

SPC: Housing Affordability & the Local Economy - questionnaire

EMPLOYER QUESTIONNAIRE

ASK ALL

The Southern Policy Centre (SPC) have been commissioned to find out more about the impact of housing costs on our local economy. As part of this research, SPC are seeking the views of local businesses and their employees. This study is intended to help shape local and national policy on housing, and to find ways in which we can tackle the problem of high housing costs. Your views and ideas are vital to its success, the more responses SPC get the more likely their research will have an impact.

We are grateful to you for making time to complete this short questionnaire. The results will all be anonymous, no companies or individuals will be named. We won't look at your answers individually but group them with other businesses of similar size and/or sector.

Your data will not be used for any purposes other than this research.

First of all we would like to understand a little more about the business you work for.

ASK ALL

Q1. What is the first part of the postcode for the place you usually work?

Single choice

first part of postcode

Q2. What is your job title?

open

Q3. Does the organisation you work for have more than one site?

Single choice

Yes

No

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If yes more than one site

Q4. Are all sites based in Surrey, Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth or the Isle of Wight?

Single choice

Yes

No

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If yes more than one site

Q5. Where is head office based?

Single choice

This is head office

Another location in Surrey, Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth or the Isle of Wight

Elsewhere in the UK

Outside the UK

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q6. Approximately how many people usually work at this location?

Single choice

1 – just you

2-10

11-20

21-50

51-100

101-250

251+

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 2-10 to 250+ employees

Q7. Which of these statements best describes the employees at your location in your organisation?

Single choice

Mostly professionals or specialist skills or top / middle management level (e.g. solicitor; accountant; engineer; IT specialist; skilled construction worker; HGV driver)

Mostly non-professional/ specialist or unskilled (e.g. manual workers; apprentices; shop assistant; office admin; salesperson; pub/ bar worker)

A mix of both

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 1- just you at Q6 ask:

Q8a. Which is your main mode of transport to work?

Single choice

Walk the whole way

Bicycle

Train

Bus

Car

Van / lorry

Motorbike

Other

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 2-10 to 250+ employees

Q8b. What are the two modes of transport most frequently used by staff at your organisation to get to and from work at your location?

Multichoice – up to 2

Walk

Bicycle

Train

Bus

Car

Van / lorry

Motorbike

Other

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 1- just you at Q6 ask:

Q9a. How near do you live to your place of work – what is the average time of your commute?

Single choice

Less than 30 minutes

Between 30 minutes and one hour

Between one and two hours

More than 2 hours

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 2-10 to 250+ employees

Q9b. Please estimate the proportion of employees that live within each of these commuting times from your business location. Please make sure the total adds to 100%

one numeric answer 0-100 per line. make sure total adds to 100

Less than 30 minutes _____%

Between 30 minutes and one hour _____%

Between one and two hours _____%

More than 2 hours _____%

Don't know/ prefer not to answer (*single code*)

ASK ALL

Q10. Do you think house prices within 5 miles of your business location are higher, or lower, than average prices in the rest of the South of England?

Single choice

Higher than average

About average

Lower than average

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q11. Do you think the cost of residential property rental within 5 miles of your business location is higher, or lower, than average rental costs in the rest of the South of England?

Single choice

Higher than average

About average

Lower than average

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q12. Do you think average house prices within 5 miles of your business location have increased, or decreased, over the last 5 years?

Single choice

Increased significantly

Increased slightly

Not much change

Decreased slightly

Decreased significantly

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q13. Do you think the average cost of residential property rental within 5 miles of your business location has increased, or decreased, over the last 5 years?

Single choice

Increased significantly

Increased slightly

Not much change

Decreased slightly

Decreased significantly

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q14. Do you consider the cost of housing within 5 miles of your business location has impacted your business in any of the following ways?

Please tick all that apply

Multi choice

Recruiting professional or specialist staff

Retaining professional or specialist-staff

Recruiting other staff

Retaining other staff

Recruitment costs

Staff pay & reward

Other direct or indirect costs

Decisions about business investment

Decisions about business growth

Other (specify)
None of these
Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q15. Would you consider re-locating the business to an area where house prices and rents are lower for any of these reasons?

Please tick all that apply

Multi choice

Improve staff recruitment
Improve staff retention
Reduce staff or other costs
Other (please specify)
I would not consider re-locating the business
Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 2-10 to 250+ employees

Q16. Have you increased wages/ salaries for any of these reasons in the last 5 years?

Please tick all that apply

Multi choice

To attract staff
To retain staff
To help meet the local costs of living
Other (specify)
We have not increased wages/salaries
Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If 2-10 to 250+ employees

Q17. Do you have any policies or programmes to assist staff with the cost of relocation, house purchase or rental?

Single choice

Yes
No
Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If yes

Q18. What policies or programmes to assist staff with the cost of relocation, house purchase or rental do you have? – please tell us more by typing in your answer

open

ASK ALL

Q19. Is there anything you wish to add about the impact of the cost of housing in the area near your business

Please type in your answer

Open

ASK ALL

Q20. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about how the local housing situation could be improved?

Please type in your answer

Open

ASK ALL

Q21. What sector is your main business activity in?

Single choice

- a – health or social care
- b – public administration
- c – further/higher education
- d – financial services
- e – agriculture
- f – construction
- g – digital
- h – manufacturing
- i – aerospace industries
- j – marine and maritime industries
- k – transport and logistics
- l – professional, scientific or technical
- m – hotel and catering services
- n – arts, culture and recreation
- o – wholesale or retail services
- p – information and communications
- q – other (please specify...)

If more than 1 person works at company

We would also like to understand this issue from an employee’s perspective. Please would you be able to invite employees from your business to take part in the survey but responding to a separate questionnaire. We would be grateful if you could ask a cross section of your employees, who work at the same location as you to complete an employee questionnaire (up to 12).

If you agree, we will provide you with a link unique to your business that you can email directly to chosen employees. If they click on the link they will be invited to complete a separate questionnaire. They are under no obligation to take part and their survey response is anonymous. They will not be able to see your answers and you will not be able to see theirs.

To generate a link to the employee survey, click continue. You can copy and paste this link into an e-mail you can send to your staff

Generate link and instructions/email

Thank and close

EMPLOYEE QUESTIONNAIRE

ASK ALL

We all know that the cost of buying or renting a house in the South East is high, only London costs more than some parts of our area. High housing costs can affect businesses, making it more difficult to recruit and retain staff. Those staff may also struggle to meet the cost of renting or buying.

The Southern Policy Centre (SPC) have been commissioned to find out more about the impact of housing costs on our local economy. As part of this research, SPC are seeking the views of local businesses and their employees. As someone who works for a company which is submitting a response, we would be very grateful if you could complete the following short questionnaire about your experiences.

This study is intended to help shape local and national policy on housing, and to find ways in which we can tackle the problem of high housing costs. Your views and ideas are vital to its success, the more responses SPC get the more likely their research will have an impact.

The results will all be anonymous, no companies or individuals will be named. Your answers are confidential and will not be seen by anyone else at your place of work. They will be aggregated with other employees across the South of England.

Your data will not be used for any purposes other than this research.

If you would like to take part in this important survey please click 'continue

continue

As we are keen to hear the views of people from across the South of England and with different employment and housing situations, we are asking you some questions about yourself and your job. These are so we can create groups of similar people for analysis. They are not to identify you and we will never use your data for anything other than this project.

ASK ALL

Q1. What is the first part of the postcode for the place you usually work?

Single choice

first part of postcode

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q2. How long have you worked at this location for this organisation? Please enter number of years, if less than a year ago please put 0

Numeric 0 - 99

_____ years

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q3. Which of the following best describes you?

Single choice

Higher managerial/ professional/ administrative (e.g. experienced doctor, solicitor, engineer or IT worker; Senior Manager in a large organisation (200+ employees); chief officer in civil service/ local government/ health service)

Intermediate managerial/ professional/ administrative (e.g. newly qualified (under 3 years) doctor, solicitor, engineer or IT worker; senior manager in a small organisation; nurse; senior officer in civil service/ local government/ health service)

Supervisory or clerical/ junior managerial/ trainee professional/ administrative (e.g. office worker; student doctor; foreman/supervisor in manufacturing or construction sectors; salesperson)

Skilled manual worker (e.g. skilled craftsman; bus/ train driver; HGV driver; paramedic; pub/ bar worker)

Semi or unskilled worker (e.g. construction workers, apprentices to skilled trades, caretaker, non-HGV driver, shop assistant; call-centre worker)

Casual worker – not in permanent employment

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q4. Which of these best describes how you own, or rent, your home?

Single choice

Own outright

Own with a mortgage or loan

Part own and part rent / shared ownership

Rent from a housing association/ co-operative/ charitable trust/ council/

Rent from a private landlord or letting agency

Rent from friend/ family/ employer / for free

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q5. Which of these best describes how you live?

Single choice

Single, live alone

Single, share accommodation

Single, live with children

Live with a partner, no children

Live with a partner, with children

Live with a partner, children no longer at home

Other (specify)

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If own outright, own with a mortgage, part own ask:

Q6a. Do you think house prices within 5 miles of where you live are higher, or lower, than average prices in the rest of the South of England?

Single choice

Higher than average

About average

Lower than average

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If own outright, own with a mortgage, part own ask:

Q7a. Do you think average house prices within 5 miles of where you work have increased or decreased over the last 5 years?

Single choice

Increased significantly

Increased slightly

Not much change

Decreased slightly

Decreased significantly

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If rent ask:

Q6b. Do you think the cost of residential property rental within 5 miles of where you live is higher or lower than average prices in the rest of the South of England?

Single choice

Higher than average

About average

Lower than average

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If rent ask:

Q7b. Do you think the average cost of residential property rental within 5 miles of where you work has increased or decreased over the last 5 years?

Single choice

Increased significantly

Increased slightly

Not much change

Decreased slightly

Decreased significantly

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q8. How near do you live to your place of work – what is the average time of your commute?

Single choice

Less than 30 minutes

Between 30 minutes and one hour

Between one and two hours

More than 2 hours

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q9. Which is your main mode of transport to work?

Single choice

Walk the whole way

Bicycle

Train

Bus

Car

Van / lorry

Motorbike

Other

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q10. Have you moved house in the last five years?

Single choice

Yes

No

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

If yes moved within last 5 years

Q11. Which of these were factors when you last moved house?

Multichoice - randomise

To move to a new job

To improve my commute to work

To get a bigger house

To reduce housing costs

To be nearer work

To be nearer good schools

To be nearer better employment opportunities

To be nearer shops / health/ leisure facilities

Other (specify)

ASK ALL

Q12. Do you consider the proportion of your monthly take home salary spent on housing costs (mortgage or rent) has increased or decreased in the last 5 years?

Single choice

Increased

Stayed the same

Decreased

Don't know/ prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

Q13. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is completely agree and 5 is completely disagree

Each statement shown in random order with numeric answer 1 to 5. A reminder that 1 is completely agree and 5 is completely disagree

I would like to live nearer to where I work

I would like to move to more affordable housing

If I moved to more affordable housing I would have to leave my current job as it's too far to travel

I would change jobs and travel further to earn more rather than move home

Houses closer to where I work are too expensive for me

Salaries in organisations nearer where I live wouldn't cover my housing & living costs

I struggle to cover housing and living costs where I currently live

I am likely to look for a new job in the next two years so I can live where housing costs are lower

ASK ALL

Q14. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the cost of housing and/or local prices, or factors such as the availability of suitable housing in relation to your employment?

Please type in your answer

Open

Thank & close