

May 2009

# LGA analysis and research bulletin

Welcome to the Local Government Association analysis and research bulletin (LGAARB), the regular one stop publication that keeps you informed about key issues and developments in research impacting on local government. The bulletin brings together our work as well as that of the other members of the LGA group (4ps, IDeA, LACORS, LGE and Leadership Centre for Local Government), and features relevant publications from the wider research community. The information in LGAARB is grouped under themed areas and our aim is to provide, on behalf of the LGA group, high quality:

- horizon scanning;
- analysis; and
- research.

Information about each of the members of the LGA group can be found along with website details overleaf. This publication is produced by LGA analysis and research which has been established to deliver a high quality and single research service to support the policy, lobbying and service delivery needs of the LGA group.

How to register

You can register to receive this bulletin by visiting:  
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/research>

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## information about the LGA group

### **The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)**

The IDeA aims to make public services the best public services by supporting self-sustaining improvement from within local government. The IDeA works in partnership with all councils, to enhance the performance of the best, accelerate the speed of improvement of the rest, and develop the sector as a whole. For more information visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=1>

### **Leadership Centre for Local Government**

Leadership Centre for Local Government give leaders the opportunity to shift their thinking on leadership so they can fundamentally transform their communities for the better. They help and support leaders while they reassess their approach to leadership – in practice leading across place rather than just their authorities. This means thinking beyond the familiar, to find new and different ways of meeting the leadership challenges. LCLG create the space for senior managers and politicians to think about the ambitions they have for their communities and how they can achieve them in order to fundamentally transform their localities for the better. For more information visit: <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/>

### **Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)**

LACORS provide and disseminate comprehensive advice, guidance, good practice and information to make a major contribution to the development of high quality, consistent and co-ordinated local authority regulatory and related services across the UK. For more information visit: <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/pages/trade/lacors.asp>

### **Local Government Association (LGA)**

The LGA exists to promote better local government. It works with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for their locality and its communities. The LGA aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective. The LGA's European and International Unit (the former Local Government International Bureau) lobbies the EU and international institutions to get the best deal for councils; keeps councils informed about EU work that affects them; develops international partnerships and co-operation; supports locally elected members in European and international institutions; and promotes the development of local democracy around the world. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

### **Local Government Employers (LGE)**

LGE is the national centre of excellence for local authorities on pay, pensions and employment strategy. They work with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead and create solutions on pay, pensions and the employment contract, to ensure the provision of excellent and affordable local services. For more information visit: <http://www.lge.gov.uk>

### **4ps**

4ps, local government's project delivery specialist, works exclusively to help all local authorities deliver better public services via major infrastructure and service projects. A range of support is available from 4ps including access to best practice, skills development workshops, gateway reviews and project management support. This support can help local authorities seeking to deliver initiatives such as Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) secure funding, carry out options appraisals, evaluate bids and negotiate contracts. For more information visit: <http://www.4ps.gov.uk/>

## LGAARB readership survey - results

### Changes to LGAARB

In response to your suggestions in the recent LGAARB readership survey we have reviewed the format, layout and content of the bulletin. From this month onward there will be:

- a new look HTML email alert, featuring more articles and events;
- easier navigation as the bulletin now includes live links from the contents page through to each theme section;
- LGA press releases (where possible) featured alongside reports in order to provide the LGA perspective.

More developments to follow!

### LGAARB readership survey - full results now available

See what our readers said about the monthly research bulletin. Read comments and suggestions including what you find useful and what improvements, changes or extra areas of interest we could include in the future. Full results from the recent survey are now available at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/1843864>

### Employment pay and workforce trends

#### **Green jobs: prospects for creating jobs from offshore wind in the UK**

As unemployment in the UK continues to increase with the global recession, opportunities to create new jobs need to be considered. At the same time, the imperative to tackle climate change and drastically reduce emissions of greenhouse gases means that there needs to be a radical rethink about how the UK economy will be structured in the future. This Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) report compiles evidence from industry players abroad and in the UK of the kind of interventions needed to deliver a successful offshore wind industry in Britain. For more information visit: <http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=658>

#### **Financial implications of death of a partner**

This publication from the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York, investigates the financial and economic transitions of people whose partner died and explores their views and feelings about these experiences. For more information visit: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/Bereavement.pdf>

#### **The impact of pathways to work on benefit receipt for the under 25s**

This Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) report describes the impact of Pathways to Work on those aged between 18 and 24 at the start of their claim for incapacity benefit (IB) within the original seven pilot areas and the first two groups of expansion areas (those areas where Pathways was introduced in October 2005 and April 2006). For more information visit: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP65.pdf>

#### **Extending working life: changing the culture – qualitative research into effective messages**

This DWP report presents findings from qualitative research carried out to help develop messages that would be effective in changing the way people think about how and when to retire; and in particular in encouraging them to stay in work up to and beyond the current State Pension age. For more information visit: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep557.pdf>

#### **LGA survey of local authority staff reductions**

LGA Analysis and Research conducted a survey of local authority Heads of HR in order to understand the number and nature of staff reductions occurring in the six months to March 2009. The survey was completed by 165 authorities in England. The survey found that 59 per cent of respondents reported that their authority had made staff reductions in the past six months and the most common groups of staff affected by staff reductions were middle management and front line staff. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1670152>

**LGA comment:** to view the LGA press release visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1887258>

#### **Satisfying employer demand for skills**

This report from the Work Foundation argues that the government and its agencies and the small business sector think about skills in very different ways, which hampers efforts to drive up UK skill and qualification levels. The report draws on case studies from three different sectors – tourism and hospitality, health and manufacturing. For more information visit: [http://www.theworkfoundation.com/assets/docs/publications/219\\_emp\\_skills030409.pdf](http://www.theworkfoundation.com/assets/docs/publications/219_emp_skills030409.pdf)

#### **LGA Analysis and Research statistical bulletin**

The April 2009 edition of the Statistical Bulletin, which provides a monthly snapshot of core economic and labour market data summarised from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), independent labour market organisations and LGAAR, is now available. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1095161>

### **LGA Analysis and Research employment digest**

This monthly publication keeps you informed on labour market, pay issues and trends and the economy in general. Core data include: inflation, unemployment, pay settlements and average earnings. This month the Digest reviews the National Census of Local Authority Councillors (2008). For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=1094987>

## **Transport**

### **Congestion on inter-urban roads - monthly provisional estimates: February 2009**

These Department for Transport (DfT) statistics provide the latest information about congestion on inter-urban roads in England. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadtraffic/speedscongestion/congestiononthestrategicroad5359>

### **International sea passengers: provisional estimates - February 2009**

This DfT release updates key statistics on passengers arriving and departing Great Britain by ferry. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/passengers/seapassfeb2009.xls>

### **Sea passenger statistics 2008**

The DfT has published UK international and domestic short sea passenger statistics for 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/passengers/spbulletin/seapassenger2008>

### **Vehicle licensing statistics: 2008**

The DfT has published national statistics on vehicle licensing and registration in Great Britain in 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/vehiclicensingstatistics2008>

### **Road traffic and congestion in Great Britain: quarter 1 2009**

This DfT bulletin includes provisional traffic estimates broken down by vehicle type and road class. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadtraffic/traffic/qbtrafficgb/2009/q109>

## **Housing**

### **Building and façade performance: rating and assessment**

Researchers from the universities of Southampton, Reading and Greenwich have developed a suite of building performance rating and decision-making tools aimed to put urban sustainability into the focus of building professionals.

The research team, brought together as the Innovation in Design, Construction and Operation of Buildings for People (IDCOP) consortium, aims to encourage a more sustainable urban environment by focusing on the maintenance and refurbishment of existing buildings. In so doing, they have found new ways of improving the performance of buildings through their whole life cycle, looking at aspects of energy, comfort and sustainable maintenance. IDCOP have translated this approach into a range of easy-to-use explanatory and predictive models. For more information contact Prof. AbuBakr Bahaj at [A.S.Bahaj@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.S.Bahaj@soton.ac.uk) or visit: <http://www.idcop.soton.ac.uk>

### **The house price index - March 2009**

These house price index statistics produced by Communities and Local Government (CLG) includes data based on mortgage completions during March 2009. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1228768.pdf>

## **Education and children's services**

### **Capital gains – one year on**

The London Child Poverty Commission has issued a report on the progress made in delivering the recommendations made in its 2008 report *Capital Gains*, for reducing child poverty in London. The report shows that the awareness of child poverty in the Capital has greatly increased, but progress in tackling it has been piecemeal. For more information visit: <http://213.86.122.139/docs/capital-gains-090409.pdf>

### **The impact of 'unlocking the potential' funding on promoting the use of special schools as community focused resource bases**

Estyn has published a report on the impact of special school pilot projects funded by the Welsh Assembly. The report found many examples of good practice and concluded that considerable benefits have resulted from the funding. Special schools involved have made good progress towards becoming centres that offer useful resources in a central location and they also model good practice and offer guidance to the wider community. For more information visit: [http://www.estyn.gov.uk/thematicreports/impact\\_of\\_unlocking\\_potential\\_funding\\_on\\_promoting\\_use\\_of\\_ss\\_as\\_cfrb.pdf](http://www.estyn.gov.uk/thematicreports/impact_of_unlocking_potential_funding_on_promoting_use_of_ss_as_cfrb.pdf)

### **Local authorities and schools causing concern: an evaluation of the impact of local authority intervention and support for schools causing concern**

This report from Estyn evaluates the impact of local authority intervention and support for schools identified as causing concern during an Estyn inspection and also for those schools that authorities themselves identify as needing to improve. The report highlights examples of good practice and identifies aspects of interventions that need to be improved. For more information visit:

[http://www.estyn.gov.uk/thematicreports/local\\_authorities\\_and\\_schools\\_causing\\_concern\\_may\\_2009.pdf](http://www.estyn.gov.uk/thematicreports/local_authorities_and_schools_causing_concern_may_2009.pdf)

### **Linking school organisation and school improvement**

This report was produced in preparation for a conference on Linking School Organisation and School Improvement, organised by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and EMIE. It provides a guide for local authorities on developing their school organisation plans so as to ensure they will support school improvement. The report focuses on the different links between school organisation and school improvement, and describes how local authorities can help ensure that their planning and implementation of changes to schools achieve the desired improvements to the educational experience, opportunities and standards achieved. For more information visit:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/aries-data/linking-school-organisation-and-school-improvement-pdf-version.cfm>

### **Student income and expenditure survey 2007-2008**

This Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) report presents the findings for students from England and covers both full-time and part-time students at higher education institutions (HEI) and further education colleges (FEC), including the Open University (OU), participating in undergraduate courses during the 2007/08 academic year. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DIUS-RR-09-05.pdf>

### **Child wellbeing**

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has published a briefing drawn from a new league table of child wellbeing in European countries, in which the UK comes in 24th place out of 29 countries. For more information visit:

<http://www.cpag.org.uk/info/ChildWellbeingandChildPoverty.pdf>

### **Girl power? an analysis of peer effects using exogenous changes in the gender make-up of the peer group**

This Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) research considers the effects of gender peer groups in affecting educational outcomes. Using data from every state school in England the research suggests 'that boys would benefit at all ages from being taught English in English schools with as small a proportion of girls as possible'. For more information visit: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/CMPO/workingpapers/wp186.pdf>

### **Drivers and barriers to educational success - evidence from the longitudinal study of young people in England**

This Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) study examined why young people from poor families have lower attainment in school, are more likely to become NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) after compulsory education, and are more likely to participate in a range of risky behaviours whilst teenagers. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR102.pdf>

### **Influences and leverage on low levels of attainment - a review of literature and policy initiatives**

This DCSF research provides an overview of the evidence on key factors associated with low academic achievement and summarises their amenability to policy intervention. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-WBL-09-02.pdf>

### **Neglected adolescents - literature review**

This DCSF review was conducted to provide an accessible summary of relevant literature on adolescent neglect and to draw out the implications for further developments on this topic. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-04.pdf>

### **Primary curriculum omnibus survey March 2009 - top line findings report**

This DCSF research sought the views of parents on the national primary school curriculum and how it may be changing following the Independent Review of the curriculum. It also seeks to inform public debate, policy decision making and support wider communications to parents at the launch, implementation and further consultation on the new primary curriculum. For more information visit: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR105\(R\).pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR105(R).pdf)

### **The child, the family and the GP - tensions and conflicts of interest in safeguarding children**

This DCSF research sought to explore the nature and consequences of tensions and conflicts of interest for GPs in safeguarding children. The research explores how these are seen, and responded to, from a range of professional, parent and child perspectives and managed in order to promote best practice. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-05-ES.pdf>

### **Children's services statistics 2008-09 estimates**

This Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication contains a wide range of financial data on all aspects of the Education Service and some non-financial data. It includes the number of schools, pupil numbers, pupils with special educational needs, early years and detailed information on local authorities' education budget statements, including: age weighted funding per pupil; Schools budget; LEA budget and Youth & Community. For more information visit: <http://www.cipfastats.net/education/educationestimates/>

### **The double club evaluation - interim report**

The Double Club (DC) programme provides an innovative 'double experience' that combines classroom education, with coaching in football or another sport. This interim DCSF report considers the effectiveness of the DC programme and identifies good practice. The report focuses on the implementation of the scheme and perceptions of its impact on pupil motivation, self esteem and attainment. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR101.pdf>

### **The impact of adult support staff on pupils and mainstream schools - a systematic review of evidence**

This DCSF report summarises research on the impact of support staff on schools and pupils. It specifically focusses on teaching assistants supporting pupils with additional needs and most evidence covered relates to primary schooling. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15695&type=5&resultspage=1>

### **Ethnicity and child poverty**

This DWP report was conducted to develop the evidence base on ethnicity and child poverty. Child poverty rates observed for most ethnic minority groups are higher than the national average and this report investigates whether this is due to increased levels of poverty risk factors amongst families from these groups, or whether further explanation is needed. For more information visit: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep576.pdf>

### **Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2009 (provisional)**

This DCSF statistical release provides information collected in the 2009 School Census. It reports provisional findings for the number of pupils by age, gender, free school meal eligibility, ethnicity, first language and SEN (special educational needs) together with a range of class size information. For more information visit: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/SFR08\\_2009.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/SFR08_2009.pdf)

### **School workforce in England (including pupil to teacher ratios and pupil to adult ratios): January 2009 (provisional)**

This DCSF statistical release provides information on the school workforce in England. It provides details on: teacher numbers, support staff numbers, teacher vacancies, pupil: teacher ratios (PTR) and pupil: adult ratios (PARs), teacher ethnicity and teacher sickness absence. For more information visit: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000844/SFR09\\_2009.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000844/SFR09_2009.pdf)

### **Survey of teacher resignations and recruitment 2008 - provisional findings**

This annual survey is being conducted by LGA Analysis and Research on behalf of the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST), the teacher unions and the DCSF. It is a definitive source of data on teacher turnover and recruitment, providing unique and detailed information on the numbers of teachers leaving and starting jobs, and their characteristics, such as sex, age, salary, subject, destination/origin. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1911597>

### **Schools research news - May 2009**

This monthly newsletter is produced by DCSF and is intended to help keep policy and field staff, practitioners, teacher educators and others with an interest in education up-to-date with recently published research, forthcoming events and research for practice news. For more information visit: <http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/research/>

## **Environment**

### **How people use and 'misuse' buildings**

This ESRC publication considers the principal drivers to user behaviour in buildings. The current government regulatory targets for zero-carbon homes by 2016 and zero-carbon commercial buildings by 2019 are creating a need to better understand occupant behaviour. In particular, what technologies and innovations in our buildings are allowing and encouraging users to be more environmentally sustainable in buildings.

This insight is needed because often buildings don't perform as expected, partially because occupants behave in more complex ways than designers account for; they open windows, leave doors open, generate body heat, keep tropical fish tanks and install plasma TV screens. For more information visit: [http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/ESRC\\_PP\\_Buildings\\_final\\_tcm6-31714.pdf](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/ESRC_PP_Buildings_final_tcm6-31714.pdf)

### **A giant leap for carbon footprinting?**

Researchers from the Universities of De Montfort, Sheffield and Leeds (grouped together as the 4M Consortium) are taking steps to answer questions about how a carbon footprint (CF) is actually calculated. They are working to create an evidence-based methodology for understanding and shrinking the urban carbon footprint. Working in collaboration with Leicester City Council, the 4M project seeks to produce a carbon emissions inventory for the whole city of Leicester and in doing so, place the calculations of the CF of cities on a secure platform. For more information contact Prof. Margaret Bell at [margaret.bell@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:margaret.bell@ncl.ac.uk) or visit: <http://www.ceg.ncl.ac.uk/research/transport/projects/4m.htm>

### **Assessment of future building performance**

Man-made emissions, be it from buildings, business, agriculture or transport are now commonly accepted to be the main cause of the current trend to global warming.

Research completed by the IDCOP consortium has shown that successful refurbishment of existing buildings strongly depends on the expected future climate. Yet, although there are a growing number of studies looking at climate change implications, the building industry appears to be ill prepared for the predicted future climates. Therefore, a new, easy-to-use, tool has been developed by the IDCOP researchers to generate climate change adapted weather data for use in building performance simulation programs.

This climate change adapted weather data can be used to assess various refurbishment solutions and their viability for the future. Studies by IDCOP have shown that building solutions that help to alleviate summer overheating under current heat wave conditions, such as observed in 2006, are likely to perform satisfactorily up to the 2050's. However, it has also been demonstrated that many current building designs are at a high risk of failing to perform without appropriate design strategies to reduce summer overheating occurrence.

For more information visit: <http://www.idcop.soton.ac.uk> or contact Prof. AbuBakr Bahaj at [A.S.Bahaj@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.S.Bahaj@soton.ac.uk)

### **Uptake of environmental technologies in social housing**

Technological advancements in the last century have created warmer, better insulated and safer housing for everyone. In the last decade innovative environmental technologies such as on site renewables, have paved the way for greater sustainability of our home environments. Furthermore, new insulation standards and improved appliances have increased energy efficiency in the home.

Despite the obvious benefits of energy management and increased energy efficiency to housing refurbishment, the social housing sector has been reluctant to integrate new technologies beyond the legal requirements. The IDCOP research consortium undertook a study of six housing associations to investigate the barriers to integrating environmental technologies in social housing.

The survey of medium to large landlords revealed that value for money was a major governing factor in selecting environmental systems and components and that confidence levels in new products and processes were generally low. Misconceptions regarding durability and performance of these new technologies were commonly prevalent among housing professionals so that housing associations, landlords and local authorities were reluctant to adopt new technologies.

For more information visit <http://www.idcop.soton.ac.uk> or contact Prof. AbuBakr Bahaj at [A.S.Bahaj@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.S.Bahaj@soton.ac.uk).

## Health and social care

### **Manual for measures of caring activities and outcomes for children and young people**

This manual from The Princess Royal Trust for Carers is intended to provide researchers and practitioners in the field of caring with relevant and accessible instruments (or tools) for the assessment of caring activities and caring outcomes in children and young people ('young carers'). The tools can be used on a one-off basis for the purpose of assessment, or pre- and post-intervention to measure change and the impact of support. The instruments in this manual have been developed and tested with over 500 young carers. For more information visit:

<http://static.carers.org/files/2248-yc-outcomes-manual-sb-4047.pdf>

### **Report of the national patient choice survey: December 2008**

This Department of Health (DoH) report gives the final results of around 76,000 responses to the sixteenth national patient choice survey commissioned to assess the implementation of choice at PCT level. For more information visit:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH\\_098859](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_098859)

### **Comprehension and use of UK nutrition signpost labelling schemes**

This Food Standards Agency report provides information on how front of pack (FOP) labels are used by shoppers in a retail environment and the extent to which they are accurately interpreted. For more information visit:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/pmpreport.pdf>

### **Drinking in the UK: an exploration of trends**

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) report reviews research and highlights trends in alcohol consumption over the last 20 to 30 years in the UK. It looks at trends in drinking and discusses possible causes. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/UK-alcohol-trends-FULL.pdf>

## Communities and place shaping

### **Pubs and places: the social value of community pubs**

This IPPR report assesses the social value of community pubs, showing why pubs matter and why we should be concerned about the current state of the pub trade. For more information visit:

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/>

### **Citizenship survey: April - December 2008, England**

CLG have released the latest statistics from this survey which include data covering a range of issues such as; community cohesion, empowerment, values, racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, volunteering and charitable giving. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1208751.pdf>

### **Citizens Science for Sustainability (SuScit) - providing local communities with a greater say in urban sustainability research**

Funded under the EPSRC's Sustainable Urban Environments Programme, the Citizens Science for Sustainability (SuScit) Project was a unique attempt to provide local communities with a voice in the future of urban sustainability research. The SuScit Project comprised an innovative programme of action research and networking activities designed to promote engagement and dialogue between the EPSRC research community, professional stakeholders and sustainability practitioners, and most importantly socially and economically excluded citizens. The project reports provide an overview of the innovative 'bottom-up' public engagement and foresight process; describes the 10 point community-led agenda for urban sustainability research developed through the project; and outlines the key principles and practical insights which have emerged from this work. To download copies of the project reports visit: <http://www.suscit.org.uk/resources/> For more information visit: <http://www.suscit.org.uk>

### **Living in Wales, 2008**

This National Statistics release was produced by the Welsh Assembly Government and is the main source of general statistical information about households and the condition of homes in Wales. The survey is carried out annually and this release presents a selection of the latest 2008 results for the first time. For more information visit:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2009/090430sdr612009en.pdf?lang=en>

### **Neighbourhood Statistics boundary viewer**

There is now a 'discover and view boundaries' link from the homepage of the Neighbourhood Statistics website. This facility, known as Boundary Viewer, allows the viewing of boundaries bordering a selected geographic area. As this new resource is designed to identify and illustrate boundaries, it does not at this time contain any functions to include data. Further information and a detailed user guide is available here:

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=userguide/boundaryviewer/boundary-viewer.htm>

## **Culture, tourism and sport**

### **Public library statistics 2008**

This CIPFA publication includes: a detailed analysis of revenue expenditure and income; staffing levels; service points open to the public (including the number with access to online information); book stock and audio, visual and electronic stock; annual issues; inter-library loans; requests; enquiries and visits. Also includes details of agency services. These statistics cover the Library Service in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For more information visit:

<http://www.cipfastats.net/leisure/publiclibrary/>

### **Culture, sport and recreation statistics 2008-09 estimates**

This CIPFA publication includes an analysis of estimated expenditure and income on recreation and sport, open spaces, tourism and culture and heritage. Non-financial information includes details on the number and size of facilities, and in the case of arts activities the number of events/performance and the number of visitors. Also now included are details on leisure charges and loyalty card schemes. For more information visit:

<http://www.cipfastats.net/leisure/leisurecreation/>

## **Population and migration**

### **Mid-2007 population estimates by ethnic group**

The ONS mid-2007 population estimates by ethnic group, are available for local authorities, primary care organisations and higher geographies. For more information visit:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14238>

### **Key population and vital statistics 2007**

These ONS statistics provide data on resident population, births, maternities, deaths, mortality and migration for local administrative areas and health areas throughout the UK, together with explanatory material and illustrative maps. For more information visit:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_population/KPVS34-2007/KPVS2007.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/KPVS34-2007/KPVS2007.pdf)

### **Projections of migration inflows under alternative scenarios for the UK and world economies**

This CLG study examines the impact of the global economic downturn on the flow of migrants to the UK. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1204238.pdf>

### **Social networks and Polish immigration to the UK**

This IPPR report looks at how Polish migrants have increasingly used social networks to find employment in the UK. Although this has allowed them to maintain high employment rates, it brings with it a risk that these migrants

will be 'locked in' to low-skilled jobs, and less integrated into the wider British economy and society. For more information visit: <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=662>

### **Irregular migration in the UK**

This update on irregular migration in the UK is based on research and analysis carried out for recent IPPR migration research projects. For more information visit: <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=663>

### **Over not out**

This latest report from Refugee Support examines the housing and homelessness issues specific to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender asylum seekers. For more information visit:

[http://www.refugeesupport.org.uk/documents/MST\\_LGBTreport\\_screen\\_0509.pdf](http://www.refugeesupport.org.uk/documents/MST_LGBTreport_screen_0509.pdf)

## **Economy / economic development**

### **Recession impacts on the economies and communities of rural England: report six**

This is the sixth report from the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the impacts of the credit crunch and recession on rural economies and communities. It covers April 2009. For more information visit: <http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/recessionreport-apr09.pdf>

## **Local government**

### **Working better together? Managing local strategic partnerships**

This Audit Commission report reviews arrangements for performance, resource management, and governance. The report identifies Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) as evolving and maturing but suggests that local and national partners still need to recognise the key dynamics that support partnership working. For more information visit:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Products/NATIONAL-REPORT/05744773-42C2-4ba3-A945-6737715CDF2D/20042009workingbettertogetherREP.pdf>

### **Audit of political engagement 6**

This is Hansard's sixth annual audit of political engagement (APE). It sets out the findings from public opinion polling on a range of political engagement indicators, updating trends from audits published each year since 2004. This year's report also takes an in-depth look at the relationship between public attitudes to political participation and citizenship. For more information visit:

[http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/blogs/parliament\\_and\\_government/pages/Audit-of-Political-Engagement.aspx](http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/blogs/parliament_and_government/pages/Audit-of-Political-Engagement.aspx)

### **Sustainable communities act 2007: local spending report England 2006-07**

This CLG report contains details of expenditure by local authorities, strategic health authorities, ambulance trusts, NHS trusts, and primary care trusts. It also includes expenditure on police, fire, waste disposal, passenger transport and park authorities and expenditure on benefits and pensions by the DWP throughout England in 2006-07. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/localspendingreports200607>

### **Adults' social services expenditure survey 2008-2009**

The LGA, in partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), commissioned a survey of local authority adult social services departments in England to identify 2008-2009 budget and expenditure forecasts. The report examines in more detail the elements of expenditure and pressures on budget, the resources available to deliver social care services to vulnerable adults, and builds a picture of the impact of the economic slowdown on adult social care services. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1569603>

### **Council tax demands and precepts 2009-10**

This CIPFA publication describes the local levies made by authorities to fund expenditure following the implementation of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It includes the number of chargeable dwellings by band; the average council tax per dwelling; the average Band D equivalent council tax; authorities' budget requirements and levels of precepts. For more information visit: <http://www.cipfastats.net/general/counciltax/>

### **Survey of local authority newsletters/magazines**

The survey was conducted by LGA Analysis and Research in order to gain a better understanding of the scope and nature of local authorities' magazines/newsletters. This was in the context of attention having recently been drawn to such publications in light of the difficulties faced by many local newspapers. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1853799>

**LGA comment:** to view the LGA press release for this report visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1843860>

### **Local information system development tool**

CLG have sponsored a new tool to support local authorities and their partners in developing or updating a Local Information System (LIS). The development tool is an interactive guidance package which can be downloaded from: <http://www.esd.org.uk/esdtoolkit/Communities/LIS/ContentView.aspx?ContentType=Content-372> and stored locally.

This has been developed to guide authorities through the key stages of setting up a LIS including: understanding the strategic need and developing a business case, scoping and developing needs including resources, staffing, data management, functionality and financing setting up a monitoring and evaluation process for measuring the effectiveness of the LIS, its use, application and impact.

### **Data4nr.net**

The Data for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration site (<http://www.data4nr.net/>) identifies and signposts datasets available for targeting, monitoring, priority setting and performance management at a neighbourhood level.

The Data4nr.net website makes it easy to find relevant data by organising datasets by themes. Users can additionally search, sort and filter datasets by a variety of means, such as by data source, time coverage, geography, and how the data breaks down (into age, gender, ethnicity, etc.).

As a result of the user consultation carried out recently, a number of changes and updates have been implemented on the Data4nr site. These expand the resources signposted to by the website, and make it easier for users to find useful datasets.

### **LGA Analysis and Research RSS feed**

This new RSS feed automatically updates you when new content is added to the LGA Analysis and Research website pages, avoiding the need to visit the site and click through many pages. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=198307>

## European and International

### **The economic and financial crisis - impact on local and regional authorities.**

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has conducted a survey among its members, in order to assess the impact of the financial and economic crisis upon local and regional governments. For more information visit: [http://www.ccre.org/docs/Economic\\_and\\_Financial\\_Crisis\\_\(CEMR\\_2009\).pdf](http://www.ccre.org/docs/Economic_and_Financial_Crisis_(CEMR_2009).pdf)

### **EU as a recycling society: present recycling levels of municipal waste and construction & demolition waste in the EU**

This report from the European Environment Agency gives an overview of the level, and composition, of municipal waste recycling in the EU Member States. The report shows that all old and almost all new EU Member States have increased recycling of municipal waste in the last ten years however, there are still significant differences between recycling levels of municipal waste. For more information visit:

[http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/publications/wp2009\\_2/wp/wp2009\\_2](http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/publications/wp2009_2/wp/wp2009_2)

## Crime and disorder / safer communities

### **Home Office statistical bulletin 06/09: crime in England and Wales - quarterly update to December 2008**

The latest Home Office bulletin presents the most recent crime statistics from the British Crime Survey and police-recorded crime. It includes information on the risk of being a victim of crime, violence, theft, domestic burglary, vandalism and vehicle-related thefts and firearm offences. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0609.pdf>

### **Children and young people in custody (2006-2008)**

This report from HM Inspectorate of Prisons and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) gives an analysis of the experiences of 15- to 18-year-olds in prison. For more information visit: [http://inspectors.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprison/thematic-reports1/juveniles-custody/Children\\_and\\_young\\_people.pdf?view=Binary](http://inspectors.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprison/thematic-reports1/juveniles-custody/Children_and_young_people.pdf?view=Binary)

### **Public perceptions of the police and local partners: year ending September 2008**

This is a supplement to the Home Office report on crime in England and Wales up to September 2008. It covers people's ratings of their local police in terms of how good a job they do. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0109supp.pdf>

## Regular publications and events

### **Government social research bulletin - March 2009**

The bulletin highlights GSR news and government research outputs published in the last month. It also contains a website of the month feature. For more information visit:

<http://www.gsr.gov.uk/new%5Fresearch/bulletin/2009/0903.asp>

### **IDeA knowledge weekly bulletin**

The IDeA Knowledge weekly bulletin provides links to the latest improvement news from across the public sector, case studies from councils in England and Wales, government guidance and research, feature articles on key issues and interviews with key figures. For more information visit:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=7564728>

### **Society now**

The ESRC regular magazine highlights their funded research. The latest issue highlights the effects of the recession on individuals, companies, charities and the global economy. For more information visit:

[http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/societynow3\\_lowerres\\_tcm6-31045.pdf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/societynow3_lowerres_tcm6-31045.pdf)

### **Ontheweb**

This free interactive email alert brings you the latest news of publications and projects from NFER. For more information visit:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/latest-news/ontheweb/ontheweb-current-awareness-service.cfm>

### **ESRC survey skills programme workshops**

The Survey Skills programme is an ESRC-funded opportunity for social researchers to gain a first-hand insight into the survey process in the 'real world' and to improve their skills in survey research methods. A prestigious collaboration of academic institutes and professional research organisations have joined together to offer a wide range of capacity-building and training opportunities covering all stages of the survey research process.

The aim is to strengthen the relationships between those who organise, carry out and use surveys, as well as improve the quality of survey research. Survey Skills is open to postgraduate research students, academics and researchers from government and other public bodies, as well as those working in the charity and voluntary sectors.

The newly launched Survey Resources Network (SRN) was established through a £1.1 million grant from the ESRC. It is a central bank of survey resources whose aims are to support the work of the UK's research community and raise the standards of social science research.

One of the primary resources through which the SRN will achieve these aims is the Survey Skills Programme (SSP - previously known as the Survey Link Scheme) which has moved from its longstanding home at the University of Surrey, to the SRN consortium.

Workshops will be held throughout the year at a range of locations all across the UK, starting in June 2009. Participants will then have the opportunity to attend up to four placement days which will give them the opportunity to visit survey and research organisations and observe or take part in various aspects of the survey process.

For more details of the workshop timetable visit: <http://www.surveynet.ac.uk>. If you would like further information on the Survey Skills programme or the Survey Resources Network contact: [info@surveynet.ac.uk](mailto:info@surveynet.ac.uk)

### **Innovative Approaches to Co-Design, Co-Commissioning, Co-managing and Co-Delivery of Public Services**

19 June 2009, London

This course will provide a wide range of cases showing how customers, citizens and communities can help you to improve services and cut service costs. Top speakers include Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lewisham; Local Government Efficiency Adviser to CLG; and author of the Quirk Review for CLG into Community Management and Ownership of Assets.

The cost of the event is £295 (with discounts if you send more than one delegate). For more information: Register online at: <http://www.govint.org/english/prodgtc.html> email: [elke.loeffler@govint.org](mailto:elke.loeffler@govint.org) telephone: 0121 698 8743

### **SOLUTIONS Final Event - (Sustainability Of Land Use and Transport In Outer Neighbourhoods)**

23 June 2009, London

SOLUTIONS - Sustainability Of Land Use and Transport In Outer Neighbourhoods - research project has reached its conclusion after five years of research.

The interdisciplinary team, made up of researchers from five different UK universities, has investigated how towns and cities can be planned so that they are socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and economically efficient.

Combining expertise in transport, land use, and environmental research, the team undertook in-depth case studies, carried out in partnership with local authorities and other stakeholders, to systematically test the effectiveness of alternative design and development strategies for year 2031.

To book your place on the event or find out how the research results relate to your area contact [info@suburbansolutions.ac.uk](mailto:info@suburbansolutions.ac.uk) or link to: <http://www.suburbansolutions.ac.uk/final-event-09.aspx>

### **ONS seminars on improvements to 2008 population statistics**

ONS will be holding seminars in four locations in June 2009 to explain the forthcoming improvements to the mid-2008 population estimates, subnational population projections and migration statistics. In particular the seminars will provide information on: adjusting internal (within UK) migration using data on students and modelling the geographical distribution of long-term international migration and short-term internal migration at the local authority level, together with other improvements that are being made. All interested parties are welcome to attend and the changes will be particularly of interest to local authorities and primary care organisations.

The location and date of each event is as follows:

- 19 June: Local Government Data Unit conference facilities, Cardiff.
- 24 June: Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds.
- 25 June: Aston Centre, Birmingham.
- 26 June: Royal Statistical Society, London.

Attendance at the seminars is free of charge. Spaces are limited and ONS may have to limit attendance to one representative per organisation subject to numbers, with places otherwise being filled on a first come first served basis.

An agenda and registration form for the day can be found here:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/seminar-english.asp> or email [imps@ons.gov.uk](mailto:imps@ons.gov.uk) or call 01329 444 695 for a registration form.

**IA09 Event - The critical next steps: enabling government business through information assurance**

6-7 July, QEII Conference Centre, London

IA09 is an essential event for anyone accountable for Information Assurance in their organisation. Jos Creese, Head of IT, Hampshire County Council will chair the Wider Government stream at IA09, the premier event for senior pan-government decision makers involved in information risk management. To be held on day two at IA09 this Stream will include a presentation by Tim Allen, Director LGA Analysis and Research, covering 'Information Assurance, the Local Authority narrative'. There will also be an update on collaborative initiatives that leverage wider government involvement, including an update on Government Connect. Delegates will gain an insight into where the programme is now and what the vision is for the future, as well as clear guidance on the best way to collaborate going forward. A third session will act as a guide to keeping up to date with changing policy and making access to information easy for wider government.

A special single-day delegate rate has been agreed for local authority representatives, allowing you to attend just Day Two of the conference for a special rate of £295 (exc VAT), negotiated with the LGA and Socitm. To register contact the IA09 registration hotline on 020 7089 5806 or email: [enquiries@ia09.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ia09.org.uk).

For more information visit: <http://www.iauk.org.uk/ia09>

**Conference on offshore wind power planning, economics and environment**

28th August 2009, University of Birmingham

This conference will be of special interest to coastal local authorities. The government is planning a programme of offshore windfarms that will contribute around 25 per cent of UK electricity from offshore windfarms over the next 15 years. The conference hosts a range of expert speakers from government, academic analysts, and relevant interest groups. Conference registration costs of £60 include refreshments and lunch. For further details visit: <http://www.ierp.bham.ac.uk/events.shtml>

You can also speak to the organiser, Dr David Toke, on 0121 415 8616, email [d.toke@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.toke@bham.ac.uk)



*Local Government Association*

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.



### **Tell us what you think**

We hope to provide information which is useful and accessible.

Please contact Michelle Pickford ([michelle.pickford@lga.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.pickford@lga.gov.uk)) with your comments and feedback on LGAARB.

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