



## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### *Committee Report*

**Public**

**Date of Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**Title:** MONITORING RURAL POLICY

**Report of:** Director of Development Services

**Report reference:** DS.133/08

**Summary:**

To provide an update report on the implementation of rural policy and programmes in the rural area.

**Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:**

- Make comments and observations on the policies, programmes and activity outlined in this report.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Proposes that the Rural Support Group reports to the Convenors Group of the Carlisle Partnership
- Proposes that a report is submitted on Monitoring Parish Charter Commitments annually to the joint City Council and Parish Councils meeting in December
- Proposes that the Rural Profile is kept up to date and reviewed annually.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Prepared from: DS.34/08 - Monitoring Rural Policy

## 1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report is part of the regular periodic reporting arrangements for Monitoring Rural Policy. The report provides an update from the previous report submitted in March 2008 (DS.34/08).

## 2.0 **RURAL POLICY BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 2.1 As reported previously the Carlisle **Rural Strategy** has now been incorporated into the **Carlisle Community Plan**, improving monitoring of rural initiatives through the Carlisle Partnership. To support this process the Rural Support Group (RSG) has expressed a wish to be more closely involved with the Convenors Group. It is therefore proposed that the RSG reports to the Convenors Group of the Carlisle Partnership.

### 2.2 **Carlisle Parish Charter**

As Members will be aware, the Carlisle Parish Charter was published in March 2007. The attached table (Appendix 1) gives an update on progress with the Charter implementation. As can be seen there are many actions, which are in place or in progress. However, there are also a number of areas where development is still needed, in order to fully demonstrate the City Council's commitment to the Parish Council sector. It is also essential that the Charter is monitored through the bi-annual meetings between the City Council and the Carlisle Parish Councils' Association (CPCA).

### 2.3 **Parish Plan Protocol**

The Parish Plan Protocol sets out the level and type of support Parish Councils can expect from the Principal Authorities and other agencies to assist them in producing Parish Plans. The Parish Plan Protocol has been developed through a Task and Finish group involving representatives from Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, CPCA, Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) and Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC). The Protocol has been approved by all the relevant bodies and is now due to be published and disseminated.

### 2.4 **Community Empowerment Pilot**

Following the Local Government White Paper, 2006 and the end of the protracted unitary debate in Cumbria, a Member/Officer Working Group at the City Council considered how to progress the many and broad aspects of the White Paper

concerned with community engagement and empowerment. The group was mindful of:

- The new Duty in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act for local authorities to involve citizens in the design and delivery of services from April 2009.
- The expectation that Councils will devolve significant powers, budgets and responsibilities to neighbourhoods and to parishes.
- The strengthened role for frontline Councillors, including delegation of powers and functions, Councillor call for action, and an enhanced role for overview and scrutiny.

2.5 Following consultation with partners, two areas were proposed in Carlisle, one urban and one rural, where an approach to engaging more closely with local communities could be piloted. The areas suggested were Harraby and Longtown. Progress has been made in Harraby and focus will now be turned to Longtown. The next stage in the process will be, initially, a meeting with Arthuret Parish Council in October to discuss the aims and objectives and the area(s) to be involved. Any work in Longtown will build on current community engagement and particularly the Longtown Moving Forward Initiative and the Neighbourhood Forum.

2.6 The longer-term aim of the pilot is to develop a model for engaging and empowering local communities that may be rolled out across Carlisle.

2.7 A number of objectives or outcomes that will help to determine success have been identified for the Harraby pilot and could be similar for Longtown:

- For the local authorities and their partners to get closer to the needs of their communities and particularly those potentially vulnerable.
- To inform, consult and involve the community in the design and delivery of services.
- To develop Neighbourhood Management or Locality Working as a means of involving communities.

- To improve effectiveness and therefore satisfaction with local services
- To prepare for the new performance framework, Comprehensive Area Assessment and particularly to support the Cumbria Local Area Agreement, (% of people who feel they can influence decisions locally).
- To bring neighbourhood planning closer to the corporate and community planning of local providers and partnerships.
- For local Councillors to develop their role as community leaders.
- To develop, with the local community, a neighbourhood action plan or community charter – in the rural area this would be the Community or Parish Plan.

### **3.0 CURRENT INITIATIVES**

#### **3.1 LAA Theme: Economic Priorities**

##### **3.1.1 Longtown Market Town Initiative (MTI)**

All activity in the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) sponsored economic programme under the Longtown Market Town Initiative (MTI) has been successfully run down. All programme staff were either made redundant or left by the end of March.

3.1.2 The City Council, as Accountable Body, has directly administered all matters from this date including the last of the expenditure, which was completed by June. An evaluation of the performance of the Market Town programme in the North West has just been published by the NWDA. Unfortunately there has not been enough time to fully review the document in time for this Committee but a review and a copy of the document will be placed in the Members' Room. However, some of the relevant key conclusions are summarised below. Please note these are the general conclusions drawn by the consultants regarding the programme throughout in the Region:-

- (i) Levels of aspiration and expected achievement in some original MTI plans were too high.

- (ii) With the offer of financial support from NWDA there was a key shift away from the “holistic” regeneration approach for the towns (as envisaged in the original White Paper) towards one with an economic focus. This exacerbated problems resulting from (i) above.
- (iii) Programmes largely selected projects from “standard” interventions and there was little innovative activity within the region.
- (iv) Identified lack of integration into sub-regional structures and recommends LSP linkages in the future.
- (v) “Solid performance” from Cumbria in delivering outputs.
- (vi) There is no clear picture across the region on future sustainability of local partnerships and how they will integrate into local delivery structures, if at all.

### **3.1.3 Brampton Business Centre**

At the time of writing the Executive is about to consider a report on the options for the Brampton Business Centre in the context of the Council's budget resolution of 2008/09 that seeks a £200,000 saving from the service. The options in the report include closure as from April 2009 or a partnership with the Brampton Community Association to run the facility until such time as a shared service option emerges from the joint Cumbria County Council/City Council Property Review currently under way. This latter option would require an on-going subsidy and would not achieve the savings target in the budget resolution.

3.1.4 As a separate issue, the future of the Business Centre and the Irthing Centre site overall will also depend on decisions made on the 'Community Ventures' project that is seeking a site for a major investment in community health facilities for Brampton. The two sites in the frame are the Irthing Centre site and at Kingwater Close (sometimes referred to as Gelt Rise).

3.1.5 The focus of the joint property review is currently the delivery of an agreed site for the new health facilities. Whilst this may include some community facilities, there remain some unanswered questions at the present stage of planning, about what facilities will be included and what will happen to those community services that will not be accommodated in the new health centre, in the event of the Irthing Centre site being the preferred option for the development.

3.1.6 A final consideration is whether an opportunity for the creation of a shared public sector service access point for Brampton will emerge as a product from the review once the issues around the Community Ventures project have been resolved. This may or may not include an opportunity to include some of the services currently delivered at the Business Centre.

#### 3.1.7 **Brampton Economic Action Group**

A newly formed Brampton Economic Action Group has come together on a task and finish basis with the intention of reporting next year on the local actions needed to fill out the aspirations for Brampton contained in the Carlisle Renaissance Economic Strategy approved earlier this year. The Growing Carlisle Local Economy Strategy contains a specific work stream concerned with revitalising rural communities. The Strategy recognises the significance of Brampton and Longtown as key rural service centres. In order to take this forward in Brampton a 'Task and Finish' group has been formed with the following terms of reference:

- To identify and oversee the delivery of a set of immediate actions linked to existing county or regional initiatives that will support business competitiveness / growth / sustainability, promote work based training and initiatives to overcome worklessness.
- Engage with community groups, individuals, businesses and agencies to identify the factors that will shape the economy of Brampton over the next 5 - 10 years, both in terms of opportunities and threats / barriers.
- To draw up a 5 – 10 year plan of action that ensures Brampton has a thriving and sustainable economy. This plan to sit within the overall context of the Growing Carlisle Local Economy Strategy.
- To consider suitable delivery mechanism / vehicle for the action plan.

3.1.8 Representatives of key organisation operating within or associated with the economic landscape of Brampton are participating in this process. Once the project is completed, the group will be disbanded and the delivery mechanism identified through this work will be put in place.

#### 3.1.9 **Rural Business Grants**

The programme of support outlined in the last report has now been completed.

3.1.10 Under the business start up programme, at the time of this report 123 new businesses have been created under this programme of which 31 were from rural

Carlisle. This is a little disappointing given that efforts were made to deliver the programme in the rural area. A new regional business start up programme will commence in April next year and further efforts will be made to raise take up.

3.1.11 A small amount of funding was made available through the EU Leader + programme and the City Council to support new rural businesses which had growth potential. A total of 9 grants were made available totaling £8,750. This was for marketing activity and was matched pound for pound by the businesses.

3.1.12 The City Council used LABGI funding to make a further £9,550 in grants available to 9 rural enterprises outside the Leader + area, again for marketing purposes and matched by the businesses.

3.1.13 The City Council commissioned the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA) to provide 40 businesses with one to one business support, covering a wide range of topics. The take up of ICT support was particularly noted. Twenty-five businesses received help with ICT and trading on line.

3.1.14 CREA was commissioned to produce a series of video clips featuring footage from the Solway area, Eden Valley and Brampton, City Centre and Hadrian's Wall. This was to help small tourism businesses improve their web presence. Sixty people attended the launch of this project and around 30 tourism businesses are actively using the clips, almost entirely rural based.

**3.1.15 Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)**

A bid for a new LEADER programme, for the Solway, Border and Eden area, to the NWDA was submitted in January. The NWDA has indicated that the programme has been approved and the Accountable Body, Cumbria County Council, are in the process of recruiting staff.

3.1.16 The current full Local Action Group (LAG) which will oversee the programme has nominated an interim Executive below which three local sub LAGs (including one for Carlisle) will be created later this year, once programme staff are in place. These sub LAGs will be drawn from local organisations and individuals representing a wide range of interests.

### **3.2 LAA Theme: Children and Young People**

#### **3.2.1 Summer Play Programme 2008**

Carlisle City Council's Summer Play Programme provided opportunities in 23 different rural locations for children aged 5 – 12 to meet their friends, take part in a range of informal games/sports activities, be creative and have fun during the summer holidays. Funding from Cumbria County Council and Carlisle Housing Association, coupled with support in kind from the Parish Councils and Village Hall Committees enabled Carlisle City Council to meet the increased demand for services associated with school holidays by extending the level of provision. This year in addition to providing Playschemes based at 20 village halls, opportunities to play were also provided in the parks at Brampton and Longtown (Parkschemes) and at Talkin Tarn (Wildschemes). Approximately 1,113 attendances were recorded at the Playschemes, 117 at the Parkschemes and 45 at the Wildschemes.

### **3.3 LAA Theme: Safer Stronger Communities**

#### **3.3.1. Community / Parish Plans**

Progress continues to take place in the development of Parish Plans in the District. Support is provided from the City Council to Parishes wishing to undertake Parish Plans. This support is co-ordinated through the Rural Support Officer. Several Parishes are now looking to review and update their plans particularly those that are over 3 years old. Again support will need to be made available to these Parishes from the City Council. It is crucial that Parish Plans are kept up to date to provide comprehensive information regarding community needs. Parish Plans now form a vital part of the Community Plan for Carlisle. Actions from Parish Plans need to be identified under each of the Community Plan themes.

#### **3.3.2. Hadrian's Wall Local Concerns Group**

Hadrian's Wall Heritage (HWH), the company established to oversee the management and development of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, has established a new Farming and Rural Affairs Group. Members will recall that due to concerns from Parish Councils, local landowners and farmers, the City Council established and serviced the Hadrian's Wall Local Concerns Group to address these issues. It seems pertinent, with the emergence of the new HWH group, that the Local Concerns Group should be disbanded. The key consideration will be to ensure that local issues are being fully considered by the new group and that there is adequate representation from the Cumbrian side. Nick Utting, National Farmers'



Union and Jocelyn Holland, CPCA Chairman attended the initial meeting and suggested that the invitation to future meetings should be extended to all members of the previous Hadrian's Wall Local Concerns Group.

#### **3.3.3. Village Halls and Capital Grants Parish.**

All available funding of £42,600 for 2008/09 (£32,600 from Carlisle City Council, £8,000 from the Cumbria County Council and £2,000 from CPCA reserves) has been allocated to Parish Councils and village hall committees for capital projects to be completed this financial year. Sixty four grants have been approved in two rounds including several projects focusing on the energy efficiency measures identified through the City Council energy audits of village halls.

#### **3.3.4. Village Hall Workshop 2008**

Carlisle City Council and Carlisle Parish Councils' Association held a successful workshop for Village Hall Committees on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at the Rockcliffe Centre. The event raised awareness about the support available to village hall committees with information sessions on a variety of topics. The focus this year was on building surveys and energy efficiency including measures and improvements to reduce running costs. Workshop topics included Licensing, Fire Safety, Funding Sources, Food Hygiene, Increasing Usage of your Hall. The workshop also provided an opportunity for the 20 participants from 15 village hall committees to network, share ideas and hear examples of good practice. All felt that the workshop was informative and would like to have it as a regular event. An information pack will be sent to all committees that were unable to attend and measures to encourage wider participation to these events will be put in place for next year.

### **4.0 RURAL POLICY WIDER CONTEXT**

#### **4.1 Rural Proofing**

A new policy development document has been written and recently critiqued by a policy expert at the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). One of the appendices to the document is the guidance sheet on rural proofing when writing and developing policy. This document will be presented to People Policy and Performance's Departmental Management Team in the next two weeks and then be taken to Senior Management Team at their next available meeting. After that, it will be rolled out across the Authority.

4.2 As far as Equality and Diversity (E&D) is concerned, it was agreed to adopt Rurality as a seventh strand of the Equality Agenda by the Corporate Equalities Group at a meeting last year (January 2007). Subsequently, this group has reviewed the E&D Action Plan which contains rural issues.

#### 4.3 **Rural Evidence Base**

The Carlisle Rural Profile has been finalised and is attached at Appendix 2. This profile has been produced in order to provide an overview of the statistics and information that give an impression of the rural wards of Carlisle. The rural population is growing faster than the static urban population in Carlisle with increase of 7% over the last five years. The rural wards now account for one third of the people living in the Carlisle City Council area. This profile must be used in conjunction with the Carlisle District Profile and the Carlisle Atlas which provide an overview of both the urban and rural wards in Carlisle.

#### 5.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Proposes that the Rural Support Group reports to the Convenors Group of the Carlisle Partnership
2. Proposes that a report is submitted on Monitoring Parish Charter Commitments annually to the joint City Council and Parish Councils meeting in December
3. Proposes that the Rural Profile is kept up to date and reviewed annually.

### **APPENDICES**

**Carlisle Parish Charter Progress Table**

**Rural Profile December 2007**

# Carlisle City Charter Commitments – Carlisle City Council

## Key

Action in place

Action in progress

Action needs to be initiated

**Actions in bold and shaded grey are priority actions developed through tripartite monitoring and evaluation**

## **SECTION A: MUTUAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Successful partnership working at the parish level can only be achieved if the partners – the County Council, the City Council and the Parish Councils – understand and respect each other's roles and work to complement those roles in serving the community. It is recognised in this Charter that all three tiers of Local Government are equal partners.

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
The County Council, the City Council and the Parish Councils – understand and respect each other's roles and work to complement those roles in serving the community	This is a statement of intent and is difficult to measure, however there is generally a good level of understanding between the three tiers of local government.

## **SECTION B: GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS AND LIAISON**

In Cumbria there are three tiers of local government and this makes effective communication between the tiers a major challenge. Securing good communication and liaison between the parish tier and the principal Authorities is a cornerstone of this 'Parish Charter'. This involves communication at the most strategic level – sharing each others' aims – right down to careful liaison on specific local projects.

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Host at least one meeting per year with the Parish Councils in Carlisle to discuss corporate aims and other matters of mutual concern.	This action is well established and joint meetings held twice yearly.
Nominate the Parish Liaison Officer, and any other appropriate officers, to participate in the meetings of the Carlisle Parish Councils Association (CPCA)	Rural Support Officer nominated to perform this role.
<b>Give a written response to a written communication (including emails) from a Parish Council within 10 working days or provide a holding reply saying when a full reply will be available and which officer is dealing with the matter.</b>	<b>This, it is agreed, is a difficult commitment to measure without a central system of co-ordinating communications coming into the Civic Centre.</b>

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Encourage the attendance of County/City Councillors at Parish Council meetings.	Encouragement is given to members to attend, however attendance is not compulsory. Measurement would be dependent on Parish Council recording.
Facilitate greater electronic communication and sharing of information between Principal Authorities and Parish Councils through the Connected Cumbria Partnership	Electronic communications will be tackled once the outcome of the joint IT service between Carlisle and Allerdale is known.
Nominate a full time Parish Liaison Officer to promote partnership working, contribute to 'parish/rural proofing' of policies and initiatives and assist Parish Councils in resolving any difficulties with the Principal Authority.	Rural Support Officer nominated to perform this role.
Publish quarterly editions of Rural Voice (the newsletter for rural Carlisle) in consultation with Parish Councils (publications in March, June, September and December)	This action is being met.
Encourage and support articles from Parish Councils and those with a specific rural interest in the quarterly Carlisle Focus publication	Parish Councils are requested to submit articles, however this very rarely happens. More pro-active work is needed against this action to increase uptake from Parish Councils.
Produce a guide for Parish Councils on preparing articles for the media and a guide to media contacts	This action has not been initiated
Develop a rural section on the Carlisle City Council website specific to Parish Councils and rural issues.	This action is being met, however ease of access and availability needs to be improved.

### **SECTION C: GENERAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING**

**Parish Councils have very limited resources available to them and rely, to varying degrees, on the professional support that can be provided by others. Most Parish Councils (over 90%) are members of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) and receive advice, support and training from the Association. Nevertheless, there are some circumstances where the assistance of Principal Authority officers can be particularly useful to a Parish Council.**

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Allow their officers to meet reasonable requests for advice and guidance from Parish Councils	This action is being met
Provide regular training events for Parish Councils on topics that relate to the Principal Authority's statutory functions, notably the Code of Conduct, town and country planning (see section F), financial arrangements and transport/ highways	These are undertaken periodically when the need arises i.e. due to new legislation. Greater co-ordination is needed and a regular programme established

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Invite new Parish Clerks to attend one of their staff or member induction courses, where appropriate	This is not happening at present but needs to be initiated.
<b>Make arrangements for Parish Councils (councillors and staff) to be invited to appropriate training events arranged by the Principal Authority for its own purposes.</b>	<b>Undertake a consultation exercise with Parish Clerks and Councillors as to identifying their training needs. Establish whether those training needs could be incorporated into the Council corporate training programme.</b>

#### **SECTION D: CLOSER JOINT GOVERNANCE**

**Town and Parish Councils and Principal Authorities share many statutory functions and share the desire to deliver ‘joined up’ local government services to the general public. This requires appropriate governance arrangements where all tiers of local government can work together and share accountability. Principal Authorities are concerned to ensure that the services they provide are effective in meeting the real needs of the community on the ground. Parish Councils are well placed to report on whether or not this is being achieved.**

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Invite Parish Council representatives to attend the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee when Monitoring Rural Policy and other reports relevant to the rural area are being presented	This action is being met and is well established
Invite Parish Council representatives to participate in Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups where appropriate	This action is being met (examples include the Parish Charter and Parish Plan Protocol Task and Finish Groups)
Seek Parish Council representatives to sit on the Standards Committee in accordance with statutory requirements	This action is being met
Support Parish Council participation (through Cumbria Association of Local Councils) in the County Strategic Partnership, the Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership and the arrangements for Local Area Agreements	This action is being met and the Chairman of the Carlisle Parish Councils Association sits on the relevant bodies.

## **SECTION E: PARTICIPATION and CONSULTATION**

Public participation and consultation is one of the cornerstones of open government and can lead to better constructed policies and a more engaged general public. Parish Councils represent the opinions of a particular community rather than a specific interest group and welcome the opportunity to provide views to Principal Authorities on emerging policies and plans. Consultations with Parish Councils require careful preparation if all parties are to get benefits from such exercises.

<b>CHARTER COMMITMENT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS</b>
Seek the participation of and consult with Parish Councils on community strategies and other Principal Authority policies that affect parishes.	This action is being met. Participation is facilitated through involvement of the Chairman of the CPCA. Consultation is carried out either through CPCA or with individual parishes as appropriate.
Seek the participation of and consult with Parish Councils on the detailed programmes and plans for the implementation of policies that affect parishes.	This is achieved through the joint meetings between the City Council and the Parish Councils and also through officer involvement in the CPCA Executive Committee.
Seek the participation of and consult with Parish Councils on any specific scheme being promoted by an Authority that affects an individual parish.	This is achieved through the joint meetings between the City Council and the Parish Councils and also through officer involvement in the CPCA Executive Committee. However consistency and coverage is not known.
Invite parish representatives to participate in appropriate committees, working parties and meetings where emerging policies and implementation plans affecting parishes are being discussed	This is undertaken through Parish Council involvement (through the CPCA) on the Carlisle Partnership and other bodies as appropriate.
Invite Parish Councils to any public meetings and exhibitions about policies and plans affecting the parish	This action is being met in some instances but consistency and coverage is not known.
<b>Ensure that all consultation documents, prepared by the two Principal Authorities, sent to Parish Councils are prepared in accordance with the 'Consultation Protocol' (set out in Annex 1 on page 17).</b>	<b>Consultation documents prepared and distributed by the City Council comply with the consultation protocol where possible. However often the City Council has little or no control over document prepared by other agencies.</b>
Discuss with the Parish Council concerned at the earliest possible stage, any Principal Authority promoted plan or scheme that affects that specific parish.	There is evidence that this action is being met but consistency and coverage is not known.
Take Parish Council views into account before making decisions	There is evidence that this action is being met but consistency and coverage is not known.
Allow appropriate officers to attend Parish Council meetings to explain and discuss policies and plans	This action is being met and where appropriate officers are permitted to attend Parish Council meetings.

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Meet with the Parish Council when particularly contentious issues cannot be resolved in any other way	This action is being met. Meetings are held, when needed between the CPCA and the Chief Executive and Leader of the City Council to discuss relevant issues.
<b><u>SECTION F: TOWN &amp; COUNTRY PLANNING</u></b>  <b>The opportunities to become involved in the town and country planning system are of keen interest to most Parish Councils. Planning policies and decision can have a substantial impact on the future of local communities. Planning policies and procedures can appear very complex to the average Parish Council and this requires active partnership working by Planning Authorities and Parish Councils to ensure community interests are properly served.</b>	
CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Assist Parish Councils' participation in the statutory planning system	Officers are available to discuss issues with Parish Council's. All statutory consultations are sent to Parish Councils.
Ensure that Parish Councils are given full opportunities (beyond statutory minimum requirements, where possible) to participate in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks	Very few opportunities have arisen as the Council is moving from the Local Plan process to the Local Development Framework (LDF) process. All Parish Council's have been informed about the "Call for Sites" which forms part of the preparatory work for the LDF.
Ensure all planning consultation documents prepared by the two Principal Authorities are in accordance with the Consultation Protocol (Annex 1)	Where possible although consultations on Local Plan documents are often lengthy and the consultation may be on the whole document. Where focused this has been explained. (The recent consultation on the draft Urban Design and Public realm Framework SPD was difficult due to the format of the document – comments have been noted and the format is to be changed for the final version.)
Consult Parish Councils on all planning applications (including revised plans where relevant) in accordance with statutory procedures and inform the Parish Council which Planning Officer is handling the application	Parishes are consulted on all planning applications as a matter of course: the case officer is identified by name in the notification letter. Where there are significant or material changes in the application, the parish is provided with a copy of revised plans.

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Respond positively, where possible and appropriate, to any request for a Planning Officer to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain and discuss a planning application or a decision on a planning application	This does not happen very often: where the request relates to an application that has yet to be decided it can be difficult as the officer has to make it clear he/she can only describe the proposals but cannot comment upon them. Where a decision has been made it is obviously possible to explain the key determining factors.
Invite a Parish Council representative to attend any member site visit held by the Planning Authority	This is done as a matter of course.
In all circumstances where the decision of the Planning Authority is at variance to the recommendation of the Parish Council, a letter be sent to the Parish Council fully explaining the Planning Authority's decision	All applications must be decided on the basis of adherence to planning policy unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Where a parish council comments on matters that are not proper planning considerations, the city council cannot take those into account when making its decision. When notified of a planning decision, all consultees and anyone who has commented upon the application are also provided with the "summary of the reasons for decision"
Respond in writing to enquiries by individual Parish Councils for further information on planning applications and changes in revised plans	This is normally either by letter or, increasingly often, by e-mail response.
Provide annual training to Parish Councils on planning policy and procedures	A training session is currently being organised with CALC for several parishes. Individually a training session was to be held with Arthuret Parish Councillors but is currently being rescheduled.

## **SECTION G: COMMUNITY PLANNING**

**Community planning is an area where Principal Authorities and Parish Councils are increasingly working together. Several Parish Councils have produced or are undertaking Parish Plans. The challenge is to ensure full community participation in Parish Plans and linkages with Principal Authority strategies.**

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Support and give guidance in the preparation and implementation of Parish Plans and/or Parish Design Statements as far as resources allow.	This action is being met with support and guidance available and co-ordinated through the Rural Support Officer, who will draw on other officers as appropriate.
Adopt an Authority-wide protocol for assisting the consideration and implementation of identified actions in Parish Plans and/or Parish Design Statements	Protocol has been produced and agreed and is awaiting publication and dissemination.



## **SECTION H: CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS**

Some statutory powers are available to both Principal Authorities and Parish Councils – these are known as ‘concurrent functions’. In order to avoid confusion and duplication it is necessary to agree locally which Authority is actually going to be responsible for which service. It is also necessary to agree financial arrangements between the Authorities, including arrangements to overcome the problem of “double taxation”. (Double taxation arises when council tax payers contribute towards the cost of a service (via the parish precept) which is being provided by their Town or Parish Council and also contribute (via the District Council precept) to the same service being provided in other parts of the District).

<b>CHARTER COMMITMENT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS</b>
Collect and pay over by the end of April in the relevant financial year any precept levy requested by Parish Councils	Parishes receive prompt payment of precepts paid out in April.
<b>Operate and keep under review the financial arrangements with Parish Councils with respect to concurrent services as set out in Annex 2</b>	<b>The concurrent services grant is monitored on an annual basis under existing arrangements, being subject to review by parishes in accordance with both letter and spirit of the charter.</b>
Operate a concurrent services grant scheme as may from time to time be agreed with the Carlisle Parish Councils Association and pay over by the end of June in the relevant financial year.	Base budget item working as described in the Charter. Burial authorities contacted at end of the financial year requesting outturn on burial expenditure. Entitlement to burial grant, paid at a higher rate (40%) by the end of June. The remaining grant is then paid to parishes pro rata to their precept in the previous financial year.
Operate the Parish Council and village hall grant schemes which offer annual grants towards capital projects within the parish.	Grant schemes continue to operated by the Rural Support Officer and managed by a partnership between City, County and Parish Councils.
Meet the election expenses of Parish Councils where the timing of these coincide with Carlisle City Council elections.	This action is being met.
Provide annual play area inspections free of charge	This action is being met.
Provide village hall condition surveys free of charge on a five year rolling programme.	This action is being met and all condition surveys (where requested) are up to date. Energy Audits are also being carried out for village halls, where requested.
Provide IT helpdesk and technical support, access to the internal e-mail system and IT training free of charge	IT helpdesk and technical support continues to be available. Discussions are underway to reinstate a level of IT training for Parish Clerks (awaiting outcome of Parish Council training requirements)

CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Review the recommendations from the Commission for Rural Communities report on the use of council tax received from second home owners	Discussion and agreement has taken place between the City Council and the CPCA.
<b><u>SECTION I: DEVELOPING THE PARTNERSHIP</u></b>  <b>The Local Government White Paper ('Strong and prosperous communities' – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006) clearly shows that strong community or neighbourhood governance is a theme that will be taken forward. This will require increased emphasis on closer partnership working between local government tiers, now and in the future. Capable and effective Parish Councils will be a cornerstone of that process; those already with a high standard of best practice will need to maintain it and those wishing to improve will need to be encouraged, supported and given the tools to achieve it.</b>	
CHARTER COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS
Support the implementation of the Cumbria Training Strategy for Town and Parish Councils	The City Council is a member of the Cumbria Training Partnership operated by CALC.
Arrange meetings (at least once a year) between "Quality" Councils and the City Council's relevant portfolio holder to discuss service delivery in the District.	Meetings have taken place between the City Council's relevant portfolio holder and the one Quality Council in the district and a further offer was extended.
Offer "Quality" councils the opportunity to receive a level of IT service similar to that received by City Councillors subject to terms being agreed	This is awaiting the outcome of the review of IT provision and the joint scheme between Carlisle and Allerdale.
<b>Offer "Quality" councils and those councils that are actively working towards "Quality" accreditation, the opportunity to enter into joint/agency arrangements for the delivery of certain services.</b>	<b>Meetings have taken place between the City Council and the one Quality Parish within the District to discuss service delivery, with the offer to be made to other councils considering quality council status.</b>
Promote the benefits of joint working via Neighbourhood Forums and the Carlisle Parish Councils Association.	This action is being met.
Maintain the current arrangements with individual Parish Councils for the devolution of services.	This action is being met.

**OPTION J: MONITORING AND REVIEW**

**It is important that this document is maintained as an up-to-date statement of the partnership arrangements between the three tiers of local government in Carlisle. The following arrangements will be followed:**

<b>CHARTER COMMITMENT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY TO DATE/ACTIONS</b>
A report on the implementation and effectiveness of Parish Charter for Carlisle District will be on the agenda of the annual inter-Authority meetings described in B2. This report will be based on feedback obtained from Parish Councils, through the Carlisle Parish Councils Association, and Principal Authority Departments. The Rural Support Group (which is an officer group made up of representatives from organisations working in rural Carlisle) should also be consulted as part of the report preparation.	This should be a regular item on the joint meeting in December. Due to pressures on the agenda this did not happen at the December 2007 meeting.

# Carlisle Rural Profile



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## **Contents**

### **Introduction**

This profile has been produced in order to provide an overview of the statistics and information that give an impression of the rural wards of Carlisle. The rural population is growing faster than the static urban population in Carlisle with increase of 7% over the last five years. The rural wards now account for one third of the people living in the Carlisle City Council area. This profile must be used in conjunction with the Carlisle District Profile and the Carlisle Atlas which provide an overview of both the urban and rural wards in Carlisle.

### **Methodology**

For many of the maps produced in this document the data for the Carlisle urban wards has been removed so that differences and hotspots in the rural area of Carlisle can be made more apparent to the reader.

The following is an explanation of the geographies and data sets used within this profile:

#### Census Output Areas

The 2001 Census Output Areas are designed specifically for statistical purposes. Output Areas are used not only for Census output but also as the basis of Super Output Areas which have been introduced as stable and consistently sized areas for Neighbourhood Statistics. In simple terms, a computer system created Output Areas with around 125 households and populations that tended towards homogeneity. They 'nest' within wards and parishes, and normally comprise of whole unit postcodes. The system produced compactly shaped areas following natural boundaries where possible, but the underlying patterns of streets and postcodes may result in convoluted shapes.

#### Census 2001 Data

The data for the maps 2.1 to 3.10 was extracted at Census Output Area level from the following national statistics website: <http://tinyurl.com/ymmns4>

The data used in maps 2.1 to 2.8 includes age ranges information taken from the "Information On Age (UV04)" table.

The different types of data used from the Census 2001 in maps 3.1 to 3.10 were chosen because they can provide a good indicator of deprivation at a more detailed geographical level. These include:

- Percentage of people of working age with long-term limiting illness. This was a self-assessment of whether or not a person has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do, including problems that are due to old age. Working age is between the ages of 16 and 74.
- Percentage of people in the lowest socio-economic classification. The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) was introduced by the Government to replace Social Class based on Occupation. The “lowest” NS-SeC in this case is based on the percentage of people in group 8 which is unemployed and group 7 which is “Routine occupations” (these are usually low skilled and low pay).
- Percentage of people with no qualifications. This is classed as people with no academic, vocational or professional qualifications.
- Percentage of Households with an occupancy rating of –1 or less. The occupancy rating scale ranges from houses that have under-occupancy which are a positive number and over-crowding which are defined by a minus number. For example a value of -1 implies that there is one room too few and that there is overcrowding in the household. A one-person household is assumed to require three rooms (two common rooms and a bedroom). Where there are two or more residents it is assumed that they require a minimum of two common rooms and one bedroom each except couples and young children.
- Percentage of Households with no car. This is defined as a household not owning a car or van.

### Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)

Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a new geography designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They are already used on the Neighbourhood Statistics site, and it is intended that they will eventually have wider application across National Statistics.

There will ultimately be three layers of SOA, each nesting inside the layer above, with areas intermediate in size between 2001 Census Output Areas (OAs) and local authorities. This will offer a choice of scale for the collection and publication of data,

and allow for the release of local data that could be disclosive if published for Output Areas. At present just the first two of these layers have been created the Lower Layer and Middle Layer.

LSOAs will give an improved basis for comparison across the country because the units are more similar in size than, for example, electoral wards. They are also intended to be highly stable, enabling the improved comparison and monitoring of policy over time.

For more information click on the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp>

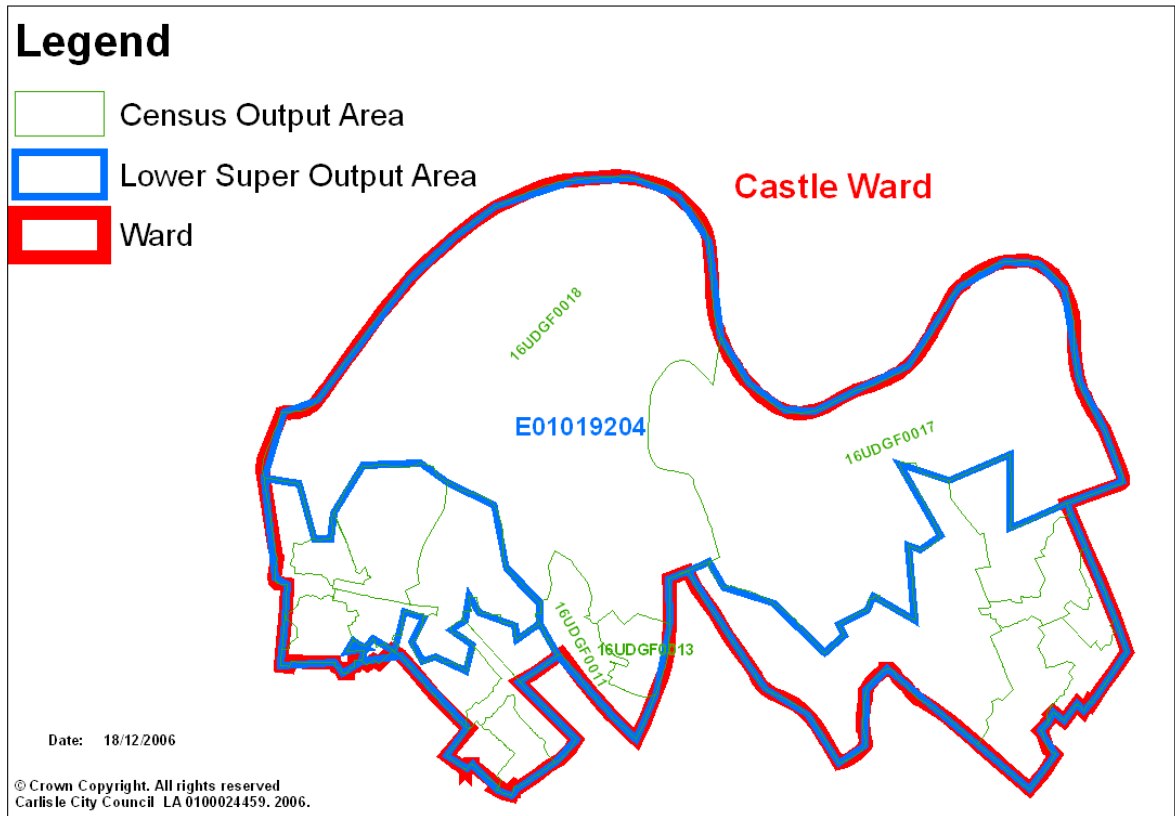
#### The English Indices of Deprivation 2004

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) commissioned the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (SDRC) at the Department of Social Policy and Social Research at the University of Oxford to update the indices of Deprivation 2000 (ID 2000). The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004) at LSOA level is a measure of multiple deprivation and made up of the following seven domains: Income, Employment, Health, Education, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime, and The Living Environment. There are also two supplementary Indices: Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People. Finally there is the overall IMD which is conceptualised as a weighted area level aggregation of these specific dimensions of deprivation.

For more information click on the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1128439>

Map to show the different geographic boundaries for data collection and how they nestle within each other.



**Census Output Area** - average size in Carlisle is 285 people, min size is 117.

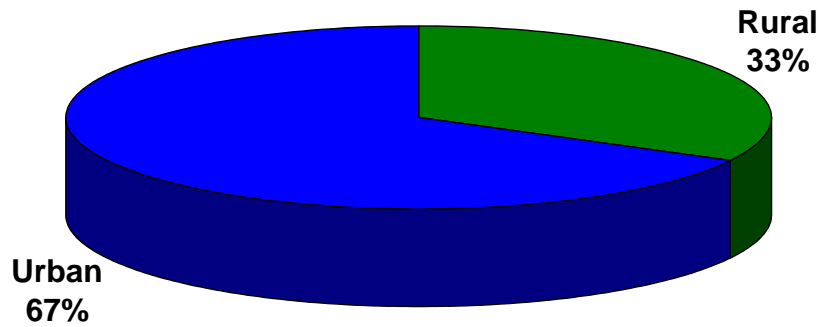
**Lower Super Output Area** - average size in Carlisle 1481 people, min size is 1025.

**Wards** – average size in Carlisle is 4571 people, min size is 1937, max size is 5986.

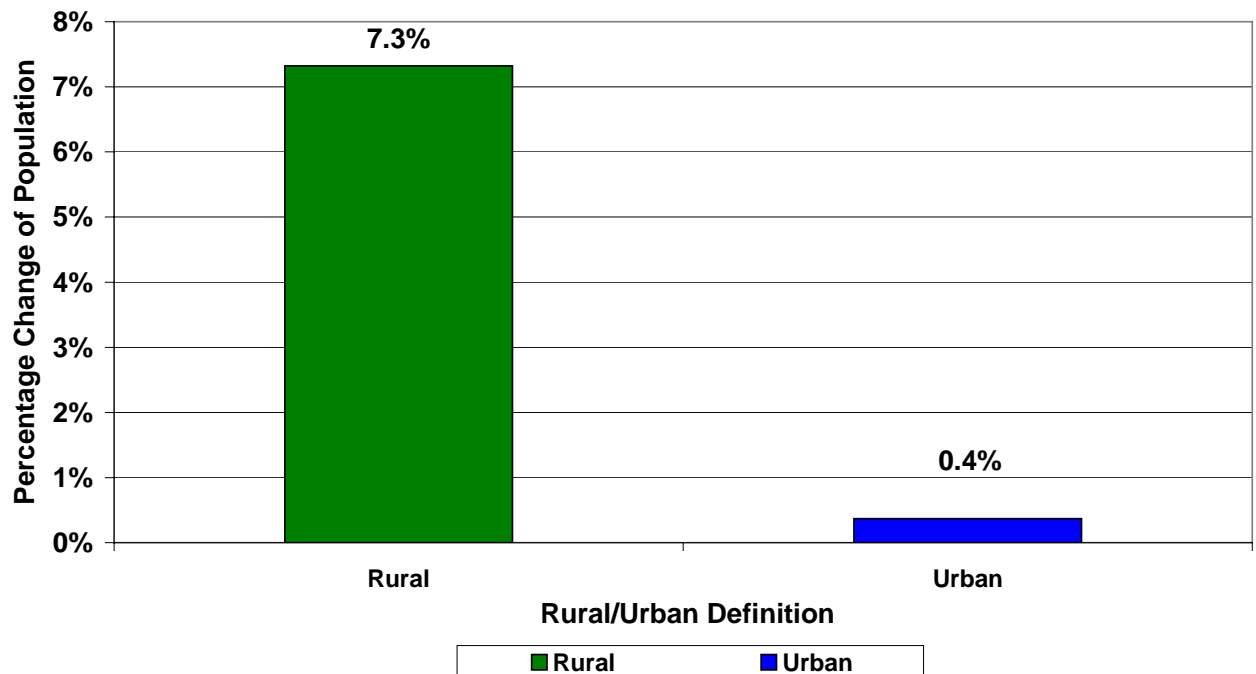


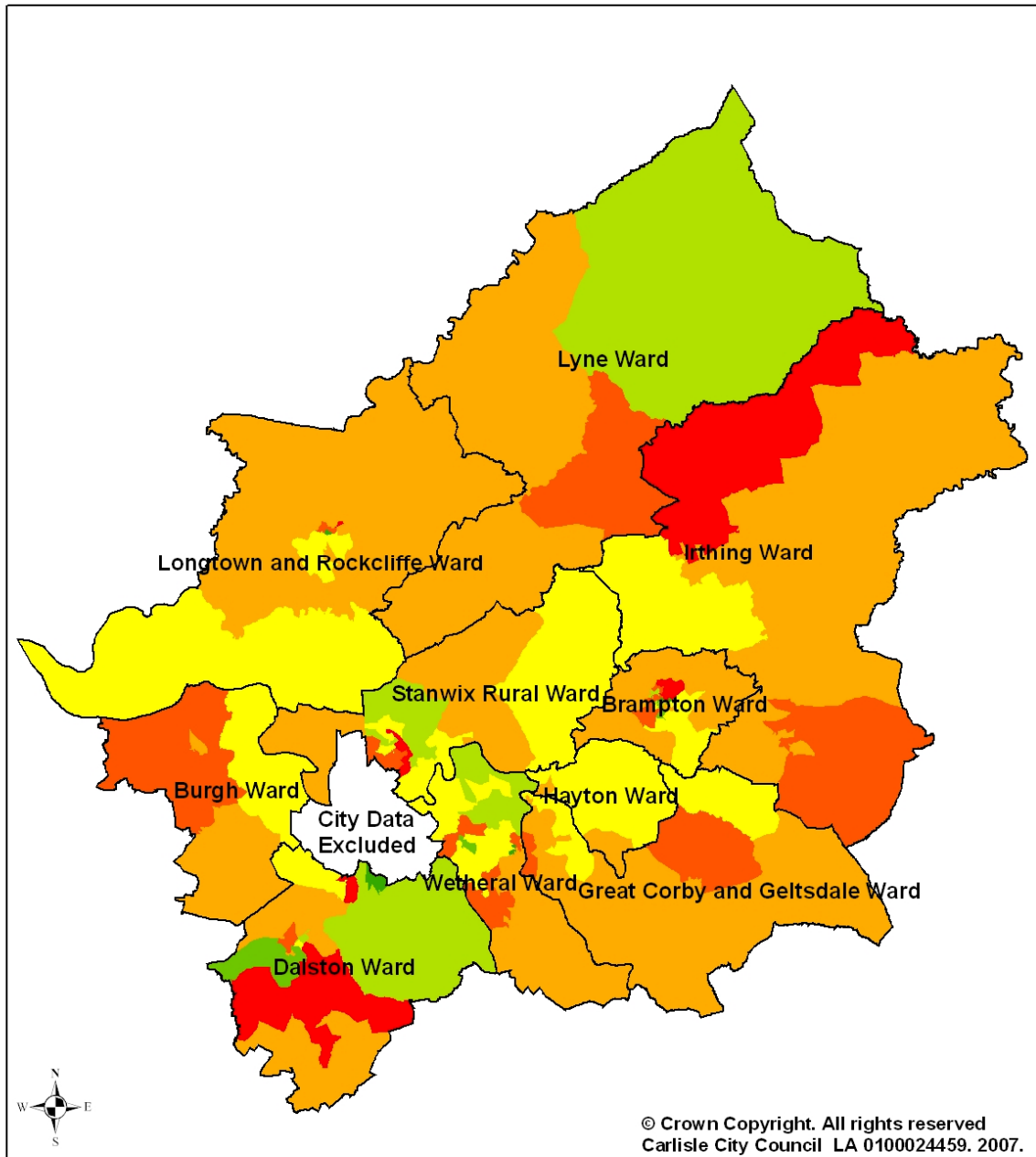
## Carlisle Rural Profile

**Urban/Rural split of Carlisle population.  
Carlisle total population at 2006 Mid year Estimate: 103,300**



**The population change of Rural and Urban Carlisle. Comparing 2001 Census Population with the 2006 mid year estimates.**





**Legend**

CensusOA  
% aged 0-19

- 10 - 13
- 14 - 16
- 17 - 19
- 20 - 22
- 23 - 25
- 26 - 29
- 30 - 38

**Percentage of people aged 0-19 in Rural  
Carlisle wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.**

Scale: 1:333,853  
Date: 27/02/2007

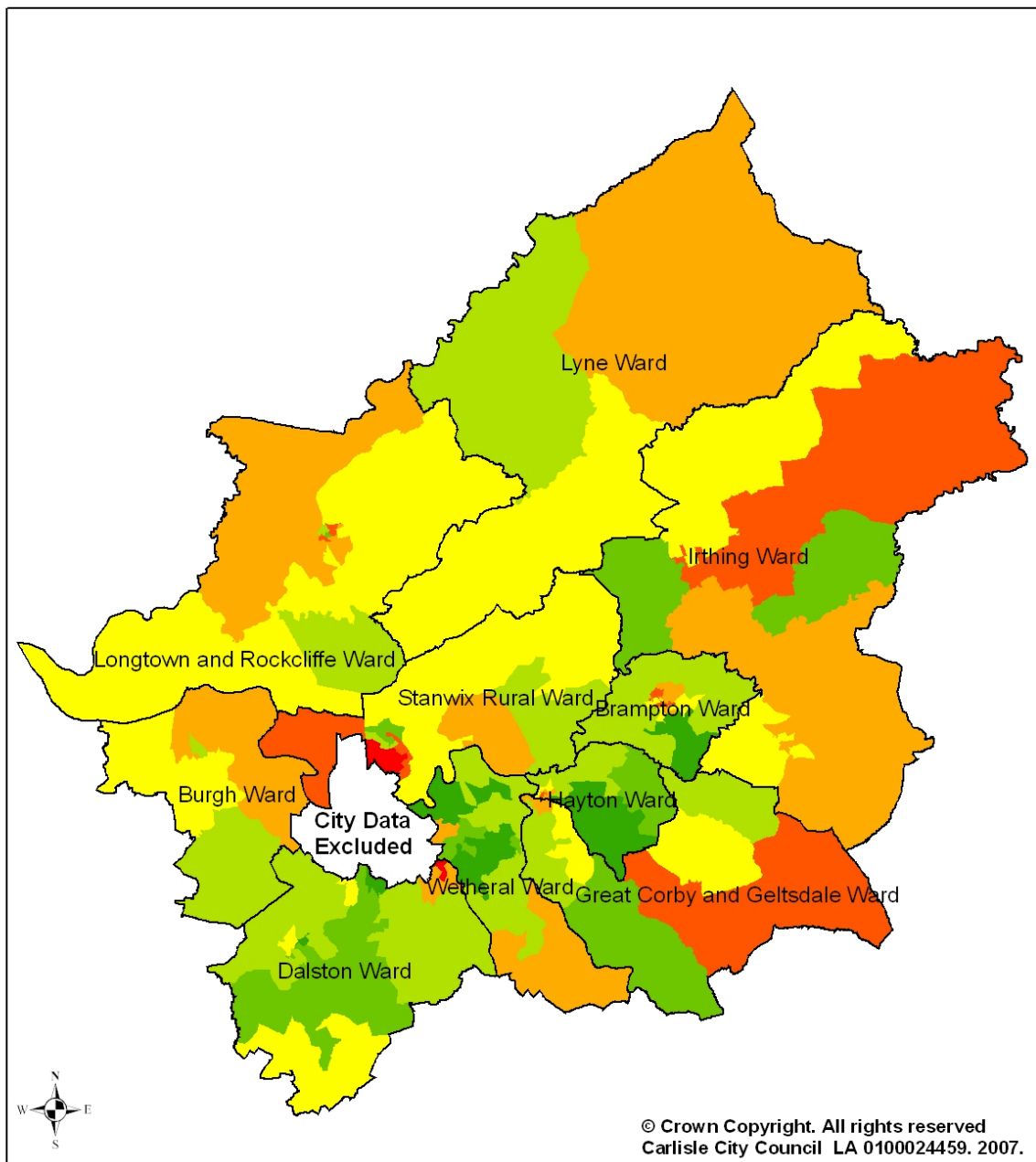
	Carlisle	North West	England
% aged 0-19	24%	26%	25%

**Author: Policy and  
Performance Team**

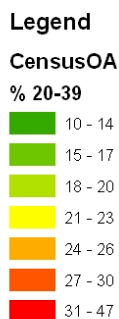
**Civic Centre  
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Carlisle  
CA3 8QG**



# Carlisle Rural Profile



## Percentage of people aged 20-39 in Rural Carlisle Wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.



**Scale: 1:333,853**  
**Date: 27/02/2007**

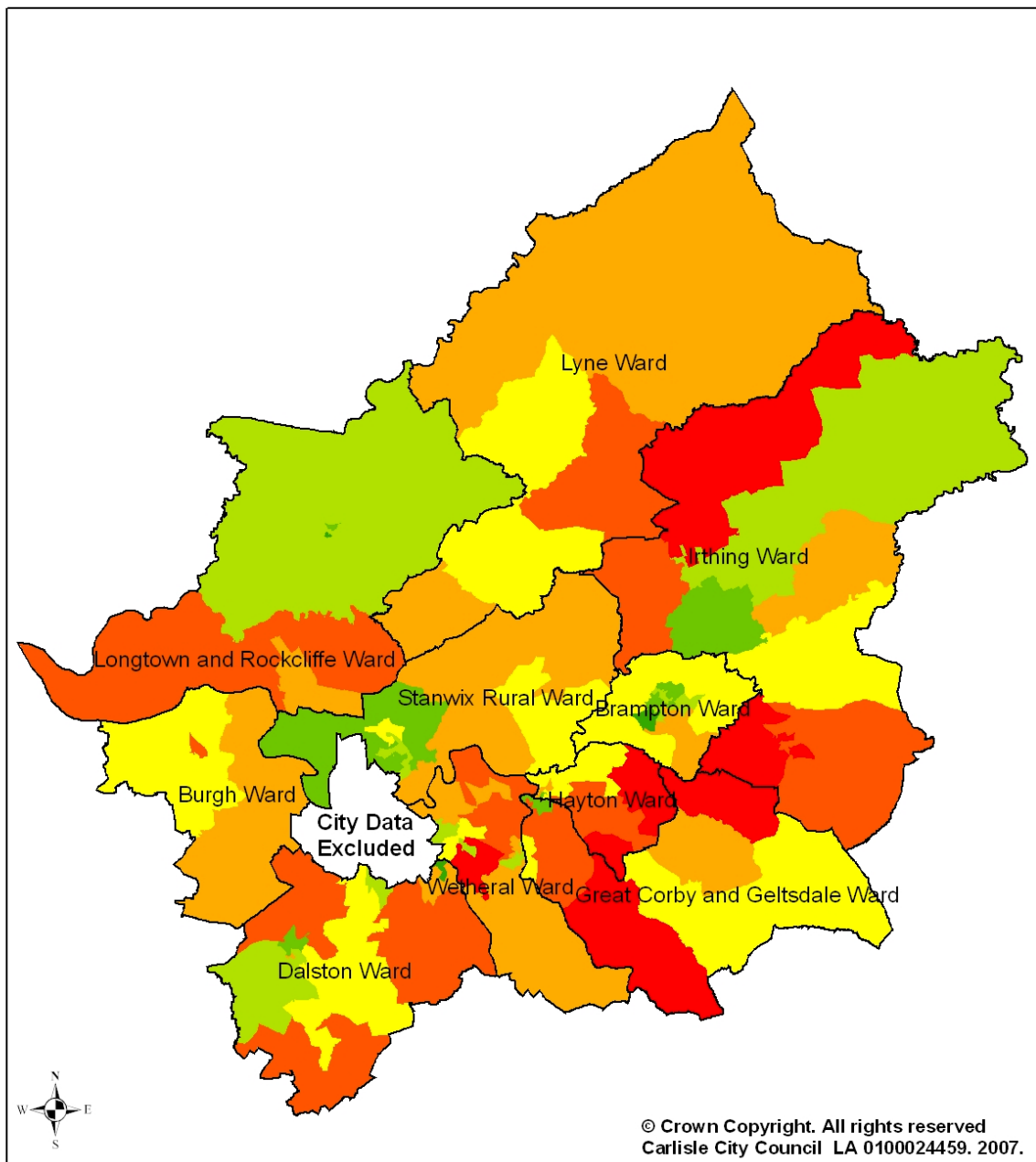
	Carlisle	North West	England
% aged 20-39	26%	27%	28%

**Author: Policy and Performance Team**

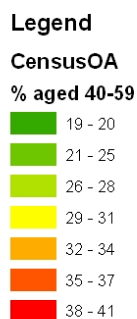
**Civic Centre  
Rickergate  
Carlisle  
CA3 8QG**



# Carlisle Rural Profile



**Percentage of people aged 40-59 in Rural  
Carlisle Wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.**



**Scale: 1:333,853**  
**Date: 27/02/2007**

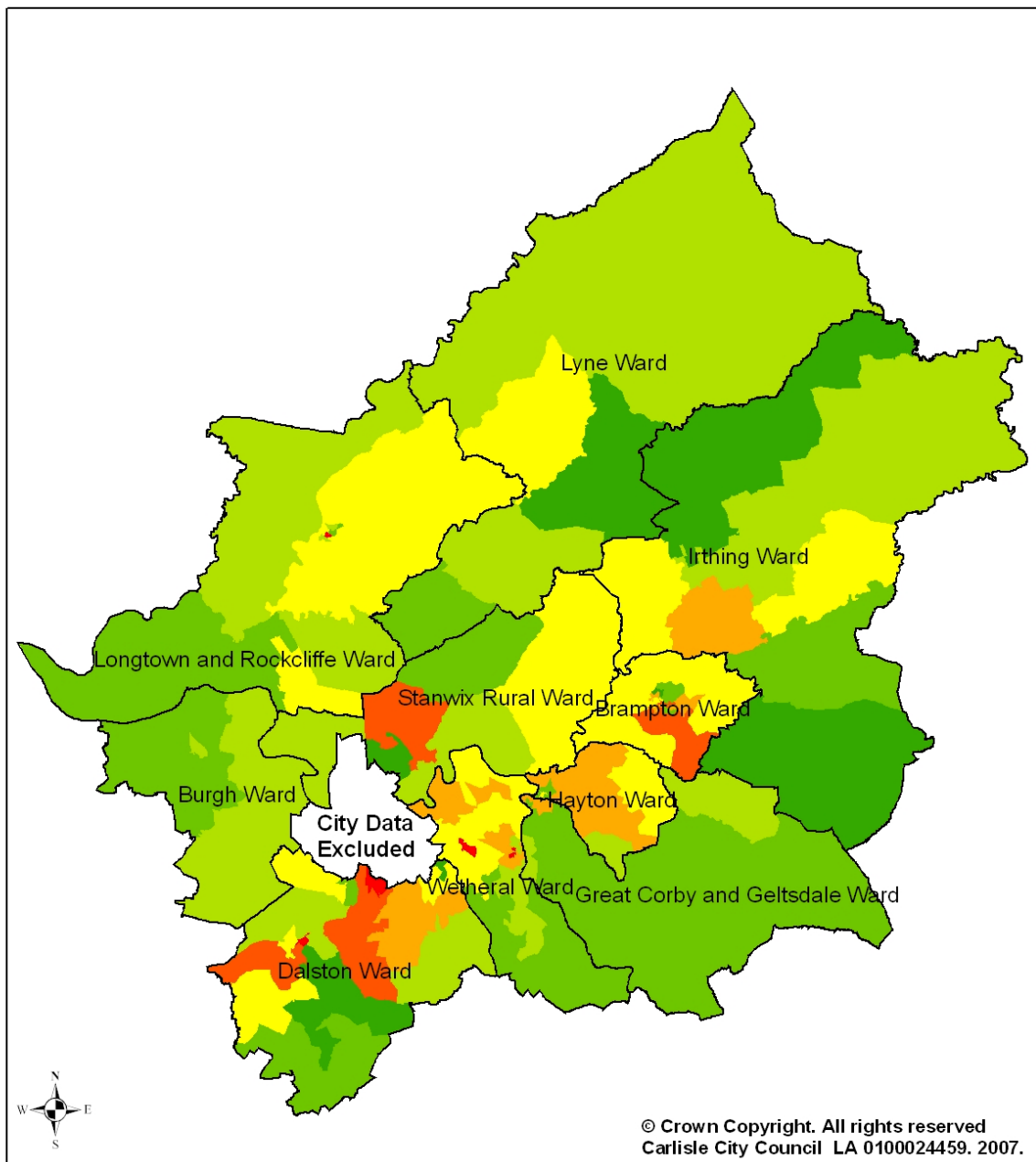
	Carlisle	North West	England
% aged 40-59	27%	26%	26%

**Author: Policy and  
Performance Team**

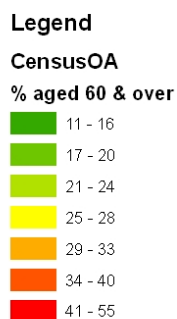
**Civic Centre  
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CA3 8QG**



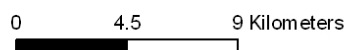
# Carlisle Rural Profile



## Percentage of people aged 60 and over in Rural Carlisle Wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.



Scale: 1:333,853  
Date: 27/02/2007

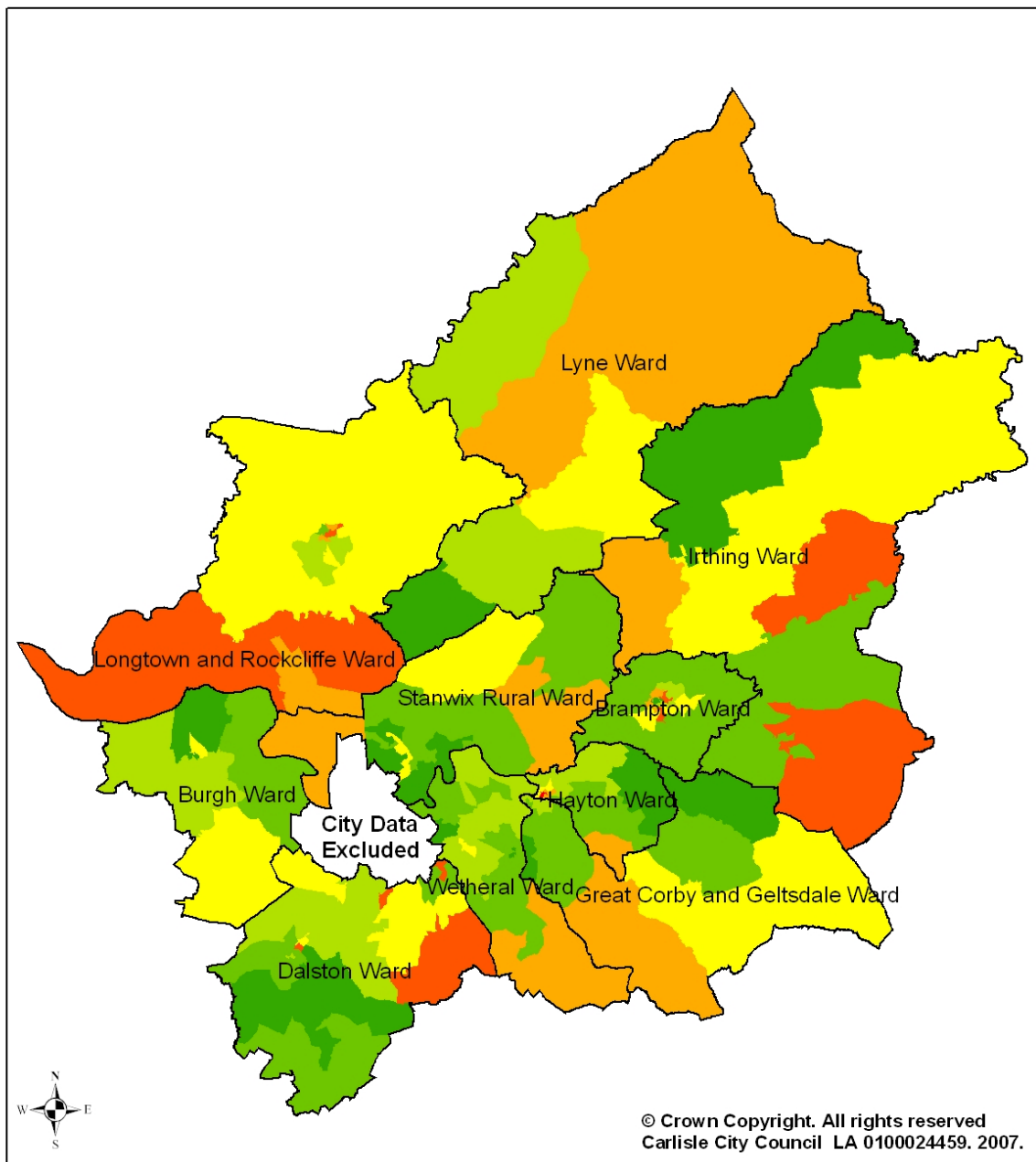


**Author: Policy and Performance Team**

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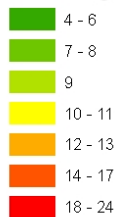
# Carlisle Rural Profile



## Legend

### CensusOA

#### % Working age longterm illness



Scale: 1: 333,853

Date: 27/02/2007

## Percentage of people of working age with a Long-term limiting illness in Rural Carlisle wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.

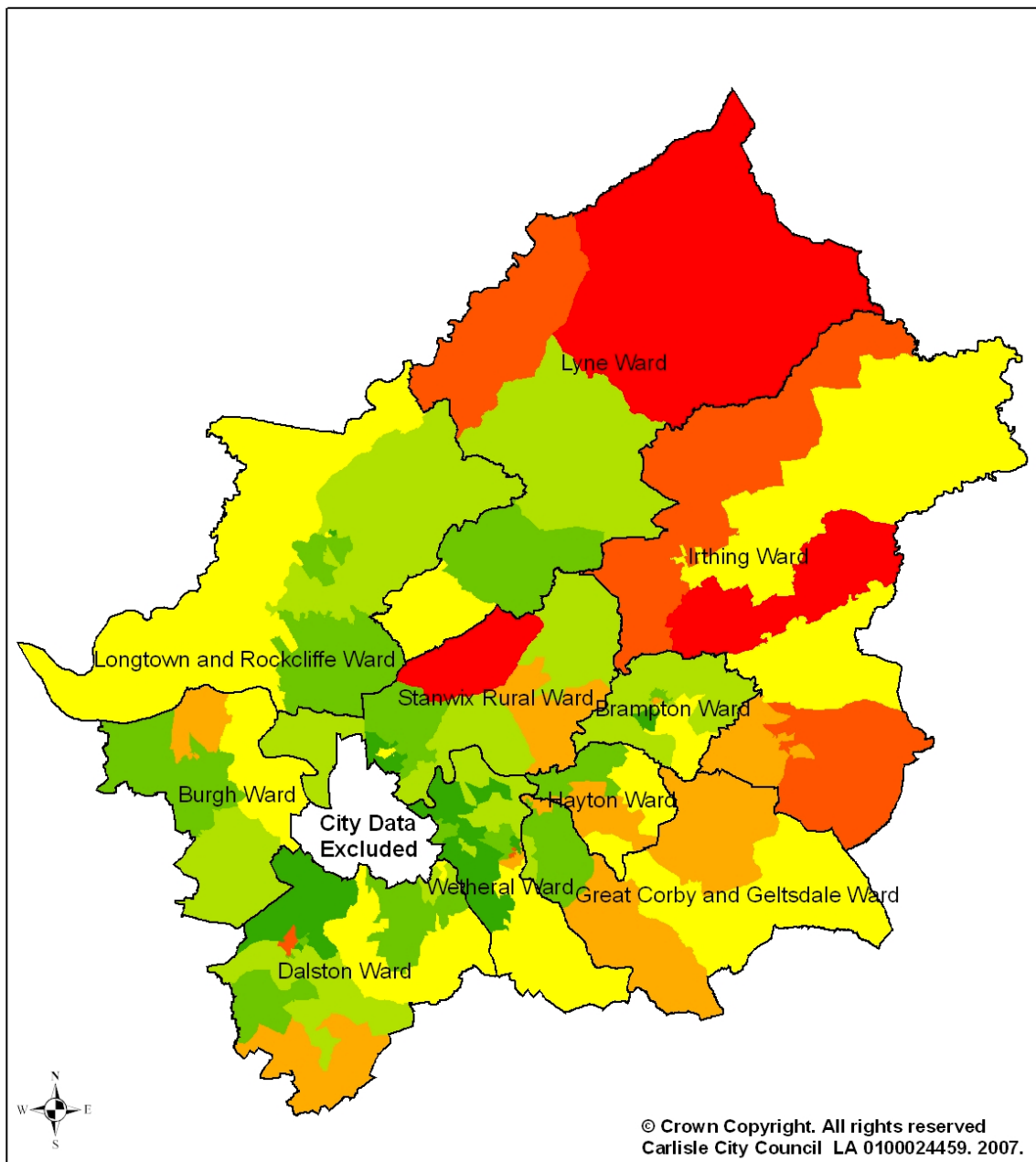
	Carlisle	North West	England
People of working age with a limiting long-term illness	14%	16%	13%

Author: Policy and Performance Team

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# Carlisle Rural Profile

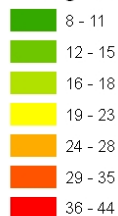


## Average km travelled to work in Rural Carlisle Wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.

### Legend

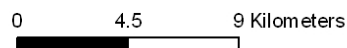
#### CensusOA

#### Average km Travelled to work



Scale: 1:333,853

Date: 27/02/2007



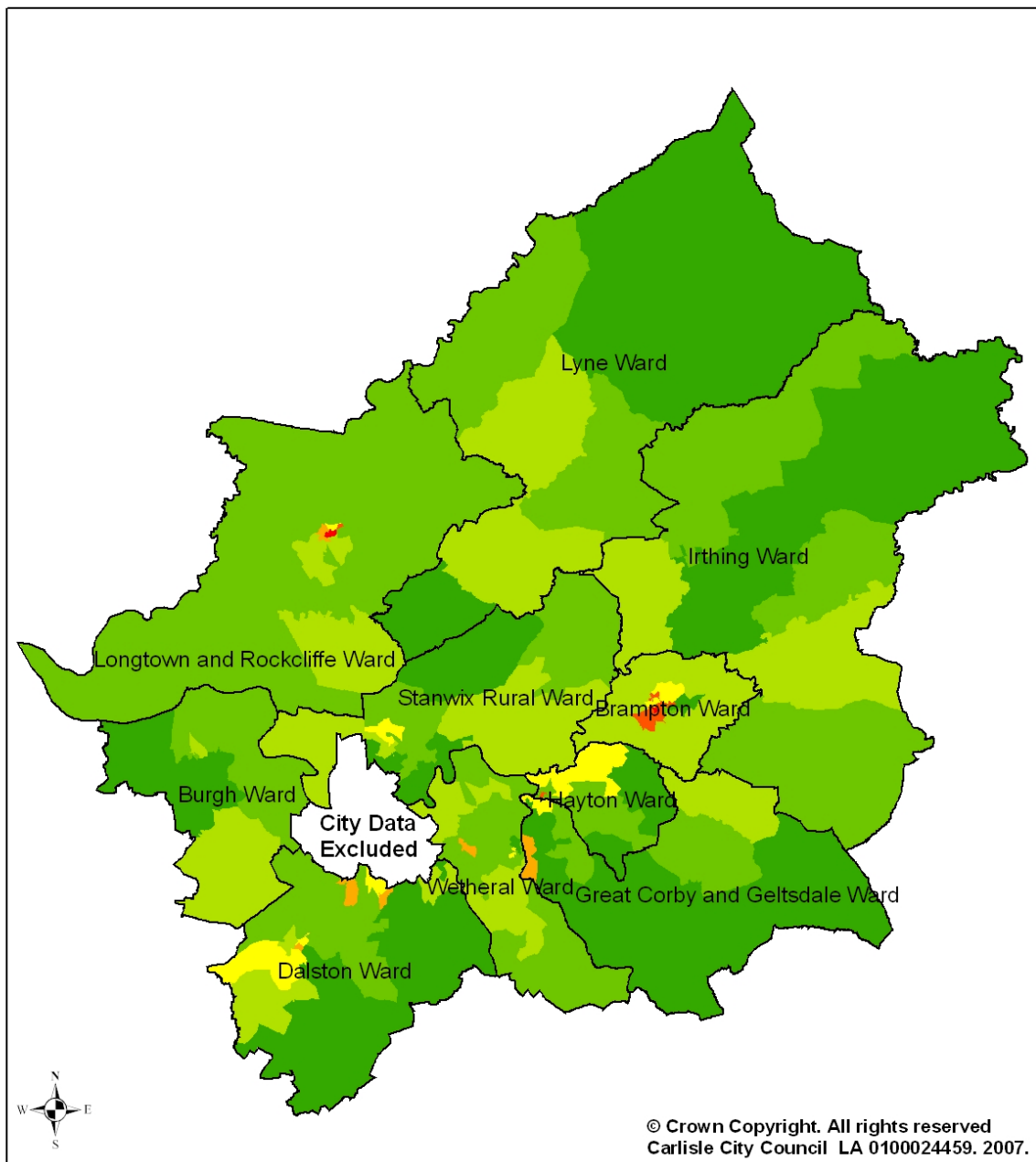
**Author: Policy and  
Performance Team**

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# Carlisle Rural Profile

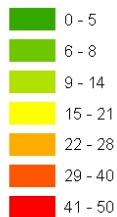


## Percentage of Households with no car in Rural Carlisle Wards only by Output Area. Census 2001.

### Legend

#### CensusOA

#### % Houses with no car



Scale: 1:333,853

Date: 27/02/2007

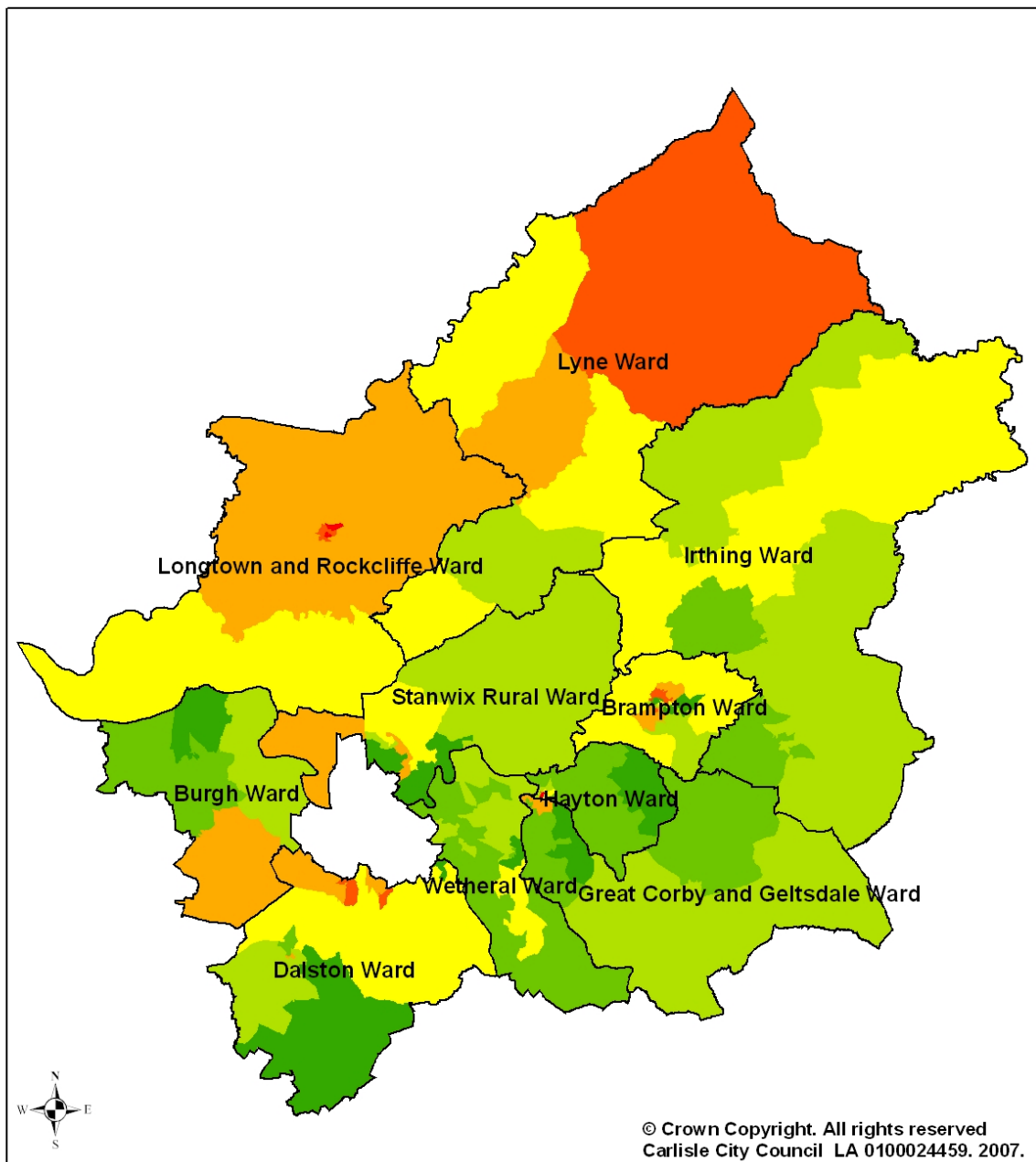
	Carlisle	North West	England
% of people with no car or van	28%	30%	27%

**Author: Policy and  
Performance Team**

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**Legend**

**CensusOA**

% of 16-74 with no qual

- 12 - 17
- 18 - 21
- 22 - 25
- 26 - 30
- 31 - 37
- 38 - 45
- 46 - 59

**Percentage of people aged  
16-74 with no qualifications  
in Rural Carlisle Wards only  
by Output Area. Census 2001.**

Scale: 1:333,853

Date: 27/02/2007

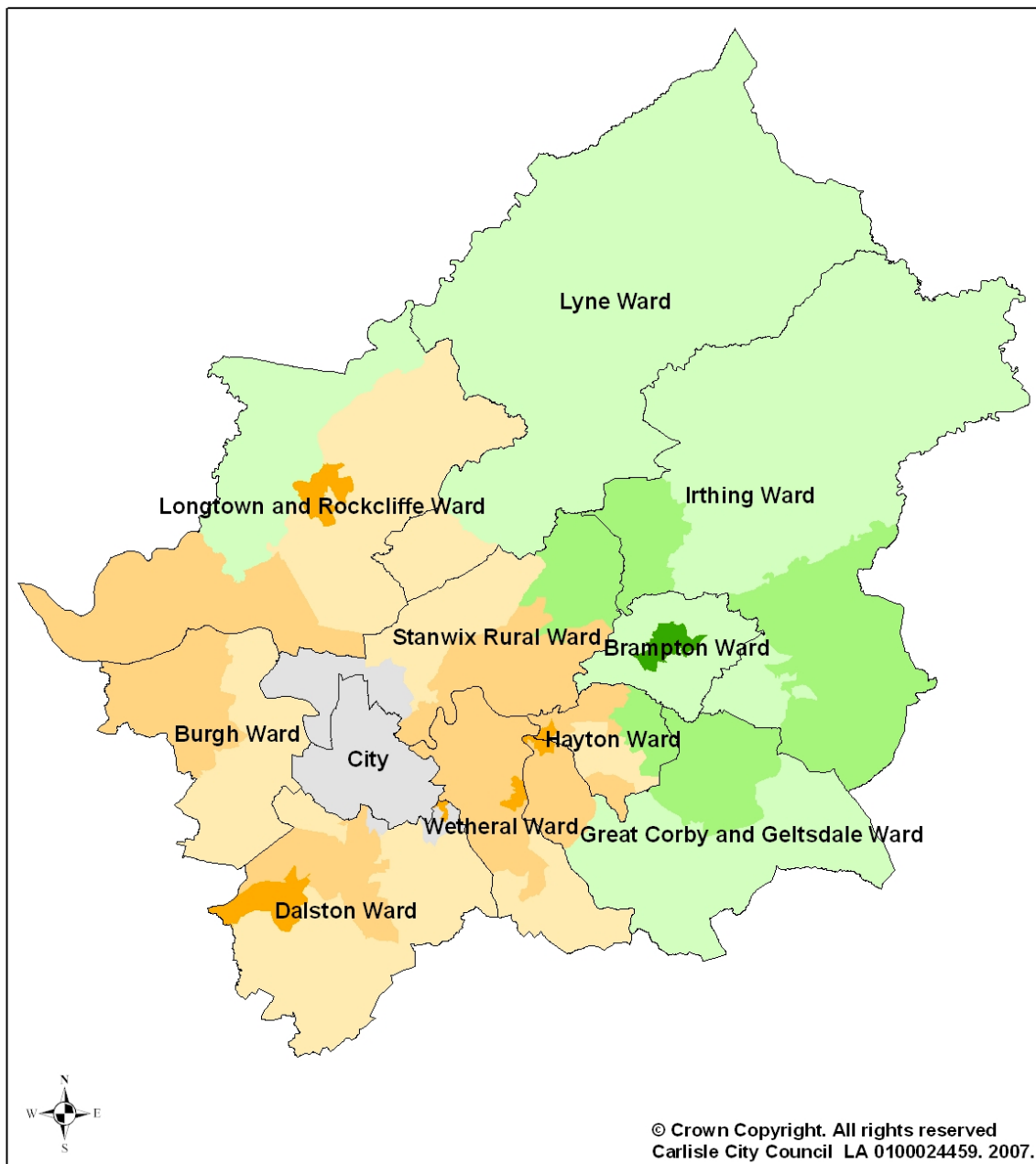
	Carlisle	North West	Cumbria
People Aged 16-74 with no qualifications	32%	32%	29%

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## Carlisle Rural Profile



### Legend

#### Census Output Areas Urban / Rural Definition

Urban
Less sparse rural town
Less sparse village
Less sparse dispersed
Sparse rural town
Sparse rural village
Spare rural dispersed

### Urban / Rural Definition by Census Output Area for the Carlisle area.

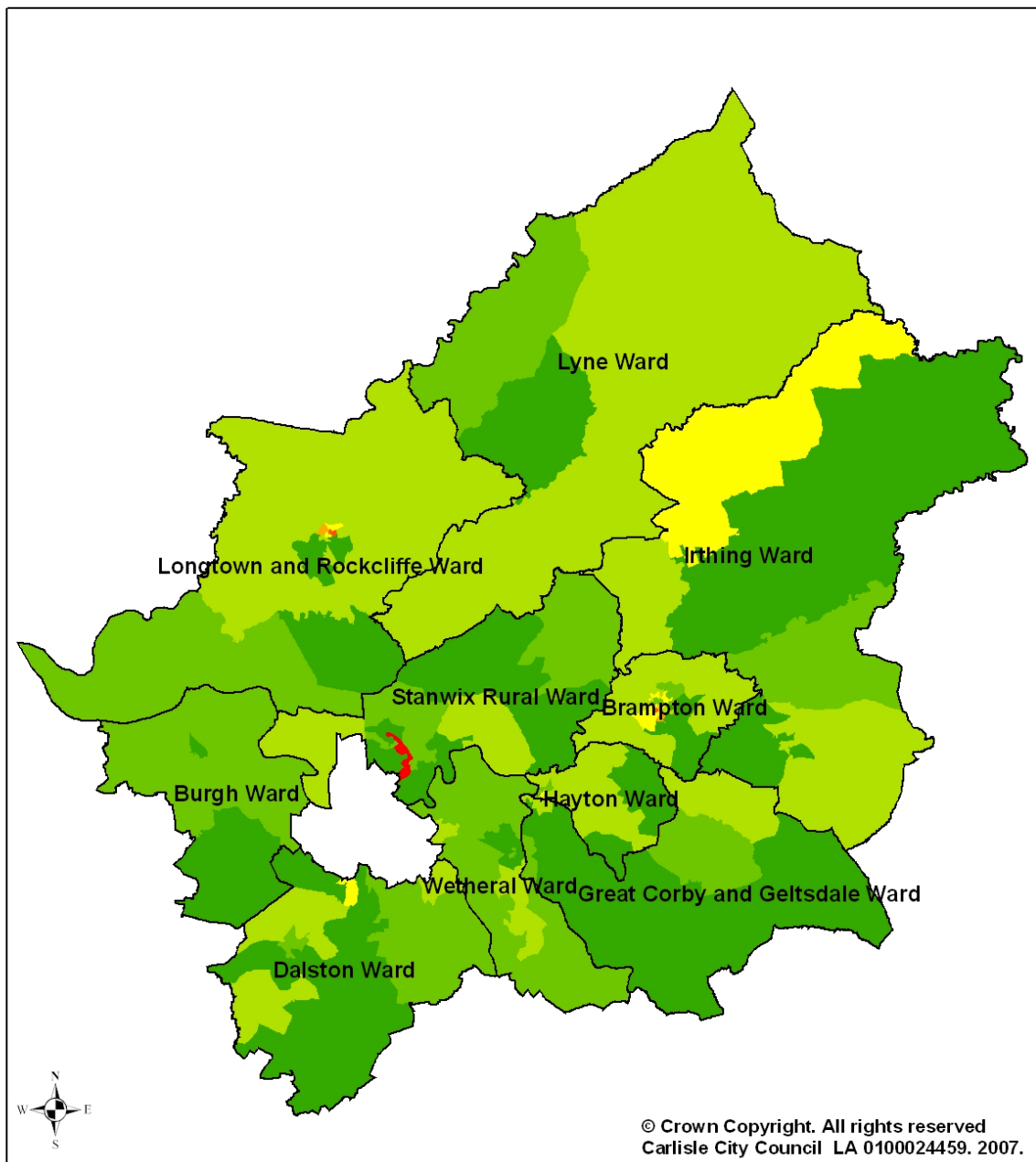
Scale: 1:333,853

Date: 01/03/2007

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**Legend**

CensusOA

% of Houses Occupancy rating -1 or less



Scale: 1:333,853

Date: 27/02/2007

**Percentage of households  
with an occupancy rating  
of -1 or less in Rural  
Carlisle Wards only by  
Output Area. Census 2001.**

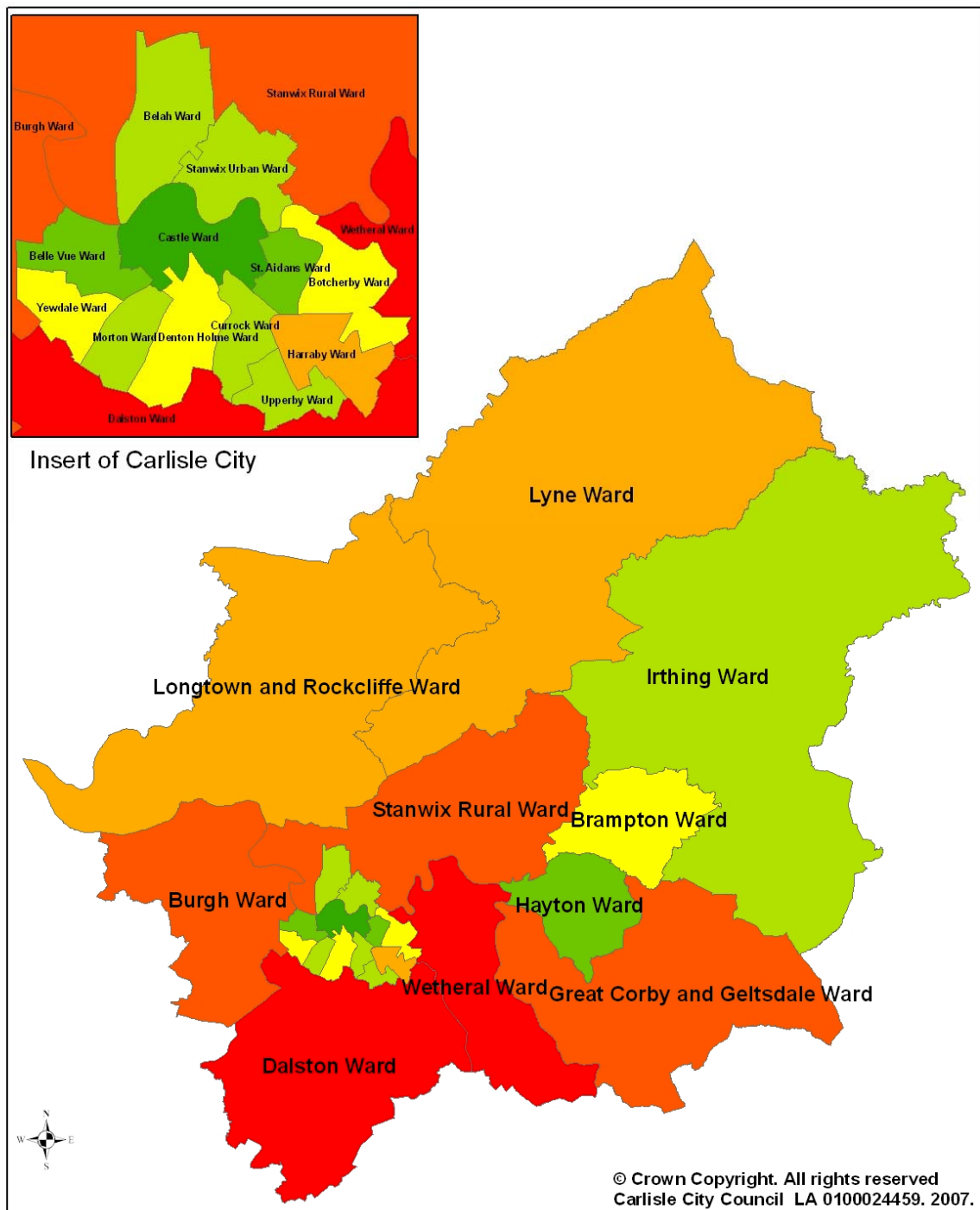
**Author: Policy  
and Performance  
Team**

	Carlisle	North West	England
Occupancy rating of -1 or less	4%	5%	7%

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# Carlisle Rural Profile



**Legend**  
**Wards**  
**% Population Change 2001-05**

- 3.95%
- 3.94% - 1.39%
- 1.40% - 3.00%
- 3.01% - 4.68%
- 4.69% - 5.82%
- 5.82% - 11.01%
- 11.02% - 16.90%

Carlisle population  
change 2001-05 =  
4.41%

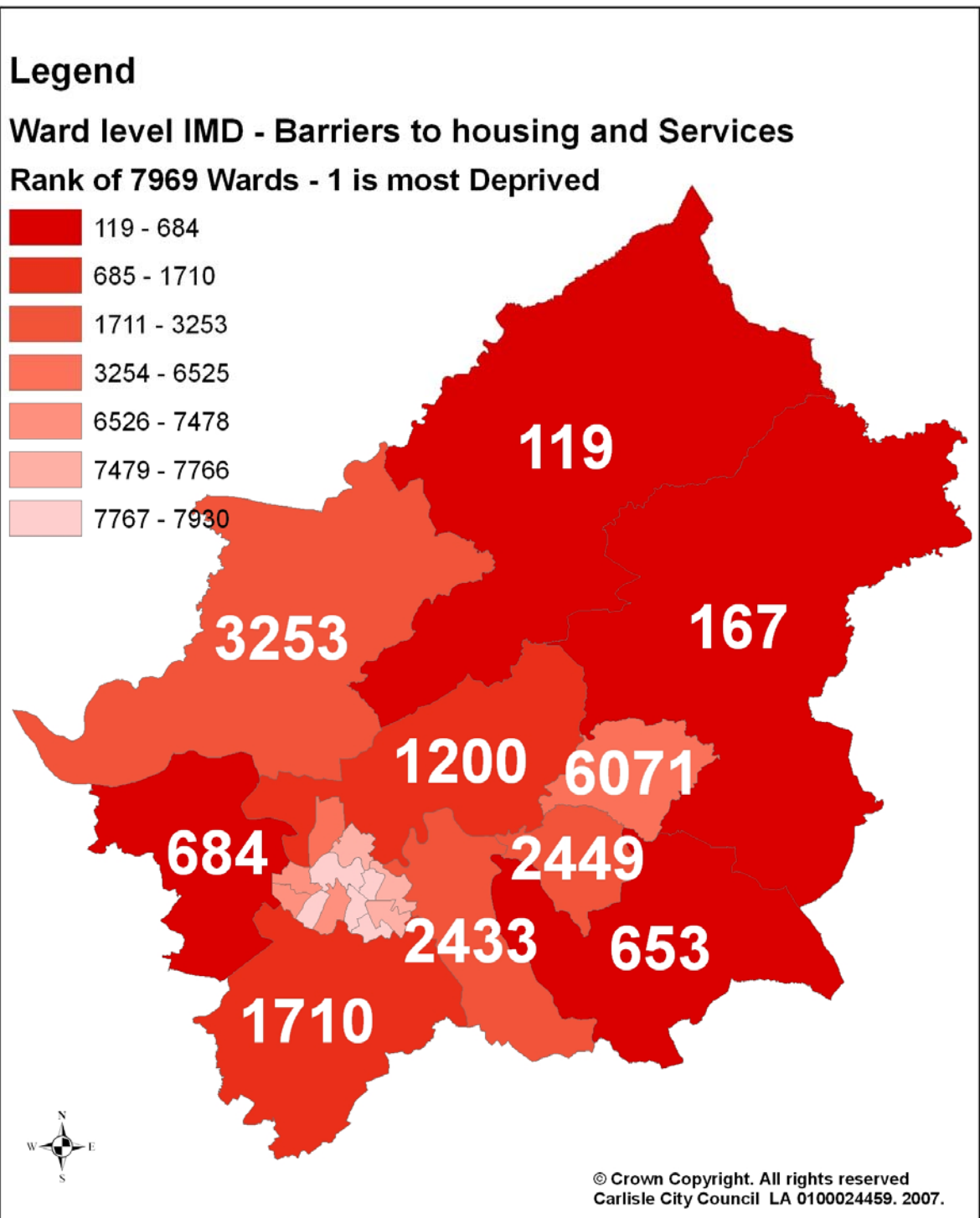
## Percentage population change of Carlisle wards comparing Census 2001 population with mid year 2005 estimates.

Date: 01/03/2007  
Scale: 1:56,362

**Author: Policy and  
Performance Team**

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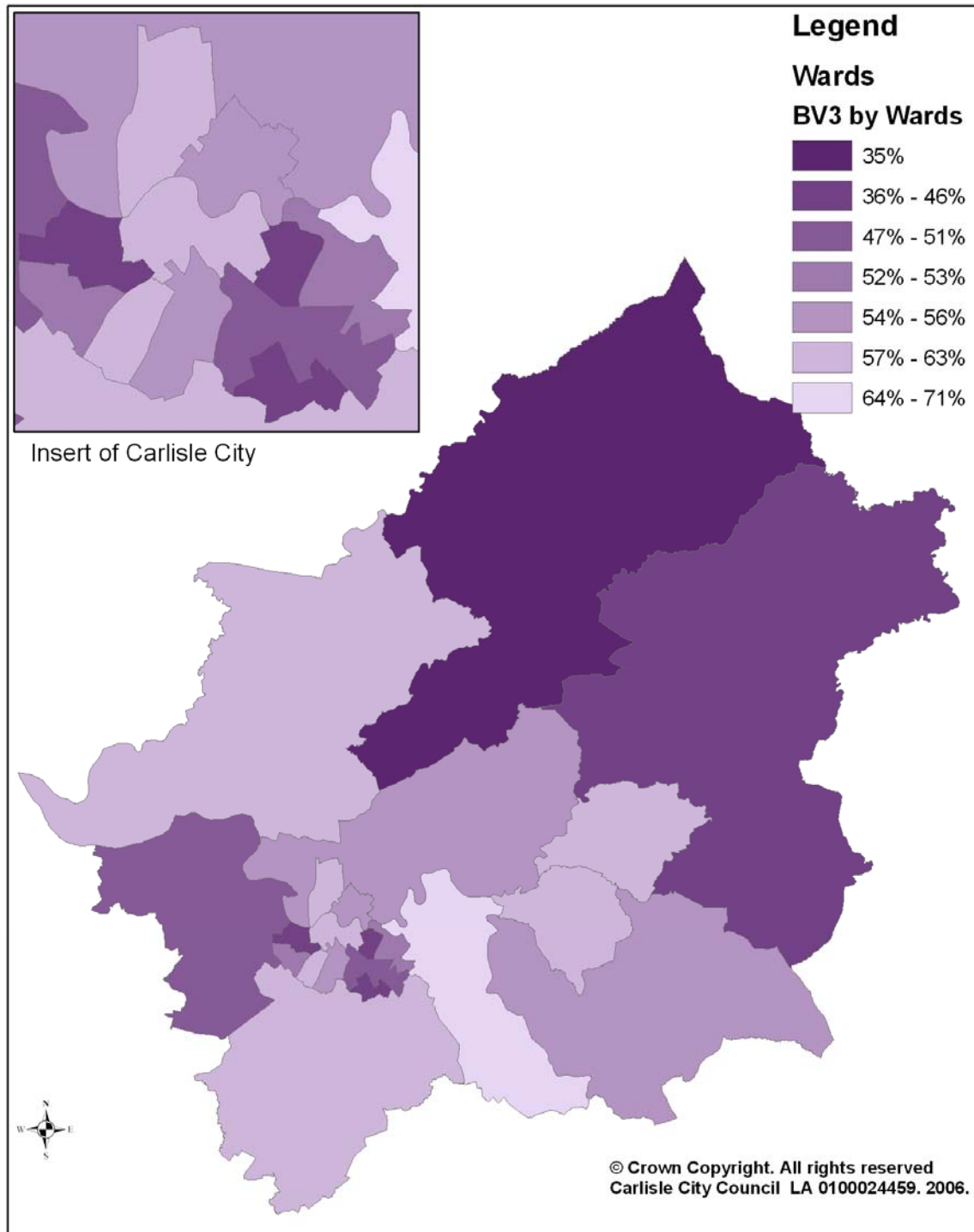




**Carlisle Indices of Deprivation  
- Barriers to Housing and Services**  
Author: Policy and  
Performance Team

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**BV3 % citizens satisfied  
with the overall service  
provided by their authority  
by Wards in Carlisle**

Date: 29/03/2007

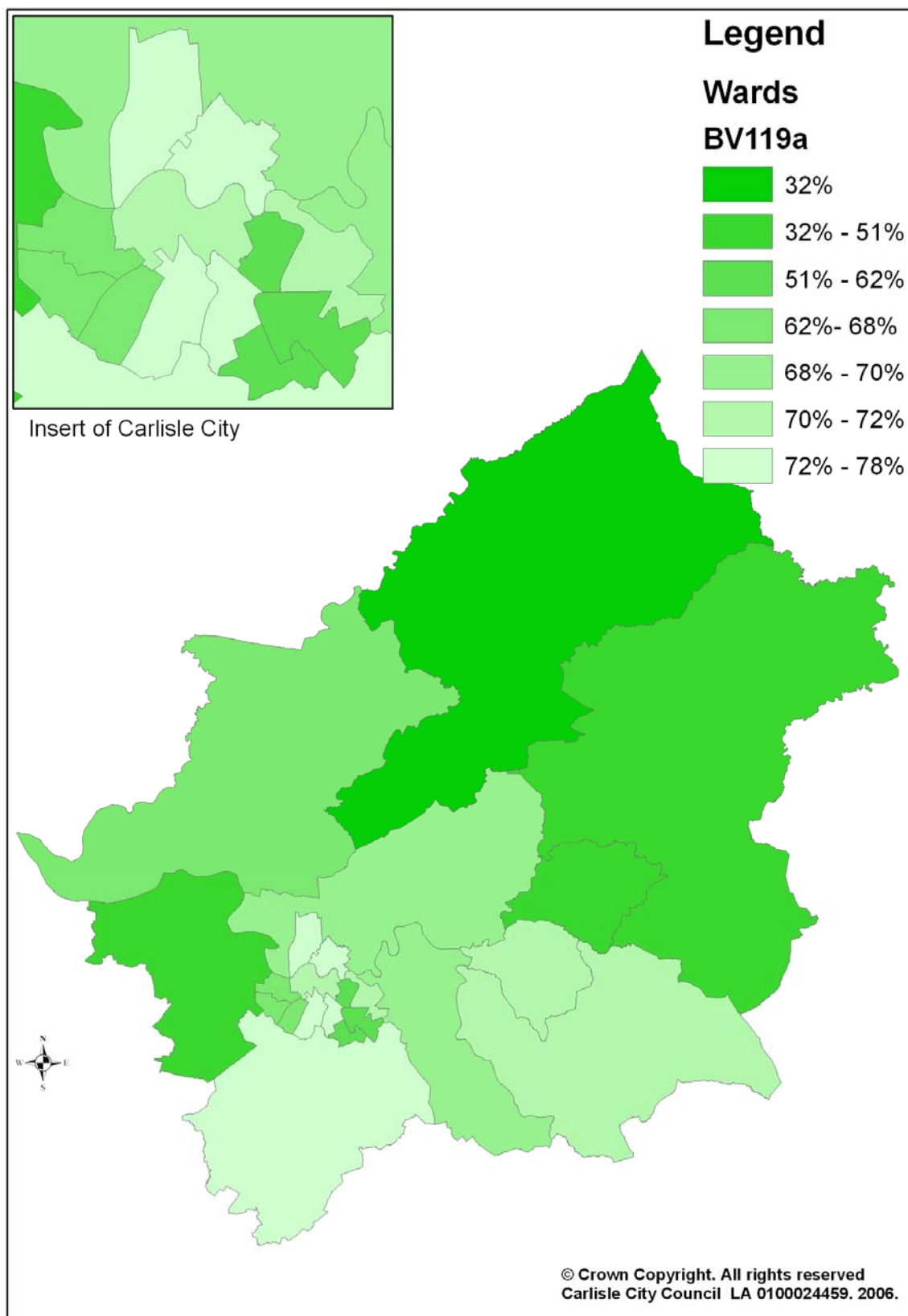
Scale: 1:56,362

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## Carlisle Rural Profile



## Carlisle Rural Profile

