

SHOCK: Council shaken as survey reveals

POVERTY GAP

IN DETAIL

INCOME

Part of Northfield Brook comes out the worst with 34 per cent of the total population considered to be income deprived.

INCOME DEPRIVATION AFFECTING CHILDREN

Part of Northfield Brook – where 51 per cent of the children come from income deprived families – is most deprived. Other areas with this problem are Cowley Marsh and Blackbird Leys.

INCOME DEPRIVATION AFFECTING OLDER PEOPLE

Carfax has the highest level of income deprivation affecting older people, where 42 per cent of adults aged 60 or more are affected by income deprivation. Some parts of North Oxford, such as St Margaret's and Summertown, have no older people in income deprivation.

EMPLOYMENT

Part of Littlemore is the most employment deprived part of Oxford, with 17 per cent of the work-age population involuntarily excluded from work. Blackbird Leys, Barton and Rose Hill are other areas with large amounts of employment deprivation.

EDUCATION, SKILLS, AND TRAINING

Part of Barton has the greatest amount of education deprivation and finds itself in the five per cent most deprived areas in England for education and skills. Other areas doing badly are Northfield Brook and Blackbird Leys.

HEALTH AND DISABILITY

Carfax is ranked as the worst area in Oxford and is in the five per cent most deprived areas in England in terms of health and disability. Rose Hill & Iffley is another area doing badly.

BARRIERS TO HOUSING AND SERVICES

The majority of Oxford is considered deprived in this area, as overcrowding and the ratio between house prices and wages are factors.

CRIME

The city centre, Headington, Cowley, Blackbird Leys and Littlemore all fared badly, but the worst area was Jericho & Osney.

Chris Buratta
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REPORTER

WE HAVE the best of cities but we also have the worst of cities.

That's the story told by new poverty figures which show parts of Oxford sliding further into the mire of deprivation as others flourish.

Twelve of Oxford's 85 neighbourhoods, known as 'super output areas', are now among the most deprived 20 per cent in the country, two more than when the survey was last conducted in 2007.

They include parts of Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill and Barton.

An area of Northfield Brook is the most deprived area in the city, and among the most deprived 10 per cent areas in England.

But in stark contrast, parts of North Oxford are revealed as some of the most affluent in the country, particularly in education terms.

Senior councillors say they are "shaken" by the bleak picture painted by the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 survey.

And community leaders say the challenges of deprivation must not quash the ambition of city youngsters.

The survey considers factors including income, health, educational achievement, crime and housing standards and ranks areas on a relative scale.

Overall, Oxford has risen from the 155th most deprived area in 2007 to the 131st most deprived area in 2010, when compared to other local authority areas in the country.

Oxford City Council leader Bob Price said tackling deprivation had been a priority for the authority over the past few years.

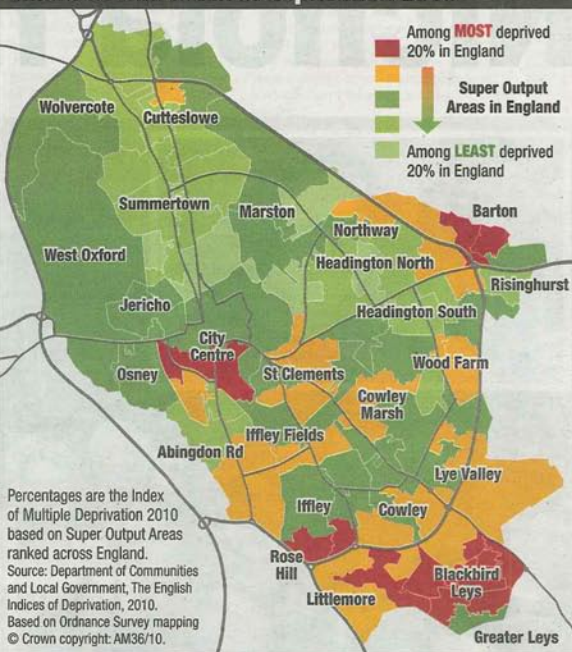
"I am slightly shaken by it given the amount of work that has been done," he said.

"It shows it is more entrenched and more difficult to deal with than we thought."

He said the city's policies had not failed but added: "It is a more complex issue than the city council alone can resolve."

Mr Price said further analysis had started to work out why deprivation was increasing.

Oxford overall index of deprivation 2010



■ **AFFLUENCE:** Estate agent Graham MacDonald in Summertown Picture: Ed Nic

Richard Colbrook is a trustee of the Leys Youth Programme, which runs 28 weekly activities for more than 450 children in Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook.

He said young people from deprived backgrounds could struggle in school and often felt doors were closed to them.

"There is entrenched deprivation in Blackbird Leys going into its fourth generation," he added.

"It will take a long time (to break), you are talking years and years."

"But the great thing about the Leys is you have a fantastically strong sense of community."

Mr Colbrook said a co-ordinated

There is entrenched deprivation in Blackbird Leys going into its fourth generation – Richard Colbrook

IN CITY WIDENS



■ **STRUGGLE:** Richard Colbrook, trustee of the Leys Youth Programme, in Blackbird Leys, which he says has a great sense of community despite being an area of deprivation; right, the leafy streets of North Oxford

Pictures: Antony Moore and Ed Nic



■ **HIDDEN STORY:** Jean Fooks

IT'S ALL IN THE STATISTICS

DEPRIVATION figures tell a tale of two cities, with parts of south-east Oxford falling further behind, but areas in the north of the city continue to prosper.

■ An area of Northfield Brook has the highest deprivation score in the city and is among the most deprived 10 per cent in England.

Part of Summertown is the least deprived, and is among the least deprived 20 per cent of areas nationally.

In total, 12 areas of the city are among the 20 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. They are



concentrated in the south-east of the city including Barton, Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook.

Income deprivation affects the majority of children in one part of Northfield Brook, where 51 per cent of the children come from income deprived families.

In some areas of North

Oxford, no children live in deprivation.

■ Nine areas in the south-east of the city are among the lowest five per cent in the country in terms of education achievement.

One part of North Oxford is the third least deprived out of 32,480 English neighbourhoods.

■ The only area where North Oxford is more deprived than the south is in terms of air quality and traffic accidents, the highest levels of deprivation fall on the city centre and track Banbury Road, pictured, Woodstock Road and Cowley Road.

approach was needed and the youth programme was offering mentoring to help break the cycle of deprivation by broadening children's horizons.

But he added public sector cuts would harm progress.

"It is the people at the poor end of the scale who depend on these services that are being cut," he said.

One area of hope is offered by improving results at the Oxford Academy, the former Peers School, in Littlemore.

Principal Mike Reading said it was vital that children growing up in

poverty did not see it as a barrier to achievement.

"What we need to do is put in place a system that supports young people and their families and still expects high things from them," he said.

"The figures are worrying and dismaying, but they disguise so much good that is going on in these areas."

The picture is very different in North Oxford, where parts of the city are among the least deprived in England.

Graham MacDonald, director of Kemp and Kemp estate agents in Summertown, said the area attracted

wealthy people and affluence was a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"You have people who would traditionally buy a small country estate but have moved into prime parts of North Oxford because of the schools and amenities."

But Summertown city councillor Jean Fooks said North Oxford had pockets of deprivation that were disguised by statistics.

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What do you think? Join the debate at oxfordmail.co.uk or write to letters@oxfordmail.co.uk