



The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD25)

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Published October 2025

Aim

To present the latest English Indices of Deprivation (IoD)'s Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) with a focus on Westmorland and Furness. The analysis presented is based on the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (IoD 2025) which were constructed for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) and Deprivation.org.

Key Headlines

The IoD 2025 reported that:

- Westmorland and Furness's average overall deprivation score (IMD25 score) ranked 105th nationally out of 153 upper tier local authorities (1 being the most deprived authority);
- Westmorland and Furness was on the 69th percentile nationally for average IMD25 score (69% of authorities were more deprived than Westmorland and Furness);
- 6.3% of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs (9 out of 142) were classified as being in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England for IMD25 (Decile 1), down from 8.3% in 2019;
- Westmorland and Furness was on the 51st percentile nationally for the proportion of LSOAs in IMD25 Decile 1;
- All 9 of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs in IMD25 Decile 1 were in the locality of Barrow-in-Furness (18.8% of Barrow-in-Furness's LSOAs), located in the wards of Old Barrow and Hindpool, Ormsgill and Parkside, and Risedale and Roosecote;
- No LSOAs in the localities of Eden or South Lakeland were classified as IMD25 Decile 1.
- 51 (35.9%) of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs were classified as being in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England for the Living Environment deprivation domain (9th authority nationally, 6th percentile);
- 32 (22.5%) of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England for the Barriers to Housing and Services deprivation domain (25th authority nationally, 16th percentile).
- 50% of LSOAs in Eden are classified as Decile 1 for Living Environment; a similar level to the local authority ranked 4th highest nationally for this domain.
- Furthermore, 52.8% of LSOAs in Eden are classified as Decile 1 for Barriers to Housing and Services; also in line with the local authority ranked 4th highest nationally.

Background

The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD25) measure relative levels of deprivation in 33,755 small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), in England. The IoD25 comprises of 7 domains and two supplementary indexes, which are as follows:

- Income;
- Employment;
- Health and Disability;
- Education Skills and Training;
- Crime;
- Barriers to Housing and Services;
- Living Environment.
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI);
- Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI).

The 7 domains are then combined and weighted together to form an overall deprivation score known as the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (IMD25) – the official measure of deprivation in England. An IMD score is calculated for each LSOA; so that all LSOAs in England can be ranked according to their overall level of deprivation relative to other LSOAs. High ranking LSOAs can be referred to as the ‘most deprived’ to aid interpretation. However, there is no definitive threshold above which an area is described as ‘deprived’. The IMD measures deprivation on a relative rather than an absolute scale, so an LSOA ranked 100th is more deprived than an LSOA ranked 200th, but this does not mean it is twice as deprived.

The purpose of the IMD is to provide the best measure of the distribution of relative deprivation at a snapshot in time. However, this comes at the expense of ‘backwards’ comparability. Although there have been previous releases of the IoD (2004, 2007, 2010, 2015 and 2019), while these are based on broadly the same methodology as the IoD 2025, some changes have been made to the indicators over time. Therefore, care should be taken when comparing the IoD over time.

Keeping a consistent methodology does allow relative rankings to be compared over time; for example, an LSOA can be said to have become more deprived relative to other areas if it was within the most deprived 20 per cent of LSOAs nationally on 2019 and within the most deprived 10 per cent according to the IMD 2025. However, it would not be correct to state that the level of deprivation in the LSOA has increased on some absolute scale, it may be the case that all LSOAs have improved, but that this LSOA improved more slowly than other areas.

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025

Average IMD25 Score

The 2025 IoD reported that Westmorland and Furness’s average IMD25 score was 17.8; ranking the authority county 105th nationally out of 153 upper tier local authorities (with 1 being the most deprived authority). This places Westmorland and Furness on the 69th percentile nationally; suggesting that 69% of upper tier local authorities are more deprived than Westmorland and Furness based on average IMD score.

Figure 1: Average IMD25 Score



Deprivation Deciles

Figure 2 plots the proportion of LSOAs in Westmorland and Furness assigned to each IMD25 decile. IMD Decile 1 refers to those LSOAs in the 10% most deprived of LSOAs nationally and IMD Decile 10 refers to those LSOAs in the 10% least deprived of LSOAs nationally.

Figure 2: IMD25 Deciles – Westmorland and Furness

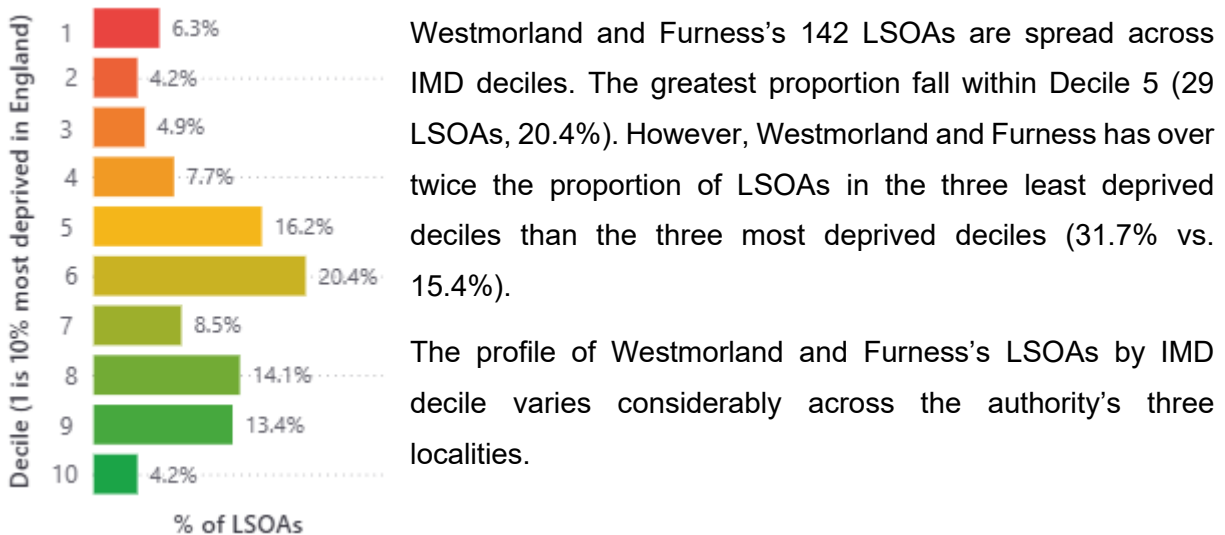
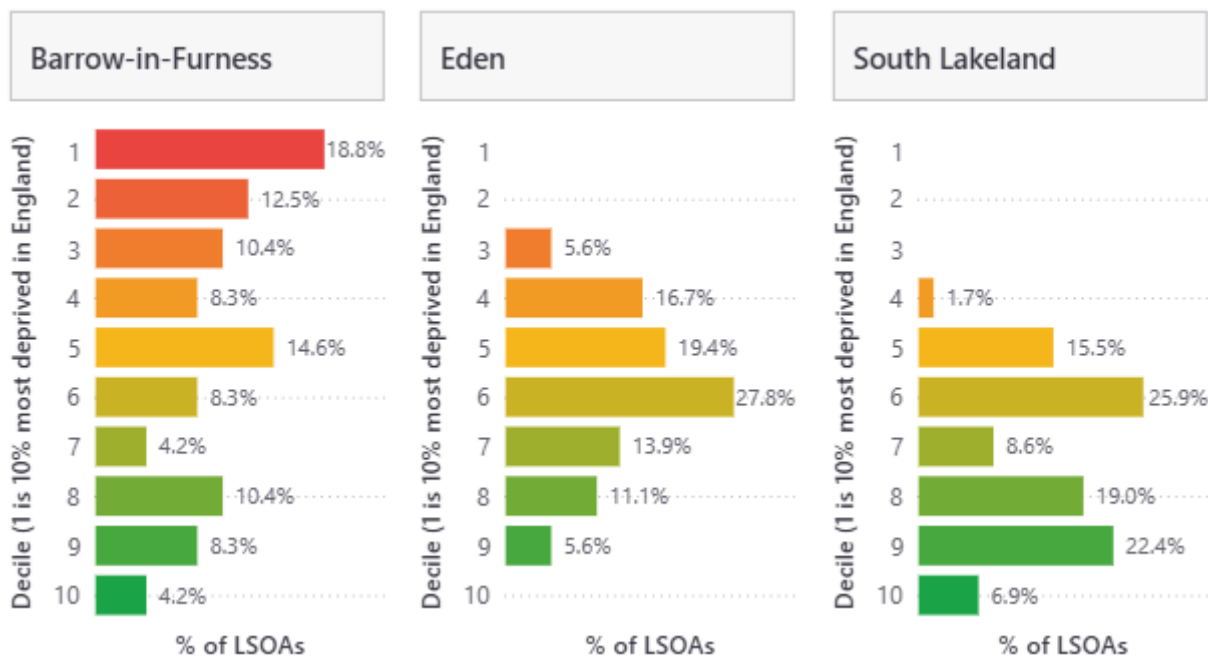


Figure 3 plots the proportion of LSOAs in each of Westmorland and Furness’s localities assigned to each IMD25 decile.

Figure 3: IMD25 Deciles – Westmorland and Furness Localities

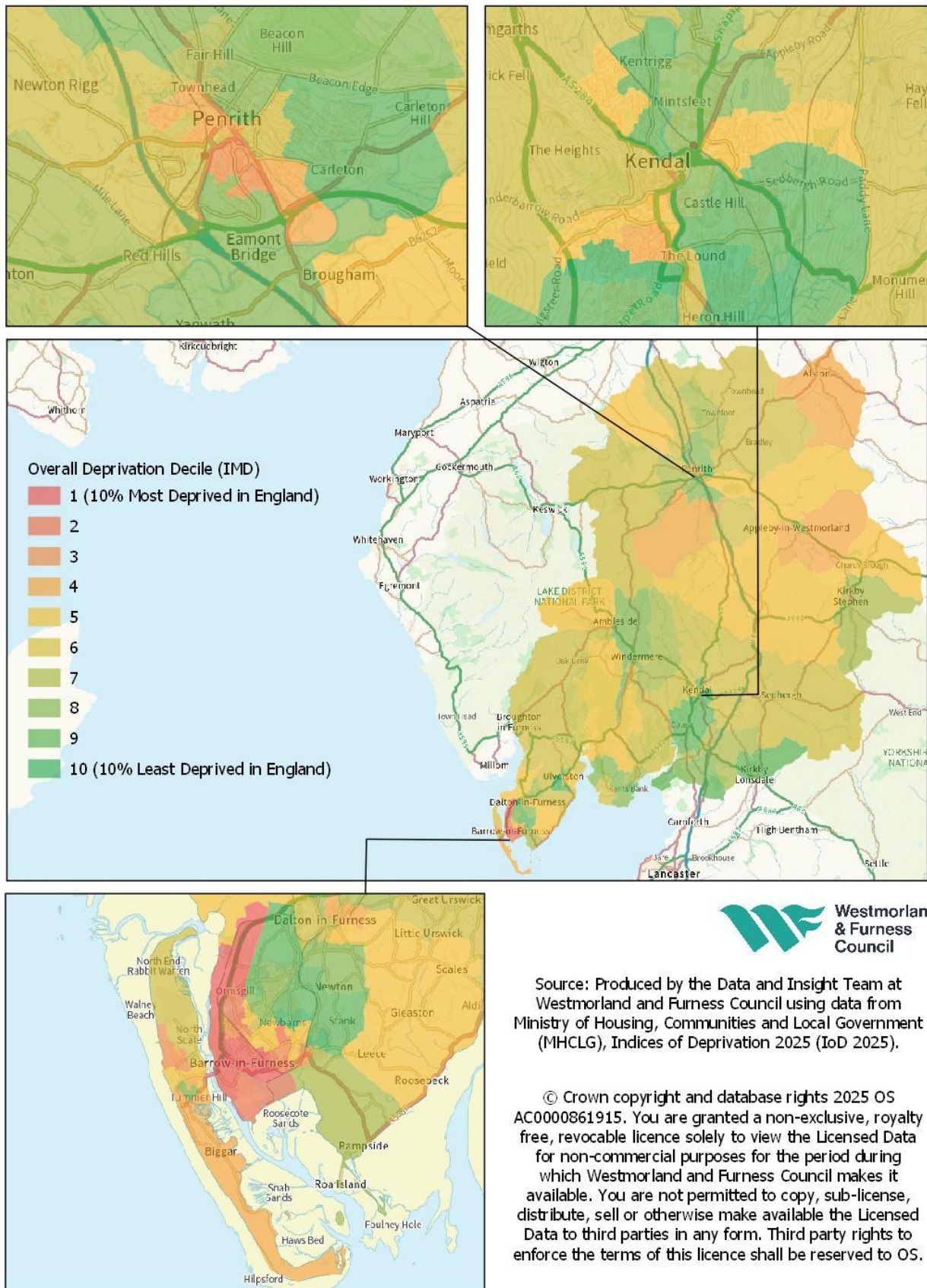


41.8% of Barrow-in-Furness’s LSOAs sit in the three most deprived IMD deciles, while just 22.9% of the locality’s LSOAs sit within the three least deprived deciles. Inversely, none of South Lakeland’s LSOAs sit in the three most deprived deciles, while 48.3% of the locality’s LSOAs sit in the three least deprived deciles.

Figure 4 plots each of Westmorland and Furness’s 142 LSOAs shaded according to their IMD deciles; areas shaded in red represent LSOAs that are in IMD Decile 1 (the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England), while areas shaded in dark green represent LSOAs that are in IMD Decile 10 (the 10% least deprived LSOAs in England).

Figure 4:

LSOAs by Overall Deprivation Decile



Source: Produced by the Data and Insight Team at Westmorland and Furness Council using data from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Indices of Deprivation 2025 (IoD 2025).

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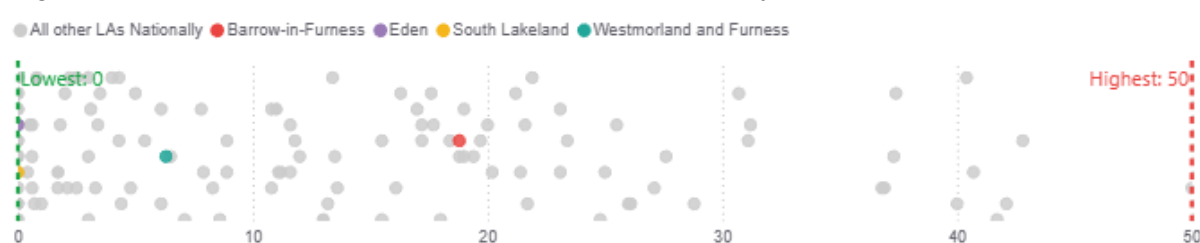
Most Deprived LSOAs

6.3% of Westmorland and Furness’s LSOAs (9 out of 142) are classified as being in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England for the IMD25 (Decile 1). This ranks the authority as 78th nationally out of 153 upper tier local authorities; placing Westmorland and Furness on the 51st percentile nationally, with 51% of upper tier local authorities having a greater proportion of LSOAs in IMD Decile 1.

All 9 of Westmorland and Furness’s LSOAs within IMD Decile 1 were in the locality of Barrow-in-Furness; this equates to 18.8% of Barrow-in-Furness’s LSOAs. In contrast, no LSOAs in the localities of Eden or South Lakeland were classified as being in IMD Decile 1.

Figure 5 plots the proportion of LSOAs in IMD Decile 1 for Westmorland and Furness and localities against proportions for all upper tier local authorities nationally.

Figure 5: % of LSOAs in the Most Deprived 10% Nationally



Change Over Time

Figure 6 plots the proportion of LSOAs in Westmorland and Furness and each locality that fell within the most deprived IMD decile (Decile 1) in relation to 2015, 2019 and 2025.

Figure 6: Proportion of LSOAs in IMD Decile 1 (10% Most Deprived LSOAs Nationally):

	2015		2019		2025	
	No. LSOAs in Decile 1	% LSOAs in Decile 1	No. LSOAs in Decile 1	% LSOAs in Decile 1	No. LSOAs in Decile 1	% LSOAs in Decile 1
Barrow-in-Furness	11	22.4%	12	24.5%	9	18.8%
Eden	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
South Lakeland	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Westmorland and Furness	11	7.6%	12	8.3%	9	6.3%

Source: English Indices of Deprivation (IoD)

From 2015 to 2019 the proportion of Westmorland and Furness’s LSOAs in IMD Decile 1 increased from 7.6% to 8.3%. However, between 2019 and 2025 this proportion decreased to 6.3%. Of Westmorland and Furness’s localities, Barrow-in-Furness has been the only locality to have LSOAs in Decile 1 in each of the three iterations of the IMD.

Figure 7 lists the 9 Westmorland and Furness LSOAs within the IMD25 Decile 1, with the name of the ward that each LSOA sits within for geographical context.

Figure 7: Westmorland and Furness:

LSOAs within IMD25 Decile 1 (10% most deprived LSOAs in England):

LSOA	Ward	Decile
Barrow-in-Furness 010B	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 008A	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 008B	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 008C	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 004A	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 008D	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 008E	Old Barrow and Hindpool	1
Barrow-in-Furness 004C	Ormsgill and Parkside	1
Barrow-in-Furness 007G	Risedale and Roosecote	1

All of the LSOAs listed in figure 7 were also classified as Decile 1 in 2019, except for the LSOA Barrow-in-Furness 007G. However, as Barrow-in-Furness 007G was created in 2021 to merge the LSOAs Barrow-in-Furness 007A and Barrow-in-Furness 007E, and as both component LSOAs sat within Decile 1 in 2019, Barrow-in-Furness 007G can also be said to have fallen within the 10% most deprived nationally in both time periods.

In terms of change from 2019, the LSOAs Barrow-in-Furness 007B (located in Hawcoat and Newbarns ward) and Barrow-in-Furness 004D (within Ormsgill and Parkside ward) have moved from IMD Decile 1 in 2019 to IMD decile 2 in 2025, suggesting that their relative levels of deprivation have improved over time.

Deprivation Domains

Figure 8 plots the proportion of LSOAs in Westmorland and Furness assigned to each decile by each deprivation domain of the IoD25.

Figure 8: IoD25 Domains and Deciles – Westmorland and Furness

Deprivation Domain	% LSOAs by Decile										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Overall Deprivation	6.3%	4.2%	4.9%	7.7%	16.2%	20.4%	8.5%	14.1%	13.4%	4.2%	100.0%
Income	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	9.2%	6.3%	7.7%	8.5%	16.9%	21.8%	19.0%	100.0%
Employment	7.0%	4.2%	6.3%	4.9%	8.5%	4.9%	12.7%	12.0%	23.9%	15.5%	100.0%
Education, Skills and Training	4.2%	4.9%	11.3%	6.3%	7.7%	12.0%	13.4%	22.5%	14.1%	3.5%	100.0%
Health Deprivation and Disability	10.6%	5.6%	5.6%	9.2%	6.3%	6.3%	9.2%	7.7%	21.8%	17.6%	100.0%
Crime	4.2%	4.2%	6.3%	5.6%	4.2%	11.3%	9.9%	14.1%	16.2%	23.9%	100.0%
Barriers to Housing and Services	22.5%	12.7%	5.6%	8.5%	7.0%	2.8%	12.7%	9.9%	10.6%	7.7%	100.0%
Living Environment	35.9%	13.4%	9.9%	6.3%	9.9%	6.3%	6.3%	4.9%	3.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	2.8%	4.9%	2.1%	7.7%	6.3%	12.7%	11.3%	15.5%	23.2%	13.4%	100.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	1.4%	2.8%	3.5%	4.9%	12.7%	8.5%	9.2%	14.8%	26.8%	15.5%	100.0%
	0-10 %		10-20 %		20-30 %		30-40 %		40 %+		

While the proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived decile (Decile 1) for overall deprivation (IMD) in Westmorland and Furness is relatively low (6.3%), there are two deprivation domains where the authority experiences relatively high levels of deprivation; Living Environment and Barriers to Housing and Services.

The Living Environment Deprivation Domain measures the quality of the local environment. The indicators fall into two sub-domains. The 'indoors' living environment measures the quality of housing; while the 'outdoors' living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents. 35.9% of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs (51 out of 142) are classified as being in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England for the Living Environment deprivation domain. This ranks the authority as 9th nationally out of 153 upper tier local authorities; placing Westmorland and Furness on the 6th percentile nationally.

Furthermore, the Barriers to Housing and Services Domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: 'geographical barriers', which relates to the geographical (in)accessibility of key local services and amenities; and 'wider barriers' which relates to broader issues of accessibility, such as access to affordable housing and other important services. 22.5% of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs (32 out of 142) fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England for the Barriers to Housing and Services deprivation domain. This ranks the authority as 25th nationally out of 153 upper tier local authorities; placing Westmorland and Furness on the 16th percentile nationally.

At a locality level, Eden has particularly high proportions of LSOAs falling within Decile 1 for Living Environment and Barriers to Housing and Services. 50% of LSOAs in Eden are classified as Decile 1 for Living Environment; a similar level to the local authority ranked 4th highest nationally for this domain. Furthermore, 52.8% of LSOAs in Eden are classified as Decile 1 for Barriers to Housing and Services; also in line with the local authority ranked 4th highest nationally.

Conclusion

The IoD25 paints a complex picture for Westmorland and Furness. While the most severe overall deprivation is concentrated in a small number of neighbourhoods within Barrow-in-Furness, forms of deprivation relating to living environment and barriers to housing and services extends across the authority, especially in rural and remote areas that may otherwise appear relatively affluent.

These contrasts reinforce that deprivation in Westmorland and Furness is varied and multi-layered. Some communities face deep disadvantage across multiple domains, while others experience more hidden or dispersed forms of deprivation linked to infrastructure and isolation.

For Westmorland and Furness to work towards equitable outcomes for all, a place-specific approach is needed to target intensive support to neighbourhoods with the highest levels of overall deprivation, whilst also addressing rural challenges responsively.

Further Information

Further analysis covering Cumbria can be accessed via the Cumbria Intelligence Observatory: [Cumbria Observatory – Deprivation](#)

Additional information about the IoD can be found at: [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#)

Contact Us

- [Data & Insight Team](#)