



Living Locally

Annex 1: Survey results and questions



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Published by APSE, July 2023

ISBN: 978-1-907388-87-3

Introduction



About APSE

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) plays a unique role in local government. Working with over 300 councils across the UK, we strive to create a positive role for local authorities in delivering high-quality, effective and efficient public services. APSE provides a unified national voice for our members whilst offering opportunities – through training courses, seminars, benchmarking, briefings and research – for councils to share best practice and develop strong and sustainable frontline services.

As a not-for-profit organisation owned by our members, all surplus generated by APSE is reinvested into the services for the benefit of our local authority members.

APSE are at the forefront of ensuring local authority voices are heard at the highest level of UK governments. We run one of the largest research programmes in local government covering a diverse range of research subjects on policy – insourcing, housing, finance, scrutiny – and in our service areas. We produce self-supported research through our annual 'State of the Market' reports which draw upon surveys and analysis of the from our member local authorities. We use these to gauge trends in service delivery and gather views to inform our advocacy.

APSE are an Investors in People (IIP) Gold Standard accredited organisation as well as a Platinum accredited Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO). Headquartered in Manchester, we also have offices in Oxford and Hamilton.



About TCPA

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) is an independent charity that works to challenge, inspire and support people to create and transform communities so that everyone thrives in socially just, healthy, sustainable and resilient environments. To that end, the TCPA aims to improve the art and science of planning in the UK and abroad and work to secure fresh perspectives on major issues, including planning policy, housing, regeneration and climate change.

Informed by the Garden City Principles, the TCPA's strategic priorities are to:

- Work to secure a good home for everyone in inclusive, resilient and prosperous communities, which support people to live healthier lives.
- Empower people to have real influence over decisions about their environments and to secure social justice within and between communities.
- Support new and transform existing places to be adaptable to current and future challenges including the climate crisis.

Contributors

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Acknowledgements

APSE and the TCPA are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed their time and feedback to the case studies, the roundtable, online survey and interviews which informed this report. This report aims to reflect the opinions of a wide range of organisations, but not every detail contained within it will reflect the opinions of all the contributors to this work. It seeks, however, to reflect the overall spirit of the debate and capture many of the key points raised.

Survey questions and results

The TCPA sent an online survey to the Leader, Chair of Finance, Chair of Housing, Chair of Planning and Chair of Economic Development Committees, the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Housing Officer, Chief Planning Officer and Chief Economic Development Officer in all local authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. All responses were treated as anonymous.

What is your role within the local authority?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Councillor	33.10%	93
Officer with a specific focus on housing	14.95%	42
Officer with a specific focus on planning	35.59%	100
Officer with a specific focus on climate change/sustainability	1.42%	4
Other (please specify)	14.95%	42
	Answered	281

Please indicate in which country your local authority is located?

Answer Choices	Responses	
England	84.34%	237
Northern Ireland	1.78%	5
Scotland	8.90%	25
Wales	4.27%	12
Other (please specify)	0.71%	2
	Answered	281

Which political party has control of your local authority?

Answer Choices	Responses	
No overall control	14.64%	41
Conservative	28.21%	79
DUP	0.71%	2
UUP	0.00%	0
SDLP	0.36%	1
Alliance	2.14%	6
Green	0.00%	0
Independent	3.57%	10
Labour	29.29%	82
Liberal Democrat	8.57%	24
Plaid Cymru	2.14%	6
Scottish National Party	3.93%	11
Sinn Fein	0.00%	0

Other (please specify)	6.43%	18
Answered		280

1 Delivering affordable homes

How would you characterise the need for affordable homes (i.e. homes available for subsidised or social rent) in your local authority area?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Severe	66.53%	163
Moderate	28.98%	71
Not substantial	1.63%	4
Don't know	2.86%	7
Answered		245

What is the dominant model of delivering social and affordable housing in your local authority area?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Direct delivery	16.33%	40
Through the planning process via Section 106 agreements	57.96%	142
Joint ventures on council-owned land	4.90%	12
Other (please specify)	20.82%	51
Answered		245

Are you considering setting up, or have already set up, a local housing delivery company?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes - a wholly owned subsidiary of the council	34.69%	85
Yes - as a joint venture	11.02%	27
No	42.86%	105
Don't know	11.43%	28
Answered		245

Is your council currently delivering or exploring private rented sector homes (PRS) as part of the solution to creating new homes in your local authority area?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes - currently delivering PRS	18.78%	46
Yes - exploring PRS as an option	27.76%	68
No	30.20%	74
Don't know	23.27%	57
Answered		245

2 Permitted Development [England only]

Do you think homes created through Permitted Development have proven dangerous to health and wellbeing?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	47.06%	104
No	14.93%	33
Don't know	34.84%	77
Optional: please explain your answer		88
Answered		214

Do you think that vulnerable people are disproportionately negatively affected by development delivered through the use of Permitted Development Rights?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43.18%	95
No	15.91%	35
Don't know	38.64%	85
Optional: please explain your answer		47
Answered		215

Do you think that homes created through Permitted Development Rights will help support the achievement of the Government's carbon emission reduction targets?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	8.60%	19
No	62.90%	139
Don't know	27.60%	61
Optional: please explain your answer		58
Answered		219

3 Prioritising creating complete, compact and connected communities

Has your local authority committed to working to create complete, compact and connected communities? [Tick all that apply]

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes – it is a specific corporate priority	19%	41
Yes – it is explicit in a draft or current local plan	29%	62
Yes – it is explicit in a draft or current design guide/code	12%	26
Yes – but it is not set out explicitly in plans or strategies	24%	50
No	20%	43
Don't know	10%	21

Other (please specify)	14%	30
Answered		211

If your local authority has discussed or committed to working to create complete, compact and connected communities, what language do you prefer to use for the concept? [pick one]

Answer Choices	Responses	
20 minute neighbourhood/city	26	36
15 minute neighbourhood/city	17	24
Complete, compact and connected communities (or similar)	9	12
Liveable neighbourhoods	15	21
Thriving neighbourhoods	17	23
Other (please specify)	17	23
Answered		139

If your local authority has committed to working to create complete, compact and connected communities, which elements of the local community did you involve in informing your thinking? [Tick all that apply]

Answer Choices	Responses	
Specific demographic groups within the community	19%	36
Local businesses	28%	53
Relevant utility companies including Distribution Network Operator, water company	15%	28
Schools / academies / colleges	19%	36
Local NHS eg integrated care board	21%	41
Major employers in the local area such as university, hospitals etc.	18%	35
Consulted the community but did not target specific groups	32%	61
Not sure	13%	25
Not applicable	32%	61
Other (please specify)	15%	28
Answered		191

If your authority is considering the concept of complete, compact and connected communities, what sort of places do you expect it to apply to:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Urban areas only	28%	54
Rural areas only	3%	5
Suburban areas	12%	24
Market towns	10%	20
Relevant to all locations/a mixture of urban and rural	36%	69
Not sure	8%	16
Not applicable	20%	38
Other (please specify)	9%	17

Planning for complete, compact and connected communities

Do your development plan documents contain an overarching objective to create complete, compact and connected communities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, in our adopted local plan	14%	26
Yes, in our draft local plan	24%	44
No	30%	54
Not sure	13%	24
Other (please specify)	18%	33
Answered		181

Do your development plan documents contain any of the following policies relating to creating complete, compact and connected communities? (tick all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	6%	10
Diverse and affordable housing	71%	125
Prioritising active and sustainable travel	65%	115
'School streets'	11%	20
Creating or improving the quality and/or distribution of green spaces	56%	99
Enabling local food production	19%	34
Enabling healthy food environments	22%	39
Supporting and enabling local businesses as a priority	40%	71
Establishing community health hubs	15%	26
Health and wellbeing	57%	101
Waste/ environmental management considerations	45%	79
Don't know	11%	19
Other (please specify)	13%	23
Answered		177

If you have policies in relation to creating complete, compact and connected communities, do you believe that the planning framework you are operating within enables your local authority to implement them?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	7.74%	13
Yes, to some extent	49.40%	83
No	14.29%	24
Not applicable	28.57%	48
Answered		168

Do you believe that your authority has sufficient data / evidence to inform the introduction of complete, compact, connected communities? (eg data about the location / distribution of assets such as green space, health care centres, shops, schools, or the connectivity of neighbourhoods).

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, we have all the data and evidence we need	20.79%	37
Yes, to some extent	41.01%	73
No but we are in the process of creating an asset register / log	9.55%	17
No	13.48%	24
Not sure	15.17%	27
	Answered	178

If your local authority has a role in delivering or managing development, whether directly, through a subsidiary company etc, do any of the following apply:

Answer Choices	Responses	
We have a housing retrofit programme	46%	81
We are building carbon neutral/net zero homes	40%	70
We are designing and supporting the delivery of places that promote active travel	53%	94
We are implementing biodiversity net gain	53%	94
We have a direct role in delivering renewable energy schemes	38%	68
We have a direct role in developing green construction skills	21%	37
Not applicable	21%	37
Other (please specify)	10%	18
	Answered	177

4 Key barriers to effective place shaping

If your local authority has a formal or informal commitment to creating complete, compact and connected communities, do you believe that progress is being made towards achieving that commitment?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, please specify	21.01%	29
No, please give brief further information for this answer	5.07%	7
Not sure	34.78%	48
Other (please specify)	39.13%	54
	Answered	138

Regardless of whether you are making progress, what is the top barrier you think that exists for local authorities in creating complete, compact and connected communities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Insufficient political commitment	18%	26
Ineffective cross-departmental working within the authority	13%	19
Insufficient cross-boundary working with other local authorities	12%	17
Lack of support from highways / transport	22%	31
Local campaigns (eg against low traffic neighbourhoods)	15%	21
Lack of financial resources	63%	90
Lack of skills	22%	31
Lack of capacity	42%	60
There are no barriers	6%	8
Other (please specify)	30%	43
	Answered	143

To what extent is under-resourcing a barrier to effective delivery in each of following planning-related policy topics?"1' indicates that the factor is not a barrier at all, while '5' indicates that it is a great barrier.

	Not at all a barrier				Extreme barrier	Not applicable		
	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Urban design and aesthetics	3.52%	15.49%	21.13%	30.99%	25.35%	3.52%	142	3.61
Health and wellbeing	1.42%	19.15%	28.37%	29.08%	21.28%	0.71%	141	3.5
Climate change adaptation	2.13%	5.67%	19.86%	34.75%	36.88%	0.71%	141	3.99
Climate change mitigation	2.13%	8.51%	19.15%	37.59%	31.91%	0.71%	141	3.89
Green space/infrastructure	2.14%	15.00%	32.14%	27.86%	21.43%	1.43%	140	3.52
Housing delivery (market)	8.57%	21.43%	22.86%	17.86%	26.43%	2.86%	140	3.33

Affordable and social housing delivery	3.52%	8.45 %	21.13 %	28.17 %	35.92%	2.82%	142	3.87
Reducing inequality and injustice	1.42%	11.35 %	36.88 %	21.99 %	25.53%	2.84%	141	3.61
Local sustainable transport	0.71%	10.64 %	20.57 %	25.53 %	40.43%	2.13%	141	3.96
Housing stock retrofit	1.43%	8.57 %	17.14 %	25.71 %	37.14%	10.00%	140	3.98
New communities	2.16%	10.07 %	30.22 %	14.39 %	26.62%	16.55%	139	3.64

To what extent is a lack of skills a barrier to effective delivery in each of following planning-related policy topics?'1' indicates that the factor is not a barrier at all, while '5' indicates that it is a great barrier.

	Not at all a barrier				Extreme barrier	Not applicable	Weighted Average
	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
Urban design and aesthetics	7.25%	21.74 %	18.84 %	32.61 %	17.39%	2.17%	3.32
Health and wellbeing	5.07%	28.26 %	29.71 %	29.71 %	5.80%	1.45%	3.03
Climate change adaptation	5.04%	16.55 %	31.65 %	28.06 %	17.27%	1.44%	3.36
Climate change mitigation	6.52%	17.39 %	32.61 %	24.64 %	16.67%	2.17%	3.28
Green space/infrastructure	8.03%	28.47 %	39.42 %	13.14 %	8.03%	2.92%	2.84
Housing delivery (market)	13.14 %	29.20 %	26.28 %	16.79 %	8.76%	5.84%	2.78
Affordable and social housing delivery	10.71 %	30.00 %	28.57 %	17.14 %	10.00%	3.57%	2.85
Reducing inequality and injustice	6.57%	28.47 %	33.58 %	16.06 %	13.14%	2.19%	3.01
Local sustainable transport	5.80%	24.64 %	35.51 %	18.84 %	13.04%	2.17%	3.09

Housing stock retrofit	4.35%	14.49%	30.43%	24.64%	14.49%	11.59%	3.34
New communities	6.52%	20.29%	33.33%	9.42%	13.04%	17.39%	3.03

To what extent is current national-level policy a barrier to effective delivery in each of following planning-related policy topics? '1' indicates that the factor is not a barrier at all, while '5' indicates that it is a great barrier.

	Not at all a barrier				Extreme barrier	Not applicable	
	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Weighted Average
Urban design and aesthetics	8.63%	23.74%	26.62%	23.74%	14.39%	2.88%	3.12
Health and wellbeing	5.76%	25.90%	30.94%	19.42%	15.83%	2.16%	3.14
Climate change adaptation	3.62%	18.84%	19.57%	26.09%	28.26%	3.62%	3.59
Climate change mitigation	2.90%	17.39%	21.74%	26.81%	28.26%	2.90%	3.62
Green space/infrastructure	3.65%	26.28%	29.93%	19.71%	17.52%	2.92%	3.22
Housing delivery (market)	12.14%	19.29%	26.43%	15.71%	22.14%	4.29%	3.17
Affordable and social housing delivery	3.55%	8.51%	23.40%	24.82%	35.46%	4.26%	3.84
Reducing inequality and injustice	2.88%	20.86%	27.34%	24.46%	20.14%	4.32%	3.4
Local sustainable transport	1.44%	13.67%	28.78%	27.34%	25.90%	2.88%	3.64
Housing stock retrofit	2.84%	17.02%	21.28%	20.57%	25.53%	12.77%	3.56
New communities	3.60%	17.27%	31.65%	16.55%	16.55%	14.39%	3.29

To what extent is national political leadership a barrier to effective delivery in each of following planning-related policy topics?'1' indicates that the factor is not a barrier at all, while '5' indicates that it is a great barrier.

	Not at all a barrier				Extreme barrier	
	1	2	3	4	5	Weighted Average
Urban design and aesthetics	6.77%	21.05%	30.08%	20.30%	21.80%	3.29
Health and wellbeing	4.48%	20.15%	26.87%	26.87%	21.64%	3.41
Climate change adaptation	4.58%	11.45%	19.85%	25.95%	38.17%	3.82
Climate change mitigation	4.48%	12.69%	19.40%	27.61%	35.82%	3.78
Green space/infrastructure	5.34%	20.61%	28.24%	21.37%	24.43%	3.39
Housing delivery (market)	11.11%	13.33%	23.70%	21.48%	30.37%	3.47
Affordable and social housing delivery	2.96%	9.63%	15.56%	28.89%	42.96%	3.99
Reducing inequality and injustice	5.88%	15.44%	25.74%	23.53%	29.41%	3.55
Local sustainable transport	3.73%	14.93%	23.13%	26.12%	32.09%	3.68
Housing stock retrofit	5.26%	12.03%	22.56%	23.31%	36.84%	3.74
New communities	5.30%	12.88%	31.82%	17.42%	32.58%	3.59

5 Confidence in different policy areas

How able do you feel your local authority is to turn down planning applications for the following reasons?

	Not at all confident	Slightly confident	Not confident or unconfident	Fairly confident	Very confident	Weighted Average
Poor design	10.45%	19.40%	12.69%	43.28%	14.18%	3.31
Environmental reasons (including achievement of low or zero carbon targets)	30.22%	21.58%	19.42%	20.86%	7.91%	2.55
Pool health and wellbeing outcomes	35.25%	21.58%	23.74%	14.39%	5.04%	2.32
Poor green space provision	8.70%	23.91%	15.22%	40.58%	11.59%	3.22
Poor social outcomes (including health inequalities)	34.53%	24.46%	23.74%	12.95%	4.32%	2.28

Poorly located for active travel (eg isolated sites)	16.55%	28.78%	17.99%	26.62%	10.07%	2.85
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