

**AREA PROFILE:
DARENTH**

**DECEMBER 2025
PLANNING SERVICES**

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AREA PROFILE

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INTRODUCTION

This profile summarises a range of population data for the ward of Darenth in Dartford Borough.

The ward mostly falls within the area covered by Darenth Parish Council. Census data for the specific geography of Darenth Parish Council can be [found here](#).

As the ward boundaries changed in 2019, direct comparisons to earlier time periods should not be made.

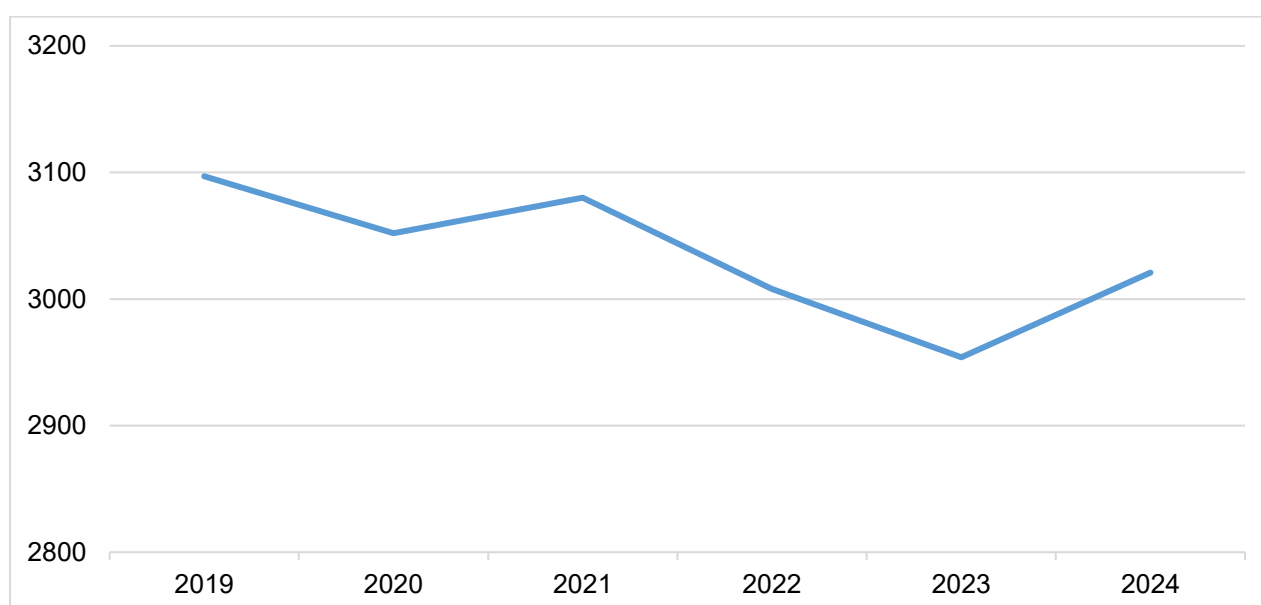
SUMMARY

- Darenth has a population that is older than the Borough average, with the proportion aged over 50 years old being 37.1%.
- More residents have a long-term health condition or disability that affects their day-to-day activities than the Borough average.
- Semi-detached properties are most common, representing 51.6% of housing stock. A further 29.5% of properties are terraced and 9.6% are detached. Almost 65% of dwellings are owner occupied.
- 50% of residents work in skilled, semi-skilled or service occupations, traditionally described as 'blue collar' jobs. The average unemployment rate is 3.7%, which is higher than the averages of Dartford (3.1%) and Kent (3.4%).
- Most residents travel to work by driving a car or van, the rate being 13.7% higher than the Borough average.

POPULATION

In the 2021 Census, Darenth had a population of 3,099 people. This comprised of 1,509 males and 1,590 females, representing a 48.7% and 51.3% split respectively.

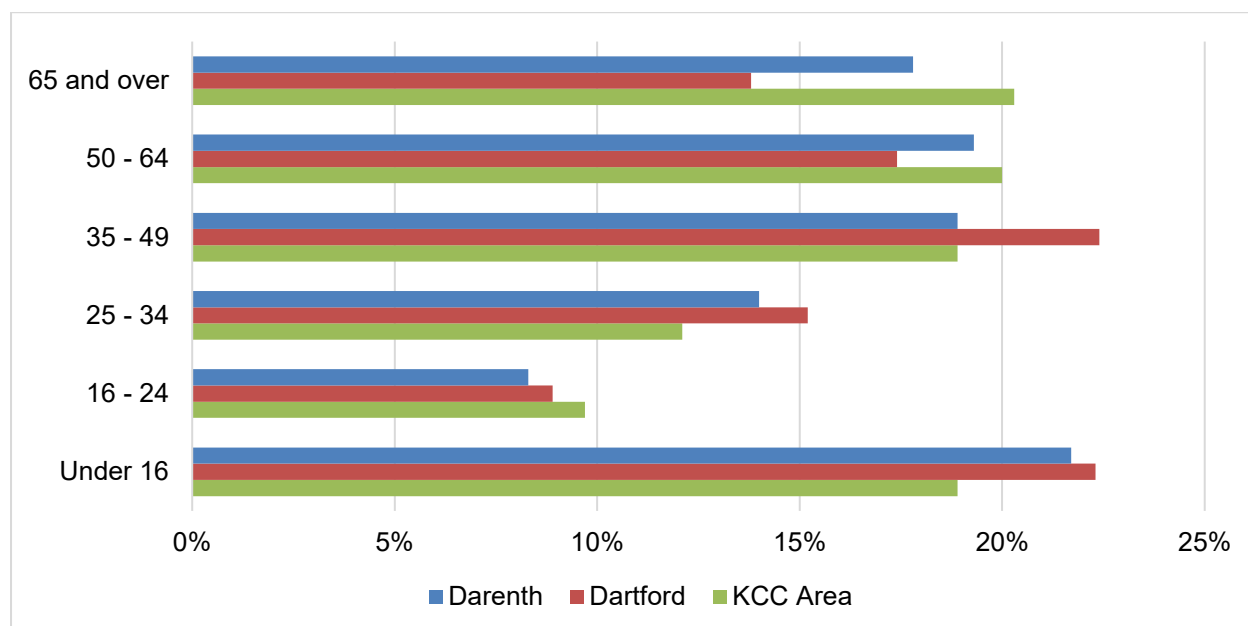
Chart 1: Estimated population of Darenth, mid-2019 to mid-2024



Source: ONS – Mid-year Population Estimates

AGE PROFILE

Chart 2: Age profile of Darenth, 2021



Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS007B)

POPULATION DENSITY

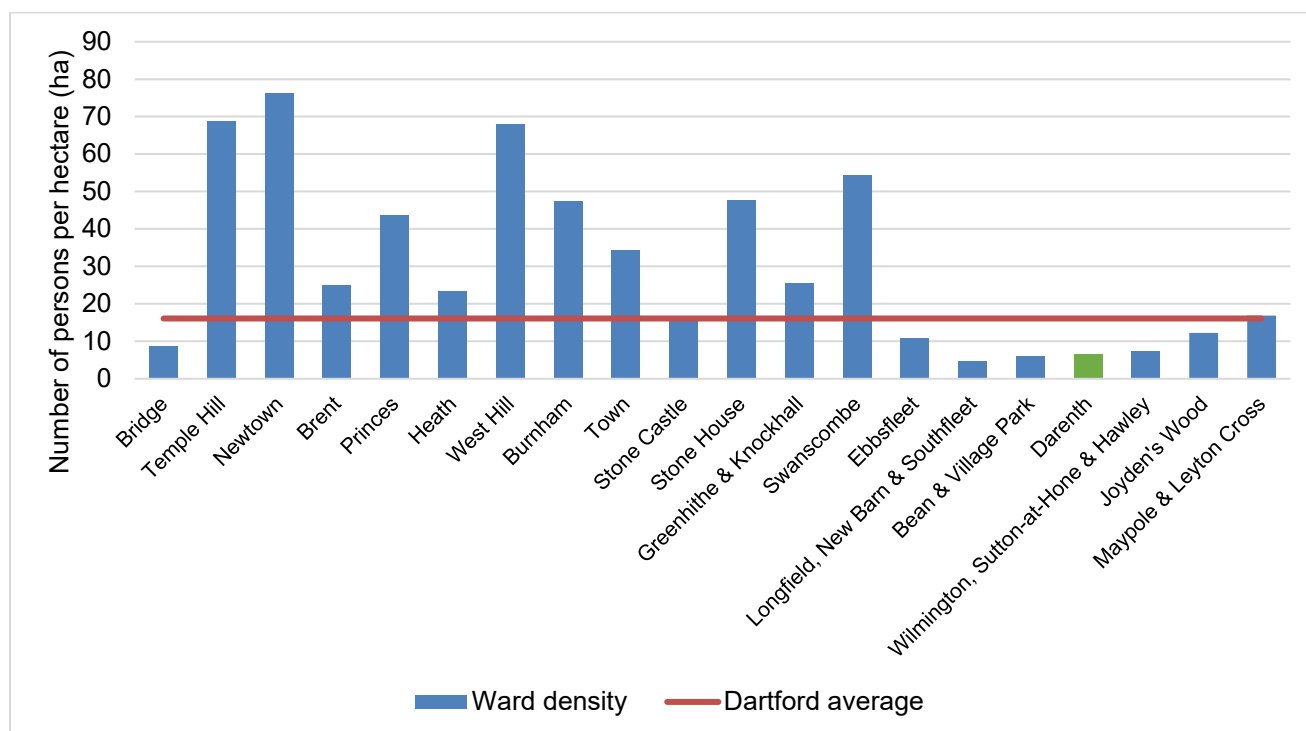
Darenth has a population density of 6.6 persons per hectare, compared to the Borough average of 16 persons per hectare.

Table 1: Population density, 2021

Darenth		Dartford		KCC Area	
Area (ha)	Density (persons per ha)	Area (ha)	Density (persons per ha)	Area (ha)	Density (persons per ha)
472	6.6	7,273.3	16.1	354,437.1	4.4

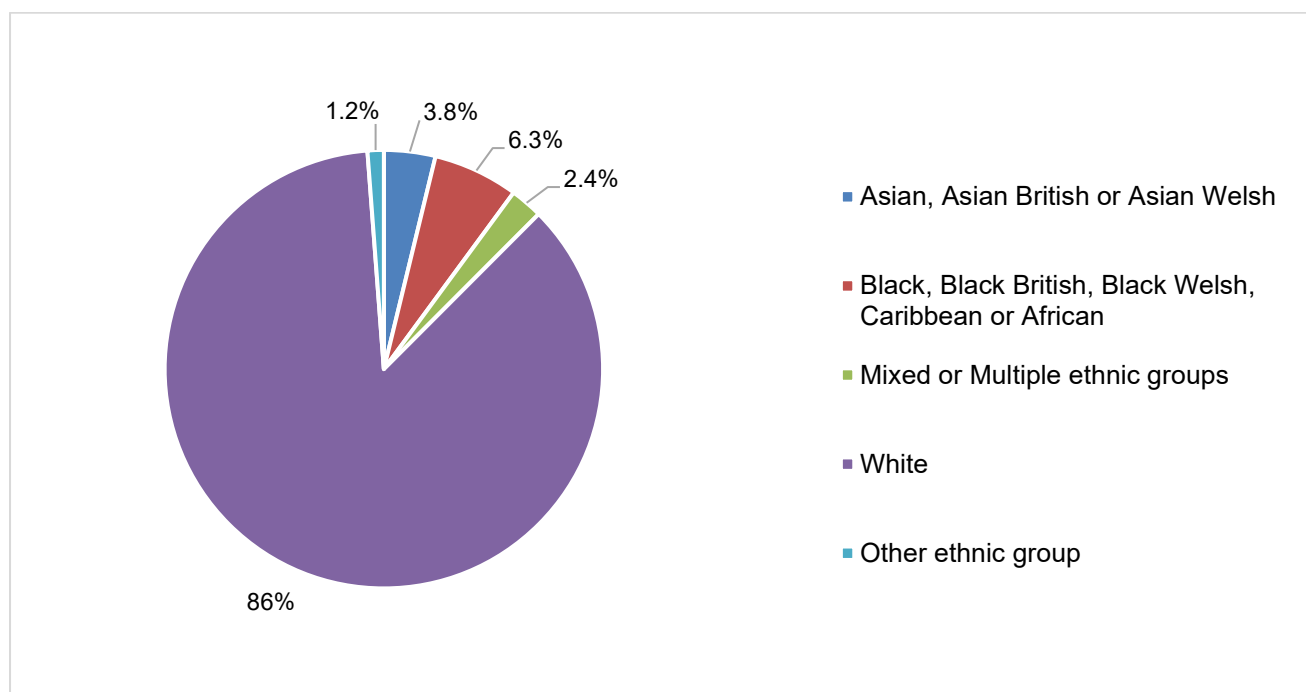
Source: ONS – 2021 Census

Chart 3: Population density by ward, 2021



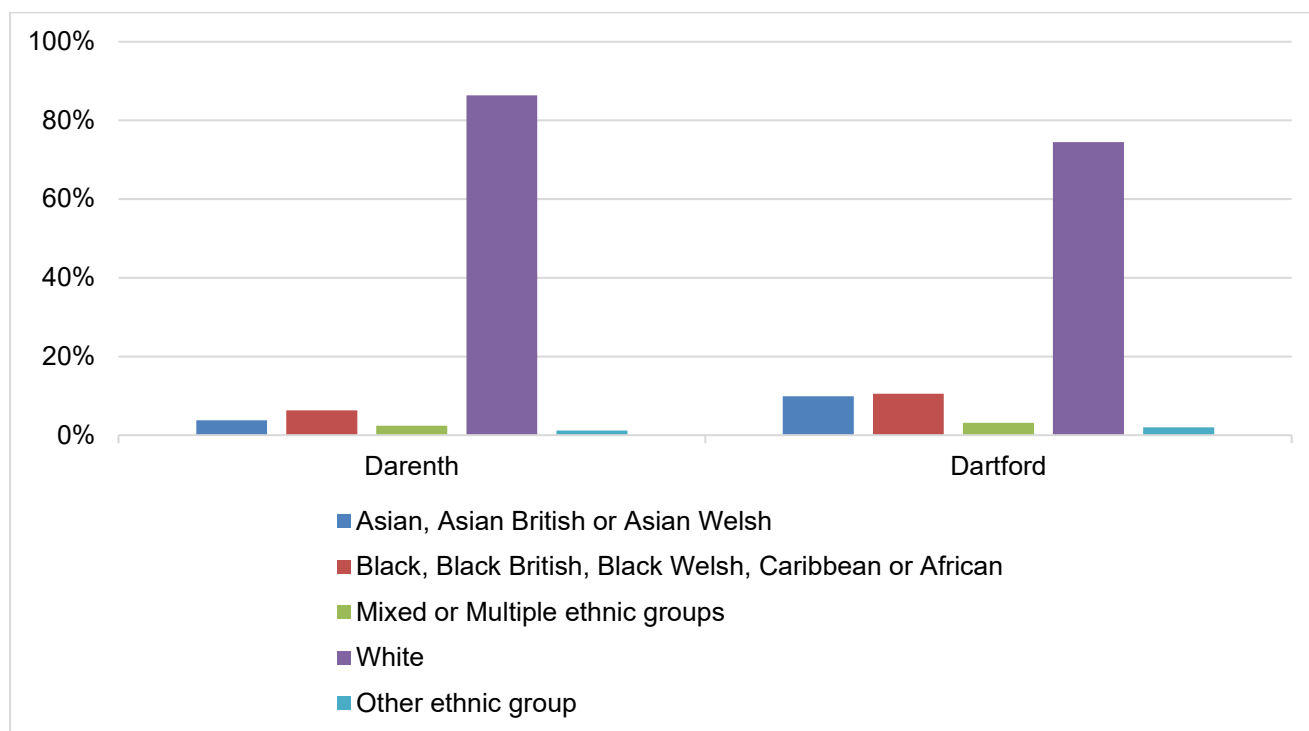
ETHNICITY

Chart 4: Ethnic groups in Darenth, 2021



Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS021)

Chart 5: Proportion of ethnic groups in Darenth and Dartford Borough, 2021



Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS021)

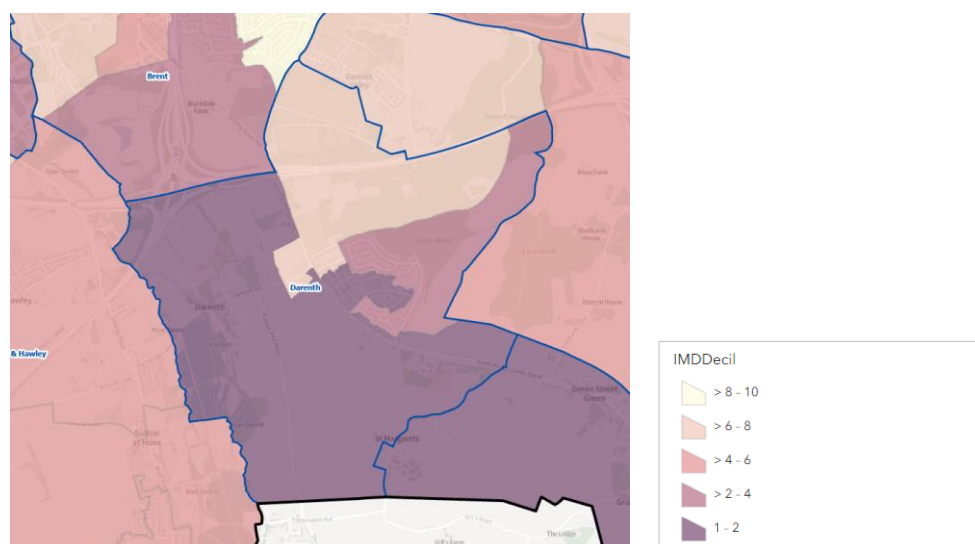
DEPRIVATION

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provides data to a localised scale in terms of the most and least deprived neighbourhoods. In 2025 the updated IMD was published, superseding the 2019 IMD.

Neighbourhoods are called a ‘Lower-layer Super Output Area’ (LSOA) and have an average population of 1,500 people. In Dartford, there are 67 such neighbourhoods and these do not align with electoral ward boundaries.

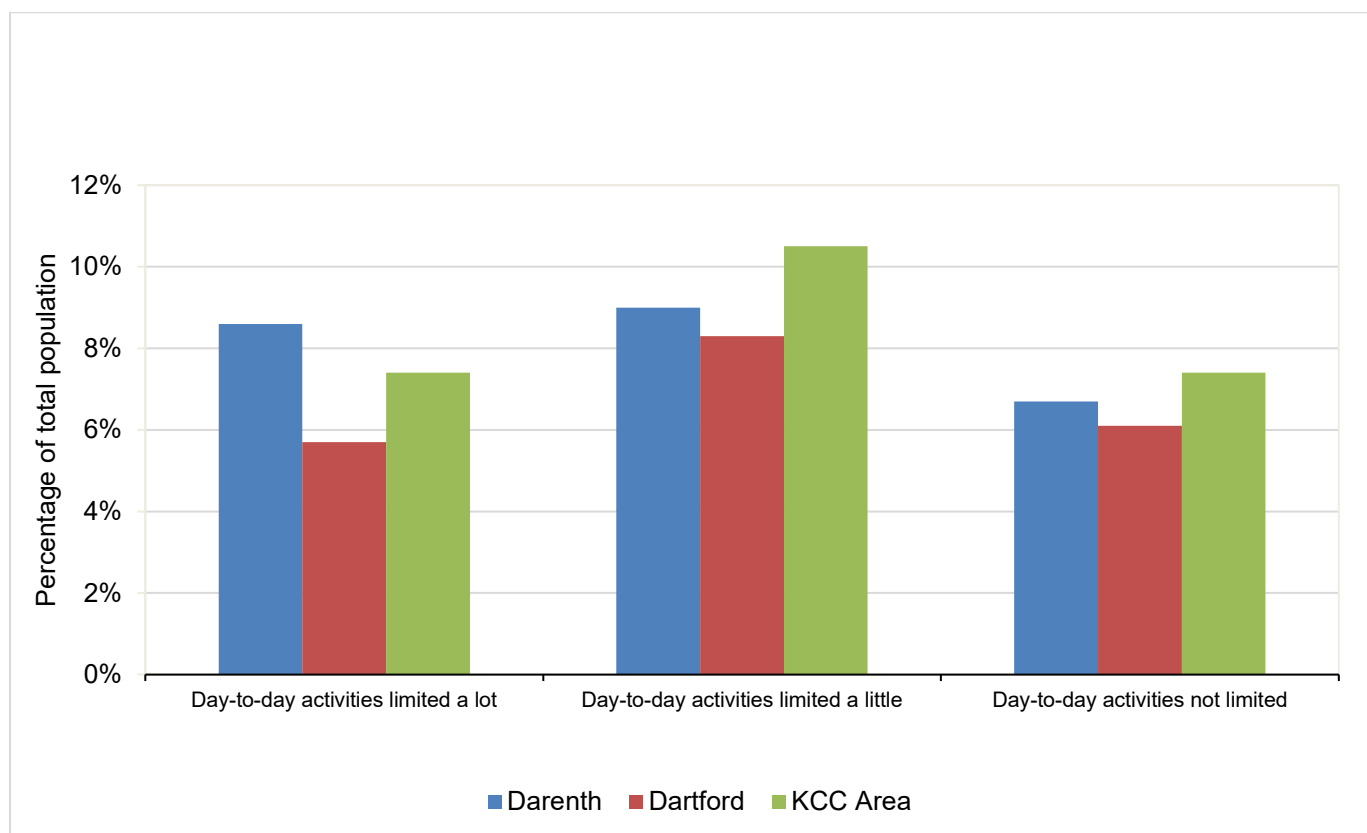
Overall, Darenth is predominantly more deprived than 70% of neighbourhoods in England.

Figure 1: IMD deciles for LSOAs in Darenth



HEALTH AND DISABILITY

Chart 6: Population with long term health condition or disability, 2021



Source: ONS – Census 2021 (TS038)

ECONOMY

EMPLOYEES & HOURS WORKED

Darenth makes up 2.5% of the total employee jobs in the Borough.

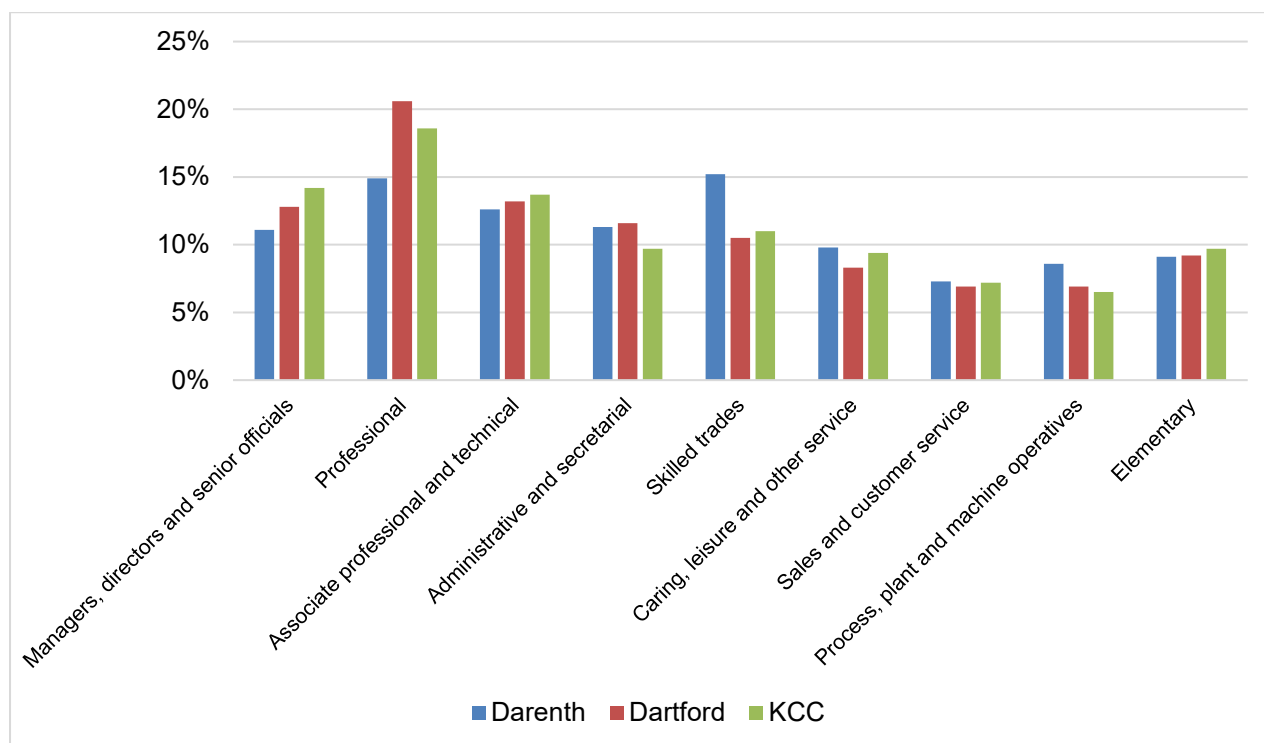
Table 2: Economically active population, 2021

	Darenth		Dartford		KCC Area	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Total	1,468		58,822		728,618	
Full Time	1,042	71.0%	43,697	74.3%	510,265	70.0%
Part Time	426	29.0%	15,125	25.7%	218,353	30.0%

Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS059)

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Chart 7: Percentage of residents (aged 16+) by employment occupation, 2021

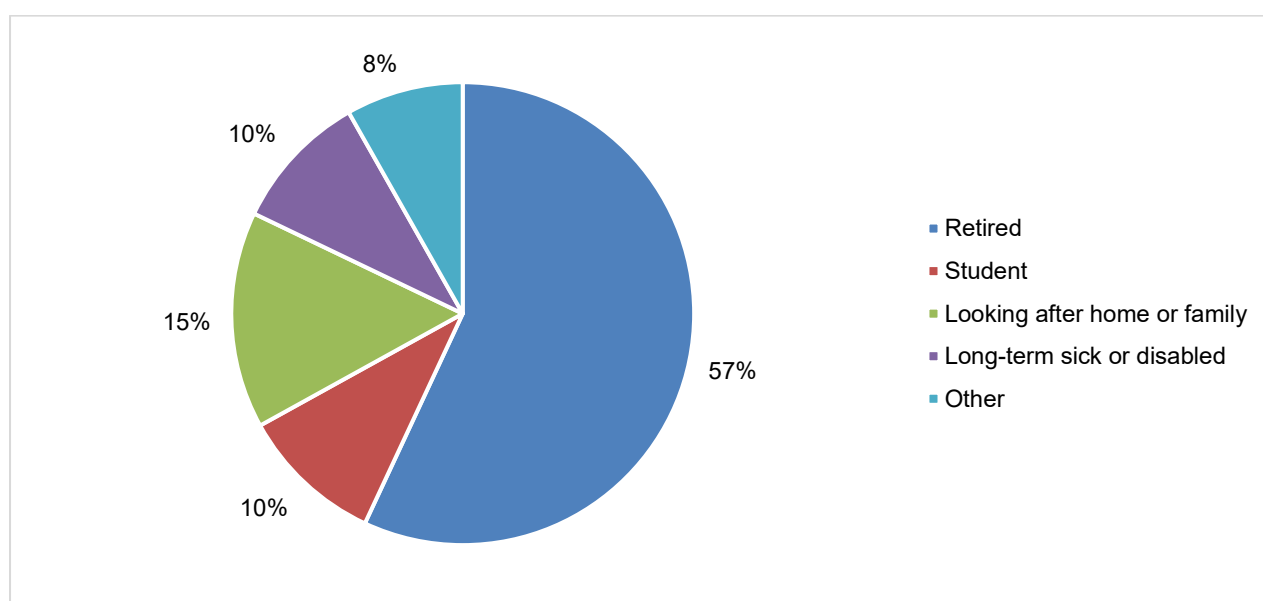


Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS063)

UNEMPLOYMENT

Of all usual residents aged 16 years and over in Darenth, 878 people (36.2%) were economically inactive in the 2021 Census. The reasons are shown below.

Chart 8: Reasons for economic inactivity in Darenth, 2021



Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS066)

Kent County Council compiles data on unemployment rates at the district and ward levels. The figures are taken from the monthly Claimant Count from the Office for National Statistics, which records the number of people who are unemployed and claiming Jobseekers Allowance or out of work and claiming Universal Credit at local Job Centre Plus offices.

Table 3: Average unemployment rate in 2024

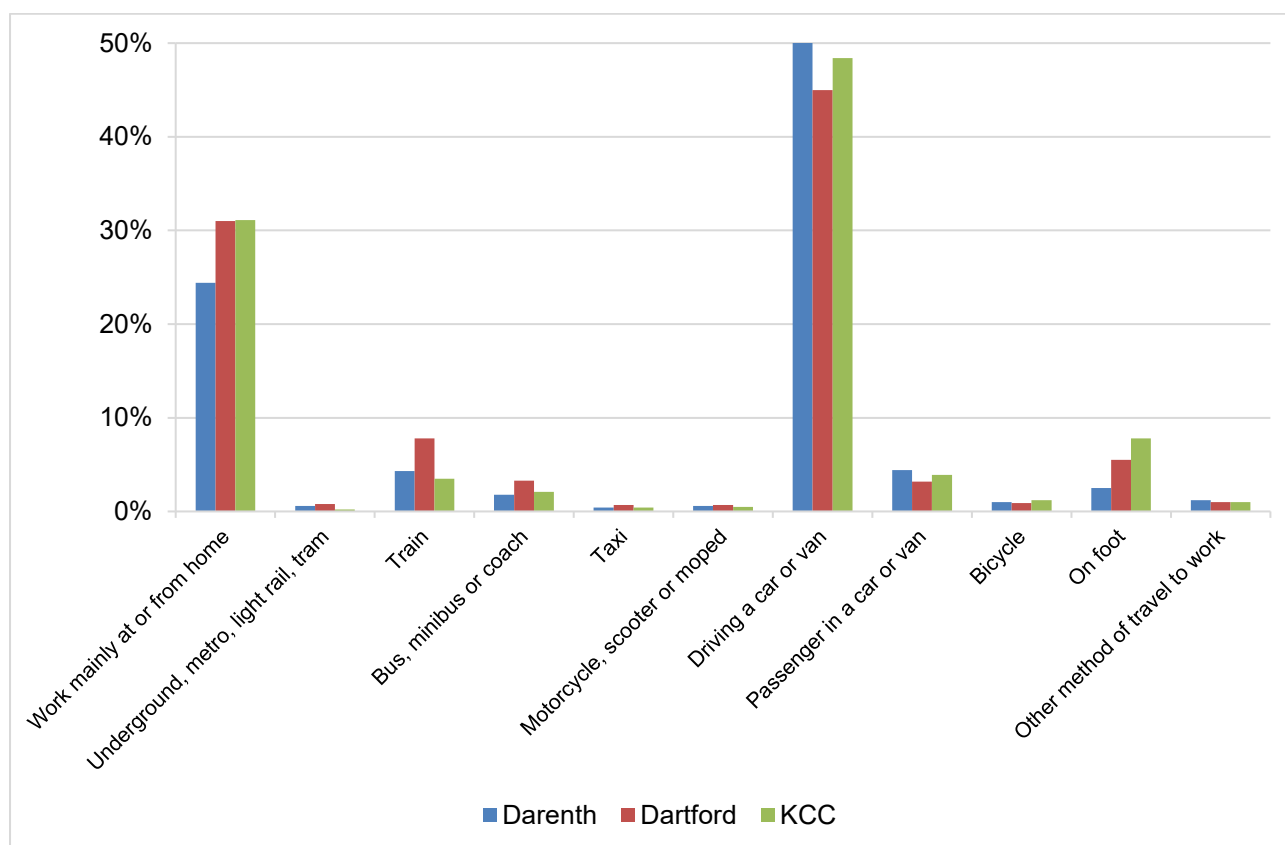
Dareath	Dartford	KCC Area
3.7%	3.1%	3.4%

Source: Kent Analytics – Ward Unemployment Bulletin

METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collected Census 2021 responses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures. As a result, these factors will have affected the travel to work topic, therefore extra caution should be taken when interpreting the below figures.

Chart 9: Method of travel to work, 2021



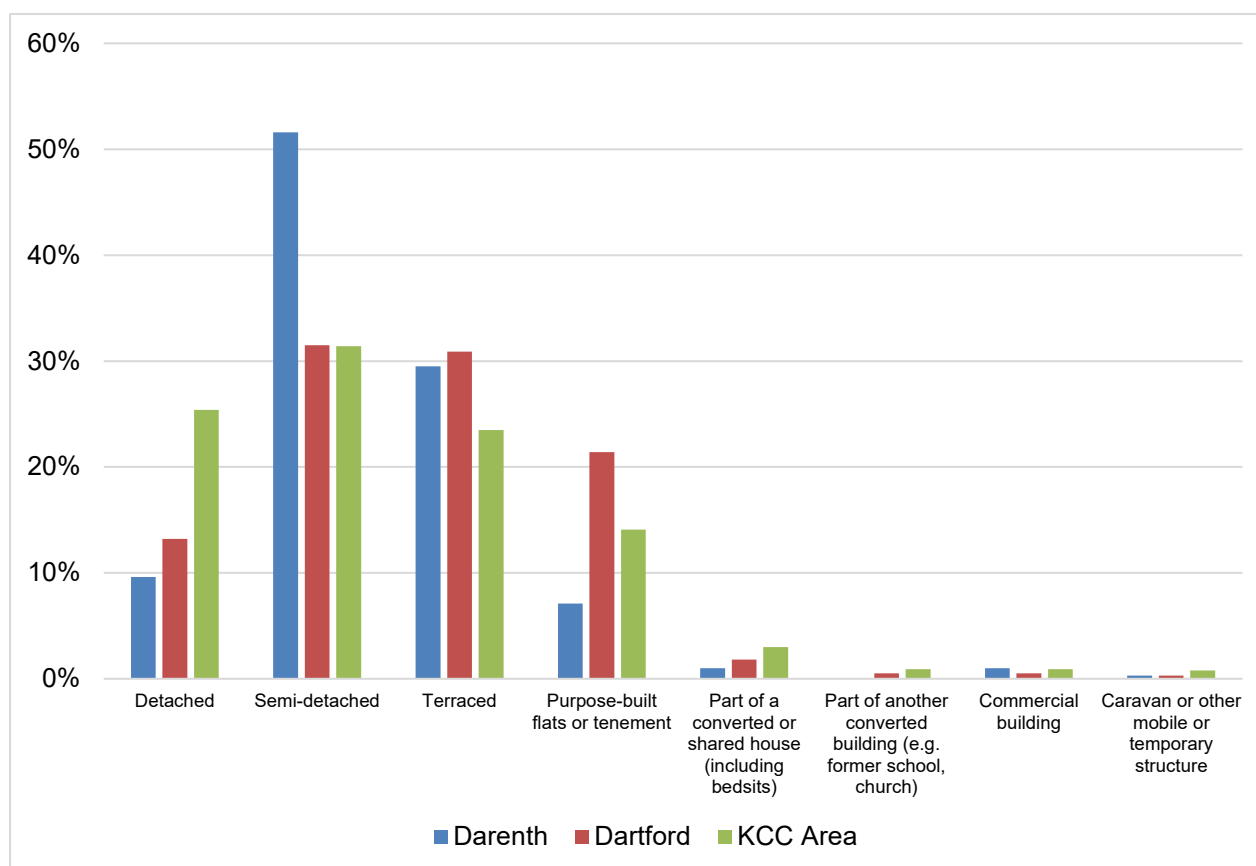
Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS061)

HOUSING

TYPES

In 2021, there were 1,154 households in Darenth. The types of properties are shown below.

Chart 10: Types of housing, 2021

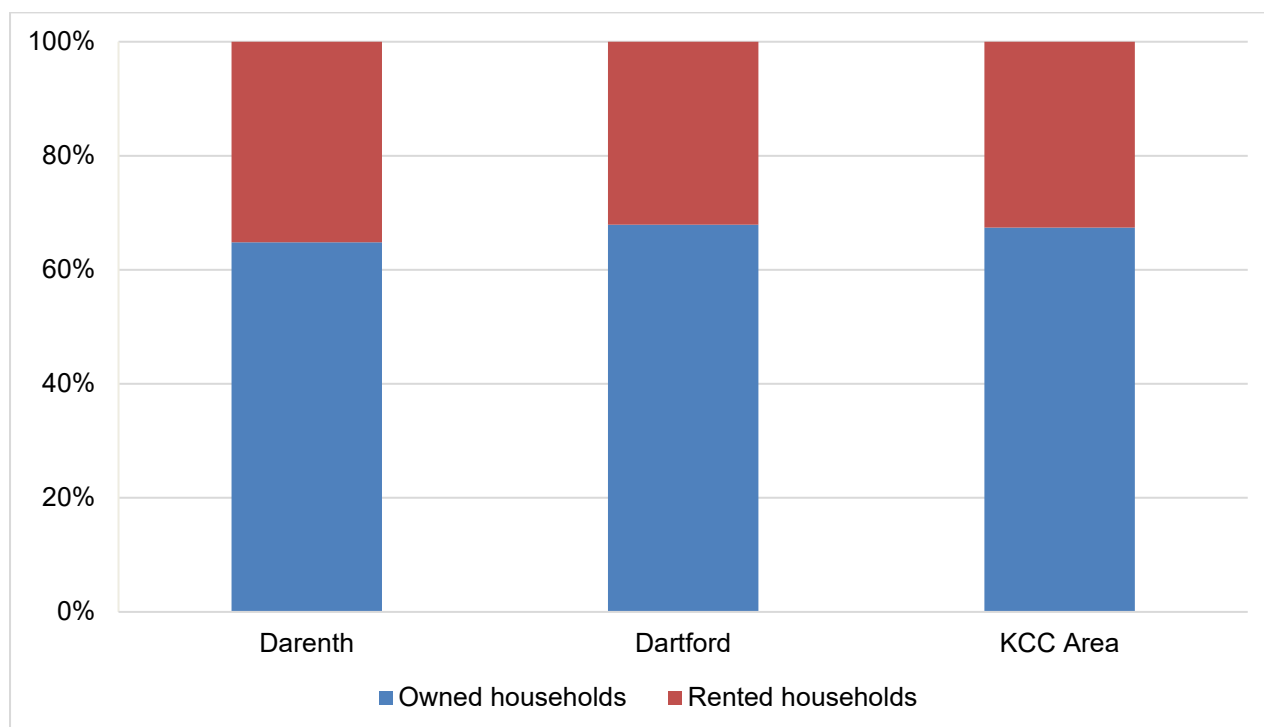


Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS052)

TENURE

Almost 65% of households in Darenth are owner occupied. Rented households consist of social rented and private rented or rent free.

Chart 11: Housing by tenure type, 2021



Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS054)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE & OCCUPANCY RATING

8.7% of households in Darenth have fewer rooms than required, and 6.2% have fewer bedrooms than required. This implies that those households are overcrowded.

Table 4: Household size and occupancy ratings, 2021

	Darenth		Dartford		KCC Area	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
All Households	1,154		45,696		648,393	
Average household size (persons)	2.7		2.5		2.4	
Occupancy rating (rooms) of -1 or less¹	100	8.7%	3,401	7.4%	34,764	5.4%
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) of -1 or less	71	6.2%	2,581	5.6%	23,093	3.6%

Source: ONS – 2021 Census (T2017, TS052, TS053)

¹ Occupancy rating measures whether a household is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. A rating of -1 or less indicates that a household has fewer rooms than required (overcrowded). The number of rooms is taken from Valuation Office Agency (VOA) administrative data.

HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES

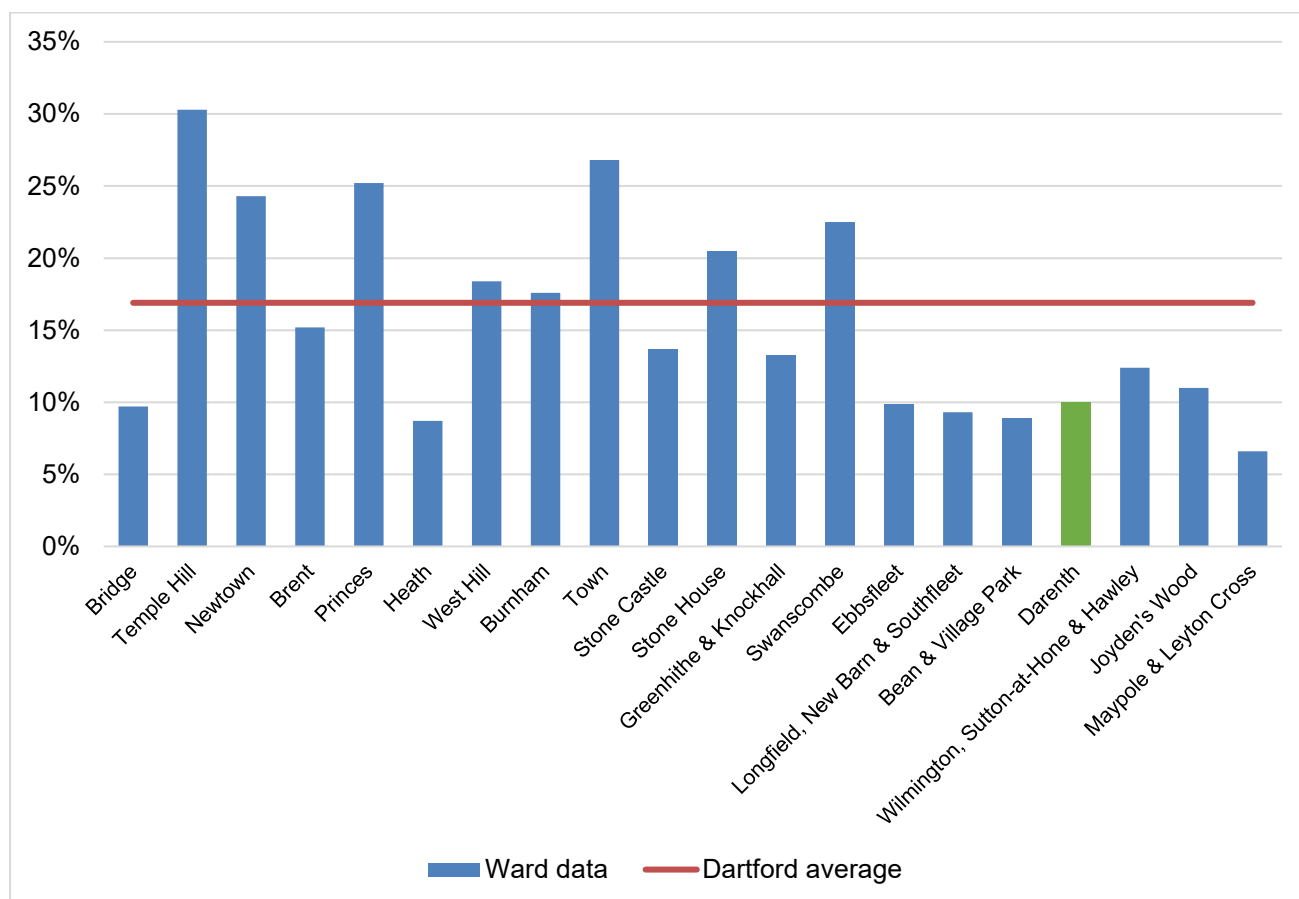
Table 5: Household amenities, 2021

	Darenth		Dartford		KCC Area	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
All Households	1,154		45,696		648,393	
Has central heating	1,142	99.0%	45,073	98.6%	639,907	98.7%
No car or van in household	115	10.0%	7,700	16.9%	113,321	17.5%

Source: ONS – 2021 Census (TS045, TS046)

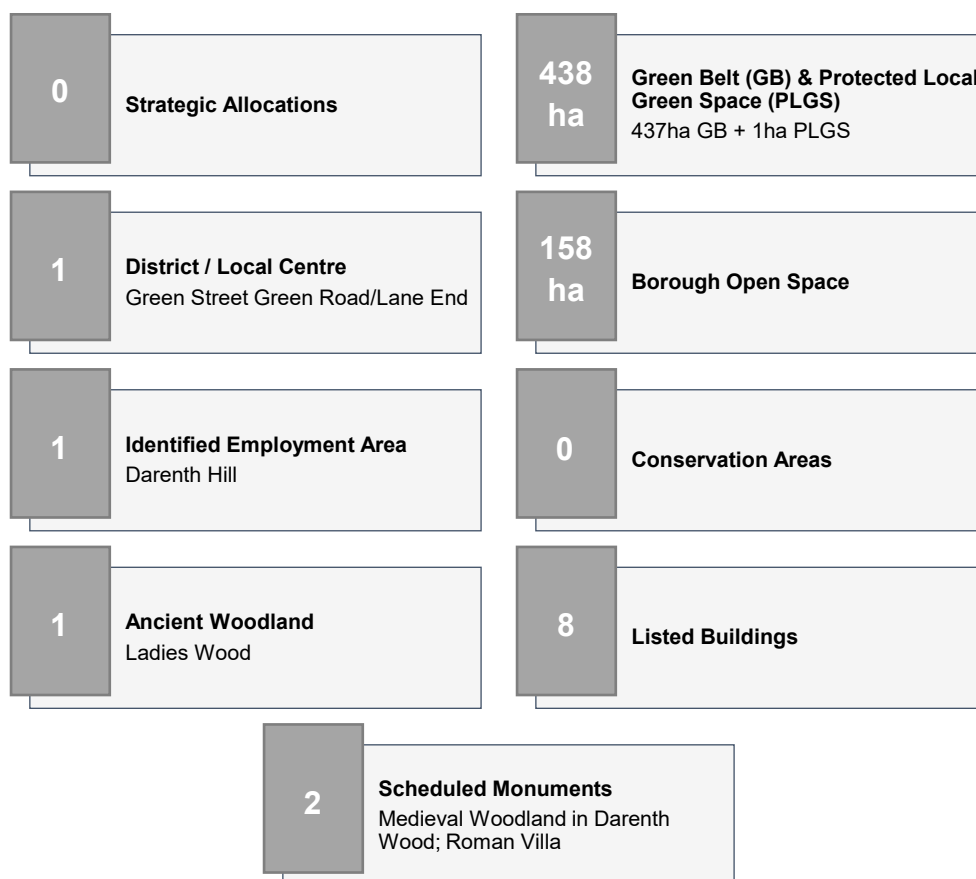
The chart below shows the various levels of car ownership in wards across the Borough against the Dartford average.

Chart 12: Percentage of households with no car or van by ward, 2021



PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE

DEVELOPMENT PLAN DESIGNATIONS



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge on development that allows Dartford Borough Council to raise and pool contributions from developers towards the funding of a wide range of infrastructure. The Council introduced its CIL charging scheme on 1 April 2014.

A limited (nationally set) portion of Dartford's CIL receipts are transferred towards the local neighbourhood level, for appropriate smaller projects. CIL Regulations require that 15% of CIL receipts received from development within a local parish/town council area is transferred by the Council to those parish/town councils.

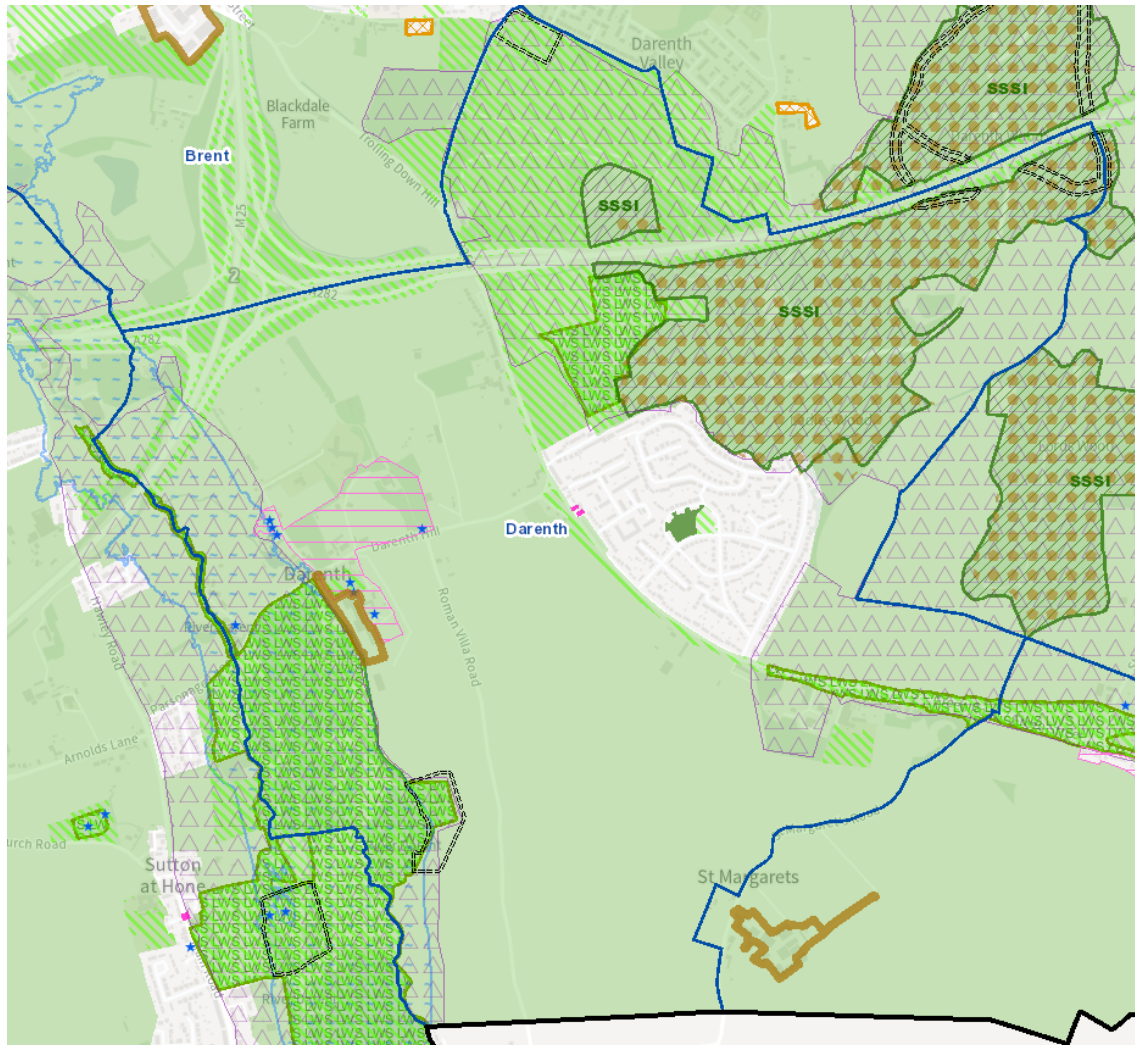
In 2023/24, total CIL receipts amounting to £2,248.80 were transferred to Darenth Parish Council.

Further information can be found in the latest Infrastructure Funding Statement [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT POLICIES MAP

The Development Policies Map for the area covering Darenth is shown below. An interactive version of the map and the key can be found [online here](#).

Figure 2: Development Policies Map for Darenth



Source: Dartford Borough Council