

Harrogate and Knaresborough Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first bulletin of 2016 produced by Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) providing analysis of housing-related data for the Parliamentary Constituencies in the North of England. The report provides analysis of the impacts of welfare reform and the housing market in the constituency.

We have used the following symbols to indicate your performance against the relevant regional or national statistics.



Above average



Reference point



Below average

Economic Activity



Neighbourhood Statistics shows that there are 73,052 residents in the constituency aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 74.8% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 71.4% in North Yorkshire and 68.4% for the region as a whole.



The latest economically active figures are an increase on those from the 2001 Census. In 2001, there were 71% of residents aged 16 to 74 classed as economically active. This coincides with an increase in the number of people aged 16 to 74.



Figure 1 below shows that the economically active are concentrated in High Harrogate (81.6%) and Low Harrogate (80.3%) wards having the highest proportion of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 56.7% are full-time employees, while 20.2% work part-time employees. A further 15.5% are self-employed and 3.7% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 2.7% since 2001.

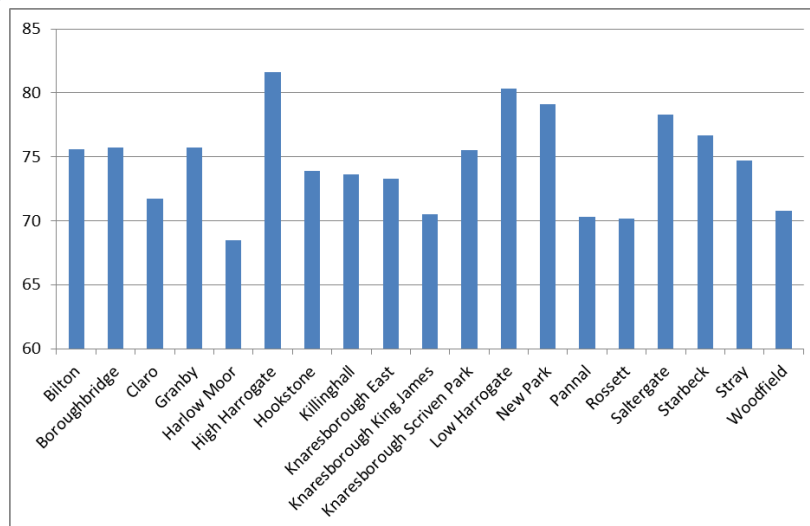


Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability



Nomis data showed that in June, there were 460 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, an increase from 405 at the same point in 2015. This represents 0.7% of people aged over 16 in the constituency.



Using these indicators, it would appear that the Government's aim of a lower welfare country is being not achieved. However, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers grew between 2014 to 2015 from £12.53 to £13.43 – delivering on the higher wage 'settlement'.



Coinciding with the rise in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims fell by 7.3% and actual possessions fell by 100% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the Harrogate local authority.



There were no social landlord or mortgage possessions both falling by 100% and social landlord claims fell by 15.6%. There have been no private landlord claims or possessions for a number of years.



There was an increase in mortgage claims grew by 2.2% in Harrogate between quarter one in 2015 and the same point in 2016.

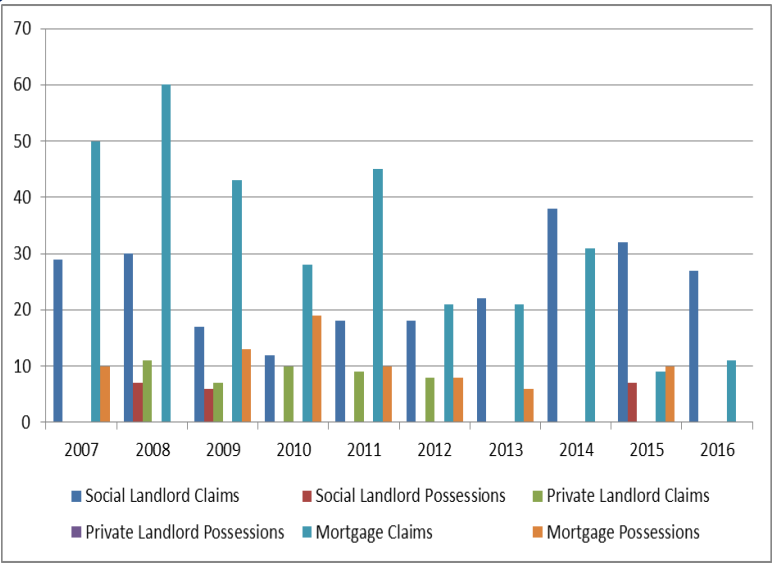


Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
Barry Turnbull, Policy Services Officer, 0191 5661030 or barry.turnbull@northern-consortium.org.uk