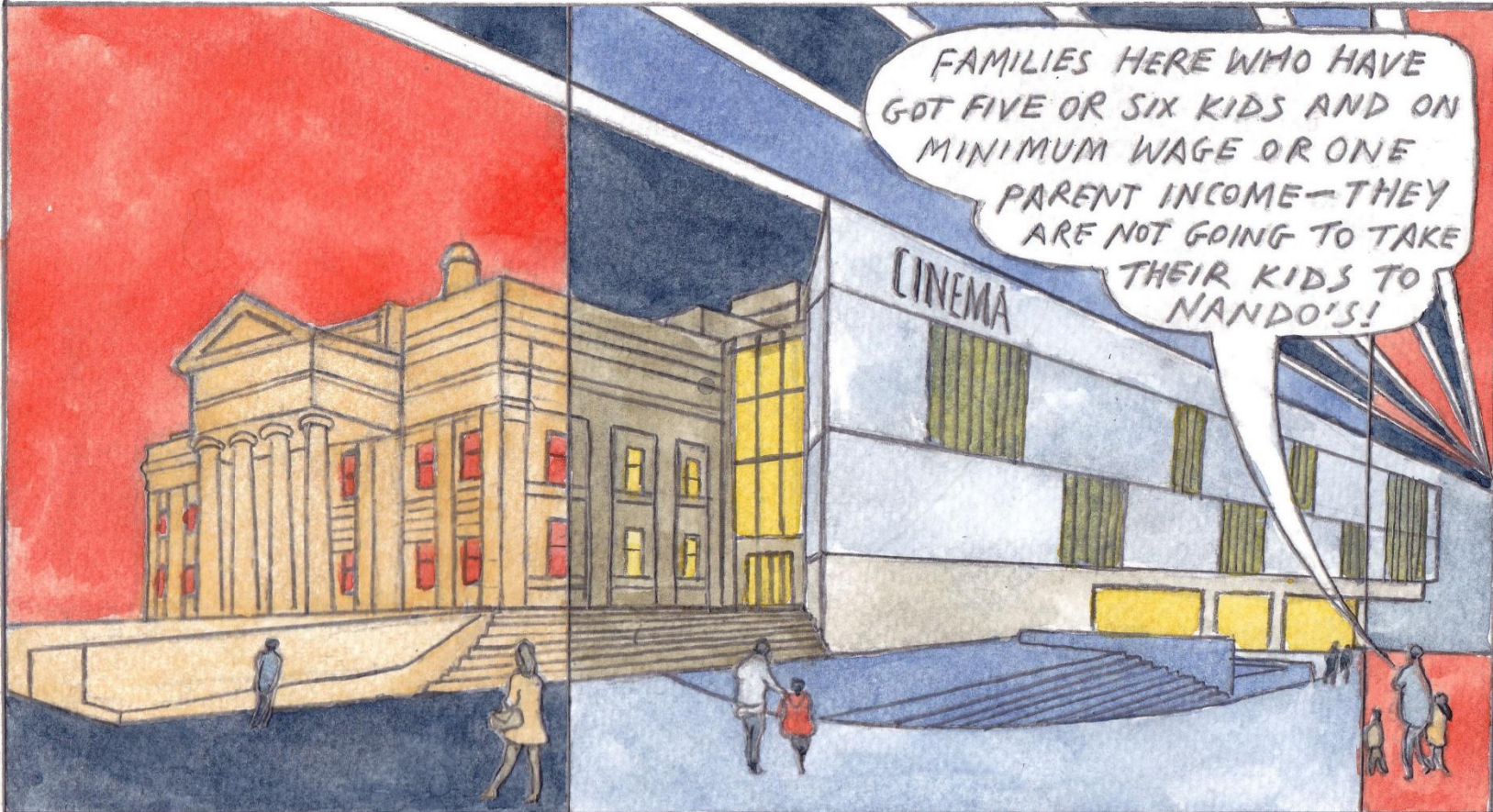


IT'S GREAT PUTTING UP CINEMAS AND NEW PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO... BUT INVEST IN PEOPLE!



FAMILIES HERE WHO HAVE GOT FIVE OR SIX KIDS AND ON MINIMUM WAGE OR ONE PARENT INCOME - THEY ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE THEIR KIDS TO NANDO'S!

NO MATTER HOW PRETTY OR MODERN THE TOWN CENTRE LOOKS YOU ONLY HAVE TO TAKE FIVE MINUTES WALK TO SEE THE POVERTY OUTSIDE. YOU CAN SEE THE DECLINE IN THE HOUSES AND THEN YOU GET INTO THE TOWN CENTRE AND IT LOOKS VERY NICE.



Oldham is in the midst of a programme of urban regeneration, most notably with the new cinema and town hall development. In 2018, the council announced plans for £350 million of investment in the town centre beyond the next decade, including new apartments, business space and retail and leisure facilities. While residents welcomed the regeneration of the town, they raised important issues about its limitations and its potential. They pointed to the high costs of building and using the new amenities. They called for an investment in 'people' as well as 'place', where improvements in the appearance of the town are matched by commitments to enhance the lives of those who have made a home there. Residents held concerns about the prevalence of low-wage work and the need to attract better-paid jobs. They also wanted regeneration efforts to engage residents, to bolster civic and social life, and for investment to extend beyond Oldham town centre. Delivering the types of regeneration people want will require the tackling of deep-seated inequalities, as well as offering more inclusive visions of who belongs and who counts in the town.

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