

About Warwick district

This section contains some general information about Warwick district in comparison with the county of Warwickshire, the West Midlands region and England as a whole.

Geography

Our district covers an area of around 110 square miles in the southern half of the county of Warwickshire in the West Midlands and is home to around 58,700 households (137,600 people). The area includes the towns of Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Warwick and Whitnash, which together accommodate around 80% of the population while the remainder live in a number of small rural villages many of which are in the green belt. The district is bordered to the south and west by Stratford-on-Avon district, to the east by Rugby borough and to the north by Solihull and the city of Coventry.

The district is in a central part of the country and has good strategic transport links. The M40 runs across the area providing direct access to London and the south-east, and indirect links to the north-west and Scotland via the M6 and to the south-west by the M5. There are junctions of the M1 and A14 outside the district near Rugby, providing links to the north and east. There are good rail links to the rest of the West Midlands and to London. The government's preferred route for the new high-speed rail line "HS2" passes through the district.

The Census 2011 provides a rich source of data and helps to build a pen-picture of our district and how it differs from, or is similar to, other councils in Warwickshire, the West Midlands region and the country as a whole. The majority of data for this section is derived from the census and thanks and acknowledgements are due to the Warwickshire Observatory for their useful analysis and summaries which can be found at <http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org/>

Population

The district has the largest population in the county and the population density of 4.9 people per hectare is the second highest in Warwickshire and is above national and regional averages. The population grew over the ten years from 2001 to 2011 by over 9%, a faster rate than England & Wales and the West Midlands and the second only to Rugby in the county.

In terms of age profile Warwick is not significantly different: the average age of the population at 39.7 is close to the national average (but the lowest in Warwickshire) while in fifteen-year age bands the only noticeable variations are slightly fewer people aged 0 to 14 and slightly more people aged 30 to 44.

Our district has the highest proportion of non- "White-British" people in the county at 16.6% but this is still lower than is the case nationally and regionally. The largest ethnic groups in the district after White-British are "Asian/Asian British: Indian" (4.9%) and "Other White" (4.2%).

Rugby (11.7%) and Warwick (11.6%) have the highest proportions in the county of people who have come from abroad but these percentages are still below the national average.

The types of household in the district show some interesting differences with the national, regional and county picture: we have one of the highest proportions of full-time students in the country (among the top 10%) and this feeds into an above average number of single-person households: the highest in the county. As a consequence we have the lowest proportions in the county for each of the following categories: married/civil partnership; separated; divorced; and widowed.

Economy

Our local economy is diverse but three sectors account for over 60% of employment: "public administration, education and health"; "financial and other business services"; and "wholesale and retail, including motor trades".

Compared to national and regional rates our unemployment rate is considerably lower and has been throughout the period from 2004 to the present while average earnings for employees living in the district are higher at £32,582 in 2015.

The level of vehicle ownership (81.5%) is relatively high: the proportion of people travelling to work by car (44%) is also higher than regional and national averages but is the lowest in Warwickshire. However over 10% of people travel to work on foot or by bicycle, the highest in Warwickshire and well above the national and regional figures.

Social indicators

According to government figures the district is ranked 267th out of 326 local authority areas in England for deprivation, where 1st would be the most deprived. In creating this ranking relatively small areas are also considered and one such area in our district, Lillington East, was ranked in the 10% most deprived areas of England.

Some 53% of households were not deprived in any sense, the highest figure in the county, 10% higher than the national average and 13% higher than the West Midlands. Only 17% were deprived in more than one way compared to 24% nationally and 27% regionally.

The population of the district is relatively healthy with 84.5% of the population being in good or very good health, the highest in the county and better than the national and regional averages. This is also true of the narrower age band: those aged 16 to 64.

More than 90% of people did not provide unpaid care, again the highest figure in the county exceeding national and regional averages.

The 2015 Department of Health profile for Warwick stated that "The health of people in Warwick is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 10.3% (2,400) children live in poverty. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average." Across 30 different indicators Warwick was "significantly better than England average" on 18 indicators and not significantly different on the remaining 12. Local health priorities were identified as addressing alcohol misuse, smoking in pregnancy, and tackling obesity.

Overall the picture is of a relatively prosperous and healthy district with a growing population that is slightly younger and more ethnically diverse, driven in part by a large student population.