

norwich 2040 city vision

Issue 1 - March 2023

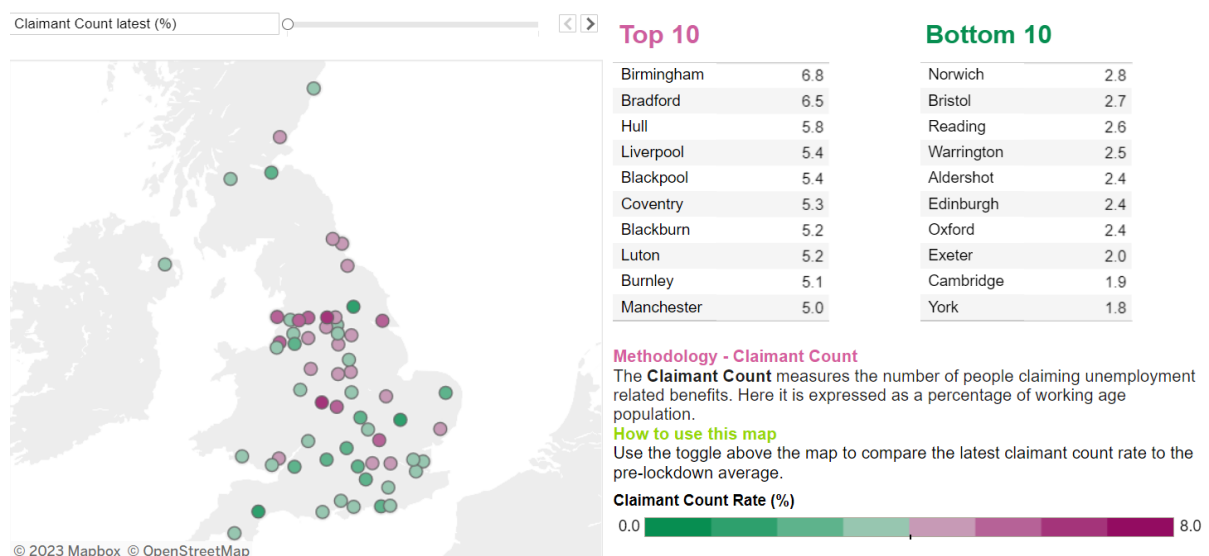
Welcome to the first edition of the Norwich 2040 City Vision newsletter. With the partnership moving from bi-monthly to quarterly meetings, this newsletter is an opportunity for us to keep in touch on the life of the city, whether that be sharing details on upcoming developments, promoting consultations and engagement activities, sharing published research and evidence, or general news items that take account of our rapidly changing landscape. We hope you find this short round up useful.

Cities Outlook 2023

The Centre for Cities recently published its flagship [Cities Outlook 2023 report \(pdf\)](#), outlining the latest economic data on the UK's cities and largest towns. The report highlights the scale and geographies of economic inactivity and their close links to regional inequalities. Key highlights of the report include:

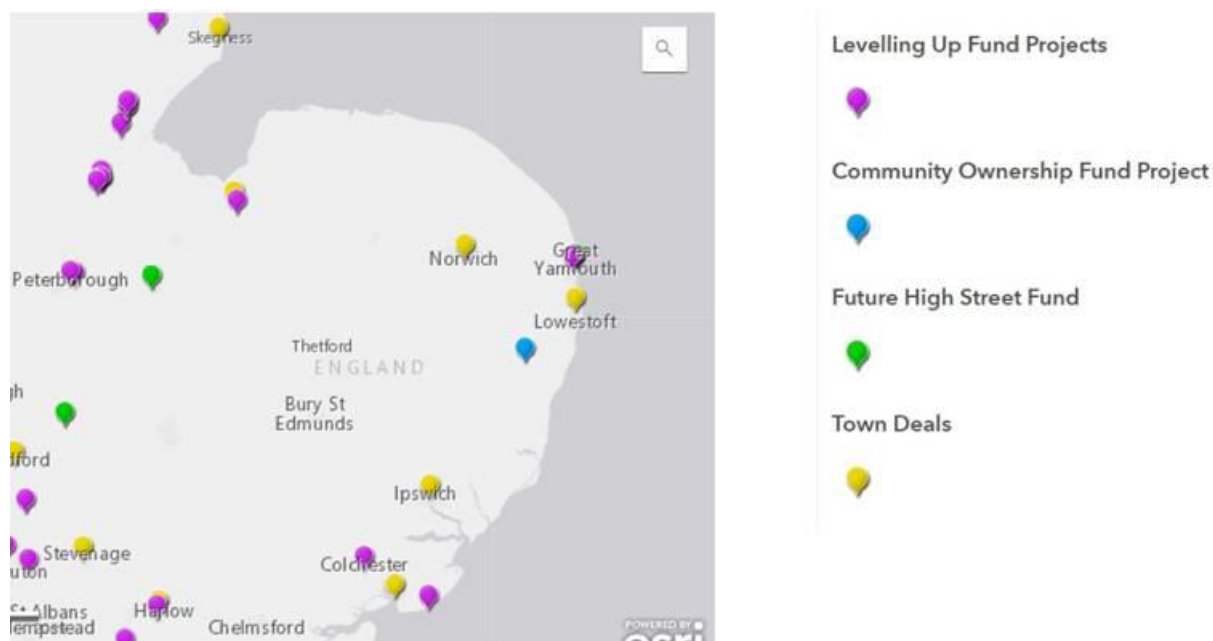
- UK unemployment triples from 3.7% to 12.1% when including 3 million economically inactive people. This accounts for those who are unemployed but not actively seeking employment due to factors such as poor health or being discouraged by poor job prospects.
- Nine of 10 cities and towns with the highest hidden unemployment rates are in the North, as demonstrated in the map below and [UK unemployment tracker](#).
- The report calls for the government to deliver the levelling up agenda by boosting skills and supporting job creation in struggling urban areas.

You can also explore the findings and implications of this report in a three-part mini [podcast series](#) hosted by Andrew Carter, Chief Executive of the Centre for Cities.



Levelling Up: Round two

Successful bids in the second round of Levelling Up funding were announced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 19 January 2023, with £672m allocated to develop better transport links, £821m awarded to regeneration projects and £594m given to restore local heritage. You can find further details of all [Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund projects across the UK](#) through the interactive map.



Central government's competitive bidding approach to funding local authorities continues to be the subject of critique and controversy, with nearly 4 out of 5 bids unsuccessful in [the latest bidding round](#) and almost a quarter of the 100 most deprived areas in the UK receiving no funding from either round of Levelling Up. Read the findings of the [Round 2 briefing \(pdf\)](#).

Local government funding arrangements

The deputy chief economist for the Institute for Government calls for a broader set of reforms and policies to tackle regional inequalities, including devolution in a [recent Levelling Up article](#) that argues:

- The Levelling Up Fund is neither large enough nor targeted enough to regenerate left-behind regions.
- The competitive bidding process is inefficient and ineffective, with a recent Freedom of Information request indicating local authorities have spent at least £27m preparing bids for various levelling up funds.
- More ambitious policies and reforms are needed.

Health & Wellbeing Partnership

Through the Health and Care Act 2022, the establishment of our Norwich Health and Wellbeing Partnership has already helped to make a difference with essential

funding of almost £350,00 being awarded to city-based projects and organisations who work to improve wellbeing and tackle health inequalities in Norwich which were impacted or made worse by Covid 19.

These include:

- [The Shoebox](#)
- [Norfolk Community Advice Network \(NCAN\)](#)
- [Leeway](#)
- [Active Norfolk](#)
- [Interact](#)

Following the recent workshop held with partners from across the city, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is taking shape focusing on three priority areas: social and economic wellbeing; mental and physical health and wellbeing; and community resilience and voice. We plan to hear more from the Health and Wellbeing Partnership at future City Vision meetings.

Living Wage Action Group

Following on from the last partnership meeting in January, all partners who are not currently accredited as Living Wage employers are encouraged to make contact with [Karen Paterson](#) and [Julie Feltham](#) (Aviva and the Norwich Living Wage Action Group) to discuss the accreditation process and support our important citywide effort to make Norwich a Living Wage Place.

City Vision Projects

November will mark five years since the launch of our 2040 City Vision. With this in mind, we will be carrying out a full review of progress so far, what we've achieved and what our focus needs to be over the next five years. All partners are kindly reminded to update the project list to ensure this accurately reflects completed, in process and pipeline projects, such that this information can be factored into the progress update. Alternatively, please email [Emma Smith](#) or [Alia Mekheimer](#) with any relevant updates.

Useful links

- [Citizens Advice: cost of living dashboard](#)
- [Census 2021: cost of living insights](#)
- [Trussell Trust: State of Hunger research paper \(pdf\)](#)
- [Norwich City Council local government peer review](#)