



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION 2030

Association for Public Service Excellence

The Local Government Commission

New Municipalism and Sustainable Local Government in 2030

Scope of the Commission

The APSE Local Government Commission is conducting an independent inquiry into the future role of local government across the United Kingdom. It will identify and assess the capabilities and capacities of local government, capturing good practice and investigating the powers and responsibilities required for local councils to advance a new municipalism and vision over the next ten years.

The Commission has taken 2030 as its key date on the horizon, signalling its commitment to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability, one of the pressing 'wicked policy issues' facing local authorities. Indeed, the Commission is seeking to build on the principle of local stewardship, viewing local government as one of the key sites to mitigate climate change.

Importantly, the Commission acknowledges the diversity of the formal and informal organisational structures, service responsibilities, and pertinent issues across local government post-devolution. Its recommendations will recognise the multiple, complex and evolving systems that mark the landscape of local government across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A word from the Commissioners

'Local government has in the past ten years gone through a period of rapid change. New innovative ways of working have emerged, novel forms of governance have come into being, while the policy challenges facing local government, and the expectations of local communities, have increased. Now, it is time to take stock and think carefully about how we design and reshape local government for the future. As Commissioners, we want to hear from as many different viewpoints as possible, from different individuals, groups and organisations with an interest in local government and local communities. Only then can we begin to rethink local government for the challenges ahead. We encourage you to share your views and have your say about the future of local government.' The APSE Local Government Commission 2030.

Send in your views

Evidence and views are welcomed on the future role of local government; stewardship of place; local finance and funding regimes; local government organisation and structures; workforce capacities and roles; local service provision; local democracy and accountability; community leadership, equality and diversity; and centre-local relations.

The Commission is particularly interested in gathering written submissions on the following interconnected questions. Each question may have different salience, interpretations and weighting depending on which part of the UK it is being applied to. Please note that responses do not have to answer all questions.

Roles and Powers

1. What should be the role of local government? And how can that role be brought about? Does local government require additional powers, and if so, which ones? Should there be further devolution of powers?

2. What services should local government deliver, and how? Which services require local variation, and to what degree? How should services be integrated to better meet local needs in, for example, housing, health and social care, community cohesion, public protection, digitalisation, climate emergency and economic development? What should be the role of local government in terms of early interventions to pro-actively secure community wellbeing?

3. How should local government be organised to address the complex policy issues it will face in, for example, housing, health and social care, community cohesion, public protection, digitalisation, climate emergency and economic development? What needs to change to bring about these new ways of working?

4. What principles should underpin issues of council size and their place in the governance of communities? Which organisational structures can best balance competing requirements for efficiency, effectiveness, and democracy? How far should this be determined locally?

5. What governance arrangements for local authorities best respond to the demands of local government in 2030? What should be the role of the councillor in 2030? How can we make elected members more representative of the diverse communities they serve? How can public interest and local electoral turnout be increased?

6. How should we ensure the accountability of local service delivery and decision-making across the complex landscape within which local government will be operating in 2030? Should we seek to rationalise this complex landscape of local government structures, and how?

Funding

7. How should local government be sustainably funded, in a way which provides for local accountability? What proportion of local funding should be raised via local taxation, and through what mechanisms? What scope should there be for local variation in the raising of local taxes? How should we address financial inequalities between local authorities?

Addressing Inequality and Empowering Communities

8. How should local government address inequalities across the diverse communities it serves? How should local authorities empower and increase the participation of local communities in decision-making? How should councils engage with under-represented groups?

The Local Government Workforce

9. What should be the skills of the future local government workforce? How should we ensure that the workforce of local government mirrors the diverse communities it serves? What working and organisational cultures are necessary to meet the challenges of 2030?

Centre-Local Relations

10. Should local government have constitutional protection? If so, what should be the nature of this constitutional protection? What future mechanisms or governance arrangements should be in place for effective dialogue and working relations between central departments, national agencies and local government?

Views are welcome from the local government sector itself and from any experts or individuals with an interest in local government and local services and with views about how best to ensure that the sector has a sustainable future.

The closing date for receipt of submissions is **Monday 16th December 2019**.

Your Details

Please confirm your details below. These will not be published in the report but will be used to contact you. We will also analyse responses to ensure that we have a fair sample of responses across the UK.

Name:

Job Title:

Organisation name:

Address:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

We would like to track our respondents and we may need to come back to you to ask for further information about your responses. We will not attribute comments or quotes to any organisation or individual without their express permission we will however name all respondent organisations in our final report.

Do we have your permission to contact you about your responses if we need clarification?

Would you be willing to provide oral evidence to the Commissioners?

Do we have your permission to name your organisation as a respondent in our final report?

How to submit your evidence

Before making a submission, please read our [GDPR Policy Statement](#) about submitting your views to a Committee. This tells you about how we process your personal data.

Your response does not need to cover all of the priority areas specified and can just focus on those that are relevant to you or your organisation. Also, you are welcome to provide other information that you feel would be relevant.

Submissions on behalf of organisations, should include details of the name of the organisation, the name of the individual submitting the evidence on behalf of the organisation, job title in organisation, address of the organisation, email and telephone.

Submissions on behalf of individuals, should include the name of the individual submitting the evidence, address, email and telephone.

Submissions should ideally be submitted via email in the form of a Word or PDF attachment. If possible, we would be grateful if you could keep your submission to a maximum of 4 sides of A4.

All submissions should indicate if the submission is to be kept confidential. If not, submissions will be published on the Commission webpage.

We welcome written views in English, Gaelic, Scots, Welsh or any other language. Due to the time required to process and analyse evidence, late submissions will only be accepted with the agreement of the Commission.

Submissions can be sent by email to: **algc@apse.org.uk**

Alternatively, you can upload this document, as well as any other documents in support of your response, using [this link](#).

If you cannot submit electronically you may send in a hard copy written submission. Please send them to: **The APSE Local Government Commission, APSE Manchester, 3rd floor Trafford House, Chester Road, Manchester, M32 0RS**

If you have any further questions regarding the Commission please contact algc@apse.org.uk