Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

State of Wiltshire

September 2009

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POPULATION

- The latest population estimates show that 59.3% of Wiltshire's population (total of 455,500) are of working age; lower than the national figure of 62%. In terms of the post retirement population, Wiltshire has a higher proportion than nationally (21.1% compared to 19.2%). See Table 1.

Table 1: Population, 2008

Area	Proportion (%) of population: aged 0-15	Proportion (%) of population: working age	Proportion (%) of population: retirement age +
Wiltshire	19.6	59.3	21.1
South West	17.7	59.8	22.5
United Kingdom	18.8	62	19.2

Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS: Crown Copyright 200

- Wiltshire's total population is set to increase by 42,300 persons between 2009 and 2026. With the sub retirement age population projected only to increase by less than 300 people, the total population increase of 9.2% will be almost entirely accounted for by our retired population. This poses the council with a significant 'ageing population' problem. See Table 2.

- Many older people will live active and healthy lives, contributing to their communities for many years, however, for the very old, there may be barriers which prevent them from accessing services, whether these are through poor finances, health or lack of transport. With increasing numbers of pensioners living alone and deteriorating health, there will be an enormous pressure on public sector resources to care for older people in the future.

- The size of the social care industry will need to expand significantly to be able to meet demand. Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggests that to keep pace with demographic pressures over the next 50 years, residential and nursing home places in the UK would need to expand by around 150 per cent and numbers of hours of home care by around 140 per cent.

Table 2: Population projections, Wiltshire

Total Population			% Increase
Age	**2009**	**2026**	**2009-2026**
0-15	88,000	87,660	-0.4
16-64M/59F	271,740	272,350	0.2
65+M/60+F	97,750	139,780	43.0

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- Two fifths of the Wiltshire's population will be of retirement age by 2025. One of the key implications of this trend lies in the issue of labour market shrinkage within an international context. Globalisation will continue to pose a threat in terms of low value added markets/labour intensive jobs, particularly from countries such as China and India. Population projections from the United Nations show that by 2025, China, India and Turkey are set to have a relatively larger working age population (as a proportion of total population) than the UK thereby providing those countries with a sizeable supply of labour . This is in direct contrast to the UK (including Wiltshire) where we know that the proportion of people of a working, taxable age will shrink - this could result in gaps in our jobs market, with businesses and public services lacking the workforce required (see Table 3).

- Due to the aforementioned labour market challenges, we expect older workers will come to make up a larger share of our labour force than in recent history. We will need to consider whether to: maintain the employability of older workers who wish to remain in work, or cannot afford to retire early without state support; maintain the relevance of older workers' skills; and ensure that mobility levels[1] are sufficient to adjust to future changes in the location and composition of jobs.

Table 3: Changes in WAP* (Working-Age [15-64] Population) 2010-2025-2040

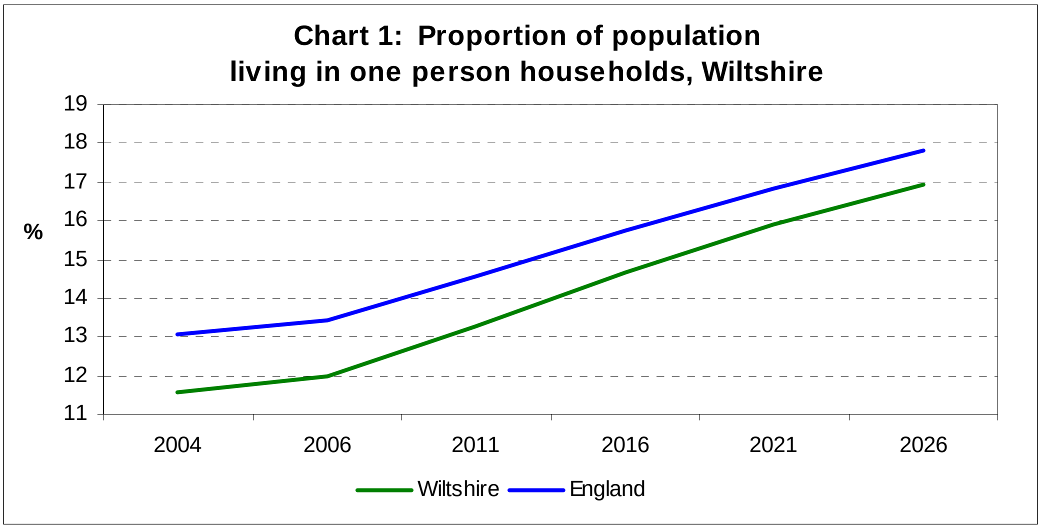
	2010		**2025**		**2040**	
	WAP	***% of Total Population***	***WAP***	***% of Total Population***	***WAP***	***% of Total Population***
China	973.3	71.9	996.5	68.6	916.1	63.0
India	780.6	64.3	972.5	67.9	1,088.4	69.6
Turkey	51.2	67.6	60.7	69.5	63.7	67.1
United Kingdom	40.9	66.0	42.1	63.3	42.8	60.9
USA	212.3	66.8	227.2	63.3	240.2	61.8
Wiltshire**	295.2	64.0	299.0	59.8	/	/

* WAP in millions

** Wiltshire in thousands

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, http://esa.un.org/unpp, 2009

- In Wiltshire about 17% of the total population will live in one person households by 2026. See Chart 1. Taking one person households as a percentage of all types of households, then in Wiltshire this will be 36.8% by 2026. The increase in one person households has a number of implications for the delivery of services e.g. one person households will, in general, produce more waste and use more energy than an equivalent member of a multi-person household.

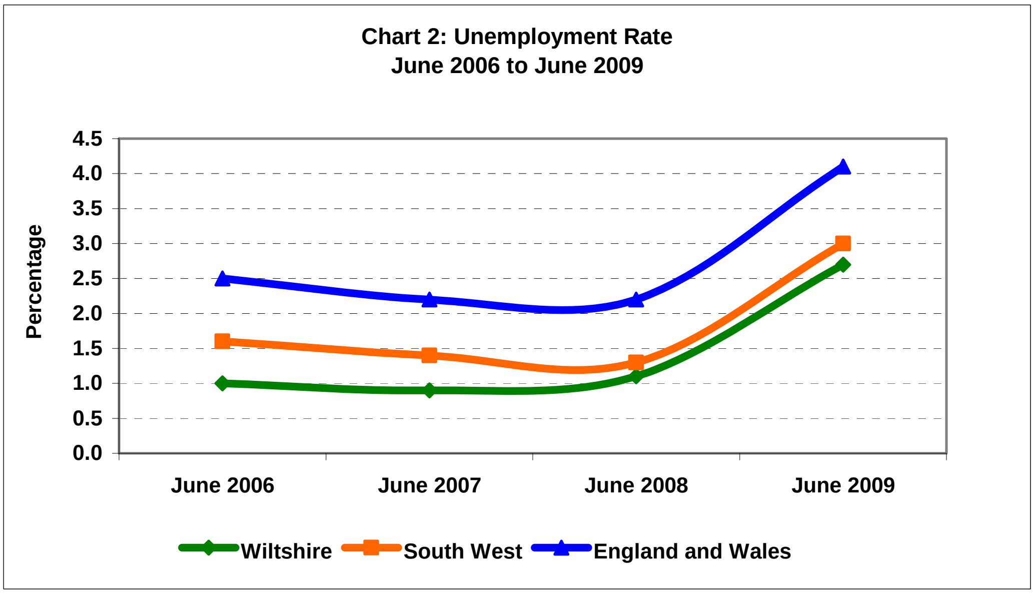


Source: Office for National Statistics

[1] Labour market mobility refers to a person moving within the labour market (i.e. from on employer to another) or changing roles without changing employers.

LABOUR

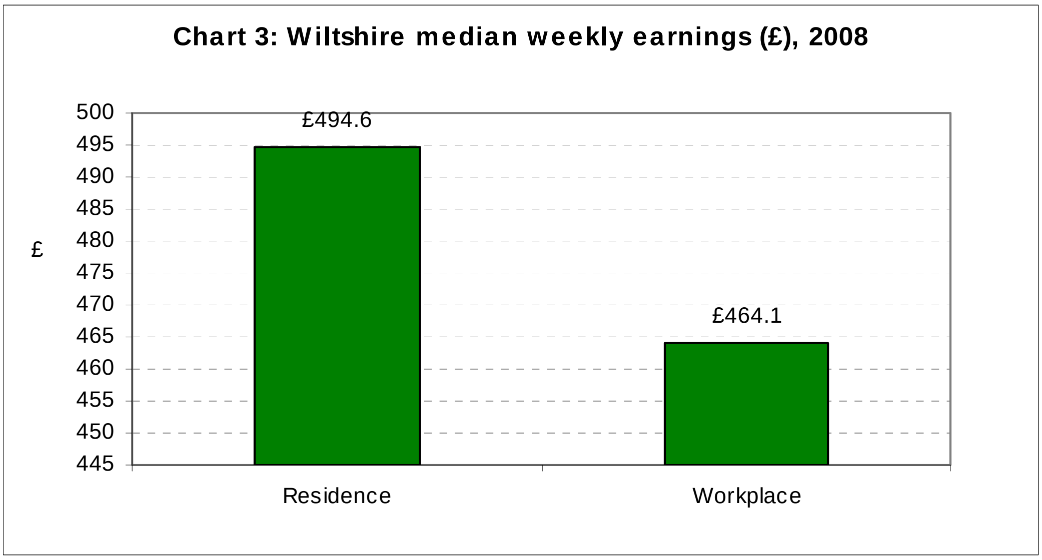
- In June 2009 the unemployment rate in Wiltshire was 2.7%, lower than the regional and national averages (3% and 4.1% respectively). See Chart 2. However, in line with national trends (i.e. the 'credit crunch'/economic downturn), rates have been increasing since the middle of 2008. At that time approximately 7,242 people in Wiltshire were claiming Job Seeker's Allowance, an increase of 4,352 on the previous year. Moreover, it has been reported (at national level) that the numbers claiming benefit do not match the levels of redundancy - three quarters of a million people (across the country) who have lost their jobs during the recession have not appeared in official statistics because they are not claiming employment-related benefits or Jobseekers' Allowance. Many are thought to be middle class professionals. Government believes that this gap may be partly due to people who have lost their jobs choosing to live off their redundancy pay or their savings.



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- There is a marked difference between Wiltshire workplace and residence based earnings (see Chart 3). Residence based data tells us what all workers who live in Wiltshire earn – they may work here or they may commute outside the area to work e.g. to Bath, Bristol, Swindon. Workplace based data tells us about the economy of Wiltshire - it gives an indication of the earnings of people who work here but may or may not live in the area. In Wiltshire, residence based earnings are higher than workplace based earnings - this is mainly down to those out-commuters who are able to earn higher salaries by working outside Wiltshire[2].

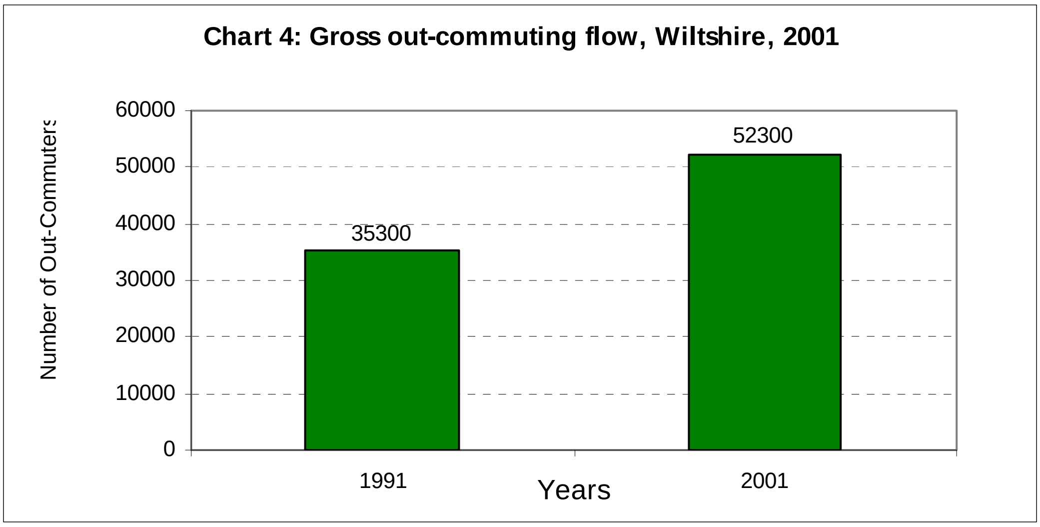
[2]. Out of 52,300 Wiltshire residents who work outside Wiltshire, nearly 60% work in higher level occupations (i.e. managers, senior officials, professionals, associate professionals, technical etc).



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- There is a long standing pattern of net in-commuting to major metropolitan areas and to many other of the larger urban areas. Part of this reason is that many of those working in such areas choose to live at some distance, perhaps because property prices or rentals are lower; or perhaps because they consider a small (er) town/rural living environment to be preferable. Additionally, many residents in more rural areas find work in more urbanised areas simply because of the gravitational pull of the number of jobs in these areas and/or the higher probability of a match between the skills they possess and those required in the job-markets in these areas. As a consequence, this means that virtually all 'shire' counties have a significant commuting outflow.

- The number of people travelling outside Wiltshire to work increased by 50% over 10 years. See Chart 4. The commuting data confirms what we already know: that surrounding urban economies (e.g. Swindon) provide significant jobs opportunities for those within a commuting distance; and that Wiltshire's location offers (to accessible urban employment centres outside the 'local' 'area) easy access to a large concentration of highly skilled/qualified people. Although the basic employment relationship is unlikely to change drastically, it may be possible to provide more 'local jobs' that are suitably attractive to the highly skilled out-commuters ('commuter clawback' – persuading workers who are currently commuting out of the Wiltshire to work in Wiltshire). It is also important not to lose focus of the fact that the numbers of individuals travelling in *and* out across the Wiltshire boundary has increased from around 53,000 in 1991 to around 83,000 in 2001. This does not auger well for the prospects of moving towards more sustainable travel-to-work patterns; congestion, air pollution and wear on our roads.

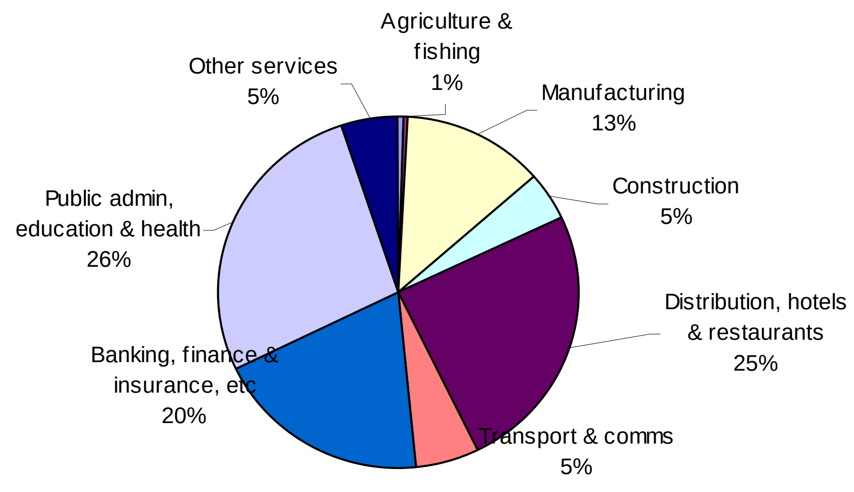


Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

ECONOMY

- Chart 5 shows Wiltshire's employment profile. The top sectors[3] in terms of employment size were 'Public Administration, Education & Health' 'Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants'; and 'Banking, Finance & Insurance'.

Chart 5: Employment profile, Wiltshire, 2007



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- In terms of economic output, manufacturing, business services, wholesale & retail and the public sector are currently driving Wiltshire's economy. Externally focused sectors such as manufacturing, business services and transport & communications are of crucial importance to the economic well being of Wiltshire because they draw in additional value from trade based outside the local economy.

- On the whole, Wiltshire has outperformed the national and regional averages on many key indicators (e.g. employment, economic activity, entrepreneurship, education & skills etc), but not one of the most important ones: economic growth as measured by Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA estimates, in pounds, the value of goods and services produced by the local economy in one year. The advantages of economic growth are well documented: it generates higher incomes; creates employment; brings low unemployment; and enables improved public services because with increased tax revenues the government can spend more on the NHS and education. [4]

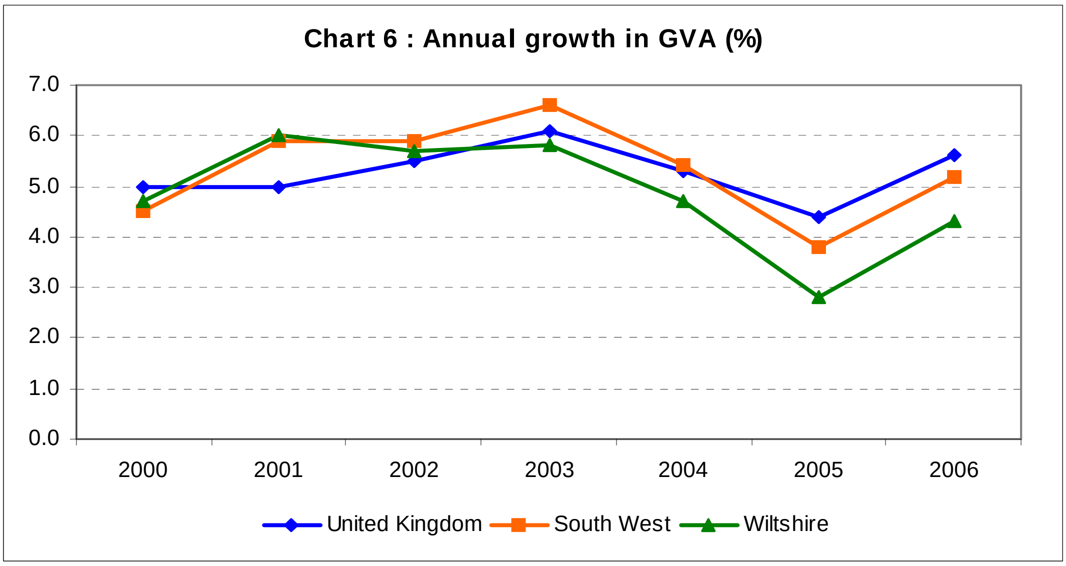
[3] Military employment is not included in these figures since it is not recorded by the Office for National Statistics.

[4] There are, however, disadvantages if an economy grows too quickly - this includes the danger of inflation, increased pollution and congestion and growing income and wealth inequality in society. The goal of sustainable economic growth development is therefore to enable all people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. The Regional Economic Strategy for South West England 2006 – 2015 has the aspiration to achieve economic growth within sustainable environmental limits.

- Since 2003 Wiltshire has had lower annual economic growth rates than both the South West region and UK. This may be partly explained by the fact that regional and national averages tend to be inflated by the economic performance of major cities. However, the gap between Wiltshire's economic growth and that of the broader regional and national economies has got worse over the last few years. This can be explained by four interrelated issues: Wiltshire's attraction as a place to live; its close proximity to a series of major and competitive economies which provide large numbers of quality well paid jobs in growth sectors; the ongoing, gradual employment decline of Manufacturing and Public Administration & Defence; and lower employment growth than competitor areas in higher value added sectors (e.g. business services). The last three of these priorities are key strategic issues which will need to be tackled if Wiltshire is to achieve balanced economic growth. See Chart 6

- Wiltshire is in a favourable position to attract businesses that move down the M4 (possibly in search of lower labour costs, a relatively high skilled labour market, a desirable environment in which to live and work etc). Wiltshire's strong presence in Research & Development (R&D) and scientific research makes it well placed to attract 'higher' quality investment (i.e. product development and R&D).

- For further information on the Wiltshire Economy please refer to the Wiltshire Strategic Economic Assessment 2006/2007 which can be downloaded from http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/library.aspx?library=823



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- By the end of 2008 the UK economy was officially in recession[5]. The major reduction in the availability of credit – 'the credit crunch' – hit the commercial and residential property markets in late 2007 and early 2008. Employment in the construction and financial services sectors fell. Reductions in demand spread as consumer and business confidence fell rapidly, hitting the manufacturing and retail sectors and other parts of the economy in the second half of 2008.

[5] Extract from 'Credit Crunch in Wiltshire' – George Bright March 2009

- The Wiltshire Economy is showing resilience in the face of the UK recession. Wiltshire has a lot of employment in small businesses and public services which may reduce its vulnerability (at least in the short term) to major job losses but there has been a considerable increase in unemployment, nonetheless.

- A major survey of Wiltshire people provided some valuable insights into how they felt and were dealing with the impact of the recession: there was a high level of concern about the economic situation; pessimism about the ability of Wiltshire to cope; and worries for rural communities and the agriculture industry. 77% of respondents had reined in their spending in some way but around a quarter indicated real concerns about debt, the potential loss of employment and other problems. The main conclusion which emerged from this analysis was that people in Wiltshire were not simply responding to realities but also to fears and perceptions. This emphasises the importance of perceptions in driving the recession; perceptions as to its likely length and fears as to its personal impact on individuals. Fear of job and house loss is driving cut backs in spending and at a macro level making such losses more likely.

- The four Wiltshire Citizen's Advice Bureaux saw an increase of 11% in the social issues being raised with them by clients. The major areas of difficulty were to do with debts and benefits. However, the largest increase in problems was to do with the need for employment advice. Housing associations saw greater demands for debt advice. The Councils (former district councils) had increased demands for Housing Benefit Advice.

- A copy of the full report can be obtained from the following Wiltshire Council web link: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/thewiltshireassembly.htm

EDUCATION & SKILLS

- Globalisation has been slowly changing the UK's economic landscape. The emergence of developing, low-wage economies on the world stage – which has been led by China and India - together with increased international trade and technological progress, have driven ongoing transformation of jobs and skills. Like most developed countries, the UK cannot compete on natural resources and low labour costs, so success now depends on an economy that: is less labour intensive; where production is high value added; and is generally more service-led. Many UK firms are successfully responding to the challenge of low-wage competition by investing in innovation and skills in order to move up the value chain into more specialised, high-quality goods and services.

- These national/international trends place greater emphasis on the need to ensure that Wiltshire provides the conditions for investment in higher value added growth sectors. Entering high value added markets and sustaining a presence will require a highly skilled workforce.

- On the labour supply side Wiltshire is in a relatively favourable position since it has a significantly higher proportion of its resident working age population with qualifications at NVQ levels 4+, 3, 2 and 1 when compared with the national figures. Maintaining (and improving) this advantage is crucial if Wiltshire is to be competitive and able to create balanced economic growth. See Chart 7.

- However, this supply side will need an economic focus across all occupational groups[6] - although Wiltshire compares favourably with all the national averages, it is still worth noting that nearly a quarter of the working age population has little or no qualifications (i.e. NVQ 1 or no qualifications). See Chart 7.

- In 1999 the Moser Report concluded that one in five adults in the UK had poorer literacy than was expected of an 11 year old child and that around 40% of adults experienced significant numeracy problems. The Lord Leitch report[7] on long terms skill needs stated that "without increased skills, we would condemn ourselves to a lingering decline in competitiveness, diminishing economic growth and a bleaker future for all". The report makes clear that even though the UK skills base has improved over the last decade, certain aspects remain weaker than those in other developed economies, for example: out of 30 OECD countries, the UK lies 17th on low skills, 20th on intermediate skills and 11th on high skills; 5 million adults in the UK lack functional literacy; 17 million adults in the UK have difficulty with numbers; and more than one in six young people leave school unable to read, write or add up properly. Low skills levels can be a major deterrent to productivity and growth and if not addressed will result in increasing inequality and the marginalisation of some groups within the labour market.

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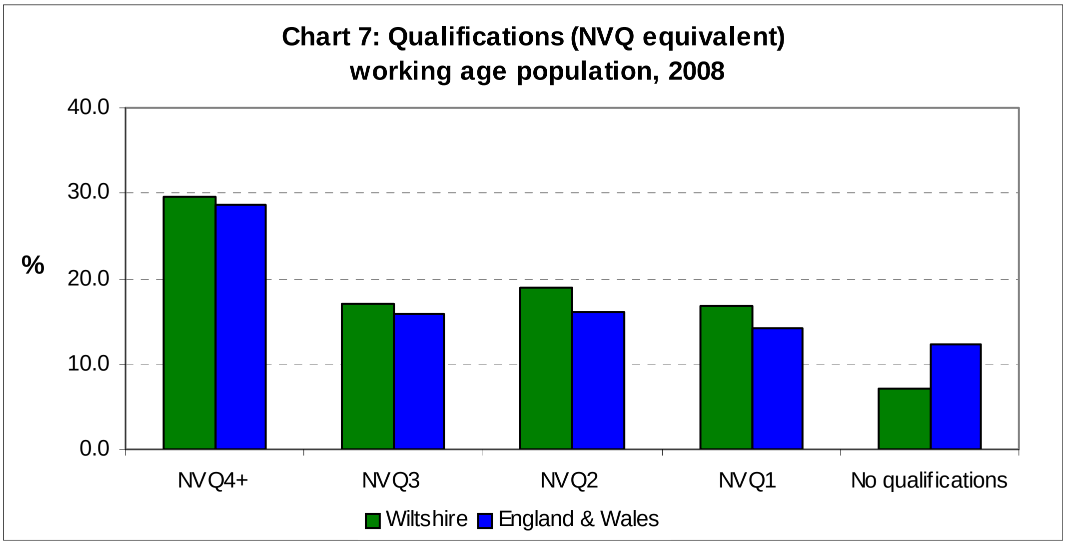
[6] Although the economy of the future will have more of an emphasis on occupations requiring higher level skills, there will be a need for workers across all occupational groups, because of either replacement demand (i.e. replacing workers who leave their jobs) or expansion demand (i.e. new jobs created).

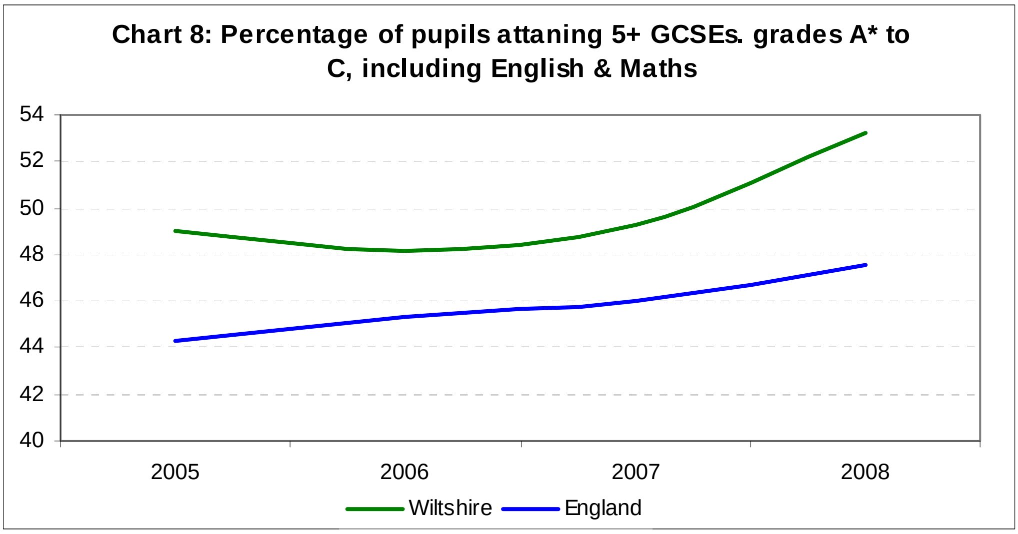
[7] 'Prosperity for all in the Global Economy: World Class Skills', Leitch Review of Skills, December 2006



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- There will also need to be improvement on the demand side – in order to boost competiveness and raise productivity, Wiltshire's employers will need to raise their game and increase their demand for skills at all levels: from senior management downwards.

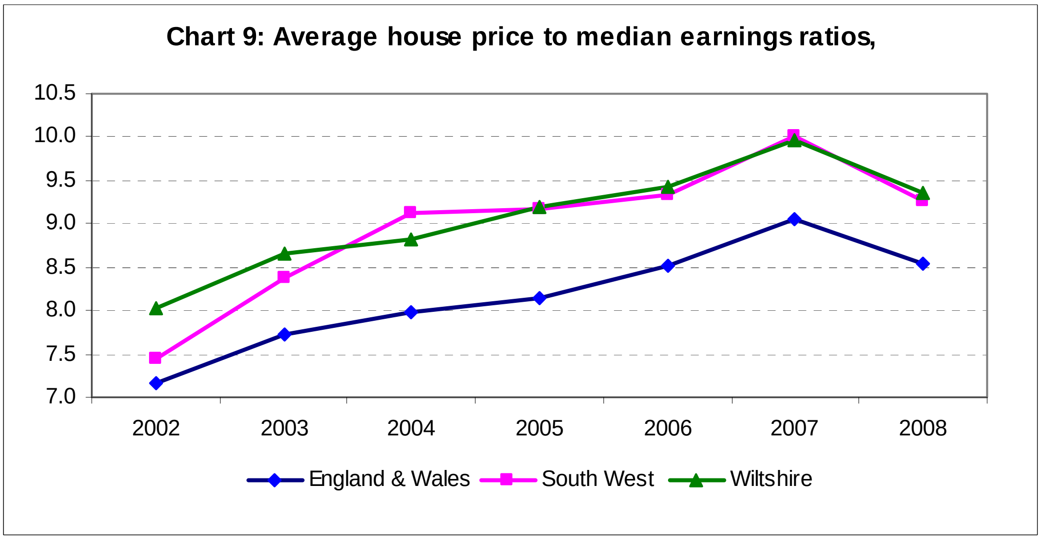
- In terms of Wiltshire's GCSE achievements (a crucial indicator of future attainment) levels have continued to rise. See Chart 8. The 2008 results show that the proportion of pupils attaining 5 or more GCSEs grades A* to C, including English & Maths was 53.2%, several percentage points higher than the national figure of 47.6%.



Source: DCSF, 2009

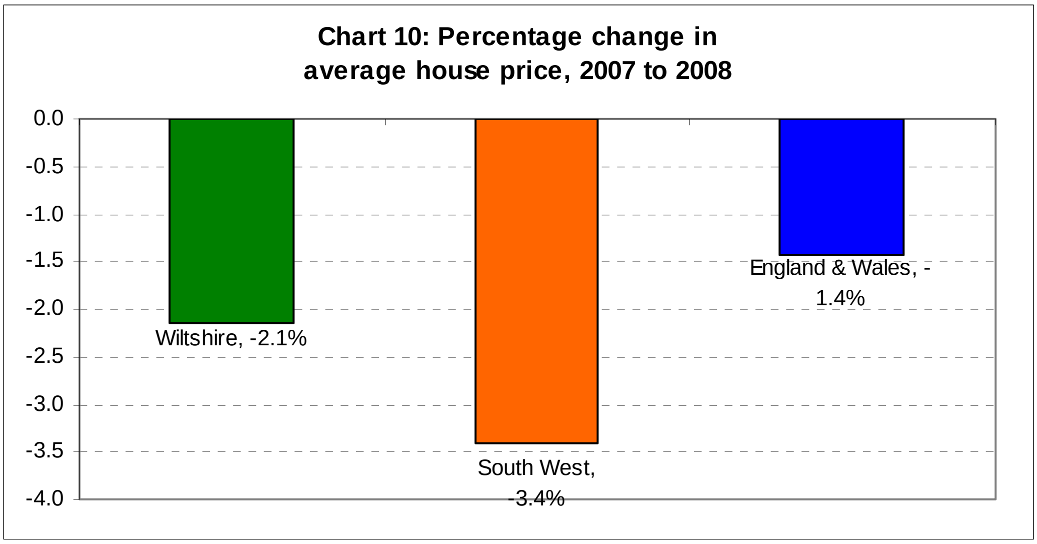
HOUSE PRICES

- The average house price in Wiltshire in 2008 was £238,217, which was almost 10% higher than the England & Wales figure of £216,703. Housing affordability has been an issue of concern for many Wiltshire residents who are contemplating entering the housing market for the first time. The ratio of house prices to earnings in Wiltshire has crept up over the years and has always been higher than the national average. Younger people and those on lower incomes have been priced out of the villages and towns where they grew up. The attractiveness of Wiltshire as a place to live raises real threats to its sustainability as a self-sufficient economy with mixed and inclusive communities. See Chart 9.



Source: Land Registry, 2009

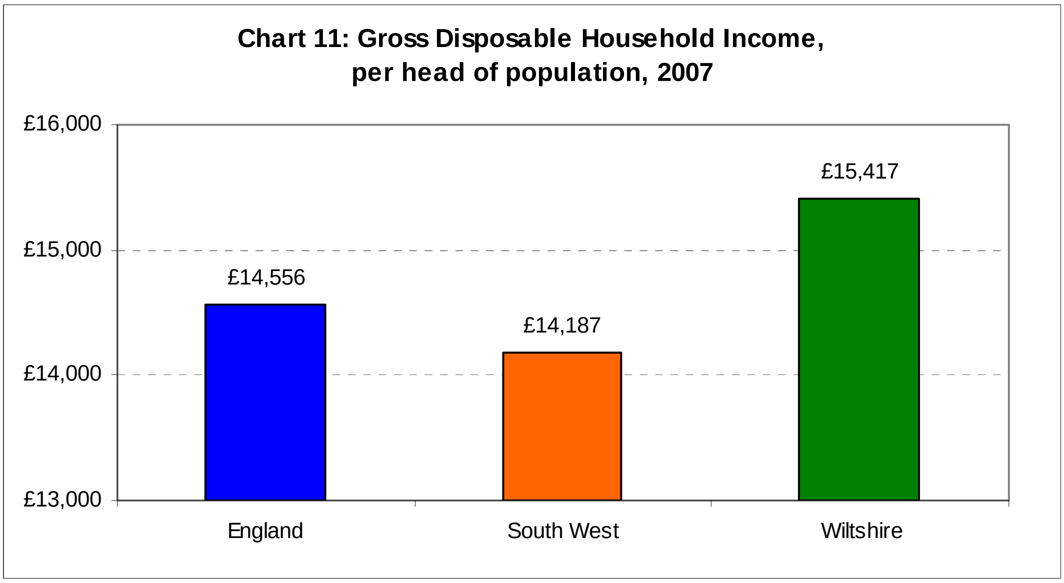
- However, the economic downturn has clearly had an impact on the local housing markets with the average house price in Wiltshire declining by 2.1% in the 2007 to 2008 period. See Chart 10. Moreover, the difference in average house price between Wiltshire and England & Wales - which had been widening steadily since the mid 1990s - has begun to narrow; from a 16% difference in 2006 to a 10% difference in 2008.



Source: Land Registry, 2009

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- The latest (2007) household income data per head of population - Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI[8]) - shows that the average income per head of population in Wiltshire was 8.7% higher than the region as a whole and 5.9% higher than the national figure. See Chart 11. In fact, Wiltshire is ranked at the top of all the South West County/Unitary authorities. However, this does not imply that Wiltshire does not have any deprivation issues.



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

- The Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) from the Department for Communities and Local Government is used to assess levels of deprivation and target social exclusion. It uses a group of statistical indicators to rank 32,482 small area geographies in England (called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in terms of aspects of their deprivation. The most prevalent form of deprivation in Wiltshire relates to barriers to housing and services with about 13% of Wiltshire's 281 LSOAs being within the most deprived 10% in England.

- There is, however, 'hidden' deprivation in Wiltshire which existing measures are sometimes unable to recognise because the individuals/families concerned are either dispersed in rural areas or concentrated in very small areas. It is therefore acknowledged that *it is people who are deprived* and that incidences of deprivation are not confined to deprived areas.

- Worklessness lies at the root of deprivation. Worklessness which is based on both unemployment – i.e. those who are actively seeking work – and other forms of worklessness, including people who are not working through sickness or lone parenthood. Table 4 shows both the number of claimants and proportions of the working age population for those benefits which the Department for Work

[8] GDHI represents the amount of money that households have available for consumption or savings after taking into account current taxes on income and wealth, pension contributions, mortgage interest payments and other outgoings such as non-life insurance premiums.

& Pensions (DWP) designate as 'key out of work benefits'. In February 2009 Wiltshire had a lower proportion of its working age population on ‘out-of-work benefits’[9] than both the South West and England & Wales. Nevertheless, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that in terms of absolute numbers, Wiltshire has 22,410 working age people on ‘out of work benefits’. To address worklessness, there will be a need to improve employability, tackle barriers to work and address any job brokerage issues.

Table 4: Percentage of working age people on ‘out of work benefits’, Feb 2009

	Number of working age people on ‘out-of -work benefits’	**Proportion of resident working age population on ‘out-of -work benefits’**
Wiltshire	22,410	8.3
South West	344,630	11.1
England and Wales	4,442,520	13.2

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2009

[9] ‘Out-of-Work benefits’ are defined as people receiving: Jobseeker’s Allowance; Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support; lone parents on Income Support; and others on income related benefit.

[10]RURAL FACILITIES SURVEY, 2008

- The Rural Facilities Survey 2008 shows that since 1976, there has been a significant decline in the number if villages that have all four basic facilities (i.e. general food shop, journey to work public transport, post office and primary school). The number of settlements with primary schools has decreased by around 30%, whereas around two thirds of villages have lost their general food shop. Less than half of settlements in 2008 retain the Post Office they had in 1976. The loss of post offices has been more pronounced in independent branches rather than those linked with other businesses, with only one third of non-linked post offices surviving. Public transport, however, has improved vastly since 1976. Around 15% more settlements qualified for Level 1 and Level 2[11] Journey-to-work services in 2008 than in 1976.

- Against this evidence of decline in local services, mobile sales and services (e.g. food sales, video hire, laundry services, pet food, newspaper and fuel sales) have increased nearly six-fold in the same period, and the number of personal and commercial services within Wiltshire villages has increased from an average of 0.2 per settlement in 1976 to 2.4 per settlement in 2008.

- In relation to broadband internet, the data collected suggest that all of rural Wiltshire can get some level of access but that the performance gap that exists nationally between rural and urban areas is also present here. In 2008, the government announced a target of universal broadband provision at ‘potential’ speeds of at least 2Mbps by 2012. Around 14% of settlements in rural Wiltshire currently do not have access to broadband of at least this speed. In addition, around 81% of settlements in the area only have access to a single core internet service provider, which suggest that market forces and competition alone will not be an effective means of broadband provision in rural Wiltshire.

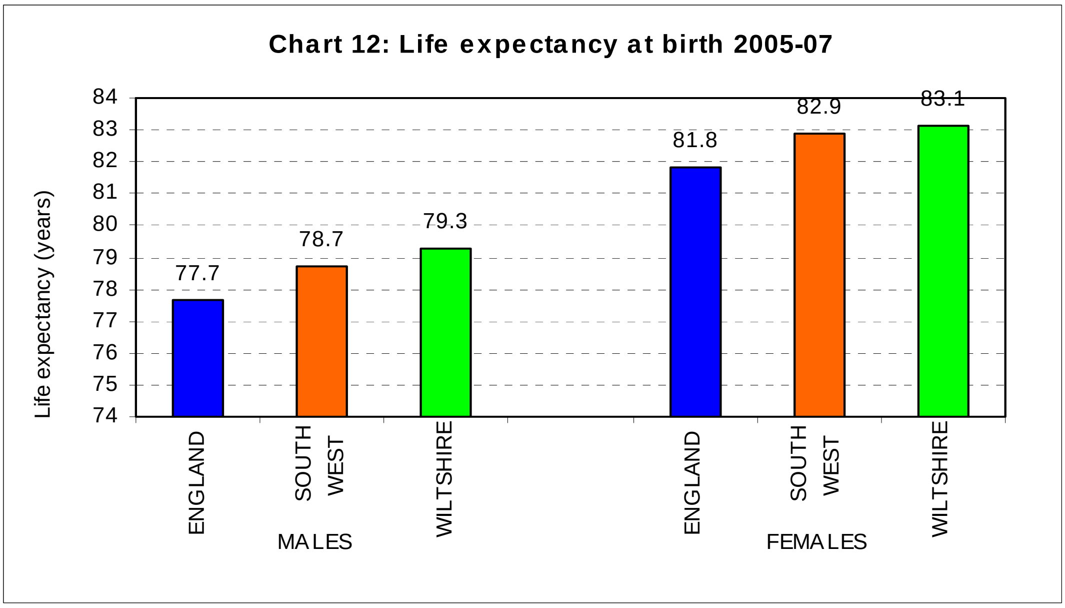
- As with broadband internet, most of rural Wiltshire has a good chance of getting a mobile phone signal that is sufficient and reliable enough for using basic services such as text messages and voice calls. Some specific areas, particularly in the south west of Wiltshire, struggle to achieve even this level of service. The availability of ‘next generation’ services (next generation access (NGA) is technology that allows much faster broadband than currently available), which require far stronger levels of signal, is far less widespread, restricted mostly to the hinterland of large towns. Improving access to high level of mobile phone signal in rural Wiltshire does not admit easy solutions; not only do rural signal masts involve significant investment in order to ‘capture’ relatively few potential customers, but planning regulations in relation to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (i.e. around half of rural Wiltshire) place extra restrictions on such developments.

[10] Extract from the ‘Rural Facilities Survey 2008’, Policy, Research & Communications, Wiltshire Council, published in June 2009
[11] Level 1 is denoted as a ‘good’ service and Level 2 as a ‘moderate’ service

HEALTH

- Usually, inequalities in health outcomes represent unfair disadvantage within populations. Health inequalities are often measured by comparing life expectancy; all age all cause mortality; rates of premature death (in people under 75 years of age); and infant mortality between and within populations. In addition, some groups within our population are subject to poorer health outcomes and deserve particular attention to overcome this disadvantage. Factors that determine health and wellbeing include a range of issues ranging from lifestyle and individual constitutional factors (such as genetic make up) to wider influences such as poverty, education and living and working environments. These wider determinants of health influence the ability of individuals and communities to be able to maintain or improve health and well-being.

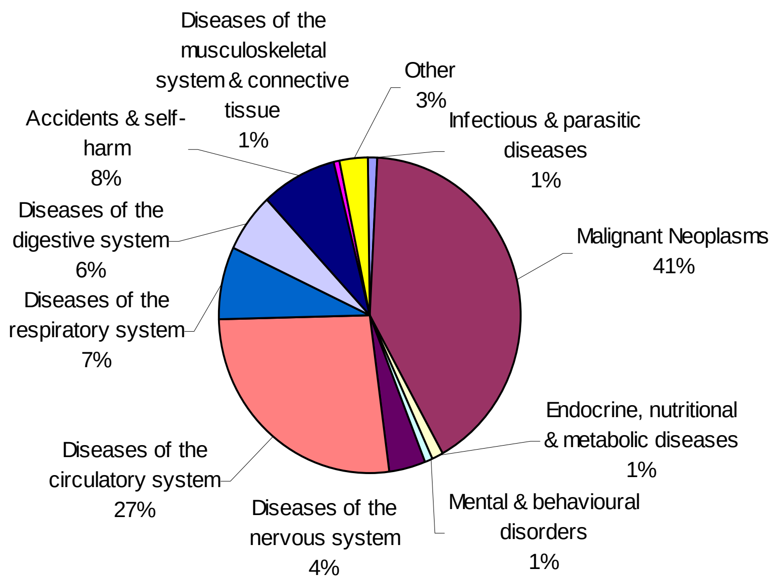
- Life expectancy at birth is often used as a measure of the health of a population. It is calculated as the average number of years a newborn baby might be expected to live based on current trends. Life expectancy in England has increased over the last century and this general trend is continuing as health services and the wider determinants of health generally improve. The same trend is also evident in Wiltshire and the South West. Life expectancy for people in Wiltshire is higher than in England or the South West. Life expectancy in Wiltshire is 79.3 years for men and 83.1 years for women.



Source: NHS Wiltshire, 2009

- All Age All Cause Mortality rates may also be used as a proxy measure for life expectancy, when all age all cause mortality rates improve, life expectancy can be expected to improve. Of particular interest is causes of death amongst the under 75s, because deaths in this age group are defined as premature. In 2007, there were 1,188 deaths under the age of 75, representing 29% of all deaths in Wiltshire. The two major causes of premature death nationally, and in Wiltshire, are circulatory disease (including coronary heart disease and stroke) and cancers (malignant neoplasms).

Chart 13: Causes of death in people aged under 75, Wiltshire, 2007



Source: NHS Wiltshire, 2009

CRIME

- Community Safety and in particular crime reduction is a national priority and has been since the crime and disorder act in 1988. Over the past few years Wiltshire has been recorded as being one of the safest counties to live in.

- Police records show that there was a decline in the number of crimes (seven key offences) in Wiltshire between 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. The following data compares the percentage change in volume offences between these two periods:

  - 'Violence against the person' offences in Wiltshire fell by 1.2%. In England & Wales they declined by 6%.

  - 'Sexual offences' in Wiltshire fell by 2.3%. In England & Wales they declined by 4%.

  - 'Robberies' in Wiltshire fell by 17.8%. In England & Wales they declined by 5%.

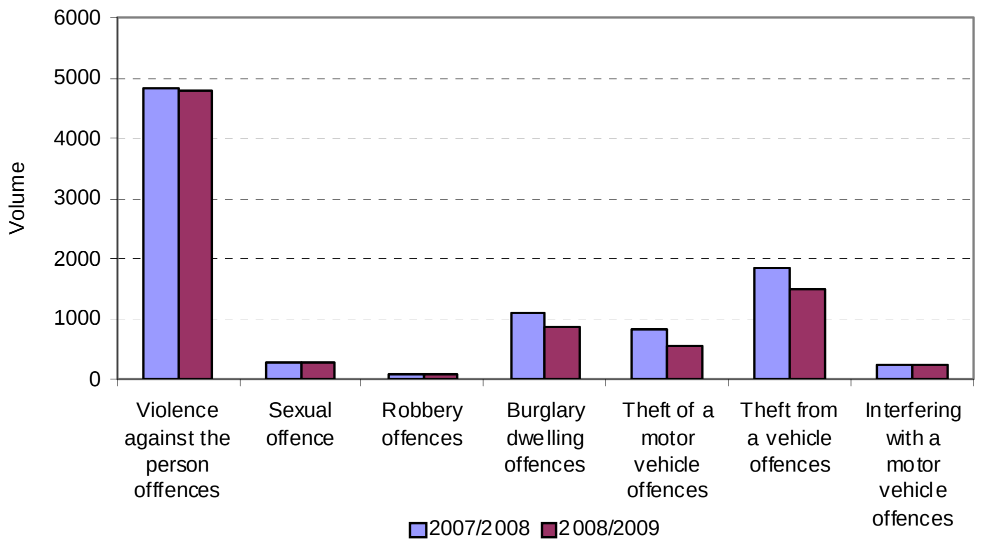
  - 'Dwelling burglaries' in Wiltshire fell by 20%. There was virtually no change for England & Wales.

  - 'Theft of a motor vehicle' offences in Wiltshire fell by 34%. In England & Wales they declined by 13%.

  - 'Theft from a motor vehicle' offences in Wiltshire fell by 19%. In England & Wales they declined by 8%.

  - 'Interfering with a motor vehicle' offences fell by 2%. In England & Wales they declined by 12%.

Chart 14: Recorded crime for seven key offences, 07/08 and 08/09, Wiltshire



Source: Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Home Office July 2009.

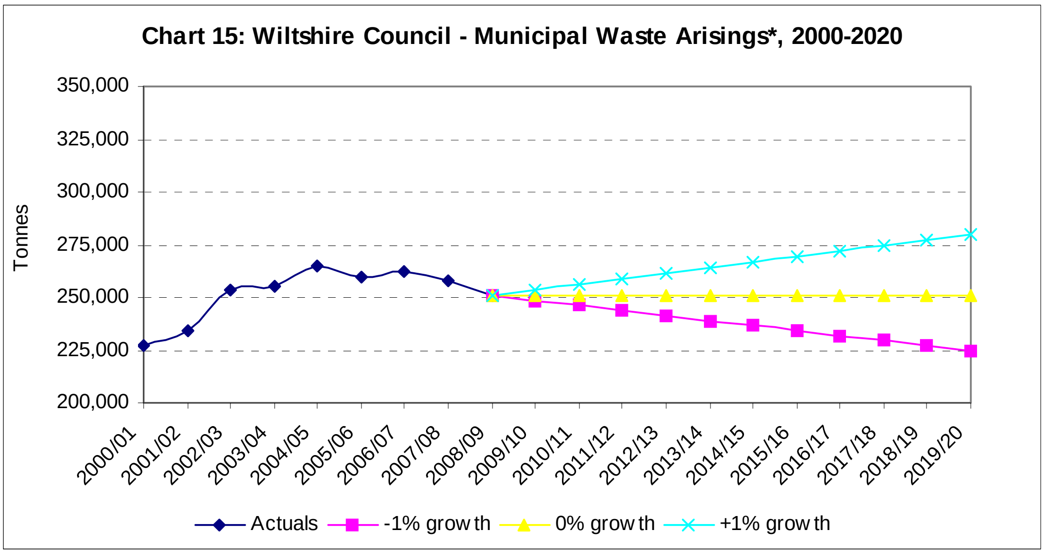
WASTE

- This graph shows Wiltshire Council predictions for waste growth to 2020. Overall waste arisings have stopped increasing by any great margin. This can be attributed in part to the economic downturn (fewer consumables being purchased, people cutting back - only buying what they need), ongoing waste minimisation activities and an overall reduction in packaging use.

- Despite the lower predicted increases in arisings, the challenge remains to reduce the amount we send to landfill. Landfill Tax currently stands at £40 per tonne and is due to increase by £8 per year until it reaches at least £72 per tonne in around 2013/14. However, it is anticipated that it will continue to rise after then.

- In addition, the Landfill Tax Allowance Scheme (LATS) provides the council with a reducing tonnage allowance for bio-degradable waste that it is permitted to landfill. For every tonne sent to landfill over and above this allowance, the council can be fined £150 per tonne.

- The cost of dealing with our waste is clearly set to rise, with recycling and waste treatment (Energy from Waste, Mechanical Biological Treatment, Anaerobic Digestion) becoming increasingly favourable from both a cost and environmental point of view.



Source: Waste Services, Wiltshire Council,

N.b. Municipal waste arisings include all waste handled by Wiltshire Council. This will include both domestic and trade refuse, kerbside recycling collections and waste collected via Household Recycling Centres and local bring sites (recycling banks).

CLIMATE CHANGE

- In 2008 the Climate Change Act received royal assent and enshrined the Government's commitment to reducing the UK's carbon emissions by at least 80% from the 1990 baseline.

- A People's Voice Survey in November 2007 showed that panellists want Wiltshire Council to take the lead in addressing climate change and support them individually to tackle climate change. These responses should be seen in the context of increasing awareness of climate change over the past two years.

    - 73% of respondents felt concerned about climate change
    - 69% agreed that the actions of individuals can reduce the impact of climate change
    - 77% agree that local employers (including the council) should do more to reduce climate change
    - 68% agreed that the council should monitor the effects of climate change locally
    - 79% agreed that it is important for the Council to take a lead on climate change

- On 5 May 2009, the Council signed the Nottingham Declaration, which is a commitment by local authorities to respond to the climate change challenges contained in various international and national legislative initiatives.

- The Council has made tackling the causes and effects of Climate Change a corporate priority and is taking action in the following areas:

    1. reducing the Council's own carbon footprint through the carbon management programme
    2. reducing carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions across the local authority area
    3. preparing for the impacts of unavoidable climate change
    4. preparing the council for carbon trading.

    Objectives 2 and 3 will be tackled with partners, and in particular through the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance.

- Per Capita Carbon Emissions - The latest data, from 2007, shows that on average, each resident in Wiltshire generates 7.92 tonnes CO_2 which is the main greenhouse gas. This includes CO_2 emissions from industrial, domestic and transport related sources and is below the UK average of 8.5 tons of CO_2. In order to cut per capita CO_2 emissions, the Council is working with the Energy Saving Trust as part of a 1-1 Programme in order to assist the community in reducing their carbon footprint. The council is also working with the Carbon Trust to produce a Carbon Management plan for its own operations. .

- Renewable Energy - Within the South West Region, approximately 211 megawatts (MW) are generated from renewable energy sources. Off this total, only 13.8 MW of electricity (8.9%) and 1.8 MW of renewable heat (3.2%) is generated in Wiltshire. The tables below show that most renewable electricity in Wiltshire comes from landfill gas and most renewable heat comes from biomass.

Table 5: Renewable Electricity Capacity (MW)

County	Number of projects	Wind	Hydro	Landfill gas	Sewage gas	Advanced treatment of waste	Solar PV	Installed renewable electricity capacity (MW)	% of regional total by county area
Former Avon	22	6.04	0.01	4.91	5.75	0.33	0.04	17.08	11.03
Cornwall and IOS	123	43.60	1.59	11.94	0.40	0	0.28	57.80	37.33
Devon	152	3.26	6.71	18.59	1.13	2.7	0.42	32.80	21.19
Dorset	64	0.09	0.01	10.32	1.66	0.34	0.15	12.57	8.12
Gloucestershire	40	0.52	0.04	8.25	1.21	0	0.23	10.24	6.61
Somerset	43	1.85	0.44	7.79	0.34	0	0.09	10.51	6.79
Wiltshire	26	0.02	0.08	12.97	0.62	0	0.15	13.83	8.93
Totals	**470**	**55.39**	**8.87**	**74.76**	**11.09**	**3.37**	**1.35**	**154.84**	**100**
% of total capacity		**35.77**	**5.73**	**48.28**	**7.16**	**2.18**	**0.87**	**100**	

Source: Regensw (2009) survey of renewqble electricity and heat projects in the South West

Table 6: Renewable Heat Capacity (MW)

County	Number of projects	Advanced treatment of waste	Biomass thermal	Heat pumps	Sewage gas CHP	Solar thermal	Installed renewable heat capacity (MW)	% of regional total by county area
Former Avon	78	0	4.40	0.23	7	0.15	11.78	21.11
Cornwall and IOS	462	0	6.86	4.34	0.79	2.28	14.29	25.61
Devon	461	0	8.57	1.21	2.04	1.97	13.79	24.71
Dorset	122	0.02	2.39	0.28	1.1	0.27	4.06	7.28
Gloucestershire	159	0	3.55	2.35	0	0.31	6.22	11.14
Somerset	147	0	3.08	0.36	0.2	0.26	3.90	6.98
Wiltshire	75	0	1.08	0.33	0.2	0.16	1.76	3.16
Totals	**1504**	**0.02**	**29.94**	**9.10**	**11.33**	**5.39**	**55.79**	**100**
% of total capacity		**0.04**	**53.67**	**16.32**	**20.31**	**9.66**	**100**	

Source: Regensw (2009) survey of renewqble electricity and heat projects in the South West

- With no large energy projects in the pipeline within the county it seems very unlikely that Wiltshire will achieve its targets of generating 65-85 MW renewable electricity and 100MW renewable heat by 2010. However, the work being undertaken by the Council to reduce Wiltshire's Carbon footprint will assist in the future delivery of renewable energy projects. Source: Revision 2010 http://www.oursouthwest.com/revision2010/1-contents-exec-summary.pdf

BIODIVERSITY

- The importance of Wiltshire's wildlife is reflected in the number of international, national and local nature conservation designations covering in excess of 48,000 hectares of Wiltshire's land area. Wiltshire contains significant proportions of key habitats and species both nationally and globally:

  - Internationally important chalk grassland habitat with around 55% (17,000 hectares) of the remaining chalk grassland in the UK. Salisbury Plain alone is the largest chalk grassland site in the world with around 41% (12,000 hectares) of the total European habitat coverage;
  - Nationally important concentration of flower rich meadows with around 10% of the remaining "unimproved" grassland in the UK;
  - Ancient woodlands over 400 years old, amounting to around 25,000 hectares;
  - The county contains 850 km of main river including the headwaters of the Bristol Avon, Thames, Dorset Stour and the internationally important Salisbury Avon, much of which supports species of European importance;
  - One of the most important areas in the UK for both farmland birds and rare arable "weeds" associated with Wiltshire's extensive areas of arable farmland;
  - Almost 10% of the UK's populations of endangered, European protected Greater and Lesser Horseshoe bat species.

- Biodiversity is important not only for its own sake but because of its positive impact in other sectors. There is good evidence that an attractive, wildlife rich, environment encourages more healthy lifestyles[12], reduces mental ill health[13], and even reduces crime. Wiltshire's attractive environment is also an important factor in attracting wealth to the county.

- In order to ensure that people benefit from wildlife, it is important that biodiversity is enhanced across the county and not just within designated 'oases' of biodiversity importance and that communities have access to the 'natural' environment.

- Wiltshire's biodiversity continues to be under threat from habitat fragmentation and loss, agricultural intensification, pollution, water abstraction, neglect, development and now climate change. It is worth noting that:

  - 90% of the UK's chalk grassland and 98% of flower rich unimproved meadows present before WW2 have been lost;
  - 55% of Wiltshire's ancient woodland has been converted to plantation;
  - Wiltshire's biodiversity is poorly studied with many and widespread gaps in the biological record.

- Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Wiltshire Council has a statutory responsibility to give due regard to biodiversity in every decision that it makes.

[12] Natural Fit; Can Green Space and Biodiversity Increase Levels of Physical Activity? Dr William Bird RSPB 2004

[13] Natural thinking; Investigating the links between the Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Mental Health Dr William Bird, RSPB, 2007

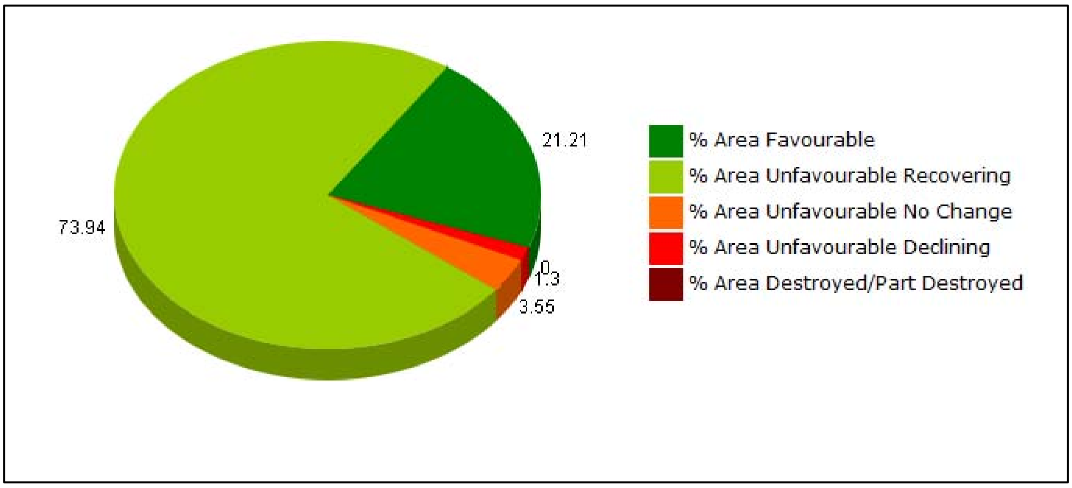
- Wiltshire Council is working with other environmentally focused organisations and agencies including Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to conserve and enhance Wiltshire's biodiversity through the development and implementation of partnership projects and initiatives that include:

  - Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP);
  - Landscape scale habitat creation / enhancement projects that reflect the priorities of the South West Nature Map;
  - Wiltshire Wildlife Sites Project (the designation, survey and monitoring of County Wildlife Sites – 1518 sites in Wiltshire Council's area);
  - Environmental Stewardship (the main grant scheme to assist landowners to manage their land with wildlife in mind, administered by Natural England and with 172,000 hectares (47% of Wiltshire's land area) [14] being managed. Landowners received some £12 million under this scheme[15] in Wiltshire in the year to August 2009).
  - Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Record Centre;
  - Preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire.

- As part of National Indicator (NI197), Wiltshire Council is required to ensure through partnership working that the number of County Wildlife Sites in positive management increases by 5% each year for the next two years. The Council exceeded its first year target of a 3% increase.

- 95.15% of Wiltshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (28,000 hectares in total), where land management is regulated by Natural England, are in favourable or recovering condition as of August 2009, exceeding the Government target of 95%, 18 months ahead of the deadline.

Chart 16: Condition of Wiltshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest



Source: Natural England, October 2009

- Continued partnership driven action, that is appropriately funded is crucial to conserve and enhance Wiltshire's biodiversity.

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[14] Data for agri-environment schemes relates to the old County of Wiltshire, including Swindon Borough Council administrative area.

[15] Also includes payments for all agri-environment schemes.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- The Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Place Survey' was sent out to Wiltshire residents in autumn 2008.

- Key headline results included the following:

  - 87.4% of respondents in Wiltshire felt satisfied with their local area as a place to live. The figure for England as a whole was 80%;

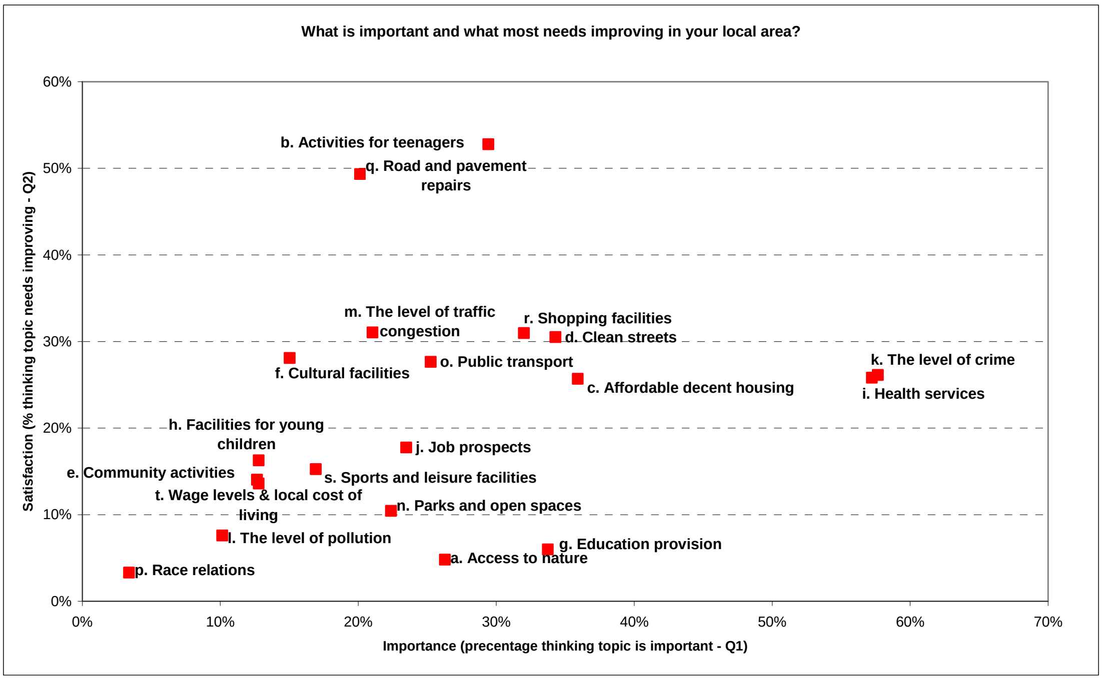
  - 67.9% of respondents in Wiltshire felt that they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood. The figure for England as a whole was 59%;

  - 32.7% of respondents in Wiltshire agreed that they could influence decisions affecting their local area. The figure for England was 29%; and

  - 29.9% of respondents in Wiltshire said that they would like to be more involved in the decisions that affect their local area. The figure for England was 26.6%.

- Questions 1 asked respondents to choose from a list five things that they felt were most important in making somewhere a good place to live. Question 2 asked which five things, from the same list, most needed improving in the local area. Chart 16 combines the results of both these questions - the points plotted further towards the top and the right hand side of the chart mean that they are important to local people and have been given a high priority.

Chart 17: What is important and what most needs improving in your local area?



Source: Place Survey, Wiltshire, 2008