

Blackpool Council: local authority assessment

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About Blackpool Council

Demographics

Blackpool is a popular seaside tourist destination in the North-West of England. It is a unitary authority which borders one large county council. The local authority area covers approximately 35 square kilometers (described locally as 7 x 3 miles) with a total population of 142,708. It was the world's first mass market seaside resort, with a heritage stretching back over 150 years. In addition to its beaches, Blackpool's major attractions and landmarks include Blackpool Tower, Blackpool Illuminations, the Winter Gardens, and the UK's only surviving first-generation tramway.

Blackpool is the most deprived local authority in England ranked 1 out of 153 local authorities, (with 1 being the most deprived and 153 being the least deprived). The Index of Multiple Deprivation score is 10 (10 being the most deprived). 58% of local people live in areas which are in the most deprived areas in the country. 5 areas (Bloomfield, Talbot, Tyldesley, Claremont and Park) have NHS 'priority wards' status due to the level of deprivation and health inequalities.

Blackpool has a predominantly white population 94.69% which was significantly above the England average of 81.05%. People who did not identify as 'white' were in the minority with 1.57% of people identifying as 'Mixed or multiple,' 2.61% as Asian or Asian British, 0.63% as 'other' and 0.50% identify as Black, Black British, Caribbean or African. All age brackets for the population are within England averages (Ages 0 to 17: 20.09%, Ages 18 to 64: 59.27%, Ages 65 and over 20.64%, compared to national averages of 20.80%, 60.51% and 18.69%, Office of National Statistics ONS, 2023).

Health Index Scores suggest worse health and poorer outcomes for local people compared to England. People living in Blackpool have a shorter life expectancy than England averages, at 74.1 years for males and 79 years for females and a shorter healthy life expectancy at 53.5 years for males and 54.3 for females (10 years less than the national average).

Drug related deaths in Blackpool are the highest within England. Alcohol use as a reason for hospital admission was the second highest in England.

Blackpool is part of Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System. The local authority Director of Adult Social Care (DASS) has a dual role as director of place (Blackpool) within the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The political make-up of the council is 28 councillors representing the Labour party, 12 councillors representing the Conservative party and 2 councillors representing the Reform UK party.

Financial facts

- The local authority estimated that in 2023/24, its total budget would be **£262,764,000.00**. Its actual spend for that year was **£288,053,000.00**, which was **£25,289,000.00** more than estimated.
- The local authority estimated that it would spend **£67,235,000.00** of its total budget on adult social care in 2023/24. Its actual spend for that year was **£71,158,000.00**, which was **£3,923,000.00** more than estimated.
- In 2023/2024, **24.70%** of the budget was spent on adult social care
- The local authority has raised the full adult social care precept for 2023/24, with a value of **2%**. Please note that the amount raised through adult social care precept varies from local authority to local authority.
- Approximately **3990** people were accessing long term ASC support, and approximately **1030** people were accessing short term adult social care support in 2023/24. Local Authorities spend money on a range of adult social care services, including supporting individuals. No two care packages are the same and vary significantly in their intensity, duration, and cost.

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