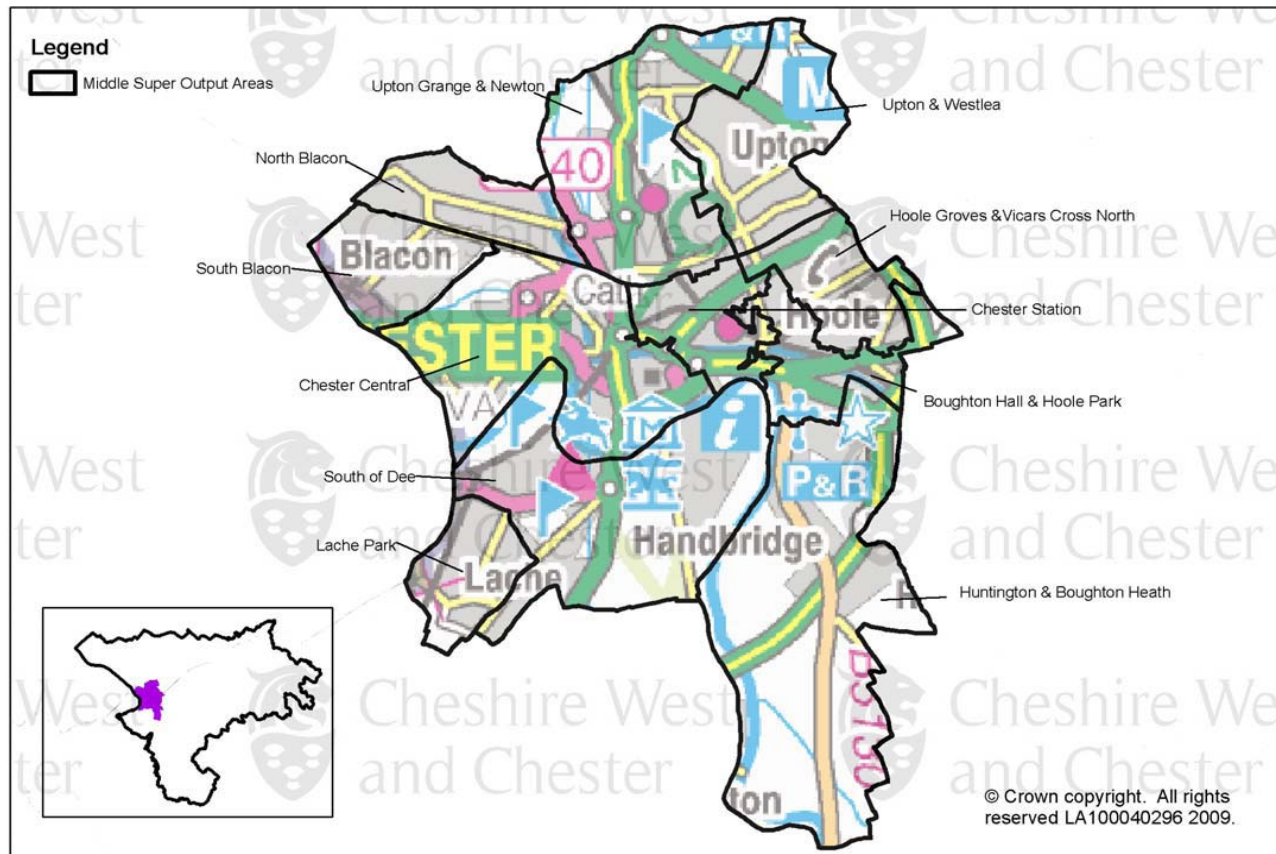


Area Partnership Board Summary Profile

CHESTER



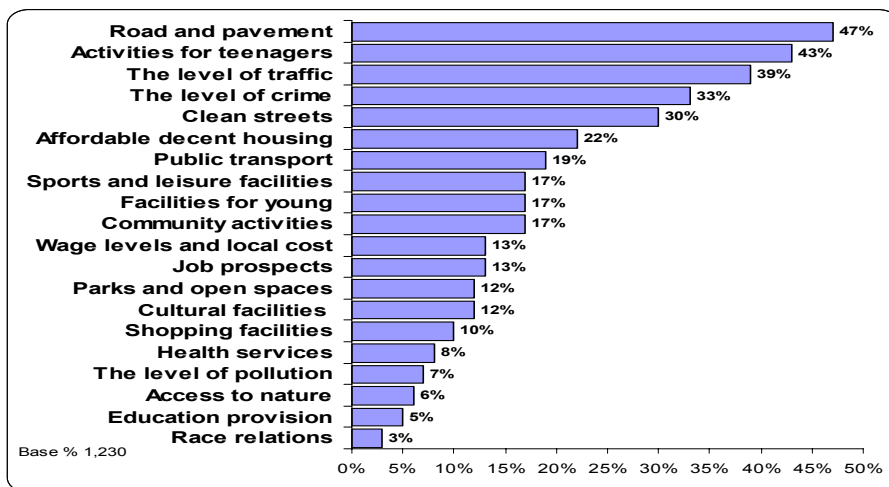
Chester is the largest urban area in Cheshire West and Chester Borough and has the largest concentration of retail, tourism and financial services. Chester's main private sector employer is Bank of America based at the Chester Business Park on the outskirts of the City. Founded in 1839, the University of Chester is one of the oldest higher education institutions in the country. Chester is a popular tourist destination due to its Roman heritage, its location on the banks of the River Dee and its attractive city centre notable for its historic walls - which are the most complete in Britain, its Cathedral, its range of shops, galleried Rows and Eastgate Clock. Chester Racecourse and Chester Zoo are both popular draws to the city as is the Shropshire Union Canal which runs through Chester.

Headline Statistics

- In 2007 Chester's population was 77,700 - by 2016 it is forecast to increase by 3% - a larger increase rate than the rest of Cheshire West & Chester (Census)
- Chester has the highest population density in the Borough – 24% of borough residents live here
- Chester's population has a high proportion of young adult residents (20 - 24 yrs) compared to the rest of the Borough
- The highest number of single person households is in Chester (33%); approximately half of these are pensioners (28%)
- Chester has the highest proportion of residents with a minority ethnic background
- Lache Park is the most multiply deprived area in both Chester and Cheshire West & Chester

Area Partnership Board Summary Profile

CHESTER



- Chester has the highest crime rate in Cheshire West & Chester

Priorities

- In the 2008 Place Survey the issue rated as the highest priority for improvement in Chester was **road and pavement repairs**. Almost half of respondents (47%) placed this in their top five priorities.
- The top 3 issues in Chester for creating a good place to live were the **level of crime** (66% of respondents), **clean streets** (51%) and **health services** (38%)

Perceptions

- In the 2008 Place Survey¹, 41% of respondents from Chester APB considered that **teenagers hanging around on the streets** were a 'very big or fairly big problem'. This was the same proportion of respondents as in Cheshire West and Chester
- Almost a third of residents in the Chester area agreed that parents took enough responsibility for their children, the same as in Cheshire West & Chester
- About a third of Chester residents identified that **litter, vandalism and graffiti, drug dealing and use, and people being drunk or rowdy in public places** was a particular problem - a slightly higher proportion than for Cheshire West & Chester. Noisy neighbours and abandoned or burnt out cars were of less concern – less than 20% of residents experienced a problem in their area
- 89% of residents said they felt safe outside in daylight, and 50% felt safe after dark in Chester, the same as in Cheshire West & Chester.

Community Involvement

- In the Place Survey 2008 29% of Chester residents agreed that they could influence decisions affecting their local area, similar to the results for Cheshire West and Chester.
- Just over a quarter of people in Chester (27%) thought lack of respect for other people was a problem in their area, which was similar to Cheshire West & Chester (30%)
- 22% of people surveyed in Chester APB said they participated in regular volunteering. This was similar to the proportion for Cheshire West and Chester (24%).
- 86% of Chester residents said they were satisfied with where they lived which included 28% who were 'very satisfied'

Identifying the Priorities

A wide range of analysis and consultation has been undertaken to help identify the priorities for the Chester Area Partnership Board. Reviewing the issues around crime, health, children and young people and employment provide an overview of the area. Community surveys help us gain an understanding of the issues that residents face. Addressing the priorities and ensuring there is no duplication of effort means we must also take account of other key documents such as the Parish Plans, Cheshire West and Chester's Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. Based on analysis of data and perceptions the following priorities have been identified for Chester.

Area Partnership Board Summary Profile

CHESTER



Adult Health and Well-Being

Obesity – Smoking – Alcohol – Mental Well-Being – Older People

- Estimates for obesity (i.e. people with a Body Mass Index 30 or more) indicate that South Blacon has the highest level (30%) which is only marginally lower than Wolverham and Stanlow in Ellesmere Port which have the greatest levels in Cheshire West & Chester
- Model-based estimates for the numbers of residents who smoke have been produced, based on survey data from 2003 to 2005. In Chester, North Blacon was found to have the highest number of smokers (37%) marginally less than Westminster and Central in Ellesmere Port (39%) which had the highest estimate for Cheshire West & Chester
- Chester Central has the estimated highest numbers of residents who consume more than 8 units of alcohol in a day at least once in a week for a man or 6 units for a woman (39%) which is the highest in Cheshire West & Chester. Similarly, the Chester Station area has the highest occurrence of hospitalization for alcohol specific conditions for both Chester and Cheshire West & Chester
- It is estimated that approx. 18,000 people in Chester experience mental health issues. South Blacon L5 has the greatest evidence of this and also has the highest level for Cheshire West & Chester. The greatest number of cases of hospitalization for mental health conditions come from the Chester Station area, again this is highest in Cheshire West & Chester.
- Blacon Lodge ward in Chester has the lowest estimated healthy life expectancy (65 years) and conversely the highest is in Curzon & Westminster (75 years).

Safer and Stronger

Substance Misuse – Community Cohesion – Road Safety – Environmental Crime – Crime in High Crime Areas

- In the Chester APB area, there were 102 recorded crime incidents per 1,000 population from April 2008 to March 2009 compared to 71 per 1000 in Cheshire West & Chester; these crimes included violence, theft, drug related offences, fraud, criminal damage and antisocial behaviour.
- The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents in Chester was 28 in 2006.
- North Blacon was highest in Chester for Crime Deprivation (12th in Cheshire West & Chester)

Children and Young People

Underage Conceptions – Activities for Young People – Educational Attainment – Parenting

- The under 18 conception rate in Chester is 30 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years; Winsford and Rural East has the highest rate in Cheshire West & Chester at 42 per 1,000.
- In 2008, 1 of the top 3 priorities for Chester residents was activities for teenagers
- Overall exam results for Chester pupils at Key Stages 2 and 3 were similar to those for England, but slightly lower than results for Cheshire West & Chester. In Chester with the lowest number of students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C was in North Blacon (35%) whilst Huntington & Boughton Heath had the highest (76%).
- In Chester, 25% of households have dependent children and lone parents with dependent children made up 7% of all households. The greatest numbers of lone parents are in North Blacon (15%) compared with 6% for Cheshire West & Chester.

Area Partnership Board Summary Profile

CHESTER



Jobs and Economy

Worklessness – Skills Levels – NEET – Retail Sector – Local Businesses

- In April 2009 unemployment rates in Chester (3.5%) were similar to those for Cheshire West & Chester (CW&C) but lower than England. 5% of those unemployed have been out of work for over a year. 27% of those unemployed were under 25 years. 15% of those unemployed were aged 50+. South Blacon has the highest unemployment rate and North Blacon has the lowest average income and the highest proportion of residents without qualifications. South Blacon has low proportions of pupils achieving expected levels in exams and high proportions of benefit claimants
- About 8% of the working age population of Chester were claiming Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) in May 2008. In South Blacon, 29% claimed IB/SDA; 56% of these claims were for mental health conditions. South Blacon also has the highest proportion of benefit claimants (44%) in both Chester and in CW&C. Chester Central L2 has the least number of claimants (4%)
- In 2001, 27% of 16-74 year olds in Chester were qualified to degree level or above, compared with 22% in CW&C and 20% in England and Wales. However 25% had no qualifications at all (27% in Cheshire CW&C and 29% in England and Wales).
- Chester accounts for 42% of CW&C's public administration, education & health industry. 95% of employees in Chester work in the service sector compared to 83% across CW&C
- The number of VAT registered businesses in Chester rose by 4% between 2005 and 2007; however in CW&C, the increase was slightly greater - 5% over the same period.
- In 2008 average household income in Chester was £34,300, which was 4% below that for Cheshire West & Chester, and about the same as the GB average. The lowest average income levels were in North Blacon (£25,900) and the highest were in Huntington & Boughton Heath (£41,500)

Environment and Housing

Traffic Congestion – Road & Pavement Repairs – Cleaner, Greener Open Spaces – Recycling – Appearance of Properties

- In 2008, 2 of the top 3 priorities for Chester residents were reduced traffic congestion and repairs to roads and pavements
- Chester has the lowest levels of car ownership in CW&C. In 2001, 72% of households in Chester owned at least one car and 26% of households owned 2 or more cars. In the Borough, 80% of households had at least one car and 37% had 2 or more cars. Chester Station had the most households without a car (42%), which was also the highest in CW&C. Huntington & Boughton Heath had the highest with at least one car (84%)
- From 2001 Census the car was the most popular way of getting to work for Chester residents (62%) compared with CW&C (71%) Most residents (14%) walking to work on foot compared with Cheshire West & Chester (9%). 4% cycle to work and 8% travel by bus - in CW&C this is 4%. 63% of Chester residents were satisfied with bus services in 2008 – the highest number in CW&C.
- 7% work at from home which is slightly lower than CW&C (9%).
- In 2005, 70% of land in Chester was either green-space or domestic gardens
- In the Place Survey 2008, 71% of Chester residents were satisfied with local household recycling centres or tips - the lowest satisfaction rate in CW&C; a further 5% were very dissatisfied with these facilities. 75% of residents were satisfied with doorstep recycling services
- From the 2001 Census, Chester has the lowest proportion of owned houses (69%) compared to CW&C (75%) and the highest proportion of people living in apartments or flats (11%) compared with the figure for CW&C (6%). The highest percentage of social rented housing in Chester is in North Blacon (42%)