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**ENGAGEMENT**

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# INTRODUCTION

This report consolidates findings from the public engagement programme by Live Works 'Castlegate Futures Urban Room', held between 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022. We present the full set of findings from the Castlegate Futures programme, consisting of feedback:

- specific to the full and outline planning applications for the LUF development of the Castle site, due to be submitted Jan 2023<sup>3</sup>
- regarding the development of the Castle site beyond the immediate LUF development
- regarding the future regeneration of Castlegate more widely than the development of the Castle site

Live Works<sup>1</sup> was commissioned by SCC in November 2021 to facilitate a process of co-production to inform the design and delivery of the LUF Gateway to Sheffield development of the Castle site in Castlegate, Sheffield.

This co-production process comprised three parts:

- **Castlegate Partnership workshop** held in November 2021 that identified the themes for wider stakeholder engagement
- **Community stakeholder workshops** held in June 2022, resulting in the production of the Castlegate Common Manifesto that included 13 recommendations from the community to inform both the LUF project and later development of the site <sup>2</sup>
- **Public engagement programme**, delivered from the 'Castlegate Futures Urban Room', a pop-up exhibition and engagement space on Exchange Street, 12-20th Nov 2022.

This report builds on the 13 recommendations that were co-produced via the Community Stakeholder workshops in June 2022 and should be read in conjunction with the Castlegate Common Manifesto.



SCC's Concept Plan for the LUF Castle site project, Nov 2022

1. The project office of the University of Sheffield School of Architecture (<https://liveworks.ssoa.info/>)

2. Previous to this Live Works facilitated a workshop with members of the Castlegate Partnership in November 2021 which defined the themes of the workshops in June 2022.

3. An Initial Report was issued to SCC on 6/12/22 that summarised findings from the Castlegate futures Urban Room that were specific to the planning applications for the LUF Castle site development. 3 These findings are now included in this Full Report.

# THE CASTLEGATE CO-PRODUCTION PROCESS

## CO-PRODUCTION AIMS

Live Works was commissioned to develop and facilitate:

- **a transparent, representative and effective co-production process** that delivers meaningful engagement with local stakeholders and the public towards the development of the Castle site

The Castlegate Partnership workshop in Nov 21 aimed to:

- **build consensus** towards development priorities
- **increase understanding** of options for development and their related challenges/opportunities
- explore existing UK and international case-studies from similar sites of regeneration - to **raise ambition** and understanding of best practice in the field of heritage-led and community-focused regeneration

The community stakeholder workshops in June 2022 aimed to:

- widen participation and draw on local and academic expertise, in order to **inform decisions** made in the delivery of the LUF project and in future development

The public engagement programme in Nov 2022 aimed to:

- inform the public of plans for the LUF project as they develop, to **benefit from their feedback** to help shape the detailed design
- **inform and engage people** with current initiatives and independents in Castlegate
- ensure the public are engaged in creative and meaningful activities to engage them with the **past, present and future** of the site.

In order to fulfil these aims Live Works, in collaboration with the Castlegate Partnership and Sheffield City Council, curated the **Castlegate Futures Urban Room** at 18 Exchange Street hosting a programme of tours, exhibitions, presentations and workshops to engage people in the past, present and future of this extraordinary part of our city.

### ***coproduction:***

***“more democratic involvement which not only generates change in policy processes but also empowers community oriented practices”***

*(The Impact of Co-production, ed. Ersoy, 2017)*

# IMPACT OF CASTLEGATE COMMON MANIFESTO

This report refers to and builds on the **Castlegate Common Manifesto** - a document that presents **13 co-produced recommendations** from the community stakeholder workshops held in June 2022 to inform the regeneration of the Castle site and of Castlegate more widely.

The Castlegate Common Manifesto recommendations were issued to SCC on 4th August 2022. SCC issued a detailed response to these recommendations on 27th September 2022. This response included SCC identifying **6 'Design Pillars'**<sup>4</sup> as a summary of the Castlegate Common Manifesto recommendations. SCC's response to the Castlegate Common Manifesto recommendations were ratified by the SCC Transport, Regeneration and Climate Committee on 24th November 2022.



**The SCC LUF Concept Plan has been received positively by the Castlegate Partnership**, with stakeholders feeling that it responds well to several of the 13 recommendations in the Castlegate Commons Manifesto. This is demonstrated by the variety of scale and type of spaces included in the plan, the clear routes through connecting the city centre with Victoria Quays, the approach to urban drainage and biodiversity, the full deculverting of the River Sheaf and the inclusion of plots for potential community use.

**However, at this level of 'concept design' it is still unclear how the new public space will embrace the distinctiveness, inclusivity, local identity, diverse and creative approach to art and heritage, and opportunities for community stewardship that the recommendations call for.**

4. 1. Sustainability, 2. Connectivity 3. Health & Wellbeing 4. Historical and Cultural Heritage, 5. Arts & Events - Castlegate Festival, 6. Skills and Development

# 13 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CASTLEGATE COMMON MANIFESTO

	RECOMMENDATION HEADLINE	SUB-CLAUSE 1	SUB-CLAUSE 2	SUB-CLAUSE 3	SUB-CLAUSE 4
1	<b>'people's place' that values and enhances the unique social and cultural identity of Castlegate</b>	<b>It can't be generic</b> - it needs to be site specific and unique in its connection to Castlegate, its communities and its history	<b>it can't be exclusive</b> - it needs to be a place for everyone to feel welcome, not just the affluent or privilege		
2	<b>creative and inclusive connections to the richness and complexity of the site's history</b>	to its <b>physical archaeology</b> through access to remains, site layers and artefacts	to its <b>cultural heritage</b> and stories of everyday people who lived and worked there		
3	<b>enhance people's health and wellbeing while caring for the environment</b>	through <b>access to nature</b> across the site, not just by the Sheaf	through opportunities to take part in sports and activities, <b>for all ages and abilities</b>	by being clearly connected to <b>sustainable transport and active travel networks</b>	by embedding <b>environmental sustainability</b> and <b>zero-carbon</b> approach throughout
4	<b>support a flourishing ecosystem of arts, culture, enterprise and innovation</b>	by providing <b>flexible space</b> for local independent businesses, artists, cultural entrepreneurs and social enterprises to engage new and diverse audiences	through opportunities for meanwhile use, markets and events throughout the year, <b>extending the evening economy</b>	open up <b>learning and skills training</b> opportunities inherent in the site, in association with local charities and educational institutions, especially for <b>under-represented groups</b>	
5	<b>an explicit commitment to environmental sustainability</b>	in its <b>reuse of existing materials</b> and retrofit of existing buildings on the site	in the specification of <b>zero-carbon materials and construction</b>	through <b>extensive planting</b> across the site that encourages <b>urban drainage, cooling and biodiversity</b>	through the use of <b>renewable energy</b> in its construction and operation
6	<b>flexible event space</b>	that is <b>serviced and ready for 'plug and play' performances</b> (music, spoken word, comedy, presentations etc.) for use by local creative organisations, community groups, schools, festivals etc.	that can be used to activate Castlegate Common <b>through the day, into the evening, and all year round</b> and therefore should incorporate lighting and shelter	remains <b>engaging when not in use</b> . For example through engagement with the archaeology of the site	

	RECOMMENDATION HEADLINE	SUB-CLAUSE 1	SUB-CLAUSE 2	SUB-CLAUSE 3	SUB-CLAUSE 4
7	<b>a coherent heritage strategy that embraces creative and innovative thinking</b>	displaying or recreating the <b>physical layers</b> of the site to engage people creatively in the deep history of the site	engaging with the <b>physical remains of the Castle</b> to tell the stories of a cross section of people from that period, beyond the conventional stories of the grand and powerful	engaging with the <b>physical, social, political and cultural heritage beyond the Castle</b> to reveal stories and artefacts from 18th, 19th and 20th century Sheffield	engaging with Sheffield's <b>diverse communities to reveal untold stories</b> of immigration, industry, colonialism, cultures and service contributing to the development of Castlegate through periods of history
8	<b>a coherent public art strategy that develops fresh ideas</b>	the collection, interpretation, retelling and display of the multiple and contested aspects of the <b>site's heritage</b> , through physical and digital methods	engaging with Sheffield's <b>diverse communities</b> to develop <b>temporary and permanent arts commissions</b> that have contemporary relevance, through embracing participatory arts, digital technologies, interactive play etc.	the inclusion of <b>signage and way-finding</b> throughout the site that makes clear and engaging <b>connections to other parts of the city and its communities</b> and to the site's history	
9	<b>a series of spaces of different scales, for a variety of activities</b>	a <b>community gathering space</b> , as part of the flexible event space, for audiences attending events and performances and for markets, fairs and festivals throughout the year	<b>play spaces for all ages</b> , especially families with young children	a variety of <b>sports</b> that together offer opportunities for <b>all ages and abilities</b> to engage with active health	
10	<b>the future development plots to be integrated to the overall public realm</b>	are aligned with the <b>shared values</b> stated in this report	<b>enhance</b> rather than detract from the <b>sense of place</b>	<b>integrate successfully</b> with Castlegate Common at <b>ground level</b>	
11	<b>a people's archive of artefacts and stories populated by local stakeholders and communities of Sheffield</b>				
12	<b>connected and sustainable active travel routes</b>	to connect Castlegate Common with <b>other heritage buildings and anchor institutions</b> beyond the site (e.g. Old Town Hall, Harmony Works, Castle House)	and to <b>connect with the city centre</b> , Fitzalan Square, the rail station and bus interchange, the Wicker, Victoria Quays and Parkwood Springs		
13	<b>the operation, stewardship and potential governance of Castlegate Common (or parts of) by community stakeholders.</b>				

# CO-PRODUCTION TIMELINE

Castlegate Partnership Workshops  
November 2021



## LEVELLING-UP

Funding awarded for Castlegate Common

Local Stakeholder Workshops  
Summer 2022



Local Stakeholder Workshops  
November 2022



### CASTLEGATE ENGAGEMENT

### CASTLEGATE ENGAGEMENT



- REVEALING THE OUTDOOR CITY
- REVEALING INNOVATION
- REVEALING ARTS & CULTURE
- REVEALING HERITAGE



### FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS

### OUTDOOR CITY

### ARTS, HERITAGE & PLACEMAKING

UoS with Friends of Sheffield Castle  
vision 'Revealing the Castle' - November 2016

FOSC Blueprint  
for the site of Sheffield Castle

### CASTLE SITE ENGAGEMENT



Castlegate Skate Jam  
Exchange Street Collective,  
SCC & Skate GB



UoS Festival of the Mind  
Experience Castlegate public engagement



SCC, UoS & Wessex  
Archaeology  
site excavation, book  
publication & public  
engagement

### CASTLE GATE FUTURES URBAN ROOM



### CASTLE GATE COMMON



# THE CASTLEGATE FUTURES URBAN ROOM

The Castlegate Futures Urban Room<sup>5</sup> (12-20th Nov 2022) was curated and facilitated by Live Works.

It supplemented the public consultation delivered by SCC via an online survey (7-20th Nov 2022) and exhibition at the Moor Market (7-10th Nov 2022). The Castlegate Futures Urban Room was located in an empty shop unit at 18 Exchange Street, opposite the Castle site, thus offering a local, situated context for visitors to engage directly with the location of the proposed LUF development.



5. The Urban Room is an established methodology in situated community-engaged placemaking. Live Works was a founding member of the Urban Rooms Network ([www.urbanroomsnetwork.org](http://www.urbanroomsnetwork.org)) and has recently published the Urban Rooms Toolkit ([www.urbanroomstoolkit.org](http://www.urbanroomstoolkit.org))

# URBAN ROOM AIMS



The Castlegate Futures Urban Room built upon the previous co-production outcomes to engage the public and existing stakeholders in dialogue with the following objectives:

- to bring more people into the conversation about the future of the Castle site and Castlegate more widely, and to **diversify engagement further**
- to **raise awareness** of Castlegate’s rich heritage and the wealth of existing social and creative enterprises in the area, and to **develop aspirations** for future regeneration
- to build on findings from the previous stakeholder co-production workshops and to develop further detailed feedback, through the **inclusion of new voices**, on the development of the Castle site and the regeneration of Castlegate more widely
- to **raise awareness** of the **SCC LUF Concept Plan** for the Castle site and to scrutinise it in relation to the **Castlegate Common Manifesto** co-production recommendations
- making visible the desires, resources, and aspirations of **active local communities** who have a stake in the future of Castlegate - providing **a platform for empowering** their presence on and around Castle Site
- to explore specific themes raised as priorities by stakeholders, opening space for **long term and diverse community partnerships**

# URBAN ROOM PROGRAMME



## AN EXHIBITION SHOWCASING:

- Castlegate past: historic information and the AR installation of the 3D digital model of Sheffield Castle
- Castlegate present: a timeline of the ongoing co-production process, a physical model of the Castle site and posters from community stakeholders
- Castlegate futures: the SCC concept plan for the LUF development of the Castle site and a wall displaying visitors' feedback and suggestions



## PUBLIC ACTIVITIES:

- Tours of the Castle site by the Sheaf and Porter Rivers Trust
- Engagement activities to gather stories, memories and ideas for Castlegate
- Two SCC presentations of the LUF concept plan
- Three themed workshops with guest speakers to discuss key themes emerging from the co-production process



## THEMED URBAN ROOM WORKSHOPS:

As part of the Urban Room programme, Live Works hosted workshops<sup>6</sup> on 3 specific themes that had arisen as priorities from previous co-production workshops:

1. Art, Heritage & Placemaking
2. The Outdoor City
3. Future Partnerships



## ONLINE SURVEY:

As part of the SCC Citizenspace online survey that asked the public to give feedback specific to the LUF Concept Plan for the new public space, Live Works requested an additional question, Q7:

This report presents the findings from this question in addition to the findings from the Urban Room.

***“Beyond the new public space, how would you like to see Castlegate develop in the future?”***

# REPORT ON FINDINGS

This section presents the key points arising from the workshops, feedback left in the Urban Room and the **261 responses to Q7 of the online survey**.

In total the Urban Room had **approximately 210 visits** and gathered feedback and ideas from stakeholders and members of the public in the form of written notes, collages and audio recordings of the workshop discussions.

The findings are **aligned to the 13 recommendations** that were co-produced via the Community Stakeholder workshops in June 2022 and presented within the Castlegate Common Manifesto.

In doing so **the relevance of the recommendations to the wider public is tested, and their insight and experience can further inform the detail of the recommendations.**

Any public feedback that is not reflected by the recommendations is captured at the end of this section.



Each section is divided into two areas of focus:

- **General Feedback** - this captures feedback that relates to future development of existing and new buildings on the Castle site, and to the regeneration of Castlegate more widely
- **Key findings for the LUF Planning Applications** - this captures feedback that relates to the full planning application for the LUF Castle site project and the outline application for the development plots identified in the LUF Castle site project (to be delivered at a later date)

Quotes are anonymised and taken from the Urban Room workshop discussions and the responses to Q7 of the online survey.

# RECOMMENDATION 1:

a 'people's place' that values and enhances the unique social and cultural identity of Castlegate



## GENERAL FEEDBACK

One of the key messages emerging from the Urban Room and the online survey question was the **historic importance of Castlegate as a 'meeting place' for people** from across Sheffield, specifically the working class communities:

*"This space here [Exchange Street] was our main meeting space, no matter where you were from in the city...We used to all meet right at the top. We just met, talked, laughed on the Gallery."*

*"The vibrancy of the old market has been lost and, managed sensitively, this vibrancy can be found again."*

There is a strong desire for Castlegate to **avoid gentrification and renew itself as an inclusive 'people's place'** that is developed with and welcomes people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.

*"How can we create a space that's really vibrant and is representative of all of these different people? Help them feel not only represented, but they feel like they have a place to call home in the city centre?"*

*"Make it accessible. Disabled people feel we are being pushed out of the city centre. It would be devastating for all this work to be done and made inaccessible as well."*

*"I want to see the area thrive with new businesses, restaurants and shops. The Wicker is a hive of creativity and entrepreneurship. I don't want to see the current identity of the area lost. There is an exciting multicultural dimension to the place. The international supermarkets, internet cafes, barbers, restaurants. This is the identity of the area and it will be sad if it is lost because more student flats, apartments and generic chains are built up round the public space. Harness and support the local skills and I'm sure the area will develop into an exciting place to be."*

*"It would be good if at least some of the businesses and organisations in the area are able to remain, and do not become priced out as a result of gentrification. It would be great to find a way for the whole area to be genuinely mixed and inclusive."*

*"Every town needs the cheaper shops and there's no reason why the area can't be more diverse in terms of shopping and eating...give that area, and the people who want or need to shop there, some dignity and pride."*

*"If you encourage people to linger, please give us benches, maybe some shelter, and a public toilet."*

*"There are many people who currently use the area who may be priced out if [shops], selling high value items, are the only shops available. There is a community who already utilise the area and they should be respected. Future plans should be informed by asking the local businesses what they want, allowing them to grow rather than simply saying "Sheffield needs a new start."*

Many participants identified the key role that **local independent enterprises and businesses** can play in building on and developing the unique social and cultural identity of Castlegate.

*“Independent trades and makers to counterbalance Meadowhall and its boring predictable multinational trade. Sheffield was founded on making. Make Sheffield a unique city showcasing independent trades!”*

*“If we can provide an infrastructure to invest in people who are here and harness that energy, we can generate economically viable solutions.”*

*“The support for independent markets is great and I’d like to see that continue.”*

*“There should be more small independent vendors and venues, allowing the area to retain its eclectic and multicultural atmosphere.”*

*“More independent businesses, particularly those owned by people of colour.”*

*“But clean and safe with a diverse range of shops from Wilkinson’s to independent, local traders.”*

*“Having it as a hub of creative arts and independents would be a big draw and bring more people into this area and the town centre in general.”*



Pollen Market, Grey to Green



Castlegate Skate Jam 2021

## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATION:

There is an existing vibrant and diverse creative community in Castlegate that many people value and want to see welcomed within the new public space. Their **inclusion in the planning of the new public space** would support the animation of the area as a new ‘people’s place’ through the following methods:

- opportunities for ad-hoc performance, music, artwork facilitated by **serviced meanwhile spaces**
- incorporating graffiti in addition to more formal street art commissions within the **public art strategy**
- provision of **urban furniture for skateboarding**

# RECOMMENDATION 2:

make creative and inclusive connections to the richness and complexity of the site's history



## GENERAL FEEDBACK

The history of the site and of Castlegate is clearly of great interest to many people. Conversations in the Urban Room highlighted people's fascination with the deep history of the place, the story of the Castle and the industrial development of the area. A large number of participants enjoyed sharing their memories of the various Markets that they once visited regularly:

*"This should be a destination for people visiting the city and allow them to see the early history looking at the Canal Wharf, Wicker Arches and further back to the castle and the markets as well as a redevelopment of the old town hall."*

*"As a centre for telling the story of Sheffield, reflecting the history of the castle and the market as the historic centre of Sheffield."*

*"The development...needs to develop the visibility of the other historic assets in the area such as the nearby crucible furnace remains, Lady's Bridge and to provide high quality information about the history and development of Sheffield."*

*"I would like to see the site protected as a heritage site."*

*"The heritage underpins it all - it is not a constraint, it is a powerful enabler."*



Remembering the Market, Castlegate Urban Room



Conversations in the Urban Room revealed the rich social history of Castlegate and, while people welcome access to and interpretation of the Castle remains, there is also a widespread desire to see **stories told of the more recent history of Castlegate, including the Markets.**

Within this focus there is a call to include the stories of diverse cultures, thus remaking those previously **strong connections between Castlegate and marginalised neighbourhoods.**

*"We used to have steel works. Now we don't have steel works anymore. We used to make knives. Now, apart from remaining little workshops, we don't anymore. There's a really good story to tell, which actually builds linkages out into the wider Sheffield community and indeed the world beyond potentially"*

*"[start by] interviewing the Windrush generation...So young people hear what their grandparents ...have gone through, to come and exist in this city"*

*"The key thing is connecting with different people and communities."*



## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATION:

There is a strong desire to see **inclusivity, equity and transparency embedded in the processes of design, procurement, delivery and operation of the new public space.** This ethos should be incorporated into the interpretation of site heritage, public art commissions, the activities on site, the community facilities and the relationship with the new buildings. This has relevance to the planning application as follows:

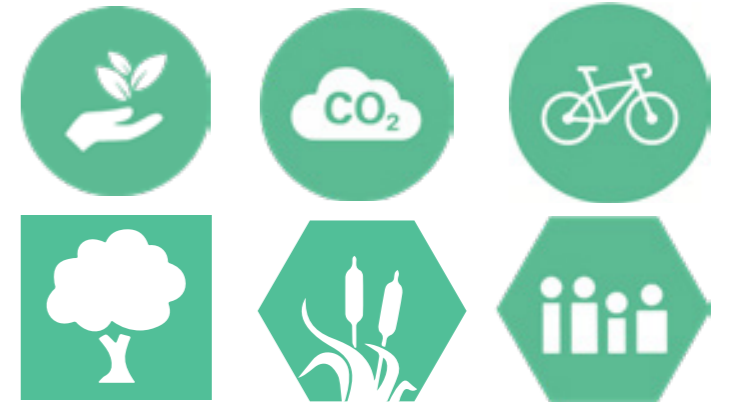
- an active and expanded approach to heritage that goes beyond revealing remains and conventional interpretations to include physical space, e.g. as part of **Plot 4**, for diverse communities to meet, produce and commission alternate histories of the site



Public data gathered from the Urban Room

# RECOMMENDATION 3:

enhance people's health and wellbeing while caring for the environment



## GENERAL FEEDBACK

People welcomed the emphasis that the SCC Concept Plan places upon a connection to nature and creating opportunities for health and wellbeing. Particularly well-received was the opportunity to have a **greater visual and physical connection to the river, and the benefits it will bring to biodiversity in the area as well as general wellbeing of people.** There was also a positive response to the continuation of the Grey to Green ethos of natural planting and sustainability shown in the Concept Plan:



Collage by Live Works

*"More focus on planting, pedestrianisation and generally creating a pleasant accessible public space. It would be nice to see events being held there, such as an expansion of the popular Pollen Market."*

*"Rivers don't finish at the edge of the wet bit"*

*"Develop this site as a symbol of the greenness, outdoorsness of this great city."*

*"I would like there to be a strong focus on climate change mitigation and ecological enhancement."*

*"You can unlock many global issues by just talking about the site, engaging people here engages people in global ecological issues because of its many junctions."*

*"The site provides immense potential for healing Sheffield's relationship with its rivers. The site could act as a knowledge hub for citizens who could learn from rivers as interconnected ecosystems – how are the oceans linked to cities, neighbourhoods, urban ecologies, hinterlands and natural habitats such as forests and lakes."*

*"More of the green planting down at West Bar and Castlegate should be used - this is a real positive that the council has developed and something you don't see in other towns."*

This desire for access to and care for nature extended beyond the confines of the Castle site to **encompass Castlegate as a whole, and its role within the city of Sheffield:**

People called for a **diversity of physical activities** to be accommodated on the site:

It was recognised that some people will need support to access activities. The role that community groups and volunteers can play in this **widening of participation** in outdoor activities was recognised:

*Do continue the Grey to Green across the city, it makes the city a much more liveable place for the increasing number of residents within the centre."*

*"Access points for kayaks, canoes and other paddlesports along the Riverside...Outdoor city climbing wall and skate park etc."*

*"There's still so many barriers for people being able to go and just access outdoor facilities. What if they don't know what to do? What if they've never even seen something like that?"*

*"As a major biodiversity hub for this part of the Inner City, with greenways and blueways linking to other sites in the City"*

*"Child friendly open spaces. Play areas - draw in families"*

*"We need space for planters so that we can grow food. Everyone eats food, so there's potential for everyone to get involved. Just to volunteer, grow something edible, on site. It addresses local food issues, it also inspires people to grow their own food."*

*"We're now able to reclaim and make a contribution towards biodiversity, wellbeing and really re-greening the city centre and that's something that's relevant to the future."*

*"Encouraging use of public transport/bikes etc, areas that can be used for city based outdoor activities such as Parkour, bmx track, climbing wall etc."*

*"As much as possible, to develop this site as a symbol of the greenness, outdooriness of this great city...Sheffield wins hands down in celebrating the quality of life here i.e. a green city."*

*"The marginalised communities are not included in the spatial and programmatic narrative of the outdoor spaces. The project should consider involvement of marginalised communities in active use of the public realm as part of the outdoor city. Inclusive outdoor and public sports creates vibrancy in the city centre and becomes another layer for activating the public realm."*

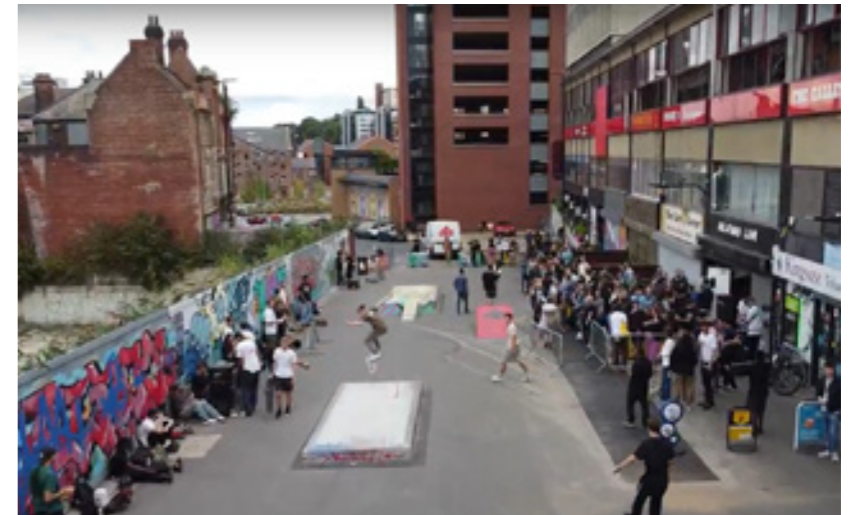
*"We have five rivers in this city. And each one of these five rivers has at least one volunteer community group working on them. Castlegate can be a centre, an entry point into a city wide river partnership."*

## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATION:

Points raised for consideration within the planning application were as follows:

- many people expressed the desire to **access the river's edge safely**, i.e. for the landscape to step gently down to the level of the water. This would also enable kayakers to access the water safely at this point
  - there was also support for **softening of the river edge** to create different habitats for different species to flourish
  - there was clear support for a **fish pass** to increase biodiversity, and the recognition that this would also aid kayakers to use the river
  - people expressed a desire to see **more trees planted on the site** than shown, for shade, urban cooling and biodiversity
- **space for facilities**<sup>7</sup> allocated for urban sport activities such as skateboarding, kayaking and bouldering, including staffed support to encourage engagement with diverse groups
  - **space for facilities**<sup>7</sup> allocated for active play, for children, young people and adults
  - **urban furniture and servicing** to accommodate a diversity of uses and users including skateboarders, families, elderly people, climbing/bouldering, contemplation and hanging out.

Despite the compact nature of the site, an inclusive and flexible approach could allow a diverse group of users to **coexist in the public realm** while activating the site into the evening and throughout the year.



Castlegate Skate Jam 2021



Grey to Green Scheme, Pollen Market

# RECOMMENDATION 4:

support a flourishing ecosystem of arts, culture, enterprise and innovation



## GENERAL FEEDBACK

Often participants spoke of the importance of the Castle site, and Castlegate more widely, to host a diverse and interconnected range of activities in order to create a **dynamic and vibrant sense of place**. This approach would bring different functions together so that different groups can mix and enjoy the city together:

*"I wish Castlegate could again be the landmark of Sheffield, not only a place of people for leisure, but also a place for learning to co-create a dynamic community."*

*"More music venues. DIY venues and spaces, independent shops, with reasonable rents."*

*"Places for business, educators, R&D and the public to interact and to innovate and come up with ideas - a place for incubating innovation and bringing people together. Currently Sheffield does not have an area where business, universities and visitors and other sectors mingle...All these sectors have an interest in this place for a range of reasons and it should celebrate this broad-based attractiveness by becoming the heart of the city again and providing a fertile ground for building successful enterprises as well as celebrating key stories of the city's and nation's heritage that residents and visitors want to visit, explore and enjoy."*



Castlegate Festival



Plot 22

As well as permanent development, the importance of **meanwhile, temporary activities and event programmes** to activate and keep the site animated throughout the year was recognised:

*"Once the first part of the project is done, we need meanwhile use to activate the site."*

*"Public art events like a mural festival"*

*"It's about reactivating the site and making it a place for people to come, or it will be a quiet park with no-one walking through it."*

*"I'd like to see Castlegate become greener and more pedestrianised, with more public spaces which are accessible and free to use and provide opportunities for people to experience events such as outdoor theatre, music and performance."*

# RECOMMENDATION 5:

## an explicit commitment to environmental sustainability

### GENERAL FEEDBACK

Sustainability is identified as a thread that runs through many aspects of the site development and wider Castlegate regeneration, including the **landscaping, care for biodiversity, specification of materials and low-carbon travel:**

*"[the site] should develop a sustainable theme - new buildings need to be very sustainable"*

*"Good quality buildings in designated areas around the perimeter made from natural materials of earth, stone and wood"*

*"I would like there to be a strong focus on climate change mitigation and ecological enhancement."*

*"There should be policy and budget in place for maintaining and repairing varied and connected ecosystems that perform more functions beyond their immediate environments."*

*"Being a green and sustainable, low carbon and affordable area for local businesses with space for events and community events."*

*"There needs to be more focus on the environment and less on big corporations."*

*"Trees, trees, trees. And plenty of public art, space for cyclists and pedestrians. Affordable space for small businesses and freelancers, very much looking forward to a zero carbon future."*



Collages by visitors to the Urban Room

# RECOMMENDATION 6:

## a flexible event space

### GENERAL FEEDBACK

Participants spoke of the need for space on the Castle site to host performances, social events and community festivals. This space should be both external and internal and actively support an **active events programme - making space for diverse communities** to celebrate the richness of their cultures, heritage and connection to Castlegate via carnivals, festivals, markets, melas etc.

To facilitate this the Castlegate Festival should be embedded as a regular event in the city calendar.

*"It would be nice to see events being held there, such as an expansion of the popular Pollen Market."*

*"If the area is going to attract people it would need businesses and shops nearby, and/or regular events like street markets, bands, music events."*

*"Public spaces for events, markets etc."*

*"A program of events - especially music...evening and nighttime use"*

*"Cafes and restaurants, events, food markets etc."*

*"More outside events at that end of town."*

*"Dedicated space for open-air events?"*

*"Provide opportunities for people to experience events such as outdoor theatre, music and performance... I think the kind of annual events that take place in Sheffield's Botanic Gardens could also find a home in an outdoor space in Castlegate, which would be much more accessible by public transport via bus or tram."*



### KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATION:

The flexible event space should include:

- a 'plug and play' event space for all year use, with **on-site power and lighting** and **licence to play music** and create noise into the late evening - it was highlighted that the 'common' space would need a **free draining surface** if it were to perform as an all-weather event area
- the provision of **generous, accessible and well-serviced** (power, lighting) space for regular markets, fairs and events

# RECOMMENDATION 7:

## a coherent heritage strategy that embraces creative and innovative thinking



### GENERAL FEEDBACK

Participants' shared their desire to engage with the **full stretch of history of the Castle site**, including the Castle and all subsequent periods until the demolition of the Castle Markets in 2015. Also, to embrace multiple presentations of the site's heritage from **diverse perspectives** (see Recommendation 2).

What we value as heritage should remain as an open question and heritage strategies should not focus on a particular historical focus but rather on **multiple narratives of Castlegate**. The need for a clear strategy that linked the heritage of the site, to the surrounding area was often expressed:

*"Develop a real identity centred around the castle."*

*"I would like it to keep the community focus and historical focus and not end up losing itself to high-end retail outlets and becoming an overly exclusive and expensive area."*

*"A centre for telling the story of Sheffield, reflecting the history of the castle and the market as the historic centre of Sheffield."*

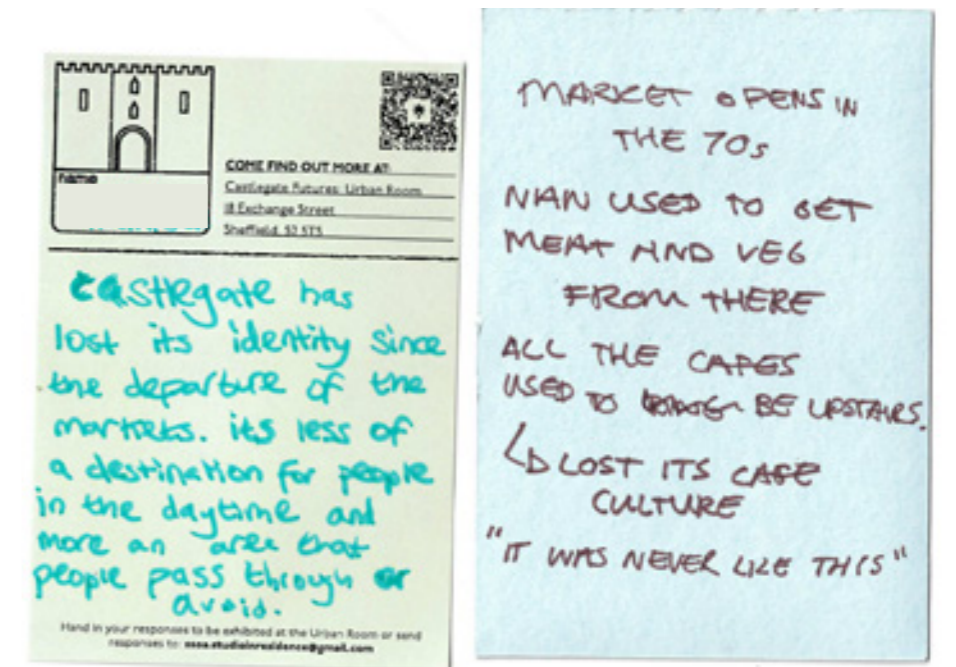
Many people shared ideas of how this could be achieved through creative, immersive and innovative methods across the site:

*"A replica of the castle entrance and a footprint of the castle showing any remaining foundations from the original castle. Make this a dedicated space to the history of the castle with virtual tours and shops."*

*"Interactive exhibition on ancient buildings and history of castle."*

*"You could have heritage nights, once a month, or once every few months, where it turns into a space of performances... people [could] also have fully immersive tools, if they want to get to know more about the history, but it's done in fun and engaging ways which isn't just writing on the wall."*

*"A thriving area with a medieval feel, clear experiential-based interpretation housing a world class visitor experience, cafe and shop that is self-sustaining. Viewing platform on the top of a reconstructed gatehouse, great interpretation panels, digital resources to pick up on phone and tablets, website resources, finds and documents on display in the visitor attraction."*



Public opinion regarding the market and its role in Castlegate's identity - gathered through the Urban Room



A large number of responses highlighted the **derelict state of the Old Town Hall** and the need for a **holistic heritage strategy** that addresses the future of heritage assets across Castlegate and not only on the Castle site:

*"a priority should focus on what to do with the Old Town Hall... Consideration should be given for a CPO and restoration of the building pending deciding on future use"*

*"The Old Town Hall is also key to this site."*

*"Sympathetic restoration of the old town hall and other heritage buildings."*

*"It should also be imperative that action is taken to ensure the renovation and return to some type of use for the Old Town Hall. It's a disgrace that this has been left to rot away when it is such an iconic building."*

*"Hopefully the development will be the catalyst for some long awaited (positive) news re future sympathetic use of the Old Town Hall on Waingate."*

*'Development of the old town hall building to put it into public use again. It's one of Sheffield's few historical buildings and we should be using it and showing it off.'*

*"The heritage of the area in all its aspects...needs regeneration that is appropriate [including] conservation of the facades of the Market Tavern and Mudfords Buildings."*



*The Old Town Hall, 1905*



*Clock Tower of the Old Town Hall visible from the Castle Site*

## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a requirement that the roofline of the building on Plot 1, is designed to **offer views of or respond towards the Old Town Hall clock tower** in relation to the new public space, e.g. through stepped profile, cut-outs, open frame, etc.

# RECOMMENDATION 8:

## a coherent public art strategy that develops fresh ideas



### GENERAL FEEDBACK

Many people recognised the **value that public art will bring** to the development of the Castle site; to reveal the heritage of the site, make connections with nature, foster local identity and creativity, and help shape an inclusive, sustainable and productive future for Castlegate.

*"We need to have something that points to the future"*

*"Having it as a hub of creative arts and independents would be a big draw and bring more people into this area and the town centre in general."*

The expanded role of art as a means to **widen engagement and represent multiple voices** who have stories to tell and connections to build with Castlegate was recognised:

*"What would be the role of public art to facilitate the use of the site as an inclusive space?"*

*"Inviting...people to share a path or a trail...to tell stories, share myths or facts...Creating a space for conversation and participation. I would like us to consider art in its widest definition, and not simply as an object or sculpture in the landscape."*

*"An exciting edgy 'appening' place to go, with some rough edges retained, but safe and welcoming for all."*

A call to **involve local people in the briefing and production of the artworks**, and to embrace the art and culture that is already present in the area:

*"There needs to be space for graff, not street art...graff, because the two are very different entities, street art can be a very gentrified version of graffiti...we can work with graff artists to get them to tell some of the stories to create some incredible murals."*

*"Taking the commission of the hoardings as an example, and their consequent appropriation by graffiti artists, the commission of artwork should be considered in its entire process. Where are there opportunities for engagement, stewardship and knowledge/skill building in each commission beyond the static object?"*

*"Arts & music venues supported & other local start up businesses"*

## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Careful consideration of temporary and permanent artwork to avoid displacement of existing communities and contribute to social and cultural vibrancy of the site:

- if temporary the work needs careful **decommissioning and clear legacy**
- alongside permanent/temporary arts there is a strong call for public art budget to offer social & relational art production via **artists in residence, community art programme** - linked to innovation & skills and **supporting local diverse talent**



*Street art, Castlegate Festival 2021*

# RECOMMENDATION 9:

a series of spaces of different scales, for a variety of activities

## GENERAL FEEDBACK

There was a call for the new public space to not offer a 'one size fits all' approach but to provide a variety of spaces where everyone can feel welcome, safe and valued - **with no one use or institution being dominant:**

*"Designated spaces for people who are for example, neurodivergent that, may just need a space that's a little bit more quiet if things get a bit overwhelming"*

*"[the site's] ethos needs to be around equity, not dominance."*

Although the educational focus of Sheffield College was welcomed there were some concerns shared about the dominance that the two potential College buildings could have over the new public space. This prompted requests that the **buildings accommodate community/public use within them.**

*"Are they going to be dominating the space and not creating a sense of equity? Because if that happens, then it's going to be gentrified - buildings equate to power"*

*"My concern is that it is going to dominate the entire space, and drive out any other community use."*



## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Concerns were expressed about the **dominance of institutional use over community use** of the site resulting in a risk that the new public space will become exclusive and monocultural. This was illustrated for many by the large-scale massing of Plots 1 & 2 in relation to the lack of clarity around Plots 4 a,b,c. A degree of equity would be achieved through:

- the stipulation that the **ground floor spaces of Plots 1 & 2** are open to community/public use
- **Plot 4** clearly designated as a generous community facility

# RECOMMENDATION 10:



the future development plots to be integrated to the overall public realm

## GENERAL FEEDBACK

There was a great deal of interest in the potential function of the two main development plots 1 & 2. The possible involvement of Sheffield College in Castlegate is viewed as positive overall:

*"I feel a college provision would provide change and improvements of anti-social behaviour in the area, in addition to providing a place to relax and rest in a city centre environment."*

However, many participants are concerned that the presence of a large institution will push away existing initiatives and communities. It was proposed that a planning condition be placed on these developments whereby **ground floor spaces are provided for community use, social enterprise and local pioneer businesses**, that in turn can help to activate the public space:

*"Do we need to look at how the ground floor of the development works...to allow an element of porosity?"*

*"Let's not just have a hard line between whatever that building is and the public space."*



Collage by Live Works

*"what's happening in the public space and activating those spaces, internally and externally - [a] sort of transfer of skills, [a] sort of knowledge sharing, [a] sort of ecosystem of innovation and learning."*

This exchange between community and institutions could be supported through the **ownership and usage by community groups, social enterprises and independent businesses** of adjacent buildings, including the Market Tavern and Mudford buildings, and potentially the Galleries.<sup>8</sup>

Many voiced their hopes that the **quality of the new buildings** will match the quality of the public realm:

*"I would like to see really high quality buildings for the building plots. These need to be exemplars of design and environmental credentials. Please continue to engage with the widest range of stakeholders and interest groups for the future of the site - this site can become the new heart of Sheffield - allow it to retain its character, verve and playfulness. We don't need any generic architecture here."*

8. For example Haus Der Statistik, project in Berlin opens the ground floor for pioneer use to provide spaces to make visible the diversity of the communities involved, allowing alternative uses to be tested for the public realm.

## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Concerns were often raised that the two large plots (1 & 2) reserved for future development, potentially by Sheffield College, could **dominate the future use of the site, both in terms of their function and visually.**

Although the design of these plots are outside the scope of the LUF planning application, the outline planning applications for these plots should take these concerns into account, as follows:

- open up these buildings at ground floor level to create **direct connection with the new public space**, potentially stipulating that any buildings on these plots should offer **public/community spaces at ground level**
- Plots 1 & 2 will require **active frontages on all elevations:** to Waingate, to Exchange Street, to the new public space and to the gateway between them
- **Plot 1 should step back from the existing building line** on Waingate and take the opportunity to make the footpath and spaces around the bus stops much more safe and generous

The new buildings on the site should also strive to be as **welcoming and inclusive** as possible:

- careful consideration needs to be given to the design of the **gateway to the new public space between Plot 1 & 2**, to ensure that it is welcoming to all and to guard against perceptions of exclusion.

# RECOMMENDATION 11:

**a people's archive of artefacts and stories populated by local stakeholders and communities of Sheffield**

## GENERAL FEEDBACK

In recognition of the key role that Castlegate has played in the lives of so many people in Sheffield, past and present, the **importance of gathering and celebrating these stories** was noted by many participants:

*"The key thing is connecting with different people and communities."*

*"We can start to develop an archive of voices that becomes a part of this timeline - the history of the city to ordinary people."*

*"Castlegate can be a catalyst for [creating] linkages to tell the story of Sheffield"*

*"celebrating key stories of the city's and nation's heritage that residents and visitors want to visit, explore and enjoy"*

And the role that **existing community groups**, such as SADACCA <sup>9</sup>, can play in revealing these stories:

*"We started to ask our elders about their stories and their memories of not only being in the city, but their journey to and through the city and started to record them. We've come up with some absolutely glorious stories."*

Following from Recommendation 7, The Concept Plan's focus on heritage as a set of historical artefacts or layers could expand to include people as heritage. Spaces could be curated by various communities at various times to keep the public realm activated with voices and stories of multiple cultures of Sheffield and specifically neighbourhoods surrounding the Castle Site.



## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Many people spoke of missing the life and energy of Castlegate Markets and the loss of the area as a 'meeting place' for many diverse groups of people. A real appetite for **energetic activity and dynamic use of the new public space** was called for, including:

- a section of the ground floor (of Plots 1, 2 or 4) to be **reserved for exhibiting stories** of diverse cultures of Sheffield that could facilitate inclusive narration of heritage beyond the physical archaeological remains

9. The Bantu Archive programme by SADACCA is a local precedent that could inspire communal use of public space.

# RECOMMENDATION 12:

## connected and sustainable active travel routes

### GENERAL FEEDBACK

A large number of participants stressed the importance of any development on the Castle site being **joined up with the rest of Castlegate**, and of a regenerated Castlegate being **well connected to the rest of the city centre**. There was a great deal of praise for the recent activation of the streets around the site:

*"We already visit Castlegate on a Sunday because it's a pleasant place to be and the kids like to cycle and scoot round while we sit and relax."*

*"We have the first permissible city centre fully open skate street in the UK. People have come from France, Norway to come and skate on Exchange Street... Speaking to the police, in the first few years, we had a reduction in antisocial behaviour around 35%."*

There is a clear desire to use **active and sustainable modes of transport** to integrate routes through the Castle site and across the city centre:

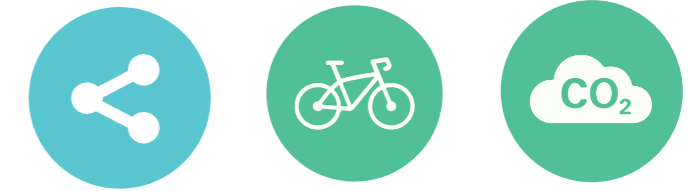
*"Expansion of the grey to green area to Exchange Street and Waingate would be good to see and the provision of more cycling infrastructure. As part of this, the improvement of the Marioland skate park would be good to see."*

*"It would be lovely if the different parts of the riverside and canal side could be connected to create a green area to walk in and relax in. Better connection through to other riverside areas would be good."*

*"There should be direct public access through the proposed buildings on Exchange Street and Waingate to the Central landscaped area wherever and whenever possible."*

*"Linking up to Kelham Island/West Bar to make the city centre more pleasant to visit on a night out/weekend."*

*"I'd also love to see the old Victoria train station reopened to help redevelop the area, free up capacity, make use of the existing infrastructure and encourage greener forms of transport."*



*"Connectivity all along the Don, Sheaf and other tributaries - including walkways and cycleways for active travel."*

*"In other words, the entire corridor from the recently improved Fitzalan Square to Ladys Bridge needs to be incorporated into the Castlegate Scheme and this need not be costly as many of the improvements would be cosmetic."*

*"It should be the focus for drawing people down to that end of town. That would mean improving the route of Union Street across Arundel Gate, and making the route from Fitzalan Square to Haymarket less hostile to pedestrians."*

*"More options for active travel and encouraging exercising outdoors should be prioritised"*

Concerns were raised and reassurance sought that the **needs of people with disabilities** have been considered from the start:

*"In terms of a wheelchair user navigating the space, are they able to do that? Are the inclines a bit too steep?"*

*"How can we ensure that the architecture is in place for people with visual impairment? How can we ensure that they can navigate the space and they know where they are in terms of orientation in this space?"*



# RECOMMENDATION 13:

**the operation, stewardship and potential governance of Castlegate Common (or parts of) by community stakeholders**

## GENERAL FEEDBACK

There is clearly a great deal of enthusiasm within interest groups and the wider public for ongoing engagement towards delivering a **community-focussed** development of the Castle site, and Castlegate more generally.

The public engagement confirmed the status of Castlegate as a 'people's place' and there is a desire for this **strong connection to local people** to continue into the future, while also opening up the area as a **vibrant destination to visitors**. The discussions in the Urban Room (often with Council officers present) were welcomed and the need for **ongoing clear and transparent co-production between the Council and diverse communities** was called for on several occasions:

*"If we don't establish that trust, and an openness now, then we're not laying the foundations for this vision for a space that lots of people want to use."*

*"[We are] invited as a guest, to meetings which are infrequent and not timely enough to impact decision-making."*

*"What processes are in place to ensure other cultures are included?"*

*"If the Council could create a space...for meetings like this, groups can come together, and they can meet with elected officials."*

The role that community groups could play in the **delivery, animation and stewardship of community facilities** on the Castle site was recognised and supported.

*"There is a community who already utilise the area and they should be respected. Future plans should be informed by asking the local businesses what they want, allowing them to grow rather than simply displacing them."*



*"Young people need to feel like they're being valued. The first meeting point gets them in the door. Within those spaces, we need to consult with them in terms of what spaces feel welcoming?"*

*"I would like it to keep the community focus and historical focus and not end up losing itself to high-end retail outlets and becoming an overly exclusive and expensive area"*

*"Further provision for businesses such as Delicious Clam and Plot 22 to use the public space for seating in the summer would also be fantastic and encouraging more seating in front of cafes, bars and restaurants...reaching out to new traders such as local veg growers (Regather, Sheffield Organic Growers, Moss Valley Market Garden and High Riggs Market Garden) would give the area more appeal."*

*"You could pair up architects with members of the community who were paid and treated as consultants, working with the actual design of the space. Because they'll have a much better understanding of how the space can be used, rather than just reinventing the wheel."*

## KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LUF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The people of Sheffield have a strong attachment and aspirations for the Castle site and they have **a passion for engaging with the decision making and activation processes** of the site. The rich community presence around the site should be considered as the strongest asset and used as a driver for the project.

An **innovative governance approach** could become a model for Public Realm management and will also ensure putting strategies in place **to avoid gentrification and displacement of communities** surrounding the site.

- incorporating **community ownership and governance** into the planning application by designating a **percentage of ground floor for public-community partnerships**. This will address fears of gentrification and displacement of communities who are active within Castlegate.
- space for facilities allocated for **community use**, e.g. communal spaces, cafes, meeting room, social/event spaces, people's museum/archive, public toilets, urban gardening, external covered space



*Collage from public engagement workshops  
18.11.2022*



*Future Partnerships Workshop*  
20.11.2022



# PUBLIC FEEDBACK BEYOND THE MANIFESTO RECOMMENDATIONS

Some feedback from the Urban Room and responses to Q7 of the online survey related to issues beyond the scope of the original Castlegate Common Manifesto Recommendations.

These fell into 3 main areas: suggestions for the use of buildings and spaces, concerns about antisocial behaviour in the area, and the recognition that regeneration is sorely needed.

There were lots of **suggestions for the future use of buildings and spaces** in Castlegate, with a focus on a mix of uses, affordability, day into night activity and quality of experience:

*"Mixture of retail, food & drink, office space with the green space."*

*"Good availability of affordable small shops, work spaces, pop up opportunities."*

*"Maybe put a school in there, or a further education centre, with an "outdoor education" slant. Maybe aim to get the homeless educated and sheltered?"*

*"Shops, social areas - theatres, cafes, restaurants, music venues and cinemas."*

*"It needs to have places to eat and social spaces in addition to perhaps space for a small open market. Many towns and cities have a thriving marketplace and it would be homage to the old 'rag and tag' but with a modern twist."*

*"A 'seaside' atmosphere with lots of amusement arcades, bingo stalls, an area of fairground rides (mini theme park), more hotels, restaurants, cafes etc."*

*"With the push to make the city more live/work friendly for city-centre living, community functions such as schools, healthcare and nurseries may also be required."*

*"I would like it to develop a market area which is worth visiting, with artisan areas, selling wines, beers, bread etc."*

*"Would love to see a good mix of nature, sport, relaxation, residence, art, and commerce. Sheffield is generally pretty good at this mix, and this could take us further."*

*"Used for education. Link to universities in the city. Intergenerational projects developed."*

*"More green spaces, more art interventions and museums etc. cafes, restaurants, bars."*

*"shops, affordable living spaces, markets, studios - music and art, backpackers hostel"*

*"Car-free with priority areas for local traders and community spaces such as open-air theatres."*

Many responses called for **more residential accommodation, preferably affordable** and not more student housing:

*"I would like to see affordable housing in the area. Council property for rent would be a good thing."*

*"Affordable city centre housing. Please please please STOP filling the city with overpriced student accommodation."*

*"The area around Stanley St, Nursery St should be prioritised for housing to support families and professionals."*

*"Homes- not student homes - to bring more people to live in the city"*

*"Affordable council housing?"*

*"Why not social housing?"*

*"Possible brown field use for affordable housing."*

*"I think it should become a residential area. Shops are going to keep closing with internet shopping growing further, so the shops in the area should be encouraged to move up to High Street/Fargate and the area be designated for housing."*

*"No student housing. Family homes, libraries, and services"*

*"More affordable housing...Not just 'gentrification' and hipster living as at Kelham"*

*"Housing (not student), mixed housing for long term invested residents to create a neighbourhood."*

*"Inner city affordable 4-6 storey max housing for rent not profit."*

*"Residential accommodation to make this a mixed use space instead of separating the residential and commercial parts of life."*

*"I am keen on developments that encourage new apartment buildings for families. This area with a park would make it much more appealing to consider to live with kids."*

Many people voiced their concerns about the **antisocial behaviour** present in Castlegate and the need to improve safety on the street, while caring for vulnerable people:

*"I work in the area and it can still feel unsafe and intimidating at times, especially after dark. The area has improved immensely over the past few years but the local community groups, Police and Council still need to work together more to help the vulnerable, disadvantaged people in the area."*

*"Those areas are also very run down and don't feel like safe spaces."*

*"It would be nice to feel safe to walk around here without fear of crime."*

*"The area feels somewhat unsafe and is currently very uninviting to visitors."*

*"Making it a safer place to go as there are areas there that feel very uninviting or [un]safe to venture into."*

More generally a large number of people **welcomed regeneration** of Castlegate and are enthusiastic about the future:

*"I would like to see the whole area redeveloped, there are some beautiful buildings which have been allowed to be vacant for too long and should be included in any redevelopment of the area."*

*"Yes, bring it back to life!"*

*"The whole area needs a thorough clean up of the buildings - it should be an area to be proud to show off to visitors but currently it is a bit of a dump."*

*"The area needs a good revamp. Looking very tired and neglected hopefully this will bring more people and with it more quality retail outlets."*

*"Hopefully this plan can begin the regeneration of the site and it can become somewhere that is welcoming and attractive both for local people and for tourists."*

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In summary, the Castlegate Futures programme produced a large amount of rich feedback from a wide range of participants. These participants included established community groups, local initiatives, independent businesses and many individual members of the public. Feedback was collected on the SCC Concept Plan, the use and design of the future buildings for the Castle site and on the wider regeneration of Castlegate.

Castlegate Futures evidences the deep connection that the citizens of Sheffield have with Castlegate and their desire to see the area thrive once more through regeneration. Participants recognise the importance of Castlegate within the city and want to see it flourish through a focus on its distinctive heritage, creativity, social history and connection to nature. **The importance of Castlegate as a 'people's place' was stated again and again** - and that the future of Castlegate should be community-focussed, inclusive and welcoming to everyone.

The details of the key findings for the **LUF planning application**, due to be submitted in January 2022, are listed in the previous sections.

In summary, these fall into the following **four areas of focus**:

- an approach to the **development of Plots 1 & 2** that is **sensitive to their surroundings and integrated with the public realm** (see Recommendations 7, 9, 10, 11,13)
- a commitment to **designate Plot 4 for community facilities** and part of the **ground floor of Plots 1 & 2 identified for community/public use** (see Recommendations 2, 9, 11, 13)
- the inclusion of **urban furniture and servicing** for a **diverse range of activities to animate the site and support local culture and creativity** - in consultation with local groups who can facilitate these activities in the future (see Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 6, 8)
- a holistic approach to site planting and the river to **nurture biodiversity** and **encourage safe and active interaction** between people and the natural environment (see Recommendation 3)

Beyond the immediate points that are pertinent to the planning application the Castlegate Futures programme elicited a large amount of feedback on the **development of the building plots on the Castle site and wider regeneration of Castlegate.**

In summary, this feedback had the following **six areas of focus:**

- the need for **further collaborative and transparent co-production** with community/civic stakeholders and the local 'pioneers' to ensure that future development is **capitalising on local expertise, innovation and creativity**
- an emphasis on **developing democratic and transparent partnerships** with local community groups and social enterprises to embed **grass-roots stewardship, maintenance and resilience of the public realm and community facilities**
- **a careful balance** needs to be sought between community, institutional, public, private use and ownership of the spaces and buildings on the Castle site and in Castlegate, in order to ensure that the area continues to be an **inclusive and welcoming 'people's place' and to avoid gentrification**
- a focus on the important role that Castlegate can play in **opening up active travel routes across the city centre** and the value this connectivity will bring to people's health and wellbeing, economic development and place identity
- the desire to see Castlegate develop as a **vibrant, diverse and inclusive neighbourhood** with affordable housing, a strong cultural offer, local independent retail - that **values its existing heritage, community and ecological assets** - and is **animated via a creative and distinct approach to heritage, public art and events/meanwhile use**
- a determination to instil **environmental sustainability** across the planning, design and operation of all future development on the Castle site and the wider Castlegate area, including **meeting zero-carbon targets and prioritising ecological regeneration**

# APPENDIX A

## CASTLEGATE FUTURES URBAN ROOM WORKSHOPS: SPEAKERS & CURATORS

### ARTS, HERITAGE & PLACEMAKING:

Curated by Claire Tymon, Local

### Speakers:

Cora Glasser & David Ball, Glassball  
Nathan Geering, Rationale Method  
Martin Gorman, Friends of Sheffield Castle

### OUTDOOR CITY:

Curated by Simon Ogden,  
Sheaf and Porter Rivers Trust

### Speakers:

Neil Ellis, Skateboard GB  
Paul Gaskell, Wild Trout Trust  
Phil Jones, Sheffield Canoe Club  
Gracie Martin, Urban Boulder Park

### FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS:

Curated by Emre Akbil and Tom Moore,  
University of Sheffield School of Architecture

### Speakers:

Amber Beare, Sheffield City Council  
Rob Cotterell, SADACCA  
Nathan Geering, Rationale Method  
Martin Gorman, Friends of Sheffield Castle  
Colin Havard, Sheffield City Council  
Mike Thompson, Ritetrax/Plot 22  
Brendon Wittram, Rivers Stewardship Trust



# APPENDIX B

## LEVELLING UP OBJECTIVES

The recommendations developed in the co-production workshops and included in this report relate to the objectives of relevant funding and policy frameworks as illustrated in the icons below. This ensures that the recommendations meet both SCC's objectives for the Gateway to Sheffield project and create opportunities for future funding.



**improve quality of life via connection to nature**



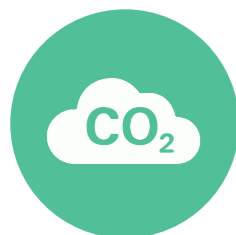
**better connectivity and equitable access to culture & learning**



**create jobs & build investor confidence**



**create a sense of place**



**improve the natural environment and advance the net zero carbon agenda**



**deliver cultural anchors of national significance**



**create education, skills and training opportunities**



**regenerate heritage assets and brownfield sites**



**encourage active travel**



**create a sense of community**

# SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

# UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



green space,  
community gardens,  
watercourses



develop skilled green  
workforce to achieve  
net zero targets



strengthen resilience  
to climate related  
hazards



enhance inclusive &  
sustainable urbanisation



design & manage  
environment to  
'design out crime'



strengthening local  
entrepreneurial  
eco-systems



public, private & civil  
society partnerships  
building on local  
experience



reduce degradation  
of natural habitats &  
biodiversity



impactful  
volunteering/ social  
action to develop  
social capital



outreach  
programmes for local  
art, culture &  
heritage



diversification,  
technological upgrading  
and innovation



access to safe, inclusive  
& accessible green/  
public spaces



civil society and  
community  
infrastructure



support existing  
local cultural &  
heritage  
institutions



promote sustainable  
tourism creating jobs  
& promoting culture



safeguard cultural and  
natural heritage

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