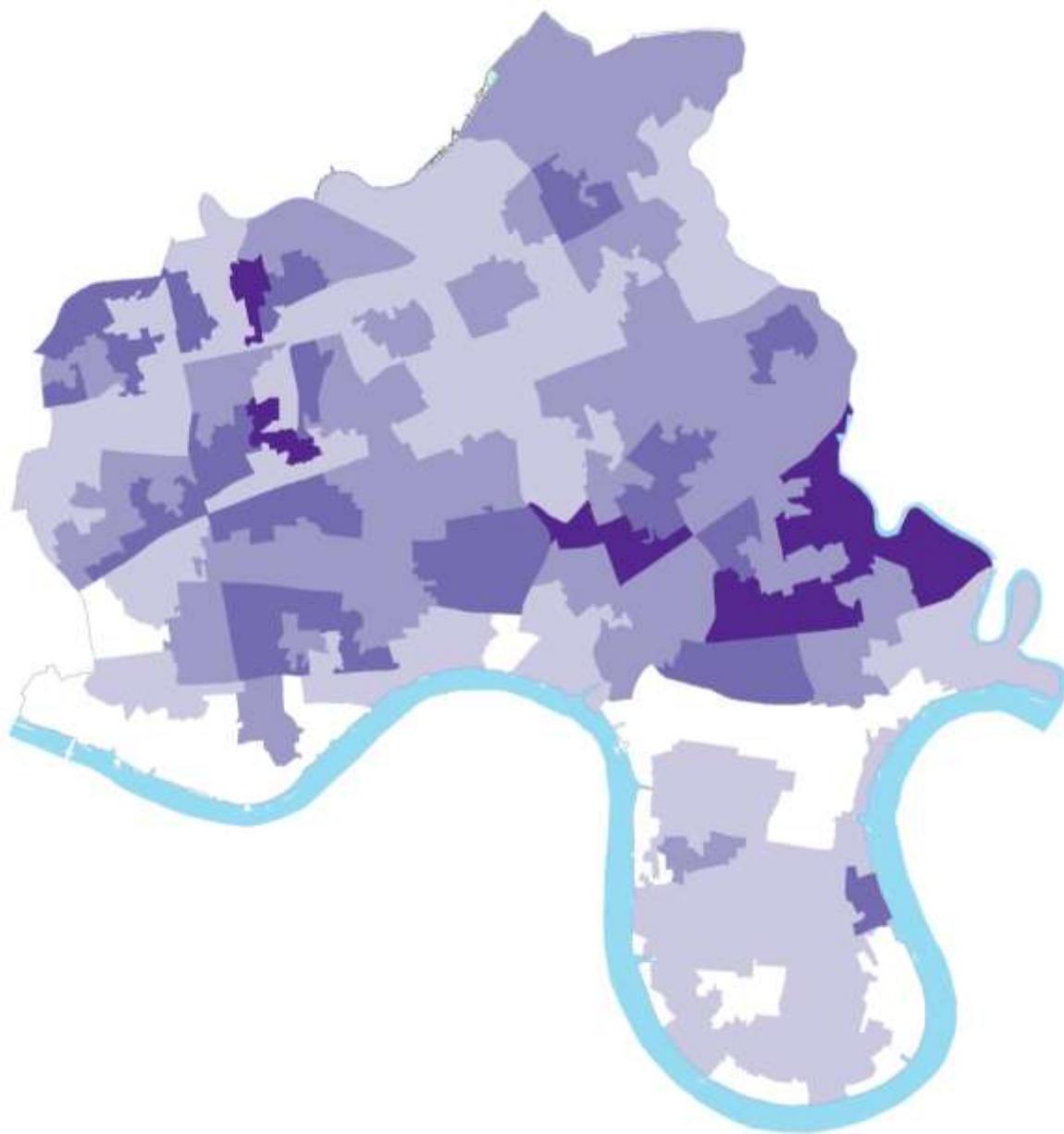


# Deprivation in Tower Hamlets

Analysis of the 2015 Indices of Deprivation data



**Tower Hamlets Council**  
**Corporate Strategy and Equality Service | Corporate Research Unit**

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Cover: The map image shows a representation of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 at LSOA level (national percentiles). See page 9 for a more detailed version with shading/categories explained.

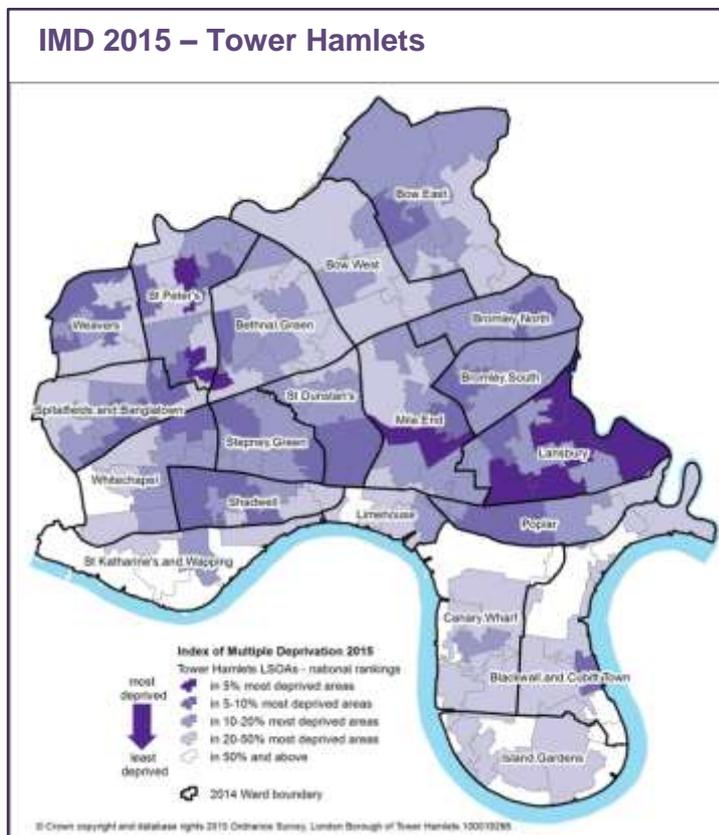
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### Summary

The *Indices of Deprivation 2015* provide a relative measure of deprivation for small areas across England. The indices were published by DCLG in September 2015 and replace the 2010 indices as the official measure of deprivation in England. This report explores the data for Tower Hamlets.

#### Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

- Deprivation is widespread in Tower Hamlets: more than half (58 per cent) of the borough's 144 Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the most deprived 20 per cent of LSOAs in England, according to the *Index of Multiple Deprivation*.
- **One quarter (24 per cent) of Tower Hamlets LSOAs are in the most deprived ten per cent of LSOAs in England.**
- Within the borough, the most highly deprived areas – which fall into the five per cent most deprived LSOAs nationally – are mainly clustered in the **East of the borough in the Lansbury and Mile End area**. The least deprived areas in the borough are in the riverside areas of St.Katharine's Dock, Wapping, and the Isle of Dogs.



- To complement the 'official' data at LSOA level, the LGA has produced IMD estimates for wards. The four wards in the East of the borough - **Lansbury, Bromley South, Mile End, and Bromley North** – are the most deprived wards within the borough on the IMD. Two thirds of the borough's wards (13 out of 20) are in the most deprived ten per cent of wards in England.
- While deprivation in Tower Hamlets is widespread, **none of the borough's LSOAs appear in the most severely deprived areas in England** (ie the most deprived one per cent of areas) – most of these areas are in the North West, North East and Yorkshire regions – none are in London.

#### Tower Hamlets' position on the IMD relative to England

- At local authority level, the IMD is often summarised using five key measures which are designed to profile the level and patterns of deprivation across LSOAs within an area. These should be considered together – no one measure is favoured over another. The first two capture the 'average' picture across the borough while the other three focus on profiling more highly deprived areas.

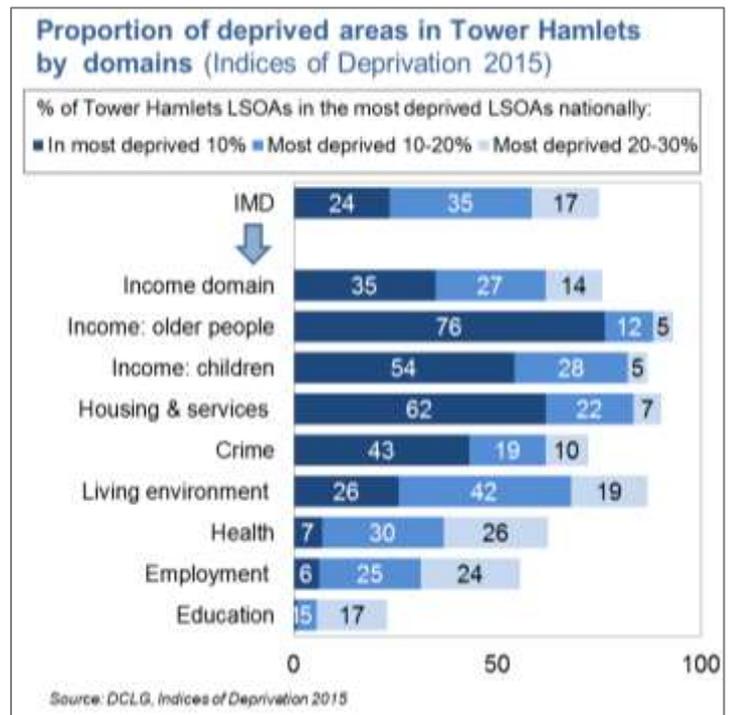
- On the *average IMD score* measure – which reflects the average level of deprivation across all LSOAs in an area – Tower Hamlets **is the 10th most deprived area in England out of 326 local authority areas**. This is a slight improvement since the 2010 IMD which ranked Tower Hamlets as 7th most deprived on this measure.
- The *average IMD rank* is a similar measure but is based on average LSOA rankings in an area (so is less affected by extreme scores in an area). On this measure, Tower Hamlets is ranked as the **6th most deprived local authority in England**, again a slight improvement on the 2010 ranking (3rd most deprived).
- On the *extent* measure – a weighted measure of the proportion of the population living in 30 per cent most deprived areas – Tower Hamlets **is the 3rd most deprived area**, unchanged from 2010.
- On the *most deprived ten per cent* measure – which measures the proportion of LSOAs in an area that are in the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England - Tower Hamlets **is ranked 24th most deprived in England**, a marked improvement on its 2010 ranking of 7<sup>th</sup> most deprived. The percentage of the borough's LSOAs that are in the ten per cent most deprived nationally dropped from 40 per cent to 24 per cent between the two indices.
- On the *local concentration* measure – which compares the severity of deprivation in the most deprived parts of each local authority area – Tower Hamlets is ranked **81st most deprived out of 326 areas in England**. On this measure, Tower Hamlets has also seen significant improvement in its position relative to other areas, since the 2010 IMD, when it was ranked 38th.
- Considered together, the rankings show that **while deprivation remains widespread, Tower Hamlets now contains fewer of the most highly deprived areas in England**. Similar changes have been observed in the neighbouring London boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Greenwich.
- Across London region as a whole, the proportion of LSOAs that fall into the most deprived ten per cent of areas nationally has fallen from 8 to 6 per cent between the 2010 and 2015 indices. The North West continues to have the highest proportion of deprived LSOAs of all regions (20 per cent).
- It should be borne in mind that changes in IMD rankings reflect relative, as opposed to absolute, changes. This means an improvement in our ranking does not necessarily mean deprivation levels have lessened in Tower Hamlets (eg it could mean that they have remained the same in the borough but have got worse elsewhere).

### Tower Hamlets within the London Context

- Despite improvements in the borough's position relative to areas nationally on the IMD, Tower Hamlets remains highly deprived relative to other London Boroughs. Tower Hamlets is the most deprived borough in London on three of the five summary measures (the average score, the extent and the most deprived ten per cent measures). On the average rank and concentration measures, Tower Hamlets is ranked third most deprived in London.

**Drivers of deprivation: the ‘domains’**

- The IMD is made up of seven ‘domains’ which capture different dimensions of deprivation. Tower Hamlets fares worst on the *income deprivation, barriers to housing & services* and *crime* domains.
- The **income domain** measures the proportion of residents in an area who are experiencing income deprivation. On this measure, one quarter of Tower Hamlets residents are income deprived - the borough is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> highest in England on this measure, and highest in London.
- Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of both **children** (39 per cent) and **older people** (50 per cent) living in income deprived households in England.



- On the income domain, just over one third of the borough’s LSOAs fall into the ten per cent most income deprived areas in England. On the income deprivation affecting children and older people measures, the proportions are very high: over half (54 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs are highly deprived on the children index and **three quarters of areas are highly deprived on the income deprivation affecting older people index.**
- On the **barriers to housing and services domain** – almost two thirds (62 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs fall into the most deprived ten per cent of areas nationally. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion nationally, after Newham. The borough’s relative position is driven by the *wider barriers sub-domain* part of the indicator – which captures housing issues relating to overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability. On this sub-domain, three quarters of the borough’s LSOAs are very highly deprived (in the 5 per cent most deprived nationally).
- On the **crime domain** – 43 per cent of the borough’s LSOAs are in the most deprived decile of areas in England – the 5th highest proportion nationally, (after the boroughs of Lambeth, Newham, Islington and Hackney). Inner London boroughs dominate the list of highly ranked areas on the crime domain.
- The borough is also relatively deprived on the **living environment** domain: over one quarter (26 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs fall within the ten per cent most deprived in England on this domain (35<sup>th</sup> highest out of 326 boroughs). This reflects very high deprivation scores on the *outdoors sub-domain* part of the measure which relates to air quality and road traffic accidents. On this sub-domain, **one third of the borough’s LSOAs are highly deprived and fall into the one per cent of the most deprived LSOAs in England.**
- On the **health domain**, the picture is bit more mixed. Compared with areas nationally, the borough has a relatively low share of the most health deprived areas in England: seven per cent of the borough’s LSOAs are in the most deprived decile in England (ranked 98<sup>th</sup> highest

out of 326 areas nationally). However, the borough has a relatively high proportion (more than half) of its LSOAs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived deciles, and within London, Tower Hamlets ranks as the most deprived borough in terms of its average health deprivation score (across LSOAs).

- On the **employment domain**, the borough has a relatively low share of the most employment deprived areas nationally: six per cent of the borough's LSOAs are in the ten per cent most deprived in England – ranked 118 out of 326 areas in England. However, the borough has a relatively high proportion (around half) of LSOAs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived deciles. Areas outside London, particularly in the North West and North East, dominate the list of the most employment deprived areas nationally.
- Of the seven domains, the **education domain** is the measure the borough is least deprived on. In common with other London Boroughs, very few LSOAs in Tower Hamlets are highly deprived on the education domain. Indeed, only one LSOA in the borough appears in the ten per cent most deprived areas in England. This is likely to reflect higher levels of educational attainment among children in the borough, and London, relative to areas outside London.

### Conclusions

The analysis shows that while deprivation remains widespread in Tower Hamlets, the borough now contains fewer of the most highly deprived areas in England. Similar changes were observed in the neighbouring boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Greenwich; these boroughs, alongside Tower Hamlets, were the areas that saw the biggest falls in the proportion of their areas that were highly deprived relative to other areas.

It is worth noting that changes between the 2010 and 2015 indices are underpinned by statistics that mainly relate to the years 2008 and 2012/13. This was a period of recession and, in the case of London, the run up to the 2012 Olympics. In addition, Tower Hamlets, along with its neighbouring boroughs, all saw significant population growth, and change, over this period. These could all be potentially relevant factors in considering the changing relativities in deprivation between areas in and outside of London.

Despite improvements in the borough's relative position on the IMD, it remains highly deprived on some of the measures that underpin the overall index, particularly those relating to: income deprivation (especially among children and older people), housing barriers and crime. The borough also remains highly deprived in relation to other London Boroughs.

## 1 About this report

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 (ID2015) provide a relative measure of deprivation at small area level across England. The new indices were published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in September 2015 and replace the 2010 indices (ID2010) as the official measure of deprivation in England. The indices were constructed by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion on DCLG's behalf.

The data are used to identify areas where disadvantage are concentrated and to inform decisions around funding allocation and targeting of programmes. DCLG has published detailed analysis of the [ID2015 results](#) for England.

This report focuses on Tower Hamlets and profiles patterns of relative deprivation within the borough, and assesses the borough's position within both the national (England) and London context. Throughout this report, the term 'national' is used to refer to England.

The report aims:

- to explain what the indices are and how they should be used;
- to analyse patterns of deprivation across small areas in Tower Hamlets;
- to consider Tower Hamlets' position against other local authorities in England, and within London, on a range of different summary measures of deprivation;
- to explore, and map, the different measures that underpin the Index of Multiple Deprivation to identify the drivers of deprivation in Tower Hamlets.

### 1.1 Defining deprivation

Definitions, and measures, of deprivation vary and are the focus of considerable discussion. The concept of deprivation that the indices aspire to measure is based on the definitions outlined in Peter Townsend's pivotal analysis of poverty and deprivation (*Poverty in the United Kingdom, 1979*). Townsend argues that poverty is a **relative** concept:

*'Individuals, families and groups can be said to be in poverty if they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved in the societies to which they belong'*

He also argues that a distinction needs to be made between poverty and deprivation. So while poverty focuses on lack of financial resources and means, deprivation is a wider concept:

*'People can be said to be deprived if they lack the types of diet, clothing, housing, household facilities and fuel and environmental, educational, working and social conditions, activities and facilities which are customary ...'*

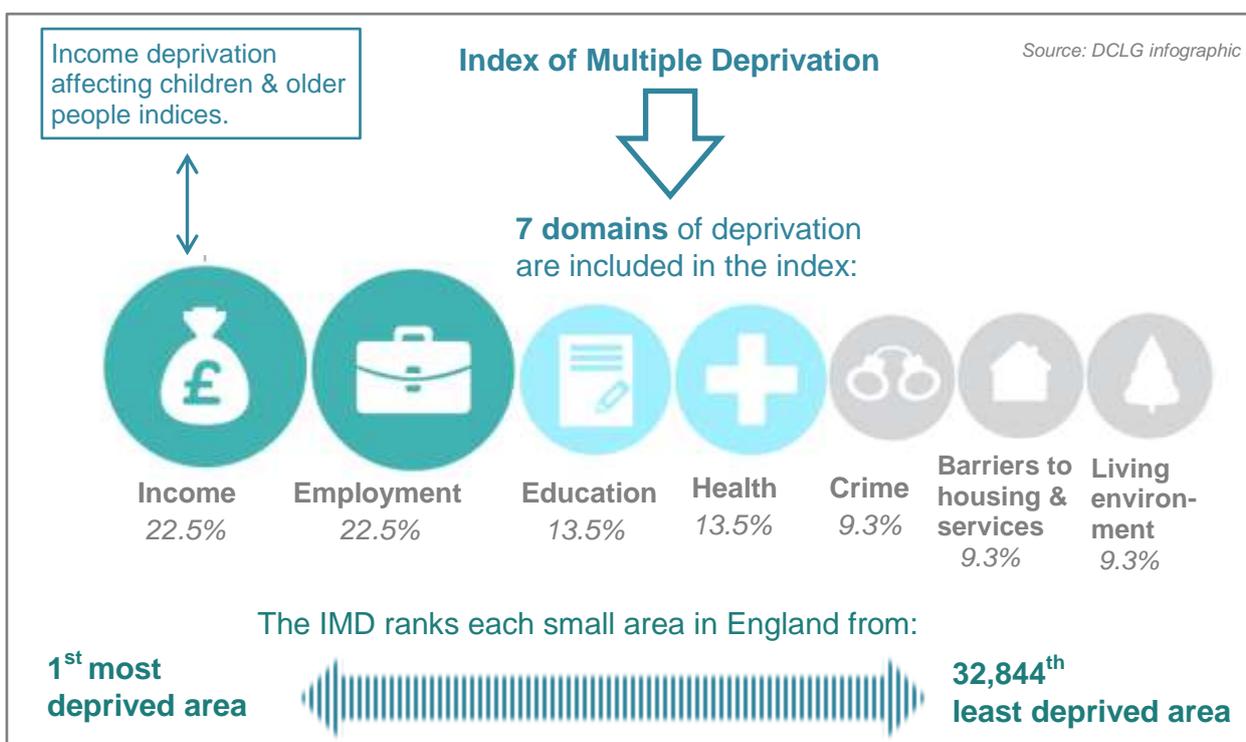
These concepts underpin the indices, and importantly, the whole notion of multiple deprivation, where more than one dimension of deprivation is experienced.

## 1.2 The Index of Multiple Deprivation

In line with the theory, the indices comprise a wide range of indicators which measure different aspects of deprivation. Various statistical techniques<sup>1</sup> are used to standardise and combine the data in a sensible way, to produce a set of deprivation scores and rankings. The statistics allow the most and least deprived areas in England to be identified.

The most commonly used part of the indices is the Index of Multiple of Deprivation (IMD) which is designed to measure deprivation in its broadest sense, reflecting the multiple issues many deprived households face. The IMD is a combination of 37 indicators across seven broad ‘domains’. The income and employment domains each carry the highest weights when combined into the overall index (Figure 1). While the IMD is the most widely used part of the indices, the domain data provide valuable information about dimensions and drivers of deprivation. The indices also include two supplementary measures profiling income deprivation among children and older people.

Figure 1: The Indices of Deprivation 2015: IMD, domains and weights



## 1.3 Geographical areas

The indices rank 32,844 small areas in England against each other in terms of their relative deprivation. These areas are called **Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)**. In Tower Hamlets, there are 144 LSOAs which typically cover populations of between 1,000 and 3,000. Summary indicators at the local authority level are also produced for 326 areas. In addition to the official DCLG LSOA indices, the LGA has produced ward level estimates which are summarised later.

<sup>1</sup> DCLG, The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 – [Technical Report](#)

#### 1.4 Interpreting scores and rankings

Each LSOA is given a deprivation score across each of the indices. When considering the data, it is important to bear in mind that:

- The overall scores for areas are a summary of the level and type of deprivation in that area - **not all deprived people live in deprived areas, and not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived.**
- The indices are designed to identify deprivation and **should not be used to identify affluence** (ie the least deprived areas are not necessarily the most affluent).
- In the case of the IMD, the scores used are relative to each other and do not indicate an absolute value (eg an IMD score of 40 does not mean that an LSOA is twice as deprived as an LSOA with a score of 20, but it does mean that the area with the score of 40 is more deprived than the area with a score of 20).

In this report, a rank of 1 is always the most deprived. LSOA ranks range from 1 to 32,844, local authority rankings range from 1 to 326. In this report, additional rankings have also been produced for within London (from 1 to 33). The concept of percentiles (and deciles) are also used to present the position or ranking of Tower Hamlets LSOAs relative to other LSOAs in England. For example, the bottom decile (or 10th percentile) would refer to the most deprived ten per cent of LSOAs in England.

#### 1.5 Timing and interpreting data on change

This report focuses on the latest data, but also presents some analysis of how rankings have changed since the 2010 indices. Both indices were produced using the same methodology; however, **comparisons over time need to be interpreted with care.** The following points should be borne in mind:

- **The indices are about relative deprivation not absolute changes.**  
Change data show how the borough's position has changed relative to other areas in England. This means an improvement in our ranking (eg from 3rd to 7th most deprived) does not necessarily mean deprivation levels have lessened in Tower Hamlets - it could mean that the levels of deprivation in Tower Hamlets are the same as before, but levels have got worse elsewhere. Also, if the rank is unchanged, this does not necessarily mean deprivation levels are unchanged.
- **Data underpinning the indices have been revised / changed.**  
The 2011 Census data release has led to significant revisions of LSOA level population estimates, which are denominators for most indicators. This means changes could sometimes be reflecting a function of the re-basing of the population data as opposed to changes in the particular measure. In addition, new indicators have been included in the IMD 2015 (eg language proficiency, carers).
- **The IMD 2015 is not quite as up to date as it sounds** - most of the data that underpin the index mainly relate to 2012/13, and most of the data used in the 2010 indices refer to 2008. So changes between the 2010 and 2015 indices are in fact reflecting changing relativities between 2008 and 2012/13.

## 2 Index of Multiple Deprivation

### 2.1 LSOA analysis (IMD 2015)

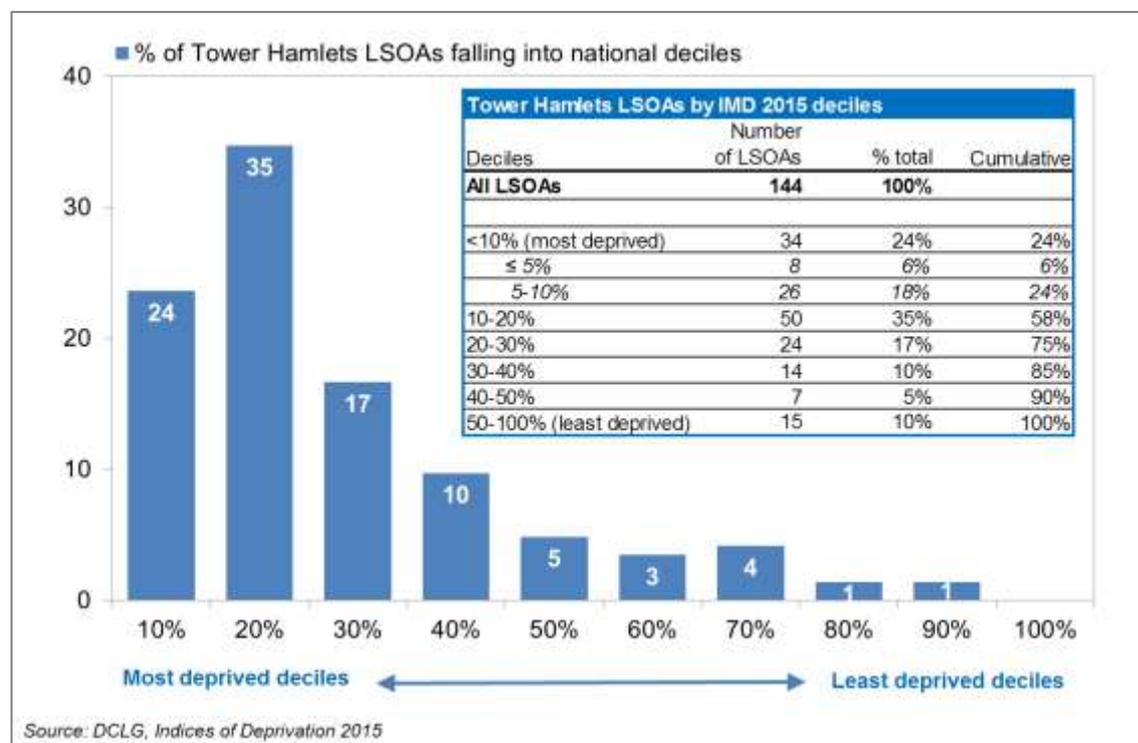
This section explores patterns of deprivation within the borough by profiling the IMD rankings for the 144 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Tower Hamlets. LSOAs are small geographical areas used for statistical purposes and in Tower Hamlets, they typically cover a population of between 1,000-3,000 people. Figure 2 shows the proportion of LSOAs falling into national IMD deciles<sup>2</sup> (ie ten per cent intervals).

Deprivation is widespread in Tower Hamlets:

- Three quarters of the borough’s LSOAs are in the most deprived 30 per cent of LSOAs in England on the IMD 2015;
- More than half (58 per cent) are in the most deprived 20 per cent of LSOAs nationally;
- One quarter (24 per cent) of Tower Hamlets LSOAs are highly deprived and are in the ten per cent most deprived in England;
- Only ten per cent of LSOAs in Tower Hamlets are in the 50-100 per cent least deprived areas in England.

While deprivation in Tower Hamlets is widespread, none of the borough’s LSOAs appear in the most severely deprived areas in England (ie the most deprived one per cent of LSOAs in England) – most of these areas are in the North West, North East and Yorkshire regions – none are in London.

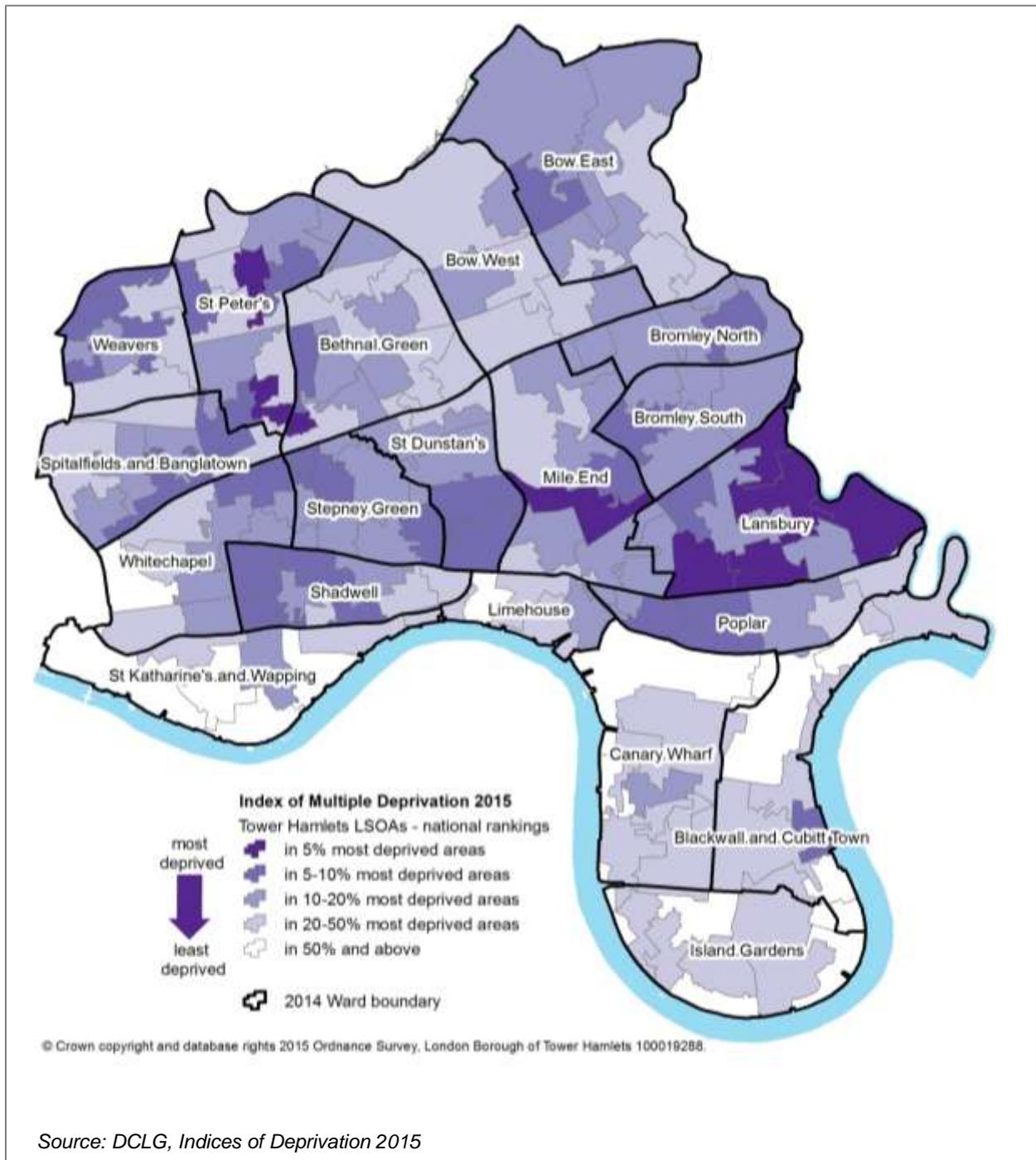
**Figure 2: Distribution of Tower Hamlets’ LSOAs on the IMD 2015**



<sup>2</sup> A percentile is the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall eg here, the bottom ‘decile’ nationally refers to the ten per cent of English LSOAs that are most deprived.

Map 1 shows the geographic distribution of relative deprivation at LSOA level across the borough. The most deprived areas – which fall into the most deprived 5 per cent of areas nationally – are mainly clustered in the East of the borough in the Lansbury and Mile End area. The least deprived areas in the borough are in the Isle of Dogs and the riverside areas of St. Katharine’s Dock and Wapping.

**Map 1: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015: LSOAs in Tower Hamlets by national percentiles.**



## 2.2 LGA ward estimates: IMD 2015

At small area level, DCLG only produces the IMD at LSOA level but it is possible to model ward level data. The Local Government Association (LGA) has recently produced a set of 2015 IMD scores for all wards in England. In the case of Tower Hamlets, where LSOAs do not nest exactly into wards in some areas, LSOAs have been allocated to wards on a best fit basis<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 3: IMD (2015): Ward scores for Tower Hamlets (LGA modelled estimates)**

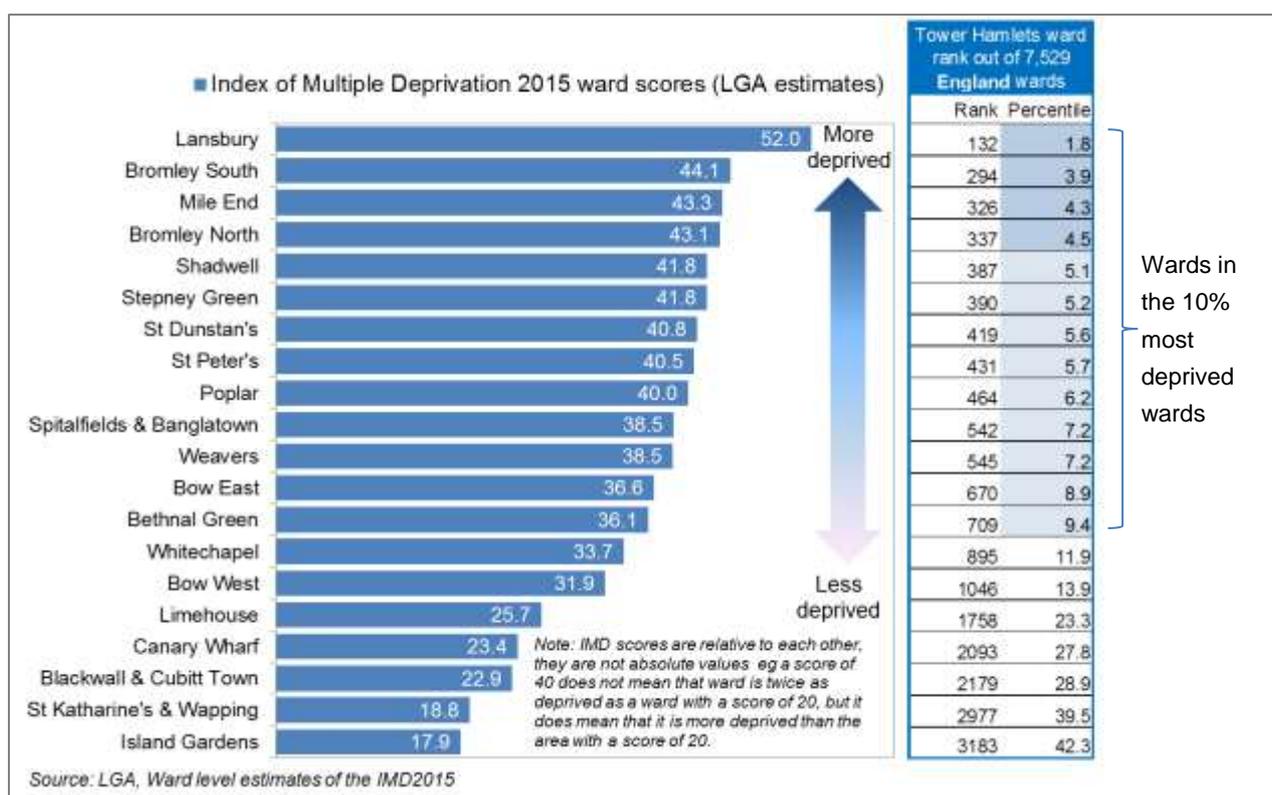


Figure 3 shows the IMD scores for Tower Hamlets wards ranked from most to least deprived.

Lansbury ward has the most deprived score within the borough and is also the third most deprived ward in London (out of 654 wards).

The four wards in the East of the borough - Lansbury, Bromley South, Mile End, and Bromley North wards - are all in the most deprived 5 per cent of wards in England.

Two thirds of the borough's wards (13 out of 20) are in the most deprived ten per cent of wards in England.

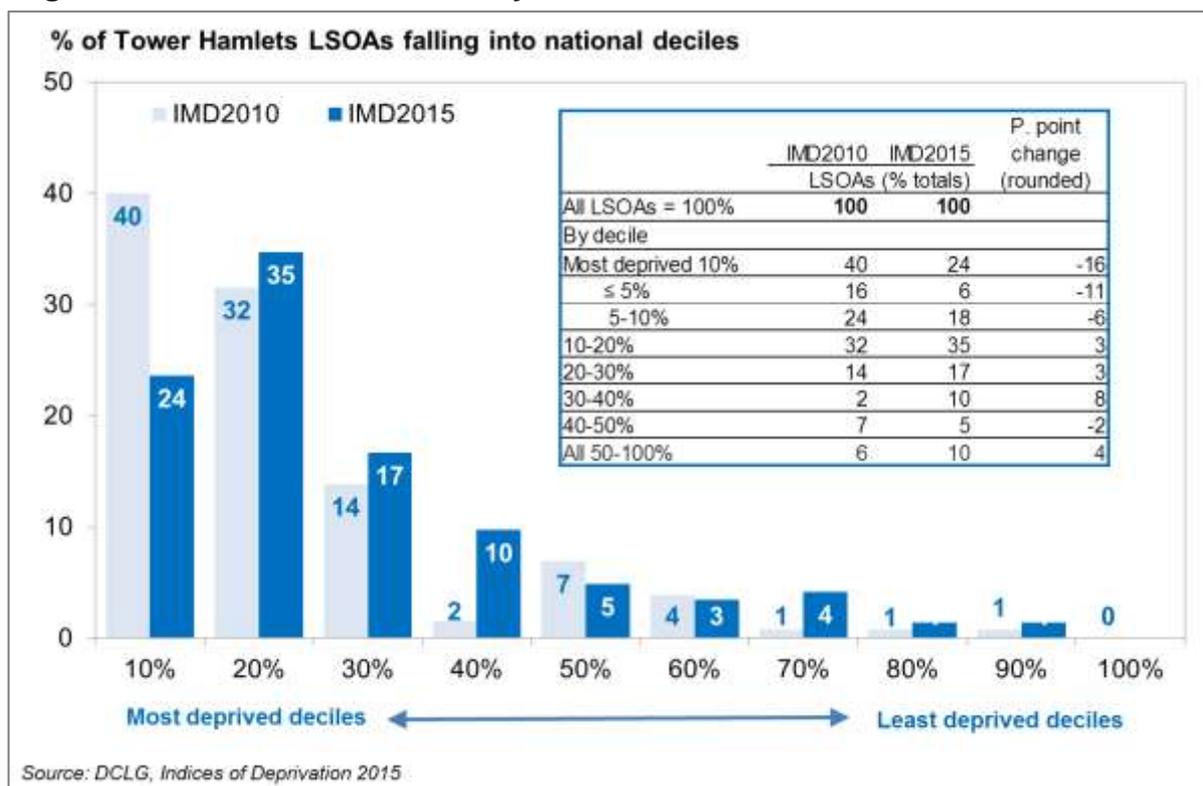
<sup>3</sup> LGA methodology: local authority ward-based IMD scores have been calculated by the LGA by producing population-weighted average scores from LSOA data. LSOAs are mapped to the ward in which the largest proportion of its area falls. For example, if 30 per cent of an LSOA is in ward A, 40 per cent is in ward B and 30 per cent is in ward C, then its score and population is allocated to ward B.

### 2.3 Change between IMD 2010 and IMD 2015: LSOA rankings

A comparison of IMD data for 2010 and 2015 at LSOA level<sup>4</sup> indicates an improvement in the borough's position relative to other areas in England:

- The percentage of the borough's LSOAs that are in the five per cent most deprived in England has fallen from 16 per cent to six per cent of LSOAs between IMD 2010 and IMD 2015.
- The percentage of the borough's LSOAs that are in the ten per cent most deprived in England has dropped from 40 per cent to 24 per cent.
- In contrast:
  - The percentage of the borough's LSOAs falling into the 10-40 per cent most deprived areas in England has increased from 47 to 61 per cent.
  - Ten per cent of the borough's LSOAs now appear in the least deprived half of all areas in England (up from six per cent in the IMD 2010).

**Figure 4: Tower Hamlets LSOAs by national deciles, IMD 2010 and IMD 2015**



Change data need careful interpretation. They show the change in an LSOA's position **relative** to other areas in England. So, if an LSOA's decile position is less deprived than before, this does not necessarily mean deprivation levels have lessened in that LSOA, it could mean that the levels of deprivation have got worse in LSOAs elsewhere.

<sup>4</sup> The number of LSOAs in Tower Hamlets increased from 130 to 144 between the 2010 and 2015 indices, and some boundaries have changed. For this reason, proportions (as opposed to numbers) are compared to assess the changing position of borough LSOAs relative to other areas.

## 2.4 Local authority IMD summary measures

Deprivation across small areas is summarised at local authority level using various measures. These allow 326 local authority areas<sup>5</sup> to be ranked according to how deprived their LSOAs are relative to each other. Five key measures are used to summarise the IMD at local authority level; these measures reflect different dimensions of levels and patterns of multiple deprivation in an area. They are designed to be considered together and no one measure is favoured over another (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Guide to local authority level summary IMD measures**

Average score (across LSOAs)	Depicts the average level of deprivation across the entire borough by taking a population weighted average of the combined IMD scores for all the LSOAs in the borough.
Average rank (across LSOAs)	Also shows the average level of deprivation across the borough but uses average IMD ranks (ie population weighted average of the combined LSOA ranks) instead of scores, so is less affected by the impact of extreme scores.
Extent	The extent measure <sup>6</sup> is a weighted measure that considers the proportion of the population living in 30 per cent most deprived areas within the borough. The measure is weighted towards more deprived areas, so considers all of those living in the ten per cent most deprived LSOAs but a declining 'sliding scale' proportion of those in in the next two - this avoids the cliff edge cut off of the ten per cent measure below.
Most deprived ten per cent	Measures the proportion of LSOAs in an area that are in the ten per cent most deprived in England (as illustrated in figure 7)
Local Concentration	Captures the severity of deprivation in each authority's most deprived areas (compares how deprived hot spots of deprivation are in each area). The measure is a population weighted average of the ranks of a local authority district's most deprived LSOAs that contain exactly ten per cent of the area's population.

**Table 1: Tower Hamlets IMD rankings (national): Local authority summary measures on the 2010 and 2015 IMD**

	2010	2015	Change
	Tower Hamlets rankings out of 326 areas		in ranking
<i>1=most deprived in England, 326= least deprived</i>			
<b>IMD summary measures:</b>			
Average IMD score (across LSOAs)	7	10	+3
Average IMD rank (across LSOAs)	3	6	+3
Extent	3	3	0
Local concentration (profiles worst 10%)	38	81	+43
Proportion of areas in most deprived 10% nationally	7	24	+17

Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2010 and 2015

<sup>5</sup> Local authority summary data compare 326 areas at district/unitary level ie. district councils, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and the London boroughs.

<sup>6</sup> On the extent measure, 100% of the people living in the 10% most deprived LSOAs are captured in the numerator, plus a proportion of the population of those LSOAs in the next two deciles on a sliding scale (ie 95% of the population of the LSOA at the 11th percentile, and 5% at the 29th percentile).

## 2.5 Tower Hamlets' rankings: IMD 2010 and IMD 2015

The first two measures capture the 'average' picture across the borough while the other three focus on more highly deprived areas. [Table 1](#) summarises Tower Hamlets national rankings on the IMD 2010 and IMD 2015 on all five measures:

- The average IMD score measure – which reflects the average level of multiple deprivation across all LSOAs in an area – shows that Tower Hamlets is the **10th most deprived** local authority district in England out of 326 local authority areas. This is a slight improvement since the IMD 2010 which ranked Tower Hamlets 7th most deprived on this measure.
- The average IMD rank is a similar measure but is based on average LSOA rankings in an area (so less affected by extreme scores in an area). On this measure, Tower Hamlets is ranked as the **6th most deprived** local authority in England, again a slight improvement on the 2010 ranking (3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived).
- On the extent measure – a weighted measure of the proportion of the population living in 30% most deprived areas) – Tower Hamlets is ranked **3rd most deprived**, unchanged from 2010.
- On the most deprived ten per cent measure – which captures the proportion of LSOAs in an area that are in the ten per cent most deprived in England – Tower Hamlets is ranked **24th most deprived** in England, down from 7th most deprived on the IMD 2010, a significant change in its relative position.
- On the local concentration measure – which compares the severity of deprivation in the most deprived parts of each local authority area – Tower Hamlets is ranked **81st most deprived** in England out of 326 areas. On this measure, Tower Hamlets has seen a marked improvement in its position relative to other areas, since the IMD 2010, when it was ranked 38th.

The reason the rankings vary so markedly is because each measure captures a different aspect of deprivation patterns. The average score and rank measures relate to 'average' levels of relative deprivation and take into account deprivation scores in all LSOAs across the borough, and the extent measure considers the most deprived 30 per cent of areas. On these three measures Tower Hamlets remains in the top ten most deprived areas in England, and has seen only modest changes in its rankings since the IMD 2010.

However, on the latter two measures, which focus more on highly deprived areas, Tower Hamlets rankings are less highly deprived, and the borough's position relative to other areas has seen more improvement since the IMD 2010 on both indicators.

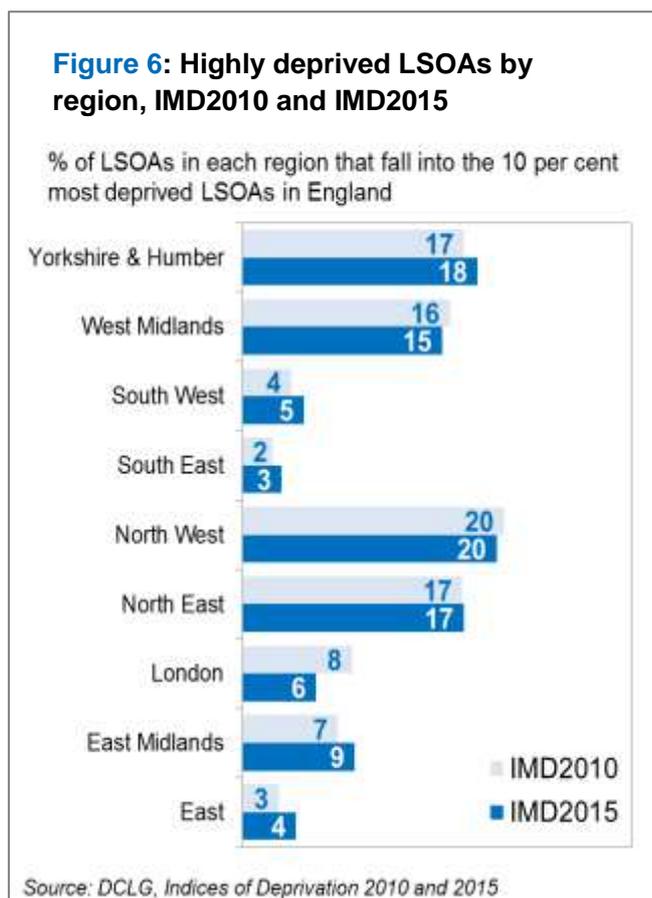
Considered together, the rankings show that while deprivation remains widespread, Tower Hamlets now contains fewer of the most highly deprived areas in England. Similar patterns are evident in the neighbouring boroughs of Hackney, Newham, and Greenwich, which have also become less deprived **relative** to other areas. London borough patterns are explored further in [section 2.7](#).

## 2.6 The regional picture

At a regional level, London has seen the biggest improvement in relative deprivation levels. The proportion of London LSOAs that fall into the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England has fallen from 8.4 to 5.7 per cent since the IMD 2010, the most significant change across all English regions.

Across the regions, the North West continues to have the highest share of deprived LSOAs: one fifth of LSOAs in the North West fall into the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England.

Areas in the North West, North East, and Yorkshire regions feature heavily in the most deprived areas on all 5 summary measures (Table 2). Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Barking & Dagenham and Newham are the only London boroughs (shown in bold) to feature in the top ten most deprived areas on any of the five measures.



**Table 2: Ten most deprived local authority areas in England - IMD2015 measures**

Average IMD Score	Average IMD Rank	Extent	Areas in most deprived 10% nationally	Local Concentration
1	Blackpool	Manchester	Manchester	Middlesbrough
2	Knowsley	<b>Hackney</b>	Liverpool	Knowsley
3	Kingston upon Hull	<b>Barking &amp; Dagen.</b>	<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	Kingston upon Hull
4	Liverpool	Blackpool	Knowsley	Liverpool
5	Manchester	Knowsley	Middlesbrough	Manchester
6	Middlesbrough	<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	Birmingham	Birmingham
7	Birmingham	Liverpool	Nottingham	Blackpool
8	Nottingham	<b>Newham</b>	Kingston upon Hull	Nottingham
9	Burnley	Kingston upon Hull	<b>Barking &amp; Dagen.</b>	Burnley
10	<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	Nottingham	Sandwell	Hartlepool

## 2.7 The London context: Tower Hamlets' relative position within London

Despite improvements in the borough's position relative to areas in England, within London, Tower Hamlets remains highly deprived relative to other London Boroughs. Tower Hamlets is the most deprived borough in London on three of the five IMD summary measures: the average score, the extent measure and the most deprived ten per cent measure (Tables 3 and 4).

**Table 3: Tower Hamlets IMD rankings (London): Local authority summary measures**

	IMD 2010	IMD 2015	Change
	Tower Hamlets rankings out of 33 areas		in ranking
<i>1=most deprived in London, 33=least deprived</i>			
<b>IMD summary measures:</b>			
Average IMD score (across LSOAs)	3	1	-2
Average IMD rank (across LSOAs)	3	3	0
Extent	3	1	-2
Local concentration (profiles worst 10%)	1	3	+2
Proportion of areas in most deprived 10% nationally	2	1	-1
<i>Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2010 and 2015</i>			

This represents a slight worsening of the borough’s position relative to other London Boroughs, since the IMD2010, on these three measures:

- On the average IMD score measure, Tower Hamlets was ranked third highest in London in 2010, after Hackney and Newham, but is now ranked most deprived in London, followed by Hackney and Barking & Dagenham.
- On the extent measure, Tower Hamlets was ranked third highest in London on the 2010 index (after Hackney and Newham) but is now the most deprived area in London, followed by Barking and Dagenham and Hackney.
- In relation to the proportion of small areas falling into the most deprived decile in England, Tower Hamlets was ranked second highest in London after Hackney in 2010, but is now is ranked highest in London on the IMD2015. London-wide changes on this indicator are explored further below (Figure 7).

On the average IMD rank measure – the borough remains the third most deprived in London – no change from the IMD 2010. Hackney remains the most deprived borough in London on this measure.

The concentration measure – which profiles levels of deprivation in hotspot areas in each local authority area – is the only one where the borough’s relative position has improved within London: Tower Hamlets was ranked most deprived in London on this measure in 2010, but is now third most deprived, after Westminster and Haringey.

## 2.8 Areas in the most deprived decile in England: London boroughs

Figure 7 shows the proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England, for all London boroughs, on both the IMD 2010 and 2015. Tower Hamlets, along with Hackney, Newham, Greenwich and Haringey have all experienced significant improvement on this measure, relative to other areas.

The proportion of LSOAs in Tower Hamlets in the most deprived ten per cent nationally fell from 40 to 24 per cent between the two indices – a fall of 16 percentage points. Hackney and Newham saw even steeper falls over the same period (both 24 percentage points) – this is why Hackney has been replaced by Tower Hamlets, as the most deprived in London on this measure.

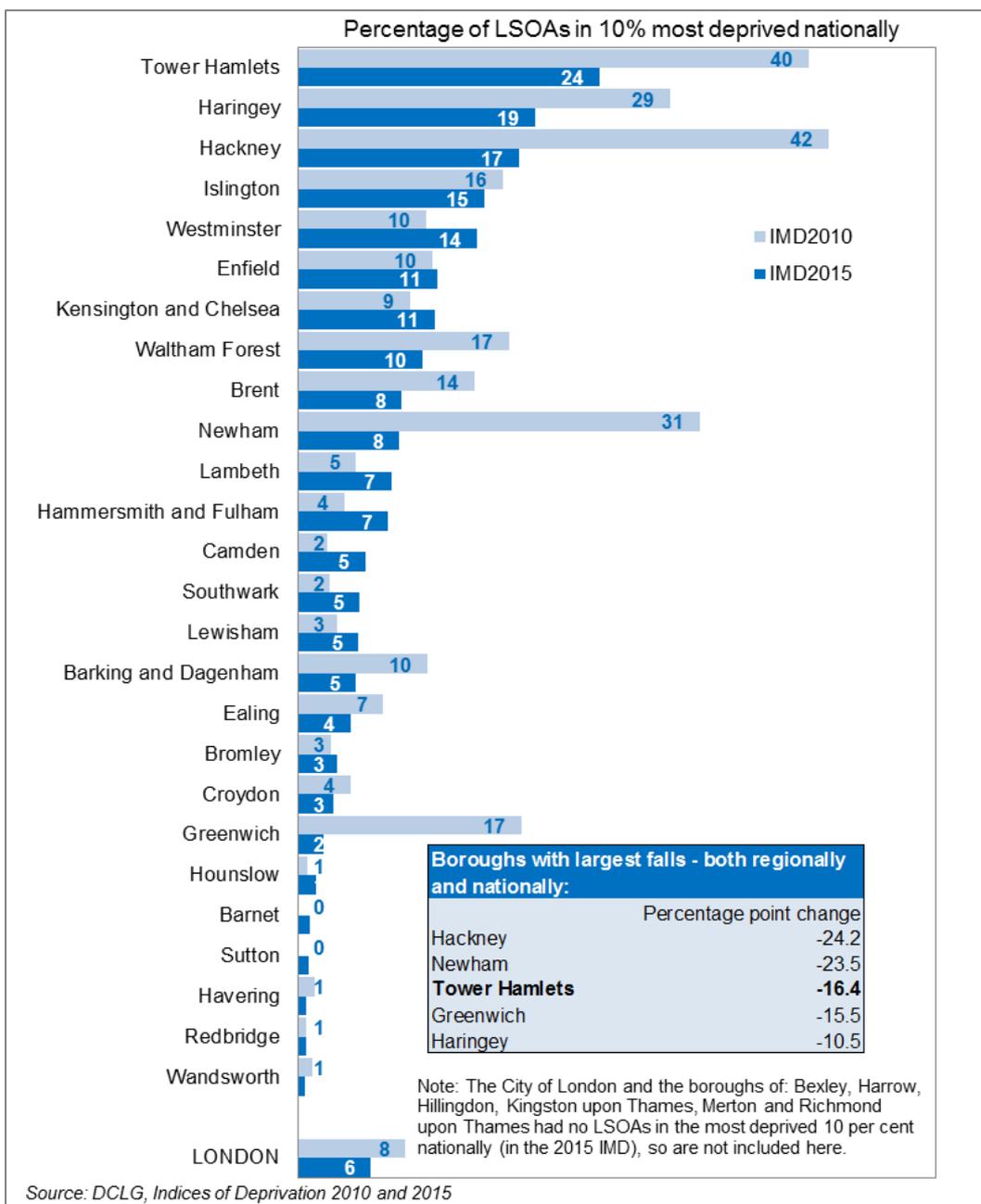
<b>Table 4: IMD 2015: National rankings on LA summary measures, London Boroughs</b>						
National IMD rankings (out of 326 Local Authority areas in England)						
<i>* Boroughs ranked from most to least deprived on this measure</i>	<b>Average IMD score*</b>	Average IMD Rank	Extent	In most deprived 10% nationally	Concentration	
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>81</b>
Hackney	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	11	49		85
Barking and Dagenham	<b>12</b>	3	9	137		127
Newham	<b>23</b>	8	25	103		116
Islington	<b>24</b>	13	26	61		90
Haringey	<b>30</b>	21	28	44		76
Waltham Forest	<b>35</b>	15	51	89		108
Southwark	<b>40</b>	23	38	135		136
Lambeth	<b>44</b>	22	63	113		128
Lewisham	<b>48</b>	26	56	136		130
Westminster	<b>57</b>	43	66	64		64
Enfield	<b>64</b>	53	53	82		104
Brent	<b>68</b>	39	92	100		105
Greenwich	<b>78</b>	50	93	173		147
Camden	<b>84</b>	69	80	131		131
Hammersmith & Fulham	<b>92</b>	76	99	117		129
Croydon	<b>96</b>	91	98	158		134
Ealing	<b>99</b>	87	113	143		141
Kensington and Chelsea	<b>104</b>	99	95	84		99
Hounslow	<b>117</b>	86	151	182		171
Redbridge	<b>138</b>	119	175	196		178
Wandsworth	<b>158</b>	147	179	197		181
Hillingdon	<b>162</b>	153	178	200		198
Havering	<b>167</b>	166	162	195		165
Barnet	<b>172</b>	157	173	189		177
Bexley	<b>191</b>	195	181	200		185
Bromley	<b>208</b>	220	163	154		154
Merton	<b>213</b>	212	204	200		204
Sutton	<b>215</b>	217	189	194		184
Harrow	<b>219</b>	213	235	200		233
City of London	<b>231</b>	226	302	200		261
Kingston upon Thames	<b>278</b>	278	262	200		276
Richmond upon Thames	<b>294</b>	296	275	200		278
<i>Tower Hamlets rank within London (1=most deprived out of 33 areas)</i>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>
<i>Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2015</i>						

In considering changes in London's position in relation to other areas, it is worth bearing in mind that the indices are not quite as up to date as they sound. Most of the data that underpin the IMD 2015 mainly relate to 2012/13 and most of the data used in the IMD 2010 refer to 2008. So changes relate to changing relativities between 2008-2012/13.

This was a period of recession and, in the case of London, the run up to the 2012 Olympics. In addition, Tower Hamlets, along with its neighbouring boroughs, all saw significant (above average) population growth over this period. These could all be potentially relevant factors in considering the changing relativities in deprivation between areas in and outside of London.

Indeed, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, Greenwich and Haringey were the only areas across England to see falls of ten percentage points or more on this measure – the five highest falls in England. Of the five, the four that experienced the highest falls (15-24 points) were all Olympic host boroughs.

**Figure 7: Percentage of LSOAs that are in the most deprived 10 per cent in England, London Boroughs, relative change between IMD2010 and IMD2015**



### 3 Drivers of deprivation – the ‘domains’

#### 3.1 The seven domains: an overview

This section explores the different measures or ‘domains’ that are combined to produce the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD is underpinned by seven ‘domains’ which capture different dimensions and drivers of deprivation.

Figure 8 profiles the indicators used to profile each domain (and sub-domain) and their relative weights. Income and employment carry the largest weights in the overall index (each 22.5%). In addition, two supplementary indices are provided on income deprivation: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI) index.

**Figure 8: Indicators underpinning each domain and sub-domain (ID2015)**

DOMAIN	WEIGHT	INDICATORS	
<b>Income deprivation</b>	22.5%	Adults & children in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Support families</li> <li>Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance families</li> <li>Income-based Employment and Support Allowance families</li> <li>Pension Credit (Guarantee) families</li> <li>Child and Working Tax Credit families not already counted</li> <li>Asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence or accommodation support, or both</li> </ul>	
<b>Employment deprivation</b>	22.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claimants of Jobseeker’s Allowance</li> <li>Claimants of Employment and Support Allowance</li> <li>Claimants of Incapacity Benefit</li> <li>Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance</li> <li>Claimants of Carer’s Allowance</li> </ul>	
<b>Health deprivation &amp; disability</b>	13.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Years of Potential Life Lost</li> <li>Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute morbidity</li> <li>Mood and anxiety disorders</li> </ul>
<b>Education, Skills &amp; Training Deprivation</b>	13.5%	<b>Children &amp; young people sub-domain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attainment - KS2</li> <li>Attainment - KS4</li> <li>Secondary school absence</li> <li>Staying on in education</li> <li>Entry to higher education</li> </ul>	<b>Adult skills sub-domain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults with no/low qualifications</li> <li>English language proficiency</li> </ul>
<b>Barriers to housing and services</b>	9.3%	<b>Geographical barriers sub-domain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road distances to: GP, supermarket or convenience store, primary school, post office.</li> </ul>	<b>Wider Barriers sub-domain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overcrowding</li> <li>Housing affordability</li> <li>Homelessness</li> </ul>
<b>Crime</b>	9.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recorded crime rates for: Burglary, Violence, Theft, Criminal damage.</li> </ul>	
<b>Living Environment</b>	9.3%	<b>Indoors living environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing in poor condition</li> <li>Houses without central heating</li> </ul>	<b>Outdoors living environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air quality</li> <li>Road traffic accidents</li> </ul>

*Note: See the ID2015 [Technical Report](#) for detail of the data sources used to measure each indicator.*

### 3.2 Borough rankings across the seven domains

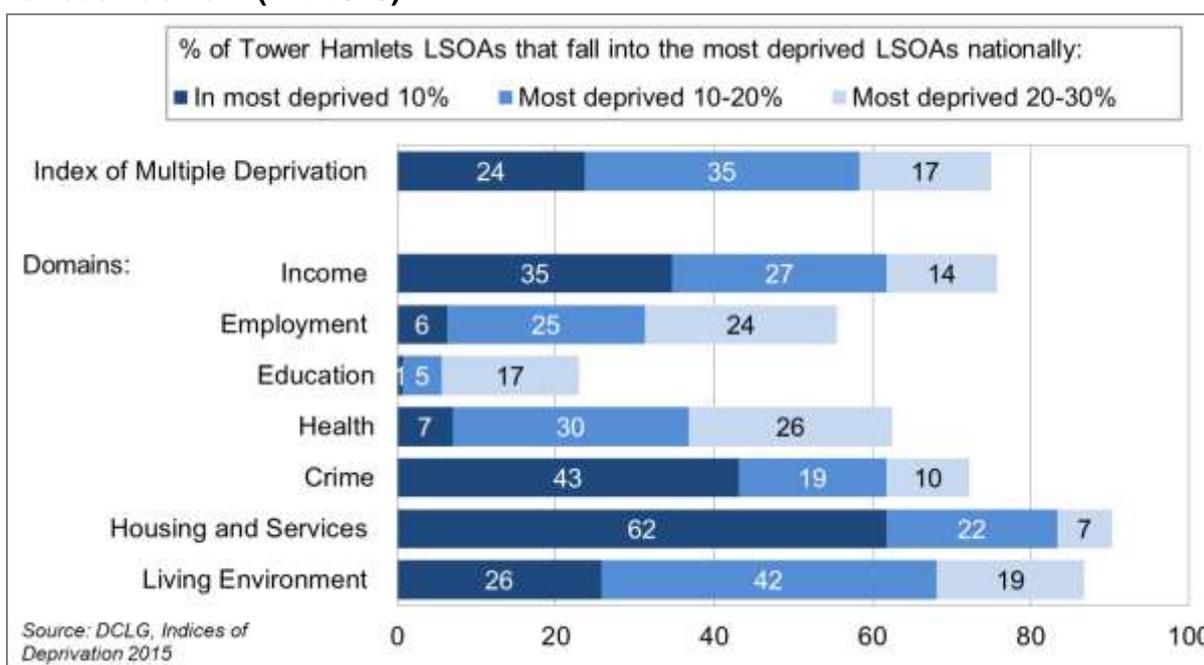
Table 5 shows borough rankings for each of the domains according to three different (local authority level) summary measures (average score, average rank and the most deprived decile measure). These show considerable variation in the borough’s position on each domain. Relative to other areas, the borough is particularly deprived on measures relating to *income deprivation, housing and crime*, but far less deprived on the *education and skills* domain.

Similarly, if we consider the proportion of LSOAs in Tower Hamlets that fall into the most deprived decile of areas nationally, the differences between domains are even more pronounced (Figure 9). On the *barriers to housing and services* domain, almost two thirds (62 per cent) of LSOAs in the borough are in the most deprived decile in England, compared to only one per cent on the education domain. The sections that follow consider Tower Hamlets’ position on each domain in more detail.

Table 5: Tower Hamlets rankings for IMD2015 domain measures			
Ranks (out of 326 areas): 1 = most deprived 326 = least deprived	Average LSOA score	Average LSOA rank	LSOAs in most deprived 10%
	Tower Hamlets ranks		
Index of Multiple Deprivation	10	6	24
By domain:			
Income deprivation	6	2	8
Employment deprivation	76	68	118
Education	167	151	252
Health deprivation & disability	56	47	98
Crime	13	13	5
Barriers to housing and services	4	5	2
Living environment	16	12	35

Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2015

Figure 9: Percentage of Tower Hamlets LSOAs among the most deprived in England for each domain (IMD2015)



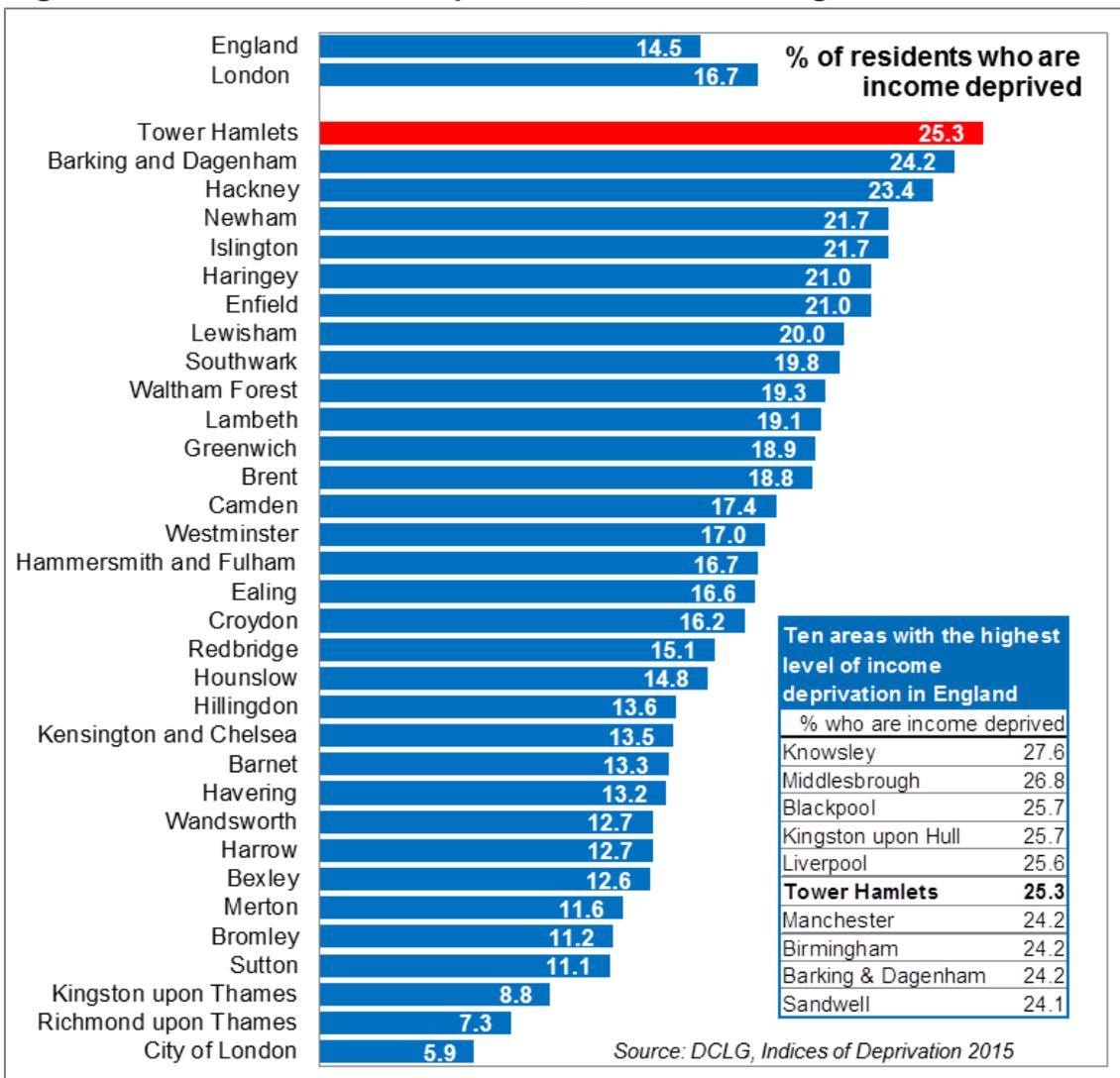
### 3.3 Income deprivation

The **income domain** measures the proportion of the population in an area that live in income deprived households – that is those living below the national ‘poverty line’ (60 per cent of median income). Data on means-tested benefits are used to estimate income deprivation, these include: Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Unlike the IMD, the income domain score is an ‘absolute’ measure that quantifies **the proportion of the population that are income deprived**. So it allows direct comparisons between areas in terms of the level of income deprivation, alongside rankings of an area’s relative position.

Tower Hamlets has very high levels of income deprivation. One quarter (25 per cent) of the Tower Hamlets population live in income deprivation – the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate of all English local authority areas, and the highest in London. The 5 most income deprived areas in England are all outside London (Knowsley, Middlesbrough, Blackpool, Hull, and Liverpool).

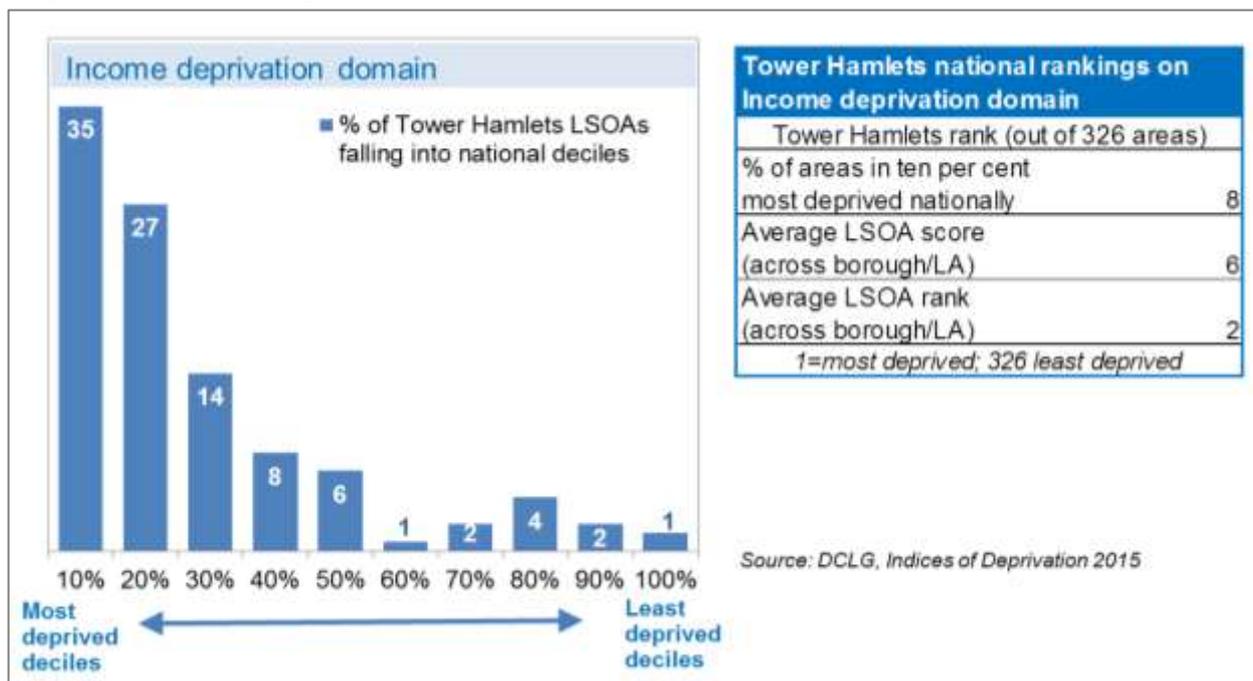
**Figure 10: Levels of income deprivation, London Boroughs**



Within London, the percentage of the population who are income deprived ranges from 25 per cent in Tower Hamlets down to 6 per cent in the City of London. After Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham (24 per cent) is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in London (and 9<sup>th</sup> highest in England).

Hackney, Newham and Islington also appear in the top 20 most deprived areas in England on this measure.

**Figure 11: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles: Income deprivation domain**



The borough has a relatively high proportion of the most income deprived areas in England (Figure 11). Over one third of all LSOAs in the borough are in the ten per cent most income deprived areas in England. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> highest proportion in England, and the highest in London, by far. Enfield and Hackney are ranked second and third highest in London – both areas have 21 per cent of their LSOAs in the most deprived decile nationally.

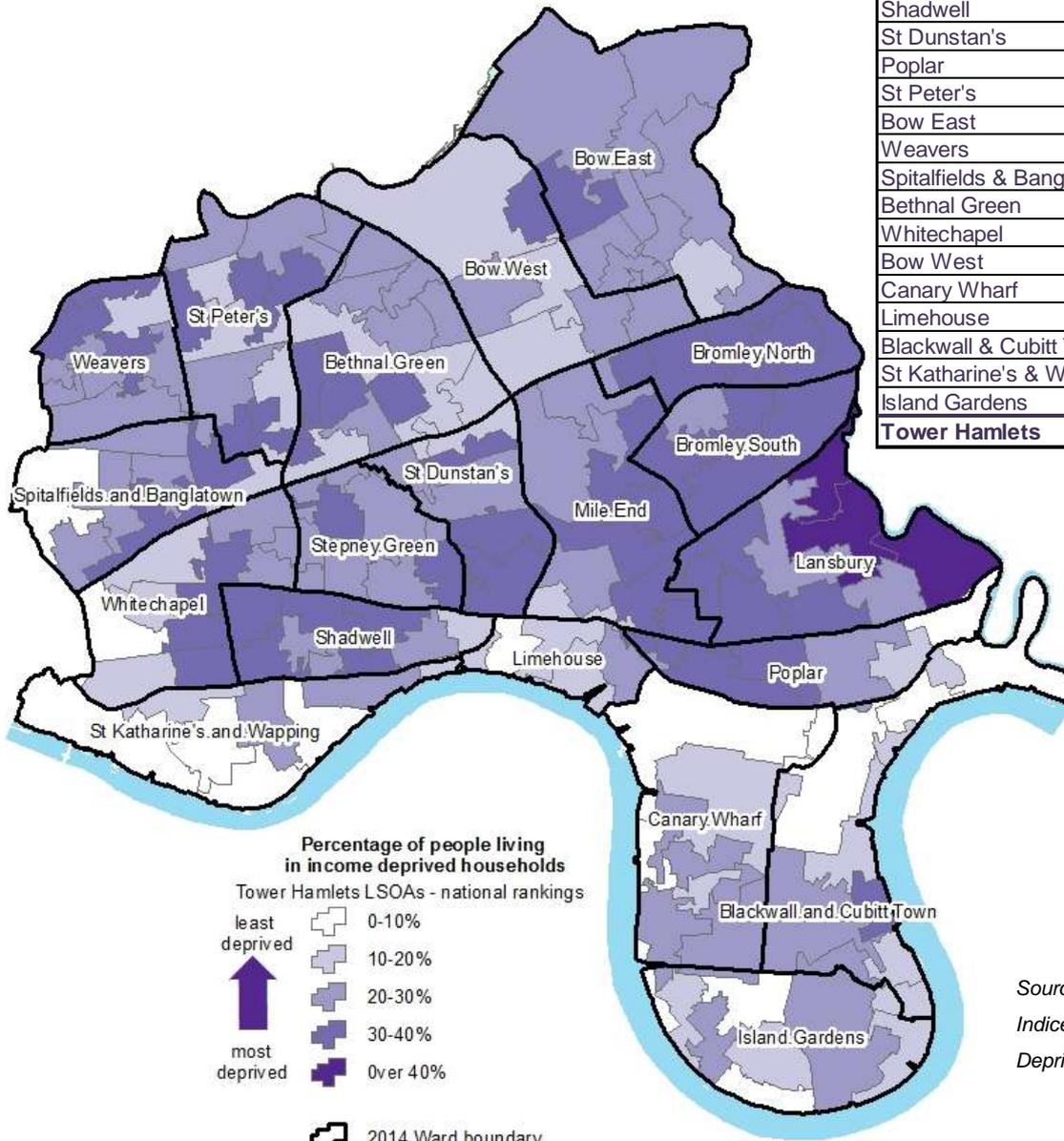
**Income deprivation: LSOA analysis**

While income deprivation is widespread in Tower Hamlets, levels vary considerably across the borough (Map 2).

At LSOA level, the percentage of people who live in income deprived households ranges from 3 per cent in one of the riverside LSOAs in Island Gardens up to 44 per cent in the eastern part of Lansbury ward. Patterns are broadly similar to those on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation with the highest levels of income deprivation in the East of the borough.

At ward level, LGA estimates show that the percentage living in income deprived households varies from 14 per cent in Island Gardens ward up to 37 per cent in Lansbury ward. Most wards have rates above the England average (15 per cent).

**Map 2: Percentage of people in income deprived households LSOAs in Tower Hamlets**



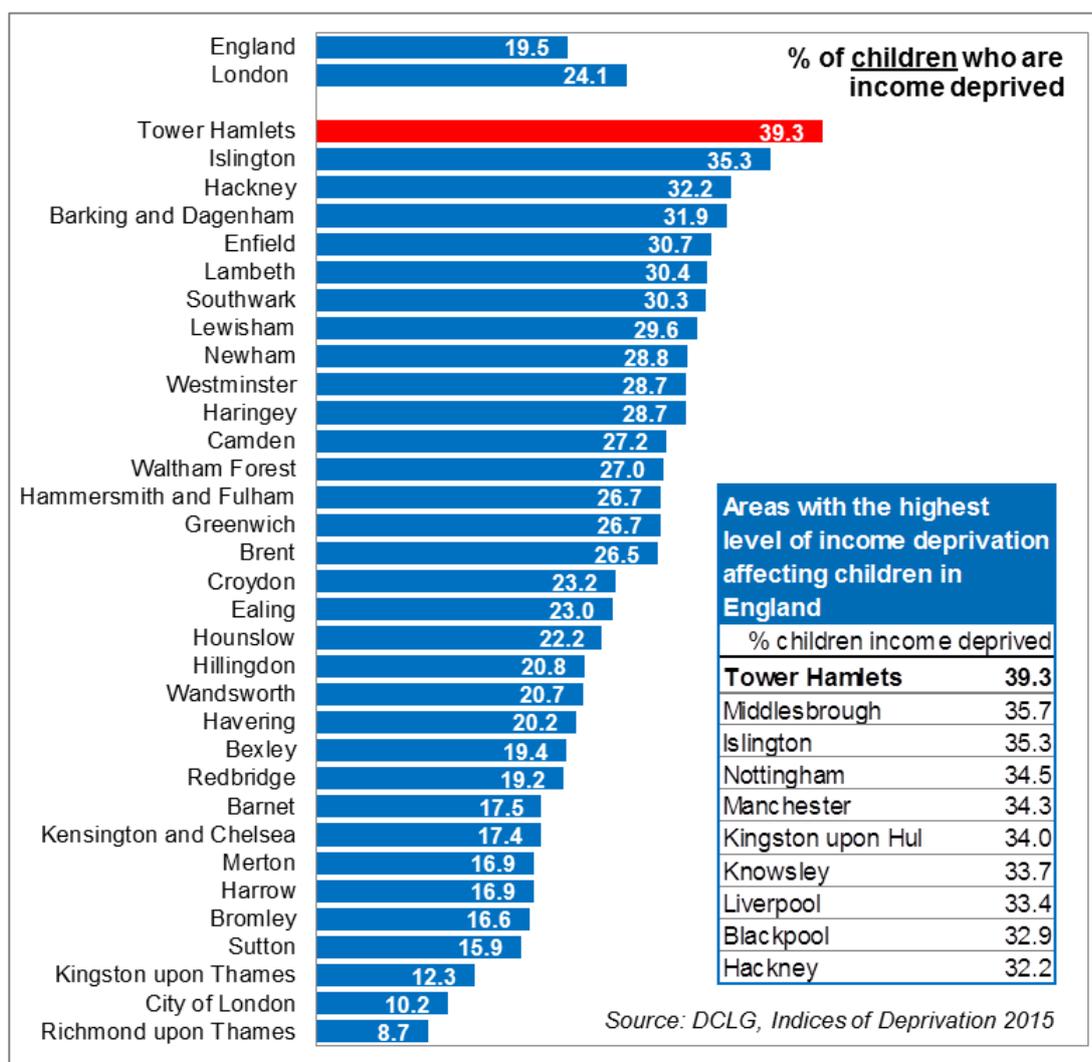
The borough's overall position on the income domain is driven by very high rates of income deprivation among children and older people – which are captured by the two supplementary measures that are published as part of the indices. These are explored in the following sections.

### 3.4 Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)

**The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index** is the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 who live in income deprived families. Income deprived families are defined as families who receive certain means tested benefits or tax credits **and** have incomes below the national poverty line (60 per cent of the national median income).

On the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measure, **39 per cent of children in Tower Hamlets live in income deprived families**, the highest rate in England. Middlesbrough and Islington are ranked second and third highest with rates of 36 and 35 per cent. The borough rate is almost double the England rate (20 per cent<sup>7</sup>), and well above the London average (24 per cent). The borough’s position on this measure is consistent with annual child poverty data<sup>8</sup> which are based on a similar indicator.

**Figure 12: Income deprivation affecting children, London Boroughs**



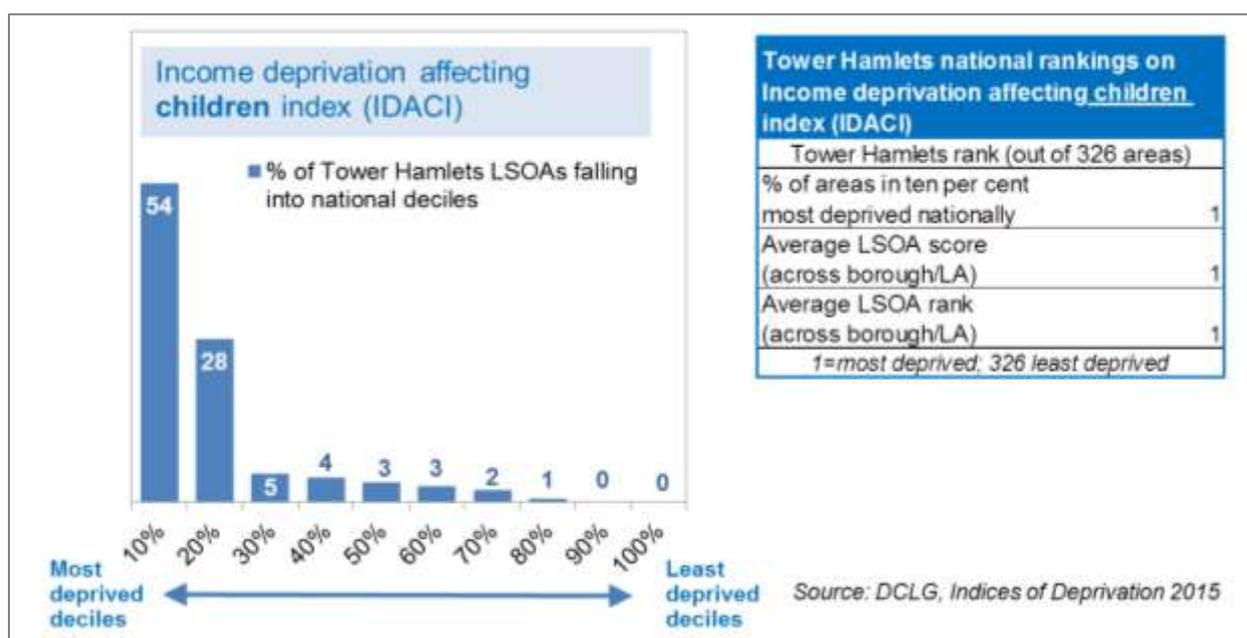
<sup>7</sup> England rates (scores) for income deprivation are not published as part of the indices, so these estimates have been produced by the Council’s Research Unit and are based on population weighted scores for all LSOAs using published numerators and denominators.

<sup>8</sup> HM Revenues & Customs, *Children in Low-income Families Local Measure*

Tower Hamlets has a very high proportion of the most deprived areas nationally on income deprivation affecting children index: more than half (54 per cent) of all LSOAs in Tower Hamlets are in the ten per cent most deprived areas in England on the index. This is the highest proportion, by far, across England. The area ranked second highest was Middlesbrough where the proportion of areas in the most deprived decile was ten percentage points lower at 44 per cent.

Furthermore, income deprivation affecting children is very widespread in the borough - the vast majority (82 per cent) of LSOAs are in the bottom two deciles nationally (ie the 20 per cent most deprived LSOAs in England).

**Figure 13: Percentage of Tower Hamlets LSOAs by national deciles: Income deprivation affecting children index (ID2015)**



### Income deprivation affecting children index: LSOA analysis

Map 3 shows the variation in levels of income deprivation levels among children across the borough's LSOAs.

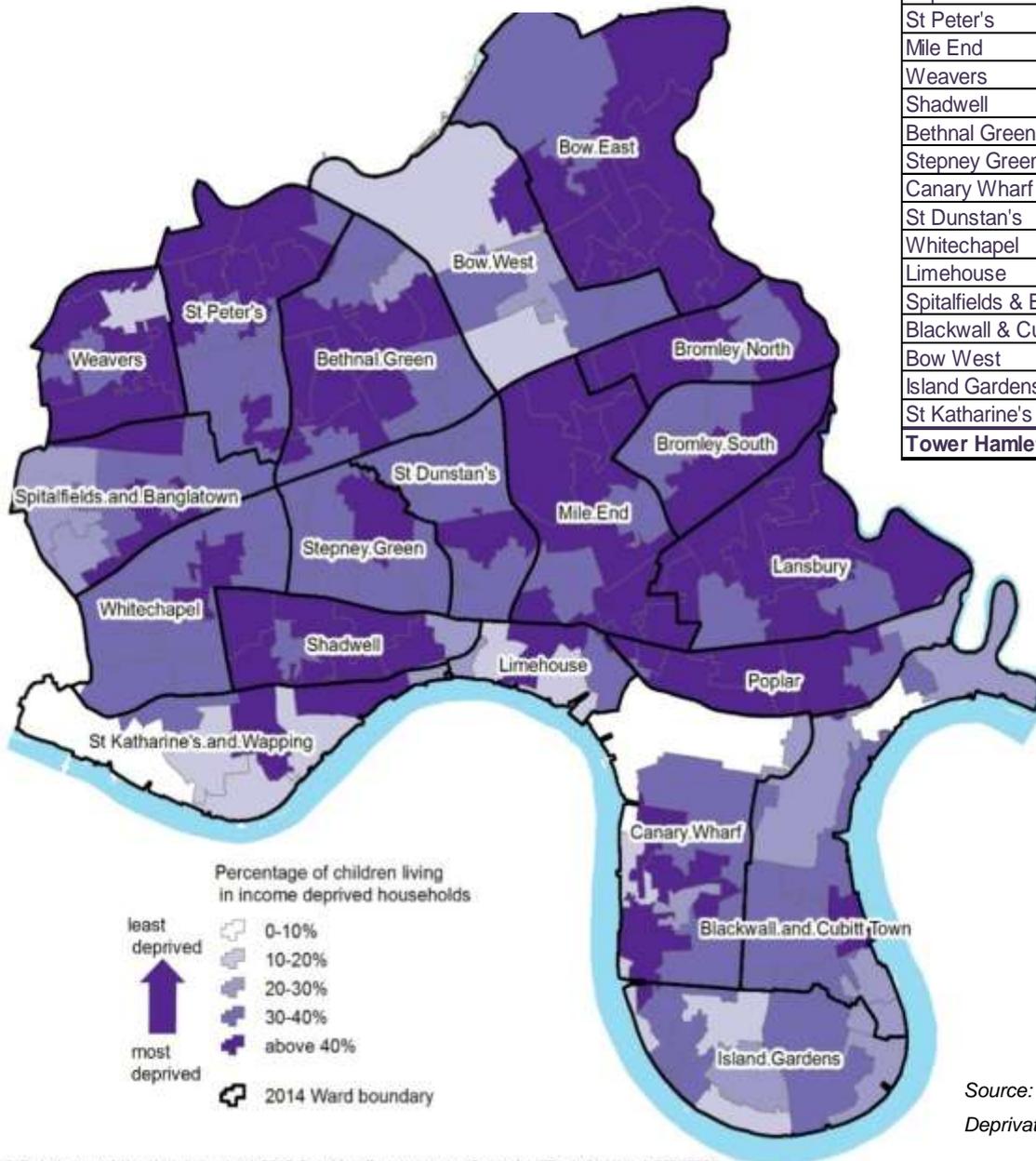
At LSOA level, the percentage of children who live in income deprived households ranges from 8 per cent in the St. Katharine's dock LSOA up to 62 per cent in the Millharbour area (in Canary Wharf ward).

As the map shows, the majority of areas have levels well above the England rate (20 per cent). Indeed, almost half of all LSOAs (65 out of 144) have rates of 40 per cent or higher on the children index.

At ward level, LGA estimates show that the percentage of children living in income deprived households varies from 24 per cent in St. Katharine's & Wapping up to 47 per cent in Bow East.

The majority of the borough's wards are in most deprived ten per cent of wards in England on this measure and all wards have rates above the England average.

**Map 3: Percentage of children in income deprived households LSOAs in Tower Hamlets**



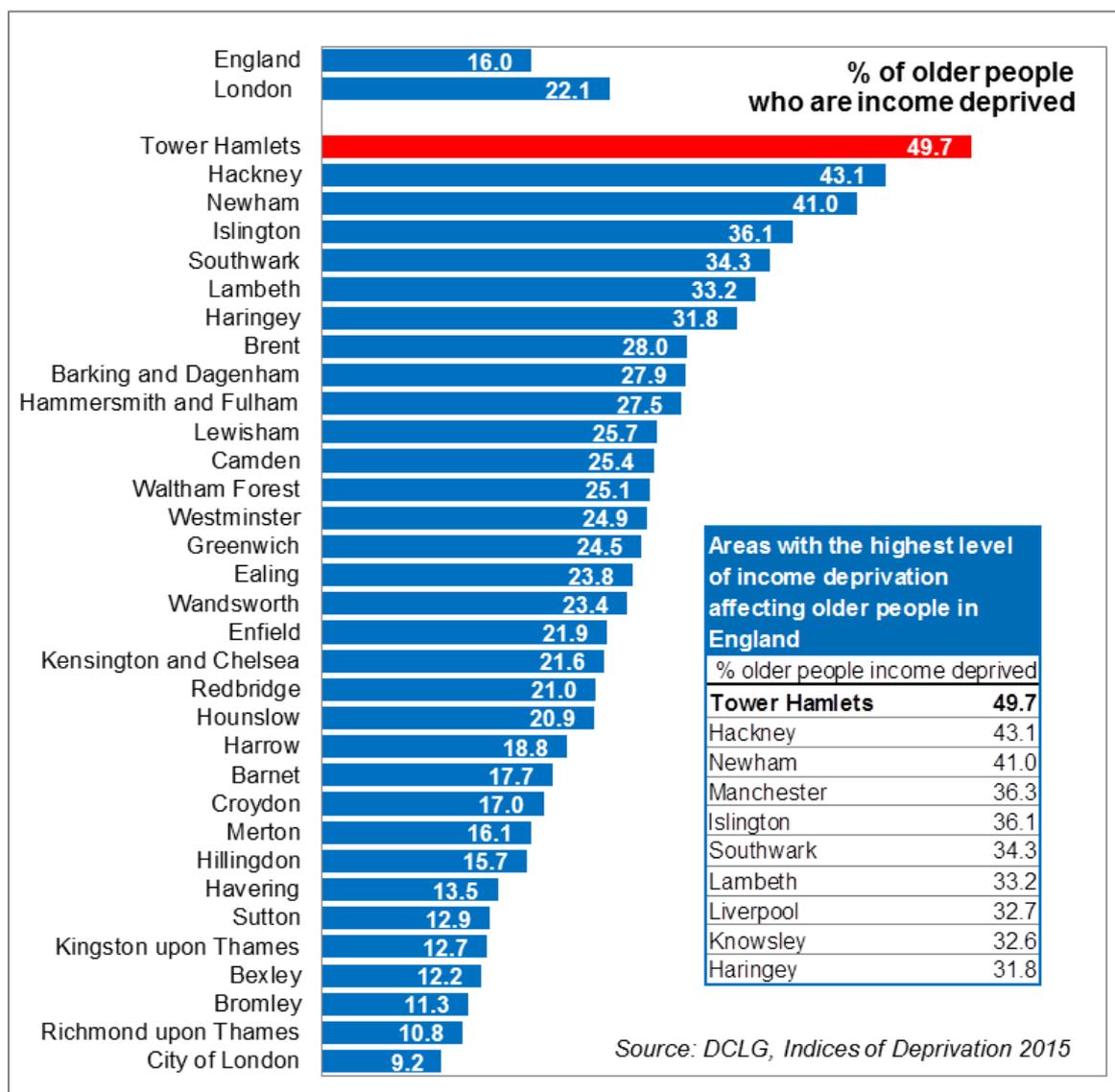
### 3.5 Income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPi)

The **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index** is the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who live in income deprived households. This includes those receiving any of the following means-tested benefits: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee).

On the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPi) index, **half of all older people in the borough live in income deprived households**. This is the highest rate – by far – in England, and three times higher than the rate in England (16 per cent).

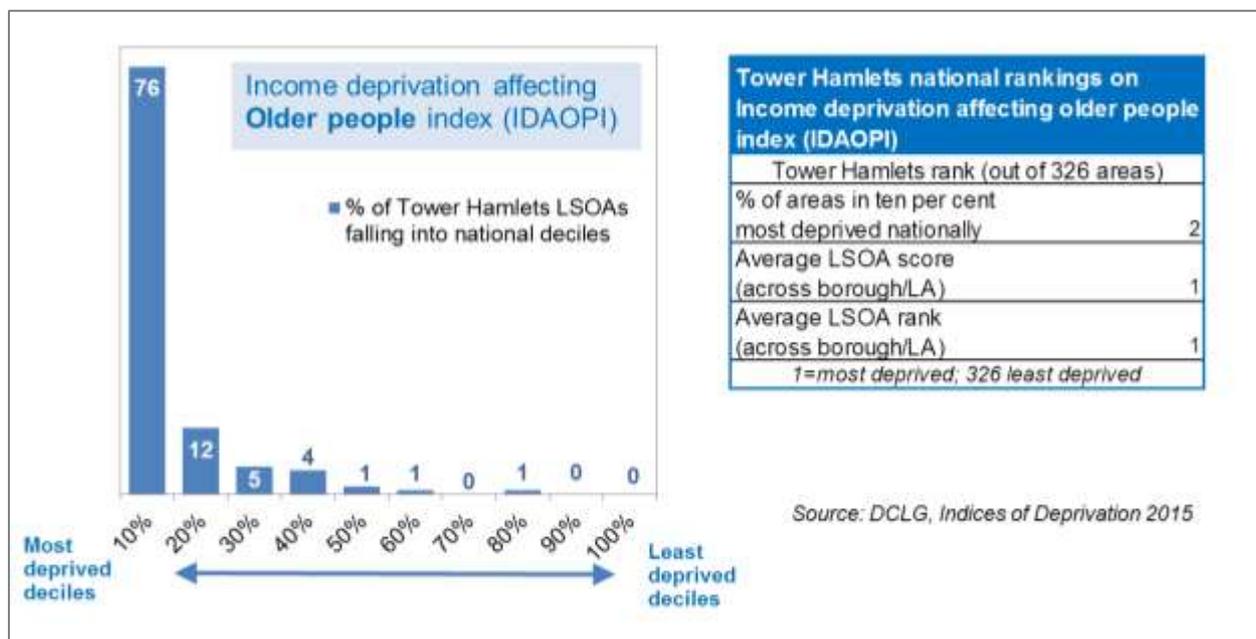
Hackney and Newham are ranked second and third highest in England with rates of 43 and 41 per cent respectively. Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham are the only areas with rates over forty per cent.

**Figure 14: Income deprivation affecting older people, London Boroughs**



Income deprivation affecting older people is particularly widespread in the borough: the majority (76 per cent) of LSOAs in Tower Hamlets are in most deprived decile nationally on the index. This proportion is the second highest in England, just after Hackney (where 78 per cent of LSOAs were in the most deprived ten per cent).

**Figure 15: Percentage of Tower Hamlets LSOAs by national deciles: Income deprivation affecting older people index (ID2015)**



However, while Tower Hamlets and Hackney have a similar proportion of highly deprived areas on this measure, Tower Hamlets has a higher proportion of older people living in income deprivation than Hackney (50 vs. 43 per cent), indicating that the average level of deprivation among older people is higher in Tower Hamlets.

Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham (where two thirds of areas are highly deprived on this measure) are the only areas in England where more than half of their LSOAs are income deprived on the older people index.

**Income deprivation affecting older people index: LSOA analysis**

Map 4 shows the variation in levels of income deprivation levels among older people across the borough’s LSOAs.

At LSOA level, the percentage of older people who live in income deprived households ranges from a low of 9 per cent in one of the riverside LSOAs in Island Gardens up to 87 per cent in part of Whitechapel.

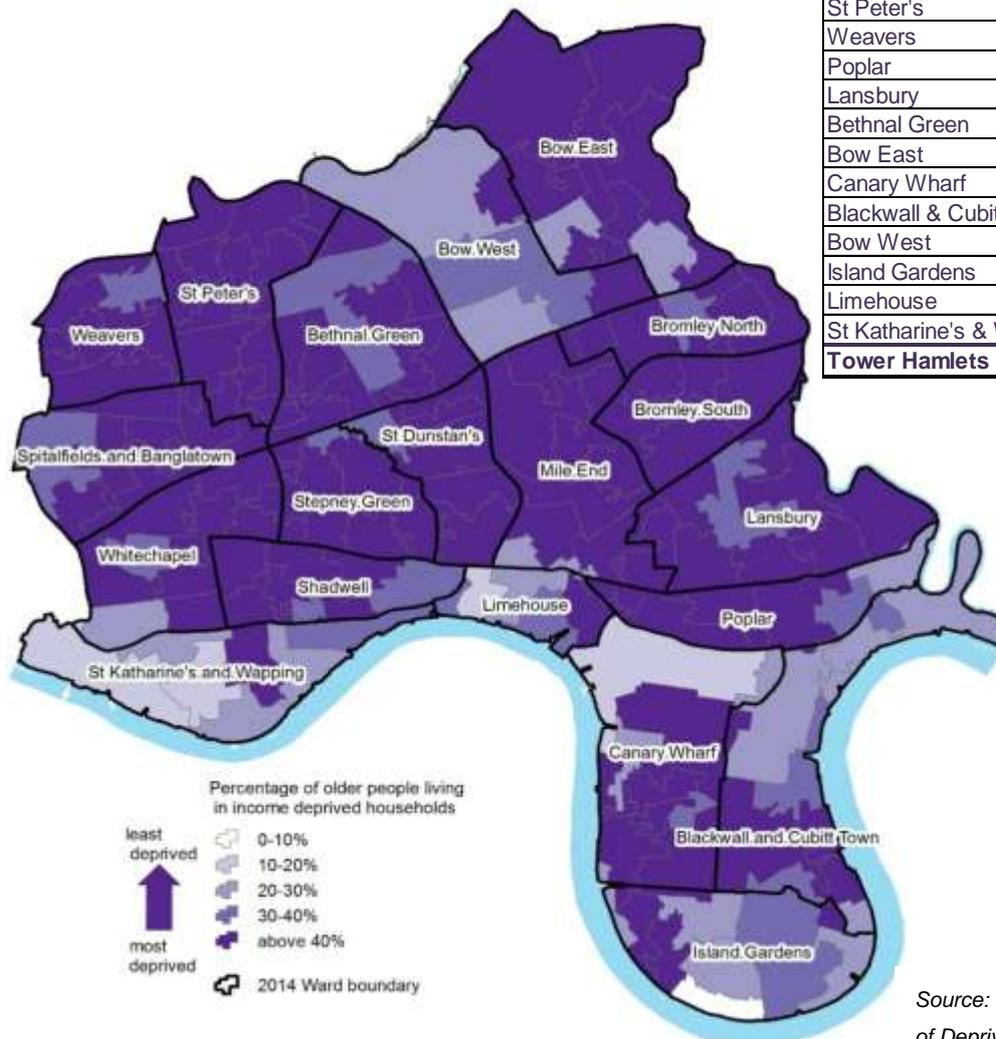
More than two thirds of the borough’s LSOAs (102 out of 144) have rates above 40 per cent on the older people index, and almost one quarter (33 out of 144) have rates above 60 per cent.

At ward level, LGA estimates show that the percentage of older people living in income deprived households ranges from 27 per cent in St. Katharine's & Wapping ward up to 65 per cent in Spitalfields & Banglatown. All wards, except St. Katharine's & Wapping, are in the ten per cent most deprived wards in England on the older people index. Two-thirds of the borough's wards are in the most deprived one per cent of wards in England.

All the borough's wards have rates of income deprivation among older people that are well above the England average (16 per cent).

**Map 4: Percentage of older people living in income deprived households**  
LSOAs in Tower Hamlets

Ward data (LGA estimates)	
% older people income deprived	
Spitalfields & Banglatown	65.3
Shadwell	60.1
Bromley South	59.7
Whitechapel	59.0
Bromley North	58.2
Stepney Green	58.0
St Dunstan's	56.7
Mile End	55.4
St Peter's	53.8
Weavers	52.4
Poplar	51.8
Lansbury	51.4
Bethnal Green	48.7
Bow East	42.0
Canary Wharf	39.7
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	39.0
Bow West	37.8
Island Gardens	32.3
Limehouse	31.8
St Katharine's & Wapping	27.2
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>49.7</b>



Source: DCLG Indices of Deprivation 2015

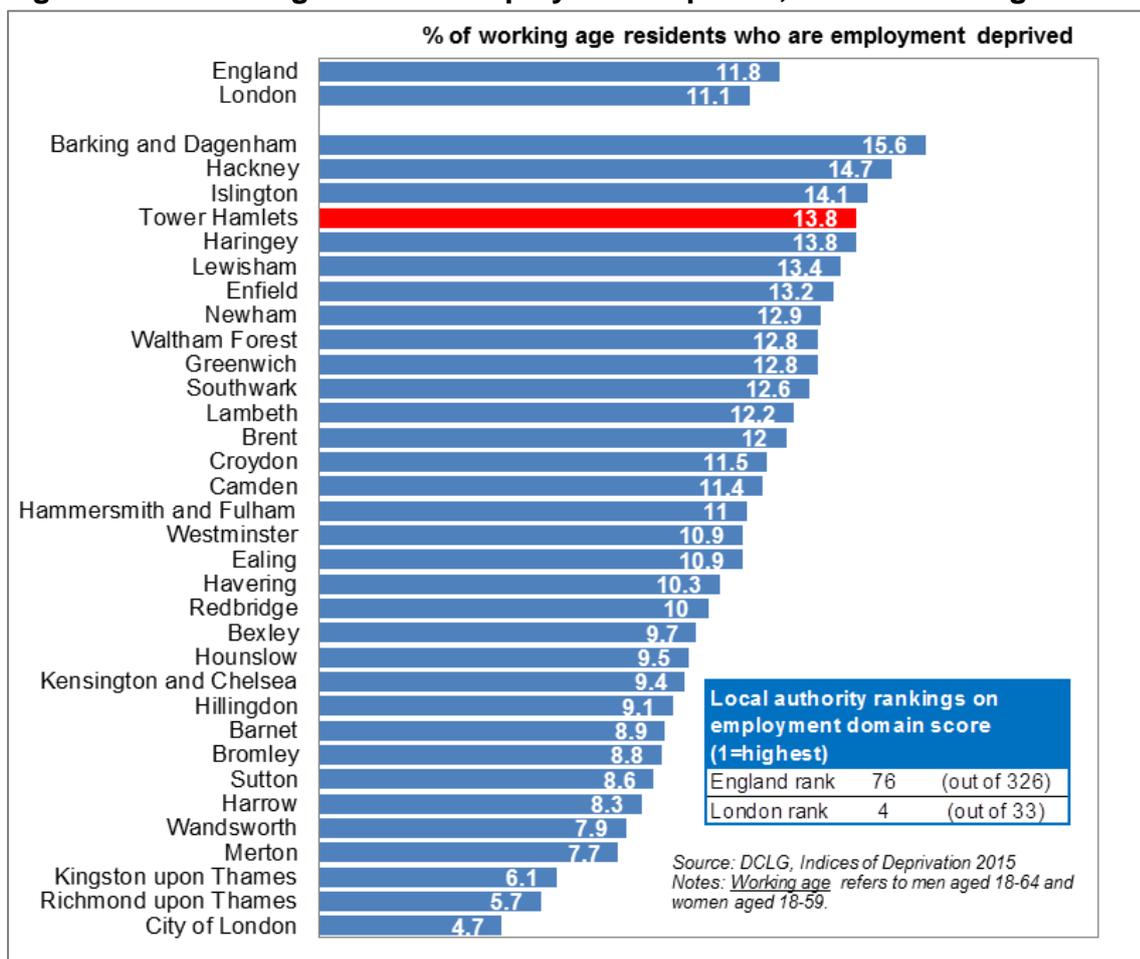
### 3.6 Employment deprivation

The **employment domain** measures the proportion of the working age population in an area that are ‘involuntarily excluded’ from the labour market. This captures those who would like to work but are unable to do so due to sickness or disability, unemployment or caring responsibilities. The indicator is based on those in receipt of certain benefits (ie Jobseeker’s Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, and Carer’s Allowance).

Like the income domain, the employment domain score is an ‘absolute’ measure that represents **the proportion of the working age population that are employment deprived**. On this measure, 13.8 per cent of the borough’s population are employment deprived. While the level of employment deprivation is a bit higher in Tower Hamlets than in England (12 per cent), the borough is not highly deprived on this measure: it ranks 76<sup>th</sup> highest out of 326 English local authority areas. Areas outside London, particularly in the North West and North East, dominate the list of most employment deprived areas on this measure - Knowsley and Blackpool have the highest rates in England (both at 23 per cent).

Within London, Tower Hamlets has the fourth highest rate of employment deprivation, after Barking & Dagenham, Hackney and Islington (Figure 16).

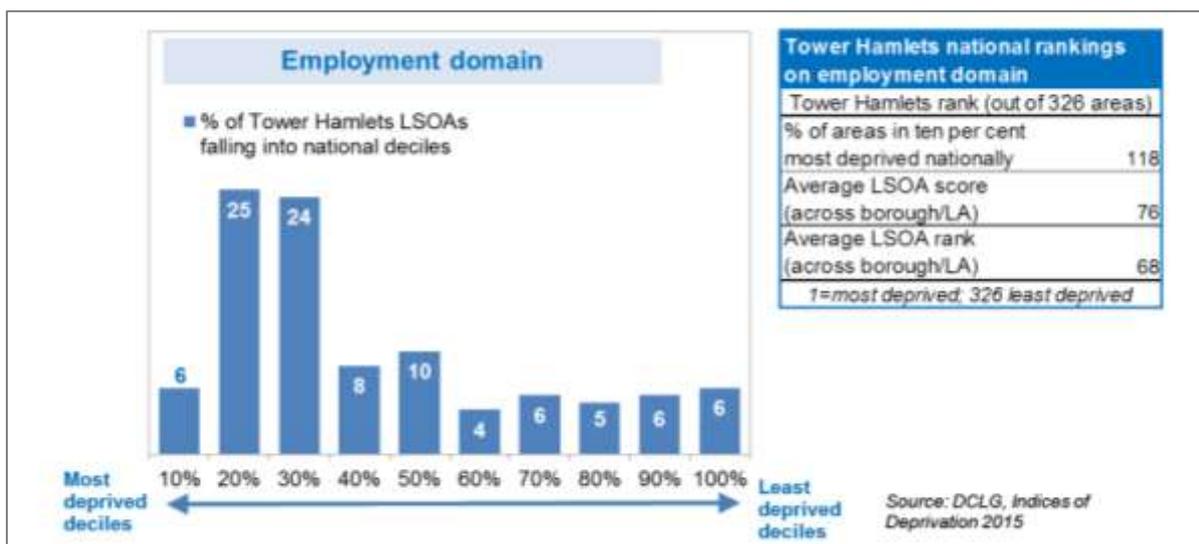
**Figure 16: Percentage who are employment deprived, London Boroughs**



Map 5 shows how employment deprivation varies across the borough. At LSOA level, the percentage who are employment deprived ranges from 2 per cent (in part of Island Gardens) up to 30 per cent in the Lansbury area.

The borough has a relatively low share of the most employment deprived areas nationally. Only 6 per cent of the borough’s LSOAs are in the ten per cent most deprived in England – this proportion is ranked 118<sup>th</sup> highest out of 326 areas in England. However, the borough has a relatively high proportion of LSOAs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived deciles: almost half of the borough’s LSOAs are in the 10-30 per cent most deprived areas in England (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - Employment domain



LGA ward estimates show that the percentage living in employment deprived households varies from 8 per cent in St. Katharine’s & Wapping up to 23 per cent in Lansbury ward. Two thirds of wards have rates above the England average (12 per cent).

### 3.7 Scale measures: Income and Employment

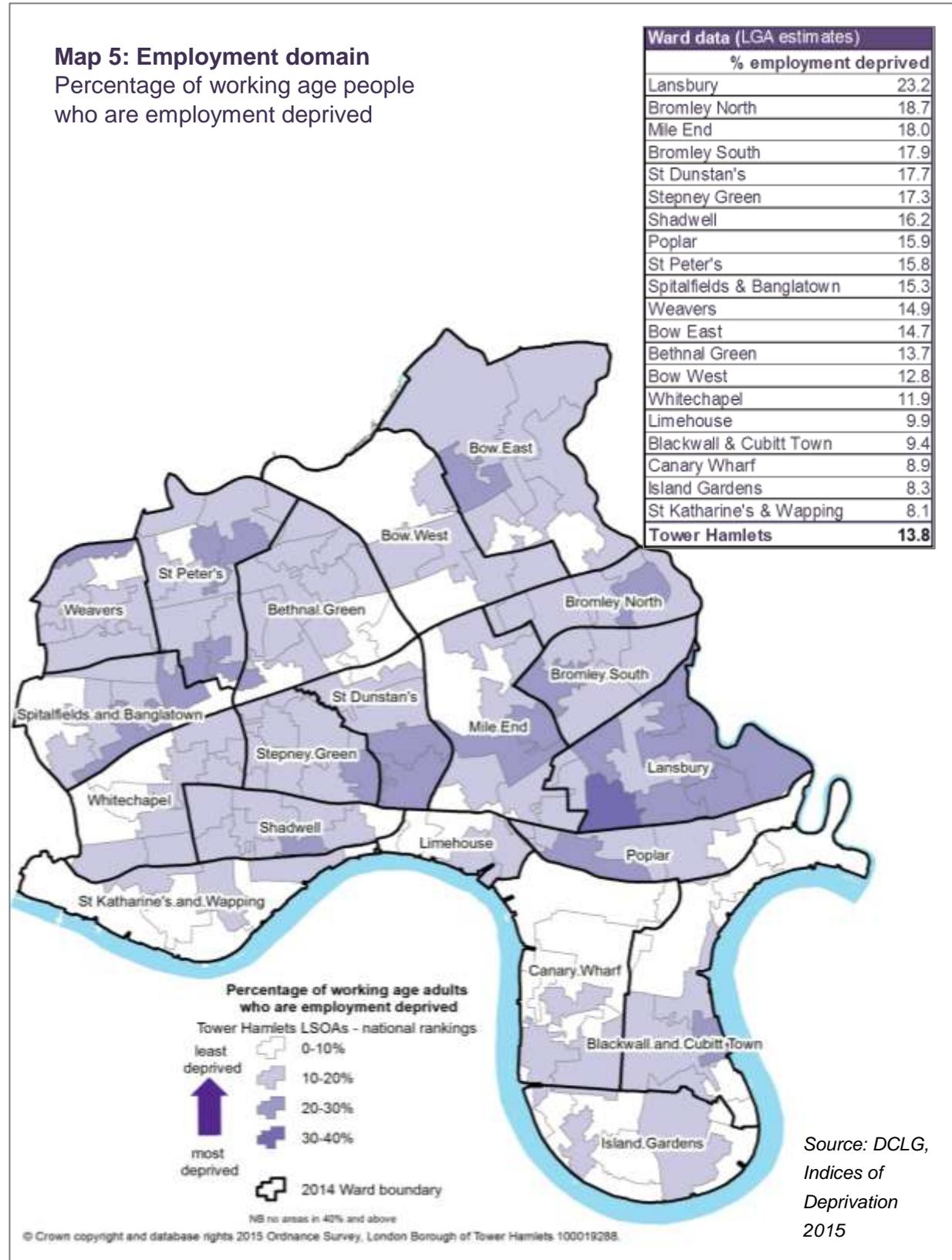
Two ‘scale’ measures are also published as part of the indices. These capture the actual number of people experiencing income and employment deprivation in an area. On the *income scale* measure, Tower Hamlets ranks 15<sup>th</sup> highest in England, and third highest in London. On the *employment scale* measure, the borough ranks 28<sup>th</sup> highest in England and fourth highest in London (Table 6).

	Scale measure	England rank (out of 326)	London rank (out of 33)
Rankings: 1=most deprived area			
Number income deprived (all persons)	66,389	15	3
Number employment deprived (working age)	25,850	28	4

Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2010 and 2015

As these measures are scale measures, they are heavily influenced by population size as well as the proportion of people experiencing deprivation; on both scale measures,

Birmingham (which has the largest local authority area in England in terms of population size) is ranked the most deprived and the Isles of Scilly and the City of London (which have the smallest populations) are ranked as the least deprived. Within London, Newham is ranked highest on both scale measures.



### 3.8 Education, skills and training

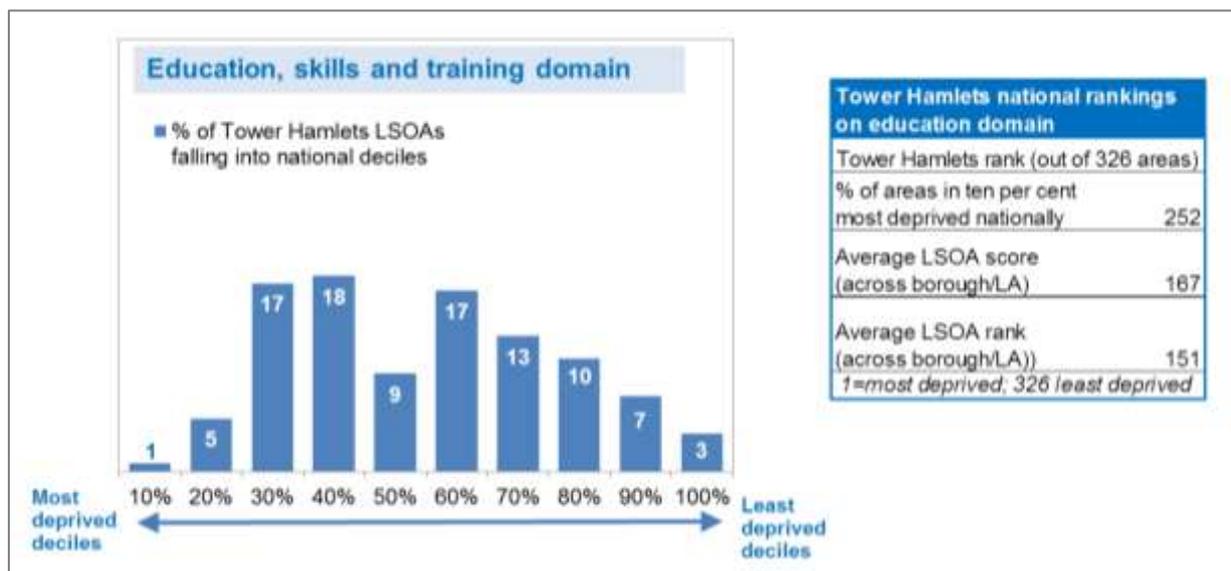
The **education, skills and training domain** measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population, among children and adults. The education deprivation score is a relative measure which ranks all LSOAs in England against each other in terms of educational deprivation.

Of all seven domains, the education domain is the measure the borough is least deprived on. Most of the borough's LSOAs are in the middle deciles (with very few in the most and least deprived nationally).

In common with other London boroughs, very few LSOAs in Tower Hamlets are highly deprived on the education domain: only one LSOA (in Lansbury) falls into the ten per cent most deprived areas in England (Figure 18). Indeed, most London boroughs have no LSOAs at all in the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England.

Areas with high levels of educational deprivation are all outside London; Middlesbrough, Hull and Knowsley have the highest proportions of LSOAs (all over 40 per cent) in the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England.

**Figure 18: Percentage of LSOAs falling into national deciles - Education domain**

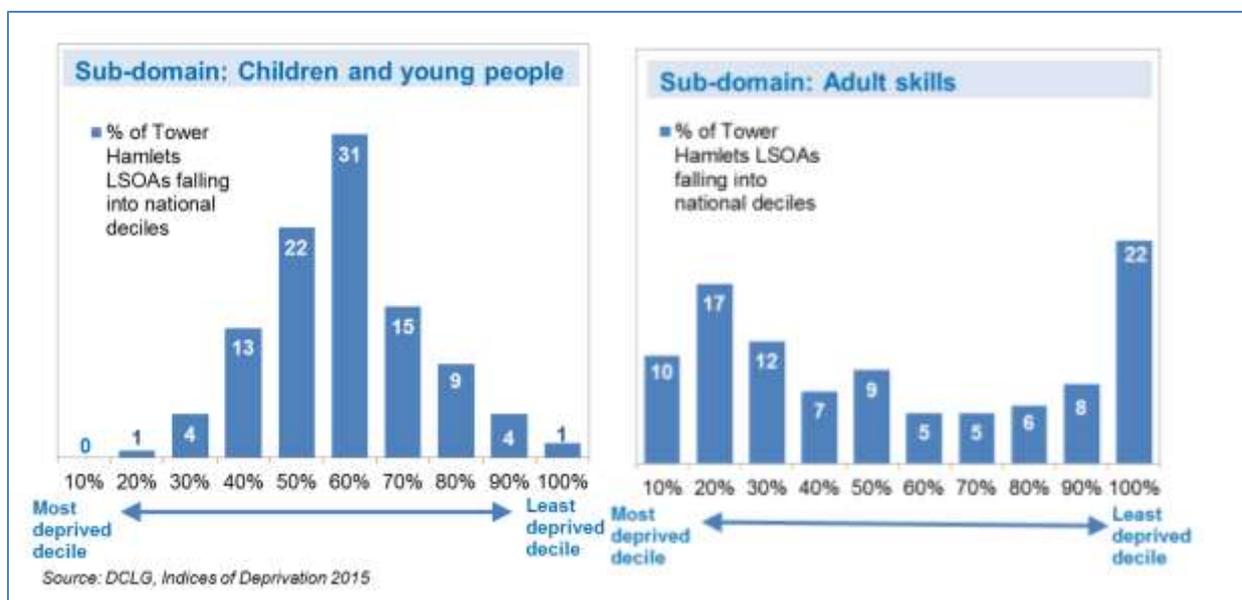


The education domain comprises two sub-domains:

- **Children and young people:** which covers data relating to educational attainment, school absence, staying on rates and participation in higher education;
- **Adult skills:** which captures adults with low/no qualifications, and those with poor English language proficiency.

As Figure 19 illustrates, the borough’s position on the two sub-domain indicators is quite different. On the children and young people sub-domain, the borough has no LSOAs at all in the ten per cent most deprived nationally. This is consistent with the fact that educational attainment levels in the borough are higher than those in England.

**Figure 19: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - Education sub-domains**



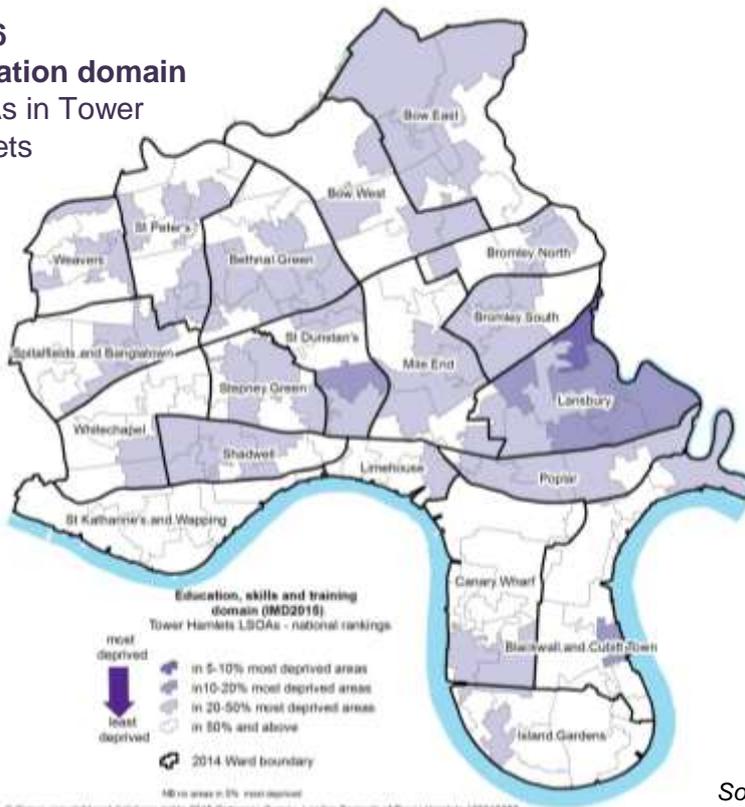
In contrast, on the adult skills measure, the borough has a proportionate share (ie ten per cent) of the most deprived areas in the bottom decile of areas in England. More than a quarter (28 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs are in the twenty per cent most deprived areas nationally on the adult skills sub-domain compared with less than one per cent on the children and young people sub-domain.

The distribution of LSOAs on the adult skills sub-domain shows some polarisation: the borough’s LSOAs are well represented at both the more deprived end of the distribution (in the 10-20% decile) and also in least deprived decile (Figure 19).

Map 6 shows the patterns of educational deprivation across the borough by LSOA. The sub-domain maps illustrate the significant difference on the two parts of the measure, with relative deprivation levels being noticeably higher on the adults skills measure, especially in eastern parts of the borough.

LGA ward data for the overall education domain are also shown on Map 6. These show each ward’s percentile position, relative to other wards in England. No wards in Tower Hamlets are in bottom decile (ie the ten per cent most deprived wards nationally) on the education domain. Of all wards, Lansbury is the only ward in the most deprived twenty per cent of wards.

**Map 6**  
**Education domain**  
 LSOAs in Tower Hamlets

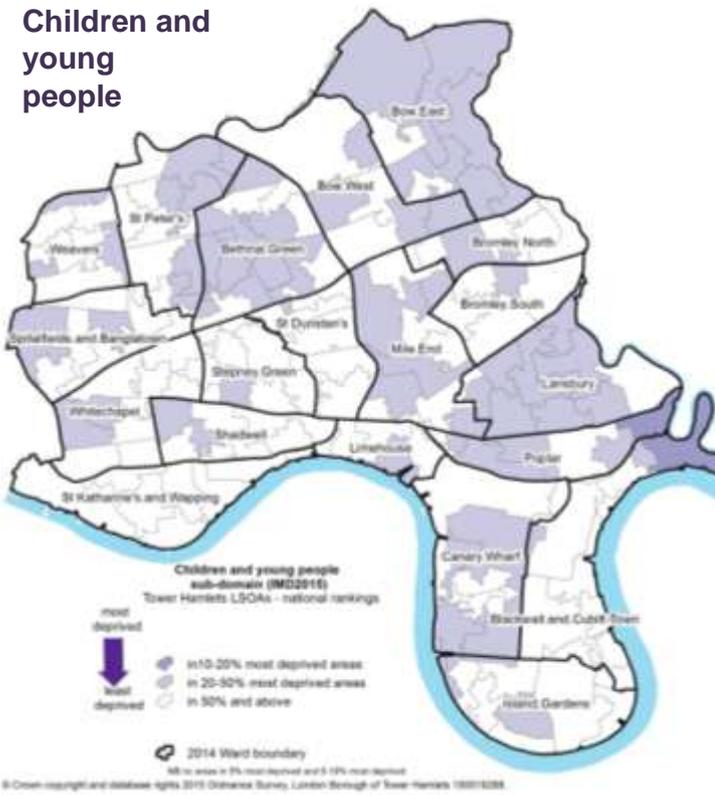


Ward rankings (LGA estimates)			
National percentile that ward falls into:			
Lansbury	12.1	More	
Poplar	28.8	deprived	
St Dunstan's	29.7	↑	
Mile End	29.8		
Bromley South	31.0		
Shadwell	32.1		
Stepney Green	32.1		
Bromley North	34.2		
Bethnal Green	36.8		
Bow East	42.9		
Spitalfields & Banglatown	44.3		
St Peter's	45.3		
Bow West	51.2	↓	
Whitechapel	52.9		
Weavers	54.1		
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	60.9		
Limehouse	65.7		
Canary Wharf	68.5		
Island Gardens	68.6		
St Katharine's & Wapping	81.0		Less
	deprived		

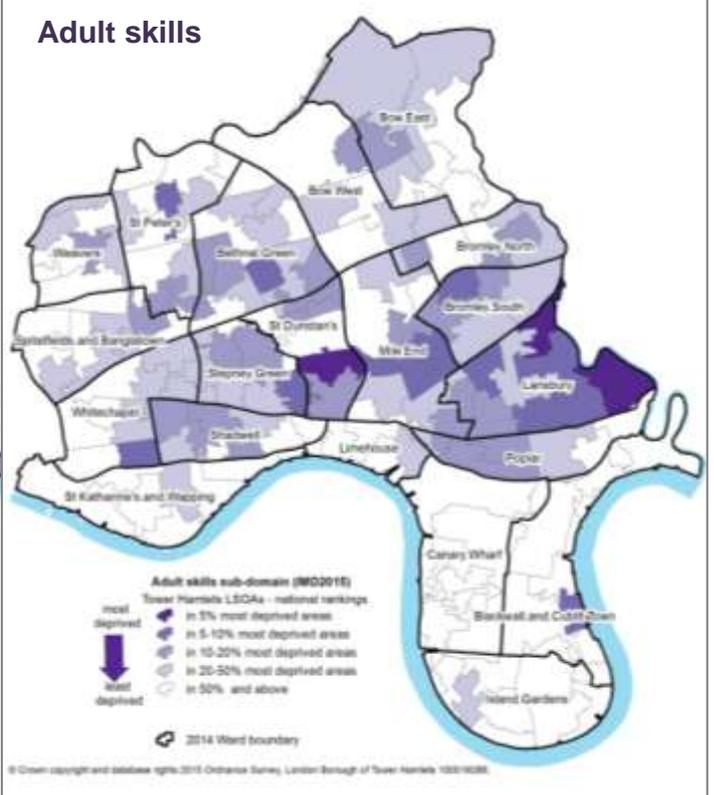
Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2015

Education sub-domains

**Children and young people**



**Adult skills**



### 3.9 Crime

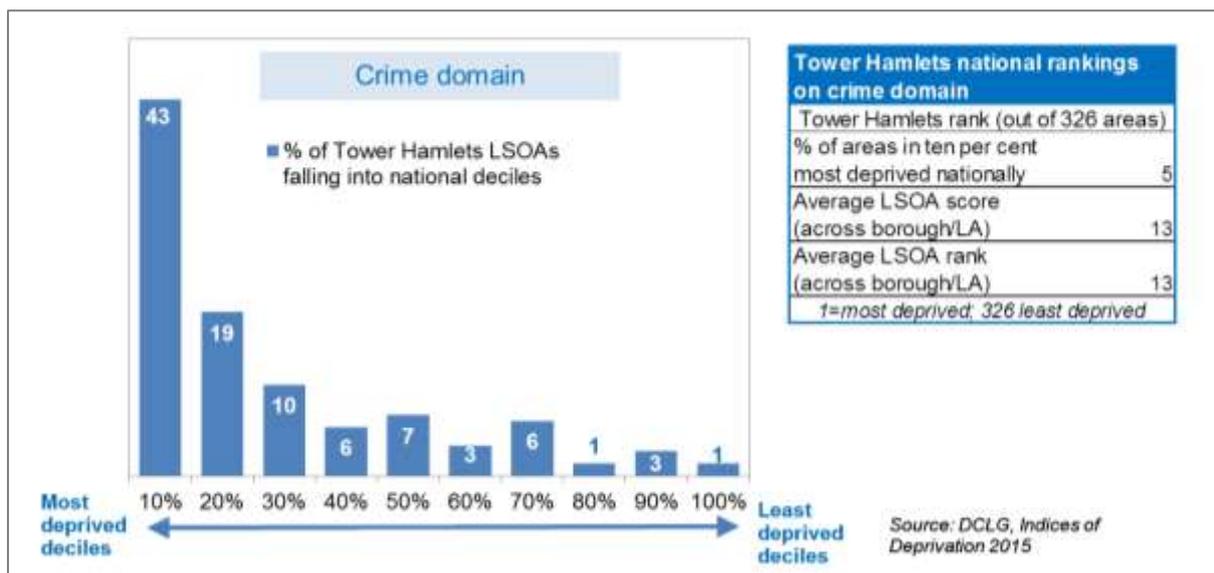
The **crime domain** measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at a local level. The indicator captures data on reported incidents relating to violent crime, burglary, theft, and criminal damage.

In common with most Inner London Boroughs, Tower Hamlets is highly deprived on the crime domain relative to other areas in England.

In terms of the average crime deprivation score (across LSOAs), Tower Hamlets is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> highest out of 326 areas in England. London boroughs dominate the list of the most deprived areas on the crime domain: Lambeth, Newham and Islington are the three most deprived boroughs nationally on the average crime score.

A high proportion (43 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs are in the ten per cent most deprived nationally on this measure (Figure 20) – this is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest percentage in England (after the boroughs of Lambeth, Newham, Islington and Hackney - where the proportions of highly deprived LSOAs range from 44-54 per cent).

**Figure 20: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - Crime domain**



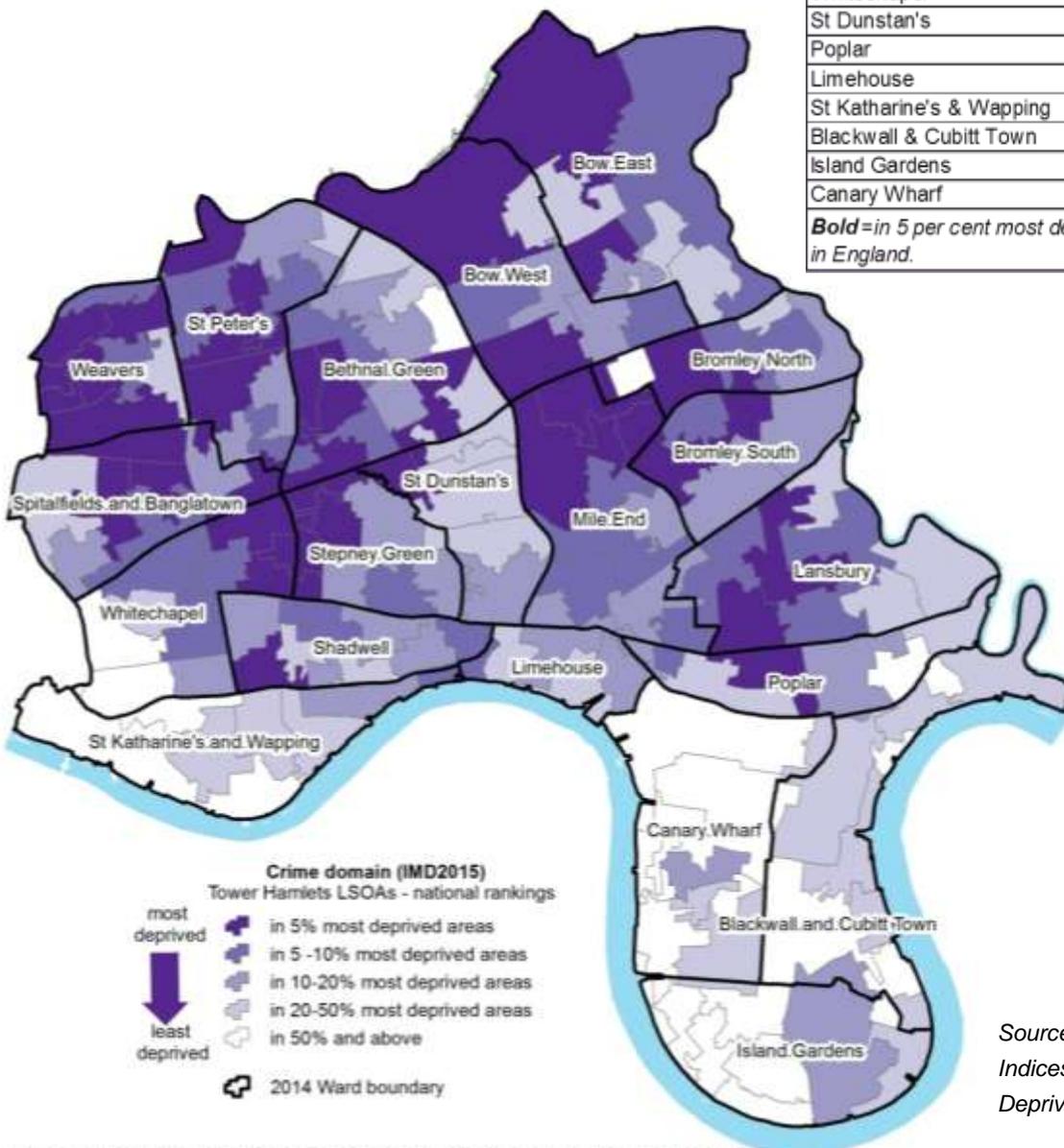
Map 7 shows where the most deprived LSOAs on the crime domain are in the borough. Unlike the IMD, and income deprivation measures, there are significant concentrations of highly deprived areas on the crime domain in the West as well as the East of the borough. The least deprived areas on the crime domain are typically in areas around St.Katharine’s Dock and the Canary Wharf areas.

The LGA ward estimates indicate that Weavers, Bow West, St Peter’s and Mile End wards and the most highly ranked wards in the borough on the crime domain – these four wards are in the most deprived 2 per cent of wards in England (Map 7).

**Map 7: Crime domain**

LSOAs in Tower Hamlets: position relative to all LSOAs in England

Ward rankings (LGA estimates)		
<i>National percentile ward falls into:</i>		
Weavers	<b>1.0</b>	More ↑ ↓ Less deprived
Bow West	<b>1.2</b>	
St Peter's	<b>1.4</b>	
Mile End	<b>1.9</b>	
Bromley South	<b>2.7</b>	
Lansbury	<b>3.1</b>	
Spitalfields & Banglatown	<b>4.3</b>	
Stepney Green	<b>4.5</b>	
Bethnal Green	<b>4.7</b>	
Shadwell	5.3	
Bow East	6.0	
Bromley North	9.5	
Whitechapel	10.1	
St Dunstan's	10.6	
Poplar	10.8	
Limehouse	11.7	
St Katharine's & Wapping	23.3	
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	42.2	
Island Gardens	47.7	
Canary Wharf	66.7	



Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2015

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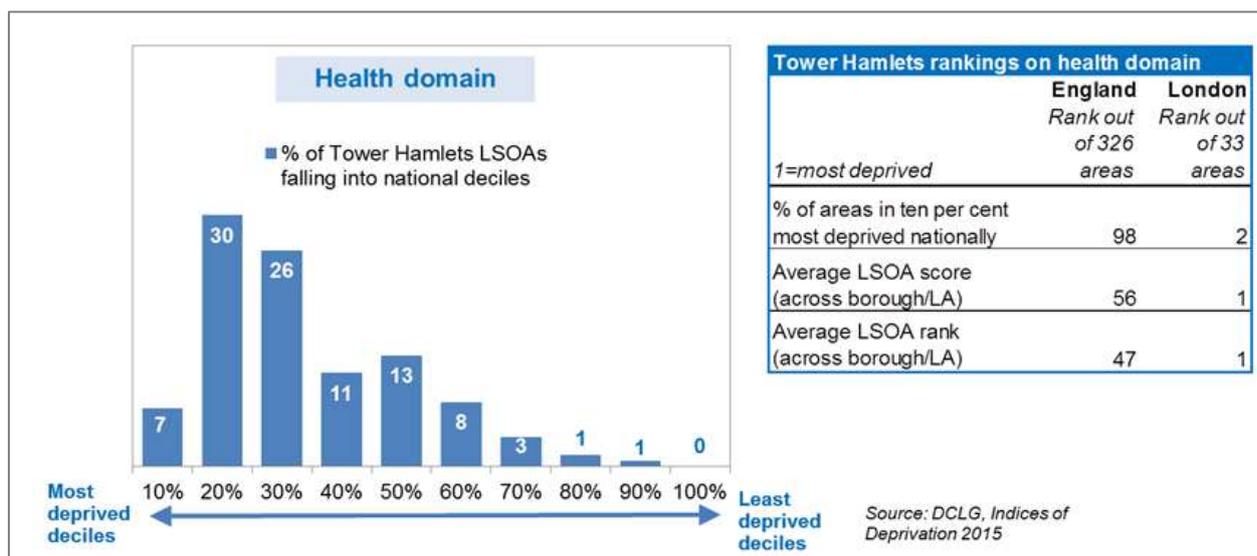
### 3.10 Health deprivation and disability domain

The **health deprivation and disability domain** measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of life through poor physical or mental health. Four key indicators are used to measure this:

- years of potential life lost: an age and sex standardised measure of early death;
- comparative illness and disability ratio (age and sex standardised);
- acute morbidity (age and sex standardised rate of emergency admission to hospital);
- mood and anxiety disorders: a composite measure based on the rate of adults suffering from mood and anxiety disorders, hospital episodes data, suicide mortality data, and health benefits data.

In terms of the average health domain score (across LSOAs), Tower Hamlets is ranked 56th highest out of 326 areas in England. Areas in the North West dominate the list of the most health deprived areas: Blackpool, Manchester and Liverpool have the highest (average) health deprivation scores in England.

**Figure 21: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles: Health domain**



The borough has a relatively low share of the most health deprived areas in England: seven per cent of the borough’s LSOAs are in the ten per cent most deprived in England – this proportion is ranked 98<sup>th</sup> highest out of 326 areas in England. However, the borough has a relatively high proportion of LSOAs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived deciles – more than half of the borough’s LSOAs are these two deciles (Figure 21 and Map 8).

Within the London context, Tower Hamlets has high levels of health deprivation, and is ranked as the most deprived London Borough in terms of the average LSOA score and average LSOA rank. On the proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived decile nationally, the borough is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in London, after Hackney.

Map 8 shows patterns of health deprivation across LSOAs in the borough and summarises the LGA ward level estimates. At ward level, Lansbury and St. Peter’s wards are the most health deprived wards in the borough – both these wards are in the ten per cent most

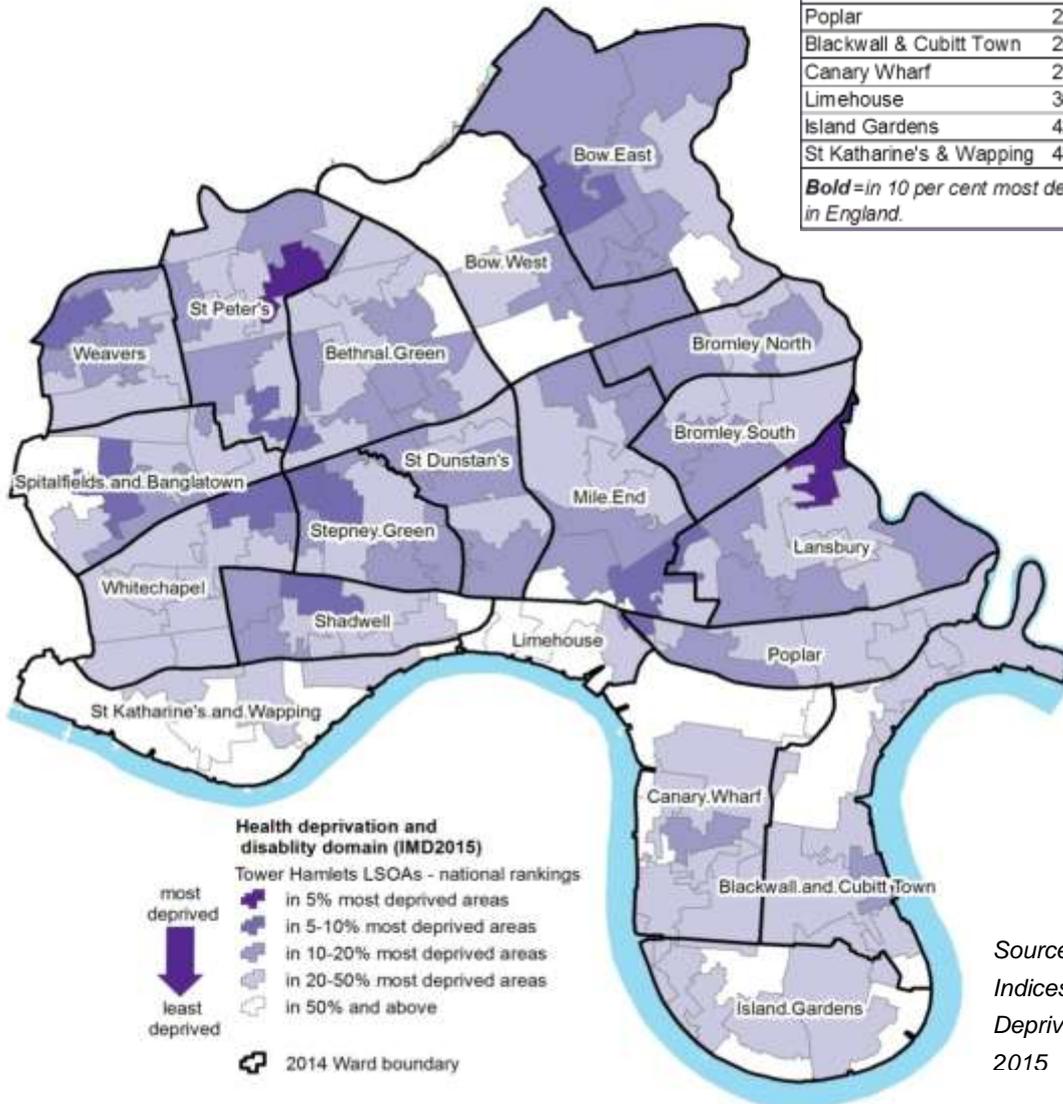
deprived wards nationally. Both these wards also contain one LSOA which is ranked in the most deprived 5 per cent of all LSOAs nationally on the domain score.

**Map 8: Health deprivation and disability domain**

LSOAs in Tower Hamlets: position relative to all LSOAs in England

Ward rankings (LGA estimates)		
National percentile ward falls into:		
Lansbury	<b>8.8</b>	More
St Peter's	<b>9.3</b>	deprived
St Dunstan's	10.6	
Stepney Green	10.9	
Mile End	11.0	
Bow East	11.2	
Bromley North	13.1	
Weavers	13.6	
Bromley South	14.4	
Shadwell	16.0	
Spitalfields & Banglatown	17.1	
Bethnal Green	17.7	
Whitechapel	20.1	
Bow West	22.0	
Poplar	22.0	
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	25.6	
Canary Wharf	27.2	
Limehouse	36.4	
Island Gardens	42.4	Less
St Katharine's & Wapping	48.8	deprived

**Bold** = in 10 per cent most deprived wards in England.



Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2015

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### 3.11 Barriers to housing and services

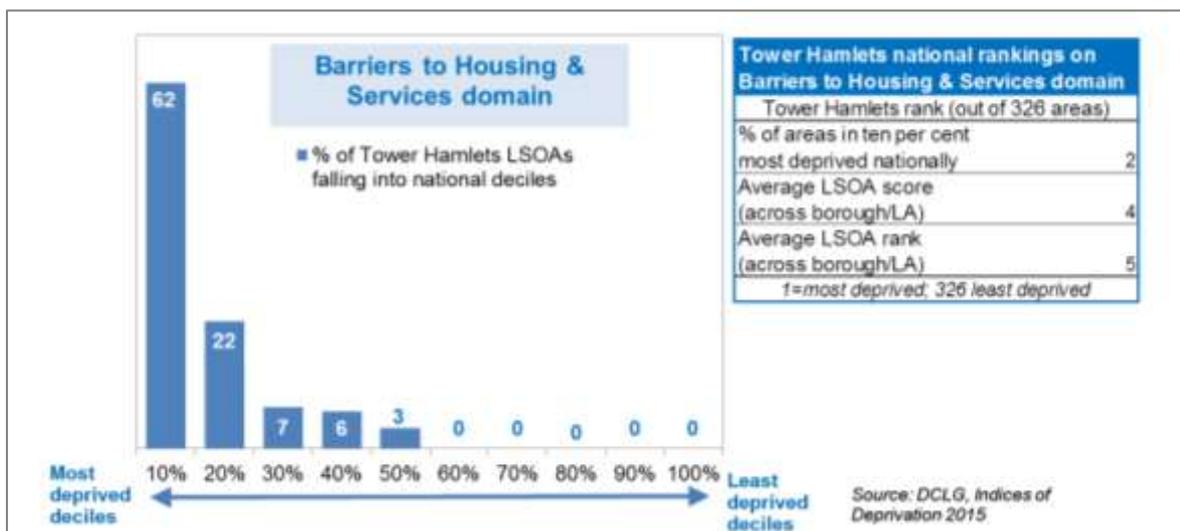
The **barriers to housing and services domain** measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and key local services. The indicators fall into two distinct sub-domains:

- **Geographical barriers**, which relate to the physical proximity of local services – namely the GP, school, supermarket and post office.
- **Wider barriers**, which relate to housing deprivation, capture overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability.

The borough is highly deprived on the barriers to housing and services domain. In terms of the average LSOA score measure, Tower Hamlets is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> most deprived out of 326 areas in England on this domain, after Newham, Waltham Forest and Brent.

Almost two thirds (62 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs fall within the ten per cent most deprived in England on this domain – the second highest proportion nationally, after Newham (where 84 per cent of LSOAs are highly deprived). The ten most deprived areas on this measure are all London boroughs.

**Figure 22: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - Barriers to housing and services domain**



The borough’s relative position on this measure is driven entirely by the *wider barriers* sub-domain which measures housing deprivation using indicators on overcrowding, homelessness and affordability.

Not surprisingly, inner city areas are far more likely to be classified as deprived on this sub-domain. In contrast, rural areas are far more likely to be classified as deprived on the *geographical barriers* sub-domain that relates to access to local services.

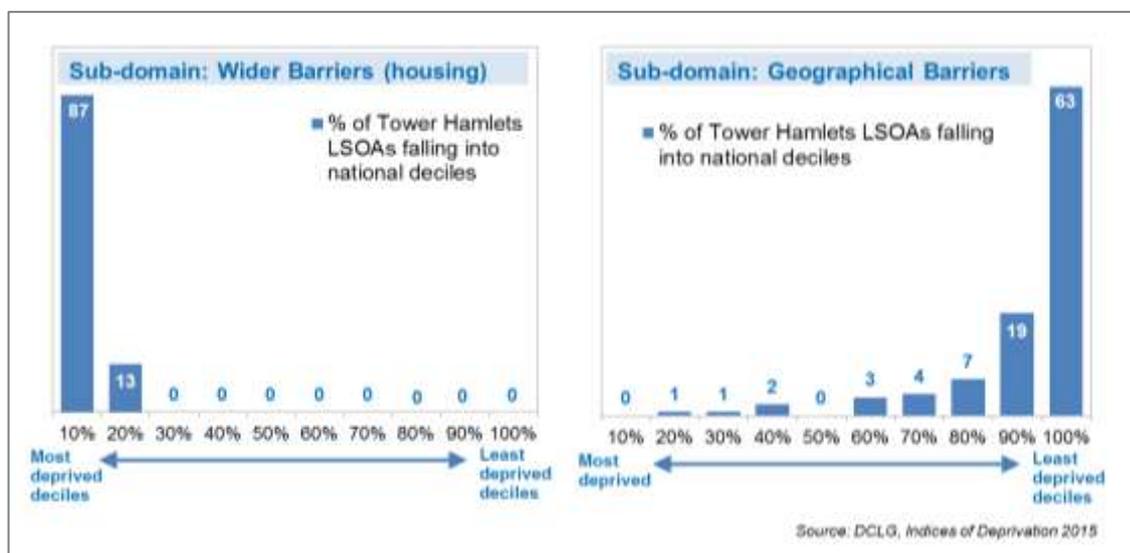
The data for Tower Hamlets illustrates the contrast (Figure 23): all of the borough’s LSOAs fall into the most deprived 20 per cent of areas in England on the *wider barriers* sub-domain, which captures housing deprivation.

Most LSOAs in the borough are highly deprived on the wider barriers measure: 87 per cent fall into the ten per cent most deprived in England, and 72 per cent fall into the most deprived 5 per cent of areas nationally.

Map 9 shows the relative position of the borough’s LSOAs on the domain and the two sub-domains. On the wider barriers sub-domain, the map illustrates the location of the most highly deprived LSOAs in the borough (those that fall into the most deprived 5 per cent of areas in England). These areas are widespread, comprising almost three quarters of all LSOAs

In stark contrast, on the *geographical barriers* sub-domain, none of the Tower Hamlets LSOAs are in the most deprived ten per cent nationally and most are represented in the two least deprived deciles.

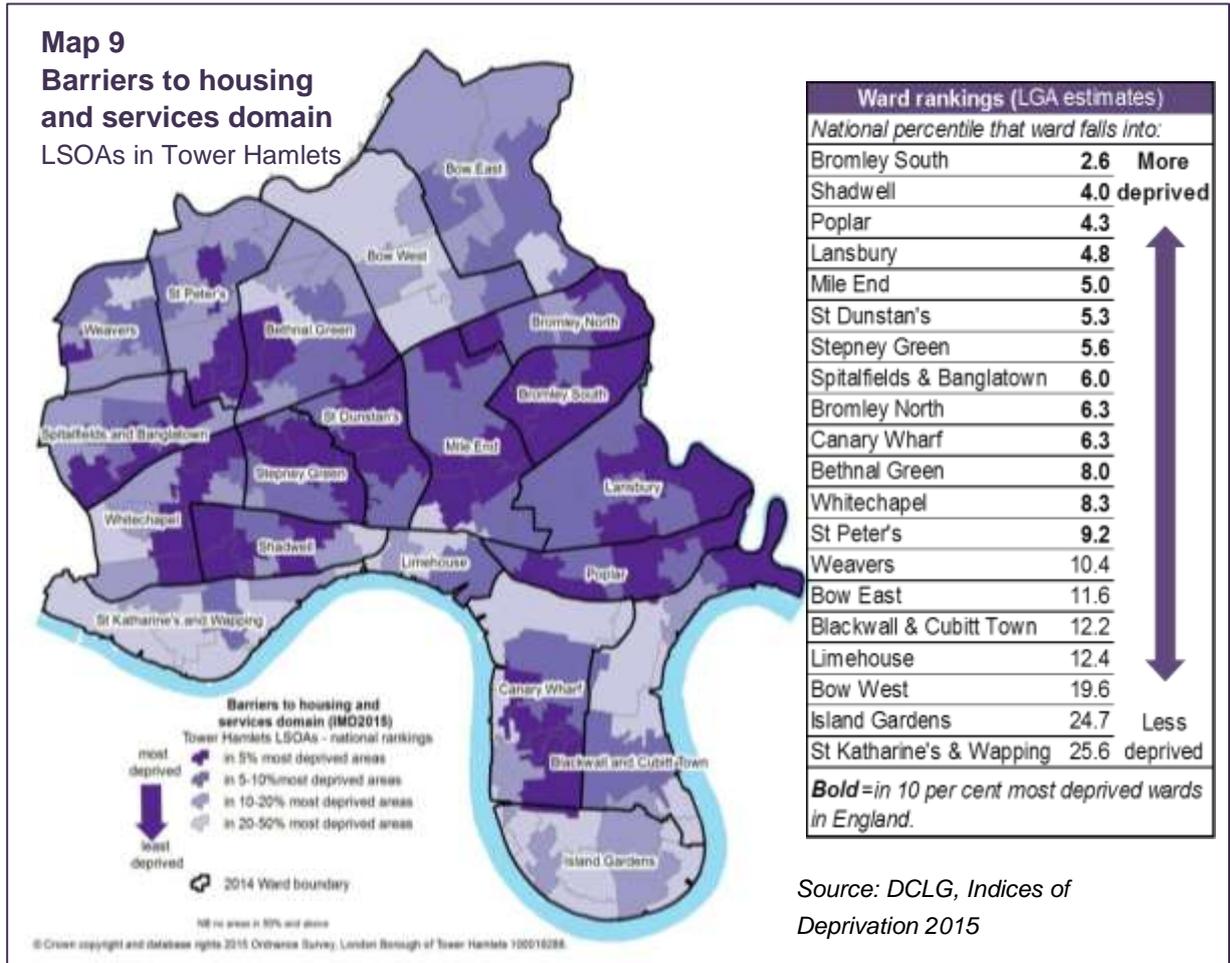
**Figure 23: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - Barriers to housing and services sub-domains – Wider barriers (housing)**



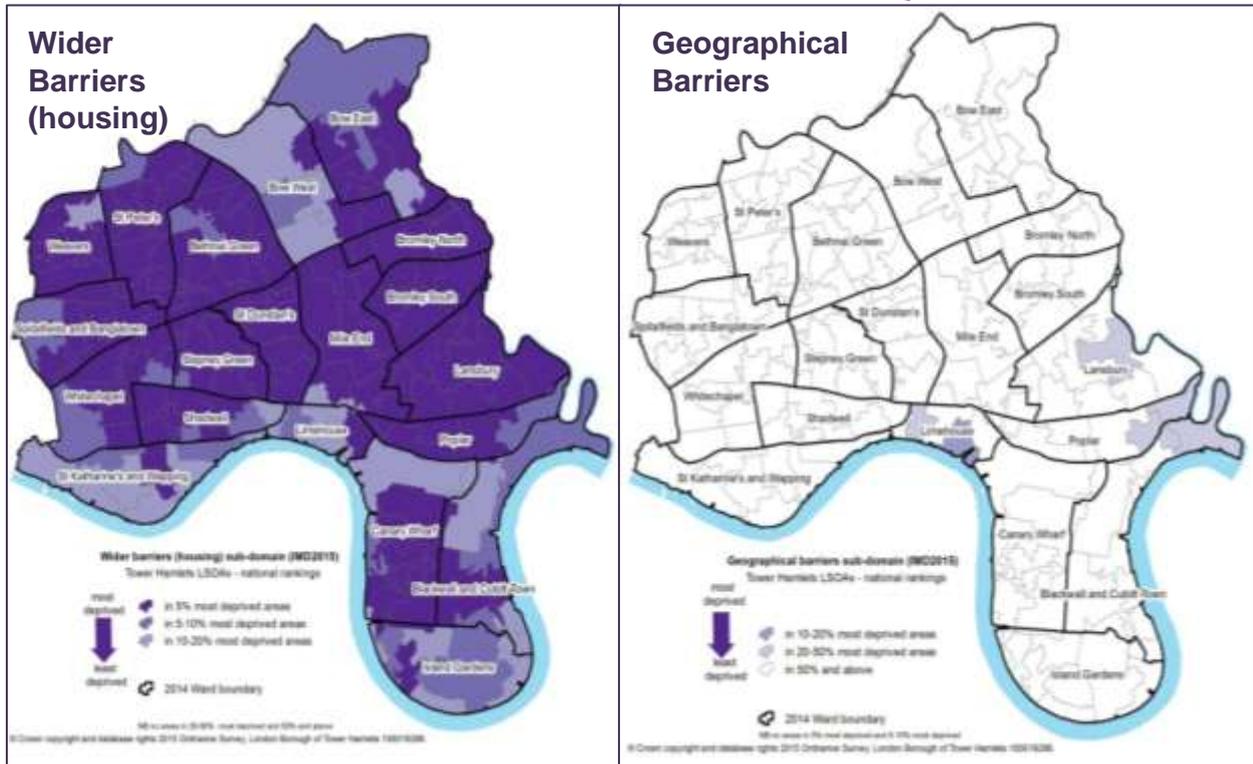
LGA ward estimates are available for the main *barriers to housing and services* domain. These indicate that the four wards of: Bromley South, Shadwell, Poplar and Lansbury are the most deprived in the borough on the barriers to housing and services domain. These wards are all in the most deprived five per cent of wards in England.

**Technical note:**

When sub-domain data are combined, statistical techniques are used to limit the extent to which opposing effects might cancel each other out, and to ensure that the deprived LSOAs are identified and given sufficient weight. This is why the main *barriers to housing and services* domain still shows Tower Hamlets to be quite deprived overall. However, for analytical purposes, the *wider barriers* sub-domain is recommended for more in-depth analysis of housing issues in Tower Hamlets as it focuses solely on housing deprivation measures and is un-diluted by the *geographical barriers* sub-domain data which measures something quite different.



Sub-domains



### 3.12 The living environment deprivation domain

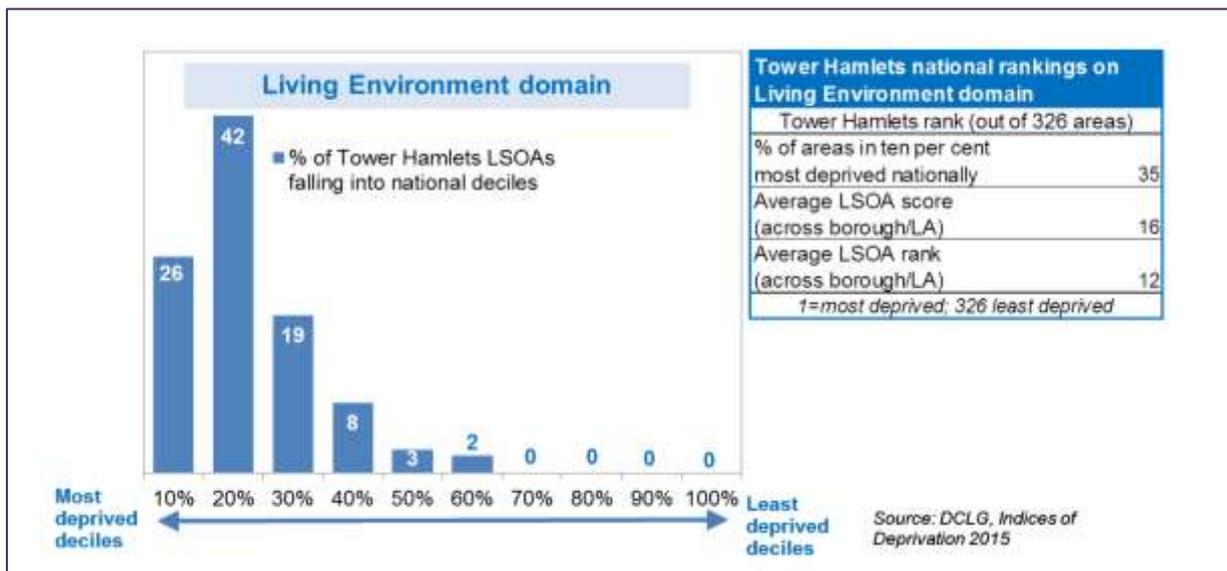
The **living environment deprivation domain** measures the quality of the local environment. The indicators fall into two distinct sub-domains:

- The **indoors** living environment which measures the quality of housing (ie captured by the proportion of houses without central heating and housing in poor condition).
- The **outdoors** living environment measures air quality and road traffic accidents.

The borough is highly deprived on the living environment domain. On the average LSOA score measure, Tower Hamlets is ranked 16th most deprived out of 326 areas in England on this domain. Central and Inner London boroughs are typically ranked as highly deprived on this measure.

Around one quarter (26 per cent) of the borough’s LSOAs fall within the ten per cent most deprived in England on this domain - this proportion is ranked 35<sup>th</sup> highest in England.

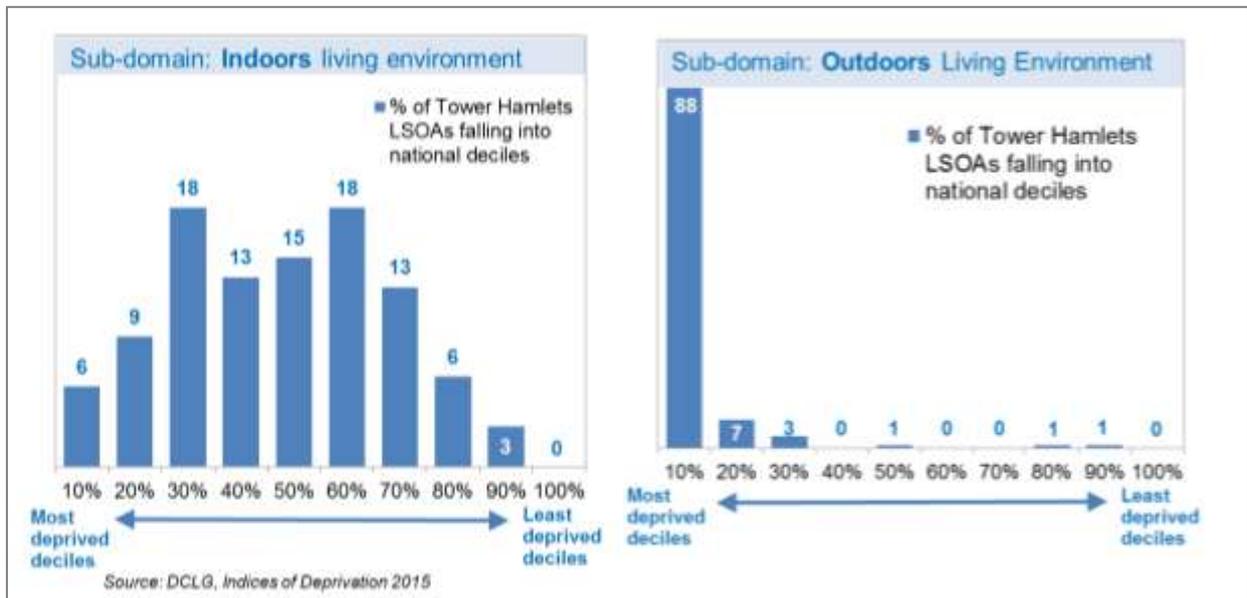
**Figure 24: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - Living environment domain**



The borough’s relative position on this measure is driven entirely by the outdoors sub-domain which draws on indicators relating to air quality and road traffic accidents (Figure 25). On this domain, 88 per cent of the borough’s LSOAs fall into the most deprived ten per cent of areas in England. More notably, one third of the borough’s LSOAs are very deprived on this measure and fall into the one per cent of the most deprived LSOAs in England on this sub-domain.

Not surprisingly, inner city areas are far more likely to be classified as highly deprived on this sub-domain and the majority of severely deprived areas on the outdoors sub-domain are based in Central and Inner London.

**Figure 25: Percentage of LSOAs by national deciles - indoors and outdoors (living environment) sub-domains compared**



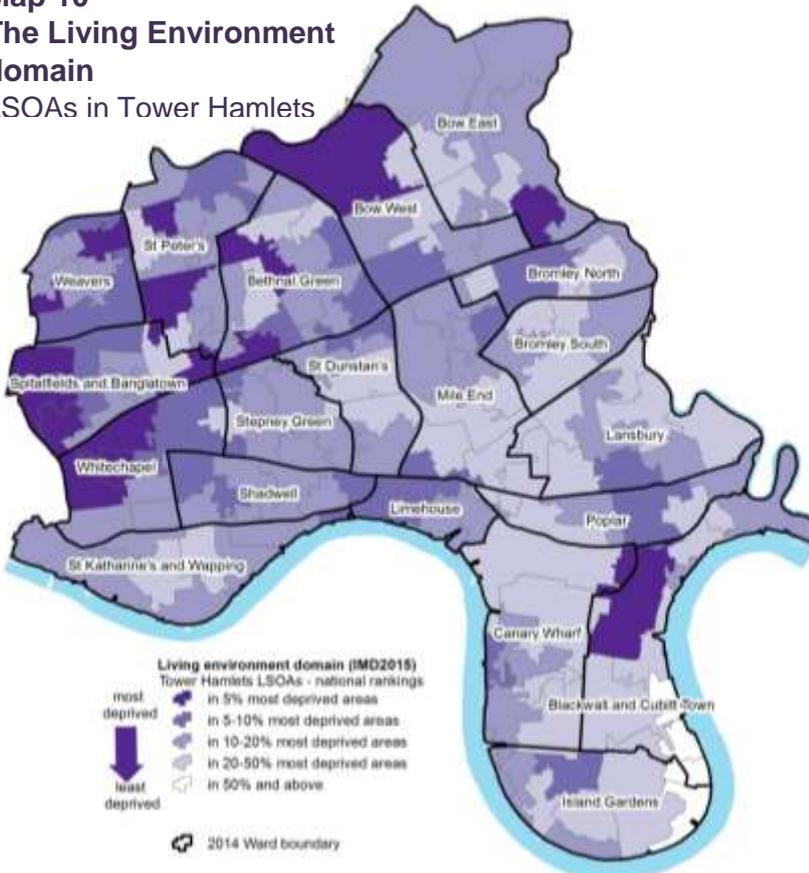
In contrast, on the indoors domain, the borough has a relatively low proportion of highly deprived areas (6 per cent of LSOAs are in the most deprived decile national). This measure captures both housing in poor condition and lack of central heating. Rural areas feature more commonly as deprived on this part of the measure, especially areas in the South West region (eg Cornwall).

Map 10 shows the relative position of the borough’s LSOAs on the domain and the two sub-domains.

On the outdoors sub-domain, the map illustrates that most areas in the borough are highly deprived on this measure: almost three quarters (73 per cent) of LSOAs fall into the most deprived 5 per cent nationally. These areas are widespread – with the exception of the Isle of Dogs, especially Canary Wharf area.

LGA ward estimates are presented here for the main *barriers to housing and services* domain. On this domain, Whitechapel is the most deprived ward in the borough and is in the 5 per cent most deprived wards in England on this measure.

**Map 10**  
**The Living Environment domain**  
 LSOAs in Tower Hamlets

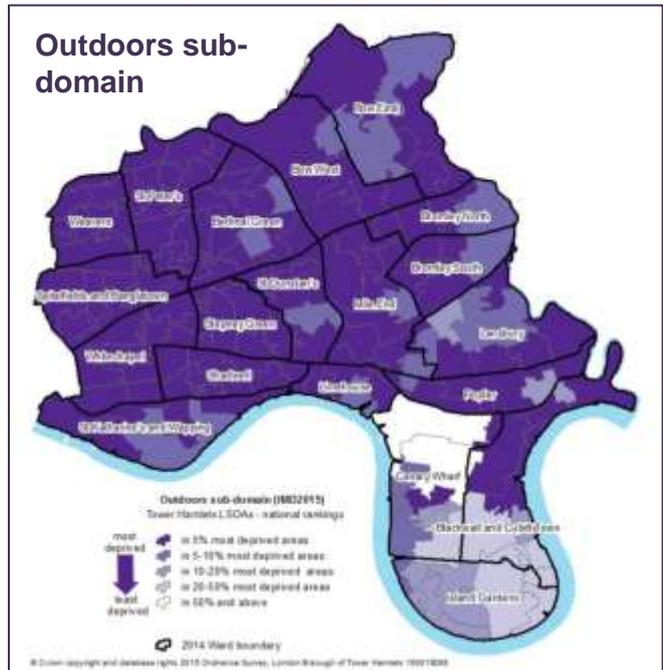
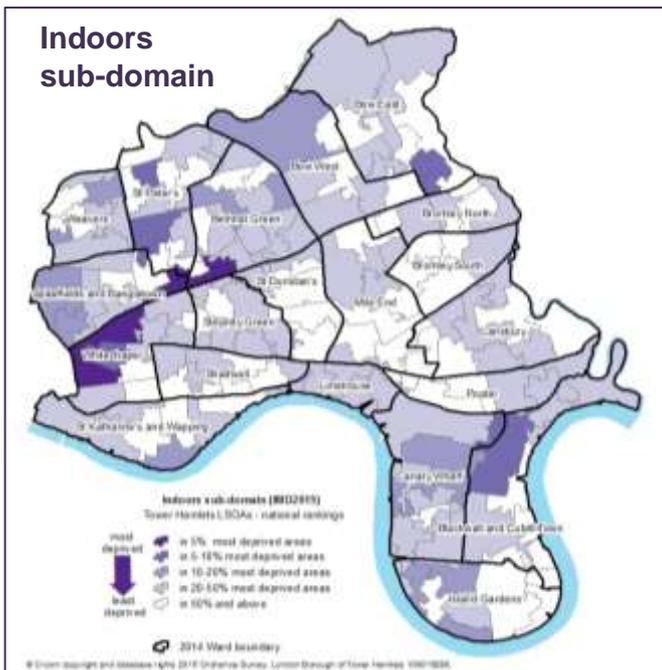


Ward rankings (LGA estimates)		
National percentile that ward falls into:		
Whitechapel	<b>2.5</b>	<b>More</b>
Spitalfields & Banglatown	<b>5.3</b>	<b>deprived</b>
Weavers	<b>6.1</b>	
St Peter's	<b>6.9</b>	
Bethnal Green	<b>7.5</b>	
Limehouse	<b>7.8</b>	
Shadwell	<b>8.5</b>	
Bow West	<b>9.6</b>	
Poplar	12.4	
Bow East	12.5	
Stepney Green	13.7	
Bromley North	14.4	
St Katharine's & Wapping	14.6	
Lansbury	17.3	
Bromley South	18.3	
St Dunstan's	18.7	
Canary Wharf	19.5	
Mile End	20.6	
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	23.4	Least
Island Gardens	23.6	deprived

**Bold** = in 10 per cent most deprived wards in England.

Source: DCLG, Indices of Deprivation 2015

Sub-domains



## 4 Conclusions and further information

The analysis shows that while deprivation remains widespread in Tower Hamlets, the borough now contains fewer of the most highly deprived areas in England.

When the 2015 indices were released, there was much discussion in the press about changes since the 2010 indices, and specifically the improvements that East London boroughs have seen on the IMD. Indeed, as this analysis shows, Tower Hamlets, along with Hackney, Newham and Greenwich, were the areas that saw the biggest falls in the proportion of their small areas that are highly deprived relative to other areas.

It is worth noting that changes between the 2010 and 2015 indices are underpinned by statistics that relate to the years 2008 and 2012/13. This was a period of recession and in the case of London, the run up to the 2012 Olympics. In addition, Tower Hamlets, along with its neighbouring boroughs, all saw significant, and high, population growth over this period. These could all be potentially relevant factors in considering the changing relativities in deprivation between areas in and outside of London.

Change is a complex issue, and the indices are not designed, or particularly well suited, to measuring it. While the indices capture changes in relativities between areas, they tell us little about absolute changes in the levels of deprivation or poverty over time. Other data sources would be better suited to exploring this, and would have the benefit of being more up to date.

The indices are primarily designed to explore differences in deprivation across small areas at a point in time, and to provide intelligence about the underlying drivers and dimensions of deprivation. This analysis has shown that, despite improvements in the borough's relative position on the IMD, it remains highly deprived on some of the measures that underpin the overall index, particularly those relating to: income deprivation (especially among children and older people), housing barriers and crime. The borough also remains highly deprived in relation to other London Boroughs.

### Further information

For access to the data which underpin this report, please see the DCLG webpages, which provide the main research report, a technical report and all data files in spreadsheet form.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>

This Briefing was produced by the Council's [Corporate Research Unit](#) which is based within the Council's Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. The team regularly publishes analysis and research about Tower Hamlets which can be accessed on the Council's website at the following link:



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