

Northampton

Northamptonshire

'Mark Three' New Town – Designated 14 February 1968

Historically a market town, Northampton was designated as a New Town to accommodate London overspill and provide for regional growth. Development was promoted as a partnership between the local authority, leading on the development in the central area, and the Development Corporation, focusing on expansion in new areas. Today, Northampton is the wider area's main employment, retail and cultural centre, providing the main services and facilities for the wider population of Northamptonshire. It has been recognised as a location for growth, and it is anticipated that its population will continue to grow to approximately 240,000 by 2026, mainly through sustainable urban extensions. A programme of regeneration projects is also under way to revitalise the town.



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Key facts:

- **Location:** 108 kilometres north west of London, 16 kilometres north west of Milton Keynes, on the M1.
- **2011 Census population:** 212,069, in 88,731 households.¹
- **Local authority:** Northampton Borough Council. Planning at a more strategic level is led by the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (a partnership of Northampton Borough, Daventry District, South Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Councils).
- **Local Plan status:** Northampton Central Area Action Plan (adopted 2013). West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted 2014).

New Town designation:

- **Designated:** 14 February 1968.
- **Designated area:** 8,081 hectares.
- **Intended population:** 260,000 (population at designation: 133,000).
- **Development Corporation:** Designated to provide homes and jobs for Londoners and to help relieve pressure on restraint areas and areas of undue pressure in the South East. Development Corporation wound up 31 March 1985

Housing, deprivation and health:

- The proportion of homes in Northampton that are owner-occupied (62.7%) is 4% higher than the UK New Towns average and less than 1% lower than the UK average. 17.0% of households are in social rent – 4.5% and 1.1% lower than the UK New Towns and UK averages, respectively. 17.8% of households are in private rent – 4.9% and 1.6% higher than the UK New Towns and UK averages, respectively.
- Northampton Borough contains significant pockets of deprivation in the central and eastern areas, with 16 wards that are among the most deprived 20% in the country.
- The 2011 Census reported that 46.4% of Northampton residents declared themselves to be in 'very good' health – 0.3% and 1.2% lower than UK New Towns and UK averages, respectively. 36.5% of residents declared themselves to be

in 'good' health – around 2.5% higher than the UK New Towns and UK averages. 3.6% declared 'bad' health – 0.7% lower than the UK New Towns and UK averages.

Employment/economic profile:

- Northampton accounts for nearly 70% of jobs in West Northamptonshire, where creation of office jobs has been high over the last ten years or so, largely associated with Northampton. Strong growth in the warehouse sector has been due to the town's strategic location.
- 80% of those working in Northampton also live within the Borough, with the majority of trips to work being of less than 5 kilometres (albeit 61% are made by car).
- Within Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership LEP.

Development Corporation legacy:

- Northampton East consists of a series of communities and estates largely built under the New Town expansion, using Radburn design principles to separate pedestrian and vehicle movements and ensuring that residents have good access to local facilities. Some estates require significant renewal.
- The New Town estates were built as separate units, each with its own identity.
- Northampton East has higher-than-average amounts of green space compared with the rest of the town, but the quality of these spaces varies significantly.
- In the New Town estates car dependency is higher and public transport less accessible compared with the rest of the town.

Key issues for the future:

- Northampton town centre has many good attributes, not least its historic buildings, but is in need of regeneration and new investment. Service provision has not kept pace with housing growth.
- Planning for growth.
- Improving accessibility and dealing with traffic congestion.
- Improving the management of green spaces, including a new town park.

¹ Borough level data used owing to the tight administrative boundary

Did you know?

Northampton has the biggest market square in England.