

STOCKPORT

The place
that makes itself



An emergent cultural strategy 2022-25



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Where makers dream
and dreamers make.

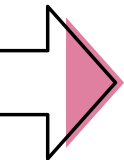
STOCKPORT

The place
that makes itself





We will be the place in the north where makers dream and dreamers make.



We want as many people as possible to enjoy what's made here, to dream and make themselves.

Stockport is a town centre, rural and suburban villages, old estates, new estates and countryside.

We are connected by paths, canals, roads, broadband, rail lines an international airport, parks, squares and public spaces.

We are stitched together by local groups for the visual arts, music, reading, by theatre groups, writers' circles, our community arts companies, professional and semi professional outfits, schools, colleges, start ups, studios, incubator units, shops, restaurants and food outlets, independent cinemas and theatres, local authority museums, galleries and libraries.

We watch, read and play at home, we are makers, artists, entrepreneurs and activists.

We are families who have been here forever and people who have just arrived.

Our history is change.

We are 289,000 people and growing.

What Is It?



We are a new partnership committed to dreaming up and making good things.

The Place That Makes Itself has been developed by a group of artists, makers, cultural and community organisations working as Culture Stockport who are passionate about Stockport.

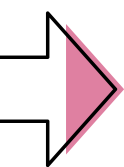
It presents our first thoughts on what we want to achieve as the cultural and creative sector over the next 3 years (2022 - 2025) in partnership with Stockport Council.

We want Culture Stockport through The Place That Makes Itself, to be a movement through which anybody interested in Stockport - individuals, organisations and businesses - can work together to:

- Make sure cultural and creative businesses and enterprises thrive
- Connect our communities through culture and creativity
- Promote health and wellbeing through culture and creativity



Why We're Doing It

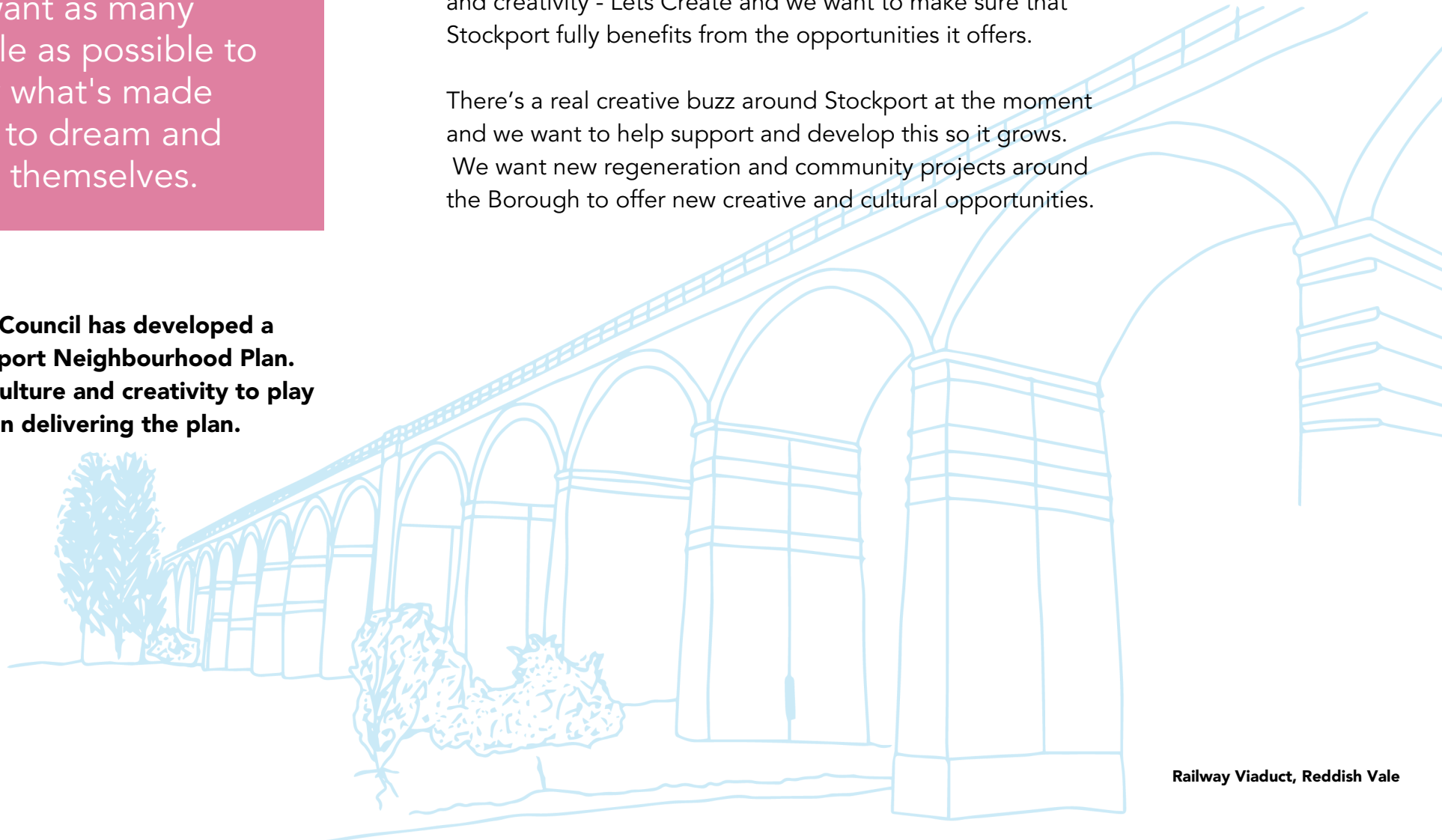


We want as many people as possible to enjoy what's made here, to dream and make themselves.

Stockport Council has developed a One Stockport Neighbourhood Plan. We want culture and creativity to play a big role in delivering the plan.

The Arts Council has developed a new strategy for culture and creativity - Lets Create and we want to make sure that Stockport fully benefits from the opportunities it offers.

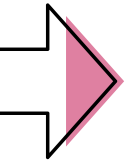
There's a real creative buzz around Stockport at the moment and we want to help support and develop this so it grows. We want new regeneration and community projects around the Borough to offer new creative and cultural opportunities.



Railway Viaduct, Reddish Vale



Who Is It For?



The Place That Makes Itself is not just about Stockport Town Centre.

Its about supporting culture and creativity taking place in all our neighbourhoods and spaces throughout the Borough.

We're not being prescriptive about what's cultural and creative. If you or your organisation want to be part of the movement, you can be.

It's not just about established organisations and businesses, we want artists, makers, clubs and groups of all types to get involved.





Supporting Stockport **Cultural Business**

Where makers dream and dreamers make.



What We Want to Achieve

Back people and ideas

We want to make sure that people working in the creative and cultural sector know each other and what funding, support and opportunities are available to them.

We want to make sure that individuals and organisations in Stockport benefit from funding opportunities in the cultural and creative sector.

We want people to know about possible careers in the creative and cultural sector in Stockport and beyond and what professional and development opportunities are open to them.

We want to make sure that individuals and businesses can find suitable space in the Borough to make and share their work.



The More We Make

The more we make in Stockport, the more we buy, pay for and enjoy in Stockport, the more people who come to Stockport to see and take part in what we do here, the greater our contribution will be to the local retail, night time and leisure economies.

A dynamic, ambitious cultural sector in Stockport will lead to a thriving, productive economy, create opportunities for people to develop, to progress in traditional cultural and new digital industries, and to learn the adaptive life skills needed in any job.

Where makers dream and dreamers make.

How We Plan to Do It



Share the blueprint

The Council will direct capacity to support the delivery of this cultural strategy and to respond to requests for assistance and support from the creative and cultural sector.

We'll continue to develop our Culture Stockport network of individuals and organisations to keep the sector informed of opportunities and promote collaboration.

As Culture Stockport, we'll seek funding that creates opportunities for artists and makers to create new work and a lasting legacy throughout the Borough.

We'll build our knowledge of spaces available in Stockport for the cultural and creative sector and work to fill gaps in provision.

Priorities for 2022/23

- Piloting The Place That Makes Itself creative commissions for artists and makers
- Participation in GM Creative Improvement District pilot
- Identification of how we can use Council spaces (e.g. War Memorial Art Gallery) to better support the local creative and cultural economy
- Alignment of Council resources to support the cultural/creative economy and promotion of the support available

Longer Term Projects

- Working with voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors to develop ways that people can volunteer in the cultural sector and to help organisations find volunteers.
- Development of a small grants scheme for match funding, pop ups and small scale projects by artists, makers and producers in Stockport.



Measuring Success



Indicators

We'll use 2022/23 to understand where we currently are in terms of:

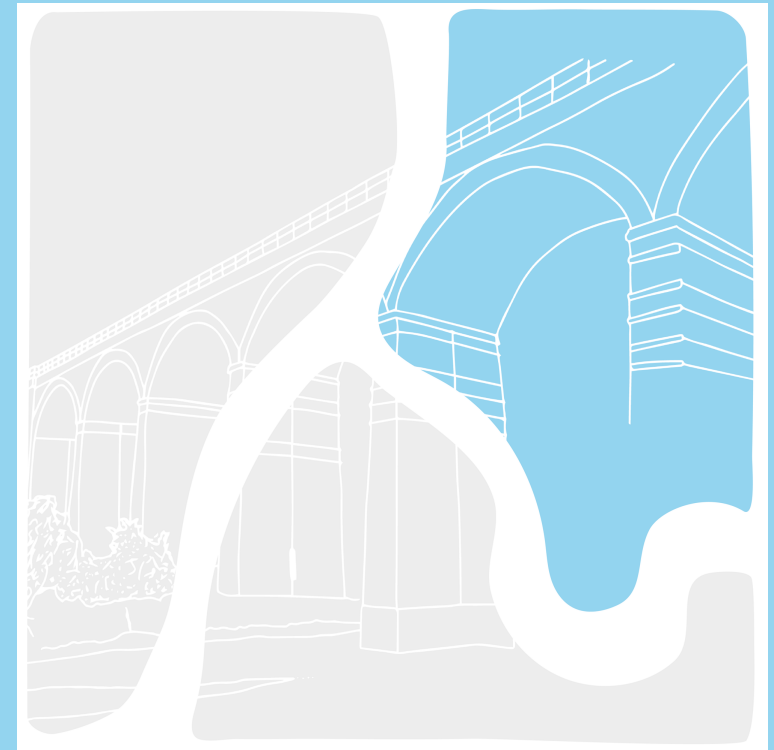
- Inward investment in the cultural and creative economy
- Utilisation of cultural and creative assets in the Borough
- Level of volunteering in the cultural and creative sector in the Borough
- The size of the cultural and creative sector in Stockport
- The amount of cultural and creative workspace in the Borough



Measures

We'll measure our performance against these indicators in 2023/24 and 2024/5. This will help us to see whether our strategy and actions are working.

We'll supplement quantitative information with case studies of success.





Culture Connecting Our Communities

Where makers dream and dreamers make.



What We Want to Achieve

Keep an open door

By working together we want to make sure that everyone in Stockport, everyone coming here will be able to express and enjoy creativity whoever you are and wherever you are in your life.

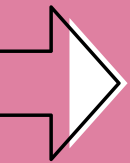
We want to create a local culture that suits and celebrates local people, stories, spaces and places and reflects Stockport's connections with people and places elsewhere in the world.

We want people to know what is going on in Stockport and for them to be able to tell us what they'd like to happen.





How We Plan to Do It



Put us in the window

We'll talk to people who do not attend or take part in cultural and creative activity and find out what's stopping them.

We'll ask people what kind of cultural and creative activities they would like to see in Stockport.

We'll improve physical and digital access to objects held in Stockport's archives and museum collections.

We'll work with Stockport BID, the Council and other local organisations to make sure that culture is used to animate local spaces.

We'll work with schools and young people's organisations to develop a cultural and creative offer focused on them.

We'll develop a mechanism for letting people know about cultural and creative events, activities and opportunities.

Priorities for 2022/23

- Submit Town of Culture bid for 2023/4
- Stockport Museums & Collections Forward Plan/Engagement Strategy
- Engagement to inform cultural and creative offer in Stockroom
- Development and delivery of Town Centre events plan
- Ongoing development Stockport Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP)

Longer Term Projects

- Building the capacity of the network to develop bids for events and activities to connect communities through culture and creativity.



Measuring Success



Indicators

We'll use 2022/23 to understand where we currently are in terms of:

- Levels of engagement with culture in different parts of the Borough
- Engagement with Council cultural venues
- Engagement with private, voluntary and independent cultural venues in the Borough
- Participation in cultural events in the town centre and district centres



Measures

We'll measure our performance against these indicators in 2023/24 and 2024/5. This will help us to see whether our strategy and actions are working.

We'll supplement quantitative information with case studies of success.





Culture Promoting Health & Wellbeing

Where makers dream and dreamers make.



What We Want to Achieve

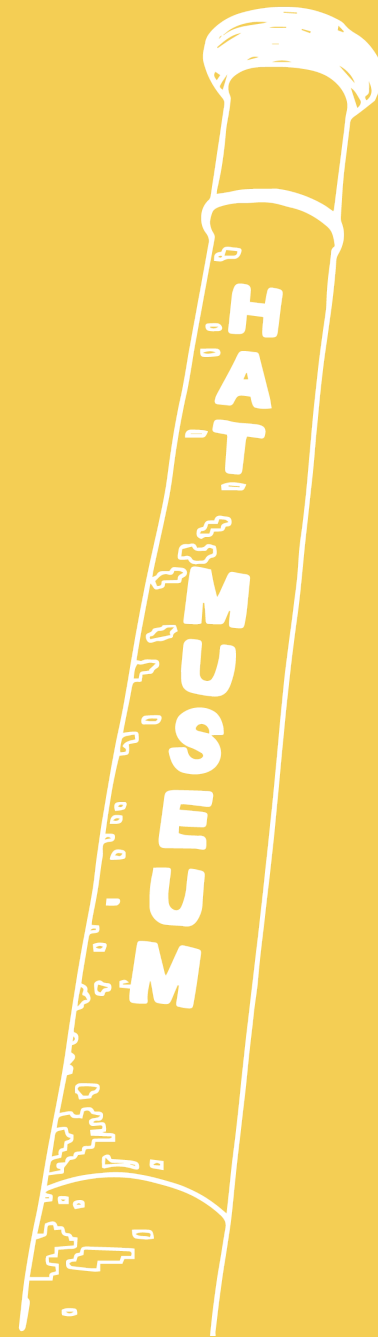


Take Care

We want to be the place where making and taking part in our culture is the first way people think of to get and stay well.

We want to make sure that all elements of local plans are informed about what arts in health can do and that people know who based in their locality can deliver.

We want to establish a hub for Arts in Health which informs work throughout the Borough and brings in best practice from elsewhere.





our History is Change

As a cultured community we know and look out for each other.

Stockport led the way with arts on prescription,
because we know that people being creative,
making, taking part in and enjoying culture
lead healthier lives,
the arts improve health and aid recovery.

Whatever your age, we want you to be able to
tell your story, put yourself in the picture,
to make your own thing,
to explore old and discover new ways of sharing,
to take part, develop skills, or enjoy the work of others.

Where makers dream and dreamers make.

How We Plan to Do It



Stitch, link, weld

We'll establish a network for artists and activists involved in arts and health to develop programmes responding to specific local needs across the Borough.

We'll build on the success of the Stockport Culture Champions programme with a comprehensive plan to ensure opportunities to engage in culture for people of all ages.

We'll create a professional development plan for the Borough covering training, mentoring, volunteering opportunities to grow and refresh our arts in health workforce.

Priorities for 2022/23

- Development of an Arts & Health Network
- Creation of an Arts & Health Hub at Hat Works
- Delivery of an Arts & Health Week in 2022

Longer Term Projects

- Campaigning for health & social care professionals to embed arts and health practices and social prescribing in statutory commissioning.
- Making sure the social prescriber in every Stockport GP surgery knows what the arts in Stockport has available to them and every cultural organisation knows who the prescriber is for each surgery.



Measuring Success



Indicators

We'll use 2022/23 to understand where we currently are in terms of:

- The size and reach of our arts and health network in the Borough
- Inward investment in arts and health interventions
- Participation in arts and health programmes



Measures

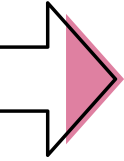
We'll measure our performance against these indicators in 2023/24 and 2024/5. This will help us to see whether our strategy and actions are working.

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How Will We Deliver It?

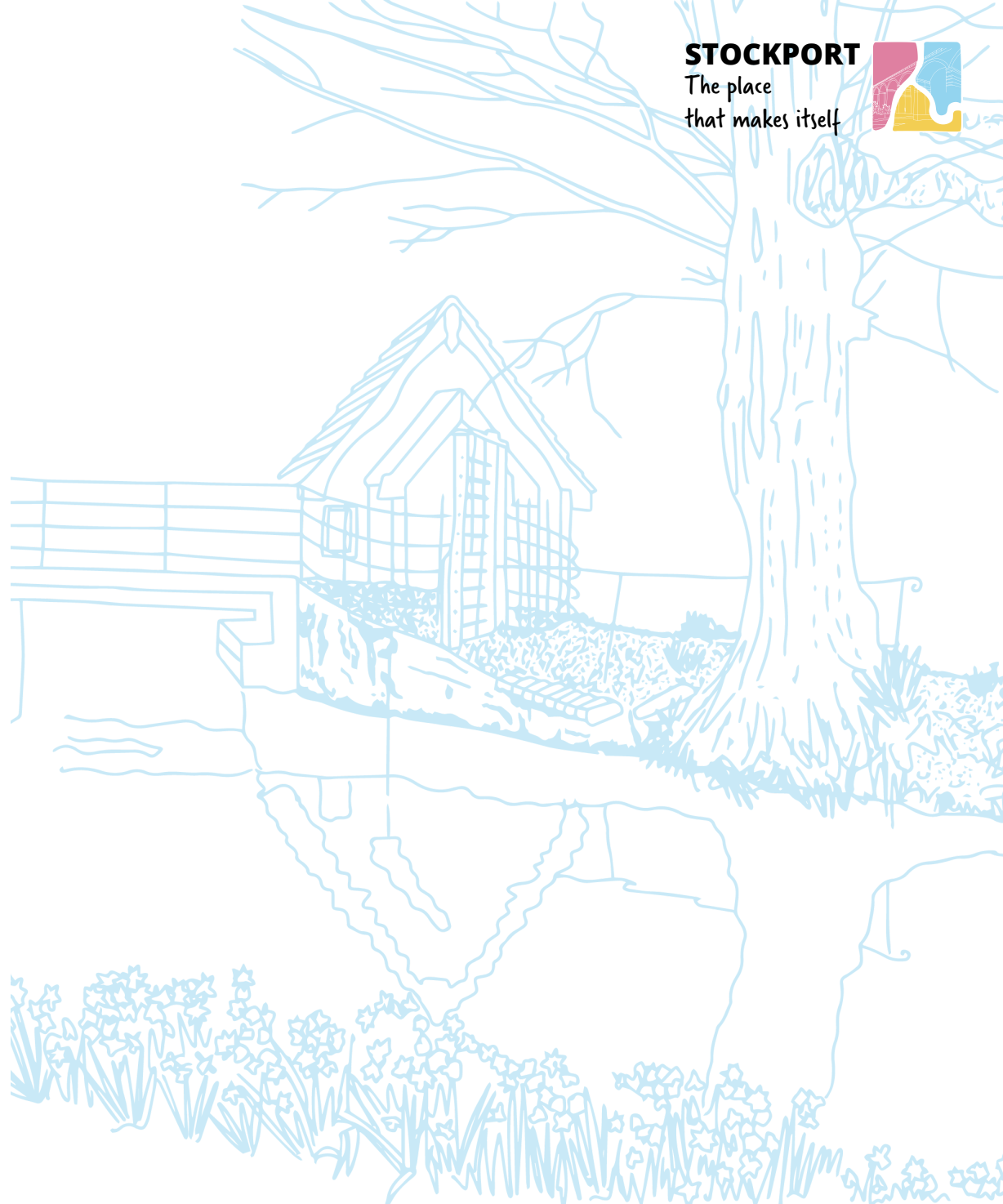


We want to grow the network of people involved in Culture Stockport.

This will enable us to increase capacity to deliver projects and the range of skills and ideas we have to drive The Place That Makes Itself forward and to raise awareness of the movement.

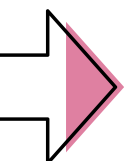
The Council will realign resources in its Culture & Leisure Team and beyond to fully support Culture Stockport in the delivery of The Place That Makes Itself.

We will develop a strategy to secure external grant funding to resource our longer term aspirations and new projects.





How Can You Help Us?



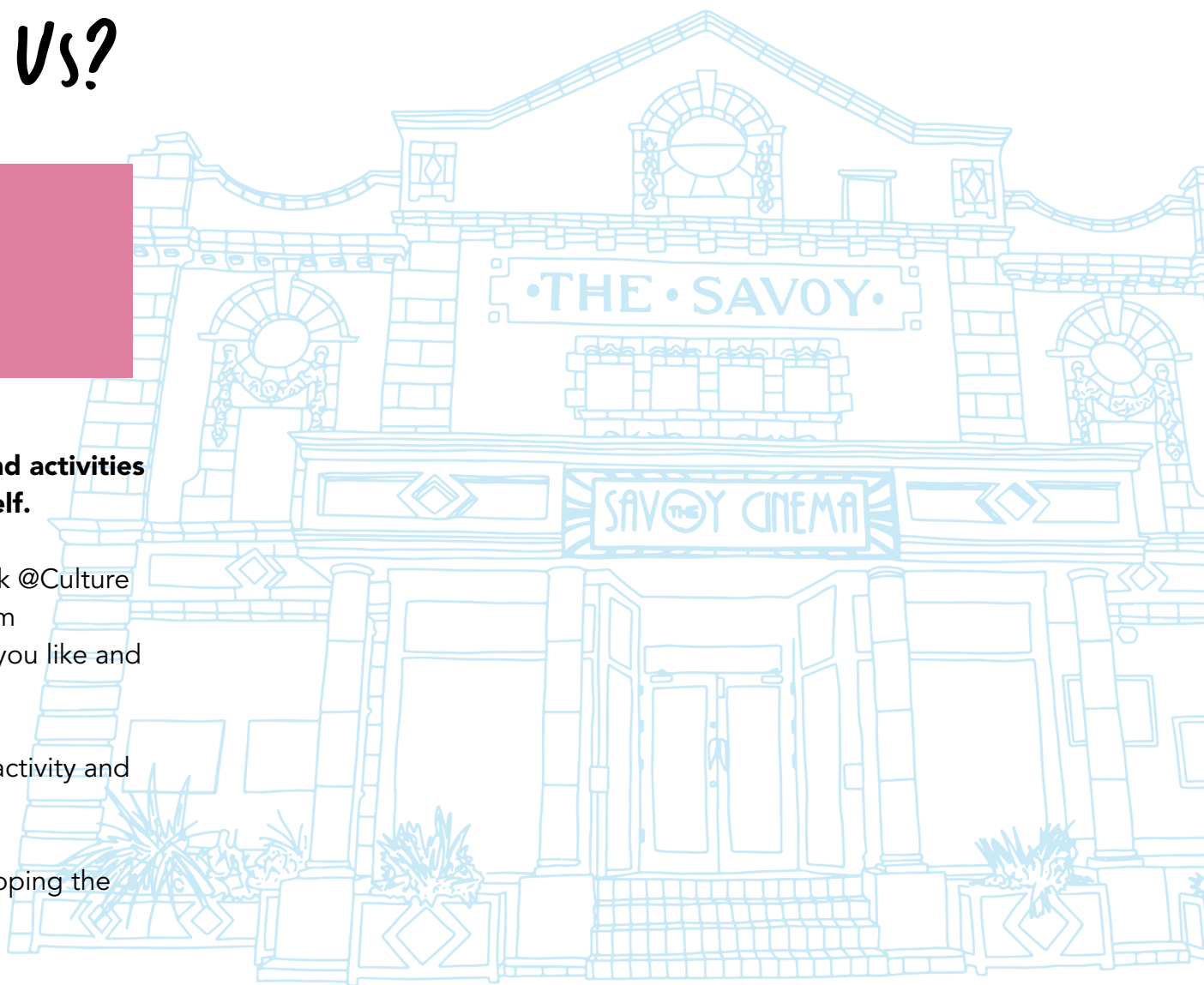
Tell us what you think of
The Place That Makes Itself
so far.

**Give us ideas for other projects, initiatives and activities
you'd like to see in The Place That Makes Itself.**

Join our Culture Stockport network on Facebook @Culture Stockport, Twitter @CultureStockprt or Instagram @CultureStockport – you can be as involved as you like and your other commitments permit.

Provide data to help us establish a baseline on activity and participation.

Keep contributing ideas and thoughts on developing the strategy – no closing date.





What Happens Next?



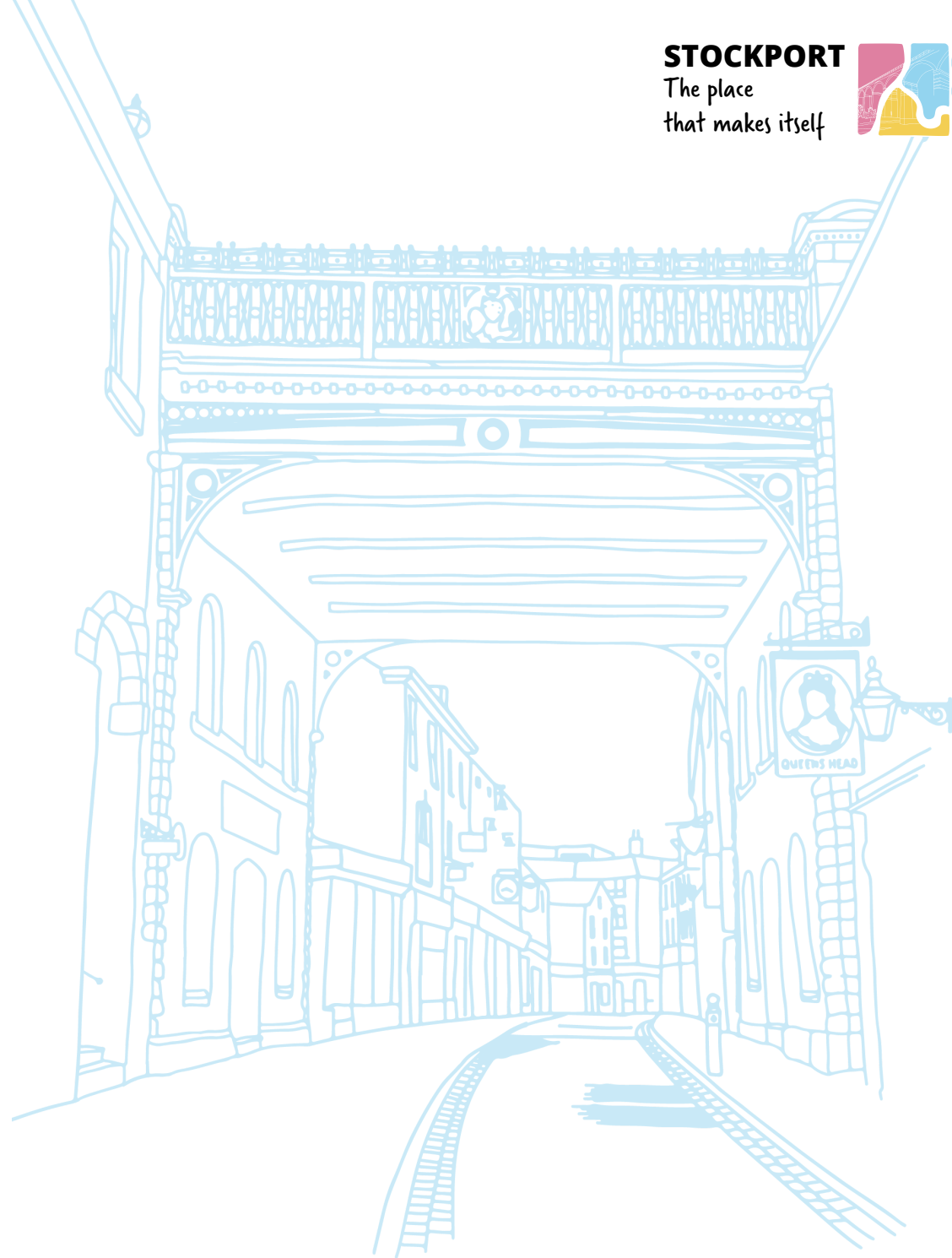
We'll incorporate your thoughts and suggestions into our next version of the strategy which will be a live document online at www.culturestockport.com

We'll use The Place That Makes Itself to advocate for investment in culture and creativity in Stockport and for cultural and creative opportunities to be embedded in community and regeneration projects throughout the Borough.

We'll work with partners to deliver the priority projects identified for 2022/23.

We'll keep you updated on opportunities for involvement and sharing ideas through our Culture Stockport network.

We'll do a formal refresh and review of the strategy this time next year.





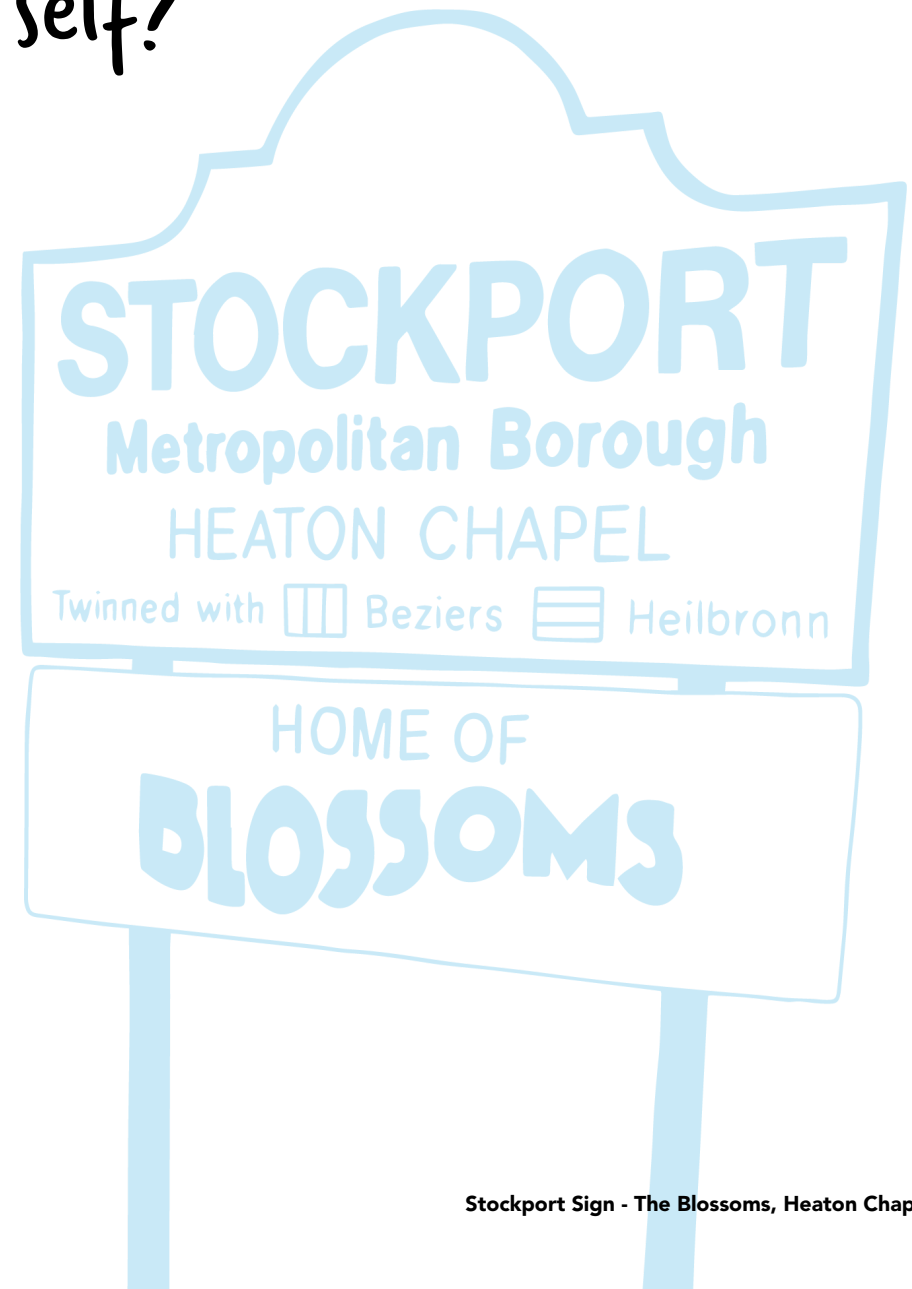
Why The Place That Makes Itself?



We have a proud heritage of making throughout Stockport Borough.

Our strong voluntary and community arts sector knows that if we want to make things happen, we need to make those things happen ourselves.

We like it!



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Now dream and make yourself