
Chorley Council

CHORLEY PROFILE

A State of the Borough Report

August 2007



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આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો:

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ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپکی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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A State of the Borough Report August 2007

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INTRODUCTION

This Profile builds upon the 2006 Chorley Profile and includes updated information about a wide range of environmental, social and economic characteristics. It is hoped it will act as a useful reference source for Council staff and Members, external organisations, community groups and members of the public.

The Profile also forms part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, which will replace the current Local Plan.

The Profile has been produced by staff at the Borough Council with the assistance of local organisations and individuals.

**If you have any comments on the Profile please send them to
Stephen Lamb, Chorley Council, Civic Offices, Union Street, Chorley. PR7 1AL
or email
stephen.lamb@chorley.gov.uk**

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location

Chorley Borough is located in Lancashire in North West England, with Greater Manchester to the south. It is approximately 25 miles to the centre of Manchester and the large urban centres of Blackburn, Bolton, Wigan and Preston are all within a 12-mile radius.

1.2 Area of Borough

The Borough extends to about 205 km² (approximately 80 square miles). In area terms it is the fifth largest shire district of 12 in Lancashire.

1.3 Physical Characteristics of the Borough

In the east of the Borough are sparsely populated upland areas forming part of the West Pennine Moors. On the lower slopes are stone built villages. The central part of the District between the M6 and M61 motorways is more built up, with the principal market and former mill town of Chorley and to the south Adlington, which is an important engineering centre, and the township of Coppull. To the north and west of Chorley town are the settlements of Clayton-le-Woods, Whittle-le-Woods and Euxton, which have expanded considerably through suburban developments since the 1960s. Also to the north-west of Chorley town is Buckshaw Village, where a former Royal Ordnance ammunition factory is being transformed into a major new urban village, which will eventually provide homes for 8000 people. The west of the Borough is typically lowland countryside, which becomes flatter further to the west as it becomes part of the Lancashire Plain. Here, red brick built villages are characteristic, the largest being Eccleston and Croston, which each experienced some suburban growth in the second half of the 20th century.

Location of Chorley Borough and its Towns and Villages



The Landscape Strategy for Lancashire identifies seven rural landscape character types for the Borough. These are:

- 'Moorland Hills', 'Moorland Fringe' and 'Reservoir Valleys' in the Rivington/White Coppice areas
- 'Industrial Foothills and Valleys' around Chorley Town, Adlington, Coppull and the villages of Brinscall, Withnell and Abbey Village
- 'Undulating Lowland Farmland' around Clayton-le-Woods, Whittle-le-Woods and the villages in the north-east of the Borough such as Brindle and Hoghton
- 'Coastal Plain' and 'Mosslands' in the west of the Borough around Croston

Three urban landscape types are also identified. Chorley town has a 'Historic Core', 'Industrial Age' and 'Suburban Landscapes'; the latter also includes settlements at Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods.

2. HISTORY AND HERITAGE

2.1 Archaeological to Pre-Industrial Settlement

The landscape of the Borough retains evidence of a settled population from Neolithic times (4000BC – 2500BC) and the present mosaic of fields, moors and woodlands has developed since that time. Anglezarke and Rivington Moors in particular preserve early remains, such as Pike Stones Long Cairn and Round Loaf Barrow, both of which are protected as Scheduled Monuments. Whilst the Borough is crossed by a Roman Road running from Wigan to Preston, part of a major north-south routeway, little settlement from this date has been identified. Many of the Borough's towns and villages have pre-Conquest names, but actual remains from this period are rare.

Evidence of settlement of the medieval period is, however, much more common and can be found in most parts of the Borough. Many medieval settlement plans and some associated field systems can still be seen, as can actual structures of this date (including the Scheduled Monuments of the Headless Cross, Grimeford; and Clayton Hall, Bradley Hall, Ingrave Farm and Bretters Farm moated sites). Chorley itself has been an important trading centre since medieval times, with a market dating back to at least 1498. Production of textiles, usually wool and linen, in domestic-scale loomshops (still to be seen across the Borough) was important as part of a mixed economy, which also included farming, mining and quarrying, so developing the skills and professions which were to be greatly expanded during the Industrial Revolution.

2.2 Industrial Development

From the mid 18th century the textile industry grew remarkably, and switched almost exclusively to the production and finishing of cotton-based materials. The introduction of canal transport and later the railways were encouraged by, and helped to develop, this industrial base. As Chorley boomed due to the textile industry, other industries such as bleaching and calico printing increased. Coal mining and quarrying became important industries in the south of the Borough. In the 1920's the textile industry began to decline and mill buildings were used by other manufacturing industries. In 1939 Royal Ordnance, Chorley opened at Euxton. The site had previously been farmland. The factory was built to fill and store munitions and at the height of production employed 35,000 people. Production gradually declined from the 1950's onwards and with the end of the Cold War in the 1980's the majority of the site was no longer needed.

2.3 New Town Development

In 1970 the Government made a Designation Order for the Central Lancashire New Town. The aim of the new town was to improve the prosperity of Central Lancashire and to provide for the general growth in population of North West England. Growth was based on the expansion of significant existing communities in Preston, Chorley and Leyland. Most new population growth was proposed in additional communities, which were to join with the others to form a series of linked townships. Within Chorley Borough the main focus of residential growth was in the Clayton Brook/Green, Whittle-le-Woods and Clayton-le-Woods areas. A new district centre was built at Clayton Green. Less expansion was planned around Chorley town, where it was considered important to retain its existing character, but significant new housing development did take place at Astley Village and Eaves Green. It was an era of major population growth in Chorley Borough.

2.4 Listed Buildings

The Borough contains a wealth of historic buildings of national, regional and local importance, which are 'Listed' for their special architectural or historic interest. There are currently 422 such Listed Buildings, of which five are Grade I (Astley Hall, Heskin Hall, Hoghton Tower, The Great Barn at Hoghton Tower and Mawdesley Hall), 25 are Grade II* and all are protected from inappropriate alterations or demolition. Some of these Listed Buildings have fallen into a state of disuse and disrepair and four have been identified within English Heritage's 'Buildings at Risk' register. There are however several more in danger. There are also 144 buildings which are locally listed.

2.5 Conservation Areas

The Council has identified and designated 9 Conservation Areas which are architecturally attractive and/or which have a special historic character or appearance. These are located at:

- St George's Street, Chorley
- St Laurence's, Chorley
- Abbey Village
- Bretherton
- Brindle
- Croston
- Rivington
- White Coppice
- Withnell Fold

2.6 Historic Parks and Gardens

There are a number of historic parks and gardens in the Borough, including four on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. These are Lever Park, Rivington Gardens, the grounds associated with Astley Hall and the gardens at Hoghton Tower.

Work is currently in progress at Astley Park to improve the woodland, coach house, footpaths, security, lake and water feature, pets corner, play area, and other public facilities, after receiving a Heritage Lottery Grant. An exhibition space is currently open at the Coach House, which allows the public to have a look at detailed plans and information relating to the project, which is scheduled to last three years.

3. POPULATION

3.1 Total Population

The Office for National Statistics estimated that the total population of the Borough was 103,700 in mid-2005, which was up from the mid-2004 estimate of 103,000. During the 1980s Chorley Borough was one of the fastest growing districts in the country as it accommodated New Town expansion. The level of growth was still significant during the 1990s (the population grew by 4.1% between the 1991 and 2001 census). The following table highlights that the Borough has a lower proportion of children and people aged 65 or over than the Lancashire, North West and England & Wales averages, but higher proportions of people aged between 25 and 64.

Resident Population by Age Group, Mid-2005 (%)

	Age Band					Total
	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
Chorley	17.6	11.8	28.5	27.5	14.7	103,700
Lancashire NUTS-2	18.4	13.3	26.3	25.3	16.8	1,439,200
North West	18.2	13.5	27.4	24.8	16.1	6,846,200
England & Wales	18	13	28.5	24.4	16.1	53,390,200

Source ONS - Mid Year Population Estimates 2005

Chorley town with the adjoining New Town developed parish of Astley Village has a population of approximately 34,900. Next largest is the settlement of Clayton-le-Woods (including Clayton Brook/Green) with some 14,000 residents. The settlements of Euxton, Adlington, Coppull, and Whittle-le-Woods range from about 3,700 to 7,700. The villages of Eccleston and Croston have populations of approximately 4,000 and 2,400 respectively.

3.2 Predicted Population Change to 2020

The total population of Chorley is projected to rise to 107,700 by 2010 and 115,700 by 2020 (Office for National Statistics, 2004 based projections). It is predicted that there will be a significant increase in people aged 60 or over. In 2004 it was estimated that 20.4% of the Chorley population was aged 60 or over, but by 2020 it is estimated that 26.9% of the population will be in this age range.

3.3 Birth and Death Rates

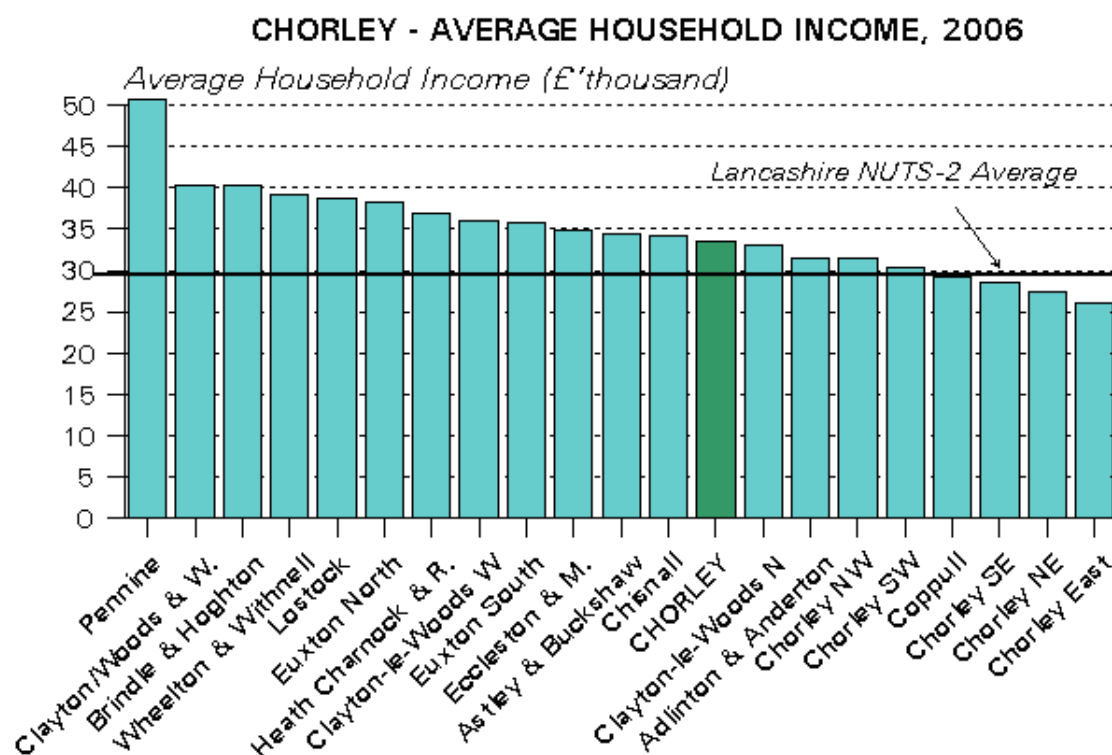
The number of births in Chorley had been falling up until 2001, but has risen every year since then. There were 1,241 live births in 2004, which is an increase of 137 births from 2003 (Chorley & South Ribble NHS Primary Care Trust Annual Report 2005/06). The general fertility rate (number of live births per 1000 women residents aged 15 – 44 years) in the Borough has also increased from a 2001 rate of 51 per 1000 to a 2004 figure of 62 per 1000.

The number of deaths in the Borough has fluctuated in recent years and in 2004 stood at 1000 in total, which was a small decrease on the 2003 figure of 1,030 (Office for National Statistics, cited in Lancashire Profile).

3.4 Socio-Economic Characteristics: Incomes

The Office for National Statistics uses an area classification system to enable comparisons between local authority districts with similar characteristics. This highlights the relative affluence of the Borough, which is classified within the 'prospering smaller towns sub-group' (a sub-group that also includes South Ribble).

Many local residents work outside Chorley, often in higher paid jobs than those based in the Borough. This results in the Borough having higher average gross household income levels than Lancashire as a whole. Lancashire County Council's Lancashire Profile website cites CACI data (2006) that indicates that the average gross household income in the Borough is approximately £33,000. The Lancashire average (including Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) is £29,800. The Chorley ward of Pennine has the highest average household income in the county with an average figure of over £50,000. Clayton-le-Woods & Whittle-le Woods (over £40,000) and Brindle & Houghton (over £40,000) also feature in the top ten in 7th and 9th places respectively. The wards of Wheelton & Withnell and Lostock also feature in the top twenty Lancashire wards. No Chorley wards appear in the bottom twenty Lancashire wards in terms of gross household income.



Source CACI LTD - Wealth of the Nation, 2006

Research released by Barclays Bank in 2005 highlighted that a significant number of Borough residents have a high level of disposable income. This research placed the Chorley parliamentary constituency as the 101st wealthiest constituency in England, out of 570 constituencies in total, taking into account the cost of living. However, previous research in 2003 placed Chorley as the 32nd wealthiest constituency, so this

is a significant drop. This fall probably largely results from changes to the cost of living factor used by Barclays, which is now less favourable for North West England. Consequently all Lancashire authorities have seen their rankings fall.

3.5 Socio-Economic Characteristics: Social Grades

The Borough has a higher proportion of residents in the AB and C1 social grades than the national average (Market Research Society utilising data from the 2001 Census). Social grade AB relates to residents with higher and intermediate managerial/administrative/professional status and C1 relates to residents with supervisory, clerical and junior managerial/administrative/professional status. In 2001 approximately 53.3% of the eligible Chorley population were in these higher social grades, compared to an English figure of 51.9% and a Lancashire figure of 49.8%.

3.6 Socio-Economic Characteristics: Deprivation

Chorley Borough is one of the least deprived boroughs in Lancashire. Only Ribble Valley, Fylde and South Ribble are less deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (ODPM). Nationwide the borough is ranked 172 out of 354 districts, 1 being the most deprived.

However, there are pockets of deprivation within the Borough. Super Output Areas (SOAs) are part of a statistical geography introduced in 2004. Each lower layer SOA consists of 1,000 to 2,000 residents and they nest within current ward boundaries. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 indicates that 8 lower layer SOAs in the Borough fall within the 20% most deprived nationally. They are located in Chorley Town, mainly in the central, south-western and eastern areas, and Clayton Brook/Green. Chorley's Community Strategy 2005-2025 has a priority to reduce pockets of inequality in the Borough, with one aim being that there are no neighbourhoods in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Most Deprived Lower Layer SOAs in Chorley Borough

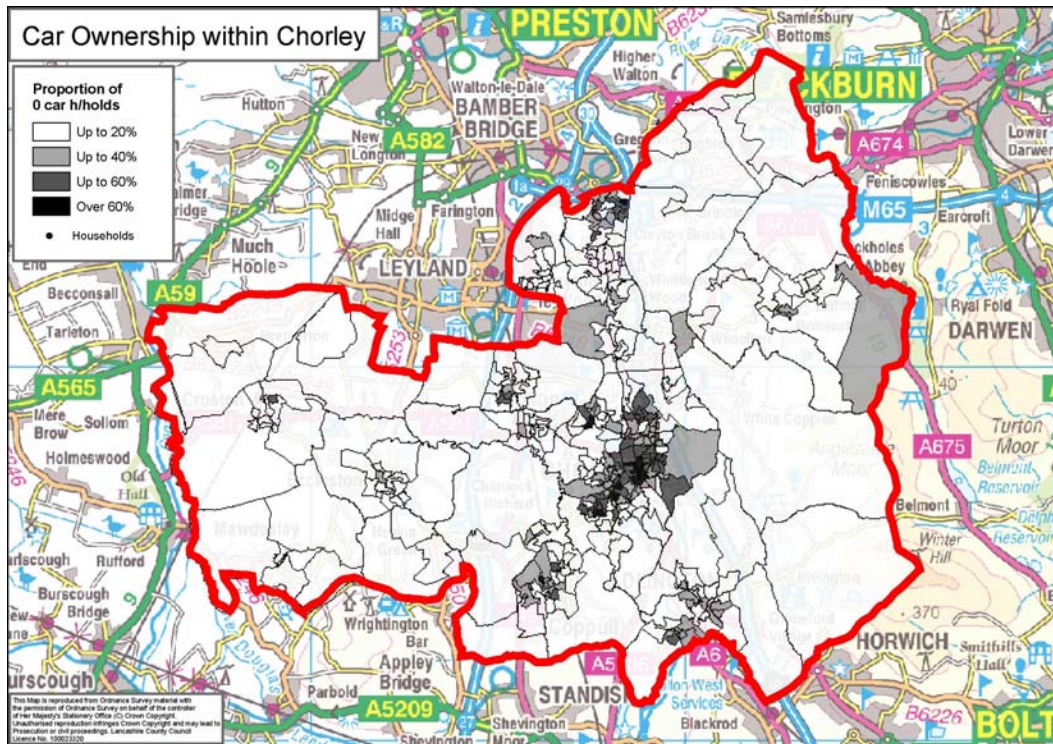
Lower Layer SOA Description	Ward	Bottom % Most Deprived Nationally 2004	Rank (of 32482 English SOAs)
Clayton Brook North East	CLAYTON-LE-WOODS NORTH	12.41%	4032
Area Between Stump Lane & Lyons Lane, Chorley	CHORLEY EAST	12.63%	4103
Chorley Town Centre East	CHORLEY SOUTH EAST	13.08%	4250
Moor Road North/Eaves Green Road Area, Chorley	CHORLEY SOUTH WEST	14.44%	4692
Cowling/Eaves Lane South/Healey Nab Area, Chorley	CHORLEY EAST	16.26%	5281
Clayton Brook North West	CLAYTON-LE-WOODS NORTH	16.53%	5370
East of Pall Mall/West of Pilling Lane Area, Chorley	CHORLEY SOUTH EAST	17.15%	5572
Botany Bay/Coltsfoot Drive Area, Chorley	CHORLEY NORTH EAST	19.42%	6307

3.7 Socio-Economic Characteristics: Access to a Car/Van

The Borough has a higher rate of households with access to a car/van than the national and Lancashire averages. The 2001 Census of Population showed that 80.4% of Chorley households had access to a car/van, which was considerably higher than the figure for England and Wales (73.2%) and Lancashire (74.9%). In

some wards the figure was far higher, reaching 93.4% in Pennine, 90.8% in Heath Charnock and Rivington and 90.7% in Euxton South.

Wards with lower levels of household access to a car/van included Chorley East (61.3%%), Chorley South West (68.3%%) and Chorley South East (68.9%).



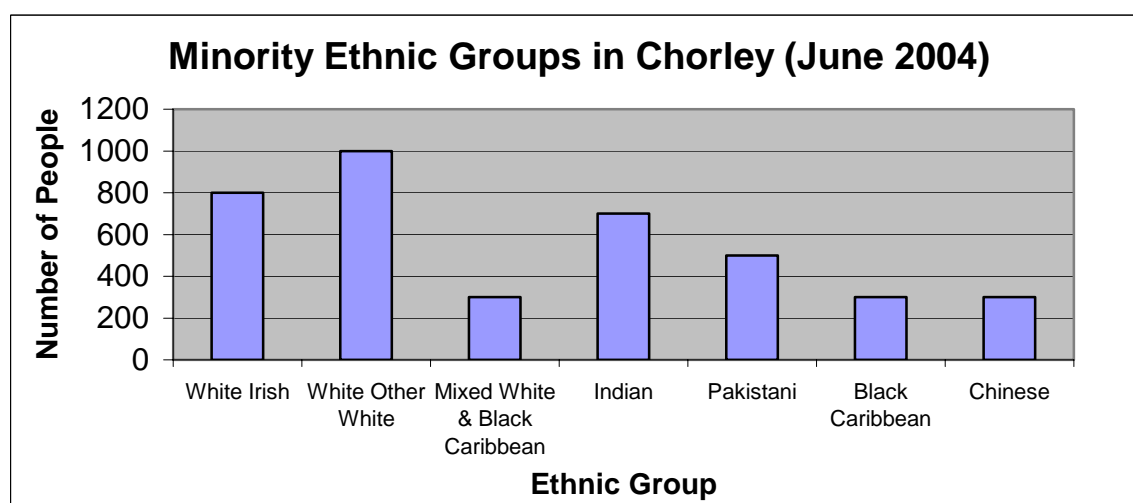
The Borough has a considerably higher proportion of households with two or more cars/vans than the national and Lancashire averages. 37.8% of Chorley households have two or more cars, compared to 29.4% of households in England and Wales and 29.6% in Lancashire. Wards with high proportions of households with two or more cars/vans include Pennine (60.62%), Heath Charnock and Rivington (52.9%), and Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods (52.1%).

4. FAITH AND DIVERSITY

4.1 Ethnicity

Approximately 95.3% of the Borough population are White British (Office for National Statistics, June 2004 estimates) which is considerably higher than the English average of 85.3%.

A variety of different minority ethnic groups are represented in Chorley. The following bar chart indicates the most populous ethnic groups in the Borough. (June 2004 estimates):



The numbers of some ethnic groups in the Borough have increased slightly between 2001 and 2004 (Office for National Statistics estimates). Indians (+300), Other Whites (+200) and Pakistanis (+200) experienced the largest increases, but overall these increases have been small. By far the greatest increase has been in the number of White British (+1,400).

4.2 Religion

Chorley Borough has a diverse community and a variety of faiths are represented. According to the 2001 Census 84% of the population were Christian, 9.1% had no religion, 5.6% did not state a religion, 0.6% were Muslim, 0.2% were Buddhist and 0.2% were Hindu. Blackburn Diocese (Anglican) church attendance figures for Chorley Deanery indicate a 14.7% drop in adults attending church over the period 1995 - 2001, although not all churches experienced a decline in attendance (Chorley Parish for example showed a 7.1% increase in attendance during that period). The Borough is also home to the Preston Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which serves church members throughout northern England and Scotland. Many of the religious denominations help provide a variety of services to the local community and community relations in the Borough are good. The Borough has a number of active forums that promote faith and diversity. These include Churches Together in Chorley, Adlington and Euxton, the Chorley Multi Faith Forum and the Ethnic Minority Consultative Committee.

5. ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Habitats and Species

The Borough has a wide range of habitats that are important for biodiversity. The eastern part of the Borough has extensive areas of moorland, although this is of variable ecological quality. Where it is not overgrazed and intensively drained, moorland, heathland and bog vegetation provides valuable habitats for plants and animals. The reservoirs in the area also provide important habitats for breeding and overwintering wildfowl. Significant areas of ancient woodland remain in eastern and central areas of the Borough, especially in the ecologically important river valleys, which act as wildlife corridors. Gardens, allotments, open space and other open land also provide valuable habitats for some opportunist wild plant and animal species.

In the western lowland areas of the Borough intensive arable cropping has replaced much of the semi-natural habitats. However, isolated woodlands and copses, scrubland, species rich grassland and wetlands survive in places. Drainage ditches and many ponds can be found in the area, some of which are of great importance for their plant and animal communities, including water voles, the internationally scarce great crested newt, and the only known natural population of Jennings' proboscis worm on Earth. Various species of bat and barn owls also hunt in the area.

5.2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are two designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the Borough, at Charnock Richard and White Coppice. Charnock Richard Pasture covers an area of 1.2 hectares and is important as one of the few species-rich unimproved grasslands remaining in Lancashire, a habitat which is becoming increasingly scarce nationally due to agricultural intensification. White Coppice Flush covers nearly 0.5 hectares and includes two plant communities that are rare nationally and several plant species that have very restricted distributions in Lancashire. Both SSSIs could be improved/enhanced through light grazing at certain times of the year.

5.3 Other Designated Nature and Geological Heritage Sites

There are also over 100 Biological Heritage Sites (some of which incorporate Ancient Woodland) and Local Nature Reserves in the Borough. There are also 11 Regionally Important Geological Sites. Organisations such as Chorley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, United Utilities, The Woodland Trust and Groundwork are responsible for the management of these nature and geological heritage sites.

5.4 Air Quality

The levels of both Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulphur Dioxide across Chorley are now both well within the National Air Quality Standard and there are no significant problems or sources of air pollution within the Borough.

Despite some fluctuations, the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide have remained fairly constant in most locations across Lancashire, including Chorley. In recent years there has been a fall in Sulphur Dioxide levels, both nationally and locally, which corresponds closely to declining smoke levels. The reduction in coal burning in power stations and in homes has been a significant factor, as have cleaner car engines.

5.5 River Quality

The quality of the Borough's rivers has improved in recent years due to less industrial and sewage pollution, allowing fish populations to increase. Most of the rivers are classed as good or fair. Chorley's two main rivers, the Yarrow and Douglas, are of good quality and support an abundance of wildlife including fish stocks. However, the river Chor is classed as poor because it is affected by polluted surface water run-off from the M61 motorway and storm sewage overflows which discharge into the river. The Environment Agency are working with the Highways Agency to remedy the polluted run-off issue and United Utilities are implementing their Asset Management Plan to upgrade/repair their sewage overflows to reduce the amount of sewage which goes into the river. Pollution from farm activities has also affected some waterways in rural areas in recent years.

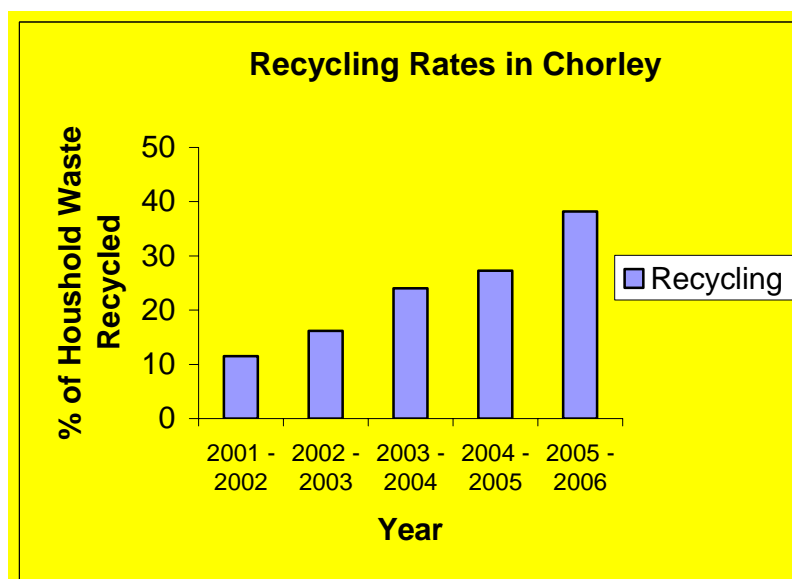
5.6 Land Contamination

The Council holds information on contaminated land sites obtained from a variety of sources. The Council adopted a contaminated land strategy in 2001 to help properly deal with such sites. They are usually associated with past commercial uses, mainly but not only in urban areas.

A number of contaminated sites have been cleaned up in the Borough and returned to beneficial use, such as the former Royal Ordnance site, which is now being redeveloped as Buckshaw Village.

5.7 Waste and Recycling

Waste management and recycling is a high priority for the Borough Council. The vast majority of Chorley households (over 95%) now have access to kerbside recycling services covering glass, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and cans. The garden waste collection service is available to over 31,500 households (out of 43,500 total households in the Borough). Chorley Council's commitment to recycling is reflected in the recycling rate in the Borough, which continues to rise. In 2005/06 38% of all household waste was recycled which puts the authority within the top six per cent nationally and the best in Lancashire. The following bar chart shows how much recycling rates have improved in recent years.



In 2006 Chorley Borough Council was named as one of the best in the country at keeping its streets clean. The Council came sixth in the street-cleansing category of the national Public Service Excellence awards.

5.8 Renewable Energy

The renewable energy potential of the Borough is almost completely un-used at present. Although the most obvious resource is wind energy, recent and likely technological advances may mean that many different forms of renewable energy are viable at both a domestic and at a larger scale. Lancashire targets are to increase capacity for renewable energy generation from 47MW (2002) to a 224MW capacity in 2010. The North West Regional target is to produce 8.5% of our energy from renewable energy sources by 2010.

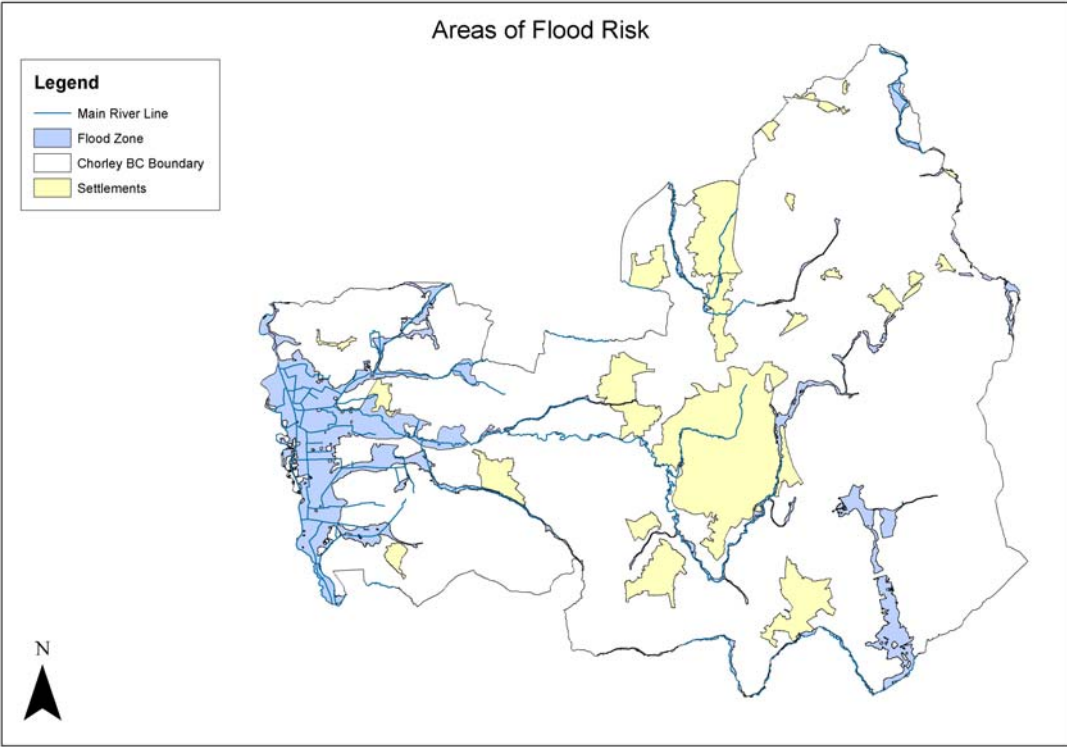
The Council has carried out a Renewable Energy Study in conjunction with Renewables Northwest and Sustainability Northwest that highlights areas in the Borough that are most suitable for the production of renewable energy.

There is currently a large experiment into micro renewable systems being undertaken at Buckshaw Village. Manchester University and Barratt Homes have installed various renewable energy generation systems, including solar, wind and geothermal power, into a number of trial homes and are testing their effectiveness.

5.9 Flooding

The River Lostock is tidal upstream as far as Littlewood Bridge to the north-east of Croston and the River Yarrow is tidal as far as Croston. Flood defences on the River Yarrow are being improved and may need further upgrading in the future if sea levels rise as a result of global warming. Other rivers in the Borough are prone to flooding during storm conditions but most problems in built up areas arise through localised blockages in urban drainage systems.

The Environment Agency has prepared maps showing areas of flood risk in the Borough. They have also designated two areas as Flood Warning Areas. These relate to the area adjacent to the River Yarrow including Grape Lane in Croston and an area to the west of Croston village in the River Douglas catchment area. Within Flood Warning Areas the Environment Agency aim to warn residents in advance when flooding may be likely and to inform them of the potential severity of the flooding. The map on the following page outlines areas of flood risk in the Borough.



Source: Environment Agency

6. HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

6.1 Health Care Provision

Primary Health Services in Chorley are managed by Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust, which was formed in October 2006 following the merger of Preston Primary Care Trust, Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust and West Lancashire Primary Care Trust. Doctor's surgeries are located in Chorley Town and all of the larger villages. Acute hospital services are provided by Chorley & South Ribble District General Hospital, which is incorporated with Royal Preston Hospital into the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust.

6.2 Dental Care

Access to NHS dental services is an issue in the Borough. Dental practices can be found in Adlington, Chorley Town, Coppull, Clayton Brook, Eccleston, Euxton and Whittle-le-Woods. However, most of these practices are not accepting any new NHS patients for treatment.

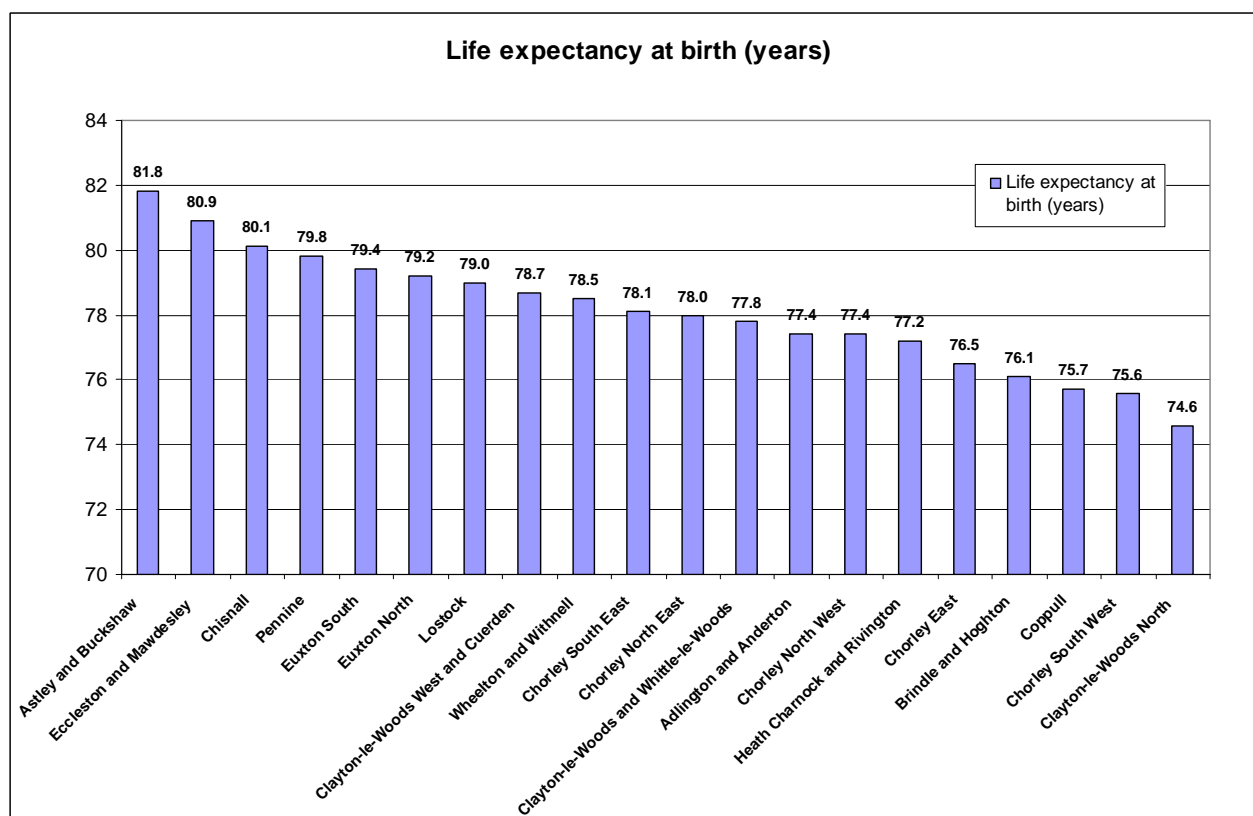
6.3 Personal Carers

The 2001 Census of Population indicated that there were 10,295 people providing unpaid care in the Borough. The majority of these people (71%) provided unpaid care for 1 – 19 hours a week, but 18% (1,989 people) were providing unpaid care for 50 or more hours a week, which compares with a figure of 20.48% for England and 21.07% for Lancashire. Of the people providing unpaid care, Chorley East ward had the greatest percentage of people caring for 50 or more hours a week (27%).

6.4 Life Expectancy

Current estimates of life expectancy for those born between 2002 and 2004 in the Borough are 76.1 years for males and 80.0 years for females (Chorley & South Ribble Primary Care Trust (PCT) Public Health Annual Report 2005/06). The male figure is slightly below the England average, but considerably better than the regional average. However, The female figure is well below the England and Wales average and is only slightly higher than the regional average.

The chart on the following page shows that life expectancy within the Borough varies greatly. The life expectancy of a child born in Clayton-le-Woods North is 7.2 years less than that of a child born in the Astley and Buckshaw ward. Life expectancy in Astley and Buckshaw ward is in the top 20% nationally while Chorley East, Brindle and Hoghton, Coppull, Chorley South West and Clayton-le-Woods North are in the bottom 20%. There is some evidence of lower life expectancy in the more deprived wards, but some of the least deprived wards such as Brindle and Hoghton and Heath Charnock and Rivington also have life expectancies below the Borough average.



Source ONS 2005

6.5 Overall Health

In the 2001 Census people were asked about their overall state of health and whether they had a long-term illness which restricted their lives in some way. In Chorley 9.6% of the population said their general health was 'not good'. The figure for England and Wales was 9.2%. Rates of over 11% were seen in parts of Chorley Town. 18.5% of people in the Borough said that they had a long term limiting illness, which was similar to the national figure of 18.2%.

6.6 Heart Disease & Strokes

The local PCT Public Health Annual Report 2005/06 indicates that in 2002-2004 there were 100 deaths in under 75s from heart disease and strokes per 100,000 population in the Borough. This figure is similar to the England and Wales average and is better than in most North West authorities.

6.7 Cancer

The death rate from cancer for people under the age of 75 has been improving in Chorley. The Chorley & South Ribble PCT Public Health Annual Report 2005/06 indicates that in 2002-2004 the rate was 115.1 deaths per 100,000 population, which was better than the England average and considerably better than the regional average.

6.8 Chronic Liver Disease

Nationally deaths from chronic liver disease have been increasing and liver disease caused by alcohol abuse is a particularly significant problem in the Borough. The PCT Public Health Annual Report 2005/06 indicates that in 2003 the rate of chronic liver disease mortality in the Borough was well above the England and Wales average and higher than the North West average. When compared to places with similar characteristics nationwide the mortality rate in Chorley was worse than in any of these areas.

6.9 Obesity

Obesity is a problem in Chorley, as it is in the rest of the country. The 1997 population lifestyle survey showed that 48% of adults in Chorley were overweight and that 13% were obese. However, the most recent estimates from the Office for National Statistics indicate that obesity levels are rising nationally and in 2002 stood at about 23%. Therefore, the current obesity level for the Borough is likely to be higher than the 1997 level. Obese people are more likely to suffer from heart attacks and strokes, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis and some types of cancer. Children and young people who are obese are more likely to experience psychological and mental health disorders.

6.10 Mobility Problems

The Chorley Housing Needs and Demand Study 2004 indicated that there are approximately 8,000 people within the Borough with mobility problems (about 8% of the total population). The vast majority of these people are elderly. Chorley Shopmobility is a service provided to the public in Chorley town centre, which helps people with mobility problems. The service provides mobility scooters which can be hired.

6.11 Mental Health

MIND is a registered charity in place to help create a better life for people suffering poor mental health, and has offices in Chorley. The local PCT has recruited staff to focus on the issue, dealing with problems ranging from depression to severe forms of mental illness.

Suicide can be a particularly tragic outcome of mental illness. Over the period 1998 – 2004 the rate of suicides in the Borough was lower than the national average for both males and females (Office for National Statistics).

6.12 Learning Disabilities

People with learning disabilities contribute to life in the Borough in many positive ways, such as through paid or supported employment, voluntary work placement schemes and through participation in local groups, societies, recreational and educational activities. MENCAP Chorley provides a record (South Lancashire Learning and Disabilities Database) of learning disability in South Lancashire. They provide help and support to those who require it. The Brothers of Charity Services are another organisation which provides support and opportunities to people with a learning disability in the Chorley area.

6.13 Maternity Care

Chorley and South Ribble District General Hospital has a midwife led maternity unit, which handled 258 births in 2005. If any complications arise, or are suspected, most local mothers give birth at the Royal Preston Hospital where specialist paediatric services are provided.

6.14 Teenage Pregnancy

In 2004 there were 153 live births to teenagers in Chorley & South Ribble, of which 3 were to females aged under sixteen. The teenage conception rate in Chorley for the period 2001 – 2003 was 34.3 per 1000 women aged 15 – 17 years, which was better than the national rate of 42.4 per 1000 women. However, although the rate has improved slightly in recent years, the rate is not dissimilar to the rate in 1992-94 of 36.7% (PCT Public Health Annual Report 2005/06). The Primary Care Trust is an active partner in the multi-agency Lancashire Teenage Pregnancy Partnership and is working to reduce this rate to meet national targets.

Lancashire Youth and Community Service provides a range of personal, social and health education programmes which address the concerns of young people in the area of sex and relationships education. A sexual health clinic is provided with partners from the Primary Care Trust, called the Wise-up Clinic. Young people can learn about sex with the assistance of trained staff and can meet with a doctor for services relating to sex, sexual health and contraception.

Support for teenage mothers is provided by the Youth and Community Service through its Young Mums Group at Chorley Youth and Community Centre. This group is run in conjunction with the Primary Care Trust, Homestart and other partners.

6.15 Childhood Vaccinations

The following table shows the uptake of immunisation by 2nd birthday in the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust area (PCT Public Health Annual Report 2005/06):

	2005/2006	
	Chorley & South Ribble	Target
Diphtheria	96.7%	95%
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	96.1%	95%
HIB (Haemophilus Influenza B)	96.5%	95%
MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)	90.2%	95%

In Chorley and South Ribble the uptake of most childhood vaccinations is amongst the highest in the North West. However, Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) uptake is below the target level.

7. EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Pre-School Nursery Education and Child Day Care

There are two local education authority maintained nursery schools and five local education authority primary schools with a nursery class in the Borough, as well as a wide range of other child day care provision.

7.2 Primary Education (5-11year olds)

There are 49 primary schools in the Borough. The number of unfilled primary school places in Chorley in 2007 was 1,436, which was 15.1% of the total capacity of 9,497. The figure of 8,061 pupils on primary school rolls in January 2005 is estimated to begin to rise gradually to around 8,900 by January 2012, taking into account the effects of planned new housing developments and net migration trends.

South Ribble and Chorley Councils are working with the County Council to review school provision at and around Buckshaw Village.

7.3 Secondary Education (11-16 year olds)

There are six high schools in the Borough and they all now have specialist status. They are:

- Albany Science College, Chorley
- Bishop Rawstorne C of E Language College, Croston
- Holy Cross Catholic High School, Chorley – A Science and Sports College
- Parklands High School, Chorley – A Language College
- Southlands High School, Chorley – A Technology College and Leading Edge School
- St Michaels Church of England High School, Chorley – A Performing Arts College

The total number of secondary pupils on roll in January 2007 at these schools was 5,600. The number of unfilled secondary school places in January 2007 was 195, which was 3.4% of the total capacity of 5,795. Pupil numbers are expected to decline in the years to come and it is estimated that pupil numbers will fall to 5,434 by January 2014.

Borough secondary schools achieve high levels of GCSE success. Of the six schools, four have higher GCSE pass rates than the national average of 45.8% (A*-C including English and Maths), with the best performing school in the Borough at a level of 70% (2006).

7.4 Special Needs

In 2007 3.4% of the school population in Chorley had statemented special needs. A statement is a legal document in which parents, the school and the Local Education Authority agree both the needs of, and also provision to be made for, a child with special educational needs. In addition 11.7 % of primary school pupils and 9.2% of secondary school pupils had non-statemented special needs.

Most pupils with special educational needs attend mainstream and special schools in the Borough, but some attend special provision elsewhere in Lancashire or outside the county. There are two special schools in the Borough. Astley Park School caters for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and Mayfield School caters for a wide range of pupils with specific learning difficulties.

7.5 Post-16 Year Olds Tertiary/Further Education

There are no sixth form colleges in the Borough, so most Chorley A level students study elsewhere. Many go to Runshaw College's sixth form centre in Leyland, which had an A-level pass rate of over 99% in 2006.

Lancashire Youth and Community Service in Chorley provide a range of programmes aimed at young people in this transitional phase of life. A comprehensive Community Legal Standards Kite Mark Information and Advice service is provided through the "What Now?" Information Centre in Chorley Town, which is linked to the County "What Now?" services. Connexions is another service in place for young people in Chorley which offers a variety of careers advice.

7.6 Adult/Higher Education

Runshaw College and the Lancashire College at the Chorley Woodlands Campus provide adult education in the Borough. Runshaw College now concentrates on Higher Education and qualification based courses, while Lancashire College offers an extended range of community-based, non-qualification courses. The Woodlands Campus also provides an annex for Edge Hill University College, which is where Lancashire's In-Service Teacher Education Unit is based. This site is also used for many conference events.

The 2001 Census of Population indicated that 19% of all people aged 16 – 74 had a 'higher level' qualification (degree, HNC/D), which was a marked increase on the 1991 position.

Lancashire Youth and Community Service in Chorley, in partnership with other organisations, supports the development of community groups in the Borough. Targeted community development work in Chorley East and South West wards enables services to be developed in line with the needs and aspirations of the community. The Service takes a lead in the development of E-learning with adults in the East ward through the provision of the UK online Centre at Chorley Youth and Community Centre. Close working with Runshaw College and Lancashire College enables community learning needs to be identified and met at a local level.

7.7 Fulfilling Potential

The Lancashire Education Action Plan 2002/7 is in place to promote school improvement, narrowing attainment gaps, tackling the gender gap, tackling achievement variations between ethnic minority and majority groups, and general improvement in attainment in most deprived areas of the Local Education Authority through strategic partnerships and innovative practices.

Lancashire Youth and Community Service supports the formal education sector through its partnership work with young people aged 11 – 25, with a focus on the 13 – 19 age range. A variety of programmes are delivered which are open to any young person interested in attending. These universal programmes are further complemented by targeted work which seeks to identify young people in particular

need of support. This includes work with young people who are disabled, gay, lesbian, bisexual, those at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and young people from black and minority ethnic communities. This work includes the use of accreditation schemes that build young people's confidence, skills and overall achievement.

7.8 Business and Community Involvement

More and more local businesses are becoming involved in local schools by supporting specialist college bids, achievement awards, computer equipment etc. Community use is also occurring, mainly in some secondary schools, for adult education and sports purposes.

7.9 Youth Services

Lancashire Youth and Community Service leads on the development of positive approaches to youth issues. The District Youth and Community Service and Connexions Service Advisory Committee provides a forum for the discussion of developments relating to Connexions Services and Youth and Community Services locally. The service regularly reviews the provision made based on proposed housing developments, community profile information and national developments in youth service and community provision.

7.10 Activity and Personal and Social Education Provision

There are County Council youth & community centres in Chorley town, Coppull, Clayton and Eccleston. These centres provide a local focus for young people and community activity. Trained staff within the centres provide programmes throughout the year including holiday periods. Other community venues are also used for the work and staff work on the streets delivering services and developing participation among young people who do not want to use the buildings or are not able to access them.

The Youth and Community Service initiates service developments for young people through the development of Youth Action Groups. Examples include Sign of the Times Music Café in Eccleston Youth Centre and the Break Out Radio project aimed at raising the profile of issues affecting young people from the gay and lesbian community. There are also many voluntary and faith based youth groups that provide a wide range of activities and social learning.

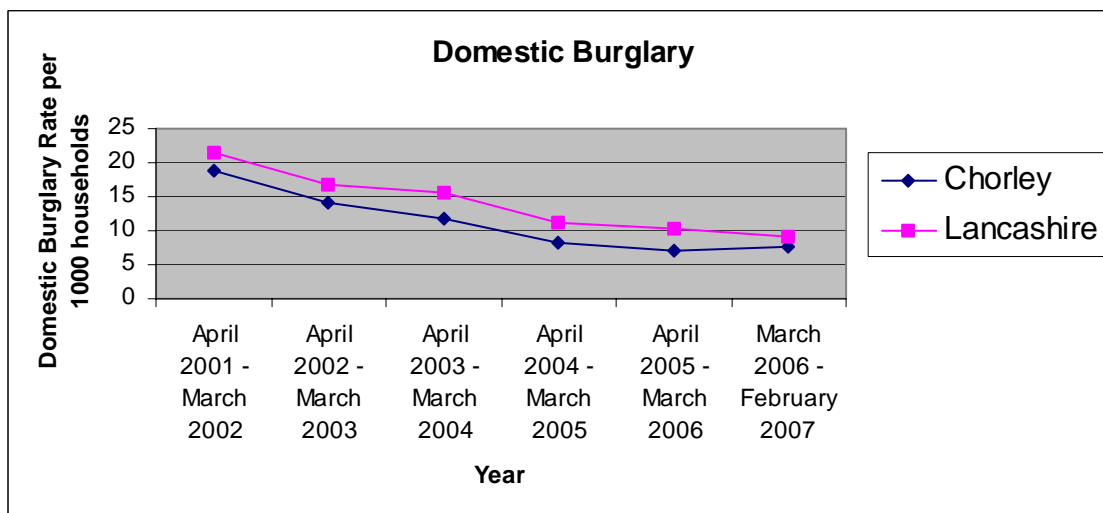
7.11 Empowerment, Recognition and Support

The Chorley Youth Council is led by the County Youth and Community Service team and is designed to allow the views of young people to be considered by decision making bodies, when they make decisions which directly affect them. The local group is linked to the Lancashire Youth Council and the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. Lancashire County Council, Chorley Borough Council, the local Primary Care Trust and Lancashire Constabulary support the Youth Council. The aims of the council include resolving conflicts, providing a collective way for youths to express themselves, promoting a positive image and raising awareness of youth issues. Lancashire Youth Association exists to support independent groups and facilitate opportunities for younger people. The Association is affiliated to a national youth network, providing Youth Achievement Awards and Youth Work Qualifications.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER

8.1 Domestic Burglary

Although the graph below shows a very small rise in the number of domestic burglaries over the period March 2006 – February 2007, the overall trend has been for the number of domestic burglaries to decline in the Borough in recent years.



Source: Lancashire Constabulary/Multi Agency Data Exchange figures. At the time of publication figures were not yet available for the April 2006 – March 2007 period.

8.2 Vehicle Crime

The amount of vehicle crime in the Borough has been decreasing in recent years but saw an increase in 2004 - 2006. The rate is lower than the Lancashire average. The Lancashire average between March 2006 to February 2007 was 21.5 per 1,000 population. The latest figures for the Borough show a sharp decrease in the number of vehicle crimes compared with 2005/06. Figures for the Borough can be found in the table below:

Vehicle Crime in Chorley Borough

	April 2002 – March 2003	April 2003 – March 2004	April 2004 – March 2005	April 2005 – March 2006	March 2006 – February 2007
Number of vehicle crimes in the Borough (Rate per 1000 population)	11.1	8.4	9.6	18.4	13.9

Source: Lancashire Constabulary/MADE figures. At the time of publication figures were not yet available for the April 2006 – March 2007 period.

8.3 Deliberate Fires

The number of deliberate fires in the Borough is lower than the county average according to Lancashire Constabulary/MADE figures. Between March 2006 and February 2007 there were 2.8 deliberate fires per 1,000 population in the Borough. The Lancashire average was 5.1 per 1,000 population. The number in the Borough has remained relatively stable in recent years.

8.4 Violent Crime

Lancashire Constabulary/MADE figures indicate that between March 2006 and February 2007 the violent crime rate for Chorley Borough was consistently lower than the rate for Lancashire.

Violent Crime in Chorley Borough (March 2006 – February 2007)

Rate per 1000 population	Violent crime where injury results	Calls to ambulance service where violence is involved	Violent crime where minor or no injury results
Chorley	8	2.9	6.4
Lancashire	10.6	5.3	8.6

Source: Lancashire Constabulary/MADE figures. At the time of publication figures were not yet available for the April 2006 – March 2007 period.

8.5 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is a term used to cover a range of activities including gathering of people in public places, rubbish dumping and misuse of communal areas, harassment and intimidation, nuisance from vehicles (including parking and abandonment), noise and juvenile nuisance. There were 98.8 calls to the police involving anti-social behaviour per 1000 population from March 2006 to February 2007, which is well below the Lancashire rate of 122.3 calls per 1000 population.

8.6 Drug Offences

The table on the following page shows the number of drug offences in Chorley between April 2005 and March 2006. The rate of drug offences in the Borough is consistently lower than the England/Wales rate per 1000 population.

Drug Offences in Chorley Borough

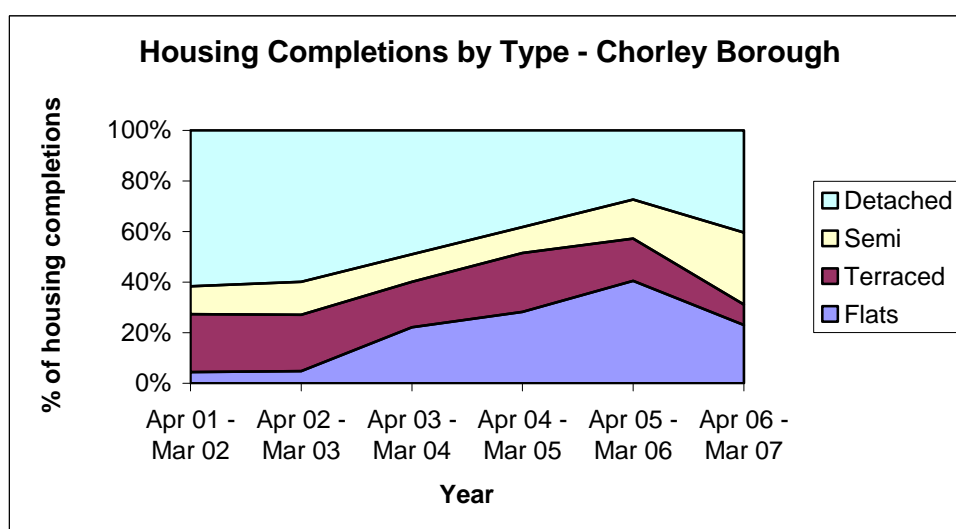
Month	Total number of offences	Offences per 1000 population	Offences per 1000 England/Wales population
Apr-Jun 2005	62	0.6	0.8
Jul-Sep 2005	57	0.6	0.8
Oct-Dec 2005	61	0.6	0.9
Jan-Mar 2006	50	0.5	0.9

9. HOUSING

9.1 New Housing Provision in the Borough

The total amount of new house building in the Borough rose from a level of about 250 dwellings per year in the early 1990's to a high of 658 in 2003/04. This level has not been maintained in 2006/07 when 208 houses were built, which is a significant drop from the 2005/06 figure of 393 houses.

The following graph shows the percentage of each of the four major house types completed in the Borough over the past five years. Many of these have been large detached properties, although planning requirements in recent years have led to increased proportions of smaller properties. The graph below clearly shows a significant decline in the percentage of detached houses built and a large increase in the percentage of flats completed over the past five years.



The average household size in 2001 in Chorley Borough was 2.39 persons, which was slightly higher than the average for Lancashire (2.36) and England (2.35). Average household sizes are likely to continue to fall, due to an increase in single person households. The predicted average household size for the Borough in 2016 is 2.24 (Lancashire 2.19). In 2001, 5.7% of all households in Chorley were lone parent households, and 25.6% were one-person households. Both of these figures were lower than the levels for Lancashire and England.

9.2 Housing Needs

The Chorley Borough Housing Needs and Demand Study 2004 found that 7.8% of households felt that they were living in unaffordable accommodation, which compares with only 2.8% of households in neighbouring South Ribble. The study also found that the Borough had a very high number of households stating that they needed to move to be either closer to employment or to allow household members to live independently. Therefore, it is a priority to deliver more affordable housing in the Borough.

A total of 158 new affordable homes were provided in the Borough between April 2001 - April 2006, but only 8 additional affordable homes were completed between April 2006 – April 2007. However, significant numbers of new affordable homes are planned for locations such as Buckshaw Village, Gillibrand in Chorley and Fairview Farm, Adlington.

Encouraged by the Government, Chorley, like many local authorities gave Council House tenants the opportunity to vote whether to transfer their homes to a local housing association. In 2006 the tenants voted in favour of the transfer and they now rent their properties from Chorley Community Housing, which is part of the Adactus Housing Association. It is anticipated that this association will provide more new affordable homes.

9.3 Tenure: Owner Occupied Housing

A greater proportion of the housing stock in the Borough is owner occupied than both the North West or nationally. Over 79% of housing stock in the Borough is owner occupied, whilst the North West figure is just over 69% and nationally the figure is just below 69%.

9.4 Tenure: Rented Housing

A total of 14.4% of households in the Borough are within the social rented sector (nationally the figure is 19.2%) and the remainder of households rent their homes privately. In 2004 there were 6,643 homes in the social rented sector. Just over 3,000 of these homes were provided by the Borough Council, but are now managed by Chorley Community Housing.

However, the proportion of social rented stock in the Borough is expected to continue to decrease over time due to the popularity of housing association “Right to Acquire” sales. Between 1979 and 2004 1,576 Council homes were sold under the “Right to Buy” scheme in the Borough. In some villages nearly all of the Council housing had been sold to those tenanting them and in the urban parts of the Borough former tenants have bought many housing association properties.

9.5 Age of Housing Stock

Over half (53%) of private housing stock in the Borough dates from 1965 or later, whilst 22% of dwellings were built pre-1919. The most numerous private sector dwelling type in the Borough are post-1980 detached houses.

9.6 Condition of Housing: Private Sector Housing

The Decent Homes Standard is nationally set. Decent homes are those that fulfil the current minimum standard for housing (i.e. not unfit), are in a reasonable state of repair, have reasonably modern facilities and services and they should provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. The Borough private sector stock condition survey 2004 indicated that 23.6% of private sector dwellings failed the standard under one or more of these headings, which is better than the national average of 33.1%. Pre-1919 dwellings had the highest levels of non-decency.

In 2004 there were an estimated 1,698 unfit private sector dwellings in the Borough, which accounted for 4.2% of the private sector stock, which is a level that is similar to the North West and national averages. The main reason that properties were unfit was that residents could not afford to carry out the necessary repairs; 7.1% of pre-

1919 dwellings were classed unfit. The Borough Council has set up a cross-authority Home Improvement Agency with South Ribble Borough Council, which will enable better use of private sector resources to tackle unfit and disrepair.

9.7 Condition of Housing: Social Housing

The recent transfer of Council housing to Chorley Community Housing will secure sufficient future investment in the stock, the Council has recently transferred the stock of social housing to Chorley Community Housing. This should ensure that the provision of quality social housing is continued in the Borough, and raise the standard beyond the Decent Homes standard to meet the aspirations of tenants. Most housing association stock in the Borough is comparatively new, as much of it was built during the 1960s and 1970s, the vast majority of which already meets the Decent Homes Standard. Housing Associations working in the Borough have put in place plans to ensure all of their homes comply with the Decent Homes Standard by 2010.

9.8 Empty Homes

The Housing Investment Programme return for the Borough identified that there were approximately 727 vacant dwellings in the Borough in December 2006, which is a vacancy rate of just under 1.6%; this is a lower rate than in many North West authorities.

9.9 Supporting People

Supporting People is a government initiative to radically restructure the funding of preventative supported housing services. The programme has amalgamated many different funding streams into one budget in order to achieve a more co-ordinated strategic approach to commissioning housing services. Lancashire County Council administers the programme locally, with the commissioning of services co-ordinated through a partnership of Social Services, Health, Probation and Local Housing Authorities. The Borough Council is an active partner in the Supporting People commissioning process and is committed to developing a range of supported housing across the Borough.

The Supporting People initiative helps people with learning or physical disabilities, people with mental health problems, the homeless, vulnerable young people, older people that need support, people with drug or alcohol problems, people escaping domestic violence, and people at risk of offending.

9.10 Homelessness

There has been an increase in the number of households accepted by the Council as homeless since the Homelessness Act 2002 placed extra statutory duties on Local Authorities. This increase has put pressure on temporary accommodation facilities, where the average length of stay is increasing. Consequently the Council has recently started housing some of the homeless in bed and breakfast accommodation. The following table shows the number of applications received/accepted as homeless by the Borough Council.

Homelessness in Chorley Borough

Year	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Number of Homeless Applications received	493	477	484	465
Number of Households accepted by the Council as Homeless	118	184	235	190

The Borough Council has worked in partnership to develop additional services for homeless households. This has resulted in the development of supported housing for lone teenage parents, and for young single homeless. Funding is provided for the post of Housing Advice Worker with the Citizens Advice Bureau and work is also undertaken with other voluntary sector agencies to develop prevention services in order to prevent incidents of homelessness, thus decreasing demand for temporary accommodation.

9.11 Elderly Care

Lancashire County Council Social Services have a target of reducing placements into residential care for the elderly. The Borough Council is working in partnership with Lancashire County Council and Chorley and the Primary Care Trust to develop alternatives to residential care. This includes identifying options for expanding the provision of extra-care sheltered housing, and through increasing our grants programmes for adaptations to Council dwellings.

9.12 Young People

Young people who are vulnerable and or in need of housing can gain support and assistance through the "What Now?" information centre in Union Street. Those young people who are or were "looked after" are supported by Lancashire County Council's Aftercare Service, which is run and managed by the County Youth and Community Service. Working closely with partners, young people who have particular needs can be assessed and appropriately assisted.

9.13 Housing Benefit

In November 2006 4,700 households were in receipt of housing benefit, which was 11.4% of all households, which was a 4.4% rise on the November 2005 figure. The

proportion of housing benefit claimants in the Borough is well below the North West figure of 18.1% and the Great Britain average of 16.4%.

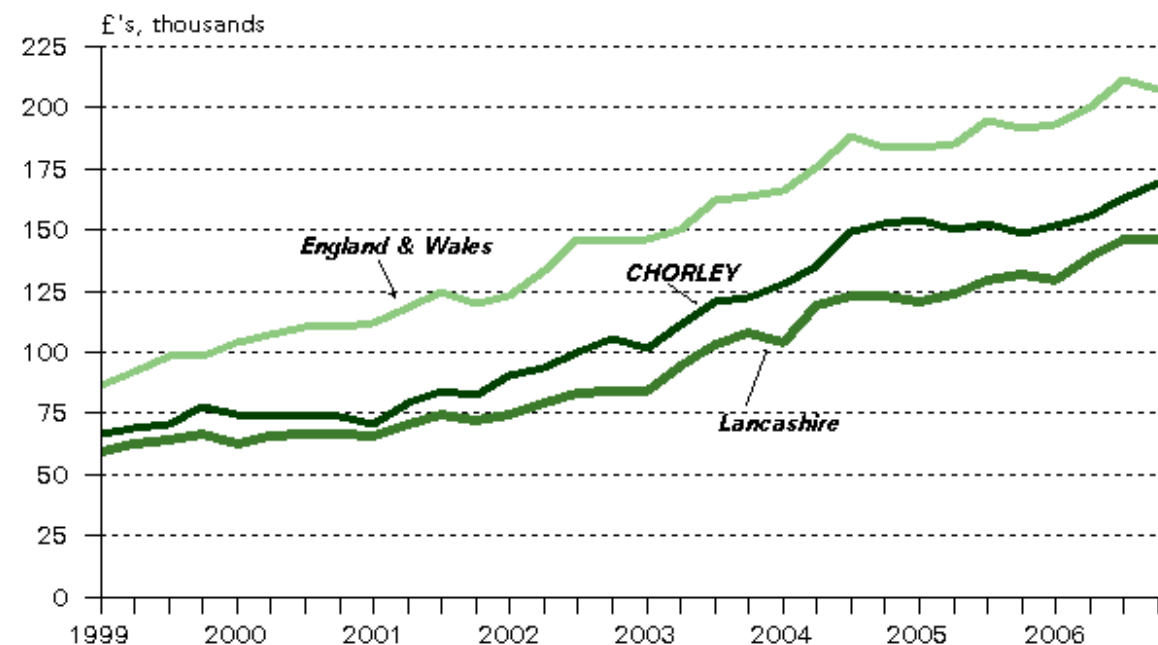
Source: Department of work and pensions, cited in the Lancashire Profile.

9.14 Affordability

A rapid increase in house prices has occurred over the last 5 years. Average income x 3.5 is less than average house prices. However, the issue of affordability is a greater problem than these figures suggest, because median (or typical) personal income levels in the Borough are relatively low, which means that buying a house is becoming increasingly difficult for somebody earning a typical income. The shortage of affordable property is most severe in the villages of the Borough. This is due to a combination of higher property prices, the desirability of the rural locations, and a higher level of right to buy sales.

Land Registry figures indicate that average house prices in the Borough have risen substantially over the past few years from £77,803 at the end of 2001 (October – December) to £169,184 at the end of 2006 (October – December). Over the past year average house prices rose from £148,468 (October – December 2005) to £169,184 (October – December 2006) in the Borough, which is a rise of 14%. This percentage rise exceeds the Lancashire average (10.7%) and the England and Wales average (8.3%). Prices have consistently been higher than the Lancashire average (£145,791 October – December 2006), but remain lower than the average for England and Wales (£207,572 during the same period).

Average Residential Property Prices in Chorley Borough



Source HM Land Registry

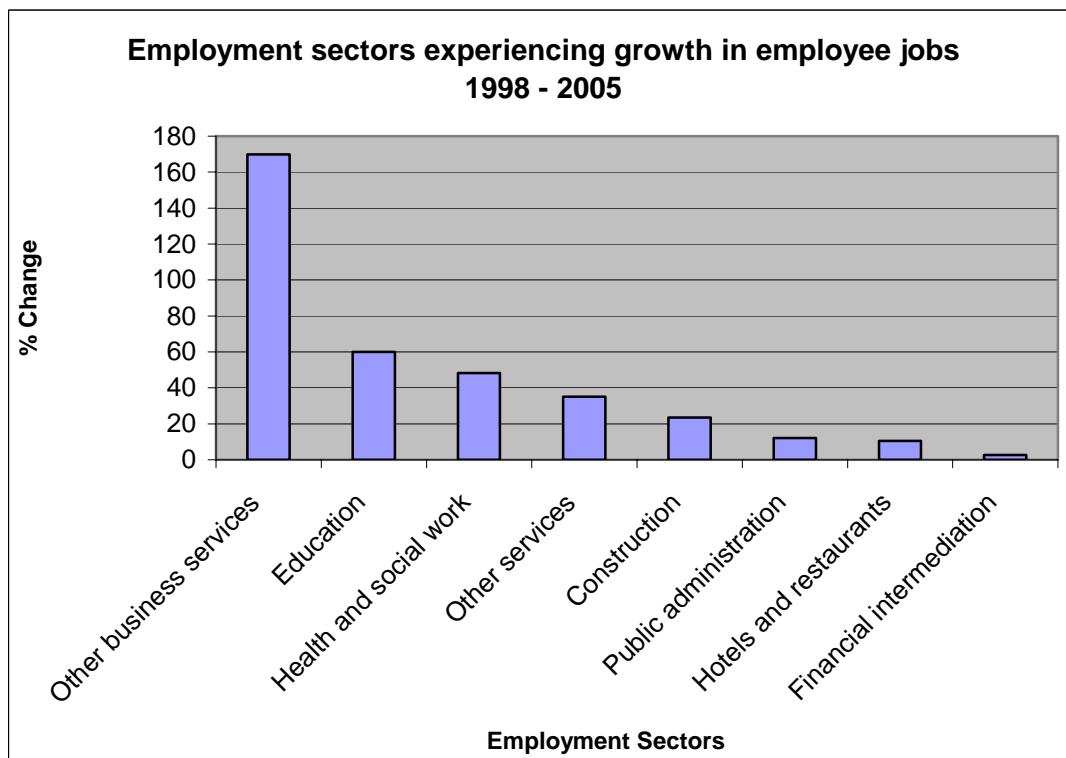
10. EMPLOYMENT

10.1 Employment Sectors

The Lancashire Profile (www.lancashire.gov.uk) cites data from the Annual Business Enquiry 2005, which highlights that employment growth in Central Lancashire (comprising Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire) was very strong over the period 1998 – 2005, growing at a rate of almost double the national average. Over this period Chorley experienced the highest rate of employee jobs growth of any district in Lancashire, with the proportion of jobs growing by 23.8%. In 2005 there were 39,000 employee jobs in the Borough, which was considerably higher than the 1998 total of 31,500, although the 2005 figure was a reduction on the 2004 figure of 41,800.

In 2005 the most important employee sectors in terms of jobs are other business services (8,600 jobs), wholesale and retail trades (7,000 jobs), health and social work (6,000 jobs), education (3,200 jobs), hotels and restaurants (3,200 jobs) and manufacturing (3,100 jobs).

The following bar chart highlights the employment sectors that have experienced growth in terms of the number of employee jobs over the period 1998 – 2005. By far the largest increase in jobs occurred in the other business services sector. The number of employees working in this sector increased by 170% (5,400 jobs). Other large increases occurred in the education sector (+60%, which equated about 1100 jobs), the health and social services sector (+48%, 1900 jobs), the other services sector (+35%, 500 jobs) and in construction (+24%, 500 jobs).



A number of employment sectors experienced a decline in the number of employee jobs over the period 1998 – 2005. The largest decreases in jobs occurred in the mining, energy and water sector (-69%), although this was only 100 jobs. Of more significance was the drop in the number of employees in the manufacturing sector, which experienced a 34% decrease, the equivalent of 1600 jobs. This reflects a general downsizing of the manufacturing employee base, as experienced elsewhere in Lancashire and nationwide. Decreases in employee jobs also occurred in the transport and communications sector (-9%, 100 jobs), the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (-9%, which related to 100 jobs) and in the wholesale and retail trades (-3%, 200 jobs).

10.2 Business Start-Ups

Barclays Bank (March 2007) have produced estimates of business formations in the Borough, which are cited in the Lancashire Profile (www.lancashire.gov.uk). These figures indicate that business start-ups in the Borough rose from a level of about 700 in 2005 to approximately 1000 in 2006, which was a 43% increase. This level of business start-ups was amongst the highest in Lancashire.

10.3 Availability of Sites and Premises

The borough has a wide variety of business and industrial space ranging from established industrial estates and small units in converted mills, to large new state-of-the-art manufacturing and logistics facilities.

The Revolution is a major new logistics and industrial park that is under construction on the Strategic Regional Site on the eastern edge of Buckshaw Village. Over 167,000 square metres of large-scale industrial and business space is planned. Wolseley UK and Multipart Supply Chain Solutions have both chosen to locate their North West headquarters on the site, in recently completed buildings.

At Buckshaw Link, over 20,000 square metres of brand new speculative industrial/commercial development is planned in units of 500 square metres and larger. A new Enterprise Centre is also planned which will provide quality niche work space in a managed environment to attract new business start-ups and encourage entrepreneurship.

10.4 Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the Borough is lower than the national average and lower than for Lancashire as a whole. In March 2007, 1,125 people were claiming unemployment-related benefits in the Borough, which related to 1.7% of the working age population. Of these claimants 829 were male and 296 were female. These figures represent 2.4% of the working age male population and 1% of the working age female population. The highest proportions of people in the Borough claiming unemployment-related benefits were in the wards of Chorley South West (3.5%) Chorley South East (3.3%), Chorley East (3%), Clayton-le-Woods North (3%) and Chorley North East (2.8%). These five wards accounted for over half of the people claiming unemployment-related benefits in the Borough.

10.5 Worklessness

Worklessness is a concept that goes beyond looking at unemployment benefit claimants by also looking at other people of working age that are not working, that are not in full time education and are not actively seeking work. Many of these people

receive other forms of benefit, such as incapacity benefit and income support. Deprivation and high levels of worklessness are often linked. Compared to most other Lancashire districts levels of worklessness in the Borough are low, but there are a few localities in the Borough, where the level of worklessness falls within the worst 10% of Lower Level Super Output Areas (small geographical areas of between 1000 – 2000 population) in England. These are the areas covering Stump Lane/Lyons Lane (Chorley Town), Cowling/Eaves Lane South (Chorley Town), Chorley Town Centre East and Clayton Brook North East. High levels of worklessness also exist in the central area of Coppull and the Moor Road/Eaves Green Road area of Chorley Town.

Conversely levels of worklessness are very low in localities such as Clayton Green East, Clayton Green West and in the Eccleston Parish East/Mawdesley Parish North.

10.6 Wage Levels

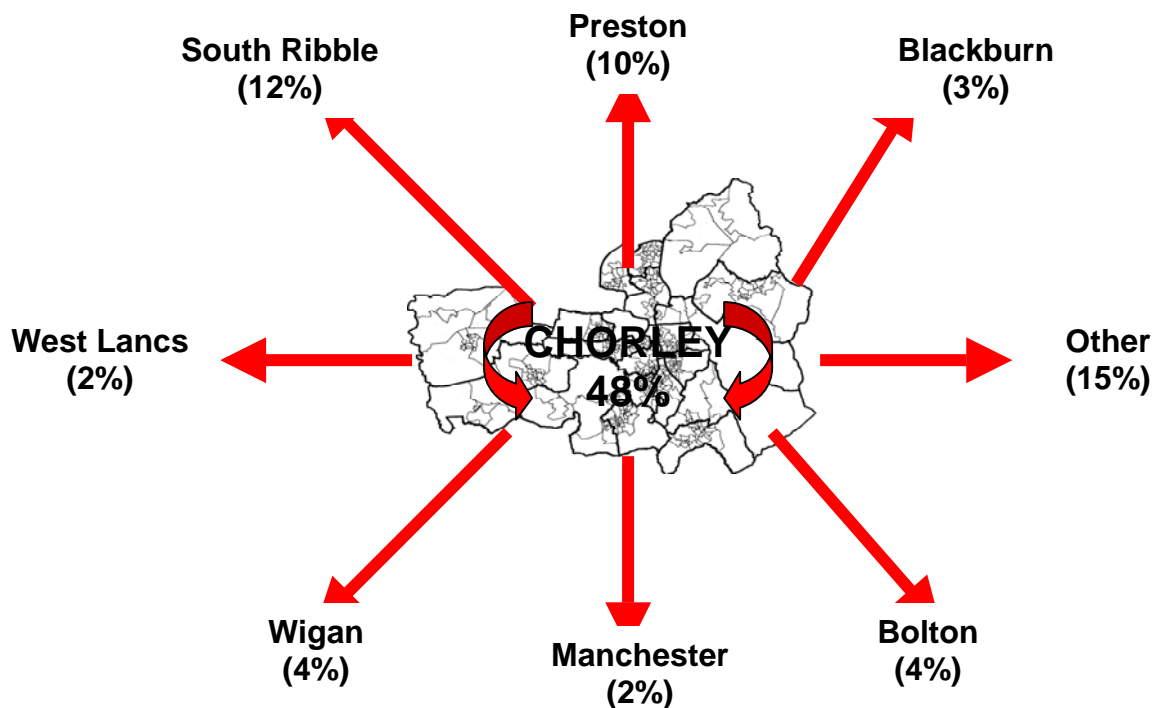
Wage levels for people working in Chorley until recently have been lower than those for Lancashire as a whole, but the latest (2006/07) data shows that median annual workplace earnings in Chorley are 0.4% above the County average.

Employees in Chorley worked fewer hours per week on average than in Lancashire as a whole and Great Britain. Chorley employees worked 34.5 hours per week on average, whilst the figures for Lancashire and Great Britain were 34.9 and 34.6 hours per week respectively.

10.7 Out Commuting (Travel to Work)

The 2001 Census of Population showed that the average distance travelled by Chorley Borough residents to fixed places of work is 14.9 km. This is greater than the average distance for Lancashire (12.9 km) and for England as a whole (13.3 km). A total of 48% of residents in employment worked within Chorley Borough and 52% travelled outside of the Borough to work. The workplace destinations of Chorley residents are shown in the diagram on the following page.

Places of Work of Residents 2001



Source 2001 Census of Population

The majority of residents working outside the Borough work in other Borough's within Lancashire and Greater Manchester. There are however a significant number of residents working outside the North West. Some residents travel as far as London to work, however it is more likely that people working so far away will stay in the place they are working during the week and travel home at weekends.

10.8 Rural Diversification

Poor profits in all sectors of the agricultural economy are leading to a general trend towards the diversification of farming activities. Farmers are becoming increasingly active in the areas of tourism and recreation, such as at Cedar Farm in Mawdesley. There is scope in the Borough for further development of accommodation and recreational facilities in rural areas, although this is a very competitive sector. It is often the case that those farm businesses most in need of an additional income source are the least able to raise the high levels of investment capital required to establish accommodation or recreational/leisure facilities.

11. TRANSPORT

11.1 Road Connections

The M6, M61 and M65 motorways all pass through the Borough giving it excellent road links. Although Chorley town is not directly served by a junction on the M6, access is available at Junction 28 to the north of the Borough near Leyland and at Junction 27 to the south of the Borough near Standish, allowing convenient access to the Midlands, the South, Northern England and Scotland. The M61 provides good links from the Borough to Manchester to the south and Preston to the north, whilst the M65 provides access to East Lancashire and beyond to Yorkshire and the North East.

A network of A and B roads provide local connections for the Borough's towns and villages to destinations such as Blackburn, Bolton, Leyland, Preston, Southport and Wigan. Peak time congestion is a problem on some routes, such as the A6 Preston Road north of Euxton Lane in Chorley. The Gillibrand Link Road has recently been completed and construction is underway of the Eaves Green Link Road. These roads will provide an orbital route from the A6 south of Chorley town to the A581 to the west of the town, bypassing the town centre. These roads will also provide access to new development to the west of the town.

11.2 Road Safety/Traffic Calming

The Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety is a multi-agency partnership, which is committed to improving safety on roads in Chorley and Lancashire as a whole. Their figures suggest that each year in Lancashire 9,000 people are injured on the roads (of which 1,000 are seriously injured and 70 killed). The Partnership focuses attention on the three primary causes of casualties, which are speeding, drink driving and the non-wearing of seatbelts. As well as safety cameras, physical traffic calming measures such as road humps, chicanes and road narrowing are used in various parts of the Borough to help keep vehicle speeds down and improve driver behaviour. These measures are increasingly linked to the use of 20mph zones in residential areas and there are plans to further extend the use of these.

11.3 Rail Travel: Stations

There are four railway stations in the Borough. They are located at Adlington and Chorley on the Blackpool-Preston-Manchester line, at Croston on the Preston-Ormskirk-Liverpool line and at Euxton Balshaw Lane, which is on the West Coast Main Line. The Preston-Blackburn line also passes through the north of the Borough, although there are no stations in Chorley Borough. Network Rail have confirmed that they will provide a new station with a park and ride facility at Buckshaw Village and work has now started on its design and development. Land that would be suitable for a new station has also been identified in Coppull. Chorley Station is located opposite the Chorley Interchange and has recently been renovated. These improvements and features such as electronic bus and rail information boards enable better inter-modal connectivity between buses and trains.

11.4 Rail Travel: Services and Connections

Adlington and Chorley stations provide direct rail services to destinations including Blackpool, Bolton, Manchester, Manchester Airport and Preston. There are at least three trains per hour during the day on weekdays to Preston and Manchester from Chorley. However, train capacity at peak times is an issue on these routes and rolling stock is of variable quality. Croston station provides direct but infrequent services to Preston and Ormskirk, with connections to Liverpool. Euxton Balshaw Lane station provides direct links to Liverpool, Wigan and Preston. However, for destinations outside the North West, including London, passengers must change trains outside of the Borough. A variety of ticketing options are available, such as day returns, 7-day season and monthly season tickets. However, these tickets are often expensive in comparison to similar tickets serving stations that are within the Greater Manchester and Merseyside boundaries. Rail freight within the Borough is hindered by a lack of capacity on key routes.

11.5 Bus Routes and Opportunities

A network of bus services operate in the Borough, run by Arriva, J. Fishwick and Sons, Blue Bus and Stagecoach along with a number of smaller companies who operate services on behalf of Lancashire County Council. The overall bus fleet is of variable quality with some ageing vehicles, but new low floor models are being introduced on some routes and experience from elsewhere shows these increase ridership levels. There are bus connections from Chorley Interchange to major destinations such as Preston, Leyland, Bolton, Blackburn and Wigan. Services also link the smaller settlements in the Borough with Chorley and other major towns. However, some rural locations are infrequently served by buses, and a lack of passengers in some areas has led to reductions in service frequency and service cuts. A variety of ticketing options are available on buses, depending on time of travel, travel zones etc. including weekly and monthly tickets, but fare levels and timetabling can be confusing for new bus travellers.

The Chorley Interchange provides improved customer facilities, including a fully enclosed passenger waiting area and electronic bus and rail departure information boards. The Interchange provides a more user-friendly bus service for Chorley bus users. Quality Bus Routes are also proposed to link Chorley with destinations such as Preston. Improvements have been made to 'Chorley town' services – known as Network Chorley. Modern midi-buses link the town centre with routes that take in places such as Adlington, Coppull and Euxton.

11.6 Car Parking

The Lancashire Parking Audit that took place in 2001 showed Chorley Town Centre as having the highest ratio of parking compared to retail and office floorspace of any of the 20 centres studied. Pay and display car parks in Chorley Town centre have over 1,300 spaces and most have received Secured Car Park awards, which means that they meet nationally approved car park security standards. Chorley Borough Council has installed intelligent messaging displays on the approaches to the town centre, which inform drivers of the number of spaces available in town centre car parks.

11.7 Telecommunications

Broadband is already available in most urban areas of the Borough. Mobile phone coverage is good for the majority of the Borough on all networks. Interactive cable

television is available in the more urban parts of the District and reception for digital terrestrial television and DAB radio is good in most areas.

11.8 Cycling

There is considerable potential for cycling in the Borough. In recent years off-road cycleways have been constructed through Astley Park and Cuerden Valley Park, both of which form part of the National Cycle Network. Cycle lanes have also been created in a number of locations, such as along the A6 at Whittle-le-Woods and Bolton Road, Chorley. It is proposed to implement further cycle routes throughout the Borough, including a cycleway along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal forming part of the National Cycle Network. Other local routes are also proposed including cycleways to provide links to new development, such as between Buckshaw Village and cycle route networks in adjoining areas. In addition to new routes it is also proposed to increase the amount of other cycling facilities in the Borough, such as cycle parking. The 2001 Census of Population revealed that 1.8% of employees travelled to work by bicycle in the Borough. This proportion is below the Lancashire figure of 2.4% and the England figure of 2.8%.

11.9 Horse Riding

Horse riding is increasingly popular in the Borough leading to many proposals for stables and associated facilities. There are approximately 37km of bridleways in the Borough. Most of the bridleways are in the Rivington area, with a smaller number in Heath Charnock and Coppull. There are few bridleways elsewhere in the Borough, which results in riders using roads.

11.10 Walking

Within the urban areas of the Borough, footway provision is generally good. Chorley town centre is extensively pedestrianised and further pedestrian enhancements are planned. However, in rural areas some roads lack footways and pose safety risks. There is an extensive range of countryside paths popular with ramblers especially in the West Pennine Moors, which have more extensive public access areas. Rural footpaths are generally well way-marked and in good condition, although there are over-used and poorly drained lengths that would benefit from improvement. The 2001 Census indicated that 9.2% of employees travelled to work on foot in Chorley. This proportion is below the Lancashire figure of 11.1% and the England figure of 10%.

11.11 Waterways

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is the main navigable waterway in the Borough and is served by several boat yards. The use of moorings along lengths of the canal suggests more off line marinas are needed. Other than individual traders serving recreational boat owners (with coal etc) there is no freight use of the canal at present, although there remains the potential for this to occur.

11.12 Air Passenger/Freight Services

Manchester International Airport can be easily accessed by motorway or direct passenger rail services from Chorley. The airport operates passenger and freight services worldwide and is one of the busiest airports in Europe. Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Blackpool Airport are also within an hour's drive from Chorley.

12. SHOPPING

12.1 Chorley Town Centre Role

The Chorley Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study (White Young Green Planning, October 2005) confirms that Chorley town centre is the major retail destination within the Borough, acting as a market town centre for comparison and convenience shopping serving the local population. It is home to a wide range of shops and services and a significant number of the national chains are represented, complemented by a large number of independent stores.

The town centre environment varies from the modern Market Walk shopping development, with many national chain stores, to traditional streets with a wide mix of shops and other uses. The majority of the town centre is pedestrianised, providing a safe and pleasant town centre-shopping environment.

A Town Centre Strategy has been produced which includes a range of priorities and objectives to further improve the town centre. A major new retail development is proposed, utilising some of the Flat Iron Car Park. This will provide 10,000 square metres of extra shopping space in four large new stores, and a pay on exit multi-storey car park.

The town centre is also well known throughout the North West for its markets, which include the Flat Iron Market, the covered market and various specialist markets that are held from time to time, such as the French Market and the Staffordshire Pot Fair. A very wide range of goods are on offer ranging from locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, bread and cakes to plants, clothing, household wares and gift items.

The Chorley Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study highlights that the town centre has improved its position between 2001 and 2004 in the national ranking of town centres (Management Horizon Europe's UK Shopping Index, 2003/2004). The Lancashire Shopping Study 2003 also indicates that Chorley appears to be trading well, particularly in comparison to other smaller towns within Lancashire, which have a far lesser role in serving the non-food shopping needs of the County's residents. The study indicates that Chorley town centre has the seventh highest non-food turnover in Lancashire at £79.7 million. The town's average sales density is calculated at £4,295/sqm, which is greater than some of the larger centres and which ranks it third overall in the County.

An April 2007 Town Centre Survey showed that the vacancy rate of premises in the town centre is 8%, which is no change from the 2006 figure. Regular pedestrian flow counts of Chorley town centre indicate that the busiest streets are Market Walk and Chapel Street, with Saturday and Tuesday being the busiest days. The March 2007 count showed the highest number of pedestrians since March 2004.

12.2 Out of Centre Superstores/Retail Warehouses

Chorley Borough contains a variety of superstores and retail warehouses. Chorley town has one out-of-centre Tesco superstore and a Morrisons superstore on the edge of the town centre, plus a variety of other smaller supermarkets detached from the centre. There is also an Asda superstore at Clayton Green in the Clayton Green District Centre. Out of centre non-food retail warehouses within the Borough include a number of units within Chorley town and a few freestanding retail warehouses

elsewhere in the Borough. There are no major purpose built out-of-centre retail parks in the Borough. National planning guidance promotes retail development within town centres and discourages out of centre retailing, so further growth of such shopping within the Borough is likely to be limited.

12.3 Neighbouring Towns and Cities

Chorley town centre operates in a very competitive retailing environment, because of the number of larger towns located in close proximity to the Borough. Preston city centre is the major shopping destination in Lancashire and is easily reached from Chorley. Bolton, Blackburn, Southport and Wigan town centres are also only a short drive, bus or train ride from Chorley. Chorley town centre faces considerable competition from these larger centres, which offer a wider choice of comparison retailing and have some of the larger national stores. Further afield, Chorley also faces competition from Manchester City Centre and the Trafford Centre, which can both be reached within an hour from the Borough. The out-of-centre Middlebrook Retail Park at Horwich also sells a wide range of comparison and convenience goods and attracts shoppers from the Borough.

12.4 Local Provision

There is a variety of shopping provision serving local needs in the Borough with small individual stores in virtually all urban and rural locations. Chorley town has a variety of local shopping areas, spread throughout the town, such as at Pall Mall and Eaves Lane. The surrounding towns and villages such as Adlington, Coppull, Eccleston, and Euxton have a fair range of shops. Elsewhere there are isolated shops or groups of shops. These local shopping areas and individual shops have to compete with larger centres and larger stores, and in some of the centres there are vacant units, which are sometimes in a poor state of repair. There is often pressure to convert these units to housing, or other uses, which can further erode local service provision.

12.5 E-Retailing

E-retailing is a growing phenomenon, which is likely to further impact upon shopping patterns within the Borough. A number of companies now sell products solely over the internet, whilst others operate traditional stores, but with an internet ordering service with delivery.

13. TOURISM, CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE

13.1 Built and Natural Attractions

The Borough has a wide range of attractions, including:

- **Astley Hall and Astley Park** – Astley Hall in Chorley is a Grade 1 Listed Building, and is home to a museum and art gallery. It dates back to Elizabethan times, with further additions over the centuries. It stands within Astley Park, which is a 43 hectare park located just outside Chorley Town Centre. Extensive work is currently being undertaken to improve the grounds around Astley Hall.
- **Blainscough Wood Nature Reserve** – This is a former coal mining site that is owned by Chorley Borough Council. Following cessation of coal mining activities, the site remained derelict and unsafe for a considerable length of time. Reclamation works undertaken by the Council between 1990-93 made the site safe and established it as a popular nature reserve.
- **Botany Bay** – This popular retail/leisure attraction is housed in a prominent former mill building, located alongside the M61 in Chorley.
- **Bygone Times** – This is a themed shopping destination housed in a former mill in Eccleston.
- **Camelot Theme Park** – This is a major attraction but the operators have announced that the park is likely to close in the next few years.
- **Cedar Farm Galleries** – This is an arts and craft centre located just outside the village of Mawdesley.
- **Cuerden Valley Park** – established as part of Central Lancashire New Town. The park is managed by the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside.
- **Hic Bibi Local Nature Reserve** – This is an eight hectare site developed on a former clay quarry and brick works in Coppull, which has a diverse and valuable ecology. Enhancement works have been ongoing since 1994 to make the site more accessible by creating new ponds, paths and providing new planting, fencing, stiles and information boards.
- **Hoghton Tower** – An important Grade 1 Listed manor house
- **Rivington/Lever Park** – Rivington is home to rugged hills, reservoirs and woodland. The Rivington Pike, an ancient beacon to warn of invasion, is a landmark that dominates the local landscape. Other unique features include the terraced gardens that are currently in need of restoration, two Saxon Tithe Barns and a ruined replica of Liverpool Castle.
- **Withnell Local Nature Reserve** – This site was originally part of the Chorley to Blackburn "Cherry Tree" railway line which became disused during the 1960s. The site was acquired in 1971 and was reclaimed to form a nature reserve in the early 1990s.
- **Yarrow Valley Country Park** – this Green Flag awarded attraction provides a convenient local attraction near to Chorley town, created originally out of restored bleach works and now expanded along the river valley to the west. A further extension south into the former Duxbury Collieries is dependent on restoration of this area.

13.2 Accommodation

The Borough has a range of accommodation including hotels, B&Bs, camping and caravan sites. However, there are no major hotels in Chorley town centre.

13.3 Business Tourism

There are a range of venues offering conference facilities with accommodation and others without accommodation. Chorley is well located for business tourism as it is close to the junctions of three motorways and has direct rail links to major destinations in the North West.

13.4 Food and Drink

There has been an increase in cafes and restaurants in recent years catering for a wide range of tastes, particularly within Chorley town centre, and a rise in the number of hot food takeaways across the Borough. Some public houses have closed and the sites redeveloped for other uses, whereas some in Chorley town centre now have later opening hours.

13.5 Exhibition and Performance Venues

Astley Hall Museum and Art Gallery is the only museum located within the Borough. Chorley Little Theatre is an amateur dramatics and film society venue. The Lancastrian Room in Chorley Town Hall is a large venue that now has improved access. Community centres, church halls and village halls throughout the Borough also provide venues for exhibitions and performances. Chorley Library has a gallery space that is available all year round.

13.6 Events and Activities

The Borough has a strong tradition of voluntary clubs and societies, numbering around 500 different organisations, which organise a varied programme of events and activities. Significant events include Croston Coffee Day, Chorley Churches Walking Days, Good Friday Rivington walks, the Pro Loco arts competition and the Chorley Cake Street Fair. There is an annual Midsummer Festival, which is designed to promote local bands and encourage participation in the arts through outdoor events. There is an active programme of summer street theatre in Chorley town centre and a winter showcase of events including a Christmas Light Switch On and parade. Both Yarrow Valley Park and Cuerden Park present a year round programme of participatory arts events, as well as environmental activities and healthy walks programmes. Young people's arts events are programmed every half term holiday through the South Lancashire Arts Partnership.

Community activities are run on a daily basis from the Borough's community centres as well as numerous village halls and social clubs. These include regular visits by the Lancashire rural touring scheme "Spot On" who provide small scale touring drama, dance and music for seven villages in the Borough.

13.7 Community Radio

Chorley FM started broadcasting some years ago, utilising short term licences. In Autumn 2005 it was announced that their application for a five-year community radio

licence was successful. In November 2006 Chorley FM was officially launched as a full-time community radio station.

13.8 Famous People

Chorley Borough is a place to which a variety of prominent historical people had close connections. These include Myles Standish, who was hired by the Merchant Adventurers to sail with the Pilgrims in the Mayflower to America, and who is reputed to have been born locally – at Duxbury. He is currently the focus of an investigation to prove his links with the Borough. Other such famous figures with Chorley connections include the sugar magnate and philanthropist, Sir Henry Tate, Jeremiah Horrocks (who first recorded the transit of Venus across the Sun), soap tycoon Lord Leverhulme, Nobel Prize winner Sir Walter Norman Haworth FRS and William Shakespeare.

Contemporary figures associated with the Borough include opera singer Amanda Roocroft, actor Steve Pemberton (of the League of Gentlemen), comedian Dave Spikey, M People musician Paul Birchall and internationally acclaimed artist Leonora Carrington who originates from Clayton-le-Woods and is known as the “first woman of Surrealism”. Contemporary sports people associated with the Borough include Olympic cyclist Jason Quealy, former England rugby captain Bill Beaumont and footballer David Unsworth whose career has included spells at teams such as Aston Villa, Everton and Wigan Athletic. Boxer Michael Jennings, the current British Welterweight Champion, also hails from Chorley with a fighting record of thirty wins and one loss.

13.9 Sports Facilities and Development

There are a good range of sports facilities in the Borough including 3 Council leisure centres, 2 public swimming pools, 2 private leisure centres with swimming pools (Next Generation and Park Hall) and numerous gyms. There are a number of Golf Courses in the Borough including an 18 hole municipal owned course at Duxbury, south of Chorley town. Many of the village halls also cater for various sports and activities, but some are substandard in terms of space.

Artificial turf pitches can be found at Southlands and Holy Cross High Schools in Chorley, and at Clayton Green Leisure Centre. There are proposals for an additional full size artificial pitch at Buckshaw Village. The Borough has many playing fields that cater for a wide range of sports, but some municipal playing fields are poorly drained, which can lead to match cancellations. Pitches for junior football are also in short supply.

Chorley has an active Sports Forum plus a number of sports specific development groups. The Council and local sports clubs are also proactive within the Lancashire Sport Partnership. This partnership aims to provide sporting opportunities for all and ensure that those individuals who have both the talent and the inclination can progress through the sporting continuum and compete at the highest level possible. The Sports Forum administer a modest grant scheme for talented individuals on the Council's behalf.