Economic Determinants

Rank	Top 10 Local Authority areas
1	Hart
2	Winchester
3	Surrey Heath
4	Waverley
5	Guildford
6	Kingston-upon-Thames
7	Horsham
8	Tandridge
9	Epsom and Ewell
10	South Oxfordshire

Rank	Bottom 10 Local Authority areas
315	Mansfield
316	Kingston upon Hull
317	Knowsley
318	Leicester City
319	Blackpool
320	Sandwell
321	Stoke on Trent
322	Middlesbrough
323	North East Lincolnshire
324	Great Yarmouth

Unemployment

Our unemployment score takes into consideration: the overall unemployment rate; long-term unemployment; and youth unemployment. Higher levels of each are seen to be a determinant of poorer health & wellbeing. A higher ranking reflects lower levels of resident unemployment, whether overall, long-term or youth.

Rank	Top 10 Local Authority areas
1	Hart
2	Mid Sussex
3	Stratford-on-Avon
4	Winchester
5	Wokingham
5	West Dorset
5	Mole Valley
5	Waverley
9	East Dorset
10	North Dorset

Economic Determinants

This section looks at the Economic Determinants of ill health based on five composite measures which have been equally weighted to provide a summary economic score. The performance of local authorities on this score is summarised in the tables to the left which shows the rankings and in the map to the right. The areas with very dark shading rank highly and those with light shading rank poorly.

The five measures that feed into this score are unemployment, qualifications, childhood education, occupations and income. Each of these is examined in the surrounding tables in the form of a ranking, based on a score that has been indexed to the national figure.

Although less well documented than social determinants, the economic causes of ill health are equally important and have many knock on effects upon social factors.

There is strong evidence to suggest that employment is generally good for both physical and mental health & well-being, and vice versa. Unemployed people on the other hand, incur a multiplicity of elevated health risks. Studies in England have demonstrated a relationship between, for example, unemployment and both cardiovascular disease and deleterious health behaviours, such as excessive alcohol consumption and smoking.

Evidence of the psychosocial effects of unemployment, such as stigma, isolation and loss of self-worth, is also widespread.

The relationship between low income and poor health is also well established– people on low incomes refrain from purchasing goods and services that maintain or improve health or are forced to purchase cheaper goods and services that may increase health risks (Marmot review).

In terms of economic determinants, the map shows the strong performance of the 'Home Counties', spreading into Hampshire, and towards Bristol, Warwick and Cambridge. With the exception of Kingston-upon-Thames, the entire top 10 is located in this area. There are a few clusters of high scoring areas further north, usually covering the commuter belts of major cities.

Parts of Norfolk perform poorly, with Great Yarmouth recording the lowest England score. However, overall it is the northern Local Authority areas that tend to perform least well. The metropolitan belt between Liverpool and the Humber, including Knowsley and Hull in the bottom ten list, scores poorly, as does County Durham and Lincolnshire.

Rank
1 to 65
66 to 130
131 to 195
196 to 260
261 to 324

Source: The Local Futures Group

Economic Determinants Score = Equally weighted sum of Unemployment, Qualifications, Childhood education, Occupations and Income, indexed to national average. A higher rank/darker colour shows better performance.

Qualifications

Our qualifications score takes higher levels of qualification to be correlated with better health & wellbeing. The highest achievement of resident adults is taken into consideration, with more weighting given to the top grades. A higher ranking indicates a more well-qualified adult population.

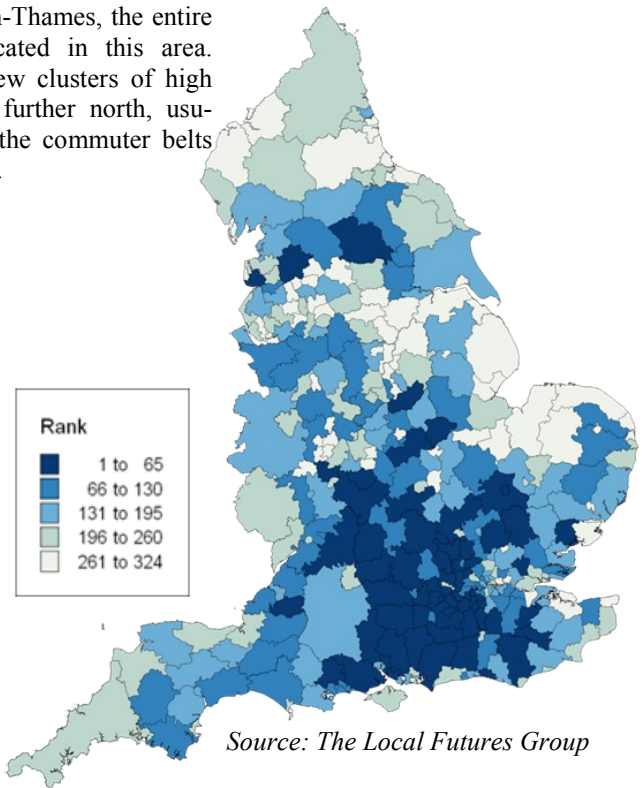| Rank	Top 10 Local Authority areas
1	Cambridge
2	Oxford
3	Mid Sussex
4	Winchester
5	Guildford
6	Brighton and Hove
7	Warwick
8	Hart
9	Fareham
10	Kingston-upon-Thames

Childhood Education

Research suggests that childhood education is as important as adult qualifications when health & wellbeing levels are determined. This score therefore looks at both resident Key Stage 1 and 2 achievement, with a higher ranking indicating better levels of childhood education.

Rank	Top 10 Local Authority areas
1	Surrey Heath
2	Elmbridge
3	Richmond-upon-Thames
4	Waverley
5	East Dorset
6	Hart
7	Horsham
8	South Staffordshire
9	Dacorum
10	Chiltern

Occupations

Research suggests that occupational characteristics can have an impact on levels of health & wellbeing. Employment in 'elementary' occupations, or as process, plant and machine operatives, is seen to be conducive to poor health. A higher ranking therefore indicates less resident employment in more manual occupations.

Rank	Top 10 Local Authority areas
1	Richmond-upon-Thames
2	Kensington and Chelsea
3	Westminster, City of
4	Elmbridge
5	Wandsworth
6	Camden
7	St Albans
8	Hammersmith and Fulham
9	Islington
10	Wokingham

Income

Our income score reflects the relationship between higher levels of income and better health & wellbeing. Gross weekly pay is used, with a higher score ranking indicating higher income levels.

Rank	Top 10 Local Authority areas
1	Westminster, City of
2	Kensington and Chelsea
3	Richmond-upon-Thames
4	Hammersmith and Fulham
4	Wandsworth
6	Islington
7	Windsor and Maidenhead
8	Camden
9	Kingston-upon-Thames
10	St Albans