

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

New addition to the team of Local Futures

As some of you might already know, our marketing assistant Kate Fisher is now on maternity leave and will be returning to us at a later stage. In the meantime, Phil Gregory will be replacing her. Phil has joined Local Futures from Scottish Development International, the international economic development agency for Scotland. He has a background in marketing, research and events, and holds a degree in economics from The University of Leeds. In addition to his marketing activities, he will also be contributing to our research work. You can contact Phil on phil.gregory@localfutures.com.

Local Futures Barometer

Our latest Barometer looks at the geography of health, using the latest life expectancy figures. The article demonstrates the continued spatial divides in health outcomes across England and highlights some of the background factors behind these patterns. [More](#)

You can analyse the average life expectancy in your own area, down to ward level, using our Local Knowledge online service. [More](#)

SocietyGuardian

The Local Futures Group's relationship with SocietyGuardian continues, with last month's Barometer on skills covered on the SocietyGuardian website. The link to the brief commentary is now live; look out for further reports in the coming weeks. [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](#)

New geography to be added to Local Knowledge - NUTS level 3

In response to our customer survey, we have improved our data coverage and are pleased to announce that we are about to add a new geographical level to the system: NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) Level 3. From July, this European geography will be available for all GB data, allowing county level data to be accessed within the system, as well as data for individual districts. [More](#)

Local Knowledge online

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

As an introductory offer, we will include our new automated reporting service (see previous story) free of charge. [More](#)

'Place-Shaping and the Sub National Review' Conference: Now booking

Local Futures is organising a national conference, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, on *Creating Local Economic Prosperity: Delivering the Sub National Review*. The conference will be held in London on September 18th and aims to 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: Sustainable Places

Our next Local Futures Network event, on Wednesday 9th July, will look at local environmental sustainability. The agenda for the event is now available. [More](#)

The main event will be followed by an afternoon session on how to analyse local sustainability within your own area, using our Local Knowledge online system. [More](#)

For the latest update on our work, go to the [Local Futures Group](http://www.localfutures.com) website and log in with your username and password.

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 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:

Global Commodities: A long term vision for stable, secure and sustainable global markets

This document released by HM Treasury provides an analysis of the trends and main drivers behind the rapid changes in commodity markets. Against this background, it outlines the view of the UK government on the coordinated international response required, which mainly focuses on international cooperation, greater openness of markets, investment on technological innovation and tackling climate change.

Managing the Impacts of Migration: A Cross-Government Approach

This Migration Impacts plan sets out the Government's current and future actions to manage the impacts of migration at the local level by focusing on local services and community cohesion. It also stresses the role that local governments should play in this process in order to meet the needs of local communities.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning

Planning Policy Statement 12 provides an overview of what local spatial planning involves and of its effects on local communities. Clear guidance is provided on the key ingredients of local spatial plans and how they should be prepared.

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Research

New reports included in our research section include:

Time to Waste: Tackling the landfill challenge

The latest publication by the NLGN brings into light drastic figures on the amount of waste that goes into landfill in the UK. The paper stresses the need for the Government to rethink its waste minimisation strategies. It is suggested that local councils should introduce financial rewards to neighbourhoods reducing their waste rather than charging them for rubbish. A major increase in the energy-from-waste incineration is proposed as the best way to avoid a landfill crisis.

Rural Wales needs more homes that people can afford

The scale of the housing problem in rural Wales is the focus of this recent study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The report's findings reveal that housing needs are increasingly unmet as house prices are rising and social housing is less in rural than in urban areas of the country. Proposed solutions include the improved use of current housing stock and the innovative deployment of second-hand council tax funds.

Just Care? A fresh approach to adult services

This paper by the IPPR examines how policy could support the delivery of a fairer system of care services. Its central premise is that the state needs to improve support both within families and across communities in order for adults in need of care to maximise their independence. It is also argued that adults with care needs could be better supported by giving them greater control over services and by having greater integration of public services within local communities.

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Local Strategies

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

Oxford: A world class city. Oxford's Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008-12

The vision for Oxford being a "world class city for everyone" is underlined by five flagship issues and the crosscutting theme of the economy in the city.

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Future drivers of change

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

Sharp decline in demand for oil from OECD countries

Oil consumption in developed countries last year presented the largest decline since 1983, according to BP and the UK Oil and Gas Group. In contrast, the upward trend in demand levels from non-OECD countries remained, and continues into 2008.

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Barometer: Life expectancy rates

Our latest Barometer looks at life expectancy figures, producing an image of the geography of health patterns within the UK. The latest data highlights marked spatial differences in life expectancy characterised by a persistent North-South divide.

As the data reveals, both the average as well as the highest and lowest life expectancy rates have increased since 1995. However, spatial inequalities in health outcomes appear to be persistent, as the areas with the highest life expectancy are the ones that have shown the highest increases. Clusters of poor health outcomes are located within Merseyside and Greater Manchester, parts of Yorkshire and urban pockets of the Midlands.

The spatial pattern of average life expectancy is largely supported by newly released data on the underlying factors of poor health. Estimates of binge drinking and obesity levels were found to be higher within pockets in the North West and Midlands, whereas the South East and South West contain larger concentrations of individuals having healthy diets.

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 related maps.

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

Events

The next Local Futures Network seminar will be held on Wednesday 9th July 2008, addressing the issue of *Sustainable Places*. The event will look at local environmental sustainability, from the national perspective via the Sustainable Development Commission, a Local Futures take on the geography of local sustainability, and local case studies.

The main event will be followed by an afternoon session on how to analyse local sustainability within your own area, using our Local Knowledge online system.

To reserve your place, contact phil.gregory@localfutures.com

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