



LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
2030

APSE Local Government Commission 2030

NEW MUNICIPALISM AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN 2030



Rationale for the Local Government Commission

After ten years of austerity across public services, local government faces a number of wicked policy issues, be it growing inequalities, housing, climate change or public health. At the same time, the organisational landscape of local government has undergone a patchwork reorganisation through City Deals and combined authorities, partnerships and shared services, asset transfers and local authority companies. Political leadership and democratic accountability have arguably become increasingly 'messy', as core internal capabilities and traditional ways of working have been challenged.

Yet, there is equally a new municipalism that is emerging, one that advances new forms of local action, inhouse services, municipal entrepreneurship and stewardship of place. Local authority housing companies have mushroomed as councils have sought to address housing need, while novel forms of commercialisation, community wealth building and social value production have taken hold as councils have looked to keep the public spend in localities and forge new ways of working with communities.

The APSE Local Government Commission will develop an independent analysis of the state of local government in the United Kingdom. It will identify and assess the capabilities and capacities of local government, capturing good practice and how local councils can advance a new municipalism and vision for the next ten years. Importantly, the Commission has taken 2030 as its key date on the horizon, signalling its commitment to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability, one of the pressing 'wicked policy issues' facing local authorities. Indeed, the Commission will build on the principle of stewardship, viewing local government as one of the key sites to mitigate climate change.

Key Themes

Tasked with bringing together a vision for sustainable local government in 2030, APSE invites Commissioners to reflect on the following inter-connected themes:

- Place leadership and local government stewardship in local communities;
- Service provision and meeting local needs;
- Local democracy, governance and accountability;
- Sustainable funding and workforce planning;
- Local government and the multiple policy crises of the environment, economy and society (for example, climate change; energy; housing; social inequality; food poverty).

Formal Structures

The Commission will be composed of two structures. The Board of Commissioners will take evidence and assess the policy challenges facing local government and make a series of recommendations as to the changes required across local government to ensure its stewardship of place. It will be supported by the Commission Executive, which will provide logistical and research support to the Commissioners, bringing together and generating evidence, crystallising emerging debates and reporting the findings of the Commission.

1. Commission Board

Chair of the Policy Commission, Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive of APSE

Five lead Commissioners drawn from across the field of local government. It will be important to the credibility of the commission that a diverse range of Commissioners are selected in terms of politicians, officers, gender and it is recognised that APSE is a UK wide organisation.

2. Commission Executive

The lead members of the Commission Executive will be:

- Neil Barnett, Leeds Business School, Leeds Beckett University
- Dr. Arianna Giovannini, Deputy Director of the Local Governance Research Centre, De Montfort University.
- Professor Steven Griggs, Director of Local Governance Research Centre, De Montfort University.

3. Communications

The commission will be supported by APSE's communications team and all commission communications will be in line with the strategy developed and cleared through this source:

- Mo Baines, Head of Communications and Co-ordination, APSE
- Matt Ellis, Communications Officer, APSE