



PLACED Digital Academy:  
Summary of Feedback on the  
Liverpool City Region Spatial  
Development Strategy (SDS)  
October 2020





## Overview

The Autumn PLACED Digital Academy saw 33 young people aged 14-18 inputting their views into the Objectives of the Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA).

The SDS was introduced by Emma Dyson, from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, providing them with a baseline of information during the first session. Over the four weeks, they reflected on how they would apply the broad themes identified under the SDS Objectives in practical ways; at a micro level through visualising a community hub, local level through visualising a high street and at a City Region Level through voting and discussion.

The following is a brief summary of feedback of the group's priorities and responses to the Spatial Development Strategy. The information presented in this summary is primarily from the final session, during which there was a detailed discussion of the Objectives using an online interactive presentation tool. This final session drew on the previous learning from activities and discussion, enabling the group to offer considered responses to the SDS Objectives.

The Autumn PLACED Digital Academy participants were young people from across the North West, with a total of 13 from local authorities in Liverpool City Region. The table below shows a complete list of postcodes.

Aigburth, Liverpool	L17 9
Aigburth, Liverpool	L17 9
Childwall, Liverpool	L16 5
Childwall, Liverpool	L16 2
Childwall, Liverpool	L16 1
Formby	L37 1
Huyton	L36 8
Norris Green, Liverpool	L11 1
Prescot	L34 1
St Helens	WA10 6
Toxteth, Liverpool	L8 4
Wavertree, Liverpool	L15 9
West Derby, Liverpool	L12 6
Blackley, Manchester	M9 8
Bolton	BL1 3
Bolton	BL6 5
Bolton	BL1 5

Bolton	BL2 3
Gravesend	DA11 8
Hulme, Manchester	M15 5
Leeds	LS12 3
Leeds	LS14 2
Leeds	LS11 9
Leeds	LS16 7
Leeds	LS9 0
Leeds	LS4 2
Leeds	LS19 7
Levenshulme, Manchester	M13 0
Peak District	SK22 3
Sheffield	S9 1
Warrington	WA1 3
Warrington	WA2 9
Warrington	WA3 7
Wigan	WN2 3

Note for data protection, only the first 4 digits of postcodes are provided.

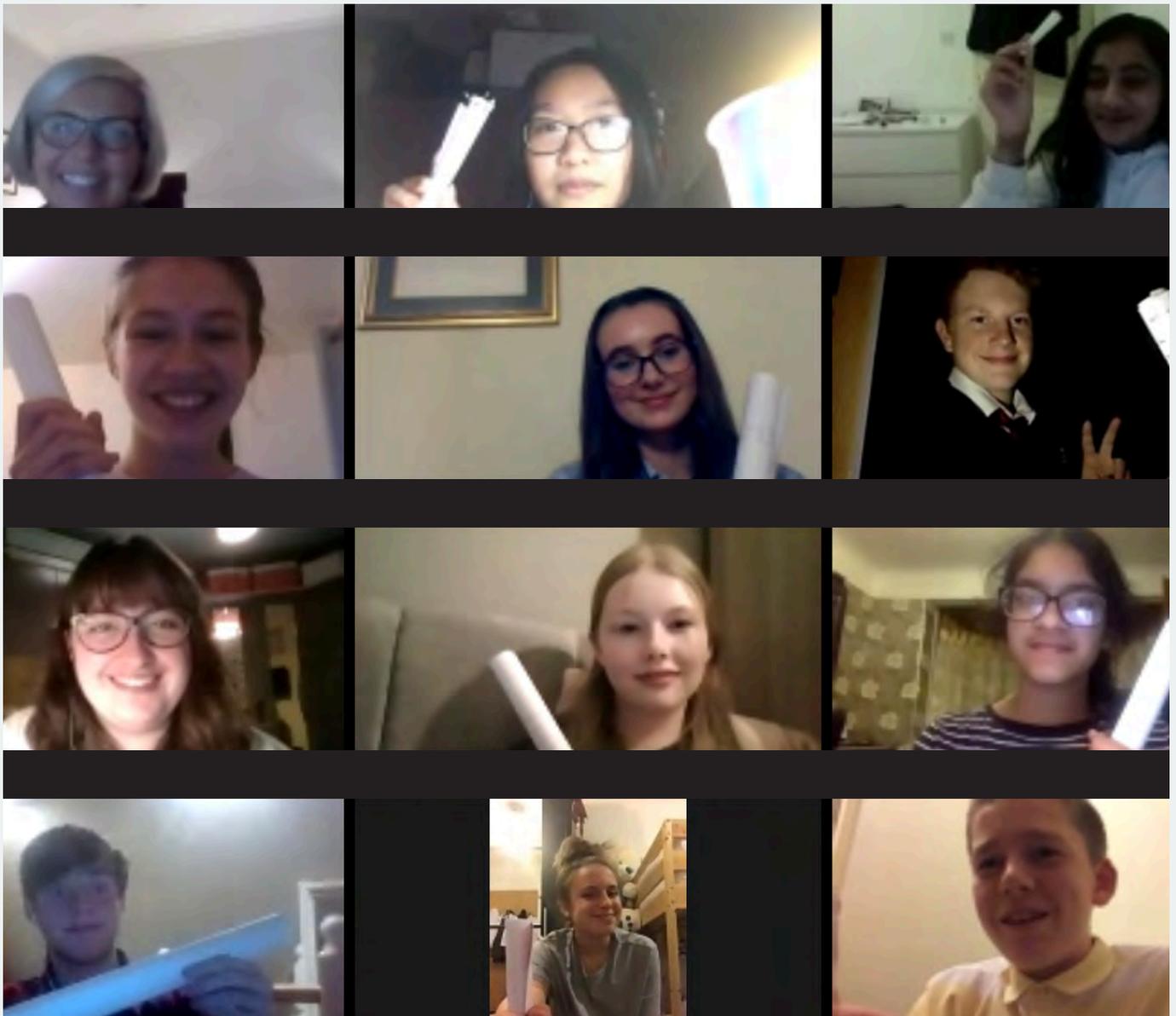
# Programme Format

Participants spent four 2-hour sessions with the Academy completing a variety of tasks around the SDS Objectives, and they were also given homework tasks to complete in between sessions of between 1 and 2 hours. The overall time spent on the SDS engagement was approximately 12.5 hours per participant.

Within the sessions, participants worked with the PLACED team and a range of PLACED Ambassadors to discuss the themes in creative ways, such as making collaborative vision

statements, high-streets to which the Objectives were applied and 'pledges' they would take as the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region to reach the Objectives. Whilst some activities were completed in sub-groups, there was also a whole group discussion and reflection.

For their homework, participants took the learning around the SDS and applied it to an independent project designing community hubs which responded to one, several or all of the themes.



# Findings: SDS Objectives

The following information shows the responses gathered throughout the Academy in response to the SDS Objectives in chronological order.

For the first 3 sessions, participants were only given the Objective headings and the bullets below the Objectives were not explored. This enabled groups to formulate their own responses without being overtly influenced by the full statements. The participants read the Objectives in full in session 4.



## Session 1: Initial priorities

What do you think the number one priority should be for the Liverpool City Region's Objectives?



During the first session, the group were asked to select which of the Objective themes they felt was their number one priority. These independent responses were given after a brief introduction about the SDS strategy and the Objectives from Emma Dyson. The results can be seen in the table below:

Objective	Score	%
Tackling Climate Change	13	32%
High quality places allowing communities to flourish	10	24%
Maximising Social Value	8	20%
Addressing health inequalities	6	15%
Inclusive Economy	4	10%

Looking into the top category of 'Tackling Climate Change' in more detail, the participants shared their views about why they thought this was a top priority. 58 comments were collected ranging from the positive effects the environment has on communities, the positive impact on future generations, and the need for long-term vision and action. A small sample of comments are as follows:

- "We have a limited time to save our world and - through raising awareness and working harder to solve the problem - we can try and ensure that the big problems created by companies begin to be solved"
- "Climate change is something which affects everyone not just a single group"
- "It touches everyone. There is no other greater challenge to unite around"
- "It protects biodiversity which is vital for sustainability while also improving health and well being"



# Session 2: Defining the Objectives

In the second workshop, we asked the participants to explore how they would apply the broad themes identified under the SDS Objectives in a practical way. They worked in sub-groups with each considering a different Objective in more detail. We asked them to consider the following:

- What the SDS Objective statement meant to them individually
- What major change / intervention they would like to see in the context of this Objective
- What might be difficult about implementing that change / intervention.

Following this, we asked them to apply their ideas at local level through visualising a high street using Miro, an online interactive platform. We encouraged creative responses through using writing, images, and drawings to demonstrate ideas.

Examples of the high streets created by different groups can be seen below:

## Group 1 – Health and wellbeing: addressing health inequalities and creating a healthier city region





## Group 4 – Social value: embedding social value in all aspects of development



### Observations

Interventions to tackle Climate Change were included across each category, in line with climate being a top priority as indicated in the first session, and reflecting previous comments that tackling climate change would positively impact other areas of life.

Inclusive Economy and Social Value were the most challenging for the participants and the mentors to grasp as a concept. Social Value in particular proved the most challenging when tasked with identifying physical interventions to achieve the aim.



## Session 3: Pledge for change

The first part of Session 3 saw participants responding individually to the prompt, 'What is your biggest concern, and what change would you make?' Participants were given freedom to choose the category they would most like to respond to out of the Objectives. They were each given a digital workspace to respond to the question through a mixture of images, words and links.

Images of some of the responses gathered are across the page.

**“Even if you don’t end up wishing to work in the built environment, I think this is still a really useful and beneficial experience, working with professionals and new people on fun and unique tasks. It gave me a valuable insight into the life working as a professional in the built environment, as well as learning new skills along the way. I think it is a really beneficial and fun scheme for everyone.”**

Max

My biggest concern is climate change and pollution.

Climate change has increased at an average rate of 0.07 degrees per decade. It is forecasted since 1980 to 0.18 degrees.

The main cause for climate change is burning fossil fuels such as gas, oil, and coal. When burnt, these release carbon dioxide into the air, which is causing the planet to heat up.

I would advise investment in solar power, electric, hybrid and hydrogen cars. Change to the renewable sources and invest in solar energy storage and smart energy systems.

my biggest concern is... what the future holds in terms of climate change

action needs to be taken to try and improve climate change as it is getting increasingly worse and could affect our future of the planet and our lives...

recycling could be a start to trying to tackle the issue as well as renewable energy resources instead of using things such as crude oil which is a non-renewable resource...

negative effects of climate change may include...

my concern is that there is not enough alternate methods of transport.

make more different types of public transport so that people can use the different type.

avoiding globalisation

Lila

one development, especially major change, can often have a range of other impacts on the environment.

but a lot of us are thinking about how to avoid the risks of globalisation and how to manage the risks of climate change.

My biggest concern is tackling climate change.

green spaces

Ellie

young plant diversification and investment

I am concerned with the growth of climate change that my area will not have enough space for more nature and wildlife.

More older trees that last for a number of years

I will aim to make sure that there is an increase in the amount of trees and planted in my area.

My biggest concern is that we have already cut down over 50% of rain forests. Also the ice is melting quick in Antarctica because of this our global heat has gone up 1 degree more. Climate change is a big one. Trees are not as sustainable as we think as they aren't using the best trees when replanting.

Use sustainable products Recycle more Use sustainable products Have more trees around us

Emily

My biggest concern is being part of a society and having a Tory government that does not support everyone

to change this, I would take steps towards making sure the vote is based a much fairer amount, ending up with more money to go to local councils and communities

money can go to making town streets look more attractive, adding more community centres, funding the arts sectors etc

change to a labour government!

I would vote out Tories.

Current Tory government thinking about only present as opposed to the future generations.

yes

yes

yes

I like this too

I like this

I think that there aren't enough homeless shelters. I would change this by making an open area into a big meet up market for shelter, warm food and drink for those who can't afford it. Charlie R

My biggest concern is of biodiversity in the future - very obvious causes is due to climate change and urbanisation.

To help combat this issue, I want to introduce large, big hedge, I mean, about the size of a neighbour's worth an estate's worth of greenery. As the current small parks and green areas won't be enough habitat for a wide range of animals.

yes

keeping & maintaining existing buildings

use existing building stock

diversify well to community

My biggest worry is that we encourage someone and let that mean to do more and more online. Not communities and not about and not having interaction but more to be about an interaction and necessary

an initiative

help community

community help people

solving the biggest problems currently will only happen if we all begin to work collaboratively

Sometimes everyone isn't given equal opportunities which is what they deserve. There are a lot of different backgrounds and values within one area who all have different needs and wants. And different ones like London is prioritised over the North. In lots of communities people don't have equal opportunities

To help to solve this problem I would ensure that everybody is provided with what they need within a town e.g. specific shops and religious places. Also the money within the country should be spread evenly rather than focusing on certain areas create community centres to join people together and help to give equal opportunities.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy

Make use of the money, more sustainable resources are more affordable for other people.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy

heavy reliance on personal cars and lack of public/alternative transport to all areas in and around the city

build more bike sheds/ public storage spaces for bikes, as well as bike paths, and maybe more train lines for colder times of the year, also improving public transport buildings to make them more accessible

Offering Re educating families

Money management courses - help tackle poverty/ pay gap

Help the problems that occur through every generation

Education and support for families could tackle inequalities, health care and climate change.

Teaching families ways to help their community

climate change is a major global issue

to solve this issue, I want to invest in eco-friendly materials like solar panels, electric cars, more public

Next, we put participants into working groups to collectively think the different Objectives. They were asked to decide on 'pledge' statements that outline the actions they would most like to see prioritised under this SDS Objective. Again, the young people responded to this task creatively, using images and writing.

Their responses to each SDS Objective are shown below:

“It’s such a good experience. Despite ours being online, we learnt so much and met so many people. And it’s extremely beneficial for university applications and just personal growth.”

Mitchell

## Group 1 – Health and wellbeing: addressing health inequalities and creating a healthier city region

The collage is organized into four main sections:

- Stronger Communities:**
  - Allow the community to have input on what they want from a space to improve participation and strengthen the community
  - community gardens\ allotments available for everyone.
  - more care taken of green spaces and parks
  - providing more jobs that take care of our parks
  - having a local leader/ ambassador for environmental issues
  - Stronger Communities
  - more community activities ,meetings and events
  - more focused funding to communities who face things like poverty
  - garden where people can go and volunteer
  - new council houses built with gardens to provide more green space
  - Using clean renewable energy to reduce co2 emissions e.g solar, wind power
  - Clean green spaces e.g parks, protected areas , more tress
  - Safe clean and attractive spaces will bring more people out of their house
  - Having access to cleaner, greener, accessible and well funded areas will be so important as it will improve peoples lifestyles and a better environment improves mental health.
  - Safe walkways for all ages to access and enjoy
- Exercise:**
  - Safe paths for cycling and walking in busy city areas
  - more opportunities for exercise
  - Family and community activities.
  - Exercise
  - Schemes in schools to help people want to exercise and give them facilities to do so
  - E.g exercise equipment in parks
  - Funding for schools and community centres to provide accesible exercise facilities
  - Images of a park and a city street.
- Greener and cleaner spaces:**
  - Greener and cleaner spaces
  - Green walls and plants on rooves
- Education:**
  - make talking about mental health normal.
  - Education in schools and workplaces teaching signs and solutions
  - funding for schools - open centres/ charities to help fund for school products, trips etc
  - Schools and workplaces providing counselling and advice on mental health
  - Education
  - Talking more about mental health in school
  - Places people can feel comfortable to open up about mental health in community areas
  - have someone like a school nurse but for mental health issues
  - 2 hearts, 0 sad faces, 3 thumbs up, 1 speech bubble icon.
  - We should make mental health a part of the curriculum.

## Group 2 – Delivering an inclusive economy

**large gardens**  
Arrange social gatherings in front of a supportive community

More affordable housing / council housing  
provide public for lease of houses as the council could vary their and change

base near a community hub that provides support and classes on money management and healthy eating

**Affordable Housing**

Flats, so more building can be built with less space. This can be helpful as not enough building are built

Provide social places in these housing communities

a big reason many people can't afford houses to begin with is due to the class they're born in but I'm unsure as to how we could fix that

learn about new ways to be more green

Teach

Teaching about climate change and ways to control it

Teaching self sufficiency like gardening

Flats and houses will improve water use

inclusive education for all genders, ages, ethnicities and abilities

Get children involved with growing plants and flowers getting them to understand it. Not just being taught in a class where they might not understand

participate in activities that will actually contribute to the environment like growing your own food, recycling that's properly sectioned etc

responsibility towards the students and teachers (PBL, social learning ways)

Knitting classes increasing income (donations) for the poor to help with housing

HOUSING AVERAGE

Electric buses would be cheaper to run long term

less privatisation

reduce prices of public transport

Cheap and varied transport links that are accessible to all.

cycle lanes

public footpaths

Cycle paths

light rail - it's like a train but cheaper and more abundant

TRAM LINES

Encouraging agriculture and looking after the environment for free

Free Public Alotments

Green & open spaces with places to grow food etc

Helps people stay green

It looks better, so people feel maybe more calm or welcomed.

could have community greenhouses where small communities could help grow healthy food for less wealthy members of community

Addresses for people to sit, walk people from getting bored. Maybe helping the ability as some of them go home to sit on the sofa and watch their TV (not)

Encouraging people to work on their own and not rely on the government

## Group 3 – Placemaking and communities: creating high quality buildings and places that allow our communities to flourish

businesses provide spaces and opportunities for small businesses to grow

**SMALL**

construction

reuse of old/ derelict building provides cheaper, better housing for everyone

communal building give space for businesses

**Communities**

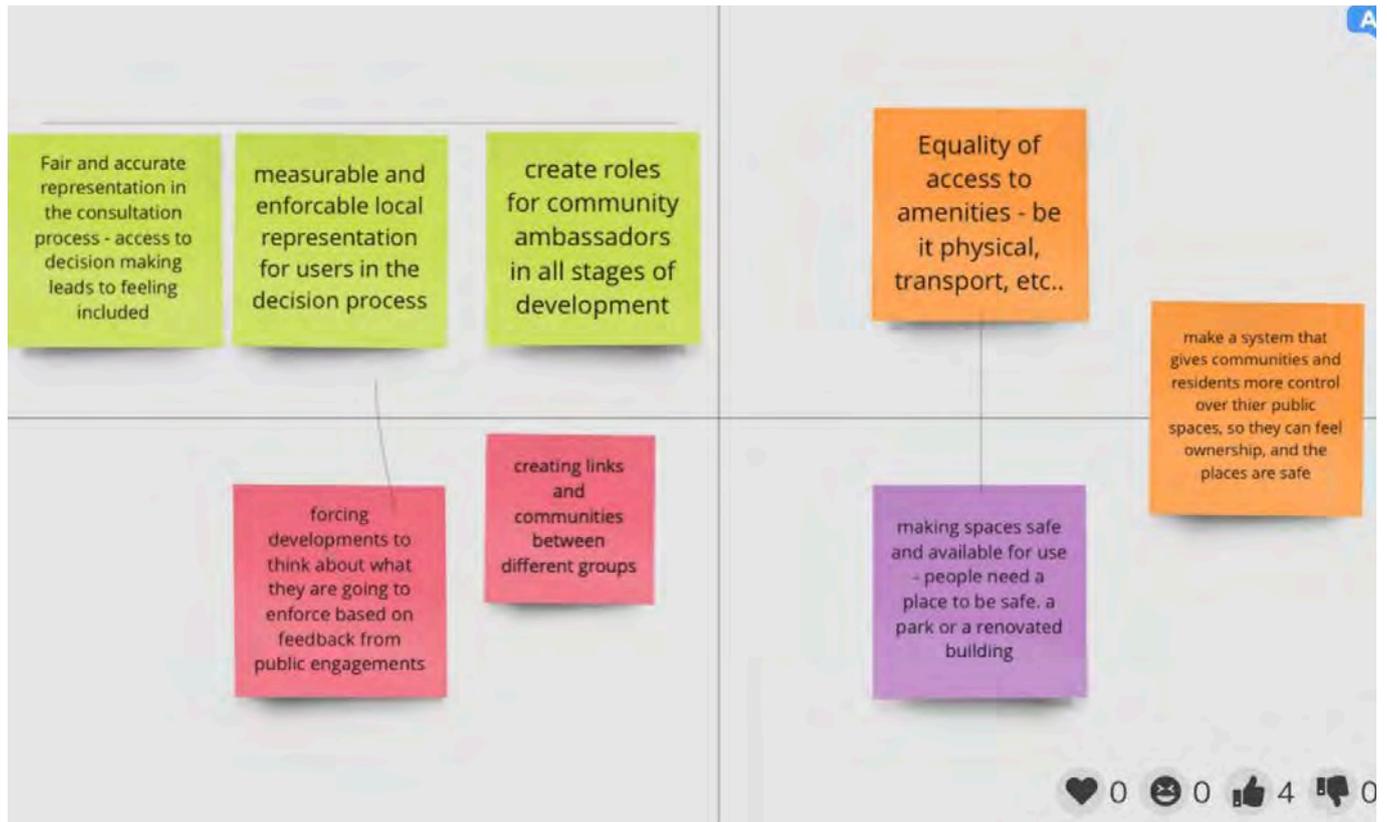
Make sure people are not getting left out, should have some of the same things as people around them.

environment  
transport renewable energy  
green spaces

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## Group 4 – Social value: embedding social value in all aspects of development



“The environment around us not only affects the environment but our mental health and outlook on life”

“My biggest concern is that some communities are neglected by councils and many young people don't have a place to be themselves”

Academy Participants

## Session 4: Rating the SDS Objectives

The final workshop summarised the participant's learning by asking them to rank what they thought of the LCR's SDS statements by presenting them with the full-text Objectives for the first time and allowing them to reflect on what they thought worked well or was missing.

### Question 1: How do you rank these priorities from most to least important?

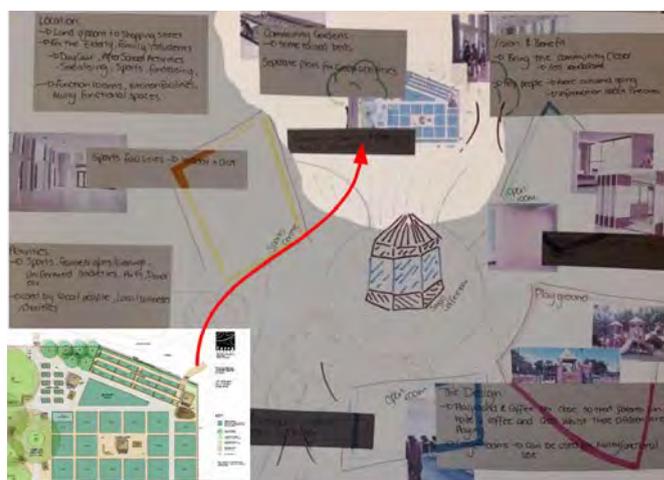
The participants were asked to rank the Objectives in order of importance to them.

The table below shows the overall scores with Tackling Climate Change being the highest priority and Maximising Social Value the lowest priority:

Objective	Score
Tackling Climate Change	128
High quality places allowing communities to flourish	114
Inclusive Economy	92
Addressing health inequalities	82
Maximising Social Value	48

Note: These scores were weighted, where the top priority was given a weighting of 5, and the lowest priority a weighting of 1.

These findings show that at the start of the programme and at the final session, Tackling Climate Change was the number one priority. Inclusive economy moved up from the lowest to the third highest rated priority, and Social Value moved from third to bottom.



## Question 2: Are there any categories missing from the SDS Objectives?

After showing the participants the five Objectives, they were asked if they thought any themes were missing. This open question saw the following themes emerging:

Category	%
Safety	20%
Education	14%
Community	12%
Inclusivity	10%
Transport	8%
Culture	6%
Environment	4%
Equality	4%
Homelessness	4%
Leisure	4%
Mental health	4%
Placemaking	4%
Economy	2%
Opportunity	2%
Wellbeing	2%



Safety took a substantial number of votes with a fifth of comments identifying it as something that was lacking, followed by education.

“Engaging with young people through the Digital Academy was a really innovative and different way to hear the voices of the future. The pandemic, like most things, completely altered the way we could discuss, learn and engage with various groups and so we were really pleased that PLACED were still able to go ahead with their Academy, albeit in a slightly different and virtual format.

Time and time again it brought to focus that our young people passionately care for the environment that they live in and the health of themselves and their families; two key points which are really driving forward the development of the SDS policy.”

Emma Dyson, LCRCA



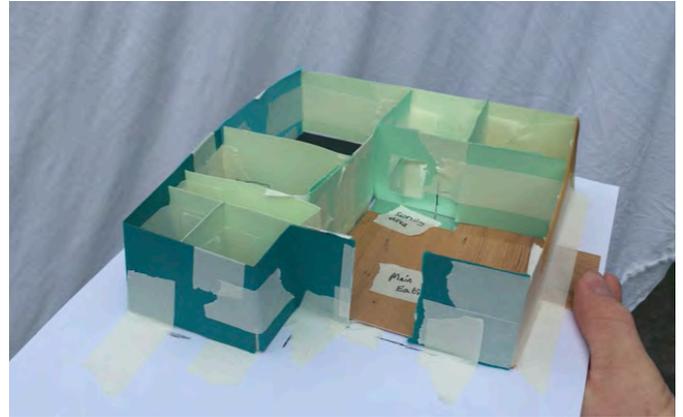
## Question 3:

# Do you agree with the LCR's Objectives?

The next 5 questions saw participants seeing the full LCR's SDS Objectives for the first time since the introduction in the first session.

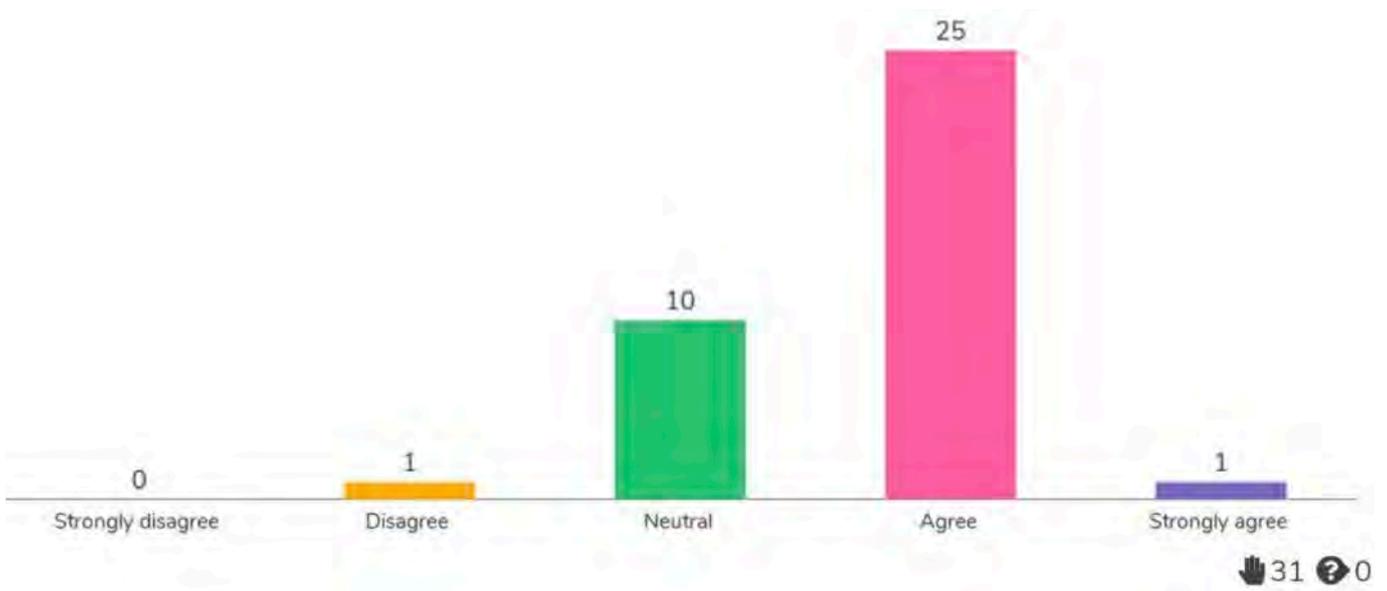
After reading the statement, we asked the Academy participants to tell us to what extent they agree with the statements and what they felt was missing.

The feedback on each Objective below can be found below.



## Climate Change

To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?



Most felt that 2040 was too late and that they wanted to see actions being taken sooner. They also felt that transport should be addressed. See below full list of responses to the question "Have we missed anything? Is there anything you'd like to add?"

Comments broadly fell into the following categories:

- **Sense of urgency / 2040 being too late**
- **Transport**
- **Unclear Objectives**
- **Other**

### **Sense of urgency / 2040 being too late:**

- 2040 is too late
- Change needs to be done quicker and made easily accessible
- Needs to be faster
- 2040 is too late
- Needs to be done now
- Do it now
- True, yes 2040 is too late - deadlines need to be smaller so they are in sight and not out of mind
- Has to be implemented sooner
- Now is the time to act not 2040
- 2040 is too late
- They need to make laws sooner
- Too late
- We have to act quickly
- Need to be faster
- 2040 may be too late
- Needs to be sooner
- Start now
- Needs to be done sooner
- More of a push for renewables and carbon neutrality for 2030 instead

### **Transport:**

- Buses = electric
- Making cheaper and more electric cars or transport using other natural resources
- Travel to be electric
- Encouraging walking
- Transport must be included
- Transport
- Public transport = electric
- Transport own category
- Electric buses
- Cheaper public transport
- Transport
- Electric buses

### **Unclear Objectives:**

- Very vague
- Vague
- How are they going to do it?
- Not clear

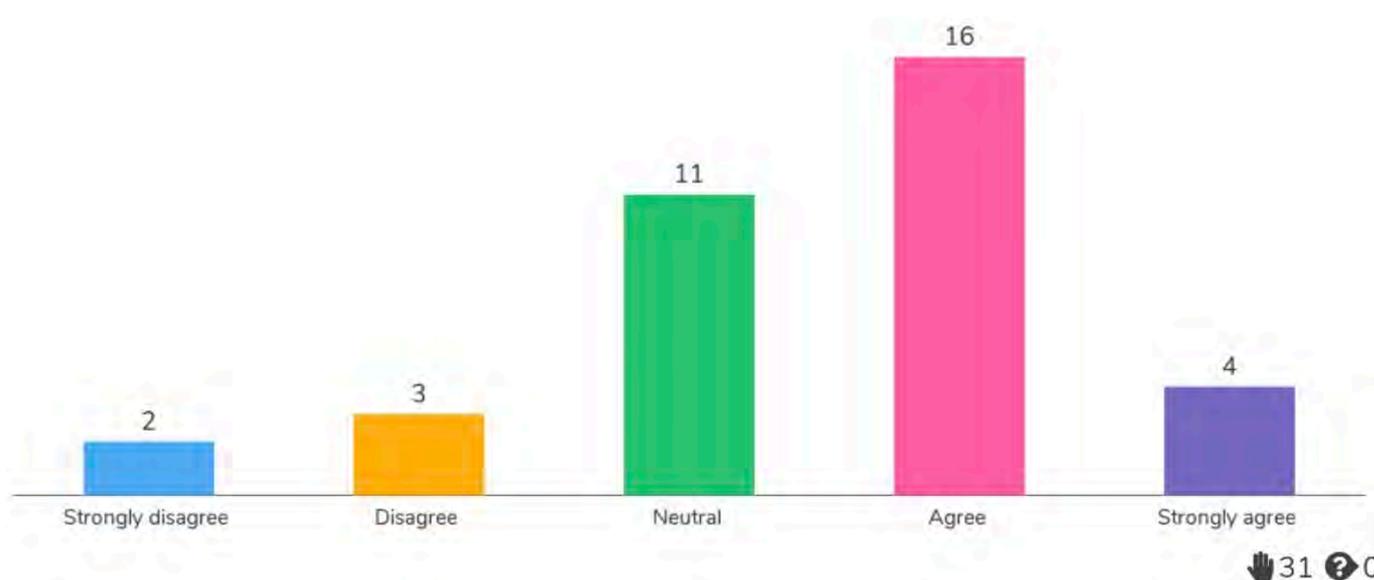
### **Other:**

- Start educating younger people
- Add more bins to help recycling
- Making sure developers/builders use renewable and green materials
- Feels like they are focusing on protecting not progressing

## Addressing health inequalities

Many young people felt that mental health and accessibility (financial / disability / area) were not addressed. See below full list of responses to the question "Have we missed anything? Is there anything you'd like to add?"

**To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?**



**Comments broadly fell into the following categories:**

- Mental health
- Accessibility
- Other

**Mental health:**

- Mental health
- Mental health priorities
- Mental health
- Mental health
- Meditation
- Mental health needs own category and to be more important
- Mental health!!!! It's more important than physical health
- Accessibility and mental health
- Mental health
- Mental health

## Accessibility:

- Needs to be in all areas
- Cheaper transport options
- More safe and accessible walking areas
- The cost to those who may not be able to afford e.g. gyms
- Cheaper
- Needs more emphasis on wealth/class inequalities
- Making places accessible for people with disabilities
- Cheaper public facilities
- Class divide will always affect it
- Cheaper gym
- Free sports facilities
- Facilities need to be accessible
- The financial cost and how it affects others

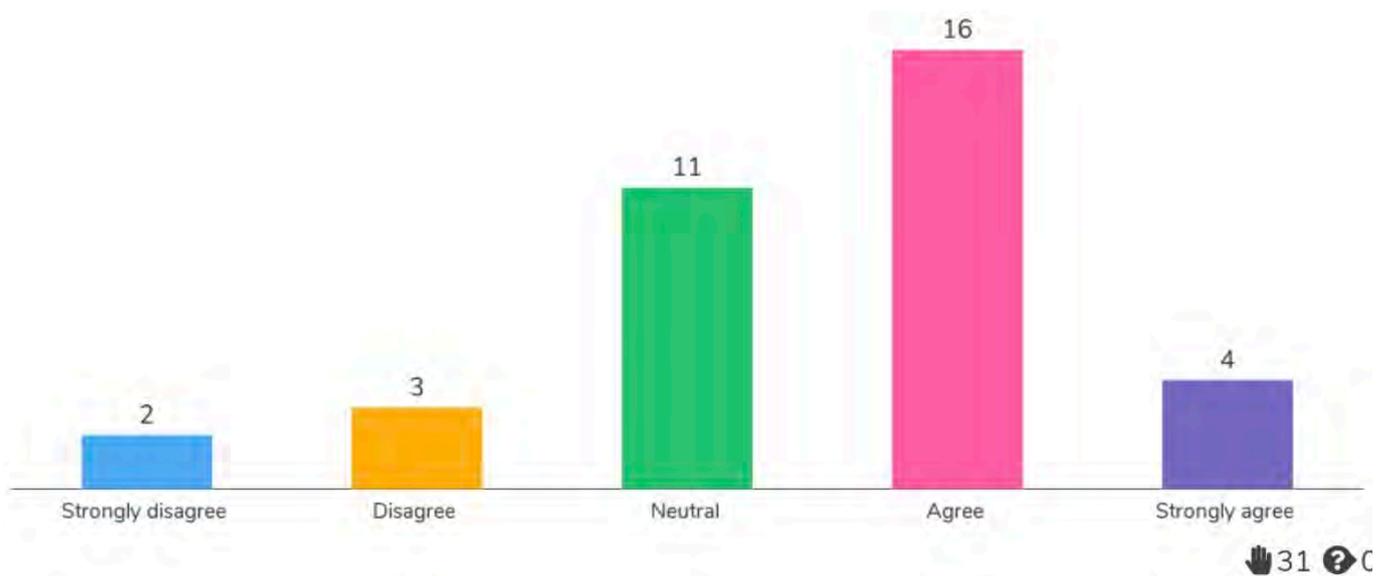
## Other:

- Make use of what we already have
- Transport variety not just one type
- Equity > equality - limited funding in health so help those who need it first?
- Ensuring high quality development. How? What are their plans?
- Employment opportunities and equality for all people
- They haven't given specifics or detail
- How do they propose facilities will develop exactly?
- Not that much change. Very limited
- No time limits are included. Could imply a short time to get these targets accomplished or many years
- Some cities are too small to be reshaped with cycle paths

## Delivering an inclusive economy

Affordability of housing and a focus on supporting local independent businesses were two factors that Academy participants felt needed to be added to this Objective. See below full list of responses to the question "Have we missed anything? Is there anything you'd like to add?".

**To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?**



## **Comments broadly fell into the following categories:**

- Housing and affordability
- Local business
- Addressing class / wealth divide and equal opportunities (education and employment)
- Other

### **Housing and affordability:**

- Affordable housing - mixed income housing
- Affordable housing so everyone has a step in life
- Making affordable housing attractive
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Didn't mention housing and transport
- Housing
- Transport
- Housing and transport
- Affordable childcare e.g. nursery for poorer families

### **Local Businesses:**

- Build and focus on small shops and businesses
- Diversity and international business
- Needs further support of local businesses as opposed to corporations
- Encourage more independent businesses
- Funding for small businesses
- Change how the economy work might be more beneficial.

## **Addressing class / wealth divide and equal opportunities (education and employment):**

- People need be aware of how to develop and progress
- Taking care of the class divide
- Addressing the class divide
- Didn't mention employment
- Equality
- Opportunities need to be provided from young ages in schools
- More school funding to allow children to develop different skills from a young age.

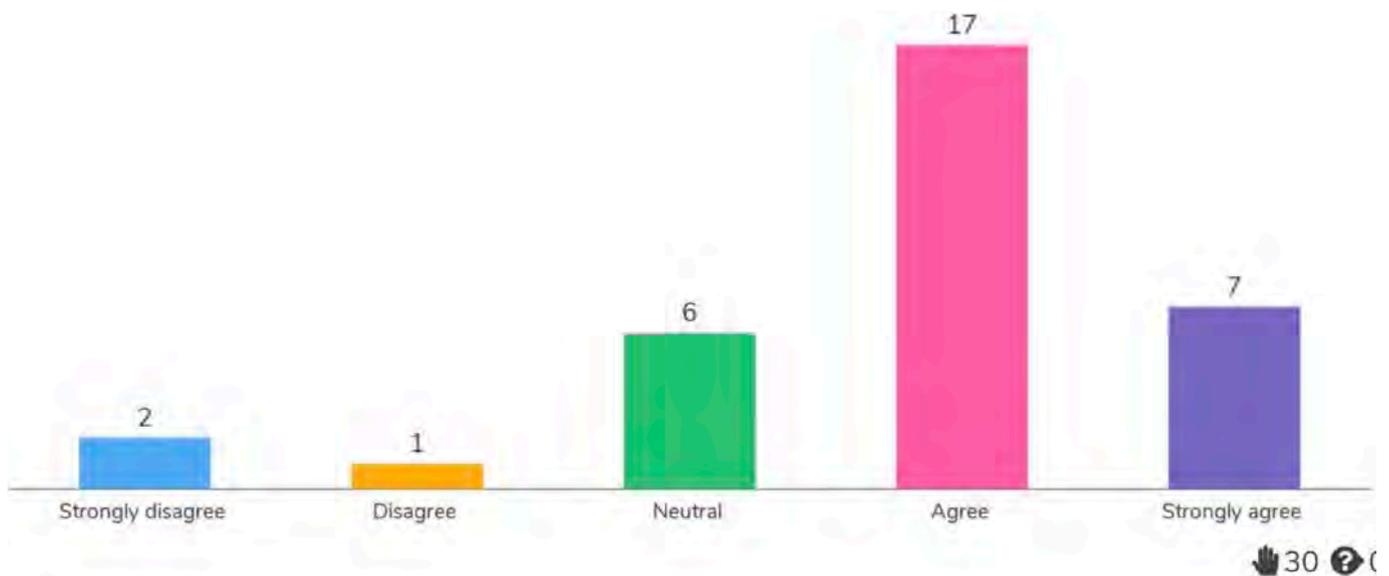
### **Other:**

- Why is this only happening just now?
- Very vague
- Vague
- Objectives need to be more specific
- More detailed.

## Creating high quality buildings

Once again, affordability of housing came up here, along with making use of buildings already in existence by renovating or redeveloping them. Creating a sense of community was also mentioned. See below full list of responses to the question "Have we missed anything? Is there anything you'd like to add?".

**To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?**



## **Comments broadly fell into the following categories:**

- Housing and affordability
- Reusing / renovating existing buildings
- Other

## **Housing and affordability:**

- Affordable
- Affordable housing
- Affordability
- These buildings need to be accessible and affordable for all
- Affordable
- Making sure new housing that is attractive isn't just for those who can afford it
- Making sure it doesn't create any more divides, meaning that yet another newer and more expensive area is created
- Safe housing for lower income families
- Housing offered with specific things such as stair lifts for people with disabilities
- Demolish old-rented council housing and replace with energy efficient, high quality housing for the same rent price tag so the residents don't lose out but better their lives

## **Reusing / renovating existing buildings:**

- Buildings should be renovated and updated or built on brownfield sites
- Refurnishing old buildings that might've become more scruffy
- Renovations
- Recycle materials from old buildings if possible
- Reuse older and abandoned buildings to stop using up greenery and farms for housing estates
- Instead of building up too much which = bad for the environment, focus on utilising already built areas
- Development of abandoned buildings
- Making buildings multiuse

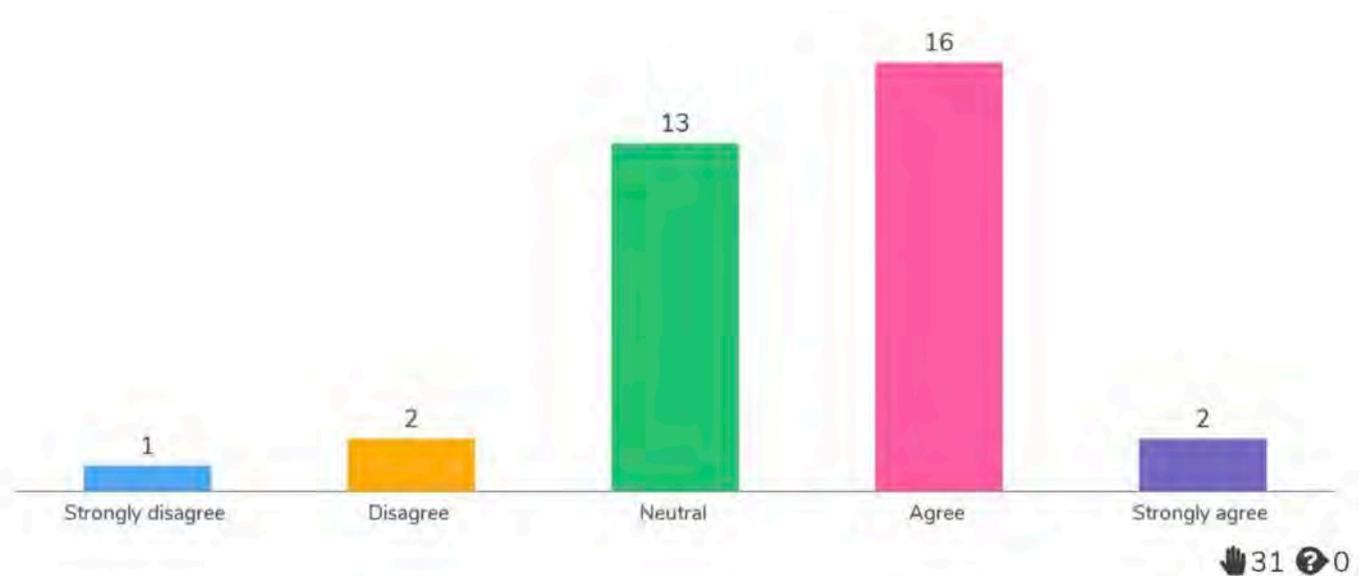
## **Other:**

- Transport
- Invest into something to bring the whole community together e.g. a community hub, and different affordable activities
- More emphasis on how this increases sense of community
- Will this take up more land than necessary?
- How are these new regulations going to be implemented?
- Doesn't really talk about the functionality of buildings, just how they look
- Easy to clean - Covid
- When? Where? Or how?

## Maximising Social Value

Academy participants felt that local communities need to be more involved in the decision-making process and that those making the decisions also need to be held accountable to take action. See below full list of responses to the question "Have we missed anything? Is there anything you'd like to add?".

**To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?**



**Comments broadly fell into the following categories:**

- Community involvement
- Accountability of decision-makers.

**Community involvement:**

- Community needs more input
- Community input when building
- People and the community should be included in planning and development
- Community input in planning stage
- Everyone should be included
- Community input in planning, all different groups not just one
- These targets should be prioritised in poorer areas
- Public benefit to the project
- Inclusivity of all cultures and groups

**Accountability of decision-makers:**

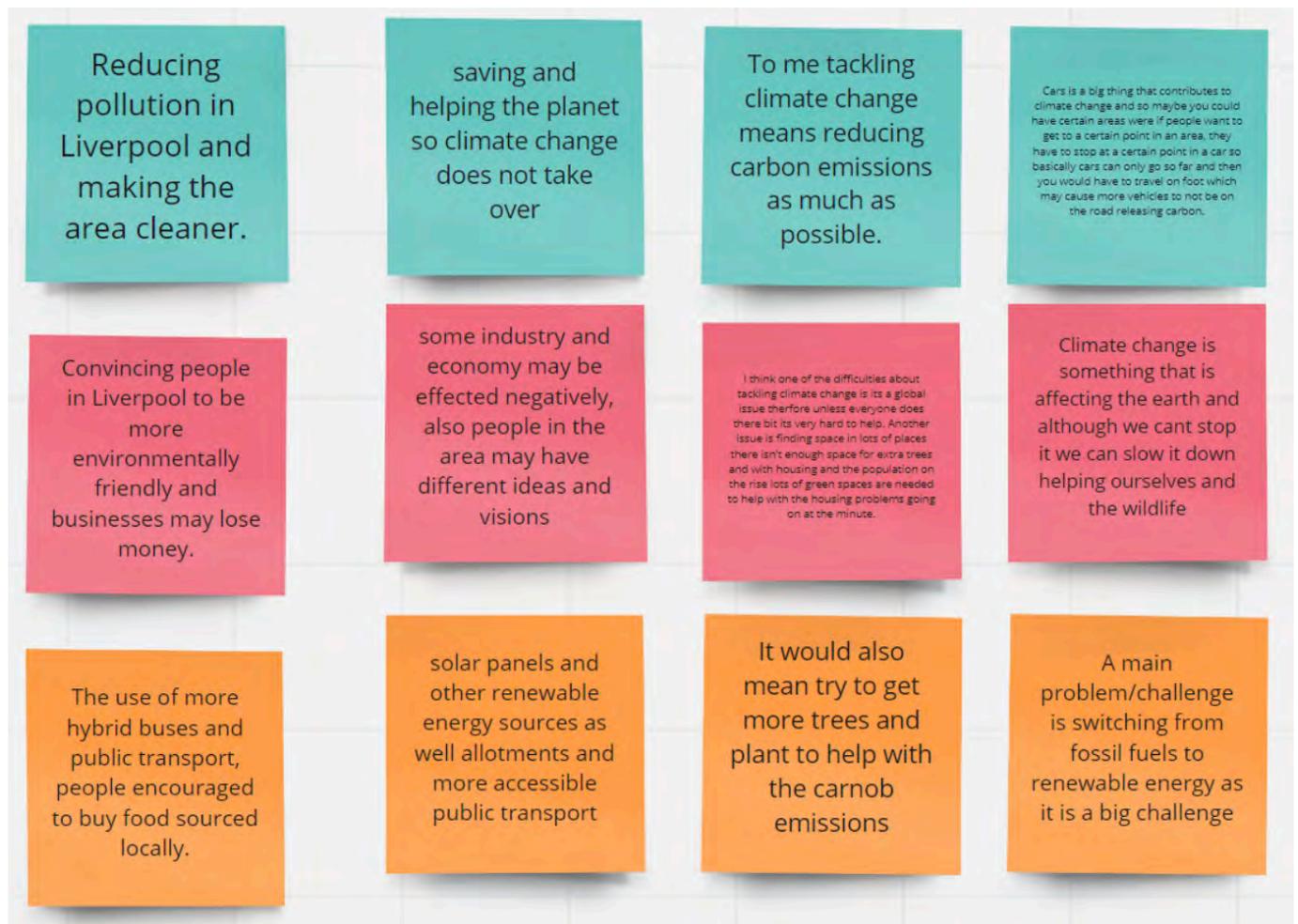
- If things become too unsustainable or unbeneficial for the city, then hold them accountable to act
- Make sure those in charge, are properly held to account using laws
- Making sure that the developers meet those targets but on deadlines
- Holding people responsible
- Making more buildings with the public interests
- Didn't specify the social and environmental benefits.

# Additional Session

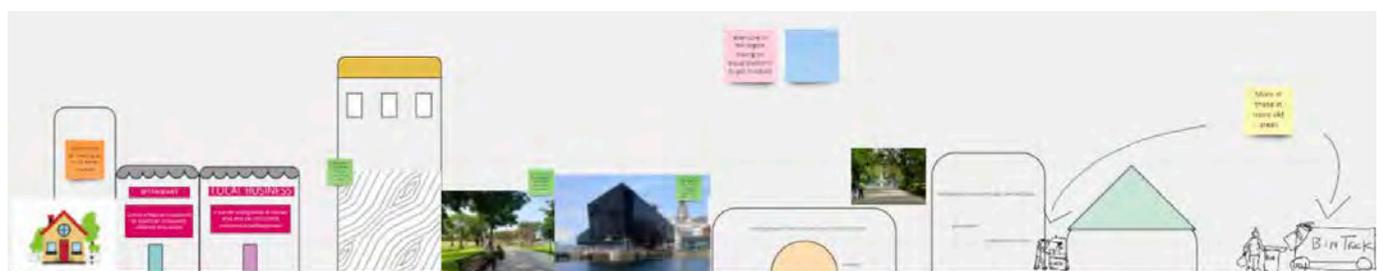
We ran an additional online session with previous Academy participants on 27/10/2020. Four attended: two from the Digital Academy Programme 1 and two from the face-to-face PLACED Academy programme.

The two-hour workshop was a condensed version of the four-week Academy programme. Participants reflected on what the Objectives meant to them, what intervention they would like to see across the Liverpool City Region to meet these Objectives and what potential challenges there might be.

Some ideas can be seen below:

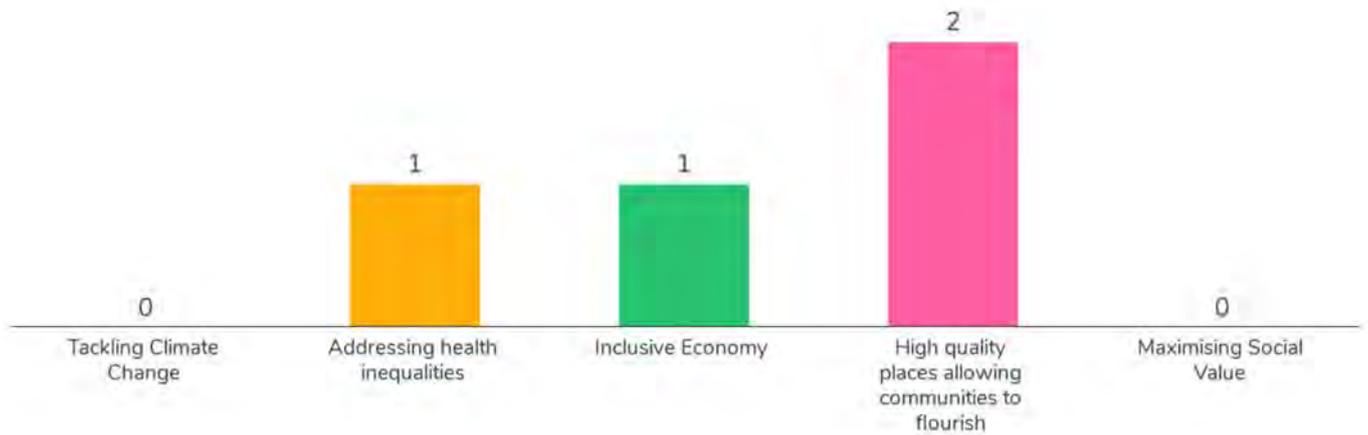


Next, the group reflected on how they would apply these broad themes in a practical way at local level through discussion and by visualising a high street (see below):

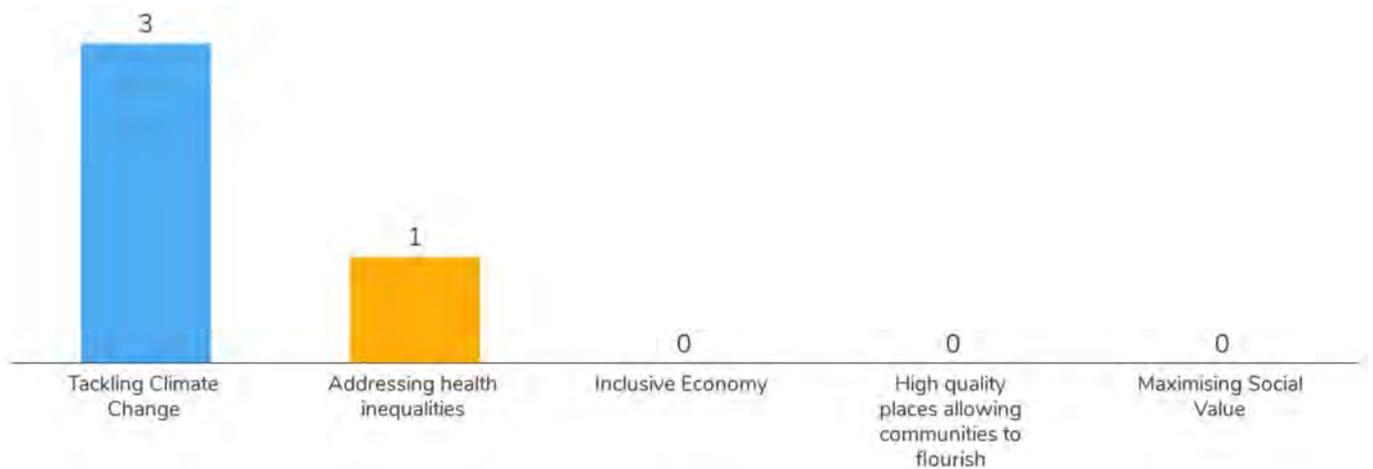


The participants reflected on which of the broad themes identified under the SDS Objectives was most important to them and selected their first, second, third, fourth and fifth priorities through an interactive presentation.

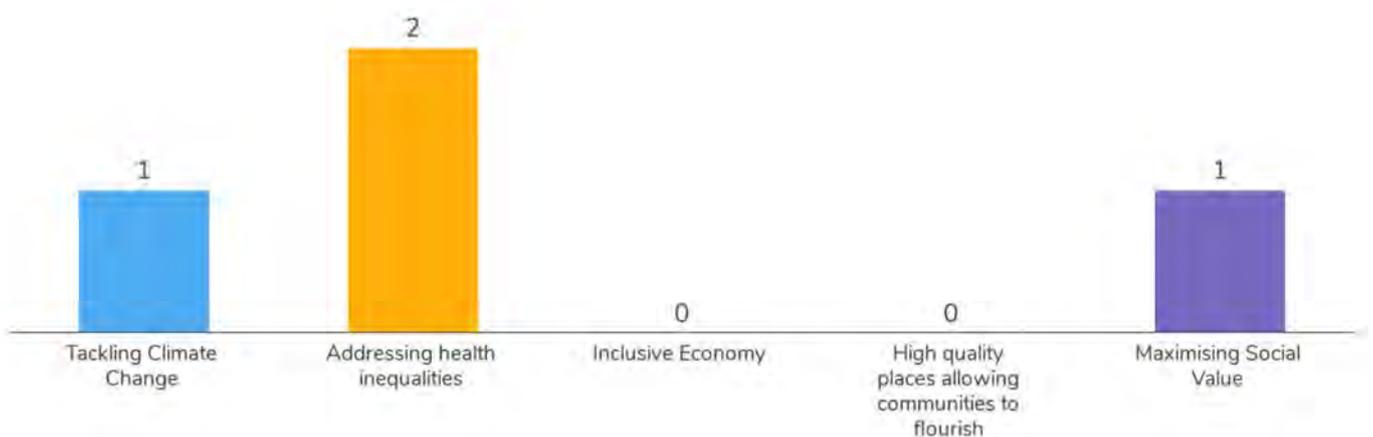
### First priority



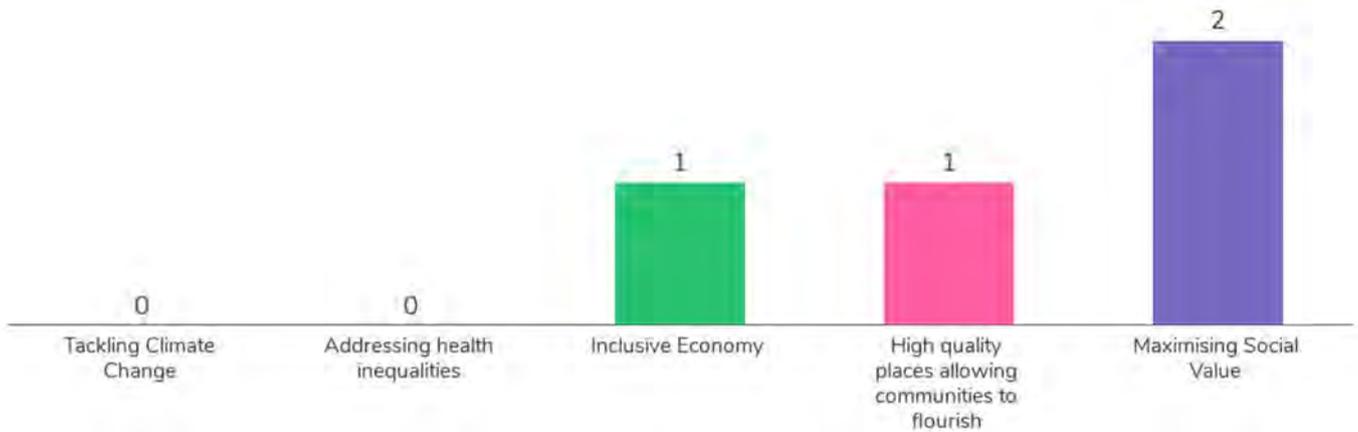
### Second priority



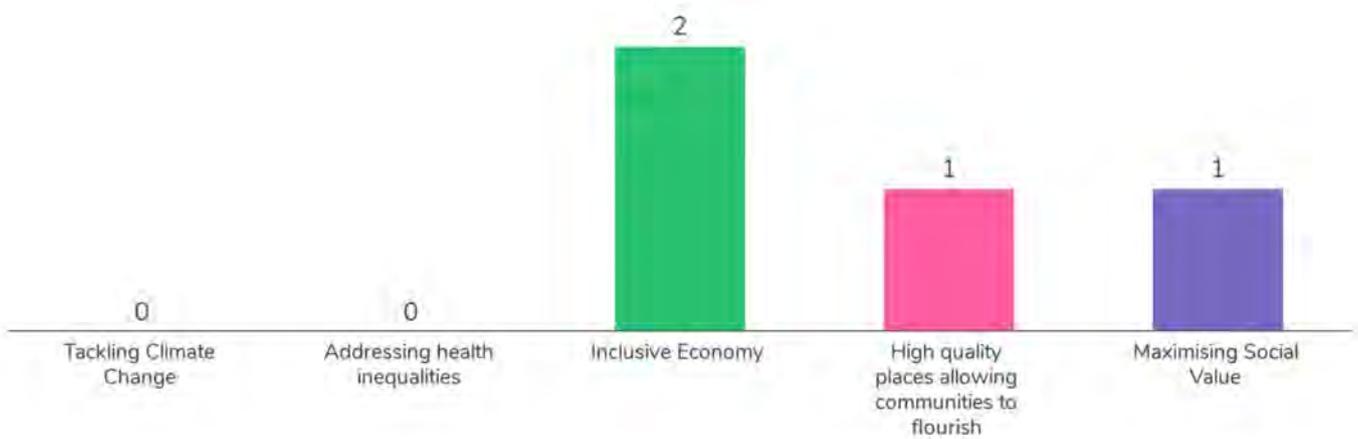
### Third priority



## Fourth priority



## Fifth priority



The table below shows the overall scores with both Tackling Climate Change and Addressing health inequalities ranked to be the top priorities for this group. Maximising social value was again voted the lowest priority. A reason for this could be because 'social value' seems relatively intangible and difficult to measure compared to the other Objectives and / or social value is embedded across all four other Objectives already.

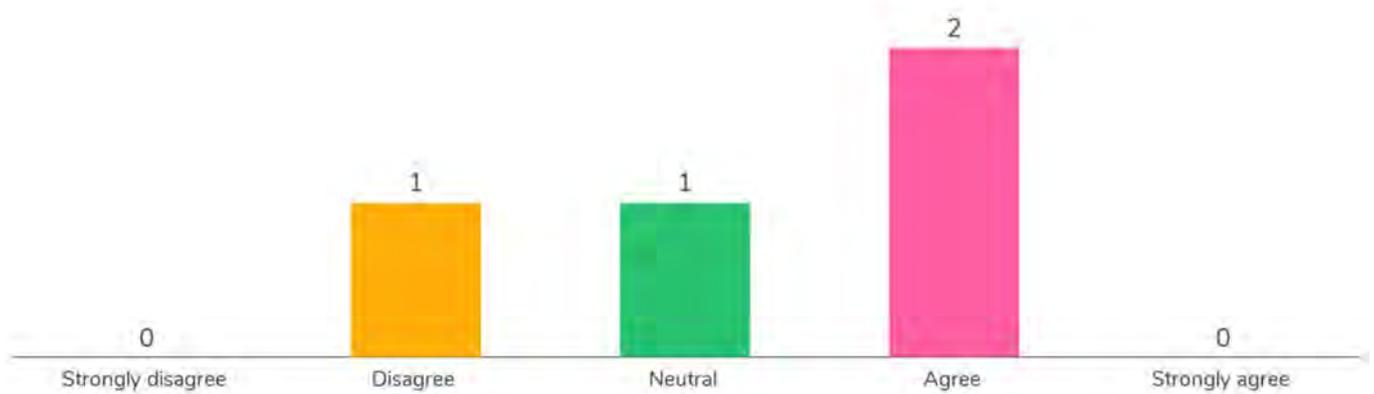
Objective	Score
Tackling climate change	15
Addressing health inequalities	15
High quality places allowing communities to flourish	13
Inclusive economy	9
Maximising social value	9

**Note:** These scores were weighted, where the top priority was given a weighting of 5, and the lowest priority a weighting of 1.

The group were then presented with details of how Liverpool City Region intends to meet each Objective (as per with the slides above). We asked the Academy participants to tell us to what extent they agree with these statements and what they felt was missing. The responses to each Objective follow.

## Objective 1: Tackling climate change and creating a greener City Region

To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?



Have we missed anything? Is there anything else you'd like to add?

There should be an encouragement of using public transport

2040 seems quite late

And focusing on renewable energy, although its good it would ruin the economy as its very very very expensive to make and for people to buy

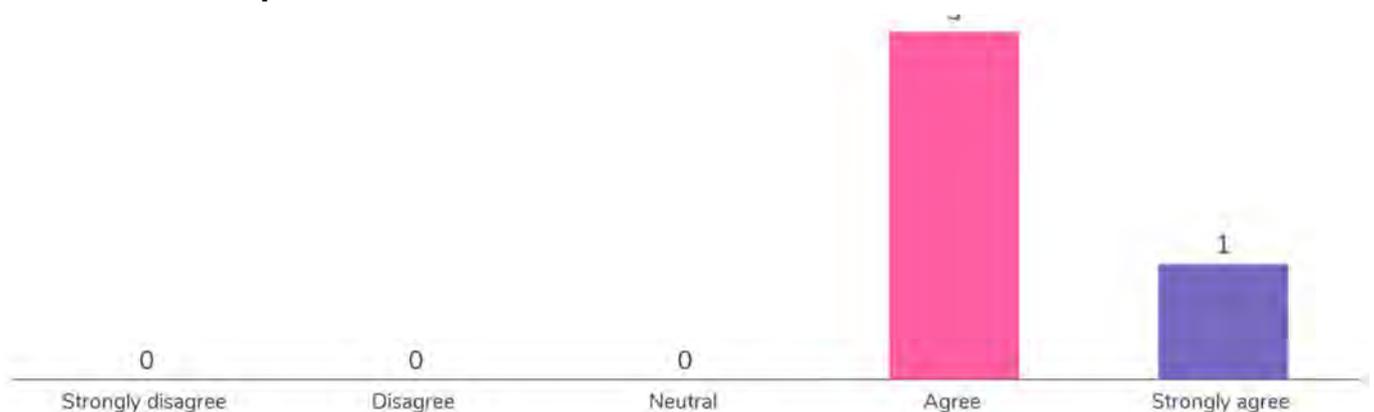
As well as protecting green space, green open space should be created and made as well

I disagree with net zero which i think they are on about fossil fuels and if that were the case unemployment rate would be very high i think as many people in the fossil fuel job area (which is many people) would lose their jobs

trees by roads should be encouraged as they can make a gloomy road look more appealing and they can help with the carbon emissions which will benefit the trees

## Objective 2: Addressing health inequalities and creating a healthier City Region

To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?

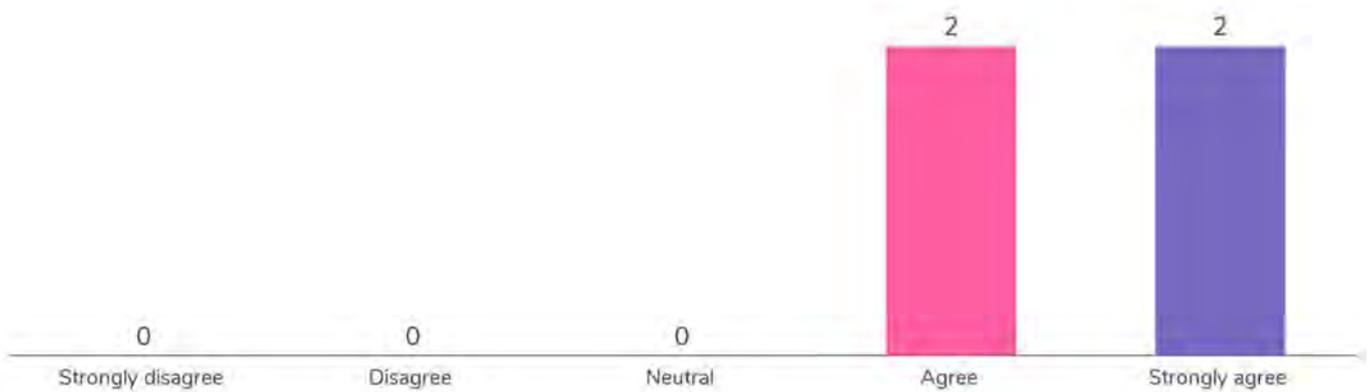


Have we missed anything? Is there anything else you'd like to add?

- There wasn't really anything about support for mental health
- I cant think of anything rn
- the most important one for me is equal opportunities to facilities
- Educating and encouraging health eating

## Objective 3: Delivering an Inclusive Economy

To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?

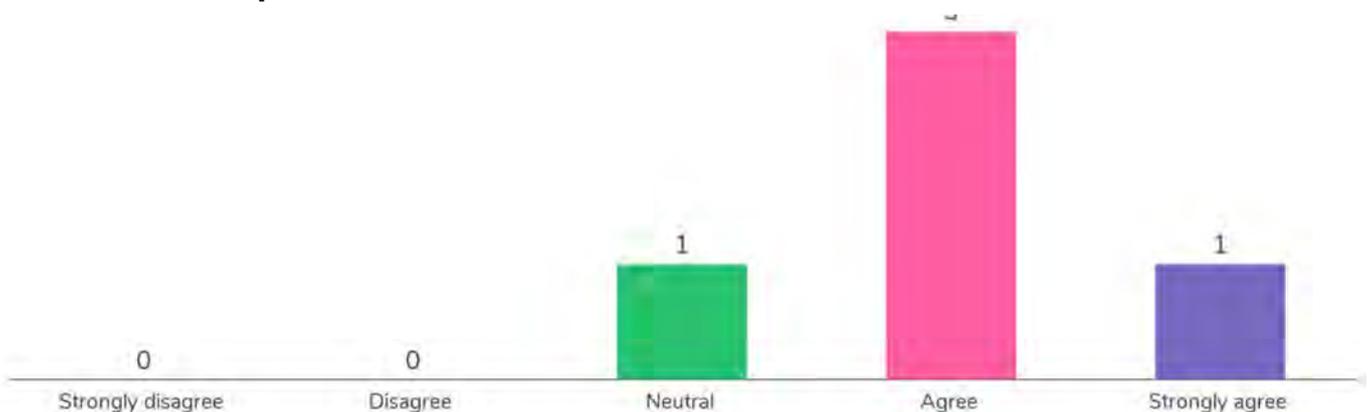


Have we missed anything? Is there anything else you'd like to add?

- An encouragement of buying in person rather than online
- encourage people to buy more locally so that the money can be used within thier community
- independent shops weren't really talked about
- Open up more areas for small areas to move or to start businesses

## Objective 4: Creating high quality buildings and places that allow our communities to flourish

To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?



## Have we missed anything? Is there anything else you'd like to add?

i have nothing to add

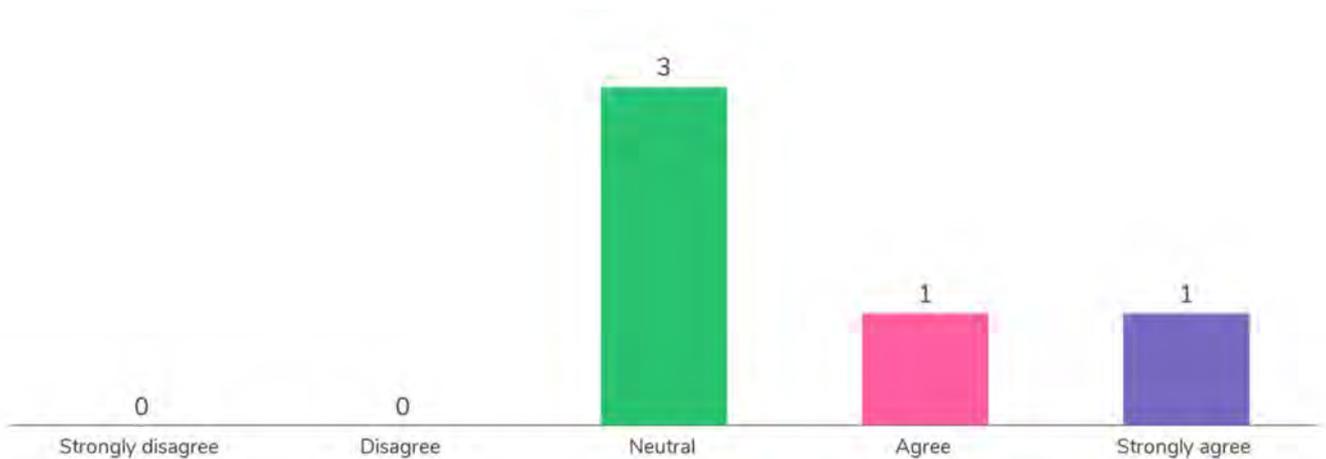
Eco and local building materials

Making sure those who already live in areas are not pushed out by new building projects

If you make every building fully renewable it will cause the economy to crash money wise and there will be some blackouts from previous examples in the past

## Objective 5: Maximising Social Value from all aspects of development

To what extent do you agree with these statements being suitable or able to achieve the Objective?



## Have we missed anything? Is there anything else you'd like to add?

An encouragement of buying in person rather than online

encourage people to buy more locally so that the money can be used within their community

independent shops weren't really talked about

Open up more areas for small areas to move or to start businesses

# Added Value of Engagement

In addition to capturing young peoples' views, undertaking engagement through the PLACED Academy generates significant added value and social impact. The opportunity for young people to input into the design and decision making process with regards to the built environment is a key element of the Academy programme. By being invited to input into the process, young people felt their voices matter. There were also other significant benefits.

The SDS engagement was delivered as part of one of two Academy programmes. Some of the key benefits of the programmes are highlighted below. Whilst these were as a result of the programme as a whole, the SDS project was a key element in their generation:

- By the end of the Digital Academy programme, 76% felt they could help to shape decisions about where they live, with 100% saying they now know how the design of towns and cities can impact people. Being able to input into the SDS Objectives was key to this.
- Engagement also helped to increase their understanding of how places are created. Initially, most of the students were unsure how places were designed, what the process was or who was involved. By the time of their graduation, 94% felt they had a good understanding of these issues - a huge

outcome for the next generation of place makers.

- Participants developed skills through the programme, both specific to a career in the built environment and more broadly those that would help them in their studies in school and college. This included analytical, design, team working and presenting skills – all developed during the SDS engagement.
- 95% of our young people said they had increased in confidence at the end of the programme.
- Speaking with those working in the sector is critical in helping to shape young people's understanding of the opportunities available, and the range of pathways available. 72% said the programme gave them an opportunity to make contacts with professionals. The work on the SDS enabled them to learn about different roles and career paths in the sector, in particular with regards to planning.

These outcomes demonstrate the additional social benefits gained from engagement of young people through programmes such as the PLACED Academy.



“[Social Value] means embedding a sense of community and humanity - looking at the needs of people and catering to that”

“[Inclusive economy] means people not getting left out that don't have some of the same things as people around them. They may not be able to afford the same things and might need help with that.

Academy Participants

# Summary

The SDS Objectives provided the Academy with rich topics of discussion, not only with the participants but also amongst the Ambassadors supporting the sessions. The participants thought about these priorities at a variety of levels; from personal responses from their own experiences and perceptions, to applying the themes to a community building in their local area, a fictional high street, and considering the whole City Region.

## Combining the ranked Objectives

The ranked Objectives across the PLACED

Objective	Score
Tackling climate change	143
High quality places allowing communities to flourish	127
Inclusive economy	101
Addressing health inequalities	97
Maximising social value	56

**Note:** These scores were weighted, where the top priority was given a weighting of 5, and the lowest priority a weighting of 1.

## Overarching issues and comments

Below are some of the key findings of this engagement:

- **Climate Change:** Climate Change was the top priority across both engagements, with both clearly expressing that the target of 2040 felt not soon enough. There was a feeling of urgency for the LCR to 'act now' for now and future generations' sustainability. The Objectives in this category were identified several times as being 'too vague' and lacking in timeframes and specific detail of how it would be achieved.
- **High quality buildings:** When asked to identify what is missing or could be improved, participants noted there was no mention of affordable housing, and suggested ideas about renovating and refurbishing existing buildings instead of prioritising new builds.

Throughout creative design sessions, high quality buildings were recognised for their ability to improve communities' wellbeing and perception of their places. 'Quality' extended from the aesthetic of buildings, their functionality, and the services they provided.

- **Inclusive Economy:** This Objective was also perceived to be too vague, again noting a lack of focus on affordable housing. It was expressed that the Objectives didn't communicate clearly how this would be implemented or what it would look like as it was too broad and high-level. There were several mentions about the importance of providing support for small local businesses, which are not stated in the Objectives.

- **Addressing health inequalities:** Participants expressed that they would like to see a clearer focus on mental health within this Objective, with some saying it was important enough to have its own sub-category. Affordability also received several mentions in regard to giving communities easier access to health services and healthier ways of living, such as cycle routes, gyms and investing in green spaces. There were further comments stating that this Objective lacked detail.
- **Social Value:** Some Objectives were more challenging than others when presented with the task of identifying how they could be tangible to a place. This was particularly the case with social value. Social Value was considered to relate to community engagement and decision-making, which is difficult to encapsulate physically.

