

Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017 Topic report



Area and community



Tower Hamlets Council

Corporate Strategy and Equality Service | Corporate Research Unit

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Summary of key findings

The Annual Residents' Survey captures the views of 967 Tower Hamlets residents and the results were recently published on the Council's [website](#). This topic briefing analyses the results relating to the local area and community in more detail.

Key findings include:

- **Area satisfaction:** The majority (83 per cent) of residents are very or fairly satisfied with their area as a place to live. Satisfaction levels were similar across different population groups.
- **Cohesion:** The majority of residents (92 per cent) agree their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Agreement levels were consistently high across all population groups with no marked differences.
- **Influencing decisions:** Around six in ten (58 per cent) residents felt they could influence decisions affecting their local area. Those from social grade C2 households were a bit less likely than average to feel they could influence things (49 per cent).
- **Concern over crime:** Almost one third (31 per cent) of residents said crime was one of their top three concerns. Bangladeshi residents were more likely than White residents to be concerned about crime (39 vs. 27 per cent). By area, those in the East of the borough were more concerned than those living in the North and South of the borough (40 vs. 26 and 25 per cent). Those in social housing were more likely to worry about crime than private renters or owner occupiers (37 vs. 25 and 29 per cent).
- **Drug use and dealing:** more than half of all residents surveyed (56 per cent) felt that people using or dealing drugs was a very, or fairly, big problem in their local area. Concern levels varied by:
 - Ethnicity: Bangladeshi residents were far more likely than White residents, or residents from other BME groups, to feel drug use was a big problem in their area (68 vs. 52 and 51 per cent);
 - Area: those in the West of the borough were the most likely to feel it was a problem, while those in the South were the least likely (63 vs. 45 per cent);
 - Social grade: those from social grade C2 households were far more likely than those from AB households to feel drug use was a problem in their area (68 vs. 48 per cent).
- **Vandalism:** Over one third of residents felt vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage was a big problem in their area (35 per cent). Bangladeshi residents were more likely than White residents, and residents from other BME groups, to feel it was a problem (46 vs. 33 and 29 per cent). Those from social grade AB households were less concerned than average (28 per cent).

- **Drunk and rowdy behaviour:** Around four in ten (39 per cent) residents felt that people being drunk and rowdy in public places was a big problem in their area. Views were similar across groups, though Bangladeshi residents were more likely than White and other BME groups to feel it was a problem (47 vs. 37 per cent).
- **Noisy neighbours:** Three in ten residents felt noisy neighbours and loud parties were a big problem in their local area. Views were similar across most groups though those living in the South of the borough were less likely than average to report this as a problem (22 vs. 30 per cent).
- **Success in dealing with ASB:** Six in ten residents felt the police and other local service were successfully dealing with ASB problems in their local area. Levels of agreement were similar across different population groups.
- **Views about policing:** Almost two thirds of residents (64 per cent) rated the standard of policing as good through to excellent. By area, those living in the West were less positive about policing than those living in the East and South of the borough (55 vs, 69/70 per cent).
- **Cycling:** 22 per cent of residents were cyclists: 9 per cent cycled weekly or daily, while 13 per cent were 'occasional' cyclists who cycled less often. The prevalence of cycling varies significantly across groups:
 - Men were far more likely than women to be cyclists (30 vs. 13 per cent);
 - Cycling is related to age: young adults were more likely to cycle (29 per cent).
 - White residents were far more likely than Bangladeshi residents to cycle (29 vs. 12 per cent).
 - Private renters were far more likely to be cyclists than those in social housing (29 vs 12 per cent).
 - Those in ABC1 households were more likely to cycle than those in DE households (27 vs. 11 per cent).
- **Cycling friendly borough:** Almost three quarters (74 per cent) of those surveyed felt Tower Hamlets was a cycle friendly borough, and views were fairly consistent across different population groups.
- **Affordable housing:** Over one third (34 per cent) of residents cited 'a lack of affordable housing' as one of their top 3 concerns Concern levels were fairly similar across most groups, though owner occupiers were less likely than social or private renters to cite it as a key concern (22 vs. 39 and 35 per cent).
- **Perceptions about new housing developments:** Views about different aspects of new housing developments were fairly mixed and residents conveyed significant ambivalence about the issues. Older residents were less likely than younger residents to be positive about different aspects of new housing developments, but this reflected higher levels of ambivalence about the issues as opposed to higher levels of dissatisfaction.

Introduction

Survey background and methodology

The Annual Residents' Survey is designed to collect data on resident perceptions about the Council, local services and the area.

The survey was carried out by an independent market research company - Westco Trading - on behalf of the Council, and comprised 967 face to face interviews during 12th January to 16th March 2017. The methodology is designed to ensure that the sample drawn is representative of the borough's population generally. Residents were interviewed at 123 different sample points across the borough to ensure a good cross section by area. Also, sampling quotas were set on age, gender, ethnicity and working status to ensure that the sample reflected the characteristics of the population.

A report summarising the 2017 survey results was published on the Council's [website](#) in July 2017. This presented the headline findings and explored trends over time.

Demographic analysis

This topic briefing aims to analyse the results relating to the area and community in more detail, by exploring how views of residents vary by population and household characteristics. Topics explored include:

- Area satisfaction
- Cohesion and community
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Cycling
- Housing

The key characteristics explored include: gender, age, disability, work status, ethnicity, tenure, social class and area ([Table 1](#)). The extent to which the sample can be broken down is limited by sample size, so for analytical purposes, some population groups have been combined to ensure the samples being compared are large enough. For example, different ethnic group populations in the sample have been grouped together into three groups: White groups, the Bangladeshi group, and other Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. Similarly, comparisons by geographical areas are restricted to four areas: North, East, South and West (each made up of five wards as shown in [Appendix A](#)).

Interpretation of survey data

All figures presented are survey estimates, not precise measures, and as such, they have a degree of sampling variability attached to them. The concept of 'statistical significance' is used here to highlight those differences that are likely to reflect 'real' differences between a particular population and the population generally, as opposed to those which may be simply reflecting sampling volatility.

Confidence intervals attached to individual survey estimates for sub-groups within the population can be quite wide. Moreover, for a statistic for a particular group to be 'significantly' different to the average (or indeed to other groups), the difference between the two percentages often needs to be in the region of 6 points or more. This

varies depending on the group in question. Notably, confidence intervals are particularly wide for data relating to older and disabled people as the sample sizes are modest (ie 112 and 92). This means, that for these groups to stand out as having a rating that is significantly different to the average, the size of the difference often needs to be wider than for other groups.

It is important to bear in mind that, even when a highlighted difference is statistically significant, it may be only just be within the bounds of significance, so some caution is required on interpretation of findings based on survey data. Generally speaking, the larger the percentage point differences, the more confident we can be that the difference is reflecting reality.

On the charts that follow, a red circle denotes a rating that is significantly different to the average (and to one or more of the other groups within the same population category).

All percentage figures presented are rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Table 1 : Composition of sample by population / household characteristics			
		Sample size (unweighted)	% total
All persons		967	100
Gender	Male	500	52
	Female	467	48
Age	18-35	470	49
	35-60	385	40
	60+	112	12
Work status	Full time	490	51
	Part time	141	15
	Not working (excludes retired)	258	27
Ethnicity	White ethnic groups	498	51
	Bangladeshi group	268	28
	Other BME groups ¹	201	21
Housing tenure	Owner occupier	173	18
	Social Housing	486	50
	Rent privately/other	308	32
Social grade ²	AB	285	29
	C1	280	29
	C2	173	18
	DE	225	23
Disability/ Health problem	Yes	92	10
	No	873	90
Area	North	249	26
	East	232	24
	South	255	26
	West	231	24

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents Survey 2017 (Westco Trading)

1. All other BME groups: Indian, Pakistani, Other Asian, Chinese, Black African, Black Caribbean, Black Other, Mixed ethnic groups, Arab, and Other groups

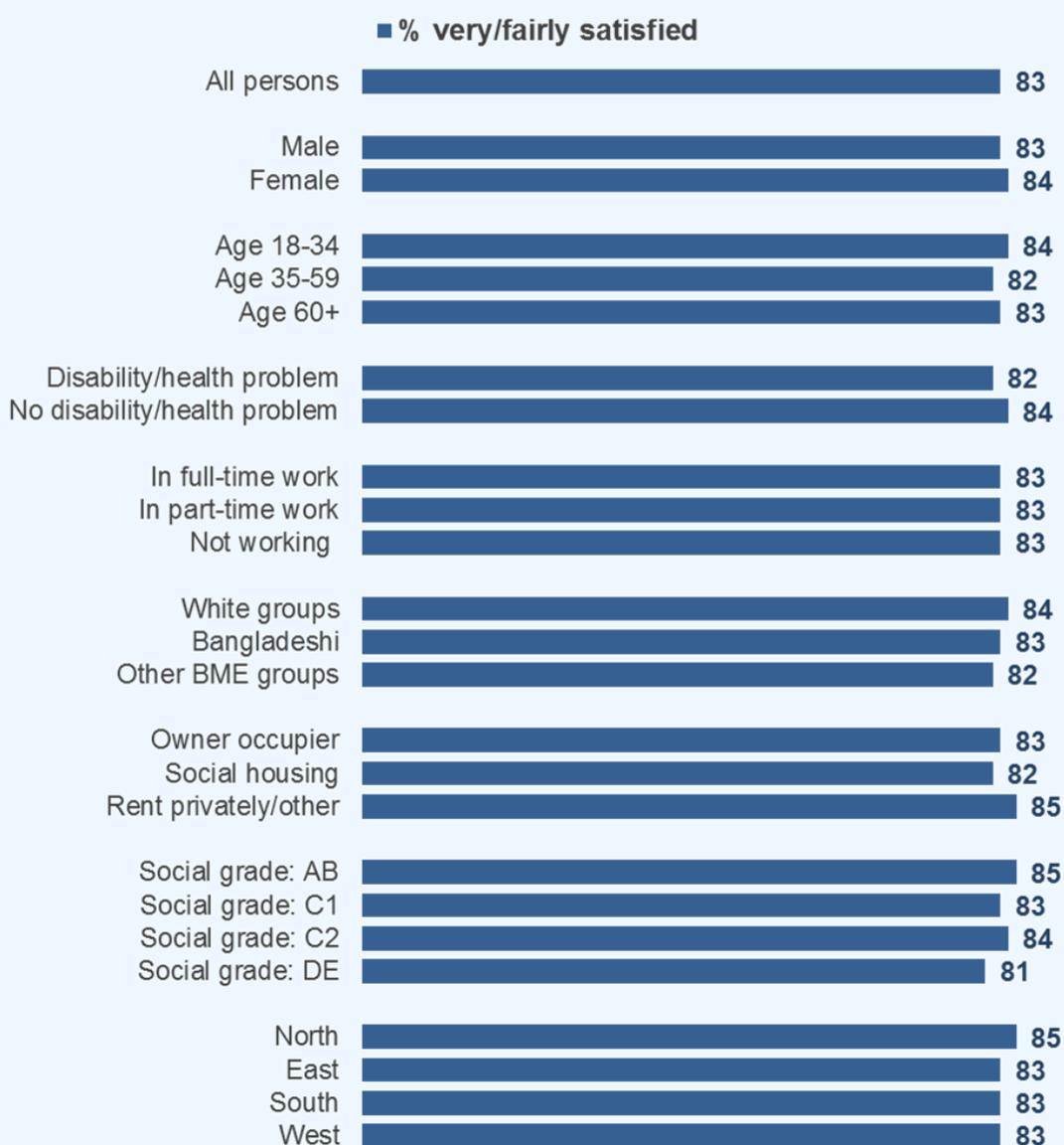
2. See Appendix B for more information on social grade categorisations.

Area satisfaction

The majority (83 per cent) of residents are very or fairly satisfied with their area as a place to live. Satisfaction levels were similar across all population groups with no marked differences from the average.

Figure 1: Area satisfaction by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Thinking about your local area/neighbourhood, how satisfied are you with the area as a place to live?



 = these figures are significantly different to the average

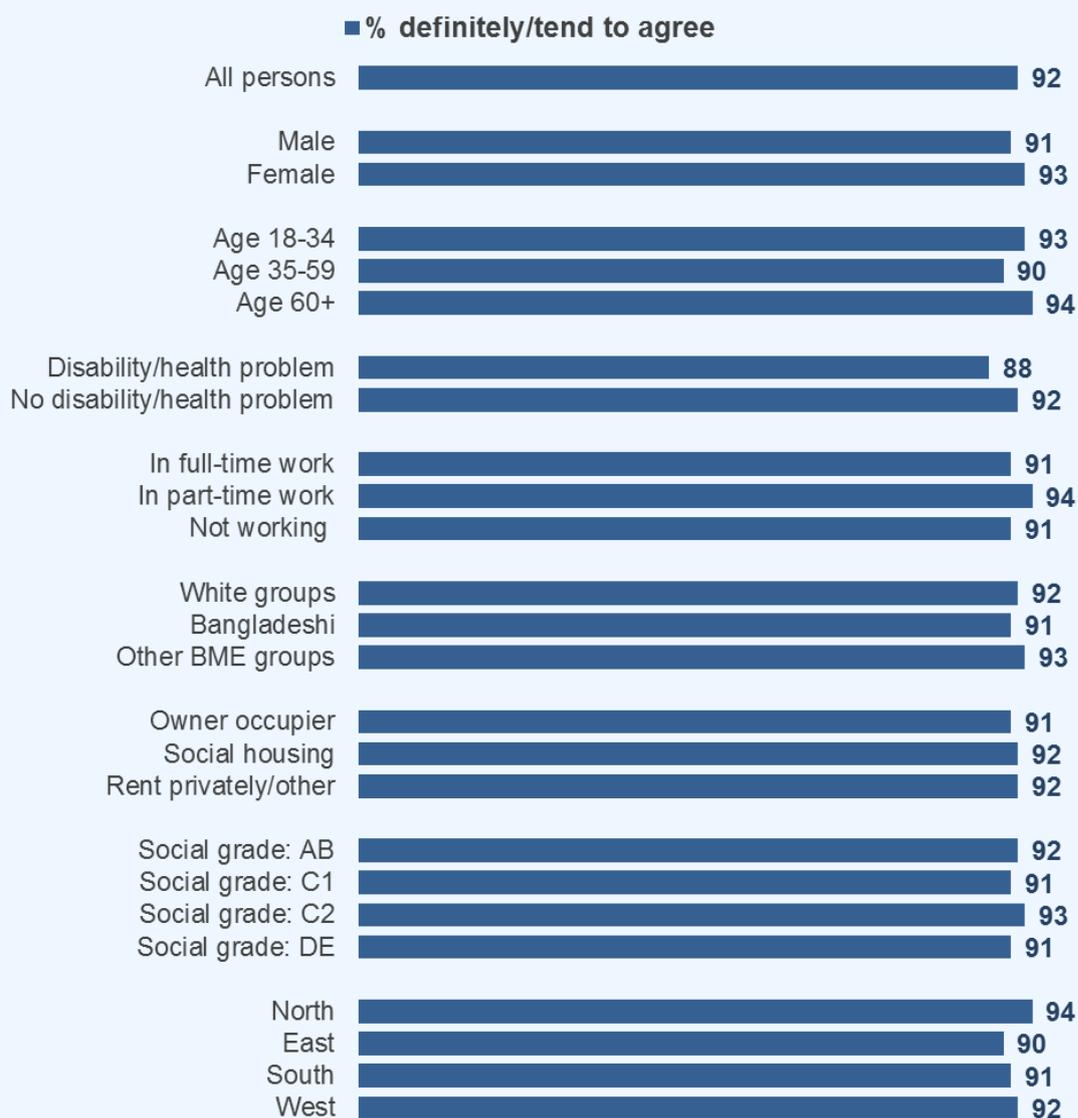
Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

Cohesion

The majority of residents (92 per cent) agree their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Agreement levels were consistently high across all population groups with no marked differences.

Figure 2: Views about cohesion by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that this local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?



 = these figures are significantly different to the average

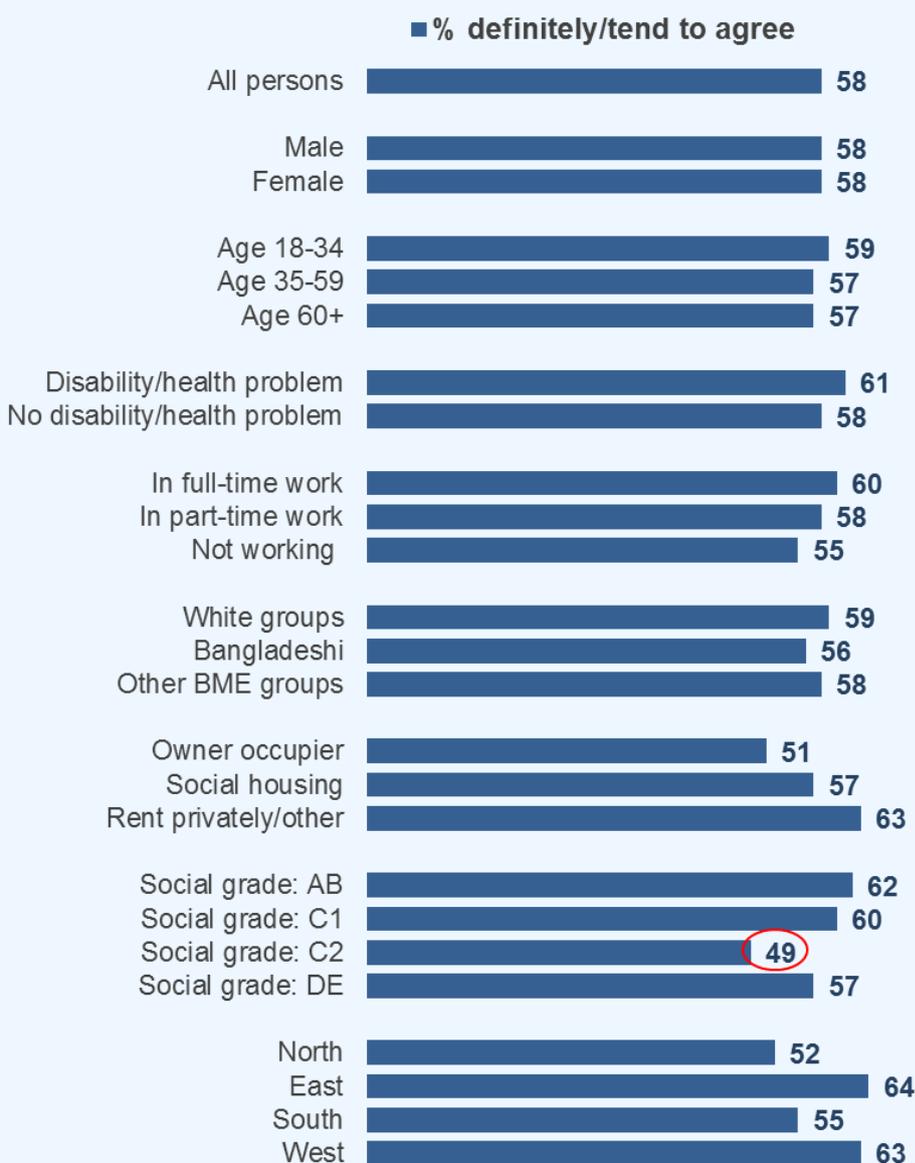
Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

Influencing decisions

Around six in ten (58 per cent) residents felt they could influence decisions affecting their local area. Those from social grade C2 households were a bit less likely than average to feel they could influence things (49 per cent).

Figure 3: Influencing decisions by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Do you agree or disagree that you can influence decisions affecting your local area?



49 = these figures are significantly different to the average

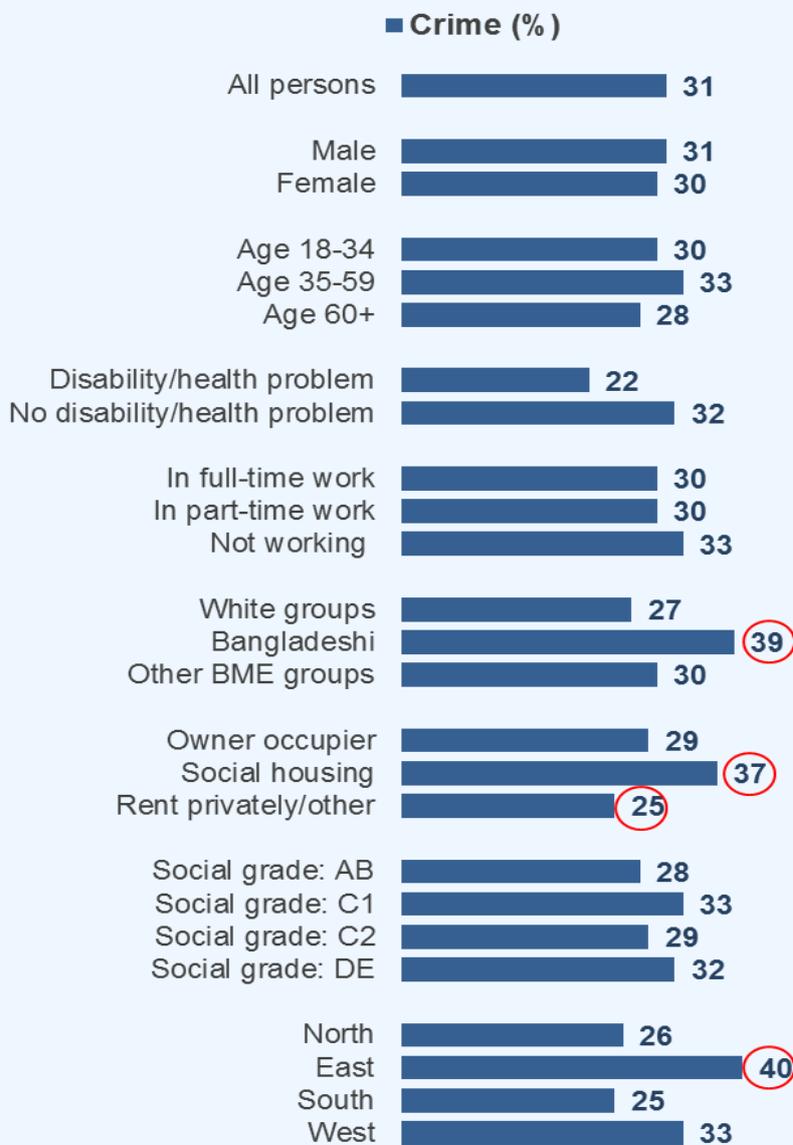
Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

Concern about crime

Almost one third (31 per cent) of residents said crime was one of their top three concerns. Bangladeshi residents were more likely than White residents to be concerned about crime (39 vs. 27 per cent). Those in the East of the borough were more concerned about crime than those living in the North and South of the borough (40 vs. 26 and 25 per cent). By housing tenure, those in social housing were more likely to worry about crime than private renters or owner occupiers.

Figure 4: Concern about crime by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Which three of these are you personally most concerned about?



○ = these figures are significantly different to the average

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

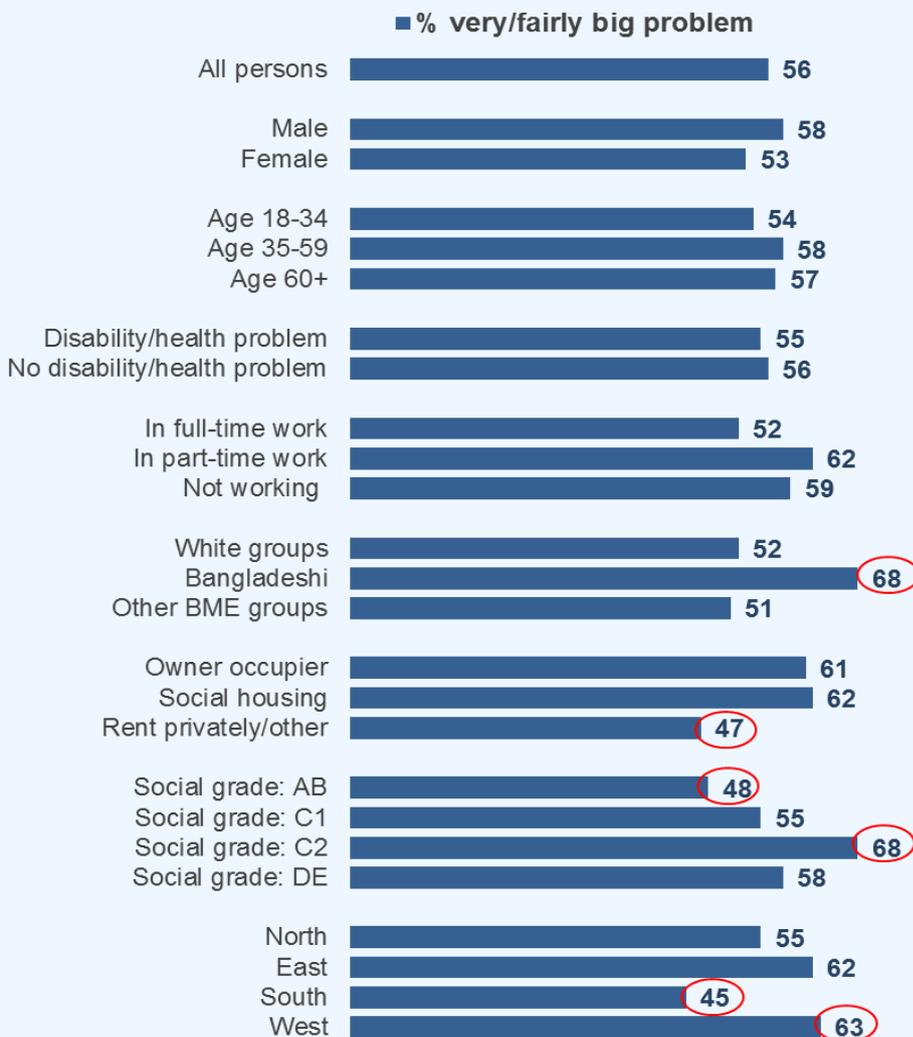
Drug use and drug dealing

More than half of all residents surveyed (56 per cent) felt that people using or dealing drugs was a very or fairly big problem in their local area. Bangladeshi residents were far more likely than White residents, or residents from other BME groups, to feel drug use was a big problem in their area (68 vs. 52 and 51 per cent). By area, those in the West of the borough were the most likely to feel it was a problem, while those in the South were the least likely (63 vs. 45 per cent). By social grade those from social grade C2 households were far more likely than those from AB households to feel drug use was a problem (68 vs. 48 per cent).

Figure 5: Perceptions about drug use and dealing by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Thinking about this local area (within 15/20 minutes walking distance), how much of a problem do you think are...?

People using or dealing drugs



○ = these figures are significantly different to the average

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

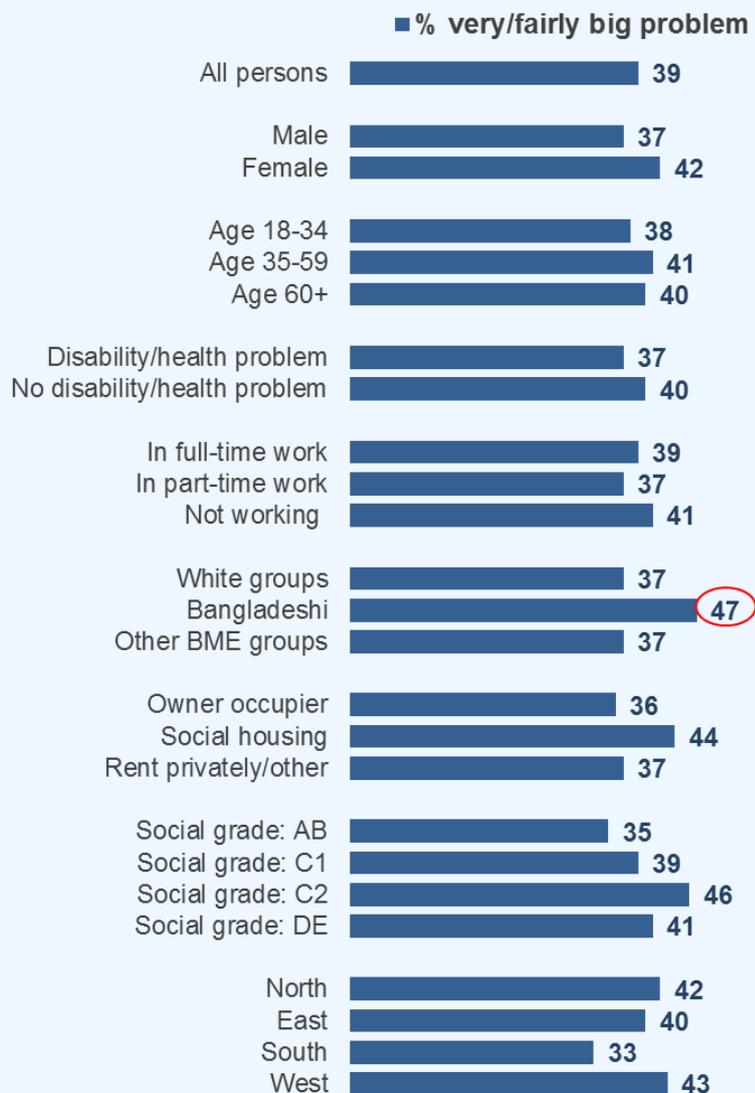
Drunk and rowdy behaviour

Around four in ten residents (39 per cent) felt that people being drunk and rowdy in public places was a big problem in their local area. Views were similar across most groups, though Bangladeshi residents were more likely than White, and other BME groups, to report this as problem (47 vs. 37 per cent).

Figure 6: Perceptions about drunk and rowdy behaviour by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Thinking about this local area (within 15/20 minutes walking distance), how much of a problem do you think are...?

People being drunk or rowdy in public places



○ = these figures are significantly different to the average

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

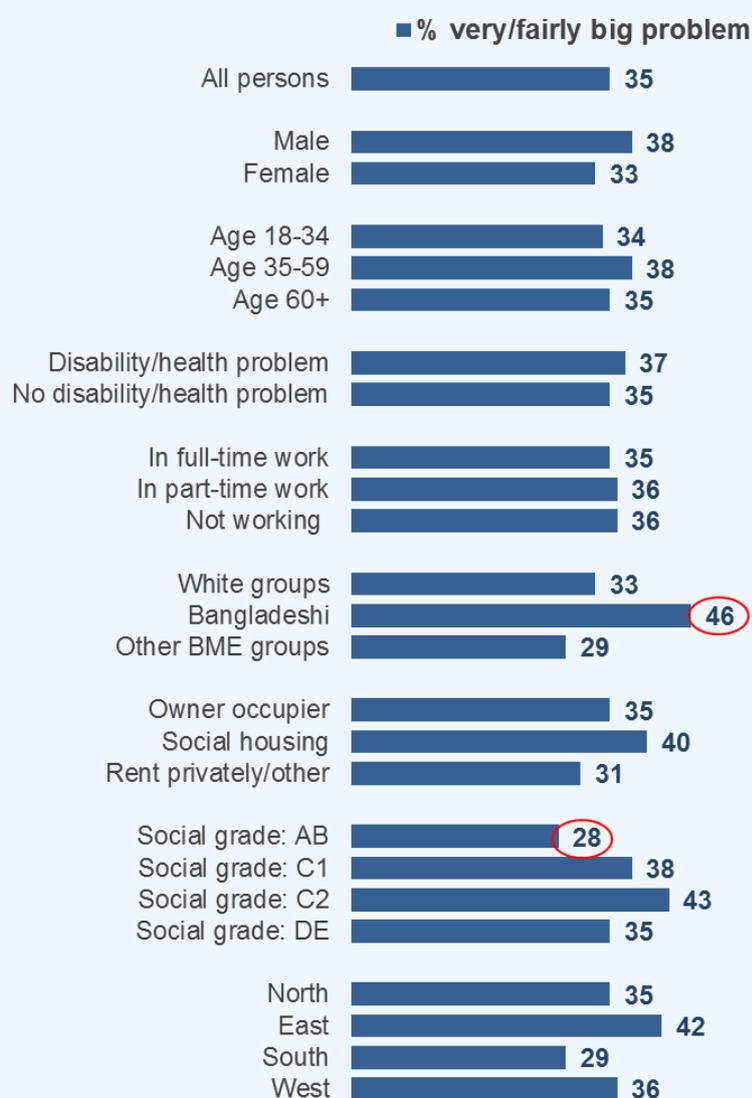
Vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage

Just over one third of residents felt vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage was a big problem in their area. Bangladeshi residents were more likely than White residents, and residents from other BME groups, to feel it was a problem (46 vs. 33 and 29 per cent). Those from social grade AB households were typically less concerned than average (28 per cent).

Figure 7: Perceptions about vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Thinking about this local area (within 15/20 minutes walking distance), how much of a problem do you think are...?

Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles



○ = these figures are significantly different to the average

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

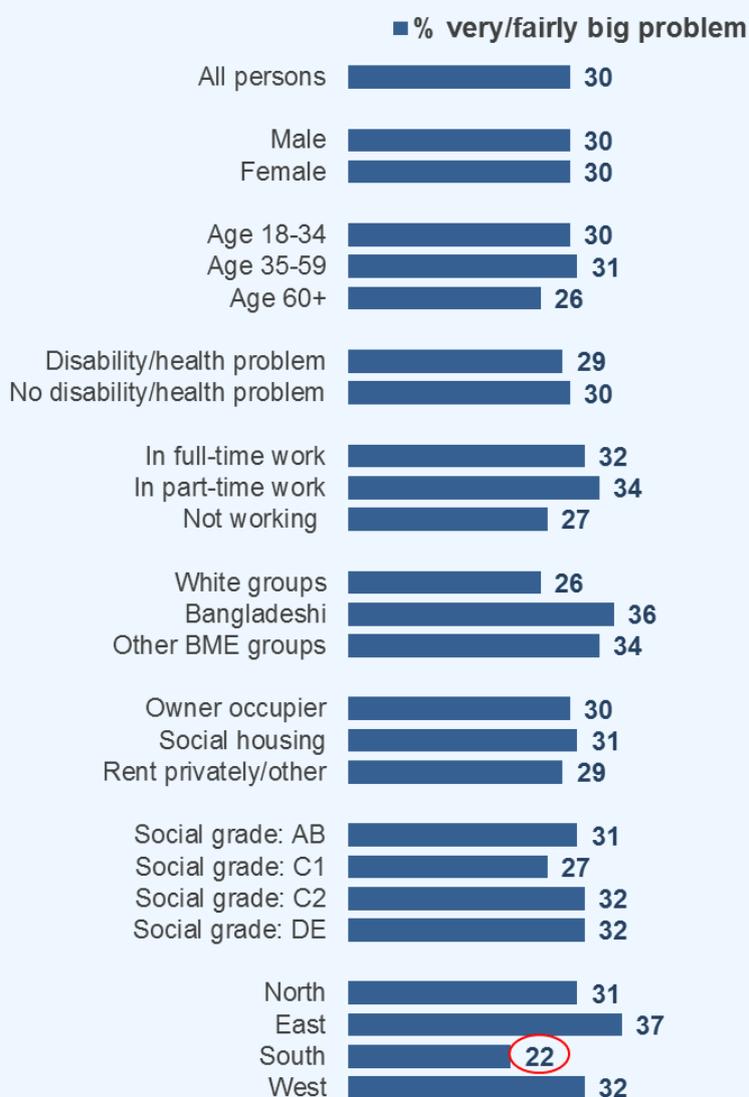
Noisy neighbours and loud parties

Three in ten residents felt noisy neighbours and loud parties were a big problem in their local area. Views were similar across most groups though those living in the South of the borough were less likely than average to report this as a problem (22 vs. 30 per cent).

Figure 8: Perceptions about noisy neighbours and loud parties by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Thinking about this local area (within 15/20 minutes walking distance), how much of a problem do you think are...?

Noisy neighbours or loud parties



○ = these figures are significantly different to the average

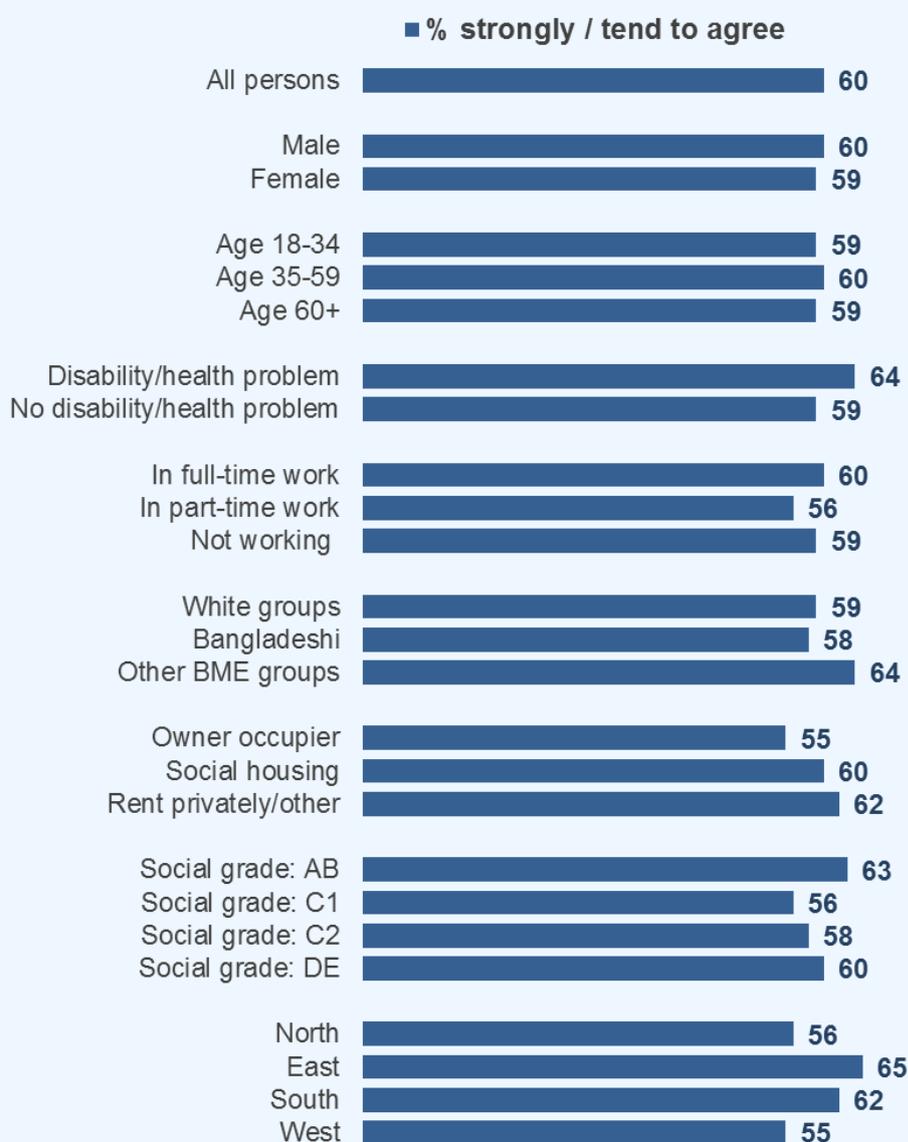
Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

Success in dealing with anti-social behaviour

Six in ten residents felt the police and other local service were successfully dealing with ASB problems in their local area. Levels of agreement showed little variation across groups.

Figure 9: Perceptions about how well services are dealing with ASB by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: How much would you agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with these issues in your local area?



 = these figures are significantly different to the average

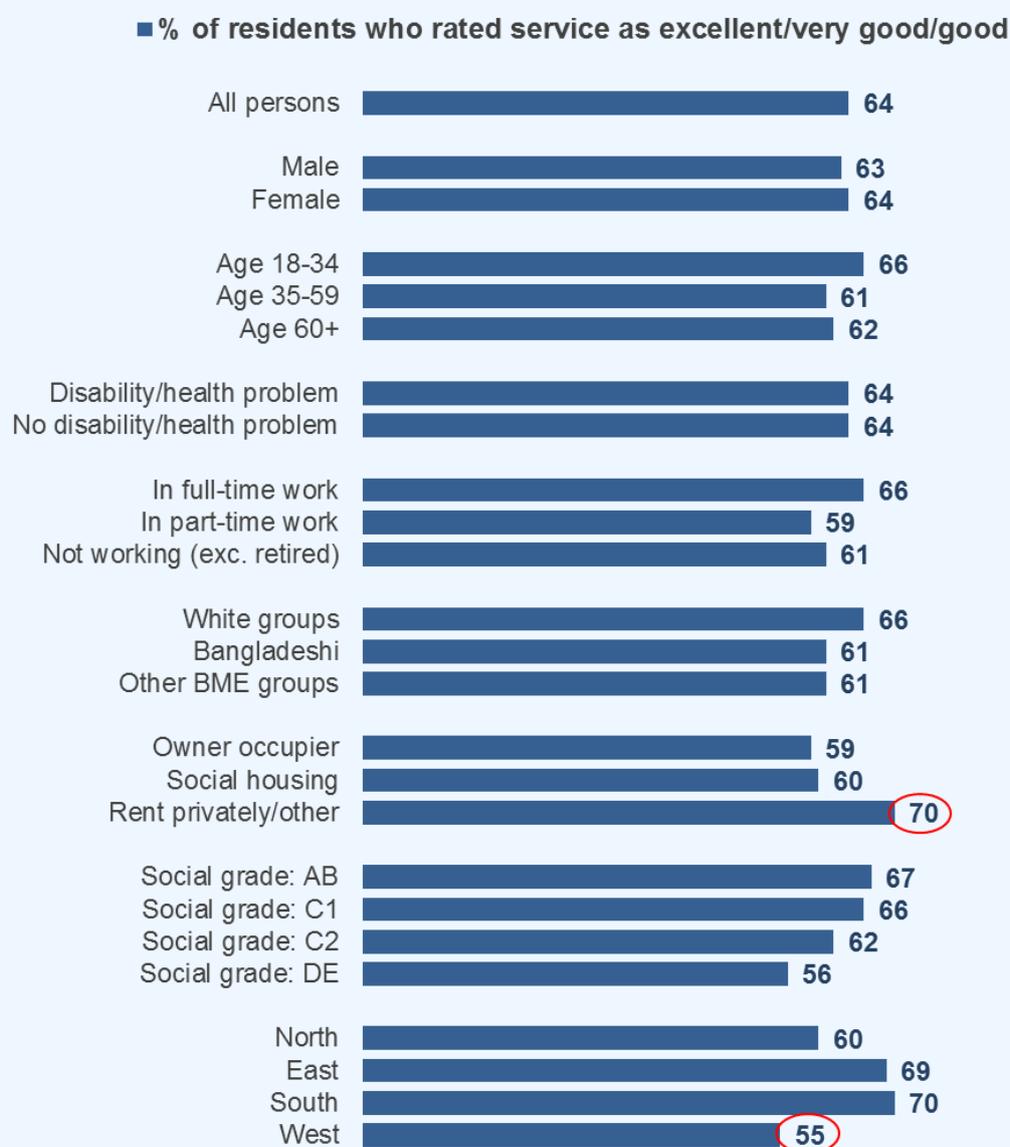
Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

Views about policing

Almost two thirds of residents (64 per cent) rated the standard of policing as good through to excellent. Views were fairly consistent across most groups, though those living in the West were less positive than average (55 per cent). Private renters were more positive about policing than owner occupiers or those living in social housing (70 vs. 59/60 per cent).

Figure 10: Policing ratings by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: I would like to ask you about local services in this area... even if you yourself have not had direct experience of them. What is your opinion of: **Policing?**



○ = these figures are significantly different to the average

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

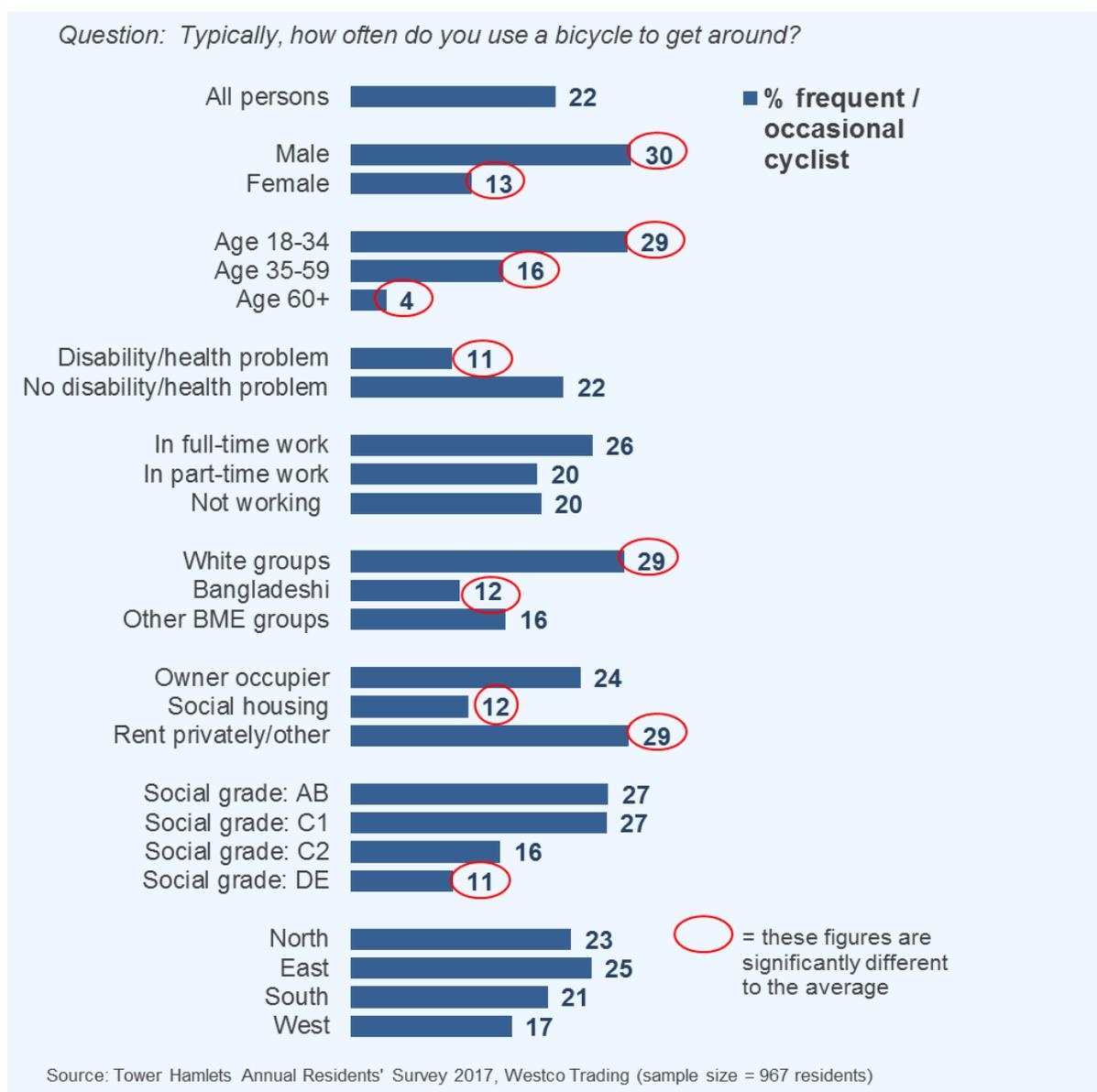
Cycling

Just over one in five (22 per cent) residents were regular or occasional cyclists:

- Men were far more likely than women to be cyclists (30 vs. 13 per cent);
- Cycling is related to age: young adults were the most likely to cycle (29 per cent).
- White residents were far more likely than Bangladeshi residents to cycle (29 vs. 12 per cent).
- Private renters were far more likely to be cyclists than those in social housing (29 vs 12 per cent).
- Those in ABC1 households were more likely to cycle than those in DE households (27 vs. 11 per cent).

Almost three quarters (74 per cent) of residents felt Tower Hamlets was a cycle friendly borough, and views were similar across all population groups.

Figure 11: Cycling by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

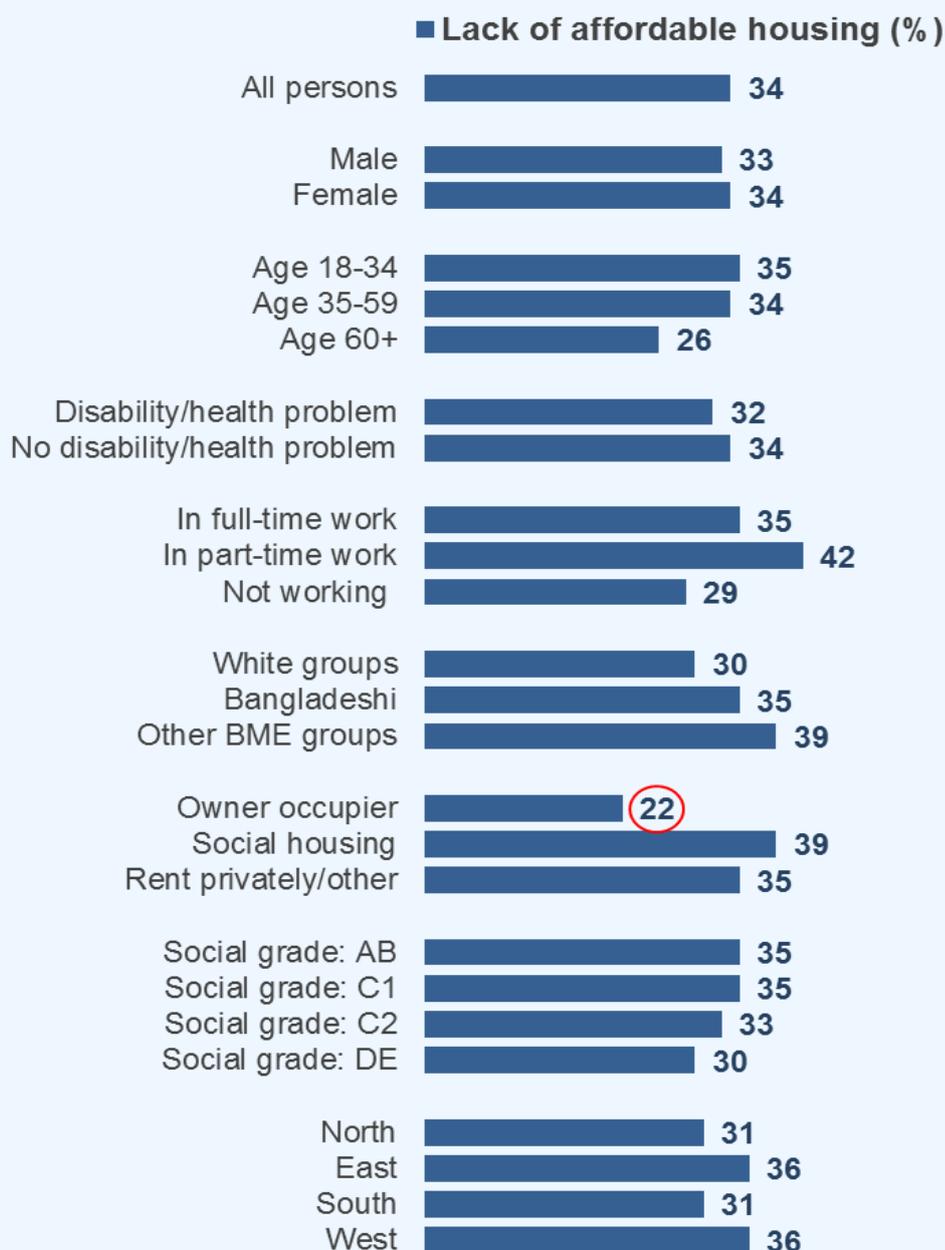


Lack of affordable housing

Over one third of residents (34 per cent) cited ‘a lack of affordable housing’ as one of their top 3 concerns, making it the top concern in the 2017 survey. Concern levels were fairly similar across most groups, though owner occupiers were far less likely than social or private renters to cite it as a key concern (22 vs. 39 and 35 per cent).

Figure 12: Concern about lack of affordable housing, Tower Hamlets, 2017

Question: Which three of these are you personally most concerned about?



22 = these figures are significantly different to the average

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017, Westco Trading (sample size = 967 residents)

Perceptions about new housing developments

Figure 13 summarises residents' views about different aspects of new housing developments across the borough. On the whole, views were fairly mixed. The most positively rated aspect was the extent to which new developments were felt to be well designed and attractive: just under two thirds of those surveyed (62 per cent) were satisfied with this aspect of developments. Views were less positive about the extent to which new developments were felt to 'cater for the needs of all types of people': just 41 per cent were satisfied this was the case. There was a similar picture in relation to whether people felt 'there were enough opportunities to comment on what is built and where' and about the extent to which new housing being built was felt to be 'affordable for a range of people' (37 and 35 per cent satisfied). Across all four areas, the proportion of residents who were ambivalent about the issues was relatively high.

Table 2 considers how these views vary by population group. On the whole, views were fairly consistent across different population groups with the exceptions of age and area (where views differed across three out of the four statements). Older residents were less likely than younger residents to be positive about different aspects of new developments. For example, just 26 per cent of older people aged 60 and over were satisfied that new developments catered for the needs of all types of people compared with 42 per cent of younger residents. Also, those living in the North of the borough were also typically less satisfied than average about some aspects of new housing developments. However, the lower levels of satisfaction among older people, and those living in the North, were typically reflective of higher levels of ambivalence as opposed to higher levels of dissatisfaction.

Figure 13: Views about new housing developments, Tower Hamlets, 2017

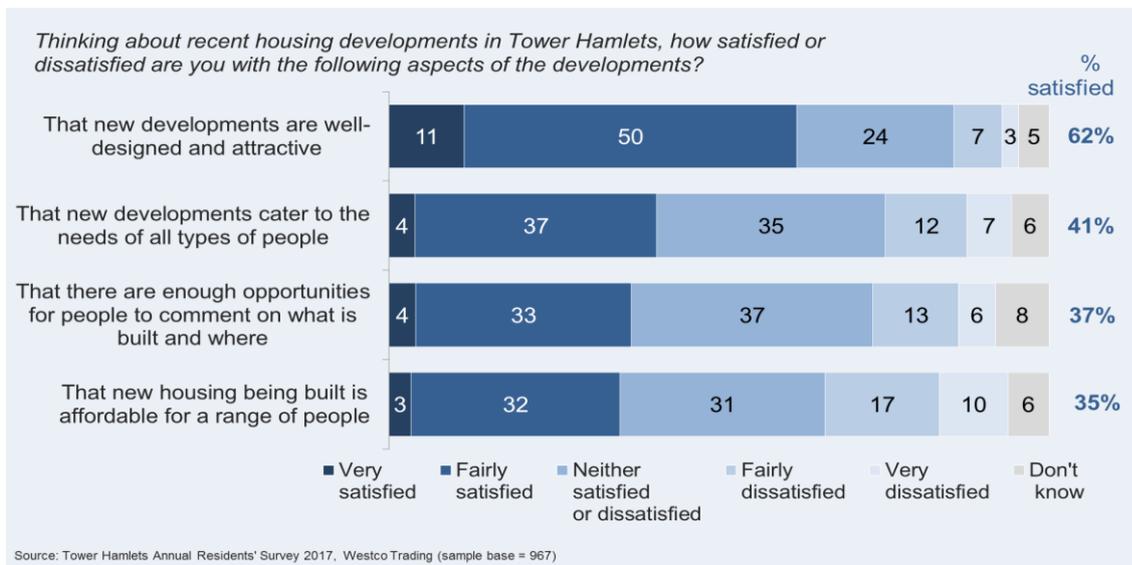


Table 2: Perceptions about different aspects of new housing developments by population group, Tower Hamlets, 2017

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of the developments?

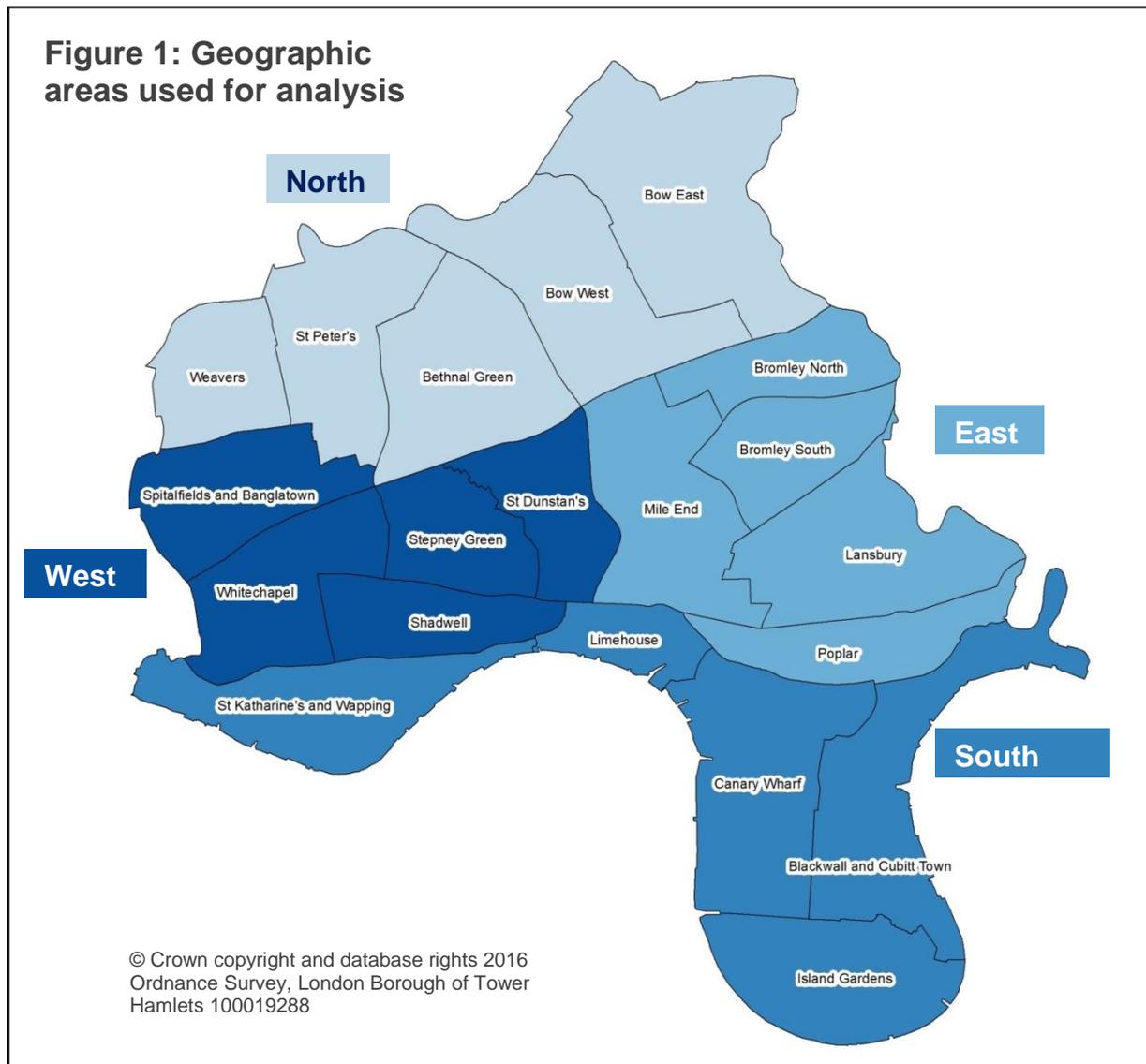
(% very/fairly satisfied)	That new developments cater to the needs of all types of people	That new developments are well-designed and attractive	That there are enough opportunities for people to comment on what is built and where	That new housing being built is affordable for a range of people
All persons	41	62	37	35
Male	41	64	39	36
Female	40	60	34	34
Age				
Age 18-34	42	66	39	36
Age 35-59	42	59	36	35
Age 60+	26	52	27	29
Disability/health problem				
Yes	44	65	38	32
No	40	62	36	35
Employment status				
In full-time work	45	64	40	39
In part-time work	39	63	36	36
Not working	38	61	34	30
Ethnicity				
White groups	40	61	37	35
Bangladeshi	36	60	35	34
Other BME groups	49	67	37	37
Tenure				
Owner occupier	34	56	32	29
Social housing	37	58	36	33
Rent privately/other	48	68	40	40
Social grade				
AB	40	68	35	38
C1	45	61	42	38
C2	37	59	32	33
DE	38	56	34	28
Area				
North	32	56	30	27
East	42	65	42	39
South	48	65	41	40
West	41	60	34	34

Source: Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2017 (sample base 967)

Notes: Shaded figures are significantly different to the all persons average (and to other groups in their population category).

Appendix A: Map of geographic areas used for analysis

Area comparisons are restricted to four areas: North, East, South and West (each made up of wards). The demographic and socio-economic profile of residents living in each area varies and this is reflected in the survey samples being compared. Most notably, those surveyed in the South of the borough have a very different profile compared with those in the other three areas. They are far more likely to be in employment (and to be social grade ABC1 households) compared with those living in the rest of the borough. Conversely, they are far less likely to live in social housing.



Appendix B: Social grade groups

Social grade groups (market research classification system)	Groups used for analysis
A High managerial, administrative or professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce or top civil servants. Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows. 	} AB
B Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications. Principal officers in local government and civil service. Top management, owners of small business concerns, educational & service establishments. Retired people, previously grade B, and their widows. 	
C1 Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions. Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements. Retired people, previously grade C1, and their widows. 	C1
C2 Skilled manual workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers with responsibility for other people. Retired people, previously grade C2, with pensions from their job. Widows, if receiving pensions from their late husband's job. 	C2
D Semi and unskilled manual workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All semi-skilled and un-skilled manual workers, apprentices and trainees to skilled workers. Retired people, previously grade D, with pensions from their job. Widows, if receiving a pension from their late husband's job. 	} DE
E State pensioners, casual workers, long term unemployed/workless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those entirely dependent on the state long-term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons. Those unemployed for more than six months (otherwise classified on previous occupation). Casual workers and those without a regular income. Households without a Chief Income Earner. 	