



Bermondsey Town Centre Action Plan

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Action Plan

The Bermondsey Town Centre Action Plan sets out key areas that businesses, residents and other local stakeholders want to see improved in Bermondsey Town Centre.

Town centres across Southwark are unique and essential pillars of our community and their appearance is central to the way people feel about where they live. As part of our five-year borough plan, Southwark 2030, town centres play a crucial role. They are essential to delivering our goal of a strong and fair economy where everyone benefits from the borough's economic strength and growth.

High streets and town centres face considerable challenges including the cost-of-living crisis and the rise of online shopping which threaten small and independent businesses. This action plan outlines how we will make our town centres cleaner, safer and more vibrant places for people to visit and shop, and where businesses can rely on consistent and sufficient footfall to be successful.

Councillor John Batteson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business

What do we know about Bermondsey?

Once known for being an industrial centre in the 18th and 19th centuries, Bermondsey is now home to a host of local shops located within The Blue, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey Street and Tower Bridge Road. In and around the railway viaducts you can find artisanal food and beverage producers and other light and creative industries.

Around 31,300 people live in North and South Bermondsey. Opportunities for entertainment and leisure are plentiful with Millwall Football Club located a few minutes from South Bermondsey Station and open public spaces such as Bermondsey Spa, St James's Churchyard and The Thames Path.

Along with opportunities for entertainment and leisure, Bermondsey is also a hub for training and employment support with both Big Local Works and Bermondsey Community Kitchen supporting local people to access job opportunities and skills for work.

Bermondsey is also home to The Blue Market which has been serving the local community for over 150 years. Surrounded by a variety of shops including butchers, bakeries, and cafés, as well as a public library, the market is a pillar for the local community.

Since its heyday, The Blue has seen a decline in footfall and local industry. However, in

recent years, the area received a £2m investment from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund which enabled a community-led regeneration programme investing in The Blue town centre's infrastructure. Alongside improving the appearance and accessibility of the market, other benefits can also be seen with the area seeing a 6% increase in footfall from 2023-2024.

Home to many small, local enterprises and traders, it is vital that this local town centre continues to attract more local people and visitors to help sustain the local economy. For this reason, this town centre action plan focuses on The Blue, with the aim of supporting the area to become a place in which businesses can thrive and grow.

What is the vision for the town centre?

Development in Bermondsey aims to provide more homes and new employment workspaces. It will invest in the creative industry, particularly focusing on small and medium sized enterprises to strengthen Bermondsey's reputation as an exciting, vibrant and creative place to work.

There are major developments taking place in Bermondsey such as a new multi-arts space and the redevelopment of the Biscuit Factory. The development will provide new housing, whilst seeking to attract visitors, diversify the local arts offering and improve access to the retail spaces in The Blue as a key priority.

The council will support and invest in the community to run activities and events to help attract visitors and local people to the town centre.

Improving safety and people's perception of the area is also vital to attracting visitors and sustaining the local economy. The council works closely with the police and other partners and organisations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and ensure that people and business-owners feel safer. This town centre action plan sets out the work being undertaken to address these challenges and to ensure that the existing town centre thrives and serves its local community.



Town centre actions

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Short-term			
Developing a new Bermondsey website	The Blue Bermondsey BID is developing a new Bermondsey website to promote the people and services of local businesses. The website will also include an events and jobs board which will serve as opportunity for local business to share upcoming opportunities.	Blue Bermondsey BID	Ongoing
Medium-term			
Deliver a new multi-arts space in the former Thorowgoods furniture store building	The council is refurbishing the existing vacant building to create a multi-use, arts, cultural and employment space. The arts offering aims to complement existing arts spaces within Bermondsey and provide a diverse offer for local people. The redevelopment aims to attract more people to visit and spend longer periods of time in the Blue, therefore benefitting local shops and services from the increased footfall.	Southwark Council	Venue opening by Spring 2026
Alexis Street Park Improvements	Works on Alexis Street playground and park improvements will include an adventure playground, outdoor gym, seating, picnic area, a social space for young people, a nature area and place for fruit & veg growing.	Southwark Council	Complete by mid 2026
Community Safety	<p>The council works in partnership with the police, probation service, fire service and health partners to reduce crime and ASB and make the borough safer. This includes crime prevention initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wardens that regularly patrol the town centre, along with the police, to offer a visible and reassuring presence and keep people safe. • <u>Southwark Young Advisors</u> who are specially trained to work with young people at risk of crime and can signpost them to specialist services. • Monitoring CCTV in public spaces 24/7. • Working with businesses to deliver training to help prevent violence against women and girls and promote the <u>Women's Night Safety Charter</u>. <p>It is important for everyone, including businesses, to report crime so that we allocate resources to the places that need it the most.</p>	Community Safety Partnership: Southwark Council, police, probation service, fire service and health partners	Ongoing

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Long term			
Developing the local business offer	The council owns a number of properties in Bermondsey which may create opportunities to diversify the activities, shops and services in the town centre. There are vacant properties, both private and council-owned, within Bermondsey which can detract from the appearance of the high street. The council is considering how to support the diversification of the local offering of businesses, whilst also ensuring both current and new tenants are sustainable enterprises. The council will explore opportunities to develop partnerships and a wider strategy with third party landlords to ensure that the high street offer meets community needs, leading to a vibrant town centre.	Southwark Council	Ongoing
Redevelopment of The Biscuit Factory	<p>The development will deliver 1,548 homes and create public spaces, including a large public roof terrace and a pedestrian walkway to the Blue, with the first lot of homes set to become available for occupancy in 2026.</p> <p>There are plans for the Biscuit Factory to include a cultural attraction to bring visitors to the area and increase footfall.</p> <p>The developer is also committed to working closely with and supporting Big Local Works to deliver core training initiatives which support work experience, training and employment opportunities through this project.</p>	Greystar	Complete by 2027
Opening a pedestrian through-route via the viaduct arches into The Blue	The council is working with Greystar and Arch Co to create a new pedestrian route which will link the new retail and public square spaces from The Biscuit Factory into The Blue. This will increase footfall into key areas of the town centre and improve access to surrounding businesses.	Greystar	Complete by 2028

How we're listening to your feedback

You Told Us

What we are doing

<p>A strong and fair economy: New and existing small businesses need support and investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have allocated £25k worth of funding from The Thriving High Streets Fund to Big Local Works who will run free business skills workshops for local businesses and support them to test their ideas with a market stall on The Blue. • The Fund also supported In Good Company, an organisation which supports businesses in Peckham, Elephant and Castle and Bermondsey to become more ethical and adopt sustainable practices.
<p>Staying well: You want to make healthy choices for yourself and those you care for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alexandra Rose Charity received a grant from the council to offer families from low-income household's vouchers to buy healthy food such as fresh fruit and veg. Vouchers can be used on stalls trading on The Blue Market and will support children with having a healthy start to life. • The Southwark Health Outreach Programme offers free advice and health checks to residents over 18. You can get advice on stopping smoking, preventing long-term health conditions and how to access local screening for different types of cancer. Health roadshows take place across the borough. More information can be found at Health and wellbeing roadshows Southwark Council
<p>A healthy environment: You want to improve the local environment including parks and open spaces</p>	<p>Clean, open and accessible spaces can have a significant impact on driving more people to the town centre and creating an environment in which people want to spend time. In 2023, Southwark Council and the Mayor of London funded Trees for Bermondsey to deliver improvement works to Shuttleworth Park. In partnership with the Blue Bermondsey BID, Bankside Open Spaces Trust and with support from Highways contractor, FM Conway, the playground has been refurbished and improved, along with other improvements to the park including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two raingardens have been created, and a native species hedge has been planted over several years • Thousands of bulbs, herbaceous native and non-native plants and shrubs have been added, as well as a new wildflower meadow edge • Two areas of path have been de-paved to create large tree-pits at the centre of the park • Trees for Bermondsey also hold volunteer planting days, workshops and events for local adult and children <p>Shuttleworth Park will continue to see improvements alongside other areas such as the Blue, Blue Anchor Lane, Rouel Estate Community Garden and Orchard and Nature Play projects.</p>

You Told Us

Investing in communities:
You want to celebrate the diversity and heritage of our borough

- We have funded The Bermondsey Carnival from the Cultural Celebrations Fund which delivers an opportunity for people to come together and take part in a host of games and fun activities whilst showcasing the diversity of the local community.

What we are doing



Useful Contacts and Information

The Bermondsey Town Centre Action Plan is updated every six months. We want to hear your ideas and feedback, such as services you'd like in your town centre, or issues the town centre action plan should prioritise. [Share your views](#).

Safety

- Report a crime
 - If someone is in immediate danger call 999
 - If it's in the past [report online](#)
- Report ASB and noise nuisance
 - Call Southwark Council 020 7525 5777
- Sign up to the council's [community safety newsletter](#) or email CommunitySafety@southwark.gov.uk

Town Centre and Environment

- [Report a problem in the town centre](#) (like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting)
- A free [graffiti removal service](#) is available for private residents and businesses.

Support for Businesses

- [Find out about support and advice for businesses](#)
- [Apply for a street furniture or pavement license](#) (for shop displays, advertising boards or tables outside your premises)
- Sign up to the council's [business newsletter](#)

Updated March 2025

