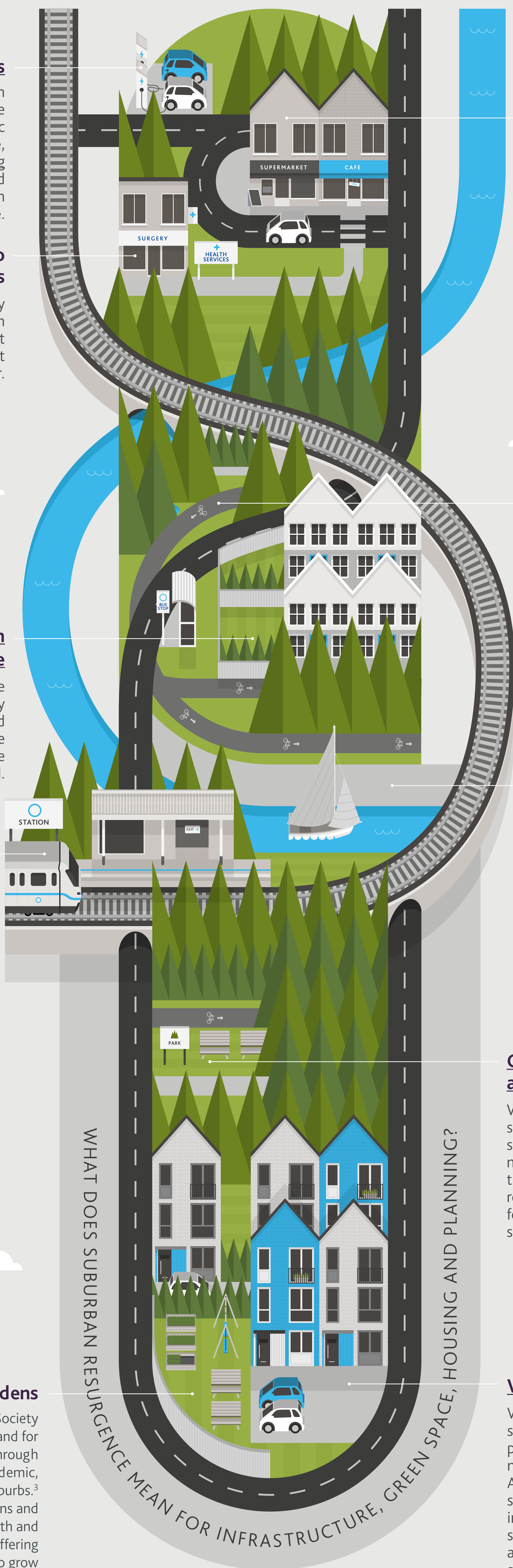


FUTURE SUBURBIA

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way we live our lives on so many levels. As a result, the idea of suburban resurgence is more topical than ever before.

We've taken a closer look at what this could mean for infrastructure, green spaces, housing and planning - looking at what this might mean for how we live in the future.



Mobility hubs

We are moving in new ways and these spaces combine public transport, e-scooter hire, [electric vehicle charging points](#), bike racks and shared taxi rides - all in one convenient place.

Access to core services

In a 15-minute city model, local health support could be just minutes from your front door.

Retail

Changing consumer behaviour could see a shift in retail from city centre locations to local high streets. In a recent Deloitte survey, 57% of consumers said they would be more likely to spend money at a business that offers locally produced products, once the lockdown had been lifted.¹

Houses with green space

With more people potentially moving away from densely populated areas, houses with more outdoor green space could be in high demand.

Bike trails

With the future of mobility constantly evolving, greener modes of transport are growing in popularity and our [infrastructure will need to adapt too](#).

Regional planning

Regional planning will become vital to ensure residents have access to key services and the local infrastructure is appropriately equipped.

Towpaths and waterways

Towpath usage in many urban residential areas across England increased significantly throughout the pandemic. Our waterways and towpaths could provide a sustainable transport network, as well as support people's need to be closer to nature.

Green spaces and parks

With the majority of people spending more time outside since the pandemic, access to nature will be more important than ever. The suburban resurgence will see planning for more public and green spaces for people to enjoy.

Community gardens

The Royal Horticultural Society reported that demand for allotments has 'gone through the roof' during the pandemic, particularly in the suburbs.³

Community gardens and allotments promote health and wellbeing, as well as offering communities the chance to grow their own produce.

Working from home

With increasing flexibility surrounding work schedules, people may re-examine the need for city centre living. According to Rightmove, both sale and rental properties in city centres have been suffering over the past year, as people look to areas such as Cornwall and Devon to be nearer to the countryside and seaside.²

¹ <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/consumer-business/articles/what-next-for-the-high-street.html>

² <https://www.lettingagenttoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2021/4/rental-demand-still-swinging-away-from-cities-says-rightmove>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/31/flower-power-covid-restrictions-fuel-boom-in-plant-and-bulb-sales>