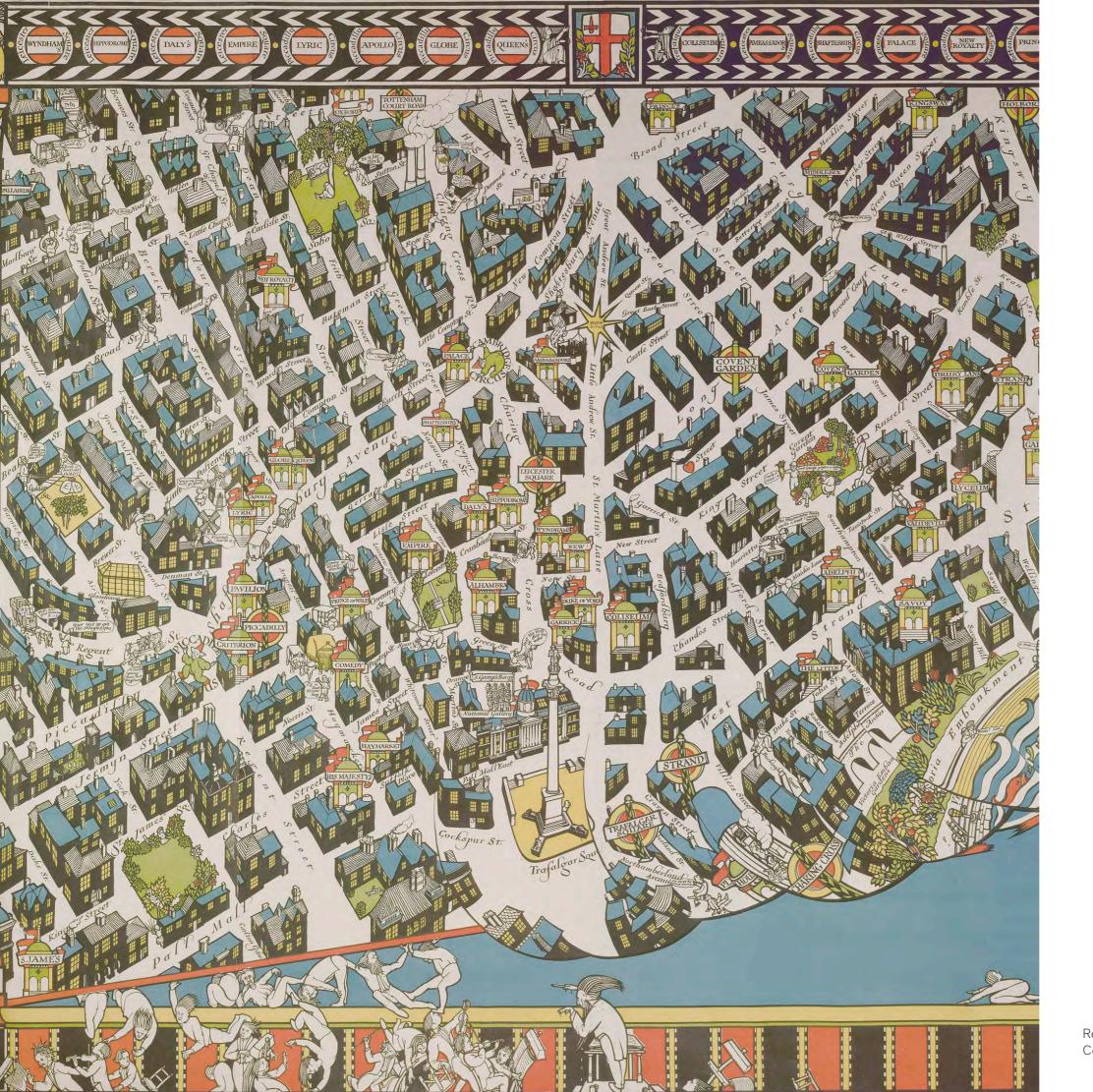


# THE HAYMARKET ENGAGEMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



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# Chapter 1 Context

# **1.1** Executive Summary

The world is changing at pace. Increasingly interconnected, complex challenges that span all aspects of society and our environment means that we need to give fresh thought to how we plan, design and manage our places, with engagement and collaboration at the heart of the process. Aligned with our commitment to working with and listening to diverse voices and perspectives to create the most inclusive and welcoming places, we are delighted to publish this engagement report. It brings together the outcomes of our engagement work and outlines the beginnings of our ambitions for the Haymarket area of the West End as we look to help shape its next evolution.

### About The Crown Estate

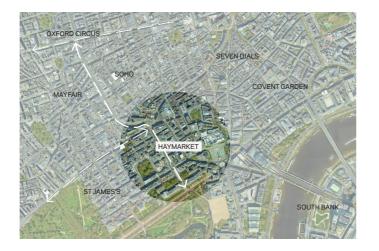
The Crown Estate is a significant national landowner tasked with creating broad financial, environmental and social value for the nation, both for now and for the long term. Our portfolio is noted for its heritage, scale and diversity – not least in London where we are one of the West End's largest landowners, with buildings across Regent Street and St James's, including the area around Haymarket and St James's Market.

We are bringing forward a vision for our London estate that seeks to support London's renewal; ensuring it remains locally relevant and globally distinctive. One of the ways we are doing this is by revitalising our buildings and the spaces around them, as well as responding to wider objectives across sustainability, accessibility, and inclusivity. This allows us to deliver on our purpose to create lasting and shared prosperity for the nation.

### What is a District?

We think there is an opportunity to look at our places differently. As part of this approach, we are considering how we bring together our buildings and the spaces in between them with existing heritage and cultural institutions - through investment and activation - to create 'Districts'. This collaborative approach aims to create places that are greater than the sum of their parts. These areas will look beyond a 'building-by-building' approach and instead will be curated place-based experiences, created through a deliberate and, thoughtful use of buildings and space.

The first 'District' that we are considering is the area between Haymarket and Regent Street St James's, which stretches from Coventry Street to Pall Mall, and includes St James's Market and Charles II Street. The area, which is currently dominated by a four-lane carriageway, lies at the centre of one of London's most iconic cultural and theatrical neighbourhoods and has the potential to connect and draw people together. This gives us an opportunity to transform the Haymarket area from a transitory environment to a prosperous and sustainable cultural destination that connects and supports the best of London's entertainment, culture and workplaces. A key part of the 'District' approach is working together with the community, Westminster City Council, TfL, nearby landowners and businesses, our neighbours and customers to help inform the future of these areas.



### **Our Insights & Engagement**

Since March 2023, we have hosted a series of engagement activities to share and introduce our 'District' approach for Haymarket to local stakeholders. The engagement activities included online surveys, on-street interviews, in-person events and workshops with our customers, community representatives, nearby landowners and businesses.

This report brings together the outcomes of this insights work and engagement, which will help to shape the future public realm designs for the Haymarket District.

### **District Plan Themes and Ambition**

Informed by this engagement and community insights process, The District Plan for Haymarket sets out our ambition that will guide the area's evolution for years to come. Building on Haymarket's history and heritage and implementing a strategy that encompasses the themes below, Haymarket can become a vibrant cultural ecosystem that fosters creativity, community engagement, and appreciation. The aim is for these key themes to inform the area's basic character and to inspire a future Haymarket that is loved by locals and both national and international visitors.



**Culture:** Build on the existing network of cultural spaces to create a new and adventurous proposal.

Food: Celebrate the history of St James's Market and build on the sustainable dining, local produce and street markets.

Fashion: Showcase the emergence of new ways of producing garments, conscious buying and fashion events.

### Ambition

To transform the Haymarket area from a transitory environment to **a prosperous cultural destination** that **connects and supports** the best of London's **entertainment, culture and workplace.** 

### Partnership with Westminster City Council

Westminster City Council and The Crown Estate are working together to develop a long-term vision for the design of the public realm along and around Regent Street, which includes the full length of Regent Street from All Soul's Church to Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street St. James's and Waterloo Place. In the summer of 2023, The Crown Estate and Westminster City Council undertook extensive engagement with the community and stakeholders to understand the priorities of those who use, visit and enjoy Regent Street.

Our engagement on the Haymarket District to date has been independent from the Future of Regent Street Public Realm project. However, given the obvious synergies between both projects, there is an opportunity to now align the objectives and priorities of the Haymarket District programme with Regent Street – particularly in terms of public realm, transport and future investment.

We are working in partnership with Westminster City Council and our key stakeholders, partners, landowners and communities across the area and will be undertaking further engagement and consultation during 2024.

# **1.2** Haymarket Today

### A Collection of Characters

The Haymarket area lies at the centre of London's most renowned, distinct, and iconic cultural and theatrical neighbourhoods. It has continued to evolve over the years, with new places to eat, drink, shop, and work.

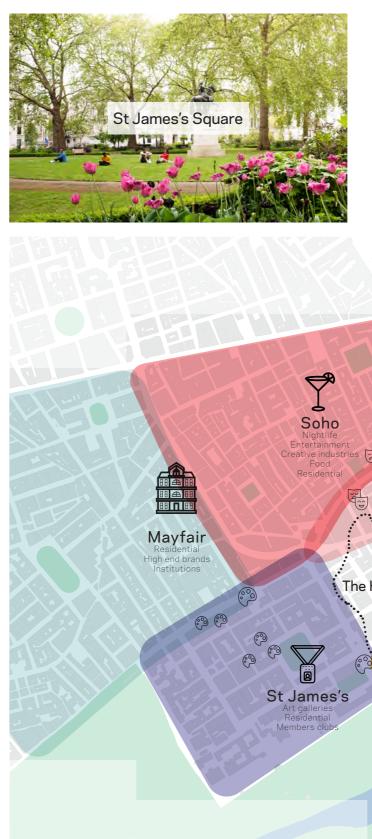
To the west, Mayfair and St James boast high- end brands, art galleries, and institutions. To the north, Soho and Chinatown entice visitors with their distinctive entertainment and food offerings. To the south, Whitehall and the Strand are characterized by more formal institutions and government offices, while Covent Garden to the east offers a mix of entertainment, food, and shopping.

Haymarket sits at the heart of these distinct neighbourhoods. With its historic theatres and entertainment options, it currently serves as an extension of the uses around Leicester Square and the Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) Arts Quarter. However, despite its central location, the area seems to lack a distinctive character and compelling reason for people to visit and stay.

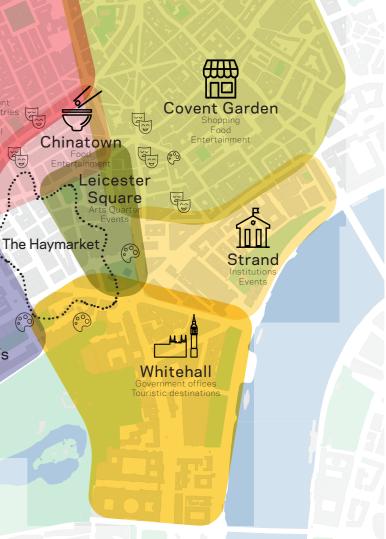














Across the Haymarket area, there exists a finegrained pattern of land uses at street level. This encompasses world-class institutions, a wide range of entertainment venues, a large selection of specialist and high-street retail, flagship stores, and a wide range of restaurants and bars that enliven the neighbourhood.

Along the frontages of Regent Street St. James's and Haymarket, highly activated, carefully designed, and curated retail shopfronts, as well as active theatre entrances, can be found. St. James's Market and Royal Opera Arcade provide the opportunity for permeable F&B frontages and spill-out spaces, creating a lively and activated public realm.

On buildings' upper floors, commercial activity is by far the most prevalent use. Waterloo Place and Jermyn Street consist of mostly office entrances to these upper floor uses, with more window front advertising and opaque fenestration to provide privacy to offices and conceal ancillary uses.

Alongside the uses mentioned above, residential areas remain, including a density of residences along the area's border with Soho, as well as pockets near St James's Park and throughout St James's and Mayfair.





APOLLO

GLOBE

LYRIC

Home to several worldrenowned theatres, making Haymarket a place filled with theatre-goers

# TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC REALM

An artery and thoroughfare that segregate spaces and public realm, and discourage pedestrian activity



# PRIME OFFICES

A range of world class office space, currently confined on upper levels

# GROUND LEVEL ACTIVATION

A demand for greater diversity of uses and users, and a range of affordability



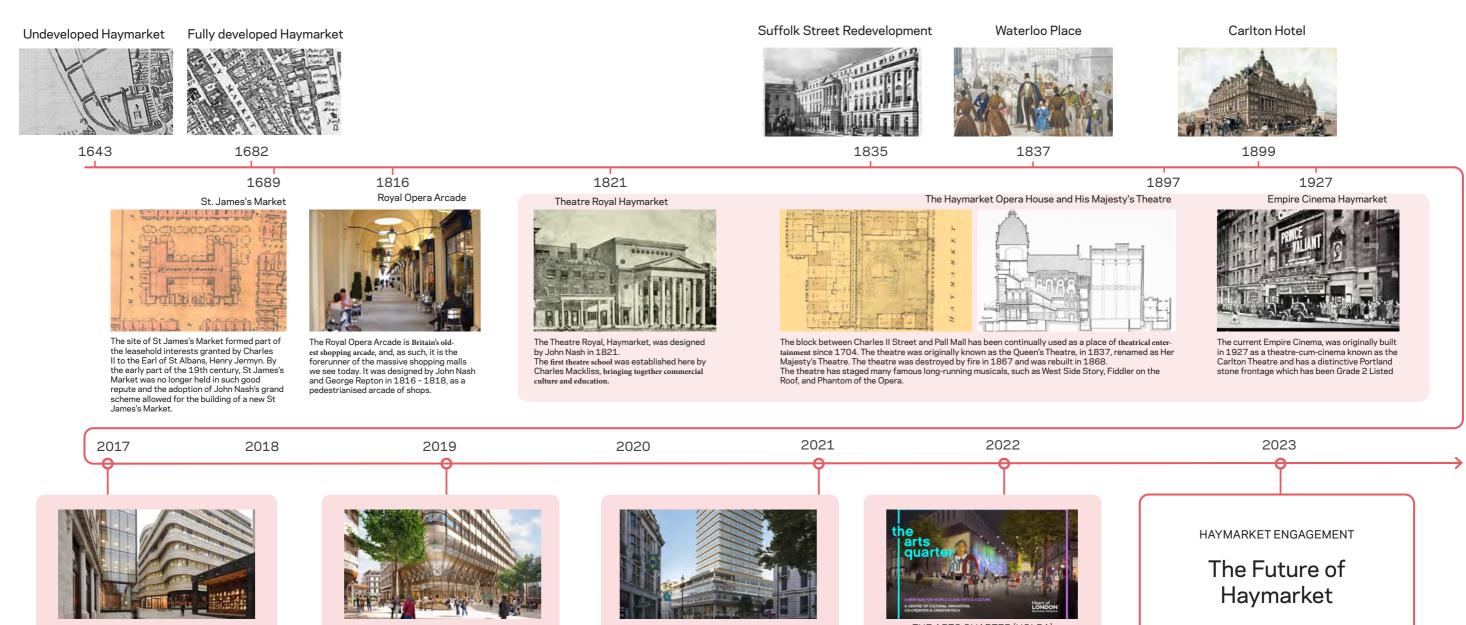
# **1.3** The Journey so Far

Haymarket has a fascinating history that dates back centuries, showcasing its evolution from a bustling market square to a renowned destination for theatre, entertainment, and vibrant urban life.

The Haymarket estate was originally acquired by Henry VIII in the 1530s and 1540s. The close vicinity to the mews, which became the Royal stables, led to the formation of a market for hay and straw thus giving 'Haymarket' its name. After an act of 1662, tolls were charged on every load of hay and straw and the money raised was used for the paving and repair of the Haymarket.

Theatres have always been the beating heart of Haymarket, making it a melting pot of diverse culture, entertainment and commerce.

From its theatres to the emerging Arts Quarter, the area around Haymarket has a rich history that has continued to evolve its offer for people and businesses. Building on the area's character, we have an opportunity to continue Haymarket's story, creating new opportunities that bring together cultural institutions with new investment and enhances the public realm.



ST JAMES'S MARKET PHASE I (COMPLETED)

ST JAMES'S MARKET PHASE II (CONSENTED)



THE ARTS QUARTER [HOLBA] Reference: https://westend2027.com/wp-content/ uploads/2023/04/ARTS-QUARTER-STRATEGY.pdf

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# Chapter 2 Insights

# **2.1** Early Insights

### Overview

A series of insights studies have been undertaken in the Haymarket area, by the Crown Estate or its partners such as HOLBA, providing key information including:



### Demographic, spend and transaction data

In Spring 2023, The Crown Estate researched demographic, spend and transaction data which resulted in the following insights.



### **Collision Data**

The Crown Estate researched collision data occurred in the 6-year period 2017-2022, split by level of severity.



### Visitor Footfall and Pedestrian Flow (HOLBA visitor insights report)

HOLBA's Visitor Insights Report provides key insights and information about visitor footfall, profile, and behaviour, enabling us to gain knowledge of how people use the area.



### Healthy Streets Assessment

The Healthy Streets Approach is a human-centred framework for embedding public health in transport, public realm and planning.

We have carried out a Healthy Street assessment for each of the key streets in the study area which analyses people's experiences and the key observations for Haymarket and Charles II street are in the adjacent table.

These studies and others we commission enable us to gain a deeper understanding of the area and make informed design decisions.

### Outcomes

A summary of the insights has been outlined below.

# Demographic, spend, and transaction data

- Majority of visitors only visit once in a month
- Visitors tend to be younger than the UK average
- Attracts a range of ages, predominantly from 25-54 years old.
- Attracts a slightly higher proportion of male to female visitors than the UK average
- Attracts people who have either low or high range spending power but less in the moderate category



### **Collision Data**

- The highest absolute number of total collisions in the district (serious and fatal) are recorded on Haymarket and Waterloo Place\*
- The area is unsafe with 5 serious collisions on the junction of Haymarket and Charles II Street in 2022 alone\*

## **Visitor Footfall and Pedestrian Flow**

- Weekly footfall trend: generally lower early in the week, rising towards the weekend, and dropping on Sundays.
- Haymarket exception: experiences a consistent peak from Wednesday to Friday, declining on Saturday.
- Monthly visitor patterns: consistent hourly patterns, with lunchtime and afternoon peaks, especially notable on Jermyn St.



The Healthy Streets scores acquired for Haymarket and Charles II St are relatively low and highlight room for improvement. Haymarket (score: 60/100) Charles II St (score: 53/100)

### Key Assets

- Heritage properties
- Wide street with grand architecture
- Direct route between Piccadilly Circus and the Mall
- Direct links to Leicester Square and Trafalgar Square
- Major attractions
- Access to bus routes

 Wide areas of carriageway encouraging high vehicle

Key issues

- speed and restricting east/ west permeability Significant number of
- collisions Congested footways on the
- west No greenery or resting
- spaces
- Character dominated by motorised traffic

### Key Assets

- High quality Heritage properties
- Long views of Theatre Royal and St James's Square
- Direct route between Haymarket and Regent Street St James's
- Northern access point to the Royal Opera Arcade

### Key issues

- Wide carriageway
- Large Bus Stand dominating south of street
- Footway widths reduced to 2m in some places
- No greenery or resting spaces
- Barrier between St James's Market and the Royal Opera Arcade
- Traffic use as shortcut between Haymarket and Regent St

# Care

# Chapter 3 Engagement

# **3.1** Engagement Approach

### Purpose

A key part of the District approach is working together with the community, our stakeholders, neighbours and customers to help inform the future of these areas and their priorities.

This section outlines the extensive engagement The Crown Estate has conducted as we begin to seek early views and thoughts of our key stakeholders on what they value most about the area and how we can make better use of the streets and spaces. This feedback will then begin to shape the public realm design over the months ahead.





engagement opportunities with key stakeholders across the community



To share, introduce and explain the District Strategy and the 'Haymarket District' with key audiences across the community

500

Online survey

responses

Over 130

participants

across events and workshops

120

Street interviews

in Haymarket and North

Westminster



To involve stakeholders early in the development of plans for the Haymarket area



To gather early feedback and ideas to shape the future of the Haymarket area



Key groups reached including local businesses, Westminster City Council teams, HOLBA Arts Members and internal staff

### Methodology

In Spring 2023, The Crown Estate researched the perceptions and user experiences of the Haymarket area. Early engagement surrounding the future of the Haymarket area included the following in person and online activities:

### In-person and online research

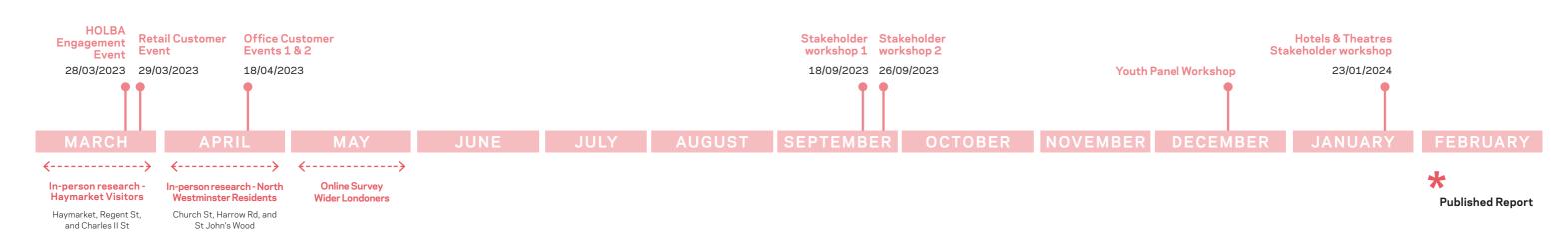
We researched local priorities and perceptions about the area. This included:

- Haymarket visitors on-street survey
- North Westminster residents on-street survey
- Wider Londoners online survey

### **Events and workshops**

To introduce and explain to key stakeholders, nearby business owners, and customers the District Strategy and allow them to share their thoughts on the future of the Haymarket area. This included:

- One retail customer and two office customer events
- One HOLBA engagement event including an online survey
- Three in-person stakeholder workshops
- Youth Panel workshop





In-person and online research



Stakeholder workshops and events



Youth panel workshop

# **3.2** In-person and Online Research

### **Overview**

In Spring 2023, The Crown Estate researched the perceptions and user experiences of the Haymarket area through:

- Haymarket visitors on-street survey
- North Westminster residents on-street survey
- Londoners online survey

### Methodology

### Haymarket visitors on-street survey

What 3 days of intercepts and observations speaking to 20 respondents per day

Those walking on either Haymarket, Who Regent Street or Charles II street

> Aimed for a mix of demographics and reasons for visiting the area

Observe natural interactions with Why the area and explore in the moment reactions and reasons behind visiting. exploring opportunities to boost appeal, dwell time and likelihood to visit

### North Westminster residents on-street survey



Who

Why

What 3 days of intercepts and observations speaking to 20 respondents per day

> Residents of North Westminster, coverina:

- Church Street
- Harrow Road
- St John's Wood

Explore go-to destinations in London amongst residents of North Westminster, understanding how Haymarket fits into this and any barriers to visiting to uncover opportunities for developing the area

### Londoners online survey



What A 10 minute online survey covering the following flow:

- Screener & profiling
- Existing attitudes & perceptions of Haymarket
- Existing behaviours participants exhibit towards Haymarket
- How could Haymarket attract people into the area more?
- 500 Adults aged 18+ living in . . London
- Sample is weighted to be representative of gender, age and population of each of London's boroughs



Who

To better understand Londoners' perspective of the Haymarket area and the ways in which Haymarket could attract them to the area

### Outcomes

### Haymarket Area Visitor

A summary of feedback has been outlined below.

Haymarket primarily visited by theatre goers and those seeking a quiet spot - lack of food, drink and seating means dwell time short



" I've been shopping on Regent Street and just needed to get away from the crowds for a bit so thought I'd have a walk down here."





"Could do with a bit of seating down here - I just want to put my feet up for a bit, maybe have a coffee and a cake. There's nowhere to do that."



Opportunity to create more of a destination for this passing footfall to maximise dwell time and spend - offer more casual food, drink and seating



"Some of the restaurants on this road feel so expensive, I mean it's just filled with business men so it must be.

from a local shop."



"I would definitely have a nice chill, look at the plants, and watch the world go by, ideally with some nice food bought





Implement green spaces to further cement calm feel, create more cohesion and play to the Crown Estate's associated strengths



"It all just feels a little bit confused to me, walking down this bit is completely different to that bit over there, there's nothing to tell me I'm in Haymarket, nothing really distinct."



"This is one of the only calm places to come around here, so if they can make it prettier with some nice plants and flowers, it'll be lovely!"



### North Westminster residents

A summary of feedback has been outlined below.

Haymarket regarded as cold, touristy and overpriced - few North Westminster residents see it as a destination

" To me, all of that area is just a tourist haven - it's all set up to target tourists. No Londoners are going there "



"Piccadilly Circus station is annoying to get to , and then by the time you're there you've got so many better options right there, like Soho."



"We've been to see a few shows there, but always in the week, never the weekend. It's a no-go area at weekends because of all the tourists."

# 02

Emulate local feel introduce more independents, **utilise empty** space for markets and bring the inside out more

" I want the kind of personal service where you walk in and you're greeted by the restaurant owner. I really don't feel you'd get that around there. It's all either too cheap or too pretentious and high end. "



"I'm not sure Haymarket really knows what it's doing. Ýou've got a few theatres and restaurants but then you've got clubs and then offices, it's all a bit confused"



"Market is literally in the name so surely a market makes most sense if they had a regular market I would 100% visit more."



Bring in more **entertainment** beyond theatres to drive appeal amongst families and younger demographic

"We normally have to head quite far out for stuff to do, so if they had more activities around there I'd definitely be tempted."



"Haymarket is just the theatre district. I've gone to a play in the past there but I don't stick around long when it finishes"



" I love going anywhere the kids can play or learn we love going to museums and galleries when they have the interactive installations on."



### Londoners online survey

A summary of feedback synthesising the data from the online survey is outlined below.

### Perception - Familiarity, appeal and association

 Londoners are less familiar with the Haymarket area than nearby areas such as Covent Garden, with only 70% of respondents being acquainted with the Haymarket area.

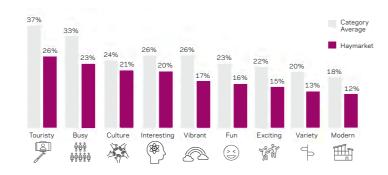


 The Haymarket area also has the lowest appeal rating (73%) compared to other locations, with respondents visiting the Haymarket area less frequently (2.3 times annually) with less reasons for visiting (73%) compared to other central London areas. Visitors are more likely to visit the Haymarket area for its theatres (12%) and art galleries (17%) compared to other areas.



 The demographic tends to skew towards older individuals. Those who find the area unappealing cite a lack of interest or perceive it to be too expensive, possibly due to a general lack of knowledge about the area and its attractions.

 Haymarket was associated with tourists (touristy) 26%), busyness (23%) and culture (21%), but lagged behind the category average suggesting a lack of awareness

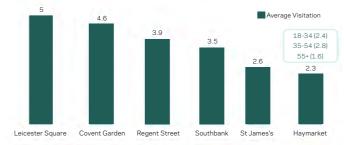


 When activities were ranked against each other based on location. Haymarket was above the category average for theatres only (27%)



### Behaviour - Frequency, reasons for visiting, and experience

 Haymarket is the least visited location, with Londoners on average visiting twice a year. Haymarket was most visited by 35 to 54 year olds.



Frequency of visitation to areas of London in the last 12 months

- Overall, respondents who visited Haymarket tended to like it or love it, a very small proportion claimed they didn't like their visit
- Haymarket had the lowest proportion of people 'liking it' or 'loving it' when compared to other London destinations



### How can people be drawn to the area?



Haymarket primarily visited by theatre goers and those seeking a quiet spot - lack of food, drink and seating means dwell time short



" I've been shopping on Regent Street and just needed to get away from the crowds for a bit so thought I'd have a walk down here."

Opportunity to create more of a destination for this passing footfall to maximise dwell time and spend - offer more casual food, drink and seating



 The primary reasons for visiting Haymarket were eating and shopping. However, it surpassed the category average for theatre and gallery visits.









Implement green spaces to further cement calm feel, create more cohesion



" It all just feels a little bit confused to me, walking down this bit is completely different to that bit over there, there's nothing to tell me I'm in Haymarket, nothing really distinct."

# **3.3** Events and Workshops

### **Overview**

Our design development process has been informed by feedback and input from community representatives, customers, nearby businesses and landowners, and young people, across a series of events and workshops from March 2023 - January 2024. We have also held a range of separate conversations with the above, as well as well as Westminster Council, Transport for London (TfL), and others.

Our engagement with our customers and stakeholders is ongoing and we will keep them updated as our District Plan vision develops.



across events and workshops



7 online survey forms completed



customers, nearby businesses and landowners and young people

☆

8 events and workshops held

including a youth panel

### Outcome

Throughout this series of events and workshops, have collected feedback and input people from different backgrounds, professions, and user relationship to the Haymarket area. During these sessions, participants not only described what they liked and disliked, but suggested ideas for the future of the area that are important to them. The table below reflects what we have heard and is a consensus of the most prevalent themes.

### Methodology



HOLBA Engagement Event 21 attendees

- A virtual presentation followed by a O&A and feedback session
- An online survey was then issued following the event

Office Customer Events 1 & 2

An in-person presentation followed

An online survey was then issued to

Attendees were asked to share what

they felt would make Haymarket a

by a Q&A and feedback session

customers following the event

18 attendees



### Retail Customer Event

80 attendees

- An in-person presentation followed by a Q&A and feedback session
- An online survey was then issued to customers following the event
- Attendees were asked to share what they felt would make Haymarket a great destination

### Stakeholder Workshops 1 & 2

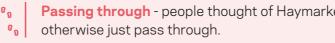
10 attendees across local organisations

- AccessAble, HOLBA, Westminster Society, Westminster City Council, Westminster Healthy Streets, New West End Company, Institute of Directors, London Chinese Community Centre, 2-3 Degrees
- An in-person presentation outlining our early thinking about the area's future
- Breaking out into groups and providing feedback in an interactive format

### Youth Panel Workshop

LO young people across Westminster

Online session where attendees were asked to provide feedback on the area



Signage & wayfinding - wide consensus on a need for improved signage and wayfinding



across the West End



future proposals



**Arrival experience** - could be improved in future plans



include commercial spaces, food stalls/pop-ups and pubs.

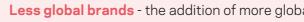


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cyclists, and potentially even dangerous

more attractive

regular events





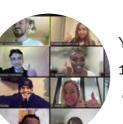
## Theatres and Hotels Stakeholder Workshops

great destination.

2 attendees representing His Majesty's Theatre and the Criterion Theatre

A discussion exploring cultural opportunities across the area





# 30

Passing through - people thought of Haymarket as place where people go for the theatre but

- Look and feel Lacking distinctive character or feel particularly in comparison to other areas
- Heritage and history that they would like to see Haymarket's history and heritage reflected in
- More affordable food and drink offerings to ensure the area is inclusive for all. This could
- Pedestrian and cycle friendly streets streets are too wide, unfriendly to pedestrians and
- More urban greening a desire to see more urban greening and street art to make the streets
- More to do a desire to see more cultural activations, including pop-ups and meanwhile uses,
- Less global brands the addition of more global brands, more tourist attractions was not desired



# Chapter 4 Ambitions and Priorities



# Engagement Feedback

Character and identity

Creating cohesion

A sense of community

A greener approach

Places to sit and soak in the atmosphere

Affordable pop up spaces and markets

Casual dining opportunities

Getting away from the crowds

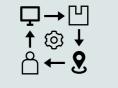
Enhanced connectivity

Places to dwell and relax

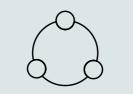
Interactive and immersive installations

Affordable entertainment

Build on the cultural institutions of Theatreland and St James's - celebrate performance, arts, and culture.



Enhance a resilient workplace ecology create a modern workplace campus in the heart of the West End



Establish a dynamic mix of activity — layer and mix uses to form a high density, high intensity destination.



Champion sustainability and urban greening amplify nature, a green landscape and shape the experience of place.

**Objectives** 

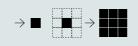
Celebrate the rich history - solidify Haymarket's prime position by bringing together the district and its unique context.



**Curate District experiences** - curate a 24-hour place with a unique blend of fashion, dining and cultural experiences.

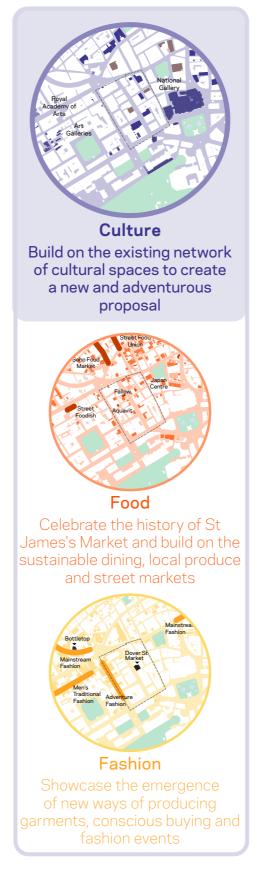


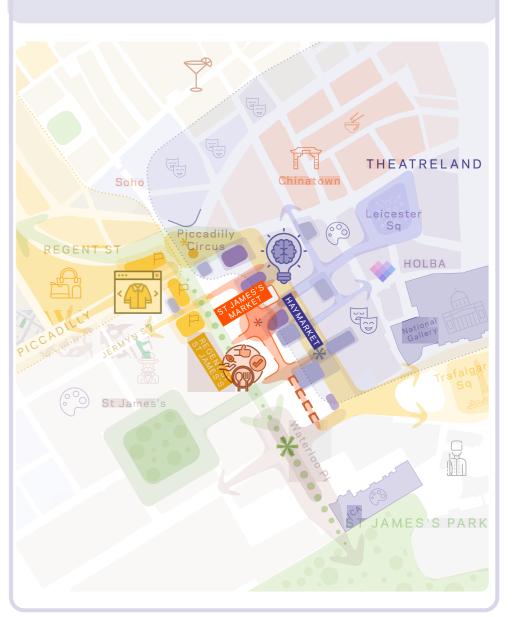
A cohesive public realm integrate the surrounding neighbourhoods and communities and prioritise people and active travel



Start from day one create interventions that plant the seed for long-term development.

# Themes





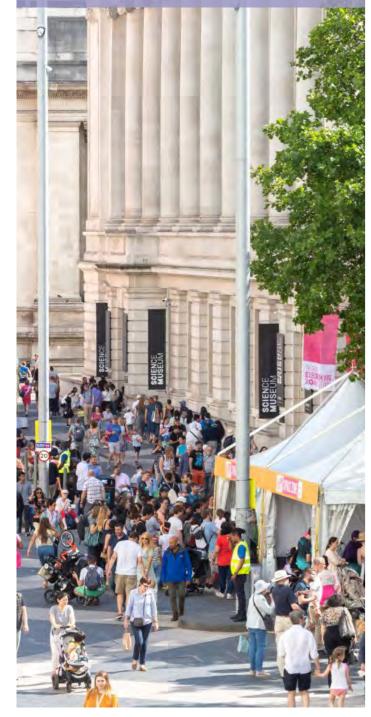
# Ambition

To transform the Haymarket area from a transitory environment to a prosperous cultural destination that connects and supports the best of London's entertainment, culture and workplace

# **4.2** How to achieve the ambition

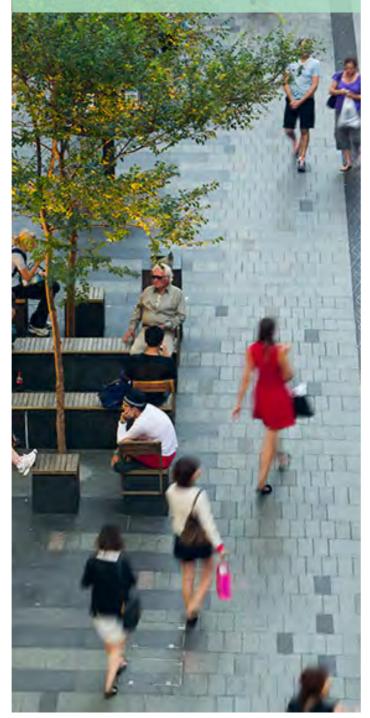
### CREATING A CULTURAL DESTINATION

Create a cultural ecosystem of spaces, activities and institutions, with closely knitted historic theatres



# MAKING CONNECTIONS

Turn streets into public spaces, to link parks & squares, and address the challenges of climate change and movement patterns



### BLENDING WORKPLACE & LIFESTYLE

Create a truly desirable & thriving environment that reflects on the wider city, which is inclusive of a broader community.



# **CURATING EXPERIENCES**

Establish mix of uses and activities that reflect the ever-changing economic drivers, lifestyle needs and respond to a range of users.



# **4.3** What's next?

### **Ongoing engagement**

Westminster City Council and The Crown Estate are working together as part of a combined Future of **Regent Street, Haymarket and Piccadilly Circus public realm programme** to develop a long-term vision for the design of the public space along and around Regent Street. This includes the full length of Regent Street from All Soul's Church to Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street St. James's and Waterloo Place, alongside Haymarket, Charles II Street and Pall Mall.

We will continue to engage with our key stakeholders, landowners, partners, and communities across the area as we continue to gather early ideas and feedback on our District Plan. Your input will help us shape what the future district will look like as we continue to understand more from everyone. We will seek to hold future events in the Haymarket area to pilot and test these ambitions and your priorities for its public realm, as established during the Regent Street engagement process. Each event will be used to actively engage residents, workers and visitors to encourage and invite different perspectives to foster a real sense of ownership in shaping the future design of the public realm for the area.

### Get in touch

If you have any comments or questions, please get in touch by emailing:

thehaymarketdistrict@londoncommunications.co.uk

