

# Written evidence from COSLA, following the evidence session on 18 June 2025

## In response to [questions from Michelle Thomson](#)

It is hard to provide in depth examples of where lack of resource is hampering efforts to adopt CWB, but from research undertaken by SLAED, lack of resource was the most commonly cited barrier highlighted through their mapping process. 15 local authorities explicitly stated resource was a barrier to progressing CWB.

We are aware of one council who initially appointed a lead officer to develop their CWB strategy and action plan. However, due to resource constraints, the post could not be maintained. Responsibility for CWB was subsequently added to the duties of a Business Gateway advisor, but this arrangement proved insufficient to maintain momentum or effectively advance the strategy. They have now secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding to reinstate a dedicated lead officer post to take forward the CWB work.

## In response to [questions from Colin Smyth](#)

SLAED asked officers at an in person event in April and gathered a lot of information with some quite specific asks. The following are additional points that didn't come through in the SLAED written response, and therefore represent views within Local Government rather than COSLA's agreed position:

- Guidance should include a glossary of terms
- Guidance should include tools for implementation (e.g. A progression framework)
- Guidance should map and rationalise the CWB partnership among existing groups (e.g. REPs and CPPs)
- Guidance should detail what is within control at local, regional and national levels
- Guidance should specifically outline what 'good' looks like across different service areas
- Guidance should be linked to potential funding pathways. And/or, include a comprehensive funding map of potential funds which could be harnessed to support CWB.
- Guidance should include a simple reporting template/guide including a menu of indicators which are optional/customizable with a clear definition of 'local spend'.
- Guidance should promote 'CWB in all policies', cross-policy fertilisation across pillars, akin to 'health in all policies'.

COSLA (by email to Clerks)  
24 June 2025