

SuDS+

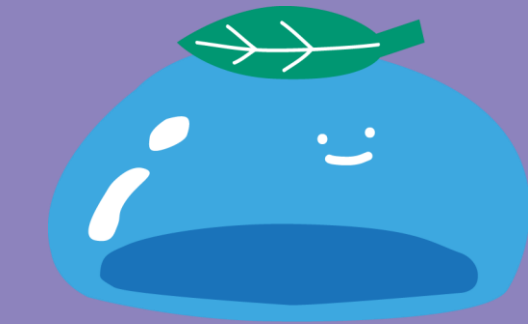
Community-Led Futures



Establishing a new vision for sustainable drainage systems in delivering sustainable and resilient urban communities

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1. Background

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) have been promoted for increasing resilience to flooding, and generating wider environmental and social benefits. They have been implemented widely to date, but many issues persist:

Lack of community involvement from the onset

SuDS often underperform or are short-lived.

Locals believe SuDS is irrelevant to them as they live outside the flood zones

Led by technical expertise & no / token public engagement

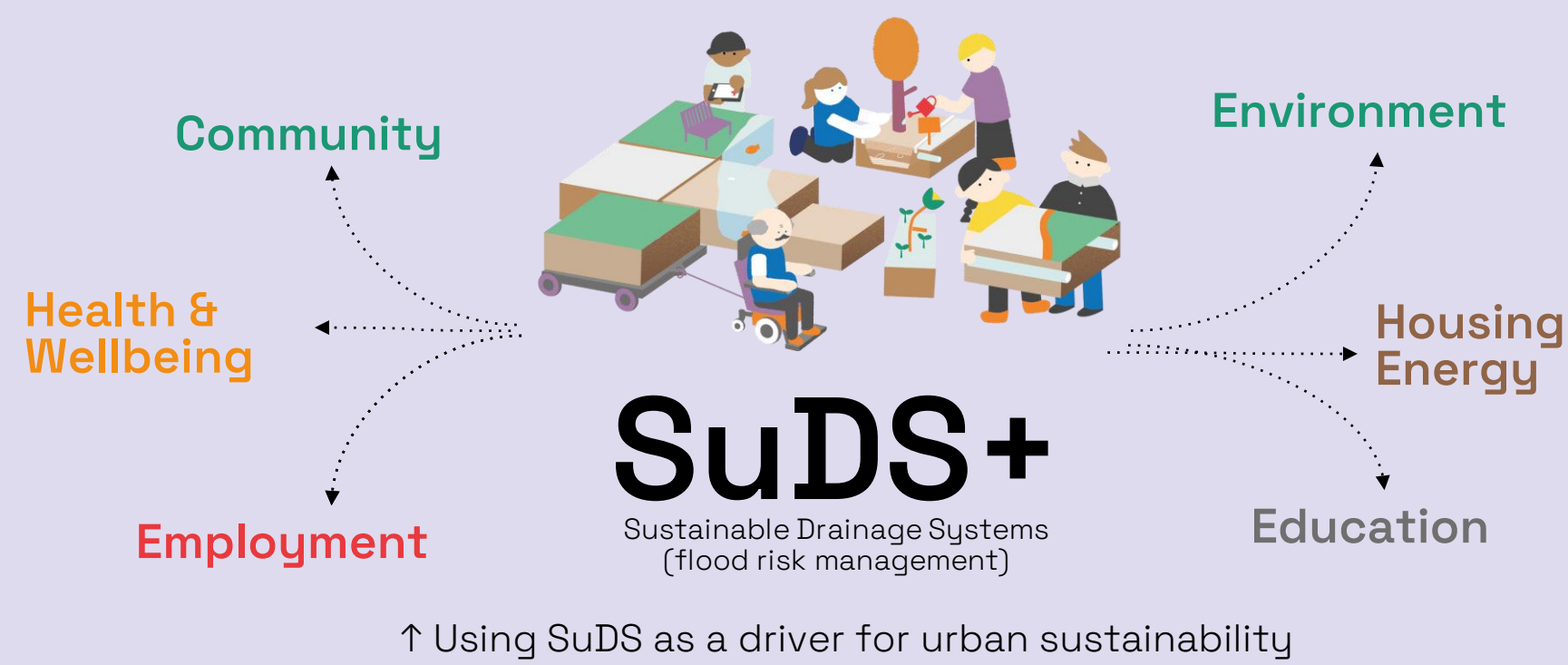
Only target flooding; opportunities & designs are constrained.

Designed for the community, not with the community

← Fig. 1 Traditional SuDS with forced outcomes

This Defra funded research innovation project (2022-2027) is changing the way we 'do SuDS' to enable multi-purpose SuDS, led by the true needs of communities.

2. Deprioritising flooding: the SuDS+ concept



SuDS+ argues for a rethink on the benefits of SuDS, de-prioritising drainage (flooding) as their primary driver. SuDS become a vehicle for enhancing sustainable urban design, amenity, biodiversity, health, skills, and wellbeing ('+'), which can be adapted to meet community needs, priorities and aspirations. Social economic and environmental opportunities are therefore maximised and welcomed by locals.

A framework is being created and piloted in Stanley South, North Durham (UK).



3. Community visioning for SuDS+: What does the community consider a "wider benefit"?

A community- and opportunity-led approach for visioning, designing, delivering, monitoring, adoption and maintenance of SuDS is being developed and tested. Methods & results are presented here for the visioning and design phases.

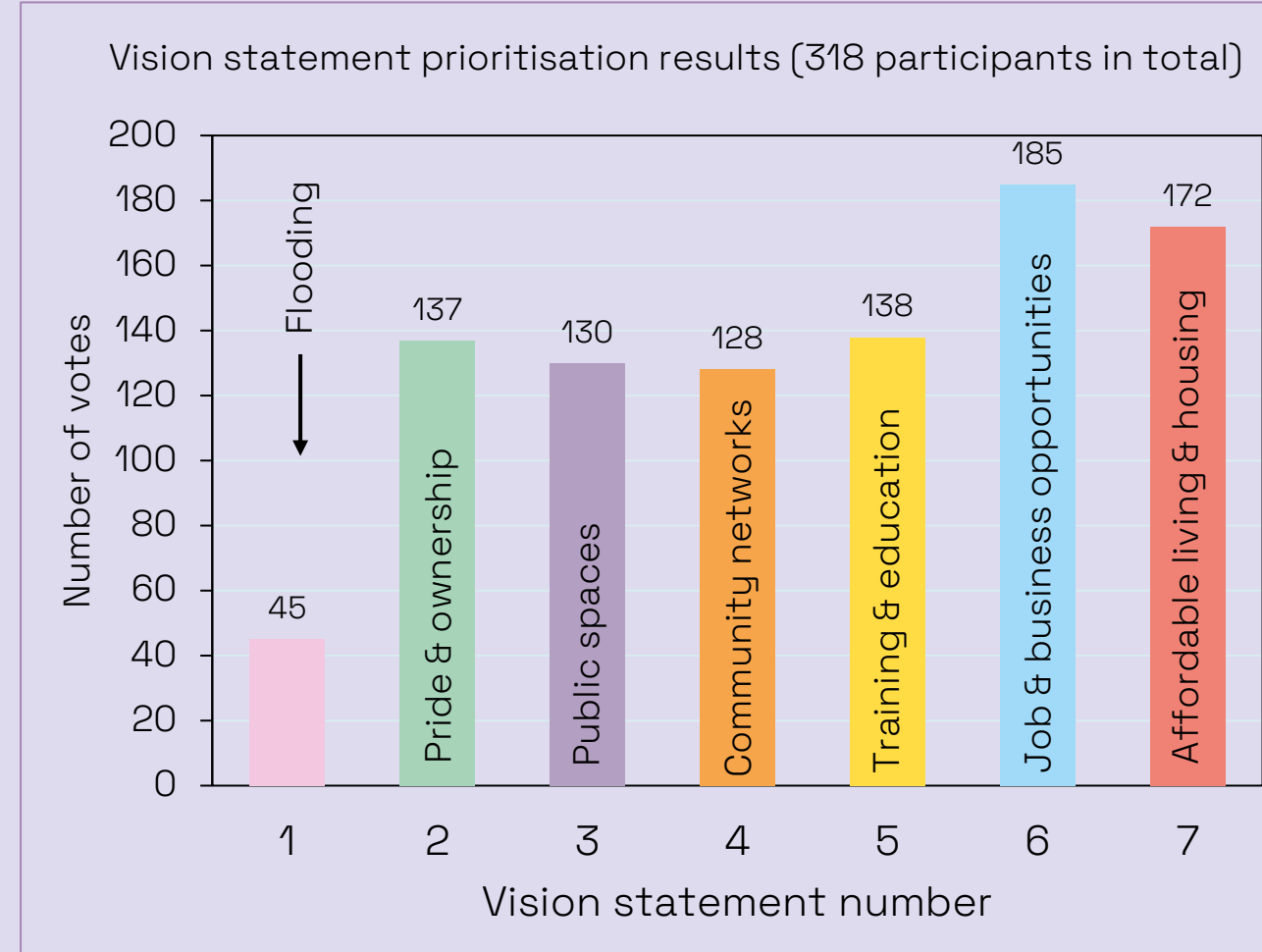
↓ A) February 2023: Community Visioning
 Residents voted for their top 3 vision statements using an online survey & in-person pop-up voting stations located in public venues.

Let's shape the future of Stanley South together!

These are our initial vision statements for Stanley South:

- Enhance community resilience to flooding
- Create a sense of pride and ownership over the local environment
- Create beautiful, vibrant and diverse public spaces accessible to all
- Strengthen local community-led networks, groups and services
- Provide training and education for the workplaces of the future
- Help to create local job opportunities and support existing & new businesses
- Support affordable living costs and improve the quality of housing

↑ Vision statements. Voting results ↓



↓ B) May-June 2023: Community-led co-design
 Co-design workshops, walking tours, photovoice activities, and drop-in location mapping have taken place. 383 ideas have been added to the SuDS+ opportunity map, creating the SuDS+ 'longlist'.



↑ x5 pop-up voting stations



↑ x2 walking tours



↑ x3 'Future of Stanley South' workshops

Community-led opportunity map ↓

“Maker space for men. A self-help activity for men. Talk whilst doing things they like.”

“Wildflowers to attract bees”

“Create educational opportunities which prompt positive steps towards better mental health and enhanced community spirit. This disused area of land by Cleveland Terrace could be transformed into an outdoor learning area”

“Would be nice to see some visual nature points with dedicated walks”

“Play park, outdoor gym and equipment, instructor led exercises (e.g. yoga, boot camp fitness), seating, picnic area, install dog bins, forest schools and/or other outdoor community space. This could be aimed at all age groups.”

“A nice park for the children and a nice seating area for the adults with picnic benches. Close to the houses so can be watched by many passing people. Would make a lovely area along with flower beds”

4. Findings so far

Flooding is not a priority for residents, despite ongoing fluvial, surface water and sewer flooding issues in the study area. Jobs & houses are.

Community-led opportunity mapping reveals areas for SuDS+ improvement far beyond the traditional flood outlines.

The above findings have validated the need for a SuDS+ approach.

5. Next steps: Community-led prioritisation & design

