



**FILWOOD, KNOWLE AND WINDMILL HILL  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
6.00 PM ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012  
AT KNOWLE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
GREENWOOD ROAD, KNOWLE, BRISTOL BS4 2SS**

**PRESENT:**

**Ward Councillors:**

Councillor Jeff Lovell	Filwood	Ward
Councillors Gary Hopkins and Chris Davies		Knowle Ward
(arrived at 6.30pm)		
Councillors Mark Bailey and Alf Havvock	Windmill	Hill Ward

**Other members of the Partnership:**

Les Bowen	Resident	
Ken Jones	Resident	
Lee Reed	Equalities	Representative
Inspector Colin Salmon	Avon & Somerset Police	

**Also Present:**

Karen Blong	Democratic Services
Richard Gwyn	Area Environment Officer
Mohamed Ismail	Neighbourhood Development Officer
Kurt James	Area Coordinator, Bristol City Council
Matthew Kendall	Senior Benefits Policy Officer
Maggie String	Resident
3 x Knowle Residents	

**APOLOGIES:**

Susan Audrey, Denise Britt, Judith Brown, Nancy Carlton, Cllr Chris Jackson, John Scott and Ann Smith.

**Item No:**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair, Councillor Hopkins would be late and Councillor Lovell opened the meeting. Introductions were made and members welcomed to the meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012**

Accuracy

**a. Community Safety Update**

Colin Salmons title was confirmed as Inspector.

Matters Arising

**a. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

Resident Les Bowen reiterated concerns regarding the changes to Neighbourhood Watch and expressed disappointment that no response had been received following a meeting with representatives from the Police.

The Neighbourhood Partnership noted the concerns.

**b. Microasphalt Programme in Pyle Hill Crescent**

Cllr Bailey highlighted that the work has still not taken place and residents had been requesting information. It was agreed that the Area Coordinator would contact the department to request an urgent update.

**Action – AC to request an update on the Microasphalt Programme in Pyle Hill Crescent.**

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP AGREED –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 be agreed as a correct record.**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. PUBLIC FORUM AND REQUESTS FOR LOCAL ACTION**

None

#### **5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT**

Karen Blong, Democratic Services Officer presented the report.

##### **THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP AGREED –**

- (1) That the membership of the Partnership and the chairing arrangements be agreed for 2012-13;**
- (2) That the terms of reference of the Partnership be noted;**
- (3) That appointments to sub-groups and other bodies be noted;**
- (4) That the devolved budgets and influence on services be noted;**
- (5) That the Neighbourhood Partnership Action Plan/priorities be noted; and**
- (6) That the following dates and times of meetings of the Neighbourhood Partnership for 2012-13 be confirmed:**
  - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012;**
  - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013;**
  - Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

#### **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the Area Coordinator (agenda item no. 7) regarding financial summaries on devolved budgets for 2011-2012.

##### **Residual Traffic Schemes**

The AC noted that 1.3 of the report, Residual Traffic Schemes, has a slight anomaly. This would be rectified with the Traffic Department and the correct information circulated.

**Action – The AC to circulate the correct information\*.**

***\*Following the meeting it was confirmed that the figures provided were correct.***

**Clean and Green – Repair Notice Board, Marksbury Road Open Space**

Richard Gwyn (RG), Area Environment Officer confirmed that the project would be match funded and work would begin imminently.

**Action – Richard Gwyn to request an update on timescales involved for the Repair to the Notice Board, Marksbury Road Open Space.**

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED -**

**That the financial summaries on devolved budgets for 2011-12 be noted.**

**7. WELFARE REFORM AND LOCALISED TAXATION SUPPORT – MATTHEW KENDALL**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a verbal report from Matthew Kendall (MK) Senior Benefits Policy Officer (agenda item no. 8) regarding welfare reform and localised taxation support.

MK referred to the large number of changes to the benefits system imposed from central government, providing the group with a summary on the most salient areas.

Changes taking place now included;

- Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate to be set at 30th percentile as opposed to median of rent levels for each property in each Broad Rented Market Area. 6,929 residents affected in Bristol. The LHA would also be frozen and would not increase with the cost of inflation.
- Removal of £15 LHA excess. 2,893 residents affected in Bristol.
- Introduction of 4 bedroom LHA upper limit. 23 residents affected in Bristol.
- Amended size criteria to include a live-in carer.

- Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) grant increased by £10 million.
- Non-Dependant deductions will start to be increased to updated 2001 rates.
- Increased ability to pay landlords direct.

In the Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Wards 690 households would be affected by these changes.

Changes planned for the future were summarised;

- Localised Council Tax Benefit (CTB) replacement with 10% less funding.
  - - LHA rates increased by Consumer Price Index and not local rental values.
  - - Household benefit cap - £500 cap for families and couples and £350 cap for single people without children per week.
- Size criteria rules for working age socially rented sector housing - 'bedroom tax'.
- Social Fund Payments being transferred to LAs (Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants).
- More DHP - £30 m for benefit cap and £80m for 'bedroom tax'
- Localised CTB replacement with 10% less funding.
- A new Fraud Investigations Service will start to cover all aspects of benefit fraud (including HB/CTB).
- Disability Living Allowance replaced by PIP (Personalised Independence Payments).

MK provided a summary of changes;

### October 2013

Beginning of Universal Credit (UC) scheme (including Housing Benefit and Tax Credits, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (income based) and Employment and Support Allowance (income related) for new out of work claims - including monthly direct payments.

### April 2014

New in work UC claims – including real time PAYE information.

### October 2014

New Pension Credit with Housing Costs, with payment choice.

### 2015 – 2017

All other claims transferred to UC via natural or managed transition.

MK highlighted that the reduction of money to spend on Council Tax Support would make it very challenging to protect the vulnerable and create work incentives. This would also have a knock on effect to other BCC departments and teams, e.g. Housing Solution, Private Rented Team etc.

Provisions were being put in place to try and counteract some of the negative effects of the imposed changes. These included;

- Briefings to stakeholders – including BCC staff, landlords, tenant groups, neighbourhood partnership areas.
- Monitoring LHA changes and effects.
- Financial modelling and options for administering CTS.
- Working with DWP for household cap.
- Looking at how/where to administer Social Fund payments.
- Looking at the future of front facing services.

The majority of the work currently taking place focused on the financial modelling and options for administering Council Tax. Options would be created for assessment by the Executive Member and Full Council.

The Group were invited to ask questions and the following comments were made;

a) MK confirmed that the information presented at the meeting could be shared with the Housing Management Board if required.

b) Every person affected by the changes discussed would be written to and additional services provided for people like to be adversely affected, i.e. telephone service, web site and contact with Homelessness Officers.

c) There would be a two-week statutory consultation period related to the future of Council Tax.

d) Cllr Hopkins requested more detailed information on the impact of the changes on the Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Wards. Indicative figures would allow the Partnership to better assess the impact of the changes on the residents in these Wards, highlighting the areas of real concern. MK would provide a more detailed report, to be circulated with minutes of the meeting (appendix a(i)).

**Action – Matthew Kendall to provide a summary of the predicted impact of the changes in Welfare Reform and Localised Taxation Support in Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill.**

*Provided as appendix a(ii) to the minutes.*

## **THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP AGREED –**

**That the verbal update be noted.**

### **8. ENVIRONMENT REPORT – MAY GURNEY AND CLEAN AND GREEN**

#### **i. May Gurney Neighbourhood Partnership Update**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report from a representative of May Gurney (agenda item no. 9).

Richard Gwyn (RG), Area Environment Officer confirmed that the Community Steward for the Partnership would be Wayne Barlow. Potential priorities in the area were identified as dog fouling and bins on the streets in Windmill Hill. Targets would be set for May

Gurney and satisfaction surveys circulated to the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The following comments were made;

a) Cllr Bailey highlighted that the recycling service had improved following a number of initial problems. Complaints had been dealt with swiftly and street cleansing had generally improved.

b) Cllr Davies confirmed that weed removal had now taken place, although this had been later than in previous years.

c) A resident expressed concerns that no street cleansing appeared to take place on St Martins Road. It was noted that mechanical sweeping would not be appropriate for all areas.

d) A Knowle Resident praised the improved recycling service. However, un-recyclables were often left on the pavements and roads as rubbish. RG to communicate this to May Gurney.

**Action – Richard Gwyn to liaise with May Gurney over the correct process for disposal of non-recyclables.**

**ii. Adjustments to Clean and Green Project Funding Criteria and Process and Confirmation of decision-making process for Clean and Green Funds.**

RG summarised the report included in the agenda papers.

The Committee Members agreed to Option B - the delegation of the legal authority to make decisions to Officers in Environment and Leisure Services, with an understanding that Officers would seek Councillors agreement by email prior to spending funds.

The Committee Members discussed the amended criteria for the £29,000 non-devolved element of Clean and Green and agreed the following;

a) The amount able to be applied for by the NP would be £19,000 (criteria set out in Appendix (9) B of the agenda papers).

- NPs no longer had to spend the devolved element of Clean and Green prior to making an application to this fund;

- Applications received from environmental improvements that take place in one of the five priority wards for cleanliness projects will take preference.

b) The remaining £10,000 would now be set aside to support the Probation Services Community Payback Scheme, paying for 100 Payback sessions in the communities.

The Committee were cautious to allocate money automatically to Community Payback, previously this had been a reactive scheme and services were commissioned on need. It was agreed that the Community Payback jobs would be listed upfront and this approach would be assessed for effectiveness after 12 months. It was noted that the cost of Community Payback had increased from £50 to £100 per day.

**Actions;**

- (1) Jobs for Community Payback to be listed upfront for the forthcoming year;**
- (2) That the effectiveness of the changed Community Payback**
- (3) Financial Contribution be assessed after 12 months.**

**iii. Community Tree Planting Programme**

RG summarised the report included in the agenda paper, which requested approval of a tree-planting scheme for Victoria Park. The Partnership requested that liaison take place with the Parks and Green Spaces Department to ensure tree planting takes places holistically.

It was agreed that future consideration would also be given to tree planting in Salcombe Road.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the May Gurney update report be noted;**
- (2) That the changes applied to Clean and Green fund from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to the end of the 2012/13 financial year be noted;**
- (3) That the effectiveness of the Community Payback Financial Contribution of £10,000 per year be assessed after 12 months;**

- (4) That legal authority to make decisions on Clean and Green funding be delegated to Officer in Environment and Leisure Services with an understanding that Officers would seek Councillor agreement by email prior to spending funds and a summary will be provided to the subsequent Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting.**

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED –**

**That a tree-planting plan for Victoria Park be approved.**

**9. COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER DELIVERY AGREEMENT**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report from Stuart Pattison, Safer Bristol Partnership (agenda item no. 10) regarding the delivery agreement outcomes for 2011/12.

The Area Coordinator introduced the report and the following comments were made;

- The Crime Reduction outcomes emphasised increased community confidence and reduced fear of crime in Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill.
- The report recognises that drug use and drug dealing in the area and Domestic Violence still remain problems.
- The NP would be responsible for the implementation of the contents of the report and an update report would be provided to the NP in six months time.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the summary of outcomes from the 2011/12 agreement be noted; and**
- (2) That the proposed activity set out in the 2012/13 delivery agreement [Appendix 1 to the report] be agreed.**

**10. AREA COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the Area Coordinator (agenda item no. 11) regarding progress on actions undertaken.

The following comments were made;

**a. Neighbourhood Partnership Action Plan 2012-13**

- Cllr Hopkins requested that Perrets Park be included in *Improving Parks and Green Spaces and Environment*;
- The AC highlighted that the Knowledge Community Newsletter had been undergoing a revamp and would be circulated to Councillors.

**Actions**

**(1) The AC to add Perrets Park to the *Improving Parks and Green Spaces and Environment* section of the Action Plan;**

**(2) The AC to ensure Councillors receive a copy of the Knowledge Community Newsletter.**

**b. Improving Communications update**

Les Bowen praised the increase in community communication. The AC acknowledged that improvements to local communication had been made, leaflets and cards had been produced, but more could still be done.

**c. Neighbourhood Forum Meeting Updates**

Inspector Colin Salmon provided a summary of the good work taking place in the Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Wards. Appendix b to the minutes.

Inspector Salmon confirmed that an arrest had been made in relation to the tyre slashing incidents and further forensic evidence was being gathered.

Cllr Bailey praised the good work of the police in the area. It was hoped that the no-drinking zone being discussed at a case conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> June would not have a knock on affect in Victoria Park.

Inspector Salmon concluded that this area and Bishopsworth were the only areas where the level of burglary had reduced.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Neighbourhood Partnership Action Plan be agreed:**
- (2) That the Communication Plan update be noted;**

**(3) That the Neighbourhood Forum Meeting Updated be noted; and**

**(4) That the Celebrating Age Festival be noted.**

## **11. DEVOLVED SERVICES REPORT – AREA COORDINATOR**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the Area Coordinator (agenda item no. 12) regarding the devolved transport schemes update and the Section 106 update.

### **i. Devolved Transport Schemes 2011 – 12**

- Cllr Davies referred to some residents concerns that the pedestrian crossing on Redcatch Road had negatively impacted on Woodbridge Road. Some residents had suggested making the road one way would solve this problem and Cllr Davies had suggested organising a petition could be beneficial.

- The traffic count on St Martins Road has yet to be completed and therefore no recommendation could be made at the NP meeting. Residents expressed frustration at the further delay. The NP agreed that the Neighbourhood Committee would be delegated authority to agree a recommended scheme following completion of the analysis.

- The AC confirmed that the Planning Obligations Project Manager had confirmed that Section 106 money could be used to address the parking issues outside Tesco on Axbridge Road.

- Cllr Hopkins referred to £2 million funding made available to fund local transport schemes. Local residents, NPs and business could bid for Transport Schemes in their area. The first bidding round finishes at the end of July and NPs would collate bids. £1million of this has come from the Central Government and £1million made available through BCC Cabinet savings.

### **ii. Section 106 Update**

In addition to those listed in the report the following money would also be available;

11/03086 / Former St. Peters Hospice Site, St. Agnes Avenue, Knowle/ZCD...A54

- The provision of improvements to Park and Open Spaces within one mile of St Agnes Avenue – £10,618.44
- Upgrading of the Redcatch Community Centre - £5,874.35.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Devolved Transport Schemes 2011-12 update be noted;**
- (2) That the Neighbourhood Committee would assess and decide on the recommendations in relation to St Martin Road and the result to be reported back to the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting;**
- (3) That the Section 106 Update be noted.**

**12. WELLBEING REPORT**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered a report of the Area Coordinator (agenda item no. 13) relating to the funding allocations for 2012-2013.

The AC presented an addendum report and the Neighbourhood Committee Resolved to agree the release of £3,000 from the Knowle Wellbeing Grant Fund to support the Redcatch Park Community Sports Court Improvement Project.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE RESOLVED;**

- (1) That the Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Wellbeing Grant fund financial position as at 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be noted;**
- (2) That the Wellbeing Grant Fund recommendations for Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill be agreed;**
- (3) That £3,000 be released from the Knowle Wellbeing Grant Fund to support the Redcatch Park Community Sports Improvement Project.**

**Neighbourhood Partnership items**

**13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT**

The Neighbourhood Partnership considered the partnership report (agenda item no. 14) summarising some of the achievements of the Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Neighbourhood Partnership for 2011-12.

## **THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP AGREED –**

**That the report be noted.**

### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Number 90 Bus**

Cllr Hopkins referred to concerns related to the service provided by First Bus. A motion related to proposed changes on how the Council Commission First Bus Services would be presented to the Full Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Changes suggested that contacts should link to quality and the Executive Member would be responsible for gathering information and decided on recommendations.

### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting be at 6.00 pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the Star and Dove, St Luke's Road, Windmill Hill, Bristol BS3 4RY.

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

CHAIR

## Welfare Reform- Housing and Council Tax Benefit Changes

Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill NP  
May 2012

Integrated Customer Service  
Revenues and Benefits Service

Slide 1



## What has already happened? April 2011

- Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate to be set at 30% percentile as opposed median of rent levels for each property in each Broad Rented Market Area. (6929)
- Removal of £15 LHA excess. (2893)
- Introduction of 4 bedroom LHA upper limit. (23)
- Amend size criteria to include a live-in carer. (5/64)
- Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) grant increased by £10 million.
- Non Dependant deductions will start to be increased to uprated 2001 rates. (2073)
- Increased ability to pay landlords direct.

Integrated Customer Service  
Revenues and Benefits Service

Slide 2



## Loss by Ward (30<sup>th</sup> percentile)

### Total

- Knowle/Filwood/Windmill Hill = 690 households affected (out of 6929)
- Financial Loss = £660k (£7.5m)

### Breakdown

- Knowle = 271/£293k
- Filwood = 98/106k
- Windmill Hill = 241/£260k



## What has already happened?

### January 2012

- Increase in shared accommodation rate from 25 to 35 (878).

### April 2012

- LHA amounts frozen.
- Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) grant now £480k.
- Various changes to Tax Credits; total cap reduced, increased hour eligibility for couples, 50+ element removed, ignoring income falls of £2,500.

### May 2012

- Employment and Support Allowance contribution based time limited to one year and 'youth' element abolished.
- Income Support only available where child 5 or under.



# What will happen next?

April 2013

- Localised CTB replacement with 10% less funding.
- LHA rates increased by Consumer Price Index and not local rental values.
- Household benefit cap - £500/£350 p.w.
- Size criteria rules for working age socially rented sector housing - 'bedroom tax'.
- Social Fund Payments being transferred to LAs (CCG and CLs).
- More DHP - £30 m for benefit cap and £80 m for 'bedroom tax'
- Localised CTB replacement with 10% less funding.
- A new Fraud Investigations Service will start to cover all aspects of benefit fraud (including HB/CTB).
- Disability Living Allowance replaced by PIP (Personalised Independence Payments).

Integrated Customer Service

Revenues and Benefits Service

Slide 5



# What will happen next?

Universal Credit - October 2013 onwards

## October 2013

- Beginning of Universal Credit scheme (including HB and Tax Credits, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (ib) and Employment and Support Allowance (ir)) for new out of work claims - including monthly direct payments.

## April 2014

- New in work UC claims – including real time PAYE information.

## October 2014

- New Pension Credit with Housing Costs, with payment choice.

## 2015 – 2017

- All other claims transferred to UC via natural or managed transition.

Integrated Customer Service

Revenues and Benefits Service

Slide 6



## What are we doing?

- Briefings to stakeholders – including BCC staff, landlords, tenant groups, neighbourhood partnership areas.
- Corporate Welfare Reform Group.
- ICS Project Board.
- Monitoring LHA changes and effects.
- Revisiting DHP's – policy, application, resourcing, etc.
- Financial modelling and options for administering CTS.
- Sizing and preparing for bedroom tax.
- Working with DWP for household cap.
- How/where to administer Social Fund payments.
- Looking at the future of front facing services.

**Integrated Customer Service**

Revenues and Benefits Service

Slide 7



## What are the challenges?

- Less money to spend on CTS, whilst protecting the vulnerable and creating work incentives.
- Estimated 6,600 affected by 'bedroom tax'.
- 500 affected by household benefit cap – 400 up to £100 p.w and 100 by over £100 p.w.
- Additional demand on discretionary funds.
- Customers - how and where they apply for benefit and levels of entitlement.
- Knock on effects to other BCC departments/teams – e.g. Housing Solutions, Private Rented Team, Strategy and Commissioning, CYPS.
- ICS – role to support customer contact unclear.
- Revenues and Benefits - how we operate, service design, structures and resources.

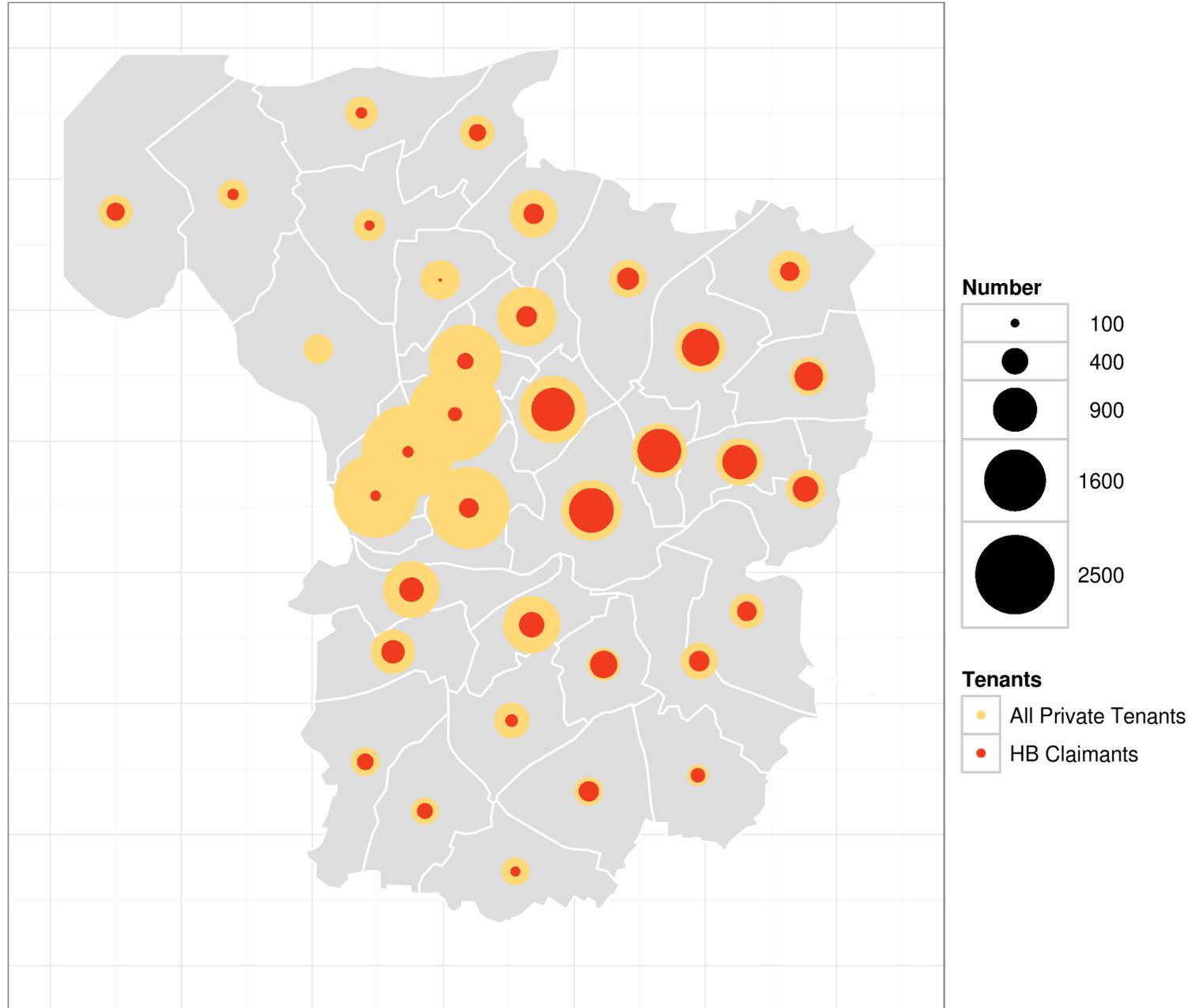
**Integrated Customer Service**

Revenues and Benefits Service

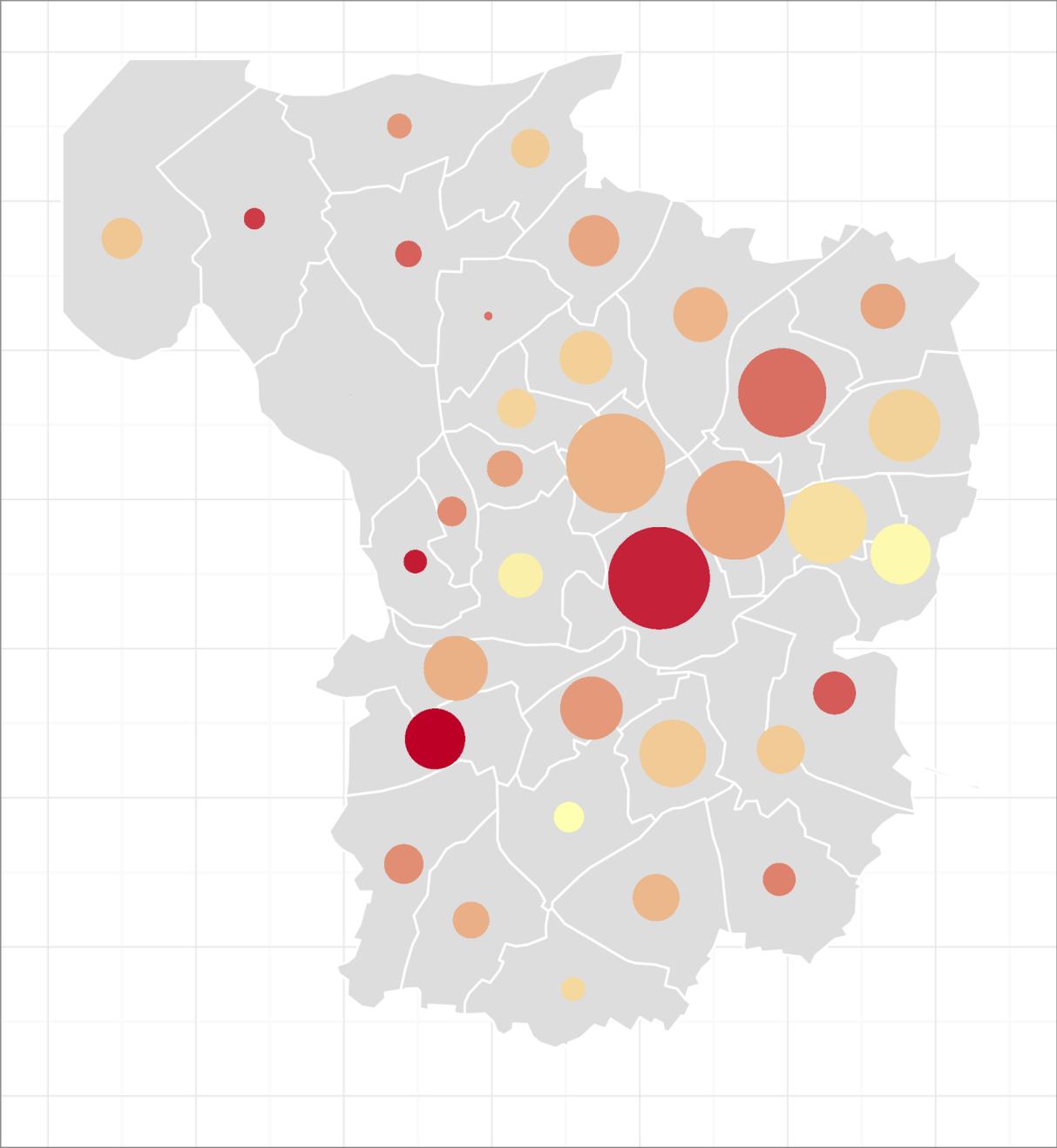
Slide 8



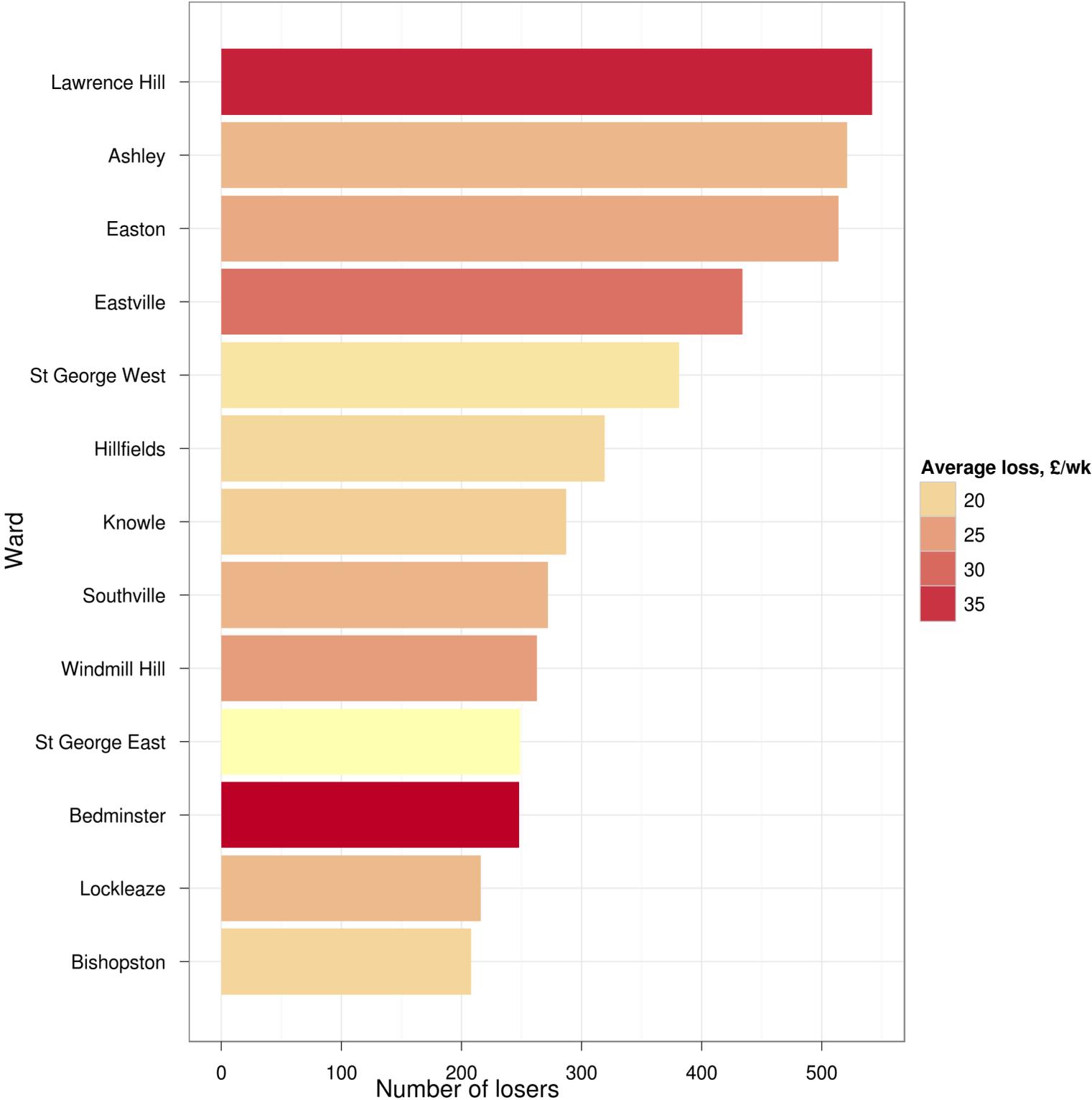
How big is the private rented sector, and how many are LHA claimants?



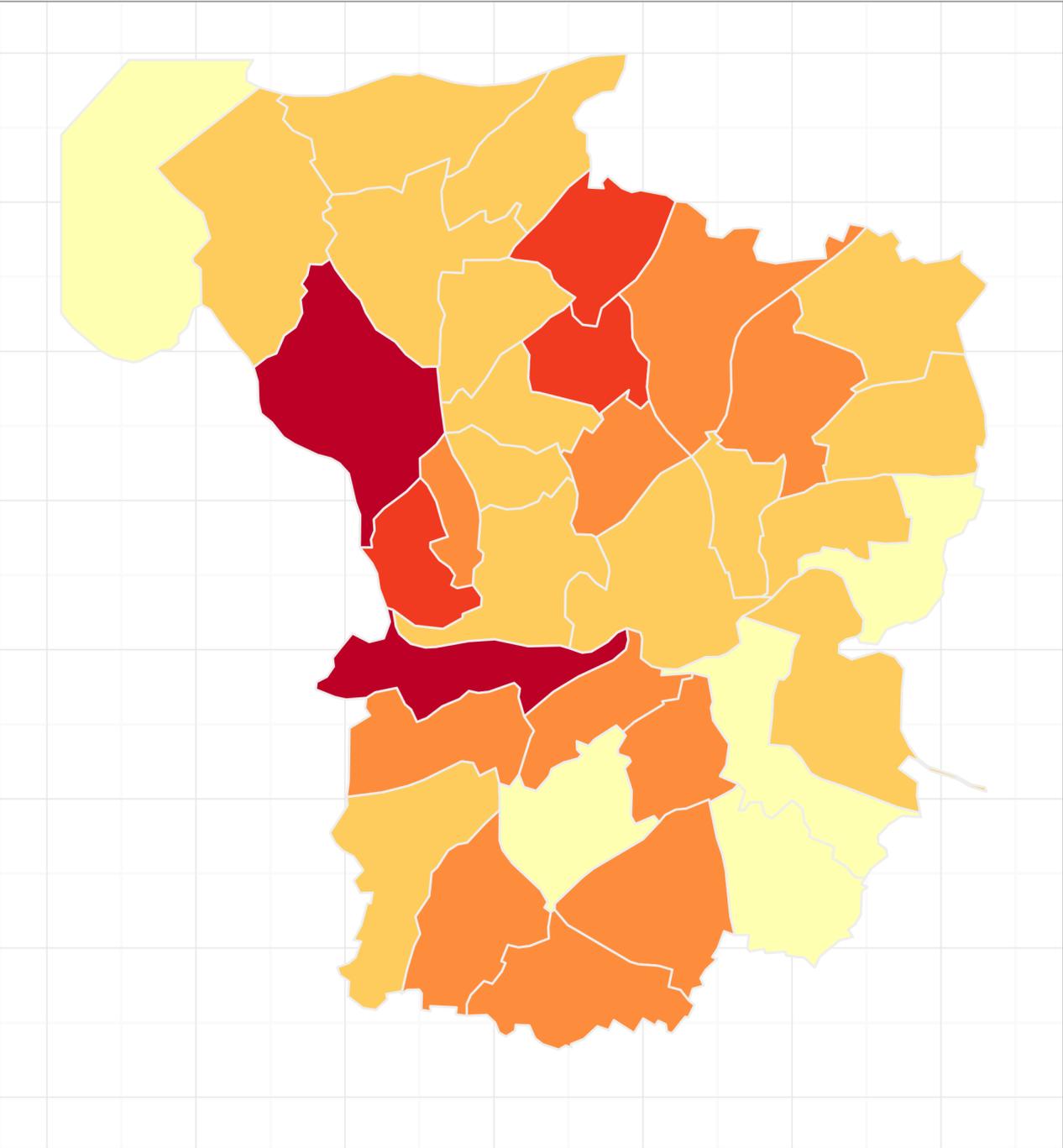
# Effects of the move to set rates at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile



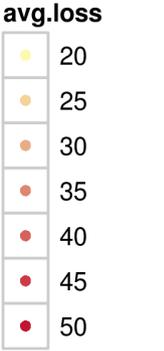
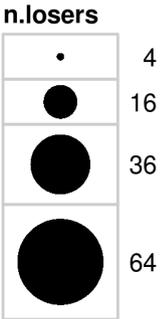
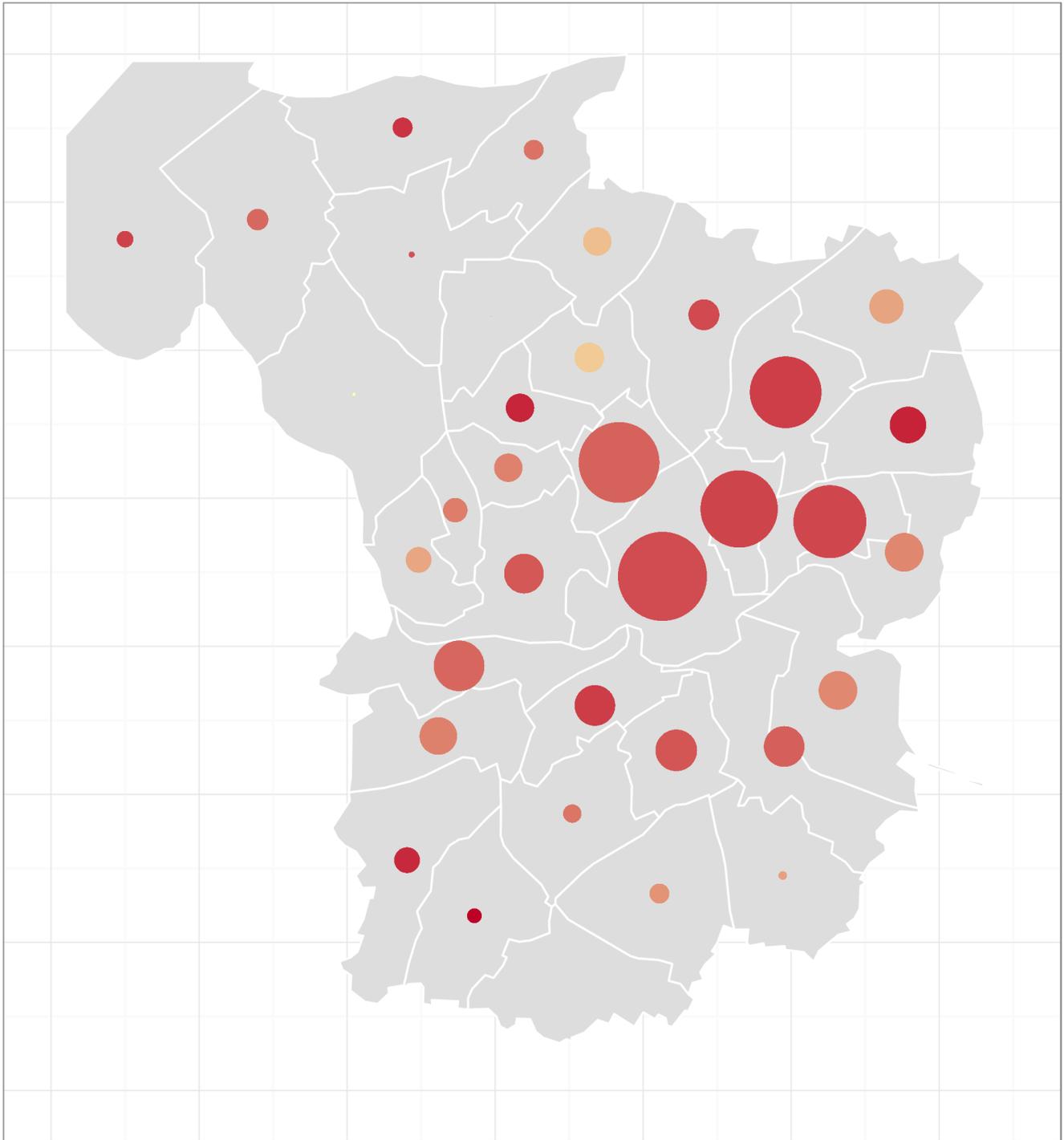
# Wards most affected by rate at 30<sup>th</sup> percentile



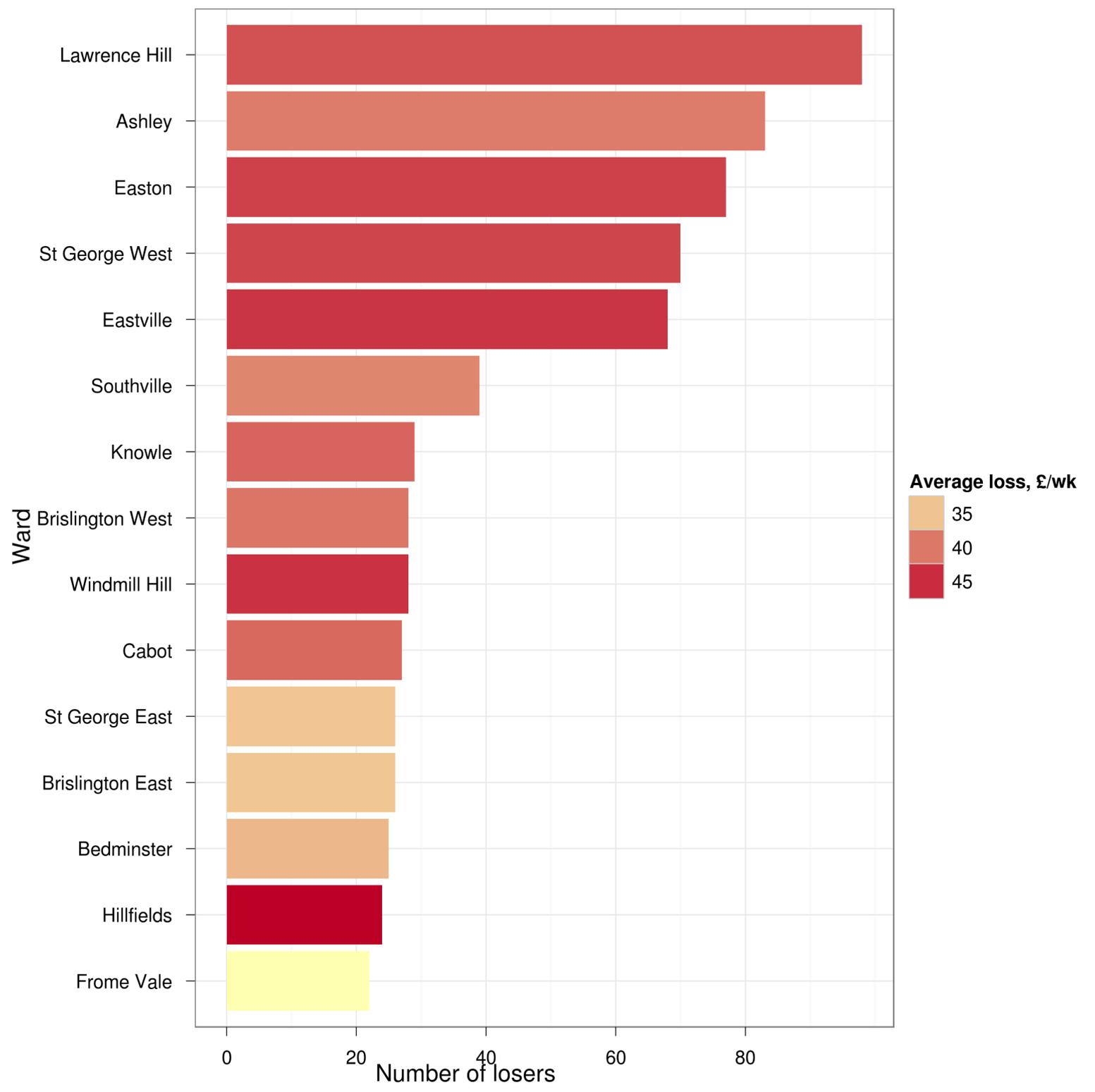
# Average rent paid by LHA claimants for one-bedroom dwelling



# Single Room Rate change – number affected by ward



# Wards most affected by single-room rate change



## Housing Benefit Changes

The following sets out a summary of the changes, the headline losses and number of cases affected.

### ***Total loss for all Local Housing Allowance changes***

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures</b>
Estimated annual reduction in benefit due to all LHA changes.	£10,962,510.48
Total number of cases affected by 2011 – 12 changes, (cap, percentile)	9,610
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	793
Average weekly loss in Housing Benefit	£21.94
Percentage of households with children	37.5%
Percentage of households who are single parents	20.6%
Percentage of households currently <u>not</u> in receipt of maximum benefit	39.9%

### Changes from April 2011

#### ***Local Housing Allowance rates to be set at 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of local rents***

This amendment will mean that instead of 50% of properties, only 30% of privately rented properties will be available to those on HB. The reduction in available property is because using the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile means the LHA is based (in most cases) on a lower rent

These changes are effective for new claims from April 2011 and existing claims from 9 months after the first anniversary date that falls after April 2011.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures<sup>1</sup></b>
Estimated annual reduction in benefit due to 30 <sup>th</sup> percentile	£7,501,605.73
Number of cases affected by 30 <sup>th</sup> percentile	6,929
Average weekly restriction for those affected by 30 <sup>th</sup> percentile	£20.82
Average weekly loss for those affected by 30 <sup>th</sup> percentile	£7.02
Percentage of cases affected by removal of 30 <sup>th</sup> percentile	79%
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	610
Average weekly loss in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	£7.02

#### ***Local Housing Allowance restricted to 4-bed rate***

This amendment will mean that Local Housing Allowance cases with a 5 bed or greater need will face Housing Benefit payment restrictions to an equivalent 4 bed need.

These changes are effective for new claims from April 2011 and existing claims from 9 months after the first anniversary date that falls after April 2011.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures</b>
Estimated annual reduction in Benefit due to 4 bed restriction	£230,640.28
Number of cases above 4 bed rate	36
Number of cases affected by 4 bed cap	24
Average weekly restriction for those affected by 4 bed cap	£170.59
Average weekly loss for those affected by 4 bed cap	£148.61
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	0
Average weekly loss in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	0

### ***Changes to the Shared Accommodation Rate***

This amendment will mean that the Single Room Rent (now known as the Shared Accommodation Rate) which previously applied to single persons under 25 has now been extended to those aged under 35. This sets a maximum HB ceiling for Local Housing Allowance and Referable Rent cases to the equivalent rent of that of a room in a shared house.

These changes are effective for new claims from January 2012 and for most existing claims from January to December 2012, depending on their claim date.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures</b>
Estimated annual reduction in changes in SAR	£1,899,239.68
Number of cases affected by changes in SAR	693
Average weekly loss for those affected by changes in SAR	£43.27
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	56
Average weekly loss in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	£44.54

### ***£15 cap removed for Local Housing Allowance cases***

This amendment will mean that where a claimant has a rent that is less than the corresponding LHA rate, they lose the difference of up to £15 per week.

These changes are effective for new claims from April 2011 and existing claims from the first anniversary date that falls after April 2011.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures</b>
Estimated annual reduction in Benefit due to loss of £15 cap	£1,441,229.21
Number of cases affected by removal of £15 cap	2,893
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	156
Percentage of cases affected by removal of £15 cap	33%
Average weekly loss for those affected by £15 cap	£9.58

## ***Additional room for non - resident carer where disabled person needs overnight care***

This will affect all new and existing claims from April 2011.

This data has never been collected by the Benefits Service, as there has never been any duty to do so, or operational need. The effect on additional HB payments is also not easy to identify as an additional room payment is not a fixed amount, it is dependant on the existing room need.

Bristol has written to 64 potential beneficiaries, i.e. cases where there is an additional room as the person qualifies for the appropriate disability benefits, from which 5 people have benefited from this provision.

## **Changes from April 2012**

### ***Freezing of Local Housing Allowance rates for the financial year 2012/13***

This amendment will mean that any new claim received, or existing claim reviewed, between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 will receive the appropriate Local Housing Allowance rate as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

This will result in no one either getting more or less Local Housing Allowance in this year regardless of any change in the actual rent charged by their landlord.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures</b>
Number of cases affected by LHA freeze	11,438
Average weekly restriction due to LHA freeze	NK
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	978

## **Changes from April 2013**

### ***Local Housing Allowance annually uprated by the lower of Consumer Price Index or 30th percentile rate***

This amendment will mean that Local Housing Allowance rates are only uprated each year by the lowest of either; the rate of inflation or what the actual rent Local Housing Allowance rate is.

The Consumer Price Index has historically been below the rental market rate of inflation, meaning that if this continues the differences between rents charged and Housing Benefit paid will grow.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Affect: BCC Figures</b>
Number of cases affected by LHA freeze	11,438
Average weekly restriction due to LHA freeze	NK
Number affected in Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill	978

## ***Discretionary Housing Payment***

In light of these amendments government has increased the amount of money that local authorities can give to claimants in additional to their existing Housing Benefit award, where there remains a difference between rent charged and benefit awarded.

The annual budgets are as below;

<b>Year</b>	<b>Budget</b>
2010/11	£143,250
2011/12	£206,597
2012/13	£530,155
2013/13	£1.3m

Knowle/Filwood/Windmill Hill  
Neighbourhood Community Safety Update

Prepared on behalf of Brislington Neighbourhood Delivery team

**June 2012**

1. Recorded Crime – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 (Against same period for 2011)

Knowle

Crime Type	Nos. of Incidents	Change	% change
Dwelling Burglary	5	- 8	Down 71,4%
Other Burglary	5	No Change	No Change
Robbery	1	-1	Down 50%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	14	- 5	Down 26.3%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2	-1	Down 33.3%
All Crime*	150	- 29	Down 11.8

\* Increase in criminal damage Incidents 43 (Up 20 offences, Up 37%) due to tyre damage in May

Filwood

Crime Type	Nos. of Incidents	Change	% change
Dwelling Burglary	5	- 16	Down 76.2%
Other Burglary	5	-16	Down 76.2%
Robbery	None	No Change	No Change
Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	- 2	Down 25%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	3	- 6	Down 66.7%
All Crime	169	-90	Down 34.7%

Windmill Hill

Crime Type	Nos. of Incidents	Change	% change
Dwelling Burglary	7	- 12	Down 63.2%
Other Burglary	8	- 14	Down 42.9%
Robbery	4	+3	Up 300%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	17	+3	Up 21.4%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	8	- 2	Down 20%
All Crime*	132	-22.8	Down 8.1%

***This data is 'living' information from Avon and Somerset police and may change as recent incidents are still under investigation.*** Longer term crime information is available from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Web Page. [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## 2. Anti-Social behaviour

The recording criteria for ASB calls changed in the summer 2011 and therefore year to year comparison data will not be available until June 2012.

A Dispersal order came in place for the Mede area of Inns Ct to address ASB and Street drinking. A No Drinking Zone for the Filwood area and parts of Knowle and Windmill Hill is being progressed

## 3. Local impact of funding changes

A decision has been made that the number of School with Beat Managers across South Bristol will not be reduced.

## 4. Community Priorities for last 6 months

As per Neighbourhood report

## 5. Escalated Action Plans – from local crime trends or community priorities.

None

## 6. Recent items of local interest

**If you wish to receive weekly updates on local matters in your area please email your Neighbourhood team at [SSNFILWOOD@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:SSNFILWOOD@avonandsomerset.police.uk) and title your message – 'please sign me up to keep me informed'**