

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Sources of information and Statistics for your Neighbourhood Plan Area

Introduction

There are many sources of information that you may need to help you develop your neighbourhood plan, this document we hope will provide advice and guidance on the different types of data sets available to you and where the data can be found. You need to try and ensure that the data sets that you are using are the correct ones for your geographic area; that they are the most up to date data and that you need the data. Evidencing your policy is crucial and data will help you with this. However you can easily start to sink in data, make sure that you are only collecting data that you need, keep refereeing back to your vision and objectives. Data should always be proportionate to the job in hand.

This guidance note has been put together in conjunction with staff from our Strategic Intelligence Team.

Other documents to consult

Neighbourhood Plans must meet certain “basic conditions” before they can come into force, two of which include

- They must have appropriate regard to national policy
- They must be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012. The NPPF provides a framework within which local communities can produce neighbourhood development plans for their area, and sets out how planning should help achieve sustainable development.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Planning Practice Guidance

To be read in conjunction with NPPF.

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Development Plans

Local Plans for Chester, Ellesmere Port and Vale Royal Councils and the former Cheshire County Council – Cheshire Replacement Structure Plan and the Minerals and Waste Plans set out the planning policy for the former council which now make up Cheshire West and Chester. Many of these policies are still in use and shall be replaced by the Local Plan for Cheshire West and Chester once adopted.

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/policies_and_performance/council_plans_and_strategies/planning_policy/current_local_plans.aspx

Publication Draft Local Plan September 2013 for Cheshire West and Chester Council. The Local Plan sets out the vision and strategic policies including the overall level and location of development in the borough for the period 2010 to 2030.

The Local Plan and all supporting documents were submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2013 and will go through an inquiry prior to adoption.

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/policies_and_performance/council_plans_and_strategies/planning_policy/current_local_plans.aspx

This document should be read in conjunction with the 2011 Census, data for parishes, February 2014 also available in the toolkit.

OCSI Reports - OCSI Reports are profiles of communities which present data on population, housing data, culture, equality, economics, social issues, services, transport, connectivity, environment and governance. Data is gathered through the 2011 Census and other government sources and is presented in graphs and diagrams. The organisation, Cheshire Community Action, can provide these profiles at a cost of £50 per report. They are available at parish or 'settlement' level. They are useful document for pulling together an early profile of an area, however you need to be aware that there may well be small differences between the data provided in these profiles and the data published from Census 2011.

To order a report from Cheshire Community Action, you can contact Sarah Baron or Claire Jones by phoning 01606 359731. Alternatively, you can contact them through these email addresses: sarah.baron@cheshireaction.org.uk
claire.jones@cheshireaction.org.uk

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Statistics and Geography - what to use and when

Small area statistics are available for a range of different small geographies. Many of these come from the 2011 Census (particularly the Parish statistics) however there are some other useful sources of data.

It is important when statistics are quoted to be clear about the geographical area they refer to and also to choose the geographical area that most closely covers the area of the Neighbourhood Plan. For example Parish data (where available) may be a better fit to the Neighbourhood Plan area than ward data.

Geography

There are many different geographic unit types and their boundaries frequently do not align. The following bullets explain the main geographies it is useful to be aware of when gather statistics for your Neighbourhood Plan.

Administrative boundaries

- **46 wards** in Cheshire West and Chester - electoral wards (sometimes known as unitary wards) are the base unit of UK administrative geography, being the areas from which local authority councillors are elected. New ward boundaries were created in Cheshire West and Chester in 2011, replacing the 2009 unitary wards (which had the same boundaries as the former County Council electoral divisions).
- **166 civil parishes** in Cheshire West and Chester - parishes and their councils are the most local level of government. Unlike electoral wards/divisions however, parishes are not found in all parts of England and there are 2 large unparished areas within West Cheshire. Not all parishes have a parish council, some smaller parishes have parish meetings and parish councils can cover more than one parish area.

Statistical boundaries

- **1109 output areas (OAs)** – output areas have been used for data collection and output of Census data since the 2001 Census. They were designed by the Office for National Statistics. They have a minimum size of 40 resident households and a minimum population of 100 but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households.
- **212 lower layer super output areas (LSOAs)** in Cheshire West and Chester - these are a geography designed by the Office for National Statistics to improve

Neighbourhood *Planning*



the reporting of small area statistics. They are built up from groups of output areas (typically five). They have a minimum population of 1,000 and an average population of 1,500.

- 47 middle layer super output areas (MSOAs) these are a geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. They are built up from groups of lower layer super output areas and are constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs. They have a minimum population of 5,000 and a mean population of 7,200.

Further information

- For more detailed information, the Office for National Statistics has a [Beginners Guide to Geography](#).

View geographical boundaries

You can view standard geographical boundaries (wards, parishes, LSOAs and OAs) for area around your Neighbourhood Plan area using the **map viewer** available here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/>

The user can type in the name of the place they want to view on the map and then tick to select the geographies they want to show on the map (for example parish, ward, LSOA and OA).

Parishes

Care needs to be taken when looking at parish results from the 2011 Census. The tables published by ONS are at parish level and not parish council level and for some small parishes, no results are available. In some cases, the results quoted for a parish are actually for an area larger or smaller than the parish. This is because ONS has calculated parish results by summing the results for output areas (OA) and in some cases, a number of OAs will fit neatly into a parish but in some cases they do not. For more information please read '2011 Census – data for parishes' prepared by the Research, Intelligence and Consultation Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council. This document is now available as part of the neighbourhood planning toolkit.

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Data

2011 Census data

There is a wealth of information available from the 2011 Census for a range of geographies including parishes (and OAs, LSOAs, MLSOAs and wards), for example:

- Population (by single year of age)
- Ethnicity and religion
- Housing (includes single pensioner households, lone parents, tenure and central heating availability)
- Economic activity (includes unemployment, hours worked and occupations)
- Health (includes general health, limiting long term conditions and carers).

Some data tables available at parish level cover a single topic, for example health and others show results for more than one topic, for example health by age.

The tables published by ONS so far are available on the NOMIS website:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021. Detailed below is a sample of the 2011 Census tables available. For all 2011 Census tables (listed below), we suggest you use the 'wizard query' button to select the geography you are interested in and specific statistics you want from the table.

Neighbourhood Statistics

Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) <https://www.ons.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/> is an Office for National Statistics website which specialises in the dissemination of detailed, small-area data. You can search on the homepage for data for an individual parish by using steps 1 to 3 under 'Find statistics for an area'. Some (but not all) 2011 Census tables are on this site, however many do not include percentage results (which are available on the NOMIS site) and there are no detailed multivariate tables (which show results for more than one topic at a time) available on this website. This is why we have included the links to the NOMIS website (rather than the Neighbourhood Statistics site) in our lists below.

Population Demographics

Total population	2011 Census table KS101EW: Usual resident population
------------------	--

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Population density, total male population and total female population	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts006
Population – age profile	2021 Census table KS102EW: Age structure https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts006
Population change Information on who is moving in and who is moving out of the community	Migration tables based on 2011 Census results are due to be released on the NOMIS website during 2014.

Further 2011 Census tables are also available on ethnicity, country of birth, language spoken and religion.

Housing

Households by composition The number of certain types of compositions of people in households, such as by age and number of people.	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts003
Number of dwellings Number of self contained units in which people live	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021rm204
Household type: Such as: detached, semi-, terraced, flats etc	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021
Household tenure: Owned/mortgages, rented (private/social), second homes	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts054
Housing in Poor Condition Average household size, central heating, number of rooms and bedrooms, occupancy rating of households (based on both rooms and bedrooms)	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts052

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Dwelling stock by Council Tax Band	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/council-tax-stock-of-properties-2025
House Prices Council Tax bands, median house prices, affordability ratios	www.hometrack.co.uk –Produces a charged for report on housing statistics OCSI Reports
Average house values by price	Rightmove - Rightmove - house prices in my area information by post code and time.
Lower quartile house price	
Percentage of stocks sold per annum	http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/public/house-prices-and-sales
Annual turnover of social housing stock	
Average private rent by house size	http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing/local_housing_market_reports.aspx The Cheshire West and Chester Annual Housing Market Report has information on local authority and ward level
Percentage of social housing properties let in year which are family sized	Contact local landlords
Percentage of social housing properties let in year which are suitable for older persons	Contact local landlords
Number of households registered for housing need	Contact local landlords
Average number of households applied/considered for social rented	Contact local landlords
Housing need and demand The quantity of housing	Housing Strategy 2025-2035

Neighbourhood *Planning*



<p>required for households who are unable to access suitable housing without financial assistance and the quantity of housing that households are willing and able to buy or rent.</p>	
<p>Housing land availability Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Strategic Housing Land Availability</p> <p>An assessment of how many units can be accommodated on identified sites and the timeframes for when these sites are likely to be available. Constraints associated with bringing potential sites forward and how and when these can be removed to help improve the potential for housing. The SHLAA does not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for housing and a site's inclusion in the SHLAA does not imply a site will be allocated for housing or that alternative uses should not be considered</p>	<p>Land Availability Assessment</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Land Availability Assessment</p>

Travel

<p>Average distance travelled to fixed place of work and time taken to travel to nearest employment centre (LSOA geography only)</p>	<p>www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/acs05-travel-time-destination-and-origin-indicators-to-key-sites-and-services-by-lower-super-output-area-lsoa</p>
<p>Average travel time to</p>	<p>www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/acs05-</p>

Neighbourhood *Planning*



nearest hospital, supermarket, work by public transport/walking (LSOA geography only)	travel-time-destination-and-origin-indicators-to-key-sites-and-services-by-lower-super-output-area-lsoa
Number of people that work from home	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021
Method of travel to work	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021
Number of cars or vans per household	https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=5eb01f5be5127abb7084ddee2d77760daee02fa6dd629d622be20efeefb9b0JmItdHM9MTc3MDc2ODAwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=01506552-625b-6cfb-1b9c-7055636b6d9b&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubm9taXN3ZWluY28udWsvZGF0YXNldHMvYzlwMjF0czA0NQ&ntb=1
Locations of footpaths and cyclepaths	https://maps.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cwac/webmapping?&e=351493.96&n=364458.00&layers=AM_V_ID_OXTreePreservation_POINT_CURRENT_RestrictedFields.AM_V_IDOXTreePreservation_POLY_CURRENT_RestrictedFields&s=200000.00&bm=oscolour <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select Map Data 2. Select Leisure and Culture 3. Select footpaths, walking or cycling

Energy

Consumption of ordinary domestic electricity and gas (LSOA geography)	www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/lsoa-electricity-and-gas-experimental
Type of central heating	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts046

Water

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Flood risk

Areas at risk of flooding

Strategic Flood Risk Assessments :

[Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)

Environment Agency Flood Maps :

<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=531500.0&y=181500.0&topic=floodmap&ep=map&scale=3&location=London,%20City%20of%20London&lang=en&layerGroups=default&textonly=off>

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Capacity issues around key infrastructure Includes water infrastructure	CWAC Water Cycle Strategy: Water Cycle Strategy Infrastructure Delivery Plan (once completes 2011/2012)
Water Quality	North West river basin district river basin management plan: updated 2022 - GOV.UK North West Basin Management Plan Dee River Basin Management Plan River Dee Basin Management Plan
Waste Water	Water Cycle Strategy Cheshire West and Chester Water Cycle Study

Environment

Key Environment Statistics (LSOA level) Includes: Air emissions, ambient air quality, Commercial and Industrial Floorspace and Rateable Value Statistics ambient air quality, Land Use Statistics (Generalised Land Use Database)	Explore Local statistics (Look in 'topics' / then 'physical environment')
Nature designations Areas designated with special legal protection for biodiversity on site	https://magic.defra.gov.uk/ Select Get Started and once on the interactive map, select Designations
Local wildlife sites	Public Map Viewer

Neighbourhood *Planning*



	Select Environment and Planning and then select Local Wildlife Sites
Green Belt	Public Map Viewer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select Clear All 2. Under Common Policies, select Green Belt
Agricultural land quality	Magic Map GOV.UK <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select Get Started 2. On the interactive map, select Landscape 3. Select Landscape Classification 4. Select Agricultural Land Classification
<p>Open space</p> <p>The provision and quality of open space, such as parks , allotments and sport pitches</p>	Open Space Study Cheshire West Planning Policy Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need 2017
Playing Pitch Strategy	Play Strategy Cheshire West and Chester Council
Recycling facilities including locations	Find a recycling centre Cheshire West and Chester Council Cheshire West and Chester Waste and Recycling
<p>Landscape character</p> <p>The distinct and recognizable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a</p>	Local Landscape Character Assessment - Landscape Strategy 2016 Cheshire West and Chester Council

Neighbourhood *Planning*



particular landscape. Includes particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, field patterns and human settlement	Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment
Historic environment Information on buildings and areas of historic importance	Public Map Viewer Select Environment and Planning, where there is information on archaeology, listed buildings, conservation areas and monuments.
Air Quality Management Areas Areas designated as having bad air pollution	Pollution and air quality Cheshire West and Chester Council Cheshire West and Chester Air Quality Management Areas

Economy

Total number of enterprises (MSOA level)	www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=142 (includes broad industry group and employment size) There is also information on NOMIS on business counts (i.e workplaces)
Economic activity	RM025 - Economic activity status by sex by employment history - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics
Hours worked	TS059 - Hours worked - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics
Industry of employment	www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks605ew
Occupation	TS063 - Occupation - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics
Job Seekers Allowance	

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Claimants (and other Department of Work and Pensions benefits) (LSOA level)	Job Seekers Allowance Counts - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics
Model based household income estimates (MSOA level)	www.data.gov.uk/dataset/household_earnings_estimates - model-based estimates of income for msoas
Average rateable value per square metre	
Job density	
Percentage of business sole traders/partnerships	
All VAT based business by sector	
Employees and workplaces by sector	www.nomisweb.co.uk
Employment Land Survey Information land designated for development which provides employment	Employment Areas Survey Cheshire West and Chester Employment Land Review

Social

Health (general health, limiting long term conditions, carers)	TS037 - General health - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics Cheshire West and Chester Health profile: Health and wellbeing adults Cheshire West and Chester Council
Indices of multiple deprivation (2010) (LSOA level)	Household Income Inequalities
Qualifications and students	TS067 - Highest level of qualification - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics

Neighbourhood *Planning*



Fuel poverty	www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics
Working age DWP claimants	OCSI Reports / www.nomis.web.co.uk
Local services and facilities	Rural regeneration Cheshire West and Chester Council Cheshire West and Chester Rural Regeneration Strategy Public Map Viewer Information under Community and Living, Health and Social Care and Schools and Learning Property Gazetteer OCSI Reports: Includes information on road distance to different local services

Known development sites	Public Map Viewer Select Environment and Planning and then select Planning Applications- Last 12 months only
Sites with planning permission	

Mapping information

Doric on line - This was an online information website specifically for Cheshire and Warrington and contained an online mapping tool called WebGIS. The information included parish and output area boundaries, as well as flood risk zones, nature and conservation designations and MOSAIC groups.

The Partnership is reshaping their approach to providing local data and intelligence. From 31 March 2014 www.doriconline.org.uk will no longer exist. Instead you will be able to access information via DORIC partner organisations' websites. DORIC online will signpost you to the best places to find information and statistics.

Neighbourhood *Planning*



A lot of basemaps and related data (addresses etc) are available directly from Ordnance Survey – the parish council would need to sign up to the PSMA if they haven't already done so. The PSMA is open to all public sector bodies (including parish councils) so any parish council can join and become a PSMA member under the same terms and conditions as us. This will enable them to download data directly from OS or share data with us without the need to sign contractor agreements. A number of parish councils including some in CW&C have already signed up. This does require the parish council to have GIS software in order to manipulate the maps and data. [Ordnance Survey](#)

There are also a couple of websites which provide access to an online mapping solution – you can view them all on the OS website at [Ordnance Survey | Great Britain's national mapping service](#) however the following 2 seem to be the best options for parish councils:

Parish Online – [Parish Online - Digital Mapping software, Website Hosting, GOV.UK domains, Email and Cloud Storage Town, Community and Parish Councils](#)

Pricing varies by parish size (annual fee starting from £50 depending on parish size, plus £20 set up fee, plus VAT).

There are good video tutorials on various aspects of the software and you can measure, print, record information, search for addresses and annotate maps amongst other things. As it's web-based you can login from any computer. It is possible to transfer GIS layers from the Council into the system but we would need to investigate this further if anyone did want to do this.

Pear Technology - [Home - Pear Technology](#)

This seems to be more powerful but is also more complicated and more expensive. They do provide training, either on site or at their offices, if required.

Again it is possible to transfer the Council's GIS layers into the system. There are various products available as part of the system.

Cheshire West and Chester “interactive mapping” site –

[Public Map Viewer](#)

Neighbourhood *Planning*



This also shows built and nature conservation as well as public services including public rights of way, leisure centres, bus stops, schools, polling districts, allotments and many more. It also has aerial photography (2010) and Google Street View.

Please be aware of licensing requirements in relation to printed maps. Documents will need to have a relevant licence.

General websites you may be interested in:

NOMIS (Official labour market statistics) www.nomisweb.co.uk/

ONS (Office for National Statistics) [Home - Office for National](#)

[Statistics](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council – Key Statistics and Data
[State of the Borough dashboard | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council Annual Monitoring Reports

[Local Plan Annual Monitoring | Cheshire West Planning Policy](#)

Data.gov.uk www.data.gov.uk