

# New Local Outcomes Framework for England

To: All APSE contacts, England

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Framework design .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Principles for use of the framework.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Public presentation.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>APSE comment .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## 1 Introduction

On 3 July 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), launched a consultation on the Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF). The framework aims to be a new approach to outcome-based accountability for councils in England designed to empower councils as place leaders. APSE responded to the consultation on behalf of its membership (consultation response can be found [here](#)) and also met with MHCLG to discuss the proposals in further detail. The final framework reflects some of the changes that APSE proposed around contextualising the data, being clear on how this will be used and also some of the changes to individual metrics.

The framework has been renamed to the Local Outcomes Framework, which was proposed by APSE to move the focus away from local government and better reflect that outcomes are the product of the work of local government along with many local partners, as well as wider factors. The new framework was published on 12 February 2026 and is available on [THIS LINK](#). A summary of the main provisions of this are included below for ease of reference.

## 2 Framework design

The Framework is structured around the priority outcomes that represent government’s top priorities for delivering outcomes by local government working with local partners. There are 16

priorities, which is an increase from the 15 priorities in the original framework as 'Housing supply' has now been split out into its own priority outcome. Other changes include the development of a public set of principles for use of the Framework which are included in section 3 of this briefing.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Priority Outcome</b>
1	Housing supply
2	Housing quality and safety
3	Homelessness and rough sleeping
4	Multiple disadvantage
5	Best start in life
6	Every child achieving and thriving
7	Keeping children safe (children's social care)
8	Health and wellbeing
9	Adult social care – quality
10	Adult social care – independence, choice and control
11	Adult social care – neighbourhood health / integration
12	Neighbourhoods
13	Environment, circular economy and climate change
14	Transport and local infrastructure
15	Economic prosperity and regeneration (contextual outcome)
16	Child poverty (contextual outcome)

The Framework includes existing published data rather than new data collection being required such as Official Statistics standard or similar quality, at a local authority level. In some instances where data does not yet exist for a key priority that government wants to measure, a placeholder has been included to indicate ongoing development of a new data set.

This first version of the Framework covers the Spending Review period to 2028-29. The Framework will be refreshed alongside Spending Reviews. A list of all the metrics to be used is [here](#). Some of the changes which APSE proposed from the consultation that have now been included in the final framework include the addition of metrics for climate change mitigation, the addition of residual household waste per household (as opposed to just recycling) and the addition of a new output metric on positive conservation management.

The paper acknowledges that the achievement of outcomes will be influenced by local government, their local partners and wider factors. The degree to which other factors influence a priority outcome will vary for each. For example, the economic prosperity and regeneration priority outcome is influenced by factors outside of local government control much more than others. Where the data in the Framework suggests that outcomes in a local area are poor or declining, government will consider relevant contextual factors and the contributions of all relevant bodies and seek to understand the drivers of the outcomes so appropriate action can be taken.

### **3 Principles for use of the framework**

The Framework will be used to understand progress across priority outcomes in local areas, to support oversight and accountability, help direct improvement support and enrich assessments of compliance with the Best Value Duty. Rather than replacing existing accountability mechanisms across government, the principles are designed to underpin a coherent approach to outcomes-based accountability and improvement. Over time, central government will also use data on a local council's performance against outcomes in the Framework to enrich comprehensive assessments of whether the Best Value Duty is being met, though no single metric will form the sole reason for action or intervention.

The new principles for use are as follows:

1. Local government as leaders of place will work in partnership with other local bodies, local residents and service users to deliver the best outcomes for local people and communities across England.
2. The government will use the Framework to understand the national priority outcomes achieved in a local area, identifying examples of success and targeting improvement support and challenge.
3. Government will assess the data in the Framework to understand the contributions of councils towards priority outcomes. To do this, government will take into account relevant contextual factors, wider data and assurance mechanisms, and the role all relevant bodies play in meeting overarching outcomes.
4. Where the data suggests that outcomes in a local area are poor or declining Government will work with councils to properly understand the root causes, as well as the needs of local service users, so that appropriate action can be taken by the council, local partners and/or relevant central department(s).
5. Action may include improvement support, constructive challenge, and options for enhanced oversight and corrective measures where serious underperformance is identified, as well as potential policy change at the national level. This includes using data on a council's performance against outcomes in the Framework to enrich comprehensive assessments for compliance with the Best Value Duty.
6. Government expects that local government will use the Framework to:
  - clearly articulate the outcomes being delivered in a local authority area and understand how those outcomes may interact.
  - monitor progress, bringing outcome delivery into multi-agency conversations.
  - inform strategic decision-making, prioritisation, and resource allocation at a local level.
  - support self-assessment and benchmarking their own performance, including to inform peer learning and self-improvement, and help drive sector-led improvement.
  - foster collaboration between local government and partner organisations.
  - demonstrate how funding from central government and that raised locally is being used to drive outcome delivery at a local level.

- support conversations with central government on the challenges and opportunities facing local partners in delivering improved outcomes.
- engage constructively with local residents and local public service users to help them understand service performance and actively steer improvement.

#### 4 Public presentation

The outcomes and metrics for each local authority area will be published on gov.uk. The presentation and methods will be tested with users, and will continue to develop through continued user research and engagement during early 2026. The government intends to launch a digital tool in 2026.

In APSE’s consultation response to MHCLG, it was suggested that performance needs to be contextualised against local factors such as deprivation, population, type of authority (urban/rural). For instance, if an area is a densely populated, inner city deprived area, this is more likely to have higher levels of smoking and air pollution which will impact on health outcomes. Therefore, flexibility needs to be brought into the framework to account for these differences. APSE performance networks use a ‘key driver’ model to allocate local authorities into family groups with comparable peers, which consider local factors such as demography to avoid unfair comparisons and to contextualise the data sets.

MHCLG have taken this into account within the final framework and have stated that outcomes for each local area will be made comparable against that area’s ‘statistical neighbours’, i.e. areas most similar in terms of their context and challenges. A statistical neighbours model is being developed for this purpose. ([Local Government Outcomes: Statistical Neighbours model - GOV.UK](#)). MHCLG have stated that interested parties can provide feedback on the model and its use with the Framework in writing by email ([localoutcomesframework@communities.gov.uk](mailto:localoutcomesframework@communities.gov.uk)) by 31st July 2026. APSE will be responding to this consultation and will hold a roundtable to discuss these measures with its membership. The proposed draft measures for the statistical neighbours model are as follows:

Indicator	Description	Theme	Source
Deprivation	English Indices of Deprivation (2025)	General contextual	<a href="#">MHCLG</a>
Proportion of population identifying as white	Proportion of population identifying their ethnic group within the high-level “White” category	General contextual	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Population Size	Mid-year population estimates	General contextual	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Percentage of population in rural areas	Proportion of population living in rural output areas	General contextual	<a href="#">ONS</a>

Employment Rate	Percentage of people aged 16 to 64 in employment	General contextual	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Education rate	People aged 19 and above participating in further education (inc. apprenticeships), per 100,000 people	General contextual	<a href="#">DfE</a>
Qualification rate	Percentage of population with Level 3 or above qualifications	General contextual	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Digital connectivity	Percentage of premises with access to gigabit capable broadband coverage	General contextual	<a href="#">Ofcom</a>
Gross value added per hour worked	Estimated value of goods and services produced per hour worked (£)	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Business births	New enterprises as a share of active enterprises	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">ONS</a>
High growth businesses	Percentage of enterprises classed as having "High growth" out of active enterprises with more than ten employees	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Proportion of population at working age	Proportion of working-age population (16 to 64) to non-working-age population	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Income	Gross median weekly pay (£)	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Proportion of population renting privately	Percentage of households classes as "Private rented"	Relevant to Housing, Multiple Deprivation, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Percentage of children in relative poverty	Percentage aged under 16 living in relatively low-income families	Relevant to Keeping Children Safe, Best Start in Life, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping, Health and Wellbeing	<a href="#">DWP</a>
Percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) support	Percentage of pupils in receipt of SEN support or with an EHCP	Relevant to Keeping Children Safe, Best Start in Life, Every Child Achieving and Thriving	<a href="#">DfE</a>

Housing repossession rate	Private landlord possession claims per 100,000 households owned by a private landlord	Relevant to Housing, and Homelessness & Rough Sleeping	<a href="#">MoJ</a>
Proportion of population without a disability	Percentage of population not disabled under the Equality Act 2021 (age-standardised proportion)	Relevant to Adult Social Care, Multiple Deprivation, Transport, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Housing affordability	Ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">ONS</a>
Taxbase per household	Average council tax per dwelling (£)	General contextual / Economic	<a href="#">MHCLG</a>
Area Cost Adjustment	Measure of local variation in the cost of delivering public services	General contextual / Economic	

## 5 APSE comment

The commitment by MHCLG not to introduce new data collection requirements beyond existing sources nor new reporting requirements is welcomed by APSE. In terms of using existing data sources like '[APSE Performance Networks](#)', this can enrich understanding of performance across vital front line services and the context in which the service is provided.

Set up to support the development of the statutory duty of 'Best Value', APSE Performance Networks has been engaged in benchmarking frontline service performance, across the UK, for over 27 years. The service offers robust and well-established processes to collect, validate and report on data. The model meets industry standards in data and benchmarking by ensuring data assessment and analysis is based on consistency, reliability and effective systems of error checking. Benchmarking takes place with over 120 local authorities in England, collecting annual performance data and using well-established reporting processes to produce comparative reports. The model is reliable and trusted by local government as a source of performance data and is updated each year through working groups comprised of local authority representatives delivering local services to local communities. Given the benchmarking model was established in response to the introduction of Best Value, and one of the stated purposes of the Local Outcomes Framework is to monitor the Best Value Duty the framework established by MHCLG provides an opportunity to use the intelligence from APSE performance networks to inform and contextualise the metrics.

Concerns were raised by APSE member local councils as to how often the measures contained in the new framework will be reviewed and revised. The paper now states that this first version of the Framework covers the Spending Review period to 2028-29 to provide certainty for local government and local partners to enable budget and business planning. The Framework will be refreshed alongside Spending Reviews. However, outside of Spending Reviews, changes to metrics may be necessary to correct errors or improve data – for example if a placeholder metric becomes available for inclusion or if new data has been developed which better aligns with the government's policy

priorities. In addition, there may be exceptional circumstances in which the government adds or removes a priority outcome in order to reflect a new or changing national priority. If the Framework is amended, changes and potential metrics will be tested with stakeholders to make sure they are appropriate. The data in the Framework will be updated to reflect local government structural changes.

APSE welcomes the changes to the framework to contextualise performance against local factors such as deprivation, population, etc. APSE also welcomes clarity provided by MHCLG on how the framework will be used. We will be responding to this consultation on the statistical neighbours and will hold a roundtable to discuss these measures with its membership. For more information on this please contact [djohns@apse.org.uk](mailto:djohns@apse.org.uk)

**Debbie Johns**

**Head of performance networks**

## Sign up for APSE membership to enjoy a whole range of benefits

APSE member authorities have access to a range of membership resources to assist in delivering council services. This includes our regular networks, specifically designed to bring together elected members, directors, managers and heads of service, together with trade union representatives to discuss service specific issues, innovation and new ways of delivering continuous improvement. The networks are an excellent forum for sharing ideas and discussing topical service issues with colleagues from other councils throughout the UK.

APSE networks are a free service included as part of your authority's membership of APSE and are an excellent way to network with peers in other councils. If you do not currently receive details about APSE networks and would like to be added to our list of contacts for your service area, please email [enquiries@apse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@apse.org.uk).

Our national networks include:

- Building Cleaning and Facilities Management
- Education Catering
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Climate Change and Renewables Network
- Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance
- Social Value, Procurement and Commercialisation Network
- Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Sports and Leisure Management
- Fleet, Transport and Vehicle Maintenance
- Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing
- Veterans and Military Champions Network
- Local Government Reorganisation Network

Visit [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk) for more details.



Association for Public Service Excellence  
3rd floor,  
Trafford House,  
Chester Road, Manchester M32 0RS.  
telephone: 0161 772 1810  
web: [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

**NEW MUNICIPALISM**  
Delivering for local people and local economies