

Oldham's credit crunch cabinet

Monthly update

September 2009

Credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk







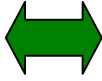
1 Credit crunch cabinet monthly report

This is the sixth update from Oldham's credit crunch cabinet (CCC). This update is published after each of the cabinet's meetings and will give you a clear picture of the current economic situation – positives and negatives – in the borough. It will help the partnership to examine trends, and anticipate the need for preventative action, and will help partners to identify any adjustments they might need to make to their mainstream services.

2 The current situation

- The number of people coming off Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) increased significantly in August compared to July; and is more than double what it was in January 2008. However, the number of people starting to claim JSA each month is also increasing; hence Oldham's overall number of JSA claimants rose to 7206 in August 2009.
- The JSA claimant rate increased in the majority of Oldham's wards. The three wards with the highest number of claimants remains the same: Coldhurst, Alexandra and St Marys.
- The number of vacancies advertised through Jobcentre Plus is still comparatively low, although there were 201 more vacancies available in August than July.
- We expect the number of young people not in employment, education and training (NEET) to increase because it generally does over the summer months as young people finish school or college. Oldham is still out-performing its statistical neighbours and will remain very close to the national NEET average.
- Average house prices dropped in the last quarter that we have statistics for (April to June 2009). New build values reduced by a third between the end of the 2008-09 financial year and the start of 2009-10.

Full statistics are shown below.

Dashboard Indicator	Baseline January 08 (unless stated)	Latest performance data 2008-09		Trend	Rank in Greater Manchester
		Data	Date		
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count	3899	7206	August 09		7 out of 10, where 1 is highest no. of claimants
JSA Claimant Rate (proportion of working age population)	2.9%	5.4%	August 09		3 out of 10, where 1 is the highest rate
Number of people coming off JSA	706	1661	August 09		5 out of 10, where 1 is the highest off flow
Number of people coming on to JSA	1048	1883	August 09		5 out of 10, where 1 is the highest on flow
Jobcentre Plus vacancies	1158 (August 08)	958	August 09		9 out of 10, where 1 is the highest no. of vacancies
Business Rateable Values	£136.4m (baseline 1 December 2007)				Not Applicable
Number of commercial properties	7,124 (baseline 1 December 2007)				Not Applicable

3 Other updates

- Half of the credit crunch cabinet's 'rapid intervention fund' has been used. The funds can continue to be used in the 2009-10 financial year.
- Jonathan Yates from Oldham Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) reported that the two casework support officers funded by the CCC have had a significant impact. The CCC confirmed that funding for these posts would continue until May 2010. However, demand for CAB's services has been very high compared to the national demand, and they are still working to capacity. The CCC will look at a case for further support when it next meets.
- In particular CAB staff have noticed an increased demand for advice about council tax arrears, and a new kind of client group who haven't necessarily needed to deal with the benefit system before.
- The Beat the Crunch roadshows will begin in half term week in Oldham town centre, with a week-long event from 26 October to 31 October. This is the first of a series of business-focused events and community events taking place over the next six months. Attendees will be able to get jobs, skills, benefits, housing and business start-up advice. There will be more information on www.oldham.gov.uk/creditchunch, and in the local press soon.
- The NHS has produced web pages to help those feeling stressed as a result of the credit crunch: <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Onabudget/Pages/Creditchunchstress.aspx>. There is also an NHS credit crunch stressline: 0300 123 2000

4 Next meeting

The CCC will meet again on 21 October at 3pm.

5 Contact us

Economy and enterprise unit, Oldham Council – 0161 770 4670; credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk

Housing strategy, Oldham Council – 0161 770 2045; housingstrategy@oldham.gov.uk

Communities unit, Oldham Council – 0161 770 3274; community.relations@oldham.gov.uk

www.oldhampartnership.org.uk/ccwc