



# Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure for London

Public consultation findings

August 2022

# Overview

- The GLA launched a public consultation of the draft Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure for London.
- The consultation ran on [Talk London](#), City Hall's online community, from 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- Londoners were shown a visual of the draft Measure setting out the domains and individual measures. They then had the opportunity to complete an online survey, where they were asked to rank the individual measures for each domain and provide comments, as well as take part in an online discussion thread.
- In total, 852 Londoners completed the survey and there were 113 comments in the online discussion.
- This report summarises findings from the consultation.

## TALK London

Join Log in 

[Home](#) [About](#) [Why join?](#) [How it works](#) [Topics](#) [Recovery from COVID-19](#)

### Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure for London

● Stage: Evidence gathering

Have your say on the draft Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure for London.

Communities



**Background** | [Discussions \(1\)](#) | [Surveys \(1\)](#)

### The challenge

The Mayor of London committed to developing a Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure in his **2021 Manifesto**. This is to help measure London's success as a place to live and work for all its residents. It will counteract the fact that for years, London's success has been mostly measured in terms of its material wealth.

Research shows that how we are doing is affected by many different things, for example, employment, education, health, environment, and our communities.

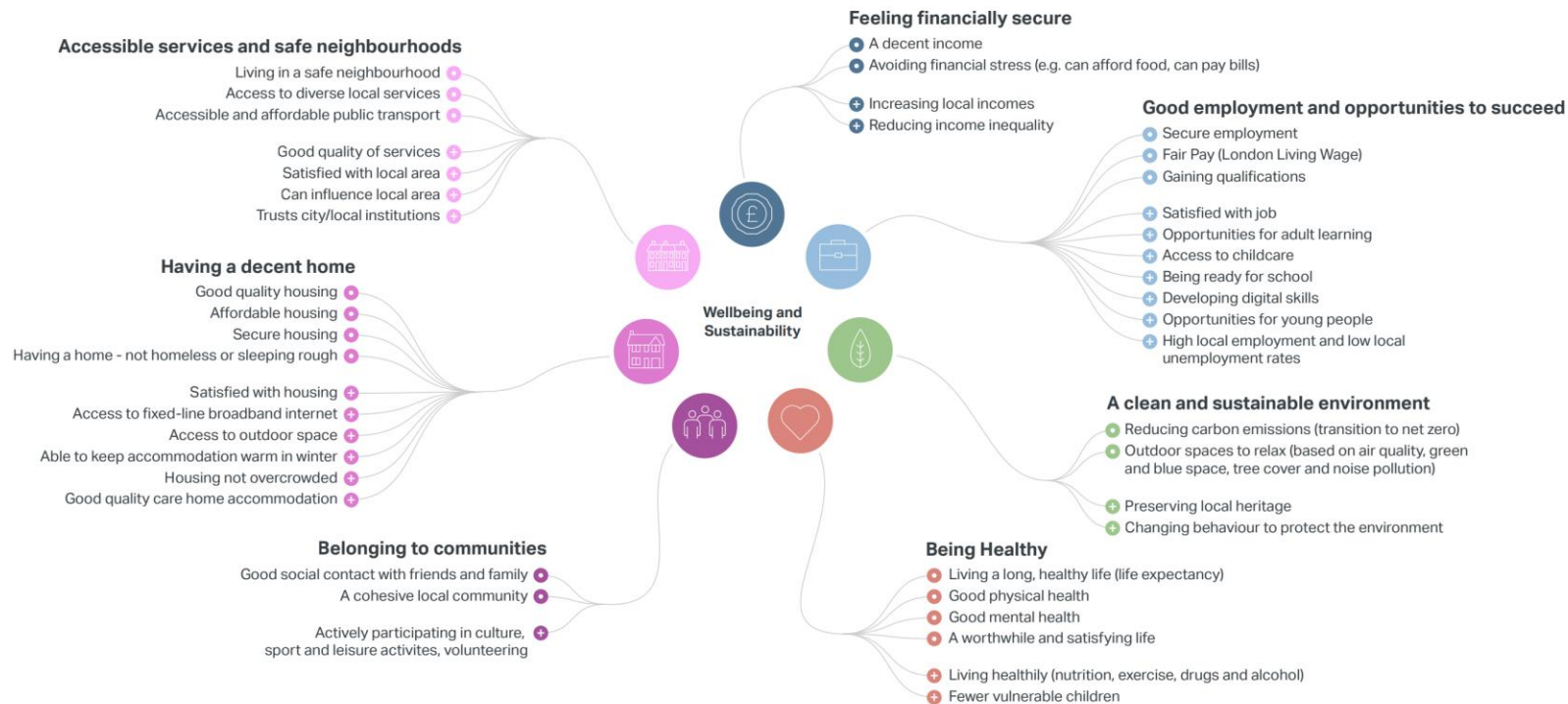
City Hall's City Intelligence team is developing this Measure of Wellbeing and Sustainability. It will bring together data on the multiple aspects of our lives that underline wellbeing. This is so that we can track which aspects of our lives are getting better over time and tackle any which are getting worse.

# The draft Measure

## LONDON'S WELLBEING AND SUSTAINABILITY MEASURE



- **Core measures of wellbeing** - that are essential to ensuring a basic quality of life
- ⊕ **Strengthening measures** - factors which strengthen wellbeing once the core measures are in place



Graphic by GLA City Intelligence

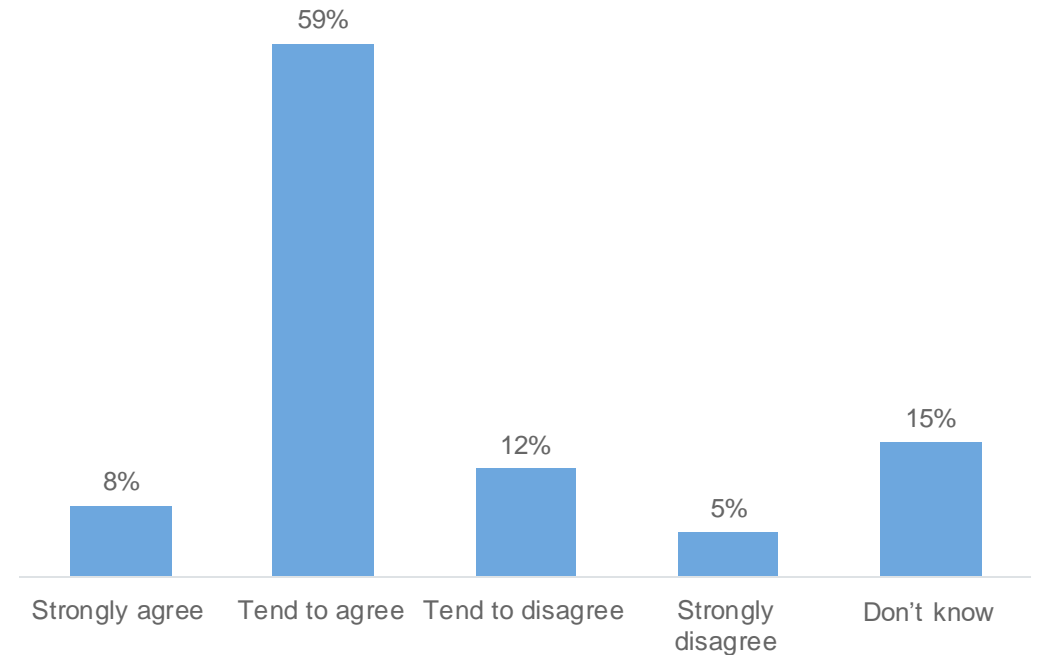
CITY INTELLIGENCE

CITY INTELLIGENCE

# General comments on the Measure

- Overall, two third of Londoners who responded to the consultation (67%) broadly agree with the content of the draft Measure.
- Though some respondents to the survey and discussion thread were unsure what the purpose of the Measure is.
- Some also misunderstood it, seeing the domains more as a set of objectives for the Mayor / GLA rather than a way to measure London as a place to live. As such, throughout the survey, many respondents commented on their priorities and what the Mayor / GLA should do, rather than what should be measured in the Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure.

Extent to which Londoners agree the draft Measure reflects life in London



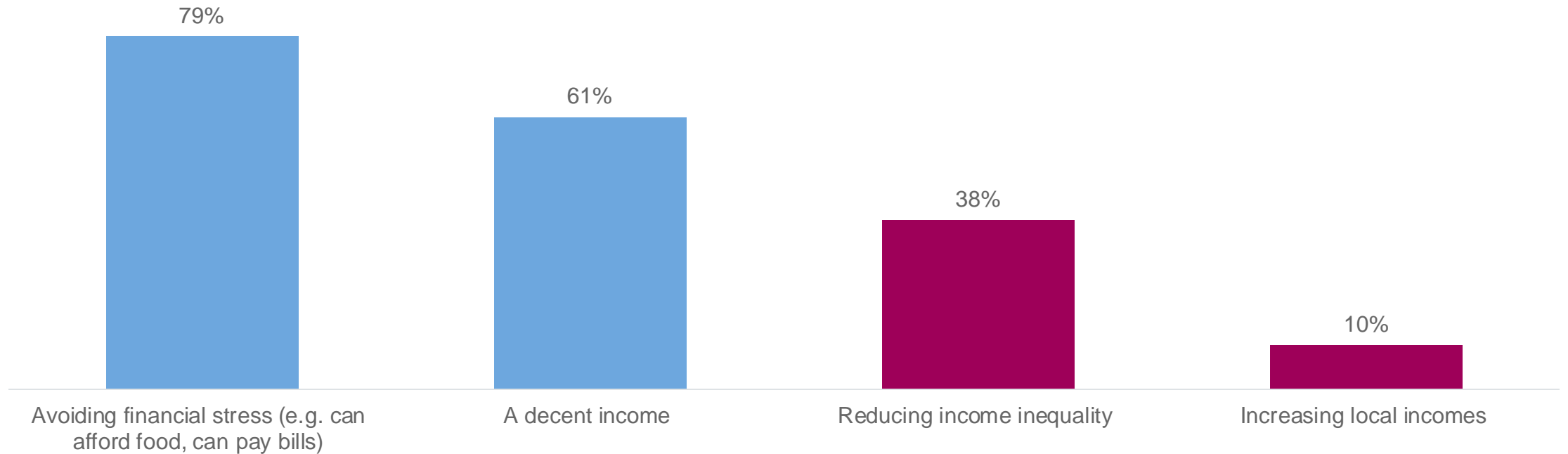


# Core vs strengthening

- Respondents were given a brief definition of core vs strengthening measures and asked if they had any comments on the separation. Among those who responded to this question, most thought core vs strengthening made sense to them.
- However, there were some questions and comments as to what measures should be core vs strengthening.
- For those who were against this separation, the main reasons were:
  - They simply did not think it made sense (but perhaps would have with more context or examples)
  - They found it overly complex and unnecessary
  - Some of the core and strengthening measures were felt to be too interlinked
  - To quote one respondent, “*everyone will have a different perspective on what is core and what is strengthening*”
  - They thought there would be greater weighting for the core measures and therefore didn't want some of the strengthening measures, which they deem to be important, to have little weighting
- Whilst many understood the definitions, some did not think ‘core’ and ‘strengthening’ were the best terms to use (especially the latter). Suggestions included:
  - **Core** – basic, essential, foundation, primary, minimum
  - **Strengthening** – supporting, additional, enhanced, secondary, improving
- Lastly, some did not think it was clear in the visual what were, or that there even were, core and strengthening measures.

# Feeling financially secure

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)





# Feeling financially secure

## What is missing?

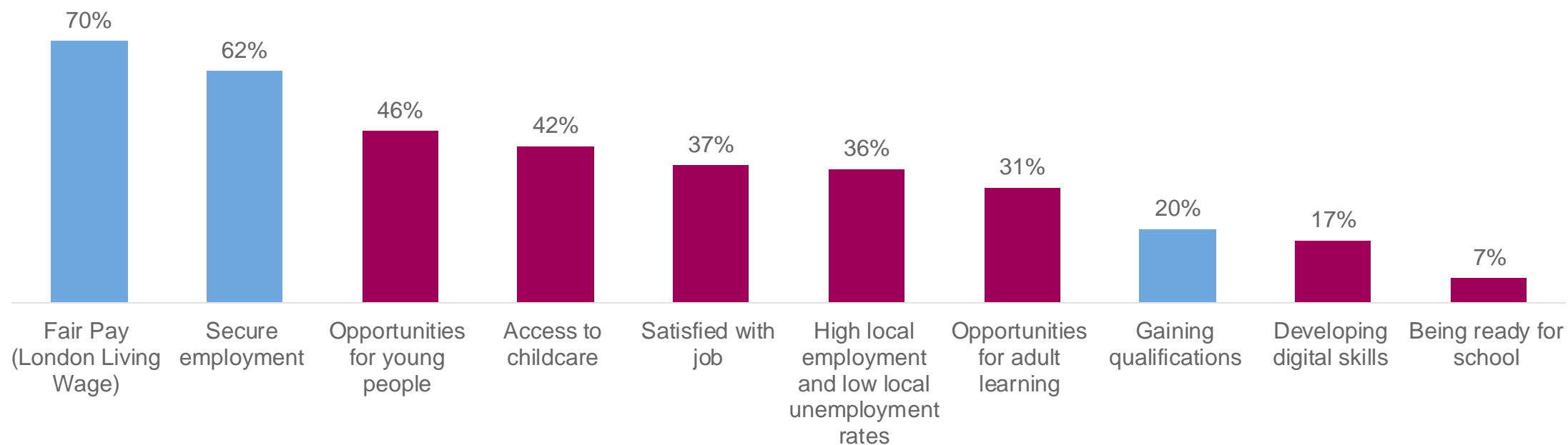
1. **Financial literacy / education / advice** – many Londoners highlighted the importance of managing finances and financial literacy, as well as provision of and access to financial advice e.g. to manage debt. Some mentioned specifically that this should be taught at school.
2. **Cost of living** – in addition to ‘avoiding financial stress’, some felt the Measure should include an objective measure of how affordable it is to live in London.

## Additional comments

- Some questioned what a ‘**decent income**’ is as well as ‘**local incomes**’.

# Good employment and opportunities to succeed

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)







# Good employment and opportunities to succeed

## What is missing?

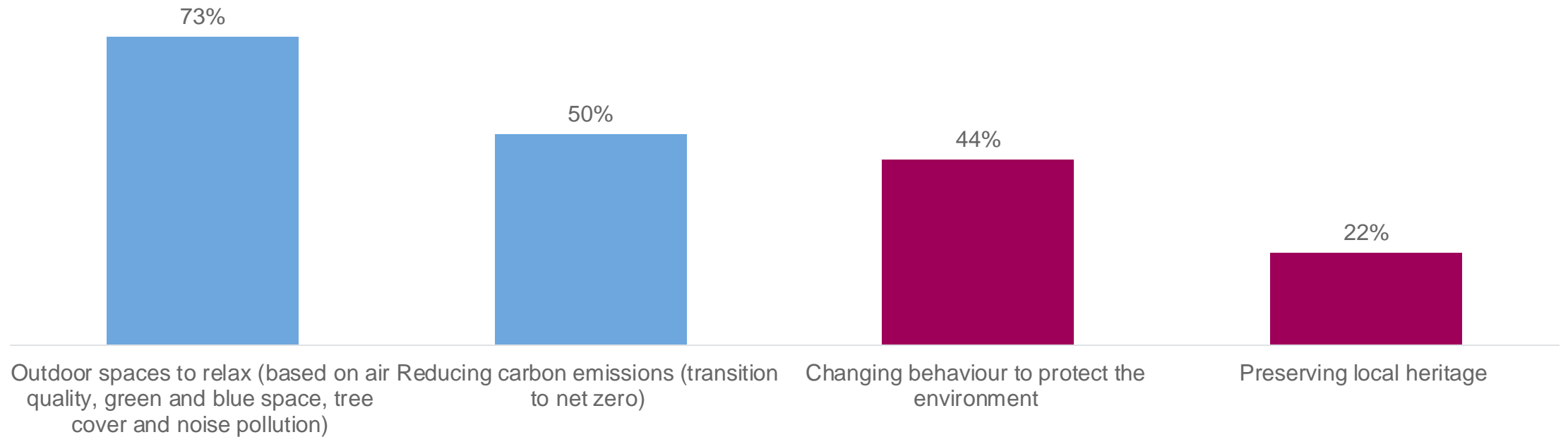
1. **Apprenticeships** – this is the main topic that appears to be missing, with Londoners commenting that there should be more apprenticeships available and greater uptake.

## Additional comments

- Some questioned what '**being ready for school**' means.
- Many commented on the affordability of childcare and some suggested '**access to childcare**' should instead be 'access to affordable childcare'.
- There was some disagreement as to what is considered '**fair pay**', with some saying the LLW is too low to be considered 'fair pay'. Some also saw fair pay as being in relation to income inequality and pay gaps between different groups of Londoners.
- There is a general sense that '**gaining qualifications**' shouldn't be a core measure – due to the association with going to university, which is not seen as essential.

# A clean and sustainable environment

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)





# A clean and sustainable environment

## What is missing?

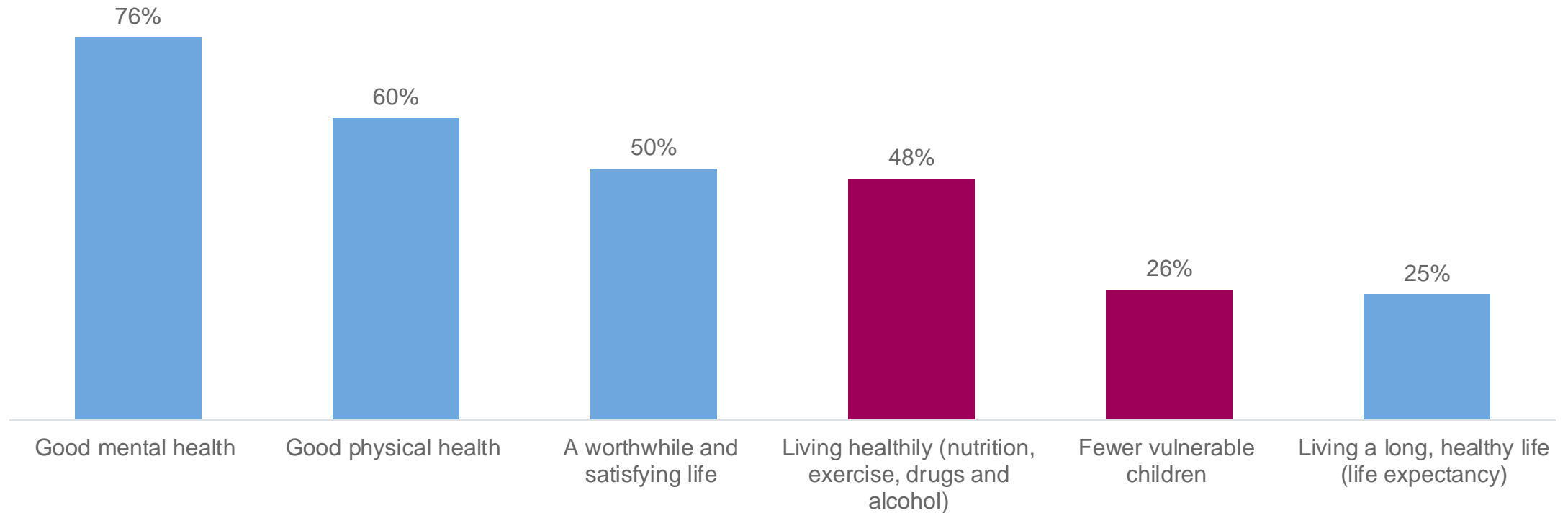
- **Traffic / vehicles on the road / trips by vehicle** – related to both behaviours and carbon emissions, and seen to be a key environmental issue.
- **Litter / rubbish** – especially considering the word ‘clean’ in the domain title.

## Additional comments

- Many of the comments referred to the points provided under ‘**outdoor spaces to relax**’ and some felt these should be pulled out into separate measures, specifically air quality.
- Some also made the comment that it’s not just about outdoor spaces to ‘**relax**’ e.g. there should be good air quality walking along a high street or when at home.
- ‘**Changing behaviour to protect the environment**’ and ‘**Reducing carbon emissions**’ are seen to be too interrelated, with the former leading to the latter.
- Some questioned the term ‘**blue space**’.
- Some questioned ‘**preserving local heritage**’ and whether that is related to a clean and sustainable environment or neighbourhoods e.g. statues and old buildings or mature trees and green spaces?

# Being healthy

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)





# Being healthy

## What is missing?

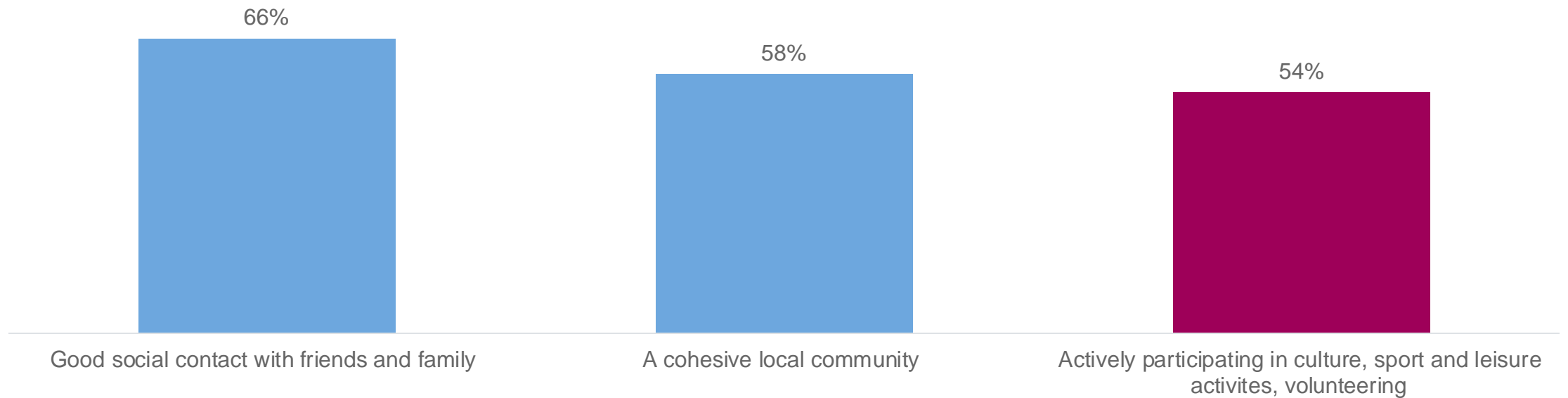
- **Access to healthcare** – this was mentioned by many, mostly in relation to GP services and mental health services but also hospital care and dental care.

## Additional comments

- Many saw this as being strongly linked to other domains, for example the impact of housing, employment, and finances, and environment (in particular, access to green space and air quality) on health.
- Some saw ‘**living healthy**’ ‘**good physical health**’, and ‘**health life**’ as being too similar, and that greater differentiation is needed.
- **Fewer vulnerable children** – some felt this was out of place and seemed more about poverty and inequality than health, plus it focuses on a specific group rather than the individual.
- **Life expectancy** – a few suggested this should focus on healthy life expectancy, rather than just life expectancy.

# Belonging to communities

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)





# Belonging to communities

## What is missing?

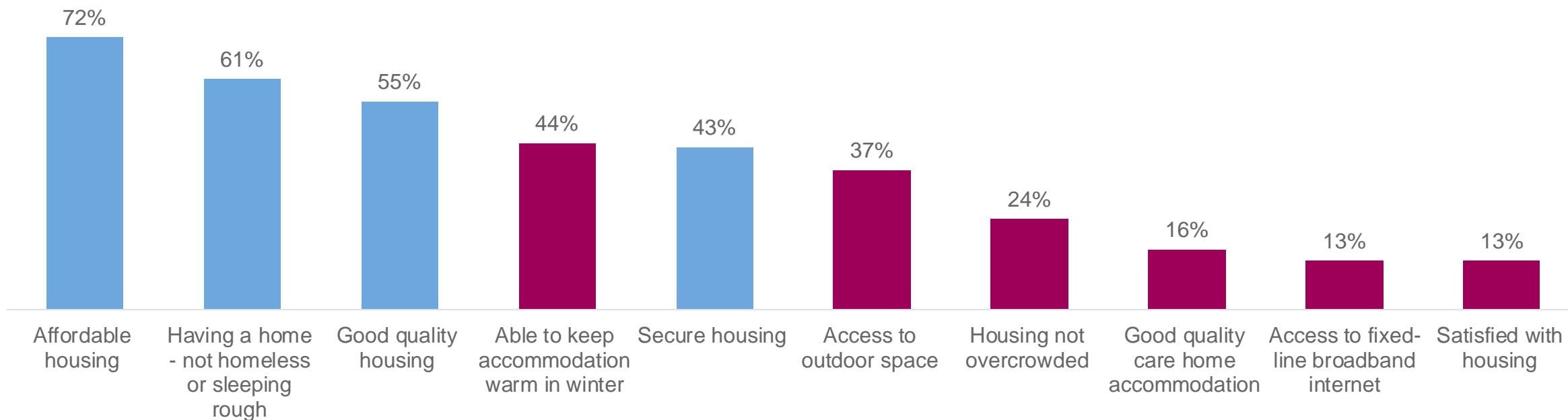
- **Community spaces** – this was mentioned by many, whether community spaces on the whole or more specific spaces such as community centres, community hubs, or libraries. This is felt to be important for creating a cohesive local community.
- **Neighbours** – whether that is knowing your neighbours, or trusting your neighbours.

## Additional comments

- Some felt feeling part of a community should be included as a measure. As such, it may be worth splitting out ‘**a cohesive local community**’ into ‘belonging to a community’ and ‘freedom from discrimination’.
- A few were also unsure what a ‘**cohesive**’ local community means.
- Some suggested ‘**volunteering**’ should be separate to culture, sport, and leisure.
- A small number of people questioned what a ‘**community**’ means, whether that refers to a local community or a London-wide community (e.g. ethnic communities or LGBTQ+ communities).

# Having a decent home

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)







# Having a decent home

## What is missing?

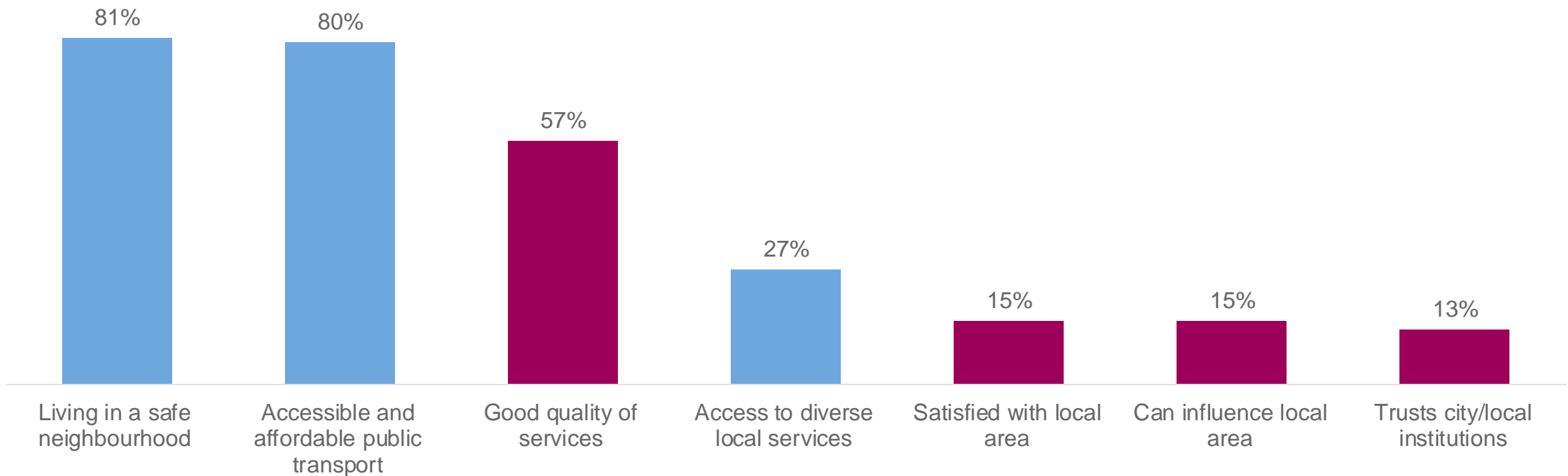
1. **Renting** – there is nothing in the Measure on private renting, despite the size of the private rental market in London. Many commented on the cost of renting and the need for rent caps. There were also comments about landlords, e.g. fixing repairs, quality of rental properties, and general relationship with landlords, though no suitable measures were put forward.
2. **Social homes** – some mentioned this in addition to housing affordability, in terms of the number of social homes / social housing stock in London.
3. **Energy efficiency** – some mentioned overall energy efficiency, whereas others mentioned insulation specifically with references to keeping warm.

## Additional comments

- Need to define '**affordable**' housing. As mentioned, many felt social housing needed to be brought out specifically as they see a difference between social housing and what is termed 'affordable' housing.
- Don't need to include '**fixed-line**' when talking about broadband internet.
- A small number interpreted '**secure**' housing as being physical security / security against others rather than secure tenure.
- Some felt many of the measures come under '**good quality housing**', which may be too broad as a measure. Many expanded on this, notably noise (whether neighbours or traffic) and safety (e.g. from fire, falls, mould, asbestos, as well as feeling safe from neighbours or crime).

# Accessible services and safe neighbourhoods

Most important measures for Londoners (**core** and **strengthening**)



# Accessible services and safe neighbourhoods

## What is missing?

- **Policing** – this was mentioned by many, mostly in relation to more police officers and greater police presence.
- **Active travel** – being able to walk and cycle around neighbourhoods e.g., safe walking routes, accessibility for disabled people, good cycle infrastructure.
- **Green spaces** – although this is covered in a separate domain, many mentioned it here. Not just as places to relax, but also for exercise, sport, and recreation.

## Additional comments

- Many referred to the provision of services, not just the **'quality'** of services e.g., having more community services, libraries, community centres, GP services, services for young people or older people etc.
- Some were unsure what **'diverse'** local services means – is it a variety of services, or services that are staffed by or catered to diverse communities?
- There were differing views as to what **'services'** means, with some thinking only of public services and others including community services and amenities.
- Some felt not all measures were about 'Accessible services and safe neighbourhoods' and perhaps a broader name would work better e.g., 'Good local neighbourhoods and services'.
- **'Trusts'** city/local institutions should instead be 'trust in' or 'trustworthy'.