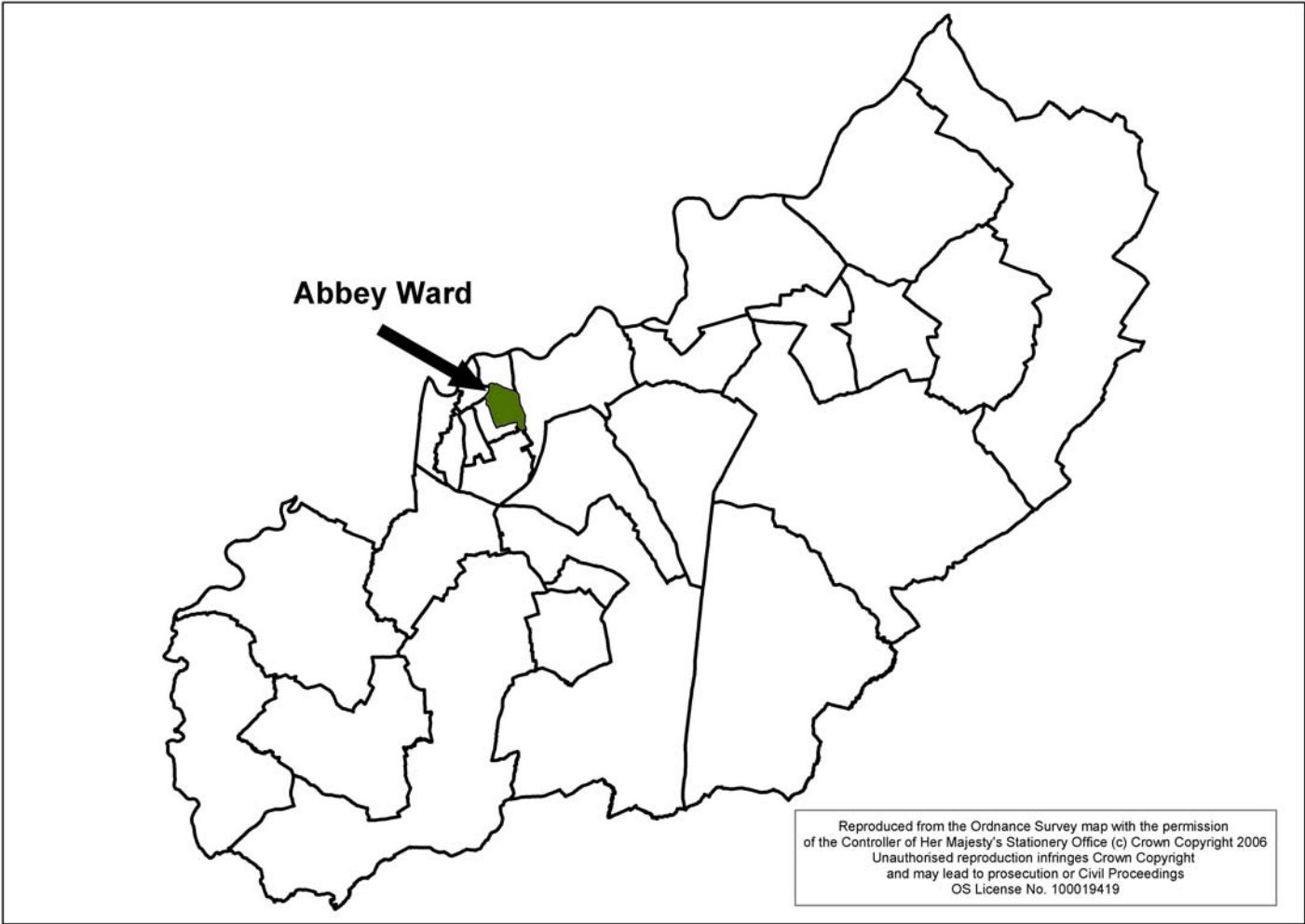


Abbey Ward Area Profile



1. Foreword

The Borough of Rushcliffe is located immediately South of the City of Nottingham and has a population of over 100,000 residents. Characterised by attractive villages, rich farmland and rolling countryside the area is perceived to be affluent. However, the affordability of housing is a critical issue for the Borough Council, and this is reflected in the priorities of the Corporate and Housing Strategies and the significant financial investment that the Council is making in the provision of new affordable housing in the Borough.

There is a high level of demand for affordable housing in Rushcliffe due to the following factors:

- Steep house prices, with the average over £70,000 higher than the average for Nottinghamshire at the end of February 2009
- Soaring land prices
- Low levels of affordable housing
- Low turnovers for the existing affordable housing stock
- Buoyant owner occupier sector

The high house prices mean that many people who would elsewhere be in a position to buy property are unable to do so in the Borough, leading to increasing numbers of residents finding themselves in housing need.

The Housing Strategy 2004-07 (http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/235/RBC_Housing_Strategy_0407_FINAL.doc) (which achieved 'Fit For Purpose' in May 2006) also highlights the significant challenges the Borough Council is faced with in relation to the high levels of housing need and the problems with trying to develop new affordable housing. Through careful consideration of previous housing needs research and comparing with 'Best Value Near Neighbours' and local neighbours in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, the Borough Council set a new affordable housing requirement in 2005, following Cabinet approval.

The Borough Council now seeks an affordable housing requirement of 30% on developments of 15 or more dwellings or 0.5 hectares or more. The Council has taken the view that 30% will be achievable by all developers, whilst not proving such a burden as to discourage housing investment in the Borough in favour of other areas.

The Nottingham Core Strategic Housing Market Assessment, published May 2007, (http://www.blinehousing.info/NottCore_HMA/Nottingham_CORE_SHMA-16-5-07.pdf) detailed, by analysing current data, the affordable housing challenges the Borough currently faces. Through examining the current housing market in terms of the characteristic of the existing supply alongside rental and purchase prices the report concluded that there was a need for an affordable housing requirement of 60% and of this 13% should be intermediate. A viability

assessment of these figures is due to be completed by the end of May to determine whether the affordable housing requirement for the Borough can be increased.

The range of information available in this ward profile is supplementary evidence to the larger Housing Market Assessments, focusing on very localised needs at ward levels.

2. Introduction

Abbey ward is one of the eight wards that encompass the West Bridgford urban area (part of the Principal Urban Area of Nottingham but separated from the City by the River Trent). It forms part of the eastern edge of West Bridgford and covers an area of 105 hectares.

The ward benefits from a number of amenities, including a supermarket, butchers, greengrocers and fruit sellers. Whilst there are no Post Offices in the ward, there are six within a two mile radius.

There are no GP or Dental practices in the ward, however, there are eight GP surgeries and nine Dental practices within the West Bridgford urban area. Abbey ward also benefits from a close proximity to Nottingham City and access to the local hospitals, Queens Medical Centre and Nottingham City Hospital are within a five miles radius. The NHS Walk in Centre is only two miles away.

There are two primary schools within the ward, Abbey Road Primary and St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary. There are no nursery, infant or comprehensive schools, however, the catchment area extends to other areas of West Bridgford.

There are a number of transport companies who operate regular bus services through the ward providing access to West Bridgford shopping area, Nottingham City and various other locations throughout the Borough. Nottingham train station and coach station are within a two mile distance and East Midlands airport is less than twelve miles away.

There are no leisure centres within the ward however, Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is under a mile away located in nearby Musters ward. There are three allotment garden areas and several large areas of recreational space. There is also an art gallery in addition to a number of pubs, bars and restaurants.

3. Population

Abbey ward has a resident population of 4559 people, as measured in the 2001 Census (4.3% of the Boroughs population).

Age

Table 1: Age of population

Ages	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All ages	4559	105599	4.3	100
0-4	264	5915	5.8	5.6
5-15	688	14618	15.1	13.8
16-19	226	4598	4.9	4.4
20-44	1601	36257	35.1	34.3
45-64	1097	27091	24.1	25.7
65+	683	17120	14.9	16.2

Source: National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk

The average age of Abbey wards population is 37.22 compared to an average of 39.58 for the Borough of Rushcliffe. Over one fifth of the wards population are under 16 years of age and nearly 15% are aged 65 years or over.

Ethnicity

The table below shows the number and percentage of Abbey and Rushcliffe residents by ethnic category according to the 2001 Census. 92.91% of Abbey wards population is White British, White Irish or White other, which is just over 3% lower than the proportion for the Borough as a whole. This leaves a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population for the ward of 7.09% which is higher than the proportion of BME residents for Rushcliffe as a whole (4.1%)

The largest BME population are Asian and Asian British which make up 5.31% of the ward population (3.62% of which are Asian and Asian British: Indian). 1.22% of the wards population are of Mixed Heritage; 0.55% is Black or Black British and 0.33% is either Chinese or from another Ethnic group.

The needs of BME communities will need to be considered alongside other groups in terms of property type and design to reflect cultural and religious diversities.

Table 2: Ethnicity of population

Ethnicity	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
White: British	4023	98486	88.24	93.26
White: Irish	84	942	1.84	0.89
White: Other	114	1844	2.83	1.75
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	17	435	0.37	0.41
Mixed: White and Black African	5	86	0.11	0.08
Mixed: White and Asian	22	306	0.48	0.29
Mixed: Other Mixed	12	253	0.26	0.24
Asian or Asian British: Indian	165	1494	3.62	1.41
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	47	553	1.03	0.52
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	14	43	0.31	0.04
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	16	157	0.35	0.15
Black or Black British: Caribbean	8	315	0.18	0.3
Black or Black British: African	17	130	0.37	0.12
Black or Black British: Other Black	0	31	0	0.03
Chinese:	9	267	0.2	0.25
Other ethnic group:	6	257	0.13	0.24

Source: National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk

Religion

As measured by the 2001 Census, 66.1% of Abbey wards population is Christian, nearly 6% lower than the proportion of Rushcliffe residents as a whole (71.8%). People from other faith groups comprise 6.6% of the ward population which is over twice the proportion of all Rushcliffe residents (3.1%). Over 21% of the ward population stated that they had no religion, over 3% higher than for Rushcliffe as a whole (18%).

Table 4: Religion of population

Religion	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
Christian	3012	75855	66.1	71.8
Buddhist	17	232	0.4	0.2
Hindu	64	653	1.4	0.6
Jewish	13	395	0.3	0.4
Muslim	94	960	2.1	0.9
Sikh	99	718	2.2	0.7
Other religions	10	261	0.2	0.3
No religion	969	18999	21.3	18.0
Religion not stated	281	7526	6.2	7.1

Source: National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk

4. Housing

Prices for Properties for Sale

The table and chart below show that between January and February 2009 the average house price for all types of properties in the Abbey ward was £225,000 the 11th highest in the Borough based on 7 sales. This figure is over £17,000 higher than the average for all properties in Rushcliffe and over £70,000 higher than the average for England and Wales.

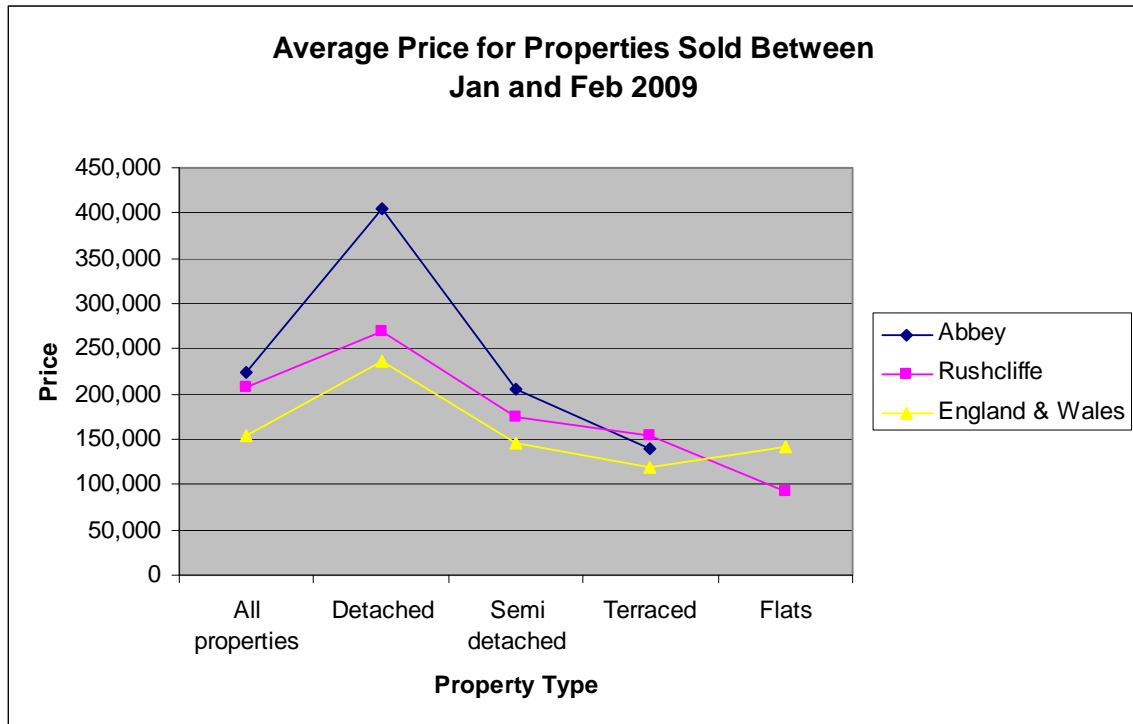
However, entry level prices for terraced houses (£140,000) in the Abbey ward is lower than the average of terraced houses in Rushcliffe (£154,767) as a whole suggesting that first time buyers and single income households may be attracted to the area.

Table 5: Average price of properties for sale

Accommodation Type	Abbey	Rushcliffe	England and Wales
All properties	£225,000	£207,269	£153,512
Detached	£405,000	£270,009	£236,384
Semi detached	£206,000	£175,449	£145,290
Terraced	£140,000	£154,767	£118,728
Flats	N/A	£92,318	£142,406

Source: Land Registry website www.landreg.gov.uk

Chart 1



Source: Land Registry website www.landreg.gov.uk

Prices for Properties for Rent

The table below indicates the average prices for rented accommodation in March 2009 in the ward and Rushcliffe as a whole. The average price for two bedroom houses (£550pcm) is higher than the average for the Borough as a whole. In comparison the average rental price for three (£689pcm) and four bedroom houses (£850pcm) is lower than the Rushcliffe average. No information for other accommodation types was available due to the lack of availability of rented accommodation in the ward at the time of research.

Table 6: Average price of properties for rent

Accommodation Type	Abbey	Rushcliffe
1 bed flat, bedsit, maisonette	£425	£410
2 bed flat or maisonette	N/A	£547
2 bed house	£550	£540
3 bed house	£689	£712
4 bed house	£850	£915
5 bed house	N/A	£1509

Source: Rightmove website www.rightmove.co.uk

The lack of private rented accommodation places additional pressure on those who are not able to get a foot on the property ladder. This in turn, increases the

demand for new and existing affordable accommodation and the waiting time of some families/individuals in unsuitable accommodation.

There are usually high deficits between the cost of the rent and the amount that Local Housing Allowance will award with many local reference rents several hundred pounds lower than the average price of rent in this ward. These deficits are indicative of why families on a low income struggle to afford the private sector and why new affordable housing is in such high demand in the Borough.

Tenure

The table and chart below shows tenure by households taken from the 2001 Census.

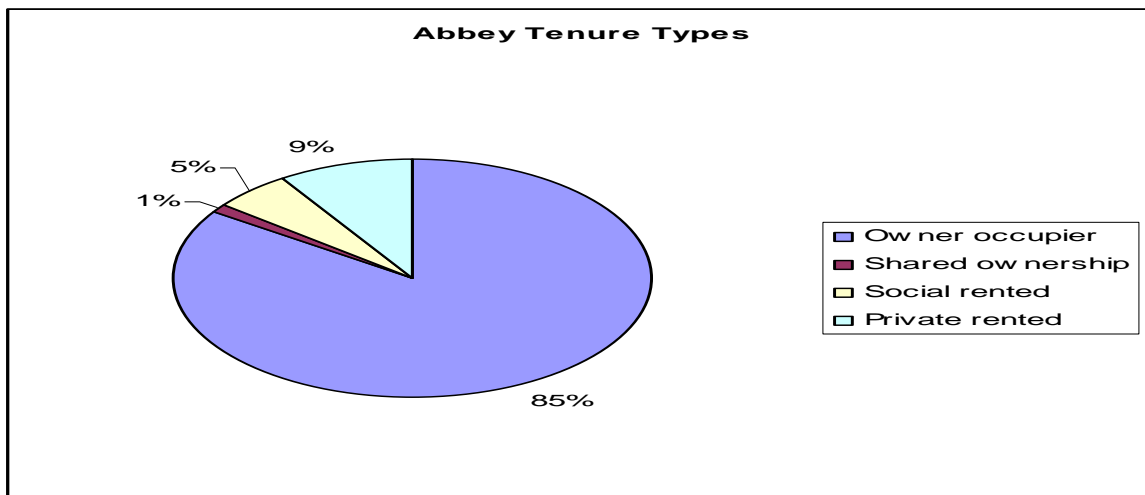
Table 8: Tenure of households

	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All households	1847	43,670	4.2	100
Owner occupier	1562	34,064	84.6	78.0
Shared ownership (HomeBuy)	18	397	1.0	0.9
Social rented	96	4311	5.2	9.9
Private rented	171	4898	9.3	11.2

Source: National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk

The Council's housing stock was transferred by Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) in January 2003, so there has been a significant shift in tenure in the Borough with the transfer of council rented accommodation increasing the percentage of the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) tenure.

Chart 2



Source: National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk

According to 2001 Census data, the proportion of owner occupiers in Abbey (84.6%) is higher than both the national (68.7%) and the Rushcliffe (78%) average. The proportion of private rented properties (9.3%) is slightly lower than both the national and Rushcliffe average levels of around 10%. The proportion of social rented housing (5.2%) is much lower than both national averages (19.3%) and Rushcliffe averages (9.9%).

The number of socially rented and HomeBuy (formerly shared ownership) may be lower than when recorded in the 2001 Census due to the right to buy and staircasing. However, there is more up to date information on the number of socially rented and HomeBuy properties in the Borough which can be found in Section 6: Housing Need.

Accommodation Types

The table below shows that Abbey ward has a higher proportion of semi detached properties (49.6%), which is higher than the proportion of the Borough's levels (31.1%) and the national average (31.7%) by over 17 per cent. By contrast, the ward has lower levels of flats, maisonettes and apartments (3.9%) than we find in the rest of Rushcliffe (6.1%) and nationally (19.4) as a whole.

Table 9: Accommodation type of properties

Accommodation Type	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All household spaces	1891	44877	4.2	100
House or bungalow: Detached	617	20910	32.6	46.6
House or bungalow: Semi detached:	938	13956	49.6	31.1
House or bungalow: Terraced	218	5090	11.5	11.3
Flat, maisonette or apartment	118	2715	3.9	6.1
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0	405	0	0.9

Source: National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk

The above table needs to be considered alongside tenure of households within the ward which indicates that a high proportion of accommodation within the ward is in the owner occupied sector. The more prevalent property types i.e. family accommodation, therefore, is likely to mask the availability of this type of accommodation, particularly for households who are not able to access the owner occupied sector.

Household composition

Of the 1847 households in the Abbey ward during the 2001 Census, 1265 of these were one family households and 501 are single person households. The highest proportion of households in the Abbey ward is families with two or more dependent children (21%) which are higher than the proportion for Rushcliffe as a whole (18%). The table below gives a more detailed breakdown of household profile groups.

Table 10: Household composition

Household Composition	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All Households	1847	43670	4.2	100
Single (Male over 65, Female over 60)	275	5778	14.9	13.2
Single (Male under 65, Female under 60)	226	6145	12.2	14.1
Couple (Male over 65, Female over 60)	172	4396	9.3	10.0
Couple (Male under 65, Female under 60)	341	6916	18.5	15.8
Family plus one dependent child	196	4891	10.6	11.2
Family plus two or more dependent children	388	7853	21.0	18.0
Family with children 18+	168	3671	9.1	8.4
Other households: All students	15	245	0.8	0.6
Other households: All pensioner	6	135	0.3	0.3
Other households: Other	60	1280	3.3	2.9

Source: National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk

5. Income & Deprivation

Household Income

The table below shows the income distribution of Abbey ward residents from CACI Paycheck data 2008. The mean¹ household income for the ward is £38,144 compared to £34,382 in the United Kingdom, suggesting that the area is relatively affluent. However it must be noted that higher income households often mask pockets of deprivation and households on lower incomes, thereby distorting the overall average household income in the ward.

¹ The mean is calculated by adding up the numbers in a sample and dividing that answer by the sample size. It is the most commonly used average and is the only one that takes into account all the numbers in the sample.

Table 11: Income of households

Income Bracket	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All households	1903	46909	4.1	100
£0-£5k	28	662	1.5	1.4
£5-£10k	82	1988	4.3	4.2
£10-£15k	145	3495	7.6	7.5
£15-£20k	189	4426	9.9	9.4
£20-£25k	205	4744	10.8	10.1
£25-£30k	200	4634	10.5	9.9
£30-£35k	183	4274	9.6	9.1
£35-£40k	160	3793	8.4	8.1
£40-£45k	135	3278	7.1	7.0
£45-£50k	113	2780	5.9	5.9
£50-£55k	92	2326	4.8	5.0
£55-£60k	75	1926	3.9	4.1
£60-£65k	60	1584	3.2	3.4
£65-£70k	48	1297	2.5	2.8
£70-£75k	38	1057	2.0	2.3
£75-£80k	31	860	1.6	1.8
£80-£85k	24	699	1.3	1.5
£85-£90k	19	567	1.0	1.2
£90-£95k	15	460	0.8	1.0
£95-£100k	12	374	0.6	0.8
£100k plus	49	1680	2.6	3.6

Source: CACI Paycheck data 2008

In relation to other wards within Rushcliffe Abbey ward has the 20th highest mean income and the highest proportion of households (10.8%) earning between £20-25,000 per annum, slightly higher than for Rushcliffe as a whole (10.1%).

Table 12: Average income of households

Mean Income	£38,144
Mode Income	£20-25k
Median Income	£30-35k

Source CACI Paycheck data 2008

Based on the average mean income for the ward of £38,144 and the average entry level terraced property price of £140,000 a first time buyer would have to be earning 3.3 times their salary. This sum has been calculated by using an average first time deposit of 10% as recommended for rural areas in the Nottingham Core Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and supported by the Government in light of the recent global economic problems. The Government

has also recently recommended that an affordable mortgage should not be more than 3.5 times income. This suggests that first time buyers may be able to afford to buy in the ward. However, if the distortion principle is taken into consideration, the 3.3 ratio of salary is likely to further exacerbate affordability issues for those on lower incomes within the ward. Although there is evidence to suggest that higher income ratios have been used nationally, it is also accepted that with this comes the additional risk of households getting into financial difficulty should outgoings increase leaving limited disposable income to act as a cushion for unexpected household costs.

Economic Activity and Deprivation

The incomes of the resident's economically inactive and claiming benefits will form part of the 'masked' incomes distorted by the high earners in the ward. In 2001 Abbey had a slightly lower proportion of economically inactive residents (18.7%) compared to Rushcliffe as a whole (19.7%) as demonstrated in the table below.

Table 13: Economically inactive residents

Economically Inactive	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All People	530	12877	18.7	19.7
Retired	81	1961	2.9	3.0
Student	172	3530	6.1	5.4
Other	277	7386	9.8	11.3

Source: Official Labour Market Statistics: www.nomisweb.co.uk

In August 2008 the proportion of welfare benefit claimants was lower in the Abbey ward (6.5%) compared to Rushcliffe as a whole (7.4%) suggesting that the ward is less deprived than other areas, as demonstrated in the table below. Of those claiming benefits more than half (54.1%) were claiming incapacity benefit and over 16% claiming job seekers allowance.

Table 14: Benefit claimants

Benefit Claimants	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
Total Claimants	185	4970	6.5	7.4
Carers Allowance	10	430	0.3	0.6
Disability Living Allowance	15	540	0.5	0.8
Incapacity Benefit	100	2430	3.5	3.6
Job Seekers Allowance	30	790	1.0	1.2
Other	30	770	1.1	1.2

Source: Official Labour Market Statistics: www.nomisweb.co.uk

When examining the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 scores for the whole of the Borough on a variety of factors including: crime and disorder, education and

skills, employment, income, health deprivation, barriers to housing and living environment, Abbey ward is the 5th least deprived area.

6. Housing Need

Over the years, the number of affordable rented and HomeBuy homes available in the Borough has reduced because of the Right to Buy initiative (649 properties sold between 1995 and 31 March 2005) and the “staircasing” of New Build HomeBuy properties (224) up to full ownership (between 1995 and 31 March 2005).

There is no local authority owned stock in the ward following Rushcliffe Borough Councils LSVT of its housing stock. However a number of RSLs manage stock in the Borough:

- Accent Nene
- Anchor Housing Trust
- De Montfort Housing Society
- Derwent Living
- East Midlands Housing Association
- English Rural Housing
- Family First
- FCH Housing and Care
- LHA- ASRA
- Nottingham Community Housing Association
- Places for People
- Spirita
- Tuntum Housing Association

Spirita (formerly Rushcliffe Homes) are the largest provider of social rented homes in the Borough, both for general needs accommodation (89%) and sheltered housing (86.7%), followed by De Montfort Housing Society with 6.6% general needs and 8.3% sheltered housing. The remainder of the social rented stock is distributed fairly evenly between the other RSLs listed above.

Supply and Demand

Rushcliffe has a low level of traditional social rented housing through RSLs when compared with the national average and other rural boroughs. The number of people in need far outweighs the very limited available supply, exacerbated further by a significant shortage of social rented housing. People on relatively high incomes may still experience affordability issues and therefore may need to consider the option of renting through RSLs as they are not able to buy a house locally since most properties are priced beyond the reach of those without significant incomes, savings or existing equity resources. The Council is exploring a range of intermediate products to assist households who may not be able to purchase outright, or whose circumstances require more temporary solutions, but may face indefinite waiting times for social rented accommodation.

Demand: General Needs

There is high demand for general needs accommodation at the end of March 2009 in the West Bridgford urban area, (the data is not available on a smaller scale due to the way it is collated and also includes the Gamston area of the Borough) as demonstrated in the table below. It is difficult to establish the exact demand for each area in the Borough as the numbers identify where applicants would be prepared to live in the Borough, with applicants often choosing more than one area. This may in some cases distort overall demand, however, given that the housing needs data is updated on a regular basis this is still considered to provide a general indication of localised needs.

Furthermore, the data provided does not take into account demand from households in urgent housing need due to homelessness or the threat of homelessness who are currently residing in temporary accommodation. In these instances, permanent offers of accommodation may be made outside the applicants preferred area of choice due to the lack of suitable available accommodation in their preferred area.

Table 15: Waiting list figures for general needs accommodation

Waiting List Figures	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
Total on waiting list	424	606	100	100
1 bed flat	230	276	54.2	45.5
1 bed bungalow	2	4	0.5	0.3
2 bed flat	43	64	10.1	10.6
2 bed house	94	159	22.2	26.2
2 bed bungalow	2	4	0.5	0.7
3 bed house	36	74	8.5	12.2
4 bed house	17	25	4.0	4.1

Source: Spirita waiting list figures at 31st March 2009

In terms of accommodation types, some variance in demand for certain types of property may occur due to some households requesting more than one property type in more than one area. To reduce any potential distortion, where households have requested the following property types, adjustments to the waiting list figures have been made to take account of households preferred options only:

- Demand for 1 bedroom flat: Discount demand for bed-sit and upper floor accommodation. Demand based on waiting list figures for 1 bed ground floor accommodation only.

- Demand for 2 bedroom flat: Discount demand for upper floor accommodation. Demand based on waiting list figures for 2 bed ground floor accommodation only for households not eligible for 2 bed house.
- Demand for 1 bedroom bungalow: Accurate indication of demand.
- Demand for 2 bedroom bungalows: Discount demand for 1 bedroom bungalows.
- Demand for 2 bedroom houses: Accurate indication of demand.
- Demand for 3 bedroom houses: Accurate indication of demand.
- Demand for 4 bedroom houses: Accurate indication of demand.

Supply: General Needs

The table below shows the existing supply of general needs social rented properties in the Abbey ward. The supply of social rented stock is 4.4%, ranking joint 9th highest in terms of overall supply of general needs stock in the Borough, however, this is still significantly below current demand.

Table 16: Supply of social rented general needs accommodation

Accommodation Types	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All general needs social rented properties	162	3664	4.4	100
1 bed flat, bedsit and maisonettes	54	725	33.3	19.8
1 bed bungalow	20	132	12.3	3.6
2 bed house	24	411	14.8	11.2
2 bed flat and maisonettes	25	524	15.4	14.3
2 bed bungalow	0	451	0	12.3
3 bed house	30	1322	18.5	36.1
3 bed flat and maisonette	0	5	0	0.1
3 bed bungalow	0	1	0	0.02
4 bed house	9	93	5.6	2.5

Source: Rushcliffe Affordable Housing Directory 2009

There is a larger proportion of 1 bed flats (33.3%) in Abbey compared to the proportion for the Borough as a whole (19.8%). By comparison the proportion of larger properties, notably 3 bed houses (18.5%), is considerably lower than the proportion of 3 bed houses in Rushcliffe (36.1%), thereby identifying a greater need for family accommodation within the ward.

Demand: Sheltered

There is only one warden assisted scheme in Abbey ward and this is Abbey Park situated on Buckfast Way in West Bridgford. The turnover for this scheme is 'medium' suggesting that the scheme is popular with residents and this is evidenced further by the waiting list figures in the table below.

Table 17: Waiting list figures for sheltered accommodation

Waiting List Figures	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
Total on waiting list	302	751	100	100
1 bed flat	126	292	41.7	38.9
1 bed bungalow	131	320	43.4	42.6
2 bed flat	21	65	7.0	8.7
2 bed bungalow	24	74	7.9	9.9

Source: Spirita waiting list figures at 31st March 2009

It is also accepted that some sheltered housing schemes have high turnovers and low demand due to the lack of facilities available (no lifts, outdoor space and no local amenities within a close proximity).

Supply: Sheltered

The table below shows the existing supply of sheltered housing social rented properties in the Abbey ward. The supply of social rented stock is 3.8%, the 10th highest figure of the total supply of sheltered stock in the Borough.

Table 18: Supply of social rented sheltered housing accommodation

Accommodation Types	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All sheltered accommodation for older people	40	1030	3.8	100
1 bed flat and bedsit	19	568	47.5	55.1
1 bed bungalow	20	104	50	10.1
2 bed flat	1	199	2.5	19.3
2 bed bungalow	0	159	0	15.4

Source: Rushcliffe Affordable Housing Directory 2009

Demand: HomeBuy

Due to the high entry level property prices and lack of social rented units there is also a demand for HomeBuy properties in the Borough.

The Council is keen to provide a range of intermediate affordable housing types for those households 'whose needs are not met by the market'.² The Council considers that the provision of New Build HomeBuy properties for households with income levels which enable them to purchase open market re-sale homes does not meet target households. In order to achieve a more effective alignment between those households and target groups who are genuinely unable to afford home ownership a greater emphasis is placed on HomeBuy products which enable households to purchase a 25% equity share, particularly given the high property values within Rushcliffe.

During March 2009 there were 50 households who had registered an interest with Spiritita (who work alongside East Midlands HomeBuy, the regional 'Zone Agent' for New Build HomeBuy properties) for New Build HomeBuy and shared ownership resale properties in the Borough.

Supply: HomeBuy

The table below shows the existing supply of HomeBuy properties in the Abbey ward. There are only five HomeBuy properties comprising of just 1.7%, ranking the 12th highest in the Borough as a whole.

Table 19: Supply of New Build HomeBuy properties

Accommodation Types	Abbey	Rushcliffe	Abbey %	Rushcliffe %
All New Build HomeBuy properties	5	296	1.7	100
1 bed flat, bedsit and maisonette	0	0	0	0
2 bed flat and maisonette	0	50	0	16.9
2 bed house	0	105	0	35.5
2 bed bungalow	5	107	100	36.1
3 bed house	0	34	0	11.5

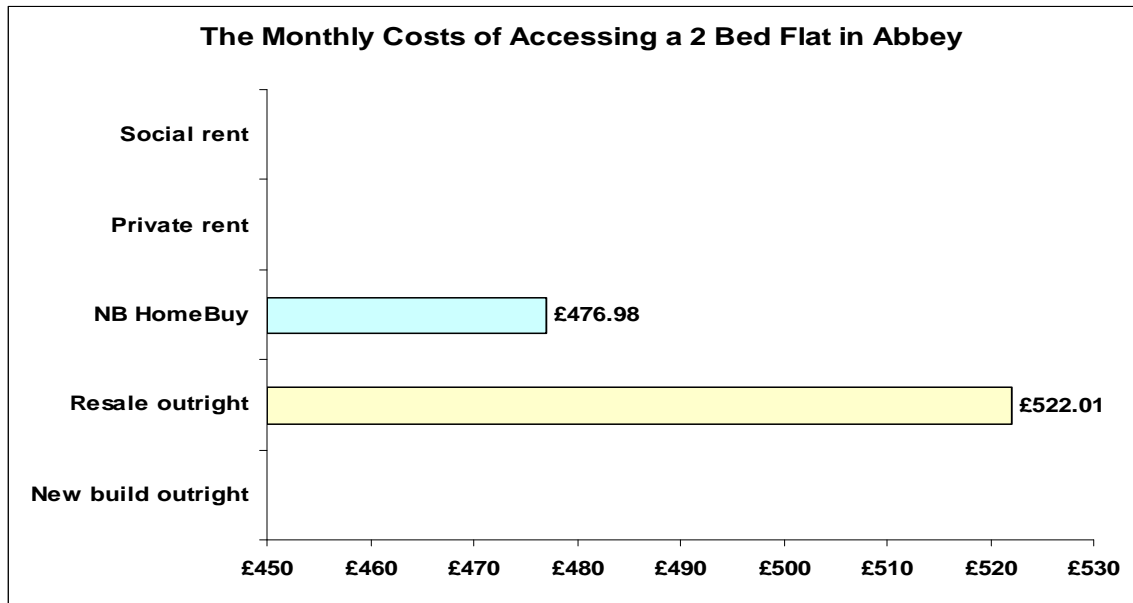
Source: Rushcliffe Affordable Housing Directory 2009

Housing Cost Model: HomeBuy Affordability

Using data from an analysis of local rents and values (Registered Social Landlord, Private Rented, New Build HomeBuy, Resale Open Market and New Build Open Market) the Housing Cost Model identifies the cost of accessing two archetypes: 2 bedroom flat and a 3 bedroom house in the Abbey area in March 2009, as demonstrated in the charts below.

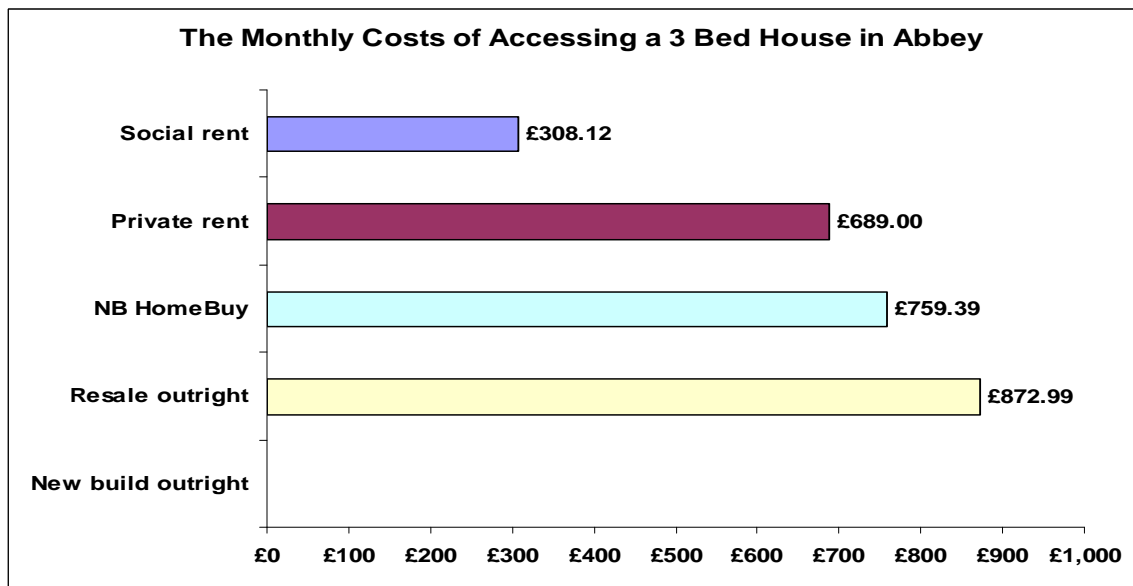
² PPS3 (Planning Policy Statement)

Chart 3



Source: Rightmove website www.rightmove.co.uk and raw data from EMHomeBuy

Chart 4



Source: Rightmove website www.rightmove.co.uk and raw data from EMHomeBuy

As demonstrated in the above scenarios the average monthly costs of accessing either a 50% share in a 2 bed flat or 3 bed house in the area is cheaper than buying on the open market. However, this is still considered to be unaffordable for those in the income target group set by the Homes and Communities Agency

of £19,000 a year or less,³ suggesting that a range of percentages should be provided throughout the Borough.

7. Conclusion

Abbey ward benefits from a number of amenities including various shops and schools. It forms part of the West Bridgford urban area and has good transport links to other areas of the Borough and Nottingham City. These factors indicate that the ward is in a sustainable location for future development and would support the Governments' initiative of 'creating and maintaining sustainable communities'.

The ward has a resident population of 4559 people, measuring 4.3% of the total of the Borough's population. There are higher numbers of residents under 16 (20.9%) in the ward compared to the Borough as a whole (18.2%) suggesting that if these young people wish to remain in the locality affordable starter homes will be in high demand in a few years time. There are also higher numbers of families with two or more dependent children in the ward (21%) compared to the whole of Rushcliffe (18%) suggesting that larger family accommodation, 3+ bedrooms, would be in greater demand in the area.

The proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents in this area (7.5%) is higher in comparison to the Borough as a whole (4.1%). The largest BME population are Asian and Asian British comprising of 5.3% of the wards residents. The needs of BME communities will need to be considered alongside other groups in terms of property type and design to reflect cultural and religious diversities.

The average house price in Abbey at the end of February 2009 (£225,000) is the 11th highest average price in the Borough. It is higher than the average for the same period in Rushcliffe (£207,269) and England and Wales (£153,512). In comparison, entry level prices in the ward are lower here than in the Borough as a whole, indicating that first time buyers and single income households may be attracted to the area. The average rental prices in the ward in March 2009 also indicated that the area has an affordability problem, with huge deficits between the rent and the amounts that Local Housing Allowance covers.

There are high levels of owner occupiers (84.6%) in comparison to the Rushcliffe levels (78%) and low numbers of general needs socially rented properties within the ward at 4.4%, (162 out of 3664 Borough wide).

³ 'Low Cost Home Ownership and the Intermediate Housing Market in the East Midlands Region', Housing Vision, 2008

There are also low numbers of sheltered socially rented properties, 3.8% (40 out of 1030 Borough wide). Abbey Park sheltered scheme is located within the ward and there are currently 302 households on Spirita's waiting list for this, suggesting that the provision of suitable accommodation for older people needs to be considered. There are New Build HomeBuy properties in the ward, 1.7% of the total for the Borough (5 out of 296 Borough wide). This coupled with high entry levels prices would suggest an overall need for a range of affordable housing within the ward to meet the needs of future residents. The Housing Cost Model also reinforces affordability issues.

The ward is relatively affluent when we examine the CACI Paycheck data 2008 with the average earning higher than the average for England and Wales as a whole. However, it must be noted that higher income households usually mask those on lower incomes, distorting the average for the ward and thereby making it appear wealthier and more affluent than it actually is. When comparing the average entry level price for terraced properties with the average mean income, the figures suggest that a person would have to get a mortgage for 3.3 times their salary in addition to a 10% deposit. This figure is slightly lower than the mortgage, income ratio guidance level of 3.5 times an annual salary, suggesting that first time buyers may be attracted to the ward, suggesting that first time buyers may be able to access the market, however caution needs to be noted especially when taking account of the distorted lower incomes within the ward.

There are high numbers on the largest RSL waiting list in the area for general needs accommodation, 147 households for houses, 273 for flats and 4 for bungalows, compared to a low number of socially rented general needs stock, 4.4% of the Boroughs total. Demand for affordable housing, specifically rented accommodation, is in high demand across the whole of the Borough, although West Bridgford is nearly always applicants preferred choice.

Overall, the ward is in a sustainable location, the house and rental prices are extremely high and the demand for affordable housing is immense despite affordable housing completions within the Borough. This is a result of significant backlog of housing need and a falling stock of affordable homes through Right to Buy and HomeBuy stair-casing, coupled with rising house prices. There needs to be a continued emphasis on a range of solutions in line with the SHMA which suggest that 47% of the 60% affordable housing proposed should be social rent and 13% for intermediate housing (equivalent of 80% social rent, 20% intermediate on individual sites having regard to local circumstances) which will assist in meeting need and balancing the local housing market.