

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

Futures Thinking

Local Futures continues to work with local authorities and LSPs around the country, shaping long-term visions and strategies. This includes a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Prosperity that has recently been finalised for the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities, providing a model for delivering the Sub National Review. We are also currently working with Tunbridge Wells Council on their revised Sustainable Community Strategy and are about to start work on a major new 'Nottinghamshire Thinks' programme of work. For further information on our work in this area contact the Local Futures office at info@localfutures.com or on 020 7440 7360.

Local Economic Assessments

A new version of the Local Futures Audit has been developed to meet the needs of authorities preparing local economic assessments. Based on the latest thinking on competitiveness and sustainable development, it sets economic conditions within a wider social and environmental context. The knowledge economy theme is reflected throughout the analysis, which concludes with a summary report and key policy challenges. The report also uses economic and social typologies to assess conditions, identifying similar areas for benchmarking and policy development. [More](#)

Local Futures Barometer

Our latest Barometer focuses on the subject of crime. Using the latest British Crime Survey data, the analysis shows a disproportionately large number of higher crime districts in the north of England, as well as major the differences between rural and urban areas. [More](#)

You can also view the report, together with an article by Sara Gaines, on the SocietyGuardian website. The link to the brief commentary is now live; look out for further reports in the coming weeks. [More](#)

National News

We're always looking at ways to improve our website and the quality of service we can offer our clients. Therefore, following on from the introduction of our Google Calendar tool, we have added a 'National News' section to our website. This area of the website displays the very latest news from a range of organisations, including The LGA and The Audit Commission, in one dynamic information stream. Meaning visitors to our website are now able to access all the breaking news from a range of relevant sources in one easy to find location. [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](#)

Local Futures Network event: Creative Places

Our next Local Futures Network event will be on the topic of Creative Places, highlighting different approaches to embedding creative and cultural issues within local strategies. The seminar, free for all Network members, will take place in London on Wednesday 26 November. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks, and updated onto the [Events](#) section of the website.

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

Latest 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 drivers of change. [More](#)

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

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

The Local Futures Group 30 little Russell Street London WC1A 2HN
T: 020 7440 7360 F: 020 7440 7370 E: info@localfutures.com W: www.localfutures.com

New services 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 email address and user password.

Our new 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:

Roles and Responsibilities in the Local Performance Framework

This document explains how the new local performance framework will be implemented. It provides information about delivery arrangements for local area agreements, the use of national indicator sets to monitor progress and the implications of the introduction of comprehensive area assessments.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Core Dataset

This dataset provides a list of indicators that can assist partners in preparing their joint strategic needs assessments. It contains detailed information on each indicator and provides a good foundation that can be supplemented with local data and information.

Low Carbon Development in the East of England: a guide for planners and councillors

The Government Office for the East of England, Inspire East and the Academy for Sustainable Communities have produced this guide for councillors and spatial planning authorities to low and zero carbon development.

[>> Content List](#)

Research

New reports included in our research section include:

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: 'Transforming disadvantaged places: effective strategies for places and people'

This paper provides evidence on the changing geography of deprivation and affluence and on the underlying forces affecting deprived places across Britain. It stresses how interventions aimed at both people and places can be mutually supportive in tackling disadvantage.

New Economics Foundation: A Green New Deal: Joined-up policies to solve the triple crunch of the credit crisis, climate change and high oil prices

The Nef's Green New Deal Group provide in this publication a response to the "triple crunch" as they call the combination of the credit crisis, the climate change challenge and soaring energy prices. They call for a massive investment in renewables, the creation of thousands of "green-collar" jobs, while making more low-cost capital available for pressing priorities.

Demos: State of Trust. How to build better relationships between the council and the public

In the context of increasing distrust in politics and democratic institutions, this report by Demos aims to help councils improve their relationships with the people they serve. The paper, drawing from research in four LAs, offers a new approach to taking political decisions and highlights that processes in policy-making matter to the public as much as outcomes.

[>> Content List](#)

Local Strategies

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

Reading's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011

Reading's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011 is the second community strategy for the area. The purpose of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to bring together Reading's key partners which make up the Local Strategic Partnership, including the Council, the Police, the Primary Care Trust, the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the voluntary and community sector, to help improve the quality of life for local communities.

Our 2020 Vision: Lambeth's Sustainable Community Strategy

The strategy sets out a long-term vision for the London borough of Lambeth, and seven long term outcomes which the council and partners will strive to achieve. In addition, the Sustainable Community Strategy contains improvement targets for the next three years as well as key projects/programmes that Lambeth First will be taking forward. This long term strategy informs the priorities within the council's Corporate Plan, the three year improvement strategy for the council.

Fylde Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been developed by Fylde's Local Strategic Partnership. This partnership brings together organisations from the public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors. The key objective of the partnership is to improve the quality of life in Fylde by addressing important issues affecting all those who live and work there, such as health, housing, community safety, transport, environment and education.

[>> Content List](#)

Future drivers of change

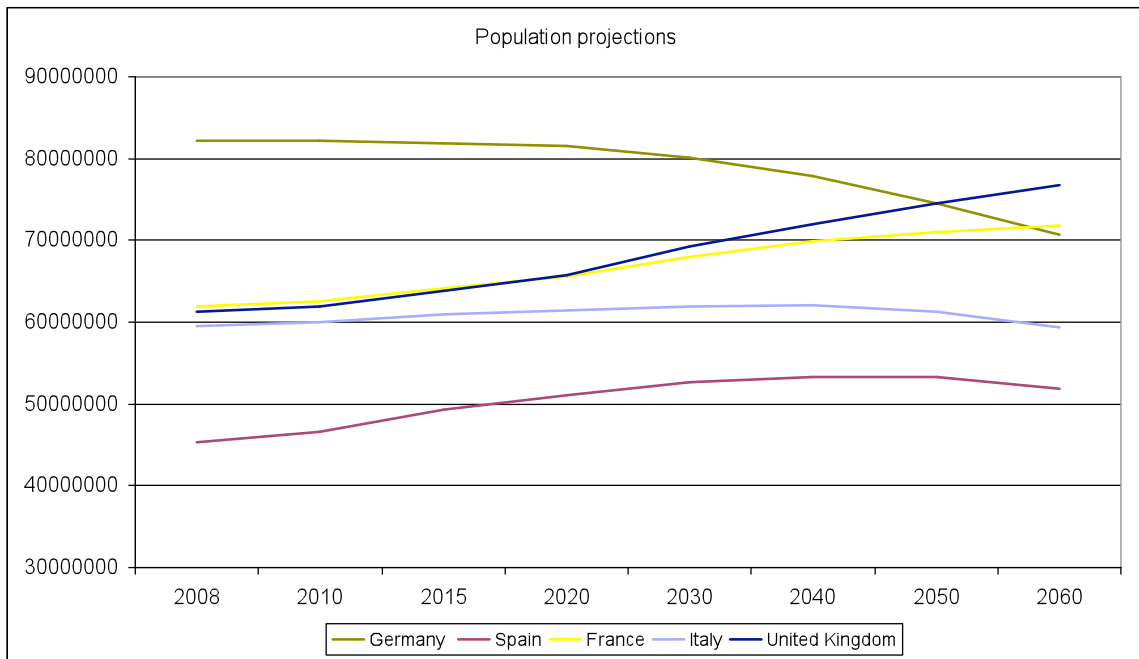
New drivers of change included in the 'Futures' section of the site include:

UK projected to have largest population in the EU by 2060.

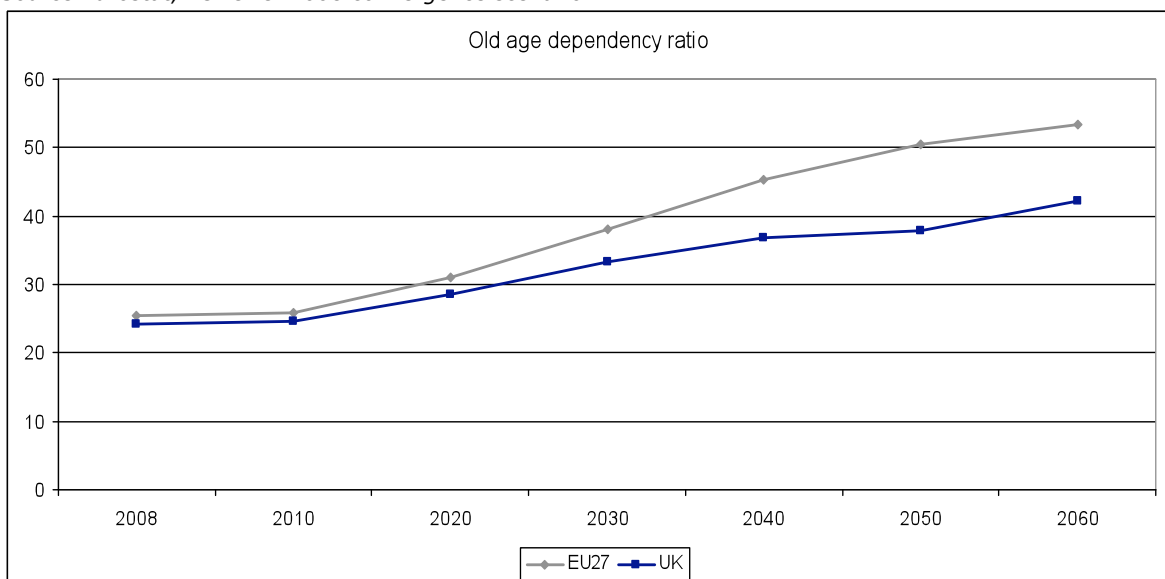
Amidst projections of shrinking populations for many EU countries, Britain's growing population is to become the largest by the year 2060, overtaking Germany and France. The demographic scenarios of all European countries were projected in a Eurostat report based on fertility, mortality and migration assumptions. The assumptions were developed in a conceptual framework of convergence between the demographic values of Member States.

Although the EU population is likely to be 2.1% higher in 2060 compared to 2008 figures, population growth is expected to cease after 2015, when positive net migration would be the only population growth factor. Aside from the UK, countries with increasing population trajectories are Cyprus, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Denmark.

The population in all Member States, however, is projected to have a higher median age due to persistently low fertility rates and increasing life expectancy. In the UK, the share of the population aged 65 years or more will reach 24.7% by 2060. Consequently, the old age dependency ratio in the EU27 would almost double, reaching 53%. This is equivalent to the existence of only two individuals of working age for every person aged 65 or more in 2060, as opposed to 4 in 2008. These trends will pose major challenges on welfare and pensions systems around the EU, which will need to be reformed in order to adjust to these demographic trends.



Source Eurostat, EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario



Source Eurostat, EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario

The iPod generation

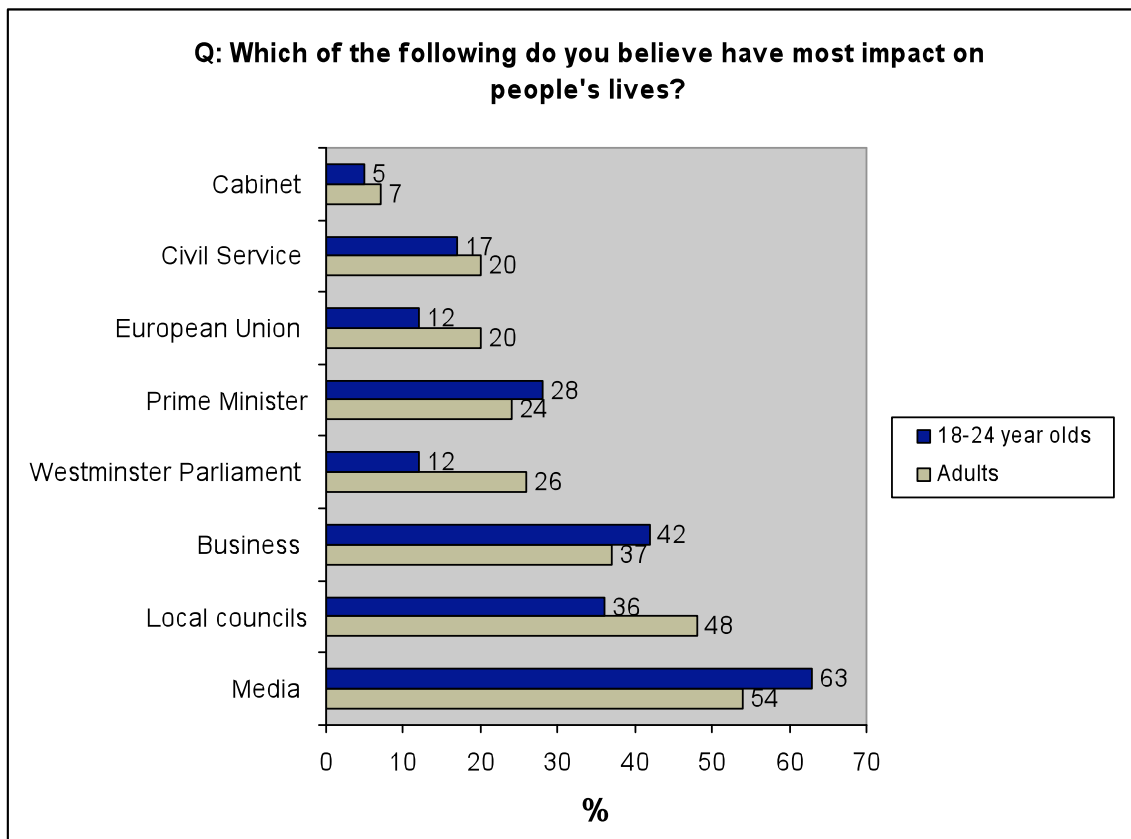
Central and local government will need to change the way they communicate information on services and common affairs in order to engage with young adults, a report by Ipsos Mori suggests. The so-called "iPods" - young adults of 18-35 years old - are often portrayed by the media as idle and apathetic towards politics and common affairs. As Ipsos Mori highlights in their report, based on a

series of workshops and discussions with people of that age group, reality presents a more complex picture. The iPod generation's defining characteristics are self-confidence, individual empowerment and a highly time-pressured lifestyle that renders them intolerant with inefficient, traditional ways of communicating and engaging with government.

In their personal life, iPods are highly empowered, especially when choosing careers and opting for products and services from companies. They demand more from employment than previous generations did and try to build careers that suit their own aspirations rather than the demands of employers. They are also inquisitive as consumers, scrutinising, for example, companies' green credentials.

iPods are cynical regarding their relationships with corporations, feeling that they receive much less gains as consumers than those that accrue to shareholders. However, they expect government to display a business-like behaviour when it comes to communication: they require imaginative, exciting and elegant ways of presenting complex information, such as value-for-money over services and the accountability for the service delivery at the local-level. Freedom of choice and public service personalisation are important for them, while at the same time they expect government to anticipate their needs, much like big consumer brands do.

The differentiating characteristics of the iPod generation's attitudes and assumptions call for the need to revise the ways that central and local government deliver services and communicate with the younger population. Grasping this difference in culture is vital in order to engage with young people and future generations meaningfully and provide them services that will enable them to fulfil their potential.



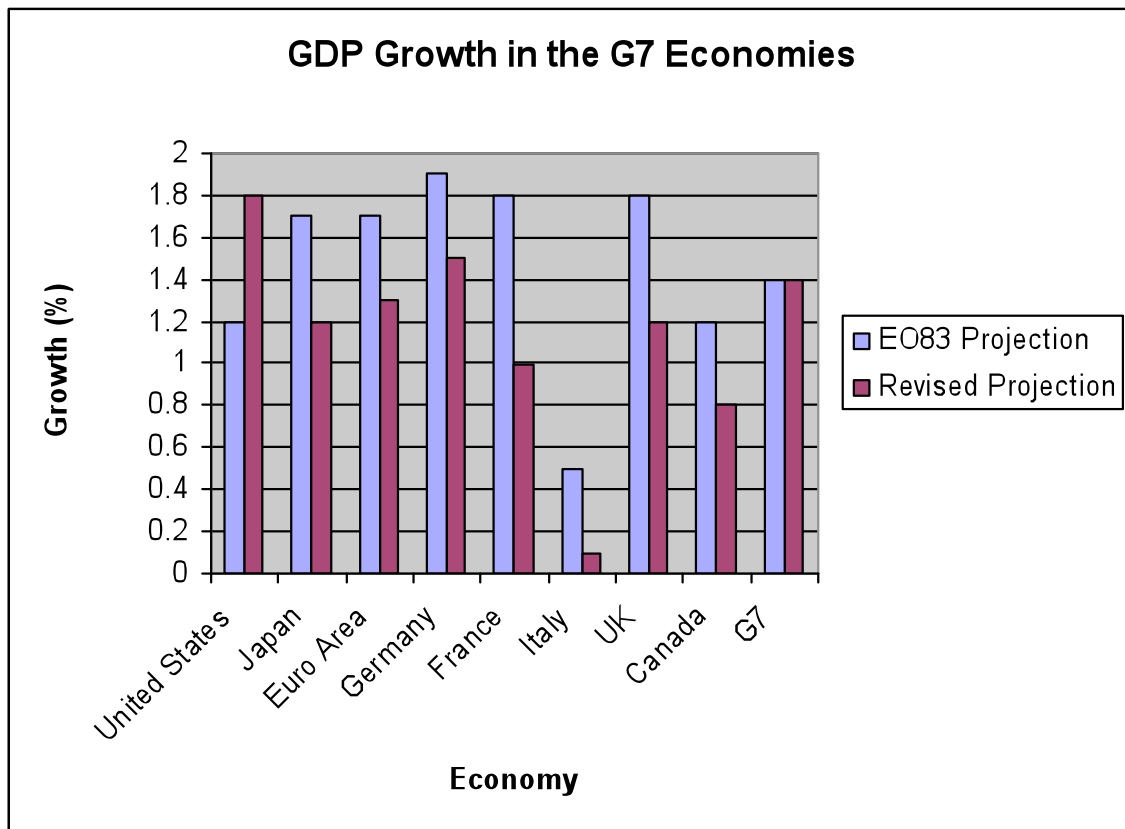
Source: MORI/Hansard Society, Base: 1,490 British adults aged 18+, November 2006

Economic outlook for G7 economies

The leading global economies are poised for recession in the second half of 2008, according to new GDP growth forecasts released by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

These predictions are based on a wide array of economic indicators, all of which suggest that the G7 nations are in for a rough ride in the coming months. The OECD has identified a substantial list of factors contributing towards this downturn, including: decreased share prices, a reduction in the supply of credit available to financial institutions, widespread deceleration or decreases in house prices, a fall in the number of residential construction permits granted, increased volatility in commodity prices, a marked decline in consumer and business confidence, and a surge in levels of inflation.

The level of turmoil in the financial markets, the scale of downturn in the housing market, and the increase in the level of commodity prices has forced the OECD to revise its GDP forecast data. Of the major global economies, the UK and France in particular are expected to suffer the most, with revised growth figures down by 0.6% for the UK to 1.2% and down 0.8% for France to 1%. The US is the only G7 country predicted by the OECD to come through these difficult economic times in a stronger position, with revised growth levels up by 0.6% to 1.8%.



Source: *What is the economic outlook for OECD countries? An interim assessment - OECD*

[>> Content List](#)

Barometer: Crime

Our latest Barometer focuses on the subject of crime. Using the latest British Crime Survey data, the analysis shows a disproportionately large number of higher crime districts in the north of England, as well as major the differences between rural and urban areas.

The report shows the highest levels of crime within the urban districts comprising the former industrial heartlands of the north of England, specifically within the North West, South Yorkshire, and the North East. Conversely, the lowest levels of criminal activity are to be found in the country's rural districts.

The report also explores the relationship between incidents of crime, perception of crime and the fear of crime, it compares the differing fortunes of the high crime city of Nottingham and the low crime district of Tynedale, and it looks in detail at how Kingston-upon-Hull City has achieved significant reductions in levels of criminal activity.

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, at a regional and local level, the latest economic, social and environmental indicators, see our [Local Knowledge](#) online system.

Events

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Please note all LGA members will receive a discounted delegate rate. [More](#)

[>> Content List](#)

[>>Top](#)