



Innovate
UK

Britainthinks

Insight & Strategy

Innovate UK UKRI Insights for Urban Systems

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01 Background & method



Background to the research

In June 2019, the UK government committed to achieve net zero carbon emissions by the year 2050 by law. Impetus behind initiatives to reduce the impacts of climate change has since grown, as have public expectations for change to be driven by those with infrastructural and financial influence (i.e., government and businesses).

Effecting change in the activities and behaviours of people living in urban areas is going to be critical to the UK achieving sustainable net zero places. Currently, it tends to be business and academia that have the greatest influence over strategic priorities relating to changes to urban systems. But collaborating with young people and helping them to feel 'heard' in the development of these spaces in the future is key to their successful delivery.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) therefore commissioned research with BritainThinks to gather the views of young people, aged 18-24 years old, to understand how urban systems should change into sustainable net zero places. This will inform your strategy and prioritisation work.

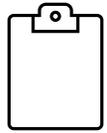
Research objectives

In this research we sought to:

- 1 Understand **how young people currently view and interact with their urban spaces**, including what aspects they enjoy and what they feel could be improved.
- 2 Explore **how far young people feel urban spaces will change in the future**, considering the impact of climate change and the need to transition to net zero living.
- 3 Explore **young peoples' vision of a 'net zero city'**, including what features they feel will drive sustainability, and what barriers or challenges could prevent this from being achieved.
- 4 Understand **what influence and interest, if any, young people have over urban planning**, if this is something they would be interested in having more of in the future and how they can be encouraged, empowered and inspired to.

Methodology

We conducted a multi stage, mixed method research project:



Quantitative survey with 200 respondents, to understand feelings, thoughts and approaches to climate change in urban spaces.



An 'opening plenary' online event lasting 45 minutes to introduce them to the research and build excitement about the project.



A two-week online community where participants were asked to reflect upon their urban environment in a diary style format, and to learn more about what their future cities could look like through videos and information from a range of experts.



8 x 2.5 long workshops in each location across the UK, in which participants were tasked with creating a series of urban design principles, designing a digital poster of how they'd like their city to look in the future and the creation of a business case to be implemented in their city.



A closing plenary online event, to get alignment on the urban design principles and have participants share back their digital posters.

URBAN FUTURES LAB

A month-long project with 50 young people from across 8 towns / cities across the UK.

Sample

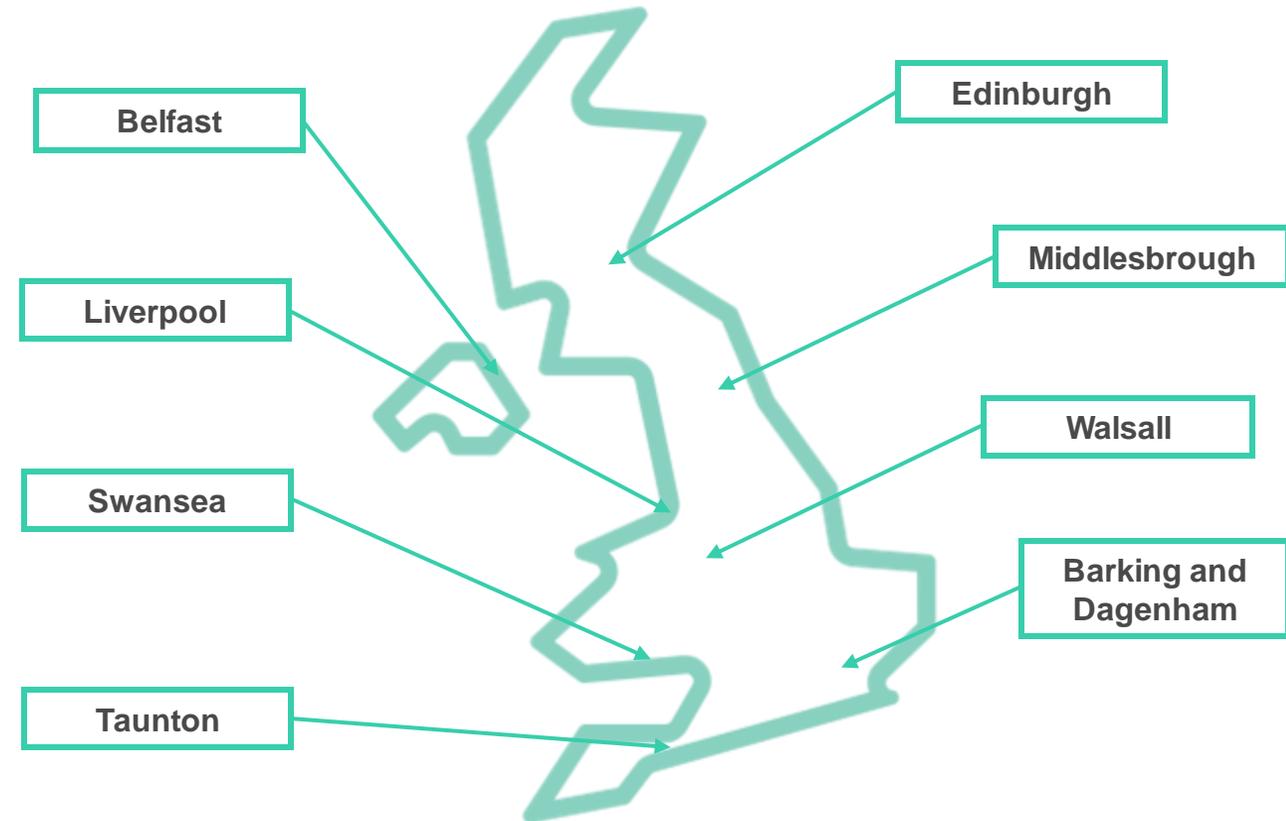
Quantitative survey

We surveyed 200 participants aged 18-24 across the whole of the UK.

Urban Future Labs

We spoke with 50 participants aged 18-24 across 8 key regions in the UK (highlighted in the map).

Across both research strands, participants were mixed in terms of age, gender, SEG, ethnicity, sexual orientation, living situation (with friends, partner, with children, parents, alone) housing tenure (rented, owned, student accommodation) and employment and education (full/part time education, full/part time employment)



Participants were recruited from urban systems across the UK, including 3 towns and 5 cities. For the purposes of this research, urban systems were defined as areas with a population of greater than 10,000.

Our specialist group

We asked a series of experts, each with different specialisms relating to urban planning or sustainability, to create content for participants to engage with and learn more about the possibilities for future cities:



Kit Allwinter
Active Travel Policy
Advisor, West Yorkshire
Combined Authority



Gemma Hyde
Project and Policy Officer
for Healthier Places, Town
and Country Planning
Association



Jonelle Simunich
Curator and Producer,
[y]our 2040



Sam Alvis
Head of Economy,
Green Alliance



Zoe Roberts
UK100



Lilidh Matthews
UKRI Young Innovator,
Retail



Zhimin Zhang
UKRI Young Innovator,
Food



A man in a dark suit and tie is shown from the chest up, holding a megaphone to his mouth. He is looking towards the right. The background is a bright, cloudy sky. A semi-transparent teal horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text '02 Key findings'.

02

Key findings

Key findings

1.

Climate change is perceived to be an important issue, however it is not the primary lens through which young people view their local, urban spaces. They instead think more about the functionality and aesthetics. However when prompted, they recognise the need for urban spaces to get the 'basics' of energy, transport and recycling right.

2.

There is a key opportunity to tie net zero solutions to broader urban improvements. Young people display strong pride in where they live, however they also feel that their towns and cities are not yet reaching their full potential. Solutions that combine sustainable facilities, sustainable behaviours and broader improvements are felt to be key moving forward.

3.

In discussing their towns and cities, young people normally think of local environments, community, energy and buildings, transport and decision-making. Across all areas young people recognise things that are going well, such as things to do and green parks, but would like to see improvements, such as litter reduction and better public transport.

4.

In designing future cities, participants established 10 design principles they would like to see. These include greenery on every corner, having cheaper, greener, cleaner and more regular public transport, being powered by renewable energy sources and being shaped by what local people want, amongst other things.

5.

Overall, young people do not feel that their voice is heard in town planning, and are unsure how to change this. However, there is clear desire for engagement, and forums such as this research are seen as key routes to connecting with this group and giving them opportunities to share.

An aerial, black and white photograph of a modern urban building complex. The image shows several interconnected structures with prominent balconies and green roofs. The buildings are surrounded by lush greenery, including trees and landscaped courtyards. A semi-transparent teal banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text. The overall scene depicts a well-integrated urban environment with green spaces.

03 Climate change and urban systems through the eyes of young people

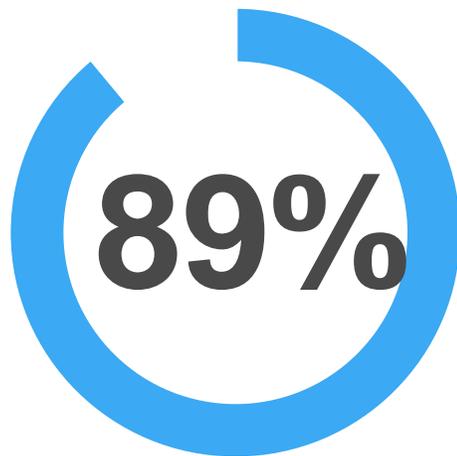
Climate change is a resonant topic for young people, with widespread agreement of the importance of achieving net zero by 2050.

However, young people generally view climate change through a global lens rather than on a local lens. Instead, they primarily think about their urban spaces in terms of how they look and what they are like to be in.

When prompted, young people recognise that urban systems contribute to climate change, and therefore see a need for them to get the ‘basics’ such as energy, recycling and transport right to respond to this. There is clearly a bigger opportunity for young people in how solutions can bring not only sustainable benefits, but lifestyle and functionality ones too.

Young people feel it is important to achieve net zero by 2050 to combat climate change

There is **high awareness of the topic of climate change** amongst young people, and widespread agreement that achieving net zero should be a key part of addressing the issue.



Of young people gave a score of 7 or above when asked to **rate the importance of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 to combat climate change on a scale of 1-10.**

“The UK authorities should do more to help out our communities in terms of energy pricing and how we can get to net zero.”

Barking & Dagenham

“I think my city needs to act faster. I feel as if they are taking the correct steps but they aren’t taking them quick enough.”

Edinburgh

“Government/ council policies and laws are needed to create the drive to reduce carbon emissions by a certain time.”

Taunton

D6. The UK Government has committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050 to help combat climate change. On a scale of 0-10 where 0 is very unimportant and 10 is very important, how important is it to you that the UK achieves this? Base: all respondents (n=204), all respondents selecting 7 or above (n=183).

Currently there is a disconnect between climate change and one's local town/city, especially in terms of impact

Despite high overall awareness and understanding of the topic, climate change is rarely spontaneously viewed through a local lens.

Young people rarely think in terms of how local areas impact climate change, and how they in turn could be impacted by it.

Climate change is primarily associated with other areas of the world, for example 'melting ice caps'.

There is understanding of how human behaviour relates to climate change, but this is rarely tied to 'my local place'.

Only a minority of participants recognise how climate change could impact their local area e.g., flooding of nearby rivers.

"To me when I think of climate change, I think of the melting ice caps, and polar bears being affected."

Barking & Dagenham

"It's a faraway issue. We probably play a role but then I think America's playing more of a role."

Belfast

Where the topic of sustainability does emerge, it is primarily in terms of pollution, litter and (lack of) green spaces

Whilst young people do not connect climate change and local environments, the topic of sustainability does emerge in conversations:

- There are frequent mentions of different types of pollution, most notably air pollution from traffic.
- Litter is frequently cited as one of the biggest issues in towns and cities.
- Green spaces are also widely discussed both in terms of the positives they bring and a concern that they are lacking or only concentrated in certain areas.

However, these factors are usually not explicitly linked to climate change, with participants often focusing on how they impact other, specific elements of sustainability more broadly (e.g. litter being bad for local wildlife, air pollution being bad for residents' health).

“One thing I hate is when a car drives past and it has a lot of black smoke coming out the exhaust... I don't like it as it's bad for the environment.”

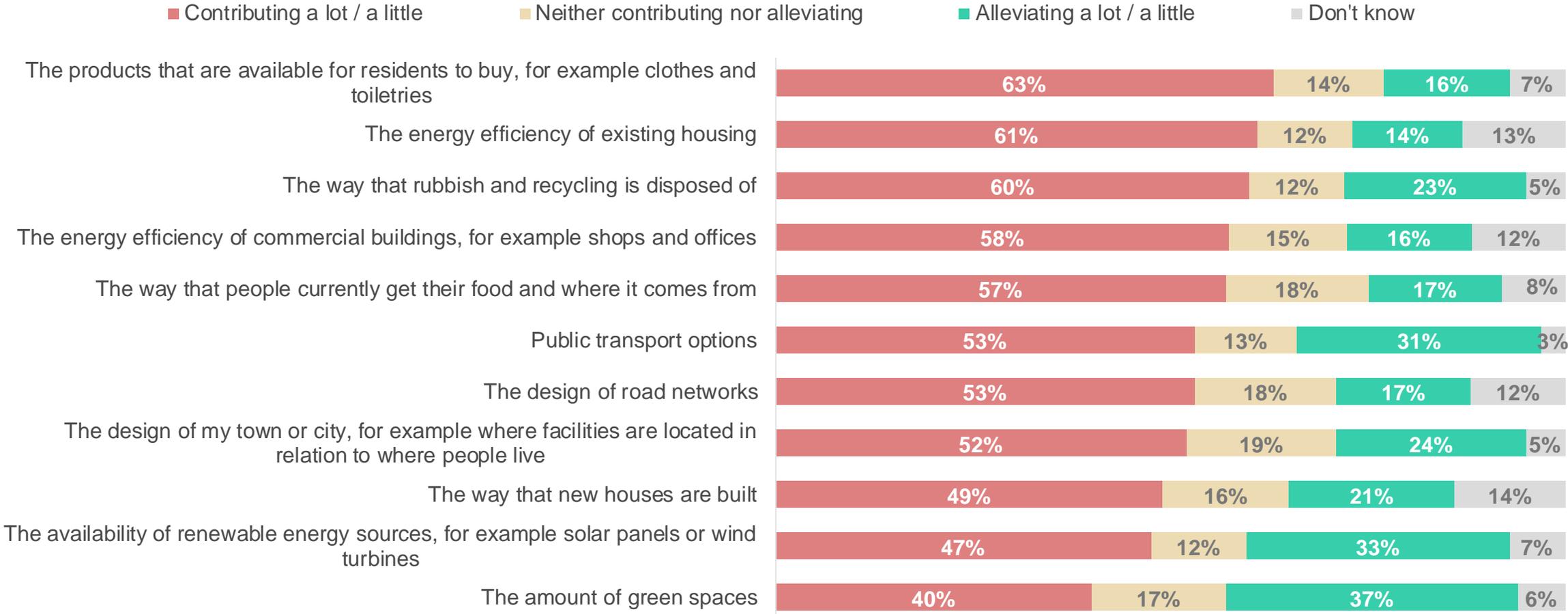
Belfast

“I noticed lots of rubbish bags dumped in the entrances and bushes to fields and this is sad to see that people don't care about our town and environment.”

Taunton

When prompted young people recognise that urban systems contribute to, rather than alleviate, climate change

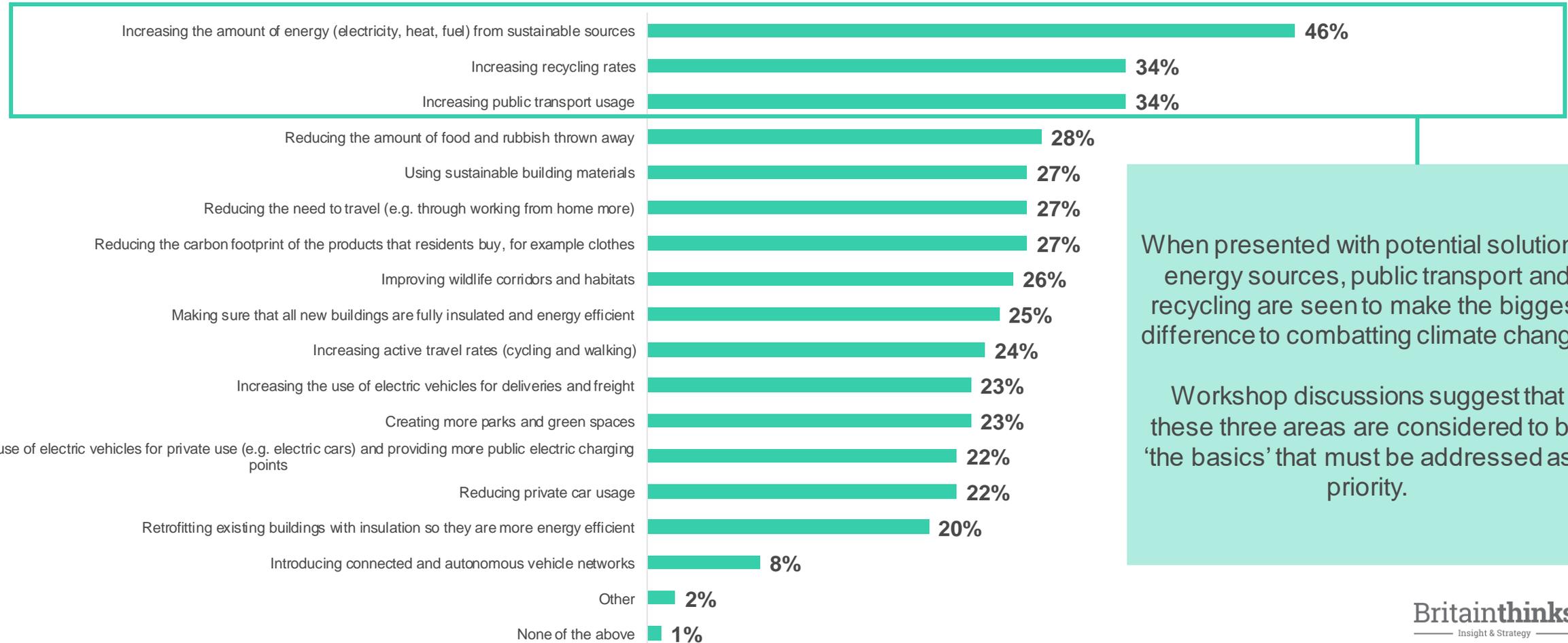
Extent to which urban aspects are perceived to contribute to / alleviate climate change
Showing % selecting each



D7. Thinking about your town or city, to what extent do you think each of the following is currently contributing to or alleviating climate change and environmental damage? Base: all respondents (n=204).

They see a need for towns and cities to get the ‘basics’ right in responding to climate change

Biggest potential impact on climate change
Showing % selecting each



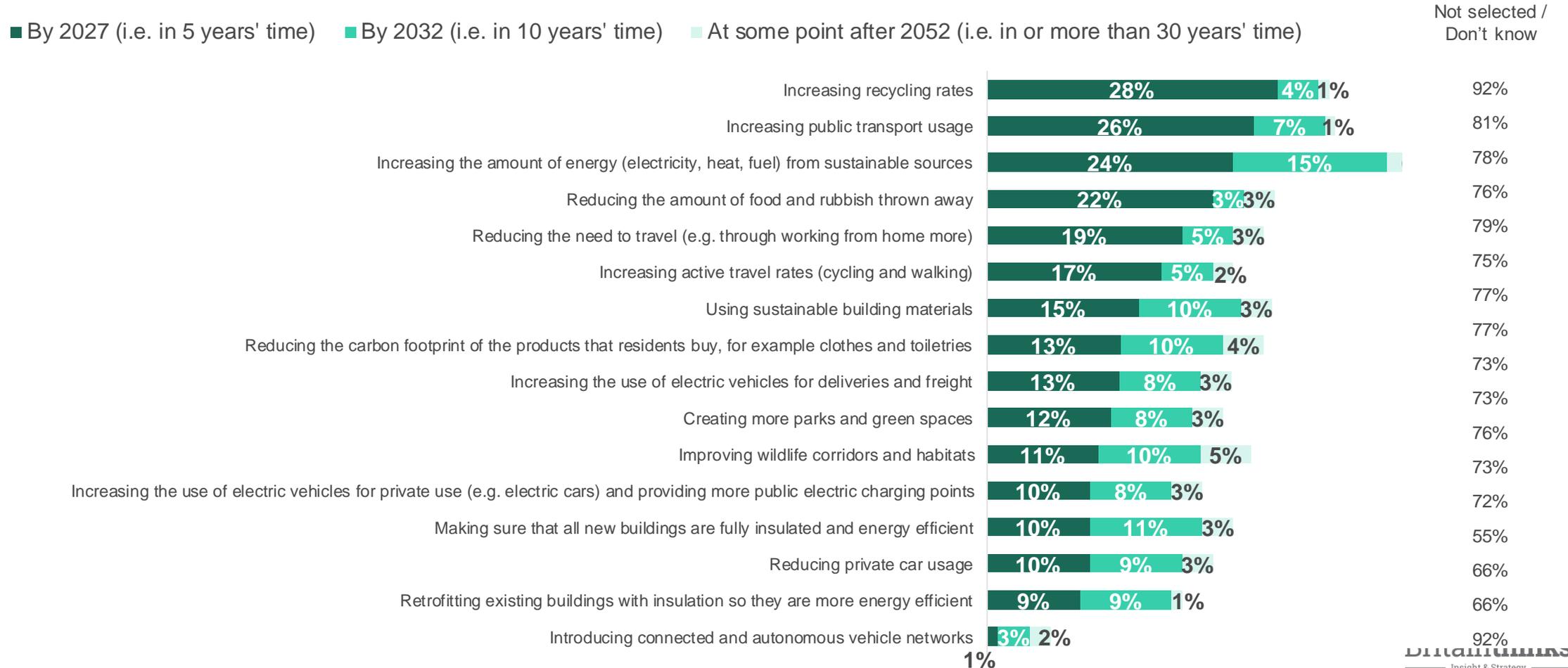
When presented with potential solutions, energy sources, public transport and recycling are seen to make the biggest difference to combatting climate change.

Workshop discussions suggest that these three areas are considered to be ‘the basics’ that must be addressed as a priority.

D8. Which of the following, if any, do you think will make the biggest difference to combatting climate change in your town or city? Base: all respondents (n=204).

And there is a sense of urgency for these solutions to be implemented

Expectations of when solutions should be implemented by
Showing % selecting each



D9. When do you think the solutions that you chose should be implemented by? Base: all respondents (n=204).

However, young people think more about their towns and cities in terms of attractiveness and functionality

When thinking about how to improve their urban spaces, young people's primary goal is not reaching net zero.

Instead, they primarily think about:

The functionality of their urban space, in terms of access to different activities and facilities and ease of travelling to different areas.

I'd like more accessible facilities for everyday use that are close enough to be able to walk. I think more pedestrianised roads and more people cycling or walking places, less cars on the roads so they're less busy.

Taunton

The aesthetics of their urban spaces, including the physical attractiveness of environments, but also the 'vibe' and experience of being in them.

"Greenery throughout the city rather than just a few parks dotted around. I think it makes a massive difference not just for the environment but just to look at."

Middlesbrough

Despite fundamental pride in hometowns and cities, most are seen to be not reaching their full potential

Whilst young people relate to their home areas differently, **there is a consistent pride across all regions about where they live** and what their town or city represents.

However, most feel a sense of frustration from a perception that their city is **currently not meeting its 'full potential'** both in terms of functionality and aesthetics - that if more **dedicated efforts were put into improvement and development**, they could be even better places to live.

Responses to the question 'If your town / city were an animal what would it be, and why?'

"I think it would be a caterpillar/butterfly. I think this because it has potential but at the minute it is not there. I think when it has money and work but in it, it can be amazing."



Walsall



"It would be a stray dog, it has the potential to be lovely if it were looked after properly, but it's a bit neglected in areas."

Taunton

"I think Belfast would be a lion cub as it is a capital city with so much potential but it's yet to live up to it and still to grow and develop."

Belfast



Current frustrations are tied to negative perceptions of investment – many are dissatisfied with how money is spent

There are strong perceptions of **inequality of investment**, both at a national level (e.g., between London and the north) and locally (between different areas of towns and cities).

“There is a real North/South divide in Liverpool in terms of investment, which impacts how safe you feel in each.”
Liverpool

“Technology-wise Walsall is lacking and needs an update.”
Walsall

Furthermore, young people note that they rarely see good examples of **technology or innovation** being implemented in their areas.

Ultimately, there is lack of clarity in **how investment decisions are made** and a belief that **decision makers** are not representative of ‘real’ people and communities.

“My ideal city would not have big money projects that suck up half the budget to attract investors then don't end up getting used because the people never asked for it.”
Swansea

There is therefore a key opportunity to tie net zero solutions to broader needs in towns and cities

Young people want to see a balance of both:

Creating sustainable facilities, which is seen to be a key responsibility for local authorities to show commitment to the cause (a necessity if asking citizens to change behaviours).

Encouraging sustainable behaviours, which is seen to be critical in raising awareness of the topic and actually creating meaningful change and impact.

However, this is most effective when:

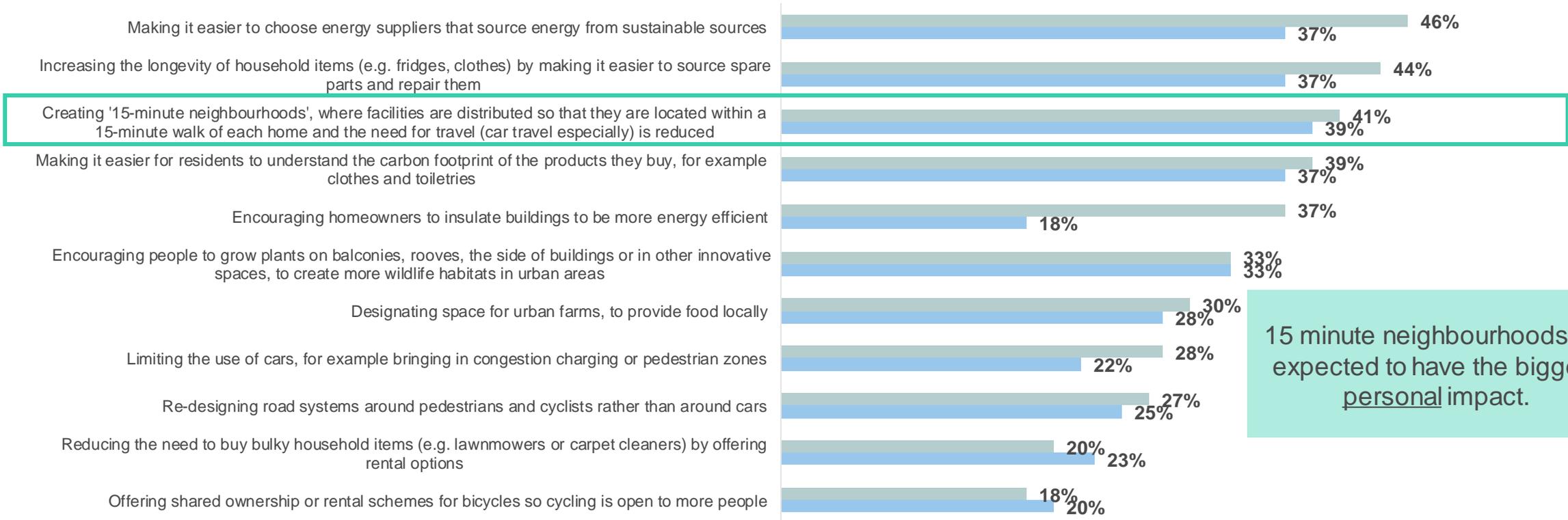
Innovation and new developments bring additional benefits beyond sustainability to towns and cities, including making their lives easier, more convenient and more enjoyable.

Net zero solutions that bring enhanced functionality and lifestyle improvements are viewed to be particularly impactful

- Residents
- Me personally

Extent to which business solutions are perceived to help residents / individuals to combat climate change

Showing % selecting each



15 minute neighbourhoods are expected to have the biggest personal impact.

D10. Thinking about some business models for how these solutions could work in practice... Which of the following, if any, would best help residents in your town or city play their part in combatting climate change and environmental damage? Base: all respondents (n=204). Which of the following, if any, would be most helpful to allow you personally to play your part in combatting climate change and environmental damage? Base: all respondents (n=204).

There is a latent optimism amongst young people about improvements and the transition to net zero living

Currently, young people do not see themselves represented in urban planning or future towns and cities, which can make it difficult to imagine what is possible. However, when discussed directly, they do see huge possibilities for how urban environments can be improved and do feel optimistic that such changes could be implemented.

"I believe that I do not have a lot of influence on my town as a young individual."

Barking & Dagenham

"We as young people don't have much of say about changes or decisions which get made in our community."

Swansea

"I can relate that people believe that they don't get a lot of say in their cities because I don't believe me or anyone who lives in my city does."

Middlesbrough

"It is hard to control how people live, and so the right kind of marketing and advertisement of the message needs to be incorporated, and it needs to engage the viewers. We especially need to target young people as Liverpool is full of students."

Liverpool

"I thought that having net zero cities was going to happen a whole lot longer down the line. But to see that there's a goal to achieve this in a much shorter time than I thought was really impressive to go back and reflect upon alone. I think that there's a lot of things that anyone can do to make the place we live in better in such a short amount of time."

Walsall



04 Views & experiences of urban environments

There are 5 key categories in terms of how young people assess their urban environments: local environment; community; energy and buildings; transport; and decision-making. In terms of their local environment, green and natural spaces and clean air are real positives, however these are often felt to be lacking and / or spoilt by litter pollution.

Young people feel there is generally a lack of ‘things to do’ and attractive communal spaces nearby, both for young people specifically and to bring the whole community together. Historic buildings can strengthen pride, whereas run-down or overly-modern buildings (that feel out of place with the local heritage) are cause for dislike.

Finally, ‘green’ transport options are generally seen as unaffordable and unreliable, despite young people being frustrated at traffic and congestion caused by too many cars on the road.

There are an array of factors which impact how young people perceive and interact with their urban environments

Key differences are driven by:



Proximity to large cities

Areas in close proximity to larger regions (e.g., Barking and Dagenham in relation to London, or Walsall in relation to Birmingham) can feel overshadowed as a result.



Natural landscapes

Being located to natural landscapes (e.g., Liverpool and Swansea being close to the beach) is felt to bring a unique lens to urban environments.



Heritage

Having a clear local heritage – particularly one that is visible in architecture and style – can make people feel more connected to the roots of where they live.



Living situation

Whether a person lives at home impacts the degree to which they use and interact with the city (e.g., doing weekly food shops, considering the neighbourhood they live in).

This in turn can impact how positive or negative people feel about where they live, and the sense of identity that they associate with it.

In discussing their urban environments, 5 key categories emerged

The following categories were created based on how young people discussed their towns and cities:



Local environment



Community



Energy & Buildings



Transport



Decision-making



Young people love being in spaces that feel clean and natural, with litter being a real eyesore

What young people like	What young people don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Green spaces such as fields, parks, allotments and flowers/trees near streets and roads are seen as good for wellbeing and wildlife. ✓ Other natural spaces like the sea and beach, lakes and ponds. ✓ Local wildlife such as swans and birds. ✓ Spaces which are clean and litter-free. ✓ Clean, non-polluted fresh air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Litter of any kind (including broken glass and dog waste), in both urban and natural spaces – seen as a result of both lack of facilities and human behaviour. X Overall, not enough green space in places YP live or frequently visit (with this tending to be confined to big parks). X Vandalism, e.g. broken signs / benches and graffiti. X Poor air from pollution. X Lack of / insufficient renewable energy sources such as wind farms or solar panels (to their knowledge).



“I liked seeing the greenery around and thought that it was pretty, and I would like to see more in the area.”

Walsall

“The fresh air, sound of the waves and the plenty of places to sit on the beach. Nice to get a coffee and sit and have a chat in the sun.”

Swansea



“I didn't like that the rubbish bins seemed to be overflowing especially the recycling points which meant people had to dump their stuff in the ordinary bins.”

Edinburgh



Young people lament a lack of community activities that bring people together, and things for them to do personally

What young people like	What young people don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Having an array of nice shops, restaurants and sources of entertainment (such as cinemas and theatres) to choose from that are accessible where they live. This is true for only some participants. ✓ Public spaces that bring the community together, such as skate parks, gardens and squares. ✓ Street furniture that also helps brings people together, for example benches and walls to sit on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ A lack of things to do, particularly for the youth – which is felt to lead to them ‘hanging around’ and being anti-social / criminal. ✗ Run downtown centres (particularly for Swansea, Taunton, Walsall and Belfast) e.g., boarded up shops, and cheap but low-quality stores. ✗ Lack of community events that bring different groups (e.g. old and young) together. ✗ Crowds, e.g. at peak times in certain areas. ✗ Homelessness, particularly highlighted in London and Belfast. ✗ Inequality in standard of living between different areas. ✗ Tourists treating the area badly (Liverpool only).



“The independent shops area of town and the rainbow path are good.”
Taunton

“Adding more places where young people can go... I don't like walking past a big group of boys, drinking, but generally they don't have much money so if they had somewhere free that they could go.”
Belfast

“When walking through Central London I noticed high amount of homeless people there are. I believe homelessness is a huge problem and it just breaks my heart.”
Barking and Dagenham



Whilst historic architecture is a source of pride, run down buildings are seen as unattractive and lacking energy efficiency

What young people like	What young people don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Historic buildings and landmarks that fit in with and showcase the local heritage. These can be a real source of pride and positive expression of local identity. ✓ Solar panels on houses for green energy (cited by a minority). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Run-down, poorly maintained and / or empty buildings that could be businesses or thriving community hubs. ✗ Lack of affordable, good quality housing and sustainable (e.g. well-insulated) housing for locals, which can lead to wasted energy. ✗ A lack of renewable energy options. ✗ New developments that feel overly 'modern' and not in keeping with the area's heritage, or don't have a clear benefit to locals (e.g. not near local amenities). ✗ For a minority, anti-homelessness architecture, which is felt to criminalise homelessness.

"I noticed a lot of run down or abandoned building which made me sad and angry that so many building had been neglected when people who needs homes could be living in them."

Belfast

"I was lucky enough to pass by some really nice listed buildings today. Part of the old children's hospital has been demolished but the listed part remains and it's beautiful."

Edinburgh



"There were mainly houses, quite a few had solar panels which was nice to see."

Barking & Dagenham



Young people feel that appealing ‘green’ transport options, such as public transport, are generally lacking

What young people like	What young people don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good transport links for those living near / in London, Walsall and Liverpool. ✓ Notable increase in EV charging points and EVs across the UK and the places many participants live. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Traffic and congestion, especially in centres, which causes air pollution and is unpleasant to experience. ✗ Lack of appealing ‘green’ alternatives to driving: public transport is unreliable, expensive, dirty and not as accessible for disabled people specifically; lack of / not enough cycle lanes; scooter schemes not widely available or easy to use where implemented; too few EV charging points still. ✗ Poorly maintained roads e.g. lots of potholes. ✗ Roadworks causing disruption to travel and daily life and can appear badly planned. ✗ Ugly car parks.



“There is public transport but it's not enough, it'll make people get more taxis/Uber and that's not as good for the environment.”
Middlesbrough

“The potholes on the road made me ashamed to live here. The state of some of the roads are horrendous.”
Liverpool

“Electric car charging points are starting to pop up in supermarket car parks – we need to encourage the use of electric vehicles.”
Edinburgh





Young people want to see community involvement in decision-making, feeling opportunities are currently lacking

What young people like	What young people don't like
<p>✓ Young people were unable to cite any positive examples of decision-making in their towns and cities.</p>	<p>X A lack of opportunities for local people to share their feedback on what they want/would like to see in their local area.</p> <p>X Large investment/developments that do not reflect local needs e.g., luxury flats.</p>



“I did think the tram project was a waste of financial resources with the buses being so good, and that money could have done better things for the city.”
Edinburgh

“The lights at the cricket ground that were the biggest waste of money ever, they were used for one cricket World Cup so didn't even get a lot of use.”
Taunton



Day in the life | TAUNTON



"The park again today! So pretty and a lovely place to spend time with my friends, especially when it was sunny. It does make me happy to live in."



"I saw a squirrel running up the tree when I was sat in traffic. This made me smile as I like seeing the local wildlife in my town."



"On my way back I saw someone riding an E-scooter which is cool....I think these are a good idea!"



"Opposite the park was a community hall. I noticed that the building looked very run down and tired and made me feel sad that our town hadn't put any funding into the building that should help our community the most."



"I noticed lots of rubbish bags dumped in the entrances and bushes to fields and this is sad to see that people don't care about our town and environment."

Text and images from online community diary task, in which participants were asked to report back on things they saw and experienced in their urban environments throughout the week.

Day in the life | WALSALL



"I noticed Walsall arboretum which was nice and green with the sun shining!"



"I like seeing the daffodils that have been planted in the grass patches and that some of the trees planted along the pavement have started to blossom."



"I saw a few houses that had solar panels, and there were quite a few electric cars that I saw driving past, which was nice."



"There is a canal that we walk over on the way to the park, the air smelled like car fumes as it's very close to a main road and it felt quite heavy to breathe."



"There's a big area with just trash everywhere, it's nasty and the smell is horrible."

Text and images from online community diary task, in which participants were asked to report back on things they saw and experienced in their urban environments throughout the week.

Day in the life | SWANSEA



“People were walking along the promenade near the sea with their dogs, having a coffee or breakfast at the cafe which was buzzing!”



“I also saw people playing volleyball on the beach which was nice and made me smile. There were lots of groups of people chatting and being friendly.”



“As I was walking back I decided I would go to Park Tawe shopping, it was recently given a “face lift”, they’ve completed regenerated the area – I feel that area reflects Swansea well.”



“Some crowds, they can be very rowdy and disruptive. There’s also a lack of places for young people to get cheap nibbles and drinks [near the beach].”



“I saw the inequality...there are some places that are really nice, and some places are really poor and run-down with bad housing and shops, and less green spaces.”

Text and images from online community diary task, in which participants were asked to report back on things they saw and experienced in their urban environments throughout the week.



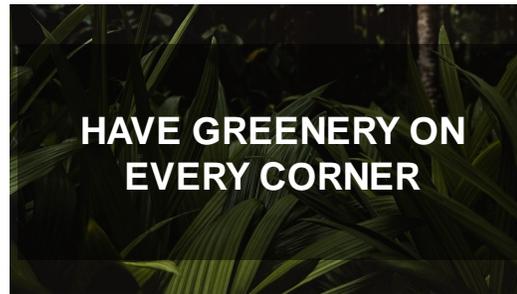
05 Designing future cities

We identified 10 design principles which young people feel are crucial for the development of their cities

High priority principles:



Medium priority principles:



Participants were asked to vote on whether each principle was a high, medium or low priority for future town and city planning. Further ordering was determined based on qualitative discussions. All principles are seen as important overall – medium priority principles are simply ones that are viewed to be slightly less important or impactful compared to others.

An aerial photograph of a park. In the center, a group of three people sits on a wooden bench. To the left, another person sits on a bench. In the foreground, a man and a woman sit on a bench. A large, ornate fountain with a dark, domed top is visible on the right. The park features paved walkways, green hedges, and trees. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid in the center, containing white text.

**LOOK CLEAN, FEEL SAFE AND BE A PLACE
WE'RE PROUD OF**

LOOK CLEAN, FEEL SAFE AND BE A PLACE WE'RE PROUD OF

It would be easy for people to recycle in public places and everyone would be encouraged to dispose of litter properly, graffiti cleared away (or done with more purpose) and public spaces made to feel safer.

Currently, litter is felt to be the main factor causing places to feel unclean, polluted and unaesthetic, with dirty buildings and unseemly graffiti adding to this. There are public spaces that don't feel safe, for example alleyways and parks at night that aren't well lit, that young people want to feel more welcoming.



Having a clean and pleasant environment adds to the aesthetic of a place as well as driving sustainability, e.g. allowing wildlife to thrive. Graffiti can add to the aesthetic but only if it is done well (e.g. by an artist), with it usually being seen as ugly. Having spaces that feel safe is a key priority for urban environments that are accessible for all, and to help people take care of them / ensure they are as sustainable as possible.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

"I think rubbish collection is a big one, Taunton can be a bit messy sometimes."

Taunton

"It's cleanliness and making it look nice. If somewhere looks better on the eye, you'll enjoy it more."

Middlesborough

34% of young people surveyed feel increasing recycling rates would have the biggest impact in battling climate change.

Which of the following, if any, do you think will make the biggest difference to combatting climate change in your town or city? Base: all respondents (n=204).

LOOK CLEAN, FEEL SAFE AND BE A PLACE WE'RE PROUD OF

It would be easy for people to recycle in public places and everyone would be encouraged to dispose of litter properly, graffiti cleared away (or done with more purpose) and alleyways opened up.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- Having more litter bins and recycling facilities to make disposing of waste easier to do.
- Educating people about waste (e.g. in schools) to help them recycle more and reduce their waste.
- Removing old graffiti, or commissioning artists / using local students and volunteers for free to create graffiti art / murals that everyone can enjoy.
- Ensuring public spaces are well-lit at night and in evenings during winter, to help these feel safer and more accessible to enjoy and easier to maintain (reducing the chance of vandalism or these being destroyed, which has a negative impact on sustainability).

Images and text from digital posters



*Communal recycling tips
and increased rubbish
collection for waste
Swansea*

*Bins that are emptied more
frequently
Taunton*



*Commissioning local artists
to do graffiti
Liverpool*



BUSINESS CASE IDEA, BARKING & DAGENHAM:

An upcycling centre where people can buy and sell materials, access a reward scheme for recycling and promote annual recycling day.

The image shows the interior of a modern public transport vehicle, likely a tram or light rail. Passengers are seated on blue seats, and some are wearing face masks. The vehicle has large windows, overhead handrails, and a clean, bright interior. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the center of the image.

**HAVE CHEAPER, GREENER, CLEANER
AND MORE REGULAR PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**

HAVE CHEAPER, GREENER, CLEANER AND MORE REGULAR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

More people would use public transport because it would be the preferred option.

Currently, young people see traffic and congestion as negatively impacting the experience of being in town and city centers, as well as having a negative environmental effect. However, insufficient public transport options are seen to be failing to draw people away from their cars.



Young people are therefore keen to see a significant improvement in their public transport systems, not only in terms of their reliability and frequency, but their affordability, cleanliness and overall quality too. Ultimately, they want public transport to become the 'preferred option', to help reduce reliance on cars, particularly in towns and city centers whilst still ensuring outskirts and suburbs still feel accessible.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

"Public transport needs a lot of help in Swansea. This would help the amount of traffic, which is increasing rapidly."

Swansea

"We looked at travel because the centre can get quite congested at rush hour. We thought of putting uber system and Trams, meaning that people don't have to travel by car which would reduce the traffic and the carbon emissions too."

Taunton

34% of young people surveyed feel increasing public transport usage would have the biggest impact in battling climate change.

Which of the following, if any, do you think will make the biggest difference to combatting climate change in your town or city? Base: all respondents (n=204).

HAVE CHEAPER, GREENER, CLEANER AND MORE REGULAR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

More people would use public transport because it would be the preferred option.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- A mix of public transport options, including buses, trams and trains that run both frequently and reliably throughout the entirety of towns and cities (not just in the centres).
- Better upkeep of transport to make sure that it is clean and comfortable, making it a more attractive option over cars.
- Low cost prices, and/or subsidised payment options e.g., student discount, weekly discount tickets to be more cost competitive compared to petrol and parking.
- The use of technology (e.g., digital display boards, reliable app tracking) to allow individuals to more easily plan their journeys.
- Wide promotion of public transport and encouragement to trial over car usage.

Images and text from digital posters

*Sustainable public transport:
accessible, frequent links,
wireless electric road system*
Walsall



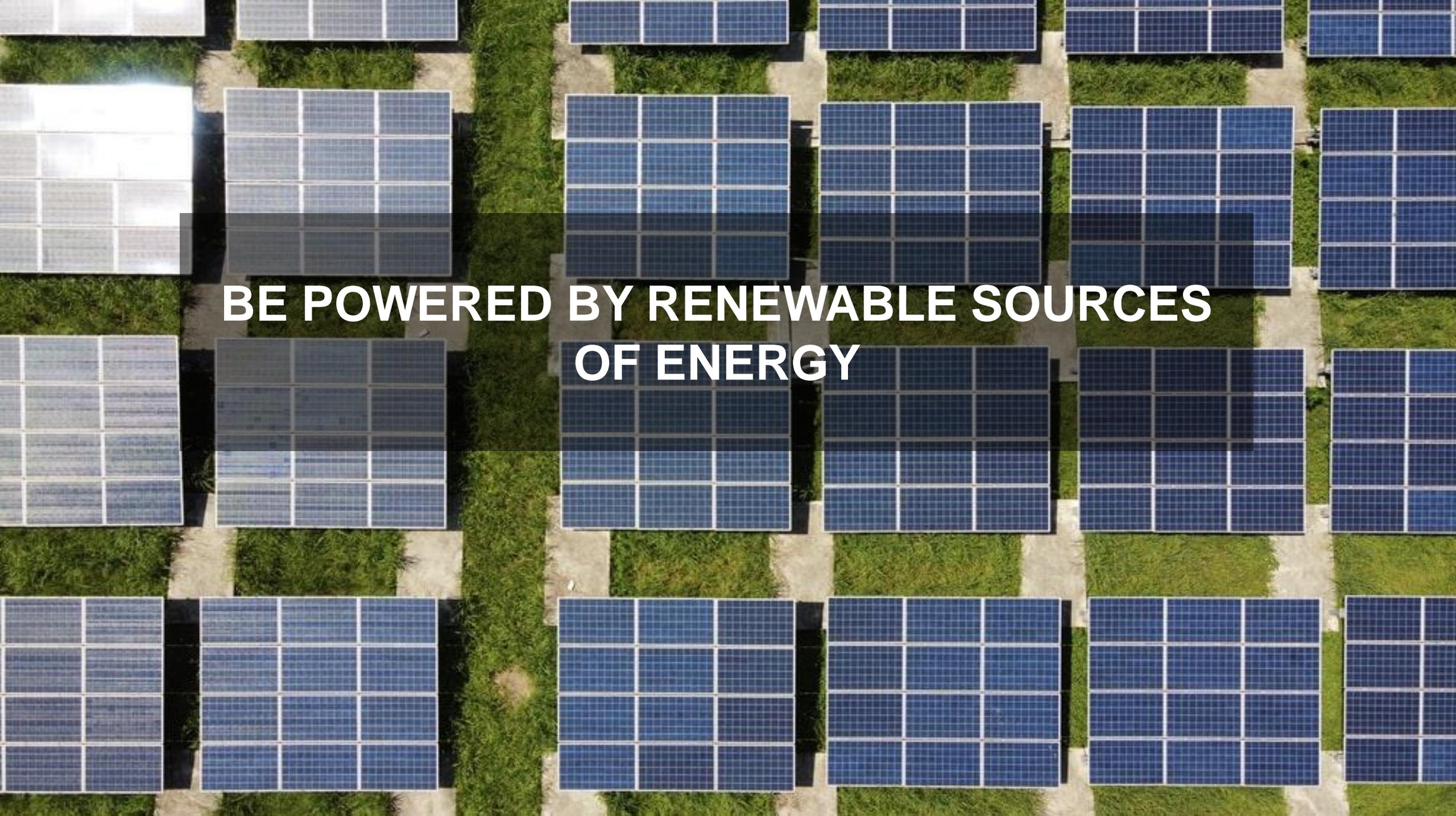
Double decker trains
Barking & Dagenham

*Transport that is more efficient
and more frequent, eliminating
delays and encouraging people
to use it rather than drive*
Middlesborough



Better public transport links
Edinburgh



An aerial photograph of a solar farm. The image shows a grid of rectangular solar panels, each divided into smaller cells by thin white lines. The panels are arranged in neat rows, separated by narrow paths of green grass. The overall scene is a vast, organized field of renewable energy technology.

**BE POWERED BY RENEWABLE SOURCES
OF ENERGY**

BE POWERED BY RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Everything would be made as green and eco friendly as possible, from how people power their homes to how they travel (electric vehicles, more cycle paths)

Whilst energy is not spontaneously top of mind for young people when considering what they want their urban environments to look like, when prompted the use of renewable sources is seen to be paramount in making towns and cities more sustainable and reaching net zero.



Therefore, young people want to see their towns and cities powered by renewable energy sources, and transport, buildings and facilities be designed to be as eco-friendly as possible. Fundamentally, this is seen to be an investment that *should* be made by the government to demonstrate that sustainability is a shared responsibility, but also as a key way to help facilitate sustainable choices by citizens when selecting energy suppliers.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

“Making sure there are more electric charging points for cars, there’s not that many around, and more people are going down that route.”

Barking & Dagenham

“We should look at areas with space for renewables like wind turbines. A lot of people don’t like the way they look and they don’t want them in the city, so maybe looking at an area just out of the city centre.”

Edinburgh

46% of young people surveyed feel increasing the amount of energy (electricity, heat, fuel) from sustainable sources would have the biggest impact in battling climate change.

BE POWERED BY RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Everything would be made as green and eco friendly as possible, from how people power their homes to how they travel (electric vehicles, more cycle paths).

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

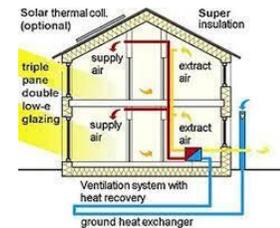
- Energy powered by renewable energy sources, including wind and turbine energy, potentially outside of cities to reduce 'eye sore' complaints.
- Homes fitted with solar panels, and new homes built to be as sustainable as possible e.g., good insulation.
- Education and incentives across the community on how to save energy.
- Eco-friendly travel, including electric buses, more electric charging stations to encourage more people to buy electric cars and cycle paths.



BUSINESS CASE IDEA, LIVERPOOL:

Smart city-wide energy sharing systems, which uses data science to determine which areas of the city require more energy and distribute accordingly.

Images and text from digital posters



More sustainable Housing – triple glazing windows, insulation, solar
Edinburgh



Renewable energy sources
Liverpool



Solar panels
Middlesbrough

New built housing to include solar panels and old buildings fitted with them which can generate power to heat housing and provide energy.

Belfast





**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOUR**

**PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO
ALL AND ENABLE THE COMMUNITY TO
COME TOGETHER**

PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND ENABLE THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER

There would be more places for people to come together and sharing would be encouraged amongst people.

Currently, young people feel that public spaces – both indoor and outdoor - are letting their towns and cities down. With no clear purpose and a lack of upkeep, they are felt to easily become under or mis-used, missing a valuable opportunity to bring communities together.



Therefore, young public want to see all public spaces, whether that is indoor community centres or outdoor squares repurposed to being multi-functional, accessible and enjoyable places to spend time, suitable to all members of the community. This in turn is felt to be a key underpinning of broader community strengthening, in which residents are encouraged to share both their belongings and their knowledge with one another. As part of this, there is also a need to ensure that public spaces that facilitate movement (e.g., pavements and walkways) are fit for purpose.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

“There are some places that are just left when they could be nice. Places where people could spend time without it seeming wrong for them to be there, it being intimidating that they are there.”

Middlesborough

“Spaces should be accessible for everybody. So if someone is blind someone could meet them to take them to the places they want to go to, or someone in a wheelchair not crossing a water-marshed area.”

Liverpool

“We like the idea of the library of things, an area where everyone can go to get a lawn mower.”

Walsall

HAVE PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND ENABLE THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER

There would be more places for people to come together and sharing would be encouraged amongst people.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- Indoor and outdoor areas that are:
 - Physically accessible to all, e.g., wheelchair ramps.
 - Multi-functional, facilitating lots of different use cases and being made available for communities to use as they wish e.g., spaces for people to sit, eat, play games, do exercise, sharing facilities.
 - Aesthetically pleasing and well maintained, with lots of greenery to make people *want* to spend time in them.
 - Clean and safe, with good lighting and bin systems.
 - Evenly distributed throughout towns or cities, making use of currently unused spaces.
- Pavements and walkways that are clean, attractive and safe (well lit), to facilitate movement between areas.

Images and text from digital posters



*Creating a community with more accessible spaces/activities, e.g. sports areas, indoor activities, libraries
Edinburgh*

*Accessible and inclusive spaces for people to feel valued and connected
Liverpool*



*Sharing facilities for everyday items
Middlesbrough*



BUSINESS CASE IDEA, SWANSEA:

A company that runs a facility for hiring household tools, and offers free training (run by volunteers) on how to use these so people are incentivised to use the service.



**HAVE CHEAP AND ACCESSIBLE ELECTRIC,
WALKING AND CYCLING OPTIONS IN THE
LOCAL AREA**

HAVE CHEAP AND ACCESSIBLE ELECTRIC, WALKING AND CYCLING OPTIONS IN THE LOCAL AREA

Independence and connectivity would be facilitated, whilst sustainable travel options are utilised.

Electric travel options are currently felt to be hard to access and afford, for example electric vehicles are felt to be too expensive with too few charging points available. Walking and cycling routes are felt to not be widespread enough, or to be poorly maintained and unsafe.



As electric and active travel options are viewed widely as more sustainable options, young people want to be able to use these to feel more positive about travelling independently and staying connected to different places near them.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

“Making sure there are more electric charging points for cars, there’s not that many around, and more people are going down that route.”

Barking & Dagenham

“A lot of people in the city centre do rely on their car – we thought about limited car use in the city then going to no car use, like a transition. Less cars would mean less parking, so you could turn car parks into green spaces.”

Edinburgh

“We need to encourage people to use more sustainable forms of transport, like walking and cycling.”

Barking & Dagenham

HAVE CHEAP AND ACCESSIBLE ELECTRIC, WALKING AND CYCLING OPTIONS IN THE LOCAL AREA

Independence and connectivity would be facilitated whilst being sustainable.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- More affordable and accessible electric options, including cars, public transport and E-scooter schemes.
 - This could include improving infrastructure, such as having more charging points / introducing schemes that incentivise using these options, or promoting these options in schools and around areas.
- An increase in cycling and walking paths along key routes, with these maintained (not damaged) and safe, for example lit in the evenings.

Images and text from digital posters



Active/green transport e.g., running and cycling, facilitated by more cycle lanes and bike stands.

Swansea

Electric charging points throughout the area.

Barking & Dagenham



Better, more accessible cycling and walking paths around.

Taunton

A skateboarder in a dark blue jacket with a white grid logo and the word "BRONZE" on the back is performing a trick on a wooden ledge. The ledge is covered in colorful graffiti. The background is a wall with more graffiti. The scene is captured in a dynamic, slightly blurred style.

**HAVE PLENTY TO DO AND ALL THE
NECESSITIES LOCATED NEARBY**

HAVE PLENTY TO DO AND ALL THE NECESSITIES LOCATED NEARBY

Private & Confidential

Everything that people (of all ages/needs) require for their day-to-day would be in easy walking distance, with good public transport connections if it is necessary to go further afield.

Young people feel that currently, they often must travel far by car to access the things they need and want to do – for example supermarkets, shops, restaurants, sports facilities and other social spaces. With public transport not viewed as an attractive alternative, many are therefore choosing to drive on a daily basis.



There is dislike that they have to travel far to get what they need and to find things to do, not only for the time impact this has on them but also the impact of carbon emissions from cars they feel they have no choice but to use. Young people feel this is also bad for their health, as they aren't exercising as much as they could be through walking / cycling.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

“More activities – there’s a lack of community feel in Edinburgh, it’s such a big city and has lots for the tourists, so trying to incorporate this within the city centre would be good.”

Edinburgh

“We want to see more things for the youth [nearby], to keep them entertained and keep them safe.”

Walsall

39% of young people surveyed feel 15 minute neighbourhoods would have the biggest personal impact in combatting climate change and environmental damage

HAVE PLENTY TO DO AND ALL THE NECESSITIES LOCATED NEARBY

Everything that people (of all ages/needs) require for the day-to-day stuff would be easy to walk to (and there would be good public transport connections if you need to go further afield).

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- Having a good range of things to do nearby, ideally within a 15 minute walk, inspired by the 15-minute neighborhood concept.
- This should reduce the amount of longer-distance travel on needed on a daily basis, but where longer-distance travel is needed having affordable, reliable and accessible public transport options or cycle lanes for cycling.
- In terms of specific things to do, beyond having necessary amenities such as shops, green spaces and sports facilities, young people want to see more places the community can gather – particularly including spaces for young people, such as youth centres.

Images and text from digital posters

*Having local barbers or supermarkets
within 15 minutes to facilitate busy city
lives.*

Middlesborough



*Better community centres
in the city centre.*

Swansea

*Ensuring communities can
partake in activities with
one another.*

Taunton



A glowing lightbulb is the central focus, set against a dark, reflective background. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, casting a warm, golden glow. A semi-transparent dark rectangular box is overlaid on the lightbulb, containing white text. The text is centered and reads:

**BE OPEN TO TRYING OUT NEW AND
INNOVATIVE WAYS OF DOING THINGS**

BE OPEN TO TRYING OUT NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS OF DOING THINGS

Taking risks and trialing new things on a small scale, then scaling up when it's been proven to work by the community.

Currently, developments in towns and cities are seen to be large scale and expensive, which can make them feel more frustrating if they are ultimately felt to be inefficient or unsuitable for community needs.



In order to ensure real change across towns and cities, young people feel that a fundamental change to city planning happens is required. They want to see a more experimental approach, in which small scale ideas are trialed, tested with communities and then scaled up as required. This is seen to be more cost and resource effective.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **high priority** area.

"This could ensure that public money is getting spent wisely meaning we are investing our money into good infrastructure which will be more sustainable."

Edinburgh

"I'd like to see more out-there ideas like the driverless pods – the centre needs a lot of help."

Swansea

"I think that the idea of creating 'digital twins' is a great idea to see what would work in a town/city before wasting energy on the real thing."

Taunton

BE OPEN TO TRYING OUT NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS OF DOING THINGS

Taking risks and trialing new things on a small scale, then scaling up when it's been proven to work by the community.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- A change in how town and city investment is distributed, with emphasis on small scale, test and learn approaches e.g., utilising 'Twin Cities' concept.
- Sub-working groups that utilise local skillsets effectively, e.g., collaborating with local universities to work with students to consider innovative ways in which their skills (e.g., data science, sociology, education or art) can be applied to urban design.
- Opportunities for local communities to test and feedback on new developments.
- Clear evidence criteria that demonstrates positive local impact, which is needed for an idea to be scaled up.

Images and text from online community

"Twinning our infrastructure appears to be very useful in reducing disruption and allowing things to be fully assessed virtually before being applied to the real world."

Walsall

"We should find as many ways to decarbonise, and using our local authorities to create local plans with nuanced logic is the best way."

Edinburgh



"The digital twin is a good idea to test projects that are waiting to be implemented just to get a good idea of how they would work and if it is worth doing."

Baking & Dagenham

A close-up photograph of a dense thicket of green palm-like leaves. The leaves are long, narrow, and have a distinct ribbed texture. They are arranged in a chaotic, overlapping pattern, creating a sense of depth and texture. The lighting is somewhat dim, with some leaves appearing in sharp focus while others are blurred in the background. A semi-transparent dark rectangular box is centered horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the text "HAVE GREENERY ON EVERY CORNER" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

HAVE GREENERY ON EVERY CORNER

HAVE GREENERY ON EVERY CORNER

Green spaces wouldn't be limited to parks or designated areas but dotted throughout the whole town / city – along streets, in small spaces and innovative places.

Parks and green spaces are frequently cited as young people's favourite parts of their towns and cities. In some areas, it is felt that there is simply not enough of these areas, however more generally there is a desire for greenery to go beyond designated places and be a bigger part of overall urban design.



Young people see greenery not only as offering aesthetic benefits, but also as being clearly tied to sustainability. They therefore want to see it be more readily incorporated into all areas of their towns and cities – across high streets, combined with architecture and in the form of allotments and apartment window boxes, so that everybody living in the area can benefit.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **medium priority** area.

"In Walsall we've only got one park so we like the idea of getting green parks fill them with wildflowers."

Walsall

"We'd love a 'wildlife corridor' – we're quite lucky that we've got green spaces in Edinburgh, we thought about protecting that more rather than building houses."

Edinburgh

"The city can look very grey sometimes, I'd like to see some more green to brighten it up."

Belfast

HAVE GREENERY ON EVERY CORNER

Green spaces wouldn't be limited to parks or designated areas but dotted throughout the whole town / city – along streets, in small spaces and innovative places.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- Having greenery dotted around in innovative, unexpected places, for example on rooftops, buildings and next to streets (flowers, plants, grass, trees).
- Having more communal gardens that the whole community can enjoy, for example next to offices and in more deprived areas where often there is less greenery.
- Maintaining and protecting existing green spaces such as parks – for example, getting the community invested by asking local students to volunteer to look after spaces or plant wildflower meadows.
- Starting more allotments, which are seen as a great way to encourage growing your own food as a more sustainable option.

Images and text from digital posters



*Balcony boxes
Middlesborough*



*Wildlife around every corner
Walsall*

*More/protected
greenspace, wildlife*



*corridors
Edinburgh*

*Allotments
Barking & Dagenham*



BUSINESS CASE IDEA, TAUNTON:

‘Forest schools’ where local children and young people can learn about nature and volunteer to help protect it.



BE SHAPED BY WHAT LOCAL PEOPLE WANT

BE SHAPED BY WHAT LOCAL PEOPLE WANT

New developments would be based on real community needs, listening to feedback and making improvements based on this.

Young people see a disconnect between investments and developments they see in their towns and cities, and the needs of people living in their communities. They see those 'in power' (local authorities, city planners) as being out of touch with the people they represent.



Towns and cities should be fundamentally designed for the people that live in them, reflecting their needs and lifestyles. Communities should also feel that they have a say in what is happening in the area that they live in, and evidence that their perspectives are being listened to

When asked to vote, young people named this a **medium priority** area.

"Carry out research to find out what is wanted - ice skating? Shopping centres? Rock climbing? If people don't want things, they're wasting their money building them."

Walsall

"Maybe design could be more focused on the community,"

Belfast

"In our group, we were talking about how important it is having community involved in decisions."

Walsall

BE SHAPED BY WHAT LOCAL PEOPLE WANT

New developments would be based on real community needs, listening to feedback and making improvements based on this.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

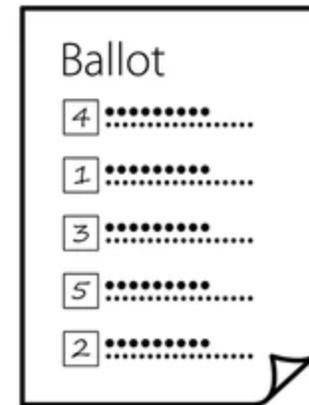
- Steps being taken, in detail and on an ongoing basis, to fully explore and understand how communities currently use their towns and cities, what their needs are and where improvements can be made.
- Regular opportunities for communities to give feedback on what is working, and to submit their ideas for change.
- Clear evidence that is shared widely with communities of how feedback has been used and any next steps.



BUSINESS CASE IDEA, LIVERPOOL:

A community app which allows local people to vote on various ideas happening in their area and give feedback on changes they'd like to see.

Images and text from digital posters



Voting systems so people can have their say
Walsall

Understanding the needs of local people and then making things for them
Liverpool



A low-angle photograph of a classical building facade with a woman on a balcony. The building features ornate architectural details like columns and arches. A semi-transparent dark grey box is centered over the image, containing white text. The woman is wearing a light-colored top and blue jeans, looking towards the camera.

**RETROFIT AND RENOVATE OLD BUILDINGS
INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BUILDING FROM
SCRATCH**

RETROFIT AND RENOVATE OLD BUILDINGS INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BUILDING FROM SCRATCH

Older buildings would be made more energy efficient, unnecessary construction be avoided and local heritage would be celebrated.

Currently, old buildings that lack maintenance are seen as real eye sores in towns and cities, making places look old and tired. In many instances, they are also unused and therefore wasted. Alongside this, there is a desire to ensure that local heritage – particularly in terms of architecture - is retained.



As a result, young people want to see investment into improving old buildings, aiming for them to be restored rather than replaced. Not only does this retain heritage, but it reduces extensive construction (which is felt to be a key disturbance in towns and cities) and is seen to be less wasteful. Young people also want to see vacant spaces repurposed. This principle is most important for those living in areas with rich, often industrial heritages including Walsall and Middlesbrough.

When asked to vote, young people named this a **medium priority** area.

“We’ve got a lot of old buildings in Edinburgh, which are protected. I’d like to see them made them more sustainable, with triple glazing, solar panels.”

Edinburgh

“The upkeep of the place is really important. These older buildings that are getting run down - they should them look a bit nicer so they’re not an eye sore.”

Middlesbrough

“Retrofitting houses is a good idea as it wouldn’t be sustainable to build everything from scratch.”

Taunton

RETROFIT AND RENOVATE OLD BUILDINGS INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BUILDING FROM SCRATCH

Older buildings would be made more energy efficient, unnecessary construction be avoided and local heritage would be celebrated.

WHAT THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD LOOK LIKE IN ACTION

- Old buildings should be carefully surveyed and then renewed to be made more energy efficient.
- Vacant spaces should be identified and repurposed, based on what that area/what the community most needs.
- However, where older buildings are 'unsavable', they should be replaced with newer ones rather than simply left untouched and unused.
- New developments should be created with local heritage in mind, created to compliment or honor older buildings in some way e.g., using comparable building materials or design features.
- Ultimately, town and city skylines to be a mix of old and new buildings sitting harmoniously side by side.

Images and text from digital posters



*Making use of vacant offices
and other spaces.
Repurposing instead of
rebuilding
Middlesborough*

*Repair and renovate old
buildings
Walsall*



06 Harnessing the views of young people

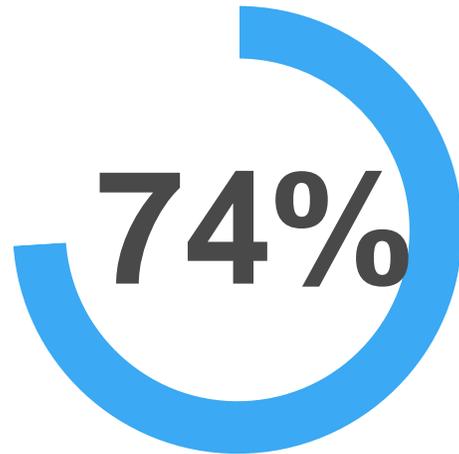


Throughout the research, young people consistently reiterated perceptions that they are not currently involved in conversations about urban planning and crucially, that they do not really know how to get involved. However, there is a clear appetite for involvement, with 82% of young people agreeing that it is important to have a voice in such conversations.

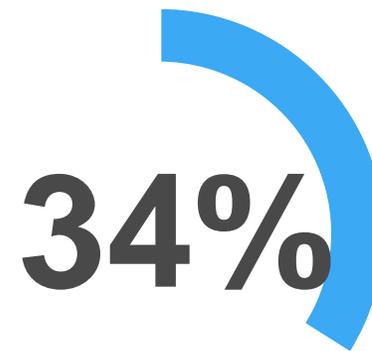
This research was seen as an ideal way for them to learn and share, with participants sharing positive experiences of taking part in the Future Urbans Lab.

For future engagement, UKRI should follow a series of engagement steps, including treating young people as adults, utilising online and offline formats, making use of their different and diverse skill sets, getting the practicalities right and ensuring a clear follow-up so participants can see their impact.

Many young people feel left out of town planning decisions and do not know how to get involved



Agree that they are **not sure how to make their voice heard** in town planning.



Only a third of young people agree that **their voice is heard** or represented in town planning decisions

“I found it very interesting to see that my personal vote in the poll was so similar to the rest of the group in the fact that young people believe we have minimal say in what the town’s decisions are.”

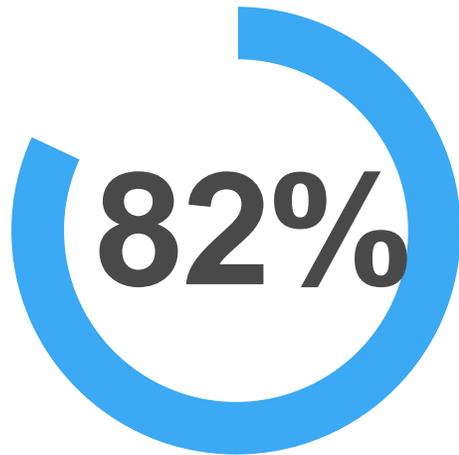
Taunton

“I don’t think that young people have as much as an input as others think. Yes, surveys and interviews are carried out to consider our opinions, but I don’t think we actually have much of a say.”

Belfast

To what extent do you agree or disagree that...? Base: all respondents (n=204).

But there is an appetite to get involved, and forums such as this research are a great opportunity to do so



Agree that it is **important for young people to have a voice** in town planning.

Participants were highly positive about the Urban Futures Lab, seeing it is a great way to learn more, and share their views.

“I would have liked longer research if anything as I was so invested and wanted to learn even more.”

“I really enjoyed the videos in the online community with the option to read articles, it felt appropriate to this generation of young people.”

“It was really interesting! It felt nice to air our concerns and being able to put forward solutions.”

“This research has really opened my eyes to the impact younger generations can have on what happens in our towns and cities, it's made me feel like I could actually make a change.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree that...? Base: all respondents (n=204).

Successful future engagement with young people should consider format, tone, practicalities and follow up

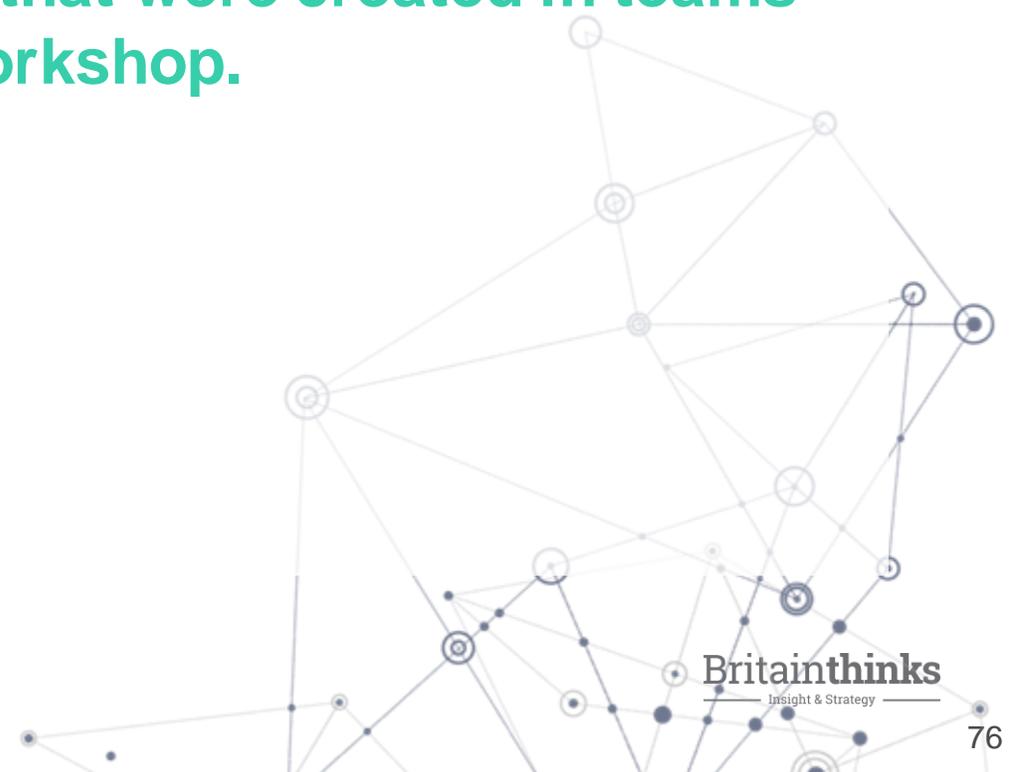
- 1** **Treat them as adults.** Whilst it is key that any stimulus or materials shared should be consumer friendly and easy to read, it is also important to avoid patronising this group or assuming they won't understand something. Talk to them as adults, and don't underestimate their knowledge.
- 2** **Utilise a mixture of online and offline formats.** 82% agree that consultations on town planning should be conducted online (as well as offline) so that more people can get involved. However, do not assume that all young people want to do everything online: people feel more comfortable different environments.
- 3** **Make use of their skill sets.** Young people are particularly eager to see how their various skills - whether that's working with youth groups, a degree in data science or their creativity, can be put to good use in urban design. More targeted workstreams will help to bring out even more from this group.
- 4** **Take extra measures with practicalities.** Whilst this group are engaged, research experience tells us that they can be prone to last minute drop-outs. To avoid this, clear and direct communication, including re-confirming practical details, is key.
- 5** **Demonstrate how their input is being used.** Young people want to feel that their work and feedback is valued, and so would benefit from being shown how it is being implemented in a practical way. This is a key way to build longer term relationships with groups of young people who could contribute on an ongoing basis.

07

Appendix



The following slides are the digital posters that were created in teams across each town/city workshop.





Barking & Dagenham: Team 2



Modernisation

- New built housing to include solar panels and old buildings fitted with them which can generate power to heat housing and provide energy.
- Earn money off bills from providing back to the grid when the demand for energy is high. If enough sources of renewable energy are available this can generate income as well.
- Transport is more efficient and more frequent eliminating delays and encouraging people to use it rather than choosing to drive, this will reduce pollution and carbon emissions.
- A new system could be introduced like a closed loop system that could be a tram or a subway this will allow people to hop on and off when they need to, this will hopefully make it more appealing to use



How can it help climate change?

- Plant power - using the power of photosynthesis to generate energy.
- Solar panels - houses having solar panels to reduce the amount of fossil fuels being used.
- Windmills and wind turbines- having more of them.
- More types of transport and more frequent transport, meaning people will be more willing to use public and transport and if they don't drive they will save carbon emission.
- Apartment buildings should have little allotments, if they don't have gardens.
- Be more modernised, have solar panels, be made of more sustainable materials.
- Better student housing, areas dedicated specifically for student housing, away from pensioners and families and in close proximity to universities or colleges.

Edinburgh Ideal City

Transport

- Affordable & Accessible
- No Car Zones
- Traffic
- More Public Transport (hire schemes)

Housing

- Affordable
- Limits on new Builds
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Materials
- Energy Efficient

Lifestyle in the City

- 15 min community
- Green spaces for socialising
- Places for youth
- Community Gardens

Energy

- Solar Panels out with city
- Bio Fuel
- More charging points
- Nuclear
- Move away from fossil fuels

Green infrastructure

- Solar farms outside of Edinburgh that power the city: Minimises fossil fuels, removes problem of eye sore in the city, creates jobs, cut energy costs

Architecture

- Keep with current design
- Green Space
- Move businesses out of city centre





Better Public Transport Links

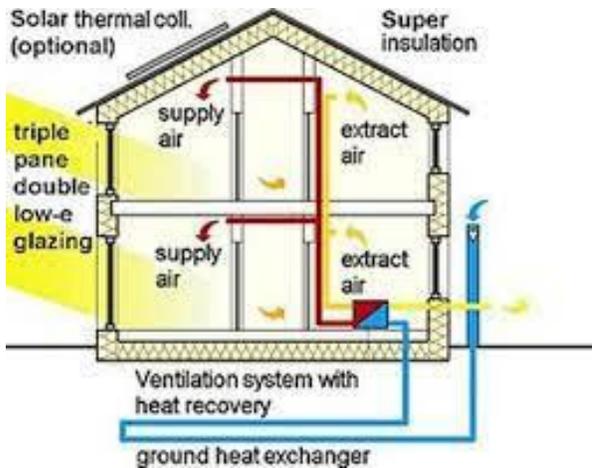


More/protected Greenspace, wildlife corridors, use for communities

Edinburgh: Team 2



Limited Car Use



More Sustainable Housing – triple glazing windows, insulation, solar

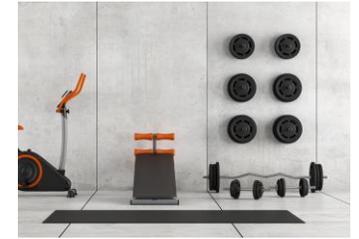


Creating a community with more accessible spaces/activities. E.g. sports areas, indoor activities, library's



Central area for generating renewable energy which powers the city

Electric transport



Renewable cardio machines in houses to promote healthy lifestyles/ which has a dominoes affect on the mental healthy crisis and poverty crisis

People involved in decisions



Ideal City

Promote sustainability



Built up houses with balconies and more green space
Communal gardens terraced areas



Local artists graffiti

Renewable energy
Plantations



How can the city be designed to be sustainable, and help address climate change?

Create targets for Liverpool to achieve together.

Document the journey, reviewing and telling the city of Liverpool where we are at.

Community based events (educate, inspire and connect local people and tourists)
Be known as the change makers.
Be rebels.

Safe space
detached youth workers

Built up houses with balconies and more green space
Communal gardens terraced areas

Accessible and inclusive
For people to feel valued and connected to the space.

Renewable energy
Plantations

The City of Liverpool App

- Bus routes
- Events
- Climate tips
- What's new in Liverpool
- Voting system on development in the local area
- Local food banks
- Near by charity shops (re-use , recycle)

What spaces do we want to create?
Pop up activities around food, culture art, climate change

Renewable cardio machines in houses to promote healthy lifestyles/ which has a dominoes affect on the mental healthy crisis and poverty crisis

Renewable energy:



Middlesbrough: Team 1

Having local barbers or supermarkets within 15 minutes to facilitate busy city lives.

Buildings being efficient but still having life to them.

Transport:



Encouraging the use of power saving appliances.



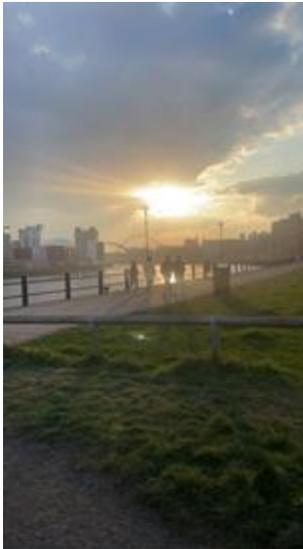
Housing:



Quality of how houses are built needs to be good enough to last a longer amount of time, thicker walls (more insulated).



Making use of vacant offices and other spaces. Repurposing instead of rebuilding





Better public transport
– Busways as an idea
maybe? Help reduce
traffic on the road.



Keep and improve the beach
and beach maintaining
cleanliness in and around the
sea, possibly adding more
activities and social events

More green communal spaces for people
to enjoy in the summer, people can come
together

Renovate
Swansea
Sustainably

More accessible
amenities (15-
minute
neighbourhood)

Improve air quality & better
housing standards with
sustainable architecture



Active green
transport –
running/cycling



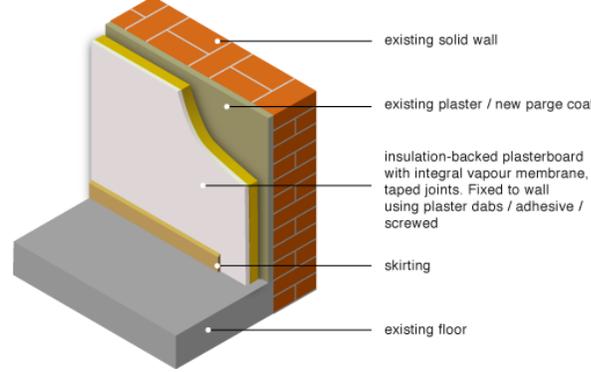
Better
community
centers in the
city center

Communal recycling tips
+/- increased rubbish
collection





More bike lanes/bike stands



Refitting houses are insulated better and made of more sustainable materials



Increase greenery in houses

NET ZERO



Wind turbines and other more renewable energy resources



Increase resources for recycling and waste

Keep the natural parts of Swansea natural – kept clean and not ruined with lots of buildings



Refillable stores

More local produce

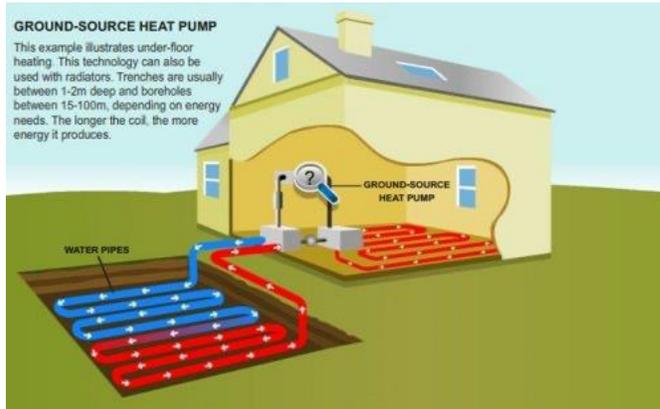


Driverless pods



Swansea tidal lagoon

Affordability



Ground source heating could be a massive money saver for new home-owners and first-time buyers.

Improving housing costs is a massive goal of ours in Taunton. We're trying to provide housing for people of all ages, that will be good quality, cheap and easy to maintain.



We also aim to insulate all new builds to gain an EPC rating of B (81 or above) to help ensure that new home-owners are not caught out by unexpected costs down the line.



We aim to integrate public spaces and community areas with nature, rather than building around it – incorporate it in the building that is done



We also aim to implement solar panels (solar cells where applicable) on all new buildings built, this will help reduce the overall carbon footprint and can also pay for themselves after just a few years.



We also aim to ensure community centers receive funding to enable people to feel a part of their community and partake in activities with one another.



Wildlife around every corner



Local and self sustaining energy sources



Safer/ more accessible spaces for all individuals

Renovate and repair old buildings



More diverse/ accessing recycling centres



Ballot

- 4
- 1
- 3
- 5
- 2



Sustainable Public Transport
Accessible, frequent links
Electric busses and trains
Wireless electric road system



Green energy:
Solar panels on: canals,
above cycling lanes, roofs
Pave-gen tiles (roads,
highstreets)
Street lights harnessing
wind energy



Circular Economy:
Library of things
Repairable phones