

## **Appendix 4: Audit Commission quality of life indicators**

The **Audit Commission** have also developed quality of life indicators for use at the level of local government. Like the sustainable development indicators, these are often at area rather than individual level. Ten domains are identified:

- People and place
- Community cohesion and involvement
- Community safety
- Culture and leisure
- Economic well-being
- Education and lifelong learning
- Environment
- Health and social well-being
- Housing
- Transport and access
- Other indicators

### **People and place**

- Priorities for improvement in the local area, as defined by local residents.

### **Community cohesion and involvement**

- The percentage of residents who think that people being attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area.
- The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, community activities have got better or stayed the same.
- Election turnout.

### **Community safety**

- The percentage of residents surveyed who said they feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' outside (a) during the day; (b) after dark.
- Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households.
- Violent offences committed per 1,000 of the population.
- Theft of a vehicle per 1,000 of the population.
- Sexual offences per 1,000 of the population.
- The percentage of residents who think that (a) vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles; (b) people using or dealing drugs; and (c) people being rowdy or drunk in public places is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area.
- The number of (a) pedestrian and; (b) cyclist road accident casualties per 100,000 of the population.

## **Culture and leisure**

- The percentage of the population within 20 minutes travel time (urban – walking, rural – by car) of different sports facility types.
- The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years the following have got better or stayed the same: (a) activities for teenagers; (b) cultural facilities (for example, cinemas, museums); (c) facilities for young children; (d) sport and leisure facilities; and (e) parks and open spaces.

## **Economic well-being**

- The percentage of the working-age population that is in employment.
- The number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants as a percentage of the resident working-age population and; (b) percentage of these who have been out of work for more than a year.
- The total number of VAT registered businesses in the area at the end of the year.
- The percentage change in the number of VAT registered businesses.
- Job density (number of jobs filled to working-age population).
- The proportion of the population living in the most deprived super output areas in the country.
- The percentage of the population of working age that is claiming key benefits.
- The percentage of (a) children; and (b) population over 60 that live in households that are income deprived.

## **Education and lifelong learning**

- The percentage of half days missed due to total absence in (a) primary; and (b) secondary schools maintained by the local education authority.
- The proportion of young people (16- to 24-year-olds) in full-time education or employment.
- The proportion of working-age population qualified to (a) NVQ Level 2 or equivalent; and (b) NVQ Level 4 or equivalent.
- The percentage of 15-year-old pupils in schools maintained by the local authority achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C or equivalent.

## **Environment**

- The proportion of developed land that is derelict.
- The proportion of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus.
- Levels of key air pollutants.
- Carbon dioxide emissions by sector and per capita emissions.
- Average annual domestic consumption of gas and electricity (kwh).
- Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption).
- The percentage of river length assessed as (a) good biological quality; and (b) good chemical quality.
- The volume of household waste collected and the proportion recycled.
- The percentage area of land designated as sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) within the local authority area in favourable condition; and (b) the area of land designated as a local nature reserve per 1,000 of the population.

## Health and social well-being

- Age-standardised mortality rates for (a) all cancers; (b) circulatory diseases; and (c) respiratory diseases.
- Infant mortality.
- Life expectancy at birth (male and female).
- The percentage of households with one or more person with a limiting long-term illness.
- Teenage pregnancy, conceptions under 18 years, per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

## Housing

- The total number of new housing completions.
- Affordable dwellings completed as a percentage of all new housing completions.
- Household accommodation without central heating.
- The percentage of residents who think that people sleeping rough on the streets or in other public places is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area.
- The percentage of all housing that is unfit.
- House price to income ratio.

## Transport and access

- The percentage of the resident population who travel to work (a) by private motor vehicle; (b) by public transport; (c) on foot or cycle.
- The percentage of the resident population travelling over 20 km to work.
- The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, that (a) public transport has got better or stayed the same; (b) the level of traffic congestion has got better or stayed the same.
- Estimated traffic flows for all vehicle types (million vehicle km).

## Other indicators

The indicators below cover important quality of life areas. Unfortunately, there are no guaranteed national data sources at present to provide comparable data for every local authority area. Nevertheless, we have listed them below as we are confident that the indicators themselves are robust and that a national source is likely to become available in the next few years:

- The percentage of people surveyed who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- The percentage of people surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area.
- Percentage of people surveyed finding it easy to access key local services.
- The number of childcare places.