

What is the Place Survey?

The Place Survey is a new consultation that all local authorities are required to carry out on a two yearly basis. The Place Survey was devised by central government and replaces the Best Value Performance Indicator Survey (BVPI) which was carried out by NHDC in 2000, 2003 and 2006. The Place Survey has been developed as part of a new focus on improving outcomes for local people and places – rather than on processes, institutions and inputs.

The Place Survey will supply the data by which 18 National Indicators will be measured. These National Indicators will measure how well Government's priorities are being delivered by local governments. The 18 National Indicators are detailed in the table below along with their definitions:

National Indicator	Indicator Description
NI1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
NI2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood
NI3	Civic participation in the local area
NI4	% of People who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
NI5	Overall general satisfaction with the area
NI6	Participation in regular volunteering
NI17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
NI21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
NI22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area
NI23	Perceptions that people in the area are not treating one another with respect and consideration
NI27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime
NI37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area.
NI41	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour as a problem
NI42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem
NI119	Self reported measure of people's overall health and well being
NI138	Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood
NI139	The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home.

Through the Place Survey, NHDC is able to compare its performance against all of the other councils in England. In terms of benchmarking NHDC compares its performance with the 9 other Hertfordshire districts as well as our 15 nearest neighbours.

Hertfordshire Districts

Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Herts, Hertsmere, St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers
Watford and Welwyn Hatfield

Nearest Neighbours

Ashford, Braintree, Colchester, Dacorum, Epping Forest, Hertsmere, Maidstone,
Rugby, Shrewsbury & Atcham, South Bedfordshire, Stroud, Taunton Deane, Test
Valley, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells

As well as checking how we rank against the other Hertfordshire districts and our nearest neighbours we can also check our performance against all other councils in England. By doing this NHDC will find out if their results for each National Indicator puts them in the top, second, third or bottom quartile. Top quartile means that a council is in the top quarter of all English councils, while bottom quartile means that a council is in the bottom quarter in terms of performance.