Position in 2017/18

• End of Suite 16 Programme
• Changing face of the High Street
• Changes in shopping habits and patterns
• Slower than expected pace of housing development
• Growth of Town Centre living options
• The affect of austerity on public and private sector investment

Town Centre Conference September 2017 to engage stakeholders in the development of a plan.
Town Centre – Partnership

• To be successful, it can’t be the Council alone with a vision; it has to be a partnership
  • engagement of business, other agencies; community sector,
  • realistic in terms of timing, costs and responsibilities
  • Clarity on Council’s own role
Repurpose the Town Centre!

The Town Centre will need to become a community hub or civic heart incorporating areas for health and wellbeing, housing, education, arts, entertainment and culture as well as retail!
Delivery Plan in Action - Progress so Far 1

- Sheerness House
- Eskdaill Street
- Gallery, Library And Museum (GLaM)
Delivery Plan in Action - Progress so Far 2

- London Road – old police station site
- County Court - Dryland Street
- Seats On Streets
Ongoing Action

• Clean & Refresh

• Night Time Economy - Purple Flag

• Markets
Future High Street Fund - Funding Themes

- Investment in physical infrastructure
- Acquisition and assembly of land to support new housing, workspace and public realm
- Improvements to transport access, traffic flow and circulation in that area
- Supporting change of use including housing delivery and densification
- Supporting adaptation of the high street in response to changing technology
Future High Street Fund - Call for proposals

• MHCLG announcement in budget 2018
• Must have support, LEP’s private sector, community groups, retailers etc.
• Requires co funding – public /private mix
• 1 single transformative submission
Future High Street Funding – Timeline

• Expressions of Interest by 22 March 2019
• Summer 2019 – announcement of bids taken forward to Round 2
  • Revenue funding provided to support development of business case
• Late 2019 – first round of final business cases submitted
• Spring 2020 – all remaining final business cases submitted
• 2020 – 2nd round of applications opens

- Up to £25 million to each successful place.
- BUT expect average bids to be £5 to £10 million.
Some questions for consideration

1. How can we repurpose the Town Centre area?

2. What are the key priorities moving forward?

3. How can the FHF funding themes be fulfilled locally?

4. What groups/organisations do we need to engage in the development of the bid?