

**Coast to  
Capital**

A large, thick, pink circular graphic that is open at the top and bottom, framing the central text.

**Transform  
Leatherhead**

## Project Summary

The purpose of the Transform Leatherhead project was to breathe life into what is known as the cultural quarter of Leatherhead's Town Centre. The area had become cluttered as street furniture, planters and trees had been installed on an ad hoc basis over the years leaving a disorganized area with little potential for public events. The area is home to the Leatherhead theatre, the museum and a mix of restaurants and retail outlets including some independent shops, all of which suffered from a lack of footfall and has led to some unoccupied spaces appearing.



The delivery body, Mole Valley District Council believed that having a main-anchor tenant, such as a well-known supermarket chain, along with a more appealing public realm would draw people into the area. This increase in footfall would increase spend in the area and therefore benefit the local economy.

The availability of additional parking was thought to also be an important aspect to allow for easy access to shops and restaurants. Parking was already available behind the main frontage of units as well as on-street general and disabled parking and any increase in spaces would benefit local businesses.

**£262,500 Local Growth Fund**

## Project Achievements

Coast to Capital awarded the project £262,500 of Local Growth Fund to this project. Match funding contribution totaled £689,186, which created a benefit cost ratio of 1:2.63. The funding award gave the project a much needed boost in confidence to stakeholders to commit to the works. Additional private sector funding in the region of £2 million was invested in the area as a direct result of the projects achievements.

The project refurbished 712 sqm of public realm space which included new paving, street furniture and trees, all arranged to allow for a flexible space that could be used for public events. In addition, the scheme resurfaced 0.76 km of road, created 22 new parking spaces and created or safeguarded 125 jobs. Lastly, 328 sqm of additional retail floor space and 132 sqm of additional residential space was created.

**712 sqm of public realm**  
**0.76 km of resurfaced road**  
**125 jobs**  
**328 sqm of retail space**  
**132 sqm of residential space**

### **Project Benefits**

All units in the area were occupied as a result of the scheme and the supermarket chain had reported a profitable new shop. Jobs associated to the project will support the local economy by having a catalyst effect on spend in local businesses which may create even more jobs.

The area has been used successfully for public events to celebrate Halloween, Christmas and Easter and this has contributed to creating a community feel where local residents and businesses have a space they feel proud of. The space directly outside of the theatre has also been used for filming a programme by the BBC.

The delivery body continue to explore additional work to Leatherhead Town Centre. The ambition being to continue the high quality look and feel created in the cultural quarter and further increase the appeal and positive economic impact. Plans for design and feasibility continue to progress.

