



North
Northamptonshire
Council



Developing an Environmental Justice Index (EJI) for North Northamptonshire

Exploring the process, indicators and outputs

June 2026



What is an Environmental Justice Index (EJI)?

- **Environmental justice** is concerned with the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and reducing environmental inequalities.
- By **mapping** the distribution of these inequalities, it then becomes possible to prioritise resources in locations that are suffering from environmental injustice.
- North Northamptonshire Council commissioned Natural Capital Solutions to produce an **Environmental Justice Index (EJI)** for the area to provide this information in an easy to understand format, to enable targeted support to be focused on communities from different service areas across the authority.



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Why an EJI and why now?

- Complex data brought together to make a difference
- Data driven decision making
- Spatial awareness
- Delivery of nature-based solutions that have multifunctional benefits and can often be cheaper
- Wider documents for North Northamptonshire like the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the Local Plan, the Active Communities Strategy, the Climate Action Plan and other plans and projects → working together to deliver benefits for public health, nature and improving climate resilience → for the collective benefit

Indicator Selection Process

1



Review of literature
Previous EJI projects
were reviewed to identify
core themes and key
indicators

2



Workshop 1
Local stakeholders
and experts identified
indicators to use, and
data sources

3



Interim review
Revised longlist to
shortlist using robust,
up-to-date data at
appropriate scale

4



Workshop 2
Experts re-consulted
to fill-in data gaps and
vote on relative
importance of each
indicator

5



Final review
Workshop 2 polls
reviewed to apply
relative weighting of
different indicators

Indicator Selection



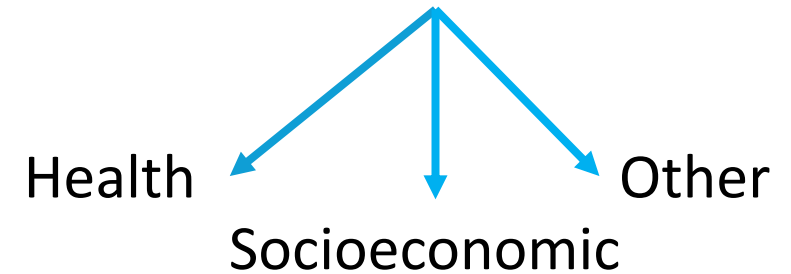
Environmental Risk
Domain



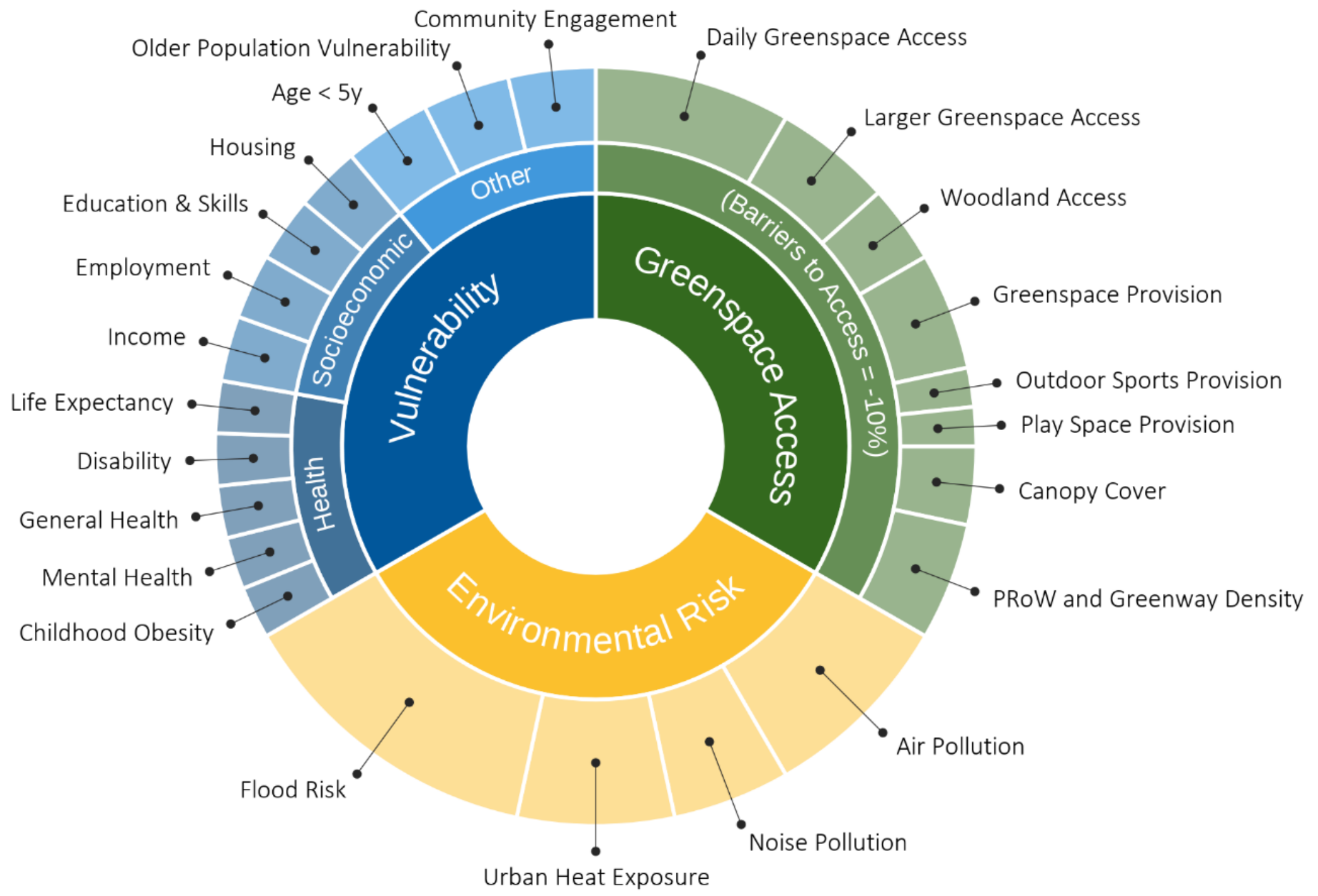
Greenspace Access
Domain

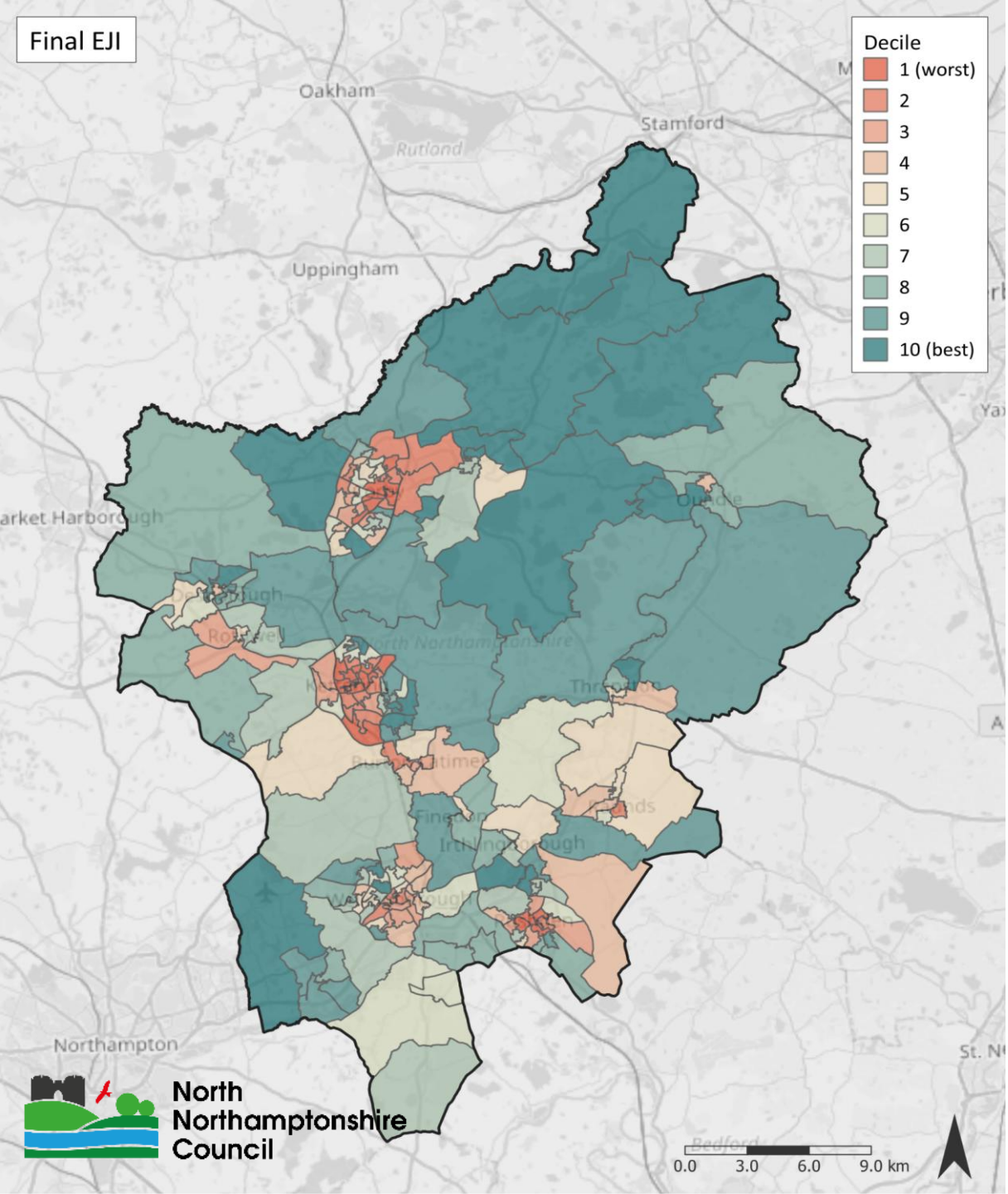


Vulnerability Domain



Developing the index





Outputs

Outputs:

- Map viewer
- Technical report
- Public summary

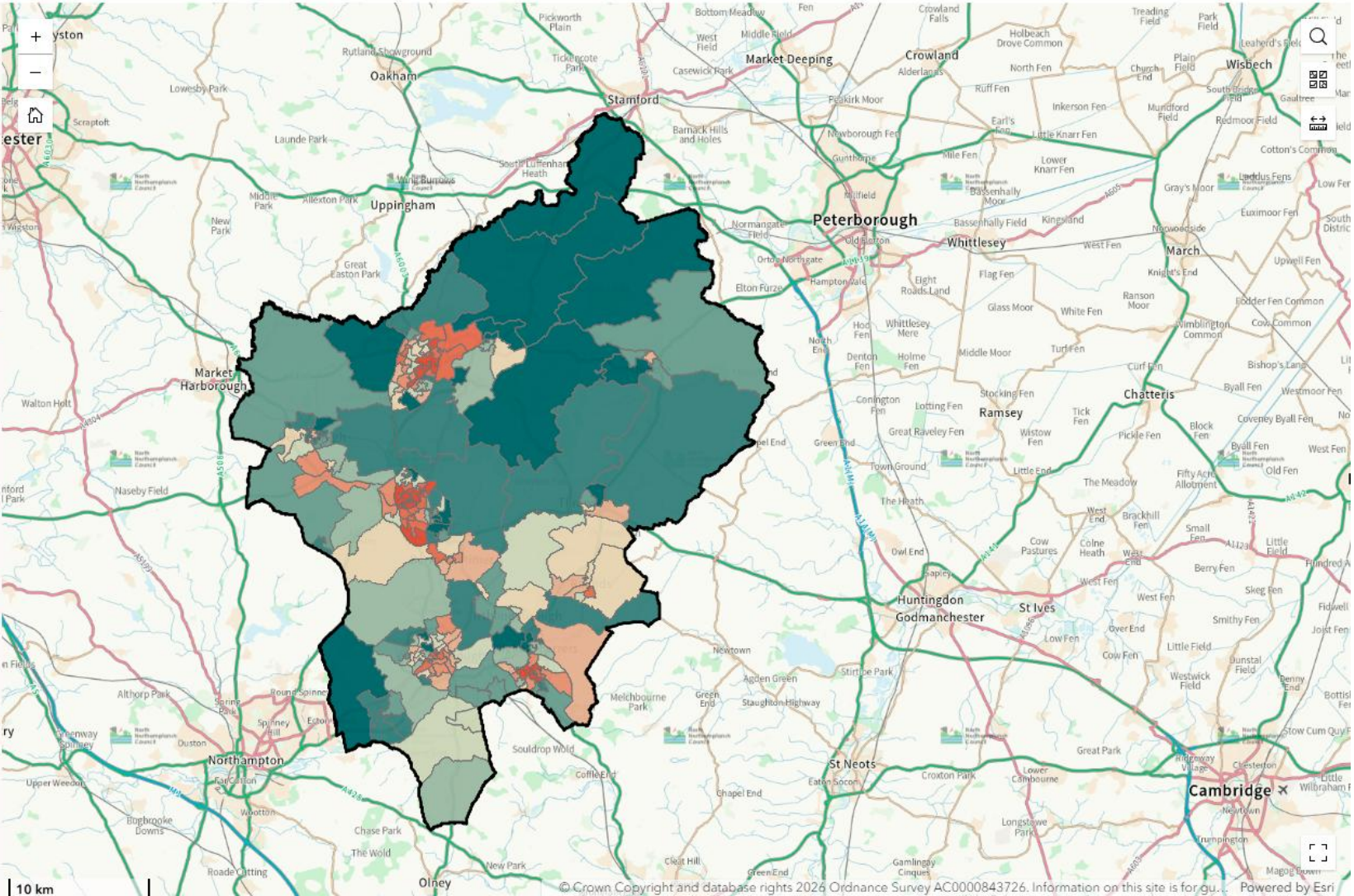
Scale: Final indicators and overall EJI were then mapped for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)



Important Limitations and Caveats

- Indicators selected only where there were robust, up-to-date data available (with preference for open-access, national datasets)
- Aligned indicators with national standards where possible (e.g. NE's Accessible Greenspace Standards, Fields in Trust standards)
- Mapping was achieved based on best available data, and although carefully checked manually, has not been ground-truthed and will inevitably contain errors.
- EJI boundaries limited to area inside North Northamptonshire's local authority area.
- No data on condition or quality of greenspace
- Does not include point source pollutants

- Layers
- Boundaries
 - Top 10 areas for combined environmental improvement
 - Overall Environmental Justice Index
 - Indicators
 - Greenspace access domain
 - Vulnerability domain
 - Environmental risk domain



How can an EJI be used?

- Lots of potential - Internally and externally
- Different service areas can use different combinations of data to inform delivery
 - Best places to locate play equipment, to allow younger age groups to be active to include natural greenspace
 - Areas to enhance tree canopy cover, helping to cool areas that currently overheat and sequester carbon
 - Open space provision to allow all residents to access for health and wellbeing whilst providing biodiversity and climate resilience
 - Locations for sustainable drainage to minimise flood impact whilst enhancing the natural environment
 - Masterplanning of developments and policy to create sustainable places based on local information

Multi functional

