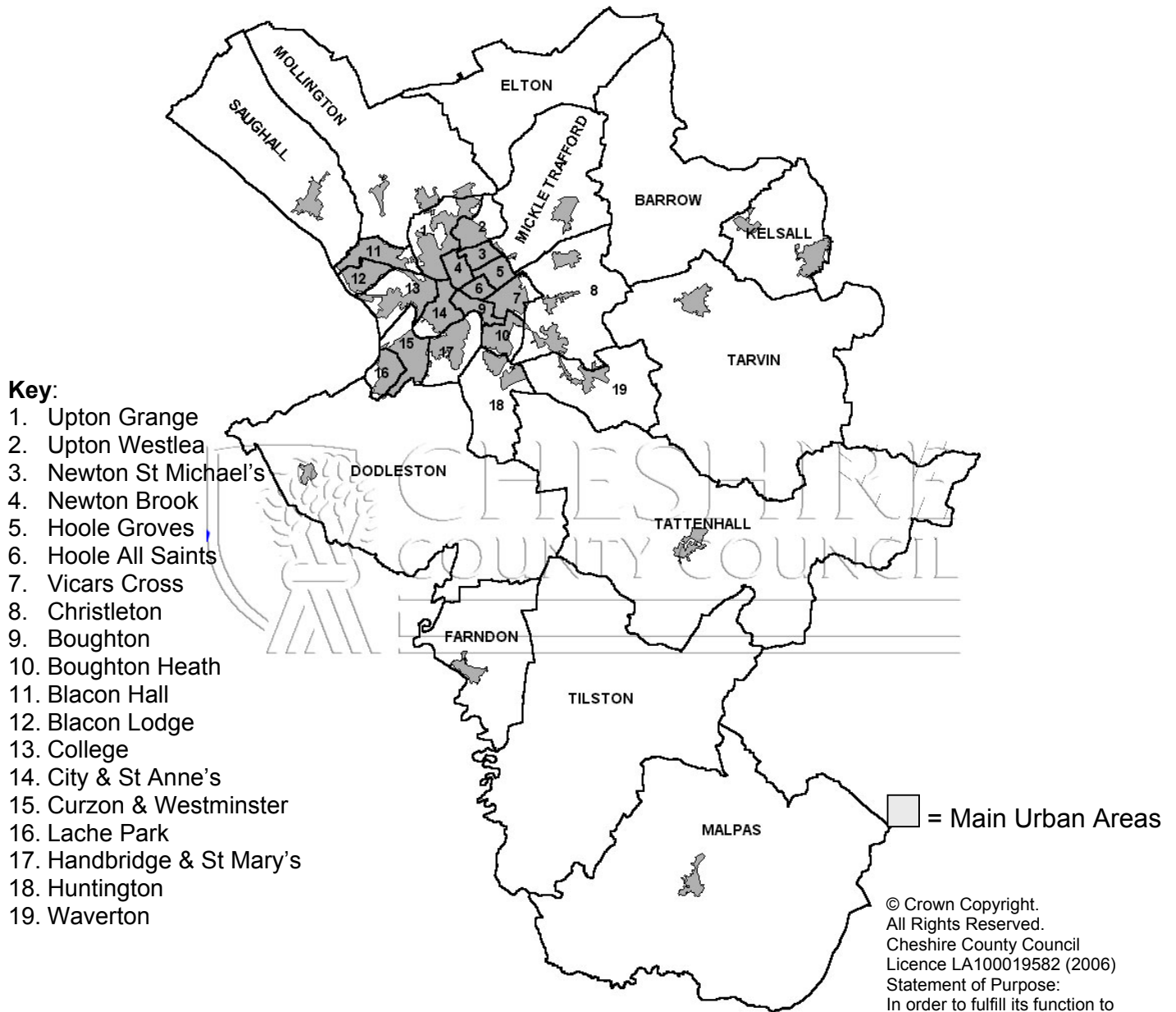


# Chester District Profile

## Electoral Wards in Chester City



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## Chester In Perspective

Chester City covers much of the west of Cheshire, encompassing an area of some 44,800 hectares, with a population of 118,600. It is bounded by Wales to the west, the county of Shropshire to the south and the districts of Vale Royal, Crewe & Nantwich and Ellesmere Port & Neston to the east and north. The historic city of Chester, which originated as a Roman fortress almost 2,000 years ago, is the principal settlement and main administrative centre, and is surrounded by a substantial and predominantly rural hinterland.

Chester City comprises the city of Chester and the towns and villages of Elton, Tarvin, Tattenhall, Malpas, together with a large rural area particularly to the south of Chester.

## About The Profile

This is a summary of information about Chester district. It intends to help an understanding of the district to enable issues of concern to be identified and put into context.

Information given in this summary is mainly for the City of Chester although some data is presented for wards, where significant trends are seen. Where ward level data is given, it refers to post-1998 ward boundaries as displayed on the front of this profile.

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## Key Facts

- Chester City has a population of 118,600 (2005)
- Population is forecast to grow by 5% (2005-2021)
- 93% of respondents to the Quality of Life Survey 2005 described their quality of life as being very or quite good
- The Quality of Life 2005 Survey highlighted that reducing crime and disorder remains respondents' top priority for improving their quality of life.
- Recorded crime per 1,000 population in 2004/2005 in Chester City was 107 compared to 83 for Cheshire
- Chester City's teenage conception rate is 27 per 1,000 females aged 15-17, lower than the 32 for the County (2001-03)
- 50% of young people thought that drugs were easy to get in their area (Quality of Life 2005 Survey)
- The Cheshire Community Survey 2006 found that 16% of Chester City's population smoke cigarettes
- Unemployment rates in Chester City were broadly similar to the County rates
- 15% of unemployed claimants had been out of work for over a year at April 2006
- According to the Cheshire Community Survey 2006 two-thirds of internet users now have broadband at home
- A total of 14,600 tonnes of materials was recycled in Chester City between 2004 – 2005 accounting for 28% of all waste

## Safer & Stronger Communities

### Chester's People

#### Size & Distribution

- 2005 estimate for Chester City is 118,600<sup>1</sup>
- This is 17% of Cheshire's population
- In 2005, 65% (77,040) lived in the Greater Chester urban area
- Christleton, Elton, Kelsall, Saughall and Tarvin have populations of 2,500 to 4,000
- Farndon, Guilden Sutton, Malpas, Mickle Trafford, Tattenhall and Waverton have populations of 1,000 to 2,500
- The rest of the population is in scattered rural settlements.

#### Density

- The area of Chester City is 44,800 hectares
- On average the population density is 2.65 people per hectare.

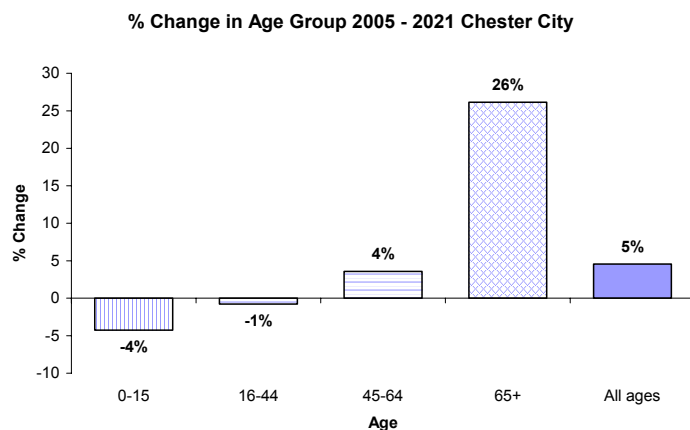
#### Trends

- Since 1971, the population of Chester City has remained stable or increased slightly from 115,200 to 118,600 in 2005, a rise of 3%. This compares with a rise of 10% for Cheshire
- Chester is expected to grow between 2005 and 2021<sup>2</sup>. The population in 2021 will be 5% higher than in 2005. This compares with a growth of 4% for Cheshire

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics population estimates. © Crown Copyright 2005

<sup>2</sup> 2007 Cheshire County Council Population Report

### Age Distribution



- 18% of the population is aged under 16
- 18% is aged 65 or more
- The number of children is forecast to decrease
- Adults approaching retirement age (45-64) will have a growth of 4%
- The largest proportional growth in population is expected for the 65+ age group 2005-2021.

### Family Structure

- In the 2001 census<sup>3</sup>, 64% of households in Chester City were 'family' households – a lower proportion than for Cheshire (68%).

A 'family' household is (a) a married or cohabiting couple with or without children present including all pensioner households or (b) a lone parent with children present, and no others.

- 73% of Chester City households had no dependent children present (60% of 'family' households plus 95% of no 'family' households)
- 20% of all 'family' households with dependent children were 'lone parent households' (Cheshire 18%)
- 35% of all live births were born outside marriage in 2000 (Cheshire 36%).

### Households

- In 2001<sup>3</sup>, there were 50,130 households with residents in Chester City
- 99% of people lived in households and 1% in communal establishments

<sup>3</sup> Census 2001. © Crown Copyright 2005

- Household composition generally reflected the county patterns
- 30% of households were people living alone, the highest percentage in Cheshire, the same as Macclesfield
- 27% of households had dependent children
- 25% of Chester City households were all pensioner households, of these 7,597 (60%) were pensioners living alone
- City and St Anne's ward had the highest proportion of households with pensioners living alone (24.3%) and other people living alone (32.6%). Mickle Trafford ward had the lowest proportion of households with pensioners living alone (6.5%) and Mollington ward had the lowest proportion of other people living alone (6.1%)
- Blacon Hall ward had the highest proportion of households with dependent children (36.4%), City and St Anne's ward had the lowest proportion (10.2%).

### Housing

- In 2001<sup>3</sup>, 36% of households in Chester district lived in semi-detached houses, the same proportion as in Cheshire
- In 2001<sup>3</sup>, 73% of households lived in owner-occupied accommodation (77% for Cheshire)
- 14% lived in social rented housing (much of which is now administered by housing associations)
- 99.5% of households had exclusive use of bath/shower
- 6.9% of households were without central heating (compared with 8.0% in Cheshire)
- Blacon Lodge ward had highest proportion (16.1%) of households without central heating
- Curzon & Westminster ward had the highest percent of owner occupied accommodation where the owner owns the accommodation outright (47.6%)
- Huntington ward had the highest percent of owner occupied accommodation owned with a mortgage or loan (59%)
- Blacon Lodge ward had the highest percent of local authority rented housing (21.4%) and housing rented from registered social landlords or housing associations (22.7%)

- In 2005, the average property price for Chester was £191,828<sup>4</sup>

### Ethnic Background and Religion

- In 2001<sup>3</sup>, 2.0% of Chester City's population was 'non-white' compared with 1.6% for the County and 8.7% in England and Wales
- 78% of Chester's population was Christian
- Upton Grange ward had the highest percent of 'non-white' people (3.7%).

### Socio-Economic Group

- In 2001<sup>3</sup>, Chester City had the third highest proportion of managerial and professional workers in Cheshire (26.6%)
- Chester City had the third lowest proportion (13.8%) of semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers in Cheshire, compared to 15.0% in Cheshire.

### Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004<sup>5</sup>

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is well established as a key source of evidence of deprivation at small area level across England. The 2004 update was undertaken by Oxford University on behalf of the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The 2004 IMD was constructed at the lower layer super output area (LLSOA) level. The previous IMD (2000) was at ward level.

The IMD acknowledges that disadvantage is not just a matter of poverty. The index consists of 7 domains; Income, Employment, Health Deprivation & Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime Domain (new in 2004) and Living Environment (new in 2004).

Results of the IMD 2004 include:

- Chester has 5 LLSOAs falling within the top 10% most deprived LLSOAs in England
- The highest ranked LLSOA in Chester fell within Lache Park ward with a ranking placing it in the top 2% most deprived LLSOAs nationally
- Blacon Hall and Blacon Lodge wards each have two LLSOAs falling within the top 10% most deprived LLSOAs in England

<sup>4</sup> HM Land Registry. © Crown Copyright 2005, Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO

<sup>5</sup> ODPM, Indices of Deprivation 2004

- Chester was ranked 145<sup>th</sup> most deprived for extent of deprivation out of 354 English districts.

### Crime & Disorder

- Recorded crime<sup>6</sup> per 1,000 population in 2004/05 for Chester District was 107 per 1,000 people, higher than the County rate (83). This rate was the highest of all the Cheshire districts
- Burglary (14 per 1,000 population) was higher than the county rate (11) and the highest of all the Cheshire districts
- Vehicle crime (12 per 1,000 population) was higher than the county rate (10)
- Violence against the person (17 per 1,000 population) was higher than the county rate (14) and the highest of all the Cheshire districts.

The Quality of Life 2005<sup>7</sup> survey highlighted that respondents were most likely to suggest reducing crime and disorder as a way of improving their quality of life. Over half (56%) felt worried or very worried about being a victim of crime compared to 70% in 2000.

- Respondents were most worried about being a victim of 'burglary from your house', with 20% being very worried and a further 30% being quite worried
- 47% of all respondents worried about vandalism to their house, car or other property, 42% were worried about having their car stolen
- The most commonly reported disorder issue was 'speeding vehicles' (51% of Chester respondents reported this as a major concern, compared to 50% of Cheshire respondents and 52% of Chester respondents in 2000).

### Road Safety<sup>8</sup>

- There were 598 reported injury collisions on Chester's road network in 2004 resulting in a total of 837 casualties
- There were 14 fatalities on Chester roads in 2004, an increase from 8 in 2003
- There were 106 serious casualties in 2004, an increase from 93 in 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Management Information Unit, Cheshire Constabulary

<sup>7</sup> Quality of Life Survey 2005, Cheshire County Council

<sup>8</sup> Road Casualties Cheshire, Annual Report 2005, CCC

### Community Involvement

The Cheshire Community Survey 2006<sup>9</sup> found that:

- Over half (55%) of Crewe & Nantwich district respondents belonged to a charity, voluntary group or community organisation (43% Cheshire). 57% volunteered with the social or physical care of one or more people (not relatives) and/or provided a service on behalf of a charity, voluntary or community organisation for at least 2 hours a month without being paid (42% Cheshire)
- The Quality of Life Survey 2005<sup>7</sup> found 20% of adult respondents in Chester stated that they were a member of a home or neighbourhood watch group (23% in Cheshire)
- This survey also found that, 36% of Chester residents ranked 'Involve local people in decision making' in their top 3 priorities (Chester 2000 - 27%).

Community involvement is evidenced in the governance of the district. In addition to the County and District councillors, there are 48 parish councils and one town council that deal with many local issues.

### Voting Patterns - County

- At the 2005 County Council Election, the 9 County Electoral Divisions were represented by 4 Conservative, 2 Labour and 3 Liberal Democrat Members
- Turnout in Chester at the 2005 County Council Election was 66%.

### Voting Patterns - District

- At May 2006, the City Council was represented by: 14 Labour, 19 Liberal Democrat, 26 Conservative and 1 Other

### Rural Services Survey<sup>10</sup>

In 2000 the survey of Rural Services was commissioned by the Rural Development Commission (now known as the Countryside Agency) to provide information on the availability of a wide range of services to people living in rural

<sup>9</sup> Cheshire Community Survey 2006, Cheshire County Council

<sup>10</sup> Rural Services Series, Rural Access Survey 2005  
[http://www.countryside.gov.uk/EvidenceAndAnalysis/dataHub/rural\\_services\\_series\\_dataarea/RSS2005data.asp](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/EvidenceAndAnalysis/dataHub/rural_services_series_dataarea/RSS2005data.asp)



communities. The most recent of these surveys was carried out in 2005. Key findings for rural Cheshire from the 2005 services survey can be found in the table below.

### Percentage of households in rural areas who travel more than 6 miles to a service

	Banks/ Building Soc	Super market	Job Centre	Libraries	Sec Schools
Chester	54%	31%	67%	37%	22%
Congleton	0%	0%	43%	0%	0%
Crewe & Nantwich	21%	6%	33%	31%	19%
Ellesmere Port & Neston	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Macclesfield	2%	2%	29%	4%	7%
Vale Royal	17%	0%	36%	8%	3%
<b>Cheshire</b> (all households)	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>

The survey showed that:

- Over half the rural households in Chester had to travel over 6 miles to a bank/building society and a job centre
- Job centres were the service that most rural households had to travel over 6 miles to.

## Children & Young People

### Schools and Pupils

In Chester (Jan 2006) there were:

- Approximately 8,578 primary school pupils at 52 primary schools and 509 nursery pupils
- Approximately 7,804 secondary school pupils at 8 secondary schools.

### Results

In 2005:

- For Key Stage 2 level 4 and above results, primary pupils in Chester schools achieved a slightly lower rate than Cheshire as a whole but above the national rate

	Chester	Cheshire	National
English	82%	83%	79%
Maths	77%	79%	75%
Science	88%	89%	86%

- 59% of Chester pupils achieved 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C in 2005, compared to 57% nationally and 60% in Cheshire
- Chester pupils achieved an average point score of 261.1 (for two or more GCE A Levels or AS equivalent), compared to 273.7 nationally and 274.1 in Cheshire.

### Teenage Conceptions<sup>11</sup>

- From 2001 to 2003, there were 170 conceptions to females aged under 18 years old in Chester
- The conception rate of under 18 year olds in Chester is 27 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years, this is lower than the county rate (32).

### Young people and crime

- According to the Quality of Life Survey 2005<sup>7</sup>, people see a link between young people, crime & disorder and drugs. Young people were seen as major contributors to residents' concerns on crime & disorder, especially when they meet together in groups. And three of the top four actions suggested for tackling illegal drugs concerned educating and informing young people.
- However, young people are also victims of crime and illegal drugs. Young people were more worried than others were about being victims of harassment, assault and theft of personal items. They felt more strongly than others that reducing illegal drugs problems is an important local issue.

### Bullying in schools

- A recent Bullying Survey<sup>12</sup> found that just over a third of year 7, 8 and 9 pupils stated they had been bullied in the past school year. These results were similar to national figures
- The main suggestions by the pupils to combat bullying were to help develop confidence for all pupils, to help pupils feel

<sup>11</sup> Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Anti-Bullying Survey 2005, Cheshire County Council

better about themselves and to teach bullies why it is wrong and how to stop.

### Infant Mortality<sup>13</sup>

- In 2004, the infant mortality rate of children aged under 1 year old was 7.8 per 1,000 live births in Chester, compared with 5.2 in Cheshire.

## **Healthier Communities & Older People**

### Standardised Mortality Ratios<sup>14</sup>

In 1999, as part of the 'Our Healthier Nation' strategy, the Government has set national targets to reduce mortality from cancer, circulatory diseases, suicide and accidents.

- Chester had a standardised ratio\* of 101 for deaths from cancer (2002 to 2004) (98 in Cheshire)
- Chester had a standardised ratio\* of 97 for deaths from circulatory diseases (2002 to 2004) (100 in Cheshire).

\*Standardised mortality ratios compare the observed number of deaths to the number of deaths that would occur per 100,000 population if that population had the age-specific death rates of England & Wales.

### Limiting Long Term Illness

- According to the 2001 Census<sup>3</sup>, 17.5% of people in Chester had limiting long-term illness (LLTI). Chester district ranked 4<sup>th</sup> of the six districts in Cheshire in terms of LLTI
- City and St.Annes and Blacon Lodge, ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively, were the Chester City wards among the highest 10 in Cheshire. Around 25% of people in these wards had LLTI
- Over nine out of ten (91.6%) Chester residents state in the 2001 census<sup>3</sup> that they had good or very good health.

### Health Issues

The Community Survey 2006<sup>9</sup> found:

- 16% of residents in Chester smoke, the same as the figure for Cheshire as a whole
- 85% drank alcohol; 15% thought the amount of alcohol they drank was harmful to their health which was higher than for any other district
- 91% of the Chester population felt their health was either good or fairly good, this is comparable with 88% in Cheshire as a whole
- 75% of Chester population took some form of exercise every week (including walking), more than any other Cheshire district. 68% would like to exercise more with lack of time being the main barrier to more exercise (35%) followed by work (32%).

### Benefit Claimants<sup>15</sup>

The government has made available Department of Social Security (DSS) ward level data to local authorities. This data covers a variety of income and health related benefits comprising six main benefit categories (Income Support, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Pension Credit, Job Seekers Allowance and State Pension). Analysis of the benefit claimants data (November 2005) indicates:

- Chester District had the second highest district rate per 1,000 population in Cheshire for Income Support 'All Claimants' with 30.2 claimants per 1,000 population (Cheshire 24.5).
- For all benefits Chester had claimant rates higher than Cheshire's.
- North BlaconL3, South BlaconL5 and Lache ParkL1 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LLSOAs) appeared in the top 10%, in Cheshire, for a number of the benefit categories.

### Liveability in Chester

A County Council survey about quality of life<sup>7</sup> was undertaken in 2005.

- 94% of residents of Chester district liked where they lived (49% liked very much)

<sup>13</sup> Vital Statistics, Office for National Statistics population estimates. © Crown Copyright 2006.

<sup>14</sup> National Centre for Health Outcomes Development: <http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>

<sup>15</sup> Benefit Claimants 2005, Department for Work and Pensions © Crown Copyright

- However, three-quarters could suggest issues that needed improving. 'Cleaner streets and local environment' and 'safety for cars, cycles and pedestrians' were each mentioned by one-fifth of those making suggestions
- 92% of respondents described their quality of life<sup>7</sup> as being very or quite good (47% very good).

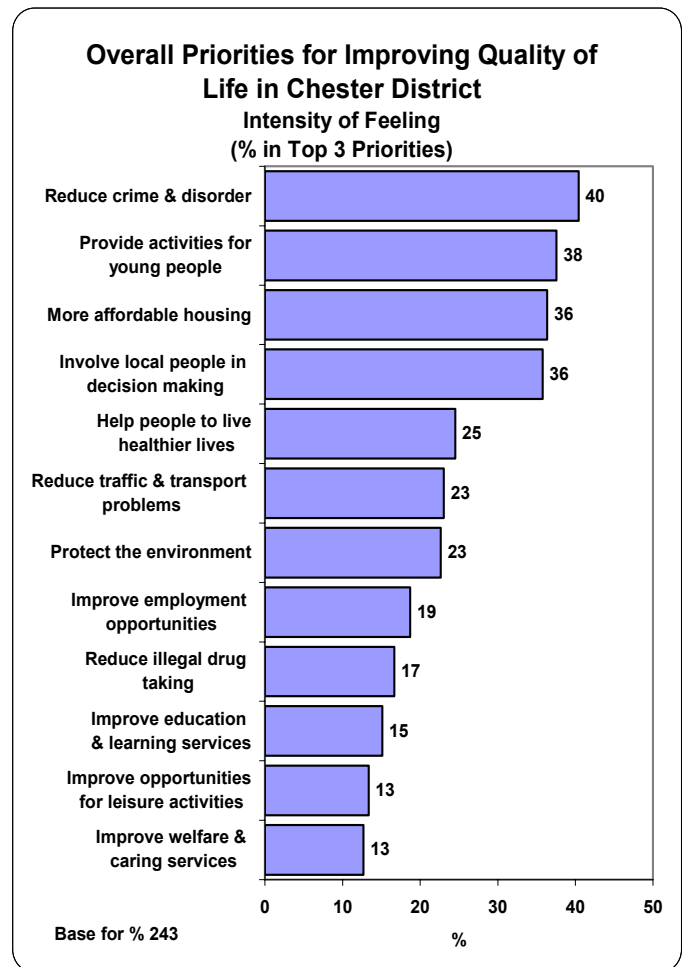
### Issues

- The most significant issue was concern about crime. A more visible police presence was a top priority for reducing crime in Chester
- Tackling the drugs problem was seen as a good way of tackling crime concerns
- 50% of young people thought that drugs were easy to get in their area compared to 40% in 2000
- Chester respondents were concerned about housing issues with 'build more affordable housing' seen as the priority housing action.
- More importance has been given to protecting the environment and reducing traffic and transport problems.
- Much less importance given to reducing illegal drug taking and on people taking responsibility for their own health.

### Overall Priorities for Improvement

- 'Reducing crime and disorder' was the issue rated as the highest priority in Chester for improvement. Two-fifths of respondents (40%) placed this in their top three priorities with similar numbers (38%), stating that 'providing activities for young people' was a priority. Other priorities indicated by respondents included 'more affordable housing' and 'involve local people in decision making' (both 36%).

### **Overall Priorities for Improving Quality of Life Intensity of Feeling (% in top 3 Priorities) Chester District**



### Mental Health and Well Being

- 16% of adults suffer from mental illness in Great Britain<sup>16</sup>. This would be around 12,000 people in Chester.
- 1 in 10 children have some kind of mental health problem<sup>17</sup>. For children looked after by local authorities overall rates of disorder are at least 5 times higher than for children in the general population<sup>16</sup>. At March 2005 Chester had 119 children looked after by a local authority, this is around 3 per 1,000 population aged under 18.
- The 2004 mental health index identifies South BlaconL5 and Lache ParkL1 Lower Layer Super Output Areas\* (LLSOA's) as

<sup>16</sup> ONS 2000, Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults Living in Private Households in Great Britain

<sup>17</sup> ONS, 2004, The Health of Children and Young People



having the highest evidence of mental health problems<sup>18</sup>.

- Over a fifth of Middle Layer Super Output Areas\* (MLSOA's) in Chester have alcohol attributable death mortality ratios higher than the North West's. The highest is Chester Station MLSOA which is 112% above the North West average<sup>19</sup>.
- According to the regional drug misuse database, Cheshire had 1,200 drug misusers in treatment in 2000/01. People with drug problems have a higher risk of suicide than the average population.
- Only one Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MLSOA's), in Chester, had a self harm hospitalised incidence ratios higher than the North West's. This was South Blacon MLSOA which is 13% above the North West average<sup>18</sup>.
- From 2002 to 2004 there were 18 deaths due to suicide in Chester<sup>20</sup>.

## Economic Development & Enterprise

### Economic Prospects

- Forecasts from the Cheshire & Warrington Econometric Model indicate that Chester's GVA (a measure of output) will increase by 2.2% p.a. between 2000 and 2015. This is above that for the North West (2.2%) but is below Cheshire's (2.5%)<sup>21</sup>
- These forecasts also show that, over the same period, those sectors with the highest GVA growth p.a. (of around 4.5%) will be Transport & Communications. Construction is expected to decline by around 0.5% p.a.

<sup>18</sup> ODPM, Indices of Deprivation 2004: Mental Health Indicator

<sup>19</sup> North West Public Health Observatory:  
<http://www.nwpho.org.uk>

<sup>20</sup> National Centre for Health Outcomes Development:  
<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>

<sup>21</sup> Baseline projections from the Cheshire & Warrington Econometric Model. Projections were obtained using Cambridge Econometrics/IER LEFM software and are consistent with Regional Economic Prospects

### Employment<sup>22</sup>

- Total numbers of employees in Chester City rose from 63,400 in 1998 to 69,800 in 2004, a growth of 10%
- In Cheshire, employment increased over this period, rising from 288,300 to 309,200
- Around 30% of the district's workforce is employed in the retail, distribution, hotels and restaurants sector<sup>23</sup>
- Revenue from tourism in 2004 was £370m
- Economic output per head was estimated to be £17,200 in 2002
- In 2004 mean household income was £31,200, 6% above the UK average<sup>24</sup>

### Qualifications

The 2001 Census<sup>3</sup> found:

- 28% of 16-74 year olds were qualified to degree level or above, compared with 23% in Cheshire and 20% in England and Wales
- 24% had no qualifications at all (Cheshire 26%)
- Hoole All Saints ward had the highest proportion of people aged 16-74 with degree level qualifications or above (42%)
- Blacon Lodge ward had the highest proportion of people aged 16-74 with no qualifications (41%).

### Unemployment<sup>25</sup>

- Unemployment in Chester City at April 2006 was 1.9%, compared with a Cheshire rate of 1.8%
- 12% of unemployed people had been out of work for over a year (10% for Cheshire) at April 2006
- 31% of unemployed were under 25 years old (31% for Cheshire) at April 2006

<sup>22</sup> Figures come from the Annual Business Inquiry 2004 which is survey based, therefore figures must be treated with caution.

<sup>23</sup> 'Building on Success': Cheshire and Warrington Annual Economic Report 2006, CWEA.

<sup>24</sup> Information from CACI quoted in 'Building on Success': Cheshire and Warrington Annual Economic Report 2006, CWEA

<sup>25</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS). Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

- 18% of unemployed were aged 50+ (18% for Cheshire) at April 2006
- According to the 2001 Census<sup>3</sup>, Blacon Lodge ward had the highest proportion of people aged 16-74 who were unemployed (5.1%) in the district.

### Lifelong Learning

- Over two thirds (68%) of respondents had taken part in some form of learning activity during the last 3 years (Community Survey 2006)<sup>9</sup>
- Nearly half of the courses (45%) had been supplied or funded by employers and a quarter of courses were in computing or IT.

### Use of Internet

- According to the 2006 Cheshire Community Survey<sup>9</sup>, 81% of Chester respondents used the Internet; the highest percentage of all Cheshire districts
- Nearly two thirds, 65%, have a broadband connection at home
- Nearly three quarters, 71%, access the Internet twice or more a week. The most used areas were: personal email, hobbies and interests, and booking holidays / travel tickets
- Over half had accessed the Cheshire County Council website in the last 12 months; three quarters of these achieved what they set out to do.

### Funding

- From 2000 to 2006, part of Cheshire is fully eligible for European Union funding under Objective 2, as an area of industrial decline. The North West England Objective 2 2000-2006 funding, will be delivered through Action Plan Partnerships. There are 4 local Action Plan Partnerships relating to Ellesmere Port & Neston and Vale Royal areas, with £12m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant achieved to date for projects to apply for. Projects can operate until 2008.
- In addition, all Cheshire is also eligible for Objective 3 funding to combat long term unemployment and promote equality of opportunity, gain access to work and adapt to change in employment. From the 13 Direct bidding rounds so far since 2000, the Cheshire sub-region has succeeded

with 158 bids achieving £14.6m European Social Fund (ESF) grant. In addition, other routes through the Learning & Skills Council( Cheshire & Warrington) , Jobcentre Plus and Global Grants initiative amount to an additional £18m ESF grant into the Cheshire sub-region.

- The new European programmes period for funding will operate during 2007 to 2013 and will involve significant change. Work is in development during 2006 and may not be fully completed until mid 2007.
- Between January 1995 and April 2006, over £23 million of lottery funding had been received in Chester<sup>26</sup> (over £85 million in Cheshire):

## **Environment & Transport**

### Recycling and Waste

- A total of 51,600 tonnes of waste was produced by Chester district for the year 2005/06<sup>27</sup>
- Of this total, 14,600 tonnes was recycled, accounting for 28% of all waste

The Quality of Life<sup>7</sup> Survey (2005) showed that:

- Chester respondents 'buy recycled paper products' and 'use waste recycling facilities' more often than Cheshire-wide respondents. For both actions, 45% of Chester respondents usually do so and across Cheshire, 34% do so.
- 'Global Warming' was the greatest local environmental concern for Chester respondents; 49% stated that this was a 'major concern'.

### Environmental Concerns

- From the 2006 Cheshire Community Survey<sup>9</sup>, most Chester residents, 94%, did not think that quarrying and mining activities were relevant to their area
- 60% strongly agreed that the world's climate was changing, compared with 54% of Cheshire respondents. Nearly half, 44%, thought the biggest change in Cheshire was to weather patterns

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk/>

<sup>27</sup> Cheshire County Council Waste Management

- More Chester residents, 80%, thought that car travel had a major impact on climate change than other factors
- The most supported form of large scale renewable technology was hydro electric power with 85% support
- Over two thirds of respondents would consider domestic solar or solar thermal panels. Less than half, 44%, would consider domestic wind turbines; mainly because of aesthetic or efficiency concerns.

### Heritage and Conservation

- Chester had 18,520 hectares of green belt land at 2004, 23% of Cheshire's total green belt land<sup>28</sup>
- There are approximately 1,875 sites of archaeological importance in Chester, 624 are 'Romano-British' (43AD-409AD)<sup>29</sup>.

### Participation

Respondents to the Quality of Life<sup>7</sup> Survey 2005 were asked what they liked to do in their spare time:

- 'Watching TV' (71%)
- 'Reading' (66%)
- 'Listening to music' (66%)
- 'Walking or rambling', (62%).

'Lower entrance cost to leisure facilities'; 51% of respondents put this action in their top 3 to improve leisure, cultural and community activities in their area.

### Barriers to Participation

Respondents to the Quality of Life<sup>7</sup> Survey 2005 were also asked what were the major constraints that prevented them from spending more time on any leisure activities:

- 'Working' (31%)
- 'Cost' (16%)
- 'Poor health' (13%)
- 'Caring for children' (12%) were the most popular responses

<sup>28</sup> Local Planning Authority Green Belt Statistics: England 2004

<sup>29</sup> County Historic Environment Record (CHER), Cheshire County Council

- 22% of respondents said that 'nothing' prevented them from spending time on leisure activities.

### Car Availability

- Car availability in 2001 (from the 2001 Census<sup>3</sup>) showed 77.9% of households owning at least one car (81.1% in Cheshire)
- In the Cheshire Community Survey 2006<sup>9</sup>, 89% of Chester respondents stated that they owned or had available for use by members of their family one or more cars/vans.

### Means of Travel to Work

- The car was the dominant means of travel to work by Chester district residents (66.1% drivers or passengers in 2001<sup>3</sup> compared to 71.1% for Cheshire)

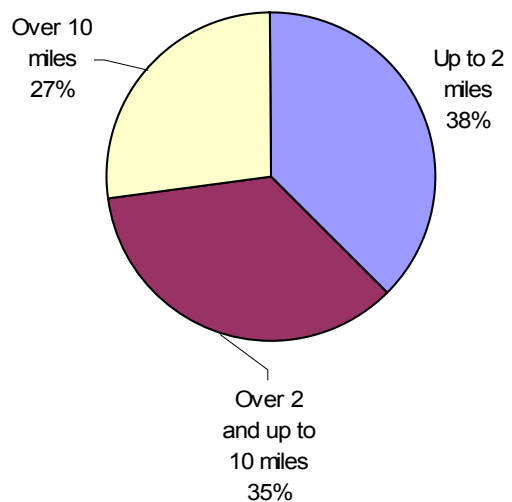
In the Community Survey 2006<sup>9</sup>:

- 74% drove or were passengers to work (83% countywide)
- 8% travelled to work by public transport, compared with 6% countywide.

### Distance to Work

In the Cheshire Community Survey 2006<sup>9</sup>, respondents were asked how far their place of work was from their home:

**Travel to Work Distances**



### Attitudes to Transport

From the Quality of Life Survey 2005<sup>7</sup>:

- The main actions that would make public transport more attractive to respondents in

Chester were 'cheaper fares' 57% (67% in 2000) and 'run more frequent services' 51% (56% in 2000)

- Of those Chester respondents who have lived in the area for more than five years, 47% felt that the roads have become less safe in the past 5 years with 8% feeling that they have become safer.

Adult respondents in the Quality of Life<sup>7</sup> 2005 Survey were most likely to think that 'improving public transport' would most improve the traffic and transport situation in their local area, with 53% of respondent putting this action in their top 3 priority actions (57% in 2000).

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اگر آپ مزید معلومات لینا چاہیں تو اپنے کسی انگریزی بولنے والے دوست سے کہیں کہ وہ آپ کیلئے اس نمبر 01244 602437 پر فون کرے۔