

ONS Local

Overview

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05 October 2023

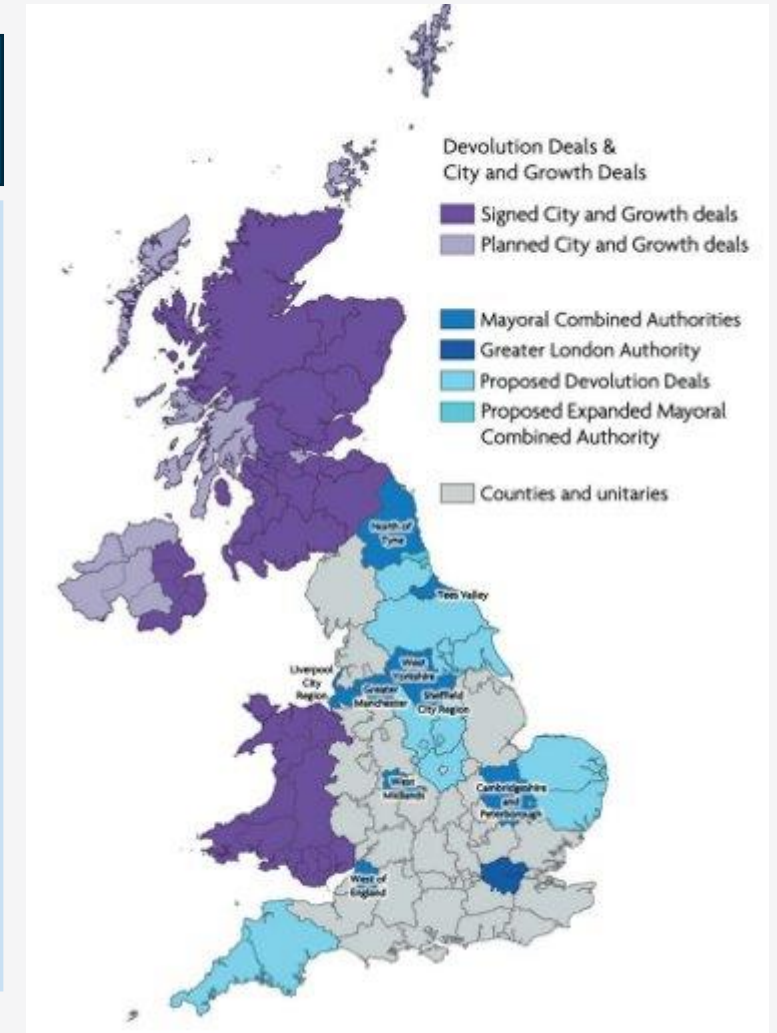


Background

Tackling geographical disparities

The Government's 'Levelling Up' white paper lays out plans to reduce regional inequality across a range of economic and social measures. They have committed £27.5m over the next three years to improve transparency and accountability through the creation and/or development of subnational statistical products and services

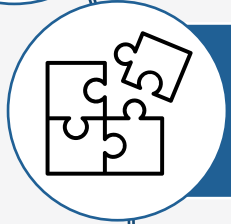
"...improve subnational data and help to improve transparency and accountability to the public – including by making interactive tools and maps available, and encouraging innovative uses of real-time data at local level, giving leaders the information they need to deliver, experiment, and evaluate swiftly and effectively."



Levelling Up Subnational Data



An **analytical advisory service to support local decision makers** ensuring they have access to the data, statistics and analysis they need, with dedicated analysts based across the whole of the UK.



Innovative research and expanded use of **new and administrative data sources, data science and methodology** to improve timeliness, granularity and insight into local areas to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the levelling up missions.



Transformation of economic and social indicators by increasing the granularity of subnational statistics, including GDP, household income, and other priority metrics to produce small area estimates, as well as improving the **coherence** of available statistics across the UK.



New public data access platforms for subnational users, including a suite of new dashboards, access to relevant data sets and a fully developed **digital service** to enable these users to explore subnational statistics in a single place.

Pillars of the ONS Local service

Analytical

Providing analytical advice, supporting projects, and collecting user priorities to inform ONS analysis plans



Data

Supporting users to navigate the data landscape, access data platforms and connecting to expert advice at ONS for specific data sets



Network

Hosting regular events based on analytical themes, sharing knowledge and presence within existing networks and using our political/analytical knowledge to facilitate policy making



Strategic

Using our unique position within central government to understand, identify, and align priorities for both local and central decision makers, alongside capturing user needs



Building Capability

Support, inform, and advise local colleagues on a variety of opportunities across the three pillars, with the aim of continuous development of the offer



Lessons learnt

Regional presence

- Building resilience into our model
- Providing dedicated support

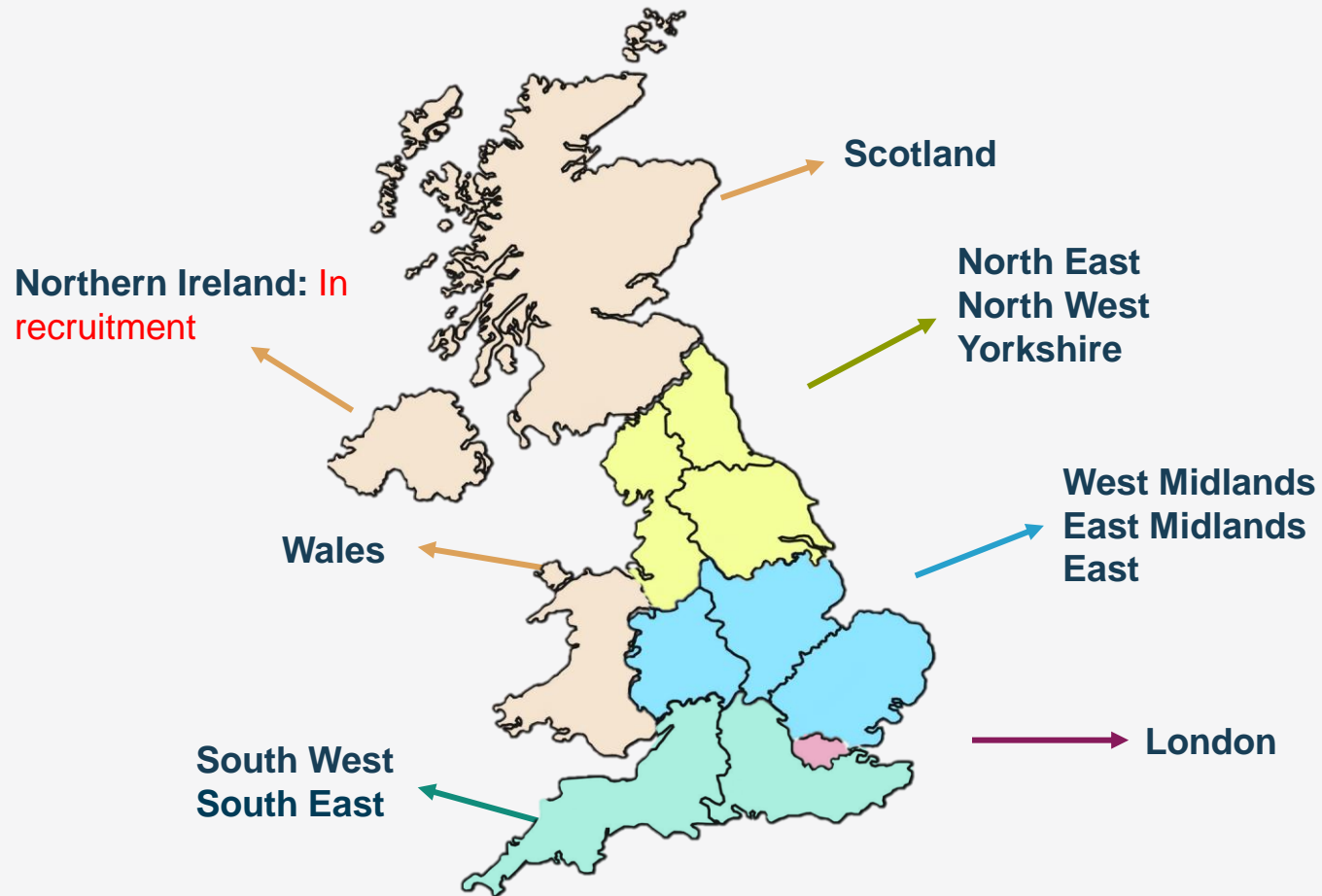
Cities team

- Current Combined Authority priorities
- Building regional networks

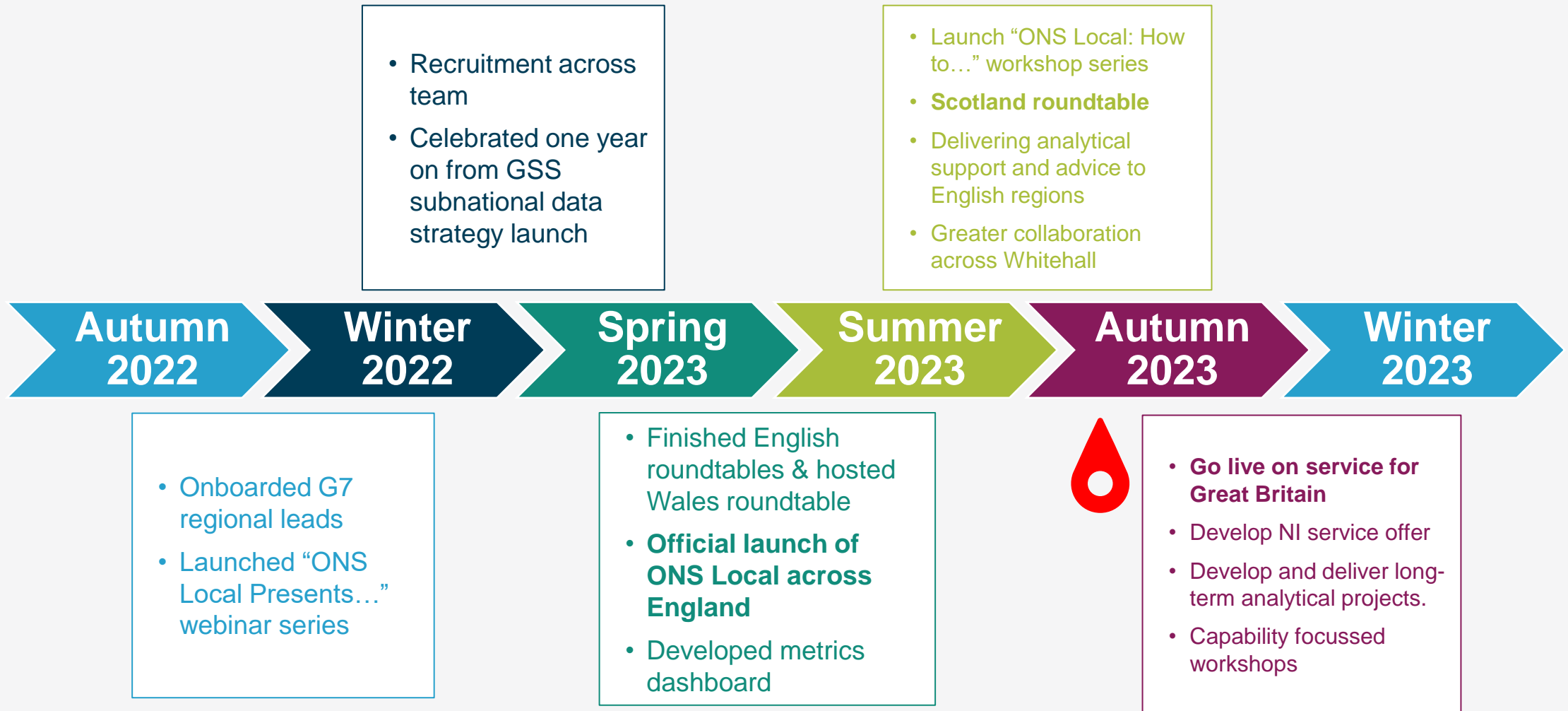
GLA team

- Developing prioritisation framework
- Determining team size

Local presence



Progress and what's coming up



Requests and outcomes in the last 12 months..

500+ Engagement activities

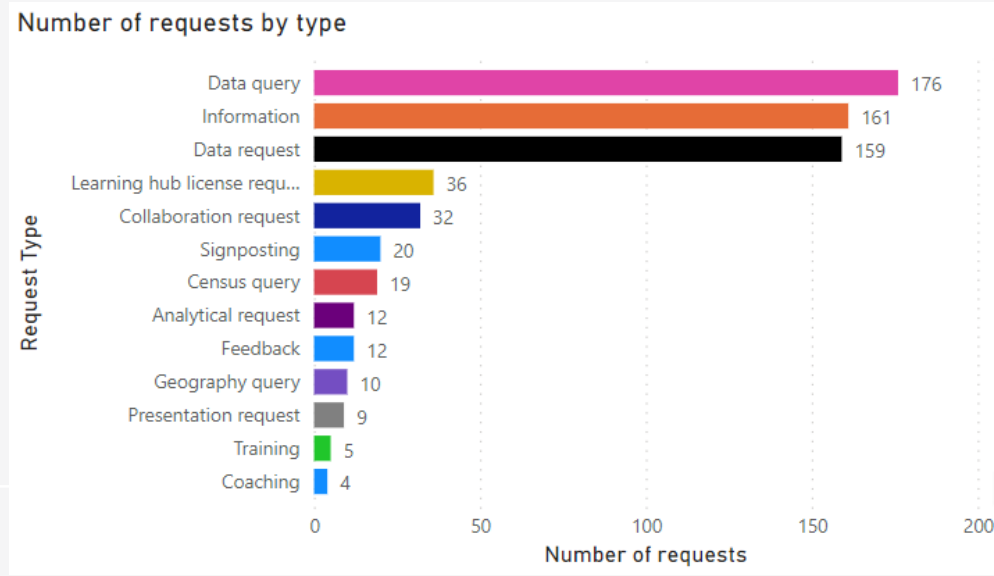
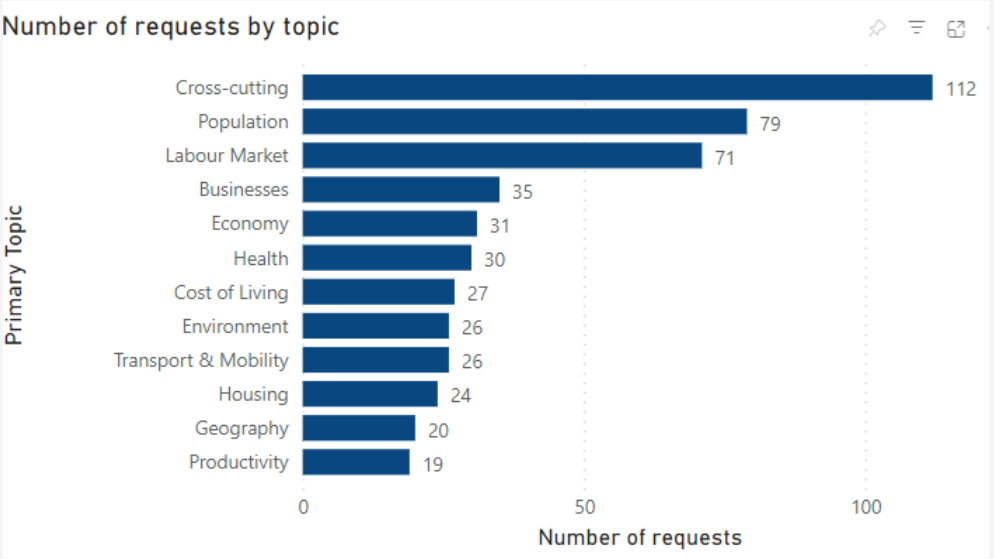
600+ Requests answered

150+ Learning resources shared

10 Analytical projects added to workplans

22 “ONS Local Presents...” Webinars

97% Would recommend -end webinar series



Case study: API/dashboard workshops

Network



Local Government needed support on the use of APIs and dashboards

First workshop was attended by over 250 attendees and is a major milestone in our mission to build lasting skills in the local government analytical community

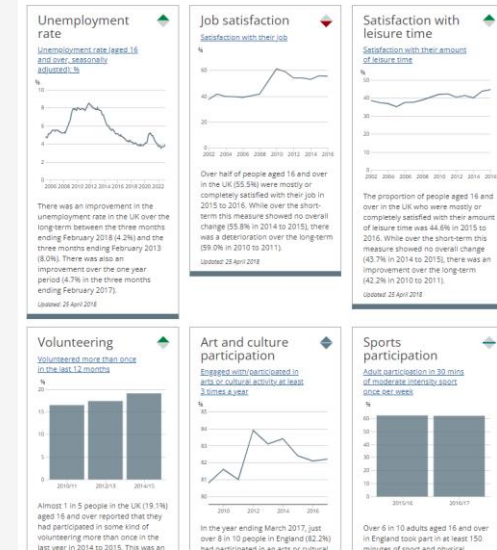
Action by ONS Local

Requests from stakeholders

Impactful results

Fed back demand to Data Science Campus and co-presented workshops to support local users in building and using dashboards

Includes work and leisure activities and the balance between them.



Case study: GVA geographies

Analytical

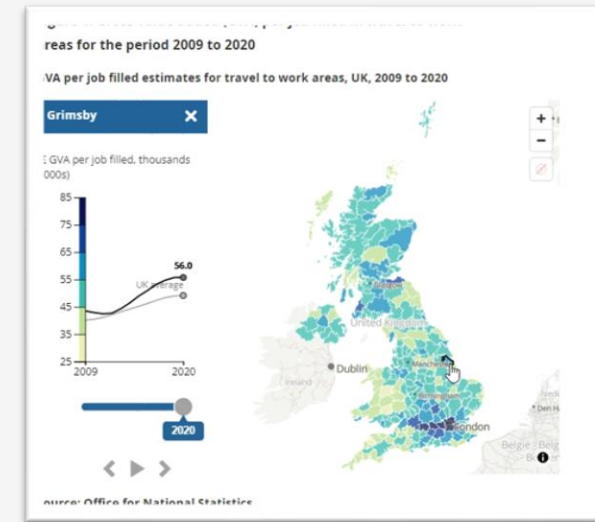


The subnational GVA team reached out to ONS Local as they were in the process of building a new production system and wanted to verify that the geographies, they were producing met user need.

ONS Local leads contacted their stakeholders to see if there were any specific geographies they needed for their policymaking.

Requirements and lookups were then supplied to the GVA team and have been incorporated into the build process so that they will be regularly produced moving forward.

Analysts and policy makers in future will be able to monitor and evaluate economic performance in their specific areas of interest, informing future decisions on potential interventions.



Case study: GMCA Espresso Tool

Data

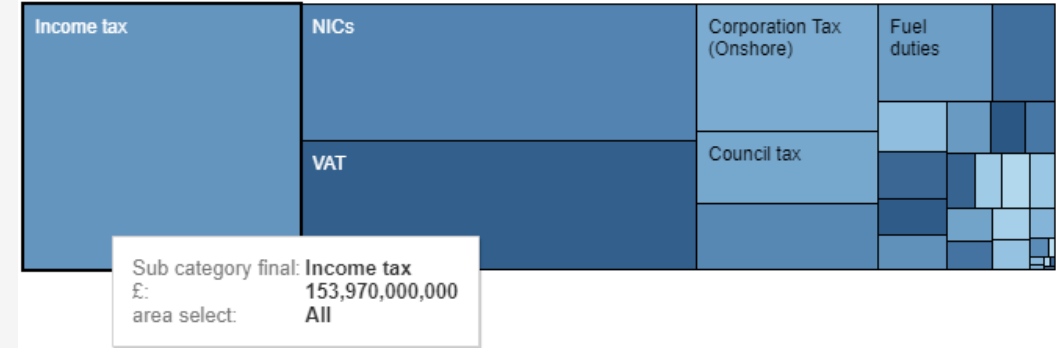
Espresso is a powerful analytical tool for insights into **public sector expenditure** and **tax generation** for all local authorities (LAs).

Elevator Pitch: Greater Manchester Combined Authority have asked for ONS assistance to update Espresso. There is currently an absence of a tool that provides a comprehensive overview of each LAs reliance on HM Treasury. This tool empowers LAs to: **build a strong case for devolution, identify proactive vs. reactionary expenditure, understand economic dependency, assess spending patterns and enable benchmarking across LAs.**

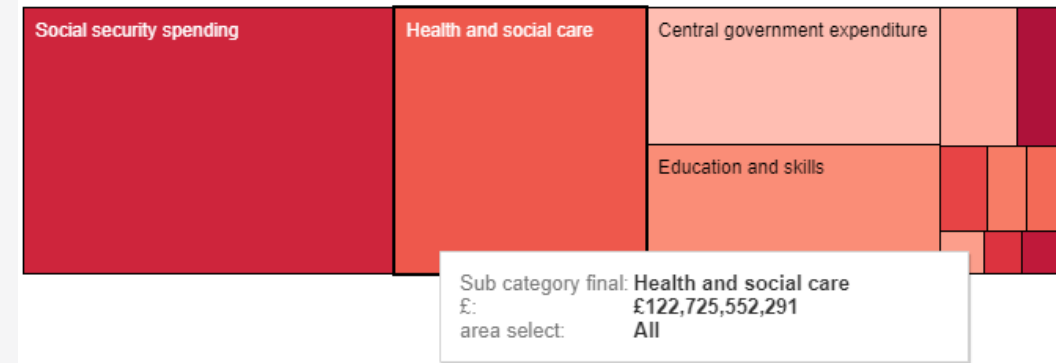
Therefore, an update will enable local authorities to have access to a modern, user-friendly platform that streamlines data processing, analysis, and reporting.

Stakeholders include **ALL** LAs, DLUHC, Data Science Campus and ONS (e.g. Local Gov. Expenditure teams).

Tax by broad categories



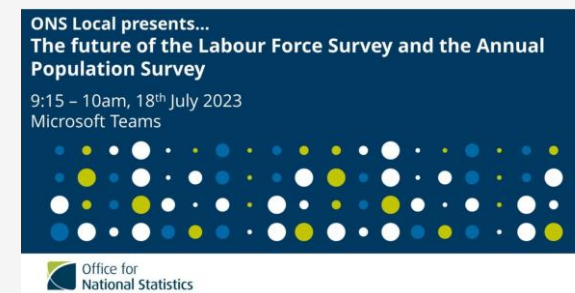
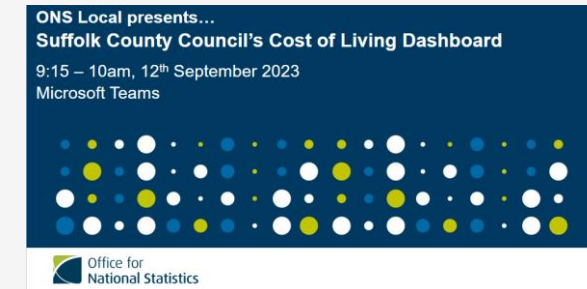
Expenditure by broad categories



*As of June 2023, this is still in **proposal stage**.
The current iteration of Espresso is [here](#).
Please reach out if you're interested in getting involved!*

What's coming up...

- More webinars on ONS publications and exciting stakeholder analysis
- ONS Local "How to..." Workshops in collaboration with DSC
- Regular ONS local newsletter
- Greater collaboration across departments:
 - Exploring existing networks ONSL can engage with across ONS
 - Levelling up partnerships
 - Cross-Government London workstream
- Progress in the devolved administrations:
 - Welsh roundtable has taken place
 - Scottish roundtable scheduled for August
 - Northern Irish conversations ongoing



Thank you for listening

If you would like to get in touch, or sign up to our newsletter, please contact our team inbox:

ons.local@ons.gov.uk

Details of seminar and workshop series can be found here:

[ONS Local presents | Eventbrite](#)

[ONS Local Events | Eventbrite](#)

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