

Suffolk changes in the Index of Multiple Deprivation from 2015 to 2019

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The English Indices of Deprivation

SUFFOLK



Executive summary

- This briefing note is for anyone who wishes to understand the findings of the Office for National Statistics' English Indices of Multiple Deprivation for Suffolk.
- The English Indices of Deprivation measure relative levels of deprivation in 32,844 small geographical neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas, in England. It is important to note that these statistics are a measure of relative deprivation, not affluence, and to recognise that not every person in a highly deprived area will themselves be deprived. Likewise, there will be some deprived people living in the least deprived areas.
- This briefing describes the key messages for Suffolk emerging from the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), compared to the previous iteration in 2015.
- Suffolk has become slightly more deprived compared to other local authority areas in England since the last IMD in 2015, when examined using rank of average rank.
- Changes in boundaries have had a large impact on the indices of deprivation for Suffolk. **From 1 April 2019:** [East Suffolk Council](#) was formed, covering the former districts of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council. On the same day, Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council were replaced by a single district council called [West Suffolk Council](#).
- The impact of these changes means that pockets of deprivation that were once identifiable at local authority level are no longer observable, for example the differing levels of deprivation experienced between Waveney and Suffolk Coastal. Therefore, Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level analysis is vital for place-based assessment of deprivation.
- This also impacts data for West Suffolk, which contains the former Forest Heath authority area. Additionally, the challenges associated with estimating the characteristics of this area, due to the inclusion or exclusion of the United States Visiting Forces (USVF) population in different indicators, mean that it is difficult to establish whether the changes in relative deprivation in Forest Heath are 'real'.
- 11.3% of Suffolk's LSOAs are in the 20% most deprived in England. 96% of the 20% most deprived LSOAs in Suffolk are in either East Suffolk (20 LSOAs) or Ipswich (28 LSOAs). Ipswich has the highest number and proportion of LSOAs in the 20% most deprived areas nationally, when compared to other local authorities in Suffolk.
- Suffolk continues to experience below average levels of deprivation, but it has experienced a slight increase in rank of average rank among other Upper Tier Local Authorities, from 101st in 2015 to 99th in 2019, indicating increased deprivation. Also note that the number of council areas has decreased from 152 to 151.
- Babergh and West Suffolk local authorities have experienced a decline in relative deprivation compared to 2015. All other local authorities in the county have become relatively more deprived.
- Deprivation in Suffolk as a whole is predominantly driven by several of the IMD domains:
 - Education, skills and training deprivation: Poor educational attainment and low skill levels among adults have become priorities for improvement in Suffolk – this domain of the IMD reflects the poor performance in this area.

- Barriers to housing and services: This domain may in part reflect issues related to the rurality of our county.
 - Living environment: This domain looks at indicators such as housing condition and central heating availability, as well as air quality and road traffic accidents to non-motorists.
- When comparing the county of Suffolk and Suffolk's districts and boroughs to their statistical neighbours (geographic areas grouped together according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping), there is evidence to suggest factors specific to Suffolk are driving relative increases in deprivation, rather than factors common to counties which are similar to Suffolk.
 - The Indices of Deprivation paint a complex picture of relative deprivation within Suffolk. Recent relative declines should not be interpreted as an absolute decline in affluence within the county; but rather suggest areas where closer consideration and further policy development may be advantageous. In some areas, such as education, considerable work is already underway to raise standards and improve attainment levels, and whilst it appears some of the impact is starting to filter through into the data, the impacts may not be felt until much later. However, we know that overall, IMD has been demonstrated to correlate closely with a number of key population outcomes, including health, and that as such, even small relative declines should be carefully considered and used to drive planning and policy to improve the life chances of Suffolk's residents.

Introduction

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 was published by the [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#) on 26 September 2019. Previous comparable iterations of the indices were published in 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2015. The IMD2019, domain indices and the supplementary indices, together with the higher area summaries, are collectively referred to as the IoD2019.

The IMD provides a way of comparing relative deprivation across the country using a set of measures of deprivation for 32,844 small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas, or LSOAs) across England. There are 39 separate measures organised within seven domains of deprivation using appropriate weights (see table below) to produce a score for each LSOA.

Table 1: Domain weights for the IMD

Domain	Domain weight (%)
Income Deprivation	22.5
Employment Deprivation	22.5
Health Deprivation and Disability	13.5
Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	13.5
Barriers to Housing and Services	9.3
Crime	9.3
Living Environment Deprivation	9.3

Source: ¹

The weighted domains form an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area. A score is calculated for every LSOA (or neighbourhood), in England. All neighbourhoods in England are then ranked according to their level of deprivation relative to that of other areas.

High ranking LSOAs or neighbourhoods can be referred to as the 'most deprived' or as being 'highly deprived' to aid interpretation. However, there is no definitive threshold above which an area is described as 'deprived'. The Indices of Deprivation measure deprivation on a relative rather than an absolute scale, so a neighbourhood ranked 100th is more deprived than a neighbourhood ranked 200th, but this does not mean it is twice as deprived¹.

The higher the deprivation score, the lower the rank. Hence, the area ranked number 1 has the highest deprivation score and is the most deprived area. Scores can then be aggregated to provide the basis for comparative analysis of larger areas such as districts and boroughs and counties.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation must be treated with caution for West Suffolk. This is due to difficulties with measuring the impact of US Visiting Forces and their families. Due to these problems with population estimates and the calculation of indices in West Suffolk it is difficult to establish whether the changes in relative deprivation are real or an artefact. A solution is needed to provide robust population estimates. Without this it is not possible to accurately monitor outcomes for the West Suffolk population, and this could, in turn, have a modest knock on effect on Suffolk as a whole. West Suffolk Council are continuing to liaise with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to resolve these issues.

Comparing the 2019 Index of Deprivation with the 2015 Index

General observations

The IoD2019 are based on the same methodology as the 2015 Indices, providing a consistent suite of outputs which are in line with previous iterations. Although it is not possible to use the Indices to measure changes in the **absolute level of deprivation in places over time**, it is possible to explore changes in relative deprivation, or changes in the pattern of deprivation, between the IoD2019 and previous iterations of the Indices.

Making comparisons over time

An area can be said to have become more deprived relative to other areas if it was within the most deprived 20% of areas nationally according to the IMD2015 but within the most deprived 10% according to the IMD2019.

However, it would not necessarily be correct to state that the level of deprivation in the area has increased on some absolute scale, as it may be the case that all areas had improved, but that this area had improved more slowly than other areas and so been 'overtaken' by those areas.

The overall rank of an area may not have changed between the 2015 and 2019 Indices, but this does not mean that there have been no changes to the level of deprivation in the area. For example, in the situation where the absolute levels of deprivation in all areas were increasing or decreasing at the same rate, the ranks would show no change.

Other changes limit the ability to make comparisons over time²:

- Changes to the data used to construct the indicators, including changes to eligibility criteria for certain benefits used to measure income deprivation and employment deprivation
- Revisions to the population denominator data
- Changes to the area definitions and administrative geographies

Changes to the underlying geography

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 have been produced using the current (2019) version of Local Authorities, while the previous Indices used the 2013 version. The number of Local Authority Districts has been reduced from 326 to 317 between 2015 and 2019. This is important for Suffolk because:

From 1 April 2019: [East Suffolk Council](#) was formed, covering the former districts of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council. On the same day, Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council were replaced by a single district council called [West Suffolk Council](#).

Changes to population data

The ONS rebased population estimates back to 2012 in October 2018, following methodological improvements. Mid-year estimates are an important component of the Indices of Deprivation, and changes to the population estimates can result in changes to deprivation levels. Previous IoD releases use the older population estimates.

Changes to the Domains and indicators

the introduction of Universal Credit into the benefits system has necessitated the inclusion of two new indicators in the Indices of Deprivation 2019, and other changes to the data landscape have resulted in a number of additional small modifications to indicators across various domains. Each of these changes was introduced to strengthen the Indices as a robust measure of small area deprivation.

In addition, changes to the data sets underlying the indicators may have an effect on indicator values. These changes could include, for example, eligibility criteria changes for certain benefits, or changes to the assessment framework for primary school examinations.

Weighting of the Indices

The weights are the same as were used for constructing the 2015 Index.

A note on terminology within this paper

Throughout this paper, the '**rank of average rank**' has been used. This is for consistency with the 'default settings' used by many of the online products being used to visualise the data for example the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government visualisation tool:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiOTdjYzlyNTMtMTcxNi00YmQ2LW11YzgtMTUyYzYxOWQ3NzQ2liwidCI6ImJmMzQ2ODEwLTljN2QtNDNkZS1hODcyLTI0YTJlZjM5OTVhOCJ9>

Average rank summarises the average level of deprivation across an area, based on the ranks of all the neighbourhoods contained within. For example, all LSOAs within a local authority, whether highly deprived or not, contributed to this summary measure. Overall, highly deprived areas and non-deprived areas will tend to average out in the overall rank, so an area that is more uniformly deprived will rank higher on this measure³.

The **rank of the average score** summarised the average level of deprivation across an area, based on the scores of all the neighbourhoods within it. The main difference from average rank is that more deprived neighbourhoods tend to have more 'extreme' scores than ranks. Therefore, highly deprived areas will not tend to average out in the same way as when using ranks. With scores, highly polarised authorities will tend to score higher on the average score measure than on the average rank³.

High level summary – the IMD composite index

Suffolk has become relatively more deprived in comparison to other areas in England, moving from 116 (out of 149 – 8th decile) in 2007 to 99 (out of 151 – 7th decile) in 2019. NB: This measure alone does not necessarily mean that Suffolk has become more deprived: rather that it has changed its position in the rankings when compared to other areas. This could be due to other areas becoming more prosperous, or improving their performance in other domains such as education more rapidly or to a larger extent than Suffolk has, rather than prosperity or performance declining in absolute terms.

Table 2: Suffolk changes in IMD rank of average rank, 2007-2019

	2007		2010		2015		2019	
	Rank	Decile	Rank	Decile	Rank	Decile	Rank	Decile
Suffolk	115	8	114	8	101	7	99	7

Note: Rank of 149 authorities in 2007 & 2010, 152 authorities in 2015, and 151 in 2019. Number 1 is the most deprived.

Source: ^{4, 1}

Comparison of recast 2015 data to 2019 geographies indicates that Babergh has become less deprived, West Suffolk has also experienced a slight relative decrease in deprivation. East Suffolk has experienced a relative increase in deprivation, as has Ipswich and Mid Suffolk.

Table 3: Local authority changes in IMD rank 2015-2019

Local Authority District name (2019)	2015		2019	
	Rank (of average rank)	Decile	Rank (of average rank)	Decile
Babergh	197	7	212	7
East Suffolk	165	6	158	5
Ipswich	73	3	71	3
Mid Suffolk	233	8	229	8
West Suffolk	174	6	176	6

Note: Due to the district and borough boundary changes in 2019 data for 2015 has been recast to the 2019 boundaries.

Source: ^{4, 1}

Where are the areas of highest deprivation in Suffolk?

At LSOA level, historical district boundaries can still be identified. As was the case in 2007, 2010 and 2015, all of the areas ranked in the most deprived 10% of areas in England, according to the IMD composite index, were in Ipswich and Lowestoft. The table below shows these areas.

Whitton in Ipswich experienced the largest increase in deprivation based on rank (moving from 3,722 to 2,664, a movement of 1,058 places). Conversely, Gipping in Ipswich saw the largest decrease in deprivation based on rank, moving from 2,230 to 3,252, a movement of 1,022 places.

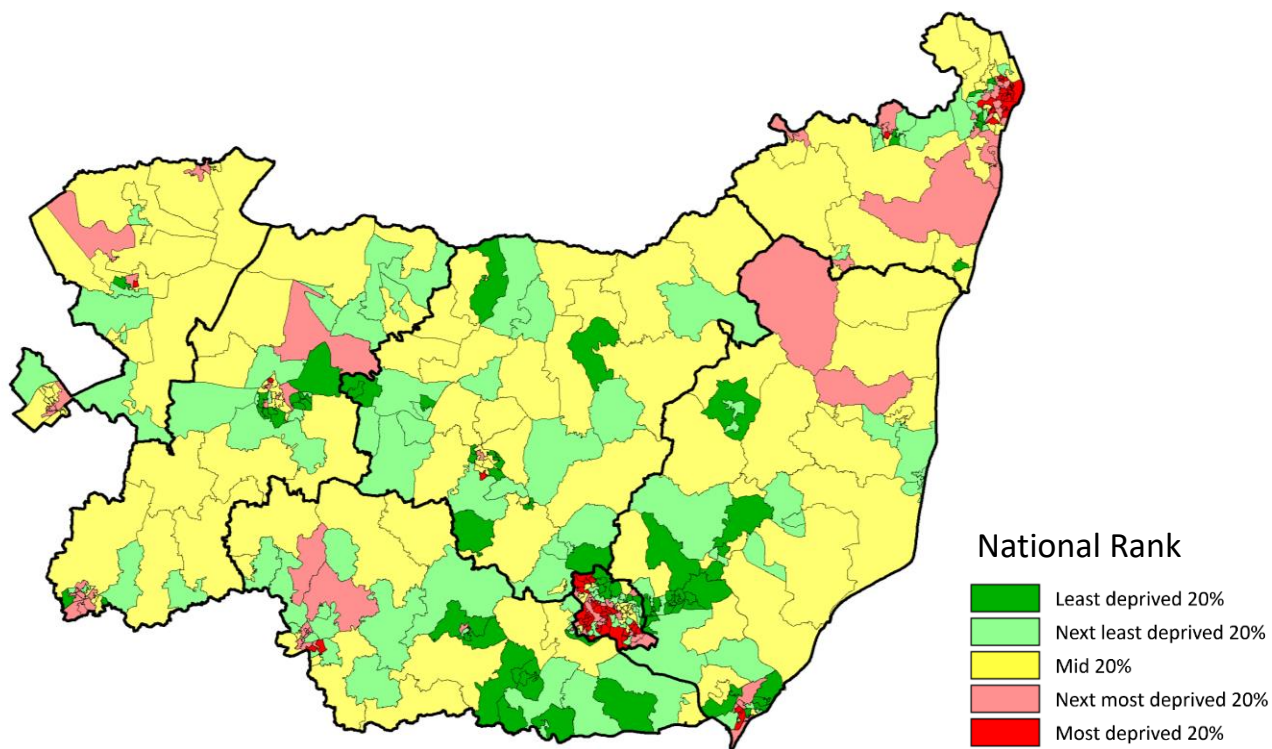
Table 4: LSOAs in Suffolk by deprivation rank, 2019

LSOA code	Ward	LSOA name	Local Authority District name	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank 2015	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank 2019	Change in deprivation rank from 2015-2019	Change in rank
E01030258	Kirkley	Waveney 007D	East Suffolk	10	25	Decreased	-15
E01030247	Harbour	Waveney 007A	East Suffolk	148	64	Increased	84
E01030250	Harbour	Waveney 004D	East Suffolk	202	122	Increased	80
E01030279	St Margaret's	Waveney 002D	East Suffolk	899	978	Decreased	-79
E01030261	Normanston	Waveney 002A	East Suffolk	869	984	Decreased	-115
E01030277	St Margaret's	Waveney 002C	East Suffolk	1,853	1,320	Increased	533
E01029994	Priory Heath	Ipswich 014B	Ipswich	1,224	1,496	Decreased	-272
E01033129	Alexandra	Ipswich 007H	Ipswich	1,523	1,620	Decreased	-97
E01030249	Harbour	Waveney 004C	East Suffolk	1,554	1,766	Decreased	-212
E01030021	Stoke Park	Ipswich 015E	Ipswich	1,728	1,828	Decreased	-100
E01030018	Stoke Park	Ipswich 015B	Ipswich	2,427	1,903	Increased	524
E01033130	Bridge	Ipswich 012G	Ipswich	1,398	1,978	Decreased	-580
E01029980	Gainsborough	Ipswich 016C	Ipswich	1,792	2,040	Decreased	-248
E01030012	Sprites	Ipswich 013A	Ipswich	2,469	2,514	Decreased	-45
E01030036	Whitton	Ipswich 001E	Ipswich	3,722	2,664	Increased*	1,058
E01030291	Whitton	Waveney 008E	East Suffolk	2,525	2,771	Decreased	-246
E01030035	Whitton	Ipswich 001D	Ipswich	2,856	2,800	Increased	56
E01033131	Priory Heath	Ipswich 014G	Ipswich	2,825	2,804	Increased	21
E01030256	Kirkley	Waveney 007C	East Suffolk	2,717	2,848	Decreased	-131
E01029979	Gainsborough	Ipswich 016B	Ipswich	2,567	2,999	Decreased	-432
E01029986	Gipping	Ipswich 010C	Ipswich	2,230	3,252	Decreased*	-1,022
E01030227	Beccles South	Waveney 010D	East Suffolk	3,464	3,270	Increased	194

*Bold text are largest movements in rank

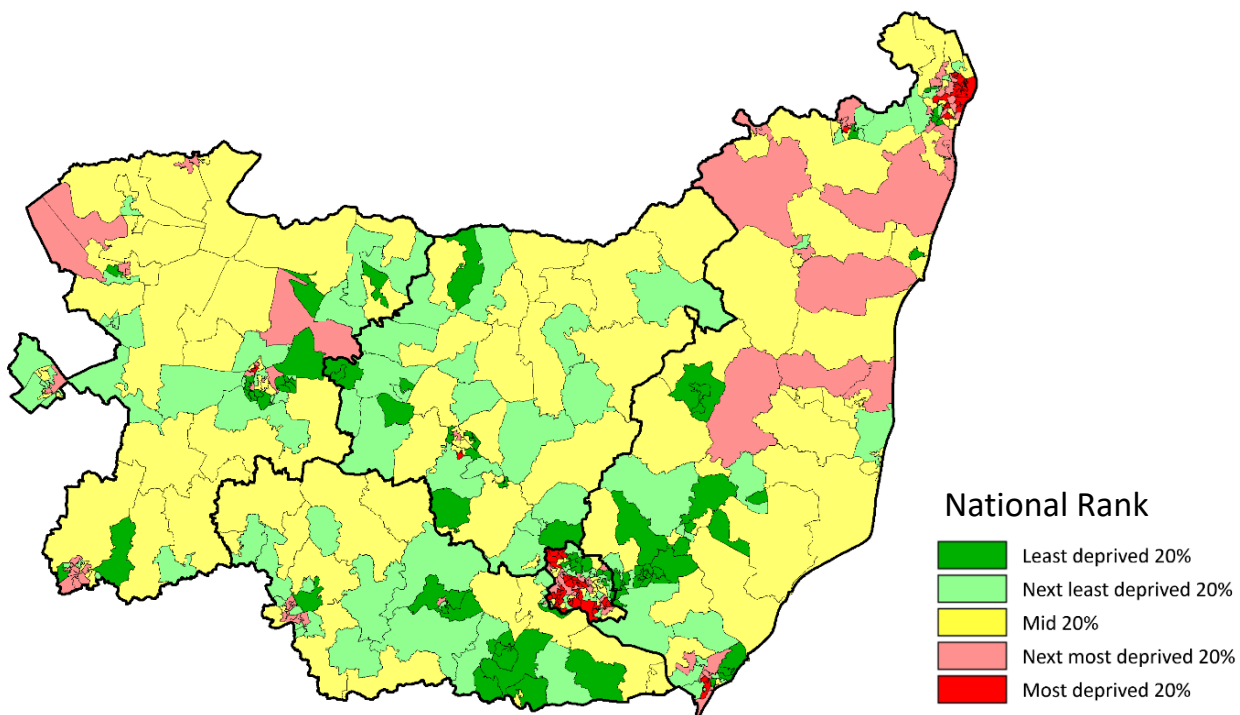
Source: ⁴, ¹

Figure 1: IMD quintile by LSOA in Suffolk, 2015



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Source: 4

Figure 2: IMD quintile by LSOA in Suffolk, 2019



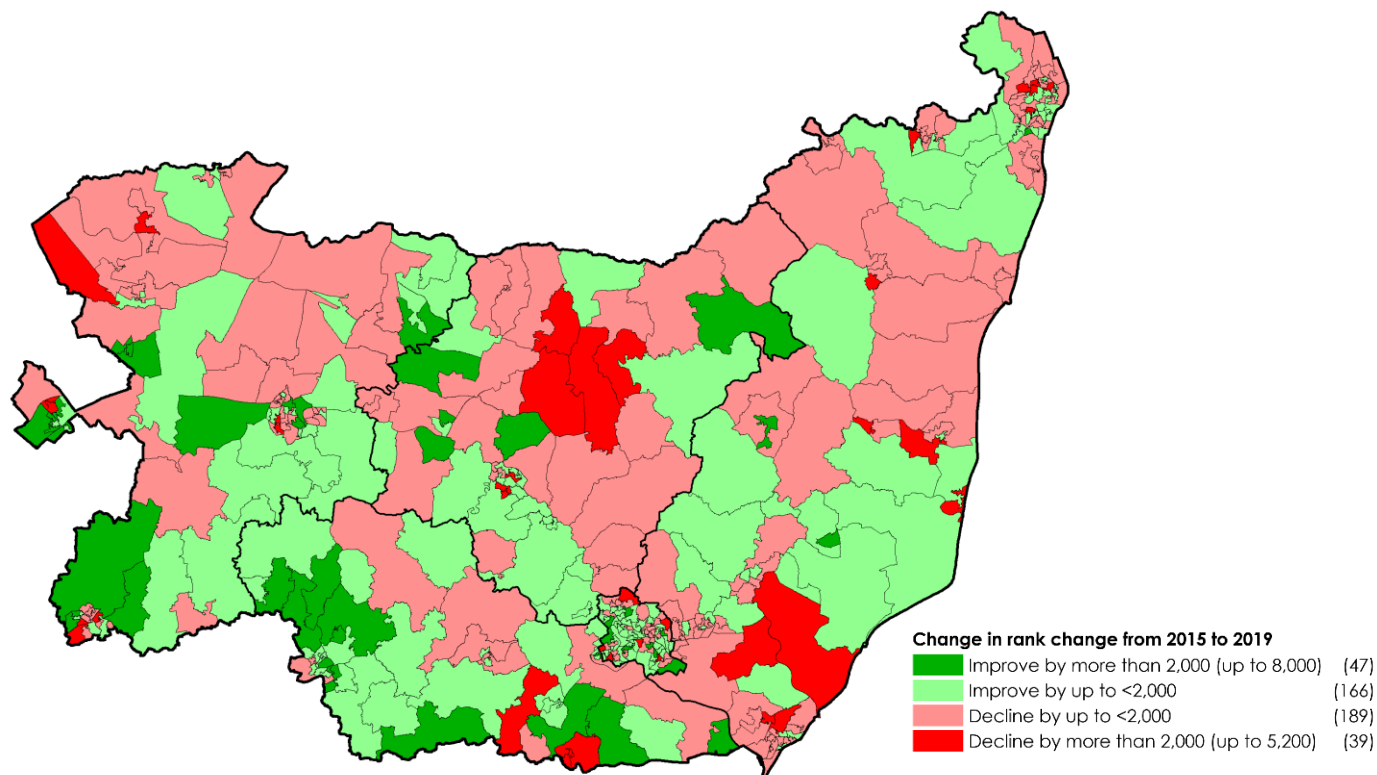
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Source: 1

Figure 1 on the previous page shows the IMD composite index quintiles of deprivation by LSOA in 2015. In 2007 and 2010 all of the areas in Suffolk within the most deprived 20% of areas in England were found in Ipswich and Lowestoft (shown in red). By 2015 these areas of higher deprivation had increased and spread to new parts of the county, including Felixstowe, Sudbury/Great Cornard, Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Mildenhall and Beccles. Between 2010 and 2015 many areas of rural Suffolk moved from the second least deprived 20% in England (pale green) to the mid quintile (yellow).

Figure 2 shows the IMD by quintile in 2019. Whilst there is some evidence of an increase in relative deprivation in East Suffolk (particularly around Southwold and Bungay areas in the north), the rest of Suffolk appears similar to 2015. This indicates pockets of increased deprivation in Lowestoft, Ipswich, Felixstowe and Sudbury.

Figure 3 below shows the change in ranking of Suffolk's LSOAs between 2015 and 2019. Areas in pink and red have become relatively more deprived during this period, while those in green are relatively less deprived.

Figure 3: Change in rank from 2015-2019, Suffolk LSOAs



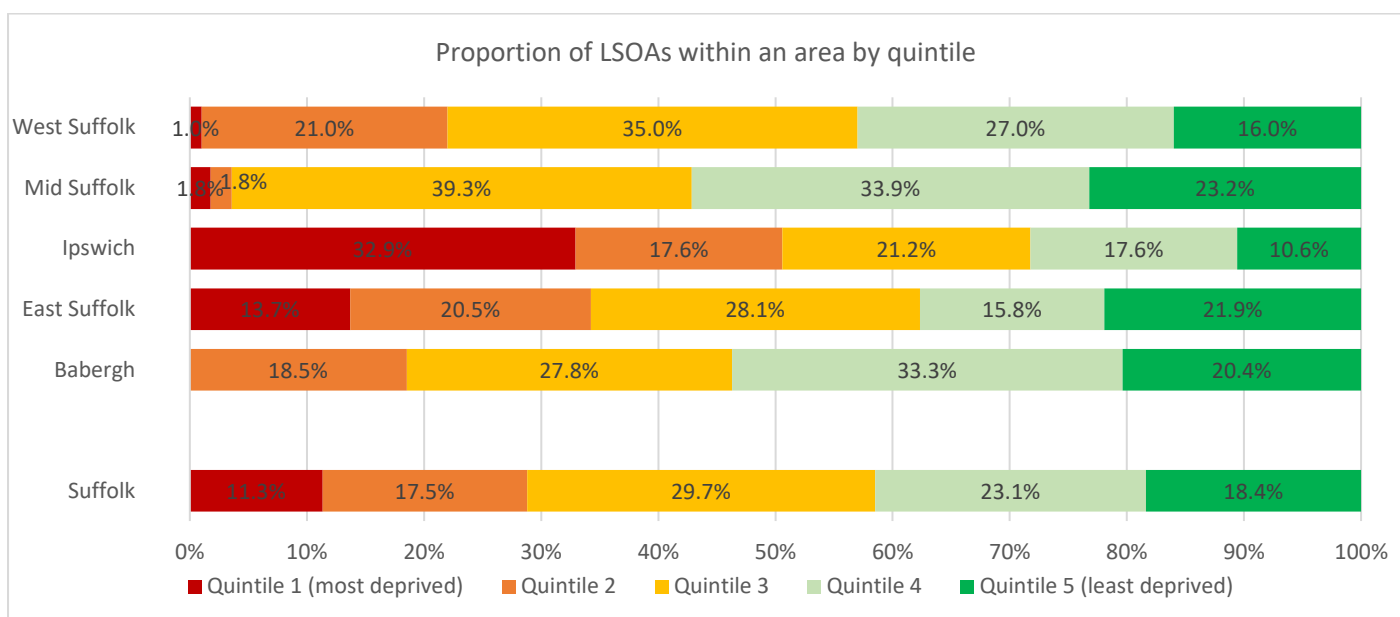
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Source: ¹

Figure 4 examines the proportion of LSOAs within Suffolk districts and boroughs that fall within each deprivation quintile (20% divisions rather than the 10% for decile). From this you can see that 11.3% of Suffolk's LSOAs are in the 20% most deprived in England. In Ipswich, nearly 1 in 3 of all the LSOAs in the Borough are among the 20% most deprived in England.

However, it is also important to take account of the number of LSOAs within each area, especially given recent boundary changes. 96% of the 20% most deprived LSOAs in Suffolk are in either East Suffolk (20 LSOAs) or Ipswich (28 LSOAs). Ipswich has the highest number and proportion of LSOAs in the 20% most deprived areas nationally, when compared to other local authorities in Suffolk.

Figure 4: IMD quintile by LSOA and district/ borough in Suffolk, 2019



Source: ¹

Change in rank of LSOAs from 2015 to 2019

There are 441 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Suffolk. Comparing 2015 and 2019 data at LSOA level is possible as there have been no changes to the LSOAs within Suffolk over this period. This is unlikely to be the case in future iterations of the IoD, due to the impending 2021 Census.

The red highlighted text indicates where 50% or more of the LSOAs in Suffolk experienced an **increase** in relative deprivation (based on rank) by domain from 2015 to 2019. The green highlighted text indicates where 50% or more of the LSOAs in Suffolk experienced a **decrease** in relative deprivation by domain from 2015 to 2019.

Table 5: Deprivation change by domain for Suffolk LSOAs, 2015-2019

Domain	Deprivation increased		Deprivation declined	
Index of Multiple Deprivation (composite index)	228	52%	213	48%
Income	213	48%	228	52%
Employment	246	56%	195	44%
Education, skills & training	167	38%	274	62%
Health deprivation & disability	254	58%	157	36%
Crime	238	54%	203	46%
Barriers to housing & services	277	63%	164	37%
Living environment	201	46%	240	54%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	249	56%	192	44%
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI)	205	46%	236	54%

Source: ¹

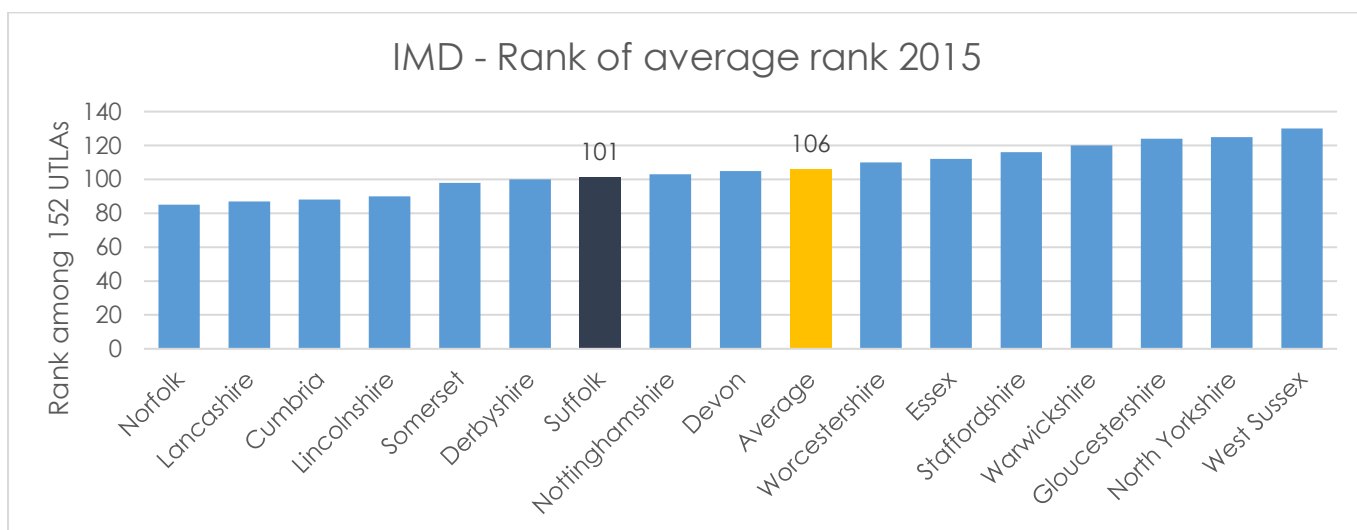
Change in IMD composite index rank for Suffolk compared to statistical neighbours 2010 and 2015

The charts on this page show a comparison of Suffolk with statistical neighbours, showing the position according to the 2019 IMD overall composite index, with 2015 also shown. **Taller columns indicate lower deprivation.** The statistical neighbours used for this analysis are from the CIPFA nearest neighbour model (2019).

Suffolk has seen a slight increase in relative deprivation from 2015 to 2019, with its rank shifting from 101st in 2015 to 99th in 2019. This change has also resulted in an increase in deprivation relative to Suffolk's 15 nearest statistical neighbours. It should be noted that the total number of Upper Tier Local Authorities (UTLAs) in England has decreased from 152 to 151.

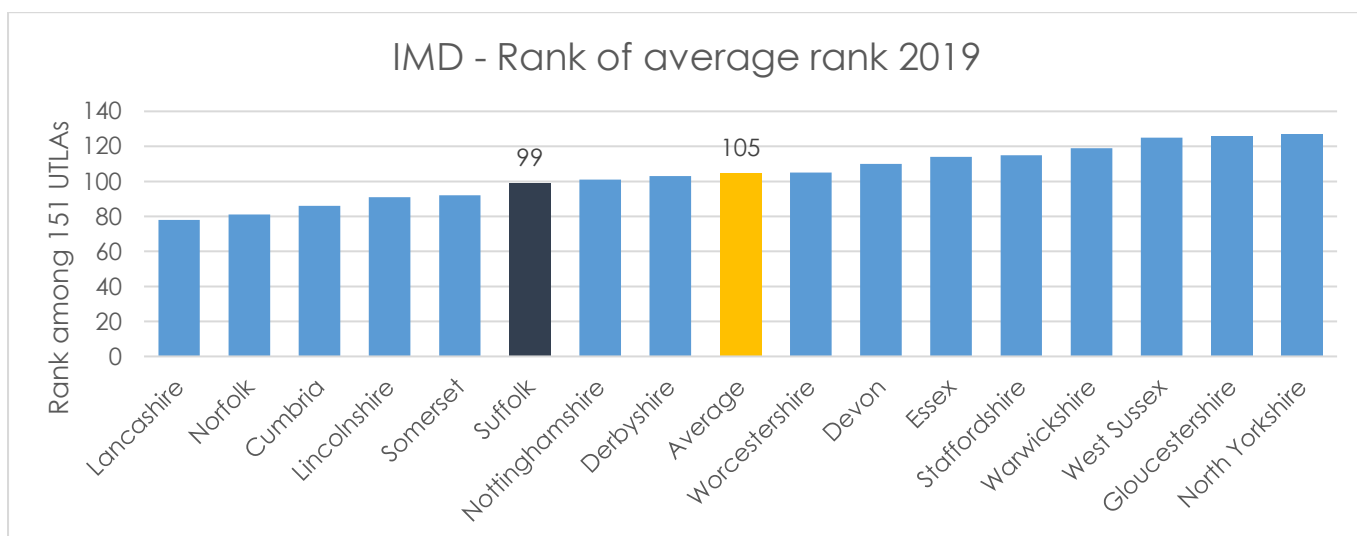
In 2015, compared to its 15 CIPFA neighbours, Suffolk was ranked 7th out of 16 in the group and more deprived than the average for our statistical neighbours. In 2019, based on the same statistical neighbours, Suffolk ranked 6th out of 16. This indicates a slight increase in relative deprivation. Norfolk become slightly less deprived, changing in the rankings from 1st to 2nd.

Figure 5: Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2015



Source: 4

Figure 6: Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2019



Source: 1

Change in IMD composite index rank for districts and boroughs compared to statistical neighbours 2015 and 2019

This series of charts shows each of the districts in comparison with their statistical neighbours, showing the position according to the 2019 IMD overall composite index, with 2015 also shown. The statistical neighbours used for this analysis are the CIPFA nearest neighbours (2019).

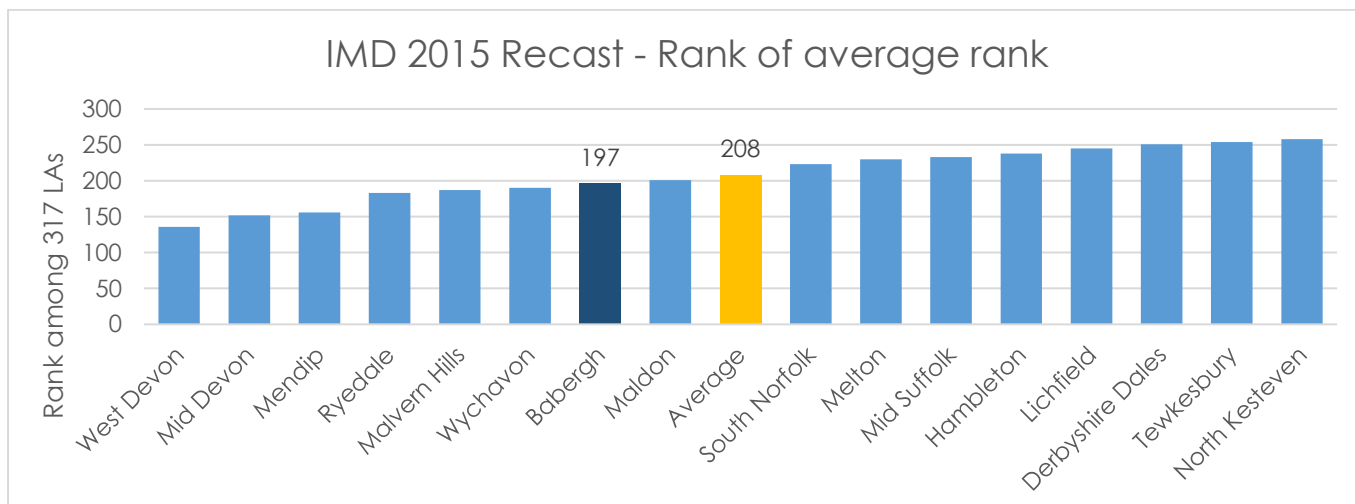
Please note: A ranking of 1 = most deprived.

Babergh

Babergh has seen an improvement in rank (and relative deprivation) from 2015 to 2019 from 197th to 212th. Based on the recast IMD for 2015, Babergh has moved by 15 places, indicating a decrease in deprivation relative to all other lower-tier local authorities. Babergh ranked 8th out of 16 statistical neighbours in 2019 but had slightly higher deprivation compared to the nearest neighbour average.

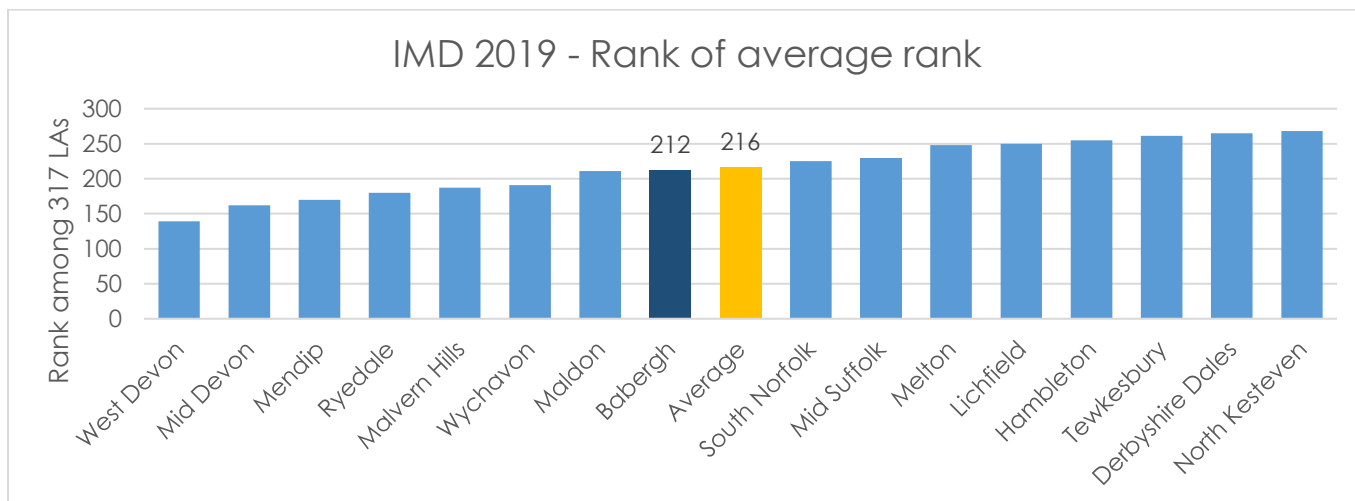
Within Babergh's statistical neighbour group, the majority of local authority areas retained the same or similar position relative to each other (as seen in the figures below) between 2015 and 2019. Only 2 LAs have seen an increase in rank (and deprivation) from 2015 to 2019: Mid Suffolk (4 place increase) and Ryedale (3 place increase).

Figure 7: Babergh with statistical neighbours 2015



Source: ¹

Figure 8: Babergh with statistical neighbours 2019



Source: ¹

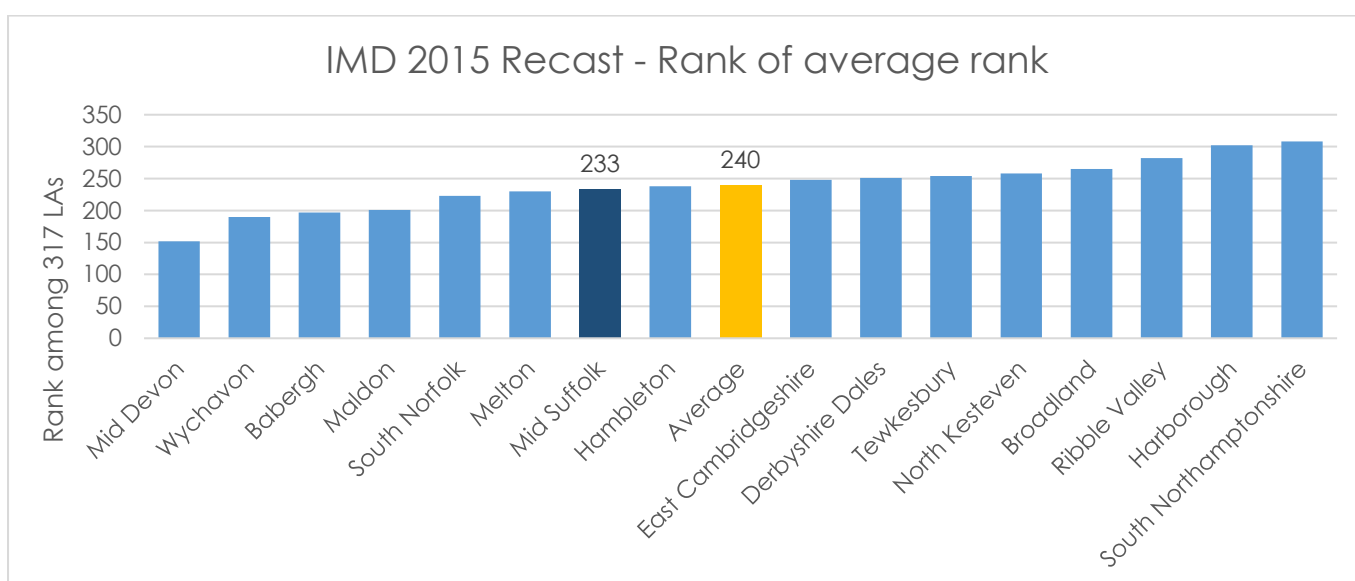
Mid Suffolk

Although many of Mid Suffolk's statistical neighbours are similar to Babergh, there are some subtle differences. Therefore, it is useful to look at Mid Suffolk independently of Babergh.

Mid Suffolk has seen a slight worsening in rank (and therefore increase in relative deprivation) from 2015 to 2019, moving from 233rd to 229th. Based on the recast IMD for 2015, Mid Suffolk has moved by 4 places, indicating an increase in deprivation relative to all other lower-tier local authorities. Mid Suffolk ranked 6th out of 16 in 2019 and had slightly higher deprivation compared to the nearest neighbour average.

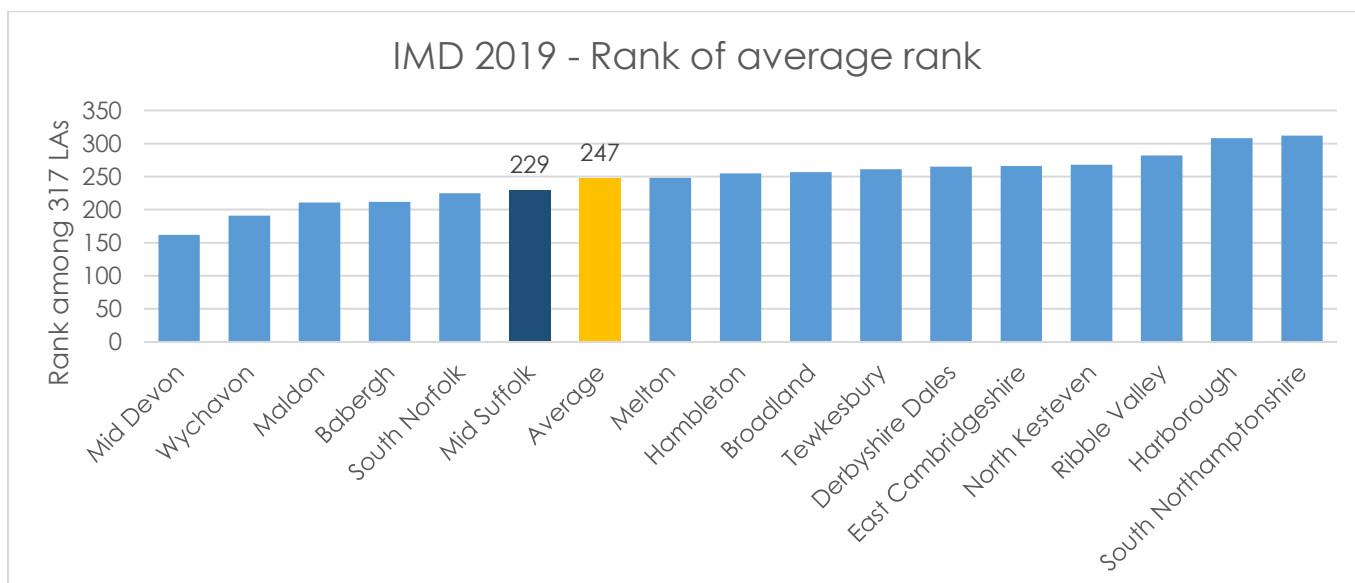
Within Mid Suffolk's statistical neighbour group, many local authority areas remained in a similar position relative to each other (as seen in the figures below) between 2015 and 2019. Only 1 other LA apart from Mid Suffolk experienced an increase in rank between 2015 and 2019 – Broadland. This area moved from 265th in 2015 to 257th in 2019.

Figure 9: Mid Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2015



Source: ¹

Figure 10: Mid Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2019



Source: ¹

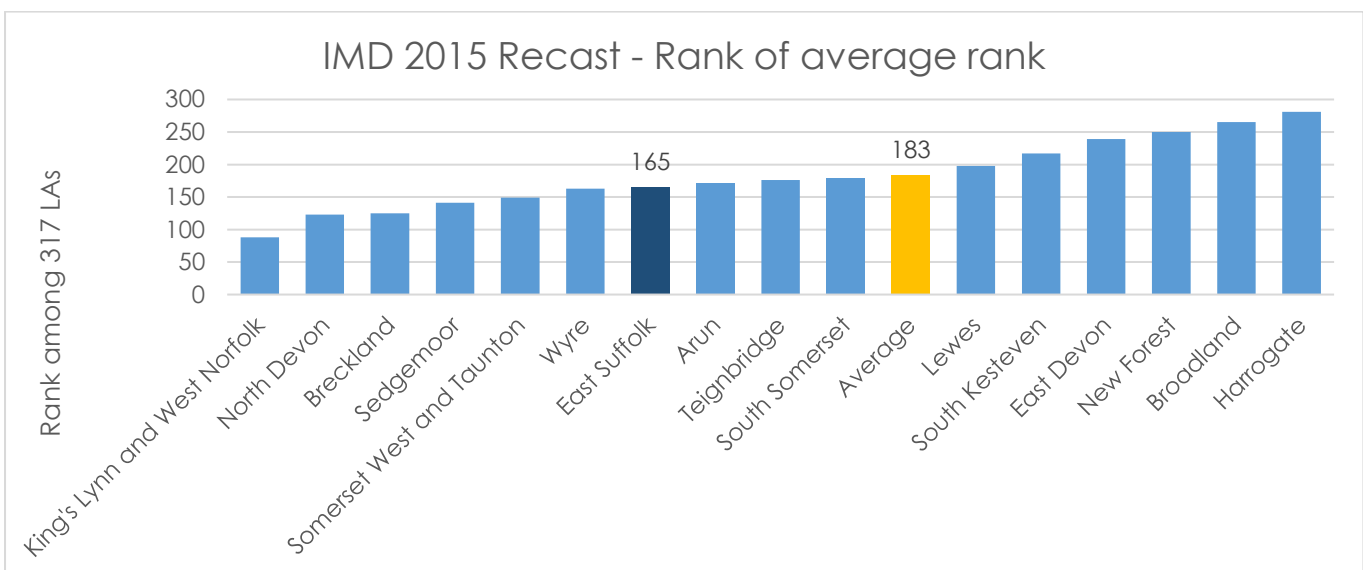
East Suffolk

East Suffolk did not exist in the 2015 IMD. It was formed by the merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney LAs on 1 April 2019. We can use recast data to explore the IMD 2015 in comparison to IMD 2019.

East Suffolk has seen a worsening in rank (and therefore increase in relative deprivation) from 2015 to 2019, moving from 165th to 158th. Based on the recast IMD for 2015, East Suffolk has moved by 7 places, indicating an increase in deprivation relative to all other lower-tier local authorities. East Suffolk ranked 8th out of 16 in 2019 and had a higher deprivation rank compared to the nearest neighbour average.

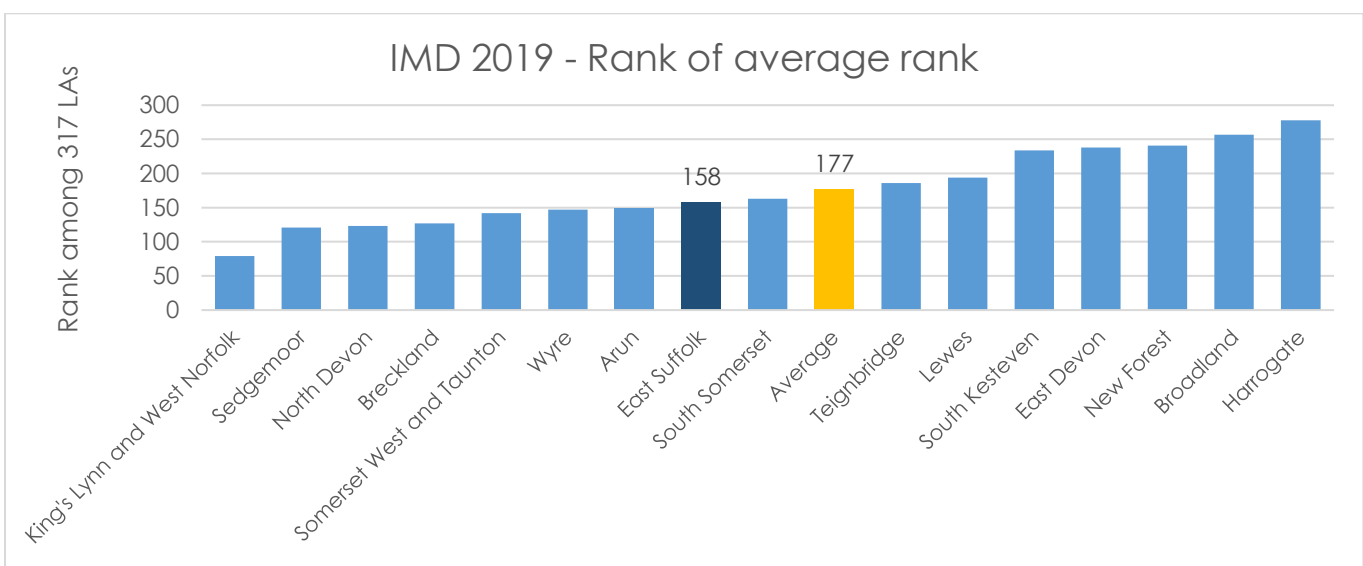
Within East Suffolk's statistical neighbour group, many local authority areas experienced movement from 2015 to 2019. Excluding East Suffolk, 12 other areas experienced a worsening in rank between 2015 and 2019. Only North Devon, Breckland, Teignbridge, and South Kesteven either stayed the same, or improved in rankings (decreased deprivation).

Figure 11: East Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2015



Source: ¹

Figure 12: East Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2019



Source: ¹

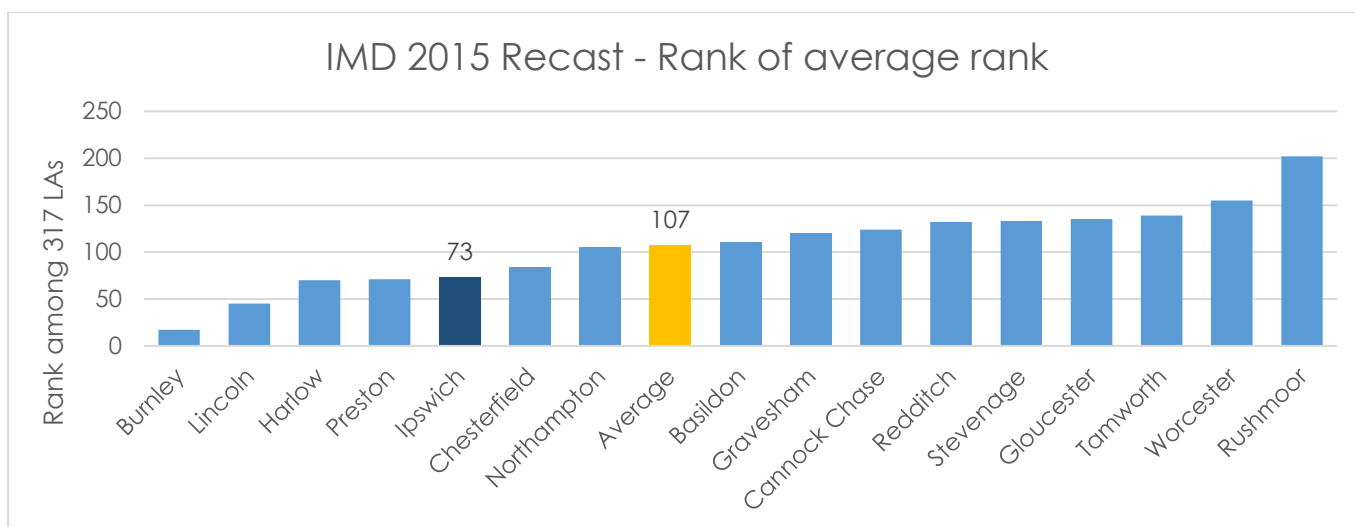
Ipswich

Ipswich has seen its rank worsen by 2 places from 73rd in 2015 to 71st in 2019, indicating increased deprivation relative to other local authorities in England, it is the 4th most deprived authority in its statistical neighbour group.

Within the group of authorities, 9 (including Ipswich) have seen an increase in relative deprivation since 2015. Burnley remains the most deprived authority in the group by some margin. Rushmoor keeps its place as the least deprived authority in the group despite seeing an increase in relative deprivation of 6 places.

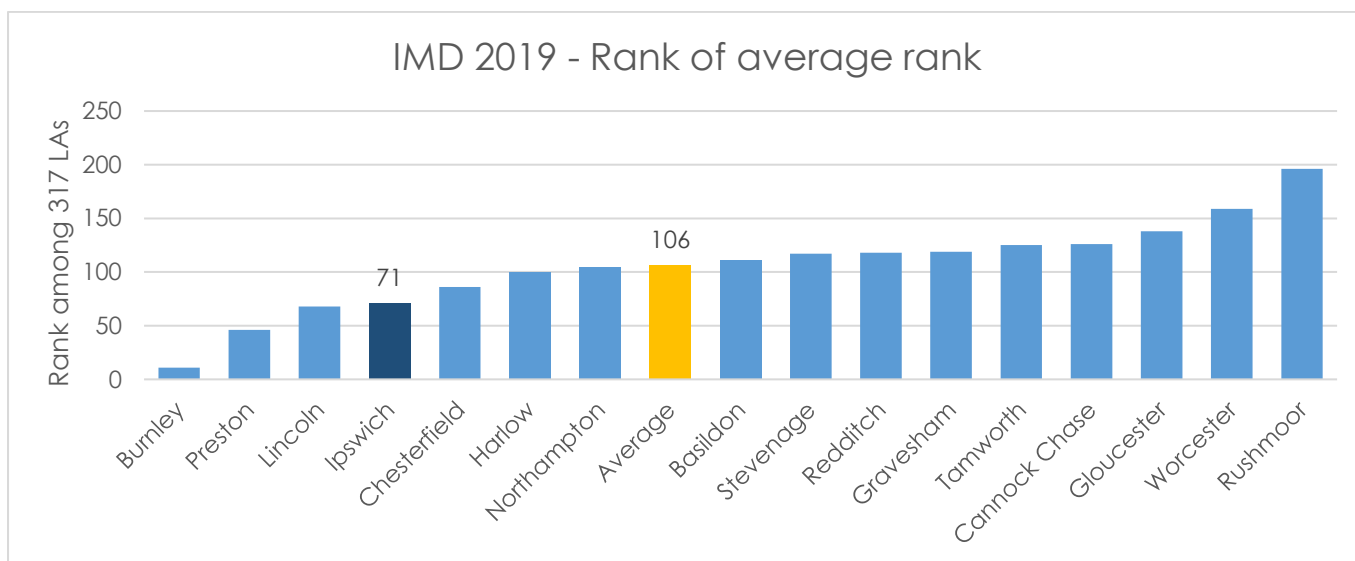
Ipswich remains the most deprived local authority in Suffolk and more deprived than most of its statistical neighbours.

Figure 13: Ipswich with statistical neighbours 2015



Source: ¹

Figure 14: Ipswich with statistical neighbours 2019



Source: ¹

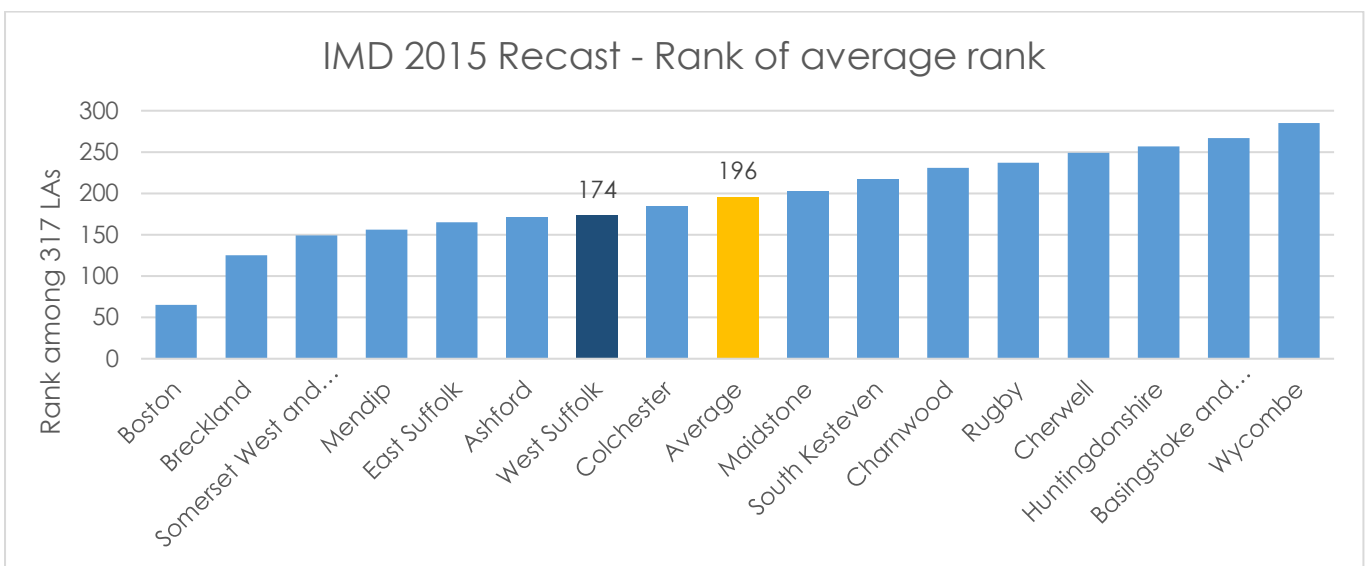
West Suffolk

West Suffolk did not exist in the 2015 IMD. It was formed by the merger of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury LAs on 1 April 2019. We can use recast data to explore the IMD 2015 in comparison to IMD 2019. Please bear in mind the challenges associated with estimating the characteristics of the Forest Heath, due to the inclusion or exclusion of the United States Visiting Forces (USVF) population.

West Suffolk has seen its rank improve by 2 places from 174th in 2015 to 176th in 2019, indicating slightly decreased deprivation relative to other local authorities in England, it is the 7th most deprived authority in its statistical neighbour group.

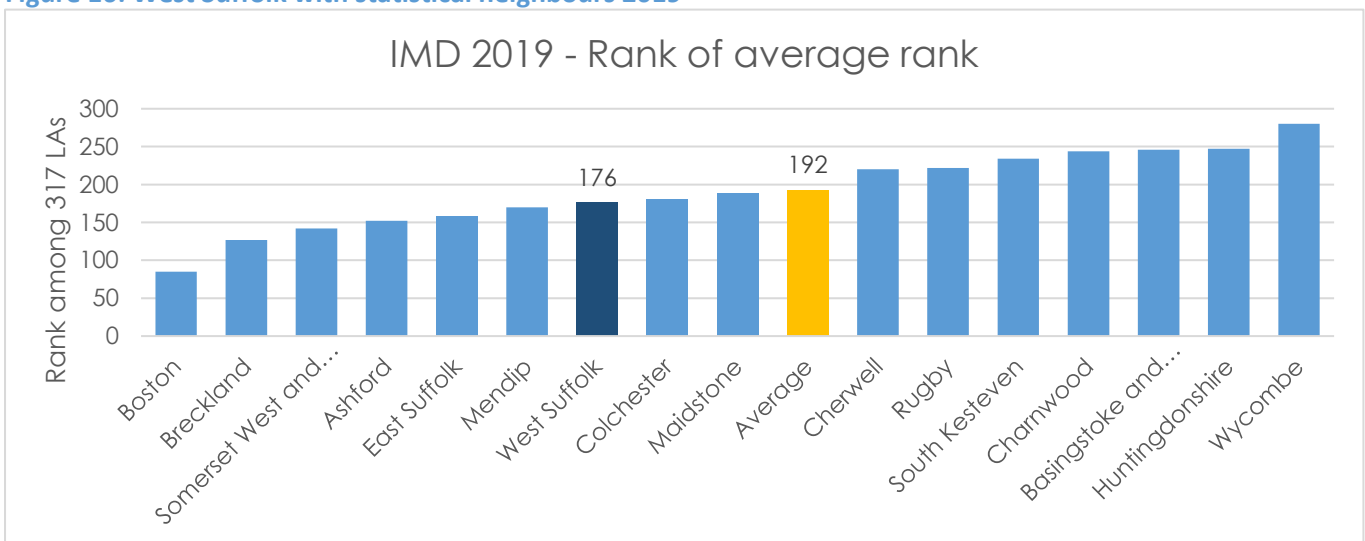
Within the group of authorities, 11 have seen an increase in relative deprivation since 2015. Boston remains the most deprived authority in the group by some margin. Wycombe keeps its place as the least deprived authority in the group despite seeing an increase in relative deprivation of 5 places.

Figure 15: West Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2015



Source: ¹

Figure 16: West Suffolk with statistical neighbours 2019



Source: ¹

Main domains and supplementary indices - comparison of national ranks, 2015 and 2019

Based on rank of average rank data, out of 151 counties and unitary authorities analysed, Suffolk ranks 99th in the overall composite index in 2019; worsening by 2 places since 2015.

Of the remaining nine domains and supplementary indices, Suffolk has seen an increase in relative deprivation in four. Suffolk is ranked between 100 and 120 in six of these nine domains, meaning the county ranks in the segment between the 25% to 33% least deprived of upper-tier authorities in England.

In many cases, the increases in relative deprivation are small with the change in rankings being six places or less in three domains (employment, health deprivation, barriers to housing and services). Suffolk has seen a larger movement in the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) supplementary index, worsening in rank by 8 places.

The two domains in which Suffolk has the highest levels of relative deprivation are:

- Education, skills and training
- Barriers to housing and services

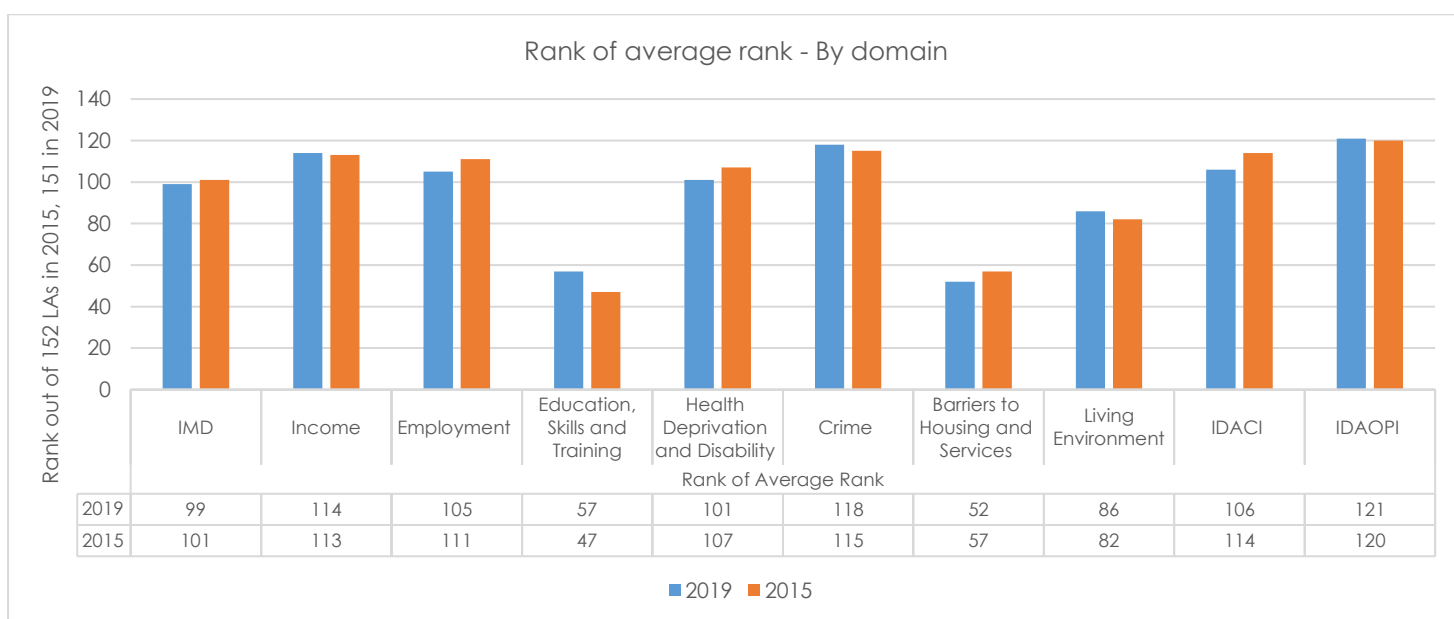
Education, skills and training remains a cause for concern in the 2019 indices. This domain measures the level of attainment and skills in the local population.

The barriers to housing and services domain looks at indicators such as road distance to services such as a post office, primary school, general store and GP, as well as housing issues such as affordability, overcrowding and homelessness. Given the rural nature of much of Suffolk and the distance from the more remote areas to services it is no surprise that the county scores relatively poorly on this domain; this is a common theme across all rural areas of England and can also be observed in Suffolk's nearest statistical neighbours.

The taller the bar in the charts below – the better! This means a higher numerical rank, which means lower deprivation!

1 = Most deprived

Figure 2: Comparison of domains and supplementary indices – 2015 and 2019 - Suffolk

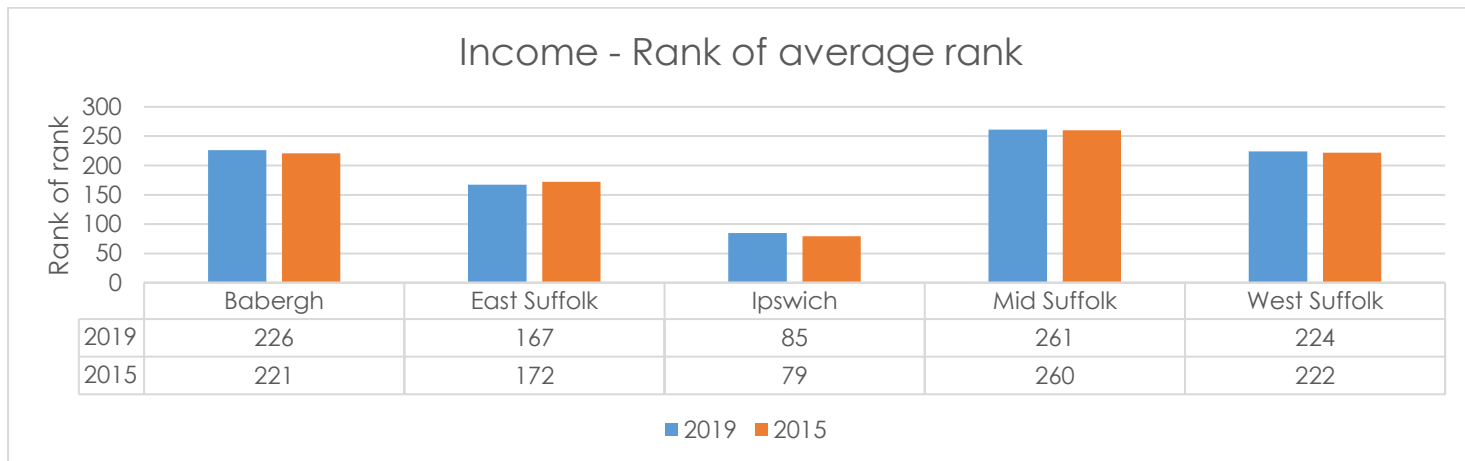


Source: ¹

Income

Suffolk's districts and boroughs perform fairly well in the income domain, with four authorities seeing a decline in relative deprivation and one (East Suffolk) increasing slightly. Babergh, Mid Suffolk, Ipswich and West Suffolk have shown small falls in deprivation compared to other local authorities in England. Ipswich remains the most deprived local authority in 2019 in the income domain.

Figure 3: Income 2015 and 2019

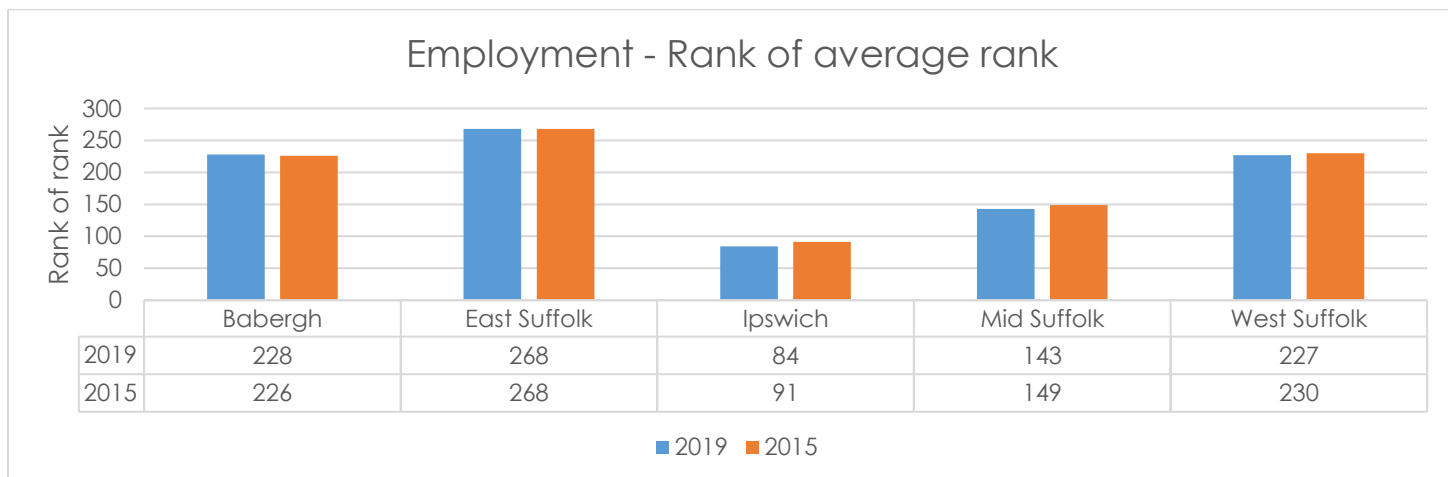


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Employment

The employment domain shows a similar pattern to the income domain. Three local authorities have seen an increase in relative deprivation, most notably in Ipswich. One area (Babergh) has seen a slight improvement in relative deprivation, with East Suffolk remaining unchanged. Overall, of most concern is Ipswich, ranked 84th most deprived in the country. High employment levels have traditionally been a consistent strength of the Suffolk economy, including in Ipswich, but this domain focuses on people out of work.

Figure 4: Employment 2015 and 2019

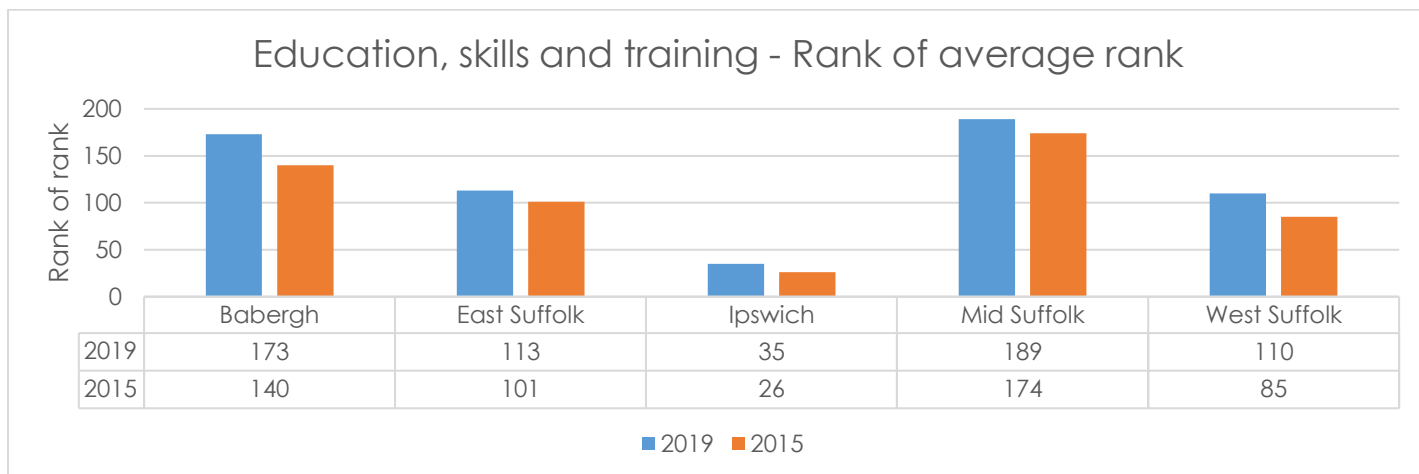


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Education, skills and training

This is an area that needs continued focus in Suffolk, however the latest data indicates improvements for all local authorities in the county. Every authority has experienced a decrease in relative deprivation, with Babergh experiencing the largest decrease – improving by 33 places from 140th in 2015 to 173rd in 2019. However, Ipswich still performs particularly poorly in this domain, and currently ranks 35th in the country in relation to education, skills and training deprivation.

Figure 5: Education, skills and training 2015 and 2019

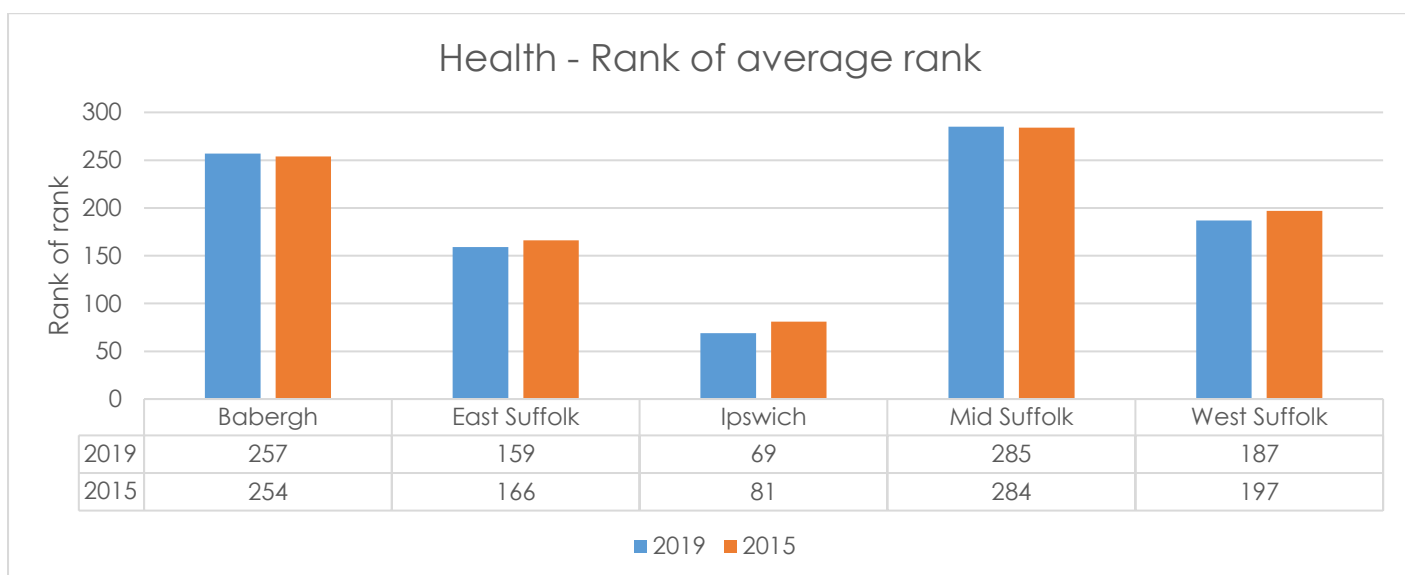


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Health deprivation and disability

Health deprivation and disability remains moderate across Suffolk, with variations between our more affluent rural districts and the larger towns. Three authorities have seen increased relative deprivation while Babergh and Mid Suffolk have seen slight declines. Ipswich's ranking has worsened by 12 places to 69th most deprived authority nationally for this domain. This domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.

Figure 6: Health Deprivation and Disability 2015 and 2019

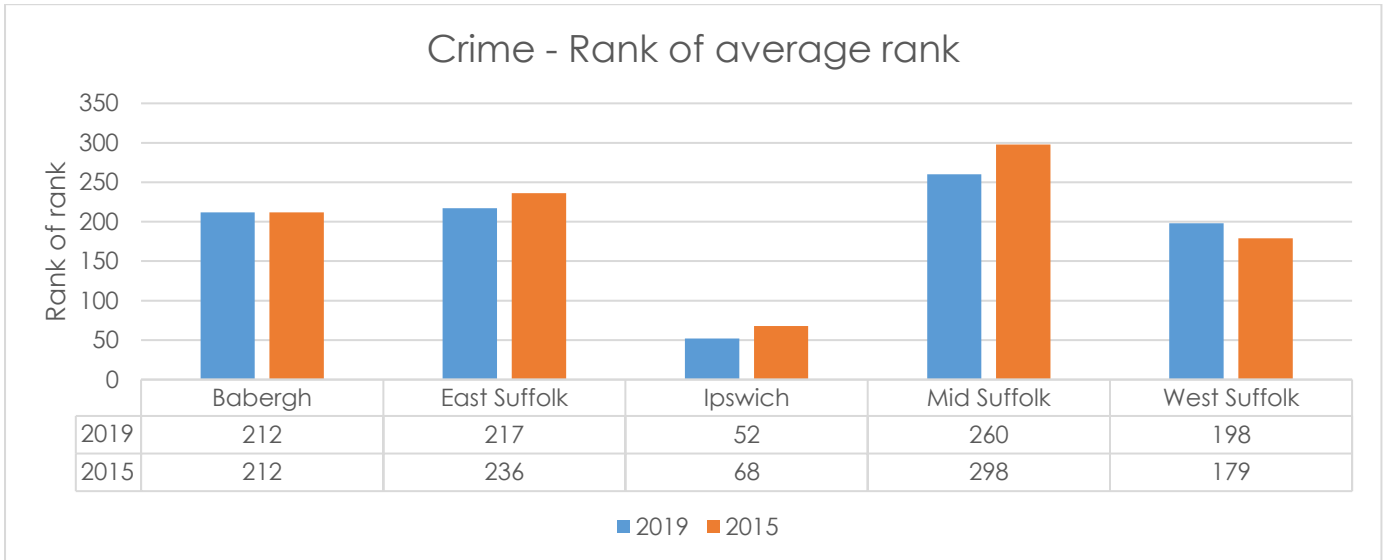


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Crime

Suffolk is a relatively low-crime county, though relative to other local authorities across England there has been a general increase in deprivation from 2015 to 2019. Every local authority in Suffolk, with the exception of Babergh and West Suffolk, has seen a move in ranking indicating an increase in relative deprivation in the domain of crime. Ipswich's ranking has declined by 16 places to reach 52nd nationally and is still the most deprived authority within Suffolk. Mid Suffolk has seen its rank worsen by 38 places, but it still has low levels of relative deprivation, at 260th most deprived out of 317 nationally.

Figure 7: Crime 2015 and 2019

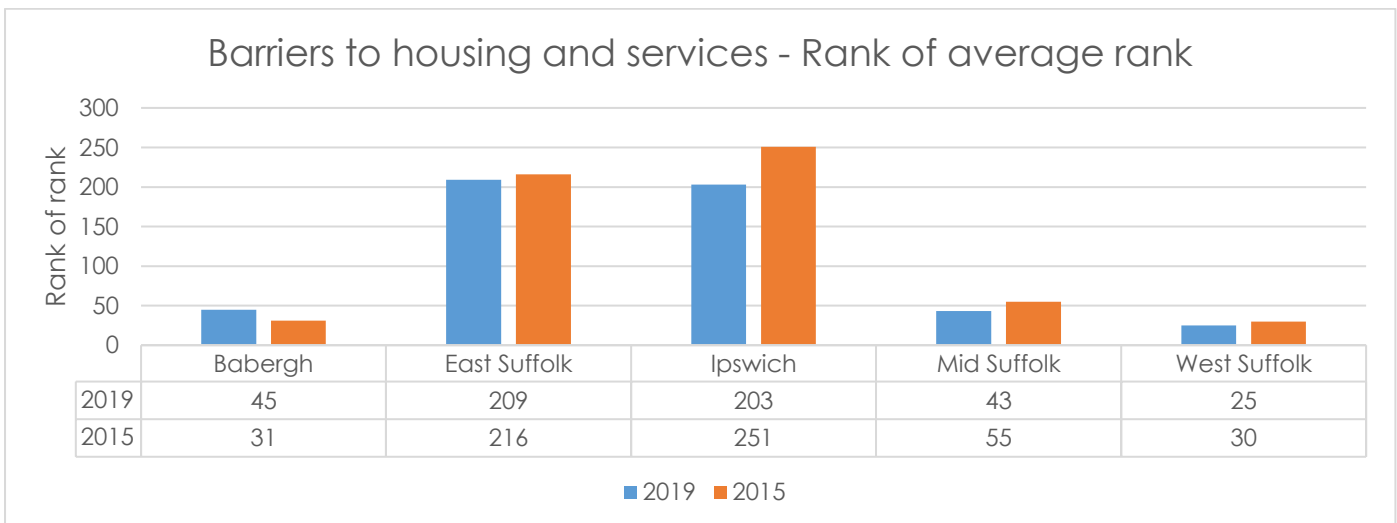


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Barriers to housing and services

This domain sees the considerable variation in rankings between the local authorities in Suffolk and the opposite picture to that seen in many of the other domains. The most deprived authority in Suffolk is West Suffolk at 25th nationally while the least deprived is East Suffolk at 209th. Compared to 2015, only Babergh has seen a ranking change that indicates improved relative deprivation, moving 12 places from 2015. However, it still remains one of the most deprived local authorities in the country ranking 45th out of 317 local authorities.

Figure 8: Barriers to Housing & Services 2015 and 2019

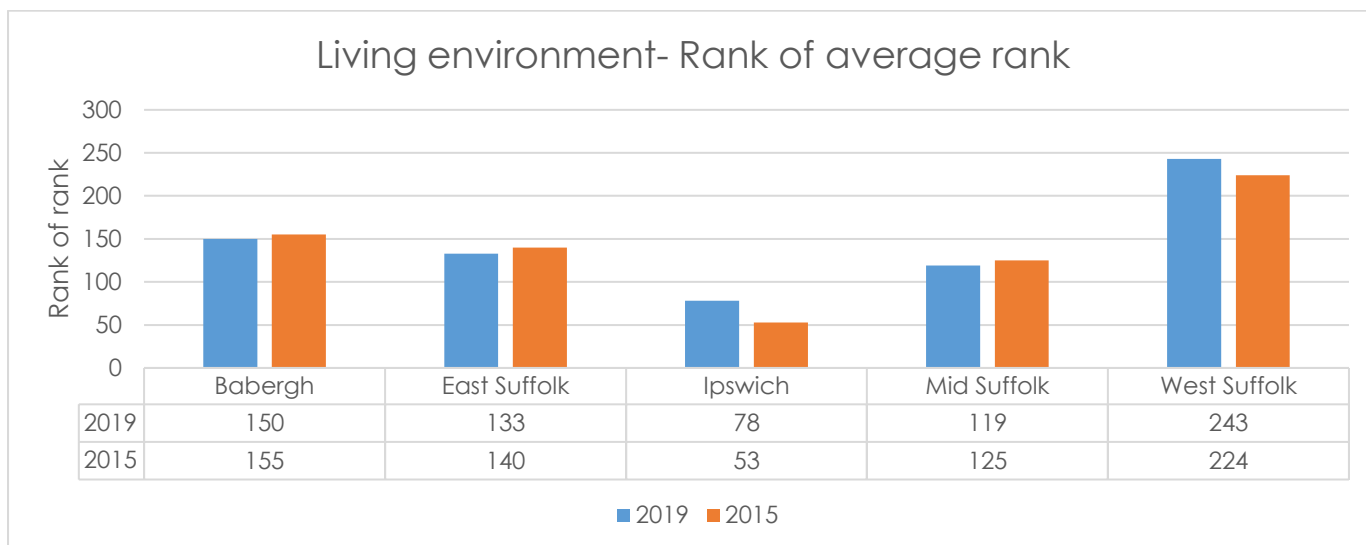


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Living environment

This domain looks at indicators such as housing condition and central heating availability, as well as air quality and road traffic accidents to non-motorists. In Suffolk, two authorities have seen a decrease in relative deprivation, and three have seen an increase in this domain. Ipswich and West Suffolk have seen a decline in relative deprivation, with Ipswich's rank improving by 25 places in the rankings to 78th, and West Suffolk moving 19 places to 243rd. Of the authorities whose relative deprivation has worsened, none have done so dramatically, but East Suffolk experiences the largest change in rankings, moving 7 places.

Figure 9: Living Environment 2015 and 2019



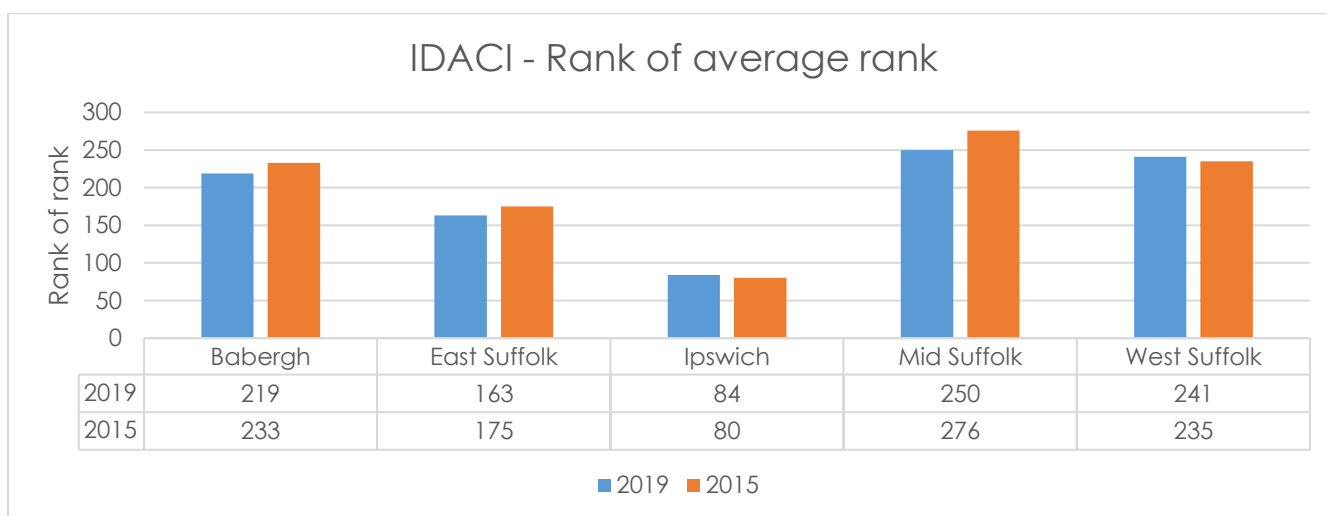
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Supplementary indices

IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index)

The IDACI looks at children aged 0-15 living in income deprived households. In this domain, three Suffolk local authorities have become relatively more deprived. The largest increase in relative deprivation is 26 places in Mid Suffolk, making it the 250th most deprived authority in England, although it still ranks less deprived than all other Suffolk authorities. Ipswich and East Suffolk are ranked in the top 200 local authorities in England in terms of overall IDACI deprivation, with Ipswich remaining the most deprived area in the county.

Figure 10: IDACI 2015 and 2019

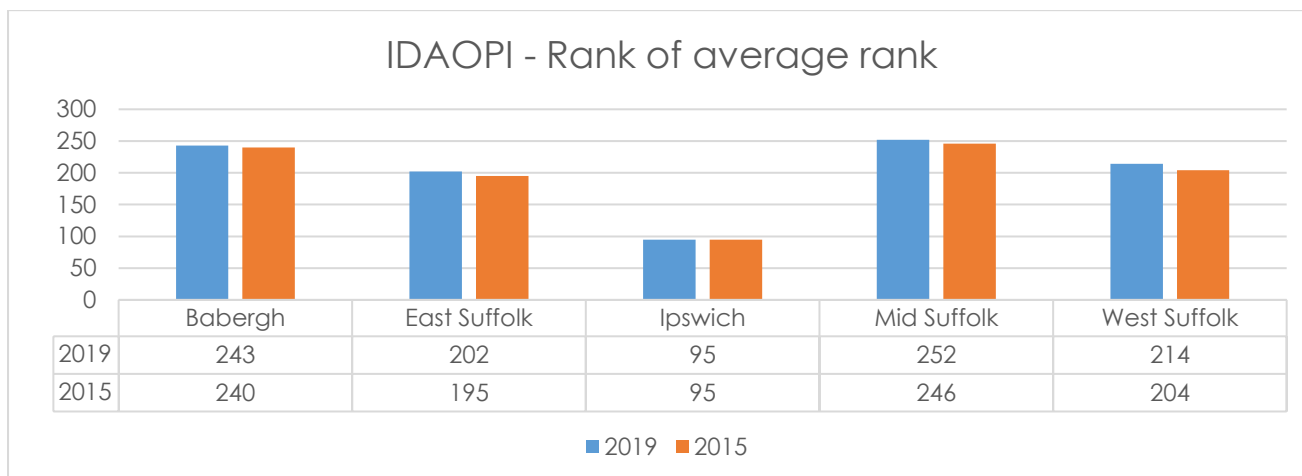


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IDAOPi (Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index)

This domain addresses the proportion of adults aged 60 or over living in income deprived households. All Suffolk authorities have either remained the same or seen a decrease in relative deprivation in this supplementary index, with West Suffolk seeing the biggest change in ranks, moving from 204th in 2015 to 214th in 2019 – a movement of 10 places. Although it is positive that there has not been an increase in any of the Suffolk authorities, Ipswich remains 95th out of 317 areas nationally, indicating above average income deprivation for older people in the area.

Figure 11: IDAOPi 2015 and 2019



Source: ¹

Conclusion

The Indices of Deprivation paint a complex picture of relative deprivation within Suffolk. Recent relative declines should not be interpreted as an absolute decline in affluence within the county; but rather suggest areas where closer consideration and further policy development may be advantageous. In some areas, such as education, considerable work is already underway to raise standards and improve attainment levels, and whilst it appears some of the impact is starting to filter through into the data, the impacts may not be felt until much later. However, we know that overall, IMD has been demonstrated to correlate closely with a number of key population outcomes, including health, and that as such, even small relative declines should be carefully considered and used to drive planning and policy to improve the life chances of Suffolk's residents.

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