

**North Somerset Council
Local Development Framework**

**Sites and Policies
Development Plan Document**

**Evidence Paper
Demographic profile**

Context

North Somerset covers an area of around 37,500 hectares (145 square miles) and has a population of 202,600 people¹. The district contains an international airport, a deep sea west coast port, part of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, part of the Forest of Avon, a large area of Green Belt stretching south west from the edge of Bristol, as well as areas of low-lying levels and moors. The main settlements include the strategically significant town of Weston-super-Mare and the three smaller towns of Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea. The M5 runs from north to south through the district and the mainline railway from Bristol to the South West also crosses North Somerset stopping at five stations along its route.

Map



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¹ 2011 Census

The following information is intended to give background contextual information about the district as a whole. The primary source for this information is the Census, and due to the date of publication some of the figures presented are from 2001, and some have been updated to the 2011 position.

Demographic structure

Population size

- The population of North Somerset at the 2011 Census was 202,566, an increase of 13,766 (7.3%) from the 2001 Census figure of 188,800.
- The age breakdowns from the Census (2011) for North Somerset are:-

Aged 0-14 years – 17%
Aged 15-64 years - 62%
Aged 65+ years – 21%

- Currently the proportion of people in North Somerset aged 65+ is 21%, compared to 19.6% in the South West and 16.4% nationally.

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

Ethnic composition

- At the 2001 Census the black and minority ethnic population made up only **1.4%** of North Somerset's population compared to 4.5% of the West of England area and 9.1% of the population in England.
- Based on experimental statistics released by ONS, the 2009 mid-year estimate by ethnic group suggests the black and minority ethnic population of North Somerset has increased to make up 5% of the total population.

Source: 2001 Census and Mid-year 2009 Estimates by ethnic group: Experimental Statistics (ONS)

Dwellings, household types and tenure

- At the 2011 Census there were 88,200 occupied households in North Somerset. This means that on average there were **2.26** people living in each household.

In North Somerset:-

- **29.2%** of households are single person households; nationally the figure is 30.0%.
- **7.3%** of households are lone parent households; nationally the figure is 9.5%.
- **59.0%** of households are comprised of couples; nationally the figure is 53.8%.
- **35.4%** of the population of North Somerset own their property outright and **43.2%** own their property with a mortgage or a loan. This means that **78.6%** of North Somerset residents are owner occupiers compared to a figure of 68.3% nationally.
- **20.6%** of the North Somerset population rent their properties.

Source: 2001 Census

Socio-cultural issues

Crime rates

- There were **64** crimes per 1000 population within North Somerset during the financial year 2009/10 compared to 89 crimes per 1000 population in the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area as a whole. This shows a decrease in the number of total crimes across North Somerset from 69 crimes per 1000 population in 2008/09.

Source: Home Office Recorded crime figures per 1000 population

- 71% of adults feel very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark.
- 97% of adults feel very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day.

Source: North Somerset Place Survey 2008

Unemployment rates

- The unemployment rate as a percentage of the 16+ population in North Somerset was 5.4% for the period January 2011 to December 2011. This is a 0.3% decrease on last year's figure, and still lower than the unemployment rate of 6.2% in the South West and 7.8% across England and Wales.

Source: North Somerset figures are taken from Unitary Authority data model-based unemployment figures. South West and National figures are from the Annual Population Survey January 2011-December 2011

Deprivation

- There are 124 Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in North Somerset. This small area geography is used to measure deprivation, so that pockets within larger areas are not hidden. 62 of these LSOAs have 'improved' in their rankings since 2007, and 62 have 'declined'. In almost all cases, those within the upper quartiles have 'improved' and those within the lower quartiles have 'declined' in terms of their overall scores.
- For the first time we have areas within both the most deprived 1% nationally, and the least deprived 1% nationally. North Somerset has the 7th largest range of inequality of all of the 326 authorities in England.
- 15 of our LSOAs are within the most deprived 25% of areas nationally. All of these areas are within Weston-super-Mare.

Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010



For further information please contact

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