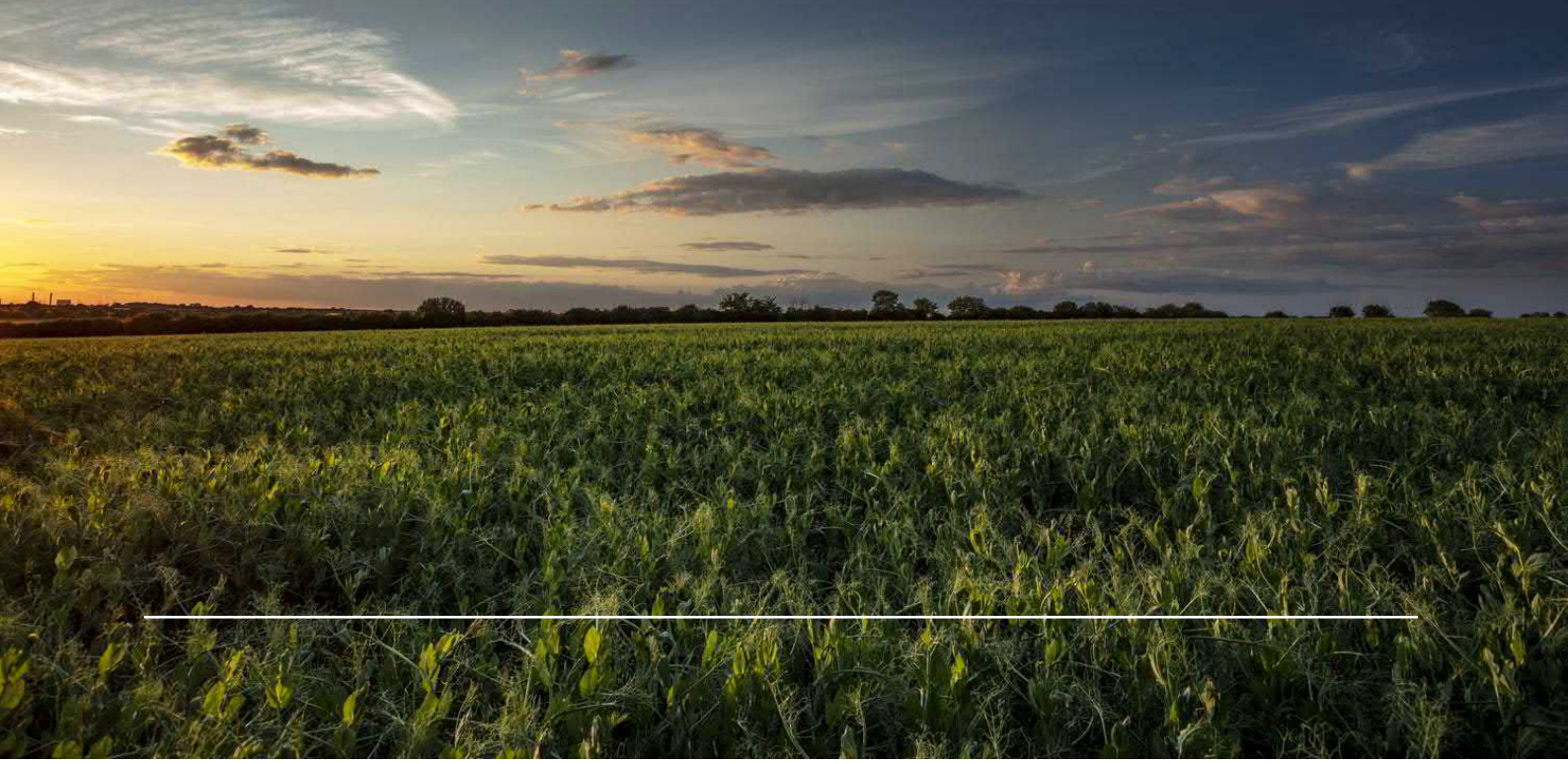




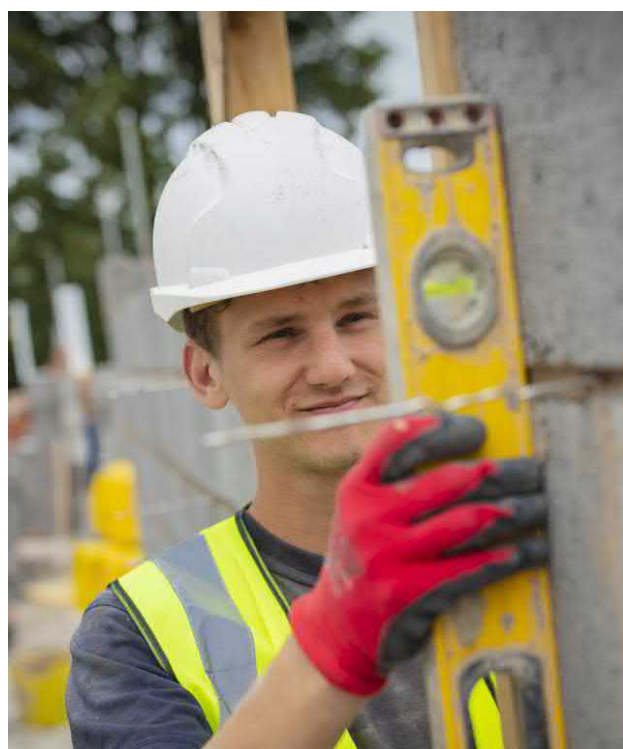
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# State of the District

2020 Report



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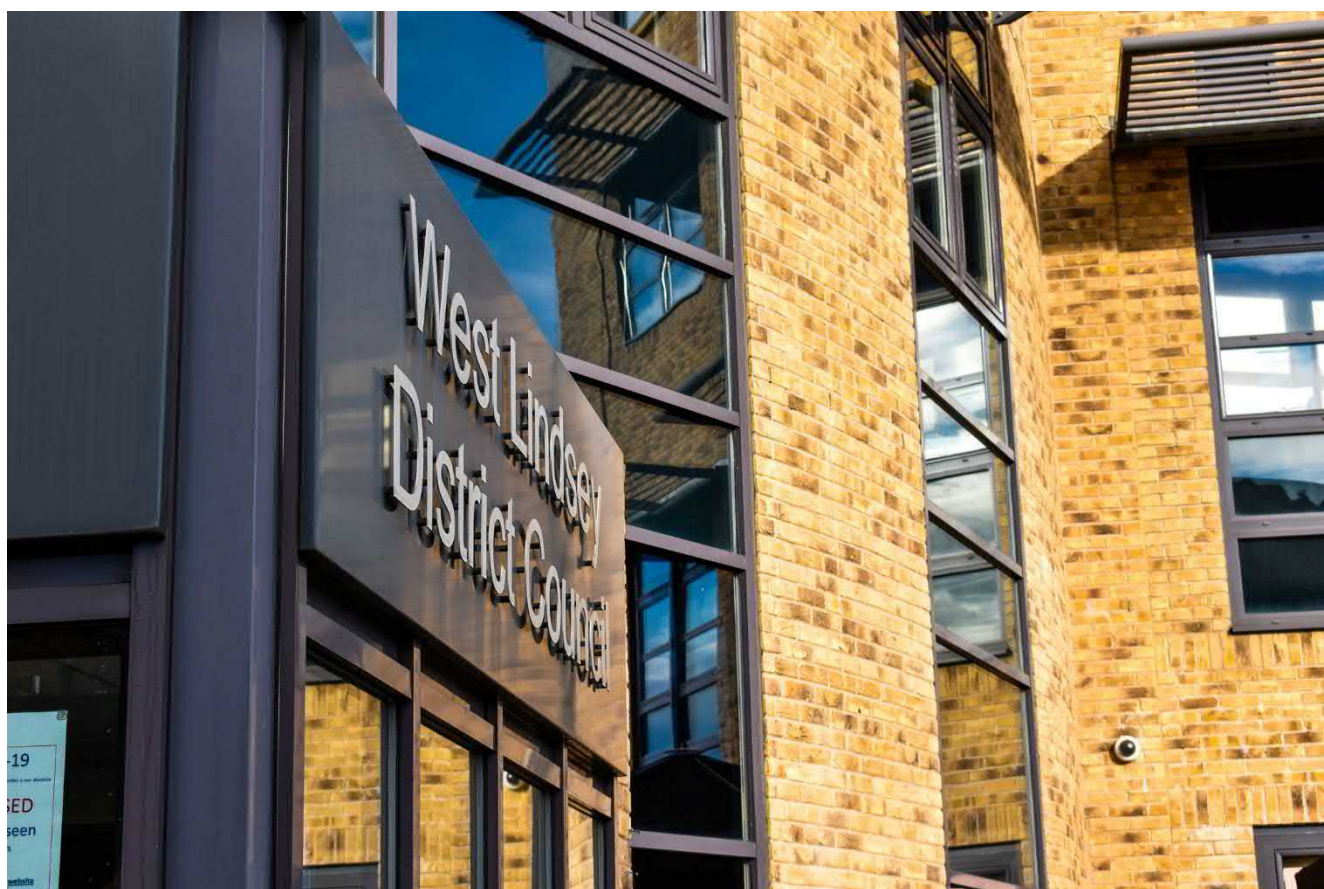
# Introduction

Welcome to West Lindsey District Council's annual State of the District Report for 2020. 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 1,156km<sup>2</sup> (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.



## Overview

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 remains mixed. Progress has been made in some areas, but a number of persistent challenges remain, and worsening trends are beginning to emerge. It is inevitable that the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic will have an impact on health and economic outcomes in West Lindsey, some of which is already apparent in the employment figures for the first quarter of 2020. The fuller impact is more likely to emerge in 2021, which will be reflected in that year's State of the District Report.

West Lindsey residents continue to benefit from good mental health, but physical health is worsening compared to last year with higher than average 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 while the birth rate is decreasing which will place additional pressure on local services if the trend continues as predicted. Life expectancy is slightly lower than last year for both men and women but is still higher than average. 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 has decreased due to continued uncertainty and a stagnant economy; however, gross value added has increased by £68m. Weekly earnings are higher than the regional average for men and the gender pay gap has begun to narrow although women in West Lindsey continue 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. For the first time, the gap between West Lindsey's skills profile and the rest of the country has narrowed, with record numbers in the district achieving at least a level 2 NVQ (equivalent to five good GCSE passes).

Employment rates have risen significantly above both the regional and national average, however, the youth unemployment rate has also risen significantly, 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. As the economic effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic continue to take hold, it is likely that unemployment across all age groups will increase over the next 12 months. The number of people living in fuel poverty remains higher than the regional and national average and is rising across all wards in the district with the exception of Gainsborough (all wards) and Nettleham.

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 also remained static over the last year with just over 88% of households now connected to a superfast service; a figure which is below the government's target for 2020 of 97%. 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

The mid-year population estimate for 2019 is 95,667, an increase of 798 or 0.84% compared to 2018. While West Lindsey's population growth rate has remained steady, mainly as a result of internal migration, the UK's population growth rate was the slowest rate since 2004 at 0.5%, down from 0.6% in the previous year. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), this is due to the lowest birth rate in 14 years, increased emigration and a fall in international immigration.

ONS population projections suggest that the population of West Lindsey will continue to rise to 105,700 by 2041, an overall increase of 10%. The East Midlands has experienced the fastest population growth rate (0.98%) of all the regions in the UK.

The ONS has released experimental ward-based population data based on 2018 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.

Ward	Geographical Area	Total Population	Female Population	Male Population
Bardney	6,255.72	2,636	1,337	1,299
Caistor and Yarborough	6,930.63	5,425	2,830	2,595
Cherry Willingham	4,561.18	7,542	3,953	3,689
Dunholme and Welton	9,535.60	8,479	4,364	4,115
Gainsborough East	293.81	7,807	4,080	3,727
Gainsborough North	239.45	7,380	3,801	3,579
Gainsborough South-West	437.10	5,488	2,734	2,754
Hemswell	9,593.48	2,852	1,377	1,475
Kelsey Wold	7,926.32	2,746	1,373	1,373
Lea	2,818.09	2,112	1,127	985
Market Rasen	15,310.58	8,935	4,559	4,376
Nettleham	1,945.98	4,093	2,135	1,958
Saxilby	5,111.49	5,572	2,838	2,734
Scampton	5,092.64	2,867	1,390	1,477
Scotter and Blyton	10,245.62	7,774	4,000	3,774
Stow	3,328.55	2,329	1,192	1,137

<b>Sudbrooke</b>	1,348.34	2,681	1,374	1,307
<b>Torksey</b>	4,349.78	2,967	1,469	1,498
<b>Waddingham and Spital</b>	7,816.05	2,505	1,219	1,286
<b>Wold View</b>	12,431.32	2,579	1,292	1,287
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>94,869</b>	<b>48,444</b>	<b>46,425</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics

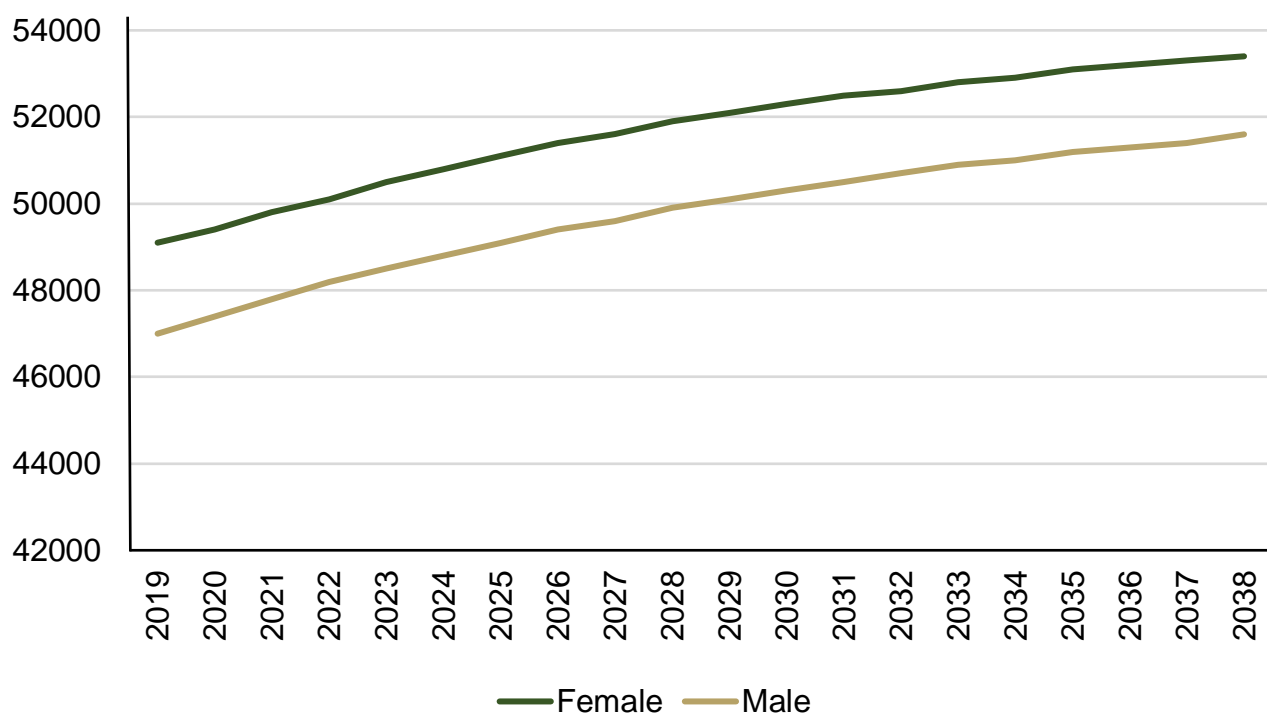
## Population Change

In 2018, there were 875 live births (the second lowest in the County), compared with 1,091 deaths (the third lowest in the County) which is a difference of -216. The live birth rate has increased by 0.46% compared to 2017, while the death rate has increased by 6.86%. The growth in the district's population can be attributed to migration; notably internal migration.

## Population Projections

By 2041, the total population is projected to be 105,700, an overall increase of 10,033 people (10.49%)

### West Lindsey Population Projection (1000s)



## Age Distribution

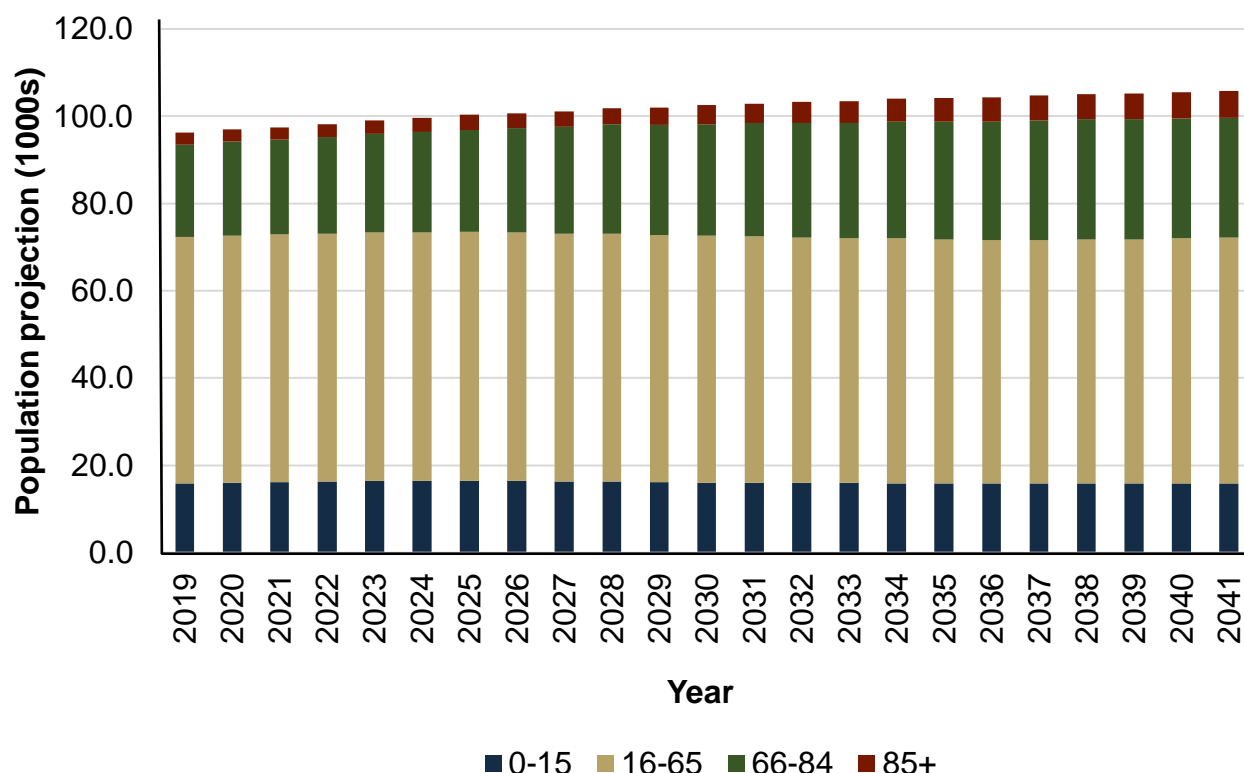
In line with the national trend, West Lindsey continues to have an ageing population with an average age of 47. This is significantly higher than the UK average of 40 and the County average of 41.4.

The number of children aged 0-15 is projected to rise from 16,000 in 2020 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.

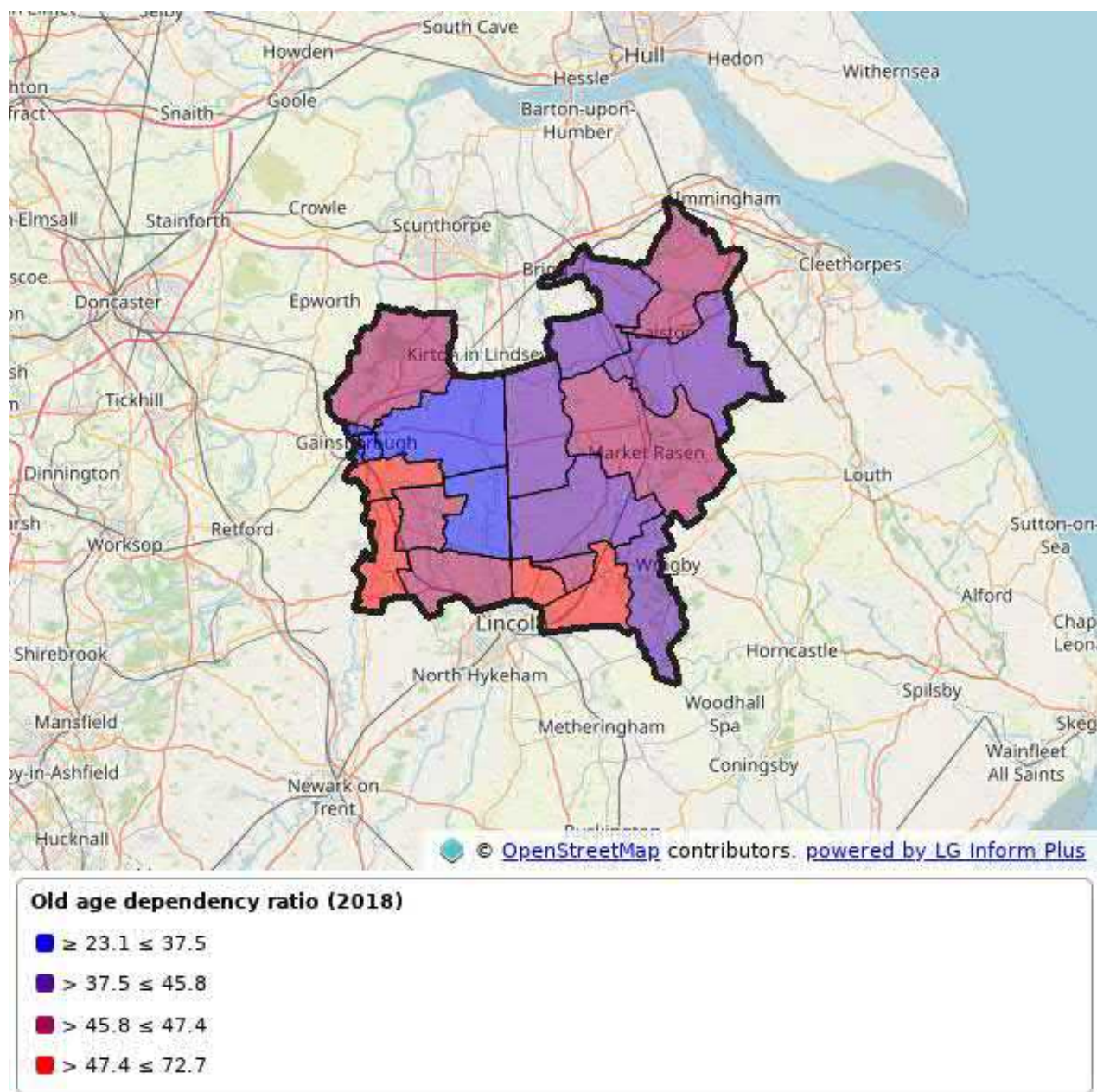
The number of people between state pension age and 84 years is projected to rise continuously every year from 21,325 in 2020 up to 27,179 in 2043. Likewise, the number of very elderly people in the district, classified as 84+ is also projected to rise continuously from 2,795 in 2020 up to 5,481 in 2043. 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 2043.

**Population Projection by age group: 2019-2041**



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, with the next update due following the 2021 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 fallen significantly, down by 55% from 120 in 2017 to 54 in 2018.

## 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. Caistor's population currently stands at 5,466.



### 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 and road safety 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%. 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 83.5 years, down from 84.2 years the previous year but still higher than the national average (83.2) and still within the top quartile nationally. Men born in the district in 2019 can expect to live to an average age of 79.6, down slightly from 80 the previous year but on a par with the national average. This is the first year that the figures have decreased since 2007.

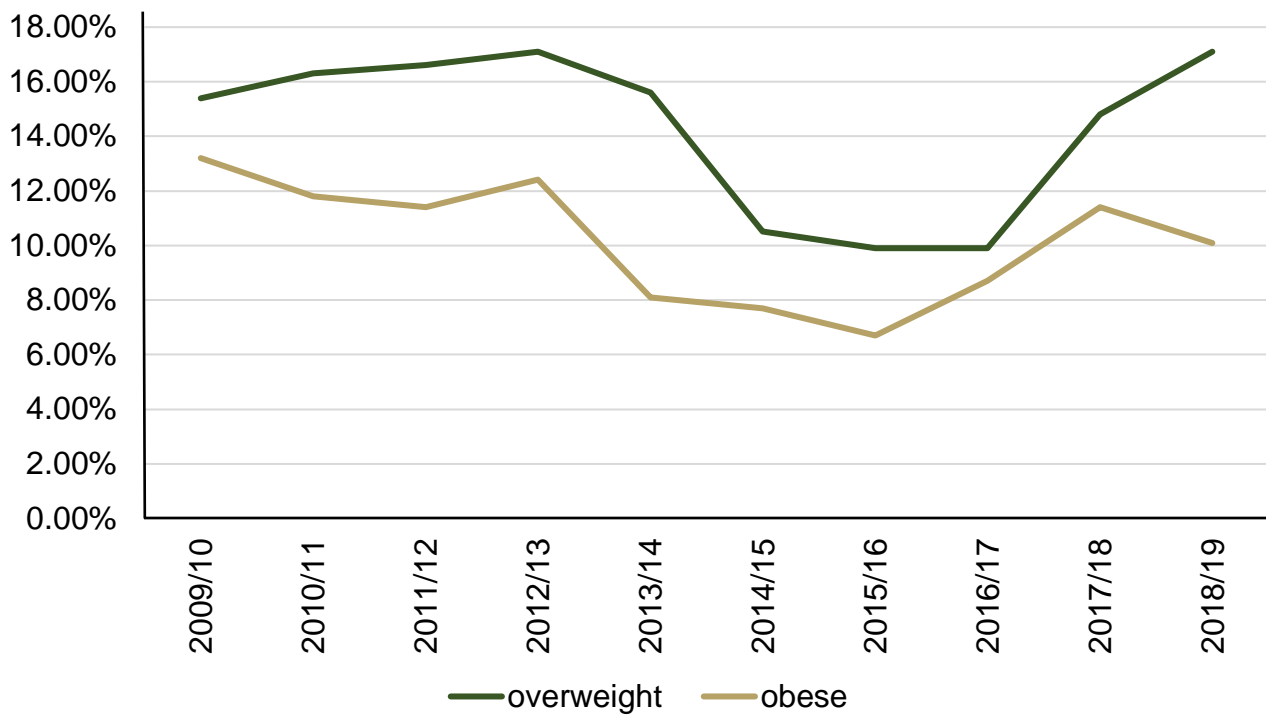
The under 75 mortality rates for all causes has increased to 311 per 100,000; up from 302 the previous year. This latest figure remains lower than the national and regional average (330 and 334 respectively). Whilst mortality rates for cancer have been declining in West Lindsey since 2011, there has been a slight increase to 128.8 (per 100,000) from 123.2 the previous year. Again, this figure remains better than both the regional (133.4) and national (132.2) averages. The excess winter mortality ratio stood at 38.0% (or 120 people) in 2018, an increase of 17.9% on the previous year.

## Child Health

Obesity levels amongst children in reception year (aged 5-6) have increased from 8.71% in 2016/17 to 10.1% (or 103 children) in 2018/19 which is higher than both the regional (9.3%) and national (9.7%) average. This increase follows a period of steadily declining childhood obesity from 2009 through to 2017. The picture worsens as children progress through primary school, with 18.8% (or 182) of children classed as obese by the age of 11. This is an increase of 1% on the previous year. This figure is lower than the regional average (19.7%) and national average (20.2%).

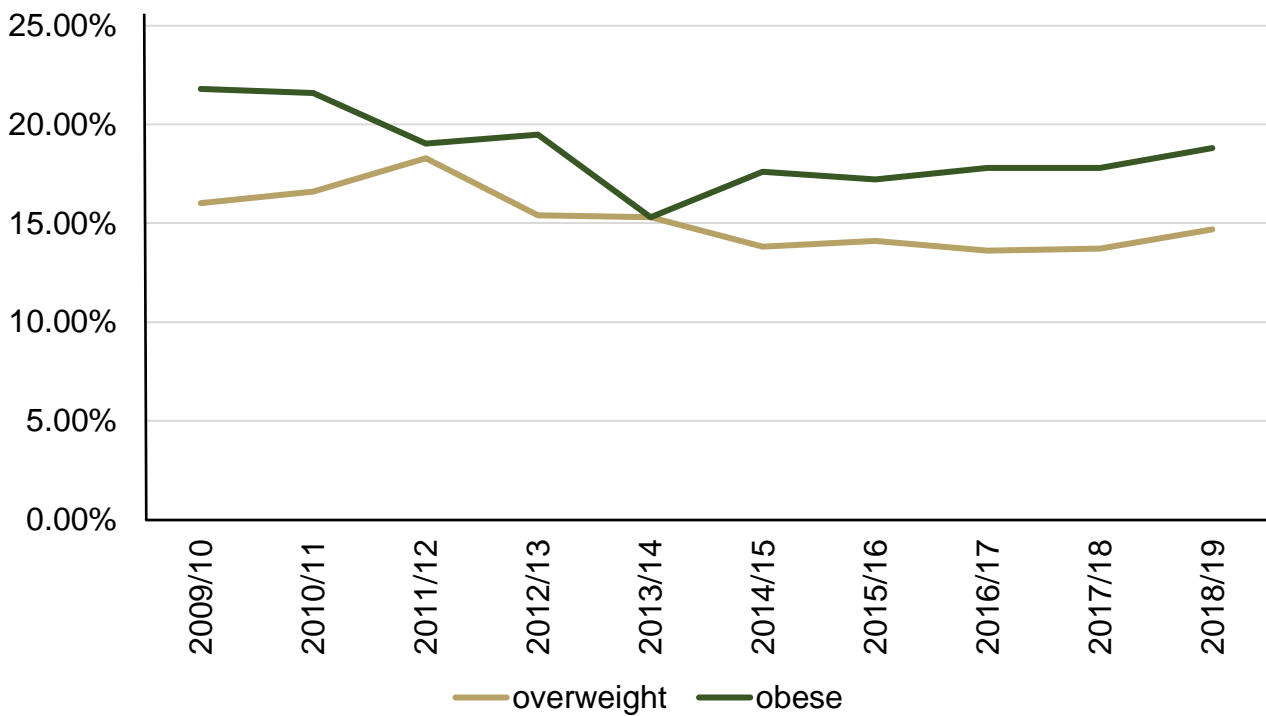


**% of children overweight or obese in reception year**



Source: Public Health England, National Child Measuring Programme

**Children overweight or obese in year 6**



Source: Public Health England, National Child Measuring Programme

## 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, 68.5% of adults are classed as obese, up 0.4% from the previous year. This is significantly higher than the national and regional averages and places West Lindsey in the bottom quartile for England.

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%. At 16.2 (per 100,000), rates of smoking during pregnancy are significantly higher than the national average (10.6), placing West Lindsey in the bottom quartile nationally. Smoking is more common amongst those in routine and manual occupations with a rate of 22.1% amongst this cohort. This represents a significant decrease, down from 38.4% for the previous year.

The rate of alcohol related hospital admissions among adults in West Lindsey is 536 (per 100,000 of the population) which equates to 548 hospital stays in 2018. This figure has been in steady decline since 2014 and is better than the national average, placing West Lindsey in the top quartile nationally.

## 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 below 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.

Feelings of Wellbeing – Average Response			
Question	West Lindsey	Direction of Travel	UK
How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?	8.08	↑	7.71
To what extent do you feel that the things in your life are worthwhile?	8.12	↑	7.78
How happy did you feel yesterday?	7.7	↓	7.56
How anxious did you feel yesterday?	2.66	↓	2.87

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.

## **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.

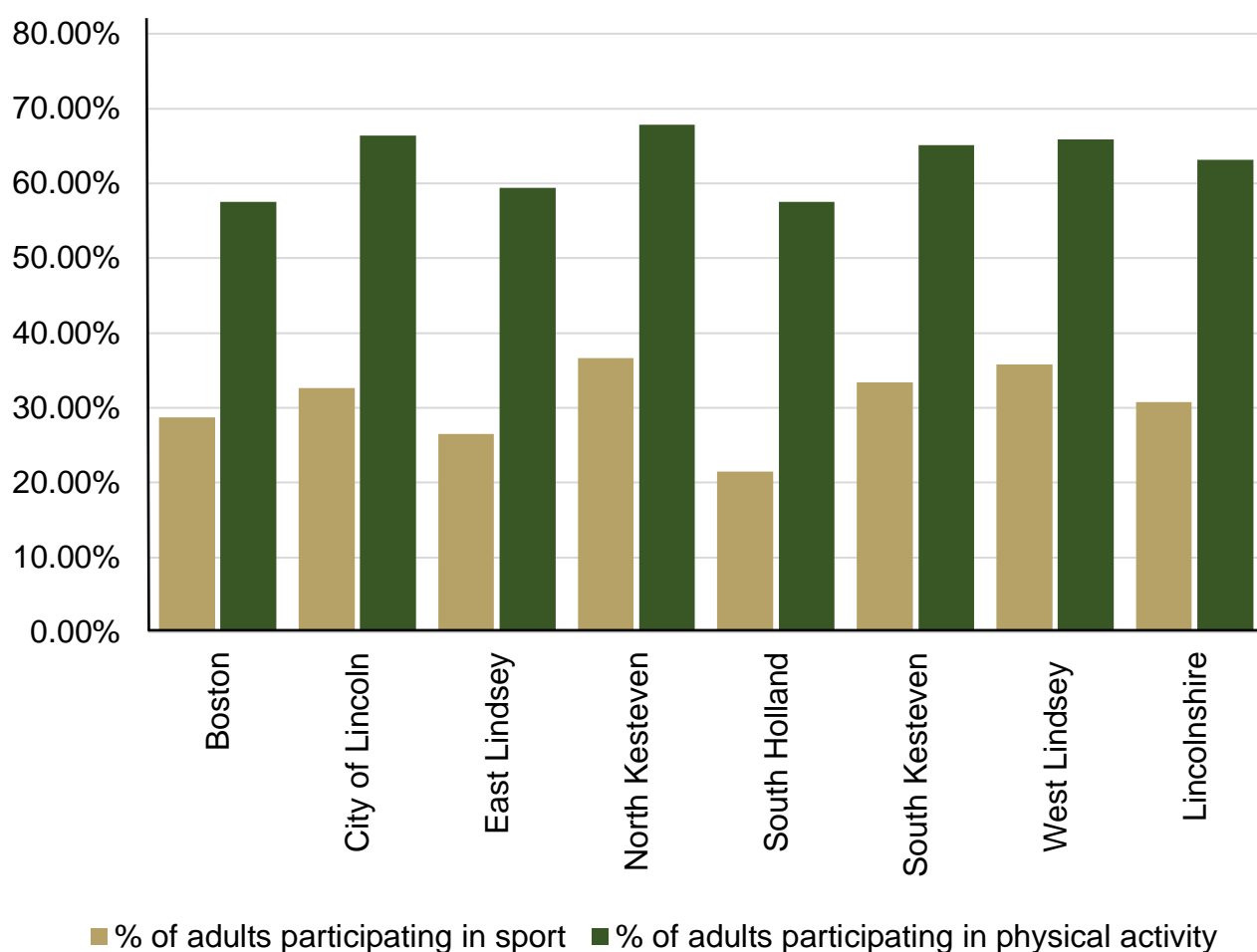
Nationally, one-third of people living with a disability or long-term health condition do not access public, commercial and leisure goods or services and one-fifth experience regular difficulties accessing public transport, a problem that is particularly prevalent in rural areas. One in three people 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 and higher than the country as a whole (22.2%).

**Adult participation in weekly sport and physical activity**



Source: Active Lincolnshire

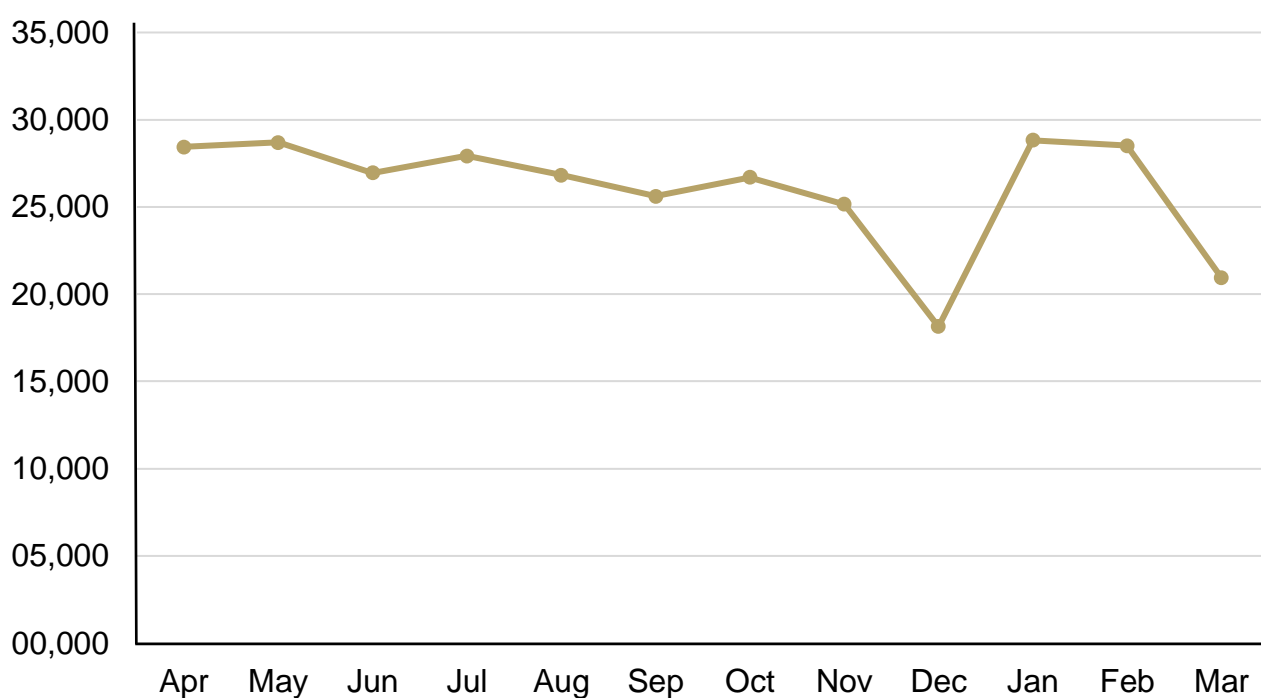
Walking is widely recognised as one of the easiest forms of exercise in terms of cost, accessibility and effectiveness in aiding fitness and weight loss. In West Lindsey 20.6% of West Lindsey adults report walking for travel at least three days per week, higher than the regional average of 18.8%.

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%.



The number of people using the West Lindsey Leisure Centre fluctuated on a monthly basis throughout 2019. From a low of 18,138 in December of that year, there was a significant increase in usage up to January 2020 (28,815). As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, government restrictions on gyms and leisure centres meant that the West Lindsey Leisure Centre was closed between March and July 2020 and so comparable usage figures beyond January are not available. In June 2020, West Lindsey District Council opened a new Leisure Centre in Market Rasen.

**Usage of West Lindsey Leisure Centre Facilities April 2019 - March 2020**

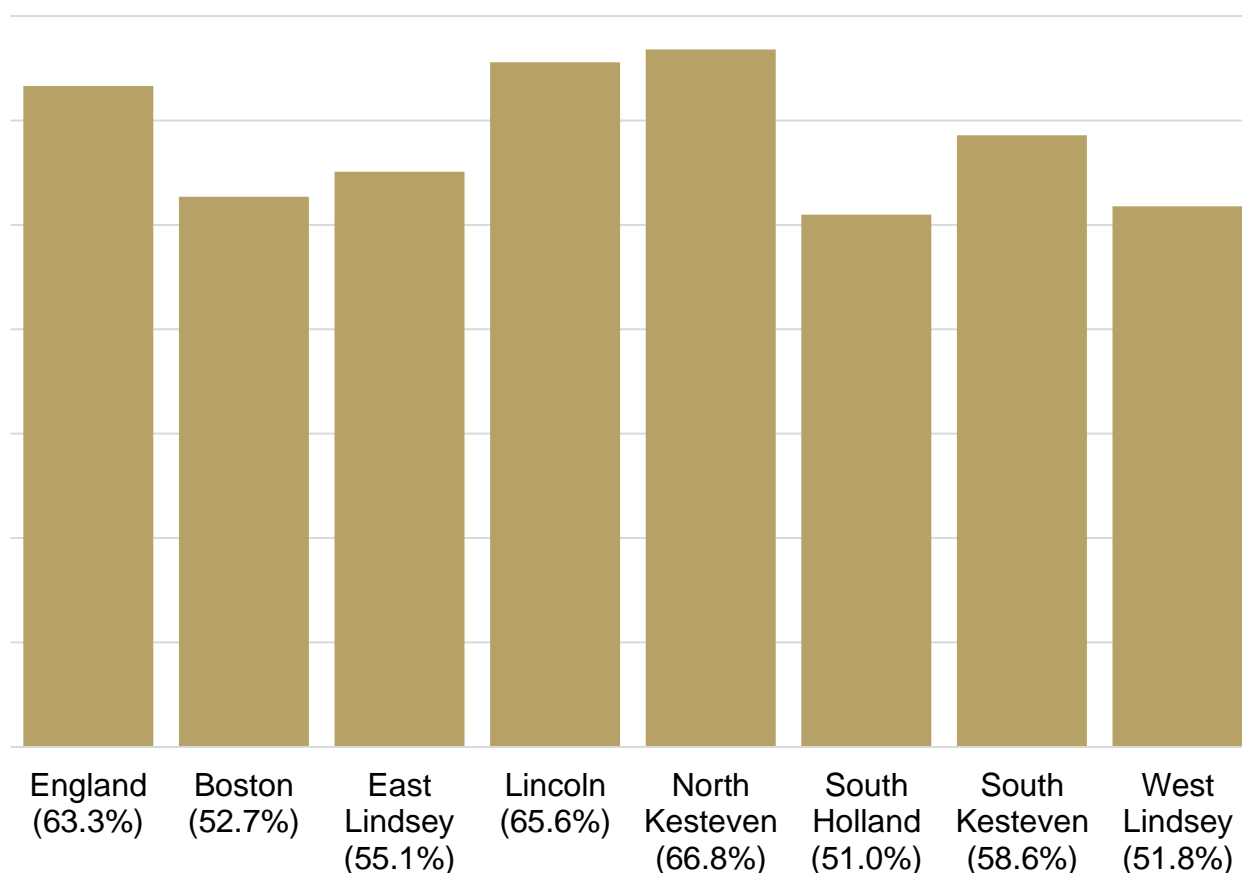


## Physical Activity in Children

In December 2019, Sport England released the second Active Lives Children and Young People Survey which is based on responses from children aged 5-16 between November 2018 and November 2019.

The picture for West Lindsey is poor. Figures show that 51.8% of children undertake the recommended level of at least 150 minutes of activity every week which places the district second bottom in the County (where the average is 57.4%) and below the national average of 63.3%. Likewise, 57.2% of children in West Lindsey are classed as inactive (no physical activity in the last 28 days), the highest figure in Lincolnshire and above the national average of 56.5%. A total of 11.4% of children did not participate in any sport or physical activity in the last year, significantly higher than both the Lincolnshire (8.4%) and national (5.4%) averages.

### % of children taking part in sport or physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week



Source: Sports England



# Employment and Unemployment

## Employment and Unemployment Rates

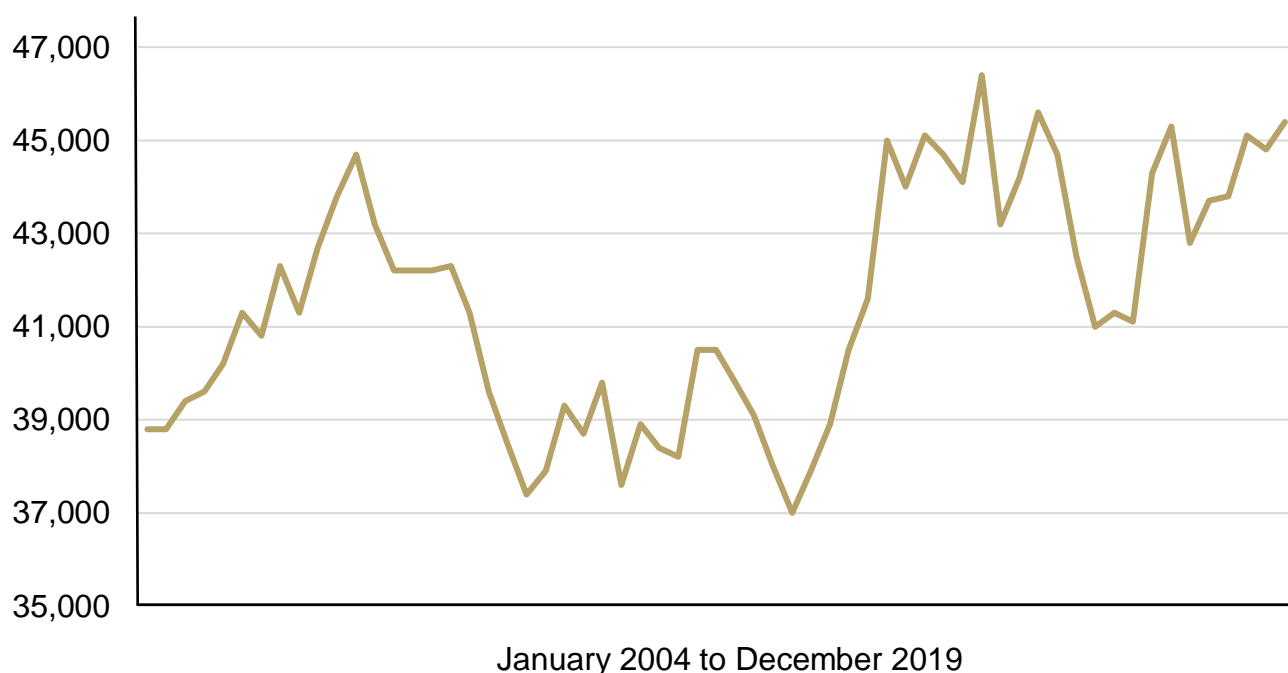
As of December 2019, there were 46,000 economically active people resident in West Lindsey. Of these, 45,400 or 81.8% were in employment, up from 74.9% the previous year. This is significantly higher than both the regional (76.9%) and national average (75.8%). When split by gender, the picture varies with a higher than average rate of employment for men (86.9% compared to a national average of 79.9%) compared to a lower rate for women (76.9% compared to a national average of 71.7%).

	West Lindsey	East Midlands	Great Britain
<b>Economically active</b>	82.8% (46,000)	80%	78.9%
<b>Employed</b>	81.8% (45,400)	76.9%	75.8%
<b>Self-employed</b>	6,500 (% suppressed)	10%	10.9%
<b>Economically inactive</b>	17.2% (9,200)	20%	21.1%

Source: NOMIS

Whilst employment rates have remained fairly stable in recent years at a national and regional level, West Lindsey has experienced fluctuations since 2004 although the number of people in employment has risen significantly since September 2018.

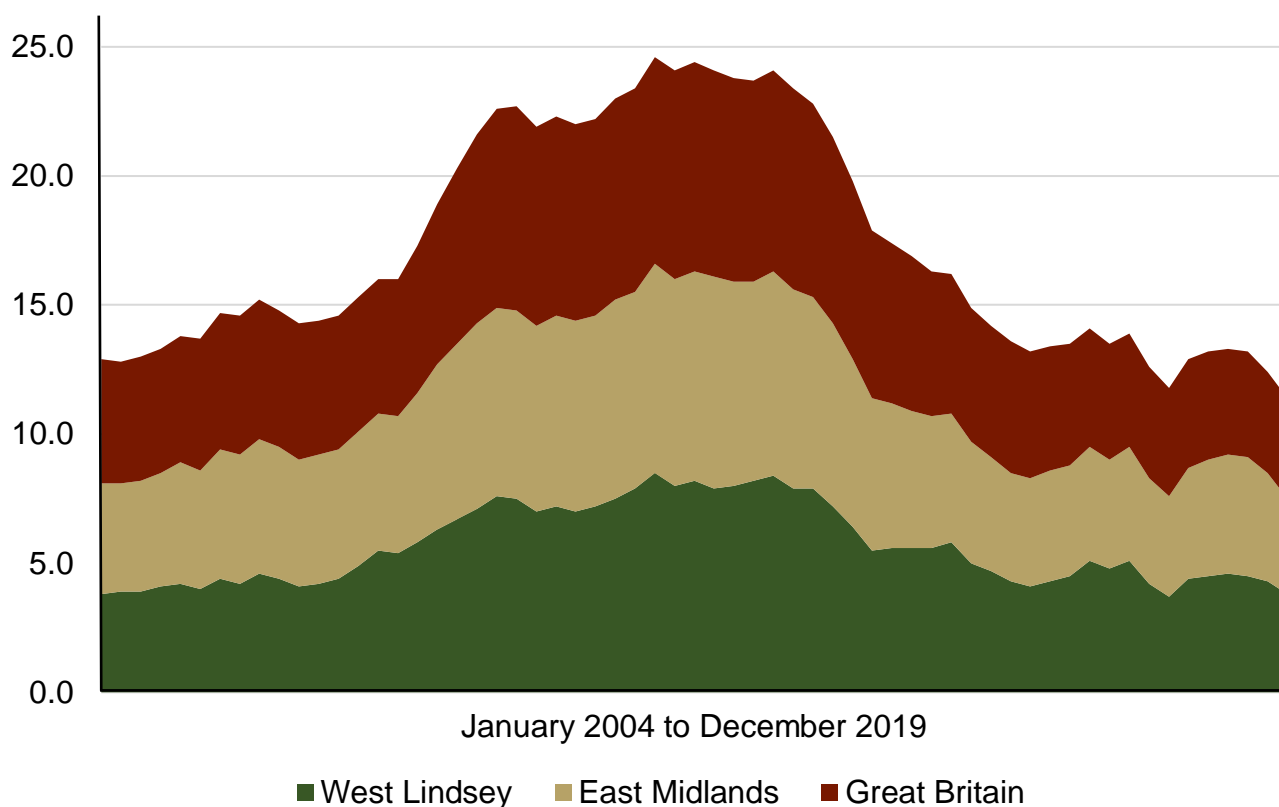
## West Lindsey Employment Rate Over Time



Source: NOMIS

In the 12 months to December 2019, the unemployment rate in West Lindsey stood at 3.8% which equates to 1,800 adults, an improvement of 1.2% on the previous year. This is on a par with both the regional (3.7%) and national rate (3.9%). 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, however, the economic impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic are likely to lead to an increase in unemployment locally and nationally in the coming months.

### Unemployment Rates Over Time



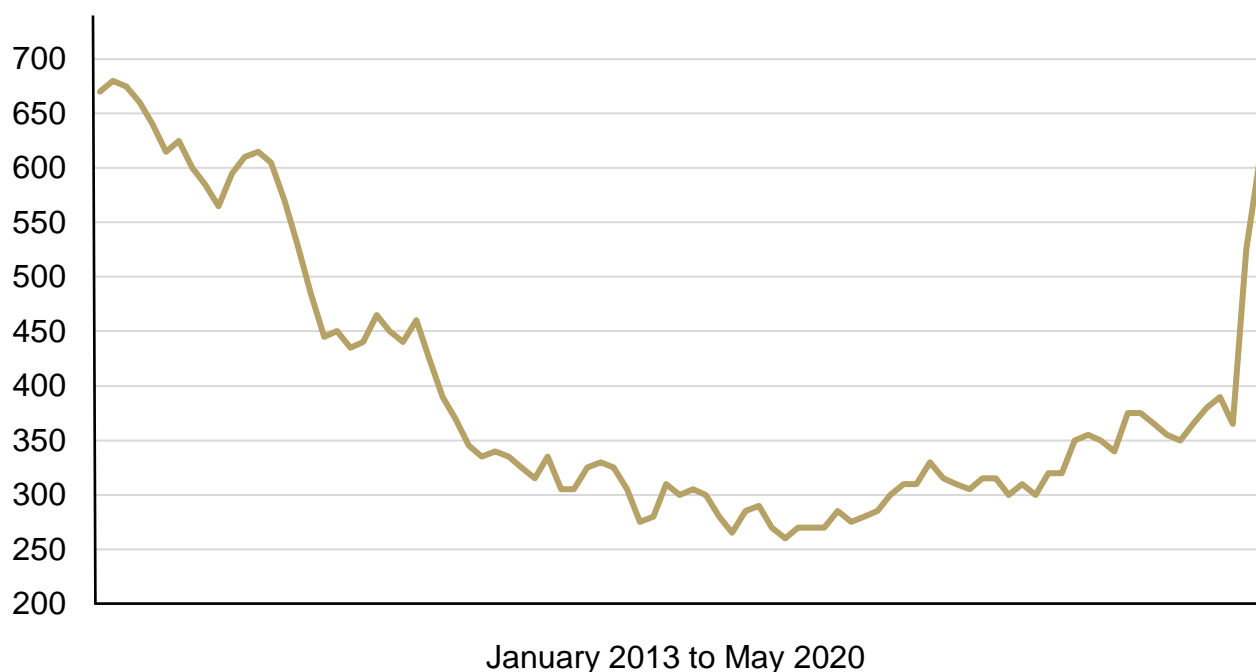
Source: NOMIS

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 inactivity 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, experienced a sharp rise to 10% (or 605 people) in May 2020, compared to 4.1% (345 people) in May 2019. This is higher than both the regional (8.1%) and national averages (9.3%) and means that West Lindsey remains in the bottom quartile of all local authorities. Whilst the youth claimant count is a persistent and ongoing issue for the District, such a sharp increase during the first half of 2020 is likely to be a result of unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Early indications from the Office for National Statistics show that youth unemployment both locally and nationally is likely to increase further over the coming months. 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 740 in February 2020, an improvement of 12% compared to the previous year.

**Youth Unemployment in West Lindsey Over Time**



Source: NOMIS

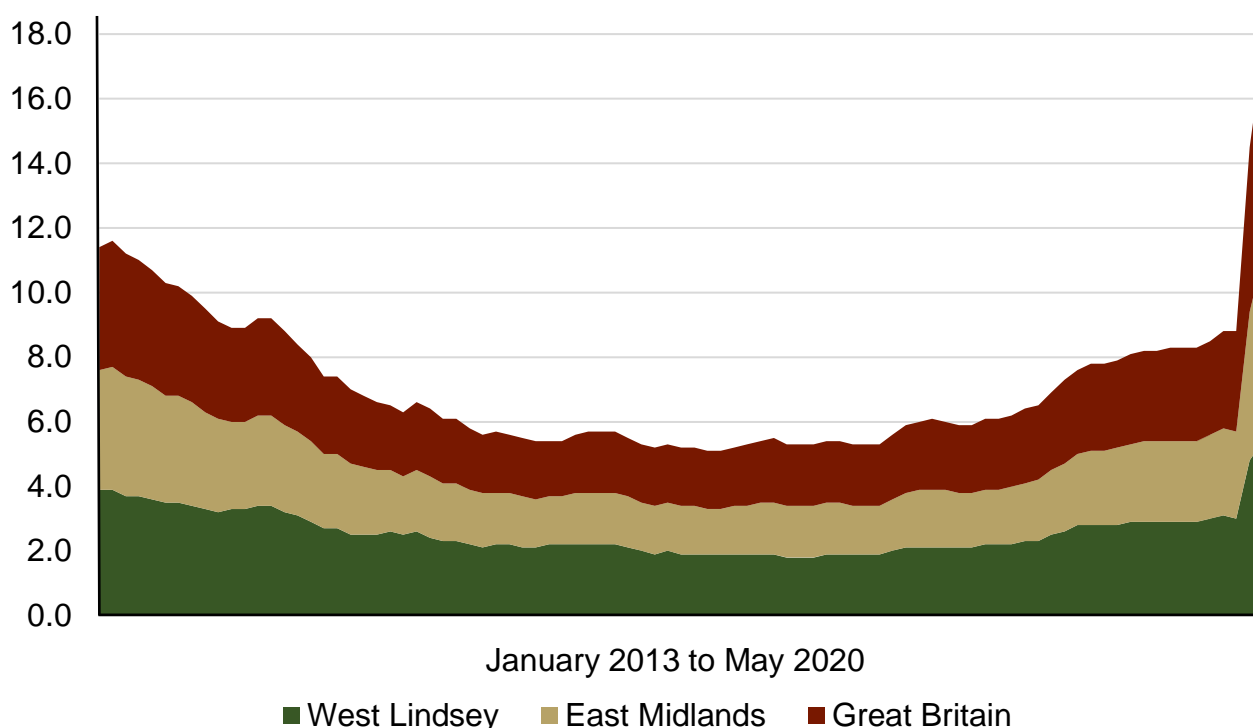


## Claimant Count

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 2020, there were 2,975 working age people claiming key out of work benefits in the district, representing 5.4% of the working age population. This is an increase of 90.71% compared to the same time last year (or 1,415 people) but is lower than the regional (5.7%) and national averages (6.4%). As with youth unemployment, the significant increase in the number of working age people claiming out of work benefits is likely to be a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and early indications by the Office for National Statistics show that this figure is also likely to increase over the coming months.

### Claimant Count Over Time



Source: NOMIS

## 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, latest figures for 2018 show that there was a total of 31,000 jobs, equating to a density of 0.56 which is a reduction of 2,000 jobs compared to the previous year. This is lower than both the regional (0.80) and national density (0.86). The number of employee jobs in 2018 (which excludes self-employment, government supported trainees and HM Forces) in the district stands at 25,000. Of these, 16,000 are full-time (68%) and 9,000 (36%) are part-time, a ratio that is on a par with the regional and national average.

# **Support for Vulnerable Groups**

## **Homelessness**

In 2018, a total of 69 households were accepted as being homeless and in priority need, an increase of 26 on the previous year although the homelessness rate (0.02 per 1,000 households) remains significantly below the national and regional averages.

In the 12 months leading up to March 2019, a total of 192 households were prevented from becoming homeless in West Lindsey, compared to 227 households the previous year. A total of 197 nights were spent in bed and breakfast accommodation with the average stay in temporary accommodation at 35.9 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 as of December 2018 (latest figures available). 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.

<b>Child Poverty in West Lindsey – December 2018 (based on 2013 wards)</b>				
<b>Ward</b>	<b>% of children in poverty (before housing costs)</b>	<b>% change from December 2017</b>	<b>% of children in poverty (after housing costs)</b>	<b>% change from December 2017</b>
<b>Bardney</b>	9.3%	-4.04%	19.5%	-1.85%
<b>Caistor</b>	11.4%	-4.59%	24.0%	-1.11%
<b>Cherry Willingham</b>	9.3%	-2.58%	19.5%	+0.42%
<b>Dunholme</b>	9.2%	-1.69%	20.5%	-2.92%
<b>Fiskerton</b>	9.3%	+2.32%	19.5%	+8.06%
<b>Gainsborough East</b>	30.1%	+2.99%	36.4%	-4.81%
<b>Gainsborough North</b>	23.7%	-1.22%	29.0%	-8.97%
<b>Gainsborough South-West</b>	28.2%	+4.46%	30.7%	-5.5%
<b>Hemswell</b>	13.9%	-3.76%	24.8%	-2.91%
<b>Kelsey</b>	11.4%	-6.6%	24.0%	-3.95%
<b>Lea</b>	9.2%	+1.45%	22.4%	+9.71%
<b>Market Rasen</b>	15.2%	-6.69%	26.0%	-7.48%
<b>Middle Rasen</b>	15.2%	+3.37%	26.0%	+7.04%
<b>Nettleham</b>	7.3%	+0.43%	13.6%	+2.32%
<b>Saxilby</b>	10.4%	-2.86%	22.3%	+1.17%
<b>Scampton</b>	12.0%	+3.34%	23.4%	+9.28%
<b>Scotter</b>	11.6%	+1.72%	24.5%	+8.47%
<b>Stow</b>	9.2%	+0.56%	22.4%	+8.37%
<b>Sudbrooke</b>	7.3%	+2.54%	13.6%	+5.67%
<b>Thonock</b>	11.6%	-4.85%	24.5%	-1.3%
<b>Torksey</b>	9.2%	-5.06%	22.4%	-0.24%
<b>Waddingham and Spital</b>	13.9%	+3.12%	24.8%	+7.42%

<b>Welton</b>	9.2%	-3.3%	20.5%	+0.51%
<b>Wold View</b>	13.1%	-3.08%	24.9%	-0.59%
<b>Yarborough</b>	11.4%	-0.99%	24.0%	+4.14%
<b>West Lindsey</b>	14%	+2.2%	24.0%	-1.59%

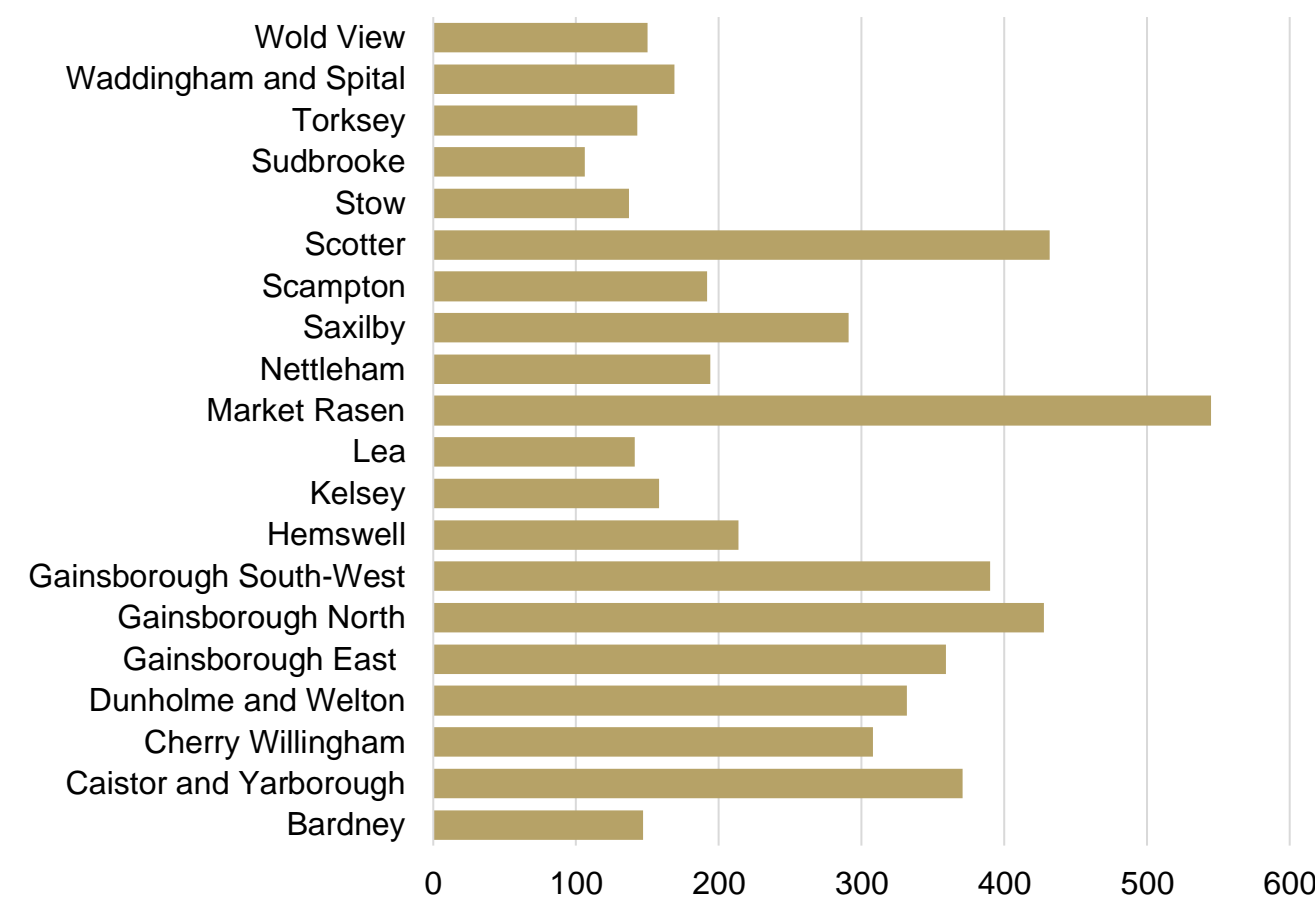
Source: National Children's Bureau

## 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 5,207 households (12.8%) in the district are living in fuel poverty, an increase of 376 households (or 7.78%) on the previous year. This is higher than the County (11.8%), regional (10.9%) and national averages (11.8%).

### Number of Households in Fuel Poverty by Ward



Source: DFBEIS



<b>Fuel Poverty in West Lindsey (2018)</b>			
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of households in fuel poverty</b>	<b>% of households in fuel poverty</b>	<b>% change from 2016</b>
<b>Bardney</b>	147	15.1%	+20.5%
<b>Caistor and Yarborough</b>	371	14.4%	+ 20.85%
<b>Cherry Willingham</b>	308	10.4%	+ 3.7%
<b>Dunholme and Welton</b>	332	9.5%	+ 13.7%
<b>Gainsborough East</b>	359	11.3%	- 15.1%
<b>Gainsborough North</b>	428	13.5%	- 15.8%
<b>Gainsborough South-West</b>	390	16.5%	- 11.8%
<b>Hemswell</b>	214	19.2%	+ 28.1%
<b>Kelsey</b>	158	13.6%	+ 17.9%
<b>Lea</b>	141	14.3%	+ 18.5%
<b>Market Rasen</b>	545	13.8%	+ 29.5%
<b>Nettleham</b>	194	8.8%	- 11.0%
<b>Saxilby</b>	291	12.1%	+ 9.8%
<b>Scampton</b>	192	14.6%	+ 23.1%
<b>Scotter</b>	432	13.0%	+ 13.68%
<b>Stow</b>	137	13.5%	+ 18.1%
<b>Sudbrooke</b>	106	9.5%	+ 16.5%
<b>Torksey</b>	143	10.8%	+ 31.2%
<b>Waddingham and Spital</b>	169	15.3%	+ 18.2%
<b>Wold View</b>	150	14.6%	+ 23.9%
<b>West Lindsey</b>	<b>5,207</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>+ 7.78%</b>

## **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 (£8.72 per hour) 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 £9.30 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 5,000 of this cohort taking home less than the Living Wage; 71.4% of the overall figure.

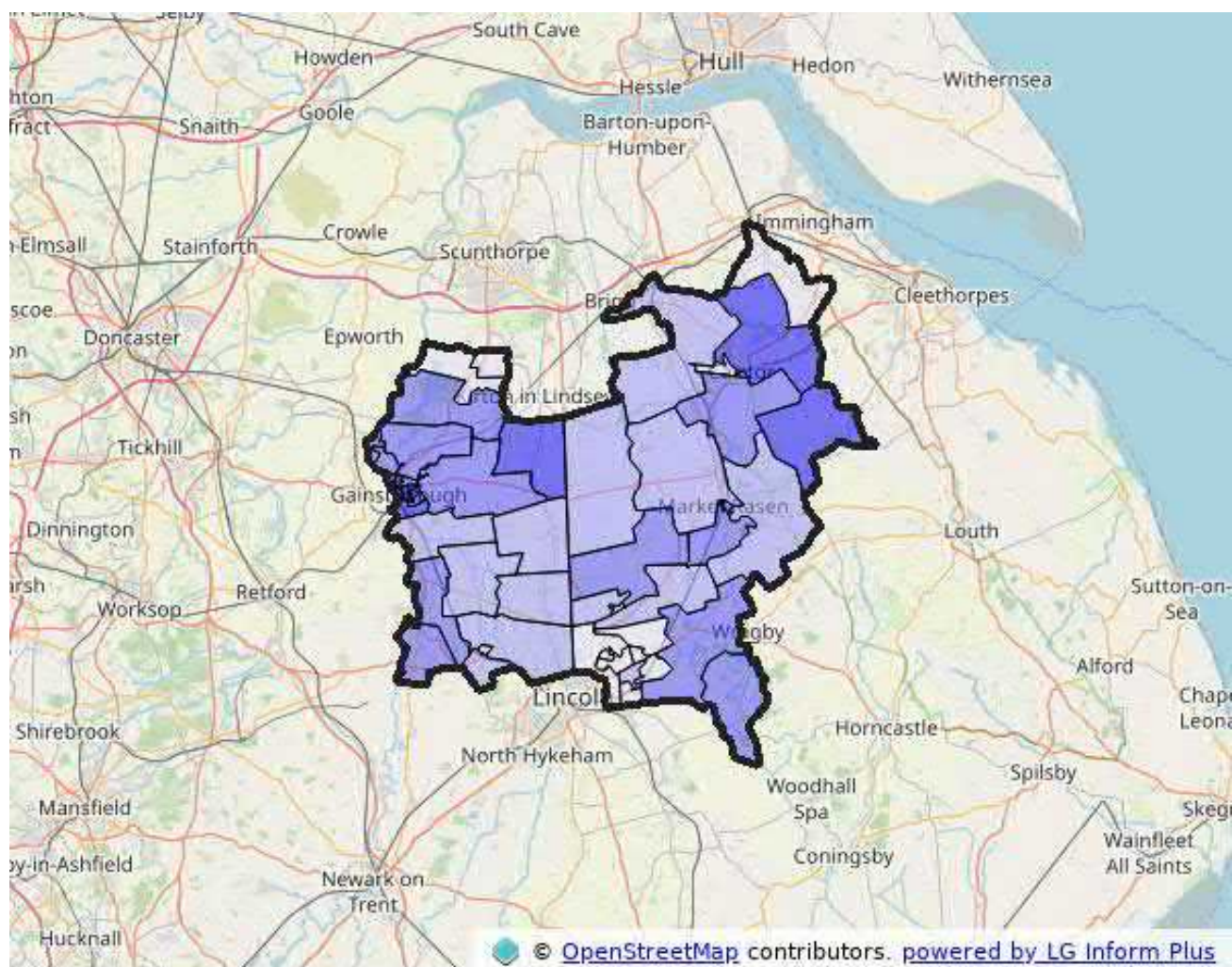
Of all full-time jobs in the district, 22% are paid below the real living wage.

## **Deprivation**

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) were last updated in 2019. The IMD uses a series of indicators based on crime to measure deprivation (which is different to poverty) down to district and lower super output area (LSOA) level.

Overall, West Lindsey ranks 146th most deprived of 317 local authorities, a decline of one place since 2015 and placing the district slightly above the median.

The highest levels of deprivation can be found within the Gainsborough East and Gainsborough South-West wards while the least deprived areas can be found within Dunholme and Welton. The following map shows the overall rank broken down by LSOA with areas marked in light blue experiencing the lowest levels of deprivation graduating to dark blue for areas with the highest deprivation.



#### IMD: Overall - score (2019)

- $\geq 25.110 \leq 81.300$
- $\geq 16.668 < 25.110$
- $\geq 10.040 < 16.668$
- $\geq 4.047 < 10.040$



## Place





# Education and Skills

## Education Profile

For the first time, the gap between the skills profile for West Lindsey and the rest of the country has narrowed. In 2019, 40,600 people (76.3%) gained at least a level 2 qualification (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs), which is higher than both the regional (74.4%) and national average (75.6%) for the first time. The gap that exists for post-16 education has narrowed with 28,300 people (53.1%) gaining a Level 3 qualification (equivalent to A Level) compared to 56.4% for the East Midlands and 58.5% 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 declined for the first time since 2012; down by 3.7% on the previous year. There are currently 17,600 people in the district that hold at least a level 4 qualification.

Educational attainment as a % of people aged 16-64 (2019)				
	West Lindsey	% change from last year	East Midlands	England
No qualifications	Suppressed	N/A	7.0%	6.7%
Level 1 and above	90.9%	+ 8.4%	85.5%	85.6%
Level 2 and above	76.3%	+ 6.4%	74.4%	75.6%
Level 3 and above	53.1%	+ 6.1%	56.4%	58.5%

Source: NOMIS

## Employment by Sector

As of 2018, manufacturing, construction, education and human health activities were the 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.

<b>Employee jobs by Industry</b>			
<b>Industry</b>	<b>West Lindsey</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
<b>Mining and quarrying</b>	0.3% (75)	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	14% (3,500)	12.9%	8.1%
<b>Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply</b>	0.1% (20)	0.8%	0.5%
<b>Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities</b>	1.8% (450)	0.7%	0.7%
<b>Transportation and storage</b>	3.6% (900)	5.5%	4.8%
<b>Accommodation and food service activities</b>	7.0% (1,750)	7.0%	7.6%
<b>Information and communication</b>	1.8% (450)	2.9%	4.2%
<b>Financial and insurance activities</b>	0.5% (125)	1.7%	3.5%
<b>Real estate activities</b>	2.4% (600)	1.3%	1.7%
<b>Professional, science and technical activities</b>	6.0% (1,500)	6.4%	8.7%
<b>Administrative and support service activities</b>	6.0% (1,500)	8.7%	9.1%
<b>Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</b>	5% (1,250)	3.7%	4.3%
<b>Education</b>	10% (2,500)	9.2%	8.9%
<b>Human health and social work activities</b>	10% (2,500)	13.1%	13.2%
<b>Arts, entertainment and recreation</b>	3.2% (800)	2.6%	2.5%
<b>Other service activities</b>	1.8% (45)	2.0%	2.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics

## Self-employment

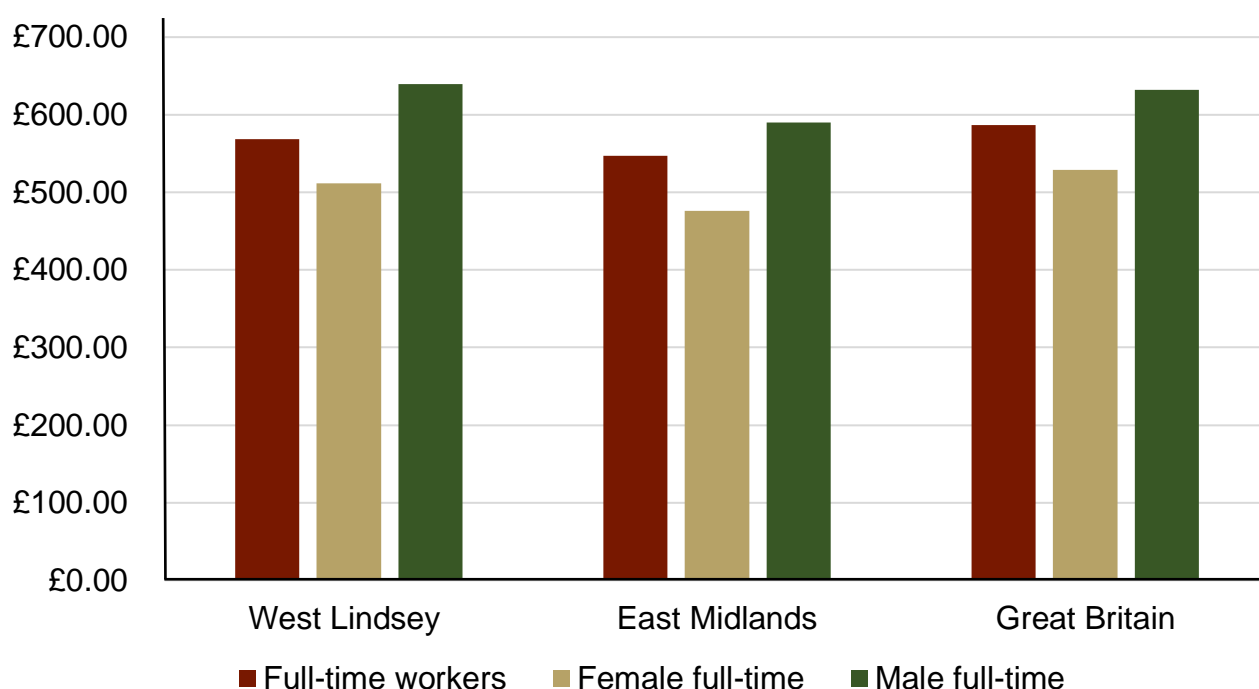
The number of people who are self-employed in the district stands at 5,600, down from 6,400 the previous year. Percentages have been suppressed by the Office for National Statistics so it is not possible to make regional and national comparisons for this dataset.

## Earnings

As of December 2019, the average gross weekly earnings stood at £558.90, up £9.40 on the previous year. This is higher than the regional average (£547.40) but lower than the national average (£587.00). Men in full-time employment in West Lindsey earn £128.60 per week more than women, a gap that has narrowed by £27.40 per week compared to the previous year. This gender gap is wider than both the regional average (£114.20 per week) and the national average (£103.10 per week).

The average hourly rate of pay for full-time workers stands at £14.37 which is above the regional average (£13.63) but lower than the national average (£14.88). Again, there is a gender gap for those in full-time employment with women having a lower rate of pay (£13.49 per hour) than men (£14.81) though this gap has narrowed for the first time.

**Average Gross-Weekly Earnings (2019)**



# The Economy

## Occupations

Compared to the rest of the region and the country as a whole, West Lindsey has a higher proportion of professional occupations (25.9%). The district also has a significantly higher proportion of skilled trades occupations (15.2%) compared to the rest of the region (11.9%). 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
<b>Managers, Directors and senior officials</b>	4,900	11.7%	11.1%	11.6%
<b>Professional occupations</b>	10,800	25.9%	18.3%	21.5%
<b>Associate professional and technical</b>	Suppressed	Suppressed	13.5%	14.7%
<b>Administrative and secretarial</b>	4,500	10.8%	9.5%	9.7%
<b>Skilled trades</b>	6,300	15.2%	11.7%	9.9%
<b>Caring, leisure and other services</b>	4,600	11.1%	9.1%	9.0%
<b>Sales and customer services</b>	Suppressed	Suppressed	7.3%	7.0%
<b>Process, plant and machine operatives</b>	Suppressed	Suppressed	8.4%	6.0%
<b>Elementary occupations</b>	Suppressed	Suppressed	10.9%	10.2%

Source: NOMIS



## Number of Businesses

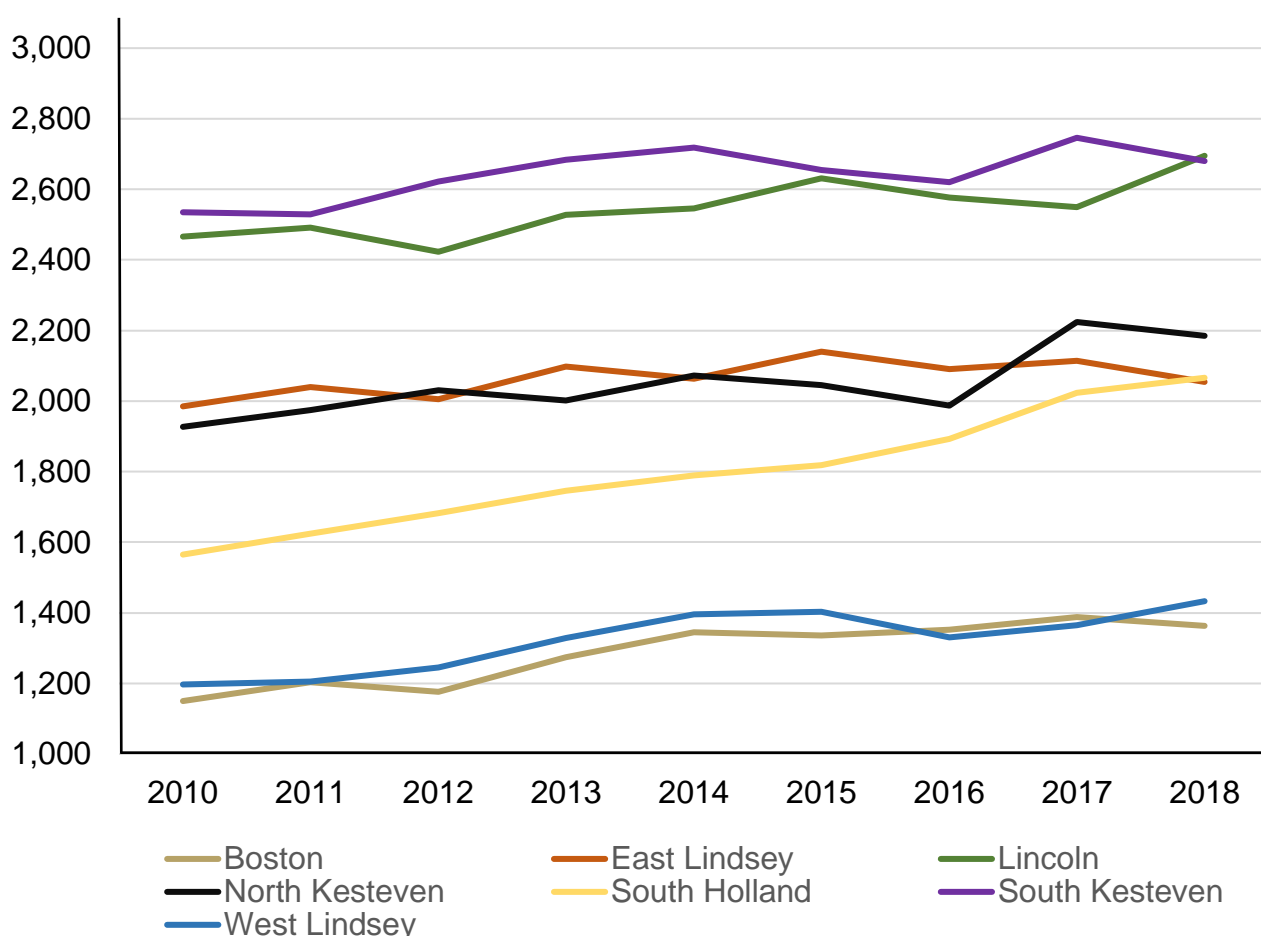
The number of active business counts in West Lindsey rose by 10 over the last year to 3,740. The number of local units (i.e. business locations) within West Lindsey also rose, up by 5 on the previous year to 4,190.

Micro enterprises (employing 0-9 people) make up 86.4% of all business in the district, with 3,620 such enterprises as at December 2019. There are 485 small businesses employing between 10 and 49 people, an increase of 185 on the previous year. There a total of 80 medium size businesses employing 50 to 249 whilst 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 £1.43 billion in 2018, an increase of £68 million from the previous year. This is the third highest rise in Lincolnshire.

**GVA over time – all Lincolnshire Districts (£ million)**



Source: Office for National Statistics

## Business Confidence

The Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce surveys business confidence within the county every quarter. The latest published results for quarter four of 2019 show that, for the first time since 2015, business confidence in Lincolnshire has decreased. This significant decline in confidence is attributed to long-term uncertainty, rising business costs and a continued slowing global economy. Confidence regarding profitability amongst Lincolnshire businesses has fallen, showing a marked decline on the previous year. The latest results for the survey point to a reduction in overseas orders and worsening cashflow, however, workforce levels have been maintained. Confidence levels around future turnover and profitability have slumped and it is likely that the next published set of results will see a continuation of this trend as the economic impact of COVID-19 becomes evident.

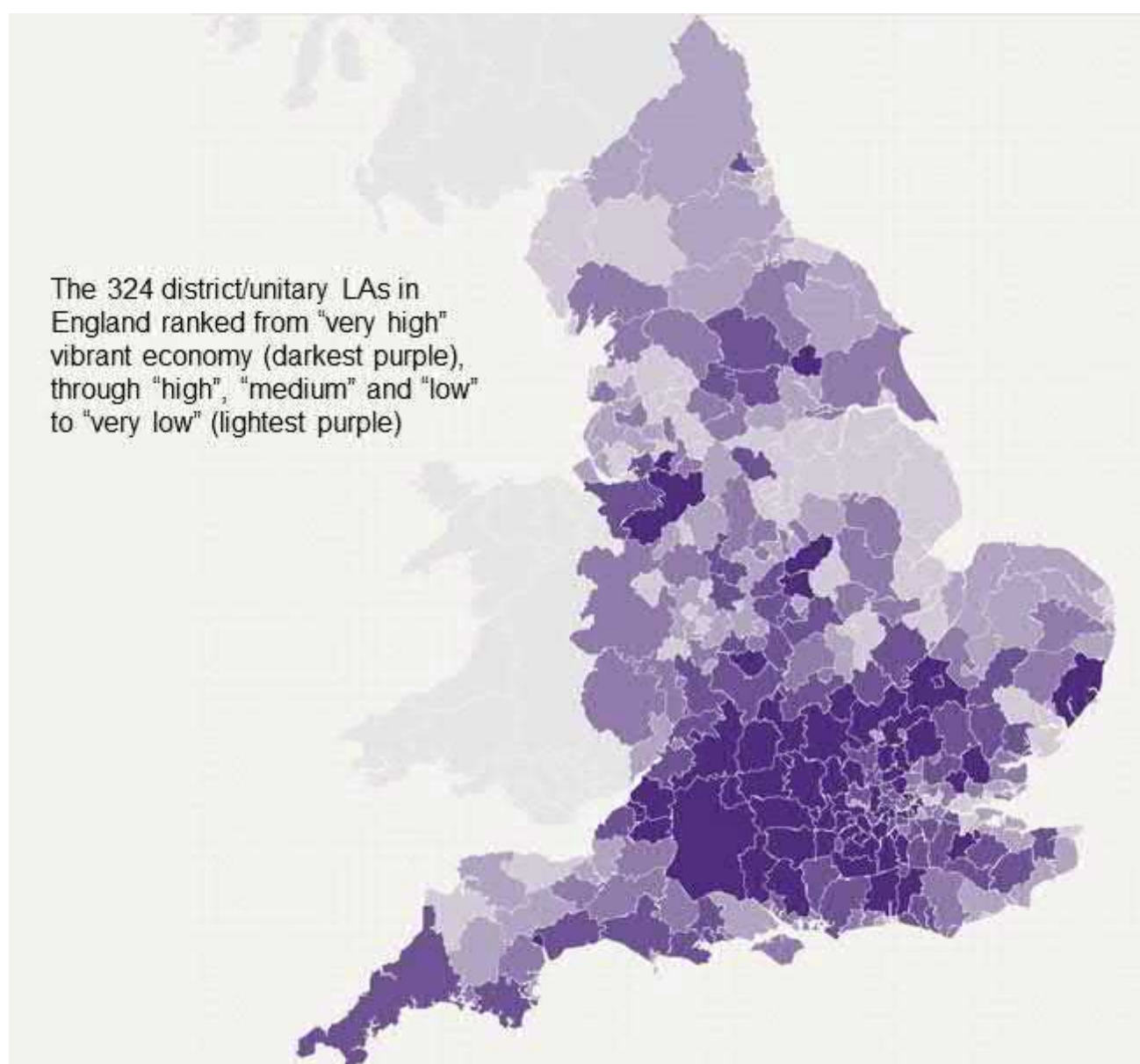


# Economic Opportunity

## Grant Thornton Sustainable Growth Index

Grant Thornton's Sustainable Growth Index (previously the 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 is ranked 264th out of 324 local authority areas, a drop of 15 places on the previous year, placing the district in the bottom quartile.



Source: Grant Thornton

Within specific indices, West Lindsey ranks best for Health, Wellbeing and Happiness (125th), and worst for community, trust and belonging (292nd).

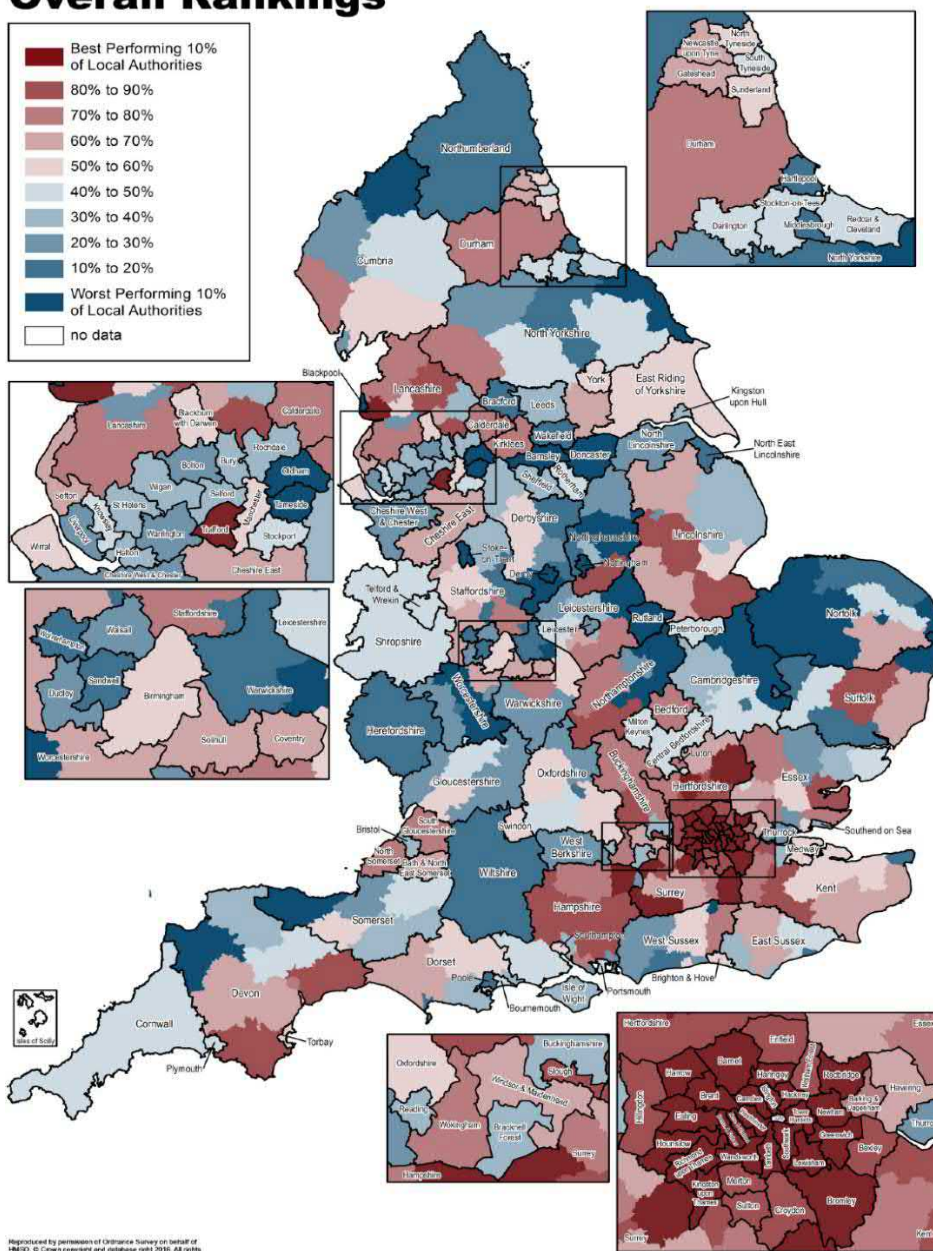


## Social Mobility

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



Source: Social Mobility Commission



# 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 and Affordability

As of January 2020, the average house price in West Lindsey stood at £178,000, the highest ever recorded for the district. In line with overall trends, this represents an increase on the previous year of £9,144 (or 5.4%) but remains lower than the regional average of £194,000. While house prices have increased, the affordability ratio, calculated by dividing the median house price by median annual earnings, stands at 5.87 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%).

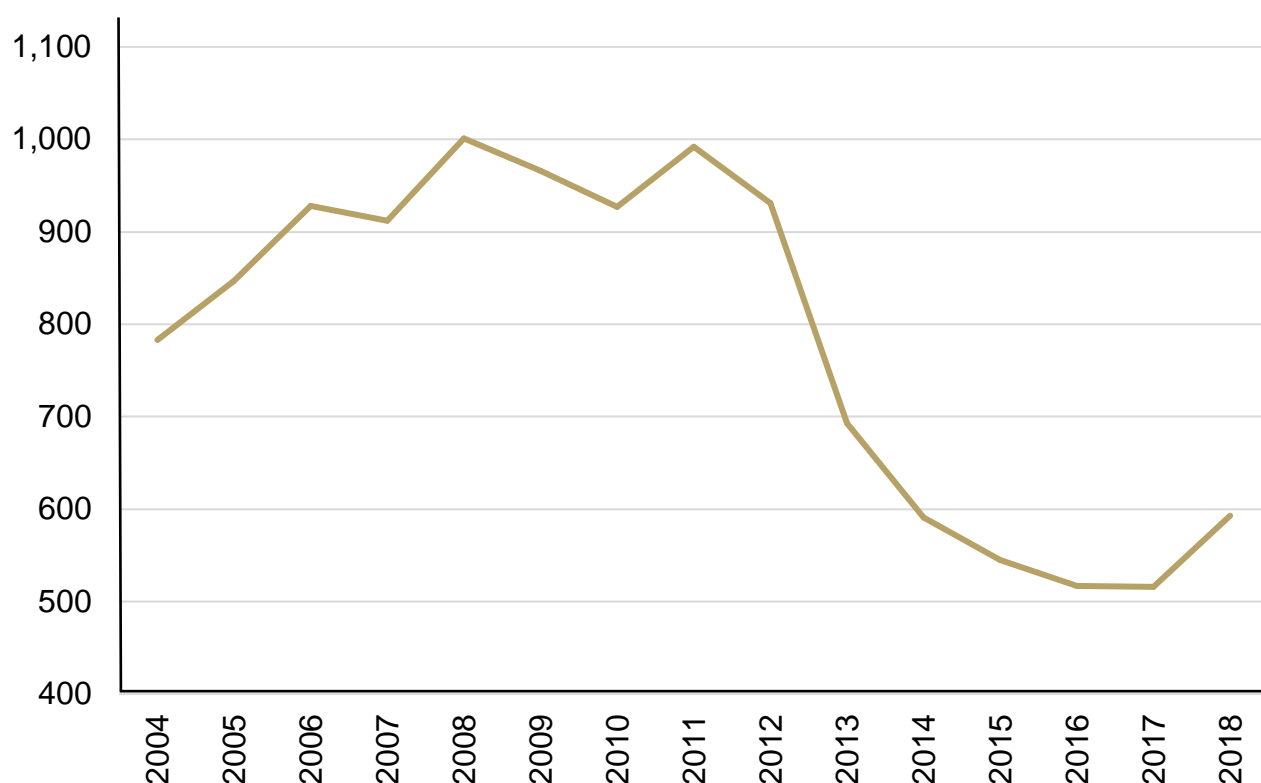
Of all households 22.9% (or 9,461 households) are not in receipt of mains gas, and this is mostly concentrated in a band running from the Thonock and Blyton areas north of Gainsborough south-east to Welton, taking in Waddingham and Hemswell. Being off grid for fuel can carry fuel poverty implications 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 10 to 583 in 2019. Gainsborough south-west ward has the highest number of empty homes, followed by Caistor and Yarborough, Market Rasen and Scotter and Blyton.

**Number of Vacant Dwellings in West Lindsey**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### 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%)

Source: Building Research Establishment

## Housebuilding

Housebuilding rates in West Lindsey have fluctuated over the last decade, with the number of housing completions declining slightly compared to the previous year.

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

Source: ONS



# Access to Services

## 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, 24Mbps/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 10Mbps/second. By 2020, it was anticipated that 98% of the country would 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 2020, superfast broadband is available to 88.47% of households in West Lindsey, an increase of 0.45% compared to the previous year and lower than the national figure of 97%, meaning that OnLincolnshire's target has not been met. 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 3.75% 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.



## Crime



Lincolnshire Police neighbourhoods in West Lindsey, including Gainsborough Town North (dark red), Gainsborough Town South (bright red), and Gainsborough Uphills (purple)

## 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 5,737 recorded crimes in the 12 months to December 2019, an increase of 778 on 2018. Lincolnshire Police data shows that West Lindsey has the second lowest crime rate in the county which has an average crime rate of 79 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 bicycle theft and homicide, all categories of crime have experienced an increase over the last twelve months with stalking and harassment offences seeing the biggest increase, up from 26 in 2018 to 407 in 2019.

Category	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019
All other theft offences	594	566	703	695	710
Bicycle theft	45	55	77	50	45
Criminal damage and arson	568	704	781	810	832
Death and serious injury caused by illegal driving	0	0	1	1	3
Domestic burglary	269	322	507	471	489
Drug offences	107	101	135	120	131
Homicide	0	2	0	1	1
Miscellaneous crimes against society	65	63	88	107	115
Non-domestic burglary	519	553	316	176	191
Possession of weapons offences	32	29	29	50	62
Public order offences	103	77	102	265	304
Robbery	34	16	32	26	34
Sex offences	95	136	147	212	237
Shoplifting	367	364	584	437	485
Stalking and harassment offences	50	94	98	26	407
Theft from the person	16	19	16	16	19
Vehicle offences	333	532	465	328	342
Violence with injury	332	386	433	562	607
Violence without injury	172	232	256	606	723
<b>West Lindsey Total</b>	<b>3,369</b>	<b>4,251</b>	<b>4,770</b>	<b>4,959</b>	<b>5,737</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics

# Sport and Leisure

## Sport

West Lindsey Leisure Centre in Gainsborough and the newly opened Market Rasen Leisure Centre are owned by West Lindsey District Council and managed by a private company. Overall, leisure centre usage (based on the Gainsborough site only) in 2019/20 was 312,703, up 1.65% on the previous year. It is likely that next year's figures will be significantly lower due to the enforced closure of leisure centres at the height of lockdown as part of national measures to control the spread of coronavirus.

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
2019/20	312,703	N/A	312,703

Source: West Lindsey District Council

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.

Sports Facilities in West Lindsey			
Grass Pitch	170	Outdoor Tennis Court	43
Sports Hall	16	Health and Fitness Suite	10
Golf	10	Artificial Grass Pitch	9
Studio	9	Squash Court	5
Swimming Pool	4	Indoor Tennis Centre	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>		

Source: Sport England

## The Arts

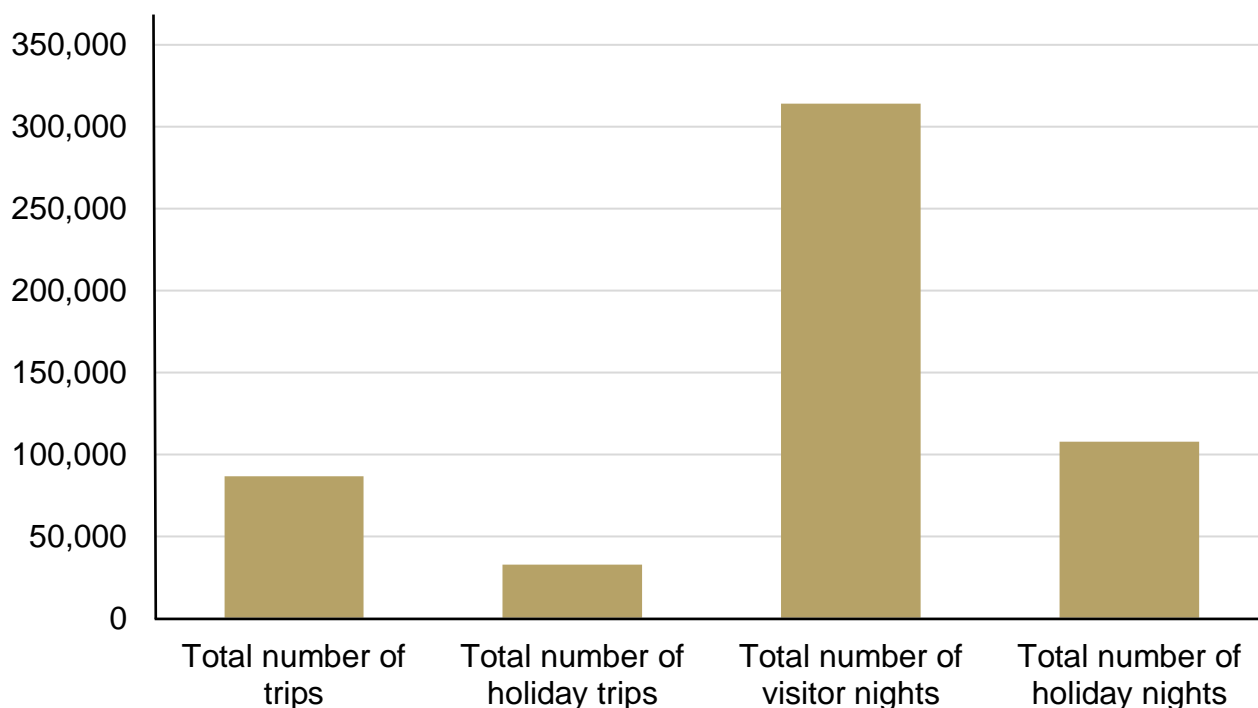
The Trinity Arts Centre (TAC) has successfully navigated the loss of Arts Council subsidy since 2010/11. Heavy restructuring of the TAC's overheads and programming have resulted in a reduction in costs, an increase in visitor numbers and improved programming. The TAC also supports community events, hosting 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. 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 2017-19, a figure which remains static. Of this total, £5m was spent by those on holiday in the district, an increase of £1m on the previous two year period. 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. It was anticipated that the Mayflower 400 celebrations scheduled for 2020 would prove to be a large boost to visitor numbers in the district, however, the events planned throughout 2020 have had to be postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19.

**Number of Visitor Trips and Visitor Nights spent in West Lindsey (2017-19)**



Source: Visit Britain

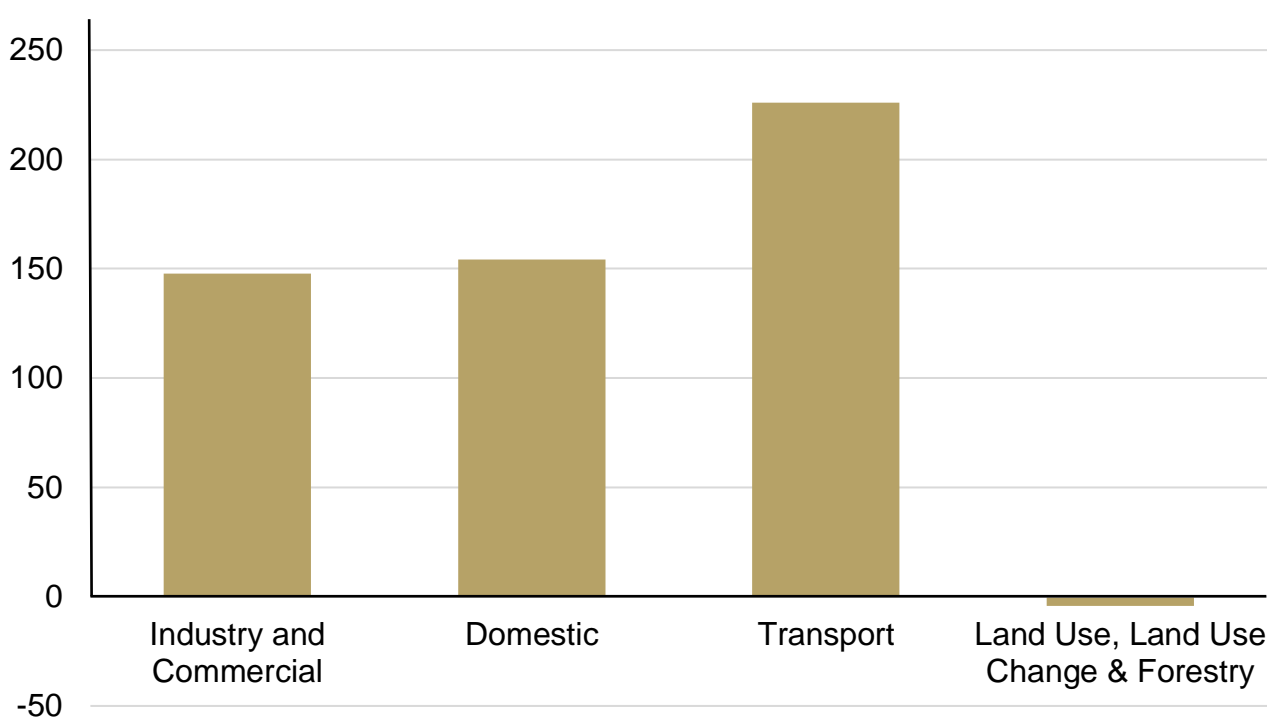
# Energy and the Environment

## Carbon Emissions

West Lindsey's CO2 emissions have decreased in recent years and the district now has the 4th lowest levels in the County at 523.6 kilotonnes. The rural nature of the district is likely to exacerbate levels of emissions and this is evident in the level of transport CO2 emissions (226 kilotonnes in 2018).

In November 2019, West Lindsey District Council resolved to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050. To assist in achieving this, the Council is developing a new Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy which will be launched in 2021 and based around the three key themes of Green Council, Green Communities and Green District/ Economy. There are currently 13 electric vehicle charging points in the district, equal to 14 per 100,000 of the population which is lower than the national average of 27 per 100,000 of the population.

**West Lindsey CO2 Emissions for 2018 (kilotonnes)**



Source: ONS



**West Lindsey Total CO2 Emissions over time (kilotonnes)**



Source: ONS

## 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.

## Sources



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