

**National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Group****Minutes  
Thursday 7 September 2023  
Via Videoconference****Members Present**

Prof. David Hand (Chair)  
Robert Bumpstead  
Sarah Cumbers  
Prof. Ian Diamond  
Edward Humpherson  
Sarah Moore  
Professor Ann Phoenix (for items 1 and 2)

**In attendance**

Julian Cox (for item 2)  
Denise Lievesley  
John Marais (for item 3)  
Joe Moore  
Libby Richards (for item 2)  
Becky Tinsley (for item 2)  
Lucy Woodbine (for item 2)  
Jason Yaxley (for item 4)

**Secretariat**

Laura Evans  
Tom Marsh

**Apologies**

Professor Paul Allin  
Dame Kate Barker  
Helen Boaden  
Professor Paul Boyle  
Sir Bernard Silverman  
Jane Falkingham  
Diane Coyle

## 1. Minutes and matters arising

- 1.1 Members were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were noted. The Chair welcomed Denise Lievesley who was conducting an Independent Review of the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) on behalf of the Cabinet Office. The minutes of the meeting on 8 June 2023 were agreed and all actions had been closed.

## 2. Discussion with User

- 2.1 Lucy Woodbine, Principal, Planning and Housing Research and Julian Cox, Assistant Director of Research at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) attended to reflect on their experience as users of official statistics. They explained how they used statistics and provided suggestions for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which would further support the GMCA and local areas. Members were asked to offer support to the data partnership between Government, GMCA and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and explained the benefits of making data available at a local level.
- 2.2 Members welcomed the presentation and the continued collaborative working. Becky Tinsley would continue the ONS' engagement with GMCA.

## 3. Crime Statistics [NSEAUC(23)06]

- 3.1 John Marais, Deputy Director, Crime, Income and Wealth outlined developments in ONS crime statistics and highlighted differences in data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales in comparison to Police Recorded Crime (PRC) data and their uses.
- 3.2 Ed Humpherson shared information on the Office for Statistics Regulation's (OSR) review of the quality of PRC statistics which aimed to identify the extent of quality improvements since designation was previously removed in England and Wales in 2014.
- 3.3 Considerable engagement had taken place with stakeholders including police forces and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.
- 3.4 Members discussed the range of users of crime statistics, and discussed how to engage with a wider group of users, particularly those outside of government policymaking roles, like academia and international users. Members were asked to continue providing their advice on gaps in the organisation's engagement plans.

## 4. Integrated Data Service Discussion [NSEAUC(23)07]

- 4.1 Jason Yaxley, Programme Director and Julian McCrae, Deputy Director of the Integrated Data Service Strategy provided an update on the Integrated Data Service. It was anticipated that the project would achieve Digital Economy Act (DEA) accreditation in September which would enable a significant increase in the number of users. The project status was amber/red, and members discussed steps being taken to return the programme to amber.
- 4.2 Members were asked to continue championing the IDS, identifying opportunities for engagement within the wider research community.

## 5. Forward Agenda

- 5.1 Members discussed the following items for future agendas:
  - i. Artificial Intelligence in statistical production;
  - ii. UKSA strategy;
  - iii. relationship between ONS and the Royal Statistical Society (RSS);

- iv. call to evidence for the Code of Practice for Statistics; and
- v. how ONS promotes the value of statistics in society.

5.2 Members were asked to provide further suggestions in writing.

**6. Any other business**

- 6.1 The next meeting was due to take place in person in London on 7 December.
- 6.2 Members were informed that a competition would be launched to recruit two new members.
- 6.3 The Chair informed members that a one-day seminar on 'What is the Future for UKSA' organised by Better Statistics CIC, was to be held at the RSS on 19 September 2023.

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Agenda**  
**Thursday 7 September 2023, 11:00-13:00**  
**Remote Meeting**

**Chair:** Prof. David Hand

**Apologies:** Prof Paul Allin, Prof Paul Boyle, Dame Kate Barker, Helen Boaden, Prof Bernard Silverman

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	
1 11:00-11:05 (5 mins)	Welcome, previous minutes and actions	Meeting of 08.06.2023 Prof. David Hand
2 11:05-11:45 (40 mins)	Discussion with User – Lucy Woodbine and Jeremy Cox Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Oral Update
3 11:45-12:20 (35 mins)	Crime Statistics	NSEUAC(23)06 Liz McKeown
4 12:20-12:50 (30 mins)	Integrated Data Service	NSEUAC(23)07 Jason Yaxley
5 12:50-12:55 (5 mins)	Forward Agenda	Discussion
6 12:55-13:00 (5 mins)	Any Other Business	Prof. David Hand

**Next Meeting: Thursday 7 December, 11:00, In-Person, Marsham Street, London**

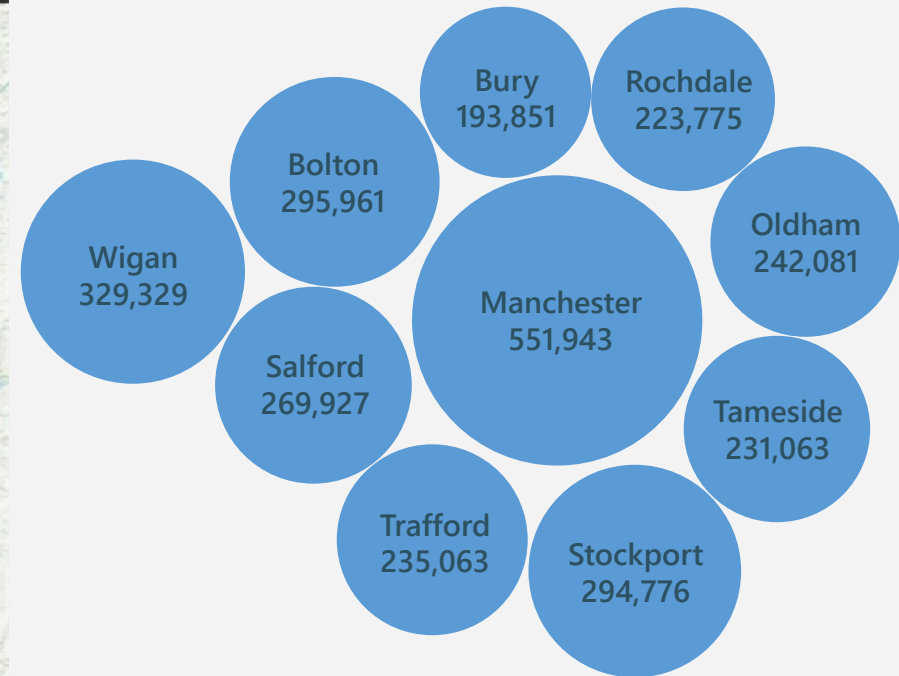
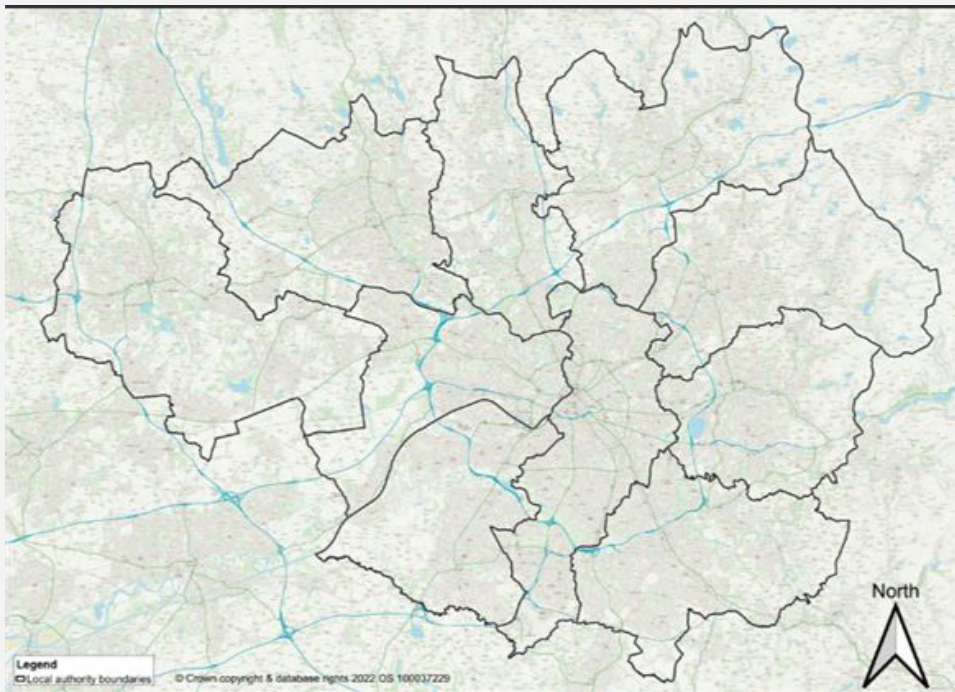
# Greater Manchester Combined Authority use of data and statistics

Lucy Woodbine, Principal Planning and Housing Research

Julian Cox, Assistant Director Research



# About Greater Manchester



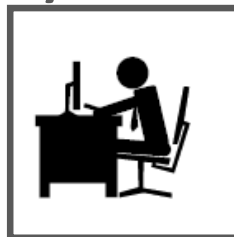
# Greater Manchester Leadership

 <p><b>Andy Burnham</b> Mayor of Greater Manchester</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Nick Peel</b> Bolton Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Eamonn O'Brien</b> Bury Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Bev Craig</b> Manchester City Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Arooj Shah</b> Oldham Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Neil Emmott</b> Rochdale Council</p>
 <p><b>Kate Green</b> Deputy Mayor for Police, Fire &amp; Crime</p>	 <p><b>Mayor Paul Dennett</b> Deputy Mayor &amp; Salford City Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Mark Hunter</b> Stockport Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Ged Cooney</b> Tameside Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Tom Ross</b> Trafford Council</p>	 <p><b>Cllr David Molyneux</b> Wigan Council</p>



# Greater Manchester Economy

**2.9m** people  
+ **300,000** since 2000



**1.3m** working in GM  
+ **100,000** over next 10 years

**124,000** businesses



**Over 100,000 Higher Education Students**  
**at 6 HE Institutions**

## Gross Value Added



**BIGGER THAN**



Source: ONS and GMFM



# Greater Manchester Combined Authority Functions



Created by Gareth Stranks  
from Noun Project

Police &  
Crime



Created by Shoun  
from Noun Project

Transport



Created by Lloyd Humphreys  
from Noun Project

Fire & Rescue



Created by Guilherme Furtado  
from Noun Project

Health & Care



Created by Shoun  
from Noun Project

Planning &  
Housing



Created by + Shmidt: Sergey +  
from Noun Project

Environment  
& Low Carbon



Created by Chrystia Angeline  
from Noun Project

Business  
Support



Created by Explanaion  
from Noun Project

Skills & Adult  
Education



Created by Laurin Kraan  
from Noun Project

Employment  
Support



Created by Piero Borgo  
from Noun Project

Investment



Created by Gregor Cresnar  
from Noun Project

Waste &  
Recycling



Culture

# Our partners



# How we work with statistics and data



Monitor local strategic plans and progress against government targets, e.g. levelling up missions and development of dashboards



Model policy interventions and impacts, e.g. economic development strategies



Use government data for proxy measures, e.g. cost of living



Group data to create bespoke geographies, e.g. Combined Authorities, LEPs, core cities, comparator areas



Collect and analyse local data to support policy asks and monitor local programmes. For city regions, this can be collation of data from constituent local authorities.

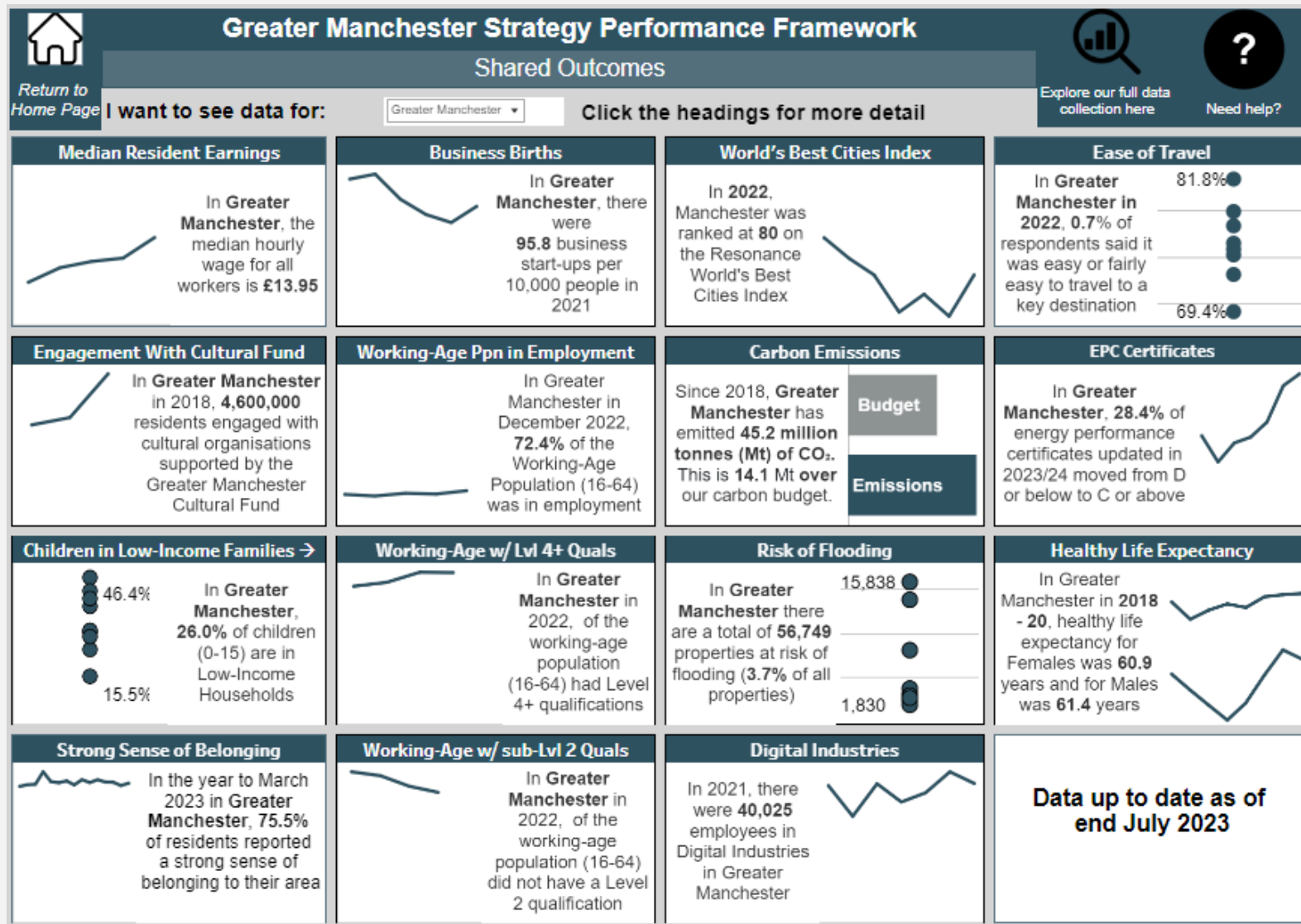


Commission surveys, evaluations and research

# Greater Manchester Strategy Performance Framework



- Greater Manchester Strategy sets out the ambitions for Greater Manchester over the next decade.
- Monitored through a performance framework using the following sources:
  - National data where available at Local Authority level
  - local surveys – e.g. [Greater Manchester Residents' Survey](#) (new questions on food security, digital inclusion and 'good work'); Greater Manchester Policing & Community Safety Survey; Transport for Greater Manchester surveys; [Greater Manchester #BeeWell survey](#)
  - Greater Manchester programme-level data – e.g. [Greater Manchester Apprenticeships & Careers Service](#) (GMACS), Greater Manchester [Adult Education Budget](#) data
  - data from local partners – e.g. [City of Trees](#), [The Growth Company](#)
- Although the creative use of local data is useful to fill gaps, the GMS indicators are often proxies towards our priority outcomes, and only provide partial intelligence on progress towards them.
- We are not able to benchmark our performance with other places, so 'what good looks like' tends to be a trend-driven rather than comparative assessment.



# Decent homes

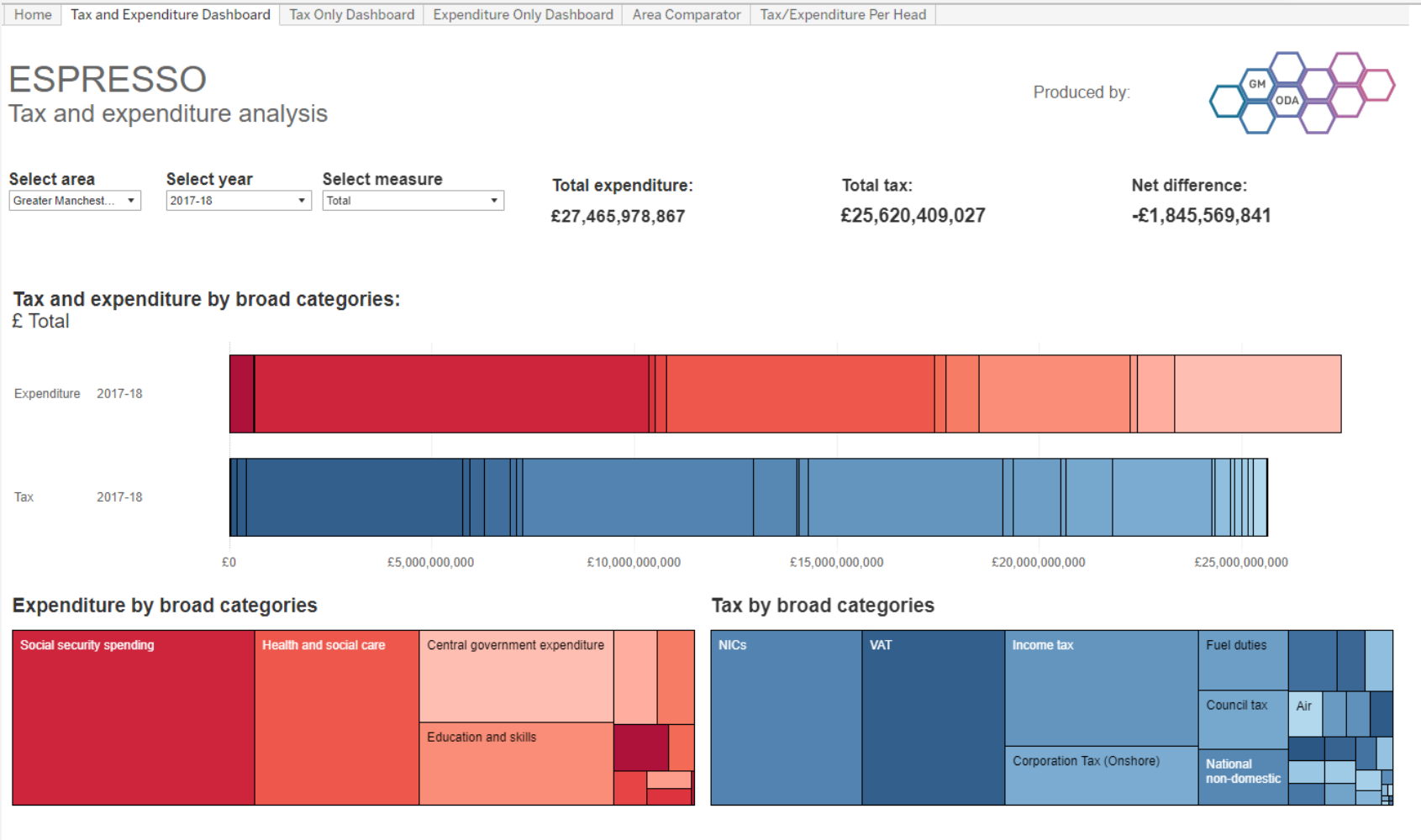
- Improving housing quality is key to a range of GMCA programmes relating to environment, housing and health.
- Mayoral priority and a Levelling up Mission
- Specific Greater Manchester emphasis on improving the private rented sector
- Measurement of housing quality uses Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings as a proxy measure. The **English Housing Survey** provides a far more detailed measure of housing quality, however sample size means that the data is only available at regional level. This regional data does not provide nuanced enough data to make policy decisions. Survey commissioned between DLUHC and BEIS.
- New local authority level data is commissioned and modelled on EHS as opposed to new data collection.
- Due to lack of detailed local data GMCA commissioned a commercial model to measure housing quality which provides a snap-shot in time.
- Increasing the English Housing Survey sample would provide more granular and comparable data.
- Understanding housing quality by tenure and household makeup provides a view on where policy interventions are needed.

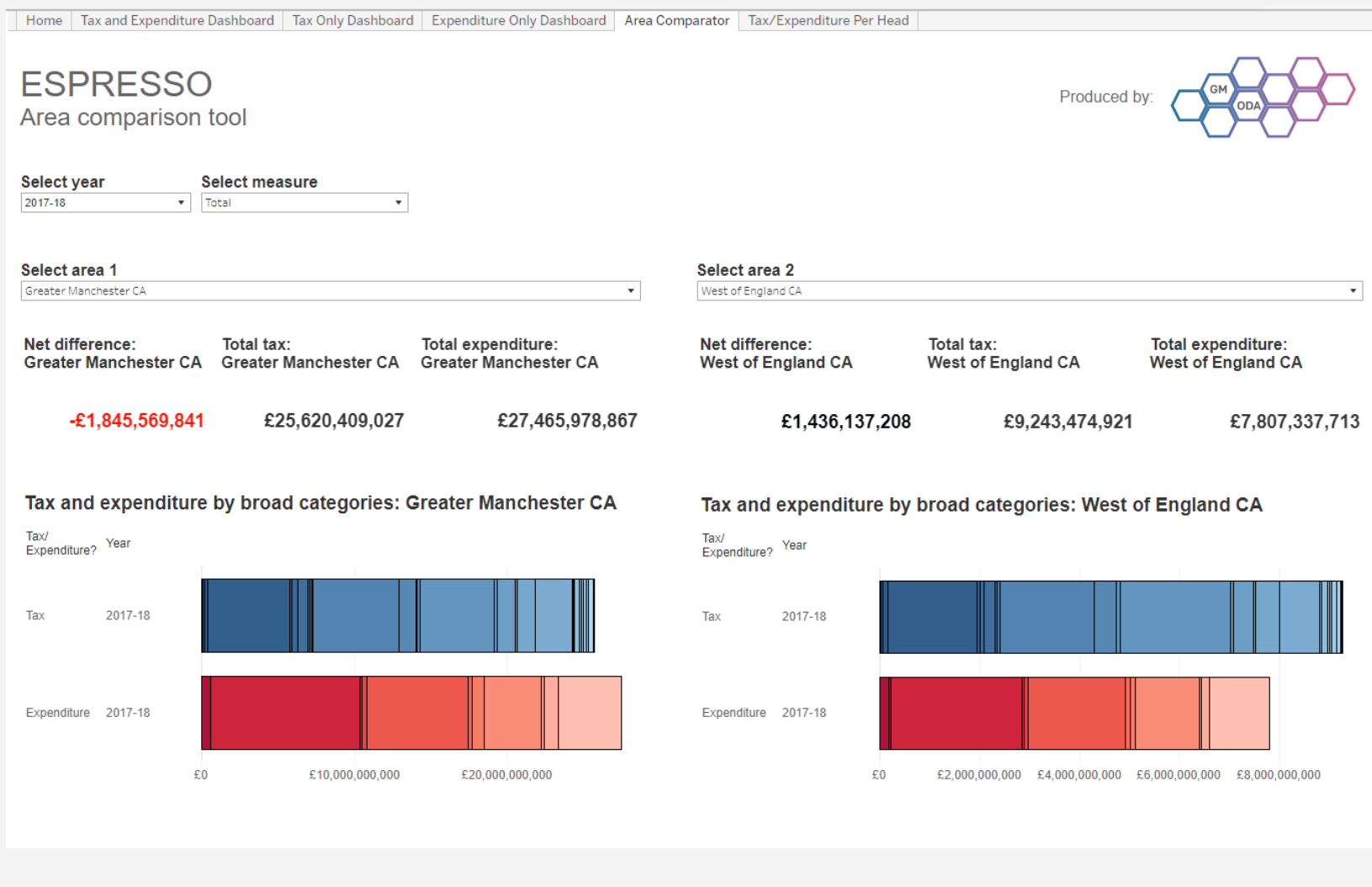


# ESPRESSO: Local tax and spend tool

- GMCA developed an open dataset and tool – [ESPRESSO](#) – to understand and visualise public sector expenditure and tax take at a local authority level.
- Information on public sector expenditure across the UK faces three major issues:
  - Information is disparate, released by multiple organisations in different ways
  - Not all information about public expenditure or the public sector is readily available
  - Datasets are inconsistent, with some poor-quality data
- The flow of funding and expenditure is not always obvious from the available data. This raises the potential for double-counting expenditure. Our approach to this is to identify as much expenditure as possible at the local level, and then subtract this from the total PESA expenditure to identify central government expenditure.
- It is not always clear who owns or manages expenditure data. For example, no clear ownership of the data on the value of statutory sick pay awarded in previous years. Similarly, for paternity pay, even though maternity pay is covered.
- Some datasets are inconsistent or of poor quality. For example, is the local authority area name "St. Albans" (with a full stop) or "St Albans" (without)? Similarly, "Edinburgh, City Of", or "City of Edinburgh"? While ONS codes can be used, consistent naming practices would help reduce the step of cross-checking codes with place names.
- There is also a clear entanglement of place names (e.g. City of Edinburgh) with the public sector organisations operating within that area (e.g. City of Edinburgh Council), when the two are not the same.







# Engaging and using Government statistics



Understanding what we need and looking for appropriate sources

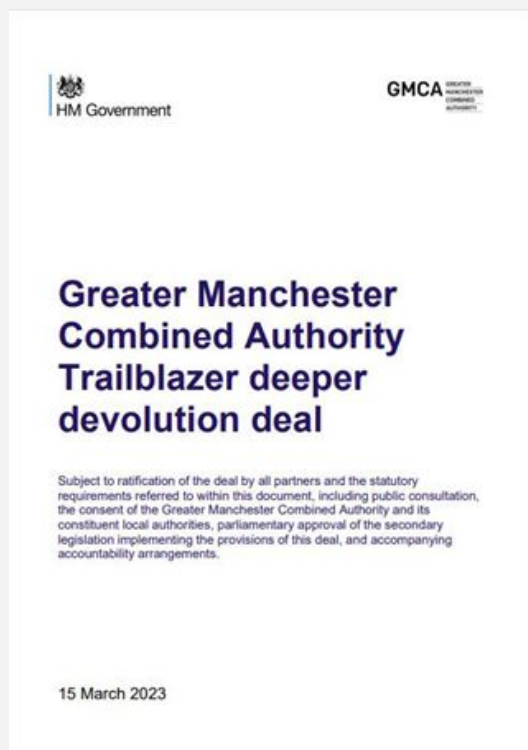


In the best case, we will know the analyst and be able to get the analysis or data we need through a specific contact



In the worst case, FOIs are needed to be able to access data at the right level because servicing this need isn't in workplans – creating additional process burdens on both sides

# Trailblazers and Data



- **Levelling Up White Paper announced ‘trailblazer’ deals with Greater Manchester and West Midlands:** acting as the ‘blueprint’ deals with further powers for other MCAs in the future.
- **Data and evidence is a key enabler of the deals:** either to monitor and evaluate the impact of the deals or to improve the identification of problems and targeting of policy solutions.
- **Both Greater Manchester and West Midlands have strong research and analysis capability at a local level,** and will look to build on this through the implementation of the deals.
- **Data partnership** between Government, GMCA and WMCA announced in March 2023 budget.
- **Housing policy sandbox with the DWP** to look at housing benefits related data.

# Data and statistical challenges for GMCA



It is not clear how experimental datasets get commissioned. It would be useful to explore new ways to commission experimental datasets, especially to avoid local public sector from reverting to FOIs to access relevant data.



Digital exclusion is a major policy issue that affects a significant proportion of the UK. GM estimates around 35% of resident adults experience some form of digital exclusion, and yet there is no single national dataset that allows for comparison of digital exclusion rates between areas or over time.



Often policy announcements come without clear explanations of the calculations used, the datasets employed or how decisions were made based on the data (e.g. what thresholds were used). Clearer explanations of datasets used, with links, would reduce the repetitive – and potentially incorrect – recalculation at a local level.



Where samples are not large enough for local areas for local statistics support around the case for boosting a sample. Greater Manchester is bigger than Wales, Northern Ireland and the North East all of whom statistics are produced at regularly.



Staff capacity and skills – enabling more access to data science and statistical training offered to central government staff.



Regional level data is not very useful for local understanding

AUTHORITY

# How the National Statistician can support the GMCA and local areas

- Supporting the ambitions of the Trailblazer Data Partnership.
- Considering how data can be as local as possible by default.
- Enabling conversations between departments on data as opposed to individual siloed conversations.
- Continuing to talk to us about how we use and produce data in practice.

# Questions?



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

### NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NSEUAC(23)06

#### *Crime Statistics Update*

#### **Purpose**

1. This paper provides both a general update on recent progress in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) crime statistics and, as requested, a specific focus on how we use Crime Survey data in comparison to Police Recorded Crime (PRC) data.

#### **Recommendations**

2. Members of the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) are invited to:
  - i. comment on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) transformation programme and its scope; and
  - ii. give consideration to the issues relating to the current funding of the CSEW.

#### **Background**

3. The CSEW initiated in 1982 is a face-to-face victimisation survey that seeks to capture the experience of residents in households throughout England and Wales regarding various crimes they encountered in the year leading up to interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues, such as the police and the criminal justice system, and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.
4. Self-completion modules were added from 2005 and cover a range of topics including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and abuse during childhood. The main estimate of crime (covering acquisitive and violent offences) was expanded in 2016 to include fraud and computer misuse. From January 2009 coverage of the CSEW was expanded to include 10 to 15 year-olds. Questions asked of 10 to 15 year-olds are age appropriate and do not cover the more sensitive topics such as sexual assault.
5. PRC data are supplied to ONS in aggregate form by the Home Office, who are responsible for the collation of data supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury plus a few closely related summary offences usually dealt with by magistrates' courts, such as minor theft or assault without injury.
6. Together with the CSEW, aggregate PRC data, provided by the Home Office and contributed by the police forces of England and Wales, aid in crafting a comprehensive crime landscape.
7. In addition to quarterly crime in England and Wales statistical updates, ONS produces supplementary volumes and data compendia containing more in-depth analyses of issues such as domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against women and girls, children's experiences, abuse that was experienced as a child, homicide, drug abuse, property crime, violent crime, modern slavery, fraud and

computer misuse offences. Where possible, these compendia draw on a range of other government and voluntary sector data as well as PRC, however these data are seen primarily as a supplement to CSEW data. The reports inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

### Discussion

8. In commissioning this paper, a focus on our use of CSEW data in comparison to PRC data was specifically requested. Both PRC and CSEW have different strengths and limitations but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.
9. Our main aim for the CSEW, since taking over responsibility for it in 2012, has been to provide robust trends in victimisation for the crime types and population it was set up to cover. The fundamental structure and wording of the core survey has therefore been held constant providing a consistent time series of data dating back to the 1980s.
10. The CSEW measures crimes against people and households, not businesses. It does not measure “victimless” crimes, such as drug offences or public order offences. It does include crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police. Self-completion modules provide additional data on a range of crimes that often go unreported to the police including domestic abuse, and sexual assault. The survey also collects demographic data and details of the crimes that took place. As a result, it facilitates a huge range of information on the nature of crime and who in society are the most likely to be victims of crime. Such information has proved invaluable to criminologists and policy makers over the last forty years.
11. Making sure maximum benefit is derived, all survey questions and topics covered are reviewed annually with key stakeholders. As a result, the survey instrument is constantly being updated and kept abreast of key policy areas and developments.
12. Over the last three years the survey has reacted to an increased focus on sensitive crimes, including domestic abuse and sexual offences, as well as children’s experiences of crime and online safety. Much of the data provided has therefore been in support of the government’s strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Consideration is also being given to expand the inclusivity of our statistics by including insight into victimisation of the homeless and those currently or recently in care or other communal establishments.
13. Other areas of interest have been driven by a policy and political desire exemplified by crime reduction ambitions set out in the government’s Levelling Up agenda. This included a focus on “neighbourhood crime” and anti-social behaviour requiring greater regional granularity than the survey has previously been able to produce. The need for greater granularity has therefore required a redesign of the survey to provide interviews cost effectively and a sample capable of providing national estimates of crime overall as well as neighbourhood crime in specific high crime areas.
14. The last three years presented the CSEW with significant difficulties and challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and attendant social restrictions precluded normal survey operations, with face-to-face CSEW fieldwork suspended from March 2020 until October 2021. A telephone-based survey, Telephone-operated

Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) was stood up very quickly to replace it. The TCSEW ran from May 2020 until March 2022.

15. Our experience of the TCSEW showed us that an alternative survey design could work, providing a great impetus for transformation. Our programme aims to deliver a more flexible, scalable, and resilient fieldwork design. This will include a multimodal panel-based design with face-to-face interviews at wave one, followed up annually either over the phone or online. Wave two telephone interviews started in October 2022, and we are currently evaluating the data. We are also redeveloping the survey instrument to be truly multimodal capable of operating face-to-face, online and over the phone on multiple device types. The aim is to have a multimodal instrument ready for a full trial and parallel running in April 2025.
16. In the last year, as well as returning to face-to-face interviewing at scale on the CSEW, commencing wave two interviewing, exploring the feasibility of moving to online interviewing, we have also:
  - i. consulted on our plans for survey transformation with users;
  - ii. continued our work to improve our data collection and statistics related to VAWG;
  - iii. redeveloped domestic abuse survey questions;
  - iv. developed a [new VAWG data dashboard](#); and
  - v. worked on the transformation of the Children's CSEW and developed new questions on children's personal safety.
17. Over the next year we will complete our CSEW transformation programme, moving forward with elements of our VAWG work programme including piloting a national Child Abuse prevalence survey and piloting a new online Young Person's Safety.
18. CSEW estimates and PRC levels have moved in different directions over much of the last decade. While CSEW crime has continued to fall, PRC increased up to the year ending March 2018 and was then relatively stable but has exceeded pre-coronavirus pandemic levels. We intend to investigate the continued divergence in trends between the CSEW and PRC to both better understand the impact of improved crime recording by the police and to investigate if the lower response rate for the CSEW in 2022 to 2023 may have also had an impact. This work will complement a PRC quality review recently launched by the Office for Statistics Regulation.
19. The household survey landscape has been challenging since the end of the pandemic with increased costs. The current contract with the third-party provider comes to an end in March 2024, and we are expecting that costs will increase to a level beyond our affordability mean either reducing the scope or the quality of estimates from the Crime Survey.

## Conclusion

20. As is highlighted in this paper, the Crime Survey and ONS Centre for Crime and Justice have had to adapt, not only to changing circumstances during the pandemic, but also to fast moving and changing policy requirements. Not only have we met these challenges, but our radical and ambitious work programme will keep us at the forefront of developments and improvements to victimisation

surveys worldwide. However, there are challenges to overcome including coherence with other data sources, particularly PRC, and funding constraints.

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NSEUAC(23)07

*Integrated Data Service Update - September 2023*

4

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides members of the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) with an overview on the Integrated Data Programme (IDP), which delivers the Integrated Data Service (IDS), updating since the last paper in December 2022.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the NSEUAC are invited to note:
  - i. progress in securing Digital Economy Act (DEA) accreditation;
  - ii. plans for the transition of the Secure Research Service (SRS) as agreed with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Administrative Data Research UK (ADRUk) have now been sent to all SRS users, outlining SRS and the IDS will have a longer period of parallel running as part of the transition process; and
  - iii. continuing engagement with government departments and the research community.

**Background**

3. The IDS remains in Public Beta; with a focus on meeting the requirements of Research Accreditation Panel (RAP) to achieve DEA accreditation and scale up the number of use cases and accredited users.

**Discussion**Programme Update

4. The overall status of the programme is Amber/Red, reflecting the known DEA accreditation slippage and challenge on the SRS transition. To mitigate and drive towards Amber, the programme is replanning, and reprioritising key activities outlined below:
  - i. improving user experience of the live operational service, with a critical mass of active users by September;
  - ii. focus on priority use cases;
  - iii. development of a higher-quality data catalogue integrated with Google tooling; and
  - iv. development of the deposit model and resubmission for DEA accreditation by September, which is anticipated to support a return to an Amber status.
5. The next IPA Gateway 0 Review will take place at the beginning of October, aligning with further Business Case discussions with HM Treasury.
6. The programme's Plan on a Page (POAP) has been updated to reflect current priorities and a focus on evolving current capability.

*SRS Transition*

7. Following extensive discussions with ESRC, ADRIUK and some other external research bodies, we have agreed there is merit in a period of further dual running of the SRS beyond March 2024 to resolve concerns over tooling and the timetable for transition of the SRS. Users were made aware of this in July 2023 and no concerns with the updated approach have been raised thus far.
8. We are keen this does not become an open-ended expectation of SRS operations and users and are therefore exploring with those parties to determine to whom the dual running applies, and which SRS users should make the move to the IDS sooner.
9. The IDS continues to aim not to import legacy into the design. Progress has been made in identifying cloud-native solutions for Statistical Analysis System (SAS) and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) which is a step forward. Discussions continue with Stata, the most used alternative tooling option in the SRS, to investigate feasibility of implementing a cloud-native version that can be implemented in the IDS.

*DEA Accreditation update*

10. The Programme sought accreditation as a Trusted Research Environment from Research Accreditation Panel (RAP) in June 2023. The assessment found that IDS was 'capable' or 'maturing' in all areas relating to the Data Security of IDS. The findings for Data Capability showed that four of the five categories were graded as capable or maturing. In the fifth category – Research Governance – some of the controls were judged partial. The external assessors to RAP advised that (time-limited) provisional DEA accreditation be granted to IDS.
11. The panel, however, decided they wanted to see more evidence of the Research Governance controls. RAP has invited the programme to resubmit to the RAP meeting on 14 September. Further work is therefore targeted at those areas deemed as partial during the RAP process, raising them to at least capable, in advance of resubmission.
12. The programme has been working through elevating these controls to a capable level ahead of resubmission and we are confident this will be achieved in September.

*Priority Analysis*

13. In support of the policy priorities of HM government and the devolved governments of the UK, the programme has introduced a process for assessing and prioritising prospective analysis in the IDS.
14. This prospect feasibility process, which seeks to accelerate high-impact analysis in response to the needs of senior decision makers, is further serving to inform the programme's data pipeline, which will acquire and ingest in-demand data in the IDS, thus enabling innovative and impactful analysis using linked administrative and survey data.
15. Additionally, the programme is working with the Departmental Directors of Analysis (DDANs) to identify an initial list of areas where linked data could enhance public policy. The list will be further developed and refined by DDANs. This will be used to identify further analytical use cases that can be delivered in the IDS.

16. While this collaborative work with DDANs is ongoing and subject to further refinement, existing and prospective analysis in the IDS seeks to use linked data to enhance government policy in several areas, including:

- i. labour market inactivity;
- ii. levelling up;
- iii. public health outcomes; and
- iv. climate change and net zero.

#### Developing the Data Pipeline

17. There are currently 36 datasets available on the platform.

18. The data roadmap for the next three months is considered 'locked-in', with the next three months and beyond updated and reviewed according to new demands and priorities. This allows certainty on immediate deliverables and resourcing, provides a clear direction of travel beyond three months, whilst also allowing new requirements to be introduced effectively.

19. Through our IDS-specific engagement work, we currently have 60 users on IDS and on the existing analysis pipeline this would rise to 97 by the end of September, pending the addition of further projects. We continue to develop the user experience, with new packages of tooling becoming available in September. We are working closely with colleagues across the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to iron out any teething problems on the platform, which is maturing at pace.

20. The programme continues to prioritise a number of projects and their inherent users including ONS Health and Labour Markets; The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC) Subnational Expenditure; ONS/DLUHC Coastal Communities Evaluation; Tees Valley Combined Authority Economic Inactivity; ONS/Home Office Admin-based Migration Estimates and Scottish Government Business Data.

#### Strategic Engagement

21. The IDP plans for strategic engagement of the research community over the coming weeks and is key partners in the upcoming ADR UK conference (14 to 16 November in Birmingham) which has the key themes of research to support renewal, recovery and resilience; data linkage, methods, systems and technology; ethics, law and social implications, and public engagement and involvement in population data research.

22. IDP are also represented at the Royal Statistical Society International Conference in September and attracts people from over thirty countries who have an interest in statistics and data science.

23. A meeting in August with Richard Welton and Professor Felix Richie discussed the emerging partnership with Economic and Social Research Council which would see them support the IDS from a user research perspective, bringing together senior groups from the research community to be more involved with the IDS as it moves forward.

24. The programme acknowledges that in recent months engagement has not always been at an acceptable level. IDP is striving to rectify this and would welcome any guidance, support and advice as to other ways it can engage with the wider research community.