

The Banbridge Place Plan

Statistical Profile

November 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Place shaping improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the 'place', ensuring aspirations of the community are being realised. It will also help build plans for a place in which local communities are integral to its development and delivery.

Working together with local people and stakeholders, the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Community Planning Strategic Partnership will aim to unlock innovation and change to improve the quality of life in our places across the borough for the benefit of all.

The "Connected" Community Plan is the first for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and covers the period 2017-2030 with ongoing review. The vision for Connected is to "have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning". Connected has three strategic themes – Community, Economy and Place and each of these have three long term outcomes. At the heart of everything are three cross-cutting themes – Connectivity, Equality and Sustainability. The strategic themes are defined as follows:

COMMUNITY

We live in a caring and safe borough, where people lead healthy, fulfilling lives and take pride in shaping, nurturing and enriching community life.

ECONOMY

We are an internationally renowned destination – our competitive industries, productivity and outward facing economy provides the global platform to attract, develop and maintain talent, investment and high growth opportunities.

PLACE

The borough is a place of discovery, where unique cultural and natural assets are cherished and people are inspired to be creative, to grow and to flourish.

In order to begin the place shaping development process, we need to ascertain a baseline and a statistical profile of the 'place' to help us understand the place, its context, the place offering, asset strengths, gaps and challenges. This report provides details on the Banbridge place as much as possible.

The data within this document have been grouped to reflect the themes of Connected – community, economy and place.

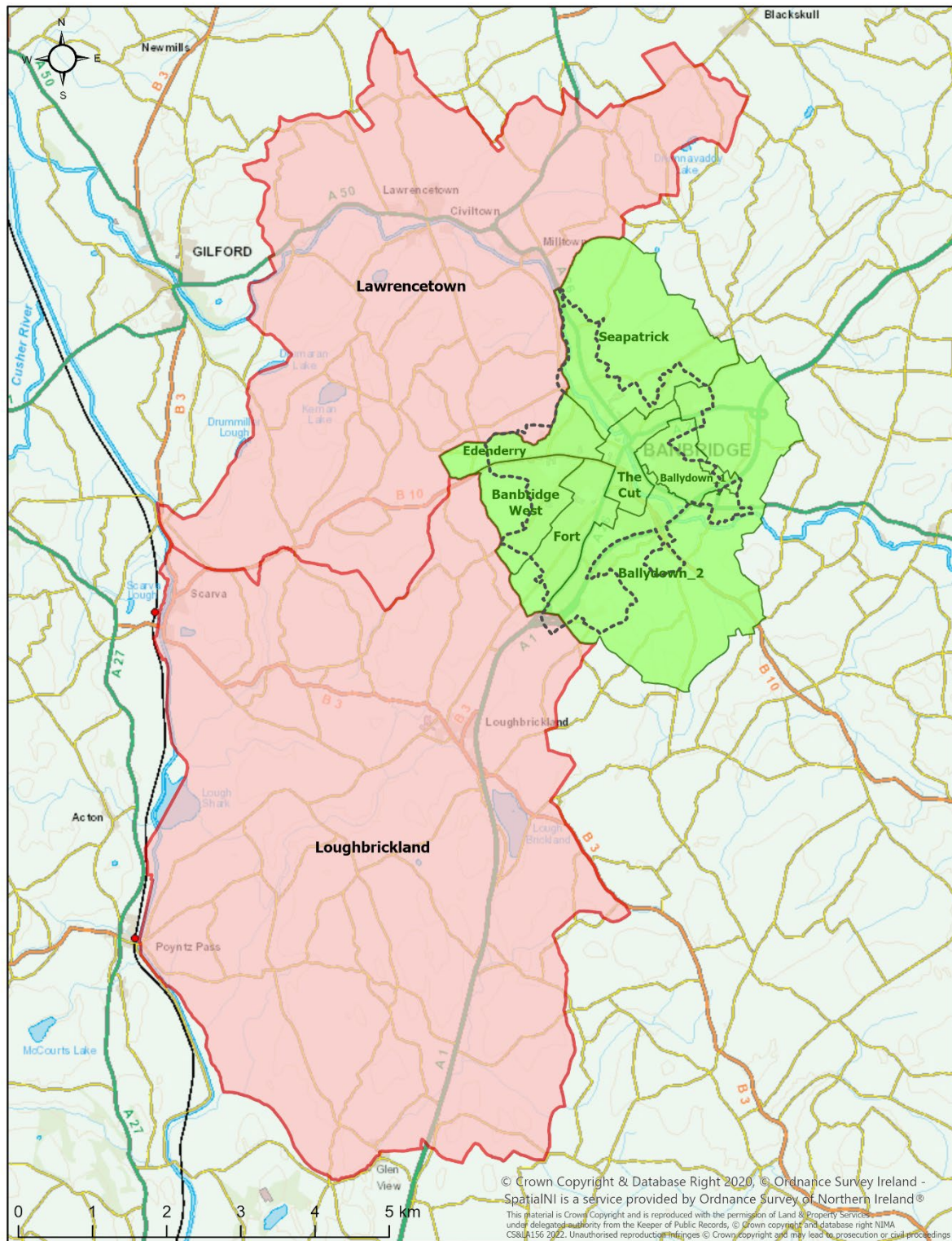
Geography

The boundary for the Place Plan study will be indicatively determined by the Settlement Development Limit (SDL) with the town centre boundary at the core of the study. However, information on settlements is very limited, with most data at this level only available from the Census. Where data at settlement level is not available, we will report statistics at various geographical levels in order to present the information at the lowest possible level for the most recent year available.

Settlement level data from the 2021 Census will be reported where available. Where data is not available at settlement level, in order to provide the most up to date information, we will also present data on a 'Banbridge Proxy Area' which will be made up of the Super Output Area's (SOA) that cover the Banbridge Settlement. It should be noted, however, that these cover a greater area than the settlement. The SOA's we have determined as making up the Banbridge Proxy Area are:

- Ballydown_1
- Ballydown_2
- Banbridge West
- Edenderry
- Fort
- Seapatrick
- The Cut

These SOAs are shown in the following map, along with the Banbridge Settlement boundary. As you will see on the map there are a total of 9 SOA's which are fully or partially included within the boundary of the SDL. Those SOA's highlighted in red have been excluded from the 'Banbridge Proxy Area' as there is only a very small section of the SOA that falls within the boundary of the SDL. Those SOA's highlighted in green have been included in the Proxy Area and while there are large sections of some of these SOA's that fall outside the settlement boundary, the majority of the houses and thus population resides within the boundary limit and so we felt it was fair to include this in the proxy area.



Legend

- BB Included SOA's
- Not included SOA's
- Banbridge Settlement Development Limit

Banbridge Super Output Areas



Figure 1: Super Output Areas in the Banbridge Settlement Area

To get an idea of the accuracy of this proxy level, we compare the 2021 population for the Settlement Area with the 2020 mid-year population estimates for the Proxy Area. The Proxy Area has a population just 2.9% higher than the Settlement Area so should be a fairly accurate representation of the area identified for this study.

2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates	
Ballydown_1	2,283
Banbridge West	3,211
Edenderry	2,748
Fort	2,339
The Cut	1,747
Ballydown_2	3,192
Seapatrick	2,391
Banbridge Proxy Area	17,911
Banbridge Settlement (Census 2021)	17,400
Difference	511
% Difference	2.9%

Table 1: Census 2021 population data for Banbridge Settlement Area and 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates for Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Census 2021 & 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates, NISRA.

Where it is not possible to have information presented at any lower geographical level, District Electoral Area (DEA) level data has been used. The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is made up of seven DEA's – Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Cushier, Lagan River, Lurgan and Portadown. Banbridge Settlement Area obviously falls within the Banbridge DEA.

In some cases, data will only be available at Local Government District (LGD) level and so information will be presented for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough overall.

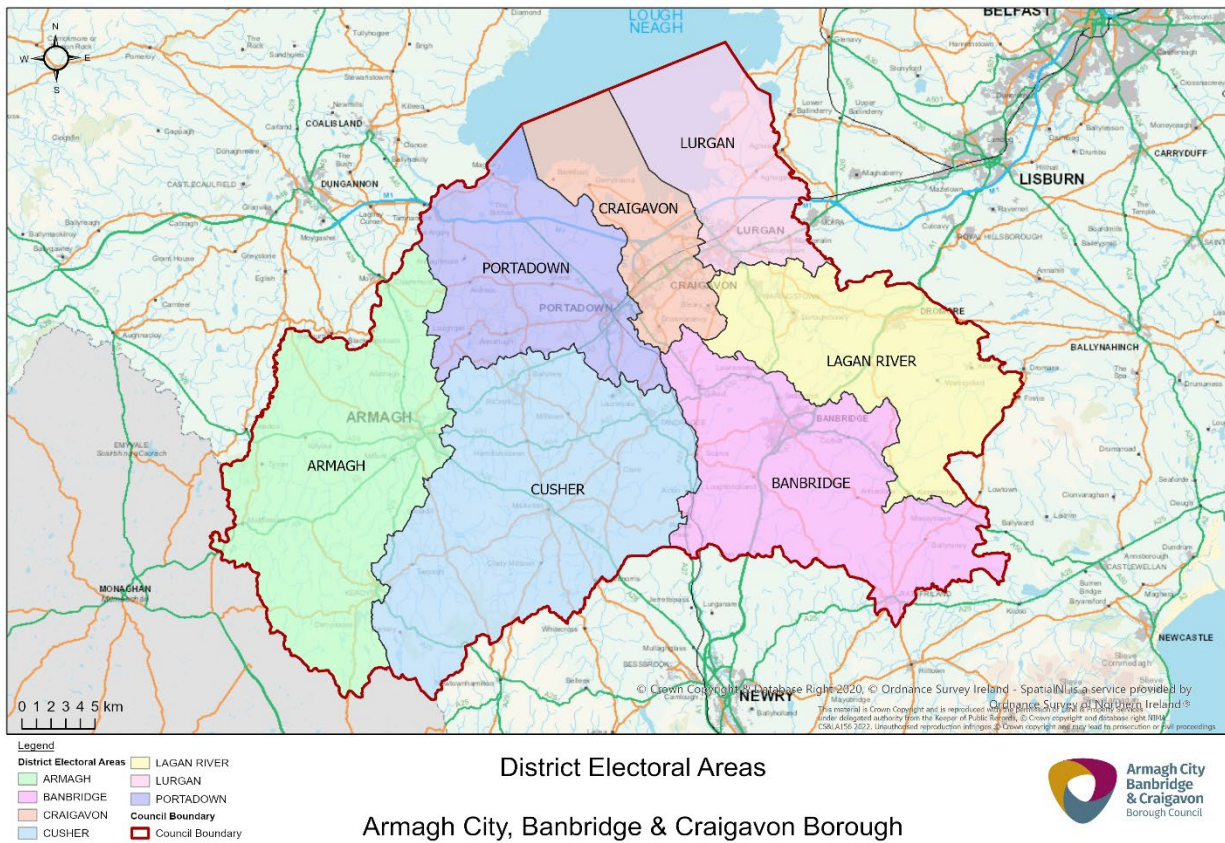


Figure 2: District Electoral Areas in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

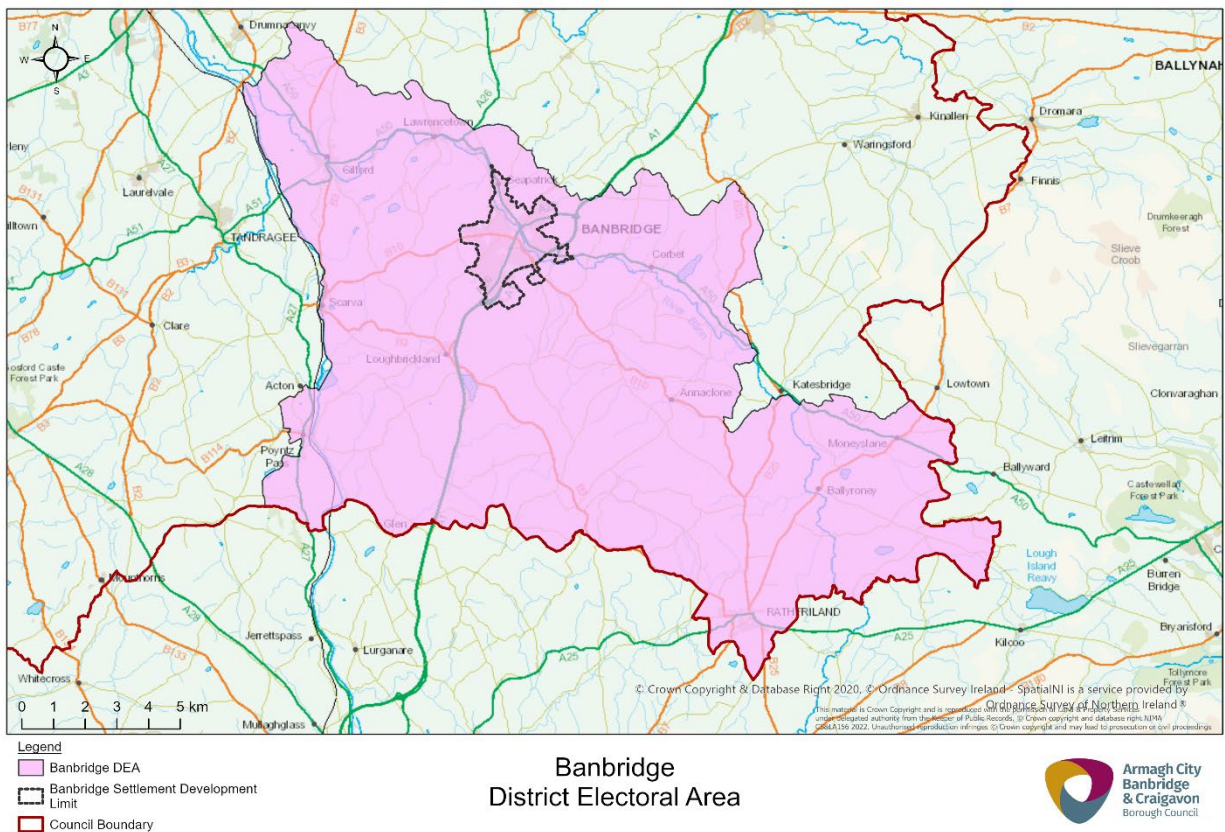


Figure 3: Banbridge District Electoral Area

COMMUNITY

Population

Age and Gender

On Census Day 2021, Banbridge Settlement Area had an estimated population of 17,400 which accounted for approximately 8% of the population of the Borough in 2021 and just 0.91% of the Northern Ireland total. In terms of gender, females make up a slightly higher percentage, accounting for approximately 51% of the total. Table 2 presents the population breakdown in the Banbridge Settlement area and the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2011 and 2021. We can see that there has been quite a large increase in the population aged 65+ which has increased by approximately 32% in the Banbridge Settlement Area and 27% in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough overall. In the Banbridge Settlement area, the population aged between 0-15 years has decreased by just under 5%.

	Banbridge Settlement Area			Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough		
	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change
All Persons	16,637	17,400	4.6%	199,693	218,656	9.5%
Males	8,118	8,525	5.0%	98,713	108,268	9.7%
Females	8,519	8,875	4.2%	100,980	110,388	9.3%
0-15 Years	3,647	3,467	-4.9%	44,206	48,246	9.1%
16-64 Years	10,713	10,920	1.9%	127,860	135,421	5.9%
65+ Years	2,277	3,013	32.3%	27,627	34,993	26.7%

Table 2: Gender and age profile of Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

Figure 4 presents a more detailed breakdown of the age structure in Banbridge Settlement area in 2011 and 2021. As we can see there has been a decline in the proportion of the population aged from 0-44 although the percentage decrease was greatest for those aged 15-29. The proportion of the population aged 60+ has increased from 18.1% in 2011 to 23.9% in 2021, an increase of 5.8 percentage points. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the population aged 60+ increased by 2.7 percentage points while in Northern Ireland overall, the increase was 3.3 percentage points. Banbridge, like the rest of Northern Ireland and indeed the rest of the world, is experiencing a demographic shift which comes with its own opportunities and challenges.

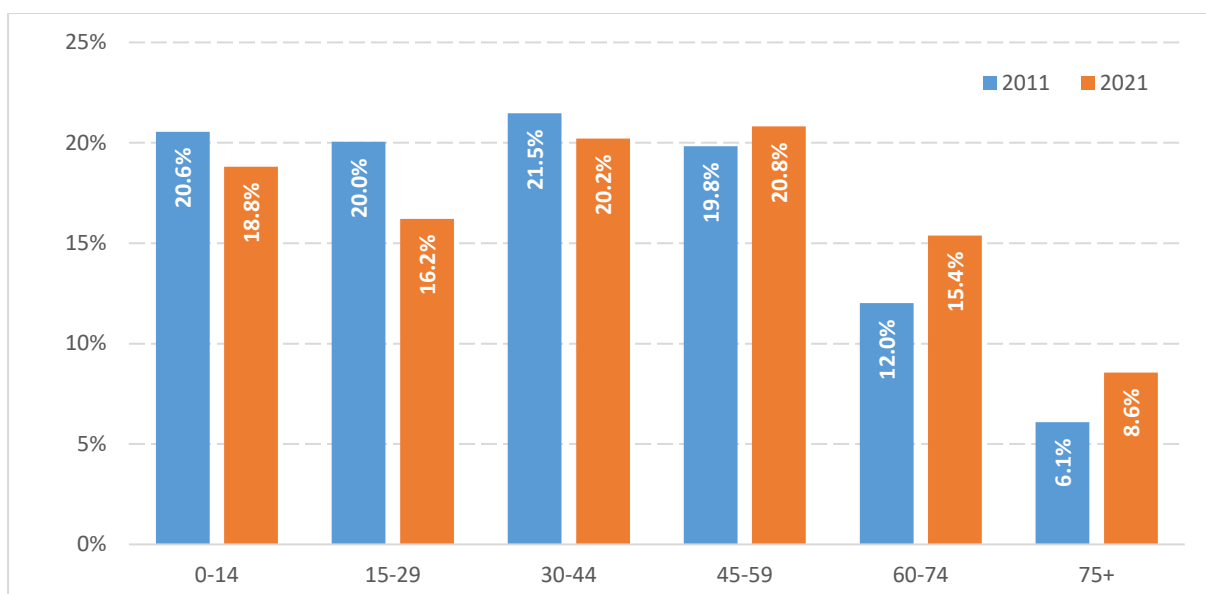


Figure 4: Age Structure of the population of Banbridge Settlement Area in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

Population estimates for DEAs are also available from Census 2021. Of the seven DEA's that make up Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area, Banbridge is the second largest after Lurgan accounting for approximately 16% of the total population of the borough in 2021. The Banbridge Settlement Area accounts for almost half (49.8%) of the population of Banbridge DEA.

	Census 2011	Census 2021	Change 2011 - 2021	% Change 2011 - 2021
Armagh	30,286	32,401	2,115	7.0%
Banbridge	33,419	34,943	1,524	4.6%
Craigavon	25,287	29,196	3,909	15.5%
Cusher	23,278	26,205	2,927	12.6%
Lagan River	22,991	24,805	1,814	7.9%
Lurgan	34,939	38,202	3,263	9.3%
Portadown	29,493	32,933	3,440	11.7%

Table 3: Population of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough District Electoral Areas in 2011 and 2021. Source: Table KS102NI Census 2011, NISRA and Table MS-A09 Census 2021, NISRA.

Religion

The 2021 Census shows that the majority of the Banbridge settlement belonged to or were brought up in the Protestant religion (53%) compared to 35% who belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion. Since 2011, there has been just a 1 percentage point increase in the proportion of the population belonging to or brought up in the Catholic religion while the most notable change has been the decrease in the percentage of the population who belonged to or were brought up in the Protestant religion which has fallen from 59% in 2011 to 53% in 2021. Those belonging to or brought up with no religion has increased from 6% to 10% in the Banbridge Settlement area. Similar changes have been observed in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough overall where the majority still belong to or were brought up in the Protestant religion but the percentage has fallen by 5 percentage points from 52% in 2011 to 47% in 2021.

Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Catholic	34%	35%	43%	44%
Protestant	59%	53%	52%	47%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
None	6%	10%	5%	8%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table 4: Religion or Religion brought up in of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Ethnicity

On Census Day 2021, approximately 97.2% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area were white. This is just slightly higher than the figure for the borough overall at 96.7%. Mixed race and Chinese are the next biggest ethnic groups in the Banbridge Settlement area even though together they account for just 1.2% of the total population. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, mixed race and Black African are now the next biggest ethnic groups in the borough accounting for approximately 1.3% of the population.

In the ten year period since Census 2011, the population of Banbridge and the borough overall has become slightly more ethnically diverse with the proportion of the white population in each area falling by approximately 1.8 percentage points.

Ethnicity	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
White	98.95%	97.18%	98.54%	96.69%
Mixed	0.35%	0.69%	0.30%	0.76%
Chinese	0.27%	0.52%	0.26%	0.31%
Irish Traveller	0.01%	0.35%	0.07%	0.24%
Other Asian	0.13%	0.29%	0.23%	0.27%
Black African	0.01%	0.25%	0.10%	0.52%
Pakistani	0.05%	0.19%	0.10%	0.13%
Indian	0.08%	0.16%	0.19%	0.28%
Black Other	0.01%	0.06%	0.05%	0.24%
Other ethnicities	0.13%	0.31%	0.15%	0.56%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table 5: Ethnicity of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Country of Birth

Data from the Census 2021 country of birth provides further evidence of a more diverse population in the Banbridge Settlement area and the wider borough. In the Banbridge Settlement area approximately 87% of residents were born in Northern Ireland. This has fallen from 90.1% at the time of the 2011 Census. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, approximately 85.5% of residents were born in Northern Ireland, down from 89% in 2011. With regards to those residents born outside of the UK and Ireland, this has increased from 3.3% to 5.3% in Banbridge Settlement area and from 5.5% to 8.6% in the borough overall.

Approximately 4.4% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area were born in England while 2.3% of residents were born in the Republic of Ireland.

Country of Birth	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Northern Ireland	90.1%	87.0%	89.0%	85.5%
England	4.2%	4.4%	3.1%	3.2%
Scotland	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Wales	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Republic of Ireland	1.5%	2.3%	1.8%	1.9%
Other	3.3%	5.3%	5.5%	8.6%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table 6: Country of birth of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Main Language

As we would expect, given the increasing diversity in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough seen from previous indicators, the percentage of the population whose main language was English has fallen from 98.2% in 2011 to 96.8% in 2021 in the Banbridge Settlement area and from 95.7% to 93.2% in the borough overall.

Polish was the second most common main language for residents of the Banbridge Settlement area and the borough overall and this is unchanged from the 2011 Census. Persons with Romanian as a main language account for 0.31% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area while those with Chinese as a main language account for 0.27%. Lithuanian and Portuguese as a main language is less common in Banbridge Settlement area compared to the borough overall.

Main Language	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
English	98.22%	96.77%	95.72%	93.17%
Polish	0.86%	1.08%	1.53%	1.69%
Romanian	-	0.31%	-	0.37%
Chinese	0.05%	0.27%	0.07%	0.09%
Bulgarian	-	0.18%	-	0.70%
Arabic	-	0.17%	-	0.11%
Hungarian	0.01%	0.11%	0.05%	0.17%
Russian	0.02%	0.10%	0.09%	0.15%
Irish	0.06%	0.10%	0.13%	0.20%
Lithuanian	0.10%	0.09%	0.91%	1.24%
Portuguese	0.01%	0.05%	0.44%	0.84%
Spanish	-	0.04%	-	0.06%
Latvian	0.01%	0.04%	0.18%	0.22%
Cantonese	-	0.03%	-	0.05%
Tagalog/Filipino	0.03%	0.01%	0.09%	0.06%
Slovak	0.03%	0.01%	0.10%	0.18%
Other languages	0.61%	0.64%	0.68%	0.71%
Total (Aged 3+)	15,851	16,824	190,526	210,402

Table 7: Main Language of residents aged 3+ in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Note: The breakdown of languages has been taken from the 2021 Census. Those with no data for 2011 were likely included in the 'other languages' category. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Households

As per the 2021 Census, there were a total of 7,346 households in the Banbridge Settlement Area. This represents an increase of 653 households from the 6,693 recorded in 2011. Of those 7,346 households, more than 63% were one (31.8%) or two (31.4%) person households, a slight increase on the 2011 estimates of 28.6% and 30.8% respectively. Households with 6 or more people accounted for just 1.6% of total households in the Banbridge Settlement Area, down from 2% in 2011. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough overall, one (27.7%) or two (29.5%) person households accounted for 57.2% of all households at Census date 2021. In Banbridge Settlement area, approximately one in every five houses have four or more persons compared to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough where approximately one in every four households have four more or more people.

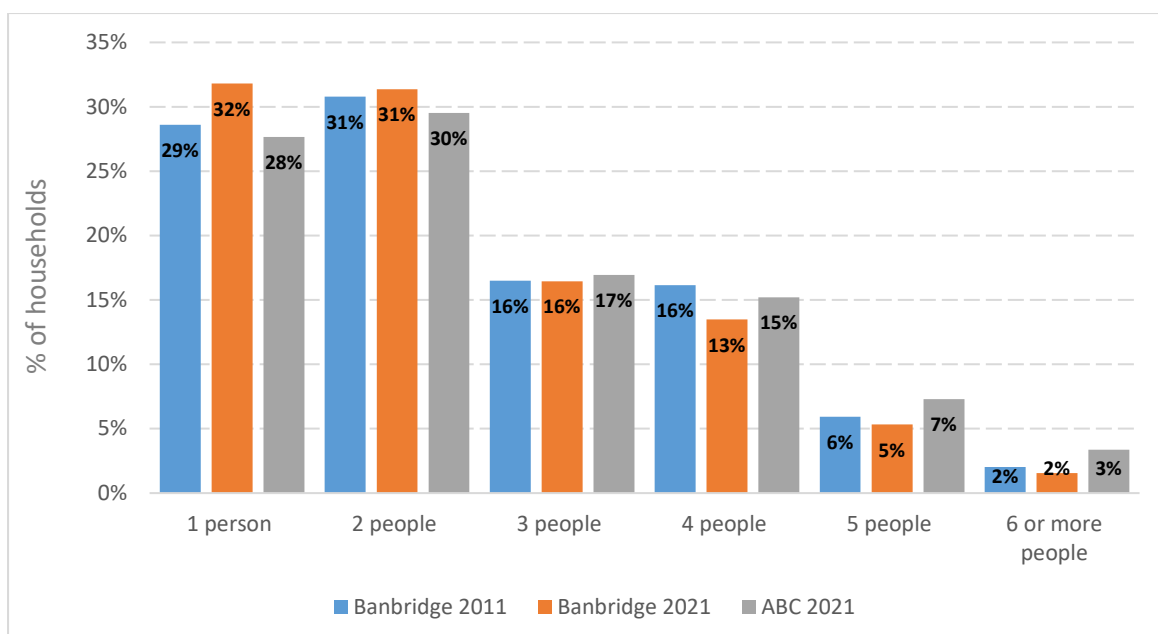


Figure 5: Household size – Banbridge Settlement Area, 2011 and 2021 and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

Health

As per Census 2021, just under 78% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area stated that they were in good or very good health. This is a fall of two percentage points since 2011. The percentage of residents reporting that they were in bad or very bad health has increased by 2.6 percentage points from 5.5% in 2011 to 8.1% in 2021. While this has increased in both the borough overall and Northern Ireland, the percentage of residents reporting that they were in bad or very bad health is currently higher in Banbridge Settlement area than the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough (7%) and Northern Ireland (7.7%)

	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
General health: Very good health	47.8%	48.9%	48.7%	52.0%
General health: Good health	32.3%	29.0%	31.5%	28.4%
General health: Fair health	14.4%	14.1%	14.6%	12.8%
General health: Bad health	4.3%	6.3%	4.2%	5.3%
General health: Very bad health	1.2%	1.8%	1.1%	1.7%

Table 8: Health in general in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Table KS301NI Census 2011, NISRA, Table MS-D01 Census 2021 and Settlement level information drawn from NISRA Flexible Table Builder. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

The Health Inequalities annual publication presents a comprehensive analysis of health inequality gaps between the most and least deprived areas of NI, and within Health & Social Care (HSC) Trust and LGD areas across a range of indicators. Within each LGD, data is also presented by DEA.

In Banbridge DEA, male life expectancy at birth has increased by just 0.6 years to 79.6 between 2014-16 and 2019-21. Male life expectancy at birth in Banbridge DEA is currently higher than the

borough overall and the Northern Ireland average. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough deprived areas, the average male life expectancy at birth is just 75.9 which is now 3.2 years younger than the average for the borough and 3.7 years younger than the average for Banbridge DEA.

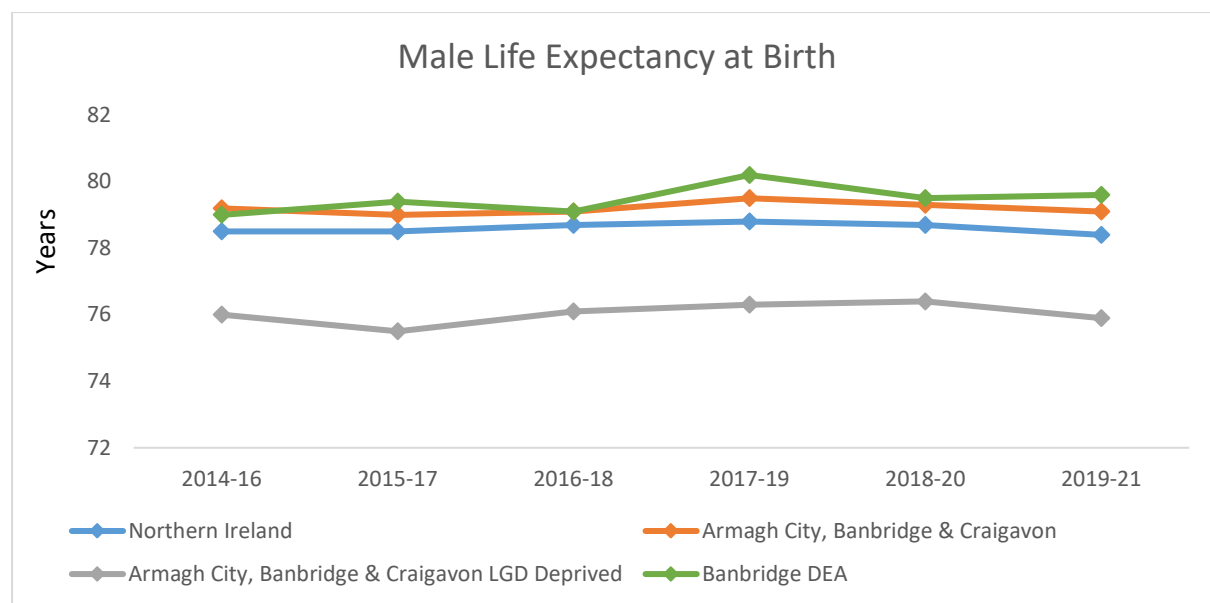


Figure 6: Male life expectancy at birth in Banbridge DEA, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Deprived areas and Northern Ireland 2014-16 and 2019-21. Source: NI Health and Inequalities Monitoring System, Department of Health.

Female life expectancy at birth is higher than that for males. In Banbridge DEA, female life expectancy at birth is 82.2 years for the combined years 2019-21. This represents a further decrease of 0.5 years since 2018-20 and the third year running that female life expectancy at birth has decreased in Banbridge DEA. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, female life expectancy at birth is currently 83, having increased from 82.5 in 2014-16 however, this is the first year a decrease has been recorded. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough deprived areas, life expectancy at birth for females had increased by 1.2 years from 81.2 years in 2014-16 to 82.4 years in 2018-20. However, it has fallen by 0.7 years between 2018-20 and 2019-21 and is currently estimated at 81.7 years. However, as noted in the Health Inequalities Annual Report 2023, the most recent figures reported typically include data from 2020 and 2021, and therefore reflect to an extent, the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

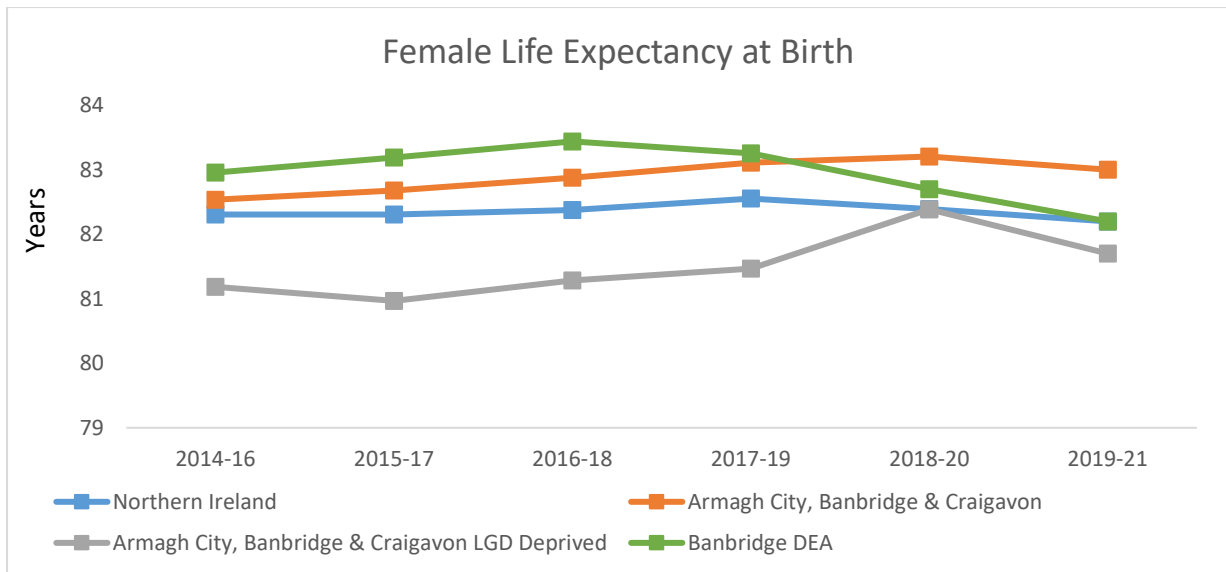


Figure 7: Female life expectancy at birth in Banbridge DEA, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Deprived areas and Northern Ireland 2014-16 and 2019-21. Source: NI Health and Inequalities Monitoring System, Department of Health.

The standardised death rate for preventable deaths in Banbridge DEA has increased from 150 per 100,000 in 2012-16 to 153 per 100,000 in 2017-21. This is below the rate for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (163 per 100,000) and well below the overall Northern Ireland rate of 180 per 100,000. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough deprived areas, the standardised death rate for preventable deaths was relatively stable between 2012-16 and 2016-20 however it increased to 272 per 100,000 in 2017-21. This increase in preventable mortality results in a widening of the inequality gap with the rate in the most deprived areas now more than 100 higher than the least deprived areas. However, it is important to bear in mind that the most recent data for this indicator covers the pandemic years and COVID-19 has recently been included in the definition of preventable mortality.

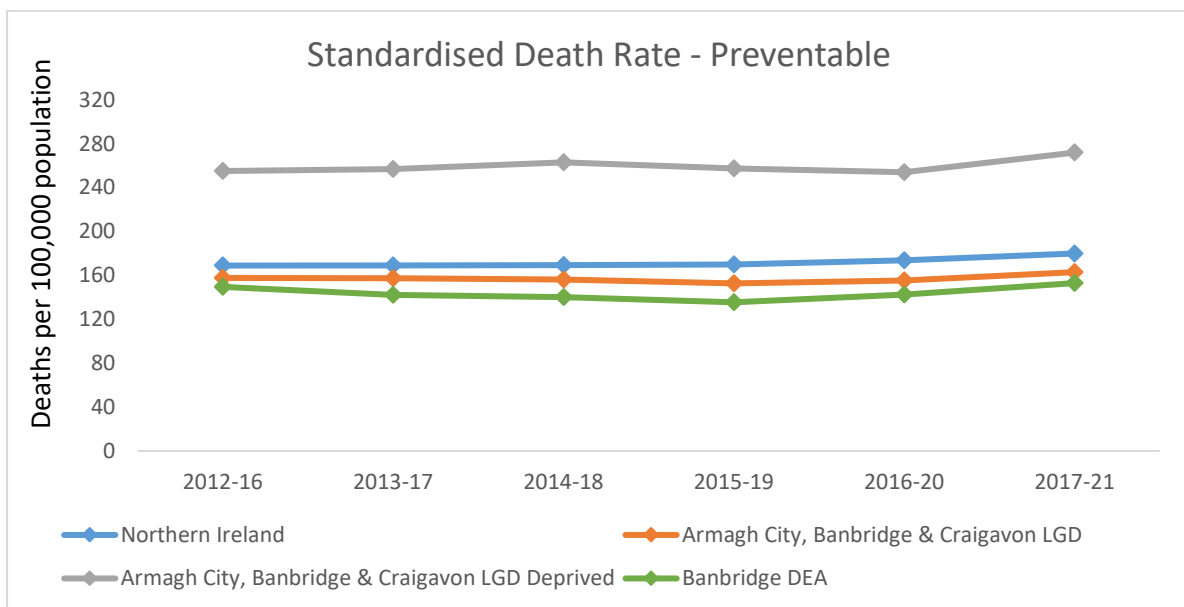


Figure 8: The standardised death rate per 100,000 population for preventable deaths in Banbridge DEA, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Deprived areas and Northern Ireland 2014-16 and 2017-21. Source: NI Health and Inequalities Monitoring System, Department of Health.

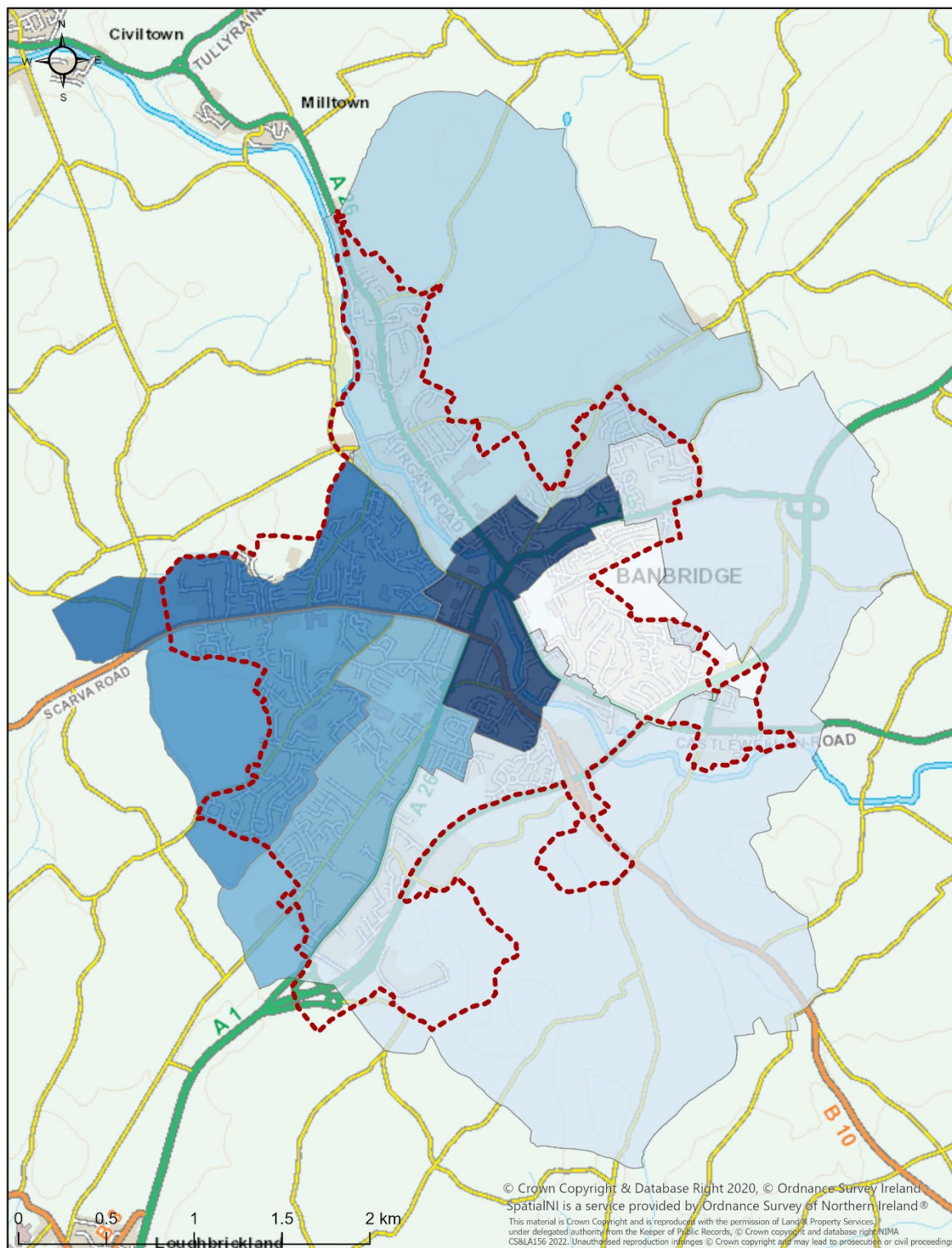
Deprivation

Multiple Deprivation Measure and Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 is a set of spatial deprivation measures which provides information for seven distinct types of deprivation, known as domains, along with an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM). The NIMDM 2017 provides a mechanism for ranking areas within Northern Ireland in the order of the most deprived to the least deprived. However, they do not quantify the extent to which one area is more or less deprived than the other.

Northern Ireland is split into 890 spatial areas known as Super Output Areas (SOAs). Each SOA is ranked, giving a relative measure of deprivation, with a rank of 1 being the most deprived while the SOA ranked 890 is the least deprived.

The overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Ranks for the seven SOAs within Banbridge Proxy Area are shown in Figure 9.



Legend

MDM Rank	504 - 672
120	673 - 805
121 - 224	806
225 - 430	Banbridge Settlement Development Limit
431 - 503	

Banbridge Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank



Figure 9: Overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

As part of this section, the overall Multiple Deprivation Measure and Health Deprivation and Disability Domain are relevant. Of the seven SOAs that make up the Banbridge Proxy Area, The Cut appears to be the most deprived area, ranking in the top 20% in the overall MDM and the Health Deprivation and Disability domain. Edenderry is ranked number 145 in terms of the Health Deprivation and Disability domain meaning it ranks in the top 20% most deprived SOA's in Northern Ireland for this domain. On the contrary, Ballydown_1 and Ballydown_2 are ranked in the top 10% least deprived areas in Northern Ireland in the overall MDM and Ballydown_2 is ranked in the top 11-20% least deprived in Health Deprivation and Disability domain.

Rank of 1 is the most deprived, 890 is the least deprived	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank	Income Domain Rank	Employment Domain Rank	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank	Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank	Access to Services Domain Rank	Living Environment Domain Rank	Crime and Disorder Domain Rank
Ballydown_1	806	708	719	704	757	510	813	675
Banbridge West	430	388	413	354	267	458	794	372
Edenderry	224	357	170	145	182	648	775	132
Fort	503	638	307	393	383	561	777	230
The Cut	120	190	119	130	184	763	69	15
Ballydown_2	805	670	798	785	730	399	861	626
Seapatrick	672	621	490	604	731	423	682	409

Table 9: Overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank and individual domain ranks for SOAs in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Shaded dark blue are ranked in the 10% most deprived and those in light blue are in the top 11-20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Shaded yellow are ranked among the 10% least deprived in Northern Ireland and orange are in the top 11-20% least deprived in Northern Ireland within that specific domain.

The NIMDM 2017 is constructed from 38 different indicators relating to the 7 domains of deprivation as per Table 9. Each of the domains are made up from one or more indicators. Information is presented at SOA, DEA and LGD level and Table 10 presents two of the indicators from the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain for each of the DEAs in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the SOAs that make up Banbridge Proxy Area, the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough LGD and Northern Ireland overall. The standardized ratio of people registered as having cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) is lowest in Ballydown_1 at just 64.2 and highest in The Cut SOA (128.0), followed by Edenderry at 126.3, both of which are well above that of the borough overall (100.3). The ratio of people having skin cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) in the Banbridge DEA is below the NI average at 96.5.

The proportion of singleton births with low birth weight is again highest in The Cut SOA at 9.7%, this is 5.4 percentage points higher than the borough. Edenderry and Fort have the lowest proportion of singleton births with low birth weight at 1.4% each. Banbridge DEA has the lowest proportion of singleton births with low birth weight of the seven DEAs in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

	Standardized ratio of people registered as having cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) (NI = 100)	Proportion of Singleton Births with Low Birth Weight (%)
Armagh	103.0	4.1%
Banbridge	96.5	3.8%
Craigavon	101.2	4.3%
Cusher	101.0	4.3%
Lagan River	89.2	4.3%
Lurgan	105.6	4.4%
Portadown	102.8	4.8%
Ballydown_1	64.2	5.5%
Ballydown_2	111.8	3.3%
Banbridge West	98.5	6.0%
Edenderry	126.3	1.4%
Fort	92.0	1.4%
Seapatrick	92.7	3.5%
The Cut	128.0	9.7%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	100.3	4.3%
Northern Ireland	100.0	4.4%

Table 10: Indicator information relating to Health Deprivation and Disability Domain. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA.

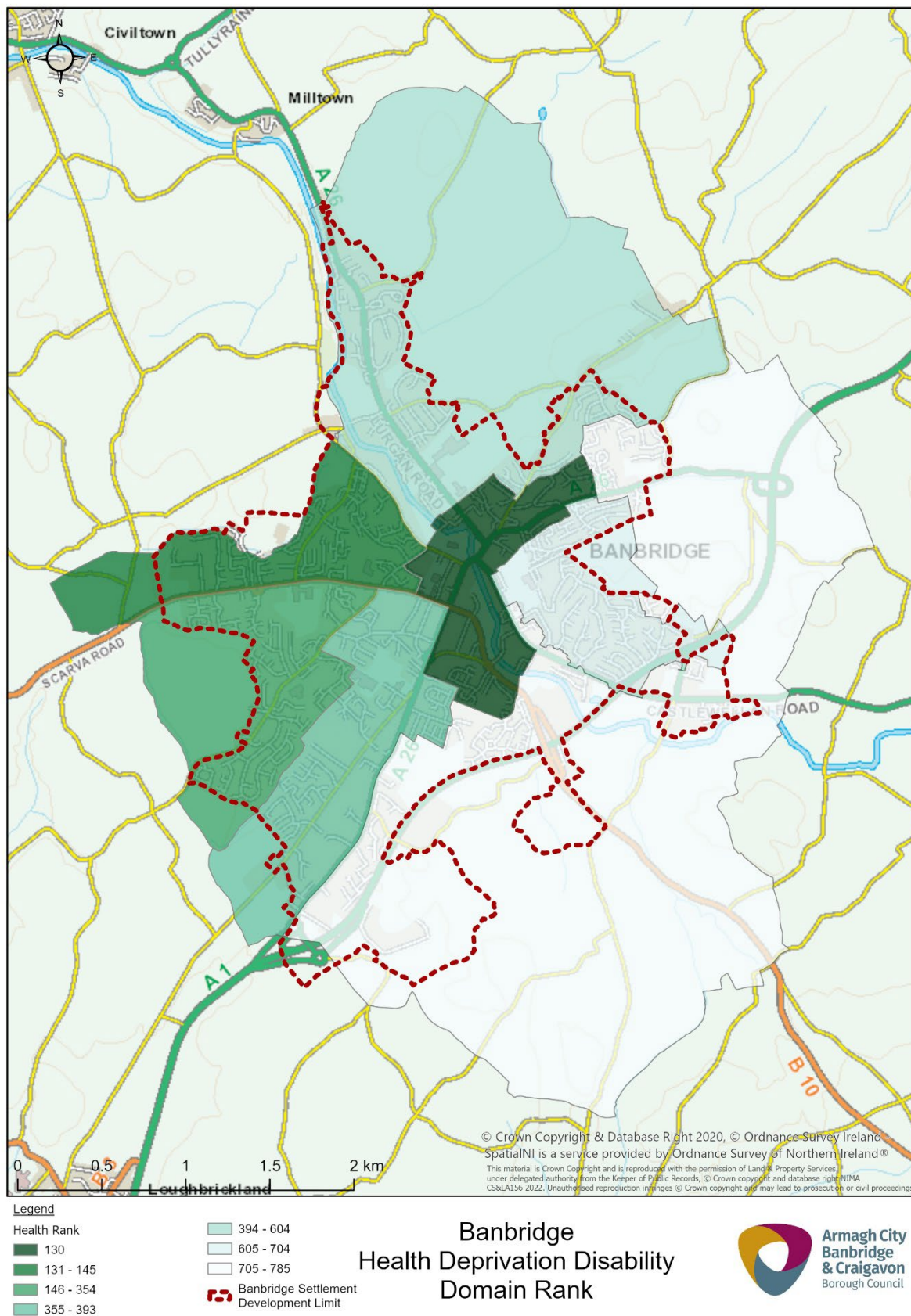


Figure 10: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

Political

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is represented by a total of 41 Councillors spread across the seven DEAs. The most recent election was held in May 2023. Following this, Sinn Fein are now the largest party in the borough with 15 seats, closely followed by the DUP with 13 seats.

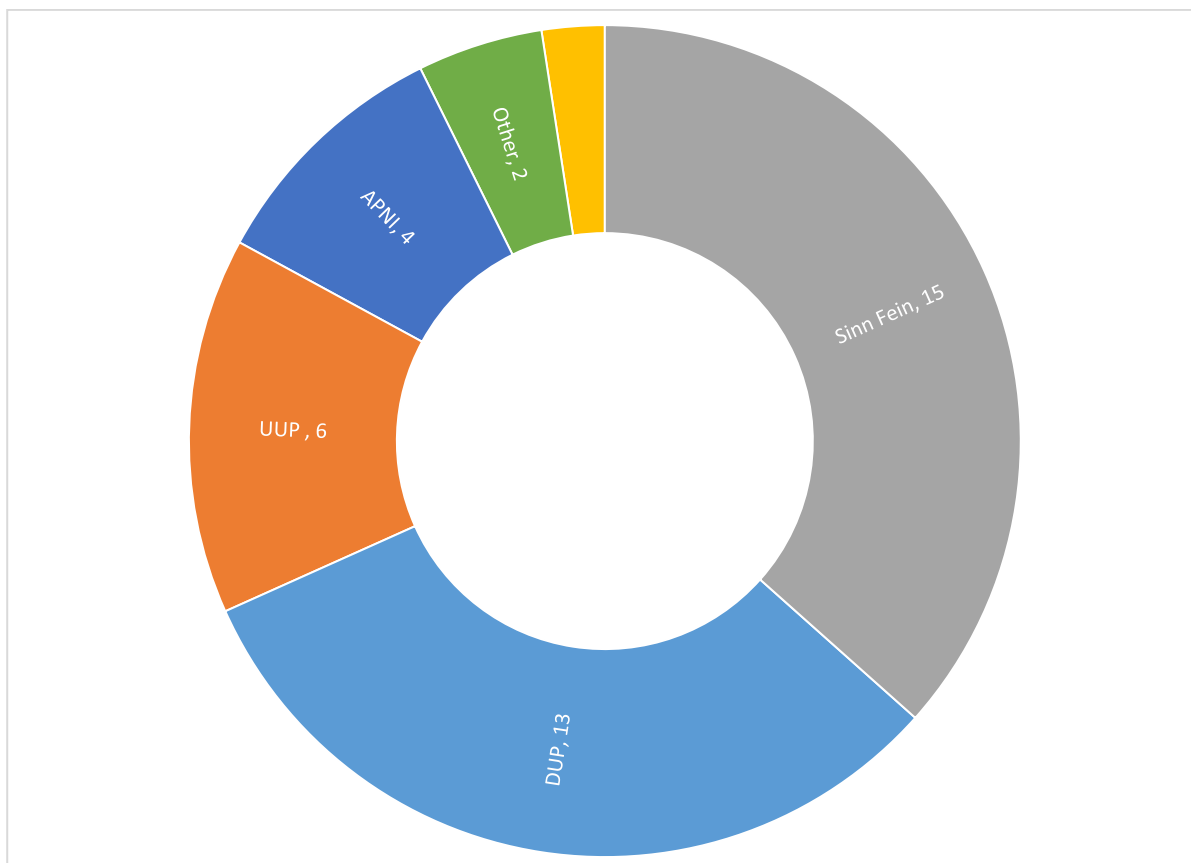


Figure 11: Number of seats per political party in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, Local Council Elections, May 2023. Source: Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

There are seven councillors representing the Banbridge DEA and the breakdown is presented with the overall breakdown for the borough in the table below.

	Banbridge		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	
	No.	%	No.	%
DUP	2	28.6%	13	31.7%
UUP	2	28.6%	6	14.6%
Sinn Fein	2	28.6%	15	36.6%
SDLP		0.0%	1	2.4%
APNI	1	14.3%	4	9.8%
Other		0.0%	2	4.9%
Total	7		41	

Table 11: Number of seats per political party in Banbridge DEA and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, Local Council Elections, May 2023. Source: Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

ECONOMY

Education

In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, there were a total of 165 educational establishments in the academic year 2022/23 with primary schools accounting for 90 of these. Using the postcodes for the SOA's which make up the Banbridge Proxy Area we can identify and then map each of the educational establishments located in the area (Figure 12). As we can see, the majority of these are within the boundary of the SDL however there are a total of 4 schools – 3 primary and one secondary which fall outside the Banbridge Proxy Area. Given their proximity to the SOA's in the Banbridge Proxy Area and the likelihood that these schools are the closest catchment school for many within the Banbridge Proxy Area we have included them in the totals below. As per table 12, there are a total of 18 educational establishments in the Banbridge Proxy Area and this includes seven primary schools and 4 post-primary schools.

	No. of Schools in Banbridge Proxy Area	No. of Schools in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	% of total
Pre-school education centres	4	37	10.8%
Nursery schools	2	12	16.7%
Primary schools	7	90	7.8%
Post-primary schools	4	23	17.4%
Special schools	1	3	33.3%
Total	18	165	10.9%

Table 12: Total number of educational establishments in Banbridge Proxy Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2022/23. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.

Table 13 below presents the total number of enrolments at each level for those schools located in the Banbridge Proxy Area and the borough overall. Post primary enrolments in schools located in the Banbridge Proxy Area account for 18.5% of the total post primary enrolments in the borough.

	Number of Enrolments in Banbridge Proxy Area	Number of Enrolments in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	% of total
Pre-school education centres	124	857	14.5%
Nursery schools	104	732	14.2%
Primary schools	2,206	22,620	9.8%
Post-primary schools	3,304	17,819	18.5%
Special schools	126	455	27.7%
Total	5,864	42,483	13.8%

Table 13: Total number of enrolments in educational establishments in Banbridge Proxy Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2022/23. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.

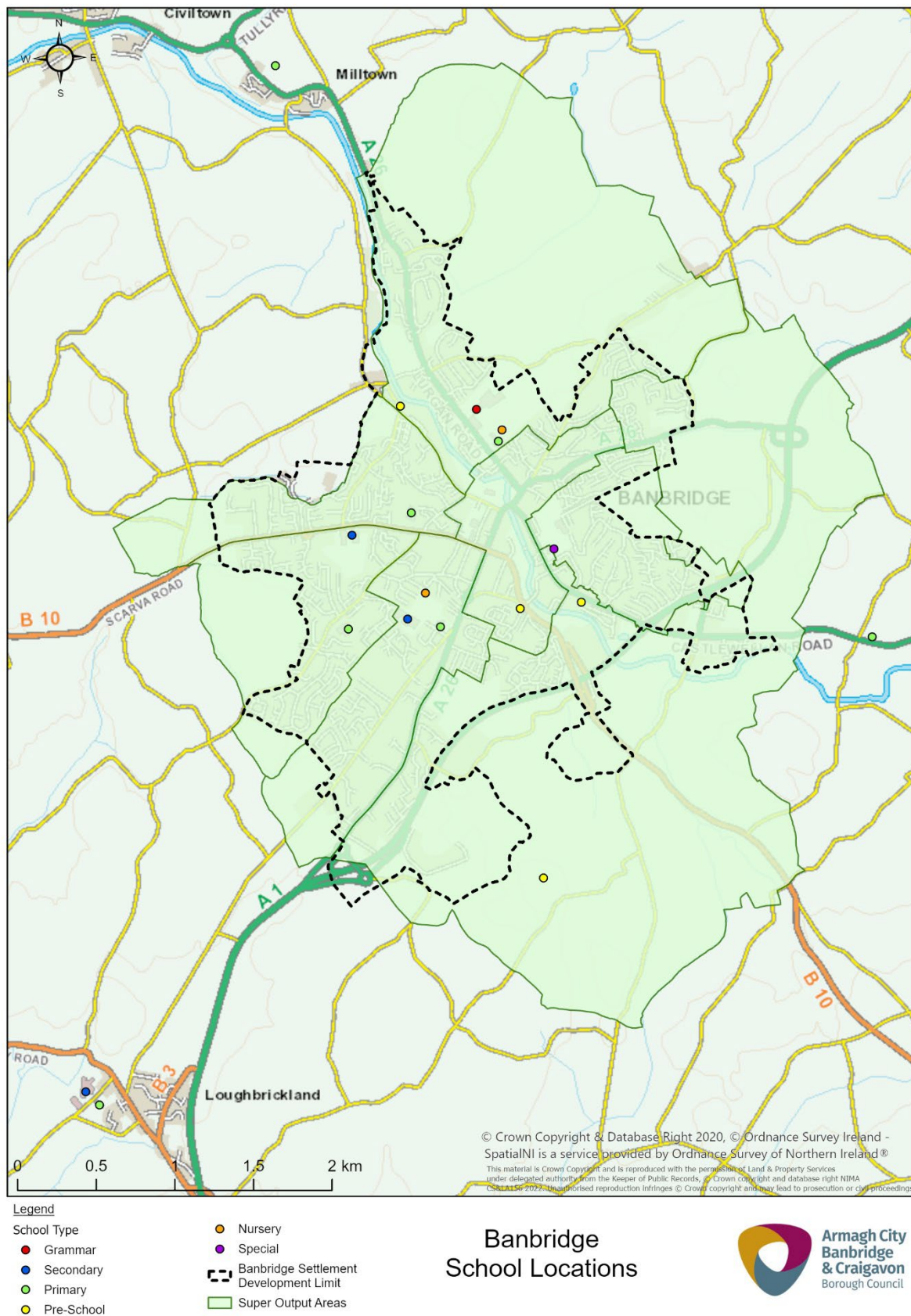


Figure 12: School locations in the Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.

Education Levels

On Census Day 2021, approximately 23.7% of the Banbridge Settlement Area (aged 16+) had no qualifications compared to 25.2% in the borough overall. When compared with 2011, the percentage of the population aged 16+ with no qualifications in the Banbridge Settlement area has fallen by approximately 3.6 percentage points. Conversely, there has been a large increase in the percentage of the population with level 4 qualifications and above which has increased from 22.8% in 2011 to 31.2% in 2021 in the Banbridge Settlement area. This is currently above the average for the borough overall at 30.4%.

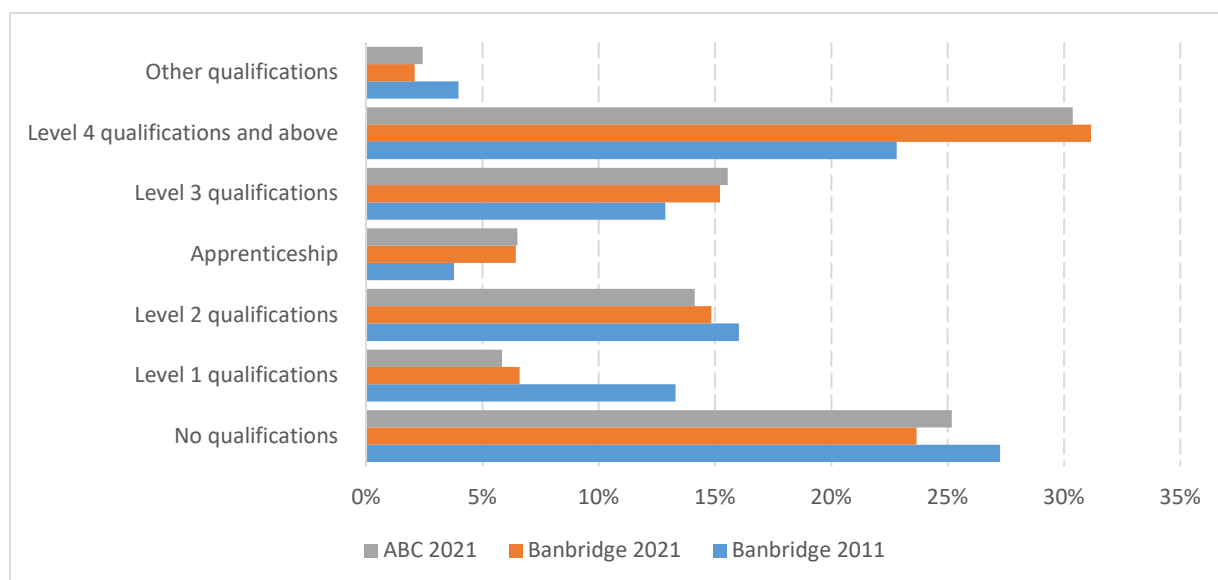


Figure 13: Qualifications and Students in Banbridge Settlement Area 2011 & 2021 and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

Qualifications and Destinations of School Leavers

The Department of Education publishes School Leaver Data at DEA and LGD Level so we can use this data to get a picture of the educational achievements of students within the borough overall and see the differences across the borough within the different DEA's.

In 2021/22, 90.3% of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C however this fell to 76% when English and Maths were included. The data can be further disaggregated for those who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSME) and those not (Non-FSME) and shows that in the borough, just 58.4% of FSME achieved 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths.

Within the Borough, Banbridge DEA has the third highest proportion of students achieving 5+ GCSE's grades A*-C at 91.4%. While this is above the average for the borough overall, it is just below the NI average of 91.9%. In contrast, however, when we include GCSE English and Maths and disaggregate for those in receipt of free school meals, Banbridge DEA has the lowest proportion of FSME students achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths at just 50%.

With regards to the destinations of school leavers, 76.8% of school leavers resident in the borough entered further or higher education establishments compared to 71.1% in Northern

Ireland overall. Within the borough, Banbridge DEA had to lowest proportion of school leavers entering unemployment with 88% entering further or higher education or training in 2021/22.

	Qualifications					Destination				
	2+ A-levels (or equiv) (%)	5+ GCSE's grades A*-C (or equiv) (%)	5+ GCSE's grades A*-C inc. GCSE English and Maths (%)			Higher Education (%)	Further Education (%)	Employment (%)	Training (%)	Unemployed / Unknown (%)
			All	Non-FSME	FSME					
Armagh DEA	49.0%	90.8%	74.5%	79.1%	60.2%	41.8%	29.3%	6.8%	19.5%	2.8%
Banbridge DEA	51.2%	91.4%	76.0%	83.0%	50.0%	42.1%	33.8%	9.5%	12.1%	2.4%
Craigavon DEA	49.1%	86.3%	74.4%	79.9%	52.6%	35.9%	40.9%	7.9%	7.4%	7.9%
Cusher DEA	46.9%	93.3%	77.8%	82.5%	56.3%	39.6%	43.0%	3.7%	11.0%	2.8%
Lagan River DEA	62.0%	92.3%	83.6%	87.1%	65.4%	53.1%	26.9%	5.9%	11.1%	3.1%
Lurgan DEA	48.9%	89.2%	75.1%	80.7%	60.0%	38.7%	35.3%	8.9%	12.1%	5.0%
Portadown DEA	38.1%	89.5%	72.6%	75.8%	63.6%	27.6%	51.4%	8.1%	7.1%	5.7%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	48.9%	90.3%	76.0%	81.1%	58.4%	39.4%	37.4%	7.4%	11.5%	4.3%
Northern Ireland	57.8%	91.9%	78.0%	84.2%	59.1%	43.7%	27.4%	12.9%	11.8%	4.2%

Table 14: Qualifications and destinations of school leavers by District Electoral Area of pupil residence 2021/22. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.

Within the Banbridge DEA, the most marked improvement has been for those students achieving 5+ GCSE's which has increased from 83.4% to 91.4% between 2017 and 2022, although the proportion has fallen slightly in the last year. The proportion of FSME students achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths is currently the highest of the years presented at 50%. However it still remains the lowest of all DEA's in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Overall, within Banbridge DEA, although it has improved in recent years, there is still roughly one quarter of school leavers not passing GCSE English and Maths.

Qualifications of School Leavers – Banbridge DEA					
	2+ A-levels (or equiv)	5+ GCSE's grades A*-C (or equiv)	5+ GCSE's grades A*-C inc. GCSE English and Maths		
			All	Non-FSME	FSME
2016/17	52.4%	83.4%	69.9%	77.9%	41.1%
2017/18	49.4%	86.6%	70.9%	78.5%	46.2%
2018/19	46.8%	86.1%	68.9%	74.8%	48.3%
2019/20	54.3%	91.1%	75.8%	83.8%	41.4%
2020/21	51.9%	92.7%	75.1%	82.2%	43.1%
2021/22	51.2%	91.4%	76.0%	83.0%	50.0%

Table 15: Qualifications of school leavers in Banbridge District Electoral Area (by pupil residence) 2016/17 – 2021/22. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education, NISRA.

Further Education

Further education (FE) includes any study after secondary education (after the age of 16) that's not part of higher education i.e. it is not an undergraduate or postgraduate degree.

In 2021/22 there were a total 6,860 individuals from the borough enrolled at Further Education Institutions with almost 40% studying a Level 3 qualification and 18% studying Level 4 and above qualifications. In Banbridge DEA the proportions are broadly similar although there is a lower proportion studying Level 3 qualifications and a higher proportion studying Level 2 qualifications. In Northern Ireland overall, there is a greater proportion studying Entry and Level 1 and Level 3 qualifications.

Level of study	Banbridge DEA		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entry and Level 1	40	3%	390	6%	4,380	9%
Level 2	535	45%	2,585	38%	16,885	33%
Level 3	410	34%	2,660	39%	21,305	41%
Level 4 and above	215	18%	1,225	18%	8,915	17%
Total	1,195	100%	6,860	100%	51,485	100%

Table 16: Students enrolled on regulated courses in Banbridge DEA, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Government District and Northern Ireland overall by highest level of study at FE Colleges in 2021/22.

Source: Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland. Note: Figures are rounded to ensure against statistical disclosure. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

In 2021/22, over three-quarters of individuals from the borough overall enrolled in FE Institutions were attending Southern Regional College. Of those from Banbridge DEA, approximately 80% were attending Southern Regional College with a further 10% attending South Eastern Regional College and 9% attending Belfast Metropolitan.

FE College	Banbridge DEA		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	No	%	No	%
Belfast Metropolitan	105	9%	595	9%
Northern Regional	5	1%	45	1%
North West Regional	5	0%	25	0%
South Eastern Regional	120	10%	685	10%
Southern Regional	955	80%	5,245	76%
South West	10	1%	265	4%
Total	1,195	100.0%	6,860	100.0%

Table 17: Students enrolled at Further Education Institutions 2021/22 (by student address). Source: Consolidated Data Return, Department for the Economy (provided NISRA).

Higher Education

Higher education is the education or training undertaken after you leave school and is usually undertaken at a university. Although other qualifications can be awarded at higher education, it most commonly involves undergraduate and postgraduate study.

In 2021/22 there were a total of 7,140 individuals from the borough enrolled in Higher Education Institutions. Over three-quarters (78%) of the students were studying in Northern Ireland with over 40% aged 20 and under. Data is also presented at DEA level although it should be noted that in order to prevent the identification of individuals, figures are rounded to the nearest five so totals may not always sum. In Banbridge DEA in 2021/22 there were 1,190 individuals enrolled in Higher Education Institutions. While the age profile of students is the same as that for the borough and Northern Ireland overall, Banbridge DEA has a slightly higher percentage of students enrolled in Higher Education Institutions in England. Of the seven DEA's in the borough, Lagan River has the highest percentage of students studying outside Northern Ireland.

		Age Group			Country of HE Study			
	Enrolments	Aged 20 and under (%)	Aged 21-24 (%)	Aged 25 and over (%)	England (%)	Northern Ireland (%)	Scotland (%)	Wales (%)
Armagh	1,090	44%	32%	24%	16%	79%	4%	1%
Banbridge	1,190	42%	30%	28%	17%	77%	4%	1%
Craigavon	940	39%	31%	30%	15%	80%	3%	1%
Cusher	850	42%	32%	25%	18%	77%	5%	1%
Lagan River	950	44%	27%	29%	17%	75%	7%	1%
Lurgan	1,235	40%	29%	31%	15%	81%	3%	1%
Portadown	885	43%	32%	25%	16%	77%	5%	1%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	7,140	42%	30%	28%	16%	78%	4%	1%
Northern Ireland	66,100	41%	29%	30%	19%	75%	6%	1%

Table 18: NI domiciled enrolments at UK HEIs by DEA, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, by age group and country of institution 2021/22. Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (provided by NISRA). Please note, figures have been rounded to the nearest five and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding.

Labour Market

Employment

In 2022, 75.2% of the working age population in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough were in employment. This is an increase of 4.3 percentage points on 2021 and 3.3 percentage points higher than the NI average of 71.9%. As presented in Figure 14 below, the employment rate (aged 16-64) in the borough has increased from 67.2% in 2009 and while growth in the borough has been more sporadic, the employment rate has remained higher than the Northern Ireland average each year from 2009-2022.

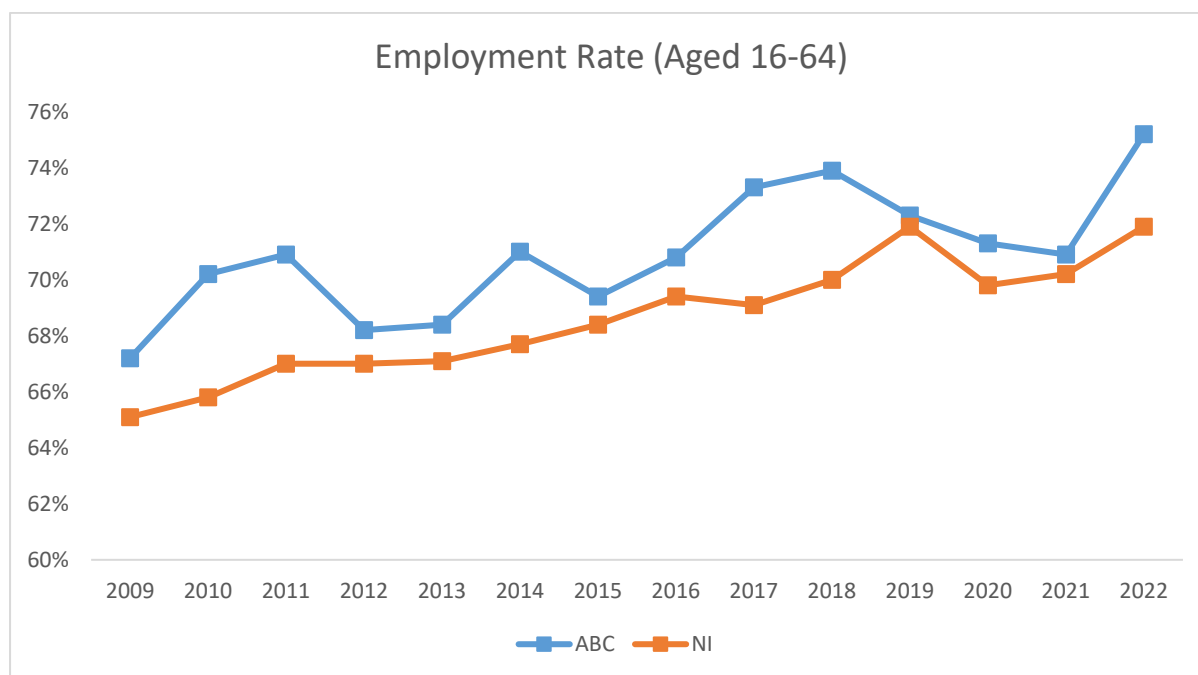


Figure 14: Employment rates in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2009-2022. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

In 2022, the employment rate for males was estimated at 78.5% in the borough which is 6.6 percentage points higher than the rate for females (71.9%). The male employment rate was higher than the female employment rate in Northern Ireland overall.

With regards to full time and part time status, approximately 80% of persons employed in the borough work full time compared to 20% who work part time. An estimated 91.6% of employed males work full time compared to 67.1% of employed females in the borough. The proportion of persons employed working full time in Northern Ireland overall is slightly lower at 77.2%, while 89.5% of males work full time compared to 63.6% of females.

Economic Inactivity

The economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 was 22.6% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2022. Following a period of decline, the economic inactivity rate increased in the borough between 2018 and 2019 and remained above 25% for three years. Having fallen by 3.3 percentage points between 2021 and 2022, the economic inactivity rate in the borough is currently the lowest it has been of the years presented. In Northern Ireland overall the rate has

fallen although only slightly. The economic inactivity rate in the borough has remained consistently below the Northern Ireland average.

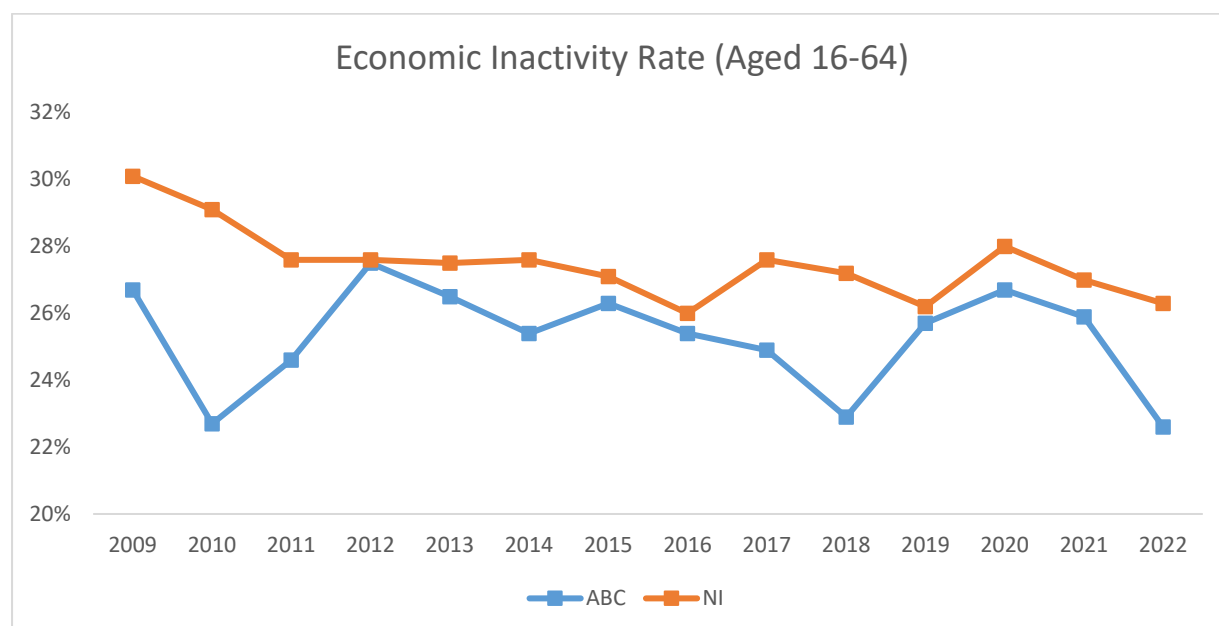


Figure 15: Economic Inactivity Rate (aged 16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2009-2022. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

Qualification Level of the Working Age Population (16-64)

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2022, 37.2% of the working age population were educated to RQF Level 4 and above¹. This has increased significantly from just 23.6% in 2009 however, it has fallen slightly since 2021 when it was at its highest at almost 40%. The proportion of the working age population educated to below RQF Level 4 has not changed massively between 2009 and 2022. This would suggest that people in the borough are increasingly aiming for higher level qualifications. The percentage of the working age population with no qualifications has fallen significantly since 2009 dropping from 24.3% to 12.7% in 2022.

¹ A methodology document on Highest Qualification Levels is available on the LFS background and quality page, which provides a fuller explanation of methodology and more detail on qualifications included in all levels.

Qualification levels are broadly equivalent to:

Below Level 2: O-level, GCSE grade A*-C - less than 5

Level 2: O-level, GCSE grade A*-C - 5 or more

Level 3: A-level - more than 1

Level 4 to 5: Foundation degree, HNC/HND/BTEC higher

Levels 6+: First or higher degrees

Responses of Don't Know, or that were unable to be classified have been excluded.

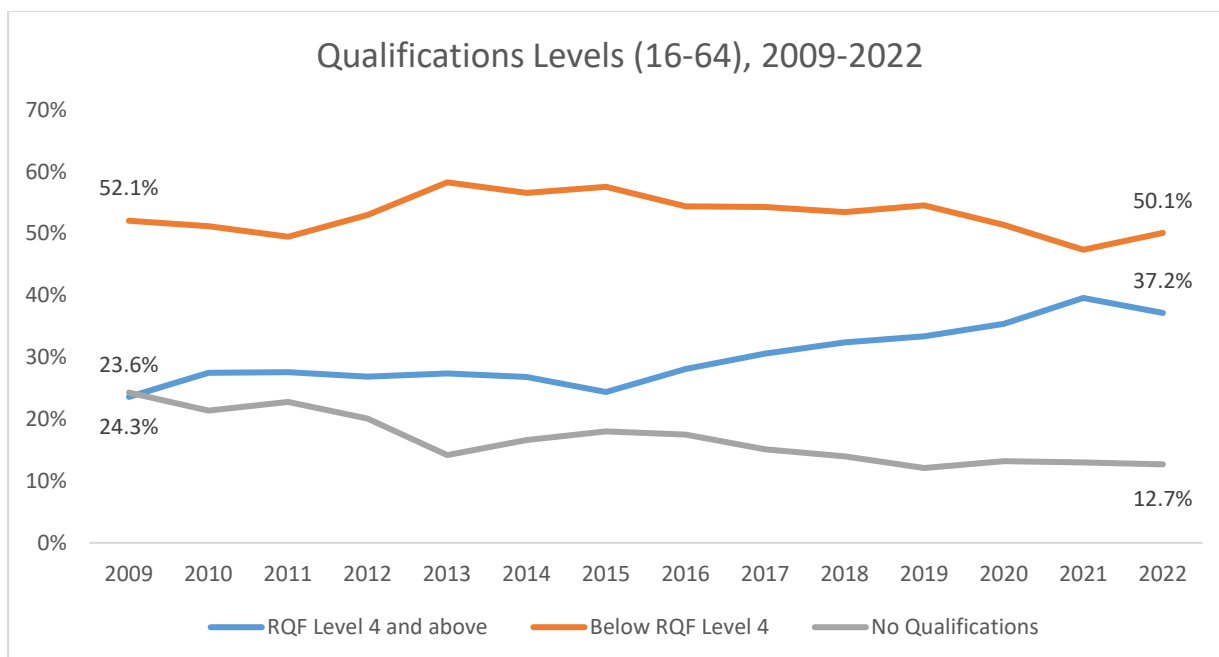


Figure 16: Qualification levels of the working age (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2009-2022. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

Earnings

Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees is the headline measure of earnings from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)². Between 2022 and 2023, weekly earnings for individuals **working** in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough increased by £48.20 (8.1%) to £640.20. This is the third consecutive annual increase and the second largest increase on record. For individuals **living** in the borough, weekly earnings increased by £39.90 (6.7%) over the year to £632.10.

Figure 17 presents the weekly earnings of residents and those working in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough with the NI average between 2014 and 2023. Those persons working in the borough have experienced the greatest increase in weekly earnings with an increase of 49%, compared to residents who have seen their weekly earnings increase by 41% over the ten year period. Gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in Northern Ireland overall increased by 39% between 2014 and 2023. This is the first year that the average full-time weekly earnings of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough were less than the average weekly earnings of those working in the borough.

² The median, which is the value below which 50% of jobs fall, is NISRA's preferred measure of average earnings as it is less affected by a relatively small number of very high earners and the skewed distribution of earnings and therefore gives a better indication of typical pay than the mean ([Employee earnings in Northern Ireland \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/employee-earnings-northern-ireland)).

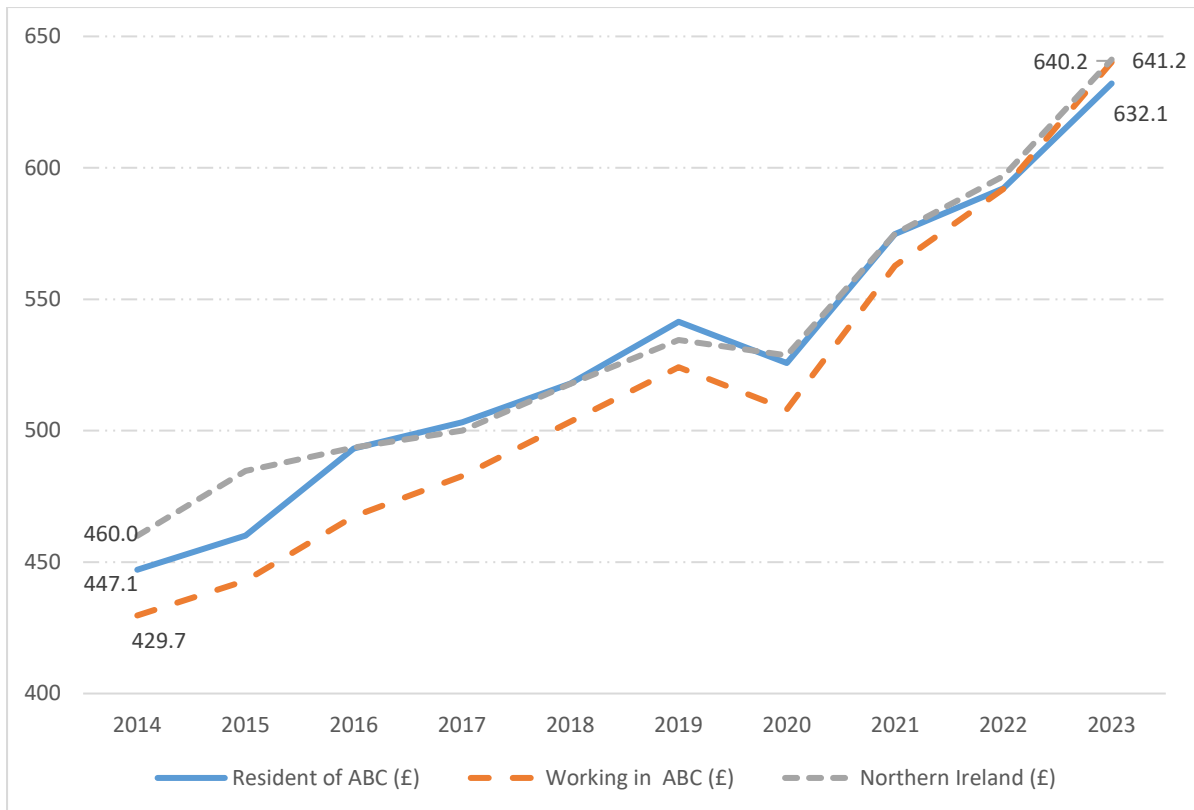


Figure 17: Median gross weekly full-time pay in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland between 2014 and 2023. Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, NISRA.

Claimant Count

The experimental claimant count is a measure of unemployment. It includes Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants and those Universal Credit claimants who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed. The claimant count data is available for smaller areas and is published monthly in arrears so gives a good indication of the local levels of unemployment.

Monthly claimant count data is available at SOA level as presented below.

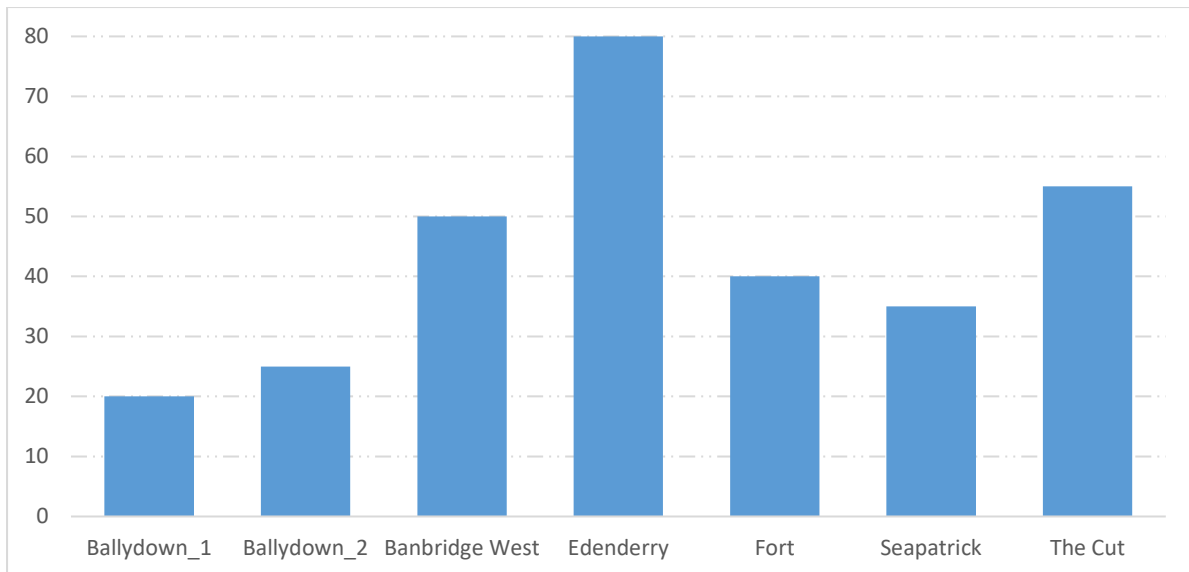


Figure 18: Claimant count monthly data by SOA, September 2023 (provisional). Source: Claimant Count, NISRA.

In September 2023, there were a total of 305 people in the Banbridge proxy area claiming benefits because they are seeking work. Edenderry had the highest number of claimants accounting for over a quarter (26.2%) of the total claimants. The Cut and Banbridge West had the next highest number with 55 and 50 respectively. The number of claimants was lowest in Ballydown_1 at 20.

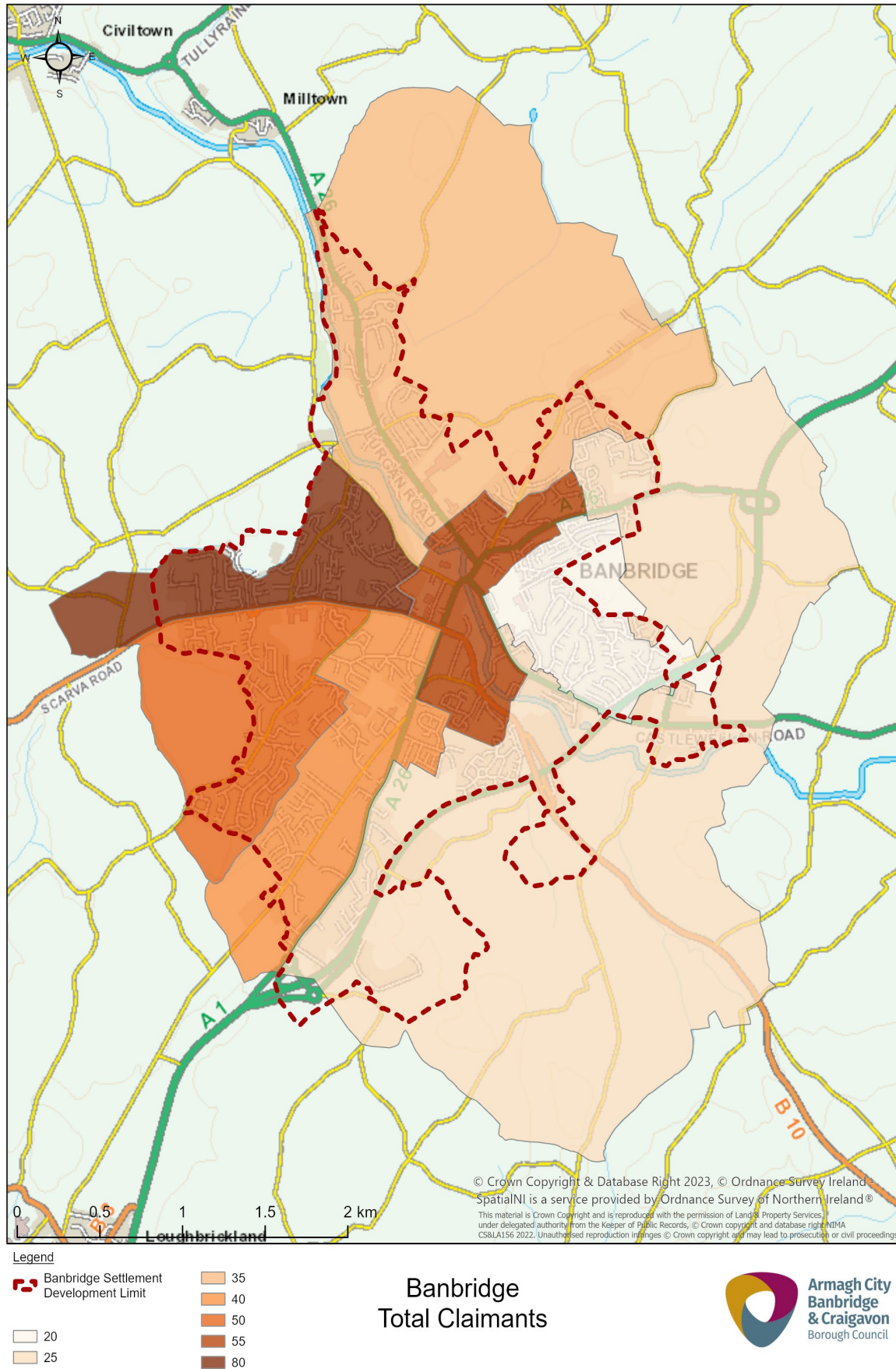


Figure 19: Claimant Count Number in Banbridge Proxy Area, September 2023. Source: Claimant Count, NISRA.

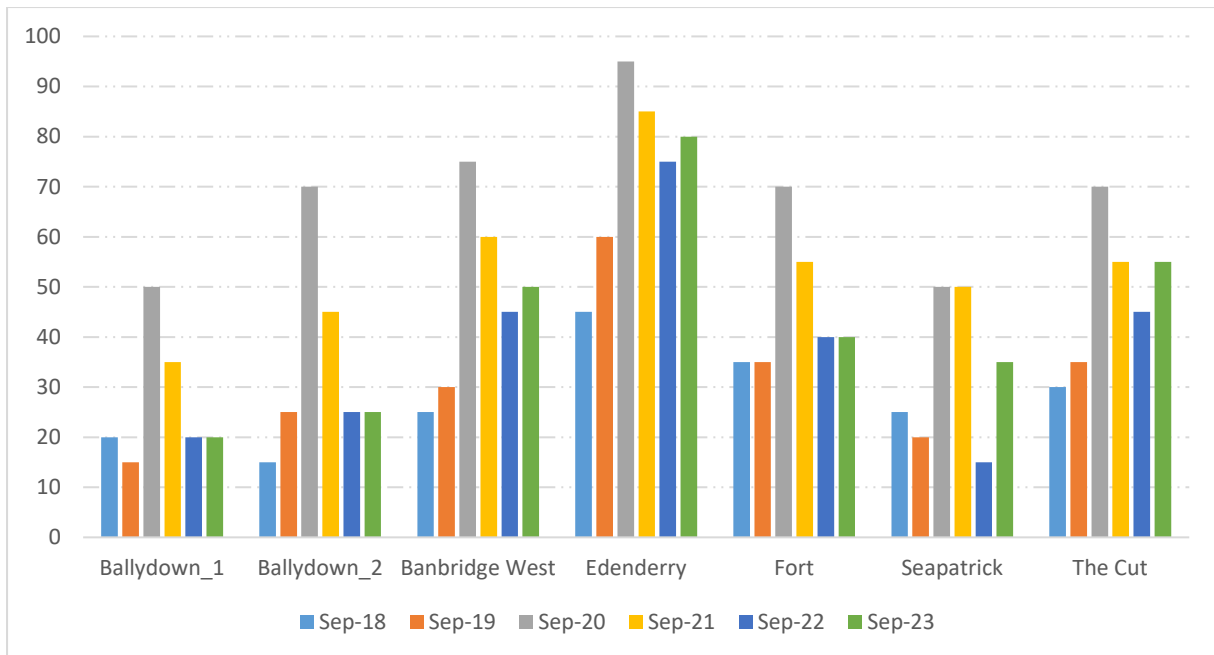


Figure 20: Claimant count monthly data by SOA, September 2018 - September 2023. Source: Claimant Count, NISRA.

Figure 20 presents the claimant count total by SOA in September of each year from 2018-2023. Edenderry has consistently had the highest number of claimants while Ballydown_1 has the lowest. Claimant count numbers were at their highest in each SOA in 2020 which is undoubtedly due to the Covid19 pandemic. However, numbers have been falling gradually since and in all areas (except Ballydown_1, where it is the same), the number of claimant's remains higher than the pre-pandemic count.

Using 2020 estimates of the working age population, we can calculate total claimants as a percentage of the working age. This is presented in Figure 21 below. In September 2023, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, it is estimated that 2.9% of the working age population were claiming benefits because they are seeking work. However, within the Banbridge Proxy Area, total claimants as a percentage of the working age varies significantly between the SOA's. In Ballydown_1 and Ballydown_2, the rate is relatively low at just 1.4% and 1.2% respectively. However, in The Cut and Edenderry, the rate is much higher with the percentage of the working age population claiming benefits because they are seeking work estimated at 5.2% and 4.6% respectively. These are both well above the rate for the borough overall and the average for Northern Ireland.

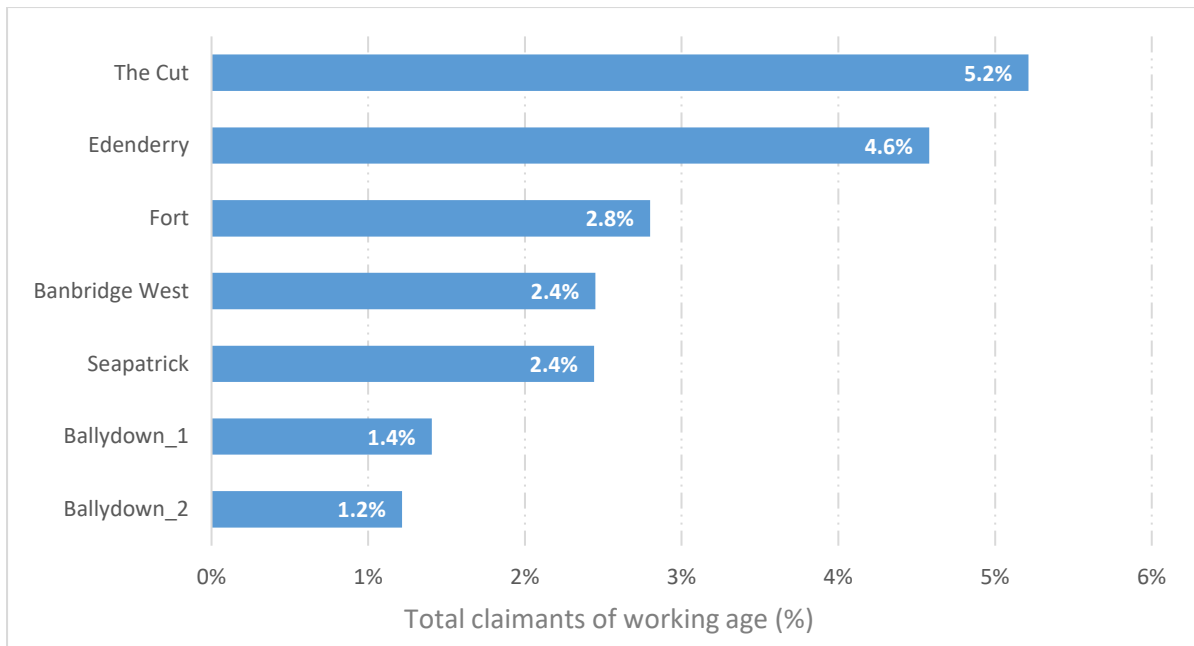


Figure 21: Total number of claimants as a percentage of working age by SOA in Banbridge Proxy Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: September 2023 Claimant Count, NISRA and 2020 Population estimates by broad age bands by SOA and LGD, NINIS. Authors own calculations.

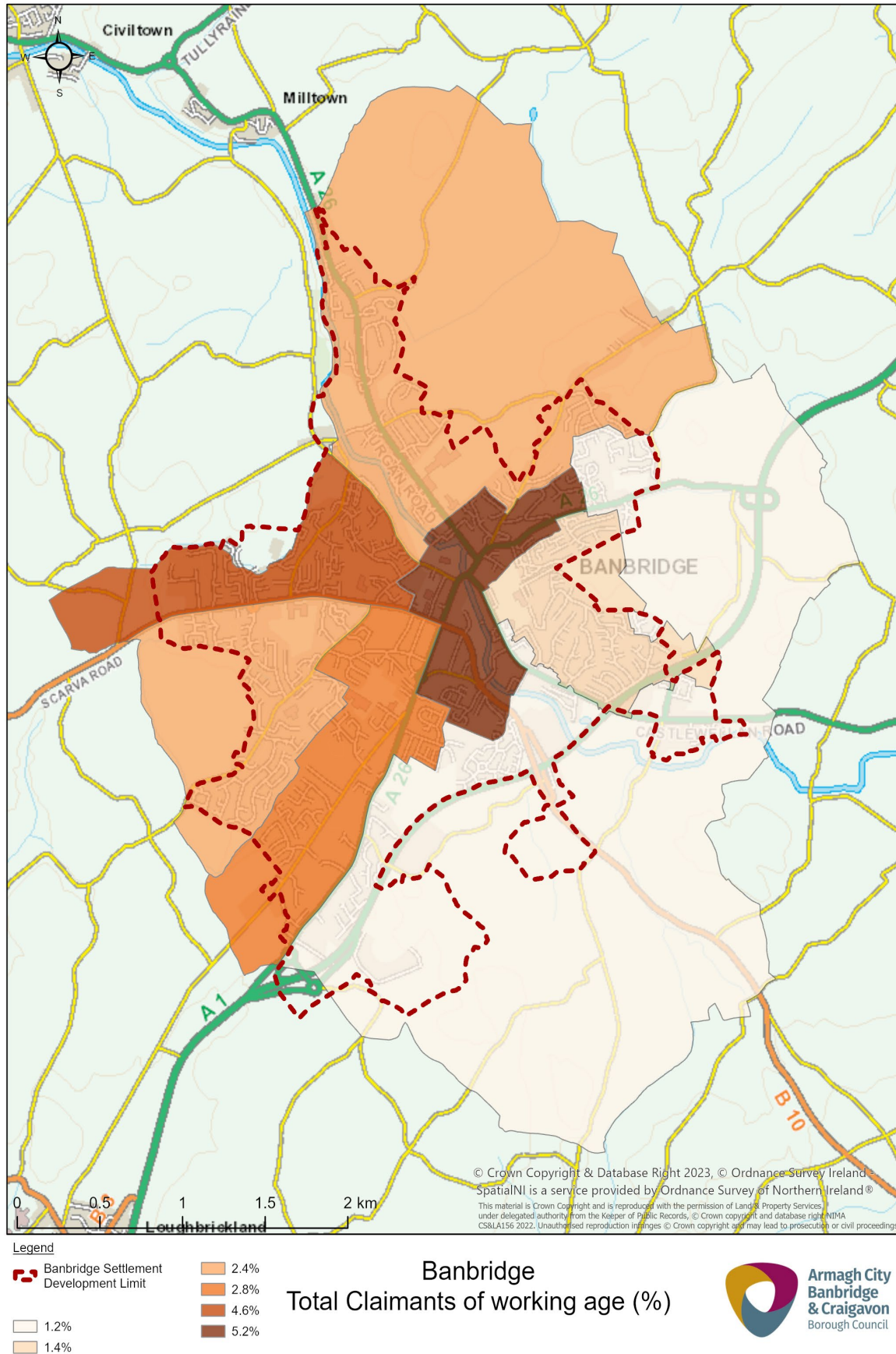


Figure 22: Total claimants of working age (%), Banbridge Proxy Area, September 2023. Source: Claimant Count, NISRA.

Local Government District	Number of male claimants	Number of female claimants	Total number of claimants	Male claimants of working age (%)	Female claimants of working age (%)	Total claimants of Working Age (%)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,260	1,095	2,355	2.8	2.4	2.6
Ards and North Down	1,570	1,155	2,725	3.3	2.3	2.8
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,065	1,900	3,965	3.1	2.8	2.9
Belfast	5,730	3,970	9,700	5.1	3.4	4.3
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,500	1,270	2,770	3.5	2.9	3.2
Derry City and Strabane	2,835	2,050	4,880	6.2	4.2	5.2
Fermanagh and Omagh	950	805	1,760	2.7	2.3	2.5
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,015	840	1,855	2.2	1.8	2
Mid and East Antrim	1,495	1,160	2,655	3.5	2.7	3.1
Mid Ulster	1,095	1,070	2,170	2.3	2.3	2.3
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,840	1,620	3,460	3.3	2.9	3.1
Northern Ireland	21,360	16,940	38,300	3.6	2.8	3.2

Table 19: Claimant count by Local Government District, September 2023. Source: Claimant Count, NISRA.

As per Table 19, we can see that the number of claimants is highest in Belfast, followed by Derry City & Strabane and then Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon. In every council area in Northern Ireland, the number of male claimants exceeds the number of female claimants. Information is also provided for the total number of claimants as a percentage of the working age. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, in September 2023, 2.9% of the working age population were claiming benefits because they are seeking work. This is just 0.9 percentage points higher than Lisburn and Castlereagh who had the lowest number of claimants as a percentage of the working age and 2.3 percentage points below Derry City and Strabane where approximately 5.2% of the working age were claiming benefits. In Northern Ireland overall, approximately 3.2% of working age were claiming benefits because they are seeking work.

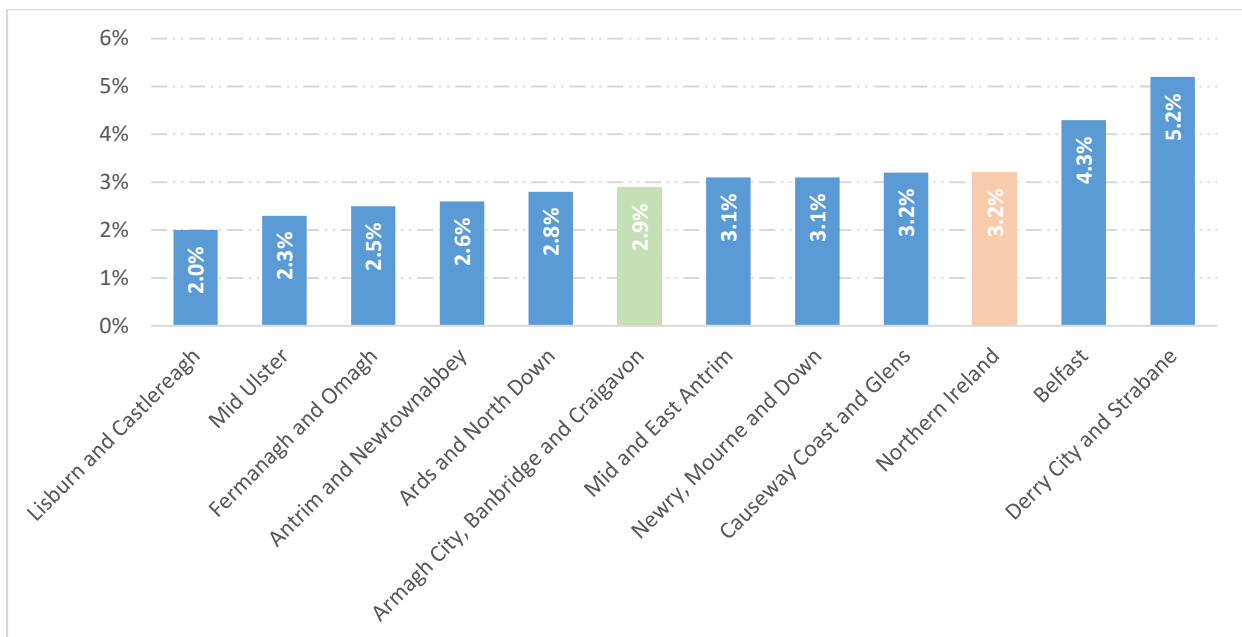


Figure 23: Total number of claimants as a percentage of working age by Local Government District, September 2023. Source: Claimant Count, NISRA.

Deprivation

Income, Employment and Education, Skills and Training Domains

As part of this section, the Income Domain, Employment Domain and Education, Skills and Training Domain are relevant. Edenderry and Fort rank among the top 11-20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland according to the Employment Domain. On the contrary, Ballydown_1 and Ballydown_2 are within the 11-20% least deprived areas in Northern Ireland according to both the Employment and the Education, Skills and Training Domains and Seapatrick is the top 11-20% least deprived areas according to the Education, Skills and Training Domain.

Rank of 1 is the most deprived, 890 is the least deprived	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank	Income Domain Rank	Employment Domain Rank	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank	Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank	Access to Services Domain Rank	Living Environment Domain Rank	Crime and Disorder Domain Rank
Ballydown_1	806	708	719	704	757	510	813	675
Banbridge West	430	388	413	354	267	458	794	372
Edenderry	224	357	170	145	182	648	775	132
Fort	503	638	307	393	383	561	777	230
The Cut	120	190	119	130	184	763	69	15
Ballydown_2	805	670	798	785	730	399	861	626
Seapatrick	672	621	490	604	731	423	682	409

Table 20: Overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank and individual domain ranks for SOAs in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Shaded dark blue are ranked in the 10% most deprived and those in light blue are in the top 11-20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Shaded yellow are ranked among the 10% least deprived in Northern Ireland and orange are in the top 11-20% least deprived in Northern Ireland within that specific domain.

Data from some of the indicators that make up these three domains show that 13.5% of the population of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon live in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median compared to 13.1% for NI overall. Of the SOAs that make up the Banbridge Proxy Area, The Cut has the highest proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median at 15.8%. Ballydown_1 has the lowest at 9.8%.

In terms of the proportion of the working age population who are employment deprived, Edenderry and The Cut, at 29.1% and 32.4% respectively, are significantly higher than the average for the borough at 18.9%. Banbridge DEA is just slightly higher than the borough average but below the proportion for NI overall. The proportion of working age adults with no or low levels of qualification is highest in The Cut and Edenderry at 46.6% and 46.2% respectively, both ten or more percentage points above the borough overall. In Banbridge DEA, approximately 35.1% of working age adults have no or low levels of qualification.

	Proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median (%)	Proportion of the working age population who are employment deprived (%)	Proportions of working age adults (25-64) with no or low levels of qualification (%)
Armagh	15.7%	20.4%	37.7%
Banbridge	13.1%	19.2%	35.1%
Craigavon	11.9%	18.4%	35.7%
Cusher	14.1%	16.6%	35.7%
Lagan River	12.3%	13.3%	27.6%
Lurgan	12.9%	21.6%	39.1%
Portadown	14.6%	20.4%	40.3%
Ballydown_1	9.8%	12.6%	26.9%
Ballydown_2	10.3%	10.6%	23.3%
Banbridge West	13.4%	19.6%	37.8%
Edenderry	13.8%	29.1%	46.2%
Fort	10.8%	23.3%	35.5%
Seapatrick	11.0%	17.8%	28.8%
The Cut	15.8%	32.4%	46.6%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	13.5%	18.9%	36.2%
Northern Ireland	13.1%	20.6%	35.6%

Table 21: Indicator information relating to the Income Domain, Employment Domain and Education, Skills and Training Domain. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA.

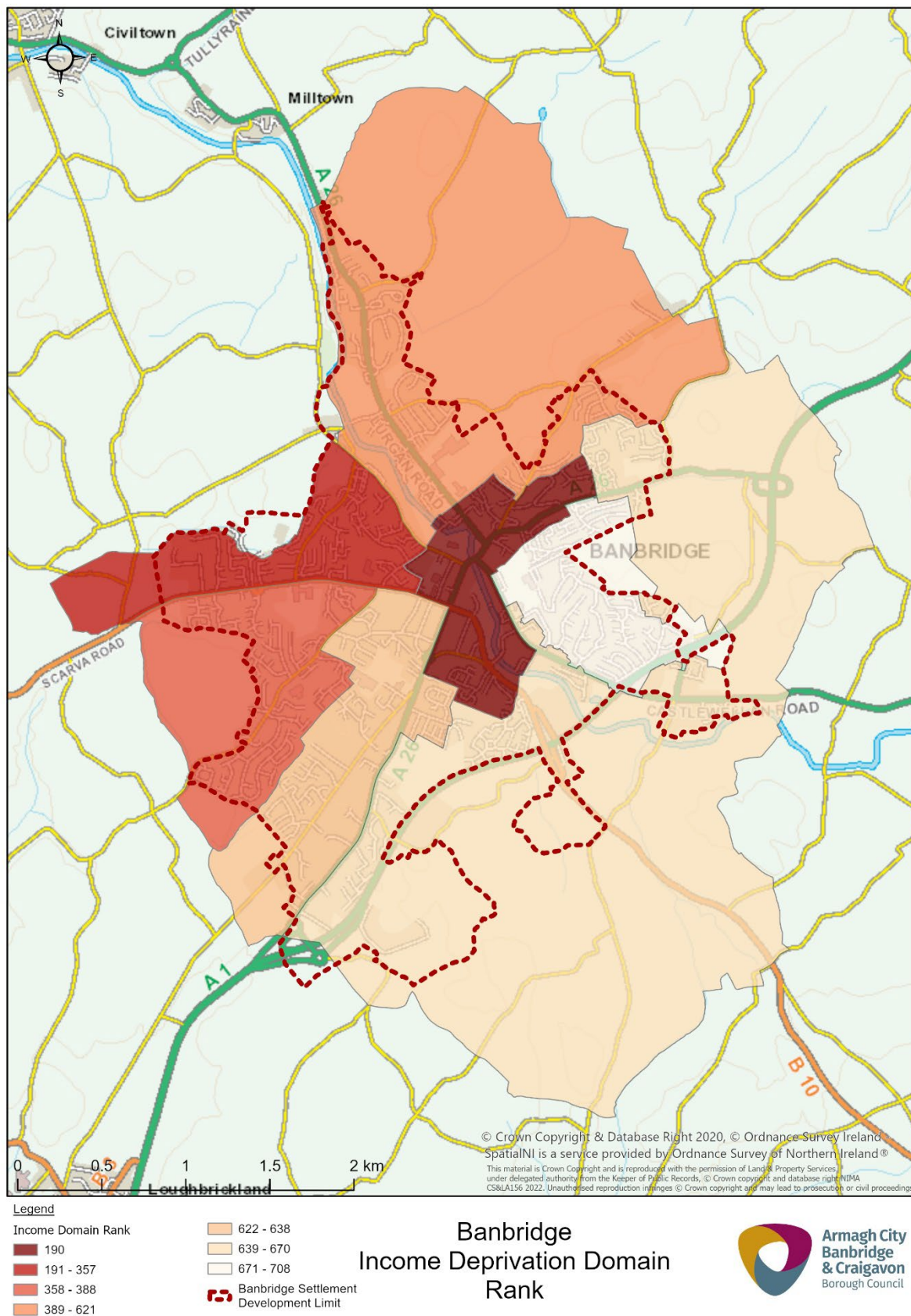


Figure 24: Income Deprivation Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

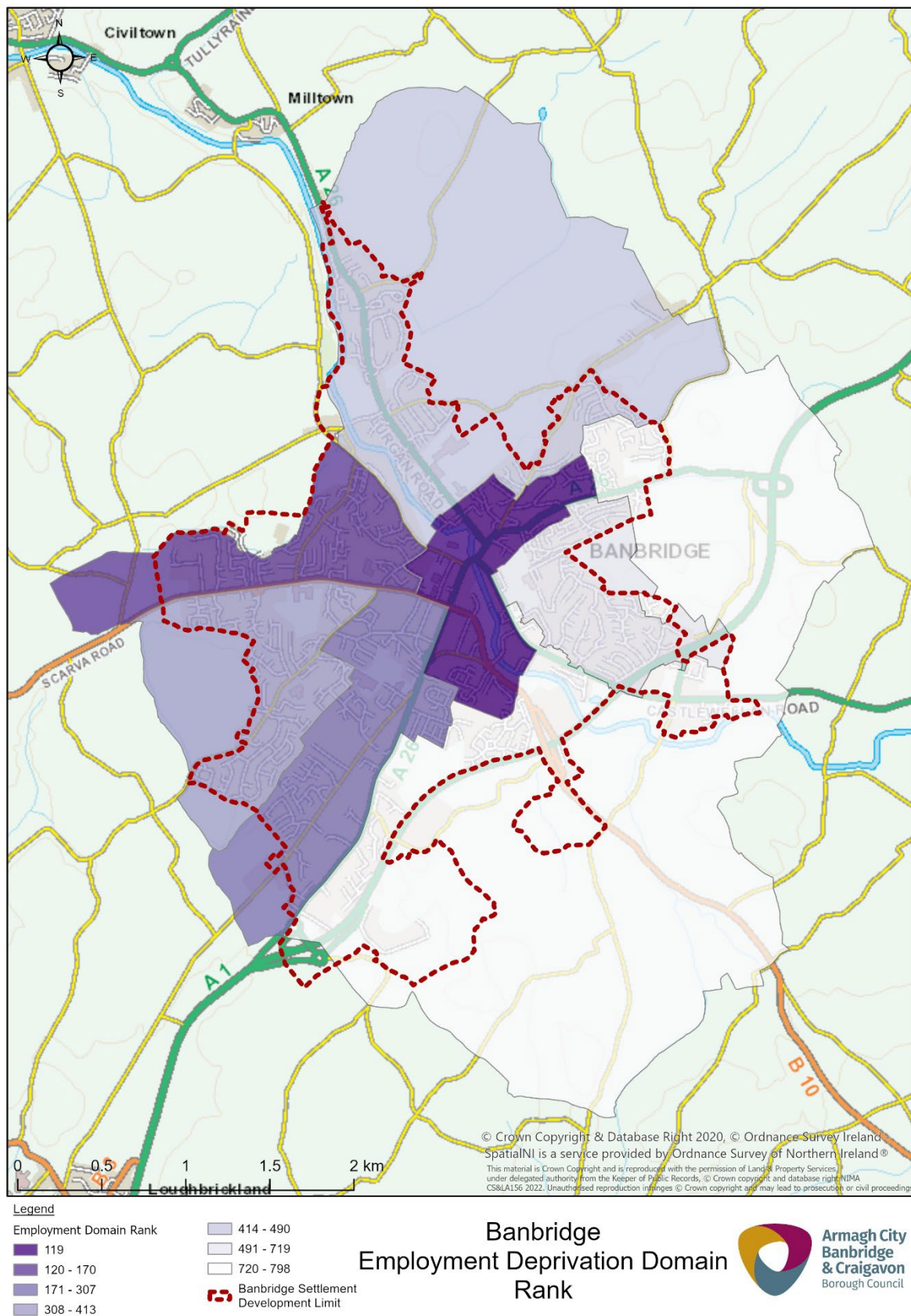


Figure 25: Employment Deprivation Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

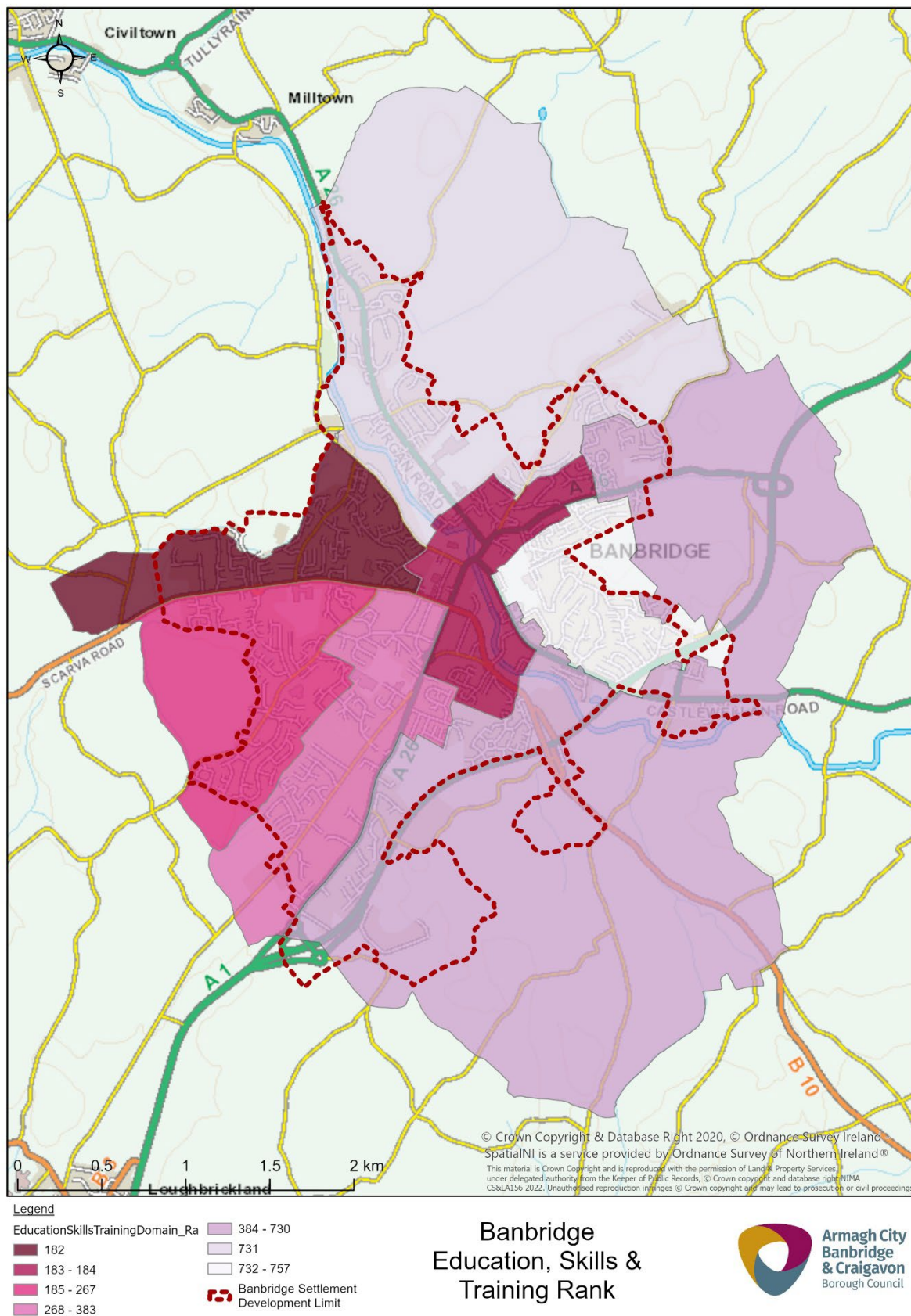


Figure 26: Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

Businesses

At March 2023, there were 9,390 VAT and / or PAYE registered businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, accounting for 11.9% of all such businesses in Northern Ireland. The number of businesses has increased year on year since 2014, however the increase between 2021 and 2022 has been the greatest with the number of businesses growing by 3.6%.

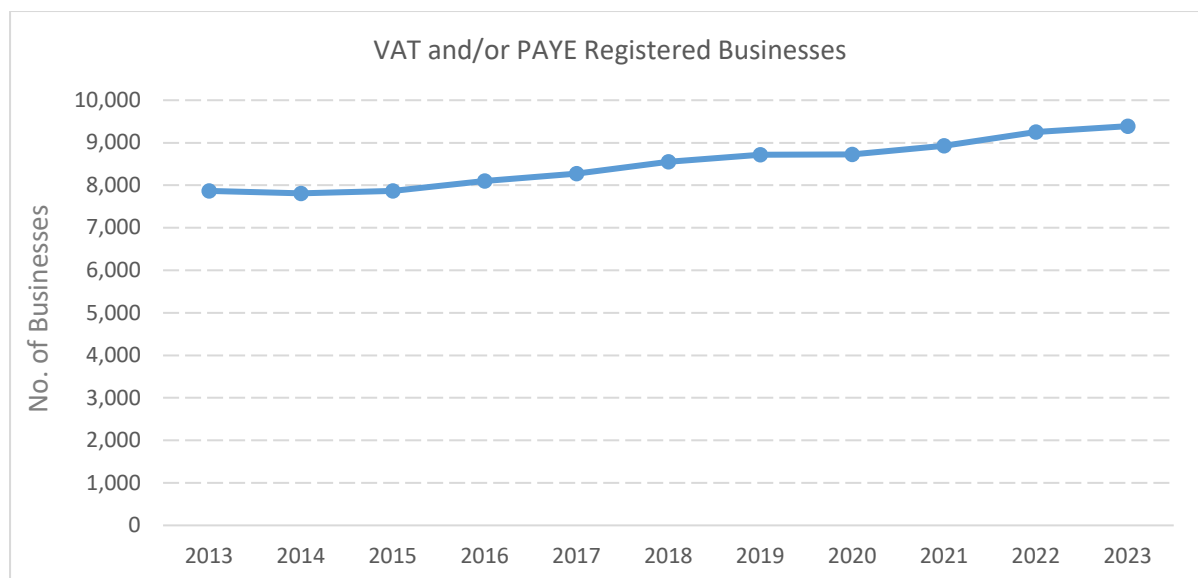


Figure 27: Number of VAT and / or PAYE registered businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 2013 - 2023. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.

Banbridge DEA has approximately 1,600 VAT and / or PAYE registered businesses which accounts for 17% of the borough total.

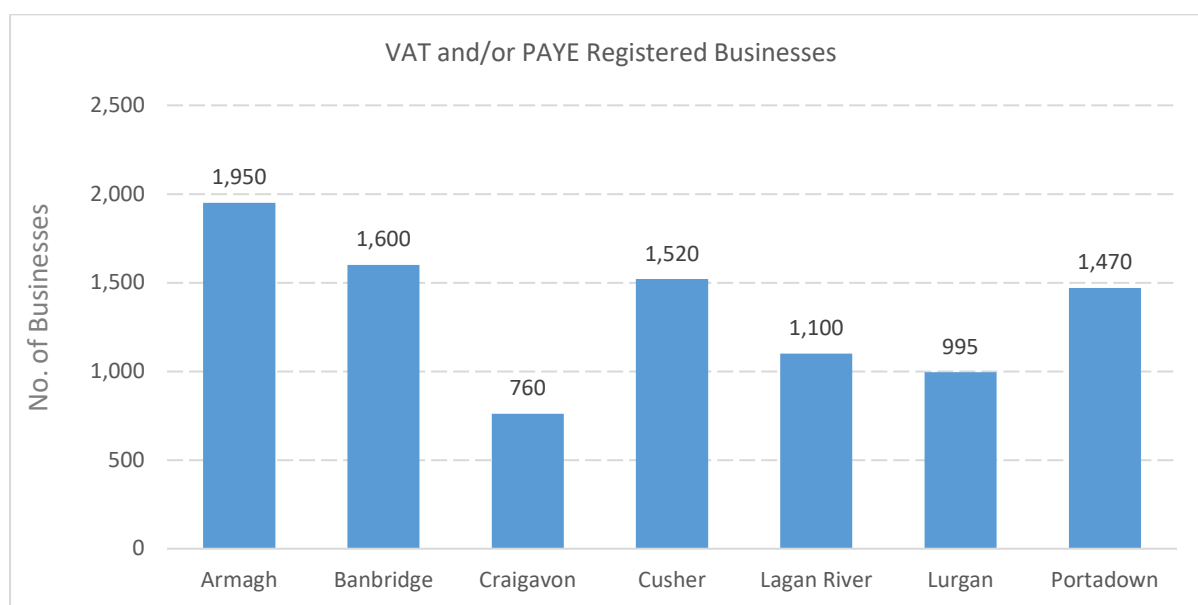


Figure 28: Number of VAT and / or PAYE registered businesses in District Electoral Areas in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 2023. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.

Business Demography

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is by far the largest industry group in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough accounting for 26.4% of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. The second largest industry group is construction (14.1%), followed by Retail Trades (8.4%).

The business profile in Banbridge DEA is much the same as the borough with Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing again the largest, accounting for 27.5%, followed by Construction at 14.4% and Retail Trades at 9.7%. In Banbridge DEA, these three industries account for 51.6% of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in 2023. Financial and Insurance activities and Education businesses are the smallest industry groupings and together account for just 1.9% of businesses in Banbridge DEA and 2% of businesses in the borough overall.

	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Cusher	Lagan River	Lurgan	Portadown	ABC Borough
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	30.8%	27.5%	11.8%	41.4%	30.0%	9.5%	20.7%	26.4%
Production	6.4%	5.3%	13.2%	8.2%	7.3%	9.5%	6.1%	7.4%
Construction	14.9%	14.4%	18.4%	12.5%	15.9%	15.6%	9.2%	14.1%
Motor Trades	4.6%	3.8%	4.6%	4.6%	4.1%	3.0%	4.4%	4.2%
Wholesale Trades	4.1%	4.1%	5.3%	3.9%	5.9%	4.5%	4.8%	4.4%
Retail Trades	8.2%	9.7%	7.9%	5.6%	5.9%	12.1%	9.5%	8.4%
Transport and storage	5.4%	5.0%	6.6%	5.6%	4.5%	6.0%	9.5%	6.0%
Accommodation and food service activities	3.6%	4.7%	3.9%	2.6%	2.7%	8.0%	5.4%	4.3%
Information and communication	1.3%	1.6%	2.6%	1.0%	1.8%	3.0%	1.4%	1.6%
Financial and insurance activities	0.8%	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%	1.4%	1.0%	2.0%	1.2%
Property	2.6%	4.1%	4.6%	1.3%	2.3%	2.0%	3.1%	2.8%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.9%	7.2%	5.9%	4.3%	6.8%	7.5%	6.1%	6.2%
Business administration and support services	3.1%	3.4%	4.6%	2.6%	4.5%	4.0%	8.8%	4.3%
Education	0.8%	0.6%	1.3%	0.3%	0.9%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%
Human health and social work activities	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%	1.6%	2.7%	4.5%	2.7%	2.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	4.9%	5.9%	5.9%	3.3%	3.6%	9.0%	5.4%	5.3%
Total Number of VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses	1,950	1,600	760	1,520	1,100	995	1,470	9,390

Table 22: Broad industry group of VAT and / or PAYE registered businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, March 2023. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.

According to the Town Centre Database, in 2021 there were a total of 305 businesses in Banbridge Town Centre. This is 10 less than 2015 figures but an increase on 2019. The majority of businesses are wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles. Accommodation and food service activities and Professional, scientific and technical activities each account for 10% of the total number of businesses in Banbridge Town Centre.

	2015		2017		2019		2021	
Industry Section	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	N/A	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mining And Quarrying	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Electricity, Gas, Steam And Air Conditioning Supply	N/A	N/A	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	N/A	N/A
Construction	10	3%	*	*	*	*	5	2%
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	115	37%	105	36%	100	33%	105	34%
Transportation And Storage	5	2%	5	2%	5	2%	5	2%
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	35	11%	30	10%	30	10%	30	10%
Information And Communication	5	2%	5	2%	5	2%	5	2%
Financial And Insurance Activities	15	5%	15	5%	15	5%	15	5%
Real Estate Activities	10	3%	15	5%	15	5%	15	5%
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	30	10%	25	8%	30	10%	30	10%
Administrative And Support Service Activities	15	5%	15	5%	15	5%	10	3%
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	5	2%	10	3%	10	3%	10	3%
Education	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Human Health And Social Work Activities	20	6%	15	5%	15	5%	15	5%
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	10	3%	10	3%	15	5%	10	3%
Other Service Activities	35	11%	35	12%	35	12%	35	11%
Total	315		295		300		305	

Table 23: Business Demography in Banbridge Town Centre 2015 – 2021. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities. Please note, IDBR figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and counts of businesses one to four have been suppressed (*).

Business Turnover and Size

In 2023, in Banbridge DEA, more than one quarter (26.6%) of businesses had a turnover of less than £50,000 while less than 10% of businesses had a turnover of £1m or more. Banbridge DEA had a similar turnover profile to the borough overall.

	Turnover Size Band (£ Thousands)							
	0-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000-4,999	5,000+	Total
Armagh	26.2%	16.9%	23.8%	12.8%	7.7%	9.0%	3.3%	1,950
Banbridge	26.6%	17.2%	25.6%	13.1%	8.1%	8.4%	0.9%	1,600
Craigavon	18.4%	16.4%	24.3%	11.8%	9.2%	11.2%	8.6%	760
Cusher	30.3%	17.4%	23.0%	12.5%	7.9%	6.9%	1.6%	1,520
Lagan River	29.5%	20.0%	23.6%	11.8%	7.3%	5.9%	1.8%	1,100
Lurgan	20.1%	16.1%	28.1%	14.1%	10.6%	9.0%	2.5%	995
Portadown	21.1%	21.4%	23.5%	13.9%	8.2%	9.2%	2.7%	1,470
ABC Total	25.3%	18.1%	24.4%	12.9%	8.2%	8.4%	2.8%	9,390

Table 24: Number of Businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area by District Electoral Area and Turnover Size Band (£000), March 2023. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.

In the Banbridge DEA, the majority of businesses (92.2%) are micro-businesses (employing fewer than 10 people) with less than 1% of businesses employing 50 or more staff. In the borough overall, there is a slightly higher percentage of larger businesses with approximately 1.7% of businesses in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough employing 50 or more staff.

	Employee Size Band				
District Electoral Area	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
Armagh	90.5%	7.7%	1.8%	*	1,950
Banbridge	92.2%	6.9%	0.6%	*	1,600
Craigavon	81.6%	12.5%	3.9%	2.6%	760
Cusher	94.1%	4.9%	1.0%	*	1,520
Lagan River	94.1%	4.5%	0.9%	*	1,100
Lurgan	88.4%	10.1%	1.0%	0.5%	995
Portadown	89.5%	8.8%	1.4%	*	1,470
ABC Total	90.7%	7.6%	1.4%	0.3%	9,390

Table 25: Number of Businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area by District Electoral Area and Employee Size Band, March 2023. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note, IDBR figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and counts of businesses one to four have been suppressed ()*

Table 26 below presents business turnover in Banbridge Town Centre for 2017, 2018 and 2019 which shows that in the two year period 2017-2019, business turnover more than doubled from £92.23m in 2017 to £192.52m in 2019. In 2019, Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles accounted for 76% of the total turnover in Banbridge Town Centre while Accommodation and Food Service Activities generated approximately £25.25m accounting for 13% of the turnover in Banbridge Town Centre.

	2017		2018		2019	
Industry Section	Turnover (£ millions)	% of Total Turnover	Turnover (£ millions)	% of Total Turnover	Turnover (£ millions)	% of Total Turnover
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	d	d	d	d	d	d
Mining & Quarrying	d	d	d	d	d	d
Manufacturing	d	d	d	d	d	d
Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	d	d	d	d	d	d
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation Activities	d	d	d	d	d	d
Construction	d	d	d	d	d	d
Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	£68.22	74%	£62.94	62%	£145.57	76%
Transportation & Storage	d	d	d	d	d	d
Accommodation & Food Service Activities	d	d	£23.95	23%	£25.25	13%
Information & Communication	d	d	d	d	d	d
Financial & Insurance Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Real Estate Activities	d	d	d	d	d	d
Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	d	d	d	d	£4.59	2%
Administrative & Support Service Activities	£1.71	2%	d	d	d	d
Public Admin & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	d	d	d	d	d	d
Human Health & Social Work Activities	d	d	d	d	d	d
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	£10.90	12%	d	d	d	d
Other Service Activities	d	d	d	d	d	d
	£92.23		£102.19		£192.52	
<i>Disclosive total</i>	<i>£11.40</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>£15.30</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>£17.11</i>	<i>9%</i>

Table 26: Business turnover in Banbridge Town Centre, 2017, 2018 & 2019. Source: NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities. Note: d refers to disclosive information that cannot be presented.

Employee Jobs

In Banbridge Town Centre, the number of employee jobs has decreased by 11% between 2015 and 2021 from 2,631 to 2,338. The Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles industry has remained the biggest employer accounting for approximately 2 in every 5 jobs and the total number of employees has increased from 909 in 2015 to 985 in 2021. The number of employee jobs in Banbridge Town Centre in Human Health and Social Work Activities

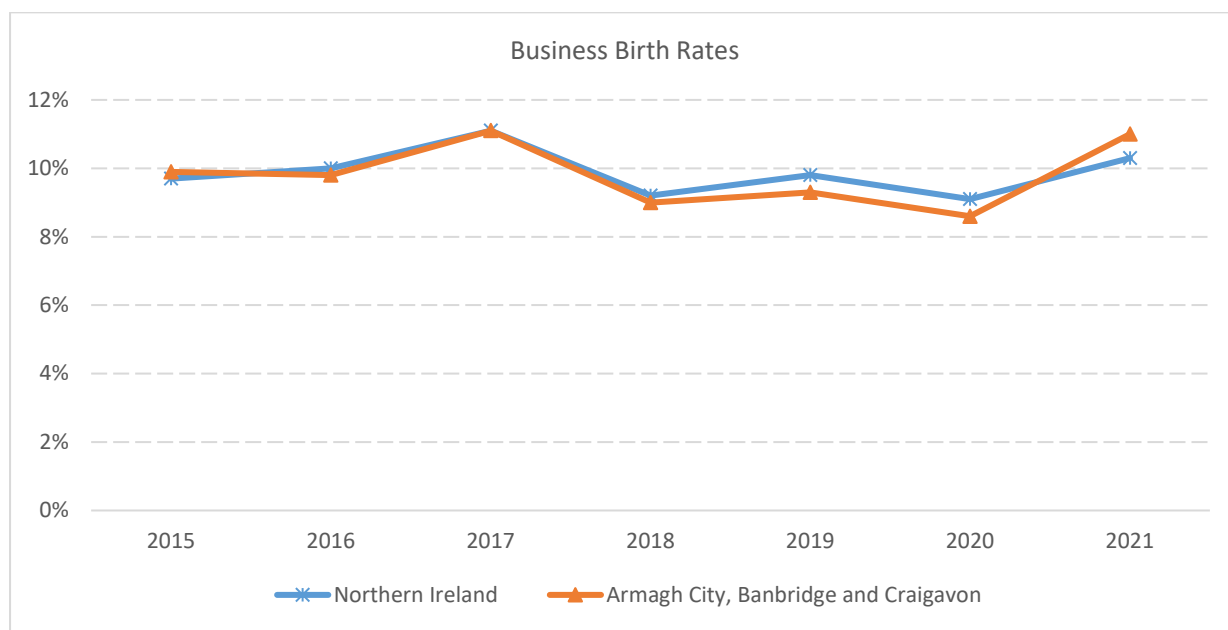
fell most significantly from 437 in 2015 to 125 in 2021 representing a decrease of approximately 71%.

	2015		2017		2019		2021	
Industry Section	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	N/A	N/A	0	0%	*	*	*	*
Mining And Quarrying	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Electricity, Gas, Steam And Air Conditioning Supply	N/A	N/A	0	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities	*	*	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	909	35%	1,001	44%	873	38%	985	42%
Transportation And Storage	74	3%	73	3%	102	4%	*	*
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	286	11%	286	13%	307	13%	300	13%
Information And Communication	*	*	26	1%	*	*	42	2%
Financial And Insurance Activities	72	3%	97	4%	61	3%	74	3%
Real Estate Activities	26	1%	35	2%	30	1%	38	2%
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	144	5%	134	6%	145	6%	130	6%
Administrative And Support Service Activities	65	2%	61	3%	79	3%	42	2%
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	240	9%	217	10%	292	13%	315	13%
Education	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Human Health And Social Work Activities	437	17%	54	2%	146	6%	125	5%
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	87	3%	99	4%	98	4%	84	4%
Other Service Activities	110	4%	116	5%	93	4%	98	4%
	2,631		2,261		2,298		2,338	

Table 27: Employee Jobs in Banbridge Town Centre, 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2021. Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Business Birth Rates

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2021 there were 790 enterprises born which equates to a business birth rate of 11% (births as a percentage of active enterprises). The business birth rate for Northern Ireland overall was slightly lower at 10.3%. The business birth rate in the borough has followed a similar pattern to Northern Ireland from 2015 – 2021 although the 2021 rate of 11% in the borough is 0.7 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average and the biggest divergence of the years presented below.



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	9.9%	9.8%	11.1%	9.0%	9.3%	8.6%	11.0%
Northern Ireland	9.7%	10.0%	11.1%	9.2%	9.8%	9.1%	10.3%

Figure 29: Business birth rates in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2015-2021. Source: Inter-Department Business Register, Office of National Statistics.

Business Survival Rates

Just over half of all businesses born in 2016 in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough survived five years in business, more than 3 percentage points above the Northern Ireland five-year business survival rate of 47.3%. Business survival rates in the borough are above those for Northern Ireland for each year the business survives.

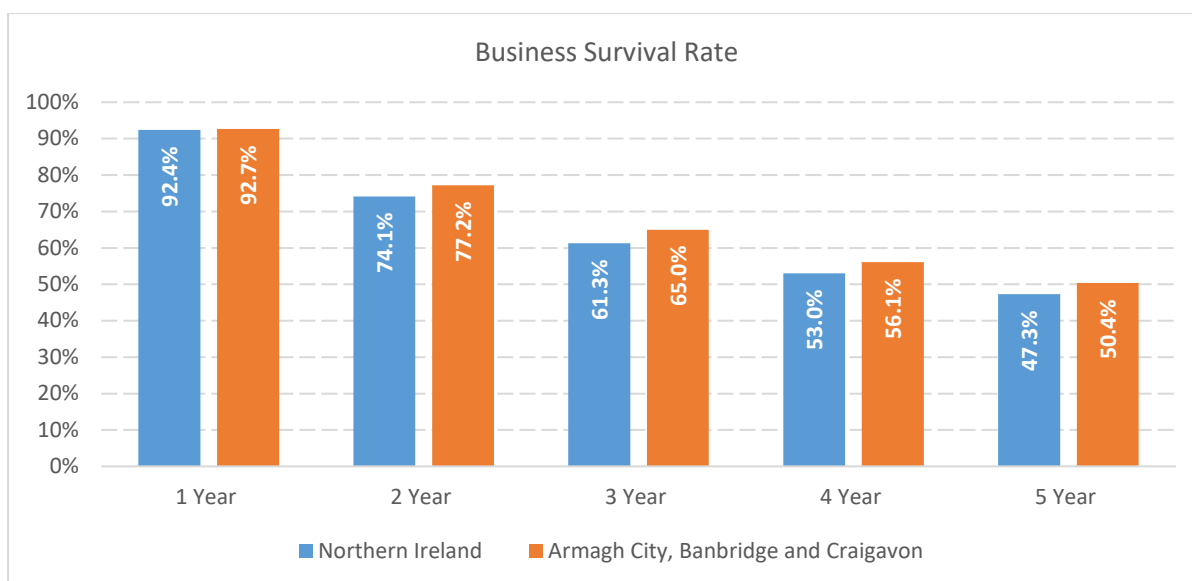


Figure 30: Business survival rates of businesses born in 2016 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Inter-Department Business Register, Office of National Statistics.

Table 28 presents data on the survival rates of businesses born between 2016 and 2020 in both the borough and Northern Ireland. While almost 93% of businesses born in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2016 survived one year, just 87.3% of businesses born in 2019 survived one year. Given that this is a significant drop and a similar drop was observed for NI overall, this may be an effect of the Covid19 pandemic so care should be taken when interpreting these figures. Survival rates in the borough are generally similar to those of Northern Ireland.

Year of Business Birth	ABC Survival Rate (%)					NI Survival Rate (%)				
	1 Year Survival	2 Year Survival	3 Year Survival	4 Year Survival	5 Year Survival	1 Year Survival	2 Year Survival	3 Year Survival	4 Year Survival	5 Year Survival
2016	92.7%	77.2%	65.0%	56.1%	50.4%	92.4%	74.1%	61.3%	53.0%	47.3%
2017	90.3%	75.2%	61.4%	53.8%	:	91.2%	75.0%	62.3%	54.6%	:
2018	93.3%	73.9%	62.2%	:	:	92.8%	73.1%	61.6%	:	:
2019	87.3%	73.8%	:	:	:	88.1%	72.4%	:	:	:
2020	90.6%	:	:	:	:	92.7%	:	:	:	:

Table 28: Business survival rates in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2016-2020. Source: Inter-Department Business Register, Office of National Statistics.

Tourism

The number of overnight trips to the borough have varied over the last seven years. 2014 saw the highest number of estimated overnight trips to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (231,852). The estimated number of overnight trips to the borough in 2019 had fallen to 181,477.

The number of nights spent in the borough in 2019 was 573,627. Across the last seven years 2013 saw the highest number of nights spent with 817,881.

Expenditure was highest in 2017 with an estimated £32.4 million spent by visitors to the borough. In 2019 estimated expenditure was £27 million.

	Overnight Trips		Nights		Expenditure	
	Number	% of NI	Number	% of NI	£	% of NI
2013	201,161	5%	817,881	6%	21,894,975	3%
2014	231,852	5%	769,693	5%	28,120,012	4%
2015	149,782	3%	563,238	4%	22,539,092	3%
2016	144,952	3%	726,296	5%	25,548,339	3%
2017	228,595	5%	780,583	5%	32,384,669	3%
2018	188,551	4%	704,130	4%	26,404,319	3%
2019	181,477	3%	573,627	3%	26,969,066	3%

Table 29: Estimated overnight trips, nights and expenditure in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013 to 2019. Source: Tourism Statistics, NISRA.

Banbridge can lay claim to some important personages such as the famous Arctic explorer, Captain F R M Crozier, who has a commemorative statue at the bottom of the town and the world-renowned artist Frederick Edward McWilliam was also born in Banbridge. The F.E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio is dedicated to the memory of him as one of Ireland's most influential and successful artists. The studio features a permanent display of McWilliam's work, temporary exhibitions of Irish and international art, a craft shop, café and Banbridge Tourist Information Centre and the Studio attracts a wide range of local, national and international visitors.

Counters are in place at the entrance to the centre and the entrance to the gallery and a manual count of gallery visitors is also undertaken. Table 30 presents the total annual visitors each year from 2010 to 2022. 2023 figures are from January to 31st October.

The visitor centre usually attracts in excess of 40,000 visitors each year although the impact of Covid19 can be seen on 2020 and 2021 visitor numbers. 2022 saw a record number of visitors exceeding all pre-covid19 levels. Between 2010 and 2019, the gallery counters counted between 16-26k visitors each year. The gallery counter was not in use during 2020 and 2021 but was replaced in 2022 when the number of visitors to the gallery was the highest of the years presented. The 2023 YTD figures are also encouraging and suggest that visitor numbers are at least back to the same levels that would have been seen prior to the pandemic.

	Total visitors to Centre (Entrance Counter)	Total visitors to Gallery (Gallery Counter)	Total visitors to Gallery (Manual count)
2010	41,959	25,879	13,200
2011	43,069	26,402	13,305
2012	50,466	26,312	15,297
2013	47,963	22,890	12,221
2014	46,150	23,287	10,339
2015	42,498	18,470	9,291
2016	41,781	16,187	9,394
2017	44,573	21,225	11,830
2018	38,822	16,126	10,524
2019	46,754	21,562	13,376
2020	16,242	-	5,806
2021	27,625	-	8,401
2022	52,273	27,920	15,174
2023	38,644	18,788	10,211

Table 30: Visitor numbers to FE McWilliams Gallery 2010 - 31st October 2023. Source: Banbridge Tourist Information Centre. Note: The Gallery counter broke and was only replaced in 2022.

PLACE

Housing

Tenure

According to the 2021 Census, approximately 67% of homes in the Banbridge Settlement Area were either owned outright or owned with a mortgage. In the borough overall, the proportion is slightly higher with around 71% of homes either owned outright or with a mortgage.

Consequently, a slightly higher percentage of homes in the Banbridge Settlement Area were rented, 30% compared to 26% in the borough overall. These proportions have remained much the same between 2011 and 2021 in both the Banbridge Settlement area and the borough overall. The majority of rented properties were rented privately while only 3% were rented from housing associations.

	Banbridge Settlement Area		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Owned Outright	27%	29%	33%	31%
Owned with Mortgage	39%	38%	37%	40%
Shared Ownership		1%		1%
Rented - NI Housing Executive	11%	8%	9%	7%
Rented - Housing Association	3%	3%	2%	2%
Rented - Privately / Other	17%	19%	16%	18%
Rent Free	3%	2%	3%	2%

Table 31: Housing tenure of Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011 & 2021. Source: KS402NI Census 2011 and NISRA Flexible Table Builder, Census 2021, NISRA.

House Prices

The Northern Ireland House Price Index³ (HPI) provides both a standardised price and property price index. The index reference period is Quarter 1 2015 which equals 100. This quarter is then used as a benchmark for other periods.

The standardised residential property price in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in Quarter 2 of 2023 stood at £152,388, a decrease of 1.5% on Quarter 1 2023 (£154,736). The standardised residential property price in Northern Ireland overall in Quarter 2 2023 (£173,898) which is an increase of 1.4% on Quarter 1 2023⁴. In Quarter 2, 2023, the borough had the lowest standardised house prices in Northern Ireland.

³ Northern Ireland House Price Index - <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-northern-ireland-house-price-index>

⁴ Results for the most recent quarters are provisional and subject to revision as more up-to-date data become available.

	Standardised Price	House Price Index
Antrim and Newtownabbey	£178,274	155.1
Ards and North Down	£199,745	148.8
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	£152,388	154.6
Belfast	£157,629	149.1
Causeway Coast and Glens	£198,603	183.9
Derry City and Strabane	£160,175	169.2
Fermanagh and Omagh	£160,473	167.4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	£203,161	151.3
Mid and East Antrim	£159,259	153.8
Mid Ulster	£167,396	149.7
Newry, Mourne and Down	£186,646	165.9
Northern Ireland	£173,898	156.8

Table 32: HPI and Standardised Price for each LGD in NI, Quarter 2, 2023. Source: Land and Property Services, NISRA.

Figure 31 shows the HPI for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough from Q1, 2005 to Q2 2023. The HPI is designed to provide a measure of change in the price of a standardised residential property sold. As we can see, house prices have followed an upward trend after having reached their lowest in Q4, 2012 in the borough. After reaching 159.4 in Q3 2022, the HPI has fallen in the quarters after.

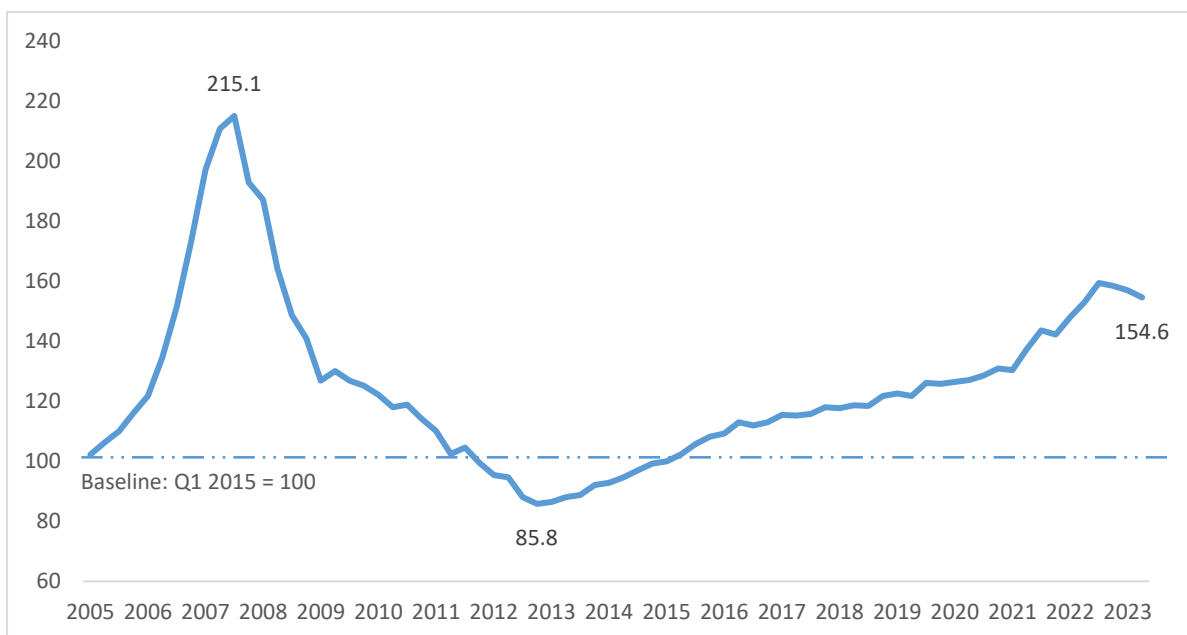


Figure 31: House Price Index, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Q1 2005-Q2 2023. Source: Land and Property Services, NISRA.

Housing Stock

NI Housing Stock statistics measures the number of domestic dwellings recorded in Northern Ireland at the beginning of each financial year. Housing Stock is defined as a count of properties which are valued as domestic or mixed for the purposes of rating⁵. Housing Stock includes both social sector and private sector dwellings in the Valuation List and statistics are available by LGD, SOA and electoral ward by property type.

	Converted Apartment	Purpose Built Apartment	Detached	Semi-Detached	Terrace	Total Housing Stock
Ballydown_1	0	0	399	343	162	904
Ballydown_2	7	40	677	324	193	1,241
Banbridge West	1	19	188	645	418	1,271
Edenderry	2	153	140	253	694	1,242
Fort	7	141	374	319	259	1,100
Seapatrick	0	86	513	189	222	1,010
The Cut	39	142	92	92	633	998
Banbridge Proxy Area	56	581	2,383	2,165	2,581	7,766
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough	990	3,410	38,201	22,948	24,158	89,707
Northern Ireland	15,122	75,139	296,675	212,981	228,912	828,829

Table 33: Housing Stock by property type in Banbridge Proxy Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD, April 2023. Source: Land and Property Services, NISRA.

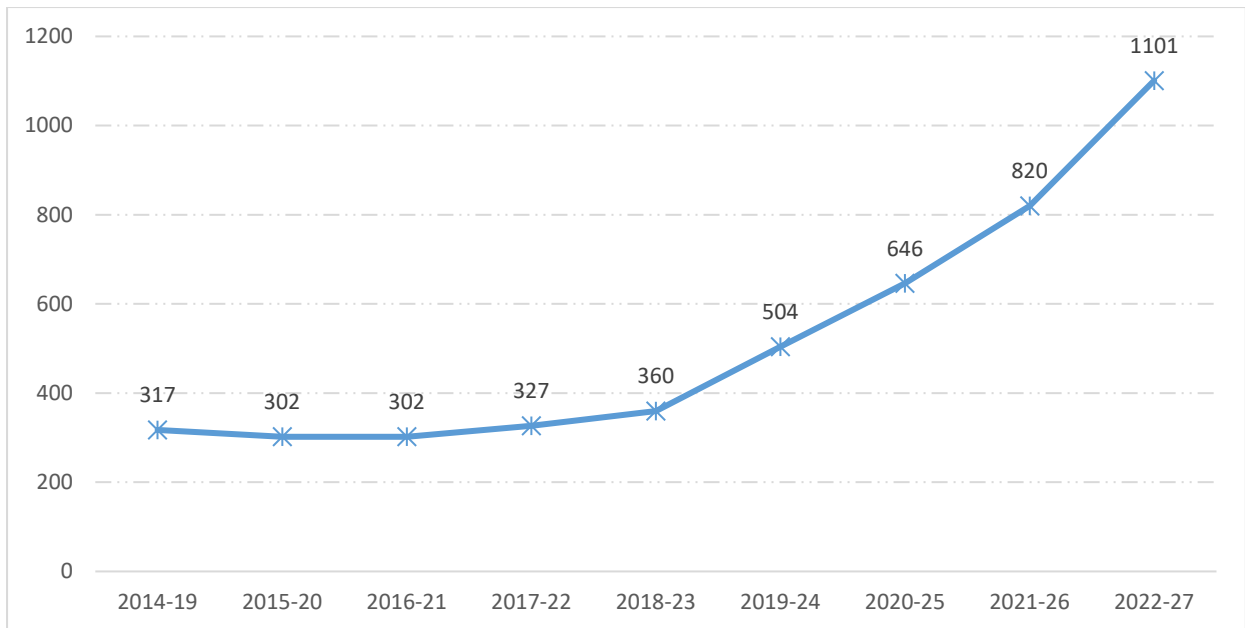
As at April 2023, there were a total of 7,766 dwellings in the Banbridge Proxy Area. Terrace houses account for one third of these dwellings while apartments (converted and purpose built) account for approximately 8.2%. In The Cut, there are a total of 181 apartments accounting for 28.4% of the total number of apartments in the Banbridge Proxy Area while Edenderry and Fort have 155 (24.3%) and 148 (23.2%) respectively. In the borough overall, there are more detached properties than any other property type. At 38,201 these account for 42.6% (compared to 31% in the Banbridge proxy area) of the total dwellings while terrace houses account for approximately 27%. In the borough overall, apartments account for just 4.9%. Approximately 14.5% of the total apartments in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough are located in the Banbridge Proxy Area.

Social Housing

The levels of social housing need are assessed and monitored by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Social Housing is housing that is provided at an affordable rent by the Housing Executive and registered housing associations; that is, housing associations that are registered and regulated by the Department for Communities (DfC) as a social housing provider.

The five-year assessment for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough for 2022-27 shows a need for an additional 1,101 units over this period. The level of social housing need more than trebled since the 2018-23 assessment.

⁵ [Quality Assurance of Administrative Data Housing Stock \(Updated June 2020\) \(finance-ni.gov.uk\)](https://finance-ni.gov.uk/)



*Figure 32: Social housing need in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014-19 and 2022-27.
Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive & Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Commissioning Prospectus data 2022.*

With an additional 1,101 units required in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough between 2022-27, figure 33 shows this need by settlement area within the borough. North Lurgan and Banbridge Town exhibit the highest levels of social housing need in the borough with 248 and 170 units required respectively.

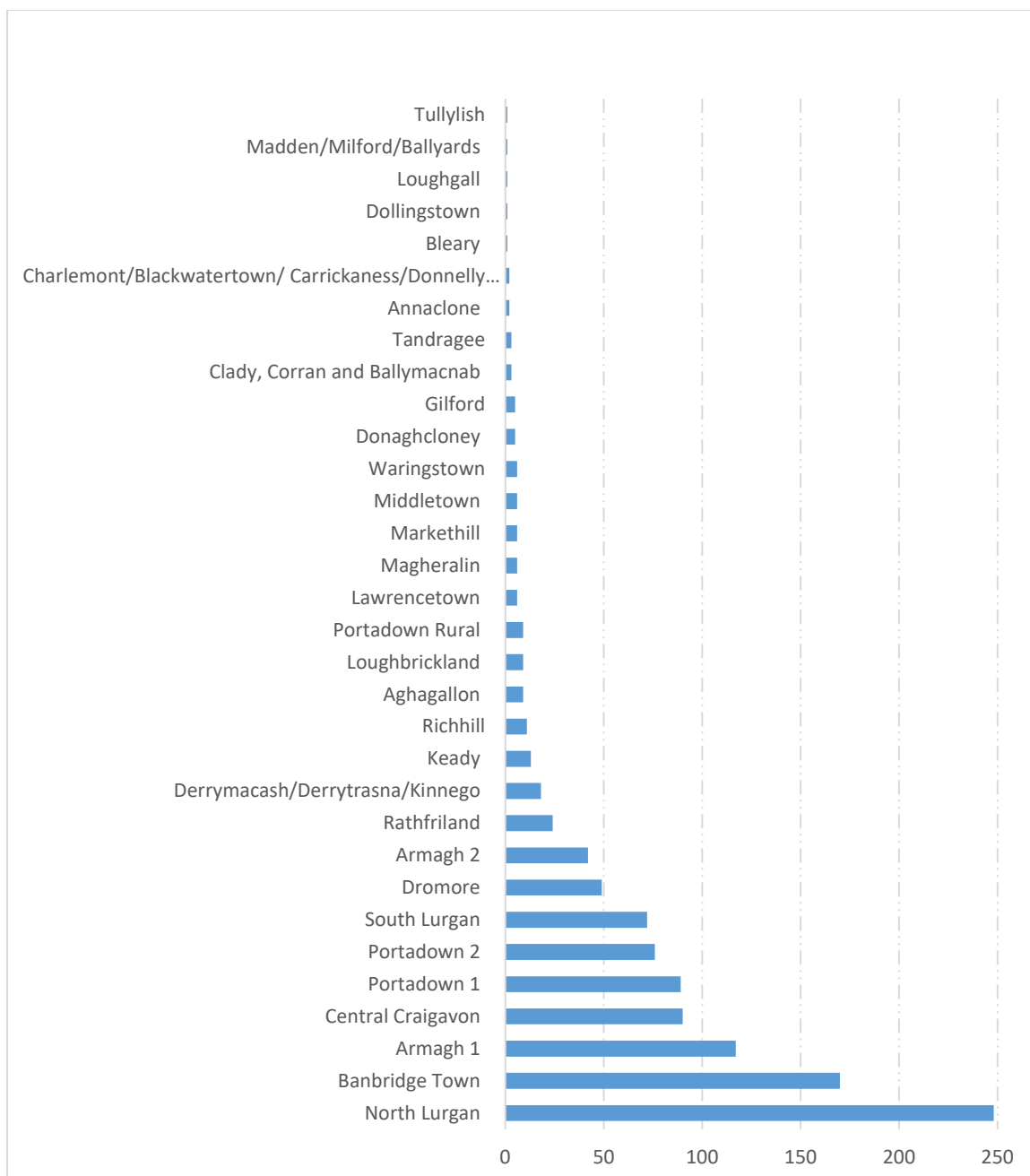


Figure 33: Social housing need in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2022-27. Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive & Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Commissioning Prospectus data 2022.

The NIHE waiting list can be used to determine the pressure for social housing in an area. NIHE holds data on all housing applications and allocations ('the waiting list') made through the Common Selection Scheme in their Housing Management System.

As at March 2023, there were 3,712 applicants on the waiting list in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

Of these applicants, 2,311 (or 62.3%) were in housing stress (where they have 30 or more points under the Common Selection Scheme.) The number of applicants on the waiting list has decreased slightly while the number in housing stress has increased slightly over the past year.

A total of 384 applicants were allocated social housing in the borough in the year ending March 2023, an increase on the previous year.

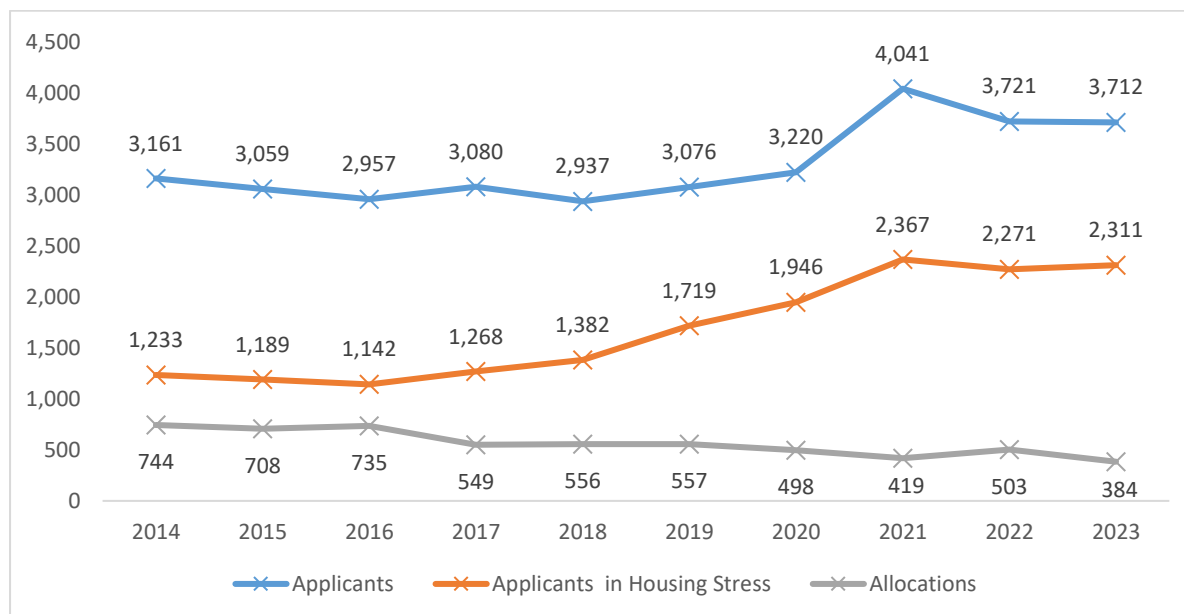


Figure 34: Social housing applicants and allocations in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014-2023. Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

At March 2023, single persons accounted for 40% of applicants on the waiting list in the borough, while small families accounted for approximately 26% of the total applicants.

Waiting List Applicants

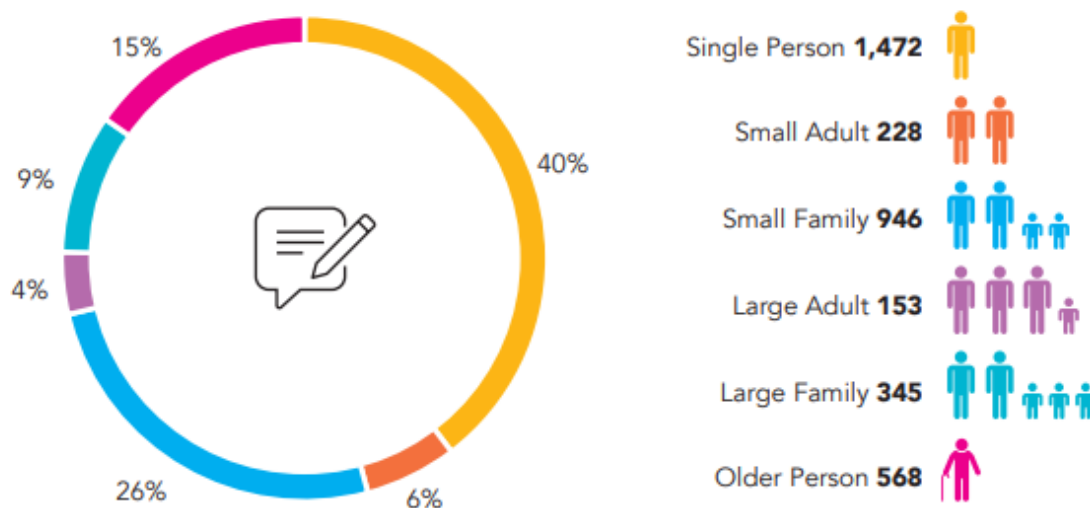


Figure 35: Waiting list applicants in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at March 2023. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Housing Investment Plan 2023-26, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The household breakdown of the 2,311 applicants in housing stress shows 920 (40%) were single person households, 606 (26%) were small family households and 347 (15%) were older person households. The figures show that 62.5% of single person applicants were in housing stress.

Applicants in Housing Stress

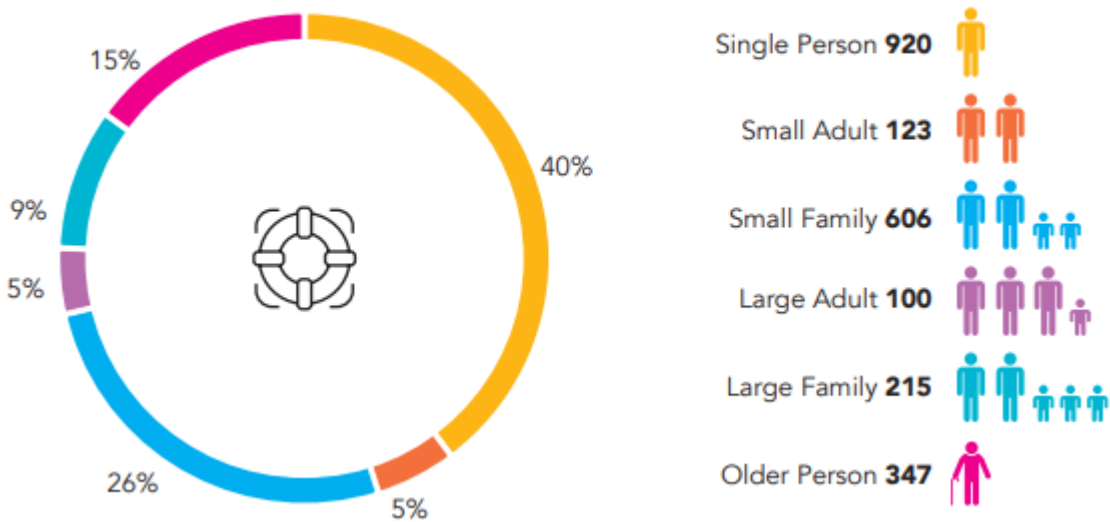


Figure 36: Waiting list applicants in housing stress Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at March 2023. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Housing Investment Plan 2023-26, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Table 34 presents the distribution of applicants and allocations across the Banbridge area as at March 2023. In those areas where there are less than 10 applicants or allocations, they have been listed as <10 in compliance with Data Protection requirements. However, we know there are at least 722 applicants on the waiting list in the Banbridge Area of which 62% were from Banbridge Town. Of the 449 applicants from Banbridge Town, there were 297 (68%) in housing stress.

A total of 46 applicants were allocated social housing in Banbridge Town in the year ending March 2023, a decrease on the previous year.

	Applicants	Applicants in Housing Stress	Allocations
Banbridge Town	449	297	46
Dromore Town Area	106	72	14
Gilford	54	37	<10
Rathfriland	71	49	<10
Kinallen	<10	<10	<10
Lawrencetown	19	16	<10
Loughbrickland	23	12	<10
Scarva	<10	<10	0
Annaclone	<10	<10	<10
Ashfield/Tullyhenan	<10	<10	0
Ballela	0	0	0
Ballyroney	0	0	0
Banbridge Rural Cottages	<10	<10	0
Closkelt	<10	0	0
Corbet	0	0	0
Dromore Rural Cottages	<10	<10	<10
Katesbridge	<10	<10	<10
Lenaderg	<10	<10	<10
Lisnagrade / Ballyvarley	0	0	0
Seapatrick Avenue	<10	<10	<10
Tullylish	<10	<10	<10

Table 34: Waiting list applicants and allocations in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at March 2023. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Housing Investment Plan 2023-26, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

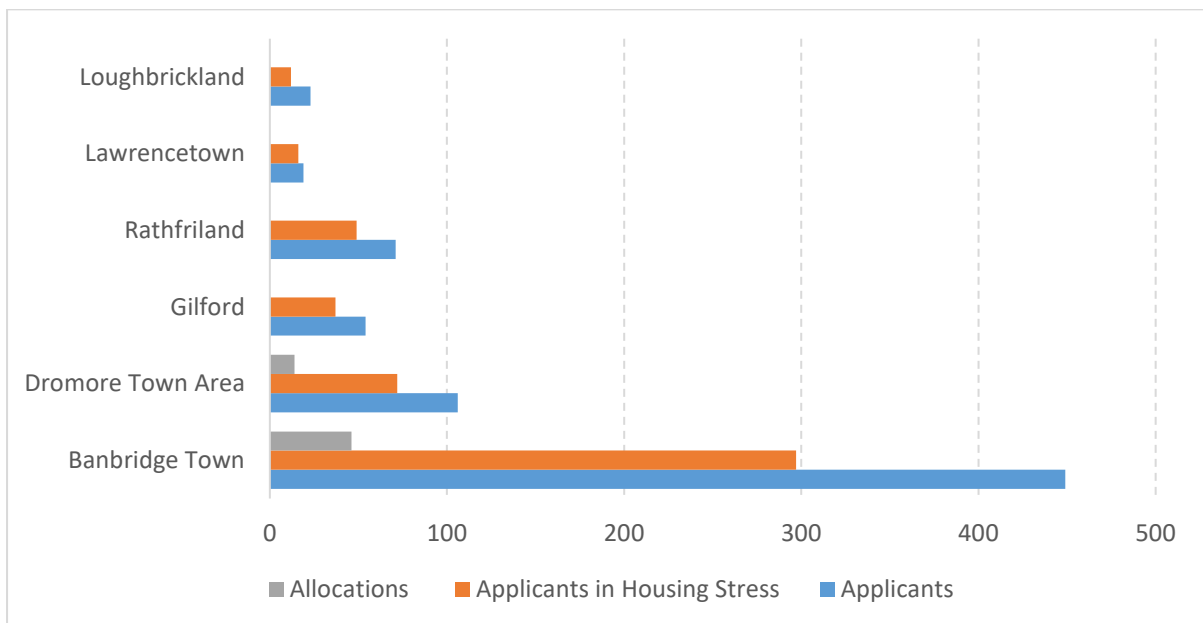


Figure 37: Waiting list applicants and allocations in the Banbridge Area at March 2023. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Housing Investment Plan 2023-26, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Housing Investment Plan 2023-26 Update provides details of schemes recently completed, currently on-site and schemes programmed as part of the Social Housing Development Programme.

Scheme		Number of Units
Schemes Completed April 2022 – March 2023	Sloanhill, Hill Street, Lurgan	24
	Sloanhill, Hill Street, Lurgan – Phase 2	4
	Fort Street Rehabs, Banbridge	5
	Drumellan, Craigavon	5
Schemes on site at March 2023	18-52 Ogle Street, Armagh	42
	Peggys Loaning, Banbridge	37
	William Street, Lurgan	1
	Parknasilla, Aghagallon	5
	Derrytrasna Road, Derrytrasna	14
Schemes Programmed 2023-26	Commercial Road, Banbridge	47
	The Coach, Banbridge	29
	North Street, Lurgan	42
	Spelga Park, Lurgan	8
	Ballyoran, Portadown	21
	Ballyoran Hill, Portadown	39

Table 35: Social Housing Development Programme, Schemes Completed, Schemes on site and Schemes Programmed in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Housing Investment Plan 2023-26, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Throughout the borough there were a total of 4 schemes completed between April 2022 and March 2023 which resulted in 38 new units of which 5 were in Banbridge Proxy Area. As at March 2023, work is ongoing at five different sites which, when complete will provide another 99 units, 37 of which are in the Banbridge Proxy Area. There are a further six schemes programmed between 2023 and 2026 which have the potential to add another 186 units to the available stock. Of those programmed schemes, approximately one third are within the Banbridge Town Centre Boundary and will result in a total of 76 additional units.

Banbridge Town Centre

Springboard Analytics⁶

Springboard is the leading provider of retail data analytics, retail traffic counting and customer sentiment tracking for leading brands, shopping centres, and high-streets worldwide⁷.

Springboard data analytics provide hourly footfall figures at various locations in the town centre and provide weekly, monthly and yearly comparisons.

Headline statistics from Springboard show that the total number of visitors to Banbridge Town Centre for the 52 weeks up to 5 November 2023, was 2,224,002 which is 0.1% up on the previous year. Between 1 January and 5 November 2023, the number of visitors has increased by 0.8% on the same period last year to 1,855,054.

Weekly Footfall Counts

	Year to date %		Year on year %		Week on week %	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Banbridge Town Centre	0.8%	3.0%	-7.0%	10.0%	2.9%	-1.5%
Northern Ireland	5.4%	25.7%	-1.3%	18.0%	5.5%	1.0%
High Street Index - BDSU (BDSU - Multifunctional)	3.1%	35.2%	0.7%	2.7%	-5.9%	-11.6%
UK	3.9%	35.8%	1.1%	3.9%	-6.3%	-12.6%

Table 36: Weekly Footfall in Banbridge Town Centre, Week 44 2023, 30 October – 5 November 2023.

Source: Springboard Analytics. Note: Benchmark calculations (Year on Year and Week on Week) have been calculated using like for like data sets (only those counters available in both comparison periods) to ensure statistical accuracy.

During the week 30 October – 5 November 2023, there were a total of 45,620 visitors to Banbridge Town Centre. This was a 2.9% increase on the previous week's visitors and decrease of 7% on the same week in 2022. Saturday was the busiest day in Banbridge Town during this week with 9,177 visitors, accounting for 20% of the total weekly visitors while Sunday was the quietest day with just 5% of the weekly total visiting the town centre on this day.

⁶ Now part of MRI Software (mrisoftware.com)

⁷ [Springboard Research & Retail Intelligence](https://springboardresearch.com)

Footfall Counts by day

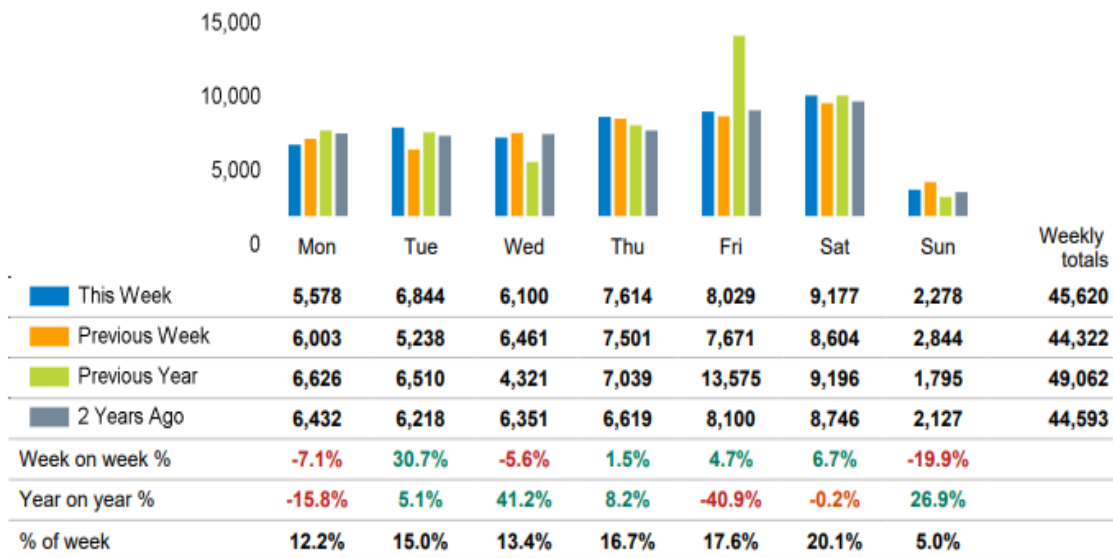


Figure 38: Footfall by day in Banbridge Town Centre, Week 44 2023, 30 October – 5 November 2023.
Source: Springboard Analytics. Note: Benchmark calculations (Year on Year and Week on Week) have been calculated using like for like data sets (only those counters available in both comparison periods) to ensure statistical accuracy.

Figure 39 provides footfall by location and we can see that Newry Street, the main street in Banbridge Town Centre, is the most popular for visitors accounting for 43.3% of the weekly total.

Footfall Counts by location

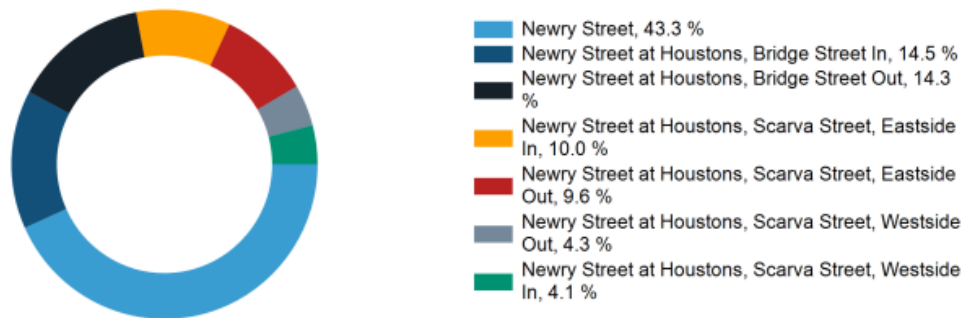


Figure 39: Footfall by location in Banbridge Town Centre, Week 44 2023, 30 October – 5 November 2023.
Source: Springboard Analytics.

Non-Domestic Property Floor Space

The average floor space for non-domestic properties in Banbridge Town Centre has not changed much between 2018 and 2022. Offices (including banks and post offices) have seen the biggest change where the average internal size has fallen from 123.1m² to 111.4 m² although the number of properties has increased from 122 to 142.

	Offices (Includes Banks and Post Offices)		Shops, Showrooms, Supermarkets etc.		Warehouses, Stores, Workshops, (Non-IND) Garages		Manufactories	
	Average Internal Size (M ²)	No. of Properties	Average Internal Size (M ²)	No. of Properties	Average Internal Size (M ²)	No. of Properties	Average Internal Size (M ²)	No. of Properties
2018	123.1	122	183.0	223	123.8	32	2,019.0	3
2020	113.0	136	186.1	222	122.5	35	2,019.0	3
2022	111.4	142	184.5	223	119.5	36	2,019.0	3

Table 37: Non-domestic property floor space Banbridge Town Centre. Source: Land and Property Services via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Vacancy Rates

Vacancy rates for non-domestic properties are available for the five main city/town centres in the borough (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown) and Dromore from the Town Centre Database (using data from Land and Property Services) produced by the Department for Communities.

As at 30th April 2023, vacancy rates in town and city centres in the borough varied from 10.8% in Craigavon to 25.2% in Dromore. This compares to a Northern Ireland vacancy rate of 22.4%.

	30 th April 2023		
Town Centre	No. of Properties	No. of Vacant Properties	% of Vacant Properties
Armagh	737	129	17.5%
Banbridge	437	72	16.5%
Craigavon	102	11	10.8%
Dromore	119	30	25.2%
Lurgan	508	102	20.1%
Portadown	684	141	20.6%
Northern Ireland	21,450	4,803	22.4%

Table 38: City/town centre non-domestic property vacancy rates as at 30th April 2023. Source: Land and Property Services via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Table 39 presents vacancy rates for each of the main cities / towns in the borough over time. The vacancy rates in Banbridge Town Centre have fallen between 2017 and 2023 by 5.6 percentage points to 16.5% at 30th April 2023. Banbridge has the second lowest vacancy rates after Craigavon and is 5.9 percentage points lower than the average rate for Northern Ireland.

Town Centre	7th May 2017	30th April 2018	30th April 2019	17th May 2020	30th April 2021	30th April 2022	30th April 2023
Armagh	22.0%	22.8%	22.9%	21.7%	22.6%	21.2%	17.5%
Banbridge	22.1%	20.8%	20.1%	18.0%	15.9%	16.0%	16.5%
Craigavon	10.5%	5.4%	5.9%	8.7%	10.0%	8.9%	10.8%
Dromore	29.5%	29.1%	28.0%	27.4%	27.1%	25.4%	25.2%
Lurgan	24.2%	25.3%	26.0%	23.0%	22.5%	22.1%	20.1%
Portadown	25.6%	25.7%	25.7%	22.3%	21.7%	21.1%	20.6%
Northern Ireland	24.2%	25.3%	25.0%	24.1%	24.3%	23.7%	22.4%

Table 39: City/town centre non-domestic property vacancy rates 7th May 2017 to 30th April 2023. Source: Land and Property Services via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Town Centre Vacancy Audit

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council commissioned Ove Arup and Partners (Arup) to undertake a town centre vacancy audit of five town centres in the borough (Armagh City, Banbridge, Dromore, Lurgan and Portadown) and the findings were issued in 2019.

Vacant properties were assessed during site visits against a set of criteria which covered external condition, prominence and overall visual impact on the surrounding environment. A building or site could only score a maximum score of 15 and a minimum score of 3. In general, the lower the score, the better condition / prominence / visual impact. For example, if a building was given a score of 1 for condition this meant it was newly built or recently maintained with no signs of deterioration. A score of 5 on visual impact meant it had a high visual impact with a significantly negative impact on the streetscape.

In Banbridge town centre, the audit identified a total of 53 vacant properties, 19 with a low score (3-7), 20 with a medium score (8-11) and 14 with a high score (12-15). This is illustrated in the following map.

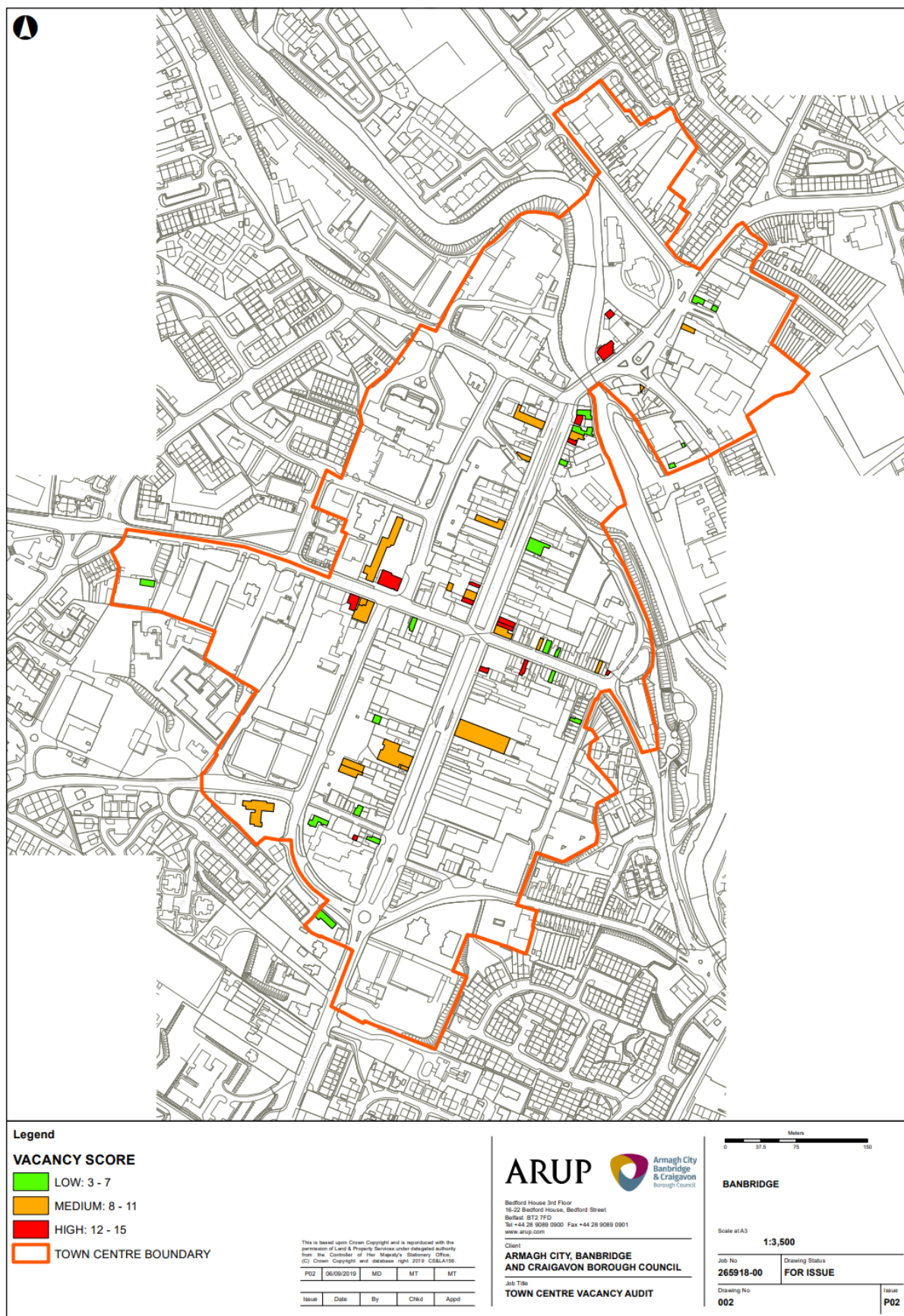


Figure 40: Banbridge Town Centre vacant properties. Source: Town Centre Vacancy Audit, Arup.

The vacant properties identified in the study were found to be in various different states of condition however, in Banbridge town centre, the majority were within the satisfactory to good range. As presented in figure 41, almost 38% of the properties were either in good (28.3%) or very good (9.4%) condition with none or little sign of deterioration and superficial defects. Approximately 40% were rated as satisfactory in that the building has deterioration and has not been recently maintained. Seven of the buildings (13%) were found to be in poor condition and have substantial deterioration while 9.4% were rated as very poor so the building was found to have deteriorated and failed.

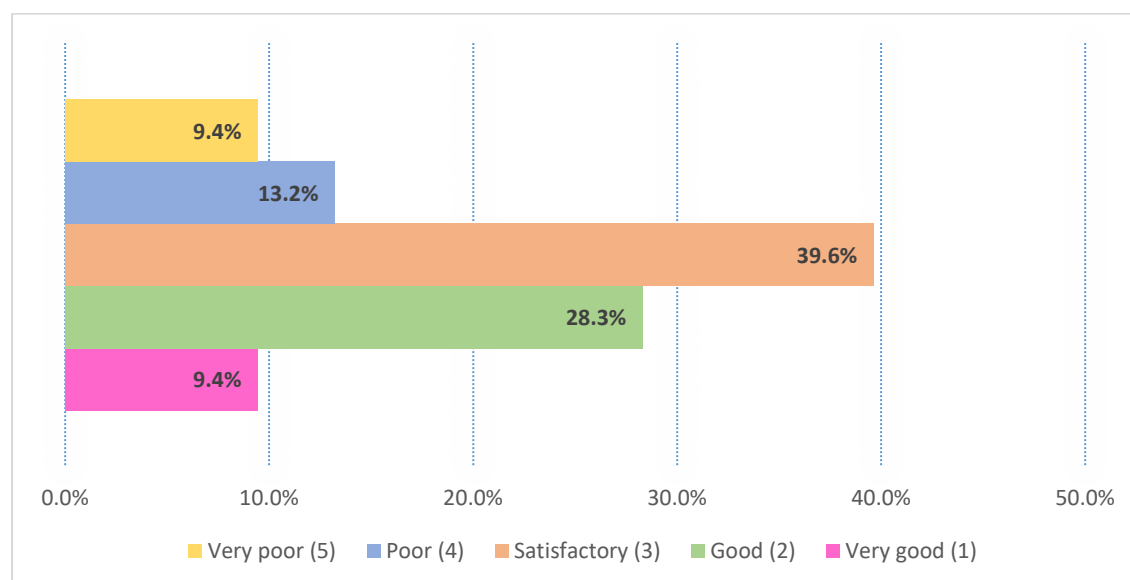


Figure 41: Building condition of vacant properties in Banbridge Town Centre. Source: Town Centre Vacancy Audit, Arup

Planning Applications

In the four years from 2017-2022, there were a total of 51 planning applications decided for Banbridge Town Centre. Approximately 43% of these were decided in 2019/20 and only two were refused in total. A total of 23 applications (approximately 45%) were categorised as 'other' while civic and residential use had just one application each.

Decision Type	Category	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Approved	Commercial	2	2	1	1	0
	Civic	0	0	0	0	1
	Mixed Use	0	0	5	1	2
	Other	1	6	10	0	5
	Residential	0	0	0	0	1
	Industrial	0	0	0	0	0
	Agricultural	0	0	0	0	0
	Change of Use	0	2	5	1	3
Refused	Other	0	0	1	0	1
Total Applications		3	10	22	3	13
Approval Rate		100%	100%	95%	100%	92%

Table 40: Planning applications decided in Banbridge Town Centre. Source: Department for Infrastructure via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Listed Buildings

As at September 2023, there are 140 listed buildings within the Banbridge Settlement Development Limit. Table 41 presents the number of buildings by their current use. The majority of those with a use listed are houses (37), offices (15) and shops (15).

	Number of Listed Buildings
Bank	1
Bridge	1
Church	8
Court House	1
Entertainment Building	1
Gallery/ Museum	1
Gates/ Screens/ Lodges	3
Hall	3
Hotel	2
House	25
House - Terrace	12
Memorial	3
Office	10
Office - Terrace	5
Police Station	1
Post Office	1
Public House	1
Public House - Terrace	2
Residential Home	1
School	2
Shop	3
Shop - Terrace	12
Telephone Kiosk	1
Warehouse	1
Current use not listed	39
Total	140

Table 41: Listed buildings within Banbridge Settlement Development Limit by current use. Source: Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities

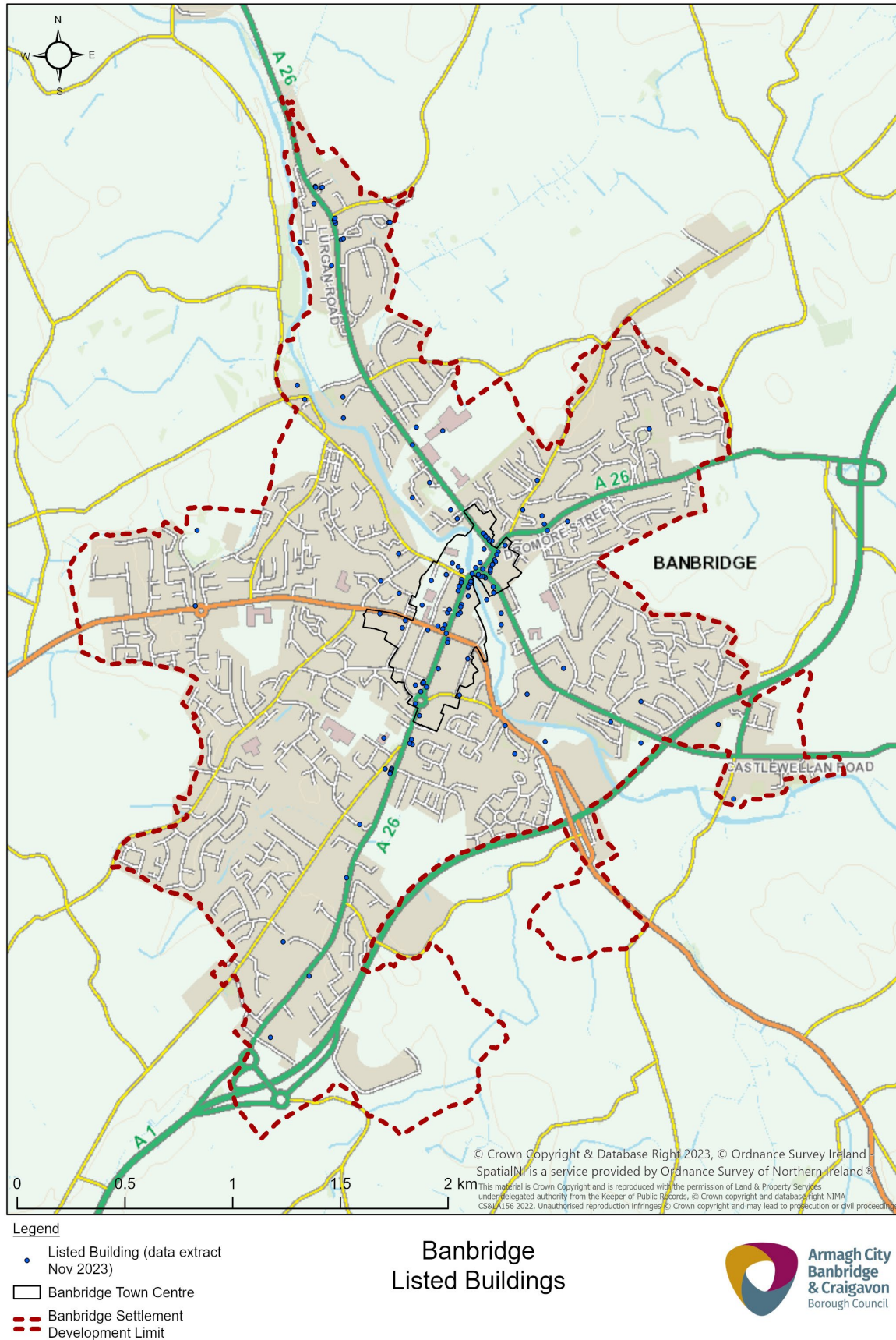


Figure 42: Listed buildings within Banbridge Settlement Development Limit. Source: Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities

Heritage at Risk

The Heritage at Risk register for Northern Ireland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit that are considered to be at risk or under threat and aims to act as a catalyst for their restoration and reuse. The register is funded and managed by the Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities in partnership with Ulster Architectural Heritage.

At the 31 March 2023, there were 187 properties in the borough on the Heritage at Risk register, this is currently the highest of all the council areas and accounts for 18% of the total in Northern Ireland. A total of 30 'at risk' buildings in the borough have been saved while 5 were demolished.

	Heritage at Risk	Saved Buildings at Risk	Demolished Buildings at Risk
Antrim and Newtownabbey	35	13	2
Ards North Down	46	27	1
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	187	30	5
Belfast	116	66	5
Causeway Coast and Glens	89	27	1
Derry and Strabane	71	23	5
Fermanagh and Omagh	123	24	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	53	14	1
Mid and East Antrim	53	11	1
Mid Ulster	109	38	0
Newry, Mourne and Down	157	52	1
Total	1,039	325	26

Table 42: Buildings at Risk NI (Figures correct May 2023*). Source: Heritage at Risk Register, Ulster Architectural Heritage and Department for Communities. **Figures are as accurate as possible at this time and changes may occur due to the ongoing reviews, Second Listed Building Survey and references between DfC HED and UAH.*

Road Traffic Collisions

The PSNI collate statistics on injuries caused by road traffic collisions, and these are the main source of information used in Northern Ireland for monitoring and tracking trends on the number of persons killed, seriously injured, and slightly injured as a result of collisions on our roads⁸. It should be noted that when compared with hospital, survey and compensation claims data, it appears that a considerable proportion of non-fatal casualties are not known to police. However, the Town Centre Database reports on road traffic collisions by town/city centre and all incidents need to have been reported to have occurred within the town centre boundary.

⁸ [tcd-crime-road-traffic-collisions.XLSX \(live.com\)](#)

Year	Number of Collisions	Number of Casualties	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
2020	10	12	0	2	10
2019	11	17	0	2	15
2018	20	27	0	1	26
2017	6	6	0	1	5
2016	14	17	0	1	16
2015	13	21	0	0	21
2014	14	20	0	3	17
2013	13	21	0	1	20
2012	13	16	0	2	14
2011	4	5	0	0	5
2010	8	12	0	1	11
2009	21	27	1	0	26
2008	10	14	0	2	12
2007	11	15	0	1	14

Table 43: Road Traffic Collisions in Banbridge Town Centre, 2007-2020. Source: The Northern Ireland Town Centre Database, Crime and Road Traffic Collision Data.

In 2020, there were 10 road traffic collisions reported to the police in Banbridge Town Centre. As a result of these there were 12 casualties with 2 people seriously injured. This is a great improvement on 2018 when there were 20 road traffic collisions reported which resulted in 27 casualties and one person seriously injured. 2011 was the best year with only 4 collisions reported. Between 2007 and 2020 one person has been killed and 17 people have been seriously injured as a result of a road traffic collisions in Banbridge Town Centre.

As per figure 43, the number of collisions in Banbridge Town Centre has been very changeable over the years with 2009 seeing the highest number of collisions and 2011 the lowest.

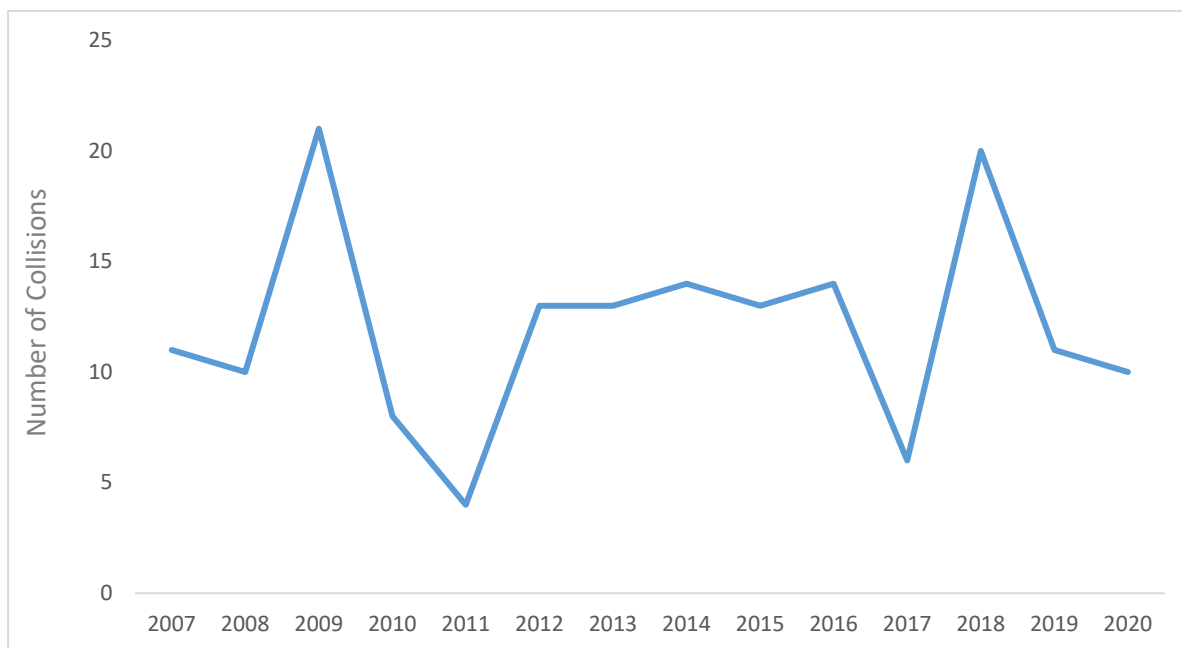


Figure 43: Road Traffic Collisions in Banbridge Town Centre, 2007-2020. Source: The Northern Ireland Town Centre Database, Crime and Road Traffic Collision Data.

Crime Levels

Recorded Crime

Between 2012/13 and 2022/23, police recorded crime has increased in all DEA's in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Banbridge DEA now has the third highest number of police recorded crime incidents of the seven DEA's and accounts for just over 17% of all police recorded crime incidents in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

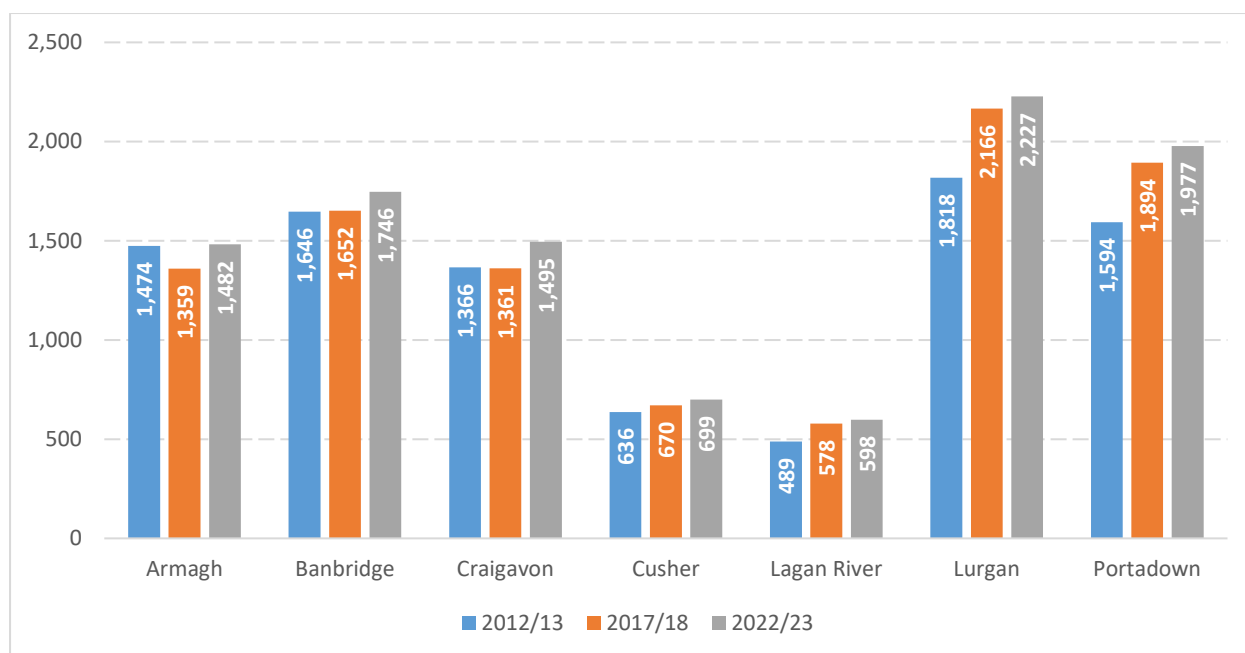


Figure 44: Police Recorded Crime, 2012/13, 2017/18 & 2022/23 by District Electoral Area. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics, NISRA Data Portal.

In terms of the type of crimes recorded, this information is presented in Table 44. In five of the seven DEA's, violence without injury accounts for the highest number of recorded crimes. In Banbridge DEA this accounts for almost one in every five crimes (19.2%). Theft (which includes theft from the person; bicycle theft; shoplifting; and all other theft offences) accounted for 18.5% and criminal damage accounted for approximately 16.5% of recorded crimes in Banbridge DEA in 2022/23. Violence with injury crimes and stalking and harassment are also some of the more commonly recorded crimes in Banbridge DEA and the rest of the borough.

	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Cusher	Lagan River	Lurgan	Portadown
Violence with injury (including homicide & death/serious injury by unlawful driving)	13.2%	14.0%	14.7%	10.4%	11.4%	15.5%	13.0%
Violence without injury	17.5%	19.2%	23.3%	20.3%	16.7%	22.0%	19.5%
Stalking and harassment	12.6%	11.7%	11.0%	19.0%	17.9%	13.4%	11.8%
Sexual offences	4.0%	4.7%	4.5%	3.9%	5.7%	4.4%	3.8%
Robbery	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Theft - burglary residential	1.2%	1.7%	1.5%	4.7%	3.3%	2.1%	1.8%
Theft - burglary business & community	1.1%	1.2%	0.5%	1.1%	1.0%	0.4%	0.6%
Theft - vehicle offences	2.2%	2.0%	2.1%	3.3%	2.3%	1.8%	1.8%
Theft	15.7%	18.5%	15.7%	10.3%	11.7%	10.6%	16.0%
Criminal damage	18.9%	16.5%	16.1%	15.3%	16.1%	15.7%	16.3%
Trafficking of drugs	1.3%	0.7%	0.8%	0.3%	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%
Possession of drugs	5.7%	4.4%	5.2%	5.6%	4.8%	7.9%	8.5%
Possession of weapons offences	1.5%	0.6%	1.3%	0.7%	0.7%	1.1%	1.3%
Public order offences	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	1.3%	0.8%	1.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	3.8%	3.8%	2.5%	4.7%	5.7%	3.1%	3.2%
All crimes recorded by the police	1,482	1,746	1,495	699	598	2,227	1,977

Table 44: Police Recorded Crime 2022/23 by District Electoral Area. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics, NISRA Data Portal.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour incident data are output from a command and control system which is used to respond to calls for service from members of the public by prioritising the call and tasking the appropriate police response. This data relates only to those anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police (and may exclude those incidents reported to other agencies, such as local councils), and thus can only provide an indication of the true extent of reported anti-social behaviour. This data is also available at DEA level.

In 2012/13, Banbridge DEA had the highest number of ASB incidents recorded by the police in the borough. However by 2022/23, the number of ASB incidents had fallen by almost 29% in Banbridge DEA leaving it with the third highest number of recorded incidents after Lurgan and Portadown.

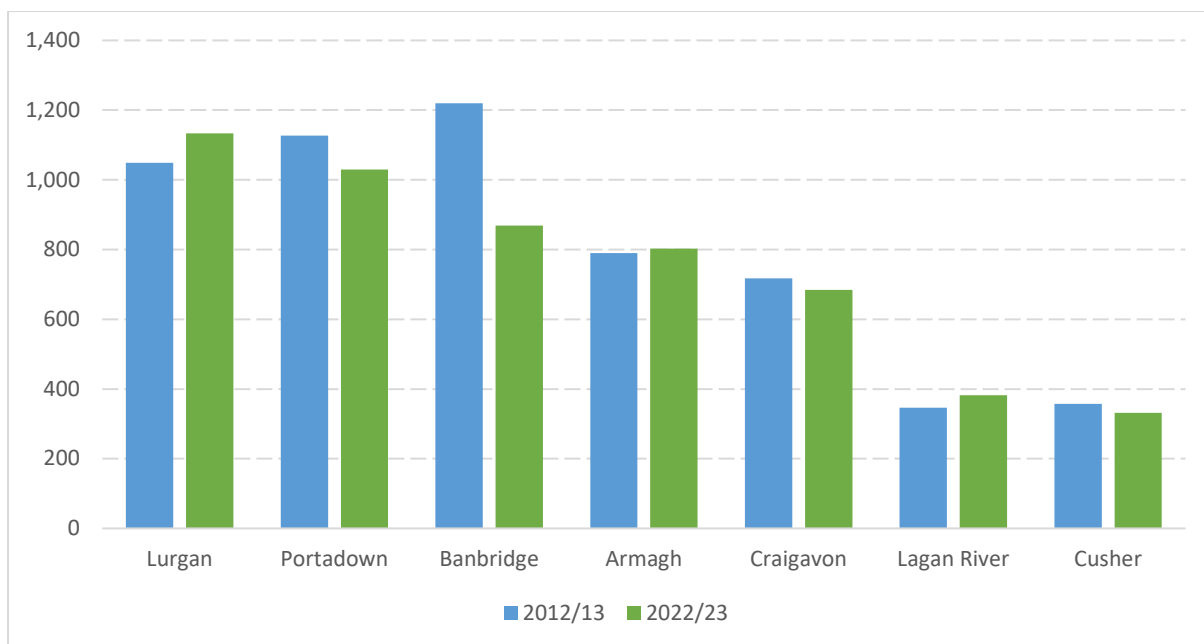


Figure 45: Anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police, 2012/13 & 2022/23 by District Electoral Area. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics, NISRA Data Portal.

Crime Type by Town Centre and Settlement

The Town Centre Database aims to provide a clear, consistent set of statistics relating to the 41 urban towns and cities in Northern Ireland. Type of crime is reported for Banbridge Town Centre and Banbridge Settlement Area in 2021 and anti-social behaviour is the most common crime type within both geographical boundaries. Overall 26% of crimes in the Banbridge Settlement Area in 2021 were committed in the town centre.

	2021		
Crime Type	Banbridge Town Centre	Banbridge Settlement Area	Percentage of Settlement Area Crime
Anti-social behaviour	238	774	31%
Bicycle theft	1	3	33%
Burglary	2	24	8%
Criminal damage and arson	46	189	24%
Drugs	13	63	21%
Other crime	12	40	30%
Other theft	19	90	21%
Possession of weapons	6	11	55%
<i>Public disorder and weapons</i>	0	-	-
Public order	2	13	15%
Robbery	1	3	33%
Shoplifting	9	89	10%
Theft from the person	0	-	-
Vehicle crime	2	11	18%
<i>Violent crime</i>	0	-	-
Violence and sexual offences	135	586	23%
Total Crime	486	1,896	26%

Table 45: Type of Crime by Town and Settlement for Banbridge 2021. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics, via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Deprivation

Access to Services, Living Environment and Crime and Disorder Domains

In this section, the Access to Services Domain, Living Environment Domain and Crime and Disorder Domain are relevant. Looking at those SOA's in Banbridge Proxy Area, The Cut ranks among the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland according to the Living Environment Domain and the Crime and Disorder Domain while Edenderry ranks among the top 11-20% most deprived areas according to the Crime and Disorder Domain. On the contrary, Ballydown_1 and Ballydown_2 are ranked in the 10% least deprived SOA's in Northern Ireland in terms of Living Environment while Banbridge West, Edenderry and Fort are ranked in the top 11-20% least deprived areas. So, five of the seven SOAs are ranked in the top 20% least deprived for Living Environment while The Cut is ranked in the top 10% most deprived in this domain. In terms of Access to Services domain, the SOA's in Banbridge Proxy Area perform relatively well with Ballydown_2 being the most deprived with a rank of 399. The Cut is ranked in the top 11-20% least deprived areas in terms of Access to Services.

Rank of 1 is the most deprived, 890 is the least deprived	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank	Income Domain Rank	Employment Domain Rank	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank	Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank	Access to Services Domain Rank	Living Environment Domain Rank	Crime and Disorder Domain Rank
Ballydown_1	806	708	719	704	757	510	813	675
Banbridge West	430	388	413	354	267	458	794	372
Edenderry	224	357	170	145	182	648	775	132
Fort	503	638	307	393	383	561	777	230
The Cut	120	190	119	130	184	763	69	15
Ballydown_2	805	670	798	785	730	399	861	626
Seapatrick	672	621	490	604	731	423	682	409

Table 46: Overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank and individual domain ranks for SOAs in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Shaded dark blue are ranked in the 10% most deprived and those in light blue are in the top 11-20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Shaded yellow are ranked among the 10% least deprived in Northern Ireland and orange are in the top 11-20% least deprived in Northern Ireland within that specific domain.

	Proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit (%)	Proportion of domestic dwellings without (1) modern boiler, or (2) loft insulation and double glazing (%)	Rate of Household overcrowding (%)
Armagh	3.8%	30.4%	4.8%
Banbridge	3.1%	27.4%	2.6%
Craigavon	1.3%	21.1%	3.6%
Cusher	3.2%	30.8%	2.6%
Lagan River	2.8%	26.2%	2.1%
Lurgan	1.8%	24.2%	4.0%
Portadown	3.2%	27.9%	4.2%
Ballydown_1	1.9%	23.3%	1.3%
Ballydown_2	2.4%	15.2%	1.2%
Banbridge West	1.1%	24.0%	3.7%
Edenderry	2.0%	23.8%	3.7%
Fort	2.3%	28.5%	0.7%
Seapatrick	3.3%	29.9%	1.8%
The Cut	4.9%	33.8%	3.4%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2.7%	26.8%	3.5%
Northern Ireland	2.4%	26.9%	3.9%

Table 47: Indicator information relating to the Living Environment Domain. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA.

Table 48 presents a selection of indicators from the Living Environment Domain. In terms of the proportion of dwellings that are unfit, approximately 2.7% of dwellings in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough are classified as unfit compared to 2.4% in Northern Ireland overall. In Banbridge DEA, the proportion is slightly higher with 3.1% of dwellings deemed unfit. Within the Banbridge Proxy Area, The Cut had the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that were unfit at 4.9%. Banbridge West had the lowest at just 1.1%.

Over a quarter of domestic dwellings in the borough and Northern Ireland overall, were without (1) modern boiler, or (2) loft insulation and double glazing. Of the seven SOA's in the Banbridge Proxy Area, The Cut had the highest proportion (33.8%) followed by Seapatrick (29.9%) while Ballydown_2 had the lowest proportion at 15.2%.

The rate of household overcrowding is relatively low in the Banbridge DEA. At 2.6% it is one of the lowest of the DEA's within the borough and well below the rate for the borough overall and Northern Ireland. Within the Banbridge Proxy Area, the rate of overcrowding is highest in Banbridge West and Edenderry at 3.7%. This rate is just above the average rate for the borough and less than the rate for Northern Ireland overall.

	Rate of Violence (including sexual offences), robbery and public order (per 1,000 population)	Rate of Criminal Damage and Arson (per 1,000 population)	Rate of Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents (per 1,000 population)
Armagh	14.2	7.6	25.1
Banbridge	14.9	9.5	28.6
Craigavon	13.8	7.3	20.8
Cusher	7.9	4.5	13.9
Lagan River	6.2	3.6	12.4
Lurgan	21.1	9.9	29.2
Portadown	17.8	8.2	30.0
Ballydown_1	6.0	3.4	15.1
Ballydown_2	6.2	3.6	16.0
Banbridge West	14.1	9.5	23.3
Edenderry	20.5	17.4	50.6
Fort	18.8	13.7	39.7
Seapatrick	10.0	9.3	21.6
The Cut	75.5	36.7	121.3
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	14.4	7.6	23.9
Northern Ireland	15.6	8.9	27.8

Table 48: Indicator information relating to the Crime and Disorder Domain. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA.

With regards to the Crime and Disorder Domain, the rate of violence is very high in The Cut compared to any other SOA in the Banbridge Proxy Area. At 75.5 per 1,000, this is more than 3.5 times the rate for Edenderry, which is the next highest of the SOA's, and over 5 times the rate for the borough overall. In terms of the rate of criminal damage and arson, Banbridge DEA, at 9.5 per

1,000 population is second after Lurgan DEA at 9.9 per 1,000 population with both significantly higher than the rate for the borough (7.6 per 1,000) and Northern Ireland overall (8.9 per 1,000). Within the Banbridge Proxy Area, the rate is again highest in The Cut at 36.7 per 1,000 population and lowest in Ballydown_1 and Ballydown_2 at 3.4 and 3.6 respectively.

The rate of anti-social behaviour incidents is lower in the borough (23.9 per 1,000) compared to Northern Ireland overall (27.8 per 1,000). However, within the Banbridge Proxy Area there is a significant gap between the highest and lowest. The Cut, with a rate of 121.3 per 1,000 population, has by far the highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents. Edenderry has the next highest at 50.6 and Ballydown_1 has the lowest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents at 15.1 per 1,000 population.

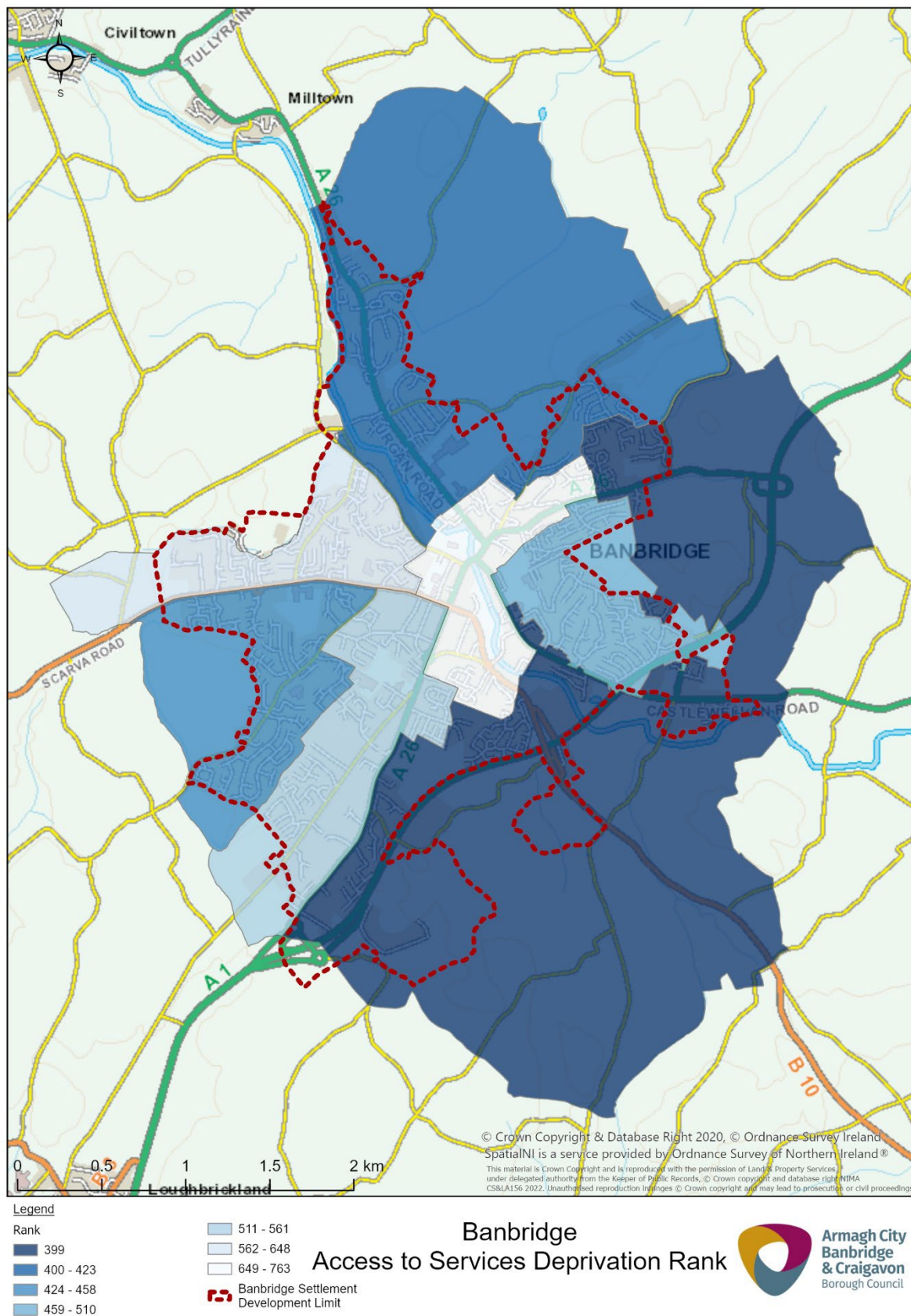


Figure 46: Access to Services Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

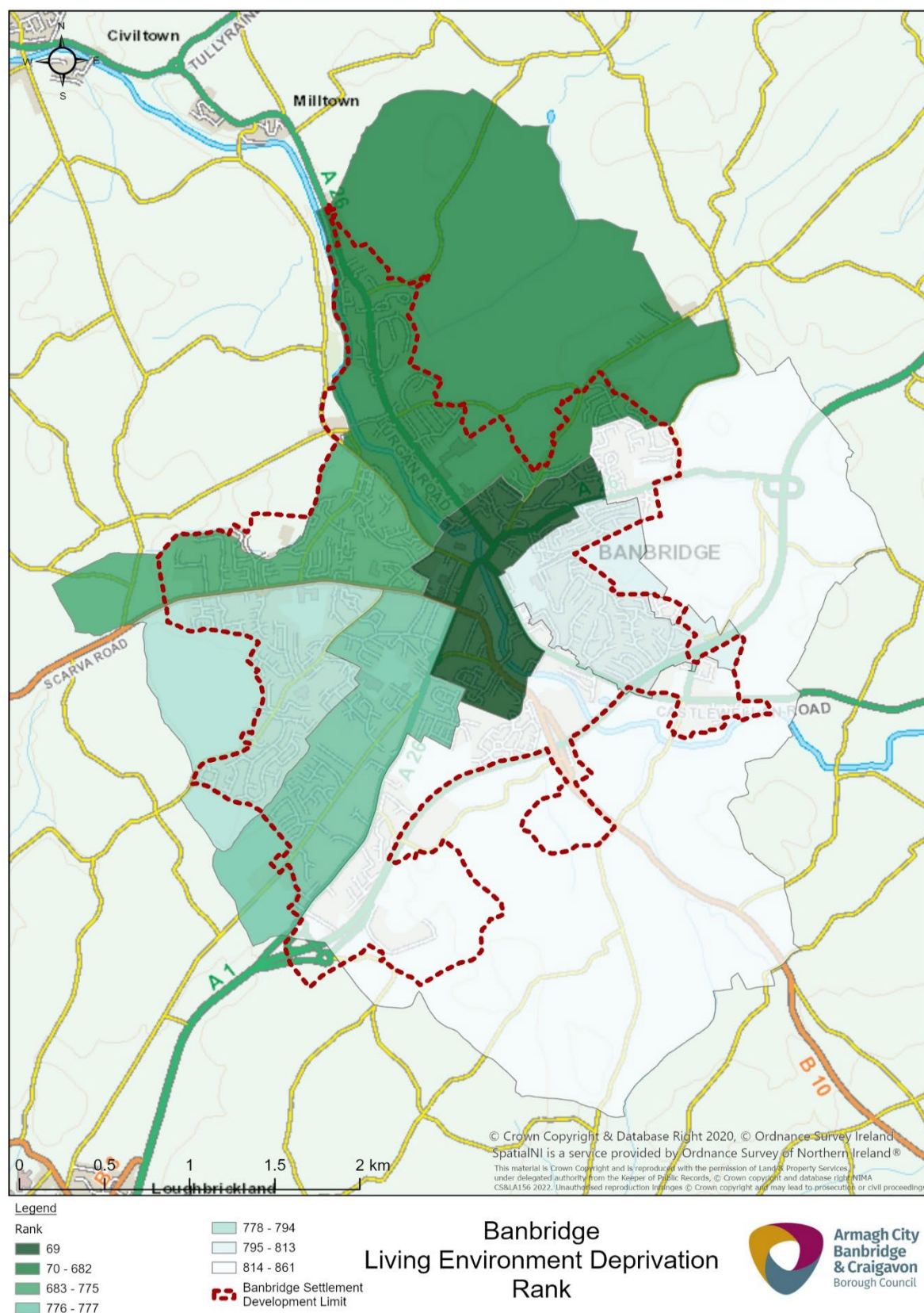


Figure 47: Living Environment Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

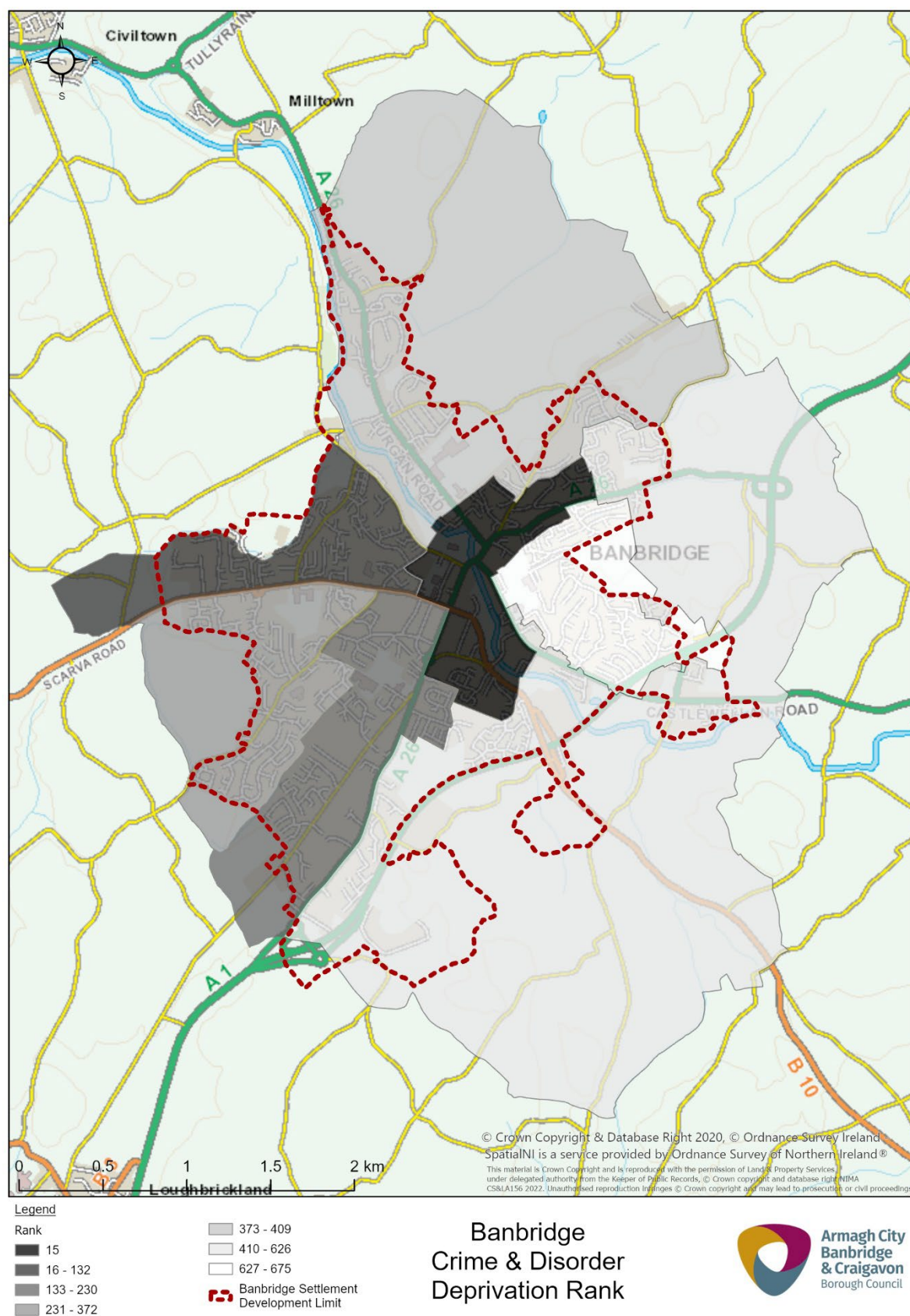


Figure 48: Crime and Disorder Domain Rank in Banbridge Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded lighter.

Community Infrastructure

Some work has been undertaken by the GIS Officer in the Council to record the infrastructure available within the boundary of the Settlement areas. This audit includes amenities such as public parks, community centres and walking trails and while there are still some elements to cover, this section gives an indication of the facilities and amenities available to residents within the Banbridge settlement and the wider borough overall.

Feature	Number
Sites & Monuments	18
Religious Buildings	9
Public Conveniences	3
Car Parks	10
Amenity Sites	1
Bowling Green	1
Tennis Court	1
Leisure Complex	1
Community Facility	1
Public Park	1
Play Park	5
Historic Parks & Gardens	1

Table 49: Facilities / amenities in the Banbridge Settlement Development Limit. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough internal database.

Banbridge has 18 sites and monuments throughout the settlement area as well as a historic park & garden. There are nine religious buildings and a community facility in the form of Banbridge Town Hall. In terms of outdoor play areas / facilities, the area boasts five play parks, one public park, a bowling green, a tennis court and a leisure complex. The town also has a three public convenience areas and ten car parks as well as one amenity site.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough offer a wide variety of options for keeping everyone in the family active whether it's a walk in the local park, a fitness class in the local gym or a day for the family at the water sports centre. In terms of the facilities available in the borough overall, the table below lists all the facilities / amenities in the borough which includes 93 play parks, 30 multi-use games areas, 34 walking routes and 18 public parks.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
Public Parks	18
Walking Routes	34
Cycle Routes	11
Caravan Parks	3
Play Parks	93
MUGA's	30
Leisure Centres	3
Golf Courses	2
Bowling Greens	7
Tennis Courts	3
Water Sports Centre	1
Ski Centre	1
Community & Recreation Centres	8
Lakes	7

Table 50: Facilities / amenities in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: ABC Get active

Environment

Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award scheme, run by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

In 2023/24, there were 98 parks and green spaces in Northern Ireland awarded Green Flag status with eight of those in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

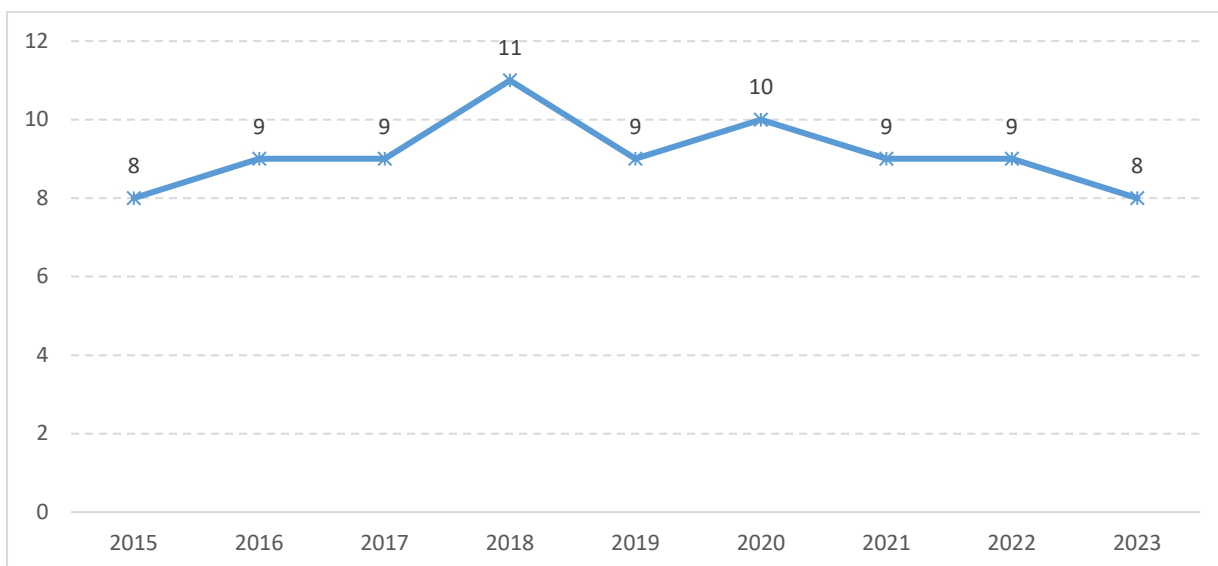


Figure 49: Number of Green Flag Awards 2015 -2023 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. Note: The Singing Kettle Garden in Darkley was also awarded a Green Flag Community Award in 2021/22 resulting in a total of 10 Green Flag awards to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

Park or Open Space	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ABC Canal Greenway	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	-
Bann Boulevard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brownstown Park	-	-	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	-
Clare Glen	Green flag	-	-	-	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Dromore Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	-	-	-	-	-
Edenvilla Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	-	-	Green flag
Gosford Forest Park	-	-	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Loughbrickland Park	Green flag	-	-	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Oxford Island (Lough Neagh Conservation Area)	-	Green flag	Green flag	-	-	-	-	-
Lurgan Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag			Green flag
Loughgall Country Park	-	-	Green flag	-	-	-	-	-
Palace Demesne	Green flag	Green flag & Green Heritage	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag (Heritage)
Portadown People's Park	-	-	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Scarva Park	Green flag	-	Green flag	-	-	Green flag	Green flag	-
Solitude Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	-	-	-
Tannaghmore Gardens	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
The Mall Armagh City	-	Green flag	Green flag & Green Heritage	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	9	11	9	10	9	9	8

Table 51: Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards 2016 -2023 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.