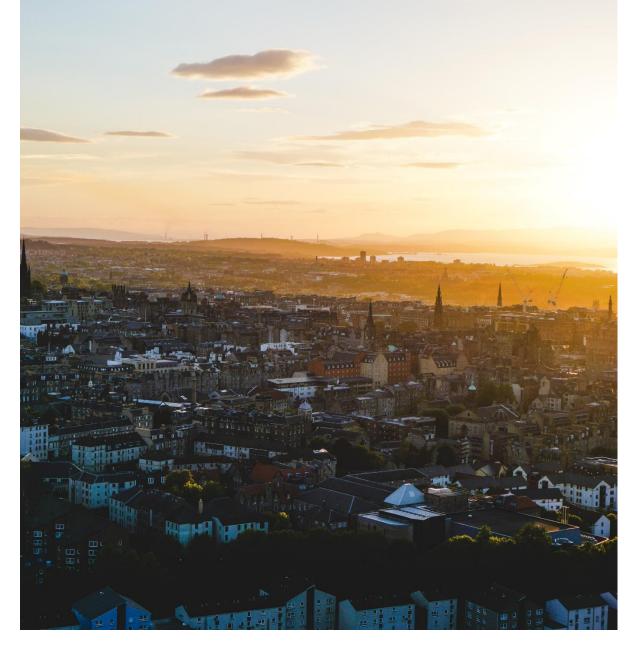


## Integrating Active Travel and Public Realm

Guidance











### **Terms & Conditions**



- This document has been developed by the Towns Fund Delivery Partner, a consortium led by Ove Arup & Partners Ltd with our partners, Grant Thornton UK LLP, Nichols Group Ltd, FutureGov Ltd, Copper Consultancy Ltd and Savills UK Ltd (collectively 'we'). The content of this document is for your general information and use only.
- Neither we nor any third parties provide any warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy, timeliness, performance, completeness or suitability of the information and materials found in this document for any particular purpose. You acknowledge that such information and materials may contain inaccuracies or errors and we expressly exclude liability for any such inaccuracies or errors to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- Your use of any information or materials contained in this document is entirely at your own risk, for which we shall not be liable.
- This document contains material which is owned by or licensed to us. This material includes, but is not limited to, the design, layout, look, appearance and graphics. Reproduction is prohibited other than in accordance with the copyright notice which can be found at <u>townsfund.org.uk</u>
- Unauthorised use of this document may give rise to a claim for damages and/or be a criminal offence.
- This document may also include links to other materials, websites or services. These links are provided for your convenience to provide further information. They do not signify that we explicitly endorse these materials, websites or services.
- Your use of this content and any dispute arising out of such use of the content is subject to the laws of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- For formal Government guidance on Towns Fund please visit gov.uk



### INTRODUCTION

### Introduction

This document provides guidance on potential strategies and recommendations to improving active travel and placemaking opportunities in towns.

This guidance is presented in the form of case studies demonstrating active travel and public realm schemes that have been completed successfully in a range of locations.

Some of the challenges that might be common to towns and that will be covered in this guidance are:

- Improving connectivity between natural features (e.g. canal side, riverside) and active travel infrastructure.
- Improving public realm in response to cycling schemes





### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### **RECOMMENDATIONS - Active Travel**

There are some general recommendations specific to Active Travel that could be relevant to towns:

- Base interventions on Streets for All / Healthy Streets principles
- Locate the crossings at key pedestrian desire lines and new active travel corridors and spread economic benefit.
- Make crossings clearly aligned, avoid staggered crossings.
- Make any crossings wider, with a hierarchy of widths (up to 10m).
- Reinforce legibility of interventions with a clear hierarchy of materials.
- Introduce continuous footways and widen where practically feasible.
- Remove unnecessary items, reduce clutter, rationalise street furniture and signage.
- Use tree planting to help break down the scale of wide roads and absorb vehicle noise and pollution.





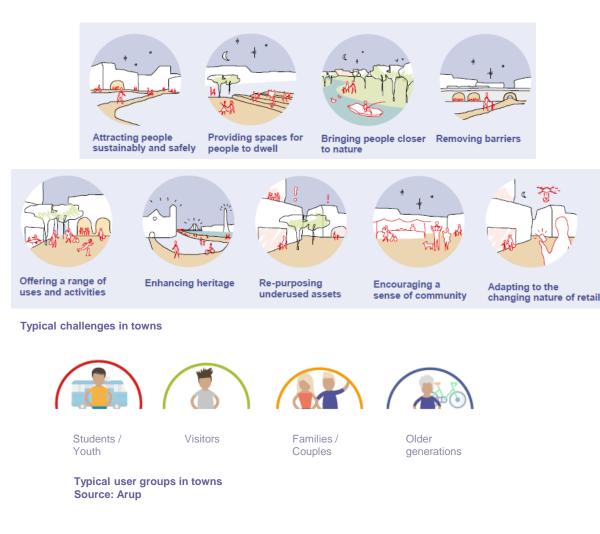


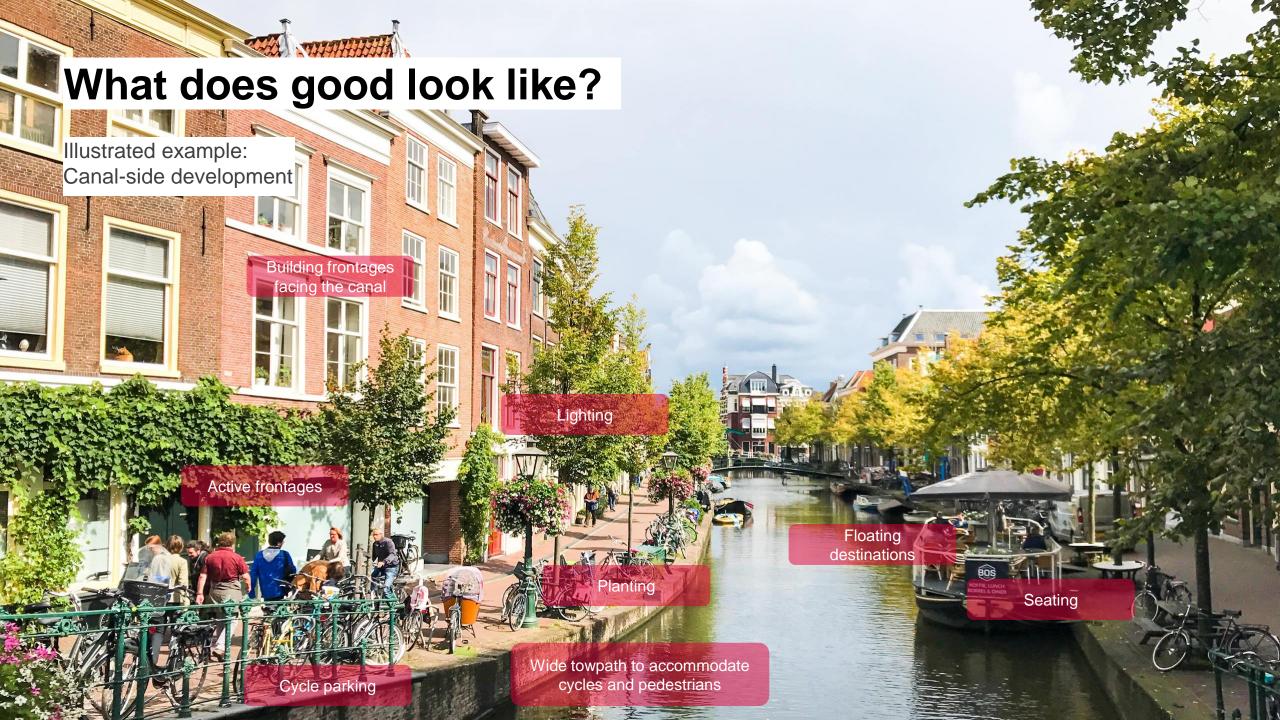
### **RECOMMENDATIONS - Placemaking**



There are some general recommendations specific to Placemaking that could be relevant to towns:

- Understanding the common challenges at the heart of town transformation and economic recovery is key to ensure TIP projects and specifically placemaking interventions can address one or more of these challenges simultaneously.
- When looking at placemaking interventions, it is important to consider potential co-benefits and ways to improve multiple areas at the same time to create truly holistic and transformative interventions.
- When thinking of placemaking interventions, the needs of specific groups should be considered in order to make truly inclusive and successful places.







9

### **CASE STUDIES – Intro**



The case studies that are provided in this guidance aim to be inspiring and creative examples of active travel and placemaking. We have included projects that improve connectivity and accessibility while celebrating heritage and nature, that use high-quality design interventions to reimagine what is possible.

Information and images have been collated from a variety of online sources. The case studies have been categorised in four groups, in order to highlight the type of intervention. These categories are a result of key emerging themes. The four categories are outlined in this page. In some cases, projects have been tagged against 2 or more categories due to their relevance in multiple areas.

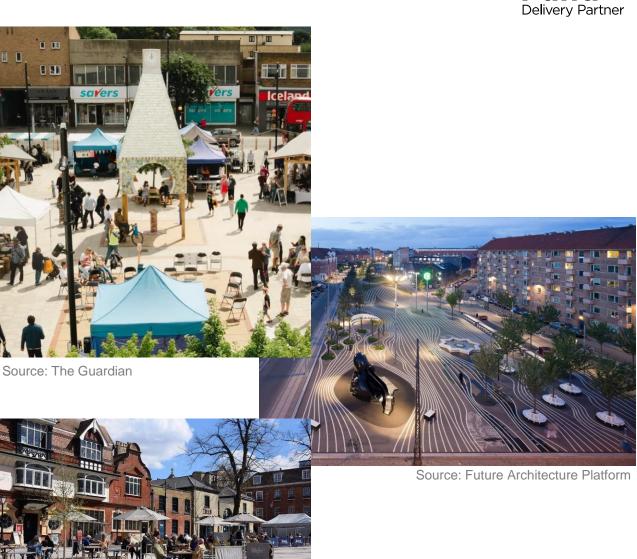


#### **Public Realm**

Re-design of the urban streetscape or wider public realm to improve the experience of moving through and dwelling in a town's environs.

#### **Potential benefits**

- Improved spaces increase dwelling time and Footfall, which leads to spend and provides Economic Benefits for local businesses
- Improved perceptions leads to safer, more inclusive spaces and this translate into health and wellbeing benefits for residents
- Greener spaces lead to increased biodiversity and with that environmental benefits are created



iowns

Source: Evening News 24

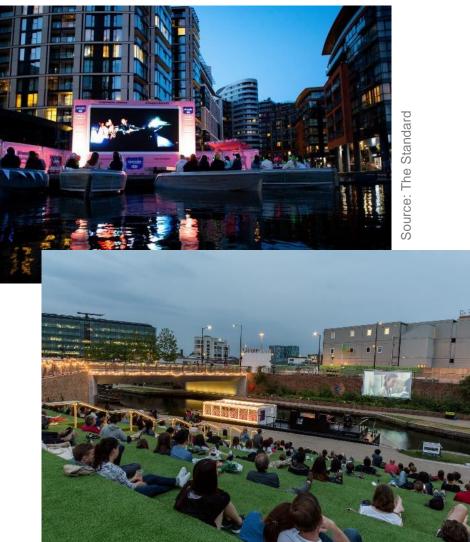
#### Programme

Provision of new programme to support the activation of canal and town square environs. This can be provided in either retrofitted existing assets, new buildings or new public realm. This type of intervention can serve as 'gateway space', an area that is particularly important for understanding and navigating through the town.

Schemes of this nature are typically in the proximity of a main public space and/or a key attractor, with the primary objectives of:

- •improving wayfinding and giving an overview of areas available to explore in the town
- •reinforcing and/or building identity of the town
- •integrating seasonal opportunities and events to activate public space
- •providing an education experience
- •serving as a platform to engage with various groups in the community





#### Programme

#### **Potential benefits**

- New programme can create new jobs and education opportunities for residents
- Activation of spaces with new programme can improve perception of places, make them feel safe and provide health and wellbeing benefits for residents
- Community spaces and facilities can provide a platform for various groups to engage, which leads to making the town more inclusive



Towns

Fun

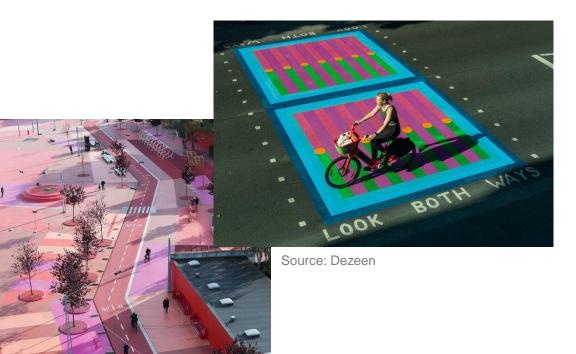


#### Active travel

Focus on enhancing the pedestrian and cycling experience when navigating to and from town assets and connecting key attractors and their associated public realm to the wider active travel network.

Schemes of this type are particularly helpful to:

- Help visitors to navigate and understand the place they're in
- Showcase different assets of the town structured around a linear element and potentially following a theme (e.g. canal's tow-path)
- Bring town narratives to life
- Make people actively engage with a town's assets



Source: Dezeen



#### Active travel

Focus on enhancing the pedestrian and cycling experience when navigating to and from town assets and connecting key attractors and their associated public realm to the wider active travel network.

#### **Potential benefits**

- Improving connectivity and accessibility leads to an increase in visitors which causes spend and generates economic benefits for the town
- Active travel improvements also helps with wayfinding and moving through the town, changing perceptions and making people feel safer and connected
- Better active travel infrastructure encourages modal shift and therefore contributes to sustainability and a low carbon future.



Source: Manchester Evening News



Source: Floor Nature

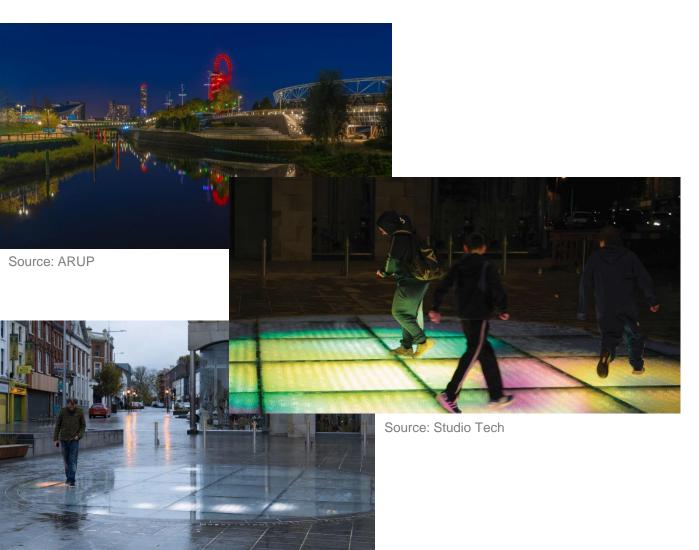


#### Lighting and Wayfinding

Use of lighting and wayfinding schemes to celebrate a town by signalling assets in a special and/or unified way, contributing to making the town a destination and a sensory experience for people.

#### **Potential benefits**

- Improvements can increase footfall and spend which will generate economic benefits for the town
- Lighting improvements help improve perceptions and allow people to feel safe and proud of their town. This leads to spending more time in the Town, spend, etc.



Source: Studio Tech

ARUP

### **Selected Case Studies**

#### **Public Realm**

Programme

#### Blue Market, Bermondsey

A series of careful interventions that aim to revitalize the Blue, Bermondsey's historic market and town centre.

The Blue has a long history as a market, during its heyday in the 19th Century it was said that you could get anything 'down the Blue' at one of its 200 stalls. With the decline of local industry the market has become disconnected from the wider area. This project spearheaded by the local community aimed to revive it and restore its place in the local landscape.

The scheme included introducing new cut through routes, and locating new way-finding signage and community murals to decorate the routes to and from various key local businesses.

The market place itself has been overhauled with the introduction of a series of new civic structures, bespoke furniture, reinvigorated planting and paving and other improvements that enrich what was already there.

Approx. Cost: £2m





Source: The Guardian

#### **Public Realm**

#### **Dudley's Market Place Redevelopment, Dudley**

This public realm enhancement scheme includes a newly designed market, new paving, feature lighting and street furniture that aims to celebrate the history of this historic market place. The project involved the repositioning and refurbishment of the Duncan Edwards statue as well as the restoration of an historic fountain.

The project was split into two phases with Phase 1 incorporating the redevelopment of Castle Street from the Earl of Dudley statue to the junction of New Street. During Phase 2, artwork and clocks will be integrated to improve the medieval passages in the conservation area of the town centre. The scheme includes a bronze statue of Ben Boucher, a local character who is reported to have been fond of his beer, which he paid for by selling poems. Extracts from one of Ben Boucher's poems, 'Lines on Dudley Market' were sandblasted and coloured into the surface of one of the scheme's bench to preserve part of this local history.

Design: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Approx. Cost: £6.7M







Source: Hardscape

Source: Alamy

#### Public Realm

#### **Tombland Public Realm Scheme, Norwich**

Tombland is one of the most historic public spaces within the city of Norwich, forming the centre of city until the Norman Conquest.

This is a key public space along the route approaching the Cathedral, but the layout before the redesign had remained unchanged since the 1800's and was determined to be not the most practical and not suited to present day needs of the city.

The Transforming Cities scheme aims to restore Tombland as a public space by removing clutter and vehicles from the area in order to give more space to pedestrians, improve accessibility, create a multifunctional gathering space around the refurbished fountain, provide dwelling spaces for people to sit and enjoy and unify the space to improve wider connectivity

Approx. Cost: £2.5m for the whole scheme





Source: Evening News 24



Source: Evening News 24

#### **Public Realm**

#### Programme

#### Point Cook Pop Up Park, Point Cook, Australia

Point Cook Pop Up Park (PCPUP) was an idea proposed to connect the community and create a focal point to congregate and get to know one another, and support our local traders. Catalysed through a local consultancy, the intervention was successfully piloted in 2018, and has since been actively supported by local community members and is a popular pop up space amongst locals and visitors.

Approx. Cost: \$10k (£8.1k) in 2019 was used for activities in the park.







Source: Co Local

#### Programme

#### Lynchburg Community Market, Lynchburg, US

Since 1783 the Lynchburg Community Market has played a key role in the development and growth of downtown Lynchburg. The market plays a vital role in the area as a community gathering place town square and provide access to fresh, farm-grown food while supporting local area agriculture.

As part of their mission to give back to the community the market uses government nutrition programs to low-income families in need of nutritious options and connect them with local healthy food products, mostly from local suppliers.

The market supports independent businesses and helps them maintain their livelihood in the midst of this crisis by managing an ordering and distribution system highly used during the pandemic which allowed all vendors to maintain their activities regardless of their digital setup or capabilities.

Approx. Cost: \$200k (£162k) annual government subsidy





Source: Kelsey and Nate Blog





Source: Kelsey and Nate Blog



#### Public Realm

#### Programme

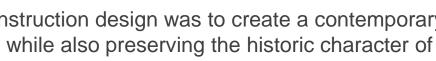
#### **Baltic Station Market, Talinn, Estonia**

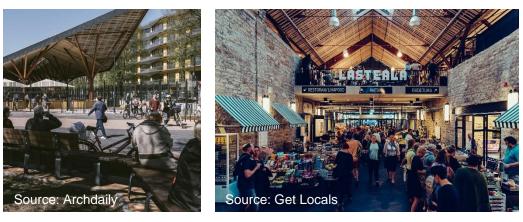
Baltic Station Market is a unique market in Estonia, which includes a supermarket, a sports club, services, large halls for fresh produce, and a versatile street food area with nearly 20 dining options.

The aim of the reconstruction design was to create a contemporary and diverse market, while also preserving the historic character of the market with all of its hustle and bustle and chaotic nature.

At the front and back of the market are the Morning and Evening Squares – their names referring to the best time of the day to spend time in either. The squares are connected by ramps and terraces, lined with cosy areas for eating and sitting, a children's playground, and terraces for cafés and restaurants. During the evenings and into the night people can walk through and enjoy the same area lit-up.

The reconstructed market was opened to visitors in May 2017 and saw around 230,000 visitors during its opening week.











#### Public Realm

#### Rearrangement of Ljubljanica Riverbanks, Ljubljana (Slovenia), 2011

Renovation of the banks of the River Ljubljanica in the section flowing through the old city centre, a collective effort that concentrates resources in a range of specific interventions.

Covering more than two kilometres of riverbank spaces, the intervention has made the banks accessible, both in the longitudinal and transversal sense of embankments and a unitary public space yet with a variety of special places.

Approx. Cost: > 20M (£17M) annual government subsidy



Source: BB Arhitekti







Architectuu

Source: Divisare







Source: Public Space

#### Public Realm

### Renovation of the Cheonggyecheon Stream, Seoul, South Korea

A 10.9-kilometre-long (6.8 mi) old sewerage ditch covered by a gigantic elevated highway that was torn down and restored with clean water, plants, wildlife and attractive landscaping has been credited with transforming the city.











Source: Creatrip

Source: Re-thinking Future

Source: Robert Harding

#### Active travel

#### **Building cycle infrastructure in Manchester**

Cycle lanes were built over a distance of 3 miles along the Wilmslow Road and Oxford Road corridor in Manchester. The scheme features 26 cycle bypass lanes at bus stops. This was a critical feature of the design, as the corridor is also Greater Manchester's busiest bus corridor.

#### Key figures:

- Oxford Road recorded 5,000 two-way cycle journeys on a single day for the first time
- cycleway surpasses 1 million journeys on the route on Oxford Road
- reductions of up to 1.9 tonnes of nitrogen dioxide or 873.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide

**Approx. Cost:** £9.5 million (of total CCA grant to Greater Manchester of £42.1 million)









Source: Push Bikes

Source: Road CC

#### Active travel

**Public Realm** 

#### **Go Cycle: Kingston Station**

By offering up-to-date cycling facilities and new public spaces, including cycle storage hub and a new pedestrian bridge, this proposal rebalances the priorities between vehicles, pedestrians and bikes in the centre of Kingston and in a common landscape setting.

By creating a series of recognisable landmarks, the interventions will aid wayfinding and assist onward navigation.

Approx. Cost: undisclosed



Source: Civic Trust Awards









Source: Civic Trust Awards



Source: New Civil Engineer

#### Active travel

Lighting

#### **Bermondsey Bicycle Store**

Bermondsey Bicycle Store forms a striking entrance to Bermondsey Square – a lively public space at the heart of an ambitious regeneration project in southeast London.

Embedding green transport values within the local community, the store accommodates 76 bikes belonging to the square's workers and residents. Using ordinary materials in an original and exciting manner, the intervention adds sparkle to Igloo's vision for inner city living.

Approx. Cost: £120,000











Source: Icon Eye

Source: e-Architect



#### Towns Fund ^ Delivery Partner

#### Active travel

#### **Bike Path / Batlleiroig**

An 890-metre pedal path, a small surgical intervention that connects a range of neighbourhoods and key localities in Barcelona. The project aims to overcome barriers that have been built between natural spaces and the city and is located at one of the most crossroad points of the city. Designers created a gently sloping cycle lane in a rewilded, landscaped environment that acts as a vantage point over the city and connects the urban network of cycle lanes with the system of free spaces the nearby park.









Source: Floor Nature

Source: Battleiroig

Source: Floor Nature



Active travel

**Public Realm** 

#### Programme

#### **Coffee and Bikes**

This parking facility at the heart of the TU Delft campus in the Netherlands accommodates 2100 bicycles and is combined with a bicycle workshop and a coffee facility. The project aims to transform a large bicycle storage into an attractive hangout spot. This was achieved by positioning the coffee bar and workshop facing a green slope, relating to the main square. Stairs also function as a gallery, overlooking the square. The second parking-level cantilevers, functioning as a canopy for the coffee bar. Several entrances and stairs generate attractivity and accessibility.











Source: TU Delft Repository

Source: TU Delft

Source: Archdaily



Active travel

**Public Realm** 

Programme

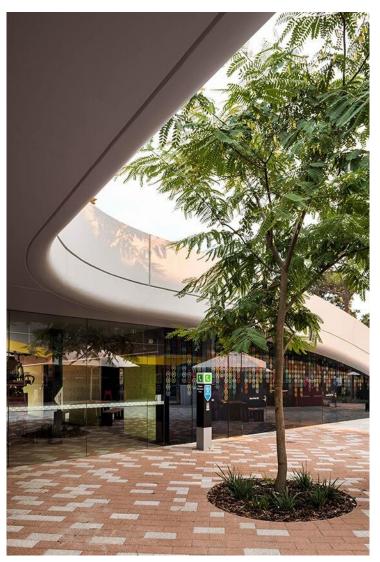
#### **Curtin Bicycle Hub**

Through the provision of highly integrated, inclusive, and functional architecture, the built form narrative of the Curtin Bicycle Hub seamlessly integrates into the existing fabric, providing opportunities for activation for students, staff and visitors.

The green roof terrace landscape creates an adaptive and flexible space that allows for outdoor seating.







Source: World Buildings Directory

Source: The Guardian

Source: World Buildings Directory

#### Active travel

Public Realm

#### Cycling through Water

'Cycling through Water' is a unique cycling experience in Bokrijk, Belgium which you cycle more than 200 meters through a pond. The bike path opened in April 2016 and since then many cyclists and hikers have been able to experience this place with a beautiful and unique view over the landscape.







Source: Galseb

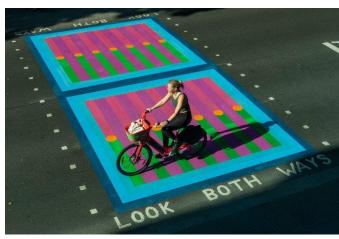
Source: Landzine

#### Active travel

#### London Asphalt Art crossings; various designers

Colourful crossings can be a vibrant way of emphasising the importance of a pedestrian route crossing a road. These enhanced crossings are cost effective to deliver and could form part of a wider route, acting as a gateway or doormat to a particular destination such as a square, station or other building. Note that there could be challenges from an accessibility and inclusion perspective and so consultation should be carried out prior to considering this option.

Approx. cost per crossing: £10,000



Source: Dezeen









Source: Dezeen



Source: Design Week

#### **Public Realm**

#### Active travel

**Superkilen Urban Park;** architects: Topotek 1 + BIG Architects + Superflex; location: Copenhagen, Denmark

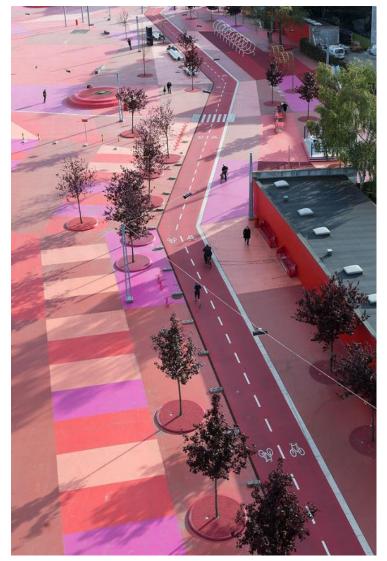
Colour and patterns can be used to enhance and emphasise key active travel routes or functions in a playful way. Carefully positioning outdoor furniture, feature planting and play grounds help to create points of interest and activity encouraging use and creating defensible space. This approach could be considered for squares, car parks and linear active travel infrastructure.











Source: Dezeen

#### Lighting

#### Public Realm

#### Market Square – Lisburn by Paul Hogarth Architects

The aim of the improvements to Market Square – Lisburn was to dramatically improve the appearance of the square and raise the quality of the area.

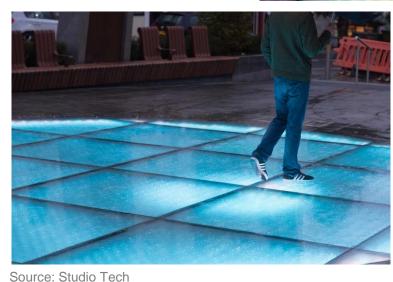
Intervention included new paving, kerbing, resurfacing, signage and planting, bespoke elements include street furniture, street lighting and water features. An interactive LED dance floor displays various scenes throughout the day and when scheduled, the floor operates in interactive mode allowing the public to directly interact with the lighting through their presence.

Approx. cost: overall value of the scheme is £4.7 million





Source: Studio Tech





Source: Studio Tech



#### Lighting

Lighting is an important component to consider when encouraging the use of the towpath. Lighting can have several functions:

- Provides visibility at night time
- Increases the perception of safety and security
- Decorative and artistic

The Union Towpath Study produced for Scottish Canals provides some useful guidance to the types of lighting that should be considered at towpaths. Lighting levels take account of adjacent land uses, levels of ambient light, expected evening towpath use, wildlife requirements and key markers and features.

https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/placemaking/edinb urghs-union-canal-towpath-study/

36



Source: Harrison Stevens

Source: Harrison Stevens



#### Lighting

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park lighting, various designers

Adjacent to the canals and channels, different lighting strategies have been applied which reflect the expected use of the adjacent paths at night by people and wildlife. The images show how a combination of post lighting, architectural lighting and parapet lighting have been used to provide sufficient levels to navigate the park at the water's edge.











Source: Mont Calm

Source: Alan Grady

Source: Side Tracked Travel

#### Active travel

#### The Union Towpath Study

In Todmorden, the towpath provides a great alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists away from the congested roads with their narrow footways

It is important that adequate clear widths are provided to maintain safe operations and avoid conflicts along its length to keep the route attractive.

The Union Towpath Study produced for Scottish Canals provides some useful guidance for strategies and widths that should be considered such as retaining a clear width of at least 3m, extending path widths in busier sections and providing advisory and warning signage where widths are compromised.

https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/placemaking/edinburghsunion-canal-towpath-study/



Source: Harrison Stevens



Source: Harrison Stevens



Source: Harrison Stevens



Source: Harrison Stevens



#### **Public Realm**

Active travel

#### Fountains Place, Poynton, Cheshire

As part of Poynton's regeneration, the busy junction separating the village centre from the church and railway station has been converted into shared space. The area has been resurfaced, pavements widened, and all traffic lights and curbs have been removed.

**Design:** Hamilton-Baillie Associates

Approx. Cost: £4m





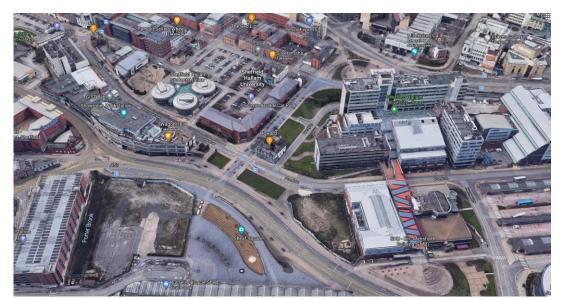


#### Public Realm

Active travel

#### Sheaf Square, Sheffield

The original dual four-lane carriageway (separated into two, two-lane detached roads) into a single two-lane carriageway and have given pedestrian priority by means of a wide crossing across the single carriage. Most importantly this has not reduced the vehicular traffic flow and is a good example of shifting to pedestrian priority. The surface treatment on the crossings matches that of the new pedestrian route linking the station with the city centre.



Source: Google Maps





Source: Studio Tech



Source: Studio Tech



# Toolkit of intervention examples – Active Travel

41



Towns Fund **Delivery** Partner





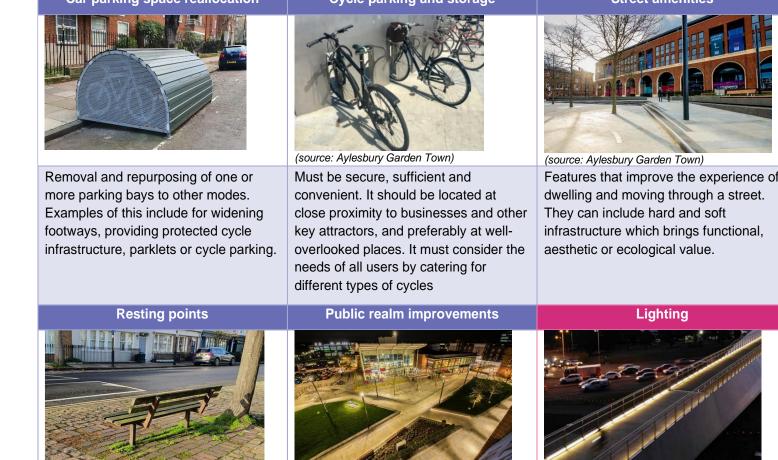
Public right of way	Quietway	Wayfinding and signage	Footway buildout		Fund
(source: Buckinghamshire Council)	The second secon	Amber Way deb Aqua Way deb de Way Pearl Way deb Sapphire Way deb			Delivery Partn
A route which the public has a legally protected right to travel along at all	Strategic walking and cycling routes which link key destinations using less	Wayfinding can be provided through user-friendly maps and fingerposts	A section of footway extended out into the carriageway to reduce the crossing		
times. They are classified according to	heavily trafficked local streets, through	(including walking distance ranges and	distance and improve visibility for		
the nature of use, including footpaths, bridleways and byways.	parks, and along waterways or tree- lined streets. Usually supported by	key landmarks), as well as through distinctive paving and other public	pedestrians. It is also intended to limit the speed of vehicles.		
	traffic calming measures (e.g. speed limits).	realm interventions along key routes.			
Healthy neighbourhood	Modal filter	Speed reduction	Traffic calming		
Healthy neighbourhood	Modal filter	Speed reduction	Traffic calming	<u>Toolkit k</u>	<u>key</u>
Healthy neighbourhood	<b>Modal filter</b>	Speed reduction	Traffic calming		Key Junctions and crossings
Healthy neighbourhood	<section-header></section-header>	Speed reduction	Traffic calming		
Healthy neighbourhood	<i>isource: Aylesbury Garden Town</i>	Speed reduction	Traffic calming	杰 ▲	Junctions and crossings
An area of residential streets where through traffic is removed or reduced to	<i>Source: Aylesbury Garden Town LCWIP</i> A road design feature that restricts access to through-traffic for motorised	A section of carriageway or zone with a lower posted speed limit than the	Physical design (e.g. lane narrowing, speed bumps) and psychological	<b>Å</b> <b>A</b> <b>+</b>	Junctions and crossings
An area of residential streets where	<i>isource: Aylesbury Garden Town isource: Aylesbury Garden Town isou</i>	A section of carriageway or zone with a	Physical design (e.g. lane narrowing,	<b>Å</b> <b>A</b> <b>+</b>	Junctions and crossings Links Traffic management

#### Car parking space reallocation

#### Cycle parking and storage

#### **Street amenities**

Parklets



(source: Aylesbury Garden Town)

spaces more enjoyable.

Measures to enhance the visual

aesthetic and feel of an area. This

and other features to make public

includes greenery, street art, seating

A space for pedestrians and cyclists to rest without disrupting existing movement patterns. They are usually provided at regular intervals and can include seating, shelters, drinking fountains. Well-lit active travel infrastructure encourages and enables users to walk and cycle at all times of day, all year round. Dropped kerbs facilitate non stepped access, usually between the footway and carriageway. These should be accompanied by tactile paving, which provides a distinctive, raised surface profile to be detected by both sighted and visually impaired users.

A small seating area or green space created as a public amenity on or

alongside a footway, and usually in a

Dropped kerb and tactile paving

former on-road parking space.

#### Toolkit key



Towns

### **USEFUL REFERENCES – Active Travel**







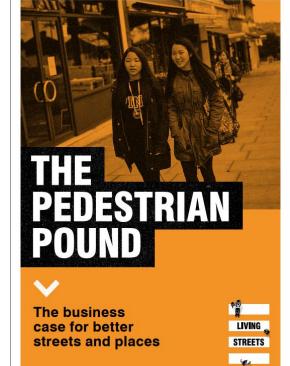
Healthy Streets for London Prioritising walking, cycling and public transport to create a healthy city





Towards a walking world

ARUP



# **Towns Fund** Delivery Partner