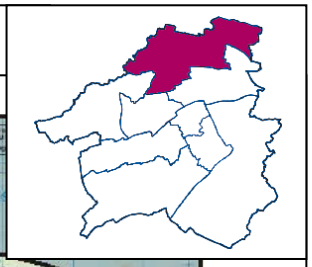
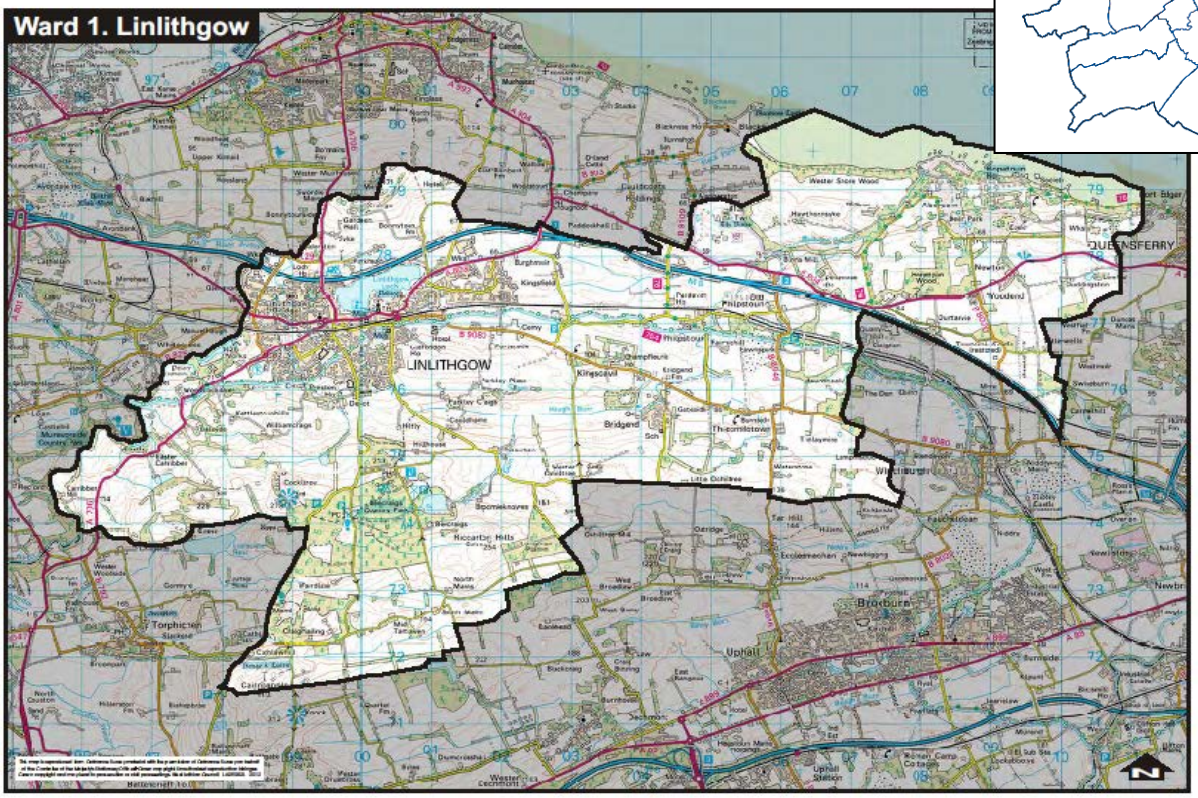
WARD PROFILE 1 : Linlithgow





MAIN SETTLEMENTS

This is the second smallest ward with a population of 16,034 (based on Mid-2010 GRO Population Estimates) and includes the communities of Linlithgow, Linlithgow Bridge, Bridgend, Philpstoun and Threemiletown, rural Beecraigs and Acredales, rural Kettleston Mains to Wester Woodside and rural Newton. The largest settlement in the ward is Linlithgow with a population of 13,450 (Mid-2010 GRO Population Estimates), including Linlithgow Bridge. It is one of Scotland's most historic towns, attracting visitors to Linlithgow Palace and is well connected through rail services and close links to the M9 motorway which bypasses the town.

Beyond Linlithgow itself the other communities that make up the ward constitute a number of small rural villages, including Bridgend (population 790), Philipstoun / Threemiletown and Rural Newton.

Beecraigs Country Park is one of West Lothian's key public spaces and provides a range of outdoor activities and facilities to local residents and visitors from Scotland and further afield.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

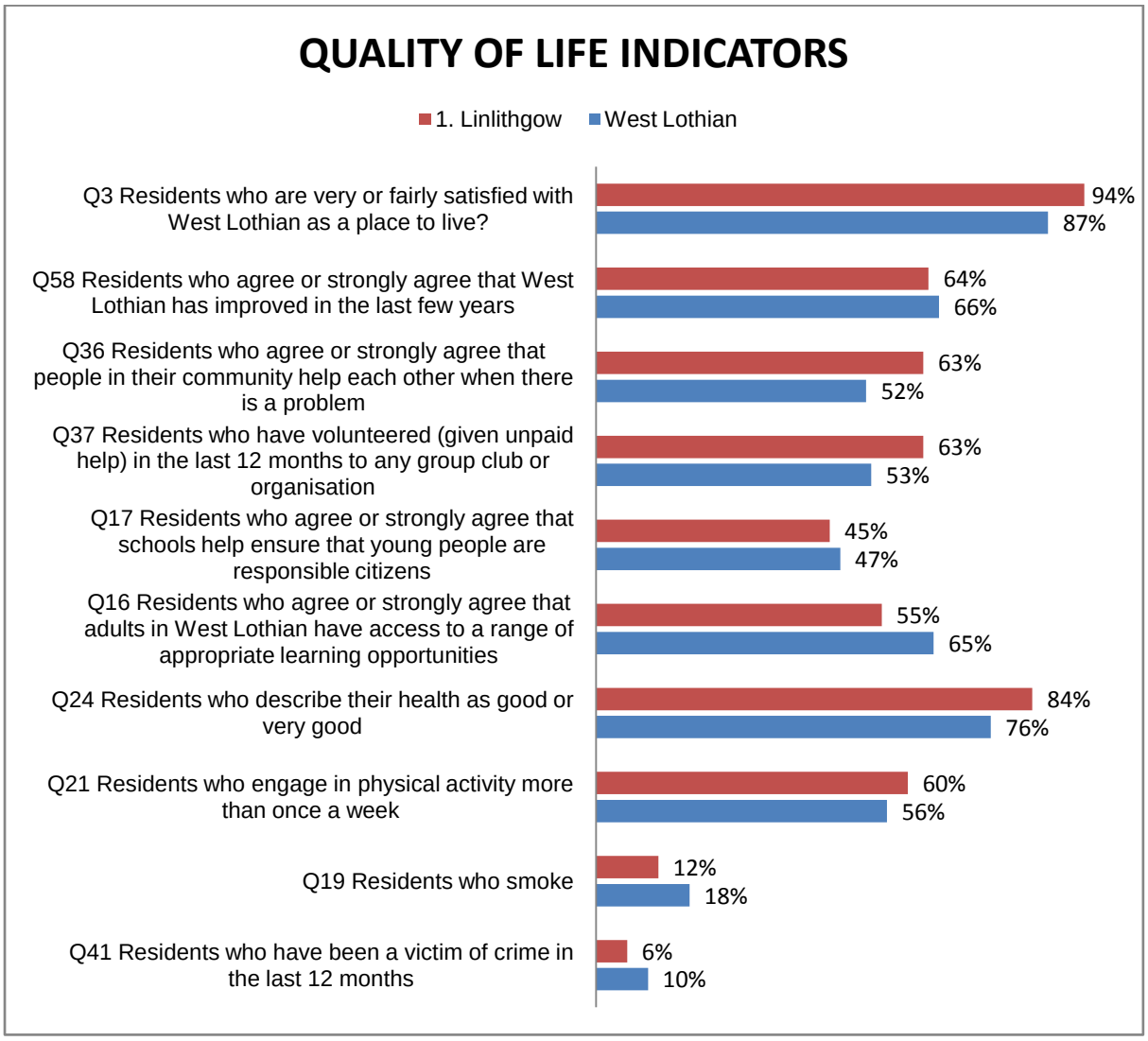
The Linlithgow ward has three councillors, all of whom are elected on a proportional voting system to represent the whole ward. The three councillors meet regularly as a Local Area Committee. The Chair is Tom Conn. Those elected in May 2012 for five years are:-

	Tom Conn (Scottish Labour Party)		Martyn Day (Scottish National Party)		Tom Kerr (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)	

The ward is located within the Linlithgow constituency for the Scottish Parliament which is represented by Fiona Hyslop MSP. There are also seven list MSPs for the Lothians whose details are on the Scottish Parliament website.

The ward is divided between the Linlithgow and East Falkirk and Livingston constituencies for the Westminster Parliament. The larger part of the ward is located within Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency and is represented by Michael Connarty M.P. The dividing line runs to the north of Bridgend which is located in Livingston constituency and is represented by Graeme Morrice M.P.

There are six Members of the European Parliament who represent the whole of Scotland. Information on these is available on the European Parliament website www.europarl.org.uk



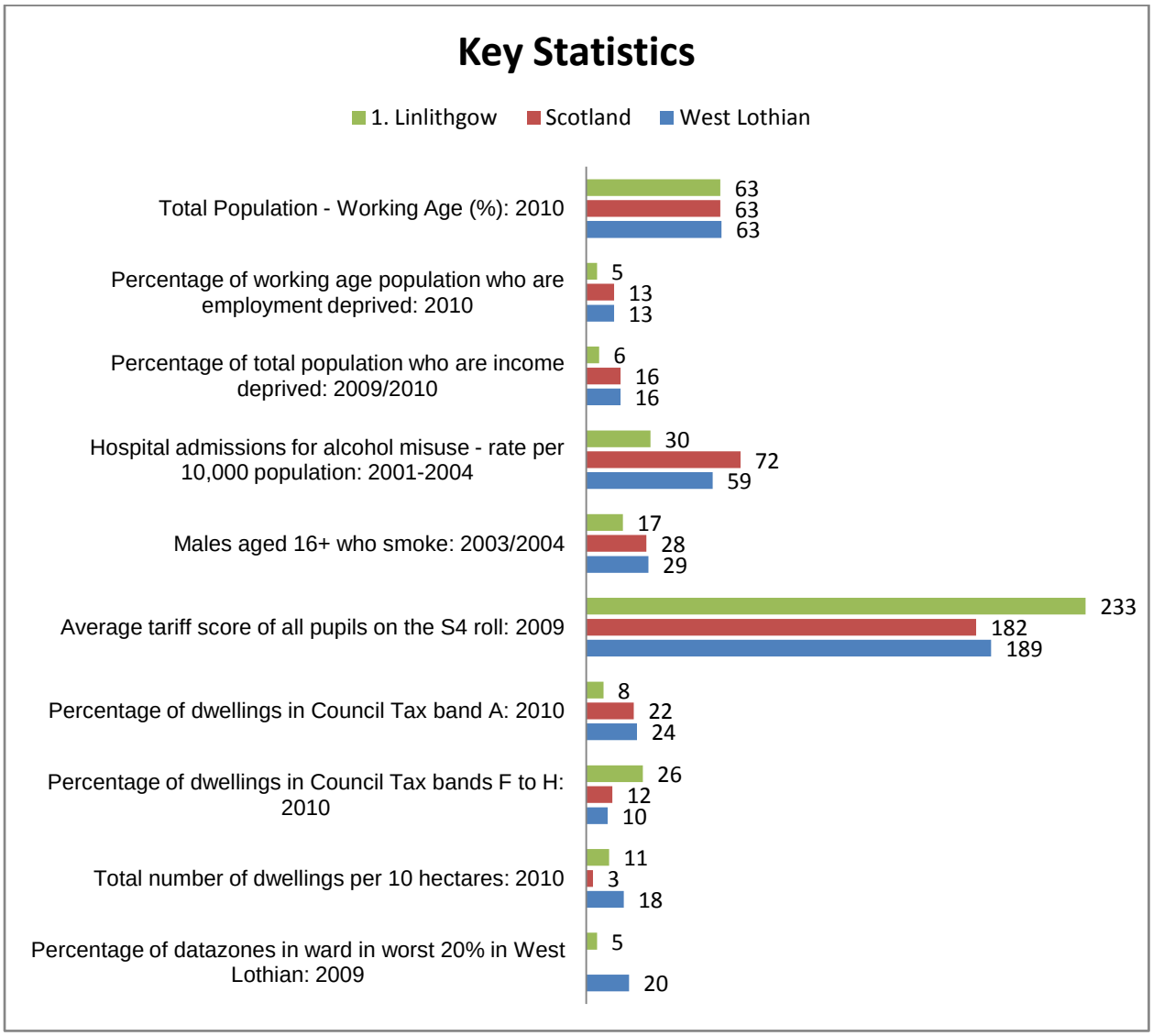
The fifth West Lothian Quality of Life Survey for the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) was carried out in 2010 through the Citizens Panel. The Panel is structured to be completely representative of the West Lothian population, and representative at a multi member ward level. 70% of the 2911 Panel members completed the 2010 survey.

A range of questions across a variety of subjects gave the CPP useful information about people's perceptions and experience of living in West Lothian. The CPP will use this information to plan, direct and prioritise services over the coming years. A sample of questions and scores for West Lothian and the Linlithgow ward are shown in the table above.

The levels of satisfaction with West Lothian as a place to live are very strong, remaining at a consistent 87% between the last survey in 2007 and 2010 one. In the Linlithgow ward there has been a 7% increase in satisfaction levels with 87% being satisfied in 2007 rising to 94% in 2010.

In general the Linlithgow figures are higher than or similar to the West Lothian average. There are four indicators that vary significantly from the average for West Lothian an example being more residents in Linlithgow "agree or strongly agree (63%) that people in their community help each other if there is a problem" than is the case in wider West Lothian (52%).

The Summary of Key Findings and Commentary on the West Lothian Citizens' Panel Quality of Life Survey 2010 Research Report is at :- http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/downloaddoc/1799465/lcp/QoL2010Results



The statistical indicators in the table above are taken from the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Area Profile site at :- http://www.sns.gov.uk/Reports/AreaProfile.aspx

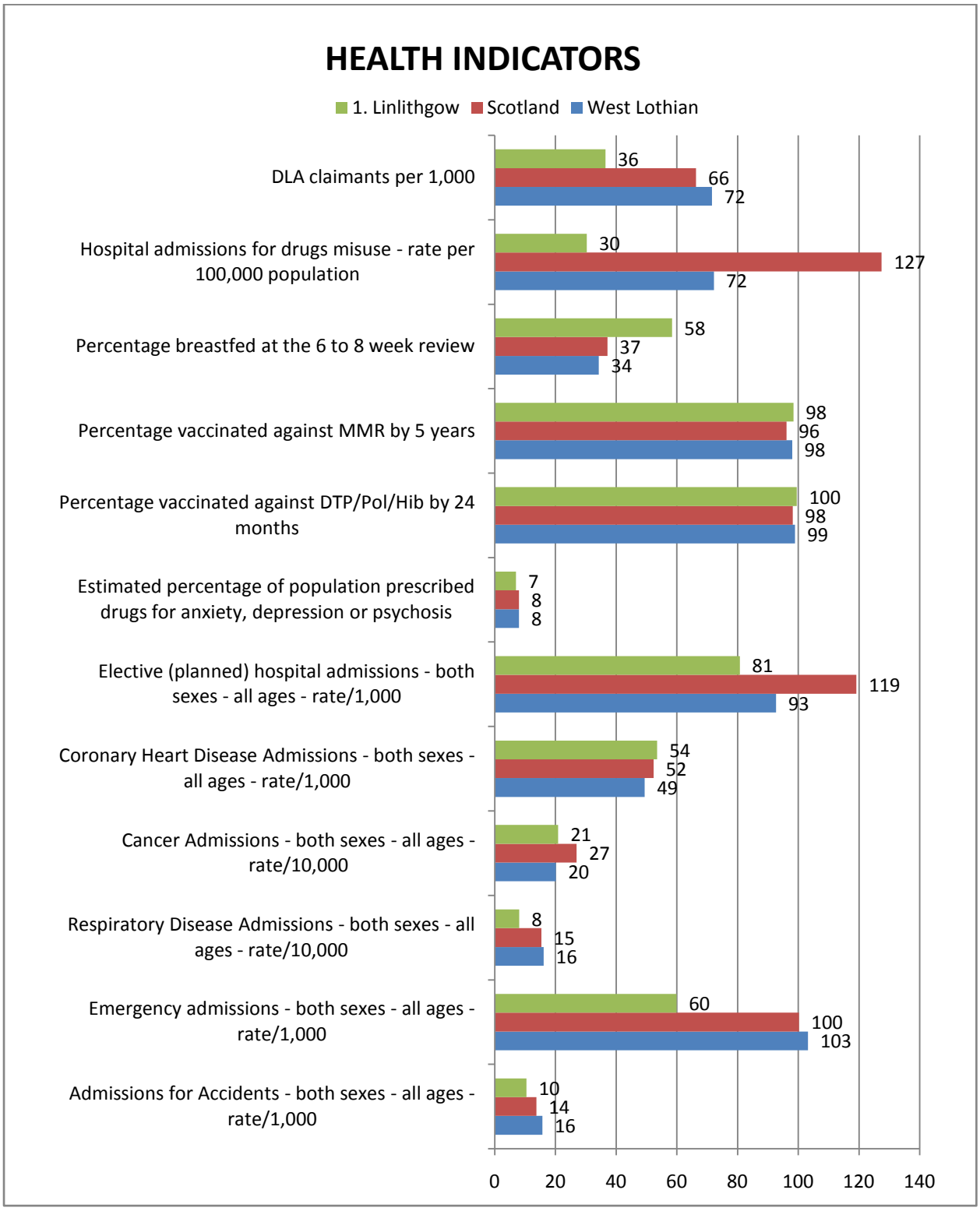
Linlithgow is one of the smaller wards in West Lothian with 16,034 residents, 9.3% of the total population. There are 21 "datazones" in the ward – these are small areas with around 750 residents used to identify concentrations of multiple deprivation using indicators such as unemployment, income and health. Of the 21 datazones in the Linlithgow ward 1 (5%) is in the worst 20% in West Lothian, significantly lower than the average.

The proportion of the population who are of "working age" is 63% and similar to that for both West Lothian and Scotland. Linlithgow ward has a relatively low rate of employment deprivation at 5% as against 13% for West Lothian and Scotland as a whole. The ward has a significantly lower number of residents that are income deprived scoring 6% as opposed to the 16% average level for West Lothian and Scotland respectively.

The health statistics for Linlithgow are better than both the West Lothian and Scottish levels. For example alcohol related hospital admissions are significantly lower and the number of adult males who smoke (17%) is also significantly lower than the levels for West Lothian (29%) and for Scotland (28%).

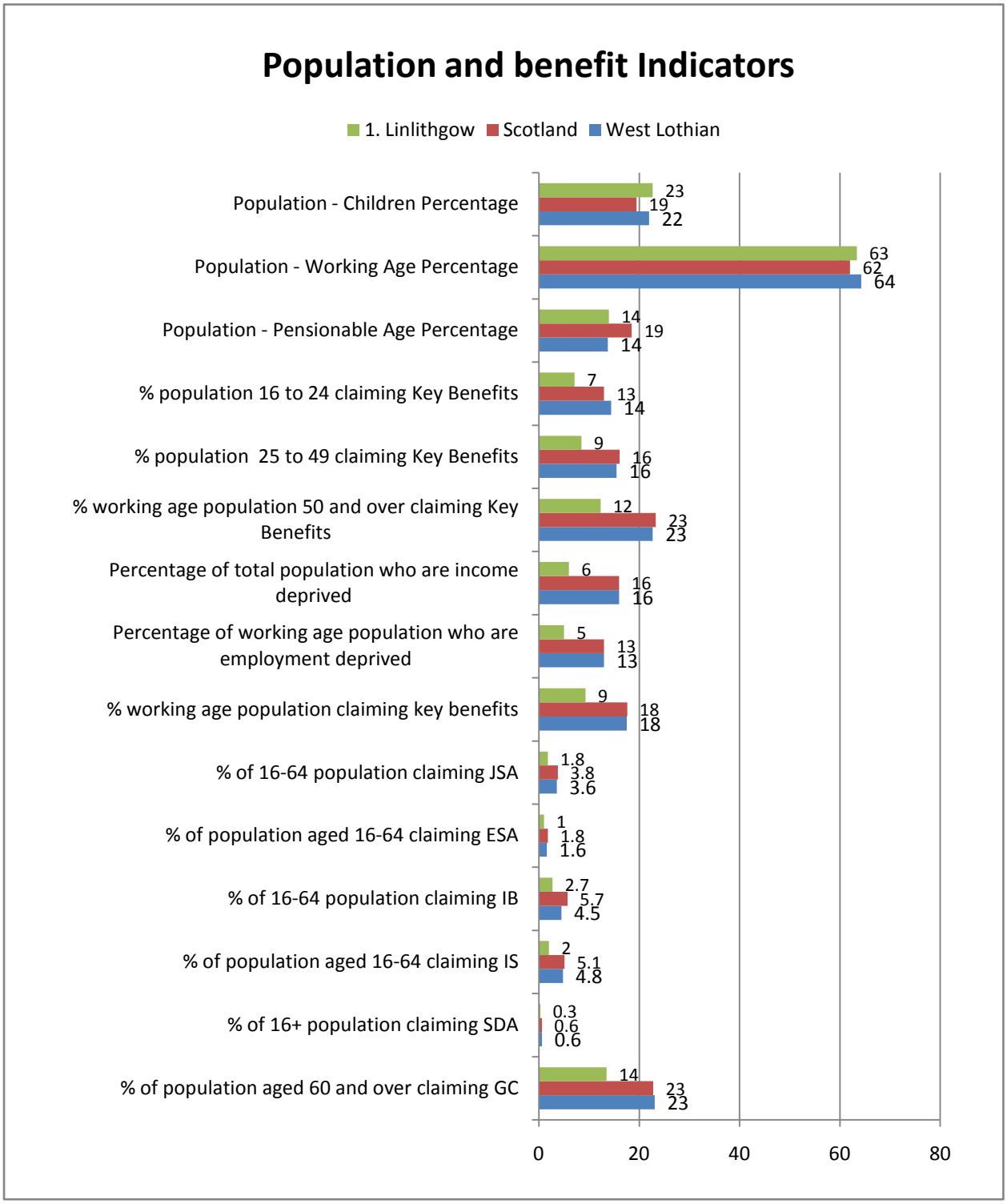
Education statistics for the ward are higher than the averages for West Lothian and Scotland. The "average tariff score of all pupils on the S4 roll" for the ward is 233 as against the 189 for West Lothian and 182 for Scotland.

There is a much lower proportion of homes in the lowest council tax bands and a much greater number in the highest council tax bands than in both West Lothian and Scotland. There is a higher density of housing in the ward compared to West Lothian as a whole reflecting the less rural nature of the ward but it is less dense than the Scottish average.



The above indicators allow a comparison between key heath indicators in the ward against West Lothian and Scotland. They show that Linlithgow has a significantly lower proportion of people claiming Disability Living Allowance and of hospital admissions related to drugs misuse. There is a much higher proportion of babies being breast fed at the 6-8 week review than the West Lothian average, and there was a 100% vaccination rate against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b.

Hospital Admissions are lower than the West Lothian and Scottish averages with two exceptions, Coronary Heart Disease is marginally higher in Linlithgow than in West Lothian and Scotland while admission for Cancer is also marginally higher than the West Lothian and lower than the Scottish level.The health indicators in the table above are taken from the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics site at :- http://www.sns.gov.uk



The above indicators allow a comparison between key populations and benefit claimants in the ward against West Lothian and Scotland. They show that Linlithgow has population profile broadly similar to that of West Lothian with a higher proportion of children slightly fewer residents of working age and a slightly higher proportion of those of pensionable age.

The ward has significantly fewer residents claiming benefits with lower levels than West Lothian and Scotland across all bands. Similarly the number of residents both income and employment deprived is considerably lower than in wider West Lothian and Scotland.

The population and benefit indicators in the table above are taken from the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics site at: - http://www.sns.gov.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Community Councils are directly elected bodies which find out and express the views of the community to local authorities and other public bodies, and take action which they feel is in the interests of its community. There are four community councils in the ward – Bridgend, Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge, Philpstoun and Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown (overlaps two ward areas). More information and contact details at:-
http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/pol_elec_democracy/820/776

SCHOOLS

There is one secondary school in the ward – Linlithgow Academy; six primary schools – Bridgend, Linlithgow, Linlithgow Bridge, Low Port, Springfield and St. Joseph's R.C. Primary. The denominational school falls within the catchment area of St. Kentigerns Academy. (Whitburn and Blackburn ward). There is one special school in the area, Donaldson's School for The Deaf.

KEY COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Linlithgow

Linlithgow Library: The Vennel, Linlithgow; EH49 7EX; 01506 775490: General library services and hosts regular adult educational classes.
The Lounge: 29 The Vennel, Linlithgow, EH49 7EX, (contact LYPP 01506 202610); This facility is a voluntary run space for young people to meet and take part in various youth related activities including clubs/ music etc.
Burgh Halls: The Cross, Linlithgow, EH49 7AH; 01506 282720: The newly refurbished building is a key arts, community and function venue offering gallery space a range of function and conference rooms and café facilities.
Low Port Centre: Blackness Road, Linlithgow, EH49 7HZ; 01506 775390: The Linlithgow based centre provides outdoor pursuits facilities for all of West Lothian, including climbing, biking and a range of water sports. It also provides meeting space for a number of local community groups and residential accommodation.
Chalmers Hall: Falkirk Road, Linlithgow Bridge, EH49 7BQ; 01506 842744: Community Centre offering space for community groups and provides a range of activities throughout the week.
Springfield Community Wing: Springfield PS, 141 Springfield Road, Linlithgow, EH49 7SN; 01506 847455: Community Centre offering space for community groups and provides a range of activities throughout the week.
XCITE Sports Centre Linlithgow: McGinley Way, Linlithgow, EH49 6SQ; 01506 775440: Offers a range of sporting activities and hosts a swimming pool, gym, football pitches etc.
County Buildings: 122 Main Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7EZ; 01506: Main Council administration building which houses Council Planning Service and recently opened West Lothian Archive Service.

Bridgend

Bridgend Community Education Centre: Auldhill Road, Bridgend, EH49 6NZ; 01506834536: Community Centre offering space for community groups and provides a range of activities throughout the week.

Philpstoun

Philpstoun Community Centre: Main Street, Philpstoun, EH49 6RA; 01506 834360: Community Centre offering space for community groups and provides a range of activities throughout the week.

Newton

Newton Community Centre: 26 Duddingston Crescent, Newton, EH52 6QG; 0131 331 3290: Community Centre offering space for community groups and provides a range of activities throughout the week.

FUTURE KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Linlithgow and north west West Lothian is identified in the Edinburgh & Lothians Structure Plan 2015 as an area of development restraint;
- Linlithgow currently has planned growth of 68 residential units on a number of sites in the town;
- Planning application lodged for significant housing and retail development at north east of Linlithgow (Burghmuir site) including 600 homes, care home, hotel/conference facilities, retail and junction works.
- Bridgend currently has planned growth of 46 residential units on two sites in the village;
- West Lothian Local Plan 2009 safeguards for a bus facility with park & ride and a new all directions junction onto the M9 at Burghmuir, Linlithgow.