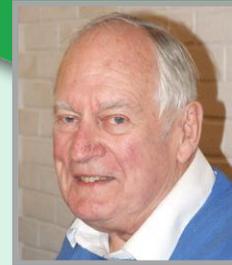


North Dorset Ward Profiles:

BLACKMORE



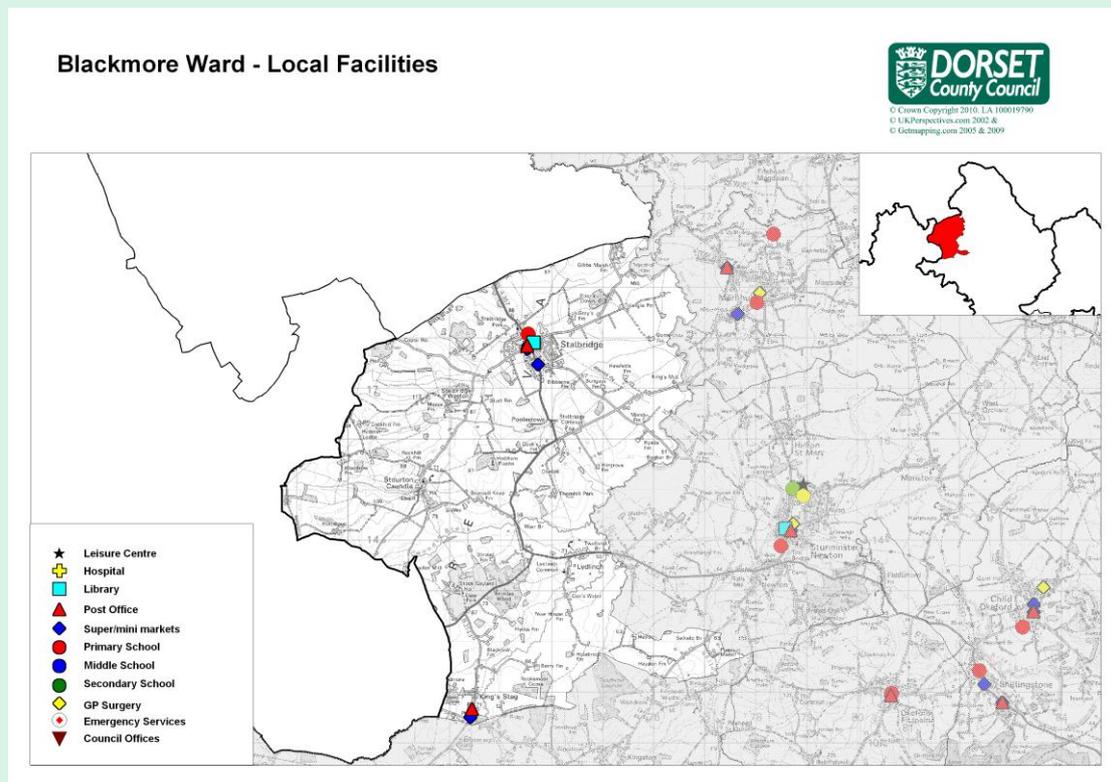
Cllr Bill Batty-Smith
Ward Member



Cllr Graham Carr-Jones
Ward Member

Location & Facilities

Blackmore is in the north of North Dorset district. There are three parishes within the ward: Lydlinch, Stalbridge and Stourton Caundle. There are a number of pubs, a library, GP Surgery, primary school, supermarket and shops in the small market town of Stalbridge as well as a pub in Stourton Caundle and King Stag. There is also a small shop in King Stag.



People

Blackmore ward has a total population 3,390; Stalbridge has the largest population of 2,560 and is the smallest town in Dorset, in terms of population. The population in Lydlinch parish is 420 and there are 410 residents in Stourton Caundle parish¹.

Over the last ten years (2000 to 2010) the total population of the ward has fallen by almost 4%. In 2000 the total population was 3,530¹.

In Blackmore ward over 27% of the population are aged 65 and over, this is much higher than the average across North Dorset (23%) and significantly higher than the national average of just 17%^{1,2}.

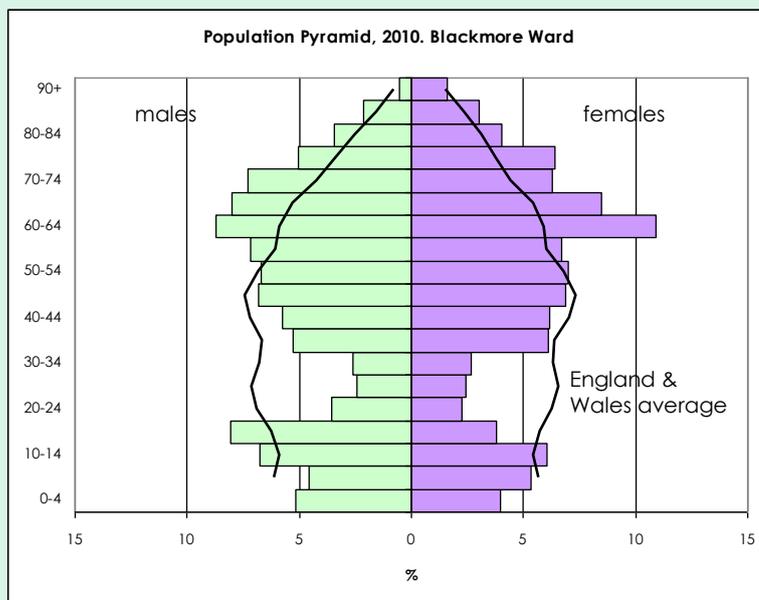
The population pyramid shows the population by gender and 5 year age group in Blackmore, the lines indicate the national average (England & Wales)^{1,2}.

There is an over representation of all age groups 45+ but a very low proportion of younger adults, in their 20s and 30s. This is typical of the picture across Dorset^{1,2}.

People aged 20-39 years make up 14% of the population in Blackmore, the national average is 26.8% (see chart below)^{1,2}.

In Blackmore the birth rate in 2009 was 8.7 births per 1000 population, below the district average (10.7 per 1000) and much lower than the national average (12.9 per 1000)³.

The death rate was 12.2 per 1000 population in Blackmore, higher than the district average (9.4 per 1000) and the national average (9 per 1000). Across Dorset birth rates are generally below average and death rates above average, a reflection of the older age structure of the County's population³.



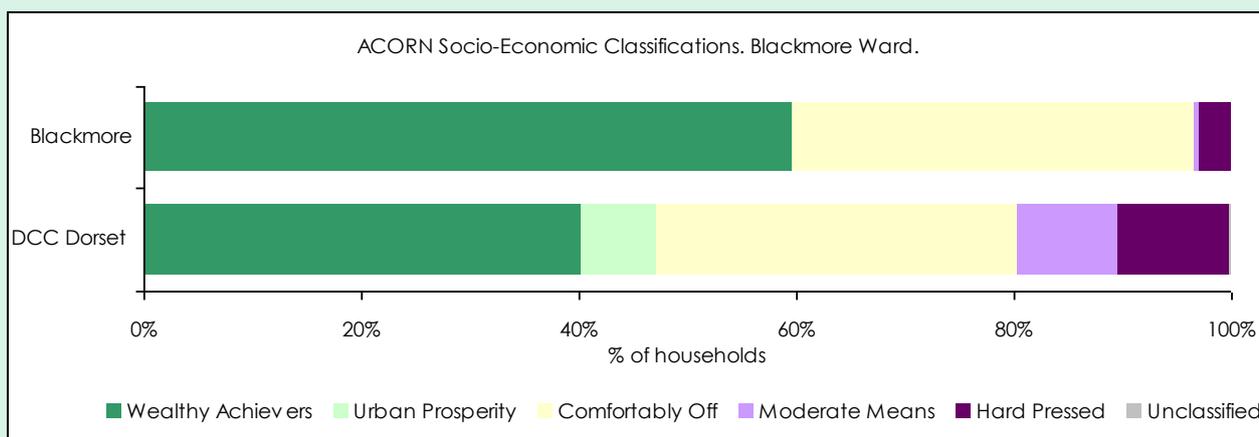
The 2001 Census showed that just 1.5% of the population in Blackmore were of Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups. This is lower than average across Dorset (3.2%) and significantly lower than the national average of 13%⁵.

The largest minority ethnic group in Blackmore in 2001 was 'White Other' which made up 40% of the BME population, followed by 'White Irish' (22%)⁵.

In 2001 the Census included a question on religion for the first time, however it was not compulsory. In Blackmore 81% stated their religion as Christian, 7% did not answer and 11% said they had no religion. All other religions made up just 0.4%. These figures are typical of Dorset⁵.

ACORN socio-economic classifications show that almost 60% of all households in Blackmore are in the 'wealthy achievers' category, above the County average of 40%⁶.

A further 37% are in the 'comfortably off' category and just 3.4% are categorised as either 'moderate means' or 'hard pressed', around half the County average, shown on the chart below⁶.



The National Index of Deprivation (ID 2010) shows that no areas in North Dorset district are amongst the 20% most deprived in England in terms of multiple deprivation. There are 35 SOAs in North Dorset district ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 35 (least deprived), there are two within Blackmore ward which are ranked 13th and 17th⁷.

Inequalities

13.5% of the population of Blackmore live in a household dependant on benefits (housing/council tax benefit). This is slightly higher than the average across North Dorset (12.7%)⁸.

Income Domain of the ID 2010 ranks the two SOAs in Blackmore ward 8th (Stalbridge Town) and 21st (Stalbridge Environs). In North Dorset district no areas are amongst the top 20% most deprived in England in terms of Income Deprivation⁷.

The 2001 Census included a question on disability and limiting long term illness, in Blackmore ward 17% of the population were affected. This is the same as the average across North Dorset (17%) and lower than the Dorset average (19%)⁵.

The Health Domain of the ID 2010 ranks the two SOAs in Blackmore ward 13th and 29th out of 35 in the district.

North Dorset district has one SOA, in Blandford, which is amongst the top 20% most deprived in England in terms of Health Deprivation⁷.

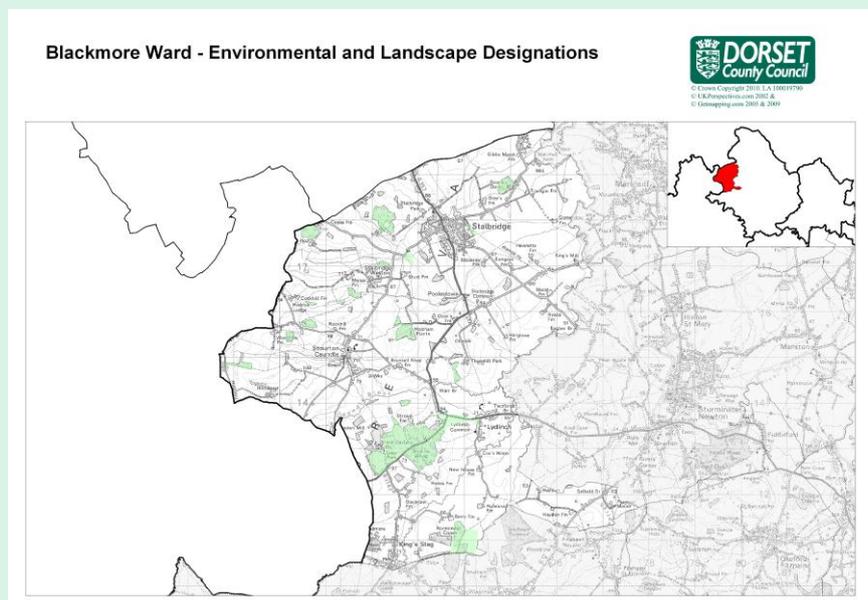
Just over 8% of the population in Blackmore ward are claiming either disability living allowance or attendance allowance, this is slightly higher than the average across North Dorset of 7.1%²⁰.

The rate of teenage conceptions across North Dorset district during the period 2006 to 2008 was 17.1 per 1000 females 15-17 years. This was lower than the County average for this period (26.3 per 1000) and significantly below the national average of 41.1 per 1000⁴.

In Blackmore the teenage conception rate for the period 2006 to 2008 was considerably lower than the district average and the County average of 26.3 per 1000⁴.

Environment & Quality of Life

North Dorset has a large number of environmental and landscape designations. The following map shows the spatial extent of these designations in Blackmore ward¹¹.



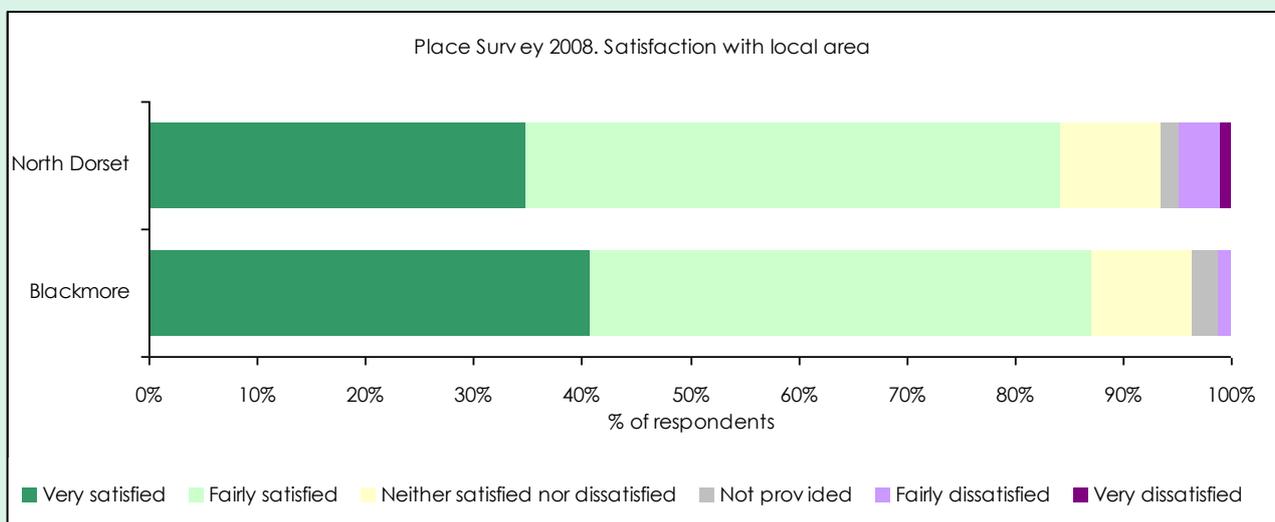
There are two monitoring points within Blackmore Ward. River water quality is rated as fairly good (C) and good (B) for chemical and very good (A) for biological water quality at these points¹².

During the past ten years average daily traffic flows have increased by 500 vehicles at the traffic measuring point within the ward¹³.

Annual Average Daily Traffic Flow (Vehicles)		Year			
Location	Ward	2000	2003	2008	2009
A357 Warr Bridge	Blackmore	3,000	3,260	3,600	3,500

Within Blackmore Ward there were 26 significant road collisions during the period from 2008 to 2011. 45 casualties resulted from these collisions. One of these collisions resulted in a fatality, seven were classified as severe and 18 slight¹³.

The 2008 Place survey asked residents how satisfied they were with their area as a place to live. In Blackmore over 87% were either very or fairly satisfied, with just 1% saying they were fairly dissatisfied, no-one was very dissatisfied. These are similar to the average across North Dorset district, as shown on the chart below¹⁷.



The survey also asked residents to choose from a list of options, what was important in making an area a good place to live. For residents in Blackmore the three most selected were: health services, affordable housing and the level of crime¹⁷.

Blackmore's residents felt that (from the same list of options) activities for teenagers, public transport and the level of traffic congestion were most in need of improvement¹⁷.

In general North Dorset has relatively low crime rates. In 2009/10 the total crime rate in the district was 39.4 crimes per 1000 population, lower than the County rate (50.9 per 1000) and around half the national rate (79 per 1000)¹⁸.

In Blackmore the total crime rate for 2009/10 was 28 per 1000 population¹⁸.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on quality of life. In Dorset in 2009/10 there were 54 recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour per 1000 population. In North Dorset district the figure was lower at 37 per 1000 and in Blackmore ward even lower with 26 incidents per 1000 population¹⁸.

Fear of crime, a proxy is taken from the results of the Place Survey, 2008 in which residents were asked how safe they felt in their local area after dark. In Blackmore

ward 8% said they felt fairly or very unsafe in their local area after dark, this was almost half the district average (15%)¹⁷.

The Crime Domain of the ID 2010 ranks Blackmore SOAs 17th and 24th, however these are both within the 20% least deprived in England in terms of crime deprivation⁷.

Housing

There are 1,610 dwellings in Blackmore ward⁹.

The average house price in the area (DT10 2 postcode sector) is £335,213 based on all sales during the period July-September 2010 (37 properties sold in total, 22 detached, 11 semi detached and four terraced). This was higher than the average price across North Dorset during this period (£267,669). The average price across England & Wales, based on sales July-September 2010, was £246,387 significantly lower than in DT10 2 postcode sector area¹⁰.

2011 Council Tax records show that 1.4% of dwellings in Blackmore ward are second homes/holiday homes, just below the district average (1.6%). Stourton Caundle parish has the highest proportion of second homes, they make up 2.6% of dwellings.

Second homes are most common in the coastal parishes⁹.

Semi-detached properties are most common in Blackmore ward, they make up just over 44% of the stock followed by detached (40%) and terraced (11%). Just 4% are flats. Overall the proportion of semi-detached properties is above the County average (DCC: 22%) whilst flats are below average (DCC: 15%)⁵.

The majority of households in Blackmore are owner occupied, 37% are owned outright and 37% are owned with a mortgage⁵.

Just over 12% of households are privately rented, and 13% are rented from the local authority or housing association, these are similar to the averages across Dorset⁵.

Learning & Knowledge

In 2001 (Census) almost 30% of 16-74 year olds in Blackmore ward had no qualifications, similar to the national average but slightly higher than the County average (26%)⁵.

Almost 16% had higher level qualifications (degree or equivalent), this was below the national average at the time (20%)⁵.

In 2010, 32 pupils living in Blackmore reached the end of Key stage 4 and took GCSE s. The GCSE pass rate (5+ grade A-C including English & Maths) for these pupils is suppressed as the numbers are too small for information to be disclosed. Across North Dorset the

pass rate was 58.4%, slightly higher than the average for England (55.1%)¹⁹.

The Education, Skills and Training Domain of the ID 2010 ranks the two SOAs in Blackmore 9th and 18th in the district. In North Dorset district no areas are amongst the top 20% most deprived in England in terms of Deprivation in Education, Skills and Training⁷.

On average residents in Blackmore ward are almost 13 miles from the nearest further education establishment and five miles from the nearest sixth form¹⁴.

Access

The nearest train station is Templecombe which is on the main line from Exeter to London Waterloo, providing at least an hourly service. However, this is around four miles by road from the settlements in Blackmore ward.

Stalbridge and Lydlinch are on the A357, which is south of the A30 and connects Sherborne and Shaftesbury. The remaining settlements are connected by more minor routes.

In 2001 (census) just 14% of households did not have a car, this was the same as North Dorset as a whole but significantly lower than the national average (26%). This is typical of Dorset where car ownership is higher in the more rural areas⁵.

Stalbridge is served by a bus service at least three times a day which goes north to Wincanton, but also links with an hourly service to Sherborne. Lydlinch has a less frequent service, with no more than two buses per day and in Stourton Caundle services are only on certain days of the week¹⁴.

Over 74% of Blackmore ward households are within 30 minutes by public transport from a shop and 68% from a GP¹⁴.

Within Blackmore Ward there are two SOAs, one of which (Stalbridge Environs) is within the 5% most deprived in England in terms of geographical access to services, a significant level of deprivation based on this measure⁷.

Local Economy

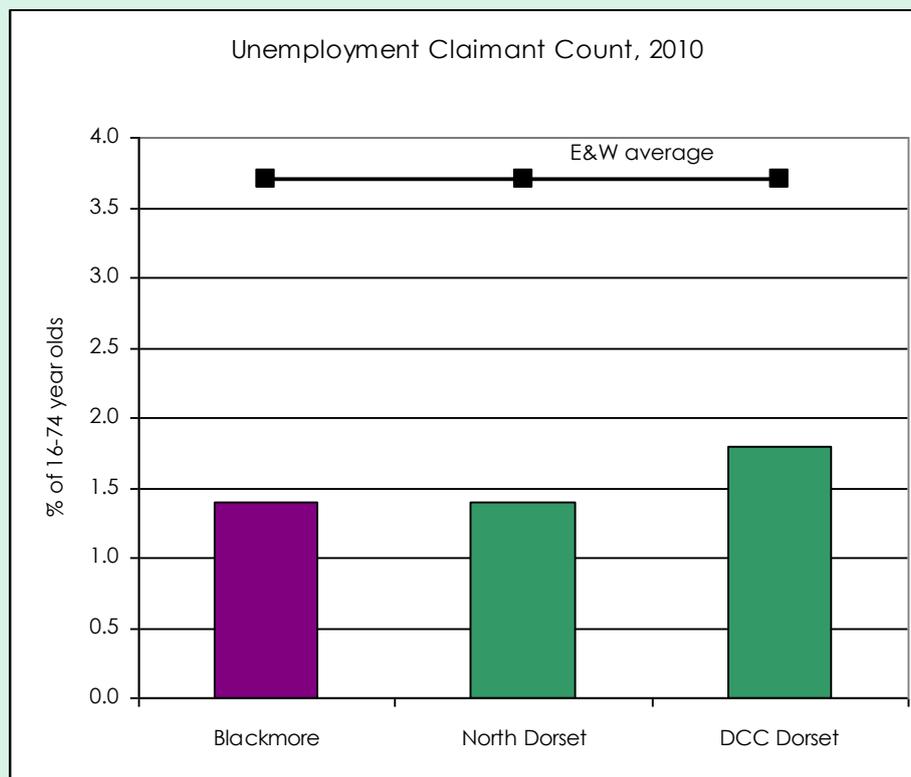
In 2001 (Census) almost 67% of people aged 16-74 years in Blackmore were economically active (employed, self employed or unemployed) and the remaining 33% were economically inactive (retired, sick, student or looking after family). These were similar to the national figures⁵.

Whilst the majority (36%) of 16-74 years olds were in full time employment, 14% were employed part time and over 15% were self employed, much higher than the national average of 8%⁵.

Over 17% were retired, much higher than the national figure of 14%, a reflection of the older population in Blackmore⁵.

More recent information on unemployment is taken from the claimant count. The rate for May 2011 was 1.2%. This is much in line with North Dorset (1.3%), but less than DCC Dorset (1.6%) and Great Britain (3.7%)¹⁵.

The annual average claimant rate for 2010 was 1.4%, which is equal to North Dorset but less than DCC Dorset (1.8%) and Great Britain (3.7%)¹⁵.



There are approximately 150 businesses in Blackmore ward²². This is approximately 6.1% of the total number of businesses in North Dorset (2,450)¹⁶.

The percentage of businesses in the Service sector²³ is 62%, which is below the level of North Dorset as a whole (70%)¹⁶.

There are approximately 50 businesses (31% of total businesses) in Knowledge driven industries²⁴, less than North Dorset (42%)¹⁶.

Approximately 900 employees are working in Blackmore ward, accounting for 4.3% of the total number of employees in North Dorset (21,900)¹⁶.

The Service sector accounts²³ for 60% of employees in Blackmore ward, which is less than North Dorset (77%)¹⁶.

Roughly 200 employees work in Knowledge driven industries²⁴, which is about 26% of total employees, less than North Dorset (45%)¹⁶.

Dorset Village Bakery Ltd (Fudges) is the major employer in the ward²¹.

DATA SOURCES:

1. *Mid-2010 Ward Population Estimates, DCC.*
2. *Mid-2010 Population Estimates (LAs), ONS.*
3. *2009 Vital Statistics, ONS.*
4. *Teenage Pregnancy Unit, ONS.*
5. *2001 Census, ONS.*
6. *ACORN Socio-Economic Classifications, CACI 2010.*
7. *Index of Deprivation 2010, CLG. Areas are ranked with 1 being the most deprived.*
8. *Housing/Council Tax Benefit Claimants 2010, DWP.*
9. *2011 Council Tax Records North Dorset DC.*
10. *Average House Price Data, April-June 2010. HM Land Registry.*
11. *Environmental Designations, DCC 2010.*
12. *Water Quality, The Environment Agency, 2008.*
13. *Traffic Flows & Collisions, DCC 2010.*
14. *Public Transport & Access to Services, DCC 2011.*
15. *Unemployment Claimant Count 2010, NOMIS, ONS*
16. *Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) 2010, ONS.*
17. *2008 Place Survey, DCC.*
18. *Crime Rates 2009/10, Dorset Police, Figures derived from Crime in England and Wales, 2009/10, Table 7.07. Home Office Statistical Bulletin July 2010. Home Office: London*
19. *GCSE Pass Rates 2009/10, Residence Base NOMIS, ONS*
20. *Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance Claimants, DWP. 2010*
21. *Large Employers, DCC via internet/local paper searches.*

DEFINITIONS:

22. *Number of businesses includes those which are **PAYE only** and **PAYE & VAT** registered but does not include businesses which are **VAT only** registered. Therefore the number of businesses given is likely to be an underestimate of the true figure.*
23. *Service Sector includes all sectors except Construction, Production and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.*
24. *Knowledge Driven Industries includes sectors that involve the application of a high level of 'technical' information*