

15 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Our Corporate
Framework

WALTHAM FOREST

MY NEIGHBOURHOOD



Waltham Forest

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FOREWORD: Councillor Grace Williams, Leader of Waltham Forest Council

Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest are special. Like the people who live here, they're all unique, with their own characteristics, history, and communities. They're what make our borough such an amazing place to live.

My little corner of the borough holds so many fond memories for me, my family, and friends – the people and the places unite to make up my neighbourhood that is now part of my identity. A place I am proud to be part of.

In Waltham Forest we recognise the power of neighbourhoods not just to bring people together, as safe places to raise families, but also to tackle global issues such as climate change, and getting us through a pandemic.

Our 15-Minute Neighbourhoods approach will strengthen these our neighbourhoods by ensuring we have everything we need for people to thrive, allowing us to get around easily, safely and with confidence.

We want to ensure people have easy access to more of the things they need in their neighbourhood. This will help improve everyone's quality of life and can support us as we tackle inequalities and help people reach their potential.

15-Minute Neighbourhoods gives us a way to have more of what we all need within easy reach of home and can support the change needed

to address local issues and tackle our biggest national challenges. It is an opportunity to rethink how services support our residents and how we can act together to enable and effect change.

We've been speaking to every corner of the borough ensuring we not only capture what people want and need for the future of their 15-Minute Neighbourhood, but also to hear first-hand the unique experiences and culture each part of Waltham Forest has. It is this rich culture we want to build upon and strengthen.

If there is one thing we've learned since embarking on improving our approach to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods this project, it's that you can't put a point on a map and draw a circle around it. That's not the way it works, or the way people think. You have to shape the neighbourhood around the people, not fit the people around the neighbourhood.

With this pioneering new approach, we will build a fairer and more equal borough with 15-Minute Neighbourhoods at the heart of our collective approach – where life is in easy reach and everybody has a part to play.

“ If there is one thing we've learned since embarking on this project, it's that you can't put a point on a map and draw a circle around it. That's not the way it works, or the way people think. You have to shape the neighbourhood around the people, not fit the people around the neighbourhood. ”



FOREWORD: Martin Esom, Chief Executive Waltham Forest Council

Having more of what we need within easy reach is something that can benefit everyone. This document sets out the approach the Council will take to realise 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest, working hand in hand with residents and partners.

This is a ground breaking new approach at the very forefront of how you deliver services, work with communities and plan for a future that recognises the power of neighbourhoods at its heart.

Waltham Forest is special; we understand the pride people have in their neighbourhoods because we share that pride. We want everyone to feel part of thriving communities, with safer streets and be able to live healthier and fairer lives.

We've seen over recent years how as a council we can harness that pride through shared cultural experiences and improving the boroughs services and environment. We now need to build on these strong foundations.

In this document we set out how we will realise 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest, working hand in hand with you our residents and partners.

We believe having more of what we need within easy reach is something that can benefit everyone and how people want to live their lives and access public services.

We are all living through a time of crisis and financial uncertainty. We face many challenges; the impact of the pandemic, ongoing health inequalities, the climate emergency, the devastating cost of living increases, and structural inequalities.

I know that as a borough we have the mettle to face these challenges, build our resilience to adapt and to respond. This is an enormous task, but we will work together, and drive change with each other.

In creating our 15-Minute Neighbourhoods vision we have seen the best solutions are often found when local people come together and support each other. We want our communities to be more empowered, to lead and self-organise, and have the confidence to make the positive change they want to see.

We will use insight and listen to inform our decisions, driving efficiencies and acting decisively. This approach will enable us to understand where, when and how we should target our resources, what we should prioritise, what trade-offs are necessary, how to prevent problems arising in the first place.

This Corporate Framework is just the beginning. It will guide our work and how we approach our priorities. So that we can all have life within easy reach.

“Waltham Forest has a wonderful history and heritage, and we are proud of the diversity of culture and communities.”



WHAT ARE 15-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS?

15-Minute Neighbourhoods are places where people can easily reach most, if not all, of the facilities, experiences and activities they need on a daily basis, within a short walk, wheel, or cycle from home. Many places around the world have made commitments to support the creation of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, but it takes long term effort and broad partnerships to begin to make such aspirations a reality.

In Waltham Forest, we already have a long history of improving 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. We are now taking these ambitions further. We are not only focusing on the 'things' that make up a neighbourhood, but the 'experiences' that are at its heart. We know the challenges faced are extensive and connected, from the climate emergency to health inequality. We believe we can face these challenges with practical action and long-term thinking that will lead to healthier, happier, and fairer communities, who thrive in safer and more sustainable neighbourhoods.

Listening to people's ideas and hope for change helps us understand what different residents and neighbourhoods need, but also highlights the inequality in our borough. 15-Minute Neighbourhoods help us work more

closely with our communities, to understand their many different experiences and what they want and need for their lives and where they live.

In Waltham Forest, our 15-Minute Neighbourhoods are distinct. The look and feel of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods will be different across the borough, embracing and celebrating the uniqueness of each area and the people who live there. And they will be connected, enjoying safe, accessible and active travel routes, easy to access public transport, and good digital connectivity.

Wherever we work to develop 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, we will be working alongside the people who call them home.



WHY 15-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR WALTHAM FOREST?

From the money we spend on energy and household costs, to the air we breathe and healthcare we rely on, 15-Minute Neighbourhoods provide an opportunity to rethink how neighbourhoods and local areas can support new ways of living, including ways of working, a better local economy, stronger communities, and an improved sense of belonging.

Our Corporate Framework and priorities reflect what people in Waltham Forest have told us they want and need from 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, at the same time as considering how these priorities can be delivered within the challenging economic situation we face. Listening to our communities, understanding their diverse experiences and what they want for their lives, as well as their aspirations and ideas for what a neighbourhood should have, means the priorities of this Corporate Framework contribute to improving the lives of all our residents, the services they use and the places they live.

Our 15-Minute Neighbourhoods approach is a new way of seeing the challenges in our borough. It can help us to better understand where local inequalities exist and what drives them, helping us to create a more equal borough with a fairer future for everyone who lives here.

The realities of inequality in Waltham Forest have been highlighted by our recent work. This has included talking with and listening to people who live and work in Waltham Forest. We will continue to work with communities to understand how our residents live and set out our ongoing approaches to tackling inequalities.

15-Minute Neighbourhoods also demonstrates a new way to work together. This includes acting more locally where we need to, ensuring that we are working in unison with partners like the police and the NHS, and putting prevention at the heart of all our services.

We all need to play our part and the Council will lead on this where appropriate or make it easy for others to do so.

“ 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 that is a community... it's quite hard to create community through essential things like doctors and shops.” ”

Waltham Forest resident



REVELING IN RETIREMENT AND VALUED VOLUNTEER

JUDE

Living in the Wood Street area with his wife for the last 42 years.

“ *I’ve thought about moving to a more rural area in the past but my heart is set here. I would miss this place. I would miss the people. I love this borough, and I’m proud to be here.*

What I appreciate is actually the facilities, the amenities.... It’s so easy to get to. You have the Victoria Line, and Overground and a rather large bus station in Walthamstow... it takes you everywhere and anywhere. Epping Forest is the main attraction, and no matter where you live it’s always just 20 minutes away.

As someone who’s retired, I don’t want to move somewhere more quiet and rural. This is where you need to be – where people are, people who can help you, where you’re not isolated, and where a Town Hall and a GP are all within reach.

”



CALL TO ACTION

Waltham Forest's 15-Minute Neighbourhoods will build a fairer and healthier borough

We know that everyone experiences the borough differently. The many dimensions to inequality also mean there are people in danger of being left behind.

The Council commissioned the Institute of Health Equity to carry out a ground-breaking piece of research to assess health inequalities in Waltham Forest. The report shows that in order to tackle health inequalities at their root, we need to improve the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age across all our communities. This includes improving the affordability of housing, providing employment support to people with disabilities, and reducing the attainment gap in schools.

We will use the report as a catalyst for change, delivering a truly cross-Council response where everyone understands their role in tackling health inequality. We will also reshape our strategic partnerships across the borough and wider region, to identify opportunities to share resources on improving health outcomes for our residents.

“Inequalities in power, money, and resources are the key drivers of inequities in health. If we put fairness at the heart of all policies, health will improve.”

Sir Michael Marmot

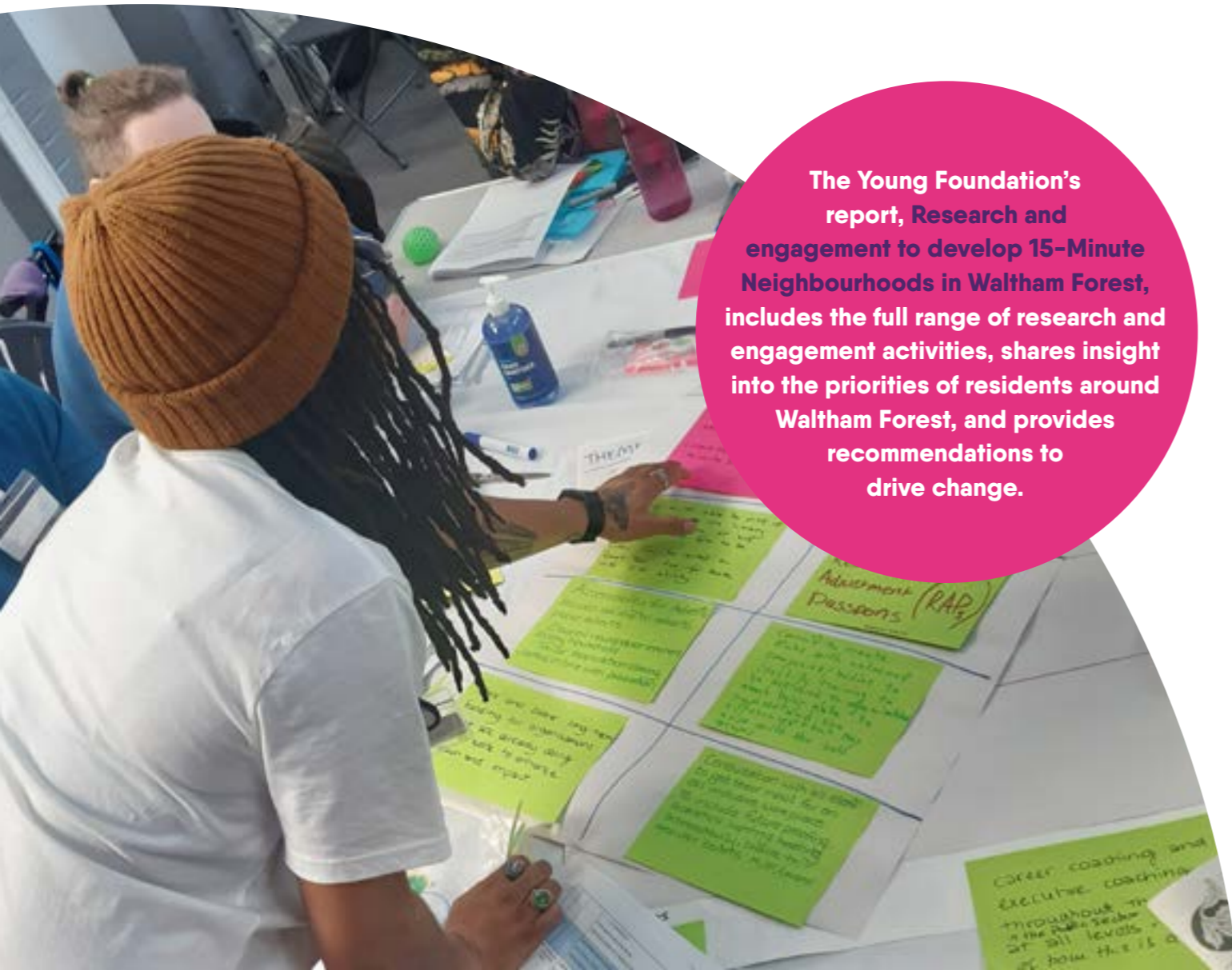
Explore our full findings and recommendations published in the report, **A Fairer and Healthier Waltham Forest: Equity and the Social Determinants of Health.**



OUR RESEARCH

Residents have shaped our 15-Minute Neighbourhoods vision

Local people know their neighbourhoods best and we want everyone to have more of a say over the places they live and the services they use. Over the last year, we have collaborated with thousands of people from across the borough. This has meant delivering a wide-ranging programme of in-depth engagement and research with residents, listening to and understanding people's many different experiences, and exploring different views on what they want and need in their neighbourhoods.



The Young Foundation's report, **Research and engagement to develop 15-Minute Neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest**, includes the full range of research and engagement activities, shares insight into the priorities of residents around Waltham Forest, and provides recommendations to drive change.

The research involved different stages that informed each other:



BOROUGH-WIDE SURVEY GATHERING MASS VIEWS

1,300 responses to a borough-wide survey, which asked residents what they like about their neighbourhoods, and opportunities for improvement.



LONGER TERM RESEARCH WITH RESIDENTS

Residents did a series of creative tasks, developing a representative sample of residents' experiences and priorities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Activities took place online and in person to ensure everyone was included and able to participate.



PRIORITY SETTING IN PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Drawing on findings from the earlier research, a representative sample of participants ranked priorities for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods individually and collectively, with one workshop focusing specifically on young people. Workshops took place in various locations across the borough.



IN-DEPTH SOCIAL RESEARCH

1:1 interviews sought views on the key priorities that emerged from earlier stages of the research. This involved people with multiple needs or who face multiple challenges, including mobility and accessibility, financial precarity, and social exclusion or discrimination.

OUR PATHWAY

We are forging a new path to 15-Minute Neighbourhoods



It is created by Waltham Forest residents.

We have heard from thousands of residents across the borough, helping to shape the thinking and collaborating to develop 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. People's views and experiences will continuously guide our work so it reflects what really matters to them and residents will come together to drive change.



It is built on data and insight.

We are making better use of data and effective engagement and participation that gives us the insight to show where there are problems to solve and opportunities to support communities. We've developed a data-driven view of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods that will evolve over time and help us to measure impact and progress.



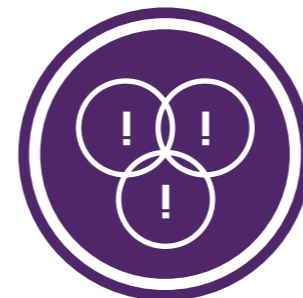
It is flexible to suit local circumstances and the range of experiences residents and communities have.

We are starting with our communities and the many different experiences that residents have and acknowledging that each place is different, with its own communities, characteristics, aspirations and challenges. There's no one-size-fits-all approach and our action will be tailored. Communities will have greater involvement and influence to tackle local issues and meet local needs.



It is not just about the 'things'.

Whilst a lot of similar approaches only concentrate on the physical aspects of neighbourhoods, we know living locally is about more than buildings, facilities, and spaces. For great neighbourhoods and to improve everyone's quality of life, we are also focusing on the experiences people tell us they want to enjoy.



It acknowledges there are multiple, interconnected, overlapping crises and will help us all tackle these head on.

In a time of ongoing instability and uncertainty, there's no better way of understanding both how challenges, including the ever-rising cost of living, the climate emergency, and deepening health inequalities are connected and how we can respond together as the Council, residents and partners. Our approach can be universally adopted and understood across the borough and beyond.

OUR VISION

Waltham Forest's vision for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

Our 15-Minute Neighbourhood Vision shows our priorities and how they are connected. It was co-designed with residents and developed to help understand the neighbourhoods we live in.

It includes the physical elements of a place, such as the buildings, public spaces, and transport infrastructure as well as people's experiences including around feeling safe or having a say. It also covers how we work to make improvements, including different ways we can collaborate as residents, Council, and partners.



OUR CORE THEMES

Our vision is organised around three core themes that will underpin all the work we do together as residents, council and partners.

This 15-Minute Neighbourhood approach provides a new way of delivering more inclusive, accessible, vibrant, and healthy neighbourhoods in Waltham Forest. It enables people to have a say in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods, and allows the Council to respond to residents' needs through bold, tailored interventions. This will provide the foundation for long-lasting change in Waltham Forest, helping create a fairer borough where every resident can thrive.



THEME 1:

**15-Minute
Neighbourhoods
is everyone
taking part
and fulfilling
their potential**

THEME 2:

**15-Minute
Neighbourhoods
is everyone
benefitting from
shared prosperity**

THEME 3:

**15-Minute
Neighbourhoods
is improving the
borough together**

THEME 1: 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is everyone taking part and fulfilling their potential

We want to make sure everyone feels part of their community, can get involved in what's on offer in their neighbourhood and can reach their potential. For people to develop and achieve their potential, they need essentials, like warm homes, affordable food, and good health. They need to live in fairer more equal communities where they feel safe, welcome, with freedom to be themselves. They also need access to culture and to participate in ways that mean their voices are heard and they are part of decisions that affect them.



What we will achieve together as a council, residents and partners



Create healthy neighbourhoods where people get the support they need. Regardless of who you are or where you live, it should be easy to access first-class care and support, whether that is in your home or in the community. This means increasing people's control over their own health and lives and supporting people to live well and independently in their homes for longer. We will use digital and smart devices that support independence, help people better self-manage and monitor their own, or someone else's, health and wellbeing. We will reach people more in their neighbourhoods, working with local community groups, ensuring the whole person is treated with a focus on their strengths, not a narrow focus on a condition or symptom.



Help people feel safe in their communities. We know that safety is not experienced equally in every neighbourhood and that it is vital for people being able to enjoy their local area. We also know that safety depends on communities, the police, the Council and other partners working together and building trust. Our new Community Safety Strategy will ensure neighbourhoods are safe, welcoming, and enjoyable places for everyone. This will include an approach where new teams that are known and trusted are highly visible in neighbourhoods, so support is in easy reach and problems are solved quickly. We will work with the police and other partners to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, listening and acting with communities to identify and respond to their local concerns.



Tackle the impacts of the climate emergency for residents, their homes, and their neighbourhoods.

Although the climate emergency and the energy crisis affect everyone, their effects are felt disproportionately across the borough. Extreme weather – including heatwaves, cold spells, and flooding – generate extra costs for residents, and affect their health. We will bolster our support for residents by improving energy efficiency measures in thousands of homes, building defences against extreme weather, providing support to pay energy bills and working with our community and retail sector to ensure that everyone has access to healthy and affordable food.



Create opportunities for young people to have a say in their own future and the future of their neighbourhood.

Having a say in your local neighbourhood in a way that works for you is at the heart of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. Building on the successes of initiatives such as Street Base, we will create more opportunities for young people to participate. Youth Forums will bring together representatives from every school in the borough. We will also explore how this model can be replicated on a neighbourhood level, with in-depth engagement on the issues young people say are important – from climate change and mental health to racial, gender and LGBTIQ+ equality.



Celebrate and support culture in every community.

Waltham Forest is a borough rooted in culture with an incredible diversity of people that make up our neighbourhoods. We will create thriving destinations across the borough by supporting local creative enterprises and spaces and creating affordable and free activities for all to enjoy. This will ensure all residents can experience the diverse social, economic and health benefits that food, art, culture, retail and play bring.

BUSY PARENT AND MASTER OF FRENCH

KHADIDJA

Moved to Upper Leytonstone from France with her husband 8 years ago.

“ *When my kids were younger, we used to go to the children and family centres. It was nice to go and chat with other parents and get some advice from professionals as well.* ”

It kept us busy and each day had a different programme of activities – it was really good... We should have more events like this where we can chat with our neighbours and share our feelings and worries.

In my neighbourhood we've had issues with anti-social behaviour and selling drugs and I think we didn't have enough support... so we need to have the spirit of neighbourhood, family, helping each other to solve these problems. We just need a little push to meet each other and chat, so we can remove those barriers. ”



CALL TO ACTION

Charting our path to a net zero future together

We are facing a climate emergency. Waltham Forest are committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and becoming the UK's leading borough for collective climate action.

The Eco Showhome was created to inspire local residents to retrofit their homes by showcasing energy efficiency measures in a real-life setting. These measures could significantly reduce a resident's annual fuel bill, alongside reducing yearly household CO2 emissions by 85%. The home attracted nearly 3,000 visitors, from schools to central government officials and national corporations.

We will scale up climate change initiatives across the borough – this means not only retrofitting thousands of homes, but increasing green cover, expanding our EV charging network, and more.

Our Climate Action Plan sets out 20 actions, across four areas:

- Energy Efficient Buildings
- A place for people, not cars
- Consuming less, recycling more
- A greener, more resilient borough

Climate change is happening now and happening locally. Have a look at our [Waltham Forest Climate Action Plan](#) and see what part you can play.

“ Measures could significantly reduce a resident's annual fuel bill alongside reducing yearly household CO2 emissions by 85% ”



THEME 2: 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is everyone benefitting from shared prosperity

We will create places that benefit everyone, with accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods where residents can live full and enriching lives. This means building and developing safe and welcoming local services, facilities and spaces that reflect our diverse communities and that everyone can access. This will help transform the look and feel of our borough, making it an enjoyable place for everyone to work, live and spend their free time.



What we will achieve together as a council, residents and partners



Opportunities for socialising, leisure, and play in Waltham Forest that make our borough a destination for all.

15-Minute Neighbourhoods are about improving the health and happiness of everyone, and this means investing in places that provide opportunities to build community, experience culture and stay healthy. Our exciting development of Soho Theatre, new lido, creating new open spaces and improving our wonderful parks and green spaces will help residents lead healthier and happier lives, opening up new opportunities for people to come together locally and enjoy affordable activities.



Design open and accessible public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Regardless of where you live, you should be able to get around easily and access high quality free spaces. We aim that 40% of the total area of the borough will consist of open spaces, such as greenspace, green corridors, allotments, civic spaces, playgrounds, and sports facilities. Our redevelopments at Fellowship Square and Coronation Square will revitalise key public places, available for free community events that everyone can enjoy. Through the pedestrianisation of town centres and high streets on set days, we will improve the look and feel of neighbourhoods and enable people to enjoy the benefits of walking, wheeling, or cycling.



A range of support within easy reach, at every stage of residents' lives.

No matter who you are, you should have access to services that meet your needs within a short walk, wheel or cycle from home. Community Hubs across the borough, including Family Hubs, Youth Hubs and Health Hubs, will provide welcoming and trusted spaces for communities to come together to participate in local life, help each other out and access support and services. New Repair Cafes, where people can share, reuse and repair, and get things they need at low or no cost, will help people feel more connected to their community. They will create safer, resilient, and more supportive neighbourhoods.



More affordable, quality homes for this generation and the next.

Your home is at the heart of your neighbourhood, and should provide a feeling of comfort and safety, and protect and improve your health and wellbeing. It is important homes are accessible, affordable and close to the things you need. We will build one thousand new Council homes, providing residents with more choice of local, quality housing options. Our new Affordable Housing Commission will bring experts together to explore how our housing development approach can make the greatest impact for residents, particularly those facing the worst effects of the housing crisis. This will help us to carry out sustainable, long-term housing planning.



Quality learning, skills development and employment within easy reach.

It is essential that every resident can gain the skills they need to access high-quality jobs within the borough and beyond, while benefitting from a thriving local economy. We will create a better environment for local people to succeed and flourish on their own - our new University of Portsmouth campus will widen access to higher education for local people. A new Creative Enterprise Zone in Blackhorse Lane will provide affordable spaces for artists and creative businesses to grow and prosper. To help tackle digital exclusion our libraries will enable people to use Wi-Fi and technology.

EXPECTANT MOTHER AND OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST

BOYANA

Lives in Leyton with her husband and son.

“ We recently moved from Leytonstone to Leyton as we purchased our first home. Right now I’m spending my time preparing for my new baby and spending more time with my son, and I’m really enjoying the environment.

I have an amazing neighbourhood, I have amazing neighbours. I have a lot of friends across the borough. There’s so much diversity here... you build relationships with people, you learn about people and their cultures.

I really like spending more time with my son in Coronation Gardens... it’s a very nice place to rest, especially with kids. A good neighbourhood needs to have places and playgrounds for the kids, and events for all ages. We need to invest in our little ones and make sure they’re engaged and grow up well. ”



CALL TO ACTION

Transforming public spaces through investment

Investment transforms neighbourhoods and makes the borough a better place to live for all. Ambitious work across Waltham Forest is providing quality infrastructure in the right places, including streets and open public spaces.

The redevelopment of Fellowship Square has paved the way for better public spaces for everyone to enjoy and created new opportunities for leisure, entertainment and learning. It is bringing people together in a safe, welcoming and well-looked after space, helping shape community ties and nurture a sense of belonging. It is a place for celebration and for communities to enjoy events and a year-round offer of culture.

The development of Fellowship Square will continue and is a great example of what a 15-Minute Neighbourhood can provide, with a landscaped garden, shops and cafés, jobs for local people and affordable homes prioritised for Waltham Forest residents.

Waltham Forest is rich in culture. Have a look at the different activities, events and celebrations to enjoy throughout the year at Fellowship Square and across the borough.



THEME 3: 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is improving the borough together

We will make sure 15-Minute Neighbourhoods are built into how we think and what we do. This means improving how we work together with partners and residents to deliver our shared vision. The challenges that our borough faces are connected, and our actions to solve them should reflect this. We will transform services and how we work together to create bold local actions which recognise existing strengths in residents and their communities.



What we will achieve together as a council, residents and partners



Resident ownership over their neighbourhoods through a New Deal on Participation. Waltham Forest's 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is about connecting people to their neighbourhoods, people working together and using the assets communities have. To achieve this, communities will work together to identify their strengths, skills, and capacities and build on these to make change together. A new online engagement platform and more ways to get involved in-person will help empower residents to have a greater say and more involvement in decisions that shape their local areas and services, like hosting a residential street party or play street, or setting up and managing a community parklet.



Better use of data and insight to support communities, prioritise resources, and address challenges. All people and places in Waltham Forest are unique, and that is why we need services that are tailored to the specific needs of individuals and communities. To ensure we can do this, we will improve the way we use insight and data to understand our neighbourhoods. We will introduce new, cutting-edge technology and digital tools that enable us to identify, prioritise and tackle issues early, such as helping those most vulnerable get warmer homes.



Local improvements that are right for each neighbourhood. For people to feel a strong sense of neighbourhood identity and community, it is important that residents see changes that are bespoke to their areas. We will develop 15-Minute Area Frameworks that draw on the existing strengths, character, heritage, assets, and priorities of each area and develop hyper-local plans for improvement co-designed with local communities. Area specific projects will include a Child Friendly District in Chingford Mount and a Cultural Quarter for Walthamstow.



Lead and collaborate with local partners to deliver ambitious action. There is a strong and committed voluntary and community sector in Waltham Forest. By working together, the Council, communities and partners can tackle the key priorities of each neighbourhood and achieve the scale of change needed. The Council has an important role bringing everyone together to improve key areas like neighbourhood safety through police hubs in libraries, and health equity through conferences with local NHS organisations. We will work with the local VCS as equal partners, to bring in more funding and resources to support them, ensuring they have a greater voice and helping develop capacity to deliver change. We will actively work with communities and encourage self-organisation and local collective action.



Transform the Council to maximise the impact of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. We are committed to creating better neighbourhoods for all to enjoy, at every stage of their life. We must recognise that we will need to prioritise in the context of continued financial pressure. To turn our vision into a reality, this framework will be supported by an ambitious delivery plan and a new target operating model that helps us to make the biggest impact within the context of the challenges we face.

CAFE OWNER AND COMMUNITY CHAMPION

CAZ

Lived in the area for 7 years with her partner and children and recently won a Pride of Waltham Forest Award for her community service.

“ *Cann Hall is a family-oriented, community-minded place. I found that out setting up a community and volunteer business. We've got a massive mix of wonderful cultures – families that have been here for generations, new people moving in...and it's still cohesive and blending well.* ”

There's a neighbourly attitude I really appreciate. We look after each other – during COVID especially, you never really felt isolated. Even now – people say hi to each other when walking their dogs, things like that – it's a different vibe than I've seen in other places.

Things like my business brings people together... we're all born the same, so why don't we just look after each other throughout our journey of life? There are so many small things we can do as a community to improve things and help each other. ”



CALL TO ACTION

Working with residents to create unique neighbourhoods

We are working together with residents in pilot areas across the borough to support the creation of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. This is an ambitious and collaborative process to make improvements that are right for each neighbourhood and bring our **Local Plan** to life.

In Lea Bridge we recently completed a 15-Minute Neighbourhood Area Framework, co-designed with residents to help realise local benefits of potential development and investment. This includes new play space, open space improvements, climate adaptation initiatives, health facilities, community spaces, and social infrastructure.

The Framework develops a shared vision, through engagement with local communities and businesses about the future of the area. This involved drop-in events for residents and businesses, one-to-one meetings with community groups, engagement with local young people, and online surveys open to all.

We are working together to achieve our shared ambitions for the future of our neighbourhoods, offering more ways for local people to get involved, designing exciting new projects, and making significant, positive differences to local communities.

There are regeneration projects and developments taking place all over Waltham Forest. Check out what's happening in your local area and see how you can join in.

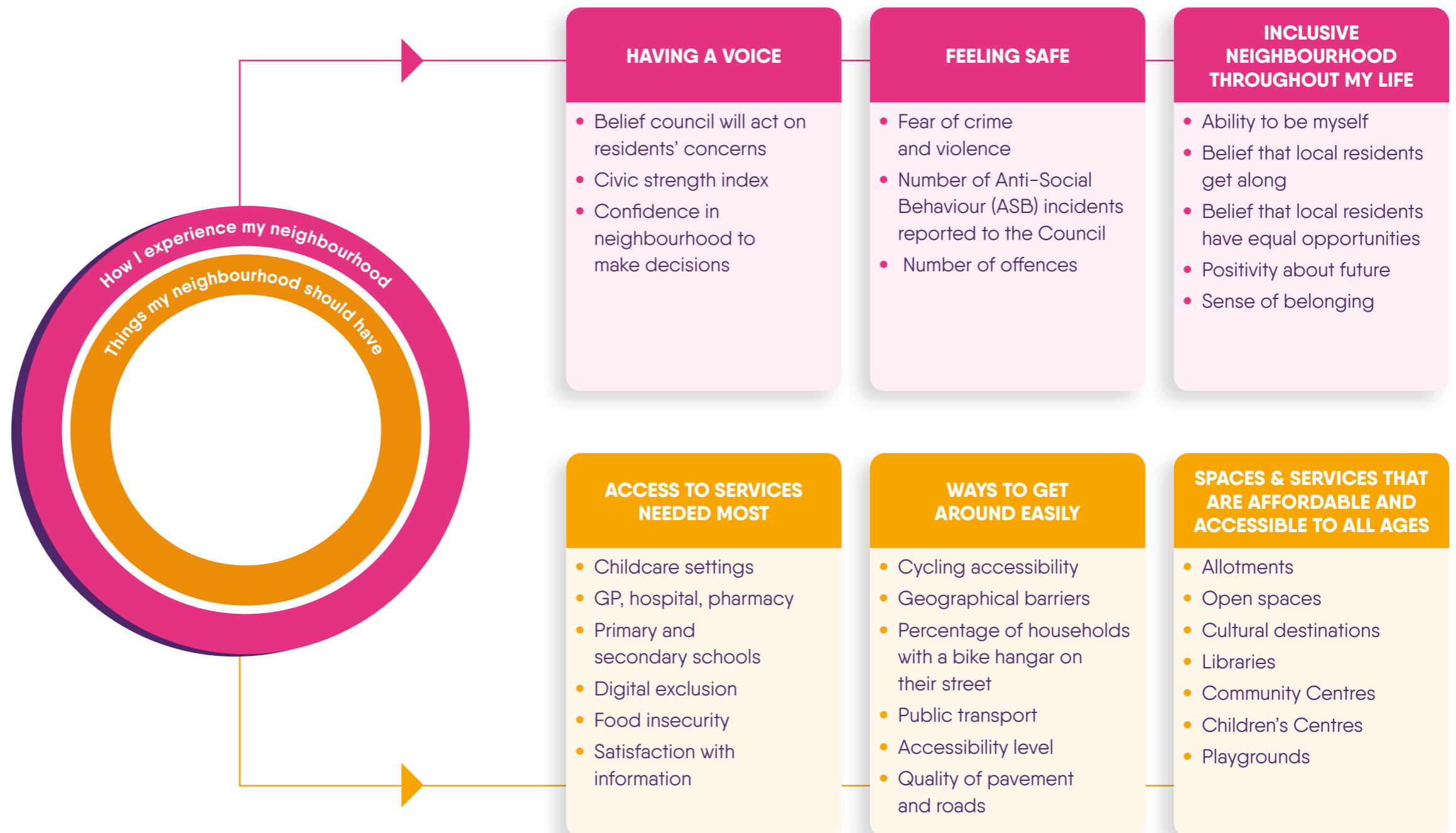


DATA AND INSIGHT

How we will measure and assess the impact of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

Data and insight play an increasing role in our work and there are still more ways we can use this to improve people’s lives. We will explore and test how we can use data, insight, information and technology in designing, delivering and transforming our services.

Waltham Forest residents have told us what their priorities are for 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, and how we should measure them. The set of indicators listed in this diagram help us to measure how each neighbourhood is achieving against these key priorities. They come from sources including national and local databases and the Council’s Resident Insight Survey. The framework represents a snapshot in time. It will evolve as we continue to engage residents on what is important to them and as more data emerges.

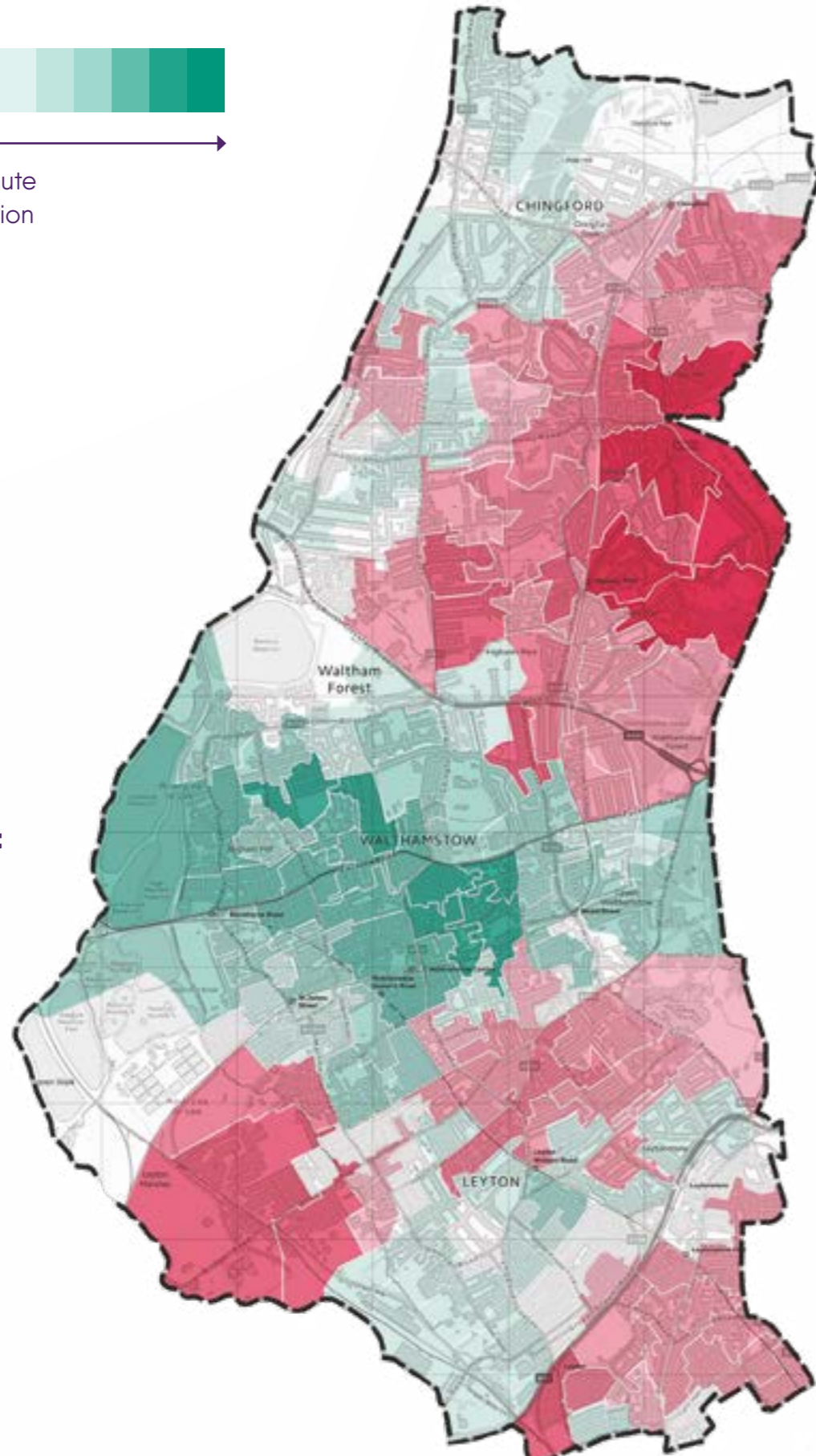


KEY:



Closer to the 15-Minute Neighbourhoods vision

OVERALL 15-MINUTE VIEW:



What this means across the borough

We can use this data and insight to see the challenges and opportunities in different areas across the borough and see how they change over time. This will help us to improve our understanding of local challenges and demonstrate the impact our services have on improving the lives of our residents.

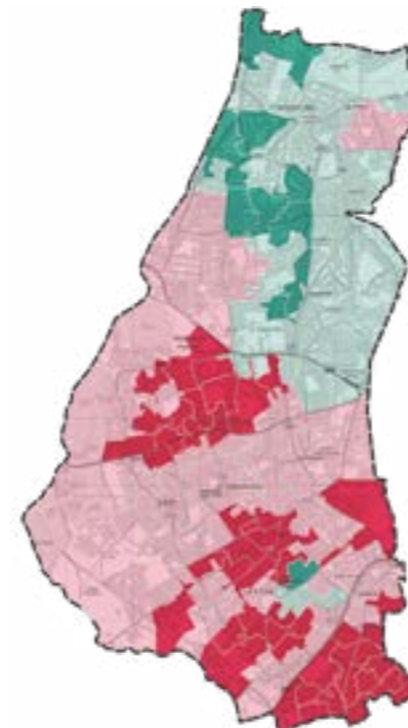
This will also help to us to understand how close each area is to realising the 15-Minute vision overall.

When we drill down deeper into particular themes, we can explore the complexity of each area and use this as a basis for engagement with residents and partners.

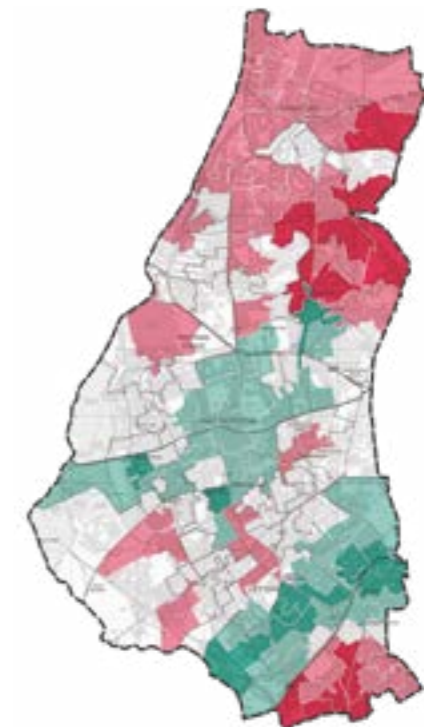
Data can help us to prioritise and improve efficiency as the Council faces difficult financial challenges. Better use of data can facilitate early intervention and prevention, determine where inequality lies and where people are held back, and ensure services are available at the right time and in the right place.

Our data is always evolving and we will continue to share our findings and progress.

A CLOSER LOOK AT... FEELING SAFE:



A CLOSER LOOK AT... ACCESS TO SERVICES NEEDED MOST:



CHEERY CONSULTANT AND MARKET LOVER

BELINDA

Moved to Church Hill 30 years ago
with her husband and daughter.

“ *The first week after we arrived in Walthamstow – we uprooted ourselves from Manila where I had my neighbours, my friends, my career... I had to start all over again.*

That was very disorienting so in the first week I felt intimidated... I was anxious that nobody would understand my English, or understand me. My favourite place was the Market... there was this stall that sold cooked meats and I could buy ingredients and vegetables I know from the Philippines. I was like ‘woah! It’s just like in the Philippines!’... That matters to me a lot.

...Over time I got over that fear because I had this neighbour across the road. They came to our house just to say hi – I’ll never forget that. That kindness, that welcomeness from the people around you, the diversity in Walthamstow. I’ve appreciated that so much... we love living here. ”



OUR FUTURE: 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

This Corporate Framework, with 15-Minute Neighbourhoods at its heart, provides an opportunity to transform Waltham Forest and make it a better borough for all.

This is just the first step in supporting the creation of 15-Minute Neighbourhoods. The priorities set out here guide our work, but we will review them as we learn more from our communities and respond when new challenges emerge. We will build on this Framework and our Vision to ensure it remains right for Waltham Forest, shaping a more detailed delivery plan that will be published later in 2023.

We will work together in partnership to tackle the complex and interconnected challenges we face and create a fairer, more equal future for everyone in Waltham Forest. We will be tenacious, creative and ambitious. We will take the opportunity to try out new ways of partnering and collaborating, bringing together residents, businesses and others. We will deliver on our commitment to greater participation and co-creation, so people have more of a say over the places in which they live, local decision-making, and the services they use.

Although we are living in a time of crisis and disruption, we want to celebrate what is distinct and special about our communities and where our residents live. 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is a new and innovative approach that will help us understand problems and take action. It will also deliver our vision of inclusive, accessible, vibrant and healthy communities where everyone who lives here has an equal chance to thrive.



TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

Follow our progress, look out for opportunities to get involved in your local area and help us bring 15-Minute Neighbourhoods to life as we develop our delivery plan together.

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