

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL INDICATOR SET TECHNICAL HANDBOOK - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Name and address of responding organisation:
Devon County Council

Is this your organisation's official response to the consultation? Yes

Name and phone number of key contact in case of follow-up queries:
Geraint Hughes 01392 384315

National Indicator Number:

9

Please complete a separate form for each indicator on which you wish to respond

Indicator Issue	
1. Is the Technical Definition of this indicator clear?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If NO a. What aspects of the technical definition of the indicator are unclear? Please specify clearly - is it in relation to the measurement method, or - on reporting b. Please suggest how the template can be clarified/improved.	For consistency and clarity the wording 'at least once' should be included if this is what is intended.
2. Does the Technical Definition for this indicator have any unintended consequences?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES a. What are the unintended consequences on this national indicator? b. Can the unintended consequence be avoided? If so, how?	
3. Will the Technical Definitions for this indicator work in practice?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If NO a. Why would this technical definition not work in practice?	

4. Is this indicator defined at the right spatial level?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) If not, what level should it be defined at? (including whether information is already gathered and/or reported at that level and if so where, if not, estimated cost of collecting and reporting it)	Yes overall, but no/unclear regarding the match and link to community profiling which the draft NI indicates is not comprehensive
5. Should data for this indicator be provided for any or all of the different equalities strands (please tick the relevant box)?	Ethnicity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Please specify) Employment status
a) For any boxes ticked at 5, is this information already gathered and/or reported and, if so, where? If not, what would be the estimated additional burden of collecting and reporting it?	Largely yes, but not across the board annually
6. Further comments on the questions above and /or any other comments that are not covered above questions.	
<p>Some concern that the effectiveness of the overall indicator will depend on the local effectiveness of the "Taking Part Survey" i.e. an effective outcome to "Consultants are currently scoping options for data collection at local level."</p> <p>This is also particularly relevant to the link to, and performance aspect of getting closer match of library usage with the community profile. However, unless community profiles make sense/are comprehensive at the large scale county level, or can be defined in smaller spatial areas within the county and where the community profile data is sufficiently robust and consistent year on, this aspect of applying the NI in terms of measuring performance year on seems at this stage more aspirational & "under development".</p>	

It is disappointing that the NI omits use by population below 16 - this represents over 22% of our current membership

Devon has one of the highest annual net population increases. How will the NI in performance terms take account of factors such as rapid population change year on year and also, demographic trends?

Completed versions can be sent to niconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copy responses should be returned to Local Government Quality and Performance Division, Zone J2, 4th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place, LONDON, SW1E 5DU.