

INVEST IN South Lakeland

A brighter outlook for business.

The Northern Powerhouse Liveability Index

April 2018

The Northern Powerhouse Liveability Index reveals the hidden areas where families on average incomes are most likely to struggle to find housing and opportunities to thrive. The index together with this map reveals for the first time a new picture of where the need for more affordable homes to be built is most urgent.



Local Authority

1. Barrow-in-Furness	11. Hyndburn	21. Sefton
2. Blackburn with Darwen	12. Knowsley	22. South Ribble
3. Blackpool	13. Liverpool	23. St Helens
4. Bolton	14. Manchester	24. Stockport
5. Burnley	15. North East Lincolnshire	25. Tameside
6. Bury	16. Oldham	26. Trafford
7. Chorley	17. Preston	27. Warrington
8. City of Kingston Upon Hull	18. Rochdale	28. Wigan
9. Fylde	19. Rossendale	
10. Halton	20. Salford	



South Lakeland is top for Northern Powerhouse 'liveability'

Research commissioned by Your Housing Group has ranked South Lakeland as the region's most 'liveable' location.

The report compared data from every local authority in the North of England and suggests that affordability issues are affecting areas with reputations for below-average house prices. South Lakeland was in a leading position followed by Fylde, Ribble Valley, South Ribble and Copeland. Oldham, Blackburn, Knowsley, Pendle and Manchester were ranked as the least liveable areas.

The first [Northern Powerhouse Liveability Index](#) was compiled to challenge existing thinking about priority locations for new housing development.

www.investinsouthlakeland.co.uk is the shop window for business support in South Lakeland and is run by the District Council's Economic Development Team. It aims to provide businesses with support and information about how to expand to bigger premises or relocate to South Lakeland, how to gain financial assistance, and recruit or train their workforce. We also aim to provide useful business news. If you have a story you would like us to feature call us on 01539 793 555 or email team@investinsouthlakeland.co.uk

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The index quality of life report considers four areas; affordability, opportunity, desirability, and availability. A value of 100 is ascribed to the average in each of these fields, so that somewhere totally average would have a score of 400. South Lakeland topped the whole of the North with a score of 465. Bradford in West Yorkshire, the lowest in the North, scored 331.

Affordability is classed as how house prices and rents relate to average wages, while the “opportunity” factor looks at the availability of decent jobs and the quality of education, for which the Attainment 8, students’ average scores across eight key subjects, is the measure used.

In South Lakeland, higher than average house prices and rents are cancelled out by higher earnings and the North’s highest employment rate. South Lakeland also scores highly from the desirability of its area with good housing availability and access to good schools with high Attainment 8 scores.

Chris Walker, the former government economist who led the research, commented: “What’s striking about South Lakeland is that its affordability is close to the average, but there is a good level of opportunity and standard of jobs, while obviously the desirability comes from its location.”

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