Oxford and Shires | Ridgeway

LGR Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis

A once-in-a-generation opportunity

Two Councils

Oxford and Shires | Ridgeway

Executive Summary | Headline Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental indicators (1/2)

The table below shows the indicators in tabular format including how these compare to the South East and England data for each area (where appropriate and available). Within a two unitary scenario, the majority of indicators describe a more challenging scenario for Oxford & Shires authority than for Ridgeway. The three unitary proposal is not included here, due to the boundary changes required that do not allow accurate analytical comparison.

Statistics (input source)

Option	Area	Children in Low-Income Families	GCSE Attainment vs National Average	Overall Health Index	Household Benefit Claim Rate	Adults with No Qualifications	Developed Land Use
1UA		9,643	0.11	112.8	11.75%	13061	7.9%
West Berkshire UA		9,257	2.3	114.20	13.87%	13,957	7.2%
2UA	**Oxford & Shires**	10,836	-0.51	109.1	11.91%	13738	8.6%
	Ridgeway	8,372	1.74	116.9	11.60%	12704	7.2%
England		**18,981**	**-**	**100.80**	**21.33 %**	**17682**	**8.7%**
South East		**12,355**	**1.2**	**106.1**	**11.10%**	**15054**	**9.9%**
Units and Period:		Per 100k, 2023/2024	% Point Difference, 2023/2024	2021	%, 2023/2024	Per 100k, 2022/2023	%, 2022/2023
Sources		Stat-Xplore (requires log in)	Parliamentary constituency of school location data, GOV.UK	Health Index scores, England, ONS	DWP benefits, GOV.UK (requires log in)	Highest level of qualification, ONS	Land use in England, GOV.UK

Executive Summary | Headline Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental indicators (2/2)

The table below shows the indicators in tabular format including how these compare to the South East and England data for each area (where appropriate and available).

Statistics (input source)

Option	Area	Business Growth	Gross Value Added	Obesity Prevalence in Adults	Adult Social Care spend per resident	Job Density	Deprivation
1UA		0.14%	£41.30	20.86%	£347	0.94	11.58
West Berkshire UA		-0.80%	£54.10	21.99%	N.A	1.17	9.89
2UA	Oxford & Shires	0.43%	£39.0	20.45%	£340	1.01	13.78
	Ridgeway	-0.46%	£49.30	21.29%	£364	1.00	8.92
England		0.24%	£42.40	26.5%		0.87	21.67
South East		0.14%	£36.90	24.6%		0.86	15.48
Units and Period:		% change, 2023/2024	£ per hour worked, 2023	%, 2023/2024	£ per resident, 2025	Ratio, 2023/2024	IMD, 2019/2020
Sources		Business Demography, ONS	Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour, ONS	Public Health Profiles, NHS	Newton	Job Density, Nomis	English indices of deprivation, MHCLG

Supporting Appendix

Appendix

Financial Factors | Financial Health

- GDHI per head at current prices - ONS
- Core Spending Power per individual - MHCLG
- Net Assets per individual - District Councils
- Total debt per head - GOVUK
- Total operating expenditure per capita - MHCLG
- Current DSG deficit - GCC SoA
- Projected DSG deficit - GCC SoA

Local Economic Factors | Economic Output and Growth

- GVA per hour worked - ONS
- Business Growth - ONS
- Developed Land Use - GOVUK

Local Economic Factors | Employment & Access to Work

- Employment - ONS
- Adults with No Qualifications - ONS/CENSUS
- Travel to work patterns - ONS
- Job Density - ONS

Local Economic Factors | Digital Economy and Infrastructure

- Digital propensity - ONS
- Digital Connectivity - OFCOM
- Housing land supply - District Councils

Service Delivery Factors

- No. of residents supported ASC / CSC - Newton
- % of total population supported by People Services - Newton
- Total cost of service 2025 - Newton
- ASC / CSC spend per resident 2025 - Newton
- Benefit Claim Rates - GOVUK
- Homelessness - ONS
- Schools rated ‘good’ & ‘outstanding’ - OFSTED
- Rate of pupils receiving SEN support - HoC
- Rate of pupils with an EHCP - HoC
- Educational Attainment - GOVUK
- Children in Low Income Families - GOVUK
- Overall Health Index - ONS
- Obesity Prevalence in Adults - NHS
- Deprivation - MHCLG
- Life Satisfaction - ONS
- High Anxiety - NHS
- Low Happiness - NHS
- Common Mental Health Disorders - NHS
- Children looked after - GOVUK

1. Population & Taxbase

Population Projections

Overall, Oxfordshire's over-65 population is projected to grow between 2026-2030, and more in Ridgeway compared to Oxford & Shires, however, the difference is marginal each year.

- Not accounting for population size, broad age group population growth is highest in the over-65 population.
- The 0–19 population declines in both LGR scenarios, with a greater decrease in growth in Oxford & Shires.
- Ridgeway will outpace Oxford & Shires in overall population growth each year.

LGR Implications

The number of older people in Oxfordshire is rising, which could increase future demand for adult social care; noting that the 65+ population in the Ridgeway has reduced demand for social care relative to Oxford & Shires. At the same time, the 20–64 growth is steady but doesn't peak beyond 0.6%, which limits how much council tax and business rate income can grow to fund these services. Local government reform offers a chance to share resources more fairly and manage this ageing demand better, if it strikes the right balance between financial stability and delivering services.

Cumulative population change projection (% change)

		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Single UA	Total	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
	0 - 19	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.3%
	20 - 64	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
	65+	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%
Oxford & Shires UA	Oxford & Shires	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
	0 - 19	-0.6%	-0.5%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.4%
	20 - 64	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%
	65+	2.5%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.6%
Ridgeway UA	Ridgeway	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
	0 - 19	-0.2%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.6%
	20 - 64	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
	65+	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%	2.4%

Population Figures

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Oxfordshire CC	**766,129**	**773,131**	**778,869**	**784,525**	**790,608**	**797,209**	**803,838**	**810,363**	**816,697**
West Berkshire	163,540	163,712	163,754	163,725	163,811	163,953	164,123	164,303	164,507
South Oxfordshire	156,126	157,893	159,508	160,995	162,478	163,954	165,404	166,825	168,232
Vale of White Horse	148246	150,552	152,620	154,532	156,414	158,299	160,110	161,864	163,566
Ridgeway	**467,912**	**472,157**	**475,882**	**479,252**	**482,703**	**486,206**	**489,637**	**492,992**	**496,305**
Cherwell	170,119	172,283	174,214	176,065	177,917	179,804	181,661	183,507	185,337
Oxford City	171,899	171,498	170,562	169,946	169,797	170,096	170,562	171,052	171,425
West Oxfordshire	119,739	120,905	121,965	122,987	124,002	125,056	126,101	127,115	128,137
Oxford and Shires	**461,757**	**464,686**	**466,741**	**468,998**	**471,716**	**474,956**	**478,324**	**481,674**	**484,899**

Taxbase

	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Oxfordshire CC	**279,025**	**282,904**	**286,742**	**290,583**	**294,454**	**298,458**	**302,519**	**306,639**	**310,818**	**315,057**
West Berkshire	68,511	69,882	71,279	72,705	74,159	75,642	77,155	78,698	80,272	81,877
South Oxfordshire	63,640	64,595	65,563	66,547	67,545	68,558	69,586	70,630	71,689	72,765
Vale of White Horse	59,152	60,216	61,300	62,404	63,527	64,670	65,834	67,019	68,226	69,454
Ridgeway	**191,303**	**194,692**	**198,143**	**201,655**	**205,231**	**208,871**	**212,576**	**216,347**	**220,187**	**224,096**
Cherwell	59,854	60,572	61,299	62,034	62,779	63,532	64,294	65,066	65,847	66,637
Oxford City	47,638	47,999	48,363	48,730	49,099	49,472	49,847	50,225	50,606	50,990
West Oxfordshire	48,742	49,522	50,216	50,868	51,504	52,225	52,957	53,698	54,450	55,212
Oxford and Shires	**156,234**	**158,093**	**159,878**	**161,633**	**163,383**	**165,229**	**167,098**	**168,989**	**170,902**	**172,839**

2. Financial Factors

Financial Factors | Summary

Why have we selected these measures?

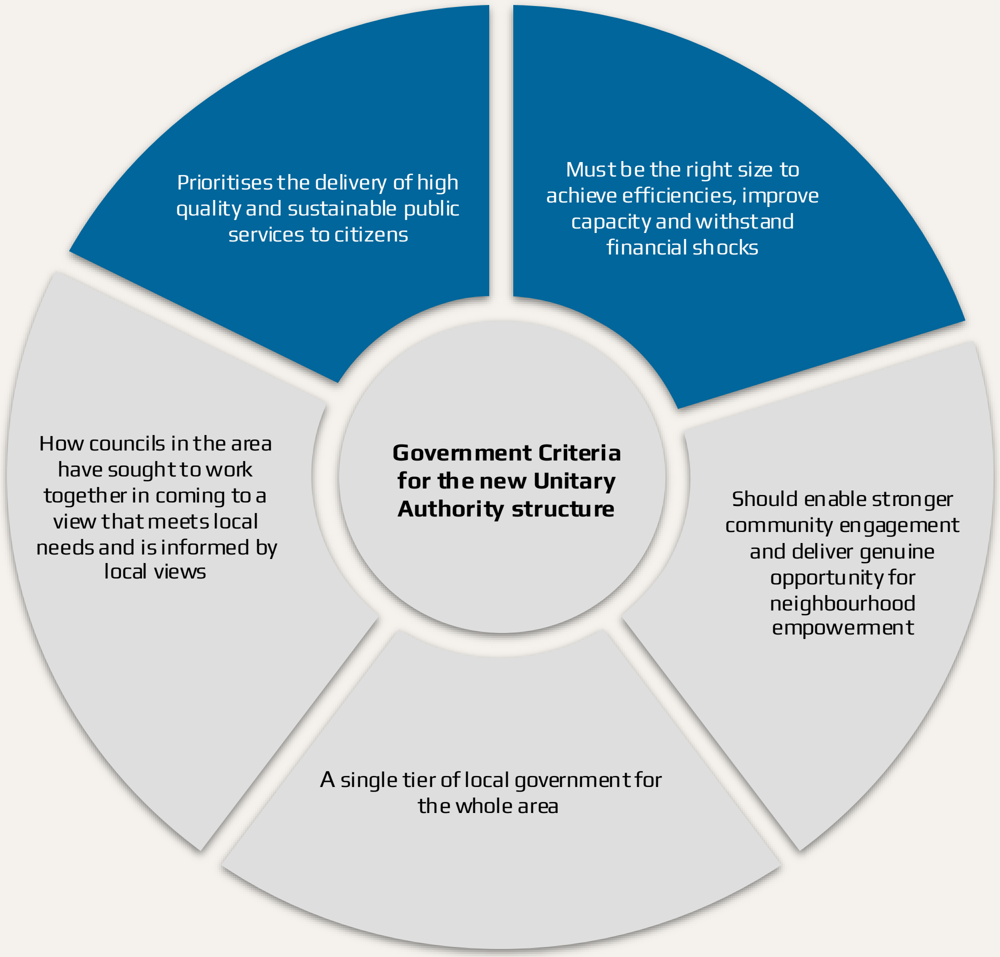
These measures show how financially strong each council in Oxfordshire is. They give a snapshot of things like debt, assets, spending, and key pressures such as DSG deficits.

They help us judge whether future council structures, either one or two unitary authorities would be financially sustainable. They also show how well each area could cope with financial shocks, manage past deficits, and continue running services. These indicators are a key part of the government's financial tests when deciding if a unitary model is viable.

What do these measures tell us?

These figures give an overview of each area's financial health. Local Authority Debt, borrowing compared to reserves, and assets per person show how resilient and stable each area is. Council tax, business rates, and household income (GDHI) reflect the strength of the local economy and funding base.

Operating expenditure per capita and core spending power show how much it costs to run services in each area. DSG deficits highlight pressures from high-needs education.



Financial Health

Description of Indicator

Financial health indicators provide a snapshot of a local authority's fiscal resilience and ability to handle future pressures. Measures such as debt per individual, council tax, and business rates income reflect the authority's funding base and how much it relies on borrowing. Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per capita shows how much money residents have, which can affect both local revenue and demand for services. Operating expenditure per capita, net assets per individual, and core spending power per individual help us understand how much is spent and how financially strong the authority is overall. The current and projected DSG deficits highlight risks linked to funding for high-needs education.

LGR Implications

Ridgeway has lower Local Authority (LA) debt per capita (£527 compared to £961), and higher GDHI per capita (£28,272 compared to £24,736). It also collects more through council tax. Ridgeway also has a higher operating expenditure per capita (£262 compared to £231) and lower reserves per capita (£4433 compared to £2,392). Ridgeway shows a higher level of Core Spending Power, Dedicated Schools Grants (DSG) deficits in 2023 to 2024 and will have higher projected DSG deficits in 2026. This is supported by the Newton analysis which also indicates a higher demand for Children's services within Ridgeway.

Statistics (input source)

The table overleaf presents the headline statistics, with units and sources, for the following data categories:

LA Debt	Total Council Tax Receipts	GDHI per capita	Operating Expenditure	Total Reserves	Core Spending Power	Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit	Projected Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit

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Financial Health

	LA Debt	Total Council Tax Receipts	GDHI per capita	Operating Expenditure	Total Reserves	Core Spending Power	Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit	Projected Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit
Oxfordshire CC	£1,234	595,909	£25,406	£251	£1620.6	£1,941	£92.5m	£137.0m
West Berkshire	£1,493	137,752	£28,055	£459	£1714.8	£2,122	£16.3m	£37.0m
South Oxfordshire	£309	137,267	£29,938	£192	£1372.2	£217	-	-
Vale of White Horse	£702	126,752	£24,995	£104	£879.2	£252	-	-
Ridgeway	**£2,054**	**401,711**	**£27,709**	**£420**	**£2392.5**	**£2,130**	**£57.0m**	**£97.3m**
Cherwell	£1,460	128,933	£23,757	£141	£345.2	£256	-	-
Oxford City	£2,330	101,235	£21,662	£369	£6400.8	£384	-	-
West Oxfordshire	£206	101,722	£27,658	£136	£1237.8	£211	-	-
Oxford and Shires	**£2,689**	**331,890**	**£23,999**	**£474**	**£4432.9**	**£2,255**	**£51.8m**	**£72.7m**
England	**£2,054**	37,176,692	**£23,104**	**£715**	**-**	**£2,371**	**-**	**-**
South East	**£1,347**	**7,261,811**	**£25,796**	**£307**	**-**	**£850**	**-**	**-**
Units and Period	£ per capita, 2024/2025	£ '000s, 2023/2024	£, 2022/2023	£ per capita, 2023/2024	£ per individual, 2023/2024	£ per dwelling, 2023/2024	£m, 2024/5	£m, 2025/6
Source	Statement of accounts data	Receipts of Council Taxes, MHCLG	Regional gross disposable household income, Nomis	Revenue Outturn, MHCLG	District / Unitary Councils	Core Spending Power, MHCLG	District Councils	District / Unitary Councils

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3. Local Economic Factors

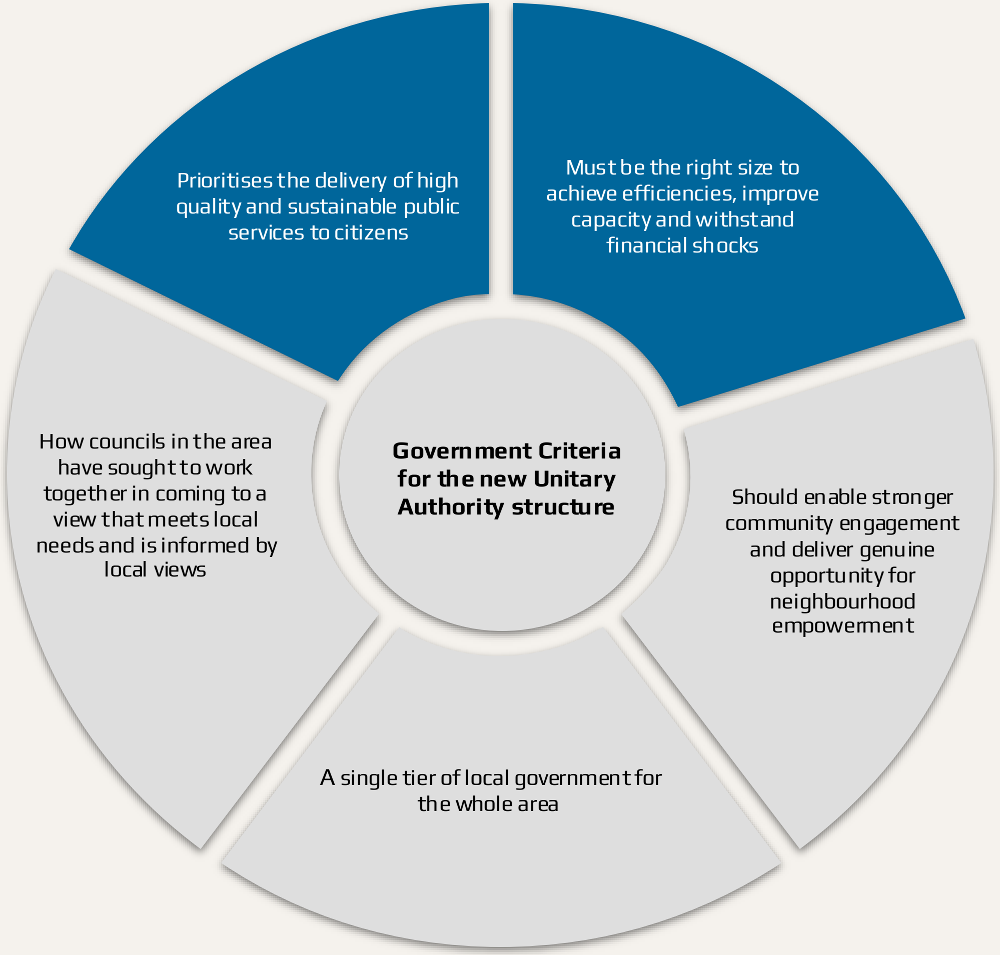
Local Economic Factors | Summary

Why have we selected these measures?

These indicators provide insight into Oxfordshire's economic conditions and potential for future growth. They show both how strong the local economy is right now, using measures like GVA, employment rate, and job density, and whether the infrastructure is in place to support future success, such as digital connectivity, access to travel, and housing supply. These factors affect how much demand there is for public services and what level of funding may be needed. In areas with fewer jobs or weaker growth, there is often more pressure on public services and financial support. In contrast, stronger economies can ease those pressures and make service delivery more sustainable. For Local Government Reorganisation, these indicators help us understand whether new councils would be starting from a balanced economic position or taking on deeper economic challenges.

What do these measures tell us?

These measures tell us how ready an area is to grow and cope with change. If a place has good transport links, fast internet, and enough homes, it is more likely to attract new businesses and workers. This can lead to more local jobs and higher incomes. On the other hand, places that lack these things may find it harder to grow and may rely more on help from government services. By looking at these indicators, we can see where extra support or investment might be needed. This helps make sure that any changes to local government are fair and take into account the different needs of each area.



Economic Output and Growth

Description of Indicator

These figures help us understand how productive and resilient each area's economy is. Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked shows how much economic value is created for every hour worked. It gives a clear picture of how efficient and productive the local economy is. Business growth shows whether the number of businesses in an area is going up or down, which reflects economic strength and stability. The percentage of Developed Land Use shows how much land is already built on, which helps us see the differences in development patterns and what infrastructure each area might need.

LGR Implications

Ridgeway has a higher GVA per hour worked at £49.3, compared to £39.0 in the Oxford & Shires. This means Ridgeway produces more economic value for each hour worked. However, business growth is also stronger in Oxford & Shires, with a positive growth rate of 0.43 percent, while Ridgeway saw a decline. The percentage of developed land is higher in Oxford & Shires at 8.6 percent, compared to 7.2% percent in Ridgeway (these figures are somewhat skewed by the presence of Oxford city at 38% developed land). These figures show that while Ridgeway has stronger productivity, Oxford and Shires has more developed land and greater economic performance.

	GVA	Business Growth	Developed Land Use
Oxfordshire CC	**£41.30**	**0.1%**	**7.9%**
West Berkshire	£54.10	-0.8%	7.2%
South Oxfordshire	£45.70	0.0%	6.8%
Vale of White Horse	£45.70	-0.56%	7.6%
Ridgeway	**£49.30**	**-0.46%**	**7.2%**
Cherwell	£37.80	0.40%	9%
Oxford City	£40.30	0.46%	38.1%
West Oxfordshire	£38.00	0.42%	6.3%
Oxford and Shires	**£39.00**	**0.43%**	**8.6%**
England	**£42.40**	**0.24%**	**8.7%**
South East	**£36.90**	**0.14%**	**9.9%**
Units and Period	£ per hour worked, 2022/2023	% change, 2023/2024	%, 2022/2023
Source	Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour, ONS	Business Demography, ONS	Land use in England, GOV.UK

Employment and Access to Work

Description of Indicator

These indicators show how easy it is for people to find and access jobs in each area. Employment rate tells us how many working-age adults are in paid work. Job density shows how many jobs are available compared to the number of working-age people, helping us understand how well the local job market matches the size of the workforce. The number of adults with no qualifications shows how prepared the local workforce is, and where there may be a need for more training or support. Travel to work patterns show how far people need to go to reach their jobs, which can highlight transport or access issues, especially in rural areas. Together, these indicators give a picture of both the number of jobs and how accessible they are for local residents.

LGR Implications

Ridgeway has a larger employment rates, with 62.98 percent compared to Oxford & Shires at 60.15 percent. Both are better than the regional and national averages. Oxford & Shires has more adults with no qualifications, at 13,738 per 100,000 people, compared to 12,704 in Ridgeway.

Job density shows there are greater jobs available in relative to the working-age population against national and regional averages and similar across both regions. These figures suggest that workforce skills, job opportunities, and access to employment vary between the two areas. Local Government Reorganisation should consider these differences when planning for skills, job growth, and transport improvements.

	Employment	Adults with no qualifications	Job density	Travel to work
Oxfordshire CC	**61.27%**	**13,061**	**0.94**	**12.29**
West Berkshire	63.0%	13,957	1.17	12.65
South Oxfordshire	62.9%	12,052	0.73	13.88
Vale of White Horse	63.0%	11,989	0.91	13.13
Ridgeway	**62.98%**	**12,704**	**1.00**	**13.22**
Cherwell	65.1%	15,577	0.92	13.19
Oxford City	53.6%	12,283	1.19	8.21
West Oxfordshire	62.8%	13,297	0.83	13.06
Oxford and Shires	**60.15%**	**13,738**	**1.01**	**11.49**
England	57.39%	**17,682**	**0.87**	-
South East	59.19%	**15,054**	**0.86**	-
Units and Period	%, 2021/2022	Per 100k, 2022/2023	Ratio, 2023/2024	Km/person, 2021/2022
Source	Economic Activity Status, ONS	Highest level of qualification, ONS	Job Density, Nomis	Travel to work, England and Wales, ONS

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Digital Economy and Infrastructure

Description of Indicator

These indicators show how strong each area's infrastructure is and whether it can support future growth. Low digital connectivity shows where people have poor internet access, which can limit access to services and opportunities. High digital connectivity measures how much of the area has 5G coverage, showing how ready the area is for faster, more advanced digital services.

The Digital Propensity Index shows how likely people are to use digital services, giving an idea of digital skills and comfort with technology. Housing land supply tells us how many years' worth of land is available for building new homes, which helps us understand whether the area can keep up with future housing needs.

LGR Implications

Oxford & Shires performs slightly better on low-speed internet, with only 1.33 percent of properties having access below 30mbps. It also has greater high-speed coverage overall, due to Ridgeway having more rural areas. However, Oxford & Shires has less land available for new housing, with only 4.31 years of supply compared to 5.23 years in Ridgeway. Both areas have similar levels of digital propensity, meaning residents are equally likely to use digital services. These figures suggest that decisions on Local Government Reorganisation should consider fair access to digital infrastructure and support for sustainable housing and infrastructure growth.

	Digital Connectivity (Low)	Digital Connectivity (High)	Digital Propensity Index	Housing Land Supply
Oxfordshire CC	**1.54%**	**86.90%**	**94.98%**	**4.59**
West Berkshire	1.8%	63.6%	95.0%	5.7
South Oxfordshire	1.7%	76.8%	94.9%	4.07
Vale of White Horse	2.0%	83.1%	95.4%	5.93
Ridgeway	**1.83%**	**74.52%**	**95.1%**	**5.23**
Cherwell	2.0%	86.0%	94.7%	3.1
Oxford City	1.4%	100%	95.6%	5.93
West Oxfordshire	0.6%	88.5%	94.3%	3.9
Oxford and Shires	**1.33%**	**91.52%**	**94.87%**	**4.31**
England	**2.5%**	**76.18%**	**94.00 %**	**-**
South East	**2.50%**	**79.3%**	**94.50 %**	**-**
Units and Period	% < 30mbps access, 2024/2025	% with 5G access, 2024/2025	% DPI, 2021/2022	Years of Supply, 2023/2024
Source	Premises below 30Mbps, OFCOM	5G coverage, OFCOM	Digital Propensity Index, ONS	District / Unitary Councils

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4. Service Delivery Factors

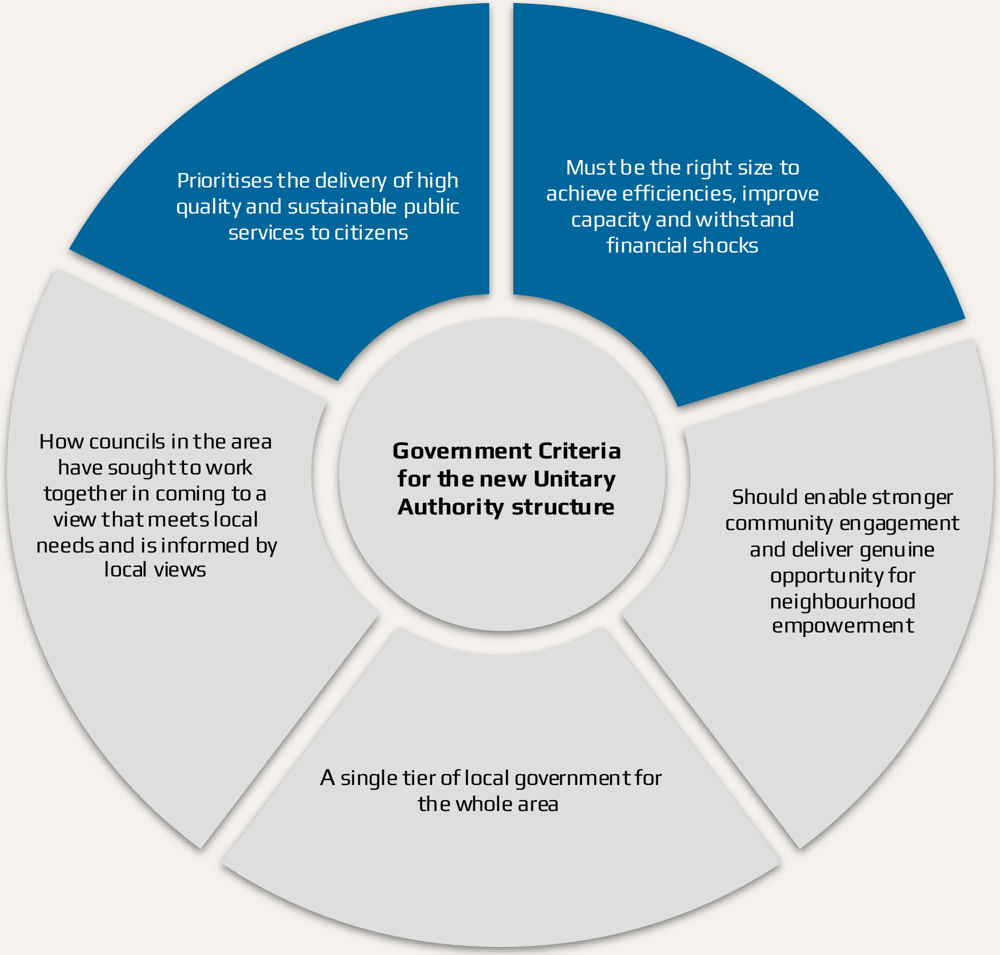
Service Delivery Factors | Summary

Why have we selected these measures?

These measures provide insight into the scale, distribution, and complexity of service demand. They help illustrate how need varies by geography, age group, and service type, offering a view of future demand pressures a new authority would have to manage. By looking at outcomes across social care, education, housing, and health, we can assess how well existing services are coping. This helps identify whether a new unitary model would benefit from economies of scale and consistency, or whether disaggregation could risk deepening local inequalities. The indicators also reflect broader challenges such as deprivation, long-term health conditions, and educational disadvantage, all of which will shape the sustainability and financial resilience of any new local government structure.

What do these measures tell us?

These indicators highlight variation in service demand, population needs, and social outcomes across the proposed unitary areas. People services data reflect differences in the volume and complexity of social care, particularly in adult services. Adult service indicators show levels of economic vulnerability, disability, youth disengagement, and housing need. Children's indicators capture variation in special educational needs, attainment, and child poverty. Health and wellbeing measures reflect physical and mental health outcomes, deprivation, and life satisfaction. Together, these measures illustrate differing service pressures and community needs that would influence future delivery and resource planning under any new structure.



Adult Services

Description of Indicator

The Household Benefit Claim Rate and Disability Allowance Claim Rate reflect the proportion of residents relying on financial support, highlighting economic vulnerability and potential pressure on welfare services. The NEET rate (young people not in education, employment, or training) measures youth disengagement across the areas. Also, Homelessness rates provide a snapshot of housing need and acute service demand.

LGR Implications

Both regions record similar levels of household benefit claim need and disability allowance claim rate. Both rates are below that of national and regional averages. Oxford & Shires faces a homelessness rate of 0.12%, only 0.03% higher than Ridgeway (0.09%). These factors are important when weighing up LGR options particularly in managing social need relative to resources and enabling more targeted, needs-based investment and planning.

	Household Benefit Claim Rate	Disability Allowance Claim Rate	Homelessness
Oxfordshire CC	11.75%	1.73%	0.1%
West Berkshire	13.87%	1.90%	0.11%
South Oxfordshire	11.67%	1.60%	0.05%
Vale of White Horse	11.33%	1.85%	0.07%
Ridgeway	11.60%	1.75%	0.09%
Cherwell	11.69%	1.87%	0.10%
Oxford City	12.6%	1.55%	0.18%
West Oxfordshire	11.45%	1.80%	0.10%
Oxford and Shires	11.91%	1.74%	0.12%
England	**21.33 %**	**2.06%**	**0.19%**
South East	**11.10%**	**1.93%**	**0.22%**
Units and Period	%, 2023/2024	%, 2023/2024	%, 2024
Source	DWP benefits, GOV.UK (requires log in)	DWP Benefits Statistics, GOV.UK (requires log in)	Statutory homelessness in England, ONS

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Children's Need and Educational Outcomes

Description of Indicator

These indicators highlight where children's educational challenges are most concentrated across Oxfordshire. These figures are critical for understanding where demand for children's services is most acute, identifying where school improvement and inclusion efforts will need targeted coordination, and flagging the need for consistent service quality and resource alignment. For any new unitary arrangement, these indicators help assess where inequalities in children's life chances could widen or be addressed through joined-up governance and delivery.
Statistics are by parliamentary constituency so do not map onto District areas.

LGR Implications

Oxford & Shires has slightly higher levels of pupil need, with greater SEN support demand. Ridgeway outperforms Oxford & Shires for GCSE (1.74% vs -0.51%) and EBacc, as well as national and regional averages. Oxford & Shires also has a higher rate of children in low-income families (10,836 per 100k vs 8,372). These differences should be considered when deciding how to reorganise local government, to ensure the new councils have enough funding, staff, and support to meet the specific needs of their local populations.

Statistics (input source)

Option	Area	Pupils Receiving SEN Support	Pupils with an EHCP	GCSE Attainment minus National Average	Pupils Receiving grade 4+ in EBacc	Pupils Receiving Grade 4+ in English/Maths	Children in Low-Income Families
Oxfordshire 1UA		15.7%	3.2%	0.11	23.9%	65.6%	9,643
West Berkshire UA		14.5%	3.2%	2.3	31.7%	69.7%	9,257
2UA	**Oxford & Shires**	15.7%	3.1%	-0.51	22.6%	64.1%	10,836
	Ridgeway	14.9%	3.1%	1.74	28.2%	69.3%	8,372
England		**13.6%**	**2.9 %**	**-**	**25.4 %**	**65.4 %**	**18,981**
South East		**13.3%**	**3.1 %**	**1.2**	**27.3 %**	**67.4%**	**12,355**
Units and Period:		%, 2023/2024	%, 2023/2024	% Point Difference, 2023/2024	%, 2023/2024	%, 2023/2024	Per 100k, 2023/2024
Sources		Special educational needs and disabilities, House of Commons Library	Local area data: Special educational needs and disabilities, House of Commons Library	Parliamentary constituency of school location data, GOV.UK	Parliamentary constituency of school location data, GOV.UK	Parliamentary constituency of school location data, GOV.UK	Stat-Xplore (requires log in)

Health and Wellbeing Indicators

Description of Indicator

These indicators provide a snapshot of the general health and wellbeing of residents across Oxfordshire. The Overall Health Index scores reflect physical and mental health outcomes, behaviours and environmental influences. Life expectancy and obesity prevalence indicates long-term health inequality, while deprivation highlights broader socioeconomic disadvantage. Measures such as high anxiety, low happiness, life satisfaction and prevalence of common mental disorders offer insight into mental wellbeing across age groups. Collectively, these indicators point to underlying demand for health and care services.

LGR Implications

Ridgeway consistently performs better, with higher life expectancy, a stronger overall health index (116.93 vs 109.13), although has slightly higher adult obesity rates (21.29% vs 20.45%). Ridgeway also has lower levels of deprivation. Oxford & Shires reports lower levels of anxiety, less people experiencing low happiness, and a greater prevalence of common mental disorders in both 16+ and 65+ populations. When considering the deliverability of unitary options, the balance between needs and resources should be addressed, alongside health strategies, investment in prevention and allocation of public health and adult social care resources.

Statistics (input source)

The table overleaf presents the headline statistics, with units and sources, for the following data categories:

Overall Health Index	Obesity Prevalence in Adults	Deprivation	Life Satisfaction	High Anxiety	Low Happiness	Common Mental Disorders - 16+	Common Mental Disorders - 65+

Health and Wellbeing Indicators

	Overall Health Index	Obesity Prevalence in Adults	Deprivation	Life Satisfaction	High Anxiety	Low Happiness	Common Mental Disorders - 16+	Common Mental Disorders - 65+
Oxfordshire CC	**112.80**	**20.86%**	**11.58**	**7.76**	**18.4**	**6.5**	**13.70**	**8.60**
West Berkshire	114.2	21.99%	9.89	7.50	24.38	8.8	13.16	8.29
South Oxfordshire	120.2	17.33%	8.33	7.81	16.00	6.2	12.32	7.86
Vale of White Horse	116.4	21.99%	8.38	7.73	28.75	-*	12.48	7.98
Ridgeway	**116.93**	**21.29%**	**8.92**	**7.68**	**23.0**	**7.5**	**12.7**	**8.0**
Cherwell	106.2	26.43%	14.47	7.57	16.96	6.8	14.20	8.81
Oxford City	101.4	16.17%	16.99	7.80	11.26	-*	17.75	10.88
West Oxfordshire	119.8	21.23%	8.77	7.94	18.92	-*	11.89	7.70
Oxford and Shires	**109.13**	**20.45%**	**13.78**	**7.75**	**15.7**	**6.8**	**14.6**	**9.10**
England	**100.80**	**26.5%**	**21.67**	**7.44**	**23.32**	**8.85**	**16.90**	**10.25**
South East	**106.10**	**24.6%**	**15.48**	**7.49**	**22.1**	**8.50**	**15.60**	**9.90**
Units and period	2021	%, 2023/2024	IMD, 2019/2020	Mean %, 2022/2023	%, 2022/2023	%, 2022/2023	%, 2017	%, 2017
Source	Health Index scores, England, ONS	Public Health Profiles, NHS	English indices of deprivation, MHCLG	Personal well-being estimates, ONS	Public health profiles, NHS	Public health profiles, NHS	Public health profiles, NHS	Public health profiles, NHS

**Value suppressed for disclosure control due to small count*

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5. Demographic and Economic indicator sources and description

Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis | Data Source Key

Heading	Source, Period	Unit	Description
Total council tax receipts	MHCLG, 2023/2024	£'000s	Cumulative amount a household must pay annually to cover local government services, based on property valuation bands, localauthority rates, and any additional charges like precepts, net of council tax support.
Business rates Income	MHCLG, 2023/2024	£'000s	Business rates, also known as non-domestic rates, are a tax levied on commercial properties by local councils in the UK to help fund local services. The amount is calculated based on the property's rateable value and a uniform business rate multiplier set by the government,allowing councils to raise revenue from businesses operating within their jurisdiction.
LA Debt per capita	GOV.UK, 2023/2024	£	LA Debt per head refers to the average amount of public or governmental debt allocated to each individual within a population It is calculated by dividing the total public debt by the number of people, providing a measure of the debt burden on a per-person basis in a particular jurisdiction
Operating Expenditure per capita	MHCLG, 2023/2024	£	Operating expenditure per capita refers to the average amount of money spent on operating expenses for each individual in a specific population or area. It is calculated by dividing the total operating expenditures by the number of people, providing insight into how resources are allocated relative to the population size.
Net Assets per capita	District Councils, 2023/2024	£	Net assets refer to the total value of a council's assets (such as property, equipment, and financial reserves) minus its liabilities. This measure indicates the underlying financial strength and resilience of the authority, showing its capacity to absorb fiscal shocks, invest in services, and support long-term financial planning (£).
Current DSG Deficit	GCC SoA, 2025	£m	Current DSG deficit refers to the cumulative shortfall between Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding received and the local authority's spending on high needs and other DSG-supported services. We have apportioned by EHCPs by area.
Projected DSG Deficit	GCC SoA, 2026	£m	Projected DSG deficit refers to the cumulative shortfall between Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding received and the local authority's spending on high needs and other DSG-supported services based on Statement of Accounts. We have apportioned by EHCPs by area.
Deprivation	MHCLG, 2019/2020	IMD	Deprivation refers to the condition of lacking essential resources, opportunities, or advantages, resulting in a lower standard of living and well-being. It encompasses various dimensions such as income poverty, poor access to education, inadequate housing, limited healthcare, and employment opportunities, often leading to social and economic disadvantages
Population	ONS, 2023/2024	Num	Population refers to the total number of individuals or inhabitants living in a specific geographic area, such as a city, country, or the world

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Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis | Data Source Key

Heading	Source, Period	Unit	Description
GVA per hour worked	ONS, 2022/2023	£ per hour worked	GVA, or Gross Value Added, is a measure of the economic productivity of a particular region, industry, or sector within an economy. It represents the value of goods and services produced, minus the costs of inputs and raw materials used in production, serving as an indicator of economic performance and contribution to GDP.
Business Growth	ONS, 2023/2024	% change	Business growth is measured as the difference between the number of business births and business deaths over the past year. This provides a net change in the local business population and serves as an indicator of economic dynamism and the overall health of the business environment.
Job Density	ONS, 2023/2024	Ratio	This represents the number of jobs in an area divided by the working-age population. In a local government context, it helps assess the balance between available employment opportunities and the resident workforce, indicating potential pressures on commuting, skills alignment, and local economic capacity.
Employment	ONS, 2021/2022	% of adults	Employment refers to the condition of having paid work, where individuals engage in tasks or activities in exchange for wages or salaries. This indicator measure % of working age adults in employment in a given area.
GDHI per capita	Nomis, 2022/2023	£	Gross Disposable Household Income, measuring the total income households have available for spending and saving after accounting for taxes, social contributions, and receiving benefits. It serves as an indicator of the economic well-being of households, reflecting their ability to consume goods and services and maintain living standards
Net assets per head	Financial Statements	£	Net assets per head is a financial metric that represents the average value of an entity's net assets allocated to each individual within a population. It is calculated by dividing the total net assets (assets minus liabilities) by the number of people, providing insight into the wealth or economic resources available on a per-person basis.
Digital connectivity (Low)	OFCOM, 2024/2025	%	Low digital connectivity indicates inadequacies in access to or quality of digital networks and technologies, such as limited internet availability, slow connection speeds, or poor mobile network coverage. This can hinder effective communication, access to information, and participation in digital services, impacting both economic opportunities and social engagement.
Digital connectivity (High)	OFCOM, 2024/2025	%	High digital connectivity signifies robust access to digital networks and technologies, characterized by widespread internet availability, fast connection speeds, and reliable mobile network coverage. This facilitates efficient communication, seamless access to information and digital services, and enhanced opportunities for economic and social engagement.of area with 5G coverage from at least one mobile network provider.

Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis | Data Source Key

Heading	Source, Period	Unit	Description
Digital propensity	ONS, 2021/2022	%	Digital propensity refers to the likelihood or tendency of individuals or groups to use and adopt digital technologies and services in their daily lives. It encompasses behaviors and preferences related to online activities, such as internet usage, digital communication, e-commerce, and engagement with digital platforms, reflecting readiness and inclination towards incorporating digital solutions into various aspects of life.
Travel to Work	Census, 2021/2022	Km per person	This measures the average kilometres residents travel from home to their workplace. It reflects accessibility of employment, reliance on transport infrastructure, and spatial distribution of jobs, helping identify areas with potential transport or service accessibility challenges
Housing Land Supply	Council Data, 2023/2024	Years of supply	Availability of land that is designated and approved for residential development, ensuring sufficient capacity to meet current and future housing needs within a specific area. It is a critical component of urban and regional planning, influencing housing affordability, growth strategies, and the availability of new housing units to accommodate population growth and reduce housing shortages
ASC Need (18-64)	District Councils / NHS, 2022/2023	No. of adults	ASC need for 18-64 year olds typically refers to the requirement for Adult Social Care services among individuals within this age group. This encompasses support and care needed due to physical disabilities, mental health issues, learning disabilities, or other health conditions that impact daily living and independence, thereby necessitating intervention or assistance from social care services.
ASC Need (65+)	District Councils / NHS, 2022/2023	No. of adults	ASC need for 65+ year olds refers to the demand for Adult Social Care services among older adults who may require support due to age-related challenges. This includes assistance with activities of daily living, managing health conditions, providing mobility support, and ensuring safety and well-being, often necessitated by physical frailty, cognitive decline, or chronic health issues associated with aging.
Household Benefit Claim Rate	GOV.UK, 2023/2024	%	This reflects the percentage of households claiming one or more income-related benefits. It serves as a proxy for financial vulnerability and demand for welfare and support services across different areas

Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis | Data Source Key

Heading	Source, Period	Unit	Description
Disability Allowance Claim Rate	GOV.UK, 2023/2024	%	This measures the proportion of the population receiving disability-related benefits, indicating the prevalence of disability and associated care needs that local authorities must plan for in service delivery and social care support.
Homelessness	ONS, 2024	%	This reflects the percentage of individuals or households without stable housing, including those in temporary accommodation or rough sleeping, and highlights pressure on local authority housing, social services, and public health support systems.
Children in Care	District Councils / GOV.UK, 2023/2024	No. of children	CSC need refers to the demand for Child Social Care services, which are designed to support and protect children and young people who may be at risk or in need due to various factors such as abuse, neglect, disability, or family difficulties. These services aim to ensure the safety, well-being, and development of children, often involving interventions like foster care, family support, and safeguarding measures.
Pupils Receiving SEN Support	House of Commons Library, 2023/2024	% of pupils	Pupils receiving Special Educational Needs support are students identified as requiring additional assistance in school due to learning difficulties that affect their ability to learn compared to their peers. It involves tailored interventions and resources designed to meet these students' individual needs, helping them achieve their full potential in an educational setting.
Pupils with an EHCP	House of Commons Library, 2023/2024	% of pupils	Pupils with an Education, Health, and Care Plan, are students who have been assessed as needing comprehensive support due to significant special educational needs. An EHCP provides a detailed outline of the support required across education, health, and social services, ensuring a coordinated approach to meeting the child's specific needs and facilitating their development.
GCSE Attainment vs National	GOV.UK, 2023/2024	% Point Difference	The percentage point difference between the local area's GCSE performance and the national average. It shows how far ahead or behind pupils in the area are compared to national attainment levels, typically based on key measures like achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths.

Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis | Data Source Key

Heading	Source, Period	Unit	Description
Pupils Receiving grade 4+ EBacc	GOV.UK, 2023/2024	%	Refers to the proportion of students who achieve at least a grade 4 (equivalent to a C in the old grading system) in all the subjects required for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE level, including English, mathematics, science, a language, and either history or geography, and indicates the student's proficiency in these core academic areas. This metric helps in assessing the school's effectiveness in guiding students toward achieving foundational educational standards across a broad range of disciplines.
Pupils Receiving Grade 4+ in English/Maths	GOV.UK, 2023/2024	%	Proportion of students who achieve at least a grade 4 in both English and Mathematics GCSE exams. A grade 4 is considered a standard pass in the UK educational system, and this metric is often used to gauge the school's effectiveness in ensuring students meet basic proficiency levels in these critical subjects, which are essential for further education and employment opportunities.
High Anxiety	NHS, 2022/2023	%	Individuals within a specific population who have assessed themselves as experiencing high levels of anxiety. This measure is typically derived from surveys or assessments where participants are asked to evaluate their anxiety levels using a standardised scale or questionnaire.
Low Happiness	NHS, 2022/2023	%	Refers to the percentage of individuals in a given population who have evaluated themselves as having low levels of happiness or life satisfaction. This information is typically gathered through surveys using standardised assessment tools, where participants rate their happiness on a scale.
Common Mental Disorders 16+	NHS, 2017	% of 16+	Percentage or rate of individuals aged 16 and older in a population who are experiencing one or more common mental disorders at a given time. Common mental disorders include conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, and bipolar disorder. This metric is used to understand how widespread these disorders are within the adult population, highlighting the need for mental health services and informing public health strategies. It can guide resource allocation, policy development, and efforts to improve mental health care and support for those affected.
Common Mental Disorders 65+	NHS, 2017	% of 65+	Experiencing one or more common mental disorders at a specific time. Common mental disorders include conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, and cognitive disorders like dementia. This age-specific prevalence measure is important for understanding the mental health needs of older adults, who may face unique challenges related to aging, such as isolation, physical health issues, or bereavement. By analysing this data, healthcare providers and policymakers can better tailor services, interventions, and support systems to address the mental health requirements of the elderly population, ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to improve their quality of life.
Overall Health Index	ONS, 2021	Health Index	This composite measure from the ONS captures health outcomes, health-related behaviours, and wider determinants of health (like employment and environment), providing a single score to assess the general health and wellbeing of an area’s population.

Comparative Demographic, Economic, Social and Environmental Analysis | Data Source Key

Heading	Source, Period	Unit	Description
Children in Low Income Families	DWP 2024	%	Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in financial year ending 2011. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.
Developed Land Use	GOV.UK , 2022	%	The percentage of total land area that is classified as developed, including residential, commercial, industrial, infrastructure, and other built environments. It reflects the extent of urbanisation and land that is no longer natural or agricultural, indicating the intensity of physical development across an area
Life Satisfaction Mean Score	ONS , 2022/2023	Mean %	The average response to the question: "Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?" asked on a scale from 0 (notat all) to 10 (completely). This score reflects overall personal wellbeing and is used as a subjective measure of quality of life across the population. Higher scores indicate greater life satisfaction
Adults with No Qualifications	CENSUS / ONS , 2023	Per 100k	The percentage of working age adults (aged 16–64) who have not achieved any formal educational qualifications, such as GCSEs, A-levels, vocational awards, or higher education. This indicator reflects the skills base of the working-age population and is linked to employability, income potential, and reliance on public services
Obesity Prevalence in Adults	NHS , 2023/2024	%	The percentage of adults (aged 18 and over) classified as obese, typically defined as having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or above. This indicator reflects population-level health risks and is associated with increased likelihood of chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers