

Appendix B

Environmental and Sustainability Baseline

Environmental and Sustainability Baseline

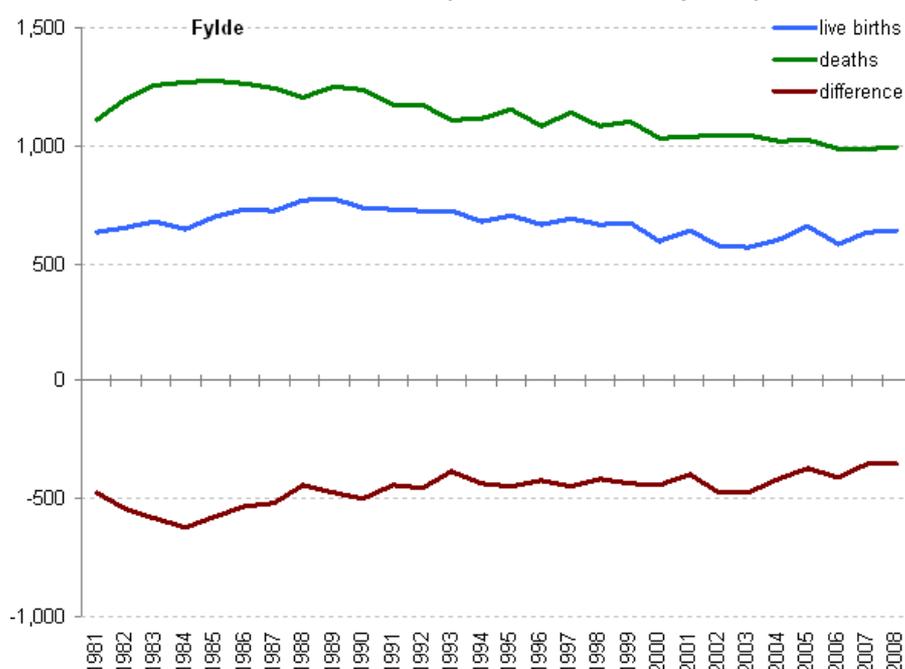
A. Population

The following indicators were used to identify key population trends and characteristics:

- Population total and change
- Age structure/change
- Population distribution
- Percentage of the population belonging to ethnic minority groups

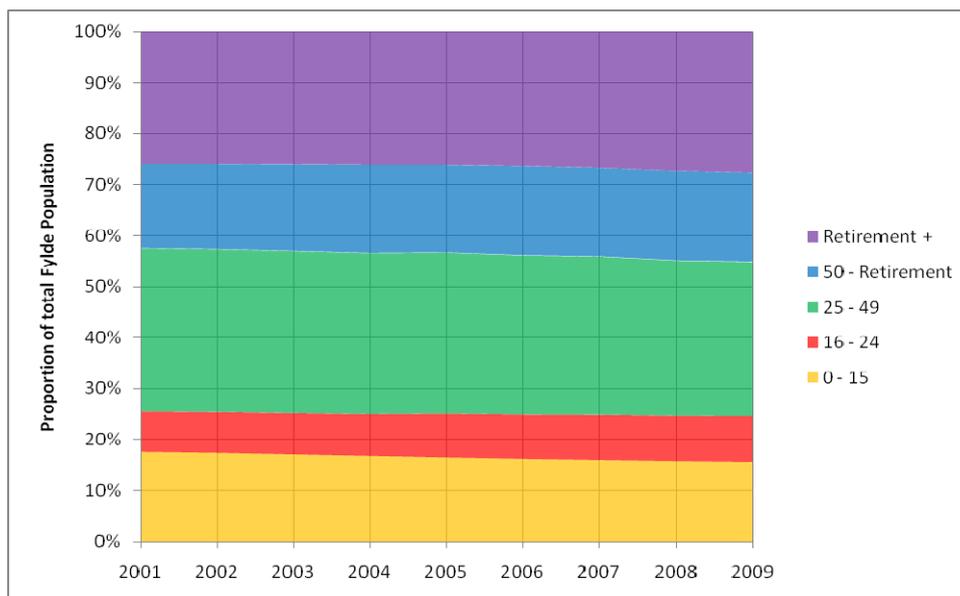
The population of Fylde was estimated at 76,300 in June 2009 (source: Office for National Statistics' (ONS) mid-year estimate). This represents an increase of 4.1% since the 2001 census - above the 1.8% figure for the North-West but lower than the 4.8% across England as a whole. Both the number of births and deaths have stabilised over the previous 30 years, as shown on Figure B1. Birth rates fluctuated in the period from 2004-8, showing no overall trend, but a slight fall in death rates suggests that the net population change is due to in-migration to the Borough. This is likely to have contributed to the recent rises in house prices, described in Section O.

Figure B1 Fylde – Number of Births and Deaths 1981-2008 (source: Lancashire profile)



The mean age of Fylde residents is 44.4 years, compared to 38.6 both in the North-West and nationally. 27.6% of the population was above retirement age (65 for males, 60 for females) in June 2009 with a correspondingly smaller working age population (56.9% were aged between 16 and retirement, compared to 62.0% nationally). The proportion of the population above retirement age has slowly increased since 2001, whilst numbers of children have continued to fall – from 17.5% of the total in 2001 to 15.5% in 2009. This indicates that the dependency ratio (of the working age to non-working age population) has increased over the past decade, as indicated on Figure B2. The Fylde Coast is viewed as a popular place to retire. The large elderly population has implications for a number of issues including healthcare provision, appropriate housing and economic issues, such as the amount of disposable income available to this sector of the population.

Figure B2 Age Structure in Fylde, 2001-2009 (source: ONS mid-year estimates)



Population density is similar to that of the rest of Lancashire, and the majority of the population (59%) live in the main urban area of Lytham and St Anne's. A large proportion (34%) is also resident in the Lytham and St Anne's urban fringe, Kirkham and Wesham, Warton / Freckleton and the smaller villages. This pattern has changed little since 1991.

Fylde has a relatively low proportion of ethnic minority groups (96.6% white in June 2007) in comparison with regional and national averages, especially with regard to the Asian or Asian British grouping.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

There are no identified data gaps.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **High proportion of elderly people. This has particular implications for housing, health and service provision.**
- **Declining numbers of children and young people also has implications for service provision for this age group.**
- **Recent population rise due to in-migration has implications for housing provision and prices.**
- **Whilst urban dwelling can be more sustainable, rural populations should be maintained in order for essential services such as primary schools to survive.**

B. Education and Qualifications

The following indicators were used to identify levels of education and attainment in the Borough:

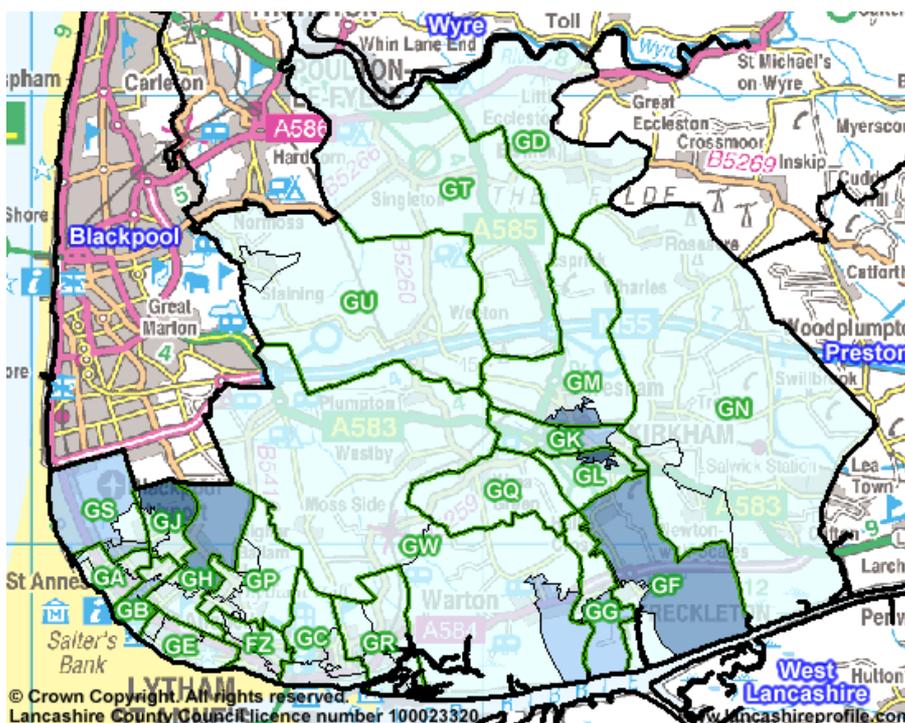
- Percentage of the resident population with no qualifications
- Percentage of adults (16-74) with National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 4/5 compared to averages
- Percentage of 15 year old pupils in local authority schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A* - C or equivalent

- Number of wards in the bottom 30% for education, skills and training deprivation (Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD))

Levels of educational attainment show a strong link to levels of affluence in later life as qualifications determine access to employment, which influences income and overall quality of life. Educational attainment is above the national and regional averages in Fylde. The Borough has two Lower level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) (the smallest geographic unit used for the reporting of deprivation statistics) in the bottom 30% most deprived nationally in terms of education, skills and training. These are in the wards of Kilnhouse and Kirkham South (Figure B3). The Education, Skills & Training Deprivation Domain measures the lack of attainment among children and young people, and the lack of attainment of skills in the resident working age adult population.

Figure B3 Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)

| Decile | Ranks in England | Deprivation |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1 to 3,248 | the most deprived |
| 2 | 3,249 to 6,496 | the second most deprived |
| 3 | 6,497 to 9,745 | the third most deprived |
| 4 | 9,746 to 12,993 | the fourth most deprived |
| 5 | 12,994 to 16,241 | the fifth most deprived |
| 6 to 10 | 16,242 to 32,482 | the least deprived |



The indicators for educational attainment indicate that for performance by 15 year olds at GCSE level is significantly above national levels. In 2009, 87.1% of pupils gained at least five GCSE A*-C passes, compared to 71.0% in the North-West and 70.0% in England as a whole. All three of the Borough's secondary schools displayed a marked increase in results in 2009. Education statistics for the population as a whole also indicate a higher than average standard of educational attainment within the Fylde population. In 2001 25.0% of the population aged 16-74 had no qualifications, compared to 31.9% in the North West and 29.1% in England and Wales. Similarly, 22.3% of the population in Fylde in 2001 had achieved NVQ level 4/5, compared to 17.2% in the North-West and 19.9% nationally (source: ONS, 2001).

Discussion at the 2005 workshop suggested that local aspirations are high, and this is reflected in the high levels of educational attainment. However, this does pose a problem in that many local jobs are lower skilled. There is therefore a significant commuter flow out of the Borough amongst skilled workers to neighbouring areas in order to access higher level work opportunities.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

There are no significant data gaps or uncertainties.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **High levels of educational attainment and aspiration should be maintained.**
- **Gap between skills and aspiration and availability of skilled jobs can lead to loss of young local skilled professionals and high levels of commuter outflow.**

C. Human Health

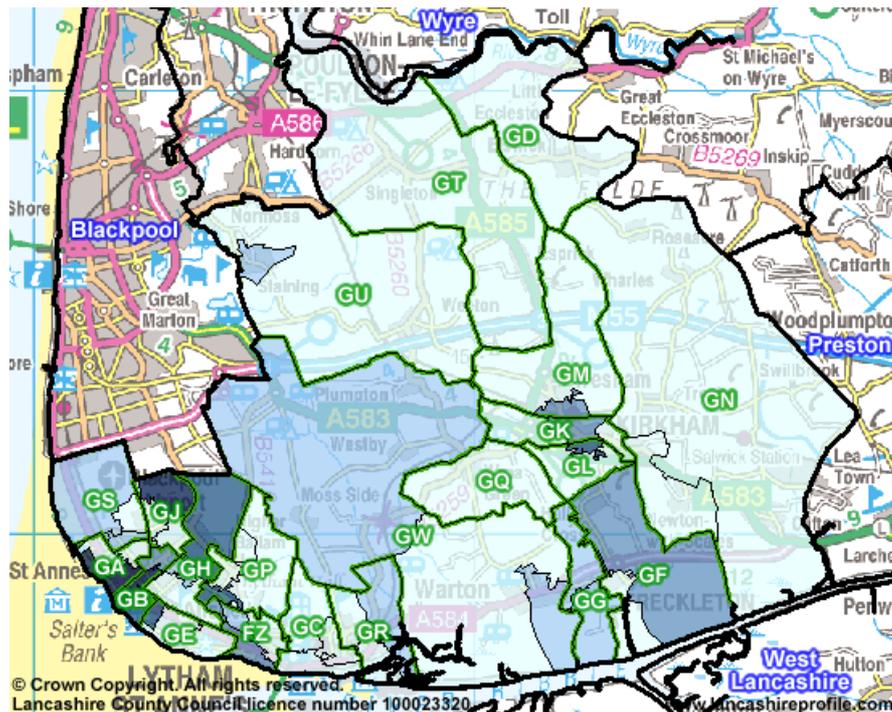
The following human health indicators were used to ascertain baseline conditions and key trends:

- Percentage resident population in good health compared with national/regional averages
- Life expectancy for males/females
- Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) compared to national/regional averages
- Percentage of working-age population with a long-term limiting illness
- Standard mortality rates for the main causes of death – coronary heart disease, cancer, alcohol, compared with national/regional averages
- Percentage of residents who think that noisy neighbours or loud parties are a very big or fairly big problem
- Number of wards in the bottom 30% for health deprivation and disability
- Percentage of patients to be offered a routine appointment to see a General Practitioner (GP) within 2 working days
- Rate of teenage pregnancy per 1,000 women aged 15 – 17
- Rate of obesity in children (Year 6) and adults compared with average for England

The 2001 Census indicated that 66.7% of the Fylde population consider themselves to be in good health, compared to 66.88% in the North West and 68.55% in England and Wales. This subjective data indicates that the health of the Fylde population is comparable to regional levels and slightly below national levels and is supported by the life expectancy and the SMR statistics. Life expectancy for females and males is comparable to the national average, although higher than the North-West average – over two years higher for males. The SMR in Fylde was 99 in 2003, where a figure of over 100 indicates a death rate higher than the UK average.

There are eight LSOAs in the bottom 30% for health deprivation and disability (Figure B4). Two LSOAs are in Central ward, with the others in the Ashton, Fairhaven, Heyhouses, Kilnhouse, Kirkham South and Park wards. The Health Deprivation & Disability Domain identifies areas with relatively high rates of people who die prematurely or whose quality of life is impaired by poor health, or who are disabled, across the whole population.

Figure B4 Health Deprivation and Disability Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)



Key as for Figure B3

Cases of circulatory disease and cancer are all significantly lower than the national incidence of these diseases. 21.3% of the working age population in Fylde has a long-term limiting illness which is above the North West (20.7%) and England and Wales (18.2%) figures respectively (source: ONS, 2004). This is likely to have economic implications for the Borough.

Noise levels in a neighbourhood not only contribute to quality of life but can also affect health. Data from the Audit Commission for 2003/04 indicates that 17.7% of the population think that loud parties or noisy neighbours are a problem, compared to 19.11% nationally.

Access to GPs is a useful indicator of basic service provision. 96% of Fylde residents are able to access a GP for a routine appointment within 2 working days. This is above the national average and comparable to the regional average.

Rates of teenage pregnancy are also well below national and regional averages at 28.4 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17 (source: ONS, 2007).

18% of year 6 children are obese, slightly lower than the English average of 18.7%. Cases of obesity in adults are 20.9%, which is lower than the English average of 24.2% (Source: Department of Health. © Crown Copyright 2011)

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- More information at ward level and trends over time would be beneficial
- Percentage of population participating in sports and exercise (at least one occasion of at least moderate intensity activity per week for at least 30 minutes). This is a useful indicator of healthy lifestyles.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **Levels of health are comparable to national averages. Health improvements would benefit the economy and would enhance overall quality of life in the Borough.**

- **Reducing the proportion of residents with a long-term limiting illness would have economic benefits.**
- **There are opportunities to promote and facilitate healthy and active lifestyle choices, such as walking and cycling.**

D. Water

The following indicators were used to ascertain baseline water environment conditions and key trends:

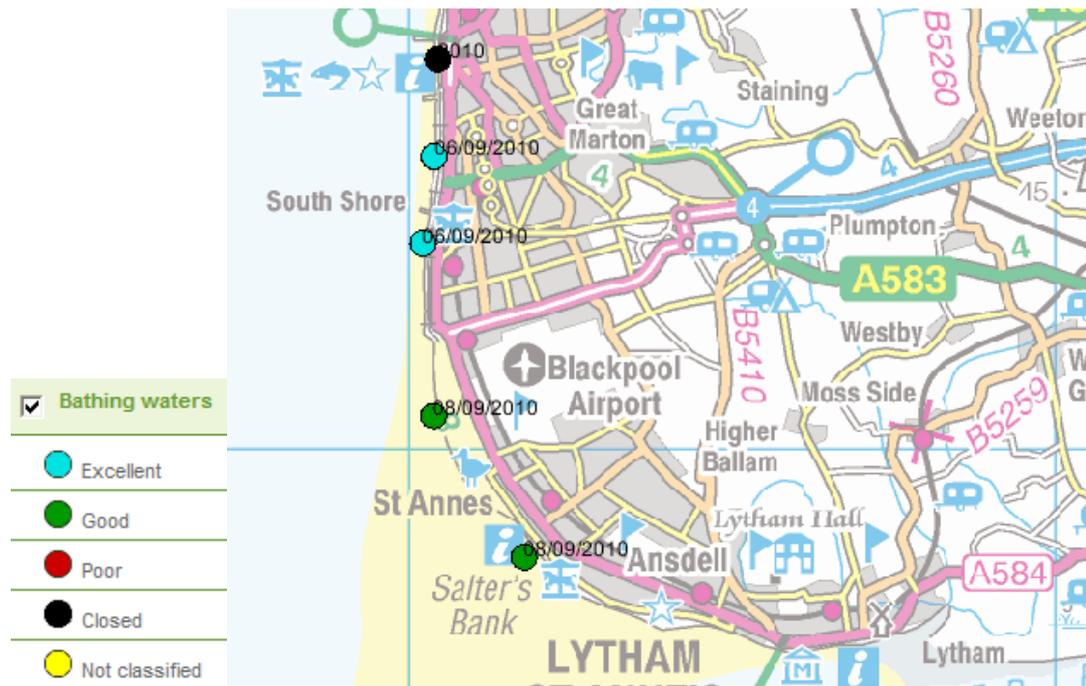
- Current Ecological Quality (CEQ) and Current Chemical Quality (CCQ) of the Borough's rivers and estuarine waters
- Distribution and quality of groundwater
- Distribution of poor chemical and biological water quality
- Domestic water use per household
- Percentage of designated bathing waters achieving compliance with EU Bathing Water Directive standards

The northern boundary of the Borough is marked by the River Wyre, whilst the southern boundary is formed by the Ribble Estuary. The Borough's topography is served by many streams and watercourses which eventually run either north to the Wyre or south to the Ribble. The Borough also has several miles of coastline with a number of beaches and extensive sand dunes. Both the Wyre and Ribble estuaries are of international importance for wildlife (see Section H).

The Environment Agency (EA) monitors the water quality of main rivers as part of their commitments under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All EA-monitored watercourses within the Borough are assessed as being of Moderate CEQ, with the exception of Deepdale Brook near Kirkham (graded Poor) and the Lancaster Canal (graded Good). The Borough's rivers are not assessed for chemical quality. Both the Wyre and Ribble Estuaries are considered to be of Moderate CEQ and Good CCQ.

Bathing water quality is monitored at two locations in St. Anne's by the EA on a weekly basis during the bathing season (Figure B5). Water quality results are compared to pollution standards set by the EU Bathing Water Directive. Both sites are generally in conformance with the mandatory standard and frequently meet the stricter guideline standard. However, Poor quality is still recorded on occasions, indicating non-conformance with the Directive's minimum standards. Historic data indicates that incidences of Poor quality have decreased over time, reflecting the improvements that have been made to agricultural practices and sewage treatment works in recent years.

Figure B5 Locations of Bathing Water Monitoring (source: EA website, October 2010)



Note: Symbols reflect latest weekly monitoring results only and are not indicative of overall performance against Bathing Water Directive standards

Domestic water use in the Borough is considerably lower than the national average at 148 litres per capita per day (source: Audit Commission). Nationally the figure is 352 litres.

United Utilities supplies all drinking water across Fylde. The eastern fringes of the Borough are located above a Total Catchment groundwater Source Protection Zone, which protects a series of public water extraction boreholes further east.

The Borough overlies notable bedrock aquifers, categorised as Principal along the eastern fringes, and 'Secondary A' across the remainder of the area. The former may support water supply and/or river base flow on a strategic scale, whilst the latter may be significant at a local scale. The Principal aquifer is assessed as being of Poor quantitative quality (i.e. depleted) whilst the remainder have Good quantitative status. Small areas of superficial deposits, also graded as 'Secondary A' aquifers, are scattered across the Borough, most notably beneath the settlement of Lytham and St Anne's itself. All aquifers are assessed under the WFD as being of Good CCQ (source: EA).

Date Gaps and Uncertainties

- Additional information about the primary sources of water pollution would be beneficial.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **River water quality is generally moderate across the Borough and improvement measures should be encouraged.**
- Inappropriate development should be directed away from areas at risk of flooding. Where there are no alternative sites available, development should not be placed at an unacceptable risk or increase risk elsewhere. **New developments should be encouraged to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk.**
- **The Borough partly overlies a strategic aquifer which requires protection.**

- **Bathing water quality could be improved to more consistently meet the guideline standards under the Bathing Water Directive. This has implications for tourism.**
- **Water efficiency measures should be encouraged within both new and existing developments.**

E. Soil and Land Quality

The following indicators were used to ascertain baseline conditions:

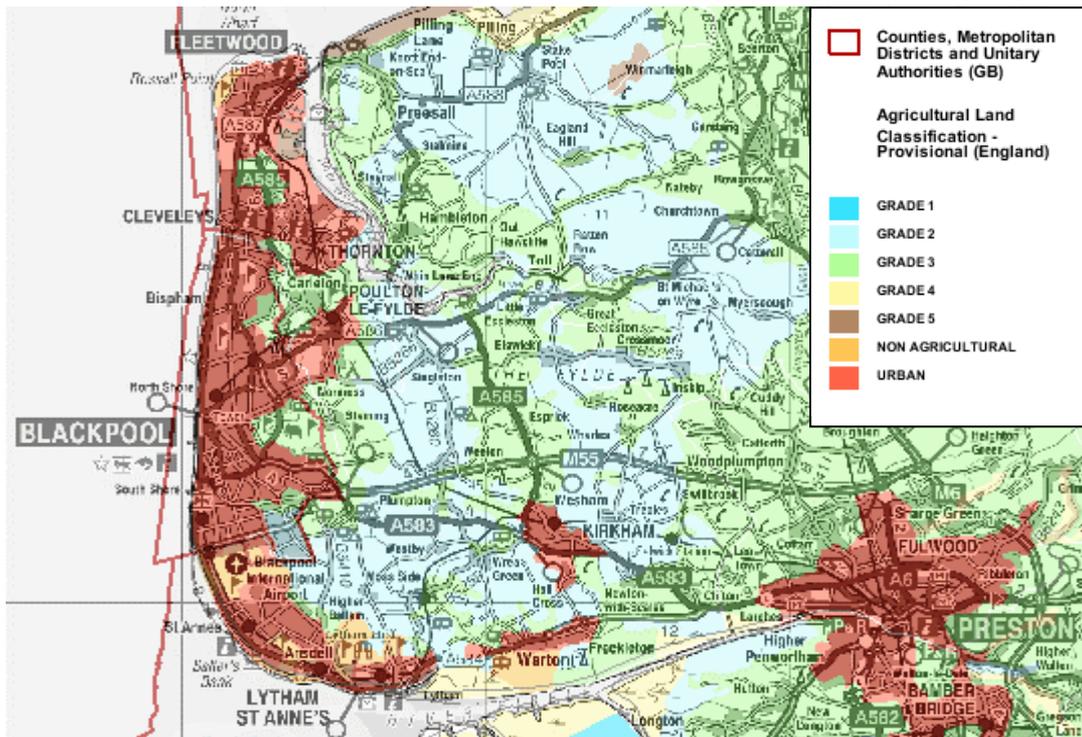
- Area of land stock derelict
- Area of land stock vacant;
- Distribution of best and most versatile agricultural land
- Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land

The management and control of contaminated sites in the Borough is essential to reduce the risks posed to the natural and built environment and human health. The Fylde Contaminated Land Strategy (2001) identifies potentially contaminated sites and classifies them into risk levels. A percentage of the total land area likely to be contaminated is not currently available.

In 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, a total of 40 hectares (ha) of land in Fylde was classified as brownfield (source: DCLG / Lancashire profile). Of this, 9ha was vacant and 4ha derelict. The remainder was in use, of which half had been granted permission for redevelopment. These totals are very low when compared to other authorities across the North-West where the legacy of industrial decline has left large areas of brownfield land. Fylde has little heavy industry and accounts for just 3.3% of all brownfield land in Lancashire.

The main land use in Fylde, other than residential, is agriculture. This is partly due to the significant areas of Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land to be found in the Borough (see Figure B6). Fylde has no areas of Grade 1 agricultural land, but 47.5% of the Borough's area is classified as Grade 2, and a further 33.9% as Grade 3. The highest value land is located away from the developed coastal plain.

Figure B6 Distribution of Agricultural Land (source: DEFRA / www. magic.gov.uk)



Government policy encourages the re-use of brownfield sites. In 2008/9, 77% of new homes in the Borough were granted planning permission on previously developed sites (Fylde BC LDF Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2009). This represents a fall from the previous three years where levels were at or close to 100%. However, the current level exceeds the Lancashire average and is significantly higher than in other parts of the county.

Where sites have significant biodiversity or geological interest, including soils of recognised importance, the local planning authority, together with developers, should aim to retain this interest or incorporate and enhance it into any development of the site.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of land stock contaminated

Key Issues and Opportunities

- There is a need to maintain levels of re-use of brownfield land in preference to greenfield sites, although it is recognised that stocks of brownfield land in Fylde are limited. This should be considered on a site-by-site basis as many brownfield sites can be more bio-diverse than greenfield areas if left to re-colonise for long enough.**

F. Air Quality

The following air quality indicators were used to characterise the baseline environmental conditions and key trends:

- Distribution/number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
- Reported exceedances of Air Quality Standards.
- Distribution of known key polluting industry

Air pollution is not regarded as an issue for concern in Fylde. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is monitored in Lytham and St. Anne's to monitor traffic pollution, but no AQMAs have been, or are planned to be, designated as a result of this monitoring. Fylde BC's 2008 Air Quality Progress Report did not identify any issues of concern with respect to air quality. Objectives for all pollutants are expected to be met by their target years.

The following sites have been allocated as Part B processes under the Local Air Pollution Control regime:

- Fylde BC Crematorium, Park Cemetery, Lytham and St Anne's
- Stanways of Lytham (Ford), Lytham
- PD Edenhall, Peel
- Moore Ready Mix, Lytham
- BAe Systems (Warton), Warton

The following operators are listed on the EA Pollution Inventory for Fylde BC for air pollution incidents in recent years: Silverfield Ltd (inorganic Chemicals), Woods Waste Ltd (Waste Landfilling), Sita Lancashire Ltd (Waste Landfilling) and F2 Chemicals Ltd (Organic Chemicals).

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- No significant data gaps or uncertainties.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **No major air quality issues have been identified, although efforts should be made to reduce emissions further through current Local Authority controls and traffic reduction objectives.**
- **There may be opportunities to reduce car use by reducing travel distances between homes and places of work through appropriate siting policies.**
- **Expansion of Blackpool International Airport may have air quality implications for the wider surrounding area.**

G. Climatic Factors and Energy

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Distribution of areas at risk of coastal and fluvial flooding
- Number of planning applications permitted contrary to EA advice on flooding;
- Household energy use
- Percentage household waste used for energy
- Total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions (kg) per household per year
- Electricity and gas consumption in the commercial/business sector per year

Climate change is a global phenomenon, although the consequences are being increasingly felt at the local level, for example changes in the frequency and magnitude of flooding. Large areas of Fylde are low-lying and coastal and consequently at risk of coastal and fluvial flooding. The main areas at risk are from the Ribble Estuary in the south, affecting the settlements of Warton and Freckleton, and also coastal areas at Lytham and St Anne's (see Figure B7). There are also extensive low-lying areas inland that are artificially drained for agriculture, such as Lytham

Moss. To date, there have been no planning applications permitted contrary to EA advice (source: Fylde BC AMR, 2009).

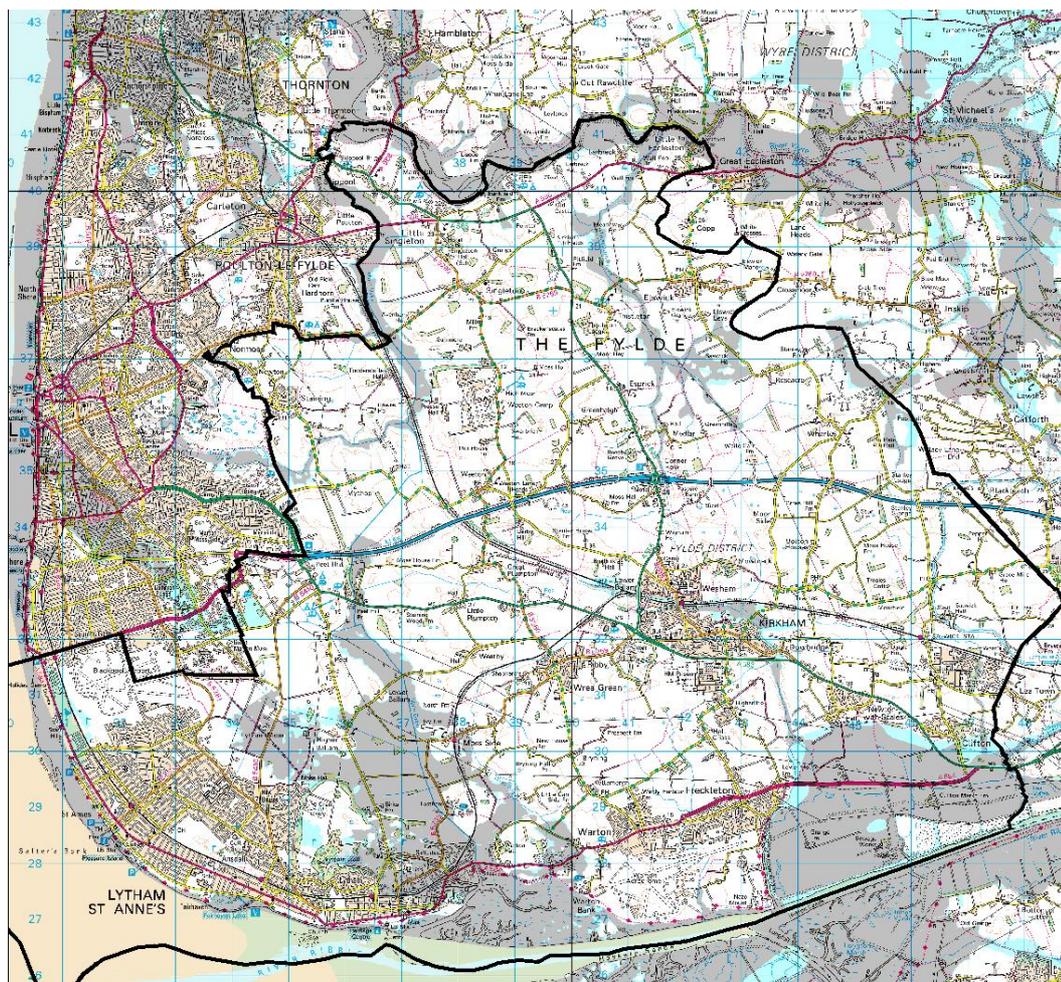
Gas consumption in 2008 stood at 1,051 GWh, of which 458 GWh (44%) was attributable to commercial and industrial users and the remainder to the domestic sector. The total represents a reduction of 11% over the period from 2005, mostly due to reductions by industrial consumers. However, domestic gas use per consumer is higher in Fylde than both the North-West and Great Britain averages.

Whilst gas consumption has fallen, electricity use has seen an increase over the period 2005-08. Fylde consumed 486 GWh of electricity in 2008, an increase of 11% from three years earlier. Domestic consumption actually reduced over this period, but was more than eclipsed by significant electricity demand in the commercial and industrial sector, suggesting that consumers have switched from gas to electricity. Domestic electricity consumption per customer is higher in Fylde than in the North-West or nationally.

No household waste is currently used to recover heat, power or other energy sources.

Local estimates of CO₂ emissions, as reported by the Audit Commission, are 3.3 tonnes per capita for domestic sources, and 10.3 tonnes per capita for all emissions.

Figure B7 Indicative Flood Risk Mapping for Fylde (source: Fylde Coast Strategic Flood Risk Assessment)



Key

Flood Zone 2: Medium probability. Land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1% - 0.1%) or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5% - 0.1%)
key continues on the next page...

Flood Zone 3a: High probability. Land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of



Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of energy obtained from renewable sources

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **The LDF should promote energy efficiency and a shift towards low-carbon forms of energy in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the Borough. It will be important to identify the major consumers of energy in order to drive reductions.**
- **Flooding and flooding potential are important issues that are illustrative of climate change and have severe effects for residents. Flooding as a constraint should be given serious consideration in the development of the LDF. The causes of localised flooding and the means to reduce it should also be given serious consideration.**
- **New developments should be encouraged to include sustainable design principles.**
- **There are opportunities for the development of renewable energy. This includes potential for on and offshore wind energy. Due consideration must be given to biodiversity, landscape and heritage resources when siting renewable energy infrastructure.**
- **Reducing levels of road transport and encouraging more sustainable modes of travel would succeed in reducing emissions.**
- **The LDF should ensure the natural environment can adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change**

H. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Distribution of international sites (Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites), national sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves) and local sites (Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)).
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest in favourable condition and/or area
- Key Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats present
- Area and connectivity of wildlife corridors

Fylde is largely a rural borough with urban areas concentrated around the southern coast. Both the Wyre Estuary to the north and the Ribble Estuary to the south are of international importance for migratory birds and both have been designated as SPAs and SSSIs. The Ribble Estuary is also designated under the Ramsar convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The three other SSSIs are Newton Marsh near Freckleton, Lytham Coastal Changes and Lytham and St Anne's Dunes. The latter forms extensive sand dune habitat and is a LNR. Over 2,000ha of land in Fylde is designated as SSSI, 96% of which is in favourable condition, which is well above national and regional averages. There are a further 33 sites of non-statutory nature conservation interest in the Borough (Biological Heritage Sites). Figure B8 shows the location of key designated nature conservation sites.

A number of Lancashire BAP species are present in the Borough. Fylde is of importance regionally for its sand dunes and salt marshes. Skylark and Song Thrush are BAP species known to be present and breeding in Fylde, particularly near the coast. The Borough also has

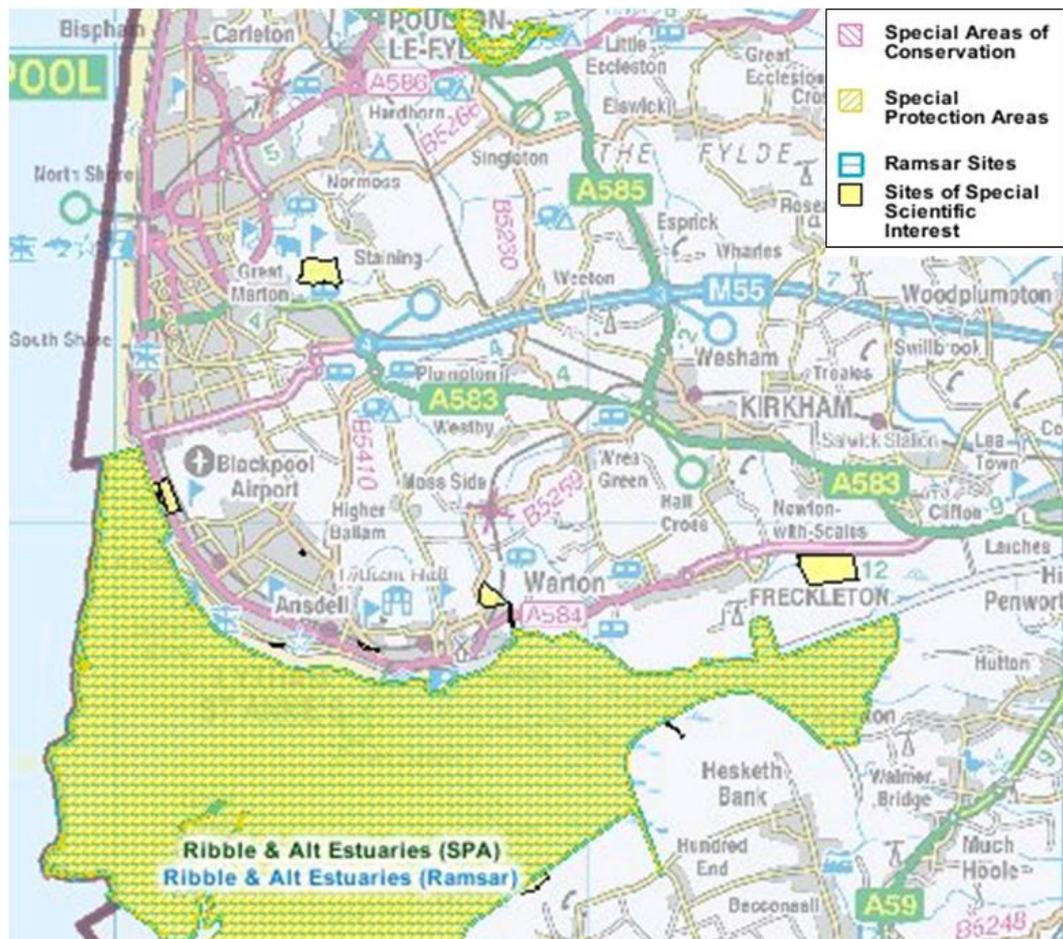
some of the highest populations of Reed Bunting in Lancashire. Other notable species present include brown hare, some bat species, barn owls and great crested newt.

There is no ancient woodland in an area that is sparsely wooded compared to the more inland and upland areas of the county. The Lancaster Canal is a Biological Heritage Site and it forms a significant wildlife corridor.

Fylde Borough has 109km of public footpaths, 18km of bridleway and 0.3km of by-way.

There are 197.53 hectares of parks, open spaces and greenspace (in 65 separate sites) which are owned and maintained by Fylde BC and the Parish and Town Councils. All of these areas are within settlement boundaries. 58% of the population live in the main urban area of Lytham and St Anne's and has easy access to the foreshore and beach along the Ribble Estuary.

Figure B8 Location of SSSI, SPA and Ramsar Sites (source: www.natureonthemap.org.uk)



Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Number of designated sites in land management schemes
- Access to green space

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **The high quality environment of the Borough requires protection. There may be potential threats from increased development and tourism, particularly along the coast.**
- **Sand extraction activities should continue to be monitored.**

- **Internationally designated sites must be afforded the highest level of protection.**
- **The LDF should make a positive contribution to achieving BAP targets.**
- **There is an opportunity to promote green infrastructure networks across the Borough to improve habitat connectivity and help prevent fragmentation. Green infrastructure would also provide a recreational resource and mitigation against the effects of climate change**
- **Preserve and enhance opportunities for public access to parks, open and green spaces, public rights of way, the countryside and the coast.**

I. Cultural Heritage

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Distribution and number of listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Conservation Areas, historic parks and gardens
- Percentage of listed buildings at risk of decay and trends

Fylde has a relatively rich heritage resource with around 190 listed buildings but no SAMs. Many of the listed buildings are situated in Lytham, St. Anne's and Kirkham. The majority of these are Grade II listed, with five being Grade II* (particularly important buildings of more than special interest). Lytham Hall is a Grade I listed building of exceptional interest, but is identified on English Heritage's 'at risk' register.

There are also 10 Conservation Areas in the Borough and three areas listed in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens – Promenade Gardens, Lytham Hall Park and Ashton Gardens. St. Anne's Town Centre has been subject to an award winning major environmental improvement scheme.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- No significant data gaps identified.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **The distinctive cultural heritage resource of the Borough requires protection. Risks to heritage can be reduced by good land management, and by informed planning policies that take full account of the importance of historic sites.**
- **In addition to preserving statutory sites it is important to ensure that the wider historic landscape is protected and that non –designated heritage and archaeological resources are considered.**
- **There are opportunities for enhancing the tourism potential of the heritage resource.**

J. Landscape

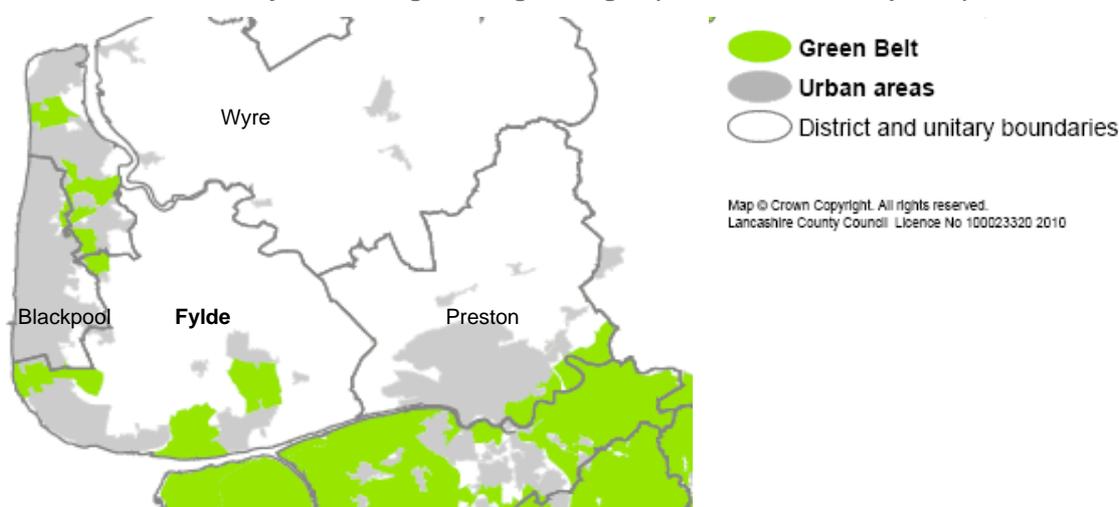
The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Landscape/townscape characterisation
- Distribution and area of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks and county landscape designations
- Distribution of greenbelt

Fylde is a coastal borough and largely rural in character, with the main urban area of Lytham and St Anne's located in the west. The Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment classifies the county's landscapes into character areas based on their unique sense of place. The Coastal Plain character area occupies the majority of the flat, lowland farmland which makes up the interior of the Borough. The coastal areas are a mix of flat, enclosed, reclaimed land along the Ribble near Preston, becoming more open salt marshes and intertidal flats further to the west before extending into the coastal sand dunes around Lytham and St Anne's. Lytham and St Anne's is the main urban area on the coast to the west, which is bounded to the east by a suburban area and the South Fylde mosses, an extremely flat, low lying landscape comprising peat deposits which were formerly lowland raised mires.

Large areas of Lytham and St Anne's are designated as Conservation Areas and contain many listed buildings. There are no landscape designations in the Borough, although around 11% of its area is designated as Green Belt. The extent of Green Belt is indicated on Figure B9, with the main areas being south of Kirkham and Wesham, between Lytham and Warton and to the north of St Anne's. The remaining rural areas are largely designated in the Local Plan as, 'Countryside Areas' which pose strict requirements on any development in the countryside.

Figure B9 Extent of Green Belt in Fylde and neighbouring boroughs (source: Lancashire profile)



Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- There are no significant data gaps or uncertainties.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- The Borough has a distinctive landscape and townscape which is closely linked to the environmental designations along the coast, the area's historical development and to the agricultural practices that are undertaken further inland. The landscape and townscape is a characteristic of the Borough and it is important that it is preserved and enhanced for marketing the area's image as a place to live and visit and for contributing to the quality of life of its residents.**
- In addition to considering the wider strategic preservation of the Borough's landscape and townscape, opportunities should be sought to enhance design and landscaping at the local level to improve the quality of the local environment.**

K. Minerals and Waste

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Household waste arisings
- Percentage of household waste recycled
- Percentage of household waste landfilled
- Percentage of household waste composted

Annual waste statistics collated by Defra show that Fylde produced 408kg of collected household waste per person in 2008/9, which represented a small reduction in household waste arisings from the previous year. Nevertheless, this was the highest total of all the Lancashire authorities, but still below the national average. Of this total, 42.5% was sent for recycling or composting, above both the county and national averages. Recycling/composting rates have risen steadily in recent years. The remainder of waste arisings are sent to landfill. The quantity of industrial/commercial waste is not known.

Two strategic waste disposal sites are located within the Borough. These are strategic biodegradable landfill sites at Clifton Marsh, serving Preston, Fylde, Blackpool and South Ribble; and Westby Brickworks serving Fylde and Blackpool. Clifton Marsh was granted a 3.7 million m³ extension in 1995. In terms of minerals and aggregates extraction, Fylde is known to contain extensive surface exposures of sand and gravel, and beach sands are worked extensively for aggregates use on the foreshore at St. Anne's.

To reduce the demand for natural resources, recycled and secondary materials should be used where feasible in construction projects and new developments. However, it has not been possible to obtain any data about this issue to date.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Industrial and commercial waste production
- Sales of secondary and recycled aggregates as a percentage of all aggregates sold

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **Fylde contains two major strategic landfill sites. The transport and environmental implications of these must be managed carefully.**
- **Potential environmental issues associated with sand extraction at St. Anne's are monitored regularly.**
- **Fylde appears to be performing well in terms of recycling and composting. Opportunities should be sought to further enhance performance.**
- **Sustainable sourcing and waste management principles should be promoted for all new developments.**

L. Transportation

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Distribution of major transport systems – roads, airports, ports, rail etc
- Journey to work by mode
- Percentage of residents travelling over 20km to work
- Percentage of dwellings approved and located within 400m of a proposed or existing bus stop or within 800m of an existing or proposed railway station

Fylde has good connections from outside the Borough. There are four major roads within the study area; M55, A584, A585(T) and A583. In addition to the main routes there is an extensive network of B and Classified roads. A backlog of congestion can occur from to the M55 and M6 junction, just beyond the Borough boundary, due to commuting and tourist traffic. Congestion also occurs on the A585(T), largely due to Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic travelling to the port of Fleetwood. New roads have been proposed

The Blackpool North to Preston railway line runs through Fylde, with stations at Salwick and Kirkham and Wesham. The single-track South Fylde line leaves the main line at Kirkham and Wesham and passes through stations at Moss Side, Lytham, Ansdell and Fairhaven, St Anne's and Squire's Gate to Blackpool South. Usage of the Borough's rail stations has remained almost static between 2007/8 and 2008/9, in contrast to a 9.1% increase in usage across Lancashire over the same period (source: Lancashire Profile).

Fylde appears relatively well served in terms of bus services. However, there is a distinction between urban and rural areas, with far more limited access to public transport in rural areas. The recent loss of the number 58 bus has been seen as a particular issue. Feedback from the 2005 scoping workshop indicated that attempts by Rural Partnerships to improve bus service provision had been unsuccessful.

The rural nature of the Borough is likely to be a partial reason for the high percentage of the resident population who travel to work by private car or van (69.9% in 2001) and only 5% by public transport. These proportions show a strong car dependency. Furthermore, in 2001, nearly 10% of the population travelled over 20km to work. Whilst this is below national and county averages, it strengthens the issue of high car usage and distance commuting, and confirms the suggestion in Section 5.3.2 of high levels of out-commuting from the Borough.

In 2004, 96.5% of all approved dwellings were located within 400m of a bus stop compared to 91.1% for Lancashire. This high percentage should contribute to reducing the number of people travelling to work by private car if these connections provide access to places of employment. Improvements to the quality of ICT networks could also contribute to reduced travel by providing people with more opportunity to work from home.

Blackpool International Airport is located between St Anne's and the main urban area of Blackpool and lies within Fylde Borough. Recent expansion at the airport has seen a growth in passenger numbers and the range of destinations offered. It is a key economic growth point for the Borough and wider sub-region.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Number of ICT schemes implemented.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **There is a high level of car dependency, which is partly due to the geography of Borough. Car ownership levels are high and a low proportion of commuters use public transport. This has implications for air quality, congestion and climate change. Measures to encourage modal shift away from the private car, including walking and cycling, should be promoted.**
- **Congestion at the M55 / M6 junction is related to commuting and tourist traffic.**
- **New roads are proposed to improve access to the M55 from both the north and south. Any new road construction proposals must be fully assessed for potential sustainability impacts.**
- **There is a need to improve the quality, frequency and connectivity of rail services, especially on the South Fylde line.**

- **There is relatively poor public transport provision in rural areas. Attempts of rural partnerships to improve rural bus services have been largely unsuccessful. There is an opportunity to maintain the proportion of new dwellings being built with access to bus stops.**
- **It will be important to ensure that new employment sites can be easily accessed by sustainable modes of transport.**
- **Blackpool International Airport is a major development growth area and should be supported, whilst ensuring that associated environmental impacts are fully considered.**
- **The use of ICT should be promoted to increase the competitiveness of local businesses and to help facilitate a reduction in the need to travel.**

M. Economy

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita relative to national/regional and over time
- GVA per capita for key sectors
- Wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% and 10% for employment deprivation
- Wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% and 10% for income deprivation
- Employment in different sectors
- Number of VAT registered businesses and trend
- Number of VAT registrations and de-registrations by sector
- Major public and private sector employers
- Percentage unemployed
- Rateable value of commercial property by type

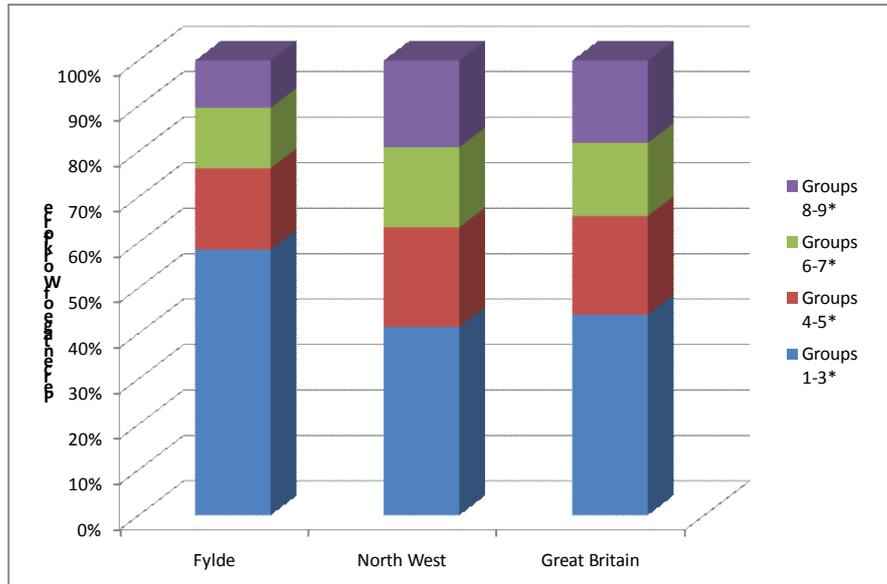
The local economy has performed well recently with major manufacturing strengths and a strong financial and business sector. There is a strong skills base in certain sectors (insurance, tourism and manufacturing), although there is perhaps an over reliance on a small number of large employers, and a relatively high proportion of employment in declining sectors. A relatively large proportion of the Fylde workforce is engaged in manufacturing. The largest employers are in aerospace (BAe Systems), nuclear (BNFL), precision instruments, chemicals and public administration. Other growth sectors include the manufacture of medical, precision and optical instruments, retail, ICT and tourism.

GVA is a measure of productivity, and the GVA per head for the Borough is above Lancashire county, North West and England and Wales levels. GVA per industry sector is greatest in the chemicals, printing and fabric and metal products sectors. In 2009 there were 3,060 VAT/PAYE-registered businesses in Fylde, a slight fall from the previous year, reflecting the impact of the recent recession. Due to changes in the collation of such statistics, long term trends are difficult to determine for this dataset. Unemployment in Fylde is relatively low when compared to regional and national levels. However, as with all areas, there has been an increase during the recent recession. Changing technology is a threat to local manufacturing employment and employment in farming is also under threat. Various measures of unemployment are available. The ONS annual population survey uses a model-based approach, which estimated a rate of 4.4% in Fylde in 2009, compared to 8.5% in the North-West and 7.7% in Great Britain for those who are economically active. An alternative measure, reported in the Lancashire profile, uses overall employment rate (National Indicator 151). In 2008/9, 76.3% of the working age

population were employed according to the International Labour Organisation’s definition. This compares favourably with 71.1% in the North-West and 74.0% in England.

Analysis of the Fylde labour market indicates that there are a proportionately greater number of people employed in higher skilled and professional jobs. Figure B10 compares the structure of the Fylde labour force against those for the region and the country as a whole. 58.4% of Fylde workers are employed in the highest socio-economic groups, whilst only 10.4% work in routine and elementary occupations.

Figure B10 Structure of labour forces

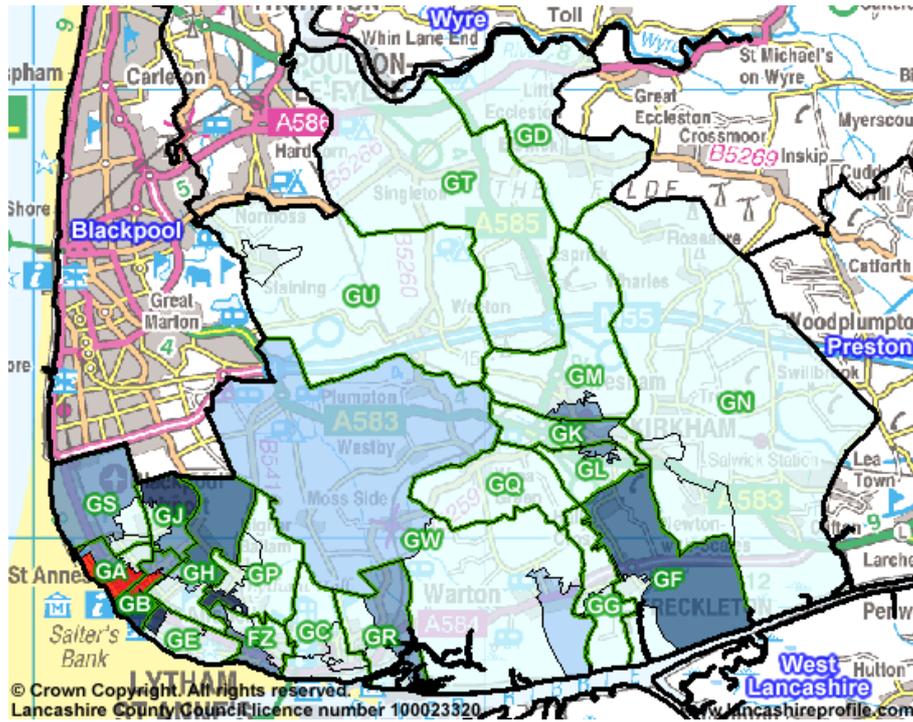


* Groups 1-3: Managers and senior officials, professionals, associate professional & technical
 Groups 4-5: Administrative & secretarial, skilled trades
 Groups 6-7: Personal service occupations, sales & customer service
 Groups 8-9: Process plant & machinery operators, elementary occupations

Seven wards in the Borough have LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived nationally for employment deprivation (Figure B11). Of these, Ashton and Central wards each have one LSOA in the bottom 10% most deprived. The employment deprivation domain of the IMD takes account of:

- a** Unemployment claimant count (Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System Cohort) of women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64 averaged over 4 quarters
- b** Incapacity Benefit claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64
- c** Severe Disablement Allowance claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64
- d** Participants in New Deal for 18-24s who are not included in the claimant count
- e** Participants in New Deal for 25+ who are not included in the claimant count
- f** Participants in New Deal for lone parents aged 18 and over

Figure B11 Employment Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)



Key as for Figure B3

There is a high quality of life in Fylde, and a good natural environment, although the area is seen to have little identity as a place for business and there is a low rate of business formation. Inward investment characteristics are not known at present. There is also a high level of commuting which results in a loss of skills to the Fylde economy.

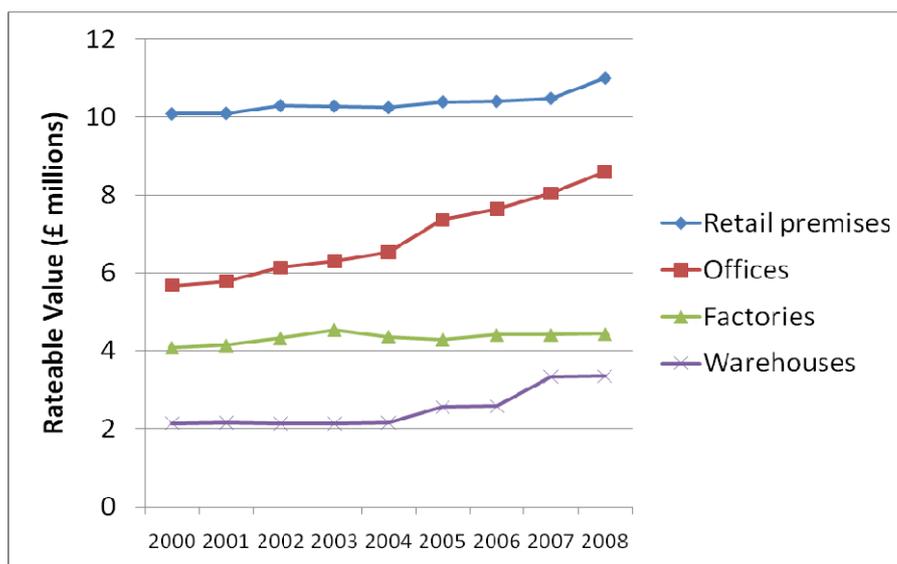
There is a comprehensive range of educational and training establishments and attainment is high. However, the 2005 workshop revealed that there is a gap between the high levels of attainment and aspiration and the prevalence of low-skilled jobs available in the Borough.

Tourism offers considerable opportunities for revenue generation and employment. One in ten jobs in Fylde are considered to be tourism related, and tourism contributed £213m to the local economy in 2009 (source: Fylde Coast Visitor Accommodation study). Notable attractions include Lytham Green and Windmill, Fairhaven Lake and the St. Anne's seafront. The world famous golf facilities (also significant material assets) are key to promoting the Borough's image and the 2012 Open Championship offers a major opportunity to showcase the area. There is also significant activity inland with the completion of Ribby Hall Holiday Village and other smaller caravan parks in the north of the Borough and around Little Eccleston.

For the majority of the Borough, agriculture remains a significant employer in rural communities. However, employment in the agricultural sector has declined in recent years, as have the number of agricultural business de-registrations, in line with regional trends.

Figure B12 shows recent changes in the rateable values of commercial property in Fylde. Whilst offices and warehouses have seen a significant growth, the value of retail and factory properties have somewhat stagnated during this period.

Figure B12 Rateable values of commercial property in Fylde (source: DCLG / Lancashire profile)



Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Number and value of inward investment projects attracted to the area
- Visitor volumes in Lytham and St Anne's in recent years, and trends
- Number of farm businesses assisted through diversification support
- Number of organic farms registered
- Access to farmers markets
- Number of ICT schemes implemented

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **There is a need to diversify the employment base to ensure long-term protection of employment and economic strength and to reduce dependence on a small number of major employers.**
- **The Borough should seek to provide more highly skilled jobs to attract and retain the higher skilled resident population and retain students.**
- **Opportunities should be taken to market the Borough's image as a place to set up new businesses.**
- **Employment in farming is under threat.**
- **Levels of out-commuting are high and Fylde is a net exporter of employees.**
- **Opportunities should be taken to develop the tourism industry by capitalising on existing assets, although this must be sustainable and avoid adverse environmental impacts.**

N. Deprivation

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Recorded crime rates per 1000 for key offences
- Percentage of people feeling unsafe about crime
- Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom most deprived 30% nationally for crime

- Average earnings per ward compared with national/regional average
- Claimants of work related benefits (income support) compared to national/regional average
- Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) compared to national/regional average
- Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for living environment
- Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived in terms of barriers to housing and services provision
- Areas within 1km of six basic services
- Percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, that sport leisure facilities have got better or stayed the same
- Percentage of the population that are within 20 minutes travel time (urban - walking; rural - driving) of a range of three different sports facility types, at least one of which has achieved a quality mark
- Percentage of residents who think that over the past three years, that cultural facilities (e.g. cinemas, museums) have got better or stayed the same

Deprivation is a multi-faceted and complex problem which influences and is influenced by a number of different factors including crime, housing, education, access to services and employment. Many of these issues have been addressed in other sections, although this section focuses on crime, the living environment and benefit dependency.

Crime

Crime in Fylde is generally low with crime rates per 1000 being lower than regional and national averages for all offences. The rate of recorded crime for British Crime Survey offences fell to 26.9 per 1,000 population in 2009/10, the sixth consecutive fall in this measure. The comparable rate for the North-West is 46.4, and 44.7 for England. Table B1 gives the breakdown of crime rates for particular offences.

Table B1 Crime rates per 1,000 population for key offences (source: Home Office / Lancashire profile)

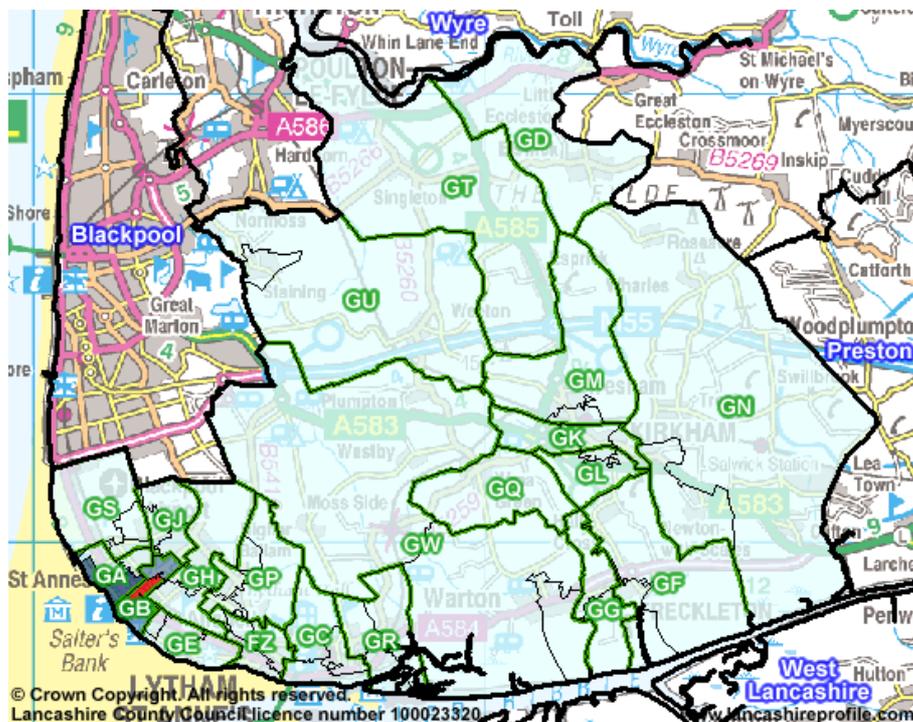
| | Fylde | North-West | England |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------|
| Violence Against the Person | 9.3 | 14.8 | 15.7 |
| Wounding | 4.1 | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| Harassment | 1.3 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
| Assault | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| Robbery | 0.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Theft from the Person | 0.4 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Criminal Damage | 11.8 | 17.2 | 14.5 |
| Burglary in a Dwelling | 1.7 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| Burglary from other than a Dwelling | 3.8 | 5.2 | 4.9 |
| Theft of a Motor Vehicle | 0.6 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Theft from a Motor Vehicle | 2.8 | 6.3 | 6.2 |

Surveys of residents and visitors have detected that although crime rates are low, there is a high fear of crime with, for example, 45.6% of residents claiming to feel unsafe at night in the 2007 survey. The 2009/10 AMR suggests that this may be linked the high proportion of elderly residents in the Borough, although this cannot be substantiated. However, the figures reported in Table B1 indicate that crimes against property (criminal damage, burglary and theft) constitute a marginally higher proportion of offences than crimes against individuals (violence, wounding, harassment, assault, robbery and theft).

Two wards – the busy town centre areas of Ashton and Central – have LSOAs in the bottom 30% for crime deprivation, with one LSOA in Central ward ranked in the bottom 10% nationally. The Crime Domain measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime themes - burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence - representing the occurrence of personal and material victimisation at a small area level.

There is also concern over drugs and alcohol related crime and the links with anti-social behaviour, particularly amongst young people. Alcohol-fuelled violent crime is a national problem that has impacts in some parts of Fylde, particularly town centres, and is likely to be a cause of the small concentration of crime deprivation indicated on Figure B13.

Figure B13 Crime Deprivation Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)

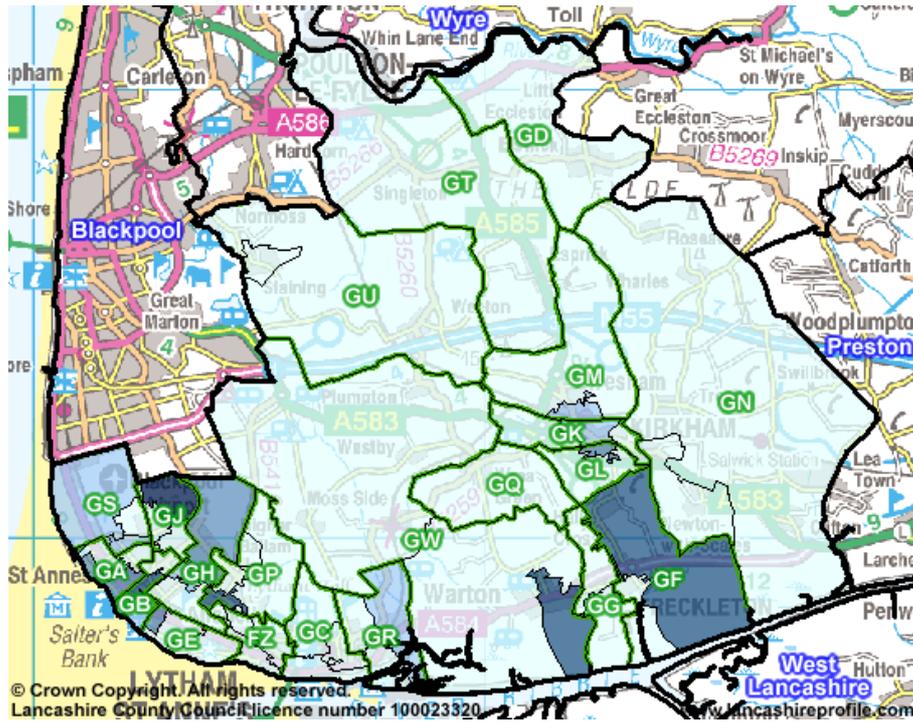


Key as for Figure B3

Benefits and Employment

Full-time average earnings in the Borough are above county, regional and national levels. However, in the Income Domain of the IMD, five wards in Fylde have LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived nationally – Central, Freckleton East, Kilnhouse, Park and Warton & Westby (Figure B14). None of these are in the lowest 10%.

Figure B14 Income Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)



Key as for Figure B3

Claimants of job related benefits and JSA have been historically low in Fylde and well below national and regional averages. In August 2010, 1.7% of the working age population in the Borough was claiming JSA. This has fallen from a high of 2.4% in January 2010 but still represents a doubling of the proportion of claimants since the end of 2008, reflecting the impacts of the recent economic recession. For comparison, the rate in the North West is 4.0% and stands at 3.6% nationally.

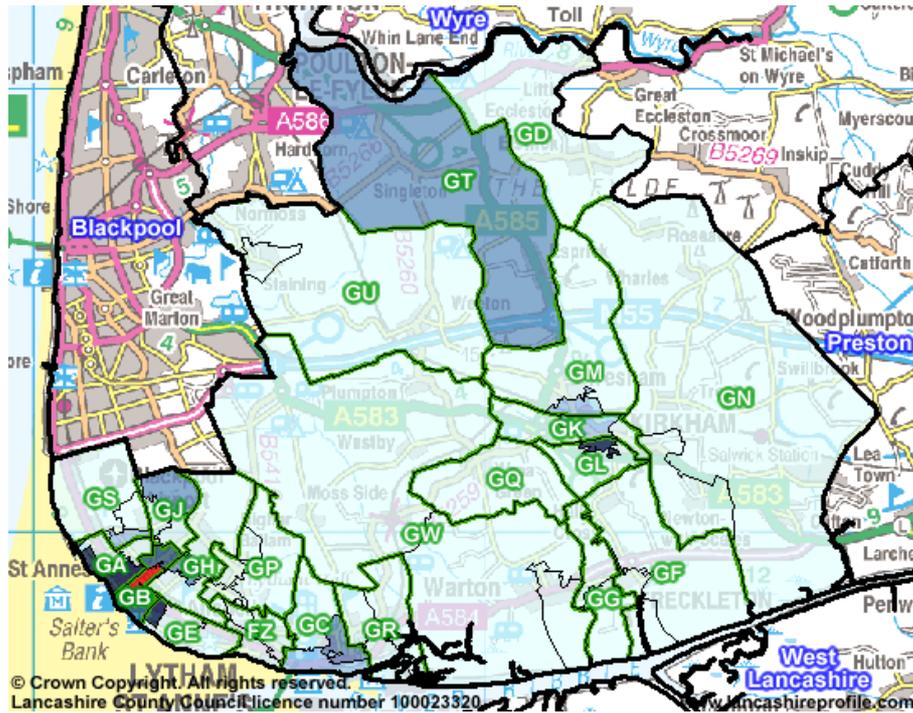
Living Environment

The living environment in Fylde is considered to be generally very good. Access to sports facilities is below national standards with only 9.1% of the population in 2005 living within 20 minutes travel time of a range of three different sports facility types, compared to 20.86% nationally. This is most likely to be skewed by the substantial rural areas in the Borough where access to services and amenities of all kinds is more limited than in the urban centres. A 2004 survey undertaken by the Audit Commission suggested that both sports and leisure, and cultural and leisure, facilities in the Borough had improved over the previous three years.

Only the urban areas of the Borough have residential areas within 1km of six basic services (GP, primary school, secondary school, hospital, major retail centre and employment area). 89% of all new residential completions during 2008/9 were within 30 minutes' public transport time of all six services.

Living environment deprivation and barriers to housing and services provision deprivation are both monitored in the IMD. This is based upon social and private housing in poor condition, houses without central heating, air quality and road traffic accidents involving injury to pedestrians and cyclists. Four wards have LSOAs in the bottom most 30% deprived in terms of living environment (Ashton, Central, Fairhaven and Kirkham South). One ward in Central is in the bottom 10% most deprived nationally.

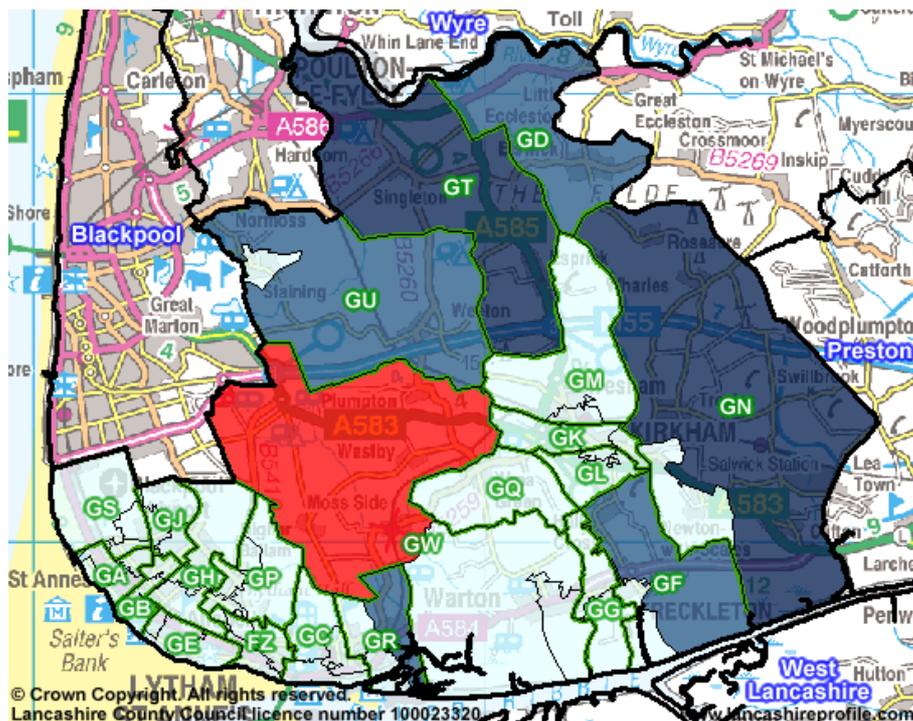
Figure B15 Living Environment Deprivation Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)



Key as for Figure B3

Seven wards also have LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived in terms of barriers to housing and services provision (Elswick & Little Ecclestone, Freckleton East, Newton & Treales, St. Johns, Singleton & Greenhalgh, Staining & Weeton and Warton & Westby) (see Figure B16). This index is based upon a number of variables reflecting housing condition and access to a number of defined services.

Figure B16 Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation Domain for Fylde LSOAs by Ranking Position in England (source: Indices of Deprivation 2007 / Lancashire profile)



Key as for Figure B3

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Alcohol seizures from underage youths in public places
- Number of people accessing drug treatment
- Reports of Juvenile Nuisance

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **Crime rates are low and should be maintained, although areas such as fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol related crime are still problems, particularly in urban areas.**
- **Deprivation as a whole is low, although there are pockets in particular wards, most notably the more central urban wards that require attention. The wards of Ashton, Central and Kilnhouse in St. Anne's have LSOAs in the bottom 30% nationally for certain measures of deprivation.**
- **There is a need to improve access to basic services and amenities in rural areas.**
- **There may be scope in the future to more actively involve local communities in decision making, which in the long-term could help to contribute towards more sustainable communities.**

O. Housing

The following indicators were used to characterise the baseline conditions and key trends:

- Average house price relating to national/regional averages
- Percentage of homes unfit for use compared to national/regional averages
- Number of new dwelling completions per annum at different densities
- Affordable housing completions as percentage of new build
- Number of people accepted as homeless who are successfully re-housed

Residential areas in Fylde are concentrated in the main urban areas of Lytham and St Anne's and Kirkham and Wesham. There are also 15 smaller semi-rural settlements.

Fylde is a popular place to live, with housing demand continuing to outstrip supply as population and in-migration have risen in recent years. As with much of the country, house prices in Fylde have risen over the long term, although have fallen in response to the recession since the start of 2009. The average price of all houses sold in the first quarter of 2010 was £192,243, well above the North-West regional average of £153,126 (source: Lancashire profile). This presents issues of housing affordability as prices have continued to rise above average income earnings. The ratio of median house prices to median individual earnings stood at 5.32 in 2009, a fall from its 2006 peak, but still in excess of ratios in several other Lancashire authorities. Housing affordability by this measure is slightly above the regional average but below the national figure. Affordability is a particular issue for local employees in lower income jobs, and particularly in Lytham and St Anne's. A total of 61 affordable homes were delivered in the 12 months to March 2009 and there is a target for a further 175 by 2012.

81% of dwellings are owner-occupied, 11.5% are privately rented and 7.1% belong to housing associations (source: Housing Strategy 2004-2007). Fylde has no local authority managed housing. Housing authority property remains in high demand and this is continuing to rise.

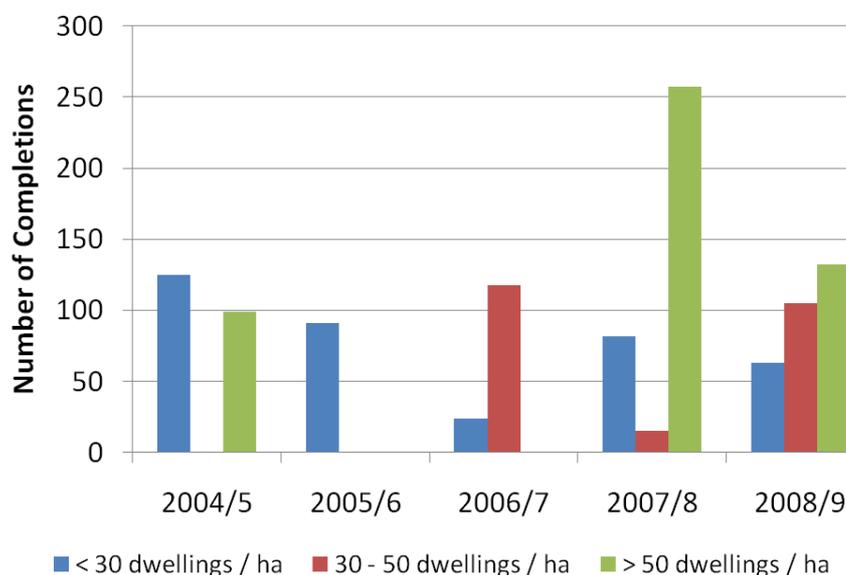
In 2006, 5.0% of housing stock was considered unfit for use, which is slightly above national levels (4.2%) but lower than regional levels (5.2%) (source: Lancashire profile). 3.4% of stock

was identified as vacant in 2009 by the Empty Homes Agency. Fylde has a lower proportion of vacant dwellings than the North West as a whole (3.9%), but more than the average for England (2.9%). Within the Borough, Lytham has the highest proportion of vacant dwellings, with high levels also found in St. Anne's and Weeton.

Homelessness levels are well below national and regional levels, although homelessness presentations have increased, probably due to the increased profile of the new service launched in April 2004. 48 households were accepted as homeless for assistance under the Housing Act 1996 in the year to March 2009, an increase from 41 in the previous year (source: ONS).

An issue identified in the 2005 scoping workshop was the perceived over-emphasis on developing high density housing, particularly for the elderly, rather than for families. Recent statistics published in the 2009 AMR (Figure B17) indicate that the trend towards higher density development has continued. Whilst this is a possible consequence of the need to maximise the productive re-use of brownfield land, it creates the potential for continuing imbalance in the housing market.

Figure B-17 Density of new housing completions 2004/5 – 2008/9 (source: Fylde AMR 2009)



Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Ratio of average prices to incomes in different wards/main economic grouping.

Key Issues and Opportunities

- **There is a high demand for housing, related to an increase in population and in-migration.**
- **Despite the recent slowdown, average house prices are high leading to affordability problems, particularly for local employees in lower income jobs.**
- **There is a need for more affordable family housing, particularly in Lytham and St Anne's, although a potential conflict with brownfield development targets is recognised.**
- **There is also a need for more social housing.**
- **The proportion of vacant dwellings in Fylde is lower than the regional average, but greater than the average for England.**

- **New housing should be developed within easy access of public transport and basic goods, services, amenities and greenspace.**
- **The promotion of sustainable design principles in the development of new housing should be encouraged. This could include standards to be achieved against the Code for Sustainable Homes.**

P. Transboundary Issues

For many authorities, the geographical scale of particular baseline issues means that they relate closely to neighbouring authorities. For example, housing provision and prices, employment migration and commuting, service provision and education can all result in flows of people across Local Authority boundaries and infrastructure providers do not recognise Local Authority boundaries. In order to help to characterise the baseline further, some of these key 'transboundary' issues have been described below:

- The most significant transboundary issue concerns the proposed M55 Hub development, which is supported by Blackpool BC in its Core Strategy. This would consist of up to 5,000 new homes with additional infrastructure and service provision, located close to junction 4 of the M55 on the Blackpool / Fylde boundary. It is a key strategic development for Blackpool and is proposed to meet a range of housing, regeneration and economic development needs. However, the full extent of the proposal is dependent upon planning policies within the Fylde LDF. The Fylde LDF will need to consider the potential benefits and costs to Fylde itself, as well as to the sub-region, of the M55 Hub project. Fylde BC has given no indication of whether the M55 Hub will be considered as an option at the Core Strategy options stage.
- Blackpool is the sub-regional centre for the wider Fylde Coast, but at present is not fulfilling its potential in this role. Regeneration initiatives in Blackpool are designed to address a range of social, economic and environmental issues. There are relationships between Fylde and Blackpool, in terms of the sub regional housing market area, employment and tourism. For example, Fylde and Blackpool jointly benefit from holiday-makers visiting the adjoining resort.
- Blackpool International Airport, which is located in Fylde Borough, is a key economic resource for the whole of the Fylde sub-region and extends its influence across Lancashire and Cumbria. Recent expansion at the airport has succeeded in raising passenger numbers but the extent to which this growth can be sustained requires further time to assess, especially given the current economic climate. The loss of a key airline reduced passenger numbers in 2009. Further expansion is strongly opposed by local residents' groups and would potentially give rise to a range of sustainability issues including loss of open space; an increase in vehicle traffic and the need for parking, noise and air pollution. However, optimising the benefits of the airport is important for economic growth.
- It will be important for the Fylde LDF to consider development within other authorities in the sub-region and its impact on infrastructure. Co-operative working with sub-regional partners will be essential to overcome any constraints, particularly in light of the intention to revoke the North-West RSS as a guiding document.
- The Bourne Hill employment site development at Thornton-Cleveleys in Wyre is a major project serving the Fylde sub-region. This is likely to have employment implications for Blackpool and Fylde.
- HGV traffic accessing the port of Fleetwood and employment sites in Blackpool is considered to be an issue in rural areas of Wyre and Fylde.

- Waste disposal is an issue for the whole of the Fylde area with Wyre and Fylde containing the main landfill sites serving a wide catchment including Blackpool, South Ribble and Preston.