

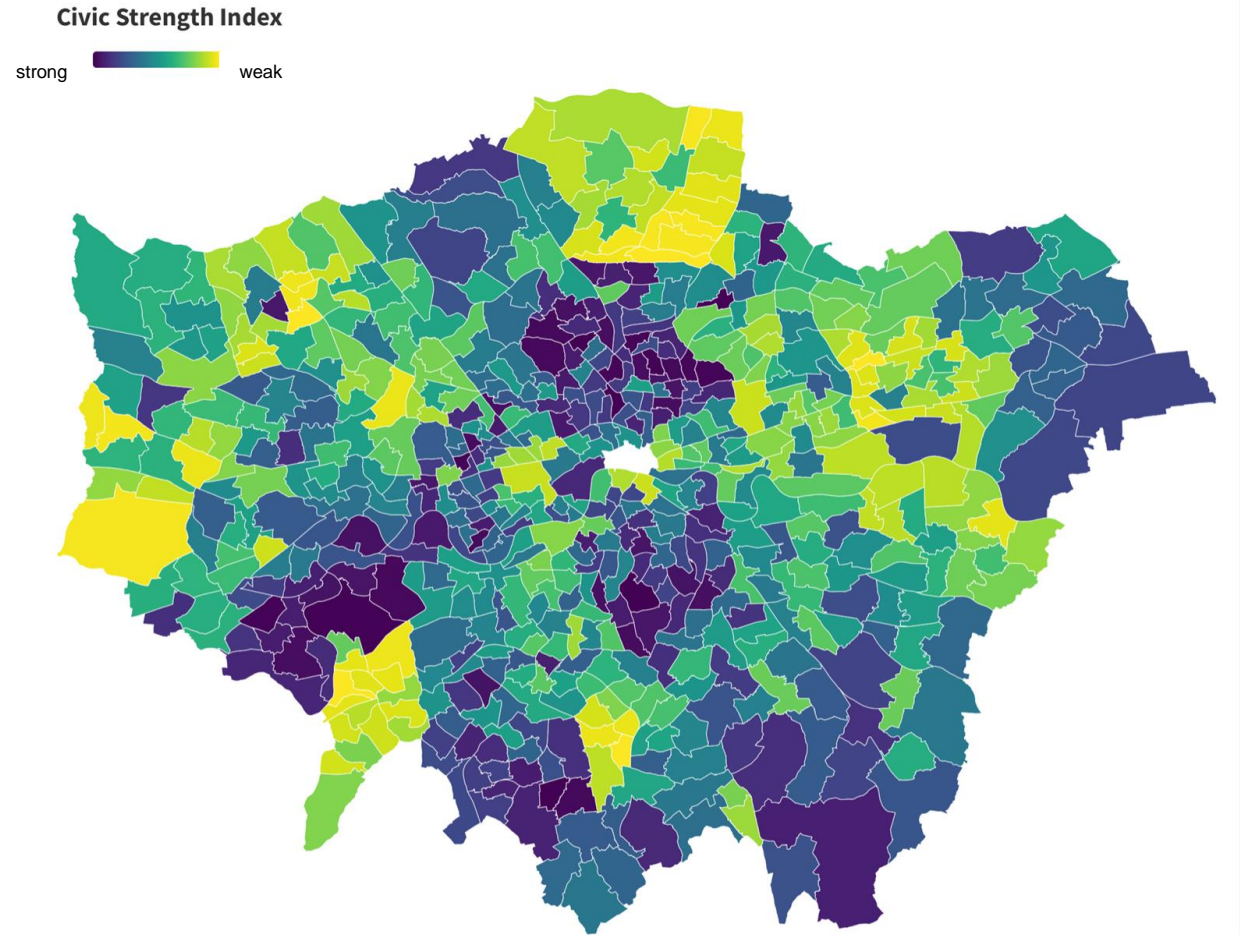
Civic Strength Index

Principal aims of the work:

- Develop a definition for civic strength
- Understand the domains that contribute to civic strength in London
- Measure their distribution across the capital
- Part of the Building Strong Communities mission

Why?

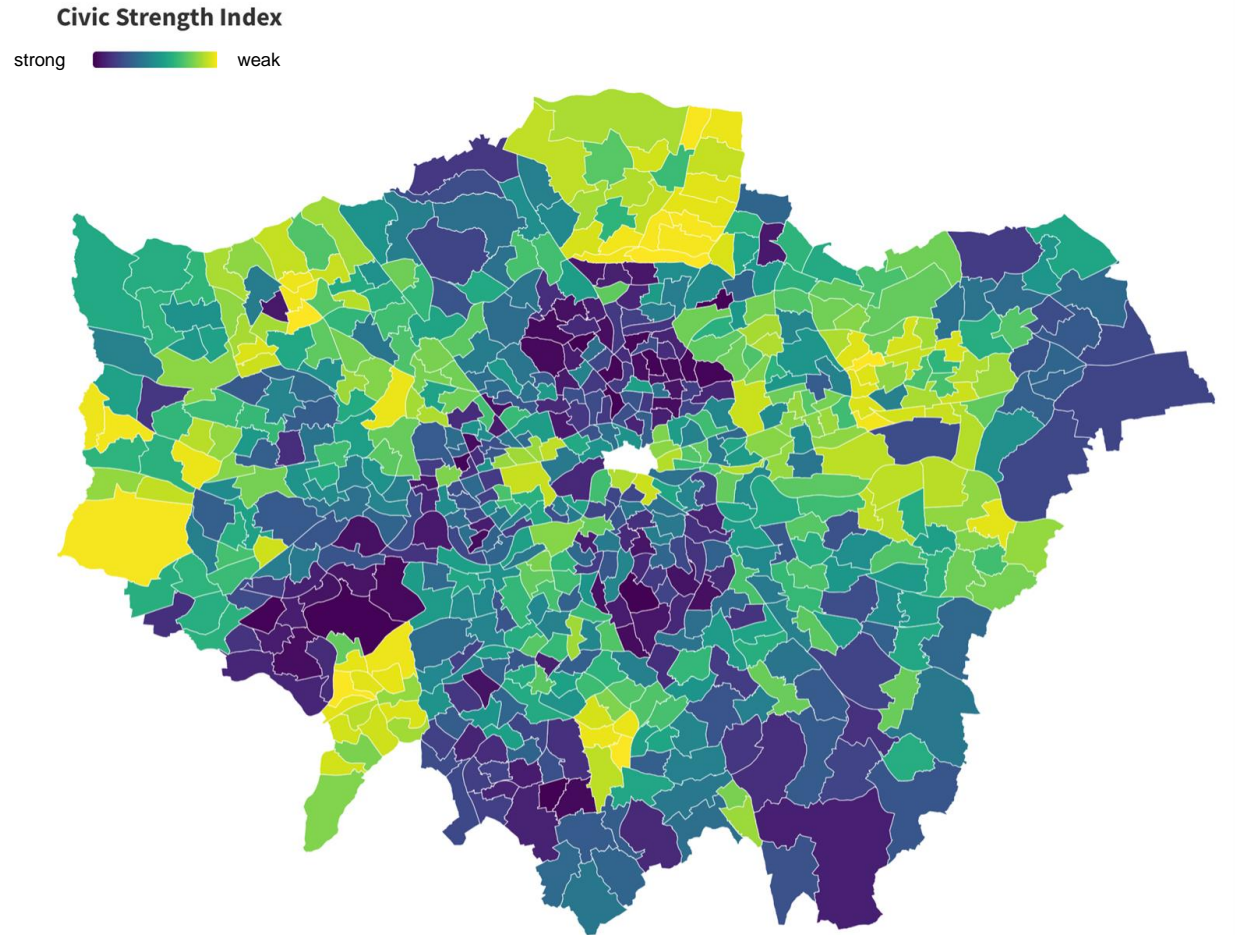
- We know work that communities do is incredibly valuable
- Often incredibly difficult to ensure that contribution is effectively understood, measured and valued.
- Key pillar of the Building Strong Communities mission – a measurement tool for understanding the mission progress.



Civic Strength Index Framework

Civic strength is communities supported by robust public and social infrastructure to build strong relationships and to feel able to meaningfully engage in the issues that matter to them.

- A London-specific framework to understand civic strength based on engagement with 698 Londoners
- Showcases participatory research methods
- Allows us to “zoom in” to look more closely at areas and understand different mixes of civic strength across London
- Identifies data gathering and sharing opportunities



Civic Strength Index Framework

Relationships & Social Capital

Opportunities for community life

Social support

Relationships

Trust + social cohesion

Community action

Democratic Engagement

Institutional trust

Accessible engagement

Civic responsibility

Public & Social Infrastructure

Public services

Financial resources

Community spaces

Safety

Relationships & Social Capital

Relationships & Social Capital

Opportunities for community life

Outdoor activities: street_play
Outdoor activities: parkrun
Outdoor activities: big lunch (still accessing)
Internet use (as proxy for accessing information about events)
Spiritual communities, groups, organisations
Number of community events
Community organising: social media (number of groups/participants in community SM groups)
Community organising: non-digital (proportion of people reached with local flyers, newsletter, other non-digital dissemination methods)
Accessibility - participation in events / activities is representative of local community

Social support

Number of formal volunteers
Number of registered charities
Number of community interest companies
Number of food banks
Food bank uptake
CVS support offered (opportunities to support local groups + charities)
CVS support uptake (attendance/uptake numbers)
Perception that support options reflect local need
Cross-organisational collaboration (levels of collaborative working between charities; partnerships etc)
Representative leadership (degree to which leadership of charities is representative of community)

Relationships

Population churn: internal migration
Population churn: international migration
Local relationships
Neighbourhood belonging
Perception of strength of relationships

Trust + social cohesion

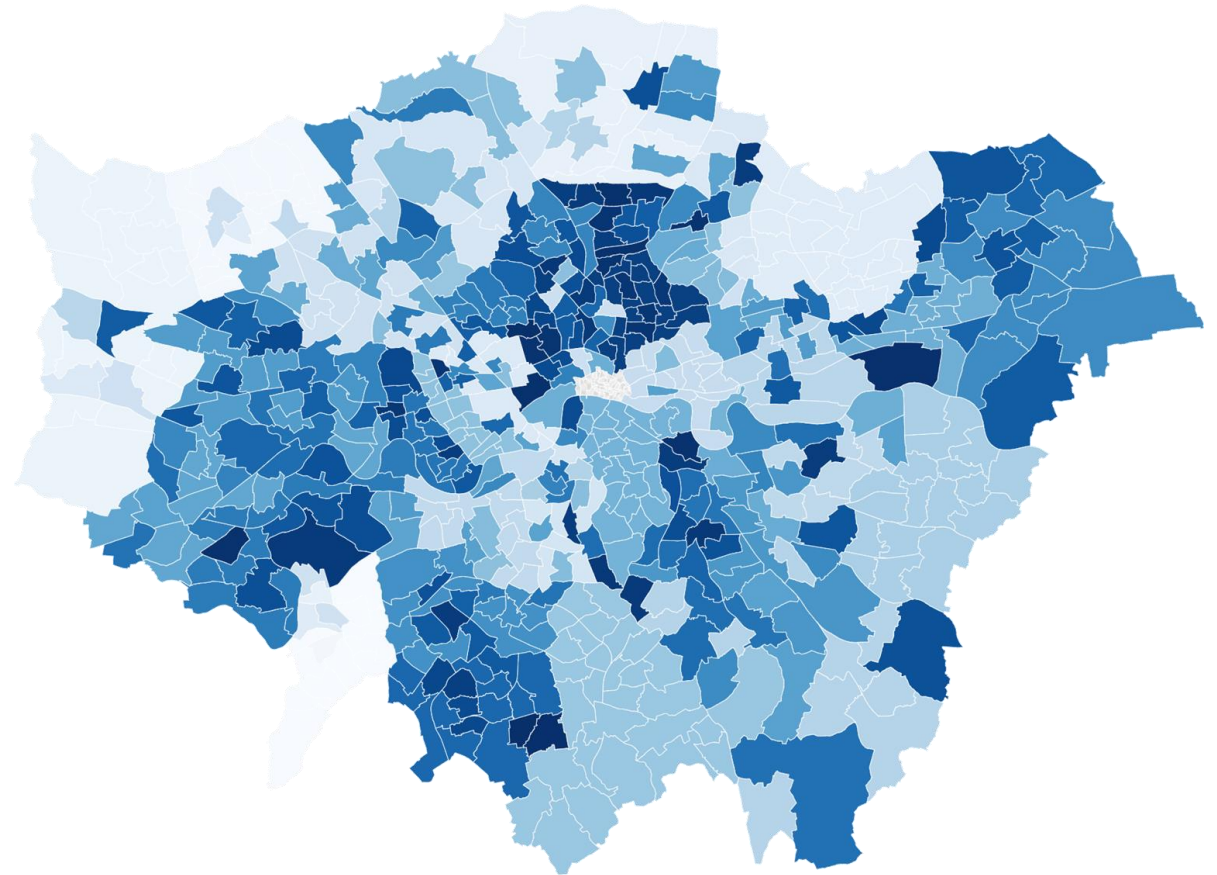
Social cohesion
Trust in local people
Social division (people who feel excluded from communities / local area.)
Trustworthy information (people feel they have access to trustworthy sources of information concerning local issues.)

Community action

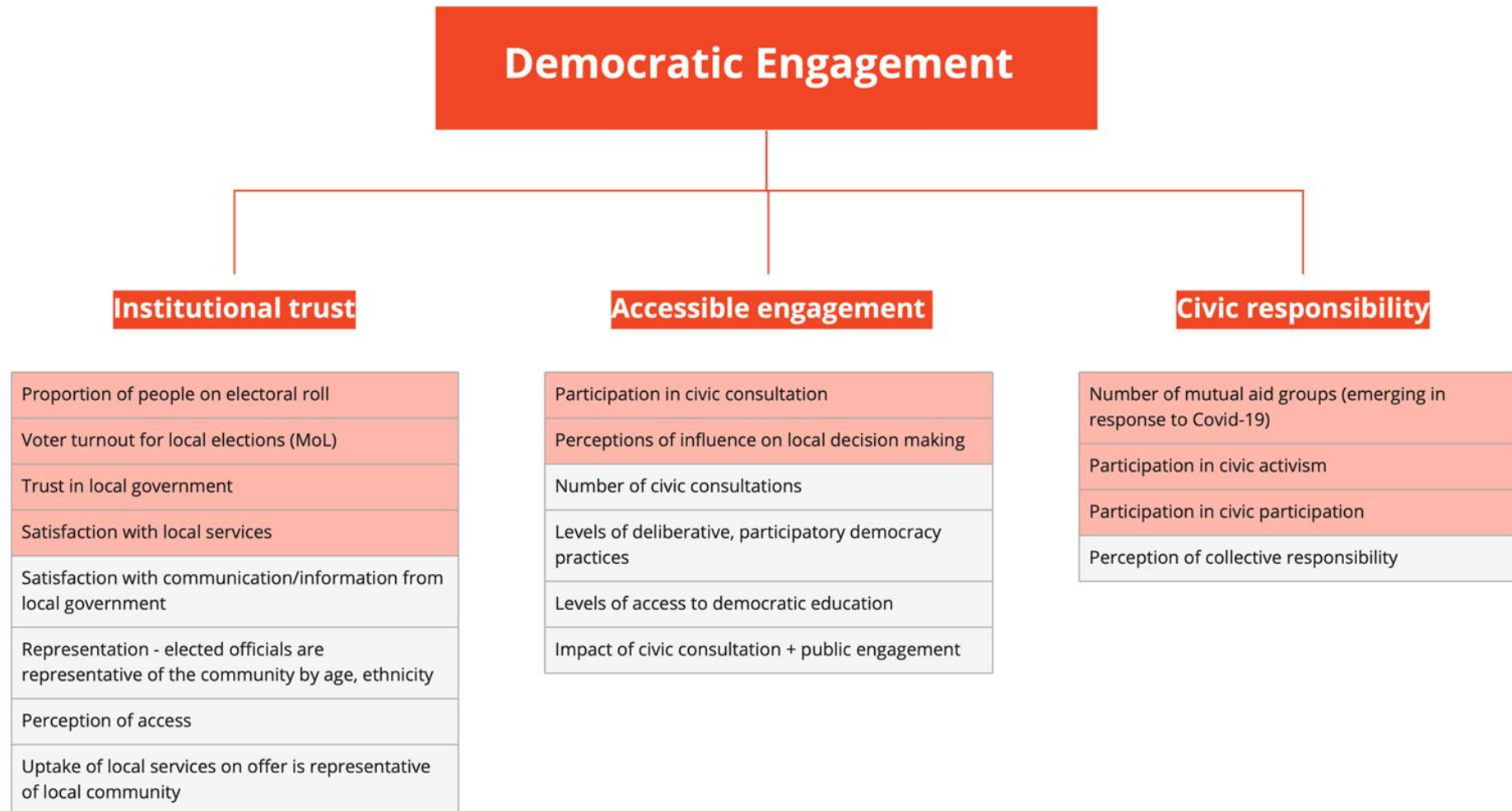
Grassroots activity (360 below the radar)
Number of local crowdfunding campaigns (still accessing)
Collective action
Informal volunteering
Active citizenship (proportion of people who feel empowered to take action on local issues)
Civil society organisations in London who feel they have the power to undertake social justice/ civic and democratic participation activity and advocacy
Number of local campaigns
Number of led-by-and-for community groups

Relationships & Social Capital

- **Weaker in Northern fringes of London compared to rest of capital**
- Patchwork of high scoring areas in London's western areas (around Ealing, Hounslow, Richmond upon Thames) is mirrored by similarly strong areas in the east (Barking and Dagenham, Havering)
- Wallington South and Beddington South (Sutton), Camden Town with Primrose Hill (Camden) and White Hart Lane (Haringey) emerge as areas where relationships and social capital are amongst the strongest

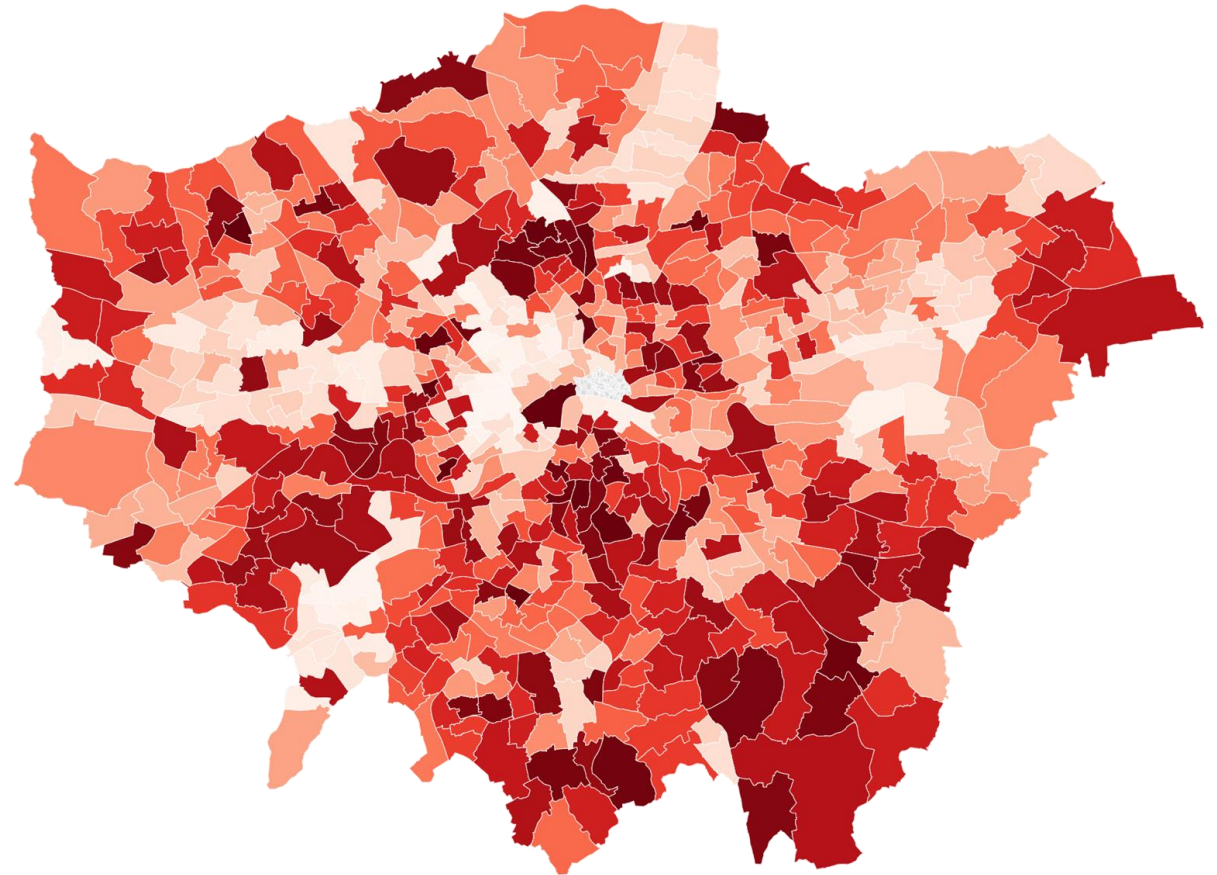


Democratic Engagement

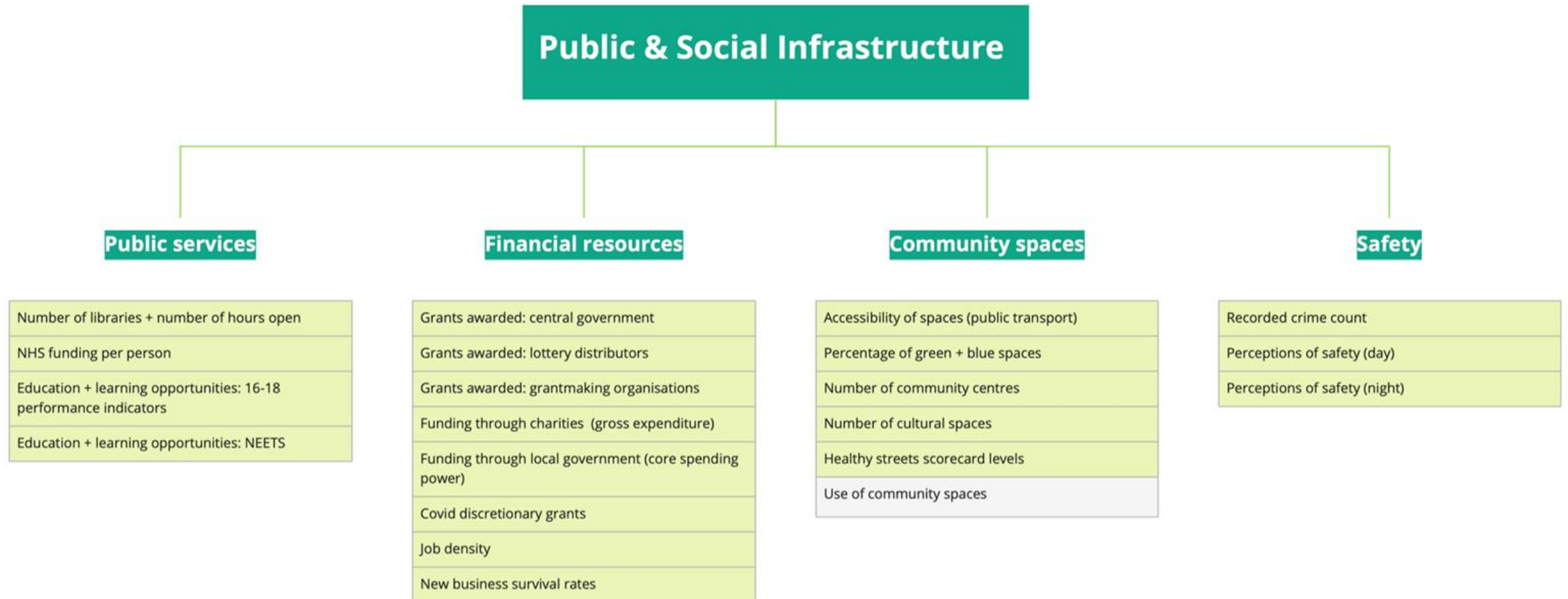


Democratic Engagement

- **Appears to be broadly mixed across the capital**
- Although certain clusters where democratic engagement is high or low across several wards, this theme shows fewer immediate patterns on a London-wide level
- Headstone South (Harrow), Notting Dale (Kensington and Chelsea), Dulwich Village (Southwark) and Graveney (Merton) are amongst the wards with the highest levels of democratic engagement.

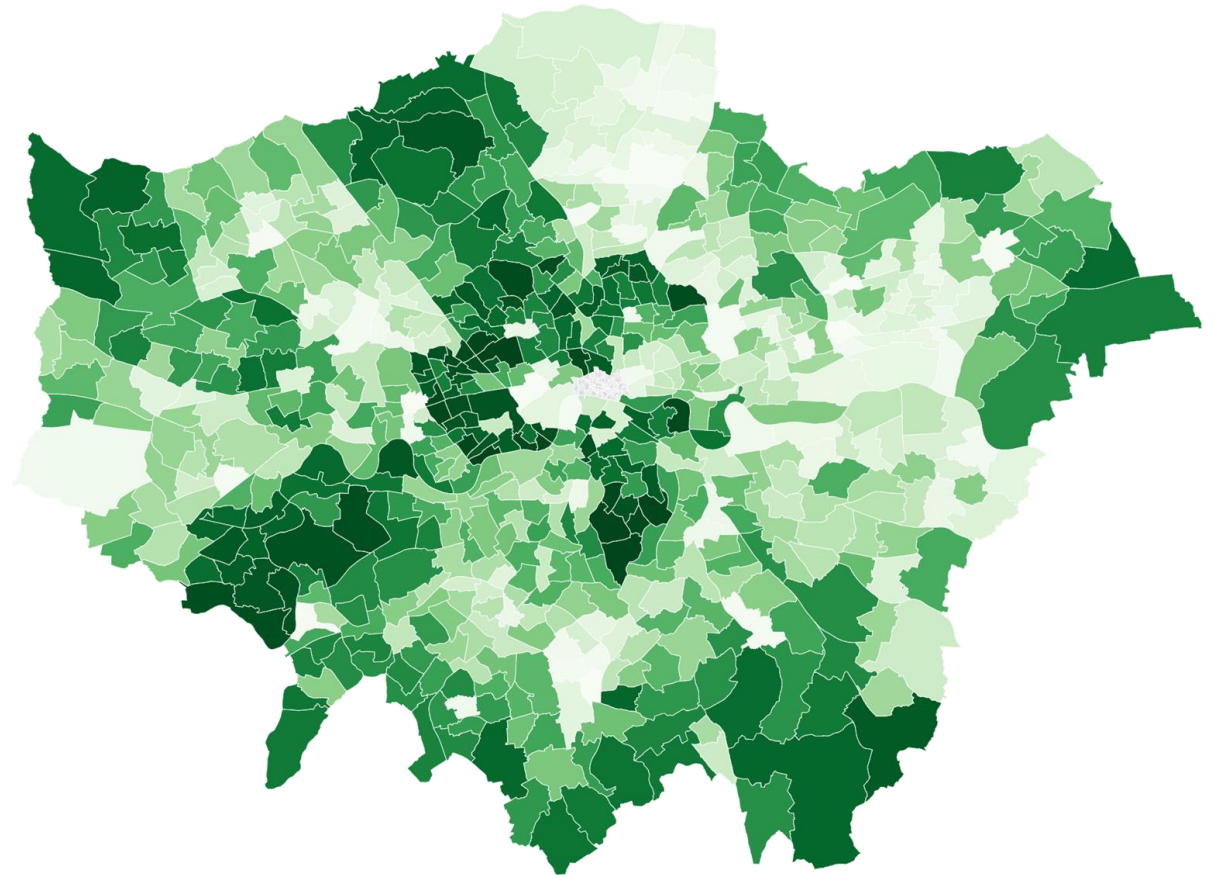


Public & Social Infrastructure



Public & Social Infrastructure

- **Appears to be stronger in the center of the capital compared to the outer boroughs**
- Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood in Southwark, Chelsea Riverside in Kensington and Chelsea and Abbey Road in Westminster are amongst the wards with particularly high levels of public and social infrastructure
- Wards in outer areas tend to have fewer community centres and cultural spaces per capita as well as poorer means to access such hubs (low levels of public transport accessibility, low scores on the healthy streets scorecards)



How to use the index

- The index is a resource which can be used by communities, civil society, policymakers, funders and commissioners to:
 - Provide a new lens for local authorities and community organisations to understand the strengths of their communities and how best to build on them
 - Understand how levels of civic strength interact with other key indicators set out in existing datasets (such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation, Living Costs and Food Survey)
 - Support local and pan-London organisations to identify areas of opportunity to share good practice, fill gaps in provision, and respond to the needs of communities

GLA Environment Team – Case Study

- *Used the index to:* understand how civic strength mapped across the projects that were going to be funded through the new round of the Grow Back Greener Fund.
- *Found that:*
 - On average they score highly on the Civic Strength Index – a mean of 58 which is in the top quintile.
 - Supporting projects in areas of deprivation is one of the priorities of the fund and on the whole we are successful in that – over 80% of projects are in the top two quintiles for IMD.
 - So the results of the index are interesting as in its current form it potentially highlights that we are generally funding projects that are in more deprived areas, but have higher civic strength.
- *Would like to understand:* Next steps would be to do some analysis to identify locations that meet the GBGF criteria (deprivation, climate risk, poor access to green space) but also score low on civic strength, to identify some areas for targeted funding in the future.

GLA Team London – Case Study

- *Used the index to:* understand how schools engaged in a youth social action programme mapped across civic strength. Overlaid the Civic Strength Index data with other datasets to analyse the profile of schools targeted for the programme e.g. alongside deprivation data.
- *Found that:* Schools working with correlated with areas of low civic strength.
- *Would like to understand:* what role schools (and pupils) play in creating civically strong communities and is this captured by the index.

Civic Strength Index

Enter your postcode:

SE13SS

Borough: Southwark

Ward: London Bridge & West Bermondsey

	Score:
Civic Strength Overall	32.45
Relationships & Social Capital	26.2
Opportunities for Community Life	66.0
Social Support	29.8
Relationships	53.7
Trust + Social Cohesion	
Community Action	0.0
Democratic Engagement	18.5
Opportunities for Community Life	23.7
Social Support	
Relationships	0.0
Public & Social Infrastructure	56.6
Access to public services	57.6
Financial resources	64.8
Community spaces	33.0
Safety	50.7

On Calls to Action & Next Steps

The Young Foundation have highlighted gaps in available data, which are currently preventing us from having a complete and robust picture of the distribution of civic strength across the capital.

As we move into the next phase of developing and building out the Civic Strength Index, we will respond to the calls to action set out in the report and work to:

- Fill the data gaps identified to make the evidence base sitting under the index more robust through engagement, workshops and a data innovation challenge.
- Explore and work with different audiences to get people using and engaging with the index as it grows.
- Develop methods for digitising and maintaining the index.

Discussion Questions

- What evidence/data do funders collect or have on each of the of civic strengths index themes?
- Where are the gaps?
- How can we think innovatively about measuring civic strength
 - What new data could we collect?
 - What tools/techniques could we use to measure civic strength?

Postcode look up exercise

- We want to spend 10 minutes to take a look at the postcode look up tool
- Go to - <https://www.youngfoundation.org/our-work/publications/london-civic-strength-index/> and download the tool.

Questions to consider

- What does this tell you about your local area?
- What surprised you about the outcomes?
- What's missing from what you know about Civic Strength in the local place?