



## Local Government Outcomes Framework call for feedback – ADEPT response

By email to [LocalGovOutcomesFramework@communities.gov.uk](mailto:LocalGovOutcomesFramework@communities.gov.uk) 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### About ADEPT

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) is the voice of place directors who are responsible for providing day to day services including local highways, recycling, waste and planning, whilst preparing for the longer term.

ADEPT is a membership based, voluntary organisation with members across England. We bring together directors from county, unitary, metropolitan and combined authorities, along with sub-national transport bodies and corporate partners drawn from key service sectors.

ADEPT members develop long term strategies, investment and infrastructure needed to make their places resilient, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous. They drive clean, sustainable growth, delivering the projects that are fundamental to creating more resilient communities, economies and infrastructure. These services include housing, environmental and regulatory services, planning, economic development, culture and highways and transport.

ADEPT develops, supports and represents members to make their places more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous, leading the transformation of local authorities. We proactively engage with central government on emerging issues, promoting initiatives aimed at influencing policy, regulation and funding, developing best practices and by responding to government initiatives and consultations.

For more information on ADEPT please visit the website: [www.adeptnet.org.uk](http://www.adeptnet.org.uk)

### General comments

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the call for feedback on the Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF) priority outcomes and draft metrics. We are submitting some general comments on those outcomes and metrics most directly relevant to the responsibilities of our members – housing; health & wellbeing; neighbourhoods; environment, circular economy & climate change; transport & local infrastructure – rather than responding to each of the detailed questions set out in the feedback document. We are grateful to those MHCLG officials who attended our Leadership Team meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July, the following comments reflect and build on that discussion.

Our key messages are as follows:

- We support the overall aim of giving local leaders greater flexibility and having less central micro-management, including moves towards multi-year settlements and funding simplification, streamlining reporting requirements, and removing instances where a Secretary of State is required to give consent for local authorities to take action.
- We support the ambition to encourage cross-departmental working in government, promote better joint working locally, and drive improvement in priority outcomes for local residents.
- It is right that data insights collated through the LGOF should support strategic decision-making and local prioritisation and bring a shared understanding of progress and expectations. The measures should be relevant to local residents, communities and

businesses. Existing data should be used wherever possible to minimise collection and reporting workload.

- The outcomes and measures should be within the control and influence of local authorities, where they are dependent on government policies and external factors this will need to be highlighted and explained, and variations in local context recognised.
- The final LGOF should reflect the results of key pieces of work currently in progress, such as the review of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) and the work on local climate change mitigation and adaptation that has been commissioned by the Climate Change Committee following the publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget.
- The LGOF does not currently include important priority outcomes that sit under the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) – carbon reduction (including the legally binding net zero 2050 target), energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation. Local authorities have key roles to play in delivering these. The absence of climate priorities and measures is the greatest weakness of the LGOF and a real missed opportunity. We have argued elsewhere that the absence of climate and environment duties in the English Devolution & Community Empowerment Bill is also a missed opportunity and risks deprioritising these [here](#).

#### **Priority outcome: Housing**

We support the draft metrics listed here. There should be an additional metric on the proportion of new homes built to an appropriate standard of sustainability in terms of energy efficiency, heat source, water consumption, etc. Local authorities deliver various grant-funded retrofit and energy efficiency schemes including boiler upgrades, heat pump installations and the Warm Homes Plan, these should be measured and reported as they are important not just for the standard of the housing stock but also in relation to health and carbon reduction.

#### **Priority outcome: Health and wellbeing**

We support the draft metrics listed here. Given the importance of social determinants of health and wellbeing we think there should be additional output measures of decent housing, access to nature and green spaces, and the proportion of the working age population in secure employment. Fuel poverty also impacts health and wellbeing. Deaths due to air pollution should be a measure under this priority outcome as well as under Environment.

#### **Priority outcome: Neighbourhoods**

We agree that the DCMS Community Life Survey is a good source of measures of people feeling safe and included in their local community and satisfied with their local area. The levels of trust indicator is perhaps not the most important measure here, the sense of belonging, people getting on well together and levels of volunteering are equally if not more important in terms of assessing community cohesion. The output measure of access to green spaces should include access to nature (as per health and wellbeing above).

#### **Priority outcome: Environment, Circular Economy and Climate Change**

We support all the draft metrics here, they are appropriate measures. We think that there should be additional metrics covering carbon reduction, renewable energy, climate adaptation, nature recovery and biodiversity. These should reflect the duties of relevant local authorities in relation to Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, and complying with the strengthened biodiversity duty. Although there are currently no general duties in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation we believe that the English Devolution & Community Empowerment Bill should be

strengthened to include this. The former National Indicators related to carbon emissions and adaptation (NIs 185, 186 & 188) should be reviewed and reinstated.

**Carbon reduction measures:**

- Carbon emission reduction from local authority activities (i.e. % emission reduction against baseline targets), most local authorities have targets and hold the data to measure this.
- Area wide carbon emissions
- Contextual metric – Gross Value Added (GVA)/carbon emissions to measure the extent to which the local economy is delivering clean growth.

**Clean energy measures:**

- GVA of distributed energy resources (£)
- % distributed renewable energy
- Contextual metric – average time taken to connect new renewable energy generation capacity the national grid.

**Flood protection measures:**

Percentage of properties at risk of flooding that have been protected under a flood defence scheme.

**Biodiversity measures:**

There should be one or more measures of a local authority's effectiveness in conserving and enhancing nature. These should reflect the EIP targets to halt the decline in species abundance, restore protected sites and protect 30% of UK land, and local authority duties in respect of Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Bature Recovery Strategies. They should also reflect the outcomes being reported in the first round of biodiversity duty reports (reporting period deadline 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026).

**Possible measures:**

- Percentage of land in positive conservation management - the extent of land within the local authority ownership/control that is actively managed to conserve or enhance biodiversity; or
- Local sites in positive conservation management.
- Biodiversity Net Gain – the BNG metric provides site-specific data measuring biodiversity improvement, this can be aggregated to report the overall improvement in the local area that can be attributed to planning approvals.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies – once the full set of 48 LNRSs is available Defra/ Natural England will be able to identify common outcome measures that can potentially be included in the LGOF.

**Priority outcome: Transport and local infrastructure**

We support the draft metrics listed for connectivity, public transport, road safety and highways condition. There should be additional measures of the decarbonisation and resilience of local roads and transport infrastructure. We are working closely with DfT on the [Live Labs 2](#) programme which will provide valuable data here, and also bring local highways authorities together through the [Future Highways Research Group](#) in partnership with Proving Services. We would be pleased to help define appropriate measures here.

Potentially a measure of how local authorities are facilitating the take up of electric vehicles by providing or enabling charging infrastructure via planning and parking policy.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these issues further and to convene workshops with a group of our members to help refine and test any additional metrics.

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