Worcestershire County Council

Agenda

Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Friday, 17 November 2023, 10.00 am
Wychavon District Council Offices

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

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DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and 'other disclosable interests'

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
  - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
  You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR**
  relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
  - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Head of Legal and Democratic Services July 2012 WCC/SPM summary/f

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Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Friday, 17 November 2023, 10.00 am, Wychavon District Council Offices

Membership: Cllr Matt Dormer (Chairman), Cllr Karen Hanks (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Martin Allen, Cllr Bob Brookes, Cllr Allah Ditta, Cllr Ian Hardiman, Cllr Tony Muir, Cllr Craig Warhurst and Cllr Marc Bayliss (Cabinet Member with Responsibility)

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	**Apologies and Welcome**	
2	**Declarations of Interest and of any Party Whip**	
3	**Public Participation** Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting Thursday 16 November 2023). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed in this agenda and on the website.	
4	**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**	
5	**Wychavon District Council Economic Challenges and How The County Council Can Help** (Indicative timing 10:00 – 10:30am)	1 - 2
6	**Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Annual Update** (Indicative timing 10:30 – 11:00am)	3 - 14
7	**Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy** (Indicative timing 11:00 – 11:30am)	15 - 18
8	**Performance (Q4 January - March) and In-Year Budget Monitoring** (Indicative timing 11:30 – 12:00pm)	19 - 48
9	**Work Programme** (Indicative timing 12:00 – 12:10pm)	49 - 52

Agenda produced and published by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda please contact Deborah Dale 01905 846282, email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's Website

Date of Issue: Thursday, 9 November 2023

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ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
17 NOVEMBER 2023

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND HOW THE COUNTY COUNCIL COULD HELP

Summary

1. The Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel has set a theme of holding a meeting at each of the six district council offices in Worcestershire, in order to discuss with the district council leaders, the economic challenges faced in their area and how the County Council could help.

2. The Leader of Wychavon District Council, Executive Board Member for Economic Growth and Tourism and Director of Economy & Environment are attending this meeting, which is taking place at Wychavon District Council Offices, Pershore.

3. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills and the Assistant Director for Economy have been invited to the meeting to respond to any queries the Panel may have.

Purpose of the Meeting

4. The Panel is asked to:

    - consider and comment on the information provided about economic challenges and opportunities for Wychavon District;
    - agree any comments or feedback to the Cabinet Member; and
    - determine whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

Contact Point

Deborah Dale, Member Engagement Officer, Tel: 01905 846282
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 28 April 2023

All Agendas and Minutes are available on the Council's website - weblink to Agendas and Minutes

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ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
17 NOVEMBER 2023

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY, ANNUAL UPDATE

Summary

1. The Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel is to be updated on the progress of the deployment of broadband and mobile digital infrastructure within Worcestershire, as well as other work being undertaken by the Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Team to improve digital connectivity in the County.

2. Representatives from Worcestershire County Council's (the Council) Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Team and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills have been invited to the meeting to respond to any queries the Panel may have.

Background

3. The Panel last discussed Superfast Broadband on 22 November 2022.

4. The last report was the final time BT/Openreach were contractually required to present alongside the Council's team as the deployment phase of the final Superfast Worcestershire contract (Contract 3) had been completed. This update covers any matters identified in the closure process of Contract 3 and an update on the Financial Monitoring and Gainshare of all three Superfast Worcestershire contracts.

5. This report focusses on the progress made towards the national (85% by 2025) and local (90% by 2027) Gigabit Capable Broadband targets through commercial deployment and gap funded intervention; as well as matters arising from this deployment and other activity underway to accelerate broadband improvements.

6. An update on mobile telecommunications matters, including reporting on network coverage, local activity to understand and improve mobile coverage, and associated local projects is also included.

Superfast Worcestershire - Outstanding Matters Update

7. The deployment phase of the final Superfast Worcestershire contract with BT/ Openreach, Contract 3 completed during 2020/21. The outstanding financial closedown of the contract was completed in summer 2023.

8. The table below shows the updated sources of capital funding directly associated with the agreed position at Contract 3 closure.

Source of Funding	Contract 3 (pre-closure position) reported Nov 2022	Contract 3 Final Position
BT	£3.6m	£3.9m**
Worcestershire CC	£0.6m	£0.2 + 0.3*
BDUK	£1.5m	£1.5m
Local Growth Fund	-	-
ERDF	£1m	£1m
Total	**£7.7m****	**£6.9m****

** Consists of elements of Contract 1 underspend reinvestment updated at Contract 3 closure. Also, to account for the impact of price control resulting from the Ofcom Wholesale Local Access Market Review (WLAMR), it was agreed (nationwide) that the supplier, Openreach, could adjust the finance model to reflect the impact of the price reduction. As a result, it was approved, through the Change Control process, that WLAMR payment of £352,776 will be paid through gainshare clawback (if achieved), post Contract 3 deployment, as it becomes available. This will bring the potential overall cost to the Council (public funding) to £3,140,864, with the current subsidy total payments paid by the Council totalling £2,788,088.*
*** Final amount confirmed and agreed at Contract 3 closure.*

9. The final Take-Up review point for Contract 1 occurred on 30 June 2023, with the final report expected from BT/Openreach this quarter, at which stage the Council will be due to receive the final Gainshare payment. Due to very successful take-up over the life of the contract, the total Gainshare payment anticipated on Contract 1 is c.£6.5m, noting that, a share in line with the investment funding ratio, is returned to Building Digital UK (BDUK).

10. Contract 2 addressed the more rural locations within Worcestershire, take-up and again quickly exceeded 20%. Like Contract 1, Contract 2 take-up remains very high at 76% (September 2023) with a minimal drop of only 2% in the last year. This is mainly as a result of the increase of full fibre availability through various commercial deployments within the county. The Council will continue monitoring and reviewing take-up and Gainshare on a quarterly basis, as per the reporting arrangements. A £583,695 Gainshare payment was received summer 2023, as a result of the positive take-up, however, a payment of c.£266,165 is due to be returned to BDUK imminently.

11. Contract 3, take-up of broadband has increased to over 75.93% (September 2023) – another significant increase of c.10.5% since October 2022. While the first take-up review point has now past, the Clawback Threshold was not reached, so no Gainshare was paid, this was expected as Openreach invested a higher percentage of funding. It is worth noting that the first £352,776, if achieved, will not be paid out to the Council, as a result of the agreed WLAMR impact (see above table).

12. ‘Additional Services’ is a further type of clawback, applicable to all three contracts, which provides a return to investors if any of the project funded infrastructure generates a profit for the supplier. The calculation for this clawback has now been agreed between Openreach and BDUK and is being reviewed by the Council before the retrospective agreements are signed and any subsequent Gainshare payments can be made.

Contracts 1, 2 and 3 take-up breakdown

	Q3: Dec-22	Q4: Mar-23	Q1: Jun-23	Q2: Sep-23
C1 Take-Up	83.49%	82.97%	82.97%	87.14%
C2 Take-Up	75.44%	75.82%	75.82%	75.36%
C3 Take-Up	67.82%	71.86%	73.75%	75.93%
Combined Take-Up	80.94%	80.83%	80.86%	79.58%

Reinvestment of Gainshare

13. Cabinet at its meeting in February 2023 reconfirmed its earlier commitment to improving digital connectivity for residents and businesses by delegating authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills to reinvest Gainshare into improving broadband coverage, digital projects and improving services for mobile users in the county.

Gigabit Broadband Progress Update

14. The Government's ambition is to achieve at least 85% gigabit capable coverage by end of 2025 and then nationwide coverage c.99% by around 2030. Gigabit coverage across the UK now tops 78% - up from 10.9% at December 2019 (source: www.thinkbroadband.com).

15. Gigabit coverage in Worcestershire has already increased from 3.8% in December 2019 to 75.1% in October 2023 (source: www.thinkbroadband.com), increasing by over 20% in the last 12 months alone, largely as a result of commercial deployments, but supplemented by the Council's projects. The Council's ambition, outlined in the Corporate Plan, remains to ensure Worcestershire increases the gigabit coverage to above the national average and reaches at least 90% by 2027.

16. Appendix 1 is a summary of broadband infrastructure availability (source: www.thinkbroadband.com), showing connectivity data with a breakdown and comparison by areas - UK, Worcestershire and the six districts in October 2023.

BDUK Project Gigabit

17. A £5bn UK Gigabit Broadband Rollout strategy was outlined by DCMS in December 2020 and published in August 2021. This looks to enable hard-to-reach communities to access lightning-fast gigabit capable broadband. In summary, it includes the following points:

- Project Gigabit, which aims to extend 1Gbps (1000Mbps) capable networks in line with Government's ambition,
  - Centrally ran procurement – with Local Bodies expected to support,
  - Majority of Worcestershire is placed in 'Lot 24', which is included in Phase 1b (one of the first ten areas announced) – up to 16,500 premises,
  - Focussed on gigabit capable infrastructure,

- Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme is currently on hold for Worcestershire due to Gigabit 'Lot 24' procurement process but will be extended to complement commercial delivery and Project Gigabit deployments from 2024.

Further information available at: [Project Gigabit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk).

BDUK Project Gigabit in Worcestershire

18. As part of Project Gigabit, BDUK are undertaking national, rolling Open Market Reviews (OMRs). This process was initiated in 2021, ahead of national procurements, and continues on a quarterly basis to inform the intervention areas and commercial deployments. It is centrally funded and managed.

19. Worcestershire's pre-procurement activities commenced in May 2022, and 'Lot 24' procurement launched in October 2022. The contract award is expected soon, having initially being expected in the late summer 2023. Throughout the period, Worcestershire's Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity team has provided timely information and support to BDUK's procurement.

20. Alongside commercial deployments, Project Gigabit is the main mechanism to achieve the gigabit coverage target. However, the Council expects further work and investment will be needed to achieve and exceed national and local targets, as well as providing connectivity to the very hard to reach communities. Assuming 'Lot 24' procurement concludes successfully in the next two months, the Council expects to understand what premises are not part of 'Lot 24' plans and be able to create a local strategy from summer 2024.

Community Voucher Schemes

21. The Government have also focused £210m of the Project Gigabit programme, on the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) for rural areas. In Worcestershire, this is on hold due to the procurement process for 'Lot 24'. This additional investment will continue to support the cost of installing full fibre broadband connections for SMEs and homes in 2024 via revised vouchers now worth up to £4,500.

22. In 2020 the Council and Worcestershire's Local Economy Partnership (WLEP) supplemented the initial national voucher scheme with local top-up funding (£2.1m) to support Worcestershire's drive to get high-speed broadband out to the most rural parts of the County. This additional funding was used to 'top up' the Government's scheme.

23. To date, Worcestershire has secured over £7m worth of vouchers and will continue to work with communities once the voucher scheme is re-opened. More in depth information can be read in previous scrutiny papers.

24. 80 community projects have been delivered (c.5,300 premises), with two remaining in the final stages of deployment. About 35 projects required ~~our~~ top-up funding. Out of the allocated £2.1m of top up funding, approx. £1.5m has already been allocated. The last few projects' finances are being finalised by suppliers, which will allow the team to confirm the exact amount of the top up funding remaining.

GigaHubs Fund

25. The GigaHubs project is part of DSIT's Project Gigabit. GigaHubs has £110m available to connect public sector buildings in hard-to-reach parts of the UK such as GP surgeries, libraries and schools.

26. Nottinghamshire County Council are the regional lead for the Midlands collaboration group (including Worcestershire), on the £8m grant from the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) or sites across the region. A contract has been awarded to a supplier who is working on a deployment plan for all sites identified. Currently, there are 13 sites in scope for Worcestershire. A similar GigaHubs style scheme is being operated nationally by the Department for Education, who are liaising with the Council's Connectivity Team around eligible premises.

Commercial operators across Worcestershire

27. The Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Team continues to work with commercial broadband operators to understand and assist with their commercial deployment and making Worcestershire an easier place to invest.

28. Several operators have announced their investments for Worcestershire, these are listed below, a number of other operators also have network builds underway or planned, however these are either smaller in scale or lack clarity to be listed here:

- **Openreach** – remain committed to building digital infrastructure for the UK and have announced an ambitious plan to deliver full fibre broadband to 25 million homes and businesses across the UK by December 2026. Details of Openreach's plan can be found on their website: https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/where-when-building-ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband.
- **Airband** – an alternative network provider, with headquarters in Droitwich, aim to cover 600,000 UK premises in rural areas via a mix of fixed wireless access (FWA) and fibre to the premises (FTTP) broadband networks by the end of 2025. Some of the previously publicised deployment includes villages around Pershore e.g. *Cropthorne; Bredon Upton, Ryall and the surrounding areas.*
- **Full Fibre Ltd** – aim to cover "at least" 500,000 premises by 2025. Over 95,000 premises are in Worcestershire, including e.g. *Droitwich, Stourport, Evesham, Malvern, Pershore, Wychbold, Broadway and Honeybourne*.
- **CityFibre** – have completed large parts of their £21m rollout around *Worcester City* (although currently on hold while they are appointing a new contractor).
- **Zzoomm** – *Bewdley* build is now complete. More areas are being considered.
- **Gigaclear** – *Broadway* build is currently underway.
- **Digital Infrastructure / BeFibre** – are progressing their Worcester build. In October 2023, the supplier announced their merger with Full Fibre Ltd.
- **LitFibre** –*Evesham* build is largely complete and *Redditch* build is ongoing.
- **Virgin Media O2** – plan to upgrade their fixed network to full fibre by 2028. Further progress is planned through Virgin Media O2 sister company Nexfibre.

29. The Council recognise 'change' can be an emotive subject in communities. New telegraph poles or mobile masts can be seen to have a negative visual impact, with mobile phone masts and '5G' causing some individuals to raise health concerns. Councillors are encouraged to raise awareness of the availability and benefits of the

improved digital infrastructure being deployed over the coming years within Worcestershire through commercial and public funding deployments.

30. From November 2023, the Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Team will review planning applications made to the District Councils for mobile masts and highlight these to the Councillor for that area. A briefing note containing additional details to the specific application and a list of FAQs will be provided to help Councillors respond to questions from their constituents, should they be contacted.

31. In addition to engaging with the operators, joint working takes place with County and district teams around matters such as:

- ensuring broadband and mobile infrastructure considerations are included in Local Development Plans,
- that projects are in place to support the adoption of broadband and connectivity into their operations, and
- coordinating with Highways colleagues to minimise disruption to the highway and protect council assets.

32. The Universal Service Obligation (USO) remains a nationwide measure intended to fill the gap left by the Government's existing broadband roll-out programmes. It aims to deliver improved broadband connections to the hardest to reach premises in the UK, specifically those with less than 10Mbps download speed and less than 1Mbps upload speed – this is currently 0.6% of Worcestershire premises. A very helpful guide is available on Ofcom's website.

33. On 2 October, DSIT launched two consultations, one on the Broadband USO and one setting out its proposed policy approach to connecting very hard to reach (VHTR) premises across the UK. The Government's aim is to use these consultations to understand how the industry and affected stakeholder groups respond to its current proposed policy direction and future policy interventions.

34. The Panel is reminded, that Openreach are progressing their announced Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) network switch offs, with the target date of December 2025. Some areas have already stopped selling new services over PSTN and ISDN networks. It is expected that the majority of services will be capable of being switched across to the new 'digital' networks, however users are encouraged to check with their equipment or service provider and various projects are ongoing to understand the impact of the PSTN/ISDN switch off (internally and externally).

Mobile

35. According to the website www.signalchecker.co.uk, Worcestershire is ranked the 24th best area for mobile coverage in the UK out of 96 areas, three better than last year; their website provides the coverage information in the below table (It is not clear if this is reported as geographic coverage or by population).

Operator	Indoor or Outdoor	3G	4G	5G
Three	Indoor	94.1% (-)	79.3% (-)	39.8% (+11.8%)
Three	Outdoor	94.1% (-)	79.5% (-)	39.8% (+11.8%)
O2	Indoor	88% (-)	92.9% (-)	1.4% (+0.5%)
O2	Outdoor	99.8% (-)	100% (-)	1.4% (+0.5%)
Vodafone	Indoor	90.6% (-)	92.1% (-)	24.2% (+7.0%)

Vodafone	Outdoor	99.6% (-)	99.9% (-)	24.2% (+7.0%)
EE	Indoor	82.5% (-)	98.1% (-)	84% (+19.1%)
EE	Outdoor	96.5% (-)	100% (-)	84% (+19.1%)
All Providers	**Indoor**	**99.8%** (-)	**100%** (-)	**86.8% (+14.8%)**
All Providers	**Outdoor**	**100%** (-)	**100%** (-)	**86.8% (+14.8%)**

***Note**: Figures correct October 2023. Percentage change in coverage since 2022 is in brackets.*

36. Contact with residents, business owners and available data shows that, as services move online, people living and working in Worcestershire do not always receive the mobile connectivity they need or want. The Council recognises the data shown above may not reflect the experiences on the ground and are also of the view that modelled data from Ofcom and mobile operator is overestimated, this view is supported from the Council's own drive trials in 2017 and 2019.

37. Following on from previous work conducted by the Council, as detailed in previous scrutiny reports, an important part of the Council's strategy is to investigate mobile coverage and performance to form an up to date and independent view. The Council are starting this journey and have led on the set up, in partnership with 10 other neighbouring councils of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The DPS will allow partners to call off services to investigate real-world mobile coverage and performance, so that they can focus attention on possible solutions in the most effective way in 2024 and beyond. Currently, as data and sources vary and do not always reflect reality, it is challenging to answer fully the question around where services do not meet expectations. The Understanding Mobile Connectivity DPS aims to work alongside Ofcom to support their national findings and help with discussions with the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and their supply chain.

38. To support the deployment of mobile networks, the team arranged a session for mobile industry experts to speak with Planners in Worcestershire (Spring 2021), to better understand the process mobile operators and their agents go through when proposing new mast sites, why new sites are required and providing the opportunity for Planners to raise questions on site design.. As well as providing content for internal council policies and guidance that are under review e.g. the Street Scene Design Guide.

39. Teams within Economy and Infrastructure have worked with local provider Airband, enabling them to trial a high speed Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) in Fernhill Heath, where 64 premises with existing deployment challenges (e.g. Section 58 on newly re-surfaced footpath) gained access to ultrafast speeds. Once the network design was complete, deployment of the network was swift with minimal disruptions.

40. Following on from this success, Airband are interested in a commercial deployment of the technology in Worcestershire. Advantages of the FWA solution are its non-invasive nature utilising existing street assets such as lamp posts, eliminating the requirement for extensive road works and new poles, increasing speed of deployment and minimising disruptions for residents.

41. The planned sunsetting of 2G and 3G networks is underway. 3G networks are already being switched off, with 2G expected by 2030. This is a further justification for the need to ensure robust 4G and 5G networks are being deployed and geographic areas that receive no 4G coverage i.e.'not spots,' are tackled. The switch off of these networks is justified by the operators as supporting their future sustainability plans, as an example, one operator claims 3G currently makes up over 75% of the energy costs within their network yet carries less than 1% of the network traffic. It is important

for residents, businesses and public sector organisations in the county to understand the potential impact on their operations e.g. payment machines, sim card supported fleet management etc.

42. As mentioned above, the switch-off of the PSTN/ISDN continues and traditional analogue phone services or copper services, are already being turned off in stages. This is important for several reasons, not least the mitigation for the fixed communications network during a power-cut is to use 'mobile', which in rural areas presents potential issues with increased power cuts but also increased mobile 'not-spots'.

43. There is a national drive to improve 4G coverage, through the Shared Rural Network (SRN) programme, https://srn.org.uk/, which aims to deliver reliable mobile broadband to 95% of the UK, addressing the digital divide by improving 4G coverage. Progress on the industry funded part of the programme continues. As part of this, mobile network operators (VMO2, Three and Vodafone) are working on new mast locations in partial not spot areas nationwide. The first sites have already been deployed, with further sites across the UK planned for 2023 and beyond. Whilst no sites were initially identified in Worcestershire, a mast application has recently been submitted and subsequently approved near Lindridge under the SRN scheme.

44. As well as trying to improve current connectivity issues, the Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity team, alongside WLEP and other partners, continue to explore the potential new connectivity technologies to support digital transformation. As previously reported, two examples of this are the Worcestershire 5G project and the West Mercia Rural 5G project.

ONE WORD (Open Network Ecosystem - Western Open RAN Deployment)

45. The Council is part of ONE WORD, a successful £9.8m award and one of the 19 projects funded by DSIT's Open Network Ecosystem (ONE) Competition. Overall, the project looks to build low-cost flexible alternatives to the mobile coverage available currently, installing high-capacity / high density mobile infrastructure in hard-to-reach rural locations, in a way that is sympathetic to the environment.

46. As part of the project, within Worcestershire, the Council and partners will be trialling and demonstrating the use of a "network on wheels" advanced wireless solution that can be deployed to support planned events throughout the year held across our county. This network will provide effective and stable connectivity to those running the event and businesses who provide goods and services to visitors.

47. If successful, it is also envisaged that this "network on wheels" could in future be deployed quickly to provide a support network to emergency services and other organisations in response to critical incidents such as flooding.

DCIA Project and Asset Reuse

48. Worcestershire has been part of the DSIT's Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) early adopter project, looking at digital asset management solutions for mapping and brokerage of publicly owned assets for use in the rollout of wireless communication networks. As well as looking at these solutions, the DCIA project worked with other government departments in relation to:

- providing standard contracts and BSI standards for Smart Infrastructure through:
- PAS 191: 2023 Multifunctional columns (Design and Specification) and
- PAS 190: Existing lighting & CCTV columns (Assessment for multi-functional use)

49. An equally important element of the project for the Council was to develop the understanding and experience internally, highlighting the importance of reusing public sector assets and to expedite telecommunications infrastructure deployments. The Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Team is working with the Streetlighting Team to propose how findings can be taken forward.

Innovation Region River Severn Partnership

50. DSIT has invited bids into a £40m fund for local and regional authorities across the UK to establish themselves as '5G Innovation Regions' (5GIRs). These 5GIRs will look to support their wider programme to drive 5G adoption, with a focus on key sectors where there is local capability and opportunities.

51. Shropshire Council is the project lead and has submitted a bid, on behalf of those associated with the River Severn Partnership which includes the Council.

52. Funding will enable projects to:
    - drive economic growth across the region by supporting the adoption of advanced wireless technologies for services based around local opportunities for growth,
    - accelerate commercial investment in 5G and other advanced wireless technologies by aggregating and demonstrating demand,
    - foster the 5G ecosystem enabling "learning by doing".

53. An announcement as to whether the River Severn Partnership Innovation Region bid is successful, is expected during November.

Purpose of the Meeting

The Panel is asked to consider the latest digital infrastructure information and:

- consider whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this time
- determine any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Superfast and other broadband statistics by UK, County, and Districts within Worcestershire

Contact Point

Deborah Dale, Member Engagement Officer
Email: ddale@worcestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01905 846282

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of:

- Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel 30 November 2022
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 20 September 2021, 19 June 2020, 14 November 2018, 29 November 2017, 10 October 2016 and 30 September 2015
  Economy, Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 17 September 2014 and 20 May 2015
- Cabinet - 5 February 2015, 15 October 2015, 29 June 2017 and 2 February 2023
  Council – 18 February 2021

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website: weblink to agendas and minutes

Appendix 1

Superfast and other broadband statistics by UK, County, and Districts within Worcestershire

(taken from www.thinkbroadband.com October 2023)

	UK	Worcestershire	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest
			Authority classed as Significant Rural (SR)	Authority classed as Rural-50 (R50)	Authority classed as Other Urban (OU)	Authority classed as Other Urban (OU)	Authority classed as Rural-80 (R80)	Authority classed as Rural-80 (R80)
Superfast (>24 Mbps):	97.95%	98.46%	99.17%	96.50%	99.50%	99.80%	97.57%	98.37%
Superfast (>=30 Mbps):	97.73%	98.23%	99.01%	96.10%	99.47%	99.80%	97.20%	98.00%
Ultrafast (>100 Mbps):	79.56%	75.87%	83.99%	61.00%	92.10%	81.56%	64.62%	76.26%
Openreach FTTP:	37.23%	41.39%	62.08%	49.06%	21.94%	63.19%	28.77%	25.46%
Alt Net FTTP: (FTTP excluding Openreach, KCOM and Virgin Media RFOG)	27.41%	30.75%	1.52%	31.93%	19.76%	52.52%	48.68%	20.91%
Fibre' partial/full at any speed: (FTTC/VDSL/G.fast/Cable/FTTP)	99.13%	99.76%	99.81%	99.18%	99.97%	99.81%	99.86%	99.86%
Below 2 Mbps down:	0.30%	0.16%	0.09%	0.44%	0.04%	0.00%	0.18%	0.22%
Below 10 Mbps down: (Legal USO)	0.89%	0.64%	0.27%	1.80%	0.13%	0.00%	1.05%	0.54%
Virgin Media Cable:	51.04%	24.51%	28.15%	0.00%	82.95%	0.00%	2.68%	47.47%
Full Fibre (FTTP or FTTH):	57.28%	58.20%	63.80%	59.52%	32.30%	80.01%	63.13%	44.11%
Gigabit (DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP):	78.30%	75.11%	83.99%	59.52%	92.07%	80.01%	63.30%	76.26%

Coverage percentages include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level data. The speed available are determined by a model that reconstructs the Openreach exchange/cabinet-based network and takes into account the distance limitations of ADSL2+ and VDSL2/G.fast (FTTC) services.

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worcestershire county council

ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
17 NOVEMBER 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE RAIL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Summary

1. The Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel has requested an update on the Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy review and consultation and to outline achievements, next steps and proposals.

2. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, and Senior Officers from the Economy and Infrastructure Directorate have been invited to attend the meeting to respond to any queries from Panel Members.

Background

3. The first Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy (WRIS) was adopted in 2017, reflecting ongoing increases in passenger numbers and investment in rail.

4. Significant achievements during the strategy period include; the opening of the new Worcestershire Parkway Station, rebuilding of Kidderminster Station, extension of the Cross City Line South to provide 3 trains per hour to both Redditch and Bromsgrove.

5. The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the rail industry as initially passenger numbers fell significantly. Following the lifting of restrictions, work and rail travel patterns have evolved. Structural change was also expected in the industry with the Government proposals for Great British Railways. Given these considerations, it was appropriate to review the Rail Investment Strategy for Worcestershire.

6. The new strategy is informed by the first Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy but refined to reflect passenger transport post-Covid-19 and to align with regional strategies such as the West Midland Rail Executive's Rail Investment Strategy.

Rail Investment Strategy

7. The second Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy (WRIS2) was published for consultation in 2022. This is a long-term Strategy with an end date of 2050. It and sets out the requirements and aspirations for rail travel in the County.

8. Rail services in the County are provided by three train operating companies: West Midlands Trains, Cross Country Trains and Great Western Railway. At the heart of WRIS2 are proposals to expand the rail service offer in the County and improve connectivity to neighbouring and regional economies whilst taking into account changes to rail and the increased emphasis on innovative and third-party funding models.

9. WRIS2 was published for consultation in summer/autumn 2022. There were 198 responses to the consultation of which 92% were from individuals and the remaining 8% on behalf of organisations.

10. The responses covered 4 key themes:

- **Fares and ticketing, and train services**
  The cost and complexity of the fares system is an acknowledged issue within the rail industry. Although not something over which Worcestershire County Council (the Council) has direct responsibility, the Council is working with West Midlands Rail Executive on the regional review of fares and ticketing within their area. This is also one of the priorities assigned by Government to Great British Railways.
- **Facilities at stations**
  Concerns raised include active travel, car park capacity and ticket office opening hours. The Council has an ongoing programme of increasing capacity at car parks to increase access to rail subject to demand. A series of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans are also being developed for the main towns in Worcestershire which will identify links to the main facilities and destinations including linking rail stations with areas of employment and housing. Since the WRIS2 was adopted, a national proposals and consultation commenced on the future of rail ticket offices. The Council responded to this, highlighting the disadvantages that this would bring to the travelling public if these offices were closed and the wider impact on stations and the availability of facilities, and in particular to travellers with special needs or during disruption.
- **Rail infrastructure**
  Worcester re-signalling to a new station to the West of Worcester and Droitwich Station. Worcester re-signalling delivery will be by Network Rail or its successor organisation and will change the current semaphore signals to modern electronic signals. Further work is required from Network Rail on detailed configuration, but delivery is likely to be beyond 2030/35 given the complexity and costs of this work.
- **Stakeholder engagement and funding**
  A wide range of stakeholders were engaged in the consultation, from the rail industry to rail organisations such as the user groups, station adopters and line promotion groups. The consultation was publicised to the wider public through both print and social media, including through the Council's website.

11. Following on from the consultation, the document has now been formally approved by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills and the Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure and is published on the website.

Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy 2 - Aspirations

12. The Strategy sets out the aspirations for the following service improvements:
    - London/Oxford - Ongoing preparation of outline Business Case for faster, Worcester-London trains, 2 trains per hour (tph) and direct 1 tph Kidderminster/Droitwich Spa to London through the North Cotswold Line.

- GB-wide connectivity - Exeter-Worcestershire Parkway-Manchester and Midlands Connect Birmingham-Worcestershire Parkway-Bristol/Cardiff services.
- Worcestershire-Bristol - 2023 implementation of Department for Transport (DfT) options for 1 tph Worcester-Tewkesbury-Cheltenham Spa-Gloucester-Bristol service.
- Birmingham/HS2 - Earliest restoration of Worcester, Bromsgrove, Redditch and Kidderminster-Birmingham frequencies removed during Covid-19, and future expansion.

13. Since WRIS 2 was adopted attached at Appendix 1, the DfT proposal of 1 tph Worcester to Bristol has been implemented, and the service from Worcester to Birmingham has been restored to pre-Covid-19 levels.

14. Challenges remain on the Cross City Line from Redditch and Bromsgrove to Birmingham with services restricted to two trains per hour. This is in part a reflection of wider service enhancements on the adjoining Camp Hill Line into Birmingham and the return of passenger services on this route.

15. Work has continued on the proposals for the North Cotswold line, with an ongoing refresh of the business case, reflecting changes in travel patterns post-Covid-19, demand for business travel to London and the South East aligned with the growth aspirations in the local plans enroute. The Stratford Line Promotion Group are also leading a related study into the potential to return services to the Honeybourne to Stratford line, originally funding through Restoring Your Railway. The Council is part of the ongoing review of this business case.

16. In addition to the rail service proposals, WRIS2 also considers rail stations in the County. Rail stations are at the heart of travel and need to be fully accessible to all within the community, prevent exclusion and offer travel choice to all. As part of the first Worcestershire Rail investment Strategy, the Council reviewed the facilities at the stations including car parking.

17. This has continued through WRIS2 with a programme of monitoring and, where demand is sufficient developing options for car park expansion including associated facilities such cycle parking and electric vehicle charging.

18. The regeneration of Worcester Shrub Hill station is proposed as part of the wider re-invention of the Shrub Hill Quarter, providing a gateway to rail travel in Worcester, enhancements to facilities and the station buildings and an improved service offer.

19. The strategy includes the proposals for the redevelopment of Redditch Station, a project which is well advanced, along with proposals for a new station to the West of Worcester at Rushwick reflecting the westward housing growth in Worcester.

20. Wider, WRIS2 links to the West Midlands Rail Executive Rail Investment Strategy and, in particular, their aspiration for the Midlands Rail Hub which will deliver a doubling of the Birmingham-Worcester-Hereford service. The funding for these proposals has now been secured through the Government's Network North plan, following the withdrawal of the proposed HS2 route to the north of Birmingham.

21. To assist with the delivery of Midlands Rail Hub, the rail signals in Worcestershire, which are currently old semaphore technology, require upgrading to modern electronic technology, a project referred to as Worcester re-signalling. Network Rail are responsible for this delivery, and this remans a focus of discussion to support the delivery of the Midlands Rail Hub and the wider rail aspirations for Worcestershire. The date for any works to commence is to be confirmed but is unlikely to be 2030/2035.

22. Although fares and ticketing are not a direct responsibility of the Council, WRIS2 includes reference to this area of work reflecting the widespread concern amongst travellers. This has been set as a priority for Great British Railways by the Government and more locally, West Midlands Rail Executive are also focussed on this with the aim to put forward proposals in 2024. Although initially the proposals focus on the Combined Authority Area, this will subsequently be expanded to the wider region.

Purpose of the Meeting

23. The Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Consider the information provided
- Determine any comments the Panel would wish to make to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills,
- Agree whether any further Scrutiny is required at this stage.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy 2

Specific Contact Points for this report

Emily Barker, Head of Planning and Transport Planning - 01905 846723
ebarker@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy
The Local Transport Plan | Worcestershire County Council

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.

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ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
17 NOVEMBER 2023

PERFORMANCE AND 2022/23 IN YEAR BUDGET MONITORING

Summary

1. The Panel will be updated on performance and financial information for services relating to the economy.

2. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, Senior Officers from the Economy and Infrastructure Directorate and the Deputy Chief Financial Officer have been invited to attend the meeting to respond to any queries from Panel Members.

Performance Information

3. Attached at Appendix 1 is a dashboard of performance information relating to Quarter 2 (July to September 2023). It covers the indicators from the Directorate level scorecard which relate to services relevant to this Scrutiny Panel's remit.

4. The Scrutiny Panels consider this information on a quarterly basis and then report by exception to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) any suggestions for further scrutiny or areas of concern.

Financial Information

5. The Panel also receives in-year budget information. The information provided is for the Period 6 is attached at Appendix 2 (to follow).

Purpose of the Meeting

6. Following discussion of the information provided, the Scrutiny Panel is asked to determine:

   - any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members at the meeting and/or to Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board at its meeting on 19 December 2023
   - whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Economy Performance Information Dashboard for Quarter 2 (July to September 2023)
Appendix 2 – Budget Monitoring Information (Presentation Slides for Period 6 (to follow)).

Contact Point

Deborah Dale, Member Engagement Officer
Email: ddale@worcestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01905 846282

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 20 January and 27 March, 6 June, 17 July 2023 and 5 October 2023

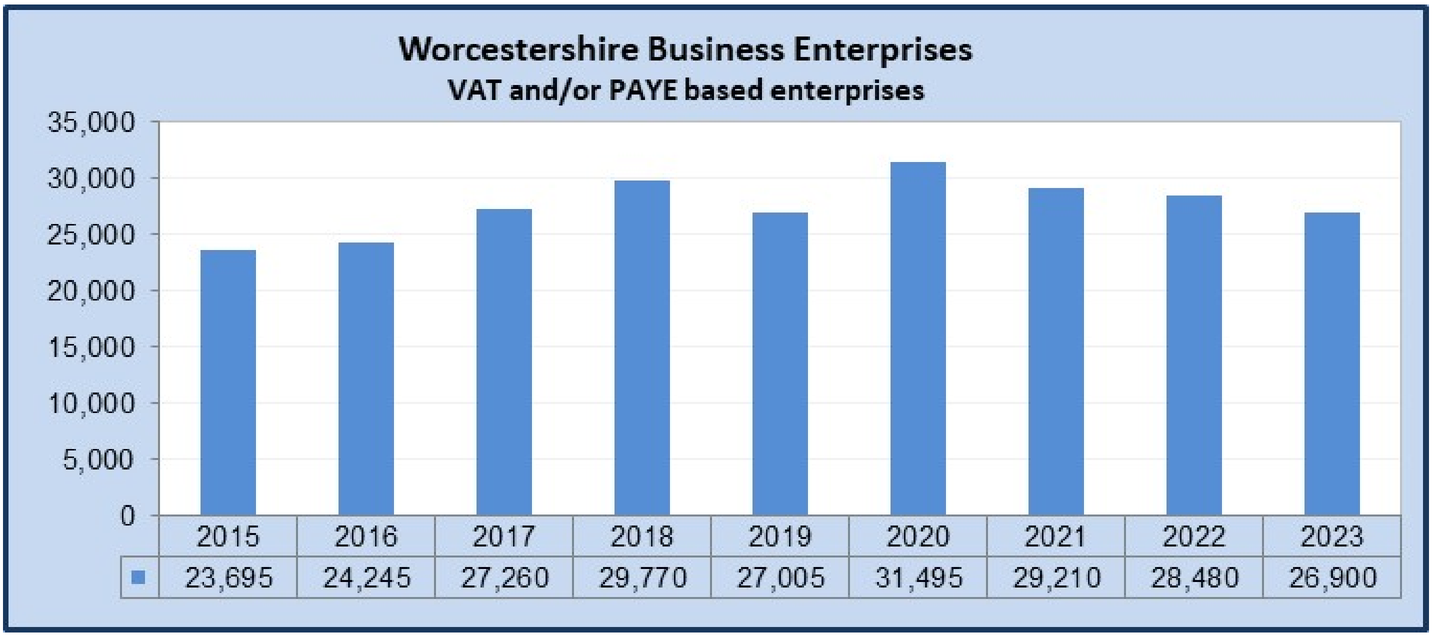
- Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board - 19 October, 6 September, 26 July, 26 June, 28 April, 29 March, 27 February and 30 January 2023

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.

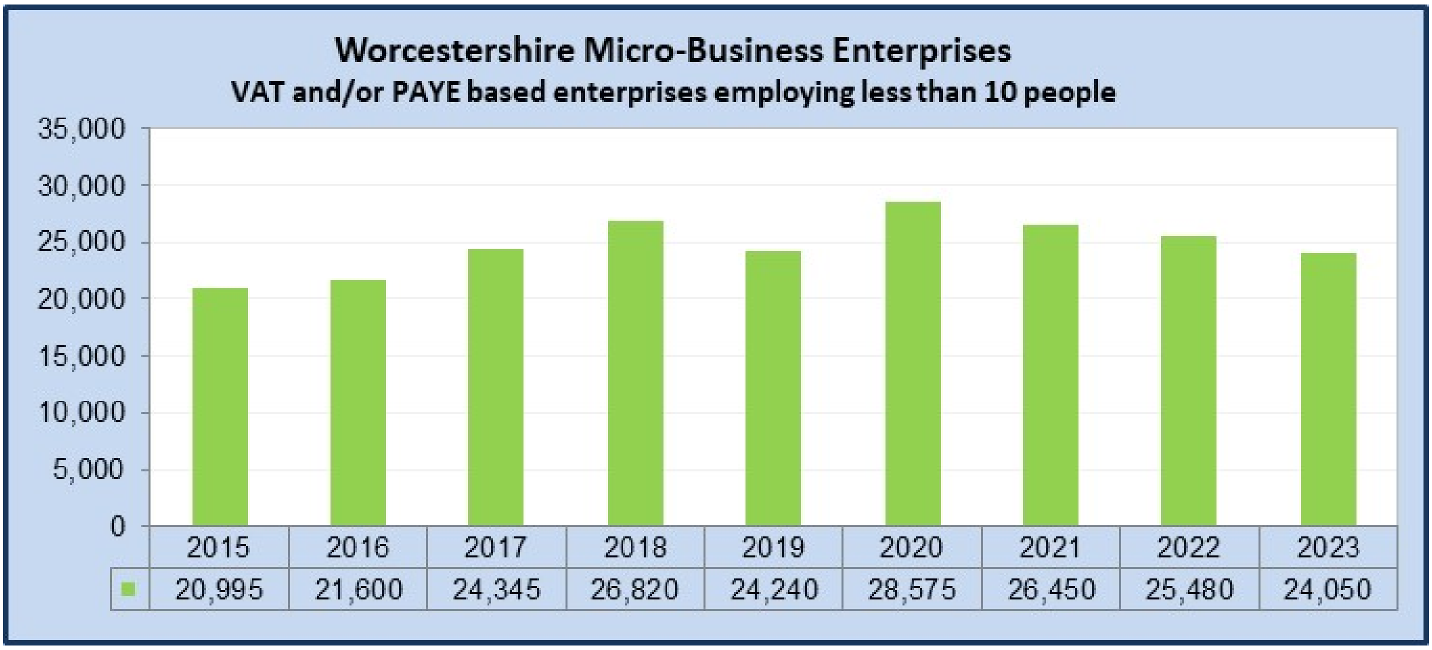
Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel Performance Summary

Contents

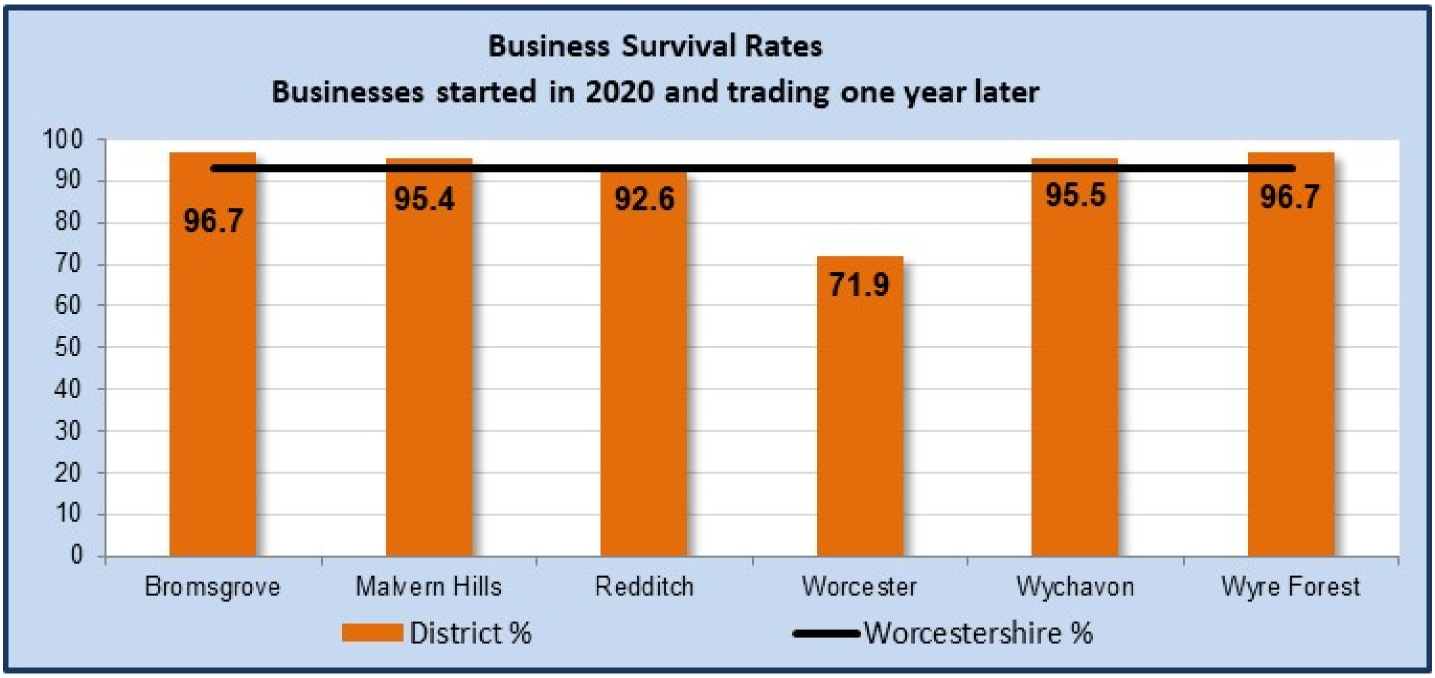
Economy and Infrastructure Dashboard



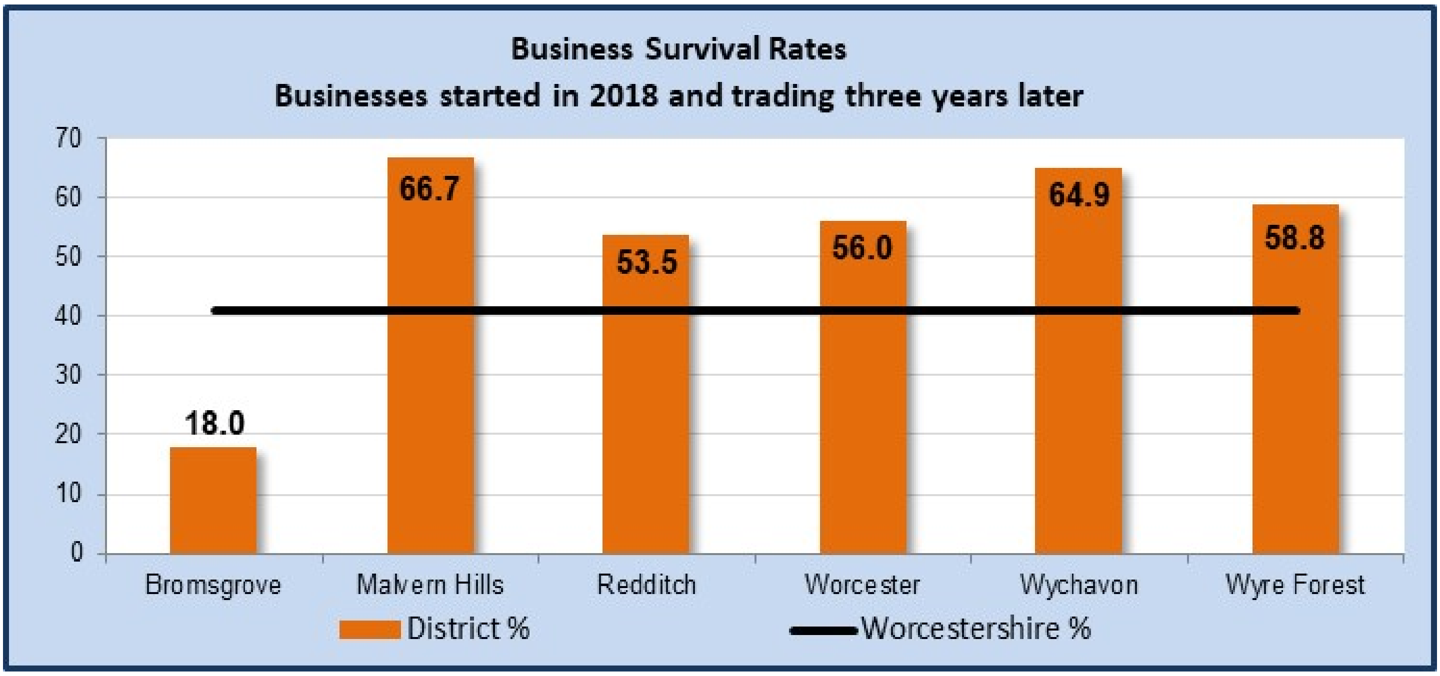
Figures are from Office for National Statistics' analysis of the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). An enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that has a certain degree of autonomy within an enterprise group. This is generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records.



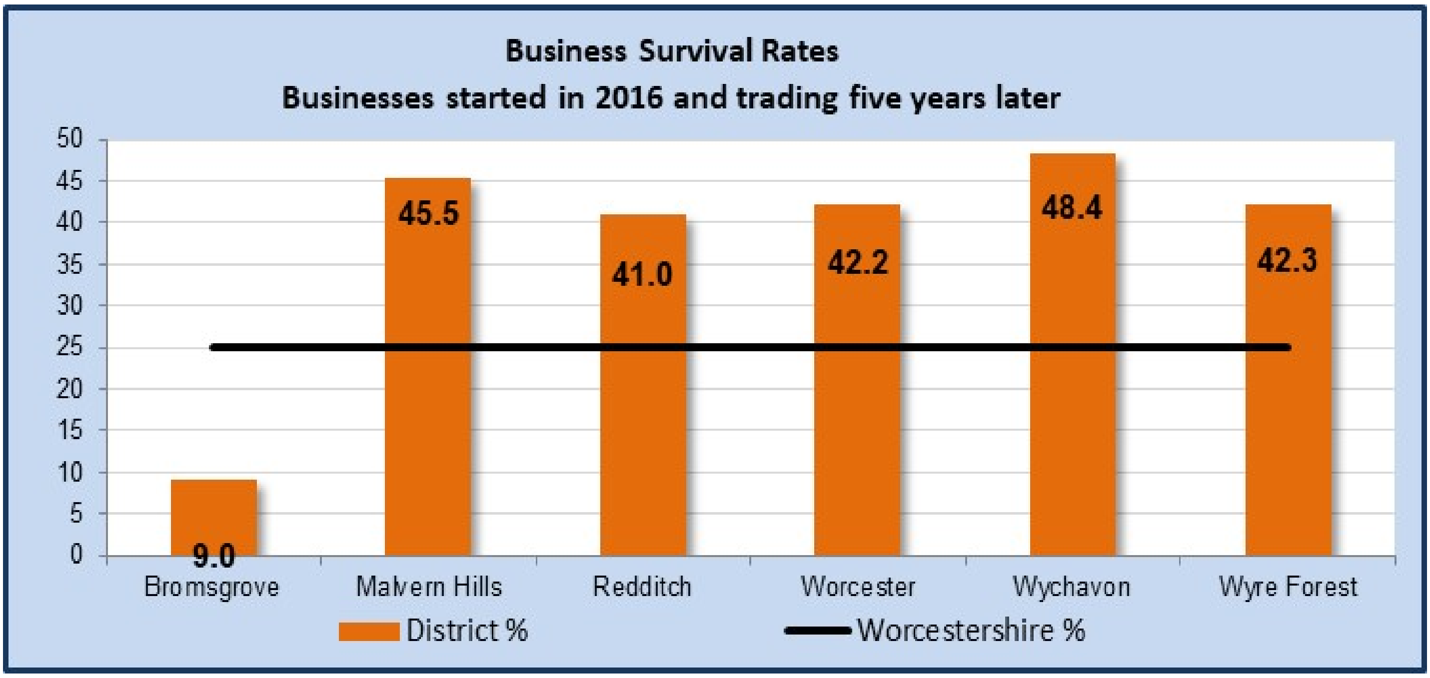
Figures are from Office for National Statistics' analysis of the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES).



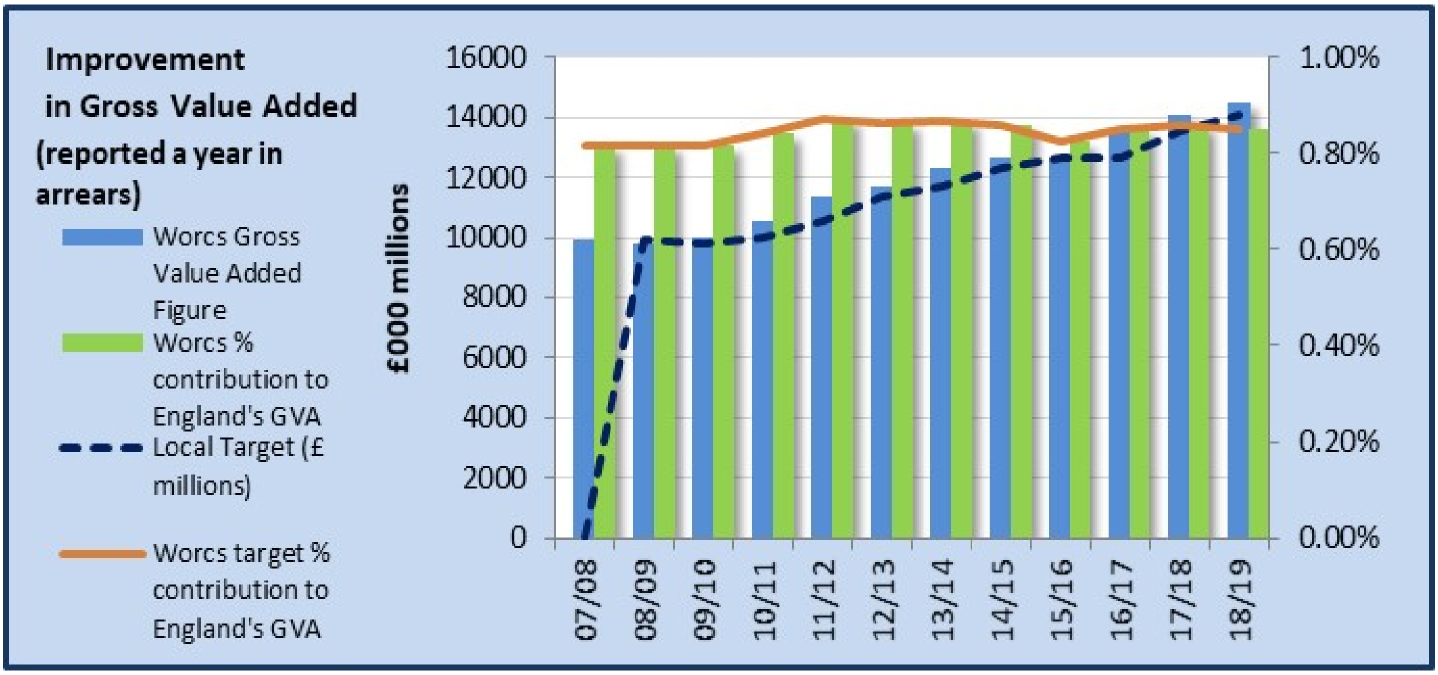
For each district council area, the percentage of businesses that commenced trading in 2020 and were active in terms of employment and/or turnover in any part of 2021. Office for National Statistics' annual Business Demography data-set provides information up to and including the year preceding publication. The latest available figures, contained in the November 2022 publication, therefore relate to 2021.



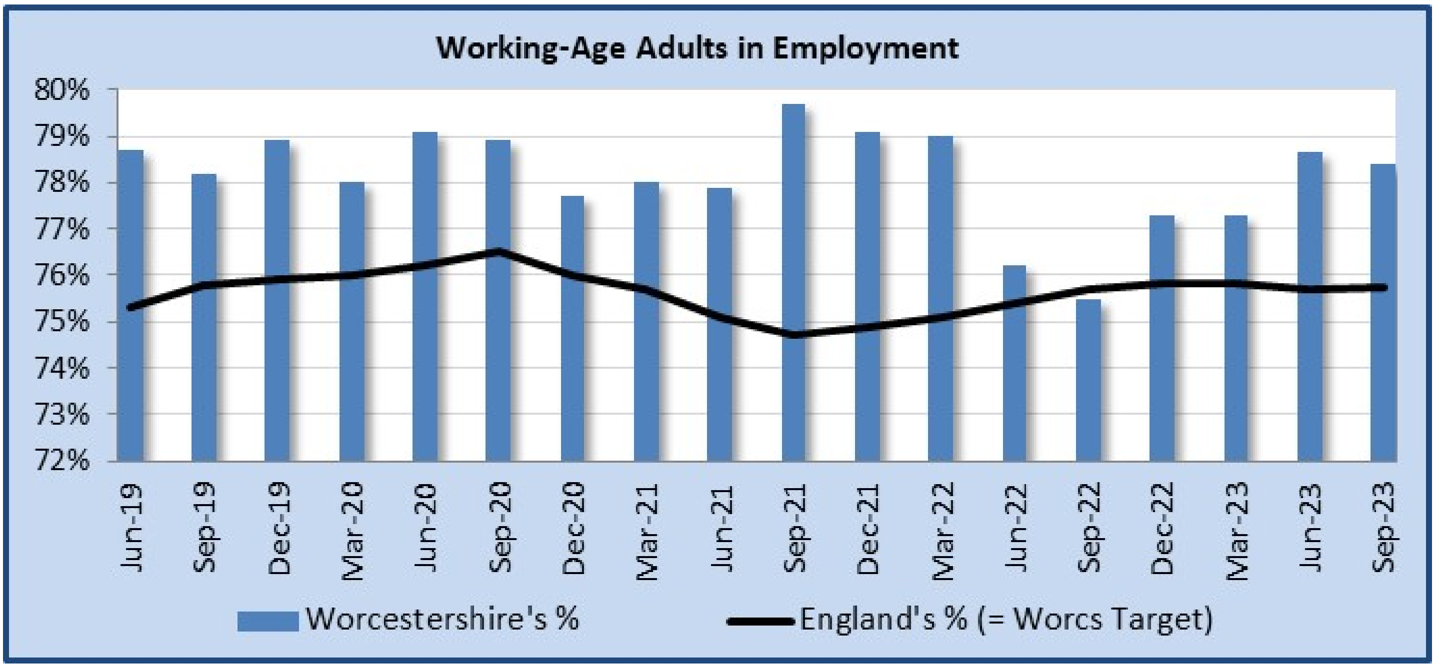
For each district council area, the percentage of businesses that commenced trading in 2018 and were active in terms of employment and/or turnover in any part of 2021. Office for National Statistics' annual Business Demography data-set provides information up to and including the year preceding publication. The latest available figures, contained in the November 2022 publication, therefore relate to 2021.



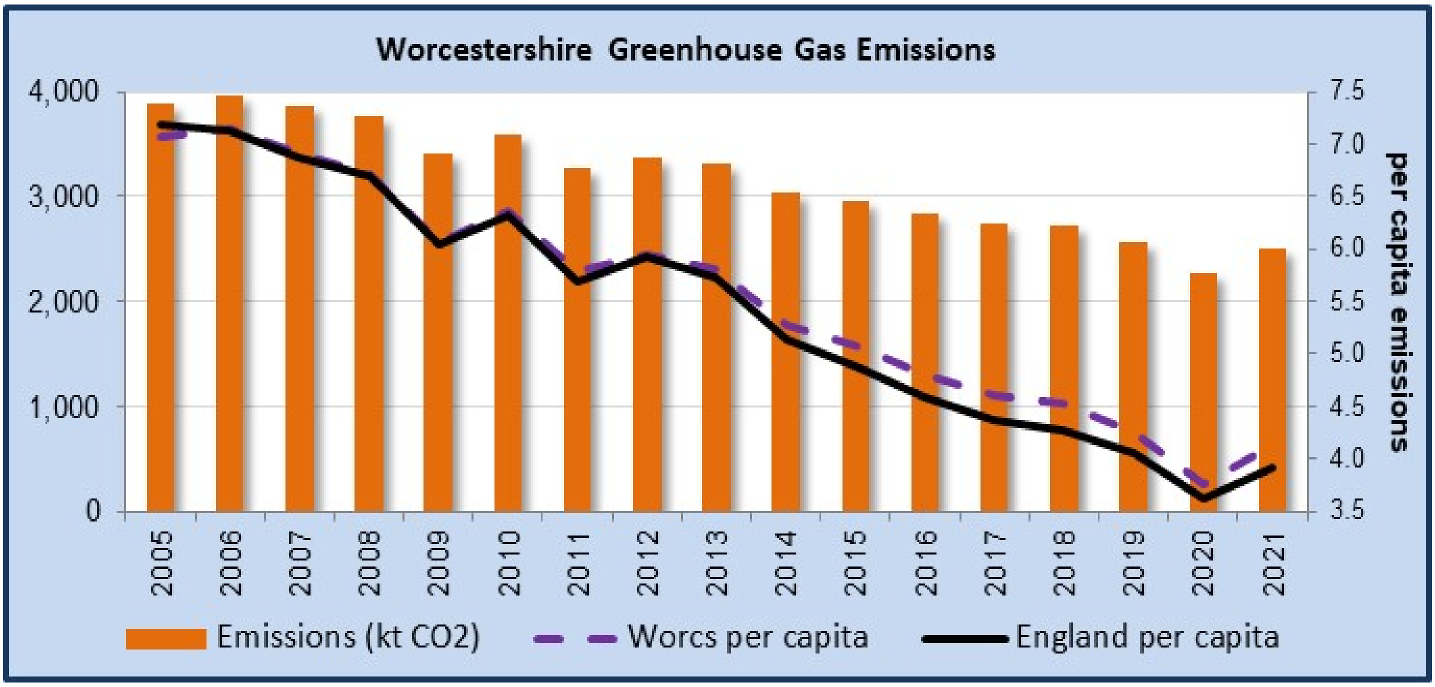
For each district council area, the percentage of businesses that commenced trading in 2016 and were active in terms of employment and/or turnover in any part of 2021. Office for National Statistics' annual Business Demography data-set provides information up to and including the year preceding publication. The latest available figures, contained in the November 2022 publication, therefore relate to 2021.



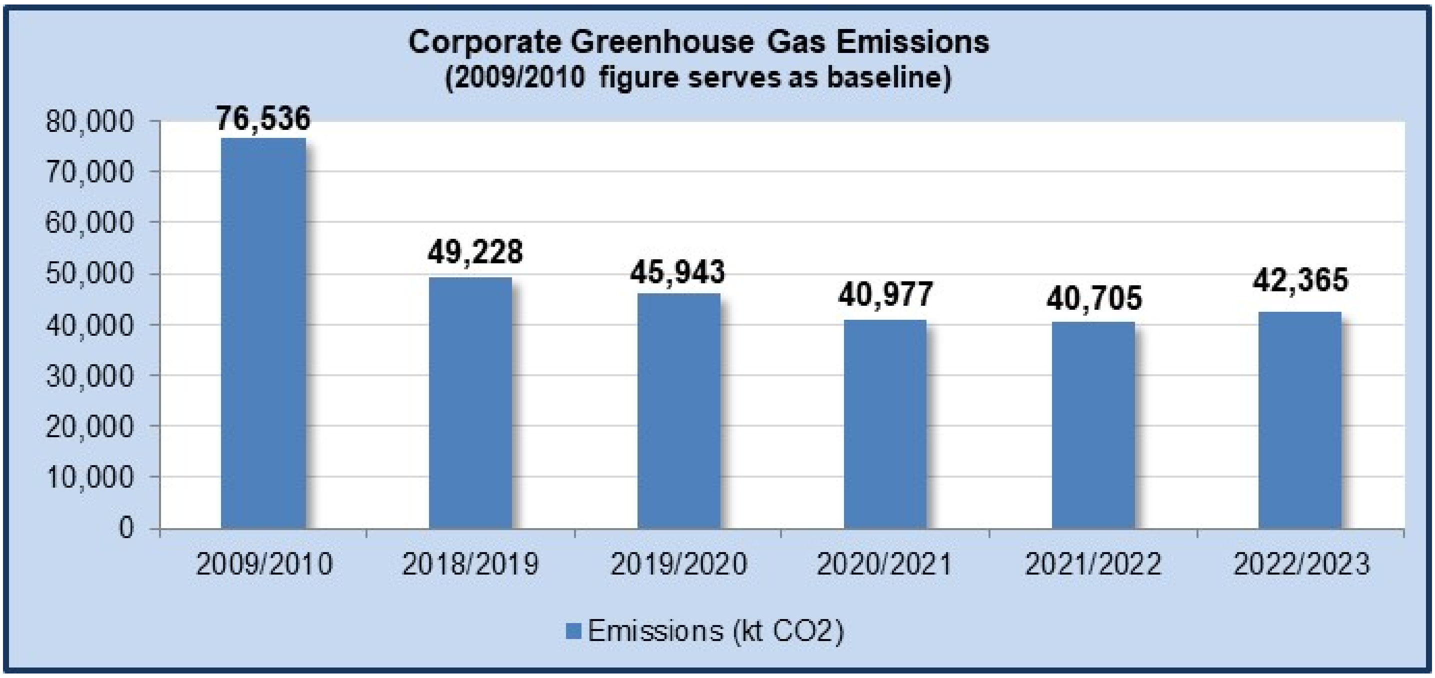
Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom. Worcestershire's annual figures are the monetary value of goods and services produced in the county, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials directly attributable to their production. Office for National Statistics (ONS) released 2018/2019's data on 26th May 2021. Amendments were published in June. Release date of 2019/2020's data is still to be confirmed by ONS.



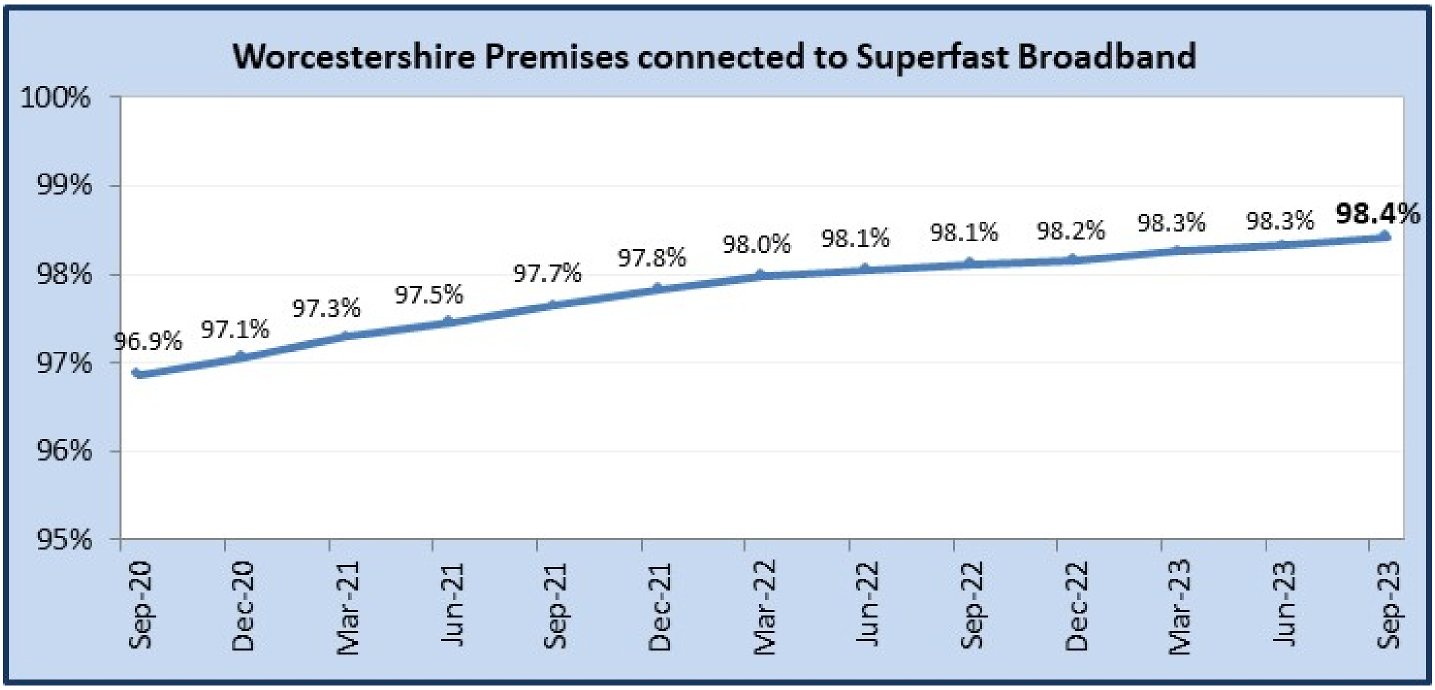
The left-hand axis and bars show the number of working-age adults (16 to 64) In employment at the end of each quarter. The right-hand axis and the two lines show, for the end of each quarter, the percentage of Worcestershire's population aged 16-64 in employment and England's equivalent percentage at the same point. The latest-available data (published in September) is for the year ending 30th June 2023. The next Office for National Statistics data-set will be released in mid-January.



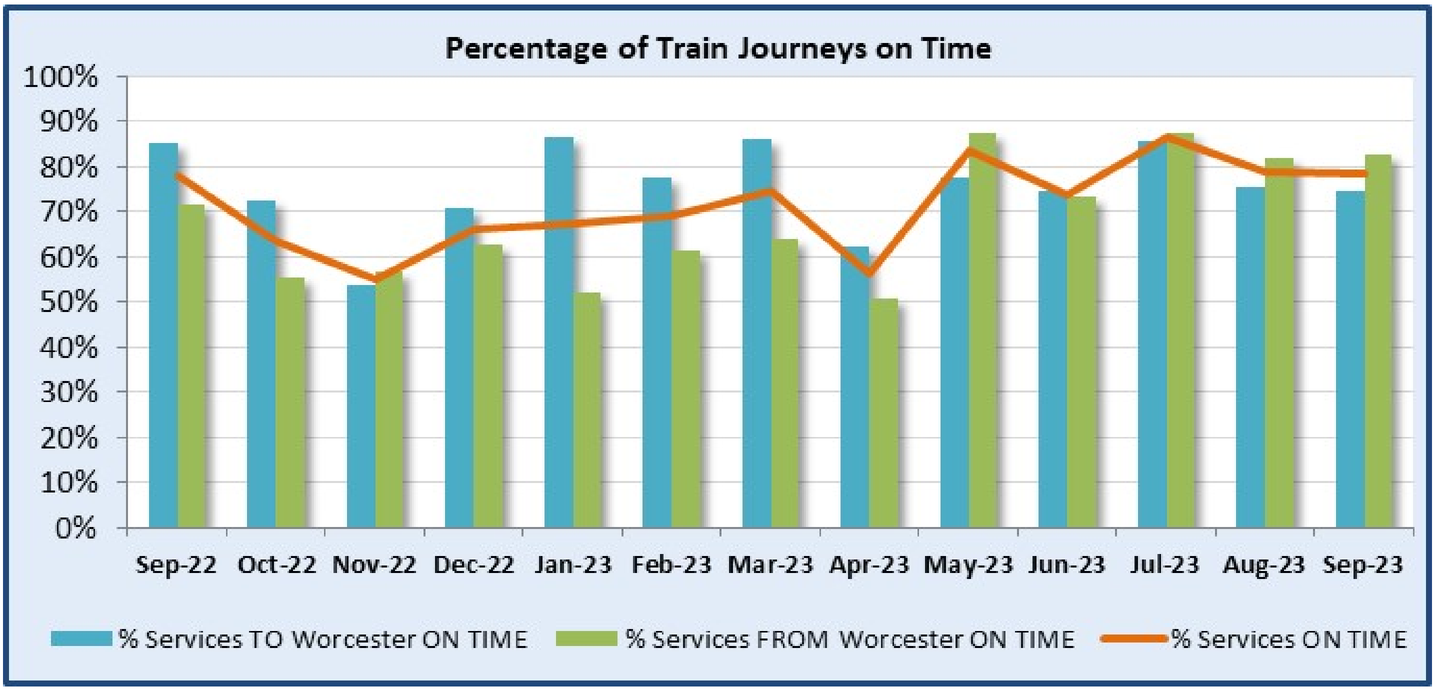
Worcestershire's estimated annual carbon dioxide emissions totals in kilotonnes of CO_2. Also shown are per capita figures for the county and for England as a whole. The totals relate to emissions that can be influenced, i.e. they exclude emissions from large industrial sites, railways, and motorways. Data is published two years in arrears by Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. 2022's data is scheduled to be published in June 2024.



Corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting follows the international protocol guidelines. Emissions are categorised in three different 'scopes'. Between them, these cover direct emissions from Council activities under our control and all indirect emissions, whether they emanate from corporately-owned buildings or assets (e.g. street lights), staff travel or outsourced operations, including municipal waste-disposal. Worcestershire County Council's GHG Emissions Report 2022/2023 was published in September 2023.



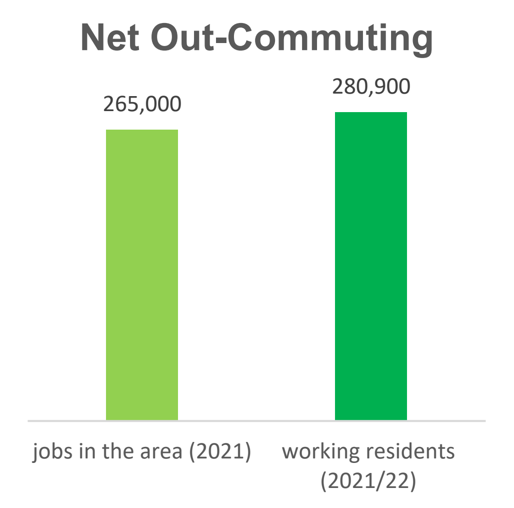
The percentage of all Worcestershire homes and business premises connect to Superfast broadband (24 Megabits per second).

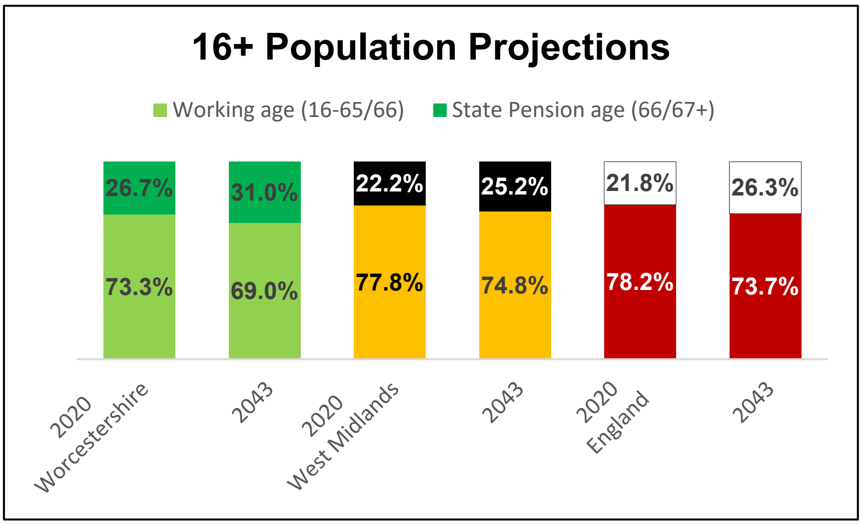


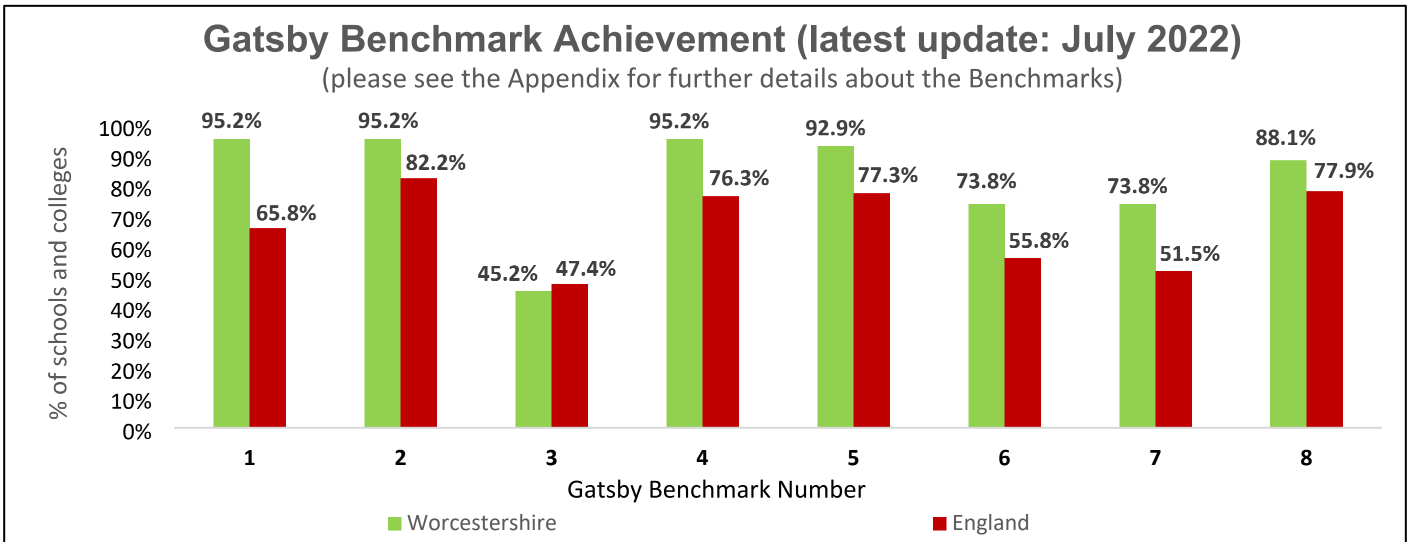
This corporate-level performance indicator covers the percentage of on-time train journeys in and out of Worcester at morning and evening peak times. Morning peak-time trains are those arriving at their destination between 6am and 10am; evening peak-time trains arrive at their destination between 4pm and 8pm. Train journeys are included to and from four major cities: Birmingham; Bristol; London; Oxford. Details of train journeys from other locations in Worcestershire are provided in the accompanying summary document.

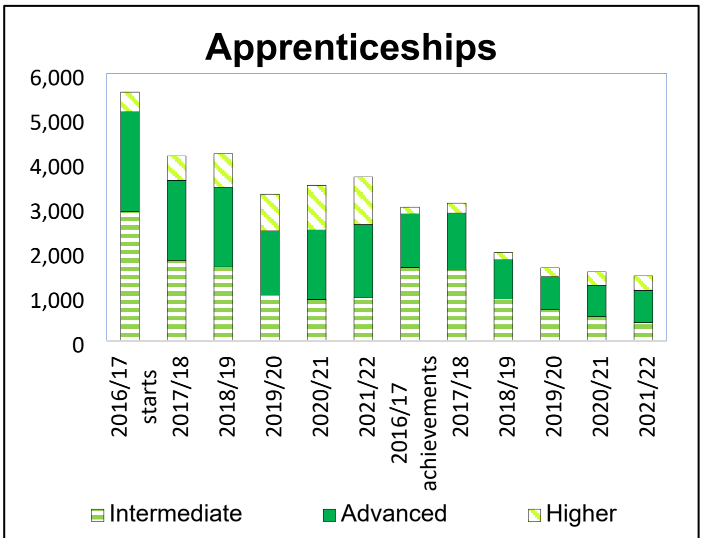
Worcestershire People Dashboard 2023

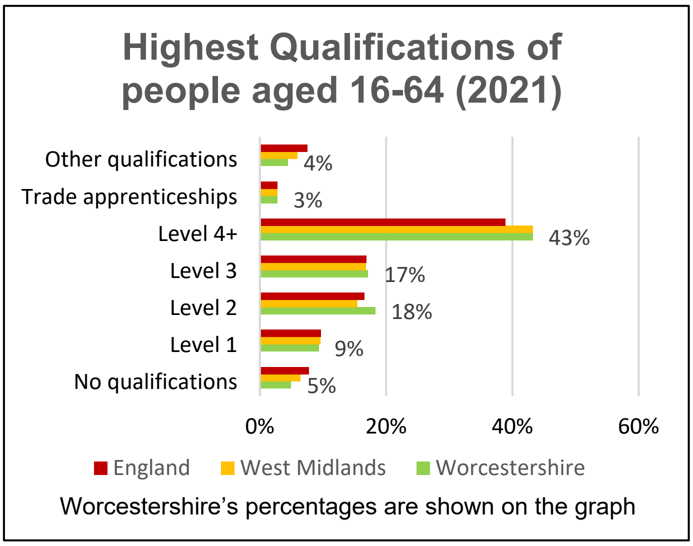
People Dashboard presented to the WLEP Employment and Skills Board's 14th September meeting. The Board's next meeting is on 14th December.

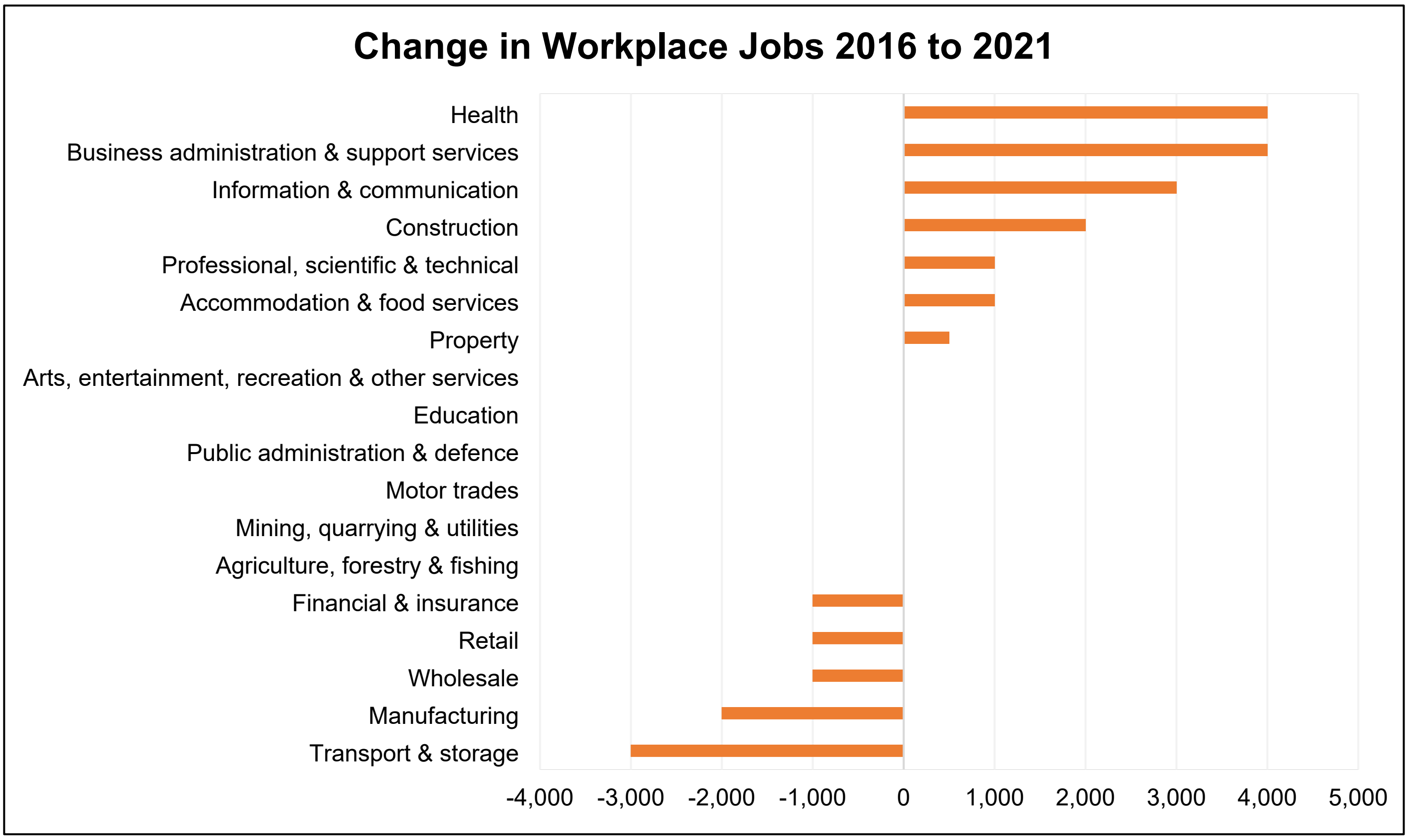


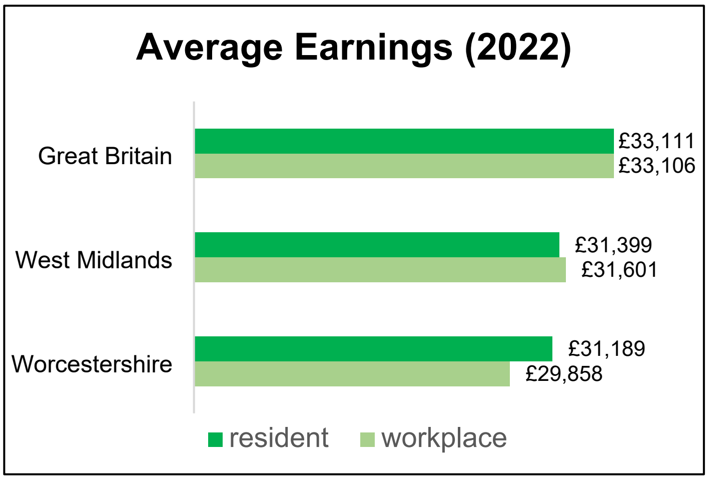


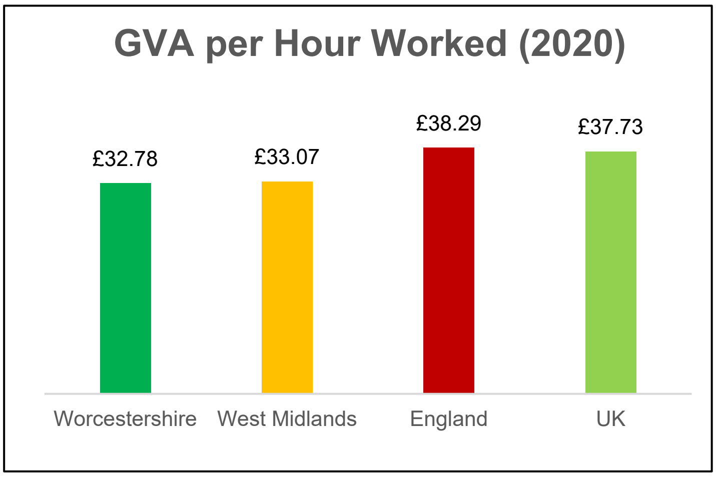


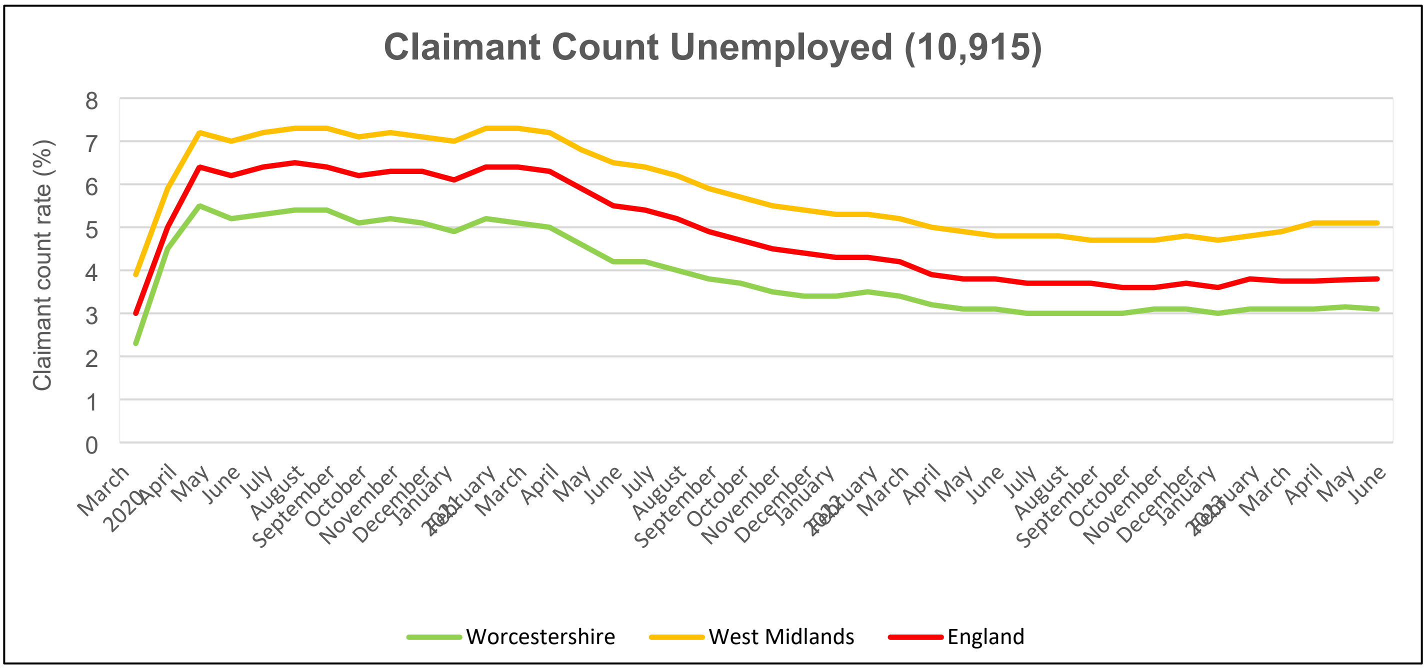





Change in Workplace Jobs 2016 to 2021
Health
Business administration & support services
Information & communication
Construction
Professional, scientific & technical
Accommodation & food services
Property
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services
Education
Public administration & defence
Motor trades
Mining, quarrying & utilities
Agriculture, forestry & fishing
Financial & insurance
Retail
Wholesale
Manufacturing
Transport & storage
-4,000 -3,000 -2,000 -1,000 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000


Average Earnings (2022)
Great Britain
£33,111
£33,106
West Midlands
£31,399
£31,601
Worcestershire
£31,189
£29,858
resident
workplace


GVA per Hour Worked (2020)
£32.78
£33.07
£38.29
£37.73
Worcestershire
West Midlands
England
UK


Claimant Count Unemployed (10,915)
Claimant count rate (%)
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Worcestershire
West Midlands
England

Business Enterprises by Employment Sizebands

VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises broken down by the number of employees. Numbers of enterprises and local units produced from a snapshot of the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 10th March 2023 and released by Office for National Statistics on 27th September.

England	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	1,899,275	261,775	129,560	69,765	23,275	13,010	9,305	2,405,965
2022	1,889,220	268,025	133,470	71,490	23,525	12,965	9,345	2,408,040
2023	1,845,670	267,970	135,170	74,385	24,080	13,225	9,630	2,370,130
2023 % +/- 2022	-2.3	0.0	1.3	4.0	2.4	2.0	3.0	-1.6

West Midlands Region	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	170,330	26,005	12,225	6,535	2,195	1,170	935	219,395
2022	170,165	27,165	13,160	6,730	2,215	1,150	925	221,510
2023	167,055	26,650	12,910	6,950	2,200	1,175	945	217,885
2023 % +/- 2022	-1.8	-1.9	-1.9	3.3	-0.7	2.2	2.2	-1.6

Worcestershire	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	22,650	3,800	1,450	790	265	145	110	29,210
2022	21,605	3,875	1,675	805	265	145	110	28,480
2023	20,745	3,305	1,510	835	255	135	115	26,900
2023 % +/- 2022	-4.0	-14.7	-9.9	3.7	-3.8	-6.9	4.5	-5.5

Bromsgrove	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	5,615	1,110	290	150	40	25	20	7,250
2022	3,975	665	280	160	45	25	20	5,170
2023	3,875	650	285	165	45	25	20	5,065
2023 % +/- 2022	-2.5	-2.3	1.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2.0

Malvern Hills	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	3,490	450	205	110	30	25	10	4,320
2022	3,630	470	215	115	25	20	10	4,485
2023	3,405	470	225	115	25	20	10	4,270
2023 % +/- 2022	-6.2	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4.8

Redditch	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	2,175	395	200	115	60	30	20	2,995
2022	2,255	380	195	115	50	30	25	3,050
2023	2,190	395	205	120	50	20	25	3,005
2023 % +/- 2022	-2.9	3.9	5.1	4.3	0.0	-33.3	0.0	-1.5

Worcester	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	2,520	390	180	130	30	20	30	3,300
2022	2,615	460	235	120	35	25	25	3,515
2023	2,525	430	210	125	30	25	25	3,370
2023 % +/- 2022	-3.4	-6.5	-10.6	4.2	-14.3	0.0	0.0	-4.1

Wychavon	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total
2021	5,555	855	365	175	80	35	20	7,085
2022	5,670	1,060	470	195	75	35	20	7,525
2023	5,520	820	345	220	70	30	25	7,030
2023 % +/- 2022	-2.6	-22.6	-26.6	12.8	-6.7	-14.3	25.0	-6.6

Wyre Forest	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250+	Total

2021	3,295	600	210	110	25	10	10	4,260
2022	3,460	840	280	100	35	10	10	4,735
2023	3,230	540	240	90	35	15	10	4,160
2023 % +/- 2022	-6.6	-35.7	-14.3	-10.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	-12.1

Business Enterprises by Broad Industry Group

VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises. An enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records), which has a certain degree of autonomy within an enterprise group. An individual site (for example a factory or shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit. The figures are from the Office for National Statistics data set released in late September of each year. The industry categories are those used and defined in the Standard Industrial Classification (UK SIC 2007)

Worcestershire	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,665	1,665	1,645	-1.2
Production	1,815	1,800	1,845	2.5
Construction	3,520	3,860	3,660	-5.2
Motor trades	930	935	925	-1.1
Wholesale	1,270	1,140	1,095	-3.9
Retail	1,660	1,750	1,725	-1.4
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	2,280	2,545	1,825	-28.3
Accommodation and food services	1,580	1,845	1,570	-14.9
Information and communication	1,505	1,425	1,385	-2.8
Finance and insurance	480	500	485	-3.0
Property	1,080	1,095	1,110	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical	4,025	3,840	3,690	-3.9
Business administration and support services	4,320	2,925	2,750	-6.0
Public administration and defence	140	145	145	0.0
Education	445	450	435	-3.3
Health	920	920	935	1.6
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	1,575	1,635	1,675	2.4
Total	**29,210**	**28,475**	**26,900**	**-5.5**

Bromsgrove	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	175	175	175	0.0
Production	280	280	285	1.8
Construction	755	770	760	-1.3
Motor trades	185	180	170	-5.6
Wholesale	195	195	185	-5.1
Retail	275	285	280	-1.8
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	460	270	240	-11.1
Accommodation and food services	230	255	255	0.0
Information and communication	345	325	310	-4.6
Finance and insurance	100	110	100	-9.1
Property	240	240	250	4.2
Professional, scientific and technical	885	810	760	-6.2
Business administration and support services	2,485	605	615	1.7
Public administration and defence	15	15	15	0.0
Education	105	105	90	-14.3
Health	215	205	220	7.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	305	345	355	2.9
Total	**7,250**	**5,170**	**5,065**	**-2.0**
Malvern Hills	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**

Agriculture, forestry and fishing	610	615	620	0.8
Production	295	290	285	-1.7
Construction	485	525	515	-1.9
Motor trades	115	115	120	4.3
Wholesale	175	170	160	-5.9
Retail	265	270	260	-3.7
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	90	140	75	-46.4
Accommodation and food services	235	290	235	-19.0
Information and communication	245	230	230	0.0
Finance and insurance	60	70	65	-7.1
Property	210	215	205	-4.7
Professional, scientific and technical	690	675	655	-3.0
Business administration and support services	335	360	340	-5.6
Public administration and defence	45	45	45	0.0
Education	75	80	80	0.0
Health	150	145	145	0.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	240	245	240	-2.0
Total	**4,320**	**4,480**	**4,275**	**-4.6**

Redditch	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	40	40	40	0.0
Production	325	305	315	3.3
Construction	465	495	500	1.0
Motor trades	125	135	125	-7.4
Wholesale	165	155	155	0.0
Retail	175	185	190	2.7
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	230	280	250	-10.7
Accommodation and food services	155	150	175	16.7
Information and communication	175	170	170	0.0
Finance and insurance	50	55	50	-9.1
Property	100	100	100	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical	400	365	345	-5.5
Business administration and support services	285	315	290	-7.9
Public administration and defence	5	5	0	-100.0
Education	55	50	50	0.0
Health	100	95	90	-5.3
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	145	150	160	6.7
Total	**2,995**	**3,050**	**3,005**	**-1.5**

Worcester	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	20	20	20	0.0
Production	190	185	200	8.1
Construction	365	410	385	-6.1
Motor trades	115	115	115	0.0
Wholesale	235	120	115	-4.2
Retail	250	265	270	1.9
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	175	325	225	-30.8
Accommodation and food services	225	285	250	-12.3
Information and communication	210	205	200	-2.4
Finance and insurance	80	80	80	0.0
Property	125	120	130	8.3
Professional, scientific and technical	550	545	530	-2.8
Business administration and support services	265	340	335	-1.5
Public administration and defence	5	10	5	-50.0

Education	70	70	75	7.1
Health	155	160	160	0.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	265	260	275	5.8
Total	**3,300**	**3,515**	**3,370**	**-4.1**

Wychavon	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	670	665	655	-1.5
Production	455	465	475	2.2
Construction	845	950	900	-5.3
Motor trades	230	225	235	4.4
Wholesale	320	315	300	-4.8
Retail	425	450	435	-3.3
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	655	770	515	-33.1
Accommodation and food services	380	460	370	-19.6
Information and communication	375	350	330	-5.7
Finance and insurance	125	120	125	4.2
Property	275	290	300	3.4
Professional, scientific and technical	1,030	985	965	-2.0
Business administration and support services	605	755	695	-7.9
Public administration and defence	50	55	60	9.1
Education	90	95	90	-5.3
Health	195	205	205	0.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	360	370	375	1.4
Total	**7,085**	**7,525**	**7,030**	**-6.6**

Wyre Forest	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2023 % +/- 2022**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	150	150	135	-10.0
Production	270	275	285	3.6
Construction	605	710	600	-15.5
Motor trades	160	165	160	-3.0
Wholesale	180	185	180	-2.7
Retail	270	295	290	-1.7
Transport and Storage (incl. postal)	670	760	520	-31.6
Accommodation and food services	355	405	285	-29.6
Information and communication	155	145	145	0.0
Finance and insurance	65	65	65	0.0
Property	130	130	125	-3.8
Professional, scientific and technical	470	460	435	-5.4
Business administration and support services	345	550	475	-13.6
Public administration and defence	20	15	20	33.3
Education	50	50	50	0.0
Health	105	110	115	4.5
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	260	265	270	1.9
Total	**4,260**	**4,735**	**4,155**	**-12.2**

Business Survival Rates

The survival of enterprises new in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The source of the information is the Office for National Statistics Business Demography data-set. The latest-available survival-rate data is for 2021. It was published in mid-November 2022. The date of the publication of the next data-set is to be confirmed.

BIRTHS OF UNITS IN 2020 AND THEIR SURVIVAL	Births	1-year survival	1-year per cent
United Kingdom	333,020	309,470	92.9
England	299,115	277,810	92.9
West Midlands Region	28,145	26,410	93.8
Herefordshire	780	730	93.6
Shropshire (including Telford and Wrekin)	2,185	2,080	95.2
Staffordshire	3,050	2,870	94.1
Warwickshire	3,030	2,845	93.9
West Midlands (Metropolitan County)	14,125	13,290	94.1
Worcestershire	3,950	3,675	93.0
Bromsgrove	1,655	1,600	96.7
Malvern Hills	325	310	95.4
Redditch	340	315	92.6
Worcester	480	345	71.9
Wychavon	550	525	95.5
Wyre Forest	600	580	96.7

Births of Units in 2019 and their Survival	Births	1-year survival	1-year per cent	2-year survival	2-year per cent
United Kingdom	363,825	344,140	94.6	271,295	74.6
England	325,355	308,105	94.7	242,475	74.5
West Midlands Region	34,440	32,830	95.3	24,255	70.4
Herefordshire	770	745	96.8	630	81.8
Shropshire (including Telford and Wrekin)	2,260	2,155	95.4	1,770	78.3
Staffordshire	3,240	3,065	94.6	2,555	78.9
Warwickshire	3,185	3,030	95.1	2,445	76.8
West Midlands (Metropolitan County)	15,310	14,470	94.5	10,375	67.8
Worcestershire	8,745	8,490	97.1	5,805	66.4
Bromsgrove*	5,035	4,995	99.2	3,095	61.5
Malvern Hills	320	305	95.3	255	79.7
Redditch	860	805	93.6	555	64.5
Worcester	440	415	94.3	345	78.4
Wychavon	1,120	1,030	92.0	860	76.8
Wyre Forest	970	940	96.9	695	71.6

Births of Units in 2018 and their Survival	Births	1-year survival	1-year per cent	2-year survival	2-year per cent	3-year survival	3-year per cent
United Kingdom	348,630	330,330	94.8	258,465	74.1	200,650	57.6
England	311,580	295,435	94.8	231,390	74.3	179,140	57.5
West Midlands Region	29,505	27,790	94.2	21,310	72.2	14,925	50.6
Herefordshire	665	630	94.7	520	78.2	435	65.4
Shropshire (including Telford and Wrekin)	1,775	1,665	93.8	1,360	76.6	1,120	63.1
Staffordshire	3,230	3,060	94.7	2,445	75.7	2,000	61.9
Warwickshire	3,200	3,060	95.6	2,510	78.4	1,875	58.6
West Midlands (Metropolitan County)	15,785	14,750	93.4	11,575	73.3	7,405	46.9
Worcestershire	3,995	3,825	95.7	2,325	58.2	1,640	41.1
Bromsgrove*	1,835	1,760	95.9	675	36.8	330	18.0
Malvern Hills	375	365	97.3	300	80.0	250	66.7
Redditch	355	335	94.4	240	67.6	190	53.5
Worcester	375	355	94.7	275	73.3	210	56.0

Wychavon	655	630	96.2	520	79.4	425	64.9
Wyre Forest	400	380	95.0	315	78.8	235	58.8

Births of Units in 2017 and their Survival	Births	1-year survival	1-year per cent	2-year survival	2-year per cent	3-year survival	3-year per cent	4-year survival	4-year per cent
United Kingdom	356,895	334,450	93.7	260,095	72.9	200,360	56.1	163,995	46.0
England	318,240	298,350	93.8	231,110	72.6	177,830	55.9	145,505	45.7
West Midlands Region	29,320	27,685	94.4	18,965	64.7	14,280	48.7	11,940	40.7
Herefordshire	715	690	96.5	570	79.7	465	65.0	405	56.6
Shropshire (including Telford and Wrekin)	1,800	1,710	95.0	1,405	78.1	1,145	63.6	990	55.0
Staffordshire	3,280	3,045	92.8	2,450	74.7	1,990	60.7	1,710	52.1
Warwickshire	2,985	2,830	94.8	2,320	77.7	1,760	59.0	1,465	49.1
West Midlands (Metropolitan County)	13,795	12,870	93.3	9,300	67.4	6,915	50.1	5,695	41.3
Worcestershire	5,950	5,805	97.6	2,350	39.5	1,560	26.2	1,300	21.8
Bromsgrove*	4,045	4,005	99.0	860	21.3	340	8.4	265	6.6
Malvern Hills	310	295	95.2	255	82.3	210	67.7	180	58.1
Redditch	290	280	96.6	225	77.6	175	60.3	150	51.7
Worcester	390	360	92.3	295	75.6	235	60.3	195	50.0
Wychavon	560	530	94.6	440	78.6	365	65.2	325	58.0
Wyre Forest	355	335	94.4	275	77.5	235	66.2	185	52.1

Births of Units in 2016 and their Survival	Births	1-year survival	1-year per cent	2-year survival	2-year per cent	3-year survival	3-year per cent	4-year survival	4-year per cent	5-year survival	5-year per cent
United Kingdom	397,540	378,505	95.2	282,775	71.1	215,085	54.1	178,505	44.9	152,495	38.4
England	358,680	341,745	95.3	253,830	70.8	192,420	53.6	159,640	44.5	136,355	38.0
West Midlands Region	33,490	32,020	95.6	24,890	74.3	16,495	49.3	13,695	40.9	11,600	34.6
Herefordshire	740	690	93.2	555	75.0	475	64.2	420	56.8	375	50.7
Shropshire (including Telford and Wrekin)	1,900	1,815	95.5	1,465	77.1	1,190	62.6	1,010	53.2	870	45.8
Staffordshire	3,905	3,725	95.4	2,975	76.2	2,250	57.6	1,895	48.5	1,660	42.5
Warwickshire	3,630	3,455	95.2	2,755	75.9	2,180	60.1	1,845	50.8	1,580	43.5
West Midlands (Metropolitan County)	17,480	16,665	95.3	12,265	70.2	7,880	45.1	6,435	36.8	5,530	31.6
Worcestershire	4,910	4,785	97.5	4,180	85.1	2,015	41.0	1,675	34.1	1,230	25.1
Bromsgrove*	2,675	2,645	98.9	2,455	91.8	665	24.9	555	20.7	240	9.0
Malvern Hills	385	370	96.1	295	76.6	235	61.0	200	51.9	175	45.5
Redditch	390	370	94.9	295	75.6	210	53.8	175	44.9	160	41.0
Worcester	450	420	93.3	345	76.7	275	61.1	220	48.9	190	42.2
Wychavon	620	605	97.6	495	79.8	400	64.5	330	53.2	300	48.4
Wyre Forest	390	375	96.2	295	75.6	230	59.0	195	50.0	165	42.3

* Bromsgrove's business births and survival-rate figures for 2016 to 2019: In recent years, the number of multiple registrations on the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) at a single postcode has increased. This can cause large fluctuations. There are several reasons why these multiple registrations can occur. For example, the increase in the use of management and personal service companies, the use of formation agents to register a new business with Companies House, virtual offices, the presence of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) local offices, and foreign on-line sellers. There has also been an increase in the number of temporary staff (for example supply teachers, drivers, and nurses) setting up their own limited companies. In these cases, when the person registers as a limited company they are the only employee and are also the owner or director of the business. Very often these limited companies, sometimes referred to as 'personal service companies', are using a management company and are registered at the address of the management company rather than the individual limited company address. These businesses may only exist for a few months, to cover the period of the temporary contract. In extreme cases, several thousand businesses can be registered at a single management company

address. When new businesses are registered as limited companies by temporary workers and contractors, their survival rates can be shorter. For example, in the initial year the area could show a higher-than-normal business birth rate, but then the following year there could be an adverse effect on the business death rates that will result in lower business survival rates.

Employment: Working-Age Adults (16 to 64) In Employment

The percentage at the end of each quarter of Worcestershire's population aged 16 to 64 in employment compared to England's equivalent percentage for the same period. The next Office for National Statistics data-set will be released in mid-January.

Quarter-End Month	Worcestershire	England (also Worcestershire Target)
March 2015	78.30%	71.70%
June 2015	78.20%	72.90%
September 2015	78.20%	73.30%
December 2015	77.60%	73.60%
March 2016	76.10%	73.90%
June 2016	75.40%	73.90%
September 2016	75.90%	73.90%
December 2016	75.90%	73.90%
March 2017	76.10%	74.10%
June 2017	76.90%	74.40%
September 2017	76.40%	74.60%
December 2017	75.80%	74.70%
March 2018	76.90%	75.10%
June 2018	78.00%	75.20%
September 2018	78.30%	75.20%
December 2018	78.20%	75.30%
March 2019	79.50%	75.30%
June 2019	78.70%	75.30%
September 2019	78.20%	75.80%
December 2019	78.90%	75.90%
March 2020	78.00%	76.00%
June 2020	79.10%	76.20%
September 2020	78.90%	76.50%
December 2020	77.70%	76.00%
March 2021	78.00%	75.70%
June 2021	77.90%	75.10%
September 2021	79.70%	74.70%
December 2021	79.10%	74.90%
March 2022	79.00%	75.10%
June 2022	76.20%	75.40%
September 2022	75.48%	75.70%
December 2022	77.28%	75.82%
March 2023	77.28%	75.83%
June 2023	78.65%	75.69%
September 2023	78.41%	75.76%

Employment: Payrolled Employees

The figures are from an experimental HMRC/Office for National Statistics data-set covering all age-groups. The figures for September 2023 are estimates, more likely to be subject to significant revisions than previous months' figures.

Values for each month are an average of employee counts on each day of the month. It is a measure of payrolled employees, as opposed to a measure of employee jobs. Early estimates for September 2023 indicate the number of payrolled employees in the UK rose by 1.2% compared with September 2022 (Worcestershire: +1%).

In the following table, the figures for Shropshire are a combination of those for Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council. All totals for the West Midlands are combined figures for Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, and Wolverhampton.

Date	Worcestershire	Gloucestershire	Herefordshire	Shropshire	Staffordshire	Warwickshire	West Midlands	UK
Sep 2019	265,380	281,213	80,142	209,751	386,243	269,091	1,175,021	29,018,473
Dec 2019	264,875	281,638	77,124	209,709	385,027	269,643	1,180,483	29,033,583
Mar 2020	263,282	279,324	77,098	208,928	383,130	268,286	1,168,978	28,882,209
Jun 2020	260,365	274,890	78,840	206,277	379,486	265,800	1,149,477	28,439,210
Sep 2020	258,812	273,890	78,297	205,229	377,924	263,968	1,140,894	28,249,498
Dec 2020	257,548	273,635	75,475	205,389	376,499	263,556	1,145,527	28,163,208
Mar 2021	256,488	271,641	75,374	204,857	375,812	263,142	1,137,978	28,064,022
Jun 2021	262,930	278,464	79,501	209,704	384,323	269,041	1,165,443	28,762,427
Sep 2021	265,149	281,286	80,334	212,028	387,353	271,500	1,182,969	29,101,256
Dec 2021	265,270	281,844	77,883	213,344	388,047	272,917	1,200,416	29,291,072
Mar 2022	265,711	281,706	78,502	213,693	388,409	273,620	1,196,867	29,364,882
Jun 2022	268,077	283,529	81,875	214,949	391,587	275,421	1,208,310	29,656,323
Sep 2022	269,519	285,613	82,168	216,457	393,447	277,755	1,216,640	29,821,088
Dec 2022	269,530	287,114	79,259	216,840	393,530	279,049	1,234,311	29,961,714
Mar 2023	268,978	286,666	78,906	216,475	392,195	278,703	1,224,588	29,912,204
Jun 2023	272,307	289,177	82,806	219,142	396,945	281,223	1,240,493	30,222,874
Sep 2023	272,237	290,547	82,274	219,742	397,137	281,754	1,238,133	30,191,252

Economic Growth: Gross Value Added (GVA)

Worcestershire’s Gross Value Added (GVA) is the value of goods and services produced in the county, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials directly attributable to their production. The latest Office for National Statistics data was published in May 2021, with the most recent financial year covered by the figures being 2018/2019.

Financial Year	Actual Figure (£s)	Actual Target (£s)	Performance (£000 millions)	Target (£000 millions)	Worcestershire’s Share of England's GVA	Target
2007/2008	9,937,000,000	--	9,937	--	0.82%	--
2008/2009	9,769,000,000	9,937,000,000	9,769	9,937	0.82%	0.82%
2009/2010	10,015,000,000	9,769,000,000	10,015	9,769	0.82%	0.82%
2010/2011	10,565,000,000	10,015,000,000	10,565	10,015	0.84%	0.82%
2011/2012	11,330,000,000	10,565,000,000	11,330	10,565	0.87%	0.82%
2012/2013	11,702,000,000	11,330,000,000	11,702	11,330	0.86%	0.82%
2013/2014	12,305,000,000	11,702,000,000	12,305	11,702	0.87%	0.82%
2014/2015	12,647,000,000	12,305,000,000	12,647	12,305	0.86%	0.82%
2015/2016	12,675,000,000	12,647,000,000	12,675	12,647	0.83%	0.82%
2016/2017	13,505,000,000	12,675,000,000	13,505	12,675	0.85%	0.82%
2017/2018	14,098,000,000	13,505,000,000	14,098	13,505	0.86%	0.82%
2018/2019	14,484,000,000	14,098,000,000	14,484	14,098	0.85%	0.82%

Worcestershire Greenhouse Gas Emissions: CO2 emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kilotonnes of CO2)

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics (Latest update: June 2023 for calendar years 2005 to 2021).

Year	Industrial	Commercial	Domestic	Public Sector	Transport	Land use, land-use change, and forestry	Agriculture	Waste Management	Total	Worcs. per capita emissions	England per capita emissions
2005	729.1	478.1	1,385.8	192.5	1,749.1	-84.3	--	--	4,450.3	8.3	8.6
2006	751.7	522.9	1,399.8	189.9	1,758.4	-85.4	--	--	4,537.3	8.4	8.5
2007	720.6	490.7	1,352.5	176.8	1,774.1	-90.7	--	--	4,424.1	8.2	8.2
2008	667.3	480.9	1,349.9	166.3	1,708.0	-97.1	--	--	4,275.3	7.9	7.9
2009	557.4	400.0	1,224.2	141.8	1,672.8	-96.7	--	--	3,899.5	7.2	7.1
2010	627.5	419.1	1,318.4	152.8	1,657.6	-97.4	--	--	4,078.1	7.4	7.3
2011	563.9	396.0	1,142.7	140.9	1,613.4	-100.7	--	--	3,756.3	6.8	6.6
2012	574.8	413.5	1,225.0	145.8	1,558.4	-98.0	--	--	3,819.5	6.9	6.9
2013	584.9	399.1	1,193.9	144.6	1,570.3	-102.7	--	--	3,790.1	6.8	6.7
2014	547.9	342.0	1,015.2	124.3	1,601.5	-101.8	--	--	3,529.1	6.3	6.1
2015	510.4	309.6	981.4	112.9	1,643.0	-106.0	--	--	3,451.2	6.1	5.8
2016	465.6	271.8	935.9	98.7	1,680.5	-99.5	--	--	3,353.2	5.9	5.4
2017	489.4	207.1	884.3	110.6	1,665.0	-102.9	--	--	3,253.5	5.7	5.2
2018	540.6	132.8	867.0	114.6	1,615.4	-102.3	103.0	7.4	3,278.5	5.5	5.1
2019	481.7	117.7	833.8	114.9	1,595.3	-104.5	77.1	9.0	3,124.9	5.2	4.8
2020	431.8	86.3	816.6	114.2	1,275.5	-104.3	73.2	8.1	2,701.4	4.5	4.3
2021	513.9	96.5	841.2	127.8	1,456.6	-103.8	81.1	7.5	3,020.8	5.0	4.6

Worcestershire Greenhouse Gas Emissions: CO2 emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kilotonnes of CO2) - Scope of Influence

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics (Latest update: June 2023 for calendar years 2005 to 2021). Totals exclude large industrial sites, railways, motorways, and land-use)

Year	Industrial	Commercial	Domestic	Public Sector	Transport	Agriculture	Waste Management	Total	Worcs. per capita emissions	England per capita emissions
2005	697.8	478.1	1,385.8	192.5	1,054.0	75.7	10.5	3,894.3	7.1	7.2
2006	719.1	522.9	1,399.8	189.9	1,047.1	81.9	7.8	3,968.5	7.2	7.1
2007	688.1	490.7	1,352.5	176.8	1,062.2	81.0	8.3	3,859.7	6.9	6.9
2008	634.1	480.9	1,349.9	166.3	1,035.5	88.8	8.3	3,763.8	6.7	6.7
2009	546.6	400.0	1,224.2	141.8	1,007.5	78.6	8.5	3,407.2	6.1	6.1
2010	615.9	419.1	1,318.4	152.8	996.1	76.8	8.4	3,587.4	6.4	6.3
2011	554.8	396.0	1,142.7	140.9	971.0	68.7	7.8	3,282.0	5.8	5.7
2012	566.1	413.5	1,225.0	145.8	941.5	78.2	7.2	3,377.3	5.9	5.9
2013	575.1	399.1	1,193.9	144.6	929.6	70.4	7.6	3,320.4	5.8	5.7
2014	535.4	342.0	1,015.2	124.3	949.0	67.9	8.1	3,041.9	5.3	5.1
2015	497.0	309.6	981.4	112.9	974.3	71.5	7.1	2,953.6	5.1	4.9
2016	452.9	271.8	935.9	98.7	1,000.2	65.5	7.9	2,833.0	4.8	4.6
2017	471.7	207.1	884.3	110.6	998.2	70.6	8.0	2,750.4	4.6	4.4
2018	521.1	132.8	867.0	114.6	982.1	93.2	7.4	2,718.3	4.5	4.3
2019	464.7	117.7	833.8	114.9	956.0	66.2	9.0	2,562.2	4.2	4.0
2020	418.9	86.3	816.6	114.2	769.7	62.5	8.1	2,276.3	3.8	3.6
2021	497.4	96.5	841.2	127.8	861.9	69.8	7.5	2,502.0	4.1	3.9

Worcestershire County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Scope (Type of Activity)

Latest update: September 2023.

Emissions Category (please see notes for details)	2009/2010 (baseline)	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2022/2023 % +/- 2021/2022	2022/2023 % +/- 2009/2010
Scope 1	4,598	2,668	2,467	2,480	2,300	2,008	-12.7	-56.3
Scope 2	16,672	7,304	6,459	0	0	0	0.0	-100.0
Scope 3	55,266	38,256	37,017	38,497	38,405	40,357	+5.1	-27.0
Totals	**76,536**	**49,228**	**45,943**	**40,977**	**40,705**	**42,365**	**+4.1**	**-44.6**

Scope 1: Natural gas use in WCC buildings (excluding schools); fuel use in WCC vehicle fleet; residual fuel use (e.g. burning oil, LPG, etc.) consumed at WCC sites (excluding schools).

Scope 2: Indirect emissions - electricity use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) and street lighting (grid generation). Since 2020, the County Council has purchased Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) accredited green electricity for all corporate sites and street lighting. All scope 2 emissions associated with the generation of REGO-accredited electricity can be classed as a net benefit, or carbon offset, for reporting purposes.

Scope 3: Other indirect emissions, e.g. electricity use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) and street lighting (grid transmission and distribution); staff mileage travelled by WCC staff for business purposes; electricity and gas consumption in buildings operated by the main out-sourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways services; fleet and staff mileage undertaken by main out-sourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways services on behalf of WCC; petrol and diesel consumption by contracted fleet vehicles; emissions from municipal waste disposal.

Local authorities have removed schools’ emissions from their Greenhouse Gas reporting. In Worcestershire, an exercise was undertaken in 2019 to remove schools' emissions from the 2009/2010 data. This was done to ensure the baseline total against which progress is being monitored was calculated using the same methodology as has been applied for all years from 2018/2019. Re-calculation of figures for years from 2010/2011 to 2017/2018 would be a major piece of work.

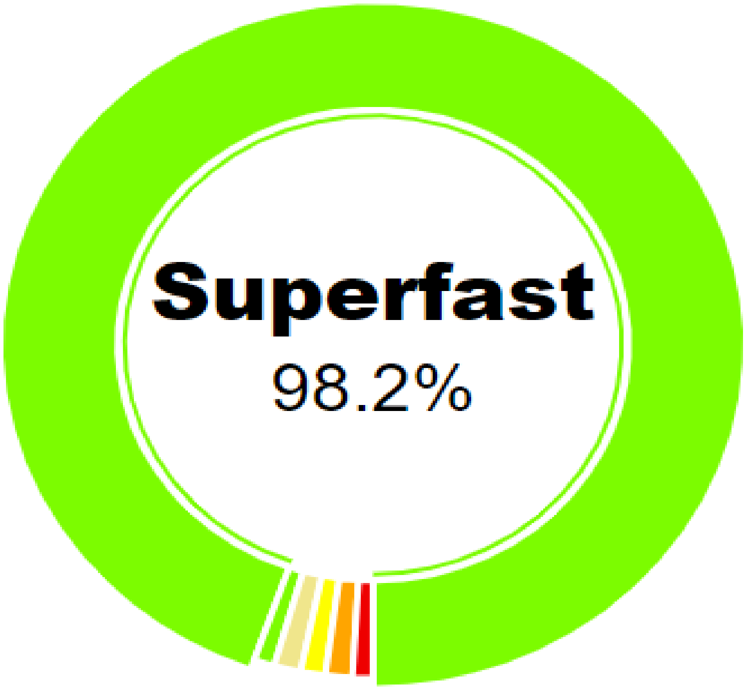
Worcestershire County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Share of Annual Corporate Emissions by Activity

Latest update: September 2023 for 2022/2023

Share of Annual Corporate Emissions by Activity	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Waste Disposal	67%	69%	72%	74%	78%
Severn Waste	4%	5%	4%	5%	9%
Buildings - Gas	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Ringway	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Fleet	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Staff Mileage	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Contract Fleet	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Buildings - Electricity	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Street Lighting	12%	11%	10%	8%	0%
Residual Fuels	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%
Staff Air Travel	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%

Broadband Connectivity

Data source for Worcestershire’s data is https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/worcestershire,E10000034.
Latest update: September 2023



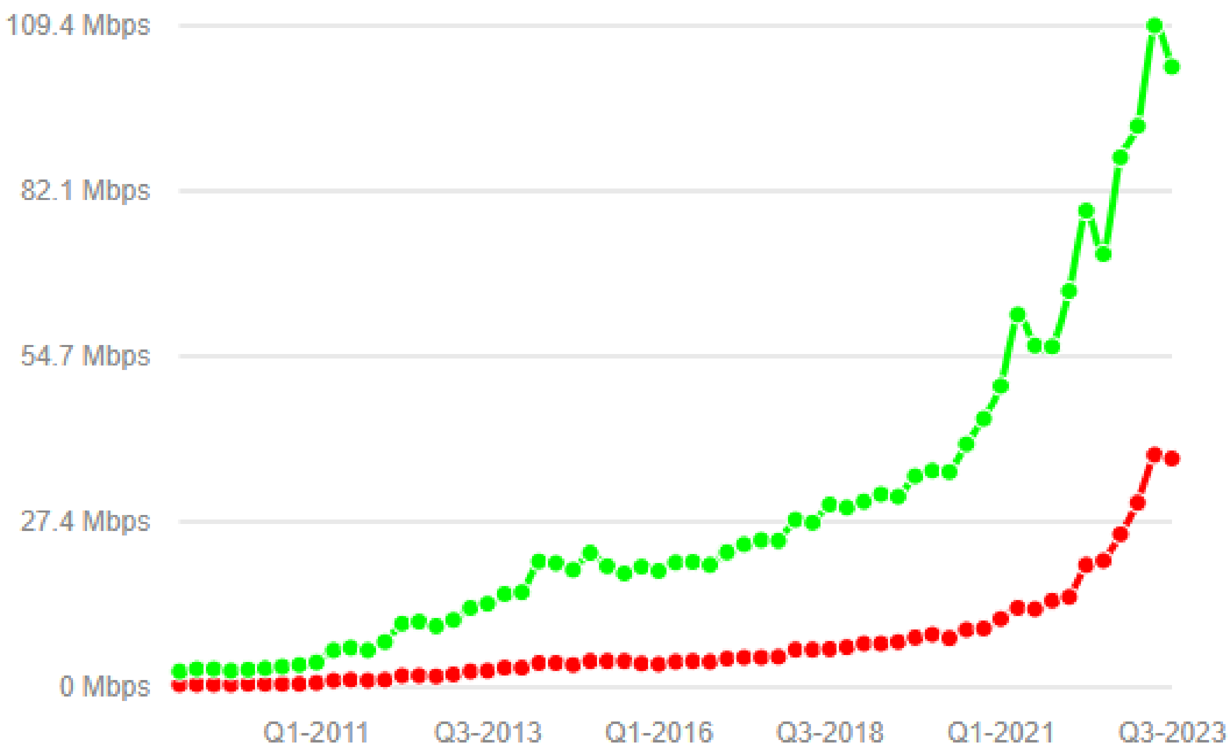
Superfast (>24 Mbps):	**98.46%**
Superfast (>=30 Mbps):	**98.23%**
Gigabit (DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP):	**75.11%**
Full Fibre (FTTP or FTTH):	**58.20%**
Alt Net FTTP: FTTP excluding Openreach, KCOM and Virgin Media RFOG	**30.75%**
Openreach FTTP:	**41.39%**
'Fibre' partial/full at any speed: (FTTC/VDSL/G.fast/Cable/FTTP)	**99.76%**

Below 2 Mbps down:	**0.16%**
Below 10 Mbps down: (Legal USO)	**0.64%**
Below 10 Mbps, 1.2 Mbps up:	**0.66%**
Below 15 Mbps: (High Speed Broadband)	**1.04%**
Ultrafast (>100 Mbps):	**75.87%**
Virgin Media Cable:	**24.51%**
Openreach (>30 Mbps):	**96.27%**
Openreach G.fast:	**2.10%**

Coverage percentages include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level data. The speed available are determined by a model that reconstructs the Openreach exchange/cabinet based network, and takes into account the distance limitations of ADSL2+ and VDSL2/G.fast (FTTC) services.

Worcestershire Speed Test Results (Mbps)

Technology Split: ADSL 10.4% FTTC 50.2% Cable 9.4% FTTH 30.1%



Estimated Maximum Mean Download Speed: **644 Mbps**

This figure is based around everyone buying the fastest Virgin Media, KC or Openreach product available to them, based on current product availability. Distance limitations of ADSL2+ and VDSL2 are factored into the calculation.

Superfast 30 Mbps and faster

Generated: Saturday 21st October 2023

UK	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
97.7%	**98.0%**	**97.2%**	**95.8%**	**97.1%**

Full Fibre - Fibre to the Premises

Generated: Saturday 21st October 2023

UK	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
57.3%	**56.7%**	**93.4%**	**51.6%**	**55.9%**

Rail Journeys: Station Usage

The combined entry and exit totals in the table below are financial-year estimates derived from manual station counts and local ticketing data. The data is refreshed annually in late-November by Office of Rail and Road (ORR).

According to ORR, in the 2021/2022 financial year, 990 million passenger journeys were made in Great Britain, up 155.2% from 388 million in 2020/2021 and equivalent to 56.9% of the pre-COVID 2019/2020 tally of 1,739,000,000.

Worcestershire Stations	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	21/22 as % of 19/20
Blakedown	95,164	111,280	97,242	99,500	38,914	60,810	61.1
Bromsgrove	644,350	690,894	752,792	790,432	133,276	415,268	52.5
Droitwich	550,594	567,790	527,594	520,326	133,952	325,718	62.6
Evesham	257,544	246,898	234,006	245,990	66,164	203,748	82.8
Great Malvern	559,494	562,634	531,124	537,454	126,294	324,946	60.5
Hagley	529,504	617,488	524,806	492,262	278,276	300,246	61.0
Hartlebury	49,450	57,810	57,538	54,064	18,278	38,002	70.3
Honeybourne	59,496	61,858	66,612	71,830	16,280	64,078	89.2
Kidderminster	1,613,640	1,695,390	1,638,322	1,529,896	371,364	799,082	52.2
Malvern Link	354,414	348,714	355,256	360,234	93,628	253,760	70.4
Pershore	103,956	102,038	94,844	102,550	37,112	88,116	85.9
Redditch	1,032,940	1,074,110	1,059,610	1,001,912	209,822	581,316	58.0
Worcester Foregate	2,100,826	2,172,026	2,071,468	2,190,982	534,904	1,358,222	62.0
Worcester Shrub Hill	818,070	845,794	806,636	660,638	161,288	409,540	62.0
Worcestershire Parkway	--	--	--	25,478	32,350	314,894	1,235.9
Wythall	55,744	59,780	68,646	68,712	16,442	46,348	67.5

'Borderline' Stations	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	21/22 as % of 19/20
Ashchurch	94,244	101,236	102,688	108,234	17,576	68,810	63.6
Colwall	60,870	64,162	62,146	67,664	19,102	44,866	66.3
Ledbury	210,098	216,606	218,822	218,858	67,320	162,662	74.3
Moreton-in-Marsh	260,106	268,866	273,018	292,544	50,588	200,094	68.4
Stratford	260,106	268,866	273,018	292,544	50,588	200,094	63.1
Stratford Parkway	1,036,658	1,043,680	1,035,644	911,400	209,670	574,818	49.6
Warwick	81,084	92,782	107,638	110,176	13,696	54,602	63.9
Warwick Parkway	594,932	618,832	643,994	631,694	148,090	403,526	44.3

Parkway Stations	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	21/22 as % of 19/20
West Midlands*	1,616,360	1,672,890	1,755,190	1,676,504	256,834	1,121,076	66.9
England†	19,905,200	19,847,546	20,840,948	20,982,698	3,545,328	11,749,298	56.0

* These totals are for the five stations in the West Midlands region with 'Parkway' in the name: Coleshill, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tame Bridge, Warwick, and Worcestershire.

† The most used of England's 20 'Parkway' stations in 2021/2022 was Didcot (2,023,958 visits). Worcestershire's total, which equates to 15.6% of Didcot's, made it the 11th most used Parkway station.

Rail Journeys: Timeliness of Journeys

The following tables cover all train services departing from the stations listed and travelling to Birmingham (Snow Hill or New Street). As there are no *direct* services from Evesham or Pershore to Birmingham, the information provided relates to services to Worcester. The information is taken from www.recenttraintimes.co.uk

Bromsgrove	**Total number of Services to B'ham**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90%-99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	54	1	4	13	28	6	2	0	0
October to December 2022	83	8	1	10	26	27	5	0	6
January to March 2023	58	0	2	12	26	14	2	0	2
April to June 2023	87	2	2	9	36	29	6	0	3
July to September 2023	81	5	0	7	28	28	7	2	4

Droitwich	**Total number of Services to B'ham**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90%-99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	53	2	4	8	15	19	3	1	1
October to December 2022	63	6	0	9	19	20	2	1	6
January to March 2023	59	4	2	21	23	6	2	0	1
April to June 2023	46	2	1	8	16	13	3	0	3
July to September 2023	67	0	0	11	37	16	1	1	1

Evesham	**Total number of Services to Worcester**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90% to 99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	19	1	0	1	6	7	4	0	0
October to December 2022	27	3	0	1	4	7	7	2	3
January to March 2023	37	4	0	1	3	12	2	3	12
April to June 2023	40	1	0	5	9	17	3	1	4
July to September 2023	32	2	0	2	6	10	7	2	3

Great Malvern	**Total number of Services to B'ham**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90%-99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	20	1	1	9	7	1	0	0	1
October to December 2022	25	5	1	6	9	1	0	0	3
January to March 2023	22	2	2	11	5	1	1	0	0
April to June 2023	45	1	0	10	20	9	3	0	2

July to September 2023	22	0	0	1	8	9	3	0	1

Kidderminster	**Total number of Services to B'ham**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90%-99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	60	1	0	4	14	30	7	2	2
October to December 2022	62	0	0	2	18	34	4	1	3
January to March 2023	64	3	0	12	26	18	3	0	2
April to June 2023	156	28	2	27	68	20	5	0	6
July to September 2023	92	23	0	9	35	19	2	0	4

Pershore	**Total number of Services to Worcester**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90% to 99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	18	1	0	1	6	7	3	0	0
October to December 2022	27	3	0	1	4	7	8	1	3
January to March 2023	36	4	0	1	3	12	2	2	12
April to June 2023	40	1	0	5	9	17	4	0	4
July to September 2023	32	2	0	2	6	10	7	1	4

Redditch	**Total number of Services to B'ham**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90%-99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	36	0	0	5	17	12	2	0	0
October to December 2022	82	2	0	7	29	30	7	0	7
January to March 2023	46	4	0	4	16	14	2	0	6
April to June 2023	61	5	0	1	20	20	7	1	7
July to September 2023	48	6	0	0	14	21	1	0	6

Worcester Foregate Street	**Total number of Services to B'ham**	**Always on Time**	**On Time 90%-99% of the Time**	**On Time 75% to 89% of the time**	**On Time 50% to 74% of the time**	**On time 25% to 49% of the time**	**On time 10% to 24% of the time**	**On time less than 10% of the time**	**Never on time**
July to September 2022	44	2	2	9	13	16	0	1	1
October to December 2022	27	6	1	5	10	1	0	0	4
January to March 2023	26	3	0	6	13	4	0	0	0
April to June 2023	42	1	2	7	18	9	3	0	2
July to September 2023	67	7	0	20	24	10	1	1	4

Worcester Shrub Hill	Total number of Services to B'ham	Always on Time	On Time 90%-99% of the Time	On Time 75% to 89% of the time	On Time 50% to 74% of the time	On time 25% to 49% of the time	On time 10% to 24% of the time	On time less than 10% of the time	Never on time
July to September 2022	16	2	1	1	2	5	3	0	2
October to December 2022	23	2	0	2	8	2	2	0	7
January to March 2023	19	3	0	3	5	0	1	0	7
April to June 2023	26	5	1	2	3	6	0	0	9
July to September 2023	49	9	1	8	12	4	1	1	13

Worcestershire Parkway	Total number of Services to B'ham	Always on Time	On Time 90%-99% of the Time	On Time 75% to 89% of the time	On Time 50% to 74% of the time	On time 25% to 49% of the time	On time 10% to 24% of the time	On time less than 10% of the time	Never on time
July to September 2022	24	2	0	0	3	7	5	0	7
October to December 2022	44	0	0	1	5	9	11	2	16
January to March 2023	30	4	0	0	2	8	4	0	12
April to June 2023	54	11	0	1	2	4	10	4	22
July to September 2023	48	9	0	0	2	9	9	1	18

Appendix – Gatsby Benchmarking System

The eight benchmarks serve as a framework for improvement in careers advice provision, links between curriculums and career pathways, and the needs of pupils in higher education and the workplace. They form part of the Government's Careers Strategy and statutory guidance for schools and colleges. The Careers and Enterprise Company supports the implementation of the benchmarks in schools and colleges with a national network of support, resources and targeted funding. The service target is an average of 6 out of 8 Gatsby Benchmarks across 65 educational establishments. Performance dipped slightly during the last quarter of 2021/2022, but the year-end position maintained the above-target status first attained during the October-to-December 2022 quarter. By the end of the third quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year, Secondary, FE, PRU, and SEND establishments in the first set ('Wave') of Careers Hubs had achieved a Gatsby score of 6.62 benchmarks; Wave 3 Middle Schools were at 5.85. National Performance is 5.30. Worcestershire is currently one of the top three performers. There will continue to be a focus on the creation and development of resources to help support Hub member schools.

The 8 Benchmarks are:
1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from careers and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each student
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

worcestershire county council

ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
17 NOVEMBER 2023

WORK PROGRAMME

Summary

1. From time to time the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel (the Panel) will review its work programme and consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.

Background

2. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The 2023/24 Work Programme has been developed by taking into account issues still to be completed from 2022/23, the views of Overview and Scrutiny Members and other stakeholders and the findings of the budget scrutiny process.

3. Suggested issues have been prioritised using scrutiny feasibility criteria in order to ensure that topics are selected subjectively and the 'added value' of a review is considered right from the beginning.

4. The Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel is responsible for scrutiny of:

    - Economy
    - Workforce Skills
    - Strategic Infrastructure
    - Broadband and Communications

5. The scrutiny work programme was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 28 April and agreed by Council on 18 May 2023.

Dates of 2024 Meetings

6. The dates of the meetings for 2024 are:

    - 16 January
    - 25 March
    - 15 July
    - 3 October
    - 20 November

Purpose of the Meeting

7. The Panel is asked to consider the 2023/24 Work Programme and agree whether it would like to make any amendments. The Panel will wish to retain the flexibility to take into account any urgent issues which may arise.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2023/24

Contact Point

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Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 28 April 2023

Agenda for Council on 18 May 2023

All Agendas and Minutes are available on the Council's website Agendas and Minutes

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
17 November 2023	Performance (Q2 July to September) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
	District Council Economic Challenges and how the County Council could help – Wychavon District Council		
	Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity (Broadband and Mobile Phone)		
	Rail Strategy		Agenda Planning Directorate suggestion September 2022
January 2024	Scrutiny of 2024/25 Budget		
	Strategic Infrastructure, including road and rail developments		
March 2024	Performance (Q3 October to December) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
	Workforce Planning (including over 50's and rural sector workforce)		
May 2024			
July 2024			
Possible Future Items			
TBC	Shrub Hill Quarter		Agenda Planning January 2023

TBC	UK Shared Prosperity Fund – looking at forward trajectory beyond 2025 and output data per District		More relevant to District Councils but Chairman requested it be left on the workplan.
End of 2023/24	Local Transport Plan 5 – With cancellation of HS2		Awaiting Government guidance – consider overlap and implications for the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel
TBC	Commercialisation Strategy of the County Councils Property Assets		Suggested by the Chairman
TBC	Opportunities for growth, including the available space for specific sectors		Panel Member suggestion June 2022
Standing Items			
Mar/Jul/Sep/Nov	Performance and In-year Budget Monitoring		Quarterly
November/January	Budget Scrutiny Process		Annually
	District Council Economic Challenges and how the County Council could help		