



**Financial Intelligence Toolkit**

**2025/26 Subscription**

**Financial Benchmarking - Unit Costs (2024/25 Actuals)**

**Newtimber**

## Overview

This report compares unit costs between local authorities in England, using actual expenditure from authorities' Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 2024/25. 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 £44.6m
  - The **top 20%** of authorities in England: ▲ additional expenditure of £113.8m

### Annual change in unit costs

- Change in your authority's unit costs between 2023/24 and 2024/25: ▼ **-0.2%**
- Your authority's ranking changed from 12th highest to 14th highest in its nearest neighbour (NN) group.

### 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11.4% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 10.7% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Education (exc. schools)</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 6.5% above the NN average</li> <li>■ 7.3% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Adult Social Care</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident (ages 18 plus): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7.4% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 4.2% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Children's Social Care</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident (ages 0 to 17): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 0.7% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 4.6% above the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10.0% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 1.9% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Highways &amp; Transport*</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per km of road (weighted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 22.8% above the NN average</li> <li>■ 196.5% above the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Housing (General Fund)</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 3.4% above the NN average</li> <li>■ 30.0% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural &amp; Related</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 36.7% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 34.6% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental &amp; Regulatory</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 21.3% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 28.0% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 37.4% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 27.5% below the England average</li> </ul>
<b>Central Services</b>	Your authority Neighbours England	Expenditure per resident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 15.5% below the NN average</li> <li>■ 22.7% below the England average</li> </ul>

\* 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 2024/25, 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. The Government has produced new ACAs in 2025, but 2013/14 figures are used to maintain comparability with budgeted unit cost reports for 2024/25 prepared in July 2024.

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 2024/25 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 2024/25 or 2023/24 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 2025, but the 2024 version is used for comparability to the budgeted unit cost report.

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 2024/25 actuals report, data was available for 127 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	✓	✓		125
	Unitaries with fire responsibilities	✓	✓	✓	2
Group 2	Shire counties with fire responsibilities		✓	✓	9
	Shire counties without fire responsibilities		✓		12
Group 3	Shire districts	✓			158

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

### 3. Potential savings

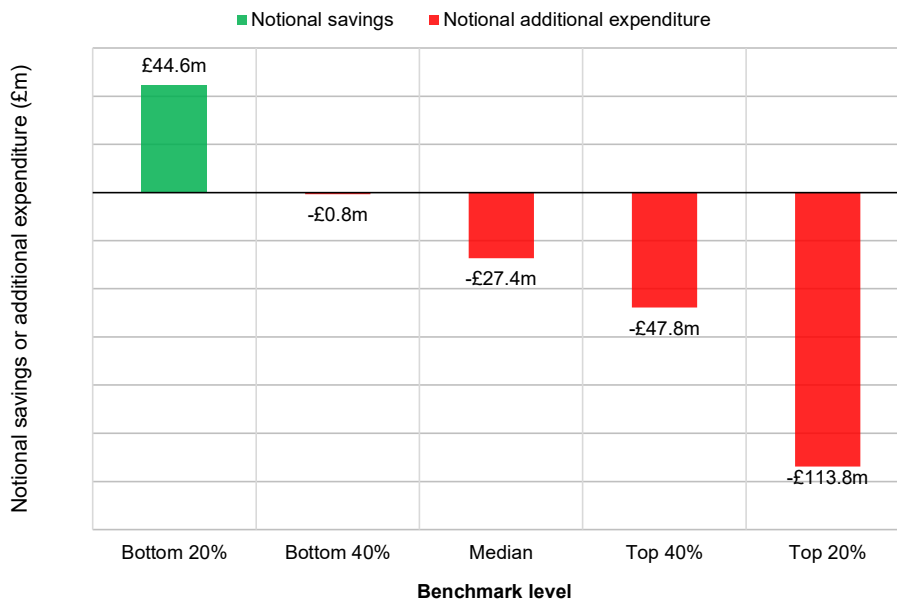
This section considers the *notional* savings that could be achieved by setting your authority's unit costs to certain levels relative to other councils.

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 £44.6m. Setting its unit costs to the top 20% of all comparable authorities would impose additional expenditure of £113.8m.

**Chart 1 - Potential savings from alternative unit costs (£m)**



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)	£7.5m	£4.6m	£2.5m	£1.8m	-£5.0m
Adult Social Care	£0.0m	-£2.8m	-£9.5m	-£15.8m	-£23.9m
Children's Social Care	£18.3m	£6.3m	£1.5m	-£3.0m	-£26.9m
Public Health	£1.4m	£0.0m	-£3.4m	-£5.4m	-£9.1m
Highways & Transport	£9.8m	£6.8m	£2.9m	£0.9m	-£4.9m
Housing Services (GFRA only)	£4.1m	£2.8m	£1.0m	£0.0m	-£2.9m
Cultural & Related Services	-£0.4m	-£4.8m	-£5.9m	-£6.8m	-£10.6m
Environmental & Regulatory Services	-£1.3m	-£7.6m	-£8.7m	-£10.0m	-£14.4m
Planning & Development Services	£2.9m	-£3.6m	-£4.8m	-£5.2m	-£8.1m
Central Services	£2.1m	-£2.6m	-£3.0m	-£4.3m	-£8.1m
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>£44.6m</b>	<b>-£0.8m</b>	<b>-£27.4m</b>	<b>-£47.8m</b>	<b>-£113.8m</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 2023/24 to 2024/25

This section highlights the change in Newtimber's unit costs, compared to its nearest neighbours, between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

In 2024/25, Newtimber's overall unit costs (excluding schools) decreased by 0.2%. Its ranking, relative to its nearest neighbours, changed from 12th highest to 14th 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
	2023/24	2024/25	Change	2023/24	2024/25	Change	
Education (exc. schools)	78.62	96.22	●	10th	6th	●	Residents (all)
Adults' Social Care	351.18	350.41	●	7th	13th	●	Residents (18+ weighted)*
Children's Social Care	1,397.52	1,428.90	●	7th	8th	●	Residents (0-17)
Public Health	70.24	77.11	●	11th	10th	●	Residents (all)
Highways & Transport	10,161.81	8,907.25	●	4th	5th	●	Road length
Housing (General Fund)	41.60	42.32	●	7th	7th	●	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	29.07	28.33	●	15th	14th	●	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	82.28	70.23	●	13th	14th	●	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	35.59	20.55	●	6th	12th	●	Residents (all)
Central Services	49.30	49.04	●	12th	12th	●	Residents (all)
<b>Total Expenditure (exc. Schools)</b>	<b>1,099.11</b>	<b>1,096.65</b>	●	<b>12th</b>	<b>14th</b>	●	Residents (all)

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

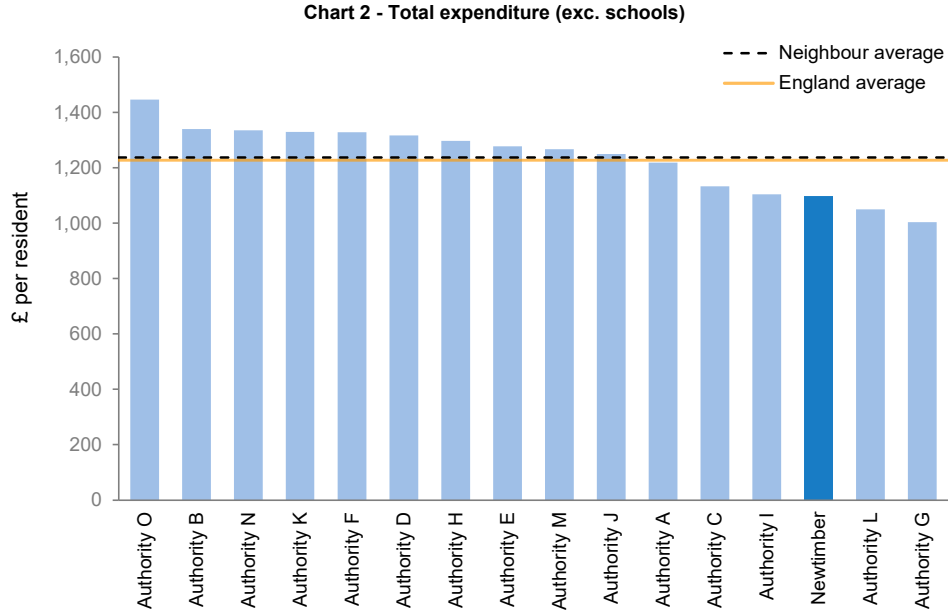
\* Adults aged 65+ are assigned 3.1 times the weight of adults aged 18 to 64. Based on an analysis of historical local authority expenditure by age band.

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 2024/25, Newtimber's total expenditure per resident (excluding schools) was 11.4% lower than the nearest neighbour average. It was ranked 14th 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 2024/25 (£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)	38.540	96.22	90.36	6.5%	●	6th	Residents (all)
Adults' Social Care	148.514	350.41	378.41	-7.4%	●	13th	Residents (18+ weighted)**
Children's Social Care	122.733	1,428.90	1,438.89	-0.7%	●	8th	Residents (0-17)
Public Health	30.823	77.11	85.67	-10.0%	●	10th	Residents (all)
Highways & Transport	13.795	8,907.25	7,256.32	22.8%	●	5th	Road length
Housing (General Fund)	17.007	42.32	40.93	3.4%	●	7th	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	11.385	28.33	44.74	-36.7%	●	14th	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	28.223	70.23	89.22	-21.3%	●	14th	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	8.259	20.55	32.82	-37.4%	●	12th	Residents (all)
Central Services	19.710	49.04	58.02	-15.5%	●	12th	Residents (all)
Other Services	0.000						
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>438.989</b>	<b>1,096.65</b>	<b>1,237.62</b>	<b>-11.4%</b>	●	<b>14th</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>
Total (including schools)	648.440	1,619.41	1,834.89	-11.7%	●	16th	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 10.7% lower than average, and ranked 98th highest out of 127 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 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from England average		Rank out of 127 (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	England average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Education (exc. schools)	38.540	96.22	103.75	-7.3%	●	60th	Residents (all)
Adults' Social Care	148.514	350.41	365.96	-4.2%	●	75th	Residents (18+ weighted)
Children's Social Care	122.733	1,428.90	1,366.11	4.6%	●	48th	Residents (0-17)
Public Health	30.823	77.11	78.64	-1.9%	●	61st	Residents (all)
Highways & Transport	13.795	8,907.25	3,004.36	196.5%	●	26th	Road length
Housing (General Fund)	17.007	42.32	60.46	-30.0%	●	65th	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	11.385	28.33	43.34	-34.6%	●	101st	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	28.223	70.23	97.54	-28.0%	●	102nd	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	8.259	20.55	28.35	-27.5%	●	81st	Residents (all)
Central Services	19.710	49.04	63.41	-22.7%	●	84th	Residents (all)
Other Services	0.000						
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>438.989</b>	<b>1,096.65</b>	<b>1,227.95</b>	<b>-10.7%</b>	●	<b>98th</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>
Total (including schools)	648.440	1,619.41	1,858.13	-12.8%	●	107th	Residents (all)

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

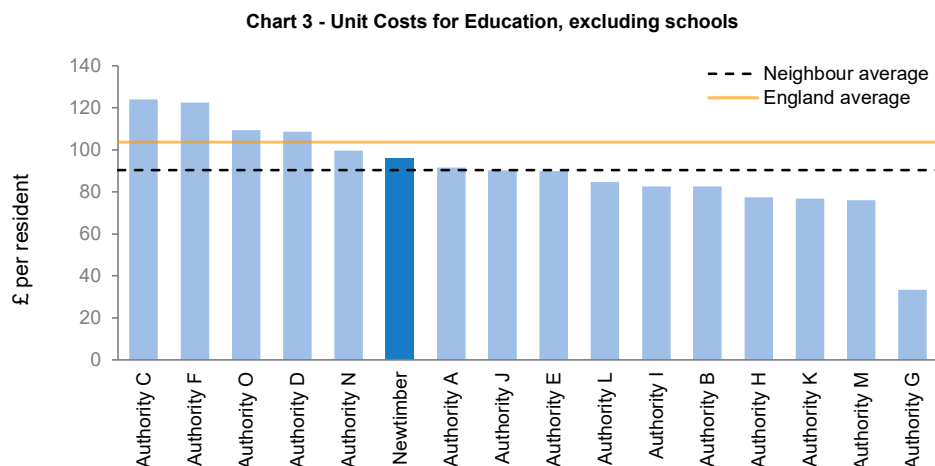
The following section provides additional details on each of these services.

## 6. Unit costs by service

### Education

For Education (exc. schools), Newtimber's unit costs were 6.5% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 6th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 7.3% lower than average (and ranked 60th highest out of 127 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 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Post-16 Provision	4.611	188.81	328.99	-42.6%	●	16th / 16	Residents (16-19)
Other Education & Community	33.929	84.71	73.70	14.9%	●	6th / 16	Residents (all)
Early Years*	36.756	1,512.87	1,852.52	-18.3%	●	15th / 16	Residents (0-4)
Primary Schools*	134.625	6,309.68	7,033.60	-10.3%	●	12th / 16	Pupils (primary)
Secondary Schools*	5.130	NA	13,494.19				Pupils (secondary)
Special Schools*	32.940	40,115.45	110,032.66	-63.5%	●	15th / 15	Pupils (special)
<b>Total (excluding schools)</b>	<b>38.540</b>	<b>96.22</b>	<b>90.36</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	●	<b>6th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>
Total (including schools)	247.991	2,446.87	2,747.05	-10.9%	●	11th / 16	Residents (0-19)

\* School functions

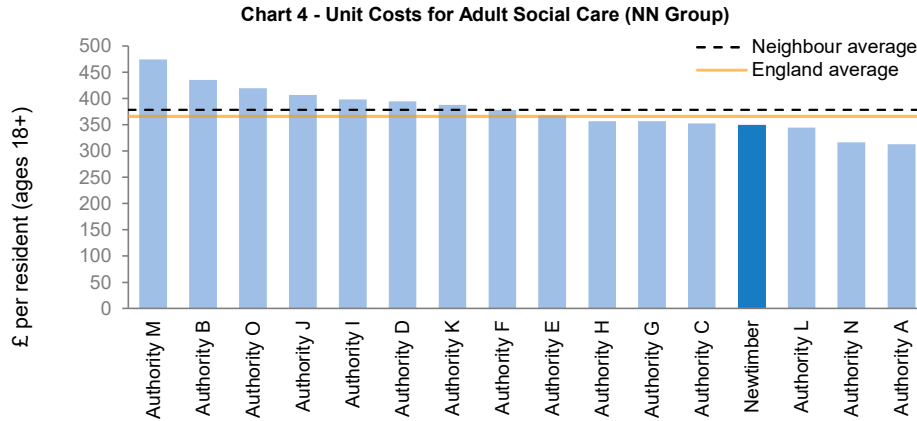
Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group

## 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 7.4% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 13th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 4.2% lower than average (and ranked 75th highest out of 127 authorities).



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

Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£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	44.598	839.10	856.05	-2.0%	●	8th / 16	Residents (65+)
Younger Adults - Physical & Sensory	7.243	27.79	63.32	-56.1%	●	16th / 16	Residents (18-64)
Younger Adults - Mental Health & Cognition	15.467	59.34	49.20	20.6%	●	4th / 16	Residents (18-64)
Younger Adults - Learning Disabilities	49.354	189.34	214.24	-11.6%	●	14th / 16	Residents (18-64)
Commissioning and Service Delivery	13.081	30.86	22.57	36.8%	●	4th / 16	Residents (18+ weighted)
Social Care Activities	14.209	33.53	34.95	-4.1%	●	10th / 16	Residents (18+ weighted)
Other Adult Social Care	4.562	10.76	17.52	-38.6%	●	13th / 16	Residents (18+ weighted)
<b>Total</b>	<b>148.514</b>	<b>350.41</b>	<b>378.41</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	●	<b>13th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (18+ weighted)</b>

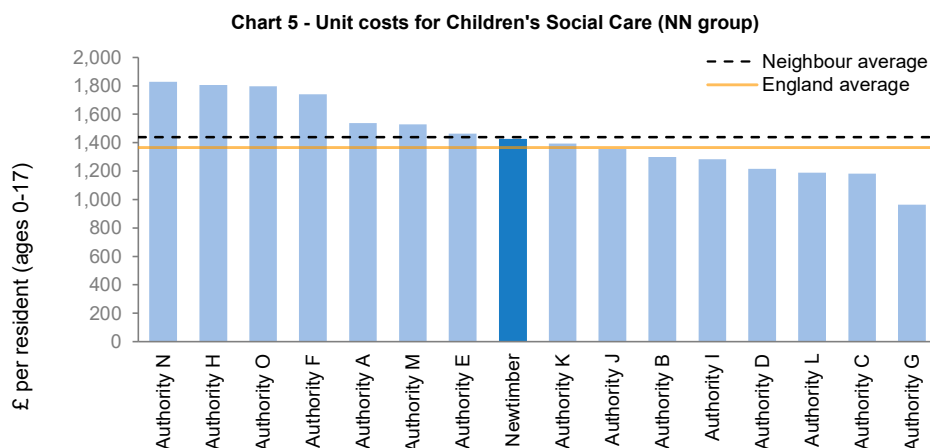
Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group

\* 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 0.7% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 8th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 4.6% higher than average (and ranked 48th highest out of 127 authorities).



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

Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Children Looked After	57.080	664.55	804.10	-17.4%	●	12th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Safeguarding Children's Services	36.596	426.06	332.94	28.0%	●	2nd / 16	Residents (0-17)
Sure Start and Early Years	0.001	0.04	142.86	-100.0%	●	14th / 16	Residents (0-4)
Services for Young People	0.477	12.37	65.76	-81.2%	●	14th / 16	Residents (13-19)
Family Support Services	20.505	238.73	175.57	36.0%	●	4th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Youth Justice	1.689	44.45	69.08	-35.7%	●	12th / 16	Residents (10-17)
Other Children's and Families Services	0.287	3.34	11.20	-70.2%	●	11th / 16	Residents (0-17)
Asylum seekers**	6.098						
<b>Total</b>	<b>122.733</b>	<b>1,428.90</b>	<b>1,438.89</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	●	<b>8th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (0-17)</b>

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

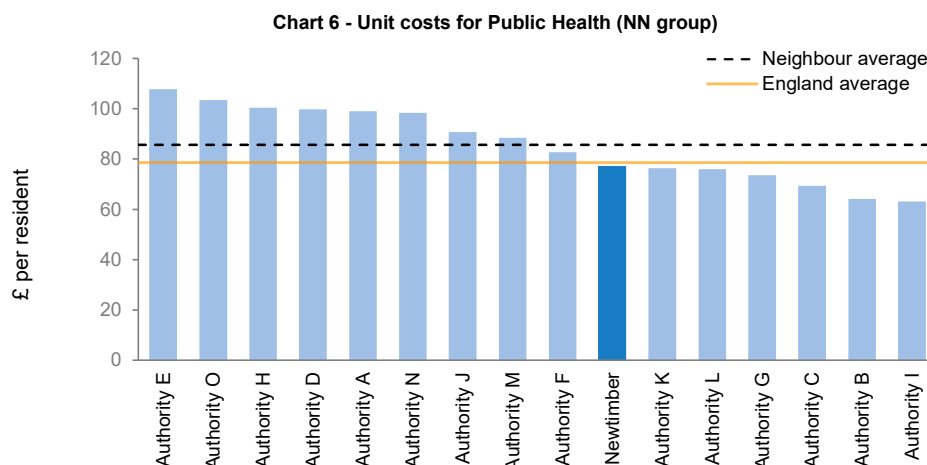
\* LG Futures' children's social care benchmarking reports include further detailed analysis of social care. However, please note that these unit costs will vary from those presented in the LG Futures' Children's Social Care Report due to different data and methodologies used.

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

## Public Health

For Public Health, Newtimber's unit costs were 10.0% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 10th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 1.9% lower than average (and ranked 61st highest out of 127 authorities).



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

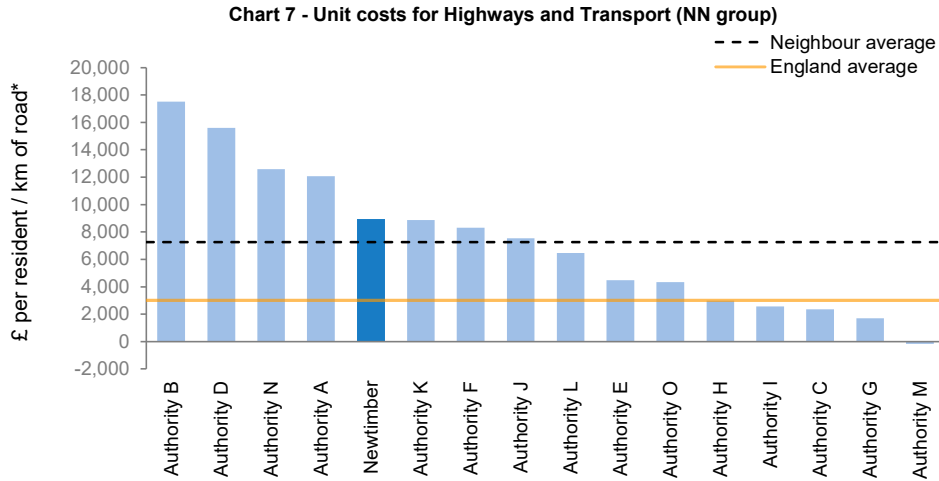
Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Children 5-19 Public Health Programmes	1.728	22.47	27.19	-17.3%	●	12th / 16	Residents (5-19)
0-5 Children's Services	6.675	230.43	294.72	-21.8%	●	13th / 16	Residents (0-5)
Obesity	0.538	2.55	4.49	-43.1%	●	8th / 16	Obese & overweight adults
Physical Activity	0.846	2.12	2.69	-21.4%	●	12th / 16	Residents (all)
Sexual Health Services	3.836	13.51	15.25	-11.4%	●	14th / 16	Residents (13-64)
Smoking and Tobacco	1.006	19.99	23.62	-15.3%	●	11th / 16	Smokers
Substance Misuse	5.196	16.56	30.21	-45.2%	●	16th / 16	Residents (18+)
Other Public Health Services	10.998	27.52	18.53	48.5%	●	3rd / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.823</b>	<b>77.11</b>	<b>85.67</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>	●	<b>10th / 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 22.8% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 5th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 196.5% higher than average (and ranked 26th highest out of 127 authorities).



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

Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Highways Maintenance	6.694	4,322.23	3,332.35	29.7%	●	4th / 16	Road length
Parking Services	-3.162	-7.91	-6.72	-17.8%	●	11th / 16	Daytime population
Street Lighting	8.787	5,673.65	2,157.01	163.0%	●	2nd / 16	Road length
Transport Planning, Policy and Strategy	0.996	643.10	863.19	-25.5%	●	9th / 16	Road length
Winter Service	0.552	356.42	328.67	8.4%	●	7th / 16	Road length
Traffic Management and Road Safety	-0.186	-120.10	38.83	-409.3%	●	14th / 16	Road length
Public Transport	0.114	73.61	1,775.05	-95.9%	●	7th / 16	Road length
Other Highways and Transport Services	0.000	0.00	11.54	-100.0%	●	2nd= / 16	Road length
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.795</b>	<b>8,907.25</b>	<b>7,256.32</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	●	<b>5th / 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**

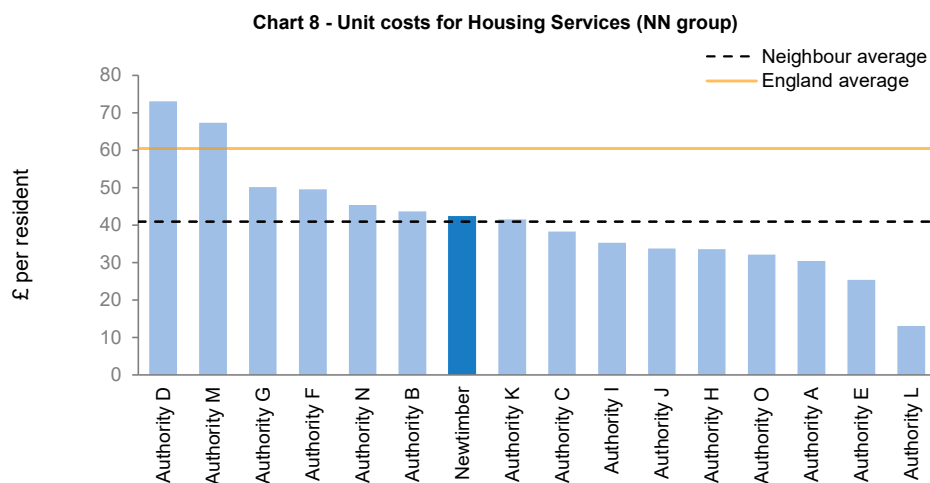
Note that national comparisons of unit costs are heavily influenced by a number of London boroughs (such Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Islington, and Hammersmith & Fulham), which generate significant net income from parking, and so have large negative unit costs for this service area.

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 3.4% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 7th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 30.0% lower than average (and ranked 65th highest out of 127 authorities).



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

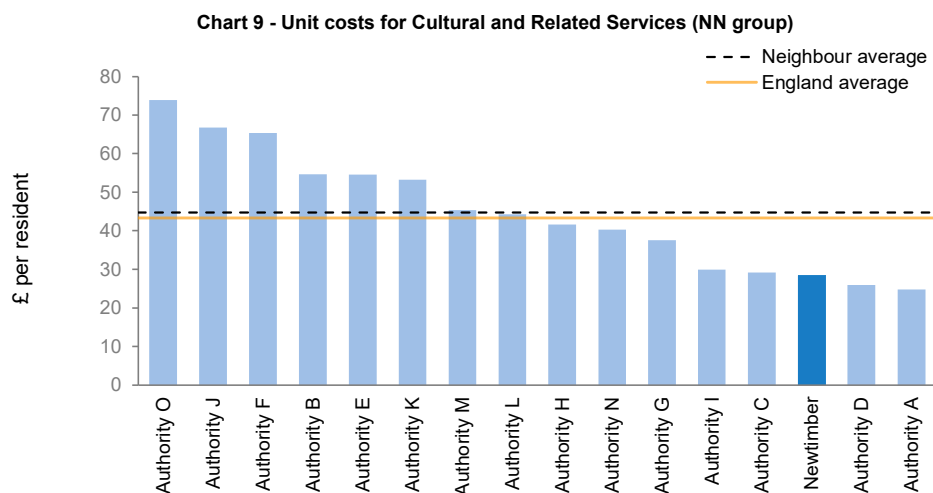
Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Homelessness	15.700	20,848.34	15,802.70	31.9%	●	4th / 16	Homeless households
Housing Benefits Administration	0.000	0.00	137.38	-100.0%	●	14th / 16	Housing Benefit claimants
Housing Benefits: Rent Allowances and Rebates	0.000	0.00	24.76	-100.0%	●	12th= / 16	Housing Benefit claimants
Housing Strategy, Advice, Advances etc.	1.307	3.25	4.82	-32.6%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Housing Welfare: Supporting People	0.000	0.00	6.55	-100.0%	●	14th= / 16	Residents (all)
Other Housing Services	0.000	0.00	0.14	-100.0%	●	8th= / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.007</b>	<b>42.32</b>	<b>40.93</b>	<b>3.4%</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 36.7% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 14th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 34.6% lower than average (and ranked 101st highest out of 127 authorities).



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

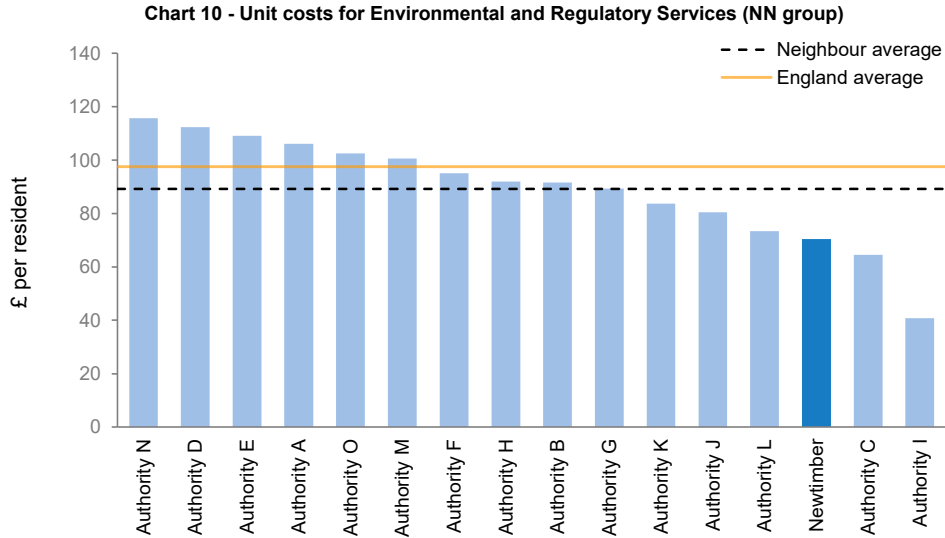
Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Culture and Heritage	0.540	1.34	9.36	-85.7%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Library Service	3.797	9.45	10.01	-5.6%	●	9th / 16	Residents (all)
Open Spaces	2.879	288.01	312.06	-7.7%	●	8th / 16	LA area (hectares)
Recreation and Sport	0.187	0.47	10.43	-95.5%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Other Cultural and Related Services	3.982	9.91	1.44	588.1%	●	1st / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.385</b>	<b>28.33</b>	<b>44.74</b>	<b>-36.7%</b>	●	<b>14th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

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

## Environmental and Regulatory Services

For Environmental & Regulatory Services, Newtimmer's unit costs were 21.3% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 14th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 28.0% lower than average (and ranked 102nd highest out of 127 authorities).



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

Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£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	-3.136	-7.80	-2.75	-183.7%	●	15th / 16	Residents (all)
Community Safety	1.153	2.87	5.32	-46.1%	●	13th / 16	Residents (all)
Regulatory Services	3.268	8.13	8.90	-8.6%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Street Cleansing	5.200	12.94	13.21	-2.0%	●	7th / 16	Daytime population
Waste Collection	4.939	31.11	45.94	-32.3%	●	14th / 16	Number of households
Waste Disposal & Recycling*	16.164	133.03	118.12	12.6%	●	7th / 16	Waste collected (household)
Trade Waste & Waste Minimisation*	0.000	0.00	0.80	-100.0%	●	7th= / 16	Waste collected (all)
Other Environmental and Regulatory Services	0.635	1.58	2.26	-30.2%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.223</b>	<b>70.23</b>	<b>89.22</b>	<b>-21.3%</b>	●	<b>14th / 16</b>	<b>Residents (all)</b>

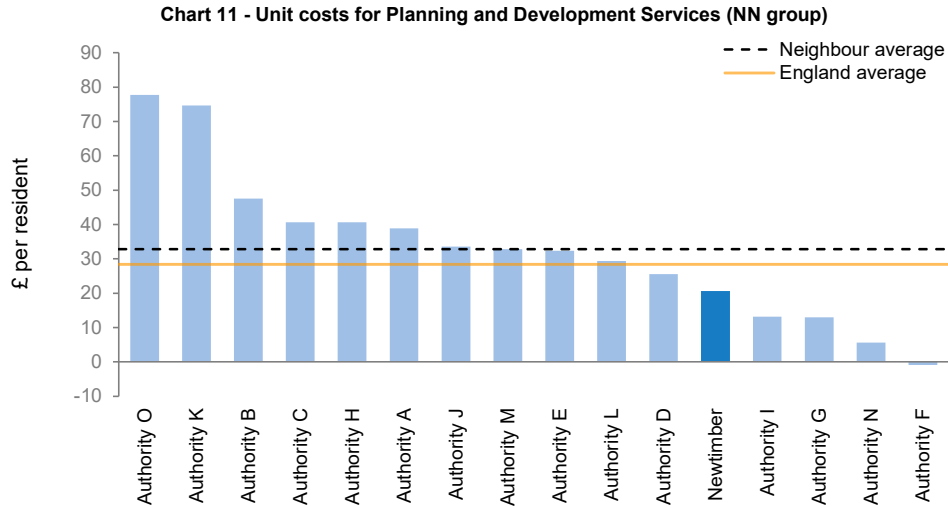
Bottom 20% of NN group ●●●● top 20% of NN group

\* 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 37.4% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 12th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 27.5% lower than average (and ranked 81st highest out of 127 authorities).



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

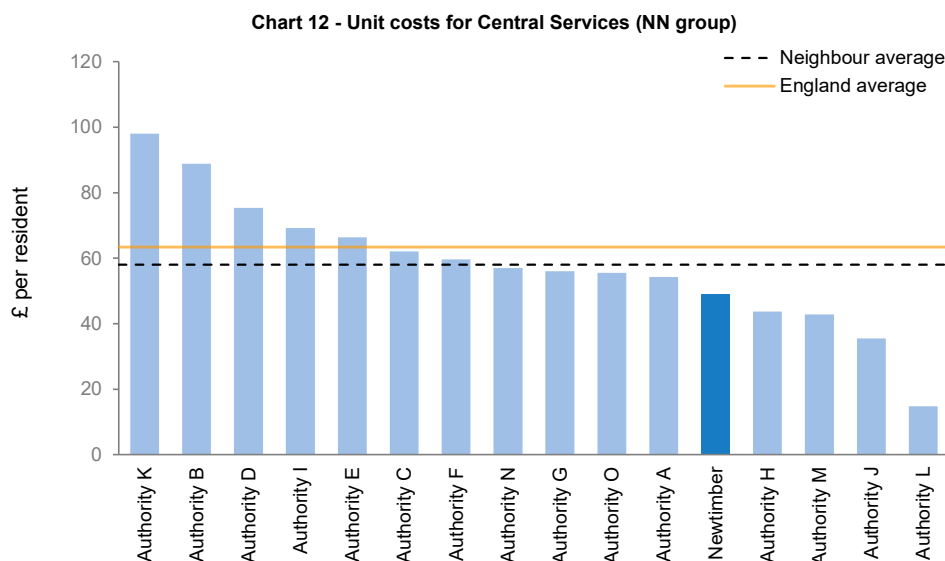
Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Building Control	0.150	115.55	372.85	-69.0%	●	11th / 16	Planning decisions
Business Support	0.000	0.00	-92.64	100.0%	●	8th= / 16	Number of businesses
Community Development	2.237	5.57	8.05	-30.8%	●	11th / 16	Residents (all)
Economic Research and Development	4.596	11.44	17.55	-34.8%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
Planning Policy	1.186	2.95	3.83	-22.9%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
Environmental Initiatives	0.000	0.00	1.99	-100.0%	●	12th= / 16	Residents (all)
Development Control	0.090	69.33	938.03	-92.6%	●	14th / 16	Planning decisions
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.259</b>	<b>20.55</b>	<b>32.82</b>	<b>-37.4%</b>	●	<b>12th / 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 15.5% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 12th highest in the group.

Compared nationally, its units costs were 22.7% lower than average (and ranked 84th highest out of 127 authorities).



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

Service Area	Actual 2024/25 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from nearest neighbour average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Neighbour average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Coroners Court Services	1.083	2.69	2.86	-5.6%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
Corporate and Democratic Core	8.602	21.40	17.89	19.7%	●	3rd / 16	Residents (all)
Emergency Planning	0.245	0.61	0.75	-18.5%	●	8th / 16	Residents (all)
Local Tax Collection	2.750	18.05	19.26	-6.3%	●	9th / 16	Taxable properties
Non-Distributed Costs	1.504	3.74	9.76	-61.7%	●	11th / 16	Residents (all)
Other Central Services	5.526	13.75	18.16	-24.3%	●	11th / 16	Residents (all)
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.710</b>	<b>49.04</b>	<b>58.02</b>	<b>-15.5%</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

The 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 2024, based on ONS's population projections, adjusted for the ratio of net in-commuters from the 2021 Census. (Source: ONS 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 Q3 23/24. (Source: Live Tables on Homelessness, MHCLG).
Housing Benefit claimants	DWP	Housing benefit caseload by local authority, average for the 12 months to February 2024. (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 2023. (Source: NOMIS, UK Business Counts).
Number of households	ONS	Projected number of households in 2024. (Source: 2018-based Household Projections for England, ONS).
Obese & overweight adults	Public Health England	Estimate based on the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese (average 2019/20 to 2022/23), multiplied by the projected adult population in 2024. (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 2024. (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 2023/24. 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 2024. 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 2018 to 2022) multiplied by the projected adult population in 2024. (Source: Public Health Profiles, NHS).
Taxable Properties	MHCLG, VOA	The sum of (i) chargeable dwellings for Council Tax purposes in October 2023 and (ii) the number of rateable properties on the rating list as at March 2024. (Sources: Council Taxbase 2023 in England; NNDR Stock of Properties 2024).
Waste collected - all	DEFRA	Household and 'all' waste collected (tonnes) in the year to 31 March 2023. In the case of waste authorities, waste volumes are apportioned based on each member authority's population size using 2024 projections. (Source: Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics, DEFRA).
Waste collected - household	DEFRA	