

Vital Issues



**A report commissioned by the East End
Community Foundation**

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Executive summary

This report has examined the eleven Vital Signs themes, addressing first the themes of *Fairness and Diversity*, and then using these as a lens through which to analyse the subsequent nine themes grouped into three sections.

In relation to **Fairness**, findings indicate that the East End is an unequal area linked primarily although not exclusively with the wealth of Canary Wharf and the City which contrasts dramatically with the deprivation of other areas. Indeed, the East End attains a grade score of D (38/100), placing it in the low-mid 20% of sub-regions nationally. The average Index of Multiple Deprivation score for Hackney, Newham, and Tower Hamlets is 41.36, almost double the national average of 21.54 and the London average of 25.22. **Income deprivation** for these three boroughs is markedly high – on average across the boroughs 32 per cent of people experience income deprivation in comparison with a London average of 19 per cent – but it is also one of the areas where some of the highest incomes in the country are earned.

In terms of **Diversity**, which refers primarily to ethnic diversity, variations by country of birth, religious diversity, and gender and age differences, the East End is a rich mix of many ethnicities and cultures. This is something to be celebrated, which it often is, but which can sometimes lead to discrimination. Of the three boroughs, only Hackney has a majority White British population (36.2%), which is still low in comparison with the population of England overall (79.8 per cent identifying as such). Tower Hamlets is home to the largest Bangladeshi community in the UK (32 per cent), and in Newham, 61 per cent of the population identify as non-white with over 100 languages and over half of the population were born outside the UK. There is also notable religious diversity as well as a markedly youthful population and more households with dependent children than in England as a whole.

Turning to economic issues, the East End **Local Economy** is extremely strong despite the economic downturn. It has continued to see financial and business services booming, especially in Tower Hamlets linked with the continued growth of Canary Wharf as a global financial centre. This makes it one of the most productive areas in the UK. Reflecting this, it attained a grade score of A (94/100), placing the East End in the top 20% of sub-regions nationally.

There is hope for the future in relation to **Learning** in that there have been significant improvements in education and qualification attainment. Although the grade score is D (35/100), placing the East End in the low-mid 20% of sub-regions

nationally, this is on an upward trajectory, especially in Tower Hamlets. In relation to GCSE results, 84 per cent of Tower Hamlets students achieve five or more A* to C grades which is slightly above the national average of 83 per cent. However, alongside these successes the three boroughs have more 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs) than the English average.

The economic success in relation to the local economy does not necessarily directly benefit all East End residents equally in relation to ensuring **Work** for all. Unemployment is high (10.6 per cent), compared with a London average of 8.9 per cent and a Great Britain average of 7.9 per cent. Few local people are employed in the 'boom' sector of the East End – financial and other business services, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds. This results in a grade score of E (19/100), placing the East End in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally.

The East End does not rate highly in relation to **Environment** reflected in a grade score of D (33/100), placing it in the low-mid 20% of sub-regions nationally. However, on the Ecological Footprint measure, the three boroughs have a combined average of 4.8 Footprint Hectares per Capita, which is better than the London average of 5.48 and the Great Britain average of 5.31. Recent improvements linked with the recent re-opening of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park which has improved access to green spaces and leisure facilities are likely to lead to further positive changes in the near future.

Housing and Homelessness is a significant issue in the East End. The cost of buying or renting privately has increased exponentially in many boroughs, deepening already existent inequalities. Moreover, there are unacceptable numbers of people in temporary accommodation as well as increasing numbers of people in situations of homelessness. This is reflected in a grade score of E (11/100), based on the three Vital Signs housing and homelessness indicators, placing the East End in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally. It has been argued that this has been compounded by current welfare reforms.

However, the East End fares remarkably well in relation to **Arts, Culture and Heritage**, with a vast array of opportunities for residents. This is shown through a grade score of A (92/100), placing the East End in the top 20% of sub-regions nationally. Indeed, the overall local amenities score for the area is exceptionally high, a reflection of the rich heritage of the area and modern 'legacy generating' investment made for the Olympics - It scores 1057.68 (with the England and Wales average indexed at 100).

In relation to **Strong Communities**, the East End scores poorly with a grade of E (6/100), placing it in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally. Although individual wellbeing ratings were low, there is evidence that voluntary and community organisations in the area are strong, despite concerns that these networks are being negatively affected by funding cuts. Furthermore, communities of the East End are more politically engaged than other areas of the UK.

The East End compares poorly in relation to **Safety** compared to England, but slightly better than London on average. This is reflected in a grade score of E (4/100), placing it in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally. There is a high level of crime in the East End, with 85.03 offences committed per 1,000 people for 2012-2013. This compares with an England average of 61.73 and a London average of 87.78. The high number of violent crimes is of particular concern with East London scoring worse (15.95 offences per 1,000 of the population) than London as a whole (14.76), and significantly worse than England and Wales on average (10.57). However, in line with national trends there has been an overall reduction in crime rates in the East End in the past decade.

In relation to **Healthy Living**, the East End is doing relatively well, despite the high deprivation scores. It has a grade score of C (41/100), placing it in the middle 20% of sub-regions nationally. Although life expectancy is slightly below the national average (of 80.48 years for East London compared to an average of 81.77 years for London as a whole), it has increased in the past two years. In turn, while mortality rates from cancer and circulatory disease are higher in the East End than in London and England on average, obesity rates are lower (except for children).

Overall, the picture of the East End is mixed with some indicators identifying urgent issues to be addressed but with others showing that the area is leading the way nationally. Perhaps of greatest importance to highlight are the inequalities which are apparent in relation to outcomes for all of the themes. It is to be hoped that the next few years will see a focus of attention and resources on these inequalities so that they can be overcome, making the East End a fairer place to live.

Introduction

What is Vital Signs?

In the UK, we are lucky enough to have a wealth of information available to enable us to conduct a 'health check' on our communities – from census data to reports produced by charities there is a vast amount out there. The problem is that this information is located in many different places, which can be rather overwhelming when trying to get a sense of how a particular community is doing. Enter Vital Signs.

Vital Signs exists to bring together information about a community in one easy-to-read and easily accessible document. Started in Canada in 2001, the initiative was piloted in the UK in 2013 and is now being conducted by Community Foundations across the country. Vital Signs reports collate the abovementioned information on specific communities so as to set out their strengths and weaknesses; highlighting the positives and also the areas where there is room for improvement. By doing this, a community philanthropy tool is created, making it easier to work out where to concentrate philanthropic attention and resources in the future. It is hoped that this will be useful for both organisations in the voluntary sector and the wider community.

What is East End Vital Signs?

Here we present the very first Vital Signs report for the East End of London. Conducted by the East End Community Foundation and supported by Queen Mary, University of London and Local Futures, it aims to provide a snapshot of the East End in 2014. Examining a series of themes ranging from Work to Healthy Living in the East End through the lenses of Fairness and Diversity, it emphasises where things are going well, and where efforts should be focused to make things better. It addresses themes as they affect east London as a whole, but its particular focus is the East End – defined as the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham.

The structure of the report: themes and indicators

There are 10 Vital Signs themes used in all reports, and for this report we have chosen to add the theme of Diversity given its special relevance to the incredibly diverse East End. We begin by looking at the themes of Fairness and Diversity and use these to inform our perspective on the others, which are divided into three groups. Therefore, the structure of the report is as follows:

Themes in the report

Overarching themes:	FAIRNESS AND DIVERSITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairness• Diversity
Theme group one:	ECONOMY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Economy• Learning• Work
Theme group two:	ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment• Housing and Homelessness• Arts, Heritage, and Culture
Theme group three:	COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong Communities• Safety• Healthy Living

Within each theme (e.g. Safety), we begin by outlining the specific indicators that are examined (e.g. total offences) and give a very brief summary of how the East End is faring in relation to the theme. We then give the theme a Grade Score for the East End (Grade Scores range from A to E, with A being the highest and E the lowest). Grade Scores are based on between one and three specific Vital Signs indicators per theme¹ – Grade Scores thus measured are used in all Vital Signs UK reports, and the data for each indicator is provided by the consultancy group Local Futures.² Following the Grade Score, we examine the Key Points pertinent to the theme. Next we explore the results by theme from the Community Consultation

¹ A breakdown of the scores for the indicators that constitute each theme is given in a table on p.13 and then again at the start of each theme.

² Grade Scores are obtained using the national ranks for the indicators corresponding to each theme e.g. for the theme Arts, Heritage and Culture the indicators are Amenities (total score); Amenities (cultural score); People working in creative industries (%). Each rank is turned into a percentage, which is then inverted (because a lower, rather than higher, rank is 'better'). These figures are then organised into quintiles e.g. an A Grade for Arts, Culture, and Heritage means that the East End is in the top 20 per cent nationally for this theme.

carried out by the East End Community Foundation. Finally, in Thinking Ahead, we suggest questions and topics for consideration in the future. At the end of each section there are links to useful References and Resources.

Methodology

For each theme, we have reviewed relevant studies and statistics from a range of sources. These include reports by local councils, charities, and independent research bodies, as well as census data, information from the Annual Population Survey, and the Labour Force Survey. Some of this information has been gathered and analysed by Local Futures, and some by researchers from Queen Mary University of London, who have written the report. All figures and images contained in the report have been produced by Queen Mary, University of London. Where references have not been given for figures and statistics used, they come from data collated by Local Futures.

Alongside the analysis of studies and statistics, each theme also contains an overview of information gathered from the Community Consultation carried out by the East End Community Foundation. An online questionnaire with twenty items relating to the Vital Signs themes was conducted with a purposive sample of residents involved in community organisations in the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham. There were 39 respondents in total. The Community Consultation adds richness and depth to the review of studies and statistics in order to give a more holistic sense of how well the East End is performing in relation to the 11 themes.



The researchers

Professor Cathy McIlwaine

Cathy is a Professor of Geography at Queen Mary University of London where she has worked since 1995. After completing an undergraduate and masters degree at the University of Liverpool, she received her PhD from the London School of Economics and subsequently held a lectureship there. Her early research focused on poverty, gender, civil society and urban violence in the Global South (working in Costa Rica, the Philippines, Botswana, Guatemala and Colombia), but more recent work has examined low-paid migrant labour and transnational migration in London with a specific focus on Latin Americans from the perspective of gender, livelihoods and transnational voting.

She has just completed a research project on Mapping corporate philanthropy and community engagement in East London (with Alison Blunt, Alastair Owens, Jane Wills and Johanna Wadsley) (<http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/research/themes/116854.html>). Cathy has published nine books; the most recent include *Cross-Border Migration among Latin Americans*: (edited, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) and *Global Cities at Work* (co-authored, Pluto, London, 2010).



Megan Ryburn

Megan is a PhD researcher in the School of Geography and School of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary, University of London, where she holds a Principal's Studentship. Her PhD – supervised by Professor Cathy McIlwaine and Professor James Dunkerley – looks at Bolivian migration to Chile. Prior to her studies at Queen Mary, she completed an MPhil at the University of Cambridge and a BA(Hons) at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. Whilst working particularly on migration in Latin America, her research interests include migration studies more broadly, citizenship practices, and civic and community participation. During her time at Queen Mary, and particularly through involvement in the creation of the Vital Signs report, she has enjoyed getting to know the East End better.

East End Community Foundation (EECF)

The East End Community Foundation (EECF) was formed in 2012 following a merger of the Isle of Dogs Community Foundation and St Katharine & Shadwell Trust. We cover four boroughs in London's East End: the City of London, Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Our focus

We are committed to focusing on programmes and initiatives that:

- Increase employability
- Raise educational achievement
- Improve community wellbeing and social cohesion

What we do

EECF brings together local people, businesses, charities and public bodies to achieve our aims. We do this by using our extensive local expertise and networks to:

- Provide grants and capacity building support to grassroots organisations
- Deliver programmes which increase employability, educational achievement and community wellbeing
- Support our business, statutory and individual members to achieve their philanthropic and social responsibility goals
- Raise awareness of East London's changing needs and creating innovative local solutions to local issues

Indicator grades by theme

East London theme	Indicator and grade	
<i>Fairness</i>	Index of Multiple Deprivation average score	E
	Index of Multiple Deprivation income	E
<i>Local Economy</i>	Productivity Score	A
	Share of national GVA (Gross Value Added)	A
<i>Learning</i>	Skills and qualifications	D
	GCSEs A* – C	C
	No qualifications	D
<i>Work</i>	Unemployment rate	D
	Youth unemployment	E
	Employment rate	D
<i>Environment</i>	Natural environment	E
	Air quality deprivation	E
	CO2 emissions per capita	A
<i>Housing and Homelessness</i>	Affordability	E
	Owner occupied	E
	Homelessness	E
<i>Arts, Heritage and Culture</i>	Local amenities	A
	Cultural amenities	A
	Employment in creative industries	A
<i>Strong Communities</i>	Wellbeing	E
<i>Safety</i>	Total offences	E
	Crime score	E
<i>Healthy Living</i>	Health score	D
	Life expectancy	D
	Obesity	B

Fairness and Diversity

Fairness

Fairness refers to issues of equality in our communities. The effects of inequality impact on us all and working to bridge the gaps between rich and poor has been shown to significantly improve social problems.

The East End does poorly in relation to fairness. The wealth of Canary Wharf, for example, contrasts dramatically with the deprivation of areas such as East India Docks. This theme is the focus of the current section, but fairness is a recurring theme in relation to many of the others covered in this report.

Grade Score: **D**

A grade score of D (38/100), based on the three Vital Signs fairness indicators, places the East End in the low-mid 20% of sub-regions nationally.

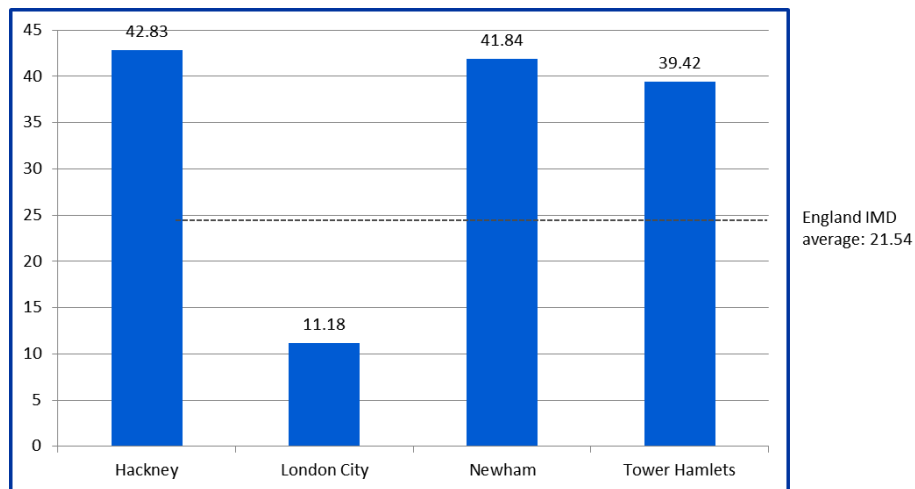
Index of Multiple Deprivation average score	E
Index of Multiple Deprivation income	E

Key Points

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), developed by central government, incorporates information on income, employment, education and housing amongst other indicators to provide a standard measure of deprivation. **The East End is home to both great wealth and significant poverty**, and the latter is reflected by the IMD scores for the area. The average IMD score for Hackney, Newham, and Tower Hamlets is 41.36, almost double the national average of 21.54 and the London average of 25.22.

Income deprivation for these three boroughs is markedly high – on average across the boroughs 32 per cent of people experience income deprivation in comparison with a London average of 19 per cent – but it is also one of the areas where some of the highest incomes in the country are earned. According to the Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission (2013, p.4), the average salary of people who work but do not necessarily reside in the borough is £75,000 per annum, the second highest in the country, yet one fifth of households in Tower Hamlets get by on £15,000 or less each year.

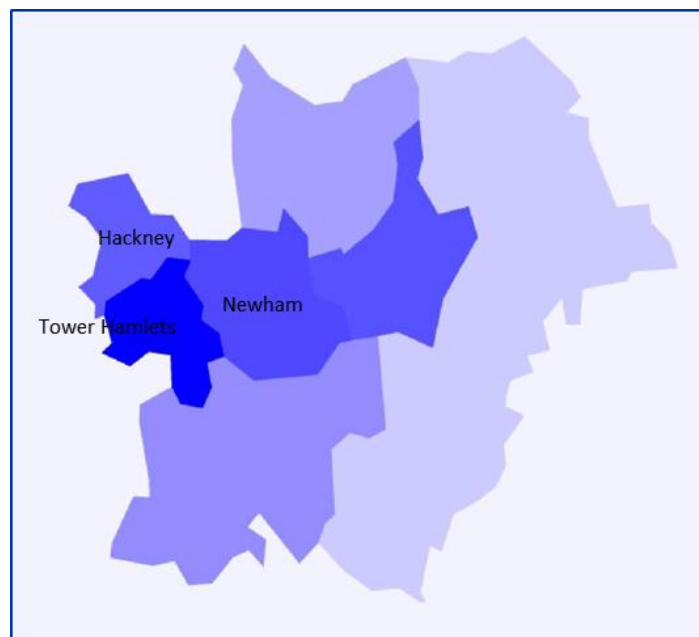
Figure 1: IMD average score by borough



Source: Local Futures data derived from The English Indices of Deprivation, 2010

In relation to this, and perhaps most worryingly, **child poverty rates are extremely high** in the three boroughs. In Tower Hamlets, although child poverty has fallen in the past year in line with national trends, 42 per cent of children are still living in poverty, the highest level for any local authority in the UK. Newham and Hackney are also within the 20 local authorities with the highest rates of child poverty in the UK (London's Poverty Profile, 2013; End Child Poverty, 2013, p.5).

Figure 2: Child poverty in East London by borough



Source: End Child Poverty, 2013

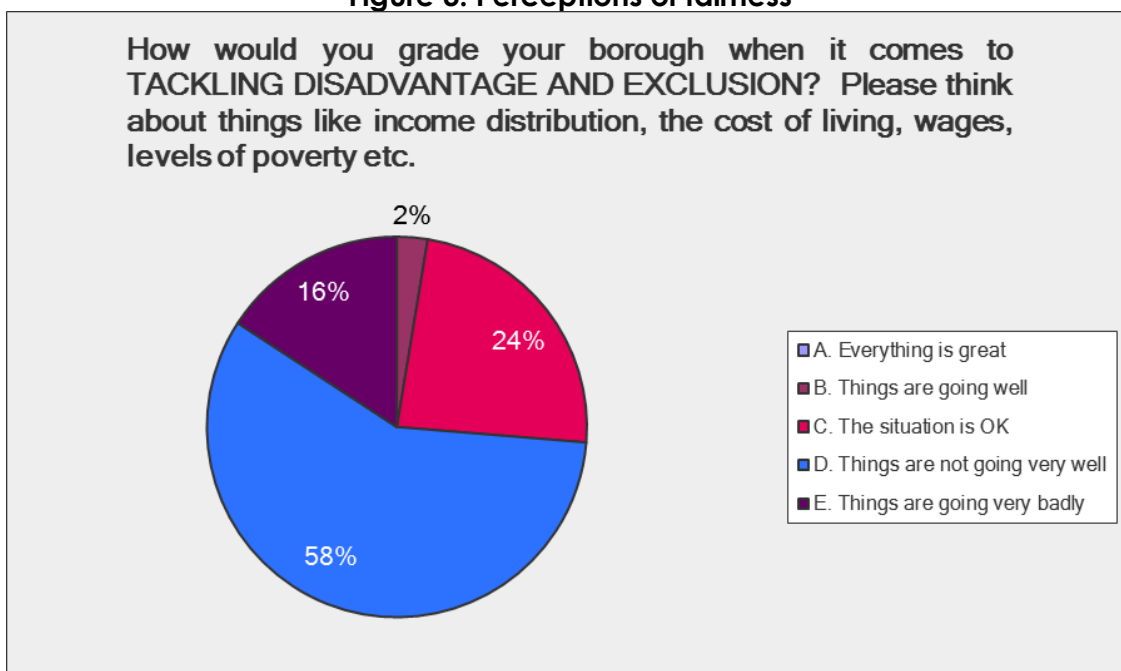
Clearly these high levels of deprivation need to be addressed; however there is concern in all three boroughs – and likewise across London – that current **welfare reforms** are in fact having, and will continue to have, a **negative impact** on many families already struggling on low incomes (London's Poverty Profile, 2013). Hackney Council, after conducting a thorough scrutiny review of welfare reforms, concluded that, "The impact on local residents will be considerable and managing this will place a heavy burden on the Council and its partners, particularly local third sector organisations" (2013). In Tower Hamlets, total loss to residents through welfare reform is thought to be around £8 million each year (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013, p.9). In Newham, charity Community Links has carried out an extensive review of the impact of reforms on local residents and found that they feel ill informed, powerless to act, and that the reforms are unfair and will impact most on those with the least (2013, pp.4-5).

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Fairness

Overall results

In answer to the question regarding tackling disadvantage and exclusion, 58 per cent of respondents felt that “things are not going very well”. This was followed by those who thought that “the situation is OK”.

Figure 3: Perceptions of fairness



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=38)

Comments

These comments reflect those of the 16 comments from this section of the community consultation.

Priorities for action: A living wage not minimum. Affordable childcare.

People looking in from the outside only see the steel and glass and skyscrapers and think we are all rich!

Institutional deafness combines with widening income gaps.

Thinking ahead

- How can the problem of child poverty in the communities of East London be addressed?
- What can be done to monitor how welfare reforms are affecting the East End so as to push for change if necessary?
- What strategies can be used to better engage the wealthy business districts of the East End in tackling deprivation?

References and Resources

[Communities and Local Government, 2011. The English Indices of Deprivation 2010.](#)

[Community Links, 2013. "I don't understand it all": Newham residents' awareness of and views on welfare reform.](#)

[End Child Poverty, 2013. The child poverty map of the UK 2013.](#)

[Hackney Council, 2013. Impact of the welfare and benefit reforms scrutiny review.](#)

[New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 2013. London's Poverty Profile 2013.](#)

[Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013. Time to Act.](#)

Diversity

This theme explores diversity in the East End. It looks first at population growth before examining ethnic diversity, variations by country of birth, religious diversity, and the gender and age range of those living in the East End, amongst other indicators.

Diversity is one of the optional topics for selection in Vital Signs reports nationally, but was selected to be included in the East London report because of its clear relevance to the area. Diversity has been placed, with fairness, at the start of the report because it impacts on all other topics discussed.

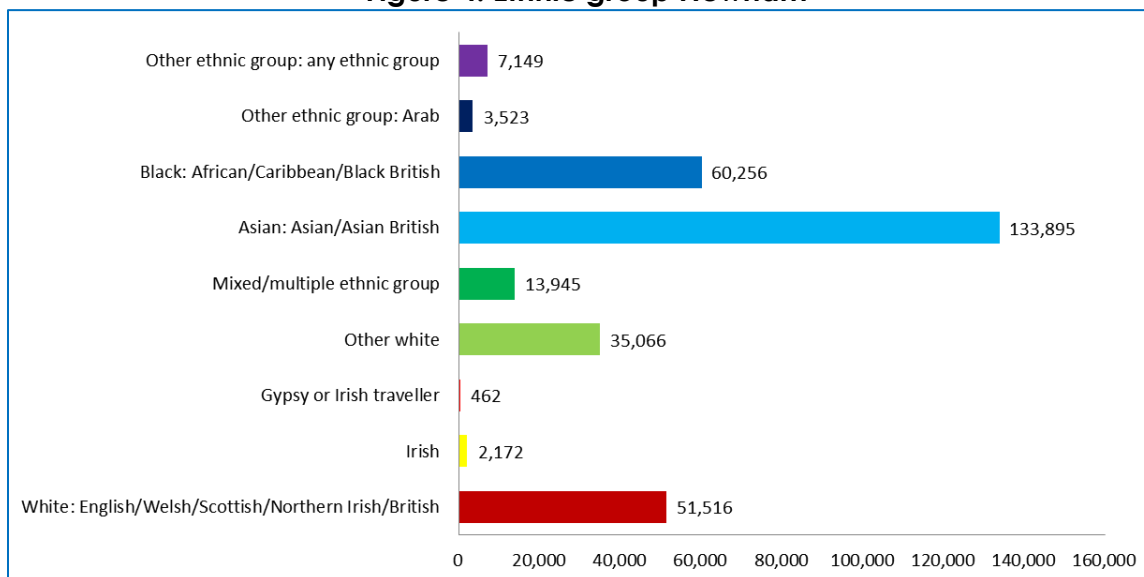
Key Points

First of all, it is important to highlight the extremely significant population growth that the East End has experienced in the last decade or so – diversity has increased and the average age of the population has decreased. London's population as a whole has grown a great deal over the past 15 years, increasing by 12 per cent between 2001 and 2011 (the population of England and Wales as a whole grew by 7 per cent. Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney, however, have experienced particularly dramatic population growth at 26.4 per cent, 23.5 per cent, and 18.9 per cent respectively (Office for National Statistics, 2012a). Furthermore, projected growth for these boroughs is also very high – it is expected that Tower Hamlet's population will grow by 22 per cent between 2012 and 2022 (the highest in the country) and Newham's by 15.8 per cent (Office for National Statistics, 2014a). Clearly, this growth has obvious effects on services within these boroughs and strains on services will be discussed later in the report.

The population of East London is also dynamic with many people moving out of the area to outer London. Focusing on Inner London, which includes the East End, in 2011, around 84,000 moved from Inner to Outer London, whilst only 54,000 moved from Outer to Inner London; this is a net difference of 30,000 people (New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 2013). Population turnover rates (the sum of an area's population inflows and outflows to the size of its resident population based on a per 1000 population) are generally high. For example, Tower Hamlets has a high population turnover rate compared to other local authority areas – it was the 8th highest in London at 237 per 1000 in 2009-10. Hackney and Newham rank joint 12th at 203 per 1000 (Tower Hamlets Council, 2011). Again, this has implications for planning service provision.

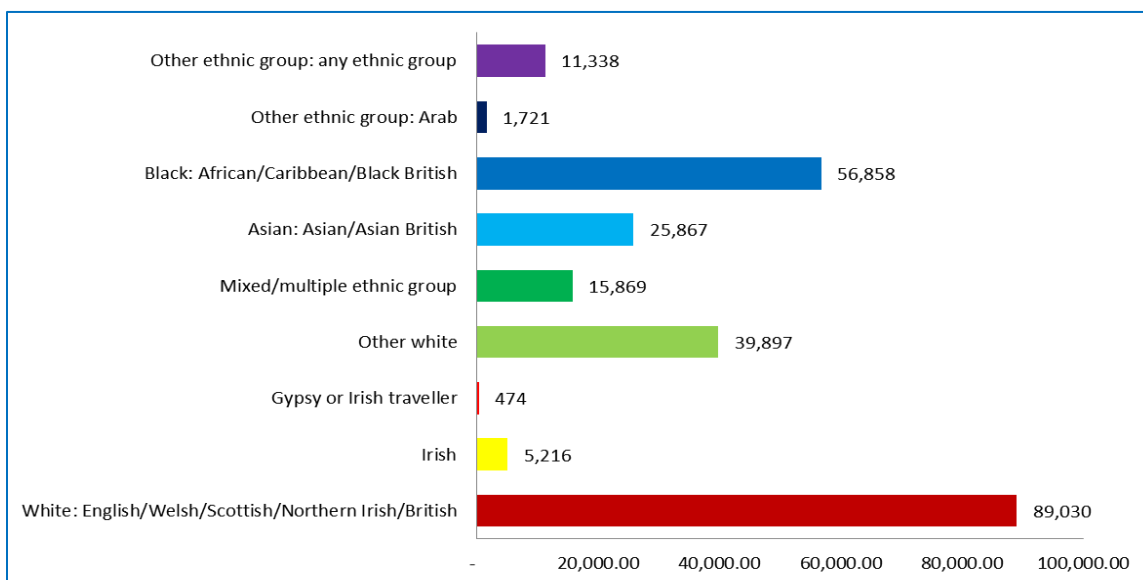
As well as having rapidly growing and dynamic populations, Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Hackney are all **extremely ethnically diverse**, as the graphs below indicate. Of the three boroughs, only Hackney has a majority White British population, with 36.2 per cent of people identifying with this ethnicity. This is still low in comparison with the population of England overall, which identifies as 79.8 per cent White British. Tower Hamlets is home to the largest Bangladeshi community in the UK, with 32 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population identifying as Bangladeshi. Newham is extremely ethnically diverse, with 61 per cent of the population identify as non-white, and over 100 languages spoken in the borough.

Figure 4: Ethnic group Newham



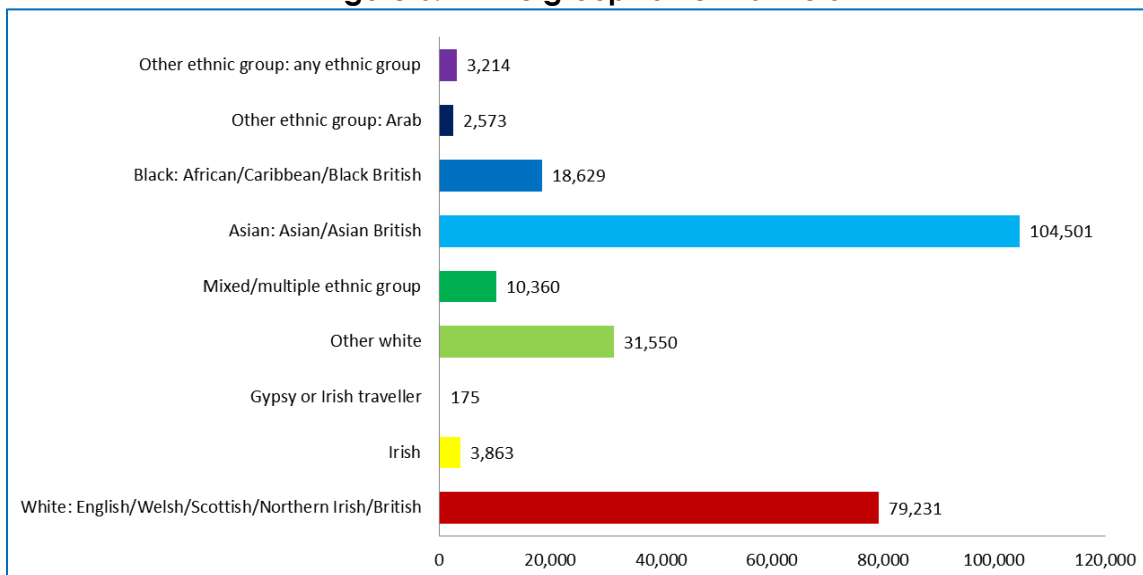
Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

Figure 5: Ethnic group Hackney



Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

Figure 6: Ethnic group Tower Hamlets

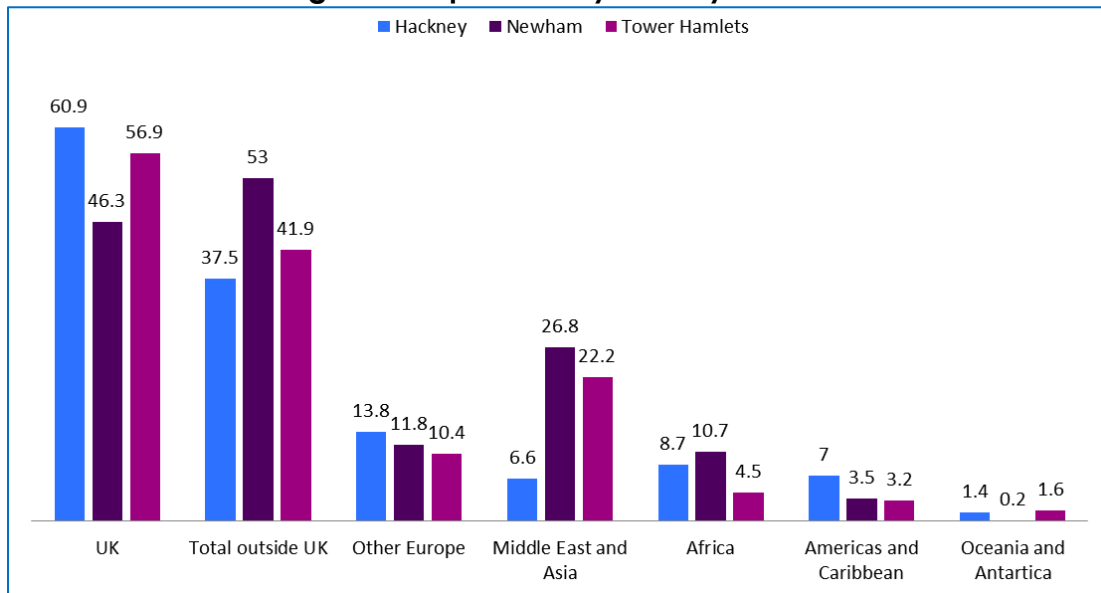


Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

In relation to country of birth, in Hackney and Tower Hamlets, the majority of the population is UK born, however in Newham 53 per cent of the population were born outside the UK, the majority in the Middle East and Asia. Equally, in Tower Hamlets the Middle East and Asian born population is second to the UK born population. In all three boroughs the population born in other European countries

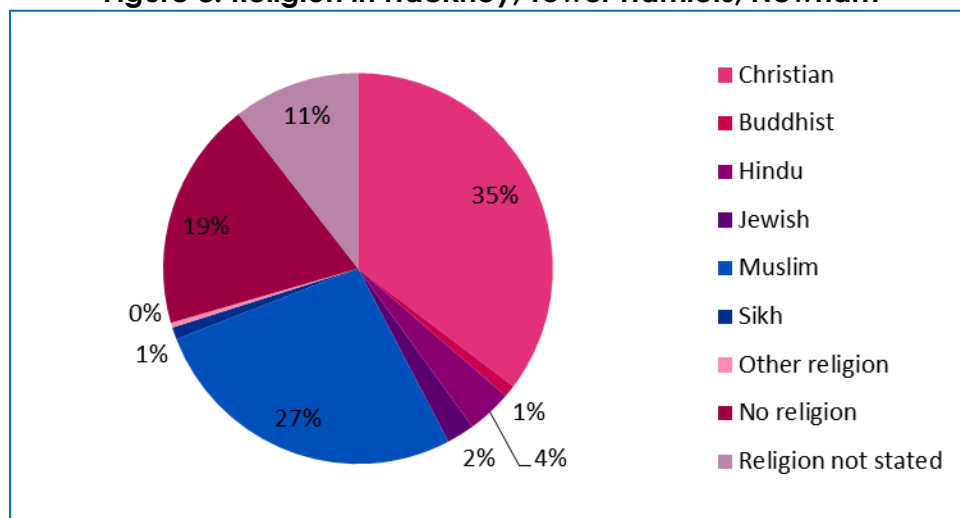
and in Africa also forms an important minority. In England as a whole, 86.2 per cent of the population is UK born.

Figure 7: Population by country of birth



Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

Figure 8: Religion in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham

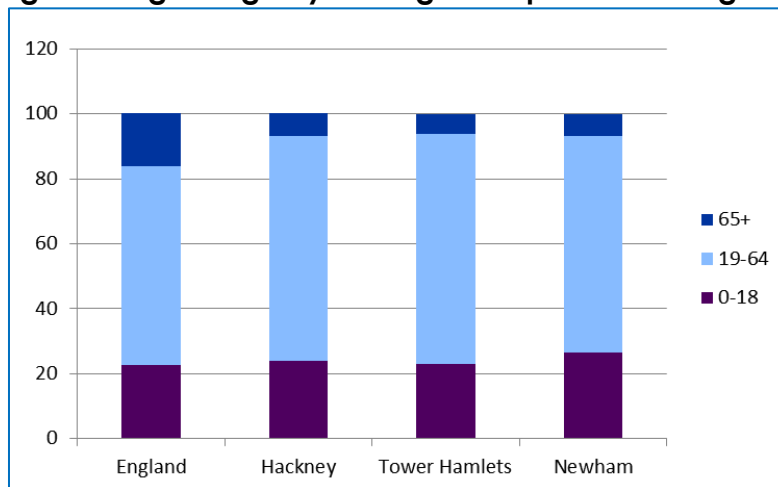


Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

The **predominant religions are Christianity and Islam** in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, and Newham, although 19 per cent of people do not identify with any religion. In England as a whole, 59.4 per cent of people identify as Christian and 5 per cent as Muslim. 24.7 per cent hold no religion. According to the Office for National Statistics, Tower Hamlets and Newham are the areas with the largest Muslim populations in England, with 34.5 and 32 per cent respectively.

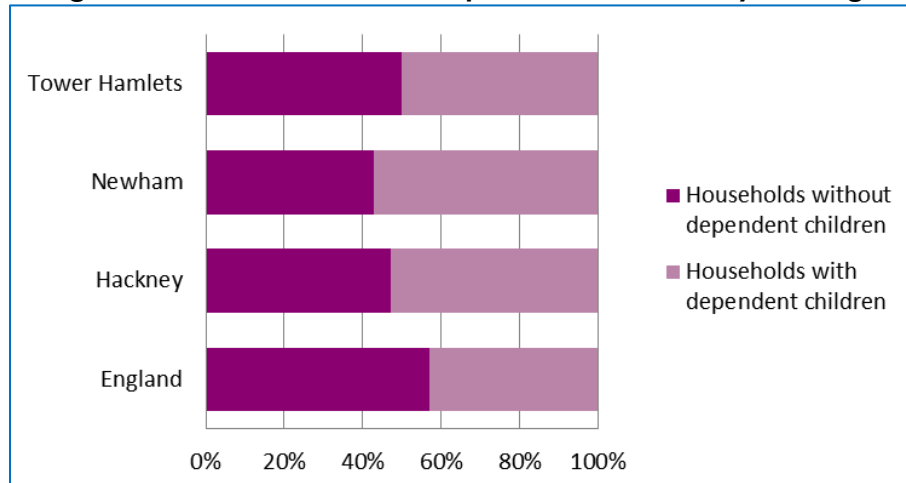
The East End has a **younger population** than England as a whole, with the majority of people being of working age. In Newham, over 40 per cent of the population is under 25. There are also more households with dependent children than in England as a whole, and slightly more lone parent households – 13.4 per cent of households compared to the England average of 10.6.

Figure 9: Age range by borough compared with England



Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

Figure 10: Households with dependent children by borough



Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

The East End is a rapidly growing, young, vibrant, incredibly diverse part of the UK. It is important that this diversity is recognised and celebrated and that all residents of the area feel welcome and included. On the whole there is evidence that this is the case, but there is a potential danger that, in the continuing climate of economic austerity and ever strict immigration policies, a culture of scapegoating migrants and ethnic minorities could take hold. Some recent measures taken by

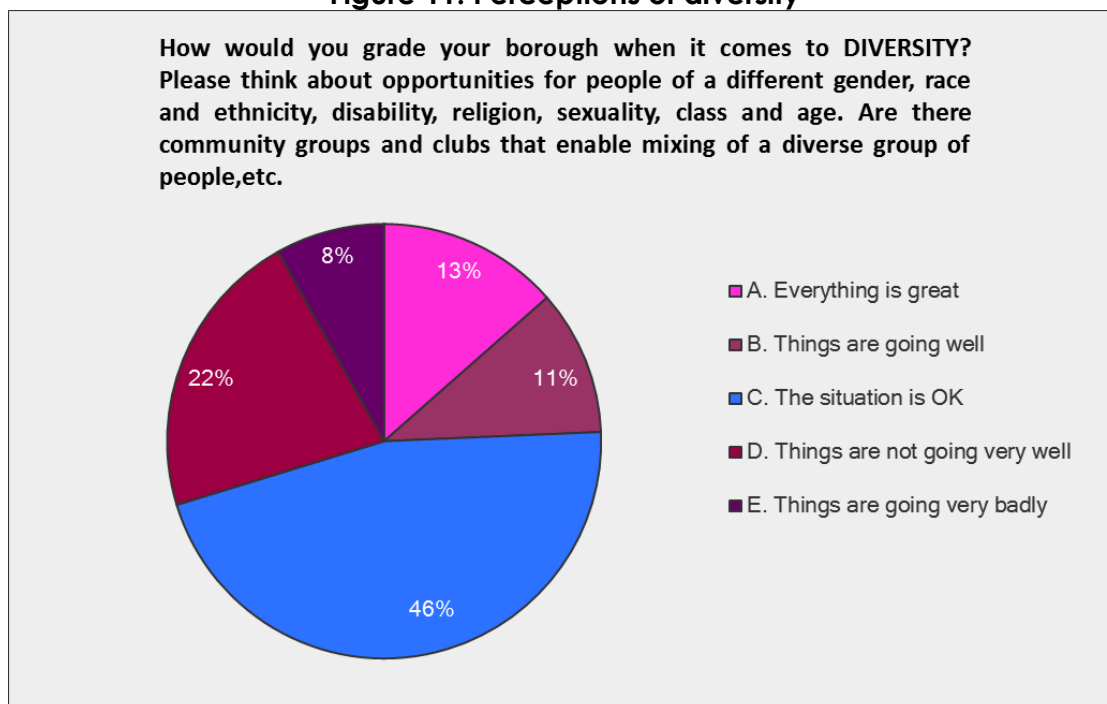
central government and local councils could encourage discrimination against ethnic minorities in the East End. Examples include the government's 2013 'Go home or face arrest' campaign targeting undocumented migrants, which focused particularly on North and East London and was eventually banned by the Advertising Standards Authority (The Independent, 2013). Care must be taken to avoid discrimination and promote equal opportunities in this unique part of London.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Diversity

Overall results

Responses in this section were more mixed than in many others. Overall, 46 per cent of respondents thought that “the situation is OK”, followed by 22 per cent who thought that “things are going well” and then a mixture between the other responses.

Figure 11: Perceptions of diversity



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=37)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 10 comments from the community consultation.

A priority is being pro-active at bringing people together – there is lots of diversity in Tower Hamlets but people tend to stay in their separate groups and services tend to encourage this. We need safe spaces to bring us all together and get to know each other.

I would say that there are opportunities for all groups. However I don't see many opportunities that appeal to all groups of people.

Thinking ahead

- What strategies can be developed to ensure that everyone in the East End feels included in their community regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion or other identities?
- How can it be ensured that the East End caters to a population with many households with dependent children?

References and Resources

[BBC, 2013. Naturalising Newham - Radical Plan to Boost Integration.](#)

[London Borough of Tower Hamlets \(2011\) Population – key facts: A demographic profile of the Tower Hamlets population](#)

[New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 2013. London's Poverty Profile 2013.](#)

[Office for National Statistics, 2012a. Census result shows increase in population of London as it tops 8 million \)](#)

[Office for National Statistics, 2014a. Subnational population projections, 2012-based projections.](#)

[Office for National Statistics, 2014b. Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011.](#)

[The Independent, 2013. Home Office anti-immigration 'go home' vans banned by advertising watchdog.](#)

Economy

Local Economy

The local economy of the East End is examined in this section. It is measured in terms of productivity and growth. The main industries in the area are also discussed.

The East End economy is extremely strong, in spite of the general climate of economic downturn, and it is one of the most productive areas in the UK. Nonetheless, this economic success does not necessarily directly benefit all East End residents equally, as will be discussed in more depth in the section on **Work**.

Grade Score: **A**

A grade score of A (94/100), based on the two Vital Signs local economy indicators, places the East End in the top 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Productivity Score	A
Share of national GVA (Gross Value Added)	A

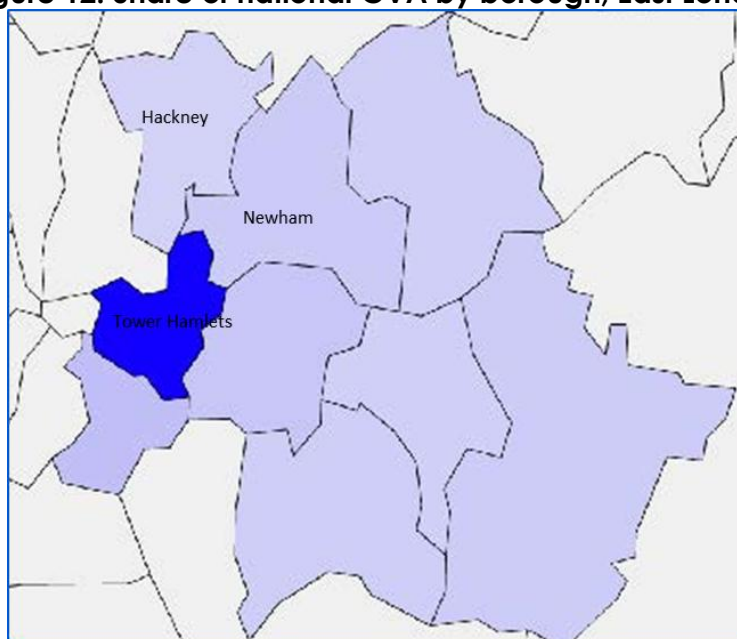
Key Points

The East End's **productivity score is well above the national median** at 135.71 (the median for England is indexed as 100). Productivity score is a measure that combines Gross Value Added (GVA) per head with workplace earnings and the share of national earnings for an area. The vast majority of the East End's contribution of 7.1 per cent to national GVA in 2011 came from Tower Hamlets – 1.7 per cent trailed in second place by Hackney at 0.41 per cent. Tower Hamlets has been one of the boroughs to experience **strongest economic growth** in recent years (Oxford Economics, 2013). This is clearly linked with the continued growth of Canary Wharf as a global financial centre (see below).

In September 2014, Grant Thornton UK LLP published research that identified Tower Hamlets as the local authority with the fastest economic growth over the last 8 years, placing the borough top of their High Growth Index due to its large local economy and diverse community. Newham and Hackney were also identified as key growth drivers for the UK economy.

In terms of industries in the three boroughs this report is particularly concerned with, in Tower Hamlets, 96.1 per cent of jobs are in services, with the majority (54 per cent) in **financial and other business services**. In Hackney, similarly 94.5 per cent of jobs are in services, but this is more or less evenly spread between 33.1 per cent in financial and other business services and 28.9 per cent in public administration, education, and health. Newham is rather different as, whilst 89.3 per cent of jobs are still in services, 32.4 per cent are in public administration, education and health, followed by 19.8 per cent in wholesale and retail and then 15.4 per cent in financial and other business services (Office for National Statistics, 2012b). This reflects the dominance of the local government as an employer in Newham.

Figure 12: Share of national GVA by borough, East London



Source: Local Futures derived from the ONS Regional GVA data, 2011

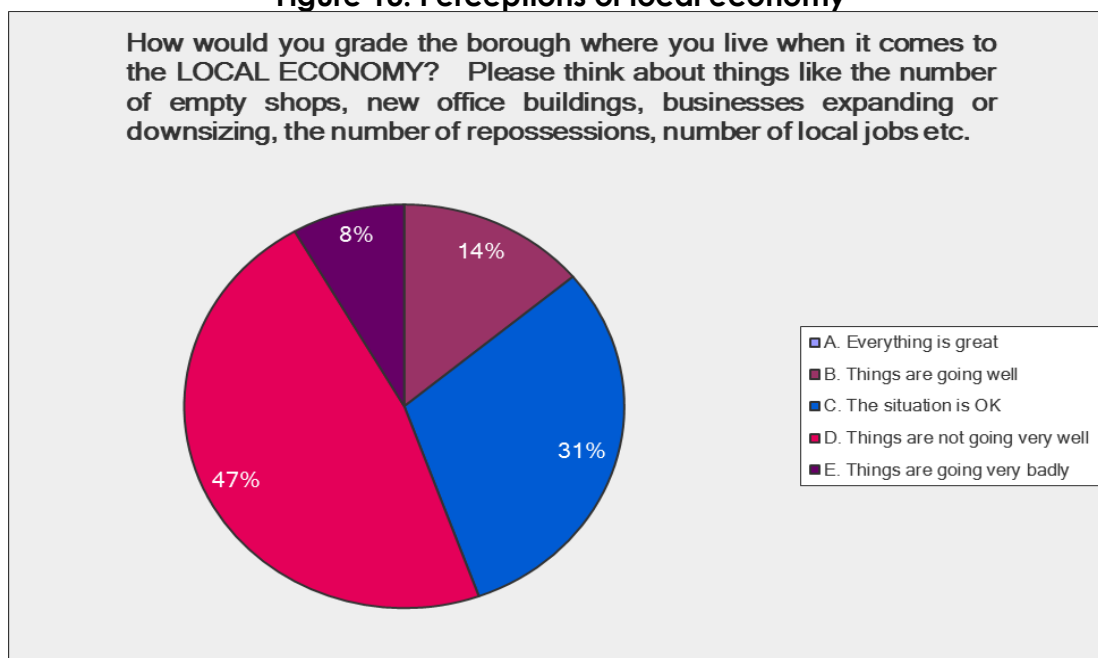
When considered under the rubric of fairness, and as explained in the section on **Work**, it would seem that there is a **great contradiction between the success of the local economy and the employment situation of local people**. Few of the jobs in financial services – predominantly clustered around Canary Wharf – that contribute to the very high GVA score for the area appear to be held by residents of East End boroughs (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013). It also is not yet clear if the huge investment in the area that hosting the Olympic Games involved – which has boosted the local economy in many ways – will have the desired impact on the working lives of local people.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Local Economy

Overall results

The majority of people responded with “*things are not going very well*”. This seems to be a reflection of how residents in the boroughs are experiencing the local economy as opposed to how well the boroughs are doing objectively.

Figure 13: Perceptions of local economy



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=36)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 11 comments from the local economy from the community consultation.

Hackney is dynamic and there are lots of empty spaces but there are also lots of new businesses.

Priorities for action: The gap between those who work in Canary Wharf and the rest of the borough. Meaningful ways to use companies' Corporate Social Responsibility (ideas that come from the community and voluntary sector).

Too many shops shutting down and being replaced by betting shops/Paddy Power/money shops.

Thinking Ahead

- How can the outstanding economic growth of the East End be better managed to benefit East End residents more equally?
- How can SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) as well as big businesses be supported in the East End?

References and Resources

[Office for National Statistics, 2012b. Labour Market Profile by Local Authority.](#)

[Oxford Economics, 2013. The Economic Outlook for London.](#)

[Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013. Time to Act.](#)

[Grant Thornton UK LLP Place Analytics Report Autumn 2014.](#)

Learning

Learning here refers particularly to skills acquisition and secondary school and higher qualifications.

Whilst youth unemployment remains very high in the East End as discussed in the next section on **Work**, in relation to skills and training for young people there has been significant improvement in the past few years. Nonetheless, the East End still remains below the national median on this indicator.

Grade Score: **D**

A grade score of D (35/100), based on the three Vital Signs learning indicators, places the East End in the low-mid 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Skills and qualifications	D
GCSEs A* – C	C
No qualifications	D

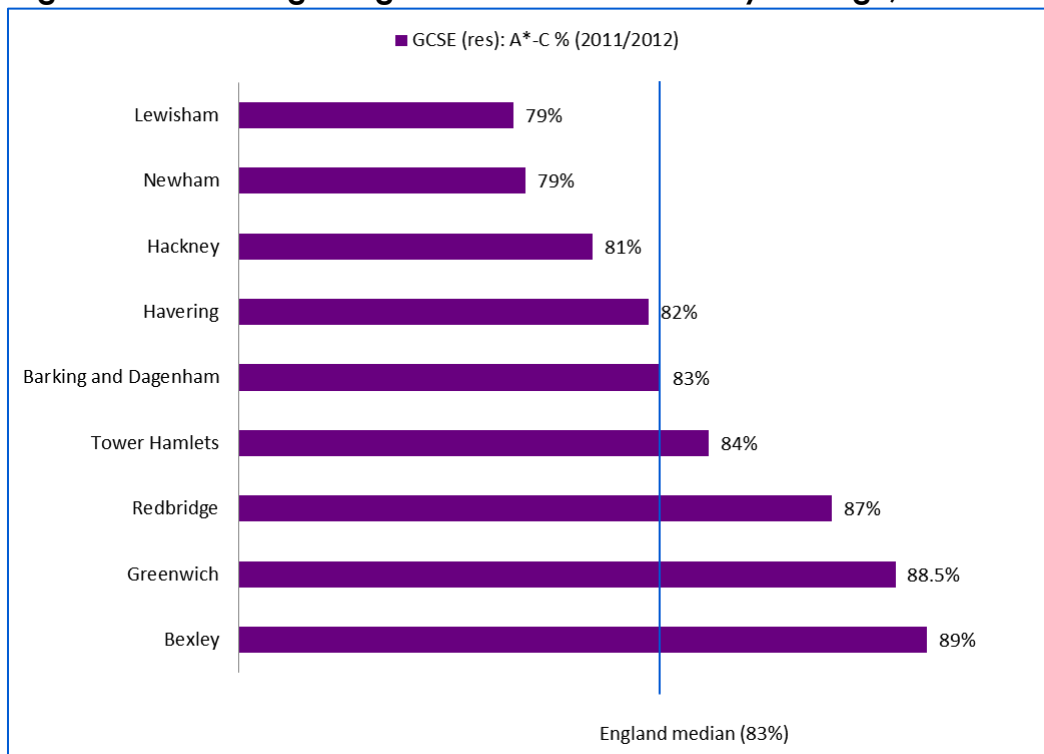
Key Points

Whilst the East End comes in below average in relation to qualifications and education indicators, the area has seen some very positive developments in the past few decades. The skills and qualifications score, a composite used to measure the skills and qualifications of an area's workforce, places the East End's **skills and qualifications score below the national median** at 97.21 (with Great Britain indexed at 100) and below the London median of 99.28. Hackney leads the three boroughs this report is focused on and has a score of 95.04. This is closely followed by Tower Hamlets at 94.53 and trailed by Newham at 88.28.

In relation to GCSE results, Tower Hamlets leads, with 84 per cent of its students achieving five or more A* to C grades. This is slightly above the national average of 83 per cent. On this measure, Hackney students gain 81 per cent and Newham students 79 per cent. It must be emphasized that all three boroughs have seen **very significant improvements in GCSE results** in the past 5 years (Convergence Annual Report 2012-2013, p.11). The success story of Tower Hamlets is particularly noteworthy: in 1997, only 26 per cent of students in the borough were achieving A*-C grades in GCSE English and only 22 per cent were achieving these grades in maths. In 2013, 74 per cent of students were awarded A*-C in English and 75 per cent gained these grades in maths (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013, p.20). Primary schooling has also seen an improvement, with Key Stage 2 children

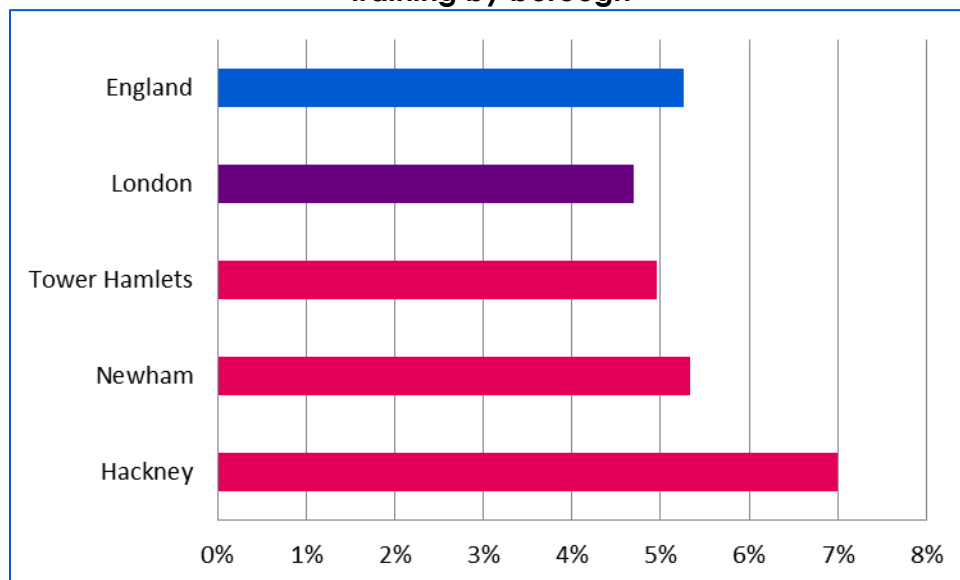
(approximately aged 7 to 11) across East London achieving more highly now than 3 years ago (Convergence Annual Report 2012-2013).

Figure 14: Students gaining 5 or more A*-C GCSEs by borough, 2011-2012



Source: Local Futures derived from Office for National Statistics, 2013

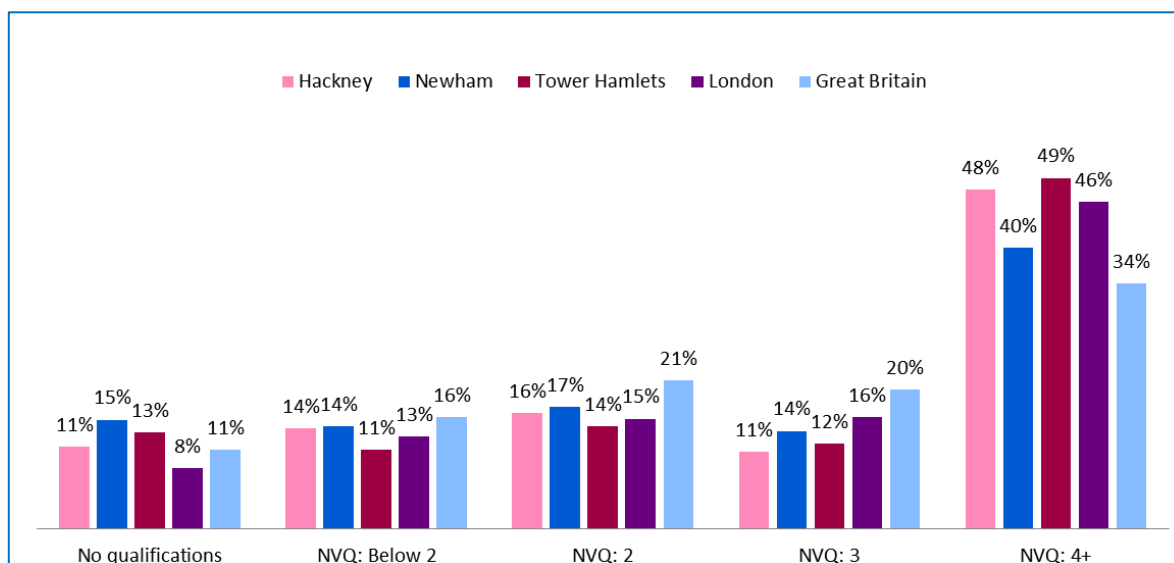
Figure 15: Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training by borough



Source: Local Futures derived from Office for National Statistics, 2013

Nonetheless, alongside these successes the three boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham have **more 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training** (NEETs) than the English average. The three boroughs have an average of 5.8 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds in this category and the national average is 5.26 per cent. The situation is particularly bad in Hackney where around 7 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds are out of work, education or training. There is also concern that **secondary-school level positive outcomes are not translating into real world employability** (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013, p.20), as the high youth unemployment rates discussed in the following section on **Work** seem to indicate.

Figure 16: Qualifications of population over 18 by borough



Source: Local Futures derived from Office for National Statistics, 2013

In relation to the qualification levels of the population over 18, at both ends of the spectrum the East End exceeds the Great Britain averages. In Great Britain overall, 11 per cent of the population over 18 have no qualifications. In Newham this figure stands at 15.27, in Tower Hamlets it is 13.43 per cent, and in Hackney it is 11.43 per cent. Regarding those with qualifications at NVQ Level 4 or above (equivalent to a diploma, foundational degree or higher), the Great Britain average is 34.38 per cent. In Tower Hamlets, however, 49.27 per cent of the population have qualifications at this level. Hackney follows closely behind at 47.59 per cent, and Newham also scores more highly than the Great Britain average with 39.5 per cent. Whilst the economic crisis has meant that people with all levels of qualifications have been affected by unemployment, there is evidence that unemployment has particularly hit those with no qualifications, and especially young people with no qualifications (Hughes and Crowley, 2014). As already

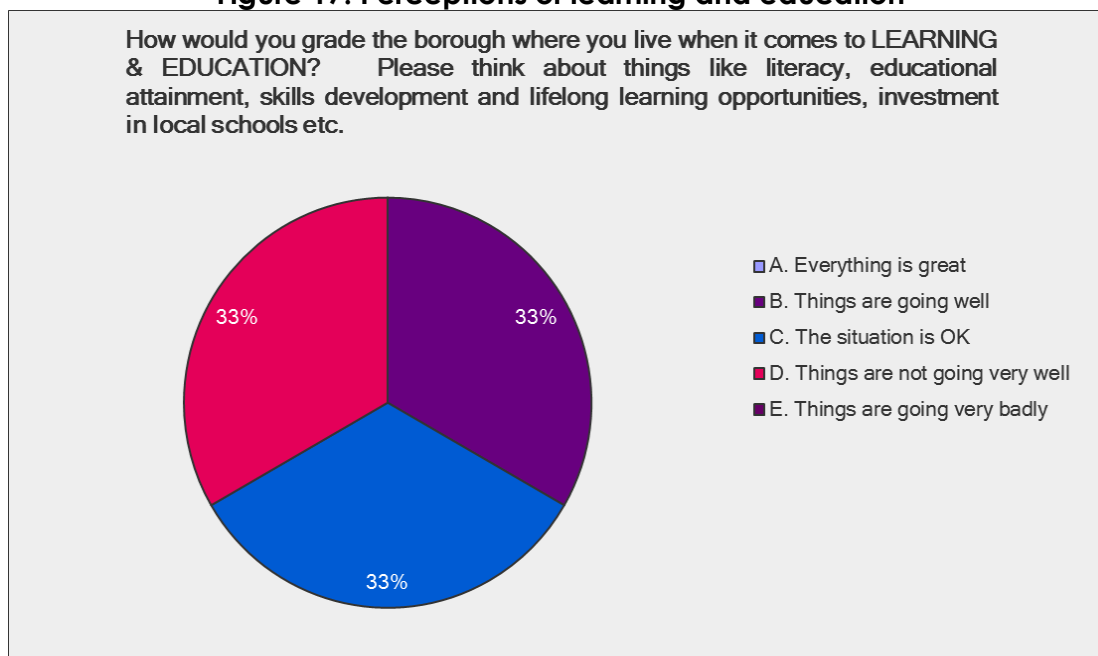
mentioned, and as the following section details, unemployment is a significant problem in the East End. It is likely that this is in part due to the relatively high percentage of people with no qualifications living in the area.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Learning

Overall results

Responses are evenly split between “the situation is OK” **and** “*things are not going very well*” indicating fairly varied opinions with regards to learning and education.

Figure 17: Perceptions of learning and education



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n= 36)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 11 comments from this section of the community consultation.

Definitely improving - more access to higher quality learning through services provided by Idea Stores style programmes are the way forward. But pay the tutors to reflect the amazing work they do.

I don't think that young people leaving local schools are ready for the world of work and they lack basic skills.

Priorities for action: The expansion or building of Community Schools and not Free Schools.

Thinking ahead

- How can it be ensured that school and higher education leavers are prepared for the world of work?
- There are already some excellent programmes in place in the East End that link schools with local businesses to provide work experience. How can these be expanded on in order to help young people gain necessary skills for employment without promoting exploitative unpaid internships?
- What can be done to lower the numbers of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training?
- How can the level of skills and qualifications of the East End workforce as a whole be improved in order to reach or exceed the national median?

References and Resources

[Convergence Annual Report, 2012-2013.](#)

[Department of Education Statistics, 2014](#)

[Hughes, C. and Crowley, L., 2014. London: a tale of two cities. Addressing the youth employment challenge. The Work Foundation, Lancaster University.](#)

[Queen Mary, University of London, 2013. Mapping corporate philanthropy and community engagement in east London: A research report.](#)

[Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013. Time to Act.](#)

Work

Here we examine work in the East End within reference to fairness and diversity. Employment and unemployment statistics are examined together with income across the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Hackney.

Unemployment is high in the East End, and youth unemployment is particularly so, despite the strength of the local economy.

Grade Score: **E**

A grade score of E (19/100), based on the three Vital Signs work indicators, places the East End in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Unemployment rate	D
Youth unemployment	E
Employment rate	D

Key Points

Unemployment is high in East London. As of September 2013, the average unemployment rate in East London as a whole was 10.6 per cent, compared with a London average of 8.9 per cent and a Great Britain average of 7.9 per cent. For the boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets, unemployment was higher than the East London average, at 11.3 per cent, 11 per cent, and 12.5 per cent respectively.

Few local people are employed in the 'boom' sector of the East End – financial and other business services. And the huge investment in the area for the Olympics has yet to pay off in relation to reducing unemployment rates, in spite of high hopes that it would. Whilst the Olympics did provide short-term work for 24,300 people from Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Barking and Dagenham, and Waltham Forest (of whom 8,300 were unemployed before the Games), with a concerted effort made to support these people into other jobs following the Games, this has a limited impact on overall employment rates, which have in fact worsened since the Olympics. One positive outcome to be highlighted, however, is that 43 per cent of employees at Westfield Stratford City shopping centre – a product of the Olympics – are from the abovementioned boroughs. It remains to be seen if this kind of positive improvement can be

reproduced in the newly transformed Olympic Park which has just been reopened and in other areas of regeneration initiated for the Olympics (Convergence Annual Report 2012-2013).

Figure 18: Unemployment rate by borough

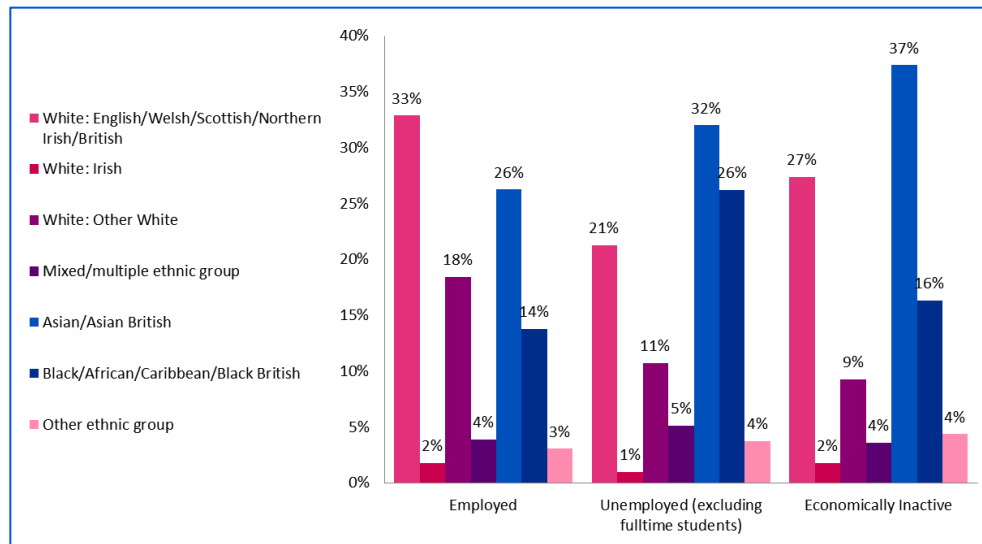


Source: Local Futures data derived from the Annual Population Survey, 2013

As mentioned in the previous section, of particular concern are the **very high youth unemployment** and **long-term unemployment** rates. Youth unemployment (16-24 years) averages 25.8 per cent, slightly higher than the London average of 24.5 per cent and considerably higher than the Great Britain average of 20.9 per cent. The figures for those who are unemployed and have to claim job seekers allowance for a minimum of 12 months is estimated at 30.9 per cent for East London, 30.6 per cent for London, and 28.8 per cent for Great Britain.

In East London, **unemployment appears to disproportionately affect minority ethnic groups** which itself is underpinned by wider patterns of structural disadvantage and a skills mismatch in relation to the types of jobs available and the skills and qualifications of the population. In Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Hackney, unemployment affects 32 per cent of Asian/Asian British people and 26 per cent of those of Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds compared with 21 per cent of White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British people (Office for National Statistics, 2014b). London-wide trends indicate similar disparities – for example, 20 per cent of Black Caribbean, Black African, and Bangladeshi men were out of work in 2011 compared with 10 per cent of white men (London's Poverty Profile, 2013).

Figure 19: Economic activity by ethnicity Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Hackney

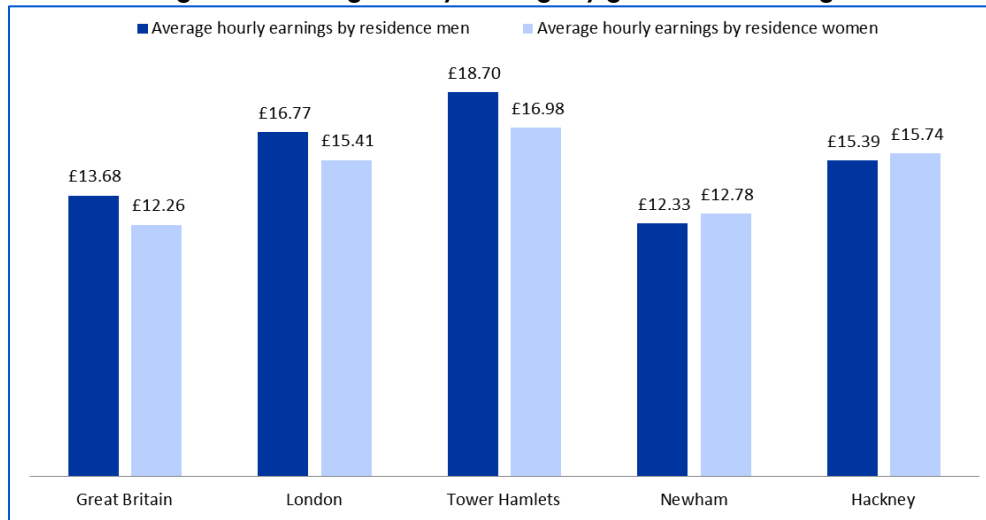


Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

Looking at other measures of equality in relation to work, as mentioned in the section on **Fairness**, as in most of London there are **significant income inequalities** in the East End, as illustrated in London's Poverty Profile 2013 (pp.35-36). With respect to gender differences in income, as shown in the graph below, the gendered pay gap in Tower Hamlets is almost the same as that of London as a whole (in Tower Hamlets per hour women earn 91 per cent of what men earn compared with 92 per cent in London as a whole). Interestingly, however, women earn slightly more per hour than men in Newham and Hackney, going against the London and Great Britain trends, as illustrated in the graph on the following page.³

³ NB: Average hourly earnings are not a good representation of the overall economic health of each borough's population e.g. in Tower Hamlets 10% of the resident population earn over £100,000, yet a fifth of households get by on £15,000 a year (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013). The wealth of 10 per cent inflates the hourly average thus masking the very real poverty of many. However, this measure of income does serve to show gender pay gaps.

Figure 20: Average hourly earnings by gender and borough

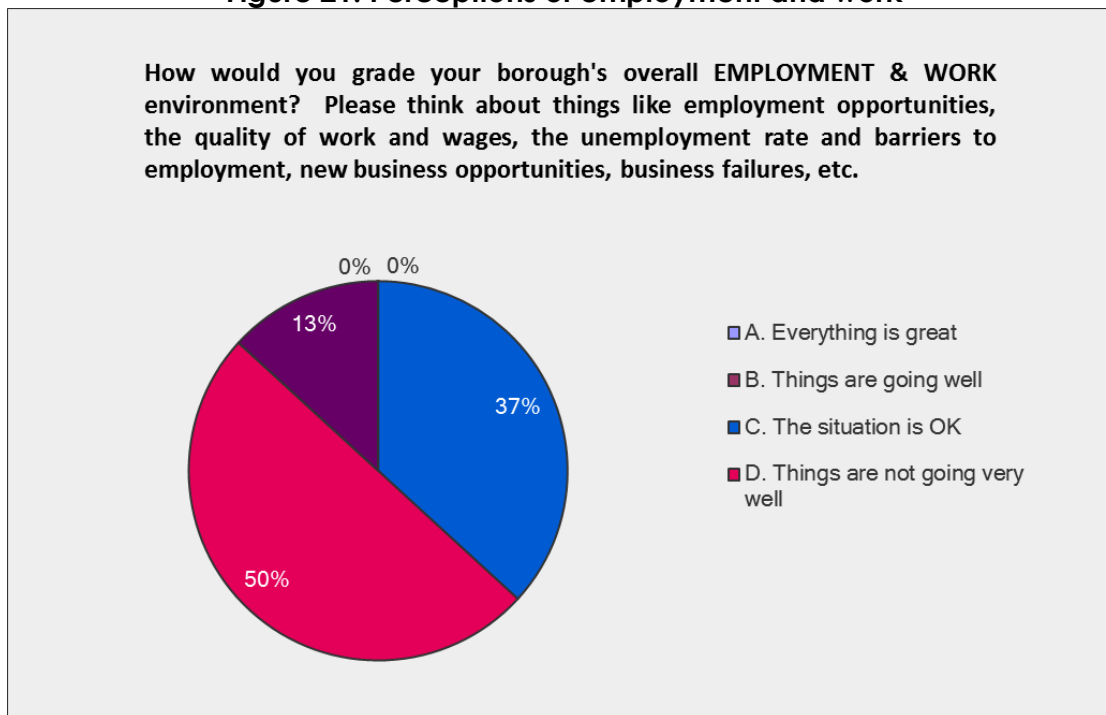


Source: ONS Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011

Overall results

There are clear signs here that respondents are not happy with the current employment and work situation. The majority thought that "*things are not going very well*", followed by 37 per cent who thought that "*things are going very badly*". No one rated employment and work in the top two bands.

Figure 21: Perceptions of employment and work



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=38)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 20 comments from this section of the community consultation.

Priority for action: A living wage not minimum wage.

I have good employment within the Borough but many others struggle to find local employment that pays a living wage. I do not know anyone who has been employed as a result of the Olympics or Westfield.

Opportunities for younger people looking for work, such as apprenticeships.

Thinking ahead

- How can unemployment rates be lowered in the East End, especially among those from disadvantaged ethnic minority backgrounds?
- How can income inequalities be decreased in the East End?
- How can more businesses be encouraged to pay the London Living Wage?
- How can more local jobs be made available for local people?

References and Resources

[Convergence Annual Report, 2012-2013.](#)

[Living Wage Foundation](#)

[New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 2013. London's Poverty Profile 2013.](#)

[Office for National Statistics, 2014. Official Labour Market Statistics, 2011.](#)

[Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013. Time to Act.](#)

Environment

This theme addresses the environment from a variety of standpoints. It looks at built and natural environment, air quality and CO2 emissions per capita, as well as ecological footprint amongst other factors.

As with the majority of London, the East End does not score particularly well in relation to environment. Nevertheless, it has seen some important improvements in recent years.

Grade Score: **D**

A grade score of D (33/100), based on the three Vital Signs environment indicators, places the East End in the low-mid 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Natural environment	E
Air quality deprivation	E
CO2 emissions per capita	A

Key Points

Huge investment has gone into East London's built environment in the past few decades. In the 1980s, the controversial development of the docklands began, and in just over two decades parts of the East End such as Canary Wharf have been thoroughly transformed into enclaves of shining towers, shops and cafés. Aesthetically pleasing and blending well with the natural environment of the River Thames, unfortunately such enclaves remain fairly inaccessible to many residents of the East End – something that is apparently recognized by, and is a concern of, many who work in these areas (Queen Mary, 2013).

The other major recent investment in East End regeneration would appear to be more inclusive. Whilst not yet completely open to the public, the new **Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is already a wonderful resource** for east London residents featuring extensive facilities for organised sports, an aquatics centre and trails and tours through 560 acres of parklands. Entrance is free (although there are entrance fees for the aquatics centre and various other venues) and it is thought to be one of the most accessible parks in Great Britain. In the summer of 2013 alone, over 700,000 people visited the Park (Mayor of London/GLA, 2014). Whilst on the whole extremely positive, as will be discussed in more depth in the following section on

Housing, there is anxiety that the investment and regeneration sparked by the Olympic and Paralympic Games could accelerate the gentrification of east London, pushing out its poorest residents (The Guardian, 2014; The Economist, 2014).

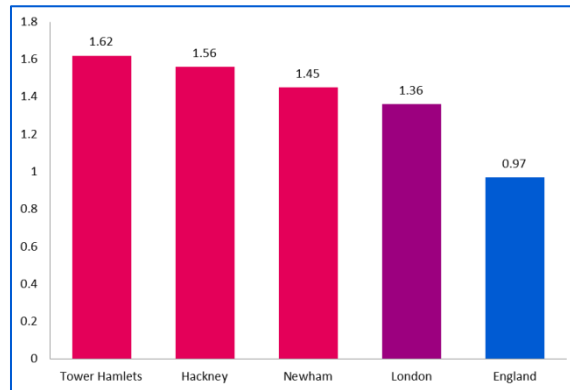


Docklands on a sunny day. Courtesy Cathy McIlwaine (2013).

Furthermore, in spite of this investment in creating green spaces and enhancing the built environment, the East End remains well below the national median, and slightly below the London median, on environmental indicators. The natural environment score considers natural beauty, green space, green belt and heritage cost, and Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Hackney have a combined average natural environment score of 16.65 (where the average for England is indexed as 100). Newham scores best with 18.05, but all three boroughs are **below the London natural environment average score** of 26.72.

In relation to air quality, which is measured as part of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, all three boroughs have **worse air quality than the London average** of 1.36 (anything over 1 indicates a poorer air quality). Tower Hamlets has the worst air quality, with an average of 1.62. The detrimental effects on people's health due to living in areas with poor air quality can be significant (London Air, 2014).

Figure 22: Air quality by borough

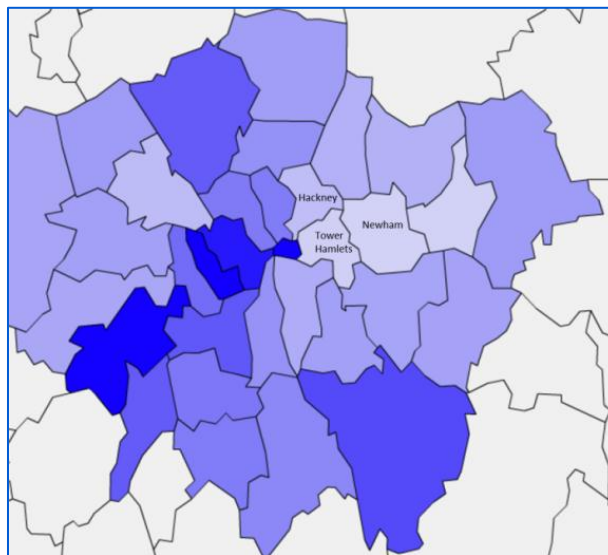


Source: Local Futures data derived from ONS Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2010

CO2 emissions per capita - measured in kilo tonnes produced per person for domestic purposes per year - for Hackney (4.03) and Newham (6.42) are better than the London and England averages of 5.71 and 7.62 respectively, however Tower Hamlets scores much worse at 9.42. On the Ecological Footprint measure, the three boroughs have a combined average of 4.8 Footprint Hectares per Capita, which is better than the London average of 5.48 and the Great Britain average of 5.31. In terms of tranquillity, all three boroughs also do better than the London average.

Overall, whilst certainly worse on environmental measures than England and the UK in general, in comparison with London averages the East End is faring quite well, and indeed in relation to some indicators such as Ecological Footprint the area could become something of a leader.

Figure 23: Ecological Footprint by borough, London



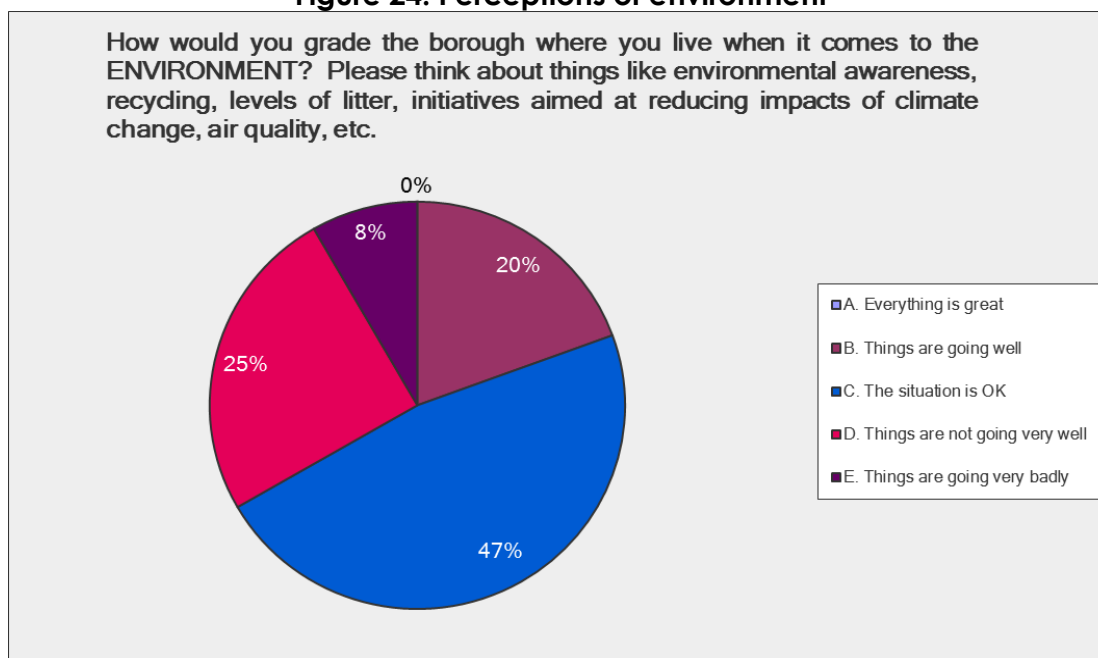
Source: Greater London Authority, 2010

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Environment

Overall results

Almost half of people (47 per cent) thought that “the situation is OK” in relation to the environment. Other respondents were fairly evenly divided between saying that “things are not going very well” and “things are going well”.

Figure 24: Perceptions of environment



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n= 36)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 15 comments from this section of the community consultation.

Air quality needs to be monitored and improved on.

Priorities for action: Getting more bins and addressing the culture of litter - encouraging it to be seen as completely unacceptable. Recycling is good but lots of us are unsure what we can and can't recycle - the broad headings don't always help us with the specifics e.g. can plastic bags be recycled? Are there any plastic containers that can't be?

Housing associations are doing well but the streets are unclean.

Thinking ahead

- How can the positive impact of the Olympics and Paralympics with regards to the East End's environment be ensured and has inclusive outcomes?
- How can air quality in the East End be improved?
- How can the effective use of rubbish bins and recycling facilities be further encouraged?
- How can CO2 emissions and ecological footprint per capita reductions in the East End be continued?

References and Resources

[Greater London Authority, 2010. Ecological footprint data.](#)

[King's College, 2014. London Air.](#)

[Mayor of London/GLA, 2014. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.](#)

[Queen Mary, University of London, 2013. Mapping corporate philanthropy and community engagement in east London: A research report.](#)

[The Economist, 2014. Gentrification in London: Chasing cool.](#)

[The Guardian, 2014. The truth about gentrification: regeneration or con trick?](#)

Housing and Homelessness

Here we address housing and homelessness in the East End. This involves consideration of housing affordability, household tenure rate, and a homelessness measure. Other measures, such as average house prices and rental prices are also discussed.

In general, the East End, like London overall, fares poorly in relation to housing and homelessness. House prices are increasing and the cost of private rental is rising at a staggering rate. Homelessness is increasing and the number of families in temporary accommodation is worryingly high.

Grade Score: **E**

A grade score of E (11/100), based on the three Vital Signs housing and homelessness indicators, places the East End in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Affordability	E
Owner occupied	E
Homelessness	E

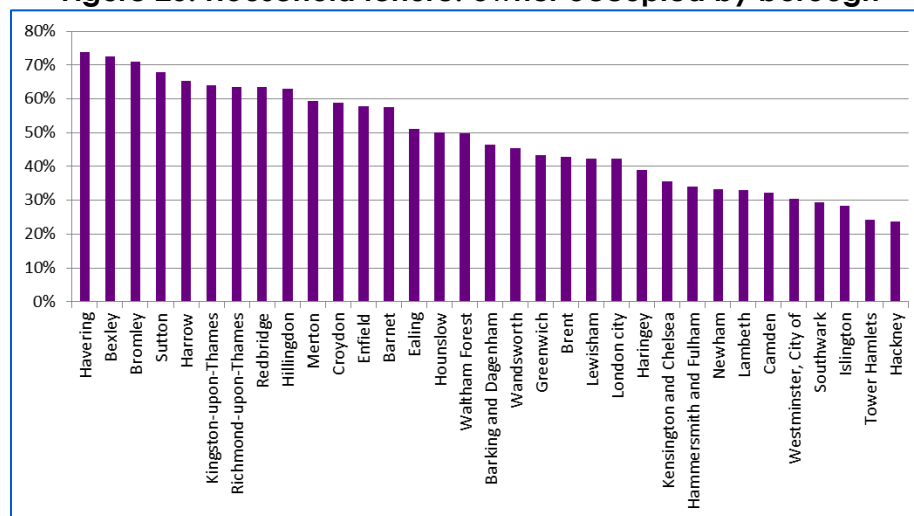
Key Points

It could be said that there is currently a housing crisis in the east of London, and the three boroughs focused on here are particularly badly affected. **Levels of owner-occupied housing are exceptionally low** in these areas. Hackney has the lowest level of owner-occupied housing of any local authority in England – a mere 23.78 per cent of people in Hackney own the houses they live in. Tower Hamlets is the second worst in the country at 24.25 per cent, and Newham does not do much better at 33.32 per cent.

As one might expect, **Hackney has witnessed the highest increase in house prices of all of East London** in the past 10 years. Arguably this is due to the phenomenal gentrification that parts of Hackney have undergone in the past decade. The housing price percentage increase of 98 per cent in ten years, whilst not that dissimilar from the London average of 91 per cent, is almost double the England and Wales combined average of 50 per cent. Housing in Tower Hamlets has also increased in value above the England and Wales average over this period at 66.3 per cent, but housing in Newham has increased in price by only 32.55 per cent.

In fact, housing in Newham has become more affordable, and housing in Tower Hamlets only slightly less affordable than 10 years ago, although this is constantly changing. Housing in Hackney has become markedly less affordable and is in the bottom 15 of all local authorities in relation to affordability change over the last decade.

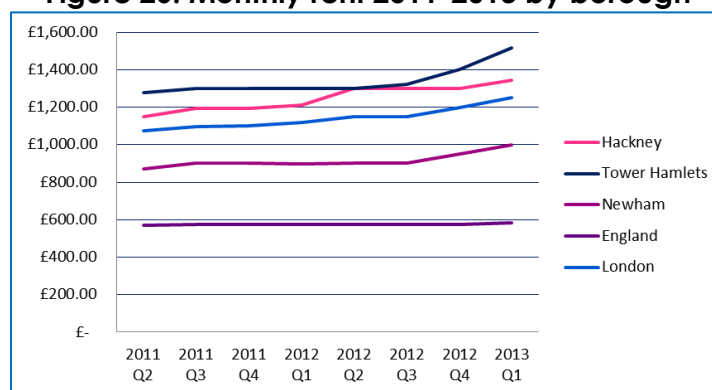
Figure 25: Household tenure: owner occupied by borough



Source: Local Futures derived from the Land Registry, 2013

Private rental prices have also increased at eye-watering levels in the past few years. In Tower Hamlets, a one bedroom flat now rents for £1,280 on average and a three bedroom home for £2,080. It was recently estimated that you would need a household income of £50,000 per annum to comfortably rent a one bedroom place in Tower Hamlets (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013, p.9). In Hackney, average rent is £1,343 per month, and in Newham it is £1,000. The London average is now £1,250, whereas the England average is £585 (Shelter and the Valuation Office Agency, 2013). Incomes have certainly not kept pace with London's rapidly increasing rent.

Figure 26: Monthly rent 2011-2013 by borough

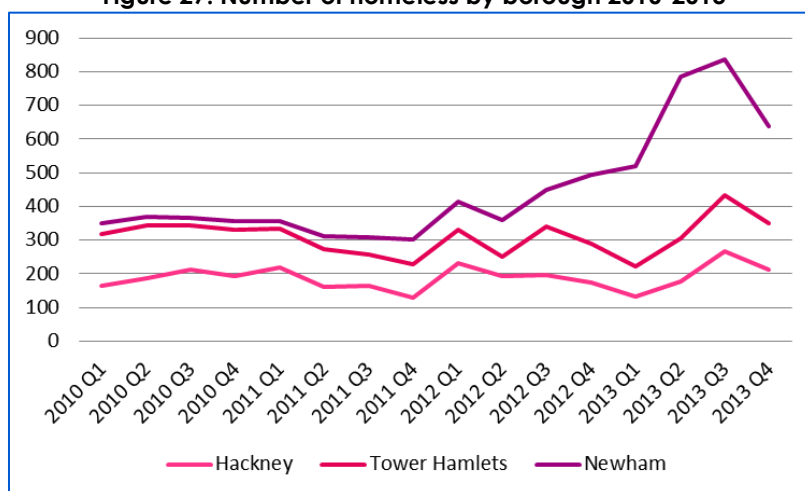


Source: Shelter and the Valuation Office Agency, 2013

It has been argued with some authority that **housing benefit reforms will compound the housing crisis in the East End** (Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013; Hackney Impact of Welfare and Housing Benefit Reforms, 2013; London's Poverty Profile, 2013). It has been demonstrated by London Councils that the Local Housing Allowance for private rental has been set too low, and the so-called 'bedroom tax' on unoccupied bedrooms is profoundly unfair as there are simply not enough one and two bedroom properties to support the needs of London residents thus making 'over-occupying' inevitable. Housing benefit reforms are likely to have many and varied effects, including forcing people out of private rentals into situations of homelessness or into temporary accommodation, pushing them onto the already long waiting list for social housing, and potentially making people have to move out of London and their established communities. In relation to fairness and diversity, it is thought that these changes to housing benefits are going to have a particularly negatively effect on those with disabilities and their carers.

Already the impacts on the London population of the economic crisis, rises in housing costs, austerity and welfare reform can be seen. **Homelessness affects more people in East London than in England on average** with 3.13 people per 1,000 categorised by local authorities as homeless in Hackney, 1.7 in Tower Hamlets, and 1.03 in Newham (London's Poverty Profile, 2013). The London average is 1.63, and the England average is 0.96. There has been an increase in homelessness in all the boroughs discussed in the past two years. Examining this through the lens of fairness and diversity, in general homelessness in the UK disproportionately affects black and minority ethnicities and people who identify as lesbian, gay, transgender or bisexual (Shelter, 2013; Stonewall Housing, 2008).

Figure 27: Number of homeless by borough 2010-2013



Source: Shelter and the Valuation Office Agency, 2013

Alongside the rise of homelessness, of on-going concern are the length of council housing waiting lists and **the high number of households in temporary accommodation**. Whilst figures have not changed dramatically in the past 5 years, they are still very high. About two thirds of the 87,000 households England-wide that are in temporary accommodation are in London. Newham and Tower Hamlets are amongst the London boroughs with the highest numbers of families in temporary accommodation – in Newham, about 6 per cent of households live in temporary accommodation. Living in temporary accommodation for extended periods – as many families in the East End are forced to do – can have damaging effects on families. To give one example, it has been shown that children in such situations have lower achievement levels at school than children living in stable, long-term accommodation (London's Poverty Profile, 2013).

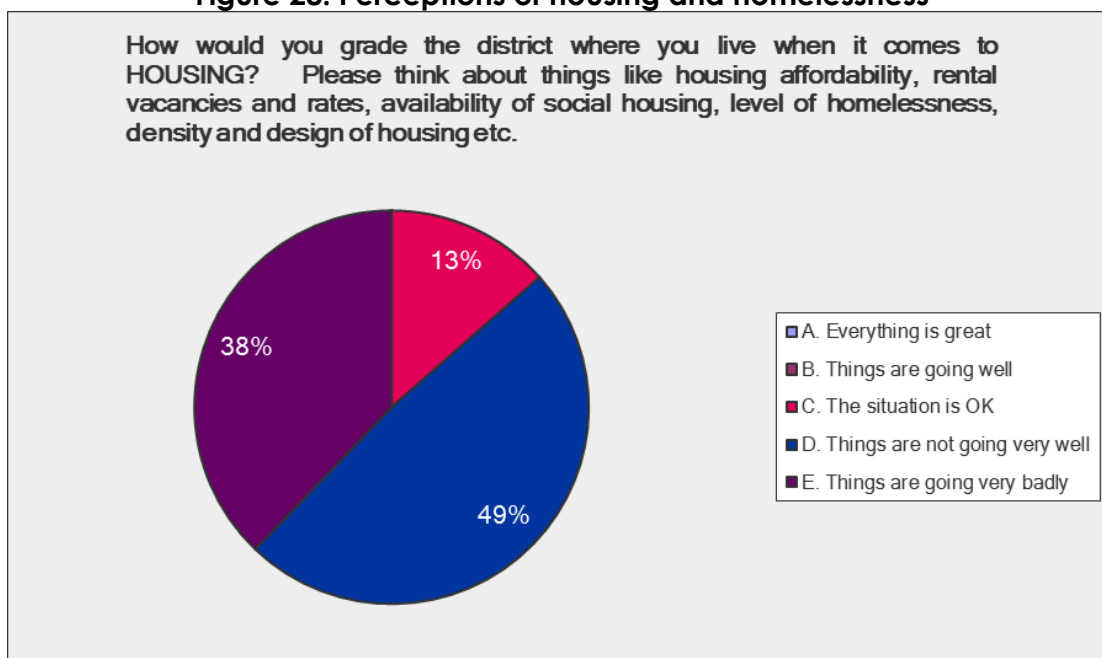
In thinking to the future in terms of addressing the housing crisis, there are indications that high-rise and high-density private housing developments are being seen as the way forward, at least by the current Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. In his London Plan, the Isle of Dogs was been identified as an 'opportunity area' where new housing and other commercial activities can be developed (GLA, 2011). An example of this is the proposed 75 storey City Pride Tower residential block in Westferry Road comprising 864 homes. While 35% of these homes would be affordable housing, there are questions around whether there will be educational, health and other services in the area that could sustain such a large development.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: housing and homelessness

Overall results

With regards to housing and homelessness, almost half of people thought that “things are not going very well” followed by 38 per cent who that “things are going very badly”, reflecting a real concern about this issue.

Figure 28: Perceptions of housing and homelessness



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n= 37)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 21 comments from this section of the community consultation.

It looks like we are moving towards a Parisian model of a ring donut of poverty and poor urban housing. Investigate ways to preserve what little London has of socioeconomic mix.

I feel that the level of density of new housing is excessive and fewer tower blocks should be built. More low rise affordable housing should be built for local people who have lived in the borough all their lives and are now forced out by high rents and lack of social housing.

It's London, it's obvious - housing for local people to rent or buy is stratospheric; there's no legislation to manage this; prices for rent or buying are obscene.

Thinking ahead

- What can be done to help make home ownership and private rental more affordable?
- How can the numbers of people in situations of homelessness and temporary accommodation be reduced?

References and Resources

[Crisis: the national charity for single homeless people](#)

[GLA, 2011. The London Plan.](#)

[Hackney Council, 2013. Impact of the welfare and benefit reforms scrutiny review.](#)

[New Policy Institute and Trust for London, 2013. London's Poverty Profile 2013.](#)

[Shelter: the housing and homelessness charity](#)

[Stonewall Housing: safe spaces for LGBT people](#)

[Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission, 2013. Time to Act.](#)

Arts, Heritage, and Culture

Here arts, heritage and culture in the East End are assessed. We examine the availability of local amenities (such as libraries, cinemas, theatres, events centres), consider the number of people employed in creative industries, and discuss other indicators such as heritage sites and listed buildings.

The East End has an excellent rating for arts, heritage and culture, well above the national average and is a dynamic and exciting place to live in relation to cultural opportunities.

Grade Score: A

A grade score of A (92/100), based on the three Vital Signs arts, heritage and culture indicators, places the East End in the top 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Local amenities	A
Cultural amenities	A
Employment in creative industries	A

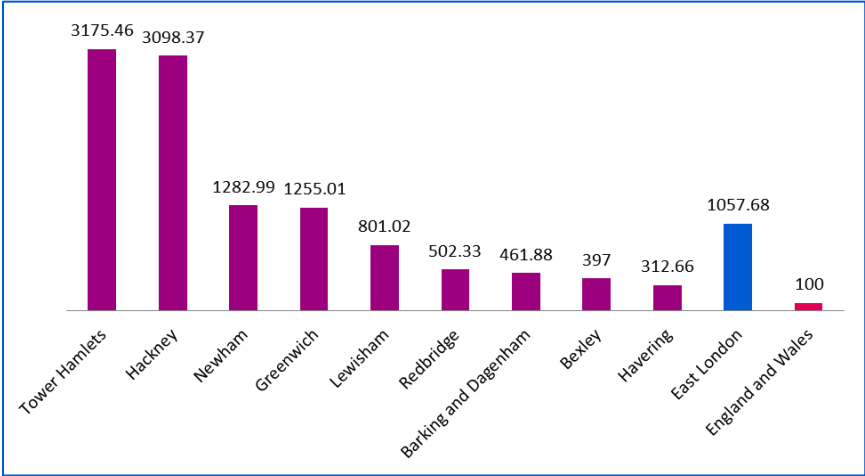
Key Points

The overall **local amenities score for the East End is exceptionally high**, a reflection of the rich heritage of the area and modern 'legacy generating' investment made for the Olympics. It scores 1057.68 (with the England and Wales average indexed at 100). Of the East End boroughs we are particularly concerned with, Tower Hamlets and Hackney score particularly highly and are within the top 10 boroughs in London on this ranking. Newham comes slightly behind but still in the top half of London boroughs. This score takes into account the availability of cultural amenities (sports arenas, theme parks, zoos, major event venues, Visit England attractions, Michelin-starred restaurants, performing arts venues, and cathedrals), the number of national heritage sites, the amount of retail floor space, and employment in amenities provision.

There is also **above-average employment in the creative industries in the East End**, although this is measured by workplace and so does not necessarily reflect employment of East End residents. In Great Britain on average, 2.98 per cent of the population is employed in the creative industries. 3.3 per cent of people working in

the East End are employed in the creative industries, and in Hackney this figure is as high as 9.9 per cent, putting it in the top 10 of local authorities nationally on this measure.

Figure 29: Local amenities by borough



Source: Local Futures derived from the ONS, 2013

In relation to listed buildings and heritage sites, Tower Hamlets rates particularly highly. There are 500 heritage sites per 1000 square kilometres in Tower Hamlets, and a wealth of museums including the Museum of London Docklands, and the Ragged School Museum (Tower Hamlets, Museums and Heritage, 2014). Hackney also has a considerable number of heritage sites, including the Hackney Empire theatre, the Geffrye Museum, and many listed buildings, including many industrial heritage sites (Hackney Council, History and Heritage, 2014). Newham does not do so well on this indicator. The provision of art and cultural centres is also very good as evidenced by the Whitechapel Art Gallery and Richmix Cultural Foundation, among many others.

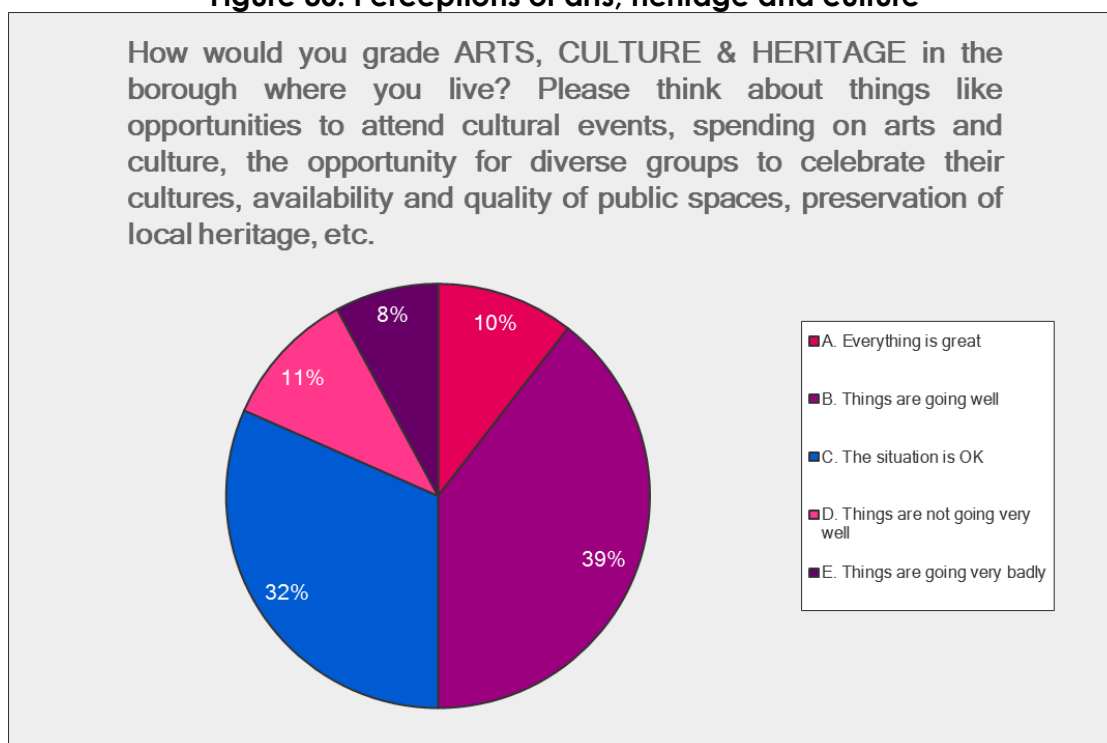
Likewise with reference to libraries, Tower Hamlets and Hackney do better than Newham. There are 4.62 libraries per square kilometre in Hackney, 3.73 in Hackney, but only 1.9 in Newham. Nonetheless, this is well over the English average of 0.24. In relation to retail floor space (the percentage of all commercial and industrial floorspace used for retail) Newham has the most at 34.61 per cent, quite possibly because of Westfield Stratford City Shopping Centre, the largest urban shopping centre in Europe, which Newham Mayor Sir Robin Wales credits with being an important and lasting Olympic legacy in Newham and as having had a significant impact on residents' lives and the local economy (Westfield Stratford City, Newham's Lasting Legacy, 2011; see also the section on [Work](#)). Hackney follows Newham in terms of retail floor space with 24.61 per cent, and Tower Hamlets comes in last with 12.15 per cent.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Art, Heritage and Culture

Overall results

Regarding Arts, Culture, and Heritage, ratings were fairly positive with 39 per cent of people stating that “things are going well” followed by 32 per cent who thought that “the situation is OK”

Figure 30: Perceptions of arts, heritage and culture



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=37)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 11 comments from this section of the community consultation.

Newham Council do quite well in this area, with plenty of cultural opportunities around the Central Park area where I live, and also Stratford.

Hackney is a very creative place and is very dynamic.

I think there are ample arts, cultural & heritage opportunities in Tower Hamlets.

Thinking ahead

- How can we ensure that the excellent arts, culture and heritage opportunities on offer in the East End are maintained and that there is equal access for all to such opportunities?

References and Resources

[Hackney Libraries](#)

[Newham Libraries](#)

[Newham London, 2011. Westfield Stratford City, Newham's Lasting Legacy.](#)

[Tower Hamlets Libraries](#)

[Tower Hamlets Museums and Heritage](#)

Communities and People

Strong Communities

This theme examines the strength of communities in the East End. We focus on the sense of individual wellbeing within the community, but indicators such as the strength of voluntary and community organisations and voter turnout at local elections are also examined.

In relation to overall wellbeing, the East End fares poorly. However, there are strong networks of community and voluntary organisations.

Grade Score: E

A grade score of E (6/100), based on the Vital Signs strong communities indicator, places the East End in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Wellbeing

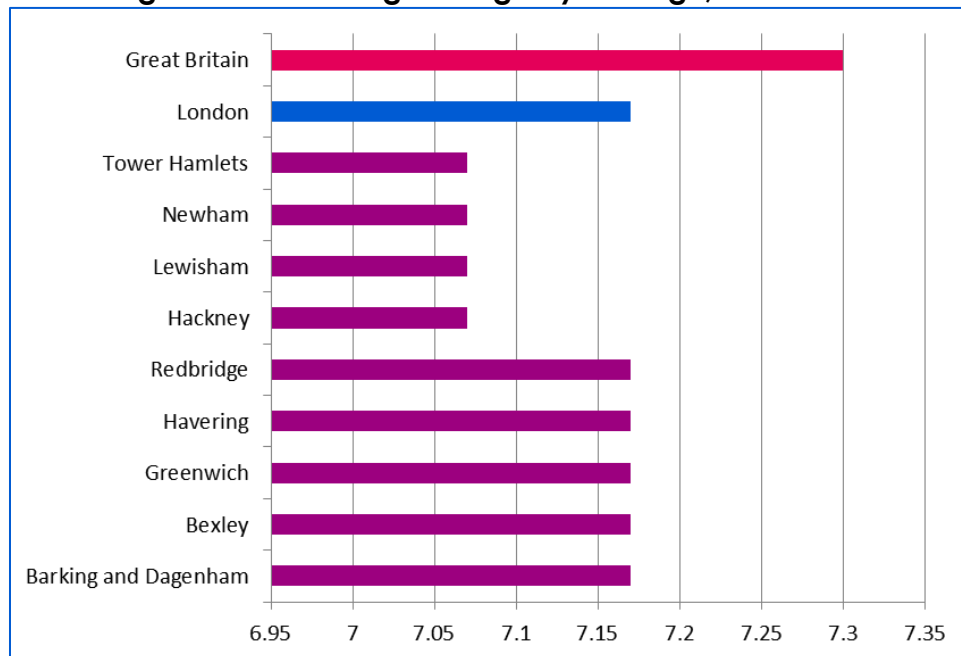
E

Key Points

Wellbeing has been measured using results from a national survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics which surveyed 320,000 people, with a representative sample in every UK County and Unitary Authority. The Great Britain average from this survey was 7.3 and the London average was below this at 7.13. The range was between 7 and 7.96 across Great Britain. Hackney, Newham, and Tower Hamlets all had wellbeing averages of 7.07, putting them equally at 358 out of 377 districts – **a very low wellbeing ranking**.

Nonetheless, there is evidence that, with regards to other indications of the strength of the community, the East End is not doing so badly. The Councils for Voluntary Services and Voluntary Sector Consortium for the boroughs discussed here indicate that there are **a wide range of community, voluntary, and faith organisations** that are supported (Hackney CVS, 2014; Tower Hamlets CVS, 2014; Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium, 2014). The forums and networks hosted by the Tower Hamlets CVS, for instance, cover topics ranging from Children and Youth to Mental Health to Migrants and Refugees to Financial Inclusion in Tower Hamlets (Tower Hamlets CVS, 2014).

Figure 31: Wellbeing average by borough, 2011-2012

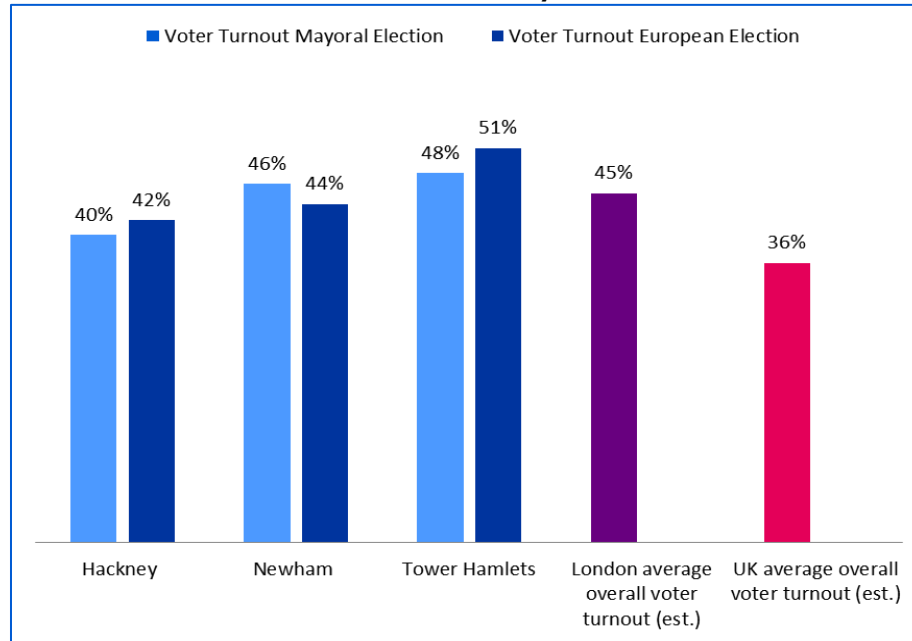


Source: Local Futures derived from Office for National Statistics, 2012

Likewise, the Hackney CVS supports numerous organisations working in different areas – in 2010 they were providing funding for 22 projects. They have also recently run the Community Insight project, collating data to gain different perspectives about Hackney and priorities for the future (Hackney CVS, 2014). Less information is available regarding the new Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium, but it would seem that similarly voluntary, community, and faith groups are thriving.

There is also some evidence that the **communities of the East End are more politically engaged than other areas of the UK**. In the most recent local, direct mayoral and European parliament elections of May 2014, voter turnout was higher in Hackney, Newham, and Tower Hamlets than in some other boroughs, similar to the London overall voter turnout average of approximately 45 per cent, and higher than the UK overall voter turnout average of around 36 per cent.

Figure 32: Voter turnout by borough for mayoral and European Parliament elections, 22 May 2014



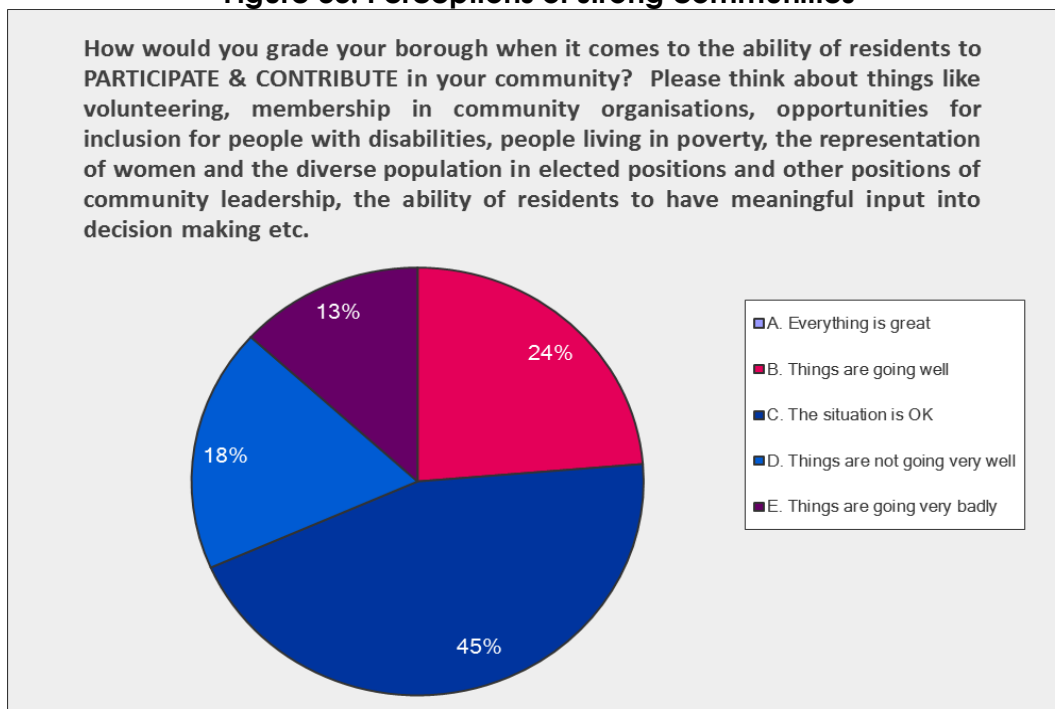
Sources: Hackney Council, 2014; Newham Council, 2014; Tower Hamlets Council, 2014; London Evening Standard, 2014; The Independent, 2014.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Communities and People

Overall results

With regards to the strength of their communities, reactions were fairly positive. The majority of people (45 per cent) thought that “*The situation is OK*” followed by 24 per cent who thought that “*Things are going well*”.

Figure 33: Perceptions of strong communities



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=38)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 13 comments from this section of the community consultation.

I think there are lots of community centres in Tower Hamlets for local residents and lots of opportunities to get involved.

Most groups are created, supported and run by local volunteers not necessarily lead or created by the borough.

This is about more access to wider opportunities but not making those who provide them do this for no or low income.

Thinking ahead

- How could general individual wellbeing be improved in the East End to bring it up to the national average?
- How can the dynamic and rich network of community and voluntary organisations be maintained in the face of funding cuts?
- How can East End residents be encouraged to continue to be politically engaged?

References and Resources

[Hackney Council, 2014. How Hackney Voted.](#)

[Hackney Council of Voluntary Services](#)

[London Evening Standard, 2014. How did your borough vote?](#)

[Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium](#)

[Newham Council, 2014. Election Results.](#)

[The Independent, 2014. Why local election results prove everyone should be forced to vote.](#)

[Tower Hamlets Council of Voluntary Services](#)

[Tower Hamlets Council, 2014. Count of elections vote.](#)

Safety

Safety here refers particularly to crime levels. We examine current crime levels and also look at change in crime levels over the past decade.

East London scores very poorly in relation to crime, although it is comparable with the London average.

Grade Score: E

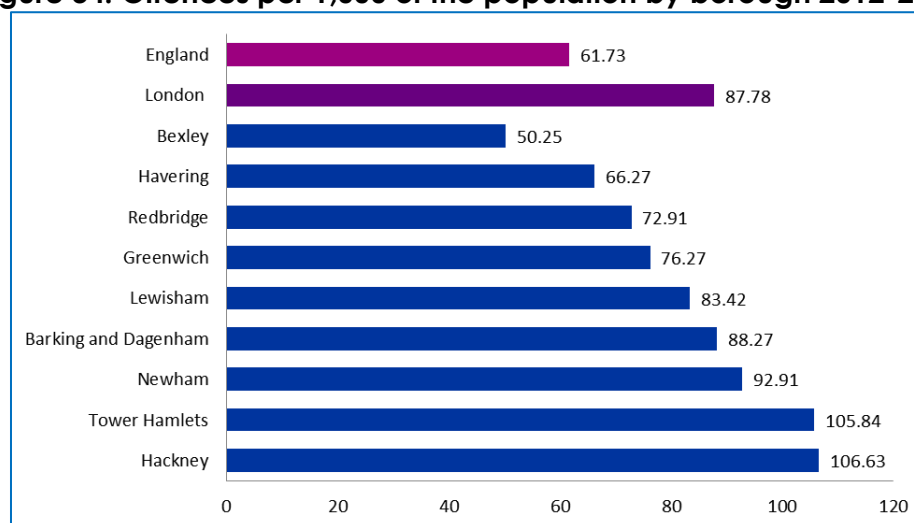
A grade score of E (4/100), based on the two Vital Signs safety indicators, places the East End in the bottom 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Total offences	E
Crime score	E

Key Points

In terms of safety, the East End compares poorly to England, but slightly better than London on average. There is a **high level of crime in the East End**, with 85.03 offences committed per 1,000 people in the period 2012-2013. This compares with an England average of 61.73 and a London average of 87.78. Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham are all well above even the London average and have the highest level of crime per borough in the East End. In Hackney there were 106.63 offences per 1,000 people in the period 2012-2013. In Tower Hamlets this figure stands at 105.84, and in Newham it is 92.91.

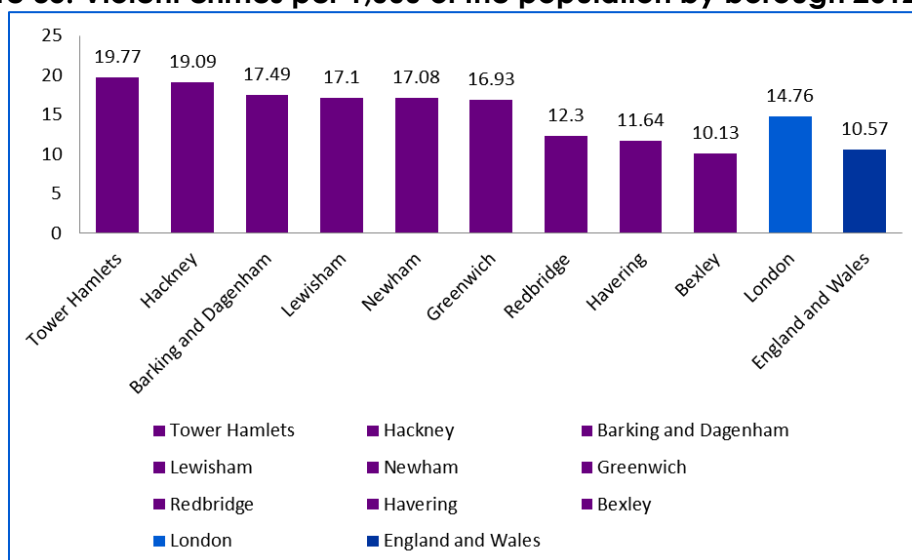
Figure 34: Offences per 1,000 of the population by borough 2012-2013



Source: Local Futures derived from the Home Office

The **high number of violent crimes is of particular concern**. On this measure, East London scores worse than London as a whole, and significantly worse than England and Wales on average. The England and Wales average for violent crime offences per 1,000 of the population is 10.57. By comparison, the London average is 14.76, and the East London average is 15.95. Tower Hamlets has an average of 19.77 violent crime offences per 1,000 of the population, ranking it fifth worst of all local authorities. This is followed by Hackney with an average of 19.09 and Newham with an average of 17.08. Looking at this from a diversity and fairness perspective, it seems that violent crime disproportionately affects youth and ethnic minorities, especially young black men (Abbott, 2014).

Figure 35: Violent crimes per 1,000 of the population by borough 2012-2013



Source: Local Futures derived from the Home Office

East London also has a **higher rate of burglaries than London on average** with 7.06 offences per 1,000 of the population compared with the London average of 6.97, and the national average of 3.93. Nonetheless, on this measure Hackney, Tower Hamlets, and Newham were all below the London average with 6.07, 5.83 and 6.52 offences per 1,000 of the population respectively.

On a more positive note, in line with national trends there has been **an overall reduction in crime rates in the East End in the past decade**, and in the case of some boroughs it has been significant (One Place, 2013). Crime rate change is measured in terms of total percentage change in all offences (all types of theft, burglary, robbery, criminal damage and arson, drug offences, sexual offences, frauds, weapons offences, public order offences and violent offences) over the

past decade. Overall, East London has seen a 39.1 per cent reduction in crime levels since 2002/2003, which compares with a national reduction of 44.6 per cent and a London reduction of 40.1 per cent. Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham have all experienced reductions above the East London and London averages over the past decade.

Indeed, Tower Hamlets has worked hard on crime reduction in recent years and in general this seems to be having a significant positive impact. Of concern, however, and in relation to diversity, is the fact that hate crimes, and particularly homophobic crimes, remain high and higher than in other boroughs nearby (One Place, 2013). In Newham, whilst there has been a reduction in crime in the past ten years, recent crime rates have increased again, particularly in relation to knife and gun crimes (Aston Mansfield, 2012). Clearly this needs to be addressed. Hackney has also focused concerted and effectively on crime reduction; however there is currently concern that cuts to funding may undo this work as the police presence on the streets has been forced to decrease (Hackney Crime and Safety, 2014).

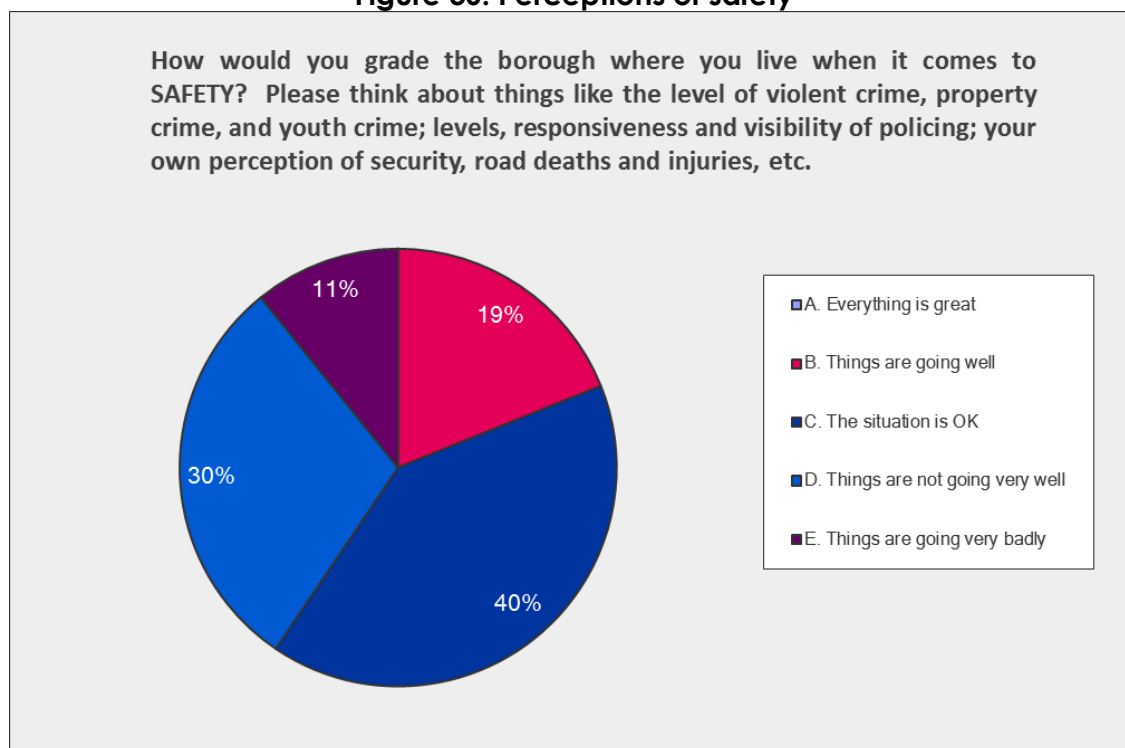
There is also evidence that the relationship between police and community in Hackney has been, and potentially still is, strained. The August 2011 riots affected Hackney dramatically, but did not have a direct impact on Tower Hamlets and Newham. An extensive study of the causes of the riots carried out by The Guardian and the London School of Economics suggest that in Hackney more than in other boroughs the riots were fuelled by anger at the police, particularly over the use of stop-and-search, which has been perceived as racist by some Hackney residents. Nonetheless, other causes also seemed to be present, as evidenced by the Ipsos-Mori report commissioned by Hackney CVS which indicated that further factors included inequality, rising rent, unemployment, funding cuts and a sense that the government was not listening to the community (Guardian-LSE, 2014; Smith and Weekes, 2012; Hackney Disturbances, 2014). It is to be hoped that this research that has been carried out regarding the riots will go some way to help ensure that the underlying causes are addressed so that such disturbances do not occur again.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Safety

Overall results

Results were mixed in terms of opinions on safety, but not wholly negative. 40 per cent of people thought that “*The situation is OK*” followed by 30 per cent who thought that “*Things are not going very well*”.

Figure 36: Perceptions of safety



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014 (n=37)

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 11 comments from this section of the community consultation.

I feel fairly safe in the borough, however I do think that more visibility of policing would be a good thing.

Although Newham is a low income area, the level of street crime appears to be lower than other areas.

Not enough police presence on the street when it matters i.e. at night. There are still many drug dealers around this area.

Thinking ahead

- What needs to be done to continue to reduce crime, and particularly violent crime, in the East End?
- What could be done to better engage youth in the East End to prevent youth involvement in crime?

References and Resources

[Abbott, Diane, 2013. Fighting gun and knife crime in Hackney.](#)

[Aston Mansfield, 2012.](#)

[Hackney Crime and Safety, 2014.](#)

[Hackney Disturbances, 2014. Hackney CVS-Ipsos Mori.](#)

[Home Office, 2014.](#)

[One Place, 2013. Tower Hamlet's Local Priorities.](#)

[Guardian-LSE, 2014. Reading the riots.](#)

[Smith, J. and Weekes, L., 2012. Look back in anger - Why the Hackney riots last summer? Hackney Citizen.](#)

Healthy Living

In the final theme of the report, we examine healthy living in the East End. We look at adult and child health outcomes and in particular life expectancy, adult obesity, cancer mortality, circulatory disease mortality, infant mortality, and child obesity amongst other indicators. As with previous themes, we take into consideration diversity and fairness.

Nationally there have been improvements in many aspects of health over the past few decades, however health inequalities certainly still exist. The East End is slightly below the national average on health indicators, but does not score too badly.

Grade Score: C

A grade score of C (41/100), based on the Vital Signs healthy living indicators, places the East End in the middle 20% of sub-regions nationally.

Health score	D
Life expectancy	D
Obesity	B

Key Points

Considering the East End's levels of deprivation, which are proven to have a significant impact on health outcomes (Bushe, 2013; Public Health England, 2013), the area is doing relatively well overall in relation to healthy living. Nevertheless, it does fare worse than London and England overall with regards to various health indicators. **Life expectancy is slightly below the national average** across the East End, but has increased in the past two years (Convergence Annual Report, 2013), with an average of 80.48 years for East London compared to an average of 81.77 years for London overall and 81.05 years for England and Wales. Life expectancy in Tower Hamlets is particularly low, however, with an average of 79.48 years. Moreover, life expectancy in Tower Hamlets varies by 12 years for males and 5.4 years for females between the richest and most deprived areas of the borough (Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013, p.6). This reflects national trends in relation to life expectancy and deprivation (Bushe, 2013). Ethnicity can also have an impact on health outcomes, and in general black and minority ethnic groups have poorer health outcomes in the UK than the white British population (Rull, 2011).

As may be expected given the lower life expectancy in the East End compared with the rest of the country, **the mortality rates from cancer and circulatory disease are higher in the East End than in London and England on average.** The average mortality rate from cancer for adults under 75 in the three boroughs is 121.98 deaths per 100,000 of the population. This compares with a London average of 108.4 deaths per 100,000 of the population and an England average of 111.47 deaths per 100,000 of the population. In terms of circulatory disease deaths, the average for the three boroughs for those under 75 is similarly high in comparison with the London and England averages. Hackney, Tower Hamlets, and Newham have a combined average of 106.6 deaths per 100,000 of the population in comparison with an average of 73.82 deaths in London and 68.98 in England.

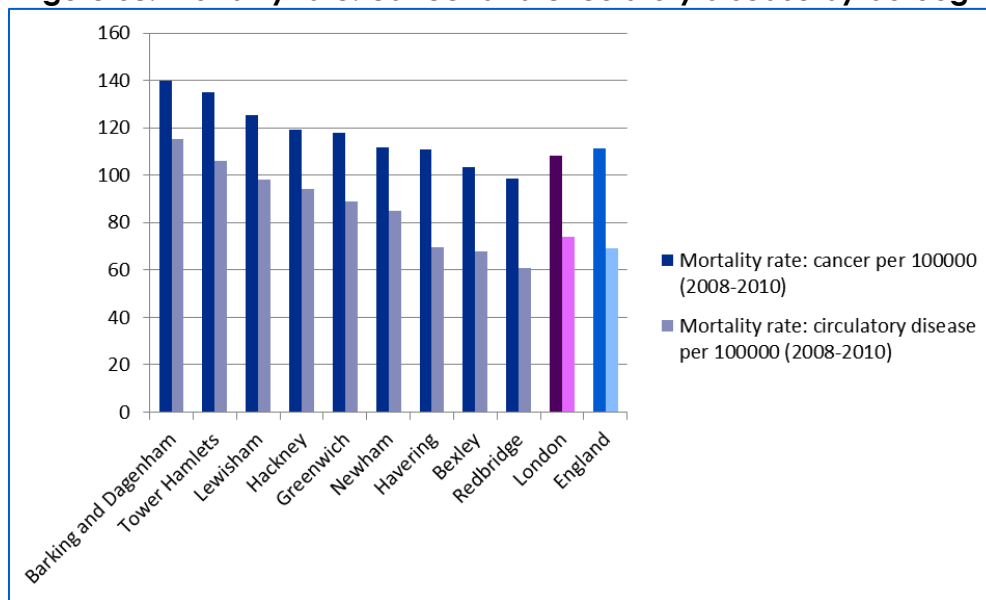
Again regarding adult health, **the East End is slightly below the national average regarding adult obesity**, but above the London average. Overall, 23.96 per cent of the adult population of the East End is estimated to be obese, compared to a London average of 20.7 per cent and an England average of 24.2 per cent. With regards to obesity and healthy living, only around 9.5 per cent of the population of the three boroughs participated in moderate intensity activity on 20 days within a four week period for the years 2009-2011. This compares with a London average of 9.9 per cent and an England average of 11.2 per cent (Public Health, 2014a).

Figure 37: Average life expectancy (years) by borough, 2010-2012



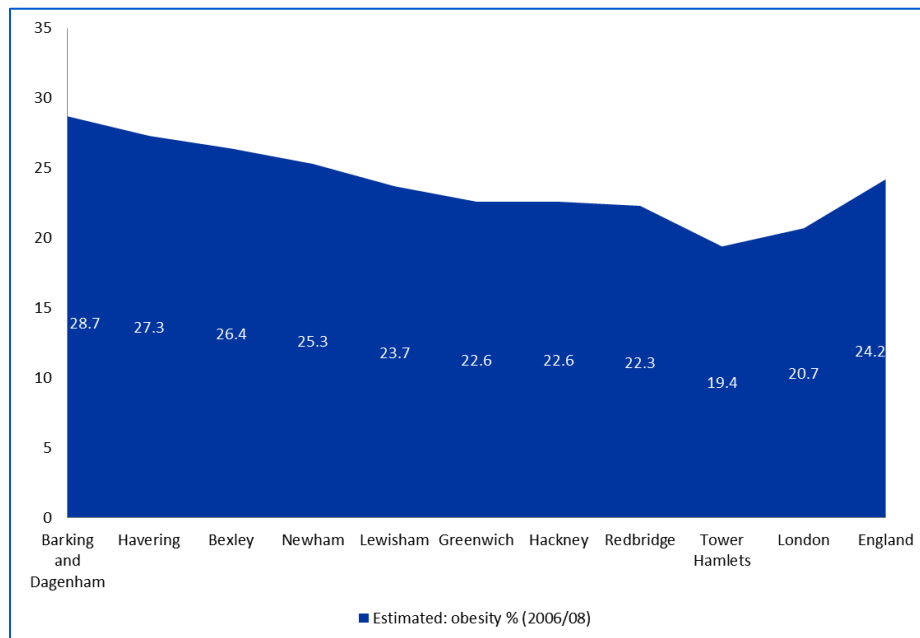
Source: Local Futures derived from ONS

Figure 38: Mortality rate: cancer and circulatory disease by borough



Source: Local Futures derived from ONS

Figure 39: Estimated obesity as a percentage of adult population by borough

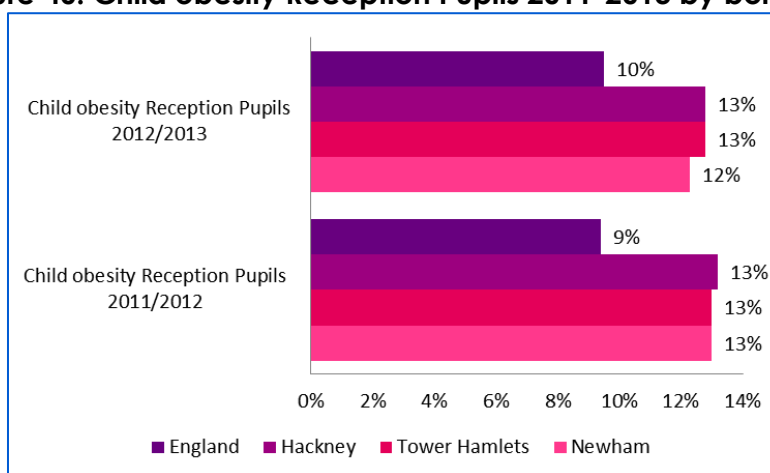


Source: Local Futures derived from ONS

Turning to children's health, again the East End is around average in relation to some indicators and slightly below average on others. In the UK, the infant mortality rate (deaths of children under one by 1,000 live births) has continued to fall and is now at a record low (Child Mortality Statistics, 2013). However, the child mortality rate in the UK (deaths of under-fives) compares poorly with that of other Western European countries (BBC, 2014). In the East End, **the infant mortality rate of 4.56 deaths per 1,000 live births is very slightly higher than the average for London and for England** – 4.4 and 4.5 respectively. There is a link between low birth weight (under 2,500 grams/5.5 pounds) and infant mortality, and between low birth weight and deprivation (Child Mortality Statistics, 2013). In Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham, more babies are born with low birth weight than in London or England on average (Public Health England, 2012) – in Tower Hamlets, for example, 9 per cent of babies are born with low birth weight compared with 7.5 per cent across London as a whole (Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013, p.6).

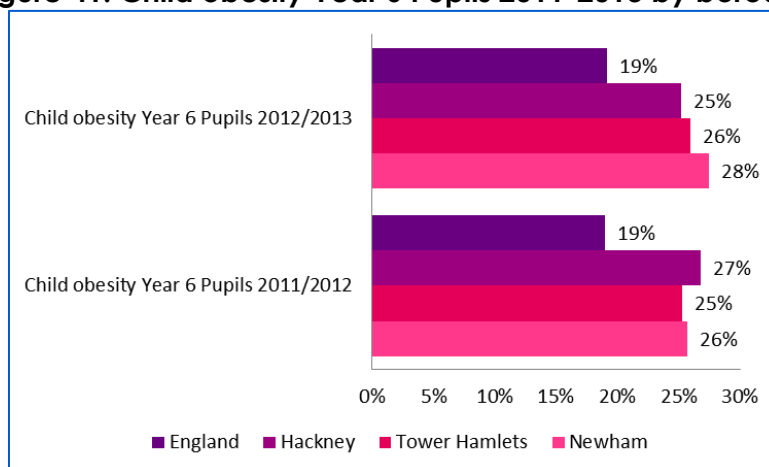
On a more positive note, the three boroughs have **a high breastfeeding initiation rate** – an average of 88.5 per cent across the boroughs compared with an England average of 74 per cent (Public Health, 2014b). Breastfeeding and positive health outcomes in children have been linked, and breastfeeding is shown to decrease child obesity rates. Nonetheless, **the three boroughs score rather poorly in relation to child obesity** – which has also been correlated with deprivation and also has a higher prevalence amongst black and minority ethnic children (Public Health, 2014a). Child obesity in reception year pupils, has, however, decreased in the three boroughs as the graph below indicates, by contrast with England averages, which have risen.

Figure 40: Child obesity Reception Pupils 2011-2013 by borough



Source: Public Health England, 2014a

Figure 41: Child obesity Year 6 Pupils 2011-2013 by borough



Source: Public Health England, 2014a

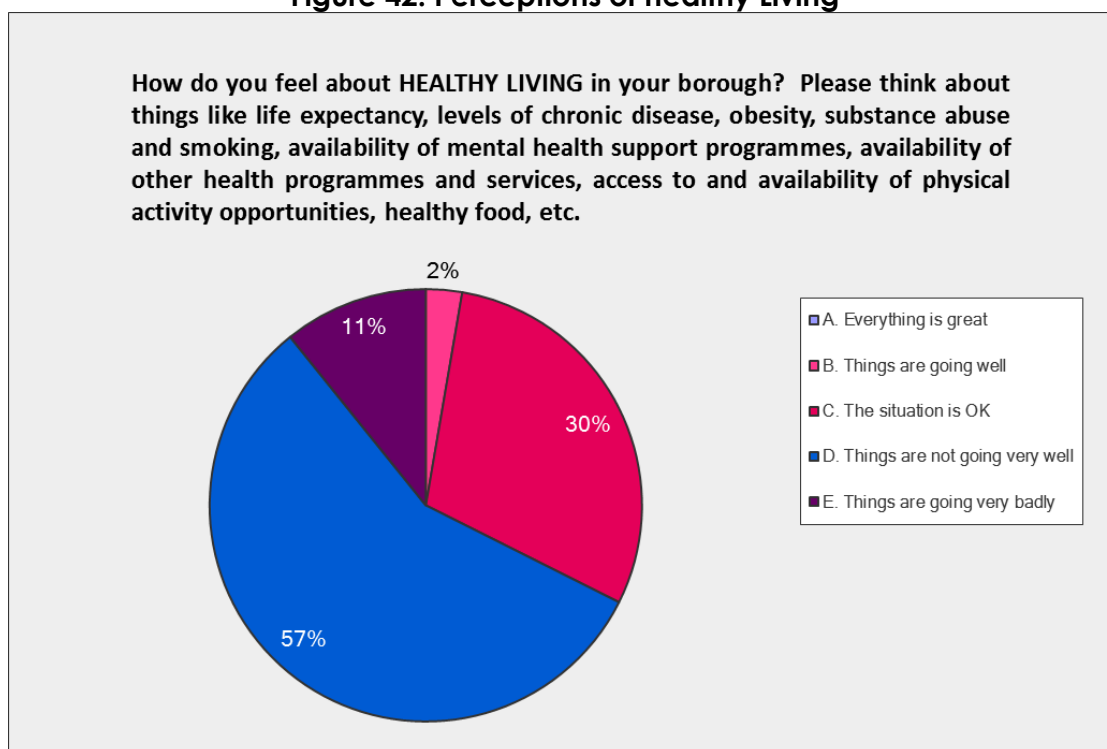
Finally, with regards to mental health, the results are mixed. The percentage of people reporting a serious mental illness (such as schizophrenia or bipolar affective disorder) in all three boroughs is 'significantly higher than the England average' according to data collated by the NHS from General Practices across England. The England value is 0.84, whereas in Hackney 1.31 per cent of the population have a serious mental illness. In Tower Hamlets this figure stands at 1.23 and in Newham it is 0.96. On all other mental health indicators (depression prevalence; depression incidence; depression and anxiety prevalence; long-term mental illness) Tower Hamlets and Newham are categorised as 'not significantly different from the England average' or 'lower than the England average'. Of concern, however, is that in Hackney depression and anxiety prevalence and long-term mental illness are both 'significantly higher than the England average' (Public Health England, 2014c). It is clear that in relation to both physical and mental health there are areas of concern in all boroughs, although progress has been in made in others.

Vital Signs Community Consultation: Healthy Living

Overall results

With respect to healthy living, more than half of people – 57 per cent – thought that “Things are not going very well”. 30 per cent thought that “The situation is OK”.

Figure 42: Perceptions of healthy Living



Source: Vital Signs community consultation, 2014

Number of participants = 37

Comments and Priorities for Action

These are representative of the 14 comments from this section of the community consultation.

Far too many junk food shops around - chicken and chips abound.

More needed for education on eating better and gaining the knowledge to shop and cook

I feel that services are available but that there is not enough for the number of people living in Tower Hamlets.

Thinking ahead

- What could be done to reduce obesity, and particularly child obesity, in the East End?
- What strategies can be employed to improve health outcomes for those in deprived areas and narrow the life expectancy gap between these and affluent areas and according to ethnicity?

References and Resources

[BBC, 2014. Under-fives death rate 'high in UK' major study shows.](#)

[Bushe, S. 2013. Deprivation, gender, and health inequalities in England. New Policy Institute.](#)

[Convergence Annual Report, 2012-2013.](#)

[Public Health England, 2014a. Child and maternal health intelligence network: Service Snapshot - Obesity \(Local Authority\).](#)

[Public Health England, 2014b. Child and Maternal Health Network: Low Birth weight all Babies 2012.](#)

[Public Health England, 2014c. Community Mental Health Profiles.](#)

[Rull, G., 2011. Ethnic Matters. Patient.co.uk](#)

[Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013. Health and wellbeing strategy 2013-2016: towards a healthier Tower Hamlets.](#)

Conclusion

This report has examined the eleven Vital Signs themes, addressing first the themes of *Fairness and Diversity*, and then using these as a lens through which to analyse the subsequent nine themes grouped into three sections. In relation to Fairness, findings indicate that the East End is unfortunately a fairly unequal area. Great wealth generated by the financial activity of some districts contrasts strongly with extensive deprivation and poverty in others. In terms of Diversity, the East End is a rich mix of many ethnicities and cultures.

Following the sections on **Fairness and Diversity**, we turned to explore Theme Group One: **Economy**. Here we discussed Local Economy, Work, and Learning. With regards to Local Economy, in spite of the economic downturn the East End is something of a success story and financial and business services are booming. Nonetheless, as we saw in the section on Work, this is not having the desired impact on local residents. In fact, unemployment – and particularly youth and long-term unemployment – is exceptionally high in the East End. This is despite significant improvements in education and qualification attainment, as discussed in the section on Learning. Hopefully these improvements in education will begin to bear fruit in the near future and help to see more people into successful employment.

Theme Group Two: **Environment and Place** extrapolated on the themes of Environment, Housing and Homelessness, and Arts, Culture and Heritage, again relating these to Fairness and Diversity. We found that, whilst the East End does not rate highly in relation to Vital Signs Environment indicators, improvements have been made in recent years. The recent re-opening of the Olympic Park in particular has contributed greatly to the local environment, and the project is aimed at promoting greater equality in the area through access to green spaces and leisure facilities; whether it succeeds with regards to this goal remains to be seen. Sadly, Housing and Homelessness is a significant issue in the East End. The cost of buying or renting privately has increased exponentially in many boroughs, deepening already existent inequalities. Moreover, there are high numbers of people in temporary accommodation as well as increasing numbers of people in situations of homelessness. It has been argued that this has been compounded by current welfare reforms. On a positive note regarding Environment, however, the East End does fare remarkably well in relation to Arts, Culture and Heritage, with a vast array of opportunities for residents.

The last section of the report was focused on Theme Group Three: **Communities and People**, which specifically addressed Strong Communities, Safety, and Healthy Living. Whilst individual wellbeing ratings were low, there is evidence that voluntary and community organisations in the East End are strong, although there is concern that these vital networks are being negatively affected by funding cuts. We also saw that crime rates have dropped markedly over the past decade in most of the East End, although violent crime rates remain high. Likewise health indicators are mixed, with improvements in some aspects but negative results, such as obesity in others.

Overall, the picture of the East End is mixed with some indicators identifying urgent issues to be addressed but with others showing that the area is leading the way nationally. Perhaps of greatest importance to highlight are the inequalities which are apparent in relation to outcomes for all of the themes. It is to be hoped that the next few years will see a focus of attention and resources on these inequalities so that they can be overcome, making the East End a fairer place to live.

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