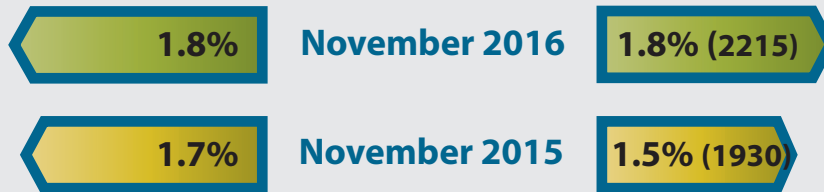


Overall Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

Youth Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

Headlines

- The overall age 16-64 claimant rate fell by 2.6%, or -60 individuals between October and November 2016, which is most likely due to the positive impact of pre- Christmas employment.
- The claimant rate for young people age 18-24 also decreased between October and November from 4.1% to 3.9%, or 25 individuals.

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

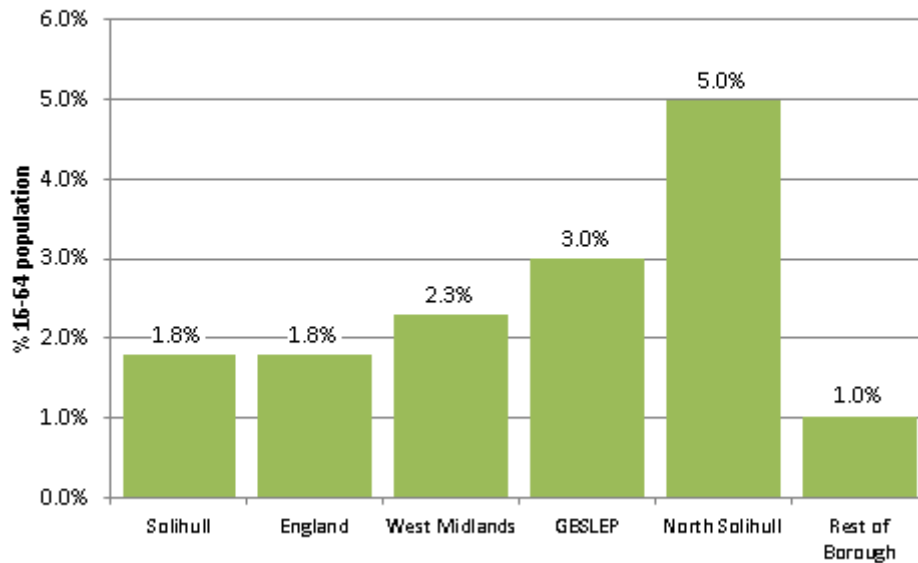
In November 2016 there were 2,215 individuals in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents a claimant unemployment rate of 1.8%.

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

Around 52% of claimants in Solihull (1,155 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) – November 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Nov 2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Nov 2015-2016)		
		Nov 2015	Nov 2016	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	2,215	1.5%	1.8%	+285	+15%	↑
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,155	4.4%	5.0%	+125	+12%	↑
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	1,060	0.9%	1.0%	+155	+17%	↑
England	609,995	1.7%	1.8%	+23,670	+4%	↑
West Midlands	81,790	2.1%	2.3%	+7,245	+10%	↑
GBSLEP	37,125	2.7%	3.0%	+2,815	+8%	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	205,855	2.7%	2.7%	+6,555	+3%	↑
CIPFA Comparator Councils	29,555	1.2%	1.3%	+420	+1%	↑
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Headline Claimant Unemployment November 2016

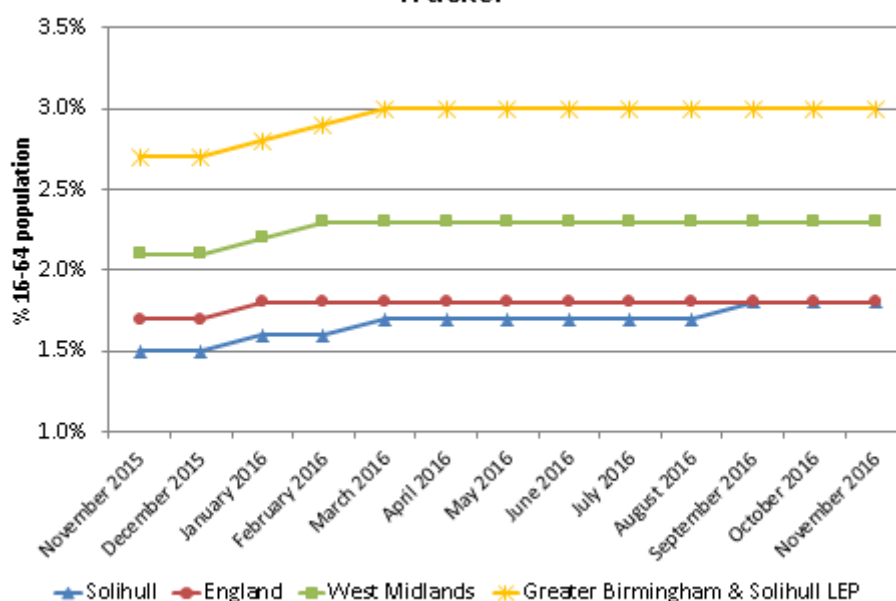


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Following four consecutive monthly increases, the claimant unemployment count in Solihull fell by 2.6% (-60 individuals) between October and November 2016. However, the number of claimants in Solihull is 15% higher than in November 2015 (+285 individuals). This rise in Solihull is consistent with, albeit more pronounced than national and regional trends (England +4%, West Midlands +10%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +12% (+125 individuals) over the last year, mirroring a rise across the rest of the borough (+17%, +155 individuals).

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between November 2015 and 2016 resulted in an increase in the claimant unemployment rate of 30 basis points (from 1.5% to 1.8%). The rate increased in both North Solihull (from 4.4% 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 62% of Solihull claimants are male (1,370 individuals) and 38% female (850 individuals), which is 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 - November 2016					
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,370	850	62%	38%	2.2%	1.3%
England	379,390	230,605	62%	38%	2.2%	1.3%
West Midlands	51,395	30,390	63%	37%	2.9%	1.7%
GBSLEP	23,640	13,485	64%	36%	3.8%	2.1%
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Age Breakdown

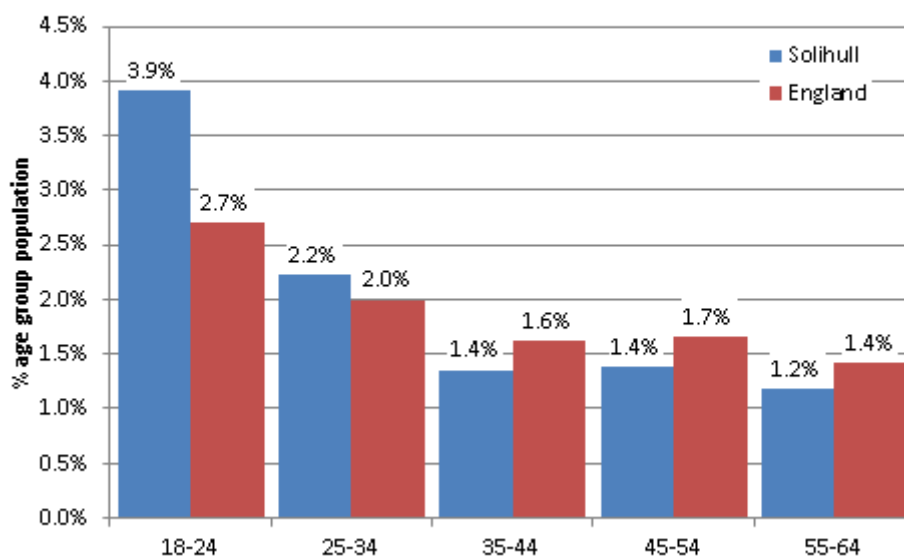
In November 2016 just over a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (630 individuals, 28% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, 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 November 2016		Rates (% Age Group)	
	Claimant Count	% Total	Solihull	England
Age 18-24	630	28%	3.9%	2.7%
Age 25-34	510	23%	2.2%	2.0%
Age 35-44	345	16%	1.4%	1.6%
Age 45-54	440	20%	1.4%	1.7%
Age 55-64	295	13%	1.2%	1.4%
Total			1.8%	1.8%

Source: ONS/Nomis

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group November 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

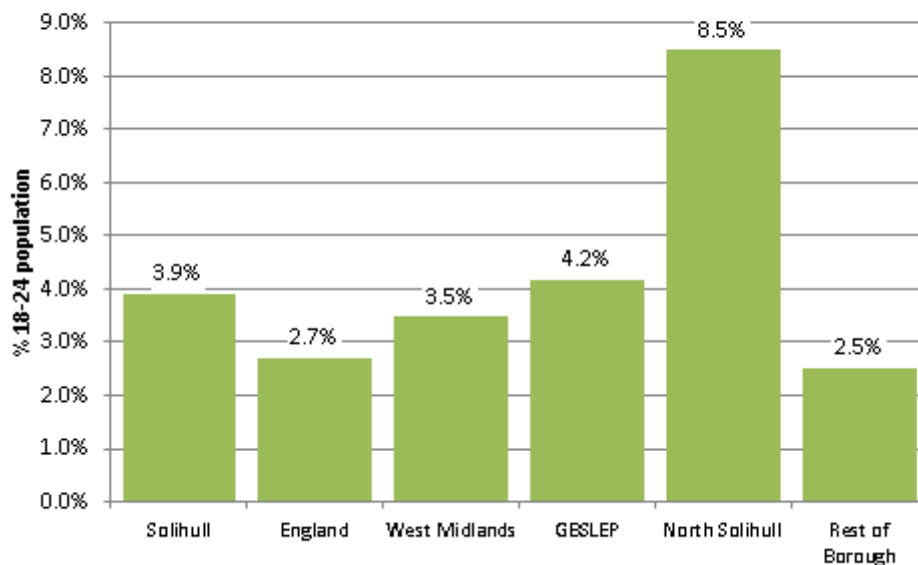
In November 2016 there were 630 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate of 3.9%.

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 195 individuals.

Around 51% (320 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 (8.5% compared to 2.5%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – November 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Nov 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Nov 2015-2016)		
		Nov 2015	Nov 2016	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	630	3.4%	3.9%	+75	+14%	↑
<i>North Solihull</i>	320	8.5%	8.5%	0	0%	↔
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	310	1.9%	2.5%	+75	+32%	↑
England	133,075	2.6%	2.7%	+4,875	+4%	↑
West Midlands	18,765	3.1%	3.5%	+2,090	+13%	↑
GBSLEP	8,445	3.8%	4.2%	+720	+9%	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	47,350	3.9%	3.9%	+595	+1%	↑
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,595	2.2%	2.1%	-345	-5%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

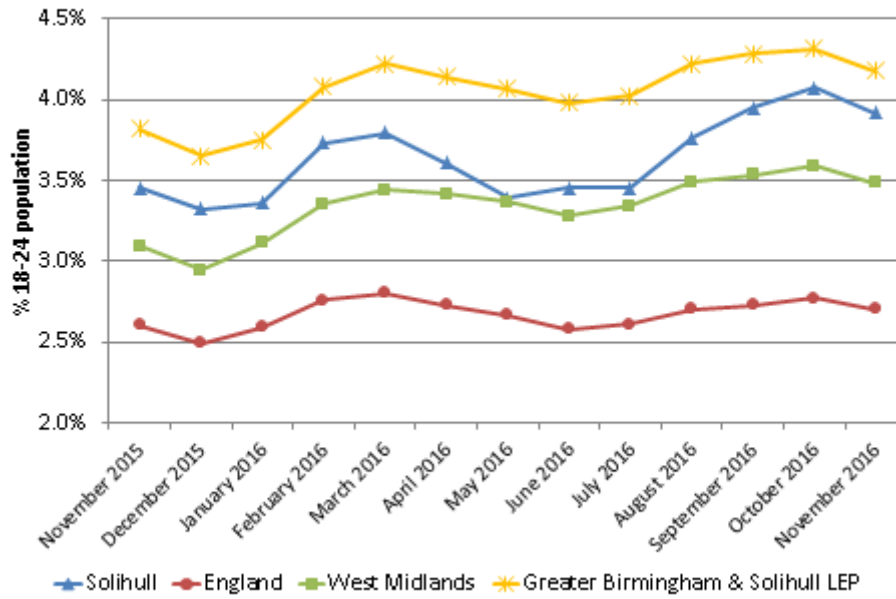
18-24 Claimant Unemployment November 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Following three consecutive monthly increases, the 18-24 claimant unemployment count in Solihull fell by 3.8% (-25 individuals) between October and November 2016. However, the number of 18-24 year old claimants is +14% (+75 individuals) higher than in November 2015. The claimant rate among this group has risen from 3.4% to 3.9% as a result, although there have been substantial seasonal fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull remained unchanged in the year to November 2016, although this was not enough to offset an increase in the rest of the Borough of +32%, (+75 individuals).

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

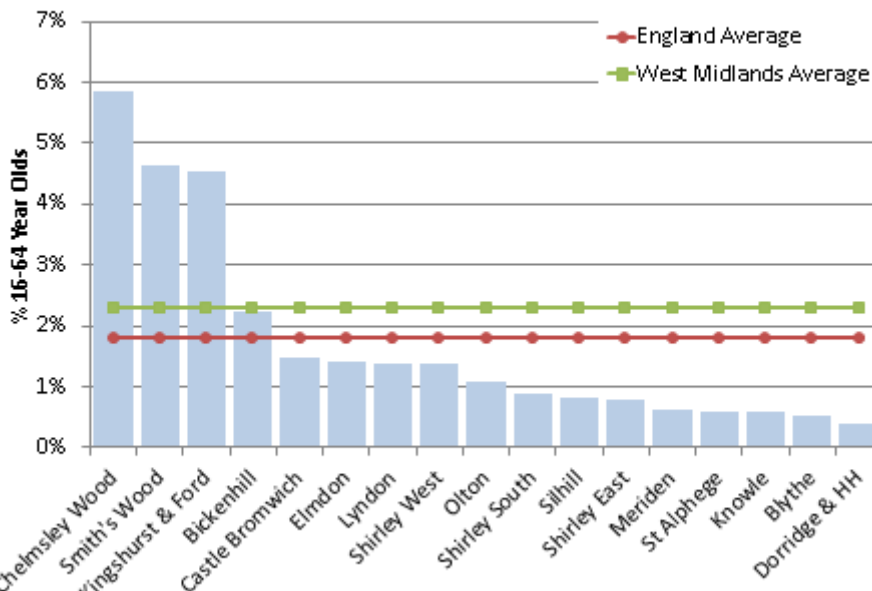


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.9%), Smith's Wood (4.6%) and Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.5%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment November 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

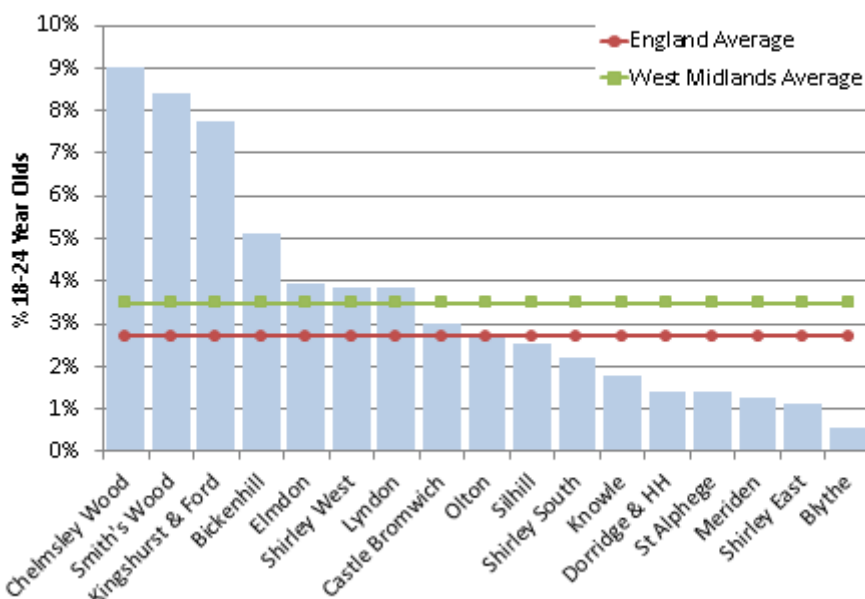
Between November 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment increased in all except four of Solihull's 17 wards.

Claimant Unemployment – November 2016						
	Count Nov 2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Nov 2015-2016)		
		Nov 2015	Nov 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	170	2.3%	2.2%	-5	-3%	
Blythe	45	0.4%	0.5%	+10	+29%	
Castle Bromwich	105	1.3%	1.5%	+10	+11%	
Chelmsley Wood	440	5.3%	5.9%	+40	+10%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	25	0.4%	0.4%	0	0%	
Elmdon	105	1.2%	1.4%	+15	+17%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	360	4.0%	4.5%	+40	+13%	
Knowle	35	0.3%	0.6%	+15	+75%	
Lyndon	115	1.1%	1.4%	+20	+21%	
Meriden	45	0.6%	0.6%	+5	+13%	
Olton	80	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	
Shirley East	55	0.8%	0.8%	0	0%	
Shirley South	65	0.5%	0.9%	+25	+63%	
Shirley West	100	1.0%	1.4%	+30	+43%	
Silhill	60	0.8%	0.8%	+5	+9%	
Smith's Wood	360	3.9%	4.6%	+55	+18%	
St Alphege	50	0.4%	0.6%	+15	+43%	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

The number of Solihull wards that have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average has now increased to seven: Chelmsley Wood (9.0%), Smith's Wood (8.4%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (7.7%), Bickenhill (5.1%), Elmdon (4.0%), Shirley West (3.9%) and Lyndon (3.9%).



Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment November 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between November 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants increased in 11 out of Solihull's 17 wards, falling in just one.

	18-24 Claimant Unemployment – November 2016					
	Count Nov 2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Nov 2015-2016)		
		Nov 2015	Nov 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	50	4.6%	5.1%	+5	+11%	↑
Blythe	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	30	2.5%	3.0%	+5	+20%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	110	9.0%	9.0%	0	0%	↔
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	10	0.7%	1.4%	+5	+100%	↑
Elmdon	35	2.8%	4.0%	+10	+40%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	100	8.5%	7.7%	-10	-9%	↓
Knowle	10	0.9%	1.8%	+5	+100%	↑
Lyndon	40	2.4%	3.9%	+15	+60%	↑
Meriden	10	0.6%	1.2%	+5	+100%	↑
Olton	25	2.8%	2.8%	0	0%	↔
Shirley East	10	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	↔
Shirley South	20	1.1%	2.2%	+10	+100%	↑
Shirley West	35	2.2%	3.9%	+15	+75%	↑
Silhill	20	2.5%	2.5%	0	0%	↔

Smith's Wood	105	8.0%	8.4%	+5	+5%	
St Alphege	15	0.9%	1.4%	+5	+50%	
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.