

Commission into Prosperity and Community Placemaking: Call for Evidence August 2020

Reporting in summer 2021, the Create Streets Foundation's *No Place Left Behind Commission into Prosperity and Community Placemaking* will generate new ideas to help "level up" England as part of the country's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Our Call for Evidence is open until **Monday 2nd November 2020**, and we invite and encourage responses from all who feel they have a stake in what the "levelling up" agenda should mean on the ground for communities.

No Place Left Behind will recommend changes to policy and practice to improve the quality of people's surroundings and of lives lived in England's poorer communities: places which have been called "left behind", places where local people feel their environment has been neglected, places which struggle to attract interest from investors, or places which are simply unable to make the most of their buildings, streets and natural spaces right now. We believe these places have been under-valued for too long.

We will develop new ideas to support community-led regeneration in these neighbourhoods, with a strong focus on approaches which allow communities to define and drive improvement for themselves as part of the government's "levelling up" agenda. This includes community-led housing, community-led business, transfers of assets to community ownership and co-operative action to maintain and improve green and blue spaces, amongst many other approaches.

We are interested in the experiences of people living or working in neighbourhoods that have a distinct identity but feel they are in decline, or are suffering neglect from more affluent parts of the country. We want to know about the opportunities these neighbourhoods provide for the people living and working in them and what would make life better. We want to know about past and current projects to improve life in these neighbourhoods - what has worked well, what hasn't, and what future projects and programmes need to do to succeed in getting a fairer and better deal for left behind places.

We particularly want to hear from, for example:

- People who live or work in a left-behind place;
- Local government officials and politicians;
- Businesses and private investors;
- Community-led business owners, staff and users;
- People with experience of community and resident-led activity;
- Third sector representatives;
- Central government officials and politicians; and
- People with experience of working with any of these groups, or others, to improve local life.

Our questions cover a range of topics of interest to different groups. Please do not feel obliged to answer all questions. As appropriate your answer can reference your personal or professional experience in one place, or your observations across a range of places. We will use the evidence you share with us to shape our understanding of the challenges left behind places face and the opportunities that exist to overcome these. We will publish our findings in an interim report in January 2021, followed by a final report giving the Commission's recommendations for moving forward in summer 2021.

We would be grateful to receive responses by Monday 2nd November 2020.

About the Commission

The Create Streets Foundation's *No Place Left Behind Commission into Prosperity and Community Placemaking* is led by 15 expert Commissioners and delivered in partnership with Power to Change, Local Trust, Karbon Homes and the Legatum Institute. It is chaired by Toby Lloyd, the former head of policy at Shelter and former housing advisor to the Prime Minister. You can read more about the Commission's work at: <http://www.createstreetsfoundation.org.uk/no-place-left-behind/>

We use the term "left behind" in our initial work despite some misgivings, as this term has significant currency in public debate about these places and amongst many people living and working in them. *No Place Left Behind* will explore alternative ways of thinking and talking about so-called "left behind" places as part of our work over the next year.

Questionnaire

About you

Name	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Role in organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Post code – <i>please include</i>	
Email address	

We would be grateful if you could provide us with at least the first four characters of your postcode so that we can map responses, e.g. PR02

1. Would you like us to anonymise your evidence if quoting it in our reports and other public work? This means we would remove any information which could possibly identify you.

Yes

No

2. Please briefly tell us about your experience and why you are responding to this consultation. Please include the places or types of place you have experience in, with postcodes where possible to allow us to map responses.

People who live or work in a left-behind place

3. Do you live or work in the community?

Live in the community	
Work in the community	
Live and work in the community	

4. How long have you lived or worked in the neighbourhood?

Less than 12 months		5 years but less than 10 years	
More than 12 months but less than 2 years		10 years but less than 20 years	
2 years but less than 3 years		20 years or longer	
3 years but less than 5 years		Don't know	

5. What is the **best thing** about living or working in the neighbourhood?
6. What is the **worst thing** about living or working in the neighbourhood?
7. What would make the **biggest difference** to improve life in the neighbourhood?

Places

8. What does being “left-behind” mean for different places? Do some types of left-behind place face tougher challenges than others? Why?
9. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** action to improve left-behind places?
10. Why do some attempts to improve left-behind neighbourhoods fail? Why do others succeed?

People

11. What does being “left-behind” mean for different people in different places? Do some people have fewer opportunities to improve their lives and communities than others? Why?
12. How do the challenges and opportunities that people have in left-behind neighbourhoods differ from those in other, more prosperous neighbourhoods? How does this affect people’s lives?
13. How does the **physical and natural environment** support, or fail or support, people’s opportunities to thrive in left-behind neighbourhoods?
14. Why do some young people leave left-behind neighbourhoods? Why do others stay?
15. Why do some people choose to return to or move to left-behind neighbourhoods to live, work, raise families or start businesses? What stops more people making this choice?

Local government

16. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** local government action to improve left-behind places?
17. Why do some local government-led attempts to improve left-behind neighbourhoods fail? Why do others succeed?

Business and private investors

18. What makes left-behind neighbourhoods attractive to investors? What makes them unattractive?
19. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** business, developer or investor leadership in improving left-behind places?
20. Why do some private sector-led attempts to improve left-behind neighbourhoods fail? Why do others succeed?

Charitable activity

21. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** charitable activity in improving left-behind places?
22. Why do some charity-led attempts to improve left-behind neighbourhoods fail? Why do others succeed?

Community and resident-led activity

23. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** community and resident-led activity in improving left-behind places?
24. Why do some community and resident-led attempts to improve left-behind neighbourhoods fail? Why do others succeed?

Community-led business

25. Why do some community-led businesses thrive in left-behind neighbourhoods? Why do others fail?
26. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** community business leadership in improving left-behind places?
27. Why do some attempts by community-led businesses to improve left-behind neighbourhoods fail? Why do others succeed?

Central government

28. What examples would you highlight of **successful** and **unsuccessful** central government programmes to improve left-behind places?
29. What could central government do differently to support improvement in left-behind neighbourhoods? This could include changes to spending decisions, taxation, planning rules, building regulations or other areas.
30. What are the barriers to achieving these changes?

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Thank you so much for your time.

Ways to respond:

- Email your evidence to contact@createstreetsfoundation.org.uk.
- Leave us a voicemail of up to 3 minutes in length at 0333 050 4796.
- If sending us your evidence in these ways is difficult for any reason and you would prefer a short telephone interview instead, please email us at contact@createstreetsfoundation.org.uk to arrange a time.