



# Rosendale Local Plan Draft Baseline Report

**June 2026**

Forward Planning Team

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## Introduction

In order to inform the preparation of the new Local Plan, baseline information on the local economy, our communities and the environment has been gathered and is presented in this draft report. It looks at trends between the last two censuses and also present more recent data where available. To understand how Rossendale fares, comparison is often made throughout the report with other Lancashire districts or against regional and national averages.

This report is organised around three of the four strategic priorities identified in the Valley Plan which the Local Plan can help support:

- A thriving local economy
- A high quality environment
- Healthy and proud communities.

Within the **Thriving Local Economy** chapter, you will find information on the economic activity of Rossendale's residents, where they work and what job they do. There is also some information regarding travel to work and retail in our town centres. **The High Quality Environment** section then looks at indicators describing the built and natural environment in Rossendale. It also describes what might impacts climate change might is likely to have on the Borough. In the **Healthy and Proud Communities** section, you can delve into statistics about the population, indices of multiple deprivation, education, health, housing and community facilities.

In this draft report, the information is mainly presented at the geography of the Borough with some indicators, such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation, presented at the lower super output areas. The scoping consultation is likely to provide more information about areas we should investigate to refine our baselining exercise. We will also gather additional evidence to inform the preparation of the Local Plan as we progress.

If you find any errors in this report, or think that some statistics or indicators that would be relevant to prepare the new Local Plan have been overlooked at this stage, please let us know as part the Scoping Consultation between 15 June and 27 July 2026 or contact the Forward Planning team by emailing [forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk).

# 1. Thriving Local Economy

## 1.1 Economic activity status

In 2021, the proportion of residents aged 16 years and over who were in employment or studying was 61.8%. The proportion of people economically inactive was 39.48%. It is difficult to compare with the 2011 data as the previous data only look at residents between 16 to 74 years old, however it can be noted that the proportion of people retired increased whilst those economically active in employment reduced.

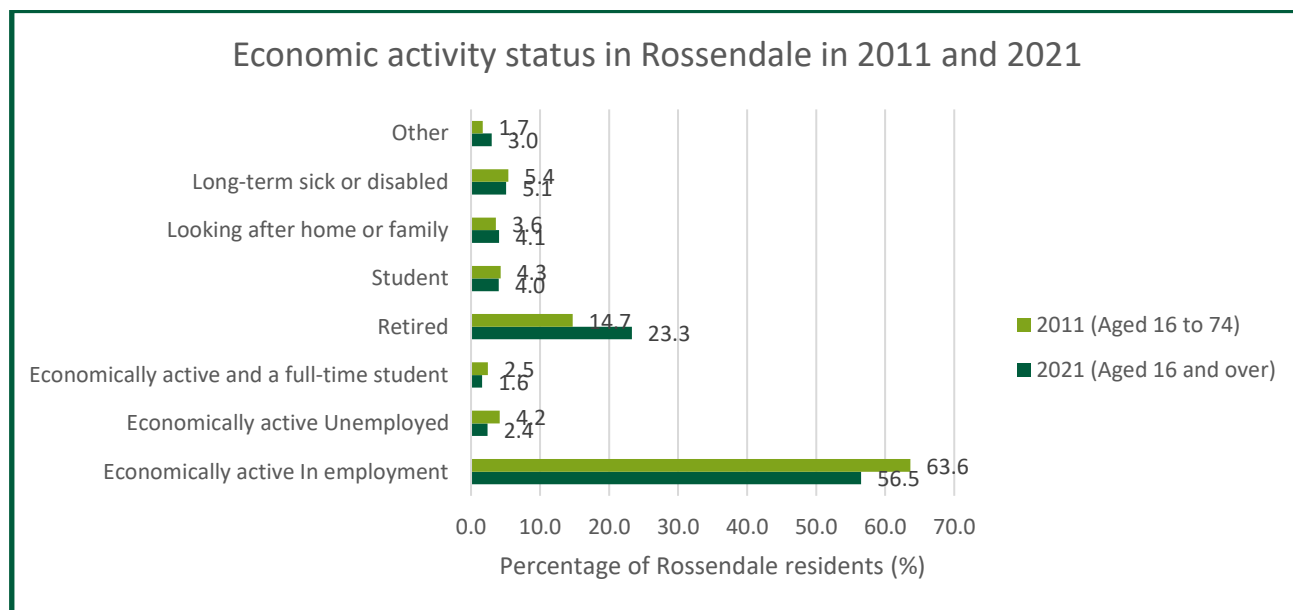


Figure 1- Economic activity status in Rossendale in 2011 and 2021

The percentage of the population economically inactive has increased between 2011 and 2021 (from 29.73% to 39.48%). This is similar to other East Lancashire authorities. The rate in Rossendale was however below the Lancashire average in 2011 and 2021. In 2021, it was higher than the England average of 39.1%.

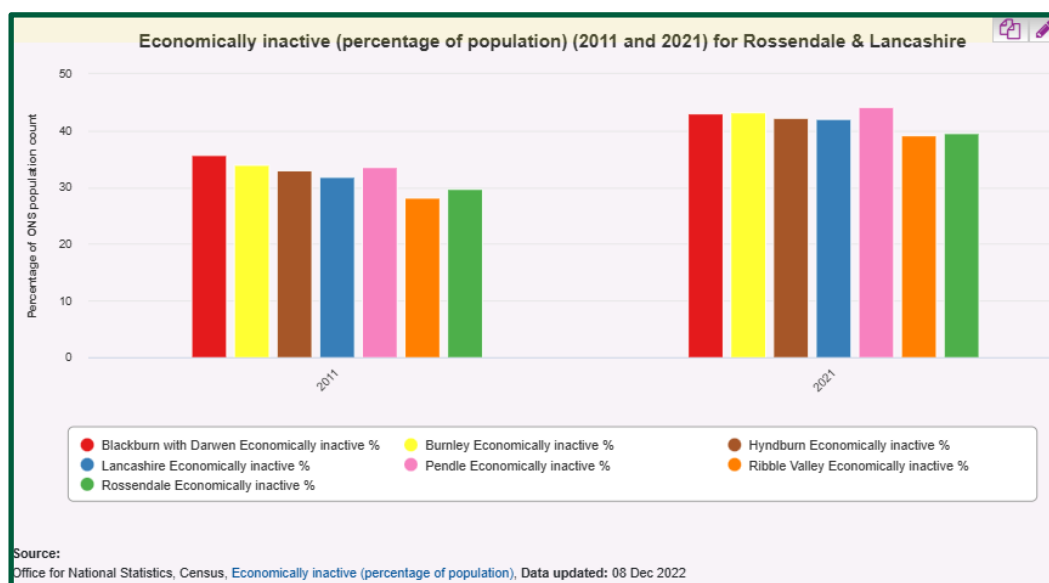


Figure 2 - Economically Inactive Population between 2011 and 2021

More recently, between the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2026, the proportion of economically active residents in Rossendale has decreased on average more sharply than in other districts in Lancashire (please see figure 3).

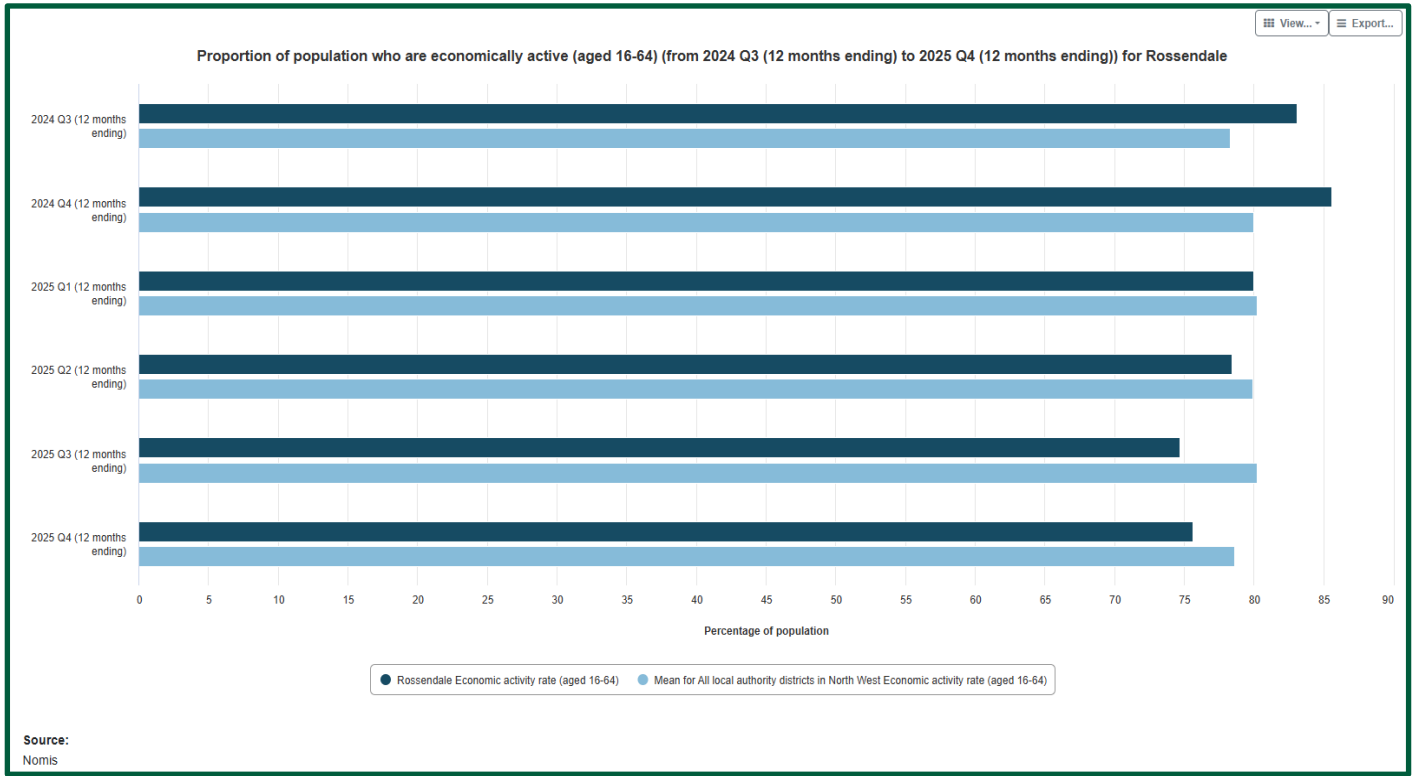


Figure 3 - Economically Active between 2024 and 2026

Between 2024 and 2025, the overall employment rate of residents aged 16 to 64 in Rossendale has remained relatively stable at around 74%. It then increased in 2024 reaching a maximum of 81.2% before going down to around 70% in late 2025 and beginning of 2026. This is similar to Burnley but worse than Ribble Valley and the Lancashire average (please see Figure 2).

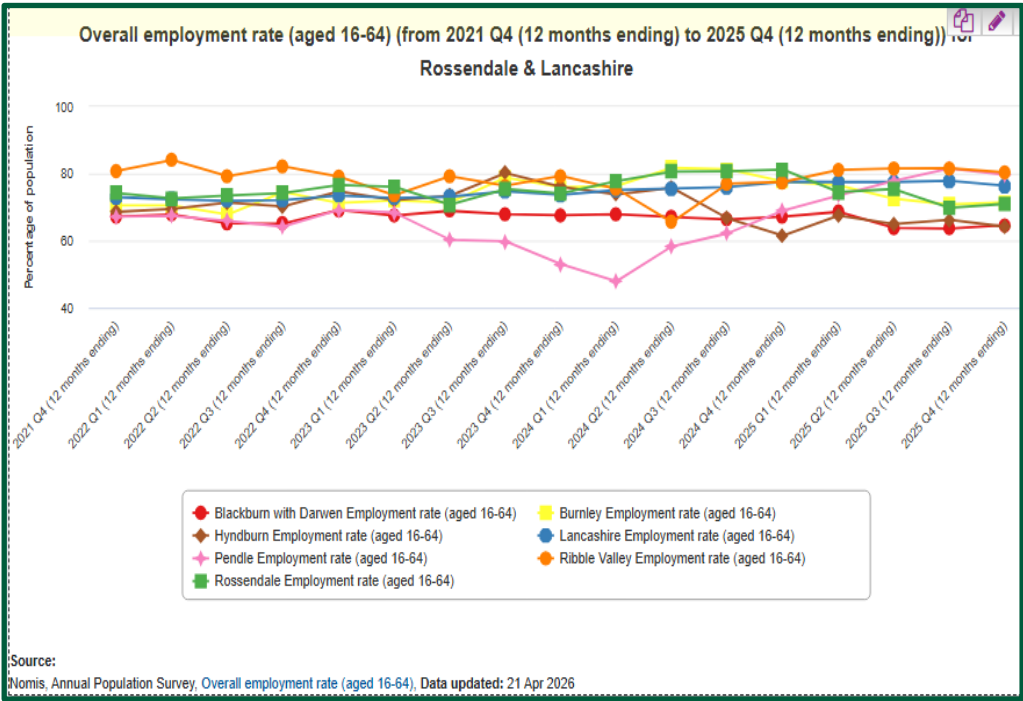


Figure 4 - Overall employment rate (aged 16-64) between 2021 and 2025 for Rossendale and other Lancashire authorities.

In terms of unemployment rate there appears to be missing data for Rossendale in 2023 and 2024. In 2022 and 2023, the rate was below 10% but significantly higher than the Lancashire average. It then reduced to 5.8% in January-March 2026. This is still higher than the Lancashire average (3.3%) and the national average at 4.9% (please see Figure 3).

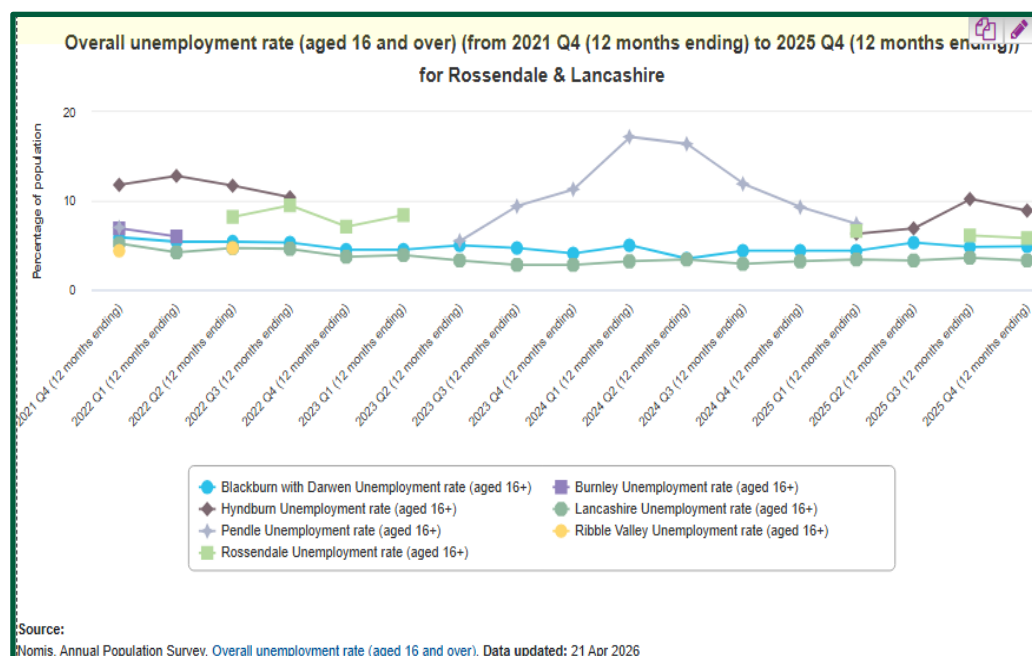


Figure 5 - Unemployment rate of people aged 16 year and over in Rossendale and other Lancashire authorities between 2022 and 2026.

The 'economically inactive' category comprises people looking after a family/home, people who are sick (long-term and temporary), retired persons, students or people not looking for a job.

In Rossendale, in the last quarter of 2025, 24.4% of people aged 16 to 64 were economically inactive compared to 20.9% across Lancashire and 22.7% in England<sup>1</sup>. Figure 6 provides the proportion of economically inactive by age category in Rossendale (columns) and the North West (lines). Please note some data for Rossendale is missing for the first 3 quarters for the age category 16 to 24 years old and 25 to 49 years old.

The proportion of 16 to 24 years old economically inactive in Rossendale is higher in the North West, however this could reflect a higher proportion of 16 to 24 years old studying. The proportion of economically inactive for people aged 65 and over is lower in Rossendale than in the North West suggesting that people might retire later in life in Rossendale.

<sup>1</sup> Local Government Association Business and employment Research Reports – Economic Inactivity Interdependencies Analysis. [Economic Inactivity Interdependencies Analysis | LG Inform](#)

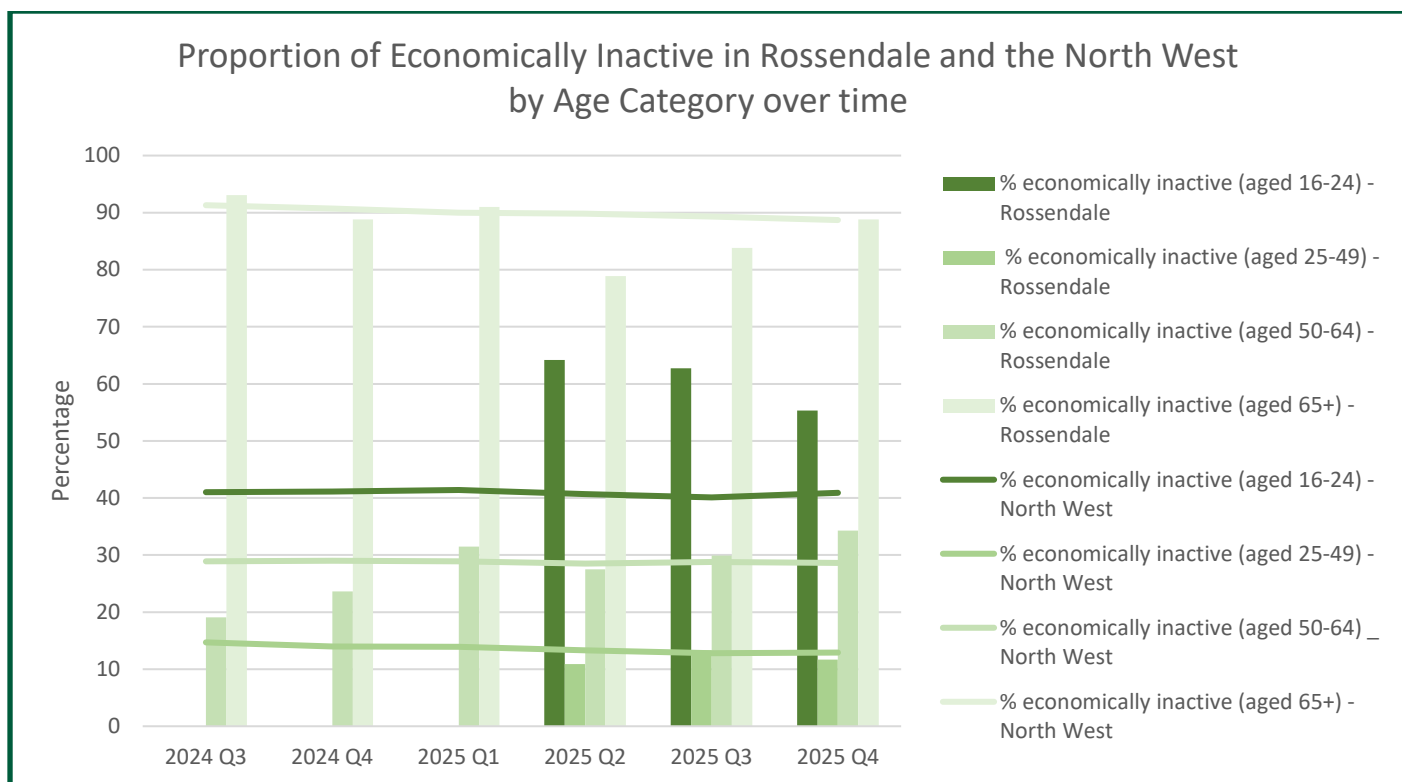
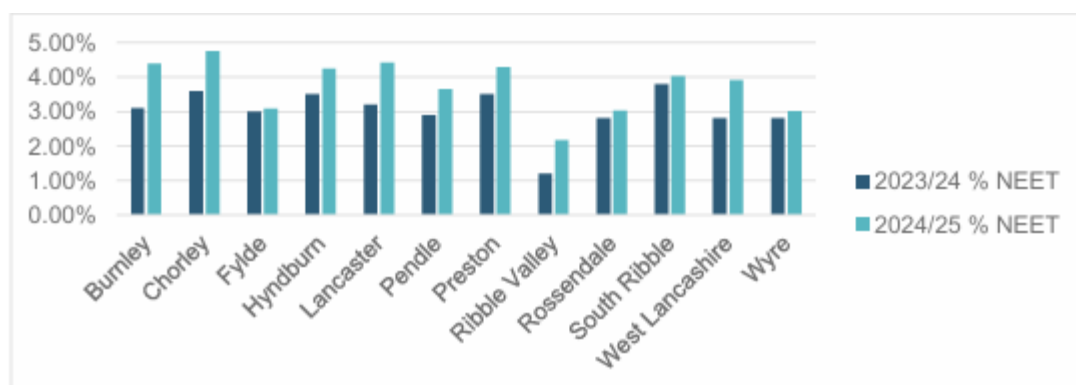


Figure 6 - Proportion of economically inactive in Rossendale and the North West by Age Category Overtime

## NEETS

Lancashire County Council has published a report on Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training 2024/25<sup>2</sup>. This shows that Rossendale has the second lowest rate of NEET in 2024/25 at 3% (higher than Ribble Valley and same as Wyre).



Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

Figure 7 - Young people NEET by district in Lancashire 2024/25 (Source: Lancashire County Council Report)

<sup>2</sup> Young people <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/903498/neet-final.pdf>



## Job density

Job density is the number of jobs per resident aged 16 to 64 in an area. A job density of 1.0 means that there is one job for every resident of working age. In Rossendale the job density in 2024 was 0.5. This is similar to Hyndburn (0.59) and Pendle (0.55) but the lowest of all the districts in Lancashire. The average job density in Lancashire is 0.75 and 0.82 in England.

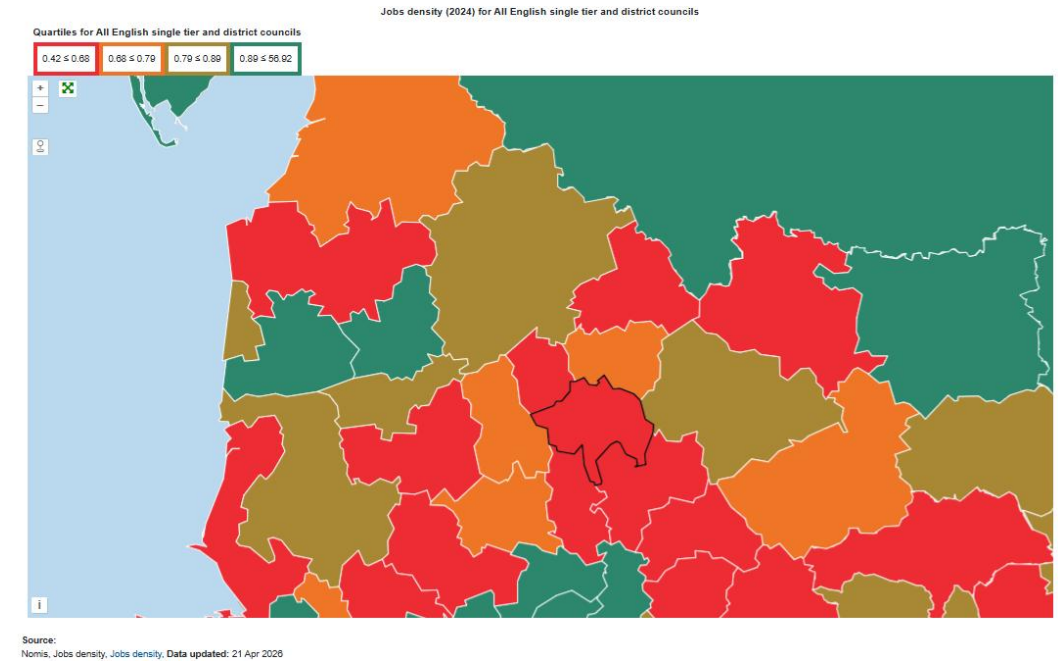


Figure 8 - Map of job density in Lancashire in 2024

## 1.2 Employment Sectors

The two largest employment sectors in Rossendale both in 2011 and 2021 were “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles” as well as “human health and social work activities”.

Between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of residents employed in these activities has reduced:

- manufacturing
- water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- transport and storage
- accommodation and food service activities
- financial and insurance activities
- public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- and other types of sectors

Whilst the proportion of residents working in these industries has increased:

- agriculture, forestry and fishing
- electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- construction
- wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles
- information and communication
- real estate activities
- professional, scientific and technical activities
- administrative and support service activities
- education
- and human health and social work activities

## Distribution of Residents in Employment by Employment Sector in 2011 and 2021

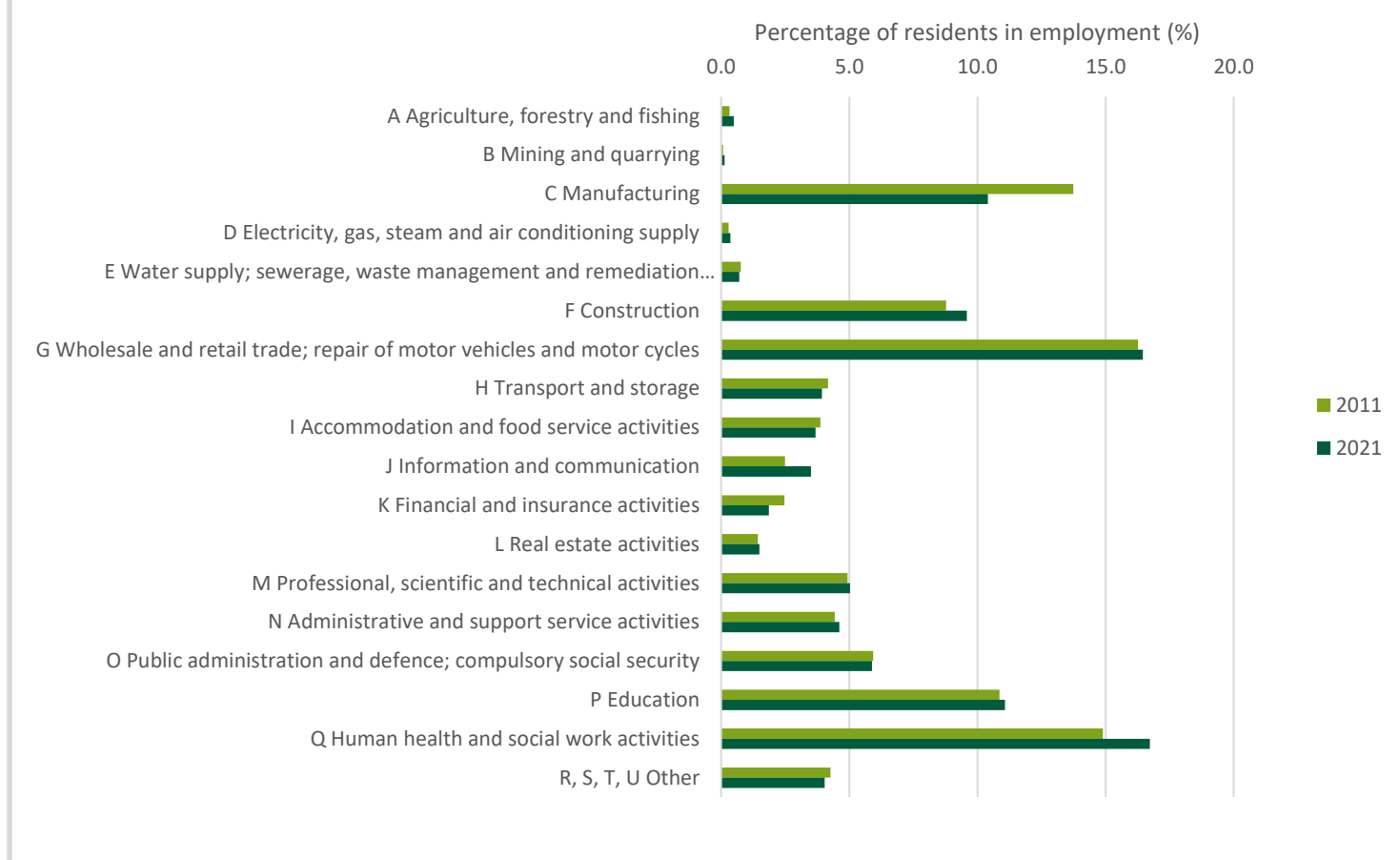


Figure 9 - Distribution of Rossendale Residents according to Employment Sectors in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census Data.

### 1.3 Occupation Type

The largest proportion of Rossendale residents were employed within the professional occupations category both in 2011 and 2021.

Between 2011 and 2021, there has been an increase in the proportion of residents working within the following category:

- sales and customer services
- associate professional and technical occupations
- professional occupations
- managers, directors and senior officials.

During the same period, there has been a decrease in residents working in:

- elementary occupations
- as process, plant and machine operatives
- caring, leisure and other service occupations
- skilled trades occupations
- and administrative and secretarial occupations

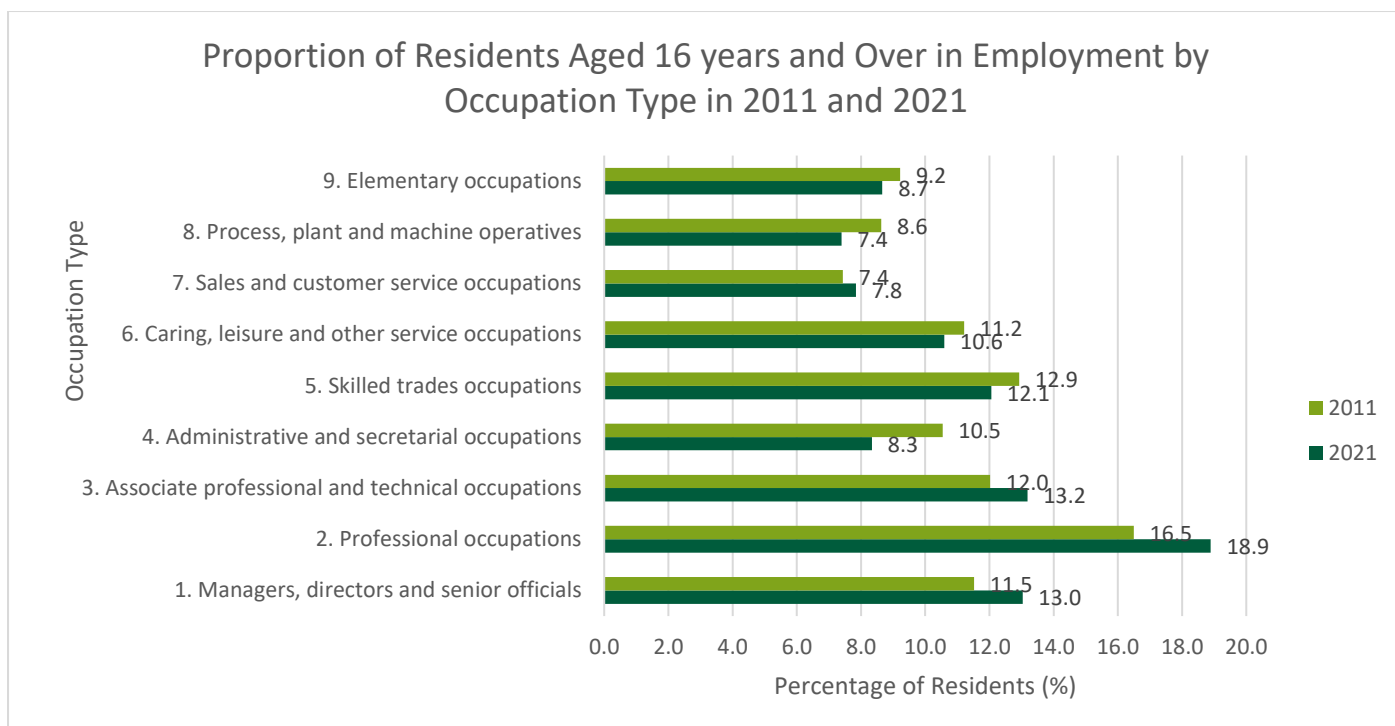


Figure 10 - Distribution of Rossendale's Residents in Employment by Occupation Type in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census data.

## 1.4 Earnings

£

The median gross weekly pay for full-time employees living in Rossendale is £726 which is slightly below the Lancashire average.

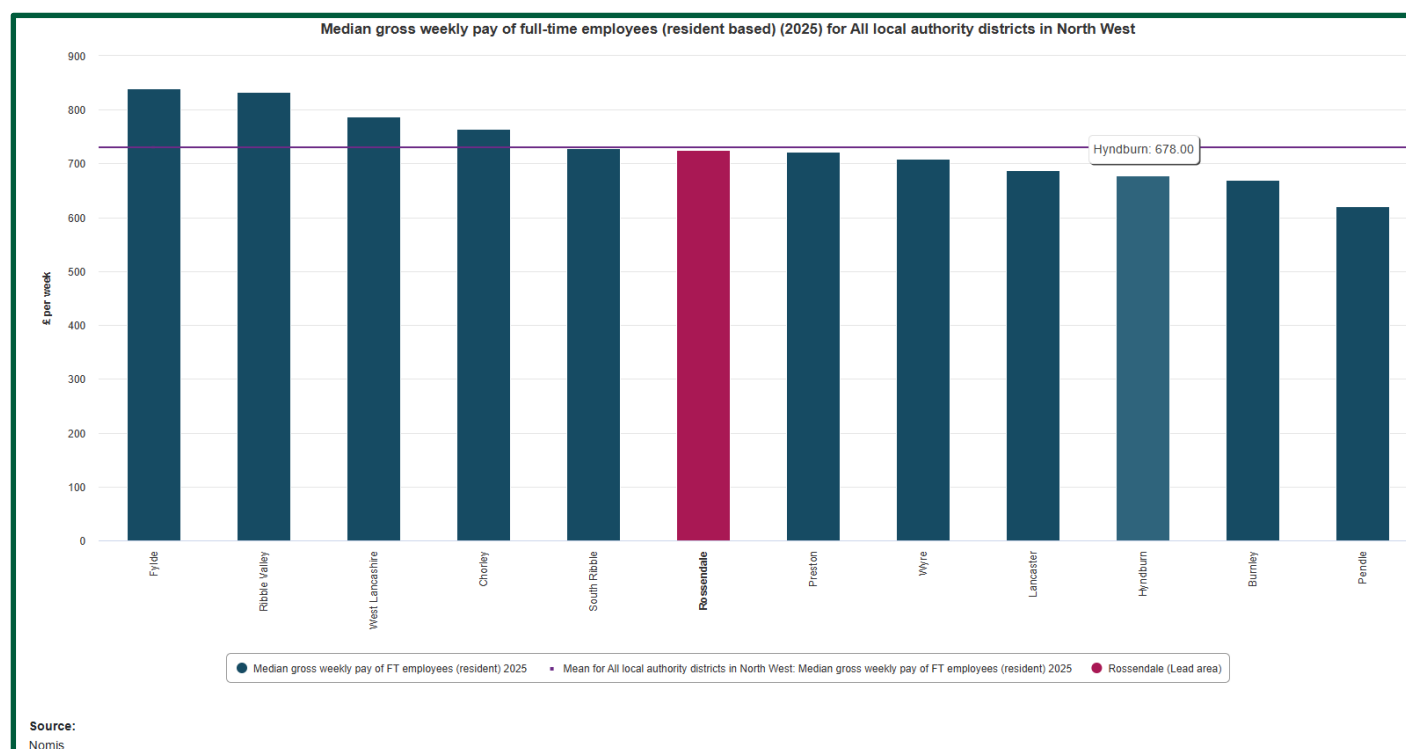
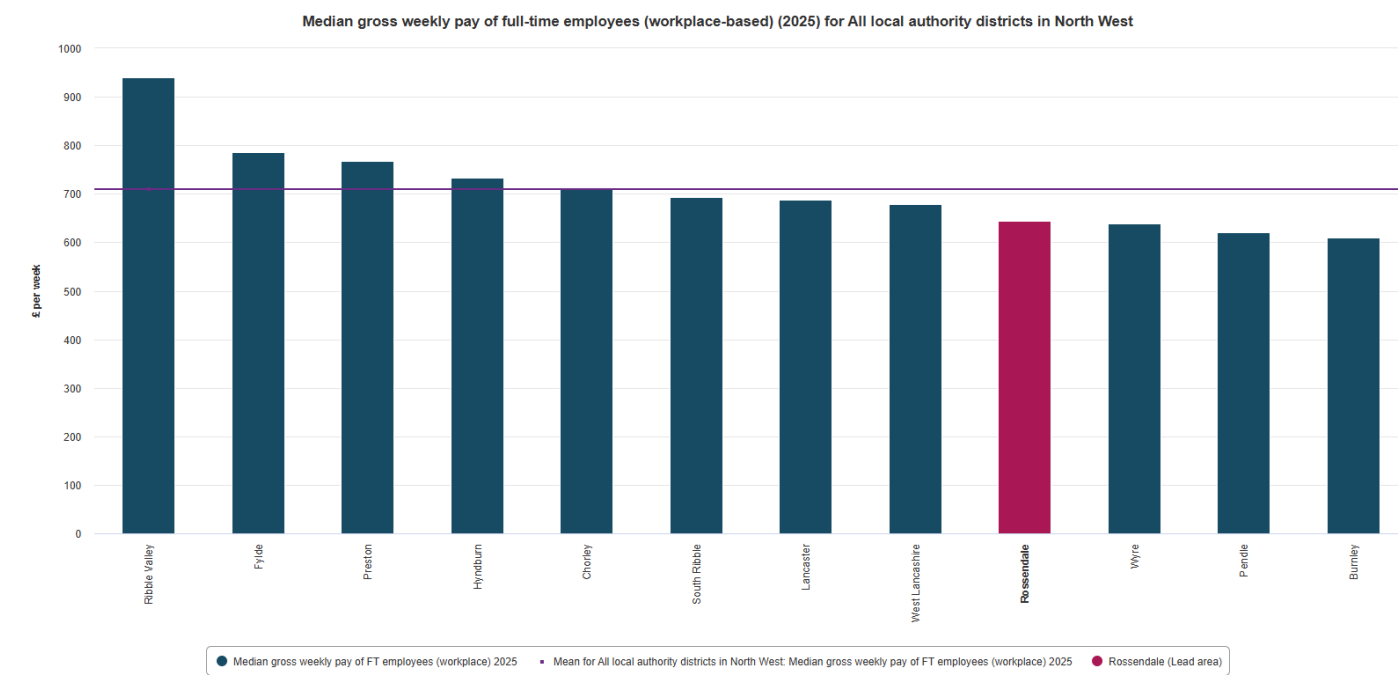


Figure 11 - Median gross weekly pay of full-time employees in 2025 (resident based)

However, the median gross weekly pay of full-time employees working in Rossendale is £644 in 2025 which is £82 less than what residents commuting out of the Borough to work earn. It is also significantly below the Lancashire average.



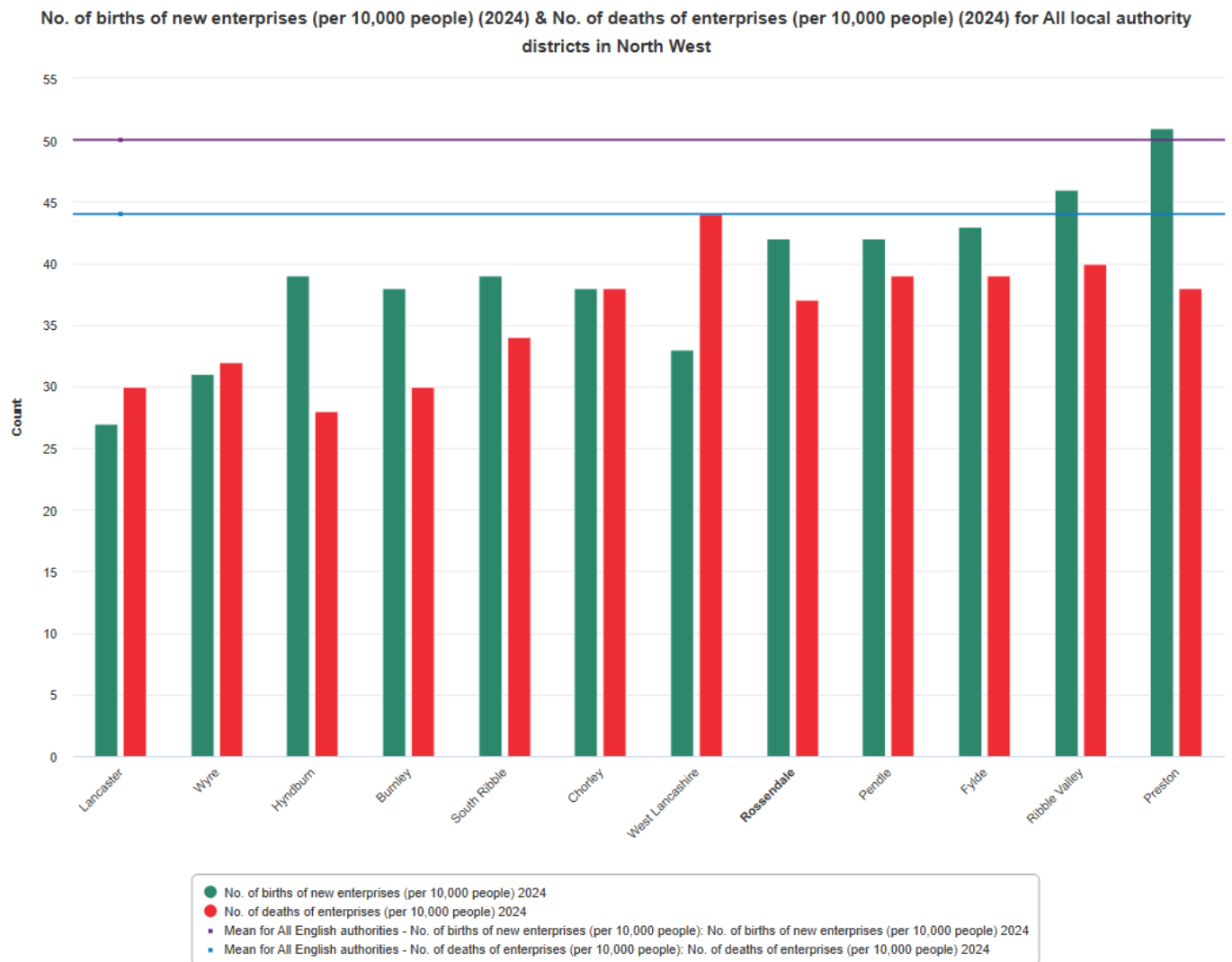
Source:  
Nomis

Figure 12 - Median gross weekly pay of full-time employees in 2025 (workplace-based)

### 1.4 Enterprises

In 2024, there were 305 new registered enterprises in Rossendale whilst 270 ceased to exist. There were also 10 high growth enterprises recorded that year. High growth enterprises are defined as a business with ten or more employees which has seen at least 20% employee growth each year for the previous three-year period.

The Local Government Association Inform shows that Rossendale was below the national average regarding the number of births and deaths of enterprises (per 10,000 people) in 2024.



**Source:**

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [No. of births of new enterprises \(per 10,000 people\)](#) , Data updated: 26 Feb 2026

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [No. of deaths of enterprises \(per 10,000 people\)](#) , Data updated: 26 Feb 2026

Figure 13 - Number of births and deaths of enterprises per 10,000 people in Lancashire districts in 2024

Rossendale has few large enterprises (5 in 2025), some medium and small enterprises and a large number of micro enterprises.

This pattern is similar to other local authority districts, although Rossendale has a lower number of enterprises within each category on average.

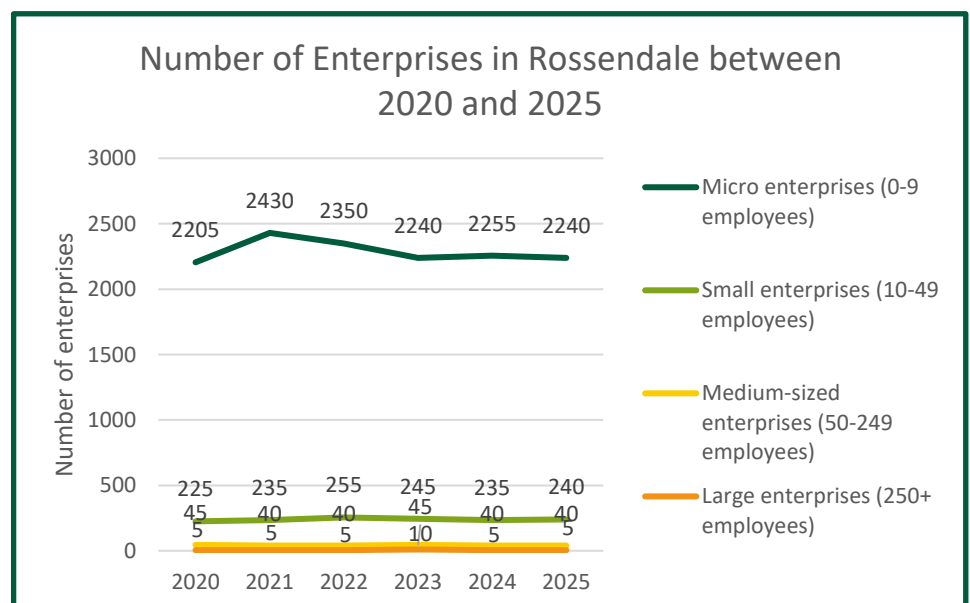


Figure 14 - Number of Enterprises in Rossendale between 2020 and 2025

## 1.5 Visitor Economy

The visitor economy in Rossendale is predominately day visitors, often visiting friends and family and accessing the night time economy. Visitor numbers are the smallest of all Lancashire districts, with lower visitor spend per trip, but nevertheless it plays an important role in the local economy, with 720 full-time equivalent jobs in 2023 and 698 in 2024 (please see Figure 13 and 14).

| STEAM Key Impacts by Authority area: Marketing Lancashire |                                       |                 |        |          |                 |           |          |                 |        |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| 2023                                                      | Outputs by Area                       | Visitor Numbers |        |          | Economic Impact |           |          | Employment FTEs |        |          |
|                                                           |                                       | Share           | Total  | % change | Share           | Total     | % change | Share           | Total  | % change |
| 1                                                         | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council | 6%              | 3.9m   | 0.94%    | 4%              | £234.5m   | 0.58%    | 4%              | 2,333  | 7.20%    |
| 2                                                         | Blackpool Council                     | 32%             | 21.57m | 6.12%    | 37%             | £1,978.8m | -0.16%   | 41%             | 23,419 | 5.33%    |
| 3                                                         | Burnley Borough Council               | 3%              | 2.27m  | 1.09%    | 3%              | £149.5m   | 2.40%    | 3%              | 1,468  | 8.04%    |
| 4                                                         | Chorley Borough Council               | 5%              | 3.12m  | 0.94%    | 4%              | £207.3m   | -0.32%   | 4%              | 2,038  | 6.11%    |
| 5                                                         | Fylde Borough Council                 | 5%              | 3.19m  | 3.87%    | 6%              | £345.7m   | -3.25%   | 6%              | 3,360  | 2.54%    |
| 6                                                         | Hyndburn Borough Council              | 3%              | 1.83m  | 0.75%    | 2%              | £110.8m   | 0.35%    | 2%              | 1,067  | 7.39%    |
| 7                                                         | Lancaster City Council                | 10%             | 6.96m  | 1.39%    | 11%             | £597.0m   | -2.87%   | 11%             | 6,116  | 3.71%    |
| 8                                                         | Borough of Pendle                     | 4%              | 2.49m  | -0.66%   | 3%              | £154.4m   | -8.49%   | 3%              | 1,563  | -13.72%  |
| 9                                                         | Preston City Council                  | 9%              | 6.06m  | 2.21%    | 7%              | £400.4m   | 1.76%    | 7%              | 3,947  | 8.07%    |
| 10                                                        | Ribble Valley Borough Council         | 6%              | 3.83m  | 0.65%    | 6%              | £305.1m   | -2.77%   | 6%              | 3,174  | 3.18%    |
| 11                                                        | Rossendale Borough Council            | 2%              | 1.26m  | 0.04%    | 1%              | £73.4m    | -1.79%   | 1%              | 720    | 3.04%    |
| 12                                                        | South Ribble Borough Council          | 5%              | 3.03m  | 0.84%    | 4%              | £202.1m   | 0.21%    | 4%              | 2,036  | 7.04%    |
| 13                                                        | West Lancashire District Council      | 4%              | 2.7m   | 2.04%    | 4%              | £208.4m   | -0.95%   | 4%              | 2,035  | 6.29%    |
| 14                                                        | Wyre Borough Council                  | 7%              | 4.44m  | 1.12%    | 8%              | £428.2m   | -4.41%   | 7%              | 4,033  | 3.47%    |
|                                                           | LANCASHIRE                            | 100%            | 66.66m |          | 100%            | £5.40bn   |          | 100%            | 57,311 |          |

Figure 15 - Marketing Lancashire. STEAM Tourism Economic Impacts 2023

| STEAM Key Impacts by Authority area: Marketing Lancashire |                                       |                 |        |          |                 |          |          |                 |        |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| 2024                                                      | Outputs by Area                       | Visitor Numbers |        |          | Economic Impact |          |          | Employment FTEs |        |          |
|                                                           |                                       | Share           | Total  | % change | Share           | Total    | % change | Share           | Total  | % change |
| 1                                                         | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council | 5.7%            | 3.74m  | 0.9%     | 4.4%            | £250.7m  | 1.9%     | 4%              | 2,372  | 1.65%    |
| 2                                                         | Blackpool Council                     | 33.9%           | 23.23m | 7.7%     | 37.5%           | £2150.2m | 3.6%     | 41%             | 23,489 | 0.30%    |
| 3                                                         | Burnley Borough Council               | 3.3%            | 2.27m  | 0.0%     | 2.7%            | £152.4m  | -2.8%    | 2%              | 1,392  | -5.22%   |
| 4                                                         | Chorley Borough Council               | 4.6%            | 3.17m  | 1.4%     | 3.8%            | £216.6m  | -0.4%    | 4%              | 2,017  | -1.06%   |
| 5                                                         | Fylde Borough Council                 | 4.8%            | 3.31m  | 3.8%     | 6.3%            | £360.1m  | -0.7%    | 6%              | 3,333  | -0.81%   |
| 6                                                         | Hyndburn Borough Council              | 2.7%            | 1.82m  | -0.4%    | 2.0%            | £114.8m  | -1.2%    | 2%              | 1,042  | -2.40%   |
| 7                                                         | Lancaster City Council                | 10.4%           | 7.13m  | 2.3%     | 11.3%           | £648.3m  | 3.5%     | 11%             | 6,257  | 2.31%    |
| 8                                                         | Borough of Pendle                     | 3.6%            | 2.46m  | -1.3%    | 2.8%            | £158.0m  | -2.4%    | 3%              | 1,529  | -2.18%   |
| 9                                                         | Preston City Council                  | 8.9%            | 6.10m  | 0.6%     | 7.7%            | £443.3m  | 5.6%     | 7%              | 4,086  | 3.50%    |
| 10                                                        | Ribble Valley Borough Council         | 5.5%            | 3.77m  | -1.6%    | 5.3%            | £304.3m  | -4.9%    | 5%              | 3,002  | -5.42%   |
| 11                                                        | Rossendale Borough Council            | 1.8%            | 1.25m  | -0.9%    | 1.3%            | £76.1m   | -1.2%    | 1%              | 698    | -3.11%   |
| 12                                                        | South Ribble Borough Council          | 4.3%            | 2.98m  | -1.4%    | 3.5%            | £200.6m  | -5.4%    | 3%              | 1,911  | -6.10%   |
| 13                                                        | West Lancashire District Council      | 4.1%            | 2.81m  | 4.2%     | 4.0%            | £230.2m  | 5.3%     | 4%              | 2,106  | 3.46%    |
| 14                                                        | Wyre Borough Council                  | 6.4%            | 4.40m  | -1.1%    | 7.6%            | £433.7m  | -3.4%    | 7%              | 3,835  | -4.93%   |
|                                                           | LANCASHIRE                            | 100%            | 68.63m | 3.0%     | 100%            | £5739.5m | 1.4%     | 100%            | 57,068 | -0.43%   |

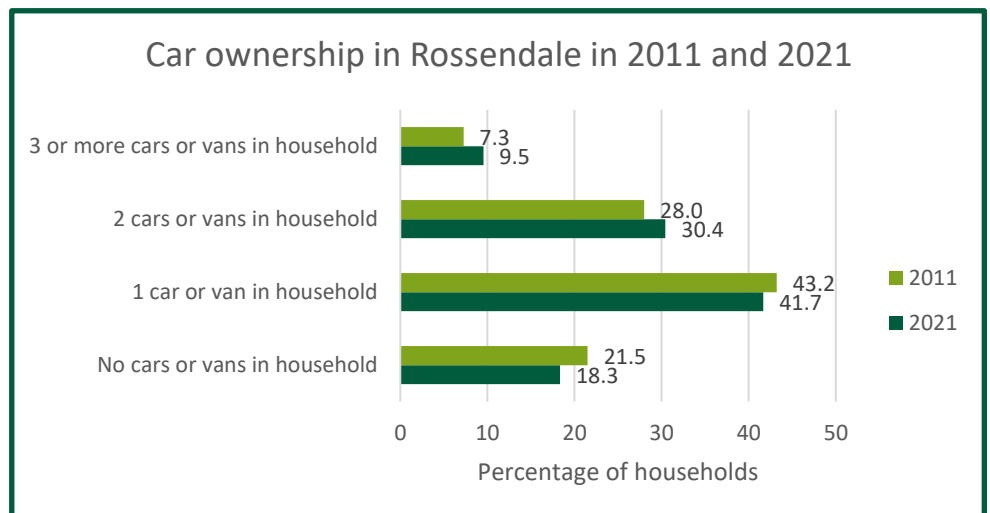
Figure 16 - Marketing Lancashire. STEAM Tourism Economic Impacts 2024

Lack of overnight accommodation has been highlighted and the [AMR](#) highlights there have been applications for non-serviced accommodation (e.g. bunk barns and glamping pods).

## 1.6 Travel to Work

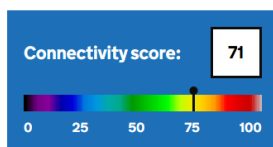
### Car ownership

The proportion of households in Rossendale owning two or more cars has increased in 2021 since 2011, whilst the proportion of households owning no car or 1 car has reduced.



### Connectivity to workplaces

The Connectivity Tool shows that Rossendale has a connectivity score to workplaces by walking below the national average. The connectivity score improves with cycling and public transport but remains below 60. Driving shows the highest connectivity score especially within the west of the Borough in Haslingden, Helmshore, Rawtenstall and Edenfield. Bacup, Whitworth and Water have some of the lowest connectivity scores in the Borough to workplaces.



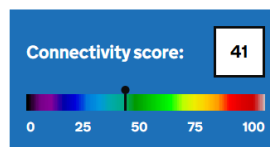
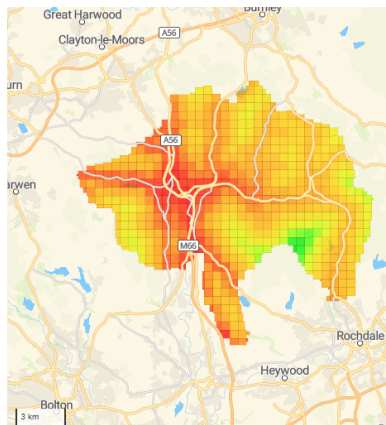
Score by destination

Workplaces

Score by mode of transport

Driving

Understand the score



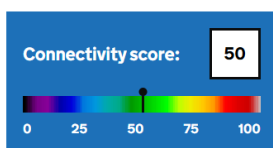
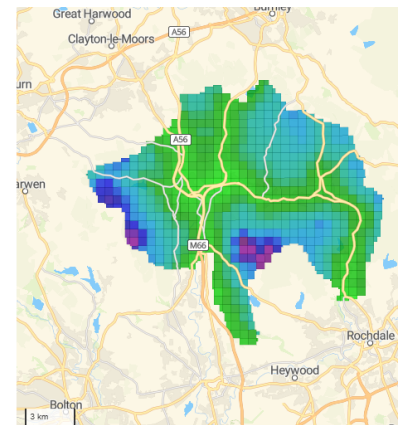
Score by destination

Workplaces

Score by mode of transport

Public transport

Understand the score



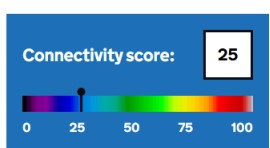
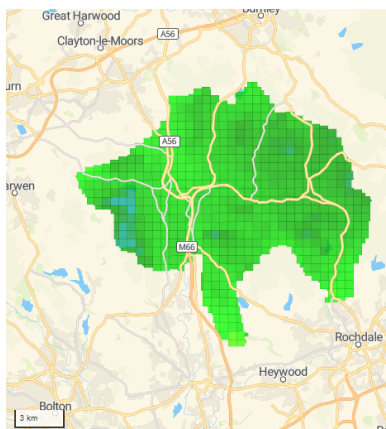
Score by destination

Workplaces

Score by mode of transport

Cycling

Understand the score



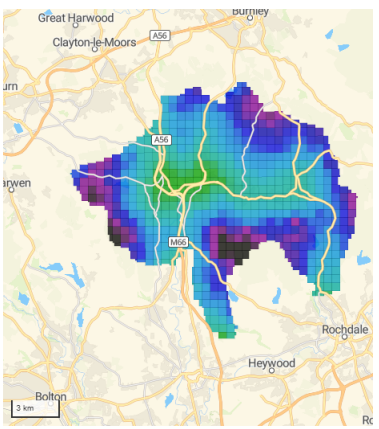
Score by destination

Workplaces

Score by mode of transport

Walking

Understand the score



## 1.6 Retail



### Vacancy rates in town centres

The level of empty ground floor units in Rossendale's 10 town centres and neighbourhood parades has been monitored in 2022 and 2025 (as well as annually for Rawtenstall, Haslingden and Bacup). Five of them have a low vacancy rate (e.g. between 4% and 7%). This is the case for Rawtenstall, Whitworth, Edenfield, Helmshore and Stacksteads.

The remaining 5 centres: Haslingden, Bacup, Crawshawbooth, Waterfoot and Facit have a higher vacancy rate (from 9% to 30%). Please note that Facit has a very low number of properties within its neighbourhood parade, as such a few vacancies can have a significant effect on its vacancy rate.

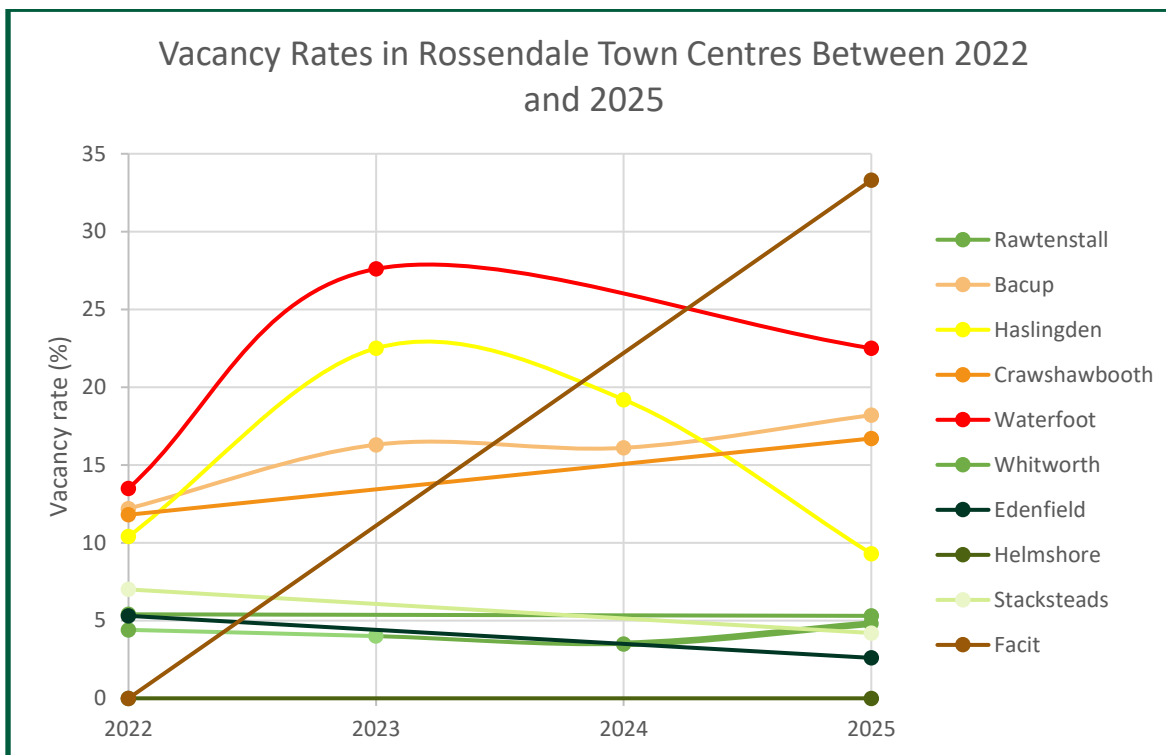


Figure 17 - Vacancy rates in Rossendale's town and local centres between 2022 and 2025

## 1.7 Summary

Based on the above data, the below strengths and weaknesses in Rossendale's local economy has been identified below.

| Rossendale Strengths                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Rossendale Weaknesses                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good employment rate over the past few years and low level of young people not in education, employment or training in 2024/25, compared to other East Lancashire districts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor job density compared to other Lancashire districts</li> <li>People working in Rossendale earn on average less than people commuting out of the Borough to work</li> </ul> |



## 2. High Quality Environment

### 2.1 Built Environment

#### Settlement Hierarchy

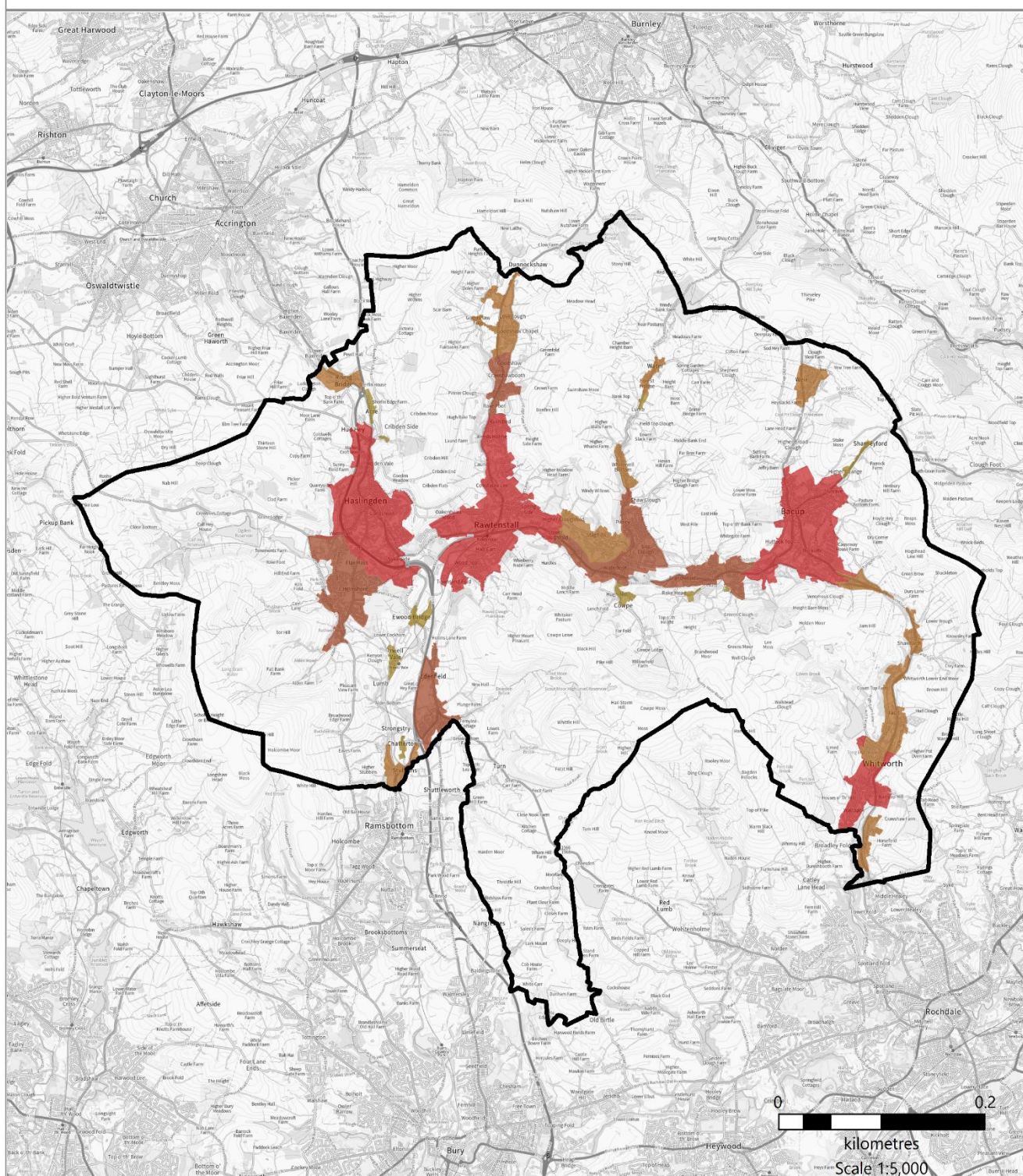
The Rossendale Local Plan (2019 to 2036) sets out the settlement hierarchy in Table 1.

| Settlement and Designation                                                                                                                                                                                           | Services, Facilities and Characteristics at 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Key Service Centres</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rawtenstall (<i>Primary Centre</i>)</li> <li>• Bacup</li> <li>• Haslingden</li> <li>• Whitworth</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High frequency bus service;</li> <li>• Education (range of primary schools and/or secondary school);</li> <li>• Health services: GP's, Dentists, Pharmacy;</li> <li>• Community facilities;</li> <li>• Range of sports / recreation facilities</li> <li>• Leisure facilities</li> </ul>                                                                                 |
| <b><u>Urban Local Service Centres</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• i. Waterfoot</li> <li>• ii. Edenfield</li> <li>• iii. Stacksteads</li> <li>• iv. Crawshawbooth</li> <li>• v. Helmshore</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Centre, Neighbourhood Parade OR more than one shop, including grocery/convenience store or other key service;</li> <li>• High frequency bus service;</li> <li>• Education (primary school);</li> <li>• Health service: GP, Dentist or Pharmacy;</li> <li>• Community facilities;</li> <li>• Recreation / sports facilities</li> <li>• Leisure facility</li> </ul> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><u>Rural Local Service Centres</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loveclough/Goodshaw</li> <li>• ii. Water</li> <li>• iii. Weir</li> <li>• iv. Whitwell Bottom</li> <li>• v. Broadley/Tonacliffe</li> <li>• vi. Facit</li> <li>• vii. Britannia</li> <li>• viii. Stubbins</li> <li>• ix. Newchurch</li> <li>• x. Rising Bridge</li> <li>• xi. Shawforth</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Contain at least three of any of the following key characteristics:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood Parade, Grocery/convenience store, other key service or other A1 retail</li> <li>• Medium frequency bus service;</li> <li>• Education (Primary school);</li> <li>• Community facility;</li> <li>• Recreation, sport or leisure facility</li> <li>• Other facility</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><u>Smaller Villages and Substantially Built up Frontages</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acre</li> <li>• ii. Chatterton</li> <li>• iii. Cowpe</li> <li>• iv. Ewood Bridge</li> <li>• v. Irwell Vale</li> <li>• vi. Turn</li> <li>• vii. Sharneyford</li> <li>• viii. Lumb (near Water)</li> </ul>                                                               | <p><b><u>Contain at least one of the following characteristics:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocery/convenience store, other key service or other A1 retail;</li> <li>• Bus service;</li> <li>• Education (Primary school);</li> <li>• Community facility;</li> <li>• Recreation, sport or leisure facility</li> <li>• Other facility</li> </ul>                                                    |

*Table 1 - Adopted Rossendale Local Plan (2019 to 2036) Settlement Hierarchy*

# SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY



## Legend

Settlement\_Hierarchy\_2021 by Hierarchy\_position

|                                                                                                                            |                                                       |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span>         | Key Service Centre                                    | (4)  |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:orange; border:1px solid black;"></span>      | Urban Local Service Centre                            | (5)  |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span>      | Rural Local Service Centre                            | (11) |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightyellow; border:1px solid black;"></span> | Smaller Villages and Substantially Built Up Frontages | (10) |

Author: Forward Planning

Scale: 1 cm = 50 m

Date: 29/04/2026

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## Heritage

Rossendale has a rich heritage which is protected under the following designations:

- 10 conservation areas with a proposed new conservation area in Waterfoot,
- 1 registered park and garden (Whitworth Cemetery),
- 1 scheduled ancient monument (Helmshore Textile Mill)
- and over 270 listed buildings.

Some non-designated heritage assets are also identified in the Rossendale Local Plan, the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan and a draft Local List.

## 2.2 Natural Environment

### Accessibility to Green and Blue Spaces

Defra reports that 97% of households in Rossendale have access to green or blue space within a 15-minute walk in 2025. This is above the average for other districts in Lancashire at 89%.

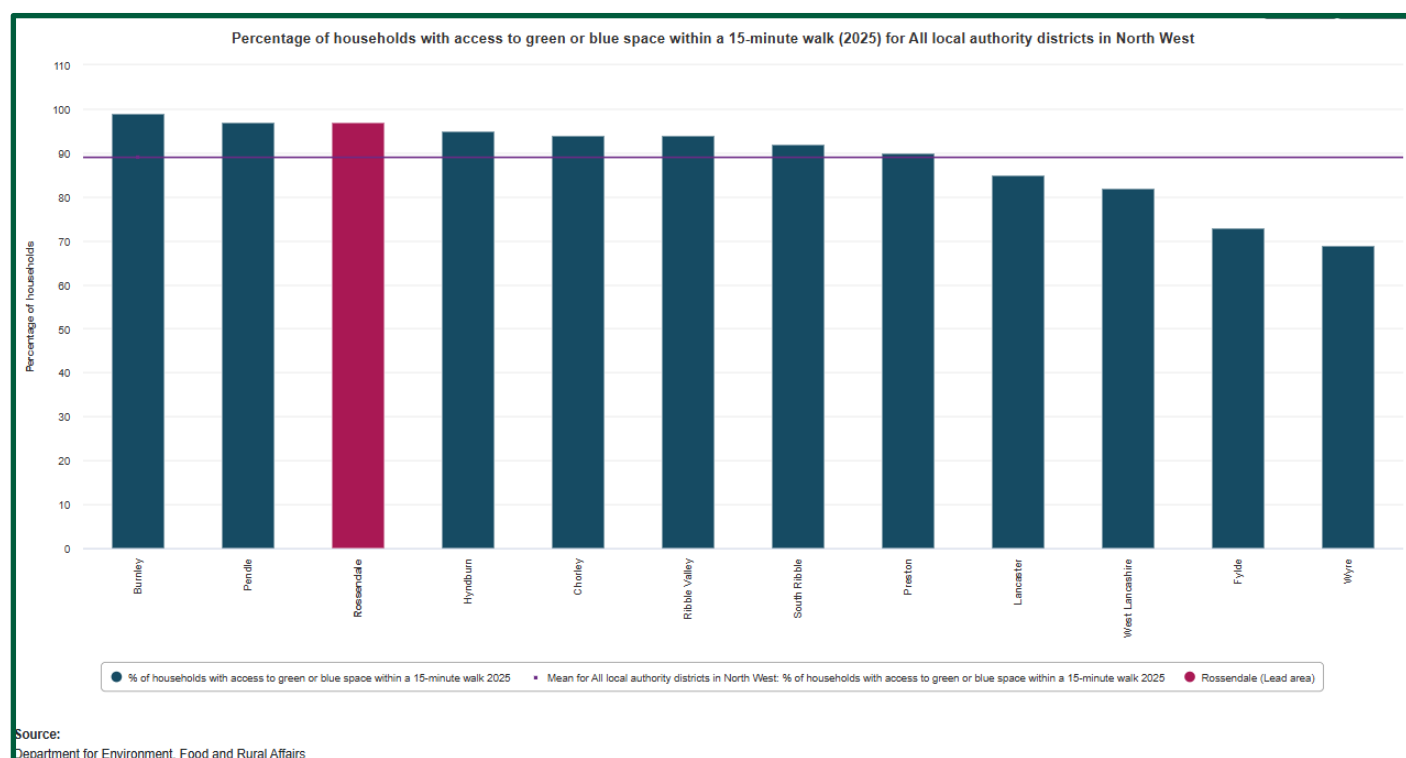


Figure 18 - Percentage of households with access to green or blue space within a 15-minute walk. Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

### Air Pollution

Statistics from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities show that 4.7% of mortality in Rossendale can be attributed to particulate air pollution in 2024. This is slightly higher than the average for Lancashire districts at 4.7%.

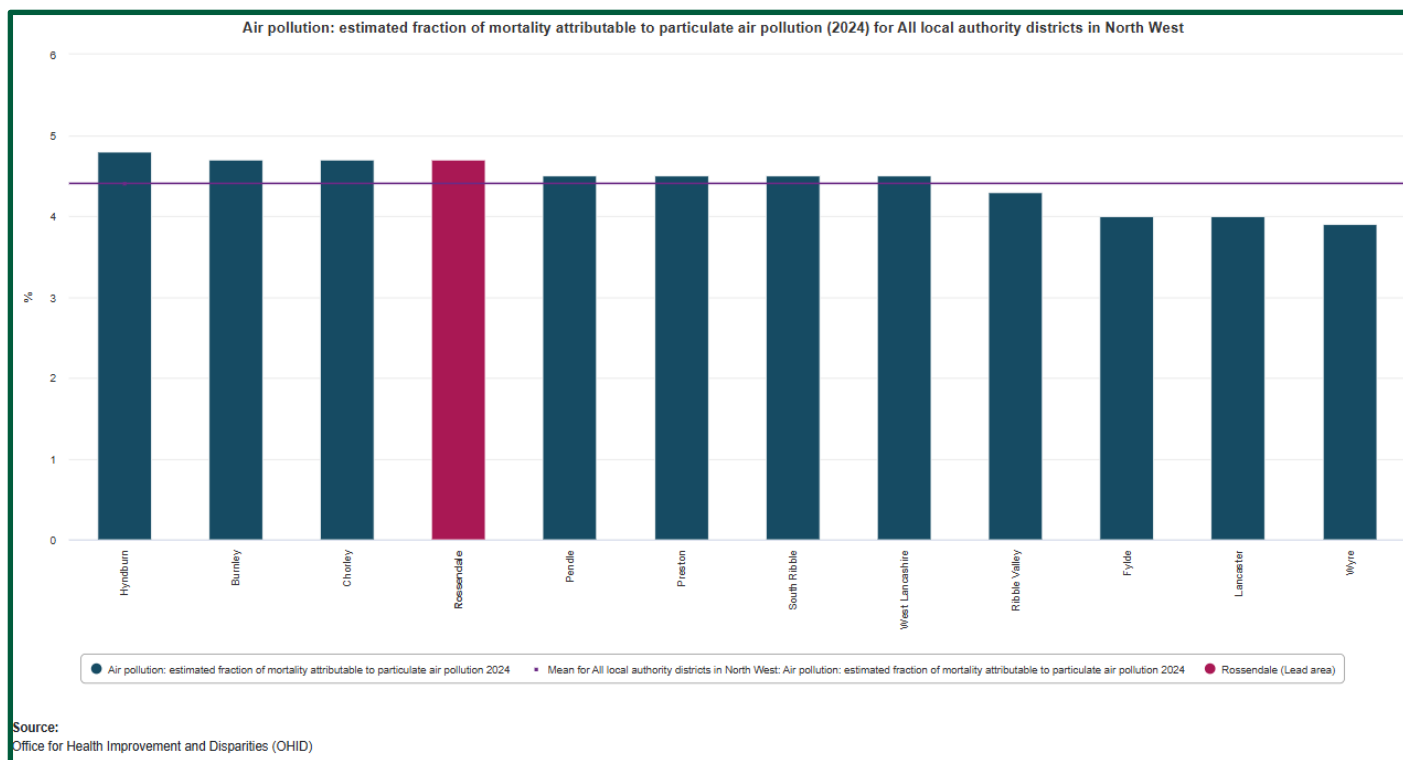


Figure 19 - Estimated fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution (2024). Source: OHID

## Water

### Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive introduced a river basin management system to protect and improve the ecological health of water bodies. Rossendale comprises the source of the River Irwell and a large portion of the borough is within the Croal Irwell operational catchment, whilst the east of the borough is located within the Roch Irk Medlock operational catchment (e.g. River Spodden)<sup>3</sup>. Most of not all the water bodies in Rossendale fail one of the criteria of the Water Framework Directive, usually due to the detection of hazardous substances (e.g. mercury and its compounds, perfluorooctane sulphonate or polybrominated diphenyl ethers).

### River and Surface Water Flood Risk

The towns and villages situated within the valley bottom and in particular areas located in proximity to watercourses are often at high (Flood Zone 3) and medium risk (Flood Zone 2) of flooding from rivers. The Environment Agency also highlights that further areas might be at risk of flooding in the future when considering climate change. Figure 36 shows areas at high and medium risk of river flooding now and in the future.

In addition, a significant proportion of the district is also at risk of surface water flooding.

<sup>3</sup> Catchment Data Explorer: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/ManagementCatchment/3042>

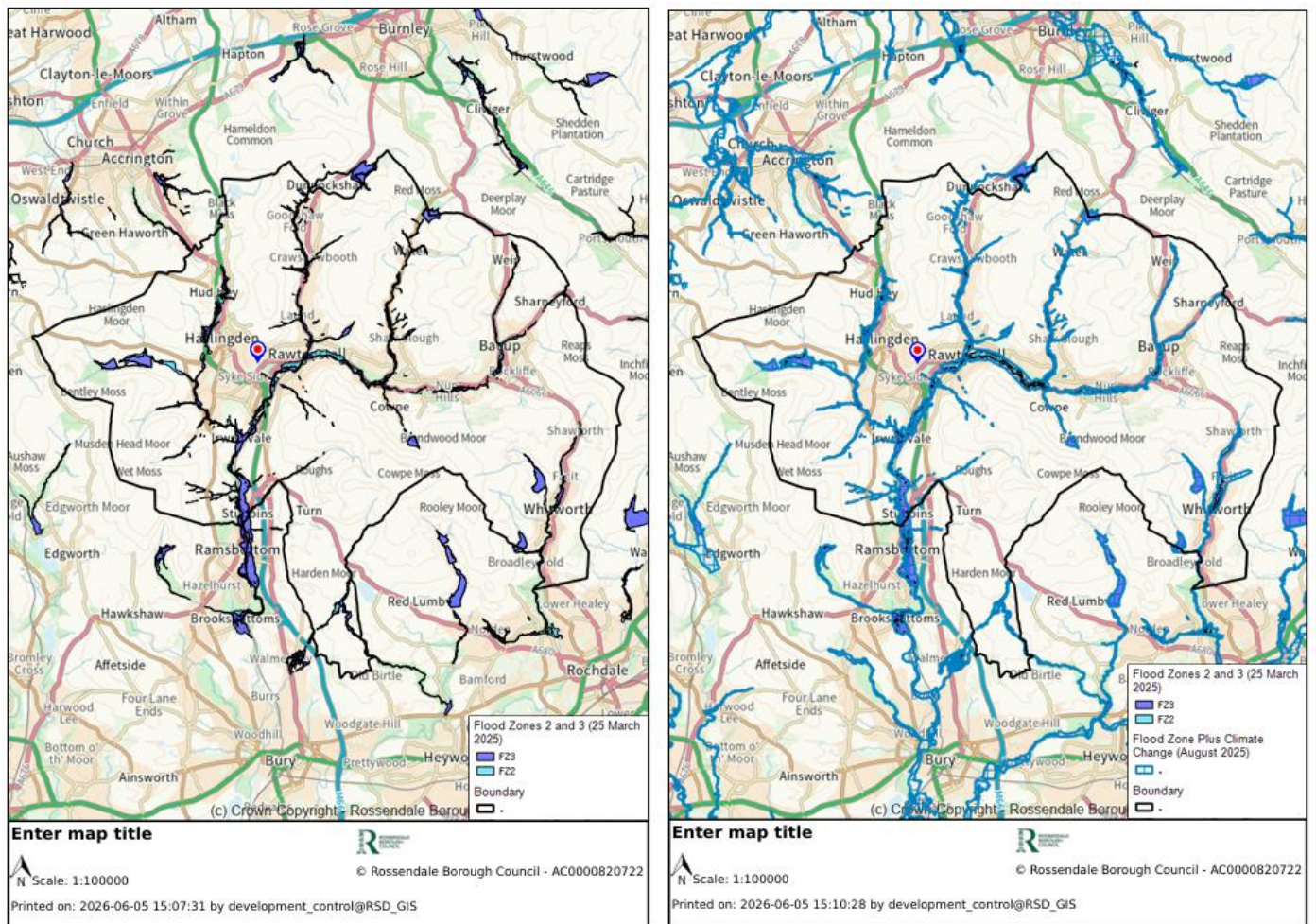
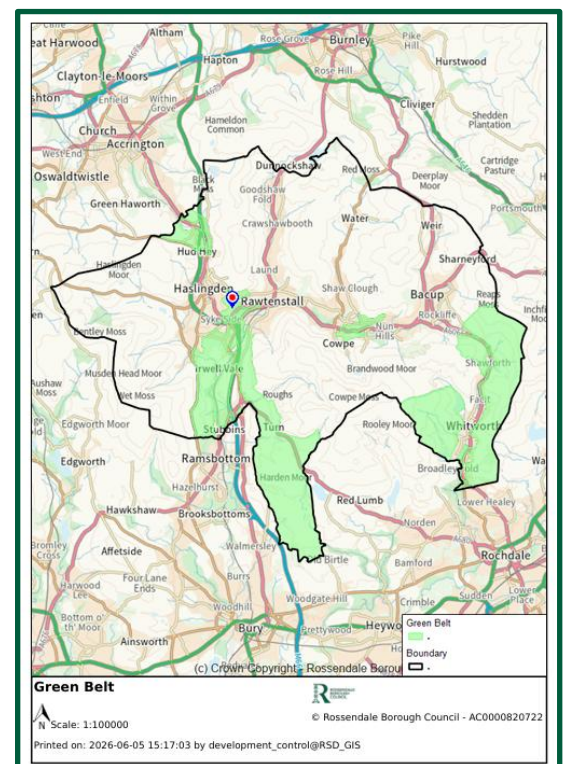


Figure 20 - Current and Future Areas at Risk of River Flooding (2025)

## Green Belt

The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 defines the Green Belt boundary where certain types of development are restricted. It is estimated to cover less than 25% of the borough area.



### Nature & Conservation

The State of Nature 2023<sup>4</sup> states that the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. It shows that since 1970:

- abundance of 753 terrestrial and freshwater species has on average fallen by 19% across the UK,
- distributions of 4,979 invertebrate species have on average decreased by 13%,
- distributions of 54% of flowering plants and 59% of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) had decreased across Great Britain.

Rossendale is rich in biodiversity and has several sites protected for their ecological or geological value:

- 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interests
- 52 Biological Heritage Sites
- 1 Local Nature Reserve at Healey Dell
- 34 Important Wildlife Sites
- 8 Local Geodiversity Sites

Rossendale contains irreplaceable habitats such as blanket bogs, ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees as well as lowland fens. These habitats would be very difficult or take a significant time to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed.

---

<sup>4</sup> [https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report\\_2023\\_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf](https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf)



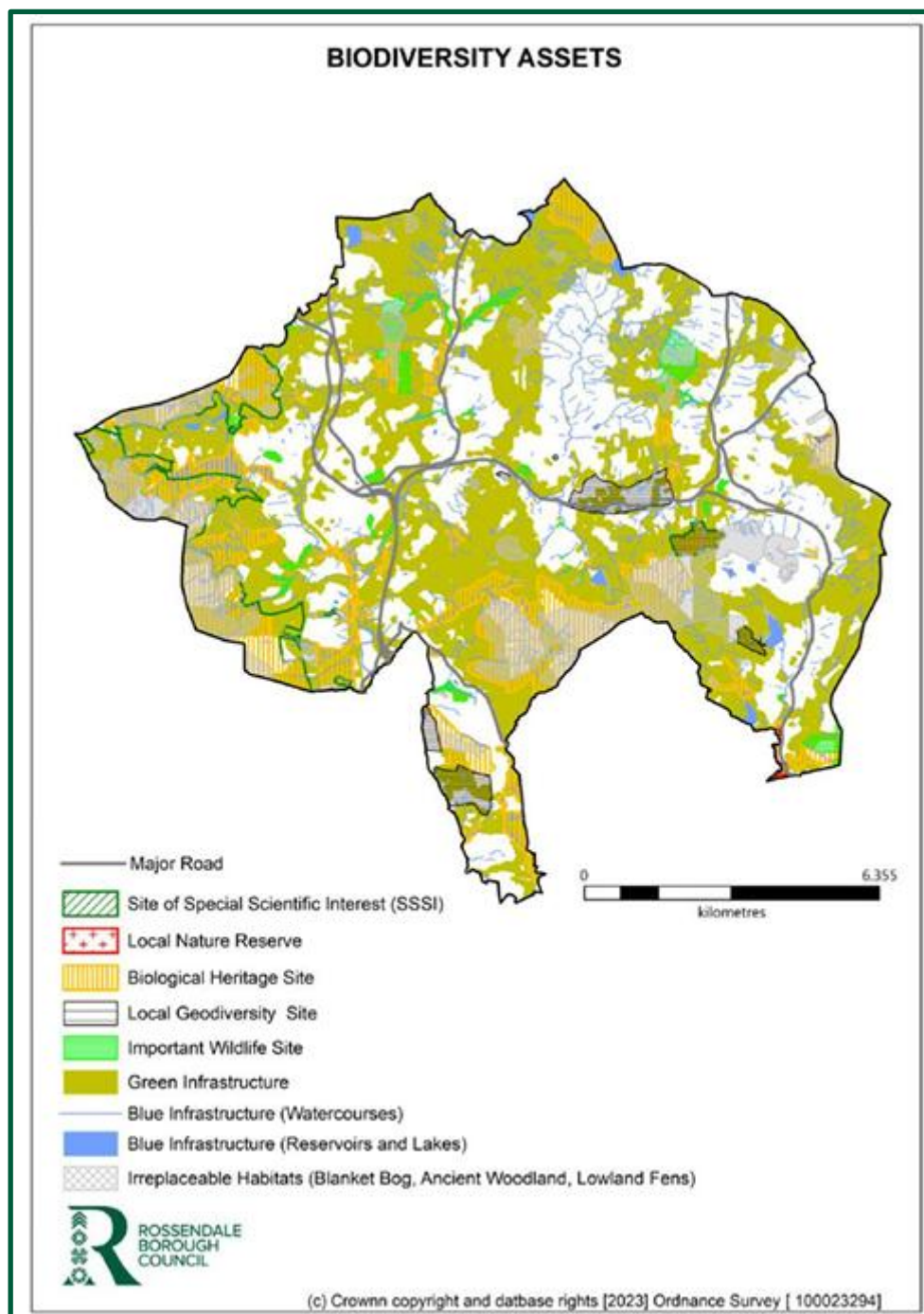


Figure 22 - Map of Rossendale Biodiversity Assets

## Climate Change

The 'Climate change explained' guidance<sup>5</sup> from Government states that UK temperatures exceeded 40°C in July 2022 for the first time on record. Temperatures also remained above 20°C during the night and another record was broken for the highest daily minimum temperature.

Climate models predict warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers and more frequent and intense weather extremes.

By 2070, temperatures in the UK are predicted to be between 1.3°C and 5.1°C warmer. Flash floods are also forecasted to occur twice as often than it did in 1990 by 2070.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained#impacts-of-climate-change>



## 2.3 Summary

Below are key strengths and weaknesses identified regarding Rossendale's built and natural environment.

| Rossendale Strengths                                                                                                                                                                                        | Rossendale Weaknesses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 97% of households have access to green and blue infrastructure within a 15-minute walk</li><li>• Various sites designated for their importance for nature</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher rate of mortality linked to air pollution than other Lancashire districts</li><li>• Areas at high and medium risk of flooding from rivers and surface water which is likely to extend in the future</li></ul> |

### 3. Healthy and Proud Communities

#### 3.1 Population

In 2021, Rossendale had 70,800 residents. The population has increased by 4.1% since 2011 when the Borough had 67,982 residents. In comparison, the population in Lancashire grew approximately by 5.2% in the same period and by 6.2% in England.

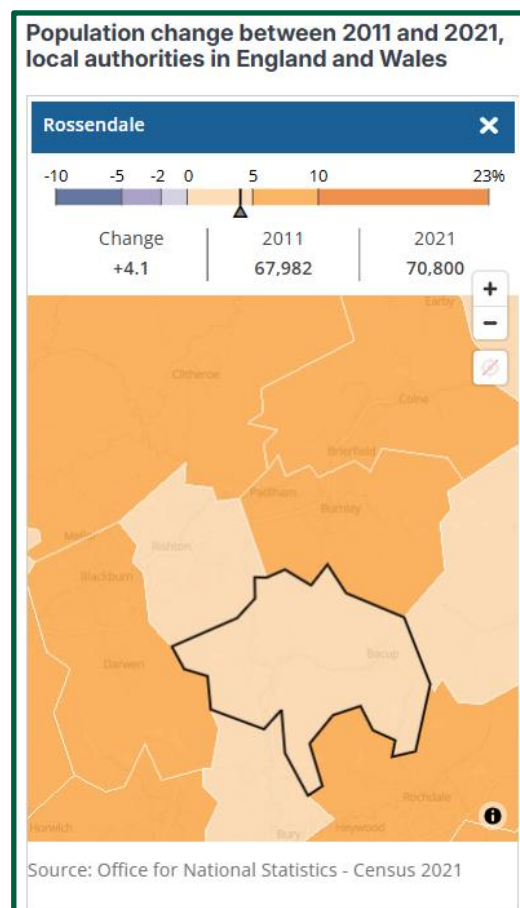


Figure 23 - Population change between 2011 and 2021. Source Maproom.net

In 2024, Rossendale's population grew less than the mean of the other districts in Lancashire.

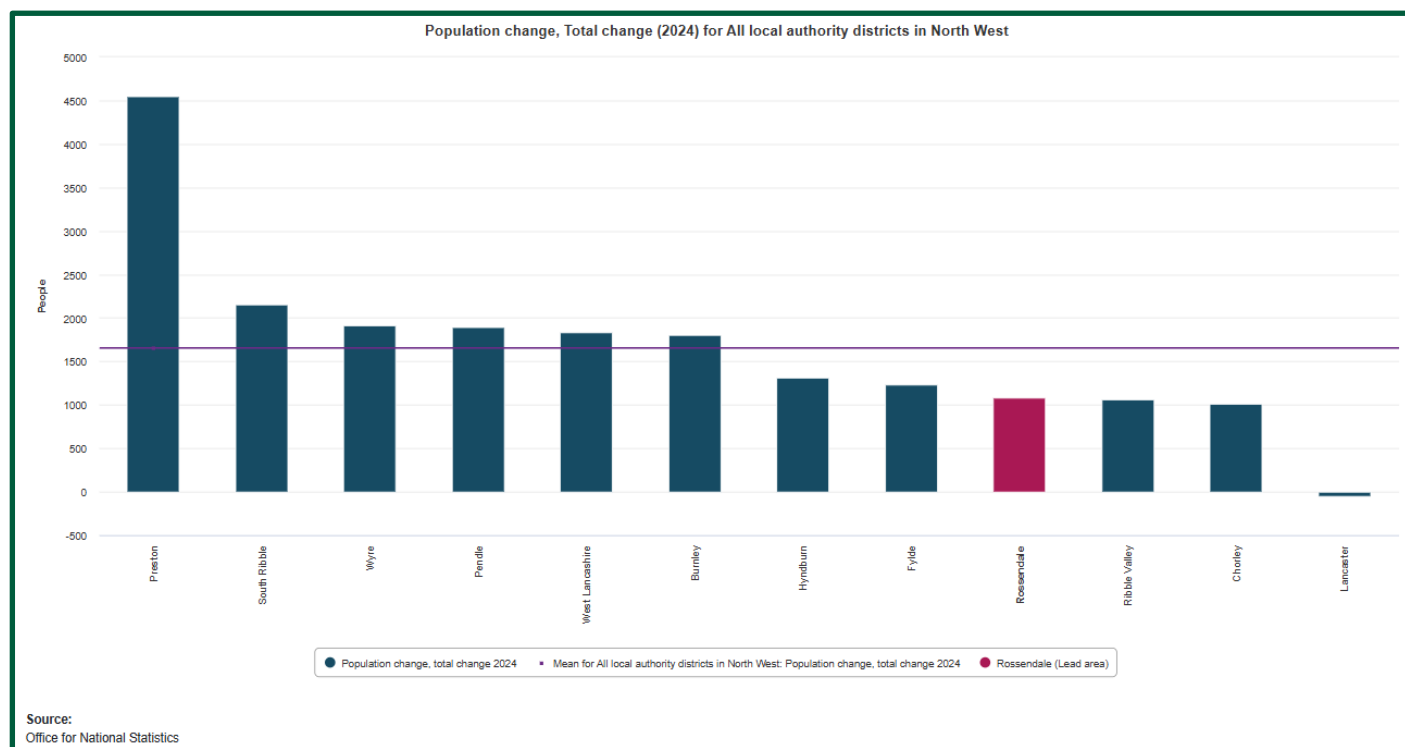


Figure 24 - Population change in 2024 for Rossendale and other districts in Lancashire

## Age

According to the latest census, in 2021:

- People aged between 50 and 64 years were the largest age group in Rossendale (21.6%)
- Less than a quarter of Rossendale's population was 19 years of age or under (23.4%).
- About 40% of Rossendale's population was 50 years old or more.

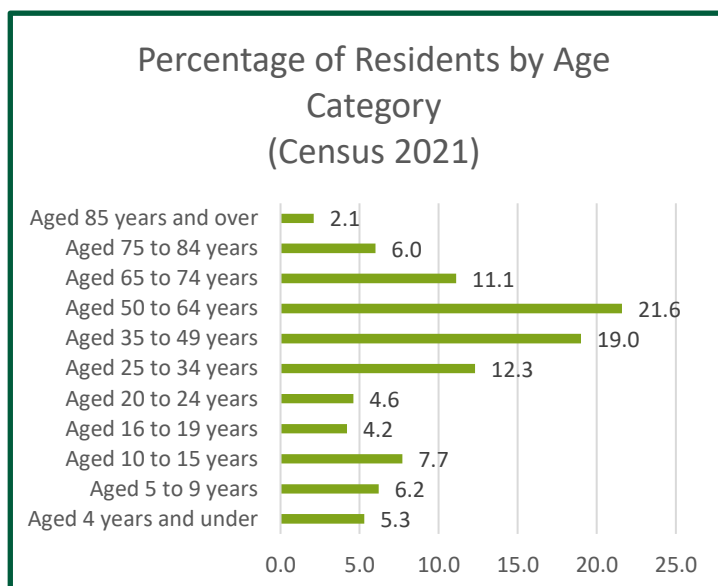


Figure 25 - Chart of percentage of residents by age category (Census 2021)

- 19.2% of Rossendale's residents were 65 years old or more.

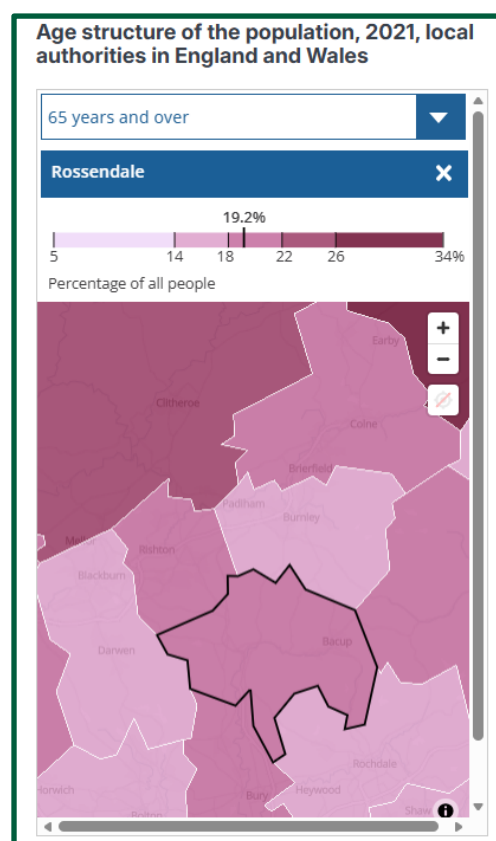


Figure 26 - Percentage of 65 years old and over in 2021.

Between 2011 and 2021, the percentage of the population aged 65 years and older has increased (from 15.4% to 19.2%) whilst the proportion of residents aged 19 years or less has slightly decreased (from 24.4% to 23.4%).

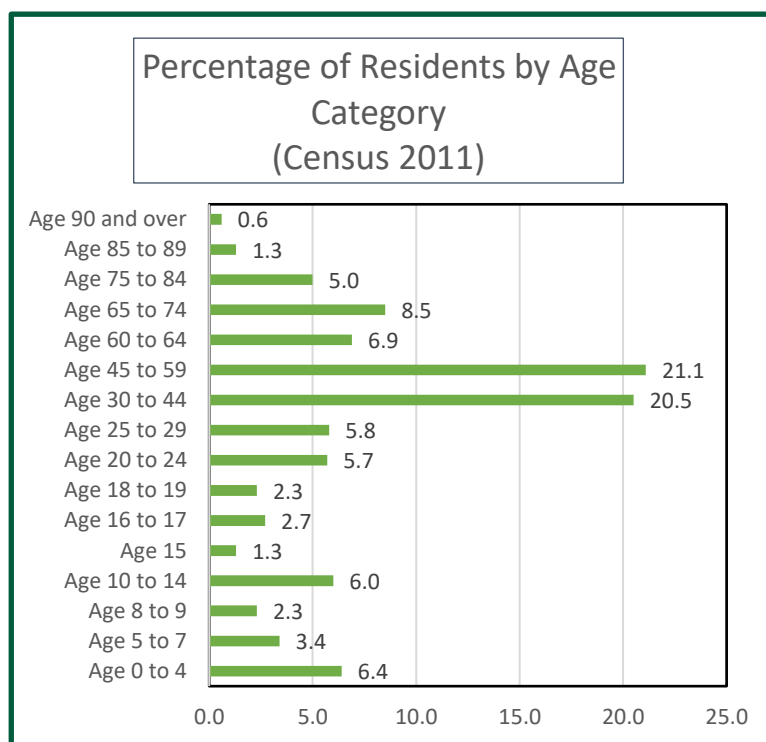


Figure 27 - Chart of age structure in Rossendale (Census 2011).

The graph below compares the number of people in each age category in 2011 and 2021. It shows as discussed above a larger number of residents aged 65 or more in 2021 than in 2011.

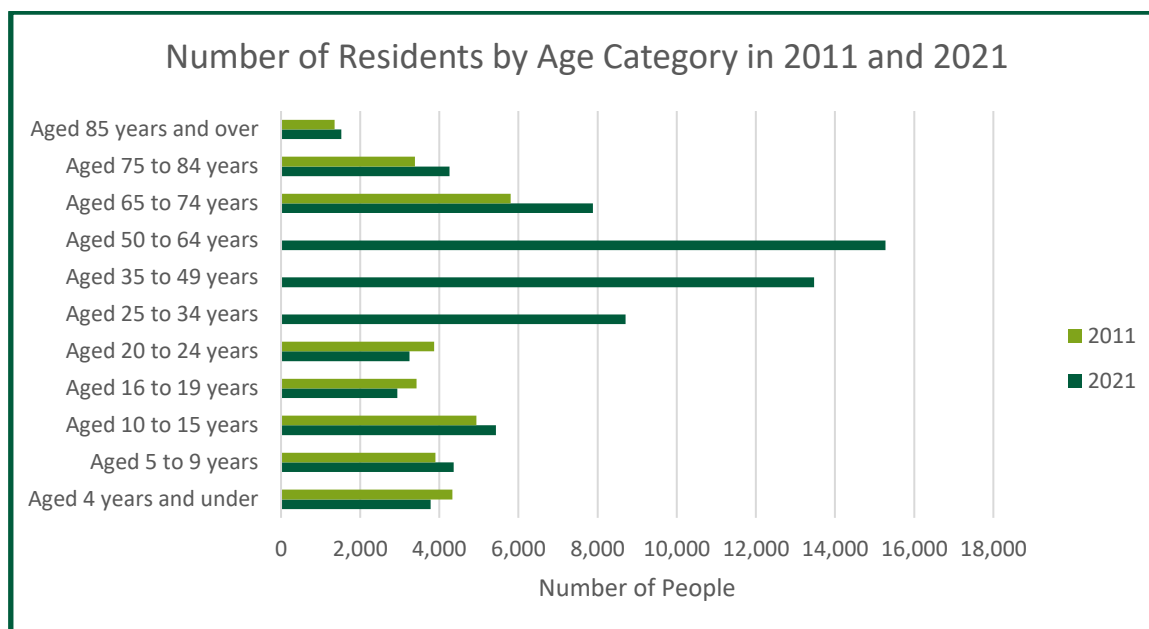


Figure 28 - Number of Residents by Age Category in 2011 and 2021

## Ethnic group

In 2021, 92.4% of usual residents identified as White, 5.5% as Asian, 1.5% as Mixed, 0.4% as Other and 0.2% as Black, Caribbean or African. The proportion of White residents is higher than the Lancashire average at 88.9% and the England average at 81%. Conversely the proportion of minority ethnic group is lower than the Lancashire and England average.

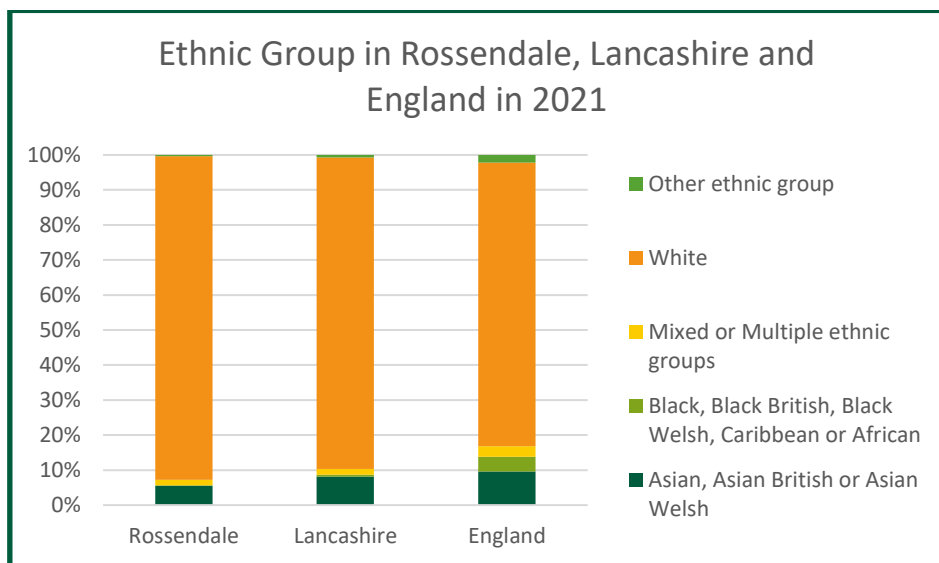
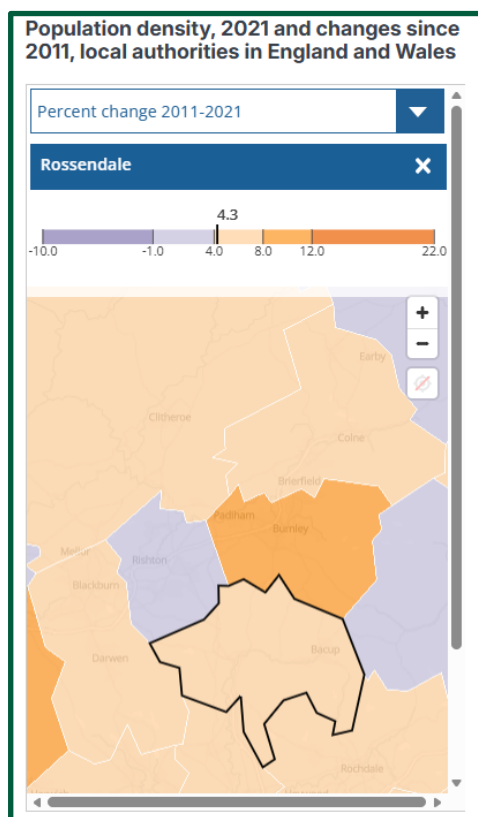


Figure 29 - Ethnic group in Rossendale, Lancashire and England in 2021

## Population density



In 2021, there were 513.4 residents per square kilometre in Rossendale. This is more than the Lancashire average of 426.9 residents per square kilometre.

In 2011, the population density was approximately 492 residents per square kilometre in Rossendale, so it has increased by 4.3%.

Figure 30 - Population density change between 2011 and 2021. Source Maproom.net with data from Office for National Statistics



## Internal net migration

Between 2021 and 2024, the internal net migration for Rossendale has been positive meaning more people came in rather than went away (except for 2022 where the net migration was negative). The positive flow of people in Rossendale is however lower than the Lancashire average.

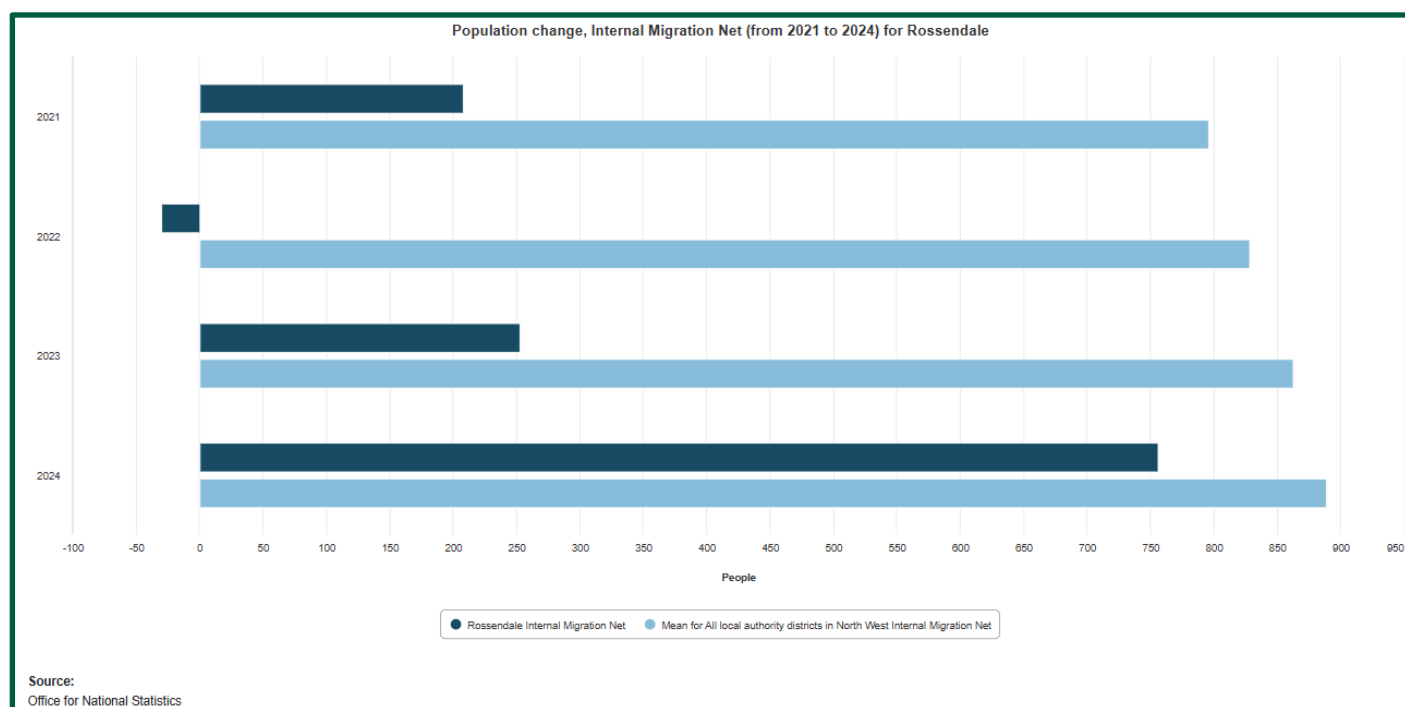


Figure 31 - Net migration for Rossendale and Lancashire between 2021 and 2024

## 3.2 Indices of Multiple Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation for 2025 measure relative levels of deprivation based on 7 domains which are combined and weighted to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). “Deprivation refers to people’s unmet needs, a lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society”<sup>6</sup>. The table below shows how Rossendale compares for each of the seven domains identified in the Index of Deprivation 2025.

Overall Rossendale is 80% more deprived than other districts in England, ranking in the top 60 of 286 districts in total. Previously the district was ranked as 91<sup>st</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://deprivation.communities.gov.uk/>

| Domain                                              | Description of domain                                                          | Types of Indicators                                                                                              | Weighting | Rossendale is more deprived than:      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Living environment deprivation</b>               | Quality of the local environment, indoors and outdoors.                        | Housing quality and outdoor environment, including issues such as air quality or road traffic collisions         | 9.3       | 92% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 24</b>  |
| <b>Barriers to housing and services deprivation</b> | Physical and financial accessibility of housing and key local services.        | Housing affordability, overcrowding and physical access to basic services such as shops or GP surgeries.         | 9.3       | 84% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 46</b>  |
| <b>Health &amp; disability deprivation</b>          | Risk of premature death and impairment of quality of life.                     | Reflects risk of illness, premature death and quality of life related to health conditions or disability         | 13.5      | 80% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 59</b>  |
| <b>Employment deprivation</b>                       | Proportion of working-age people involuntarily excluded from the labour market | Considers people who would like to work but are unable to do so because of unemployment, sickness or disability. | 22.5      | 77% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 69</b>  |
| <b>Crime deprivation</b>                            | Risk of personal and material victimization                                    | Captures the risk of personal and material victimisation in the local area                                       | 9.3       | 73% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 81</b>  |
| <b>Income deprivation</b>                           | Proportion of people experiencing low income                                   | Measures the proportion of people in an area experiencing low income                                             | 22.5      | 66% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 102</b> |
| <b>Education &amp; skills deprivation</b>           | Lack of attainment and skills in children and adults.                          | Brings together measures of school attainment, adult skills and barriers to education and training               | 13.5      | 56% of other LADs<br><b>Rank - 166</b> |

Looking at Lower Super Output Areas, certain neighbourhoods in Rossendale are more deprived than 97% of neighbourhoods in England whilst other neighbourhoods are faring better and are less deprived than 94% of neighbourhoods in England.

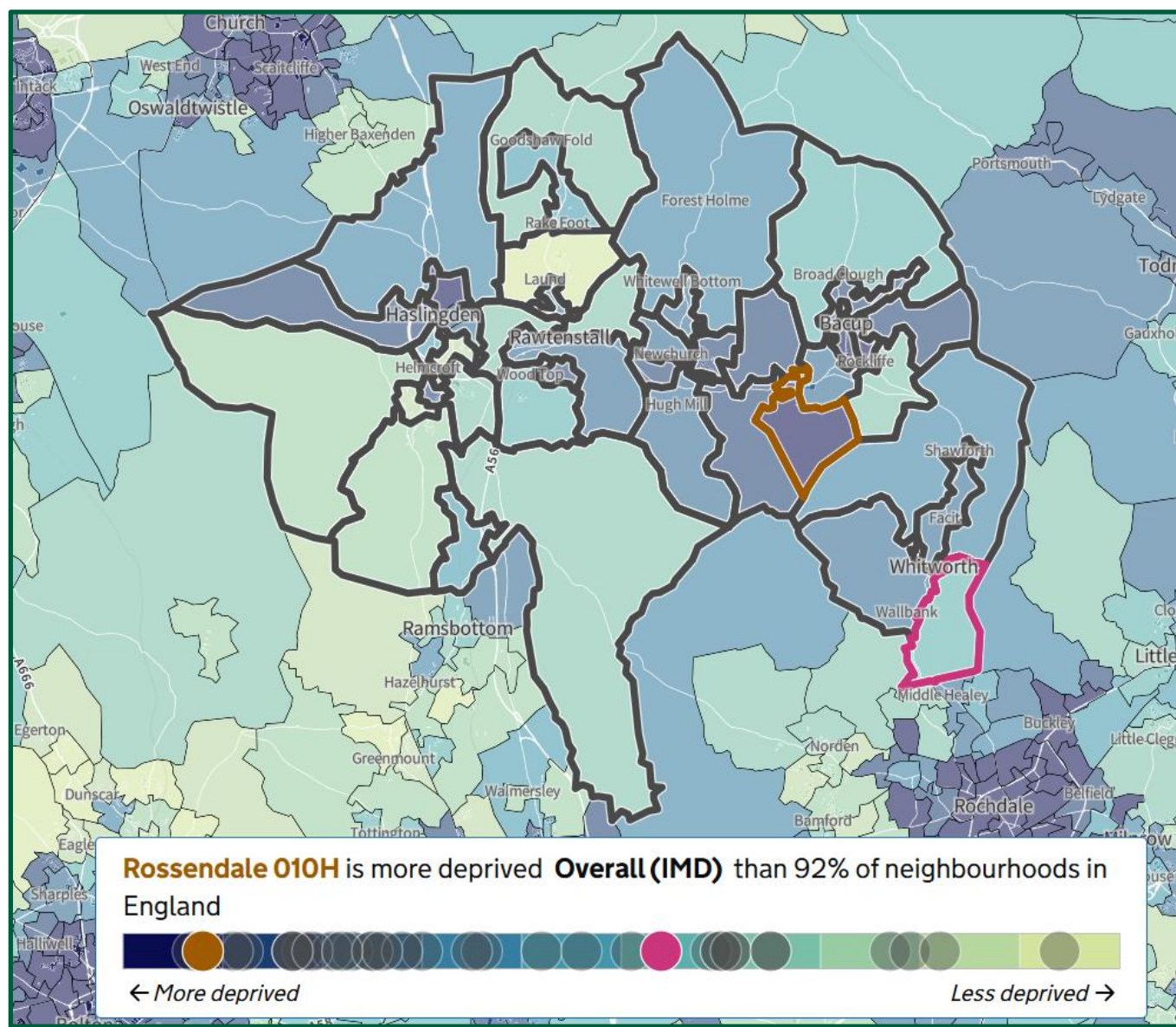


Figure 32 - Map of Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation for Rossendale's Neighbourhoods

### Fuel poverty

According to a Local Government Association report, in 2024, 10.7% of households in Rossendale were in fuel poverty. This is higher than the national average at 9.7% and the average in other districts in Lancashire at 10.5%.

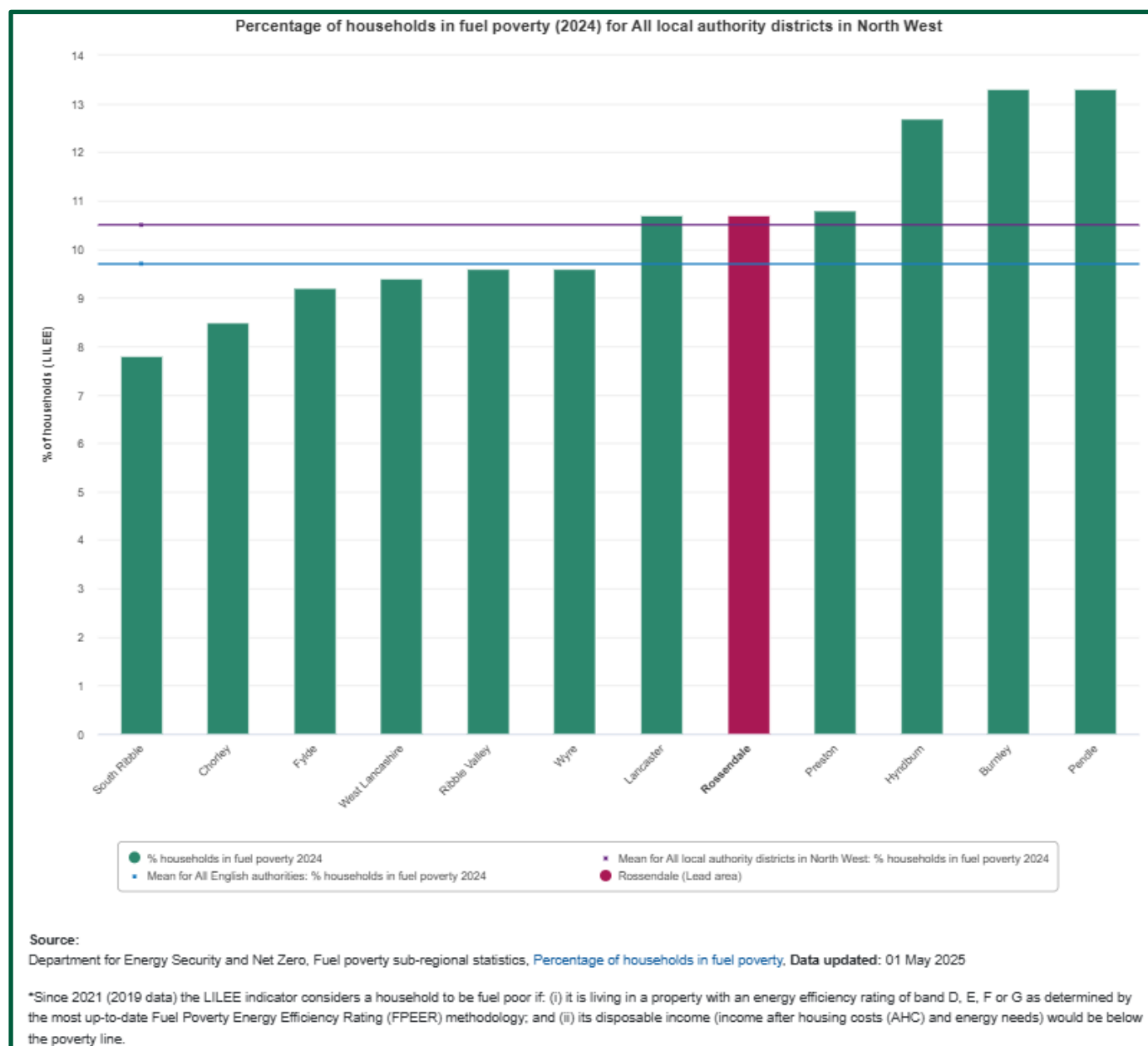


Figure 33 - Percentage of households in fuel poverty in 2024 in Lancashire

## Energy efficiency

Written evidence to a Government committee submitted by Rossendale Valley Energy Community Benefit Society reported that terraced homes in places like Rossendale see heating costs that are 18% higher than average. Many terraced homes have the lowest Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) in the country, with a significant number privately rented, increasing the risk of fuel poverty amongst tenants<sup>7</sup>. Rossendale is one of 9 local authorities where no MSOAs have a median energy efficiency score in band C or above.

<sup>7</sup><https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/133910/pdf/>

## % of children in relative low income families

Figure 17 shows that in 2024/25, 24.1 % of children aged under 16 in Rossendale were living in relative low income families (before housing costs). This is similar to the Lancashire average.

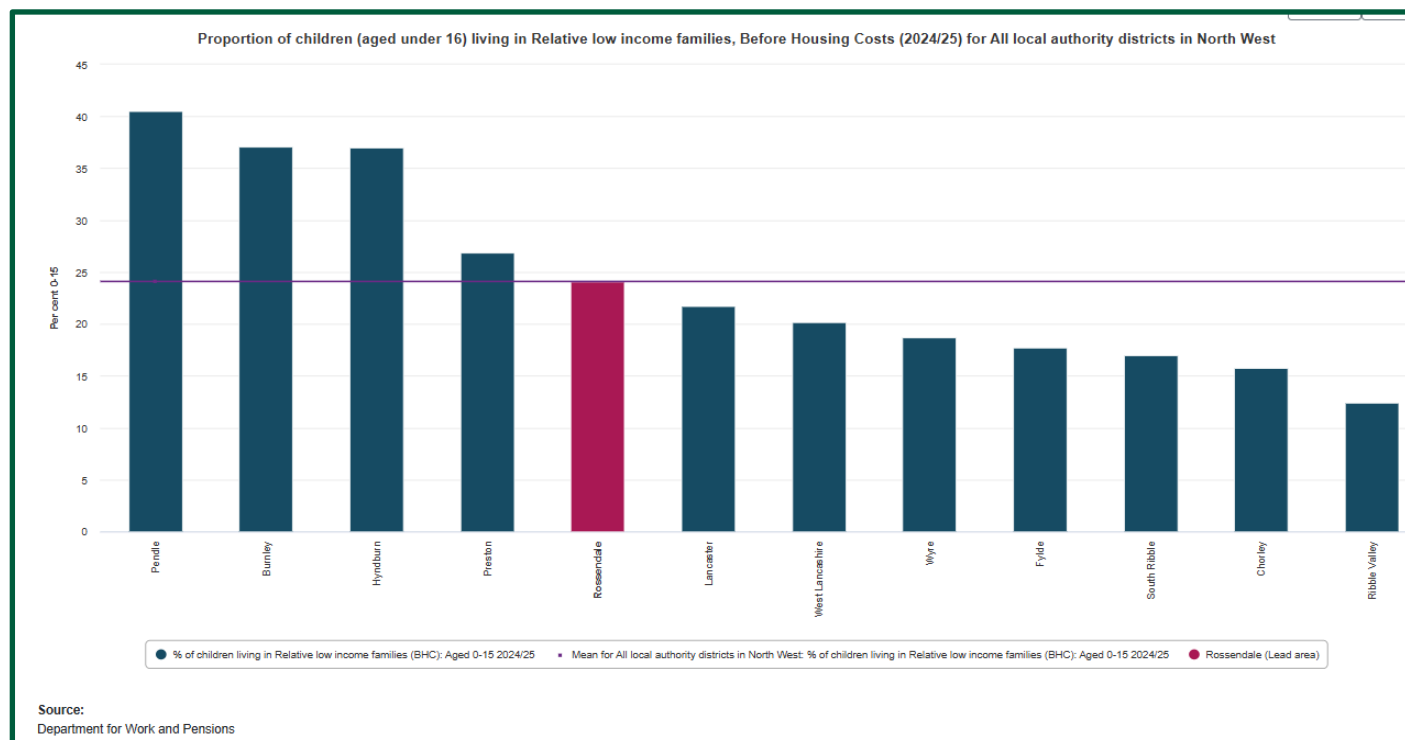


Figure 34 - Proportion of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families (before housing costs) in 2024/25

## 3.3 Education

### Census data

In 2021, 30.7% of residents in Rossendale aged 16 years or over had a level 4 qualification or above. This is higher than the proportion of residents holding a maximum level 3 qualification (18.4%) or level 2 qualification (14.2%) or level 1 qualification (9.5%) or no qualifications (18.6%).

There has been an increase in the proportion of residents with a level 4 qualification and level 3 qualification in Rossendale between 2011 and 2021.





Figure 35 - Highest level of qualification of Rossendale's residents in 2011 and 2021

### Education Infrastructure

There are 43 schools in Rossendale of which 32 are primary and 6 are secondary.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan update (2019) predicted a shortfall of primary school places in Rawtenstall and Ramsbottom based on the five year housing land supply. Whitworth showed a limited number of places remaining.

The report also stated a surplus of secondary school places at District level with higher performing schools filling more quickly than less popular schools.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan reported that Lancashire County Council, who has the statutory obligation to ensure every child in Lancashire can access a mainstream school place, would seek to expand existing schools if new classrooms are required.

There is no Further Education college within the Borough.

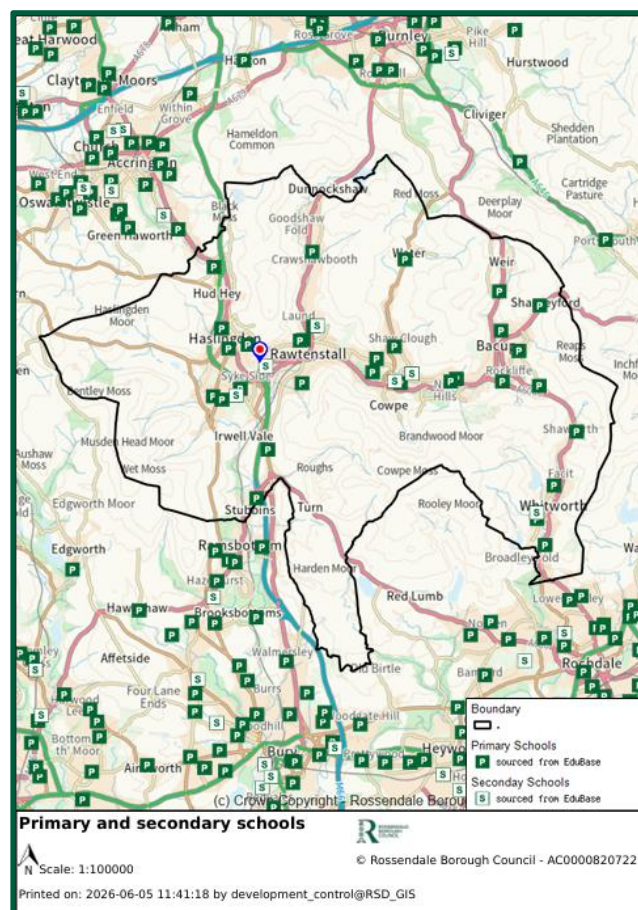
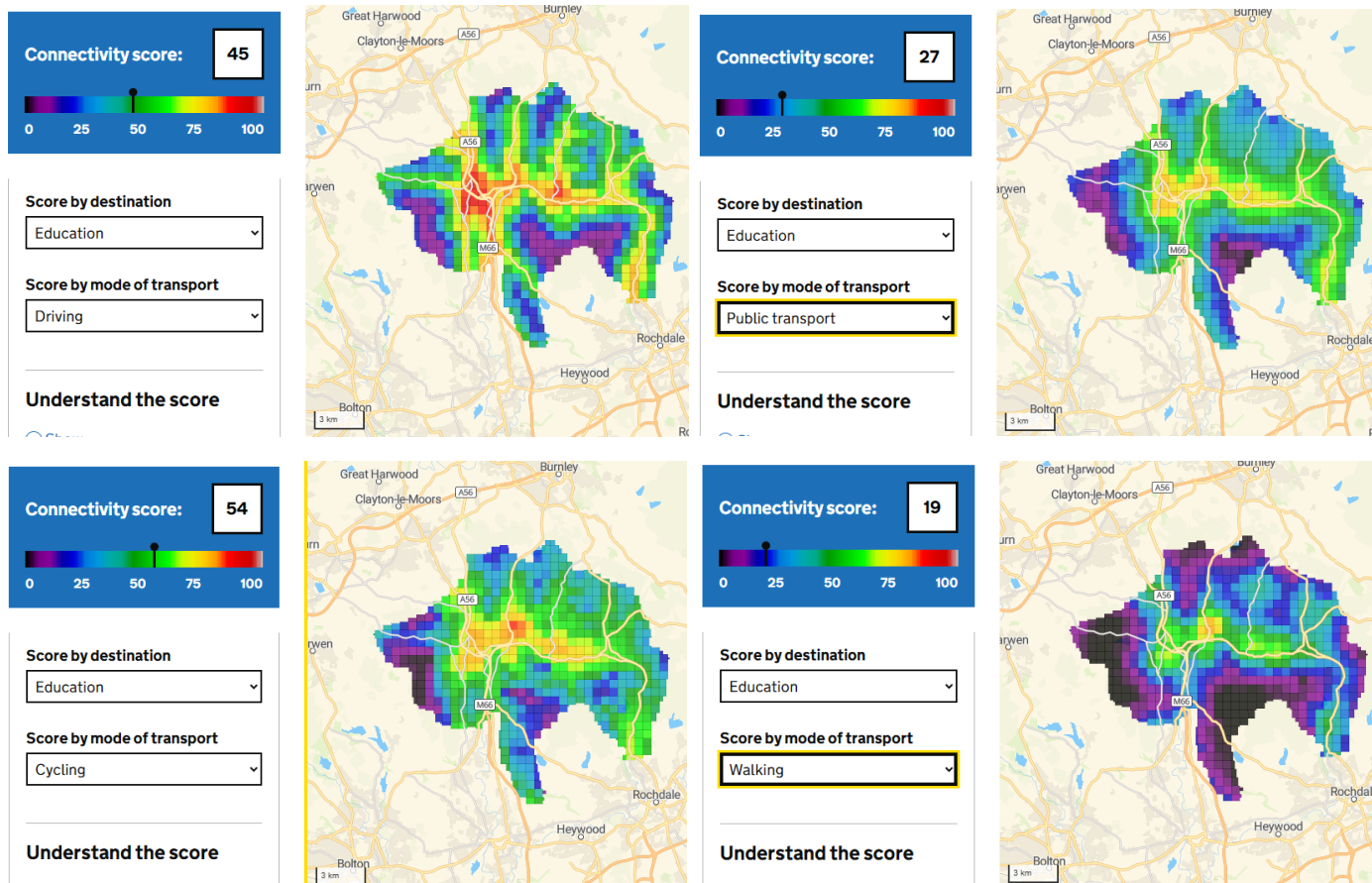


Figure 36 - Map of Primary and Secondary Schools in Rossendale



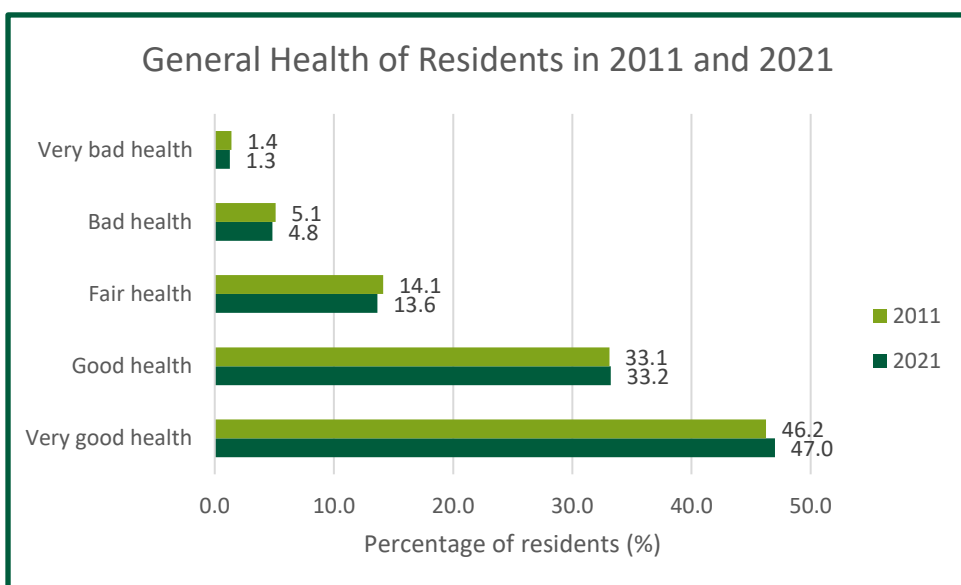
## Connectivity to education facilities

The Connectivity Tool shows that Rawtenstall has the best connectivity score to education facilities by walking and cycling. Haslingden, Helmshore and Waterfoot also have good connectivity scores by public transport whilst Bacup, Whitworth and Edenfield have a lower connectivity score by all means of transport.



## 3.4 Health

### Self-reported General Health



In 2021, 80.2% of Rossendale's residents stated to be in good or very good health whilst 6.1% stated to be in bad or very bad health. This is an improvement from 2011 when 79.3% of residents stated to be in good or very good health and 6.5% stated to be in bad or very bad health.

### Long-term Health Problem or Disability

Between the 2011 and 2021 census, the proportion of people reporting long-term health problem or disability affecting their day-to-day activities a lot or a little remained similar (19.8% in 2021 and 2011).

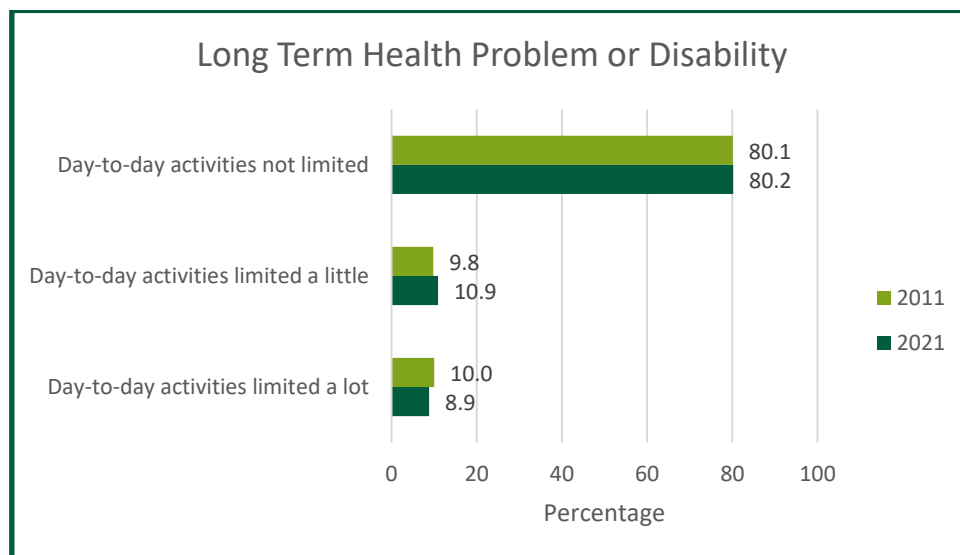


Figure 38- Long-term health problem or disability in 2011 and 2021 in Rossendale

### Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth in Rossendale is below the other Lancashire districts average and the national average. Life expectancy is 81.4 years for female in Rossendale compared to 82.2 years in Lancashire and 83.5 years in England (2022-24). For male, it is 77.5 years in Rossendale compared to 78.4 years for male on average in Lancashire and 79.7 on average in England.

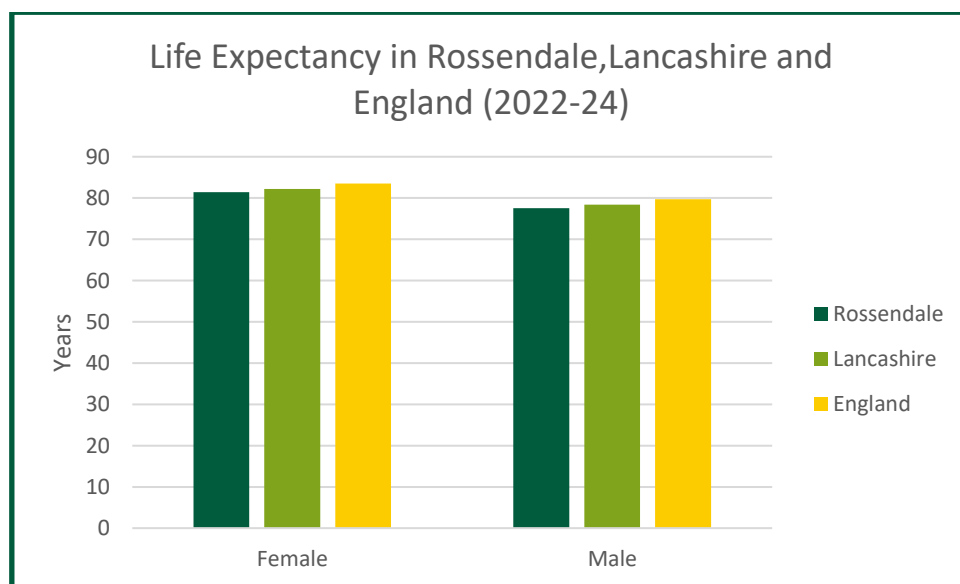


Figure 39 - Life Expectancy in Rossendale, Lancashire and England (2022-24)

### Long term illnesses

The long term illnesses with the highest prevalence in both Rossendale Primary Care Network (as well as in the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Commissioning Board) are hypertension, depression and asthma.

### Children Obesity

The Office for health Improvement & Disparities published obesity data<sup>8</sup> on its Obesity Profile website annually. The obesity rate of Reception children has increased more in Rossendale than in Lancashire and England between the last two monitoring period. The obesity rate for Year 6 children has also increased in Rossendale whilst it reduced on average in Lancashire and England.

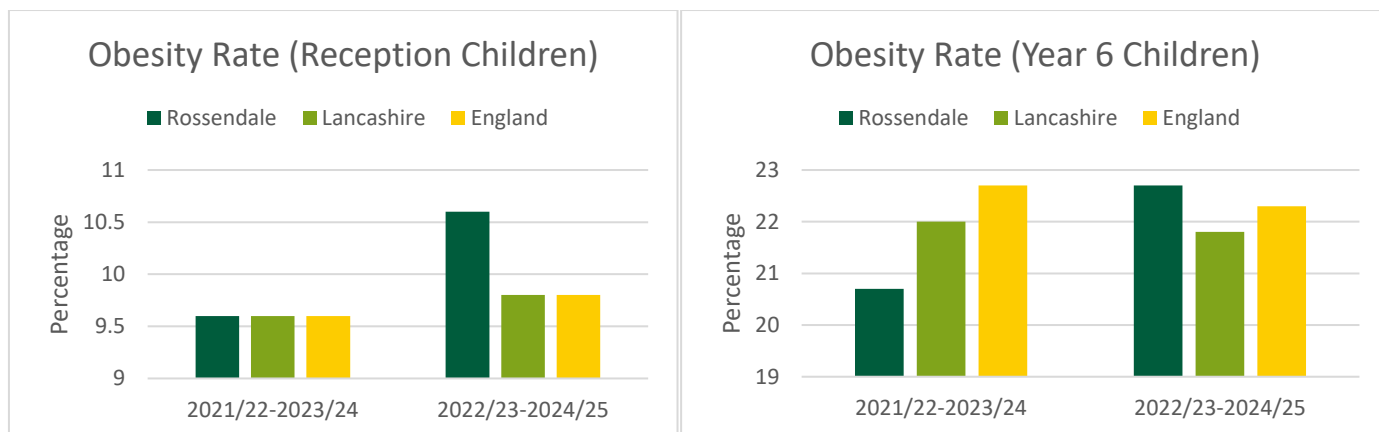


Figure 40 - Children obesity rate in Rossendale, Lancashire and England

### Healthcare provision

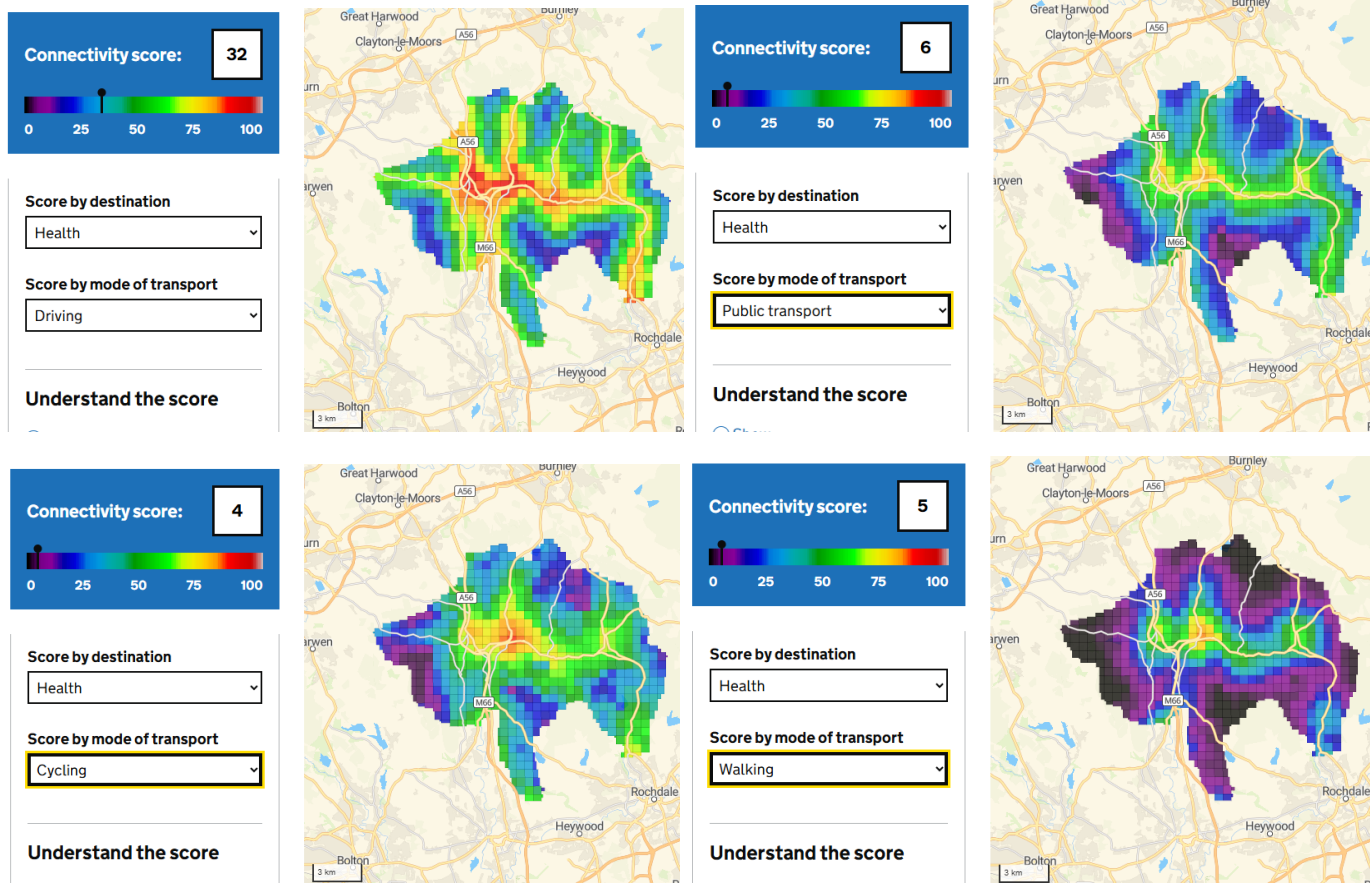
The NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit reported:

- For Rossendale East Primary Care Network - 31,159 registered patients in May 2023 in 3 GP practices (Irwell Medical Practice, Whitworth Medical Centre, Waterfoot Medical Practice) and 22 full time equivalent GPs.
- For Rossendale West Primary Care Network – 42,881 registered patients in May 2023 in 6 GP practices (St James' Medical Centre, Haslingden Healthcare Ltd, Ilex View Medical Practice, Hazelvalley Family Practice, Rossendale Valley Medical Practice, Fairmore Medical Practice) and 18.9 full time equivalent GPs.

### Connectivity to health services

Rawtenstall has the best connectivity to health services via walking and cycling. Haslingden and Rawtenstall both have good connectivity scores by public transport and driving. Edenfield, Goodshaw and Water have the lowest connectivity scores to health services via walking, cycling and public transport.

<sup>8</sup> Obesity Profile, Office for Health Improvement & Disparities - <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/national-child-measurement-programme>



### 3.5 Housing

#### *Usual resident population*

In 2021, 98.9% of all usual residents lived in a household whilst 1.1% lived in a communal establishment. In Lancashire, the proportion of people living in communal establishment is higher than in Rossendale (at 2.4%).

#### *Household*

In 2021, there were 30,600 households in Rossendale compared to 29,058 in 2011. As such the number of households has increased by about 5.3%. This is similar, albeit slower, than the average household growth in Lancashire (5.5%) and England (5.8%) during the same period.

#### *Local Housing need*

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published the standard method to calculate the minimum annual local housing need in its Housing and economic needs assessment guidance<sup>9</sup>.

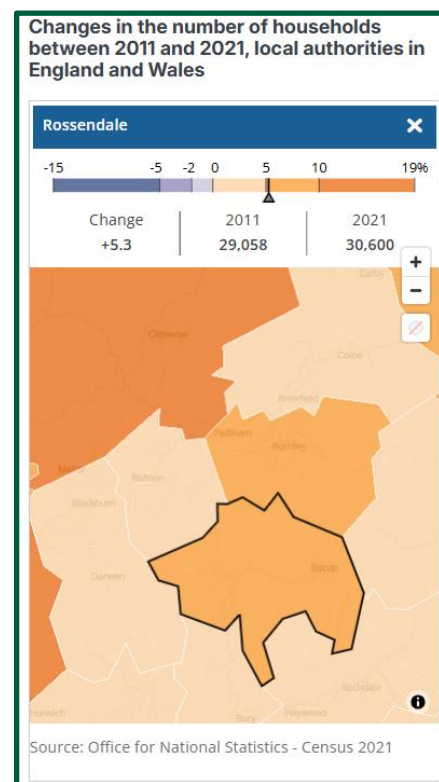


Figure 41 - Map showing the changes in the number of households between 2011 and 2021 for Rossendale

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

The standard method starts with setting the baseline by calculating 0.8% of the existing housing stock for the area (for Rossendale, as of May 2026 it was 32,976 dwellings). The formula then makes an adjustment to account for housing affordability. In Rossendale, the average median workplace-based affordability ratio published in March 2026 was 6.35. As such, the adjustment factor for Rossendale is currently 1.2565.

*Annual Local Housing Need = (0.8% x 32,976) x Adjustment factor*

*Adjustment factor =  $\frac{(\text{five year average affordability ratio} - 5)}{5} \times 0.95 + 1$*

5

*Adjustment factor =  $\frac{(6.36 - 5)}{5} \times 0.95 + 1 = 1.2565$*

5

*Annual Local Housing Need = 263.808 x 1.2565 = 331*

As such, based on the dwelling stock and affordability ratio published in 2026, the current minimum annual local housing need for Rossendale is 331 dwellings.

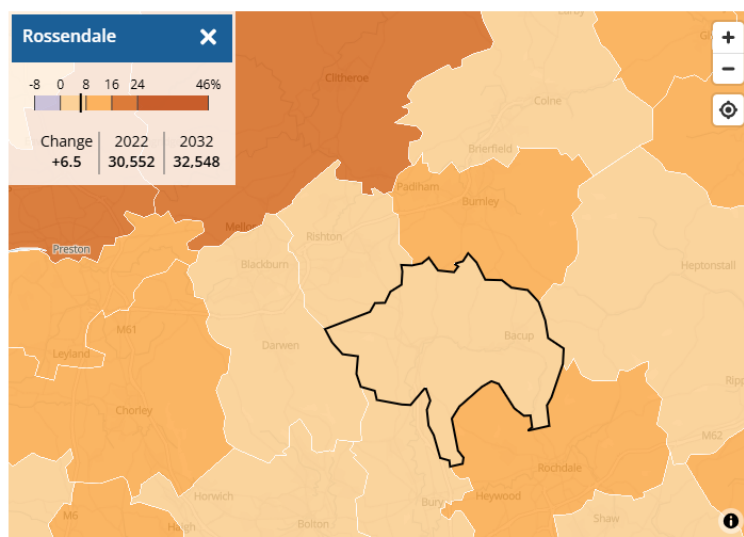
### Household projections

The office for National Statistics also published household projections to give an indication of the future number of households. This is based on population projections and assumptions about the population's patterns of household formation (according to previous demographic trends and rates of household formation).

The latest household projections, published in 2025, predict that Rossendale's households number could change from 30,552 households in 2022 to 32,548 households in 2032 (or an increase of 6.5%). This calculated rate of households growth is higher than the household growth rate that occurred between 2011 and 2021 (5.3%).

Looking ahead at 2047, household projections are expected to increase by 16.7% compared to 2022 for Rossendale. This rate of increase is significantly lower than the average for Lancashire (please see Figure 43).

Figure 3: Projected percentage change in number of households for local authorities in England, 2022 to 2032



Source: Household projections from the Office for National Statistics

Figure 42 - Map of household projections between 2022 and 2032 for Rossendale



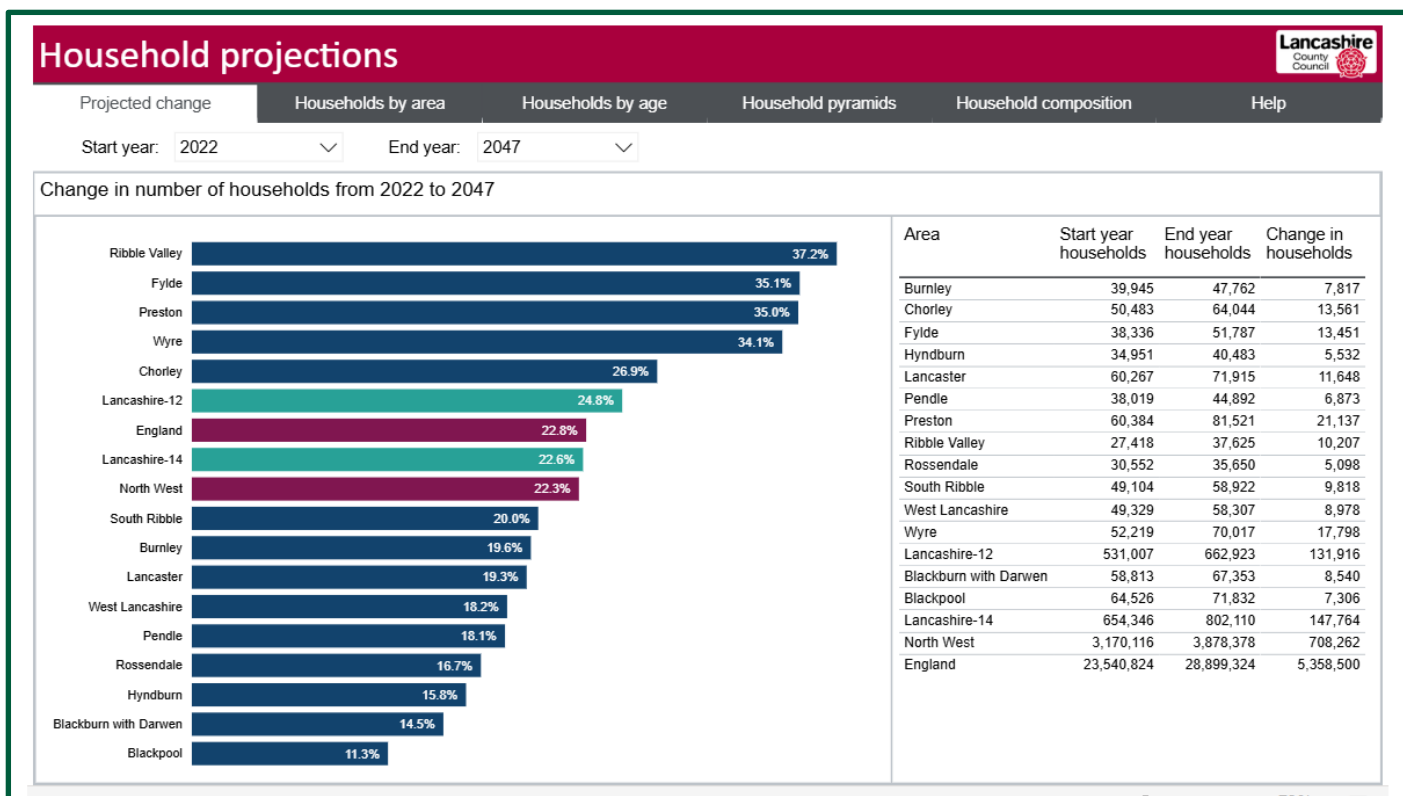


Figure 43 - Change in number of households from 2022 to 2047

### Household size

The Census 2021 reports that 31.8% of all households in Rossendale were one-person household whilst 63.9% were single family household. The proportion of single family household has remained stable since 2011, however there has been a slightly increase in the proportion of one-person household (30.9% in 2011) and a reduction in the other household type category (from 5.2% to 4.3%). Figure 20 shows the changes in the proportion of household per size between 2011 and 2021.

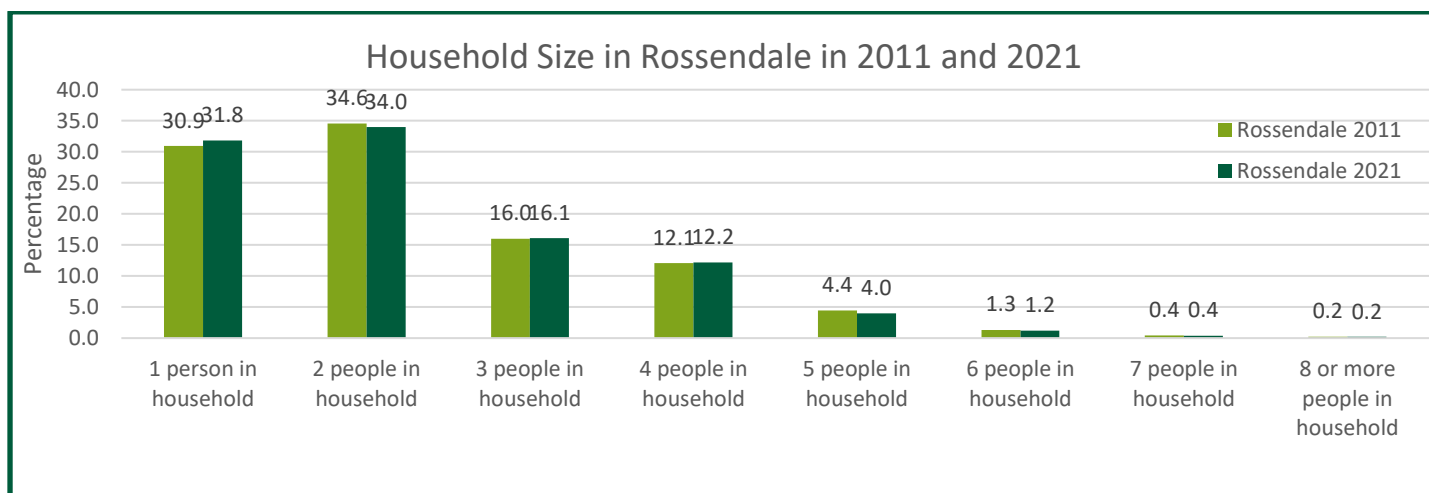


Figure 44 - Household Size in Rossendale between 2011 and 2021



## Dwellings Stock

The Government publishes a dwelling stock estimate for each local authority<sup>10</sup>. This includes the number of new dwellings built, the gain or loss through changes of use or via conversions (splitting or merging of dwellings) of existing properties and the number of dwellings demolished. The graph below shows the increase the dwellings stock between April 2020 and April 2025 (over 700 dwellings).

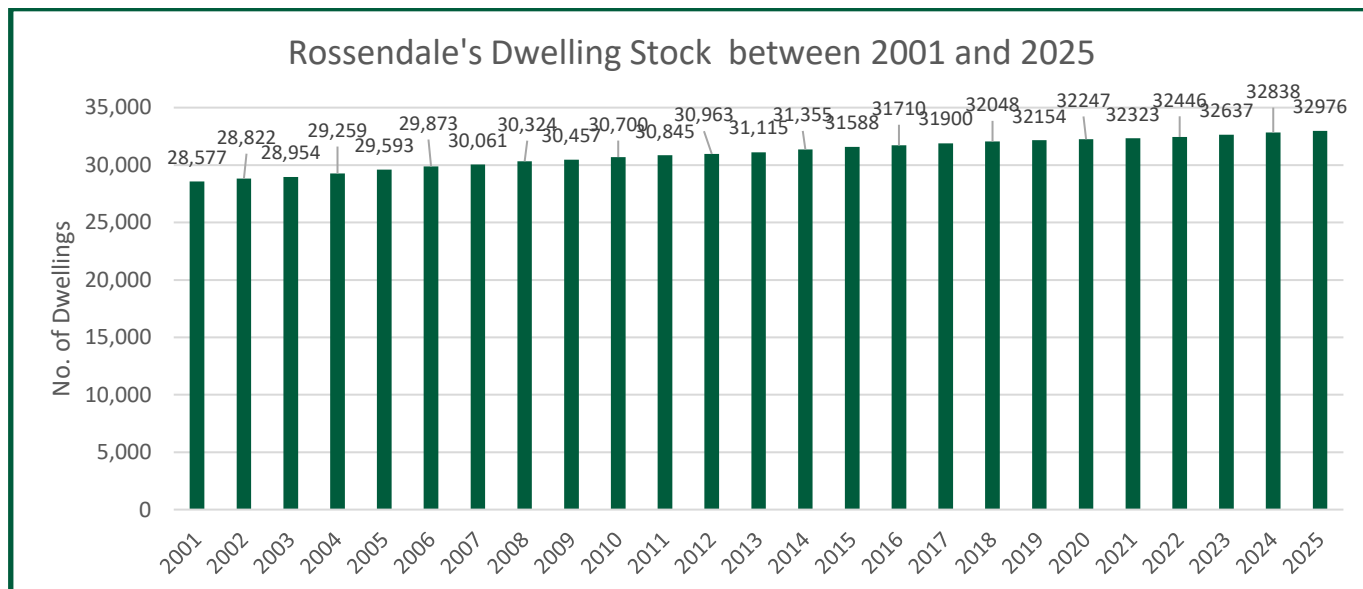


Figure 45 - Dwelling Stock between 2020 and 2025

The Government also published the net annual additional number of dwellings for each local authority<sup>11</sup>. The graph below shows these for Rossendale between 2001/02 and 2024/25.

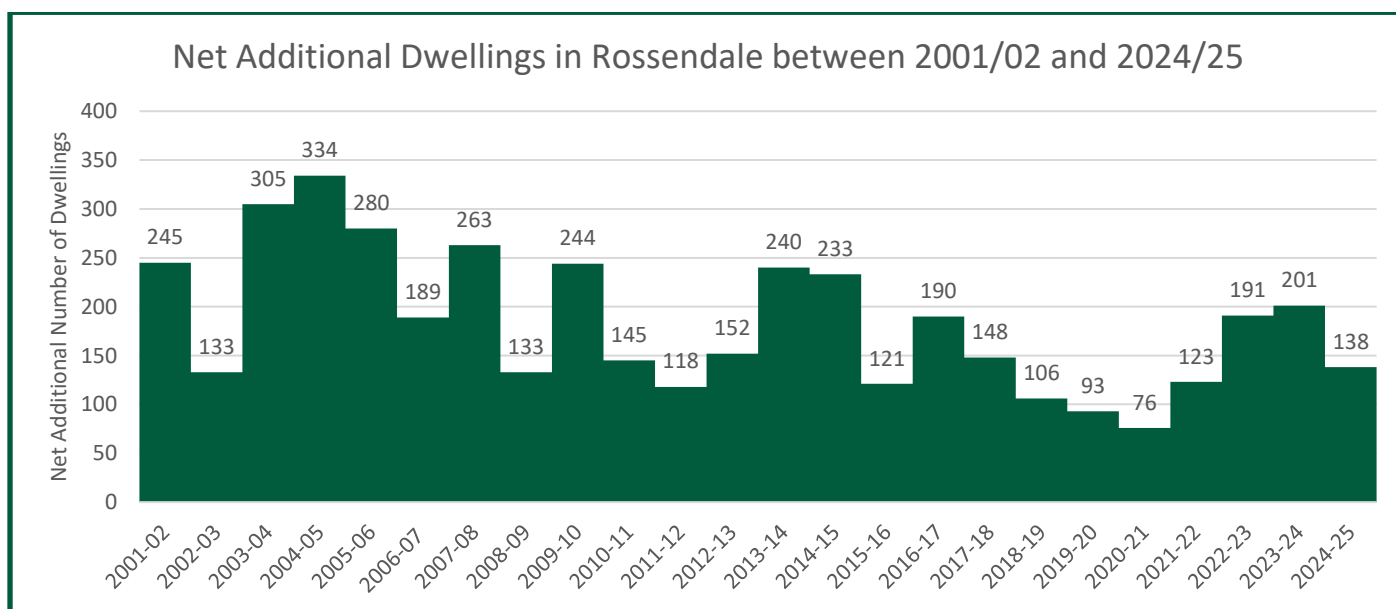


Figure 46 - Net Additional Dwellings in Rossendale between 2001/02 to 2024/25

<sup>10</sup> Table 125 available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

<sup>11</sup> Table 122 is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

### *Housing Delivery Against the Housing Requirement in the Local Plan*

Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 was adopted in December 2021. It sets out the housing requirement in Rossendale to 208 net additional dwellings per year in 2019/20 and 2020/21 and 185 thereafter. Since the plan was adopted, the net dwelling completions exceed the housing target on 2 occasions in 2022/23 and 2023/24 before falling to previous level in 2024/25.

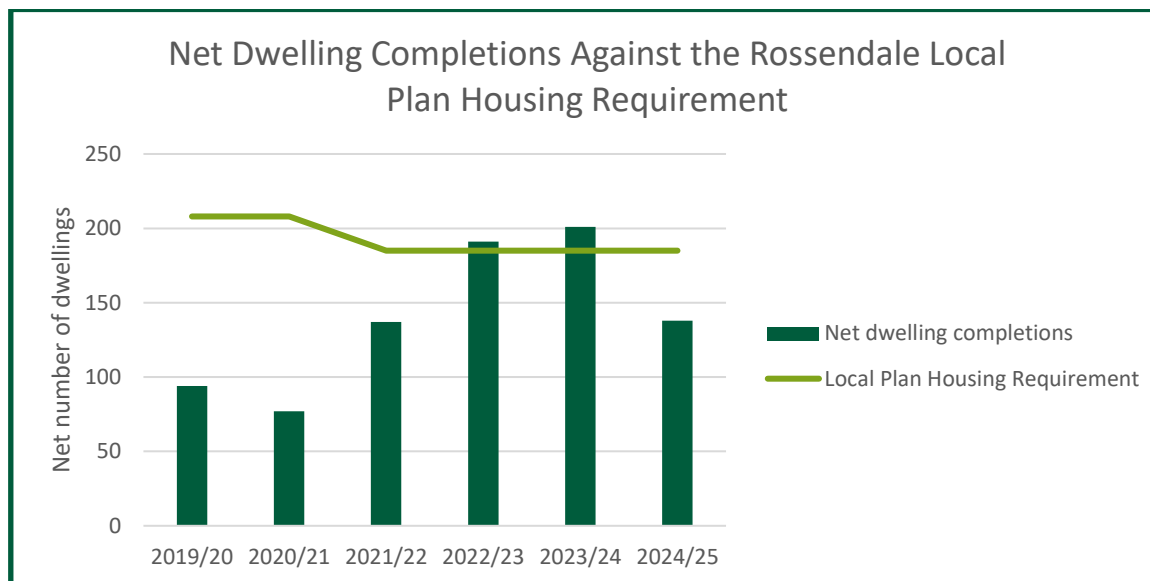


Figure 47 - Net Dwellings Completions Against the Rossendale Local Plan Housing Requirement

### *Affordable Housing Completions*

The annual Authority Monitoring Reports<sup>12</sup> monitor the number of new affordable housing delivered. Figure 24 shows the number of affordable homes built between 2021/22 and 2024/25.

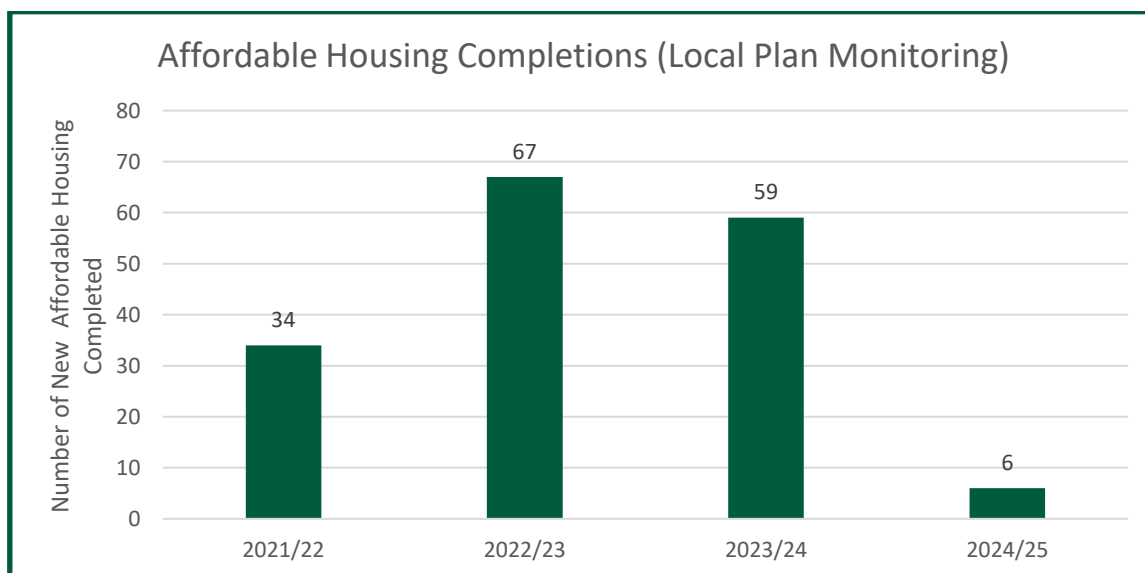


Figure 48 - Number of new Affordable Housing Completed in Rossendale between 2021/22 and 2024/25

### *Median workplace-based affordability ratio*

The latest ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings in Rossendale is used to understand the affordability of buying a home in the borough. This ratio is also used to calculate the housing requirement for Rossendale together with the existing dwelling stock in the borough based on a formula provided by central Government. It shows that median

<sup>12</sup> Annual Authority Monitoring reports: <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/local-plan/monitoring>

house prices have increased more than workplace-based earnings especially between 2002 and 2008. The affordability ratio is oscillating around 6 since 2005. There was a sharp increase in 2021 before stabilising at around 6 in the past four years.

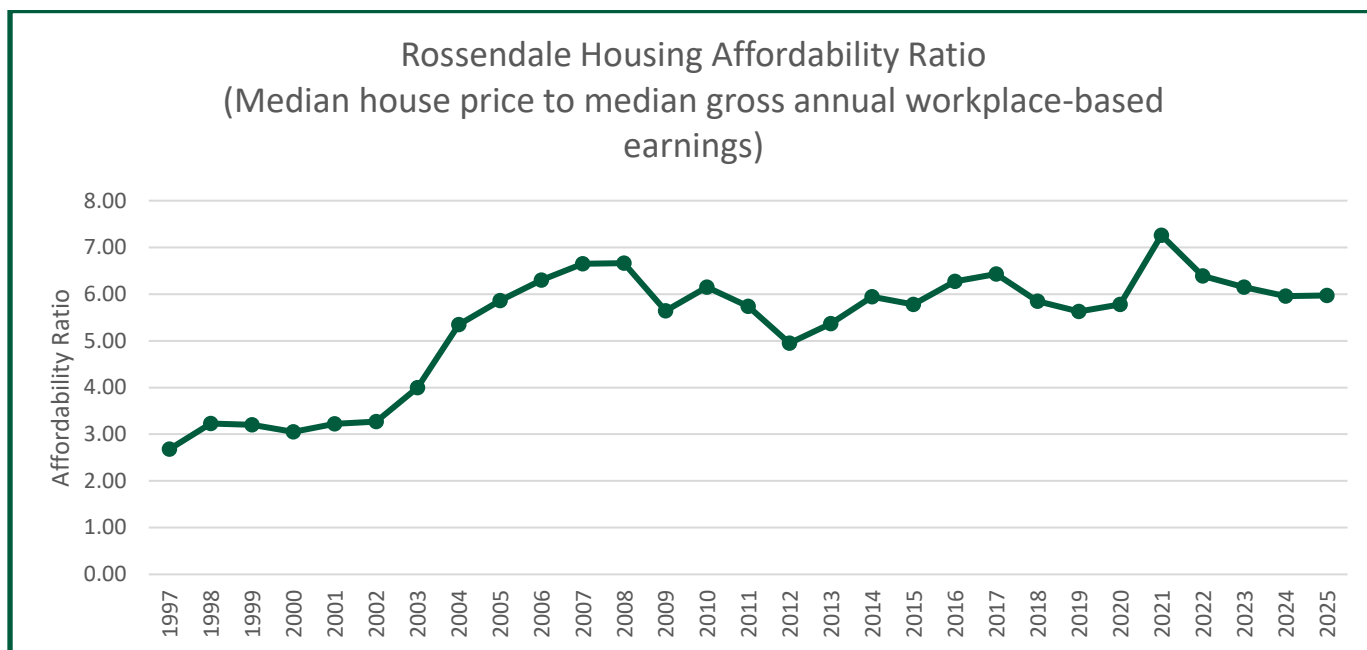


Figure 49 - Rossendale housing affordability ratio between 1997 and 2025 (Office for National Statistics)

#### Average house price

In March 2026 the average house price in Rossendale was £190,000 which is lower than the average in March 2025 which was £198,000, a 3.8% fall.

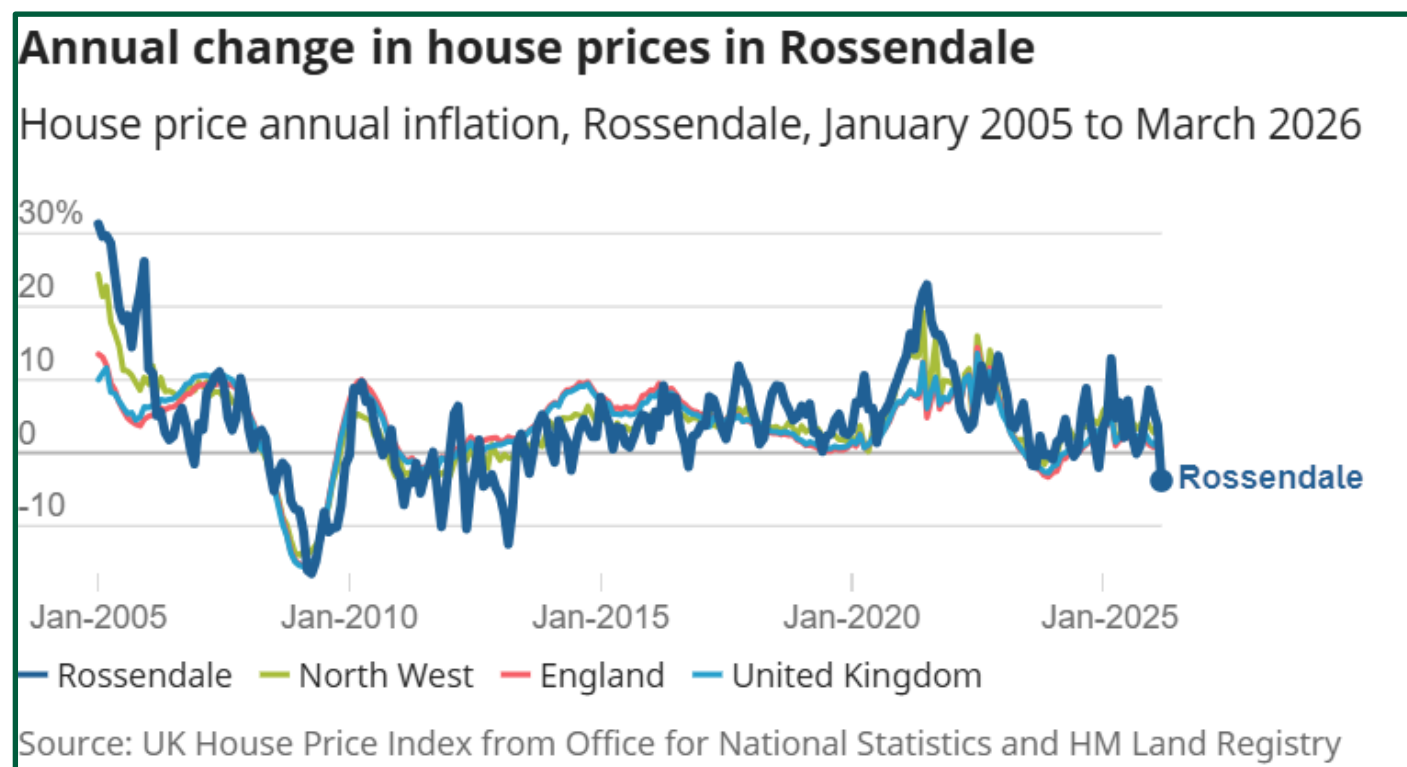


Figure 50 - Annual change in house prices in Rossendale between 2005 and 2026

### Tenure

Between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of people privately renting their accommodation (or living rent free) has increased from 15.4% to 17.1%. The proportion of people living in social rented accommodation remained stable during the same period (14.6% in 2011 and 14.8% in 2021). In terms of ownership, the proportion of people living in an accommodation that they own outright has increased from 31.5% to 34.6% whilst the proportion of people with a loan, mortgage or in shared ownership has reduced from 38.5% to 33.6%.

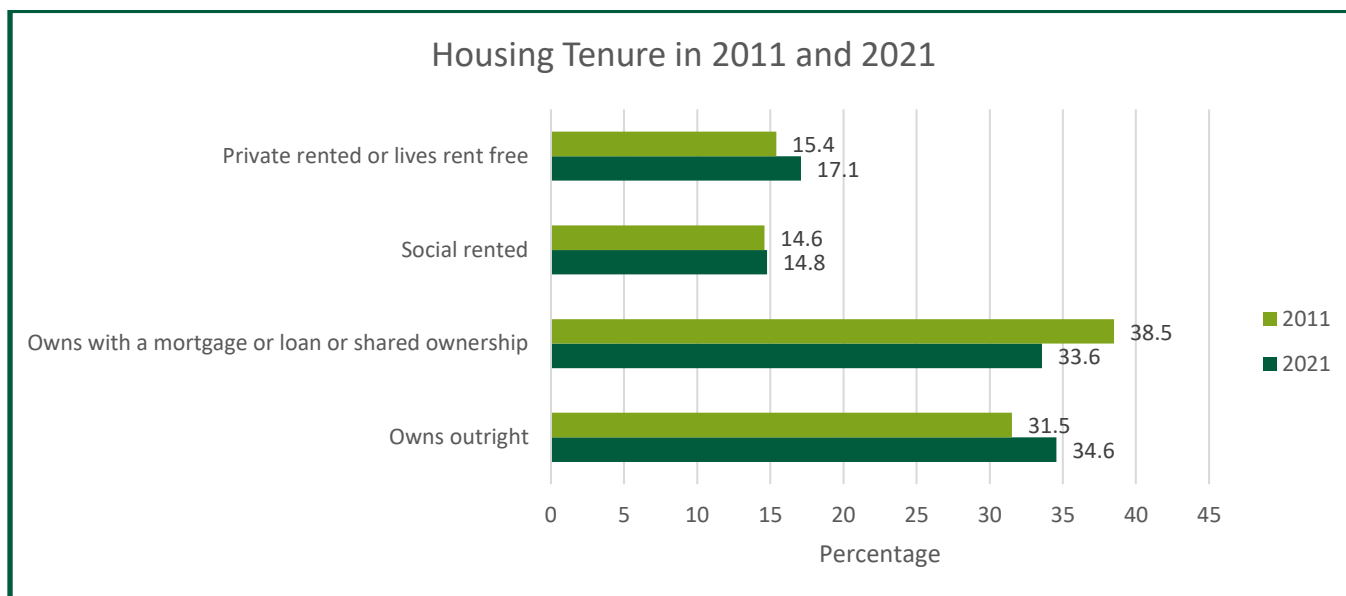


Figure 51 - Housing Tenure in 2011 and 2021

### Accommodation Type

The largest accommodation type in Rossendale is terraced housing. However, between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of terraced housing has slightly reduced from 43.6% to 41.5%. Instead, the number of semi-detached and detached dwellings has increased between 2011 and 2021 (respectively from 25.3% to 26.3% and from 20.1% to 21.7%).

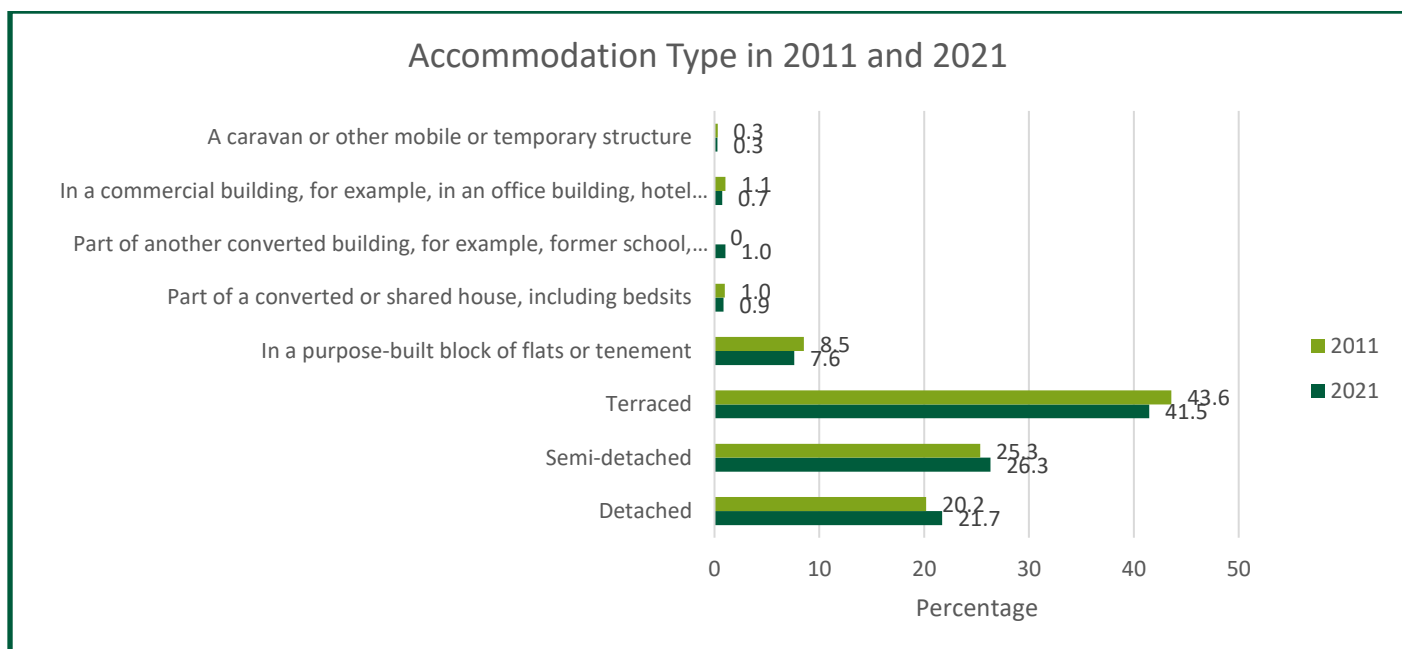


Figure 52 - Accommodation type between 2011 and 2021

#### Occupancy rating (bedrooms)

The occupancy rating is based on the national Bedroom Standard. Overcrowding occurs when the household has one or two bedrooms less than the household requires to meet the Standard. The proportion of 'overcrowded' households has reduced between 2011 and 2021 (from 3.4% to 2.6%). The proportion of households in 'ideal occupancy' has reduced slightly (from 26% to 24.6%) whilst the proportion of households having one or two more bedrooms than needed has increased from 70.6% to 72.9%.

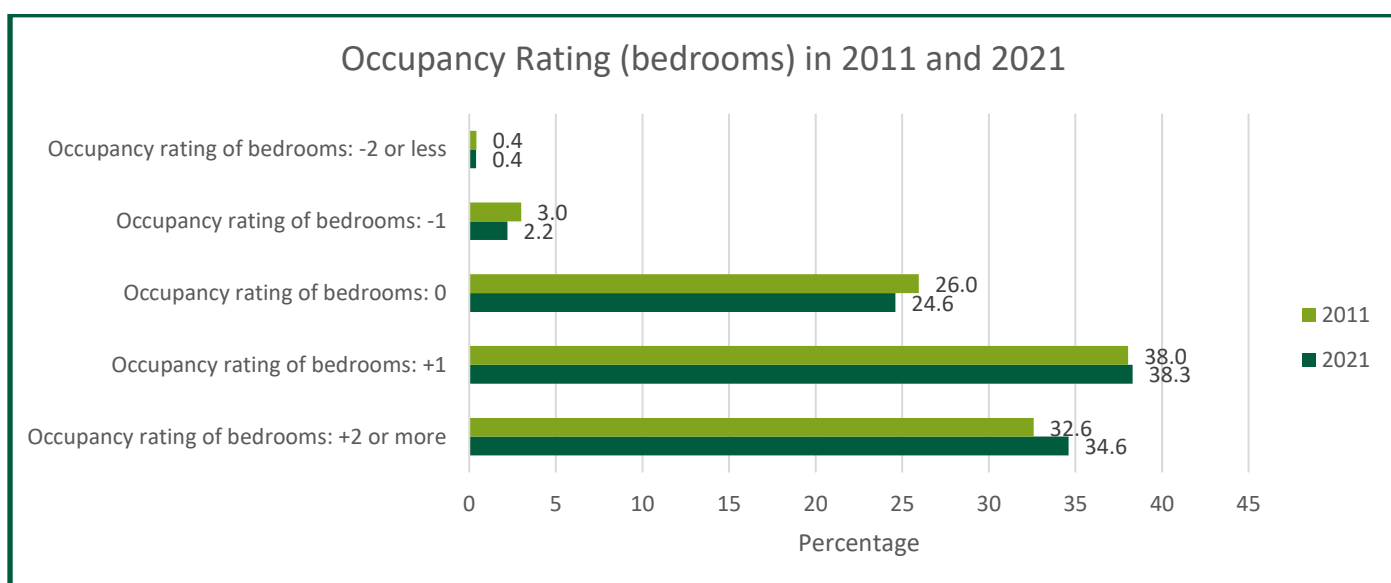


Figure 53- Occupancy Rating in 2011 and 2021

### *Brownfield Land Register*

Rossendale Brownfield Land Register<sup>13</sup> lists previously developed sites that are suitable for housing. It contains sites with current or previous planning permissions as well as site allocated in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, there were 26 sites on the register which could deliver between 391 and 399 dwellings.

## 3.6 Community Facilities

### Playing Pitches

The Playing Pitch Strategy (2025 update)<sup>14</sup> finds:

- 58 grass pitches of varying sizes and quality
- 2 full-size artificial 3G pitches but only one for community use (at the Valley Leadership Academy) and an additional 6 of smaller sizes (4 available for community use at Marl Pits)
- 4 natural turf wicket squares

### Indoor and Built Sports Facilities

The Indoor & Built Sports Facilities (2020)<sup>15</sup> reported on:

- 20 village/community halls
- 35 courts in 20 sports halls (none present in Bacup)
- 2 swimming pools
- 13 health and fitness gyms
- 1 ski centre
- No dedicated gymnastics venue
- No indoor bowls
- 2 squash courts at the Adrenaline Centre
- 4 martial arts clubs
- 1 sailing club (Rossendale Valley Sailing Club) and 1 waterski club (Whitworth Waterski Academy)

### Open Space

The Open Space Study (2021) assessed the current supply of open space in terms of quantity per population, accessibility and quality and set out provision standards.

The study found 260 sites totalling 580ha across the borough.

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<sup>13</sup> Brownfield Land Register: <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/planning-building-control/more>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/19271/playing-pitch-strategy-stage-e-update-approved-september-2025>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18973/indoor-built-sports-facilities-needs-assessment-2020->



Table 2 - Overview of open space provision (Open Space Study 2021)

| Open space typology                   | Number of sites | Total amount (hectares)* |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Allotments                            | 16              | 4                        |
| Cemeteries/churchyards                | 22              | 22                       |
| Civic spaces                          | 5               | <1                       |
| Natural & semi-natural greenspace     | 13              | 368                      |
| Park and gardens                      | 16              | 31                       |
| Provision for children & young people | 61              | 5                        |
| Urban greenspace                      | 127             | 149                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>260</b>      | <b>580</b>               |

Approximately half of those sites are attributed a low quality score in the study.

### 3.7 Summary

Below are strengths and weaknesses identified in our local communities.

| Rossendale Strengths                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Rossendale Weaknesses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of residents achieving higher levels of education has increased between 2011 and 2021</li> <li>Dwellings completions met the Local Plan housing requirement in 2022/23 and 2023/24</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aging population with a lower level of population growth compared to Lancashire and England</li> <li>Rossendale is overall 80% more deprived than other authorities in England</li> <li>Proportion of households in fuel poverty in 2024 is higher than the England average</li> <li>Slightly lower life expectancy than in Lancashire and England on average</li> </ul> |



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.rossendale.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/newlocalplan)



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