

Welcome to the Local Futures Network Newsletter. In this month's issue:

#### **Local Futures Barometer**

Our latest Barometer looks at the geography of deprivation, using the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation figures. The article demonstrates the change in relative deprivation within local areas across England, and highlights both urban and rural deprivation [More](#)

You can also analyse the level of deprivation in your own area, down to neighbourhood level, using our Local Knowledge online service. [More](#)

#### **New resources for Network members**

The 'intelligence' and 'resources' sections of the Local Futures Network site are regularly updated. Some of the latest additions include new policy reports, the latest research and new future drivers of change. [More](#)

#### **Local Knowledge on-line**

With the start of a new financial year, and the current consultation on the *Sub National Review* looking to start work on local economic assessments as early as 2010, this could be a good time to consider taking out a subscription to our Local Knowledge on-line service.

As an introductory offer, will be happy to include our new facility to prepare automated reports across the full range of Local Knowledge indicators and themes (to be launched later this Spring). [More](#)

#### **Neighbourhood profiles**

Recent central government policy reviews – in particular, the *Sub-National Review* and final report from the Commission on Cohesion and Integration – have focused on greater evaluation at the neighbourhood level. In line with this, the Local Futures Group has introduced a version of the Local Futures Audit, focusing on conditions within wards and neighbourhoods. [More](#)

#### **'Place-Shaping and the Sub National Review' Conference: Amendment**

Local Futures is organising a national conference, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, on *Creating Local Economic Prosperity: Delivering the Sub National Review*. In order to avoid a clash with the CLG consultation with the LGA in June regarding the SNR, this event has been rescheduled to 18<sup>th</sup> September. The conference will assess the practical implications of the SNR for local authorities in the run up to its passing into law in November and its relationship to the wider place shaping agenda. [More](#)

#### **Next Local Futures Network event: Typologies of Place**

The next Local Futures Network event will look at *Typologies of Place*. To be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, we will introduce our work on typologies of place. Using new Local Futures Group analysis, this event will demonstrate how typologies can be used to we classify and better understand neighbourhoods and districts to shape policy and service delivery. This will be followed by an afternoon session demonstrating how to prepare a comprehensive analysis of your own area, using our Local Knowledge online system. [More](#)

For the latest update on our work, go to the [Local Futures Group](#) website and log in with your username and password.

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You are receiving this email because you are a Network member. If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply to this email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject field.

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### Latest resources for Network members

The members' area of the Local Futures Network site is constantly updated. If you would like to be notified of changes more regularly, please register to receive an [RSS feed](#). We have highlighted some of the new content included in the site below, but if you want to view all new content please log in to [www.localfutures.com](http://www.localfutures.com) using your e-mail address and user password.

Our latest content includes additions to the following:

- [Policy](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Strategies](#)
- [Future drivers of change](#)
- [Barometer](#)
- [Events](#)

### Policy

In the policy section we have included links to a range of recently published reports, including:

#### *Why Place Matters*

This document highlights some of the underpinning analysis which supported a number of recommendations of the *Sub-National Review* (July 2007). The paper identified the economic reasons why place matters and uses this as a rationale for spatial policies and highlights a number of policy implications, such as the importance of intervening at the right spatial level.

#### *Social Bridges II*

This joint paper by the Finance Ministries of Sweden and Germany, alongside HM Treasury, is a joint vision for shaping an inclusive globalisation through human capital. The report builds on the first Social Bridges paper, describing a policy response to deliver economic growth and social inclusion. The paper emphasises the importance of human capital formation, and identifies common features of successful policies across Europe.

#### *Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods*

CLG has released a new national strategy for housing in an ageing society. The report endorses the creation of flexible and adaptable homes, in recognition of the changing demographics within Britain. The plans also include new rapid repair and adaptation services, and a new Beacon theme on inclusive planning to recognise council leadership in this area.

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### Research

New reports included in our research section include:

#### *The Local Journey to Work*

This NLGN report looks at localism, welfare and worklessness. As worklessness becomes a government priority again in the context of neighbourhood renewal, the report highlights the added value local authorities can bring, and steps needed, to address issues of worklessness and related wider policy areas regarding educational attainment, crime, aspirations and health.

#### *The use of performance measurement, performance management and innovation in relation to the Beacon Scheme*

This report, drawing on independent research by Warwick Business School over three years, evaluates the impact and effectiveness of the Beacon Scheme. Among other things, the results show that Beacon status can help to influence the national policy agenda and influence arguments for extra funding; the top two contributing factors to stimulating innovation were reported as leadership and local policy priorities.

#### *Moving On: A progressive transport policy for Northern England*

This ippr report demonstrates the crucial need for investment in the North's transport network. Whilst there are some fears that investment will be turned away from the North due to tight CSR 07 funding and Crossrail finances, there is more concern that some transport authorities lack powers to finance reform; smaller towns may also fall behind if they are not able to operate on a city-region basis; finally, northern RDAs and national agencies need better lines of communication and streamlined reform.

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### Local Strategies

We continue to update our library of local strategies and have recently included:

#### *The South East England Health Strategy*

This is a strategy for improving health and well-being in the South East region. This Health Strategy is the first for the region and aims to ensure that the region becomes the healthiest place to live in the UK and one of the healthiest regions in Europe by improving health and well-being, sustainably

addressing underlying causes of ill-health and reducing the spatial and social inequalities in health across the region.

#### *A Sustainable Community Strategy for Restormel 2007-2027*

This strategy updates the previous document, presenting a new 20-year vision for the area with clear priorities, objectives and actions for improving quality of life across the borough. Interestingly, the strategy provides a vision for joint-working across the borough over a period of transition, as the borough joins the new unitary council for Cornwall in 2009.

#### *Economic Development Strategy 2008-2013 for Selby*

This strategy outlines the district's plans for economic development over the next five years. The document responds to the results of a recent review, highlighting recycling, leisure/recreational services and climate change as key priorities for the local district. The report also includes a statistical profile of the local area.

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### **Future drivers of change**

New drivers of change included in the 'Futures' section of the site include:

#### *A burgeoning middle class*

The middle class is expected to double as a share of the world population. The latest World Bank estimates put the global middle class at around 400m in 2005, predicted to rise to over 1bn people by 2030. This represents growth from around 8 per cent to 16 per cent of the global population.

#### *Lagging low carbon economy*

Government figures suggest that we are some way off embracing the concept of a low carbon economy. Proposals from the Energy Commission (Jan 2008) would require the UK to ensure that 15 per cent of its energy is renewable by 2020. However, current projections of primary energy demand state that around only 4 per cent of energy in the UK will come from renewable sources by 2020.

#### *Changing skill requirements*

As the UK economy moves towards a more service-based industrial structure, UK skill requirements are expected to continue to change. In particular, employers are projected to demand much higher levels of verbal, communication and planning skills relative to other skill types.

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### **Barometer: Deprivation**

Our latest Barometer looks at the latest IMD figures, released in December 2007, producing a geographical pattern of deprivation within the UK. The latest data of local deprivation suggests that the pattern of relative deprivation is largely the same as in 2004. 30 out of the 35 most deprived local districts in 2004 (roughly the top 10 per cent) remain so today.

A spatial analysis of deprivation promotes a better understanding of the true nature of disadvantage within the UK. The data reveals that the highest levels of deprivation are still concentrated in the North West, London and the North East. Notably, the largely urban clustering of deprivation extends beyond cities and their metropolitan areas, and into many coastal towns.

The data demonstrates the extent of the challenge to shared economic and social well-being in England created by the disparities in wealth, social inclusion and the built environment among local communities.

Network members may download the report [here](#) (PDF doc, opens in same page), complete with case studies and a data annex of data tables and maps of deprivation and inequalities measures.

If you are interested in accessing similar spatial data on the latest economic, social and environmental indicators, see our [Local Knowledge](#) online system.

### **Events**

#### *Next Local Futures Network event*

The next Local Futures Network seminar will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, addressing the issue of '*Typologies of place*'. The event will introduce our work on typologies of place, which is designed to assist policy and service delivery in districts and neighbourhoods.

The main event will be followed by an afternoon session on how to prepare a comprehensive analysis of your own area, using our Local Knowledge online system.

The event replaces the '*Sustainable Places*' event, which will now be held in June.

To reserve your place, contact [kate.fisher@localfutures.com](mailto:kate.fisher@localfutures.com)

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