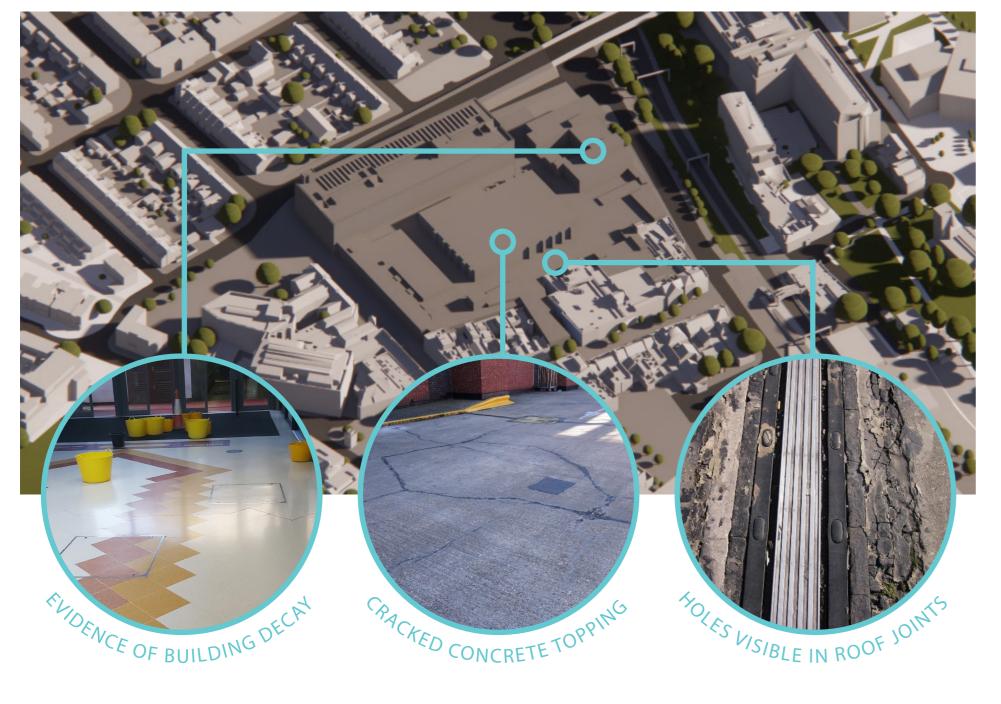


A Thriving & Vibrant Town Centre

Opportunities to boost the local economy

EXISTING



2017

5.7% Retail units vacant



2021

10.5% Retail units vacant

Grays town centre is facing substantial challenges.

Key challenges include:

- 1971 Built centre is experiencing structural failure requiring significant structural work.
- There has been a reduction in usage
 of the town centre and occupiers
 wanting to locate in the current space.
 Vacancy rates in Grays town centre
 have doubled over the last five years
 with further vacancies to come as
 70% of the tenants in the Shopping
 Centre's leases expire within the next
 two years
- It is forecast that 144 jobs at the Shopping Centre will be lost over the next five years if no action is taken, which will result in an increase in the long-term unemployment in the surrounding area and a reduction in spending in the local economy
- The closure of existing shops will result in a reduction in business rates payable to the Council

In addition, Thurrock has a significant requirement for new residential development. In the absence of brownfield land, this will require significant areas of undeveloped land to be built on.



The proposal can therefore support the revitalisation of the town centre and the local economy, and support Thurrock in providing new homes on an accessible and sustainable location.

It will:

- Create almost an additional 180 employment positions
- 2. Provide new community and independent-focused retail
- 3. Create a night-time and leisure economy within the town centre
- 4. Generate an increase in local spending of almost £9m every year, supporting over a further 300 new jobs in the local area
- 5. Support the delivery of circa 800 new homes on a brownfield site that will support reducing the requirement to develop virgin land

- 6. The support to the local economy will result in a tangible reduce in the long-term unemployment rate
- 7. Result in a £25m increase in Council Tax and Business Rate income to the Council
- 8. Help the Council to meet the delivery of new homes for Thurrock's growing residential population
- 9. Deliver development that minimises its impact on the environment by providing new uses and homes next on previously developed land and next to existing public transport infrastructure
- 10. Deliver an enhanced outdoor shopping and meeting environment that will include biodiversity features that remove the existing concrete built form

1. Town Centre Location

2. Brownfield site

3. Supports the development of the wider town centre

