



## Residents urged to check their letterbox to help shape town investment

16 September 2024

Residents of St Ives and the surrounds are urged to take part in a survey going to 1500 households, should one drop through their letterbox this month.

The survey is the starting point of a national evaluation of the impact government grants have on towns, residents, businesses and visitors.

It will focus on the restoration of St Ives Theatre, home to the award-winning youth theatre company Kidz R Us, which has been awarded just under £1.5 million from the £19.9m secured by St Ives Town Deal in partnership with Cornwall Council.

Andrew Baragwanath, Chair of the St Ives Town Deal Board, said:

**“Understanding the real impact of government funded projects against what we aim to achieve is vital to our town’s future sustainability so I heartily encourage everyone who receives a survey to complete and return it on time.”**

The survey, which will be available online and in hardcopy, will go to 1500 households selected at random and may include face-to-face interviews in the town.

Residents are encouraged to take part while being vigilant of scams that can imitate legitimate communication. The survey will not ask for any banking information or payment.

Anthony Skitt, director at St Ives Theatre CIC, said: **“I look forward to us being part of such a high profile evaluation and I hope our beautiful theatre’s restoration contributes to a lasting legacy of community-driven grassroot investment in all our towns.”**

Work on the theatre is well under way and the transformed building is due to re-open with a new production in Easter 2025. Read more about the theatre’s Town Deal investment at [www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-theatre-regeneration](http://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-theatre-regeneration).

A further survey to identify the impact of the project and interviews with local stakeholders will take place at a later date.

ENDS

## **Notes to editors**

### **Further information about the survey**

The survey is being run by the government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The 20 case studies, of which St Ives Theatre is one, were chosen to ensure a range of project types and local area characteristics are included. The evaluation will take place over the next two years and is split into two parts:

- **process evaluation:** this seeks to understand how the funding processes have worked and how projects were ultimately delivered to generate lessons learned for future local growth funding programmes.
- **impact evaluation:** this seeks to estimate the extent to which selected outcomes (e.g., land use, employment, and business outcomes) have changed as a result of the Towns Fund programme.

A [Feasibility Report](#) provides further in-depth information on the evaluation.

For any media enquiries please contact [newsdesk@communities.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@communities.gov.uk)

### **About the UK Government Town Deals programme**

The Town Deals programme aims to regenerate towns and deliver long term economic and productivity growth. This is through investments in urban regeneration, digital and physical connectivity, skills, heritage and enterprise infrastructure. As of July 2021, DLUHC (now MHCLG) had offered Town Deals to all 101 places that submitted proposals, committing over £2.35bn of investment across c.700 projects nationwide. See the [press releases associated with Town Deals on gov.uk](#).

### **About the St Ives Town Deal**

In June 2021, St Ives secured a Town Deal of up to £19.9 million following the successful submission of its Town Investment Plan for a range of regeneration projects. For more information about St Ives Town Deal visit [www.stivestowndeal.org.uk](http://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk).

Cornwall is the only area invited by the government to submit proposals for four of its towns: Camborne, Penzance, St Ives and Truro. After conducting extensive public consultations, each Town Deal Board submitted their Town Investment Plan in collaboration with Cornwall Council.

As a result, the government announced in spring 2021, that Cornwall will receive up to £88.7 million from the Town Deal programme. Cornwall Council is the lead authority for the Town Deals in Cornwall. Cornwall Council supports the governance role of St Ives Town Deal Board and is responsible for administering the fund on behalf of the board.

For more information visit [www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economicdevelopment/towns-fund](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economicdevelopment/towns-fund).