOR (8)



**“CREATING THIS STRATEGY HAS  
SPARKED A PROFOUND SENSE  
OF HOPE FOR HAVERING”**

# INTRODUCING HAVERING AND ITS CULTURAL ECOLOGY

**Residents of Havering, London's most eastern borough, the 3rd largest, are proud to live in the greenest borough (59% green), with 2,000 acres of open space (including 108 local parks).**

Havering is a cluster of village-like close knit communities, rich with loyal east enders and more recent residents with stories to tell. It has a thriving cultural quarter in Hornchurch, a historic National Trust property at Rainham Hall, and an RSPB reserve. Romford is the 4th largest retail district in London. It's a borough proud of its heritage, stretching back to Roman times and with a street market dating to 1247. Since 2022, the Elizabeth Line now serves the borough.

Recent years have seen purposeful strategic change in the cultural infrastructure. Queen's Theatre Hornchurch's achievements have been recognised with awards, including London Theatre of the Year 2020. A Havering Changing consortium bid to Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme has delivered four years of engaging Havering's most underserved communities in over 500 events, reaching 50,000 more people. A Local Cultural Education Partnership (FUSE) has been established, a Creative Health partnership launched. The National Theatre is working in Havering and the Havering Music School involved in regional partnerships. The listed Upminster Windmill has been restored to working order. Romford Film Festival has grown in reputation and Romford BID organises successful events. New networks of artists such as Yay Mates are growing.



# THE NEED IN HAVERING

## A CHANGING BOROUGH

THERE'S BEEN A **10.4%** POPULATION GROWTH,  
AND HISTORIC VOLUME OF HOUSE BUILDING

THE **OLDEST** POPULATION IN LONDON  
(MEDIAN AGE 40 YEARS OLD)

THE **11<sup>TH</sup>** FASTEST CHANGING BOROUGH IN  
THE COUNTRY

THE ETHNICITY OF RESIDENTS IS CHANGING QUICKLY -  
**33.5%** IDENTIFY AS NON-WHITE BRITISH, DOUBLING  
FROM 16.7% (2011)

HAVERING IS GETTING YOUNGER - 2ND HIGHEST  
GROWTH IN THE 0-4 YEAR AGE GROUP IN THE  
COUNTRY, A **26.5%** INCREASE IN 25 - 39 YEAR OLDS

**24.3%** INCREASE IN 0-19 YEAR OLDS



**HAVERING IS CHANGING  
MORE QUICKLY AND  
RADICALLY THAN MOST  
LONDON BOROUGHS**



**THE CHANGING  
POPULATION NEED NEW  
WAYS OF LIVING IN ORDER  
TO IMPROVE LIFE CHANCES**

# **THE NEED IN HAVERING**

## **CHALLENGES FOR RESIDENTS**

THE **LOWEST** PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS WITH L4 OR ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS (29.5%) IN LONDON

**1 IN 5** RESIDENTS (20%) HAVE NO QUALIFICATIONS, 5TH HIGHEST IN LONDON

**55%** OF HAVERING YOUNG PEOPLE SEE SOCIAL ANXIETY AS THE LARGEST BARRIER TO ENGAGING WITH CULTURE (FUSE'S 'THE CHILDREN HAVE SPOKEN' REPORT)

**67.3%** OF HAVERING ADULTS ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE, 3RD HIGHEST IN LONDON

HAVERING HAS THE **4<sup>TH</sup> HIGHEST** STROKE PREVALENCE, MOST CARE HOME BEDS, 3RD HIGHEST DISABILITY RATES IN LONDON

# THE NEED IN HAVERING

## UNDERDEVELOPED CULTURAL ECOLOGY

THE **4<sup>TH</sup>** LOWEST LEVEL OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN CULTURE IN LONDON

ONLY **1** OF THE 268 ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND NATIONAL PORTFOLIO ORGANISATIONS IN LONDON. £4 PER PERSON COMPARED TO £531 IN LAMBETH, £1111 HACKNEY, £24 NEWHAM (2018/22)

ONLY **0.1%** OF NPO SPEND IN LONDON IS INVESTED IN HAVERING (2023-26)

JUST **14** ARTS AND HERITAGE NATIONAL LOTTERY GRANTS 2015-2021 (0.37% OF LONDON'S TOTAL SPEND)

**NONE** OF THE 272 ARTIST STUDIOS IN LONDON ARE HERE (MAYOR OF LONDON'S CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE MAP 2023)

HAVERING HAS THE **2<sup>ND</sup>** LOWEST NUMBER OF CREATIVE BUSINESSES OF ANY LONDON BOROUGH (2018/19)  
(CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES REPORT, BOP CONSULTING)

LESS THAN **1%** OF HAVERING'S ECONOMY IS MADE UP OF CREATIVE BUSINESSES (6% OF NATIONAL ECONOMY)

HAVERING IS THE BOROUGH WHERE YOU'RE THE **3<sup>RD</sup>** LEAST LIKELY TO ACCESS A CULTURAL FACILITY WITHIN A 15-MINUTE WALK



**HAVERING HAS ONE OF  
THE LEAST DEVELOPED  
CULTURAL ECOLOGIES IN  
LONDON**



“

**A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH AIMS  
TO UNLOCK NEW INVESTMENT FOR  
HAVERING”**

# LEARNING FROM OTHERS

## Health and Wellbeing

Southwark Culture Health and Wellbeing Partnership is an innovative and inclusive partnership addressing inequalities in health and wellbeing through culture - an informal cross sector network of over 150 members.

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/southwark-creates/networking/culture-health-and-wellbeing-conversation>



## Heritage

In Living Memory in Lewisham unearthed lost or untold stories to construct a new history of the borough, as told by its residents - including a partnership with Goldsmiths enabling close working between academic, heritage and community stakeholders to create a digital archive and virtual museum.

<https://sites.gold.ac.uk/inlivingmemory/>



## Young People

Part of Brent 20, the Seen and Heard project saw young people affect genuine and lasting change in London's built environment, joining public space design workshops and redesigning local spaces to put young people's needs at their heart.

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/cities/research/cities-space-and-society/Seen-and-Heard>



# LEARNING FROM OTHERS

## Public Space

Redesign of Fellowship Square in Waltham Forest, a new public space with interactive fountains, free and low cost events, art installations and performances all year round.

<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/regeneration-and-growth/regeneration-projects-and-developments/regeneration-walthamstow/fellowship-square-walthamstow>



## Cultural Hubs

Southwark Council transformed an underused multi-storey car park into a major cultural and creative hub and workspace, Peckham Levels, which has led economic regeneration through the creation of over 450 jobs.

<https://peckhamlevels.org/>



## Inspiring Futures

The Barking and Dagenham Cultural Education Partnership nurtures links between cultural organisations and schools to work towards every young person having the opportunity to be creative, either in school or beyond.

<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/inspiring-futures-lbbd-cultural-education-partnership#:~:text=Inspiring%20Futures%3A%20The%20Barking%20and,either%20in%20school%20or%20beyond>





**A GOOD LIFE**

# THE VISION

## A GOOD LIFE

**A GOOD LIFE** is a transformational approach to the long-term wellbeing of Havering's residents within a radically changing place. Empowering communities, nurturing social connectivity, addressing inequality, building a sustainable creative ecology, and promoting good physical and mental health are foundations of the strategy.



**HAVINGERING WILL PLANT THE SEEDS FOR A THRIVING CULTURAL BOROUGH**



# FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR A GOOD LIFE



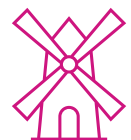
## **DEVELOPING A CREATIVE HEALTH BOROUGH**

Intricately weaving the concept of long-term wellbeing through cultural activity.



## **TRANSFORMING THE CULTURAL ECOLOGY**

Capacity building to benefit from growth and seeking a levelling up in investment.



## **REDEFINING HERITAGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

Rebalancing the widest definition of heritage, to better include the borough's new population.



## **EVERY CHILD & YOUNG PERSON ENGAGING IN CULTURE**

Uniting education and arts partners to empower young people and make them feel proud.



## **ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Helping lead the way in dismantling inequalities and addressing the climate emergency.

# OBJECTIVES

## A GOOD LIFE

**IDENTITY**  
**COMMUNITIES**  
**ECOLOGY**  
**ENGAGE**  
**EMPOWER**  
**HEALTH**

A bold new **IDENTITY** for Havering that celebrates all our people, places, and heritage.

Harness culture to embrace and champion the fast-changing nature of Havering's **COMMUNITIES** ensuring representation for all.

Transform our cultural **ECOLOGY**, addressing structural inequalities, building new artistic legacies for Havering.

**ENGAGE** all people in culture, enabling access physically and digitally across every part of the borough.

**EMPOWER** talent and provide new opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities, prioritising social justice and equity.

Address **HEALTH** inequalities and the physical and mental wellbeing of all our residents.

# OUTCOMES IN DETAIL

## A GOOD LIFE

**A BOLD NEW IDENTITY FOR HAVERING THAT CELEBRATES ALL OUR PEOPLE, PLACES, AND HERITAGE.**

Havering is in urgent need of a new narrative. Too often people are unaware of where the borough is, what its assets are, what opportunities it presents and how it can further contribute to the richness of London's diverse fabric. A Good Life will help Havering to clearly articulate a new co-created (e.g. where local people actively contribute to shaping) narrative with partners, one that reflects a rich history alongside what it means to embrace the rapid changing nature of the borough.

**HARNESS CULTURE TO EMBRACE AND CHAMPION THE FAST-CHANGING NATURE OF HAVERING'S COMMUNITIES ENSURING REPRESENTATION FOR ALL.**

Havering is struggling to embrace some of the sweeping and unusually rapid demographic changes it faces. At times, these are being countered with high levels of intolerance. If the borough is to thrive into the future, this concern urgently needs solutions. The sharing and understanding of different cultures is well evidenced as one of the best ways of addressing intolerance. Havering will use A Good Life to help achieve a change in community cohesion, championing those in the margins. This ambition will be delivered through projects that celebrate different communities, promote empathy and understanding, foster the conditions to bring people together. A long term outcome of A Good Life will be a place that is better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population.





# OUTCOMES IN DETAIL

## A GOOD LIFE

**TRANSFORM OUR CULTURAL ECOLOGY, ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES, BUILDING NEW ARTISTIC LEGACIES FOR HAVERING.**

Havering has one of the least developed cultural ecologies in London. This is a missed opportunity not only in terms of the benefits culture can play in people's lives but also the economic impacts of culture, with Havering falling behind in one of the fast-growing sectors in the UK economy. A Good Life will help address this, creating sustainable change within that ecology. It will offer existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough the short-term opportunity to capacity build, enable external creative businesses the chance to establish new relationships in the borough in the medium term, facilitate new longer term creative organisations arising from projects. The legacy of this growth in the cultural ecology will be vital to Havering's future economic success and placemaking aspirations.

**ENGAGE ALL PEOPLE IN CULTURE, ENABLING ACCESS PHYSICALLY AND DIGITALLY ACROSS EVERY PART OF THE BOROUGH.**

Havering's dispersed geography of towns and villages means that Havering has a high proportion of residents who do not live within 15-mins of being able to access culture. Havering will develop infrastructure to enable short term hyper-local access to provision across the borough. A Good Life will include building a new digital platform, which will offer a tailored website drawing together cultural activity, local cultural events, and wider voluntary social and wellbeing activities. New features will include enhanced access provision, digital spaces for engagement with isolated residents, wellbeing resources, streaming, and a tool that will enable users to select activity by social level of engagement, physical location and distance, all part of longer-term digital capacity building.

# OUTCOMES IN DETAIL

## A GOOD LIFE

**EMPOWER TALENT AND PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERSERVED AND UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, PRIORITISING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY.**

Havering has limited paths for developing creative careers, with many young people choosing elsewhere to pursue them. There are no dedicated artist workspaces in Havering, yet the borough is rich with opportunities to develop cultural venues, developing temporary space into long-term use to support fledgling creative companies. A Good Life will provide producing and cultural changemaking training, and develop a wave of future cultural activists and evaluators to continue this work.

**ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING OF ALL OUR RESIDENTS.**

Havering faces significant and serious challenges in addressing health inequalities. But it has already recognised, through the establishment of Creative Health Havering, its engagement in the work of London Arts and Health (which supports artists and health professionals across the whole of London), the Creative Health City movement (a growing movement which looks to embed culture in public health), and its networking of culture into the NHS place-based approach, the link between culture and wellbeing. Havering will use A Good Life as an opportunity to not only provide short term preventative opportunities across the spectrum of health challenges, but to broker new ways of working which will be embedded into the health agenda medium term and provide long term sustainable practices, questioning structural inequalities, the effects of which will be tracked into the future.



# A BOLD NEW IDENTITY FOR HAVERING THAT CELEBRATES ALL OUR PEOPLE, PLACES, AND HERITAGE.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<p><b>POETIC PLACE</b> - will profile the growing population of young people and those on the margins (LGBTQIA+, D/deaf &amp; disabled, Global Majority) and platform their voices across the borough. People will work with poets to be displayed on billboards borough wide, providing space for their aspirations.</p>	2026 - 2027	Havering London	Borough Schools, Community Groups, Property Developers, Estate Agents, LBH Communications, Wates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A place that is better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population</li> <li>Young people able to act as cultural activists, evaluators, researchers, and volunteers into the future</li> </ul>
<p><b>MARKET TOWN</b> (Havering Unearthed) - Romford Market will be transformed into London's largest stage, this mass public event will be part of shaping a bold new narrative for Havering. A playful recreation of the historic market will be animated through a community performance lasting from sunrise to sunset.</p>	2025 - 2026	Variable Matter	Romford BID, Community Groups, Societies, Local Bands, Schools, Business, Performing Arts Organisations, Havering Museum, Market Traders, Havering Music School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new co-created narrative for Havering, that partners will be able to adopt and keep refining into the future</li> <li>Raising the profile of Havering as a destination</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEGA, MEGA, MEGA</b> (Havering Unearthed) - a musical heritage project charting an important moment in London club culture and electronic music history - commissioning a series of works in film, podcasts, installations and sound creating an exhibition and archive of stories of this often forgotten generation.</p>	2026 - 2027	Havering London	Romford BID, Havering Museum, Nightclubs, Bars and pubs, LBH, Havering Music School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A permanent archive of Havering Music Heritage</li> <li>A new co-created narrative for Havering, that partners will be able to adopt and keep refining into the future</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUR STORIES</b> (Havering Unearthed) - this project will map current heritage, and offer an open call to unearth hidden narratives, from historic underrepresented stories to modern cultural heritage. It will include commissioned VR, audio walks, videos and trail markers, opening the borough's heritage to a new generation of digital natives.</p>	2025 - 2027	Havering London	Havering Museum, Bretons Hall Community Association, Rom Skate Park, Tith Barn, RAF Museum, Upminster Windmill, Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new digital heritage platform that charts journeys and trails through Havering</li> <li>A new co-created narrative for Havering, that partners will be able to adopt and keep refining into the future</li> </ul>

# HARNESS CULTURE TO EMBRACE AND CHAMPION THE FAST-CHANGING NATURE OF HAVERING'S COMMUNITIES ENSURING REPRESENTATION FOR ALL.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<b>COMMUNITY VENUES NETWORK</b> - will include faith based organisations, community hubs and pubs programming hyper local activity across every part of the borough, building on the work of Havering Changing's Presents programme.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	Havering Changing, LBH Ageing Well, Havering Music School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased commissioning and programming capacity to enable local touring</li> <li>A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITIES CELEBRATING</b> - a series of cultural events to bring Havering's fast changing and increasingly diverse communities together for outdoor, celebratory creative experiences. Ethnically diverse, D/deaf & disabled or lower socio-economic background led grassroots community groups supported to choose, co-create and take part in cultural celebrations.	2025 -2026	Havering Changing, Havering London	Havering Asian Social and Welfare Association (HASWA), House of Polish and European Community (HOPEC), Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity in digital skills, heritage, access and producing</li> <li>A place that's better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population</li> </ul>
<b>MUSEUM OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE</b> - a participation project exploring the profound influence of everyday objects on Havering's class identity and personal heritage, showcasing crafts and music from individuals and community groups, culminating in a borough wide exhibition.	2025 - 2026	Havering London	Havering Changing, Havering Museum, Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A place that's better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population</li> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>

Also see 'Poetic Place'

# TRANSFORM OUR CULTURAL **ECOLOGY**, ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES, BUILDING NEW ARTISTIC LEGACIES FOR HAVERING.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<b>HAVERING LONDON</b> - establish the borough's new culture and placemaking organisation to develop, fundraise for, deliver and evaluate the cultural strategy and associated projects through a public, private and voluntary sector partnership.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	LBH, Havering Changing, Fuse, Creative Health Havering, Communicating Havering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed relationships with key strategic partners</li> <li>• A well-developed approach to cultural evaluation understood by organisations borough wide</li> <li>• Raising the profile of Havering as a destination</li> </ul>
<b>ROM SKATE CULTURAL FESTIVAL</b> (Havering Unearthed) - is an animation at Rom Skatepark, the only Grade II listed skatepark in the world, which will celebrate the UK's contribution to world skateboarding history, assisting the site's capital intentions.	Summer 2026	Havering London	LBH, Rom Skatepark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> <li>• A new co-created narrative for Havering, that partners will be able to adopt and keep refining into the future</li> </ul>
<b>CULTURAL CAPITAL</b> - a new network of public spaces supported through funding to enhance facilities.	2025 - 2026	Havering London	Havering Changing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> </ul>
<b>FESTIVAL NETWORK</b> - a new network rebuilding Havering's Festival economy, including shared infrastructure and capacity building as a step change.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	LBH, Havering Fest, Romford Shakespeare Theatre, Havering Pride, Romford International Film Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Festival network continuing to build a festival economy</li> <li>• Raising the profile of Havering as a destination</li> </ul>
<b>HERITAGE PROJECTS OFFICER</b> (Havering Unearthed) - support the strategic develop of heritage infrastructure and capacity building across the borough.	2025 - 2026	Havering London	LBH, Heritage Organisations and Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new co-created narrative for Havering, that partners will be able to adopt and keep refining into the future</li> <li>• Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>
<b>BRETONS</b> – following the outcome of a heritage led options appraisal of the overall Bretons site, identify the strategic priorities to be delivered. Apply for external funding to help achieve and deliver this strategic vision.	2025 - 2028	LBH	LBH, Heritage Organisations and Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> <li>• Raising the profile of Havering as a destination</li> </ul>

# TRANSFORM OUR CULTURAL **ECOLOGY**, ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES, BUILDING NEW ARTISTIC LEGACIES FOR HAVERING.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<b>FUTURE HOUSING CULTURAL PROVISION</b> - embed the provision of new cultural assets into future housing developments. Encourage a garden city approach fostering wellbeing and hyperlocal cultural engagement, aligned with Havering Character Study.	2025 - 2028	LBH	LBH, Local Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> </ul>
<b>THE LIGHT</b> - develop a feasibility plan for the creation of a new large-scale digital event space to accommodate music, exhibitions, and emerging forms of digital and technology-driven art and culture.	2025 - 2028	LBH	LBH, Havering London, Local Developers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> <li>• Raising the profile of Havering as a destination</li> </ul>
<b>CULTURAL INVESTMENT FUND</b> - supports creative projects in Havering by providing match-funding to local artists and organisations, driving cultural and economic growth. Funded by businesses, it backs initiatives that align with the borough's cultural strategy and foster creative entrepreneurship. The fund aims to build a sustainable creative economy, benefiting both the community and business partners.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	Local Business, Developers and Investors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new co-created narrative for Havering, that partners will be able to adopt and keep refining into the future</li> <li>• Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL PLAN</b> - develop new nationally innovative methodology for cultural integration in the Local Plan.	2025 - 2028	LBH	LBH, Havering London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> <li>• Developed relationships with key strategic partners</li> </ul>
<b>THAMES ESTUARY PRODUCTION CORRIDOR / 21ST CENTURY CITIES - THAMES FREEPORT</b> – engaged in how Havering might play its role in the ecology of the production corridor / region.	2025 - 2028	LBH	LBH, Havering London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of public spaces with enhanced assets and facilities</li> <li>• Developed relationships with key strategic partners</li> </ul>

Also see 'Community Venues Network'

# ENGAGE ALL PEOPLE IN CULTURE, ENABLING ACCESS PHYSICALLY AND DIGITALLY ACROSS EVERY PART OF THE BOROUGH.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<b>OPEN FIELDS</b> – commission new process driven public artworks in open and green spaces, that expresses affirmations of belonging for those underrepresented communities.	2026 - 2028	Havering London	LBH, RSPB Wildlife Reserve, National Trust, Thames Chase Trust and Havering Park services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A place that's better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population</li> </ul>
<b>ACCESS HAVERING</b> - a new programme of training, skills development and creative engagement devised by deaf, Disabled and neurodivergent for people living and working in Havering. Positioning diverse communities as the driver for exceptional engagement in the Borough. The programme will focus on 3 key strands of internal and public focussed activity: Understanding, Supporting, Sharing.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	Queen's Theatre Hornchurch. Havering Association for the Disabled (HAD), The Habbit Factory, Havering Music School, Community Groups, Borough Schools, LBH,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more connected and resilient inter-generational network of D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent residents</li> <li>• Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>
<b>HAVERING LONDON WEBSITE</b> - an innovative new website and brand concept, that redefines how people can engage with culture and types of events they want. This platform will allow users to search activities by proximity, social engagement level, accessibility, health focuses, and promoting sustainable transport routes.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	Havering Museum, Fairkytes Arts Centre, Havering Changing, Heritage Sites, Community Venues Network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising the profile of Havering as a destination</li> </ul>
<b>LIBRARIES</b> - building on LBH's current short term review of borough wide library buildings, develop a longer-term strategy for 21st century library provision reflecting the changes in the demographics and geography of the place, and opportunities for partnership investment and engagement.	2025 - 2028	LBH	LBH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A place that's better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population</li> </ul>

# EMPOWER TALENT AND PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERSERVED AND UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, PRIORITISING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<b>SEND SPACE PROVISION</b> - a capital project creating a space in the new Balgores school building that will see a pioneering approach to users, education, community and artists working together to create a new multi-use sensory space for creative activities.	2025 - 2028	LBH	Borough Schools, Havering London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A place that's better equipped to welcome and make the most of a newly forming population</li> <li>A more connected and resilient inter-generational network of D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent residents</li> </ul>
<b>CREATIVE PIONEERS</b> – a training and development programme upskilling people in creative programming, producing, event management and evaluation.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	Havering College, Havering Music School, Adult Education College, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people able to act as cultural activists, evaluators, researchers and volunteers into the future</li> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>
<b>DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</b> – optimise the opportunities in regional development in digital industries, upskilling local people and creative sector. Examine the intersection of technology and equity.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	LBH, Havering College, Digital Industries, Creative Businesses, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (PTEQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>
<b>STUDIO HAVERING</b> - a new studio development programme will see creative companies and artists progress meanwhile and temporary spaces into permanent artist spaces.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	LBH, Performing Architectures, East Street Arts, CEME, Wates Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The borough's first dedicated artists spaces</li> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased capacity</li> </ul>
<b>DEVELOPING FUSE PARTNERSHIP</b> – the next stage of developing Havering's recently formed and increasingly active Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) involving a diversifying range of cultural organisations and education partners.	2025 - 2028	Fuse (Local Cultural Education Partnership)	Borough Schools, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people able to act as cultural activists, evaluators, researchers and volunteers into the future</li> </ul>

# ADDRESS **HEALTH** INEQUALITIES AND THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING OF ALL OUR RESIDENTS.

PROJECT	TIMELINE	DELIVERY PARTNER	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	LEGACY
<b>SEEDS OF CHANGE</b> - a programme of wellbeing activities, exploring healthy food ecologies, placing physical and environmental activism within the programme.	Spring 2026	Havering London	LBH Adult Education, LBH Children's Weight programme, Creative Health Havering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased expertise to explore innovative creative health projects</li> </ul>
<b>ST GEORGE'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB</b> – will develop a new arts health strategy, build partnerships, fundraise and begin testing a programme of activities that support the hub's vision for an integrated Health and Wellbeing model.	2025 - 2028	St George's Health and Wellbeing Hub	LBH, Havering Place-Based Partnership, Creative Health Havering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New ways of embedding culture into the NHS offering long term sustainable practices</li> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased expertise to explore innovative creative health projects</li> </ul>
<b>CREATIVE HEALTH HAVERING NETWORK</b> – will develop projects that prioritise loneliness, isolation and health inequalities, in relation to the network's priority groups of young adults with behavioural needs and SEND, and children with adverse childhood experiences.	2025 - 2028	Creative Health Havering	Voluntary Sector Organisations, Havering Place-based Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing community groups and creative practitioners in the borough with increased expertise to explore innovative creative health projects</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTHY HAVERING: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME</b> – is a transformative initiative uniting skilled artists with essential health services with a focus on the growing population segment of children and young people. Artists will question underlying health inequalities and advocate for structural change around food, housing and care.	2025 - 2028	Havering London	LBH, Havering Place Based Partnership, Creative Health Havering, research partner King's College London, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Havering Music School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New ways of embedding culture into the NHS offering long term sustainable practices</li> <li>A well-developed approach to cultural evaluation understood by organisations borough-wide</li> </ul>

# DELIVERY PARTNERS

## **Havering London**

a new cultural placemaking organisation, coordinating a public, private & voluntary sector partnership of strategic organisations & community representatives. This consortium approach was behind Havering's bid to be London Borough of Culture.

## **Havering Council**

London Borough Council, also known as Havering Council, is the local authority for the London Borough of Havering in Greater London, England. Lead officers and members have facilitated direction of 'A Good Life'.

## **Romford BID**

seeks to harness the combined power of the public and private sectors to improve Romford town centre, stimulating sustainable prosperity while creating a strong voice for the local business community.

## **FUSE: Havering**

is a partnership of cultural organisations and education professionals who are passionate about driving transformational change for young people, promoting the value of culture in education and enabling creative, cultural and educational opportunities for every child and young person in the borough.

## **Havering Changing**

a Creative and People and Places project supports local residents in Havering to choose, create, and participate in their own inspiring arts and culture programs. It ensures that they have access to high-quality arts and culture every week, while commissioning locally relevant productions to enhance the quality of art presented to local audiences.

## **Havering Museum**

collects and preserves objects that record the history of the London Borough of Havering, making them accessible to a wide audience through exhibitions, events, activities, and educational programmes.

## **Creative Health Havering**

is a network of local grassroots community organisations, third sector services and medical professionals exploring opportunities around social prescribing and the benefit of arts activity for health and wellbeing.

## **Royal Central School of Speech and Drama**

a higher education institute and specialist conservatoire focused on creative skills development in production, digital media, and equity.



**PARTNERS TO WORK  
TOGETHER TO GENERATE  
NEW INVESTMENT**

# ADDRESSING STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS AND POLICIES

**A GOOD LIFE** addresses Havering's objectives outlined in the Havering Vision corporate plan, set by the current political administration. This includes helping residents succeed in life through economic growth. It has clear intent relating to culture - improving the offer, increasing accessibility, the number of cultural assets, protecting heritage assets, all possible through a strategic partnership approach, as well as focuses on towns, tourism, night-time economy and digital. Strategies alongside this include the Arts Strategy, which has Health and Wellbeing as a key objective, and the Havering Local Plan, which looks to enhance the cultural offer.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

[https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/download/24/climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/download/24/climate_change_action_plan)

## HAVERING LIBRARY STRATEGY

[https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/libraries/havering-council-libraries-consultation/supporting\\_documents/Havering%20Council%20Library%20Strategy%2020242029.pdf](https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/libraries/havering-council-libraries-consultation/supporting_documents/Havering%20Council%20Library%20Strategy%2020242029.pdf)

## HAVERING LOCAL PLAN

[https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/download/641/havering\\_local\\_plan](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/download/641/havering_local_plan)

## HAVERING RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

<https://democracy.havering.gov.uk/documents/s72943/11.1%206886%20Resident%20engagement%20V11.pdf>

## HAVERING VISION CORPORATE PLAN

[https://issuu.com/haveringcouncil/docs/6609\\_vision\\_for\\_havering\\_v9](https://issuu.com/haveringcouncil/docs/6609_vision_for_havering_v9)

## INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY

<https://democracy.havering.gov.uk/documents/s47557/Final%20-%202.0Havering%20Inclusive%20Growth%20Strategy%20v1.0%20201126.pdf>

## POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

<https://democracy.havering.gov.uk/documents/s73389/9.1%20Poverty%20Reduction%20in%20Havering%20Strategy%20v4.1.pdf>

## READI REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN

[https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/5131/readi\\_review\\_feedback\\_report.pdf](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/5131/readi_review_feedback_report.pdf)

## ROMFORD MASTER PLAN

<https://democracy.havering.gov.uk/documents/s75622/Romford%20Masterplan%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20Draft%20Romford%20Masterplan%20SPD.pdf>

## STARTING WELL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

[https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/childrens/starting-well-plan/supporting\\_documents/Happy%20Healthy%20Lives%20202427%20%20Draft%20Plan.pdf](https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/childrens/starting-well-plan/supporting_documents/Happy%20Healthy%20Lives%20202427%20%20Draft%20Plan.pdf)

## ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create/strategy-2020-2030>

## GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY CULTURE FOR ALL LONDONERS

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/culture-strategy-london#:~:text=Culture%20for%20all%20Londoners%20is,six%20jobs%20in%20the%20capital>

## HISTORIC ENGLAND FUTURE STRATEGY

<https://historicengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/strategy/>

## NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/about/heritage-2033-our-10-year-strategy>

## NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/our-strategy>

## THAMES FREEPORT

<https://thamesfreeport.com>

## REFERENCES

- 1 Historic England 2017
- 2 The Case for Cultural Learning 2017
- 3 The Case for Cultural Learning 2017
- 4 The Case for Cultural Learning 2017
- 5 Arts Council England 2020
- 6 Cornerstones of Culture - Local Government Association 2022
- 7 All Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing 2017
- 8 GLA Economics 2017

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