

Doughnut Economics in London

A City Portrait and Call to Action

A Report by the London Doughnut Economy Coalition

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Summary and Call to Action

How can London be a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, whilst respecting the wellbeing of all people, and the health of the whole planet?

We love London - it is a fantastic, diverse, dynamic city, which sets an example to the rest of the world. That is why London needs a better way of thinking and talking about its economy.

The London Doughnut Economy Coalition is a group of volunteers who, inspired by Doughnut Economics, have come together to communicate a better vision for London's economy, one that is inherently fair, green and also exciting!

We argue that as one of the most influential and important cities in the world, London needs to be a leader in adopting better, fairer, and regenerative approaches to its economy.

Using the ideas from Kate Raworth's book *Doughnut Economics*, and with support from the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL), we have developed a City Portrait which provides the foundation for a discussion around new economic strategies for the city and its boroughs. It provides

evidence to inspire changes in behaviours and the call to arms to enable local change makers to have significant positive impact on their neighbourhood, the city and the planet as a whole.

The premise of our call to action is that every person in London should be entitled to a minimum standard of living (social foundation) and that the city needs to operate within defined environmental limits (ecological ceiling).

Underperforming on social foundations risks a decline in wellbeing and threatens the social contract which makes London a great city. Overshooting our ecological ceiling means we continue to destroy the environment, creating worsening conditions for current and future generations of Londoners as well as people around the globe.

The need for action is immediate and the evidence is stark. Without embracing new ways of working and thinking, we risk the city becoming less fair, and more environmentally fragile.

Doughnut Economics in London

If London wants to remain a preeminent global city then it needs to be a leader in the transforming to a regenerative and equitable future, and show that action is possible at the speed and scale that these times demand.

Doughnut Principles of Practice

In order to ensure the integrity of the ideas of Doughnut Economics as they are put into practice, we have turned the Seven Ways to Think, and the five key design traits of organisations, into the Doughnut Principles of Practice. We ask that these principles are followed by any initiative that is working to put the ideas of Doughnut Economics into practice.



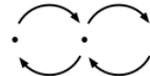
Embrace the 21st century goal. Aim to meet the needs of all people within the means of the planet. Seek to align your organisation's purpose, networks, governance, ownership and finance with this goal. Expect the work to be challenging, innovative and transformative.



See the big picture. Recognise the potential roles of the household, the commons, the market and the state – and their many synergies – in transforming economies. Ensure that finance serves the work rather than drives it.



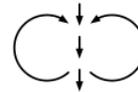
Nurture human nature. Promote diversity, participation, collaboration and reciprocity. Strengthen community networks and work with a spirit of high trust. Care for the wellbeing of the team.



Think in systems. Experiment, learn, adapt, evolve and aim for continuous improvement. Be alert to dynamic effects, feedback loops and tipping points.



Be distributive. Work in the spirit of open design and share the value created with all who co-created it. Be aware of power and seek to redistribute it to improve equity amongst stakeholders.



Be regenerative. Aim to work with and within the cycles of the living world. Be a sharer, repairer, regenerator, steward. Reduce travel, minimize flights, be climate and energy smart.



Aim to thrive rather than to grow. Don't let growth become a goal in itself. Know when to let the work spread out via others rather than scale up in size.

Figure 1 -Doughnut Principles of Practice - Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

Introduction to v1.0 of the London City Portrait

The city portrait is the first stage in embracing these new approaches to London's economy. It takes its cue from Amsterdam (the first major city to embrace Doughnut Economic principles in the city as a whole), giving London the equivalent basis to start to think about its future.

The City Portrait sets out how London is doing against the four lenses introduced in Doughnut Economics and collates evidence around which we can start to act. This evidence tells us:

- **The Local Social** lens tells us that food security is increasingly an issue for Londoners; it tells us that mobility is challenged; and engagement in civic life is persistently low.
- **The Local Ecological** lens tells us that whilst London is making great progress as a National Park City, it will still face a water deficit in the next 25 years and net loss of biodiversity has increased across the city in recent years.
- **The Global Ecological** lens shows that London has a negative ecological footprint and is a significant contributor to global climate change and ocean acidification. It shows that whilst carbon emissions have declined by 25% in the last 30 years, 4000 deaths a year can be attributed to air quality.
- **The Global Social** lens shows that being a welcoming city has been a hallmark of London's positive social

impact. On the negative side, London clearly has an impact on countries and communities around the world as a result of the mining activity influenced by the city; consumer choice and the decisions of the financial services sector casts a long shadow and limits the ability of populations globally to thrive.

This is a live document, a starting point. We welcome more evidence and will resolve to publish new versions as and when information becomes available.

What is Next?

With Sadiq Khan chair of the C40 Group, now is the time for London to set an example to the world. We are calling upon the Mayor and the London Assembly to support the principles of the Doughnut and support the next stage of development of the city portrait.

Following the May 2022 local elections, London Borough leaders can adopt bolder new approaches. We believe that every borough in London should develop its own city portrait and start to elevate the positive activity which is already happening in each of the 33 boroughs. The Doughnut Economics Action Lab has created a first set of tools for change-makers to use and adapt for enabling this borough-level action to happen – [Doughnut Unrolled](#).

The London Doughnut Economy Coalition itself will seek to develop the ideas within the City Portrait and build upon the evidence here. Our ambition is to bring people together and to discuss this further. We will lobby and share information as well as seek to promote the great work of organisations and communities across London.

Introduction

We love London - it is a fantastic, diverse, dynamic city, which sets an example to the rest of the world. That is why London needs a better way of thinking and talking about its economy.

The London Doughnut Economy Coalition is a group of volunteers who, inspired by Doughnut Economics, have come together to try and communicate a better vision for London's economy, one that is inherently fair, green and also exciting!

Following a year of discussions and ideas, this document is the first stage in a conversation. It provides evidence which brings London to the level of Amsterdam and their City Doughnut - [Amsterdam City Doughnut | DEAL](#) in terms of evidence and sets the foundation for dialogue in communities, town halls and city halls about what we want our city to be.

Using this as our starting point we want to influence the next stage in London's evolution, challenging current systems and processes and celebrating the great ideas and activism which exists in every part of the city.

What is Doughnut Economics?

At its simplest the Doughnut is a framework for creating an economy which provides all people with a minimum quality of life and operates within its planetary boundaries. It envisions a world in which people and planet can thrive in balance - it is a compass for guiding 21st century prosperity.

Social Foundations

The Doughnut's social foundation, which is derived from the social priorities in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, sets out the minimum standard of living to which every human being has a claim. No one should be left in the hole in the middle of the Doughnut, falling short on the essentials of life, ranging from food and water to gender equality and having political voice.

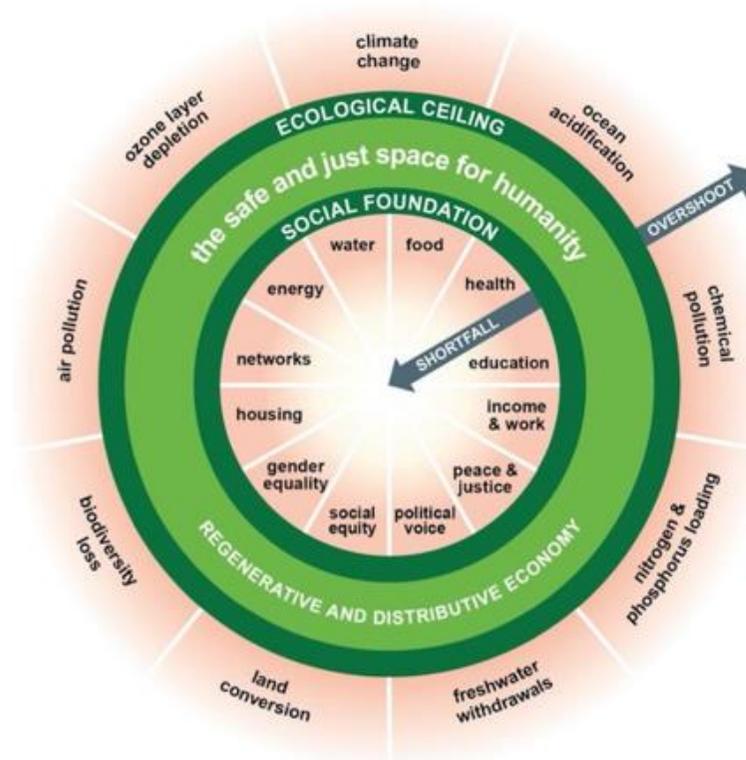


Figure 2 - The Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries –Kate Raworth and Christian Guthier. CC-BY-SA 4.0

Ecological Ceiling

The Doughnut's ecological ceiling comprises nine planetary boundaries, drawn up by Earth-system scientists in order to identify Earth's critical life-supporting systems and the global limits of pressure that they can endure. Humanity must live within these ecological boundaries if we are to preserve a stable climate, fertile soils, healthy oceans, a protective ozone layer, ample freshwater and abundant biodiversity on Earth.

Between the social foundation and the ecological ceiling lies a doughnut-shaped space in which it is possible to meet the needs of all people within the means of the living planet – an ecologically safe and socially just space in which humanity can thrive. If humanity's goal is to get into the Doughnut, the challenge is that we are currently far from doing so, as shown below.

Worldwide, billions of people still cannot meet their most essential needs, yet humanity is collectively overshooting at least four planetary boundaries, and is driving towards climate breakdown and ecological collapse.

The red wedges below the social foundation show the proportion of people worldwide currently falling short on life's essentials. The wedges radiating beyond the ecological ceiling show the current overshoot of planetary boundaries. The challenge of our times is that we must move within the Doughnut's boundaries from both sides simultaneously, in ways that promote the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet.

Achieving this globally calls for action on many levels, including in cities, which are proving to be leaders of driving such change. The London City Portrait aims to amplify that potential and challenge the city to recognise and deliver upon its role in achieving this.

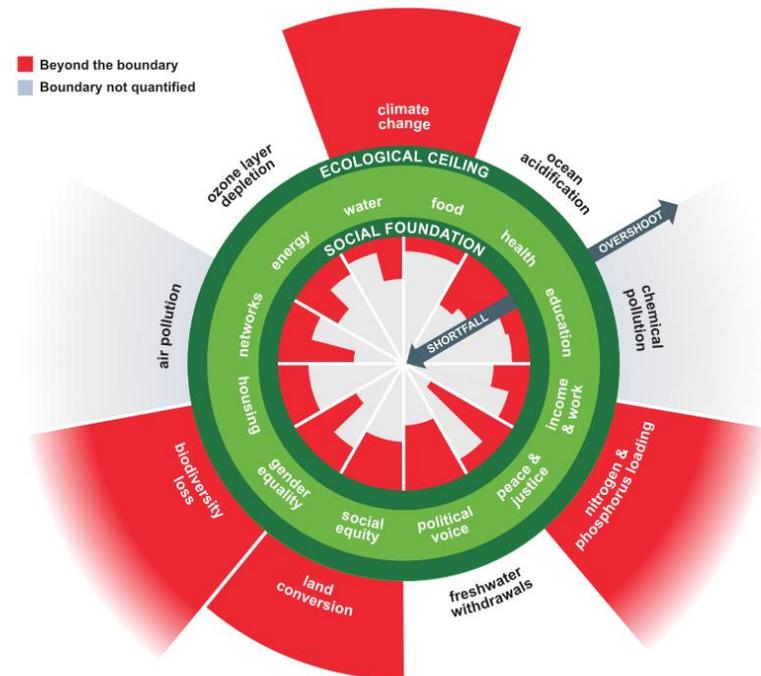


Figure 3 - Current state of the world – Kate Raworth and Christian Guthier. CC-BY-SA 4.0

Why is Doughnut Economics Important to London?

London is at a critical juncture in its evolution. If it's to genuinely justify its position as the preeminent global city, then it must be fair and it must be green. At the moment, we believe it is falling short.

One third of the city living in poverty; the net loss in biodiversity locally; the global impact of London's emissions and the negative impact of financial decisions made in London on the rest of the world. These all need to be considered together – that is what Doughnut Economics invites us to do.

London needs to think differently about its economy and we as Londoners, businesses, investors, and policy makers need an honest conversation about the type of economy we want to create and support. This means focusing on what the city needs to thrive; on people's lived experience in a city that aims to be fundamentally fair and provides for their needs and an economy that celebrates nature and recognises that our wellbeing depends upon it.

There needs to be a deep and honest conversation about London's economy and the impact it has on the planet. This City Portrait is designed to provoke this discussion with good evidence.

It is not designed to be an illustrative baseline, we want this to be the start of a new discussion and we welcome input from all!

London Policy and Targeting

The Mayor of London has established a range of different policies which are relevant to the city and its ability to operate within the Doughnut. Sadiq Khan has explicitly set the ambition of being a 'greener, fairer city', so Doughnut Economics provides an excellent frame for pursuing this goal in a holistic way.

We have used two of the GLA's strategies as the basis of the London City Portrait. This is not necessarily a full endorsement of them but does mean that the Mayor and Greater London Authority can pivot quickly to a better approach to the economy.

London's Environmental Strategy sets a range of targets looking towards 2050. It effectively recognised the environmental ceiling in relation to London and makes recommendations in relation to climate change, emissions, waste, energy and infrastructure. This is positive but lacks political and legislative punch to support change and is very internally focussed; this needs a greater focus on London's global ecological impact, something that this City Portrait starts to provide.

Doughnut Economics in London

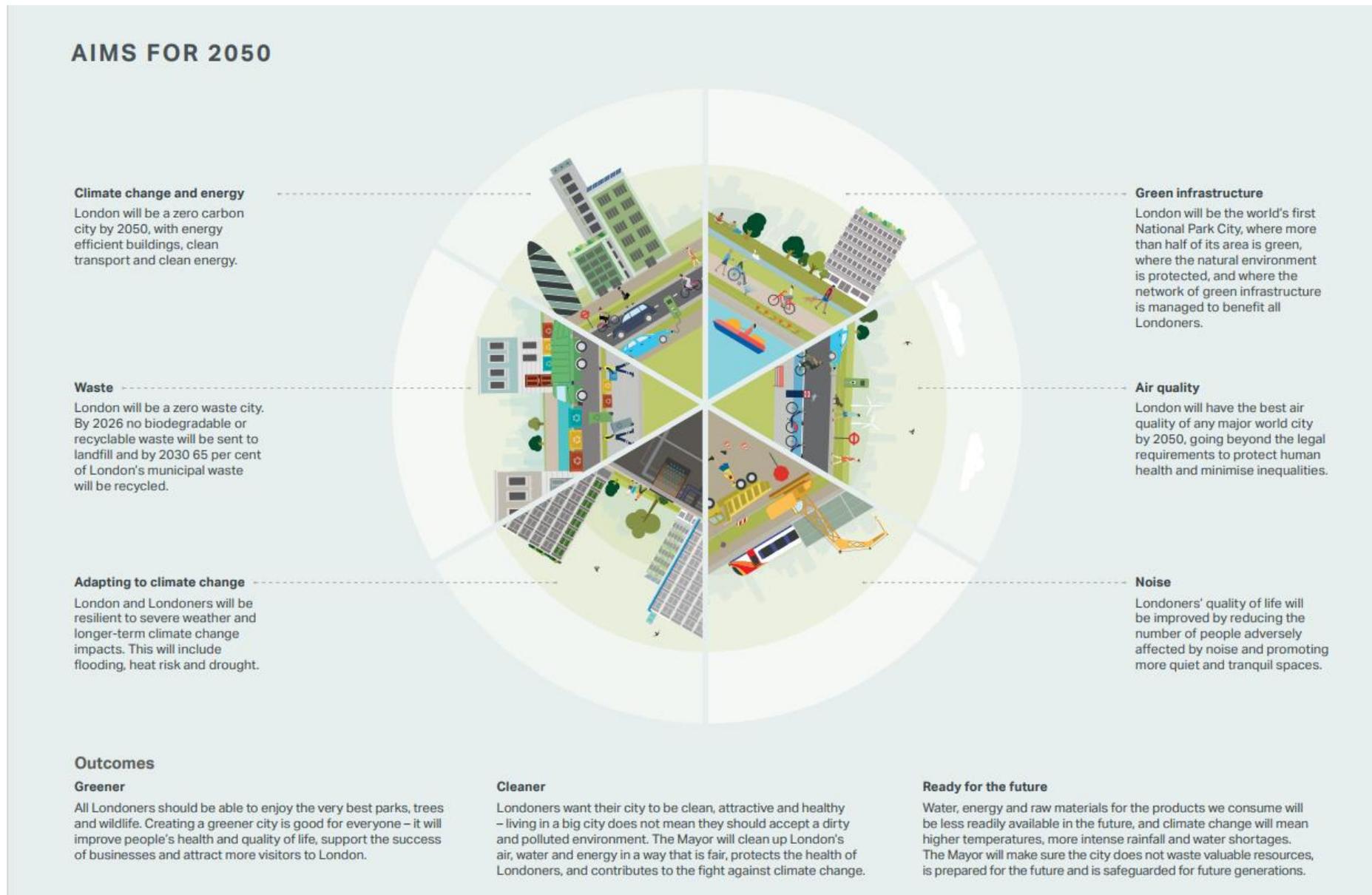


Figure 4 - London Environmental Strategy 2050 aims - Greater London Authority, 2018.

Doughnut Economics in London

The **Mayor's Social Integration Strategy** is the closest thing that London gets to the social foundation of the doughnut and recognises the basic conditions within the city which Londoners should expect in terms of equality, participation and relationships. It celebrates good practice, but again is light on the compulsion to change systems to support redistribution and empowerment in the city.

As commendable as both of these and other strategies are, they need to go further both in their application and their relationship to London's economic future. They are not close enough to [the Mayors Economic Development Strategy for London](#), which remains a growth focussed document; we hope that this City Portrait can provide an impetus to do this, not only in City Hall, but in each of the 33 boroughs.

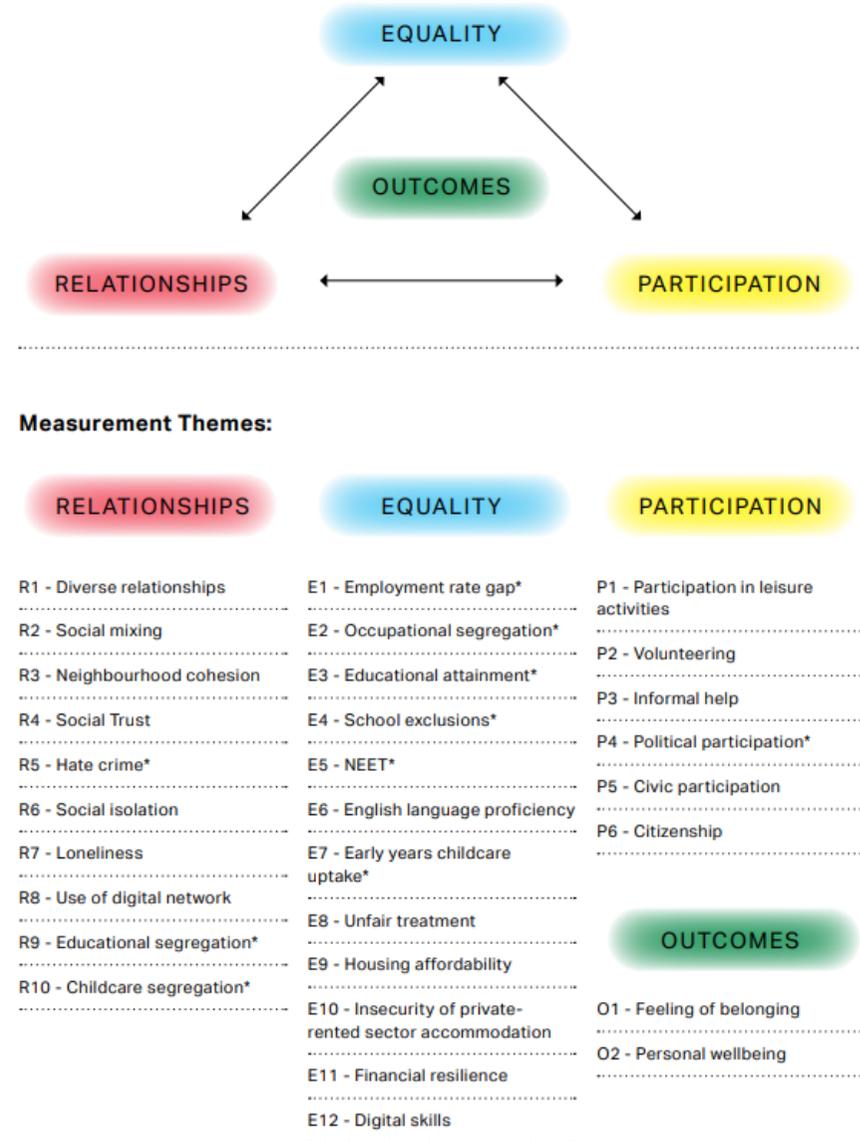


Figure 5 - London's Social Integration Measures - Greater London Authority 2021.

Introducing the City Portrait

The City Portrait methodology was first created in a collaboration between Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) and Biomimicry 3.8, and it was piloted in practice by the Thriving Cities Initiative (TCI), a collaboration between DEAL, C40 Cities and Circle Economy.

This methodology offers the Portrait approach as a tool that “unrolls” the Doughnut in order to open up space between the social foundation and ecological ceiling to envision the safe and just future that we want *here* – wherever *here* happens to be – without losing sight of the fact that each place is inextricably linked to the rest of the world. The full methodology can be found [here](#).

This information provides the basis around which we can start to plan and act, informed by DEAL’s 9 Ms which are set out at the end of this report.

How can this place help bring humanity into the Doughnut?



If we unroll it...



We can create a space for exploring possible futures we want, through four lenses

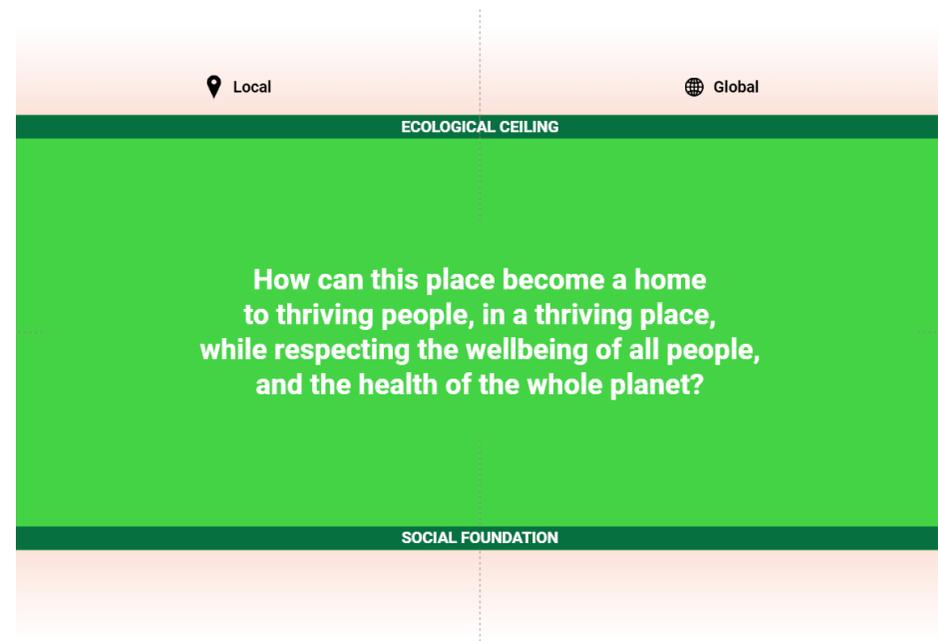
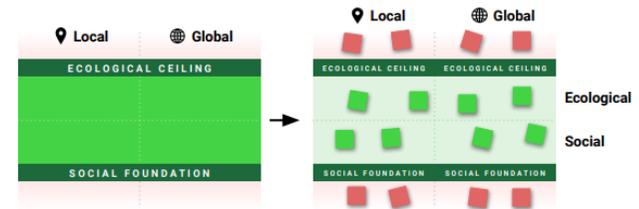


Figure 6 - The Doughnut unrolled and the core question of the Doughnut Portrait of Place - Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

Who is this report for? An invitation to Changemakers

Doughnut Economics is there for the good of people and the planet, so it is for everyone. This report has been developed to inspire action, so we invite different groups, individuals and institutions to engage with the information here and think about what they can do to be the genuine changemakers these times demand.

All Londoners – We want all Londoners to think about their relationship with the Doughnut, the choices that they make and the way they engage. We want all Londoners to be inspired to engage with positive activism supporting regenerative practices in their communities as well as hold politicians and companies to account.

Community Groups and Civil Society – Community groups and civil society organisations can form the glue which turns individual activism into a dynamic commons. We want groups to embrace the ideas of the doughnut within their activities and do great irresistible things in their areas of focus.

Local Politicians – The evidence reviewed (see appendix) and our conversations to date, show the difference in social and environmental performance in London's places. We invite every borough in London to consider Doughnut Economics as the basis for their economic strategies, and we want every local councillor to think about how they can help and deliver more for their local constituents. Most boroughs have been encouraged to produce growth focussed economic strategies, without considering the long term social and

ecological impacts of this. We invite all boroughs to become changemakers, by reconsidering their economic strategies in light of the defining challenges of the 21st Century.

City Hall – As we set out above, we want City Hall to adapt and evolve its strategies and policies to create a new economic strategy for London. We believe that the Mayor's role as a changemaker is as a steward for the next stage of London's role as the most influential global city; this is an excellent opportunity for Sadiq to demonstrate what this looks like in action

Businesses – London has over one million businesses, each with their own mission and impact. We want businesses to be supported to make choices about how they can live within the doughnut and support their suppliers and customers to do the same. Adopting new circular practices, supporting their workforce and celebrating their role in a new type of city economy is what we envision for businesses. In due course, we believe that this will require deeper systems change, where business pivots from a force that focuses on extracting maximum financial value to one that generates maximum benefits – a change where London can clearly be a leader.

Finance – London's financial sector is probably where decisions have the most significant global social and global ecological impacts. This is not to underestimate the impact of institutional finance on local outcomes (construction, housing, social investment), but London's role as a global financial centre casts a long shadow across the world.

Doughnut Economics in London

London's finance and investment sector can help reshape the deep design of the businesses it finances. This means ensuring it embeds regenerative and distributive goals in the design of business. In essence, it's about a new model for setting the relationship between finance and the business world so as to pursue the goal of creating maximum benefits for society. This is not necessarily the radical transition it may seem, it speaks to well documented need to embed ESG (Environment, Society and Governance) into decision making and Doughnut Economics provides a way to do this in a more tangible way.

The London City Portrait

We used Amsterdam as our primary precedent, the first city to publish its Data Portrait of Place in April 2020. We drew lessons from the [Amsterdam City Doughnut](#), and built on their methodology, tailoring it to the specific conditions and context of London.

Like Amsterdam, for the London City Portrait, we have focused on the four lenses of the city portrait, both social and ecological, locally and globally. Together, the four lenses are intended to start and inform a public discussion about what it would mean for London to achieve local aspirations, while recognising its global responsibilities to respect the rights of all people and the health of the whole planet.

In the next chapters, we will demonstrate in detail how we have interpreted each one of those lenses and questions.

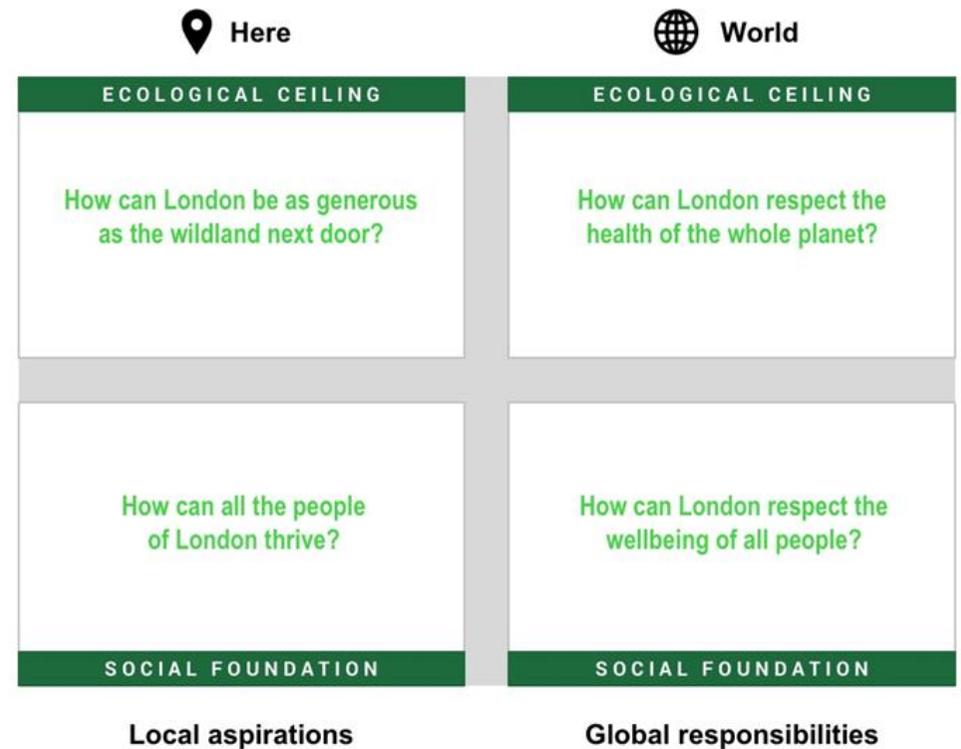


Figure 7 - The four lenses of the London Doughnut Portrait – Adapted from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

The Local Social lens – How can all the people of London thrive?

This lens of the Doughnut Portrait asks what ‘thriving’ means to the people of London from a social perspective and compares that local aspiration with a snapshot of London’s current performance.

What we did

To develop this lens, we followed the framework established in the [Amsterdam City Doughnut](#), drawing from other examples such as the [Cornwall State of the Doughnut](#). The local-social clusters and dimensions used are:

- **Healthy:** food, water, health, housing
- **Enabled:** education, energy, income and employment
- **Empowered:** social equity, political voice, equality in diversity, and peace and justice
- **Connected:** mobility, community, digital connectivity, and culture.

For each dimension, we defined targets following the most recent London policies and looked to capture the status quo using a number of different indicators. Even though several indicators could be related to a single target, we selected the preferred ones based on data availability and their relevance to London goals.



SOCIAL FOUNDATION

Figure 8 - Dimensions of the Doughnut Unrolled: Local-Social lens – Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

What it tells us

While we found robust and clear targets for the various dimensions, some of them lack specific objectives or are not associated with a fixed timeframe. This is the case in the ‘empowered’ cluster, which focuses on aspects of equality and inclusivity, and shows the need for London to develop more tangible targets that can be measured and monitored against.

However, in terms of indicators, many of the selected figures are from the Social Integration Headline Measures, developed by the Greater London Authority (GLA), which aims to measure social integration. This demonstrates the

Doughnut Economics in London

desire to understand London's current social scenario, and the areas where more significant disparities or deprivation occur and require special attention.

Some indicators also show the scale of the challenge ahead in order to achieve the targets proposed by the government. One in five Londoners live in very low or low food security¹ and fuel poverty was increasing, even before the rapid increase in fuel costs of the last few months.

In addition, a more granular understanding of these indicators is crucial, as the London average is unable to highlight the diverse lived realities among the different boroughs. For example, the number of people in the waiting list for social housing can be up to four times higher in some boroughs in relation to the London average². This reiterates the need for localised studies and approaches to ensure an accurate understanding of individual contexts and their challenges.

It is also important to note the impact COVID-19 might have on current and future targets. One example captured in this portrait relates to mobility: from 2018 to 2020 there was an increase from 37% to 45% on trips made by private transport. These behavioural changes add pressure to the government's goal to achieve 80% of all journeys in London by walking, cycling or public transport by 2041, and is intimately related to carbon emissions – a dimension looked in detail in the ecological lenses.

¹ <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/survey-of-londoners-headline-findings>

As more studies assess the pandemic's influence on people's behaviours, it will be possible to use the London Portrait to re-examine these indicators and better understand how these changes reflect on the desired goals.

The local-social lens also captures a few 'good news stories', pointing out areas where London has been improving over the years. One to highlight is the reduction in London's digital exclusion, a dimension which will increasingly become a relevant form of inequality measurement.

² See appendix

Doughnut Economics in London

	City target	City snapshot
health	By 2025 London will have a quarter of a million wellbeing ambassadors, supporting Londoners where they live, work and play	Babies born in 2016-2018 would live an average of 64.3 years in a state of 'good' general health.
housing	50% of all new homes should be genuinely affordable.	In 2020, almost 250,000 households were on the waiting list for local authority housing.
water	Free access to healthy tap water	London is installing more than 100 drinking water fountains across the city to reduce single-use plastic.
food	By 2025 every Londoner lives in a healthy food neighbourhood	21% of Londoners were living in low or very low food security in 2018-19.

	City target	City snapshot
connectivity	Every Londoner to have access to good connectivity, basic digital skills and the device or support they need to be online by 2025.	London digital exclusion reduced from 15% to 7% from 2012 to 2018. It has the lowest percentage of internet non-users in UK regions.
community	By 2025, all Londoners will have access to a community hub ensuring they can volunteer, get support and build strong community networks	27% of Londoners +16 suffer from social isolation (do not have a spouse, friend or family member they can rely on a lot) 2018-19
mobility	80% of all journeys in London should be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2041.	From 2018 to 2020, trips made by private transport increased from 37% to 45% as an impact of COVID 19.
culture	Increase the diversity of cultural activities and enable more Londoners to access culture on their own doorstep.	London is the region in England with the lowest proportion of adults who have engaged with arts in the last year (2019/20)

	City target	City snapshot
Peace & justice	Everyone to be able to live their lives free from discrimination and know their rights will be protected.	Hate crimes have increased 83% from 2010 to 2020.
Social equity	London to become a more equal city where differences are recognised and respected.	In 2019, 37% of workers from black ethnic groups were employed in low paid occupations. In contrast, only 16% of workers from white ethnic groups were employed in low paid occupations.
Political voice	Increase Londoners' participation in civic life through volunteering, social action, voting, standing for public office and having their voices heard.	In 2018-19, only 24% of adults took part in civic life in the previous 12 months
Equality in diversity	Deliver enhanced public spaces and exciting new uses for underused high street buildings in every Borough by 2025, working with London's diverse communities.	The average employment rate of non-white ethnic groups in relation to white ethnic groups was -12% in 2019.

	City target	City snapshot
jobs	Support Londoners into good jobs with a focus on sectors key to London's recovery	Over 300,000 Londoners were unemployed in Jun 2021.
income	By 2025, every Londoner is able to access the support they need to prevent financial hardship.	Over 20% of Londoners are paid less than the London Living Wage (LLW).
education	By 2024 all young people in need are entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners have access to quality local youth activities	The average Attainment 8 score per pupil is 18.5% lower for pupils known to be eligible for free school meals.
energy	As many fuel poor households as possible will improve their energy performance to at least Band C by the end of 2030 (Band E by 2020 and Band D by 2025).	Fuel poverty has increased almost 30% from 2011 to 2017.

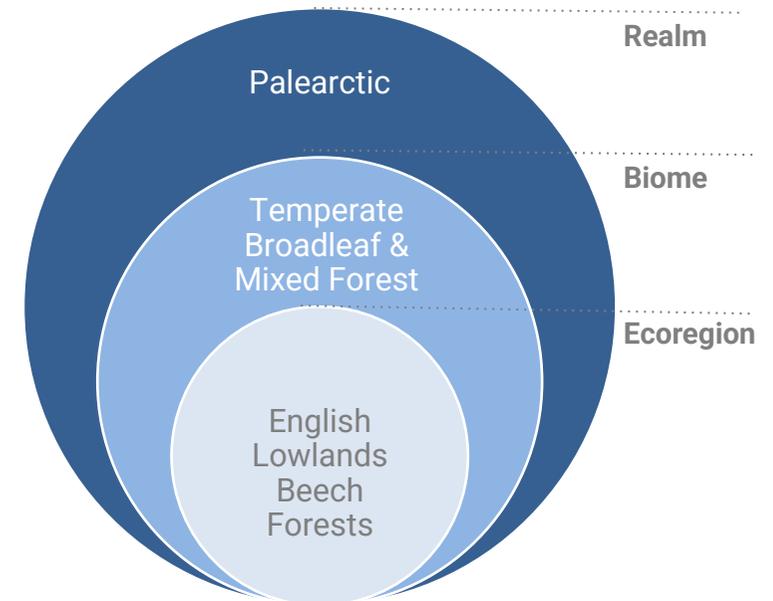


Local Ecological lens – How can London be as generous as the wildland next door?

The Local–Ecological lens invites London to aspire to be as ecologically generous as its healthy surrounding natural habitat. This invites a paradigm shift in the way that cities and places are designed, and it arises out of the practice of biomimicry, which encourages every place to recognise itself as part of the larger living world in which it is embedded. Biomimicry provides an abundance of design strategies – informed by nature – that aim to create conditions conducive to life, thereby helping to create resilient and regenerative rural and urban communities.

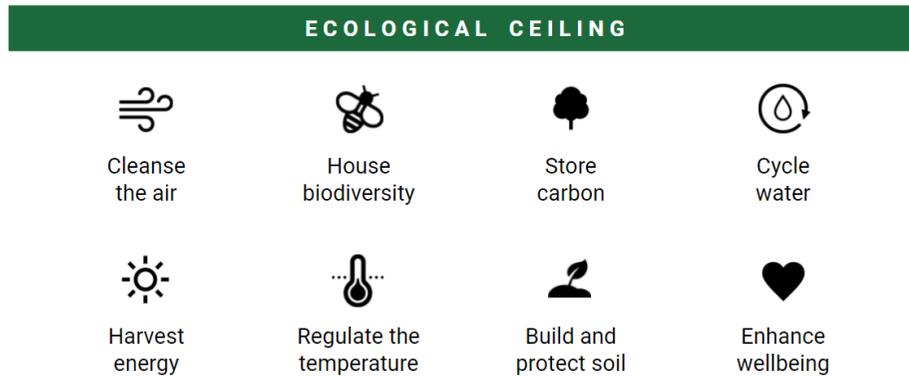
What we did

We started by understanding London's place within the natural world to draw learnings using the concept of biomimicry. London is part of the ecoregion that makes up most of the southeast coast of England. This ecoregion is part of a greater biome, the temperate forest, which in turn is part of the Palearctic realm.



We also used three main domains and their associated ecosystem services to look for existing targets and relevant indicators, and for ways how London could work like nature to achieve those goals. The main focus areas for this lens are:

- **Water:** water provisioning, water quality
- **Water / land:** carbon sequestration
- **Land:** biodiversity support, energy harvesting, building soil
- **Air:** air quality regulation, temperature regulation



domains, and how nature-based solutions could help to unlock some of those challenges.

Figure 9 - Dimensions of the Doughnut Unrolled: Local–Ecological lens - Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

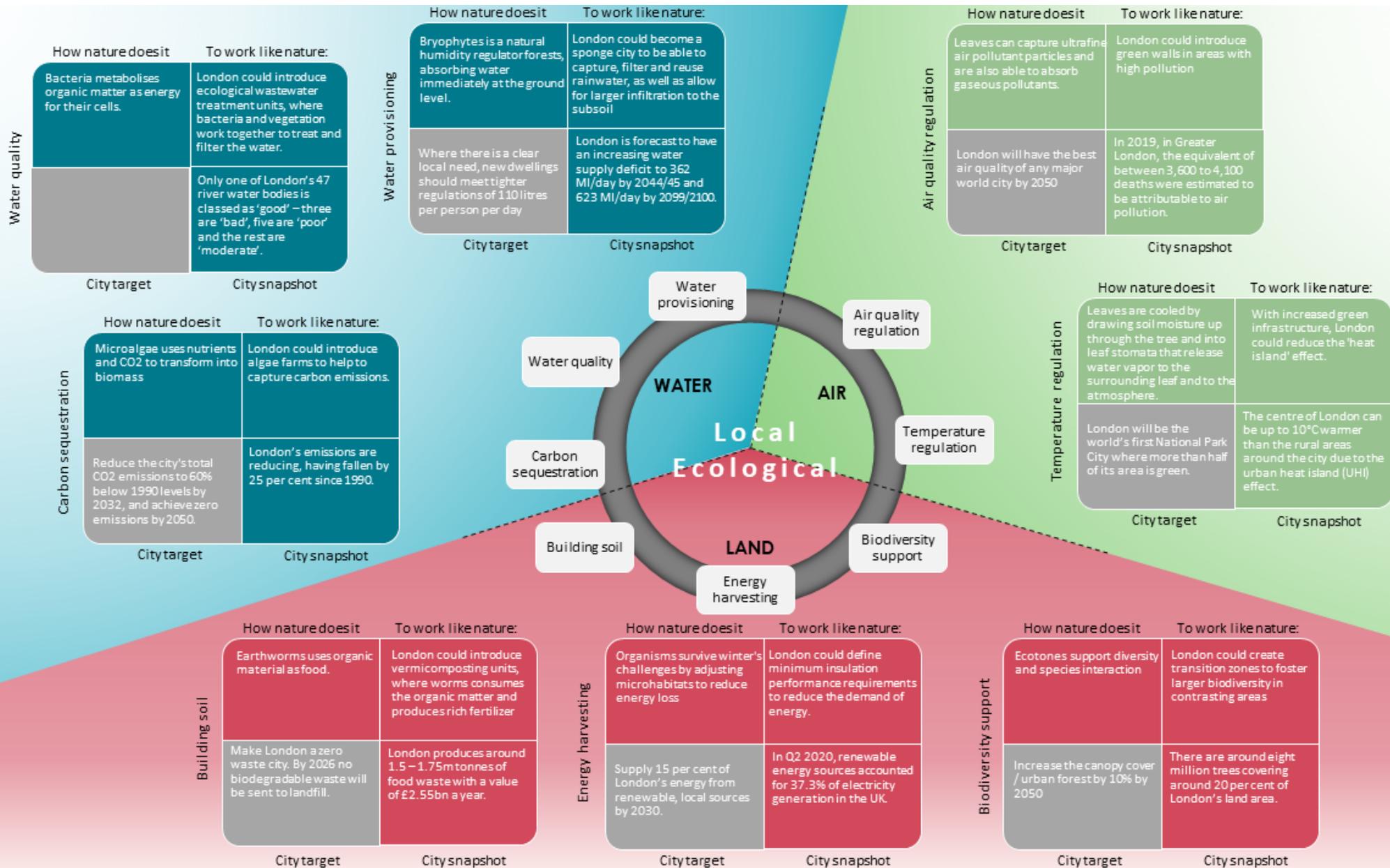
What it tells us

Despite having abundant water resources, the portrait highlights the significant challenges London faces in that domain. The water resource gap predictions are alarming and call for immediate action. Similarly, there is room for improvement in the water quality domain, which in this version of the portrait lacks a specific target.

However, London's ambition to become a greener city is more encouraging and could help to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change, support biodiversity and reduce pollution. The increase of energy from renewable sources is equally positive and consolidates the path away from fossil fuels.

Many of the proposed actions are concepts that already exist within the built environment, but the portrait aims to clearly demonstrate their relationships with specific ecological

Doughnut Economics in London



Global Ecological lens – How can London respect the health of the whole planet?

The Global–Ecological lens asks whether the resources embodied in products and services consumed by the people in London could be extended to everyone on the planet without degrading Earth's critical life-supporting systems, such as a stable climate and healthy oceans. Essentially, this lens compares London's consumption of resources to its fair share of a globally sustainable level of resource use.

What we did

We used the methodology and data³ used in Amsterdam's City Portrait as a starting point. We used their calculations of the global boundaries and downscaling methods and incorporated London's metrics to calculate London's overshoot of planetary boundaries.

A few adaptations were done due to data availability. For example, in Amsterdam's portrait, the calculation of the city's permitted share of planetary boundary was done using population and disposable income indicators. For London, we used population numbers and 'net annual income after housing costs' instead of disposable income.

Other indicators, only available at national level and per capita, were scaled based on London's population. However, this method produces a mirror of the UK's

³ <http://doughnuteconomics.org/Creating-City-Portraits-SupplInfo.xlsx>.

performance instead of providing an actual measurement for London.

Another variation was the inclusion of Ecological Footprint (including carbon footprint and built-up area)⁴ as an additional dimension. This includes the area of biologically productive land that is required to absorb all CO₂ produced from fossil fuels in relation to the amount of land available. We included this dimension to provide a more holistic view of London's overshoot and the scale of the challenge. We also used Ecological Footprint as an indicator for the Excessive Land Use dimension, excluding the carbon footprint and built-up area. This provides a more nuanced view of London's current use of productive land.

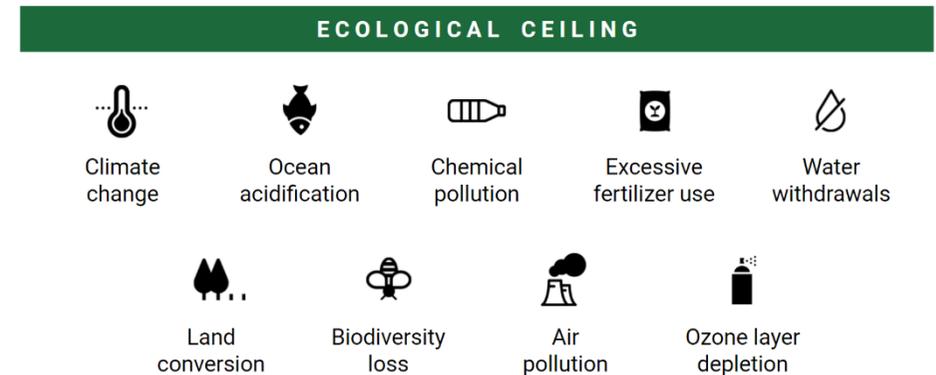


Figure 10 - Dimensions of the Doughnut Unrolled: Global–Ecological lens - Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

⁴ This interpretation is based on the definitions of Ecological Footprint and Carbon Footprint found at [Glossary - Global Footprint Network](#)

Doughnut Economics in London

What it tells us

Overall, we considered 11 dimensions under this lens by including ecological footprint and waste creation / chemical pollution alongside the 9 planetary boundaries shown in Figure 10 , and we could find data for 8 of them:

- Excessive fertiliser use (sub-divided into phosphorus and nitrogen)
- Freshwater withdrawals
- Ecological Footprint
- Excessive land use
- Waste creation / chemical pollution
- Climate change
- Ocean acidification

It should be noted that there isn't an established planetary boundary for waste generation. However, currently less than half of the 7m tonnes of waste that London's homes and businesses produce each year is currently recycled, and landfill capacity is set to run out by 2026⁵. Therefore, we have considered London's current waste creation as a form of chemical pollution that overshoots planetary boundaries given its inability to be re-inserted back into urban or natural systems in the form of resources.

⁵ Greater London Authority, 2018. *London Environment Strategy*

It should be noted London's CO2 emissions contribute to both climate change and ocean acidification, and therefore, share the same indicator.

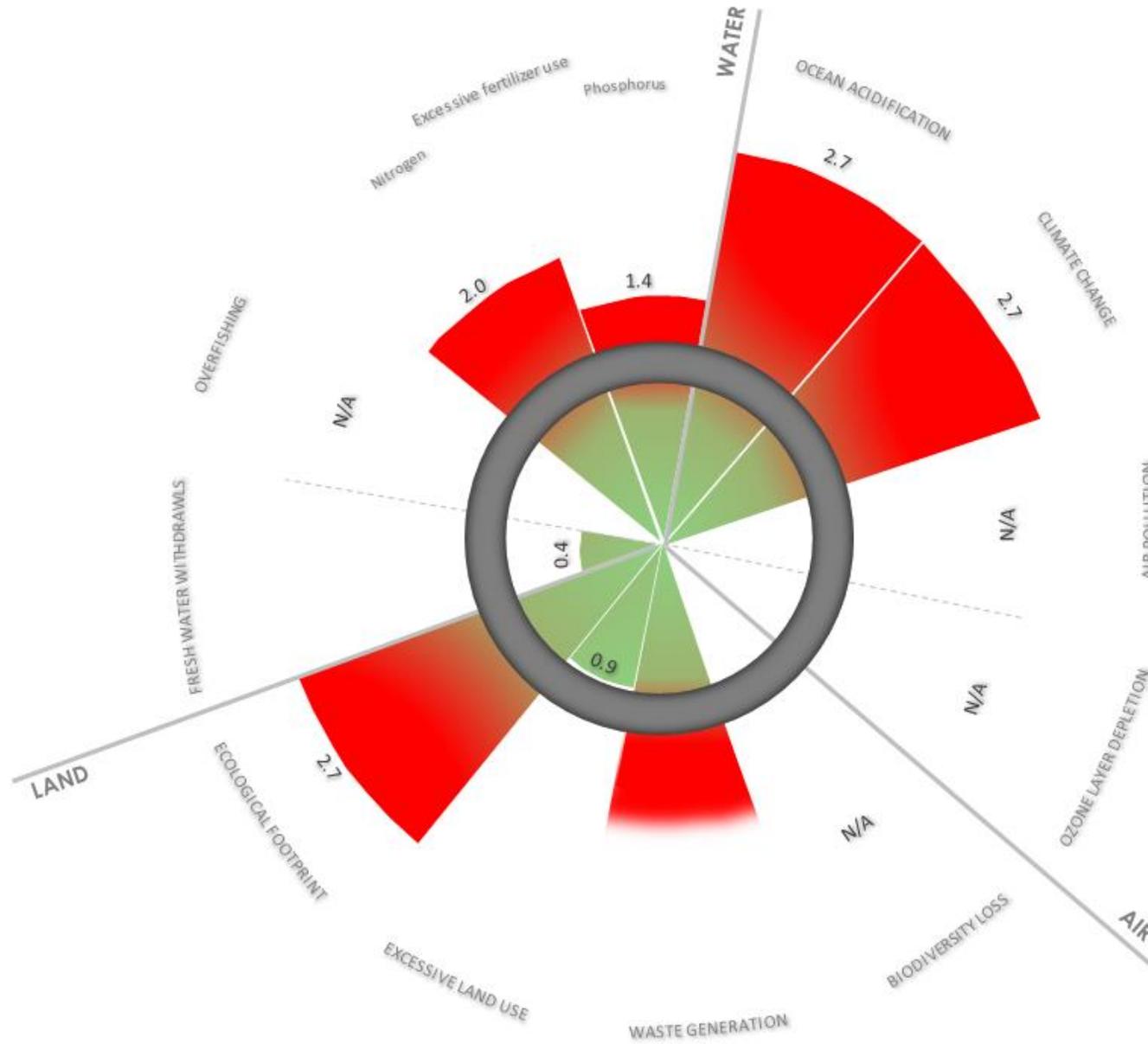
The scale of London's global consumption footprint means that the city is overshooting at least 6 of the 8 planetary boundaries assessed. The only exceptions are freshwater withdrawals and excessive land use. However, the latter represents an average between the four different types of productive landscape:

- Ecological Footprint (Cropland)
- Ecological Footprint (Forest Products)
- Ecological Footprint (Grazing Land)
- Ecological Footprint (Fishing Grounds)

If examined individually, London also overshoots in the Cropland and Grazing Land categories.

Together, these findings demonstrate the severe negative impact that London's global consumption footprint has upon planetary boundaries, and the urgency of reducing it significantly.

Doughnut Economics in London



Global Social lens – How can London respect the wellbeing of all people?

Every place has a unique pattern of connections with other parts of the world, which is shaped by its location, history, commerce, and culture. The Global–Social lens of the Doughnut Portrait explores how these interconnections have multiple impacts – both positive and negative – on the ability of people and communities worldwide to live above the Doughnut’s social foundation.

What we did

The dimensions comprising the Global–Social lens are drawn from the social foundation of the global Doughnut, which in turn is derived from the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These constitute an internationally recognised minimum standard of human wellbeing that all UN member nations have recognised for all people worldwide.



Figure 11 - Dimensions of the Doughnut Unrolled: Global–Social lens - Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

We chose to focus on two main interconnections that London has with people worldwide – through migration and mining – and looked at which dimensions, grouped in the same clusters as in the local-social lens, were most relevant to those interconnections:

- Healthy: water, health
- Enabled: education, income and jobs
- Empowered: peace and justice
- Connected: community.

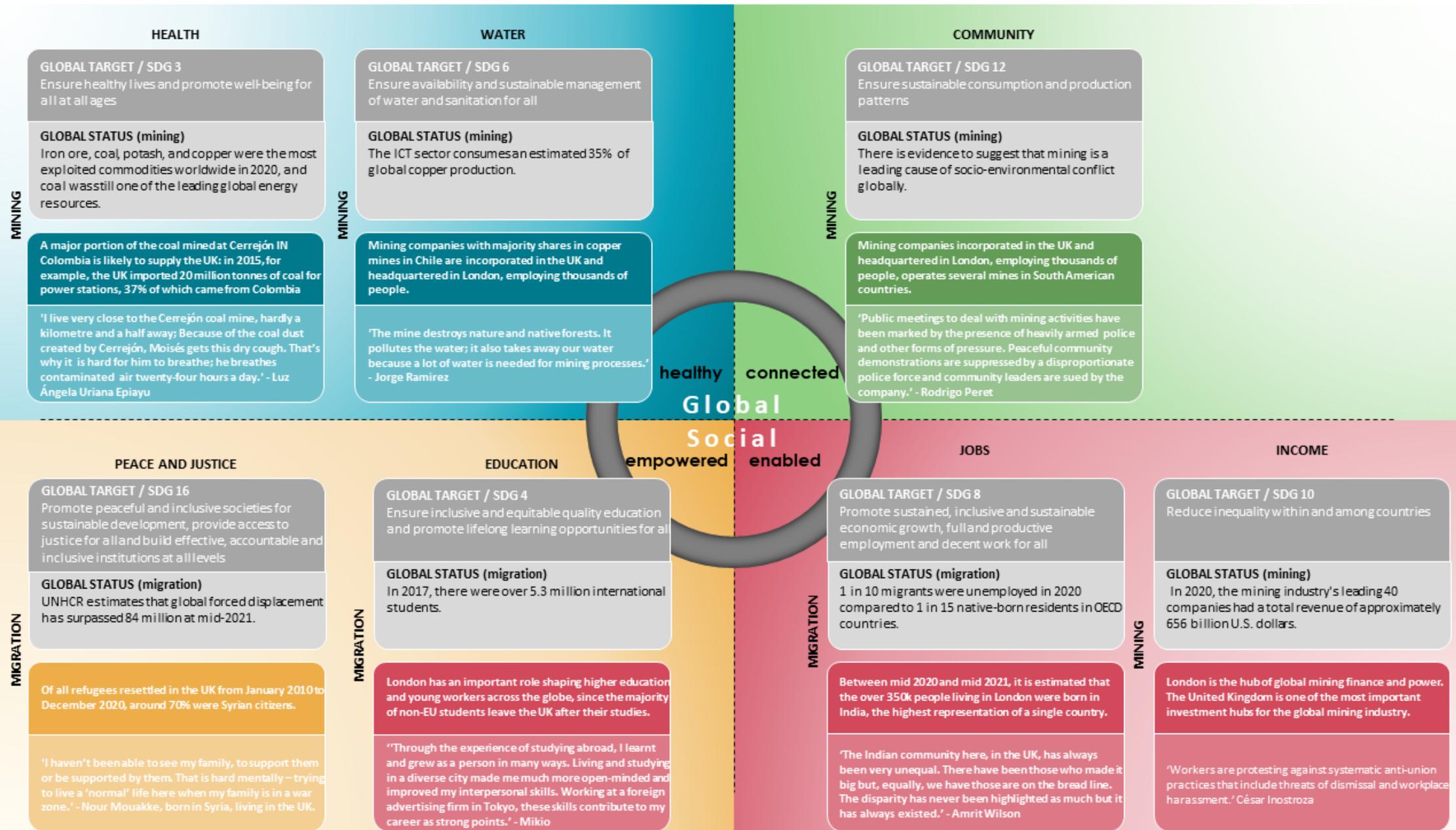
Even though we only considered those dimensions, others have not been exhausted. It should be noted that a consequence of this methodology is the slight imbalance of the number of dimensions considered in each cluster.

What it tells us

In a global context where war and social injustice still exists, migration is extremely relevant and London, as a global city, plays a major role in this. The investigation around migration is one that should be in constant review. The UK, and London specifically, receive a wide range of immigrants, from students, to workers, to refugees. The migration patterns change based on global events and create different interconnections. They are also a large contributor to London's diversity and identity and highlight the city's role and impact on international social relationships.

Equally, London, as a global city, is made up of international businesses and companies. Mining companies have a significant impact worldwide, both from a social and ecological point of view, and London hosts and benefits financially from several of these multinational companies. By being a hub of global finance and mining, the city needs to take responsibility for the relationships and conflicts those businesses create in other parts of the world as well.

Doughnut Economics in London



What we want to happen next – A Call to Action

This City Portrait is the start. It is the start of a discussion which we think can change London and (given the city's position and influence) the world. To do this, we need as many people as possible to engage and the London Doughnut Economy Coalition exists as a central point to do this.

We will be setting up events to talk further. We welcome an open discussion about this City Portrait and want new data and evidence to develop this further.

We invite comment, debate and new evidence to make this report bigger and better. We want to bring people together and start a city-wide discussion.

We are calling upon the Mayor and the London Assembly to support the principles of the Doughnut and support the next stage of development of the city portrait.

Following the local elections, London Borough leaders have the opportunity to adopt bolder new approaches. We believe that every borough in London should develop its own city portrait and start to elevate the positive activity which is already happening in each of the 33 boroughs. The Doughnut Economics Action Lab has created the tools to enable this to happen – [Doughnut Unrolled](#).

The coalition itself will seek to develop the ideas within the City Portrait and build upon the evidence here. Our ambition is to bring people together and to discuss this further. We will lobby and share information as well as seeking to promote the great work of organisations and communities across London.

The information above provides a framework for us to think differently and take action to create a thriving fair and green city. London is a special case; its global influence and diversity of communities means that it is uniquely placed to demonstrate what it means to pursue local aspirations for people and nature in the city, while taking account of global responsibilities to all people and the whole planet.

The challenge will be to turn this into practical actions which can start to make a difference to the lives of Londoners. DEAL has provided a structure to help us do this; the 9 Ms:

Doughnut Economics in London



Figure 12 - The 9 'Ms' - Derived from DEAL - doughnuteconomics.org

To start this we have identified the following seven actions for London:

1. LDEC will co-create a series of events to expand the discussion on the future of the London economy leading to the practical evolution of the city portrait.
2. LDEC will develop new communication tools to celebrate great projects already delivered in London.
3. We ask City Hall to commit to further developing the London City Portrait further as well as committing resources to coordinated future stages of the discussion.
4. We ask all London Boroughs to develop roadmaps linked to the principles and insights of the city portrait.
5. We invite neighbourhoods to become pioneer change makers in London. Using the doughnut to think about the future of their places
6. We ask funders to link philanthropic, corporate and public investment to support grassroots investment in neighbourhood doughnuts.
7. We seek commitment from City institutions to report on the global impact of investments derived from London to inform a deep city portrait.

Appendix: Selected Borough Data

Over the course of the early conversations of the London Doughnut Economy Coalition (mainly given that we could not meet) we considered various information and evidence.

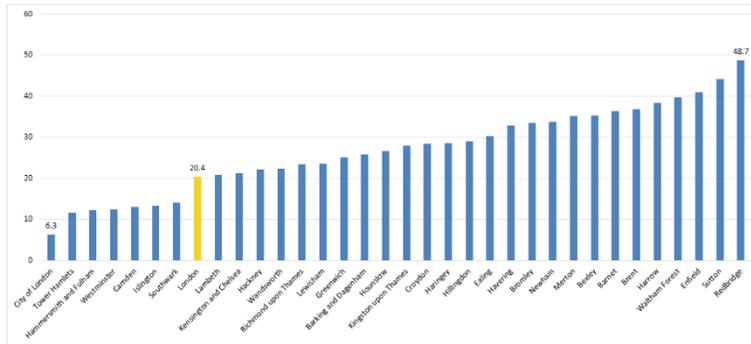
We have included some of this below to enable anyone to look at their local area and start to think about where they may wish to take action. These correspond to the Local Social and Local Ecological lenses.

Please note that these are a snapshot and, will be updated in due course. There are a range of great data and evidence resources (such as - <https://www.centreforlondon.org/publication/levelling-up-london-borough-stats/>)which are useful in considering places in London. More on these to follow.

Local Social

London Living Wage

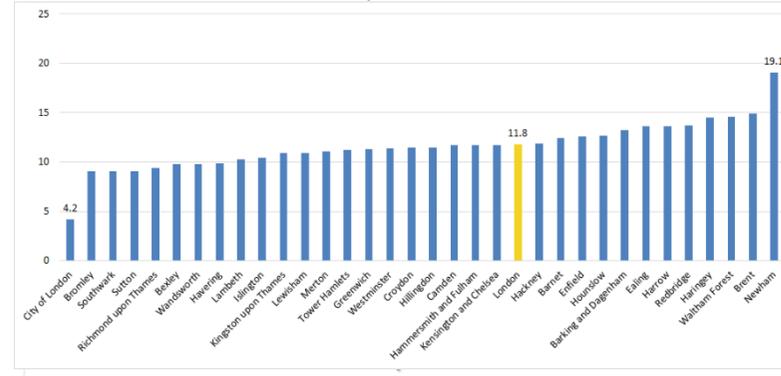
Percent earning less than London Living Wage per hour (jobs in the borough)



Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2018

Fuel Poverty

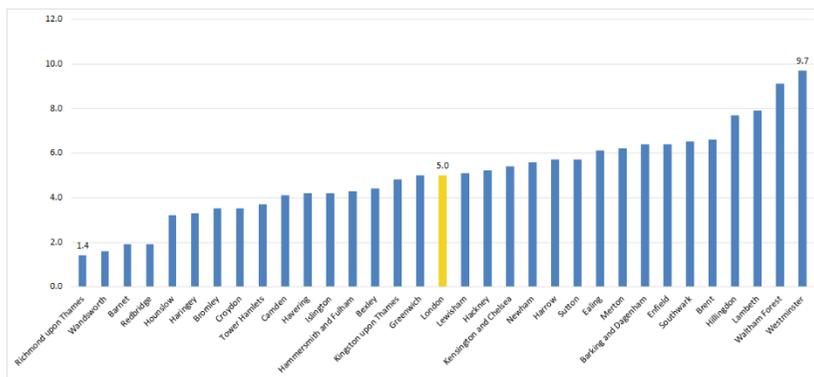
Percent of households that are fuel poor



Source: BEIS Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2017

Unemployment

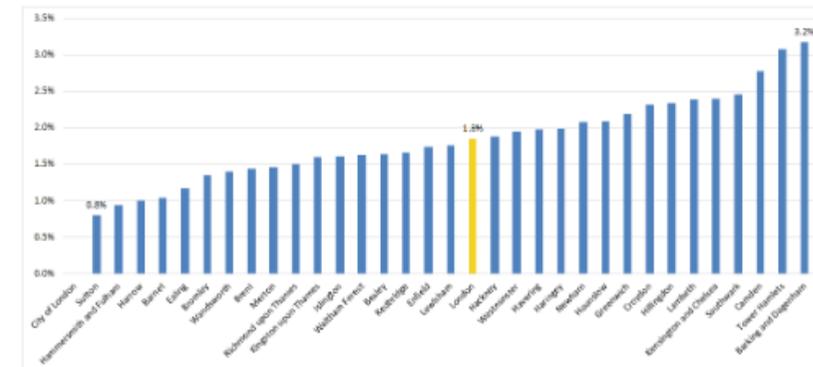
Unemployment Rate, Sept 2020



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2020

Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training

Percent of 16 and 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)

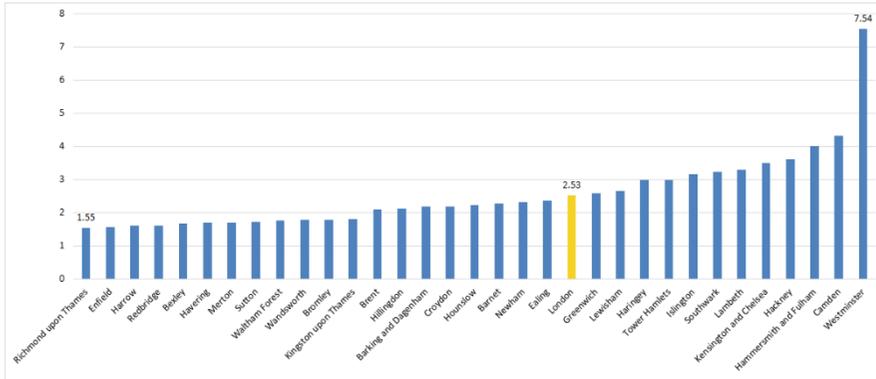


Source: ONS, 2020

Doughnut Economics in London

Hate Crime

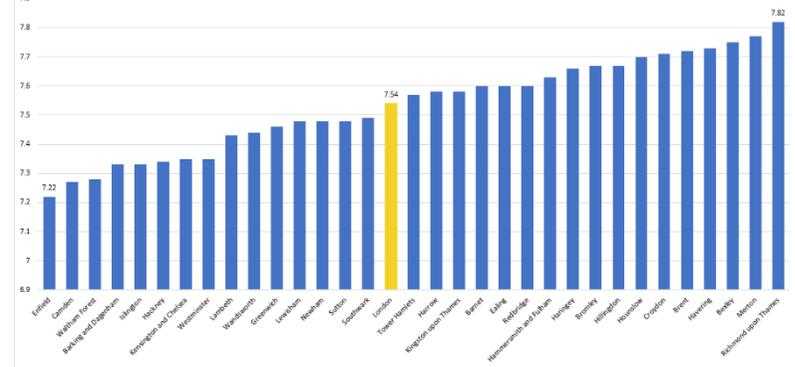
Recorded hate crimes per 1,000 people



Source: MPS End of Year Crime Statistics, RI & Population Projections, 2019/20

Life Satisfaction

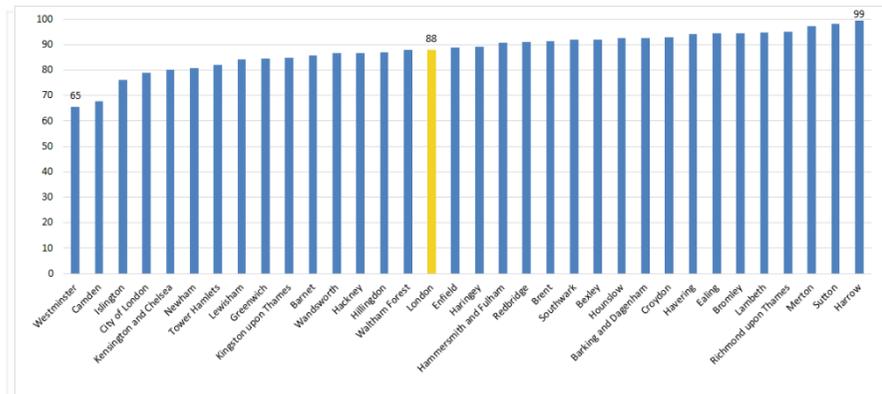
Average score out of 1-10 when asked how satisfied people are with their lives nowadays



Source: ONS Personal Wellbeing Estimates, 2019/20

Voter Registration

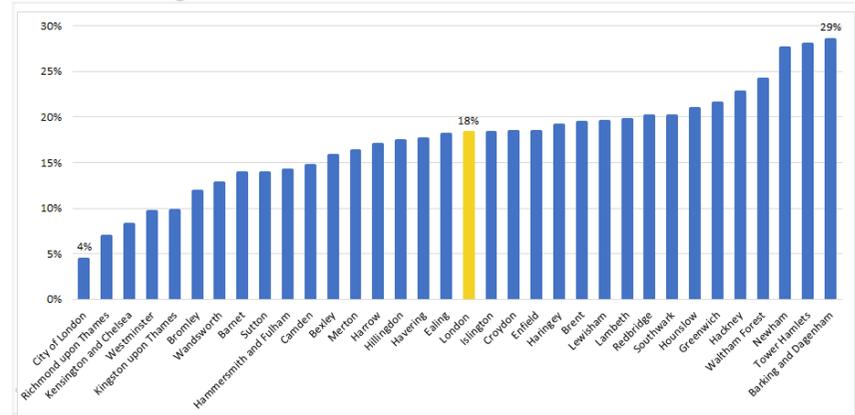
Percent of eligible adults aged 18+ who are registered for local elections



Source: Electoral Statistics for UK, Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2019

Children in low income households

% children living in low-income households

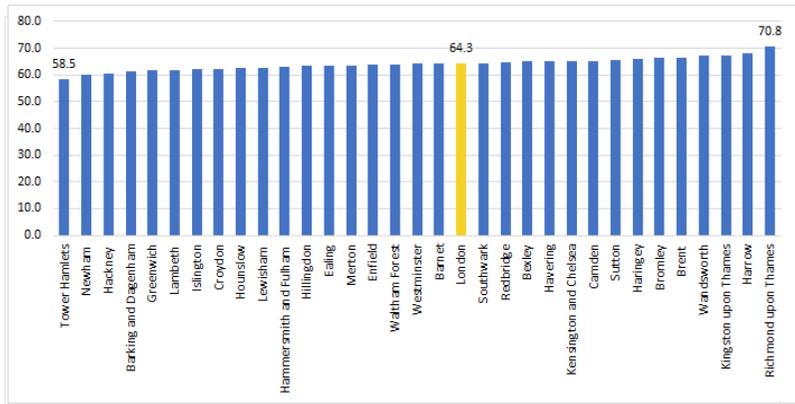


Source: DWP, 2020

Doughnut Economics in London

Healthy life expectancy

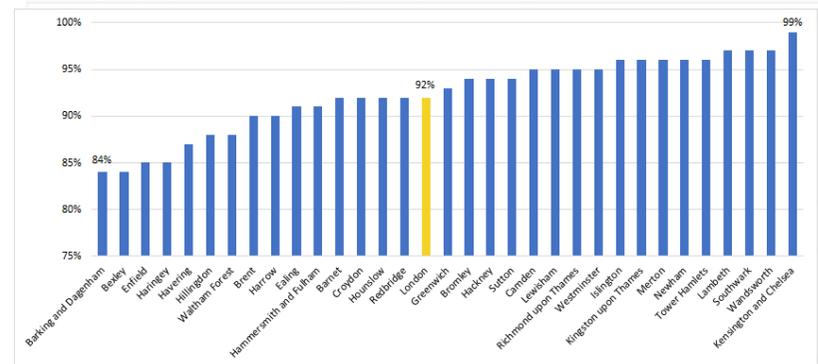
Average number of years babies born this year would live in a state of 'good' general health



Source: ONS, 2016-18

Community Integration

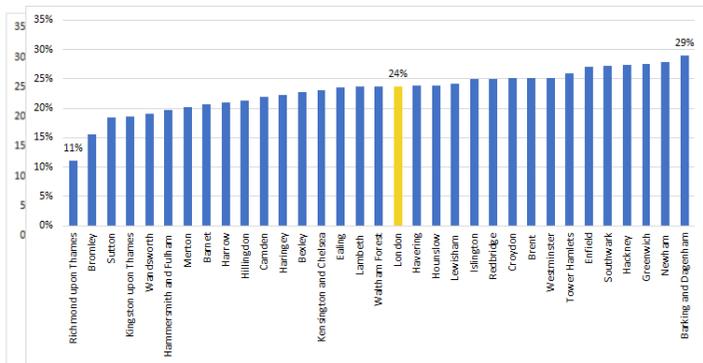
% who agree people from different backgrounds get on well together



Source: MOPAC Public Attitudes Survey, 2019

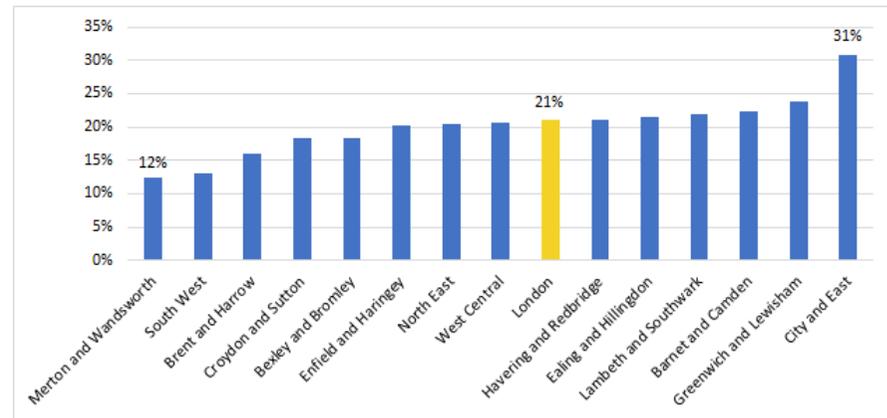
Childhood Obesity

% children in Year 6 who are obese or severely obese



Source: Public Health England, 2019/20

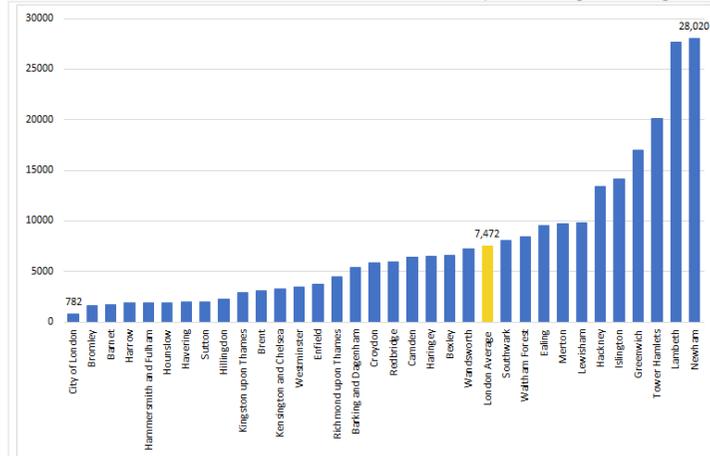
Food security (London Assembly Constituency Area only)



Source: Survey of Londoners, 2018/19

Social Housing waiting lists

Number of households on the local authority housing waiting list

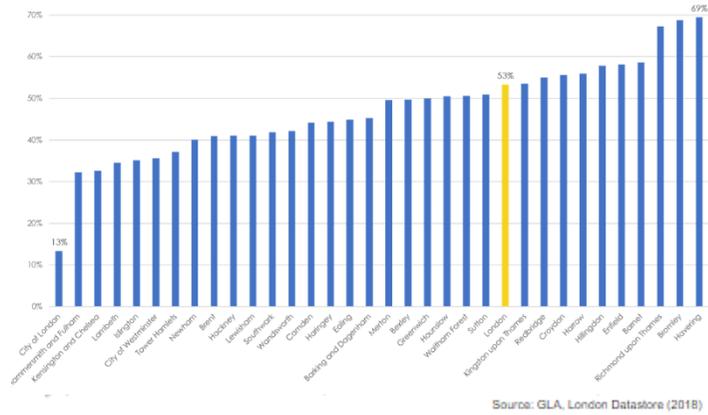


Source: MHCLG, 2020

Doughnut Economics in London

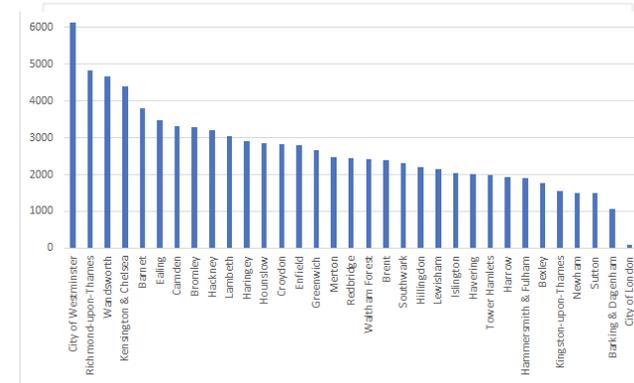
Green and Blue Space Cover

% green and blue space coverage by borough (2018)



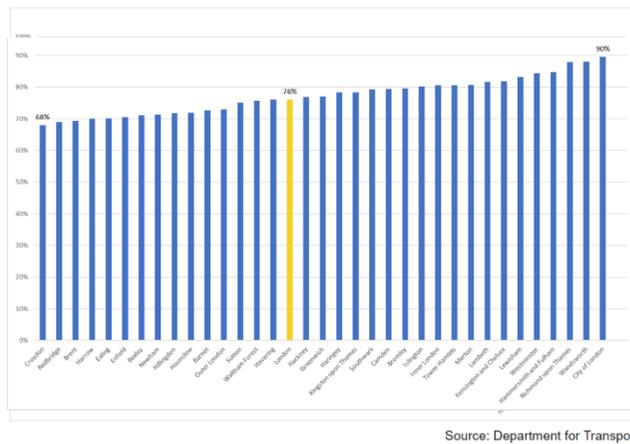
Natural capital

£ million of natural capital value by borough (2017)



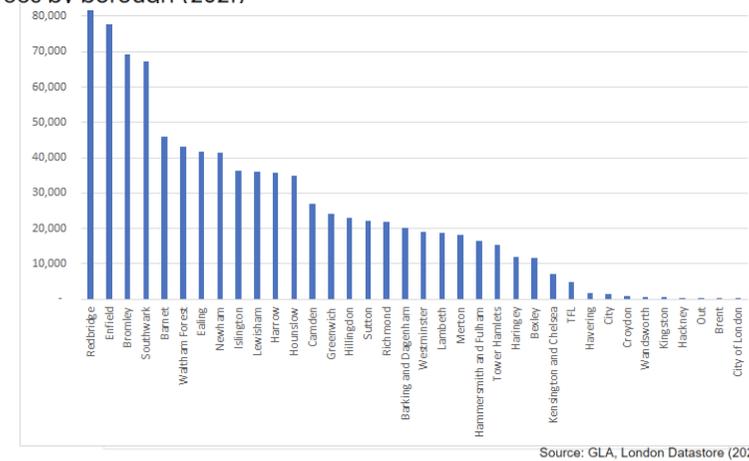
Active Travel

% of adults who walk or cycle for any purpose at least once per week (2018-19)



London street trees

No. of trees by borough (2021)



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