

# **UNDERSTANDING THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTH WEST**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY  
DISTRICT SUMMARY:**

**WEST LANCASHIRE**

**JUNE 2009**



West Lancashire contains one of the 47 communities considered within the regional study of coastal communities across the North West<sup>1</sup>. This summary offers a high level extract of analysis into those communities.

- **Banks** is not a large community but has seen good population growth between 2001 and 2007, particularly in the age band 16 . 29 years<sup>2</sup>. It has a limited economic role and given its location (on the southern tip of West Lancashire) the community supplies most of its labour to Southport<sup>3</sup>. The large expanse of marshland in this area means Banks has a limited relationship with the coast.

Data relating to the socio-economic and environmental characteristics of each settlement can be found in the %Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West . Data Workbook+. This data can be brought together to provide a detailed picture for the coastal communities within West Lancashire. The table below records the relative performance of each settlement against a set of summary indicators. It defines the performance of each community with reference to the sub-regional average for each indicator<sup>4</sup>.

Community	Population	Aged Pop.	Pop Growth	Low Income	Car Ownership	Deprivation	Unemployment	Retail & Hospitality	Access to Services	Employment Centre	House Ownership	Private Rented Housing
Banks	3,363	=	+	-	-	-	-	=	-	-	+	-
= about average, + more than average, - less than average gaps indicate where Lower Super Output Area analysis was not possible for some settlements												

<sup>1</sup> Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West; Rural Innovation; June 2009

<sup>2</sup> See Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West . Data Workbook; 2001 Population and 2001 . 2007 Population Change

<sup>3</sup> See Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West . Data Workbook; 2001 Travel to Work Out

<sup>4</sup> A sub-regional rather than regional average has been used because of the significant impact of communities within Merseyside on the overall regional data. See main report, Geographic Analysis (page 6)

## Typology

Within the main report four typologies of coastal communities have been identified; large urban areas, working towns by the sea, maritime towns and settlements of choice<sup>5</sup>.

Banks has been categorised as a Settlement of Choice. These are popular communities made even more attractive by the high quality environment of their coastal location. They have a strong link to the sea and have often developed around their role as a harbour or haven. The coastal location of these settlements is a very real asset yet it risks prejudicing their future as sustainable communities . both in terms of low carbon living and the balance and vibrancy of their population and business stock. These communities tend not to have structural social economic problems requiring bold intervention. Instead they need gentle but positive management to ensure they remain relatively balanced communities able to meet the obligations of sustainable living.

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<sup>5</sup> See main report, Functional Typology of Coastal Settlements (page 82)