

## A KIRKLEES PROFILE

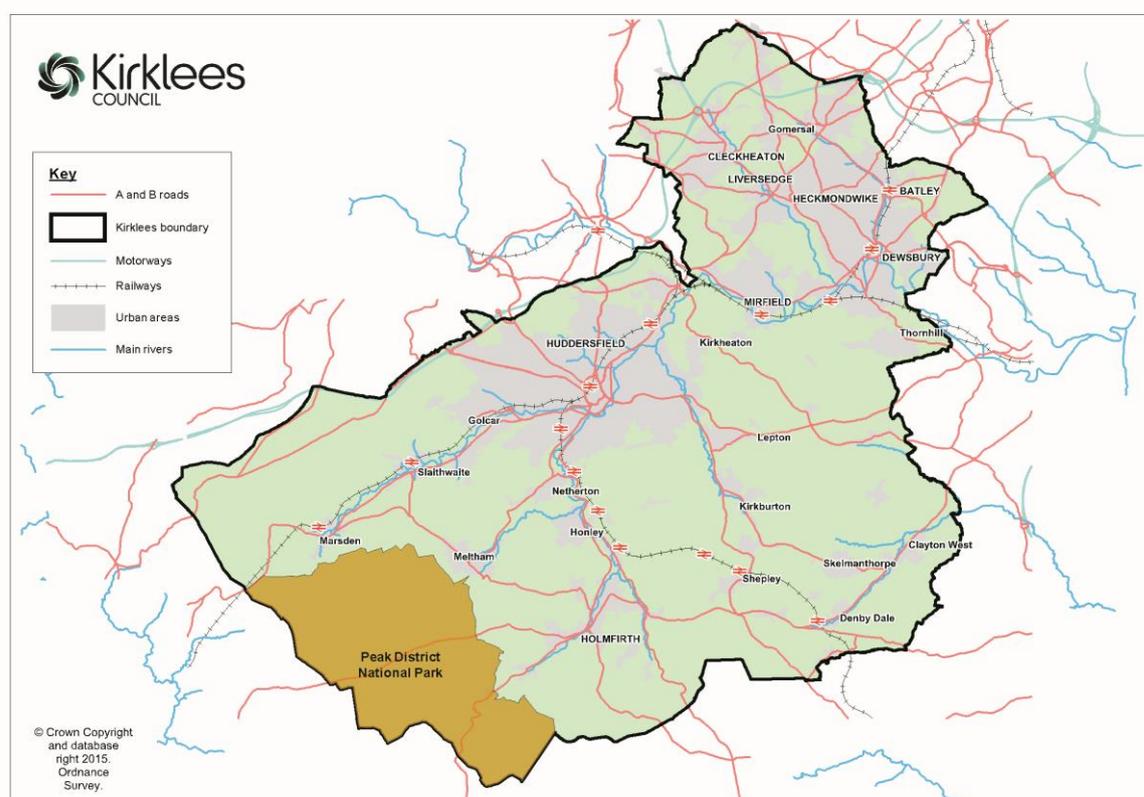
The Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees is one of five Local Authorities in West Yorkshire. It covers an area of 157 square miles and has a population of around 441,300<sup>1</sup> of which 22.7% are aged 0 to 17 (nationally 21.4%). The district emerged from local government re-organisation in 1974 and is made up of eleven former local authority Boroughs and Districts in the former West Riding of Yorkshire.

It has three distinct areas:

\*North Kirklees, which includes the urban centres of Mirfield, Dewsbury, Batley and Cleckheaton along with the more rural Spen Valley:

\*Huddersfield; the largest town in Kirklees with around 143,900 residents<sup>2</sup>

\*The rural and semi-rural area south and west of Huddersfield, including small towns such as Holmfirth, Meltham, Skelmanthorpe, Kirkburton, Slaithwaite, Marsden, Honley and Denby Dale.



Huddersfield is the business, administrative and retail centre of Kirklees. The Kingsgate Centre, opened in 2002, brought a number of nationally known retailers into the area. June 2019 saw the publishing of the Huddersfield Blueprint which is a town centre masterplan that is a response to the changing role of Huddersfield Town Centre. In June 2021 Kirklees secured £24.8m in match funding from the Government's Towns Fund to help fund the Dewsbury Blueprint

Huddersfield University is now a major regional centre of learning, with 17,305 students and 2,070 staff<sup>3</sup>, creating a significant presence in the town. In 2013 Kirklees College, a Further Education provider, moved into a brand new, state-of-the-art campus at the Waterfront Quarter in Huddersfield. The former site known as Trinity West is planned to be redeveloped with a supermarket and hotel. In addition to the town centre schemes identified above, there are other opportunities available in housing, offices, mixed use, leisure, retail, warehouse and industry - search 'Invest in Kirklees' for more details.

To the north of Huddersfield, Dewsbury is Kirklees' second-largest town, but neighbouring Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Mirfield are also significant urban areas. North Kirklees built its reputation as one of this country's major centres of woollen textile production in the nineteenth century.

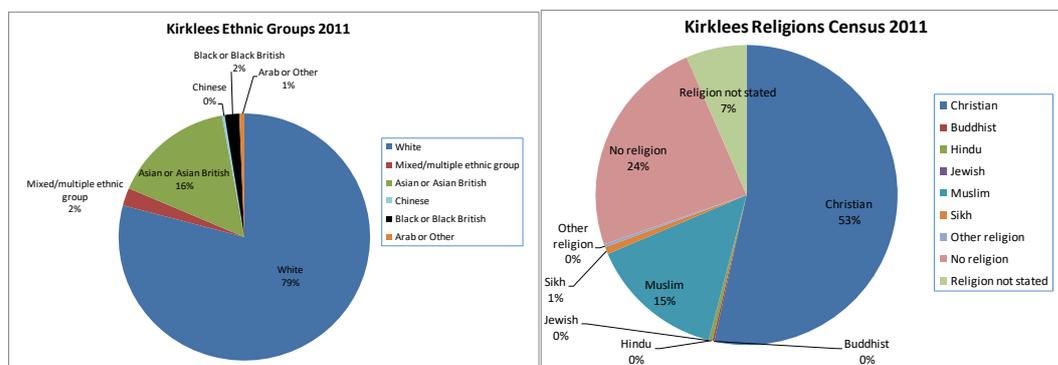
Kirklees has a significant rural dimension. Much of its southern and western edges are open, uninhabited Pennine moor land of outstanding natural beauty and high environmental value. The western fringe of Kirklees (about 10% of the total area) is within the boundary of the Peak District National Park.

A distinctive feature of the district is that the small towns of rural south Kirklees developed an industrial base during the Industrial Revolution and tend to be as reliant, if not more so, on manufacturing jobs for their survival as the rest of Kirklees. For example, in the semi rural Colne Valley area (around Marsden and Slaithwaite), 28% of jobs are in manufacturing<sup>4</sup>.

Relatively low house prices, an impressive urban/rural environment on the edge of the South Pennines and its suitability as a commuter base make Kirklees attractive as a place to move to and live in. It has the highest levels of out-commuting in West Yorkshire and amongst the highest in the whole of the Leeds City Region. Only 69% of employed Kirklees residents work in the District, compared with 81% in Leeds and 75% in Bradford (2011)<sup>5</sup>.

It has good trans-Pennine and commuter rail links with through trains to many destinations including Manchester, York, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Hull, Scarborough, Liverpool, Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Redcar. The M62 runs through the north of the district and provides quick access to the M1 and M6 motorways and the A1. Three of the largest metropolitan areas in the North of England (Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds/Bradford), three major airports and the Humber ports are within easy reach.

The area benefits from its cultural diversity. Post-war in-migration, largely from the Caribbean, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, means that Kirklees' minority ethnic communities make up 21% of its resident population. Most live in the district's urban centres of Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley. Kirklees' Muslim population of 61,300 is the 18<sup>th</sup> highest in England and Wales<sup>6</sup>.



Since 2004, there has been a significant influx of people from the EU Accession States. In 2020 for example, 1,644 people registered for National insurance numbers [NINO]; the top four countries of origin were India (393) Pakistan (327), Nigeria (109) and Romania (98). Unsurprisingly due to Covid-19 numbers were down 31% compared to 2019. There are also refugees and asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and parts of the former Yugoslavia. Since 2016 numbers from Accession countries have fallen by around 85%<sup>6</sup>.

Kirklees has one of the oldest industrial heritages in the world, with a long history of skilled working that pre-dates the Industrial Revolution. The area's reputation was built on the woollen and worsted textile trade, but it also developed world-class engineering and chemical enterprises, with a reputation for the highest quality. This heritage still shapes the local economy today, which in 2019 was valued at around £7.7bn per year<sup>7</sup>.

The district is home to 15,740 businesses<sup>8</sup>, up from 11,760 in 2010, providing employment for 157,500 people including self-employed. Currently (2020), 78% of all employment in Kirklees are in service sector industries, with a further 16% in manufacturing<sup>9</sup>. Since 1991, manufacturing's share of all jobs has fallen from 35%, whilst the service sector's share has risen from 60%. Nevertheless, manufacturing remains a significant force locally compared to GB as whole, where it accounts for around 8% of employment<sup>9</sup>.

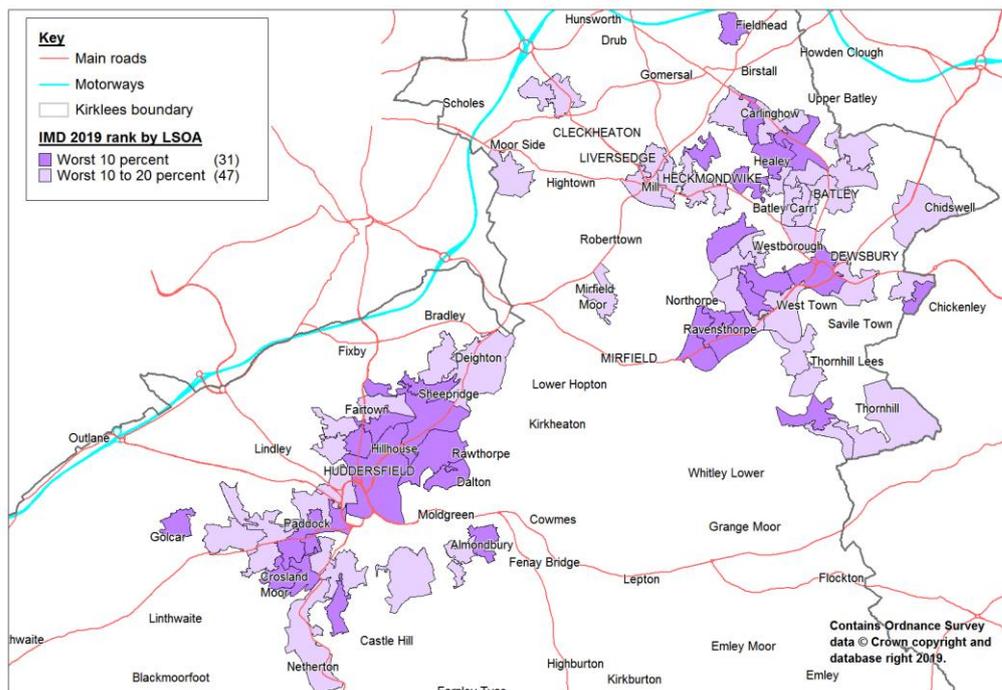
Despite growth in recent years, the local economy is still under-developed in most knowledge-based, service sector industries, consumer services and some high-tech manufacturing industries. It needs to grow in areas capable of producing high value output and earnings as well as sustainable job opportunities.

The area's reputation for traditional, high quality products and services in textiles and other industries means that it already has a significant business community to modernise and strengthen.

There are some positive trends. The area retains some world class manufacturers, including Cummins Turbo Technologies (formerly Holset Engineering), Huddersfield Cloth and Syngenta. The education sector has expanded in the last two decades and Huddersfield University is a key catalyst for future growth. There has also been significant development in the creative, cultural and media related industries, centred on Huddersfield. This is ongoing and was boosted by the opening (by the Queen) of Phase 3 of the Media Centre in May 2007.

Recent changes have shown a move towards higher level, customer-focussed, knowledge-based jobs and away from relatively low skilled manual jobs. Data from the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey for 1999 and 2020 highlights the job changes that have accompanied the industrial re-structuring in Kirklees. Most significant was an increase of around 33,800 Kirklees residents working in higher level occupations – managerial, professional and associate professional and technical level<sup>10</sup>.

Like many parts of urban Britain, Kirklees has a mix of relatively affluent and poor areas. The poorest areas are concentrated in inner urban Wards in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley and on edge of town estates. The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation showed a relative increase in deprivation, with 31 Lower Super Output Areas in the worst 10% in England compared to 23 in 2015 and 37 in 2010<sup>11</sup>. Minority ethnic communities tend to live in these poorest areas.



Low-income levels are common to all the most deprived parts of Kirklees. Annual household income (2018)<sup>12</sup> in the poorest Middle Super Output Area is £29,300 compared to £48,600 in the wealthiest, and in some parts of Kirklees around 56% of children live in low income families (2018)<sup>13</sup>. Weekly wage levels (£528.10, 2021), (median) for full time workers in Kirklees companies are 17% below the national average and have been the lowest in West Yorkshire for 8 out of the last 14 years<sup>14</sup>. Leeds has the highest wage levels in West Yorkshire.

The Kirklees population is generally less qualified than the national average, particularly at degree level and above, and a minority of people aged 16-64 have difficulty with basic skills having attained no qualifications (9.3%, Great Britain 6.4%, 2020)<sup>15</sup>. Attainment levels of young people at GCSE are, however, better than national measures<sup>16</sup> with an Attainment 8 score of 45.1 compared to England 44.5.

Median house prices<sup>17</sup> in Kirklees have been consistently lower than the median prices for Yorkshire and the Humber and England. Overall, prices have increased from £55,000 in 2000 to £155,000 in 2020, an increase of 182%. Prices previously peaked at £132,000 in 2007 but then fell slightly. Prices have been stable at around £125,000-130,000 over the period 2009 to 2015, since then they have increased year on year.

### Sources

<sup>1</sup>Office for National Statistics, Mid-year estimates 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Office for National Statistics, Mid-year estimates 2020. The area of Huddersfield approximates to the former Huddersfield County Borough.

<sup>3</sup>Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited 2019/20.

<sup>4</sup>Nomis - Business Register and Employment Survey/Annual Business Inquiry 2020.

<sup>5</sup>Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census Origin-Destination data WU01EW.

<sup>6</sup>NINO Registrations To Adult Overseas Nationals Entering The UK, HMRC. Accession countries are: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

<sup>7</sup>ONS, Regional gross value added (balanced), 2019.

<sup>8</sup>Nomis UK Business Counts – Enterprises 2021

<sup>9</sup>Nomis - Business Register and Employment Survey 2020 /Annual Business Inquiry 1991.

<sup>10</sup>Nomis - Annual population survey January 2020-December 2020. Note: data is survey based and results are subject to some variation each quarter.

<sup>11</sup>Indices of Deprivation Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2010, 2015, and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019.

<sup>12</sup>Office for National Statistics (ONS), Total annual household income (gross) 2018.

<sup>13</sup>Children aged 0 to 15 in relative low income families 2018/19, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, ONS.

<sup>14</sup>Nomis - Annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis 2008 - 2021.

<sup>15</sup>Nomis - Annual population survey January 2020 – December 2020.

<sup>16</sup>Department for Education, 2019 KS4 results, Attainment 8 score (England is 'All Schools' not 'State-funded schools (46.5)).

<sup>17</sup>Kirklees Observatory, HM Land Registry Price Paid Data.