



SOUTH WEST
FORUM
BRIEFING
No4

PLACE SURVEY 2008



INTRODUCTION

The results of the first ever Place Survey have now been released summarising the headline findings for England and the individual Government Office Regions.

The Place Survey is a new consultation that all local authorities are required to carry out on a two yearly basis.

The Place Survey was devised by central government and replaces the Best Value Performance Indicator Survey (BVPI). The Place Survey has been developed as part of a new focus on improving outcomes for local people and places – rather than on processes, institutions and inputs.

The survey provides information on people's perceptions of their local area and the local services they receive.

Methodology

The Place Survey is a statutory requirement of all local authorities in England and will be undertaken every two years as a postal survey.

Its main purposes are:

- To help local councils and their partners to better understand local views and needs.
- To enable local councils and their partners to improve areas where residents are dissatisfied.
- To form part of the Audit Commission's monitoring of the performance of local public services as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). See Briefing No.3

Questions asked included:

- What are the most important things that make your area a good place to live?
- Which of these things most need improving?
- How satisfied are you with your area and the services provided by local public organisations?
- How involved are you, or would like to be, in decisions that affect your local area?
- Where do you get your information about local public services?

The survey collected information on 18 National Indicators (NIs) for local government, used to measure local government performance for 152 county councils, metropolitan district councils, London boroughs and unitary authorities. The England indicators covered by the survey include the following:

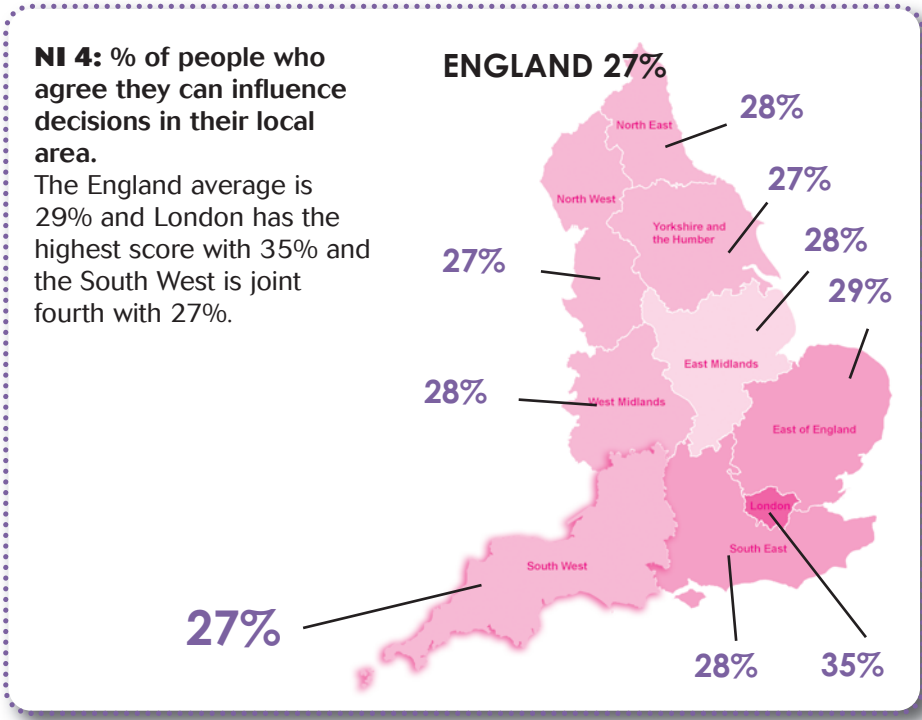
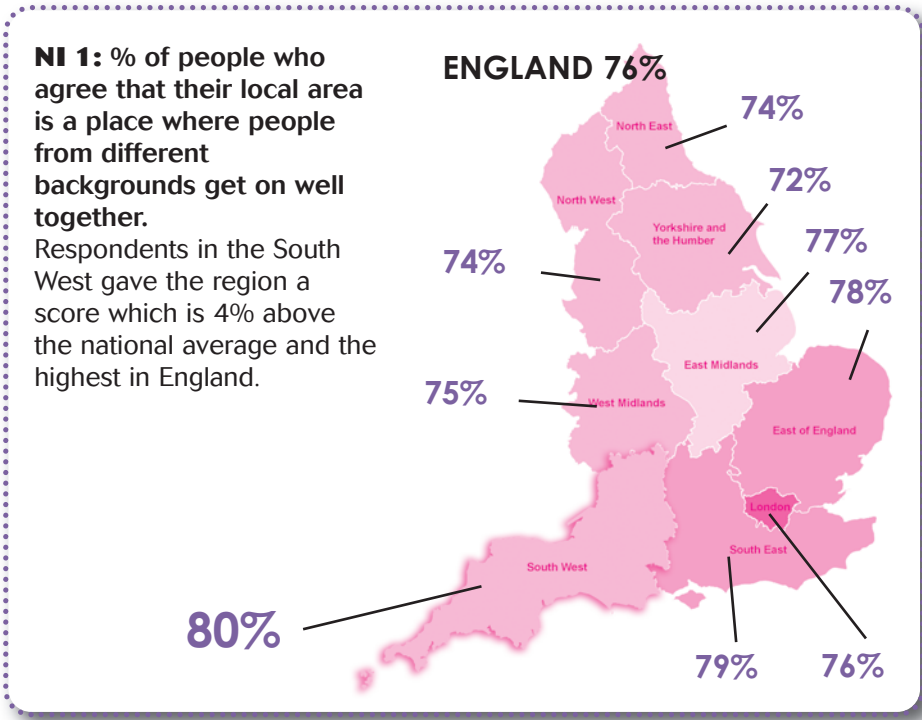
- NI 1:** % of people who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- NI 2:** % of people who 'very' or 'fairly' strongly feel that they belong to their neighbourhood.
- NI 3:** % who have been involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past twelve months.
- NI 4:** % of people who agree they can influence decisions in their local area.
- NI 5:** % of people who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- NI 6:** % of people who have participated in regular volunteering.

OVERALL OF THESE NATIONAL INDICATORS THE SOUTH WEST EXCEEDS THE ENGLAND AVERAGE ON ALL SIX

REGIONAL PICTURE

Summarised below are the headline results for the region for four of the national indicators.

- NI 2:** % of people who 'very' or 'fairly' strongly feel that they belong to their neighbourhood.
 The England average is 59% with the South West scoring 62% a joint high with the north east. The south east is bottom with 58%.
- NI 3:** % who have been involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past twelve months.
 The England average here is 14% with London scoring the highest with 17% and then the South West with 16% and the lowest being the north east.
- NI 5:** % of people who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
 The England average is 80% with three areas exceeding that. South West with 85% and East of England and South East both with 83%.
- NI 6:** % of people who have participated in regular volunteering.
 England average is 23% with the South West scoring a high of 28% with the South East and London both scoring 25% and the North East the lowest with 19%.



SWF Briefings are also available on
 ■ Social Purpose Workforce ■ Total Place ■ Comprehensive Area Assessment ■ Third Sector Survey
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