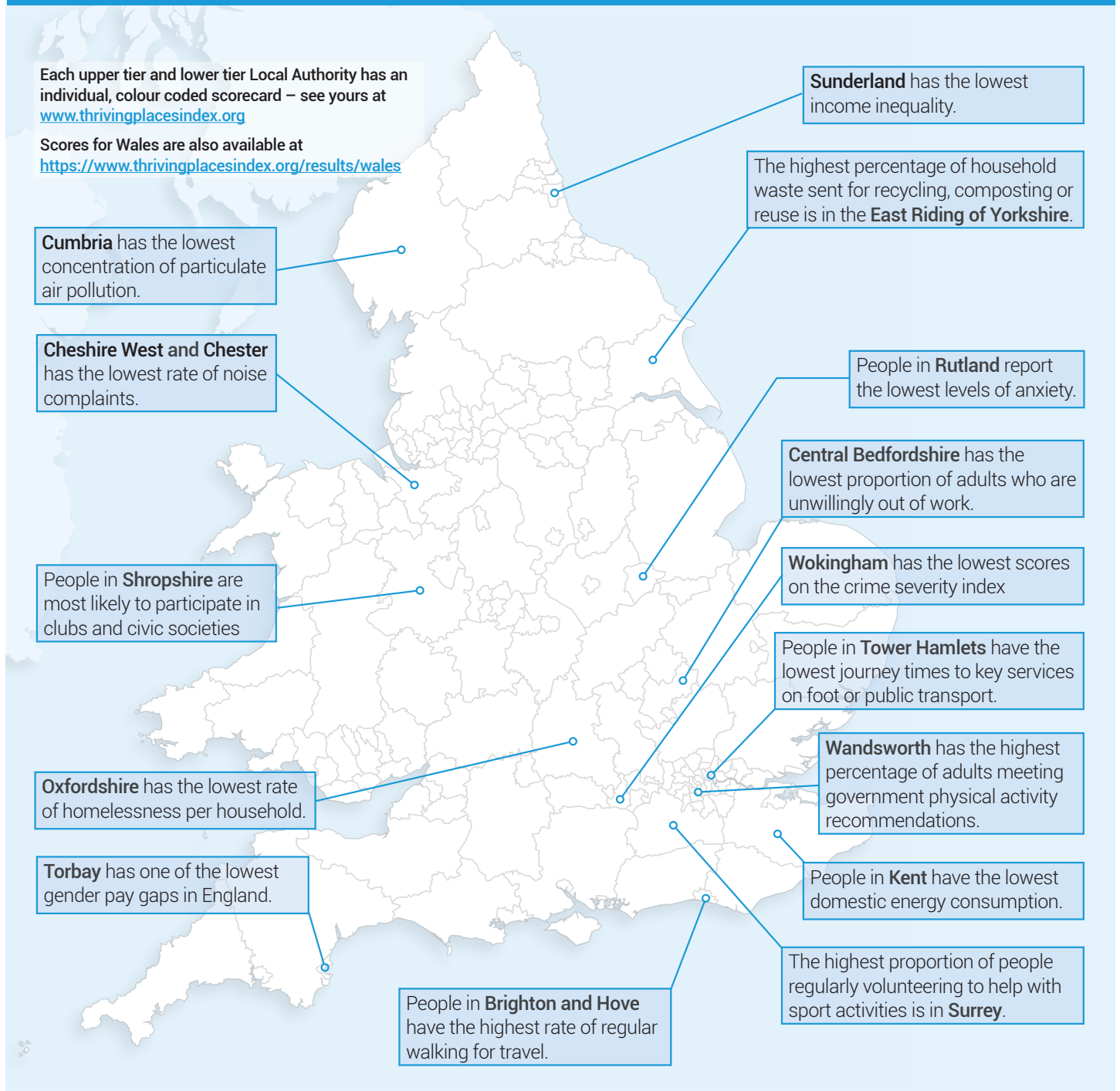


# HIGHLIGHTS IN LOCAL CONDITIONS, EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Thriving Places Index (TPI) consists of a set of indicators that measure the local conditions for wellbeing and whether they are being delivered fairly and sustainably. The indicators measure factors, or proxies of factors, that influence wellbeing.

The TPI framework is arranged into three headline elements: Local Conditions for wellbeing, Equality and Sustainability. Within each headline element are domains and subdomains, providing greater detail.

### SPOTLIGHT: UPPER TIER LOCAL AUTHORITIES



\* Note that local areas with the highest and lowest values may not be substantively different from other places with similar scores. The Thriving Places Index Methodology is available at <https://www.thrivingplacesindex.org/page/about/measurement>

## ARE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CREATING THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR WELLBEING?

### What do we mean by Local Conditions?

The Local Conditions headline score is made up of five domains known to impact wellbeing: Place and Environment, Mental and Physical Health, Education and Learning, Work and Local Economy, and People and Community. These are the key drivers of wellbeing in a Local Authority (LA) area. Each domain contains several sub-domains. For example, the 'Place and Environment' domain has four sub-domains - local environment, transport, safety and housing. Each sub-domain is made up of a number of indicators which capture data on various aspects of that sub-domain. For more information on the structure and content of the TPI, visit [www.thrivingplacesindex.org](http://www.thrivingplacesindex.org).

### Local Conditions Highlights from TPI 2022

As we saw in the index in 2021, local authorities with the highest Local Conditions scores tend to be in the South of England, although Rutland in the East Midlands was an exception, with the third highest score. The three areas with very low scores (under 3.5, red on the map) are all in the North of England.

Wokingham (scoring 6.48) was the highest scoring local authority for Local Conditions. The difference between the highest and lowest local authority scores was smaller than it was in the 2021 index, mainly because no local authorities scored 'very high' (above 6.5) this year.

Islington, Hammersmith and Fulham, South Tyneside, Westminster and Waltham Forest saw the largest improvements in their 2022 TPI scores for Local Conditions.

York and Dudley both saw improvements in their 2022 TPI scores for all the five domains within Local Conditions.

Nearly half the local authorities in London have low scores (below 4.5) for the 'Place and Environment' domain (which includes housing, transport, safety and local environment indicators) while almost all the other local authorities in England have average or high scores for this domain.

Regions with the most local authorities scoring very high (above 6.5) on the 'Mental and Physical Health' domain were the South East (32%) and London (28%). Over half of local authorities in the North East and North West had very low scores on this domain.

The North East and South West regions had no local authorities with either very high or very low scores for the domain 'Education and Learning'.

The East and London were the only two regions that did not have any very low scores on the domain 'Work and Local Economy'. The East of England was particularly notable, with no scores below 4.5 for this domain.

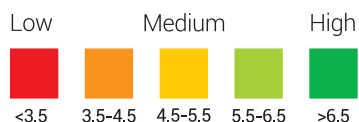
The few local authorities with very high scores for the 'People and Community' domain were found across the country in the South East, the East and West Midlands, and in Yorkshire and the Humber. Four of the five local authorities with very low scores for the 'People and Community' domain are in South and East London.



To see interactive maps of the TPI results, try out our Power BI map tool at [www.thrivingplacesindex.org](http://www.thrivingplacesindex.org)

### Scoring

All Thriving Places Index scores range from 0-10. The TPI uses intuitive colour coding to show how an LA scores compared to others:



Medium scores (yellow) indicate that an LA scores similarly to England on average.

Scores somewhat above or below average are coloured in pale green and orange respectively.

Very high or low scores are coloured in dark green and dark red. These scores are furthest from the England average.

A high score does not necessarily mean a place is doing as well as it possibly could on what is being captured by that element, domain, or subdomain, but it is doing better than other places.

The methodology used to standardise and combine the indicators means that higher scores are always better.

## LOCAL CONDITIONS

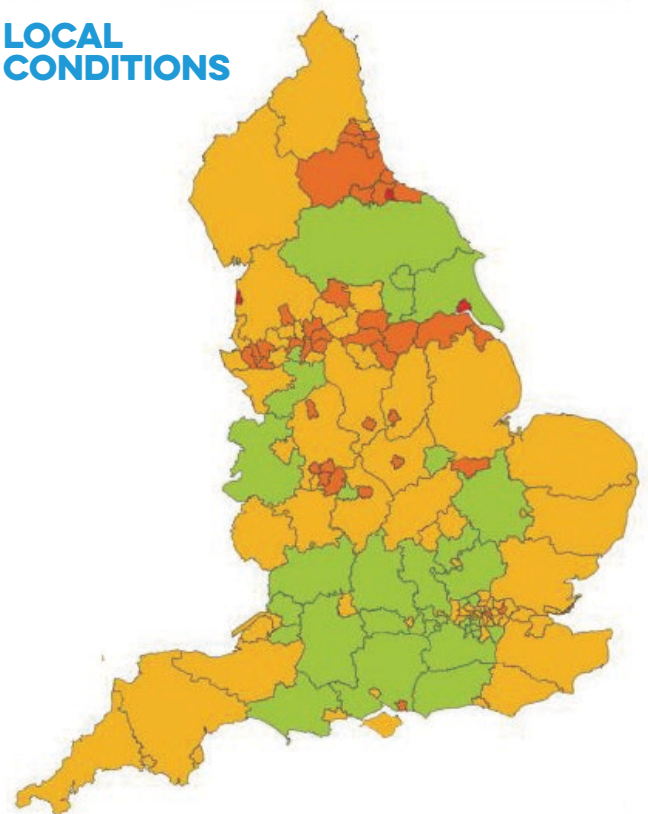


Figure 1. Local Conditions scores for upper-tier local authorities in England

## IS WELLBEING DELIVERED FAIRLY ACROSS THE LOCAL AREA?

### What do we mean by Equality?

The Equality headline element score combines the indicators related to equality across the domains of Health, Income, Gender, Social and Ethnicity. Higher scores mean good outcomes towards a more equal place, relative to how England is doing on average. When working to improve Local Conditions for wellbeing, including everyone is essential for a fair society and to realise the greatest wellbeing benefits.

### Equality Highlights from TPI 2022

Consistent with last year, local authorities in the South West scored well on the Equality domain, with nearly two thirds of them scoring high or very high. In the West Midlands, London, and Yorkshire and the Humber, over half of the local authorities scored above average.

Local authorities in the South East had the largest range of Equality scores within the same region, ranging from 3.28 to 6.49.

The highest scoring local authority for Equality was Barking and Dagenham, which had very high scores for four of the five equality domains. Outside of London, the highest scoring local authority was Leicester.

## IS WELLBEING DELIVERED SUSTAINABLY?

### What do we mean by Sustainability?

This Sustainability headline element score is a combined score composed of the domains of Energy Use, Waste, and Green Infrastructure. These domains indicate whether Local Conditions are delivered without negatively impacting the environment. Higher scores indicate better Sustainability, relative to how England is doing on average.

### Sustainability Highlights from TPI 2022

Regions with the highest proportions of local authorities doing well on Sustainability were London and the South East.

The North West had the largest range of scores on Sustainability (from 3.51 to 6.55), followed by the East Midlands (3.41 to 5.54). The smallest ranges were in the North East and (from 3.79 to 5.00) and Yorkshire and the Humber (4.11 to 5.34).

The highest scoring local authority for Sustainability was Salford, which also had the highest score for the 'Green Infrastructure' domain.

Only two local authorities scored very high (over 6.5) on more than one domain: Lambeth and Islington on the 'Energy Use' and 'Waste' domains.

While most places in the north of England have scored average or lower, as shown by the map, several local authorities in and around Greater Manchester have bucked this trend with high or very high scores, largely driven by strong performance in the 'Energy Use' domain and very strong in the 'Waste' domain.

## EQUALITY

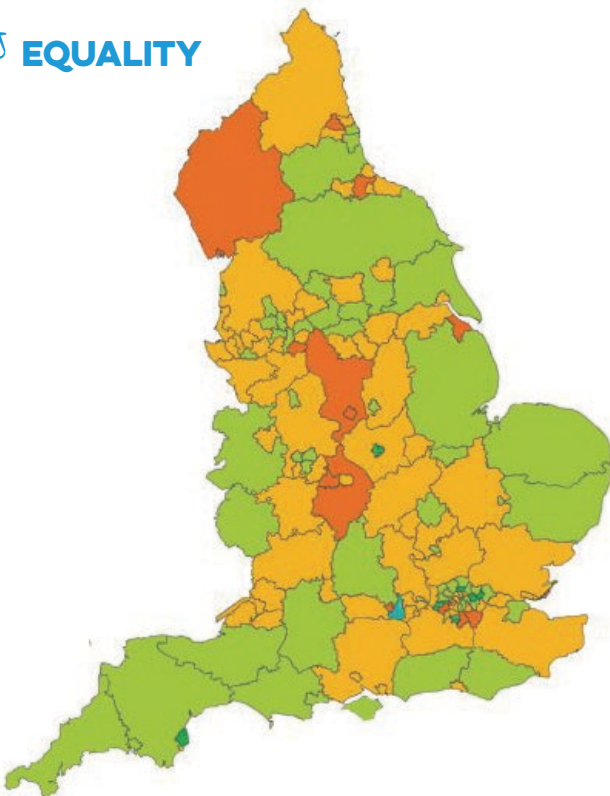


Figure 2. Equality scores in upper tier LAs across England.

## SUSTAINABILITY

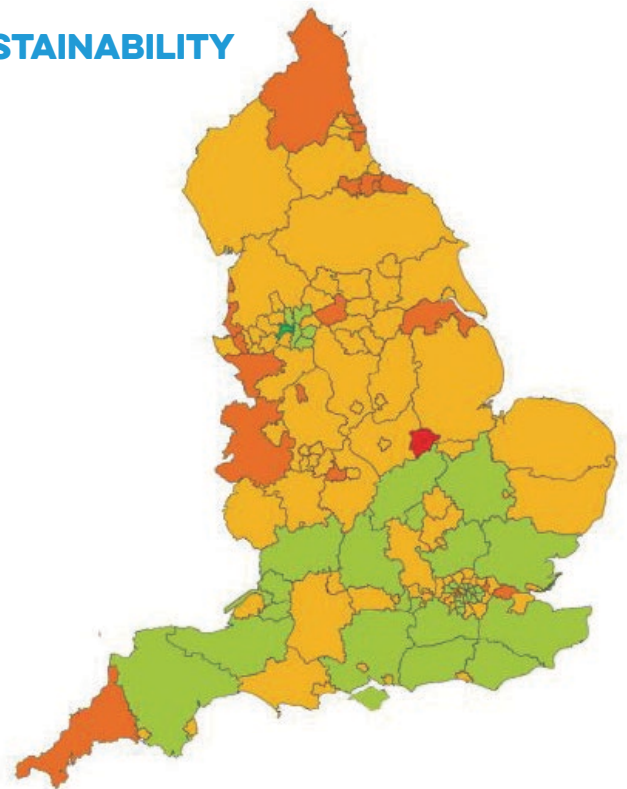
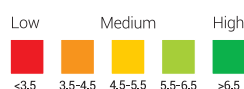


Figure 3. Sustainability scores in upper tier LAs in England.



# REAL PROGRESS FOR ALL

## What does the TPI tell us about 'levelling up' English regions?

There have long been calls to bridge the 'North South Divide' and current policy and investment is focused on 'levelling up' these disparities around the UK, focused largely on levels of inward investment or regional Gross Value Added. The TPI paints a more rounded picture of differences within and between English regions. It is a guide to levelling up the many drivers of our capacity to thrive, equitably and sustainably. In this section we highlight a few of the most stark areas of regional inequality.

This table shows that the regions with the highest proportion of their local authorities scoring high across all three TPI headline scores are in the South of England and those with more low scores are the North East and East Midlands.

TPI Headlines	Most high scoring local authorities	Most low scoring local authorities
Local Conditions	South East	North East
Equality	South West	East Midlands
Sustainability	South East	North East

This divide is reversed when we look at the 'Place and Environment' domain (which includes housing, transport, safety and local environment indicators). Nearly half the local authorities in London have low scores while almost all the other local authorities in England have average or high scores for this domain, with the North East doing particularly well. A higher proportion of local authorities in London also score low on the 'People and Community' domain, comprising culture, participation and cohesion indicators, than any other region.

**These results are the tip of the iceberg. The wealth of data within the TPI can help highlight the web of drivers of wellbeing and help draw out where action and investment are really needed to help create a truly level playing field across the country.**

## USING THE TPI

The TPI is much more than an annual snapshot. It is a new compass for the 21st Century – a practical tool for designing and delivering better places for people and planet. It provides:

- Shared set of goals for cross-sector, joined up, multi-disciplinary working.
- Framework for designing holistic approaches to policy-making, budgeting, planning, procurement, commissioning, monitoring and collaborative placemaking.
- Powerful communication tool to engage citizens and diverse stakeholders in a sustainable wellbeing approach to change.

The second table shows that, drilling down into Local Conditions domains, more local authorities tended to be high scoring in southern regions. Within that though, there are interesting differences.

TPI Domains within Local Conditions	Most high scoring local authorities	Most low scoring local authorities
Place and environment	North East	London
Mental and Physical Health	London	North East
Education and Learning	South West	West Midlands
Work and Local Economy	South East	North East
People and Community	South West	London

There remains a gap in health outcomes between North and South. The South East and London had the largest proportion of local authorities scoring very high for health whereas over half of local authorities in the North East and North West had very low scores on this domain.

The framework is being used every day by communities, organisations large and small, funders and local governments to help guide policy, decision making, learning and action at all levels.

Get in touch with CTP if you're interested in working with us to:

- Use or adapt the Thriving Places Index to create a bespoke Wellbeing Economy framework for YOUR place
- Get support to create and embed a wellbeing approach across your organisation or local region including tools, guidance, training, facilitation and support
- Research the connections between the many drivers of a thriving place – we make the wealth of evidence and research out there accessible and applicable to where you are.

## WHO IS BEHIND THE TPI?

Founded in 2010, Centre for Thriving Places helps put the wellbeing of people and planet at the heart of decision making in towns, cities and regions across the UK.

The Centre for Urban Wellbeing is a new multi-disciplinary centre at the University of Birmingham established in 2020 to support interdisciplinary and community-engaged research informed by the best global evidence to address urban wellbeing inequalities.

### TPI 2022 CONTRIBUTING TEAM:

Melissa Cairns, Saamah Abdallah, Liz Zeidler, Katie Tiplady-Startin, Prof. Jessica Pykett, Dr Laura Kudrna, Iman Ghosh, Dr Lailah Alidu, Jonathan Owens, Jack Roberts, Adrian Smith, Chris Beck, Dave Forman, Marc George.

Contact us at [hello@centreforthrivingplaces.org](mailto:hello@centreforthrivingplaces.org)  
[www.centreforthrivingplaces.org](http://www.centreforthrivingplaces.org)