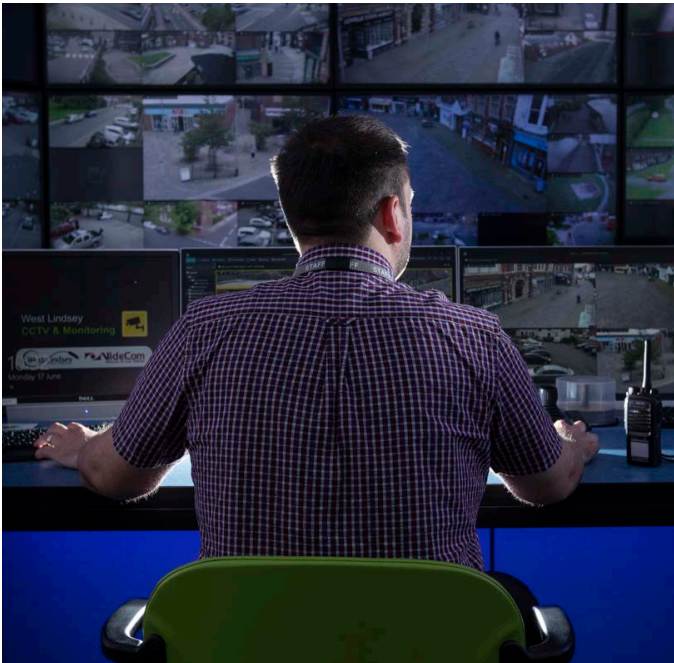


WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL STATE OF THE DISTRICT



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Welcome to West Lindsey District Council's annual State of the District Report for 2019. In alignment with the Council's Corporate Plan, the report focuses on two of its main priority areas; 'People' and 'Place'. The State of the District Report is designed to support and inform the Council's decision making; as well as acting as a source of information for other stakeholders in the District.

This report provides important information relating to the District of West Lindsey, such as the economy, health and wellbeing, employment, education, housing and public safety. It also provides up to date facts and figures about the demography of the District.

West Lindsey is one of the largest districts in England and one of the most rural in the County of Lincolnshire. One of seven District areas in the County, West Lindsey covers 1,156km2 (447 square miles), with the administrative centre in Gainsborough on the River Trent to the west, and the smaller market towns of Caistor and Market Rasen to the east. Following boundary changes in 2015, West Lindsey is currently made up of 20 wards with a total of 97 parishes within the District.

Information is intended to be as up-to-date as possible and the most up to date statistics are always used in compiling this report. In a small number of cases, a given dataset has not been updated since the 2011 Census and this is highlighted in the report where applicable. Where possible, information in this report is presented at ward level.



There are great differences in the characteristics and levels of need across the district. Some wards experience the highest levels of deprivation in the country while others are amongst the most affluent. This range of characteristics, such as wealth, accessibility, infrastructure and deprivation have a varied effect on the needs and aspirations of local people and the delivery of services in the District.

Overall, it can be said that the state of the district is mixed. Progress has been made in some areas but a number of persistent challenges remain and worsening trends are beginning to emerge.

West Lindsey residents benefit from good mental and physical health with high levels of adult physical activity and declining obesity rates for both adults and children. Whilst the rest of the region and country as a whole is experiencing increasing homelessness, for West Lindsey the rates of homelessness remain low. Conversely, the mortality rate has risen significantly while the birth rate is decreasing which will place additional pressure on local services if the trend continues as predicted. Life expectancy is higher than average but rates of dementia are increasing and the number of people with a disability is expected to increase over the next 20 years. The gap in the employment rate for people with a long-term health condition is widening, placing West Lindsey in the bottom quartile nationally.

In terms of the District's economy, business confidence remains high, despite continuing economic uncertainty surrounding Britain's departure from the EU, and there has been a jump in recruitment activity in the business sector. However, gross value added has gone down by £32m. Weekly earnings are higher than the regional average for men although the gender pay gap has widened with women continuing to earn below the regional and national average. The District benefits from a higher than average number of managers, professionals and skilled

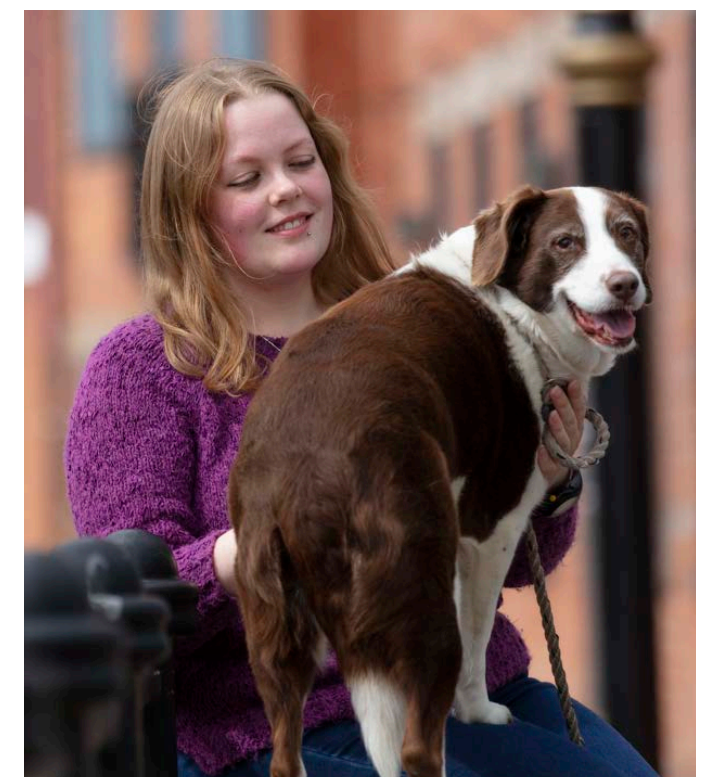
tradespeople compared to the rest of the region, however, West Lindsey's skills base remains low with poor rates of educational attainment and a rise in the proportion of people with no qualifications.

West Lindsey remains static on the Vibrant Economy Index, which ranks all local authorities based on a number of factors including prosperity, health and wellbeing, happiness, prosperity and opportunity. The most recent survey of the District's residents found that people in West Lindsey continue to rate themselves high on the happiness and personal wellbeing scale.

Employment rates have risen to match the regional average and the number of people who are unemployed has fallen. The youth unemployment rate remains static, and is higher than both the regional and national averages, placing West Lindsey in the bottom quartile. Additionally, the number of people currently claiming out of work benefits has increased. A Food Bank has opened in the district for the first time and just over one-third of the working population earn below the Real Living Wage. The number of people living in fuel poverty is higher than the regional and national average, however, the number of children living in poverty has fallen slightly compared to last year.

While the average house price in the district has increased to record levels, the affordability ratio remains static and is worse than the regional and national average. Access to superfast broadband has improved significantly over the last year with over 88% of households now connected to a superfast service. .

Levels of public safety are high and although crime levels have risen over the past year, the overall crime rate remains low and is the third lowest in Lincolnshire.



POPULATION

Overall Population:

The mid-year population estimate for 2018 is 94,869, an increase of 569 or 0.6% compared to 2017. While West Lindsey's population growth rate has remained steady, mainly as a result of internal migration, England's overall growth rate has fallen to 0.6% from 0.8% in the previous year.

ONS population projections suggest that the population of West Lindsey will continue to rise to 105,663 by 2041, an overall increase of 12%. The East Midlands has experienced the fastest population growth rate (0.98%) of all the regions in the UK. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released experimental ward based population data

based on 2017 figures. This is set out in the table below. Overall, women make up 51.06% of the district's population compared to 48.94% for men.

Population Change:

In 2017, there were 871 live births (the second lowest in the County), compared with 1,021 deaths (the third lowest in the County) which is a difference of -150. The live birth rate has decreased by 3.01% compared to 2016, while the death rate has increased by 7.47%. The growth in the district's population can be attributed to migration; notably internal migration.

	Geographical area, land only measurements	Total resident population	All usual residents - female	All usual residents - male
	Hectares	People	People	People
Bardney	6,255.72	2,638	1,342	1,296
Caistor and Yarborough	6,930.63	5,421	2,835	2,586
Cherry Willingham	4,561.18	7,586	3,918	3,668
Dunholme and Welton	9,535.60	8,330	4,303	4,027
Gainsborough East	293.81	7,774	4,079	3,695
Gainsborough North	239.45	7,324	3,746	3,578
Gainsborough South-West	437.10	5,425	2,709	2,716
Hemswell	9,593.48	2,872	1,379	1,493
Kelsey Wold	7,926.32	2,731	1,353	1,378
Lea	2,818.09	2,126	1,129	997
Market Rasen	15,310.58	8,919	4,538	4,381
Nettleham	1,945.98	4,103	2,157	1,946
Saxilby	5,111.49	5,503	2,784	2,719
Scampton	5,092.64	2,853	1,393	1,460
Scotter and Blyton	10,245.62	7,653	3,940	3,713
Stow	3,328.55	2,341	1,185	1,156
Sudbrooke	1,348.34	2,720	1,412	1,308
Torksey	4,349.78	2,925	1,451	1,474
Waddingham and Spital	7,816.05	2,527	1,242	1,285
Wold View	12,431.32	2,569	1,292	1,277
Total	-	94,869	48,444	46,425

Population Projections:

By 2041, the total population is projected to be 105,700, an overall increase of 9,600 people (9.99%). This is set out in the graph above.

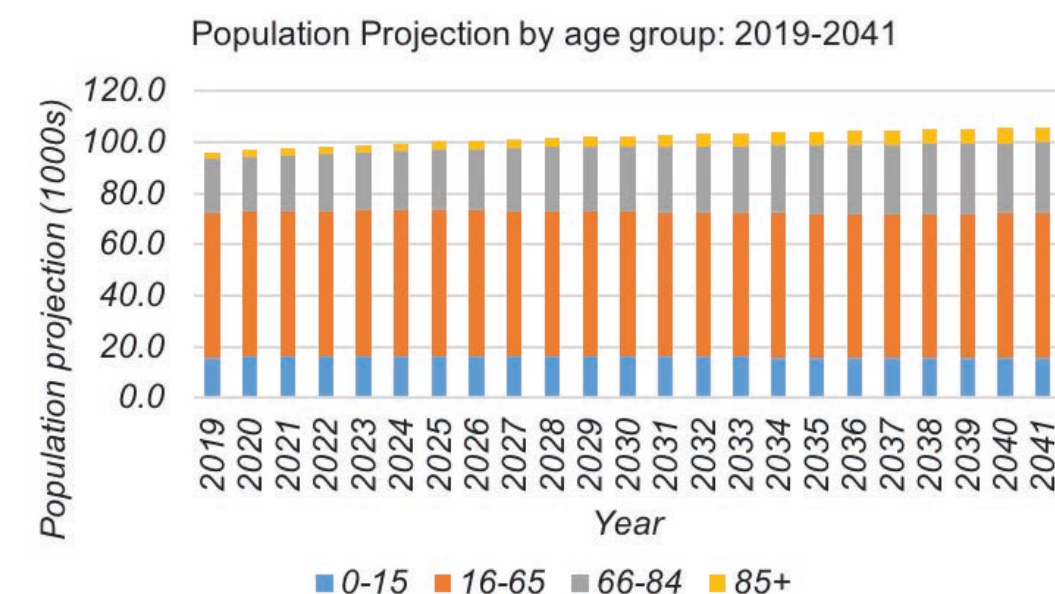
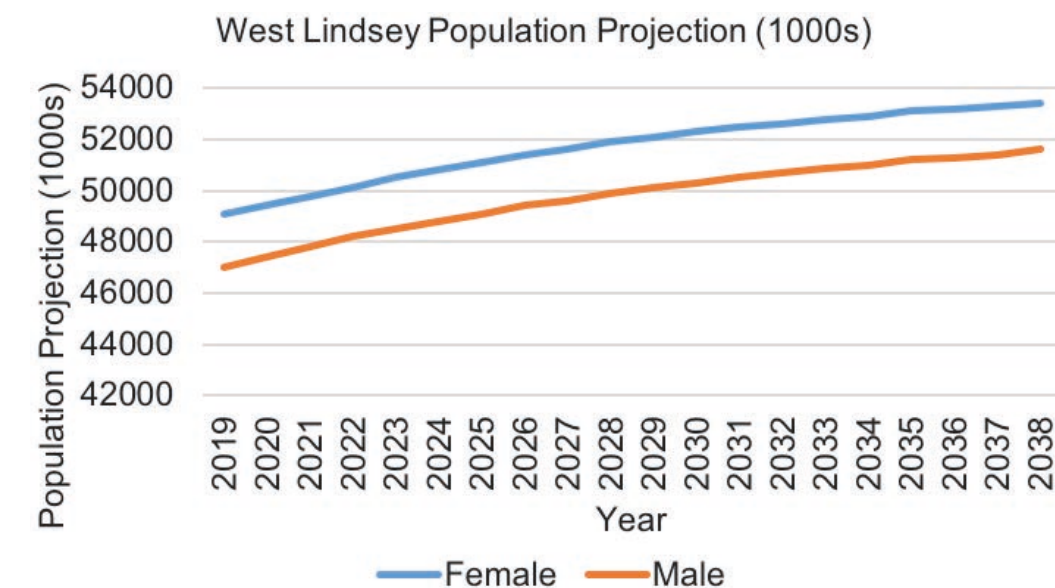
Age Distribution:

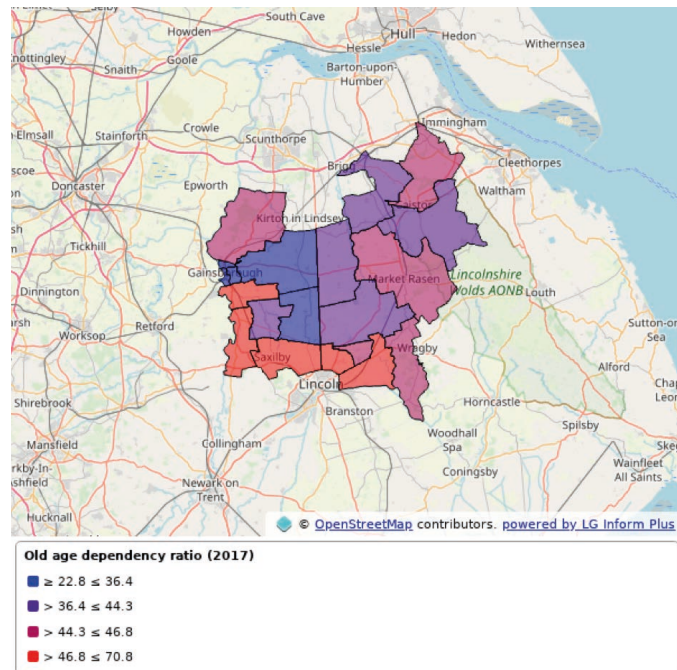
In line with the national trend, West Lindsey continues to have an ageing population with an average age of 47. This is significantly higher than the UK average of 40 and the County average of 41.4.

The number of children aged 0-15 is projected to rise from 15,800 in 2019 to 16,200 in 2029, an increase of 2.5%. From 2030 up to 2041, the population of this age group is projected to decline steadily back down to 2019 levels.

There are approximately 56,600 people of working age in the district and this number is not projected to alter significantly until 2035 when numbers start to decline to the mid-50,000s leading up to the year 2041.

The number of people between state pension age and 84 years is projected to rise continuously every year from 21,100 in 2019 up to 27,500 in 2041. Likewise, the number of very elderly people in the district, classified as 84+ is also projected to rise continuously from 2,100 in 2019 up to 6,100 in 2041. The current old age dependency ratio (the ratio of people aged 64 years and over expressed per 100 persons of working age) stands at 41.1 and, based on current projections, this is set to rise to 44.78 by 2041.





The map below shows rates of ageing across the District which range from slightly ageing in Gainsborough, Hemswell and Scampton to rapid ageing in Lea and the Lincoln Fringe areas of Torksey, Saxilby, Cherry Willingham and Nettleham.

Ethnicity:

N.B there has been little update on these statistics since the 2011 Census.

As of 2011, 3.6% of West Lindsey residents were classed as Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME). The highest proportion of the BAME population can be found in Gainsborough South-West (8.2%) and Sudbrooke (6.9%) whilst the lowest proportion is in Stow (0.01%).

Migration:

The internal migration flow (the difference between the inflow and outflow of people) has increased over the last year, up from 412 people in 2017 to 650 people in 2018, a difference of 57.7%. The international migration flow has remained steady, down from 127 in 2016 to 120 in 2017.

Localised Population Growth:

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan forms the framework of where growth sits. This allows modelling to take place to show where in the district growth is likely to take place.

Gainsborough:

The population of Gainsborough expanded by 1.11% to 20,523 in 2017. The current growth rate suggests a projected population of between 26,514 and 31,869 by 2036, making it likely that the Growth Point target of 30,000 will be met.

Market Rasen and Caistor:

As of 2017 (the latest data available), Market Rasen had a population of 8,919. The ward is growing faster than the district as a whole and contains 9.5% of the district's overall population; a figure which is predicted to grow further based on current growth rates.

Lincoln Fringe:

There is a mixed picture for the Lincoln Fringe in terms of population growth. The Dunholme and Welton areas have experienced slow growth since 2011 compared to more rapid growth around Cherry Willingham and Bardney. Growth around Saxilby has been moderate but overall, growth for the Lincoln Fringe area has been slower since 2011 than it has for Gainsborough and the surrounding area.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health Profile:

The health of residents in West Lindsey is varied compared with the England average. Across the District 18% (2,700) of children live in low income families. In the most deprived areas of the district, life expectancy is 7.0 years lower for men and 6.9 years lower for women compared to the least deprived. Overall, life expectancy is above the national average.

The number of people killed or seriously injured on the district's roads remains higher than the national average, placing the district in the bottom quartile for what is the single biggest health concern in West Lindsey.

The gap in the employment rate between those with a long-term health condition and the overall employment rate is 38.7% for 2017. This has widened significantly compared to the previous year (27.8%) and places West Lindsey in the lowest 25th percentile nationally.

Obesity rates in children of primary school age have fallen and are below the national average but the picture worsens into adulthood where the obesity rate is higher than the regional and national average.

Life Expectancy:

There is a strong correlation between life expectancy and deprivation. The average life expectancy at birth for females is 84.2 years, which is higher than the national average of 83.1 and places West Lindsey in the top quartile nationally. Men born in the district in 2019 can expect to live to an average age of 80, slightly above the national average of 79.5. These figures have remained broadly static since 2007.

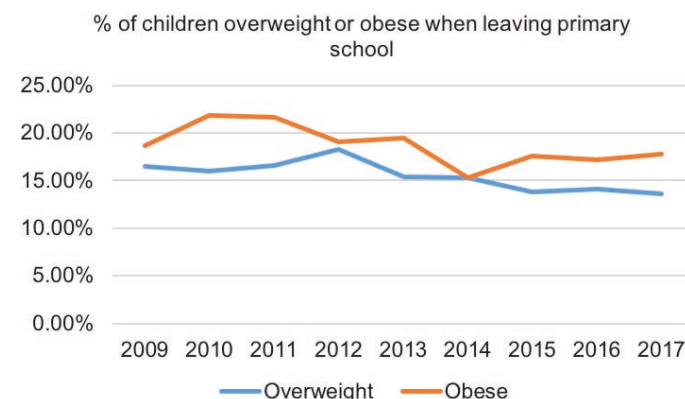
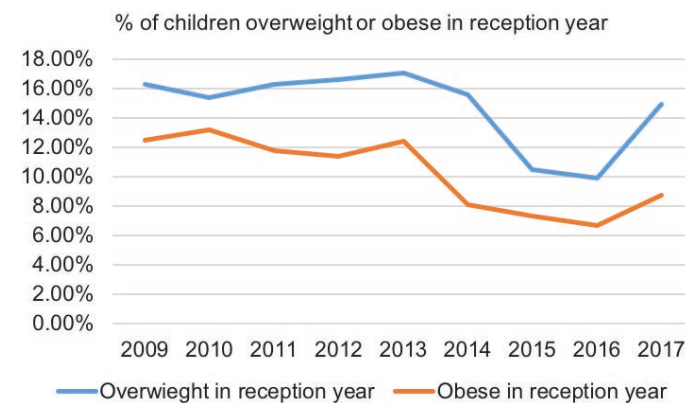
The under 75 mortality rates for all causes (302 per 100,000) is lower than the national average and

whilst the country as a whole has experienced a slight increase in mortality rates for cancer since 2011, West Lindsey has experienced a marked decline (123.2 per 100,000) placing the district better than the national average.

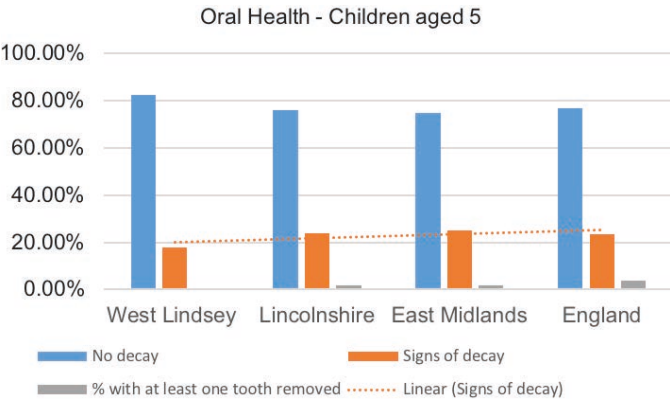
The ratio of excess winter deaths (compared to non-winter deaths) stood at 13.1% in 2016 (121 people) lower than the national average of 17.9%.

Child Health:

Obesity levels amongst children in reception year (aged 5-6) have steadily decreased since 2009, from 12.5% in that year to 8.71% in 2017. However, the picture worsens as children progress through primary school with 17.79% of children classed as obese by age of 11. This figure is lower than the regional average (19.2%) and national average (19.8%).



An NHS dental study of children at five years old shows that children in West Lindsey have better oral health compared to the rest of the region, although 17.7% of five year olds in the district have still experienced tooth decay, with 0.6% of those children having at least one tooth removed.



The rate of alcohol related hospital admissions for under 18s has improved slightly to 29.4 (per 100,000 of the under 18 population) in 2018, down from 31 the previous year. This is lower than the national average of 34.2.

Lifestyles:

Obesity is a growing problem in the UK. Adults living in the most deprived areas are 46% more likely to be obese compared to the least deprived areas. In West Lindsey, 68.1% of adults are classed as obese. This is significantly higher than the national and regional averages and places West Lindsey in the lowest 25th percentile.

Nationally, smoking prevalence has been in gradual decline over the last 15 years and data for West Lindsey broadly follows this trend. In total, 15.4% of adults in West Lindsey smoke, down from 18% in the previous year but slightly higher than the national average of 14.9%. Smoking is more common amongst those in routine and manual occupations with a rate of 38.4% amongst this cohort. This represents an increase from 34.4% for the previous year.

The rate of alcohol related hospital admissions among adults in West Lindsey is 564 (per 100,000 of the population) which equates to 552 hospital stays in 2018. This figure has been in steady decline since 2014 and is better than the national average.

Mental Health:

The overall picture for mental health is positive for West Lindsey when compared to the country as a whole. The rate of hospital admissions as a result of self-harm is 157 (per 100,000 of the population) which is better than the national average.

At 9.1 (per 100,000), the suicide rate is in line with the national average and figures have remained broadly similar since 2012.

Since 2011, the Office for National Statistics have asked personal well-being questions to adults in the UK in order to gain a better understanding of how they feel about their lives. Respondents are asked to state how satisfied they feel with their lives on a scale of 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely). The table (see page 11) shows that West Lindsey residents remain highly satisfied with their lives overall and that levels of anxiety remain low; figures that have been broadly static since 2011. Personal well-being questions are being replaced with specific local measures and so this dataset will not be updated going forward. The estimated prevalence of mental health disorders in children and young people (aged 5-16) is 9.1%, matching the figure for the country as a whole. There is not enough data available to identify trends for previous years but the overall picture for the UK points to an increase in demand for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and this is likely to be the case in West Lindsey.

It is not possible to analyse information relating to diagnoses of dementia at district level, however, the latest figures available for Lincolnshire as a whole show that the proportion of over 65s with a diagnosis of dementia stands at 3.95%, lower than the national average of 4.33%. By 2035, a total of 2,555 adults aged 65 or over in West Lindsey are predicted to have a diagnosis of dementia which equates to 7.81% of the population aged 65 and over.

Projected figures from the Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) show that, by 2035, 2,730 residents (8.3%) aged 65 and over are predicted to suffer from depression, with 897 (2.7%) of these predicted to suffer with severe depression.

Feelings of wellbeing: average response		
Question	WL	UK
How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?	7.94	7.68
To what extent do you feel that the things in your life are worthwhile?	7.99	7.86
How happy did you feel yesterday?	7.91	7.51
How anxious did you feel yesterday?	2.32	2.90

Disability:

Data from the 2011 Census (the latest available) showed that 18.7% of the working age population described themselves as having a long-term health condition, illness or disability, which is comparable to the national average. Just under 11% of people stated that they provide some form of unpaid care to friends, family members or neighbours which is also in line with the national average.

More recent data at a local level is not available, however, projections from the JSNA show that by 2030, 4,274 adults in West Lindsey will have a moderate physical disability or sensory impairment; 1,319 adults will have a serious disability or sensory impairment, and 1,237 adults are predicted to have a learning disability. In total, these figures equate to 20.9% of the projected working age population. Figures are not available for children under 18.

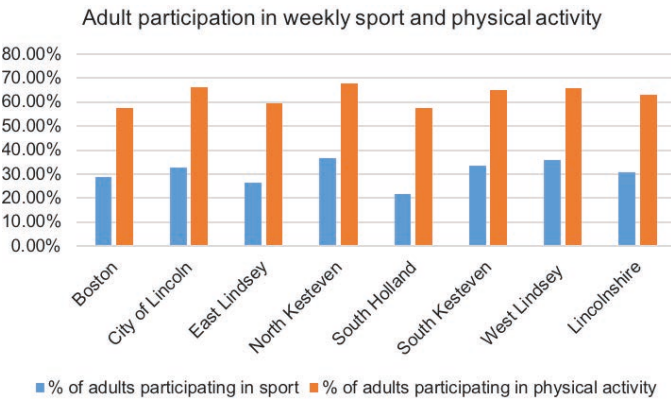
Recent studies by the ONS and disability charity Scope show that people living with long-term health conditions and disabilities face significant challenges. They are more likely to live in poverty and less likely to be in employment. Currently, ONS figures show that the national gap between people with a disability in employment and those without a disability in employment stands at 30 percentage points.

Nationally, one-third of people living with a disability or long-term health condition do not access public, commercial and leisure goods or services and one-fifth experience regular difficulties accessing

public transport, a problem that is particularly prevalent in rural areas. One in three people living with a disability live in poor quality or unsuitable accommodation and these are all factors to be taken into consideration at a local level.

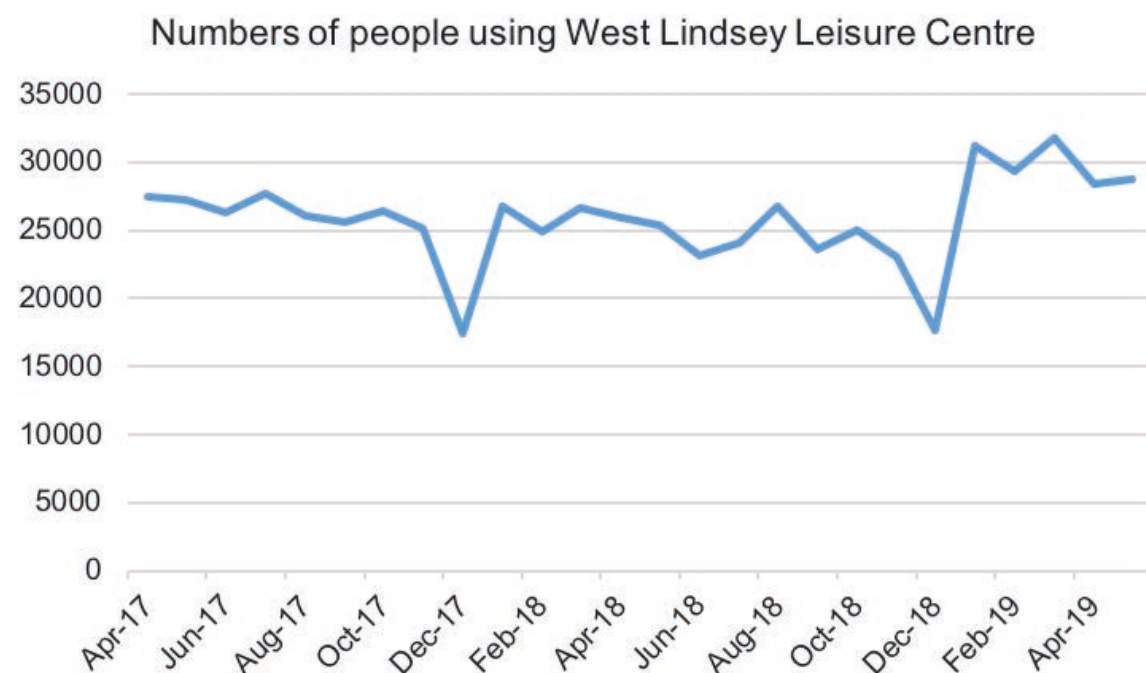
Participation in Physical Activity:

The proportion of adults reporting participation in physical activity (defined as moderate activity for at least 150 minutes per week) is 65.9%, an increase of 4.5 percentage points on last year and above the county average of 63.11%. Adult participation in sport (defined as at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity of sport per week) has also increased, up 3.7 percentage points from last year to 35.8%. This is the second highest result in Lincolnshire after North Kesteven and higher than the County average of 30.8%. By comparison, 26.0% of adults report being physically inactive, an increase of 2.1% compared to the previous year and higher than the country as a whole (22.2%).



Walking is widely recognised as one of the easiest forms of exercise in terms of cost, accessibility and effectiveness in aiding fitness and weight loss. In West Lindsey 20.6% of West Lindsey adults report walking for travel at least three days per week, higher than the regional average of 18.8%.

Cycling rates for adults in the district have fallen over the last year with 3.2% of adults reporting that they cycle for travel at least three days per week compared to 4.9% the previous year. However, this is still on a par with the national average and is higher than the regional average of 2.6%.

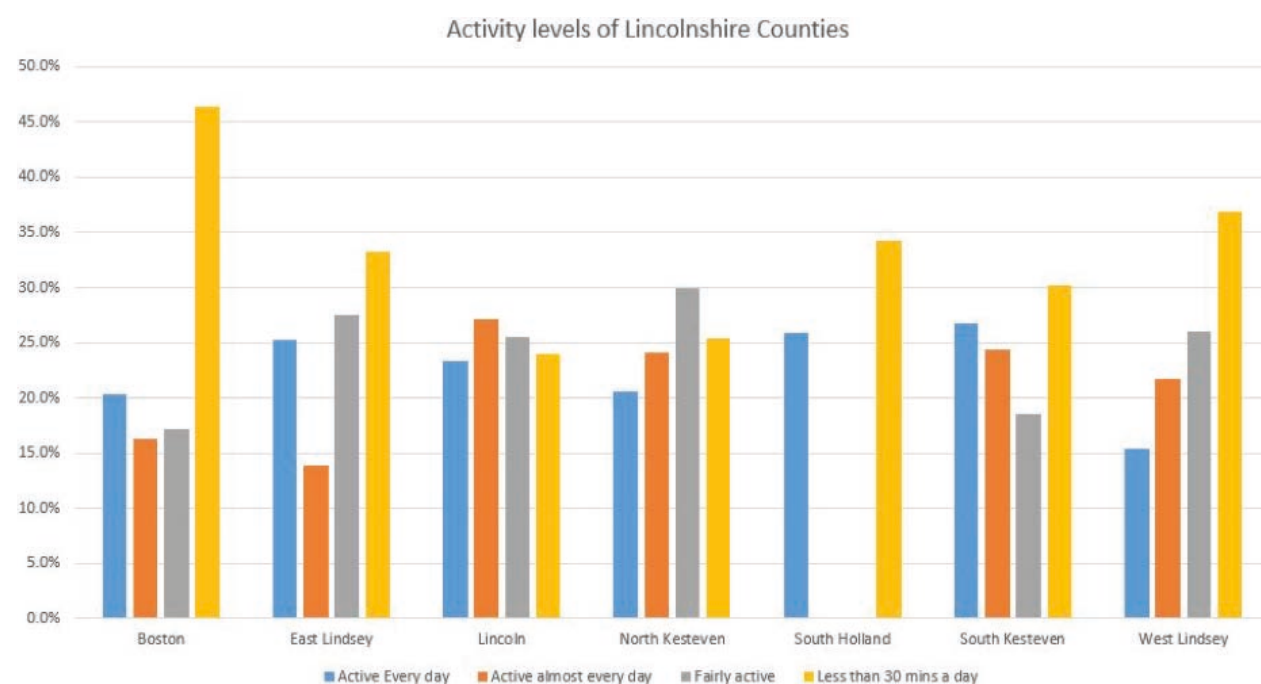


Since 2017, the numbers of people using the West Lindsey Leisure Centre on a monthly basis has fluctuated. From a low of 17,042 in December of that year, there has been a significant increase in usage up to January 2019 (31,168). The latest figures show usage of 28,700 in May 2019. This increase can be attributed in part to the recent refurbishment of the Leisure Centre.

Physical Activity in Children:

In December 2018, Sport England released the first ever Active Lives Children and Young People Survey which is based on responses from children

aged 5-16 between September 2017 and July 2018. The picture for West Lindsey is poor. Figures show that 15.3% of children undertake at least 60 minutes of activity every day which places the district bottom in the County (where the average is 22.2%) and below the national average of 17.5%. Likewise, 21.7% of children report being active across the week (60 minutes of exercise but not every day) which is the third lowest in the County and lower than the national average of 25.7%. Almost 37% of children report taking part in less than 30 minutes of physical activity per day, the second lowest result for the County behind Boston and below the national average (32.9%).



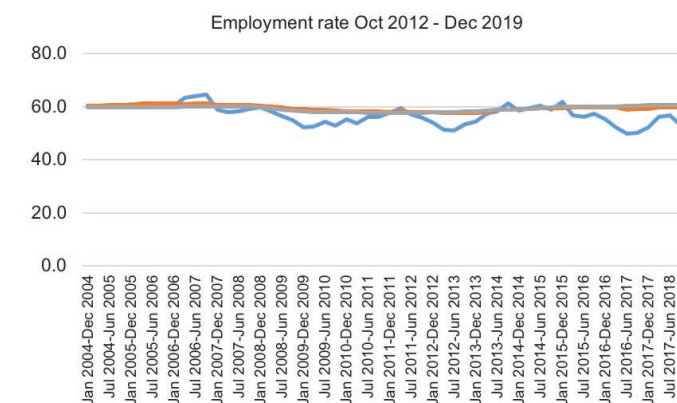
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Employment and Unemployment Rates:

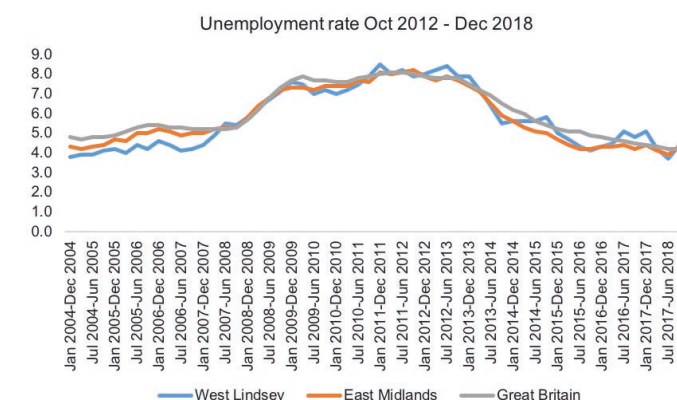
As of December 2018, there were 45,400 economically active people resident in West Lindsey. Of these, 43,700 were in employment (74.9%), on a par with the regional employment rate and only slightly below the national average (75.9%). When split by gender, the picture varies with a higher than average rate of employment for men (84.4% compared to a national average of 79.7%) compared to a lower rate for women (66.3% compared to a national average of 70.6%).

	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
Economically active	74.9% (45,400)	74.7%	75.1%
Employed	65.5% (43,700)	65.4%	64.3%
Self-employed	9.4% (6,400)	8.9%	10.6%
Economically inactive	22.1% (12,400)	21.7%	21.5%
Wants a job	36.5% (4,500)	22%	20.8%
Doesn't want a job	63.5% (7,900)	78%	79.2%

Whilst employment rates have remained fairly stable in recent years at a national and regional level, West Lindsey has experienced fluctuations with the rate rising between July 2017 and Jan 2018 before beginning to decline again.



In the 12 months to December 2018, the unemployment rate in West Lindsey stood at 5% which equates to 2,100 adults, an improvement of 0.5% on the previous year. This is on a par with the regional rate but above the national average of 4.2%. At the height of the economic downturn, the unemployment rate in West Lindsey was as high as 8.4% after which it went in to steady decline until June 2016 when it began to rise again for a short period before falling to current levels. Nationally, the unemployment rate has been in steady and continuous decline since 2012.

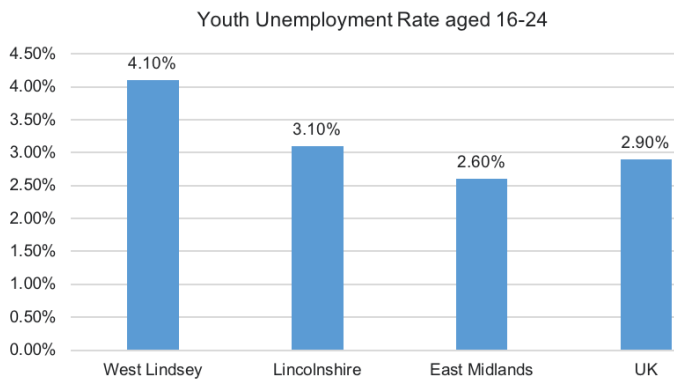


Economic inactivity is defined as the section of the working age population which is not in employment and not actively seeking employment. This includes students, those looking after a family or home, people who are temporarily or long-term sick and those who are retired. In West Lindsey, the overall figure for economic activity stands at 12,400 people or 22.1% of the population, higher than both the regional (21.7%) and national average (21.5%).

It is not possible to break the overall figure down further due to suppression of data for reasons of data protection.

Youth Unemployment:

Youth unemployment, traditionally defined as the proportion of people aged 16-24 in receipt of unemployment related benefits, stood at 4.1% in May 2019, which equates to 345 people. This is roughly on a par with last year’s figure and higher than both the county, regional and national average, placing West Lindsey within the bottom quartile of local authorities. The youth claimant count is a persistent and ongoing issue for the District. While figures for the number of young people not in education or training (NEETs) is not available at district level, for Lincolnshire, the number stood at 1,790 in 2017, an increase of 5.8%.



Jobs Density:

Jobs density is defined as the number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population. For example, a density of 1.0 would mean there is one job for every resident aged 16-64.

In West Lindsey, there is a total of 33,000 jobs, equating to a density of 0.59. This is lower than both the regional (0.81) and national density (0.86). The number of employee jobs (which excludes self-employment, government supported trainees and HM Forces) in the district stands at 25,000. Of these, 17,000 are full-time (68%) and 9,000 (36%) are part-time, a ratio that is on a par with the regional and national average.

Claimant Count:

Universal Credit (UC) began to be rolled out across West Lindsey in 2018. This replaced previous out of work benefits such as Job Seeker’s Allowance and Incapacity Benefit. Under Universal Credit, a broader span of claimants are required to look for work and as Universal Credit continues to roll out, the claimant count is expected to increase.

As of May 2019, there were 1,560 working age people claiming key out of work benefits in the district, representing 2.8% of the population. This is an increase of 370 people (or 31.09%) from the previous year and is higher than the regional average (2.3%). An age profile of claimants in West Lindsey is included below except where data has been suppressed due for data protection reasons.

Claimant Count by Age Group			
Age	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
16+	2.8% (1560)	2.3%	2.7%
16-17	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
18-24	5.3% (335)	3.1%	3.6%
25-49	3.2% (830)	2.5%	2.8%
50+	1.8% (385)	1.9%	2.3%



SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Homelessness:

In 2018, a total of 42 households were accepted as being homeless and in priority need, a reduction of 23 on the previous year although the homelessness rate (0.2 per 1,000 households) remains significantly below the national and regional averages. In the 12 months leading up to March 2019, a total of 227 households were prevented from becoming homeless in West Lindsey, compared to 761 households the previous year. A total of 437 nights were spent in bed and breakfast accommodation with the average stay in temporary accommodation at 22 days.

Poverty:

Poverty is influenced by factors such as long-term worklessness; low earnings, educational attainment, family instability and drug and alcohol dependency. Projections by the Institute for Fiscal Studies show that absolute poverty, and absolute child poverty is predicted to rise sharply in the East Midlands in the next three years.

Child Poverty:

The table below shows a mixed picture for child poverty rates across West Lindsey. Before housing costs are taken into consideration, 14% of children are living in poverty across West Lindsey as a whole, an increase of 2.2 percentage points on the previous year.

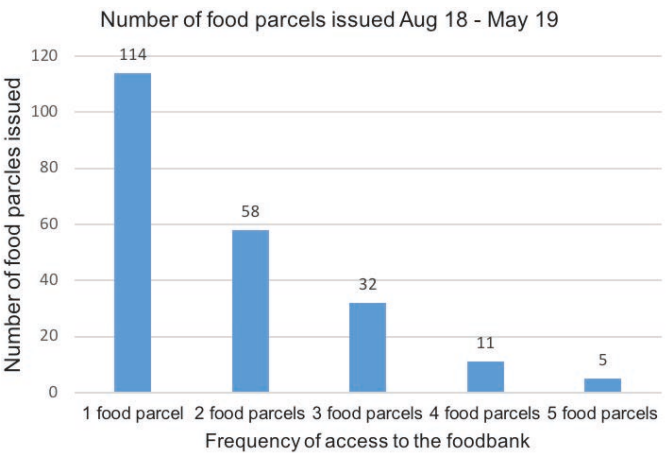
After housing costs are taken into consideration, the percentage of children living in poverty has marginally reduced over the last 12 months by 1.59 percentage points to 24%. Figures range from 13.6% in Sudbrooke to 36.4% in Gainsborough East. Rates of child poverty have improved for 12 wards; particularly Gainsborough North where the rate has improved by 8.97 percentage points. For the remaining 13 wards, child poverty levels have worsened, particularly in Lea, Scampton, Scotter, Stow and Fiskerton.

Child Poverty in West Lindsey - December 2018 (based on 2013 wards)				
	% of children in poverty (before housing costs)	% change from December 2017	% of children in poverty (after housing costs)	% change from December 2017
Bardney	9.3%	-4.04%	19.5%	-1.85%
Caistor	11.4%	-4.59%	24.0%	-1.11%
Cherry Willingham	9.3%	-2.58%	19.5%	+0.42%
Dunholme	9.2%	-1.69%	20.5%	-2.92%
Gainsborough East	9.3%	+2.32%	19.5%	+8.06%
Gainsborough North	23.7%	-1.22%	29.0%	-8.97%
Gainsborough South-West	28.2%	+4.46%	30.7%	-5.5%
Hemswell	13.9%	-3.76%	24.8%	-2.91%
Lea	11.4%	-6.6%	24.0%	-3.95%
Market Rasen	9.2%	+1.45%	22.4%	+9.71%
Middle Rasen	15.2%	-6.69%	26.0%	-7.48%
Nettleham	15.2%	+3.37%	26.0%	+7.04%
Saxilby	10.4%	-2.86%	22.3%	+1.17%
Scampton	12.0%	+3.34%	23.4%	+9.28%

Scotter	11.6%	+1.72%	24.5%	+8.47%
Stow	9.2%	+0.56%	22.4%	+8.37%
Sudbrooke	7.3%	+2.54%	13.6%	+5.67%
Thonock	11.6%	-4.85%	24.5%	-1.3%
Torksey	9.2%	-5.06%	22.4%	-0.24%
Waddingham and Spital	13.9%	+3.12%	24.8%	+7.42%
Welton	9.2%	-3.3%	20.5%	+0.51%
Wold View	13.1%	-3.08%	24.9%	-0.59%
Yarborough	11.4%	-0.99%	24.0%	+4.14%
West Lindsey	14%	+2.2%	24.0%	-1.59%

Food Bank Usage:

The Trussell Trust cites benefits delays, benefit changes and low income as primary drivers of food bank usage (as much as two-thirds of primary causes). The Gainsborough Food Bank, operated by Riverside Training Services, opened in August 2018 and was accessed 220 times in its first eight months of operation. As this is a baseline year, there is no comparable data, though a breakdown of support provided to date is detailed on the graph below.

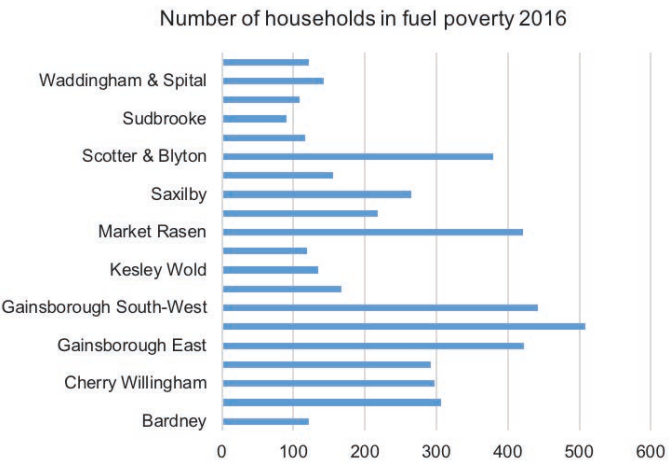


Fuel Poverty in West Lindsey		
	Number of households in fuel poverty	% of households in fuel poverty
Bardney	122	12.9%
Caistor and Yarborough	307	12.3%
Cherry Willingham	297	10.4%
Dunholme and Welton	292	8.6%
Gainsborough East	423	13.8%
Gainsborough North	508	16.5%
Gainsborough South-West	442	19.2%

Fuel Poverty:

A household is said to be in fuel poverty if required fuel costs are above the national average level and the residual income that a household is left with after fuel costs is below the official poverty line.

Fuel poverty varies across West Lindsey but, overall, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DFBEIS) figures show that 4,831 households (12.2%) in the district are living in fuel poverty. This is on a par with the County average (12.1%) but higher than both the regional average (9%) and the national average (11.1%).



Lea	119	12.4%
Market Rasen	421	11.0%
Nettleham	218	10.2%
Saxilby	265	11.4%
Scampton	156	12.3%
Scotter	380	11.8%
Stow	116	11.7%
Sudbrooke	91	11.7%
Torksey	109	8.5%
Waddingham and Spital	143	13.3%
Wold View	121	12.2%
West Lindsey	4,831	12.2%

In-Work Poverty:

The real living wage is independently calculated every year by the Real Living Wage Foundation. It is higher than the national living wage but calculated independently to determine the minimum amount of money a worker needs to be paid based on the actual cost of living in the UK. The real living wage is currently defined as £9 per hour.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that, as of May 2019, 7,000 workers in West Lindsey earned below the real living wage, which equates to 30.5% of the working population in the district. Of this number, part-time workers are more affected with 4,000 of this cohort taking home less than the Living Wage; 51.4% of the overall figure. Of all full-time jobs in the district, 22% are paid below the real living wage.

Deprivation:

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) were last updated in 2015. The IMD uses a series of indicators to measure deprivation (which is different to poverty) down to district and lower super output area (LSOA) level.

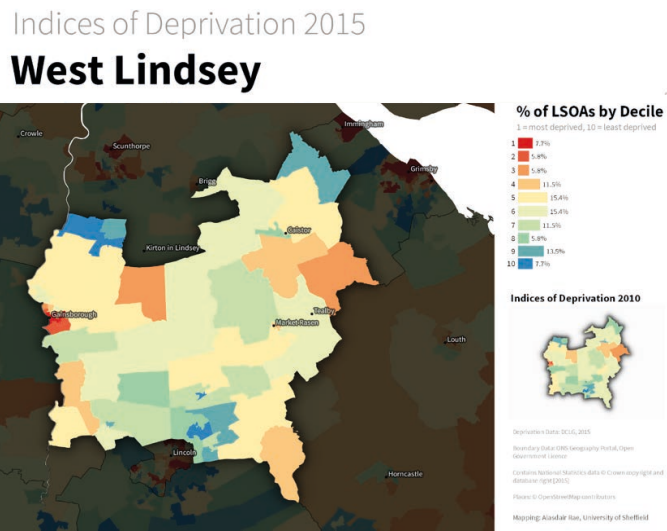
Overall, West Lindsey ranks 152nd most deprived of 324 local authorities, placing it slightly above the median.

LSOA 004E – a part of Gainsborough which runs from Carr Lane and Washington Street in the south, to Florence Terrace, Thorndike Way and Willoughby Street to the north, and the railway line to the east – remains the most deprived part

of West Lindsey, and ranks as the 149th most deprived area, placing it in the top 4% of most deprived areas in the country. Particular issues include employment, where it is ranked 76th, and crime, where it is ranked 9th due to high rates of burglary and criminal damage.

The least deprived part of West Lindsey is LSOA 010A, which covers the south and east of Nettleham village. It is among the 2% least deprived areas in the country. The area was especially low in crime.

The graph below shows a district profile of deprivation broken down into LSOA level. It is not possible to break the data down to ward level.





Education Profile:

West Lindsey has a significantly lower skills profile compared to the rest of the country. In 2018, 41,100 people (just under 70%) gained at least a level 2 qualification (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs), broadly in line with the rest of the East Midlands but lower than the national average (74.7%). The gap widens further for post-16 education with 28,500 people (47%) gaining a Level 3 qualification (equivalent to A Level) compared to 52% for the East Midlands and 57.2% for the country as a whole. Over the past decade, the proportion of the population with

a level 4 qualification (equivalent to HND, degree level or higher) has fluctuated, although it has steadily increased since 2012 narrowing the gap between West Lindsey and the national average. There are currently 21,600 people in the district that hold at least a level 4 qualification.

The proportion of the working age population that hold no formal qualifications stands at 4,600 people (10.8%), higher than both the regional (8.2%) and national average (7.7 %).

Educational Attainment (2017) as a % of people aged 16-64			
	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
No qualifications	10.8%	8.2%	7.7%
Level 1 and above	82.5%	83.6%	85.4%
Level 2 and above	69.9%	70.9%	74.7%
Level 3 and above	47%	52%	57.2%
Level 4 and above	36.7%	32.1%	38.6%
Other qualifications	Suppressed	7.8%	6.8%

Apprenticeships:

Apprenticeships generally lead to an increase in the skills profile of an area with higher level apprenticeships typically leading to a level 4 qualification and intermediate apprenticeships (the most common type) typically leading to a Level 2 qualification (the equivalent of five good GCSE passes).

For West Lindsey, there were a total of 560 apprenticeship starts in West Lindsey in 2018, a decrease of 33.3% on the previous year.

Employment by Sector:

As of 2017, manufacturing, education and human health and social work activities were the most predominant employment industries in the District. In contrast, finance and insurance, information and communication and professional, scientific and technical activities are the sectors that have the lowest employment levels in the district when compared to the national average.

Employee jobs by industry			
Industry	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
Mining and quarrying	0.3% (75)	0.2%	0.2%
Manufacturing	16% (4,000)	13.8%	8.2%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0% (0)	0.9%	0.5%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.2% (300)	0.7%	0.7%
Transportation and storage	4% (1,000)	5.5%	4.7%
Accommodation and food service activities	8% (2,000)	6.9%	7.5%
Information and communication	1.6% (400)	2.8%	4.4%
Financial and insurance activities	0.8% (200)	1.7%	3.5%
Real estate activities	2.0% (500)	1.2%	1.7%
Professional, science and technical activities	6% (1,500)	6.4%	8.4%
Administrative and support service activities	5% (1,250)	9.8%	9.1%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	5% (1,250)	3.6%	4.3%
Education	10% (2,500)	8.7%	8.9%
Human health and social work activities	12% (3,000)	13.6%	13.3%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2% (500)	2%	2.6%
Other service activities	1.4% (350)	1.6%	2%

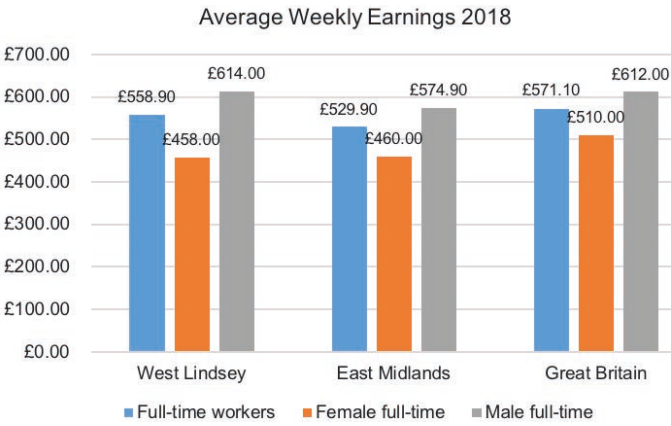
Earnings:

As of December 2018, the average gross weekly earnings stood at £558.90, up £40.70 on the previous year. This is higher than the regional average (£529.90) but lower than the national average (£571.10). Men in West Lindsey earn £156.00 per week more than women, a gap that has widened by £22.20 per week compared to the previous year. This gender gap is wider than both the regional average (£114.90 per week) and the national average (£102.00 per week).

The average hourly rate of pay stands at £13.64 which is slightly above the regional average (£13.18) but lower than the national average (£14.36), Again, there is a gender gap for those in full-time employment with women having a significantly lower rate of pay (£11.97 per hour) than men (£14.68). While men in the district have a higher hourly rate than the regional average for men of £13.75, women in West Lindsey are paid below the regional average for women of £12.04.

Self-employment:

The number of people who are self-employed in the district stands at 6,400 or 9.4% of the population, down from 11.2% the previous year. This is higher than the regional average (8.9%) but lower than the national average (10.6%). This places West Lindsey in the second quartile of lower-tier local authorities nationally.



Occupations:

Compared to the rest of the region, West Lindsey has a higher proportion of managerial and professional jobs suggesting an over reliance on the public sector. The district also has a significantly higher proportion of skilled trades

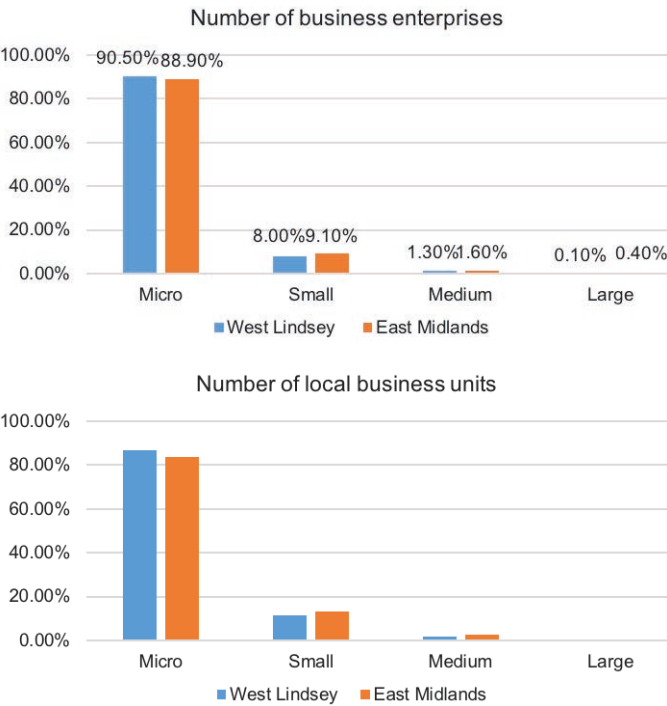
(18.3%) compared to the rest of the region (11.4%). A full breakdown is detailed in the table below, except where figures have been suppressed for data protection reasons.

Occupation	West Lindsey (numbers)	West Lindsey (%)	East Midlands	Great Britain
Managers, Directors and senior officials	5,000	11.5%	10.6%	10.8%
Professional occupations	9,600	21.9%	17.5%	20.7%
Associate professional and technical	Suppressed	Suppressed	13.8%	14.7%
Administrative and secretarial	Suppressed	Suppressed	9.6%	10.1%
Skilled trades	Suppressed	Suppressed	10.9%	10.0%
Caring, leisure and other services	5,800	13.3%	9.4%	9.0%
Sales and customer services	Suppressed	Suppressed	7.6%	7.5%
Process, plant and machine operatives	Suppressed	Suppressed	7.9%	6.3%
Elementary occupations	6,500	14.8%	12.5%	10.4%

Number of Businesses:

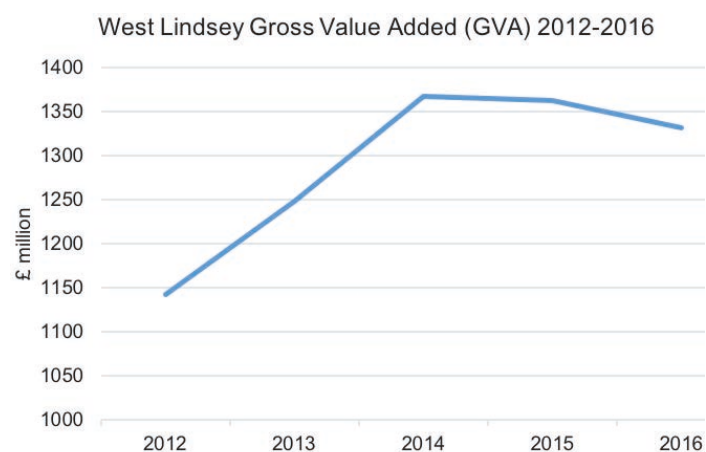
The number of active business counts in West Lindsey fell by five over the last year to 3,730. This represents the first decline since 2015. The number of local units (i.e. business locations) within West Lindsey also fell, down by 10 on the previous year to 4,185 which, again, represents the first decline since 2015.

Micro enterprises (employing 0-9 people) make up 90.5% of all business in the district, with 3,375 such enterprises as at December 2018. There are 300 small businesses employing between 10 and 49 people, while medium businesses employing 50 to 249 people total 50 and large businesses employing 250+ people total five.



Economic Performance:

The output of the local economy can be measured by its Gross Value Added (GVA). This is a measure of economic output calculated as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption. ONS figures show that West Lindsey's GVA was £1.33 billion in 2016, a decrease of £32 million from the previous year. When looked at over a five year period, there was a sharp increase in the district's GVA between 2012 and 2014, after which the figure began to fall gradually. Although GVA is low, a recent study by Carney Green found that it increased at a greater rate than any other local authority area in Lincolnshire between 2012-2016.



Business Confidence:

The Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce surveys business confidence within the county every quarter. Overall, business confidence remains high, despite the continued economic uncertainty around the UK's departure from the European Union. Confidence regarding profitability amongst Lincolnshire businesses continued to improve during 2018, showing a marked improvement on the previous year. The latest results for the survey point to a jump in recruitment activity for services and manufacturing. UK sales remain positive despite a dip in activity. Conversely, overseas sales are stagnant with orders contracting and a deterioration in cash-flow optimism.

Brexit:

The uncertainties surrounding the UK's departure from the European Union continue to cause economic turbulence. An independently analysed

study of East Midlands businesses carried out by law firm Shakespeare Martineau found that, for the East Midlands region, people are needed to fill the skills gap but this gap will only be widened by proposed post-Brexit immigration constraints. Just over one in four East Midlands businesses rely on migrant workers and for one in ten businesses, migrant labour makes up between 40%-80% of their workforce, a figure twice that of the West Midlands. Over 70% of East Midlands businesses believe that businesses rely on immigration to fill a skills gap and 72% feel that immigration restrictions will make the market less flexible to demand.

East Midlands businesses are slightly more optimistic than other regions when it comes to trade, though the picture is still bleak with over half of businesses in the East Midlands believing that the UK's leverage for trade deals will decrease post-Brexit. One fifth of the region's businesses state that they are planning to move some of their business functions out of the UK with 9% having already done so since the referendum result in 2015; higher than both the West Midlands and London. One in ten East Midlands businesses have either cancelled strategic projects or plan to as a result of the uncertainty around Brexit. The economic impact of these decisions on the region, and on West Lindsey specifically, are not yet known but need to be taken into account of in future decision making.

Nationally, ONS figures show that for construction, the underlying pattern to April 2018 shows that construction output fell by 3.4% and this rises to a 14% fall for the East Midlands region. This may act as an indicator of how confident enterprises are investing in buildings and infrastructure as long-term investments post-Brexit.

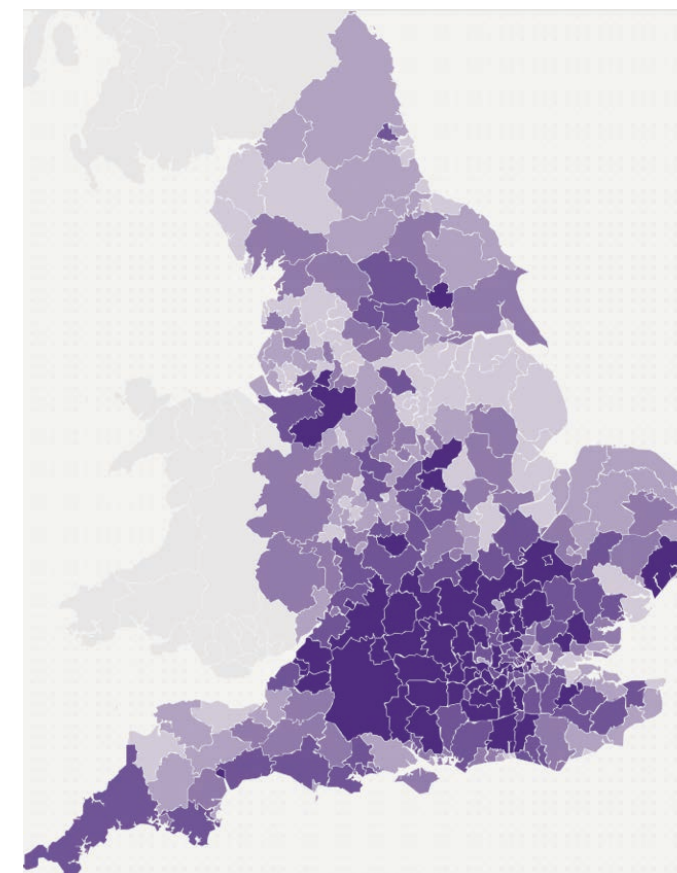


ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index:

Grant Thornton's Vibrant Economy Index measures six groups of variables (Prosperity, Dynamism and Opportunity, Inclusion and Equality, Health, Wellbeing and Happiness, Resilience and Sustainability and Community, Trust and Belonging).

Overall, West Lindsey's rank remains static at 249 out of 324 local authority areas, placing the district in in the bottom quartile.



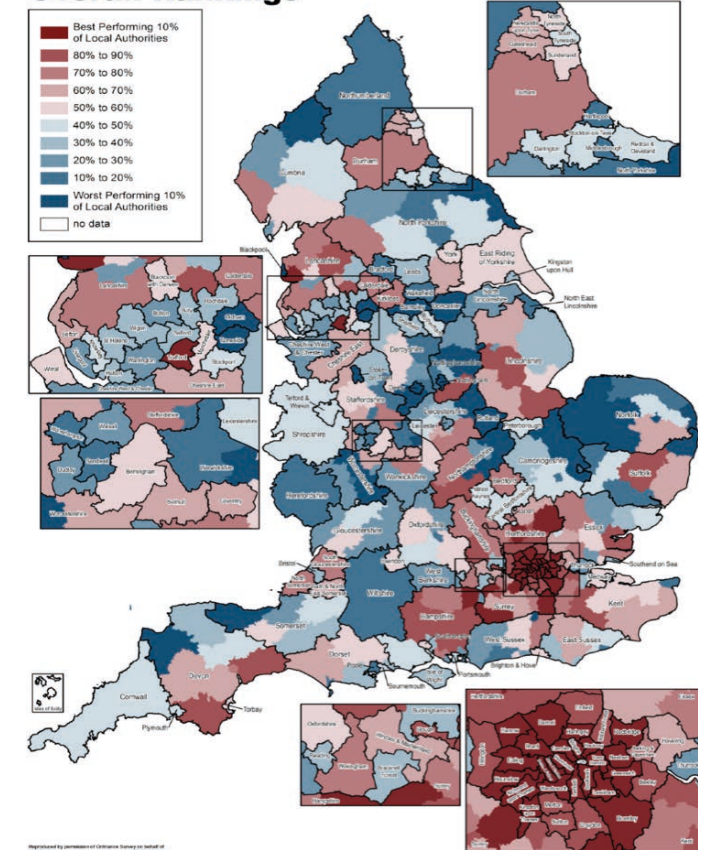
Within specific indices, West Lindsey ranks 118th – i.e. median – for Health, Wellbeing and Happiness, a significant improvement on the previous year. The district is weaker on Prosperity (285th, measures pay, GVA, size of businesses) and Community (288th, crime, cultural amenities, community assets).

Social Mobility:

The Social Mobility Index compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job for each of the 324 local authority areas. It sets out the differences between where a child grows up and the chances they have of doing well in adult life.

West Lindsey's overall social mobility rank has fallen according to the government's latest assessment (2017), placing the district below the median (168th out of 324). The district ranks in the top 20% for Early Years education and high for primary education but the trend continues downwards with the district placed in the bottom quartile by the time a child finishes secondary education.

Overall Rankings



HOUSING

Housing Overview:

West Lindsey is committed to housing growth and economic development, primarily through the development of new housing. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan commits to building 4,435 new homes in West Lindsey by 2036. There are currently 42,369 dwellings in West Lindsey.

House Prices:

As of January 2019, the average house price in West Lindsey stood at £168,856, the highest ever recorded for the district. In line with overall trends, this represents an increase on the previous year of 1.2% but remains lower than the regional average of £182,519. While house prices have increased, the affordability ratio, calculated by dividing the median house price by median annual earnings, stands at 5.95 which is worse than both the national and regional averages.

Tenure:

According to the Building Research Establishment (BRE), across the district 69% of dwellings are owner occupied, with 19% privately rented and 12% social rented.

Rates of home ownership have fallen 3.6% in relative terms across West Lindsey since 2011, while the private rented sector has grown by 5.3%.

The most drastic change has occurred within Gainsborough South-West, where home ownership rates fell by 10.97% and private renting rates increased by 10.43%.

Housing Stock:

Around 23% of all houses in the district were built before 1919 (on par with the England Average). In Gainsborough South-West Ward the figure rises to 62%. Only 6% were built between 1919 and 1944.

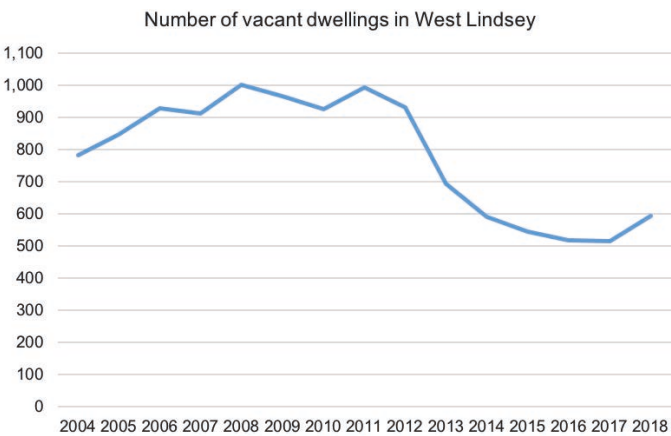
Post 1990, 69% were built (but not in Gainsborough South-West, where the figure is 32%).

Of all households 22.9% (or 9,461 households) are not in receipt of mains gas, and this is mostly concentrated in a band running from the Thonock and Blyton areas north of Gainsborough south-east to Welton, taking in Waddingham and Hemswell. Being off grid for fuel can carry fuel poverty implications for such households.

Of the 42,369 properties in the district as at March 2019, band A and B properties made up 56.02%.

Empty Homes:

The number of empty homes has increased by 77 to 593 in 2018, the first increase since 2011. Gainsborough south-west ward has the highest number of empty homes, followed by Caistor and Yarborough, Market Rasen and Scotter and Blyton.



Housebuilding:

Housebuilding rates in West Lindsey have fluctuated over the last decade, with the number of housing completions remaining static over the last two years. See table on Page 25.

Condition Surveys:

Excess cold is a particular issue in rural areas and in West Lindsey, the highest concentration of households in excess cold are Waddingham and Spital, Hemswell and Wold View. The BRE found that, overall, 10% of households are in excess cold, significantly higher than the national average of 5%. When broken down by tenure, social housing stock is more thermally efficient than private rented stock;

a result of more stringent requirements placed on social housing providers. Private rented housing stock in the district also has a higher risk of hazards (21%), disrepair (7%) and fuel poverty (15%), figures that are all higher than the national average. The table below shows the number and percentage of hazards, excess cold, and disrepair by ward.

Ward	No. of dwellings	All hazards	Excess cold	Fall hazards	Disrepair
Bardney	1,215	231 (19%)	131 (11%)	123 (10%)	59 (5%)
Caistor and Yarborough	2,611	412 (16%)	187 (7%)	236 (9%)	108 (4%)
Cherry Willingham	3,336	368 (11%)	167 (5%)	215 (6%)	105 (3%)
Dunholme and Welton	3,398	443 (13%)	270 (8%)	213 (6%)	91 (3%)
Gainsborough East	3,292	313 (10%)	23 (1%)	229 (7%)	84 (3%)
Gainsborough North	3,308	640 (19%)	107 (3%)	442 (13%)	196 (6%)
Gainsborough South-West	3,098	813 (26%)	129 (4%)	535 (17%)	277 (9%)
Hemswell	1,226	438 (36%)	325 (27%)	137 (11%)	81 (7%)
Kelsey Wold	1,125	356 (32%)	278 (25%)	112 (10%)	57 (5%)
Lea	986	226 (23%)	150 (15%)	103 (10%)	49 (5%)
Market Rasen	4,122	841 (20%)	516 (13%)	358 (9%)	204 (5%)
Nettleham	1,893	177 (9%)	50 (3%)	128 (7%)	73 (4%)
Saxilby	2,541	425 (17%)	259 (10%)	202 (8%)	115 (5%)
Scampton	1,207	249 (21%)	124 (10%)	127 (11%)	69 (6%)
Scotter and Blyton	3,353	698 (21%)	455 (14%)	288 (9%)	140 (4%)
Stow	1,065	196 (18%)	106 (10%)	97 (9%)	43 (4%)
Sudbrooke	1,077	75 (7%)	39 (4%)	44 (4%)	25 (2%)
Torksey	982	226 (23%)	199 (20%)	59 (6%)	28 (3%)
Waddingham and Spital	1,128	483 (43%)	372 (33%)	150 (13%)	77 (7%)
Wold View	1,171	393 (34%)	299 (26%)	116 (10%)	66 (6%)

Housebuilding in West Lindsey			
Year	Completions	Population Change	Population/House
2005-06	860	+1,226	1.43
2006-07	850	+1,493	1.76
2007-08	670	+916	1.37
2008-09	510	+355	0.70
2009-10	490	+748	1.53
2010-11	350	-114	-0.33
2011-12	220	+797	3.62
2012-13	240	+668	2.78
2013-14	320	+1,072	3.35
2014-15	390	+1,025	2.63
2015-16	330	+922	2.79
2016-17	170	+566	3.32
2017-18	170	+569	2.24

Overview:

Access to services in West Lindsey such as local shops, schools and urban amenities is generally moderate to poor by Lincolnshire standards in areas outside Gainsborough, Market Rasen, or nearby wards such as Thonock. There have been significant improvements to the number of households with access to superfast broadband over the last year.

Broadband:

Superfast broadband is defined as equal to, or greater than, 24Mbp/second. Access to high speed broadband is to become a legal right delivered by a universal service obligation (USO) to provide everybody with access to speeds of at least 10Mbp/second. By 2020, it is anticipated that 98% of the country will be able to order a fixed, superfast broadband connection. OnLincolnshire have made a commitment to provide faster broadband to over 9,000 premises county wide as part of the roll out of phase 3, with 97% of these being in rural or very rural areas.

As of May 2019, superfast broadband is available to 88.02% of households in West Lindsey, an improvement of 15.1% compared to last year but still lower than the national figure of 96.1%. Access to broadband remains an issue across the district due to its size, topography and rural nature. Rural and very rural areas continue to experience the slowest progress in terms of access to superfast broadband with 3.88% of households still restricted to <2mbps.

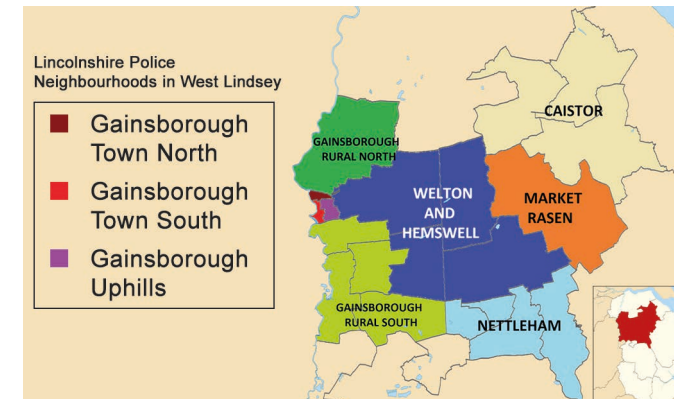
Community Amenities:

West Lindsey has one Citizens' Advice Bureau, located in Gainsborough. There are 30 post offices in 27 parishes across the district. Some 67% of the West Lindsey populace in 2011 were in a parish containing a post office. There are, however, four wards with no post offices: Lea, Scampton, Kelsey and Sudbrooke.

Whilst some exist close to the district borders, West Lindsey itself has three youth centres in Stow, Bardney and Keelby.

There are 84 village halls or community centres in the district, overall.

The district has 1,050 listed buildings and properties, according to Historic England. This is around 56% higher per capita than England as a whole.



Overall Crime:

Crime rates continue to increase in West Lindsey and Lincolnshire Police recorded the overall crime rate for the district as 55.67 per 1,000 of the population in 2018, an increase from 50.89 in 2017; 45.7 per 1,000 in 2016; 40.0 during 2015 and 39.5 in 2014. The district has the third lowest crime rate in the county. Overall, there were 4,959 recorded

crimes in the 12 months to December 2018, an increase of 3.96% on 2017.

Lincolnshire Police data shows that West Lindsey has the third lowest crime rate in the county which has an average crime rate of 59.57 per 1,000.

Types of Crime:

Amongst individual crimes, major types include theft offences and burglary, criminal damage and arson, shoplifting and violent crime. The table below shows a breakdown of crime by type. With the exception of homicide, theft from the person and vehicle offences all categories of crime have experienced an increase over the last twelve months to December 2017. Crime in West Lindsey accounts for 11.7% of all crime in Lincolnshire and this figure has risen year on year since December 2015.

Category	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018
All other theft offences	594	566	703	695
Bicycle theft	45	55	77	50
Criminal damage and arson	568	704	781	810
Death and serious injury caused by illegal driving	0	0	1	1
Domestic burglary	269	322	507	471
Drug offences	107	101	135	120
Homicide	0	2	0	1
Miscellaneous crimes against society	65	63	88	107
Non-domestic burglary	519	553	316	176
Possession of weapons offences	32	29	29	50
Public order offences	103	77	102	265
Robbery	34	16	32	26
Sex offences	95	136	147	212
Shoplifting	367	364	584	437
Stalking and harassment offences	50	94	98	26
Theft from the person	16	19	16	16
Vehicle offences	333	532	465	328
Violence with injury	332	386	433	562
Violence without injury	172	232	256	606
West Lindsey Total	3,369	4,251	4,770	4,959

SPORT AND LEISURE

Sport:

West Lindsey has three leisure centres outsourced to a private company which maintains attendance figures.

West Lindsey Leisure Centre in Gainsborough accounts for 90-95% of use across the three sites in any given year.

The Caistor site has seen a decline in visitor numbers of around 1,000 per year since a high point of 2,300 in 2013/14.

Overall, leisure centre usage in 2018/19 was 307,641, down 4.5% on the previous year.

Leisure Centre Attendance (Year Ending March)			
Year	Gainsborough	Market Rasen	Total
2011/12	222,641	18,154	242,430
2012/13	243,355	17,246	262,120
2013/14	284,182	18,657	305,142
2014/15	302,077	21,175	324,878
2015/16	294,397	18,658	314,849
2016/17	306,741	19,724	327,500
2017/18	301,471	19,309	322,080
2018/19	298,726	8,915	307,641

Sports Facilities		
	West Lindsey	East Midlands
Athletics Tracks	0	26
Golf	10	272
Grass Pitches	140	5,905
Health and Fitness Suite	9	565
Ice Rinks	0	3
Indoor Tennis Centre	1	25
Ski Slopes	0	5
Sports Hall	13	896
Squash Courts	5	358
Studios	8	417
Swimming Pools	5	396
Artificial Grass Pitch	7	431
Tennis Courts	16	754
Total	216	10,091

In terms of overall provision, West Lindsey has an abundance of grass pitches and golf courses. However, it also has fewer of other facilities given the population of the district. It is unclear whether demand is not being met or if supply is matching the existing demand.

West Lindsey had seven football clubs, six cricket clubs, two each of table tennis and tennis clubs, and one judo and netball club in 2013 with Sport England Clubmark accreditation, which assures quality for sports clubs with junior sections.

There are other clubs which fall outside the classification, particularly athletics clubs such as Morton Striders and Gainsborough Parkrun.

The Arts:

The Trinity Arts Centre (TAC) has successfully navigated the loss of Arts Council subsidy since 2010/11. Heavy restructuring of the TAC'S overheads and programming have resulted in a reduction in costs, an increase in visitor numbers and improved programming. The TAC also supports community events, hosting regular community groups and organisations; as well as supporting a regular programme of events for children and young people.

Lincolnshire County Council runs nine libraries within the district – Gainsborough, Scotter, Caistor, Market Rasen, Keelby, Cherry Willingham, Welton, Nettleham and Saxilby. Whilst budgets have been cut by at least £2m across Lincolnshire, there have been no library closures. However, outsourcing and uncertain voluntary services have replaced the existing setup in some areas and only Gainsborough and Market Rasen have core, full-time services. As such, the future continues to be uncertain for libraries overall which matches the national picture.

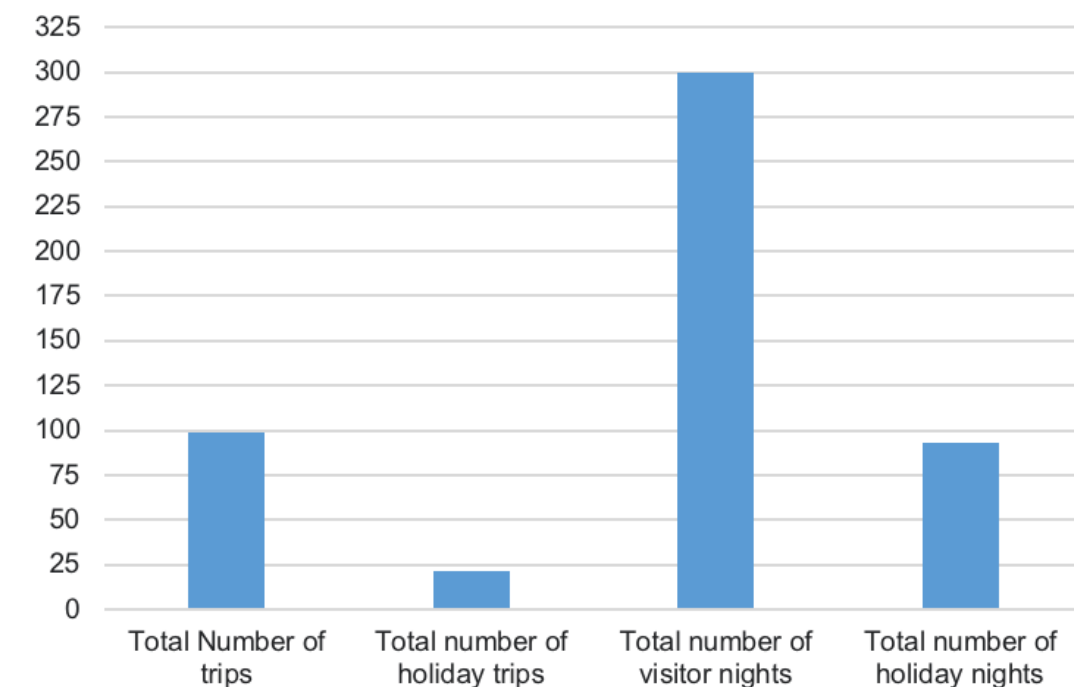
Tourism:

Tourism in West Lindsey is a growing sector though levels of tourist and visitor spending are low compared to other areas in Lincolnshire. According to figures from Visit Britain, a total of £10m was spent by visitors to West Lindsey between 2015-17; of which £4m was spent by those on holiday in the district.

The district has some difficulty in that it competes directly with Lincoln and East Lindsey, and cannot offer either a sizeable city or coastal resorts.

The Lincolnshire Wolds, part of which is located in the district, traditionally attracts the most tourists. The Mayflower 400 celebrations are also scheduled for 2020 which will likely prove to be a large boost to visitor numbers, particularly from American visitors keen to explore the birthplace of the Pilgrim Fathers.

Number of visitor trips and visitor nights spent in West Lindsey (1,000s)



Carbon Emissions:

While CO2 emissions have decreased in recent years, West Lindsey still has the third highest levels in the county at 5.8 tonnes per head (in 2016); higher also than the England average of 5.3 tonnes per head. The rural nature of the district is likely to exacerbate levels of emissions.

The Energy Company Obligation and The Green Deal:

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty by supporting people to install energy efficient measures in their home. As of December 2017, a total of 2,478 ECO measures had been installed in 1,935 households, equating to 0.1% against a government target of 15%. This is on a par with all other Lincolnshire districts with the exception of East Lindsey (0.3%).

The government’s Green Deal exists to support home energy efficiency improvements at an affordable cost. In West Lindsey, there are 23 active official Green Deal providers. Latest figures show that, as of December 2017, a total of 1,178 Green Deal assessments had been carried out in the district, equating to 0.2% of all households. This is lower than the county average of 1.3%. Of these, assessments, 12 progressed through to completion.

Conservation:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are important to nature conservation and represent the country’s prime wildlife areas. There are currently 38 SSSIs in the district in addition to a number of local nature reserves and wildlife sites which play a vital role in maintaining air, soil and water quality and reducing the effects of flooding and pollution.

Conservation areas exist to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment. In West Lindsey, there are currently 25 conservation areas including parts of each of the three market towns, as well as a number of smaller villages right across the district.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are the most protected of all archaeological sites and across West Lindsey, there are currently 100 SAMs, a relatively high number that represents the rich history of the district.

Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) are ‘living landscapes’ deemed to have such unique natural beauty that they are a national asset. The purpose of designating an area as an AONB is to help conserve and enhance the natural beauty; and to encourage social and economic development, as well as recreation and tourism. Within West Lindsey, the Lincolnshire Wolds, a steep, fluted chalk escarpment is one of 49 AONBs in the country reaching its peak of 168m at Normanby Top, forming a backdrop for panoramic views across the eastern, northern and western parts of the district.



