

Provision of the Housing Intelligence Service for the East Midlands (Hi4EM)

Hi4EM (<https://hi4em.derby.gov.uk>) is an Instant Atlas website for Local Authorities within the East Midlands – it sources, displays and maps a range of data relating to housing markets, demographic and socio-economic characteristics across the region. The website allows users to access and visualise data as a series of interactive maps, graphs and tables to help understand the characteristics and needs of the local population alongside the nature of housing within a local area.

Derby City Council has maintained this site on behalf of East Midlands Authorities for a number of years. We received a grant from Government Office (as it was!) and the funding will end in March 2018. We are not in a position to be able to absorb the cost of maintaining this system and therefore we are reviewing options for the service's future viability and scope. To date, the focus of Hi4em has been to support the renovation of private sector housing and the improvement of affordable warmth however, we have reviewed government guidance and feel it may be useful to expand the service to support a wider understanding of housing need - the data development plan reflects this possible change in scope. We are also investigating the potential of the service to support housing management.

We would be interested in your views of the service and whether Hi4EM provides useful evidence to help you identify and manage housing needs. We have spoken to a number of users by phone and understand the service is viewed positively, although some authorities have not accessed the service for a while.

The options going forward are:

- a) The service could be delivered on a chargeable basis if sufficient local authorities (and wider partners) are willing to pay to subscribe to this service, costs will be worked out based on size of authority and number subscribing to the service. This could be up to £3,000 pa depending on the number of authorities who commit. It could be significantly less if a substantial number of authorities are interested. Attached is a brief summary of the information currently available on the system and the data development plan should the system continue.
- b) The service will cease in January 2018 (when the contract with our existing supplier comes to an end).

Please email Heather.Greenan@derby.gov.uk if your authority is interested in paying to subscribe to the service for 2018/19 by Friday 27 October.

If we are unable to secure enough funding to maintain the site then it will be decommissioned at the end of January 2018. We will confirm in writing by Friday 1 December.

Data currently available on the Hi4em site

To date, the focus for Hi4em has been to provide data to support an understanding of private sector housing condition. As such, the data identified below is currently available on the Hi4em website and can be accessed, at a local level, as a series of maps, graphs and tables.

Demography

- Census 2011 data including: population, age structure, living arrangements, household composition, ethnic group, nationality
- ONS - mid-year population estimates and projections

Deprivation and Income

- DCLG - Indices of Deprivation 2010 and 2015
- DECC - Fuel Poverty
- HMRC - Children in low income households (Child Poverty)
- DWP Benefits data

Economy and Education

- Census 2011 data including: economic activity, industry of employment, occupation
- Census 2011 data on qualification and students

Energy and Environment

- DECC – Electricity and Gas consumption

Housing

- Census 2011 data including: dwellings, accommodation type, housing tenure, overcrowding
- HM Land Registry Housing Selling Prices
- VOA stock data including: council tax bands, property type and build periods
- VOA - private rental market statistics

Data Development Plan

Subject to feedback from users and a viability review of the service, we plan to expand the scope of Hi4em to support an understanding of housing need within an area in addition to private sector housing conditions. Following a review of the guidance for Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments (on gov.uk), the data to be developed on Hi4em could include:

Community Safety

- Data.police.uk - Recorded crime types
- Source tbc – modelled data from the British Crime Survey

Demography

- ONS household projections

Deprivation and Income

- DWP benefits – Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments
- Source tbc - Household Income
- Source tbc – data concerning credit availability, debts and assets

Economy

- Data about employment and employment trends (ONS – Annual Population Survey, APS, and Business Register and Employment Survey, BRES)

Energy and Environment

- DCLG – Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates

Housing

- House price ratios / affordability ratios (derived from HM Land Registry, house selling prices and source tbc, household income)
- DCLG - Continuous Recording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing in England (CORE)
- DCLG - Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists
- Stock condition surveys, SCS – SCS data provided by individual local authorities can be loaded onto the system

Geographies

Data will be available, where possible, at the lowest appropriate level – Output Area (OA), Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) or Ward. Data will also be made available for the East Midlands region and England for comparison.