East Sussex
County Council

Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy

Technical Appendix 2

Needs Assessment

Contents

1   The Purpose of the Technical Appendix

Introduction

1.1   The Needs Assessment is a key element of the Strategic Commissioning Strategy. It is essential to formally identify what contribution libraries can make to meeting the needs of East Sussex residents, and the extent to which they are currently meeting those needs, as well as to inform future strategies.

1.2   This is one of a number of documents, Technical Appendices (TA), which form the evidence base that supports the draft Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy. These documents are as follows:

Draft Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy						
Appendix 1 Rationale and Impact Assessment for the Proposed Needs Based Library Service						
Appendix 2 Summary of Technical Appendices						
Technical Appendix 1 National and Local Context	Technical Appendix 2 Needs Assessment	Technical Appendix 3 Service Description and Analysis	Technical Appendix 4 Property Assessment	Technical Appendix 5 Accessibility Analysis	Technical Appendix 6 Strategic Outcomes and Gap Analysis	Technical Appendix 7 Delivery Model Options Appraisal

1.3   The prime purpose of the Needs Assessment is therefore to provide a clear evidence-based review of needs, both met and unmet, that impact on the current and future provision of the Library and Information Service. It is developed in line with the Council's Strategic Commissioning Framework and reflects best practice in public sector service analysis.   See section 2 for further details on the Strategic Commissioning approach.

1.4   The County Council commissioned Peter Brett Associates to develop the methodology and undertake the analysis which forms this Needs Assessment. This Technical Appendix has therefore been produced in conjunction with Peter Brett Associates.

The Commissioning Themes

1.5   The work in this, and the other reports, that inform the evidence base for the Strategic Commissioning Strategy is undertaken in the context of four Commissioning Themes:
- Reading and literacy
- Economic development
- Health and wellbeing

- Digital exclusion

1.6   These four Commissioning Themes have been developed to provide a framework for the assessment of needs that has been undertaken. Libraries support people in many different ways and a structure was needed that enabled us to effectively gather and group the range of services libraries provide beyond reading and literacy, in line with the broad view of libraries described in Technical Appendix 1 – National and Local Context. The four Commissioning Themes are considered to represent the key areas of community need that the Library and Information Service may be best placed to meet or support.

1.7   The development of the four Commissioning Themes, and the assessment of needs, has been undertaken in the context of addressing the Council's statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, to provide a "comprehensive and efficient public Library Services for all persons desirous to make use thereof". The Council's statutory duty is also explained in detail in Technical Appendix 1.

1.8   In addition, the focus of the Commissioning Themes, and the development of all aspects of the Strategic Commissioning Strategy, is in line with the Council's four overarching priority outcomes: driving economic growth; keeping vulnerable people safe; helping people help themselves; and making best use of resources[1].

1.9   The four Commissioning Themes represent the important role that libraries play in society as a gateway for individuals of all ages to access information, support, knowledge and culture.

1.10   Literacy skills, whether traditional or digital, underpin success in all walks of life, and libraries have a key role to play in ensuring children in particular have the building-blocks for future academic and employment success. A 2011 research report by the Department for Education[2] acknowledged the important role that libraries play in young children's early communication and vocabulary skills. The study found that school entry performance was highest among children who owned more books and made more frequent visits to a library.

1.11   In addition, the health and wellbeing benefits of reading for pleasure are evident for adults as well as children and young people. Research shows that those individuals that choose to read for pleasure benefit from improved social capital, reduced symptoms of depression and dementia among adults and better parent-child communication[3].

1.12   Beyond the traditional role of libraries to facilitate reading and literacy, the modern library service can provide information and support to individuals and

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[1] https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/priorities/

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181549/DFE-RR134.pdf

[3] https://readingagency.org.uk/news/The%20Impact%20of%20Reading%20for%20Pleasure%20and%20Empowerment.pdf

businesses to help develop the economy, in line with the aims of the East Sussex Growth Strategy 2014-2020[4]. The Growth Strategy recognises the need to support individuals to improve their skills levels to meet the skills needs of business and support residents to reach their full potential. Libraries provide access to online information about job vacancies, training and skills development opportunities, and support individuals directly to develop skills such as writing CVs and job applications, and learning new literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, in both formal and informal ways. Libraries provide facilities for people running small businesses or those considering setting one up. A range of online and hard copy information is available through the library, and they can be used as informal drop-in centres with free Wi-Fi and, in some cases, bookable meeting rooms.

1.13 Public libraries are neutral and safe spaces that can promote health and wellbeing, not only through reading for pleasure, but also through cultural events, as well as targeted self-help support for community and individual resilience. Research has identified the positive benefits of reading for mental health, as well as the positive correlation between literacy and a person's ability to access health information[5].

1.14 Information is increasingly moving to digital platforms and there continues to be a social divide between those that have easy access to the internet and those that are offline, due to issues around affordability and digital skills. Libraries can help those that are digitally excluded gain access to information and acquire digital skills leading to increased employability.

1.15 Each Commissioning Theme, and the associated indicators of need, are described in more detail in section 3.

The Report

1.16 In the following sections of this report the methodology is developed in the following stages:

- Definition - the key terms used in the assessment, such as need, want, demand and supply, are defined;

- Data - the data that are available to assess individual and community needs are considered;

- Context and best practice - a review of what has been done elsewhere in assessing the impact of library services in meeting needs, as well as the use of needs assessment more generally in public service reviews;

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[4] https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/planning/regeneration/growthstrategy

[5] http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Evidence_review_economic_contribution_libraries_2014.pdf

- Approach to analysis - a review of how needs can be analysed against each of the four Commissioning Themes that the Library and Information Service aims to address in East Sussex;

- Identify key indicators – compile and consider the relevance of key indicators of need, and the likely impact of the Library and Information Service in meeting each need; and

- Commentary - what do these indicators show across East Sussex, in terms of revealing areas of relatively high need and how might that influence the development of the strategic commissioning of libraries in East Sussex?

2 Definitions and Measurement

Strategic Commissioning and Needs

2.1 East Sussex County Council has identified Strategic Commissioning as the approach and discipline which will underpin all the Council's business planning activity. It is about securing the best outcomes for East Sussex residents, by understanding need, matching supply with need and making the most effective use of all available resources.

2.2 Building a strong evidence base to assess local needs is essential during the initial phase of the Strategic Commissioning process, in order to understand the evolving needs of customers. The strategic commissioning approach recognises the requirement to meet needs at a strategic level for whole groups of customers, service users and populations. This assessment has therefore sought to understand both individual and community needs using the most appropriate ways of measuring these needs.

Level of Need

2.3 To fully understand needs and their variability across the county it is necessary to identify at what level the evidence is gathered, whether from individuals, wards or parishes, or super output areas (these are the small geographical areas that census data are often presented in), and whether this is district or county wide. Invariably it is the relative differences, not the absolute values, between the level of needs identified that will help to inform decisions about allocating resources and making strategic choices in communities. Through the clear measurement of the levels of needs, it is possible to determine 'intervention levels' (which may be set nationally or locally) that can be used to target resources in areas where needs are greatest.

2.4 In the analysis undertaken for this Needs Assessment there was often very little variation across the whole county (and as a baseline it should be recognised that East Sussex compares favourably with many other local authority areas on a number of measures of need). However, for some indicators there were stark variations.

2.5 Therefore, in this assessment we have sought to identify when the variation in needs *is* significant in scale and scope, compared to where the variations are minimal across the county and therefore perhaps should be given less weight in prioritising resources to meet needs.

2.6 In assessing whether a level of need and the degree of variation across the county are relevant it is necessary to consider national guidance and policy, experience in East Sussex and elsewhere in setting intervention levels, and to an extent using common sense and reasonableness in determining points or

levels where a need should be addressed. There are generally no national or locally agreed formulae or tests that suggest that a specific percentage of need, for example, should be the cut off point for support or intervention in the Library and Information Service. This therefore places further dependence on the interpretation of the *Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964* requirement for the Council to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service and the 1964 Act does not set out a statutory measure of need.

2.7 This can be seen in the example of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and specifically the adult education, skills and training domain. As the IMD is ranking super output areas (SOA) across the whole of England, a low number indicates the highest level of deprivation and vice versa. Therefore it might be appropriate that the Library and Information Service's resources should be focussed on the most deprived areas to have an impact on adult literacy and skills. In East Sussex the difference between the lowest 10% and the highest 10% is significant on this domain – the most deprived SOA in East Sussex is in Hastings, ranked 634th out of 32,844 small areas (called Lower-layer Super Output Areas and each with an average of 1,500 residents each). The least deprived in East Sussex is an SOA in Lewes ranked 31,621[st]. Therefore there is a considerable disparity between the two parts of the county on this measure.

2.8 In seeking to understand at what level is a need of sufficient "importance" that it must be met, we have therefore sought to identify what is variously termed as minimum levels, cut-offs or floor standards. In most cases there are not uniformly agreed levels of need – where government, councils or professional advisors considered a need to be "significant" and requires an intervention.

2.9 The key issue with using any measure of need is where the cut off between most deprived and the average occurs – for example, should resources be allocated to the 10% or 25% most deprived areas? The assessment of needs utilised for this review has therefore developed figures which generally show the highest decile or quartile for each indicator to highlight where the concentration of need is potentially greatest.

Defining Needs

2.10 It is important from the outset to be very clear on the definition of 'needs', as there can be confusion as to exactly what a 'need' is. Utilising the Council's Strategic Commissioning Framework (May 2012) to understand need is central to this assessment. The framework identifies the key terms as follows:

> *"There is a clear distinction between need, demand and supply. Need is what people could benefit from (that is an effective intervention or service), demand is what people ask for, supply is what is provided. Strategic Commissioning is about prioritising need over demand and supply".*

2.11 In common usage and particularly where applied to consumer goods and services 'needs', 'wants' and 'demands' can sometimes be used interchangeably. The differences between the terms are as follows:

Need
■ A need is 'inherent' and something which is required in order for a certain condition to be maintained or a desired state to be achieved
■ In this review, beyond very basic human needs (clothing, food, safety, shelter), are the needs for health and wellbeing, income, information and literacy that typically identify as needs in developed societies
■ Social needs, such as belonging and affection, as well as individual needs such as respect, knowledge, and self-expression also can be considered, even if not easily measured
Want
■ A want is typically a desire for a specific satisfier of need
■ Wants can be influenced by advertising, fashion, peer pressure
Demand
■ A demand is a want that has a component of both willingness and ability to pay
■ Demands can be influenced by price, and the price of competitors
■ Demand is most easily measured
Supply
■ The provision of a product or services that can satisfy the demand
■ While efficient and effective suppliers should respond to needs and demand, the availability of a service also shapes demand, if not the underlying needs

2.12 In this review we have used the definitions of need in the Council's own Strategic Commissioning Framework and other public sector assessment models to ensure that our selection of indicators is specifically relevant to addressing the need for public services.

2.13 There are many public sector examples of needs led assessments influencing policy, funding and delivery of public services. Councils, government departments and the NHS are embracing the rigorous evidence led approach that places a full understanding of need before demand and supply, particularly in health care and public health.

2.14 East Sussex County Council believes that assessing individual and community needs is a crucial step in the commissioning process. If the Council's understanding of residents' needs is incomplete then the design and delivery of services is unlikely to fully meet their needs or achieve the required outcomes.

2.15 Therefore, in assessing the needs of individuals and communities in East Sussex, and how the Library and Information Service meets those needs, it is important not to focus on the demand (who is currently using the service) or the want (those who express a desire for a library) but on those specific needs that can be satisfied best through access to the Library and Information Service (the supply).

Measuring Needs

2.16 This needs assessment focusses on using the best possible measurement of need and therefore it has to ensure that the indicators and measures utilised are credible and relevant. In so far as there is a requirement to measure needs, the focus will be on quantitative measures, but at the same time recognising that qualitative factors also have to be understood, even if there is not a simple measure for them that can be used to compare individual or community needs.

2.17 For this review the main sources of data are:

- Trustworthy - from recognised sources – government or council bodies, data agencies, representative organisations

- Available - publicly available to all, either online or by request to agencies and organisations

- Longitudinal - established measures with the ability to describe and review trends over time

- Disaggregated – to assess variation in need between different geographical areas, at a sufficiently detailed local level

2.18 East Sussex County Council has a well-established and widely respected countywide database called East Sussex in Figures (ESIF)[6]. This online resource collates information and data from a wide range of sources, regularly updating and expanding the availability of information about the county and its communities. Data is collected under 12 key themes, such as access to services, economy, deprivation, health and transport. While not all themes and data sets are relevant to this review it provides a core information source from which to build this needs assessment.

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[6] http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/welcome.html

2.19   The ESIF search function and the ability to select data by area has also proved invaluable in cross checking the data collected and the indicators of need being assessed for inclusion.

2.20   The prime source of demographic information is the Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2011 Census[7] and subsequent population counts. With the significantly different levels of population density and composition between the rural and urban areas of the county this will be a key factor in assessing need in context. In particular, the Neighbourhood Statistics[8] section of the online ONS resource has been used to test the appropriateness of needs indicators that are considered for application in this review.

2.21   The Index of Multiple Deprivation[9] (IMD), which is a combined indicator of the relative level of deprivation at a Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level, is useful in giving a view of the pockets of relative deprivation in the county. However, it combines indicators across seven domains, which are weighted to produce the prime IMD and not all are directly relevant to assessing need for the Library and Information Service – for example the level of crime or living environment deprivation. The most recent IMD is from 2015 and it has been used in this review as a sense check on the relative levels of deprivation identified within individual domains.

2.22   Both the ONS 2011 census and the Council's own economic data in ESIF give a good indication of levels of unemployment, incomes and job availability, as well as a range of business growth, training and skills statistics. Other economic data are available, but care is needed to ensure that any business, skills or training needs identified are properly collected and analysed to ensure no selection bias influences the overall needs assessment.

2.23   There are also market segmentation tools and commercial data sets that seek to identify the social profile of an area or community, with for example Experian's Mosaic[10] often being used to understand consumer behaviour. It utilises a much wider set of quantitative and qualitative data (not just key population demographics) to understand the likes, attitudes and behaviours of the UK adult population. Each individual and household is assigned to one of 15 groups and 66 detailed types.

2.24   Where necessary, specialist data sets have been used – for example information on internet use and broadband availability, which is a fast moving market indicator and therefore it is important to ensure that the most recent trends in use and availability are utilised.

2.25   In the review and selection of needs indicators the links to the Council's Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process were considered and specifically the assessment of the needs of protected characteristics. The selected

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[7] http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census

[8] http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

[9] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015

[10] https://www.experian.co.uk

information and data sets included in this needs assessment cover all individuals and communities in the county and in addition, a full draft EqIA has been undertaken to ensure the potential impact of those with protected characteristics are considered in all aspects of the strategic commissioning process.

2.26　To aid the understanding of the differences in needs between areas of the county it was useful to make use of a range of spatial analysis tools, such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This enables the visualisation of different levels of need on detailed maps, helping to illustrate sometimes complex data relationships. It is then possible to populate single or multiple 'layers' with data, showing all of the different variables of a community, to assist decision makers in understanding the balance between different data sets. It is particularly useful in understanding the physical access to services, education, employment and health, with its accurate distance measuring tools more reliable than plotting contours on maps.

2.27　In the review of the indicators of need specific measures have been identified which can be demonstrated over a reasonable time period. This is important as it enables us to accommodate and consider trends and changes over time. In the review of the potential needs indicators it was important to look back (to the 2011 or 2001 census, or annual surveys, for example) to determine whether values are properly representative, relative to both the trend over time and in relation to each discrete area in the county.

2.28　The strength and value of the assessment of need will be determined by the selection of the appropriate indicators of needs. There are, of course, considerable challenges which have to be addressed in testing each indicator before adopting it for the full assessment of relative needs across the county and then how that need can be met by the Library and Information Service. The key challenges include:

- scale – ensuring the scale and measurement is appropriate for the causal links we are seeking to identify

- scope – ensuring the right focus, so for example not seeking to demonstrate the need for library services just through general indicators of deprivation

- accuracy – having measures from trusted sources, that are statistically significant and can withstand external scrutiny

- externalities - separating out external factors or influences that confuse the impact of the service on meeting specific types of need

3 The Needs Assessment

Introduction – Measuring Need

3.1   The assessment of needs to be met in the county, their relative values and their spatial distribution, have been developed and will now be used as a foundation for the strategic commissioning of library services in East Sussex. Key indicators, grouped under the four Commissioning Themes, have been selected as the most appropriate to estimate the relative need for the Library and Information Service in East Sussex by neighbourhood, community and area.

3.2   Over 100 individual needs indicators were considered in detail for inclusion in the Needs Assessment (and many more on the ESIF database were considered but deemed not relevant to this review). The rationale and process for the reduction from a long list to a short list of indicators was based on the overall objectives, key factors and criteria identified in section 2. Throughout it was important to ensure that indicators selected are either already or potentially linked to the Library and Information Service, and that there is sufficient variation across the county to allow appropriate levels of intervention to be set. While the selection has to be in part subjective, based on current information and experience of similar needs assessments, it is considered that the range of key indicators selected offer the best view of the needs that the Library and Information Service should aim to be meeting in East Sussex.

3.3   It is important to highlight that in most cases, the Library and Information Service is not the primary provider of services to meet identified needs. The role of the Library and Information Service is largely indirect in support of other more targeted service providers. This assessment has considered how the identified needs vary across the county, and whether there are specific groups of people whose needs are currently not met.

Assessment of Needs

3.4   This section considers the key needs indicators identified under each of the four Commissioning Themes. The indicators per Commissioning Theme are set out in the tables below and for each indicator a definition is provided, considering the scale and scope of the measure. Each indicator has been mapped to assess the relative balance of need across the county and each set of data is considered in detail in the tables. The spatial relationship with each library is considered in more detail in the Technical Appendix 5, Accessibility Analysis.

3.5   Table 1 below shows the distribution of the population by age across the county. This shows that there is slight variation in the spread of different age groups across the county but not significant variation. There is not a clear picture that urban or rural areas have younger or older populations compared to each other.

3.6   The over-arching indicator of need is the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The English Indices of Deprivation are based on 37 separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains of deprivation which are combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the IMD. This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for every Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA), or neighbourhood, in England. Every such neighbourhood is ranked according to its level of deprivation relative to that of other areas. It is important 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.

3.7   The IMD results for East Sussex provide an overview of the relative deprivation within the county and are shown in map 1 below. 19 out of 329 LSOAs are amongst the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in England, 6% of all LSOAs in the county. 16 of these are in Hastings, two are in Eastbourne and one in Rother. The LSOA covering Iden and Camber to the far east of Rother stands out on the map due to its geographical size however it ranks 49th in the county and therefore there are 48 smaller LSOAs in East Sussex which are more deprived.

Table 1: Population estimates, 2015

Age group	East Sussex	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden
All ages	544,064	102,465	91,497	100,693	92,908	156,501
% of population	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
0-15	93,096	17,541	17,047	17,454	14,096	26,958
% of population	17%	17%	19%	17%	15%	17%
16-29	77,556	16,403	15,440	13,732	11,503	20,478
% of population	14%	16%	17%	14%	12%	13%
30-44	87,033	18,069	16,601	16,252	12,053	24,058
% of population	16%	18%	18%	16%	13%	15%
45-64	150,747	25,614	24,979	28,308	26,340	45,506
% of population	28%	25%	27%	28%	28%	29%
65 and over	135,632	24,838	17,430	24,947	28,916	39,501
% of population	25%	24%	19%	25%	31%	25%
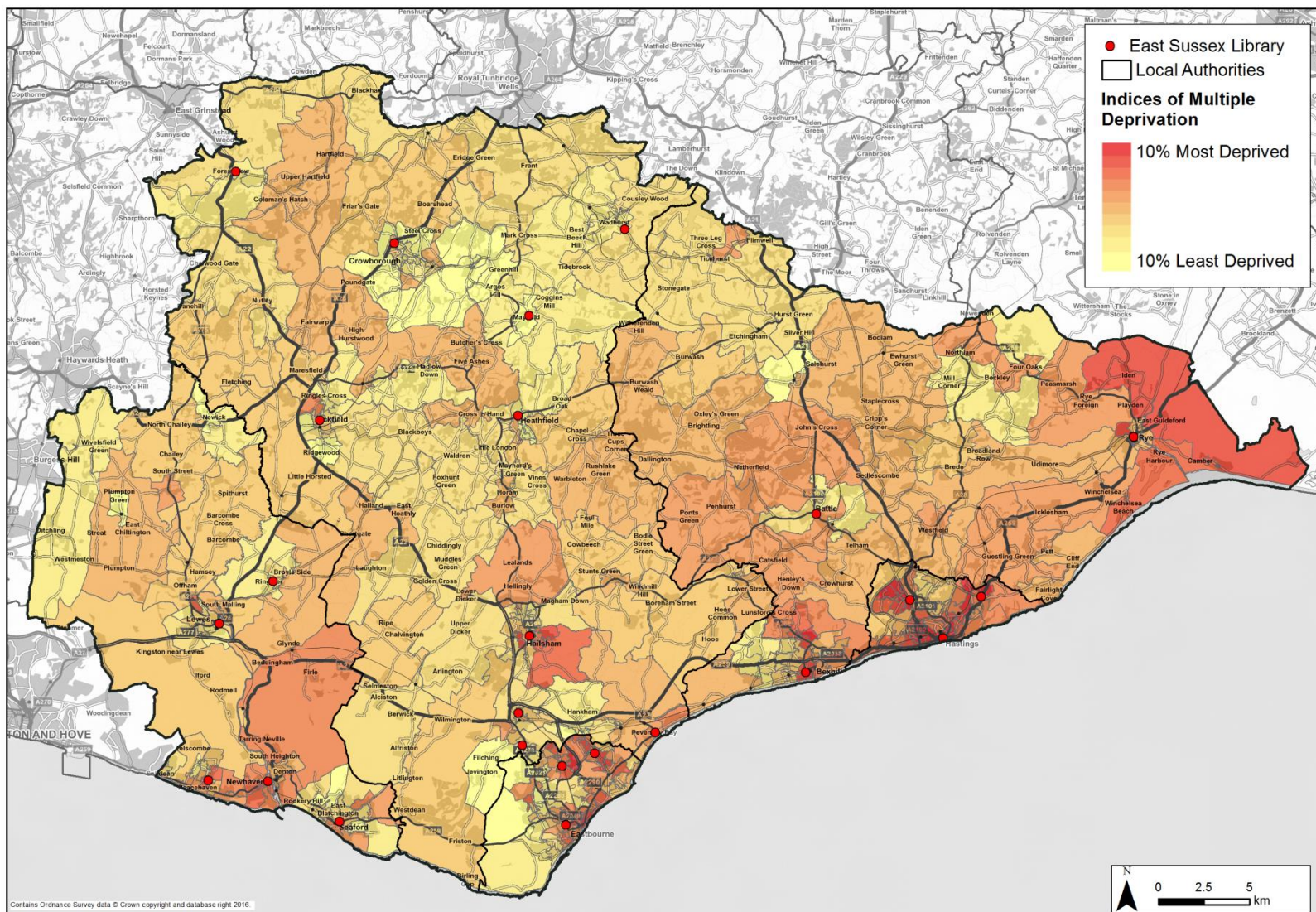
1. Deprivation – overall

Indicator
IMD 2015

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The IMD is based on 37 separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains of deprivation which are combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the IMD. This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area.

Format
Shows information by decile.

Legend:
- ● East Sussex Library
- ☐ Local Authorities

Indices of Multiple Deprivation
10% Most Deprived
10% Least Deprived

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.

Reading and Literacy

3.8 At the core of the Library and Information Service has been its traditional role in enabling and encouraging literacy for the whole population, and in doing so, supporting the education sector which has the prime responsibility for literacy. While other roles have developed, for much of the population the levels of literacy will be seen as a key indicator of need for an effective library service. If literacy is low, for any age group, then it is expected that maintaining or improving access to a library service will have a positive impact in enabling and delivering improved literacy rates. It is also the case that basic literacy skills are required in order to access and benefit from those other offers around information and skills.

3.9 For young people the assumption with this theme is that the Library and Information Service has the potential to support the literacy needs of every child, hence the requirement to base the analysis on all children living in East Sussex. However, some children are likely to have higher needs than others, such as those living in poverty, those with Special Educational Needs and those without English as a first language. Throughout this analysis the Library and information Service's impact on literacy is seen as complementary and in addition to the education sector, whether provided through school, colleges or universities.

3.10 The Library and Information Service can potentially help raise adult literacy levels in a similar way as the formal adult education sector. Therefore, where there are low adult literacy rates (often linked with other indicators of deprivation) it is expected that this will create a need that can be positively met through access to library services. The indicators selected are:

Needs to be addressed	Indicator	Fig.	Comments
Children and young people living in poverty are likely to have a need for support to improve their literacy	East Sussex Schools Census. School pupils entitled to free school meals	2	Overall numbers of pupils entitled to free school meals are low. Of those with such entitlement, the highest concentrations are in pockets of Hastings and there are also moderate numbers in parts of Newhaven and Battle, the Dickers area and east of Hailsham.
Children and young people with low educational attainment have greatest need for support to improve their literacy	Index of Deprivation 2015, Education, skills and training domain – Children and young people sub-domain	3a to 3c	Although there is a concentration in the main urban areas, high levels of education deprivation (the 10% most deprived) are also located in specific areas in mid-sized towns such as Hailsham and Newhaven and in communities in otherwise rural areas in all districts – for example to the east of Rye in Camber. Access to both main libraries in the towns and to smaller branch libraries serving some of the rural areas therefore may have a role to play in meeting this identified need.

	Children achieving Good Levels of Development (GLD) at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage	4	The data shows that across the county a high percentage of children are achieving GLD at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Age 5). In most areas between 70-100% of children are shown to be achieving GLD, with slightly lower levels in some rural areas.	
	Pupils under-achieving at Key Stage 2	5	For KS2 (Ages 7-11) there is a pattern of rural communities reporting less than 10% underachievement, with urban areas reporting between 30% and 50% underachievement.	
	Pupils under-achieving at Key Stage 4	6	Data for KS4 (Ages 14-16) represents pupils not getting 5 A-C grades including English and Maths. The map shows a more consistent pattern across the rural districts and urban boroughs. The range across the county is broadly between 20% and 60%. Hastings is identified as an area with the highest underachievement at 51.6% of pupils, compared to Wealden with the lowest underachievement at 33.9%. The impact of the Library and Information Service may be marginal, albeit possibly very localised and linked to the performance of particular secondary schools.	
	Key Stage 5 – Average Points per Entry for A Level results	7	Data for attainment at KS5 (Ages 16-18) shows little variation across the county, with most areas ranging between 150 and 250 points. There are some exceptions including areas that have attainment levels lower than 150 points, for example areas of Eastbourne and wards in Rother and Wealden. Conversely some areas have attainment above 250 points including wards in Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Eastbourne Points awarded at A-Level range from 150 (grade E) up to 300 (grade A*)	
Children without English as a first language are likely to have particular literacy challenges	East Sussex Schools Census. School pupils without English as a first language	8	The absolute number data demonstrate that there are in fact very few pupils in the county that do not have English as their first language and those that do are in communities in the main inner urban centres, and currently have access to the facilities of the larger main libraries in each town – Bexhill, Crowborough, Eastbourne and Hastings. As these are shown as percentages to demonstrate the variation across the county (and they are very low absolute numbers) the impact of this need in determining library service provision should be recognised, but not be overstated, and the variation	

			between areas should not be a determinant in resource allocation.
Adults with low literacy skills, including some adults whose first language is not English, need targeted support	Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels in literacy and numeracy	9a to 9e	On the plot for percentage of population at Level 1 Skill Level (equivalent to GCSE grades D-G) there is very little variation across the county, as the total range is between 25% and 35%. The rural east of Rother, parts of Wealden and some of the urban areas score higher than the rest of the county.

The percentage of population at Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C) or above shows more variation across the county, with rural Wealden, Lewes and Rother having higher percentages than parts of the larger urban areas.

The highest prevalence of adults at lower Entry Levels (EL1 to EL3) are located mainly in the coastal towns of Newhaven, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings, as well as Hailsham and the far east of the county in Rye and surrounding areas.

Entry Level 1 is the national school curriculum equivalent for attainment at age 5-7, Entry level 2 is the equivalent for attainment at age 7-9 and Entry level 3 is the equivalent for attainment at age 9-11. |
| | Index of Deprivation 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Adult skills sub-domain | 10a to 10 c | This measure, a proxy for adult literacy, is consistently focussed on delineating an urban/rural split, with high levels of adult skills deprivation reported in the largest urban areas and very low levels elsewhere in the rural parts of Lewes, Rother and Wealden. |
| Children and adults with disabilities may face additional barriers to accessing reading and literacy and may require targeted support | Residents with a limiting long-term illness or disability | 15 | The highest prevalence is shown in Rother (23%) and lowest in Wealden (18%).

Levels of long term illness and disability are higher in East Sussex than elsewhere in the South East, but this data set includes illnesses and disabilities that are related to old age which may account for this. |

Economic Development

3.11 This theme supports the delivery of the East Sussex Growth Strategy by helping to tackle unemployment and exclusion. The focus here is primarily on disadvantaged groups – particularly on adults with a skills deficit. In addition the library has a role to play to support young people by providing access to resources and study space to support higher educational attainment and skills development.

3.12 In this theme it is suggested that the library service, through its function as a provider of information and training, potentially has a direct impact on adults of working age, and an additional impact on adults with poor literacy, numeracy and IT skills, on those claiming out of work benefits, and those who live in areas with high deprivation.

3.13 The target group for libraries is therefore more likely to be those seeking work but struggling to find it because of, for instance, poor literacy and numeracy skills, poor CV writing and interview techniques and because they lack information about availability of suitable jobs.

3.14 Under this theme, the Library and Information Service can also support the cultural offer of the county, in line with the East Sussex Cultural Strategy 2013-2023, including support to the creative and digital sector, which is one of the five priority growth sectors identified by Skills East Sussex, the Employment and Skills Partnership Board.

3.15 Libraries offer informal workspace and Wi-Fi which can be used for a number of purposes, including business start-ups including the creative and digital sector. There is a potential existing and future role of the Library and Information Service to support new businesses, however there are not strong indicators of this need. Potential need for this provision may be reflected, for example, by business registration and survival rates across the county. The role of the library service to directly support business start-ups through the provision of reference materials has reduced over time as most information is now available online, rather than in paper format. However, the Library and Information Service provides online access to these resources for those who do not have internet access. The indicators selected are:

Needs to be addressed	Indicator	Fig.	Comments
Adults with low qualifications or low levels of skills may need support to learn new skills that will help them in job seeking and access to information	Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels in ICT and numeracy	9a to 9e	Entry Level 1 is the national school curriculum equivalent for attainment at age 5-7, Entry level 2 is the equivalent for attainment at age 7-9 and Entry level 3 is the equivalent for attainment at age 9-11. The highest prevalence of adults at these low Entry Levels (EL1 to EL3) are located mainly in the coastal towns of Newhaven, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings, as well as Hailsham and the far east of the county in Rye and surrounding areas. On the plot for percentage of population at Level 1 Skill Level (equivalent to GCSE grades D-G) there is very little variation across the county, as the total range is between 25% and 35%. The rural east of Rother, parts of Wealden and some of the urban areas score higher than the rest of the county. The percentage of population at L2 (equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C) or above Skill Level shows more variation across the county, with rural Wealden, Lewes and Rother having higher percentages than parts of the larger urban areas.
	ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – adult skills (proxy for adult literacy)	10a to 10c	This measure, a proxy for adult literacy, is consistently focussed on delineating an urban/rural split, with high levels of adult skills deprivation reported in the largest urban areas and very low levels elsewhere in the rural parts of Lewes, Rother and Wealden.
Those people who are not working , including those who are unemployed sick or disabled, or have caring responsibilities, may need support applying for out of work benefits or gaining new skills	ID 2015, Employment domains	11a to 11c	The ID measure for the most deprived areas for income and employment includes both urban and rural areas. Some largely rural LSOAs – for example around Rye (including Camber) and Newhaven (including the eastern and northern edge of town estates) - are scoring similar levels as their nearby town centres as they are mixed rural and urban communities. The north of the county is generally less deprived, both in towns and in rural areas. The highest income and employment deprivation is found in the large seaside towns.

Needs to be addressed	Indicator	Fig.	Comments
Entrepreneurs and business start-ups may need access to information and informal work space to develop their business	New business registration rate, by district	12	In East Sussex the absolute numbers of new business registrations are highest in Wealden, Lewes and Rother. Hastings has the lowest level of new company start-ups at just over one third of those seen in Wealden in 2013, but over the whole county variation is not particularly wide.
	New business survival rate, by district	13	One year survival rates can demonstrate not just the innate entrepreneurial skills of those setting up businesses but also the availability or otherwise of business support and information. Again this indicator is based on district level data, and the range is only between 93% and 97%. The data shows that Rother businesses survive better than Wealden businesses.

Health and Wellbeing

3.16   Libraries have a direct role to play in supporting community and individual resilience, health improvement and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities through the provision of safe and inclusive spaces, quality assured self-help information and resource materials tailored for residents of all ages. Libraries also play an important role in boosting health literacy in that a person's skills, knowledge and understanding about how to find and use information can enable them act to support and improve their own health and wellbeing.

3.17   Nine libraries in East Sussex also offer specific self-help schemes such as Books on Prescription, Shelf Health and Reminiscence Boxes, as well as signposting to more targeted health and wellbeing services provided by the Council through Adult Social Care and Health and Children's Services departments, and those provided by external partners including the NHS and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations.

3.18   Libraries can help to build on the resources and strengths in individuals and communities, supporting and encouraging people to develop new skills and confidence and encouraging people to take greater ownership of their own health and wellbeing, to be more resilient, increasingly independent, self-sufficient and resourceful, and thus better able to help themselves.

3.19   This theme covers both the role of the Library and Information Service in supporting people who are in poor health (either physically or mentally), as well as those at risk of health inequalities or becoming unwell. In addition to the services provided in static libraries, the Library and Information Service also provides support for vulnerable people by providing books and other resources through the Home Library Service for those who are homebound due to frailty, or disability.

3.20 This theme also recognises the wider impact that libraries can have on supporting the general wellbeing of communities by providing fiction and non-fiction materials for reading for pleasure and access to cultural experiences. The indicators selected are:

Needs to be addressed	Indicator	Fig.	Comments
Those in poor mental or physical health or at risk of developing health problems may need signposting and targeted support	Index of Deprivation 2015, Index of Multiple Deprivation – Health Deprivation and Disability domain	14a to 14c	The highest health deprivation outcomes and disability measures are concentrated in the coastal towns, either in central residential areas or large estates on the edge that often have other income, employment and social exclusion issues. There are some pockets of health deprivation in each of the three more rural districts, but usually associated with the mid-sized towns.
Those with a long-term health problem or disability may need support to access library services and signposting to other services.	Residents with a limiting long-term illness (one that limits day to day activities and has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months)	15	One area with a relatively high percentage of residents with long term illness is east Bexhill, with between 36% and 40% identified - other high levels are found in Eastbourne, Hastings/St. Leonards and Newhaven. The lowest percentages are found in the rural north of the county and parts of the South Downs, maybe in part reflecting the need of people with illness or disability to select more accessible communities to settle in.
	GP reported prevalence of smoking, percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.	16	The prevalence of smoking is recognised to be a strong indicator of future health needs. The highest prevalence of smoking for people over 15 years old is in central and suburban Hastings and east Hailsham, with most rural areas having very low or lower than average smoking levels. In public health terms smokers hoping to give up may seek information at libraries, as well as surgeries and hospitals, but it is also an indicator of potential limiting health concerns later in life.
Different areas in the county experience different levels of life expectancy based largely on health inequality and therefore there is a greater role for libraries to support people in those communities	Life Expectancy	17	There is no clear pattern in life expectancy across the county, other than notably east Bexhill and St Leonards having the lowest life expectancy of under 78yrs, compared to some rural areas of the county having a life expectancy of over 86yrs.

Digital Exclusion

3.21   Increasingly, residents require access to the internet to access government services and information, as well as to carry out transactions as part of their everyday life, such as banking. However it is recognised that not all households in East Sussex have access to the internet due to a number of factors including, affordability and lack of basic digital skills.

3.22   This theme is mainly about improving access to information online and supporting those who are digitally excluded to carry out online transactions through fixed and mobile broadband technology. The benefits of being able to access and use the internet include the ability to access information about skills and employment opportunities, and access to health and wellbeing information, as described earlier in the Needs Assessment.

3.23   There are also financial benefits arising from the ability to 'shop around' for cheaper utility packages such as gas, electricity and telephone, as well as other services like car insurance online. There is an opportunity, therefore to address income and other areas of inequality. For example, in its final report[11] into the investigation of energy markets the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) noted in 2016 that those who have low incomes, have low qualifications, are living in rented accommodation or who are above 65 are less likely to shop around for better energy deals. 35% of those whose household incomes were above £36,000 had switched supplier in the previous three years, compared with 20% of those whose household incomes were below £18,000. Similarly, 32% of those with degree level qualifications had switched in the previous three years compared with 18% of those with no qualifications. The CMA also concluded that those households who are in rented accommodation, have incomes below £18,000 or are in receipt of a Warm Home Discount rebate were likely to be the households who would gain most from switching energy supplier.

3.24   There will be residents who cannot access the internet at home because they choose not to, cannot afford to or for some other reason such as being in temporary accommodation. There will also be those who can benefit from training, support and advice in libraries on how to get the most from their computers and other devices. The assumption here is that libraries can provide support for those without facilities of their own, or with a skills deficit; the focus is therefore likely to be on disadvantaged groups and the elderly.

3.25   In addition, there may be residents that are digitally excluded due to lack of infrastructure, although to a much lesser extent. The Government's subsidised better broadband scheme, launched in December 2015, has ensured residents and businesses have access to at least 2mbps. Furthermore, government proposals for a broadband Universal Service Obligation will mean that, potentially, by 2020 households will have the right to request speeds of up to 10mbps. This, together with continuing private sector investment in both

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[11] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5773de34e5274a0da3000113/final-report-energy-market-investigation.pdf

fixed and mobile broadband, suggests that digital exclusion due to lack of infrastructure will continue to decrease in the coming years.

3.26 The majority of digital transactions do not need high speeds and can be carried out via "first generation" broadband, however the Council's 'eSussex' project is currently funding the rollout of superfast broadband to improve connectivity to those who choose to use it in areas where it would not otherwise be commercially provided. The indicators selected are:

Needs to be addressed	Indicator	Fig.	Comments
Those with no or low qualification and skills are likely to need training to gain basic IT skills (using the internet, emailing, word processing, spreadsheet use) and support accessing information online	Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels in ICT	9a to 9e	There is a link between low levels of education and low digital skills. The data shows that adults with the lowest skills levels (Entry Levels 1-3) are located mainly in the coastal towns of Newhaven, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings, as well as Hailsham and the far east of the county in Rye and surrounding areas. Entry Level 1 is the national school curriculum equivalent for attainment at age 5-7, Entry level 2 is the equivalent for attainment at age 7-9 and Entry level 3 is the equivalent for attainment at age 9-11.
	ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – adult skills (proxy for adult IT skills)	10a to 10c	This measure, a proxy for adult IT skills, is consistently focussed on delineating an urban/rural split, with high levels of adult skills deprivation reported in the largest urban areas and very low levels of deprivation elsewhere in rural parts of Lewes, Rother and Wealden.
People who do not have access to the internet due to affordability are likely to need access to online services	Digital exclusion heat map	18	As this data set is district and borough based it shows very little variation across the county, and masks areas of deprivation where digital exclusion due to affordability is likely, for example in areas of Hastings.
	ID 2015, Employment domains	11a to 11c	Despite technology and broadband becoming more affordable, cost is still a barrier for some residents on low incomes who remain digitally excluded. In a recent residents survey, only 62% of those on low or no income were online, compared to 99% of the highest earners (East Sussex Residents' Survey: 2017) The ID measure for the most deprived areas for employment includes both urban and rural areas. However, some largely rural LSOAs – for example around Rye (including Camber) and Newhaven

			(including the eastern and northern edge of town estates) - are scoring similar levels as their nearby town centres as they are mixed rural and urban communities. The north of the county is generally less deprived, both in towns and in rural areas. The highest income and employment deprivation is found in the large seaside towns.
	Households in fuel poverty, 2008-2014 - super output areas	19	This dataset shows that the areas of the county with highest levels of fuel poverty are in areas of central Hastings and Eastbourne as well as some rural areas of Lewes and Wealden The dataset uses the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) indicator. Under this definition a household is considered to be fuel poor where: - They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) - Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.
Those aged over 65 years may lack basic IT skills	Population estimates by age (65 and Over)	20	The likelihood of digital exclusion increases significantly among those aged 65 and over. The map illustrates the percentage population numbers aged 65 and over. The highest concentrations of adults aged 65 and over are in the main urban areas and some mid-sized towns.
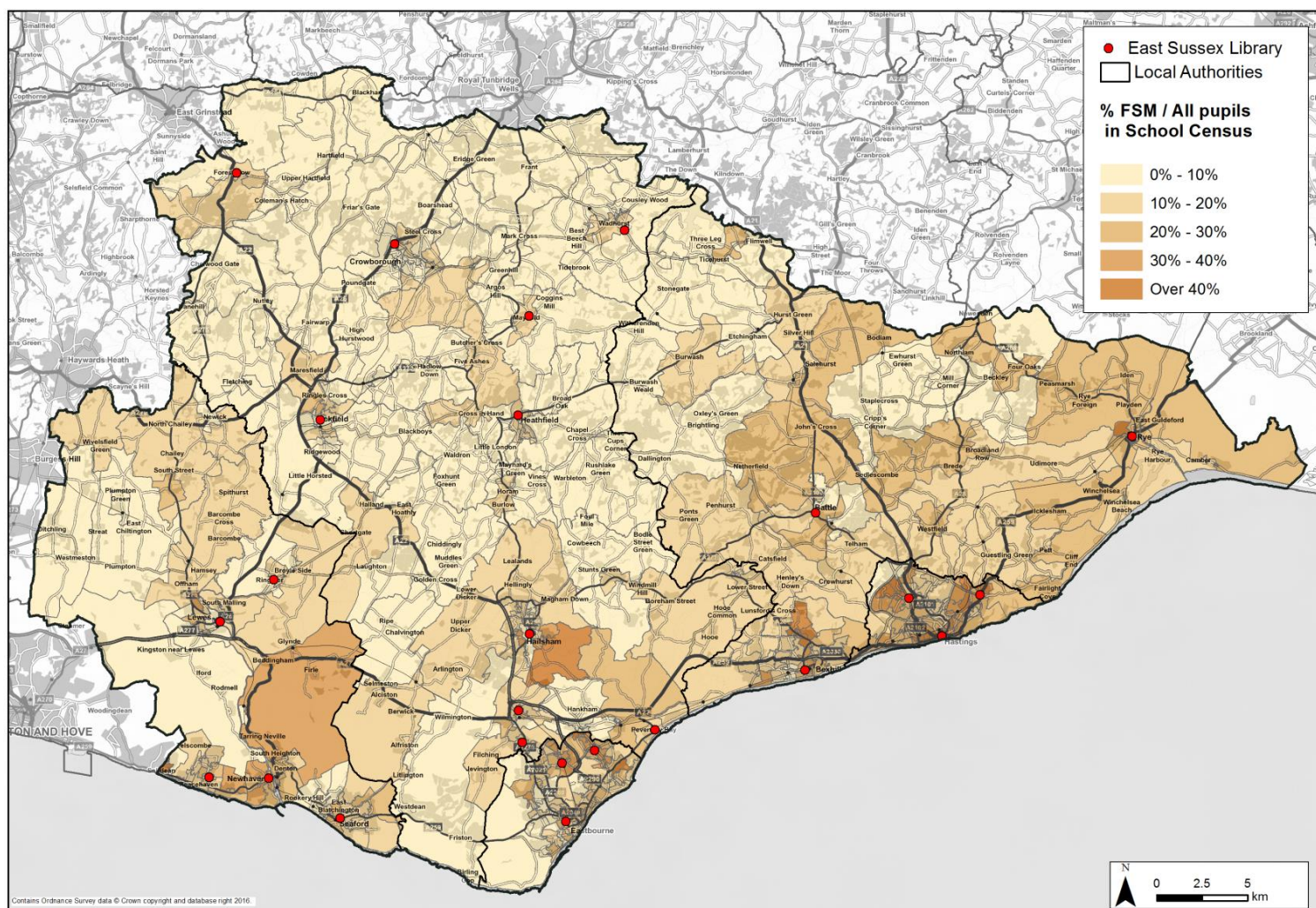
2. Deprivation - Children and Young People

Indicator
East Sussex Schools Census. School pupils entitled to free school meals – by super output areas.
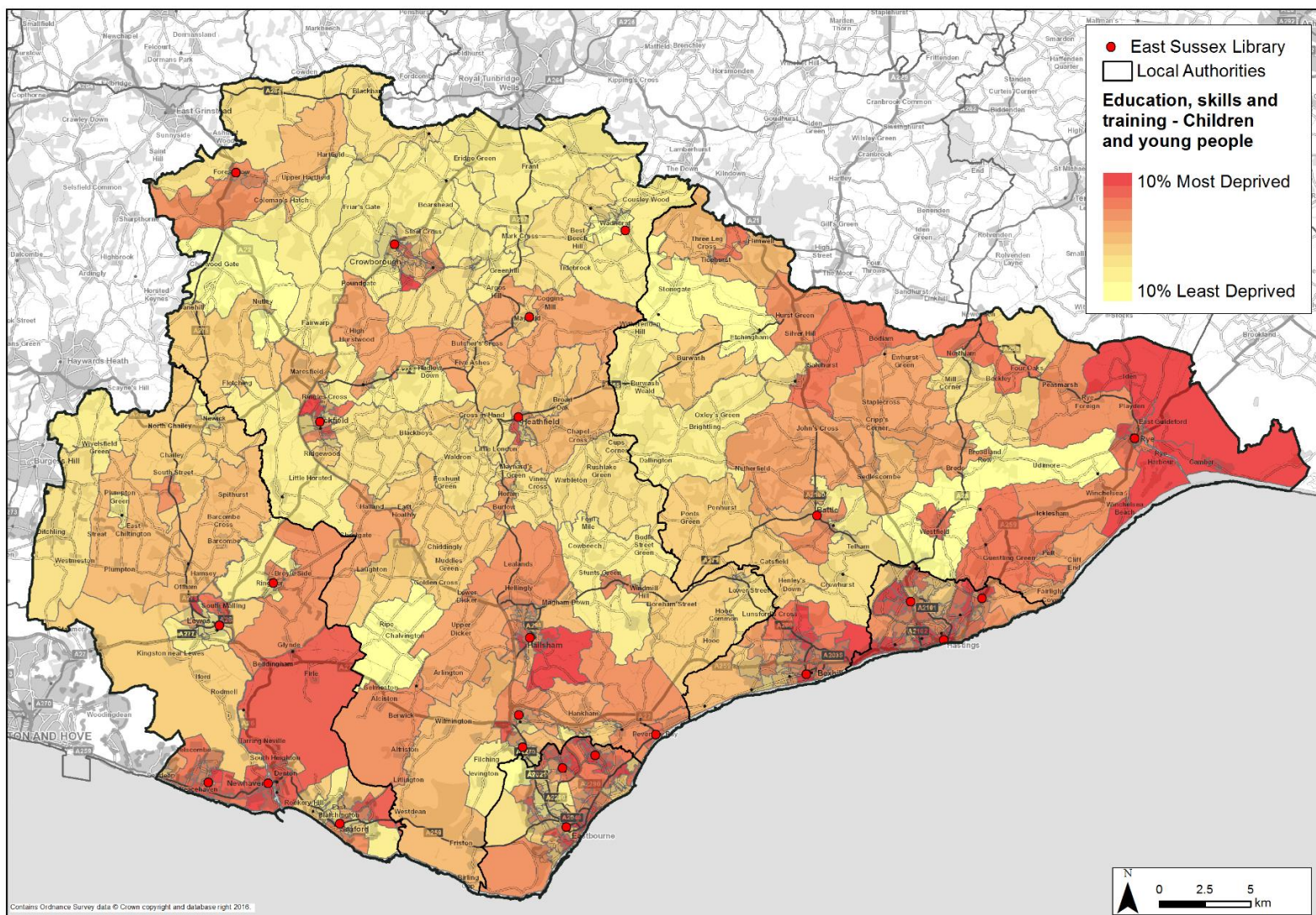
Data source
2016

Description/Definition
This dataset provides details about the number of pupils who attend schools maintained by East Sussex county Council. Data for children attending academies in the county are included in geographical datasets (district, ward, SOA) and with the exception of Ringmer Community College, included for all school level data. The information is presented according to where pupils live. Pupils may not live in the same area as where they go to school and some pupils attending East Sussex schools live outside the county

Format
Shows pupils entitled to free school meals who are resident in each super output area as a percentage of all school pupils in East Sussex.

Legend:
% FSM / All pupils in School Census
- 0% - 10%
- 10% - 20%
- 20% - 30%
- 30% - 40%
- Over 40%

● East Sussex Library
☐ Local Authorities

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3a. Deprivation - Children and Young People

Indicator
ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Children and young people sub-domain.

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The 'Children and young people' sub-domain is made up of five indicators relating to education attainment (at Key Stages 2 and 4), secondary school absence and the proportions not staying in education (above the age 16) and those not entering higher education

Format
Shows information by decile – most deprived areas score 1, least deprived score 10 based on national ranking out of 32,844 observations.

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Education, skills and training - Children and young people
- 10% Most Deprived
- 10% Least Deprived

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3b. Deprivation - Children and Young People

Indicator
ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Children and young people sub-domain.
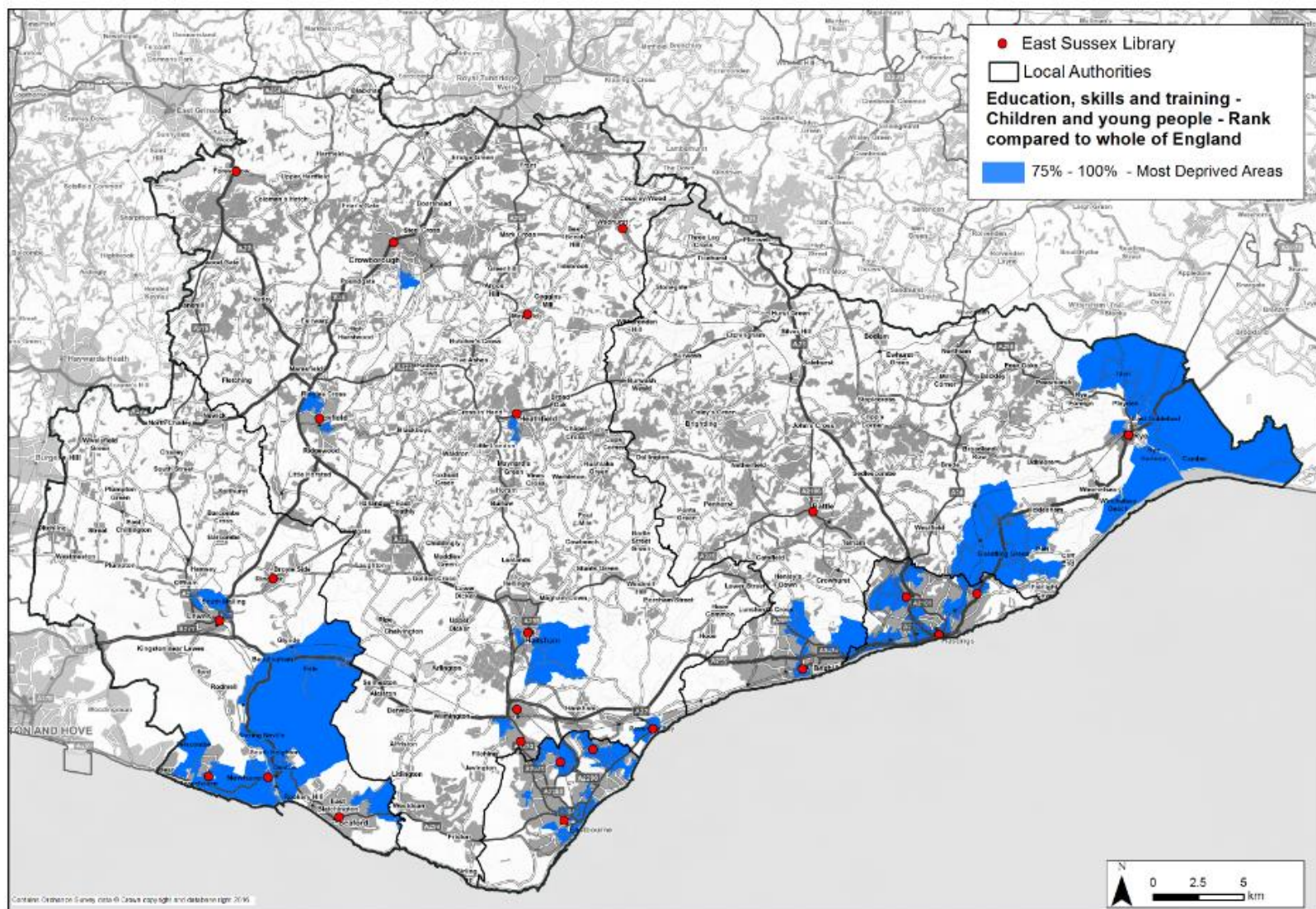
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The 'Children and young people' sub-domain is made up of five indicators relating to education attainment (at Key Stages 2 and 4), secondary school absence and the proportions not staying in education (above the age 16) and those not entering higher education

Format
Shows information for the most deprived quartile, compared to the whole of England.

3c. Deprivation - Children and Young People

Indicator
ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Children and young people sub-domain.
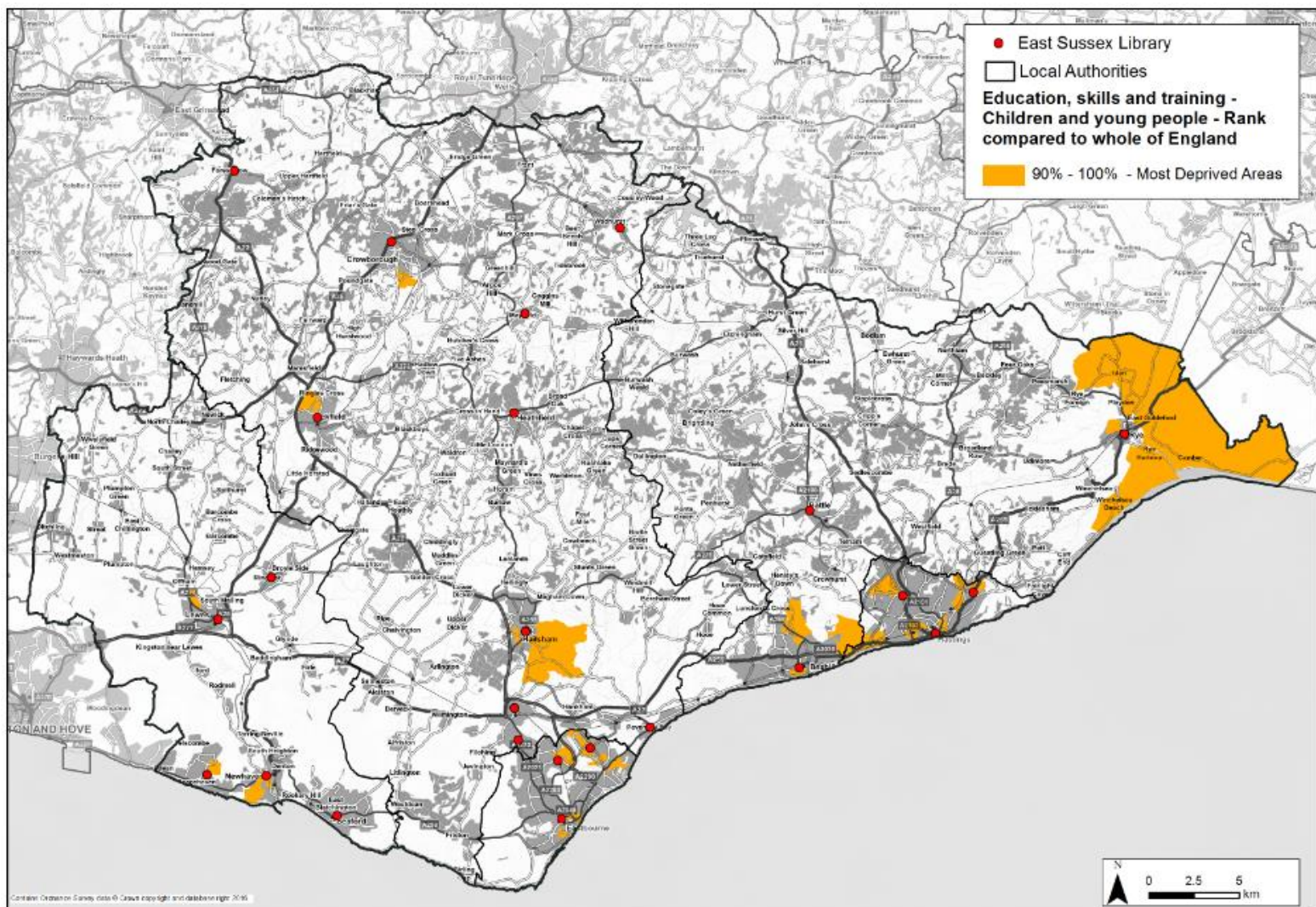
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The 'Children and young people' sub-domain is made up of five indicators relating to education attainment (at Key Stages 2 and 4), secondary school absence and the proportions not staying in education (above the age 16) and those not entering higher education

Format
Shows information for the most deprived decile, compared to the whole of England.
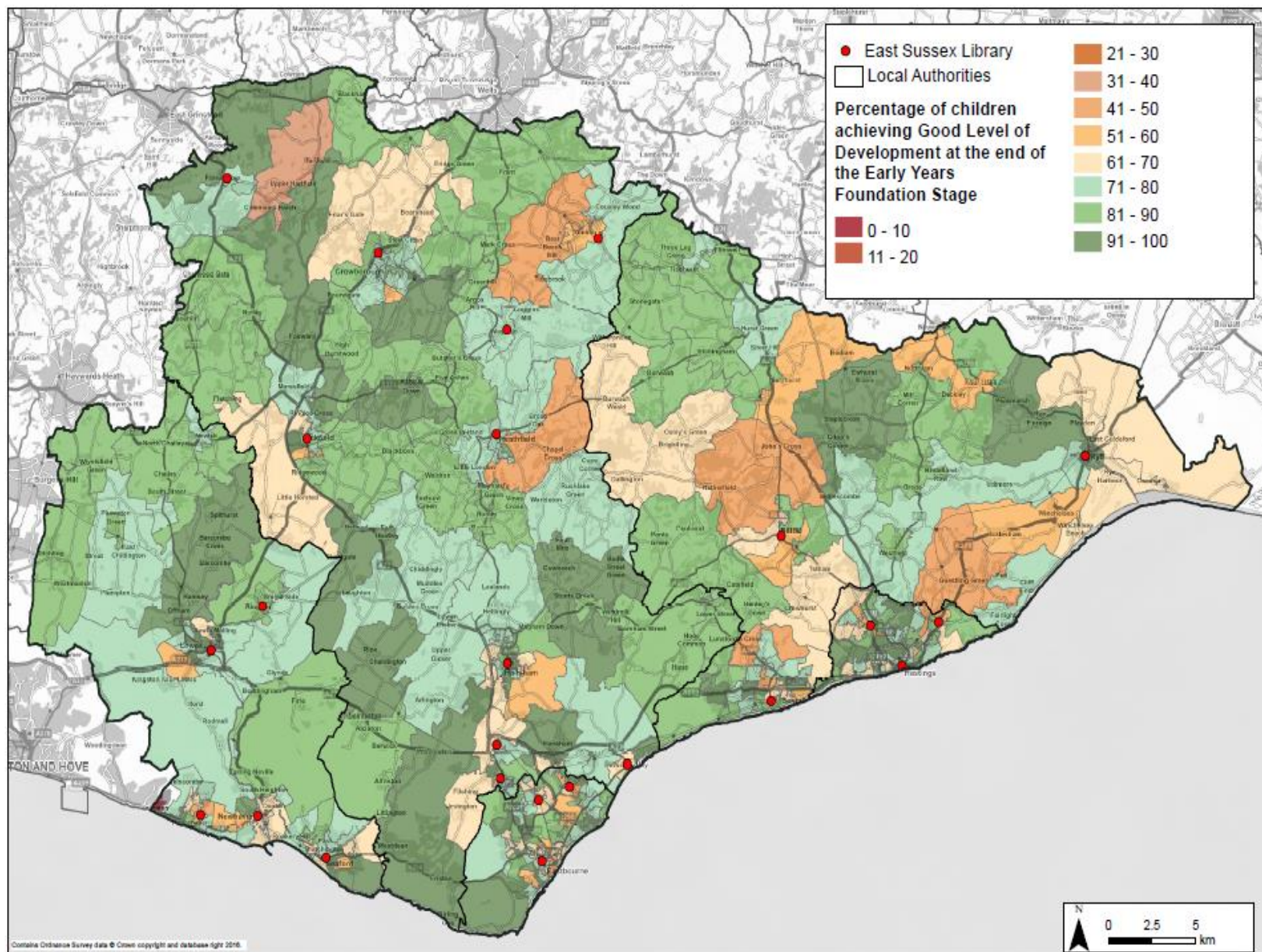
4. Good Level of Development

Indicator
Early Years Foundation Stage – achievement of Good Level of Development

Data Source
2015

Description/Definition

Early Years Foundation Stage – Ages 0-5
This dataset provides details of the percentage of children achieving Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Age 5).

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Percentage of children achieving Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- 0 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 30
- 31 - 40
- 41 - 50
- 51 - 60
- 61 - 70
- 71 - 80
- 81 - 90
- 91 - 100

Legend:

- East Sussex Library (red dot)
- Local Authorities

Percentage of Pupils achieving Level 4 and above in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 2

- 0 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 30
- 31 - 40
- 41 - 50
- 51 - 60
- 61 - 70
- 71 - 80
- 81 - 90
- 91 - 100

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N

0   2.5   5
km

5. Education, Learning and Skills – Key stage 2

Indicator
Pupils under-achieving at Key Stage 2 – by super output area

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The National Curriculum covers learning for all children aged 5-16 in state schools and it is divided into four Key Stages that children are taken through during their school life. Targets defined in the National Curriculum are assessed at the end of each Key Stage.
Key Stage 2 - Ages 7-11 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

At the age of 11, when children leave primary school, they are expected to have achieved at least a Level 4 in English, maths and science

6. Education, Learning and Skills – Key stage 4

Indicator
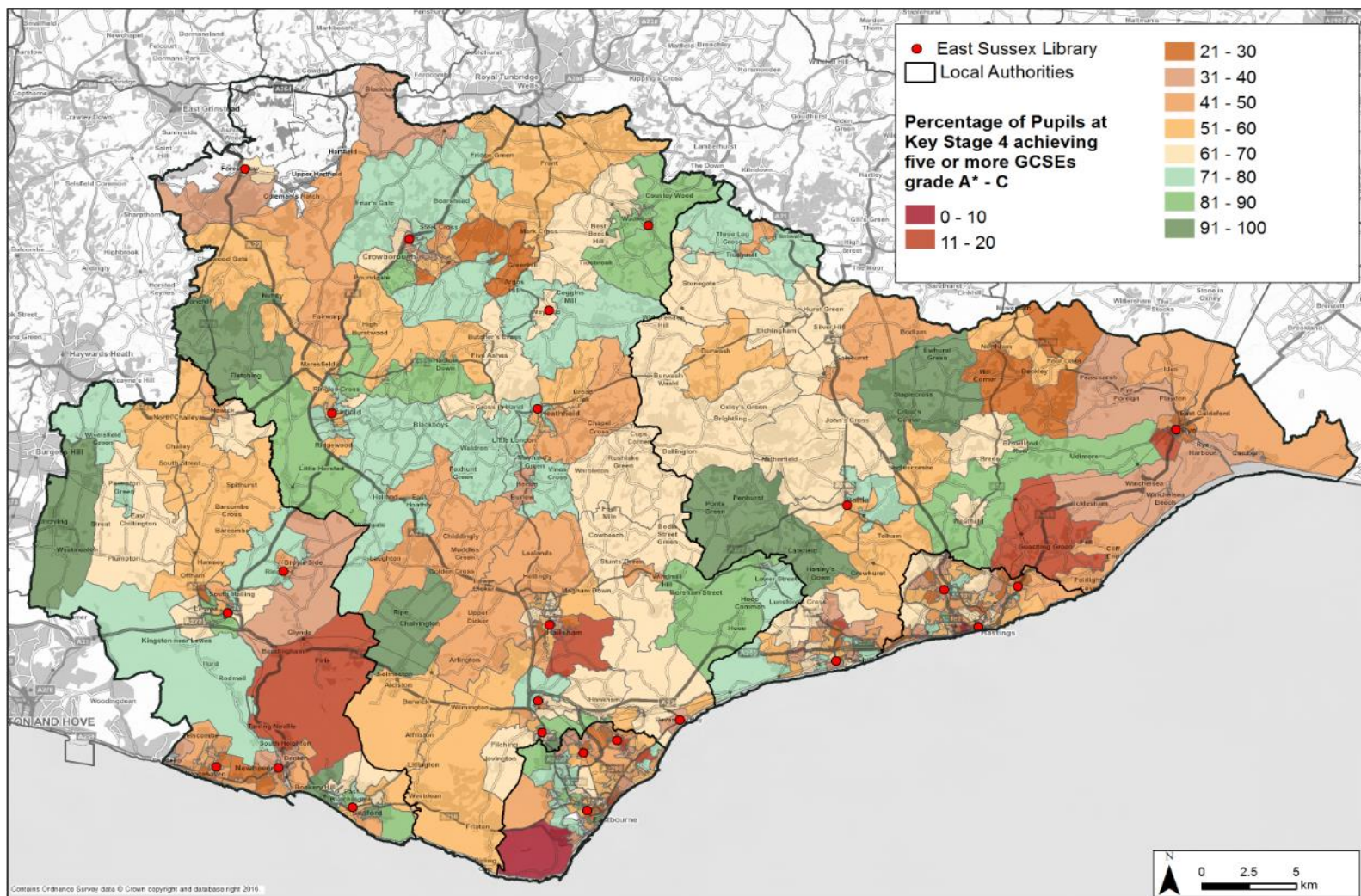Pupils under-achieving at Key Stage 4 – by super output area.

Data source
2015

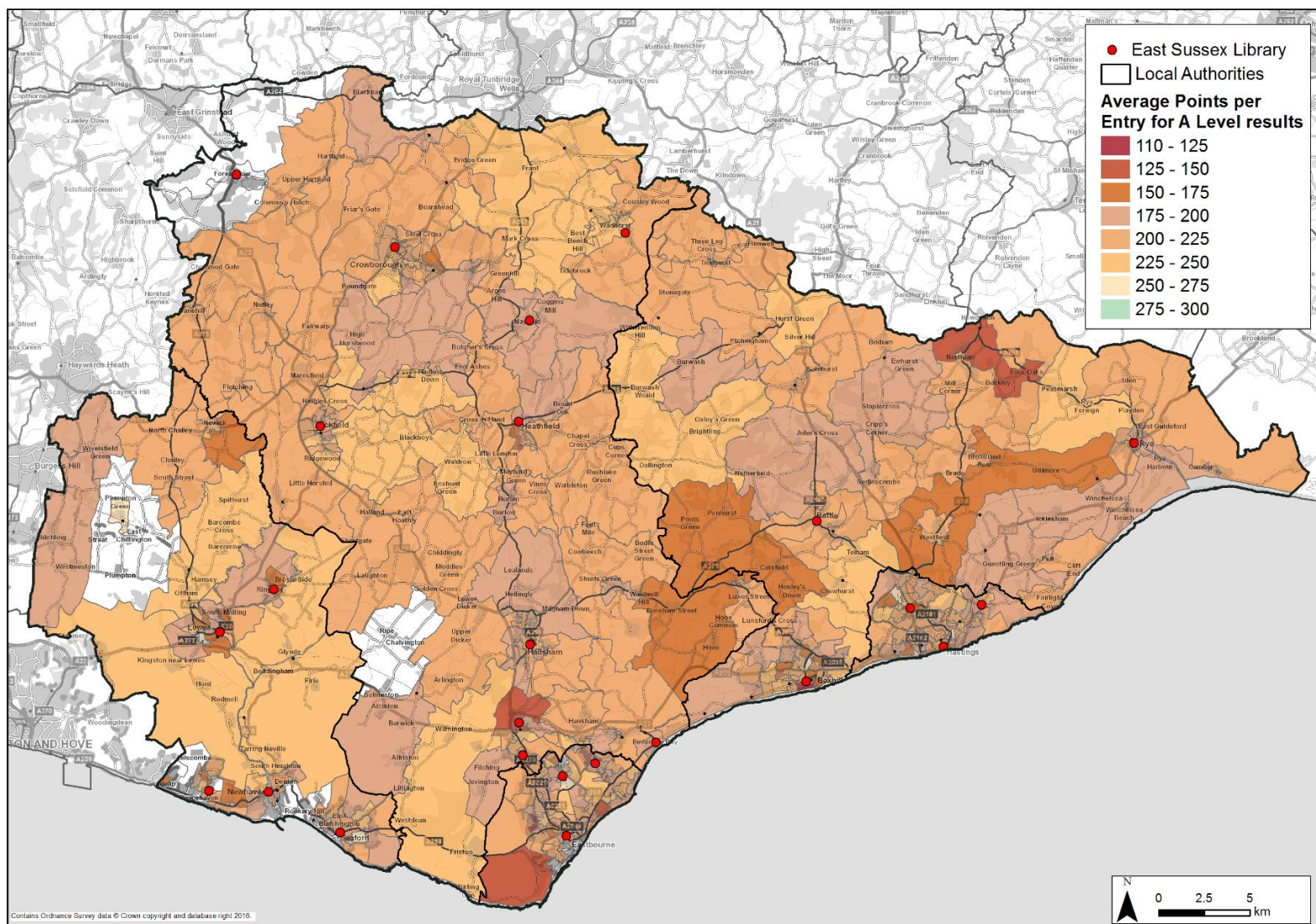**Description/Definition**
The National Curriculum covers learning for all children aged 5-16 in state schools and it is divided into four Key Stages that children are taken through during their school life. Targets defined in the National Curriculum are assessed at the end of each Key Stage.

Key Stage 4 - Ages 14-16 (Years 10 and 11)
This dataset shows the achievement of pupils at GCSE

7. Education, Learning and Skills – Key stage 5

Indicator
Key Stage 5 – Average Points per Entry for A Level results

Data source
2015

Description/Definition

Key Stage 5 – Ages 16-18
This dataset provides details of the average points per student at A-Level, using the Qualification and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) point scoring system.

The average point score per student provides a measure of the average number of A level equivalent studied and the grades achieved. The more qualifications undertaken by a student and the higher the grades achieved, the higher the average point score per student. However, the average point score per examination gives an indication of the average A level grade achieved by students at an institution.

270 points is the equivalent to A-Level grade A and 150 points is the equivalent to A-Level grade E.

(Source: www.education.gov.uk)
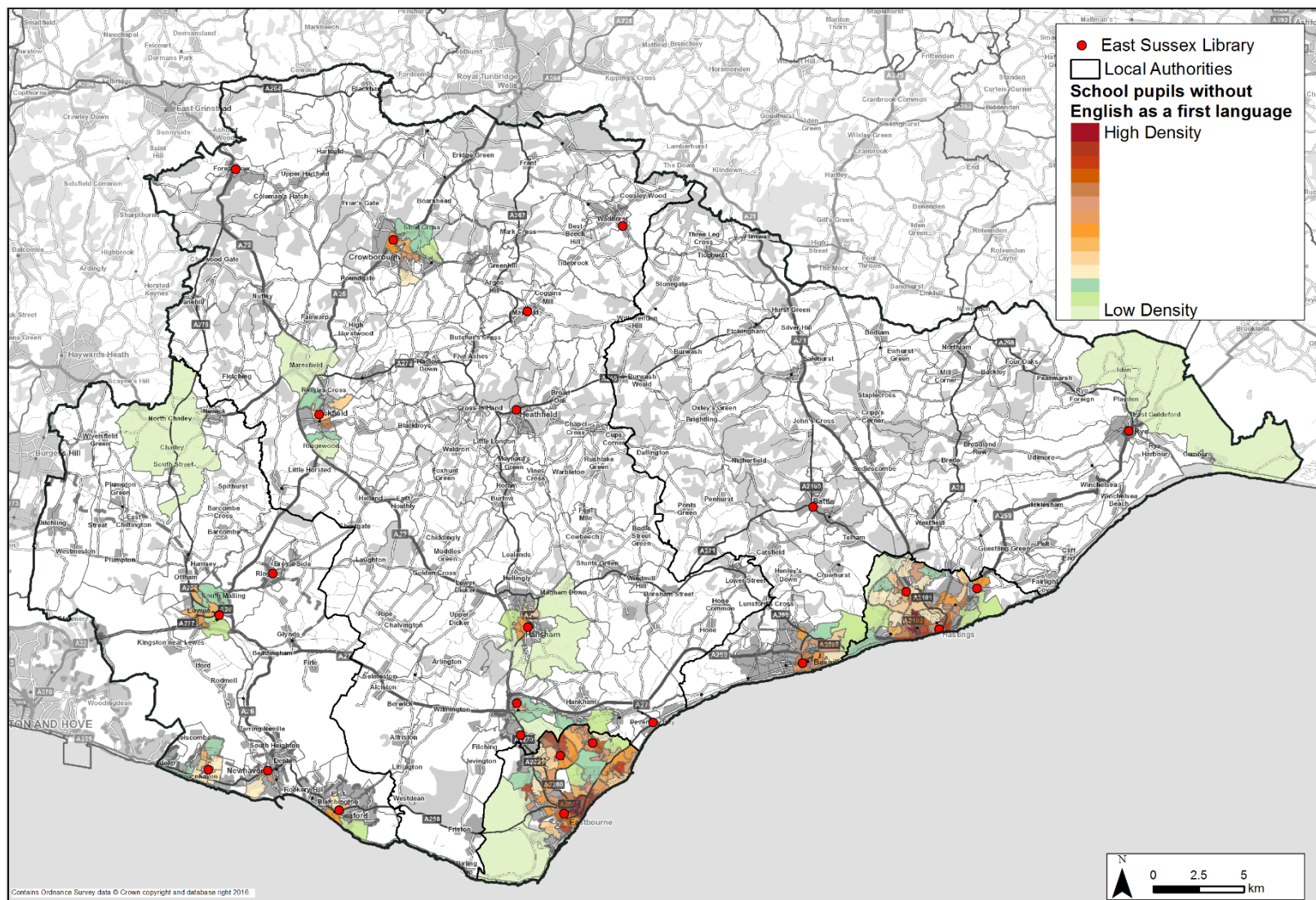
8. Education, Learning and Skills – English First Language

Indicator
East Sussex Schools Census. School pupils without English as a first language in 2013/14 – by super output areas.

Data source
2013-2014

Description/Definition
This dataset provides details about the number of pupils who attend schools maintained by East Sussex County Council. Data for children attending academies in the county are included in geographical datasets (district, ward, SOA) and with the exception of Ringmer Community College, included for all school level data. The information is presented according to where pupils live. Pupils may not live in the same area as where they go to school and some pupils attending East Sussex schools live outside the county

Format
Data available by numbers of children. Around 5% of children living in East Sussex do not have English as a first language – it is as high as 10% in Eastbourne but falls to 3% in Wealden
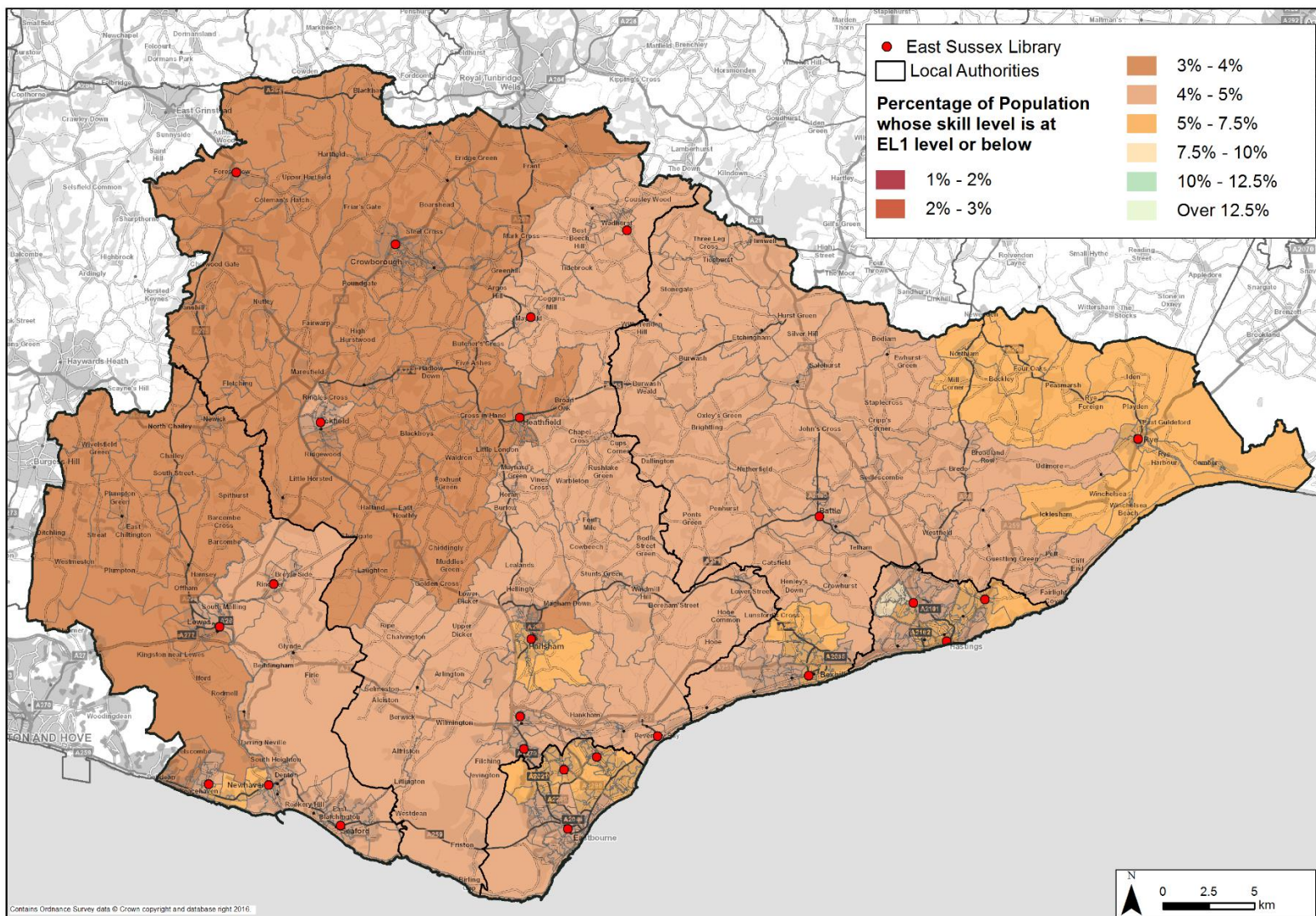
9a. Skill Level – Entry Level 1

Indicator
Adult literacy and numeracy levels

Data source
Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels, 2011

Description/Definition
Indicator estimates the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) living in households with defined skill levels in literacy and numeracy. Small area estimation modelling methods have been applied to the 2011 Skills for Life survey data in order to generate local level area estimates. Entry Level 1 is the national school curriculum equivalent for attainment at age 5-7. Adults below Entry Level 1 may not be able to write short messages to family or select floor numbers in lifts. Adults with ICT Entry Level 1 skills are able to get information from an ICT-based source and follow recommended safe practices.

Format
Shows estimates of literacy and numeracy levels by ward.

Map legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Percentage of Population whose skill level is at EL1 level or below
- 1% - 2%
- 2% - 3%
- 3% - 4%
- 4% - 5%
- 5% - 7.5%
- 7.5% - 10%
- 10% - 12.5%
- Over 12.5%

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9b. Skill Level – Entry Level 2

Indicator
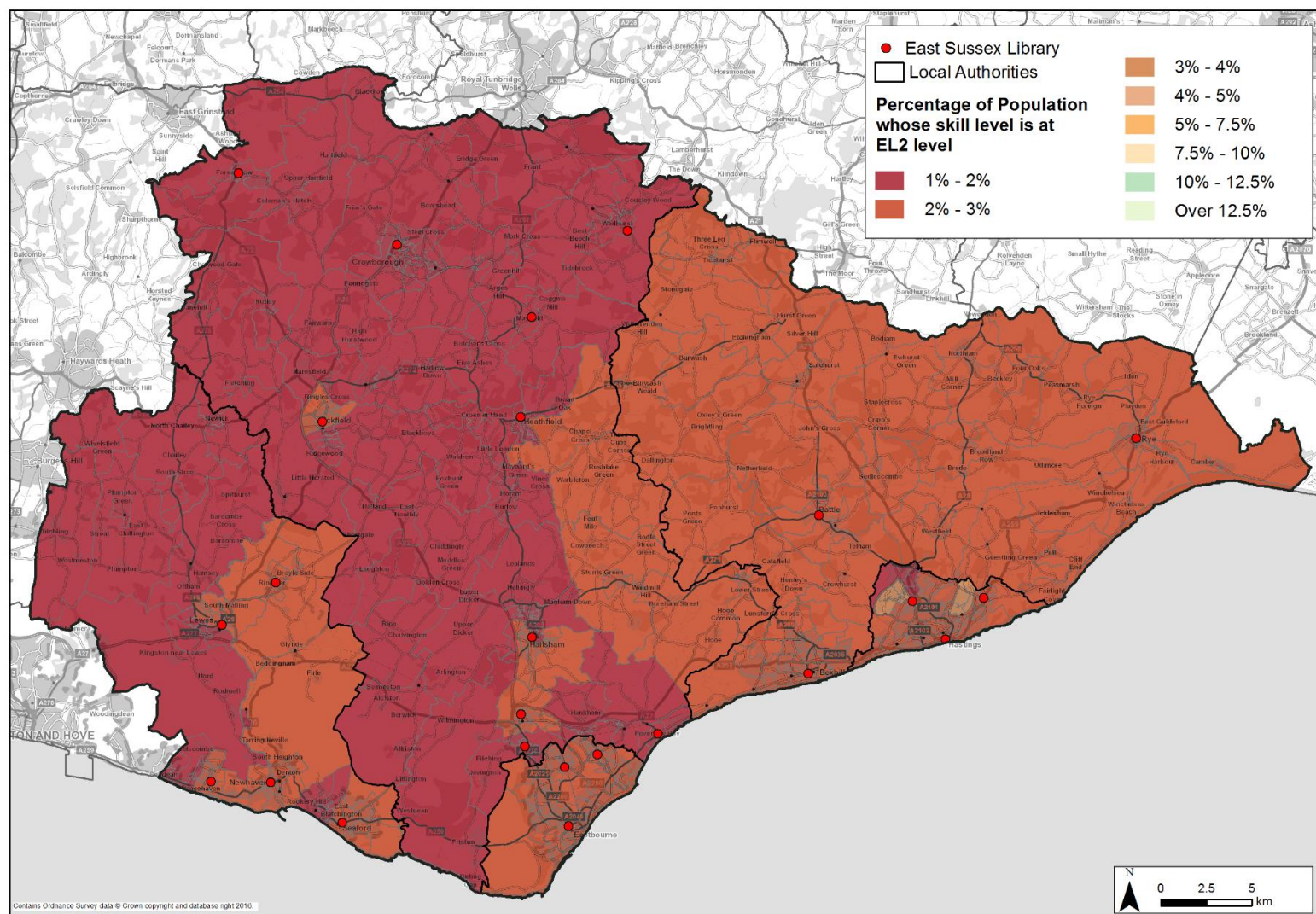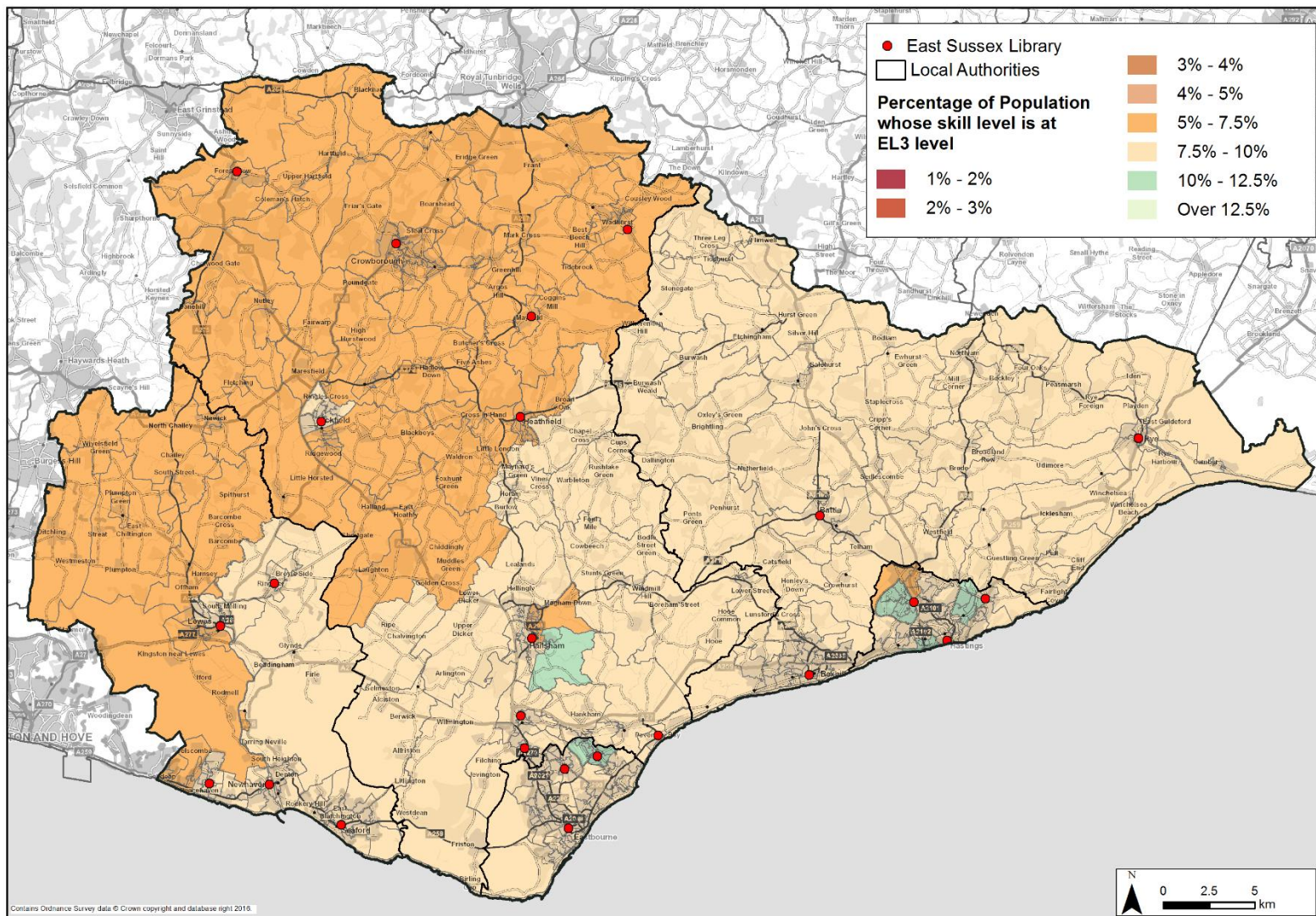Adult literacy and numeracy levels

Data source
Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels, 2011

Description/Definition
Indicator estimates the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) living in households with defined skill levels in literacy and numeracy. Small area estimation modelling methods have been applied to the 2011 Skills for Life survey data in order to generate local level area estimates. Entry Level 2 is the national school curriculum equivalent for attainment at age 7-9. Adults with below Entry Level 2 may not be able to describe a child's symptoms to a doctor or use a cash point to withdraw cash. Adults with ICT Entry Level 2 skills are able to use ICT to communicate, as well as enter and edit small amounts of information in ways that are fit for purpose and audience.

Format
Shows estimates of literacy and numeracy levels by ward.

9c. Skill Level – Entry Level 3

Legend:
- ● East Sussex Library
- ▢ Local Authorities

Percentage of Population whose skill level is at EL3 level

- 1% - 2%
- 2% - 3%
- 3% - 4%
- 4% - 5%
- 5% - 7.5%
- 7.5% - 10%
- 10% - 12.5%
- Over 12.5%

Indicator
Adult literacy and numeracy levels

Data source
Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels, 2011

Description/Definition
Indicator estimates the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) living in households with defined skill levels in literacy and numeracy. Small area estimation modelling methods have been applied to the 2011 Skills for Life survey data in order to generate local level area estimates.
Entry Level 3 is the national school curriculum equivalent for attainment at age 9-11. Adults with skills below Entry Level 3 may not be able to understand price labels on pre-packaged food or pay household bills. Adults with ICT Entry Level 3 skills are able to interact with and use an ICT system to meet needs, as well as present information in ways that are fit for purpose and audience.

Format
Shows estimates of literacy and numeracy levels by ward.

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9d. Skill Level – Level 1

Indicator
Adult literacy and numeracy levels

Data source
Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels, 2011
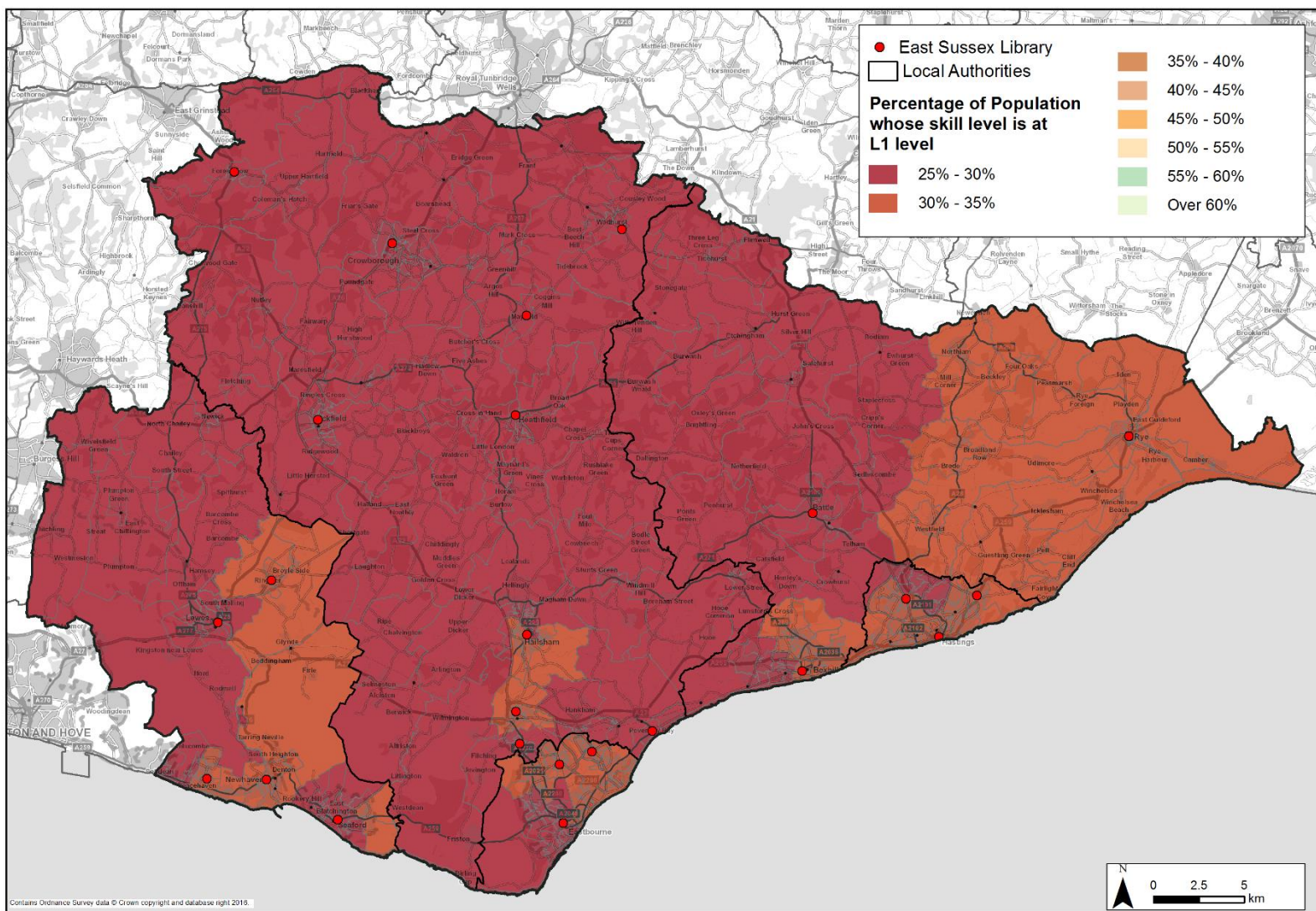
Description/Definition
Indicator estimates the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) living in households with defined skill levels in literacy and numeracy. Small area estimation modelling methods have been applied to the 2011 Skills for Life survey data in order to generate local level area estimates. Level 1 is equivalent to GCSE grades D-G. Adults with skills below Level 1 may not be able to read bus or train timetables or check the pay and deductions on a wage slip. Adults with ICT Level 1 skills are able to select and use a variety of appropriate sources of information, as well as enter, organise, develop format and bring together information to suit content and purpose.

Format
Shows estimates of literacy and numeracy levels by ward.

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Percentage of Population whose skill level is at L1 level
- 25% - 30%
- 30% - 35%
- 35% - 40%
- 40% - 45%
- 45% - 50%
- 50% - 55%
- 55% - 60%
- Over 60%

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0   2.5   5 km

9e. Skill Level 2

Indicator
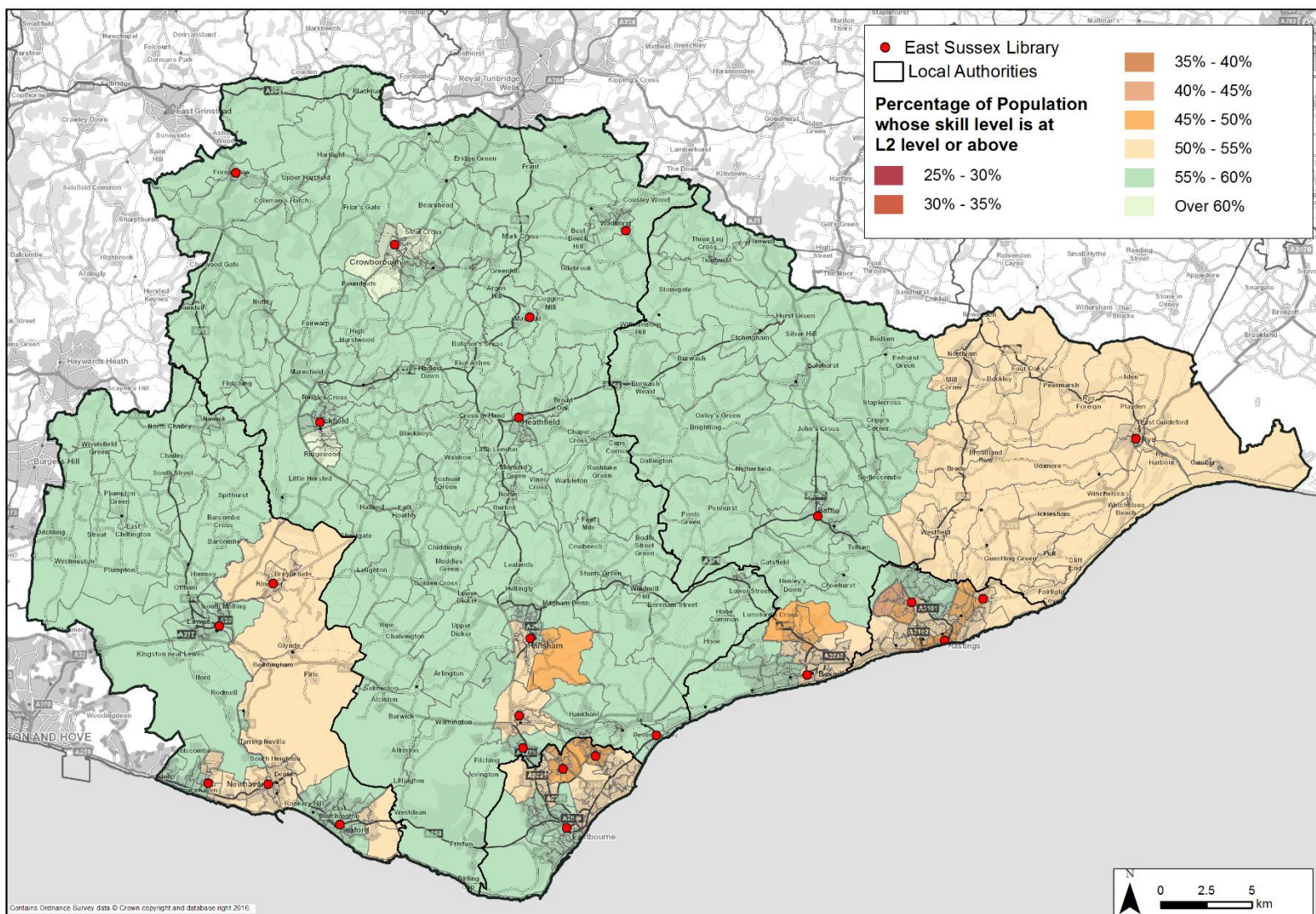Adult literacy and numeracy levels
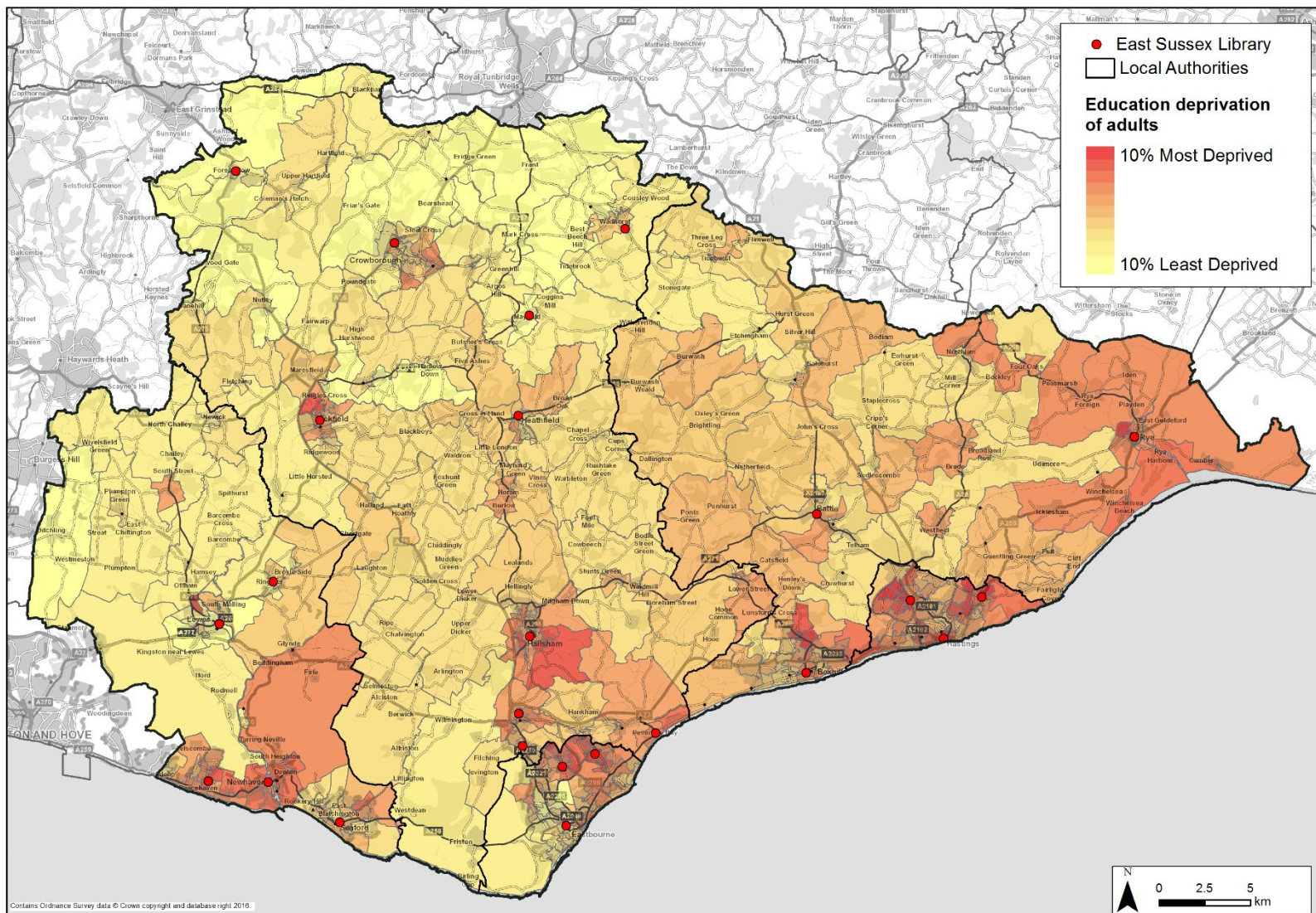
Data source
Skills for Life survey data. Estimates of the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) in England living in households with defined skill levels, 2011

Description/Definition
Indicator estimates the number and proportion of adults (aged 16-64 years old) living in households with defined skill levels in literacy and numeracy. Small area estimation modelling methods have been applied to the 2011 Skills for Life survey data in order to generate local level area estimates. Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C. Adults with skills below Level 2 may not be able to compare products and services for the best buy, or work out a household budget. Adults with ICT Level 2 skills are able to use a variety of appropriate sources of information and evaluate its fitness for purpose, as well as evaluate and use different methods of organising and presenting information, taking into account fitness for purpose and audience.

Format
Shows estimates of literacy and numeracy levels by ward.

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Percentage of Population whose skill level is at L2 level or above
- 25% - 30%
- 30% - 35%
- 35% - 40%
- 40% - 45%
- 45% - 50%
- 50% - 55%
- 55% - 60%
- Over 60%

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10a. Education deprivation of adults

Indicator
ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Adult skills sub-domain

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
This dataset shows the results from the Indices of Deprivation 2015 (ID 2015) for the Education, skills and training domain. It is one of the seven separate domains that are brought together to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD 2015).
The 'Adult skills' sub-domain is based on two indicators:

- the proportion of women aged 25-59 and men aged 25-64 with no or low qualifications; and
- The proportions of these who cannot speak English well or at all.

10b. Education deprivation of adults

Indicator
ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Adult skills sub-domain
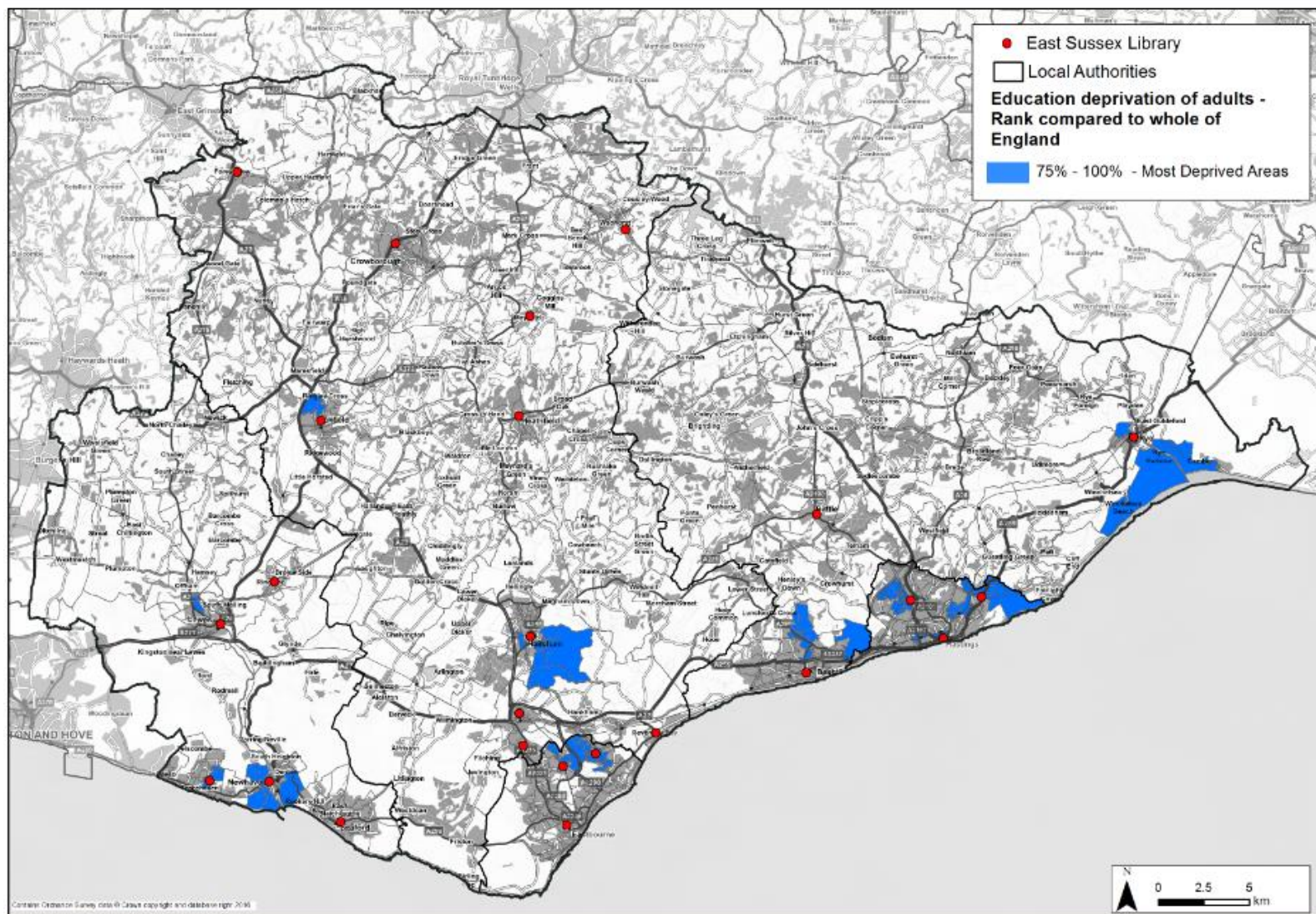
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
This dataset shows the results from the Indices of Deprivation 2015 (ID 2015) for the Education, skills and training domain. It is one of the seven separate domains that are brought together to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD 2015).
The 'Adult skills' sub-domain is based on two indicators:
- the proportion of women aged 25-59 and men aged 25-64 with no or low qualifications; and
- The proportions of these who cannot speak English well or at all.

Format
Shows information for the most deprived quartile, compared to the whole of England.

10c. Education deprivation of adults

Indicator
ID 2015, Education, skills and training domain – by super output area. Adult skills sub-domain
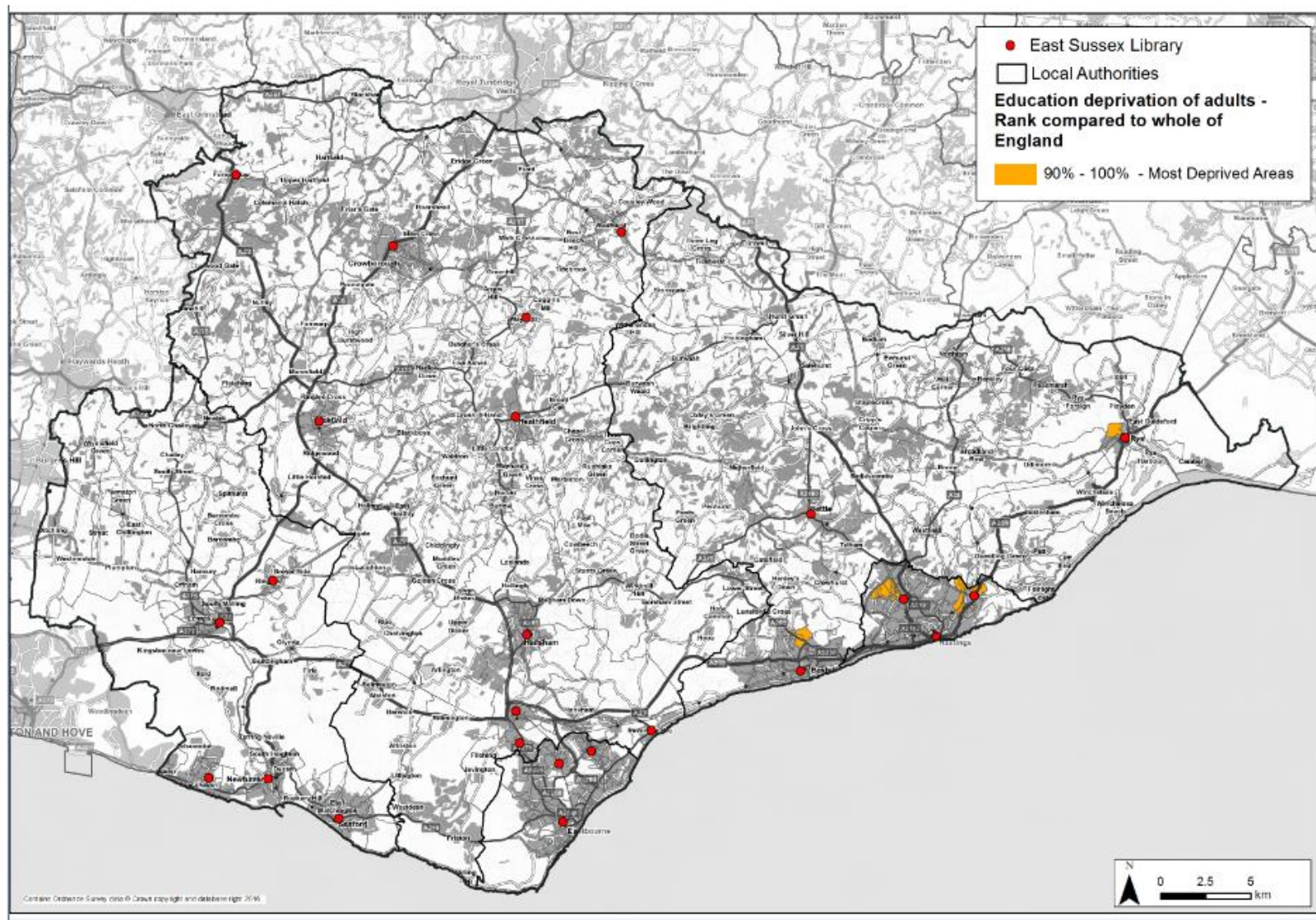
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
This dataset shows the results from the Indices of Deprivation 2015 (ID 2015) for the Education, skills and training domain. It is one of the seven separate domains that are brought together to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD 2015).
The 'Adult skills' sub-domain is based on two indicators:
- the proportion of women aged 25-59 and men aged 25-64 with no or low qualifications; and
- The proportions of these who cannot speak English well or at all.

Format
Shows information for the most deprived decile, compared to the whole of England.

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities
- Education deprivation of adults - Rank compared to whole of England
- 90% - 100% - Most Deprived Areas

11a. Deprivation –Employment

Indicator
ID 2015, Employment domain – by super output area.

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities. The indicators used are:
- Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based), women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based) , women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Incapacity Benefit, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Carer's Allowance, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64.

Format
Data is presented by super-output area. The total number listed as excluded from the labour market in East Sussex is 35,500. The rate is highest in Hastings (19%) and lowest in Wealden (7%).

11b. Deprivation – Employment

Indicator
ID 2015, Employment domain – by super output area.
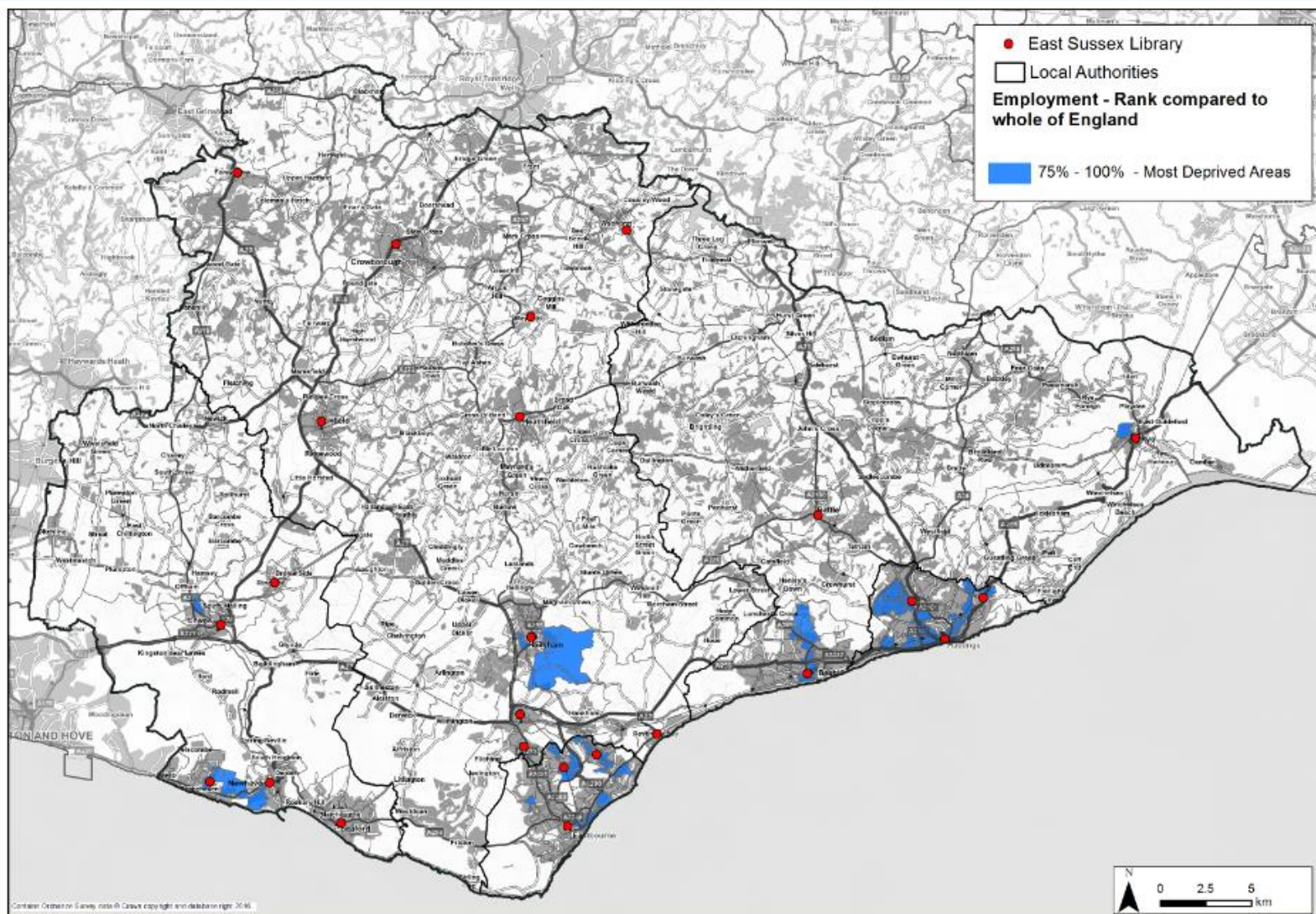
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities. The indicators used are:
- Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based), women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based) , women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Incapacity Benefit, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Carer's Allowance, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64.

Format
Data shows most deprived quartile.

43

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities
- Employment - Rank compared to whole of England
- 90% - 100% - Most Deprived Areas

11c. Deprivation –Employment

Indicator
ID 2015, Employment domain – by super output area. Most deprived decile.
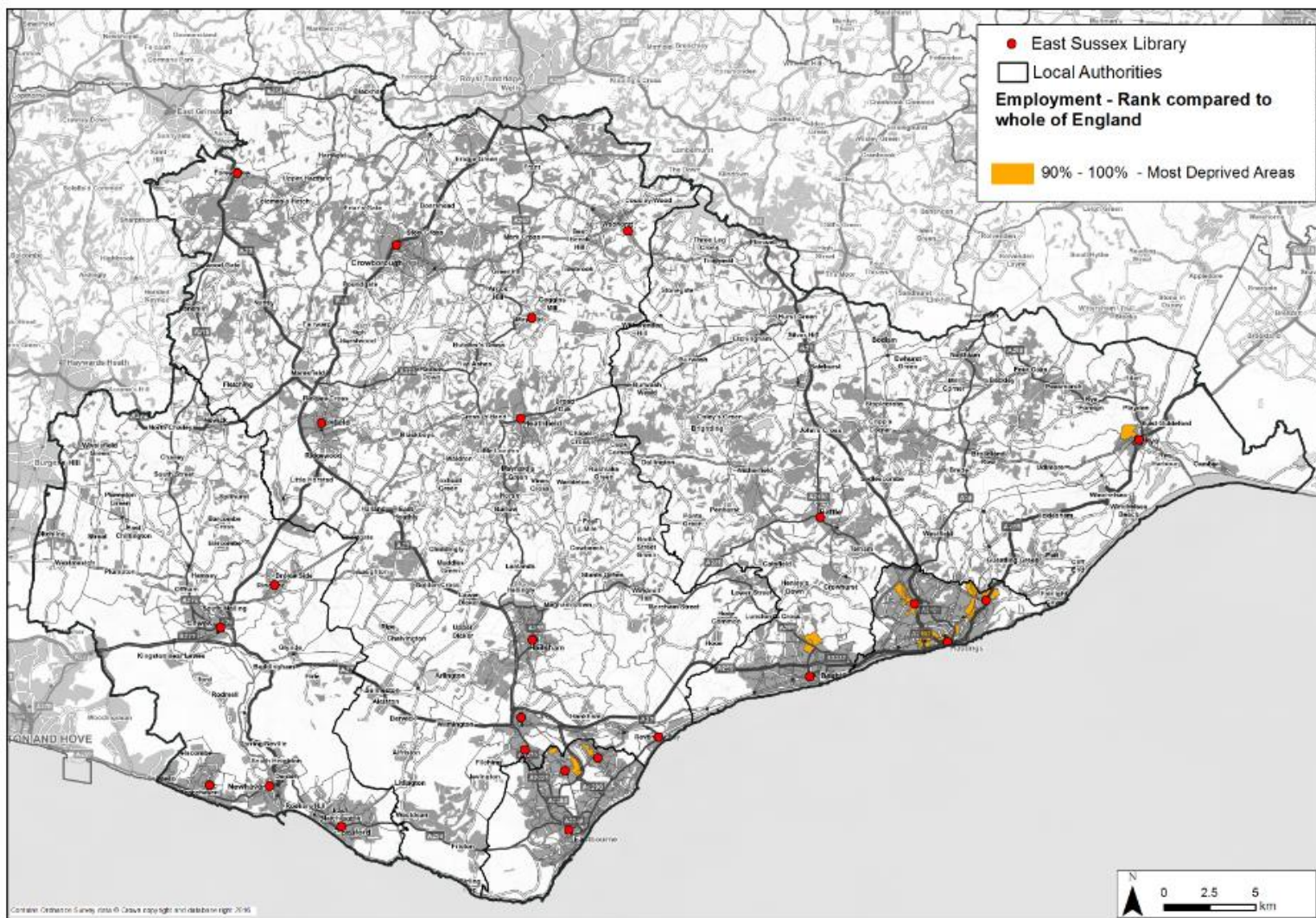
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities. The indicators used are:
- Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based), women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based) , women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Incapacity Benefit, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64
- Claimants of Carer's Allowance, women aged 18 to 59 and men aged 18 to 64.

Format
Data shows most deprived decile.

12. Economy, jobs and prosperity - New Business Registration Rate

Indicator
Economy, jobs and prosperity

Data source
New business registration rate, by district, 2015

Description/Definition
New business registration rate which is the rate of new business registrations per 10,000 people aged 16 and over.

Format
Data is presented at District level

Legend (2015 New business registration rate):
- 53.3
- 57.1
- 59.5
- 74.5

East Sussex Library
Local Authorities
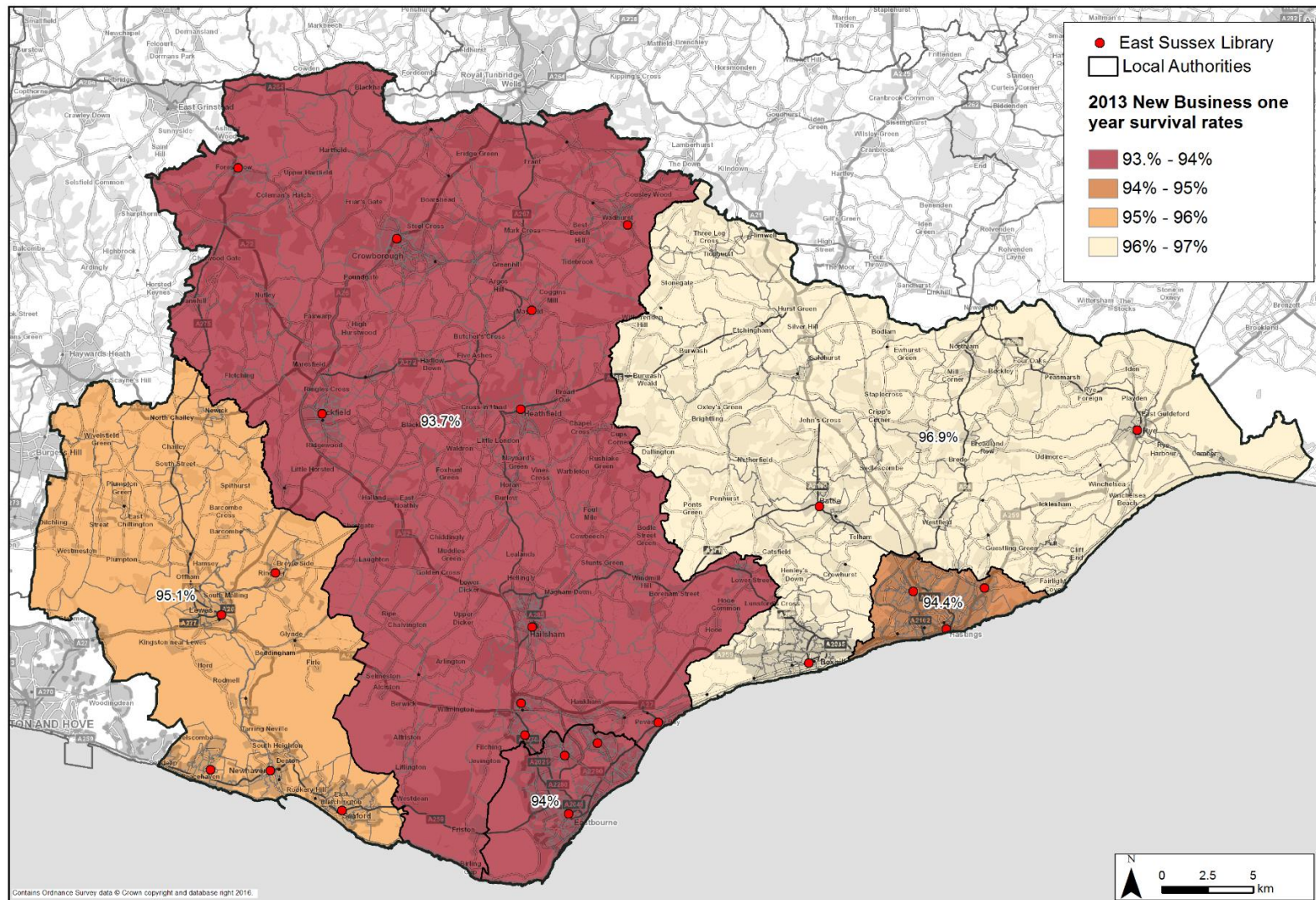
13. Economy, jobs and prosperity – New Business Survival Rate

Indicator
Business survival rates

Data source
New business survival rate, by district, 2009-2013

Description/Definition
Shows enterprise births, deaths and survival rates for a five-year period, up to 2013.

Format
Data is presented at District level

Legend (on map):

- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

2013 New Business one year survival rates
- 93.% - 94%
- 94% - 95%
- 95% - 96%
- 96% - 97%

Map labels: 93.7%, 95.1%, 94%, 94.4%, 96.9%

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.
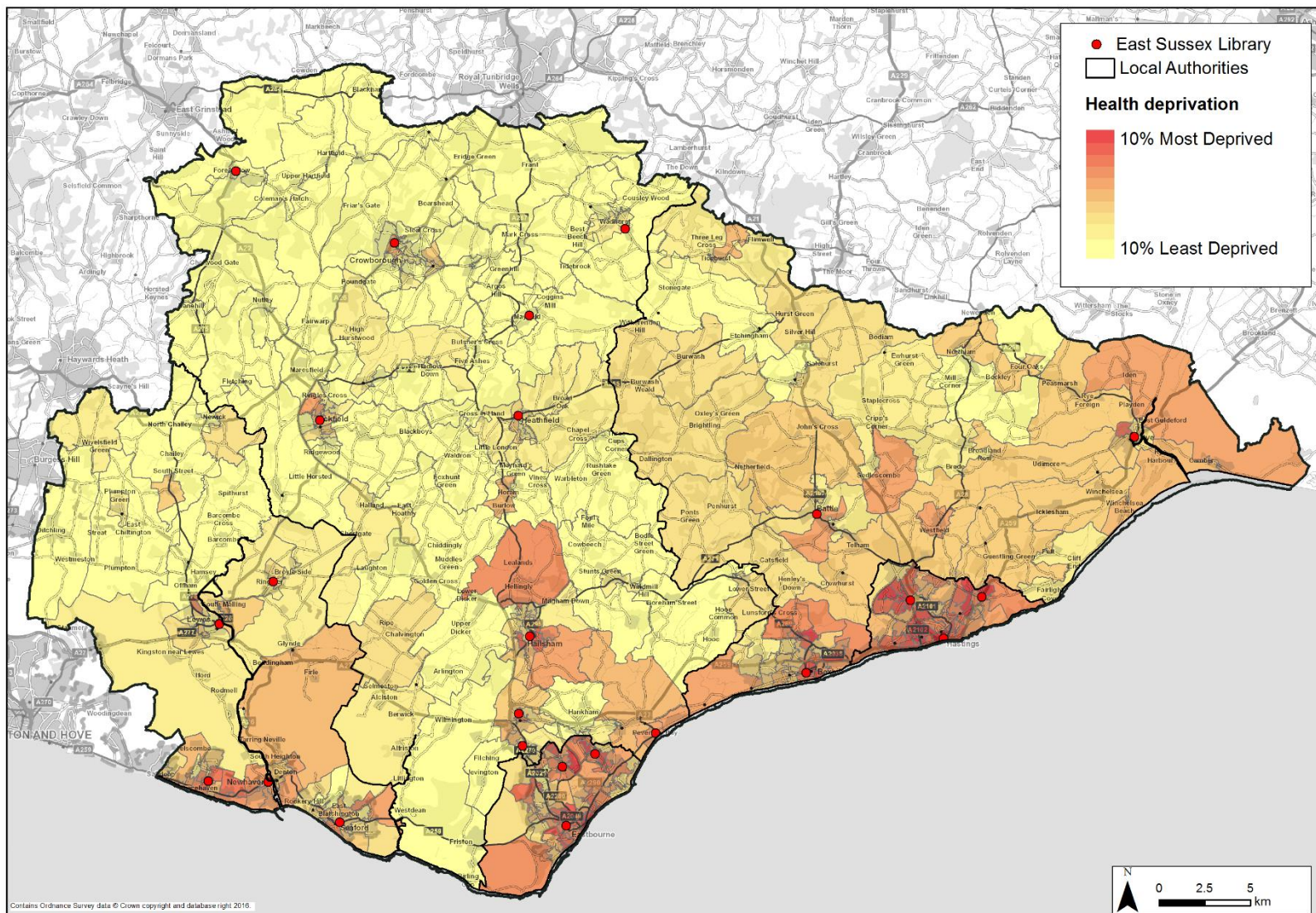
14a. Deprivation – Health Deprivation

Indicator
ID 2015, Index of Multiple Deprivation – by super output area. Health Deprivation and Disability domain

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measure 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.

Format
Ranks each super output area according to health deprivation – deprived areas score low; least deprived areas score high

14b. Deprivation – Health Deprivation

Indicator
ID 2015, Index of Multiple Deprivation – by super output area. Health Deprivation and Disability domain

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measure 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.

Format
Ranks each super output area according to health deprivation – shows most deprived quartile.

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Health deprivation - Rank compared to whole of England
- 75% - 100% - Most Deprived Areas

14c. Deprivation – Health Deprivation

Indicator
ID 2015, Index of Multiple Deprivation – by super output area. Health Deprivation and Disability domain
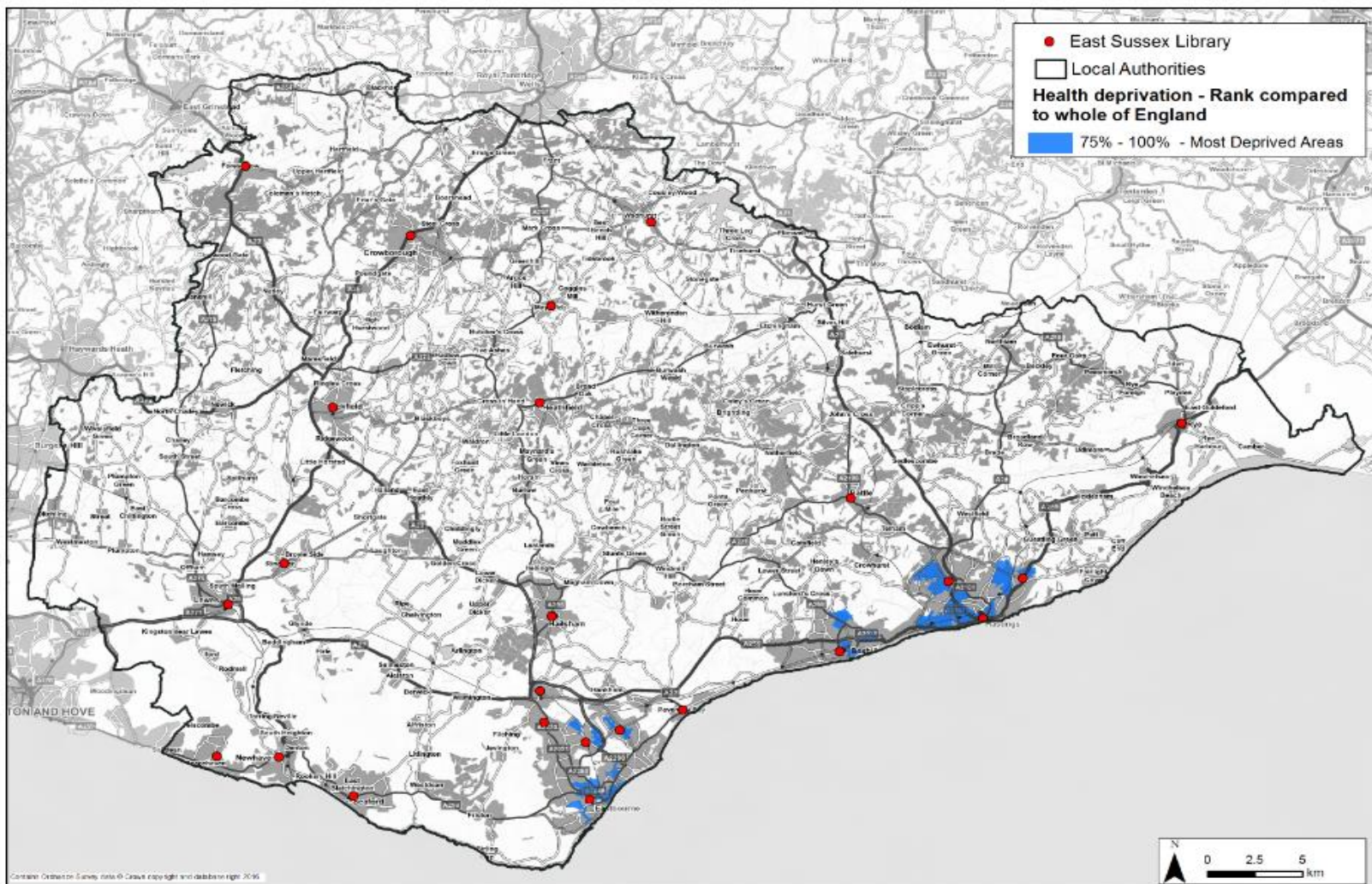
Data source
2015

Description/Definition
The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measure 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.

Format
Ranks each super output area according to health deprivation – shows most deprived decile

Legend:
● East Sussex Library
☐ Local Authorities

Health deprivation - Rank compared to whole of England
90% - 100% - Most Deprived Areas

Legend

● East Sussex Library
☐ Local Authorities

Percentage of residents with a limiting long-term illness

- 10% – 15%
- 15% – 20%
- 20% – 25%
- 25% – 30%
- 30% – 35%
- Over 35%

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N
0   2.5   5
km

15. Health and wellbeing – Long Term Illness

Indicator
Residents with a limiting long-term illness in 2011 – by super output area

Data source
2011 census

Description/Definition
A long-term health problem or disability is one that limits a person's day-to-day activities, and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. It includes problems that are related to old age.

Format
Proportions are available by super output area. The proportion of residents living in East Sussex with a long-term health problem or disability is higher than the regional average (20% compared to 16% - probably because of the link to old age). It is highest in Rother (23%) and lowest in Wealden (18%).
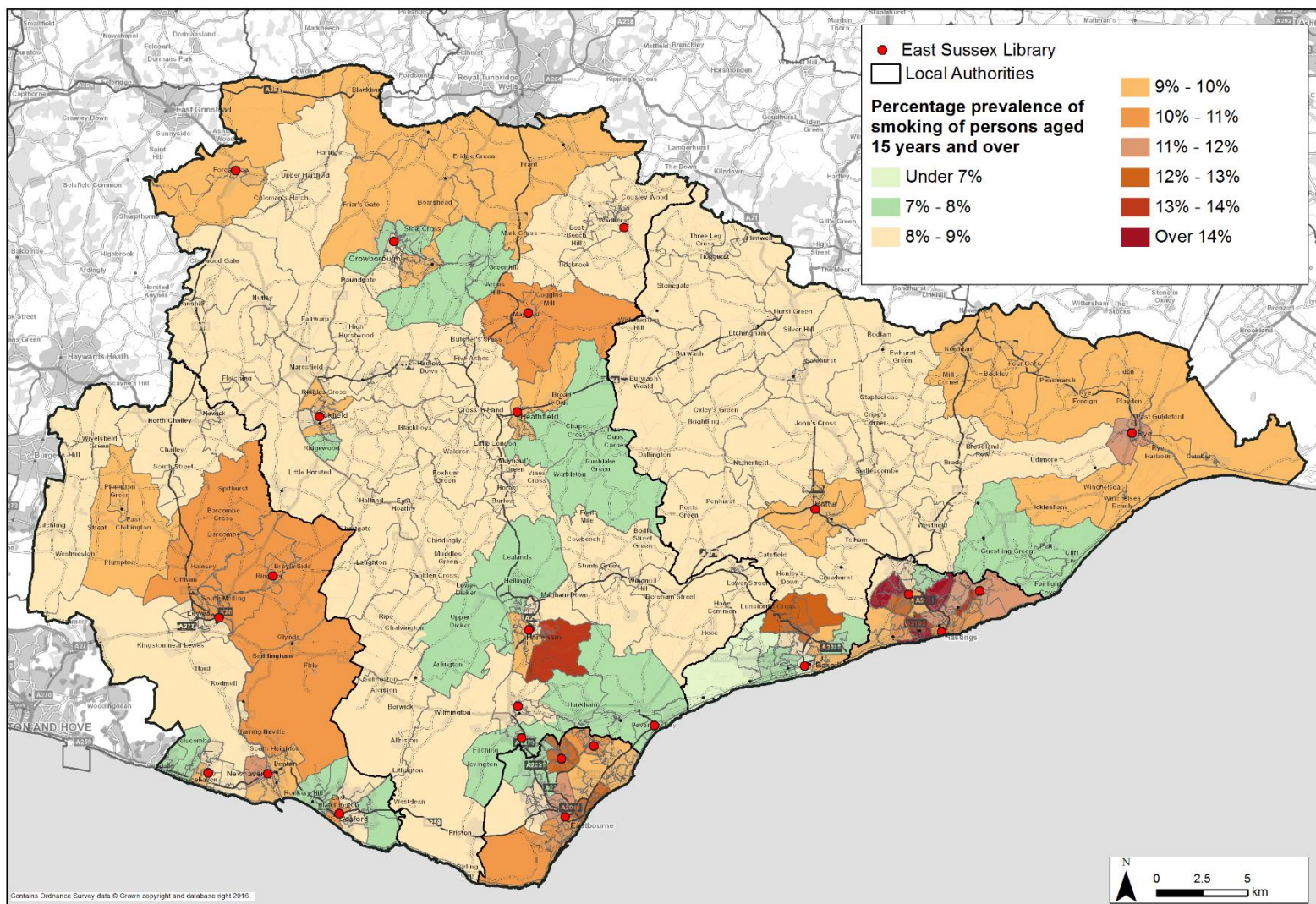
16. Health and wellbeing - Smokers

Indicator
GP reported prevalence of smoking, percentage of persons aged 15 years and over at 31st March 2015 – by ward.

Data source
2015
Public Health Data Scorecard no. 3.09

Description/Definition
The number of people aged 15 or over reported by GPs to be smokers. This is an indicator of future problems relating to current behaviour and lifestyles.

Format
Data is available at ward level. There are 82,500 smokers in East Sussex – 18% of the population 15+. The highest rate of smoking is in Hastings (26%, in some wards it is as high as 30%) the lowest rate is in Wealden (15%).

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities

Percentage prevalence of smoking of persons aged 15 years and over
- Under 7%
- 7% - 8%
- 8% - 9%
- 9% - 10%
- 10% - 11%
- 11% - 12%
- 12% - 13%
- 13% - 14%
- Over 14%

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.
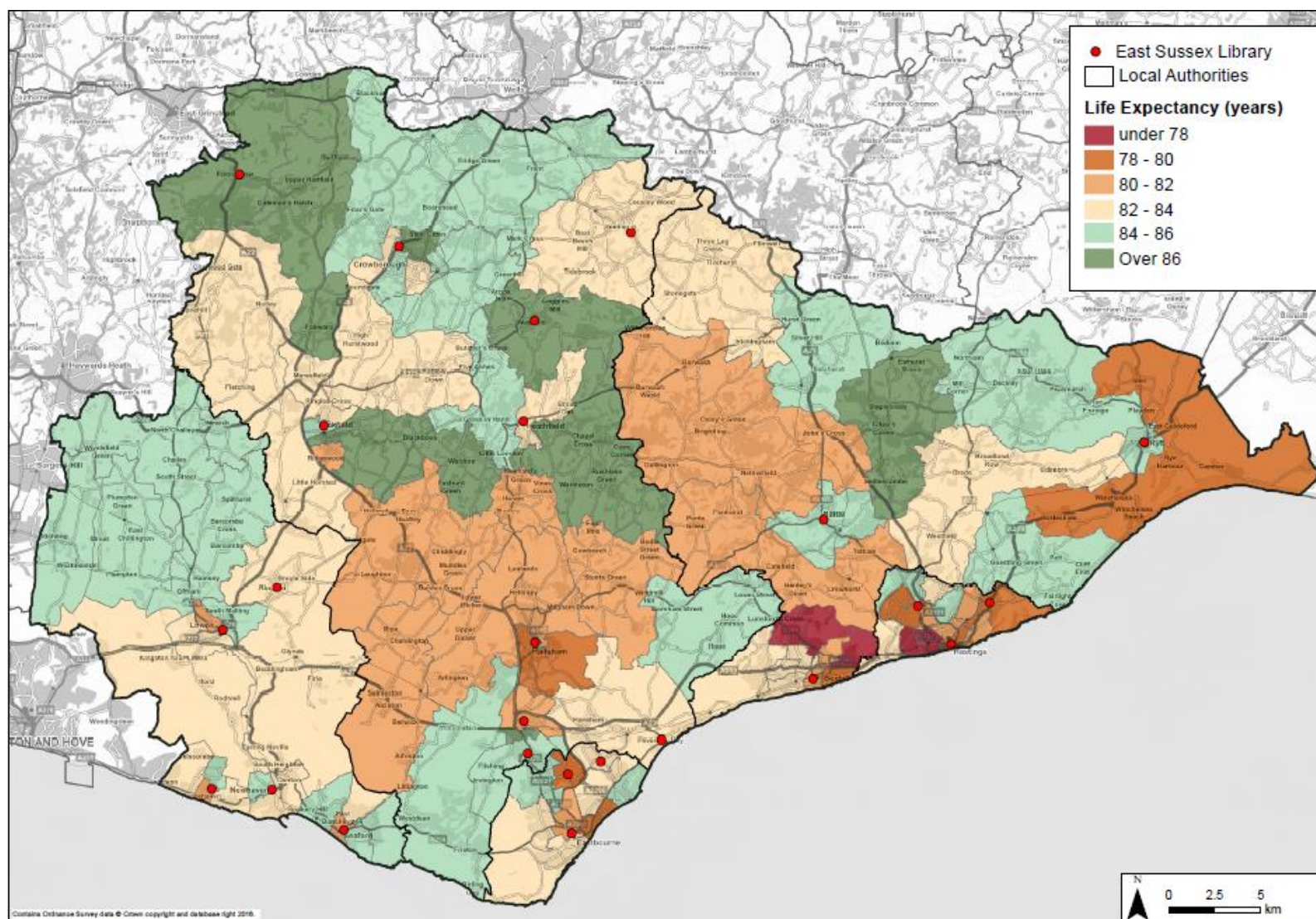
17. Health and wellbeing – Life Expectancy

Indicator
JSNAA, Mortality, Life-expectancy at birth - by ward

Data source
2013-2015

Description/Definition
Life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would survive if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates for a particular area in the given time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in an area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in that area. It is not, therefore, the number of years a baby born in the area at a particular time might be expected to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

Format
Life expectancy data is available at ward level. Across East Sussex the average life expectancy at birth is 82. It varies by ward within districts but is lowest in Hastings (79.6), and is highest in Lewes (83.4). Within East Sussex it varies from a low of 75.6 in one ward to a high of 89 in another.
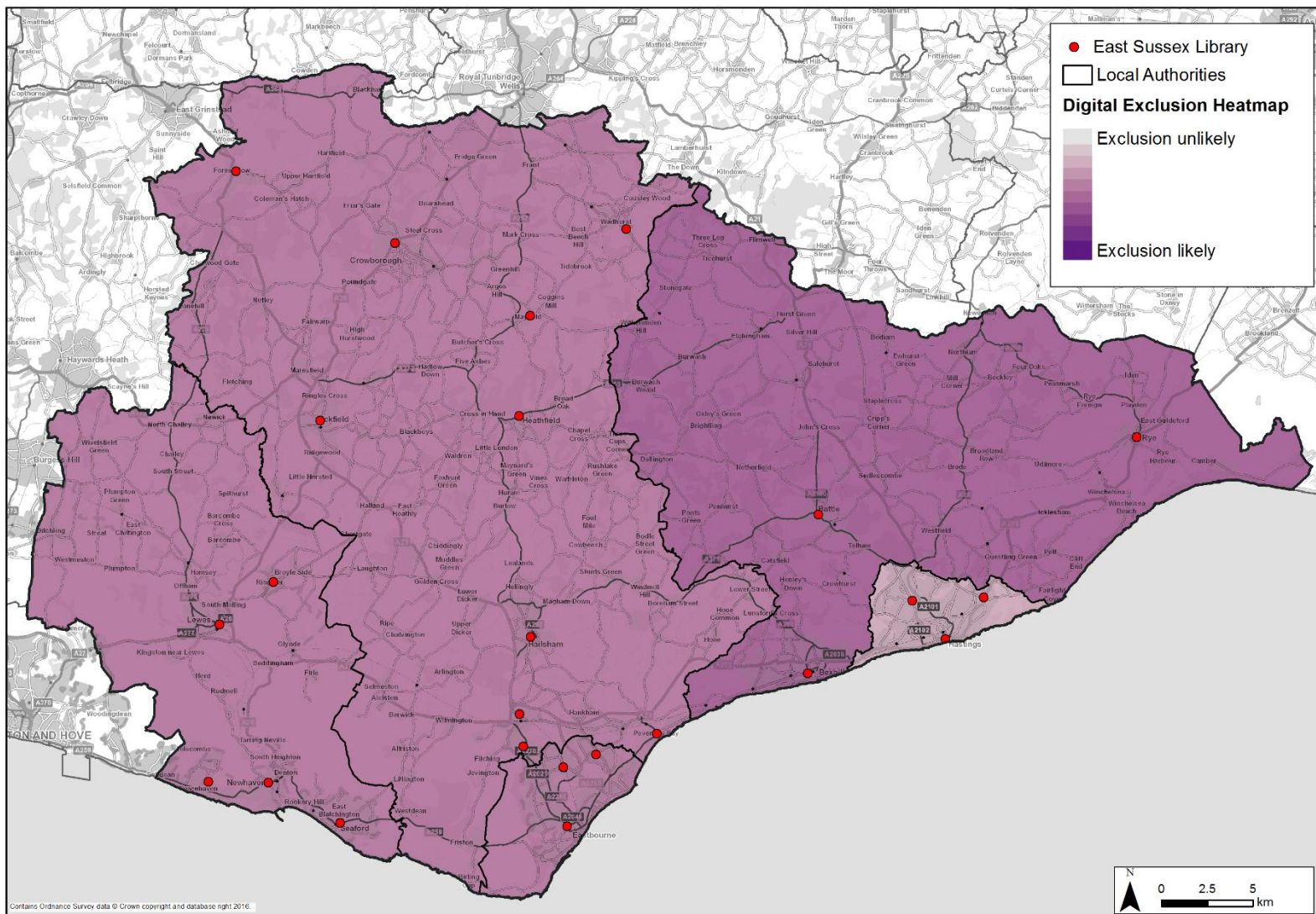
18. Doteveryone – Digital Exclusion

Indicator
The Digital Exclusion Heatmap

Data source
2015

Description/Definition
IMD type multiple indicator for digital exclusion. Eight different metrics have been used to calculate the overall likelihood of exclusion. Four of these are digital metrics (combined infrastructure, access, Basic Digital Skills and Basic Digital Skills used), which have been aggregated to provide a combined digital indicator. Four are social metrics (age, education, income and health), which have been aggregated to create a combined social indicator.

These combined indicators have been further aggregated using a formula designed by the London School of Economics and Political Science to provide a single measure of predicted overall exclusion from a digital United Kingdom.
Source:
https://doteveryone.org.uk/resources/heatmap/

Format
District

Legend:
- East Sussex Library
- Local Authorities
- **Digital Exclusion Heatmap**
  - Exclusion unlikely
  - Exclusion likely

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.
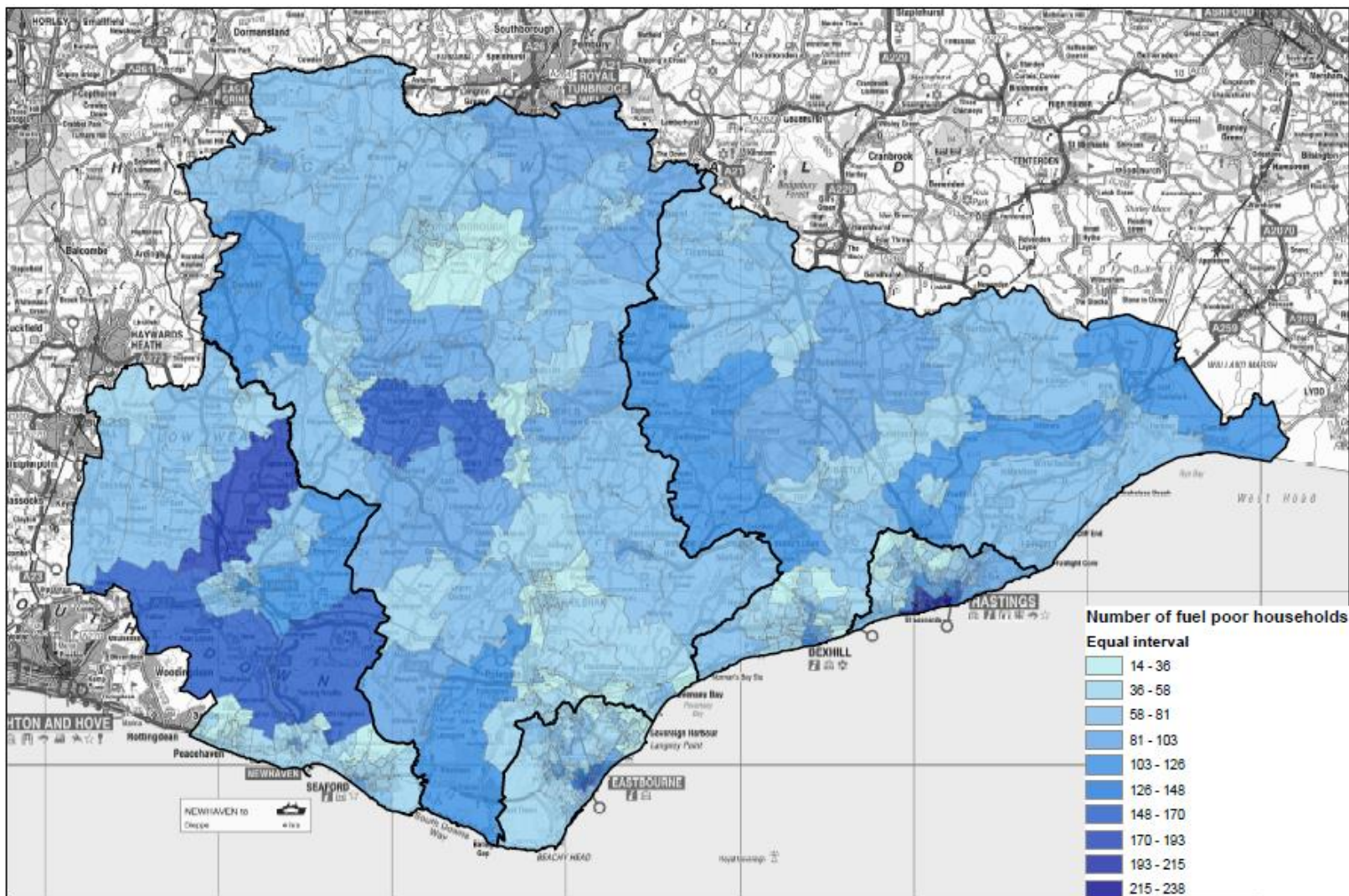
19. Households in fuel poverty,

Indicator
Number of fuel poor households

Data source
2014

Description/Definition
This dataset shows the estimated number and percentage of households living in fuel poverty, meaning that they find it difficult to afford sufficient fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (usually 21°C for the main living area, and 18°C for other occupied rooms).

This dataset uses the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) indicator. Under this definition a household is considered to be fuel poor where:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)

- Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Format
Super output areas

Number of fuel poor households

Equal interval

	14 - 36
	36 - 58
	58 - 81
	81 - 103
	103 - 126
	126 - 148
	148 - 170
	170 - 193
	193 - 215
	215 - 238

65 and Over

Legend:
- East Sussex Library (red dot)
- Local Authorities
- **Population**
  - High Density
  - Low Density

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.

N
0   2.5   5 km
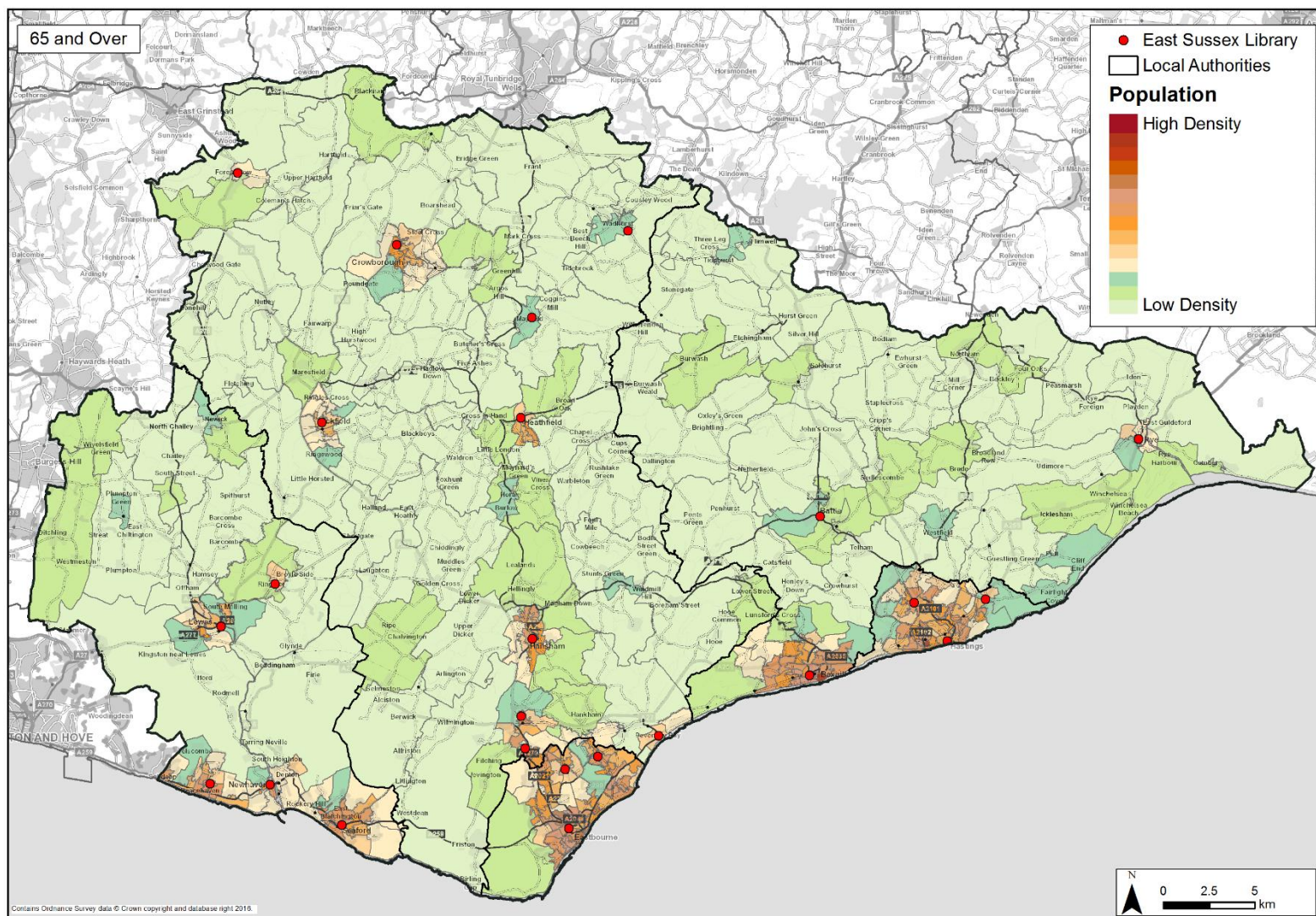
20. Population - 65 and Over

Indicator
Population estimates by age and gender by super-output area

Data source
ONS 2015

Description/Definition
Data are available by broad and detailed (mostly 5-year) age groups and single year of age for all geographies from 2012 onwards. The mid-year population estimates are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by ageing on the population of the previous year and by adjustments to reflect actual counts of births, deaths and migration during the year.

Format
Shows numerical information by super-output area.

4 Results

Results

4.1 Having selected the key indicators, in the four key Commissioning Themes, overall the review has identified that the highest needs are in the following geographical areas:

- Parts of central and suburban Hastings

- Parts of central and suburban Eastbourne

- Areas within some mid-sized towns, such as east Hailsham and Uckfield

- Some rural locations, such as Camber in the rural area east of Rye

Reading and Literacy **Rural and urban** North Hastings Camber NE Newhaven SE Hailsham SE Crowborough	**Economic Development** **Primarily urban** North Bexhill Eastbourne North Hastings NE Newhaven East St Leonards
Health and Wellbeing **Rural and urban** Bexhill/St Leonards/Hastings Eastbourne Newhaven/Seaford Uckfield Rural areas of Rother, less Wealden or Lewes	**Digital exclusion** **Primarily urban** Hastings Newhaven Eastbourne Bexhill Hailsham Rye and Camber

4.2 The initial analysis may indicate that, in identifying need, especially when linked with indicators of deprivation, a clear urban versus rural split develops. However, when considered at a more granular level, at ONS Lower Super Output Areas rather than at parish, ward or district level, relative differences in need can be identified at a neighbourhood level. This is important, as assuming a rural district has lower needs under, for example, the literacy measures can mask pockets of significant need in rural areas. In some towns areas of high deprivation can be adjacent to areas of significant wealth and lower needs, as seen in both Eastbourne and Hastings.

4.3 It is worth pointing out that there are some limitations to the data presented in this report. The indicators are fixed in time, often based on 5-year-old census

data and therefore patterns of need may have changed in subsequent years – our review suggests this is not a major risk but is to be noted. Secondly, even within LSOAs and very local data sets there could be considerable differences between individual needs and the benefits that access to the library service may bring to a community as a whole – therefore when making any decisions about future provision it has to be accepted there will be 'exceptions to the rule' where individuals will feel that their specific needs cannot be met locally.

4.4 The results of this Needs Assessment will be used in the next stage of the Strategic Commissioning process to analyse existing gaps in current service provision in order to deliver a relevant libraries service offer that will enable the county Council to prioritise needs with the resources it has available. The results of this analysis are presented in the Gap Analysis (Appendix 6).

Benchmarking

4.5 It was noted in section 2.22 that "it should be recognised that East Sussex compares favourably with many other local authority areas on a number of measures of need". This view has been developed through an independent benchmarking of East Sussex districts and the county against South East England and national comparators on the needs indicators selected.

4.6 In Appendix A the relative values of needs indicators are considered against benchmarks, with commentary on the relative East Sussex performance against the averages.

Future Trends

4.7 The indicators of need identified are providing a baseline for the current library service, but it is important also to assess the trends and changes that will impact on the needs of individuals and areas in East Sussex. These include the national and local changes driven by government spending decisions, improved physical and digital accessibility through technology change, and the social changes brought about by changing attitudes and values.

4.8 The Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy will set the direction of the Library and Information Service for the next five years. The following factors may influence needs and the shape of the Library and Information Service during this period:

- Demographics – Similar to the 8.1% growth in the rest of the south east England in the period from 2014 up to 2027, East Sussex's population will continue to grow[12]. Hastings will see the lowest net growth, predicted at 5.09%, Lewes the highest at 10.26%. The level of net international migration varies between -0.34% (Hastings) and 1.16% (Wealden), although these forecasts were made before the 2016 referendum decision.

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[12]

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2014basedprojections

Hastings will see the highest level of natural change, reflecting a younger population and higher levels of childbirth than the rest of the county. The population aged 65 and over is projected to grow at the fastest rate compared with other age groups in every region of England, and in East Sussex particularly. Eastbourne will see a 19% increase in over 65s, Hastings 20%, Lewes 21%, Rother 19% and Wealden 24%.

- Employment – The number of jobs in the county is anticipated to increase from 229,400 in 2015, to 235,800 in 2020 and to 242,700 in 2025[13]. The GVA of businesses in East Sussex is similarly anticipated to grow from £8,621m in 2015 to £9,639m in 2020 and to £10,711m in 2025[14].

- Health and wellbeing - It is difficult to predict how people's attitudes to their health and behaviour will change over time and therefore the impact on public services generally considered to be operating outside the healthcare sector. Current trends suggest a growing socio-economic divide as those who are better off take on board health messages and adopt healthier lifestyles and those from more disadvantaged backgrounds do not.

- Digital - The landscape for the UK media consumer is substantially different to what it was just 5 years ago. In 2016, over 89% of households had internet access in the UK[15]. Data for Great Britain shows that the internet was used daily or almost daily by 82% of adults (41.8 million) in 2016, compared with 78% (39.3 million) in 2015 and 35% (16.2 million) in 2006[16]. In 2016, 70% of adults accessed the internet 'on the go' using a mobile phone or smartphone, up from 66% in 2015 and nearly double the 2011 estimate of 36%. The advancement of smartphones, 4G coverage and social media, to name but a few examples have all proliferated and changed the way we consume media. As smartphones become ever more embedded in our lives, there will be new opportunities and challenges for the public sector, including the East Sussex Library and Information Service. This trend of increased digital access and use for a wider range of activities is expected to continue.

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[13]

http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?catalog=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk%3A80%2Fobj%2FfCatalog%2FCatalog54&submode=catalog&mode=documentation&top=yes

[14]

http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?catalog=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk%3A80%2Fobj%2FfCatalog%2FCatalog54&submode=catalog&mode=documentation&top=yes

[15] https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/26648/uk_telecoms.pdf

[16]

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/householdcharacteristics/homeinternetandsocialmediausage/bulletins/internetaccesshouseholdsandindividuals/2016

5 Conclusions

Key findings

5.1 The Needs Assessment is a key element of the Strategic Commissioning Strategy. Its prime purpose is to provide a clear evidence-based review of needs, both met and unmet, that impact on the current and future provision of the Library and Information Service. If the Council's understanding of residents' needs is incomplete then the design and delivery of services is unlikely to fully meet their needs or achieve the required outcomes.

5.2 There is a clear distinction between the need and the demand for services. Need is what people could benefit from (that is an effective intervention or service); demand is what people ask for. Strategic Commissioning is about prioritising need over demand and supply. This Needs Assessment, together with the other Technical Appendices, provides an evidence base which enables the Council, through the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy, to prioritise its resources for library services towards the achievement of outcomes that will best meet the needs of those who live, work and study in East Sussex.

5.3 The Needs Assessment is framed around four Commissioning Themes, which reflect the Council's four overarching priority outcomes: driving economic growth; keeping vulnerable people safe; helping people help themselves; and making best use of resources. The Commissioning Themes are considered to represent the key areas of community need that the Library and Information Service may be best placed to meet or contribute towards, in support of the Council's priority outcomes. These are:

- Reading and literacy
- Economic development
- Health and wellbeing
- Digital exclusion

5.4 The process of undertaking a needs assessment is not an exact science. The Council has a duty under the *Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964* to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service, but the Act does not set out a statutory measure of need and there are no national guidelines that spell out what is or is not a need in terms of library services. It is also important to highlight that, in most cases, the Library and Information Service is not the primary provider of services to meet identified needs. The role of the Library and Information Service is largely indirect in support of other more targeted service providers.

5.5 The Needs Assessment has considered a wide range of potential indicators of needs, clustered around each Commissioning Theme that may be addressed by the Library and Information Service. These have been refined to select the indicators which best illustrate need and which are based on robust, publicly available data at a sufficiently detailed scale that meaningful evidence can be gathered at a local level across the county. The Needs Assessment has

considered how the identified needs vary across the county, and whether there are specific groups of people whose needs are currently not met. Invariably it is the relative differences, not the absolute values, between the level of needs identified that are of most use in identifying areas to target resources where needs are greatest.

5.6   East Sussex generally compares favourably with many other local authority areas on a number of measures of need. In the analysis undertaken for the Needs Assessment there was, for most indicators, little variation across the whole county. However, for some indicators there were stark variations. The Needs Assessment has sought to identify when the variation in needs is significant in scale and scope, compared to where the variations are minimal across the county. Where there are significant variations between parts of the county (in particular for indicators related to deprivation, ageing and health) the variations can reflect very localised pockets of need, even within each of the main urban areas.

5.7   The over-arching indicator of need is the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. The highest deprivation levels are seen in parts of Hastings and the super output area covering Iden and Camber. There are also relatively high levels of deprivation in pockets of Bexhill, Eastbourne, Newhaven, and in and around Hailsham. However, it is important 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.

5.8   In terms of the findings of the Needs Assessment under each Commissioning Theme, deprivation, skills and educational attainment and income play a key role.

5.9   Literacy skills underpin success in all walks of life, and libraries have a key role to play in ensuring children in particular have the building-blocks for future academic and employment success, thereby improving people's prosperity, their health and their wellbeing.   Young children's early communication and vocabulary skills are particularly important. In addition, the health and wellbeing benefits of reading for pleasure are evident for adults as well as children and young people.

5.10   On reading and literacy, the Library and Information Service has the potential to support the literacy needs of every child, although some children are likely to have higher needs than others, such as those living in households with low incomes, those with Special Educational Needs and those without English as a first language.   Where there are low adult literacy rates (often linked with other indicators of deprivation) it is expected that this will create a need that can be positively met through access to library services.   The areas of the county where literacy needs are greatest are areas to the north of Hastings, Camber, the north-east of Newhaven, south-east of Hailsham and south-east of Crowborough.

5.11   The modern library service can provide information and support to individuals and businesses to help develop the economy. Economic performance in East Sussex has lagged behind the regional and national average, with a skills deficit being a contributory factor. For economic development, the need is

primarily for people seeking work but struggling to find it because of, for instance, low levels of qualifications, poor literacy and numeracy skills, poor CV writing and interview techniques, and a lack information about availability of suitable jobs. Disability and long-term ill health are factors which can prevent people from obtaining a job when they want to work, and being out of the workplace for long periods of time can have a further impact on people's skills, levels of confidence and mental health.

5.12   The Library and Information Service can provide access to online information about job vacancies and training and skills development opportunities, and support individuals directly to develop skills such as applying for jobs and learning new literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. This can also boost self-confidence and preparedness for a job interview, increasing the chances of getting into or back into work. Indicators of deprivation and adult skills levels suggest that the greatest needs are in the north of Bexhill, Eastbourne, the north of Hastings, the north-east of Newhaven and east of St. Leonard's.

5.13   There are health and wellbeing needs which the Library and Information Service can meet by supporting community and individual resilience, health improvement and reducing health inequalities through the provision of safe and inclusive spaces, quality assured self-help information and resource materials tailored for residents of all ages, as well as direct signposting to other services. In particular, the Library and Information Service can provide resources and information to enable people to take greater ownership of their own health and wellbeing, to be more resilient, increasingly independent, self-sufficient and resourceful, and thus better able to help themselves.

5.14   Research has identified the positive benefits of reading for mental health, as well as the positive correlation between literacy and a person's ability to access health information. Those in greatest need are people in poor mental or physical health or at risk of developing health problems, particularly people with a long-term health problem or disability. The highest health deprivation levels and disability measures are concentrated in the coastal towns, either in central residential areas or large estates on the edge that often have other income, employment and social exclusion issues. There are some pockets of health deprivation in each of the three more rural districts, but usually associated with the mid-sized towns. One area with a relatively high percentage of residents with long term illness is east Bexhill. Other high levels are found in Eastbourne, Hastings, St. Leonards and Newhaven.

5.15   Information is increasingly moving to digital platforms and there continues to be a social divide between those who have easy access to the internet and those who are still offline. On digital inclusion, the needs which have been identified are the ability to access and use the internet to access information about skills and employment opportunities, health and wellbeing information, and accessing the more competitive online market place for goods and services, which can help households on low incomes.

5.16   Behind these needs are the affordability of home or mobile internet provision, the lack of basic digital skills (which is linked to low levels of educational attainment and also to age), and to a lesser extent, the availability of broadband technology. The data show that adults with the lowest skills levels

are located mainly in the coastal towns of Newhaven, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings, as well as Hailsham and the far east of the county in Rye and surrounding areas.

5.17   The indicators of need identified in this Needs Assessment provide a baseline upon which to develop the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy, which will set the direction of the Library and Information Service for the next five years. The Needs Assessment considers these changes and has concluded that, for the duration of the Strategic Commissioning Strategy, changes in population, employment and economic activity, health and digital technology are unlikely to have a significant impact on its findings and overall conclusions.

Appendix A   Benchmarking

District level analyses by indicator

Fig 1 index of multiple deprivation
Data is presented only at super output area level and is not available at a district level

Fig 2 population estimates by age

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	South East	England	Notes
% Population 0-15	17.1	18.6	17.3	15.2	17.2	17.1	19.0	19.0	In all districts the percentage of children 0-15 is below the south east and England average.
% Population 65+	24.2	19.0	24.8	31.1	25.2	24.9	18.8	17.7	In all districts the percentage of people 65 or older is higher than the south east and England average. The highest percentage is in Rother, which has one of the highest percentages of 65+ residents in England
% estimated 2024 Population 65+	26.6	21.6	26.8	34.3	28.2		22.5	20.5	
	Q1	Q2	Q1	Q1	Q1				It is predicted that by 2024 Rother district will have the third highest % of older people of any district in England (only the % in West Somerset and North Norfolk will be higher). The proportion of those aged 65+ will also be upper quartile for Wealden, Lewes and Eastbourne districts. Hastings will remain above the England average as well, but below the average in the south east.

Fig 3a to 3c index of deprivation – education skills and training domain - children and young people sub-domain

Figures on this sub-domain are not readily available by district, but are available for the full education, skills and training domain. The five East Sussex districts have been ranked across the 326 districts in England – these include district councils, metropolitan districts, London boroughs and unitary councils. The quartiles are therefore:

- Q1 authorities numbers 1-81;
- Q2 authorities numbers 82-163;
- Q3 authorities numbers 164-245; and
- Q4 authorities numbers 246-326.

East Sussex County Council has been ranked within the 152 upper tier authorities in England – these include County Councils, metropolitan districts, London boroughs and unitary councils. In this case the quartiles are Q1 authorities 1-37, Q2 authorities 38-76, Q3 authorities 77-114 and Q4 authorities 115-152.
In this analysis, those authorities with the lowest numbers are the authorities deemed to have the greatest need (shaded red). Those with the highest numbers are the authorities with the least need (shaded green).

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
Education, skills and training Ranking of 326 for each district, ranking of 152 for East Sussex	108	22	165	128	233	66	
	Q2	Q1	Q3	Q2	Q3	Q2	Hastings is in the most deprived quartile and also in the most deprived **decile** in England on this measure.

Fig 4 Pupils entitled to free school meals

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
Pupils entitled to free school meals as % of East Sussex school population	2.9%	4.5%	1.9%	2.2%	2.1%	13.7%	The highest percentage of children in school who are entitled to free school meals is in Hastings and the lowest percentages are in Lewes and Wealden.

Fig 5 Pupils without English as their first language

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	England	Notes
% without English as a first language	11.6	6.5	3.9	4.6	3.2	5.7	1 in 6 primary 1 in 8 secondary	The highest percentage of children in school without English as a first language is in Eastbourne, where about 1 in 10 children do not have English as a first language. But this is not normally a significant issue in East Sussex

Fig 6 Pupils under-achieving at KS2

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
% under-achieving at KS2	18.9	19.9	14.6	16.2	12.8	16.2	

Fig 7 Pupils under-achieving at KS4

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
% under-achieving at KS4 – not getting 5+ GCSEs	41.2	51.6	42.7	44.2	33.9	42.2	

Fig 9a to 9e Skills for life survey data - literacy

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
% estimate of adults below Entry Level 1 for reading	5.1	5.6	4.4	4.9	4.0		

Fig 9a to 9e Skills for life survey data – numeracy and ICT

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
% estimate of adults not at Entry Level 1 for numeracy	6.5	7.3	5.4	5.9	4.9		
% estimate of adults not at basic levels for ICT /email competence	36.6	39.4	34.5	37.4	33.4		These figures may be out of date, as the data used is from 2011. Might now be reasonably expected that these percentages will have fallen.

Fig 10a to 10c index of deprivation – Education skills and training domain, adult skills sub-domain
Figures are not readily available by district, but have been presented at figure 3 for the full education skills and training domain.

Fig 11a to 11c index of deprivation – employment deprivation domain

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
Employment deprivation Ranking of 326 for each district, ranking of 152 for East Sussex	72	8	172	114	278	86	
	Q1	Q1	Q3	Q2	Q4	Q3	On the employment deprivation indicator, Hastings is in the bottom quartile and also in the most deprived decile (there are only seven more deprived districts in the country than Hastings on this measure). Eastbourne also features in the most deprived quartile of authorities.

Figures 12 and 13 (new business registrations and business survival rates)
This data has been presented by district in the main report.

Figure 14a to 14c Index of Multiple Deprivation – Health Deprivation and Disability domain

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	Notes
Health deprivation Ranking of 326 for each district, rank of 152 for East Sussex	102	51	202	176	287	98	
	Q2	Q1	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q3	On this indicator although Hastings is in the quartile of highest need, it is not in the most deprived decile. Wealden (which is in the quartile of lowest need) is approaching being in the least deprived decile of authorities on this measure.

Figure 15 – residents with a long-term limiting illness

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	South East	England	Notes
% Population with a long-term limiting illness	21.0	22.1	19.5	23.4	17.5	20.3	15.7	17.9	These figures suggest high levels of long term illness and disability compared with the rest of the South East, but these could be largely age-related

Figure 16 – GP reported incidence of smoking

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	South East	England	Notes
% Population 15 or over who are smoking	22	26	16	13	16	18		18	
	Q1	Q1	Q3	Q4	Q3				Smoking rates are highest in Hastings and Eastbourne, and lowest in Rother

Figure 17 – Life expectancy at birth

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	South East	England	Notes
Life expectancy at birth - years	81.7	79.8	83.5	82.1	83.2	82.2			
males	79.9	77.2	80.6	80.0	81.3	80.0		79.4	
females	83.3	81.6	85.1	83.9	84.7	83.9		83.1	
	Q3	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q4				Life expectancy is in the lowest quartile for Hastings. Elsewhere it is similar to or better than the national average.

Figure 18 – Household composition - single one person households aged 65+

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex	South East	England	Notes
% households with a single occupier aged 65+	17.2	13.1	16.2	19.8	15.3	16.2	12.7	12.4	This shows the high proportion of single (65+) person households in every district compared with England – particularly in Rother.