

SOUTHWARK 2030



Summary
of what we
heard

Throughout our Southwark 2030 engagement we heard that people want Southwark to be a borough that is fair, equal and for everyone. Our shared ambition is to create a future where....

HOMES

All residents in Southwark have a home they are proud of, that meets their needs, and they can afford

NEIGHBOURHOODS

All residents will be proud of living in caring, connected and welcoming Southwark neighbourhoods

NATURE

Southwark is a borough full of nature that residents can enjoy and be part of

CLIMATE

Southwark will be an international leader in tackling the climate emergency

SAFETY

All people in Southwark feel and are safe on the streets, in their homes and at work

PROSPERITY

Southwark's economy provides greener, fairer and good quality work, education and training opportunities for all

HEALTH & WELLBEING

People across every part of Southwark's community are living long, healthy lives with good mental health

CULTURE

Everyone in Southwark can enjoy our vibrant culture and arts scene that the borough has available

Homes – what we heard

- **Affordability** – families and communities should be able to stay living close to each other, especially where young people want to move out of their family home.
- **Good quality housing** – housing should be well maintained; of suitable size; energy efficient; and fit for the future. People wanted a council Repairs Service that is consistent and responsive.
- **Homes for** – range of views on who homes should be for, including homeless people, local people and local workers (esp. key workers). People also talked about accessible homes for older and disabled people.
- **People's voice** – people wanted to be heard in the development and planning process and for improved democracy in Housing Associations and Tenant's Associations
- **New housing** – there were differing views but a general acceptance of the need for new homes, but also desire not to become borough of high rises.
- **Be innovative** – Southwark should be open to trialling and testing new approaches.
- **Accountability** – improve levers to hold developers and landlords to account.
- **Mixed communities** – communities should not be segregated based on home ownership, private vs social renters.



Neighbourhoods – what we heard



there's
or A local
community
where I know
my neighbours

- **Connected** - People want to know their neighbours, support and care for each other; and connect with people who are different from themselves.
- **Inclusive** – it was important to tackle social isolation, digital exclusion and for the borough to have a good understanding of different people, especially children and adults with additional needs.
- **Community spaces** – people wanted spaces to come together, especially free spaces.
- **Promotion of events** – there was acknowledgement that there are lots of positive things going on but people don't know about them so more needed to be done to improve promotion of them to everyone.
- **Active citizens** – differing views on the role that people can play in creating the future and how this links with the council's role. It was clear there are more people who are interested in getting involved than currently have the opportunity to do so. Communities should be able to share skills and knowledge with each other. This would not mean the council is stepping away from its responsibilities.
- **Investment in local areas** - People wanted to see investment in their neighbourhoods / high streets. Many felt that over the last 10 years their areas had become tired.

Nature – what we heard



- **Protect and enhance existing green and blue spaces** – for example wildlife feeding areas, wildflower areas and improvements to children’s playgrounds.
- **Greening urban areas** - extending greenery beyond current green spaces and taking over known 'grot-spots'.
- **Trees** – people wanted more of them
- **Community growing spaces and allotments** – there was an ask for more places to bring people together. For example, reclaiming rooftops and unloved space.
- **Biodiversity** – people were keen to enhance biodiversity, rewild areas and promote nature.
- **Participation** - this was an area where people expressed an interest in being involved, supported and empowered to make these changes happen.

Climate Change – what we heard

- **Pride and vision** – people want to feel proud of the contribution people and organisations in Southwark are making to tackling the climate emergency, with a clear shared vision and plan to achieve this.
- **Ideas** – across a range of topics there was lots of energy and ideas that directly and indirectly address the climate emergency.
- **Active travel** – it was important to people that the borough was walkable, cycle friendly and with good public transport links. Accessibility and improved infrastructure being key to this. There were differing views on the level of car use which is acceptable and measures to support walking and cycling. Car sharing and more electric charging for those who need a car was suggested.
- **Environmentally friendly energy**
- **Less waste** – reduce consumption and better waste management, including making recycling as easy as possible and effective waste management contract.
- **Better water management** - more permeable material to be used for pavements and driveways.



Safety – what we heard

Young people have
a place to be safe
and hang out

Streets being safe
to walk without fear

- **Safety while walking around** - people are worried about their loved ones and their own physical safety. This was a particular concern for and from children, young people, women and older people.
- **Focus on young people** – there was an emphasis on a need for increased provision of activities / spaces for young people to keep them engaged, as well as being safe travelling to and from school and when in school.
- **Recurrent concerns around certain crimes** – such as anti-social behaviour, phone theft and gang violence which were mentioned repeatedly.
- **Action** – a need for increased police and warden presence was a contested suggestion and other people suggested better lighting; and more surveillance would help reduce crime.

Prosperity– what we heard



- **Affordability of Southwark** - it is increasingly difficult to afford to live well in Southwark, there had been an erosion of people's safety net and the cost of living, along with some examples of poor employment practices, was making it hard for people to afford to live in the borough
- **Good jobs** – whilst overall there are a good number of jobs, younger, older people and those without English as a first language are finding it difficult to get work. There is a need to tackle discriminatory employment practice and ensure employment support is tailored to the individual.
- **Education and training** – we heard support for the expansion of apprenticeships, enhanced English language support and continued improvement in schools (SEND and high-schools in north).
- **Thriving local business** – people had a keen interest in supporting local businesses.
- **Vibrant high streets** – it was important to people that their local high street was clean and attractive with a range of shops and things to do, including independent small businesses

Health & wellbeing – what we heard

Wellness is for all

No person to go
without food

- **People want to stay healthy** - they appreciate the existing free and low-cost access to leisure centres
- **Activities** – there should be a variety of activities, open to everyone, to enable people to stay physically and mentally well
- **Maintaining good mental health** – this was important for all age ranges and there was an ask for better mental health support
- **Food** - access to good, healthy and affordable food is important
- **Access to healthcare** – people discussed the difficulties they experienced accessing their GPs in particular. There was a particular barrier for communities who required an English translator and often struggled to get one

Culture – what we heard

- **Diverse cultural offer** – there was an appreciation for the current cultural offer of Southwark but people would like to see more, particularly as a way to bring different communities and generations together
- **Public art** – people gave Dulwich and Peckham Rye as good examples of public artwork . They would like to see more opportunities for local artists to showcase their work in these ways
- **Libraries** - People appreciated the libraries in Southwark and wanted them to still be available to in 2030.
- **Local people's access to the cultural offer** – people were keen to encourage and support more local people to make the most of the cultural offer available.

How the council works - hopes



People welcomed the opportunity to have a say in the future of Southwark. In addition to the key messages on hopes for 2030, people also focused on how they wanted the council to work. This included:

- Treating everyone with respect, with a need for staff training to achieve this.
- Working in partnership with residents and partners to solve problems.
- Enhancing democracy.
- Improving communication and transparency, including an improved council website.
- Respond promptly, such as answering phones and replying to emails.
- Simplifying processes and reducing bureaucracy.