

QUALITY OF LIFE

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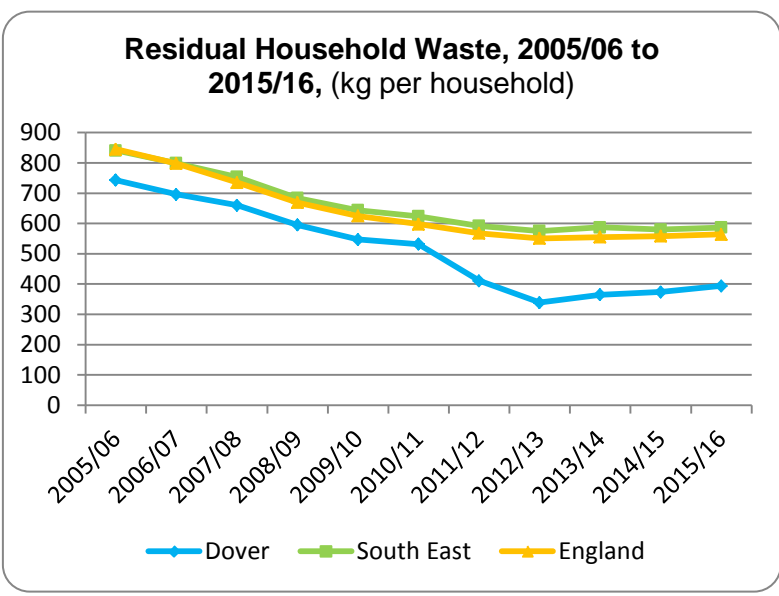
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- The Dover district has a lot to offer to our residents and visitors alike, with the world-famous White Cliffs of Dover, castles, chalk downs, bays and beaches, boating, horse-riding, coastal and country walks, cycle routes and trails, woodlands, wildlife watching, nature reserves, rural hamlets and villages, gardens and country parks. The natural and cultural heritage of the district are an asset for quality of life and for tourism.
- The council is committed to making the district a cleaner, greener, healthier and more environmentally attractive place to live. Although the legal responsibility for public health sits with unitary and upper tier local authorities, lower-tier local authorities (district councils) have a vital role to play as many of our services contribute directly or indirectly to improving health and wellbeing or the 'wider determinants of health'.
- Our services include waste and recycling, street cleansing, supporting economic growth and planning (including development control, enforcement and conservation), housing, parks and leisure, landscape and nature conservation, flood risk management, climate change and energy efficiency, environmental health, community safety and community development.

1. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

a) Residual Household Waste per Household (kg per household)

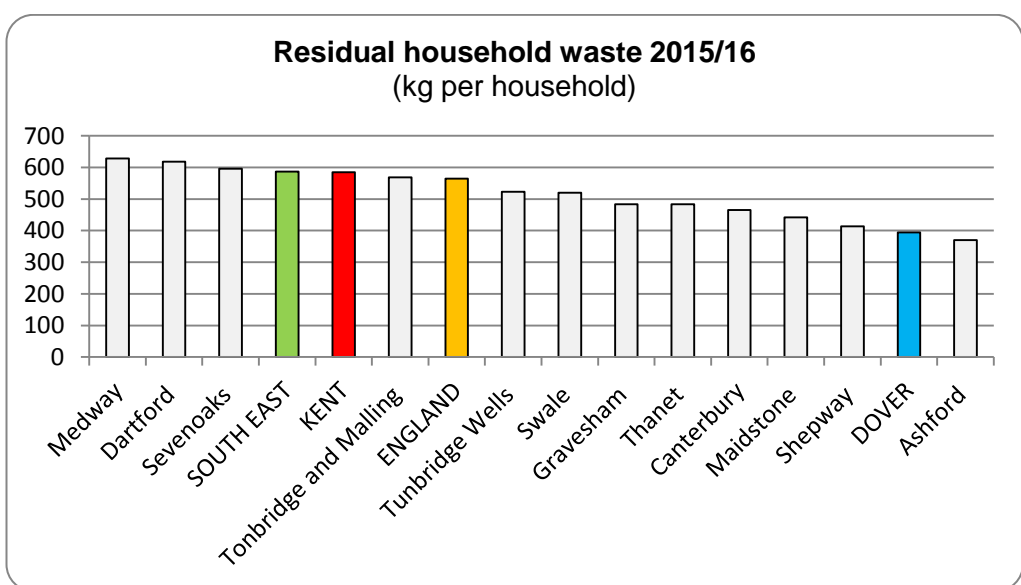
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Dover	365	374	394
South East	588	580	587
England	555	558	564



- In the Dover district, 394kg of residual (non-recyclable) waste per household was recorded in 2015/16.
- Although this is up +16.2% from 2012/13 it is still below the average residual waste per household figures for the South East and England and represents a decrease of nearly -47% on figures for the district for 2005/06 (when it stood at 743kg per household).
- The provisional figure for the district for 2016/17 shows a further deterioration, rising to 401.13kg.

Source: DEFRA ENV18 - Local authority collected waste tables

b) Kent Comparison: Residual Household Waste per Household

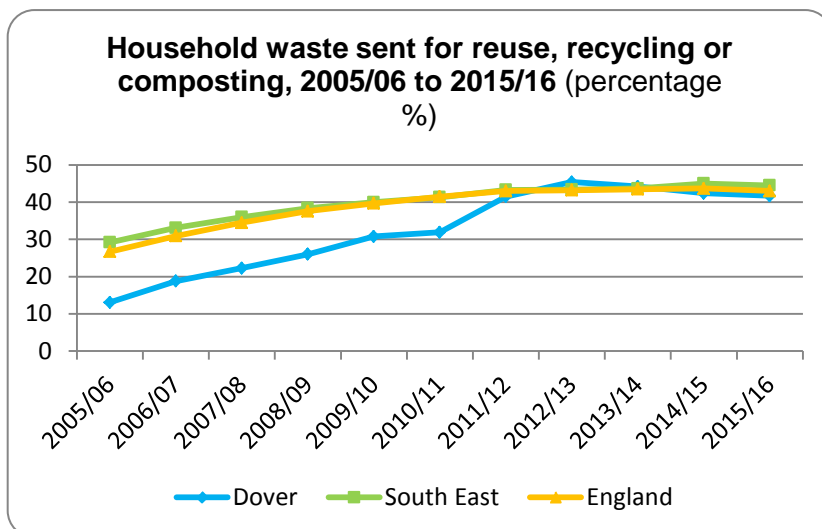


- In 2015/16, the Dover district had the second lowest residual household waste figure in Kent and Medway.
- National 2016/17 data not available at time of drafting for comparison purposes.

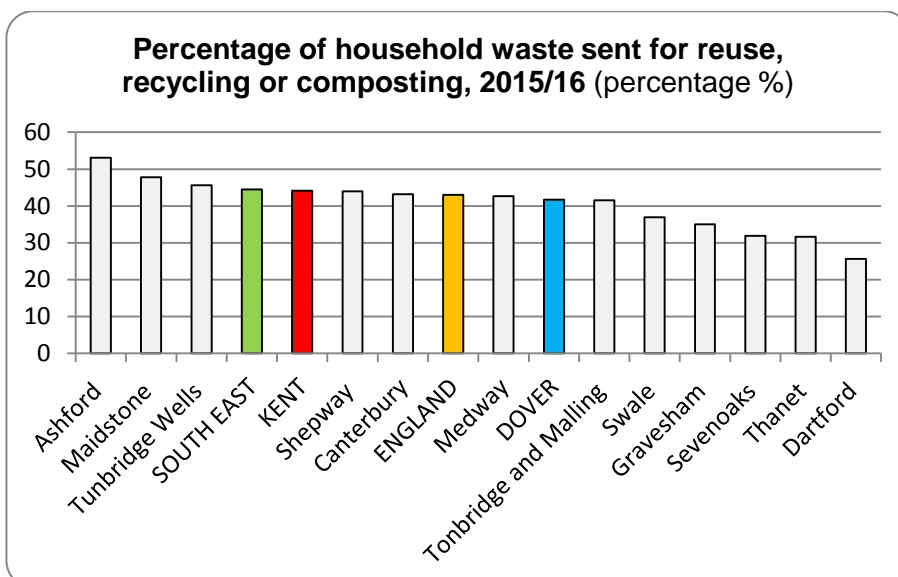
c) Household Waste Sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Dover	44.2	42.4	41.7
South East	43.7	45	44.5
England	43.5	43.7	43

- In the Dover district, 41.7% of household waste was sent for reuse, recycling or composting in 2015/16, which is below the averages for the South East and England.
- Although this is down from 45.4% in 2012/13, it represents a percentage point increase of 28.6% on the district's recycling rate for 2005/06, when it stood at 13.1%.
- The provisional figure for 2016/17 shows an improvement, rising to 43.7%.



d) Kent Comparison: Household Waste Sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting



- In 2015/16, the Dover district had the seventh highest percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting in Kent and Medway.
- National 2016/17 data not available at time of drafting for comparison purposes.

Source: DEFRA ENV18 - Local authority collected waste tables

2. AIR QUALITY

- Air quality refers to the degree of pollution in the atmosphere. Air pollution is the contamination of the air by noxious gases and minute particles of solid and liquid matter (particulates) in concentrations that endanger health. The major sources of air pollution are transportation engines, power and heat generation, industrial processes, and the burning of solid waste. Poor air quality is a significant public health issue.
- We are part of the Kent Air Quality Partnership, set up in 1992 to work towards improving the quality of Kent's air. The Partnership has representatives from each District Council, Kent County Council, Environment Agency, National Power and other stakeholders related to air quality issues.
- Contractors manage the Kent & Medway monitoring network throughout the county, which enables us to pinpoint problem areas such as congested roads or highly polluting industrial processes. The Environmental Protection team currently monitor 13 sites within the district for nitrogen dioxide using diffusion tubes. Locations are mainly centred in, or close to, Air Quality Management Areas plus three targeted locations in Aycliffe examining pollution levels following the introduction of the

Dover Traffic Access Protocol (TAP). In addition particulate levels are monitored at the junction of Townwall / Woolcomber Street.

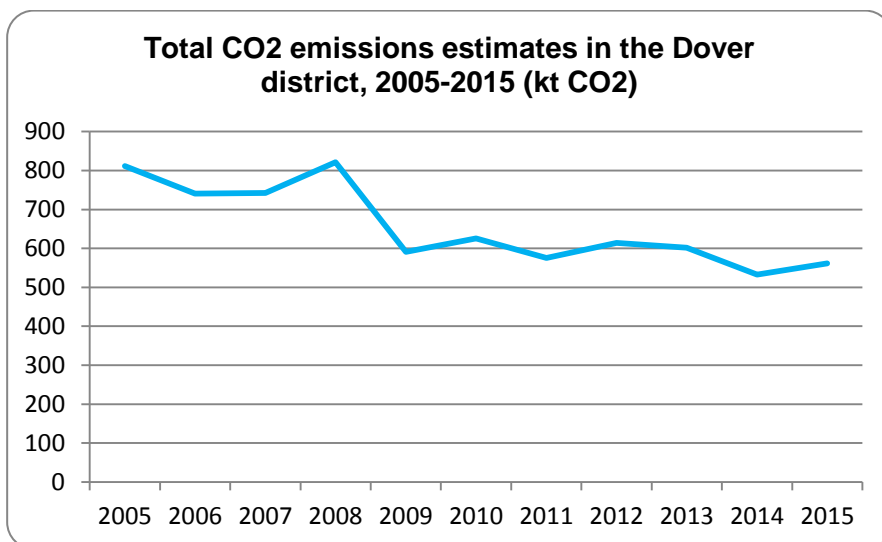
- The current Air Quality Management Areas in the district are:
 - High St / Ladywell, Dover
 - Main trunk route (A20) into Dover (NO₂).
- All results for the Dover district are on the [Kentair](http://www.kentair.org.uk)¹ website and our annual reports and Action Plan can be found on our [Air Quality Monitoring](https://www.dover.gov.uk/Environment/Environmental-Health/Air-Quality/Air-Quality-Monitoring.aspx)² webpage. With the exception of sites within existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), monitored concentrations are all below the objectives. In addition, early indications show that there may be some improvements in the Townwall / Limekiln areas of Dover between 2015 and 2016, although it is too early to reach robust conclusions on Dover Traffic Access Protocol.

a) Carbon Dioxide

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for about 81% of the UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2015. In recent years, increasing emphasis has been placed on the role of regional bodies and local government in contributing to energy efficiency improvements, and hence reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.
- Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions have been produced for each Local Authority in the UK for the following broad source categories: Industry, commercial & public sector; Domestic; Transport; and Land use, land use change and forestry. Emissions per capita can vary noticeably between regions in the UK.
- It is important to note that local Authorities are not mandated to have greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and have relatively little influence over some types of emissions. Therefore, alongside the full dataset, which includes all the emissions that occur within the boundaries of each Local Authority, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) also publishes a subset, which represents carbon dioxide emissions considered to be within the scope of influence of Local Authorities. The data included in this report is from the full dataset.

Local Carbon Dioxide Emissions

- Between 2005 and 2015, estimated total carbon dioxide emissions decreased by -30.8%, falling from 811.1 kilotonnes to 561.4 kilotonnes.
- Whilst emissions have decreased over time, there have been periods of fluctuation – this is also reflected at a national level.
- Nationally, estimated total carbon dioxide emissions have decreased by around -27% during the same period.

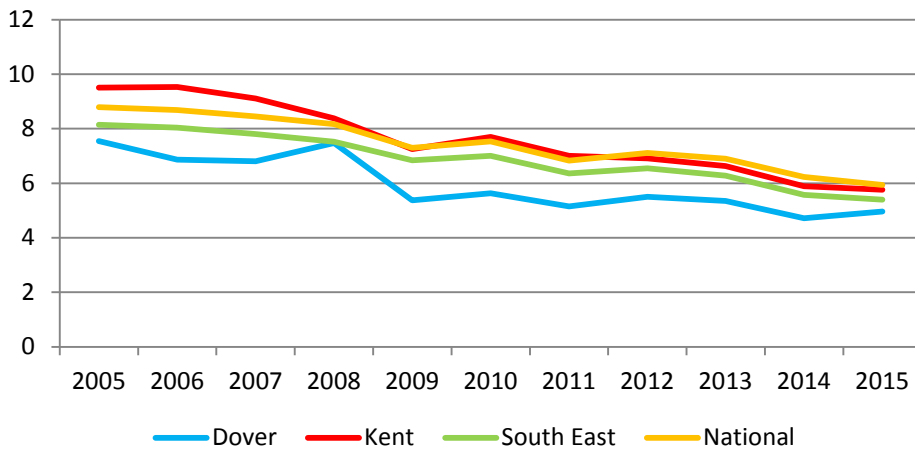


Source: [Department for Energy and Climate Change Local authority carbon dioxide emission estimates 2015](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614422/Local-authority-carbon-dioxide-emission-estimates-2015.pdf) – published June 2017

¹ <http://www.kentair.org.uk/>

² <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Environment/Environmental-Health/Air-Quality/Air-Quality-Monitoring.aspx>

**Local CO2 emission estimates per capita, 2005 to 2015
(t CO2 per person)**



Source: [Department for Energy and Climate Change Local authority carbon dioxide emission estimates 2015](#) – published June 2017.

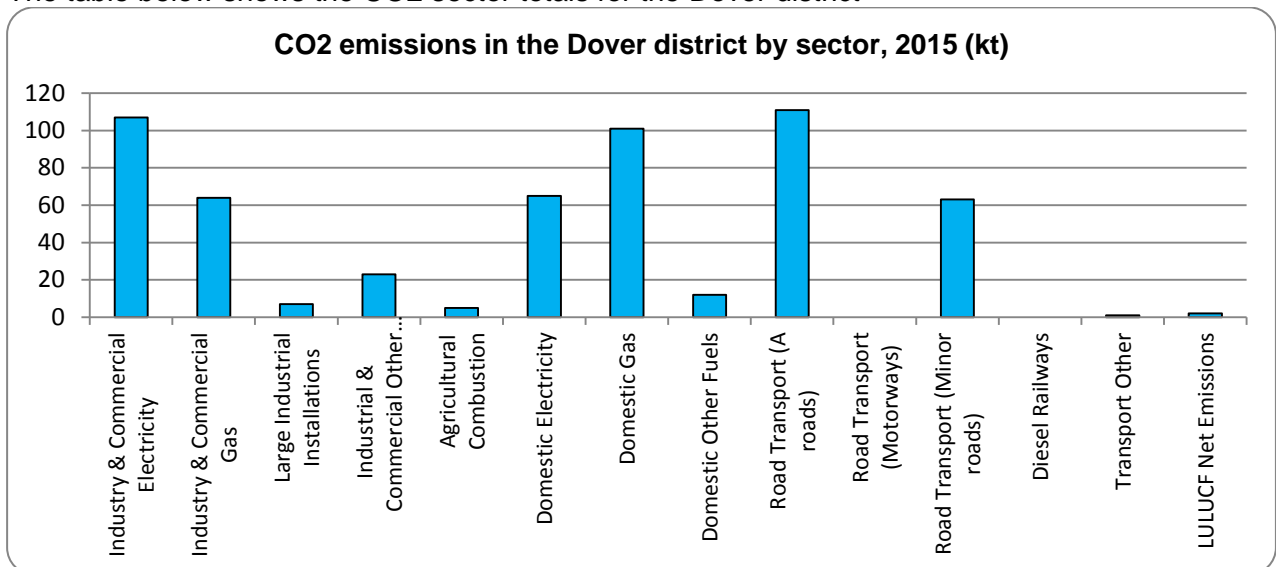
- Emissions per capita allow comparison between areas of different population size.
- In 2015, the estimated carbon dioxide emissions for the Dover district was 5.0 tonnes (t) per person, up from 4.7t in 2014.
- Since 2005, there has been a -33.3% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions per person in the Dover district.
- In 2015, 36.8% of end-user emissions in the district were attributed to the industry and

commercial sector, 31.7% to the domestic sector, 31.2% to transport and 0.3% to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF).

- Nationally, 42% of end-user emissions were attributed to the industry and commercial sector, 27.8% to the domestic sector, 32.5% to transport and -2.3% to LULUCF. There is wide local variation across the country mainly because of the economy and geography of different local areas.
- Domestic end-user emissions can be influenced by the fuel types used, the type and condition of the housing (including insulation), the average temperature (urban areas can be much warmer and therefore easier to heat than rural areas), average household size, type of household and the income and preferences of the occupiers.
- The busy Port of Dover with regular cross-channel ships and large volumes of road traffic from the A2 and A20 entering and leaving the town predominately represents the main source of air pollution in the district. However, improved air quality at the Port has led to the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area at the Eastern Docks – with the Port continuously meeting the sulphur dioxide level objective following introduction of the low sulphur fuel in 2006.

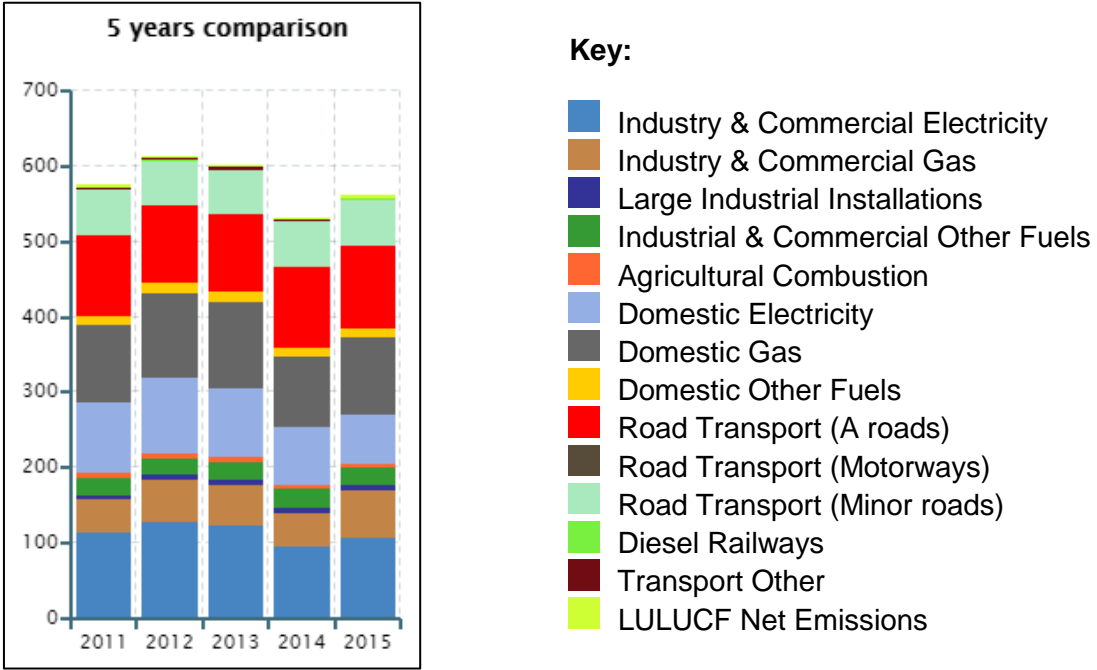
CO2 Emissions in the Dover district

The table below shows the CO2 sector totals for the Dover district



Source: [National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory](#)

The timeseries chart below shows CO2 emissions data for the previous 5 years for the Dover district:



Source: [National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory](#)

There are three Large Industrial Installations in the Dover district. The tables and charts below shows the CO2 emissions (tonnes) for these installations over the past five years:

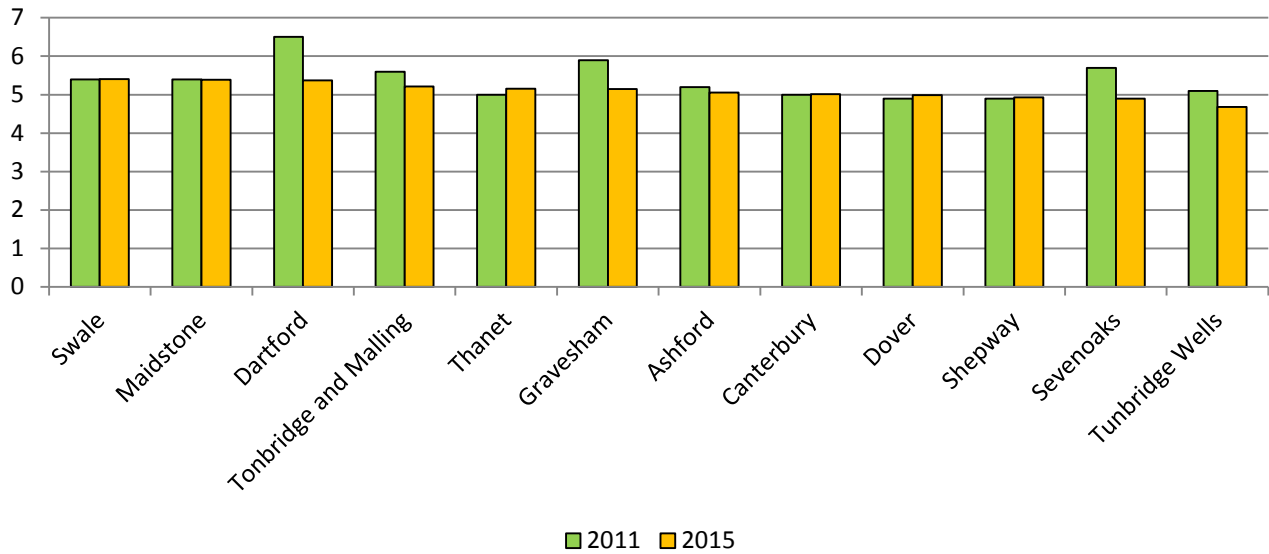
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1. East Kent Waste Recovery Facility	-	8,171	7,135	6,710	6,684	
2. Discovery Park	-	-	558	483	116	
3. Europa Nursery Energy Centre	-	-	-	0	9	

Source: [National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory](#)

b) Mortality attributable to air pollution

- Industrial, domestic and traffic sources produce various types of air pollutants including particular matter (PM10, PM2.5 and PM1). Of greatest concern to public health are the particles small enough to be inhaled into the deepest parts of the lung.
- Public Health England has created an indicator to monitor the mortality attributable to anthropogenic particulate air pollution (measured as fine particulate matter, PM2.5), to prioritise action on air quality to help reduce the health burden from air pollution.
- In 2015, Swale (5.4%) had the highest fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in Kent and Tunbridge Wells the lowest (4.7%).
- The Dover district (5.0%) has the 4th lowest fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in Kent. This is below the average for Kent (5.1%) but above the average for England (4.7%). Please see following table.

Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution (PM2.5) in Kent, 2011 and 2015 (percentage)

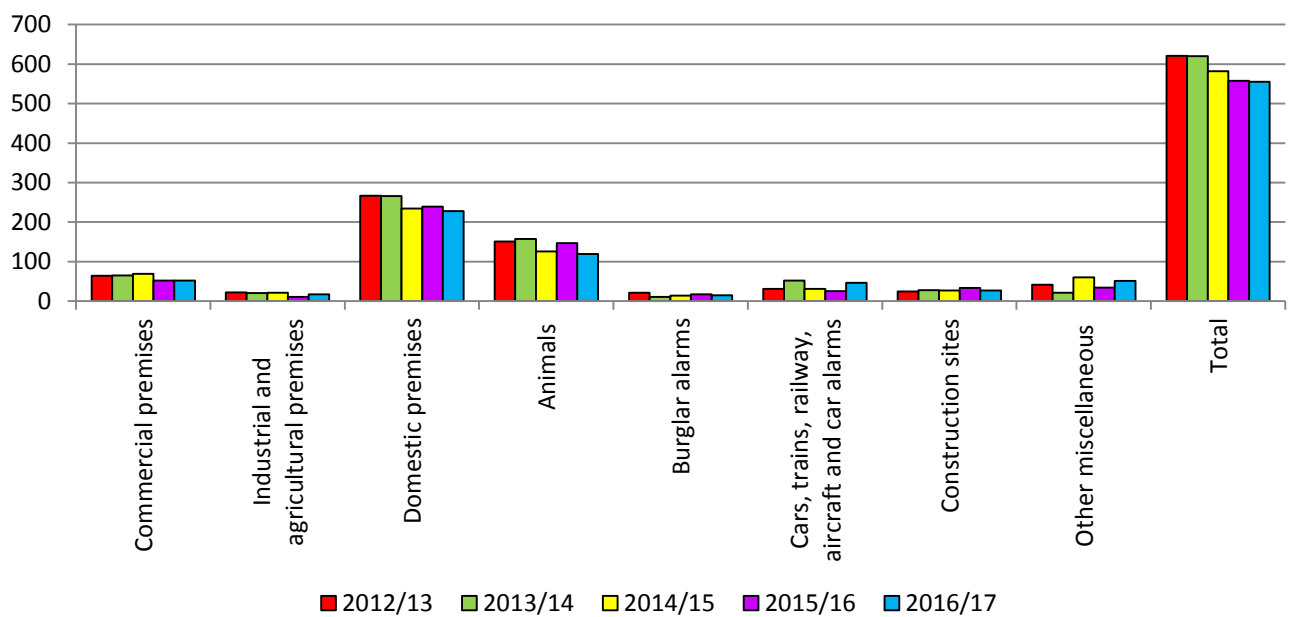


Source: PHE, Public Health Outcomes Framework: 3.01 - Fraction of all-cause adult mortality attributable to anthropogenic particulate air pollution (measured as fine particulate matter, PM2.5)

3. NOISE

- Noise is an often overlooked problem which may cause a number of short and long term health problems. The most common is annoyance but it can also cause sleep disturbance, interruption of speech and social interaction, disturbance of concentration - and hence learning & long-term memory, hormonal and cardiovascular effects.
- To combat this, the Environmental Protection Team act both reactively and proactively to complaints to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Noise complaints received in the Dover District, 2012/13 to 2016/17 (number)



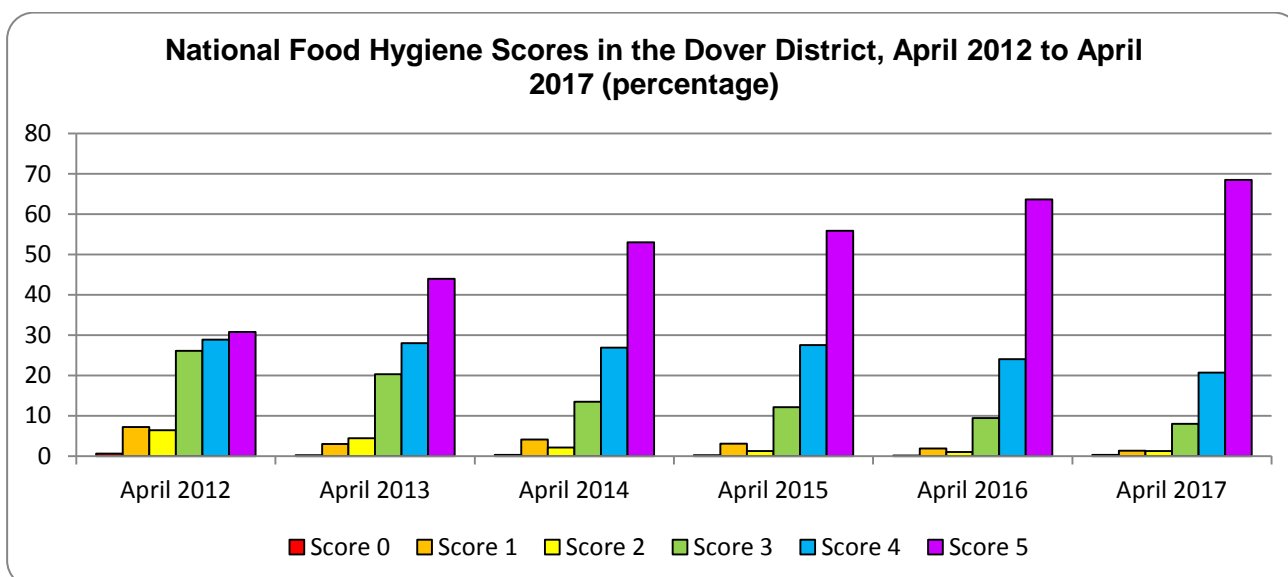
Source: DDC Regulatory Services Team

- In 2016/17, we investigated 555 noise complaints, down from 558 (-3) in 2015/16.
- Most complaints investigated (228 or 41.1%) were from domestic properties. Animals were the next biggest area for complaint with 119 (21.4%).

4. FOOD SAFETY

a) National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

- We have been operating the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, in partnership with the Food Standards Agency (FSA), since April 2012. The scheme aims to improve the health and safety of consumers in the district by allowing them to make an informed decision on where they eat or shop for food based on the hygiene standards found at premises at the time of their inspection by Environmental Health Officers. Businesses are rated on a scale from 0 (Urgent Improvement Necessary) to a top rating of 5 (Very Good). The scheme also acts as an incentive for businesses to ensure they are compliant with food hygiene legislation.
- The scheme has had a significant impact on the food hygiene standards found in the district; with a notable increase in the percentage of 5 rated premises (top) and a decrease in 0-2 rated premises. The number of inspections carried out over this time period has increased by +64%, from 655 in 2012 to 1,036 in 2017.
- In April 2017, 89.2% of rated businesses within the district had a rating of 4 or 5, up from 87.6% on the year and from 59.7% in April 2012. Only 3 businesses (0.3%) inspected in April 2017 had a rating of 0, which is up from 0.1% in 2016 but still down from 0.6% in 2012.



Source: DDC Regulatory Services Team

National Food Hygiene Scores in the Dover District, April 2012 to April 2017 (number)						
	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	April 2016	April 2017
Score 0	4	2	3	2	1	3
Score 1	47	27	40	31	20	13
Score 2	42	39	21	12	10	12
Score 3	171	180	133	122	99	83
Score 4	189	248	265	277	251	215
Score 5	202	390	522	562	668	710
Total	655	886	984	1006	1049	1036

- Our Public Protection Team continues to raise awareness and educate food business operators on food safety matters. This includes news bulletins, food forums and training sessions. However,

where standards in food premises are found to be unsatisfactory, we will take enforcement action including closure – either formal or voluntary.

b) Port Health & Brexit

- Our Public Protection team are liaising directly with the Food Standards Agency and Dover Harbour Board to establish what additional food import controls and official designated status may be required at the port as a direct result of leaving the EU. The impact remains unclear at this stage but has the potential to be substantial. It is likely that the enforcing authority (Dover DC) will be required to provide the resources (people) and to manage and enforce any statutory food safety controls whilst the port operator will be expected to provide appropriate facilities to examine and store controlled foodstuffs.

5. BETTER BUSINESS FOR ALL

- [Better Business for All](#)³ is a local partnership between businesses and regulatory services to promote growth. It is designed to improve the way regulation is delivered to ease the burden on the local business community. As members of the Kent Steering Group, our Regulatory Services officers have been working hard to promote good practice amongst regulators, through Kent-wide training sessions, and producing a '[Business Start-up Pack](#)'. The pack is aimed primarily at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and is a business guide to regulation, outlining what business needs to know when starting up or expanding a business in Kent and Medway.
- Skin Piercing: In 2016/17, we rated the first two premises in the district under the new Kent-wide Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme. The voluntary scheme runs throughout Kent and awards skin piercers who are providing the highest of standards with a certificate and rating. It is hoped the scheme will help to raise standards across the sector and give consumers greater confidence when choosing where to have their tattoo/treatments.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

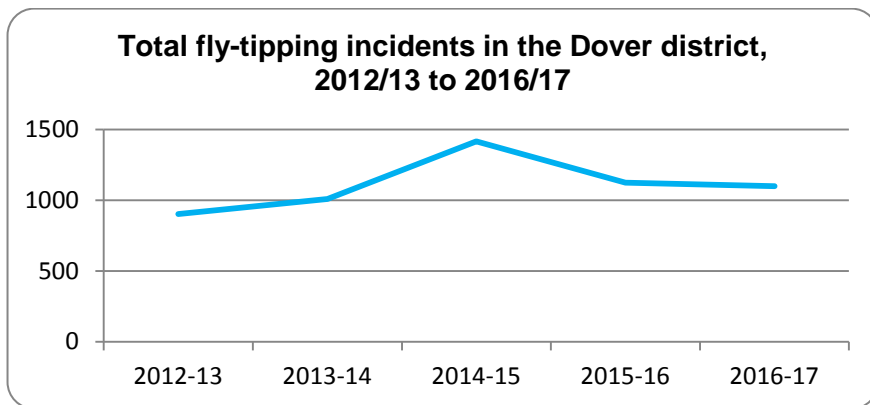
- Environmental crimes, such as fly-tipping, dog fouling, littering and graffiti, can blight neighbourhoods and we know they are important concerns for local residents.
- Our Environmental Crime Service has been operating for 3-years and, during this time, has successfully raised the profile of environmental crime across the district. It has been instrumental in improving the local environment and initiating behavioural change amongst our residents through a joint enforcement and educational approach. This includes issuing fixed penalty notices, prosecuting offenders, attending school assemblies, introducing the 'Bin it to Win it' campaign, holding school poster competitions, attending community events etc.
- In November 2016, following a review of service delivery options, our Cabinet agreed to trial a combination of in-house and privately contracted enforcement officers for a 12-month period commencing April 2017. The chosen contractor, Kingdom Environmental Protection is focussed on day-to-day littering and fouling issues and provides a minimum of two officers undertaking 96 hours of patrols a week across the district. The council's enforcement officers also continue to patrol but now concentrate on other issues, for example fly-tipping and dog-related matters such as fouling, strays and the enforcement of the Public Spaces Protection Order for our parks and beaches.

a) Fly-tipping

- Fly-tipping is the illegal deposit of waste on land. Local authorities and the Environment Agency have a responsibility in respect of illegally deposited waste, which includes collecting and reporting data on fly-tipping.

³ <http://www.bbfa.biz/>

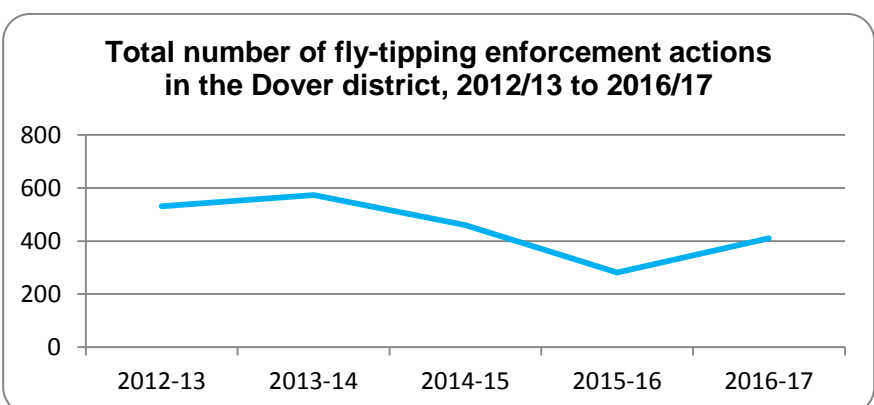
- Due to varying levels of estimation between councils and years, some caution is needed in interpreting trends. Direct comparison between local authorities may also not be appropriate as there can be some difference in approach, where there is a level of discretion in the guidance.
- The situation with fly-tipping is complex and can be influenced by population density, housing stock, demographics, commuter routes, how proactively councils identify incidents and encourage the public to report incidents and increased use of more sophisticated methods for capturing and recording incidents. Therefore, a council cannot be judged as 'good' or 'poor' performers based solely on the number of fly-tips.
- In May 2016, local authorities' were given the power to issue fixed penalty notices (FPN's) of between £150 and £400 for small-scale fly-tipping offences where prosecutions are unlikely to be cost-effective. In November 2016, Cabinet agreed to set the FPN amount for fly-tipping in the Dover District at £400, to act as a deterrent against fly-tipping and help tackle the number of incidents reported in the district. We will still pursue prosecution in more serious cases, such as high-volume, commercial or organised tipping.



Source: Defra, WasteDataFlow

- In the Dover district, the total number of recorded fly-tipping incidents has fallen -2.2% over the past year, from 1,125 in 2015/16 to 1,100 in 2016/17.
- The majority of the fly-tipping incidents in 2016/17 were on the highway (754 or 68.5%).

- In the Dover district, the total number of fly-tipping enforcement actions has increased by +45.9% over the past year, from 281 in 2015/16 to 410 in 2016/17.
- Actions include investigations, warning letters, statutory notices, fixed penalty notices (FPNs), duty of care inspections, formal cautions and prosecution.



Source: Defra, WasteDataFlow

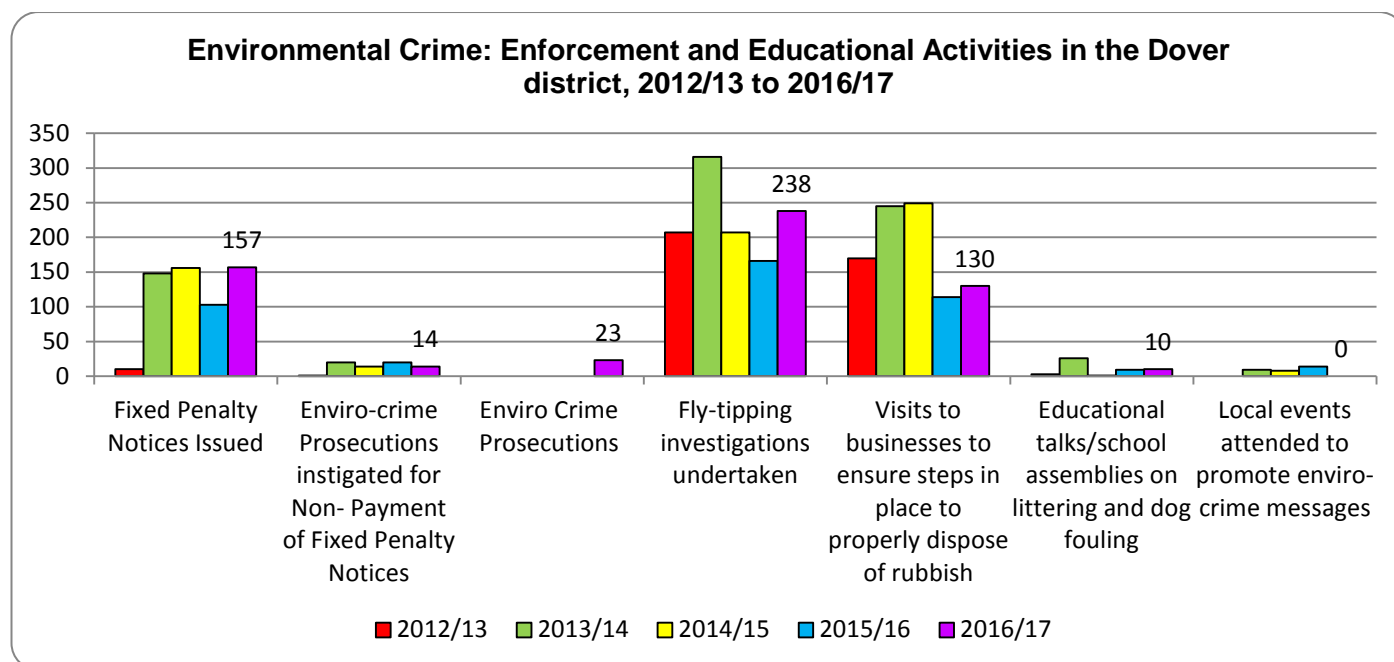
- During 2016/17, 7 FPNs were issued, 2 formal cautions and 4 prosecutions.
- Under Part 2 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) local authorities are able to obtain authority from a magistrate to deploy and install covert directed surveillance to capture evidence of criminal offences. The Environmental Crime team have had three deployments of covert surveillance equipment authorised since April 2016. In addition, they have used income acquired from paid fly-tipping FPNs to purchase two new covert cameras. The team are continuing to apply for RIPA authority for the use of covert cameras where fly-tipping hotspots are identified.

b) Public Spaces Protection Orders

- The council introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), relating to dog control, from July 2015. The aim being to provide a more comprehensive and consistent approach when dealing with issues such as dog fouling, keeping dogs on leads and excluding dogs from specified areas. Anyone found guilty of breaching a PSPO could face a fine not exceeding £1,000. However,

depending on the behaviour in question, the enforcing officer can decide that a fixed penalty notice of £75 would be most appropriate sanction. Action taken for breaching the PSPOs has ranged from warnings, FPNs and prosecutions.

c) Enforcement and Educational Activities



Source: DDC Regulatory Services Team

7. LICENSING

- In 2016/17, the Council granted 3,146 licenses, which is an increase of +3.6% from 2015/16.
- Over the year 2015/16 to 2016/17, there has been an increase in personal licence holders but a decrease in premises licences. Licensed drivers have increased but private hire vehicles decreased, whilst Hackney Carriage licences have remained the same. There has been a fall in betting shops and adult games centres. The number of promoters registered to hold 'small society lotteries' has also fallen.

Licenses granted	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Personal licence holders	1339	1463	1528	1643	1727	↑
Premises licences	429	389	407	425	423	↓
Licensed drivers	293	315	315	294	309	↑
Private Hire vehicles	122	136	141	156	134	↓
Clubs and pubs with permits for 2 or fewer low stake gaming machines	97	111	113	91	92	↑
Promoters registered to hold "small society lotteries" i.e. raffles etc	102	76	110	108	87	↓
Persons registered to conduct skin piercing procedures	72	58	72	102	106	↑
Licensed Hackney Carriage vehicles	69	69	69	69	69	↔
Club Premises Certificates	45	42	43	42	41	↓
Private Hire operators	31	31	32	37	38	↑
Premises registered offering "body piercing"	15	23	28	27	29	↑
Animal Boarding Establishments	12	15	18	22	24	↑
Amusement centres needing a permit for machines for under 18s	9	12	12	11	9	↓
Betting Shops	12	13	12	12	11	↓

Licenses granted	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Adult Gaming Centres	10	10	11	9	7	↓
Registered scrap metal dealers	11	9	9	7	7	↔
Riding Establishments	8	8	8	6	6	↔
Pet Shops	4	5	6	6	7	↑
Street Traders	5	3	5	5	6	↑
Family Entertainment Centres	3	3	4	4	2	↓
People licensed to keep Dangerous Wild Animals	2	3	4	4	4	↔
Pleasure boats	3	3	4	4	3	↓
Bingo Halls	2	2	2	2	2	↔
Dog Breeders	2	2	2	3	2	↓
Zoos	2	2	2	2	1	↓
TOTAL	2,699	2,803	2,957	3,037	3,146	

8. WATER QUALITY

- The Environment Agency measures the quality of sea water at our beaches between May and September each year. It then calculates an annual classification for each bathing water site, based on all of the samples from the previous four years. These classifications, from best to worst, are "excellent", "good", "sufficient" or "poor". Water quality results are compared with standards laid down by the European Union (EU). From 2015, new, tighter standards were introduced.
- Where water quality consistently fails to meet EU standards there may be an increased risk of contracting a minor infection.

Bathing water sites in Dover District

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Deal Castle	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Sandwich Bay	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
St Margaret's Bay	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Source: [Environment Agency](#).

- The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 give local authorities responsibility for providing public information at bathing waters in their area during the bathing season. Using the data collected by DEFRA, we update our information posters weekly during the summer period and, if necessary, will put up advisory notices during serious pollution incidents warning the public that water quality may be affected. This was necessary at Sandwich Bay during August 2016 while the Environment Agency investigated an incident.
- Our Environmental Protection team, in conjunction with the Property Services team, are also liaising with Southern Water on their 'Bathing Water Enhancement Programme'. After undertaking a year of detailed investigations into factors influencing water quality (including coastal sampling, microbial (DNA) source tracing and CCTV surveys), Southern Water has revealed that Deal Castle Beach has been chosen for an investment of around £3.9m to help protect and enhance the beauty of the beach. Southern Water's long-term aim is to work with local authorities, the Environment Agency, landowners and farmers to help bring all bathing waters in our region up to "excellent" by 2040. Whilst all bathing waters within the Dover district were classified as 'excellent' in 2017, Deal Castle beach is at risk of achieving lower standards in the coming years, hence its inclusion in the Bathing Water Enhancement Programme.

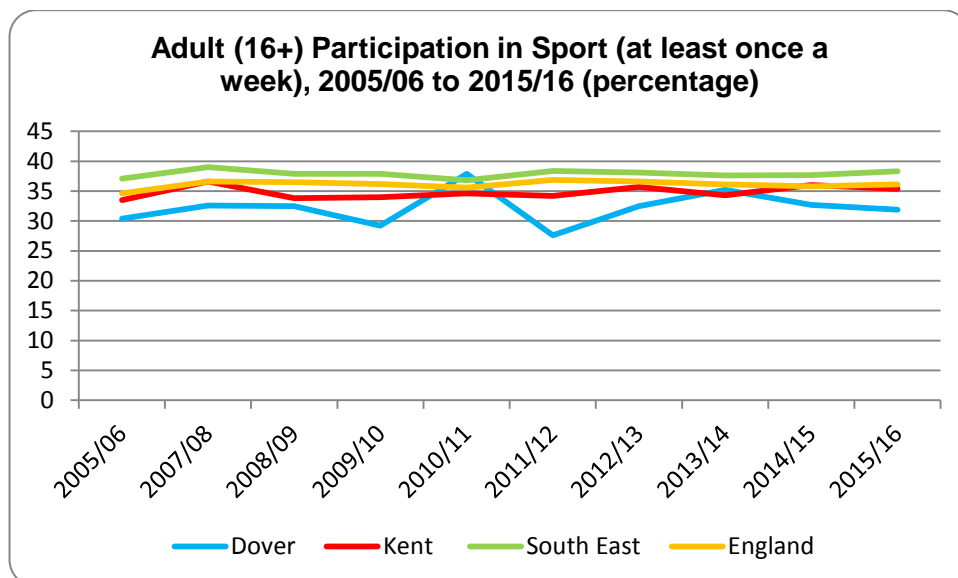
Mosquitoes

- Our Environmental Protection team works with Public Health England (PHE) to complete mosquito surveying at the Black Sluice in Sandwich. This is part of a [nationwide survey](#)⁴ by PHE to develop and update our understanding of the status, distribution and abundance of potential disease carrying mosquitoes. The team collects samples once a week between 1st March and 16th October for PHE to analyse in order to establish the type and number of different mosquito species. The species collected in Sandwich are mainly those that breed in saltmarsh and a common cause of human nuisance biting. Treatment is undertaken by the Council when necessary to control the mosquito population.

9. SPORT, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- Sport and recreational facilities and opportunities bring many benefits to a community – including health and well-being, quality of life, social cohesion, raising aspirations and pride in the area.
- The council maintains more than 200 parks, open spaces, sports grounds, play areas, allotments, commons and woodlands, which attract thousands of visitors every year.
- The areas provide for both active and passive leisure and include facilities such as skateboard parks, multi-use games areas, play areas, sports pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts in addition to areas for walking and quiet reflection.
- Our main sites include [Connaught Park](#); [Crabble Athletic Ground](#); [Danes Recreation Ground](#); [Elms Vale Recreation Ground](#); [Kearsney Abbey](#); [Marke Wood](#); [North Deal Playing Fields](#); [Pencester Gardens](#); [River Recreation Ground](#); [Russell Gardens](#); [Sandwich Recreation Grounds](#); [Victoria Park](#); and [Walmer Seafront](#). Further details can be found on our website: [Parks and Open Spaces](#)⁵.

a) Participation in Sport



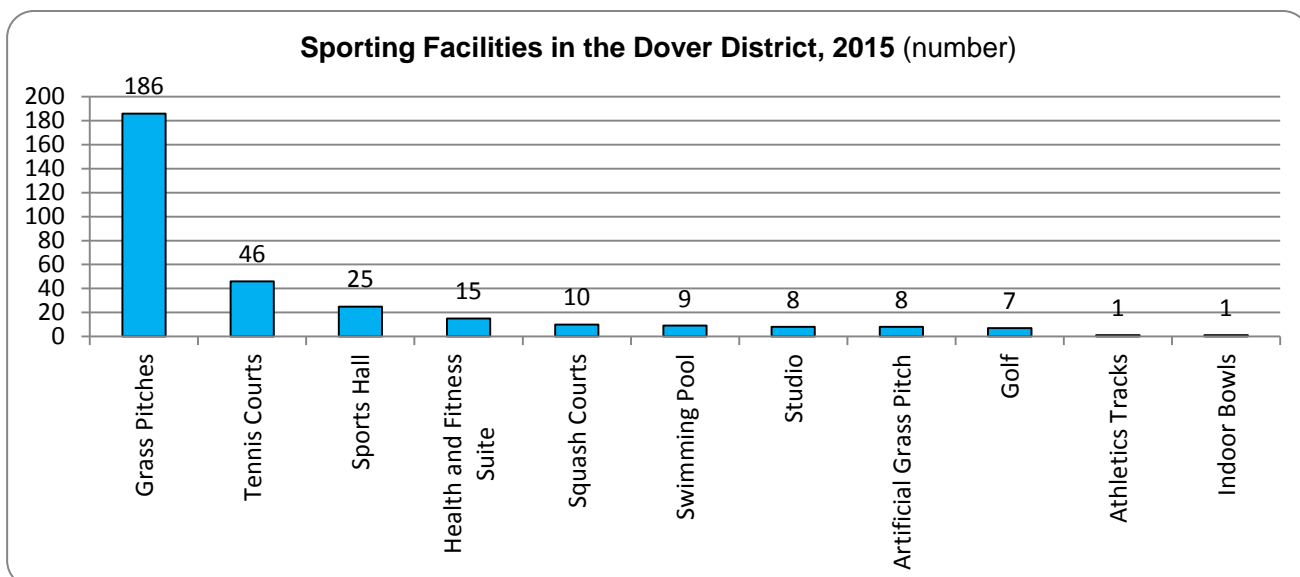
- Participation in Sport in the Dover district has fallen over the year, from 32.7% in 2014/15 to 31.9% in 2015/16.
- This is lower than the average for Kent, South East and England.

Source: Sport England Local Sport Profile - Active People Survey. Measure: Adult (16+) participation in sport (at least once a week) by year, one session per week (at least 4 sessions of at least moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes in the previous 28 days).

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mosquito-surveillance/mosquito-nationwide-surveillance>

⁵ dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Leisure-Facilities/Parks--Open-Spaces/Home.aspx

b) Types of sporting facilities in the Dover district



Source: Sport England Local Sport Profile - Active Places Power. Measure: Number of sports facilities by facility type, 2015

- There are a range of playing pitches, play facilities and other sport facilities in the Dover district⁶ including:
 - **Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre** is one of the district's newest facilities and offers a state of the art fitness suite, a Multi-Use Floodlit Games Area (suitable for netball, basketball, tennis, and football), a floodlit artificial turf pitch (suitable for football and rugby with shock absorption padding built in) and grass pitches for hire (football, rugby & American football). There is also a social bar, cafe, and changing rooms within the facility. The leisure centre is operated by Freedom Leisure in partnership with Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme.
 - **Fowlmead Country Park** is situated between Deal and Sandwich. The former coalfield site has been transformed into both a nature reserve and a leisure/sporting venue and offers a range of activities including cycling, walking, running, orienteering and play area. The site is home to numerous sporting weekly/monthly sporting events and clubs, and well as a site for 'Healthy Walking Groups'.
- The Council's leisure centres, Dover Leisure Centre, Tides and the Deal Indoor Tennis Centre provide a wide range of facilities. The leisure centres are currently leased to and managed by Vista Leisure, which also manages the children's Paddling Pool in Walmer.

c) Dover Leisure Centre



⁶ For more information, please see our www.dover.gov.uk/leisure

- In spring 2016, we appointed consultants to look at options for either refurbishing the existing Dover Leisure Centre or building a completely new leisure centre. This involved looking at potential locations and considering the facilities a new centre could offer.
- In summer 2016, we consulted extensively with the public about the plans to build a new £26m leisure centre at Whitfield. Over 670 people responded to our consultation with 89% supporting plans for a new leisure centre.
- Since then we have worked with a team of consultants to draw up detailed designs for the planning application. We have also worked with Sport England to meet their requirements and to ensure that we deliver a leisure centre that is fit for purpose and accessible to all.
- The new leisure centre is being built on a 2.1ha site in Whitfield where it will be centrally located to provide the only lane-swimming pool serving Dover, Deal and Sandwich, and the surrounding rural communities. The site also has the space to grow the centre and its facilities in the future.
- The new leisure centre will include an eight-lane, 25 metre swimming pool which meets Sport England criteria as a competition standard pool, featuring starting blocks and timing pads. There will be spectator seating for up to 250 people. It will be the only eight-lane county standard competition pool in Kent. Access to the pool for people with disabilities will be via Poolpods, an innovative submersible and mobile pool platform enabling independent access and removing the need for a hoist or swing. There will be a pool-side sauna and steam room. A 15m x 8.5m learner pool will feature a moveable floor so that the depth can be varied from a few centimetres to 1.4m depending on the programme of use. The 690m² sports hall will have a timber-sprung floor and be marked up to cater for a wide variety of sports. The two squash courts will feature glass-back walls with spectator seating. The fitness facilities will be on the first floor and will include a 120-station gym, a spinning studio, and two further studios to accommodate a wide range of classes and activities. Externally there will be two outdoor 3G five-a-side football pitches and a minimum of 250 parking spaces.
- Following competitive tenders, [BAM Construct UK Ltd](#)⁷ were awarded a contract for the pre-construction phase in January 2017 and then subsequently to build the new leisure centre in summer 2017.
- Planning consent was granted in August 2017 and in September our Cabinet gave approval for the project to start. Construction started in October 2017 and is expected to take around 59 weeks with a planned opening early in 2019.
- The site is opposite the new Lidl supermarket. As part of Lidl planning consent new bus shelters will be provided and we are working with partner organisations to ensure that there will be good bus services to the new centre.
- Following competitive tenders, [Places for People Leisure Management Ltd](#)⁸, were awarded a 12-year contract to manage the new Dover District Leisure Centre in September 2017. They will also take over the management of the existing Dover Leisure Centre from April 2018, which is currently operated under a lease arrangement with Your Leisure Kent Ltd. The existing leisure centre on Townwall Street will remain open until the new centre at Whitfield is completed.
- [Sport England](#)⁹ has been closely involved with the development of plans for the new Dover District Leisure Centre. As well as providing strategic advice on the development of the new facilities, Sport England has also confirmed a £1.5m contribution to the new Dover District Leisure Centre from its Strategic Facilities Fund, the largest award in the south east in the current funding round.
- You can follow the build on [Facebook](#)¹⁰, with the latest photos, news and information from the site.

d) Tides Leisure, Deal

In tandem with the work towards proving a new leisure centre in the district, we have started survey work in relation to the conditions of Tides Leisure in Deal, in preparation for essential refurbishment work that will secure the future of the building for the next 20-30 years.

⁷ www.bam.co.uk

⁸ www.placesforpeopleleisure.org

⁹ www.sportengland.org

¹⁰ www.facebook.com/bam-The-New-Dover-DistrictLeisure-Centre-297837404052498/

e) Parks for People: Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens

- Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens are popular parks that attract visitors from the local community and across the south east. The parks' popularity lies in the beauty and distinctiveness of their heritage, with the attractions of the café, open lawns and water helping to create both vibrant and tranquil atmospheres. Beyond the parkland, Coxhill Mount hides the remains of rare chalk grassland, while the River Dour is an internationally significant chalk stream, with a history of powering industrial mills.
- The parks are both strongly designed landscapes. Russell Gardens was designed in the early 20th century in the Arts & Crafts style and represent part of the gardens designed by Thomas Mawson, the first landscape architect. It has a canal, grade-II listed boathouse and bridges, and a series of terraces cascading down the hillside.
- Kearsney Abbey was designed in the picturesque style in the early 19th century by the Fector family. At its heart was a Gothic mansion, with open lawns and views of the lake. Beyond the lake avenues of trees extended across parkland and up to the summit of Coxhill Mount.
- Today the design of both parks has been partially obscured and the landscapes have lost some of their distinctiveness. Most visitors know very little about the parks' heritage, the parks' role as a community event venue has diminished, and visitor facilities are increasingly under strain.
- In 2014 we submitted a round 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund Parks for People programme, requesting £3.1m to restore the historic landscapes, improve visitor facilities and reconnect visitors with the parks heritage. Success at round 1 provided £274k in development funding, allowing us to appoint a project manager and to develop plans in more detail.
- We surveyed 20 historic structures and 875 trees, inspected 1200m of watercourses, involved 6,429 people in activities and events and support 63 hours of volunteering. Following 12 months of community engagement activities and specialist input, we submitted our round 2 bid in February 2016.
- The round 2 bid included:

Capital works	
Restoring Russell Gardens	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repairing architectural features ○ Reinstating the lily pond ○ New toilets ○ Recreating the link with Kearsney Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ornamental planting ○ Community Orchard ○ New play provision
Restoring Kearsney Abbey	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repairing listed structures including billiard room café ○ Replacement eyecatcher bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restoring lime avenues ○ Representing footprint of former mansion
Improving facilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Billiard room extension including new terrace and toilets ○ Highways improvements on Alkham Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boardwalk across boggy areas ○ Improved parking ○ Better signage ○ Travel planning for visitors
Enhancing ecology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove culverts to uncover River Dour ○ Selective removal of scrub and secondary woodland on Coxhill Mount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restore chalk grassland by reintroducing grazing
Uncovering heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer research projects into WW2, mills, Festival of Britain ○ Oral history and personal memories project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Archaeological digs ○ Mapping projects
Sharing and celebrating heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New interpretation ○ Self-guided tours and trails ○ Story-telling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quilting ○ Creative activities ○ Annual exhibition
Recreating a cultural venue	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events policy ○ Theatre ○ Cinema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Music ○ Afternoon tea on the lawn ○ Travel plan
Park Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 staff and 2 apprenticeships ○ Volunteers helping with management, horticulture, heritage and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kearsney Parks Forum ○ Memorial and Events policies
Schools programme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools panel ○ Lessons in the parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educational resources ○ Teacher training
Skills and training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Horticultural apprenticeships ○ Work experience placements ○ Construction phase site visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gardening club ○ Kent Woodland Employment Scheme - Training for staff, volunteers and teachers

Progress and next steps

- Success at round 2 saw our £495k contribution bolstered by £3.1m in lottery funding and £50k in funding from Kent County Council. We have reappointed our Project Manager and successfully recruited a Community Engagement Officer and Project Officer. We have also reappointed the consultant team to work with us on developing detailed designs for the capital works.
- Design work was complete in early 2017 and the process of procuring contractors to carry out the landscape and building parts of this project started in the summer. Work is expected to start onsite in the autumn / winter and is likely to take around 12 months.
- The Community Engagement Officer is leading on the delivery of activities, events, schools programme and training. These will continue until summer 2020. One of the first community projects to get started was a quilting project, led by a local volunteer. Regular email updates, Tweets and onsite posters help to keep people informed about the project. The Kearsney Parks Forum meets regularly and will hopefully become increasingly involved in the management and maintenance of the parks.
- Shortly we will be recruiting a Park Development Team Leader and Volunteer Coordinator to lead on the implementation of our ten-year Management and Maintenance Plan. The plan will ensure that the parks and their heritage are well maintained and that volunteering opportunities are maximised. We will also secure Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards.
- For more information on the project, visit www.kearsneyparks.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @Kearsneyparks

f) Up on the Downs: Landscape and Military Heritage

- The [Up on the Downs](#) Landscape Partnership is a £2.5 million Heritage Lottery Funded project that we host. The five-year scheme, which started in 2012, aims to conserve and enhance the local countryside and heritage of Dover and Folkestone, as well as providing ways for local people to enjoy their local landscape. The [Landscape Conservation Action Plan](#) is effectively a management plan for the scheme area.
- Up on the Downs consists of a series of projects delivered by partners and team staff. A main part of the work is restoring and reverting areas of unimproved chalk downland. Landscape projects include Langdon Cliffs, Old Park Hill, High Meadow, Nemo Down and Western Heights.
- Heritage projects include: Frontline Britain, Going for Bronze and To the Lighthouse.
- People projects include: A Different Way of Seeing, Be Part of It, Outreach Van, Samphire Hoe Education Shelter and White Cliffs for All.
- All of the projects are designed to improve the skills of those carrying them out, making them more sustainable after the Up on the Downs scheme has ended. Education and training projects include Apprenticeships and Schools Out.
- The delivery phase of the partnership is nearing its end and final reports are being produced to evaluate the work. The HLF has granted an extension of the project until May 2018 and we have set up a steering group to develop the legacy of the partnership going forward.

- Up on the Downs also administered two landscape heritage grant schemes to support community projects. The scheme funded 34 projects, with total funding of £153,828. The projects were supported by 13,959 volunteer hours and 6,897 people attended events. The total value of the projects delivered is estimated to be £455,884. A final [review of the grants](#)¹¹ given is available on the Up on the Downs website.

g) Grounds Maintenance

- We brought the Grounds Maintenance service back in-house in April 2017 and appointed a new Head of Parks and Open Spaces to create a flexible and resilient team to improve the service, and appearance of the district, for our residents and visitors. The role is bringing together the Grounds Maintenance service, with the Parks for People HLF project, Up-on-the-Downs, White Cliffs Countryside Project, and other connected services within the council.
- Current projects include:
 - Supporting and working with Deal in Bloom for their Britain and South & South East in Bloom entries.
 - Looking to bring the Middle Danes back into use by using the spoil from the Leisure centre development works.
 - Creating apprenticeships within Parks and Open Spaces, Kearsney Parks & White Cliffs Countryside Partnership.
 - Cemeteries & Crematorium: The District as a whole has burial provision for the next 10-20 years with capacity at Aylesham and Deal cemeteries but there is less than two years capacity within Dover Town. We have set up a project to update the options available since our last review in 2010. The study will also look at the feasibility of building our own Crematorium and memorial gardens.
- Future projects include:
 - Sandwich Parks Project bid document to be started in early 2018; Connaught Park Project to start once Kearsney and Sandwich have been concluded.
 - Working with Dover Town Council on developing a strategy for Pencester and Connaught parks.
 - Taking over the open spaces within the new garden village at Aylesham in 2018.
 - Developing partnerships with Hadlow College, Groundwork and others.

h) White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

- The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership was created to help conserve and enhance the special coast and countryside of Dover and Shepway districts, and make it accessible to all.
- It is a partnership between Dover District Council, Shepway District Council, Kent County Council, Eurotunnel, Natural England and many other local organisations with financial contributions from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- There are lots of places to visit and lots to do to enjoy the countryside such as seeing wildlife, walking, cycling or joining with local people helping care for the local environment. Please see the [White Cliffs Countryside Partnership](#) web site for information on exploring the coast and countryside of Dover and Shepway.

i) Play Facilities

- We are committed to developing our strategic play areas and upgrading some existing facilities to strategic status. During 2016 and 2017, we have completed a number of projects including:
 - William Pitt Avenue: This large play facility was refurbished in June 2016 following an £89,000 investment from funding obtained through planning agreements.
 - Wilson Avenue: The play area was extensively redeveloped in June 2016 following a £40,000 investment, funded by the Housing Revenue Account.
 - North Deal Playing Fields: A brand new play facility was opened in May 2016, with funding secured largely through planning agreements.

¹¹ uponthedowns.org.uk/Documents/Grants/Grants-Scheme-Final-Report.pdf

- Pencester Gardens: Surface improvements and a new set of cradle swings were carried out in 2016, largely funded by money secured through planning agreements.
- St. Radigund's Play Space: Following community consultation, work has started on a new play area. The facility will cater for children up to the age of 14 and will include a range of spinning, swinging, rotating and inclusive play equipment. There will also be a separate outdoor gym area which will include exercise equipment designed for all ages and abilities.
- Further details on Play Areas, Multi-Use Games Areas and Skate Parks in the district can be found on our website: [Play Areas, MUGAs and Skate Parks](#)¹²

j) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coast

- The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) stretches from the White Cliffs at Dover and Folkestone all the way to the Surrey border. The Kent Downs AONB occupies about one quarter of the county of Kent.
- Dover and Shepway contain about 20% of the Kent Downs AONB, including the White Cliffs and some of the most important wildlife sites including [South Foreland Valley](#) at St. Margaret's.
- The Kent Downs AONB is one of 35 AONBs in England & Wales, which are of similar importance to the [national parks](#).
- There are two stretches of Heritage Coast within the Kent Downs AONB, the South Foreland Heritage Coast and Dover-Folkestone Heritage Coast. Heritage Coasts have been designated for their unspoilt natural beauty, and form an important part of the AONB. These are the only stretches of Heritage Coast within Kent, and are two of only five Heritage Coasts in South East England. There are 45 Heritage Coasts in England & Wales.

k) England Coast Path: Folkestone to Ramsgate

- The England Coast Path (ECP) will be a new National Trail all around England's coast. It is opening in sections and will be complete in 2020. The 59 km (37 miles) stretch of the ECP from Folkestone to Ramsgate opened to the public in July 2016. See the [ECP South East map](#).

10. HERITAGE

The Dover district is one of the most historic areas of the UK, with 50 scheduled ancient monuments, 2,800 listed buildings, 57 conservation areas and 9 historic parks and gardens. We undertook a [heritage study](#)¹³ 2013 – please see our Planning Policy and Regeneration pages.

a) Restoration of Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall)

- In addition to Parks for People: Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens and the Up-on-the-Downs initiatives already mentioned above, we are looking to restore the Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall).
- Dover Town Hall has a long history dating back to 1203. The main facilities consist of: the Stone Hall built in 1253 and the Connaught Hall, adjacent to the Stone Hall which was built between 1881-3 as a meeting and concert hall for the town, which also contains meeting rooms and offices built for use by the mayor and civic officials. The complex includes basement areas largely used as kitchens, the Old Town Gaol, long-used for storage and offices and the former Visitor Information Centre, now vacant.
- Dover Town Hall is a Dover District Council-owned asset that is not being used to its full potential and the condition of the building is progressively deteriorating. Funds are not available within our capital programme to meet the projected expenditure of £1.4m to £1.7m over the next 10 years. In July 2014, we agreed to commission consultancy work needed to support the development of a sustainable business plan for future refurbishment and redevelopment. Consultants Ingham Pinnock undertook the study and, following this, the development of a bid for grant support to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was approved in November 2015.

¹² dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Leisure-Facilities/Play-Areas-MUGAs-Skate-Parks/Play-Areas,-MUGAs--Skate-Parks.aspx

¹³ dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/Evidence-Base/Heritage.aspx

- Since then, council officers have worked with the consultancy team and local steering group, including Dover Town Council and the Dover Society, on preparing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The development of the bid has involved wide-ranging stakeholder engagement and public consultation to help shape the bid and associated activity plan. We submitted the first round bid in December 2016 and, unfortunately, it was not successful. We are now working on a revised scheme, which will still involve an HLF bid (under £5m) and a phased approach to the works.

11. TOURISM

- Please see the “Regeneration and Transport” chapter for further information on Tourism and the Visitor Economy in the Dover district.

12. PERSONAL WELLBEING

- Personal well-being, also known as "subjective well-being", is about people evaluating their own lives.
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) assesses personal well-being (PWB) using four questions within the Annual Population Survey:
 - Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
 - Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
 - Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
 - Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?
- People are asked to respond on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”. The ONS then produce estimates of the mean ratings for all four personal well-being questions, as well as their distributions, using thresholds. This provides insight into people’s feelings about their lives and surroundings that economic statistics by themselves, such as GDP, do not provide.
- Labelling of thresholds:

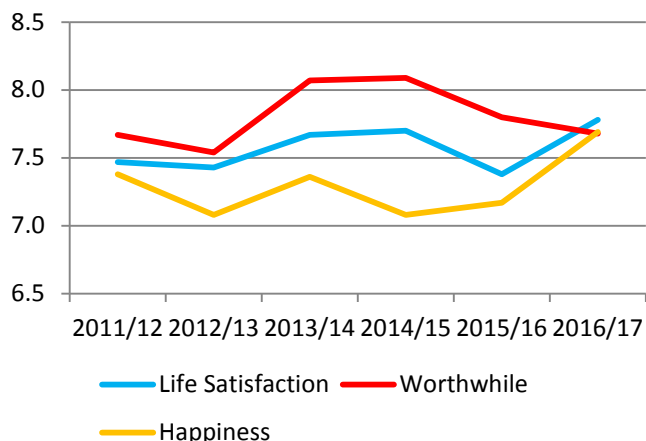
Life satisfaction, worthwhile and happiness scores		Anxiety scores	
Response on an 11 point scale	Label	Response on an 11 point scale	Label
0 – 4	Low	0 – 1	Very low
5 – 6	Medium	2 – 3	Low
7 – 8	High	4 – 5	Medium
9 – 10	Very high	6 – 10	High

- Research shows there are a number of factors influencing personal wellbeing and quality of life.
- Employment or job satisfaction, our health, the quality of our relationships and our personal financial security are just some of the aspects of our lives shown to have an effect.

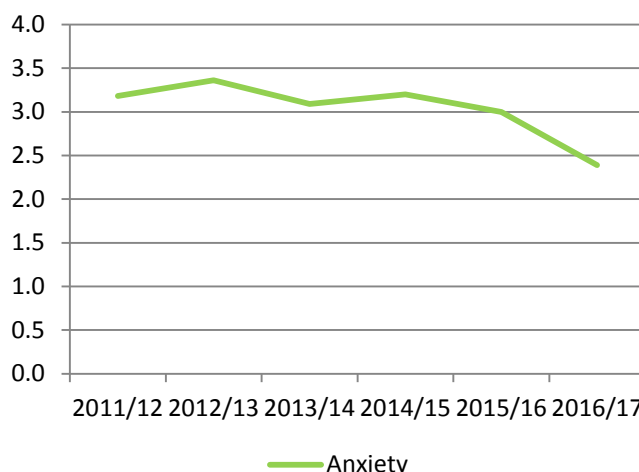
Dover Personal Wellbeing Ratings

- The average (mean) ratings across the four measures of personal well-being in the Dover district for the year ending March 2017 were:
 - 7.78 out of 10 for life satisfaction (compared to 7.7 nationally)
 - 7.68 out of 10 for feeling that what you do in life is worthwhile (compared to 7.9 nationally)
 - 7.69 out of 10 for happiness yesterday (compared to 7.5 nationally)
 - 2.39 out of 10 for anxiety yesterday (compared to 2.9 nationally)

Average life satisfaction, worthwhile and happiness ratings in the Dover District, year ending March 2012 to March 2017



Average anxiety ratings in the Dover District, year ending March 2012 to March 2017

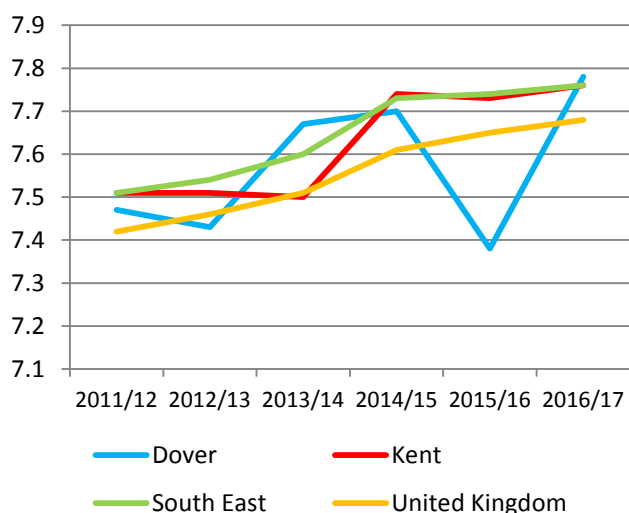


Source: Office for National Statistics

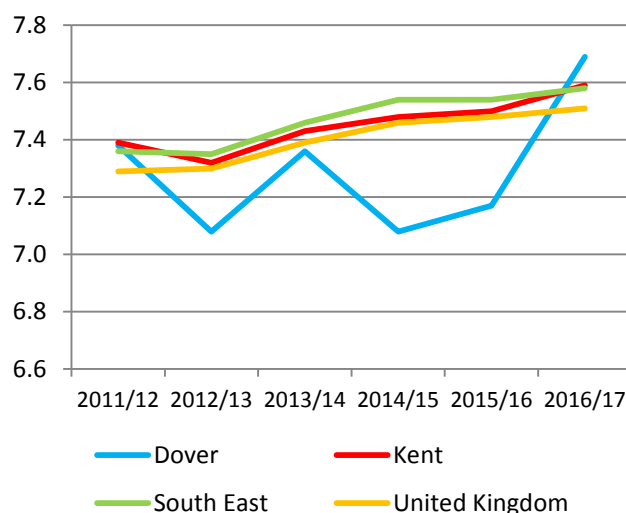
- Comparing the years ending March 2016 and 2017, there have been improvements in the average ratings of life satisfaction and happiness in the Dover district, (7.78 and 7.69 out of 10 respectively). Both of these are at their highest levels since the ONS began measuring PWB in 2011.
- However, feelings that the things we do in life are worthwhile have been dropping for the past couple of years (now 7.68 out of 10).
- Anxiety levels have also fallen, reaching a new low in the year ending March 2017 (2.39 out of 10), which is positive.

Comparison with Kent, South East and United Kingdom

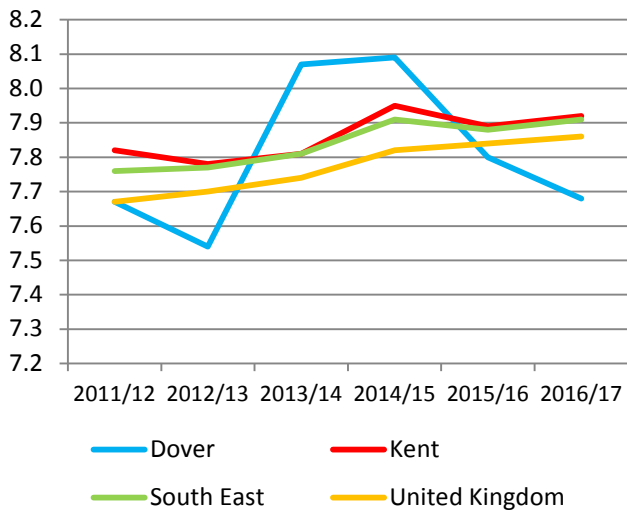
Personal Wellbeing: Life Satisfaction
Average (mean) ratings out of 10



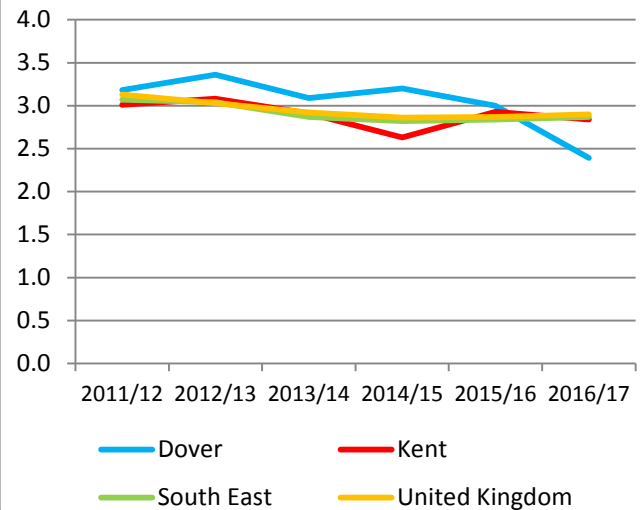
Personal Wellbeing: Happiness
Average (mean) rating out of 10



Personal Wellbeing: Worthwhile
Average (mean) rating out of 10



Personal Wellbeing: Anxiety
Average (mean) rating out of 10



Source: [ONS Personal well-being in the UK](#)

- Nationally there has also been a small increase in both reported happiness and life satisfaction. This may be considered surprising during a period that has seen political change and uncertainty. For example, the EU referendum and the appointment of a new prime minister. However, the ONS notes that employment rates rose during the period, and other ONS analysis has showed people perceiving an improvement in their own financial situations and in the overall economy. The ONS believes that these factors may account for some people's increased sense of personal well-being. It is also possible that these political events have not caused any sudden changes to the public's perceptions and experiences, as there is still much to be negotiated and agreed upon and the true impact of the referendum vote is not yet known.
- The ONS also publishes data for 43 national wellbeing indicators, which include our health, natural environment, personal finances and crime. However, this information is not available at a local authority level.