



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter July 2023

LARIA Updates

The Improvement Service recently published our new [strategic framework](#) that sets out our priorities for 2023 to 2027. One of our key commitments is to support Scottish councils to deliver transformation and new models of service delivery. This priority links to the launch of our new Transformation Programme Management Office, which will work to translate a recent think piece we published together with Solace, [Delivering a Future for Scottish Local Authorities](#), into tangible action.

This report sets out our ambition to ensure Scottish councils are fit for the 21st Century (a term I find somewhat concerning as we are quite a significant way into the 21st Century!) through delivery of a new model of working based on six “anchors”:

- Unlock community action;
- Lead council and cross-sector partnerships with a focus on outcomes;
- Enable a functioning, trusted local and central government relationship;
- Design for people’s needs;
- Create digital, design and technology enabled transformation and;
- Tackle inequality and meet the needs of all citizens.

Reading these I am struck by how central research and evidence is to our ambitions, and the report itself recognises this:

“High quality data, evidence and intelligence are fundamental to informing local decision-making, service design and ultimately transformation. The last few years has shown us that, when faced with significant and unprecedented events and crises, data and evidence becomes crucial to the decision-making process and guiding us to a better place.”

If these things are “fundamental” in achieving our goal of creating fit-for-21st Century councils, then networks like LARIA continue to add huge value. We can continue to learn from best practice, both in terms of the skills we bring to our profession, but also in sharing case studies of where transformation has been successfully achieved and how research and evidence has underpinned this. We can also keep shouting about our achievements and ensuring that the research community is acknowledged as a vital part of what local government does. I’m hoping that as this work progresses we can learn from all of you and we would love to hear about your own transformation journeys.

Finally, I hope you are all having a fantastic summer. We’re enjoying a classically Scottish season, with the suspiciously dry and warm June turning into a much more familiar wet July. Wind, rain, and glorious sunshine all in the same day!

A promotional graphic for the LARIA Survey 2023. The text 'LARIA Survey 2023' is prominently displayed in a teal and black font. Below it, the subtitle 'Supporting Research, Intelligence & Policy' is written in a smaller, grey font. A teal button with the text 'Complete survey' is positioned below the subtitle. At the bottom left, the LARIA logo is shown with the tagline 'Local Area Research & Intelligence Association'. At the bottom right, the CACI logo is displayed with the tagline 'DO AMAZING THINGS WITH DATA'. On the right side of the graphic, there is a photograph of a diverse group of people smiling, partially framed by a large teal curved shape that also frames the text on the left.

Tell us about your challenges

To continue to support you and in turn help you support your communities, it’s vital that LARIA, partnering with CACI, continue to understand your current and future needs.

We would like to know more about the challenges you face on a day-to-day basis so that we can be better equipped to continue to provide the necessary level of support. It is for this reason that we would be grateful if you complete our survey to tell us more about what is happening in your local area.

[Please complete this survey](#)

News



CACI is delighted to share that our latest build of **Acorn** is now available! Built using the latest Deep Learning techniques and combining vast amounts of up-to-date data sources and the latest Census data, Acorn is now more powerful than ever.

You can find out more about how we've created this new version of Acorn [in this video](#) from our recent Data Summit conference, where **Kevin Gilholm, CACI's Director of Data Science Products** and **Sue MacLure, CACI's Director of Data** walk you through the build process and how Acorn now looks, in detail.

As part of our latest release, we've also created [a brand-new Acorn microsite](#)! As an Acorn user, when you register to create an account, you'll be able to access the Acorn support tools in one location. That includes our Acorn Explore dashboard and the new Pen Portraits so you can start exploring the new Acorn segments. If your organisation isn't an Acorn user you may still register to use the introductory version of the microsite. If you have problems registering or creating your account, please reach out to info@caci.co.uk.

To find out how you can switch to the latest version of Acorn, please reach out to Stewart Eldridge, Head of Communities & Government T: 020 7605 6164 or E: seldridge@caci.co.uk or Jamie Clark, Account Manager – Communities & Government T: 020 3892 2487 or E: jclark@caci.co.uk.

Consultation on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales

On Thursday 29 June, the Office for National Statistics has launched a public consultation on our proposals for a new approach to population and migration statistics.



The consultation is easy to complete and is available in [English](#) and [Welsh](#). The ONS encourages anyone to respond and also to circulate to others who may be interested. Your input will be essential evidence for the National Statistician's recommendations on the future of population and migration statistics, and the census.

To help you understand more about the consultation, the ONS published a [blog](#) which explains progress to date and how the new data should be used. There is also an episode of the [ONS Statistically Speaking podcast](#), and a [short video with subtitles and British Sign Language](#), which provides more information on the ONS' plans for a transformed population and migration statistics system.

The consultation closes on 26 October 2023.

UPRN Integration in Rushmoor's Digital Services

Rushmoor Borough Council created a system to automate many elements of their waste management service. As a result, they've reduced calls about missing bins, and there's also been a larger uptake of the Bulky Waste and Garden Waste services. This brings in a significant amount of revenue for the council, which is being reinvested in service improvements for the community.



This case study expands a blog from Local Digital team within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on '[Council Spotlight: Rushmoor Borough Council](#)' which provide a wider commentary on how the Rushmoor team transformed their recycling and rubbish services.

[The case study is available here.](#)

MRS Chief Hails M-E-L Research Apprenticeship Scheme



M-E-L Research, the social research agency dedicated to making a positive impact on organisations, employees, customers, and society as a whole, is delighted to announce the addition of Tyler McKenzie to the team as a Market Research Apprentice. The agency says that supporting apprenticeships is an example of its on-going commitment to diversity and diverse opportunities as well as to its wider social values. Jane Frost CBE, CEO of the Market Research Society, said:

“Apprenticeships are a powerful tool to extend the diversity of our sector, they are a great opportunity to bring in diverse talent. I am delighted that M-E-L Research are supporting this programme, which I know will enrich their research”

[The link to read more is here.](#)

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Invite to Beyond GDP event series, 26 September, 11 and 12 October



We would like to invite you to a series of discussion events, with the Royal Statistical Society, on work underway on metrics which can be used to provide a holistic measure of how the country is doing.

Each event will present on the status of the topics being addressed, followed by interactive discussions between invited panel members and guests.

The events will take place at the Royal Statistical Society in London with the option for online attendance. You can attend as many of the events in the series as you would like to.

This event series follows on from the launch earlier this month, of our updated [UK measures of national well-being dashboard](#) and on how the UK is doing on health, well-being, the environment and other areas for our quality of life.

Event details

Venue: **Royal Statistical Society**, 12 Errol Street , London EC1Y 8LX (or virtual attendance)

Tuesday 26 September 2023, 1.30pm to 4pm

Beyond GDP: international developments and emerging frameworks

Wednesday 11 October 2023, 2pm to 5pm

GDP after 2025: updating national accounts and balance of payments

Thursday 12 October 2023, 9.30am to 12pm

So what does 'Beyond GDP' mean for the UK?

How to register

Please complete our short registration form on [Eventbrite](#) to confirm your attendance or that of others from your organisation and let us know if you would like to attend in-person or virtually.

If you have any questions, please email external.affairs@ons.gov.uk.

We hope to see you at our events in the autumn.

Jobs

To submit a job advert to appear in the newsletter or on the LARIA website, please download and complete this [form](#) (Full Corporate and Corporate Members only). You can also post Job Vacancies on the Jobs Board in the LARIA [Members' Area](#).

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 24th August](#).

Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?

Your LARIA Corporate Membership entitles you to submit content to the monthly LARIA newsletter, if



you have any research, events, job adverts, resources or news which you would us to include please send it to admin@laria.org.uk.

The next newsletter submission deadline is **Thursday 24th August**.

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