

Overall Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

Youth Unemployment

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YEI Update: Frame Academy

'Frame Academy' is funded by the Youth Employment Initiative and European Social Fund.

The project will run a series of 6 week programmes over a two year period that will teach participants to assemble and maintain a bicycle. It will give eligible NEET young people an opportunity to learn some new skills, earn a qualification and understand what is required in a working environment. After completing the course, participants will be allowed to keep the bicycle they worked on, providing another great incentive to apply for this support.

Frame Academy will work with local partners and businesses to help young people access opportunities to improve their work and life skills before helping them choose their career pathway.

Lee Watson, Cycle Project Co-ordinator, said: ***"It is a great opportunity for NEET Young People to learn some new ideas in a working environment. We are aiming for a 100% success rate in the course and we are hoping that this gives our participants some vital skills that they can take forward."***

If you know anyone who'd be interested in taking part in Frame Academy, or like more information, call Lee Watson 0787911293 or email lee.watson@solihull.gov.uk

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

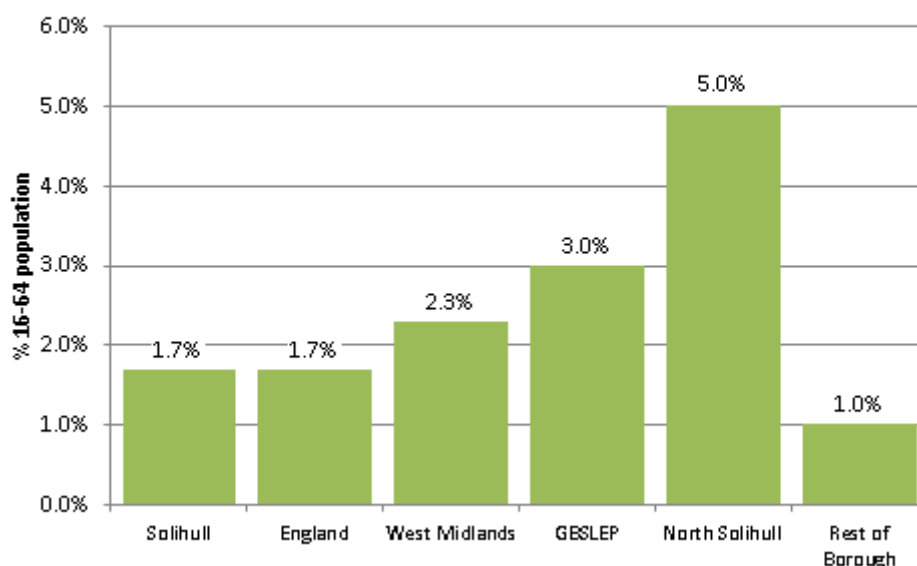
In September 2016 there were 2,210 individuals in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents a claimant unemployment rate of 1.7%.

On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is in line with the England average, but lower than the West Midlands (2.3%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (3.0%).

Around 53% of claimants in Solihull (1,165 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) – September 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Sept 2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Sept 2015-2016)		
		Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	2,210	1.6%	1.7%	+225	+11%	
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,165	4.6%	5.0%	+95	+9%	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	1,045	0.9%	1.0%	+135	+15%	
England	599,740	1.8%	1.7%	-8,425	-1%	
West Midlands	83,315	2.2%	2.3%	+5,155	+7%	
GBSLEP	38,025	2.9%	3.0%	+2,315	+6%	
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	209,870	2.8%	2.8%	+1,080	+1%	
CIPFA Comparator Councils	29,485	1.3%	1.3%	-940	-3%	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Headline Claimant Unemployment September 2016

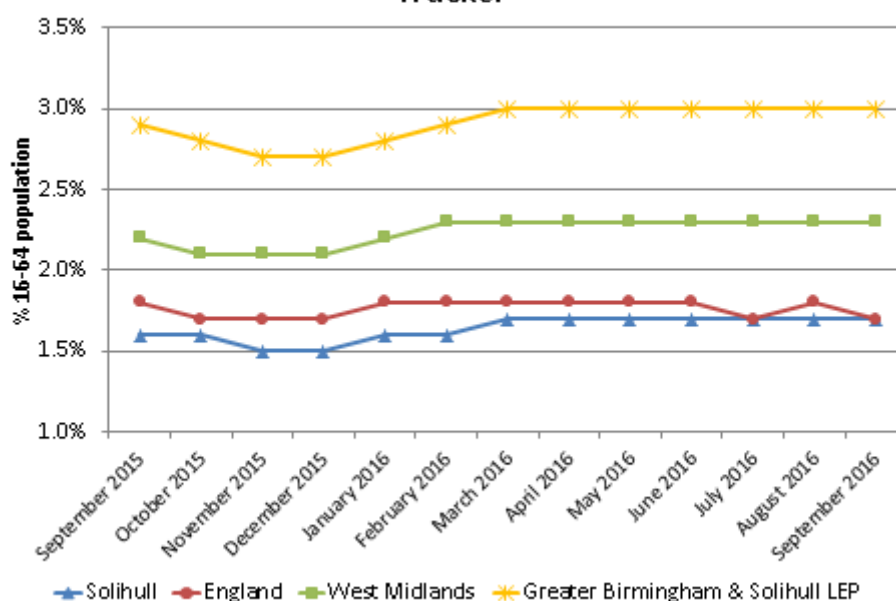


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The claimant unemployment count in Solihull increased by 2.1% (+45 individuals) between August and September 2016, the 3rd consecutive monthly rise. As a result, the number of claimants in Solihull is now 11% higher than in September 2015 (+225 individuals). This is broadly in-line with the regional trend, but contrasts with a slight fall across England as a whole (-1%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +9% (+95 individuals) over the last year, mirroring a rise across the rest of the borough (+15%, +135 individuals).

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between September 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 4.6% 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/StatXplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 61% of Solihull claimants are male (1,345 individuals) and 39% female (865 individuals), which is broadly consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is in-line with the national average for both males and females.

Claimant Unemployment by Gender - September 2016						
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,345	865	61%	39%	2.2%	1.3%
England	373,355	226,385	62%	38%	2.2%	1.3%
West Midlands	52,425	30,890	63%	37%	2.9%	1.7%
GBSLEP	24,370	13,650	64%	36%	3.9%	2.2%
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

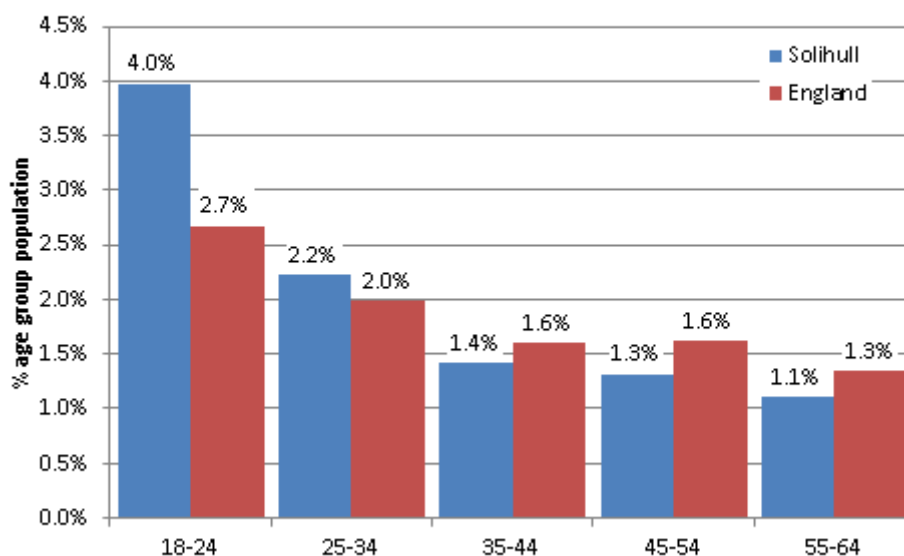
Age Breakdown

In September 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 (640 individuals, 29% 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 September 2016		Rates (% Age Group)	
	Claimant Count	% Total	Solihull	England
Age 18-24	640	29%	4.0%	2.7%
Age 25-34	510	23%	2.2%	2.0%
Age 35-44	360	16%	1.4%	1.6%
Age 45-54	420	19%	1.3%	1.6%
Age 55-64	275	12%	1.1%	1.3%
Total	2,210		1.7%	1.7%
Source: ONS/Nomis				

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group September 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

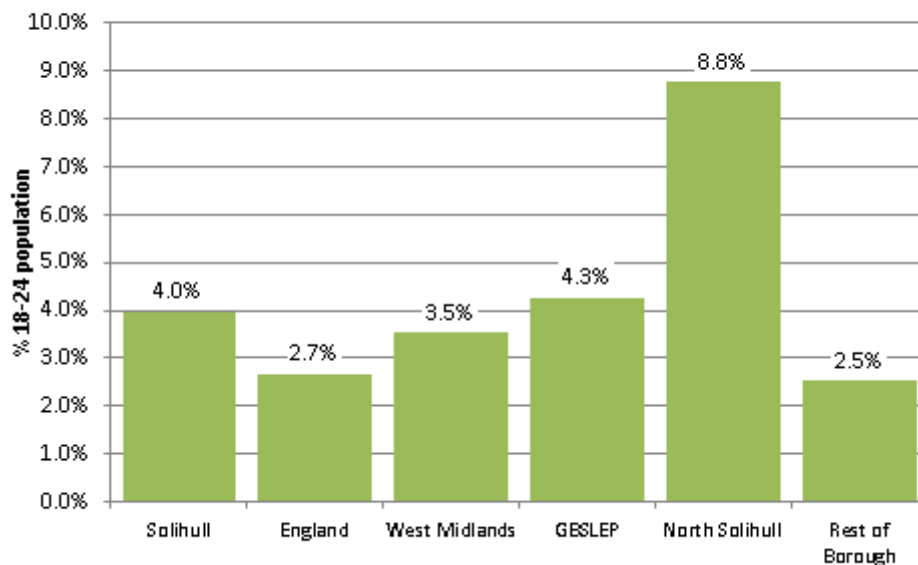
In September 2016 there were 640 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate of 4.0%.

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 210 individuals.

Around 52% (330 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 three and a half times higher than across the rest of the Borough (8.8% compared to 2.5%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – September 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Sept 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Sept 2015-2016)		
		Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	640	3.8%	4.0%	+30	+5%	↑
<i>North Solihull</i>	330	9.3%	8.8%	-20	-6%	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	310	2.1%	2.5%	+50	+19%	↑
England	131,505	2.8%	2.7%	-8,230	-6%	↓
West Midlands	18,975	3.4%	3.5%	+660	+4%	↑
GBSLEP	8,615	4.2%	4.3%	+135	+2%	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	48,420	4.2%	4.0%	-2,965	-6%	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,805	2.4%	2.2%	-825	-11%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

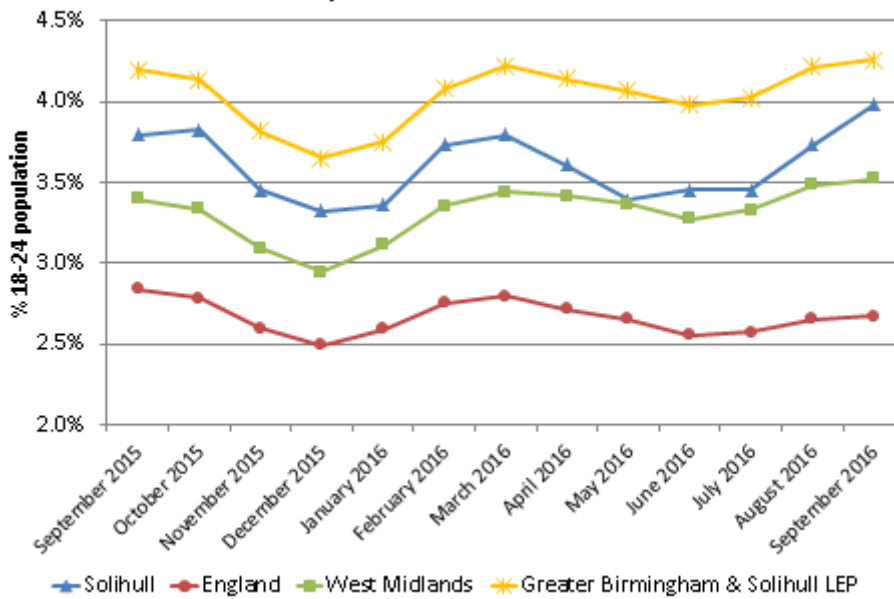
18-24 Claimant Unemployment September 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull increased by +5% (+30 individuals) between September 2015 and 2016. The rate among this group has risen from 3.8% to 4.0% as a result, although there have been substantial seasonal fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -6% in the year to September 2016 (-20 individuals), although this was not enough to offset an increase in the rest of the Borough of +19%, (+50 individuals).

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

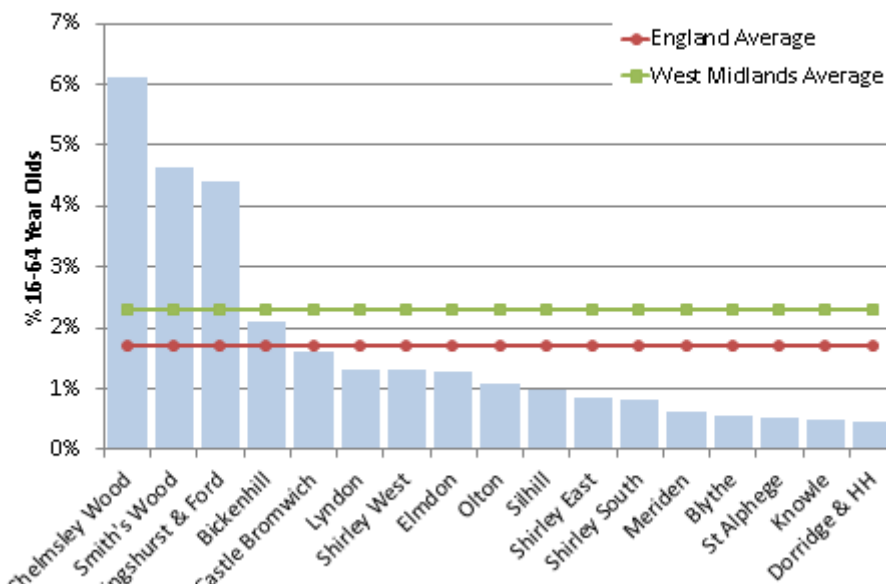


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (6.1%), Smith's Wood (4.6%) and Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.4%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment September 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

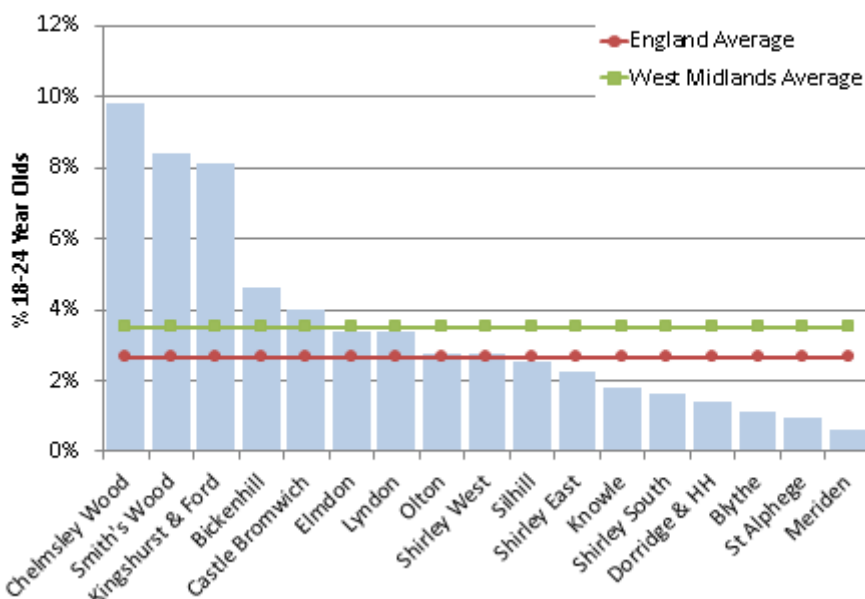
Between September 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment increased in 14 out of Solihull's 17 wards, with falls in just two.

Claimant Unemployment – September 2016						
	Count Sep 2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Sept 2015-2016)		
		Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	160	2.3%	2.1%	-15	-9%	
Blythe	50	0.3%	0.6%	+20	+67%	
Castle Bromwich	115	1.3%	1.6%	+25	+28%	
Chelmsley Wood	460	5.3%	6.1%	+65	+16%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	30	0.3%	0.5%	+10	+50%	
Elmdon	95	1.0%	1.3%	+20	+27%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	350	4.4%	4.4%	0	0%	
Knowle	30	0.4%	0.5%	+5	+20%	
Lyndon	110	1.1%	1.3%	+15	+16%	
Meriden	45	0.8%	0.6%	-10	-18%	
Olton	80	0.9%	1.1%	+10	+14%	
Shirley East	60	0.8%	0.8%	+5	+9%	
Shirley South	60	0.7%	0.8%	+10	+20%	
Shirley West	95	1.2%	1.3%	+10	+12%	
Silhill	70	0.7%	1.0%	+20	+40%	
Smith's Wood	360	4.3%	4.6%	+30	+9%	
St Alphege	45	0.5%	0.5%	+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 (9.8%), Smith's Wood (8.4%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (8.1%), Bickenhill (4.6%) and Castle Bromwich (4.0%).



Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment September 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between September 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 ten wards.

	18-24 Claimant Unemployment – September 2016					
	Count Sep 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Sept 2015-2016)		
		Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	45	5.1%	4.6%	-5	-10%	↓
Blythe	10	0.0%	1.1%	+10	-	↑
Castle Bromwich	40	3.0%	4.0%	+10	+33%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	120	9.4%	9.8%	+5	+4%	↑
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	10	0.7%	1.4%	+5	+100%	↑
Elmdon	30	2.8%	3.4%	+5	+20%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	105	9.7%	8.1%	-20	-16%	↓
Knowle	10	0.9%	1.8%	+5	+100%	↑
Lyndon	35	2.9%	3.4%	+5	+17%	↑
Meriden	5	1.2%	0.6%	-5	-50%	↓
Olton	25	2.2%	2.8%	+5	+25%	↑
Shirley East	20	1.7%	2.2%	+5	+33%	↑
Shirley South	15	1.1%	1.7%	+5	+50%	↑
Shirley West	25	2.8%	2.8%	0	0%	↔
Silhill	20	1.9%	2.5%	+5	+33%	↑

Smith's Wood	105	9.2%	8.4%	-10	-9%	
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.