

### Overall Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

### Youth Unemployment

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SOLIHULL

#### Employment and Skills update

The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) programme has been the main focus of activity over the summer months. There are now 65 young people registered on the programme and are being supported by teams across Solihull Council. Around two thirds of these young people are being supported by the Employment and Skills outreach team, as it has been identified that they are ready to look for training, education or employment.

The team continues to work with both job centres, with a specific focus on 18-24 year olds now that the Destination Work programme has stopped in Solihull, with the team receiving 4-5 new referrals each week.

The Employer Engagement Officer is now in post and will be working closely with the Outreach Team to help identify employers who may be able to offer appropriate work experience, paid placements, traineeships, apprenticeships or other employment for the current YEI caseload. Over the next two months there will be a focus on Christmas recruitment with a **seasonal Job Shop on Thursday 13 October at Chelmsley Wood Library** with many new temporary opportunities in the retail and hospitality sector.

Over the last month there has been a significant increase in the number of people contacting the team to enquire about employment support, from all ages and backgrounds. This may be short term trend due to the time of year.

This briefing introduces a new headline measure for claimant unemployment in Solihull, which is more representative of the true level of benefit related unemployment than Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). Since June 2015 there has been a phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Solihull which has replaced a number of existing benefits, including JSA for new claimants. These new claimants would probably be receiving JSA in the absence of UC; therefore focusing only on JSA figures does not give a wholly representative view on the current level of unemployment. Headline claimant unemployment will therefore combine JSA claimants and those UC claimants who are required to be available for and actively seeking work.

The new headline measure of claimant is available down to ward level on an age and gender basis.









It should be noted that as the ONS is still working on the methodology for creating these figures they are liable to retrospective revision. In July 2016, figures dating back to April 2015 were revised by the ONS.

### Headline Claimant Unemployment

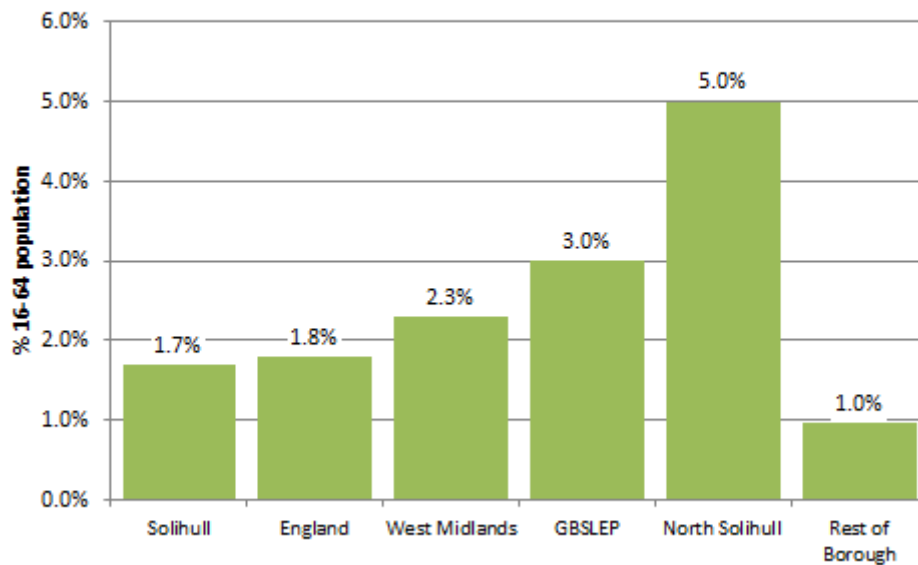
In August 2016 there were 2,160 individuals in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents a claimant unemployment rate of 1.7%.

On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is below the averages for England (1.8%), the West Midlands (2.3%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (3.0%).

Around 54% of claimants in Solihull (1,160 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 5.0% compared with 1.0% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – August 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Aug 2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (August 2015-2016)		
		Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	2,160	1.6%	1.7%	+185	+9%	
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,160	4.5%	5.0%	+110	+10%	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	1,000	0.9%	1.0%	+75	+8%	
England	603,365	1.8%	1.8%	-12,240	-2%	
West Midlands	83,330	2.2%	2.3%	+3,800	+5%	
GBSLEP	37,830	2.9%	3.0%	+1,645	+5%	
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	210,265	2.8%	2.8%	-1,480	-1%	
CIPFA Comparator Councils	29,700	1.3%	1.3%	-835	-3%	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

## Headline Claimant Unemployment August 2016

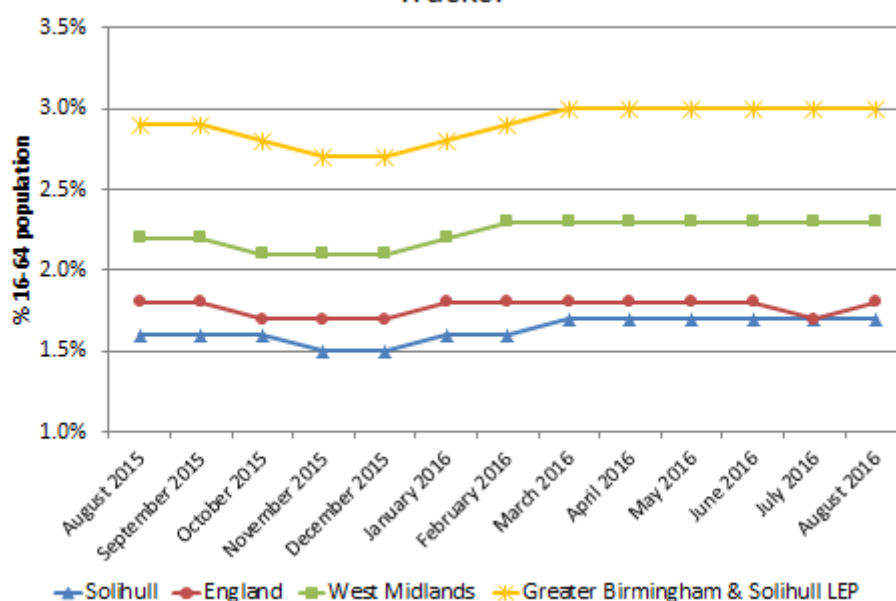


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The claimant unemployment count in Solihull increased by 1.4% (+30 individuals) between July and August 2016, the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive monthly rise. As a result, the number of claimants in Solihull is now 9% higher than in August 2015 (+185 individuals). This is broadly in-line with the regional trend, but contrasts with a slight fall across England as a whole (-2%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +10% (+110 individuals) over the last year, mirroring a rise across the rest of the borough (+8%, +75 individuals).

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between August 2015 and 2016 resulted in an increase in the claimant unemployment rate of 10 percentage points (from 1.6% to 1.7%). The rate increased in both North Solihull (from 4.5% to 5.0%) and across the rest of the Borough (from 0.9% to 1.0%) over this period.

## Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

### Gender Breakdown

Around 61% of Solihull claimants are male (1,320 individuals) and 39% female (840 individuals), which is broadly consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is slightly below the national average for males and the same for females.

<b>Claimant Unemployment by Gender - August 2016</b>						
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,320	840	61%	39%	2.1%	1.3%
England	377,140	226,230	63%	37%	2.2%	1.3%
West Midlands	52,765	30,565	63%	37%	3.0%	1.7%
GBSLEP	24,350	13,485	64%	36%	3.9%	2.1%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

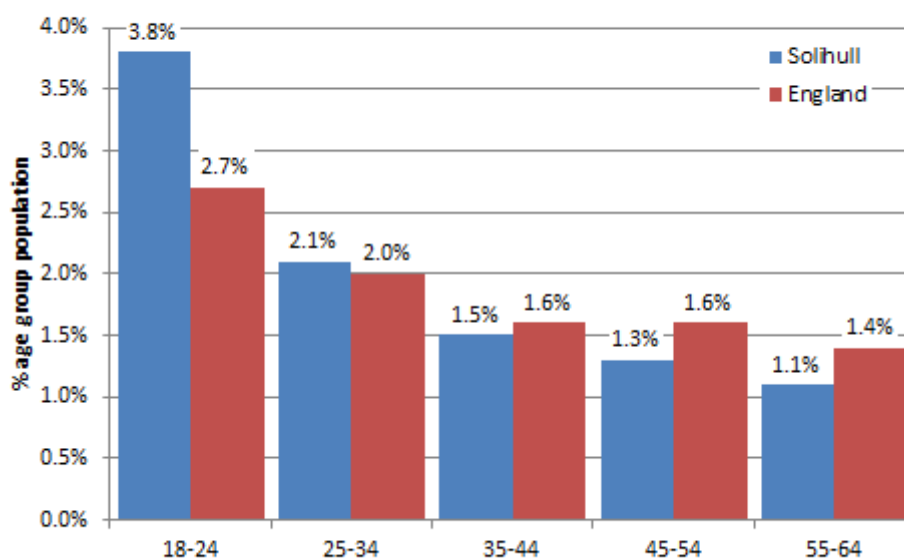
### Age Breakdown

In August 2016 just over a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (605 individuals, 28% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, particularly sickness benefits such as Employment Support Allowance, among older age groups as increasing employment rates.

Solihull's claimant unemployment rate is above the England average among 18-24 year olds and is also marginally higher for those aged 25-34 years. However, it is below average among older age groups.

	Solihull Claimants August 2016		Rates (% Age Group)	
	Claimant Count	% Total	Solihull	England
Age 18-24	605	28%	3.8%	2.7%
Age 25-34	490	23%	2.1%	2.0%
Age 35-44	370	17%	1.5%	1.6%
Age 45-54	425	20%	1.3%	1.6%
Age 55-64	275	13%	1.1%	1.4%
Total	2,160		1.7%	1.8%
Source: ONS/Nomis				

## Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group August 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

### Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

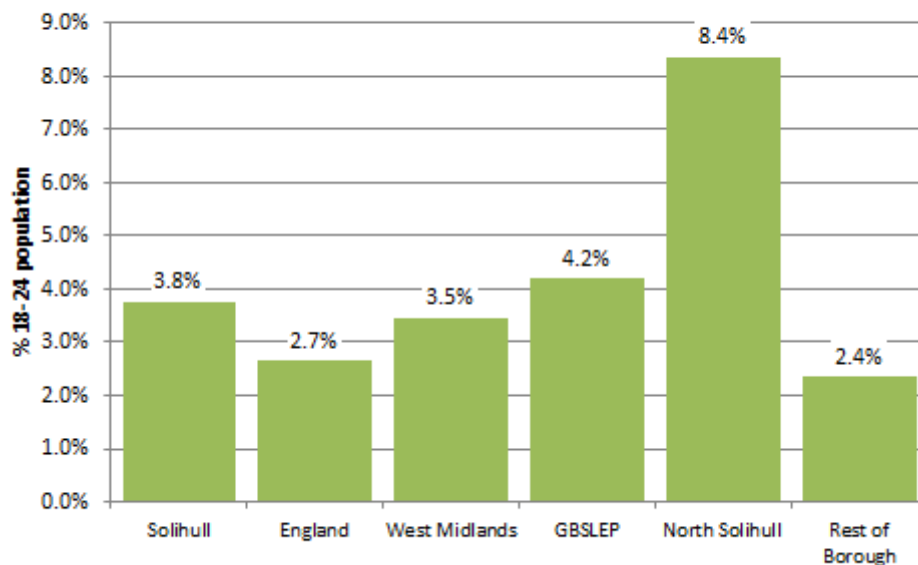
In August 2016 there were 605 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate of 3.8%.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than the England average (2.7%) and that for the West Midlands (3.5%). In order to match the England average rate the number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull would have to fall by nearly 180 individuals.

Around 52% (315 individuals) of 18-24 year old claimants live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood), where the rate is nearly four times higher than across the rest of the Borough (8.4% compared to 2.4%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – August 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Aug 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (August 2015-2016)		
		Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	605	3.5%	3.8%	+45	+8%	↑
<i>North Solihull</i>	315	8.6%	8.4%	-10	-3%	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	290	1.9%	2.4%	+55	+23%	↑
England	130,530	2.8%	2.7%	-8,770	-6%	↓
West Midlands	18,685	3.4%	3.5%	+465	+3%	↑
GBSLEP	8,480	4.1%	4.2%	+190	+2%	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	48,030	4.2%	4.0%	-3,310	-6%	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,815	2.4%	2.2%	-725	-10%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

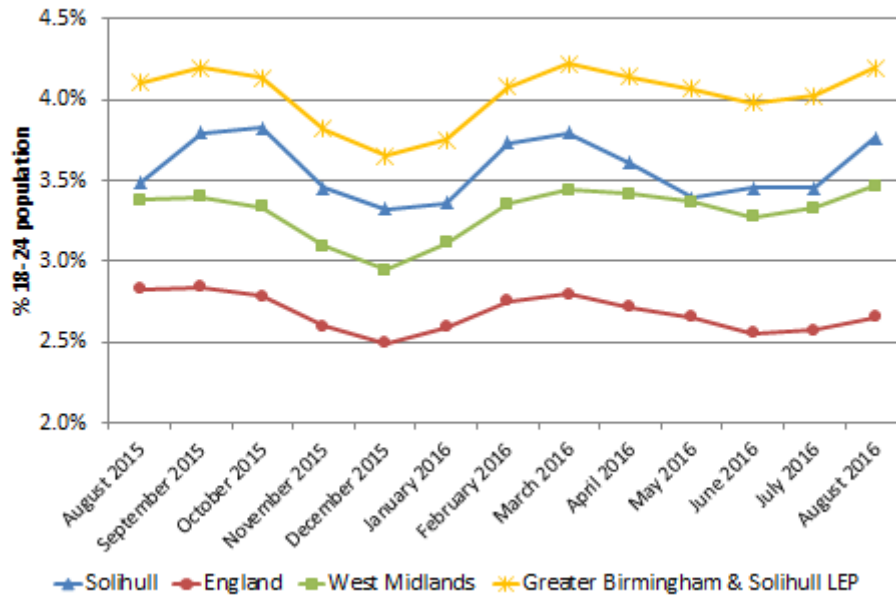
## 18-24 Claimant Unemployment August 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull increased by +8% (+45 individuals) between August 2015 and 2016. The rate among this group has risen from 3.5% to 3.8% as a result, although there have been substantial seasonal fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -3% in the year to August 2016 (-10 individuals), although this was not enough to offset an increase in the rest of the Borough of +23%, (+55 individuals).

### Youth Claimant Unemployment Rates (18-24 Year olds): 12 Month Tracker

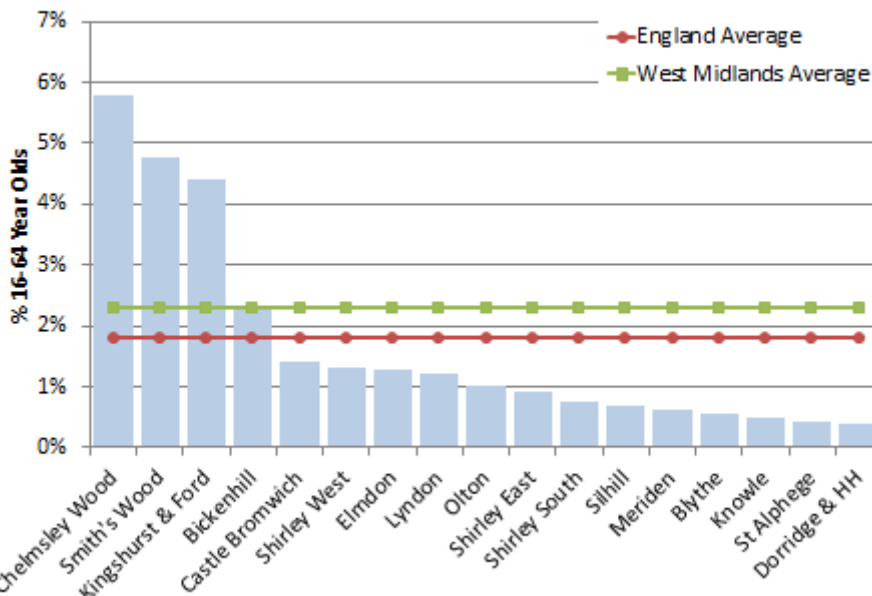


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

### Ward Claimant Unemployment

Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.8%), Smith's Wood (4.8%) and Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.4%).

### Ward Claimant Unemployment August 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between August 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment increased in nine out of Solihull's 17 wards, with falls in just one.

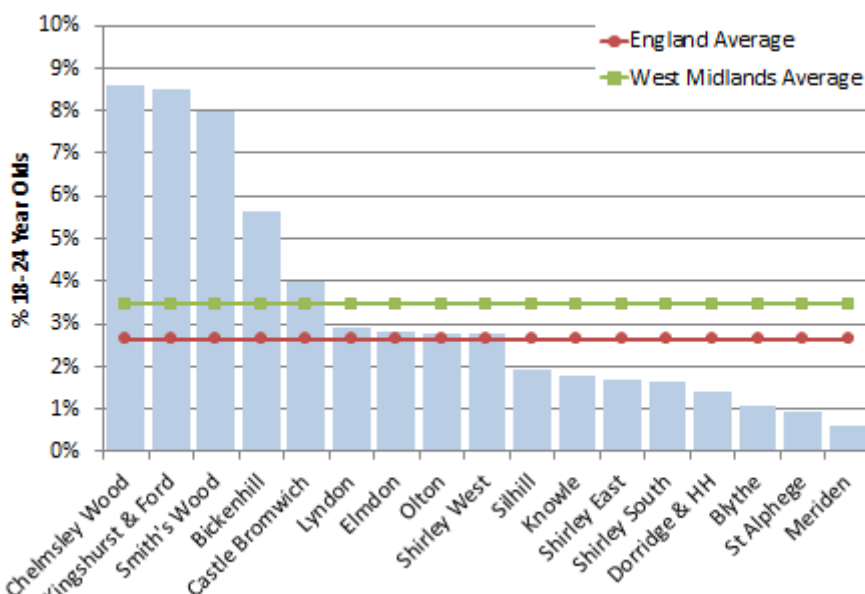
Claimant Unemployment – August 2016						
	Count Aug 2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (August 2015-2016)		
		Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	175	2.3%	2.3%	0	0%	↔
Blythe	50	0.3%	0.6%	+20	+67%	↑
Castle Bromwich	100	1.4%	1.4%	0	0%	↔
Chelmsley Wood	435	5.2%	5.8%	+45	+12%	↑
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	25	0.3%	0.4%	+5	+25%	↑
Elmdon	95	1.0%	1.3%	+20	+27%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	350	4.4%	4.4%	0	0%	↔
Knowle	30	0.5%	0.5%	0	0%	↔
Lyndon	100	1.2%	1.2%	0	0%	↔
Meriden	45	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	75	0.9%	1.0%	+5	+7%	↑
Shirley East	65	0.8%	0.9%	+10	+18%	↑
Shirley South	55	0.6%	0.8%	+10	+22%	↑
Shirley West	95	1.2%	1.3%	+10	+12%	↑
Silhill	50	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Smith's Wood	370	4.1%	4.8%	+55	+17%	↑
St Alphege	35	0.5%	0.4%	-5	-13%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

#### Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

Five wards in Solihull have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (8.6%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (8.5%), Smith's Wood (8.0%), Bickenhill (5.6%) and Castle Bromwich (4.0%).





## Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment August 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between August 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in two out of the three North Solihull wards. In the Rest of the Borough there were increases in nine wards.

	18-24 Claimant Unemployment – August 2016					
	Count Aug 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (August 2015-2016)		
		Aug 2015	Aug 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	55	4.1%	5.6%	+15	+38%	↑
Blythe	10	0.6%	1.1%	+5	+100%	↑
Castle Bromwich	40	3.0%	4.0%	+10	+33%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	105	9.0%	8.6%	-5	-5%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	10	0.7%	1.4%	+5	+100%	↑
Elmdon	25	2.3%	2.8%	+5	+25%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	110	8.5%	8.5%	0	0%	↔
Knowle	10	0.9%	1.8%	+5	+100%	↑
Lyndon	30	2.9%	2.9%	0	0%	↔
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	25	1.7%	2.8%	+10	+67%	↑
Shirley East	15	1.1%	1.7%	+5	+50%	↑
Shirley South	15	1.1%	1.7%	+5	+50%	↑
Shirley West	25	2.8%	2.8%	0	0%	↔
Silhill	15	1.9%	1.9%	0	0%	↔

Smith's Wood	100	8.4%	8.0%	-5	-5%	
St Alphege	10	1.4%	0.9%	-5	-33%	
Source: Claimant Count, ONS/Nomis						

## Methodology Notes

### Universal Credit

From May 2015 onwards there has been a phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Solihull which will replace a number existing benefits including (means tested) Job Seekers Allowance for new claimants.

The Pathfinder for UC started on 29 April 2013 and the programme is being gradually rolled out across the country. At the moment UC is only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents (hence why more than half of current UC claimants in Solihull are under the age of 35 years).

In response to the growing number of areas introducing UC the ONS have announced a change to the definition of the measurement of the Claimant Count. From May 2015 the ONS headline measure of the Claimant Count was changed to include out of work claimants of Universal Credit. In July 2016 this definition was again changed so that only those Universal Credit claimants who are required to be available for and actively seeking work are included. This change resulted in the ONS retrospectively revising figures dating back to April 2015

### Comparator Areas

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP): Birmingham, Solihull, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Wyre Forest

Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) nearest neighbour comparator Local Authorities: Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Bury, Chester East, Chester West & Chester, Stockport, Trafford, Warrington, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, Poole, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire, York

Metropolitan Councils: Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton.