

Developing our Long-Term Strategic Vision 2035

July 2024



Discussion Points



- 1) **Addressing competing priorities and delivering for current and future generations:** How can we be more ambitious and yet realistic in our vision?
- 2) **Designing a strategic vision that enables meaningful participation:** What more can we do to connect with our communities and stakeholders?



A New Strategic Vision 2035



LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Recommendation 1: Strategic vision - Develop a more comprehensive long-term strategic vision for the borough and the council which is co-produced with the community



Factsheet

Setting a vision statement for your council.

A vision statement is one of the many ways to aid a connection between councils and their constituents.

“Creating a council vision statement can be a tricky task, especially when working across party lines. Statements give councillors and constituents a sense of direction, hope for the future, and something to look forward to for their wards. A vision statement creates a baseline for the planned achievements of the council” (Local Government Association)

Our approach

- ✓ An opportunity for the Mayor and council to set out a long-term vision for the council and borough to 2035 as a place to live and work and as a society
- ✓ A task and finish group chaired by the Mayor.
- ✓ A ‘can do’ approach focusing on assets, opportunities and making history.
- ✓ Built on evidence about the borough, engagement with staff, partners, and residents and the wider community, and a mayor’s partnership congress with stakeholders about what matters to them.
- ✓ Agreed by Cabinet and the Partnership Executive Group
- ✓ Underpinned by our current medium-term plans (Strategic Plan 2022-2026, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2027 and Partnership Plan 2023-2028), implemented through the core work of the council, and with partners



Insights from elsewhere

Council Vision Statements - examples



Towards a fairer Islington - We're determined to make Islington fairer. To create a place where everyone, whatever their background, has the opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life.



Vision for Leeds - 'Best city in the UK' - that is the key aim of the Vision for Leeds 2011-2030. It means:

Leeds will be fair, open and welcoming

Leeds' economy will be prosperous and sustainable

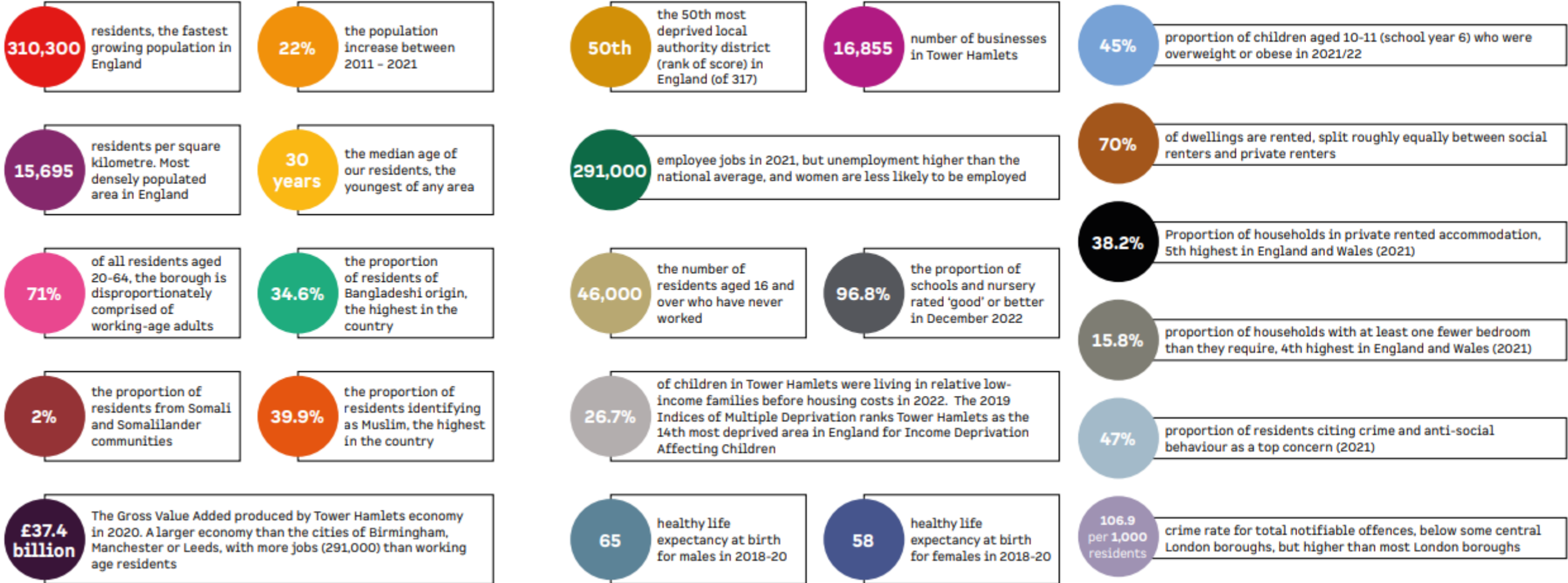
all of Leeds' communities will be successful

Common themes in vision statements across other local authority areas include:

- Equality and Opportunity
- Prosperous and Sustainable Economy
- Successful Communities
- Fairness and Openness
- Health and Well-being
- Climate Justice and Sustainability
- Partnerships and Collaboration



Our challenges and opportunities



Note: Data from autumn 2023, and includes 2021 census findings



Our hopes for the future

A Tower Hamlets for All engagement (2022-23) - an example of what partners and residents want Tower Hamlets to be like in 2032



A Tower Hamlets for All Engagement - What residents and organisations said

- **Housing:** Housing conditions improved, with more affordable and family-sized homes and quicker access to social housing
- **Environment:** Public spaces, air quality and transport improvements
- **Crime and safety:** Crime, violence, and anti-social behaviour is reduced
- **Health:** Access to health and GP services, better mental health and wellbeing, and reducing health inequalities
- **Children and young people:** Opportunities for young people in education, employment and careers
- **Economy:** Sharing the benefits from regeneration, growth and economic opportunities
- **Equality and cohesion:**
 - Fairness, cohesion and opportunities for all - Equal access to opportunities for young people, women and all our residents from Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities to learning, skills, job opportunities and career progression
 - Fewer people living in poverty and more support with the cost of living
 - Building personal and community responsibility, more community spirit and neighbourliness
- **Place:** Celebrating the borough and its people

A Tower Hamlets for All Engagement - Feedback from the Tower Hamlets Partnership

Residents say

- No child grows up in poverty
- Tower Hamlets helps people to thrive - My child has access to the best jobs in the borough and I get fair access to services and don't face discrimination or racism. We are respected for who we are, and hate is not tolerated. We can afford to live in the borough
- TH is green and clean and a safe place to live and work

Public services say

- We are joined up around resident needs. We work with residents and communities and in a joined-up way for them
- We are integrated to deliver fair and equal opportunity for all - Our partnership has achieved real change and reduced inequalities
- We can meet the aspirations and employment needs of our young people and our workforce reflects our local community

Businesses say:

- Being in Tower Hamlets helps us grow and prosper - we have the workforce we need, and we give back to the community

Others say:

- They have really changed the story - we can do this like they do in Tower Hamlets



Developing our ambitions for people and place



Research and Evidence

A State of the borough paper - a short, factual overview of changes the borough and its population have experienced in recent years)

Resident perspectives paper – resident feedback and insights across a range of council consultations and engagements about the issues that matter to them.

Phase 1 (July-September): Consultation and Engagement - gaps in evidence

The foundation for additional evidence collection and need analysis:

To collect feedback from key stakeholders on the key issues affecting them and what improvements they would like to see made in the future. This will form a key part of the evidence collecting/'need analysis'.

Phase 2 (October – November): Consultation and engagement - vision workshops

Vision workshops carried out with key stakeholders reflecting on the feedback provided during phase 1, and how this has inputted into a draft strategic vision.

'Vision Workshops' will present analysis of key evidence and draft of the strategic vision to test the initial analysis. What's working, where the gaps might be, what needs to be amended to land on a vision everybody is happy with.



Creating our Vision Statement

A vision that is evidence-led and informed by the national and local policy context - to improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the borough and its people by enhancing social mobility and fostering social cohesion.



Key themes?

- Housing
- Health
- Economy
- Education
- Safety and Security
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Infrastructure

The main goals and principles?

- Tackling inequalities - inclusivity and equity (including health)
- Economic growth
- Social cohesion
- Social mobility
- Environmental sustainability
- Innovation
- Quality of Life



What we will do next: We will put Coproduction and Communities First to build a borough that works for everyone



Timeline

April - December 2024: Meetings of the vision task and finish group

June – October 2024: Data, insights, and gaps in evidence about people and place (including strategic assessments for example health and community safety). Update of the state of the borough paper.

July 2024 - October 2024 Launch of strategic vision campaign and multi-method stakeholder engagement focused on achieving our hopes for the future.

October 2024: Mayor's partnership congress (vision development). **Theme: Making history!** Keynote speaker. Held the same day as the Town Hall reception event.

October 2024 – Resident perspectives paper updated

December 2024: Vision agreed by Cabinet and Partnership Executive Group

December 2024 - January 2025: Vision launched

May 2025: Strategic Plan Annual Delivery Plan 2025-26 agreed by Cabinet and underpinned by current Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-2027.



Summary...



- Tower Hamlets is a borough of vibrant diversity and dynamic contrasts, where opportunities and challenges live side by side.
- We have a real shared commitment to tackling inequalities, stronger public services, and building a borough that works for everyone.
- A new strategic vision is an opportunity for the Mayor and council to set out their long-term vision for the council and borough to 2035 as a place to live and work and as a society.

... and discussion

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