

Transport theme: Evidence Sources and Options

Objective: To review the transport system in Wandsworth and identify systemic solutions to improve access to transport issues in a sustainable way for all Wandsworth citizens.

Focus on groups with disproportionate access to transport, which is caused by costs, but also disproportionate access which increases the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. E.g.

- people that can no longer travel due to cost-of-living issues, or
- people that are isolated and cannot get to work which emphasises cost-of-living impacts.

Definition of transport poverty: Transport poor Definition (at least 2 of 3)

- **Affordability:** Is the percentage of income spent on transport more than twice the national median? Is the individual particularly sensitive to price increases relating to transportation, such as fuel costs or fare increases?
- **Safety & Adequacy:** Does the individual have frequented and reliable transport options which are safe to use and are adapted to suit his or her needs relating to accessibility?
- **Availability & Alternatives:** Does the individual have at least one viable transport option, including active or micro-transportation as well as public transportation to meet their needs? Do these alternatives mean the individual can avoid the use of private transportation without significantly increasing their travel time?

Key lines of enquiry

1. Identify the issues, who suffers from access issues to transport.
2. Who is transport poor / agree clear definition?
3. Consider how accessible is the transport system in Wandsworth.
4. Review of sustainable transport options for Wandsworth.
5. Review of why people use transport in Wandsworth (impact on employment /leisure).
6. A focus on the young people, education, and training perspective.
7. Examine Transport solutions and opportunities (I.e., mitigating gendered disadvantage)
8. Transport policy cannot work in isolation, determine linking factors.
9. Consider the Impact of the GLA regional transport policies (ULEZ expansion)

Profiles of transport poor:

- Profile 1: Young people living in rural & suburban areas: Less likely to participate in educational and social activities
- Profile 2: Persons with impairment with a persistent disability: Difficulties accessing health services and basic amenities
Reduced access to social activities
- Profile 3: People living in the city in a situation characterized by low income/education, Reduced education, and employment opportunities. Difficulties commuting outside of peak hours due to lack of services and unsafety perceptions
- Profile 4: Persons with no professional activity and no/low income, Difficulties accessing and remaining in employment and education. Reduced training and employment opportunities.
- Profile 5: Parents with caring responsibilities and low financial means, Negative safety perceptions, reduced access to education and employment, and limited to lower paid or part-time work due to caring responsibilities.

Wandsworth

Approximately half of the borough is well connected, however 2015 Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTALs) place some of the more deprived areas of the borough including Roehampton, Furzedown and parts of West Hill entirely within in the least accessible half of PTAL categories. PTALs can have an impact access on employment options, essential goods (e.g., grocery options) and services, which can be deepened for those that can only travel via public transport. TFL fares are due to increase on 5th March 2023; Bus fares +10p to £1.75, daily cap on multiple bus trips +30p to £5.25, Underground services Zone 1-6 TfL cap for contactless £14.90 per day (+80p) and £74.50 per week (+£4). Almost 1 in 2 (48%) of Wandsworth residents do not have access to a car/van, which is lower than Inner London (58%) but higher than London (42%).

Causes

- Low levels of public transport offers in Roehampton and other areas
- Increased cost of transport (e.g. bus and tube fare increases)
- Unreliability and safety of transport

Impact

- Reduced ability for travel for people who live in areas of low PTAL's, e.g. Roehampton which has a knock-on effect on opportunities for education, employment, socialising etc.
- Cost of public transport affects people's ability to stretch budgets to cover essential needs as well as transport, including to and from employment. Additionally, lower income employment is often associated with unsociable hours, which means there are reduced transport options for people e.g. working night shifts, and often these options can be expensive.
- Financial, physical and cultural barriers to active travel which is an obstacle for choosing lower cost transport.

Evidence

- Qualitative accounts from Roehampton session and Tooting session on difficulties travelling within and to and from the borough.
- Wandsworth Cycling campaign evidence on the cost of cycling as an option, and low transport levels across the borough
- DataWand PTALs statistics for transport access across the borough

Long term ideas for further development

Interim Report: Long term recommendations

1. Bike Hangar Tariffs
 - a. Consider review of the tariffs for bike hangars compared to cars & investment into the delivery of more bike hangars in the borough - Possibly a pilot option for delivering more bike hangars
2. Cargo Bikes Pilot
 - a. Consider options for cargo bikes to become more widely available in the borough - NB. Lauren (theme lead) has suggested this as a short term recommendation, possibly pilot scheme as Wandsworth already have some cargo bike promotion so would include expansion.
3. Sustainable Travel
 - a. Prioritising space for sustainable travel
4. Disability Work group
 - a. Include disability consideration in all policy (within this, consider establishing a Disability Working Group who review and advise on the design and planning process of new infrastructure within the borough).

5. Lobby for Discretionary Fares
 - a. Develop a lobby position on changes to discretionary fares, specifically looking at young people and those in education, and those receiving support such as free school meals.
6. Lobby for Cost Freeze
 - a. Develop lobby position on a freeze on public transport costs