

## **Worcester's Towns Fund bid proposes six projects, reflecting these themes.**

### **Build a Severn Centre for Health and Wellbeing**

Situated on the Severn riverbank in the centre of Worcester, this will be a major new regional centre to support the education and training of health professionals. The Centre will make a vital contribution to recovery from COVID-19 and will help to meet local and national nursing and health professional shortage.

The former Worcester News building on Hylton Road will be converted in to a 4,000m<sup>2</sup> facility to house nursing, physiotherapy and medical training - including an anatomy lab for 50-100 students. The site will include a GP practice as well as on-site therapy and rehabilitation clinics, contributing to the needs of the local community.

This major expansion will build on the University of Worcester's expertise in widening participation. It will create more opportunities for local people from disadvantaged communities to enter health professions and gain employment as nurses, paramedics, midwives, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

### **Unlock Shrub Hill's potential**

Redevelop the First Bus Depot site and use this canal side area to build 350 new homes and create 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial / employment space.

Create a new pedestrian and cycle route between the Shrub Hill Railway Station, Shrub Hill Regeneration area, and the city centre.

Create a 3,000m<sup>2</sup> Enterprise Centre and build approximately 100 new homes on the current Isaac Maddox House site. This will act as a catalyst for business start-up and growth, providing a range of co-working and individual business spaces, alongside a training and business hub to help residents and small businesses evolve business ideas into real opportunities. A partner will be engaged to provide enterprise skills training.

### **Help local people to develop new skills**

Expand the offering of Worcester's community centres (including those run by the Worcester Community Trust) to provide inclusive, safe and high-quality training facilities in deprived communities.

A second 'Building Block' construction skills centre will be created in Dines Green, building on the success of the existing one in the Warndon Community Centre.

The Centres would also help people to develop basic IT skills and will offer more arts and cultural activities, delivered as part of The Arches-Worcester initiative.

The main aim is to help Worcester residents with no or low qualifications to develop skills, but it would also enable others to retrain to find employment in the post COVID-19 jobs market.

### **Improved transport links to connect communities to opportunities**

Create new walking and cycling routes, linking communities to opportunities for employment, education and leisure.

Build the proposed Kepax bridge across the river at Gheluvelt Park.

Secure cycle parking will be provided in city centre and neighbourhood locations.

A city bike hire scheme will be established, to include conventional and electric bikes.

### **Making the most of Worcester's riverside as a destination**

Support a range of projects to improve the attractiveness of the riverside as a visitor destination, increasing visitor numbers and economic benefit to the city.

Improve landscaping, signage and wayfinding, including the route from the High Street down Copenhagen Street.

Work with the Canal and River Trust to provide commercial and leisure moorings. Offer toilets and other facilities at Diglis as part of the ground-breaking 'Unlocking the Severn' initiative.

Support redevelopment of the River Sports Club to provide public facilities.

Open up public access to the Cathedral Gardens and Bishop's Palace Gardens.

Support Worcestershire County Cricket Club to create a Museum and Visitor Centre, celebrating the history of the sport in the city and its role in the fall of apartheid.

### **Increase heritage tourist numbers**

Promote and link our multitude of heritage assets to provide a compelling tourist attraction that will increase visitor numbers and length of stay.

Develop the national profile of The Commandery, a historic site whose story is central to the ending of the English Civil War, by investing in interpretation and making more links to national institutions.

Modernise the story of the Worcestershire Soldier at the City Museum and Art Gallery, using it as a catalyst for learning about democracy and conflict resolution.

Raise the quality of the interpretation at the Guildhall, one of the most beautiful civic buildings in England.

Provide a new arts exhibition space in the city centre.