



SOUTHWARK COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN

LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOREWORD

In 2022, we set out our plan to improve the lives of people who live and work in Southwark. Two years on, we are proud of the progress we have made together.

This report highlights some of our shared achievements. We want to thank everyone involved – across our local community, businesses, schools, NHS, charities, universities and all of our council staff and councillors.

Together we are working towards our Southwark 2030 vision: Building a fair, green and safe Southwark, where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community.

We have focused on the priorities that Southwark residents told us matter the most. We started building our 3000th new council home and invested £250 million in improving the quality of our existing council homes. We opened up more and better job opportunities for local people, planted 13,000 trees and invested an extra £2 million to make our borough safer.

More than 1,800 local workers received a pay rise last year as part of our drive to get more employers to pay the London Living Wage. We have also raised standards in our school higher still, with 97% now rated good or outstanding and we have invested over £2 million to open two new children's homes, so more local children who need care can be looked after in their home borough, close to their family and friends.

We are taking firm action on crime and anti-social behaviour by improving street lighting and CCTV. Whilst also recruiting more community safety wardens to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour at night.

We are making Southwark healthier too. This year we invested £2 million in our leisure centres and gyms. We are building a brand-new leisure centre in Canada Water and in June 2025 officially open our new multi sports centre in Burgess Park.


These achievements matter, but we know there is much more to do. To make sure everyone in our borough can make ends meet, have a decent home and have a good life.

When we put Southwark 2030 together, we spoke to thousands of you about what a good life looks like – about needing to feel valued and safe, being able to enjoy time with family and friends, and having a sense of purpose connected to a thriving community.

Your ideas, energy and insight are helping us shape that future. We look forward to achieving even more as a council and community working together over the coming years.

A portrait of Althea Loderick, Chief Executive, smiling. She is wearing a bright pink top and a long necklace. The background behind her is a large, colorful semi-circle with a rainbow gradient from purple to yellow.

Althea Loderick
Chief Executive

A portrait of Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council, smiling. He has a beard and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. The background behind him is a large, colorful semi-circle with a rainbow gradient from purple to yellow.

Kieron Williams
Leader of the Council



Goal 1: Decent homes for all

People live in safe, well-maintained homes

A decent home is the cornerstone of a good life. Our residents told us they love living in Southwark, but too many of our residents struggle with the cost of a good home.

As the largest council landlord in London, with over 36,000 council homes and nearly 16,000 leasehold properties, we play a vital role in ensuring our homes are safe, well-maintained and looked after.



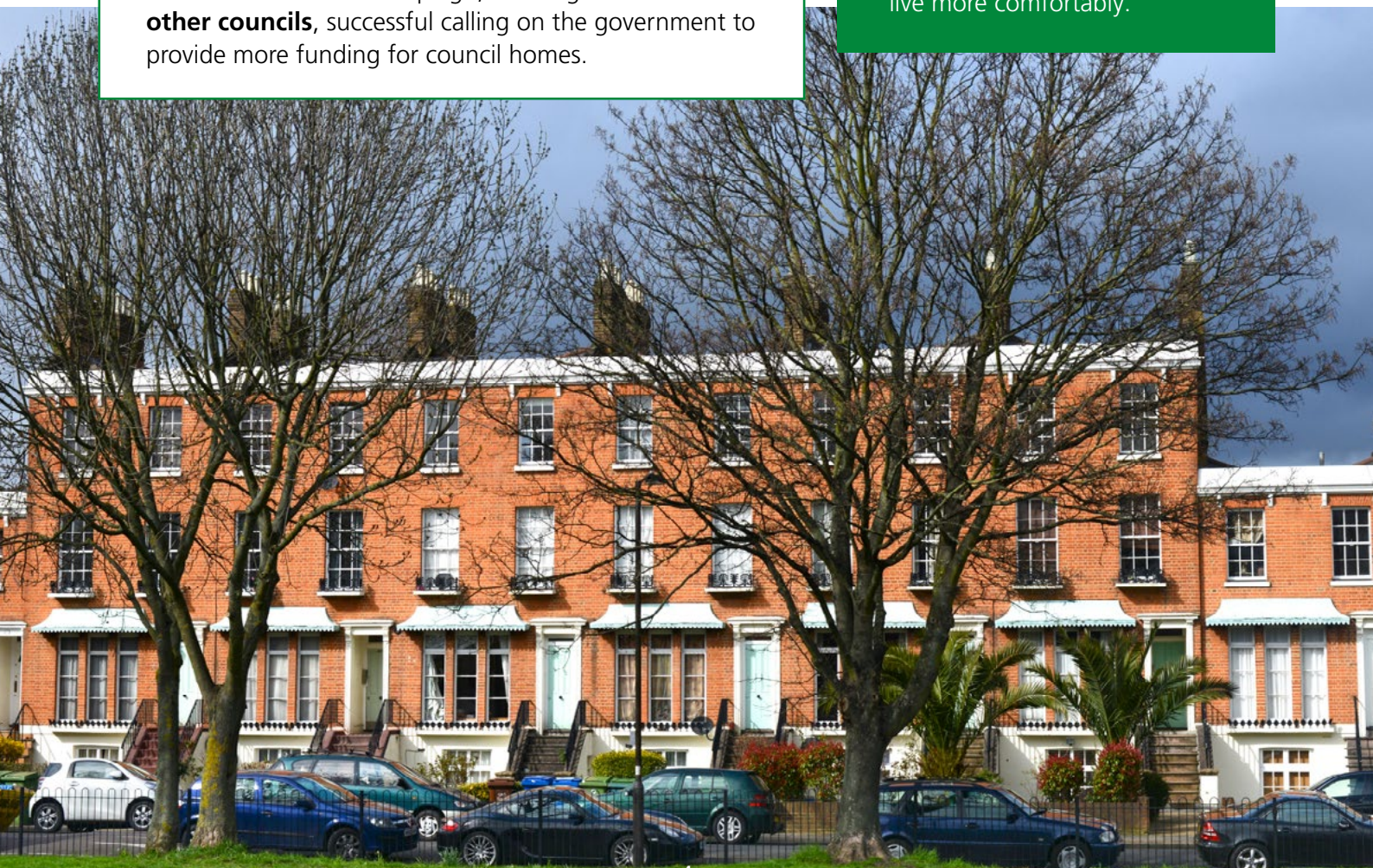
In 2024, we:

- Completed over **500 new council homes**, more than any other council in the country with almost **1,000 more new council homes** under construction across **16 sites** in the borough.
- Committed to investing **£250 million** to improve our existing council homes to make them safe, dry and warm and support our work to become a good landlord.
- Upgraded **750 boilers** and provided modern low carbon heating systems for more than **2,700 homes**.
- Delivered our Repair Action Days on estates across the borough, carrying out over **800 repairs**, from fixing taps and toilets, to replacing light switches and plastering walls, as well as carrying out checks for damp and mould.
- Helped more than **150 people** sleeping rough into long-term homes.
- Funded a **free advice service** for anyone renting privately who needs help with a landlord issue and expanded our private landlord licensing scheme to drive up standards and crack down on bad landlords.
- Opened a **brand-new library** and **GP practice** on the Aylesbury estate with a new community centre, early years spaces, and a new playground on the way.
- Launched a national campaign, working with over **100 other councils**, successful calling on the government to provide more funding for council homes.

Our focus for the year ahead:

Over the next year, we are continuing to invest in making our homes safer, warmer, and better to live in. We will:

- Improve our homes, estates and services for our council tenants and leaseholders. Delivering the actions in our Good Landlord Plan, fixing repairs faster, making our estates cleaner and greener, and giving tenants more say in how things are run.
- Continue our work to deliver major improvements to the Aylesbury, Tustin, Ledbury, Abbeyfield and Sceaux Gardens estates, working with residents to create better homes and stronger communities for the long-term.
- Roll out energy-saving upgrades to hundreds of homes in Nunhead and Peckham, helping residents to cut their bills and live more comfortably.



Southwark Council has built more new council homes than any other local authority in the past five years.

"It's about providing warm homes, safe homes, and a community for new residents and for the existing residents that will be moving in. It feels like I'm giving back to the community that I was born in, and it also leaves a little footprint that I was here."

Rowena, Southwark Housing Project Manager



Creating adapted and accessible homes

Elaine moved into her new council home in the Flaxyard development in Peckham in December 2024. Her old home was not suitable for her needs. Since the move to a wheelchair adapted, accessible home, Elaine told us:

"My new home is perfect. The adaptations give me the freedom and independence to live my life with my health problems. Now I can relax and take one day at a time."

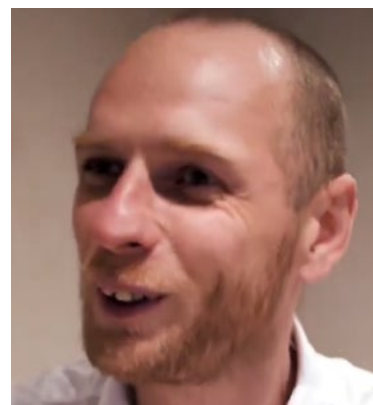


Supporting people out of homelessness and into work

We are working with partners like Beam to help people who've experienced homelessness gain skills, find stable jobs and rebuild their lives.

Stan, a Southwark resident, was referred to Beam and joined a training course with Saira Hospitality. He gained work experience at St Giles Hotels and quickly progressed.

"I was homeless, lived in the street until the spot team at St. Mungo's picked me up. My life was destroyed... until I met Alex from Beam, where I was listened to, understood and received great support... thanks to Beam I started to enjoy life again, I got the job I could only dream of. I started to see life in bright colours."





Goal 2: A good start in life

Children and young people have a great childhood that builds on a very solid foundation for adult life

We want every child in Southwark to grow up happy, healthy, and with the best possible start in life. But we know that many families are facing challenges, with the rising cost of living and increased concerns around youth mental health.

Residents told us to be more ambitious in how all children and young people can benefit from growing up in Southwark. That is why we are acting across the borough to support families and children from their early years right through to adulthood.



In 2024, we:

- Provided the country's most comprehensive free healthy school meals programme across our nursery, primary and secondary schools and in the school holidays. Funding nearly **70,000 free meals** to children aged 4 to 16, alongside fun and creative sessions, through our Holiday Food and Fun programme.
- Funded activities for young people in **16 wards** across the borough, these include **19 organisations and projects funded** by the Positive Futures for Young People Fund in addition to **8 in-house** youth centres, projects and adventure playgrounds.
- Invested further in our parks and estates playgrounds, **upgrading 5 playgrounds** across Peckham Rye, North Walworth, Newington, Camberwell Green and Peckham and a full refurbishment of an Adventure playground in South Bermondsey, adding to a total of **260 playgrounds** in the borough.
- Invested **over £2 million** towards opening two new children's homes, so we can support more children in care to stay within the borough.
- Introduced the **'Early Words Together'** programme to help young children with speech and language development.
- Launched a new **'Sure Start for Adolescents'** service, with weekday drop-ins where young people can get advice and support on a range of issues, from college choices and mental health to housing and relationships.
- Built a **new sports pavilion** in Burgess Park and ran free sport sessions across the summer through our Olympic-themed Move Games, ensuring our children are physically active.

Our focus for the year ahead

Over the next year, we are making it easier for families and young people to get the support they need, when they need it. We will:

- Improve our Children and Family Hubs offer, providing places where families can find advice, support and activities all in one spot and relaunch our **One Hub** website.
- Improving support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents. Including opening a brand-new SEND early years centre and expanding Highshore and Cherry Gardens Special Needs Schools.
- Expand key programmes like Early Words Together and Making it Real to help young children develop their speech and language.
- Continue to upgrade and deliver vibrant inclusive local playgrounds where children can have fun and connect with others, like the Ellen Brown adventure playground in Bermondsey, which now has state-of-the-art play equipment and even a DJ booth.



Family Hubs offering support in local communities

Our Family Hubs, 1st Place & Dulwich Wood, are friendly, local spaces at the heart of the community, where families with children aged 0 to 19 (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs or disabilities) can get support, advice and take part in activities.

"It builds up your confidence. It's a safe environment for you to discuss things and get the support you need and also gain more knowledge about all different things: routine, sleep training, weaning"

Samantha, a resident who visits her local Family Hub



Ensuring all children can participate in activities, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Our Thrive-to-25 programme gives children with special educational needs and disabilities the chance to enjoy fun, inclusive activities through Short Breaks.

Kemi, now three years old, joined in 2024 at the age of two after her mother sought specific SEND support from the council.

Through regular participation in structured activities, Kemi has made progress in developing key daily life skills, such as sitting down for meals with others, washing hands after sessions and following a routine during story time.

"It's a happy place for her. She feels welcomed, and she can have a good time and not feel judged for anything. She can just be herself. I don't have a lot of people with special needs that I know personally... We all have that anxiety, like, how is my child going to be? So, it's nice to know that no matter what, there's one place where they're not only going to be understood but embraced for who they are." **Kemi's mother**

Tackling barriers to university

Our Southwark Scholarship Scheme helps local young people go to university by covering the full cost of their tuition fees.

It's designed to remove financial barriers and support those who not only do well academically but also give back to their community. Since 2011, 143 young people have received scholarships through the scheme.

One of our students said:

"This scholarship allows me to use my degree and the experiences I will gain to feed back into the communities that have really helped to order my steps into the positive path I am on now. I am a firm believer that my success cannot be merely for myself, but as I am lifted up, my community must be lifted up with me. This is what the scholarship is mobilising me to do."



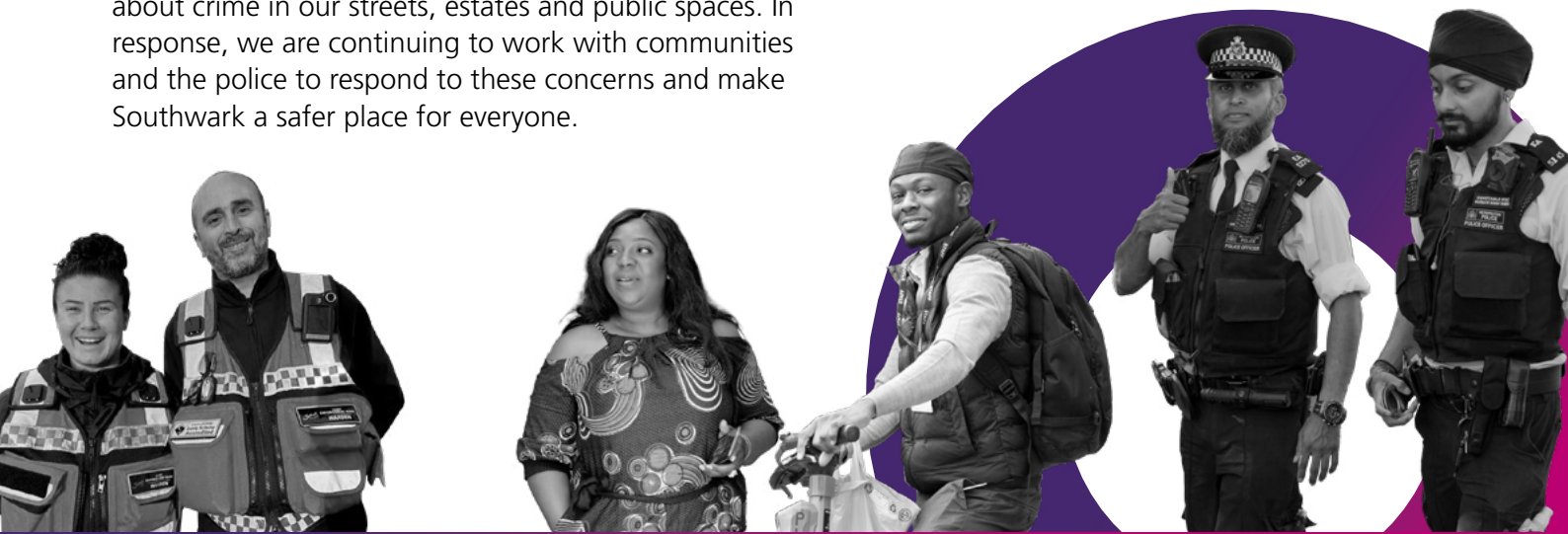


Goal 3: A safer Southwark

Crime is low and people feel safe

We know that crime and antisocial behaviour affect how safe people feel in their neighbourhoods, especially after dark. Residents told us that safety is one of their highest priorities.

While action has been taken to address some of the key issues, residents have told us they are still worried about crime in our streets, estates and public spaces. In response, we are continuing to work with communities and the police to respond to these concerns and make Southwark a safer place for everyone.



In 2024, we:

- Launched a **£2m antisocial** behaviour task force to provide a highly visible presence to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the areas where residents are most concerned.
- Invested **£3 million** to upgrade our CCTV system, exceeding **570 cameras** watched 24/7 by our highly skilled team.
- Converted **90%** of our streetlights into LED lighting, providing cleaner, safer and greener lighting across the borough.
- Set up a network of **22 Safe Havens** for women across the borough, ensuring there are trained staff to help anyone feeling unsafe.
- Strengthened our **partnership** with the **Metropolitan Police** by working collaboratively to improve safety in our borough, supporting their improvement plans and building trust to tackle crime and protect residents.
- Continued our **Through Her Eyes** Campaign to help tackle misogyny and promote positive attitudes towards women and girls among teenage boys. The campaign has been used in more than **1,000 schools** across London.

Our focus for the year ahead

Over the next year, we will continue to make our borough safer by working together with the police and partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots and their causes. We are committed to building a safer Southwark where people feel supported, protected and listened to. We will:

- Support more than 100 young people through our Southwark Violence Reduction Unit, which has a proven track record of helping young people avoid crime and build positive futures.
- Continue to challenge and advise the police on key issues through our recently launched independent Policing Oversight Board, made up of local people.
- Open a new Women's Safety Centre early in 2026 which will offer joined-up, trauma-informed support in one safe and welcoming place for victims and survivors of violence.



Community Wardens supporting safety on our streets

Southwark Council's Community Wardens provide a uniformed patrol presence on the borough's estates, streets, town centres, parks and open spaces, talking to residents and addressing concerns of crime, antisocial behaviour (ASB) and environmental crime. Neville, one of Southwark's Community Wardens said:

"We do our patrols where there are issues. Whatever area it is, we go there, check the blocks and engage with residents. I am always in pole position taking a zero-tolerance approach to ASB. I am well known in the community for my strong commitment to a better quality of life for those who live and work within Southwark. Working together we can make change happen."

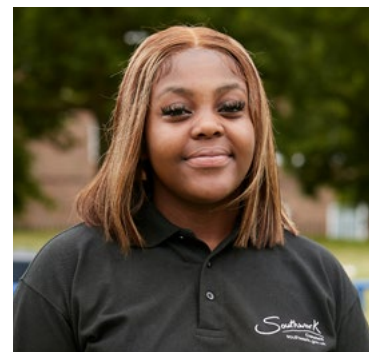


Working with residents to prevent crime

Listening to our residents and providing this support is a key part of our approach for creating a safer Southwark, where crime is prevented.

"More preventative measures need to be put in place to keep young people safe within our borough. Southwark has the potential to be an even greater place to live and work, where each community feels heard, supported and valued, all contributing to building a good life for others."

Sydney, a Southwark Young Advisor



Increasing respect for women and girls

We are working closely with local communities to help young people stay safe and make positive choices, so they don't get drawn into antisocial behaviour or crime. This includes work to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.

One powerful example is our Through Her Eyes campaign, which we created with young people to raise awareness about respect and safety. The video has been viewed over a million times on social media and is now being used in more than 1,000 schools across London.

"The video made me think about the consequences that we carry as men in society. The problem can start as a joke, but then go all the way to violence so it has to be stopped straightaway."

A sixth form student at South Bank University Academy





Goal 4: A strong and fair economy

We all benefit from Southwark's economic growth

Southwark has a diverse, thriving economy, with everything from major hospitals and universities to more than 15,000 small and micro businesses. Together, they generate over £26 billion each year, or 1% of the UK's economy, and offer a wide range of job opportunities.

But not everyone is feeling the benefits. While wages in the borough are above the national average, some households are still living on less than £15,000 a year and around 37% of children in Southwark are growing up in poverty. We know we need to act now and plan for the long-term, helping more people into secure jobs, supporting local businesses, and making our high streets and town centres more vibrant and welcoming.



In 2024, we:

- Invested **£240,000** through the Thriving High Streets Fund, providing grants to businesses and voluntary sector groups.
- Trained **317** residents in green skills through the Green Skills Hub in partnership with London South Bank University.
- Supported over **2,500** residents into work and created over **2,000** green jobs since 2022.
- Created **436** apprenticeships in the borough, delivering a total of almost **1,800** since 2022.
- Created **52** paid internship for local young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, delivering a total of **206** since 2022.
- Helped **105** Southwark businesses become an accredited Living Wage Employer, resulting in **1,800** Southwark workers receiving a pay rise.
- Distributed more than **£40 million** to families in immediate need, through the Cost-of-Living Fund since implementation.
- Developed **five new Town Centre Action Plans** to improve local high streets, with launch in early 2025.

Our focus for the year ahead

We want Southwark's town centres to be places where everyone feels welcome and can enjoy clean, safe and vibrant spaces to shop, work and spend time. We will:

- Complete major public realm improvements in Camberwell and Canada Water, and continue long-term work in Bermondsey, Elephant & Castle, Walworth and Peckham.
- Create more new opportunities through apprenticeships, internships and training, offering 250 paid internships for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, nearly 1,800 apprenticeships across the borough, and 2,000 green jobs.
- Double the number of Living Wage accredited businesses, helping even more residents earn a decent wage for the work they do.
- Continue creating a new Latin American cultural space in Elephant and Castle and working with partners to secure a permanent LGBTQ+ cultural venue.



Increasing access to the London Living Wage

We are working with Southwark employers to encourage greater uptake of the London Living Wage, to make sure local employees are paid fairly.

"I can afford to pay my bills and pay my bills on time. That's because I work for a company that pays the London Living Wage."

Bosco, a Cleaner at Borough Market

"I can now do more with my children and afford to buy a car. It has helped me in my personal life a lot."

Carla, Food Services Co-Ordinator at Spring Community Hub.



Helping residents into good jobs through Southwark Works

Southwark Works is our flagship employment programme, is helping residents overcome barriers to work. It offers practical help with CVs, interview skills, training and confidence building. Last year we celebrated the 20-year anniversary of this programme recognising achievements and those who have contributed to the success stories for our residents.

"My experience has been excellent. Shahid my work coach, helped me tailor my CV to fit relevant job roles and highlight my strengths. He also provided me with valuable guidance in choosing career paths that would best suit my skills. Thanks to his support, I have successfully secured new employment."

Omotayo, local resident supported by Southwark Works



Working with employers to create more flexible jobs

We're focused on supporting people who often face more challenges in finding work, including care leavers, young people, those with SEND, and people with experience of the criminal justice system. We also work closely with local employers to create flexible, high-quality job opportunities.

"We are so proud to be partnered with Southwark Works! Together, we are opening employment avenues for parents seeking flexible work. Our partnership is thriving, and we are incredibly proud of the strides we've made so far. Helping single parents find a job that perfectly fits their schedule, allowing them to support their family while maintaining a work-life balance."

Genuine Dining Catering Services, Southwark employer





Goal 5: Staying well

People across our whole community can have good health and wellbeing

Good health is key to living well, but we know many people in Southwark face challenges that can affect both their physical and mental wellbeing.

That is why we have been working with our partners across the borough to make it easier for everyone to get the support they need and better manage their own health needs.



In 2024, we:

- Expanded our Nest mental health service which is now available in over **100 schools** to help build children's resilience and wellbeing.
- Rolled out our **Residential Care Charter** to drive up standards in care homes, giving families a stronger say over the care of their loved ones, ensuring better training and fair pay for care home staff. With **85%** of residents in care homes in the borough now covered by the charter.
- Worked with partners across the borough to install over **90 life-saving defibrillators** in our libraries, leisure centres and schools, so we can reduce deaths from heart attacks.
- Opened a new **open water swimming** site at Greenland Dock, enhancing our free swim and gym sessions offer for our residents.
- Provided nearly **900 Rose Vouchers** to help families buy fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Strengthened **breastfeeding support**, increasing available drop-in sessions from two to five per week.
- Supported **1,000 young people** through our sexual and reproductive health outreach programme.
- Added **85 new disabled parking bays** across the borough to help people with disabilities get around more easily.
- Introduced **free health check kiosks** in our libraries and leisure centres. So far, **over 3,200 checks** have been completed, and 84% of users who were advised to make a lifestyle change have taken action to improve their health.
- Hosted over **150 community health events** through our network of **over 190 Community Health Ambassadors**, ensuring our community's voice is heard and questions answered.
- Created our **Maternity Commission** with **over 750** residents and healthcare professionals.

Our focus for the year ahead

Over the next year, we will continue improving access to health and wellbeing support across Southwark. We will:

- Open a brand-new leisure centre in Canada Water, replacing the old Seven Islands site and offering modern, inclusive facilities to help residents stay active and healthy.
- Sign up 20 more convenience stores to join our Good Food Retailer scheme, offering more fresh and affordable food on our high streets.
- Double the number of free health check kiosks in libraries and leisure centres to 12. These kiosks have already supported over 3,200 residents, and 84% of those advised to make lifestyle changes took positive action.



Community Health Ambassadors sharing trusted advice

Our Community Health Ambassadors help to inform, empower and support our communities with issues related to health and wellbeing. Ese, one of our Community Health Ambassadors, said:

“As a Community Health Ambassador, we go out with the health and wellbeing van. It’s a safe space where people can open up and tell us what they’re going through. We are then able to help them find support. Some people haven’t seen their GP for a long time. We signpost them to services, we check blood pressure and provide advice on healthy eating, alcohol, smoking. They tell us everything they’re going through. We learn every day.”



Co-designing support with residents on our estates

We have been working with local people on three council estates to design support that really meets their needs, in partnership with Southwark-based organisation Social Life.

Through surveys and workshops, residents shared what would make the biggest difference to their health and wellbeing.

On the Rockingham estate, we heard that many people were feeling lonely and less connected to their neighbours. In response, we have funded a part-time events coordinator to run weekly activities and bring the community together. This will all lead up to a summer festival, helping build stronger local connections and a better sense of community.



Improving maternity care for all families

We set up Southwark’s Maternity Commission to listen to the experiences of local families and look closely at how maternity care is working in our borough. This came after serious concerns about the differences in care and outcomes for Black and Asian women, and for families living in our most deprived areas.

In September 2024, the Commission published a report with ten clear recommendations to help make maternity care safer, fairer and more supportive for everyone. We are now working closely with health partners to put these changes into action and make sure every parent in Southwark gets the care they deserve.





Goal 6: A healthy environment

Our parks, open spaces and environment is clean, green, and healthy

Having clean air, safe green spaces and a healthy environment is vital for everyone in Southwark, now and for future generations.

We know residents care deeply about tackling climate change in a fair and practical way. Many have told us they want to see strong leadership from big organisations, but also action that benefits people and the planet.



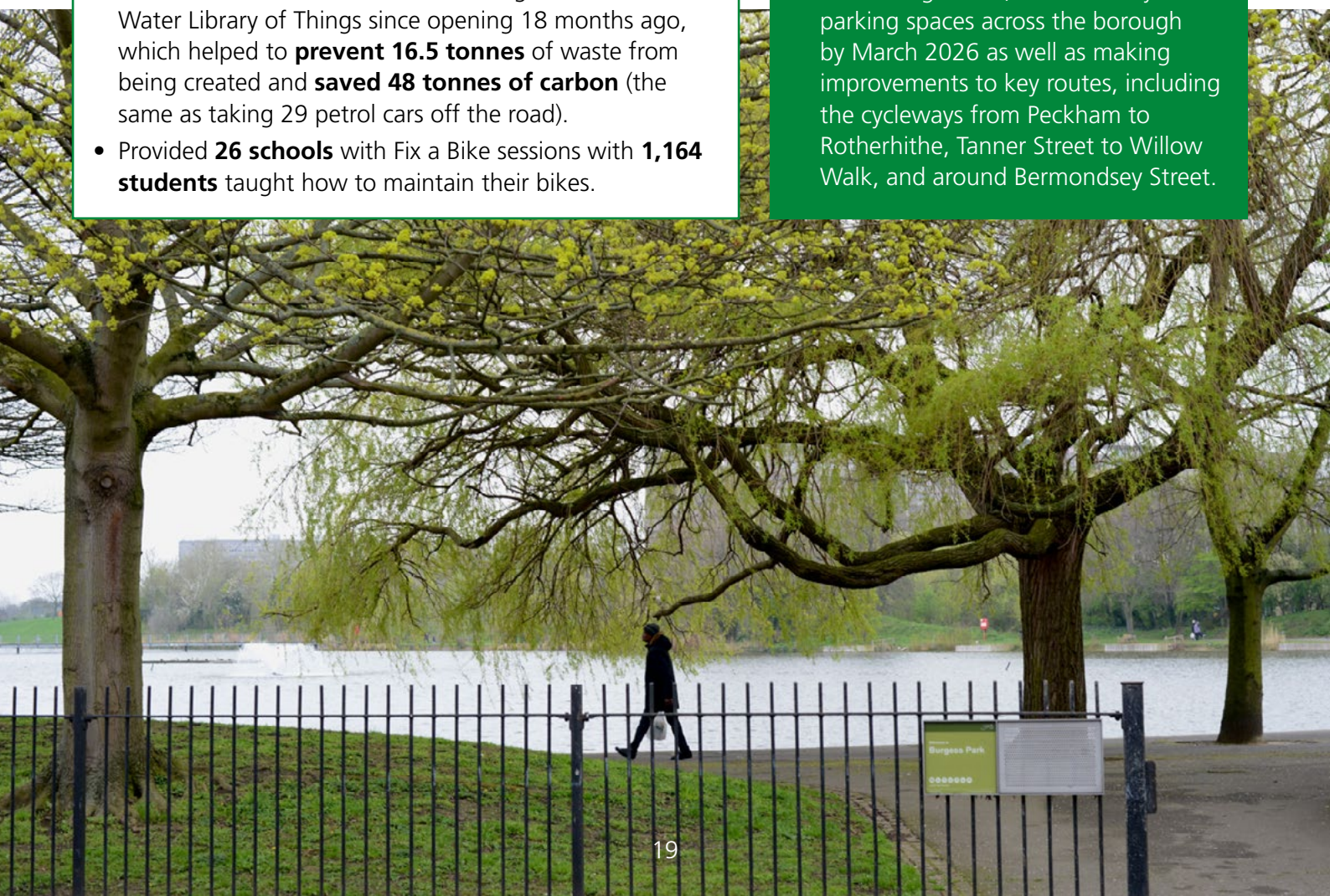
In 2024, we:

- Planted more than **13,000 trees** in the past two years, taking us to more than **100,000 trees** on council land.
- Passed a **Right to Grow Motion** through Council Assembly in November 2024, enhancing our commitment to go even further on council owned land, making it suitable for cultivation, including depaving land that could accommodate planting.
- Supported **over 7,500 children** and **4,000 adults** to receive cycle lessons in Southwark since 2022.
- Kept all **30 of our parks and open spaces** their Green Flag Awards for the **fifth year** in a row. This reflects the hard work of local volunteers, community groups, park staff and contractors who help make Southwark's green spaces welcoming and well looked after.
- Installed **1,600 electric vehicle charging points** across the borough, with Southwark now having the fourth highest number of them in the country.
- Added **2.5km of new segregated cycle lanes** and now have more than 750 cycle hangars to support residents who want to travel by bike.
- Awarded **£400,000 to 22 projects** across Southwark to run green energy projects in communities or buildings.
- Delivered free pedestrian training to **1,700 primary school children**.
- Received **over 1,500 residents** visiting our Canada Water Library of Things since opening 18 months ago, which helped to **prevent 16.5 tonnes** of waste from being created and **saved 48 tonnes of carbon** (the same as taking 29 petrol cars off the road).
- Provided **26 schools** with Fix a Bike sessions with **1,164 students** taught how to maintain their bikes.

Our focus for the year ahead

Over the next year, we will continue our work to cut carbon emissions, improve air quality, and make our streets cleaner, safer, and easier for everyone to enjoy. We will:

- Decarbonise more of our buildings by progressing work to install low-carbon heat pumps at five leisure centres, key council offices and primary schools.
- Continue to enable community climate action in the borough, with further rounds of Southwark Community Energy Fund and Southwark Green Investment.
- Review our climate action plan to ensure we have a strong plan in place to 2030, reducing emissions and adapting our borough to the effects of climate change.
- Install 100 new electric vehicle charging points and continue our air quality monitoring project to support students with asthma and raise awareness in schools.
- Continue to expand space for cycling, with a target of 6,000 secure cycle parking spaces across the borough by March 2026 as well as making improvements to key routes, including the cycleways from Peckham to Rotherhithe, Tanner Street to Willow Walk, and around Bermondsey Street.



Helping communities save energy and cut bills

The Southwark Community Energy Fund supports local projects that help people save energy and reduce costs. This includes everything from installing solar panels on schools to running workshops that tackle fuel poverty.

One of the groups supported is Flashy Wings Ministry, a Camberwell-based charity that empowers and supports women. With help from the fund, they ran workshops to help local women manage energy use at home. The first two sessions brought together 85 women to learn about cutting energy bills, using smart meters, and managing heating during the winter months.

"I'm usually overwhelmed by fear anytime winter is coming, because of high energy bills. I found the meeting very educative and informative".

Belinda, a Southwark resident who attended the workshop.



Borrow, don't buy – Southwark's Library of Things

To help tackle climate change and cut down on waste, we have launched Southwark's Library of Things – a simple way for residents to borrow useful household items instead of buying them. From hedge trimmers to sewing machines, it's a great way to save money and reduce clutter while helping the planet.

The first Library of Things opened in Canada Water Library and has been a big success. Now, with the social enterprise behind the project, we have expanded to two more locations at Dulwich Leisure Centre and Castle Leisure Centre.

"We cut back the overflowing hedge at the front of our house. We had looked at buying one, but using Library of Things was so much more efficient. We can't wait to rent another Thing soon." **Jack, Southwark resident**



Keeping children safe on our streets

As part of our Streets for People work, we have been helping children travel safely around Southwark. Throughout 2024, we offered free pedestrian training to local school classes.

In October, with the days getting darker, we gave safety reflector badges to four and five-year-olds in Southwark schools. These badges attach to backpacks, helping children stay visible and safe on their way to and from school.



Helping more people get cycling

We are working with Community Cycleworks to run *Fix a Bike* sessions in schools, where students like those at Surrey Square Primary learn how to repair and look after their bikes.

To make cycling more accessible for everyone, we have also partnered with Wheels for Wellbeing to improve our cycle routes and better understand what it's like to ride in Southwark.





Goal 7: A well-run Council

Leading by example to deliver high-quality, accessible services that meet the needs of all residents

That means achieving excellent value for money, running services well and making sure every penny we spend is for the benefit of the people we serve.

We also need to use our influence with business and Government to bring opportunities and investment to Southwark.



In 2024, we:

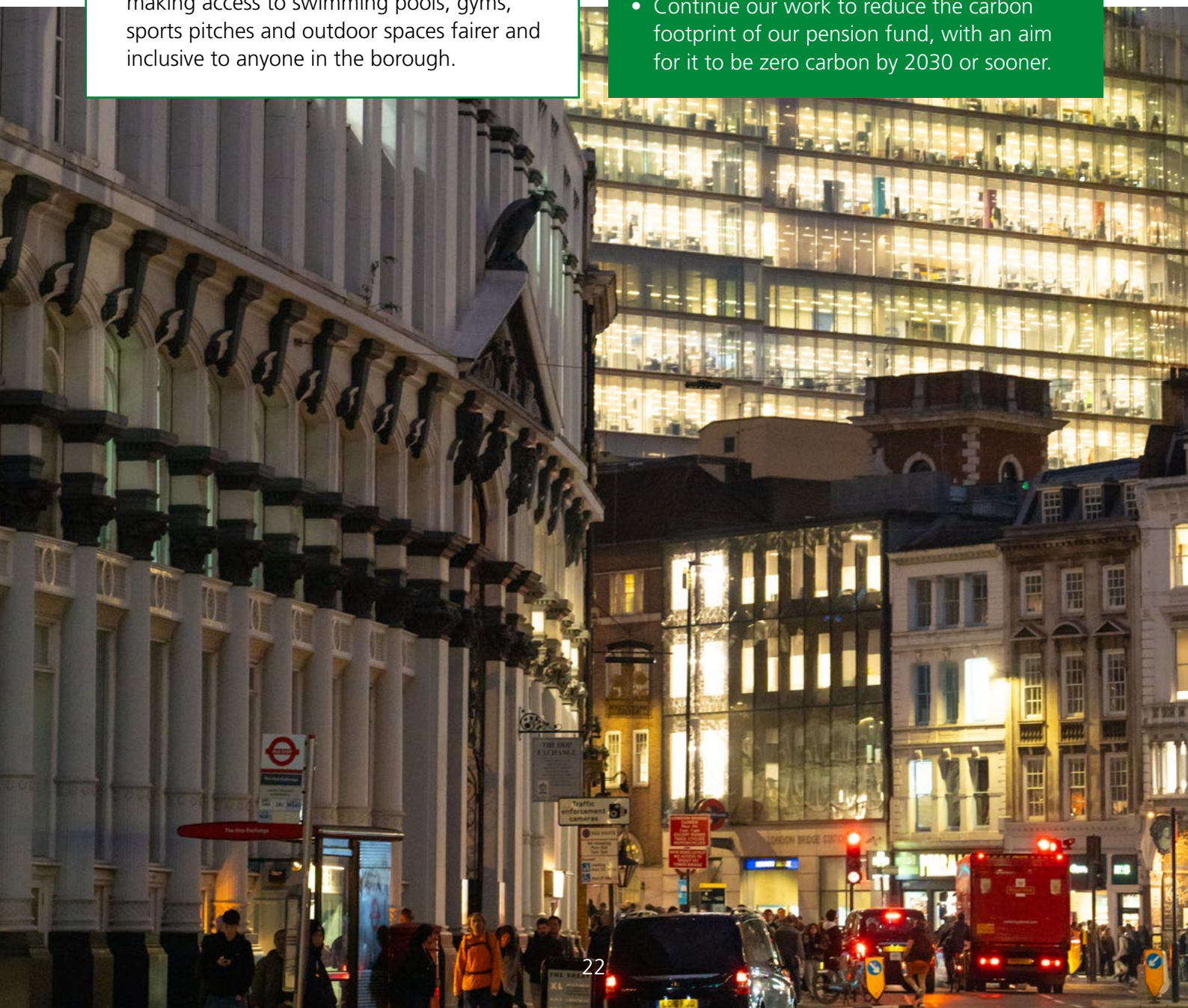
- Delivered a **restoration project** of the Walworth Town Hall which since reopening in March 2025 is serving as a hub for the community, offering flexible workspaces for businesses and a community centre with space for arts and community activities.
- Invested **£20m** in local community groups and action to improve our neighbourhoods through simplified grant processes.
- Provided Culture Together grants to **almost 22,000** Southwark residents.
- Worked to make our decision-making more inclusive and representative of our borough, with **33%** of senior roles held by Black, Asian or minority ethnic staff.
- Brought **our leisure services in-house** making access to swimming pools, gyms, sports pitches and outdoor spaces fairer and inclusive to anyone in the borough.

Our focus for the year ahead

We know there is always much more to do, and we will keep listening and working in partnership to build a fairer, more inclusive Southwark for everyone.

Over the next year, we will continue putting residents at the heart of how the council works. We will:

- Improve our contact centre by reducing waiting times and making it easier to get help online, so council services are more responsive and accessible for everyone.
- Work with local voluntary and community organisations to support our Borough of Sanctuary goals, helping ensure migrants, refugees and asylum seekers can lead safe and fulfilling lives in Southwark.
- Continue our work to reduce the carbon footprint of our pension fund, with an aim for it to be zero carbon by 2030 or sooner.



Investing in great places for our communities

In 2024, we opened the new Una Marson Library on the Aylesbury Estate, our sixth new library since 2010, and also reopened the Kingswood Estate library. Every summer, our libraries encourage children to read more through the Summer Reading Challenge.

Navya, age 11, read 92 books and said,
“I love reading, I read anywhere.”

Emma, age 12, enjoyed
“The Extraordinary Life of Serena Williams”
and won best teen book review.

Theo, age 8, said,
“I enjoyed the summer reading challenge and I really like Pokémon books.”



Cleaning up our streets together

We are rolling out our Streets Transformation programme to tackle fly-tipping and graffiti across estates and town centres. We are removing 97.5% of reported fly-tips within 24 hours, and we want to go even further.

Our new approach combines stronger enforcement, higher fines and clear information to help people dispose of waste properly.

“I have lived in Southwark for 73 years, before it was even Southwark and so has my wife. I love where I live and do my bit to keep it clean. Fly-tipping is a big issue. I’m glad to hear the council is tackling it with enforcement and fines as long as it’s done properly. People need to understand that waste disposal is everyone’s responsibility”.

Barry, a Southwark resident



OUR DELIVERY COMMITMENTS FOR 2025/26

Our Southwark 2030 strategy sets out our partnership vision for a fair, green and safe Southwark where everyone can live good lives as part of a strong community.

Our [Southwark 2030 Delivery Plan 2025-2026](#) sets out our priorities for the next year, building the foundations to work towards our strategic vision. It is organised against the six Southwark 2030 goals and an internal-facing goal on ensuring Southwark is a well-run council, delivering high-quality, responsive and effective customer services, creating great neighbourhoods, and leading by example to deliver strategic change in Southwark.

This will be supported by an annual report each year on how we are delivering progress and achieving better outcomes for our residents.

Residents can learn more about how the council works, access our current delivery plans and annual reports on our website via [this page](#).

