THE FUTURE OF REGENT STREET

Public Realm Vision Report Appendix

JANUARY 2024





111 In-focus Sessions

Overview

The in-focus sessions were carefully designed as a listening piece to hear from specific interest groups on the topics of Biodiversity, Accessibility and Inclusivity, and Active Travel.

The groups consisted of people who work or volunteer with organisations that specialise in those topics, and have in-depth knowledge and experience on them. The attendees in each session are listed below.



Encourage the long term involvement of key groups



To seek knowledge from industry

Methodology

In order to set the scene and facilitate a constructive discussion, participants were briefed on the context and the temporary public realm scheme so far, as well as the engagement workshops, pop-ups, and survey carried out to date.

The discussion with each group broadly covered the following questions, in the context of their expertise:

- What is your opinion on Regent Street's public realm presently?
- What are the key considerations we should be mindful of in designing Regent Street?
- What outcomes should we try to achieve for Regent Street?

experts

Biodiversity









Accessibility & **Inclusivity**









Active Travel









Biodiversity Outcomes

This first session focussed on exploring the biodiversity and greening opportunities for Regent Street. The session was joined by experts from Trees for Cities, The Royal Parks and London National Park City.

Participants evaluated the present conditions of greening on Regent Street and the potential for achieving a greener and more biodiverse street. Below reflects what we heard from the participants.







• The widened pavements as part of the temporary public realm scheme were a welcomed change

- Planters have improved the street-scape but do not allow water to enter the soil
- Grey and hard street does not allow for surface water drainage
- Street is **not well shaded**

Experience

Current

Challenges &

Opportunities

- · Major traffic corridor presently
- If not in the right location trees can trap pollutants
- Linear green corridors are not always appropriate, as they do not follow natural patterns
- Non-native tree species can carry diseases from other parts of the world
- · Regent Street cannot do everything so prioritise ideas to create genuine impact in terms of biodiversity and greening
- Other priorities for the street will work against supporting biodiversity and ecology
- Use Regent Street as an **international stage to educate and inspire** better relationships with nature
- The street should not be designed as a linear boulevard but as a mosaic of green spaces, clustering ecosystems along the length
- Prioritise different sections of the street to deliver different biodiversity outcomes
- Encourage the use of the side streets by joining with local greening initiatives
- Trees should be planted in the ground, to allow for surface water drainage and rain water capture
- Right trees should be planted in the right places

Places that inspire us:







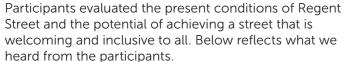


Freiburg, Germany

Challenges & C Experience

Accessibility & Inclusivity Outcomes

This session focussed on opportunities to make Regent Street more accessible and inclusive. The session was joined by AccessAble Ambassadors representing people with visual impairment, neurodivergent and mobility issues.









- Wider pavements have improved pedestrian flow and ease of navigation for visually impaired people
- Seating at regular intervals provide opportunities to rest
- Pelican crossings do not have appropriately aligned control box and many do not have rotating cones to help visually impaired people
- Extremely large trees could create pockets of darkness and can feel unsafe
- Taxi drop off and pick up zones are not well distributed along the street
- Lack of consistent wayfinding and signage
- Lack of accessible and safe public toilets and changing places facilities
- Important to have consistent and controlled crossings with rotating cones along the street
- Essential to introduce clear and user friendly wayfinding and signage
- Potential to introduce taxi drop-offs on side streets, with good access to the main street
- Partnering with digital navigational tools to make Regent Street more accessible
- Introduce **quiet spaces to rest and relax** off the main street to provide moments of calm for those with neurodivergent needs
- Beneficial to have a **buffer of greening between the pavement and road**, creating a safer environment
- Introducing **smaller sections of pedestrianisation** is preferred, full pedestrianisation can discourage visitors with mobility issues.

Places that inspire us:





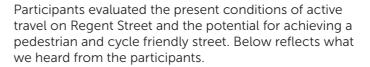


pain Coal Drops Yard, London

Carnaby, London

Active Travel Outcomes

This session focussed on exploring opportunities to promote Active Travel on Regent Street. The session was joined by experts from Westminster Cycling Campaign, London Cycling Campaign, Footways London and Active Travel England









Challenges ४ urrent Experience

Opportunities

- Wider pavements have **improved pedestrian flow** encouraging walking
- Traffic volume, congestion and lack of cycle lane does not support cyclists
- Too many traffic lights
- Regent Street is a Mayoral priority cycle corridor
- Potential to introduce a **high quality, protected cycle route** encouraging everyone to cycle safely
- To reduce traffic volumes, and reduce vehicle priority
- Public realm should promote and encourage people to shift to more sustainable modes of travel
- Provide the right types of facilities and enough of them cycle hire stands, bike parking, wide pavements
- Reduce tourist buses on Regent Street St. James's
- Design should provide better linkages between public transport and walking and cycling
- Connecting the proposed strategy with **surrounding areas**
- Potential to divert traffic onto Haymarket and pedestrianise the street from Piccadilly Circus to Waterloo Place

Places that inspire us:







Copenhagen Camden, London

Amsterdam

1.2 Engagement Materials

Workshop materials

Introduction Boards











- 5,000 sqm of increased pedestrian
- 330 planters and 60 new trees
- accessible seating
- 1.2km of cycle lanes

Data collected has highlighted the following:

- Throughout 2022, the nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels on Regent Street has remained below 40 μg/m3 (DEFRA AQ objective), which is lower than the pre-pandemic level recorded in the local area in 2018
- Following implementation, TfL Buses have detected only a marginal increase in southbound journey times. Minor changes to kerb positions will correct this and are planned to be installed in early Autumn 2023
- Data collected on Regent Street during peak times has shown that in May 2017 there was a peak hour cycling flow of 212, compared to September 2022 when this reached 379 - this is in line with postpandemic trends across central London
- Data for Soho shows 22% less traffic* in the AM peak hour and 26% less traffic in the PM peak hour compared to 2019 (July 2019 January 2022)
- From 9am onwards, the flow of pedestrians is greater than the total flow of vehicles, and we are now seeing up to 2,500 pedestrians per hour using Regent Street (Source: Vivacity Data, December 2022)

Our learnings from these measures, along with what you tell us now, will shape the vision and future design for Regent Street.

The Future of Regent Street

Have your say

Between now and end of August, there are lots of other ways that people can

- Online survey
- Pop up stalls at markets across
- Pop up events on Regent Street

If you have any questions, get in touch with regentstreet@westminster.gov.uk



For further details and updates, check out



Scan here to complete the online survey and have your say!

What happens next?

What you tell us today and during this engagement until 30th August will result in a vision for the future of Regent Street. We will publish this in Autumn 2023, along with the findings from the engagement

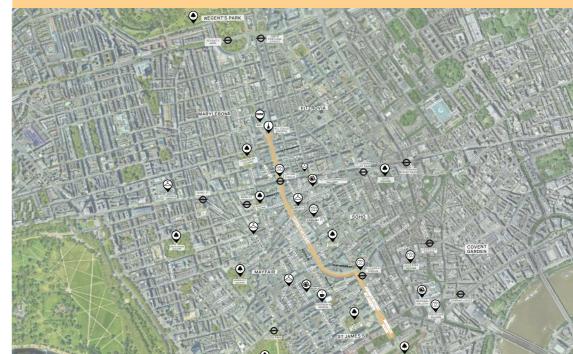
This is the start of the conversation, and there will be several future phases of engagement. Your input will help develop what the future will look like for Regent Street.

As we understand more from everyone, we will provide undates on further engagement and consultation activities and estimated works programme.



Regent Street Area



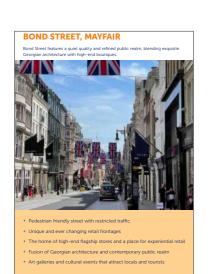


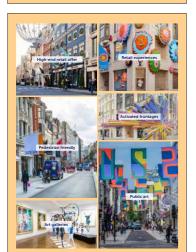
Question 1

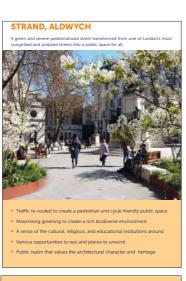
What do we like and dislike about Regent Street, and why?



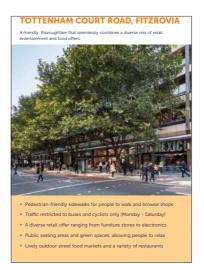
Likes and dislikes mat

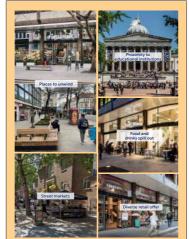




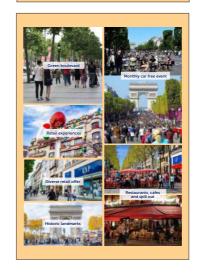




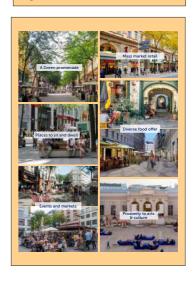


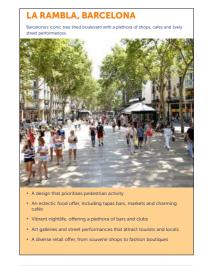














London precedents European Precedents

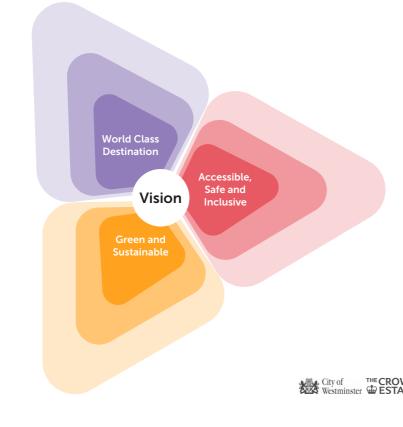
Question 2

Thinking about the previous examples and your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future?



Priority mat





Regent Street ambitions















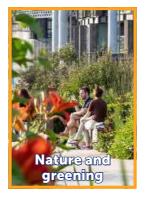
Priority	Preference
High	
Medium	
Low	
Notes	







Explanation: Calming places and spaces that promote physical, mental and emotional health.				
Priority	Priority Preference			
High				
Medium				
Low				
Notes				







Explanation: Measures to address climate change impacts.		
Priority	Preference	
High		
Medium		
Low		
Notes		



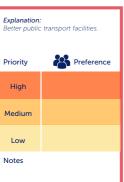
meability	: tructure and v to encourage to nearby communities Preference	
ligh		
dium		
.ow		
tes		Actifive travel

Comn involve	Explanation: Commuting or movement that involves physical exercise, such as walking or cycling.			
Priorit	Priority Preference			
Hig	h			
Medi	um			
Lov	v			
Notes				

11

Priority cards







Preference



















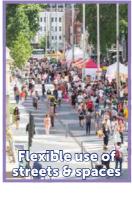




	Explanation: Providing a wide range of uses in buildings and public spaces that cate to people's different interests.		
ar OF	Priority	Preference	
	High		
	Medium		
- C	Low		
rse offer or all	Notes		







A versatile environment that allows for events, pop up, markets, or simply to allow people to walk through.		
Priority	Preference	
High		
Medium		
Low		
Notes		

	A P	
A HAM		
	Evening	
	Evening Control of the Control of th	

Explanation: Vibrant and thriving place during the evening.	
Priority Preference	
High	
Medium	
Low	ı
Notes	
	l











Priority cards

Question 3

"Thinking about your priorities, and the street and spaces, how can Regent Street be more enjoyable for people in the



Street View: Central Regent Street



Street View: Central Regent Street



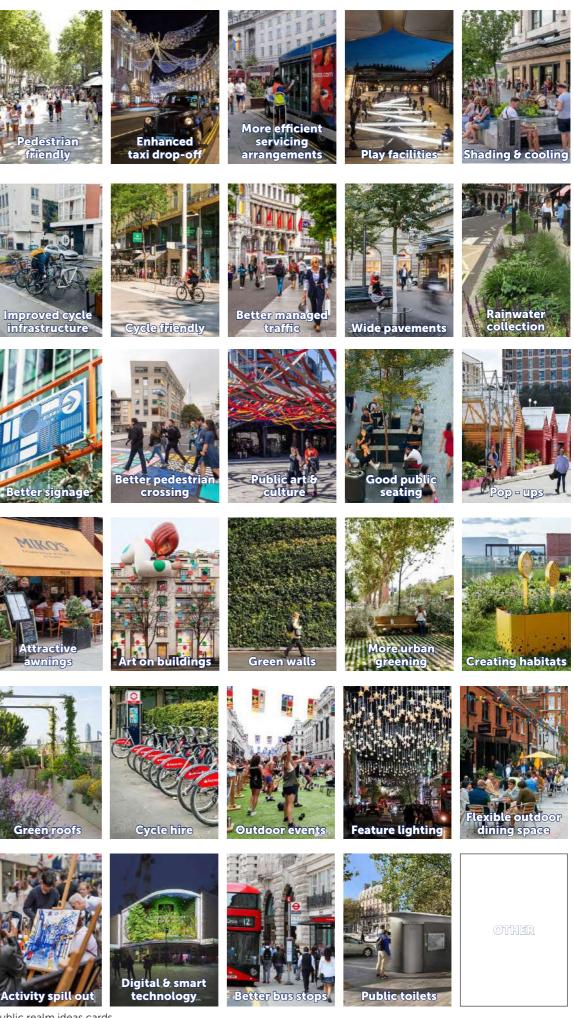
Street View: The Quadrant



Street View: Regent Street St James's



Street View: Side streets



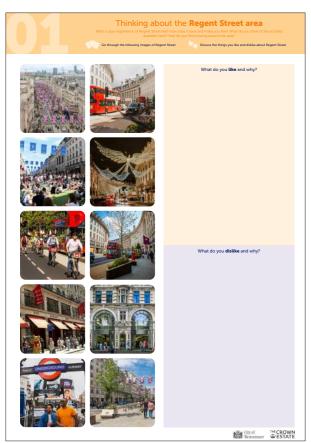
Public realm ideas cards

Market Pop-ups materials

Introduction board



Questions



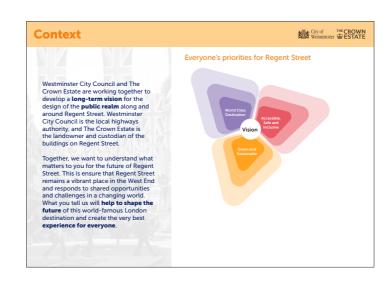
Question 1: What do you like and dislike about Regent Street, and why?



Question 2: Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future?

Regent Street Pop-ups materials

Introduction boards

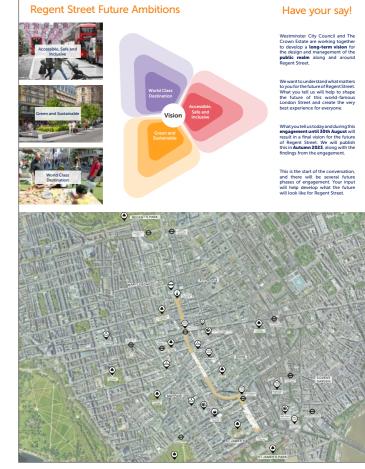




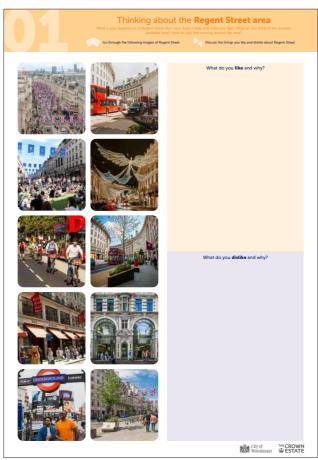
The Future of Regent Street Street WESTINGTON THE CROWN







Questions



Question 1: What do you like and dislike about Regent Street, and why?



Question 2: Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future?



Online survey QR code

1.3 Online survey results by group

Overall priorities excluding taxi drivers* (question 2)

Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future? Make between 1 and 5 choices

Base: Total sample excluding taxi drivers – 2193

* Taxi drivers made up a large proportion (16%) of the total responses. Given they have specific set of requirements relating to their trade, taxi drivers have been separated to understand their priorities for Regent Street.



Linking with

Safer

Climate

Adaptation

Evening activities

streets and spaces

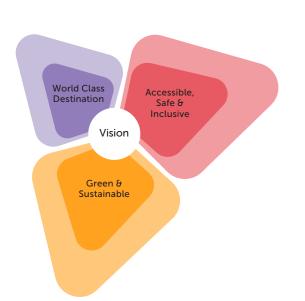
Diverse offer for all

Cultural expression

Flexible use of

Welcoming

neighbouring areas



Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' and 'green and sustainable' categories, shown in the graphic above.

Public realm ideas excluding taxi drivers* (question 2)

Thinking about your priorities, and the street and spaces, how can Regent Street be more enjoyable for people in the future? Make between 1 and 5 choices.

Base: Total sample excluding taxi drivers – 2193

* Taxi drivers made up a large proportion (16%) of the total responses. Given they have specific set of requirements relating to their trade, taxi drivers have been separated to understand their priorities for Regent Street.

Most popular choices

Pedestrian friendly

Better managed traffic

Wide pavements

Shading and cooling

Enhanced taxi drop-off

More urban greening

Good public seating

Public Toilets

Cycle friendly

Improved cycle infrastructure

Better bus stops

Better pedestrian crossings

More efficient servicing arrangements

Flexible outdoor dining space

Public art and culture

Attractive awnings

Feature lighting

Green roof

Play facilities

Rainwater collection

Art on buildings

Rainwater collection

Pop-ups

Green walls

Green watts

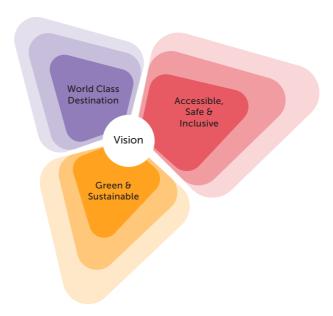
Creating habitats
Better signage

Outdoor events

Digital and smart technology

Cycle hire

Activity spill out

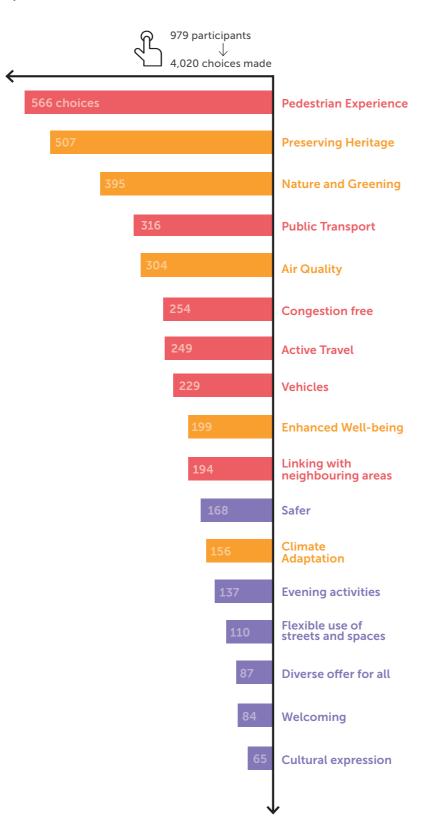


Chosen public realm elements were focussed in the 'accessible, safe, and inclusive' category, shown in the graphic above.

Overall priorities for Londoners (question 2)

Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future? Make between 1 and 5 choices.

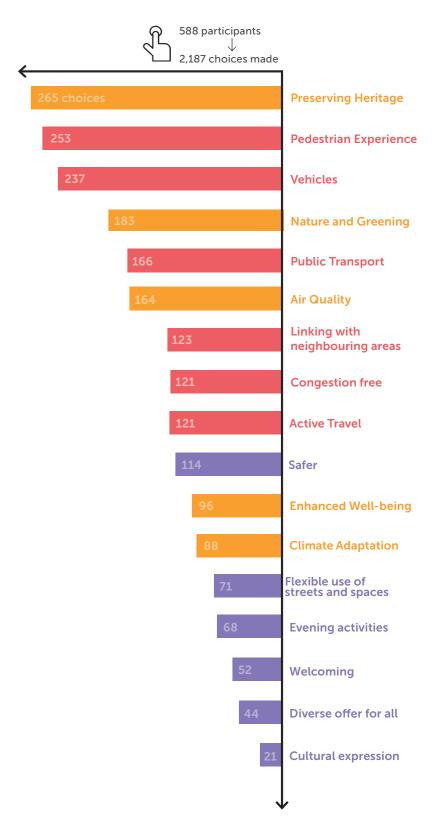
Base: Londoners – 979



Local Workers' priorities (question 2)

Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future? Make between 1 and 5 choices.

Base: Local workers - 588



23

Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' and 'green and sustainable' categories, shown in the graphic above.

Accessible,

Inclusive

World Class

Destination

Vision

Green &

Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' and 'green and sustainable' categories, shown in the graphic above.

Accessible, Safe &

Inclusive

World Class Destination

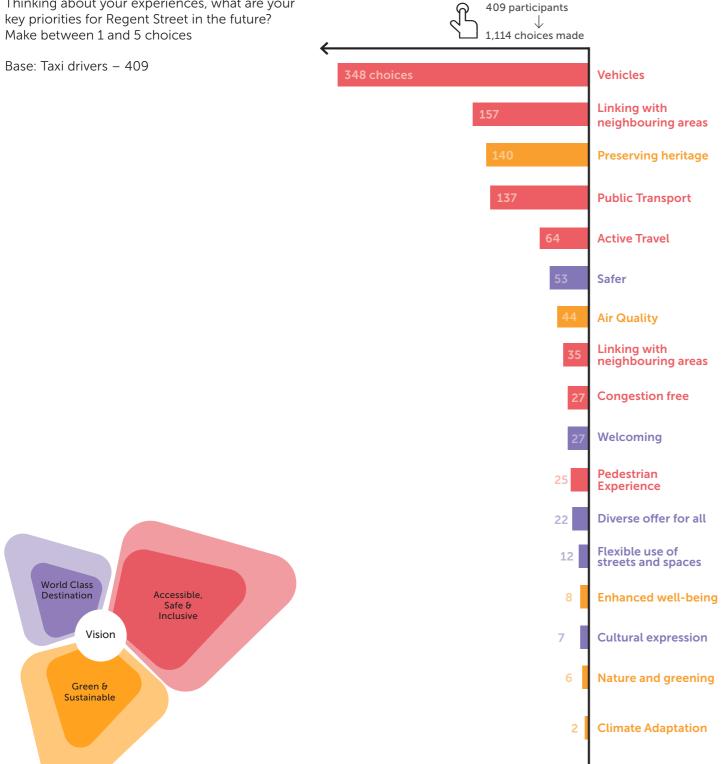
Vision

Green &

Sustainable

Taxi Drivers' priorities (question 2)

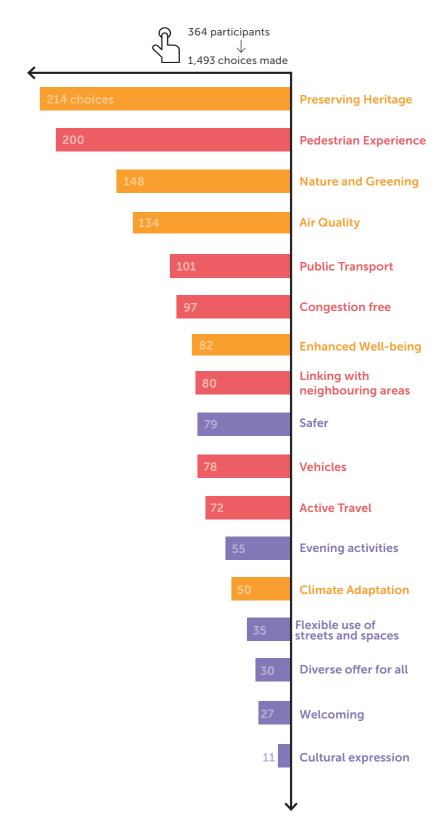
Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future? Make between 1 and 5 choices



Local residents' priorities (question 2)

Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future? Make between 1 and 5 choices.

Base: Local residents - 364



25

Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' and 'green and sustainable' categories, shown in the graphic above.

Accessible, Safe &

Inclusive

World Class Destination

Vision

Green &

Sustainable

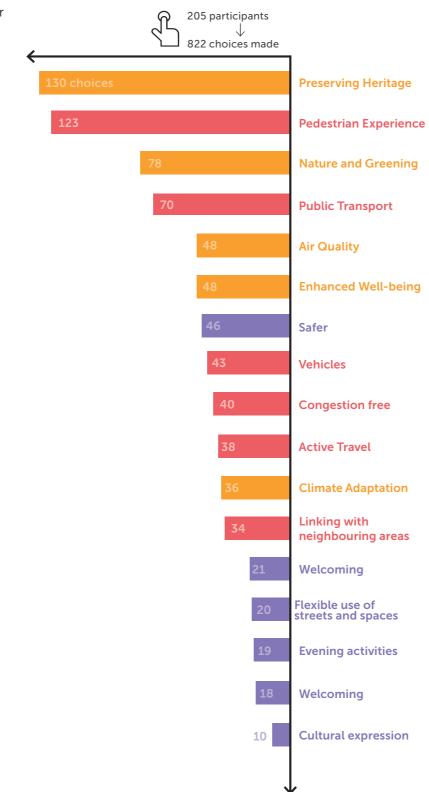
Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' category, shown in the graphic above.

UK Visitors' priorities (question 2)

Thinking about your experiences, what are your key priorities for Regent Street in the future?

Make between 1 and 5 choices

Base: UK visitors – 205



Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' and 'green and sustainable' categories, shown in the graphic above.

Accessible, Safe & Inclusive

World Class Destination

Vision

Green & Sustainable

26

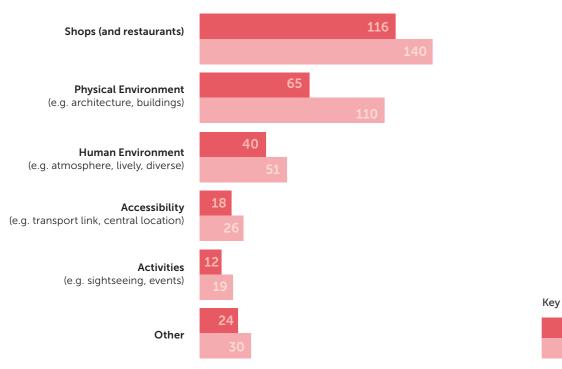
14 Visitor Survey detailed findings

International vs domestic visitors

Question 1

What things do you like about Regent Street? Open Ended Question – Coded After Data Collection

Base: Domestic 208 / International 273



Codes for priorities for Regent Street

Overall Theme	Original Code	Count	% respondent mentioning
	Not as busy/fewer people	75	15%
Dadastian amaiana	More pedestrianised	70	14%
Pedestrian experience	Improved cleanliness of pavements	60	12%
	Better pavement surfaces	16	3%
Nature and greening	More greenery and nature	123	24%
Air quality	Less pollution	55	11%
Congestion Free	Less traffic	143	28%
Flexible use of streets and space	More events on the street	37	7%
Public transport	Improved public transport	15	3%
Cofob	Less crime/anti-social behaviour	25	5%
Safety	Improved street lighting	2	0%
Enhanced well being	Toilets	103	20%
Enhanced well-being	Availability of seating	41	8%
	Better selection of shops	56	11%
A diverse offer for all	Better selection of restaurants/bars/cafés	50	10%
	More/better diverse things to do and see (not shopping)	15	3%
Cultural expression	More/better cultural experiences	15	3%
Active travel	Improved cycle access	8	2%
Welcoming	It is welcoming	12	2%
Linking with neighbouring area	Street map showing positioning of shops/restaurants	27	5%
Vehicles	Improved car access	6	1%
	Not sure	33	6%
	Other / None of the above	50	10%

Question 2

Key

World Class

Vision

Green & Sustainable

Chosen priorities were focussed in the 'accessible, safe and inclusive' category shown in the graphic

Domestic

International

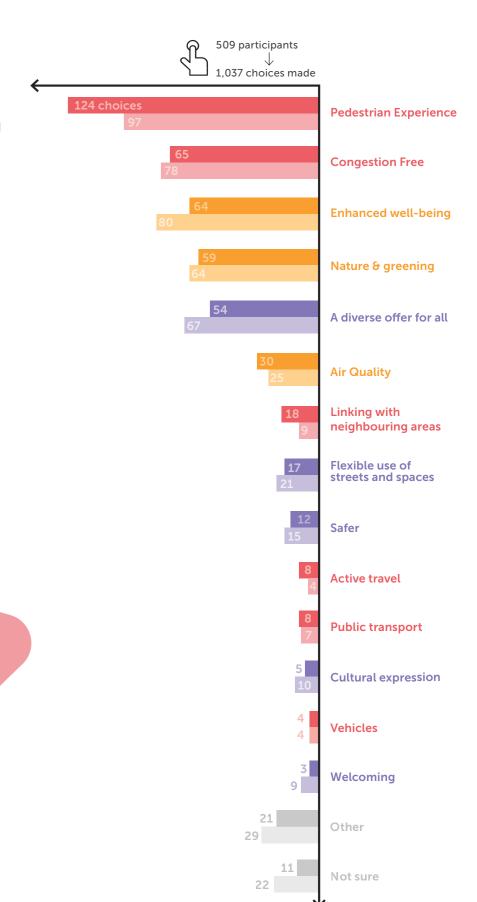
What would encourage you to visit Regent Street again or more frequently? Please think about the improvement you would like to see. Open Ended Question – Coded on Street.

Base: Domestic 221 / International 288

Domestic Visitors

International Visitors

Accessible, Safe & Inclusive



29

8

above.