

Corporate peer challenge information report for Hart



Written by LGA Research from Local Government Association

LG Inform

Corporate peer challenge information report for Hart

This is a report giving background information to support Local Government Association facilitated corporate peer challenges. The report includes demographic information about the area and various key performance measures related to the council. It contains the measures used within the Office for Local Government (Oflog) dashboard.

Currently this report displays metrics related to Hart District Council, including finance, housing, health and wellbeing, economic prosperity, education, children's services, adults social care, community safety and roads. These are compared with the average for Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

To change the council area and comparison group this report focuses on, please use the selector boxes near the top of the page. In two-tier areas, some of the charts will not contain data, if the council is not responsible for that service.

The metrics in the charts below are taken from various published national data collections: source information for each metric is listed under the chart. For a more detailed view of the data in the chart, click on the link in the source underneath it. All data is shown as it appears in the source publication; if your chosen authority doesn't feature in one of the charts, this is because the value was either missing from the original publication, is suppressed due to disclosure rules of the publication source or, as outlined above, is not responsible for the service.

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Summary of Hart

Hart has a total population of **101,542** residents. **21.3%** of the population are aged under 18, and **20.5%** of the population are aged 65 and over. At the last Census **7.5%** of the population are from a black or minority ethnic population, and **13.1%** of the population described themselves as non white UK (i.e. not white British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish, or Welsh). **0.4%** of the population report that they cannot speak English well or at all.

According to the indices of multiple deprivation 2019 (IMD) Hart is ranked **317** out of 326 authorities in England, with a ranking of 1 being the most deprived. IMD combines information across seven Domains: IMD combines information across seven domains (income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation, and crime) to provide a measure of relative deprivation for all areas in England. **5.5%** of children in Hart live in poverty. This is based on the IMD Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2019. According to the latest Department for Work and Pensions figures, there are an estimated total of **1,550** children in Hart living in families in relative low income.

55.8% of children in Hart achieved 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs in 2023/24 (academic). This compares with **46.2%** for England. **Missing%** of working age people in Hart are unemployed, compared with **3.9%** for England as a whole. The median weekly wage for employees living in Hart is **£914.00**. This compares with an England wage of **£732.00**.

Finance

The charts below show information about council finances. They provide contextual information on local authority funding, the constraints they face and their overall financial resilience.

The first two charts show data about council reserves.

Reserves exist because councils are responsible for setting and managing their own budgets and for forward planning, which means they have to prepare for future eventualities. The ability to hold reserves means councils are not under pressure to spend money during a single financial year in order to get it used up – it can be carried forward into the following year. The reserves represent amounts carried forward from one year to the next.

Councils hold reserves for three main purposes:

- To provide for financial risks, so that any unbudgeted future events can be funded without the need for immediate cuts in services. This is the equivalent of household savings set aside 'for a rainy day'.
- To set aside funding for future projects. Not everything the council wants or needs to do can start immediately and some programmes take more than one year. Reserves enable councils to set money aside to ensure these priorities can be funded.
- Because funding has been provided for specific purposes - often by central government. This can be called 'ringfencing'. The money can only be used for that purpose and, unless it can be spent immediately, it needs to be set aside for later.

Councils often ' earmark' reserves for specific purposes, or have those purposes decided for them (in the case of ringfenced money). They also leave a proportion of reserves 'unallocated' or 'non-ringfenced' because some financial risks cannot be foreseen and money needs to be kept aside for these eventualities.

It is largely up to councils how much they keep in reserves and how much they earmark. Councils may therefore have different approaches to how they distinguish between ' earmarked' and 'unallocated' reserves. The level of a council's reserves will also depend upon its needs, the risks it faces and what it wants to do. For example, a council with ambitious plans may have higher risk, and so keep a higher level of reserves; while one with policies that largely avoid risk may have lower levels. It can also depend upon the decisions the council has made in the past. The level of reserves that need to be held is therefore largely a matter of judgement.

Councils need to keep a prudent level of reserves to provide for risks, although it is difficult to judge this without knowing the future. A level that is 'too high' would lock away public money that could possibly be spent in other ways, but councils with 'too low' a level are taking a chance that nothing will happen which costs them the whole of their reserves.

One of the biggest financial risks facing councils is that government funding is only announced one year at a time. Councils could keep lower levels of reserves if they were given certainty of funding for a period into the future.

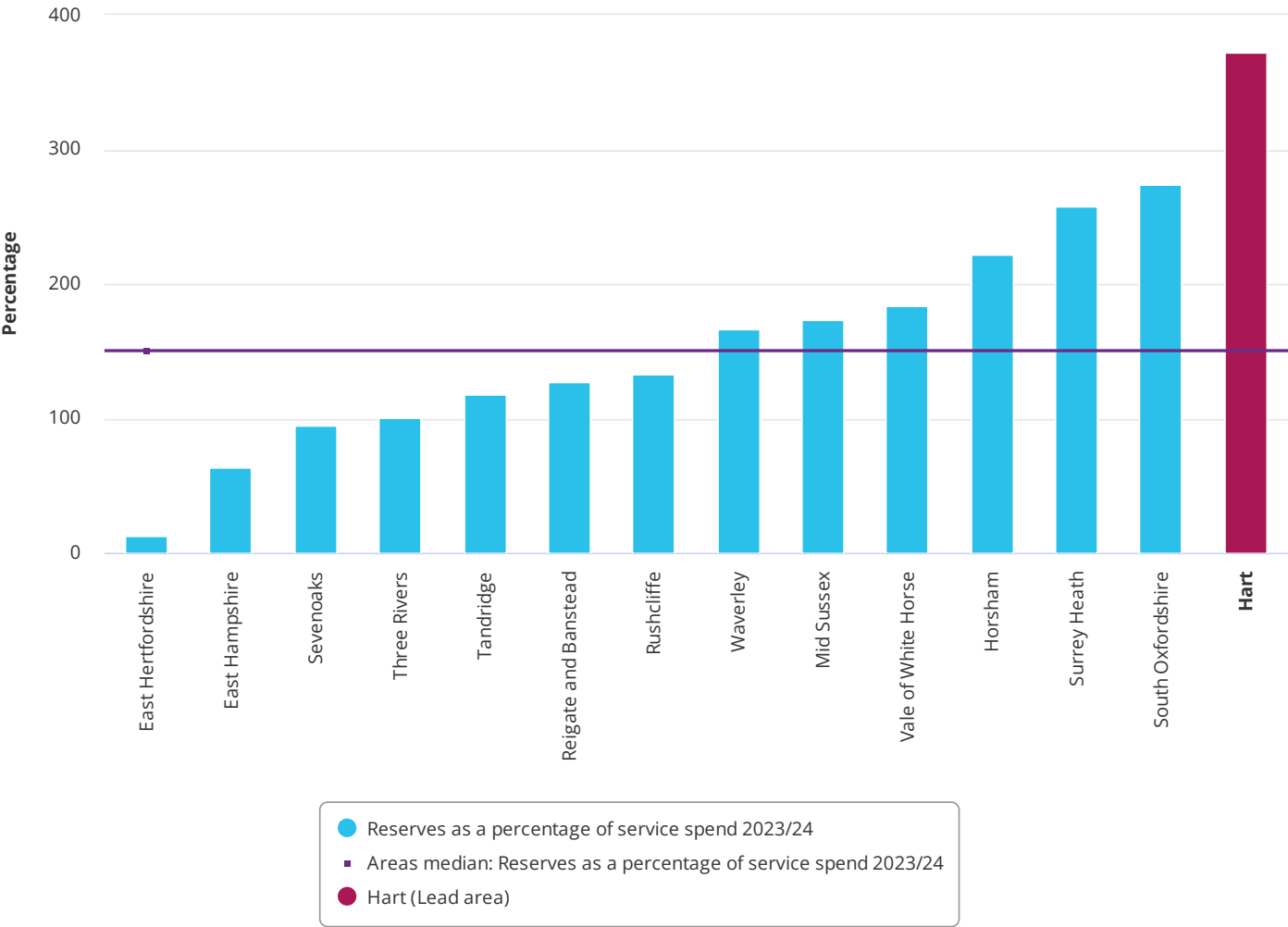
Reserves as a proportion of service expenditure

The following chart shows reserves as a proportion of 'service expenditure'. 'Service expenditure' is one of the ways in which council spending can be expressed, and is the total of all expenditure on services provided by the council after deducting grants provided by government departments, specifically to run a particular service, and any income generated by those services, such as charges for use of leisure facilities or planning fees.

Total reserves are the sum of 'unallocated' reserves (those that have been put aside for unspecified, unexpected expenses) plus 'earmarked reserves' (those that the council has set aside for specific purposes, such as a planned project, or because the purposes was decided for them by the government department which awarded them the funding - in the case of ringfenced money). For more information about reserves and how councils use them, see the introduction to the 'Finance' section above.

In 2023/24, the reserves as a proportion of 'service expenditure' for Hart was 372.5%, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median proportion of 130.6%.

Reserves as a percentage of service spend (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source:
Calculated by LG Inform, N/A

Reserves as a proportion of net revenue expenditure

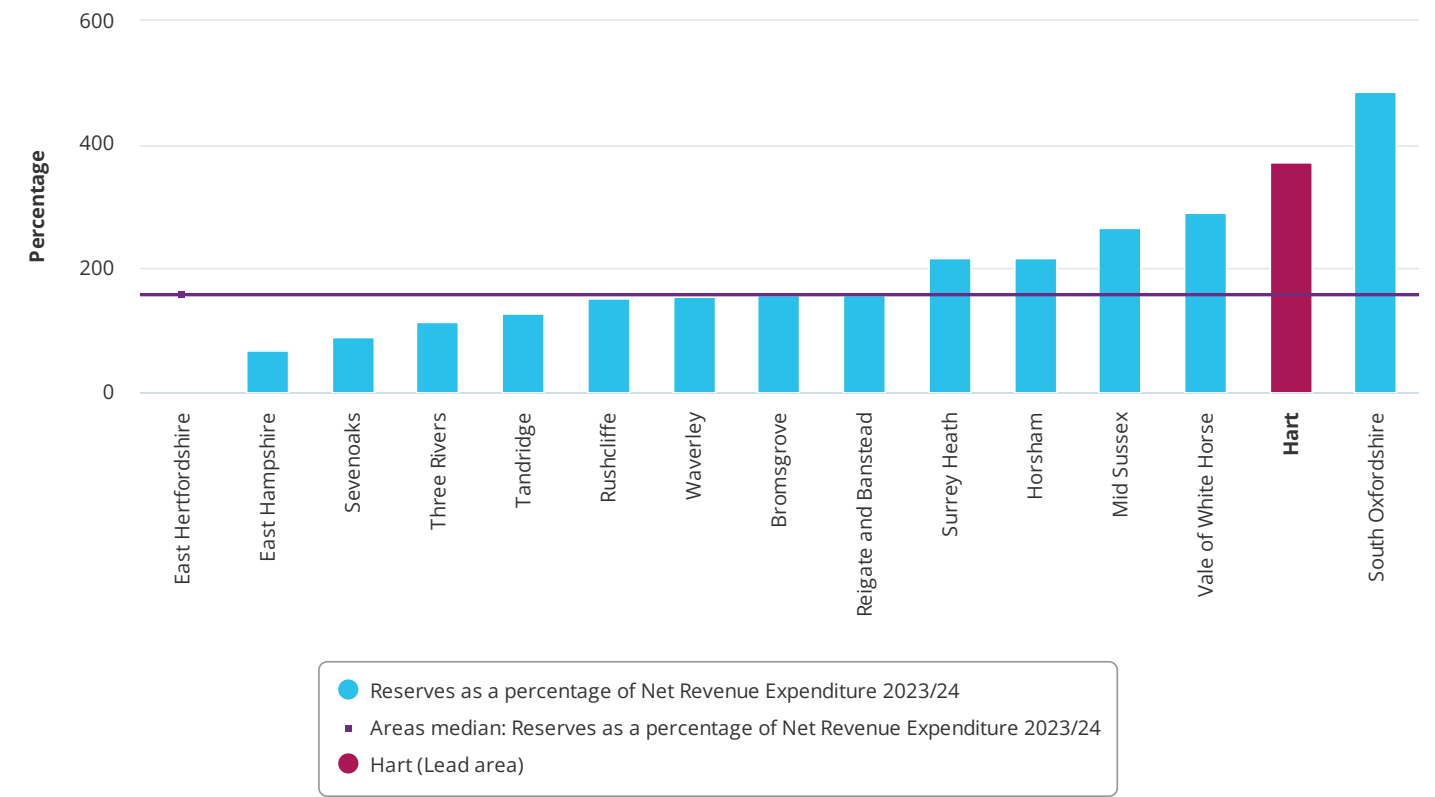
The following chart shows total reserves as a proportion of 'net revenue expenditure'. 'Net revenue expenditure' is one of the ways in which council spending can be expressed, and is the total of all expenditure on services provided by the council, plus certain types of other expenditure councils incur such as the costs of administering housing benefits on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, the costs of borrowing, income from investments, surpluses and deficits from trading activities and amounts paid to other local public bodies in some parts of the country (for example, parish councils and waste disposal authorities). It also deducts grants provided by government departments specifically to run particular services and any income generated by those services, plus any other government grants. 'Net revenue expenditure' is then funded each year by Council Tax, business rates, use of reserves (where appropriate) and – for some councils - the general grant from government which is called 'Revenue Support Grant'.

'Net revenue expenditure' is arguably a more relevant figure against which to compare levels of reserves than 'Service Expenditure', because the reserves will reflect risks relating to the whole of the council's expenditure not just its services.

Total reserves are the sum of 'unallocated' reserves (those that have been put aside for unspecified, unexpected expenses) plus 'earmarked reserves' (those that the council has set aside for specific purposes, such as a planned project, or because the purposes was decided for them by the government department which awarded them the funding - in the case of ringfenced money).

In 2023/24, the total reserves as a proportion of 'net revenue expenditure' for Hart was 372.3%, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median proportion of 155.8%.

Reserves as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



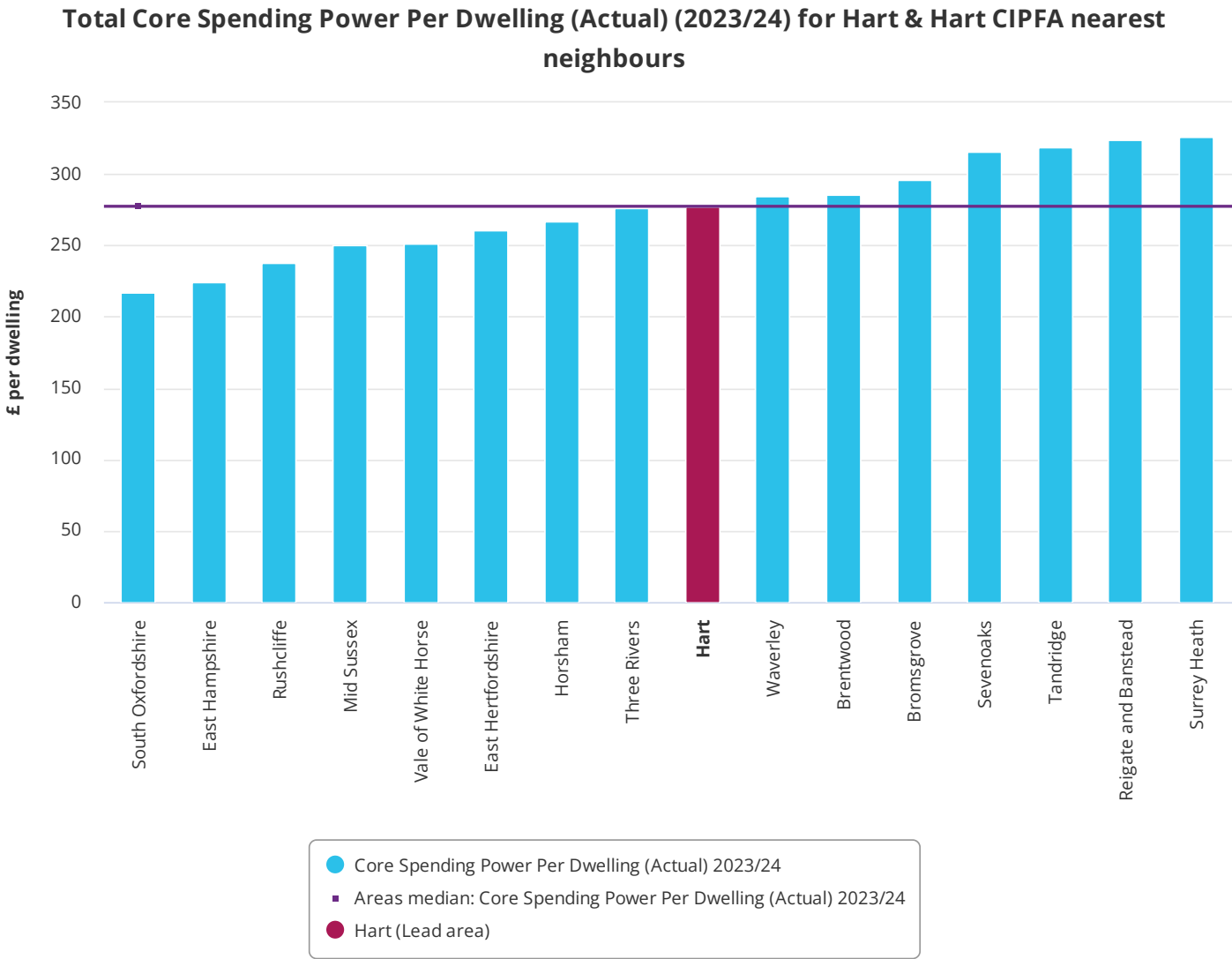
Source: Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Reserves as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

Total core spending power per dwelling

Core Spending Power is described by the government as a measure of the resources available to councils to fund service delivery. It combines income from Council Tax and business rates (as estimated by the government) with many of the revenue grants that government departments provide to councils. Core Spending Power is largely out of the control of the council and may be thought of as the amount of money made available by the government, which is a combination of grants provided by the government and local taxes (Council Tax and Business Rates) that the government permits councils to raise and retain. Core Spending Power excludes several important sources of income such as Dedicated Schools Grant. An explanation of Core Spending Power and what is included within it can be found [here](#):

[Explanatory note on core spending power](#)

In 2023/24, the total core spending power per dwelling for Hart was £277.56, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median of £276.65.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Core spending power, [Total Core Spending Power Per Dwelling \(Actual\)](#) , **Data updated:** 07 Feb 2025

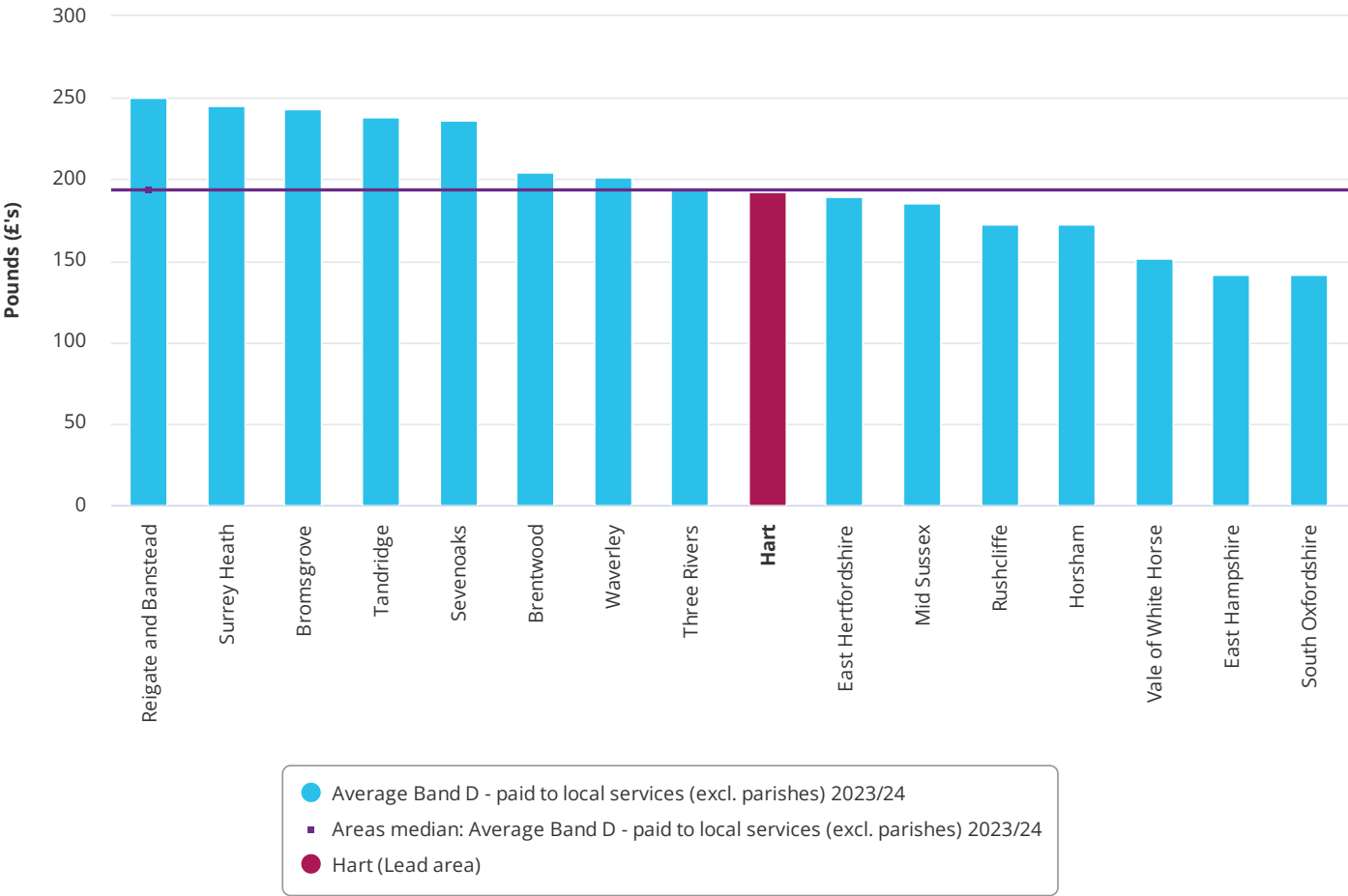
Level of Band D Council Tax rates

Band D Council Tax is set each year by the council. The 'Band D' formula theoretically allows comparison between authorities on how much Council Tax would be paid by a couple living in a medium-sized property. Band D Council Tax is the aggregate of Council Tax decisions by all 'precepting' authorities in the area, although excluding parish and town council in this case. For example, in many rural areas, it is the total of Band D tax set by the district council, the county council, the police and the fire authority.

The original conception of Band D Council Tax was that, if all councils provided the same level of service to local residents, Band D council tax should be the same everywhere, with different levels of government grants providing for councils with different needs. It is arguable how much this was ever true, but it certainly isn't the case now. Council Tax bandings have not been reviewed for over thirty years and the distribution formula for grants has not be amended for many years, so it is no longer possible to say with certainty that a council with a lower Council Tax is more efficient than one setting a higher rate.

In 2023/24, the average council tax Band D bill for Hart was £192.42, which was below the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median bill of £194.55.

Council Tax average Band D tax bill - amount paid to local services (excl. parishes) (2023/24)
for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



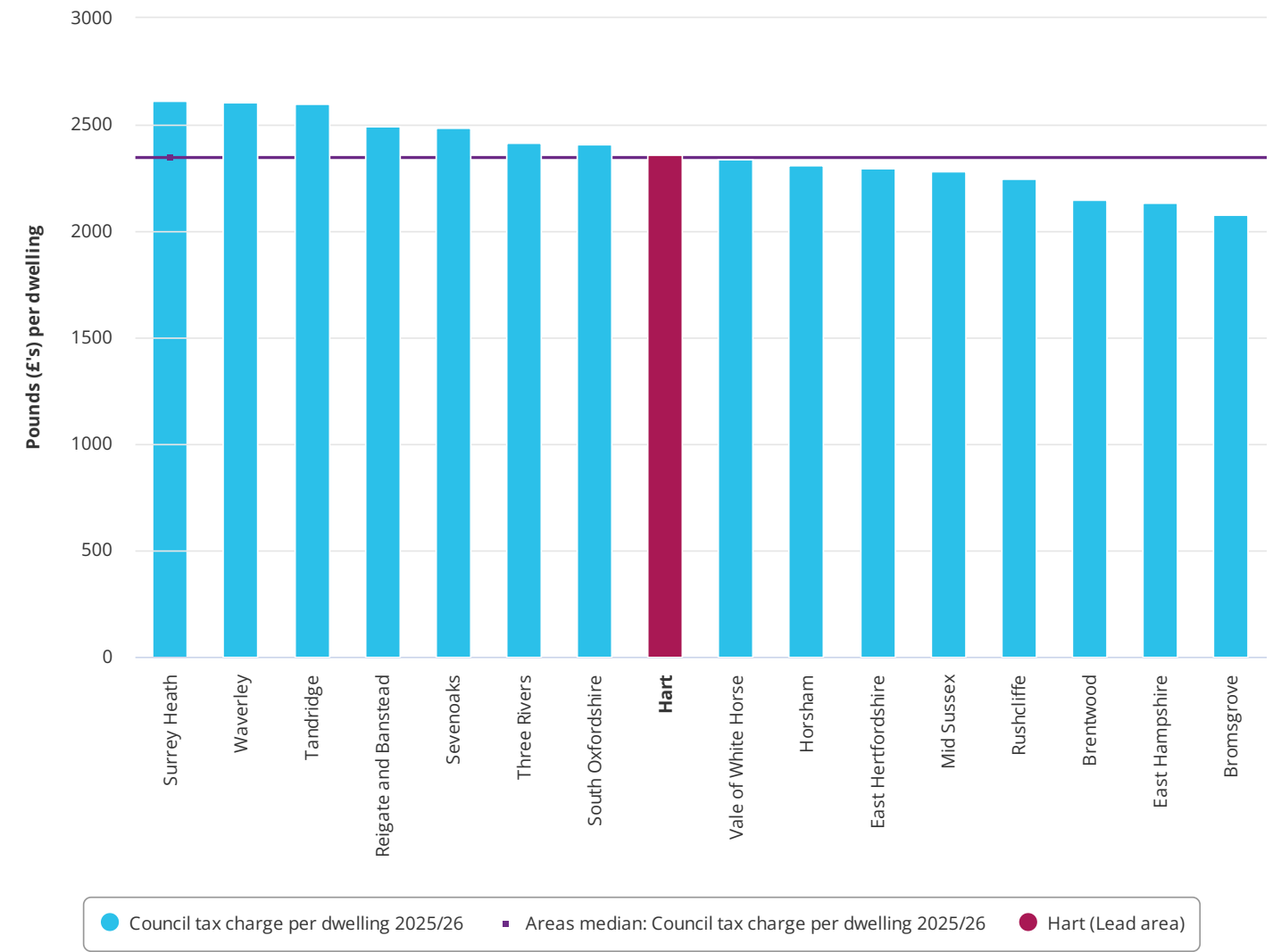
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council Tax levels set by local authorities, [Council tax average Band D tax bill - amount paid to local services \(excl. parishes\)](#) , **Data updated:** 20 Mar 2025

Council Tax revenue per dwelling

This is a broad measure of how much Council Tax on average a resident in a particular area pays, before local discounts and council tax support. This measure differs from the Band D Council Tax rate because not all properties belong to the 'Band D' category for a medium sized, medium value dwelling. In practice, some authorities have a majority of lower valued properties while others contain a lot of higher valued residences. Generally speaking this reflects the nature of the area and its property. It is important to note that the majority of bandings were based on valuations in 1991.

In 2023/24, the average council tax a resident pays, before local discounts and council tax support, for Hart was £2,151.65, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median of £2,113.91.

Council tax, average charge per chargeable dwelling (2025/26) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council tax, [Council tax, average charge per chargeable dwelling](#) , Data updated: 20 Mar 2025

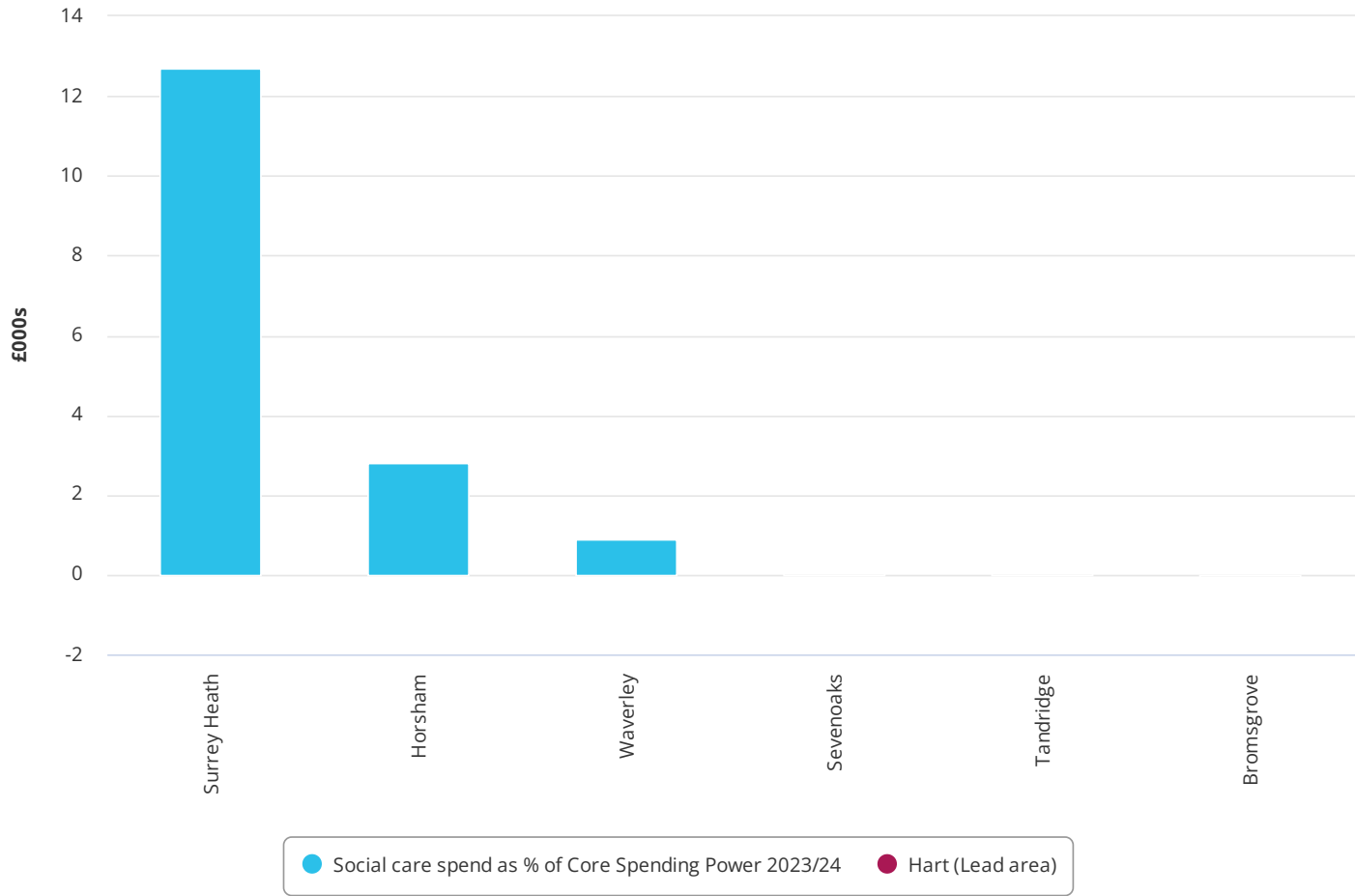
Social care spend as percentage of core spending power

Core Spending Power is described by the government as a measure of the resources available to councils to fund service delivery. Where a council is a social care providing authority (counties and single tier authorities), a proportion of that funding will need to be allocated to provide social care for adults and children. This chart shows that proportion (although the chart below may be empty of your council's data if you have selected a district authority: you may change the report, to show your county council's data, by using the modifier at the top of the report).

Social care is generally regarded as a 'demand led' service, insomuch as the cost of providing these services is strongly influenced by the number of eligible residents living in the area – for example the size of the elderly population or the number of vulnerable children. The proportion of core spending power allocated to social care spending is a measure of how much a council has allocated to these services but also an indication of how much funding it has available for other services.

In 2023/24, the level of social care spend as a percentage of Core Spending Power for Hart was 0.0%, which was below the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median of 0.0%.

Social care spend as % of Core Spending Power (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours

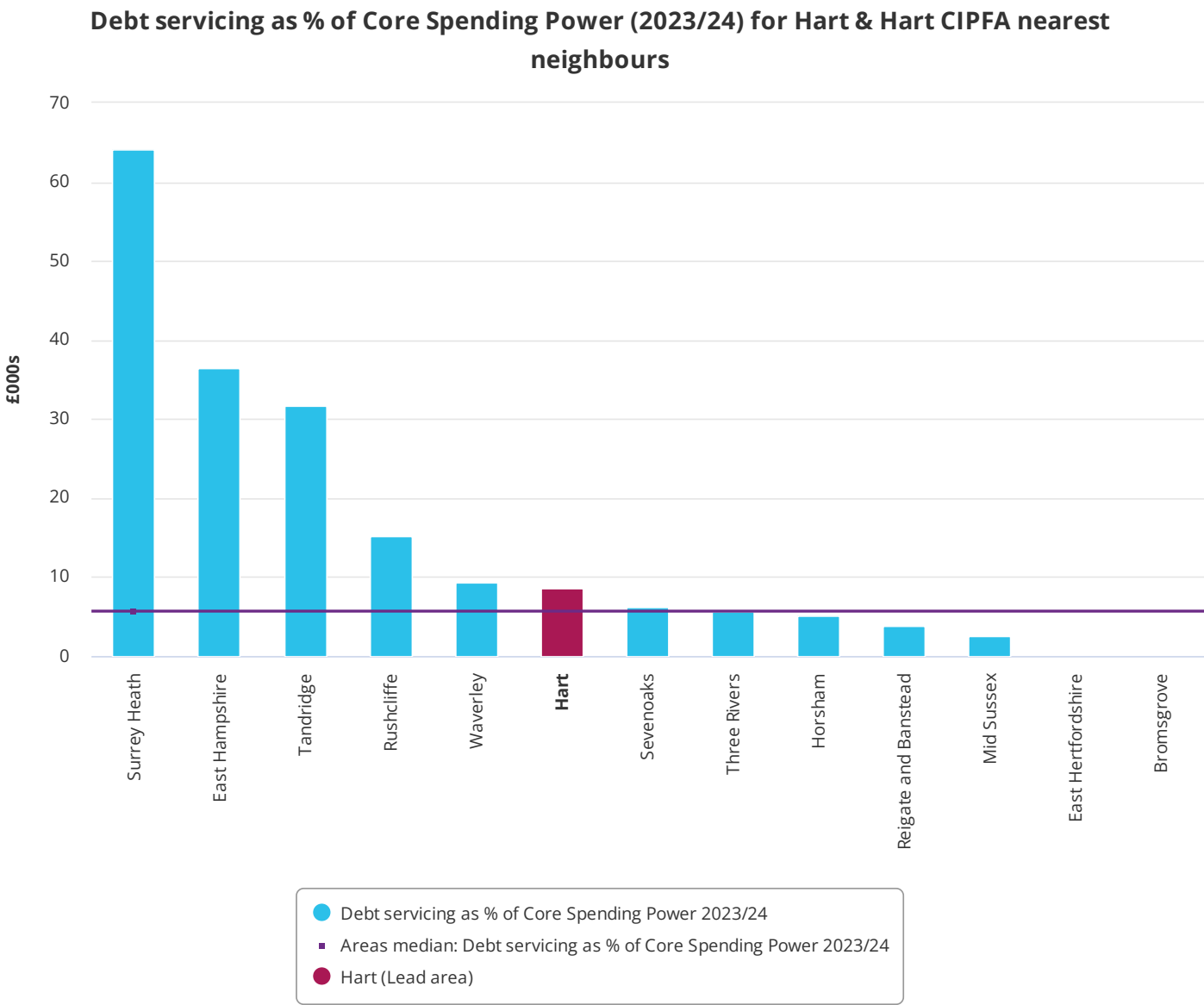


Source: Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Social care spend as % of Core Spending Power](#) , Data updated: 22 Mar 2025

Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power

Capital expenditure is expenditure which has an impact over more than one year – for example building a road or a community centre which is going to last many years. Where a council finances capital spending by borrowing or credit, it will incur costs on its budget over the period of the loan or credit arrangement. These figures demonstrate how much the council is currently paying in relation to servicing its debt compared with its Core Spending Power, recognising the fact that current residents are getting the benefit of investments in assets made several years ago.

In 2023/24, the level of debt servicing as a percentage of Core Spending Power for Hart was 8.7%, which was below the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median of 5.5%.



Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Debt servicing as % of Core Spending Power](#) , Data updated: 22 Mar 2025

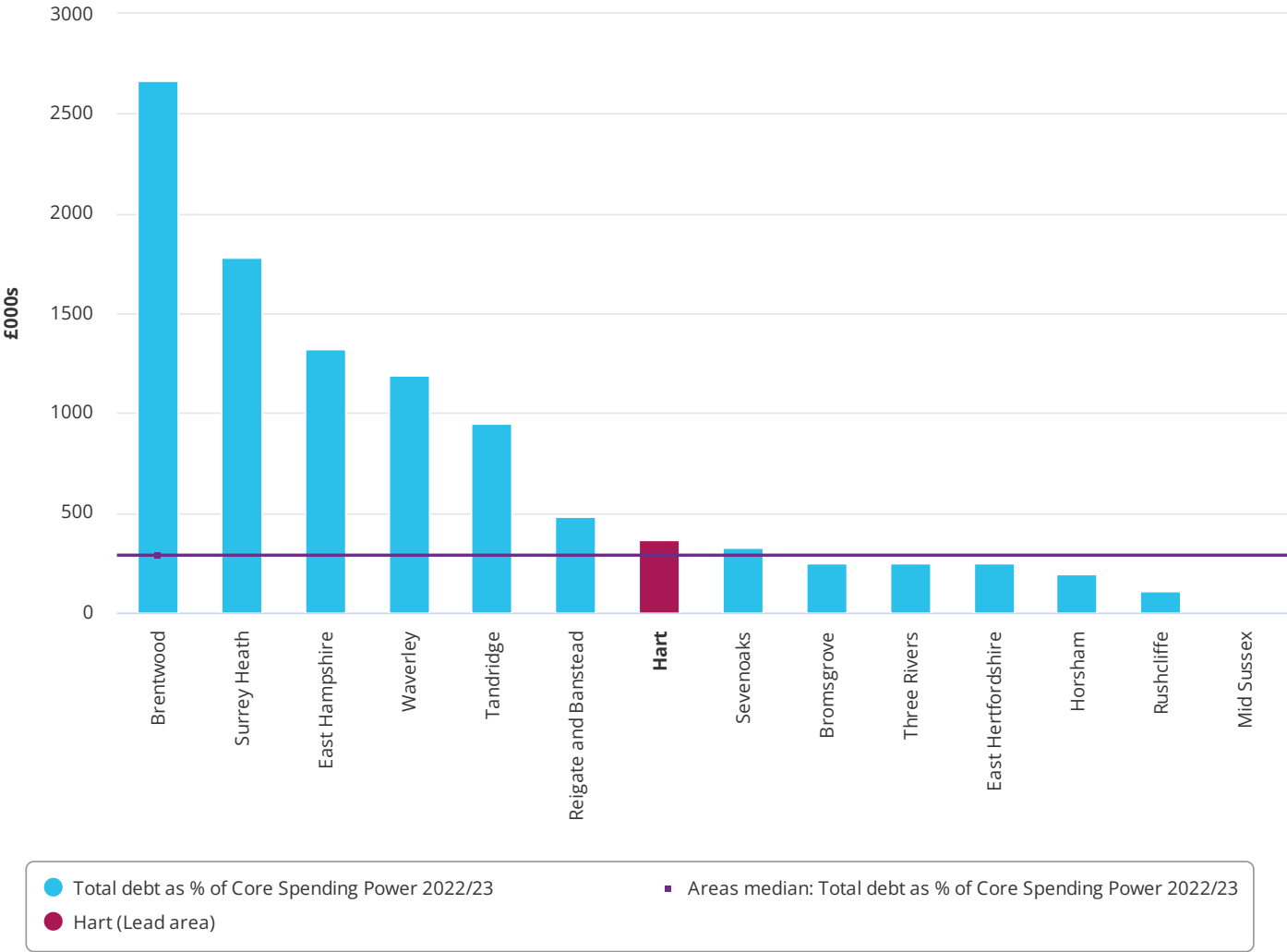
Total debt as percentage of core spending power

‘Total debt’ is Capital Financing Requirement, a measure of capital indebtedness that the council has built up over many years of capital financing decisions, but based on a methodology. It is perhaps more accurate to describe this as the amount of capital expenditure that has not yet been funded by capital receipts, capital grants or revenue contributions and which therefore will need to be funded in future years. As such, it is some kind of measure of capital indebtedness, but arguably not a perfect one.

Core Spending Power is a measure of the funding the government makes available to councils for service delivery but it excludes several important elements that may be contributing to the servicing of debt including schools grants, investment income, service income and housing rents.

In 2024/25, the total debt as a percentage of Core Spending Power for Hart was 316.2%, which was below the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median percentage of 354.5%.

Total debt as % of Core Spending Power (2022/23) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Total debt as % of Core Spending Power](#) , Data updated: 11 Mar 2025

Corporate health

Workforce

The two charts below show the vacancy rate and labour turnover for the council overall. The vacancy rate is the count of vacancies as a proportion of the overall headcount of a local authority; while labour turnover is the total headcount of leavers (either voluntarily or involuntarily, including retirements, resignations, dismissals or redundancies) over the last financial year as a proportion of the average total headcount of those employed over the last financial year.

Both of these measures are taken from a voluntary HR benchmarking collection, which does not have a response from all authorities. If data is not available for your selected council, the name of the authority will not feature on the chart, and the value in sentence below will show 'Missing'.

If the selected council data is missing, you might want to ask the council what their vacancy rate and labour turnover is, so that you can compare them then to other authorities. And you may also be interested in whether they benchmark their HR data in some other way. If they don't, you may want to ask why they don't benchmark basic corporate health data – as this would help them get a sense of whether they have a problem with vacancies or labour turnover which needs some action. It may also give you some insight into their approach to performance management.

Where the council value is available, and is high compared to other similar authorities, you might want to ask what the reason is. For example, although high vacancy rates and labour turnover can negatively affect service delivery, the council may be holding or managing vacancies during a restructure or for some other legitimate reason. You might also ask what the council is doing, if anything, about the rate.

Even if the council's data appears 'average', their overall vacancy rate and labour turnover may hide problems in particular service areas. LGA research shows that many authorities have particular problems with recruitment and retention in key service areas like adult and children's social care and building control. You might want to ask them whether there are any particular services where they have workforce capacity issues, because you may well want to bring it in when you are looking at performance in particular services.

In no valueHart District Council had a vacancy rate of no value per cent. The chart below shows the vacancy rate compared to Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Vacancy rate (2024/25) for Hart, Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours

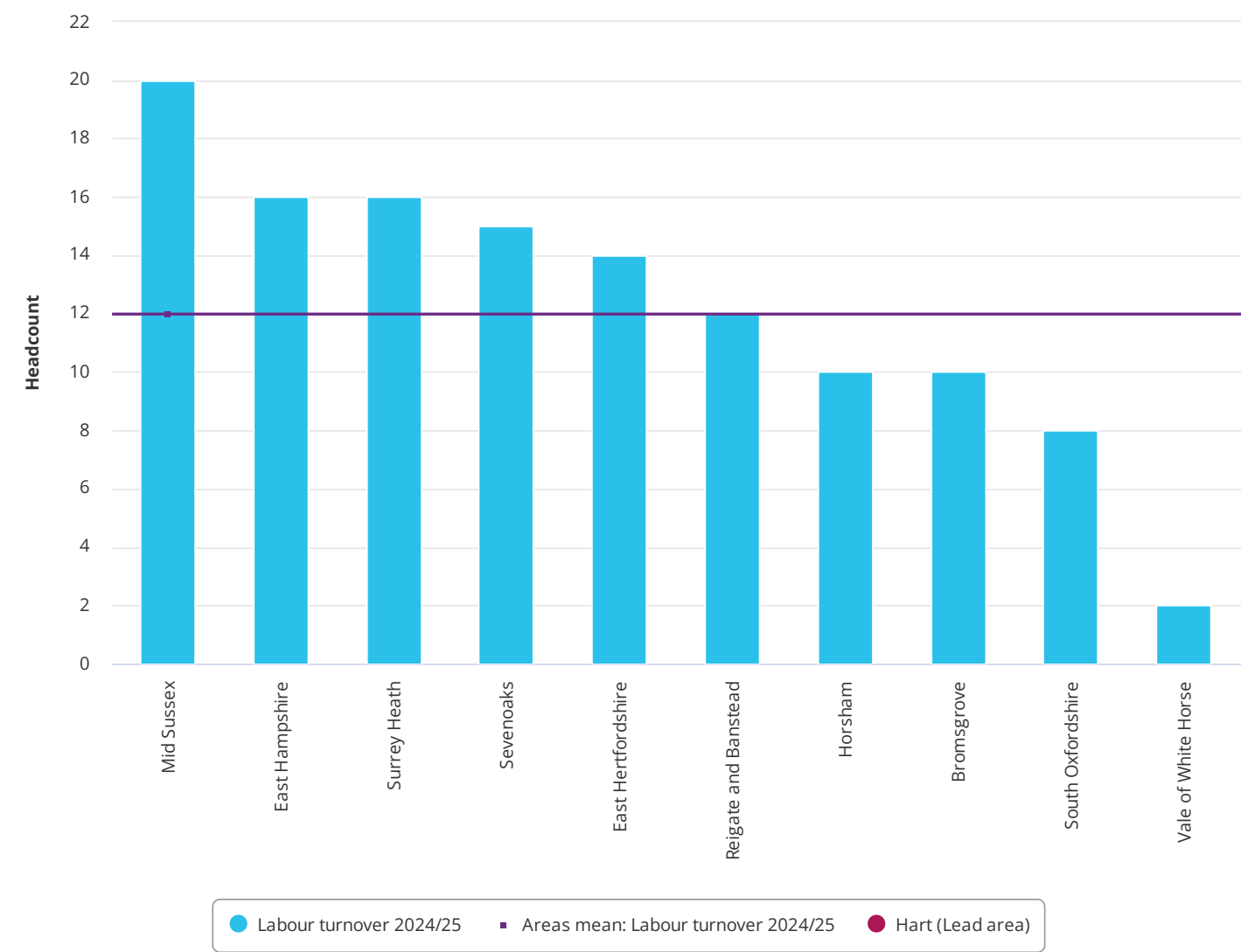
Source:

Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Vacancy rate](#) , Data updated: 12 Mar 2025

In no valueHart District Council had a labour turnover of no value per cent. The chart below shows labour turnover compared to Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Not all councils submitted data for this voluntary benchmarking. If data is not available for your selected council, the name of the authority will not feature in the chart, and the value in sentence above will show 'Missing'.

Labour turnover (2024/25) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source:
Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Labour turnover](#) , **Data updated:** 12 Mar 2025

Upheld Ombudsman complaints

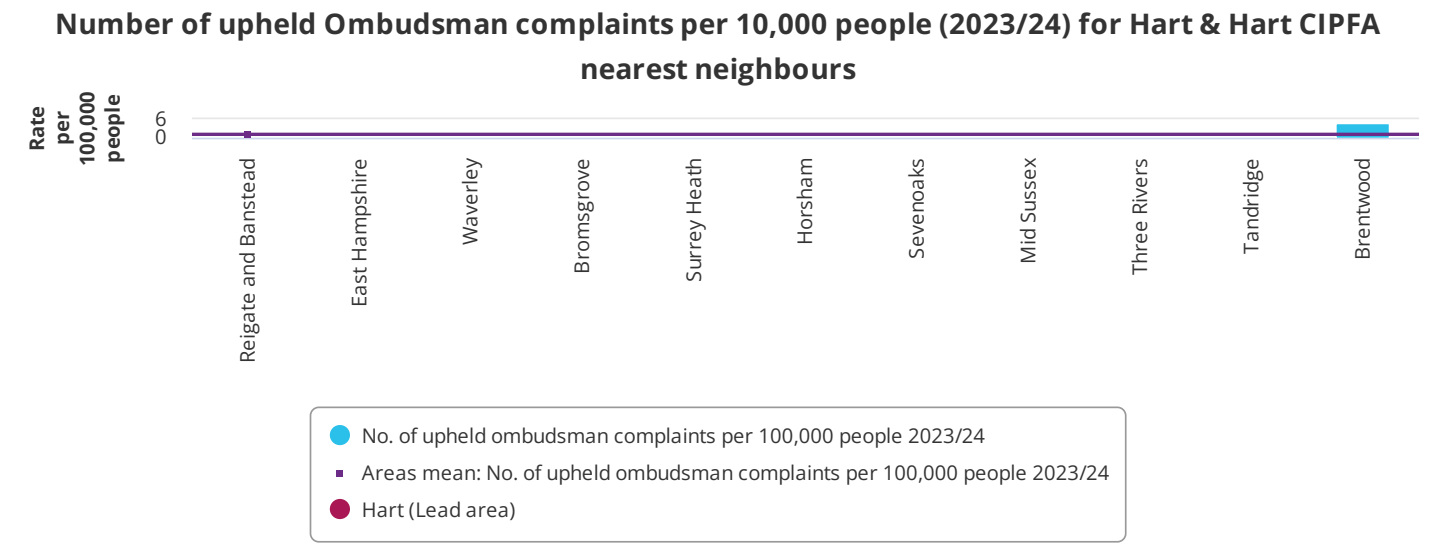
The chart below shows investigations in which the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) found some evidence of fault by the local authority, or that it accepted fault at an early stage. The number of upheld investigations is rated per 100,000 population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes. Complaints are upheld when fault is found in a local authority's actions, including where the local authority accepted fault before they were investigated.

There are some caveats to consider when looking at this data. The LGSCO itself advises caution when using these statistics to monitor the performance of organisations, because the number of new cases received does not simply depend on the number of problems people have with local services. There are lots of other factors to consider, for instance:

- Demographics: the characteristics of the organisation could influence the kind of complaints that are made – for example, a community that includes a high proportion of older people may raise more complaints about adult social care services.
- Local conditions: sometimes, one-off events can generate multiple complaints about the same organisation – for example, there may be several complaints from people who oppose a council's decision to grant planning permission for a large housing development.
- Expectations: not everyone who receives a poor service goes on to raise a complaint and some people are less likely to complain than others - so a fall in the number of received complaints may reflect lower expectations rather than an improvement in services.
- Time: the number of complaints upheld by the LGSCO in any given year may be affected by a time lag – for example, some complex complaints may refer to many years ago.

Although it is important to be aware of these caveats, it may still be appropriate to ask the council about its own understanding of the complaints against it, and how it is responding (particularly if the rate of complaints upheld against it is high compared to other authorities).

In 2023/24, 0.0 complaints per 100,000 people were upheld in Hart, compared to Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours mean of 1.3 complaints.



Source: Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, Local government complaint reviews, [Number of upheld ombudsman complaints per 10,000 people](#) , **Data updated:** 27 Jan 2025

Council Tax and rates collection

The next two charts should be looked at together. It shows the percentage of Council Tax and then business rates collected. Percentages all tend to be really high, so any comment on these metrics should be measured, even if the council appears towards the ends of the list of authorities.

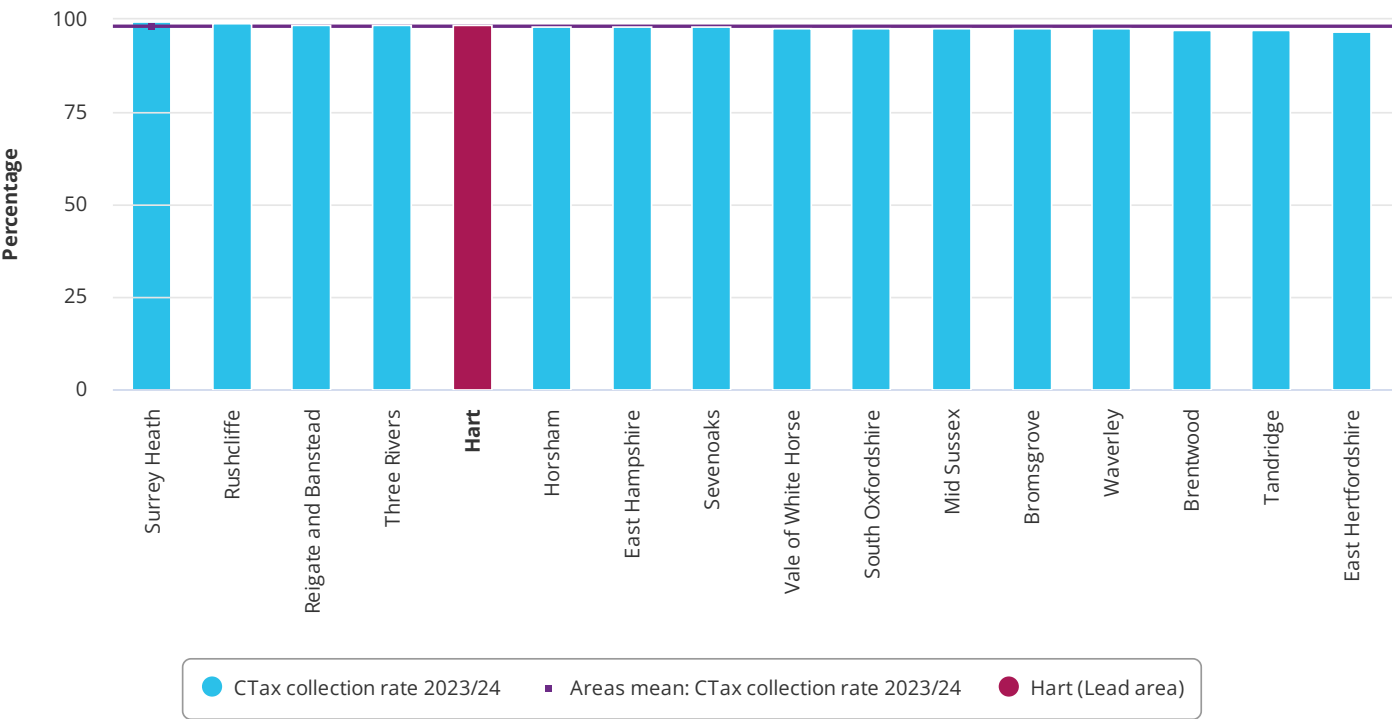
If, however, the council appears to have very low collection rates, you may wish to check the following:

- Is this a 'blip' or a trend? You can do this by clicking on the 'source' link below the chart and reviewing the more detailed report for the data: the penultimate chart shows the data over time.
- Are collection rates low for both sources of income? If so, this might be indicative of some problems in their revenues team. You may want to explore issues like vacancies in that revenues team, and spend per head of population on these services compared to other councils.

The point to explore with the council then might be whether a small investment in the revenues team might pay for itself (and actually generate more money for services) if it leads to increased income.

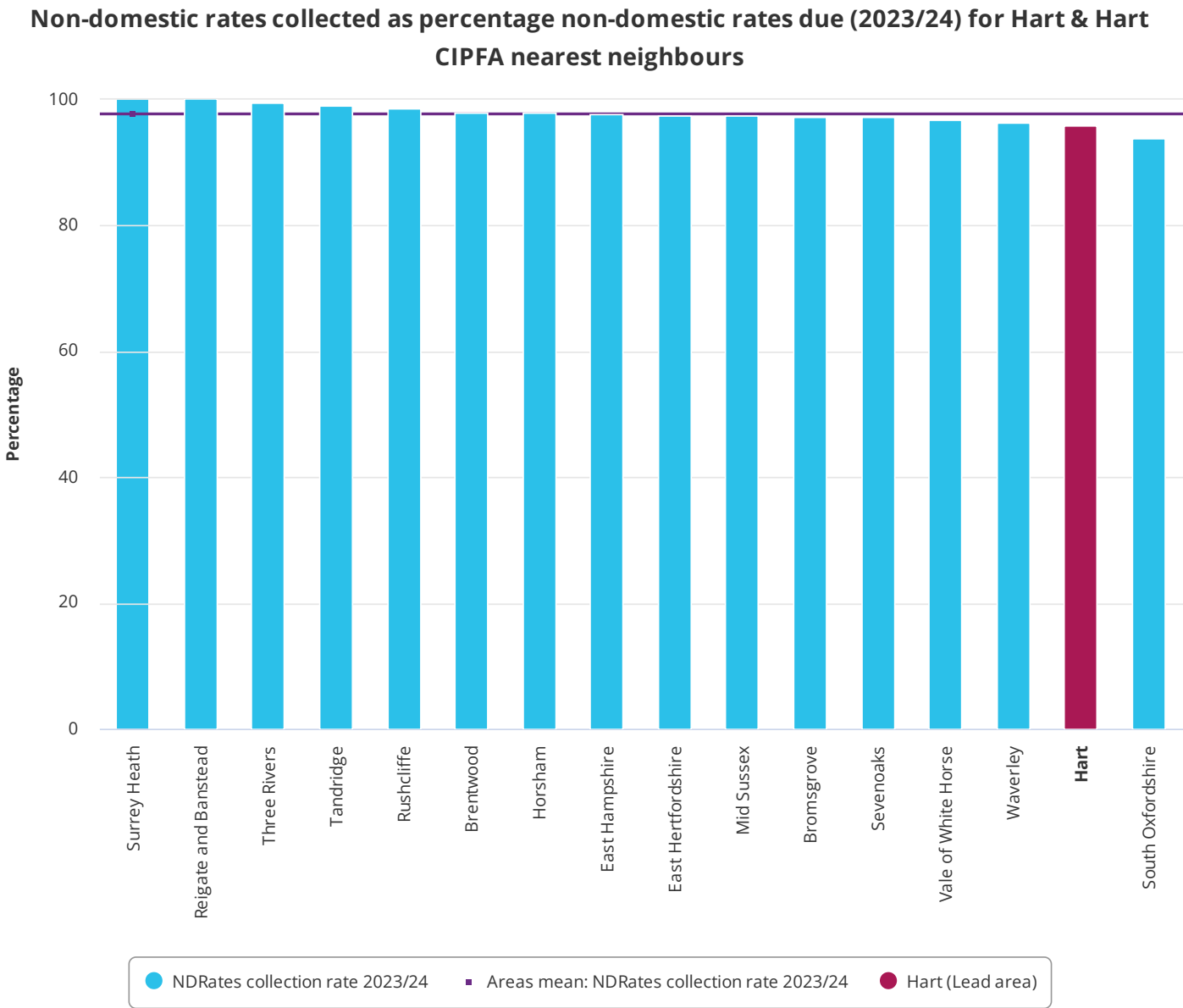
In 2023/24, 98.48 per cent of Council Tax was collected that was due in Hart. This compares to 95.94 per cent in England and an average of 98.09 per cent in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Council tax collected as a percentage of council tax due (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council tax collection rates, [Council tax collected as a percentage of council tax due](#) , **Data updated:** 27 Jan 2025

In 2023/24, 96.02 per cent of business rates were collected that were due in Hart. This compares to 97.23 per cent in England and an average of 97.87 per cent in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council tax collection rates, [Percentage of Business rates collected](#) , **Data updated:** 27 Jan 2025

Housing services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on housing services, looking at the General Fund Revenue Account (GFRA) only. The GFRA is the total revenue expenditure and income for the housing service, which includes employee costs and running expenses, but excludes funding in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The HRA is a separate account held only by councils that have their own housing stock, and records expenditure and income for running that stock (and closely related services or facilities), which are provided primarily for the benefit of the council's own tenants.

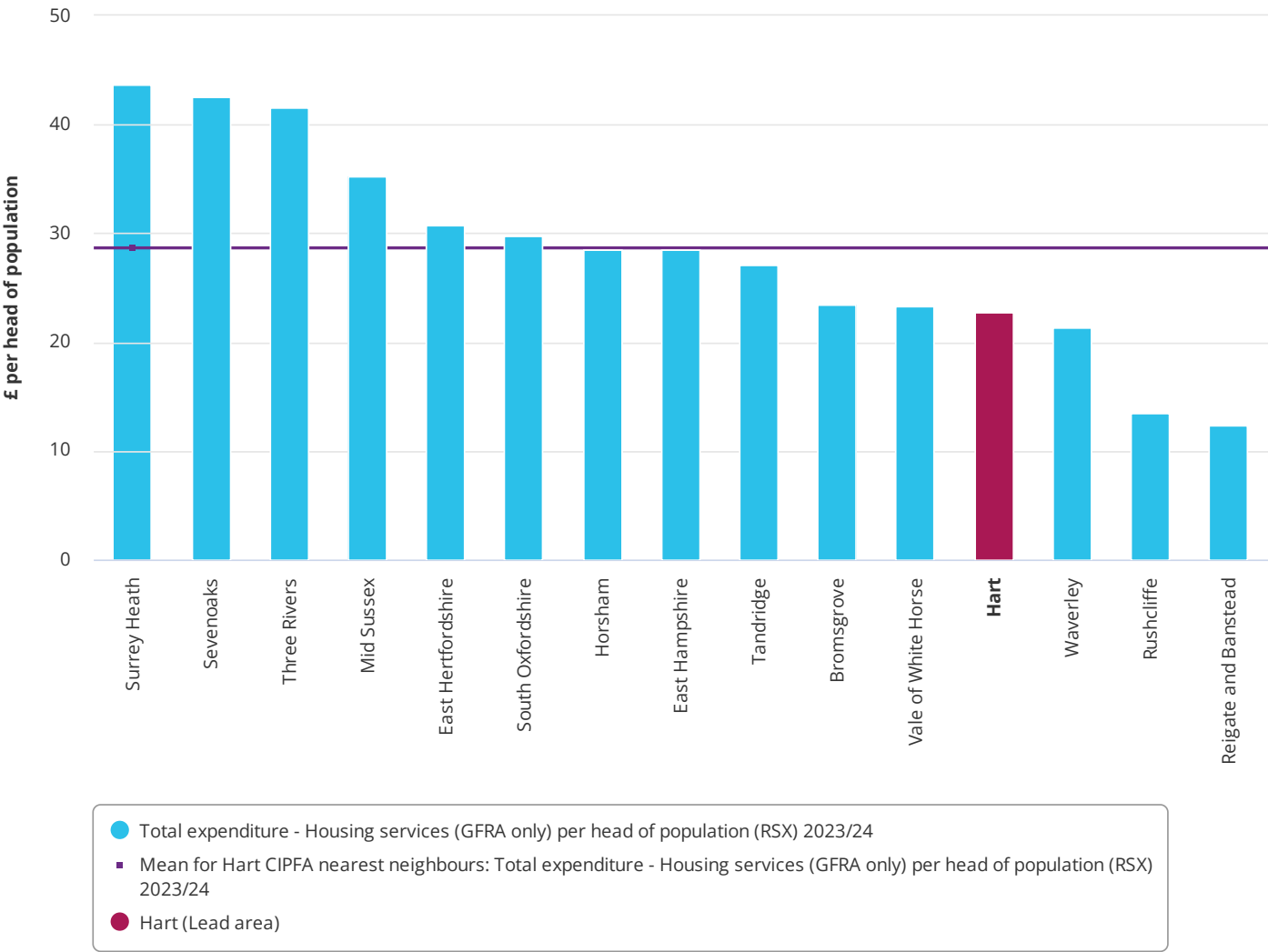
We use GFRA, because this is comparable across all housing authorities, whether or not they have council housing stock. What is included in this is: assessments of housing need, housing advice services, waiting list management, private sector housing renewal, administration of financial support for housing grants, prohibition orders and improvement notices, empty homes, licensing private sector landlords and homelessness services.

Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

Importantly, this information should be looked at alongside the other metrics in this section, to see the relationship between expenditure and performance-related measures.

In 2023/24 Hart spent £22.71 on housing services per person. This compares to £81.99 per person in England and an average of £28.69 per person in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Total expenditure - Housing services (GFRA only) per head of population (RSX) (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours

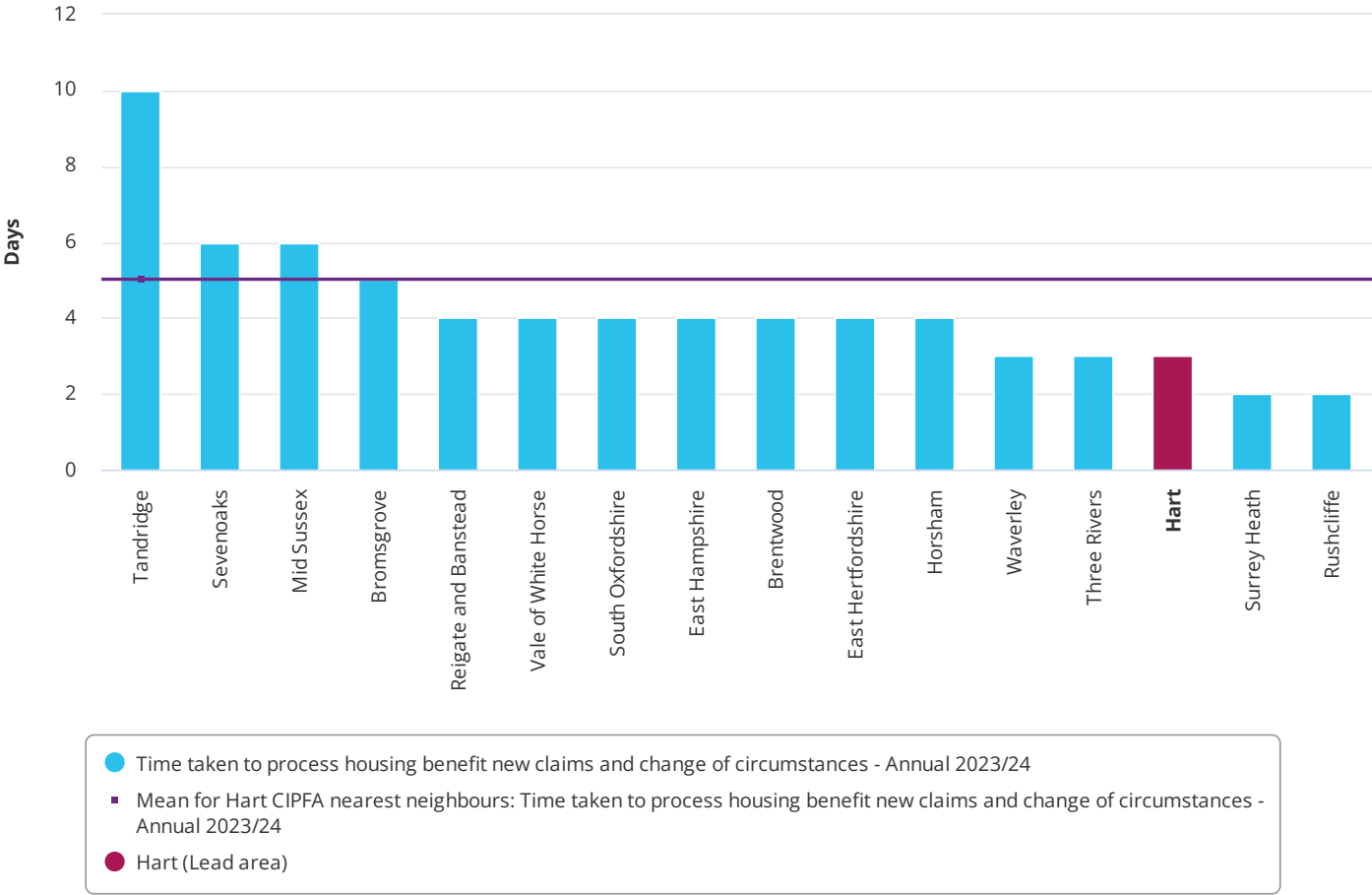


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total revenue expenditure on Housing services \(GFRA only\) per head of population](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

This chart shows the average time taken by the authority to process Housing Benefit claims. A lower number is good. This metric is a good opportunity to unpack some ways in which the council manages its performance. Does it use thresholds so that, for example, if performance on a metric like this falls below a fixed level, the council immediately takes action? You may want to ask this in particular if the council's performance in this area is worse than other authorities.

In 2023/24 the Time taken to process housing benefit new claims and change of circumstances - Annual in Hart was 3 days. This compares to 5 days in England and 5 days on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Time taken to process housing benefit new claims and change of circumstances - Annual (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Housing Benefit: statistics on speed of processing (SoP), [Time taken to process housing benefit new claims and change events - Annual](#), **Data updated:** 27 Nov 2024

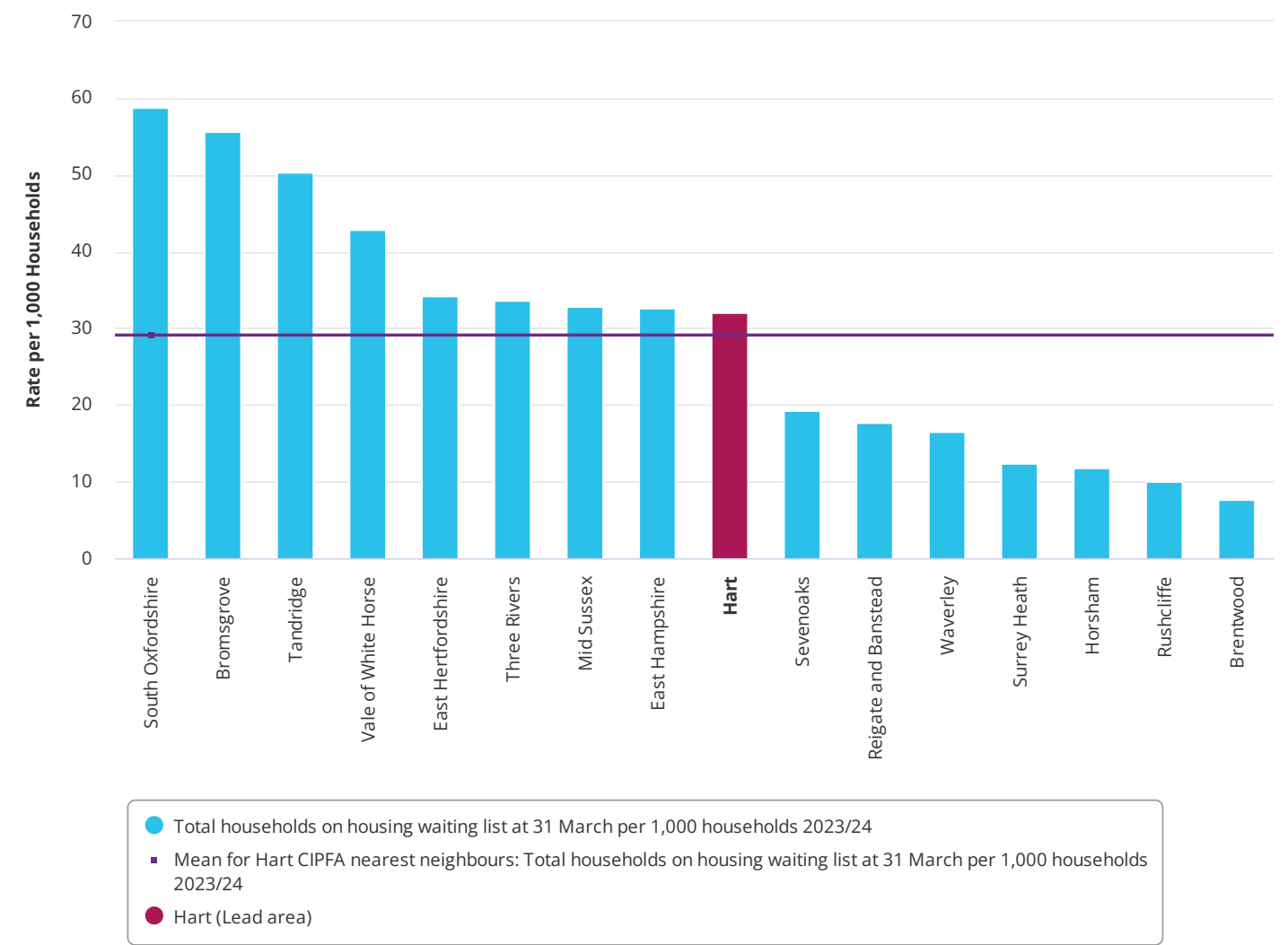
The next two charts, about households on the housing waiting list and the number in temporary accommodation can be looked at together. A lower number is better, for both of them.

However, be careful of automatically assuming good performance because a council appears to be doing better than average. It may simply be a reflection that the council has more of its own housing stock or access to other housing compared to other authorities (because, for example, demand for housing or house prices are lower than in other areas), which means it's their local circumstances which help them here, rather than their performance alone. Alternatively, their circumstances may make good performance more difficult (for example, lack of available housing or high prices for renting).

Other factors which may come into play are how councils manage their housing register (do they put everyone on it who asks for housing, or only those that meet certain criteria), or how often they update their register (for example, do they regularly review it to remove people who have moved from the area). These are all questions to explore with the council, particularly if their housing list is large.

At 1 April 2023/24, there were [32.0](#) households per 1,000 households on the housing waiting list in Hart. This compares to [81.99](#) households per 1,000 in England and an average of 29.1 households per 1,000 on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

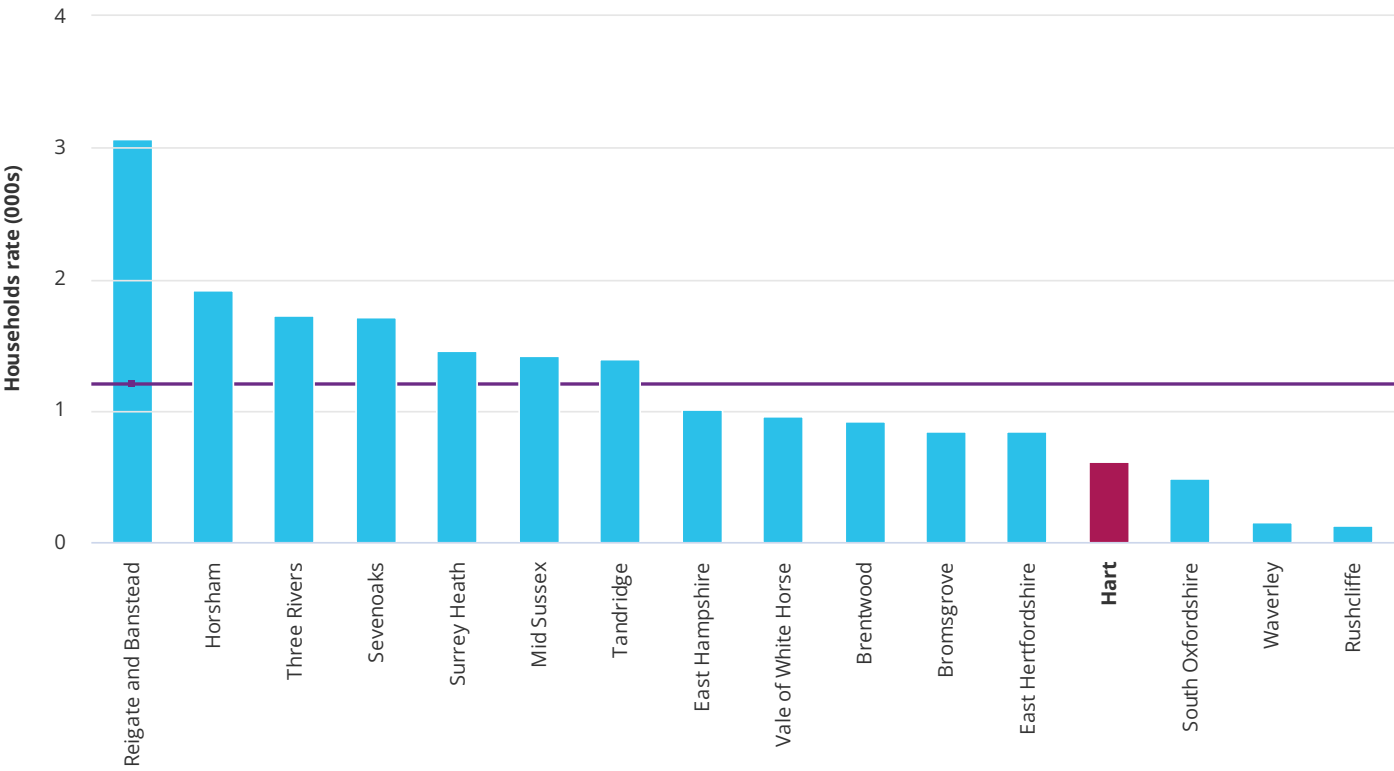
Total households on the housing waiting list at 31st March per 1,000 households (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS), [Total households on the housing waiting list at 1st April per 1,000 households](#) , **Data updated:** 11 Feb 2025

In 2024/25 Q2 there were 0.61 households per 1,000 living in temporary accommodation in Hart. This compares to 5.21 households per 1,000 in England and an average of 1.20 per person in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Households in temporary accommodation - Total number of households in Temporary Accommodation per (000s) households (2024/25 Q2) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



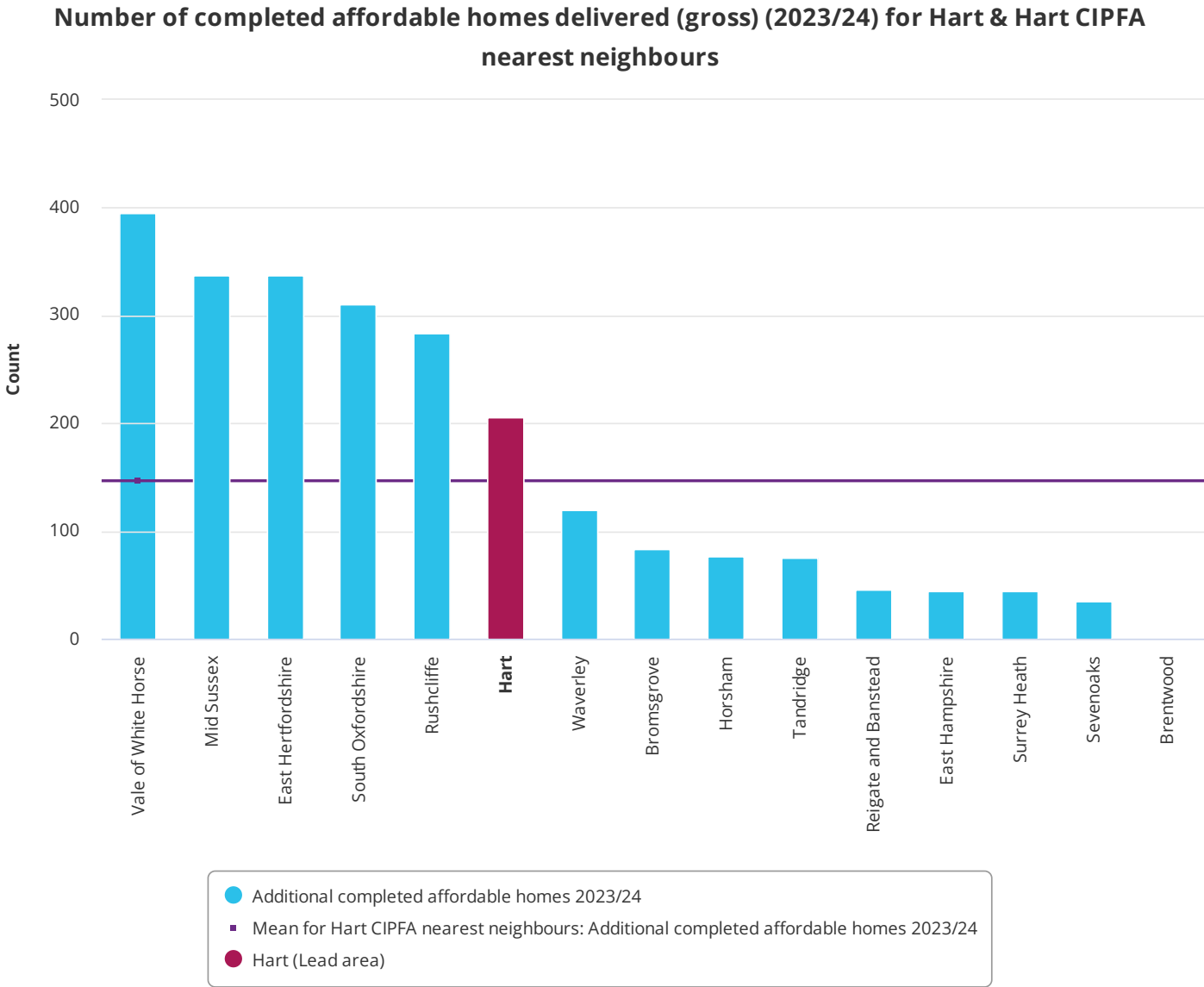
- Households in temporary accommodation - Total no. of households in Temporary Accommodation per (000s) households 2024/25 Q2
- Mean for Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours: Households in temporary accommodation - Total no. of households in Temporary Accommodation per (000s) households 2024/25 Q2
- Hart (Lead area)

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Statutory homelessness live tables, [Households in temporary accommodation - Total number of households in Temporary Accommodation per \(000s\) households](#) , Data updated: 10 Mar 2025

This chart shows the number of affordable homes delivered. Although a high number is objectively good, it will of course depend on factors like demand in the area, the size of the area, the availability of land and the target number of affordable homes that authorities have set. So you may wish to check with the authority whether they have a target, and make a comment in relation to how close they are to their target rather than to other authorities.

Note also, that affordable homes take time to deliver, and it's unlikely they will be delivered evenly each year. If an authority has delivered very few in the latest year, look at the data over time or explore with the council whether they have delivered a large number in recent years instead. It may be that they are delivered in tranches.

In 2023/24 there were 205 affordable homes built in the Hart area. This compares to 146 built on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

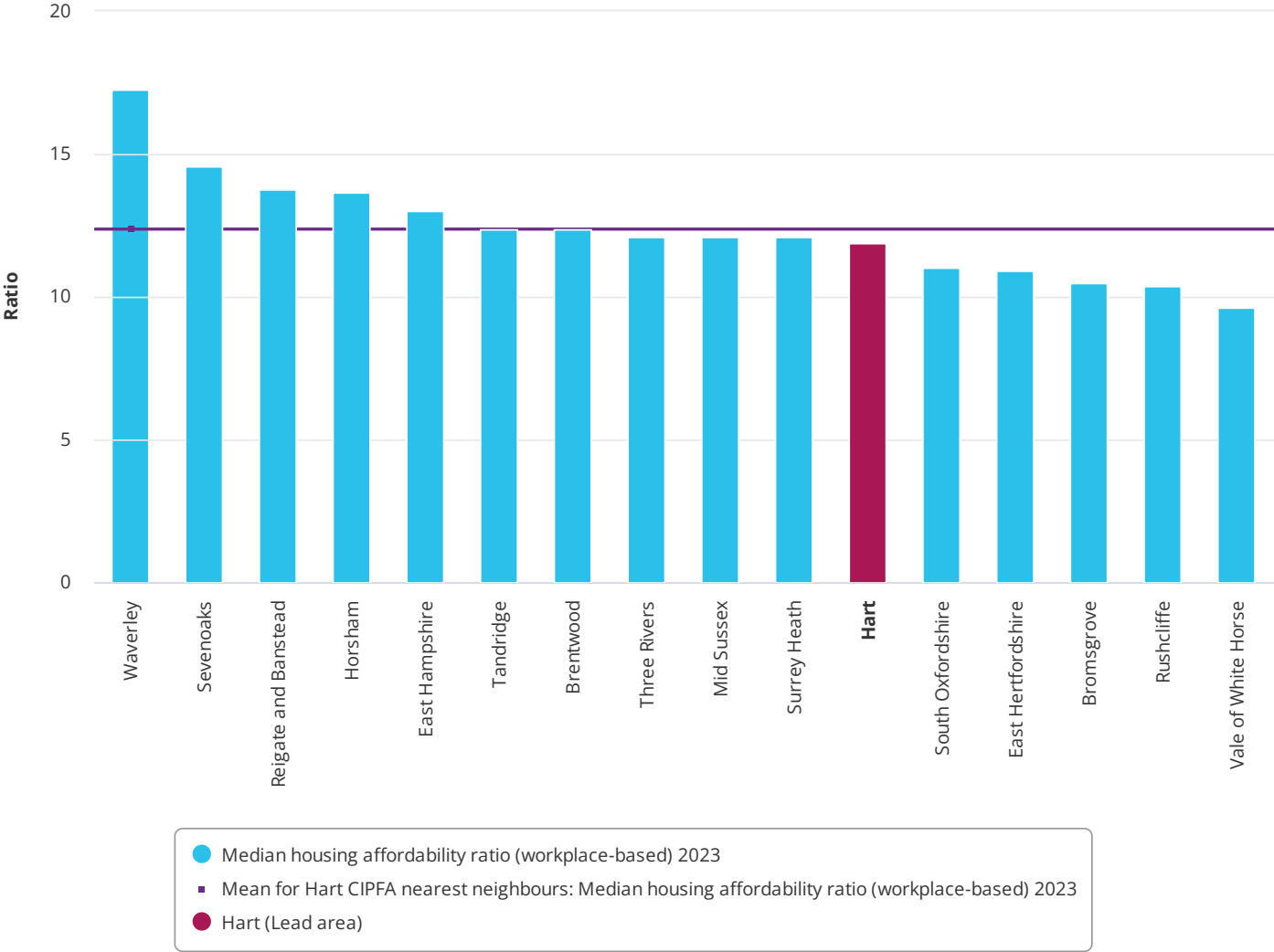


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Live tables on affordable housing supply, [Number of affordable homes delivered \(gross\)](#) , **Data updated:** 02 Dec 2024

This measure is the median housing affordability ratio (workplace-based) and is calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual earnings, based on the median of both house prices and earnings. This measure of affordability indicates the extent to which employees can afford to live where they work, not where they necessarily already live, which effectively reflects the house-buying power of employees. The lower the ratio, the more affordable the housing relative to earnings. Where the ratio is high, this might impact on the ability of the council and other employers in the area to recruit to lower paid jobs in the area, which may impact the economic vitality of an area. You might also link this back to the number of affordable houses being built. If the ratio house price to earnings is high, then the need for affordable housing will be greater.

In 2023 the housing affordability ratio for Hart was 11.87. This compares to 8.26 in England and an average of 12.38 in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Ratio of median house price to median gross annual (workplace-based) earnings (2023) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours

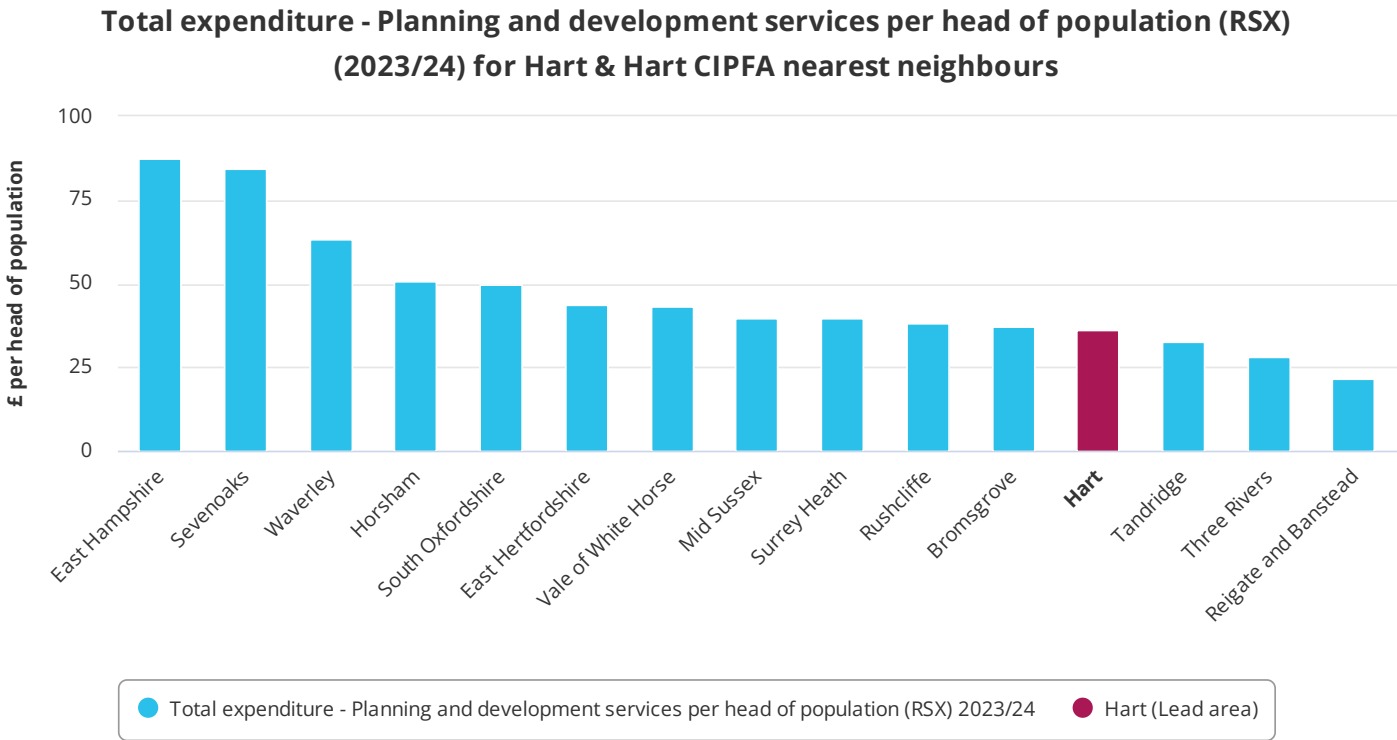


Source: Office for National Statistics, Housing affordability in England and Wales, [Ratio of median house price to median gross annual \(workplace-based\) earnings](#), **Data updated:** 28 Mar 2024

Planning services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on planning and development services, including employee costs and running expenses. Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

In 2023/24, 36.25 planning and development services per head of population were in Hart compared to 47.08 mean in Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Planning and development services per head of population \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

Planning applications

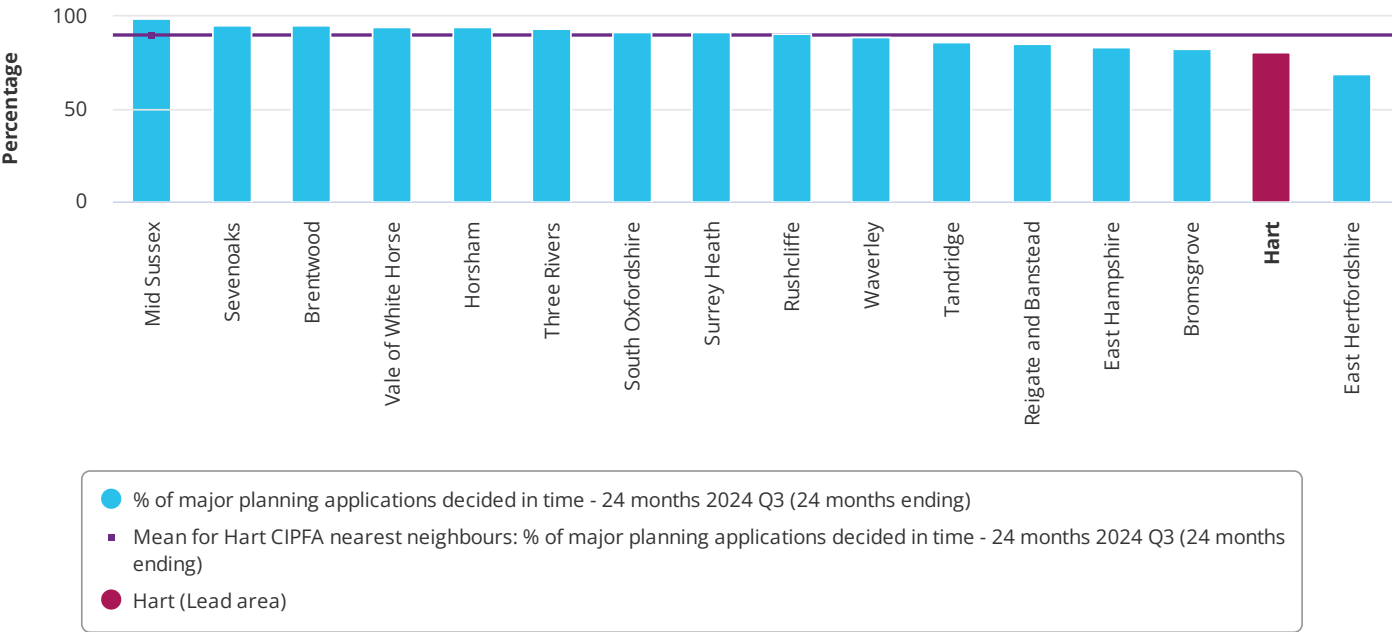
The next two charts show the timeliness of the council's planning application decisions, and should be looked at together. If a council repeatedly fails to deliver planning decisions in a timely manner, it can lose its planning authority designation. Currently, councils have to determine 70 per cent of their non-major planning decisions and 60 per cent of their major planning decisions 'in time' over a two-year period. 'In time' means within eight weeks for non-major planning applications and 13 weeks for major applications.

If the council is below either or both targets, it will be important to note this and discuss it with the authority, as it is something that will require action. It will be a good way to understand the authority's approach to performance management if they do not appear to be aware of this, or taking any action.

There is, however, one thing to be aware of: the metric for major developments might be based on a very small number, even though it is presented as a percentage. A council that has two major development applications in a year, and misses only one, will have a figure of 50 per cent being conducted in time, which is way below the target. You will want to ask how many applications they had to understand if this is the case. Central government may also make allowances for this. Although you may still wish to understand the action the council is taking, if any, to prevent that happening again.'

In 2024 Q3 (24 months ending), Hart processed 81.0 per cent of planning applications for major developments (district matters) on time (within 13 weeks or agreed time). This compares to 89.5 per cent in England and an average of 89.7 per cent in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

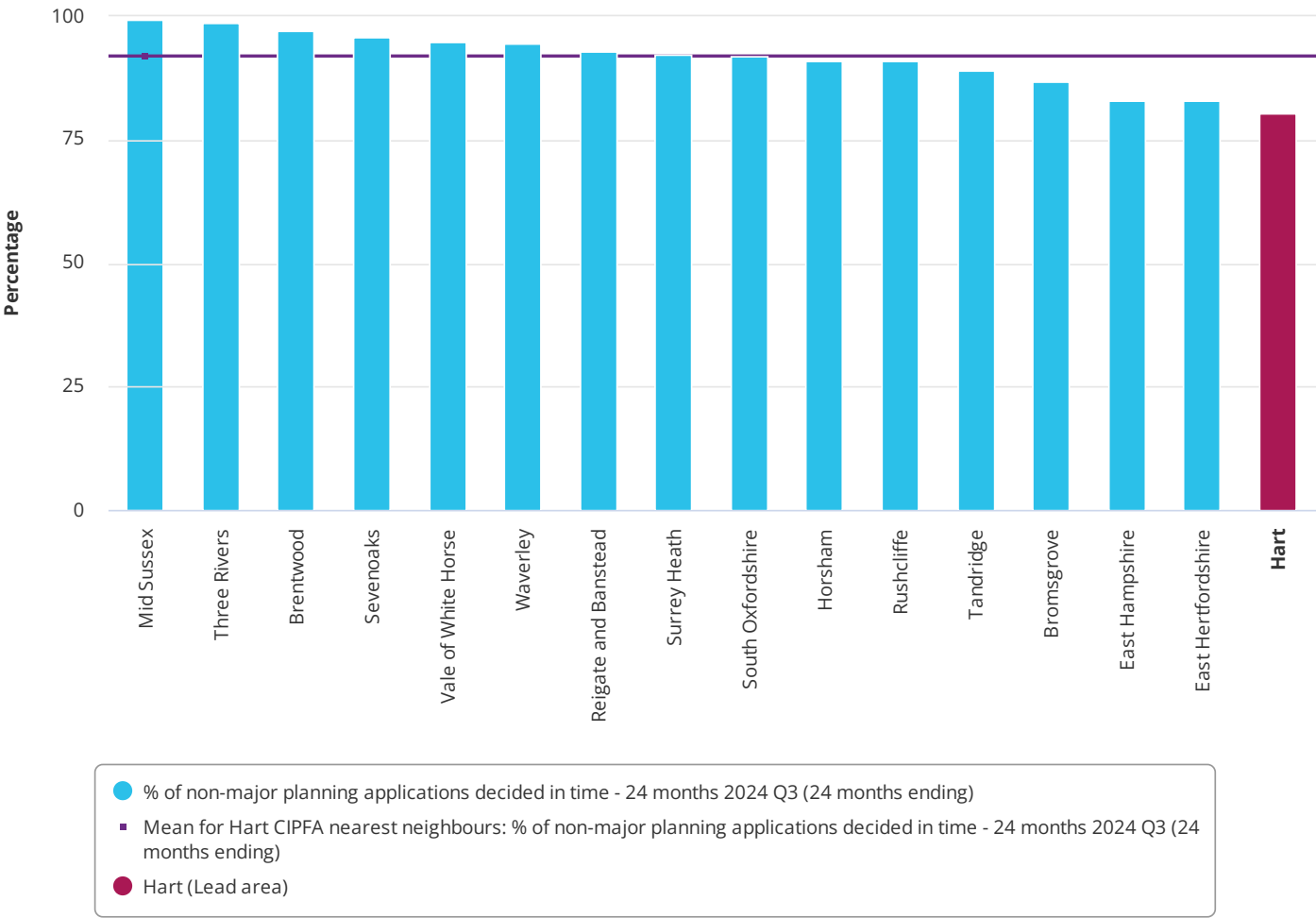
Percentage of all major development planning applications decided within 13 weeks or agreed time - 24 months (2024 Q3 (24 months ending)) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Development Control statistics, [Percentage of all major development planning applications decided within 13 weeks or agreed time - 24 months](#) , Data updated: 22 Mar 2025

In 2024 Q3 (24 months ending) Hart processed 80.4 per cent of planning applications for non-major developments (district matters) on time (within eight weeks or agreed time). This compares to 88.7 per cent in England and an average of 92.1 per cent in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Percentage of all non-major development planning applications decided within 8 weeks or agreed time - 24 months (2024 Q3 (24 months ending)) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Development Control statistics, [Percentage of all non-major development planning applications decided within 8 weeks or agreed time - 24 months](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

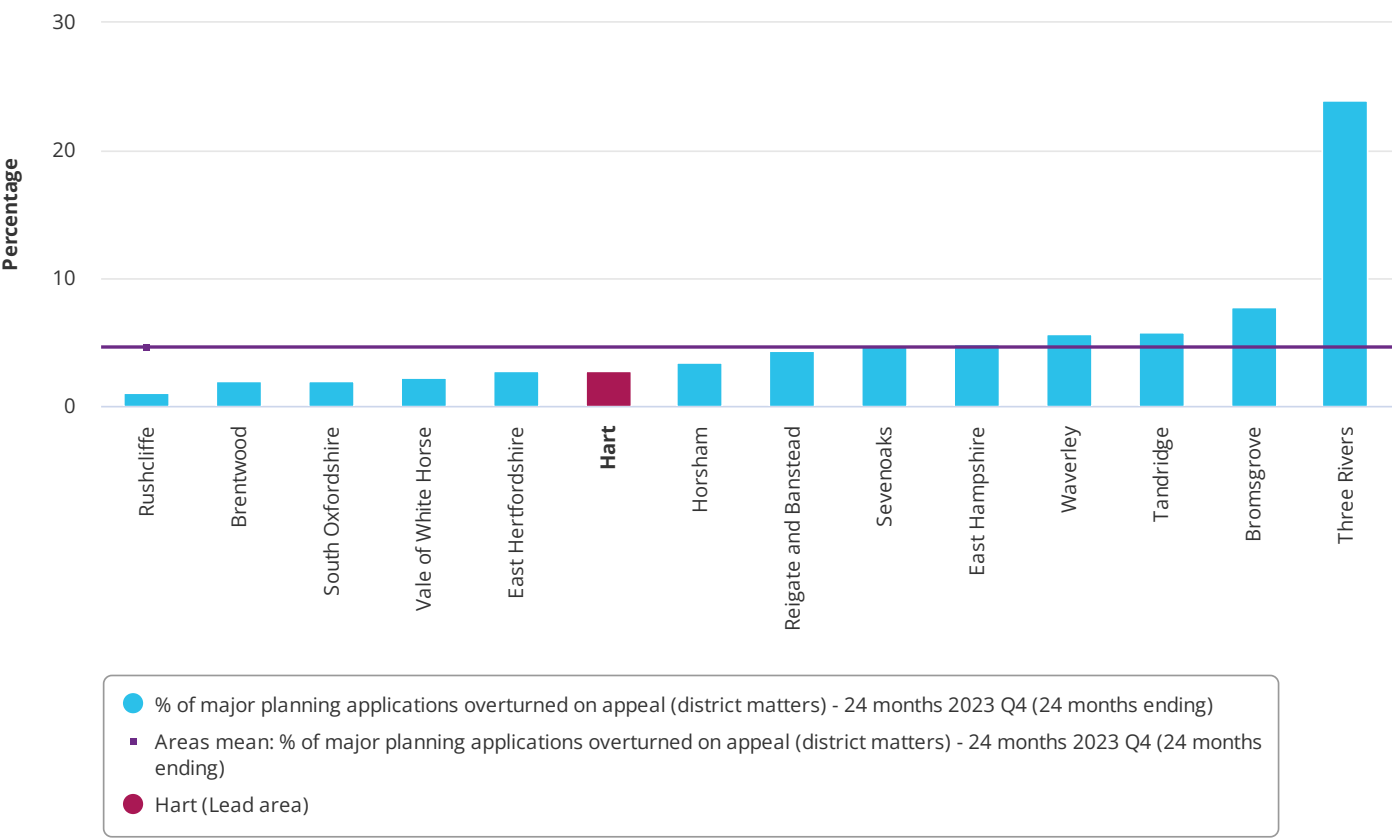
Major planning applications overturned on appeal

Councils are also measured by government on the quality of their decision-making. Under this measure a council cannot have more than 10 per cent of its major or non-major applications (measured separately) overturned at appeal. The next two charts show how is performing against both these targets.

Note, however, that the figure for major developments may be based on small numbers of decisions which can be misleading: an authority with only one appeal that is overturned will have a figure of 100 per cent!

In 2023 Q4 (24 months ending) 2.7 per cent of major planning applications overturned on appeal in Hart, compared to 4.7 mean in Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

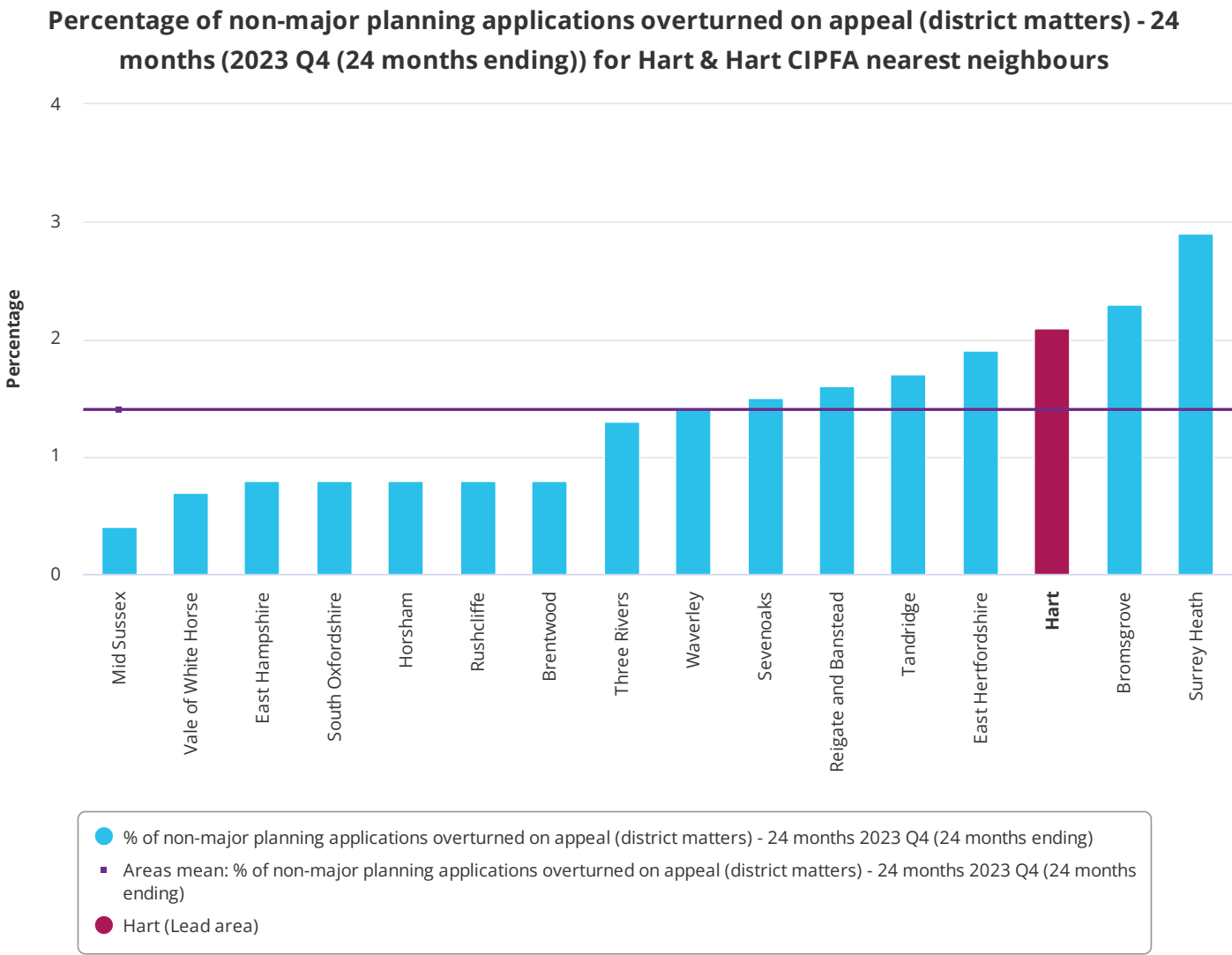
Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal (district matters) - 24 months (2023 Q4 (24 months ending)) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Statistics - Quality of decisions, [Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal \(district matters\) - 24 months](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

Non-major planning applications overturned on appeal

In 2023 Q4 (24 months ending) 2.1 non-major planning applications were overturned on appeal in Hart, compared to 1.3 mean in Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Statistics - Quality of decisions, [Percentage of non-major planning applications overturned on appeal \(district matters\) - 24 months](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

If it looks as though there may be performance challenges in this section for the authority you're reviewing, then also contact colleagues in the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), who will likely be able to give you an overview of their own thoughts about the council's performance.

Waste

The charts in this section relate to the generation of household waste and the rates of recycling. Note that, in two-tier areas where there is both a county and a district authority, the district is responsible for waste collection and the county for waste disposal. Therefore, in some charts the value may be zero or missing for these types of authority.

The factors that affect the amount of waste and recycling rates are complex. Performance can be influenced by council decisions, for example, whether they choose to collect food waste, collect all types of plastic, collect general waste on a weekly or fortnightly basis and invest in waste prevention. However, differences between councils may not simply be due to performance, but also to circumstances outside authorities' control. For example, research has shown the following:

- waste infrastructure, such as size of bin, amount of internal or external storage a resident has to keep waste, type of bin and method of collection are also important
- number of different types of materials collected, and proximity to recycling centres affect recycling levels
- housing type has a big impact on recycling rates, with flats and high density housing often having lower rates; and houses producing more garden waste.

And socio-economic factors include:

- level of occupancy of households
- levels of education or income
- how normalised the behaviour is across the community
- levels of satisfaction derived from recycling
- concern for the public good.

As a result, it is **often not appropriate to conclude the performance of a council simply based on a comparison** of its data with others of the same type; it is also important to understand the characteristics of the area and its population as well.

For more information about the factors affecting recycling, see:

Abbott A., Nandeibam S. and O'Shea L. (2011), [Variations in household waste recycling across the UK](#)

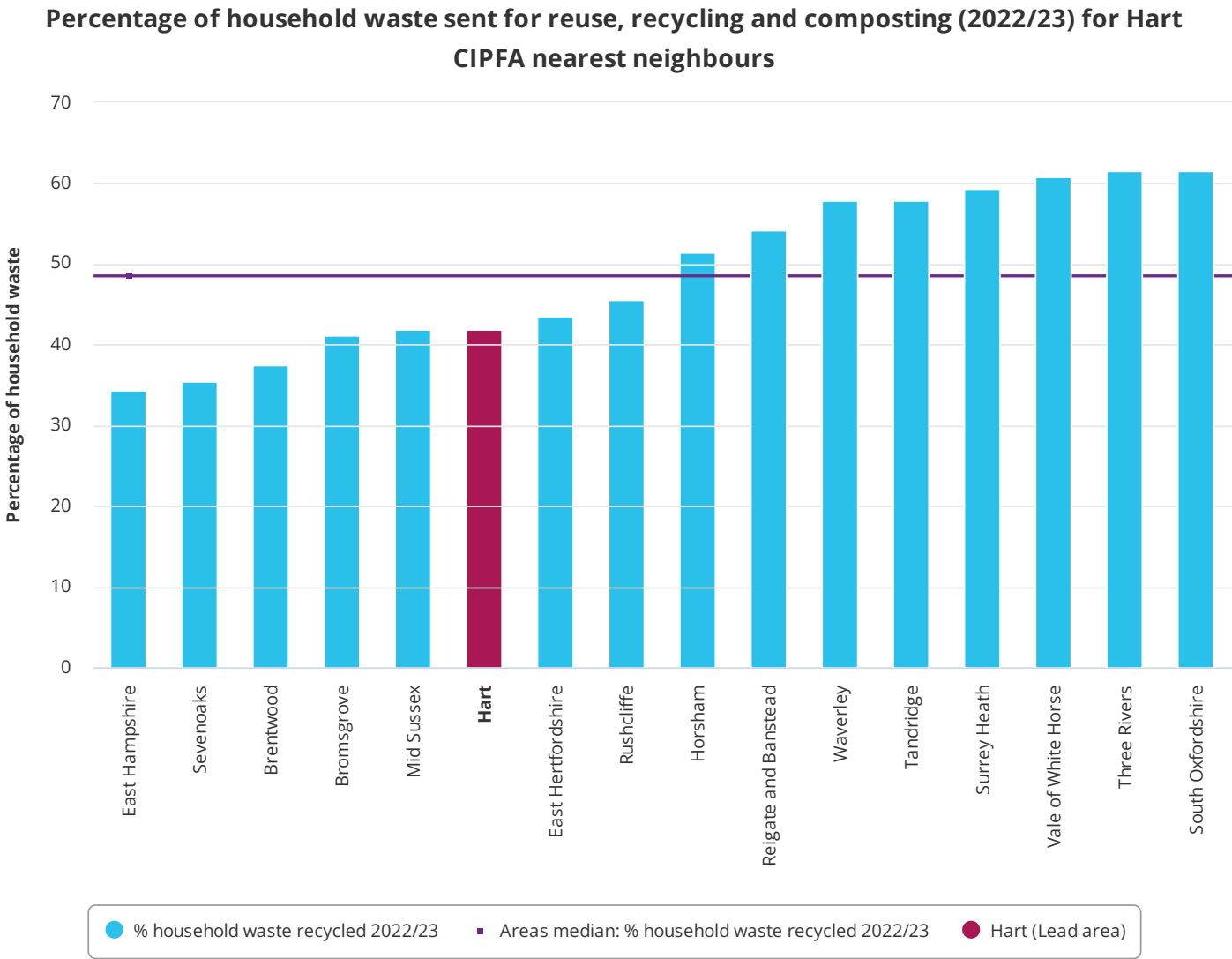
Oluwadipe S., Garelick H., McCarthy S. and Purchase D. (2021), [A critical review of household recycling barriers in the UK](#)

Household waste recycling rate

This is the percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the authority for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion as a proportion of the total tonnage of household waste collected. 'Household waste' means those types of waste which are to be treated as household waste for the purposes of Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 by reason of the provisions of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992.

It should be noted that recycling rates are based on weight (tonnages). Garden waste is a heavy material and this can be a factor in higher recycling rates in areas with lots of gardens. In addition, lower recycling rates are often associated with areas with lots of flats, since it can be more difficult to store recycling, or it needs to be taken to communal, external locations.

In 2022/23, the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting for Hart was 41.90%, which was below the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median percentage of 51.40%.

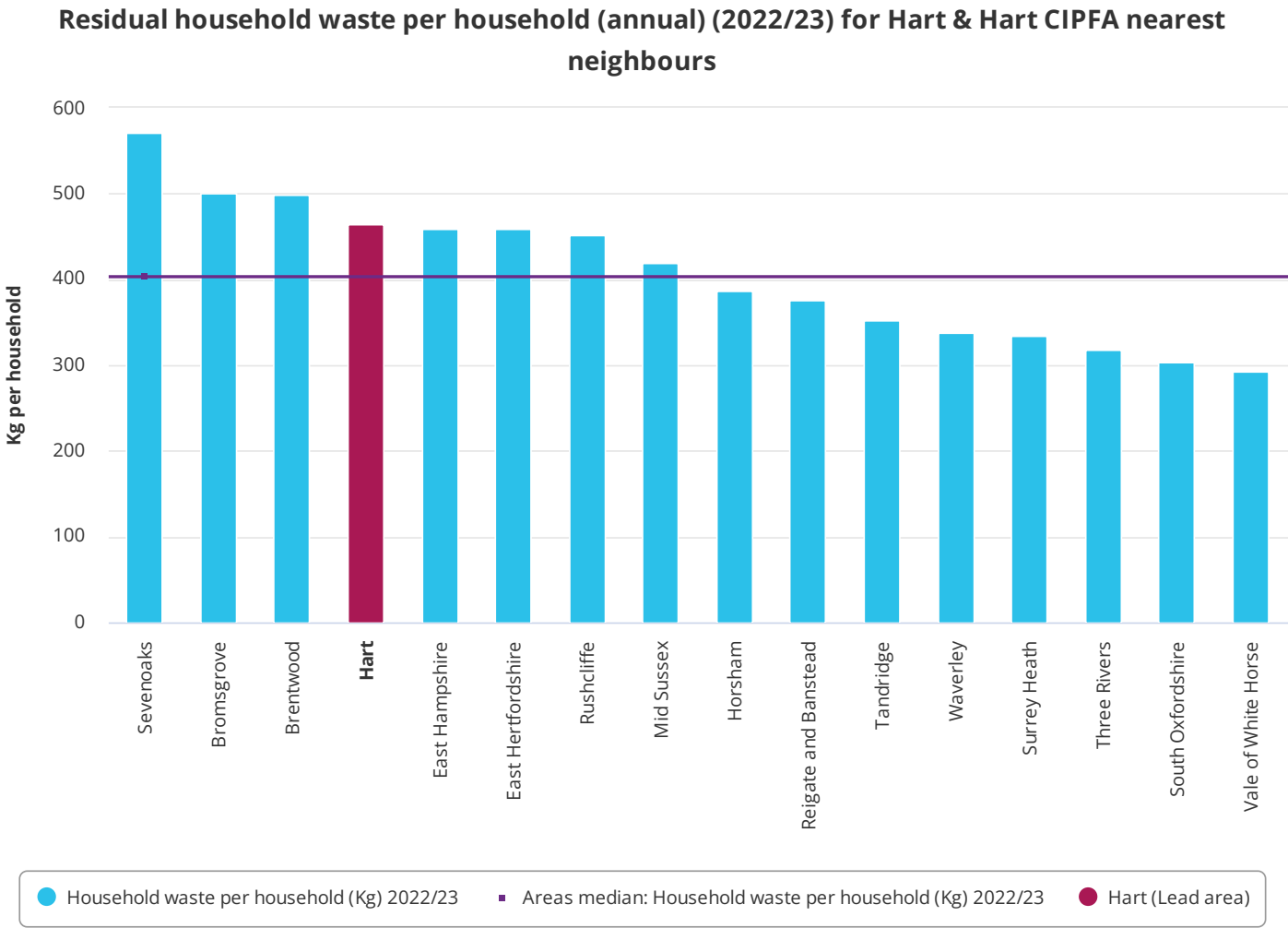


Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management, [Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting](#) , **Data updated:** 20 Mar 2024

Amount of residual household waste

This chart shows the number of kilograms of residual household waste collected per household. Residual waste is any collected household waste that is not sent for reuse, recycling or composting.

In 2022/23, the amount of residual household waste collected per household for Hart was 464.10 kilograms, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median amount of 387.50 kilograms per household.



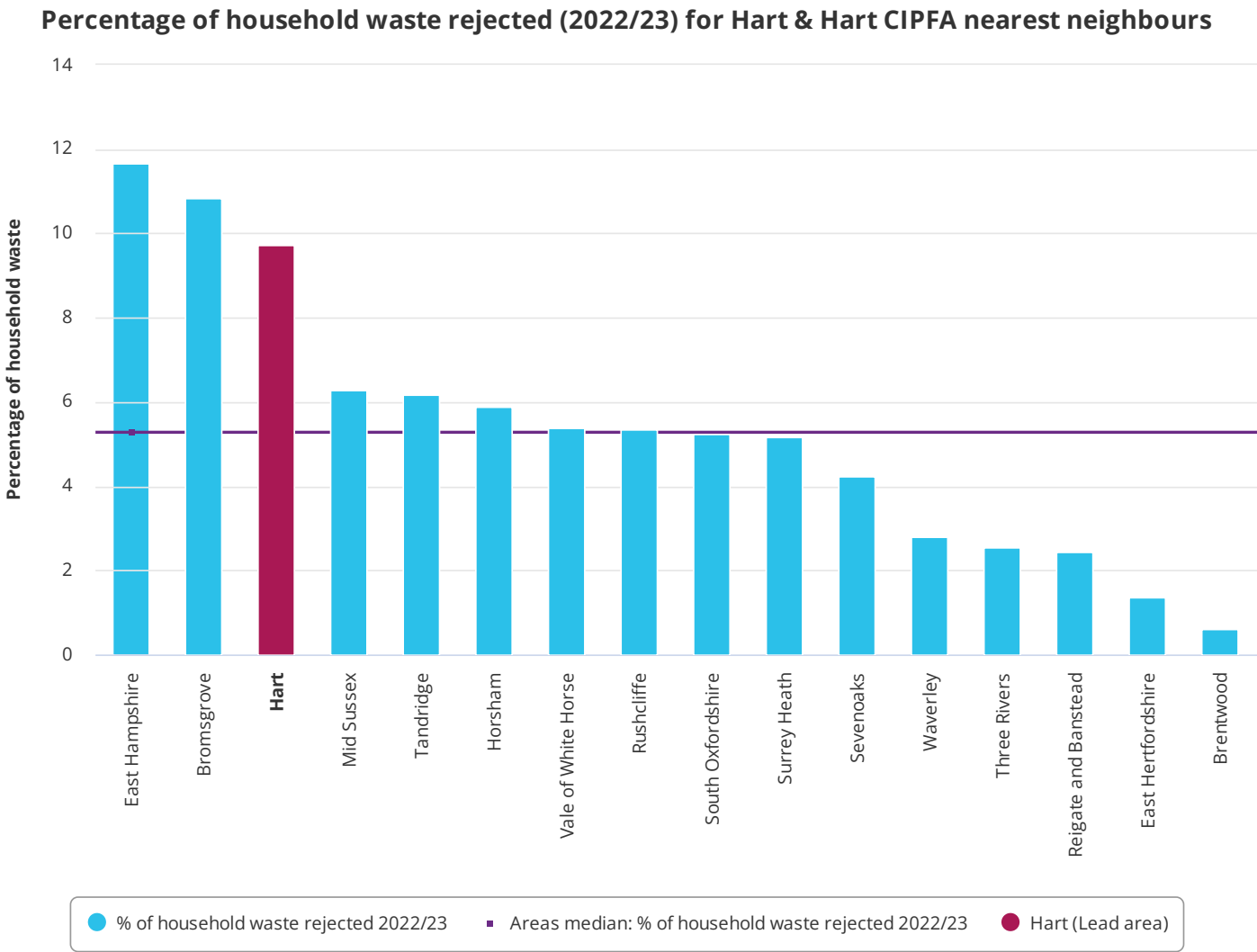
Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management, [Residual household waste per household \(annual\)](#) , **Data updated:** 20 Mar 2024

Household recycling contamination rate

Contamination is the action of polluting a waste stream with anything that shouldn't be there. This includes general waste items going into a recycling bin (placing a glass bottle into a mixed paper recycling bin for example), or when materials are not properly cleaned, such as when food residue remains on a plastic yogurt container.

The chart below shows the estimated amount of household recycling that is rejected, as a percentage of all waste intended to be recycled. Waste intended to be recycled is the sum of household waste sent for recycling plus estimated rejects. Household estimated rejects is calculated from total household waste not sent for recycling minus household waste collected not with the intention for recycling (the difference between total unrecycled waste and waste that was not intended to be recycled).

In 2022/23, the proportion of household waste contaminated/rejected for Hart was 9.72%, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median proportion of 5.23%.

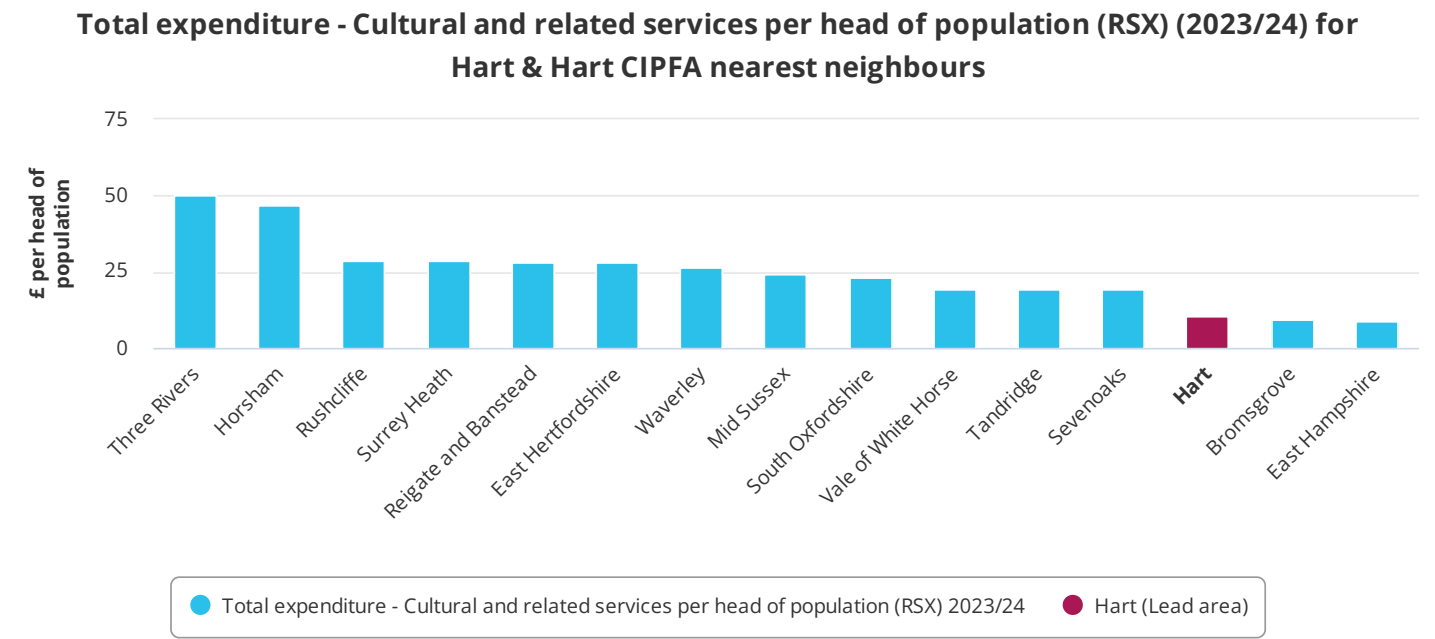


Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management, [Percentage of household waste rejected](#) , **Data updated:** 27 Jan 2025

Cultural and leisure services

The chart below shows expenditure per head on cultural and related services, which includes archives, culture and heritage, tourism, library services, recreation and sport and open spaces.

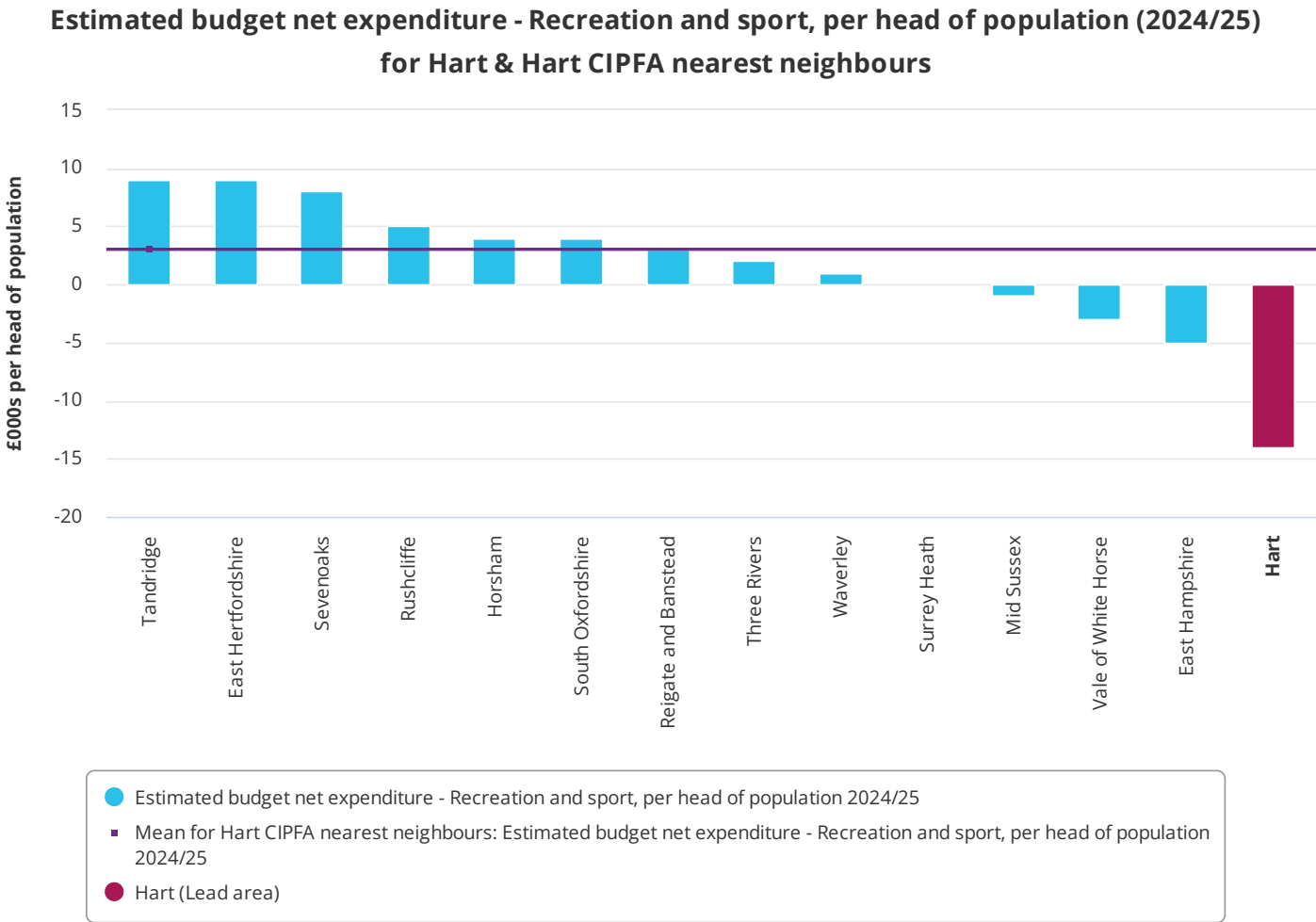
In 2023/24 the total expenditure on cultural and related services per head of population in Hart was 10.66, this is compared to the mean of 25.71 in Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Cultural and related services per head of population \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

The chart below looks at one element of the overall expenditure on cultural and related services, specifically, the spend on recreation and sport per head. This should be viewed in the context of both the corporate plan priorities (for example, is a healthy resident population a key ambition and, if it is, how does recreation and leisure play into this if there is a lower spend compared to other similar authorities), as well as against individual performance metrics for that service. The metrics in the next section, on public health, enable you to question any relationship between health and obesity and expenditure on recreation and sport’.

In 2024/25 Hart's estimated net budget on recreation and sport was £-1,404,000. The chart below shows this figure per 1000 of the resident population, compared to your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



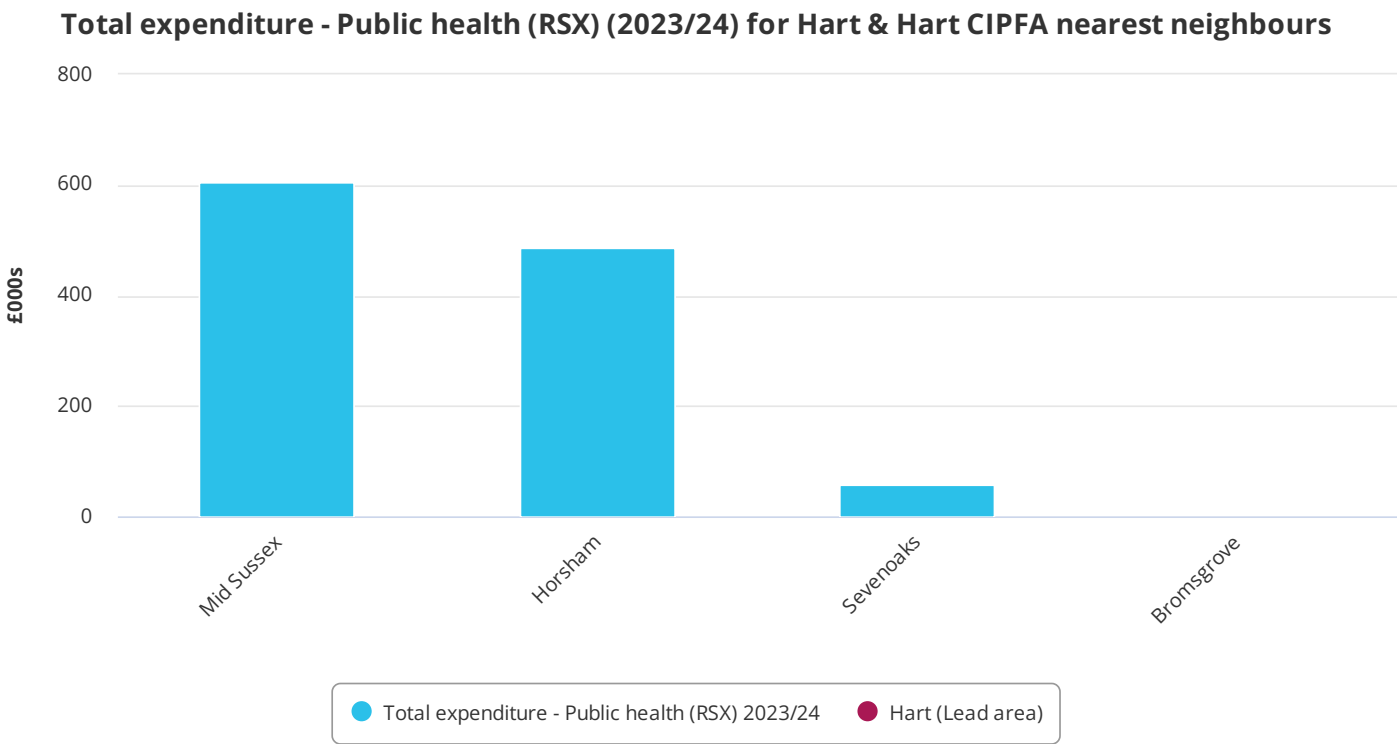
Source:
Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Estimated budget net expenditure - Recreation and sport, per head of population](#) , **Data updated:** 19 Mar 2025

Public health services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on public health, including employee costs and running expenses. Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

Since the health of the local population can be affected by a wide range of factors, you may also wish to look at expenditure against other services which contribute to health, such as recreation and sport.

In 2023/24 the total expenditure in public health was £0,000 in Hart, compared to £83,000 the mean for Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

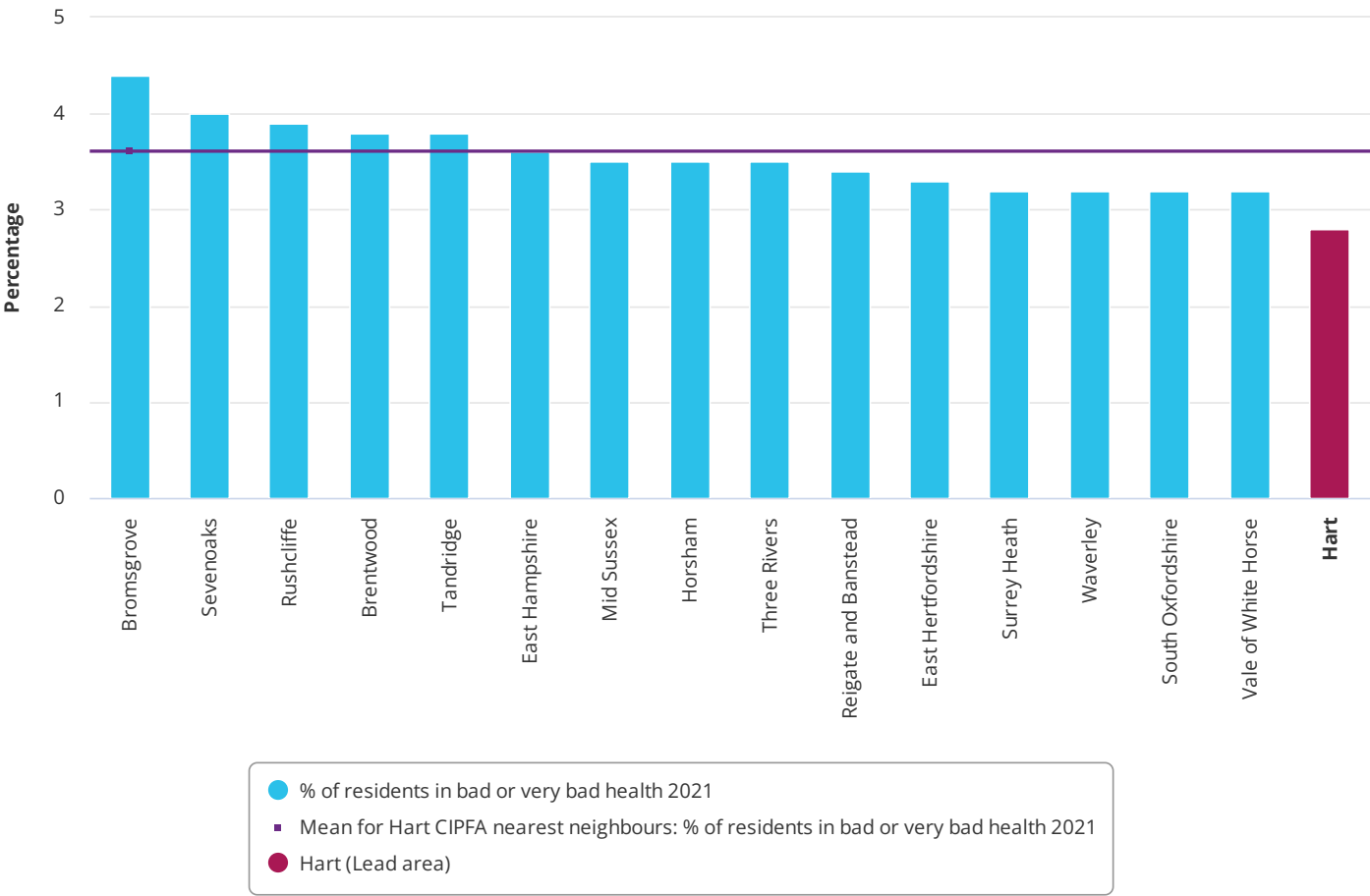


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Public health \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

The next three measures are contextual, health ones, but you may wish to look at them in relation to spend on public health. Although not in a council's direct control, if their population appears to be less healthy than others, you may wish to explore with them what their response is to this, if any. Again, it is also worth noting if healthy communities are a corporate priority, particularly if the council is not responding to data which shows their residents are less healthy than others.

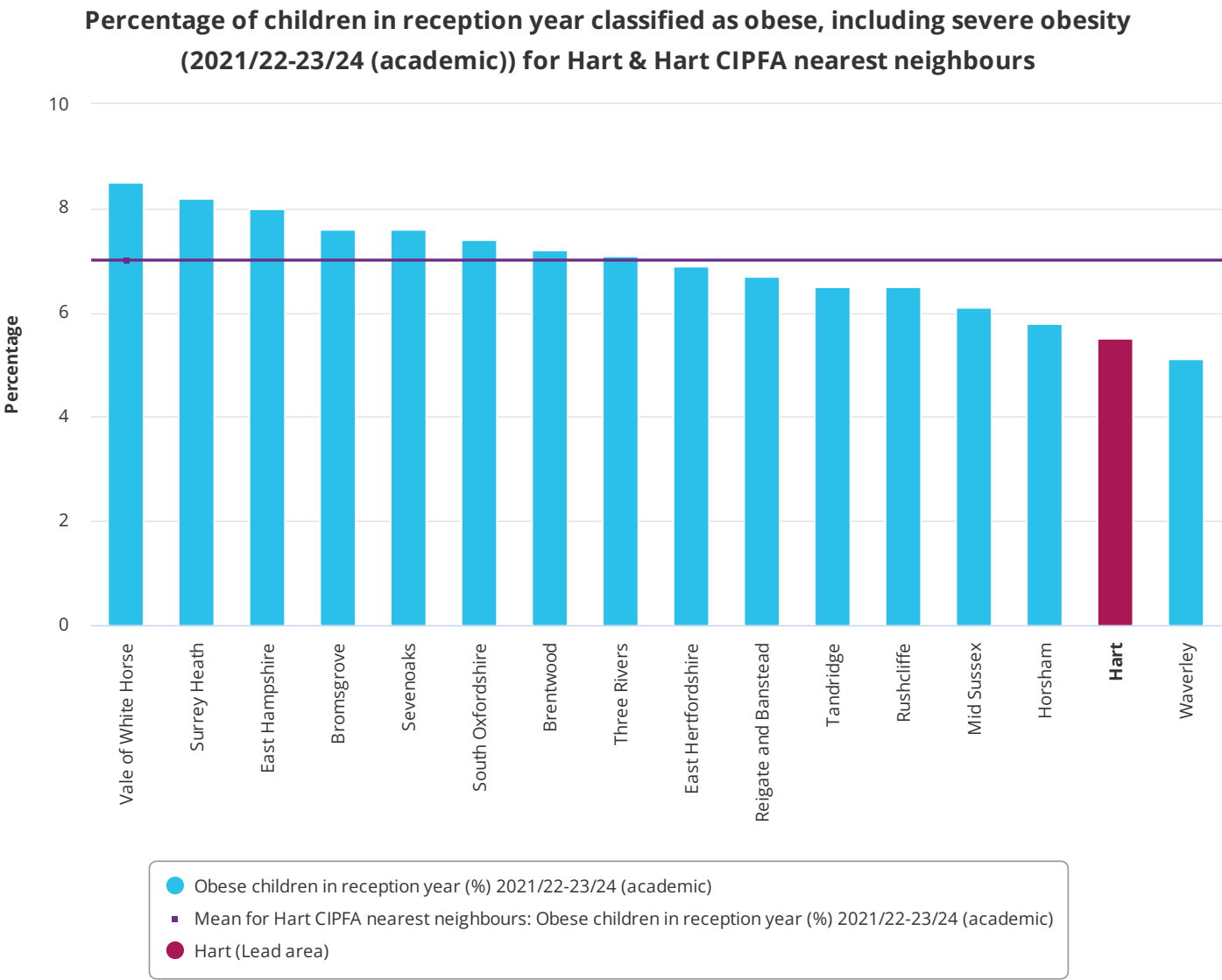
According to the 2021 Census 2.8 per cent of people in the Hart area said they were in bad or very bad health. This compares to 5.2 per cent in England and 3.6 per cent on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Proportion of usual residents in bad or very bad health (2021) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



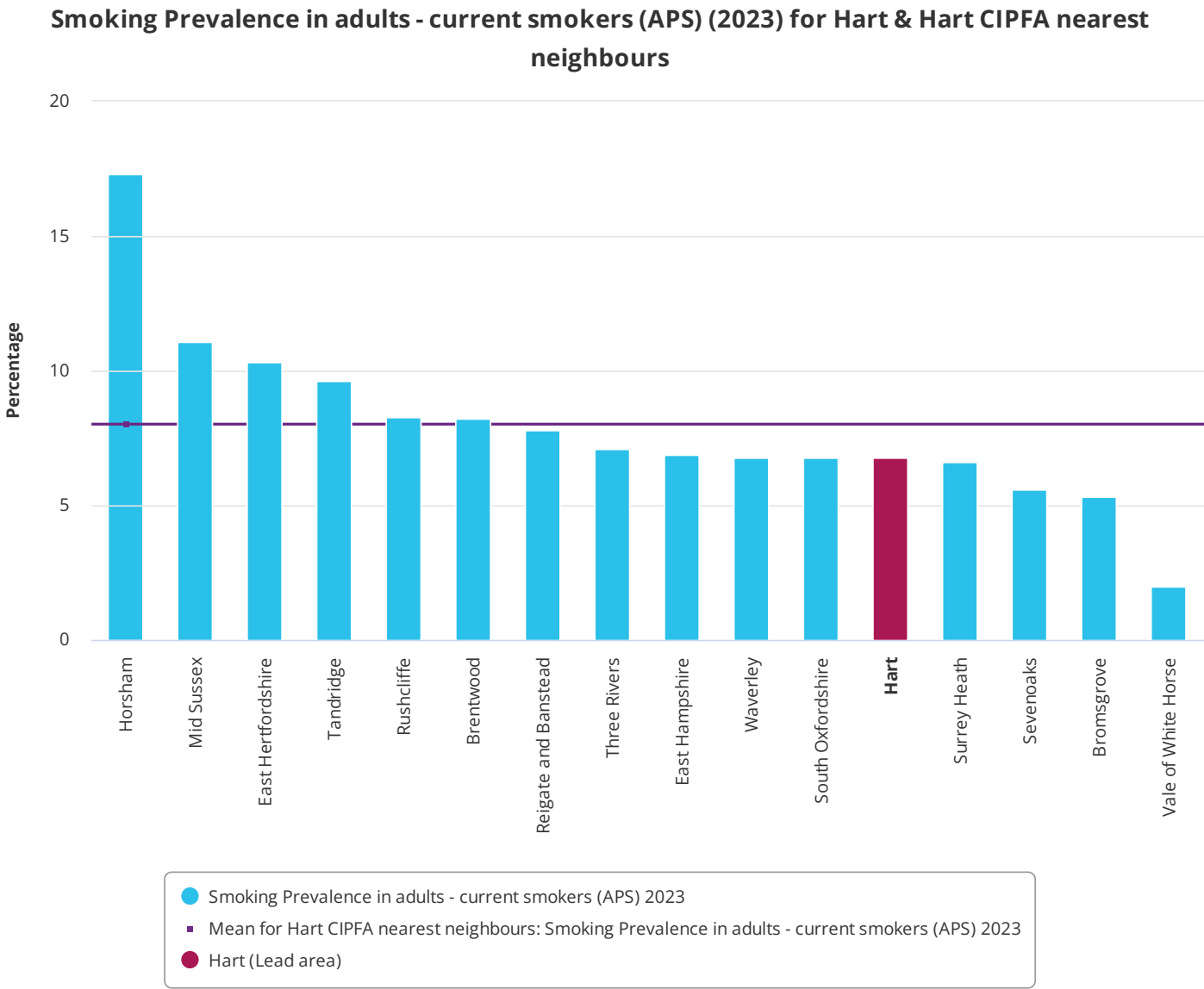
Source: Office for National Statistics, Census, % of people in bad or very bad health , Data updated: 02 Apr 2024

In 2021/22-23/24 (academic), 5.5 per cent of children in year 6 in Hart were classified as obese, including severe obesity. This is based on 3 years of measurement, based on the child's area of residence. This compares to 9.6 per cent in England and an average of 7.0 per cent in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data, [% of measured children in reception year classified as obese](#) , **Data updated:** 18 Dec 2024

In 2023 the Smoking Prevalence in adults - current smokers (APS) in Hart was 6.8 . This compares to 11.6 in England and 8.0 on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



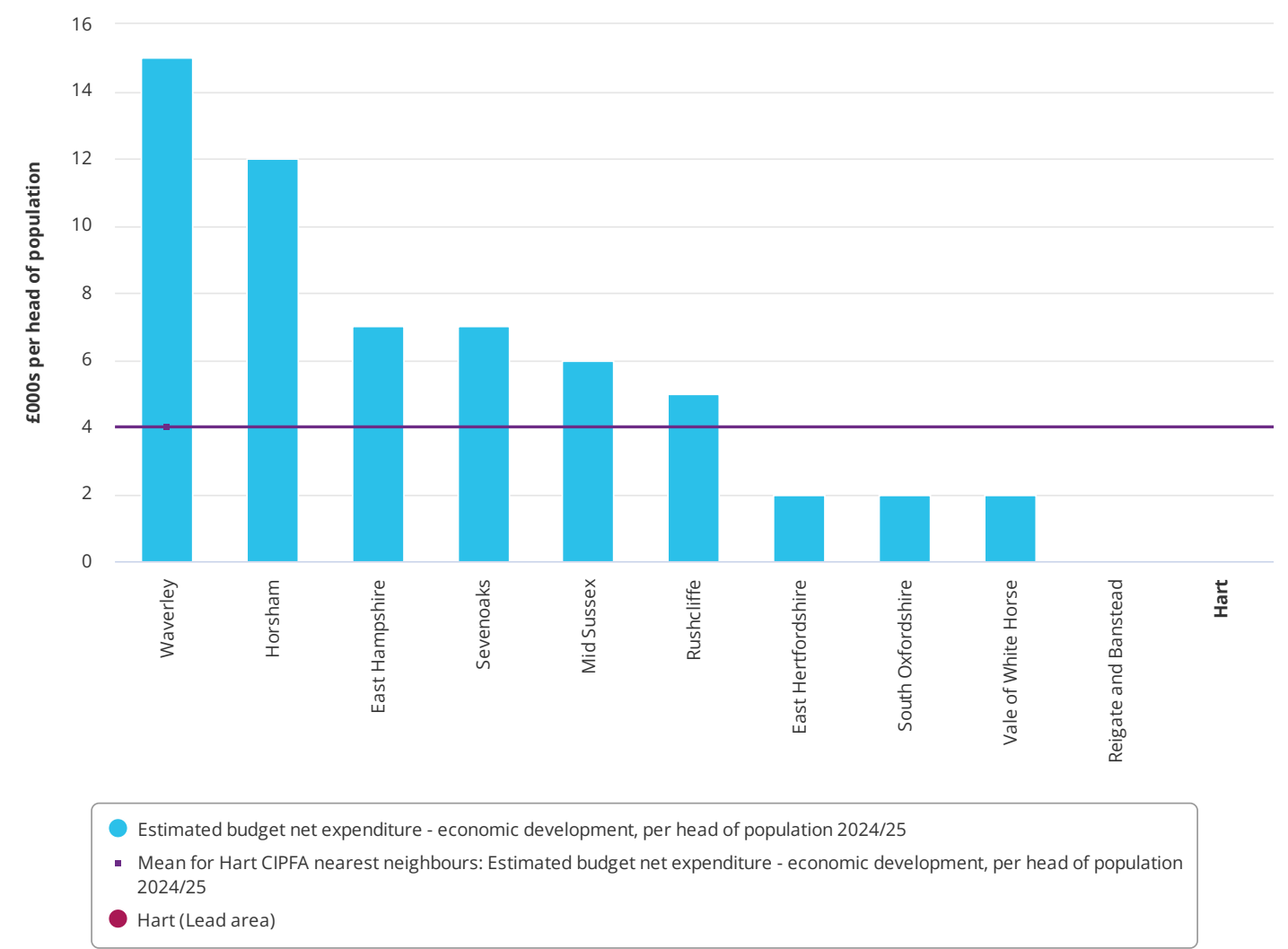
Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Smoking Profile, [Smoking Prevalence in adults - current smokers \(APS\)](#) , **Data updated:** 05 Mar 2025

Economic prosperity

The chart below shows the estimated budget net expenditure on economic development per head of population. It is worth noting that economic development is not a statutory service so, as a result, this may be an area where savings are sought. But it is important to look at expenditure against the other charts in this section, to examine the relationship between spending and outcomes. If outcomes are poorer than average, that may suggest it is worth exploring with the council whether they are responding to this, particularly if their corporate plan prioritises a vibrant economy.

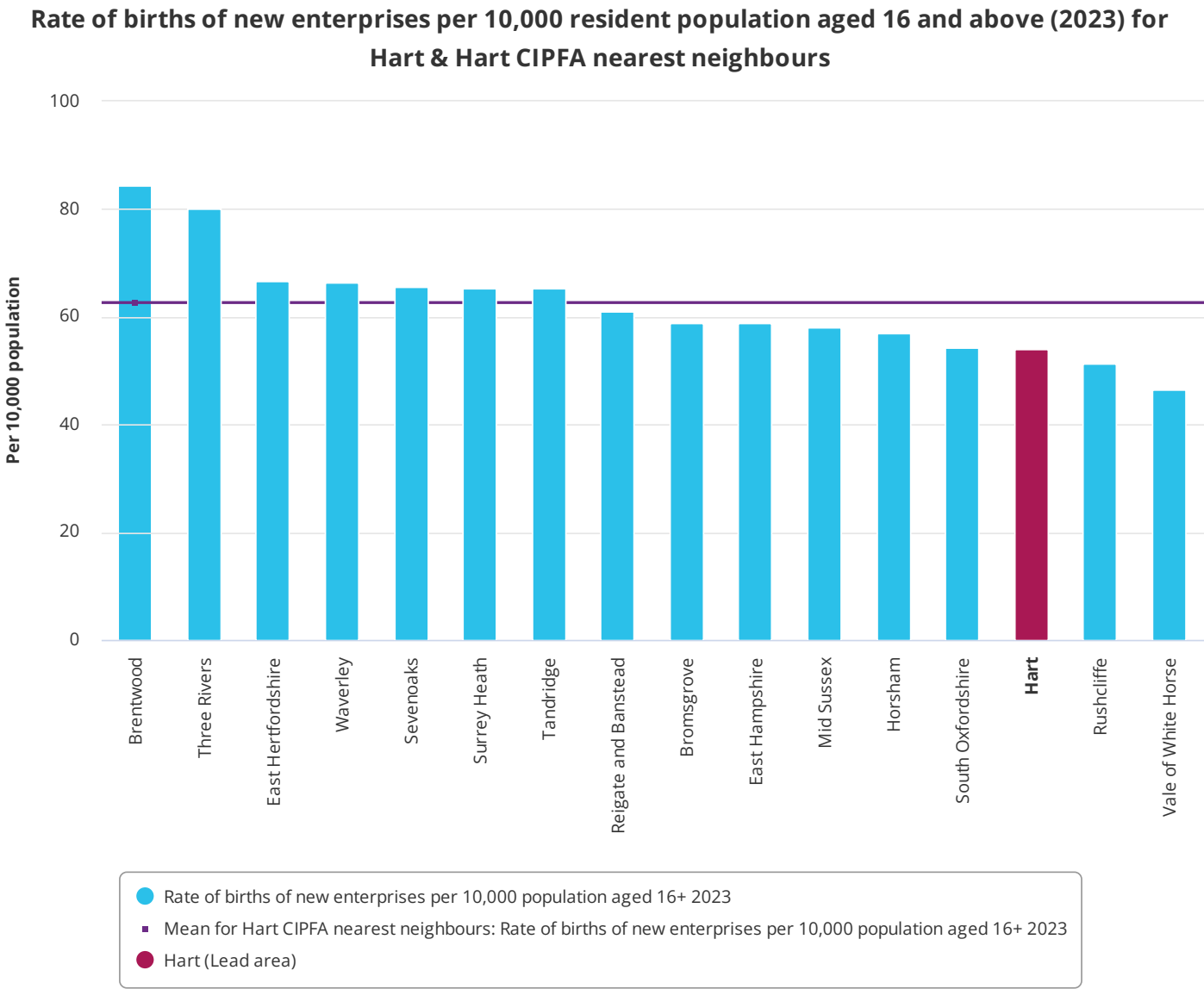
In 2024/25 Hart District Council's estimated net budget on economic development was £30,000. The chart below shows this figure per 1000 of the resident population, compared to your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

**Estimated budget net expenditure - economic development, per head of population (2024/25)
for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours**



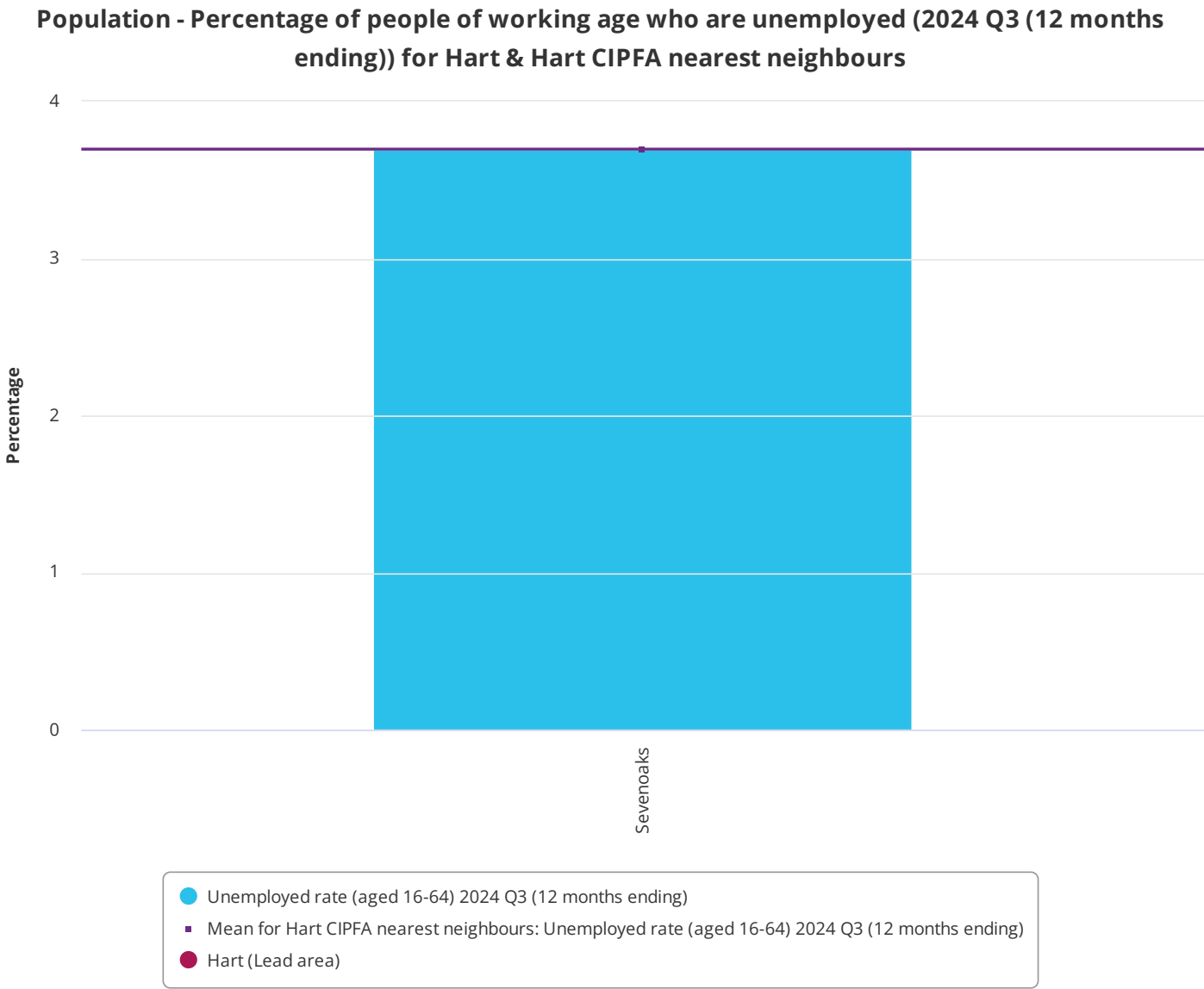
Source:
Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Estimated budget net expenditure - economic development, per head of population](#) , **Data updated:** 19 Mar 2025

In 2023, there were 54.0 new businesses registered per 10,000 of the resident population age 16 and above in the Hart area. This compares to 59.9 per 10,000 in England and 62.7 per 10,000 on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source:
Office for National Statistics, **Data updated:** 03 Jan 2025

In 2024 Q3 (12 months ending) [Missing](#) per cent of people of working age were unemployed in the Hart area. This compares to [3.9](#) per cent in England and 3.7 per cent on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



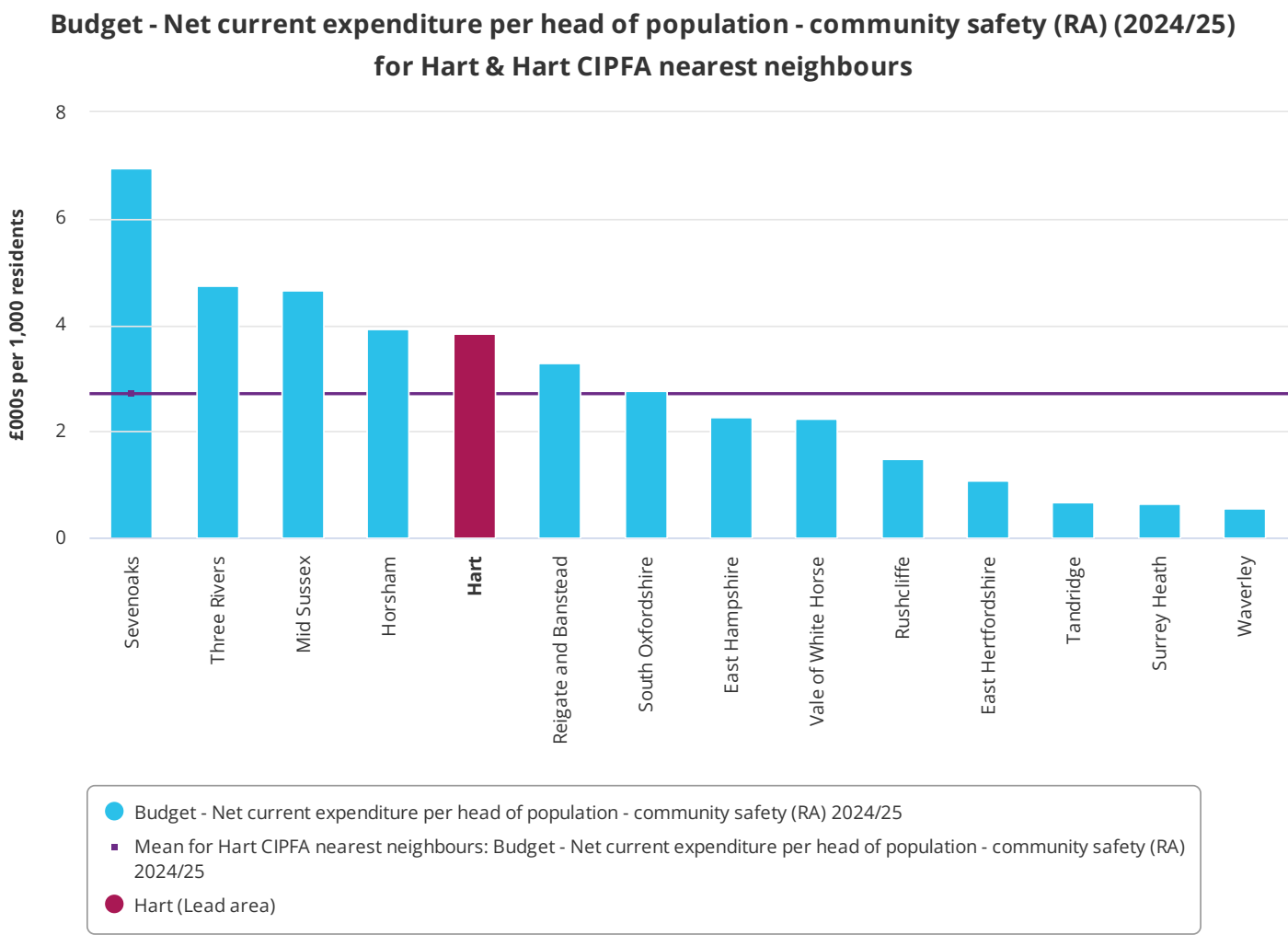
Source:

Nomis, Annual Population Survey, [Population - Percent of people of working age who are unemployed](#) , **Data updated:** 19 Mar 2025

Community safety

The chart below shows the estimated budget net expenditure on community safety. Note, however, there may also be spend on community safety that sits in other budgets (for example, preventative activities for young people which may come out of the recreation or children and families' support budget; or CCTV which may come out of the economic development budget) – so this is worth checking if there is very low spend in this category or it is a corporate priority for the authority you're looking at.

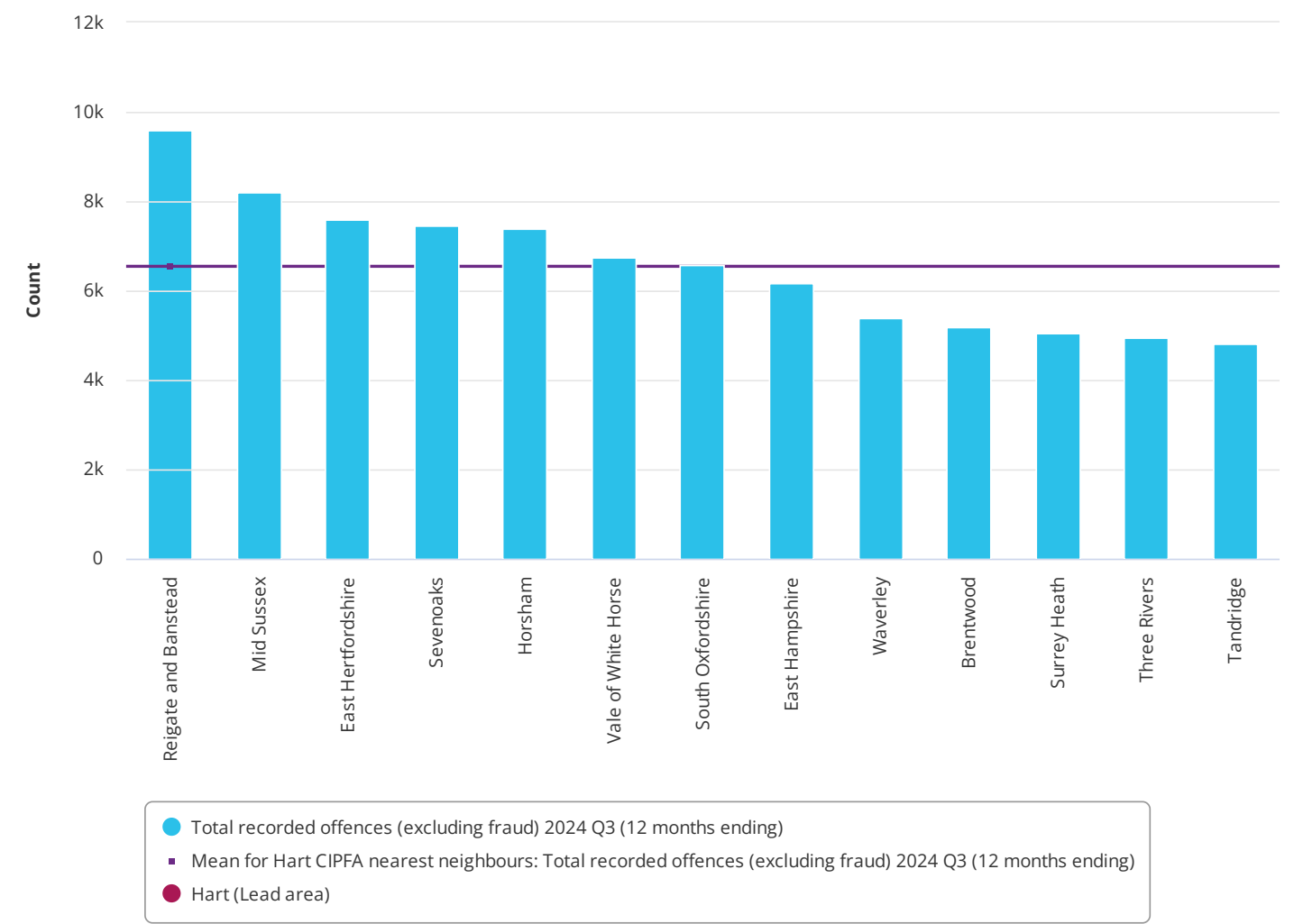
In 2024/25, Hart District Council had an estimated net budget of £3.84 per thousand residents on community safety. Compared to your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Budgeted Revenue Accounts, [Budget - Net current expenditure per head of population - community safety \(RA\)](#) , **Data updated:** 30 Nov 2024

In 2024 Q3 (12 months ending) there were [Missing](#) recorded offences (excluding fraud) per 1000 people in the Hart area. This compares to 6,549 on average within your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours. Data is not available for all councils, therefore the value will show "Missing", if it is not available for your selected council.

Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (2024 Q3 (12 months ending)) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



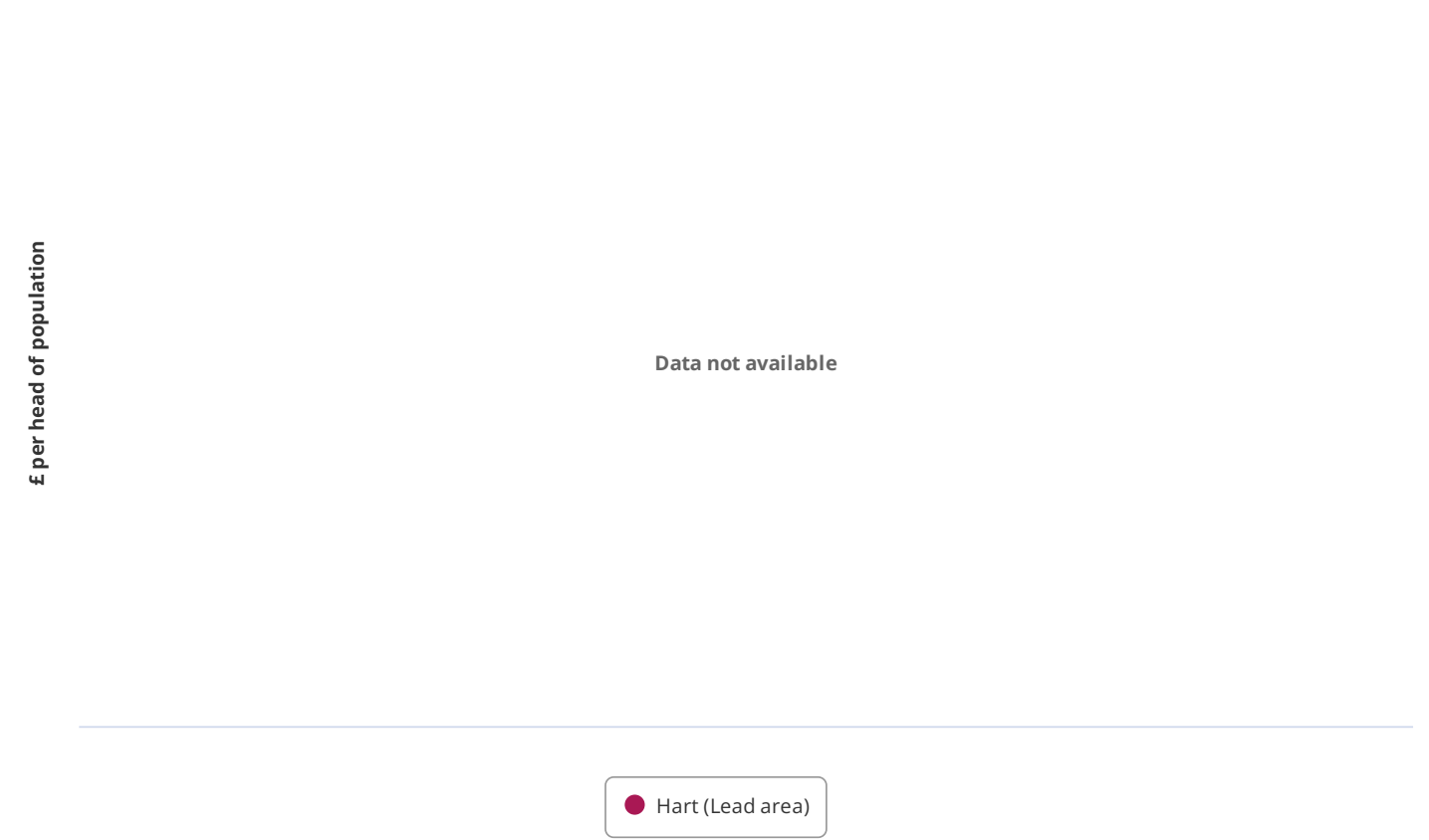
Source: Office for National Statistics, Local police recorded crime data, [Crime - Total recorded offences \(excluding fraud\) - quarterly](#) , **Data updated:** 04 Feb 2025

Education and skills

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on education, including on early years, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and alternative provision, post-16 provision and other education and community budget. Expenditure is rated per head of population, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different population sizes.

In 2023/24 the total expenditure per head of population was 0.00 for Hart, compared to 0.00 the mean for Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

Total expenditure - Education services per head of population (RSX) (2023/24) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours

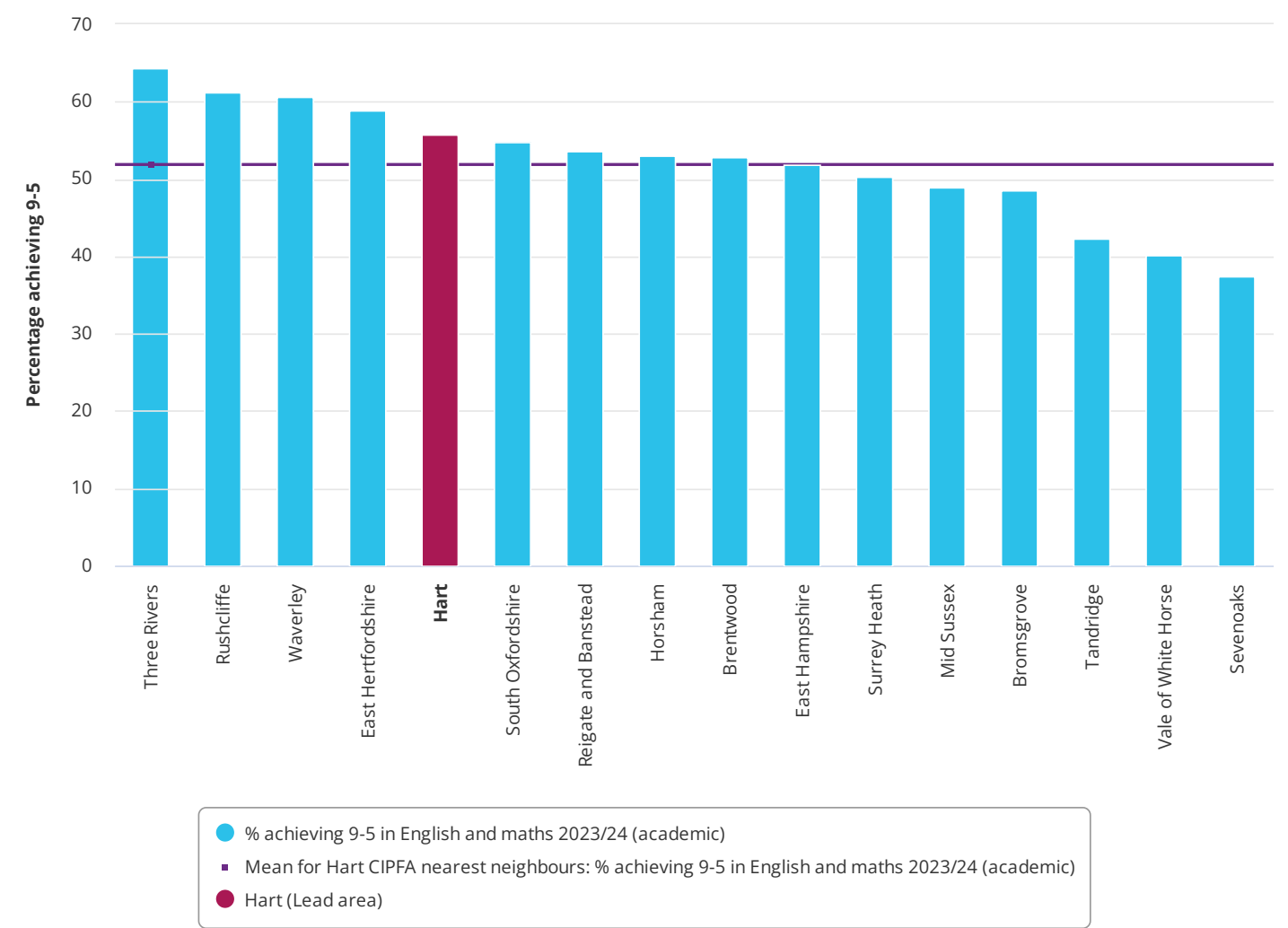


Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Education services per head of population \(RSX\)](#) ,
Data updated: 22 Mar 2025

GCSEs English and Maths

In 2023/24 (academic) 55.8 per cent of pupils in Hart achieved grades 9 to 5 in GCSEs English and Maths. This compares to 46.2 per cent in England and 51.9 per cent on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.

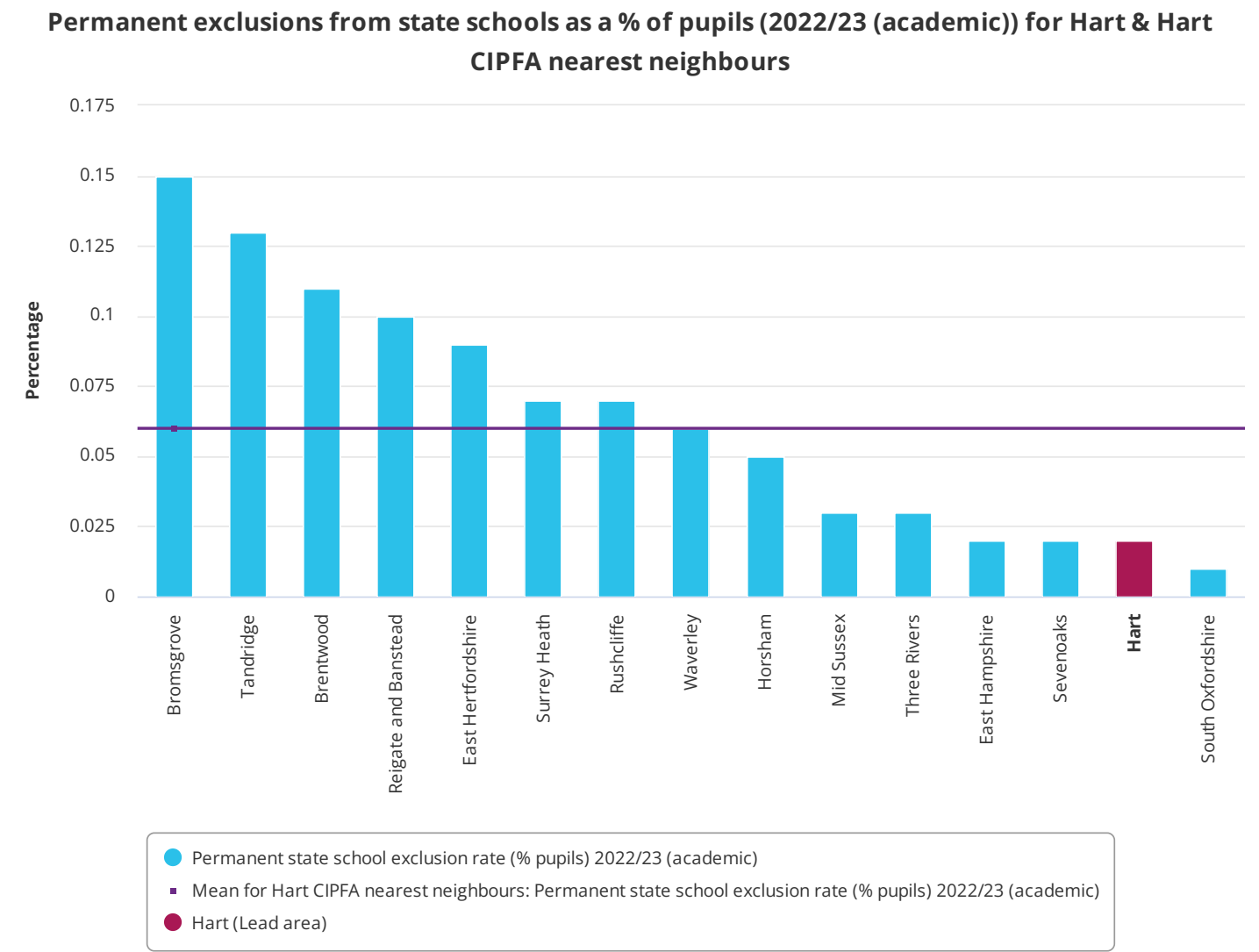
Percentage achieving 9-5 in English & mathematics (2023/24 (academic)) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Department for Education, Key stage 4 performance, [Percentage achieving 9-5 in English & mathematics](#) , **Data updated:** 18 Mar 2025

Permanent exclusions

In 2022/23 (academic) the rate of Permanent exclusions from state schools as a % of pupils in Hart was 0.02% . This compares to 0.11% in England and 0.06% on average in your comparison group of Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Department for Education, Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England, [Permanent exclusions from state schools as a % of pupils](#) ,
Data updated: 06 Jan 2025

Further education and skills achievements per 100,000 population aged 19 to 64

This chart shows the rate of the population aged 19 to 64 per 100,000 in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification or above. The learners are those who participated in a funded further education and skills course (including apprenticeships) at any point during the full academic year (August to July). The learners counted are a total of those doing Basic Skills (English and maths), Level 2, Full Level 2 (equivalent to a National Vocational Qualification at Level 2, or 5 GCSEs), Level 3, Full Level 3 (equivalent to a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3, or 2 A-Levels), Level 4+, apprenticeships and courses with 'No level assigned'. Learners undertaking more than one course will appear only once in the total; and the location is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Figures exclude learners where the location is outside of England or unknown; and privately funded training.

The data in this chart includes apprenticeships, which are paid jobs that incorporate on-the-job and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications. Completing an apprenticeship is known to be beneficial to an individual's future employment, earnings and career development when compared with apprentices who do not complete them.

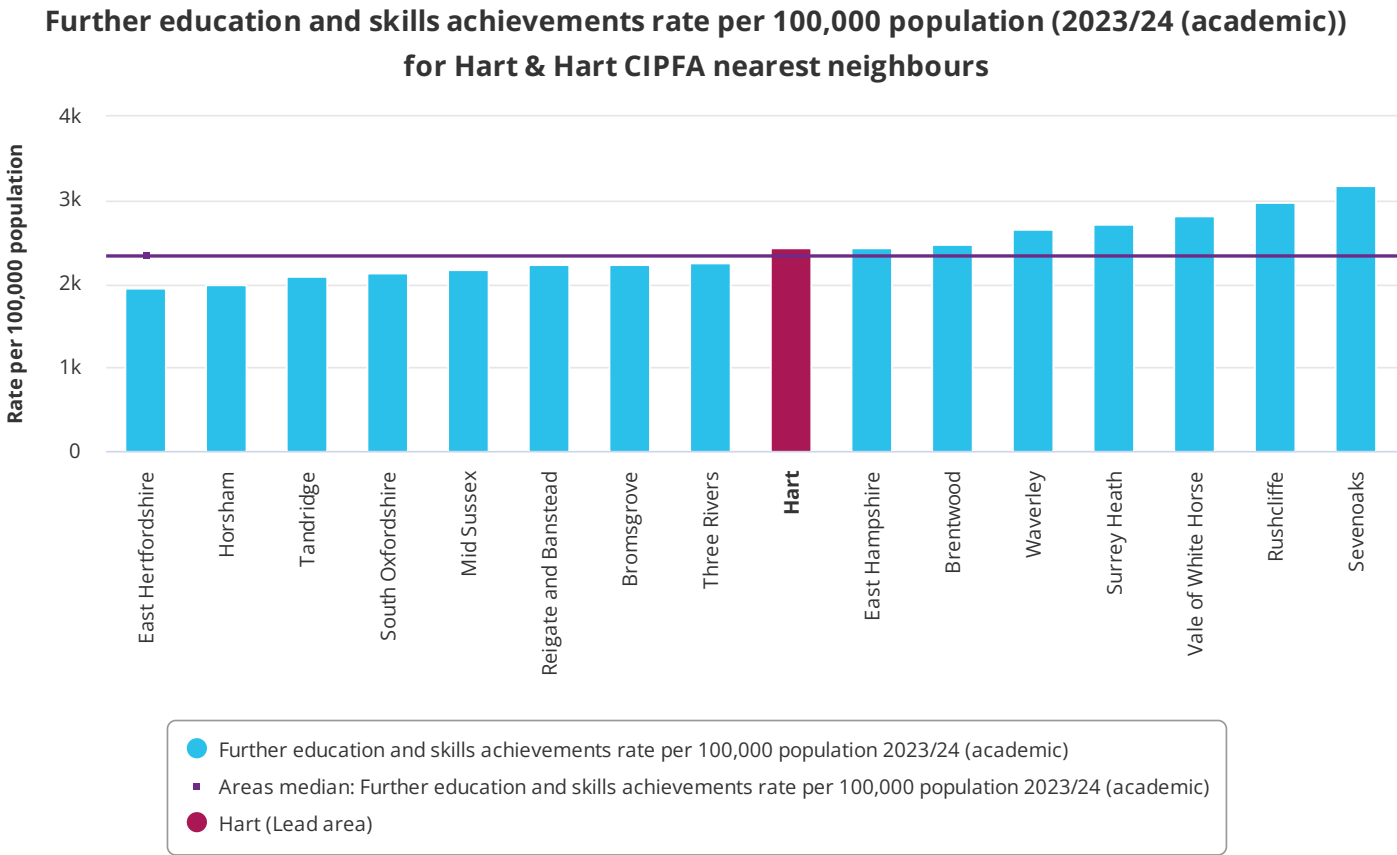
There are some factors which are associated with the likelihood of an apprenticeship being completed, and they may extend to other further education qualifications and skills. Factors which make apprenticeship completion more likely include: the sex of the apprentice (women are more likely to complete an apprenticeship than men), an apprenticeship with a large employer, training from public sector organisations, the focus of the apprenticeship (those studying for selected technical subjects are more likely to complete them) and living in an area with a high local unemployment rate.

Factors which make completion less likely include living in a deprived area and/or sparsely populated area where transport may be an issue in terms of sufficiency or affordability. Some of these characteristics are outside of a councils' control, and should be considered when comparing one council's results with another.

For more information about the factors affecting the completion of apprenticeships, see:

Grieg, M. (2019), [Factors affecting Modern Apprenticeship completion in Scotland - International Journal of Training and Development](#)

In 2023/24 (academic), the rate of the population aged 19-64 per 100,000 population in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification or above for Hart was 2,425, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median rate of 2,254 per 100,000 population.



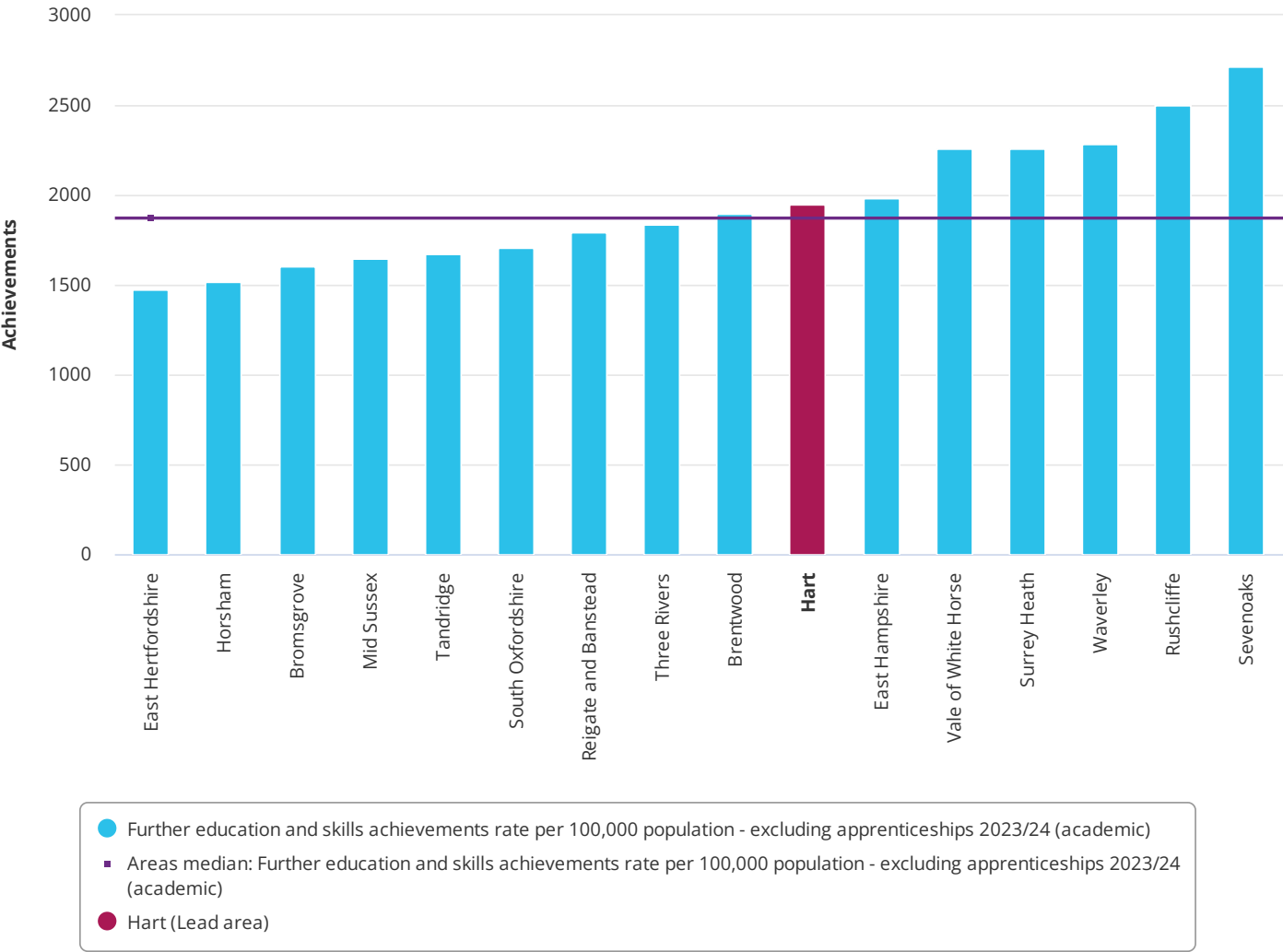
Source:
Department for Education, Further education and skills, [Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population](#) , **Data updated:** 13 Dec 2024

Further education and skills achievements per 100,000 population aged 19 to 64 (excluding apprenticeships)

This chart shows the rate of the population aged 19 to 64 per 100,000 in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification, but excludes apprenticeships. The apprenticeships data represents a sizeable proportion of the total achievement figure for an area, so excluding apprenticeships gives a better indication of the other further education achievements. For councils in a mayoral combined authority, funding has often been targeted at other further education, so this is of particular interest.

In 2023/24 (academic), the rate of the population aged 19-64 per 100,000 population in a council area who are estimated to have achieved a further education qualification excluding apprenticeships for Hart was 1,951, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median percentage of 1,838 per 100,000 population.

Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population - excluding apprenticeships (2023/24 (academic)) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours



Source: Calculated by LG Inform, N/A, [Further education and skills achievements rate per 100,000 population - excluding apprenticeships](#) , **Data updated:** 13 Dec 2024

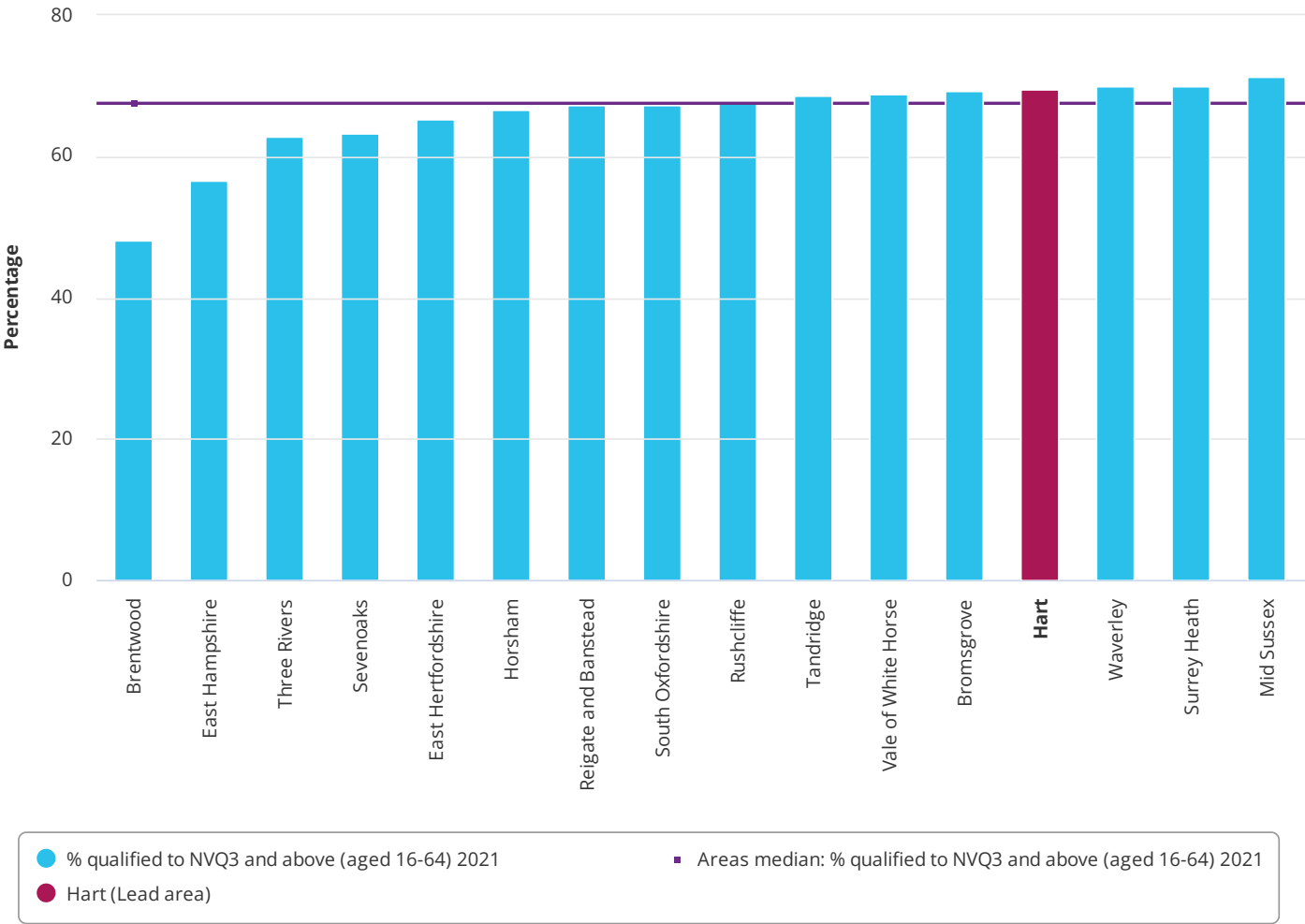
Adults with a Level 3 qualification or higher

This chart shows the percentage of the population in an area aged 16-64 that hold a qualification at Level 3 or above. People are counted as being qualified to level 3 or above if they have achieved either at least 2 A-levels grades A-E, or 4 A/S levels graded A-E, or any equivalent (or higher) qualification in the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

Data is taken from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is a continuous household survey, covering the UK with a sample size of approximately 320,000 respondents, and estimates are made on the basis of this for each council area. However, in some cases, particularly for district councils, the estimate is based on fairly small numbers of respondents. For this reason, the figure should not be considered as an exact one.

In 2021, the proportion of the population (aged 16-64) that hold a qualification at Level 3 or above for Hart was 69.6%, which was above the Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours median proportion of 67.4%.

Proportion of population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher (aged 16-64) (2021) for Hart & Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours

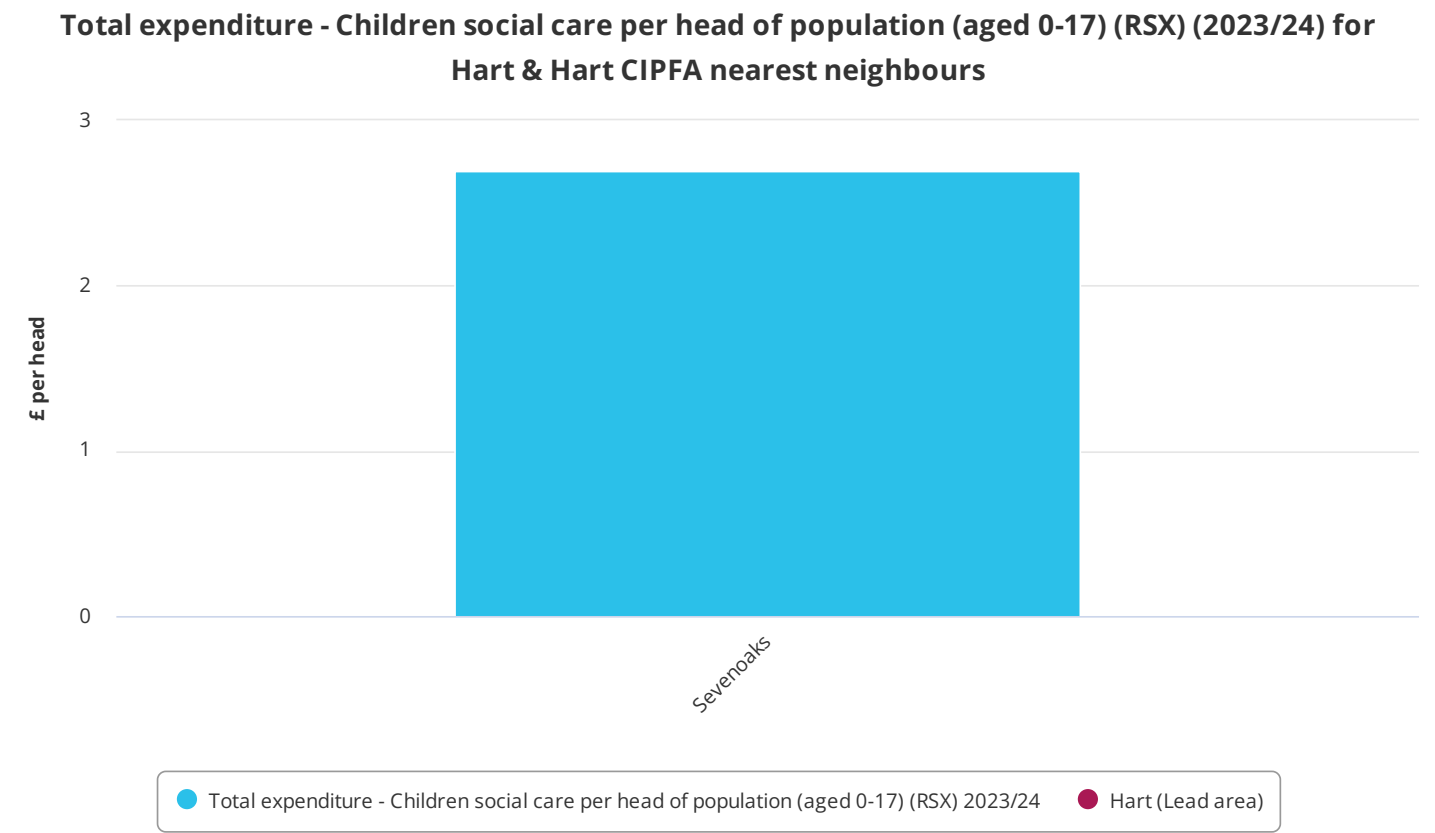


Source: Nomis, Annual Population Survey, [Proportion of population aged 16-64 qualified to at least Level 3 or higher](#) , Data updated: 19 Mar 2025

Children's services

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on children's services, including on children's centres and early years, children looked after, other children and family services, family support services, youth justice, safeguarding children and young people, asylum seekers and services for young people. Expenditure is rated per child aged 0-17, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different numbers of children.

In 2023/24 the total expenditure on children's services was £0.00 in Hart, compared to £0.19 the mean for Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Children social care per head of population \(aged 0-17\) \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

Children looked after

The children looked after rate is considered to have no polarity – it is neither good nor bad, the number is simply a fact. We do also know that some variation between local authorities can be explained by differences in the demographic and socioeconomic profile of each local authority. This is especially the case in relation to population size, deprivation and the proportion of households that are lone parent families. However, research also shows that other factors affect the rate which are within a council's control. So, you need to comment on this metric with care.

If the authority has a notably high rate of children looked after, it is worth exploring it with them. Factors within an authority's control are:

Strategy and leadership: the key characteristics relate to whether there is a strategy in place to reduce the numbers of looked after children and, if there is, the extent of buy-in from the full range of roles and partners working with children and their families.

Prevention and early intervention, where the full range of stakeholders are bought in to the objective and resources focussed on reducing need from escalating and supporting children and families out of statutory services (step down).

Approach to practice: local authorities who have relatively low numbers of looked after children have a clearly defined approach to social work practice and give practitioners and managers sufficient time to implement this approach with children and families.

Partnership-working: effective partnership working is important in achieving a relatively low rate of looked after children. The partners that have particular influence are the courts, CAFCASS and the council legal team.

Information and intelligence about performance: local areas with relatively low rates of looked after children collect high quality information and intelligence that gives them insight into how effective the system as a whole is at protecting and supporting vulnerable children. A second important element is that this information is regularly used throughout the organisation to change and improve practice.

This research can be viewed in more detail here:

[Research on Differences in Looked After Children Populations by Cordis Bright](#)

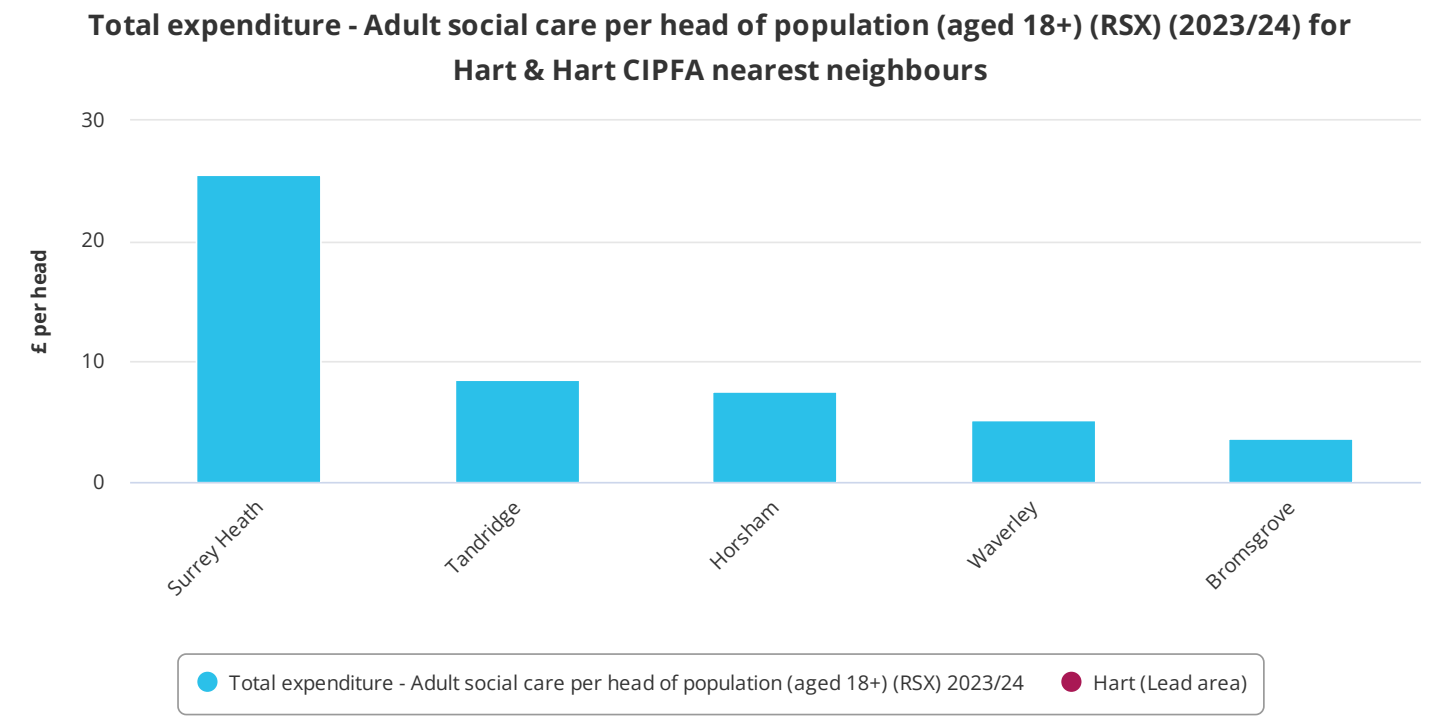
This is where conversations about vacancy rates of the individual service may come in, as high workloads means that prevention and support work may not easily be possible. A high level of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children might also affect this. But, as noted by the last factor, understanding whether the authority recognises what the data they hold may be telling them, and how they are using it, will give the peer team a good idea about the council's performance management approach.

In addition, remember to look at Ofsted reports alongside the data in the LG Inform report. And, if it looks as though there may be performance challenges in this section for the authority you're reviewing, then also contact colleagues in the Children's Services Improvement Programme, who will likely be able to give you an overview of their own thoughts about the council's performance.

Adult social care

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on adult social care, including on physical support, sensory support, learning disability support, mental health support, social support, assistive equipment and technology, social care activities, information and early intervention, commissioning and service delivery and disbursement payments to care providers. Expenditure is rated per adult, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different size populations.

In 2023/24 the total expenditure on adult social care per head of population was £0.00 in Hart, compared to £3.60 the mean in Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Adult social care per head of population \(aged 18+\) \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

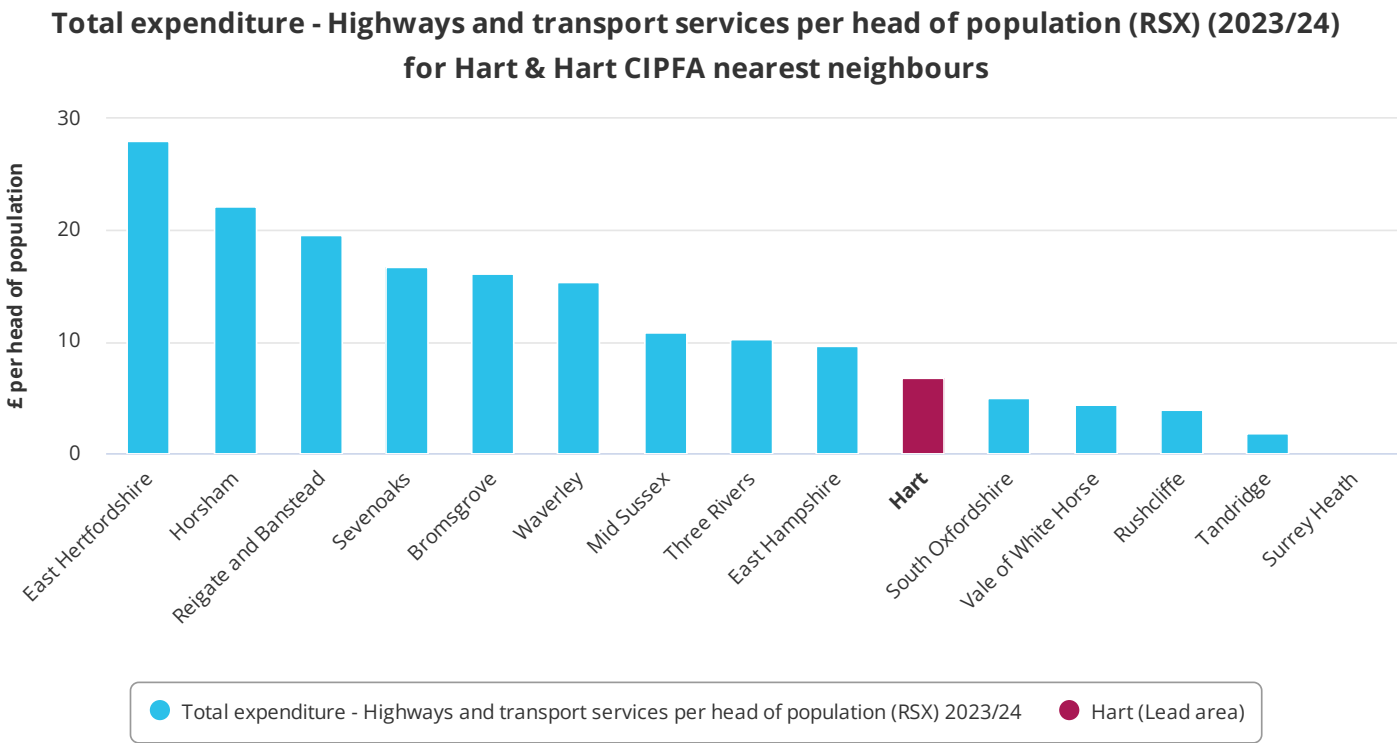
Data not available for this component.

In addition, remember to look at Care Quality Commission (CQC) reports alongside the data in the LG Inform report (although note, not every council has one yet). And the relevant Care and Health Improvement Adviser might also have insight, if the data suggests there may be challenges in this service.

Roads

The first chart in this section shows the total expenditure on highways and transport services, including on transport planning/policy/strategy, structural maintenance, environmental/safety/routine maintenance, winter service, street lighting (including energy costs), traffic management and road safety, parking services, public transport (including concessionary fares) and airports/harbours/toll facilities. Expenditure is rated per adult, to allow comparisons to be made between local authorities with different size populations.

In 2023/24 the expenditure per head on highways and transport services was £6.77 in Hart, compared to £11.74 mean for Hart CIPFA nearest neighbours.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Revenue Outturn (RSX), [Total expenditure - Highways and transport services per head of population \(RSX\)](#) , **Data updated:** 22 Mar 2025

The remainder of the charts in the section relate to principal and minor roads where maintenance should be considered. The condition and maintenance of roads is always an issue of public concern.

There are a number of points to note when looking at the data about road condition, and particularly when making comparisons between councils. Roads are damaged when water seeps into cracks caused by wear from traffic which then results in further deterioration. The UK's wet and cold climate exacerbates the problem, especially in winter by the freeze-thaw cycle. The weather has varying impacts across the country, with some areas more prone to frequent flooding and/or icing up. Underpinning road structure will also have an impact on how resilient the road surface is. Roads in urban and inner-city areas with heavy traffic flows and heavy vehicles such as buses and lorries experience more wear and tear, especially if the infrastructure is aging and subject to patchwork repairs and replacement of pipes and cables.

In addition, areas with low resident populations, but with high inflows of people or traffic, may have artificially high rates because the at-risk resident population is not an accurate measure of exposure to transport: for example, the City of London and sparsely populated rural areas with high numbers of visitors or through traffic.

The road metrics also do not take into account other highways assets that require maintenance, such as bridges and drainage systems. These may suck in additional resources, which makes it misleading to compare councils with many of those additional assets to maintain with those councils that do not have them.

Data not available for this component.

Data not available for this component.

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[Department for Education - Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England \(including adoption and care leavers\)](#)
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[NHS England - Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England](#)
[Nomis - Annual Population Survey](#)
[Office for Health Improvement and Disparities \(OHID\) - Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data](#)
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