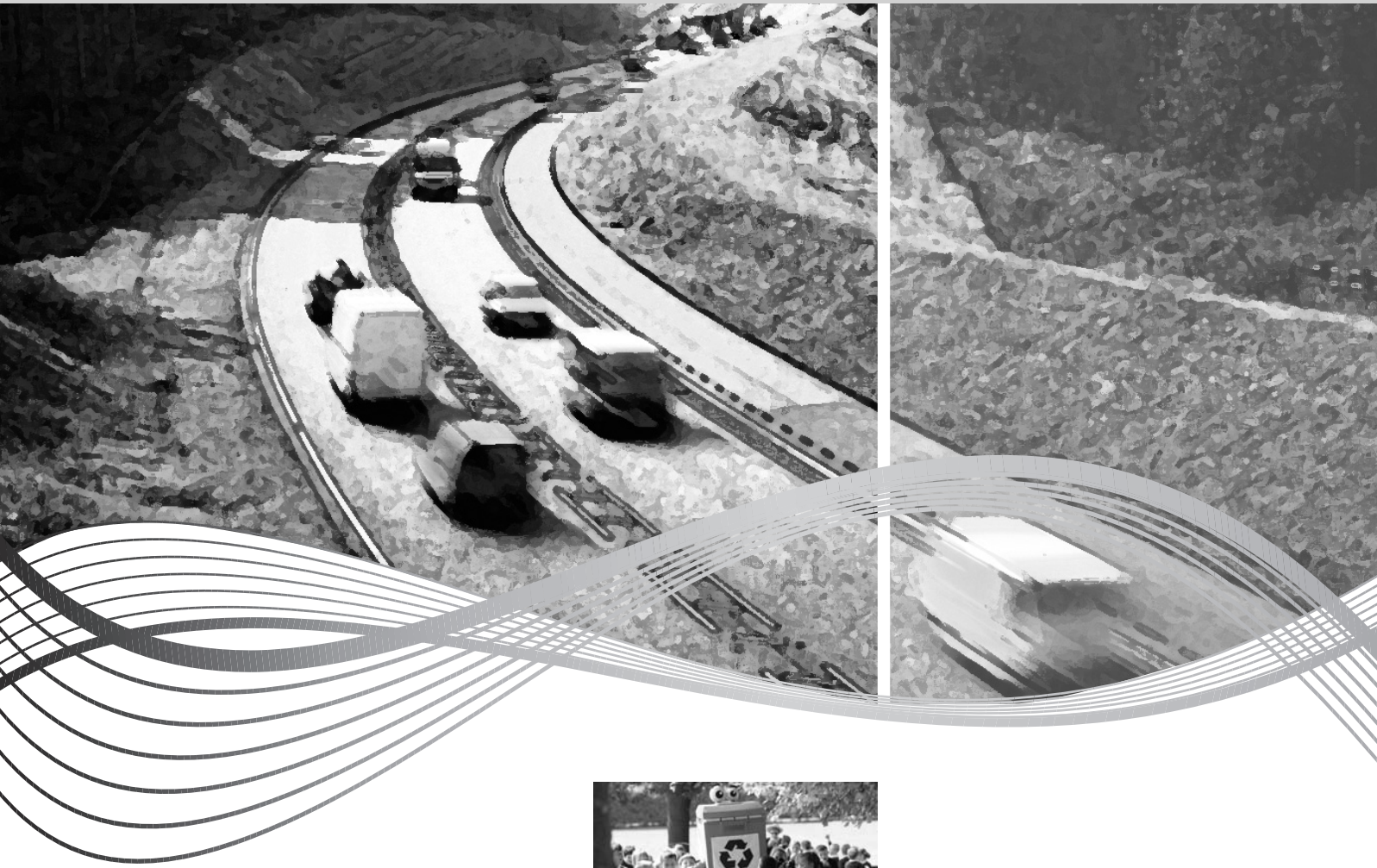# section A
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background and overview

Setting the Scene

This is the sixth edition of The Condition of Nottinghamshire. The previous edition had been structured around Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan, *Building a Future*. This latest edition marks a departure from that approach to reflect increased partnership working and the development of evidence-based policy making. The Condition of Nottinghamshire will therefore form part of the evidence base for the first Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

Since the previous edition, a local strategic partnership for the county has been established, a Community Strategy for the period 2005 – 2009 adopted, and a Local Area Agreement (LAA) approved. In addition, individual service inspections have been replaced by the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). CAA looks at how well local services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people. The Audit Commission has defined the CAA as follows:

- It is about people and places.
- It will give people a snapshot of life in their local area each year.
- It will help local services improve quality of life in their area.
- It will help people understand if they are getting value for money from their local services.

For the first time, local public services will be held collectively to account for their impact on better outcomes. This means that CAA will look across councils, health bodies, police forces, fire and rescue services and others responsible for local public services, which are increasingly expected to work in partnership to tackle the challenges facing their communities. This latest edition has been developed through close partnership working with a view to the development of the SCS. A Sustainable Community Strategy Working

Group has been established and has helped to validate some of the information contained within this document.

The Themes

The information presented here follows the themes of the SCS. There are six themes as follows:
- **A Safer Nottinghamshire** – this includes crime and also the wider community safety agenda.
- **Making Nottinghamshire's Communities Stronger** – this includes access to local services as well as democratic participation.
- **A Place Where Our Children and Young People Achieve Their Full Potential** – this includes various Key Stage results, access to Further Education and Special Educational Needs data.
- **A Healthier Nottinghamshire** – this includes a wide range of health indicators as well as access to health services.
- **A More Prosperous Nottinghamshire** – this includes a range of economic indicators such as unemployment rates, VAT registrations and benefit details.
- **A Greener Nottinghamshire** – this includes recycling, bus frequencies, CO_2 emissions and listed buildings among others.

As the SCS covers wider issues than the LAA, its themes have been written to reflect this fact. However it has been done in such a way that the LAA themes can easily be cross-referenced with the SCS themes.

Many of the datasets cut across two or more of the themes. It has been necessary to allocate each dataset within one of the six themes but it should be remembered that they may have relevance to other themes. For example, access to a free cash ATM within a mile can be seen as a green issue as it reduces the need to travel to obtain money. However if people can get access to money locally, it could mean they are more likely to spend it locally as well so that would link to both the 'Make Nottinghamshire's Communities Stronger' and 'A More Prosperous Nottinghamshire' themes.

SCS Theme	LAA Equivalent
A Safer Nottinghamshire	A Safe Place To Live
Making Nottinghamshire's Communities Stronger	A Strong Sense Of Place
A Place Where Our Children and Young Children Achieve Their Full Potential	Children & Young People Achieving Their Full Potential
A Healthier Nottinghamshire	Health & Wellbeing For All
A More Prosperous Nottinghamshire	A Thriving Economy
A Greener Nottinghamshire	Sustainability

Evidence-based Policy Making

As stated above, The Condition of Nottinghamshire forms part of the evidence base for the new Nottinghamshire SCS. This feeds directly into evidence-based policy making.

The key benefit of evidence-based policy making is better policy. The recent increase in interest in evidence-based policy making comes in response to a perception that the public sector, both local and national, needs to improve the quality of decision-making as set out in the Modernising Government White Paper.

There are many different definitions of the term "evidence-based policy making" but we use it to refer to an approach to policy development and implementation which uses rigorous techniques to develop and maintain a robust evidence base from which to develop policy options. All policies are based on evidence - the question is more whether the evidence itself, and the processes through which this evidence is put to turn it into policy options, are of sufficiently high quality.
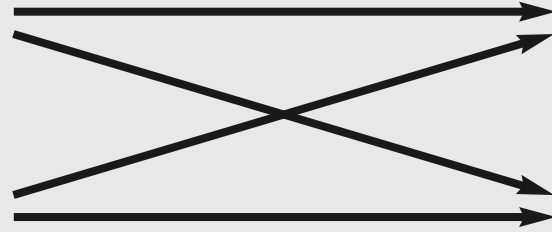
This approach is about ensuring that our policies are based on a sound and comprehensive understanding of the evidence available at the time; and developing a strategy to maintain, and update as necessary, the evidence base for future strategy and policy.

Evidence for policy has three components. First is **hard data** (facts, trends, survey information) but the second component is the **analytical reasoning** that sets the hard data in context. Third, an evidence base

There are policy options that:

Use good information...   ... and use it well

Use poor information...   ... and use it poorly ...

comprises **stakeholder opinion** on an issue or set of issues. The reason for this tripartite approach is: if there is any weakness in the hard data on which you are basing a policy option, then you will need to fall back upon the analysis that underpins the data. If there is any weakness in the analysis, or any risk that others could bring an alternative interpretation to the table, then you need to go back to your stakeholder base in order to understand the different interpretations that could give rise to different analyses of the same set of data.

The Condition of Nottinghamshire covers the first part of this tripartite approach. The new Nottinghamshire SCS will cover the other two parts.

Other Evidence Bases

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) places a duty on local authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The duty commenced on 1st April 2008. Statutory responsibility lies with Directors of Public Health, Adult

Social Services and Children's Services.

A Steering Group was established, involving representatives from the County Council, NHS Nottinghamshire and the voluntary sector, to draw up the data and documentation.

The purpose of the JSNA is to aid understanding of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the population over both the short term (3-5 years) and longer term (5-10 years) and to identify groups where needs are not being met. It should therefore be used to inform future service planning and feed into the commissioning process. It will be used to support and direct forward planning of services so that:

- Services are shaped by local communities;
- Inequalities are reduced; and
- Social inclusion is increased.

The JSNA is not a one off exercise; it will be an ongoing process. The JSNA steering group has identified the main health and well being needs of the people of Nottinghamshire. However it acknowledges that it is the first attempt at a JSNA so it is intended that future work will help fill gaps that have been identified.

The JSNA is contained in four chapters, contained in separate documents as follows:

1. Children and Young People
2. Older People
3. Adults, Hard to Reach and Vulnerable People

4. Final Chapter: an Executive Summary of key points, highlighting cross cutting themes, gaps and recommendations.

All four documents can be downloaded from the Partnership website: www.nottinghamshire partnership.org.uk

The State of Nottinghamshire
The Condition of Nottinghamshire is primarily about looking at a range of data for the county down to district and ward level when available. If available, regional and national data is included for comparative purposes.

It is also important to look how Nottinghamshire compares to the rest of the region as well as the country. The Local Futures Company has been commissioned to produce a *State of Nottinghamshire* report which will look at a range of social, economic and environmental indicators and assess Nottinghamshire in terms of the region, nationally, internationally in some cases, and nearest statistical neighbours. Whilst The Condition of Nottinghamshire gives a picture of the county, *State of Nottinghamshire* will place it in a wider context.

The *State of Nottinghamshire* will be published in January 2009. It will be available to be downloaded from the Partnership website: www.nottinghamshire partnership.org.uk

Updated local information continues to be available from **Nottinghamshire Knowledge**. The route to gain access is through the web address:

Economic Assessments

In July 2007 the Government published its review of sub-national economic development and regeneration. The review proposed major changes to the roles of local authorities and regional development agencies (RDAs) including a new statutory duty on unitary and upper tier local authorities to analyse the economic needs and opportunities of their areas to inform the single regional strategy.

Draft Government guidance suggests local economic assessments should:
- identify economic linkages between the area of assessment and the wider economy;
- identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the local economy;
- include an assessment of the local levels of worklessness and the underlying causes;
- give due regard to environmental impacts;
- explore differences between constituent places within the area of assessment, including constituent districts and both rural and urban areas; and
- review opportunities for sub-regional or regional co-operation.

Although it is not expected that the first Economic Assessment will be required until 2011, work has already started in the region. The East Midlands Development Agency has brought the relevant local authorities together to discuss compiling a common data set and shared evidence base.

Given the close connections between the city and the county, the County Council and Nottingham City Council are working closely together on a Joint Economic Assessment of Nottinghamshire. The County Council will also need to consider major cross-border linkages such as the Sheffield City Region for example.

Community Safety

The Condition of Nottinghamshire includes a variety of crime and anti-social behaviour datasets. However it represents only part of the data which is currently available. There is a strong partnership which looks at collecting a wide range of data, mapping it and seeking correlations between different sets. For further information about this project, please access:www.jinpartnership.org.uk

Indices of Deprivation 2007

In 2007, the Government published the latest version of the Indices of Deprivation (ID). As with the ID 2004, data was made available at a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level rather than at a ward level which had been the previous practice.

- The ID 2007 provides a relative ranking of areas across England according to their level of deprivation.
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD 2007) which forms part of the ID 2007 is based on the small area geography known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs have between 1,000 and 3,000 people living in them with an average population of 1,500 people. In most cases, these are smaller than wards, thus allowing the identification of small pockets of deprivation.
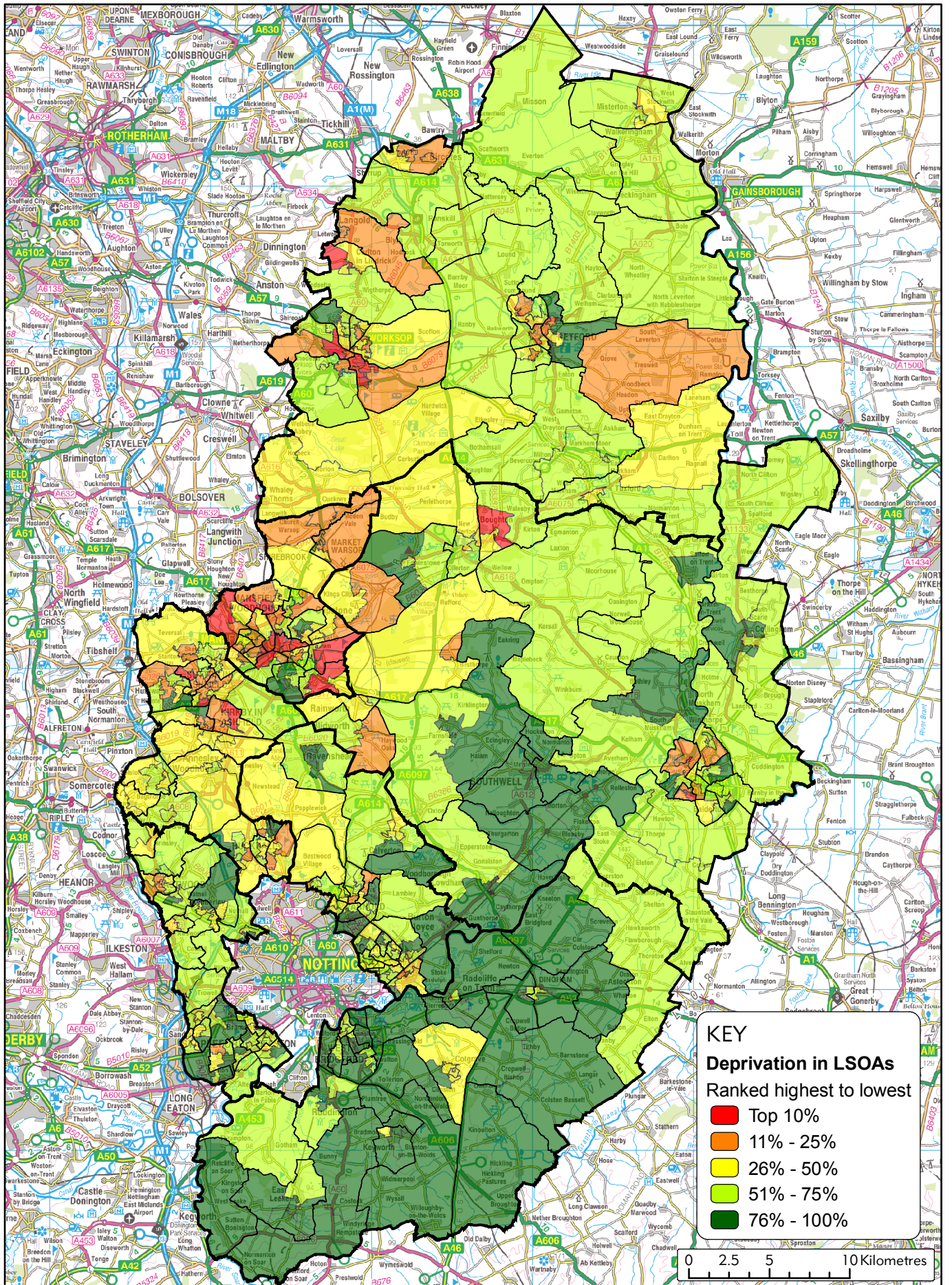
- There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. The LSOA ranked 1 by the IMD 2007 is the most deprived and that ranked 32,482 is the least deprived.
- The IMD brings together 37 different indicators which cover specific aspects or dimensions of deprivation: Income, Employment, Health and Disability, Education, Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment and Crime. These are weighted and combined to create the overall IMD 2007.
- The majority of the data underpinning the IMD 2007 represents 2005 although some data covers a number of years, for example an average of 2003-2005.

The ID 2007 includes the following measures of deprivation:

- The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2007) as described above;
- Local Authority Summaries of the IMD 2007;
- County Council summaries of the IMD 2007;
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007; and
- Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index 2007.

The IMD is a complex area to assess but the implications for Nottinghamshire will be explored further in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Since 2004 the ID has used Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) rather than wards as its main building blocks. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England with 497 in Nottinghamshire. For 2007 there are 23 Nottinghamshire LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of English LSOAs and 101 in the most deprived 25% of English LSOAs. Although changes in methodology prevent direct comparison with the 2004 study, the fact that the number of Nottinghamshire LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally has fallen by 7 should be seen as an encouraging sign. Map A1 overleaf shows the overall results of the IMD 2007 as they apply across the County.

Local Authority	IMD 2004	IMD 2007
Ashfield	52	72
Bassetlaw	77	101
Broxtowe	194	219
Gedling	183	205
Mansfield	32	34
Newark & Sherwood	143	175
Rushcliffe	309	330
Nottingham	9	12

KEY

Deprivation in LSOAs

Ranked highest to lowest

- 🟥 Top 10%
- 🟧 11% - 25%
- 🟨 26% - 50%
- 🟩 51% - 75%
- 🟢 76% - 100%

0   2.5   5   10 Kilometres

Map A1 : Indices of Deprivation

Nottinghamshire County Council

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Population

A population profile for the County showing a breakdown by district and age is shown below. The table shows that, as in previous years, all Nottinghamshire districts and boroughs have very similar population totals. In 2006 they ranged between 99,900, the lowest in Mansfield, and 115,700, the highest in Ashfield.

In terms of age profile, particular items to note include the low percentage of very young people and high percentage of young adults in Broxtowe, the high percentage aged between retirement and 74 in Newark and Sherwood, and the high percentage aged 75 or over in Newark and Sherwood and Gedling.

The population figures, where relevant, are updated to mid-2006 population estimates.

The next census is due to be held on 27 March 2011.

Using the Data and Maps

As in previous versions of The Condition of Nottinghamshire, the data is presented in a tabular format listing a value for each indicator at a Local Authority District level. Beneath this, where available, are values for "County", "East Midlands" and "Country". Blank spaces indicate that comparable figures are unavailable. The lower part of each table lists the wards by district and gives values where available. At the bottom of each page is a brief definition of the indicator, with a more comprehensive explanation provided in Section H.

The data used throughout is that which was considered current by the provider at June 2008. In almost all cases the value quoted is given as a rate. This allows for areas of very different sizes or populations to be compared easily and also protects the confidential or sensitive nature of some of the data sets.

Demography of the County

Local Authority District	2006 Population Estimate	% of County	Age Group as a percentage of District total (2006)							
			0-4	5-10	11-15	16-24	25-44	45-Ret	Ret-74	75+
Ashfield	115,700	15.0	5.6	7.1	6.4	10.7	28.4	22.7	11.7	7.4
Bassetlaw	111,400	14.5	5.1	6.9	6.8	10.2	26.5	24.4	12.3	7.8
Broxtowe	110,400	14.4	4.6	6.0	6.0	12.1	28.8	22.8	11.7	7.9
Gedling	111,700	14.5	5.0	6.5	6.2	10.2	27.3	24.0	12.2	8.5
Mansfield	99,900	13.0	5.5	6.6	6.8	11.5	27.0	22.9	11.7	7.9
Newark and Sherwood	111,700	14.5	5.4	7.1	6.5	10.0	25.9	24.1	12.5	8.4
Rushcliffe	108,200	14.1	5.4	7.0	6.3	10.5	27.5	23.7	11.4	8.2
County	**769,100**	**100.0**	**5.2**	**6.7**	**6.4**	**10.8**	**27.4**	**23.5**	**11.9**	**8.0**

The ward boundaries used throughout the document relate to 2003 with the exception of those used for Democratic Participation which are 2007. The differences between 2003 and 2007 only affect wards in Newark and Sherwood District. Transparent overlays are provided to assist users to identify both sets of Ward boundaries and the County Electoral Divisions.

There are 97 indicators used within the document, 63 of which are available at ward level and all of these have been mapped. The maps each have five classifications (where the range of values allows). These are shown as a colour range from green to red, where green indicates 'good' or has the least implication for service provision and red is 'bad' or requires the most service provision. The classifications were derived from calculating the mean and standard deviation of each range of values. However, due to the complex nature of the methodology used to calculate the values (see the Technical Appendices in Section I), the maps showing accessibility are classified differently, using "natural breaks".

When using the data contained within for comparative purposes, it is important to be aware of discontinuities. If comparing with previous editions of The Condition of Nottinghamshire, then the source should be checked in case the methodology has changed.

It should be remembered that some of the actual numbers of people can be very small in some instances so statistical significance should be considered when using that data.

The Future
We hope that you find The Condition of Nottinghamshire to be a very useful document and would ask that it is acknowledged when used.

Local Information Systems have been growing in numbers across the country. These provide online access to local data. **Nottinghamshire Knowledge** is our current version and it is something we intend to develop during 2009. Our vision is to have an online system for the county which presents the data contained here in a format that enables it to be viewed graphically and geographically when appropriate to a sub-district level. Viewers will be able to copy the data presented for use in their own spreadsheets as well as access the metadata. A further advantage would be that datasets could be updated as and when they become available. There are still a number of issues that need to be resolved such as whether the system should be open to everyone or if parts should be restricted to registered users.

Your views on this proposal are very much welcome.