



Babergh

# State of the District Report 2024

**This is the second annual State of the District report produced by Babergh District Council. It tells the story of our district through data and insight, providing commentary on the strengths and challenges within Babergh and how these are changing over time.**

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# Summary

- Babergh is a local authority district located in the south of Suffolk. Covering an area of 594 square kilometres, the district is predominantly rural in nature and includes areas forming part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths, and Dedham Vale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Its main settlements are the historic market towns of Sudbury and Hadleigh.
- In June 2022, Babergh had a population of 94,277, with a median age of 49.3 (compared with 41.8 in the East of England and 40.5 in England).
- Babergh's largest employment industries are manufacturing (responsible for 12.9% of employment within the district in 2022), retail (12.9%), education (10.0%) and health (10.0%).

## Strengths

- Babergh falls just within the least deprived third of local authority areas in England.<sup>1</sup>
- Residents in Babergh report high levels of local area satisfaction and pride. In 2023, 84% of respondents to the Babergh Resident Survey said they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live (compared with 74% across England) and 77% agreed they were proud to live in their local area (compared with 60% nationally).
- Babergh residents experience better-than average levels of life expectancy. Levels of self-reported personal wellbeing (life satisfaction, worthwhileness, happiness and anxiety) also outperform the national averages at the overall population level.
- Higher-than-average levels of home and car ownership are seen within the district, with 71.7% of households classified as owner-occupiers<sup>2</sup> and 88.4% having access to a car or van at Census 2021.
- Educational attainment by age 19 is in line with (for Level 3 qualifications) or above (for Level 2 qualifications) national and regional averages.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2022/23, 72.5% of adults aged 19+ were classed as 'physically active', compared with 67.7% across the East of England and 67.1% across England as a whole.<sup>4</sup>
- Levels of participation in volunteering also compare well against nearby local authorities, with 31% of respondents to the 2023 Babergh Resident Survey saying they formally volunteered for a group, club or organisation at least once a month during the past 12 months.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Either owned outright or with a mortgage or loan, including shared ownership.

<sup>3</sup> Level 2 equates to five or more GCSEs at grades 9-4; Level 3 equates to two or more A levels or equivalent.

<sup>4</sup> Based on data from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) aligned to physical activity levels recommended the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), where 'physically active' is defined as being active at a moderate intensity equivalent of at least 150 minutes per week. Sport England publishes a similar indicator which classifies adults as 16 and over and excludes gardening activity, which OHID include in this indicator, in accordance with CMO recommendations.

## Challenges

- At the same time, a range of challenges are evident, many of which are shared at the county, regional or national level.
- Despite greenhouse gas emissions within the district having reduced by 38% between 2005 and 2021 - in line with the percentage decrease seen nationally (39%) - significant challenges remain in seeking to decarbonise the transport, domestic, industry and agricultural sectors.
- As a predominantly rural district, there are understandable barriers for some, related to the physical proximity of local services and employment centres. Furthermore, business growth, adult qualifications and workplace-based earnings (the earnings of those who work in the district) all fall below the regional and national averages.
- In recent decades, there has been a worsening of housing affordability nationally. While Babergh's housing stock comprises an above-average proportion of detached properties – which impacts its median price for all housing - median house prices were 10.72 times median residence-based earnings in 2023, up from 7.54 ten years' ago.<sup>5</sup>
- Inflationary pressures have also impacted the rental market. Between December 2021 and April 2024, average monthly private rents in Babergh increased 18.4%, mirroring the percentage increase seen nationally during the same period.
- Although less prevalent than in many local authority areas, poverty and inequalities are felt within the district. In 2022/23, 2,011 children aged under 16 (13.2% of this age group) were considered to be living in relative low-income families before housing costs (compared with 13.8% in the East of England and 20.1% across the UK).<sup>6</sup> And during the 2022-23 financial year, 346 households in Babergh were assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, an increase from 296 households in 2021-22.<sup>7</sup>
- And while many positive health and wellbeing outcomes are seen among Babergh's residents, these are not always felt evenly across society – with those living in urban areas, younger adults, single adult households, those in social rented accommodation, those not working (excluding retired), those who report being in poor health and those with a limiting long-term illness or health condition, all more likely to report lower-than-average levels of personal wellbeing.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Residence-based earnings are the earnings of the people who live in the area, though they may work elsewhere.

<sup>6</sup> A household is said to be in relative low income if their equivalised income (adjusted for family size and composition) is below 60% of median income in the reference year.

<sup>7</sup> Based on those owed a prevention or relief duty following an initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed. Prevention duties include any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation.

<sup>8</sup> Based on responses to the Babergh Resident Survey 2023.

# 94,277

Population  
(June 2022)



Median age of **49.3** (compared with 41.8 in the East of England and 40.5 in England)

## Largest employment industries

- manufacturing
- retail
- education
- health

2022



Business growth, adult qualifications and workplace-based earnings all fall below the regional and national averages.



**71.7%**  
of households classified as owner-occupiers  
(Census 2021)



**88.4%**  
of households have access to a car or van  
(Census 2021)



Greenhouse gas emissions within the district reduced by 38% between 2005 and 2021



Mean life satisfaction score of **7.24** out of 10



(where 10 means completely satisfied) compared with 6.91 across England (2023)



## Life expectancy

Females **84.6 years** vs **82.8** in England  
Males **81.4 years** vs **78.9** in England

**84%**  
★★★★☆

of residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live (compared with 74% across England) and 77% agree they are proud to live in their local area (60% England)

2023



Median house prices are **10.72** times median annual resident earnings (in 2023)



Average monthly private rents increased **18.4%** between December 2021 and April 2024



**2,011**

children aged under 16 (13.2% of this age group) living in relative low-income families before housing costs in 2022/23

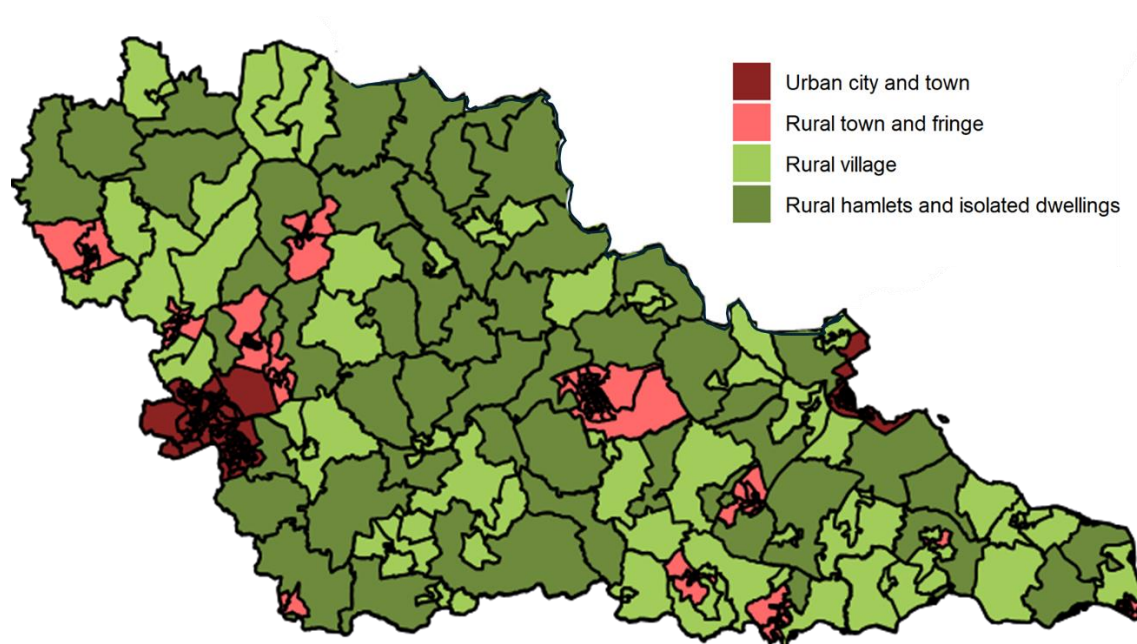
Babergh District Council

# Overview

## Setting

- Babergh is a local authority district located in the south of Suffolk. It borders the Essex districts of Braintree, Colchester and Tendring to the south, and West Suffolk, Mid Suffolk and the borough of Ipswich to the north and west.
- The district is predominantly rural in nature (Figure 1), with 69% of its population classed as living in a rural area at the 2011 Census.<sup>9</sup> Its main settlements are the historic market towns of Sudbury and Hadleigh.<sup>10</sup>
- Babergh falls just within the least deprived third of local authority areas in England.<sup>11</sup> Although it has no areas within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England, several neighbourhoods (LSOAs)<sup>12</sup> are within the 40% most deprived nationally. These are located in parts of Sudbury and Great Cornard, as well as one area in Hadleigh.

**Figure 1: Urban-rural classification of Babergh district (2011)**



Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

<sup>9</sup> The 2011 Rural Urban Classification defined areas as rural if they fell outside of areas forming settlements with populations of at least 10,000. Therefore, Sudbury and Great Cornard (which form the Sudbury built-up area) and Pinewood (part of the Ipswich built-up area) were classified as urban. With a population under 10,000, Hadleigh was classified as rural (specifically as 'Rural town and fringe').

<sup>10</sup> At the 2021 Census, the Sudbury built-up area (which includes Sudbury and Great Cornard) had a population of 23,920. The Hadleigh built-up area had a population of 8,640. Built-up areas (BUAs) are derived from a process that uses satellite imagery to recognise the boundaries of built-up area development and identify individual built-up area settlements (equating to cities, towns, and villages).

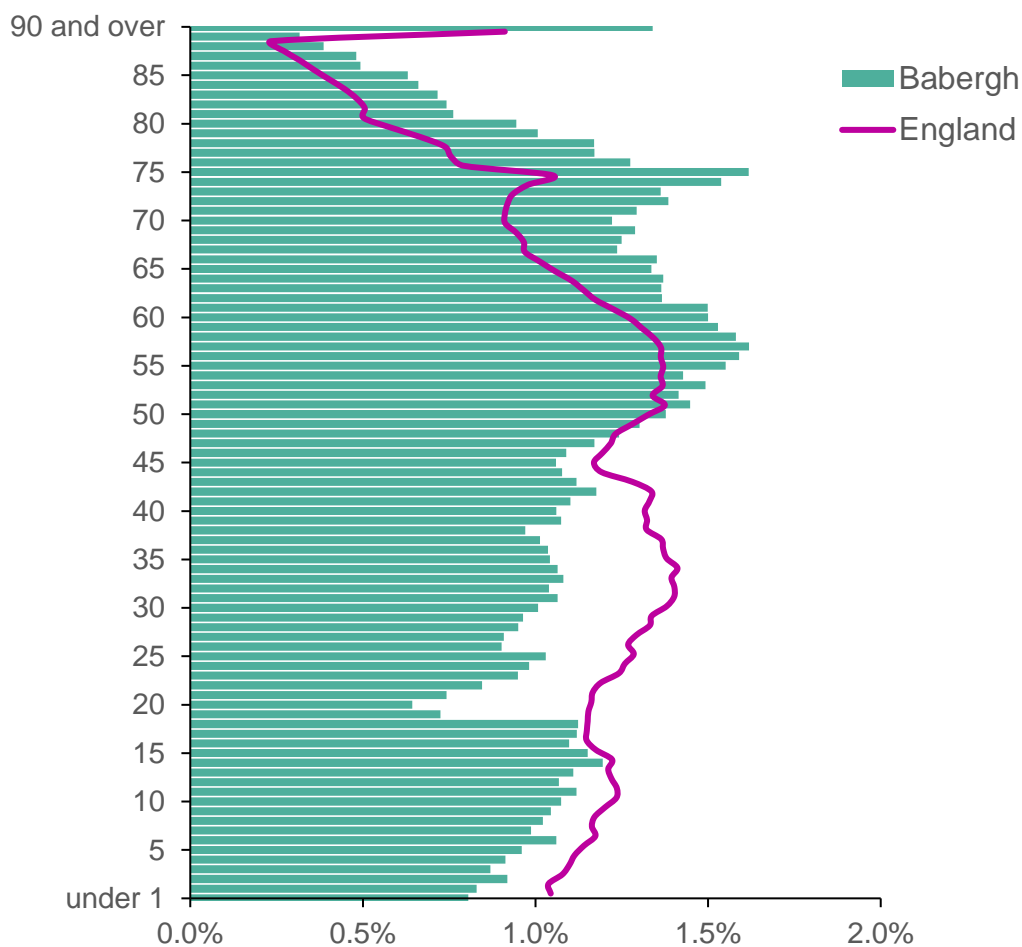
<sup>11</sup> Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019.

<sup>12</sup> Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are geographic areas which comprise between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.

## Population

- In June 2022, Babergh had a population of 94,277, an increase of 7.0% (from 88,144) since mid-2012. During the same period, the population increased by 4.9% across Suffolk, 8.2% across the East of England and 6.7% across England.
- Covering an area of 594 square kilometres, Babergh’s population density therefore stood at 159 people per square kilometre (compared with 202 across Suffolk, 335 across the East of England and 438 across England).
- As shown by Figure 2, Babergh has an older-than-average population profile, with 27.0% of residents aged 65 years and over in June 2022, compared with 23.9% across Suffolk, 19.9% in the East of England and 18.6% in England.
- The median age of the population stood at 49.3 (compared with 45.4 in Suffolk, 41.8 in the East of England and 40.5 in England), up from 45.9 in mid-2012. Nationally, the median age increased from 39.5 to 40.5 during the same period.
- By 2043, the proportion of residents aged 65 years and over is expected to account for a third (33.8%) of all residents, well above the projected proportion for England (22.2%).

**Figure 2: Population by age (mid-year estimates 2022)**



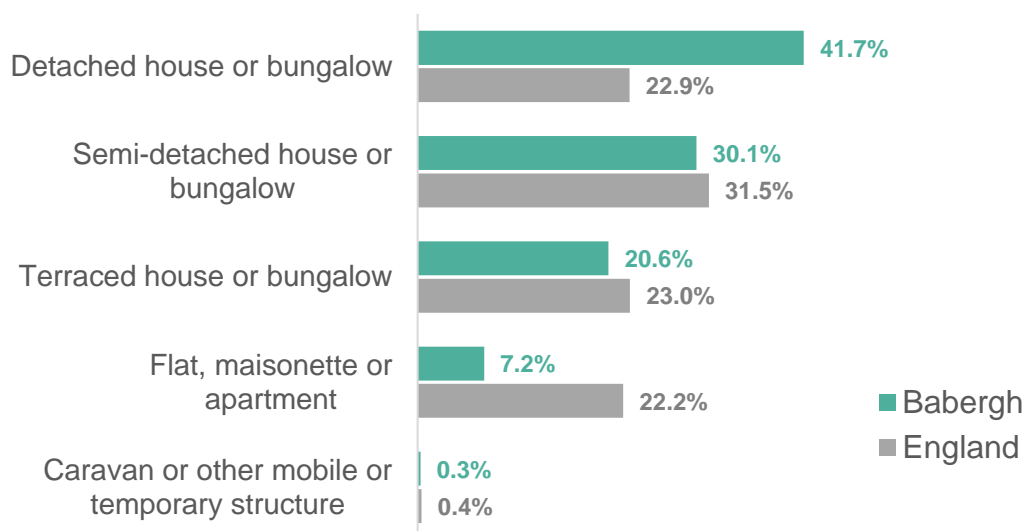
Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics (ONS)



## Household dwellings

- At the latest Census (2021) there were 40,200 households in Babergh. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of households in Babergh rose from 37,500, an increase of 7.1%. This was broadly in line with the percentage increase seen across Suffolk (7.3%) but above the figure for England (6.2%).
- There were estimated to be 42,602 dwellings in Babergh as of March 2022 (up from 41,844 in 2021 and 39,015 in 2011).<sup>13</sup> Around 2.2% of these were vacant, based on an estimate of 947 vacant dwellings in October 2022, of which 281 were classed as long-term vacant.<sup>14</sup> In comparison, vacant dwellings comprised 2.7% of the dwelling stock in England in October 2022.
- Compared with the national average, Babergh has a higher proportion of detached properties (41.7% compared with 22.9%) and properties with four or more bedrooms (27.8% compared with 21.1%). There is a correspondingly lower proportion of properties with only one bedroom, given a much lower proportion of flats (Figures 3 and 4).

**Figure 3: Accommodation type (Census 2021)**

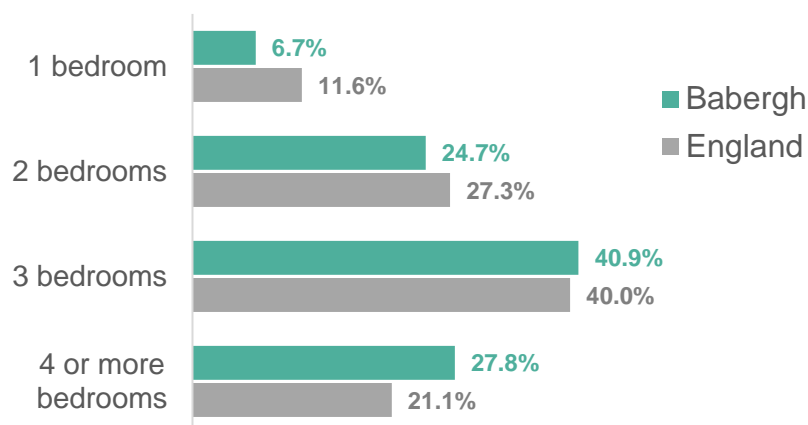


Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

<sup>13</sup> It should be noted that dwelling stock estimates are consistently higher than other data about households (e.g. Census-based estimates), which is to be expected given that dwelling stock estimates include vacant dwellings. When vacant dwelling estimates are subtracted from dwelling stock estimates, the figures are more like other sources of household data, although even with vacant dwellings subtracted, dwelling stock estimates may include some dwellings that do not contain households.

<sup>14</sup> Vacant properties are defined as empty properties as classified for council tax purposes and include all empty properties liable for council tax and properties that are empty but receive a council tax exemption. Long-term vacant dwellings are defined as properties liable for council tax that have been empty for more than six months and that are not subject to Empty Homes Discount class D or empty due to specific flooding events.

**Figure 4: Number of bedrooms (Census 2021)**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## Connectivity

- As a predominantly rural district, there are increased challenges related to the physical proximity of local services and employment centres. This is illustrated by Table 1, which shows the average minimum journey times to access a range of key local services by different modes of transport.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 1: Average minimum journey times in minutes to 8 key services<sup>^</sup> by mode of transport (2019)**

	Babergh	England	England – urban areas	England – rural areas <sup>16</sup>
Public transport + walking	29.1	17.9	15.3	30.1
Cycle	26.8	15.6	13.2	26.8
Car	14.5	10.3	9.5	14.0
Walking <sup>17</sup>	53.6	28.0	22.2	55.4

Source: Journey time statistics (2019), Department for Transport (DfT)

<sup>^</sup> Based on the average of minimum journey times to medium sized centres of employment (500-4999 jobs), primary schools, secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food stores and town centres.

<sup>15</sup> Based on the average of minimum journey times to medium sized centres of employment (500-4999 jobs), primary schools, secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food stores and town centres.

<sup>16</sup> Based on the 2011 Rural Urban Classification which defined areas as rural if they fall outside of areas forming settlements with populations of at least 10,000.

<sup>17</sup> A maximum value of 120 minutes is used where journey times exceed 120 minutes. This means that for some service by mode combinations (particularly for walking and smaller destination sets), the average provided is lower than would actually be the case in reality.

- Travel habits and levels of car ownership in Babergh reflect the district’s more rural nature. In 2022, the proportion of adults in Babergh who walked at least once a week for the purpose of travel was 24.9%. This compared with 32.3% of adults across the East of England and 35.0% across England.<sup>18 19</sup>
- Levels of car ownership in Babergh are above the regional and national averages, with 88.4% of households having access to a car or van and half (49.8%) having access to two or more cars or vans at Census 2021 (Table 2). As might be expected, lower levels of car ownership are seen in the district’s towns.<sup>20</sup>
- The following household types in Babergh are less likely than average to have access to a car or van (% with access shown in brackets):
  - Single-person households aged 66 years and over (63.3%).<sup>21</sup>
  - Single-person households aged under 66 (81.2%).
  - Lone parents with dependent children (81.7%).

**Table 2: Car or van availability (Census 2021)**

	<b>Babergh</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>England</b>
No cars or vans in household	11.6%	16.8%	23.5%
1 car or van in household	38.6%	41.6%	41.3%
2 cars or vans in household	34.2%	30.0%	26.1%
3 or more cars or vans in household	15.6%	11.6%	9.1%
<i>NET: 1 or more cars or vans in household</i>	88.4%	83.2%	76.5%
<i>NET: 2 or more cars or vans in household</i>	49.8%	41.6%	35.2%

Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- Deploying broadband infrastructure in urban areas is typically easier and faster due to the density of premises. In May 2024, there was 97.5% superfast broadband coverage<sup>22</sup> across residential and business premises in Babergh, slightly below the average for England (98.2%). Gigabit-capable broadband – currently being rolled out across the country - stood at 53.1% coverage (up from 36.3% in May 2023), below the England total of 83.3%.

<sup>18</sup> "Walking" refers to any continuous walk of over 10 minutes. "Travel" refers to walking in order to get from place-to-place, for example, commuting, visiting a friend, or going to the supermarket. It excludes walking for leisure, that is walking for the purpose of health, recreation, training or competition.

<sup>19</sup> Similar data is not published at local authority level for the proportion of adults who cycle for travel.

<sup>20</sup> The wards with the lowest proportion of car ownership were Sudbury South East (74.1%), Sudbury North West (78.2%), Sudbury South West (79.0%), Sudbury North East (80.0%), Hadleigh South (84.3%) and Great Cornard (86.0%).

<sup>21</sup> Car ownership in multiple-adult single-family households where all occupants were aged 66 years and over stood at 94.1%.

<sup>22</sup> Defined as the percentage of residential and business premises that have Superfast Broadband (greater than or equal to 30Mbit/s) coverage from fixed broadband.

## Businesses

- In 2023, Babergh had 4,160 business enterprises.<sup>23</sup> An enterprise can be thought of as the overall business, made up of all the individual sites or workplaces (as opposed to a local unit, which is an individual site such as a factory or shop associated with an enterprise).
- As shown by Table 3, nine-in-ten of these (89.5%) were micro enterprises with between 0-9 employees, in line with the proportion of micro enterprises seen regionally and nationally.

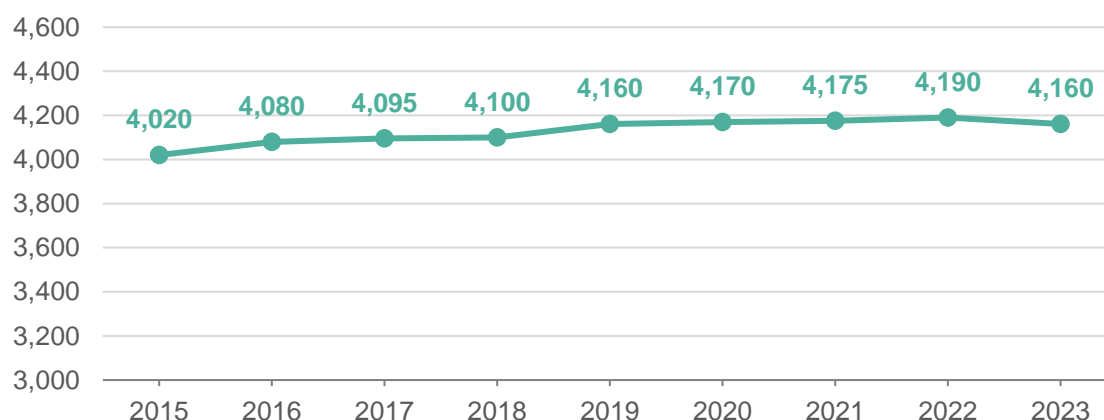
**Table 3: Business enterprises by employment size band (2023)<sup>24</sup>**

Employment sizeband	Babergh		East of England	England
	n	%	%	%
Micro (0-9 employees)	3,725	89.5%	89.6%	89.2%
0-4 employees	3,220	77.4%	78.4%	77.9%
5-9 employees	505	12.1%	11.2%	11.3%
Small (10-49 employees)	370	8.9%	8.5%	8.8%
Medium (50-249 employees)	55	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%
Large (250+ employees)	10	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register

- Between 2015 and 2023, the number of enterprises in Babergh increased from 4,020 to 4,160 (Figure 5). This represents an increase of 3.5%, below the growth in enterprises seen during the same period across the East of England (10.9%) and England (12.0%).

**Figure 5: Number of business enterprises in Babergh (2015 - 2023)**



Source: Inter Departmental Business Register

<sup>23</sup> Business counts are derived from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), a comprehensive list of UK businesses used by government for statistical purposes. The two main sources of input are Value Added Tax (VAT) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) records from HMRC. The IDBR covers around 2.7 million businesses in all sectors of the economy, but since the main two tax sources have thresholds, very small businesses operating below these will, in most cases, not be included.

<sup>24</sup> The table shows rounded counts.

- By far the largest absolute increase between 2015 and 2023 was seen in the construction industry (+135 enterprises). The wholesale (-45), agriculture, forestry and fishing (-35) and information and communication industries (-30) saw the largest absolute declines.
- Table 4 shows the number of enterprises in each industry in 2023, alongside levels of employment (the number of employees plus working owners) in 2022. The largest number of enterprises were in the construction (16.2%) and professional, scientific and technical industries (15.1%). However, the largest employment industries were manufacturing (responsible for 12.9% of employment), retail (12.9%), education (10.0%) and health (10.0%).

**Table 4: Babergh enterprises by industry (2023) and employment by industry (2022)<sup>25</sup>**

	Enterprises (2023)		Employment (2022) <sup>26</sup>	
	n	%	n	%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)	390	9.4%	1,500	4.3%
Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)	25	0.6%	250	0.7%
Manufacturing (C)	295	7.1%	4,500	12.9%
Construction (F)	675	16.2%	2,250	6.4%
Motor trades (Part G)	150	3.6%	1,000	2.9%
Wholesale (Part G)	150	3.6%	1,250	3.6%
Retail (Part G)	270	6.5%	4,500	12.9%
Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	135	3.2%	1,250	3.6%
Accommodation & food services (I)	230	5.5%	3,000	8.6%
Information & communication (J)	175	4.2%	1,000	2.9%
Financial & insurance (K)	80	1.9%	400	1.1%
Property (L)	160	3.8%	500	1.4%
Professional, scientific & technical (M)	630	15.1%	2,500	7.1%
Business administration & support (N)	315	7.6%	2,000	5.7%
Public administration & defence (O)	45	1.1%	250	0.7%
Education (P)	70	1.7%	3,500	10.0%
Health (Q)	115	2.8%	3,500	10.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)	245	5.9%	1,500	4.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register; ONS Business Register and Employment Survey

<sup>25</sup> The table shows rounded counts. The level of rounding applied to employment figures varies by estimate. More information can be found at <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/1103.aspx>

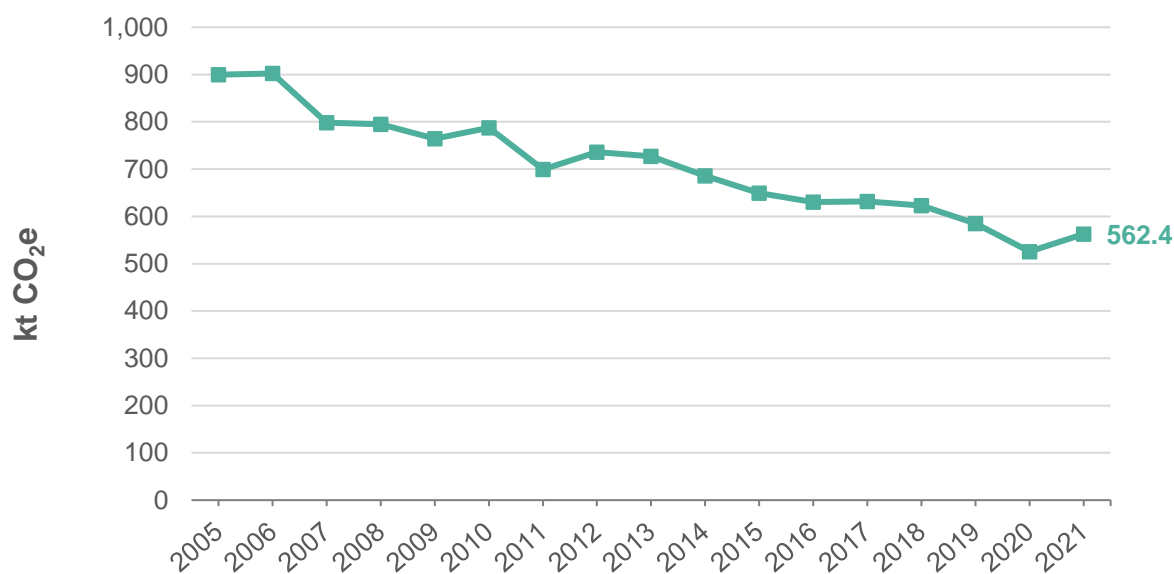
<sup>26</sup> Employment includes employees plus the number of working owners. The Business Register and Employment Survey therefore includes self-employed workers as long as they are registered for VAT or Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) schemes. Self-employed people not registered for these, along with HM Forces and Government Supported trainees are excluded. Working owners are typically sole traders, sole proprietors or partners who receive drawings or a share of the profits.

# Climate Change and Environment

## Greenhouse gas emissions

- In 2021, Babergh accounted for 11.8% of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>27</sup> in Suffolk.
- Between 2005 and 2021, emissions fell from 899.9 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) to 562.4 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, a reduction of 337.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e (38%). This was similar to the percentage decrease in emissions seen nationally (39%).
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions are seen in the 2020 data, with emissions then increasing in 2021.

Figure 6: Babergh total greenhouse gas emissions 2005-2021 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e)



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

- While emissions per capita were in line with the county and regional averages in 2021 (6.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent compared to 6.2 tonnes across Suffolk and 6.0 tonnes across the East of England), this figure was above the England average of 5.5 tonnes.<sup>28</sup>
- Emissions from transport accounted for 39.9% of total greenhouse emissions (excluding net emissions from land use, land use change and forestry) in Babergh in 2021 (Table 5). Domestic emissions were the next highest contributor, responsible for a quarter (25.3%) of emissions in the district.

<sup>27</sup> The greenhouse gases covered by these statistics are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

<sup>28</sup> The local authority areas with higher emissions per capita are a mixture of those with large industrial sites and those with relatively low populations compared to the size of the area or the activities that take place there that produce emissions. The latter group are often in more rural areas. Conversely, the areas with the lowest emissions per capita are typically built-up areas with high resident populations.

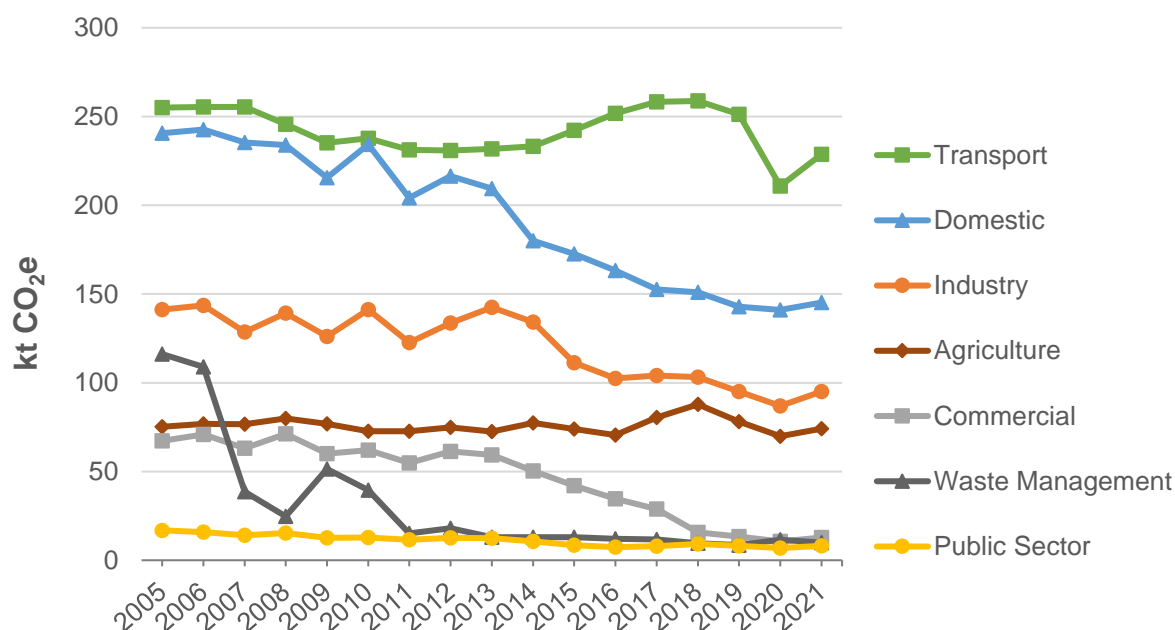
**Table 5: Percentage contribution to total greenhouse gas emissions by sector (excluding land use, land use change and forestry)<sup>29</sup> (2021)**

	Babergh	East of England	England
Transport	39.9%	35.2%	30.5%
Domestic	25.3%	25.6%	25.7%
Industry	16.6%	13.5%	19.7%
Agriculture	12.9%	10.8%	10.0%
Commercial	2.2%	4.4%	4.9%
Waste Management	1.7%	6.9%	5.0%
Public Sector	1.4%	3.6%	4.4%

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

- Between 2005-21, the waste management and domestic sectors saw the largest absolute decreases, by 106.3 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e and 95.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e respectively (Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Greenhouse gas emissions by sector 2005-2021 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) (excluding land use, land use change and forestry)**

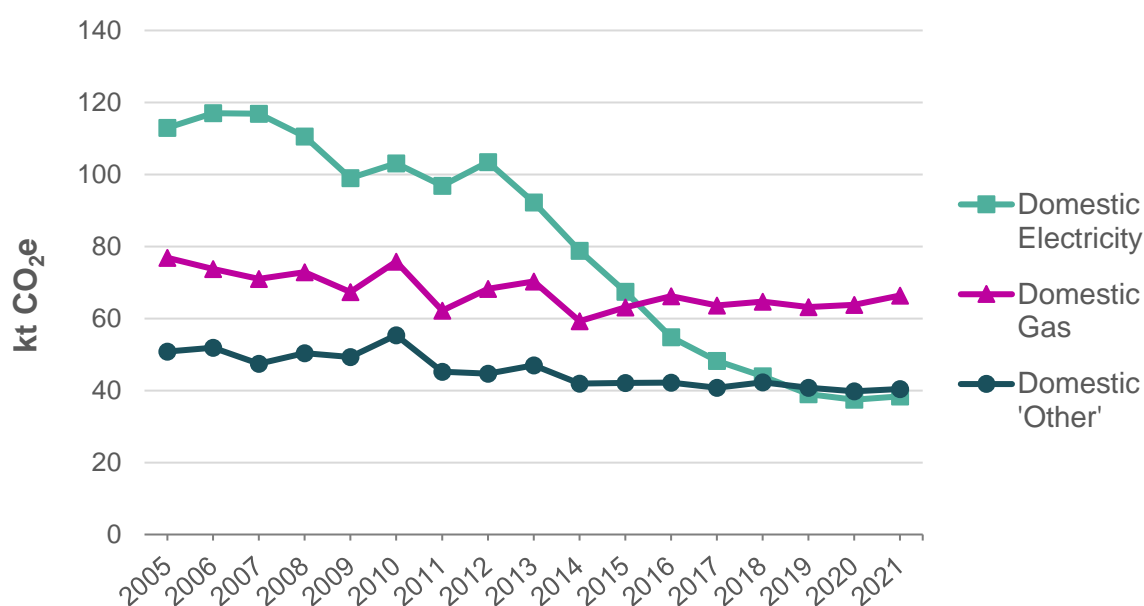


Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

<sup>29</sup> The land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector consists of both emissions and removals from forest land, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and harvested wood products. It is the only sector that includes emission removals and therefore can show a net removal of greenhouse gases or a net contribution to emissions. For this reason, it is excluded from the calculations in Table 2. Within Babergh the LULUCF sector accounted for a net removal of 11.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021, which included net emissions of 23.2 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e from croplands and the net removals of 29.0 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e from forest land and 10.2 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e from grassland.

- The largest relative (or percentage) changes were seen in the waste management<sup>30</sup> and commercial sectors (reducing by 91.5% and 81.1% respectively, while emissions from agriculture (which fell 1.6%) and transport (10.3%) saw the lowest relative declines.
- The reduction in domestic (or residential) emissions<sup>31</sup> (from 240.7 to 145.2 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) was driven in particular by a decline in emissions related to domestic electricity (Figure 8).
- This reflects supply-side emissions decreases resulting from changes in the mix of fuels being used for electricity generation (e.g. gas instead of coal), including the growth of renewables. At the same time, domestic demand for electricity has also reduced, due to factors including product energy efficiency regulations and energy-efficient lighting.

**Figure 8: Domestic greenhouse gas emissions 2005-2021 by energy type (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e)**



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

## Domestic energy efficiency

- An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is needed whenever a property is built, sold or rented. An EPC contains information about a property's energy use, typical energy costs, and recommendations about how to reduce energy use and save money. It gives a property an energy efficiency rating from 'A' (most efficient) to a 'G' (least efficient) and is valid for 10 years.
- Based on an analysis of EPC lodgements for a 10-year period, from Q2 2013 to Q1 2023, the median CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for all dwellings in Babergh was 3.4 tonnes per year, compared with 3.1 tonnes per year for England and the East of England (Table 6).
- This is not unexpected, given Babergh has a higher-than-average proportion of detached properties and larger properties with four or more bedrooms (and a lower proportion of

<sup>30</sup> Nationally, waste management sector emissions have fallen significantly over the past two decades, due to reductions in waste being landfilled.

<sup>31</sup> Domestic emissions here represent emissions from energy consumption in and around the home, but not activities by private individuals elsewhere, such as personal travel.



properties with only one bedroom given a lower proportion of flats).<sup>32</sup> Patterns are also influenced by the age of the housing stock, with newer-build properties being more energy efficient (Table 8).

**Table 6: Median estimated Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of dwellings (tonnes per year), by property type (based on EPC data from Q2 2013 to Q1 2023)**

	<b>Detached</b>	<b>Semi-detached</b>	<b>Terraced</b>	<b>Flat / maisonette</b>	<b>All dwellings</b>
Babergh	4.7	3.5	2.8	1.9	3.4
East of England	4.6	3.6	3.1	1.9	3.1
England	4.4	3.6	3.4	1.9	3.1

Source: Median estimated Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, Office for National Statistics

**Table 7: Percentage of dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band 'C' or above, by property type (based on EPCs lodged from Q2 2013 to Q1 2023)**

	<b>Detached</b>	<b>Semi-detached</b>	<b>Terraced</b>	<b>Flat / maisonette</b>	<b>All dwellings</b>
Babergh	39.0%	42.8%	51.8%	68.4%	46.3%
East of England	39.3%	37.4%	46.3%	70.1%	48.3%
England	40.3%	35.4%	38.4%	66.9%	46.6%

Source: Dwellings with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, Office for National Statistics

**Table 8: Percentage of dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band 'C' or above, by property age (based on EPCs lodged from Q2 2013 to Q1 2023)**

	<b>Pre 1930</b>	<b>1930 to 1982</b>	<b>1983 to 2011</b>	<b>2012 onwards</b>	<b>All dwellings</b>
Babergh	7.1%	35.0%	56.1%	98.6%	46.3%
East of England	12.5%	33.9%	64.2%	96.4%	48.3%
England	16.7%	34.8%	67.2%	97.5%	46.6%

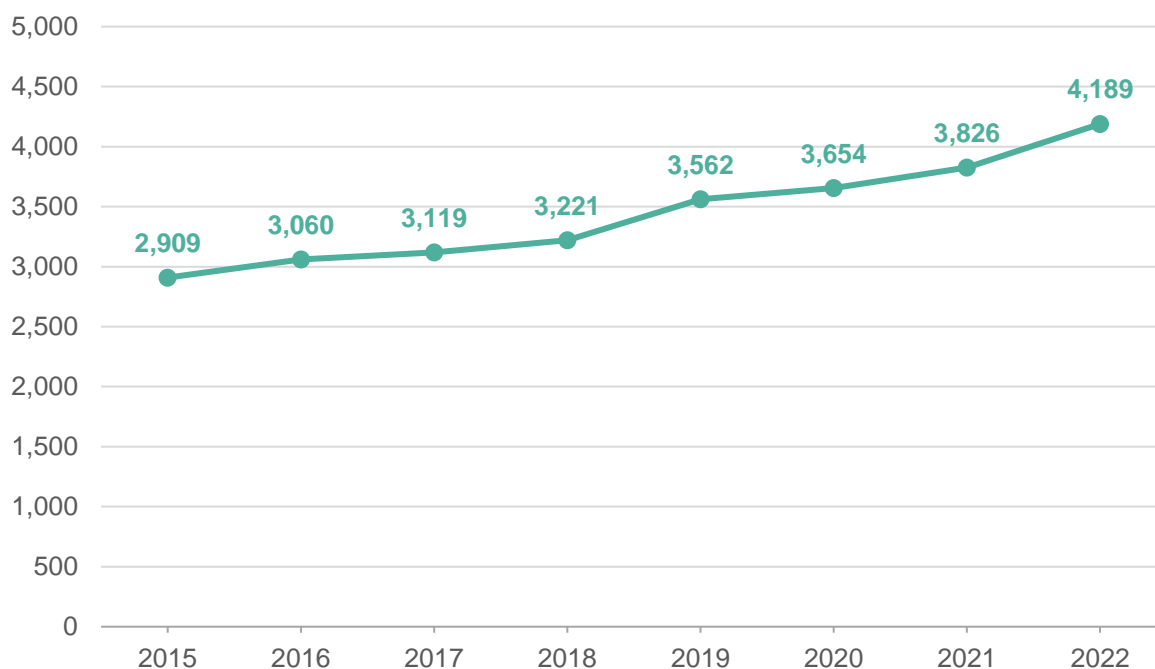
Source: Dwellings with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, Office for National Statistics

<sup>32</sup> As shown earlier in this report in Figures 3 and 4.

## Renewable electricity generation

- Renewable fuels include primary energy such as wind, solar, and hydro, and thermal fuels (solid biomass, biogases, and liquids). Thermal fuels are combusted to produce electricity.
- At the end of 2022, there were 4,189 sites in Babergh generating electricity from renewable sources. Of these, 4,179 were sites with solar photovoltaics (PV) installed. These include both ground-mounted solar farms and rooftop devices (commonly retrofitted to existing buildings). The remaining 10 sites were made up of five onshore wind installations, four anaerobic digestion installations and one landfill gas site.<sup>33</sup>
- The total number of renewable electricity generating sites increased from 2,909 in 2015 (Figure 9). This led to a growth in capacity, from 12.4 Megawatts (MW) in 2015 to 18.2 MW in 2022, and an increase in renewable electricity generation from 11,946 Megawatt hours (MWh) to 21,025 MWh or 21.0 Gigawatt hours (GWh).<sup>34</sup> For context, the total estimated domestic and non-domestic electricity consumption in Babergh in 2022 was 332.4 GWh.

**Figure 9: Number of renewable electricity generating sites in Babergh (2015-22)**



Source: Renewable electricity by local authority, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)

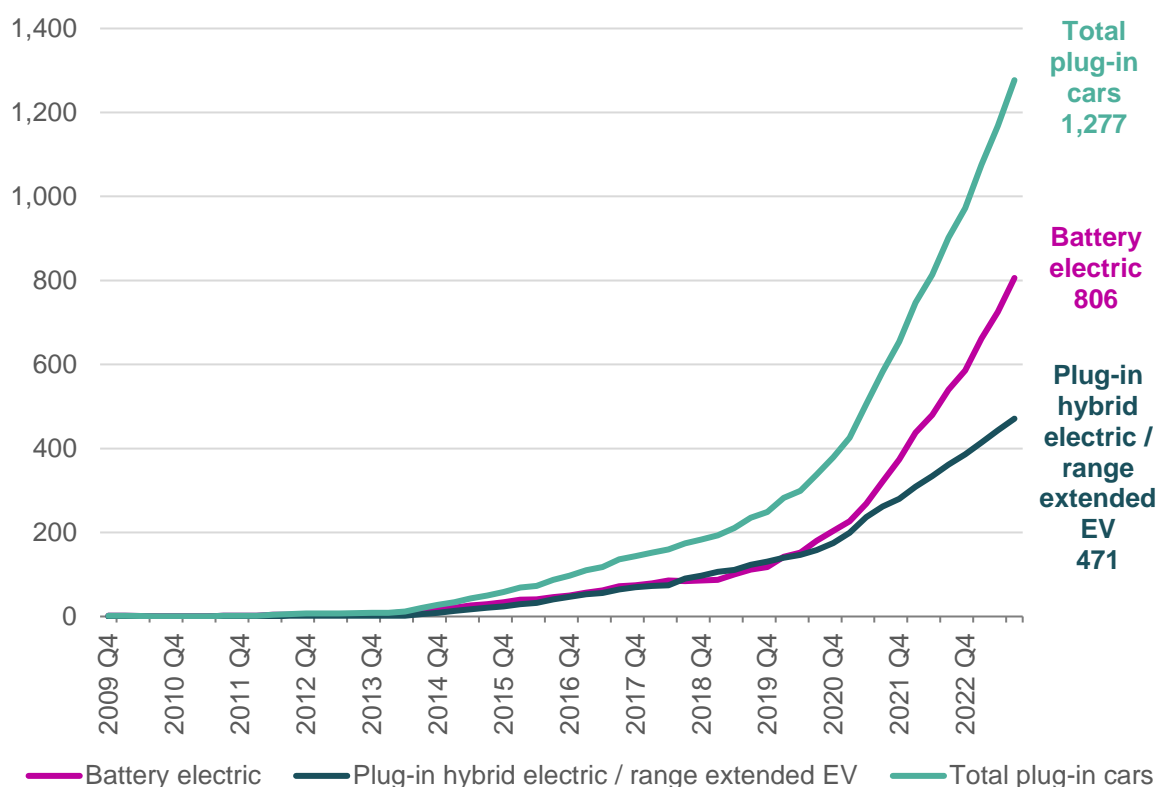
<sup>33</sup> Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a natural process in which micro-organisms break down the organic matter found in wet biomass waste (such as sewage sludge, animal manure and slurry and waste food) in the absence of oxygen, to produce biogas. The biogas can be burned directly in a gas boiler to produce heat or burnt in a combined heat and power (CHP) unit to produce heat and electricity. The methane produced from landfill (landfill gas) is a waste-derived fuel. It can be used in the same way as for combustion plants to generate electricity using a turbine. Unlike wind and solar, both produce emissions at source given they rely on combustion.

<sup>34</sup> The generation output figure for 2022 excludes the output from Landfill Gas, given data relating to individual sites has been suppressed to avoid disclosure.

## Plug-in and electric cars

- At the end of September 2023, there were 1,277 plug-in cars registered to both private and company owners in Babergh (comprising 806 battery electric and 471 plug-in hybrid cars). This was around twice the number registered at the end of December 2021.
- With a total of 57,048 cars registered to owners in Babergh at the end of September 2023, plug-in cars therefore accounted for 2.2% of all cars registered in the district, of which battery electric cars accounted for 1.4%. In comparison, 2.1% of registered cars in the East of England and 2.8% in England were battery electric at the end of September 2023.

**Figure 10: Number of plug-in cars registered to owners in Babergh at the end of the quarter, Q4 2009 – Q3 2023**

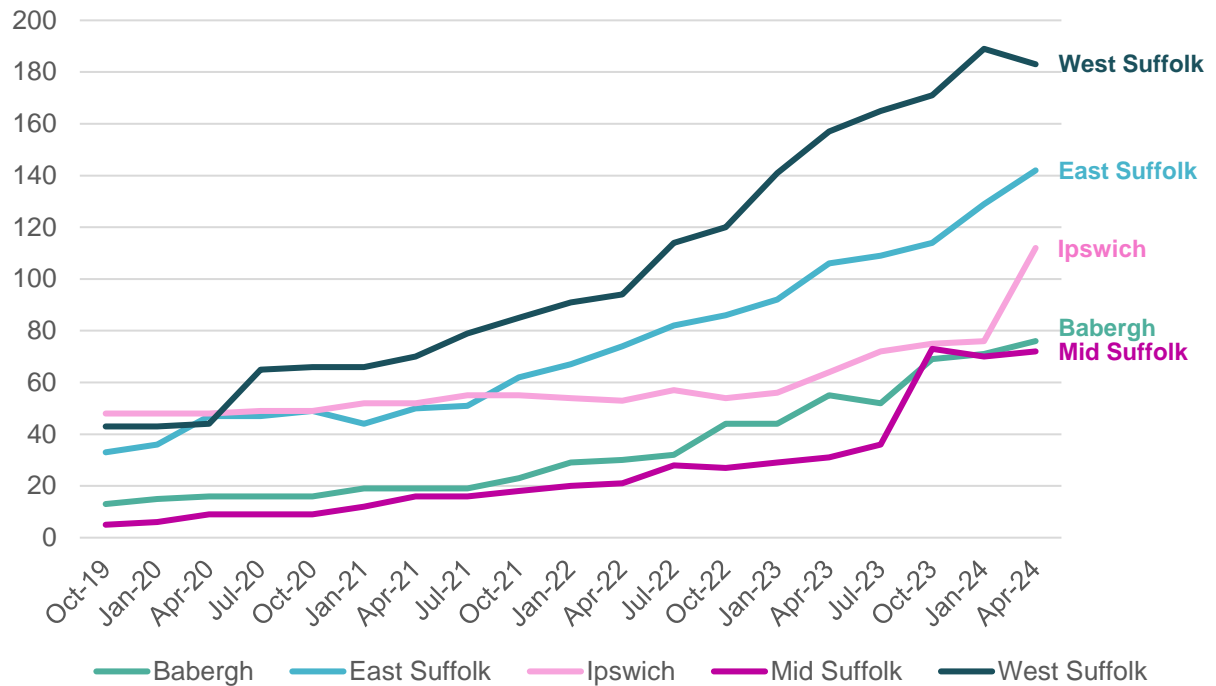


Source: Licensed plug-in vehicles (PiVs) at the end of the quarter, Department for Transport (DfT) and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

- As of April 2024, Babergh had 76 publicly available electric vehicle charging points, including 22 rapid chargers.<sup>35</sup> This equated to 82.0 charging points per 100,000 population (compared with 76.6 per 100,000 across Suffolk, 64.1 per 100,000 across the East of England and 91.1 per 100,000 across England).
- Having increased from 19 in July 2021 (8.6% of Suffolk’s 220 charging points at the time), this accounted for 13.0% of Suffolk’s 585 charging points in April 2024.

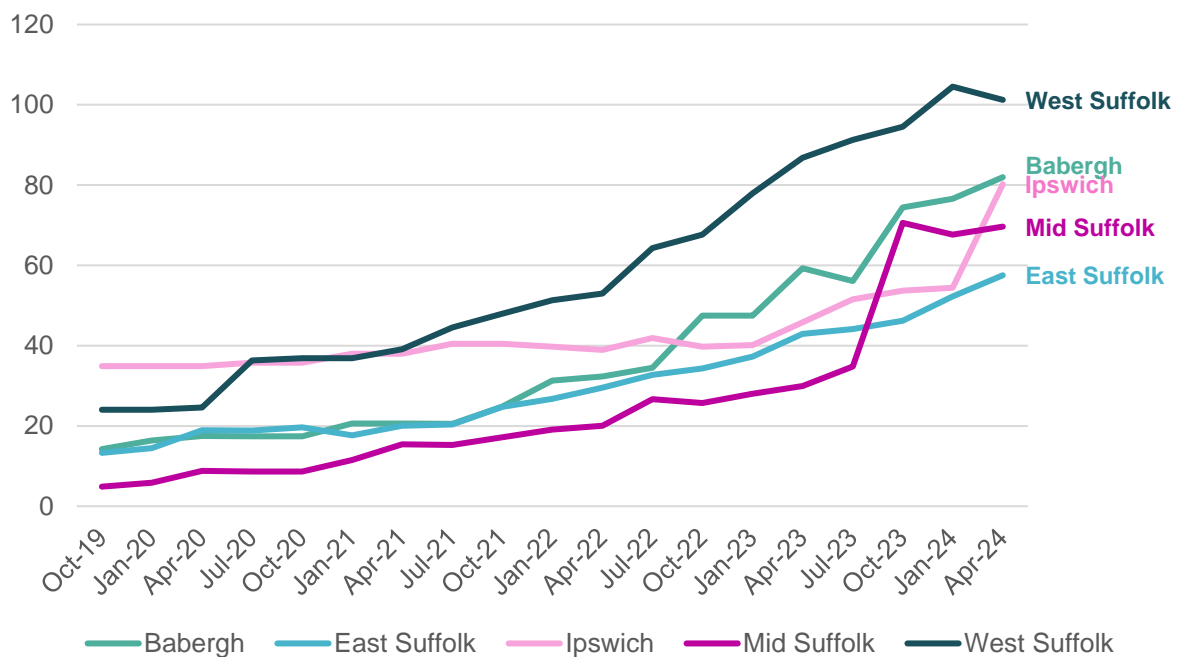
<sup>35</sup> 50kW and above

**Figure 11: Number of publicly available electric vehicle charging points by Suffolk local authority district October 2019 – April 2024<sup>36</sup>**



Source: Electric Vehicle Public Charging Infrastructure Statistics, Department for Transport (DfT)

**Figure 12: Number of publicly available electric vehicle charging points per 100,000 population by Suffolk local authority district October 2019 – April 2024**



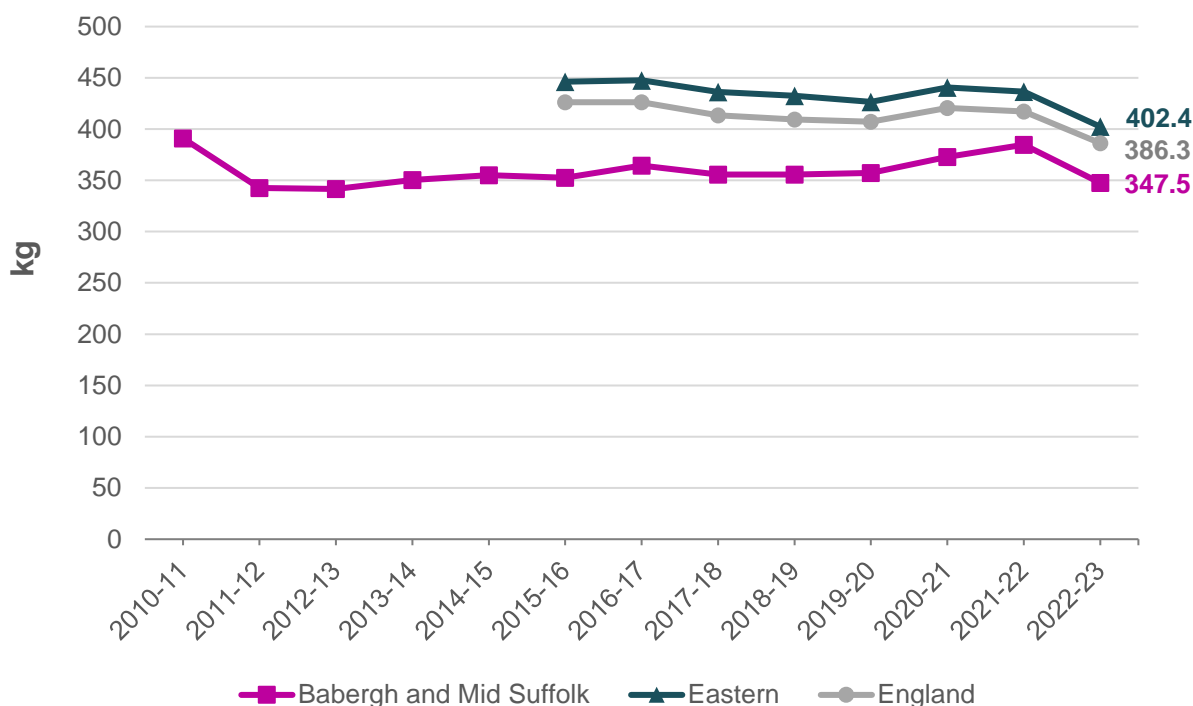
Source: Electric Vehicle Public Charging Infrastructure Statistics, Department for Transport (DfT)

<sup>36</sup> Decommissioned charging devices are also removed from the total number. An increase in devices between two points in time therefore reflects the net increase in that period rather than the number of installations in that period.

## Household waste and recycling

- ‘Household waste’ is a measure of local authority collected waste from households, as well as from street bins, street sweepings, gully-emptying, parks and grounds waste, soil, and compost-like output.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2022/23, 347.5kg of household waste was collected (by the local authority) per person across Babergh and Mid Suffolk (both districts combined). This compared with 402.4kg per person across the East of England and 386.3kg per person across England.
- With the exception of 2020/21 and 2021/22 – where increased time at home and changed behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher waste generation – collected household waste per person has remained broadly similar since 2011 in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. However, the 2022/23 figure of 347.5kg per person represents the lowest value since 2012/13.
- This reflects trends seen nationally - where the volume of collected waste per person has fallen below pre-pandemic levels - linked to factors including weather conditions in 2022 reducing plant growth, as well as increases in the cost of living reducing expenditure on food, and the home.<sup>38</sup>

**Figure 13: Collected household waste per person (kg), 2010/11 – 2022/23 (Babergh and Mid Suffolk combined)**



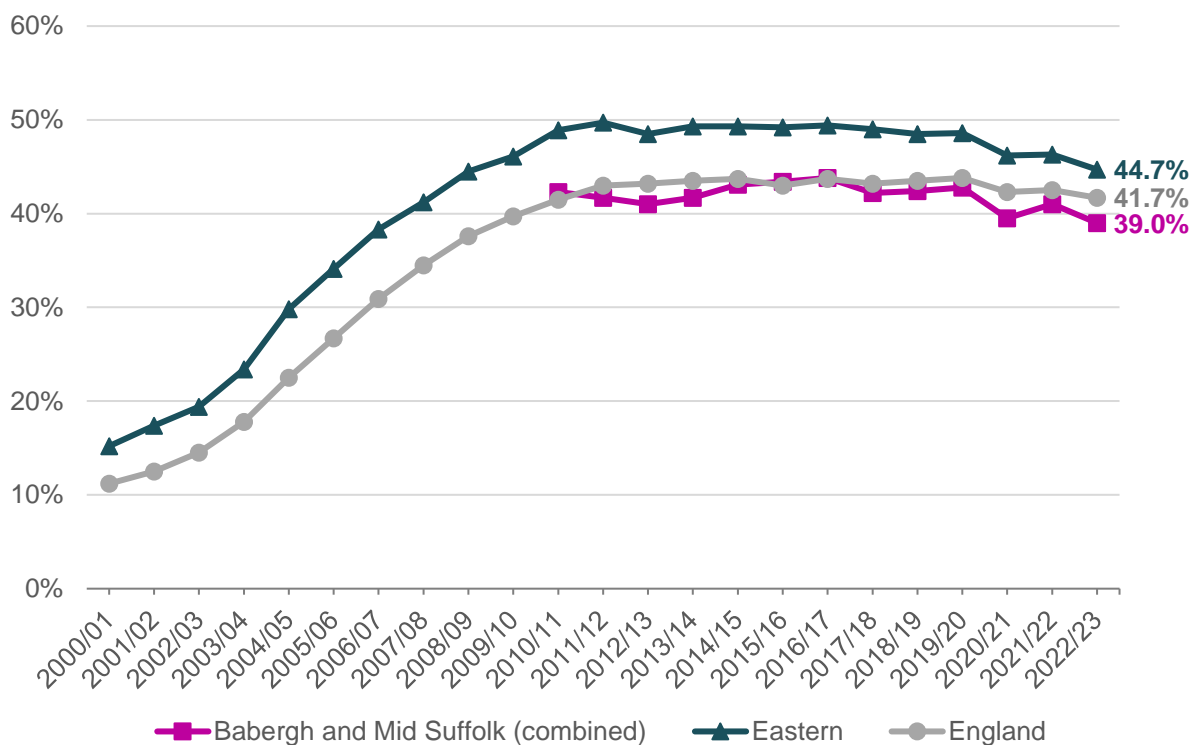
Source: Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics - Local Authority data, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

<sup>37</sup> ‘Household waste’ also includes separately collected healthcare waste and asbestos.

<sup>38</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results-202223>

- In 2022/23, the average ‘household waste’ recycling rate across England was 41.7%, a 0.8 percentage point decrease from 2021/22, with recycling rates ranging from 17.7% to 61.6% at the individual local authority level. Across the Eastern region, the average rate was 44.7%, down 1.6 percentage points from 2021/22.<sup>39</sup>
- Within Babergh and Mid Suffolk (both districts combined), the ‘household waste’ recycling rate was 39.0% in 2022/23, a decrease of 2.0 percentage points from 2021/22 (Figure 14).

**Figure 14: Household waste recycling rates, 2001/02 – 2022/23**  
(Babergh and Mid Suffolk combined)



Source: Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics - Local Authority data, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

<sup>39</sup> ‘Household waste’ recycling is often similar in adjacent authorities. However, at a regional level, there is considerable variation across authorities, influenced by how heavily populated an area is, the kind of housing present, and the level of other organic or garden waste collected. As an example, in built-up areas with a higher proportion of flats, residents may find it difficult or be unwilling to store waste for recycling; and will not be producing garden waste for collection. This will reduce recycling rates for these authorities. Similarly, authorities with higher recycling rates are likely to be advantaged by good householder response to recycling schemes and a higher tonnage of organic or garden waste being collected.

## Biodiversity

- Babergh has areas which are part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Dedham Vale AONB. The Stour and Orwell estuaries are designated as a Ramsar Site, meaning they are considered wetlands of international importance.
- In addition, there are 51 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 17 Local Nature Reserves, 187 County Wildlife Sites (covering 1,797 hectares) and 1,404 hectares of ancient woodland.
- A study conducted for Babergh District Council in 2021 calculated that, on average, tree canopy cover for wards in Babergh stood at 10.3%, ranging from 5.5% in Lavenham ward to 19% in Orwell ward.<sup>40</sup> This compared with a ward average of 16.3% for selected wards assessed across England between 2018-22 (14.6% for rural wards and 16.7% for urban wards).<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Available at: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/bmscanopyreportv4>

<sup>41</sup> Based on a total of 6,135 wards assessed in England (4,904 urban wards and 1,231 rural wards) as part of a Forestry Commission UK canopy cover webmap project which aimed to assess the percentage tree canopy cover across wards in the UK (taken from the dataset published by the Forestry Commission on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023).

# Community strength and wellbeing

## Local area perceptions

- The 2022 and 2023 Babergh Resident Surveys explored residents' views towards their local area. Comparisons are shown below against the results for England, taken from the Community Life Survey.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2023:
  - 84% of respondents said they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared with 74% nationally.
  - 77% agreed they were proud to live in their local area. Nationally, 60% agreed this was the case.
  - 70% felt a strong sense of belonging to their local community, compared with 61% nationally.<sup>43</sup>
- Results for each measure remained in line with the 2022 survey results.
- As shown by Table 9, residents in rural areas reported higher levels of satisfaction, pride and sense of belonging than those in urban areas.

**Table 9: Local area perceptions (2023)**

Measure	Babergh			England
	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	
Local area satisfaction (% satisfied)	84%	78%	86%	74%
Proud to live in local area (% agree)	77%	67%	81%	60%
Sense of belonging to local community (% who feel they belong very / fairly strongly)	70%	57%	75%	61%

Source: Babergh Resident Survey 2023; Community Life Survey Oct-Dec 2023 quarterly release

<sup>42</sup> The Babergh District Council Resident Survey is a sample survey designed to be representative of the adult (18+) population at the district level. It employs a 'push-to-web' methodology, whereby survey invites are sent to a randomly sampled selection of households, inviting household members to complete the survey online. Non-responding households are sent a follow-up paper questionnaire to boost response and enable participation among those not able or not wishing to take part online. A total of 1,727 residents completed the survey in 2023. Comparisons are shown against the Community Life Survey, a large-scale survey conducted in England on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) which explores levels of community engagement, volunteering and social cohesion. The Community Life Survey and the Babergh Residents Survey both employ similar approaches to data collection, meaning the results to questions asked on both surveys can be compared. The Community Life Survey data for 2023 is taken from the October to December 2023 quarterly release published on 8 May 2024, based on c.97,500 responses.

<sup>43</sup> It should be noted that slightly different wording was used between surveys, with the Babergh Resident Survey asking about "your local community" and the Community Life Survey asking about "your immediate neighbourhood".



## Community safety

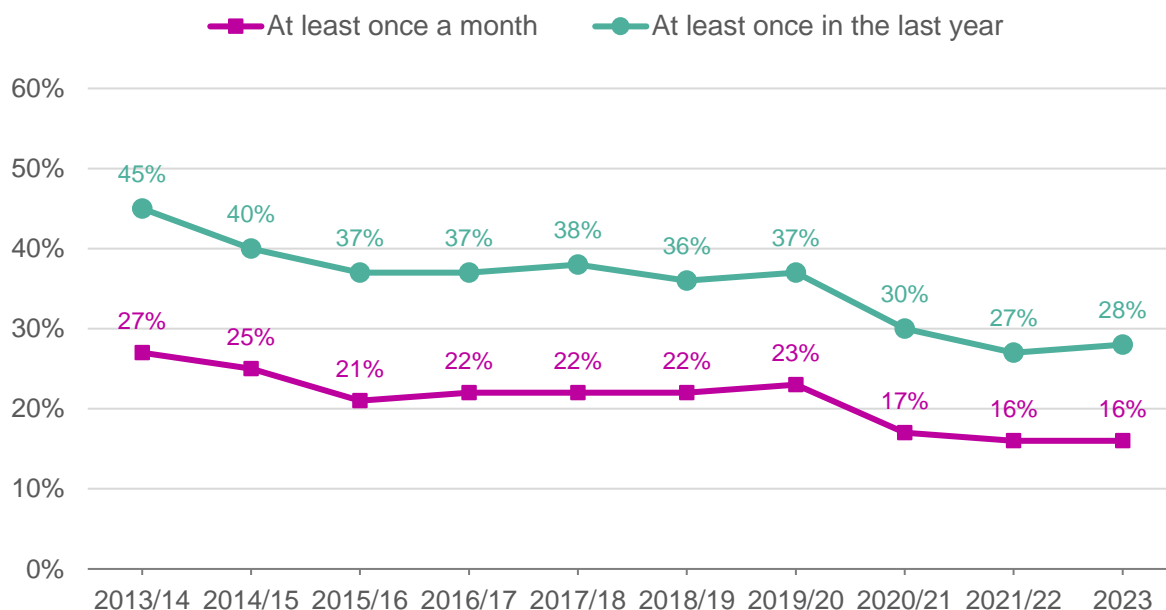
- In the 12 months to April 2024, the overall crime rate in Babergh was 43.7 incidents per 1,000 population, based on 4,024 recorded crimes. This compared with a rate of 60.2 per 1,000 across Suffolk and 72.0 per 1,000 across the East of England during the same period.
- Babergh’s 2023 Resident Survey found that a significant majority of residents (92%) felt safe outside in their local area during the day, while 83% felt safe in local parks and open spaces during the day. Seven-in-ten (70%) said they felt safe in their local after dark, although this fell to 49% of residents in urban areas, compared with 79% of those in rural settings.

## Volunteering

- The Resident Survey also explored levels of formal volunteering among Babergh’s residents, that is, how often in the previous 12 months they had given any unpaid help to any group(s), club(s) or organisation(s).
- National data from the Community Life Survey indicates that there has been a decline in levels of formal volunteering over the past decade and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Figure 15: Formal volunteering rates in England (2013/14 - 2023)**

*NOTE: chart shows contextual data for England only and does not include data for Babergh*

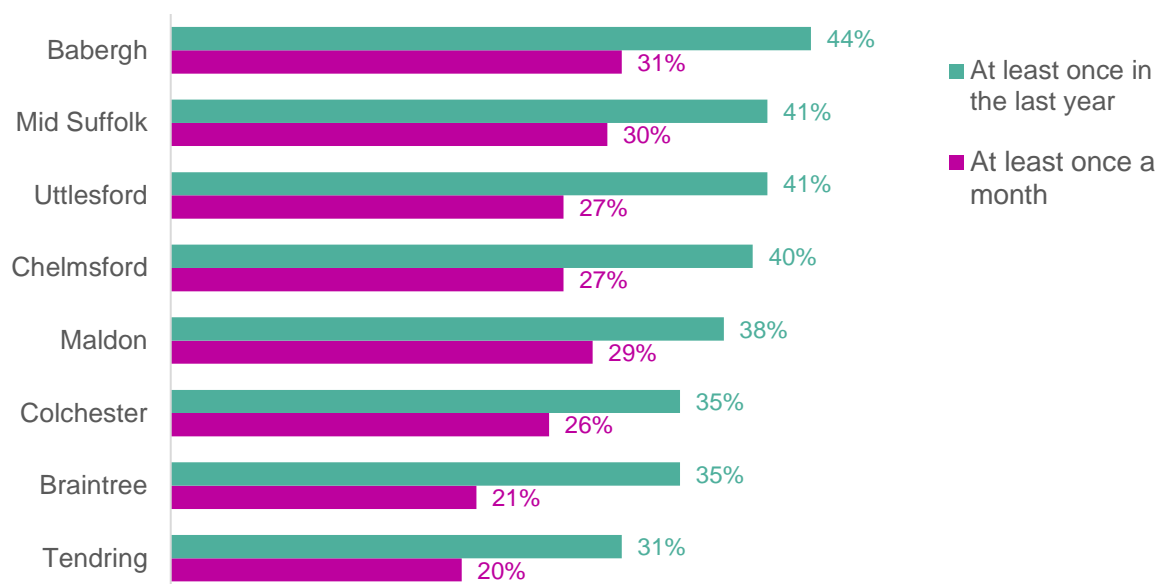


Source: Community Life Survey

- In 2023, 44% of respondents to the Babergh Resident Survey said they had formally volunteered for any group, club or organisation at least once in the past 12 months (up from 39% in 2022), with 31% having done so at least once a month in the previous 12 months (up from 27% in 2022).
- Babergh’s Resident Survey asks about formal volunteering in a slightly different way to the Community Life Survey, meaning comparisons with the national data should be treated with caution. Comparable data from districts in north and mid-Essex (collected via the

Essex Resident Survey 2023) and from Mid Suffolk are therefore included in Figure 16 for comparison.<sup>44</sup>

**Figure 16: Formal volunteering rates in Babergh, Mid Suffolk and north and mid-Essex districts (2023)**



Source: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Resident Survey 2023; Essex Resident Survey 2023

## Personal wellbeing

- Residents in Babergh report above-average levels of personal wellbeing.<sup>45</sup> Asked to rate their levels of life satisfaction, worthwhileness and happiness from 0-10 (where 10 means they feel completely satisfied / worthwhile / happy), respondents to the 2023 Resident Survey gave an average score of:
  - 7.24 for satisfaction with their life (compared with 6.91 across England).
  - 7.63 for feeling that the things they do in their life are worthwhile (7.10 across England).
  - 7.34 for how happy they felt yesterday (6.98 across England).<sup>46</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Whilst both surveys use a single question with comparable response categories to ask how often in the past 12 months respondents have provided help to a group, club or organisation, the Community Life Survey includes a series of lead-in questions which prompt the respondent with a list of groups/organisations, as well as a range of ways in which they may have helped (including an “Any other help” option). Both the Babergh Resident Survey and the Essex Resident Survey use a single question without these lead-in questions. These differences could impact on the way people respond, and therefore on comparability with the Community Life Survey results.

<sup>45</sup> Personal wellbeing scores for England are taken from the Active Lives Survey for the period November 2022 to November 2023. The Active Lives Survey, conducted on behalf of Sport England since 2015, gathers data on how adults aged 16 and over in England engage with sport and physical activity. The overall sample size is around 175,000 people for each survey. It employs a comparable approach to the Babergh Resident Survey, with respondents from a randomly selected sample of households across England invited to complete an online survey, with a paper questionnaire supplied with the second of three reminders.

<sup>46</sup> It should be noted that the Office for National also publish – on an annual basis – local authority-level estimates of personal wellbeing, derived from their Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS collects this

- When asked about their levels of anxiety (again on a scale of 0-10 but where 10 means they feel completely anxious), residents reported lower than average anxiety (3.42 compared with 3.62 for England). Results for each of the four wellbeing measures remained in line with the 2022 survey results.
- In line with national findings, a number of resident groups reported lower levels of wellbeing, including residents living in urban areas, younger adults, those in single adult households, those in social rented accommodation, those who are not working (excluding retired), those who report being in poor health and those with a limiting long-term illness or health condition.

## Life expectancy

- For the period 2020 to 2022, life expectancy at birth – the average number of years a person would expect to live based on contemporary mortality rates<sup>47</sup> - exceeded the regional and national averages. By sex:
  - Female life expectancy in Babergh was 84.6 years (compared with 83.5 in the East of England and 82.8 across England). This ranked 46<sup>th</sup> highest out of 307 local authorities in England, with Kensington and Chelsea having the highest figure, at 86.3 years.
  - Male life expectancy in Babergh was 81.4 years (compared with 79.8 in the East of England and 78.9 across England). This ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> highest out of 307 local authorities in England, with the district of Hart in Hampshire having the highest figure, at 83.7 years.
- Figure 17 shows how life expectancy has changed since the period 2001 to 2003. It should be noted that coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic led to increased mortality in 2020 and 2021, and the impact of this is seen in life expectancy estimates for 2020 to 2022.<sup>48</sup>
- Life expectancy data from the period 2018 to 2020 looked at the difference in life expectancy at birth between the least and most deprived areas within an area. In Babergh, this stood at 5.5 years for males and 3.1 years for females.

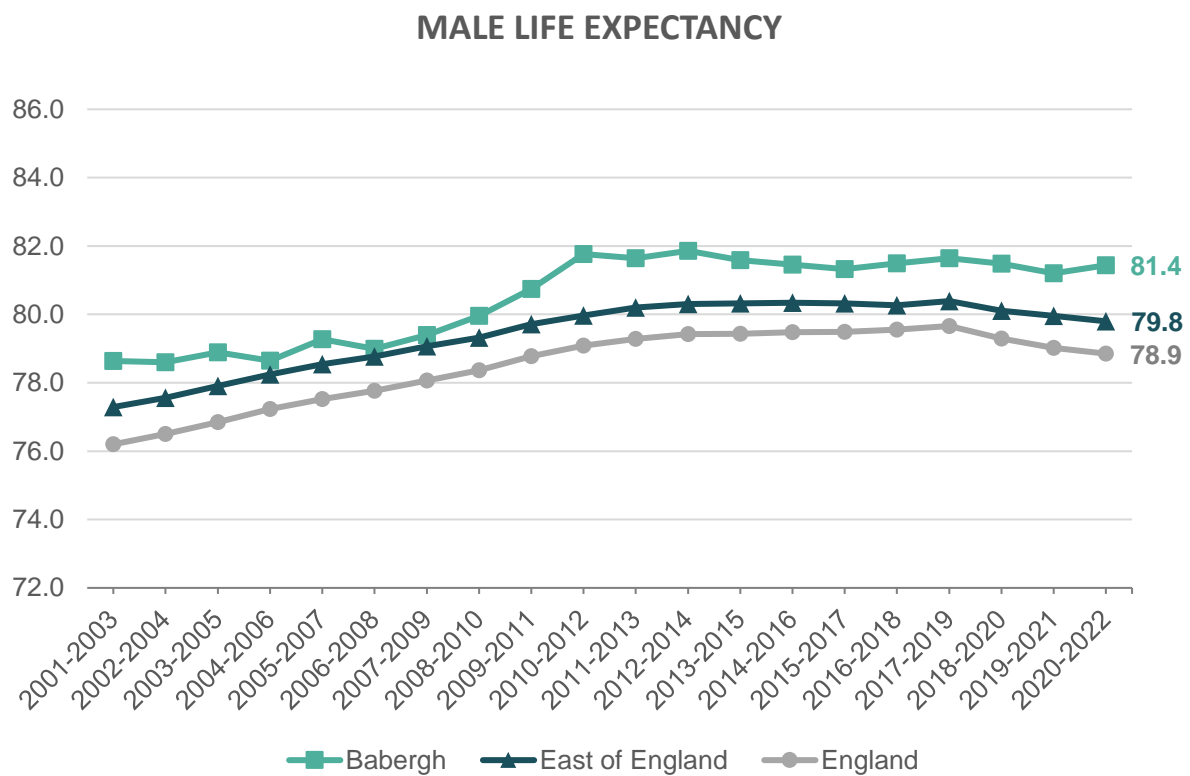
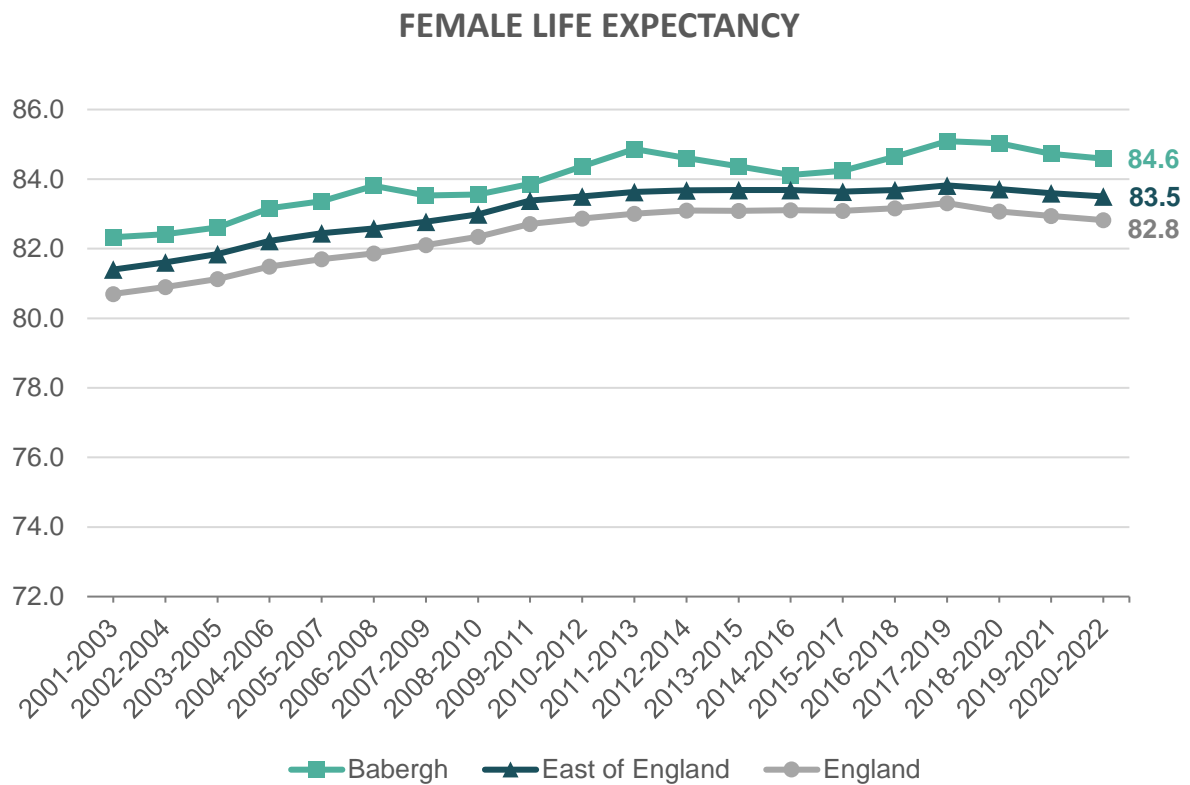
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information via an interviewer-administered face-to-face interview. In contrast, the Babergh Resident Survey and the Active Lives Survey both employ a web/postal self-completion survey. The presence of an interviewer has been shown to impact on how people respond, particularly for questions that might be deemed sensitive or personal, or where a particular response may be seen as socially desirable. As such, national and district-level (i.e. Babergh) personal wellbeing estimates provided by the APS will tend to be more positive compared with those delivered by the Babergh Resident Survey and Active Lives Survey. In addition, the larger sample size delivered by the Babergh Resident Survey means that confidence intervals (a range of values that describe the level of uncertainty around a survey estimate) are smaller than those for the APS estimates. For example, for 2022/23, the ONS estimate for life satisfaction in Babergh was a mean score of 7.68, based on a sample size of 80. Findings from the 2023 Babergh Resident Survey for life satisfaction were based on a sample size of 1,554 and an estimated effective sample size of around 900.

<sup>47</sup> Figures reflect mortality among those living in an area in each time period, rather than what will be experienced throughout life among those born in the area. The figures are not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area could actually expect to live, both because the mortality rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

<sup>48</sup> However, a fall in period life expectancy does not mean that a baby born in 2020 to 2022 will go on to live a shorter life than a baby born in 2017 to 2019; average lifespan will be determined by changes in mortality rates across their lifetime and if mortality rates improve, then period life expectancy will go back up.

**Figure 17: Life expectancy at birth by sex (2001-2003 to 2020-2022)**

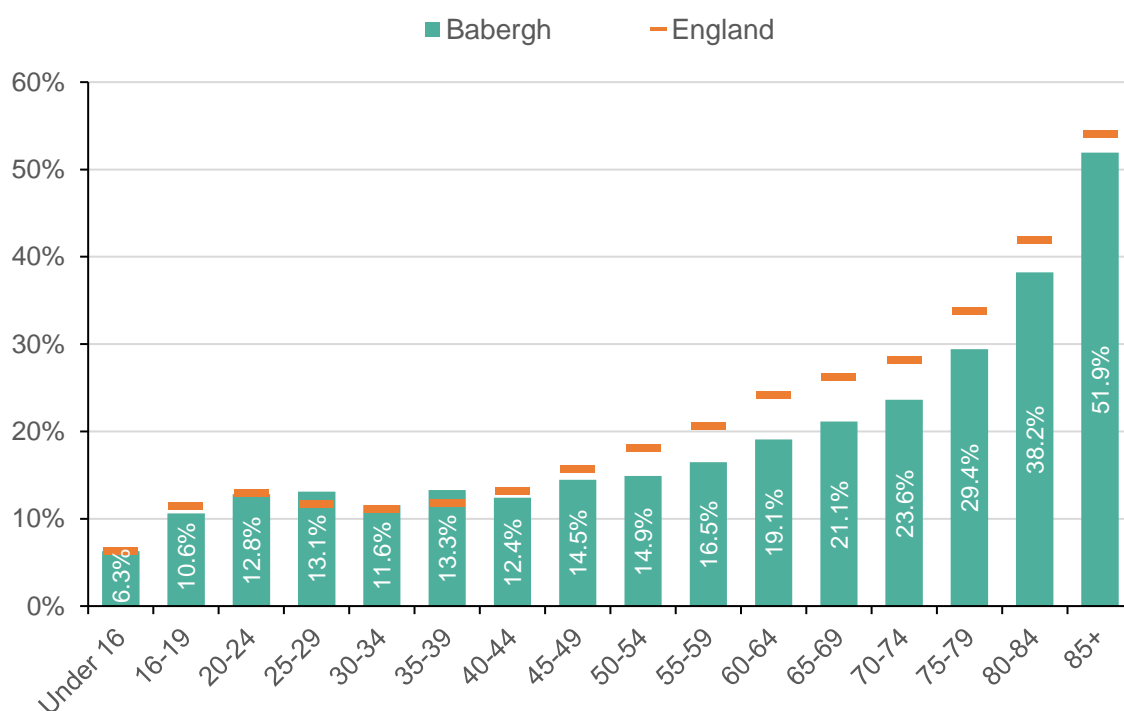


Source: Office for National Statistics

## Disability

- Census 2021 collected self-reported levels of disability, whereby people who assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses either ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ were considered disabled.<sup>49</sup>
- At the total level, 17.5% of Babergh residents of all ages were classed as disabled in 2021, with 6.7% indicating their day-to-day activities were limited ‘a lot’. This compared with 16.6% across the East of England (6.6% whose activities were limited ‘a lot’) and 17.3% across England (7.3% whose activities were limited ‘a lot’). However, Babergh’s older-than-average population should be noted in making these comparisons.
- Figure 18 shows the prevalence of disability among Babergh residents by age. Comparisons are shown with the national (England) average. These show that while the prevalence of disability among those aged under 50 broadly mirrored the national figures, disability prevalence between age 50-84 was at least 3.2 percentage points below the national average. The largest gap was seen at age 60-64 and 65-69, both 5.1 percentage points below the national comparator.

**Figure 18: Disability prevalence: percentage of people whose activities were limited ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’, by banded age (Census 2021)**



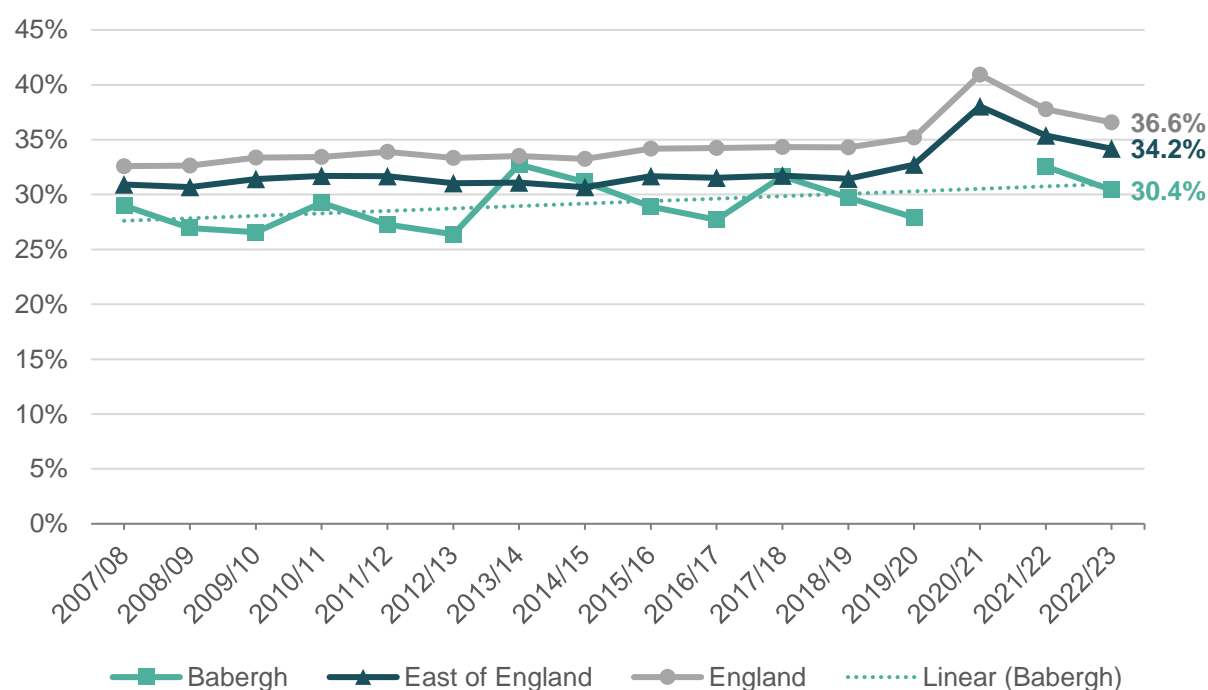
Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

<sup>49</sup> On Census Day (21 March 2021), people were asked “Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?”. If they answered “yes”, a further question “Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?” was asked. The response options were: “yes, a lot”, “yes, a little” and “not at all”. In line with the Equality Act (2010), people who assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses were considered disabled. Those who stated that they had a condition that did not limit their day-to-day activities or had no condition, were considered non-disabled.

## Overweight prevalence

- In 2022/23, 61.9% of adults in Babergh were classed as overweight or living with obesity<sup>50</sup>, broadly in line with regional and national data (64.8% across the East of England and 64.0% across England). Nationally, there has been an increase in the proportion of adults classed as overweight or obese of around three percentage points from 61.2% in 2015/16 to 64.0% in 2022/23. This increase is mirrored in the data for Babergh (58.0% in 2015/16 and 61.9% in 2022/23).
- The proportion of Year 6 children (aged 10 to 11 years) classed as overweight or living with obesity was below the regional and national average in 2022/23 (30.4% compared with 34.2% across the East of England and 36.6% in England). Since 2007, prevalence has increased broadly in line with the trajectory seen nationally and regionally (Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Proportion of Year 6 children (aged 10 to 11 years) classified as overweight or living with obesity (2007/08 – 2022/23)<sup>51</sup>**



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, using National Child Measurement Programme

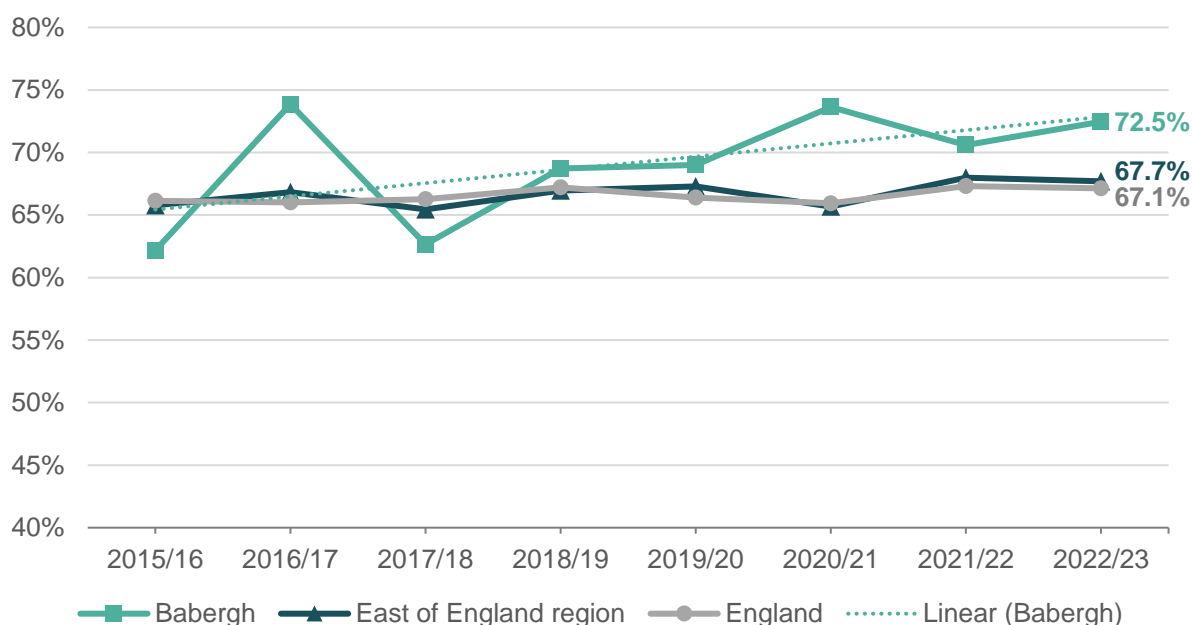
<sup>50</sup> Calculated from adjusted self-reported height and weight variables, and based on age-standardised data. Adults are defined as obese if their body mass index (BMI) is greater than or equal to 25kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) allow for fairer comparison between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure. Where Babergh's population is older than the national average, this allows for a fairer comparison against the national result.

<sup>51</sup> The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) collects height and weight measurements of children primarily in mainstream state-maintained schools in England. Local authority and region geographies are derived from the postcode of child residency. The start of the 2020/21 NCMP data collection was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic response. In March 2021 local authorities were asked to collect a representative 10% sample of data because it was not feasible to expect a full NCMP collection so late into the academic year. This sample has enabled national and regional estimates of children's weight status (including obesity prevalence) for 2020 to 2021 and contributes towards assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's physical health. Due to the reduced data collection in this period, local authority data is not available.

## Physical activity

- The UK Chief Medical Officer currently recommends that adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes (2½ hours) of moderate intensity activity (such as brisk walking or cycling); or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity (such as running); or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity (such as sprinting or stair climbing); or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.<sup>52</sup>
- Figure 20 shows the percentage of ‘physically active’ adults aged 19 and over who were active at moderate intensity for at least 150 minutes per week. The data suggests that, whilst there has been a moderate increase nationally in the proportion of physically active adults since 2015/16 (from 66.1% to 67.1% in 2022/23), Babergh has seen a greater improvement.<sup>53</sup> In 2022/23, 72.5% of adults aged 19+ were classed as ‘physically active’, compared with 67.7% across the East of England and 67.1% across England as a whole.

**Figure 20: Proportion of ‘physically active’ adults aged 19+ (2015/16 – 2022/23)**<sup>54</sup>



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), based on data from the Active Lives Survey

<sup>52</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report>

<sup>53</sup> It is noted that the year-on-year data for Babergh appears more variable than both the regional or national data, which - given the data are survey-based - are based on results from a much larger sample than local authority results (which for Babergh are based on c.500 respondents per annum). However, the longer-term trend suggests that the level of physical active adults in Babergh has improved over time above the national average.

<sup>54</sup> Sport England publishes a similar indicator using Active Lives Adult Survey data. The current Active Lives Adult Survey data reported by Sport England classifies adults as 16 and over, whereas the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) recommendation is based on those aged 19 and over. Sport England’s reported data also excludes gardening activity, which the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) include in this indicator, in accordance with CMO recommendations. The (broad) activities included in the estimates are grouped as sporting activities, fitness activities, cycling for leisure and sport, cycling for travel, walking for leisure, walking for travel, creative or artistic dance and gardening. The number of minutes presented is the moderate intensity equivalent minutes of activity, which consists of moderate activity plus double the number of vigorous minutes of activity.

- The percentage of adults aged 19 and over who were not active at moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes per week – classed as ‘physically inactive’ - stood at 18.5% in Babergh in 2022/23, compared with 21.5% across the East of England and 22.6% across England.<sup>55</sup>
- It is recommended that children and young people (5 to 18 years) are physically active for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week. In 2022/23, 50.9% of children in Babergh aged 5 to 16 were classed as physically active (that is, doing an average of at least 60 minutes moderate to vigorous intensity activity per day across the week), broadly in line with the figures for the East of England (48.3%) and England (47.0%).

## GP-to-patient ratios

- The funding of GP practices is complex and depends on various factors, including the expected clinical need and characteristics of the patient population. GP practices with a high proportion of people aged 65 years and over tend to have fewer patients per staff member. Less populated areas also tend to have fewer patients per GP compared with more urban areas.<sup>56</sup>
- In March 2024, there was one full-time equivalent (FTE) GP (including GPs in training and locums) for every 1,676 patients registered at GP surgeries in Babergh.<sup>57</sup> This compared with one GP (FTE) for every 1,858 patients registered across the East of England and one for every 1,699 patients registered across England.<sup>58</sup> Individual surgery ratios in Babergh ranged from between one GP (FTE) per 1,094 and one per 2,790 patients.
- Excluding GPs in training, there was one fully qualified GP (FTE) for every 2,083 patients registered at GP surgeries in Babergh. This compared with one fully-qualified GP (FTE) for every 2,430 patients registered across the East of England and one for every 2,295 patients registered across England. Individual surgery ratios in Babergh ranged from between one fully-qualified GP (FTE) per 1,262 and one per 2,790 patients.

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<sup>55</sup> As well as those classed as ‘physically active’ and ‘physically inactive’, adults who were active at moderate intensity for between 30-149 minutes per week were classed as ‘fairly active’. This group accounted for the remaining 9.0% of adults aged 19 and over.

<sup>56</sup> Office for National Statistics (2022) Trends in patient-to-staff numbers at GP practices in England, available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthcaresystem/articles/trends-in-patient-to-staff-numbers-at-gp-practices-in-england/2022>

<sup>57</sup> Based on analysis of practice-level staffing and patient data published by NHS Digital. Given NHS/health boundaries do not mirror local government authority boundaries, surgeries were identified as being in Babergh based on postcode. It should be noted that while the analysis includes surgeries within Babergh, these may serve some residents who live outside of the district. Similarly, some residents within the district may be registered at surgeries outside of the district.

<sup>58</sup> Based on published workforce tables at regional and national level. Within these, there were 9,661 (FTE) GPs in training in England in March 2024, of which 925 (FTE) were not classified by location. Therefore, while they were included in the calculations of the GP (FTE) to patient ratio for England, they were not included in the calculations for region. This means that the region (East of England) ratio - and potentially the district-level calculation for Babergh – may slightly underestimate the number of trainee GPs working in the area. This does not affect the ratios based on fully qualified GPs only.

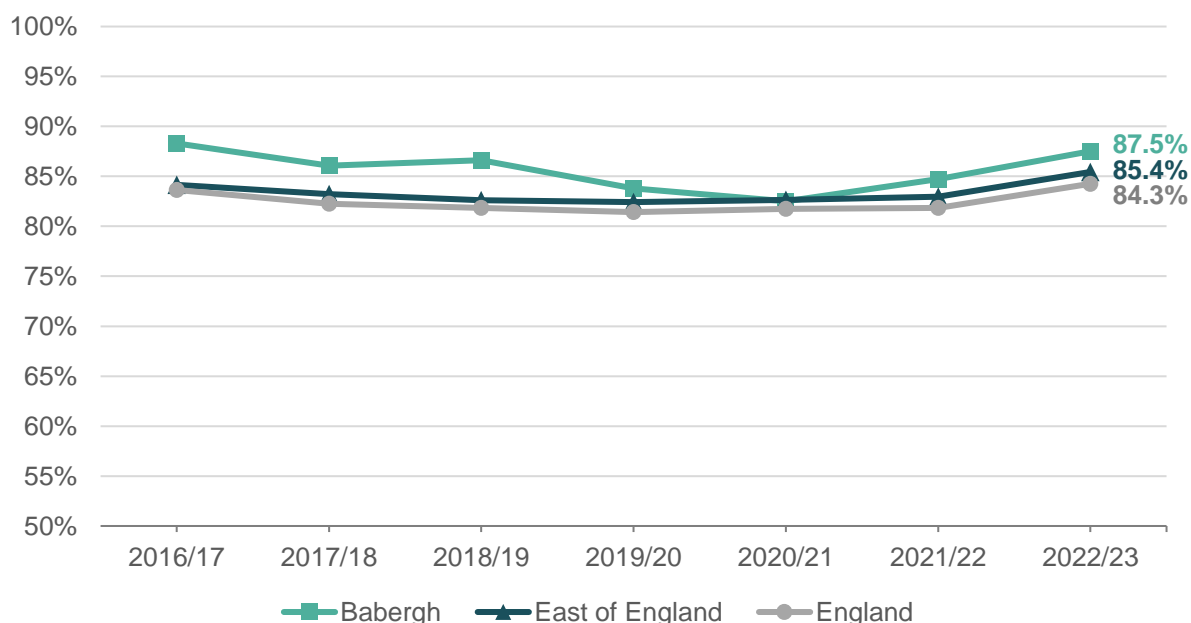


# Resilience

## Qualifications

- Figures 21 and 22 show educational attainment by age 19 for each of the following:
  - Level 2: five or more GCSEs grades 9-4 or an equivalent qualification
  - Level 3: two or more A levels or an equivalent qualification
- Age is based on age during the academic year, so if the learner is 19 in 2022/23 they will have turned 19 between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023. Most level 3 qualifications are achieved by age 18, meaning the 2022/23 age 19 cohort will have sat exams and received assessments in summer 2022.
- Local authority district figures are calculated based on where the pupil was learning at academic age 15 (rather than the home address of the learner). Figures are shown for state schools only.
- The cancellation of summer 2020 and 2021 exams and the alternate method of awarding grades affected pupil attainment statistics unlike previous years. The resulting increases in attainment at age 16 affect the level 2 statistics at age 19 for 2022/23. Behavioural changes at a school and pupil level will also likely have had some impact on attainment which should be borne in mind when making time-series comparisons.
- Figure 21 shows that, with the exception of 2020/21, the proportion of learners who were at a Babergh school aged 15 and who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades 9-4 by age 19, exceeded the regional and national averages since 2016/17. In 2022/23, 87.5% had done so by age 19, 2.1 percentage points above the East of England average and 3.2 points above the England average.

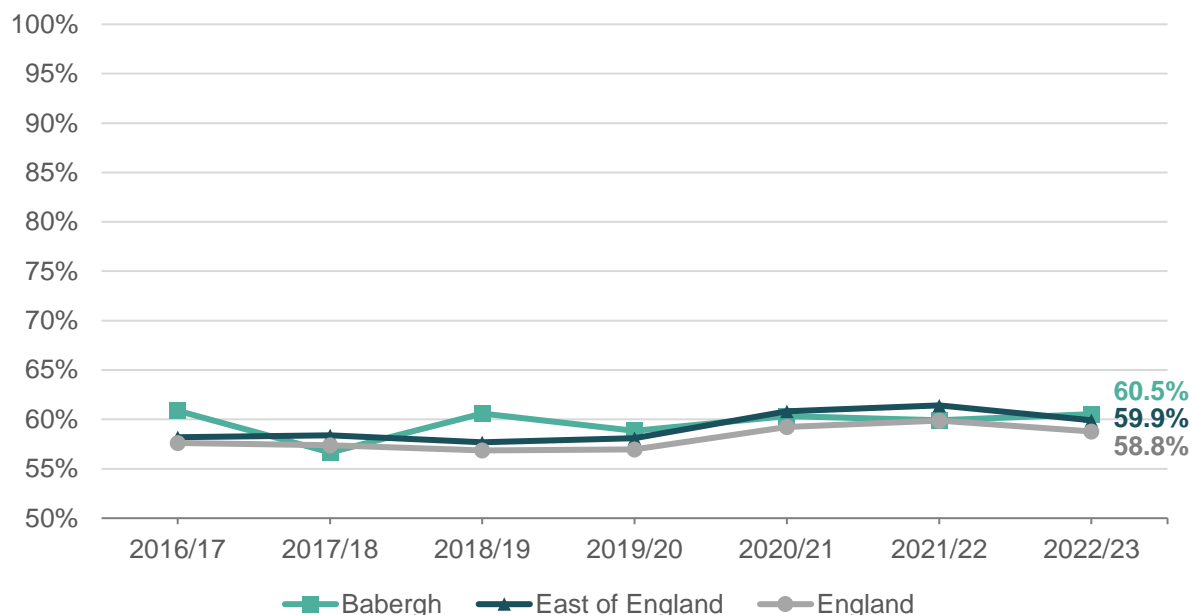
**Figure 21: Proportion of state school learners attaining full level 2 (five or more GCSEs at grades 9-4) by age 19 (academic years 2016/17 – 2022/23)**



Source: Department for Education

- Since 2018/19, the proportion of learners who were at a Babergh school aged 15 and who achieved two or more A levels (or equivalent) by age 19 remained fairly constant at between 58.8% and 60.6%. In 2022/23, the figure was 60.5%, just above the East of England (59.9%) and England (58.8%) percentages.

**Figure 22: Proportion of state school learners attaining full level 3 (two or more A levels or equivalent) by age 19 (academic years 2016/17 – 2022/23)**



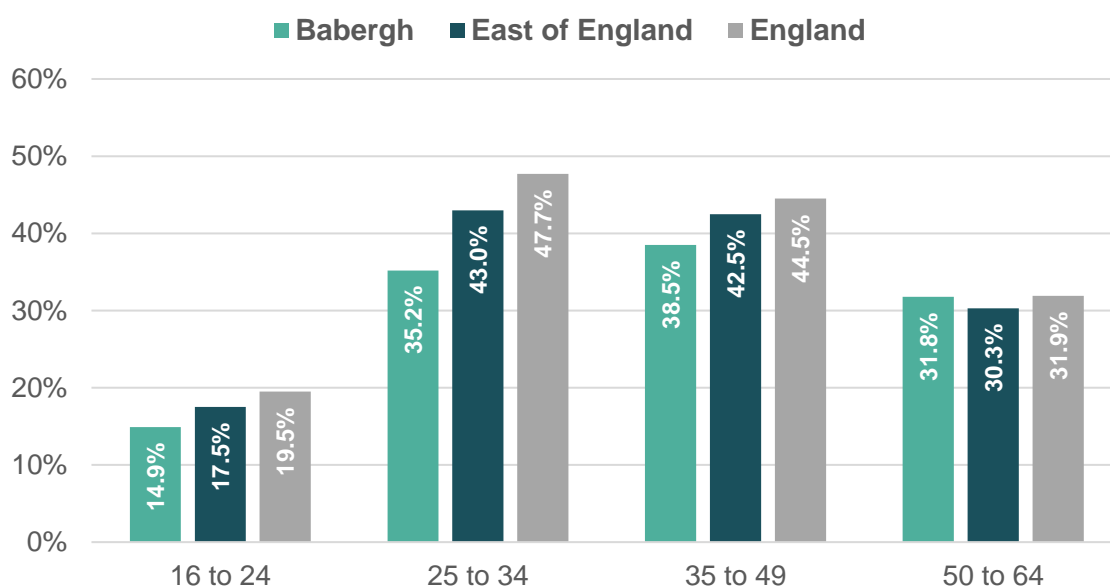
Source: Department for Education

- At Census 2021, just under a third (31.9%) of 16 to 64-year-olds resident in Babergh reported having a level 4 qualification (e.g. degree, NVQ level 4) or above (Table 10). This was below the proportion seen in both the East of England (34.8%) and England (37.1%).
- As shown by Figure 23, this was driven by a lower proportion of 16 to 49-year-olds with a level 4 qualification or above; the proportion of 50 to 64-year-olds in Babergh with a level 4 qualification or above was in line with the national average.
- At the same time, a lesser proportion of working age residents in Babergh had no qualifications: 9.6% of 16 to 64-year-olds, compared with 11.7% across the East of England and 12.4% across England.

**Table 10: Highest level of qualification held by 16 to 64-year-olds (Census 2021)**

	Babergh	East of England	England
No qualifications	9.6%	11.7%	12.4%
Level 1 and entry level qualifications	12.0%	11.1%	9.9%
Level 2 qualifications: 5 or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4) / NVQ level 2	18.5%	16.3%	14.8%
Level 3 qualifications: 2 or more A levels / NVQ level 3	21.3%	19.6%	19.5%
Level 4 qualifications or above: degree / NVQ level 4 or above	31.9%	34.8%	37.1%
Other: apprenticeships, vocational or work-related or other qualifications (level not stated/unknown)	6.8%	6.5%	6.3%

**Figure 23: Proportion with a Level 4 qualification or above by age group (Census 2021)**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

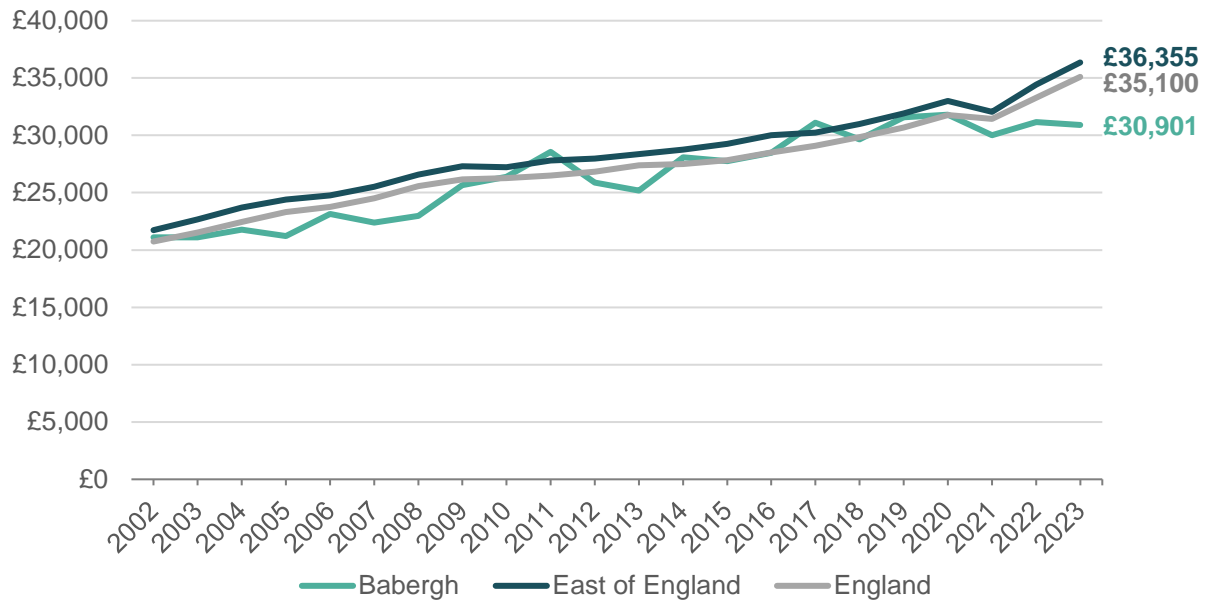
## Earnings

- Figures 24 and 25 shows the median gross annual full-time individual earnings<sup>59</sup>, for residence-based earnings (the earnings of the people who live in the area, though they may work elsewhere) and for workplace-based earnings (the earnings of those who work in the district, though they may live elsewhere).

<sup>59</sup> Gross earnings refer to that remuneration received by employees in return for employment before any benefits are added or tax deductions are made (including National Insurance contributions).

- Figure 24 shows that, while median residence-based earnings in Babergh tended to track the national figure between 2014-2020, median earnings have stalled despite an uplift regionally and nationally since 2021.

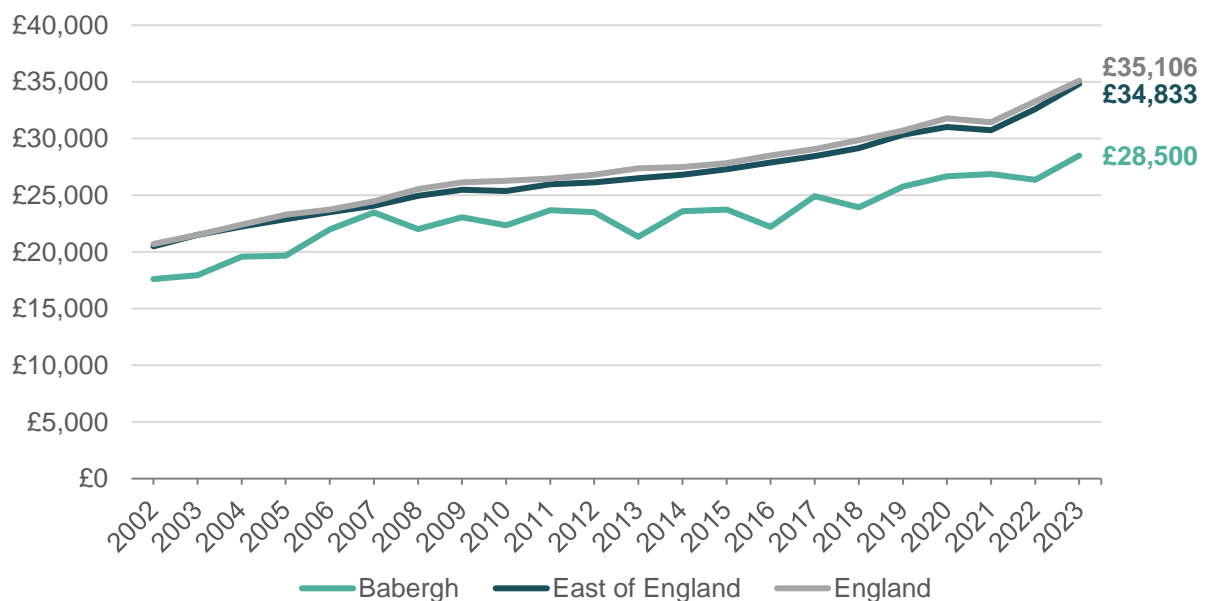
**Figure 24: Residence-based gross annual full-time earnings (median) (2002-2023)**



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- Figure 25 shows that, following 2007 – where the gap between Babergh and England had closed to within a thousand pounds – workplace-based earnings in Babergh stagnated for around a decade before increasing again. In 2023, median workplace-based earnings in Babergh stood at £28,500, around £6,500 below the regional and national figures (£34,833 and £35,106 respectively).

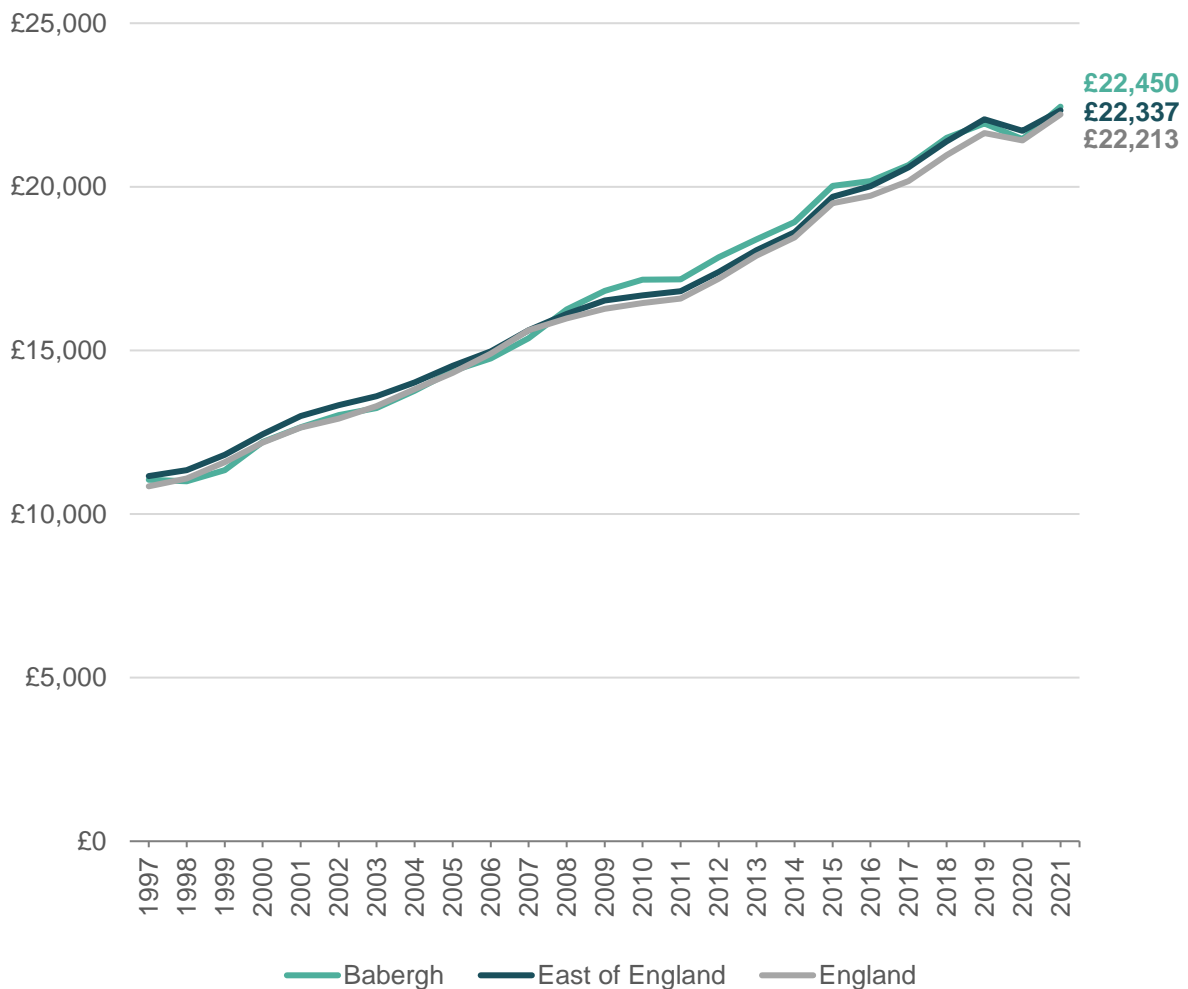
**Figure 25: Workplace-based gross annual full-time earnings (median) (2002-2023)**



## Gross disposable income

- Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that all the individuals in the household sector have available for spending or saving after they have paid direct and indirect taxes and received any direct benefits. GDHI is a concept that is seen to reflect the “material welfare” of the household sector.<sup>60</sup>
- Figure 26 shows GDHI per person (including children and retired people) for Babergh, alongside the East of England and England. Since 1997, GDHI per person in Babergh has remained within £500 of the regional figure. Between 2009 and 2018, GDHI per person was at least £450 more than the national figure.
- In 2021, GDHI per person was similar in Babergh (£22,450), the East of England (£22,337) and England (£22,213).

**Figure 26: Gross disposable household income (GDHI) per person (1997-2021)<sup>61</sup>**



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

<sup>60</sup> The household sector includes residents of traditional households, as well as those living in communal establishments.

<sup>61</sup> Gross Disposable Household Income (or GDHI) estimates are produced at current prices, which means the effect of inflation has not been removed.

## Home ownership

- Data from Census 2021 showed that a higher proportion of households in Babergh owned their home outright (43.4%) than across Suffolk (38.6%), the East of England (34.6%) and England (32.5%). A further 28.3% owned their home with a mortgage/loan or shared ownership (Table 11).
- While a lower proportion of households were renting privately in Babergh (15.0%), this equated to around 6,000 private-rented households in the district.

**Table 11: Household tenure (Census 2021)**

Tenure	Babergh	Suffolk	East of England	England
Owned outright	43.4%	38.6%	34.6%	32.5%
Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	28.3%	27.5%	31.6%	29.8%
Social-rented	13.3%	15.0%	15.5%	17.1%
Private-rented or lives rent free	15.0%	18.9%	18.3%	20.6%

Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## Property prices

- Babergh’s median property price (£331,250 in the twelve months to September 2023), while just below the regional average is significantly above the median prices for Suffolk and England (Table 12), and highest of all the Suffolk districts.<sup>62</sup>

**Table 12: Median property prices (12 months ending September 2023)**

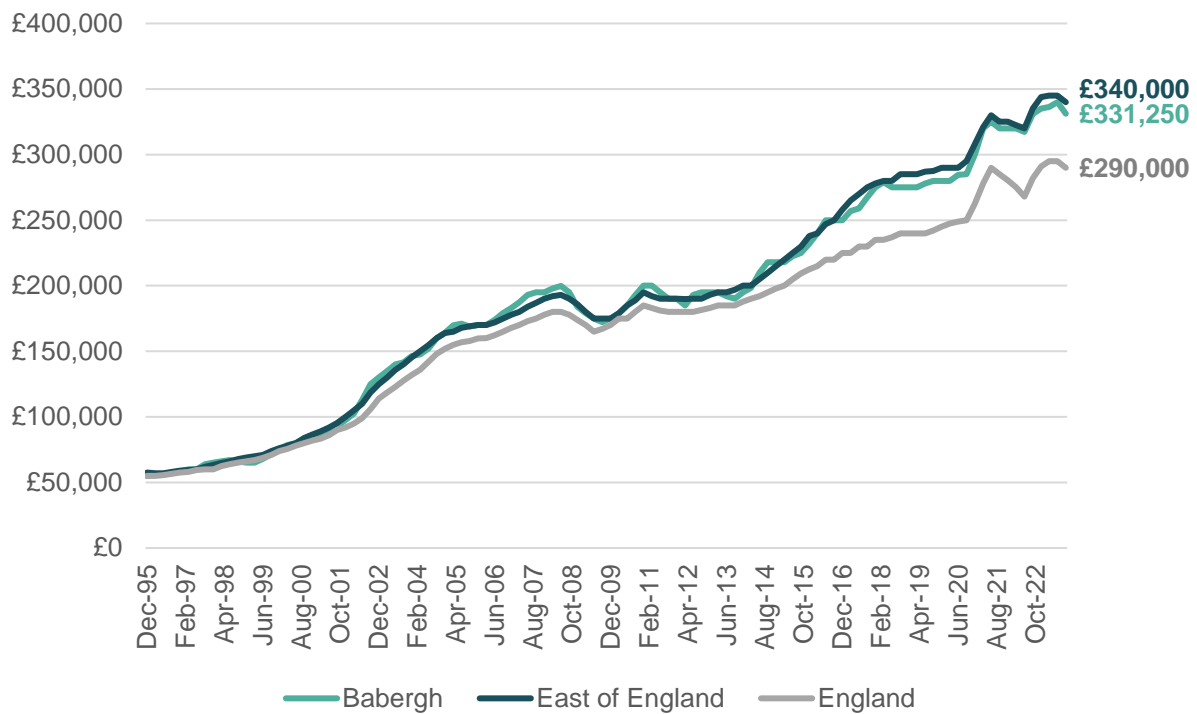
Property type	Babergh	Suffolk	East of England	England
All house types	£331,250	£285,000	£340,000	£290,000
Detached houses	£460,000	£423,500	£478,000	£440,000
Semi-detached houses	£308,000	£275,000	£350,000	£273,000
Terraced houses	£255,000	£230,000	£305,000	£237,500
Flats or maisonettes	£162,500	£150,000	£205,650	£230,000

Source: ONS House Price Statistics for Small Areas

- Median property prices in Babergh have historically tracked the regional East of England median (Figure 27). During the period 2014-18, the median property price in Babergh and the East of England grew at a faster rate than the national average. Despite rapid fluctuations during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, median property prices have continued their longer-term upward trend.

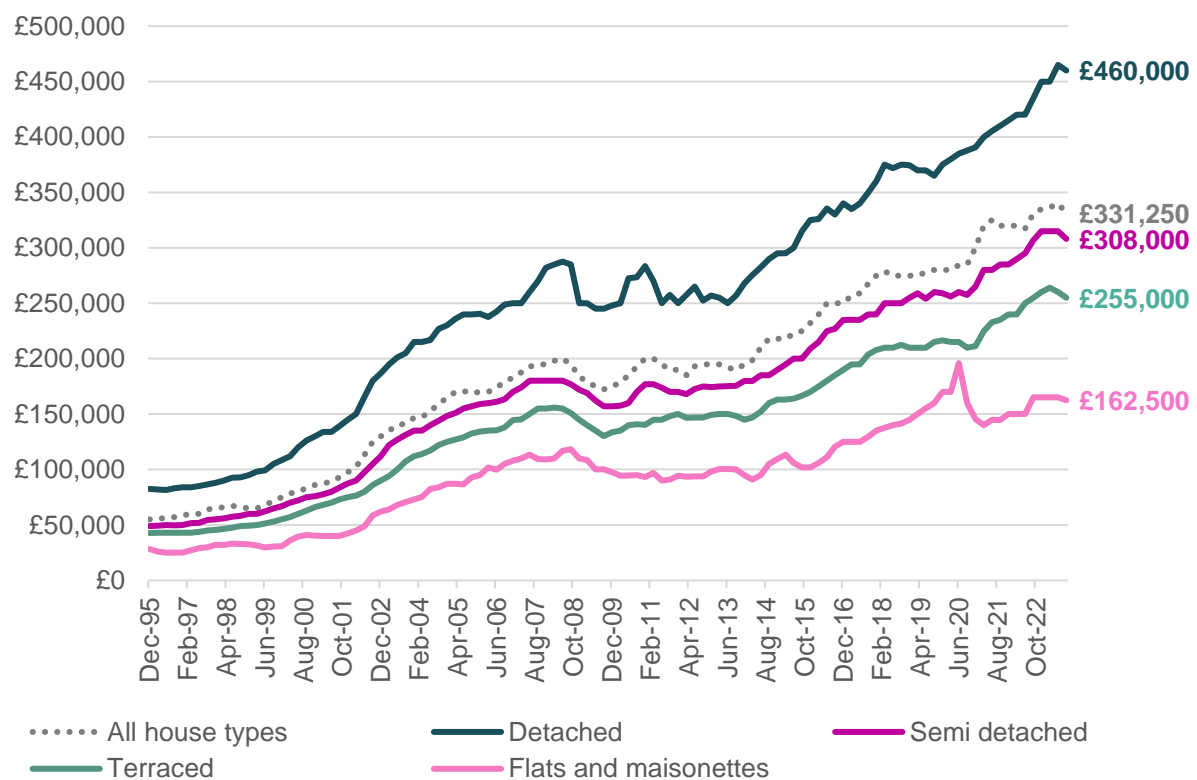
<sup>62</sup> The House Price Statistics for Small Areas data used here are not mix adjusted, so price variations may be a combination of true price changes and differences in the mix of housing types and trends.

**Figure 27: Median property prices (12 months ending March 2023)**



Source: ONS House Price Statistics for Small Areas

**Figure 28: Median property prices in Babergh by property type (12 months ending March 2023)**

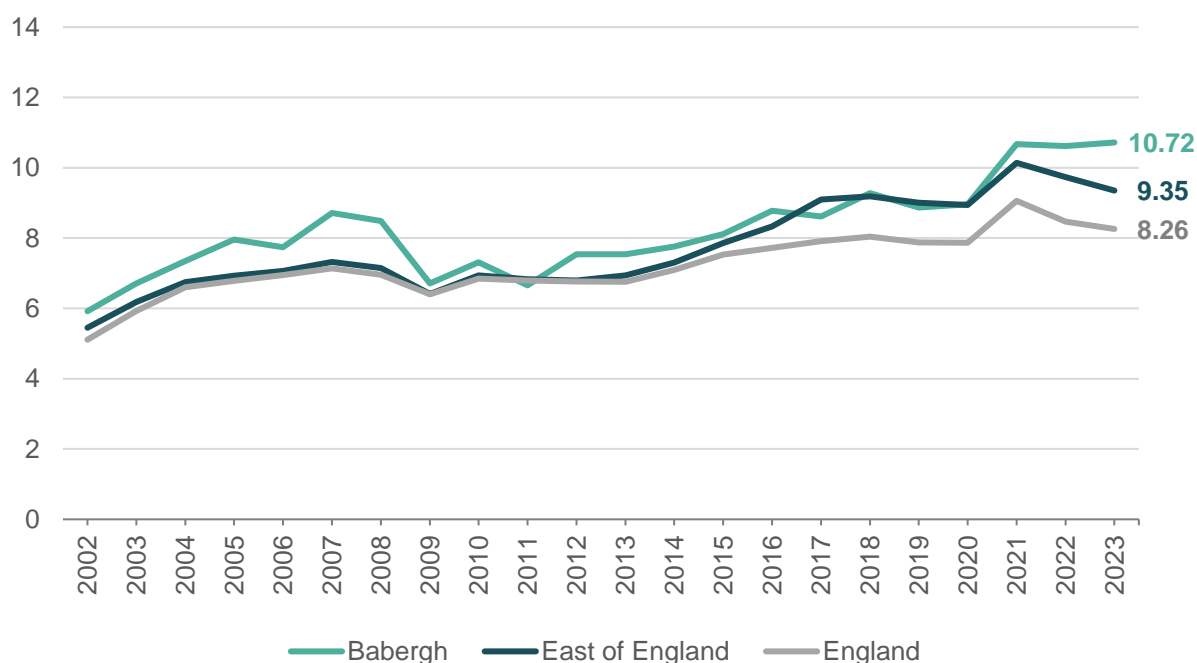


Source: ONS House Price Statistics for Small Areas

## Housing affordability

- Housing affordability ratios are calculated by dividing median house prices by median gross annual full-time earnings<sup>63</sup> to create a ratio. A larger number reflects a less affordable area.
- In Babergh, based on residence-based earnings (the earnings of the people who live in the area, though they may work elsewhere) median house prices were 10.72 times median earnings in 2023, compared with 9.35 across the East of England and 8.26 across England (Figure 29).
- With median residence-based earnings in Babergh having remained below 2020 levels, the housing affordability ratio has remained similar between 2021-23, despite decreasing regionally and nationally.

**Figure 29: Ratio of house price to residence-based earnings (median) (2002-2023)**



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- When based on workplace-based earnings (the earnings of those who work in the district, though they may live elsewhere) house prices were 11.62 times earnings in 2023, compared with 9.76 across the East of England and 8.26 across England.

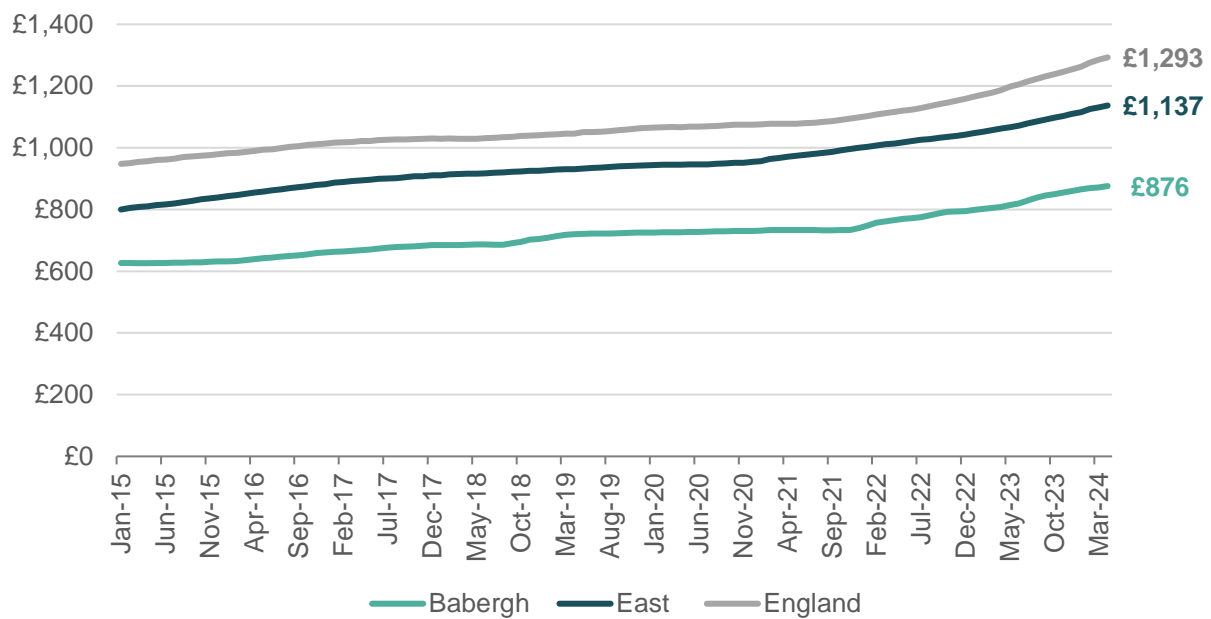
<sup>63</sup> Gross earnings refer to that remuneration received by employees in return for employment before any benefits are added or tax deductions are made (including National Insurance contributions).



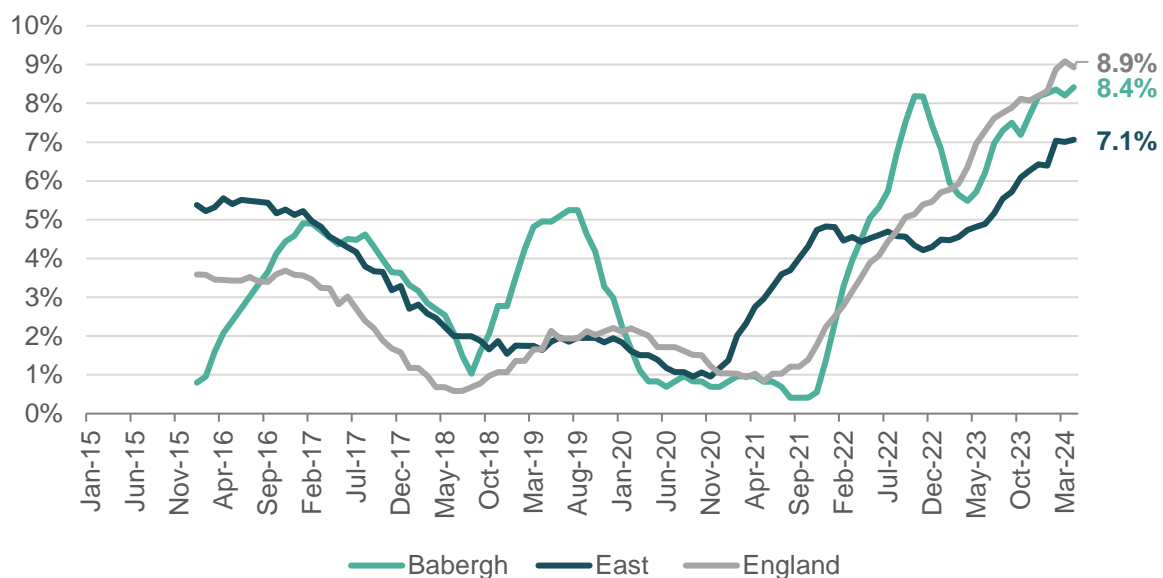
## Rental costs

- Between April 2019 and December 2021 (which included the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions), average private rents in Babergh remained relatively stable, increasing just 2.8% from £720 to £740 per month. Since December 2021, the average private rent increased 18.4% to £876 in April 2024 (Figure 30), similar to the percentage increase seen nationally during the same period.
- This is highlighted by Figure 31, which shows the annual inflation rates for average private rents, with annual inflation reaching 8.4% in Babergh in April 2024, its highest mark since November 2022 (where it reached 8.2%).

**Figure 30: Average monthly private rent (January 2015 – April 2024)**



**Figure 31: Average monthly private rent annual inflation (January 2016 – April 2024)**

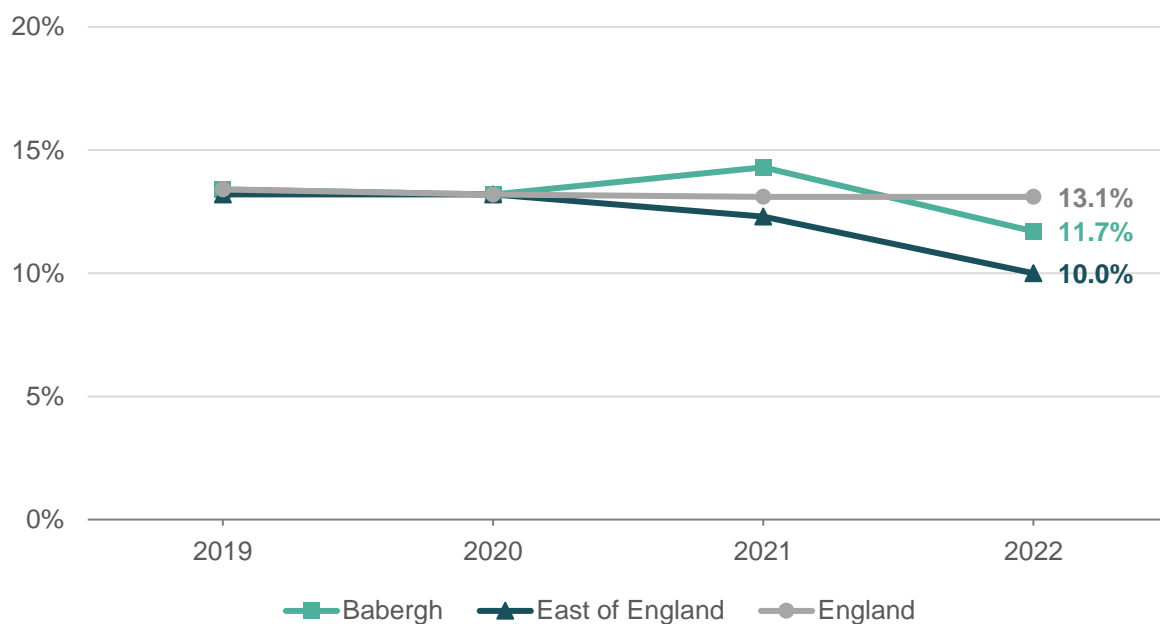


Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## Fuel poverty

- Census 2021 found that over half of properties in Babergh (55.1%) used mains gas as a single source of heating, although this was lower than the proportion across Suffolk (61.9%) and England (74.0%).<sup>64</sup> A higher proportion of properties in Babergh instead used oil as a single source of heating (19.6% compared with 13.2% in Suffolk and 3.2% in England), with electric heating the third most common type of heating (used by 8.9% of households as a single source of heating).
- Based on the latest available data, 4,815 or 11.7% of households in Babergh were classed as being in fuel poverty in 2022.<sup>65</sup> This represented a decrease – also seen regionally - since 2021, where 5,831 households (14.3%) were classed as being in fuel poverty.

**Figure 32: Proportion of households in fuel poverty (2019-2022)**



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

<sup>64</sup> Census 2021 separately classified households that had two or more types of central heating, however these were not broken down by energy type. Therefore, some of these households (11.2% in Babergh) could have had gas central heating also.

<sup>65</sup> Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator. Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below and when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line. As such, there are 3 important elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor: household income, household energy requirements and fuel prices.

## Children in low-income families

- A household is said to be in relative low income if their equivalised income<sup>66</sup> is below 60% of median income in the reference year, while they are in absolute low income if their equivalised income is below 60% of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation.
- In 2022/23, 2,011 children aged under 16 (13.2% of this age group) were considered to be living in relative low-income families before housing costs in Babergh. This compared with 13.8% in the East of England and 20.1% across the United Kingdom.<sup>67</sup>
- A lower number (1,568 or 10.3%) were considered to be living in absolute low-income families before housing costs (compared with 11.0% in the East of England and 15.9% across the United Kingdom).

## Homelessness

- During the 2022-23 financial year, there were 346 households in Babergh assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty<sup>68</sup>, including 126 with dependent children. This represented an increase from 296 households in 2021-22.
- Of the 346 households in Babergh assessed as being owed a homelessness duty, 223 were threatened with homelessness (compared with 205 in 2021-22) and 123 were already homeless (91 in 2021-22).
- The total number of households in Babergh owed a homelessness duty equated to 8.3 households per thousand, below the rates for both the East of England (10.9 per 1,000) and England (12.4 per 1,000).

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<sup>66</sup> Equivalisation adjusts incomes for family size and composition, taking an adult couple with no children as the reference point.

<sup>67</sup> The statistics are a measure of children and cannot be used to obtain the number of low-income families. Due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on these statistics, the Department for Work and Pensions advise caution when using the data for financial year ending 2023, particularly when making comparisons with previous years. Therefore, figures are only shown here for 2022/23. An alternative measure of children living in poverty is also produced by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University (for the End Child Poverty Coalition), which calculates rates after housing costs. The latest available data at the time of publication was for 2021/22 where it was estimated that in 2021/22, 4,027 or 22.9% of children in Babergh aged 0-15 were living in relative poverty, after housing costs.

<sup>68</sup> Based on those owed a prevention or relief duty following an initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed. Prevention duties include any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation.

## Data sources

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
Overview	Setting	Rural/urban classification	2011 Rural Urban Classification	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
		Deprivation	Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
	Population	Population by age / population density	Mid-year population estimates (mid-2022)	Office for National Statistics
		Population projections	2018-based subnational population projections for England	Office for National Statistics
	Household dwellings	Number of households	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Number of dwellings / vacant dwellings	Live tables on dwelling stock (including vacants)	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
		Accommodation type / number of bedrooms	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Connectivity	Journey times to key services	Journey time statistics (2019)	Department for Transport
		Walking for travel	Participation in walking and cycling (local authority rates): Proportion of adults who walk, by purpose, frequency, and local authority, England, November 2015 to November 2022	Department for Transport
		Household car/van ownership	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Broadband coverage	Local broadband information	thinkbroadband
	Businesses	Number of enterprises (by size and industry)	Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) (2015-2023)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)
		Employment by industry	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2022)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
Climate change and environment	Greenhouse gas emissions	Territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates	UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics (2005-2021)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Domestic energy efficiency	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions for dwellings	Median estimated Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions (England and Wales, all records up to financial year ending March 2023)	Office for National Statistics
		Energy Performance Certificate ratings	Dwellings with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, all records up to financial year ending March 2023	Office for National Statistics
	Renewable electricity generation	Number of renewable electricity generating sites / capacity and generation	Regional renewable statistics: Renewable electricity by local authority (2014-2022)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Plug-in and electric vehicles	Plug-in vehicles	Licensed plug-in vehicles at the end of the quarter by body type, fuel type, keepership and upper and lower tier local authority (Q4 2009 - Q3 2023)	Department for Transport / Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
		Electric vehicle charging points	Electric vehicle charging device statistics (April 2024)	Department for Transport / Zapmap
	Household waste and recycling	Collected household waste per person / household waste recycling rates	Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics - Local Authority data (2022-23)	Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
	Biodiversity	Wildlife sites and biodiversity designations	Compiled from Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service data, Ramsar Sites Information Service data and internal GIS data (June 2023, updated April 2024)	Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, Ramsar Sites Information Service, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Tree canopy cover (district)	Treeconomics tree canopy cover assessment of Babergh and Mid Suffolk (2021)	Treeconomics / Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Tree canopy cover (national)	UK ward canopy cover, March 2023 dataset (data collected 2018-22)	Forestry Commission

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
Community strength and wellbeing	Local area perceptions	Local area satisfaction, pride and belonging (district results)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Resident Survey 2022 and 2023	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Local area satisfaction and belonging (national results)	Community Life Survey 2023	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
	Community safety and crime	Overall crime rate	Number / rate of crimes 12 month rolling count (May 2023 – April 2024)	data.police.uk (data sourced via Suffolk Observatory)
		Perceptions of safety during the day/after dark	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Resident Survey 2023	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
	Volunteering	Formal volunteering (district results)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Resident Survey 2023	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Formal volunteering (national results)	Community Life Survey (2023/14 – 2023)	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
		Formal volunteering (Essex district results)	Essex Resident Survey 2023	Essex County Council
	Personal wellbeing	Self-reported personal wellbeing (district results)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Resident Survey 2023	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Self-reported personal wellbeing (national results)	Active Lives Survey (Nov 2022 – Nov 2023)	Sport England
	Life expectancy	Life expectancy	Life expectancy for local areas in England, Northern Ireland and Wales: between 2001 to 2003 and 2020 to 2022	Office for National Statistics
		Life expectancy inequality	Slope index of inequality (2018-2020)	Office for Health Improvements and Disparities (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)
	Disability	Disabled in line with the Equality Act (2010)	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Overweight prevalence	Proportion of adults classified as overweight or obese	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), based on data from the Active Lives Survey (Sport England)	Office for Health Improvement (data sourced via OHID Fingertips Obesity Profile)

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
		Prevalence of Year 6 children classified as overweight or obese	National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) 2022/2023	NHS England (data sourced via OHID Fingertips Obesity Profile)
	Physical activity	Proportion of physically active and physically inactive adults aged 19+	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), based on data from the Active Lives Survey (Sport England)	Office for Health Improvement (data sourced via OHID Fingertips Physical Activity Profile)
		Proportion of physically active children aged 5-16	Active Lives Children and Young People Survey 2022/23	Sport England (data sourced via OHID Fingertips Physical Activity Profile)
	GP-to-patient ratios	GP-to-patients ratios	General Practice Workforce data (March 2024)	NHS Digital
Resilience	Qualifications	Educational attainment by age 19	Level 2 and 3 attainment by age 19 (academic year 2022/23)	Department for Education
		Highest level of qualification (16 to 64-year-olds)	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Earnings	Residence-based and gross annual full-time individual earnings (median)	House price to residence-based earnings ratio (2002-2023)	Office for National Statistics
		Workplace-based and gross annual full-time individual earnings (median)	House price to workplace-based earnings ratio (2002-2023)	Office for National Statistics
	Gross disposable income	Gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head	Regional gross disposable household income (GDHI): all ITL regions (1997-2021)	Office for National Statistics
	Home ownership	Household tenure	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Property prices	Median property prices	House Price Statistics for Small Areas (HPSSAs) median price paid for administrative geographies (year ending Dec-95 to Sep-23)	Office for National Statistics
	Housing affordability	Ratio of house price to residence-based earnings (median)	House price to residence-based earnings ratio (2002-2023)	Office for National Statistics

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
		Ratio of house price to workplace-based earnings (median)	House price to workplace-based earnings ratio (2002-2023)	Office for National Statistics
	Rental costs	Average monthly private rent	Average private rent price and annual inflation, local authorities in England and Wales and Broad Rental Market Areas in Scotland, January 2015 to April 2024	Office for National Statistics
	Fuel poverty	Home heating	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Fuel poverty	Sub-regional fuel poverty 2024 (2022 data)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Children in low-income families	Children in relative and absolute low-income families	Children in Low Income Families: local area statistics, United Kingdom, financial years ending (FYE) 2015 to 2023	Department for Work and Pensions
	Homelessness	Number of households assessed as homeless	Statutory homelessness: detailed local authority-level tables (April 2022 - March 2023)	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities