

# Mapping Poverty 2022: Paper showing headlines for benefit households, benefit population and benefit groups in Cambridge

## Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the headline figures for benefit households and benefit population in October 2022 (a combination of Housing Benefit claimants and Universal Credit claimants and their dependents) for the city, captured in the council's Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) system, and to make comparisons with earlier Mapping Poverty reports from 2017 and 2013 that looked at Housing Benefit claimants.

It is hoped that this paper and further insights from the LIFT system will assist council officers and partners in targeting vulnerable households with support during this "cost of living" crisis. It will be interesting to hear of any interventions that have been better targeted or initiated in response to this data, especially if you are a community and voluntary sector group working in Cambridge City. The council has an Anti-Poverty Strategy and the evidence provided here will help inform its development.

## Summary

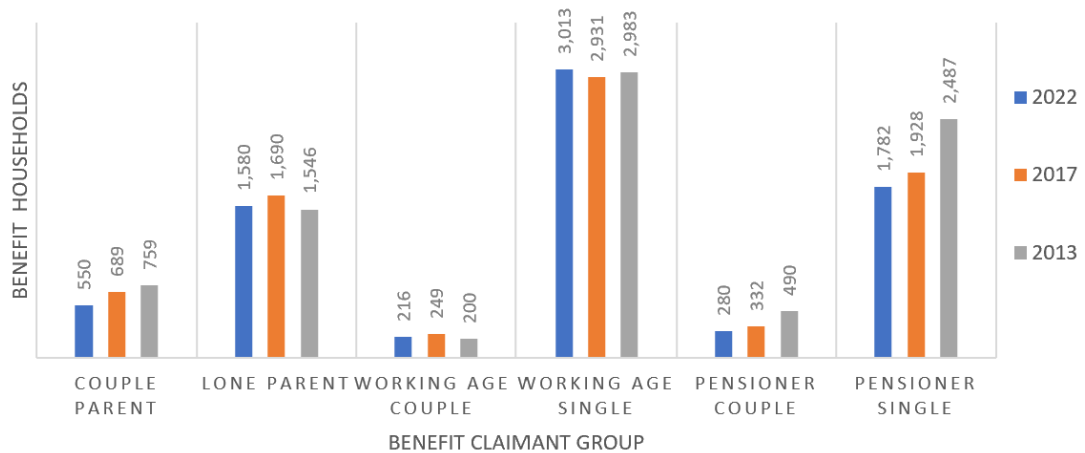
In the past ten years the benefit population in the city, captured first by our own administrative data and then LIFT, shows a decrease of around 10% or nearly 1,300 people, despite the significant increase in our population of nearly 18% or 21,800 people. It is assumed that LIFT is picking up most claimants as all Universal Credit claimants are encouraged to claim Council Tax Rebate, which makes them visible to us and captured by LIFT. Please refer to the "Background" section of this paper for further details about the compilation of data sources.

## Headline Findings

### Benefit Households

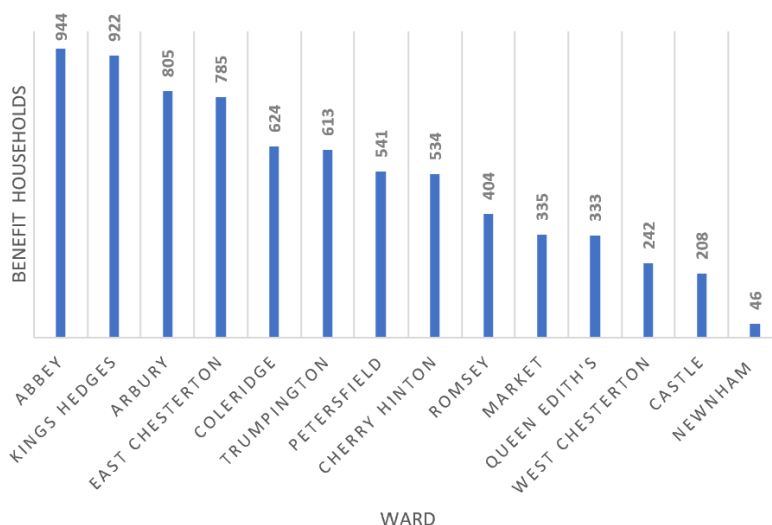
- Total benefit households in the city were **7,421** in October 2022, a reduction of 398 households or 5% compared to 2017 (Table 1 in the Appendix)
- Benefit households represented 14.4 % of all households in the city in 2022, with nearly one household in seven being a benefit household, compared to 15.2% or one household in six and a half in 2017 (Table 2 in the Appendix and Chart 1, below)

**Chart 1: Benefit Households by Claimant Groups**



- Working age single people benefit households increased in 2022 by 82, or nearly 3% compared to 2017, whilst other groups fell, and single people continue to make-up a high proportion of benefit households at 6,375 or nearly 86% of all benefit households (Table 1 in Appendix)
- There were 2,130 benefit households with children in them or 28% of all benefit households, compared to 2,379 or 30.4% of all benefit households in 2017 (Table 1 in Appendix)
- Abbey ward had the highest number of benefit households at 944 or 12.72% of all benefit households whilst Newnham had the lowest 46 or 0.62% of all benefit households (Table 2 and Chart 2, below)

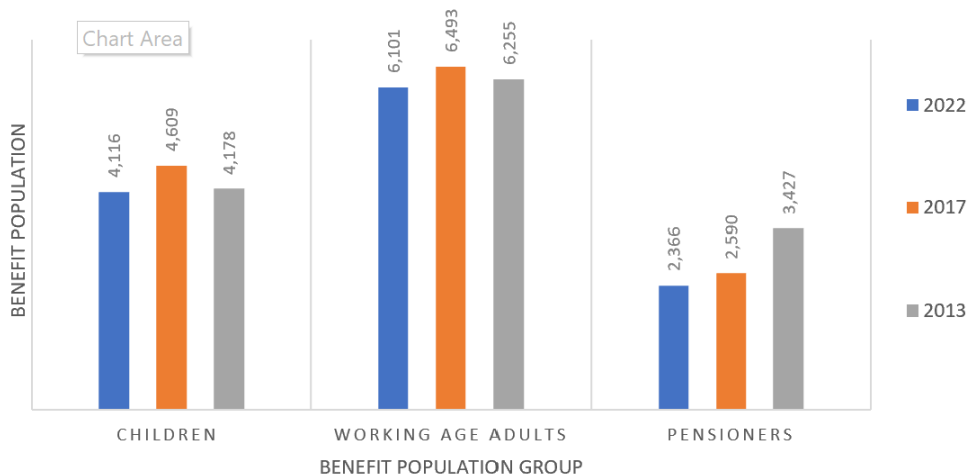
**Chart 2: Benefit households by ward in 2022**



## Benefit Population

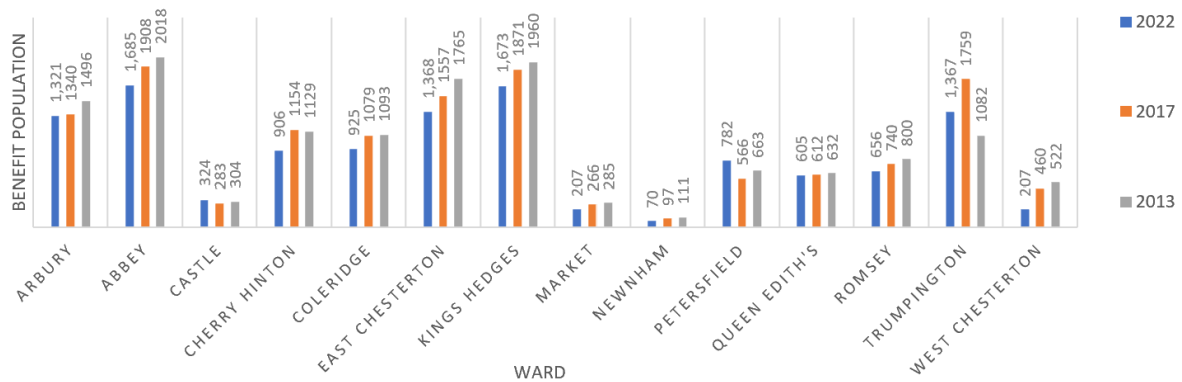
- The total benefit population were **12,583**, a reduction of 1,109 people or 8% compared to 2017 (Table 3 in Appendix)
- 9% of the city’s population or one person in eleven were living in a benefit household in the city, compared to nearly 11% or one person in nine in 2017 (Table 3 in Appendix)
- 4,116 children live in benefit households, representing nearly 19% of all children living in the city, compared to 4,609 or 22% of all children in 2017 (Table 3 and Table 4 in Appendix and Chart 4, below)
- 6,101 working age adults live in benefit households, representing nearly 6% of all working age adults living in the city, compared to 6,493 or 8% of all working age adults in 2017 (Table 3 and Table 4 in Appendix and Chart 4, below)
- 2,366 pensioners live in benefit households, representing nearly 15% of all pensioners living in the city, compared to 2,590 or 17% of all pensioners in 2017 (Table 3 and Table 4 in Appendix and Chart 4, below)

**Chart 3: Benefit Population Groups**



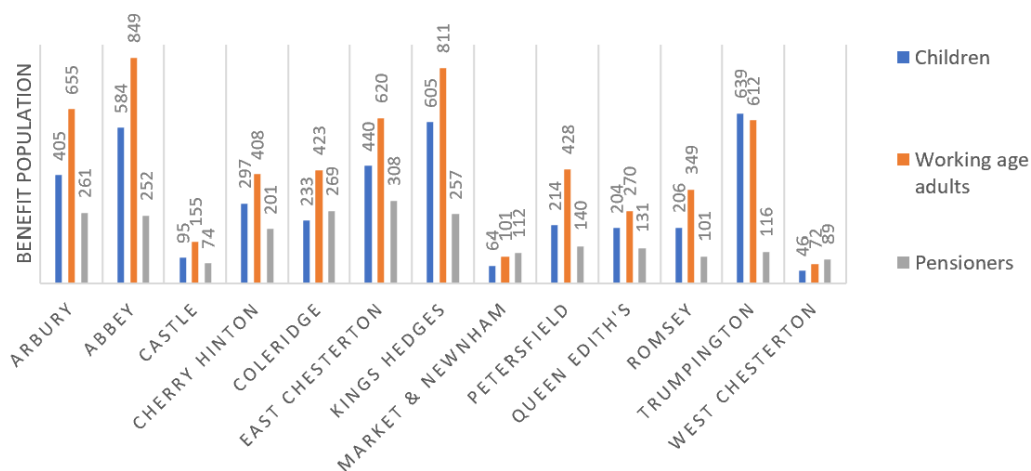
- Abbey ward had the largest benefit population at 1,685 people, narrowly ahead of Kings Hedges ward, with Newnham the lowest at 70. Abbey ward also had the largest benefit population in 2017 at 1,908 and Newnham the lowest at 97 (Table 4 and Chart 4, below)

**Chart 4: Benefit Population by Ward between 2022 and 2013**



- Trumpington ward had the largest child benefit population at 639 children, representing 14% of the total child population in the ward. Abbey ward had the largest proportion of children living in benefit households at nearly 33% of its total ward child population (Table 4 and Chart 5, below)
- Abbey ward had the largest number of working age adults living in benefit households at 849 people, representing just over 11% of working age adults in the ward (Table 4 and Chart 5, below)
- East Chesterton ward had the largest number of pensioners living in benefit households at 308, representing 21% of pensioners in the ward

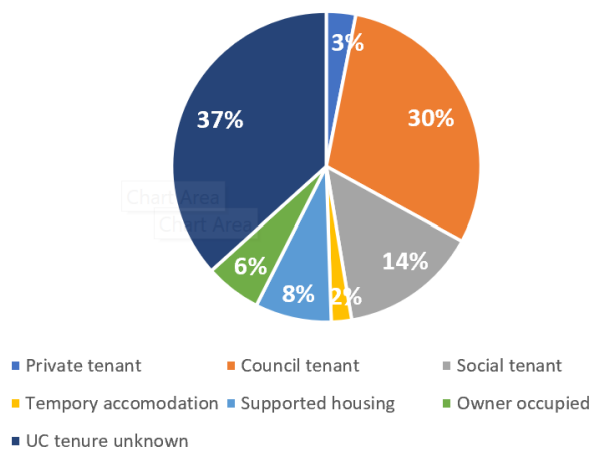
**Chart 5: Benefit Population Groups by Ward**



## Type of tenure of benefit households

- The tenure type of 37% (2,711) of benefit households could not be identified in LIFT
- From the tenure types identified, the majority of benefit households were council tenants at 30% (2,210)
- Private tenants at 3% (31) and owner occupiers at 6% (47) made-up a relatively small proportion of all known benefit household tenure types

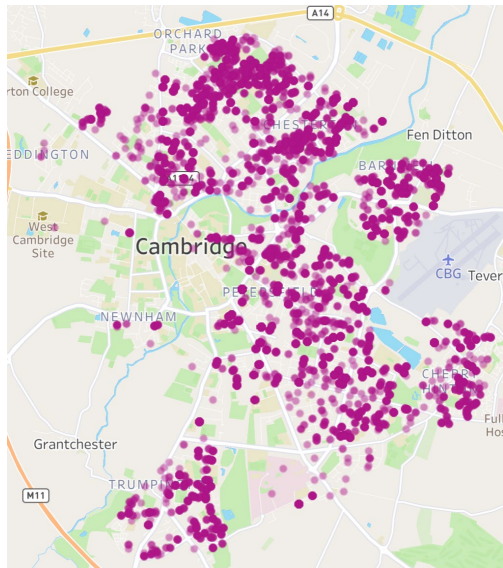
**Chart 6: Proportion of benefit household tenure type**



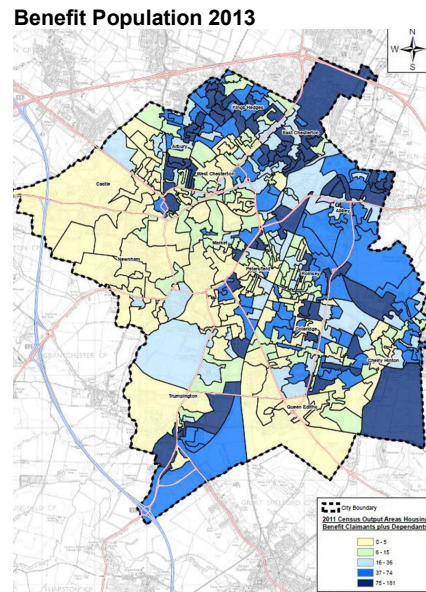
## Comparisons about distribution of benefit population between 2022 and 2013

The maps, shown below, indicate that the distribution of benefit households and the benefit population in the city have broadly remained the same between 2013 and 2022, with concentrations mainly in the North/East of the city.

**Map 1: Benefit Population 2022**



**Map 2: Benefit Population 2013**



## Background

Mapping Poverty papers, showing the extent and concentration of poverty (low income) in the city were prepared on a bi-annual basis between 2011 and 2017 from the council's administrative data for housing benefit. The proxy indicators for low poverty used were housing benefit claims (**benefit households**) and the number of people living in the claimant household (**benefit population**). The benefit claimant household and the benefit population were categorised into six **benefit groups**: working age couple parents; working age lone parents; working age singles; pensioner couples and pensioner singles.

Mapping Poverty 2017 was able to look at the total benefit claimant and benefit population in the city using the council's housing benefit administrative data. From 2017 onwards, with the introduction of Universal Credit and in particular the housing benefit element, the council's administrative data could not be relied on to capture the entire benefit claimant and benefit population, as people who had a change of circumstances (mostly of a working age) were migrated across to Universal Credit. At the present time (November 2022) there are 4,223 Housing Benefit claimants in the council's administration. The remaining balance of claimants, from the total of

7,421 shown in this paper, are made-up of Council Tax Rebate claimants who are either owner occupiers or claiming Universal Credit.

With the council's adoption of the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) this year it became possible again to look at almost all of the entire claimant and benefit population, using the same categories, because it combined council administrative data sources, including claimants of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Rebate, to reveal the previously opaque Universal Credit claimants in the city.

LIFT, at present, shows the pre-2019 ward boundaries making it possible to compare "like for like" with the data in the 2017 and 2013 Mapping Poverty reports.

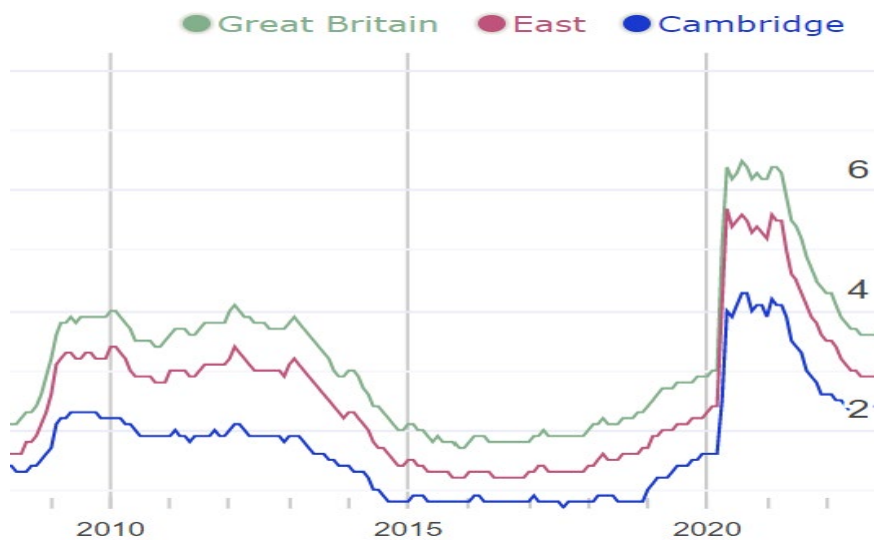
Whilst the geography of benefit claimant and benefit population maybe comparable now, during the interim (from 2017), eligibility criteria, the introduction of penalties, and additional incentives to move into work may have had an impact on the number of claimants. The growth of the city over the past ten years, between Census, has also led to a "re-basing" of the data, so the proportions of benefit households and the benefit population, compared to the total population may have changed for some wards and groups of benefit claimants as a proportion of the population.

Between Census 2011 and Census 2021 the population size for Cambridge City was shown to have increased by 17.6%, from around 123,900 in 2011 to 145,700 in 2021. The number of households was shown to have increased by 12%, from around 46,714 to 52,472 households. Across this period the proportion who were employed rose from 65.5% in March 2011 to 71.7% in March 2021, shown in Chart 7, below. The proportion of people aged 16 years and over who were unemployed (excluding full-time students) fell from 2.5% to 1.9%, while the proportion of people aged 16 years and over who were economically inactive decreased from 13.2% to 11.7%, shown in Chart 8, below.

**Chart 7: All people economically active in employment in Cambridge City**



**Chart 8: Out of Work Benefits Claimant Count**



This paper is a “snapshot” only of benefit households and the benefit population taken in October 2022 from the LIFT dashboard. As the cost-of-living crisis takes a grip on the city the situation may change, and this paper may need to be revised over the coming months. The data in LIFT is anonymised, so that it is not possible to identify claimants or their dependents.

### Sources

- Mapping Poverty 2017 paper: [mapping\\_poverty\\_findings\\_2017v.pdf \(cambridge.gov.uk\)](#)
- Demography and migration data, England and Wales: Census 2021: [Demography and migration data, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- LIFT Dashboard: [Street view: Street level - LIFT dashboard](#) and extracts from dashboard shown in Appendices.
- [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)



## Appendices

**Table 1: Benefit Household Groups**

Household Group	2022	2017	2013
Couple Parent	550	689	759
Lone Parent	1,580	1,690	1,546
Working Age Couple	216	249	200
Working Age Single	3,013	2,931	2,983
Pensioner Couple	280	332	490
Pensioner Single	1,782	1,928	2,487
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,421</b>	<b>7,819</b>	<b>8,465</b>

**Table 2: Benefit Households by Ward**

Ward	Benefit claimant households	Total households in ward	Benefit households as a proportion of total ward households	Benefit households as a proportion of total benefit households
Abbey	944	4,235	22.29%	12.72%
Kings Hedges	922	4,009	23.00%	12.42%
Arbury	805	3,904	20.62%	10.85%
East Chesterton	785	4,084	19.22%	10.58%
Coleridge	624	4,080	15.29%	8.41%
Trumpington	613	6,709	9.14%	8.26%
Petersfield	541	3,384	15.99%	7.29%
Cherry Hinton	534	3,747	14.25%	7.20%
Romsey	404	4,042	10.00%	5.44%
Market	335	0	0.00%	4.51%
Queen Edith's	333	4,011	8.30%	4.49%
West Chesterton	242	3,774	6.41%	3.26%
Castle	208	2,932	7.09%	2.80%
Newnham	46	3,561	7.13%	0.62%
Unknown	85			1.15%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,421</b>	<b>52,472</b>	<b>14.14%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Table 3: Benefit Population Groups Living in Benefit Households**

Year	Children	Working Age Adults	Pensioners	Total benefit population
2022	4,116	6,101	2,366	12,583
2017	4,609	6,493	2,590	13,692
2013	4,178	6,255	3,427	13,860

**Table 4: Benefit Population by Ward**

Ward	Children (0-15) in benefit households	Child population	Proportion of children living in benefit households	Working age adults in benefit households	Working age adult population	Proportion of working age adults living in benefit households	Pensioners in benefit households	Pensioner population	Proportion of pensioners living in benefit households	Total benefit populations	Total ward population
Arbury	405	1,759	23.02%	655	6,619	9.90%	261	1,337	19.52%	1,321	9,715
Abbey	584	1,788	32.67%	849	7,411	11.46%	252	1,141	22.09%	1,685	10,340
Castle	95	905	10.48%	155	11,116	1.39%	74	958	7.72%	324	12,979
Cherry Hinton	297	1,862	15.96%	408	6,026	6.77%	201	1,455	13.81%	906	9,343
Coleridge	233	1,400	16.62%	423	8,208	5.15%	269	1,217	22.10%	925	10,825
East Chesterton	440	1,620	27.14%	620	6,635	9.34%	308	1,459	21.11%	1,368	9,714
Kings Hedges	605	1,841	32.86%	811	7,236	11.21%	257	1,238	20.76%	1,673	10,315
Market & Newnham	64	1,053	6.08%	101	13,791	0.73%	112	1,401	7.99%	277	16,245
Petersfield	214	944	22.71%	428	6,382	6.71%	140	906	15.45%	782	8,232
Queen Edith's	204	1,607	12.72%	270	8,796	3.07%	131	1,526	8.58%	605	11,929
Romsey	206	1,285	16.06%	349	7,993	4.37%	101	907	11.14%	656	10,185
Trumpington	639	4,522	14.13%	612	11,602	5.27%	116	1,270	9.13%	1,367	17,394
West Chesterton	46	1,198	3.86%	72	5,796	1.24%	89	1,490	5.97%	207	8,484
Unknown	83	0	0.00%	348	0	0.00%	55	0	0.00%	486	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,116</b>	<b>21,784</b>	<b>18.89%</b>	<b>6,101</b>	<b>107,611</b>	<b>5.67%</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>16,305</b>	<b>14.51%</b>	<b>12,583</b>	<b>145,700</b>

**Table 5: Benefit households by tenure type**

Ward	Private tenant	Council tenant	Social tenant	Temporary accomodation	Supported housing	Owner occupied	UC tenure unknown
Arbury	6	323	38	28	79	54	274
Abbey	17	335	118	25	49	49	347
Castle	2	35	37	0	38	9	78
Cherry Hinton	15	213	42	3	15	39	209
Coleridge	6	284	56	6	45	47	176
East Chesterton	29	136	259	7	36	32	287
Kings Hedges	35	350	48	11	60	54	371
Market	14	90	43	18	82	12	75
Newnham	2	5	18	0	6	3	13
Petersfield	28	105	118	1	64	20	203
Queen Edith's	6	103	24	21	41	23	112
Romsey	13	115	55	8	26	31	157
Trumpington	11	69	150	2	21	23	325
West Chesterton	24	15	54	24	27	38	58
Unknown	20	32	6	3	2	1	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>2,711</b>
Children in household tenure type	31	616	519	99	21	47	2,754

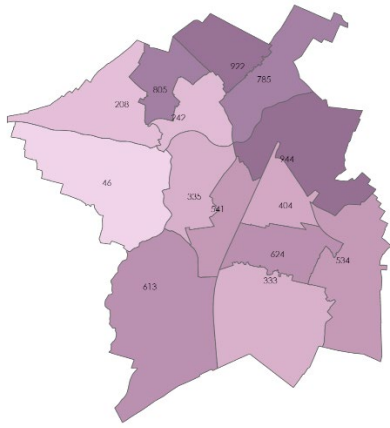
# Extracts from LIFT Streetview Dashboard

## All households

Based on a snapshot of October 2022 datasets

<b>7,421</b> household[s]	<b>4,118</b> children	<b>£306,460</b> CT/Rent areas	<b>£31,254</b> DHP award in FY
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Map type  
Ward map

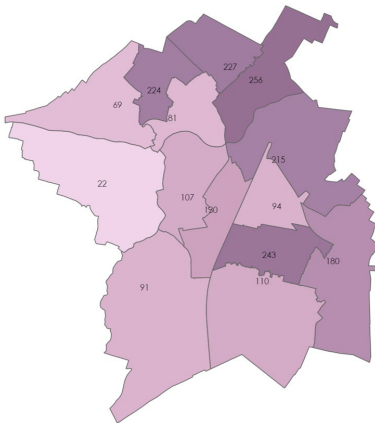


## All pensioners

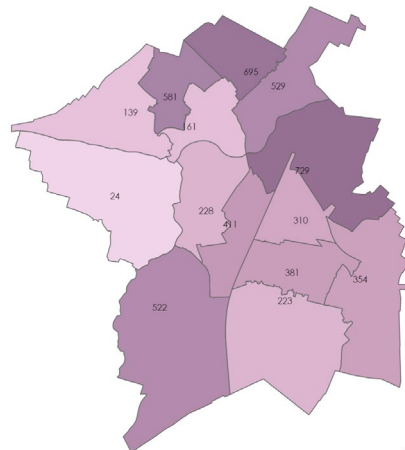
Based on a snapshot of October 2022 datasets

<b>2,074</b> household[s]	<b>20</b> children	<b>£58,922</b> CT/Rent areas	<b>£5,365</b> DHP award in FY
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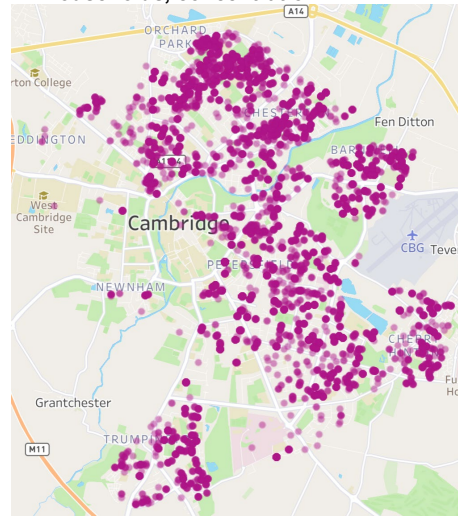
Map type  
Ward map



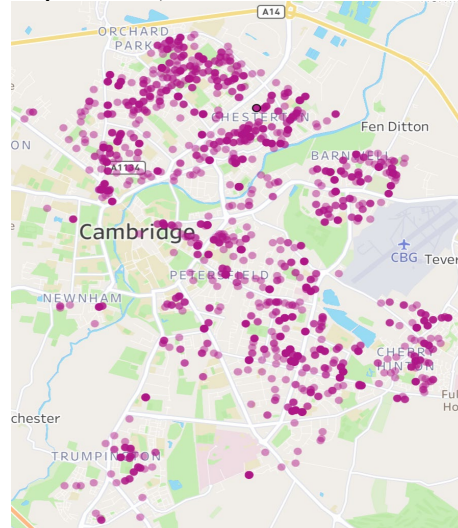
## All working age



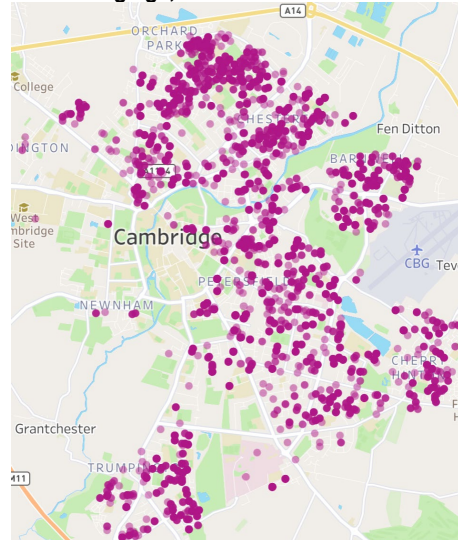
## All households, concentration



## All pensioners, concentration



## All working age, concentration

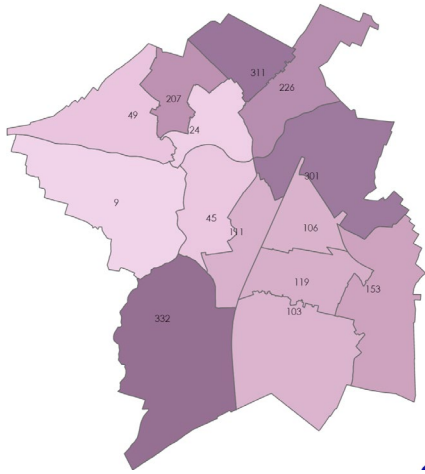


### All children

2,118 households | 4,098 children | £154,394 CI/Rent areas | £9,514 DHP award in FY

Map type

Ward map



### All children, concentration

