

Thurrock Profile

A summary assessment of the state of Thurrock
using demographic, social, economic and
environmental indicators

November 2007

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The purpose of this report is to provide a summary assessment of the state of Thurrock in 2007. It presents an overview of key demographic, social, economic, environmental and quality of life indicators used in evidence to support our Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The report is not intended to be a performance report, rather its purpose is to complement performance monitoring and inform policy development and service planning by providing an up to date assessment of the state of Thurrock. The report will be published annually.

The report shows that Thurrock continues to see improvement over time in most areas. In particular: the health and well-being of the population is improving, the skills and qualifications of the workforce are increasing, the economy and workforce supply are growing strongly, progress is being made in tackling crime and levels of recycling are increasing. However, not all residents are benefiting equally from these improvements

The report also confirms that despite improvements over time there remains much work ahead. Not all residents are benefiting equally from improvements and in some instances inequalities within Thurrock are increasing. While the overall direction of travel is positive Thurrock remains below average in most areas when compared to national, regional and Thames Gateway performance

The first section of the report shows Thurrock's Report Card. This is a high level assessment of Thurrock's performance over time and in comparison to national, regional and Thames Gateway performance using a set of key indicators. The most recent data and full definitions of the indicators used in the Report Card are shown in appendix one.

The second part of the report provides additional data and analysis to outline progress towards achieving the SCS objectives. Each section is structured around quality of life themes and includes a summary position using the Report Card. Each SCS objective is mapped to the quality of life themes as set out below:

- Demographic Profile SO1
- Labour Market SO10
- Economy SO10
- Education and Training SO5 / SO6
- Health and Well-being SO8 / SO4
- Housing and Households SO9
- Crime and Community Safety SO7
- Environment and Transport SO11 / SO12 / SO2
- Quality of Life SO1 / SO3

The SCS sets the following vision for Thurrock:

Thurrock will be the location of choice - a place where people thrive and prosper; where you can access services that will make a difference; and where development is sustainable and supports our new and existing communities as they grow.

Report Card - Headline Trends

This report card is a high level assessment of Thurrock's performance trends over time and in comparison to national, regional and Thames Gateway performance using a set of key indicators.

Key

- * Improving / Better than average
- No Change / Around average
- ▲ Deteriorating / Below average
- Information not available

Theme / Indicator		Thurrock Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Labour Market	Unemployment-Claimant Count	▲	▲	*	▲
	Unemployment Rate	▲	*	●●	▲
	Employment Rate	*	*	*	▲
	Self-Employment Rate	*	▲	▲	▲
	Economic Activity Rate	*	*	*	●
	Earnings	*	*	●●	●
	Job Growth	*	▲	▲	▲
Economy	Business Stock	*	*	*	*
	Businesses	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Gross Value Added	*	▲	▲	▲
	Knowledge Economy	*	▲	▲	▲
	Key Benefits Claimants	*	*	▲	▲
	Occupational Structure	*	▲	▲	▲
Health & Well-Being	Mortality Rate	*	●	▲	▲
	Cancer Mortality	*	●	*	●
	Circulatory Disease Mortality	*	▲	●●	▲
	Life Expectancy	*	●	●●	▲
	Life Expectancy – Males	*	●	●●	▲
	Life Expectancy - Females	*	●	●●	▲
	Healthy Living	●●	▲	●●	●●
	Participation in Sport	●●	▲	▲	▲
Education & Training	GCSE Attainment	*	●	▲	▲
	Key Stage 2 – English	*	▲	●●	●●
	Key Stage 2 – Maths	*	▲	●●	●●
	Key Stage 3 – English	*	▲	●●	●●
	Key Stage 3 – Maths	*	▲	●●	●●
	Qualifications – level 4	*	▲	▲	▲
	Qualifications – level 3	*	▲	●●	▲
	Qualifications – level 2	*	▲	●●	▲
	Qualifications – level 1 / none	*	▲	●●	▲
	School Leaver Destinations	*	●●	●●	●●
	Job Related Training	*	*	*	*

Report Card - Headline Trends

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Theme / Indicator		Thurrock trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Housing	House Prices	*	*	*	▲
	Housing Affordability	*	▲	●●	▲
	House Condition	*	*	*	●●
Crime & Safety	Recorded Crime	*	▲	●●	●●
	Recorded Crime – Vehicle	●	▲	●●	●●
	Recorded Crime – Violent	*	*	▲	▲
	Offences	*	▲	*	●●
	Fear of Crime – Day	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Fear of Crime – Night	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Fear of Crime – Males	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Fear of Crime – Females	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Road Casualties – Adult	▲	▲	●●	●●
	Road Casualties – Children	*	*	●●	●●
Environment & Transport	Household Waste	▲	▲	●●	●●
	Recycling and Composting	*	▲	●●	●●
	Satisfaction with Recycling	●	▲	●●	●●
	Cleanliness	*	▲	●●	●●
	Bus Service	*	●●	●●	●●
	Satisfaction with Bus Service	●	▲	●●	●●
	Access to Services	●	▲	▲	*
	Parks and Open Space	▲	▲	●●	●●
	Travel to School – Walk	●	●●	●●	●●
	Travel to School – Car	*	●●	●●	●●
	Conservation Areas	*	●●	●●	●●
	Land Use	●	●	●●	●●
	Footpaths	▲	*	*	●●
Quality of Life	Resident Satisfaction	●	●●	●●	●●
	Thriving and Attractive Place	●●	●●	●●	●●
	Local Decision Making	*	●●	●●	●●
	Social Participation	●●	●●	●●	●●
	Community Harmony	▲	●●	●●	●●

2. Demographic Profile (SO1)

2.1 Population

Thurrock's population continues to grow at a rate outstripping national and regional growth.

- Estimated population at 2006 is 148,900 – males 72,600 (49%), females 76,300 (51%)
- 16% growth in population since 1991 and 2.4% growth since the 2001 Census – faster than both national and regional growth
- Population is projected to grow by a further 16% (23,000 people) by 2021
- 2003 ward based population estimates show the greatest level of population growth South Chafford (43%) and Chafford and North Stifford (13%) since the 2001 Census.

2.2 Components of Population Change – Natural Change

Population change can be measured by looking at natural change – the difference between the numbers of births and deaths in an area and change through migration patterns into and out of an area.

Thurrock has a high birth rate and a decreasing death rate that is reflective of its population structure. As a result Thurrock has the second highest level of natural population change in East England behind Luton. Natural change remains the biggest driver of population increase in Thurrock

- The number of births (2,200) in Thurrock in 2005-06 was double the number of deaths (1,100) resulting in a net increase in population of 1,100

2.3 Components of Population Change – Migration Patterns

Population change can also be measured by looking at the patterns of internal migration into and out of an area and international migration into and out of an area.

In 2005-06 Thurrock experienced zero 'internal population churn'. This means that the level of internal migration into Thurrock was matched by the level of migration out of Thurrock – a zero net change. This compares to the recent trend shown by official statistics of a net increase in population as a result of internal migration of 300 in 2004-05, 200 in 2003-04, 500 in 2002-03 and 900 in 2001-02.

In terms of international migration Thurrock has seen a net increase in population of 300 in both 2005-06 and 2004-05 as a result of more international migration into Thurrock than out of Thurrock. However the level of international migration remains relatively small according to official figures – 600 people entering Thurrock in 2005-06 and 500 in 2004-05.

2.4 Migration - National Insurance Number Registrations (NINR) - Non-UK Nationals

Analysis of new NINR provides an indication of the extent of international migration into Thurrock by non-UK nationals. Data is available by country of origin for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07. This shows that the majority of non-UK nationals registering for a national insurance number are from Eastern Europe. This is to be expected following the increase of the European Union in 2004 when 10 new countries joined.

Between 2005 and 2007 nearly 3000 non-UK nationals registered for a national insurance number in Thurrock. This included:

- 800 Polish nationals
- 390 nationals of the Slovak Republic (Slovakia)
- 100 Lithuanian nationals
- 310 South African nationals

It is difficult to predict the future trend in the pattern of migration from Eastern European countries to Thurrock. However, if the trend of increasing numbers of migrants from Eastern Europe does continue it is important that policy implications in terms of community cohesion and integration are recognised and addressed.

2.5 Age structure

Thurrock has a young population by national standards. The age profile is heavily skewed towards the 0-14 and 25-44 age groups, with a lower than average proportion of people aged 15-24.

- 1 in 5 people (20%) are aged under 15 compared to a national and regional average of 18%
- 30% of the population is aged over 50 compared to 33% nationally and 35% regionally
- 13% of people are aged over 65 compared to 15% nationally
- Average age is 36.6 years compared to 38.7 nationally and 39.1 regionally
- Thurrock has a higher birth rate than the national and regional average. This is consistent with a young age profile – 15.1 births per 1000 population compared to 12.5 nationally and 12.7 regionally

2.6 Ethnic profile

Thurrock has a lower proportion of people of ethnic minorities than the national average of 9% and the regional average of 5.4%. In 2003 the ethnic minority population was estimated at 5.4%, up from 4.7% in the 2001 Census.

- Population growth between 2001 and 2003 was greatest among Black/Black British (0.3%).
- The Asian/Asian British group remains the largest minority group at 2.2%
- BME population varied across wards from a low of 2.9% in Corringham and Fobbing to 20% in South Chafford

There are limitations in measuring the extent of ethnicity over time using Census data, as it refers to 2001. Another source of ethnicity data is the annual school pupils census (PLASC). This provides data on the extent of ethnicity and changes over time in primary and secondary schools. It should be noted that the PLASC data only refers to the school age population.

Analysis of PLASC data supports anecdotal evidence that the proportion of people from ethnic minorities in Thurrock is greater than the estimate of 5.4%:

Primary Schools

- Since 2003 ethnicity in primary schools has steadily risen from 7.9% to 19.7% in 2007
- In 2003 the most prevalent BME group was Black or Black British African (1.8%) followed by White Other White (1.4%).
- In 2006 Black or Black British African remained the most prevalent group – increasing to 6.3%.

Secondary Schools

- Since 2003 ethnicity in secondary schools has risen from 5.4% to 13.2% in 2007
- In 2003 the most prevalent BME group was Asian or Asian British Indian (0.9%), followed by Black or Black British African (0.8%)
- In 2006 Black or Black British African was the most prevalent group having increased from 0.85 in 2003 to 3.2% by 2006.

2.7 Disability profile

Older people who are frail

There are over 9,000 people over the age of 75 years in Thurrock. Whilst many of them do not become frail, a number do. This is especially the case for people over the age of 85, of whom there are about 1,800. A third of the latter are likely to need some form of help from the Council, as will one in ten over the age of 75.

Disabled adults

There are 91,000 people aged between 18 and 65 in Thurrock of whom around 10% - over 9000 - may have impairments. Most live in the community, some with paid or unpaid (family) carers and many with none. A few (25 in 2006) are receiving residential or nursing care.

Adults with a learning disability

There are less than 500 people of all ages with a learning disability in Thurrock. As with physical impairment, the majority have a mild disability and do not require the Council's services. Partly because of the legacy of the South Ockendon Hospital, closed over ten years ago, 106 people are cared for in residential and nursing homes.

Long term limiting illness

Around 1 in 6 people (16.08%) in Thurrock had a long term limiting illness at the time of the 2001 Census. This proportion is lower than both the regional (16.21%) and national (18.23%) average.

3. Labour Market (SO10)

Theme / Indicator		Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Labour Market	Unemployment-Claimant Count	▲	▲	*	▲
	Unemployment Rate	▲	*	●●	▲
	Employment Rate	*	*	*	▲
	Self-Employment Rate	*	▲	▲	▲
	Economic Activity Rate	*	*	*	●
	Earnings	*	*	●●	●
	Job Growth	*	▲	▲	▲

3.1 Labour market supply – economic activity rate

Thurrock's economic activity rate in 2006 – the proportion of the working age population that is willing and available to work – has declined slightly from 2003-04, 80.6 % compared to 81.9%. The economic activity rate remains higher than national (78%) and Thames Gateway (74%) averages and consistent with the regional rate of 80%.

3.2 Labour market supply – employment rate

The proportion of people in actual employment – the employment rate – has fallen more considerably over this period and at a greater rate than national decline. The employment rate in 2006 was 76.3% compared to 79% in 2004.

This represents a decline of 3.4% compared to decline of 0.27% nationally and 1.2% regionally. This is a concern to the long-term sustainability of the employment rate given the current poor skills profile in Thurrock. However, despite the decline, the employment rate in Thurrock remains higher than the national, regional and Thames Gateway rate.

3.3 Labour market supply – self-employment

Self-employment is a measure of the extent of entrepreneurial activity in an area. The proportion of self-employed in Thurrock has continued to decline since a 1999 high of 10.3% and less people are self-employed in Thurrock than average.

In 2006 the proportion of self-employed was 8.2% compared to 9.2% nationally, 10.4% regionally and 9.5% within the Thames Gateway.

3.4 Unemployment

Thurrock continues to experience relatively low levels of unemployment. However, over the past year the unemployment rate in Thurrock has increased in line with a national increase in unemployment.

Unemployment rates remain higher among the younger age groups in Thurrock. Long-term unemployment rates, particularly over 12 months are lower than national and regional averages.

- In March 2007 the unemployment claimant count in Thurrock was 2.7%, slightly higher than the national average of 2.5% and the regional average of 2% but lower than the Thames Gateway rate of 3.1%.
- The claimant count has increased from 2.6% at the same period in 2006
- Male unemployment in Thurrock is 3.5% and female unemployment 1.5%
- In March 2007 18-24 year olds made up a third (32%) of the unemployed compared to 29% nationally and 30% regionally
- 15% of unemployed have been unemployed for over 12 months compared to 16% nationally and 15% regionally
- Unemployment continues to be concentrated in the areas of high deprivation including Grays Riverside (12% of all unemployed), Belhus (11% of all unemployed), West Thurrock and South Stifford (10% of all unemployed) and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park and Tilbury St Chads (8% of all unemployed).

3.5 Job growth

The number of jobs in Thurrock has increased since 2000.

- In 2005 job density – measured as the number of jobs per working age population – stood at 0.67. This ratio compares to 0.84 nationally, 0.78 in the Thames Gateway and 0.82 regionally
- The total estimated number of jobs in 2005 was 62,000
- The total number of employee jobs (excluding self-employed, trainees and HM Forces) was 55,300 in 2005.

3.6 Industrial structure

As with any area Thurrock's economy is largely shaped by its industrial structure. Thurrock's industrial profile highlights the extent of the challenge we face to create a more diverse and wide-ranging economic base.

The economy is centred on the dominant wholesale and retail and logistics sectors. The traditional manufacturing base, while declining remains relatively strong. As yet the knowledge economy, recognised, as the critical trend in advanced economies is not widely evident.

Thurrock has a very low proportion of employment in knowledge driven sectors and job growth since 1998 to this sector has been slow. Furthermore, employment in creative and cultural industries – a sector highlighted with growth potential in Thurrock – is very low and growth is slow.

- 13% are employed in knowledge driven sectors, compared to 24% nationally, 35% in the Thames Gateway region and 22% regionally
- Knowledge driven sector employment in Thurrock is increasing and has grown from 10% in 1999. This rate of growth is similar to the national growth rate
- 31% of people in Thurrock are employed in wholesale and retail compared to 18% nationally and 20% regionally
- 16% are employed in the logistics sector (transport, storage and communications) compared to a national and regional average of 6%
- 13% are employed in manufacturing compared to 11% nationally and 12% regionally.

3.7 Occupational structure

Thurrock's occupational profile also provides useful evidence of progress towards our aims of a diverse and vibrant local economy. In line with the poor skills and qualifications profile, the occupational profile of Thurrock is weighted towards lower skilled and elementary occupations in comparison with national and regional picture.

- Thurrock's share of managerial and professional workers (21%) is well below national (28%) and regional (29%) figures
- Thurrock also has a higher proportion of people working in elementary occupations – 13% compared to 11% nationally and regionally
- Thurrock's share of knowledge workers (classed as managers and senior officials, professionals) is well below average – 21% compared to 28% nationally and 29% regionally and 26% within the Thames Gateway.

3.8 Earnings / Income

Earnings / income for people living in and working in Thurrock have risen over the past year. There remains a significant gender gap in pay for males and females. While average weekly pay for males both living and working in Thurrock is above the national average, pay for females remains well below the national average.

Average pay for people who live in Thurrock also appears to be higher than pay for those who work in Thurrock. In particular this is true for females, where the gender gap among males and females working in Thurrock is more pronounced – female pay is 39% that of males among workers working in Thurrock compared to 52% among workers resident in Thurrock. This suggests further evidence of the relatively low pay, low skilled job opportunities available in Thurrock.

Workers living in Thurrock (residence based earnings)

- In 2006 average weekly pay for males living in Thurrock was £536 compared to £460 nationally, £488 for East England and £507 for South East England
- In contrast, the average weekly pay for females living in Thurrock was £275 compared to £281 nationally, £276 for East England and £296 for South East England
- Weekly pay for females living in Thurrock is just 52% that of males weekly pay. In comparison female pay is 61% that of males nationally and 57% and 58% that of males for East England and South East England respectively

Workers working in Thurrock (workplace based earnings)

- In 2006 average weekly pay for males working in Thurrock was £459 compared to £459 nationally, £459 for East England and £488 for South East England
- In contrast, the average weekly pay for females living in Thurrock was £179 compared to £280 nationally, £263 for East England and £287 for South East England
- Weekly pay for females living in Thurrock is just 39% that of males weekly pay. In comparison female pay is 61% that of males nationally and 57% and 59% that of males for East England and South East England respectively.

4. Economy (S010)

Theme / Indicator		Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Economy	Business Stock	*	*	*	*
	Businesses	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Gross Value Added	*	▲	▲	▲
	Knowledge Economy	*	▲	▲	▲
	Key Benefits Claimants	*	*	▲	▲
	Occupational Structure	*	▲	▲	▲

4.1 Business enterprise and stock

Local enterprise is a measure of the vibrancy of a local economy and is recognised as important for overall success of the economy. Thurrock generally performs well on measures of enterprise compared to national and regional averages and this provides a strong base to support a knowledge economy.

Thurrock's business stock (measured by the number of VAT registered businesses) is 3,450 in 2006. This is characterised by strong growth, business formation rates and average survival rates.

- The number of VAT registered businesses in Thurrock has grown by an outstanding 16% since 2000, compared to growth of 6% nationally and regionally
- Business formation rates in Thurrock continue to be strong – 13% in 2005 compared to 10% nationally and regionally
- New business survival rates in Thurrock (24 months+) are consistent with national and regional averages at 80%
- The number of businesses per 1000 population was 27.3 in 2005 compared to 37.4 nationally, 34.9 in the Thames Gateway and 41.3 regionally.

Thurrock has a relatively large average business size in terms of number of employees. This suggests traditional dependence on larger business is still evident. It also helps explain Thurrock's lower than average self-employment rate. It should also be noted that Thurrock's good performance in terms of business and enterprise is in spite of the large average business size and low self-employment rate.

- In 2005 the average business size was 12.79 compared to 11.57 nationally and 10.93 regionally
- In 2006 the proportion of self-employed was 8.2% compared to 9.2% nationally, 10.4% regionally and 9.5% within the Thames Gateway.

4.2 Economic output - Gross Value Added (GVA)

GVA is a measure of a local area's productivity and contribution to the national economy. This is often summarised as an area's economic output. GVA per head in Thurrock is low in comparison to national and regional averages.

- In 2003 GVA per head in Thurrock was £13,507 compared to a national output of £15,585 and regional output of £15,911

- Growth in GVA per head in Thurrock has slowed since 1998, growing by 8.6% by 2003. In comparison national and regional growth over the same period was 25.9% and 26.4% respectively.

4.3 Key benefits

The proportion of the working age population in Thurrock claiming key benefits has remained stable over time. As at February 2007 13.5% of the working age population were claiming key benefits in Thurrock compared to 13.1% in 2000 13% in 2005. This is lower than the national average of 14.4% but greater than the regional average of 11.3%.

4.4 Income support

- As at February 2007 a total of 5,140 people in Thurrock were claiming income support. This represents a significant decrease of 37% since 2000 (8,120 claimants). This is a smaller decrease than that experienced nationally (45%) and regionally (44%)
- 155 of total claimants are aged between 18-24
- The greatest proportion of claimants were in wards with high deprivation – Belhus (11%), Grays Riverside (10%) and Tilbury St Chads (9%)
- In contrast just 1% of claimants in South Chafford.

4.5 Pension credit

- As at February 2007 5,720 people were claiming pension credit, compared to 5,680 at the same point in 2006 and 4,780 in 2004
- The majority of claimants are over the age of 65 – just 12% were aged between 60-64
- The highest proportion of claimants was in Chadwell St Mary (10%) and Belhus and Ockendon (9%).

4.6 Disability living allowance (DLA)

- In February 2007 there were 5,840 DLA claimants, compared to 5,740 at the same point in 2006 and 5,220 in 2003
- 16% of claimants in February 2007 were under the age of 18 and 4% were aged between 18-24
- One in four (25%) claimants were aged between 25-50 and one in three (32%) claimants aged between 50-64
- A fifth (21%) of claimants are aged over 65
- The greatest proportion of claimants was found in Chadwell St Mary (10%), Belhus (9%) and Ockendon (8%). Just 2% of claimants were from South Chafford.

4.7 Incapacity benefit / Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA)

- 5,840 people were claiming IB/SDA as at February 2007. This rate has remained largely consistent since 2000 (5,170 claimants)
- 6% of claimants are young people aged 18-24 and 1% are aged over 65
- Belhus (10%) again experienced the greatest proportion of claimants with Ockendon (9%) also high.
- In contrast 1% of claimants were from South Chafford and 2% from Chafford and North Stifford and Orsett.

5. Education and Training (SO5 / SO6)

Theme / Indicator	Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Education & Training	GCSE Attainment	✱	●	▲
	Key Stage 2 – English	✱	▲	●●
	Key Stage 2 – Maths	✱	▲	●●
	Key Stage 3 – English	✱	▲	●●
	Key Stage 3 – Maths	✱	▲	●●
	Qualifications – level 4	✱	▲	▲
	Qualifications – level 3	✱	▲	▲
	Qualifications – level 2	✱	▲	▲
	Qualifications – level 1 / none	✱	▲	▲
	School Leaver Destinations	✱	●●	●●
	Job Related Training	✱	✱	✱

5.1 Working age qualifications

Thurrock's economy is driven by human capital. The knowledge, skills and other attributes of Thurrock's workforce are critical to the success of the economy and in particular, growth of the knowledge sector.

Analysis shows that the general skills and qualifications profile of Thurrock's workforce is poor when compared to both national and regional data. The proportion of working age people with high-level skills remains very low. In addition the proportion of the population with either no qualifications or minimal qualifications is very high.

Therefore, despite recent improvements in the skills profile of the workforce it remains heavily skewed towards lower level skills. While Thurrock improves, so has performance at the national and regional level.

The low skills base continues to present threats to our ambitions for a thriving economy as economic growth and inward investment will be influenced by the capacity of the workforce.

- 16.8% of the working age population have at least an NVQ level 4 qualification (a first degree or higher) compared to 26.5 nationally and 24.8% regionally
- A third (33.3%) are qualified to NVQ level 3 or above compared to 44.4% nationally and 42.4% regionally
- 54% are qualified to NVQ level 2 or above compared to 62.9% nationally and 62.6% regionally
- 73.6% are qualified to NVQ level 1 or above compared to 77.2% nationally and 78.9% regionally
- 17% have no qualifications compared to 13% nationally and 14% regionally

5.2 Job related training

The picture in terms of job-related training is more positive for Thurrock. Thurrock outperforms national and regional comparators in terms of employees participating in work-related training.

- In 2005-06 23% of employed people in Thurrock received job related training within the past 13 weeks. This compares to 22% nationally, 205 within the Thames Gateway and 22% regionally
- In 2005-06 around 80% of employees in Thurrock received job-related training in the last 4 weeks and around two-thirds of people aged 16-69 participated in any form learning.

5.3 GCSE and equivalent attainment

Pupil achievement in GCSEs has continued to improve and close the gap on the national averages. However performance on key indicators remains below average in 2006:

- 60% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C in 2007 compared to a national average of 60.3%. This represents Thurrock's best ever results and brings Thurrock level with the national average.
- Between 2000 and 2006 analysis of relative improvement in GCSE grade A*-C shows Thurrock has improved by 41.1%, double the national improvement rate of 20.3%
- 89.4% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-G in 2006 compared to a national average of 90.5%
- Between 2001 and 2006 analysis of relative improvement in GCSE grade A*-G shows Thurrock has improved by 2.8% compared to a national improvement of 1.8%

5.4 Post 16 attainment – A Levels

The average A Levels points score per candidate in Thurrock has risen from 170.1 in 2002 to 234.7 in 2006. However, this remains well below national and regional averages.

5.5 Destinations of people post 16 (School Leaver Destinations)

A large proportion of people over 16 leaving school remained in full time education in 2005 (73%). Very few young people progressed to work-based training (2%). Almost 10% choose to move straight to employment and just under half (4%) go into routes which offer work based learning. These proportions have remained broadly the same in the previous two years.

5.6 Attainment at key stage 2 and 3

Schools performance has also improved in key stages 2 and 3 but remains below average on all key measures in comparison with national averages. Analysis of 2006 data shows:

Key Stage 2

- 74% of pupils achieved level 4 or 5 in KS2 English compared to 79% nationally. This represents an increase of 9% against the 2000 rate of 65%.
- 70% of pupils achieved level 4 or 5 in KS2 Maths compared to 76% nationally. This represents an increase of 6% against the 2000 rate of 64%.
- 83% of pupils achieved level 4 or 5 in KS2 Science compared to 87% nationally. This represents an increase of 4% against the 2000 rate of 80%.

Key Stage 3

- 70% of pupils achieved level 5 or more in KS3 English compared to 73% nationally. This represents an increase of 12% against the 2000 rate of 58%.
- 72% of pupils achieved level 5 or more in KS3 Maths compared to 77% nationally. This represents an increase of 8% against the 2000 rate of 64%.
- 67% of pupils achieved level 5 or more in KS3 Science compared to 72% nationally. This represents an increase of 6% against the 2000 rate of 61%.

6. Health and Well-being (SO8 / SO4)

Theme / Indicator	Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Health & Well-Being	Mortality Rate	✱	●	▲
	Cancer Mortality	✱	●	●
	Circulatory Disease Mortality	✱	▲	●●
	Life Expectancy	✱	●	●●
	Life Expectancy – Males	✱	●	●●
	Life Expectancy - Females	✱	●	●●
	Healthy Living	●●	▲	●●
	Participation in Sport	●●	▲	▲

The information presented below regarding health status, lifestyle and behaviour suggests that health in Thurrock is improving and is similar to the national average. However, it remains poor relative to that enjoyed elsewhere in the region. It is also clear that disadvantaged communities within Thurrock are much less healthy than more affluent areas.

6.1 Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth is used as a measure of the overall health of the population. Life expectancy in Thurrock is similar to the national average and is increasing. However, some communities have significantly worse health:

- In the period of 2003-2005 life expectancy in Thurrock was 76.9 years for males and 81.1 for females
- This is similar to the national average and represented a 1.8 year increase for men and 1.1 year increase for women on life expectancy in 1998-2000
- The difference in life expectancy between residents living in the most deprived fifth of MSOAs (comprising parts of Ockendon, Tilbury, Chadwell St Mary and Grays) and those living in the most affluent fifth (parts of Orsett, The Homesteads and Corringham) was 5.8 years. (MSOAs - Middle Super Output Areas - are an official statistical geographical boundary classification for life expectancy and other measures).

6.2 All age all cause mortality rates

Like life expectancy, directly age standardised all age all cause mortality rates (AAAC) are a measure of overall health status based on information about deaths. AAAC are the currency in which targets regarding health improvement and narrowing health inequalities are expressed in Thurrock's Local Area Agreement.

Death rates in Thurrock are similar to the national average but there are substantial inequalities between communities within Thurrock:

- The AAAC mortality rate for persons in Thurrock in 2003-2005 was 640.5 per 100,000 of the population – similar to the national average but significantly higher i.e. worse than the average for the East of England
- In 2003-2005 AAAC mortality rates were 379 / 100,000 or 1.45 times higher in the most deprived fifth of MSOAs as compared with the most affluent fifth.

6.3 The big killers

Although some improvement has been made, more than half of all deaths in Thurrock are due to cancer or circulatory diseases (mainly coronary heart disease or stroke)

- Cancer death rates under 75 years age in Thurrock are similar to the national average and have declined by a fifth (20%) in the last 10 years
- Death rates in Thurrock from circulatory disease in persons under 75 years of age have fallen by 30% in the same period but remain above national and regional averages.

6.4 Healthy lifestyles

The risk of developing most diseases, including many cancers and circulatory disease can be greatly reduced by living healthily. Many Thurrock residents could reduce their risk of disease by changing their lifestyle. Lifestyle choices reflect the environment in which people live. Risk factors for disease are more common in disadvantaged areas and are immediate cause of a substantial proportion of health inequalities.

- Around a third (30%) of adults in Thurrock are current smokers compared with a national average of 24%. Within Thurrock rates vary from 20% e.g. Orsett to over 40% e.g. Tilbury
- Overall a quarter (25%) of adults in Thurrock are obese. Rates vary from 19% in Chafford to 29% in Tilbury
- By age 11 over a fifth (20%) of local children are obese
- 16.6% of adults in Thurrock regularly participate in sport and recreation activity compared with 21.1% nationally
- About 1 in 6 people in Thurrock binge drink which is similar to the national average.

7. Housing and Households (SO9)

Theme / Indicator		Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Housing	House Prices	*	*	*	▲
	Housing Affordability	*	▲	●●	▲
	House Condition	*	*	*	●●

7.1 Dwelling stock

There are 62,536 households in Thurrock. Of these:

- 81.4% are privately owned
- 16.7% are local authority owned
- 1.9% are owned by registered social landlords

7.2 Condition

- 7% of local authority owned homes are classified as unfit – lower than the national average
- 4% of total housing is estimated as being unfit – consistent with national average

All local authority housing is assessed for its energy efficiency – known as the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). Thurrock has exceeded its energy efficiency targets with an average SAP rating of 72% in 2005-06 and 78% in 2006-07.

7.3 House building

- In 2005-06 742 new dwellings were completed in Thurrock. Nearly 7000 new dwellings have been completed since 1998-99, an annual average of around 870
- 99% of new dwellings were completed on previously developed land
- 5.9% of new dwellings were affordable housing.

7.4 House prices

Thurrock has seen huge growth in average house prices since 1999. Between 1999 and 2006 average house prices in Thurrock have more than doubled with an increase of 134%. This compares to growth of 128% nationally and 127% regionally.

The extent of growth places huge pressure on the affordability of the housing market in Thurrock. While average prices are below national and regional averages, property in Thurrock is increasingly out of reach for the majority of local people.

The ratio of house prices to earnings is a measure of how affordable housing is in an area. In 1999 the ratio of house price to earnings in Thurrock was 4.6 to 1 – in other words, the average house cost 4.6 times more than the average salary.

By 2006 however the ratio stands at a massive 9.3 to 1 – the average house costing 9.3 times more than the average salary. With mortgage lenders traditionally lending up to 4 times a salary, this emphasises the significant and growing problem facing Thurrock.

- The average house price in Thurrock is £178,429 (July-September 2006). This compares to £189,907 nationally and £194,543 regionally
- % change in house prices 1999 to 2006 is 134% compared to 128% nationally and 127% regionally
- The ratio of house prices to earnings in Thurrock has grown from 4.6 to 1 in 1999 to 9.3 to 1 in 2006.

7.5 House Price Index

In January 2007 the Land Registry introduced a new method of tracking and analysing changes in house prices. The House Price Index (HPI) will replace average property prices as the most accurate and reliable means of monitoring house prices. The HPI captures changes in value of residential properties against a baseline set in April 2000.

The baseline HPI for Thurrock is the average price of £72,864 (April 2000). This is given an index score of 100. Since the baseline index was set:

- Thurrock's HPI has more than doubled to 213.6 (April 2007). This means that on the HPI method, house prices have risen by over 113% in the seven year period.
- Over the same period the HPI for England and Wales has risen by 118%, the HPI for East England by 110% and the HPI for South East England by 94%.

8. Crime and Community Safety (SO7)

Theme / Indicator		Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Crime & Safety	Recorded Crime	✱	▲	●●	●●
	Recorded Crime – Vehicle	●	▲	●●	●●
	Recorded Crime – Violent	✱	✱	▲	▲
	Offences	✱	▲	✱	●●
	Fear of Crime – Day	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Fear of Crime – Night	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Fear of Crime – Males	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Fear of Crime – Females	▲	●●	●●	●●
	Road Casualties – Adult	▲	▲	●●	●●
	Road Casualties – Children	✱	✱	●●	●●

8.1 Overall recorded crime

This section considers a set of key crime indicators for Thurrock. Encouragingly, crime levels are continuing to decline in Thurrock. While overall crime levels remain higher than national and regional rates in 2005-06 they have fallen by over 4% since 2000.

Vehicle crime remains relatively high in Thurrock and above national rates. This inflates the overall crime figures to some degree given that the majority of offences are below average.

- Total number of offences per 1000 population in 2005-06 was 109. This compares to a national average of 101 and regional average of 86 offences per 1000 population
- Total number of offences per 1000 population has declined from 133.4 in 2003-04 and 120.2 in 2004-05.

8.2 Dwelling burglaries

- The dwelling burglaries rate in Thurrock is below the national average – 5 offences per 1000 population compared to 5.7 offences nationally.

8.3 Vehicle crime

- There are more incidences of vehicle theft in Thurrock than the national average
- In 2005-06 there were 8 incidences of vehicle theft per 1000 population compared to 4 offences nationally
- The theft rate in Thurrock has fallen from an equivalent rate of 10 and 11.8 in 2004-05 and 2003-04 respectively.
- Theft from a vehicle remains significantly higher in Thurrock than the national picture
- In 2005-06 there were 17 offences of theft from a vehicle per 1000 population compared to 9.5 offences nationally
- The offence rate in Thurrock has also risen slightly since the 2004-05 rate of 15.

8.4 Violent crimes

- The extent of violence against the person incidences in Thurrock continues to fall – 18 offences per 1000 population compared to 20 offences nationally in 2005-06
- The rate of violence against the person offences per 1000 population fell from 21 in 2004-05 to 18 in 2005-06.

8.5 Robbery and sexual offences

The number of robbery and sexual offences per 1000 population in Thurrock are both below the national average. While figures remain low, the number of sexual offences in Thurrock in 2005-06 has risen from 2004-05.

8.6 Offences (British Crime Survey)

The BCS measures the amount of crime in England and Wales by asking people about crimes they have experienced in the last year. The BCS includes crimes which are not reported to the police, so it is an important alternative to police records.

- The rate for BCS offences in Thurrock in 2006-07 was 66.4 per 1000 population. This rate is higher than the national (60.7) and regional (49) rates but lower than that for the Thames Gateway region (69.9)
- The offences rate of 66.4 per 1000 population has fallen from 82.3 in 2004 and 72.3 in 2005.

8.7 Fear of crime and feelings of safety

A Citizen's Panel survey in 2007 aimed to find out about people's fear of crime in Thurrock. Nearly three-quarters of people (72%) were worried about crime. 51% of people said fear of crime was based on personal experience.

At a national level fear of crime is measured through the British Crime Survey. This focuses on fear of burglary, fear of car crime and fear of violent crime. Results for 2006-07 show that women generally fear crime more than men, particularly in respect of violent crime. 10% of men fear burglary compared to 15% of women. 13% of men and women fear car crime and 9% of men and 24% of women fear violent crime.

Feeling safe is a key contributor to people's fear of crime in Thurrock. The proportion of people in Thurrock who say they feel safe when alone during both the day and the night has fallen since 2005. This is true for both male and females.

- 81% of people in Thurrock in 2006 feel safe if alone during the day and 48% feel safe if alone during the night. This compared to 91% and 50% respectively in 2005
- 59% of males and 45% of females feel safe if alone after dark compared to 63% and 50% in 2005.

8.8 Road safety

Improvements in measures of road safety have continued since the 1994-1998 baselines were set. However, figures increased slightly in 2006-07 from previous years, slowing the trend of improvement.

- The number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads increased in 2006-07. Numbers rose from 112 in 2005-06 to 118 in 2006-07 (5% change). This represents a fall of 8% against the 1994-1998 baseline of 128.
- The number of children (U16) killed or seriously injured doubled in 2006-07 – 12 compared to 6 in 2005-06. This represents a fall of 44% against the 1994-1998 baseline of 21.

9. Environment and Transport (SO11 / SO12)

Theme / Indicator	Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England	
Environment & Transport	Household Waste	▲	▲	●●	
	Recycling and Composting	✱	▲	●●	
	Satisfaction with Recycling	●	▲	●●	
	Cleanliness	✱	▲	●●	
	Bus Service	✱	●●	●●	
	Satisfaction with Bus Service	●	▲	●●	
	Access to Services	●	▲	▲	✱
	Parks and Open Space	▲	▲	●●	●●
	Travel to School – Walk	●	●●	●●	●●
	Travel to School – Car	✱	●●	●●	●●
	Conservation Areas	✱	●●	●●	●●
	Land Use	●	●	●●	●●
	Footpaths	▲	✱	✱	●●

9.1 Waste and recycling

Thurrock's recycling performance has continued to improve. Recycling rates are rising and the proportion of waste that is landfilled is falling. On a less positive note improvements are not yet matched by increased customer satisfaction.

- Less household waste was collected per head in 2005-06 than in 2004-05 – 486.57kg compared to 492.3kg. However in 2006-07 the amount of household waste collected increased to 511kg per head of population
- In 2006-07 24% of household waste was recycled or composted compared to 20% in 2005-06 and 16% in 2004-05
- Waste sent for landfill fell from 83% in 2004-05 to 80% in 2005-06 and 75% in 2006-07.

9.2 Natural environment

A pleasant and attractive natural environment can be an important asset for a local area attempting to attract inward investment through business relocation / development.

The quality of the natural environment is difficult to quantify however. Local Futures have created a measure, which enables a score to be produced for local areas and comparisons made with national and regional averages.

The natural environment score considers indicators of weather, population density, air quality and pollution levels, access to woodland coastline and special landscape designations (SSIs, areas of outstanding natural beauty, green space).

Thurrock has a lower than average natural environment score – 70 compared to the national average of 100. In other words on this measure Thurrock is judged to have a less attractive natural environment than that found nationally.

However it should be emphasised that Thurrock scores significantly higher than the rest of the Thames Gateway area. This presents a strong marketing point and should form a part of strategies to promote Thurrock as a location of choice.

- Thurrock has 7 conservation areas
- There are 737.31 hectares of land designated to sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) – 10 sites in all
- 68% of SSSIs in Thurrock are classified as being in favourable condition, compared to 71% nationally

9.3 Sustainable transport

The use of sustainable modes of transport in Thurrock is increasing and this is helping to improve the spatial connectivity of the area:

- Bus usage in Thurrock is lower than the national average – 4.4% compared to 7.4% nationally. However, bus numbers in Thurrock are increasing annually.
- In 2005-06 there were 2.7 million local bus journeys, rising to 3.4m in 2006-07
- 100% of rural households are within 13 minutes walk of an hourly or better bus service.

More people travel to work by train in Thurrock than national averages. 13.3% are estimated to use the train to travel to work compared to just 4.1% nationally and 12% in London.

Modes of travel to school have remained fairly stable since 2003, although there has been a small decline in the proportion of children travelling to school by car. In 2005-06 3% of children cycled to school compared to 2% in 2003/04, 48% walked compared to 48% in 2003-04 and 40% travelled by car compared to 42% in 2003-04.

9.4 Access to services

Local Futures have created a measure to assess the ease of access to services in a local area. The measure considers access to key services such as GP surgeries, post offices, supermarkets, banks and primary and secondary schools. It is based on information obtained from the Rural Services Survey conducted by the Countryside Agency in 2005.

Thurrock's access to services score is 99, similar to the national average score of 100 and better than the regional average of 90. However, Thurrock fares less well when compared to the Thames Gateway region (111).

10. Quality of Life (SO1 / SO3)

Theme / Indicator		Trend over time	England & Wales / GB	Thames Gateway	East England
Quality of Life	Resident Satisfaction	●	●●	●●	●●
	Thriving and Attractive Place	●●	●●	●●	●●
	Local Decision Making	✱	●●	●●	●●
	Social Participation	●●	●●	●●	●●
	Community Harmony	▲	●●	●●	●●

10.1 Resident satisfaction

In 2006 the majority (81%) of residents were satisfied with their local neighbourhood as a place to live. This is generally consistent with the picture in previous years. Around one in 10 people in 2006 were dissatisfied with their local neighbourhood – again consistent with previous years.

10.2 Thurrock – a thriving and attractive place

In the 2006 Quality of Life Survey residents were asked to what extent they agreed with the statement ‘Thurrock is a thriving and attractive place to live and work’. Half of respondents (49%) agreed with this statement, a third (34%) disagreed and one in five people (18%) neither agreed nor disagreed.

10.3 Local decision-making

In 2006 the Quality of Life Survey found that under half of people (44%) felt that they could influence decisions affecting their local neighbourhood. This represents a slight increase from 41% in 2005. However, nearly half of people (49%) felt they could not influence local decision-making.

The 2006-07 Best Value User Satisfaction Survey includes questions for housing tenants on satisfaction with arrangements for participation in decision-making (the Tenants Survey). 61% of tenants were satisfied with participation, an increase from 53% in the 2003-04 survey.

10.4 Social participation

A fifth of people (18%) in 2006 had been involved with a voluntary or community group, club, organisation or public body.

10.5 Community harmony

Two-thirds of people (65%) agreed that the local area is one ‘where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously’. This represents a decrease of 7% since 2005 when 72% of people agreed with this statement.

11. Sources

11.1 Reports and Profiles

- Thurrock Profile, Thurrock Council
- State of Thurrock Audit, Local Futures 2007
- Health Inequalities Profile 2006, ERPHO
- Community Health Profile 2007, ERPHO
- Labour Market Profile 2006, NOMIS
- Performance Counts 2007-08, Thurrock Council

11.2 Section 2 – Demographic Profile (SO1)

- Mid-Year Population Estimates 1991-2006, ONS
- Population Projections 2001-2028, ONS
- Ethnic Minority Population Estimates 2001-2003, ONS
- Pupil Level Annual Schools Survey 2003-2007 (PLASC)
- Census 2001, ONS
- National Insurance Number Registrations, DWP

11.3 Section 3 – Labour Market (SO10)

- Unemployment: Claimant Count, NOMIS
- Annual Population Survey, NOMIS
- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, NOMIS
- Job Density, Annual Population Survey, NOMIS

11.4 Section 4 – Economy (SO10)

- VAT Registrations, NOMIS
- Gross Value Added, ONS
- Working-Age Benefits, DWP, NOMIS
- Income Support Claimants, DWP, NOMIS
- Pension Credit Claimants, DWP, NOMIS
- Disability Living Allowance Claimants, DWP, NOMIS
- Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance Claimants, DWP, NOMIS

11.5 Section 5 – Education and Training

- GCSE and equivalent Results, DfES
- Key Stage 2 and 3 Results, DfES
- Working Age Qualifications, Annual Population Survey, NOMIS

11.6 Section 6 – Health and Well-Being

- Health Inequalities Profile 2006, ERPHO
- Community Health Profile 2007, ERPHO
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11.7 Section 7 – Housing and Households

- Census 2001
- Housing Statistical Appendix
- House Prices, Land Registry
- House Price Index, Land Registry

11.8 Section 8 – Crime and Safety

- Recorded Crime Statistics, Home Office
- British Crime Survey, Home Office
- Fear of Crime Survey 2007, Thurrock Council
- Quality of Life Survey 2006, Thurrock Council

11.9 Section 9 – Environment and Transport

- Performance Counts 2007-08, Thurrock Council
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11.10 Section 10 – Quality of Life

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