Keighley 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 68,622 residents in the constituency aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 69.4% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 68.5% in West 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 67.2% 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 Worth Valley (75.4%) and Craven (72%) wards having the highest proportion of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.

Of the economically active total, 52.4% are full-time employees, while 21.4% work part-time employees. A further 15.5% are self-employed and 6.4% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 4.2% since 2001.

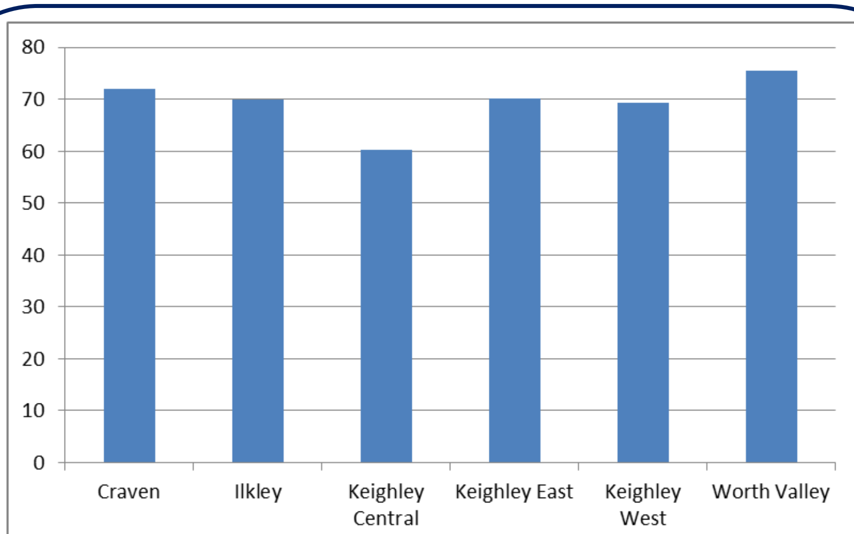

Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability

Nomis data showed that in June, there were 990 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a fall from 1,000 on the same point in 2015. This represents 1.7% 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 achieved. Furthermore, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers grew between 2014 to 2015 from £12.73 to £12.89 – delivering the higher wage 'settlement'.

Notwithstanding the growth in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims grew by 8.3% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the Bradford local authority area, although and actual possessions fell by 11.2% over the same period.

The greatest decreases were seen in mortgage (-34.4%) and private landlord (14.3%) possessions. There was also a 2.9% fall in private landlord claims as well as a 2.4% fall in mortgage claims as Figure 2 shows.

There was a significant increase in social landlord claims (17.6%) over the same period. There was also an increase in social landlord possessions (4%).

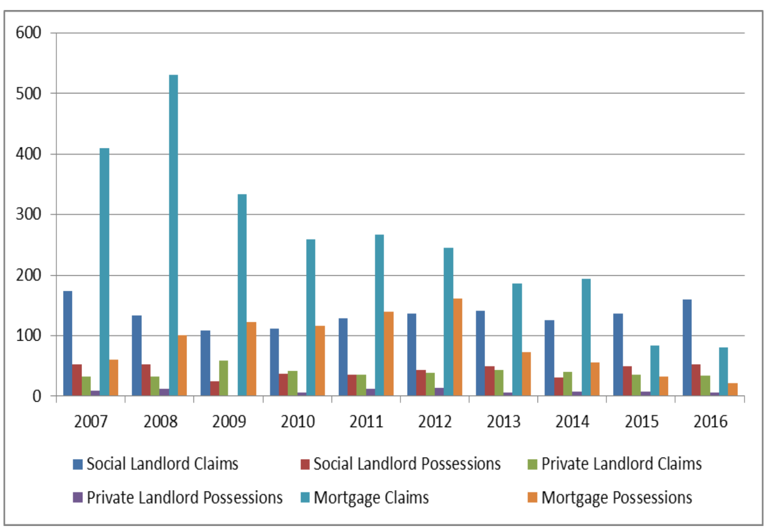

Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
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