

**Meeting date:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
**Report to:** Health & Wellbeing Board



**Subject/report title:** Solihull Place Survey 2020  
**Report from:** Sarah Barnes, Head of Business Intelligence & Improvement  
**Report author/lead contact officer:** Sarah Barnes, [sbarnes@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:sbarnes@solihull.gov.uk), 0121 704 8347

---

**Wards affected:**

All Wards |  Bickenhill |  Blythe |  Castle Bromwich |  Chelmsley Wood |  
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath |  Elmdon |  Kingshurst/Fordbridge |  Knowle |  
 Lyndon |  Meriden |  Olton |  Shirley East |  Shirley South |  
 Shirley West |  Silhill |  Smith's Wood |  St Alphege

**Public/private report:** Public

**Exempt by virtue of paragraph:** Select an Exemption paragraph from the Quick Parts drop-down list

---

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform Solihull Health & Wellbeing Board of the findings of the 2020 Place Survey.

**2. Decision(s) recommended**

2.1 The Health & Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

2.1.1 Note the key findings of the 2020 Place Survey, and:

2.1.2 Note how the findings of the survey are being used and its findings addressed.

**3. Background**

3.1 The Place Survey is a local resident perception survey carried out every two years. The last survey was carried out by Protel Fieldwork Ltd in October 2020 and the analysis done 'in-house' by the Council's Business Intelligence Team.

3.2 The 2020 survey covered two broad elements:

(a) Satisfaction with life in Solihull and community; this forms the core of Place Survey with questions we ask every 2 years.

(b) Questions to assess the impact of Covid-19 on wellbeing.

3.3 The survey gathered 740 responses from Solihull residents. The survey sample was constructed to broadly reflect the adult population and the responses also weighted to more accurately reflect the geography and demography of the population

#### **4. Key Findings of the 2020 Place Survey**

4.1 The survey found that a large majority of people are satisfied with their area as a place to live. For example:

- 89% of people are satisfied with Solihull as a place to live, above the England average.
- 46% think their area has got worse over the last 2 years, but 78% of those are still satisfied with their area as a place to live.
- 84% think Solihull is cohesive.

4.2 There were mixed results regarding civic participation:

- 34% of respondents have taken part in formal volunteering in the last 12 months, lower than England average
- 62% have given informal help in the last 12 months.
- Only 38% agree that they can influence decisions, but higher than the England average.

4.3 56% of respondents feel safe in their local area after dark, falling to 40% in North Solihull. The downward trend in the percentage of people feeling safe after dark in North Solihull continued in 2020.

4.4 Headlines about the impact of Covid-19 on wellbeing are:

4.4.1 Satisfaction with life is still high (64% satisfied, 3% dissatisfied), similar to 2018.

4.4.2 There is evidence of increased financial anxiety, especially in those of working age.

4.4.3 There is a sense that community spirit strengthened over 2020:

- 56% agree that people in their neighbourhood look out for each other more than they did at start of year.
- 39% know neighbours better.
- 59% of respondents say that they have given more informal help during the pandemic than previously.

4.5 The full survey results are set out in full in appendix 'A'

#### **5. How are the Place Survey findings being used and its findings addressed?**

5.1 The data from the Place Survey is used in a variety of ways. For example, its findings:

- Provide valuable intelligence about public perceptions of crime and community safety.
- Inform Covid-19 recovery planning, by providing information about residents' perceptions of how the pandemic has affected them.
- Inform strategies to address inequalities, as well as strategies / plans to enable communities to thrive, for example, volunteering strategy and reducing loneliness and social isolation.
- Are used to populate a number of measures in the health & wellbeing scorecard that assess the impact of these strategies.

5.2 The results of the place survey are due to be presented to the Safer Solihull Board at their next meeting in early March. In the meantime these results will be shared with the North Locality group to consider the findings, in particular the change in resident's perception of safety after dark. The outcome of their deliberations will be fed back to the Safer Solihull Board and the Health & Wellbeing Board in due course.

5.3 Socio-economic factors have a significant impact upon people's experiences and perceptions and contribute to differences in results between groups of people and between geographical areas. The developing Inequalities Strategy, an update on which is given elsewhere on your agenda, is key to addressing these differences.

## 6. Implications and Considerations

6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
<p>Economy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revitalising our towns and local centres.</li> <li>2. UK Central (UKC) and maximising the opportunities of HS2.</li> <li>3. Increase the supply of housing, especially affordable and social housing.</li> </ol>	<p>The Place Survey provides intelligence about resident perceptions that helps to inform economic strategy and recovery planning.</p>
<p>Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Enhance Solihull's natural environment.</li> <li>5. Improve Solihull's air quality.</li> <li>6. Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions.</li> </ol>	<p>The Place Survey provides intelligence about resident perceptions of Solihull as a place to live.</p>
<p>People and Communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Take action to improve life chances in our most disadvantaged communities.</li> <li>8. Enable communities to thrive.</li> </ol>	<p>The Place Survey provides intelligence about resident perceptions that helps to inform strategies to improve life chances and to enable communities to thrive.</p>

9. Sustainable, quality, affordable provision for adults & children with complex needs.	
---	--

6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.2.1 The Place Survey is a valuable source of data about resident perceptions. Various aspects of its findings are reported to the relevant Scrutiny Board(s)

6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6.5 Risk implications:

6.5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 The Place Survey gives us valuable information about resident perceptions and how these vary by locality, age, gender, disability and ethnicity to help inform strategy for addressing inequalities.

**7. List of appendices referred to**

7.1 Appendix A – Solihull Place Survey Findings 2020

**8. Background papers used to compile this report**

8.1 None

**9. List of other relevant documents**

9.1 None