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Contents

Foreword	2
Using the United Kingdom Prosperity Index	4
The building blocks of prosperity.....	6
Executive summary	8
Health and the UKPI.....	14
The pillars at a glance	18
Mapping UK prosperity in 2022	20
Rankings	22
UK strengths and improvements.....	29
Acknowledgements	31

Foreword



The UK Prosperity Index was conceived at the end of 2019 at a turning point in British politics. Entering a new decade, Boris Johnson's government came into power with an unprecedented majority and committed to making the most of the opportunities that Brexit presented alongside 'levelling up' the country.

We designed the Index as a scorecard for the UK's prosperity, and as a way of measuring whether the Government had succeeded in its dual mission of securing the Brexit dividend and levelling up. Two years later, the data shows that while there have been some areas of levelling up success, over the last 10 years, the UK has declined in more areas than it has levelled up.

While the economic, health and social fallout of the coronavirus pandemic have posed profound challenges, this is not just a story of the pandemic. The UK's performance across a range of measures points to deep structural problems at the heart of our economy, society and political class. First, all of this is happening in a context of pretty much no productivity growth since 2008. On top of this, trust in institutions is on a downward curve and the nation's performance on health is declining both compared to our competitors and in absolute terms. The impact of these trends falls most heavily on those least able to shoulder the burden.

And the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better. Economically, we are facing the hardest winter since the 1970s. Inflation and a potential recession are set to leave many families struggling more than they have in a generation.

That means that, without further progress on the levelling up agenda and boosting prosperity more generally, many of those who lent the Conservative party their vote may feel vindicated in the deep in-built view that the political class does not care.

Turning this around will be no easy task for the next leader of the United Kingdom, but it will be essential if we are to break out of the cycle of stagnation and genuinely see the change promised in the last manifesto.

We must start at the top with a renewal of leaders of character. In one sense, in terms of charisma and a cross-cutting appeal, we have probably just seen, in Boris Johnson, one of the most talented politicians of his generation. Yet leadership is more than charisma and intellectual ability and, even aside from the personal scandals, the coronavirus pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have required a different type of leadership to the mode which best-suited Johnson. As we look to the future and the continued challenges facing the country, we must recover the virtues which have underpinned the prosperity and success of this nation: compassion, humility, truth, and integrity, amongst others. We must remember that public service is just that – service. This change moment needs the brightest, most experienced, and most principled to be unified in a cabinet of talents to steer the ship of state through troubled waters.

In policy terms, there are two clear requirements. First, the Government must provide an immediate response to the cost-of-living crisis. Second, whilst future leaders may move away from the levelling up mantra, it is clear that its underpinning principles of boosting prosperity for all and boosting prosperity most in areas that have previously been left behind, are the right ones. So whatever it is called, the Government must deliver on levelling up.

The first step on both is to be clear on the breadth and depth of the issues at hand. That is why using the UKPI to guide policy and monitor progress should underpin the Government's approach. With a clearer understanding of the issues, effective action can be taken.

The Government must start delivering on plans for boosting productivity, skills and employment. Amongst other things, this will mean creating an enabling environment for business, making the tax system work better for businesses and families and ensuring that those further from the labour market are supported to work.

But to make the impact required, the Government must look beyond skills, employment, and productivity. These are all built on the foundations of society and what makes places viable – family, communities, resilience, health, and institutions. This is what the UKPI measures, and without these foundations, any

attempt to move the dial on the other drivers of prosperity will fail. In short, levelling up and prosperity is as much about people, places and families as it is about R&D and investment.

Yet the Government cannot do this alone, which is why, for levelling up to succeed, local leaders – both in government, business and civil society – will need to be empowered to take ownership of their futures and carry the nation forwards. Real change in less prosperous communities needs everyone to play their part – civil society leaders shaping local imaginations about what is possible, community institutions providing hubs and networks of support, local authorities with devolved powers taking the initiative, artists developing a local voice and culture, businesses providing job opportunities at home rather than in the metropolis.

The UK is an amazing country and one of the most prosperous in the world. It has some of the most talented people, robust institutions, and a history of an open and dynamic economy. But without tough choices and clear leadership the UK will fall behind other nations. Our hope is that the next prime minister will lead with creativity, integrity, and humility. The country needs nothing less.



Baroness Philippa Stroud
CEO, Legatum Institute



Credit: shutterstock.com

Using the United Kingdom Prosperity Index

The United Kingdom Prosperity Index has been developed as a practical and policy-relevant tool to help identify actions that will help to unlock prosperity in the UK. The Index is not designed to offer a definitive view, nor is it geared toward establishing the causal relationships that underpin our ranking of local authorities. Rather, it is designed to offer a helpful, data-led tool that organisations, agencies, and people can use to inform their work.

The Index consists of 3 domains and 12 pillars, built upon 53 actionable policy areas (elements), 255 indicators and covering 374 local authorities across all nations and regions of the UK. It is designed to benefit a wide range of users.

Specifically:

- Government and policymakers can use the Index to determine specific areas that require action to help drive increased prosperity in left-behind towns and regions;
- Local authority and regional leaders can use it to help shape their policy priorities, develop strategic relationships with neighbouring areas, and monitor their progress over time;
- National, regional, and local investors can use it to inform capital allocation and to identify emerging areas that have the key ingredients of prosperity, including strong investment environments that support and nourish local businesses and entrepreneurs;
- Business leaders can use it to identify and communicate the changes required to improve the business climate and the productive capacity of local authorities and regions;
- Philanthropists can use it to identify areas where they can have the greatest impact;
- Journalists and citizens can use it to hold national, regional, and local government to account;
- Academics and researchers can use it to complement their other datasets to analyse the underlying patterns behind economic and social issues, identify new research questions, build strategic partnerships with local case studies, and inform the broader policy, business, and philanthropic communities.

INTERPRETING THE INDEX

For every local authority in the UK, the Index uses the same indicators, and combines them in the same way to create what we call 'pillars'. We also draw on national-level data to present the overall picture of prosperity in the UK. It is a multi-level approach.

By using the Index at a local authority, one can compare the relative performance of each local authority for prosperity and for each of the 12 pillars of prosperity, such as Health, Education, and Social Capital, as well as the 53 elements within the pillars. The elements represent key policy areas, such as education, government integrity,

and mental health, to help facilitate more targeted action, identify areas of 'best practice', and to show where a fresh approach is required.

The higher the ranking, the stronger the performance of that local authority for the pillar or element, when compared with another authority lower down the rankings.

Furthermore, the Index provides data over a 10-year period, making it possible to see whether prosperity has been improving or deteriorating, and what is driving that change. This will enable areas of strength in a local authority to be built on and areas of weakness to be addressed. We will update the Index on an annual basis, allowing us to revise this picture over time.

APPLYING THE INDEX

The data in the Index and the analysis contained in the report can be used for a variety of purposes:

- Benchmarking performance against other authorities;
- In-depth analysis of prosperity at the local authority level;
- Understanding whether prosperity is improving or weakening over time, and why;
- Identifying the binding constraints to increasing prosperity and also 'levelling up';
- Informing new priorities for regional and local authority agendas.

Where a local authority is showing a strong or weak performance in a pillar, it is possible to drill down and identify what particular policy-related element is driving this trend. This will help inform the required policy action to strengthen performance.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

There are several tools available to aid analysis and interpretation of the UK Prosperity Index. Alongside this report, which provides a high-level analysis of the findings from local authorities, additional information is available via our website at www.li.com.

Local authority profiles. A 15-page profile, for each of the 374 local authorities in the selected regions, that provides more detailed pillar, element, and indicator information, including rankings and scores, and how these change over time.

Indicator scores. An Excel spreadsheet that contains the scores for all of the indicators for each year since 2012 at the local authority level. Using these scores, the user can carry out more in-depth analysis. Further information on how the scores for each indicator are calculated can be found in the Methodology section (see page 101).

Team members at the Legatum Institute are also available to engage and provide support to those interested in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by these materials. Please contact us directly at ukprosperity@li.com.

USING THE INDEX

Political leaders

This report provides national and local government with the ability to explore the performance of the nations, regions and local authorities across 12 pillars of prosperity. The Index and the data on which it is built provide a foundation on which more effective interventions and policies can be designed. It provides an unparalleled overview of how each area has been performing over time and relative to one another.

Policymakers

The Index and its accompanying resources allows policymakers to benchmark the performance of local authorities against other authorities across 12 pillars and 53 elements of prosperity, to create a more granular perspective of performance and identify what is holding back their development.

Each of the 53 elements has been designed to be a recognisable, discrete area of domestic policy, and is measured using a combination of indicators from a variety of public data sources. The indicators should be interpreted as a set of proxies for the underlying policy concept, and we would encourage policymakers to interpret their score and rank for an element as the trigger for more fundamental analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of its performance.

In addition to helping focus analysis, these materials also allow policymakers to develop diagnostic tools and identify potential options to consider, based on the performance of other authorities.

Philanthropists

The Index also identifies areas where philanthropists might want to contribute to improving levels of prosperity in the UK, working in partnership with local agencies. This might involve using the Index to identify areas where civil society can make a meaningful difference to people's lives, such as by contributing to the strengthening of social capital in particular local areas where it is fraying, or working in partnership with local authorities to try to boost the quality of local investment environments for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Investors and business leaders

The business community is well positioned to identify barriers to starting, operating, and growing business, and to demonstrate to local and national government the economic potential gained from reforms, such as lifting onerous regulation and reducing other barriers to improve the investment environment. Furthermore, business leaders and investors can contribute to infrastructure policy development by demonstrating the economic impact of investment in communications, transport, and energy projects.

Academics and researchers

For academics and researchers, our database of curated indicators is a unique resource, enabling comparison of trends and patterns across the past 10 years for much of the data. By providing a holistic dataset across many disciplines, it provides an opportunity to compare in a straightforward way the impact of disparate factors, such as how living conditions are related to education levels, or how levels of social tolerance are related to levels of institutional trust.

Journalists and civil society

The UK Prosperity Index is based on publicly available and verifiable data, which means it can be a powerful resource for those who want to hold up a mirror to those in power and society at large. Holding national and local leaders to account is a crucial role for both journalists and civil society. The institutional, economic, and social performance of a local authority is critical to its prosperity, and that of the country as a whole, and having non-government actors identifying weaknesses, as well as celebrating successes, can help spur on regional and local authority leaders. To do so well requires easy access to reliable data that can be represented in a digestible way.

THE PATHWAY TO TRANSFORMATION

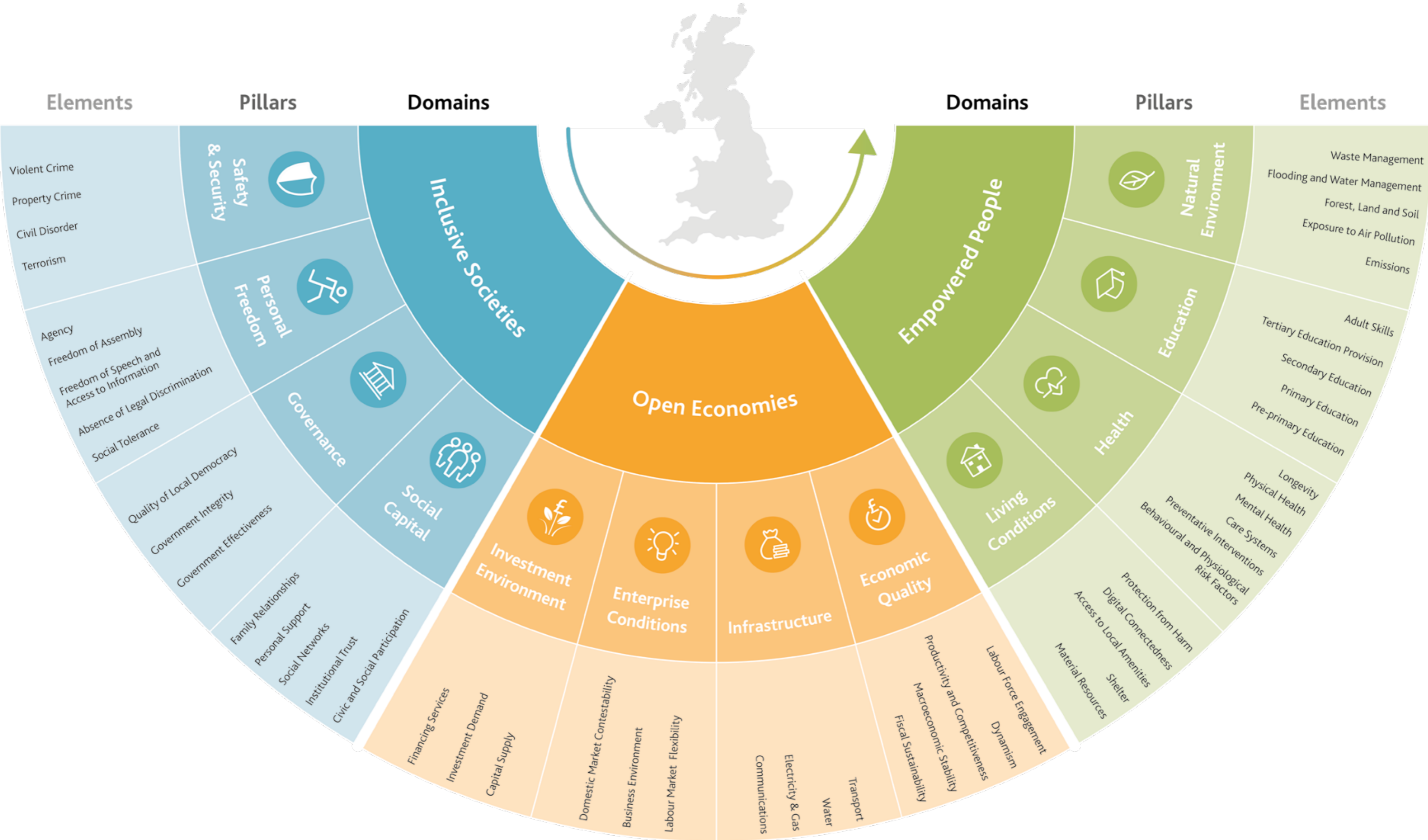
Transformation is a process, not an event. Intermediate benchmarks are helpful and effective, and the most obvious challenges facing a region, or a local authority, should be considered in the first instance. Understanding the specifics of each region and local authority's circumstances will be critical to determining sequencing and prioritisation. The Index provides a set of hypotheses to test. The issues of highest priority will likely be the elements that are performing relatively poorly, but are not necessarily the weakest performing elements, as creating the conditions to warrant improving the weakest performing elements may require improving some of the elements that are less weak first.

It is important to identify the most binding constraint to progress and use it to inform sequencing and prioritisation. To give a simplified example, a local authority may find itself with a weak environment for investment and low levels of dynamism. In such a situation, seeking to increase investment is unlikely to have much of an impact, as investors will be more attracted to investing in an area where there is already a large number of start-ups and new entrepreneurs. In such a circumstance, creating an environment that attracts new businesses and start-ups might make for a more impactful first step.

As all local authorities can improve both the economic and social wellbeing of their residents, clear opportunities exist for them to learn from each other. The Index identifies these opportunities for improvement, in addition to where other local authorities have been successful in addressing the same challenges. This can guide supplementary research to inform the ways in which successful strategies from one authority might be adapted to address weaknesses in another local authority.

The building blocks of prosperity

The domains, pillars, and elements of prosperity



Executive summary

SUMMARY

When the UK Prosperity Index was conceived in late 2019, the UK was looking towards a new decade with optimism. We had a new prime minister, the Brexit deal was finally sealed, and the government was setting itself the ambitious task of 'levelling up' the country. This was a moment of opportunity calling for visionary leadership to carry the country forwards into a new era. As we write this, Boris Johnson's leadership has been brought to an abrupt end. However, while the Johnson era is over, the levelling up mission remains critical. Names might change, and emphasis shift, but the Government will not be able to escape the economic, social and political imperative to boost prosperity and tackle ingrained inequalities that remain right across the UK.

By providing a greater understanding of the nature of the challenges and strengths of nations, regions and local authorities across the UK, this Index will be a vital tool in supporting the Government to take this agenda forward and will act as a yardstick for measuring success. In this respect, while it was created as a tool to hold the

government to account for the commitments in the manifesto to levelling up the country, it will remain a central tool for all current and future governments.

Three years on and this report shows that sadly we are declining in more areas than we are levelling up. We need a major step change to drive the levelling up agenda. The new administration must take the hard choices necessary to kickstart stagnating productivity and address widespread disparities, from healthcare to social capital. Furthermore, context specific strategies are needed that account for specific regional strengths and challenges across the UK.

Each sector of society must play its part. The Government must create an enabling environment for business. Power should be devolved to local authorities and civil society leaders must be empowered, inspired and released to help shift mindsets in regions that have been left behind for a generation. Some of these steps are laid out in the Levelling Up White Paper, but it is time to turn rhetoric into action.

DEFINING LEVELLING UP

Before considering the benefits and limitations of the Government's approach to measuring and conceptualising levelling up, it is first worth demonstrating the value of the UK Prosperity Index as a measure of levelling up.

We start with a definition of levelling up. A 'levelled-up' nation is one where all people can reach their potential no matter where they live or come from. This will be achieved when:

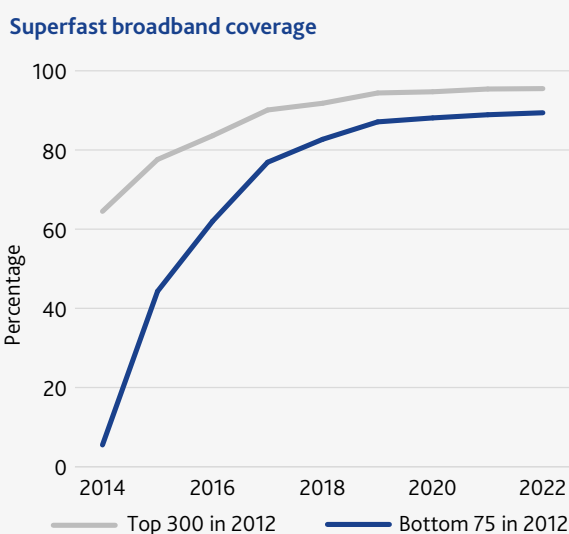
- Overall prosperity is rising;
- Prosperity is more evenly shared across the country; and
- Fewer people need to leave their community to succeed.

To measure this, we say there is levelling up when all three of the following are met for a pillar, element, or indicator:

- The UK average of a pillar, element or indicator has increased.
- The local authorities that were in the bottom 75 (20%) of a pillar, element, or indicator when we started measuring have since improved at a faster rate than the top 300.
- The gap between the top 300 and bottom 75 in 2022 of a pillar, element, or indicator is smaller than the gap between the top 300 and bottom 75 when we started measuring.

We have analysed this at a pillar and element level. We look at changes from 2012-2022.

An example of levelling up occurs in superfast broadband, where the average has increased, the lowest performing local authorities in 2014 have caught up to the top, and the gap between the top 300 and bottom 75 in 2022 is smaller than the top 300 and bottom 75 when we started measuring.



We also compare where the UK has improved overall but there has been no levelling up, and where the UK has declined overall.

THE UK PROSPERITY INDEX AS A YARDSTICK FOR LEVELLING UP

The Government's Levelling Up White Paper acknowledges that there is more to levelling up than just economic productivity. The white paper identifies six drivers of levelling up: physical capital, human capital, intangible capital, financial capital, social capital, and institutional capital.

This aligns closely with the Legatum Institute's approach to prosperity, as outlined in both this index and the Legatum Institute Prosperity Index™, and the Government should be commended for the holistic nature of its approach.

However, the white paper is limited in its elaboration of what each of the different 'capitals' mean. The Government is currently using 49 metrics to judge its progress across 12 missions. This does not go far enough. By focusing attention just on these metrics, the broader foundations of prosperity and the inequalities in prosperity across the UK will ultimately be ignored and the chances of meaningful progress on levelling up reduced.

In contrast, the Prosperity Index has provided a well-established and internationally recognised approach to the question of prosperity. Our approach elaborates the nature of prosperity by dividing it into three core domains (Inclusive Societies, Open Economies, and Empowered People), 12 pillars, 53 actionable policy areas (elements), and 255 indicators.

By looking at the Index, we can see that there are stark omissions in the Government's 12 missions, which are critical to levelling up. For example, the UK Prosperity Index highlights:

- Access to finance: in many parts of the UK, SMEs cannot or do not access the capital they need to finance growth. For example, on a per capita basis, SMEs in Liverpool City Region access loans worth less than half of those accessed by South West SMEs.
- Dynamism: a dynamic economy will be essential for levelling up, particularly the encouragement of innovation and new business growth. For example, Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland have just one-third of the new businesses per head of population as London.
- Family: this is a vital driver of outcomes. The government should recognise that improving the stability of families will allow children to succeed. The number of looked-after children in Scotland, Liverpool City Region, Wales and the North East is double that found in the greater South East.

Given the mantra within government that 'what gets measured gets done', the current limits to the number and range of metrics that will be considered as markers for success will limit the prospects of the levelling up agenda. We believe that the Government should use the UK Prosperity Index as a model for an improved approach to measurement.



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DECLINING NOT LEVELLING UP

When we consider the UKPI as a tool for assessing progress against levelling up, we can see why this approach is so desperately needed. For example:

- Three years into the current government and we have found that between 2012 and 2022, the UK has declined in more areas than it has levelled up. There is little evidence that the current government has made meaningful progress in reversing these trends.
- While 26 elements have improved overall, only 11 of the 53 elements have 'levelled up'.
- In contrast, 24 elements have declined overall. Four elements have seen decline and the bottom 75 getting worse faster than the top 300: Terrorism, Government Integrity, Business Environment, and Behavioural and Psychological Risk Factors.

Without this information, it is impossible to understand what needs to be done to level up the country. It is therefore unsurprising that so little progress has been made.

TIME FOR A MAJOR STEP-CHANGE

With levelling up evident in less than a quarter of the elements of the Prosperity Index, there is little sign so far that the Government is making significant progress in its levelling up mission.

There have naturally been mitigating factors for this. The Levelling Up White Paper consciously acknowledged that the 12 levelling up 'missions' that have been set out have a target of 2030, and it is therefore premature to make a judgement on the government's success at this stage. Furthermore, the coronavirus pandemic and cost-of-living crisis have provided a major setback and have understandably been the focus of government resource and attention.

However, realistically we need a major step change if the Government is to succeed in effecting change. This year is a critical one for the UK Government's levelling up agenda. As the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill comes into law and the white paper starts to be put into practice. This is the moment when key decisions about what levelling up will mean are decided and are put into operation. Rhetoric must be turned into action.

Five further steps are needed:

1. Inclusive societies: We must rebuild trust in institutions and restore social capital after the coronavirus pandemic
2. Open Economies: The Government must take the hard choices necessary to kickstart Britain's stagnating economy. Businesses must respond by investing in increasing productivity.
3. Empowered People: Government, communities and families must focus on helping people to lead healthier lives.
4. Levelling up strategies: We must move beyond the concept of one 'levelling up strategy' to context-specific 'levelling up strategies' that provide bespoke solutions for diverse regions.
5. Everyone has a role to play: We must recognise that everyone has a role if there is any hope of levelling up the country. The government must create an enabling environment for civil society, local authorities and businesses in left-behind regions.

INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES – RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

The UK Prosperity Index demonstrates two concerning themes in the Inclusive Society pillar. First, the last 10 years have seen declining trust in government and institutions, as well as the quality of local democracy. Alongside this, some of the key components of social capital are declining including personal support, social networks, and civic and social participation.

'Levelling up' versus declining performance: breakdown by element of the UK Prosperity Index			
	'Levelling up'	Static or improved but no evidence of 'levelling up'	Declining performance
Inclusive Societies	Civil Disorder Social Tolerance Family Relationships	Property Crime Government Effectiveness	Violent Crime Terrorism Quality of Local Democracy Personal Support Social Networks Institutional Trust Civic and Social Participation
Open Economies	Capital Supply Domestic Market Contestability Communications Labour Force Engagement	Water Transport Productivity and Competitiveness Macroeconomic Stability	Financing Services Investment Demand Business Environment Labour Market Flexibility Electricity & Gas Dynamism Fiscal Sustainability
Empowered People	Digital Connectedness Adult Skills Exposure to Air Pollution Waste Management	Shelter Longevity Pre-primary Education Primary Education Secondary Education Tertiary Education Emissions	Material Resources Access to Local Amenities Protection from Harm Behavioural and Physiological Risk Factors Preventative Interventions Care Systems Mental Health Physical Health Forest, Land and Soil Flooding and Water Management

Please note that the following elements have not been included in the analysis due to the fact they only include national level indicators or they do not change over time: Agency, Freedom of Assembly and Association, Freedom of Speech and Access to Information, Absence of Legal Discrimination, Government Integrity.

Declining Institutional Trust: The Brexit vote and the Conservative landslide in the red wall reflected the increasing agitation for change from people who feel left behind by the political system and alienated by metropolitan cultural trends. That trust in government and the quality of our institutions is still on a downwards curve should be a matter of genuine concern to the current government, who were elected on a mandate to level up the country. A failure to address these questions will continue to fuel populist politics of both left and right, socialist and nationalist. This is not only relevant in 'red wall' seats in northern England – if trust in government does not improve in Scotland, then the Union's future will come into question. Similar issues are playing out in Northern Ireland.

Understanding why people feel left behind and no longer represented by the political system is the central question that animates the levelling up agenda. Its answers must be found across all of the pillars of prosperity, including by releasing productivity in the economy (see 'Open Economies' below). Yet, there are clear steps which must be taken in the political domain. The Government have been right to identify devolving powers and strengthening our local authorities as a key part of the levelling up agenda. The principle of subsidiarity should be adopted, with the central government only performing the functions it needs to. Taking these steps will be essential if we are to see levelling up of the 'quality of local democracy' element in our index.

However, the declining trust in institutions is more deeply rooted than this. It will surprise no one, after this year of scandal and sleaze in Westminster, that there is growing disillusionment. The Legatum Institute exists to help equip and build leaders of character. It is vital that the virtues which have underpinned much of Britain's prosperity are restored in our leadership if trust in the credibility of our institutions is to be restored. The bedrock of the non-codified Westminster system is the assumption that leaders are public servants who uphold truthfulness and integrity for the public good.

Finally, there is the problem of representation of diverse viewpoints in a system that is London-centric and where there is increasingly a metropolitan progressive liberal dominance of cultural debate. Research this year by the Legatum Institute shows that in the academic sphere and media, there is growing self-censorship of heterodox views. Recent election results demonstrate that the majority outside of metropolitan contexts do not buy into this new cultural mainstream, and so there are important questions about how we can ensure that British institutions genuinely represent the diversity of views within the nation. The Higher Education Bill is a good example of legislation which sets out to do this. Businesses and media outlets should consider the opportunities to reach and cater for people who feel that our institutions have shut them out.

Social Capital: Another point of concern is declining civic and social participation, social networks and personal support. Prosperity relies on social capital, as the government rightly acknowledge in their levelling up white paper. Yet social capital cannot be restored by clever tax cuts or government diktat. In fact, we need to move back to an understanding that every sector of society has a role to play in building the prosperity of the nation if we are to see people properly empowered and social capital renewed. The Government must create an enabling environment that equips and releases leaders of

character in local communities, civil society and business around the country to help restore social networks and local participation.

The challenge has been heightened because of the coronavirus pandemic. While Covid brought people together in some ways, long periods of government-mandated isolation also pulled people apart. This is not a report on the merits of lockdowns, but the social damage done by mandating people to step out of social contexts and to settle into habits of online interactions has not been properly considered. Reigniting social networks, civic and social participation, must now be a policy priority. The prosperity of the nation depends on it.

Family: A strong family is the foundation of a strong society. While there has been some levelling up for the family element in the UKPI (through, for example, lower rates of teenage pregnancy), there are worrying signs. The number of looked after children is increasing. More worryingly, the rate of marriage is still declining, continuing a 50-year downward trend.

As we noted in last year's report, there is a large marriage gap: research from the Marriage Foundation shows 87% of those earning over £43,000 marry, while just 24% of those earning under £16,000 marry. It also shows that families with married parents are much more likely to stay together while the children are growing up, and that family breakdown is the single largest predictor of mental health problems for teenagers. Therefore, it is critical that government and society value and protect strong and resilient families.

OPEN ECONOMIES

The UK faces both short- and long-term economic crises that need urgent addressing. The short-term challenge is alleviating the cost-of-living crisis, which has been caused by three things. Firstly, there are higher energy and food prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Secondly, there is a broader supply side challenge as a result of the pandemic – many supply chains are still disrupted, causing shortages and driving up costs. Thirdly, part of the recent bout of inflation may have also been caused through expansionary monetary and fiscal policy instituted during the pandemic.

There are no easy solutions, but the government does need a long-term economic strategy that will improve productivity. The UK is in a particularly weak position because of low productivity growth since the global financial crisis, meaning real incomes are lower than they otherwise might have been. Annual UK productivity growth between 1997 and 2007 averaged 1.9%, but has averaged only 0.7% between 2009 and 2019 (ONS, International Comparisons of UK Productivity). Some of this is not specific to the UK: every G7 nation has experienced slower productivity growth after the financial crisis. But the UK has seen the second sharpest slowdown in productivity growth in the G7 (after the United States).

Improving productivity requires a broad strategy. One critical factor will be boosting private sector investment in productive industries. Part of the solution is about increasing business demand for capital. There are tax and regulatory policies that could make a difference, for example: removing the limit on businesses carrying forward losses from year to year, reforming business rates to be based on underlying land value, and finding a longer-term replacement for the super-deduction for plant and machinery

The UK also needs to increase the supply of investment. The government could encourage more research and development spending outside the South and East of England. It could also build on the work by the Bank of England to encourage more productive investment. The UK is home to vast amounts of capital, but not enough of this is being put into industries that will grow the UK economy. This would be win-win, as these returns tend to be higher over the long run for the investor while also benefitting UK firms and workers.

Overcoming the UK's lagging productivity requires long-term thinking and ambition. Businesses in the UK have faced a series of crises over the last 12 years that have led to significant uncertainty – the global financial crisis was followed by Brexit, which was followed by the pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis. Therefore, the government, more than anything else, must implement a strategy that gives businesses confidence and certainty over policy, allows them to invest in the skills and capital they need to become more productive, and reduces costs (including driving down energy prices).

EMPOWERED PEOPLE

Perhaps the greatest social challenge the UK is facing is building a healthy and resilient population. As we note in the following pages, one of the government's main goals is raising Healthy Life Expectancy by five years by 2035. Based on current trends this will not be achieved (see the following pages for a fuller discussion of these trends).

Following the pandemic, the government has rightly aimed to get waiting lists down and improve the performance of the NHS. However, a more efficient and effective NHS will only make a marginal difference.

Instead, it is the underlying behaviours, physical health and mental health of the British population that are most concerning and are the primary determinant of people's health outcomes. Confronting these will require more than just investment in the NHS – it will need to focus on people's lives before they interact with a hospital or a GP.

Tackling mental health will also require sustained and widespread efforts to confront some of the underlying causes of poor health. This is a major problem following the pandemic, especially for children and young adults. An NHS survey estimated that one in six English children had a mental disorder in 2021, compared to one in nine in 2017 (NHS Digital). Among those aged 17 to 23, 53% experienced a decline in mental health, while just 15% improved. More widely, mental health is often worse in more deprived places – for example, depression is highest in the North of England, and much lower in the South. We also need to ask hard questions about why UK children are unhappy – according to the OECD, just 20% of 15-year-olds report satisfaction with their life as a whole, the second lowest in the OECD (OECD Child Wellbeing portal). The role of family structure in children's mental health is important. Children in families with one parent are more likely to have behavioural or emotional problems than families with two parents (Marriage Foundation). The UK has a higher rate of family breakdown than other European countries. In 2018 21.6% of children were living with a lone parent, compared to the EU average of 16.7% (OECD Family Database).

There are some policies that government can implement to improve health. Public campaigns, more mental health services, and some controls on advertising all have their merits. But in a free society, improving behaviours and physical health will involve more than just the central government. It requires creative solutions from communities, businesses, local councils, and families. In mental health, longer-term solutions must deal with the root causes of anxiety, isolation and depression, rather than just dealing with symptoms.

These require honest conversations about how the pillars of prosperity are interconnected. This is particularly relevant in health. Among other things, health is affected by loneliness and employment prospects. Therefore, improving institutions, stronger families, building social capital, and providing better employment will also improve health. In other words, a holistic approach to prosperity will lead to healthier lives.

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FROM A 'LEVELLING UP STRATEGY' TO 'LEVELLING UP STRATEGIES'

A further challenge with levelling up is the question of what we are levelling up and for whom. The Legatum Institute UK Prosperity Index shows the breadth and complexity of the question. Assessing comparative prosperity by region and breaking down the country into 17 archetypes or clusters, we show that what is needed are levelling up strategies, not only one strategy. The challenge of levelling up rural Wales is totally different to the challenge in the industrial heartlands of Northern England. Our dataset allows for a more rigorous and analytical approach so that bespoke solutions can be found to tackle issues faced by people in different types of settlements and geographies.

In last year's report we introduced distinctive archetypes of prosperity. We found that much of the discussion in the levelling up debate focused on simplistic geographic distinctions such as 'north vs south', or 'red wall vs blue wall'. Without sufficient attention paid to the differences between regions, places can be lumped together that are very different. Furthermore, this can mean that policy neglects the patterns that cut across different regions.

The people of Blackpool have very different needs to the people of rural North Wales. Both groups are classified under our measures as being 'lower prosperity', but for different reasons.

In response to this reality, we created the 17 clusters, which are arranged into four main groups and listed below. Focusing on these clusters, rather than on individual areas, allows us to develop a more granular and nuanced view of prosperity in the UK. It also allows us to develop more specific policies for these places. Each cluster has strengths and weaknesses. For example, Coastal Towns have good living conditions and social capital, but weak health and high rates of unemployment. In contrast, the Industrial Heartlands have a relatively strong economy but weak institutions. Even within rural areas there are different challenges – rural England generally has good economic outcomes, while other rural areas, such as rural Wales, do not. And most rural areas do not have much crime, compared with many more urban areas such as London or Mid-sized Urban Hubs.

The five areas that are weakest in the country are the Post-industrial Urban Centres, Industrial Heartlands, Welsh Valleys, the Central Belt of Scotland, and Rural Wales. The Government should consider developing specific strategies for each of these.

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

This report lays out the scale of the challenge if the UK is to succeed in its levelling up mission. We have witnessed levelling up in under 20% of the elements of prosperity that this report monitors.

Of course, some of the responsibility for this must lie with the Government. The initial years of the levelling up strategy have clearly made little progress. To turn this around we believe that the Government must adopt a much more holistic measure of levelling up, based on the analysis proposed in this report.

However, it is also clear that success on levelling up will not just be driven by the government. In the Legatum Institute's work, *How Nations Succeed*, we identify the fact that countries which stagnate often do so because their people have become disempowered or dependent on the state. The same applies to many of the left-behind regions in the UK.

The Legatum Institute's mission is to create 'movements of people that will bring about the transformation of society'. Real change in less prosperous communities needs everyone to play their part – civil society leaders shaping local imaginations of what is possible, community institutions providing hubs and networks of support, local artists developing a local voice and culture, businesses providing job opportunities at home rather than in the metropolis. The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has the right instincts in this area, but empowering people will take more than devolution. With trust in politicians at a low ebb, we must find answers that draw in a wider range of stakeholders.

The UK Prosperity Index will be used to its full potential when policy makers, business leaders, local authorities and civil society leaders use it to fully understand the nature of the levelling up task, and then build the movements of people across all spheres of society to meet one of the most important public policy challenges of the generation.



Health and the UKPI

Health is an essential part of prosperity and has rightly been acknowledged as one of the central missions underpinning the Government’s approach to levelling up. The government, under Mission 7 in the Levelling Up White Paper, has said that by 2030 it aims to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy (HLE) between highest and lowest local areas. By 2035, it aims to raise HLE by five years.

Based on current trends, this will not be achieved, and HLE might even worsen in 15 years. According to the ONS, HLE declined for women between 2014-16 and 2017-19, while for men it has remained flat. As the tables show, there is almost 20 years’ difference in HLE between the Orkney Islands at 74.4 years, and Blackpool at 53.9 years. It also shows that there is a vast difference between southern England and elsewhere.

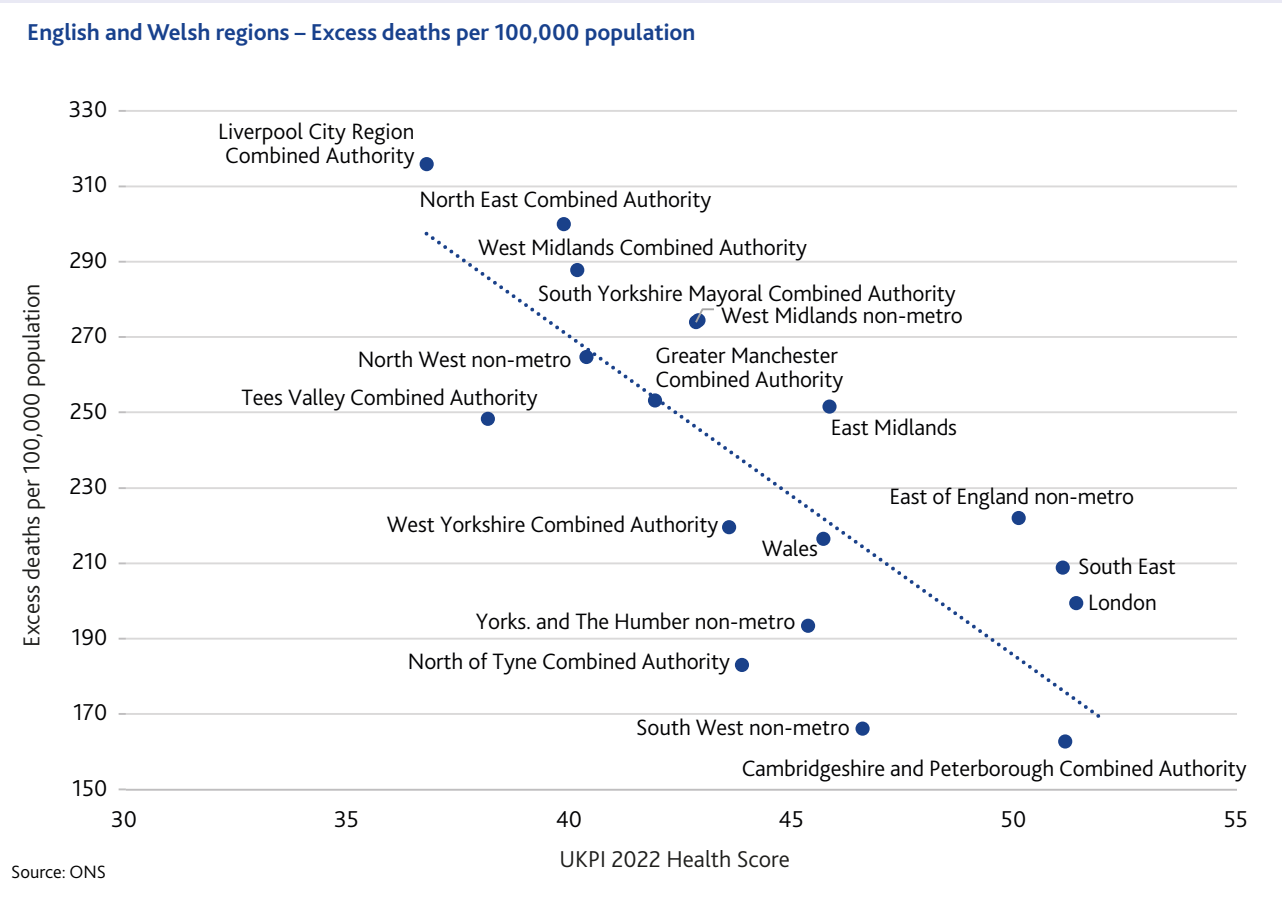
While HLE is a helpful topline measure of health, it says very little about the nature of the drivers and determinants of health and how the levelling up challenge in health can be met. That is why it is worrying that the Government has just four supporting metrics alongside HLE: smoking prevalence, obesity prevalence for adults and children, cancer diagnosis at stages 1 and 2, and under 75

mortality from cardiovascular diseases considered preventable. These measures, while useful, cannot capture the breadth of the challenge.

Our approach to health shows that, if the Government wants to improve HLE by 2030, it must have a more expansive view of what it measures. Unless the government begins capturing a broader set of health measures, it will fail in this levelling up mission.

Using the UK and Global Prosperity Indexes, we can see that the problem is extremely broad. At a global level, Health is the UK’s worst performing pillar, where it ranks 23rd in the OECD and 31st globally. The UK Index shows this picture is getting worse, with most indicators declining over 10 years. Within the UK, it is typically urban areas outside the south of England that have the worst HLE. The highest and lowest 20 are shown on the following page.

There are major consequences to this lack of health resiliency. As the graph shows below, those areas with poorer Health scores generally had a higher rate of excess deaths during the pandemic – worse health meant higher vulnerability. The least healthy area, Liverpool City Region CA, had almost twice the number of excess deaths as the healthiest areas.





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Local authorities with the highest HLE

Local Authority	Region	HLE
Orkney Islands	Scotland	74.4
Wokingham	South East	71.1
Rutland	East Midlands	70.7
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East	70.0
West Berkshire	South East	69.7
Richmond upon Thames	London	69.6
Kingston upon Thames	London	69.5
Monmouthshire	Wales	69.0
Elmbridge	South East	68.7
Epsom and Ewell	South East	68.7
Guildford	South East	68.7
Mole Valley	South East	68.7
Reigate and Banstead	South East	68.7
Runnymede	South East	68.7
Spelthorne	South East	68.7
Surrey Heath	South East	68.7
Tandridge	South East	68.7
Waverley	South East	68.7
Woking	South East	68.7
Kensington and Chelsea	London	68.7

Local authorities with the lowest HLE

Local Authority	Region	HLE
Blackpool	North West non-metro	53.9
Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands non-metro	55.5
North Ayrshire	Scotland	55.7
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yorks. and The Humber non-metro	55.9
North Lanarkshire	Scotland	56.0
Blaenau Gwent	Wales	56.1
North East Lincolnshire	Yorks. and The Humber non-metro	56.3
Sunderland	North East CA	56.5
Glasgow City	Scotland	56.7
Doncaster	South Yorkshire Mayoral CA	56.7
Caerphilly	Wales	56.9
Inverclyde	Scotland	56.9
Dundee City	Scotland	57.1
Nottingham	East Midlands	57.2
Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	57.3
Wakefield	West Yorkshire CA	57.4
Oldham	Greater Manchester CA	57.4
North Lincolnshire	Yorks. and The Humber non-metro	57.5
Rotherham	South Yorkshire Mayoral CA	57.6

The UK Prosperity Index shows four main areas of concern.

First, care systems are under strain. While the pandemic has exacerbated the strain on the NHS, NHS performance was declining long before the pandemic. This has not gone unnoticed, and much of the current health debate has focused on improving the performance of primary and secondary care. For example, the percentage of A&E attendances that are attended within four hours has fallen from 89.5% to 72.8%. Furthermore, the percentage of patients starting cancer treatment within 62 days of GP referral has fallen from 82.7% to 72.9%.

However, while there are significant challenges here, it is not the primary concern for levelling up. Areas which tend to have the worst health outcomes do not necessarily have the worst performing care systems. For example, Liverpool City CA, which had the highest number of excess deaths during the pandemic, has the fourth highest number of care home beds and the fifth best A&E performance. In other words, it is not the performance of the NHS that is driving health inequalities.

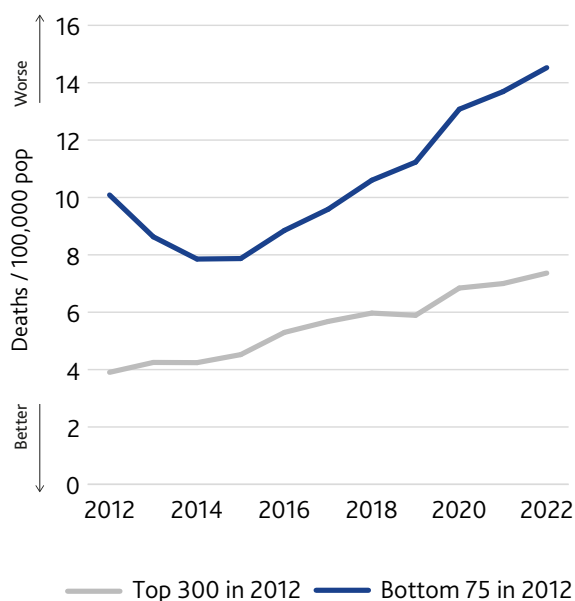
The second point of concern is that the UK is poor on behavioural and psychological risk factors. While some risk factors, such as smoking, are reducing, overall, the UK population is indulging in unhealthy behaviours. Chief amongst these is obesity – the percentage of adults who are obese is 27.8%, compared to the OECD rate of 23.2%, and this is growing. Furthermore, it is those areas that are generally less prosperous that perform worse. The worst performing regions are in the North of England and Scotland. For example, Tees Valley CA and the North East CA have the highest rates of obesity in the UK. Substance abuse disorders are the second highest in the OECD.

This element of health is particularly troublesome, as the UK is seeing a growth of behavioural and psychological risk factors, and those at the bottom are experiencing this increase faster. For example, deaths from drug use have increased from 5 deaths per 100,000 people to 9.0 deaths per 100,000 over 10 years. But even while this gap has widened, those areas with high drug use deaths have worsened faster than other areas.



Credit: shutterstock.com

Drug misuse mortality



Depression prevalence per region

Region	Depression prevalence
Scotland	7.5%
Wales	7.7%
London	8.8%
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CA	10.8%
East of England non-metro	11.4%
Northern Ireland	11.7%
Yorks. and The Humber non-metro	11.8%
West Midlands CA	11.9%
North of Tyne CA	12.4%
South West non-metro	12.6%
West of England CA	12.7%
West Yorkshire CA	12.8%
East Midlands	13.0%
South East	13.0%
South Yorkshire Mayoral CA	13.2%
West Midlands non-metro	14.1%
North East CA	14.2%
Greater Manchester CA	14.4%
Tees Valley CA	14.6%
North West non-metro	14.9%
Liverpool City Region CA	16.4%

The third area of concern is the decline of physical health. The UK has the OECD's second highest burden of non-communicable disease. The rate of disease – cancer, diabetes, respiratory conditions, and cardiovascular conditions – are all getting worse. Again, it is typically northern English areas that perform poorest here.

Fourthly, mental health is becoming worse. While we may not know the extent of it, the pandemic, and our response to it, has damaged our nation's mental health. However, the challenge existed before the pandemic – for example, the percentage of patients with depression has increased from 8.8% to 11.7% over eight years. Again, there is a clear link with broader measures of prosperity, as it is those areas that are generally less prosperous that perform worst. For example, the North East and North West have some of the worst mental health – for example, Liverpool City Region CA has a depression rate of 16.4%, twice that found in London.

The sum of these challenges implies that raising HLE involves much more than simply 'fixing' or 'funding' the NHS. A more efficient and better staffed NHS will improve health in the UK, but only at the margins. Investing in people's health before they interact with a hospital or GP will be one of the most important, and challenging, tasks the new administration can undertake. Furthermore, the challenge in mental health will continue to be massive, as mental health has a major impact on physical health and life expectancy.

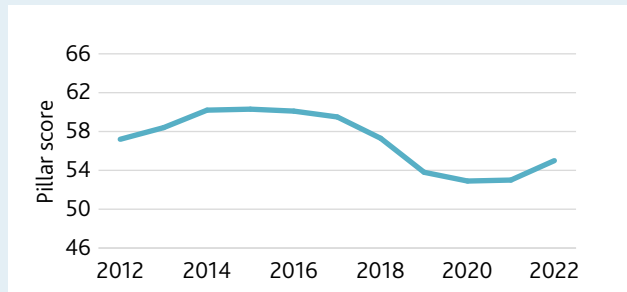
Nevertheless, the challenge will not stop with government. In a free society, people take care of their physical and mental health and have access to effective healthcare. The government cannot make people exercise more, eat more healthily, or tackle depression – that is our responsibility. But they can ensure that when support is needed it is there. Our nation's health is a matter for all parts of society – government, communities, businesses, and individuals.



The pillars at a glance



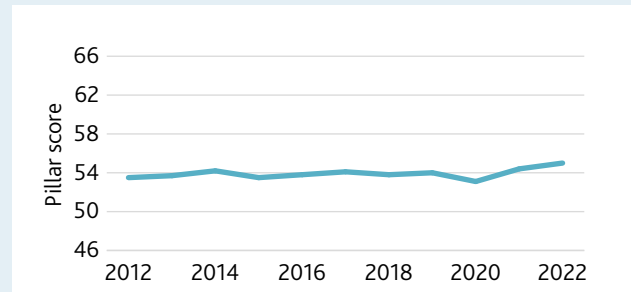
The **Safety and Security** pillar measures the degree to which violent crime, property crime, civil disorder, and terror have destabilised the security of individuals, both immediately and through longer lasting effects.



Safety & Security declined over 10 years as violent crime and terrorism worsened. For example, the rate of homicides has increased from 10.0 to 11.6 per 100,000 population. In contrast, property crime and civil disorder have improved over 10 years.



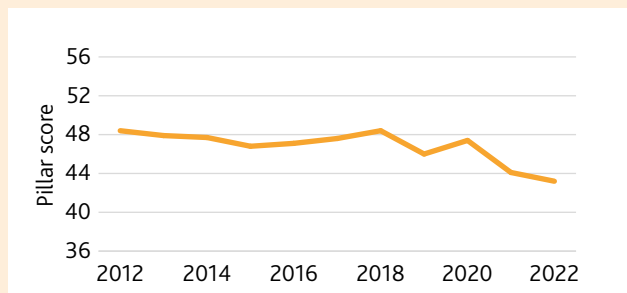
The **Personal Freedom** pillar measures progress towards basic legal rights, individual liberties, and social tolerance.



The recent improvement has been driven by better agency, with increasing satisfaction with freedom – for example, 87% say they are satisfied with freedom, compared to 80% four years earlier. Freedom of speech and access to information have declined, with press freedom worsening.



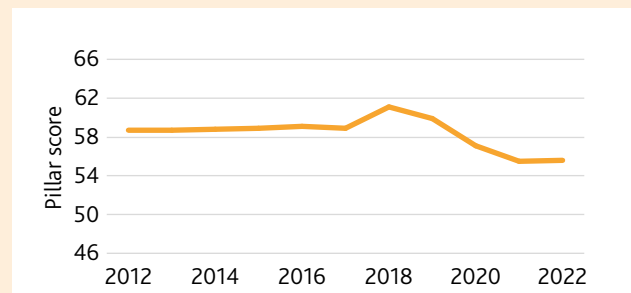
The **Investment Environment** pillar measures the extent to which investment capital is readily accessible and in demand.



Financing services and investment demand have both worsened, with, for example, the number of small businesses accessing financing declining from 21.6% to 12.9%. Capital supply has improved, with fewer projects delayed or cancelled due to financing, and venture capital increasing.



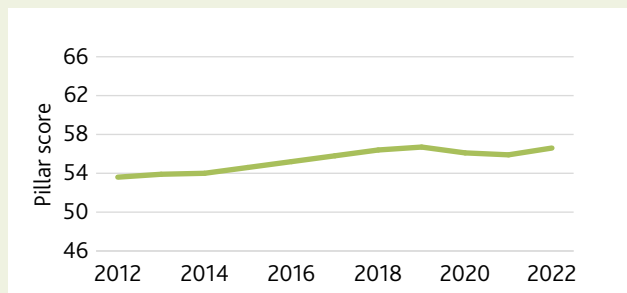
The **Enterprise Conditions** pillar measures the degree to which regulations enable businesses to start, compete, and expand.



Domestic market contestability has improved, due to less market concentration of firms and more public contracts being fulfilled by SMEs. Prior to the pandemic, labour market flexibility was worsening, with the percentage of firms saying recruitment was a barrier increasing.



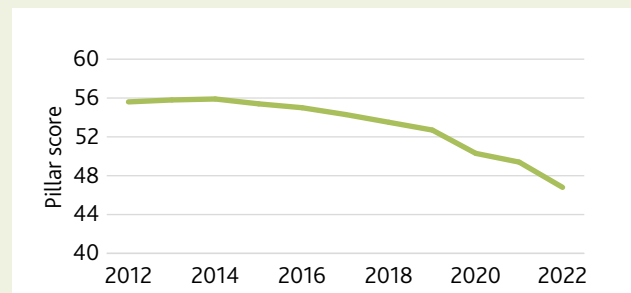
The **Living Conditions** pillar measures the quality of life experienced by people, including material resources, shelter, digital connectivity, access to local amenities, and protection from harm.



There has been improving digital connectedness, with the number of regular internet users increasing, as well as improving 4G and 3G coverage. The quality of housing has also improved – homes are more energy efficient and there is less hazardous housing.



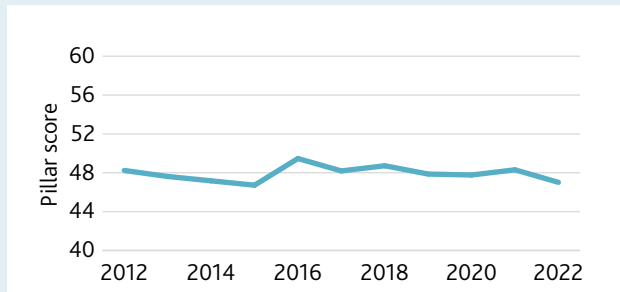
The **Health** pillar measures the extent to which people are healthy and have access to the necessary services to maintain good health. It includes health outcomes, health systems, illness and risk factors, and mortality rates.



While life expectancy has risen slightly over 10 years, all other measures of health are declining. Care systems, physical health, and mental health have deteriorated the most. For example, cancer prevalence has increased from 1.69% of patients to 3.17%.



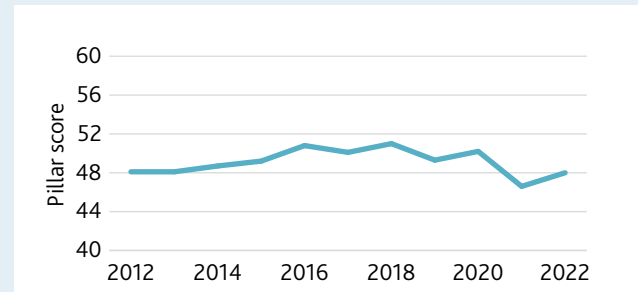
The **Governance** pillar measures the quality of local democracy, whether politicians are trusted, and effectiveness of local government services.



Government effectiveness has improved, thanks to improved planning timeliness by local councils and housing benefit efficiency. However, the quality of democracy has deteriorated, with local election turnout falling.



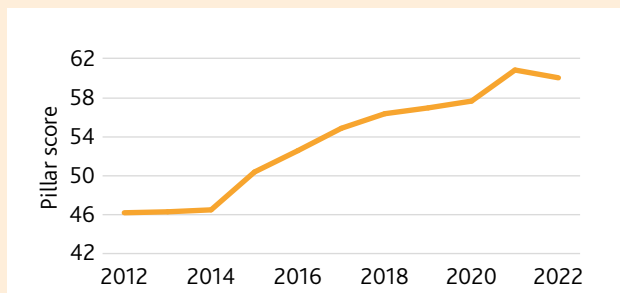
The **Social Capital** pillar measures the strength of family, personal and social relationships, institutional trust, and civic participation in a country.



In recent years, there has been a decline in trust in MPs and an increase in those feeling isolated. Family relationships have seen mixed results – for example, the number of underage pregnancies have reduced significantly, while the number of looked-after children has increased.



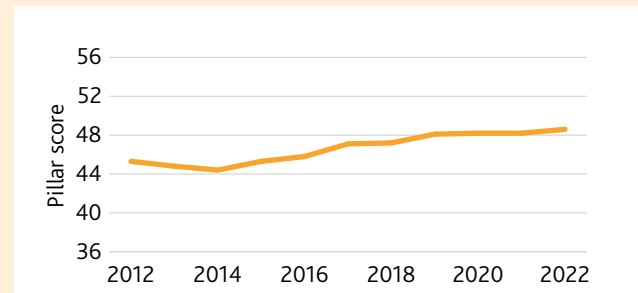
The **Infrastructure** pillar measures the quality of the infrastructure that enables commerce and business activity.



Communications has been the main reason for improvement, with superfast broadband available to 95% of properties, compared to less than 60% 8 years ago. Transport infrastructure has also improved, with the main reason being that road conditions have improved.



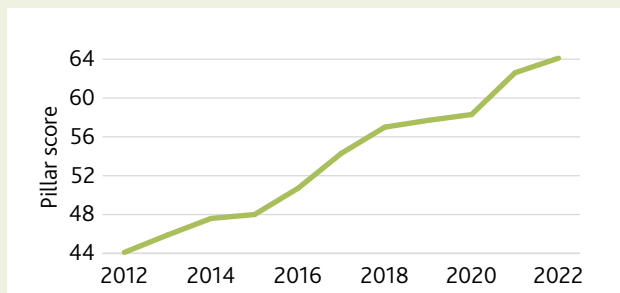
The **Economic Quality** pillar measures how well a local economy is equipped to generate wealth sustainably and with the full engagement of the workforce.



Over the decade, there have been improvements in labour force engagement, productivity and competitiveness, with the unemployment rate falling prior to the pandemic. However, the fiscal sustainability of councils has declined over the last 10 years.



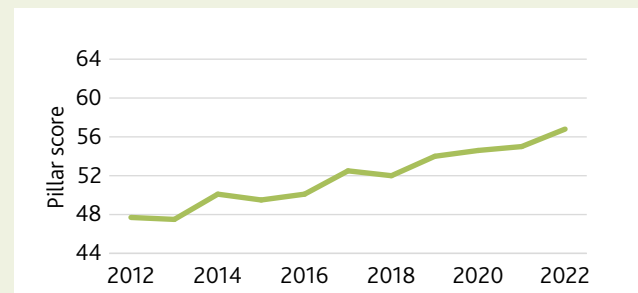
The **Education** pillar measures enrolment, outcomes, and quality across four stages of education (pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary education), as well as the skills in the adult population.



Primary and secondary education have improved the most, with the percentages of students meeting numerical and literacy standards rising. The level of adult skills has also risen, with the percentage of adults with level 2 and 4 qualifications rising each year.



The **Natural Environment** pillar measures the aspects of the physical environment that have a direct effect on people in their daily lives and changes that might impact the prosperity of future generations.

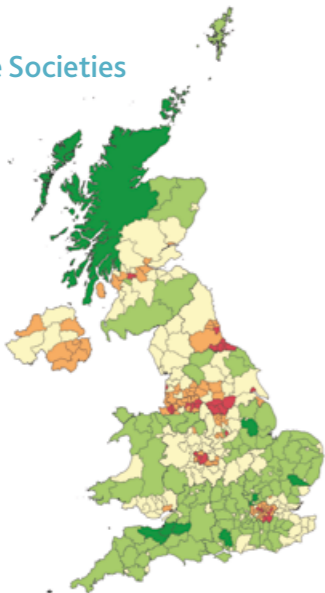


The improvement is due to reductions in emissions and improvements in air quality. For example, domestic CO₂ emissions per year have dropped from 2.3 tonnes per person to 1.4 tonnes. There has also been a slight in the waste produced and the proportion of waste being recycled has increased.

Mapping UK prosperity in 2022

Best Strong Moderate Weak Weakest

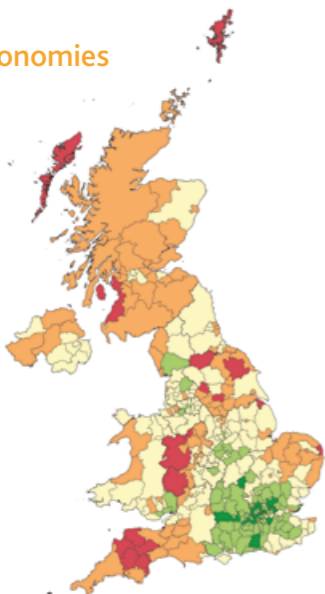
Inclusive Societies



Northumberland is the North East's most prosperous local authority, but only ranks 239th in the UK. Like the rest of the North East, it is particularly weak in Health (316th) and Social Capital (336th).

Mid Ulster (133rd) is the most prosperous local authority in Northern Ireland. Its main strengths lie in Safety and Security (7th) and Social Capital (20th).

Open Economies



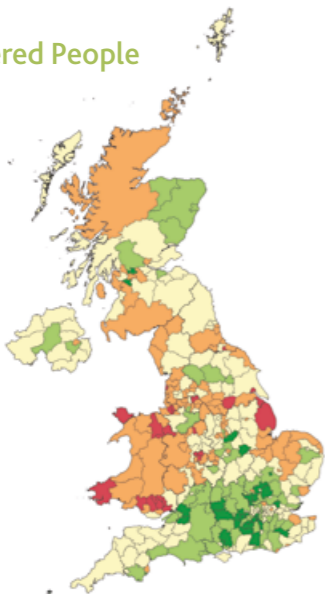
Blackpool (374th) is the UK's worst performing local authority, ranking in the bottom 50 for 9 out of 12 pillars. Its weakest pillars are Health (374th), Social Capital (371st), and Living Conditions (370th).

Tewkesbury (52nd) has the South West's best Living Conditions (3rd), with low rates of poverty, good shelter, and good digital connectedness.

Cardiff (232nd) is the most improved local authority in the UK. It has seen its best improvement in Education, Investment Environment, and Economic Quality.

Richmond-upon-Thames (10th) is London's most prosperous borough. It has the best Education (1st) in the UK, and also has strengths in Health (7th) and Infrastructure (13th).

Empowered People

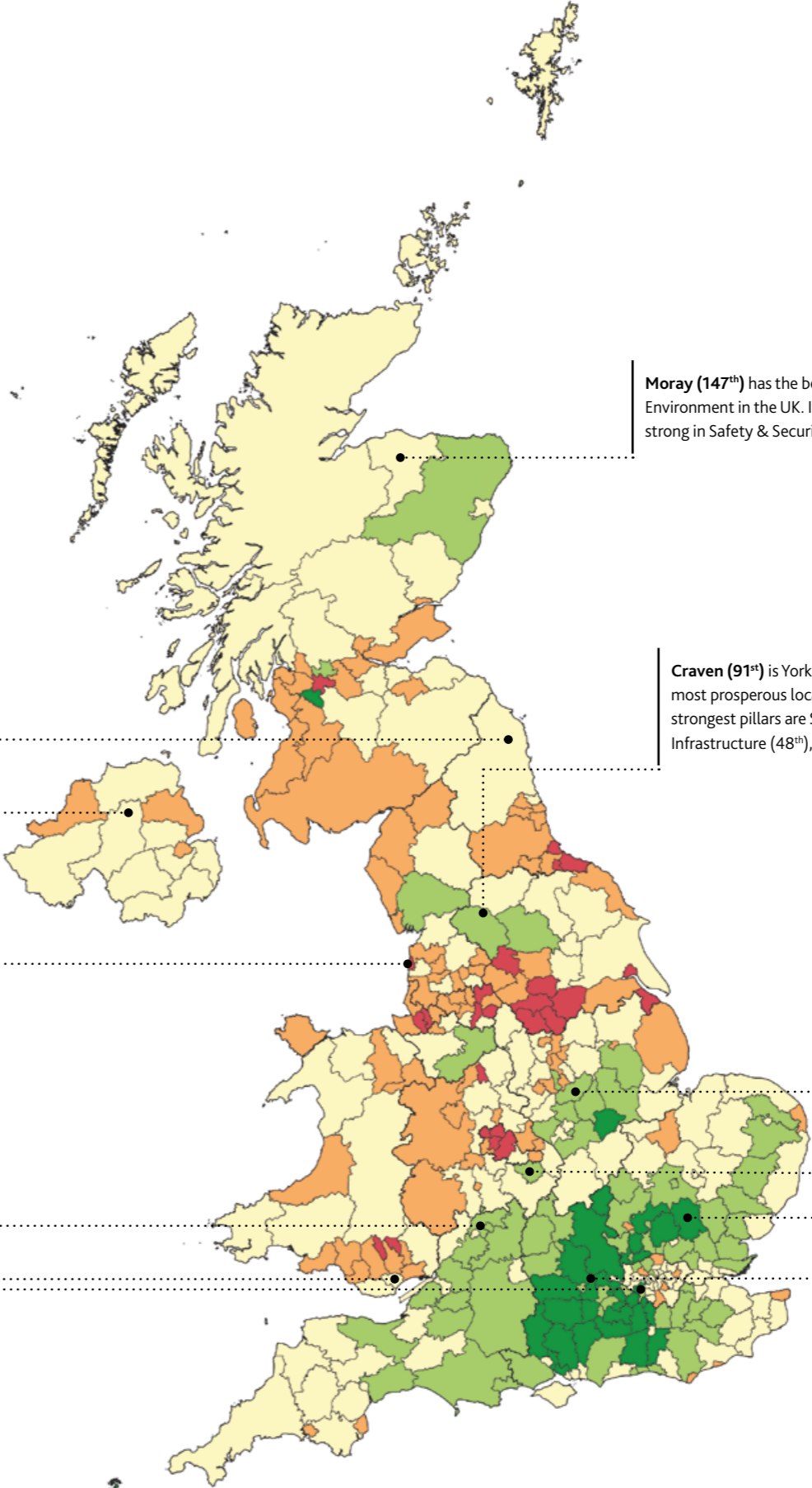


Rushcliffe (55th) has seen the greatest increase in Education (7th). It is also strong in Health (28th).

Warwick (69th) is the West Midlands' most prosperous local authority. Its strongest pillars are Education (36th), Economic Quality (47th), and Infrastructure (55th).

Uttlesford (23rd) has the UK's best Social Capital, with particularly strong Personal Support and Family Relationships.

Wokingham (1st) is again the UK's most prosperous local authority. It performs most strongly in Living Conditions (2nd), Health (6th), and Economic Quality (22nd).



























Moray (147th) has the best Natural Environment in the UK. It is also strong in Safety & Security (20th).

Craven (91st) is Yorkshire and the Humber's most prosperous local authority. Its strongest pillars are Safety & Security (38th), Infrastructure (48th), and Education (35th).

Rankings

Best Strong Moderate Weak Weakest













2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region	Rank											
					 Safety & Security	 Personal Freedom	 Governance	 Social Capital	 Investment Environment	 Enterprise Conditions	 Infrastructure	 Economic Quality	 Living Conditions	 Health	 Education	 Natural Environment
2	1	1	Wokingham	S East	46	77	54	48	64	65	88	22	2	6	27	81
9	3	2	St Albans	E Eng	149	113	3	2	181	228	10	59	10	4	13	140
4	5	3	Elmbridge	S East	64	141	21	67	111	255	64	10	17	1	16	178
33	7	4	Three Rivers	E Eng	138	113	8	6	157	257	20	56	38	19	15	106
24	4	5	Hart	S East	111	241	12	83	52	278	93	116	6	37	22	136
11	9	6	Winchester	S East	72	241	6	43	46	136	203	155	50	40	39	121
1	6	7	Waverley	S East	22	141	159	18	53	129	281	29	16	38	64	13
20	16	8	Woking	S East	113	141	27	68	90	302	68	16	15	35	69	131
3	10	9	Windsor and Maidenhead	S East	172	77	38	42	66	230	116	39	49	15	90	61
53	17	10	Richmond upon Thames	London	340	274	18	90	22	193	13	23	208	7	1	208
6	2	11	Epsom and Ewell	S East	67	141	22	80	136	344	71	15	27	50	66	54
26	8	12	West Berkshire	S East	87	77	97	78	65	152	177	31	41	20	116	71
32	11	13	Rutland	E Mid	26	66	39	75	143	3	212	298	101	56	20	129
10	32	14	Reigate and Banstead	S East	56	141	201	71	100	292	44	66	14	11	60	80
23	40	15	North Hertfordshire	E Eng	75	113	88	10	199	219	91	30	30	5	100	169
27	19	16	Hertsmere	E Eng	209	113	43	13	150	166	5	12	25	24	149	250
7	21	17	Guildford	S East	77	141	77	50	96	347	151	27	63	17	76	34
28	27	18	Horsham	S East	119	141	87	113	97	121	214	11	57	22	103	52
17	13	19	East Hertfordshire	E Eng	133	113	227	3	184	104	192	21	19	10	37	223
12	18	20	East Renfrewshire	Scot	10	211	91	142	248	210	73	350	97	23	4	16
18	28	21	South Oxfordshire	S East	79	77	55	70	60	138	213	62	40	14	179	180
38	36	22	Basingstoke and Deane	S East	102	241	19	81	94	263	183	67	11	75	107	85
46	15	23	Uttlesford	E Eng	176	52	65	1	156	117	179	32	22	60	57	270
45	37	24	Eastleigh	S East	74	241	84	121	79	289	98	45	7	74	55	141
30	22	25	Fareham	S East	35	241	9	114	78	293	65	109	5	150	106	207
5	12	26	Mole Valley	S East	48	141	79	28	103	237	140	19	68	63	159	74
42	43	27	Milton Keynes	S East	201	77	36	97	77	223	1	24	139	73	155	49
25	39	28	Runnymede	S East	120	141	158	87	81	314	87	9	26	43	88	202
21	26	29	Mid Sussex	S East	107	141	116	111	105	169	174	28	13	64	126	37
15	30	30	Buckinghamshire	S East	99	77	42	85	49	179	309	72	42	45	71	190
16	14	31	East Hampshire	S East	32	241	61	96	51	197	250	114	29	109	52	79
56	54	32	Test Valley	S East	97	241	23	132	58	229	199	58	18	51	127	217
19	29	33	Isles of Scilly	S West	5	338	62	4	250	279	322	55	21	2	273	24
29	33	34	Bracknell Forest	S East	145	77	170	169	117	337	99	53	8	21	80	42
40	20	35	Brentwood	E Eng	275	52	184	16	154	174	172	49	1	39	33	161
73	56	36	Tunbridge Wells	S East	142	90	115	89	106	92	224	119	95	67	43	41
55	23	37	Epping Forest	E Eng	291	52	142	23	146	100	59	25	47	32	94	99
37	38	38	Vale of White Horse	S East	59	77	192	64	89	241	252	108	39	8	74	279
66	42	39	South Cambridgeshire	Cam & Pet CA	95	173	58	14	182	341	159	26	33	18	68	328
35	46	40	Dacorum	E Eng	174	113	101	8	197	233	102	98	37	13	151	56
70	31	41	Watford	E Eng	250	113	182	11	128	365	2	13	78	58	45	103
8	34	42	Surrey Heath	S East	66	141	259	51	73	288	150	7	9	36	217	221
43	25	43	Harborough	E Mid	45	66	95	119	145	9	181	143	117	103	63	231
22	24	44	West Oxfordshire	S East	51	77	105	33	56	110	256	157	80	77	117	153
50	59	45	Rushmoor	S East	111	241	56	138	67	345	81	52	53	131	79	100
63	47	46	Welwyn Hatfield	E Eng	228	113	134	5	209	290	6	107	87	16	123	88
14	51	47	Tandridge	S East	60	141	243	63	95	123	122	186	82	31	122	152
48	41	48	Bath and North East Somerset	W Eng CA	90	19	138	39	301	32	278	244	20	30	61	67
36	67	49	New Forest	S East	82	241	64	104	69	209	265	87	65	149	65	184

					Rank												
																	
					Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment	
2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region													
52	45	50	South Gloucestershire	W Eng CA	70	19	257	72	309	177	110	81	4	59	104	59	
76	50	51	Cherwell	S East	137	77	108	86	55	225	209	91	107	48	139	205	
51	60	52	Tewkesbury	S West	54	19	125	99	290	156	246	84	3	91	73	182	
58	57	53	Central Bedfordshire	E Eng	180	113	37	25	210	320	58	101	35	33	209	197	
81	98	54	Maidstone	S East	221	90	76	91	101	167	173	122	71	102	85	230	
109	53	55	Rushcliffe	E Mid	106	281	270	137	185	178	62	168	69	28	7	302	
41	65	56	Stroud	S West	61	19	207	116	274	49	279	126	24	61	51	177	
89	64	57	Adur	S East	182	141	96	156	121	208	39	50	31	203	144	149	
39	48	58	Chelmsford	E Eng	279	52	223	12	153	180	135	64	54	47	83	144	
85	49	59	Rochford	E Eng	157	52	300	32	191	137	113	36	23	92	93	188	
57	35	60	Aberdeenshire	Scot	8	255	49	185	135	114	354	141	170	44	206	14	
115	73	61	City of London	London	374	268	216	166	1	59	358	1	158	34	2	365	
94	44	62	Charnwood	E Mid	122	66	47	144	206	98	76	140	86	68	152	296	
87	76	63	Sevenoaks	S East	218	90	173	37	74	134	215	88	104	55	212	114	
60	72	64	Cotswold	S West	83	19	211	93	227	20	273	128	89	110	78	134	
44	66	65	East Dunbartonshire	Scot	13	211	275	152	241	164	107	305	142	53	18	51	
88	84	66	Tonbridge and Malling	S East	191	90	112	65	99	331	134	80	51	127	135	246	
31	82	67	Cheshire East	N West	129	38	32	192	255	34	180	117	179	161	101	93	
64	75	68	North Somerset	S West	94	19	85	38	295	55	204	181	48	115	131	240	
47	55	69	Warwick	W Mid	204	199	102	183	298	115	55	47	169	93	36	162	
118	77	70	Broxbourne	E Eng	223	113	131	27	226	301	16	73	113	57	203	123	
69	101	71	Spelthorne	S East	154	141	313	76	127	325	56	79	28	49	86	314	
131	69	72	Babergh	E Eng	44	173	15	26	160	205	310	192	67	188	166	288	
104	115	73	Oxford	S East	246	77	11	118	82	358	129	354	43	27	222	170	
80	70	74	Braintree	E Eng	236	52	145	7	176	184	218	17	45	104	247	249	
143	90	75	Bedford	E Eng	273	113	14	69	165	203	72	102	75	184	244	175	
90	93	76	Worthing	S East	229	141	128	175	107	191	40	105	70	140	208	135	
155	74	77	Broxtowe	E Mid	109	281	75	222	237	21	22	206	96	101	82	350	
62	79	78	Wiltshire	S West	28	19	213	30	259	95	288	174	12	85	234	127	
78	68	79	Melton	E Mid	89	66	31	146	166	10	223	277	166	234	110	187	
13	62	80	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	S West	164	13	33	160	265	97	225	237	64	254	98	89	
137	96	81	Cambridge	Cam & Pet CA	268	173	148	22	222	373	78	118	90	12	77	101	
150	111	82	Brighton and Hove	S East	293	141	90	197	87	187	57	153	111	106	113	156	
75	61	83	Harrow	London	342	274	82	199	3	147	154	60	277	137	24	238	
71	87	84	Cheltenham	S West	203	19	195	100	264	122	188	151	36	69	109	196	
120	63	85	Colchester	E Eng	272	52	44	17	179	306	161	121	72	122	172	165	
34	83	86	Dorset	S West	80	13	51	110	275	68	319	250	94	206	153	46	
153	99	87	Dartford	S East	289	90	208	136	76	296	19	96	83	151	120	160	
135	108	88	Wealden	S East	76	141	157	130	84	154	293	267	60	128	130	183	
122	71	89	North Kesteven	E Mid	55	320	1	177	180	50	275	303	165	193	102	356	
220	149	90	Kingston upon Thames	London	344	327	281	193	29	282	125	54	231	3	9	220	
141	102	91	Craven	Yrk & Hum	38	191	174	170	359	40	48	149	177	145	35	215	
77	52	92	Hinckley and Bosworth	E Mid	88	66	209	195	175	31	139	183	77	167	114	269	
129	124	93	Reading	S East	267	77	70	189	72	369	166	18	98	156	87	297	
230	88	94	Broadland	E Eng	43	173	144	56	164	153	292	127	85	126	182	307	
145	103	95	Barnet	London	348	274	154	108	6	245	195	93	293	76	5	289	
110	100	96	South Kesteven	E Mid	128	320	13	117	167	23	271	201	116	274	92	342	
121	106	97	South Lakeland	N West	16	235	254	178	254	11	184	115	284	187	42	112	
125	94	98	Oadby and Wigston	E Mid	81	66	146	215	195	12	178	334	59	160	156	185	
61	160	99	Somerset West and Taunton	S West	96	13	10	34	261	37	343	327	122	226	219	145	
103	107	100	East Devon	S West	14	103	229	82	258	60	350	266	55	163	81	73	
264	92	101	Camden	London	363	268	256	262	4	144	120	2	283	78	30	244	
190	80	102	South Norfolk	E Eng	63	173	98	44	144	243	320	265	74	123	124	323	
119	81	103	Mid Suffolk	E Eng	29	173	69	47	126	270	317	210	91	139	223	330	
49	58	104	Chichester	S East	188	141	203	106	47	107	264	111	105	154	322	62	
82	97	105	Maldon	E Eng	190	52	99	9	158	238	303	175	44	162	233	232	
92	109	106	Mendip	S West	91	13	35	15	271	87	352	227	56	238	221	275	
99	133	107	Stevenage	E Eng	235	113	104	57	240	356	33	83	79	96	285	90	

Rank















2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region	Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment
128	95	108	Harrogate	Yrk & Hum	50	191	253	151	355	54	194	100	200	125	54	111
133	157	109	Gravesham	S East	289	90	120	145	109	172	111	193	115	113	205	172
117	129	110	Ashford	S East	217	90	123	128	92	176	245	158	61	244	279	66
245	125	111	Islington	London	367	165	78	299	7	145	114	5	335	86	46	331
215	159	112	Westminster	London	373	268	317	101	2	69	156	4	302	42	14	362
149	116	113	Huntingdonshire	Cam & Pet CA	151	173	279	49	177	304	167	82	81	70	178	329
112	85	114	Ribble Valley	N West	85	357	180	161	268	46	232	33	249	225	29	209
198	110	115	West Lindsey	E Mid	173	320	2	162	163	15	314	264	182	288	158	310
189	117	116	Hounslow	London	352	274	185	182	17	299	95	8	329	164	32	154
170	119	117	Crawley	S East	298	141	196	164	124	370	3	6	128	198	282	72
197	155	118	Havering	London	346	308	73	196	15	275	34	104	303	66	95	284
194	212	119	Dover	S East	213	90	130	122	125	234	222	145	140	232	154	211
72	91	120	Havant	S East	140	241	41	129	122	206	50	317	102	247	342	108
97	105	121	Castle Point	E Eng	222	52	265	40	211	240	96	180	88	133	241	96
65	86	122	Blaby	E Mid	86	66	263	143	193	52	83	345	73	141	289	92
277	137	123	Redbridge	London	349	308	183	202	12	260	24	94	282	130	19	321
74	181	124	Cheshire West and Chester	N West	130	38	68	217	302	119	239	92	226	199	132	115
107	122	125	South Hams	S West	17	103	251	55	238	43	365	240	138	299	28	167
240	138	126	Hammersmith and Fulham	London	366	268	152	198	13	258	132	20	349	62	6	355
91	130	127	South Somerset	S West	91	13	160	77	280	109	351	212	34	165	274	146
106	189	128	Argyll and Bute	Scot	3	7	72	179	202	39	369	347	275	285	171	27
101	141	129	East Cambridgeshire	Cam & Pet CA	136	173	136	24	141	363	244	89	109	88	237	352
139	123	130	Basildon	E Eng	322	52	190	35	155	222	23	46	66	182	343	150
166	169	131	Bristol, City of	W Eng CA	258	19	179	84	286	116	220	176	84	136	192	148
126	142	132	Sedgemoor	S West	91	13	34	60	282	73	326	252	114	258	295	228
123	190	133	Mid Ulster	N Ire	7	224	360	20	42	367	318	208	163	89	145	64
202	163	134	Bromley	London	343	327	343	173	20	249	63	76	238	29	25	206
68	78	135	Stratford-on-Avon	W Mid	202	199	197	158	278	45	248	70	211	129	67	311
102	132	136	Rugby	W Mid	230	199	106	210	317	214	61	113	205	147	47	286
217	104	137	Merton	London	347	327	295	232	24	259	79	35	266	46	31	282
54	128	138	Orkney Islands	Scot	2	7	289	131	130	16	373	160	353	41	344	199
269	121	139	Vale of Glamorgan	Wales	171	31	129	264	44	226	196	355	224	26	307	102
199	135	140	York	Yrk & Hum	69	191	156	291	366	85	12	253	176	99	97	163
156	222	141	Canterbury	S East	241	90	111	124	123	272	257	231	132	158	169	225
164	162	142	Na h-Eileanan Siar	Scot	1	7	28	135	266	90	374	320	334	205	200	76
86	143	143	Swindon	S West	131	19	246	148	304	231	234	120	32	170	193	171
79	172	144	Warrington	N West	181	38	230	273	287	140	14	43	197	211	89	324
96	131	145	Slough	S East	286	77	233	272	108	357	35	44	127	217	44	357
98	89	146	Derbyshire Dales	E Mid	104	281	163	212	137	1	359	315	192	215	56	287
83	147	147	Moray	Scot	20	7	318	147	169	112	345	332	195	97	248	1
176	178	148	Stirling	Scot	27	41	268	206	174	305	253	293	245	120	134	2
116	126	149	Arun	S East	219	141	221	155	115	132	227	136	93	209	266	261
208	127	150	Wandsworth	London	353	268	290	172	33	343	112	75	269	9	11	339
224	226	151	Medway	S East	276	90	231	150	118	213	89	162	92	172	207	313
162	146	152	Lewes	S East	169	141	118	94	113	311	229	247	58	289	283	97
158	152	153	City of Edinburgh	Scot	225	41	314	216	203	267	162	179	124	25	189	95
287	139	154	Hackney	London	371	165	150	307	5	78	211	3	363	168	34	325
95	140	155	Bromsgrove	W Mid	216	199	240	219	306	71	142	48	147	268	119	128
236	167	156	Hillingdon	London	350	274	132	191	9	266	45	86	326	180	59	281
180	184	157	Sutton	London	339	327	301	250	36	303	121	137	262	54	12	168
152	245	158	Folkestone and Hythe	S East	231	90	198	125	120	168	266	221	129	177	216	262
204	195	159	Isle of Wight	S East	103	241	16	267	93	133	360	195	155	271	294	94
263	114	160	Tower Hamlets	London	362	165	200	239	14	173	231	14	328	82	26	353
219	136	161	Thurrock	E Eng	312	52	67	95	192	351	41	97	76	185	226	347
130	176	162	Gosport	S East	147	241	25	133	131	265	202	358	52	304	319	75
134	173	163	Mid Devon	S West	14	103	175	88	249	67	368	283	110	157	240	125
108	112	164	North West Leicestershire	E Mid	101	66	249	187	189	47	176	144	135	210	249	322
105	174	165	Teignbridge	S West	17	103	219	73	350	76	348	251	108	159	210	126

					Rank											
																
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2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region												
177	156	166	Kensington and Chelsea	London	368	268	297	139	8	189	208	40	308	84	3	367
282	150	167	Monmouthshire	Wales	134	31	127	323	35	120	301	172	281	148	331	23
144	179	168	Trafford	Gtr Man CA	259	347	242	258	269	80	124	106	207	171	8	283
173	221	169	West Devon	S West	17	103	86	21	242	58	370	346	125	252	235	82
181	134	170	Gedling	E Mid	109	281	307	223	231	18	77	352	99	142	128	326
67	177	171	Forest of Dean	S West	57	19	117	126	273	44	356	294	62	204	252	255
151	118	172	Aberdeen City	Scot	224	255	176	312	151	324	296	165	167	65	163	26
203	185	173	Newark and Sherwood	E Mid	162	281	199	180	190	24	158	223	137	138	265	336
226	182	174	West Northamptonshire	E Mid	299	66	178	201	159	194	260	146	156	98	174	195
174	171	175	Richmondshire	Yrk & Hum	36	191	74	167	358	72	353	189	173	118	157	253
183	166	176	East Suffolk	E Eng	30	173	162	58	162	254	308	284	126	202	232	340
256	168	177	Ryedale	Yrk & Hum	39	191	109	208	344	207	330	256	232	90	48	280
201	158	178	Ealing	London	356	274	139	184	10	307	137	95	354	166	21	308
228	208	179	Portsmouth	S East	262	241	191	230	119	159	66	202	123	71	299	349
254	240	180	North Northamptonshire	E Mid	277	66	168	218	188	149	241	178	112	107	245	243
111	113	181	Scottish Borders	Scot	21	1	264	163	149	285	349	328	255	153	267	4
147	207	182	Highland	Scot	4	7	93	168	194	48	366	272	298	216	359	3
191	175	183	Eden	N West	23	235	280	194	223	19	361	71	310	298	53	113
237	120	184	Harlow	E Eng	332	52	316	46	168	328	11	57	46	181	276	222
235	205	185	East Riding of Yorkshire	Yrk & Hum	143	304	48	252	356	63	145	147	235	219	75	348
285	229	186	Southampton	S East	280	241	50	266	75	352	207	138	133	179	277	198
262	161	187	Powys	Wales	117	31	17	303	16	89	362	339	358	112	354	20
227	186	188	Rother	S East	178	141	187	115	114	182	289	324	121	281	228	263
221	165	189	North Norfolk	E Eng	42	173	66	54	152	135	331	325	159	276	301	298
59	154	190	Perth and Kinross	Scot	37	41	228	207	172	211	337	321	198	95	293	6
168	187	191	Lisburn and Castlereagh	N Ire	34	224	371	59	104	353	200	205	148	83	141	132
253	215	192	South Holland	E Mid	160	320	7	123	139	41	347	249	154	265	304	366
290	250	193	Breckland	E Eng	105	173	124	29	140	195	335	259	199	207	269	292
172	191	194	Southend-on-Sea	E Eng	316	52	202	140	183	280	262	199	118	227	84	242
178	183	195	West Suffolk	E Eng	78	173	89	92	161	298	287	255	131	231	300	345
114	193	196	Angus	Scot	114	41	327	205	142	204	321	344	185	79	213	10
211	151	197	Amber Valley	E Mid	198	281	225	247	201	13	323	279	183	190	118	216
167	170	198	Solihull	W Mid CA	309	340	165	286	325	262	9	90	239	87	62	264
140	241	199	Fermanagh and Omagh	N Ire	6	224	353	112	45	371	332	285	196	195	162	40
185	217	200	West Lothian	Scot	175	41	271	246	236	297	143	215	210	119	229	35
213	164	201	East Lothian	Scot	9	41	308	214	186	217	274	280	189	108	327	104
242	211	202	Ipswich	E Eng	245	173	149	120	147	350	141	234	136	240	278	130
159	261	203	Gloucester	S West	265	19	100	181	305	227	164	254	119	230	202	241
186	145	204	South Derbyshire	E Mid	156	281	291	237	198	51	340	156	106	248	96	293
283	200	205	Southwark	London	369	165	232	289	18	322	219	42	339	146	10	294
231	196	206	Cornwall	S West	33	338	119	74	257	26	346	329	190	223	258	233
187	259	207	Causeway Coast and Glens	N Ire	11	224	374	31	62	281	304	343	180	169	183	45
124	153	208	Lichfield	W Mid	98	257	323	265	297	83	128	213	236	155	70	193
84	180	209	Shetland Islands	Scot	12	7	236	103	132	181	372	359	242	52	323	155
251	251	210	Hambleton	Yrk & Hum	39	191	266	157	352	103	297	161	204	175	112	312
160	192	211	East Staffordshire	W Mid	132	257	107	226	291	124	268	225	203	173	195	267
200	214	212	Bexley	London	335	308	147	225	25	354	165	185	270	105	91	266
267	210	213	Flintshire	Wales	71	31	80	281	83	274	270	103	278	178	366	78
184	233	214	Exeter	S West	116	103	328	98	292	360	300	261	100	121	140	57
161	148	215	Chorley	N West	200	357	81	234	320	202	103	135	241	330	121	43
171	224	216	Ards and North Down	N Ire	58	224	372	41	102	339	206	258	168	143	177	116
175	252	217	Swale	S East	244	90	224	107	110	268	228	197	120	197	347	285
317	230	218	Peterborough	Cam & Pet CA	295	173	133	174	173	340	18	110	134	257	326	257
157	203	219	Staffordshire Moorlands	W Mid	65	257	20	275	308	82	313	232	267	321	137	251
195	198	220	Antrim and Newtownabbey	N Ire	100	224	366	36	80	368	175	262	157	134	175	174
315	218	221	Waltham Forest	London	354	308	121	284	32	312	49	173	324	81	41	370
196	258	222	Newry, Mourne and Down	N Ire	73	224	369	61	70	313	325	226	215	111	167	47

Rank



2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region	Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment
286	243	223	Bassetlaw	E Mid	192	281	286	149	170	14	201	288	145	263	190	363
165	197	224	South Staffordshire	W Mid	84	257	258	287	310	86	153	235	214	213	146	259
127	236	225	Torridge	S West	24	103	166	62	228	70	371	366	150	235	346	8
320	281	226	Conwy	Wales	118	126	29	304	43	162	311	351	356	124	363	29
93	199	227	Malvern Hills	W Mid	206	199	71	211	324	88	327	164	212	313	173	109
163	219	228	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	N Ire	144	224	370	66	61	329	298	263	143	116	188	98
146	209	229	North Devon	S West	24	103	247	45	245	79	367	287	141	269	284	201
206	293	230	Lancaster	N West	227	357	40	240	315	157	15	129	258	336	180	247
179	204	231	High Peak	E Mid	240	281	137	203	204	4	328	246	202	251	214	338
343	201	232	Cardiff	Wales	261	31	153	309	39	315	100	217	351	94	348	119
327	249	233	Haringey	London	372	165	220	263	23	252	149	134	348	100	38	341
154	213	234	Wychavon	W Mid	207	199	94	176	296	102	305	63	246	307	236	301
338	272	235	Newham	London	364	165	210	261	34	361	169	61	321	152	17	369
328	262	236	Gwynedd	Wales	53	126	83	308	48	146	339	365	317	186	360	7
247	235	237	Selby	Yrk & Hum	49	191	237	188	360	127	286	130	186	132	275	346
307	239	238	Carmarthenshire	Wales	141	126	63	221	38	161	342	335	367	200	358	5
193	216	239	Northumberland	N Tyne CA	186	218	234	336	200	160	191	292	220	316	168	17
229	292	240	South Lanarkshire	Scot	210	1	345	259	225	308	94	300	256	192	198	15
311	227	241	Pembrokeshire	Wales	159	126	26	276	27	61	336	276	345	255	367	53
132	247	242	Stockport	Gtr Man CA	249	347	303	241	284	53	84	167	257	196	136	151
270	206	243	North East Derbyshire	E Mid	163	281	347	295	216	5	341	203	160	277	115	137
182	237	244	Tamworth	W Mid	177	257	122	297	333	218	27	159	184	270	329	181
274	238	245	Lambeth	London	370	165	222	279	31	372	217	41	341	72	23	351
148	225	246	Fylde	N West	148	357	167	249	337	84	233	34	222	357	150	239
299	265	247	Norwich	E Eng	300	173	226	109	215	336	168	260	130	224	254	254
241	248	248	Rossendale	N West	247	357	273	235	318	81	237	37	209	334	50	274
293	257	249	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	E Eng	121	173	60	79	148	199	329	282	162	317	339	368
331	282	250	Greenwich	London	359	308	287	255	30	346	171	99	340	117	40	290
239	231	251	Redditch	W Mid	214	199	171	271	316	310	155	65	201	286	317	91
222	202	252	North Tyneside	N Tyne CA	234	218	276	333	246	364	69	170	175	229	105	191
138	280	253	Tendring	E Eng	281	52	238	19	220	125	242	281	103	245	352	303
288	263	254	Boston	E Mid	211	320	5	154	178	33	315	367	151	345	338	359
142	144	255	Stafford	W Mid	115	257	322	238	285	185	138	286	253	221	176	110
326	264	256	Leicester	E Mid	284	66	244	254	187	2	210	233	227	259	308	335
295	246	257	Ashfield	E Mid	205	281	274	257	239	96	43	229	174	249	328	252
209	291	258	Wyre Forest	W Mid	214	199	45	209	346	151	258	152	237	318	297	210
169	255	259	Mid and East Antrim	N Ire	168	224	364	53	91	362	269	322	191	176	165	143
265	254	260	Renfrewshire	Scot	183	211	326	282	262	316	75	230	234	189	259	18
351	288	261	Bridgend	Wales	161	126	126	356	54	236	251	218	279	228	357	50
232	223	262	East Lindsey	E Mid	194	320	4	153	134	7	334	341	248	361	336	364
316	283	263	Lewisham	London	365	165	113	290	37	342	130	196	357	80	58	371
212	188	264	Dumfries and Galloway	Scot	52	1	293	186	138	190	355	369	285	194	349	39
233	220	265	South Ayrshire	Scot	158	1	312	213	252	349	272	340	265	256	224	9
268	271	266	Carlisle	N West	139	235	177	288	289	94	294	131	332	362	253	21
272	260	267	Herefordshire, County of	W Mid	166	199	52	227	281	66	357	338	333	339	129	124
214	277	268	Luton	E Eng	306	113	245	159	207	374	17	69	146	282	296	295
238	194	269	Erewash	E Mid	220	281	282	277	221	8	247	275	188	246	305	305
250	244	270	Brent	London	357	274	354	200	11	321	226	51	344	144	49	332
309	316	271	Fenland	Cam & Pet CA	195	173	155	52	171	348	284	297	172	241	316	360
244	287	272	Derry City and Strabane	N Ire	239	224	362	127	86	250	285	245	268	233	196	63
273	242	273	Allerdale	N West	62	235	218	244	270	35	344	311	312	364	147	65
100	228	274	North Warwickshire	W Mid	238	199	277	220	288	158	105	150	178	303	310	272
113	232	275	West Lancashire	N West	179	357	269	256	294	170	108	74	187	342	306	120
318	269	276	Midlothian	Scot	125	41	339	242	244	287	243	224	181	135	353	32
279	256	277	Newcastle upon Tyne	N Tyne CA	285	218	235	361	205	335	30	269	287	214	204	19
339	297	278	Isle of Anglesey	Wales	31	126	46	357	50	200	333	323	372	218	362	58
188	298	279	Cannock Chase	W Mid	127	257	262	315	326	220	189	219	206	296	292	44
276	305	280	Preston	N West	269	357	193	270	335	113	85	139	300	340	170	60

					Rank											
																
2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region	Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment
300	289	281	Enfield	London	358	308	252	228	26	253	182	133	368	183	99	343
308	299	282	Mansfield	E Mid	237	281	304	278	232	27	67	342	153	220	341	299
136	234	283	South Ribble	N West	320	357	250	253	349	201	90	68	171	295	187	203
258	307	284	Thanet	S East	294	90	143	134	129	196	236	362	218	323	335	227
205	320	285	Falkirk	Scot	251	41	310	294	256	355	148	190	213	191	230	147
292	326	286	Inverclyde	Scot	150	211	141	314	299	295	146	306	319	325	264	36
313	279	287	Denbighshire	Wales	126	126	30	319	41	318	306	274	374	287	364	25
223	294	288	Wyre	N West	167	357	241	229	319	93	263	123	230	366	133	268
321	313	289	Leeds	W Yrk CA	323	315	204	300	362	77	31	166	274	212	201	219
261	253	290	Fife	Scot	153	41	338	236	243	334	267	313	223	237	246	30
249	285	291	Telford and Wrekin	W Mid	255	257	57	305	353	317	157	184	261	319	238	105
304	290	292	Croydon	London	360	327	365	233	21	221	80	200	318	114	72	265
306	274	293	Ceredigion	Wales	108	126	53	326	28	141	364	370	373	279	325	87
252	267	294	Newcastle-under-Lyme	W Mid	135	257	151	302	338	277	186	368	244	243	250	179
291	275	295	Lincoln	E Mid	314	320	24	171	235	212	118	348	193	360	324	260
218	302	296	Plymouth	S West	212	103	319	224	303	188	307	299	149	300	199	194
210	286	297	Nuneaton and Bedworth	W Mid	263	199	260	269	351	143	38	187	229	310	260	248
298	328	298	Kirklees	W Yrk CA	307	315	110	245	364	36	51	236	250	253	256	337
216	300	299	Pendle	N West	260	357	194	260	313	106	216	78	217	306	333	122
225	266	300	Gateshead	N East CA	254	218	340	359	229	91	47	270	221	343	138	86
257	284	301	Scarborough	Yrk & Hum	39	191	161	190	357	75	277	307	263	309	351	226
271	323	302	Calderdale	W Yrk CA	328	315	239	243	363	130	185	163	247	201	148	192
325	311	303	Belfast	N Ire	287	224	368	102	59	291	160	204	219	320	215	236
319	347	304	West Dunbartonshire	Scot	68	211	332	311	272	327	32	336	305	294	271	31
192	270	305	Bury	Gtr Man CA	278	347	305	306	263	17	254	194	292	272	160	186
352	268	306	Swansea	Wales	226	126	217	330	71	309	187	330	327	311	356	11
366	324	307	Torfaen	Wales	199	126	92	352	57	247	193	291	243	275	369	258
332	318	308	Wrexham	Wales	146	31	59	345	88	330	299	222	352	290	371	22
362	308	309	Caerphilly	Wales	197	126	255	324	63	246	197	188	299	267	368	117
255	309	310	Eastbourne	S East	266	141	278	141	116	300	282	371	164	365	313	70
207	304	311	Wirral	Liv CA	187	298	302	331	341	25	131	304	260	354	191	164
278	306	312	Hastings	S East	296	141	212	165	133	224	240	331	233	350	355	69
358	321	313	Newport	Wales	288	31	283	301	40	333	101	154	338	261	365	204
260	276	314	Worcester	W Mid	207	199	205	268	354	256	259	220	216	331	243	291
248	278	315	Shropshire	W Mid	152	257	214	280	293	165	363	289	304	283	185	245
314	330	316	North Lanarkshire	Scot	271	211	352	251	251	273	28	312	254	266	303	33
305	336	317	North Lincolnshire	Yrk & Hum	248	304	114	248	367	111	290	148	251	236	218	374
335	296	318	County Durham	N East CA	253	332	320	328	233	99	238	239	289	332	164	77
259	314	319	Wigan	Gtr Man CA	257	347	267	346	336	56	53	216	252	335	251	142
280	329	320	Bolton	Gtr Man CA	315	347	294	329	307	64	42	169	307	262	239	158
297	295	321	Copeland	N West	47	235	298	231	329	101	316	171	343	373	281	38
347	310	322	Derby	E Mid	313	281	315	335	224	28	205	191	194	305	270	327
349	312	323	Coventry	W Mid CA	329	340	206	338	348	232	7	132	330	284	194	278
360	351	324	Barking and Dagenham	London	361	308	335	318	19	244	123	207	342	264	111	317
281	303	325	South Tyneside	N East CA	243	218	296	354	253	251	60	357	320	302	220	139
234	301	326	Hyndburn	N West	297	357	248	293	342	183	119	124	240	356	261	159
340	319	327	East Ayrshire	Scot	124	1	361	296	219	264	255	361	309	301	345	12
289	273	328	Chesterfield	E Mid	256	281	358	285	212	150	302	290	228	315	125	256
275	327	329	Stockton-on-Tees	Ts V CA	325	332	329	368	230	118	70	241	286	273	108	271
243	322	330	Sefton	Liv CA	196	298	324	334	345	62	86	273	276	346	186	319
284	348	331	Burnley	N West	330	357	188	274	323	131	136	38	295	367	334	84
333	350	332	Great Yarmouth	E Eng	242	173	321	105	196	216	291	374	144	326	318	334
310	337	333	Barrow-in-Furness	N West	123	235	337	204	343	74	312	142	225	372	314	200
355	342	334	Clackmannanshire	Scot	165	41	342	292	260	284	283	310	331	174	320	214
246	332	335	Halton	N West	232	298	336	339	334	163	25	85	322	341	321	229
323	317	336	Bolsover	E Mid	189	281	285	298	234	286	324	271	152	293	302	372
365	315	337	Neath Port Talbot	Wales	193	126	140	322	85	235	198	238	359	278	372	344
359	349	338	Salford	Gtr Man CA	317	347	333	349	279	57	82	77	313	292	286	213

Rank



2012 rank	2021 rank	2022 rank	Area	Region	Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment
301	355	339	Oldham	Gtr Man CA	321	347	299	344	312	38	115	177	306	324	268	118
370	335	340	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Wales	184	126	172	366	98	326	261	337	288	242	370	107
367	352	341	Nottingham	E Mid	274	281	355	347	214	30	127	308	264	280	263	318
302	343	342	Dundee City	Scot	327	41	349	310	213	323	133	372	316	239	197	48
294	334	343	Blackburn with Darwen	N West	303	357	164	316	321	276	249	209	323	371	143	166
312	333	344	Dudley	W Mid CA	305	340	169	317	331	215	52	333	325	260	337	300
296	340	345	St. Helens	Liv CA	264	298	288	342	327	261	29	257	273	347	272	333
266	339	346	Torbay	S West	155	103	325	283	347	192	338	373	161	358	231	273
303	325	347	North Ayrshire	Scot	170	1	367	321	276	283	295	363	311	308	315	28
345	338	348	Darlington	Ts V CA	282	332	331	350	208	366	46	301	271	348	142	237
324	331	349	Sunderland	N East CA	283	218	330	370	277	359	37	243	291	314	225	83
342	345	350	Birmingham	W Mid CA	345	340	292	313	314	108	26	214	362	352	181	309
368	346	351	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	184	126	103	367	68	269	230	360	337	333	374	68
341	341	352	Rochdale	Gtr Man CA	318	347	261	340	311	29	144	211	355	355	312	157
353	365	353	Wakefield	W Yrk CA	301	315	284	332	371	319	106	242	259	312	262	276
348	357	354	Glasgow City	Scot	337	211	373	320	218	198	74	295	280	222	332	55
361	356	355	Manchester	Gtr Man CA	351	347	357	337	283	22	163	112	364	327	211	138
322	344	356	Walsall	W Mid CA	324	340	272	325	332	186	36	278	347	349	280	315
336	361	357	Tameside	Gtr Man CA	304	347	350	363	322	42	152	248	301	322	242	224
373	353	358	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	233	126	135	351	112	338	276	268	369	291	373	176
329	363	359	Bradford	W Yrk CA	333	315	186	343	368	175	190	302	296	329	311	218
346	360	360	Stoke-on-Trent	W Mid	270	257	181	365	300	248	235	318	346	368	330	235
364	366	361	Barnsley	S Yrk CA	310	371	351	348	370	155	92	198	272	250	298	173
344	354	362	Redcar and Cleveland	Ts V CA	319	332	309	369	267	139	117	364	290	370	161	316
357	358	363	Sheffield	S Yrk CA	308	371	359	341	369	105	126	314	314	208	257	133
363	371	364	Rotherham	S Yrk CA	292	371	311	364	373	126	109	326	297	337	227	212
334	362	365	Liverpool	Liv CA	311	298	344	360	330	142	170	228	336	369	291	234
356	364	366	Sandwell	W Mid CA	331	340	341	355	328	171	8	182	350	328	340	354
350	369	367	Wolverhampton	W Mid CA	334	340	334	327	340	271	21	296	371	338	255	304
337	368	368	North East Lincolnshire	Yrk & Hum	302	304	189	362	374	239	221	356	315	297	288	373
354	359	369	Hartlepool	Ts V CA	341	332	348	372	247	128	97	316	360	363	184	320
330	367	370	Knowsley	Liv CA	252	298	363	353	339	294	54	125	365	353	361	277
374	370	371	Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yrk & Hum	336	304	215	373	372	242	4	319	366	351	287	361
371	373	372	Middlesbrough	Ts V CA	355	332	306	374	217	332	104	353	361	359	309	189
372	372	373	Doncaster	S Yrk CA	326	371	356	358	365	148	147	309	294	344	290	358
369	374	374	Blackpool	N West	338	357	346	371	361	6	280	349	370	374	350	306

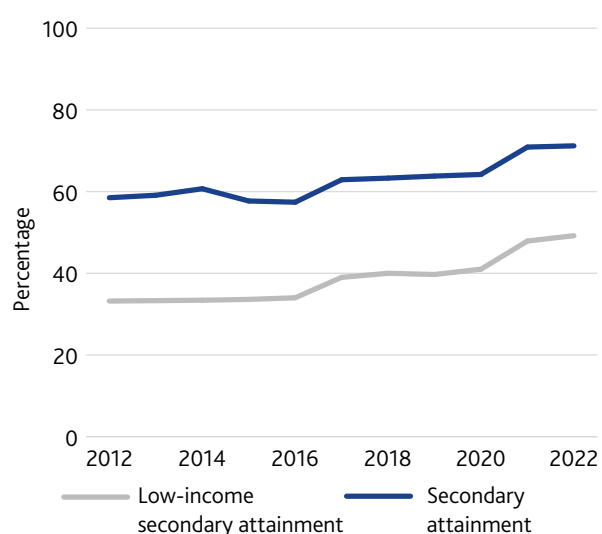
UK strengths and improvements

The UK is one of the most prosperous countries in the world, with strong foundational aspects of prosperity and improvements in a number of key pillars over the last decade. The UK ranks 13th in the Global Prosperity Index. The UK's performance is driven by strengths in its Investment Environment, with strong investor protection frameworks, and few restrictions to international investment, while also having some of the best communications and transport infrastructure in the world. These strengths make the UK one of the best places in the world to do business and are a strong foundation for future prosperity.

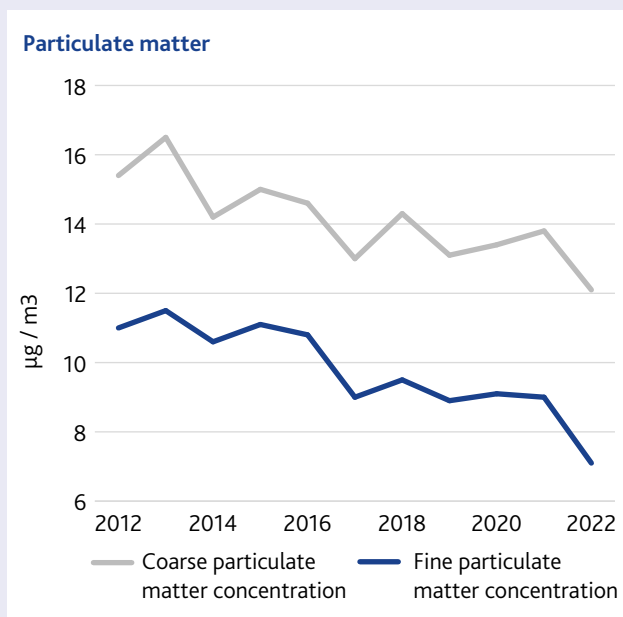
During the last two years the pandemic has made data collection and analysis difficult, meaning it is not possible to yet work out the full effects of the pandemic on prosperity. It is, therefore, important to consider any recent changes with caution. However, over the longer term, there are positive signs of improvement across many key aspects of prosperity. The three largest improvements have been:

Education and adult skills: For example, secondary attainment of English and maths level 2 has risen from 58% to 71%, and low-income attainment has risen from 33% to 49% over 10 years. This has flowed through to the level of skills within the adult population – 42% of adults now have level 4 qualifications or above, up from 31%.

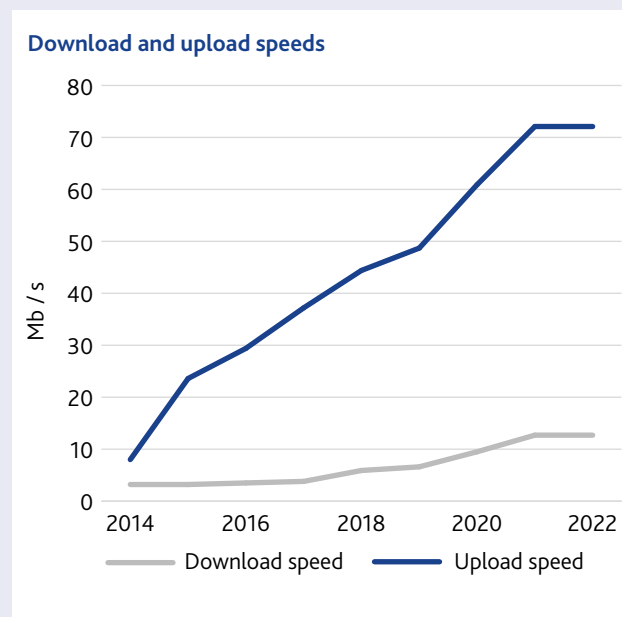
Secondary attainment



Emissions and air quality: Emissions have been falling in absolute terms across the UK. Emissions from domestic energy use have fallen from 2.4 tonnes per person to 1.4 over 10 years. Air quality has also improved. Fine particulate matter has fallen from 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 7.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ over 10 years.



Communications and digital connectedness: Communications infrastructure and digital connectedness continues to improve. More than 90% of the country has access to superfast broadband, up from 60% eight years before. Download speeds are on average 72 Mb/s, which is better than the highest performing local authority in 2014 (46 Mb/s). There is also increased access to 4G networks.



Acknowledgements

The United Kingdom Prosperity Index Team

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Unless otherwise stated, all data is from the 2022 United Kingdom Prosperity Index.

All original data sources can be found in the methodology report and online at www.li.com.

We encourage you to share the contents of this document. In so doing, we request that all data, findings, and analysis be attributed to the 2022 United Kingdom Prosperity Index.

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The Legatum Institute is a London-based think-tank with a bold vision to create a global movement of people committed to creating the pathways from poverty to prosperity and the transformation of society. We seek to fulfil our mission by raising up leaders of character, restoring an ethical vitality to all sectors of society, and developing the practical solutions and data tools that will help build inclusive and peaceful societies with open economies and empowered people. Our Centre for Metrics creates indexes and datasets to measure and explain how poverty and prosperity are changing. Our Research Programmes analyse the many complex drivers of poverty and prosperity at the local, national and global level. Our Practical Programmes identify the actions required to enable transformational change. For more information about the United Kingdom Prosperity Index or to speak to one of the Legatum Institute's experts, please email info@li.com.



CREATING THE PATHWAYS FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY

PROSPERITY INDEX

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