

**RESEARCH AND  
ENGAGEMENT TO  
DEVELOP 15-MINUTE  
NEIGHBOURHOODS IN  
WALTHAM FOREST**

# The Young Foundation's mission is to develop better-connected, stronger communities across the UK.

## WE UNDERSTAND

Working with local people, governments, businesses and policymakers, we develop original research to uncover insights, new evidence and data to support social innovation.

## WE INVOLVE

Actively involving people in research and innovation, we strengthen the relationships between communities and the organisations that influence their wellbeing.

## WE INNOVATE

Creating initiatives that involve people from diverse sectors, we support game changing ventures and incubate ground breaking organisations, working to shape a fairer future.

The Young Foundation is the UK's home for community research and social innovation. As a not-for-profit, The Young Foundation brings communities, organisations and policymakers together to shape a fairer future, driving positive change and supporting collective action to improve people's lives.

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## FOREWORD

# Helen Goulden, Chief Executive of The Young Foundation

These are difficult times. The global climate emergency, war in Ukraine, the bite of recession, and escalating cost-of-living and housing crises bring physical, logistical, practical and mental challenges. People are struggling.

“

*With true collaboration, people can shape the places they live and the services they use.*

”



Against this climate, it is vital that residents in UK communities have spaces and services on their doorstep that support them to engage with their neighbours, reach the amenities they need, and have ready access to the things they feel are important. These are not ‘nice-to-haves’; they can be lifelines.

Priorities have changed, however. In the wake of COVID-19, many of us are working from home, spending more time in our local area, using our corner shops and exploring our nearby green spaces. We use our town centres and high streets differently than we once did, adjusting how we travel, and how we access local facilities and services. Our neighbourhoods have become increasingly important.

This report shares insights from people in the east London borough of Waltham Forest, understanding how they’re engaging with facilities, services and amenities on their doorstep, and exploring the area’s unique characters, rich histories, and vibrant communities. The research asked people what is – and what should be – available to them within 15 minutes of their front door. And their responses will directly influence strategy, so the Council can help people living in Waltham Forest meet most of their everyday needs within a short walk, wheel or cycle of their home. It’s about creating neighbourhoods where life is within easy reach.

This ‘15-Minute Neighbourhood’ approach has huge potential in this borough, working to understand what residents need to live fulfilling and healthy lives. It is a true collaboration with residents, communities, and local stakeholders that looks to the future with confidence, and reflects a belief that people should have a say over the places they live in, and the services they use.

People across the borough took part in activities to inform and develop this report. Their needs are diverse, intertwined with their circumstances, and often multifaceted – and if

there is one standout learning from this process, it’s that there is no universal model: we cannot fit people around a neighbourhood; rather, neighbourhoods are shaped by and around the people that live there.

For example, one resident reflected that while services, such as easy access to a GP surgery, are essential, “if you only had those things, it would still feel quite empty as a place – because ultimately people want to have a neighbourhood that is a community”. This is at the heart of Waltham Forest’s new strategy, looking beyond existing assets to drive greater inclusion, access, and social connection to shape a fairer future for the borough.

The insights gathered here can inform transformation in Waltham Forest, creating better places and spaces that support positive experiences. This includes the regeneration of local sites, investment in projects such as a new lido, and more shared spaces and places for people to come together, including Soho Theatre, Fellowship Square, and Coronation Square. The ambition involves more mixed and affordable housing, more local facilities, and improved access to healthcare, wellbeing services, education and lifelong learning. Overall, the aim is to create a stronger sense of community and inclusion.

Of course, there is no quick fix to the urgent and escalating challenges people face – but by listening to residents and directing resources and support where they say it is most needed, we can significantly improve day-to-day experiences, and support communities in the long term. The Young Foundation has collaborated with people across the borough to create this report, and its resulting vision and framework. Sitting at the core of Waltham Forest Council’s new Corporate Framework, this deep understanding of what matters to local people will shape the borough to improve everyone’s lives, and create a fairer future for all.

# SECTION 1: A vision and framework for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest

Section 1 presents a unique vision and framework for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. Drawing directly on rich research and engagement with residents, it shares insights from across the borough, pinpointing what residents think is important for their neighbourhoods to have and provide, and highlighting their hopes for the future of their neighbourhood and the borough.



# Vision for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

My 15-Minute Neighbourhood has the things I need in my day-to-day life, and enables me to have good access to, benefit from and play a role in shaping what my neighbourhood has to offer to me and my community. It goes beyond the things I need most, and focuses on ensuring me and my neighbours feel safe, welcomed and valued, and that I have the opportunity to, alongside others, to take part in ways that work for me to make my community great now and in the future.

**How I experience my neighbourhood:**  
Ensuring residents have access to, can benefit from and play a role in shaping the things their neighbourhood should have, to improve quality of life.

**Things my neighbourhood should have:**  
The assets, infrastructure, services and facilitates that residents have identified as important to have in their neighbourhoods.

**Principles for the council and residents working together for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods across Waltham Forest:** Core principles for how the framework operates, including ensuring residents have the opportunity to play a role in shaping their neighbourhoods in ways that work for them.



Figure 1: A vision for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest

Figure 1 brings together the different components of a resident-led vision for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest: how the Council and residents should work together; the things residents have identified as important; and what residents say they need to ensure they can access and benefit from their neighbourhood. As Section 2 will detail, residents have identified that 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest should go beyond a model that looks at existing assets to drive greater inclusion, access and social connection for a fairer borough.

# A resident-led, data-rich framework

## USING THE FRAMEWORK

From the vision, The Young Foundation has worked closely with Waltham Forest Council to create an accompanying indicator framework, which draws on insight and data to build a picture of neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. This will support the Council to identify opportunities to help areas to become 15-Minute Neighbourhoods as defined by residents.<sup>1</sup>

This framework is intended as a starting point for Waltham Forest Council, providing factors and insights to consider in approaching 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Existing data provides an indication of specific neighbourhoods' current challenges and opportunities, but should be **considered alongside a strong, participatory approach to neighbourhood development**. Section 4 of the report provides recommendations for development and refinement.

In the first instance, the framework should be used to close the gaps between neighbourhoods and create a fairer borough, working closely with residents to explore how that should happen.

### LOCAL CONDITIONS

It is important to understand who lives in each neighbourhood, and identify the needs and challenges faced by every community. For example, neighbourhoods with older populations might have different transport needs, while neighbourhoods facing higher levels of income deprivation might need specific services. Understanding these local conditions gives context to differences in need, and how residents should be supported to benefit from their neighbourhood.

### THINGS MY NEIGHBOURHOOD SHOULD HAVE

Different things have been identified by residents as important for their 15-Minute Neighbourhood, requiring a range of indicators to help the council assess where change is needed. This includes indicators such as percentage of residents with access to a GP, or the existence of libraries and community centres as free spaces.

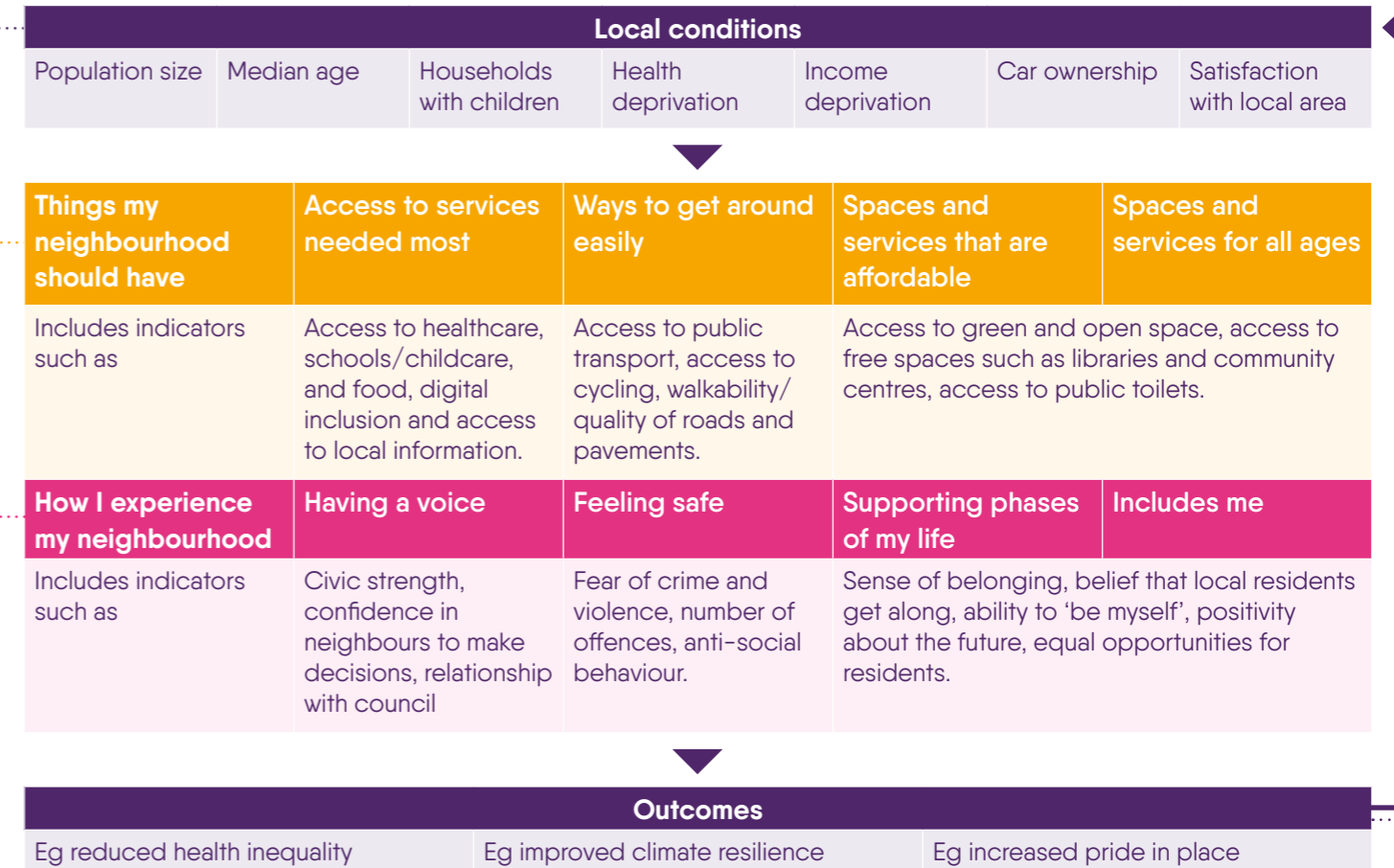


Figure 2: Indicator framework for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest

### HOW I EXPERIENCE MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

While it is important neighbourhoods have the amenities and services residents need most, working with residents to develop the vision and framework has highlighted the need to go beyond existing models for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. These have previously looked at existing assets in a place. Instead, in Waltham Forest, it's vital to consider whether residents' experiences act as an enabler or a barrier to accessing and benefiting from their neighbourhood.

### OUTCOMES

15-Minute Neighbourhoods should lead to important outcomes, such as reduced health inequality and improved climate resilience. Indicators such as levels of health deprivation or pollution measured over time will help the council understand where outcomes for residents in neighbourhoods are improving. When outcomes improve, local conditions might change, at which point, the process of using the indicator framework can restart, to identify new or different opportunities for the neighbourhood.

<sup>1</sup> A list of the datasets considered can be found in Annex C.

### HOW THE VISION AND FRAMEWORK WERE DEVELOPED

On behalf of Waltham Forest Council, The Young Foundation conducted a series of research and engagement activities to articulate a resident-led understanding of what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods mean in the context of Waltham Forest. This builds on existing research undertaken by Waltham Forest Council, including a borough-wide survey, completed by 1,287 residents. This focused on engagement with residents of five of the borough's housing estates, engagement with local voluntary community sector organisations through the Community Participation Network, and work with residents to develop Waltham Forest's Local Area Frameworks.

Following expressions of interest from 936 residents, The Young Foundation engaged more than 160 residents, local representatives, and locally-operating organisations, in face-to-face and online qualitative research. Activities were consciously designed to lower the barriers for participation. The research used participatory, creative and ethnographic approaches to gather rich insights about residents' day-to-day experiences, aspirations, and ideas. Several rounds of data analysis helped build a better understanding of local conditions and the particular challenges and opportunities of local communities and different places.

The vision and indicator framework responds to the needs and priorities highlighted by residents, building on the things they say are important to them. To move them forward and make them usable, The Young Foundation used a data analysis approach to bring existing datasets together into six easy-to-understand indicators. These indicators help to assess the assets and infrastructure currently available in Waltham Forest, and increase understanding of what that means for residents' experience of their neighbourhood today. They will also help identify gaps and opportunities a 15-Minute Neighbourhood model could fill to create a more inclusive and accessible borough.

Figure 3 demonstrates how The Young Foundation brought together this range of methods and approaches, to create both breadth and depth of understanding about what residents want and need from 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. This novel approach pushed the concept beyond typically data-driven, asset-focused working. All stages of the research were supported by ongoing input and guidance from an advisory group, with expertise spanning social infrastructure, urban development, community engagement, data, and health. Further details about the approach and methods used can be found in Annex A.

“  
*The [research] made me think about how I am living and the way we all live. It made me excited to imagine a future where we may actually live in an ideal 15-Minute Neighbourhood, because it is totally achievable.*  
 ”

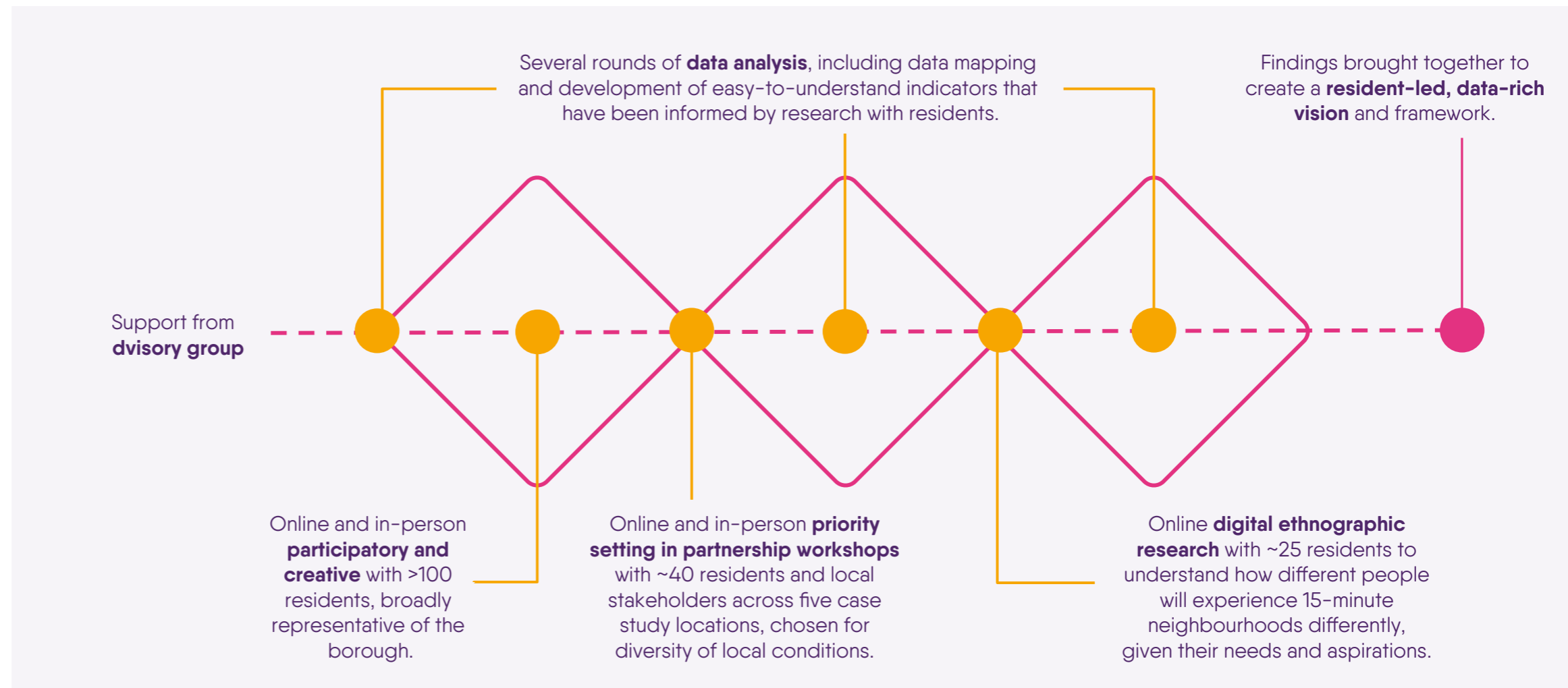


Figure 3: The different methods and approaches used to do the research

## SECTION 2: Findings from research and engagement with residents on 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

Section 2 summarises the findings from research and engagement The Young Foundation undertook with residents during Spring and Summer 2022. This research explored their experiences in Waltham Forest today, and sought to understand what is important when putting 15-Minute Neighbourhoods into practice. The research fed directly into the vision and framework presented in Section 1. More detail about the methods used, and further insights from the research and engagement can be found in Annexes A-C.





# What residents want from 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

Through qualitative online and in-person research with a representative sample of over 100 residents, The Young Foundation crowdsourced priorities for a 15-Minute Neighbourhood. Residents identified both **things a 15-Minute Neighbourhood should have** – such as essential services and green spaces – and the different **experiences a 15-Minute Neighbourhood should enable** – such as being able to participate in local decisions and feeling safer. Led by residents, The Young Foundation consolidated these into a list of priority statements for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest, that were explored and discussed collaboratively.



*“Be safe and welcoming”*

*“Mix of day and night economy”*

*“Easy access to green spaces”*

*“Cycle hire, cycle parking and bike lanes”*

*“Clean air and streets”*

*“A feeling of belonging”*

*“Promote equal access to technology”*

*“Create a feeling of community”*

*“Serve a diverse range of communities”*

*“Stress free travel”*

*“Encourage local businesses to thrive”*

*“Safe spaces for people of all ages”*

Figure 4: Examples of answers crowdsourced from more than 100 residents about priorities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest, to inform priority setting in partnership workshops.

Through a series of workshops with residents, local stakeholders and representatives from different neighbourhoods across the borough, eight priorities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest were agreed<sup>2</sup>. These have been divided into two categories: priorities for what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods **should have**; and priorities for what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods **should enable**.

Overall, there was a **strong theme of inclusion, safety and accessibility**. While personal benefits around wellbeing and convenience were frequently mentioned, insights across the various research approaches highlighted a strong sense of community that residents of Waltham Forest feel and would like to retain or enhance.

Other prominent themes emerged across the research and engagement with residents, including focus on improving health and wellbeing, supporting greater inclusion of those that might otherwise face exclusion, and building social connections within communities and places. Residents actively identified links between things they considered important and aspects, such as an improvements to the local economy and a better local environment, were discussed as important secondary outcomes and experiences for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in the borough.

“  
*Maybe having somewhere where it's easier for local businesses to get started, like providing [affordable spaces]. I like the idea of a council supporting that. So then we can buy local [and support our neighbourhood economy] as a downstream thing.*  
 ”

#### Resident priorities for what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods should have

It is essential that my 15-Minute Neighbourhood...

- ensures that I and others in the neighbourhood have good access to **essential services**, such as health and education.
- has services and public and community spaces that are **free to use** and access, so everyone gets to use them regardless of income.
- is **easy to get around** for everyone, including wheelchair users, older people and parents travelling with children.
- has activities, services, public spaces and adaptable housing options that are suitable for people **of all ages**.

#### Resident priorities for what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods should enable

My 15 minute neighbourhood should enable me to...

- **have a say**, together with others that live in the neighbourhood, in the decisions that are made about my neighbourhood.
- **feel safe** when I'm using the shops, services and public spaces in my neighbourhood.
- stay and spend time in my neighbourhood during **different phases of my life**, for example if I have children, when I get older, or if I have a change in employment.
- **feel welcomed** in my neighbourhood, including when I'm using its different shops, services and public spaces, regardless of which background or community I come from.

“  
*I feel like a lot of people know about the choices that they can make to live a healthier lifestyle. But then I feel like it kind of gets to [the priority about affordable options] that some people just can't afford it.*  
 ”

“  
*If you've got good transport links, having local fun things is less important. Because if you've got the good transport links, you can go to [other] places.*  
 ”

Table 1: Priorities identified by residents that have fed directly into the vision and framework for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

<sup>2</sup> A detailed breakdown of the methods used can be found in Annex A.

# What residents want in their 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

To start to put residents' priorities into practice, a common set of assets, facilities, services and spaces were identified - including health facilities, childcare and schools, places for young people, places to get groceries, places for sports and exercise, outdoor spaces, and public transport. Residents with specific needs suggested additional and specific assets, services and spaces. For example, a resident experiencing digital exclusion highlighted the need for a physical bank nearby, an older resident shared the need for public toilets, and a resident from a religious background discussed the need for close access to faith buildings. Assets such as places to eat out and cultural venues were considered 'nice to haves'.

While residents were able to identify a common set of assets, services, and public or community spaces that a 15-Minute Neighbourhood should have, it was acknowledged that every 15-Minute Neighbourhood cannot have everything, and in some cases should not have everything. Again, there was a strong assertion that a sense of inclusion, access and social connection is an important layer on top of a common set of assets, services and spaces.

“

*Obviously, like the GP first felt like it was essential...but I feel like if you only had those things, it would still feel quite empty as a place because ultimately people want to have a neighbourhood this is a community...it's quite hard to create community through essential things like doctors and shops.*

”

“

*Getting out of the borough is just as important as things being like [close by]. But at the same time, I do feel like...ever since we had [more things]... there's been a massive uptake in community cohesion and things going on...it creates a sense of community, which if it's not there, that creates a vacuum.*

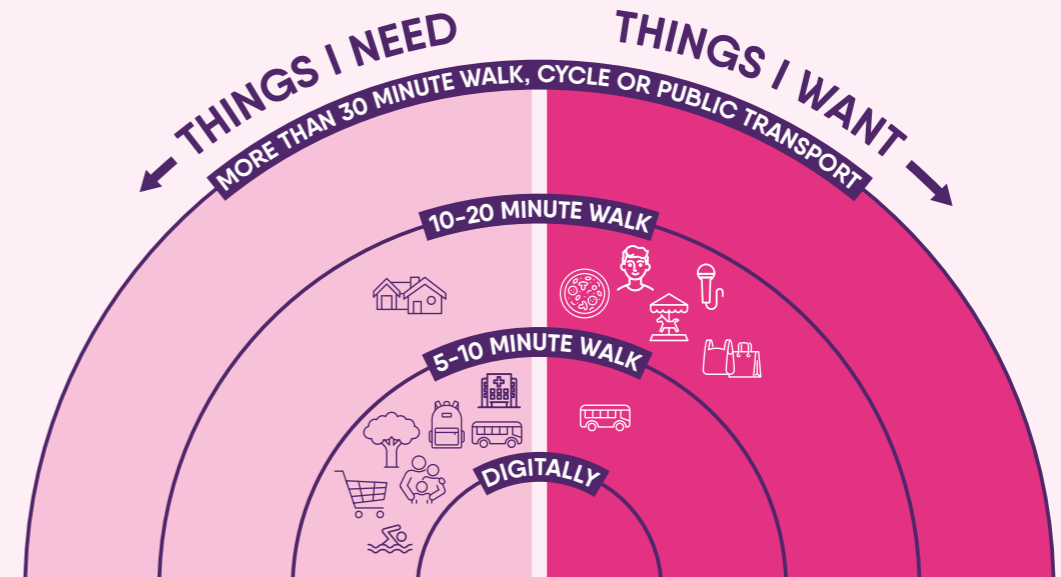
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**EXAMPLE 1**

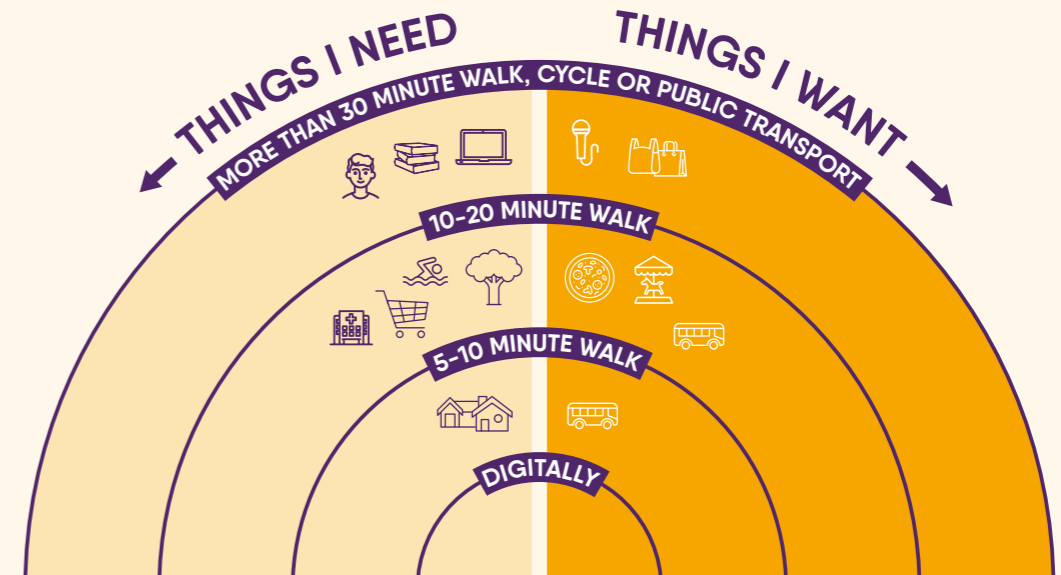
This resident indicated limited mobility due to chronic health. Most of the things they have mapped sit within a five- to 10-minute journey. They noted a need for essentials, such as groceries and childcare, close by as they are not able to walk long distances. A GP within a five-minute journey was important, given their ongoing health needs.

This resident also indicated the need to save money, particularly when mapping things they would want. For example, they mentioned having a place to do sports and exercise and cultural venues nearby would help them save money. They mentioned they can rarely afford to eat out, but for special occasions, sought restaurants and cafes close by.



**EXAMPLE 2**

This resident is over the age of 65 and in their response expressed their increasing dependence on healthcare facilities and a need to have them nearby. They also discussed the importance of having places to meet neighbours nearby, for support and social connection. This resident also highlighted that they would like to have public transport nearby.



**EXAMPLE 3**

This resident has a young child and their responses indicated family and child-focused services and spaces are increasingly important to them. They discussed needing childcare and schools nearby for convenience, but also thought ahead and considered the need for places for young people that their child might use in the future. They commented that, before having a child, they would not have mapped community centres and hubs as something they want, but they now recognise them as 'lifelines' for parents, children and older residents.



Figure 5: Responses from participants when asked to digitally map what they need and want in the vicinity of their home.

# Considerations for putting 15-Minute Neighbourhoods into practice

15-Minute Neighbourhoods is a concept known for its simplicity, and Waltham Forest residents were generally positive towards the idea, which they saw as easy-to-understand and connect with. However, examples from around the world highlight the challenges of making it work in practice. The approach taken within this research and engagement programme allowed for a gradual build of understanding about what is important to residents, and facilitated open and honest conversations about what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods mean in practice for everyone living in Waltham Forest. The research and engagement exposed several key considerations, as well as nuanced accounts for how 15-Minute Neighbourhoods would work for different people with different needs.

## SHIFTING TO ACTIVE TRAVEL

An important aspect of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is reducing the reliance on cars and getting around via what is known as active travel. Active travel refers to making journeys in physically active ways – such as walking, wheeling (using a wheelchair or mobility aid) and cycling. Residents raised several challenges with taking up active travel, which need to be carefully considered when putting 15-Minute Neighbourhoods into practice. These include preference for car travel, logistics and affordability for larger families, parts of the borough being more challenging when making journeys via active travel, and reliance on a car due to disability or age. Concerns were raised with cycling, with residents put off by factors such as a lack of confidence in their ability to ride on roads or the existing cycling infrastructure, risks posed by dangerous cyclists and drivers, and the increased exposure to air pollution.

“  
While I generally approve of the [low traffic neighbourhoods], I am deaf and cycling infrastructure can be unsympathetic to pedestrians – we can still feel quite vulnerable.”

“  
I have a daughter with special needs. And she’s a wheelchair user. And I tend to rely a lot more on my car to get around... If it was by myself, yes, [cycling infrastructure] would become more important, but because I have somebody else who can’t it’s not really a priority.”

## SHORT-TERM CONCERNS VS LONGER-TERM ASPIRATIONS

By providing for people of all ages, 15-Minute Neighbourhoods should be better-placed to support people over their lifetime. However, residents had several concerns about the immediate term, which acted as a barrier to them considering longer-term aspirations about the place they live, especially if they were unable to picture themselves in a future Waltham Forest. In particular, residents were concerned about unaffordable or inadequate housing, inaccessible public transport, and inaccessible public spaces today, and what that meant for them being able to stay in and enjoy their neighbourhood. Among older people and residents with children, there was acknowledgement that their priorities will change over time and a hope that the place they live would support them through these changes.

“  
Long-term thinking about the future is difficult given the precarity of my time in the borough as a result of rocketing rent prices. I would love to stay here but the market is likely to force me out.”

“  
Gentrification is another problem. People who’ve lived here for decades being pushed out and replaced. It makes me feel very unwelcome and will definitely impact whether I am still living in this borough in the future. More broadly, if the lack of accessibility (in all areas) worsens, I’ll have no choice but to leave.”

“  
I hope to have children in future. I have concerns about public transport in this regard – buses have limited space for prams/wheelchairs. [My local] station has no step-free access. Same applies if I ever develop mobility issues, or I have to care for a parent that does.”

## PERSONAL SAFETY AS A BARRIER TO ACCESS

15-Minute Neighbourhoods should help people to access more things in their local neighbourhood. While the concept considers aspects such as improved infrastructure for getting around, less discussed are barriers that might make people feel less comfortable in their neighbourhood. Residents in Waltham Forest identified the need to feel safe in order to use and benefit from a 15-Minute Neighbourhood. This was common across different age groups and demographics. Beyond fear of anti-social behaviour, crime and violence, in both busy and quiet areas, road safety, violence and harassment towards women and girls, and risk to personal health such as exposure to air pollution, were raised as worries.

**“**  
*It's important that young people can go to places without fear... in a way that makes us feel more independent...so we can use and take part in things happening [locally].*  
**”**

**“**  
*There is definitely availability of all the amenities that I usually want within a 15 minute bike ride, but sometimes I'm deterred by getting there because of having to navigate through traffic and breathing in traffic fumes.*  
**”**

**“**  
*I am careful which routes I pick... [some roads] can feel sketchy at night, while [other roads] are a useful throughfare to [different areas], they can be creepy after dark!*  
**”**

## REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

By helping people to shorten journeys and reduce car reliance, the 15-Minute Neighbourhood concept is an everyday form of climate action, as a means of reducing carbon emissions and improving the local environment. While some residents were able to make this connection, others found it more challenging to see how 15-Minute Neighbourhoods could support people to reduce carbon emissions, beyond actions they were already taking within their households such as recycling. Residents feel the council should influence local actors in the neighbourhood in the first instance (who might have a larger carbon footprint), before positioning 15-Minute Neighbourhoods as a form of personal responsibility and action among residents.

**“**  
*Everyone wants to benefit from cleaner air...and I agree a lot with what the council is doing in terms of trying to cut down on use of cars and stuff, but I don't know if that counts as protecting the environment?*  
**”**

**“**  
*I'm wary of saying things about people playing a role in protecting the environment, when households are taking an active role...or trying to be greener, but [other actors] are doing more damage.*  
**”**

**“**  
*When I thought about how would my neighbourhood play a role in protecting the environment, I thought it was more up to the council policies, like making sure everyone's got recycling bins..., that they're encouraging local shops to use recyclable stuff... so I couldn't really see how the neighbourhood would play a role in protecting the environment.*  
**”**

## INVESTMENT ACROSS NEIGHBOURHOODS

15-Minute Neighbourhoods should help places improve and be better-suited to the needs of residents. There were mixed responses as to whether neighbourhoods had distinct identities in Waltham Forest, although residents often found it much easier to articulate the identity of a wider area (eg Chingford, or Leytonstone). Nonetheless, residents felt strongly that neighbourhoods should develop and evolve with their own identity, and regularly noted a tension between the need to invest in neighbourhoods and the risk of homogenisation and gentrification. However, the role of resident participation in decision-making helped people to feel more comfortable and trusting about neighbourhoods developing differently over time.

“

*I wouldn't mind if each neighbourhood developed its own unique character, so long as this happens organically as a result of resident-informed actions, and not ideas imposed upon people. However, all neighbourhoods have to be equitable. A distance of 20 minutes should not equal a drop in quality of life.*

”

“

*In terms of the 15-Minute Neighbourhood, we live pretty bang on the overground station... If you walk 15 minutes up the road, you get great facilities. If you walk 15 minutes down the road, you're not going to have these great facilities at all...because there's been no focus. I think that, for me was quite important. How are you valued?*

”

## ACCESS TO ASSETS AND SERVICES

15-Minute Neighbourhoods should make accessing assets and services a more pleasant and convenient experience. However, some residents were wary of the pressures already placed on a range of assets, services and spaces across the borough, expressed as difficulties in access. For some, there was a perception that rapid house building and population growth exacerbated this; however, this was often hypothetical or speculative. Other residents pointed to the impact and ongoing legacy of austerity which led some to feel more sceptical than positive about how 15-Minute Neighbourhoods might tackle long-standing challenges. There was some confusion of what assets, services and spaces fall under the council's remit, for example the reliability and affordability of public transport.

“

*I currently use local buses to access GP and dentist services in other boroughs because I have been entirely unable to access adequate health care locally.*

”

“

*The end of my street will be developed into quite intensive housing and I am concerned that the necessary support services won't grow in a commensurate way – we will end up with too many people for the services. This will affect whether we can access what we need (doctors, etc) in 15 minutes.*

”

# 15-Minute Neighbourhoods for different people

It is well recognised that concepts similar to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods work differently for different people. As residents have highlighted, some will travel further than others in 15 minutes, while levels of access to things within a 15-minute journey might vary due to barriers such as financial exclusion. When putting 15-Minute Neighbourhoods into practice, the individual needs of residents should be considered, so everyone in Waltham Forest is able to take part in and enjoy the benefits of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. The following vignettes draw on findings from the qualitative and digital ethnographic research, to illustrate what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in practice mean for different people across Waltham Forest.<sup>3</sup>

“

*I'm a young person who has lived in Wood Street my whole life. I love that I have both my community and a global city on my doorstep. As a wheelchair user, the reality is that it is difficult to make the most of those connections, as London's transport system is less accessible for wheelchair users. Active travel doesn't work for me, and 15-Minute Neighbourhoods need to acknowledge and provide for that. If a 15-Minute Neighbourhood could help me to get around locally more easily, that would help me to feel less isolated. Conversely, if my neighbourhood included just the bare essentials and I had to travel far for things like socialising or education, that would be more isolating as I'll lose out on important social connections. Being able to have a say or shape what happens in my neighbourhood is important to me, but flexible options like virtual consultations or an app would help me to take part without having to go somewhere; 15-Minute Neighbourhoods should help to make resident involvement long-term and meaningful.*

*Young person, living near Walthamstow*

”

“

*I have to go to work in another part of London, but otherwise the cost-of-living crisis is really making me have to think about spending more time locally to save money. When I'm in the neighbourhood, I already walk or, if I really have to, take public transport. I can see that 15-Minute Neighbourhoods would help me to save money in that sense and I wouldn't have to change too many things, plus transport connections aren't great here anyway. But even though I feel welcomed now, I'm worried that as the neighbourhood becomes nicer, it might become more expensive to live in and I'll end up being excluded anyway. Especially as I'm out at work a lot, I get worried about my kids' safety when they're out and about with friends. Even though there are free spaces in the neighbourhood, they aren't geared towards young people. I don't have time to take part in things like local consultations or community activities to shape what our 15-Minute Neighbourhood should look like, but I like that in Higham's Park there is already so much community activity, and there is always the option to get involved if I did ever have time.*

*Parent, living in Highams Park*

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<sup>3</sup> Personal details have been changed for anonymity, where required with comparable variables, such as area of residence. These vignettes have been developed as an illustrative tool, to show diversity of experiences across different challenges and should not be considered as generalisable.



“

*The pandemic has shown me that things like my GP and the pharmacy are a priority, other things to help my wellbeing like parks and chances to get together with others are much needed. Where I live in the northwest of the borough is very residential and quite isolated from other places nearby. But for me, that's the appeal of living here and I wouldn't want to see my neighbourhood become a busy centre. I can't walk very far – on some days 15 minutes could be a bit hard for me – and even if I could, all I'd reach is other houses and maybe the post office! I don't think people like to cycle around here either as it is very hilly and the public transport isn't great or very user-friendly for older people. All of these things put together mean I'm quite car dependent so while I like the idea of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods but I'm not sure what it would mean for me in practice. Plus, I know it's unrealistic for everything I need to suddenly appear in this neighbourhood, given its so residential and we're bordering on Epping Forest.*

*Older person, living near Sewardstone Road*

”

“

*Although I like living in Waltham Forest at the moment, I'm conscious that my children will quickly outgrow the space we can afford as private renters. But while I do live here, I think 15-Minute Neighbourhoods could bring me and my family lots of benefits. I like to cycle but I dislike using the cycle highways because they are dangerous and intimidating, especially with children. But more than anything, I'm worried about all the air pollution we're breathing in by cycling on car busy roads, and much prefer to use backroads. That said, I do get worried about using them at night-time. If 15-Minute Neighbourhoods could help to reduce air pollution, that would be much welcomed, especially when I think about my children. Living in Lea Bridge, there will still be pollution from the recycling centres and industrial area which will need to be tackled too. I know there is a lot of community appetite for shaping our neighbourhood, but as a parent of young children I don't have time and activities aren't always child friendly. Plus, as a renter, I wouldn't commit to anything longer-term because who knows how long we'll live here.*

*Young parent, living in Lea Bridge*

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## SECTION 3: A picture of Waltham Forest today

Section 3 draws on the resident-led vision and framework to build a picture of Waltham Forest today, using existing datasets. This picture helps to understand how far or close the borough and its neighbourhoods are from having what residents have identified as important, and provides a starting point for identifying opportunities to explore with residents, to bring neighbourhoods closer to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods and create a fairer borough.



# Building a resident-led data picture

Research and engagement with residents have identified what they consider to be important to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest today. This information has been used to co-create the vision and indicator framework for the borough. The Young Foundation has identified, brought together and analysed existing datasets to build a data picture of how Waltham Forest currently stands against the indicator framework, and the different types of opportunities and challenges that might exist. The data was also used to inform the research and engagement at various stages of the work.

There is confidence in the framework and data that feeds into each indicator, but these can be made more robust and the framework and data picture built on and refined. This includes developing the datasets, identifying and adding in further insight that supports more granular and accurate understandings, and expanding to incorporate other datasets as these become available, along with resident insight as the council's engagement options evolve. This will, in turn, shape the framework and the data picture. What is presented here should be viewed as the first iteration of Waltham Forest's 15-Minute Neighbourhood framework and the data picture of the borough, and local areas, today. Specific recommendations are noted later in the report.

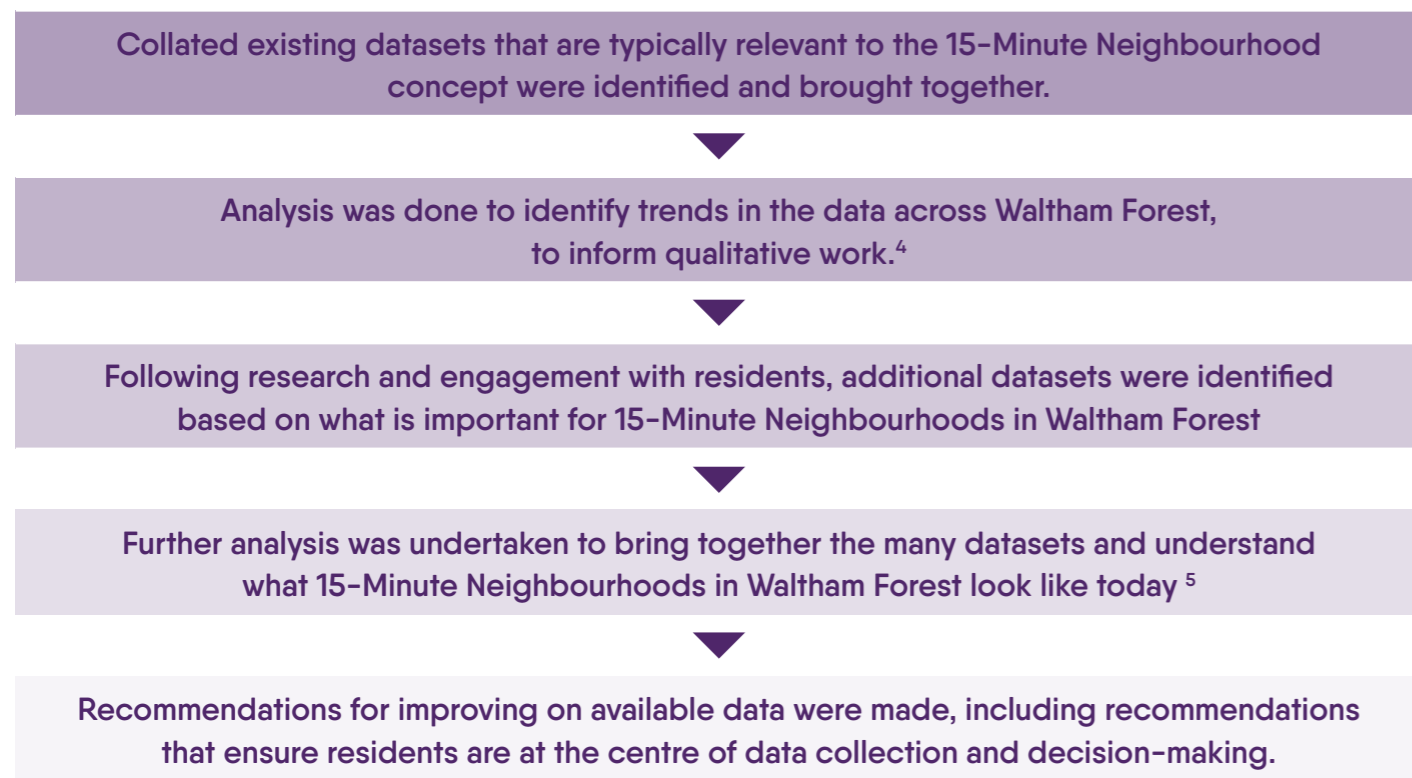


Figure 6: Detailed breakdown of the quantitative approaches used throughout the research, and the interaction with the qualitative approaches.

4 Cluster analysis was used, to organise indicators into groups, or clusters, on the basis of how closely associated they are, giving insight into what indicators typically cluster together and how that varies across geography.  
5 Factor analysis was used, which is a statistical approach that reduces a large number of variables and their indicators into a smaller number of factors that are more manageable and understandable.

Domain	Indicator	Availability and quality of existing data	Data used to populate the framework	Opportunities to build on data
Local conditions		Good. Data exists as a more granular level and is typically collected within the last five years.	Size of population; Median age; Income deprivation; Health deprivation; Households with children; Car ownership; Satisfaction with local area.	Census 2021 data.
Things my neighbourhood should have	Services most needed	Good. Data exists at a more granular level and is typically collected within the last five years.	Digital exclusion ; Access to food; Access to nurseries, primary and secondary schools; Access to GPs, pharmacies and hospitals; Access to information about the local area.	Access to dentists and sexual health clinics.
	Easy to get around	Satisfactory. Further work to improve data on cycling accessibility and walkability, although some proxies have been included in the development of the indicator due to gaps in the data.	Public transport accessibility; Rate of cycling (as proxy of cycling accessibility); Location of bike hangars; Ease of reaching services; Quality of roads and pavements (as proxy for walkability).	Census 2021 data on cycling; more detailed data on walkability.
	Free and affordable	Satisfactory. Data exists for some free and affordable spaces, but further work to define identify assets and services is required.	Access to green spaces and open spaces; Access to free spaces and services such as libraries, community centres and playgrounds.	Further identified free and affordable spaces and services.
	For all ages	Incomplete. Further work to define what counts as spaces and services for different age groups is required. Data for free and affordable spaces indicator are also relevant this indicator.	Given gaps in data and relevance, dataset for free and affordable spaces have also been used for this indicator.	Further identified spaces and services for children, for young people and for older residents; access to public toilets.
How I experience my neighbourhood	Having a say	Satisfactory. Further work to improve data on trust in Council and in neighbours and community by improving of scale of data collection.	Civic strength; Trust in the Council to make local decisions with residents; Trust in neighbours and community to make local decisions.	Trust in council at a neighbourhood-scale; trust in neighbours at a neighbourhood-scale.
	Feeling safe	Satisfactory. Further work to improve on subjective concerns of safety (fear of rather than actual crime) and improving the scale of data collection for some crimes.	Fear of crime and violence; Number of offences; Number of anti-social behaviour incidents.	Traffic collisions; sexual offences; hate crime; air pollution; street lighting.
	Feeling welcomed	Satisfactory. Further work to improve granularity of data across all indicators.	Sense of belonging; Sense of acceptance; Community strength and cohesion; Equal opportunities; Positivity about future.	All data at neighbourhood-scale.
	Feeling supported over my lifetime	Incomplete. Further work to define whether residents feel supported.		Further identified data on feeling supported.

Table 2: Data audit of suggested indicators for the indicator framework for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest

# Waltham Forest today

Using insights gathered with residents – following research and engagement to directly influence what data is considered for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest – The Young Foundation built a data picture of the borough. This data picture helps to understand how far or close the borough and its neighbourhoods are from having what residents have identified as important, and what opportunities might exist for working with residents to bring neighbourhoods closer to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. A reminder of how the indicator framework and its component parts should be used can be found in Section 1.

## AT THE BOROUGH AND AREA LEVEL

It is useful to understand, at a borough and area level<sup>6</sup>, where Waltham Forest sits against the priorities identified by residents, in order to track overall progress over time. A view of the picture at the borough level shows Waltham Forest has a stronger presence of things residents need most and offers relatively good means to get around, as well as good access to affordable spaces and spaces for all ages. However, there is a notable shortfall in terms of how safe residents feel, and insight from research and engagement with residents suggest more work is needed to understand people's feelings around public safety and to help communities to be and feel safe<sup>7</sup>. This would help to improve residents' ability to access and benefit from where the borough is otherwise successfully providing for residents in terms of assets and services.

At the area level, some trends are identifiable. Notably, each area has a unique profile against the indicators, highlighting the need for a targeted rather than blanket approach to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. While indicators exploring the presence of things residents need most are relatively consistent, there are large variations in residents' ease of getting around, access to affordable spaces and spaces for all ages, and residents' belief that they can participate and have a say where they live, and feel welcomed. There is less variation in residents' sense of safety. Nonetheless, this is reportedly lower than all

indicators across the four areas. These indicators should be viewed alongside an understanding of who lives in these places, and what the needs and challenges might be for that community, as shown in Table 3<sup>8</sup>.

For example, residents and communities living in central Waltham Forest experience higher levels of income deprivation than those in other parts of the borough, indicating that 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in that area would need to carefully consider financial inclusion and accessibility of its assets and features.

In the south-west, more households with children might point to the need for particularly child-friendly 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Meanwhile, in the south-east, a significantly higher rate of satisfaction with their local area amongst residents and communities might indicate a different way of working with residents, given their already positive outlook. As an example of bringing local conditions and indices together, the higher median age in the north coupled with a lack of ease of getting around might indicate the need for a 15-Minute Neighbourhood that adequately provides age-friendly means of getting around.

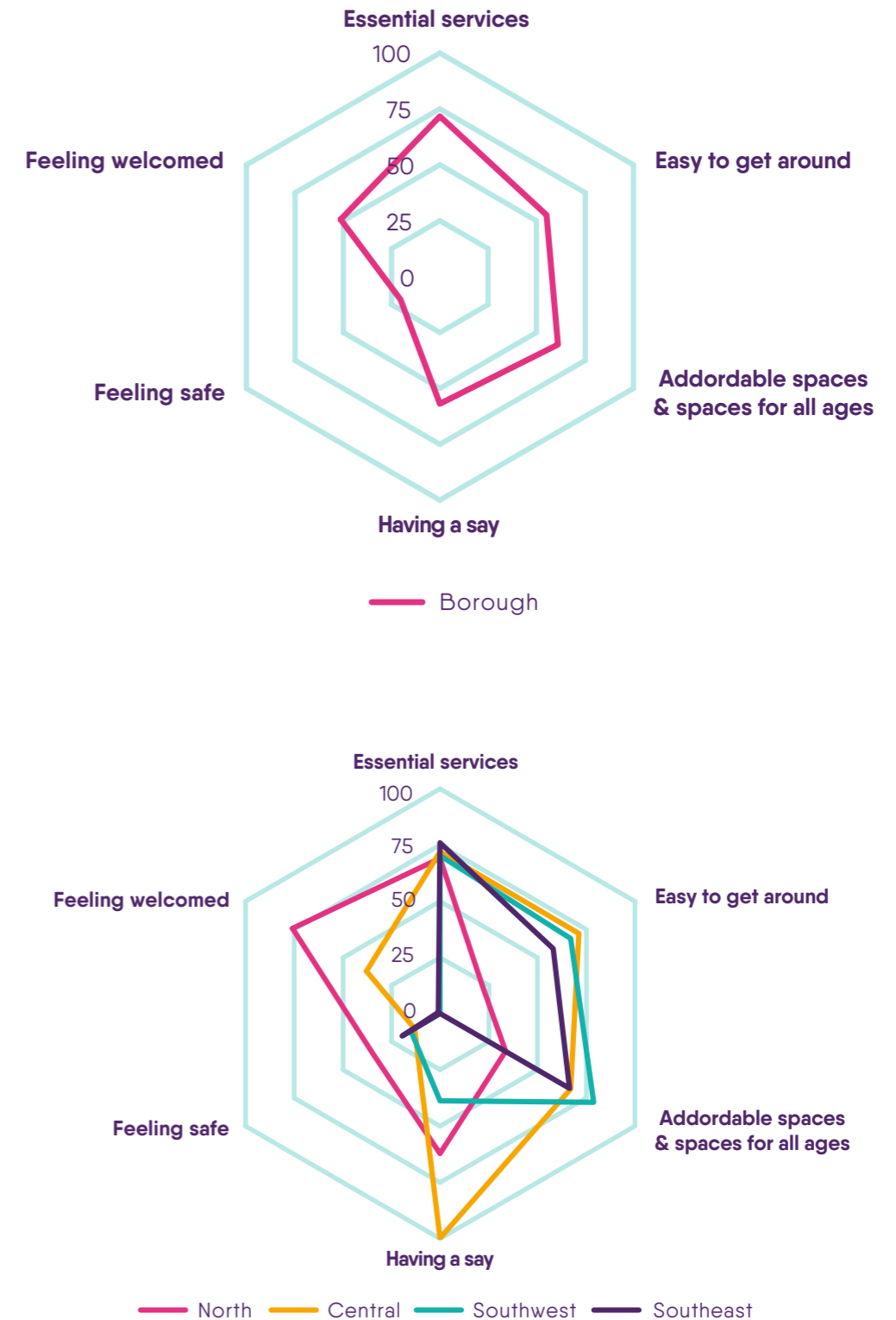


Figure 7: Data picture as radar diagrams for the borough and area level.

<sup>6</sup> Areas are defined by Waltham Forest Council as North, Central, South East and South West of the borough.

<sup>7</sup> There are some notable limitations in the existing data to represent feelings of safety. While sufficient data at the right granularity exists in terms of crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, other more holistic indicators such as rate of hate crimes, fear of safety to health and infrastructure data such as street lighting are not available.

<sup>8</sup> Bearing in mind any challenges or limitations of the data, indicators against the local conditions domain help to provide context for the conditions and challenges for a 15-Minute Neighbourhood. Radar diagrams are a useful graphic representation of considering holistic progress against the indicators for a good 15-Minute Neighbourhood. If the indicators are improved on equitably and the gap between neighbourhoods closed, the plot lines should expand towards the edge of the radar diagram. If some neighbourhoods see significant neighbourhood development, but inequality across neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest remains, domains will continue to broadly average out. Meanwhile, choropleth maps are shaded maps that shows progress against the indicators at a more granular level. Small areas shaded in red or orange indicate opportunities to improve against the indicators.

	Borough	North		Central		South East		South West	
<b>15-Minute Neighbourhood indices</b>									
Essential services	71.7	69.1	▼	72.0	▲	76.0	▲	70.3	▼
Easy to get around	55.1	22.2	▼	71.2	▲	58.0	▲	66.9	▲
Affordable spaces & spaces for all ages	61.0	33.6	▼	67.1	▲	66.4	▲	78.8	▲
Having a say	56.9	62.2	▲	99.8	▲	0.0	▼	38.8	▼
Feeling safe	20.4	34.9	▲	13.1	▼	19.6	▼	15.1	▼
Feeling welcomed	51.3	75.9	▲	37.9	▼	1.0	▼	0.0	▼
<b>Local conditions</b>									
Population estimate	276,940	71,007		89,202		54,273		62,458	
Median age	36.42	40.47	▲	35.03	▼	34.52	▼	34.76	▼
Average no. of households with children	234	211	▼	252	▲	214	▼	260	▲
Average income deprivation	4.12	4.78	▲	3.70	▼	4.03	▼	3.9	▼
Average health deprivation	6.14	6.54	▲	5.95	▼	6	▼	6	▼
Average car ownership	58%	75%	▲	54%	▼	52%	▼	51%	▼
Average satisfaction with local area	1.93	1.83	▼	1.95	▲	2.03	▲	1.91	▼
▲ higher than borough average ▼ lower than borough average									

Table 3: Data picture for Waltham Forest and the borough and area level

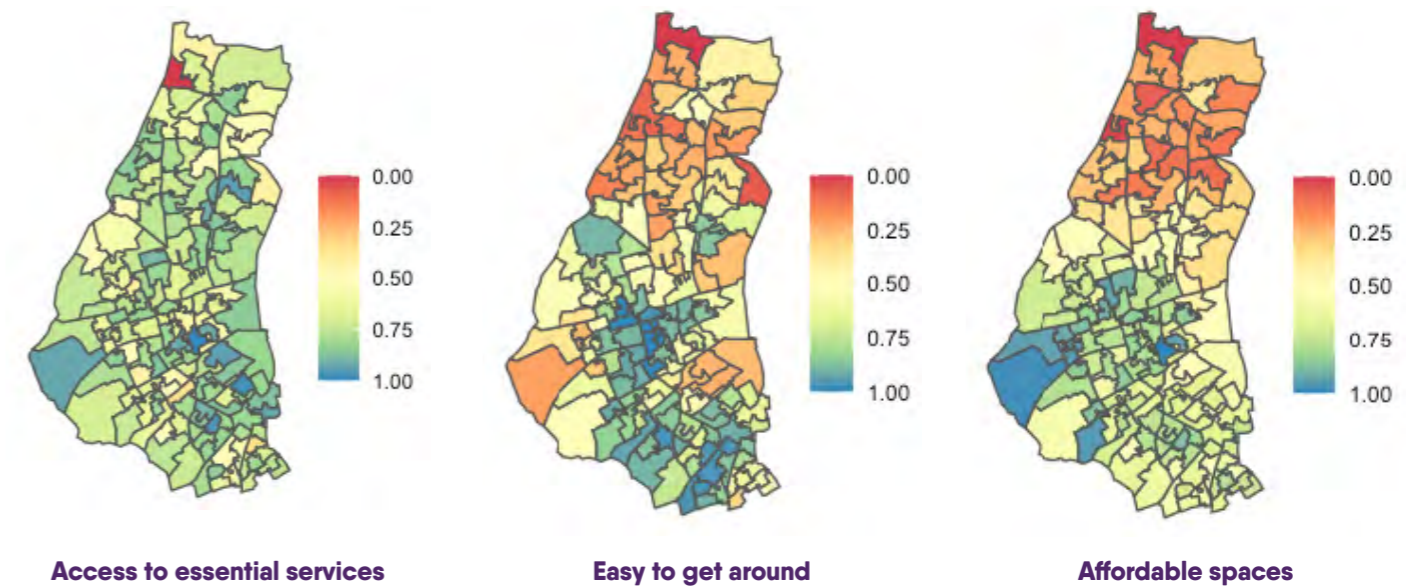


Figure 8: Example choropleth maps of three of the indicators at a granular level, across the borough. All indicators can be viewed in Annex C.

### AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL

A view from the neighbourhood level gives a better vantage point of opportunities that might exist for bringing Waltham Forest closer to the 15-Minute Neighbourhoods vision. These can then be tested and built on through participatory, qualitative insights from residents and neighbourhood stakeholders. It is well acknowledged from resident insights, but also from wider research and practice, that defining 15-Minute Neighbourhoods as the area within a fixed 15-minute distance is too rigid an approach that does not reflect how people really experience their neighbourhoods. It is strongly recommended that neighbourhoods are identified and mapped with communities and local stakeholders. For the purpose of illustration, The Young Foundation has mapped the following neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest<sup>9</sup>:

- Lea Bridge, Chingford Mount, Highams Park, Leytonstone and South Leytonstone, and Higham Hill – identifiable neighbourhoods to both residents and the council

- The area around Sewardstone Road – a more isolated neighbourhood in the north-west of the borough, that is less readily identified as a neighbourhood
- The area around Ridegeway Park – a neighbourhood that sits between three identifiable neighbourhoods, and therefore on the ‘edge’ of neighbourhoods and their assets and services.

For all neighbourhoods explored below, there is an imbalance across the indicators, typically skewing towards ‘things our neighbourhoods should have’ or ‘things that make our neighbourhood better’. For example, Leytonstone and South Leytonstone show stronger findings for good provision of essential services, infrastructure to get around, and affordable and free spaces for people of all ages, than other indicators. Meanwhile, in the Sewardstone Road area feeling welcomed, safe where they live and able to have a say, are stronger.

<sup>9</sup> For more detail about how these neighbourhoods were mapped, please see Annex C

As well as revealing differences in local areas and showing how residents' experiences of their neighbourhoods across Waltham Forest differs depending on their circumstance, the neighbourhood level highlights current data gaps and the importance of improving data quality<sup>10</sup>. For example, there are limitations in data for the area around Ridgeway Park, a place between well-established neighbourhoods, presenting

opportunities to work with residents and evaluate whether the data picture reflects their experience. It is important to think how to collectively develop solutions to fill those gaps and make this approach more robust. Data, indicators and indices cannot be treated as standalone tools, but part of a collection, including combined with qualitative approaches, that work towards 15-Minute Neighbourhoods.

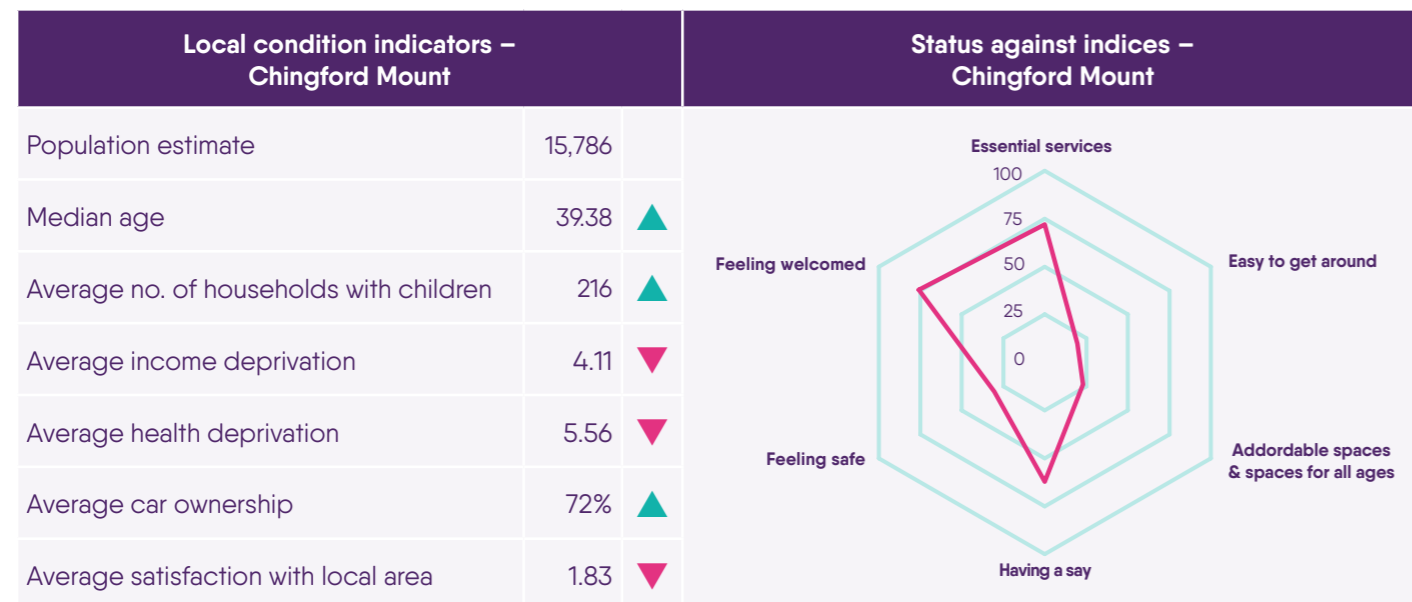


Figure 9: Data picture for Chingford Mount neighbourhood

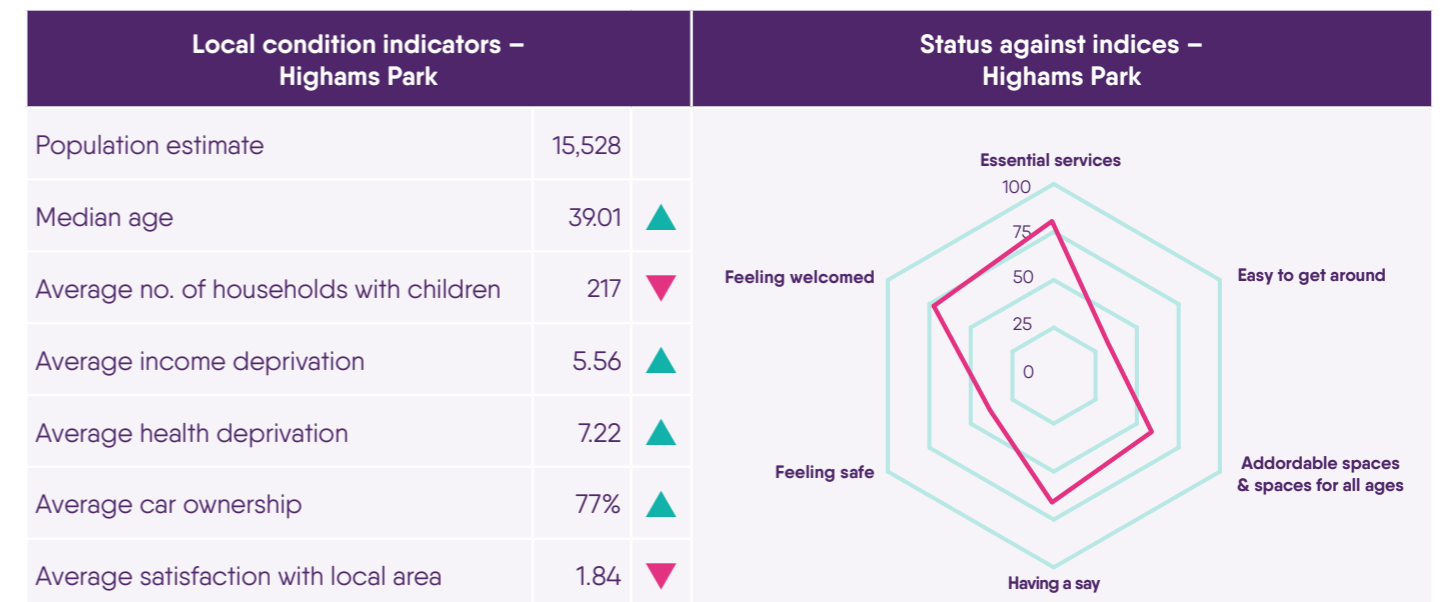


Figure 11: Data picture for Highams Park neighbourhood

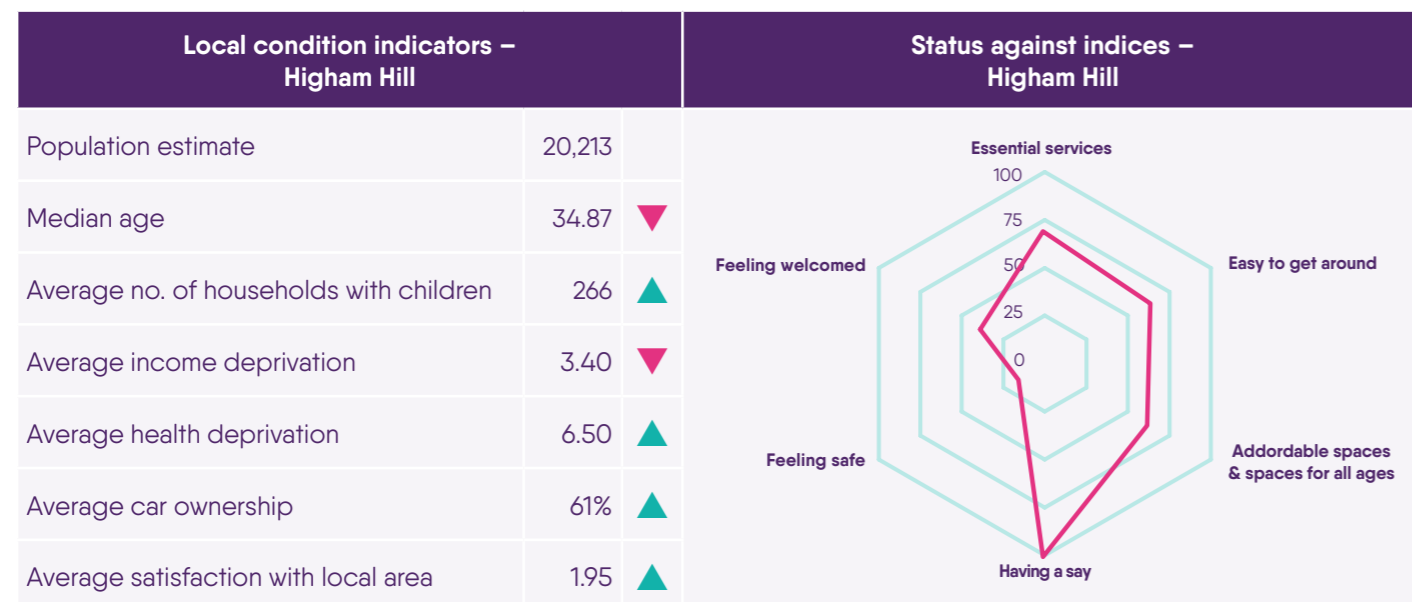


Figure 10: Data picture for Higham Hill neighbourhood

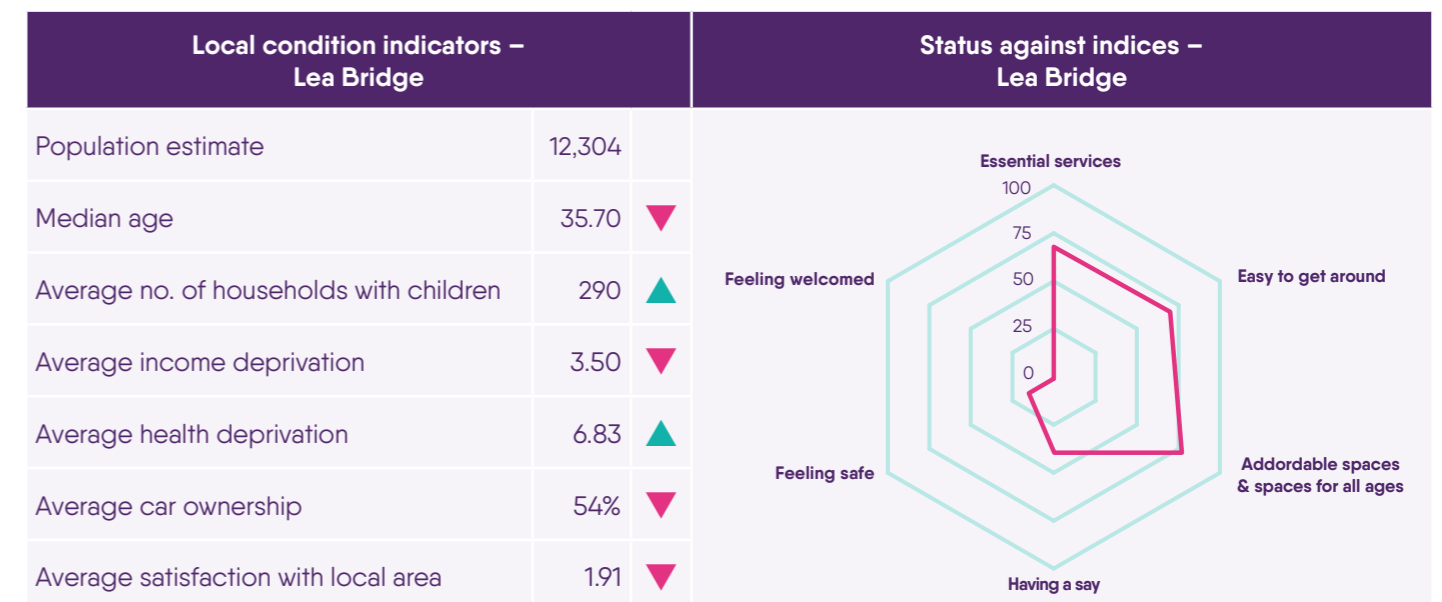


Figure 12: Data picture for Lea Bridge neighbourhood

<sup>10</sup> For more detail about the limitations of the data, please see Annex C.

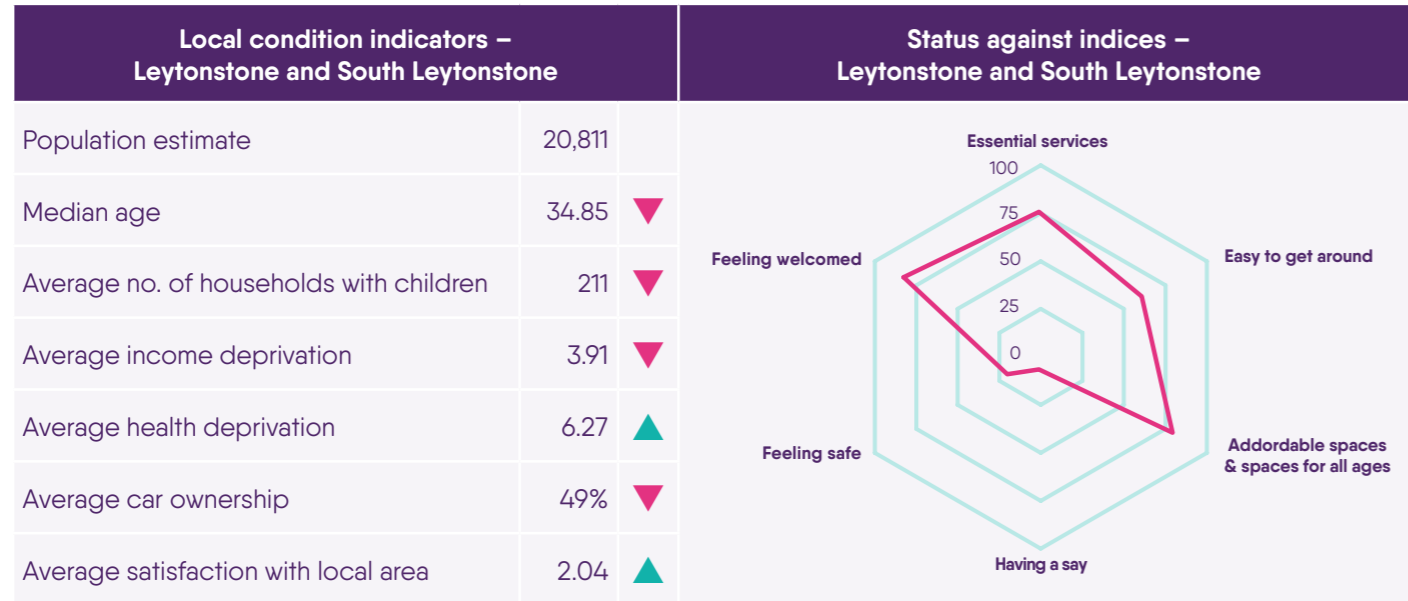


Figure 13: Data picture for Leytonstone and South Leytonstone neighbourhood

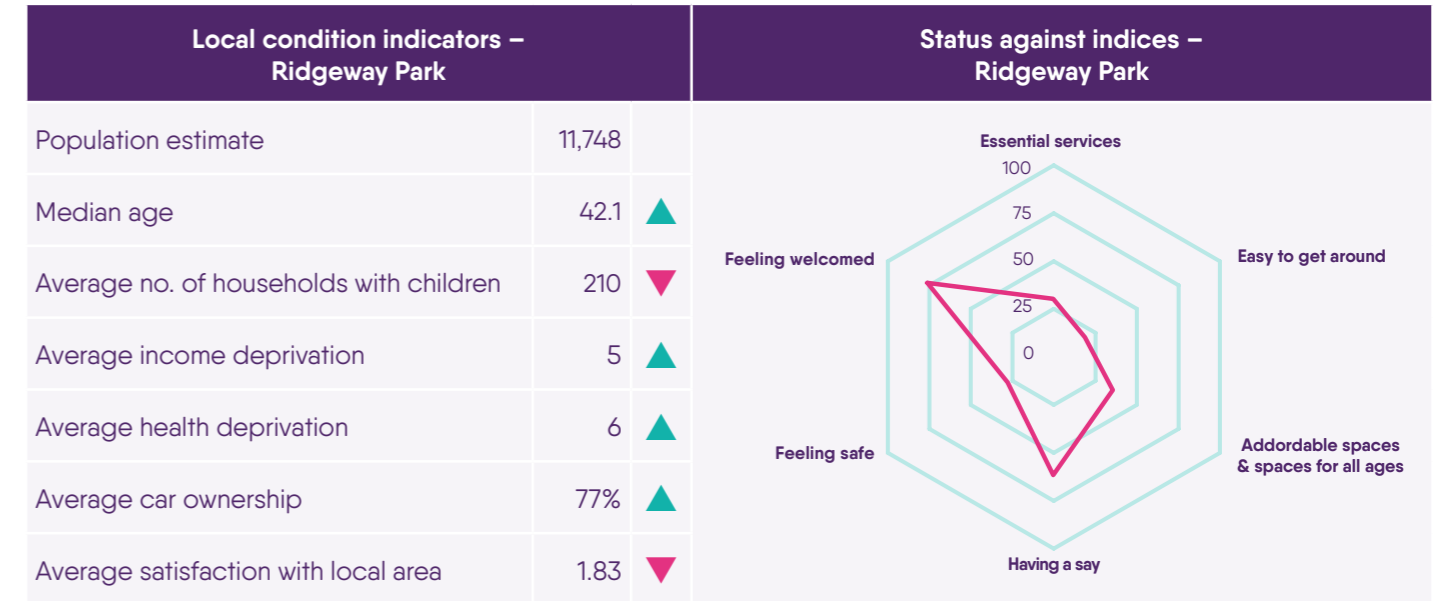


Figure 15: Data picture for area around Ridgeway Park

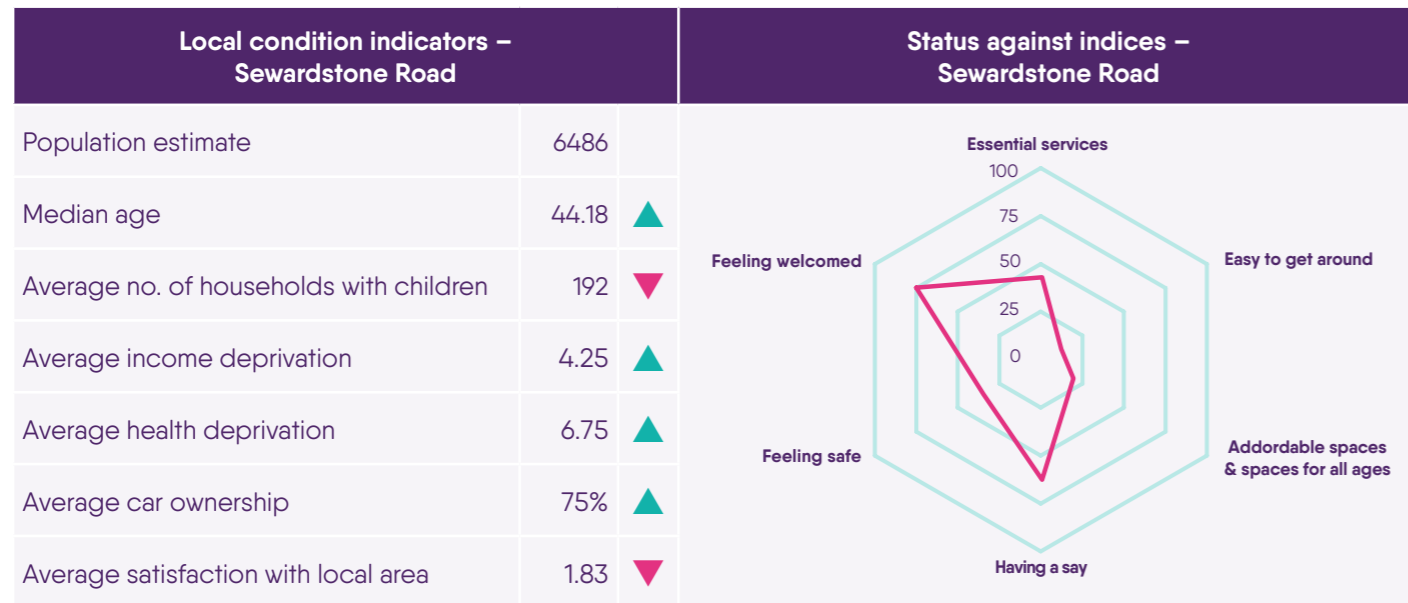


Figure 14: Data picture for area around Sewardstone Road



## SECTION 4: Opportunities and recommendations for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest

Section 4 draws on the rich insights from research and engagement with residents to identify the different opportunities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. The Young Foundation has put forward a set of key principles for practice, recommendations and actions that complement the vision and framework, for Waltham Forest Council to move forward with 15-Minute Neighbourhoods.





# Opportunities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest

The rich insights from this research highlight several opportunities for how 15-Minute Neighbourhoods could be conceptualised and implemented in Waltham Forest in a way that continues to centre residents' voice and aspirations.

## MOVING BEYOND ASSET-FOCUSED MODELS

Concepts similar to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods are being implemented across a number of contexts including Melbourne, Paris, Portland and Edinburgh. Models typically focus on what assets exist, and what outcomes should be achieved. That residents have identified the need to think beyond assets and to embed key principles of access, inclusion and participation at the heart of an approach to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in the borough, presents an exciting opportunity for Waltham Forest to move beyond the typical asset-focused model and uniquely position 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in terms of accessibility, inclusion and participation.

## BUILDING ON RESIDENTS' EXISTING BEHAVIOURS

Findings about how residents use and feel about their neighbourhoods today suggest that residents might not have to make significant changes to benefit from 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Residents reported on average already spending 57% of their time in their local neighbourhood, and 58% of residents reported getting around their local neighbourhood through active travel<sup>11</sup>. Nonetheless, there should still be a focus

on connections within, and out and into, the neighbourhood to acknowledge people's desire to use both their neighbourhood and the wider city. This includes improving both the accessibility and attractiveness of these connections in terms of physical accessibility, safety, mitigating negative health impacts and routes that encourage social connection or 'slow' journeys.

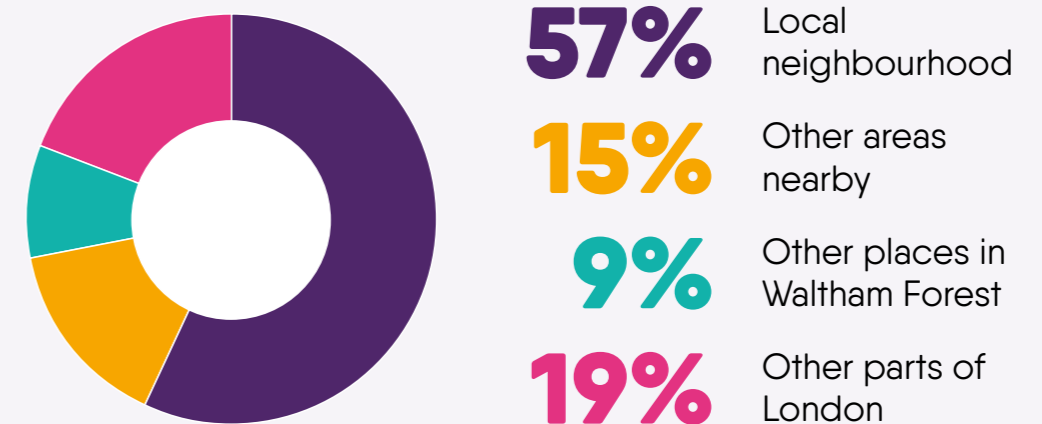


Figure 16: Responses to question "How much time do you spend in your local area compared to other places?" (n=109)

<sup>11</sup> 36% of residents reported walking as their primary means of getting around generally. An additional 8% get around their local area through a combination of active travel and either public transport or car. 11% reported reliance on public transport to get around their local area while 22% mostly use their car to get around their local area. A more detailed breakdown how residents spend their time in their neighbourhood and other areas, and why residents prefer to use certain modes of transport can be found in Annex A.

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE COMMUNITY NARRATIVE

Common critiques of concepts similar to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods are that defining neighbourhoods just by distance risks creating disconnected pockets within a large place, and risks some households that sit 'on the edge' falling behind or being excluded from 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. The research has highlighted the diversity of communities and neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest, and a consistent ask from residents to honour that diversity. There is an opportunity to stretch 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, to approach them fluidly and flexibly, centring how residents really experience their neighbourhoods, and considering communities and identities that already exist.

## WORKING WITH RESIDENTS IN REALISING 15-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS

The research suggested residents would feel more positive about a process that involved open dialogue, collaboration and step-by-step change for implementing 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, to avoid what might feel like impositions on neighbourhoods and communities. In particular, the research shows residents understand their participation, in different ways, as key to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods that celebrate the distinctness of different areas and cater to the wide-ranging needs and aspirations of the communities that live there. This presents a fresh opportunity to assess the existing relationship between the council and residents and community groups living in the neighbourhood and a neighbourhood's civic strength, and consider how to best approach

and work with residents and communities. This also presents a renewed opportunity to share with residents where the council can and cannot make changes, and how it is working with other stakeholders (eg, the local Clinical Commissioning Group or Transport for London) to advocate for residents.

## CREATING MORE AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION

Residents demonstrated openness to taking part and getting involved – if a greater range of options to do so were available to them. The Council should consider innovative ways of lowering the barriers to participation and of gradually building trust and resident participation<sup>12</sup>. There is an opportunity to build on successful examples of participatory working with residents, such as the Waltham Forest Citizens Assembly on hate crime, to embed longer-term neighbourhood-level structures for resident participation and borough-wide steering groups representing specific groups that enable meaningful and remunerated participation<sup>13</sup>. As neighbourhoods collectively progress as 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, the Council should shift to a more participatory approach to neighbourhood development, considering approaches such as participatory budgeting, funds to resource community-led ideas, and 'challenge cup'-style processes to achieve community-driven aspirations for the neighbourhood.

<sup>12</sup> For example, an app for in-your-own-time consultations relevant to the neighbourhood and wider borough, child-friendly local pop-up drop-in shops for people to engage with the idea of what they're neighbourhood should have/be, and gamified engagements with children and schools.

<sup>13</sup> These might include people whose day-to-day activities are limited, young people, isolated individuals etc.



# Recommendations

The vision and indicator framework provides Waltham Forest with strong foundations from which to build, making the concept of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods central to plans and activity that benefits residents' lives and experiences of the borough, as well as wider societal outcomes. Drawing on the rich insights from research and engagement with residents, and in collaboration with Waltham Forest, The Young Foundation has identified a set of key principles for practice, recommendations and actions. Waltham Forest is not starting from scratch and The Young Foundation highlights examples of where work is already happening within the borough. However, this is a prime opportunity to be bold and pilot and test new approaches.

## PRINCIPLES FOR PRACTICE

From this research three key principles for practice emerge, that focus on what needs to be true in order for the council to work with residents to implement the potential of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. These principles are closely aligned with the resident vision for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest, and will help translate this vision into a practical reality.

**1. Take an ambitious and unique approach to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods that continues to respond to residents' priorities:** Waltham Forest Council has an opportunity to be unique in how it thinks about 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, making the most of the concept by going beyond an asset-based model and putting residents at its centre.

- 2. Embrace a phased approach to implementing 15-Minute Neighbourhoods for a fairer borough:** It will be crucial to embed the concept within core strategies and action plans to start building connections between outcomes such as climate resilience and reduced health inequalities. Adopting a phased approach that stewards big and small changes in the same direction will support neighbourhoods to reach their full potential, for a fairer borough.
- 3. with residents to deliver their vision:** Waltham Forest Council can build on its existing strengths in participatory approaches and work with residents to unlock more active participation of communities in the future of their neighbourhoods and the borough, while noting areas in which residents want to see council leadership and action. Central to this is creating opportunities for iterative, long-term engagement.



# Recommendations and actions

## Be a leader on 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, in Waltham Forest and beyond

1. **Make the 15-Minute Framework vision and framework core to Waltham Forest's strategy**, embedding it across the organisation and as part of the council's response to national and local challenges, as well as within all future strategies and infrastructure plans. This includes identifying and putting in place a long-term review process for taking a phased and iterative approach to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. It is also important to examine and identify where different Council priorities and strategies intersect with the concept of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods (such as digital infrastructure and the role of culture).
2. **Seek to enable a fairer borough using 15-Minute Neighbourhoods**, reducing inequalities and disparities between neighbourhoods while recognising that local areas may require different actions to meet their specific needs. Make use of data and neighbourhood insight from within the

council and outside it to create a typology of neighbourhoods and identify pilot areas for interventions at the neighbourhood level, as well as at the area level where indicators such as feeling safe or having a say are low. Distribute investment across the borough equitably and ensure a mechanism for identifying the residual impacts of an intervention on neighbouring areas.

3. **Share widely with residents and those working in public, private and third sector the resident-led, iterative approach that Waltham Forest are taking**, working in the open about what works and what further work is needed. Waltham Forest Council's approach has the potential to be adopted in other areas, and Waltham Forest's geography makes it a relevant case study for a broad range of locations, from major cities nationally and internationally, to more rural towns or other London boroughs.

### GOOD PRACTICE WITHIN WALTHAM FOREST TO BUILD ON:

- **The Marmot Report on health inequalities** – puts equity of health and wellbeing at the heart of the council's work and proposes recommendations for action, setting out a clear local agenda.
- **Waltham Forest's Climate Action Plan** – sets out actions to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- **15-Minute Neighbourhood Area Frameworks** – to help co-ordinate change in areas and realise benefits of potential development and investment, with opportunities to engage with local communities about the future of the area.
- **Child Friendly districts** – engagement with children and young people around how they use their town centre and developing pilot projects for Chingford Mount, to be rolled out elsewhere.



## Meaningfully work with residents in shaping 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

1. **Commit to a resident-led approach**, building trust by openly communicating this in ways that are meaningful to residents' lives, and highlights the importance of their role and the role the council will play. Identify and experiment with different and innovative mechanisms to do this, including via local councillors, existing community engagement mechanisms and ongoing work that can be reorientated around 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, to help residents understand in tangible terms what it might mean to them.
2. **Seize this opportunity to pioneer approaches to longer-term dialogues with residents**, rather than standalone consultations. The 15-Minute Neighbourhood concept presents an opportunity to connect across and bring together community engagement in all aspects of the council's work. Recognise that engagement might need to be delivered in different ways across the borough and consider innovative ways of lowering the barriers to participation and gradually building trust and resident participation. This might include:
  - a. neighbourhood-level structures, such as neighbourhood shops co-hosted with communities, for resident participation that prioritises low barriers to entry, so there are equitable opportunities for residents across Waltham Forest to play a role in shaping their neighbourhoods.
  - b. borough-wide steering groups, representing specific groups that risk being overlooked, including people with disabilities, those in temporary accommodation, and those that are digitally excluded.
  - c. using playful and participatory methods, such as participatory mapping and gamified digital ethnographies, to identify significant spaces, services or activities within a neighbourhood to co-identify opportunities.
  - d. using community or peer research models and other existing mechanisms, such as citizens' assemblies and young people's groups, to undertake future research at the neighbourhood-level.
3. **Explore opportunities for the council to support resident-led activity in their neighbourhoods**, to complement the council's role in meeting residents' needs and priorities. Resident-led activity might also play a vital role in ensuring neighbourhoods have the amenities residents have identified as important, such as services they need or free spaces that are suited to local people. Ideas to pursue might include:
  - a. identifying examples that already exist in the borough and work with residents engaged with those to understand how other residents might lead on activity in their neighbourhoods.
  - b. small grants that enable organic community action and activity within 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, or support to access funding and mechanisms such as community asset management or ownership and social businesses.
  - c. piloting neighbourhood-level participatory budgeting or community design collectives, where residents are engaged in providing feedback on designs for future developments and offered the opportunity to help shape future neighbourhood plans.

#### 4. Continually monitor and improve how inclusive the Council's engagement processes are and who is taking part.

Not all residents will want to take part in engagement or resident-led activity, but understanding motivations and barriers, particularly with residents and communities the council typically struggles to reach, will help diversify opportunities for engagement and participation. Waltham Forest Council should consider:

- a. evaluating feedback from residents about participating in research conducted or commissioned by the council, and

undertaking listening exercises or peer research in places the council or partners struggle to reach, to understand the current barriers to, interest in, and forms of resident involvement.

- b. encouraging research and engagement conducted or commissioned by the council to include incentives to residents to thank them for their time and valuable contributions to research.
- c. conducting small-scale tests of new participatory methods and community engagement techniques, sharing learnings across the council.

### GOOD PRACTICE WITHIN WALTHAM FOREST TO BUILD ON:

- **Waltham Forest Young Advisors** – trained accredited consultants aged 13 to 25 who work with the council and partners to help ensure services are 'young people friendly'.
- **Waltham Forest Citizens' Assembly** – a group of 34 individuals, representative of the diversity of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, who met over three weekends to consider how to stop hate crime and make the borough welcoming and safe.
- **Community Health Champions** – local residents who volunteer to help make communities healthier, more active and better connected with local services and voluntary and community groups in Waltham Forest.
- **Waltham Forest Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Making a Living Summit** – a group of 32 residents, representative of communities who experience significant inequality around making a living, working together to produce a set of recommendations for the council.

## Pioneer new insight approaches and build data capability

1. **Be leaders in the sector, sharing data practices that centre residents' everyday experiences.** This has the potential to provide valuable learning for other service providers. This includes showcasing the adaptability of the Resident Insight Survey, going beyond asset monitoring and seek to understand more subjective experiences such as accessibility, inclusion and safety, as well as data practices that explore neighbourhoods' fluidly and flexibly, identified with communities and people that work with communities.
2. **Continuously review and improve the indicator framework,** particularly in the context of a phased approach to implementing 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Consider using participatory approaches, including understanding whether there are specific data requirements in specific neighbourhoods. This might include:
  - a. using participatory approaches, identifying additional datasets to be mapped under the indicators, including datasets specific to a neighbourhood (eg faith buildings). This can be done through mechanisms such as councillor meetings, neighbourhood shops, other ongoing community engagement.
  - b. working with others to address data gaps and build capability, including local boards and bodies such as Integrated Care Systems, neighbouring London boroughs and London-wide bodies such as Transport for London.
  - c. identifying opportunities to pilot new approaches to innovative data collation and mapping, for example by working with TfL to bring together their WebCAT time mapping tool with datasets that populate the framework.
3. **Ensure internal data collection and presentation supports the implementation of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods.** This includes reviewing and modifying the Resident Insight Survey and other internal data collection instruments to collect neighbourhood-level data that enhances the data picture of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods across Waltham Forest, and ensuring a council-wide mechanism for effectively bringing together and presenting this data. Waltham Forest Council should consider:
  - a. collecting data at a neighbourhood level, ensuring representative coverage. Conduct 'boosts' in neighbourhoods where there is a noticeable lack of, or unrepresentative, engagement with the survey. If resources are limiting, commit to conducting boosts in underrepresented areas over a period of time (eg five years).
  - b. piloting a digital ethnography approach to complement a resident insight survey, potentially in 'boost' areas or with residents with specific needs.
  - c. piloting a 'neighbourhood data bank' using a (paid) participatory data collection model to transparently collect data that is also useful for local communities.
  - d. testing new ways to analyse and present data that helps the council make better-informed decisions and helps residents to understand the progress being made to improve their neighbourhoods.

### GOOD PRACTICE WITHIN WALTHAM FOREST TO BUILD ON:

- **Waltham Forest Resident Insight Survey** – a biannual survey exploring and tracking the views, experiences, and needs of Waltham Forest Residents.
- **The Communications Citizens' Panel** – a diverse group of residents who are invited to co-design and test campaigns and messaging on an ad hoc basis.
- **Let's Talk Lea Bridge** – a pilot engagement website providing a community engagement platform for regeneration projects happening in Lea Bridge, aligned with the Local Area Framework.
- **Low Income Family Tracker** – an online interactive tool that combines and analyses administrative datasets, providing insights to tackle the drivers of poverty and build financial resilience, identifying the most vulnerable families to target support to them and track change.



# ANNEXES



# Annex A:

## Core methodology

On behalf of Waltham Forest Council, The Young Foundation conducted a series of research and engagement activities to build a resident-led understanding of what 15-Minute Neighbourhoods mean in the context of the borough of Waltham Forest. Following expressions of interest from 936 residents, The Young Foundation engaged a diverse sample of over 160 residents, local representatives, and locally-operating organisations in both face-to-face and online qualitative research. This research was carefully designed to lower the barriers for participation. The research drew on participatory and ethnographic research approaches to garner rich insights about both residents' day-to-day experiences and future aspirations.

Alongside the qualitative research, The Young Foundation brought together various existing datasets relevant to different aspects of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods into composite indices, informed by qualitative research and what residents were highlighting as important to them. The indices sought to assess the assets and infrastructure currently available in Waltham Forest, and what that means for residents' experience of their neighbourhood today, as well as the gaps and opportunities that a 15-Minute Neighbourhood model could fill to make for a more inclusive and accessible Waltham Forest.

### Five interlinked participatory qualitative and quantitative work package, to deliver both breadth and depth of research



- WP1:** Iterative **data-focused package**, including exploratory cluster analysis, data mapping and development of an index following participatory research with residents
- WP2:** Online and in-person **participatory qualitative research** with >100 residents, representative of the borough
- WP3:** Online and in-person **priority setting in partnership workshops** with ~40 residents and local stakeholders across five case study locations
- WP4:** Online **digital ethnographic research** with ~25 residents who have specific needs or face specific challenges that might change how they experience 15-Minute Neighbourhoods.
- WP5:** Ongoing input and **guidance from an advisory group** with expertise spanning social infrastructure, urban development, community engagement, data and health.



### Rich qualitative and quantitative insights reconciled to inform a resident-led, data-informed dynamic framework for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest.

#### WP1: DATA ANALYSIS AND MAPPING

Drawing on existing research and literature about 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, and with input from an advisory group, The Young Foundation identified and collated 22 existing datasets relevant to different aspects of the 15-Minute Neighbourhood concept. Cluster analysis and visual data mapping using ArcGIS was conducted to identify trends in the data to inform the qualitative research work.

Following qualitative research work, the collated datasets were revisited, to identify other existing datasets that speak to what residents had identified as important for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. Through an iterative identification process with Waltham Forest Council, both publicly available and internal datasets were mapped to the indicator framework. Factor analysis was used to combine the indicators within each domain into a single factor composite index for that domain.

#### WP2: PARTICIPATORY QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

The Young Foundation selected a representative sample of 85 residents from across the borough to take part in online participatory qualitative research using the online platform, Recollective. The online research comprised of several traditional and creative research tasks ('missions'), intentionally designed for residents to do in their own time, at their own pace, to increase accessibility.

An additional 25 residents were invited to take part in in-person research workshops in two locations across Waltham Forest, particularly targeting residents facing digital exclusion. The workshops mirrored online research activities to ensure comparative data.

The online and in-person participatory qualitative research was designed to gather a breadth of insights and experiences from residents about their daily life, what's important to them, and their priorities and vision for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. All residents were compensated for their time and for the contributions they made to the research.

#### WP3: PRIORITY SETTING IN PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOPS

The Young Foundation worked with 36 residents and local representatives in five locations across Waltham Forest to undertake priority setting in partnership workshops, as well as one borough-wide workshop focused on priority setting in partnership with young people. All residents were compensated for the time and contributions they made to the research.

The priority setting in partnership model draws on the Institute for Community Studies' approach to co-creating agendas with communities.<sup>14</sup> It is a method that enables prioritisation of statements on a given topic, first individually and then collectively in partnership with other attendees. Drawing on the findings from participatory qualitative research, participants were asked to rank priorities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, to understand their relative importance and where trade-offs and tensions exist for residents.

Priorities ranked lower do not signify lack of importance to participants but signify other priorities are relatively more important. Participants are asked to respond this way to provoke discussion and glean qualitative insights about where tensions and trade-offs might exist and why.

Figure 17: Detailed breakdown of methods used across the research

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix 1 of Safety in Numbers (ICS, 2020). Available [HERE](#).



## WP4: DIGITAL ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Through purposive sampling, 25 residents from across the borough were selected to take part in digital ethnographic research, using the online platform, Recollective. The sample was selected to include residents with different needs or particular challenges that might affect their experience of a 15-Minute Neighbourhood.<sup>15</sup>

Participants were presented with a series of vignettes exploring 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. Each participant was then prompted for reflection and response, with the option to answer in writing, verbally or with the support of pictures. The research activities were intentionally designed for residents to do in their own time, at their own pace, to increase accessibility.

The research activities sought reflections from residents on aspirations, concerns and challenges surrounding aspects of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods that emerged as high priority in previous work packages. All residents were compensated for the time and contributions they made to the research.

## WP5: ADVISORY GROUP

The Young Foundation brought together a diverse group of knowledge experts to guide and advise on the research, through the research process. The advisory group included knowledge experts spanning social infrastructure, urban development, community engagement, data and health. The advisory group was convened three times over the course of the project, providing direction on the research approaches and methods and the strategic framework and recommendations of the work.

# Annex B: Expanded findings from qualitative work packages

## EXAMPLES OF HOW RESIDENTS CONSIDER THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS



Figure 18-20: Responses from participants when asked to personify their place, to build understanding of their relationship to their neighbourhood.

<sup>15</sup> The Young Foundation took an intersectional approach, seeking diversity of experiences to select residents with multiple needs or facing multiple challenges, including mobility challenges, financial precarity, and social exclusion or discrimination.

**WHY RESIDENTS USE SOME MODES OF TRANSPORT OVER OTHERS**

Mode	Reasons for using	Reasons for not using
<b>Walking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise</li> <li>• Easy to do with children/buggy</li> <li>• Free</li> <li>• Get to know local area</li> <li>• Enjoyable/relaxing</li> <li>• To walk with dog</li> <li>• Avoid parking costs</li> <li>• Covid - prefer being outside</li> <li>• Occasion to bump into friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not as fast</li> <li>• Limited due to disability</li> <li>• Everything is too far away to walk</li> <li>• Unable to carry heavy things too far</li> </ul>
<b>Cycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise</li> <li>• Convenient</li> <li>• Enjoyable</li> <li>• Can reach areas slightly beyond walking distance</li> <li>• Cheap</li> <li>• Convenient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not easy to cycle with children</li> <li>• Bikes are expensive</li> <li>• Safety concerns</li> <li>• Bike could get stolen, no safe storage places</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• No/insufficient cycle lanes</li> <li>• No cycle hire (eg Santander)</li> <li>• Age and disability</li> </ul>
<b>Overground/train</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To go to work</li> <li>• Clean</li> <li>• Affordable</li> <li>• Use when going places more than 30 minutes away</li> <li>• Fast</li> <li>• Away from pollution</li> <li>• Comfortable</li> <li>• Going to central London</li> <li>• Convenient</li> <li>• Comes frequently</li> <li>• Quickest way to get to certain places (Hackney, Hampstead)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> <li>• Difficult to take pram</li> <li>• Lack of routes that are quicker than taking underground</li> <li>• Don't need to travel that far</li> <li>• Got out of habit during pandemic</li> <li>• Trains too infrequent</li> </ul>
<b>Underground</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get to other parts of London</li> <li>• Work, culture, going out in central London</li> <li>• Convenient</li> <li>• Fast</li> <li>• Comes frequently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> <li>• Avoid at busy times</li> <li>• Got out of habit during pandemic</li> </ul>
<b>Bus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient</li> <li>• Use when going to a more remote place</li> <li>• Cheaper than trains</li> <li>• Prefer other modes of transport, but take bus when convenient or when carrying heavy things</li> <li>• To avoid walking alone at night</li> <li>• If journey is too far for kids to walk</li> <li>• People mention taking the bus to the underground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have felt unsafe on buses during pandemic</li> <li>• Prefer to use car</li> <li>• Can take just as long as walking if traffic is bad</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour at school dismissal time</li> <li>• Hard with buggy; people stand in area meant for parents</li> <li>• Inadequate service and unreliable timing</li> <li>• Disability - can't get bus to stop</li> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>
<b>Car</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use if weather is bad</li> <li>• For big shop or taking heavy things</li> <li>• Safer encounter and/or less pollution than biking</li> <li>• Fast</li> <li>• Taking kids to school</li> <li>• Comfortable</li> <li>• Can do multiple errands quickly</li> <li>• Convenient for some disabled people</li> <li>• For going outside London</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Don't have a car</li> <li>• Expensive</li> <li>• Cost to the environment</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxis used at night</li> </ul>	

Table 4: Breakdown of responses from participants when asked why they use different modes of transport

**HOW RESIDENTS GET INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR LOCAL AREA**

Participants were asked how they get information about what is happening in their local area. The internet was the most popular way. Interestingly, friends and family, the council newsletter, and spending time in the neighbourhood followed closely behind, speaking to the persistent usefulness of word-of-mouth information-sharing.

Residents were asked to provide feedback on a series of visual and interactive maps that might be used to communicate 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Figure 22-24 shows the three maps ranked highest by residents.

Residents indicated that the following would be important for any map they would use:

- Maps that give walking time and distance
- Clean, simple, easy to read and understand (colour coding)
- Filters for different kinds of facilities and services
- Ideas for new things to do (especially free activities)
- Ability to read reviews of facilities and services
- Potential compatibility with Google Maps
- Would need to be updated regularly

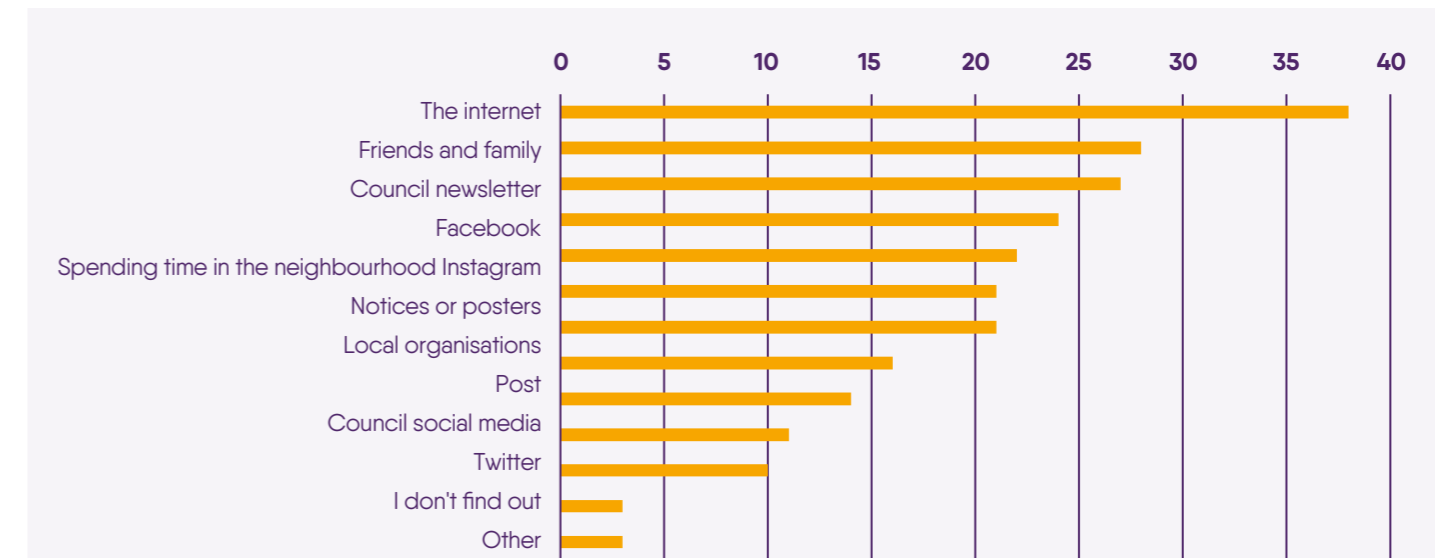
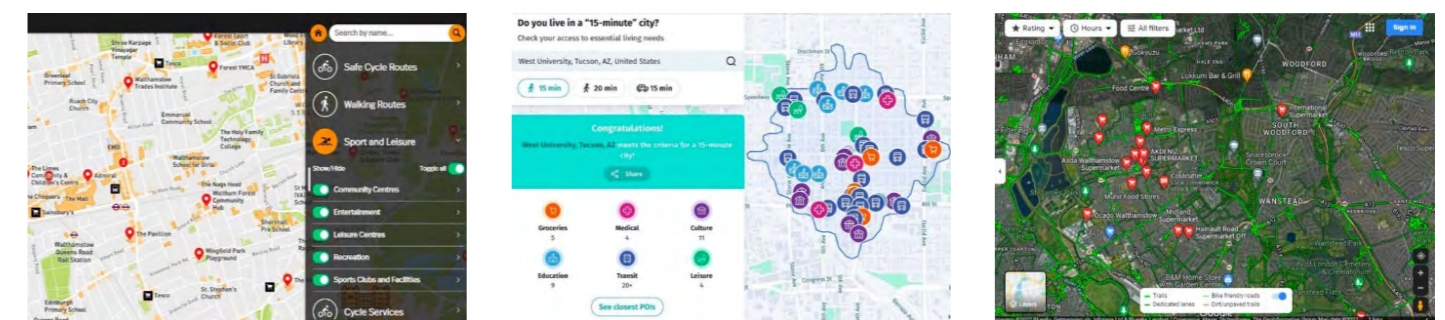


Figure 21: Responses to question "How do you find out what's going on in your local area?" (n=56)



63% of participants said they were likely to use this map.

43% of participants said they were likely to use this map.

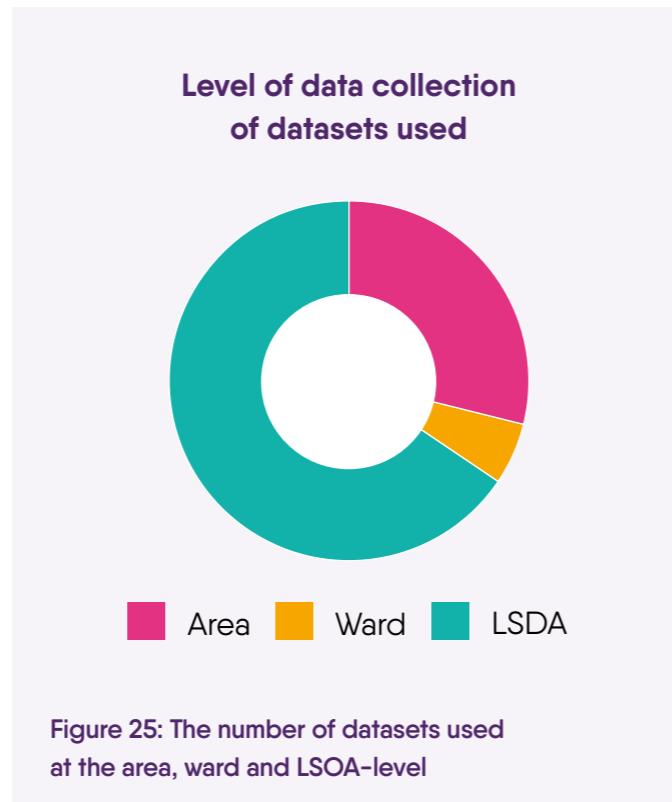
38% of participants said they were likely to use this map.

Figure 22-24: The three maps ranked most highly by participants as useful in gathering information about their 15-Minute Neighbourhood.

# Annex C: Expanded findings from quantitative work package

## QUALITY OF THE EXISTING DATA

The indicators used for the quantitative work package of this research were identified from publicly available datasets, collected at the ward or Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) level, and internally-held datasets from Waltham Forest Council, predominantly collected at the area-level or in the form of point data.<sup>16</sup> While area-level data provide good initial indication as well as opportunities to improve on available data, for the purposes of the factor analysis this data masked detail at the neighbourhood-level that would be most useful for this type of exercise. Datasets also ranged in age, with the oldest datasets used being from the 2011 Census data. Where datasets were collected in 2022, almost two thirds of those datasets are collected at area-level. A full list of the datasets used can be found in Table 8



### Age of datasets by level of data collection of datasets used

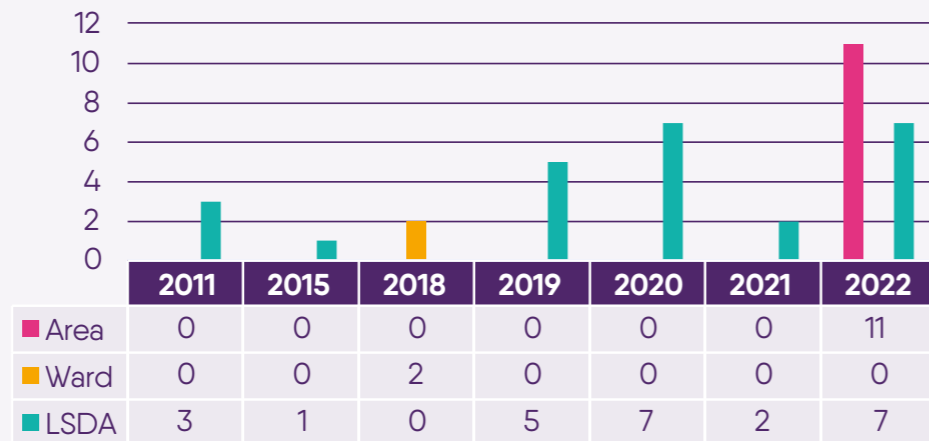


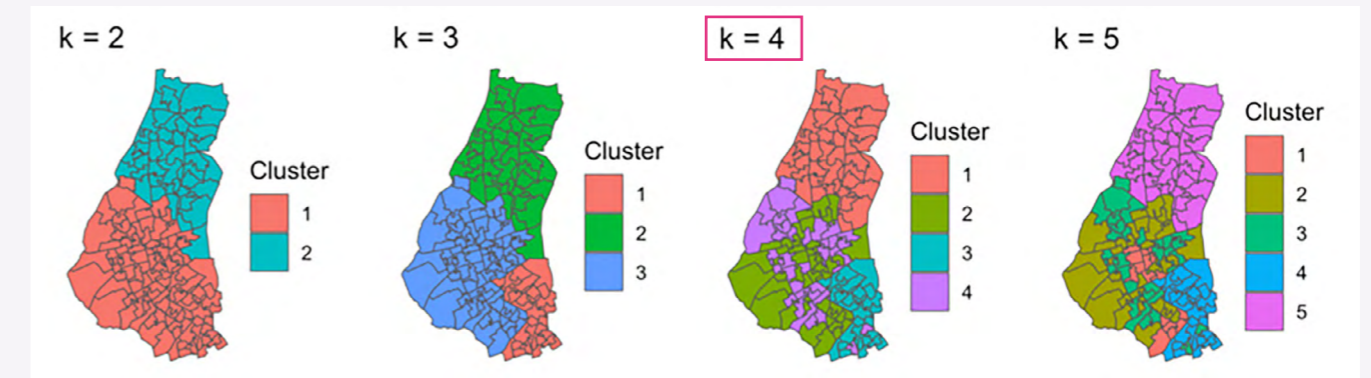
Figure 26: The age of datasets by level of data collection of datasets used

## FINDINGS FROM CLUSTER ANALYSIS

Cluster analysis organises indicators into groups, or clusters, on the basis of how closely associated they are. Cluster analysis of the existing datasets signals an expected divide between north and south, as well as the Leytonstone area. This roughly matches up with what we know about the disparity of existing assets and services across the borough.

The scale of measure of existing datasets is a limitation. Where there is no LSOA-level data, area or ward level data has been used as dummy data at the LSOA level. This returns results with less granularity. Nonetheless, cluster analysis provides a useful starting point in understanding where there are major disparities and confirms what is broadly known about what exists across the borough.

Different potential clusters were considered (from k=2 to k=9). Analysis of the total within-cluster sum of squares suggests that four clusters explain a large amount of the variation in the dataset.



- Cluster 1:** 40 LSOAs wholly in the north of the borough.
- Cluster 2:** 41 LSOAs mainly in the south and south-west of the borough, mixed with Cluster 4.
- Cluster 3:** 27 LSOAs wholly in the south-east.
- Cluster 4:** 36 LSOAs mainly in the south and south-west of the borough, mixed with Cluster 2. Compared to Cluster 2, Cluster 4 contains higher levels of income and health deprivation, lower levels of personal safety, higher levels of exclusion and discrimination, lower levels of cycling accessibility and greater risk of digital exclusion.

Table 5: Results from cluster analysis conducted in initial stages of WP1

<sup>16</sup> Areas are defined by Waltham Forest Council as North, Central, Southeast and Southwest of the borough.

### FINDINGS FROM FACTOR ANALYSIS

Factor analysis is a statistical approach often used in social science to reduce a large number of variables into a smaller number of theoretically significant factors. Following the approach taken by the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing to construct the Index of Multiple Deprivation<sup>17</sup>, The Young Foundation adopted a variant of maximum likelihood factor analysis to create indices for as many as possible of the indicator groups identified through the research:

- Access to essential services
- Ways for everyone to get around easily
- Spaces and services that are free or affordable to use
- Spaces and services for people of all ages
- A neighbourhood where I can have a say
- A neighbourhood I feel safe in
- A neighbourhood for the different phases of my life
- A neighbourhood that welcomes everyone

} These two indicator groups were combined into a single group.

} This group was excluded because of lack of data.

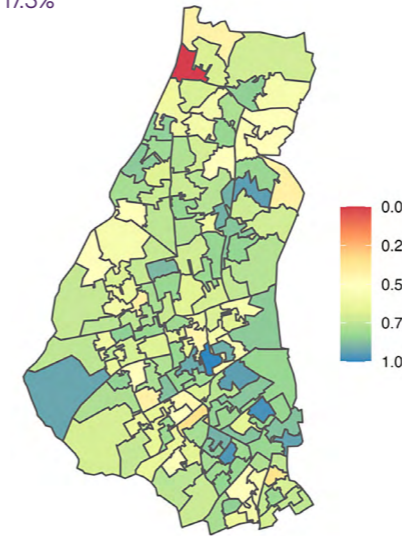
In each case, the assumption was that the indicator group represented a single factor that was explained by the constituent, resident-informed datasets identified in Figure 6 above. The results are shown in Figures 27–32 below, which includes estimates of the relative contribution ('loadings') of each of the constituent datasets as well as an estimate of the amount of variation across these datasets that is explained by the resulting index (ranging

from 17.5% to 63.7%). All indices were calculated at LSOA level, even though some data were only available at larger geographical scales. This can limit the range of index scores. Where, for example, an index depends on the Resident Insight Survey which is recorded at area level (north, central, south-west, south-east) the overall index will be limited to four levels – as can be seen with the Having a Say and Feeling Welcomed indices.

To calculate index scores for larger geographical areas, such as borough-wide or in particular neighbourhoods or areas, the individual LSOA-level scores are combined into a population-weighted average.

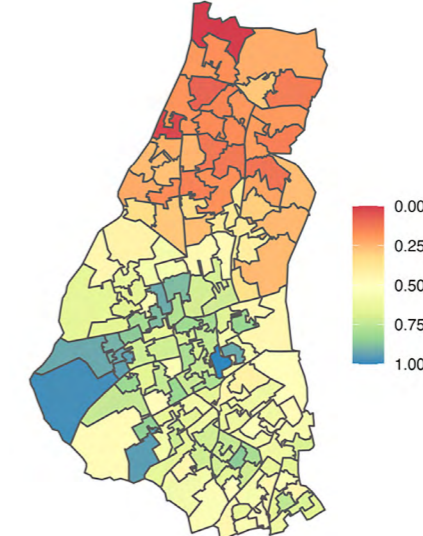
#### Access to Essential Services Index

**Components:**  
dig\_exc, e-food\_des, pri\_sch\_access, sec\_sch\_access, gps\_access, hosp\_access  
**Loadings:**  
0.82, -0.87, 0.07, 0.02, 0.16, 0.22, -0.06, 0.19, 0.17  
**Variance explained:**  
17.5%



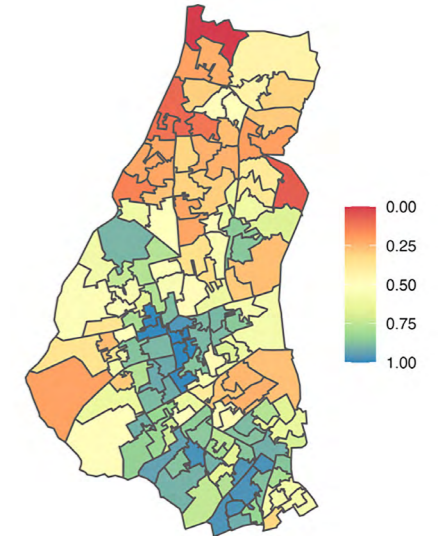
#### Easy to Get Around Index

**Components:**  
pave\_rd, ptal, cycl\_access, geo\_barriers, bike\_hangers, bike\_hangers\_wl  
**Loadings:**  
-0.71, 0.38, 0.70, 0.51, 0.80, -0.46  
**Variance explained:**  
37.7%



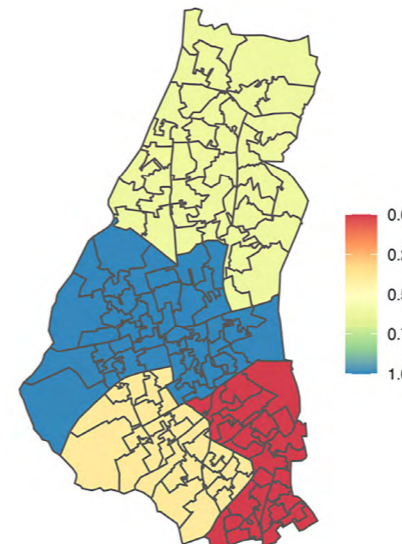
#### Affordable Spaces for all Ages Index

**Components:**  
green\_access, open\_spc\_access, library\_access, community\_centres, playground  
**Loadings:**  
-0.36, -0.04, 0.61, 0.32, 0.70  
**Variance explained:**  
21.9%



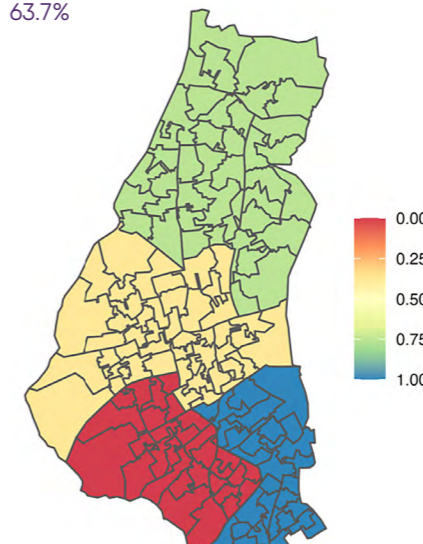
#### Having a Say Index

**Components:**  
counc\_act, comm\_dec, csi  
**Loadings:**  
1.00, -0.83, 0.34  
**Variance explained:**  
60.0%



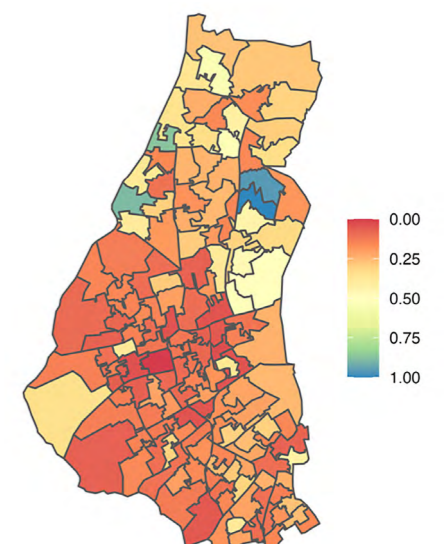
#### Feeling Welcomed Index

**Components:**  
get\_along, be\_myself, pos\_future, eq\_opps  
**Loadings:**  
1.00, 0.89, 0.88, 0.01  
**Variance explained:**  
63.7%



#### Feeling Safe Index

**Components:**  
rsl\_crime, offecnes, asb  
**Loadings:**  
-0.22, 0.64, 0.84  
**Variance explained:**  
38.5%



Figures 27–32: Choropleth maps of the six indicators at a granular level, across the borough

<sup>17</sup> See, *The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 Technical report*, published September 2019

## MAPPING EXISTING DATA TO NEIGHBOURHOODS

Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are small areas of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. LSOAs are a commonly used unit in existing datasets. However, LSOA boundaries do not map well to how residents experience their different neighbourhoods. One way to view neighbourhoods is to develop clusters of LSOAs that represent a neighbourhood, and using these as units of analysis. This allows for flexible definition of what constitutes a neighbourhood from a resident's point of view, whilst making best use of existing datasets.

It is well acknowledged that classifying neighbourhoods by LSOAs that fall within a 15-minute walk of a defined point is a rigid and, in some cases, unhelpful definition. However, for the purpose of illustration, The Young Foundation mapped 15-minute areas in different areas of Waltham Forest. It is strongly recommended that neighbourhoods are identified with communities and people that work with communities, and LSOAs clustered accordingly.

### For illustrative purposes, the following neighbourhoods were mapped:

- Lea Bridge, Chingford Mount, Highams Park, Leytonstone and South Leytonstone, and Higham Hill – identifiable neighbourhoods to both residents and the Council
- The area around Sewardstone Road – a more isolated neighbourhood in the northwest of the borough, that is less readily identified as a neighbourhood
- The area around Ridegeway Park – a neighbourhood that sits between three identifiable neighbourhoods, and therefore on the 'edge' of neighbourhoods and their assets and services.

Table 6: Approach to mapping indicators at neighbourhood-level (see Section 3)

## PROTOTYPE DATA PRODUCTS

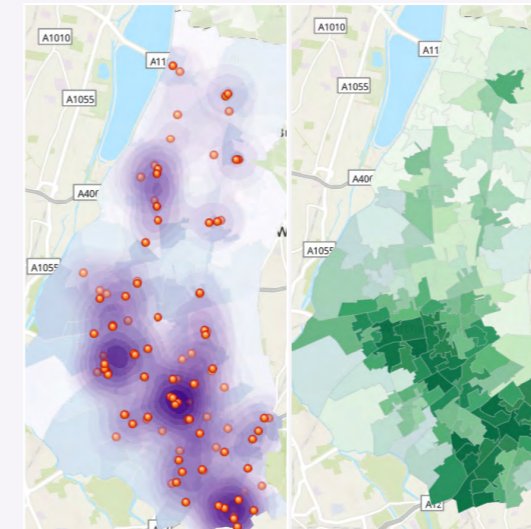
**Single factor composite indices:** Single factor composite indices have been developed using factor analysis of collated datasets that speak to the different indicators and domains of the 15-Minute Neighbourhood. Limitations of existing datasets translate directly into limitations of the strength of the corresponding index in providing an accurate picture at the very local level.

To build a holistic picture of how neighbourhoods are performing against the resident-led, data-informed indicator framework, radar diagrams can be mapped at the neighbourhood level, area level and borough level. Understanding how places across Waltham Forest at different levels are doing according to the framework enables decision-making around prioritising neighbourhoods, and the type of interventions or support needed in that neighbourhood.

### Choropleth maps of indices and indicators:

Choropleth maps of indicators were produced using ArcGIS, to provide a detailed overview of what exists across Waltham Forest but also enables a user to 'zoom in' on areas or neighbourhoods, depending on the data that is available. Maps of indicators have been organised by domain, and can be viewed alongside maps of single factor composite indices for a more in-depth understanding of why indices are as they are.

Indicators can be layered within and across domains to build an understanding of where there are any particular deserts. For example, in terms of health services as essential services, looking at this data alone indicates good coverage (given population) across the borough. However, looking at ease of getting around highlights areas which may struggle to reach those health services.



The first map shows density choropleth maps and point data of essential health services, overlaid onto data about population estimates. While there are 'hot spots' and 'cold spots', these tend to correlate with population estimates. It would be better to have data on GP registration rates in this case.

The second map shows public transport accessibility levels. Looking at them side by side signals that health services typically exist alongside good public transport. It also helps to highlight places such as Chingford Hatch and Hale End (but not Highams Park) might fall short of both ease to get around and access to essential services.

Table 7: How to explore and understand the interactive choropleth maps

## DATA INTERPRETATION CAVEATS

When interpreting the results presented in this report it is important to recognise that:

- the factors identified by residents through the qualitative research process might not represent all factors relevant for a complete analysis of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest.
- the constituent datasets collected to plot the choropleths and construct the indices reflect the data that were available, not necessarily the data that is ideal. In particular:
  - o all datasets contain random measurement error;
  - o missing datasets reduce the accuracy of the analysis;

- o datasets only available at geographical scales larger than LSOA also reduce the accuracy of the analysis;
- o even where datasets are available at LSOA-level, the distribution of say public transport accessibility can be highly concentrated in one place and much less concentrated elsewhere.

The final point is particularly important for Waltham Forest residents living close the borough boundaries, where many of the assets and services they rely on are found in neighbouring boroughs.

## LIST OF DATASETS USED

Domain	Description	Source	Suitability	Level	Date
Local conditions	Median population estimate	<a href="#">ONS population estimates</a>		LSOA	2020
Local conditions	Median age	<a href="#">ONS population estimates</a>		LSOA	2020
Local conditions	Households with children	<a href="#">London Datastore Census 2011 – publicly available</a>		LSOA	2011
Local conditions	Income deprivation	<a href="#">Index for multiple deprivation – publicly accessible</a>		LSOA	2020
Local conditions	Health deprivation	<a href="#">Index for multiple deprivation – publicly accessible</a>		LSOA	2020
Local conditions	Car ownership	<a href="#">London Datastore Census 2011 – publicly available</a>		LSOA	2011
Local conditions	Satisfaction with local area	WF Resident Insight Survey Q1 (Satisfaction with local area)		Area	2022
Easy to get around	Quality of pavement and roads [PROXY]	WF Resident Insight Survey Q 14.8 (Pavement and road maintenance satisfaction)		Area	2022
Easy to get around	Public transport accessibility level	<a href="#">TFL public transport accessibility score</a>		LSOA	2015
Easy to get around	Cycling accessibility [PROXY]	<a href="#">Census 2011 cycle to work/school data</a>		LSOA	2011
Easy to get around	Geographical barriers	<a href="#">Index for multiple deprivation – publicly accessible</a>		LSOA	2020
Easy to get around	% of households with bike hangers on their street	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2022
Easy to get around	% of households on bike hanger waiting list	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2022
Essential services	Digital exclusion risk index	Citizens Online (internal WF)		LSOA	2022
Essential services	E-food desert index	<a href="#">E-food Desert Index   CDRC Data</a>		LSOA	2020
Essential services	Access to primary schools	<a href="#">Journey time statistics: data tables (JTS) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>		LSOA	2019
Essential services	Access to secondary schools	<a href="#">Journey time statistics: data tables (JTS) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>		LSOA	2019
Essential services	Access to GP	<a href="#">Journey time statistics: data tables (JTS) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>		LSOA	2019
Essential services	Access to hospital	<a href="#">Journey time statistics: data tables (JTS) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>		LSOA	2019
Essential services	Satisfaction with information available [PROXY]	WF Resident Insight Survey Q 11 (Information satisfaction)		Area	2022
Essential services	% of pharmacies within 15 minutes	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2022
Essential services	% of nurseries within 10 minutes	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2022
Affordable/all ages	Access to green and blue space	<a href="#">Access to Public Open Space and Nature by Ward – London Datastore</a>		Ward	2018
Affordable/all ages	Access to open spaces	<a href="#">Access to Public Open Space and Nature by Ward – London Datastore</a>		Ward	2018
Affordable/all ages	Access to libraries	<a href="#">Cultural Infrastructure Map - London Datastore</a>		LSOA	2019
Affordable/all ages	% of community centres within 15 minutes	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2022
Affordable/all ages	% of playgrounds within 10 minutes	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2022
Having a say	Belief local Council will act on residents concerns	WF Resident Insight Survey Q10 (Council acting on concerns)		Area	2022
Having a say	Confidence in neighbourhood to make decisions	WF Resident Insight Survey Q7.2 (rely on neighbours and community to make decisions)		Area	2022
Having a say	Civic strength index	<a href="#">London Civic Strength Index - London Datastore</a>		LSOA	2021
Feeling safe	Fear of crime and violence	WF Resident Insight Survey QS1 (crime and violence)		Area	2022
Feeling safe	Number of offences	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2020
Feeling safe	Number of ASB incidents reported to the Council	WF internal dataset		LSOA	2021
Feeling welcomed	Sense of belonging	WF Resident Insight Survey Q4 (sense of belonging)		Area	2022
Feeling welcomed	Belief that local residents get along	WF Resident Insight Survey Q6 (getting along)		Area	2022
Feeling welcomed	Ability to 'be myself'	WF Resident Insight Survey Q7.3 (comfortable being myself)		Area	2022
Feeling welcomed	Positivity about future	WF Resident Insight Survey Q7.4 (positive about future)		Area	2022
Feeling welcomed	Belief that local residents have equal opportunities	WF Resident Insight Survey Q7.5 (equal opportunities)		Area	2022

Table 8: Full list of datasets used in factor analysis, to produce the composite single factor indicators.





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