
Briefing on the Social Mobility Report

Committee considering report: Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

Date of Committee: 10 April 2018

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Forward Plan Ref: n/a

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To brief the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission regarding West Berkshire's results for the measures used by the Social Mobility Commission in the '[State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain](#)' report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note West Berkshire's results and comparative position of the social mobility aggregated index's overall rank and of each component indicator's ranking.
- 2.2 To review those indicators or groups of indicators reported as 'cold spots' of social mobility (placing West Berkshire amongst the bottom 20% districts in England).

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
- 3.2 **Policy:** There are no policy implications proposed as part of this report.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** There are no personnel implications expected as a result of this report.
- 3.4 **Legal:** There are no legal implications expected as a result of this report.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** There are no strategic risk management related issues expected as part of this report.
- 3.6 **Property:** There are no property implications expected.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 No other options have been considered.

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

- 5.1 The Social Mobility Commission (SMC) published the '[State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain](#)' report on the 27 November 2017.
- 5.2 The report is the fifth annual report published by the SMC and focuses on the place-based divide. It highlights as the most significant trends:
- (1) 'the biggest divide is between London (and the commuter belt areas around it) and the rest of the country.'
 - (2) 'the inner cities of our country are no longer the worst-performing areas for social mobility, though they are not yet the engines of social mobility they have the potential to be.'
 - (3) 'the new social mobility cold spots in our country are concentrated in remote rural or coastal areas and in former industrial areas, especially in the Midlands.'
 - (4) 'there is no direct correlation between the affluence of an area and its ability to sustain high levels of social mobility.' Cotswold and West Berkshire are mentioned as being examples of cold spots of social mobility even if they are among the least deprived areas in the country.
 - (5) 'local policies adopted by local authorities and employers can positively influence outcomes for disadvantaged residents.'
- 5.3 The dataset published with the SMC's report allowed an analysis of West Berkshire's results and ranking against the other 324 local authority districts in England. These results are shown in the next chapters of this report.

6. West Berkshire's results

- 6.1 Overall West Berkshire is ranked the 265th of 324 districts nationally on the aggregated index of social mobility. This places the district in the bottom 20% in England. Table 1 shows the ranking of the overall index of social mobility for West Berkshire and, for comparison, for two other local authorities in Berkshire.

Rank of:	West Berkshire	Wokingham	Reading
Overall score (Hot spots / Cold spots)	265	87	217

Table 1. The rank of the overall score (where 1 is the best rank and 324 is the worst)

Note: The colours used are replicating the national heat/cold map:
 Dark Blue – rank within the bottom 10% in England
 Light Blue – between bottom 20% and 10%
 Light Amber – between top 10% and 20% nationally
 Dark Amber – within top 10% nationally

- 6.2 The overall score is based on four components, each representing a life stage. Table 2 shows the aggregated ranking of each life stage component of the overall index of social mobility.
- 6.3 West Berkshire is ranked 317th (bottom 10%)/cold spot for the Early Years stage and it is ranked 285th (bottom 20%) for the Youth life stage component.
- 6.4 The Adulthood component of the social mobility index is ranked 16th (top 10% nationally) hot spot. As illustrated in Appendix A, it is important to note that the first three stages' scores are based on indicators relating to Free School Meals cohorts of children and young people whilst the score for 'Adulthood' life stage is based on indicators for the entire population in the District.

Rank of life stage:	West Berkshire	Wokingham	Reading
<i>Early Years</i>	317	238	165
<i>Schools</i>	219	151	303
<i>Youth</i>	285	188	158
<i>Adulthood</i>	16	1	68

Table 2. The rank of each life stage domain (where 1 is the best rank and 324 is the worst)

Note: The colours used are replicating the national heat/cold map:

- Dark Blue – rank within the bottom 10% in England
- Light Blue – between bottom 20% and 10%
- Light Amber – between top 10% and 20% nationally
- Dark Amber – within top 10% nationally

- 6.5 The index of social mobility is based on 16 indicators (see Appendix A for further details). Table 3 shows West Berkshire's ranking against each of these indicators.

Rank of:	West Berkshire	Wokingham	Reading
% of nursery providers rated 'outstanding' or 'good' by Ofsted	318	175	283
% of children eligible for FSM achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage	210	242	71
% of children eligible for FSM attending a primary school rated 'outstanding' or 'good' by Ofsted	287	230	285
% of children eligible for FSM attending a secondary school rated 'outstanding' or 'good' by Ofsted	155	98	316
% of children eligible for FSM achieving at least the expected level in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2	102	128	144
Average attainment 8 score for pupils eligible for FSM	203	203	256
% of young people eligible for FSM that are not in education, employment or training (positive destination) after completing KS4	71	273	161

Rank of:	West Berkshire	Wokingham	Reading
Average points score per entry for young people eligible for FSM at age 15 taking A-level or equivalent qualifications	309	218	234
% of young people eligible for FSM at age 15 achieving 2 or more A-levels or equivalent qualifications by the age of 19	292	168	138
% of young people eligible for FSM at age 15 entering higher education by the age of 19	162	86	229
% of young people eligible for FSM at age 15 entering higher education at a selective university (most selective third by UCAS tariff scores) by the age of 19	300	68	60
Median weekly salary (£) of employees who live in the local area, all employees (FT and PT)	47	16	83
Average house prices compared to median annual salary of employees who live in the local area	235	258	193
% of people that live in the local area who are in managerial and professional occupations (SOC 1 and 2)	37	23	41
% of jobs that are paid less than the applicable Living Wage Foundation living wage	8	21	27
% of families with children who own their home	103	5	286

Table 3. The rank of each indicator (where 1 is the best rank and 324 is the worst)

Note: The colours used are replicating the national heat/cold map:
 Dark Blue – rank within the bottom 10% in England
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 Dark Amber – within top 10% nationally

7. Methodological aspects

7.1 A number of methodological aspects are important to be highlighted for a sound interpretation of the information:

- (1) The index of social mobility uses a range of 16 indicators for every major life stage, from early years through to working lives, to map the nation's social mobility hot spots and cold spots.
- (2) In order to reduce the impact of particular annual cohorts most of the indicators are calculated as a three years average.
- (3) The importance allocated to each indicator and to each life stage component is based on the following two approaches:
 - (a) Weigh each of the four different life stages equally: performance against the early years, school, youth and working lives indicators each accounted for a quarter of the social mobility index.

- (b) Weigh each of the indicators within each life stage equally: everything being measured in each life stage was assigned equal importance.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The Social Mobility Commission published their fifth report focusing on the place-based divide. The report acknowledges that there is not a correlation between the affluence of a district and the ranking of the social mobility index when compared to the other districts in England. West Berkshire is mentioned in the SMC's report as an example of a more affluent place but with lower comparative ranking of social mobility.
- 8.2 An analysis of West Berkshire's data used by the SMC shows that the District is ranked lower (cold spots) against the indicators relating to Free School Meals cohorts at the earlier stages of life but is ranked higher (hot spot) on the indicators referring to the overall population at the adult stage of life. As a result, the overall index of social mobility places West Berkshire within the bottom 20% of districts in England.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A – Indicators' definitions and life stages – methodology details
- 9.2 Appendix B – Presentation to be provided at the meeting by the Head of Education