

Southwark
2030



CREATING GOOD LIVES TOGETHER

A SHARED VISION FOR OUR BOROUGH

Southwark
Council

AND PARTNERS

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Sincere thanks are due to the organisations that have designed, guided and participated in shaping Southwark 2030.

They have hosted conversation and listening events and led on the development of this strategy. They include:



- Astbury Road TRA
- Bede House
- BermondseyStreet.London
- Better Bankside
- Black Parents Forum
- Brandon TRA
- Care leavers and looked after children
- Charter Schools Educational Trust
- Climate Conference
- Eid Festival
- RMO + LAWRS coffee morning
- It takes a village
- Latin American football teams
- LGBTQ+ centre Link Age
- London South Bank University
- Metropolitan Police
- Five multi-ward forums
- Pause
- Pecan / Southwark foodbank
- Restorative Justice 4 all
- SEND parents' group
- Somali Integration and Development Association
- South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM)
- Southwark Black Parents' Forum
- South London Mission
- Southwark Living Streets
- Southwark Pensioners
- Southwark Parks Association
- Southwark staff listening event
- STAG youth group
- Time & Talents
- Team London Bridge
- TRA community collective
- Walworth Society
- Youth services (WHYC Nunhead, Coin Street, the OBC + youth centres at Success House, Brandon and DTC)

And to the more than 2,200 people of Southwark who contributed their time and wisdom to the process of building this vision. We hope that we have faithfully represented your input and desires for the future of you and your families in Southwark.

FOREWORD

Southwark is a truly remarkable place.

Our borough is at the heart of London's success, known across the world for its physical landmarks but powered by its extraordinary people.

This success builds on the rich history of Southwark as a centre of diversity, creativity and innovation. We have much to be proud of and every reason to be ambitious about the future.

To make the most of our unique strengths, and shape a better future for everyone, we set out to work with people and organisations across our borough to unite around a shared vision and goals for our people and our place.

Southwark 2030 is our ambitious plan for the whole borough.

Everyone who took part in developing this strategy did so because they believe passionately in Southwark and want everyone here to have the chance to live a good life.

The people of our borough are at the heart of this strategy, which describes a co-designed vision for 2030 and the six goals that will help us achieve it.

Over the past decade, and despite huge funding pressure on local public services, Southwark has achieved so much in very hard times.

We are fortunate to be home to some of the best schools and hospitals in Britain, and an outstanding voluntary and community sector.

But through multiple disruptions such as Brexit, the rapid rise in technology, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the cost of living crisis, Southwark communities have been on the receiving end of change that they haven't been able to control. For some residents, the challenges facing the country as a whole can feel overwhelming.

Our shared vision for 2030 is that together we will build a fair, green and safe Southwark where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community.

To achieve this vision we know that we must redouble our efforts for our borough. We will need to challenge ourselves to be creative with the strengths and resources that we have in Southwark.

If we are to deliver on the promise of this strategy, we will need to unleash the collective talents of residents, communities, organisations and businesses for the good of everyone who calls Southwark home.



Cllr Kieron Williams
Leader of Southwark Council

Southwark 2030 is jointly owned and agreed, not just by the council as the democratic leader of the borough, but also by our wider community, public services, business, education and cultural sectors.

The council and its partners are determined to be the driving force behind positive change.

Southwark 2030 is our commitment to building a better future for our people and our place, and securing a good life for everyone.

Why did we create Southwark 2030?

Southwark's strengths are numerous, real and the envy of many boroughs.

But multiple challenges are facing the residents of our borough – most of which are not unique to Southwark.

These challenges cannot be solved easily or quickly. They will require sustained effort from everyone so we need long-term thinking and commitment.

Southwark 2030 will direct our focus to the things that will make the biggest impact.

We have created this strategy with our community and our partners as we know we will need to use all of our strengths.

To deliver our vision and goals, we will need to reimagine how we do things and the way we work together. This strategy sets out the work we will do together.



One of the Southwark 2030 consultation events in 2023

SOUTHWARK 2030 AT A GLANCE

Southwark is a truly remarkable place, built on our rich history as a centre of diversity, creativity and innovation. To support a better future for everyone, we set out to work with people and organisations across the borough to unite around a shared vision and set of goals for our people and our place.

To create this strategy, we have sought to listen and learn from every part of our community, engaging in conversations with hundreds of residents, and seeking input and feedback from thousands. We have taken a partnership approach, reflecting on what people have told us is important to them.

This strategy aims to build on Southwark's strengths while acknowledging and confronting our borough's challenges.

The unique strengths in our community, schools, economy, institutions, universities, home-building, and local environment will be our foundations as we aim to ensure that we can deliver our vision.

→ Our Vision
Together, we will build a fair, green and safe Southwark where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community

→ We will deliver our vision by focussing on six goals

1. Decent homes for all
2. A good start in life
3. A safer Southwark
4. A strong and fair economy
5. Staying well
6. A healthy environment

→ Three principles will guide our work

- Reducing inequality
- Empowering people
- Investing in prevention

→ We will work with the community, organisations and partners across the borough to deliver this strategy so everyone can use their strengths and resources to make sure everyone in Southwark can lead a good life.

→ Residents will be involved at every stage as we develop and deliver our plans. Annual reports will describe our progress so that we can be held to account for delivery.



HOW WE DEVELOPED THIS STRATEGY

Southwark 2030 is our shared vision for the borough, designed by people who live, work and study in Southwark.

It has been developed through extensive and wide-ranging engagement and research to understand Southwark today.

At the heart of this work has been the involvement of residents, community groups and partners, alongside a wide range of diverse and divergent organisations who thoughtfully shared their time and their experiences.

Knowing more about the needs of our residents and businesses is vital to understanding our place. Key partners and anchor institutions in the borough have been integral to this process, driving engagement and the development of ideas, building commitment and ownership across public and voluntary groups to drive change.

Our approach has helped us to reflect the voice of our people and communities, centring this work in their needs for today and their hopes for 2030.



8 in-depth conversation events with over 200 residents

Widely promoted, involving people who live, work, study and visit the borough, in different places and different times to maximise inclusion



Listening events with over 750 residents

Widely promoted, involving people who live, work, study and visit the borough, in different places and different times to maximise inclusion



Online survey with over 1,000 responses

Made widely accessible through different formats, enabling as many people as possible to contribute if they were not able to, or wish to, attend an event or take part in a listening activity



Testing what we had captured

With three workshops, online surveys and post boxes in public spaces to test what we heard and the themes and ambitions from the engagement activity



Partner workshops

With three partner workshops providing the opportunity for partners to reflect on the themes from the engagement and begin to work together to support the borough to achieve these ambitions



10 detailed research groups

With 70 randomly selected residents who were representative of the Southwark community, to test and refine the vision and goals.

OUR BOROUGH

Southwark is home to more than 300,000 people,¹ 18,000 businesses,² a thriving community and a world-class cultural scene.

Our borough is an important centre of industry and culture with internationally renowned locations alongside thriving local communities and institutions, where anyone is welcome and everyone can flourish.

Southwark is powered by its people, whose heritage and history make our borough a diverse and dynamic powerhouse in London.

An important centre of industry and culture, and most importantly a home to all of our families and communities. It is a place that has always welcomed people looking for a better life and benefited immensely from the things they have brought to Southwark, the capital and our wider society. From pioneering immigrants who travelled on the Windrush and via other routes to reach England from Africa, the Caribbean, Ukraine and beyond – together we have shaped a future and tackled the challenges the world presents.

Southwark is home to authors, footballers, Olympians, Oscar-winners, and social pioneers; but it is the thousands of other incredible people who

build a home here and quietly work to support their families and communities that make Southwark the place it is and aspires to be.

It is the power of our communities that is our strength, and it is in this strength that we can tackle the challenges we face. We have heard from our residents, and we have listened. Across the homes that our residents live in, the neighbourhoods they walk through, the economies they are part of, the cultural resources they use and institutions they access, the environment they live and breathe, and the services they rely for education, safety, health, and care, Southwark must work for everyone.

2030 must present the opportunity of a good life for all. That means a borough that is green, safe and more equal. A borough that provides a fair chance for everyone, with help if you need it. Southwark people want to live in a decent home that supports their health and wellbeing and have fulfilling and stable work that enables them to thrive and enrich their lives and that of their families.



And 2030 will ensure that people have a say in the future of our place, to make it a place that works for them. Together we can achieve these things, using our collective power, strengths and relationships to make Southwark the best place to live in London.

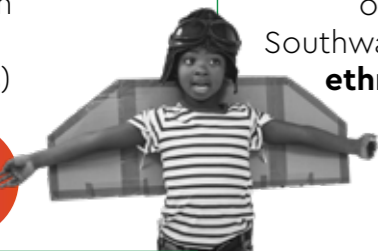
Southwark's future will continue to be shaped and powered by its people.

OUR PLACE IN NUMBERS

307,600

people live in Southwark (2021 census)

+6.7% from 2011



51%

of people living in Southwark have a **White ethnic background**³

compared to **81%** nationally



'Black, Black British, Caribbean or African' makes up

25% of the population⁴

And Southwark is home to one of the largest **Latin American** communities in the UK

Life expectancy

78.4 (men)

83.2 (women)⁵

In line with national averages

The average age is more than two years younger than London, and almost seven years younger than England¹¹



147,240 properties in Southwark

with **40%** socially rented¹⁶

OUR STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

As of May 2024 there were

1,571 council homes

under active construction¹⁷



GCSE Results are up 7 percentage points for a standard pass in both English and Maths compared to 2019¹⁸

99.5%

of Southwark's 16-17 years olds had an offer of **education or training** for 2023-24¹⁹



1.47 jobs available per person in Southwark²⁰



75.6% of economically active individuals are in employment²¹

Southwark residents have access to some of the **world's leading health services** in the borough



Southwark reached **100,000** trees recorded in May 2024, with 10,000 planted since 2022²²

17,000+ remain on **council housing waiting lists**²³ and **3,142** residents live in **unsanitary or overcrowded conditions**²⁴

62% of children eligible for free school meals in Southwark achieved grade 4 or above in English and maths at key stage 4, compared to **80%** of pupils who are not eligible²⁵

Around **1 in 10** households have a total income of **less than £15,000 a year**²⁶

27.3% of economically inactive people classified as **long-term sick**²⁷

Crimes per 1,000 people are 7.6% higher than the average for London²⁸

+11% rise in **antisocial behaviour** between 2022-23 and 2023-24²⁹

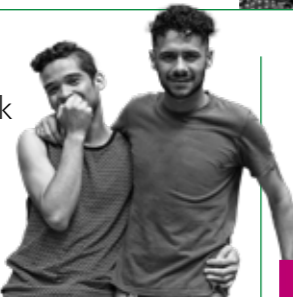
One in five adults in Southwark, or **49,000** individuals, are estimated to be experiencing a **common mental health disorder**³⁰

6.9% of adult deaths in Southwark are attributable to **air pollution**, compared to **5.5%** for England³¹



21% drop in the number of infants since 2011⁶

Southwark has the **4th largest LGBTQI+ population** in England⁷



£43,769 median household income⁹

Similar to the national average

18,000 businesses in Southwark



86.2% of these are 'micro' (under 10 employees)¹⁰

There were over **40** distinct religions identified among Southwark residents¹²



8% of residents aged 16+ identifying as non-heterosexual⁸

80+ languages spoken in Southwark¹³

Over **18,000** residents provide some level of unpaid care (**6%** of the population)¹⁴

100+ green and open spaces in Southwark but **50%** difference in green space coverage between the least and most green wards¹⁵



OUR VISION FOR 2030



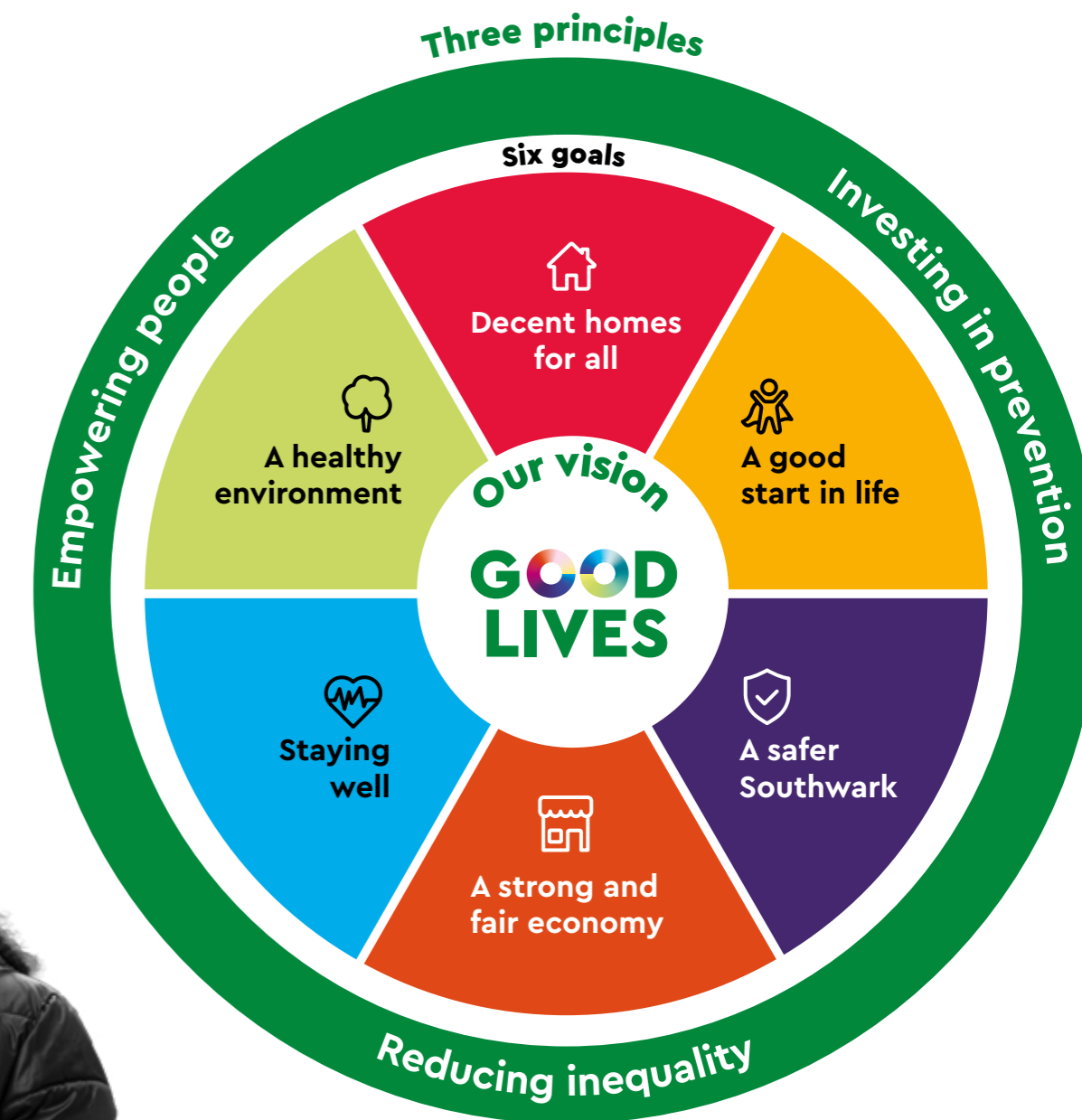
Together, we will build a fair, green and safe Southwark where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community.



Residents told us that a good life is a life that is rewarding and enjoyable in which you are valued, respected and safe from harm, feel connected with people who matter to you and have purpose in your life.

The foundations for a good life in Southwark are good jobs, good incomes, good health, good homes, a good education and a good environment.

To achieve our vision, **three principles** will guide our work, through **six goals** that have been co-designed with residents and partners that will help us deliver our vision.



THE PRINCIPLES THAT WILL GUIDE OUR WORK

We have developed three principles that will guide the way that this strategy is delivered. These principles are just as important as the goals we have set.

➔ Reducing inequality

The significant inequality in Southwark holds our whole community back. We are determined to ensure everyone can access the opportunities, resources and power they need to thrive.

To live a good life, we all need things like a decent job and a warm home. But, right now, we don't all have the same access to these essentials.

There is a growing body of evidence that almost everything – from life expectancy to mental illness, violence to illiteracy – is affected not by how wealthy a society is, but how equal it is.

The harmony and prosperity we all look for in Southwark relies on a more equal society.

➔ Empowering people

There are huge strengths and assets in the people and organisations across our borough. We want to empower these strengths in everyone – from growing skills and resilience to enabling participation and leadership.

This principle puts residents in the driving seat of their own lives. With a small amount of support, we know that people will be better able to put their strengths in to practice and create better outcomes.

We want to focus on supporting people in areas that will make their lives better, such as healthy living and caring for their children. We know we will empower people if we help develop skills to support employment, coach budding entrepreneurs, and provide opportunities for people to be involved in their neighbourhoods.

So we will focus on the work that will empower people to live a good life.

➔ Investing in prevention

Too much of our time and funding is currently spent on solving problems that have already happened – acute illness, crime, worklessness.

We will invest our time, capacity and resources towards early help so that residents can live empowered, healthy and fulfilling lives.

We want to focus our resources towards helping people to live a good life. This means creating the conditions in which people and places thrive, and where communities and organisations can access support, relationships and practical help when they need it.

Decisions about resources will be directed towards support and interventions that prevent rather than respond to crises.

SOUTHWARK CHAMPION

OLI Walworth Garden

"In my work, I am helping to reconnect the community with the natural world. This is how I help to power Southwark.

I am helping to build a good life for people in Southwark by helping them appreciate the benefits of improving their relationship with nature.

In answer to the question of what barriers we need to overcome to achieve our shared vision for Southwark 2030, I would simply say we all need to overcome the challenge of thinking we are all somehow separate from nature. This is not true! In fact we are all part of nature.

My vision for Southwark in future is a place where the injustices and inequalities we face are tackled and overcome."

“ The thing I love about working in Southwark is that whoever you happen to be, you are made to feel welcome.”





The Elephant Springs water play park at Elephant and Castle



Goal 1

Decent homes for all

People live in safe, well-maintained homes



WHY IS THIS ONE OF OUR GOALS?

A good home is the cornerstone of a good life.

Our residents told us they love living in Southwark, but too many of those residents struggle with the cost of a good home. They told us that the costs of homes mean that they are concerned that their children will not be able to stay in the borough. That is why 78% of residents we engaged felt this was a key goal. They told us we need to do more to ensure that existing homes are safe and well maintained; that we need to be good landlords and hold other landlords to account.



17,000 households are waiting for a new home³²



Goal 1
Decent homes for all



"Everyone in Southwark should have a warm safe healthy home, with nutritious food and access to exercise and art."

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

We are building more council homes than any other area – key to providing good homes for all. But despite record building, demand continues to significantly outstrip supply.

25% of homes in the borough are council owned compared to 10% across London, making Southwark London's largest council landlord.³³ 31% of homes in the borough are owned, and almost 11% don't have a mortgage.³⁴ The average property price in Southwark is over £0.5m.

Over 17,000 households remain on council housing waiting lists³⁵ and homelessness is back on the rise;³⁶ more homes are essential to responding to this challenge.

We have created a huge number of new affordable homes, with 21,150 delivered through our new developments, meaning that there are more than 54,000 affordable homes now in the borough.³⁷ This has been important to supporting more people into stable homes with many priced out of the property market – private rent has increased by 18% since 2018, compared to a 6% rise in earnings.³⁸



Goal 1
Decent homes for all

In **Canada Water**, we are working to deliver a **new town centre**, which will create up to 3,000 new homes, including 1,000 affordable homes.³⁹

The council is investing in maintaining and improving council housing, with £350m earmarked for improvements and repairs over the next two years.⁴⁰ More needs to be done to respond to disrepair and maintenance and this will be a key focus alongside financial investment.

Too many homes in Southwark are suffering from damp and mould and safety issues, which requires more funding.

There is increasing support for those in private rented tenancies, but they need more protection against exploitation and wrongful eviction, and more powers to hold landlords to account.

All this work will be vital in **tackling homelessness and rough sleeping**, where we sadly see numbers rising – rough sleeping was up 70% in 2023.⁴¹

Southwark 2030 must build on our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, and past success in Housing First policies, reaffirming our commitment to providing people with the help they need.



TO DELIVER DECENT HOMES FOR ALL, TOGETHER WE WILL:

→ Improve the standards of council, social and private rented homes

Our residents should expect good homes that support their wellbeing and meet their needs. We will be clear about the standards we expect for housing in the borough and our borough's landlords - including Southwark Council, Housing Associations, and the Private Rental Sector - ensuring that these standards are widely understood. To support people in their homes, we must use all of the powers we have to enforce high standards within council, social and privately rented homes.

As a landlord, the council will make sure that tenants have access to a high quality, timely and efficient repairs service, supported by high quality customer care and estates teams.

→ Increase the number of genuinely affordable homes in our borough

Southwark is increasing the number of council and affordable homes. The borough has its own definition of affordable housing, which is tougher than the London and national standard. We will sustain this progress up to and beyond 2030.

In building more homes, we will look at publicly or community owned land in Southwark and ensure that a significant number of homes built there are built to our own genuinely affordable specification. In Southwark this excludes 'Affordable Rent' levels set by the government and 'London Affordable Rent' levels set by the GLA as we believe these levels are not affordable for our residents. By working directly with government and investors we can ensure the homes built in our borough are the homes Southwark needs and that local people can afford.



Goal 1
Decent homes for all

→ Reduce the number of people who are homeless or live in overcrowded housing

Building on the progress and learning from successful work such as the Southwark Housing First services, we will work with our partners to tackle the root causes of homelessness. These causes remain complex and continue to grow so we will work closely with those that are rough sleeping and local communities: hearing their needs, understanding their past, and adjusting our services to make sure they work for each person. And we will tackle overcrowded housing by building homes that meet the needs of local families.



BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF...



Goal 1
Decent homes for all

Southwark remains the leading borough in London in delivering **genuinely affordable new homes**

More new homes are **social rented and intermediate homes** than ever before

There is a **zero-tolerance approach to empty homes** and rogue landlords

We reverse the trend of increased **homelessness** seen across London

No resident has to put up with **damp, mould or fire risks** in their home



MORRISON

(Glebe Estate resident of over 50 years)

"I was born in Southwark, and Southwark has always been part of my life. I grew up here with the rest of the neighbours that are still around here. I think the wonderful thing about Southwark is the people and the community.

I do feel that people that pass through or people that live in Southwark also have their own perspective on how Southwark should be run and how it should appear and what experiences it should bring for Southwark.

“ Southwark has always been part of my life. The wonderful thing about Southwark is the people and the community. I am helping to create a good life in Southwark by trying to be the best human being I can be.”

“I am helping to create a good life in Southwark by trying to be the best human being I can be. By being an embracing, welcoming person in the community when I’m going about my daily life, whether I’m in Southwark or not.

A big challenge for me is how we bring council officials, Southwark residents and people passing through, together so that there is more harmonious, constructive and productive communication.

There has to be real dialogue on how to bring perspectives together so that there’s a common understanding on how Southwark should run, in an optimal way.”



 **Goal 1**
Decent homes for all



Goal 2

A good start in life

Children and young people have a great childhood that builds on a very solid foundation for adult life



WHY IS THIS ONE OF OUR GOALS?

Residents told us that they think children and young people's lives have been disproportionately affected in recent years.

They describe the devastating impact of the pandemic on key years of development, increased numbers living in poverty due to the cost of living crisis, and the growth of mental health issues caused by many aspects of modern society. It is our children and young people that our residents are most worried about – they told us to be ambitious in how we support them to ensure that all of our children and young people benefit from growing up in Southwark.



96% of schools in Southwark are currently **good or outstanding**⁴²



Goal 2
A good start in life



"[We] need to invest in children and young people to give them a better chance in life, that means better schools, safer streets and more things to do for young people, like sports and youth clubs..."

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

There are 65,000 children or young people in Southwark.⁴³

The physical health of our children is improving, with lower tooth decay rates than London and England and our reception children who are either overweight or living with obesity down 4.3% over the last 5 years. But health challenges remain, with continued high levels of obesity among our year 6 children.⁴⁴

School performance has improved significantly to 96% of schools being rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.⁴⁵

The Southwark Youth New Deal has provided a £15 million investment for young people including health wellbeing, social, education and employment opportunities. This is being delivered in partnership with three local youth centres and 29 organisations⁴⁶ who deliver youth activities.

OneHub Southwark supports access to youth services, opportunities, and support as part of the New Deal.⁴⁷ Southwark is also delivering a 'SureStart for Teenagers' programme in order to provide ongoing help for young people as they become more independent.



Goal 2
A good start in life



Work on children and young people's mental health saw Southwark Council become the first English local authority to commit to offering mental health support to 100% of children and young people with mental health needs.⁴⁸ This has been delivered through the Nest Mental Health drop-in service as well as the Improving Mental Health And Resilience in Schools (IMHARS) programme.

Our children have more special educational needs than ever – the 3rd highest prevalence in London,⁴⁹ with a need to do more to support them to live the childhood they deserve.

We cannot underestimate the need to go further and faster to support and empower children and young people.

TO DELIVER A GOOD START IN LIFE, TOGETHER WE WILL:

➔ Support families to give their children the best start in their early years

Services for families will be built around their needs, providing them with support in easy-to-access places, with strong, family-centred partnerships across voluntary and community sector organisations. This help will be provided early in a child's life and sustained throughout their childhood.

By focusing on areas where there is most need, we will tackle inequalities in the experience of raising a family. Families will have their say in the design and delivery of the services they receive via partnership boards, peer support programmes and mentoring schemes.

➔ Improve outcomes for children who face disadvantage, including those with special educational needs and disabilities

We will work to reduce the gap in outcomes experienced by children who face disadvantage, so every child in our borough can flourish, learn and enjoy childhood, and develop the skills they need for the future. We will take action to improve support for children and their families, to help them overcome the barriers they face. This will include working to ensure that all children and young people with special education needs (SEN) receive the support they need and have access to the space they need to grow and learn, with stronger services for those who support them.

Goal 2 A good start in life

➔ Ensure all young people can participate in positive activities

We want all children and young people to have access to out of school opportunities, to be active, take part in culture and have experiences that enrich their lives. We know that poorer households often struggle with the costs of these activities. Our offer will be built through working with voluntary and community organisations and groups, directing more resources to disadvantaged neighbourhoods where the evidence shows children and young people have fewer opportunities for extracurricular activities.



BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF..

Goal 2 A good start in life

We have **reduced attainment gaps** for children experiencing disadvantage

We ensure every school leaver has an **education, training or employment opportunity**

There is a sustained and comprehensive **'sure-start for teenagers' service** which is delivering better outcomes

We have revolutionised outcomes for **SEN pupils**

All our young people have access to free or **low-cost after-school activities**

Every school in the borough is **good or excellent**



SHELLEY

Southwark foster carer

“Southwark is a multi-cultural place to live and work. It’s great meeting people of different backgrounds and to experience different cultures.

As a foster carer I am helping to build a good life for children in Southwark. I used to work for the Met Police and I was asked to look after two children whilst waiting for social services to arrive. I said to my colleague I would like to take these vulnerable children home to give them a safe and loving environment. And that is how it all began.

“ My first ever placement was two little girls. When I first met them I was nervous and excited at the same time! And just thought of all the great things we could do together.

“I was really looking forward to the placement. My experience fostering children has been great overall. There have been challenges, but overall I’ve been lucky with my placements.

Outside of being a foster carer I love making friends in this vibrant borough, taking part in all the variety of things to see and do including walking along the river, visiting Peckham Levels and the cinema and sampling different foods from around the world.

In terms of barriers to overcome to help achieve our 2030 vision, I think it would be great to try and end poverty and hunger for our younger generation, and to also make our city greener.”



 **Goal 2**
A good start in life



Goal 3

A safer Southwark

Crime is low and people feel safe



WHY IS THIS ONE OF OUR GOALS?

Safety emerged as one of the highest priority issues for Southwark residents

While progress has been made to tackle key areas, such as domestic abuse, residents remain concerned and fearful of crime in our streets, estates and public spaces, with street crime and antisocial behaviour a particular local worry. Partners are committed to support the Metropolitan Police's improvement plans, and to building greater trust in order to tackle crime in Southwark and keep people safe.



60% agree that the police in their local area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.⁵⁰

Goal 3 A safer Southwark



"I hope to live in a neighbourhood that feels safe and is wholly inclusive. Everyone and anyone at any time should feel comfortable walking the streets to their home and should be able to walk at whatever pace they feel and not looking over their shoulder."

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Antisocial behaviour rates increased between 2022/23 and 23/24 by 11%⁵¹ and we have resourced a new £2 million taskforce⁵² to tackle this issue.

We know through feedback from residents that crime hotspots remain a problem and that we need to target our efforts better.

The domestic abuse rate in the borough was 9.9 per 1,000 population in the 12 months to December 2023.⁵³

This shows a decline in domestic abuse in the borough, and is lower than Southwark's neighbours. But the number of reports were markedly higher in London Bridge and West Bermondsey and Nunhead and Queens Road, emphasising the importance of targeting work and support.⁵⁴

It is not enough to just tackle crime we must create neighbourhoods, estates and high streets where people feel safe.

Southwark's youth reoffending rates are declining and lower than neighbouring boroughs, but crime remains above the London average, driven by visitor hotspots.⁵⁵

Trust in the Metropolitan Police remains low with 57% of Londoners agreeing that there is work to ensure all police officers adhere to the highest possible standards of professionalism,⁵⁶ this has remained static over the past year. In order to effectively tackle crime, we must work together to create trust between communities and local policing, facilitating meaningful engagement and collaboration between neighbourhood policing teams and community groups.

The borough needs to build on initiatives such as **Southwark Stands Together**, which facilitated an intentional process of healing and reconciliation to tackle racism, injustice and inequality.

The Southwark Women's Safety Charter has been developed with venues in the borough to make sure all staff working at licensed premises can support women.⁵⁷

If we are to help everyone feel safe, we need to do more to target and eradicate the causes of crime, helping those at risk and their families.

Goal 3 A safer Southwark



TO DELIVER A SAFER SOUTHWARK, TOGETHER WE WILL:

→ Make our borough safer by tackling crime & antisocial behaviour hotspots and their causes

We have a huge amount of intelligence across organisations and communities about crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots. We need to work better to share information and prioritise on the ground action, including simple ways of tackling crime on our streets such as brightening up our public spaces and neighbourhoods, improving our street lighting and designing cutting edge safety measures into new developments.

This extends to working with communities to prevent people from slipping into negative behaviours, providing earlier help to our young people, families and communities to prevent young people becoming involved in activities and relationships that may lead to anti-social behaviour or crime. This work will be delivered by community based organisations who can build trust to help tackle the issues that young people face.

→ Reduce violence against women, children and young people

We have made real progress on tackling violence against women, children and young people, working with women in our community to prevent violence against women and domestic abuse. We will continue this work in Southwark's worst-affected neighbourhoods and be led by their experiences and advice. This work will require all of us to be part of the solution, through training of staff from local organisations, partners and the council to make sure they know and can spot the warning signs of domestic abuse within the community, to proactively recognise and support victims and those at risk.

→ Improve trust and confidence in local policing

We want to support residents to have the power to tackle issues and crime in communities, and ensure they have the confidence to challenge the council and police. Southwark Stands Together will remain key to improving relationships with groups and communities, putting people at the heart of change.

By taking a partnership approach to working with the Metropolitan Police, we will make sure Southwark's communities are at the heart of their plans and that they continue to work to improve trust and ensure everyone can receive fair treatment, services and support.

Goal 3 A safer Southwark



BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF..

Goal 3 A safer Southwark

There are significantly **lower rates of crime** and an increase in the number of residents who feel safe in their local area

There are **higher levels of trust in the police** experienced across all communities

There is a **reduction in the rates of violence** against women, children and young people

There are sustained reductions in the rates of antisocial behaviour

More pubs and venues in Southwark than ever before are actively participating in our Women's Safety Charter



SYDNEY

Southwark Young Adviser

“Both living and working in Southwark is truly amazing, being able to represent my local community and use my influence to create change that we need.

In my role as a Southwark Young Advisor, I am able to advocate for young people and address issues that are overlooked. This contributes to changing the perception of young people in Southwark, working to put in place new avenues that prevent putting us at a further disadvantage. Ultimately aiming to build a good life for young people and in turn myself as I am a young person and future generations.

More preventative measures need to be put in place to keep young people safe within our borough. Creating intentional safe spaces for meaningful engagement will allow for young people to spend their time in positive ways. There needs to be more consistent investment in to upskilling young people, boosting their talents and showing them that they can enter any career path they desire. As far too often young people’s potential goes unrecognised or capped by other people.”

“ Southwark has the potential to be an even greater place to live and work, where each community feels heard, supported and valued, all contributing to building a good life for others.”



Goal 3 A safer Southwark



Goal 4 A strong and fair economy

We all benefit from Southwark's economic strength and growth



WHY IS THIS ONE OF OUR GOALS?

Residents recognise the strength of Southwark's economy but are concerned that not everyone can benefit from it.

They want to see more opportunities for local people to grow their skills, access apprenticeships and gain good employment. For everyone to live a good life, they told us that we must grow our local economy in a way that is fairer to everyone. They said that skills and apprenticeships are their priorities. Our engagement demonstrated the impact of the cost of living crisis. Those who are doing well in Southwark expressed deep and profound concern for those who are struggling.

Over **90%** of jobs in Southwark pay above the **London Living Wage**⁵⁸



Goal 4 A strong and fair economy



"My son is currently out of work, so it's good that there will be more jobs... will the new jobs include more apprenticeship opportunities to train up local people like my son so they can get jobs and progress in life?"

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Southwark is an economic powerhouse in London. There is a vibrant job market with 1.47 jobs available per person.⁵⁹ Not everyone benefits from these opportunities – there are 16,900 workless households in the borough.

302,000 people work in Southwark every day, generating £20bn a year,⁶⁰ yet 1 in 10 households in the borough have a total income of less than £15,000 per year⁶¹ and 23,000 children (36%) live in poverty after housing costs.⁶²

Over 90% of jobs in Southwark pay above the London Living Wage⁶³ – higher than the London average.

Education and training were identified by residents as areas that had seen improvement in recent years, but also areas where they would like further development.

There is an inequality in qualifications across the borough. Skills are highest in London Bridge ward and lowest in St George's ward.⁶⁴ Younger, older, and non-English speaking residents tell us they face barriers in getting good work.

We benefit from internationally renowned universities. Residents see education, training and skill development as critical for access to good employment, alongside flexible child-friendly English language support that is accessible to all.

Southwark Council and our partners have created more than 4,000 apprenticeships over the last decade, with plans to widen access to all age groups to support people who want to retrain into emerging industries such as green energy.

Digital skills are a key area requiring focus as we look to the future, with 16,000 residents across Southwark and Lewisham considered to be digitally excluded.⁶⁵

Partnership will be key in supporting investment in training and development opportunities, to build a workforce that is equipped with the skills to drive growth in the industries of the future and offer a route to prosperity and good quality of life for all

Economic prosperity must also support our high-streets to thrive. With local residents able to have their say and drive what their local high-streets should look like.



Goal 4 A strong and fair economy



TO DELIVER A STRONG AND FAIR ECONOMY, TOGETHER WE WILL:

→ Create even more good jobs and apprenticeships, and help Southwark residents into them

We will work together to create even more jobs and apprenticeships in our borough, further increasing the employment of local residents. We will build on our success over the last decade, creating more good jobs including in our green, life sciences, creative, visitor and construction economy. We will also work to ensure Southwark residents who are looking for work can access the support and training they need to move into employment, build a career or start and grow a business. As major employers in the borough we will work to increase our own employment of local residents, removing the barriers that disadvantage some people, and taking action to improve access to childcare.

→ Support people out of poverty and low pay

We will support residents to increase their incomes so they can escape low pay and poverty. Southwark is already a Living Wage Place and will take this work further, increasing the number of living wage employers and jobs in our borough and supporting people to progress into better paid work. We will also build on the success of our Here to Help work across our public, voluntary sector and business sectors to support residents in overcoming the cost-of-living crisis. This is helping people to maximise their incomes, build their financial and digital skills and access wider support and advice to help people keep bills down and make ends meet. We will also work to address the rising cost of living, creating more affordable ways for people to access essential goods and services – from community shops and baby banks, to affordable transport and housing.

Goal 4 A strong and fair economy

→ Ensure our town centres thrive and serve our whole community

The quality, accessibility and appearance of local town centres are central to the way that residents feel about their local areas and the health of the local economy. We want every town centre to thrive by meeting the needs of diverse communities. To achieve this, we will help local, socially-minded businesses to grow, making sure that people can access grants and opportunities to do so. We will use the different levers we have to encourage good investment in Southwark, including support to local entrepreneurs from a wide range of backgrounds, and ensure the views of local people guide their local areas.

BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF...

Goal 4 A strong and fair economy

There are **more green jobs** for local people than ever before, supported by a Green Skills Centre

The proportion of **children living in poverty has declined**

More people than ever are supported into **work, apprenticeships, training and scholarships**

There is a sustained reduction in the number of people who are digitally excluded

A greater proportion of Southwark employers are registered as **Living Wage Employers**

Our **town centres** are thriving across the borough

TASH

Owner at Gather

“The thing I love about having a business in Southwark is the community.

People are deeply emotionally invested in their part of the borough. That leads to lots of independent businesses, local interest groups and a kindness of spirit that’s lovely to be a part of. I feel lucky to both live and work here.

“ I’m building a good life in Southwark through my business, which helps people take action on the climate crisis.”

“Together with our community we’ve created a space that offers calmness, connection and hope. How we operate is also locally rooted: all our staff live nearby, and we work with lots of other local independent businesses.

So that we can achieve a shared vision for Southwark in 2030, I think investment in the things that’ll actually benefit local people is vital: green spaces, small businesses and local jobs, creative communities, affordable housing that suits the area. Southwark is a diverse, vibrant place and that’s why people love it. That mustn’t be lost.

My vision for Southwark is a place that is a greener, fairer, kinder local economy based around small businesses and green initiatives. Independent high streets create community and a pride in where we live, while prioritising sustainability will improve everyone’s quality of life.”

Goal 4 A strong and fair economy



Goal 5 Staying well

People across our whole community can have good health and wellbeing



WHY IS THIS ONE OF OUR GOALS?

Residents told us that they are hugely concerned about the rise in mental health issues. They said they face challenges in staying healthy due to the cost of living.

They prioritise improved mental health support, with accessible services and well-trained staff. Residents told us they want to stay healthy and prevent disease, but are struggling to access healthcare and GP appointments, with particular barriers for those who do not speak English as a first language.

All children and young people currently have access to mental health support

"I love that Southwark initiated free swimming lessons for adults and the free swim/gym access for residents. I hope these initiatives continue and are expanded. I'd like to see even more outdoor gyms."



 **Goal 5**
Staying well

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Mental health continues to be a key issue, one we have recognised in ensuring that all children and young people have access to mental health support.

Over 50,000 adults in Southwark have a mental disorder.⁶⁶ 4,000 people are registered with a severe mental illness (SMI) in 2023, with 59% of these receiving annual health checks.⁶⁷ That year, 13,000 residents were referred to psychological therapy services.⁶⁸

We have some of the best hospitals in the world in our borough, providing world leading treatment. We now need to do more to support people to get help and care earlier. This is increasingly important in our ageing population – there are 15 per cent more over 65-year-olds since 2011.⁶⁹

Southwark's death rate is higher than London for cancer – the leading cause of death in Southwark – with (under 75) mortality rates of 137 per 100,000 compared to 109 for the London region. **Mortality rates for all circulatory diseases are improved and comparable to both the London and England averages.**⁷⁰

More needs to be done to tackle the significant health inequalities in Southwark. There is a gap in life expectancy of 11.8 and 9.8 years, for males and females respectively between the areas of Southwark with the highest and lowest life expectancies.⁷¹

Too many children and adults suffer the consequences of poor air quality, and initiatives like Streets for People are working to build an environment that supports good health.

In the last five years 8,500 years of life have been lost to alcohol-related conditions,⁷² pointing to the more work to reduce harm.

Free access to swimming and gym facilities have broadened access to exercise, and we continue to work on the challenge of obesity through programmes like Alive 'N' Kicking and our Healthy Weight Strategies.

The Southwark Food Action Alliance has been active since 2017, working to ensure all communities in Southwark have access to a sustainable food system. Community food growing projects continue to expand across the borough.

 **Goal 5**
Staying well



TO DELIVER A BOROUGH WHERE PEOPLE CAN STAY WELL, TOGETHER WE WILL:

→ Ensure every child and adult can get the mental health support they need when they need it

Southwark became the first area to develop walk-in mental health services for every child through The Nest. Recognising the huge rise in mental health issues in the borough and the negative impacts that this can have on all aspects of people's lives, we will make sure that everyone at any age can get mental health support when they need it. This means services that work for people whatever their age, race, sex or gender, working with communities to ensure that their experiences and preferences guide the support available. This means accessible support at different levels of need – from acute to preventative support.

→ Help more people stay well, reducing the inequalities in health across our community

Building on the success of free school meals, free swimming, the health champion programme and the wide range of public health support in the borough, we need to continue to develop opportunities that people enjoy and that support a healthy life. This means services and support across all of our neighbourhoods that can provide personalised help and community connections to support people to stay well. Food is an important part of this and partners across the community will address cost of living pressures through community led food projects and support.

→ Improve the wellbeing of people with long term conditions and disabilities and their carers

The local care and support offer available will be developed further so that people's needs can be supported in a way that works for them, provided by people and skills from different backgrounds and services. This will see the NHS working alongside the council and voluntary and community organisations to provide a broad range of support in local neighbourhoods. Local facilities and community spaces will be co-designed to meet the needs of people so they can enjoy themselves and experience respite from challenges in their lives. Carers will be better supported, recognised, and celebrated.



Goal 5
Staying well

BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF..



Goal 5
Staying well

Every child and adult can access the **mental health support** they need when they need it

There is a **reduction in socio-economic and ethnic inequalities** in the prevalence of severe mental illness

Inequality in healthy **life expectancy** has started to reduce

Activity rates increase and **more people are food secure**

There is a sustained uptake of life-saving **vaccinations and cancer screening**



ENDUEMENT

Community Health Ambassador

“There is lots that I love about living in Southwark. I think the area has some of the best local amenities and also some of the best local services. Another thing I love is that it is a very family-orientated borough.

I am helping to build a good life for people in Southwark in lots of different ways. One of the important ways is my role as a volunteer as a community health ambassador. Ambassadors have accurate information on current public health issues, vaccines, health and wellbeing, food and financial support, mental health, healthy eating, and more. They also provide information for specific groups, such as parents and faith groups. In my role I stay up-to-date with all the key information relating to health and wellbeing, and I share it with my friends, family, customers and community.

At the moment I would say the cost of living crisis is a key barrier to the borough achieving its shared 2030 vision, as is housing and insecurity. On the health-side I think people’s mental health is a really important issue for lots of people.”

“ My vision for Southwark in the future is a place where there are more children and youth services readily available, where our parks are easily accessible for all abilities (including people with disabilities), and to have a lift system at the train station so wheelchair users can gain easy access.



Goal 6

A healthy environment

Our environment is clean, green and healthy



WHY IS THIS ONE OF OUR GOALS?

70% of residents said climate was the right priority for Southwark.

Residents want a focus on tangible policies to improve people's lives, such as reducing the cost of energy by increasing the use of renewable energy and planting more trees to improve the overall 'feel' of areas. They told us that they want to support change but do not want climate action to be another cost pressure in their lives. They want to see visible leadership on climate, with larger organisations taking the lead, and everyone doing their bit.

46% reduction in CO₂e emissions over the last decade in Southwark⁷³

Goal 6 A healthy environment



"People want to feel proud of the contribution people and organisations in Southwark are making to tackle the climate emergency"

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Southwark's Climate Change Citizens' Jury has helped to guide action in the borough.

A climate emergency was declared in 2019 and there has been nearly a 50% reduction in CO₂e emissions in Southwark over the last decade. Of Southwark's CO₂e emissions in 2021, 36% were from domestic sources, 44% from industrial and commercial, 18% from transport and 2% from non-road mobile machinery.⁷⁴

Residents' health is being impacted by air pollution, which is worse in some areas of the borough. 6.9% of adult deaths in Southwark are caused by air pollution, compared to 5.5% for England.⁷⁵

Southwark is helping to address vehicle pollution with a wide network of electric vehicle charging points and 'Streets for People' plans to improve active travel for the whole borough.

The Bakerloo line extension will revolutionise the travel choices in the south of our borough, and bring new homes and jobs.

10.6% of households in Southwark are part of communal heating networks, with Southwark ranking 2nd in the UK.⁷⁶

Goal 6 A healthy environment

In Southwark, 36% of collected household waste is recycled or composted – the highest in central London.⁷⁷

Residents told us that 'green' policies must be about supporting people to live better, healthier lives, including accessing the borough's green spaces, and that **climate action must link to every goal in this strategy.**

1,240 green jobs have been created since 2022,⁷⁸ and the borough has launched its first green investment initiative.

Active community groups drive the growth of biodiversity in the area, and the borough now boasts over 100,000 recorded trees.⁷⁹

Whilst much has been achieved, the next steps in carbon reduction will be challenging and expensive. We will need to be brave and innovative, and receive better support from government.



TO DELIVER A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, TOGETHER WE WILL:

→ Create more green space and biodiversity for our community to enjoy

In a city environment, we need to find inventive ways to increase our biodiversity. This means taking a proactive approach to rewilding underused green space and converting non-green spaces by our roads and in our estates to community gardens, parklets and other forms of green community space.

These places will be made accessible to local communities, becoming spaces that bring people together while also having a positive impact on natural habitats encouraging plant, animal and insect growth.

→ Help people and businesses switch to healthy, clean and green transport

We want to work with the Mayor of London, TfL, the government and investors to improve green transport options in the borough and make them easy and cost effective for residents and businesses. This will build on our investment in electric vehicle charging points to encourage and develop the electrification of personal and business vehicles, and the increase in low carbon cargo carriers.

Expansions of our transport options via the Bakerloo extension will bring tube and train travel to more people and support more homes and jobs. Efforts to support more people to walk and cycle in our streets will increase each year through the delivery of the Streets for People programme.

Goal 6 A healthy environment

→ Make our buildings energy efficient with clean, green power

As a partnership we need to continue to develop innovative solutions and options for smarter greener energy. These options need to be developed in a way which makes them cost effective and easy to adopt, delivering greener energy that will also lower people's energy bills in the future. Working with local universities we will work to create new energy networks of recycled and greener power to thousands of homes, and to extend existing heating networks.



BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF...

Goal 6 A healthy environment

There is **less traffic and pollution** on our main roads

We have increased the proportion of **waste being recycled** in the borough

We have seen a significant increase in the number of homes and businesses powered by **green energy**

More people are **cycling, walking and using public transport**

There are more **biodiverse green spaces** in Southwark



SHEREEN

Goschem Estate garden and allotment

"I love that I work in Southwark as such a central location, yet there are so many green spaces that we get to look after. I think that it is quite unique to have such an urban setting with skyscrapers and housing estates alongside so much greenery and history! I love seeing the green spaces we look after being enjoyed by the local communities. The gardens really are havens and safe spaces against the bustle and hustle of central London.

"I think that's why I was inspired to start a community garden and allotment on the Southwark estate where I live – because I understand how important green spaces are to wellbeing and community. Before I founded the community garden, I hadn't met most of my neighbours. Now we share food growing tips all the time on the allotment!"

"I am building a good life in Southwark by growing veggies, greening spaces, and creating community through gardening and community groups."

"We need to understand the importance of community – coming together to help each other outside of our immediate friends and family. There are many structural inequalities, which we as individuals can not address but neighbours create neighbourhoods. It's clichéd but working together we really are stronger. From the simple things of being considerate of how you dispose your rubbish or how and where you park, to just saying hello as you pass someone on your estate, to litter picking in a communal area (even though you didn't make the mess) or even starting a community allotment garden. We have to take responsibility to do what we can."

Goal 6 A healthy environment



DELIVERY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This strategy means action. Delivering our vision and goals will require collective and sustained action by everyone with a stake in our borough.

➔ **The council will bring together the collective resources of partners in Southwark to deliver this strategy.**

Through our Anchor Network of partners we will come together as leaders to find shared solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing our local communities, society and economy.

And we will co-ordinate our work so that we can harness the specific strengths of our different organisations to deliver our vision and goals.

➔ **The partners who work in Southwark want to make sure that everyone in Southwark can live a good life and benefit from their work.**

We have established five pledges that we have all signed up to, and hope that many more partners will commit to them as we work towards 2030.

As we come together to deliver this strategy, we will ask all organisations who provide services, support our community or want to invest in our borough to sign the Southwark 2030 Partnership Pledge.

➔ **We will deliver this strategy through continual community engagement, reporting and feed-in to make sure we are transparent and accountable.**

Shared first steps in working together to deliver this strategy will include: annual partner actions plans published and shared widely, an outcomes framework to measure progress, a shared data hub to capture and share information and evidence, and annual reports on our progress.





Representatives from the Anchor Network

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We are committed to delivering our vision to ensure everyone in Southwark can live a good life.

Southwark is lucky to have strong public service, business, community and voluntary sector organisations. We are proud to work together for the good of everyone who lives here. Many incredible institutions have made Southwark their home, and they are committed to giving back to Southwark residents.

We have established five key pledges that we have all signed up to, and hope that many more partners will commit to them as we work towards 2030.

As we come together to deliver this strategy, we will ask all organisations who provide services, support our community or do business in our borough to sign the Southwark 2030 Partnership Pledge.

Through these pledges we will ensure that the people of Southwark share in the work of the organisations who serve them.



Our partnership pledge to Southwark residents. We will:

1. **Employ local people and become a living wage employer.**
2. **Cut our carbon emissions.**
3. **Invest in and work with our community and voluntary sector.**
4. **Ensure that people of all backgrounds can rise to the top of our organisations.**
5. **Involve local residents in issues and decisions that affect their lives.**

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