

CRP's Lunchtime Launch: Town Centre Futures



Thursday 25th March 2021

1:15pm – 2pm



**City of
Westminster**

CENTRE FOR LONDON



**CROSS RIVER
PARTNERSHIP**

Delivering London's Future Together

Today's Speakers



Debbie Jackson
Executive Director for
Growth, Planning & Housing
Westminster City Council

Speaker



Richard Brown
Acting Director
Centre for London

Speaker



Susannah Wilks
Director
Cross River Partnership

Chair



Rachael Aldridge
Project Officer
Cross River Partnership

Speaker



Ross Phillips
Project Officer
Cross River Partnership

Chat Moderator



Joshua West
Communications & Business
Development Manager
Cross River Partnership

Technical Lead

Today's Agenda

1. Cross River Partnership
Introduction and
Context

2. Westminster City
Council: Opening
Remarks

3. Centre for
London: Town
Centre Futures
Report

4. CRP Partners
Delivering Town
Centre Futures

Have your say:
Q/A session at the end of all the
presentations

Introduction and Context

Susannah Wilks, CRP





PEOPLE



PLACES



Annual Report
2020-2021

Business Plan
2021-2022

PROJECTS

02 Our vision

Our core values



We are experts in delivering positive change. Our projects have collaborated across public, private, voluntary and community sectors for over 25 years.



We are London's largest partnership delivery organisation. Our partners range from Local Authorities and Business Improvement Districts, to Landowners and Strategic Agencies.



We are all about empowering People, to deliver innovative Projects, that create great Places. Our work transects themes such as Place Making; Health and Wellbeing; Addressing Inequalities; Sustainability; Air Quality; Freight, Transport and Active Travel; Energy; Environment; Culture; and Lighting.



We are forward thinkers, embracing collaboration for a sustainable future fit for all. We work with our partners to shape London's fabric and operation, supporting residents, businesses and visitors to all thrive in the city.

03 Partners

Cross River Partnership is proud to be working collaboratively with all of these public, private and community partners across central London and beyond.

1 Angel London

2 Better Bankside

3 Brixton BID

4 Cadogan

5 Camden Town Unlimited

6 Cheapside Business Alliance

7 Euston Town BID

8 Hammersmith BID

9 Hatton Garden BID

10 Marble Arch BID

11 Midtown BID

12 Paddington Now

13 South Bank BID

14 Team London Bridge

15 The Fitzrovia Partnership

16 The Northbank BID

17 Vauxhall One

18 Victoria BID

 **CRP Board Boroughs**

 **Boroughs CRP works with**

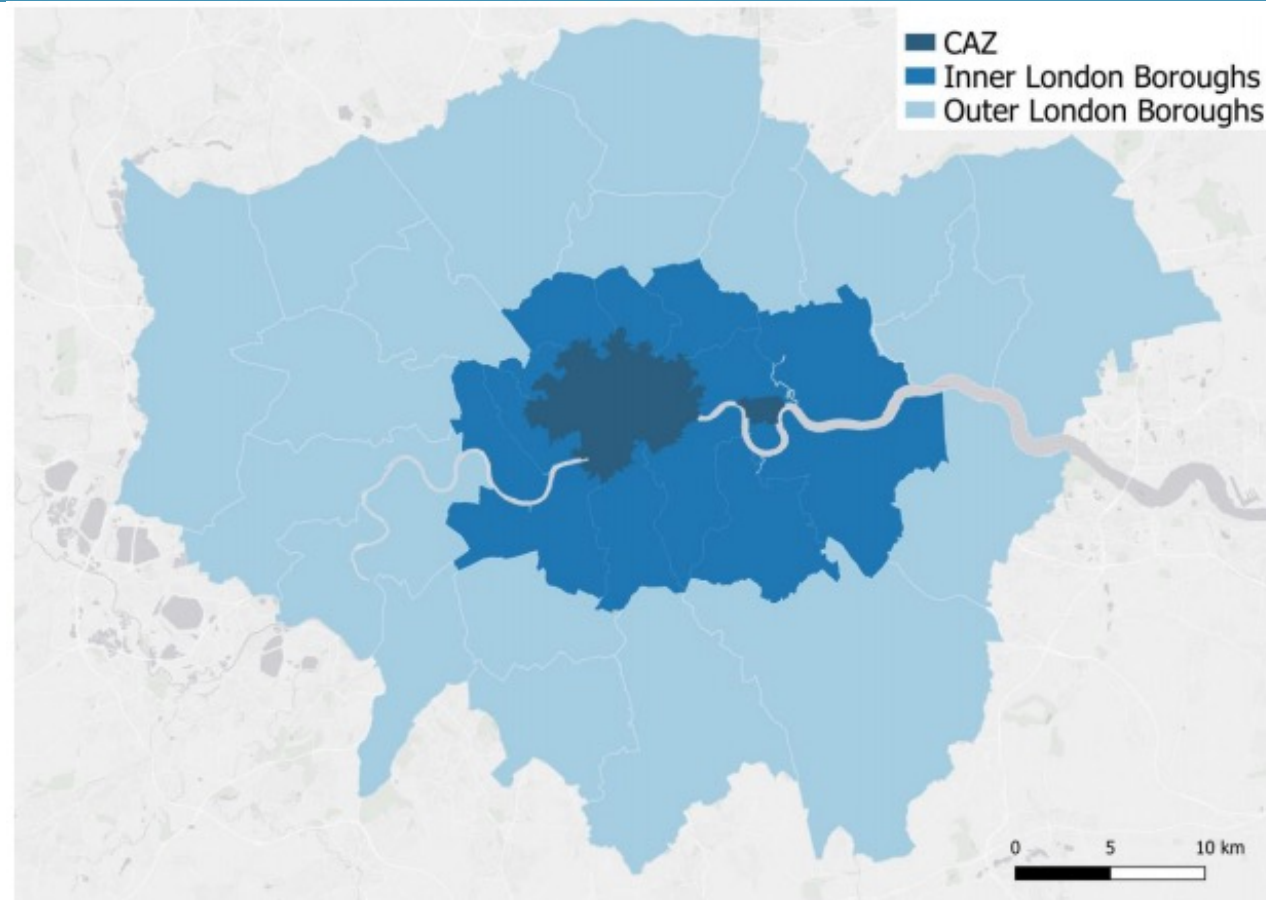
 **CRP Lead Accountable Body:**
Westminster City Council

CRP Strategic Partners:

- Greater London Authority
- Groundwork London
- London and Partners
- Network Rail
- Port of London Authority
- Transport for London



Central Activities Zone (CAZ)

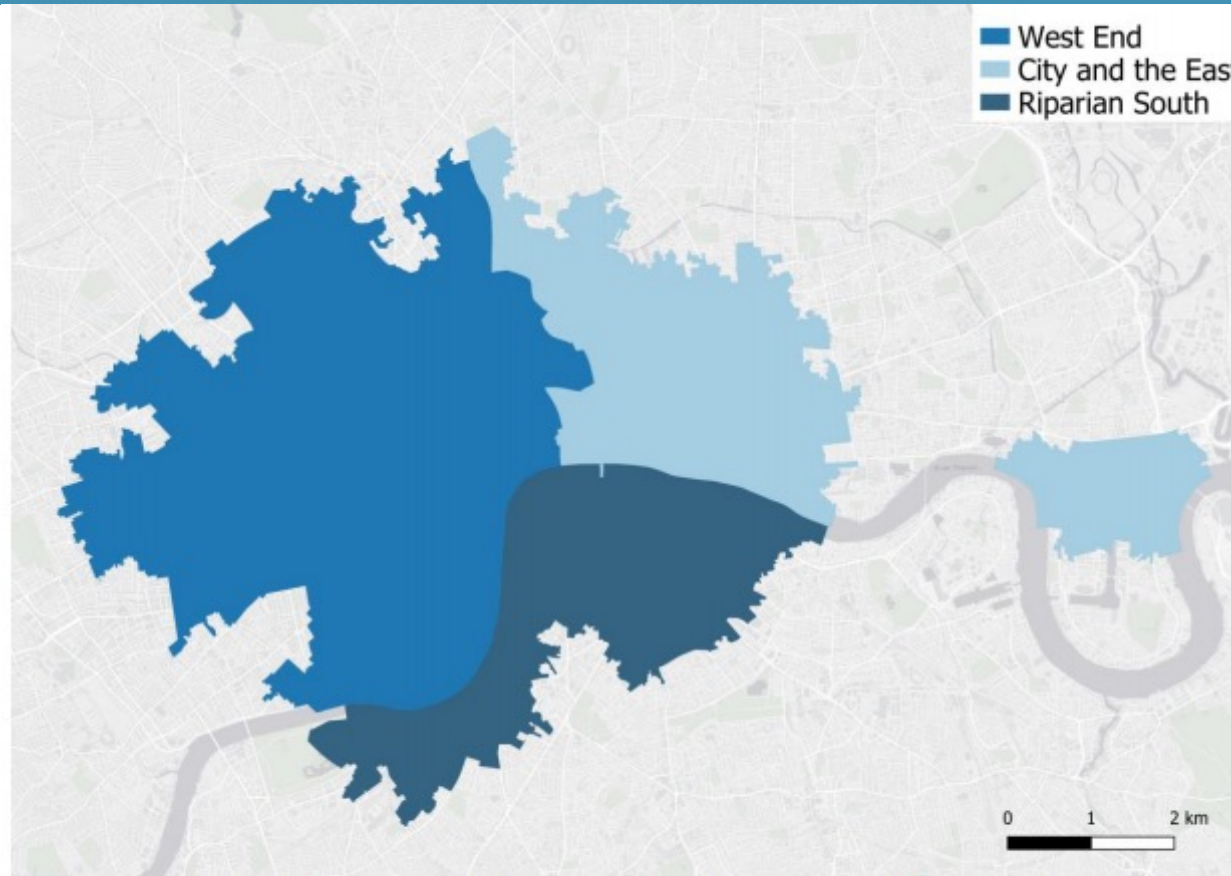


Study geographies: CAZ, non-CAZ Inner London and Outer London: CAZ boundaries defined by all LSOAs within or intersecting with the CAZ official boundaries available on the London Data Store

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Source: The economic future of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ), Greater London Authority, Phase 1 report

Sub-geographies within the CAZ



Sub-geographies within the CAZ: West End (all CAZ LSOAs located in Camden, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster), City and the East (all CAZ LSOAs located in City of London, Tower Hamlets, Islington and Hackney) and Riparian South (all CAZ LSOAs located in Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth)

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Source: The economic future of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ), Greater London Authority, Phase 1 report

Debbie Jackson

Executive Director for Growth, Planning and Housing



**City of
Westminster**

Town Centre Futures Report

Richard Brown, Centre for London

CENTRE FOR LONDON

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Town Centre Futures

Recommendations for action

Commissioned by



About this report

5 evidence reviews

10 case studies

**11 recommendations
for 4 groups**



© Alex Motoc

London's town centres in the pandemic

- Share of internet sales up from **21 to 33%** (ONS)
- Greatest loss of activity in visitor-led town centres...
- ... but local town centres faring better
- Lasting shock? Employment could take **between 3 and 10 years** to return to pre-crisis levels (Arup/GLA)

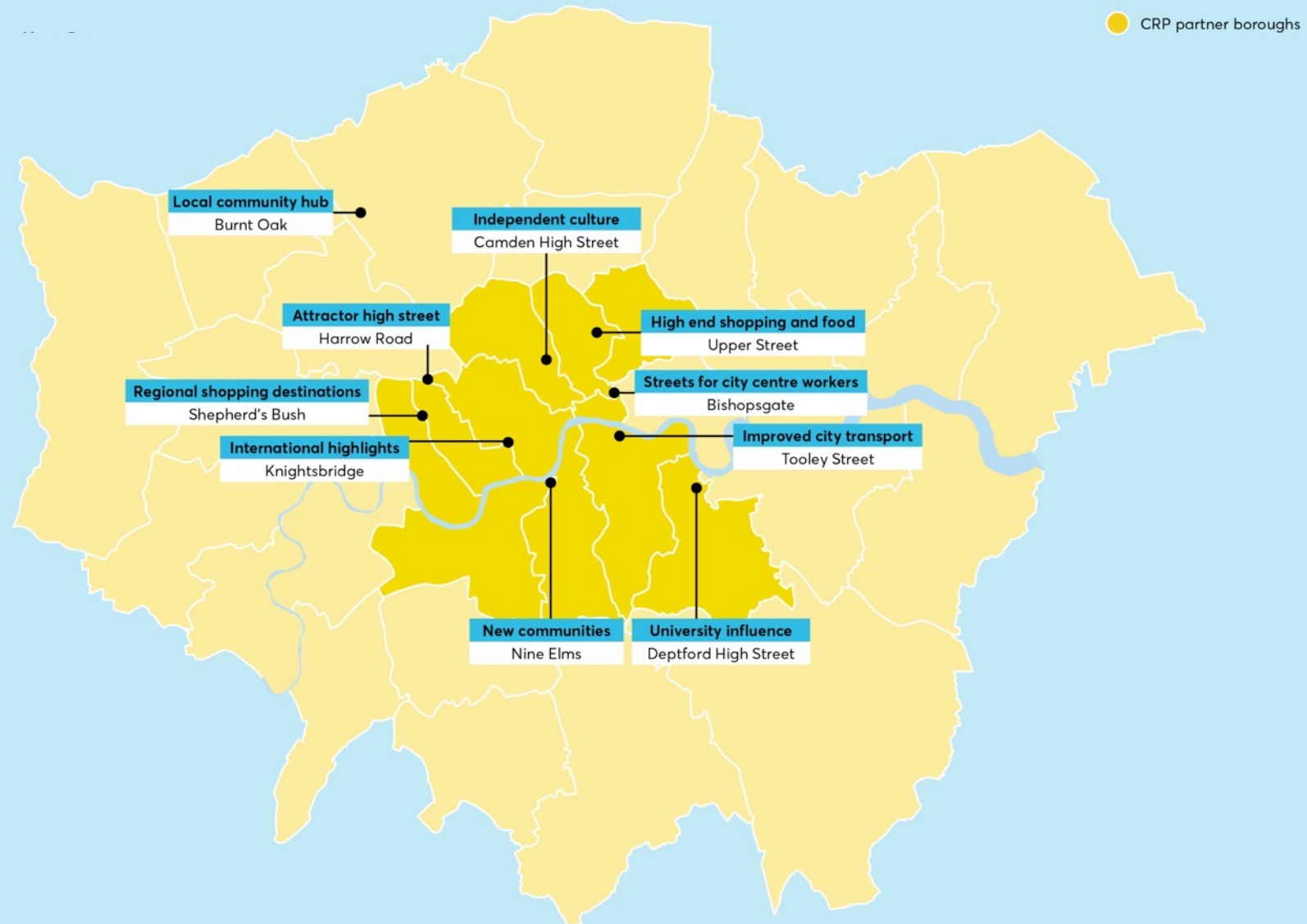


© Charles Postia

A prompt to rethink how London functions

- Remote working and internet shopping here to stay...
- ... town centres will need to work harder to attract residents and visitors
- Town centre recovery can help us tackle other issues - climate, air pollution, health inequalities, impact of Brexit

London town centres typology



Recommendations

Public realm

Transport

Economic activity

Community



© Johnatan Lister

Public realm

- **Boost outdoor eating and drinking** options for restaurants, cafes, bars and street food sellers
- Support London's creatives and build sense of place with **outdoor performances** and **visual art displays**
- Improve **amenities for visitors** and workers – ensuring access to clean toilets, comfortable waiting areas, water fountains
- Introduce **better lighting** to make the public realm feel safe and secure after dark, and showcase heritage buildings



© Frans Ruiter

Transport

- Redesign roads and streets to make them **child-friendly and healthier**, and to decarbonise transport journeys.
- **Optimise freight** and delivery vehicle movement on the high street.



© Camden Collective

Economic activity

- **Create new workspaces** suiting needs of remote workers (focus and social spaces).
- **Install meanwhile uses** in empty commercial spaces – for footfall and experimentation benefits.
- Increase access to health services and promote reuse of vacant commercial facilities by **opening health facilities** on the high street.
- **Future-proof community assets** by transferring ownership to community groups, to deliver bottom-up change.



Community

Create new ways for local people to be **involved in decisions** about their high streets.

- e.g. community representation in BIDs, town centre forum, users board or interviews
- would build on increased attachment to local areas



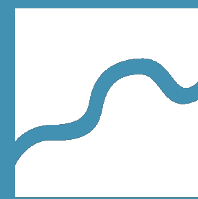
© Joas Souza

How do we make these happen?

- Partnerships key to delivery
- Priorities for 2021/2022 but potential for action beyond the short term
- Need to be supported by changes at national/city level, e.g.:
 - Property taxation
 - Regulating commercial landlords
 - Road user charging
 - Improved suburban rail
 - Regulation for micromobility

CRP Partners Delivering Town Centre Futures

Rachael Aldridge, Cross River Partnership



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Reason for the report



- Central London in crisis
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Changes to travel and transport
- Workforce and employment trends

Next Steps: Working with CRP to implement recommendations

Key categories for recommendations:



BIDs and their
partners



Businesses

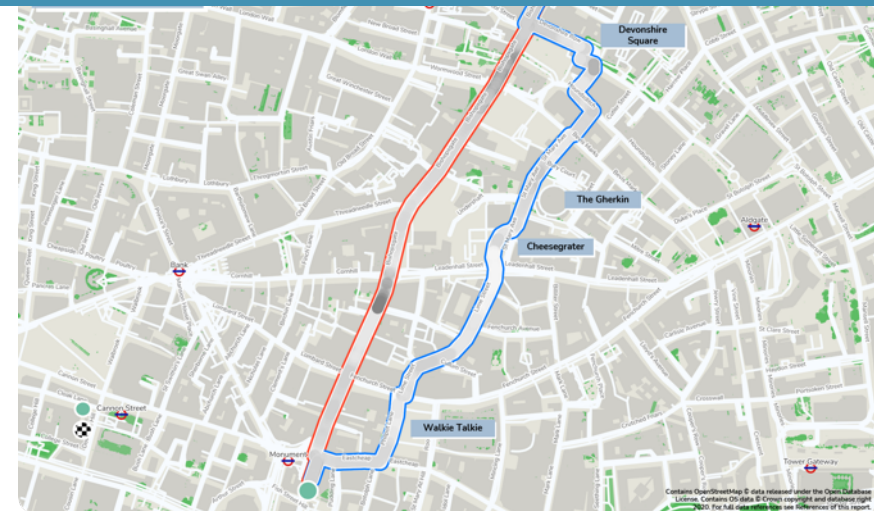


Local Authorities



GLA Family

Recommendation example: Healthier Streets and Decarbonising Transport Journeys



What can BIDs and their partners do?



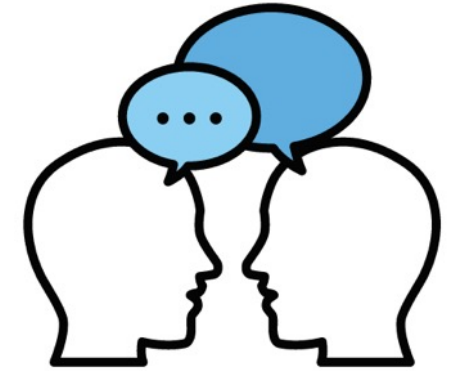
- Consult with businesses in terms of deliveries and how their customers reach them
- Support freight consolidation and zero emission deliveries
- Introduce designs that facilitate active travel

What can businesses do?

Improved accessibility on
our streets can increase
retail sales by up to

30%

PHARMACY



What can Local Authorities do?

- Consult on take up of active travel
- Be bold with how street space is allocated e.g. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, School Streets
- Explore different designs to facilitate journeys



'Mini Holland' scheme, Waltham Forest. Photo credit: Mark Kerrison, The Guardian

What can the GLA do?

- Contribute funding to public realm improvement schemes
- Empower communities to request and take local action
- Convene multi-sectoral agencies to deliver focussed interventions
- Redesign TfL routes and major intersections within town centres



Implementation requires collaboration



Q&A Session



Town Centre Futures: The Best from the Past





Sign up to our next event!

CRP Lunchtime Launch 4

Earth Day: Successful Sustainable
Development in London

Thursday 22nd April 1:15pm – 2pm



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Delivering London's Future Together

Thank You!



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www.crossriverpartnership.org



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