

'FOCUS ON: THE HEALTHY STREETS APPROACH' Mayor's Transport Strategy pages 36 and 37.

A new type of thinking is required to put into practice the theory of reducing car dependency and increasing active, efficient and sustainable travel. It requires an understanding of how Londoners interact with their city and what defines their quality of life, with particular attention to the streets where daily life plays out.

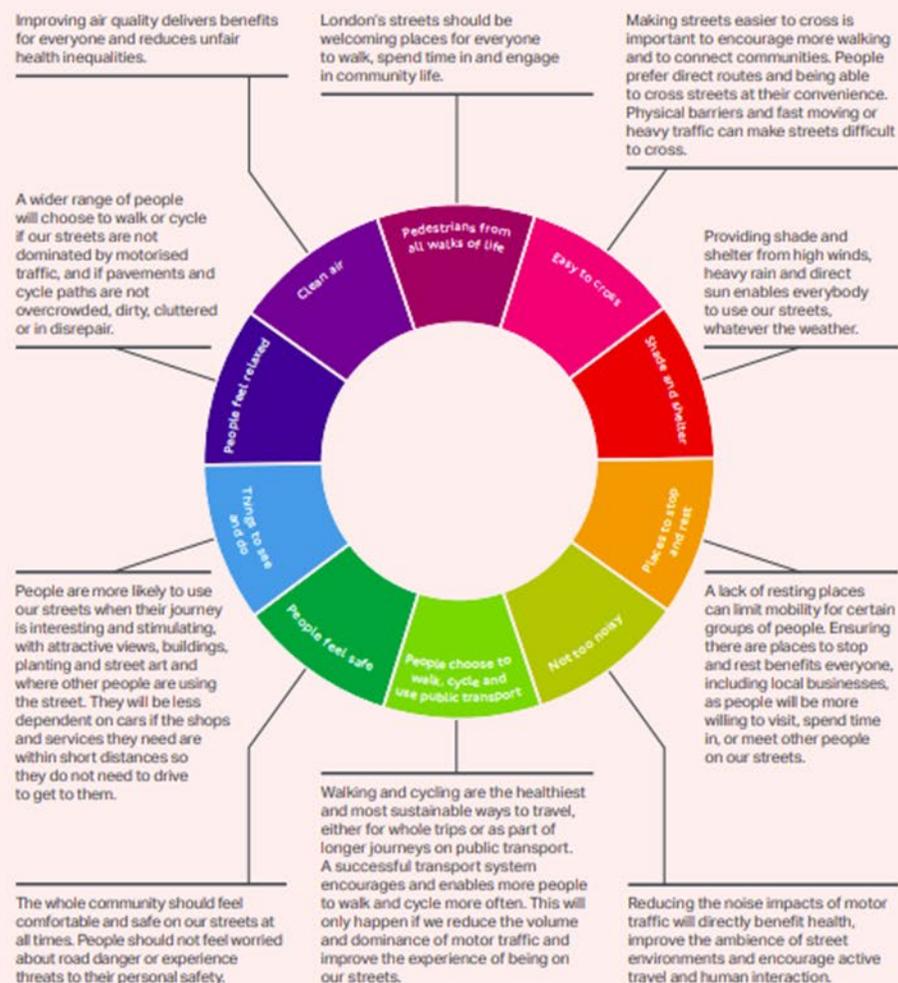
Whatever mode of transport Londoners use, the quality of the experience of using London's streets helps to define the quality of their journey. Eighty per cent of Londoners' trips are entirely on streets<sup>5</sup>, and all Tube and rail journeys rely on good street access to stations. A good street experience is therefore key to providing attractive public transport options of whatever mode.

The wider role streets play in virtually every aspect of London life also provides an enormous opportunity to use the Mayor's strategy for transport to improve Londoners' broader experience of their city. Streets are where Londoners spend their time and meet other people – they make up 80 per cent of the city's public space. They are places where people live, shop and work, where children play, where communities connect and where

businesses can thrive. The experience of being on London's streets is particularly important for older people, the very young, disabled people and those living on lower incomes, who disproportionately feel the negative impacts of living in a car-dependent city. Improving public transport and assisted transport services for older and disabled people will help a wider range of people to become less car dependent, and improving streets to increase active travel levels, reduce road danger, improve air quality and reconnect communities will be vital in reducing unfair health inequalities.

The Healthy Streets Approach provides the framework for putting human health and experience at the heart of planning the city. It uses ten evidence-based indicators, shown in Figure 3, to assess the experience of being on our streets. Good performance against each indicator means that individual streets are appealing places to walk, cycle and spend time. Improvements against all the indicators across the city's streets will radically transform the day-to-day experience of living in London, helping to fulfil this strategy's overall aim of creating a better city for more people to live and work in.

FIGURE 3: THE TEN HEALTHY STREETS INDICATORS



Source: Lucy Saunders