



## **Financial Benchmarking - Unit Costs (2023/24 Actuals)**

**Newtimber**

## Overview

This report compares unit costs between local authorities in England, using actual expenditure from authorities' Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 2023/24. The report is intended to act as an initial guide for further investigation into areas where unit costs differ to those of similar authorities and where there may potentially be scope for savings.

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## Summary of Key Points


































### Notional savings

- The notional impact of setting your authority's unit costs, across every service, equal to:
  - The **bottom 20%** of authorities in England: ↓ notional savings of £66.1m
  - The **top 20%** of authorities in England: ↑ additional expenditure of £81.3m

### Annual change in unit costs

- Change in your authority's unit costs between 2022/23 and 2023/24: ↑ **5.4%**
- Your authority's unit costs were ranked 12th highest in the nearest neighbour (NN) group in both years.

### Unit costs

Service:	Relative unit costs:	Your authority's relative unit cost:
<b>Overall unit costs (exc. schools)</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 5.8% below the NN average ■ 4.2% below the England average
<b>Education (exc. schools)</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 8.7% below the NN average ■ 14.1% below the England average
<b>Adult Social Care</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident (ages 18 plus): ■ 0.0% below the NN average ■ 2.3% above the England average
<b>Children's Social Care</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident (ages 0 to 17): ■ 4.3% above the NN average ■ 10.8% above the England average
<b>Public Health</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 10.6% below the NN average ■ 5.5% below the England average
<b>Highways &amp; Transport*</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per km of road (weighted): ■ 56.6% above the NN average ■ 216.1% above the England average
<b>Housing (General Fund)</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 3.6% above the NN average ■ 20.5% below the England average
<b>Cultural &amp; Related</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 40.4% below the NN average ■ 33.5% below the England average
<b>Environmental &amp; Regulatory</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 5.3% below the NN average ■ 11.6% below the England average
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 32.8% above the NN average ■ 40.2% above the England average
<b>Central Services</b>	Your authority  Neighbours  England 	Expenditure per resident: ■ 19.7% below the NN average ■ 22.5% below the England average

\* Excludes levies for transport authorities and expenditure by the GLA, which may affect national comparisons.

## 1. Methodology

Unit costs are based on local authorities' actual expenditure for 2023/24, as reported in Revenue Outturn (RO) forms. Expenditure on Fire and Rescue services is excluded from this report, so as to enable a like-for-like comparison between authorities with otherwise identical functions and responsibilities.

When estimating unit costs, expenditure is first deflated by the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA). This controls for geographical variations in the cost of providing services due to differences in wage and salary costs. These adjustments are based on the ACA figures for 2013/14, as published by MHCLG.

To calculate unit costs, deflated expenditure is divided by relevant cost drivers; for example, the number of local residents or weighted road length. The same data as used for 2023/24 budgeted unit cost reports is used for these denominators and will vary from year to year. Details on each denominator are provided in Annex A.

Where local authorities have been restructured, it has been necessary in some cases to estimate expenditure or activity levels using data that relates to now-abolished authorities.

Unit costs are based on net current expenditure (NCE), which is comprised of expenditure on employees and running expenses, net of sales, fees and charges, internal recharges and other income. NCE excludes levies paid to Waste Disposal Authorities and Integrated Transport Authorities, and this should be borne in mind when making any comparisons between authorities where their costs may be recorded differently, due to differing structural arrangements for such services.

## 2. Comparator groups

For benchmarking purposes, two sets of comparator groups are used in this analysis: (a) Newtimber's nearest neighbour group, and (b) all comparable authorities across England.

### Nearest neighbour group

Please note that some authorities did not submit actual expenditure (RO) data in 2023/24 or 2022/23 in time for publication in MHCLG statistics. In cases where data is missing for your authority's nearest neighbours, these have been replaced by the next closest authorities from LG Futures' nearest neighbour model.

To enable a like-for-like comparison, this analysis makes use of LG Futures' statistical 'nearest neighbours' groups. These identify councils with similar economic, social and geographic characteristics and groups them on a statistical basis. These were last updated in 2024.

Newtimber's nearest neighbour group is shown in the table below:

**Table 1 - Nearest neighbour group**

■ <b>Newtimber</b>	■ Authority H
■ Authority A	■ Authority I
■ Authority B	■ Authority J
■ Authority C	■ Authority K
■ Authority D	■ Authority L
■ Authority E	■ Authority M
■ Authority F	■ Authority N
■ Authority G	■ Authority O

### National comparator group

When making national comparisons, it is necessary to consider the services provided by each authority. Unit costs should only be compared among authorities with similar functions and responsibilities.

To enable national comparisons, authorities are therefore categorised into three groups, according to whether they provide (1) both upper-tier and lower-tier services, (2) exclusively upper-tier services, or (3) exclusively lower-tier services.

Based on the services it provides, Newtimber falls into Group 1, as shown in the table below. All national comparisons in this report are made with reference to this group of councils. For the 2023/24 actuals report, data was available for 128 of these authorities.

**Table 2 - National comparator groups**

Group	Authority Type	Lower tier	Upper tier	Fire*	No.
Group 1	Metropolitan districts, London boroughs and unitaries without fire responsibilities	✓	✓		126
	Unitaries with fire responsibilities	✓	✓	✓	2
Group 2	Shire counties with fire responsibilities		✓	✓	9
	Shire counties without fire responsibilities		✓		12
Group 3	Shire districts	✓			152

\* Expenditure on fire and protective services is excluded from this report, so does not affect comparisons.

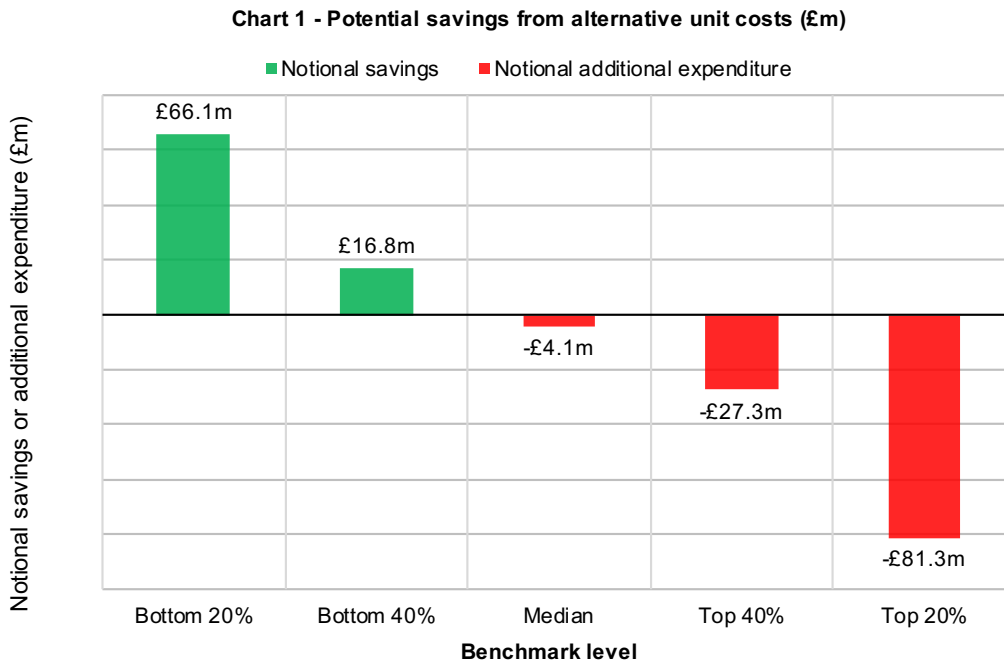
### 3. Potential savings

This section considers the *notional* savings that could be achieved by setting your authority's unit costs to certain levels relative to other councils.

Benchmarks are set relative to Newtimber's nearest neighbour group.

Benchmark unit costs are defined as the cut-off points for the top 20% of authorities, the top 40% of authorities, the median, the bottom 40% of authorities, and the bottom 20%.

The chart below illustrates the theoretical savings that would result if Newtimber set its unit costs to these benchmarks for every service. For example, setting its unit costs to the bottom 20% of authorities in the nearest neighbour group, within every major service, would generate notional savings of £66.1m. Setting its unit costs to the top 20% of all comparable authorities would impose additional expenditure of £81.3m.



The table below provides a breakdown of these potential savings (or additional expenditure) by service.

**Table 3 - Potential savings by major service**

Notional savings  Additional expenditure

Service	Bottom 20%	Bottom 40%	Median	Top 40%	Top 20%
Education (excluding schools)	£2.1m	£0.0m	£-1.0m	£-3.7m	£-11.0m
Adult Social Care	£11.6m	£5.2m	£2.6m	£0.0m	£-10.4m
Children's Social Care	£27.6m	£11.5m	£7.2m	£0.0m	£-14.1m
Public Health	£0.7m	£-1.3m	£-1.7m	£-6.1m	£-8.9m
Highways & Transport	£10.6m	£8.7m	£5.0m	£3.6m	£0.0m
Housing Services (GFRA only)	£4.1m	£2.2m	£1.5m	£0.0m	£-3.8m
Cultural & Related Services	£-0.6m	£-6.8m	£-8.4m	£-9.0m	£-14.0m
Environmental & Regulatory Services	£0.0m	£-1.5m	£-3.5m	£-4.1m	£-7.8m
Planning & Development Services	£7.1m	£2.5m	£1.6m	£0.4m	£-0.7m
Central Services	£2.8m	£-3.9m	£-7.3m	£-8.3m	£-10.7m
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>£66.1m</b>	<b>£16.8m</b>	<b>£-4.1m</b>	<b>£-27.3m</b>	<b>£-81.3m</b>

*Negative figures indicate increased expenditure. Your authority would incur additional expenditure if its unit costs are currently below the relevant benchmark level.*

Please note that these notional savings will vary from those presented in LG Futures' Adult Social Care Report and Children's Social Care Report, due to different data and methodologies used.

## 4. Change in unit costs 2022/23 to 2023/24

This section highlights the change in Newtimber's unit costs, compared to its nearest neighbours, between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

In 2023/24, Newtimber's overall unit costs (excluding schools) increased by 5.4%. Its ranking, relative to its nearest neighbours, was unchanged at 12th highest in the group. The change for each major service is shown in the table below.

**Table 4 - Change in unit costs relative to the nearest neighbour group**

Service Area	Unit Costs (£ per unit)			Nearest Neighbour Ranking (1 = high)			Units
	2022/23	2023/24	Change	2022/23	2023/24	Change	
Education (exc. schools)	71.84	78.62	●	11th	10th	●	Residents (all)
Adults' Social Care	267.27	351.18	●	14th	7th	●	Residents (18+ weighted)*
Children's Social Care	1,279.27	1,397.52	●	7th	7th	●	Residents (0-17)
Public Health	65.60	70.24	●	13th	11th	●	Residents (all)
Highways & Transport	12,039.47	10,161.81	●	2nd	4th	●	Road length
Housing (General Fund)	37.02	41.60	●	6th	7th	●	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	36.10	29.07	●	13th	15th	●	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	87.15	82.28	●	7th	13th	●	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	38.35	35.59	●	2nd	6th	●	Residents (all)
Central Services	100.93	49.30	●	2nd	12th	●	Residents (all)
<b>Total Expenditure (exc. Schools)</b>	<b>1,043.19</b>	<b>1,099.11</b>	●	<b>12th</b>	<b>12th</b>	●	Residents (all)

Key: ● Decreased unit costs / improved rank  
● Unchanged unit costs / unchanged rank  
● Increased unit costs / worsened rank

\* Adults aged 65+ are assigned 3.1 times the weight of adults aged 18 to 64. Based on an analysis of historical local authority expenditure by age band.

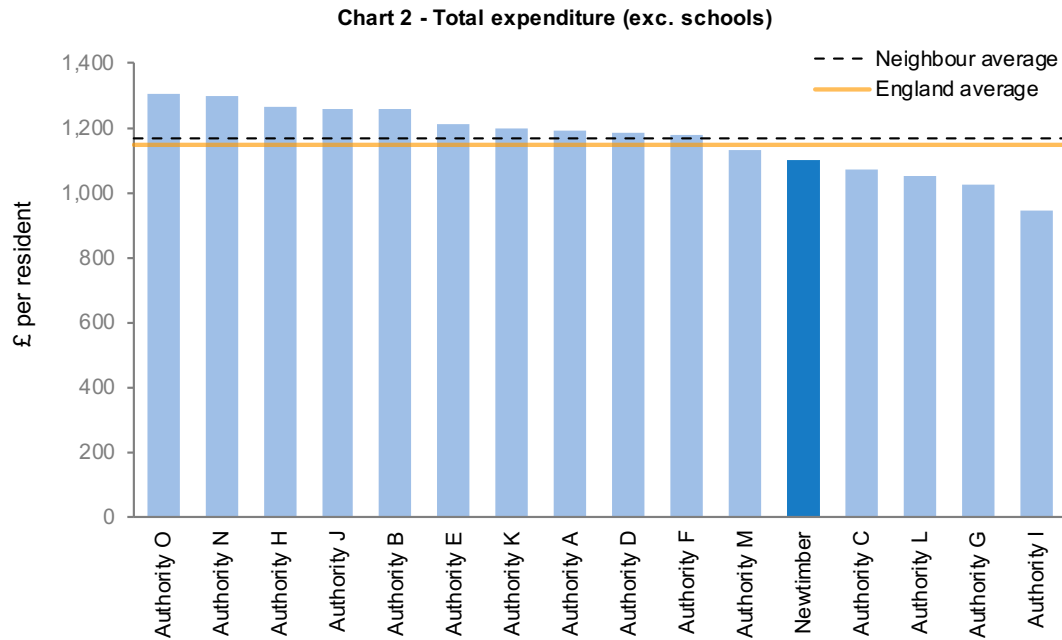
Annex A provides more details on the units used to calculate unit costs, as listed in the table above.



## 5. Overview of unit costs

In 2023/24, Newtimber's total expenditure per resident (excluding schools) was 5.8% lower than the nearest neighbour average. It was ranked 12th highest out of the 16 authorities in the group.

Its position relative to its nearest neighbours is illustrated in the chart below.



The table below shows Newtimber's unit costs, in each major service area, relative to its nearest neighbours.

**Table 5 - Unit costs compared to nearest neighbours**

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost*		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank out of 16 (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	NN average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Education (exc. schools)	31.170	78.62	86.11	-8.7%	●	10th	Residents (all)
Adults' Social Care	147.196	351.18	351.29	0.0%	●	7th	Residents (18+ weighted)**
Children's Social Care	118.985	1,397.52	1,340.06	4.3%	●	7th	Residents (0-17)
Public Health	27.790	70.24	78.57	-10.6%	●	11th	Residents (all)
Highways & Transport	15.738	10,161.81	6,489.66	56.6%	●	4th	Road length
Housing (General Fund)	16.547	41.60	40.14	3.6%	●	7th	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	11.565	29.07	48.79	-40.4%	●	15th	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	32.730	82.28	86.87	-5.3%	●	13th	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	14.158	35.59	26.79	32.8%	●	6th	Residents (all)
Central Services	19.613	49.30	61.37	-19.7%	●	12th	Residents (all)
Other Services	0.000						
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>435.492</b>	<b>1,099.11</b>	<b>1,166.73</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>	●	<b>12th</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>
Total (including schools)	620.790	1,566.31	1,707.50	-8.3%	●	13th	Residents (all)

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

\* In this report, unit costs are based on actual expenditure **deflated by the Area Cost Adjustment**, which reflects geographical differences in the costs of providing local services, primarily due to wage and salary costs. Values are left blank for 'Other Services' (which varies widely between authorities) and for services where your authority does not have primary responsibility.

\*\* Within Adult Social Care, adults aged 65+ are assigned 3.1 times the weight of adults aged 18 to 64. This is based on an analysis of historical local authority expenditure by age band.

## England comparison

Relative to all comparable authorities in England, Newtimber's unit costs were 4.2% lower than average, and ranked 74th highest out of 128 authorities.

The table below provides details of Newtimber's unit costs relative to all comparable authorities across England.

**Table 6 - Unit costs compared to England average**

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from England average		Rank out of 128 (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	England average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Education (exc. schools)	31.170	78.62	91.51	-14.1%	●	79th	Residents (all)
Adults' Social Care	147.196	351.18	343.32	2.3%	●	47th	Residents (18+ weighted)
Children's Social Care	118.985	1,397.52	1,261.64	10.8%	●	38th	Residents (0-17)
Public Health	27.790	70.24	74.36	-5.5%	●	68th	Residents (all)
Highways & Transport	15.738	10,161.81	3,214.41	216.1%	●	15th	Road length
Housing (General Fund)	16.547	41.60	52.31	-20.5%	●	60th	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	11.565	29.07	43.74	-33.5%	●	98th	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	32.730	82.28	93.09	-11.6%	●	84th	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	14.158	35.59	25.38	40.2%	●	22nd	Residents (all)
Central Services	19.613	49.30	63.58	-22.5%	●	78th	Residents (all)
Other Services	0.000						
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>435.492</b>	<b>1,099.11</b>	<b>1,146.77</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>	●	<b>74th</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>
Total (including schools)	620.790	1,566.31	1,723.23	-9.1%	●	91st	Residents (all)

Bottom 20% of authorities ●●●● top 20% of authorities

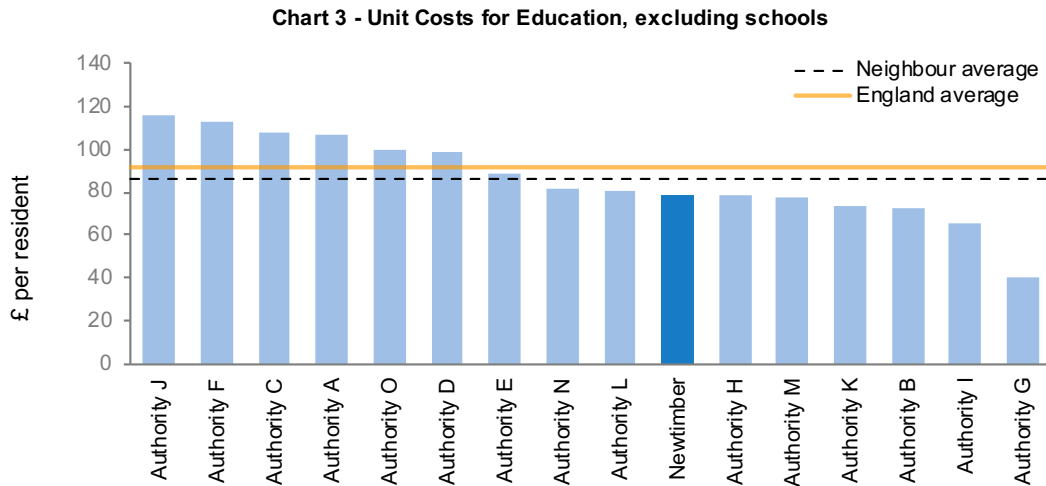
The following section provides additional details on each of these services.

## 6. Unit costs by service

### Education

For Education (exc. schools), Newtimber's unit costs were 8.7% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 10th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 14.1% lower than average (and ranked 79th highest out of 128 authorities).



Detailed unit costs, relative to its nearest neighbours, are shown in the table below.

**Table 7 - Detailed unit costs for Education (NN Group)**

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Post-16 Provision	3.424	144.61	304.42	-52.5%	●	16th / 16	Residents (16-19)
Other Education & Community	27.746	69.98	71.24	-1.8%	●	8th / 16	Residents (all)
Early Years*	32.467	1,352.87	1,217.28	11.1%	●	4th / 16	Residents (0-4)
Primary Schools*	116.616	5,361.07	6,479.50	-17.3%	●	15th / 16	Pupils (primary)
Secondary Schools*	2.813	NA	11,006.14				Pupils (secondary)
Special Schools*	33.402	42,344.80	87,857.41	-51.8%	●	11th / 15	Pupils (special)
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>31.170</b>	<b>78.62</b>	<b>86.11</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>	●	<b>10th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>
Total (including schools)	216.468	2,160.07	2,498.85	-13.6%	●	11th / 16	Residents (0-19)

\* School functions

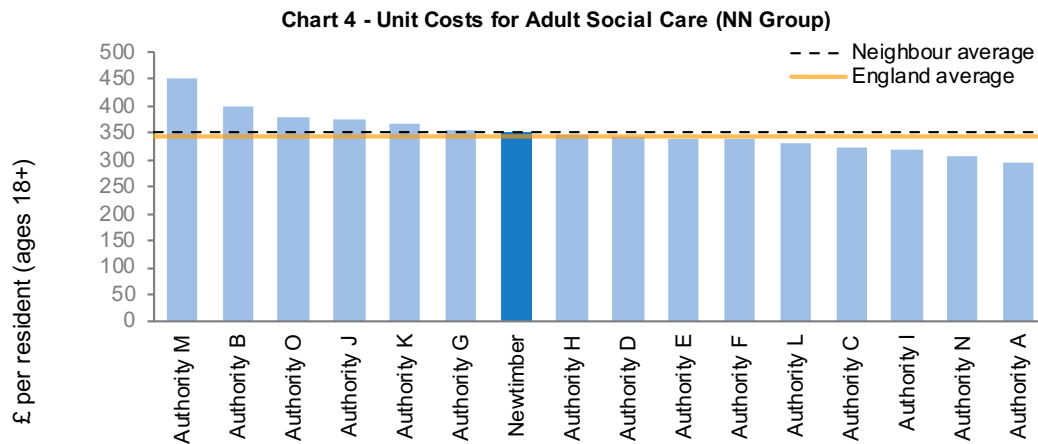
Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●●● top 20% of NN group

## Adult Social Care

For Adult Social Care, overall unit costs are based on the weighted number of residents aged 18 and over. Residents aged 65 and over are assigned 3.1 times the weight of younger adults, reflecting higher average costs for this age band (based on an analysis of local authorities' historical spending).

For Adult Social Care, Newtimber's unit costs were 0.0% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 7th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 2.3% higher than average (and ranked 47th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 8 - Detailed unit costs for Adult Social Care (NN group)\***

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Older Adult Social Care	43.388	826.62	782.62	5.6%	●	4th / 16	Residents (65+)
Younger Adults - Physical & Sensory	5.806	22.50	57.29	-60.7%	●	16th / 16	Residents (18-64)
Younger Adults - Mental Health & Cognition	13.177	51.07	42.06	21.4%	●	3rd / 16	Residents (18-64)
Younger Adults - Learning Disabilities	44.055	170.75	200.08	-14.7%	●	15th / 16	Residents (18-64)
Commissioning and Service Delivery	22.322	53.26	22.65	135.1%	●	1st / 16	Residents (18+ weighted)
Social Care Activities	13.903	33.17	34.33	-3.4%	●	10th / 16	Residents (18+ weighted)
Other Adult Social Care	4.545	10.84	17.00	-36.2%	●	13th / 16	Residents (18+ weighted)
<b>Total</b>	<b>147.196</b>	<b>351.18</b>	<b>351.29</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	●	<b>7th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (18+ weighted)</b>

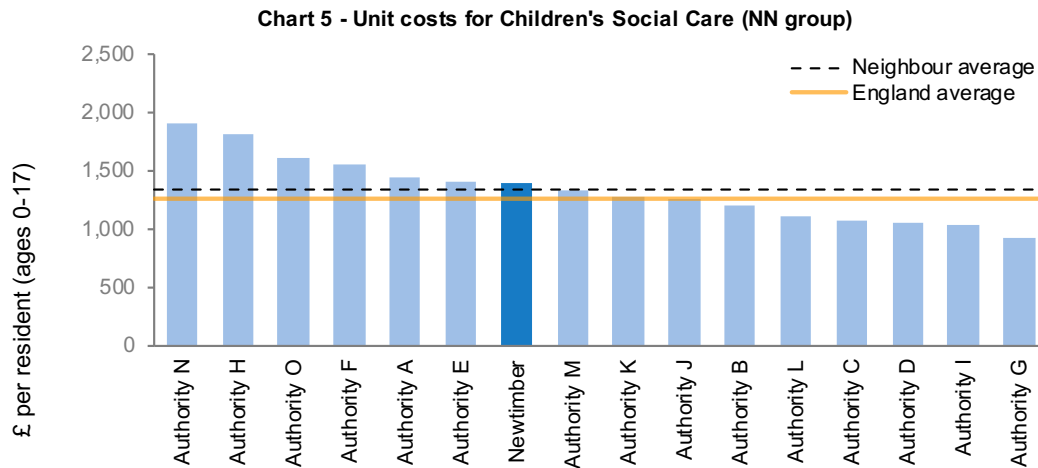
Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

\* LG Futures' adult social care benchmarking reports include further detailed analysis of social care. However, please note that these unit costs will vary from those presented in the LG Futures' Adult Social Care Report due to different data and methodologies used.

## Children's Social Care

For Children's Social Care, Newtimber's unit costs were 4.3% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 7th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 10.8% higher than average (and ranked 38th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 9 - Detailed unit costs for Children's Social Care (NN group)\***

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Children Looked After	62.931	739.14	746.91	-1.0%	●	10th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Safeguarding Children's Services	26.080	306.32	315.16	-2.8%	●	9th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Sure Start and Early Years	1.586	66.22	128.06	-48.3%	●	12th / 16	Residents (0-4)
Services for Young People	0.417	11.10	58.12	-80.9%	●	15th / 16	Residents (13-19)
Family Support Services	18.691	219.53	162.12	35.4%	●	4th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Youth Justice	1.654	44.10	61.63	-28.4%	●	13th / 16	Residents (10-17)
Other Children's and Families Services	1.298	15.25	13.07	16.7%	●	6th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Asylum seekers**	6.328						
<b>Total</b>	<b>118.985</b>	<b>1,397.52</b>	<b>1,340.06</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	●	<b>7th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (0-17)</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

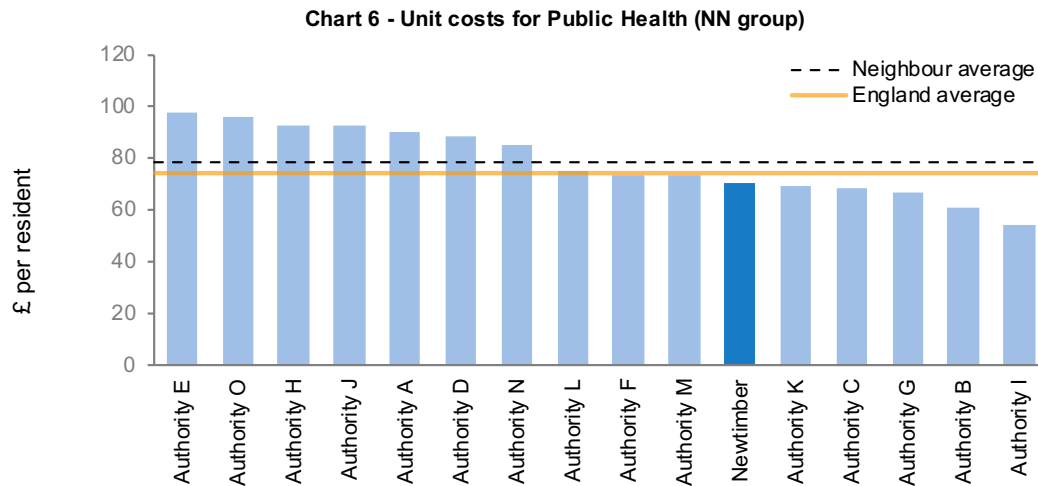
\* LG Futures' children's social care benchmarking reports include further detailed analysis of social care. However, please note that these unit costs will vary from those presented in the LG Futures' Children's Social Care Report due to different data and methodologies used.

\*\* Values are left blank for 'Asylum Seekers', which varies widely between authorities.

## Public Health

For Public Health, Newtimber's unit costs were 10.6% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 11th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 5.5% lower than average (and ranked 68th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 10 - Detailed unit costs for Public Health (NN group)**

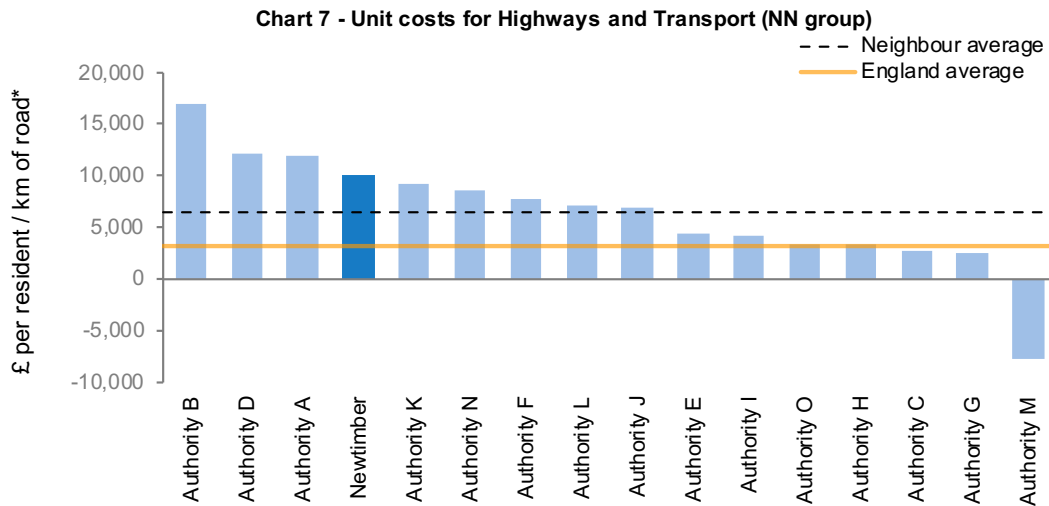
Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Children 5-19 Public Health Programmes	1.703	22.39	29.84	-25.0%	●	10th / 16	Residents (5-19)
0-5 Children's Services	6.558	229.44	269.82	-15.0%	●	12th / 16	Residents (0-5)
Obesity	0.539	2.61	4.25	-38.5%	●	9th / 16	Obese & overweight adults
Physical Activity	0.806	2.04	2.95	-31.0%	●	11th / 16	Residents (all)
Sexual Health Services	4.009	14.28	14.94	-4.4%	●	10th / 16	Residents (13-64)
Smoking and Tobacco	0.548	11.37	14.03	-19.0%	●	10th / 16	Smokers
Substance Misuse	5.110	16.46	24.70	-33.4%	●	15th / 16	Residents (18+)
Other Public Health Services	8.517	21.53	17.97	19.8%	●	5th / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.790</b>	<b>70.24</b>	<b>78.57</b>	<b>-10.6%</b>	●	<b>11th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

## Highways and Transport

For Highways and Transport, Newtimber's unit costs were 56.6% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 4th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 216.1% higher than average (and ranked 15th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 11 - Detailed unit costs for Highways and Transport (NN group)**

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Highways Maintenance	6.607	4,266.05	3,188.92	33.8%	●	3rd / 16	Road length
Parking Services	-2.890	-7.07	-6.35	-11.2%	●	11th / 16	Daytime population
Street Lighting	11.074	7,150.33	2,650.08	169.8%	●	1st / 16	Road length
Transport Planning, Policy and Strategy	0.468	302.18	620.37	-51.3%	●	10th / 16	Road length
Winter Service	0.475	306.70	296.65	3.4%	●	7th / 16	Road length
Traffic Management and Road Safety	-0.052	-33.58	-448.47	92.5%	●	14th / 16	Road length
Public Transport	0.056	36.16	1,398.80	-97.4%	●	8th / 16	Road length
Other Highways and Transport Services	0.000	0.00	-2.91	100.0%	●	2nd= / 16	Road length
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.738</b>	<b>10,161.81</b>	<b>6,489.66</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	●	<b>4th / 16</b>	<b>Road length</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

\* For shire districts, the denominator is resident population, and for all other authorities the denominator is weighted road length. This is because road length data is not available for shire districts.



## **Additional notes on Highways & Transport**

Note that national comparisons of unit costs are heavily influenced by a number of London boroughs (such Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Islington, and Hammersmith & Fulham), which generate significant net income from parking, and so have large negative unit costs for this service area.

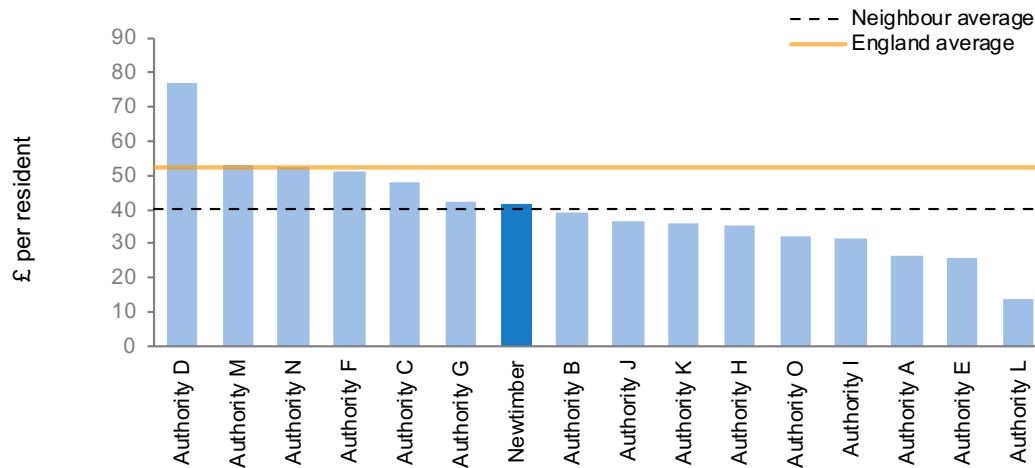
Net current expenditure on Highways & Transport (which is used to calculate unit costs) excludes expenditure carried out on behalf of local authorities by combined authorities or other transport authorities. This will affect the relative unit costs of the Metropolitan Districts (and some Unitaries). Similarly, expenditure by the Greater London Authority means unit costs for the London boroughs are likely to be lower than the costs for other unitary authorities, all else being equal. These caveats should be borne in mind when interpreting the unit costs presented above.

## Housing Services (General Fund)

For Housing Services, Newtimber's unit costs were 3.6% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 7th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 20.5% lower than average (and ranked 60th highest out of 128 authorities).

**Chart 8 - Unit costs for Housing Services (NN group)**



**Table 12 - Detailed unit costs for Housing Services (NN group)**

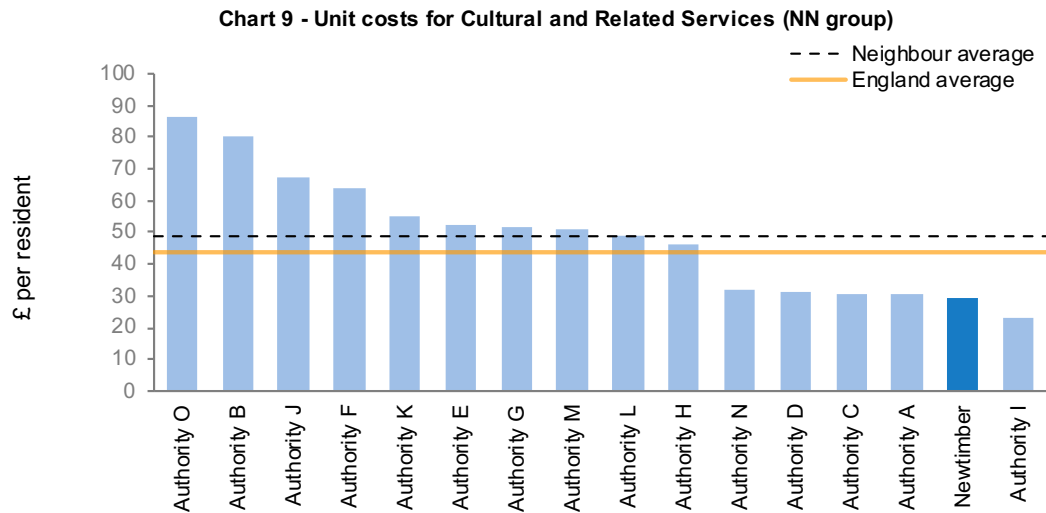
Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Homelessness	15.750	23,641.22	14,559.69	62.4%	●	4th / 16	Homeless households
Housing Benefits Administration	0.000	0.00	119.84	-100.0%	●	16th / 16	Housing Benefit claimants
Housing Benefits: Rent Allowances and Rebates	0.000	0.00	25.46	-100.0%	●	13th= / 16	Housing Benefit claimants
Housing Strategy, Advice, Advances etc.	0.797	2.00	6.34	-68.4%	●	15th / 16	Residents (all)
Housing Welfare: Supporting People	0.000	0.00	6.19	-100.0%	●	13th= / 16	Residents (all)
Other Housing Services	0.000	0.00	0.66	-100.0%	●	10th= / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.547</b>	<b>41.60</b>	<b>40.14</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	●	<b>7th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

## Cultural and Related Services

For Cultural and Related Services, Newtimber's unit costs were 40.4% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 15th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 33.5% lower than average (and ranked 98th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 13 - Detailed unit costs for Cultural and Related Services (NN group)**

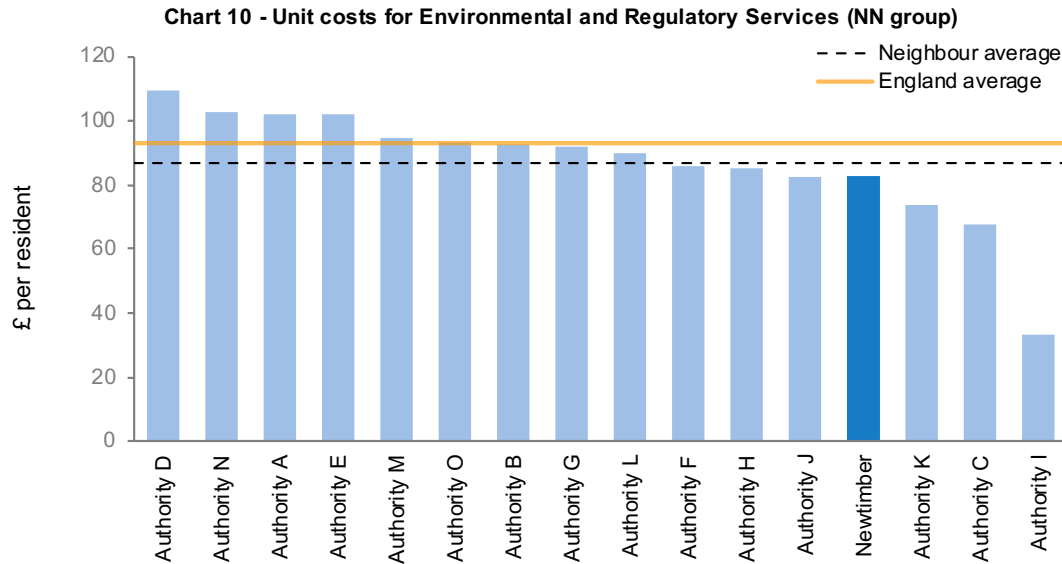
Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Culture and Heritage	0.345	0.87	9.68	-91.0%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Library Service	3.614	9.09	9.95	-8.7%	●	9th / 16	Residents (all)
Open Spaces	2.797	279.81	294.71	-5.1%	●	8th / 16	LA area (hectares)
Recreation and Sport	0.614	1.54	14.75	-89.5%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Other Cultural and Related Services	4.195	10.55	1.79	487.6%	●	1st / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.565</b>	<b>29.07</b>	<b>48.79</b>	<b>-40.4%</b>	●	<b>15th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

## Environmental and Regulatory Services

For Environmental & Regulatory Services, Newtimber's unit costs were 5.3% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 13th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 11.6% lower than average (and ranked 84th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 14 - Detailed unit costs for Environmental and Regulatory Services (NN group)**

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Cemetery, Cremation and Mortuary Services	-2.617	-6.58	-2.53	-159.8%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Community Safety	1.210	3.04	5.30	-42.6%	●	14th / 16	Residents (all)
Regulatory Services	3.404	8.56	9.73	-12.0%	●	9th / 16	Residents (all)
Street Cleansing	5.225	12.71	12.41	2.4%	●	5th / 16	Daytime population
Waste Collection	12.258	78.11	45.90	70.2%	●	2nd / 16	Number of households
Waste Disposal & Recycling*	12.762	103.00	105.88	-2.7%	●	10th / 16	Waste collected (household)
Trade Waste & Waste Minimisation*	0.000	0.00	0.37	-100.0%	●	7th= / 16	Waste collected (all)
Other Environmental and Regulatory Services	0.488	1.23	2.05	-40.2%	●	8th / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>32.730</b>	<b>82.28</b>	<b>86.87</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>	●	<b>13th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

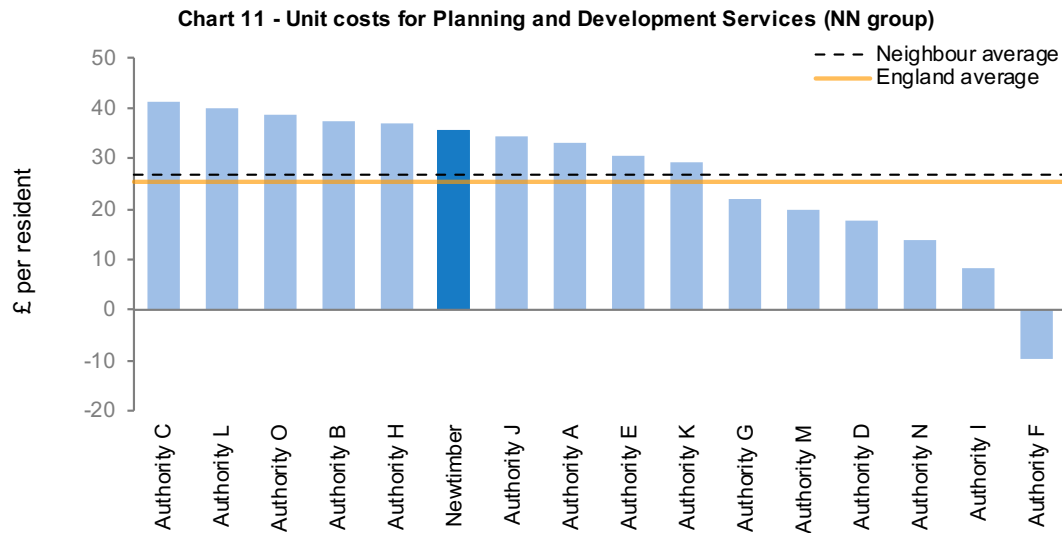
Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●●● top 20% of NN group

\* Net Current Expenditure (used to calculate unit costs) excludes levies paid to waste authorities, which will affect relative unit costs for these services.

## Planning and Development Services

For Planning & Development Services, Newtimber's unit costs were 32.8% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 6th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 40.2% higher than average (and ranked 22nd highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 15 - Detailed unit costs for Planning & Development Services (NN group)**

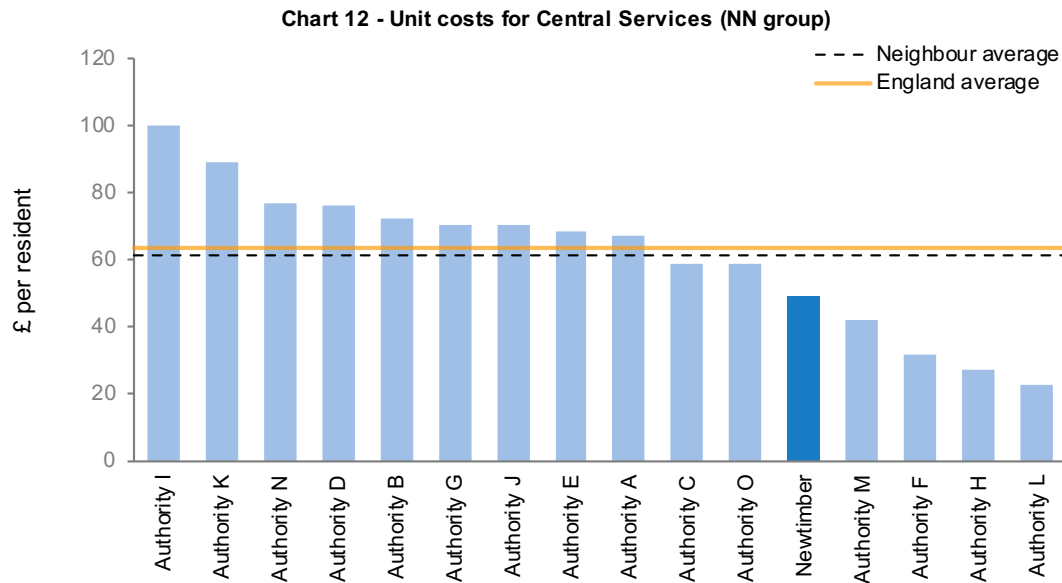
Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Building Control	0.043	31.95	365.24	-91.3%	●	15th / 16	Planning decisions
Business Support	0.000	0.00	-105.30	100.0%	●	9th= / 16	Number of businesses
Community Development	3.035	7.63	7.40	3.1%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
Economic Research and Development	9.496	23.87	13.77	73.4%	●	5th / 16	Residents (all)
Planning Policy	0.848	2.13	3.43	-37.9%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Environmental Initiatives	0.000	0.00	1.09	-100.0%	●	10th= / 16	Residents (all)
Development Control	0.736	546.89	777.43	-29.7%	●	9th / 16	Planning decisions
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.158</b>	<b>35.59</b>	<b>26.79</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	●	<b>6th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●●

## Central Services

Within Central Services, Newtimber's unit costs were 19.7% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 12th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 22.5% lower than average (and ranked 78th highest out of 128 authorities).



**Table 16 - Detailed unit costs for Central Services (NN group)**

Service Area	Actual 2023/24 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Coroners Court Services	0.915	2.30	2.67	-13.8%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
Corporate and Democratic Core	9.378	23.58	16.59	42.1%	●	2nd / 16	Residents (all)
Emergency Planning	0.251	0.63	0.62	1.4%	●	8th / 16	Residents (all)
Local Tax Collection	3.620	23.90	20.84	14.7%	●	7th / 16	Taxable properties
Non-Distributed Costs	2.454	6.17	9.03	-31.7%	●	12th / 16	Residents (all)
Other Central Services	2.995	7.53	23.21	-67.6%	●	14th / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.613</b>	<b>49.30</b>	<b>61.37</b>	<b>-19.7%</b>	●	<b>12th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group ●●●●

## Annex A - Denominators and data sources

Then following table provides details on the data used to calculate unit costs in this report (presented in alphabetical order).

**Table A1 - Data sources**

Denominator / Unit	Source	Description
Daytime population	MHCLG, ONS	The projected resident population in 2023, based ONS's population projections, plus estimated net in-commuters from the 2011 Census. (Source: NOMIS and LG Futures' calculations).
Homeless households	MHCLG	Number of households assessed and owed a duty by the local authority (prevention or relief), average of eight quarters to Q4 2022. (Source: Live Tables on Homelessness, MHCLG).
Housing Benefit claimants	DWP	Housing benefit caseload by local authority, average for the 12 months to February 2023. (Source: DWP Stat-Xplore).
LA Area (hectares)	ONS	Size of the local authority in hectares, from the UK Standard Area Measurement (SAM).
Number of businesses	ONS	Count of the number of business units in each local authority, as at March 2022. (Source: NOMIS, UK Business Counts).
Number of households	ONS	Projected number of households in 2023. (Source: Household Projections for England, ONS).
Obese & overweight adults	Public Health England	Estimate based on the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese (average 2018/19 to 2021/22), multiplied by the projected adult population in 2023. (Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, NHS).
Planning decisions	MHCLG	Number of planning applications decided by the district level planning authority in the year to Mar 2023. (Source: Live Tables on Planning Application Statistics, MHCLG).
Pupils (primary, secondary and special)	DfE	Number of pupils in LA-maintained primary, secondary and special schools in 2022/23. Primary and secondary school pupil numbers exclude those in academies. (Source: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, DfE).
Residents (all age categories)	ONS	2018-based Sub-national Population Projections (SNPP) for 2023. These take the 2011 census as the baseline, 'age on' the population each year, and reflect recent trends in births, deaths and migration. (Source: ONS).
Road Length	MHCLG	Index in which built-up roads carry twice as much as non-built up roads (as published by MHCLG in the calculation of the Relative Needs Formula for 2013/14).
Smokers	Public Health England	Estimate based on the percentage of adults who smoke (average 2017 to 2021) multiplied by the projected adult population in 2023. (Source: Public Health Profiles, NHS).
Taxable Properties	MHCLG, VOA	The sum of (i) chargeable dwellings for Council Tax purposes in 2022 and (ii) the number of rateable properties on the rating list as at November 2022. (Sources: Council Taxbase 2022 in England; Central and Local Rating Lists 2023).
Waste collected - all	DEFRA	Household and 'all' waste collected (tonnes) in the year to 31 March 2022. In the case of waste authorities, waste volumes are apportioned based on each member authority's population size using 2023 projections. (Source: Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics, DEFRA).
Waste collected - household	DEFRA	