

Community-led improvement and levelling up of 'left behind' neighbourhoods

Thursday, 9th – Friday, 10th September 2021

Additional Reading/Documents

Local Trust reports

The double dividend (July 2021)

A report to inform the government's forthcoming Levelling Up White Paper that looks at the social and economic benefits of community infrastructure and its potential to level up 'left behind' neighbourhoods.

The impact of social infrastructure investment (June 2021)

A report for Local Trust by Frontier Economics, establishing the economic case for investment in social infrastructure. It estimates that a £1million investment in community-led social infrastructure in a 'left behind' area could generate approximately £1.2million of fiscal benefits and £2million of social and economic benefits over a ten-year period.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for 'left behind' neighbourhoods reports

Connecting communities: improving transport to get 'left behind' neighbourhoods back on track (March 2021)

Prepared for the APPG by Campaign for Better Transport with data from Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI), this research explores issues faced by residents in England's 'left behind' neighbourhoods as a result of poor physical connectivity. It looks at the way steady bus service decline, combined with rail closures have led to these places being disconnected and cut off from essential services and amenities and suggests ways in which hyper-local targeted investment could support them to get back on track.

Communities of trust: why we must invest in the social infrastructure of 'left behind' neighbourhoods (December 2020)

Over the last few years, 225 neighbourhoods identified as 'left behind' have seen their social infrastructure decline disproportionately compared to the rest of the country. This report highlights that not only are 'left behind' neighbourhoods economically deprived (as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation) but they also have low levels of social infrastructure, identified as a combination of community assets, civic engagement and connectivity (both physical and digital). It posits that long-term, neighbourhood-level investment is essential to ensure that lasting, sustainable change is delivered in these areas.



Communities at risk: the early impact of COVID-19 on 'left behind' neighbourhoods

(July 2020)

225 neighbourhoods across England already identified as 'left behind' prior to the pandemic are likely to suffer more because of the impact of COVID-19 but have received less emergency funding from charitable foundations and support than other areas. The research finds that, although it is early days and results are provisional, COVID-19 is likely to have a long-term negative impact on the most 'left behind' neighbourhoods, particularly in relation to employment and health.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for 'left behind' neighbourhoods evidence sessions

Evidence session 1, July 2020

What makes a neighbourhood left behind, and how has COVID affected these neighbourhoods?

Session 1 briefing

Drawing on the latest research and recent 'data dive' commissioned for the APPG it presents an overview of the issues faced by those communities identified as 'left behind'.

Evidence session 2, September 2020

Social capital and social infrastructure – why it matters

Session 2 briefing

Highlighting the relationship between local social infrastructure and its role in building social capital

Evidence session 3, November 2020

A focus on employment, skills and education

Session 3 briefing

An overview of the economic characteristics of 'left behind' neighbourhoods, drawing on the latest research and recent 'data dive' commissioned for the APPG.

OCSI data dive for the APPG

A 'data dive' research report for APPG into the economic characteristics of 'left behind' neighbourhoods.

Evidence session 4, December 2020

Communities in control: capacity, confidence and cash

Session 4 briefing

Exploring the community power agenda, how communities can play a bigger role in local decision-making, and how this can improve social and economic outcomes for residents.

Evidence session 5, January 2021

Buses, broadband, and Beeching

Session 5 briefing

An overview of the connectivity issues facing 'left behind' neighbourhoods. Drawing on the latest OCSI data dive, and new research for the APPG commissioned from the Campaign for Better Transport, it explores how 'left behind' neighbourhoods are often more isolated from public services including hospitals and job opportunities, and face challenges related to digital connectivity and online access.

OCSI connectivity data dive

A 'data dive' research report for the APPG into the connectivity characteristics of 'left behind' neighbourhoods.

Evidence session 6, March 2021

NHS: Neighbourhood health services?

Session 6 briefing

Highlighting the worse health outcomes experienced in 'left behind' neighbourhoods, the challenges faced by local residents and the role that local communities can play in tackling health inequalities.

OCSI health data dive

A 'data dive' research report for the APPG into the health characteristics of 'left behind' neighbourhoods.

Evidence session 7, June 2021

Taking ownership, taking control?

Session 7 Community Assets briefing

An overview of community assets and ownership in 'left behind' neighbourhoods. It reveals that these neighbourhoods have some of the lowest numbers of civic and social assets in the country. It also explores the benefits that community asset ownership could bring to local residents, and how they could be better supported to take full advantage of local community assets in the future.

OCSI community data dive

A 'data dive' research report for the APPG into the presence of community buildings, institutions, and charitable organisations in 'left behind' neighbourhoods.