

# Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2021 - 22

## 1 Introduction

This note covers parking finances for the 22 local authorities in Wales. As in England and Scotland, local authorities are required to submit details of all their finances to the Welsh Government in a standard format. They are normally published in October, seven months after the financial year end. This report looks at the section on parking income and expenditure from 2017-18 to 2021-22 and is based primarily on data reported by Statistics for Wales (Welsh Government (2022)), as well as data reported by English and Scottish Local Government authorities; all of the sources are listed in the references.<sup>1</sup>

The published data is less comprehensive than in England and does not split out on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately. The figures do not include any commercial off-street parking. In 2021-22, 15 councils showed surpluses and seven showed deficits. All councils are now receiving income from parking.

## 2 Summary

Table 1: Summary of parking accounts for Wales (£ millions)

		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change 2021-22 on 2020-21
Parking	Income	38.5	41.9	43.0	17.0	36.9	116.9%
	Expenditure	24.1	25.8	27.6	26.3	28.5	8.7%
	Surplus	14.4	16.1	15.4	-9.2	8.4	-191.2%
Total transport	Net expenditure	265.3	267.1	270.5	310.4	294.8	-5.0%
	Parking surplus as percentage of net transport expenditure	5.4	6.0	5.7	-3.0	2.9	

<sup>1</sup>Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Table 1 shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Wales of the incomes and expenditures arising from parking charges and penalty income both for on- and off-street parking. The income has increased by 116.9 %, the expenditure has increased by 8.7 % and the surplus has fallen by 191.2 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport expenditure has fallen by 5.0 % and the surplus now represents 2.9 % of net transport expenditure. Since 2017-18 income has fallen by 4.0% and expenditure has risen by 18.5%. Over the same period the surplus has fallen by 41.7%. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

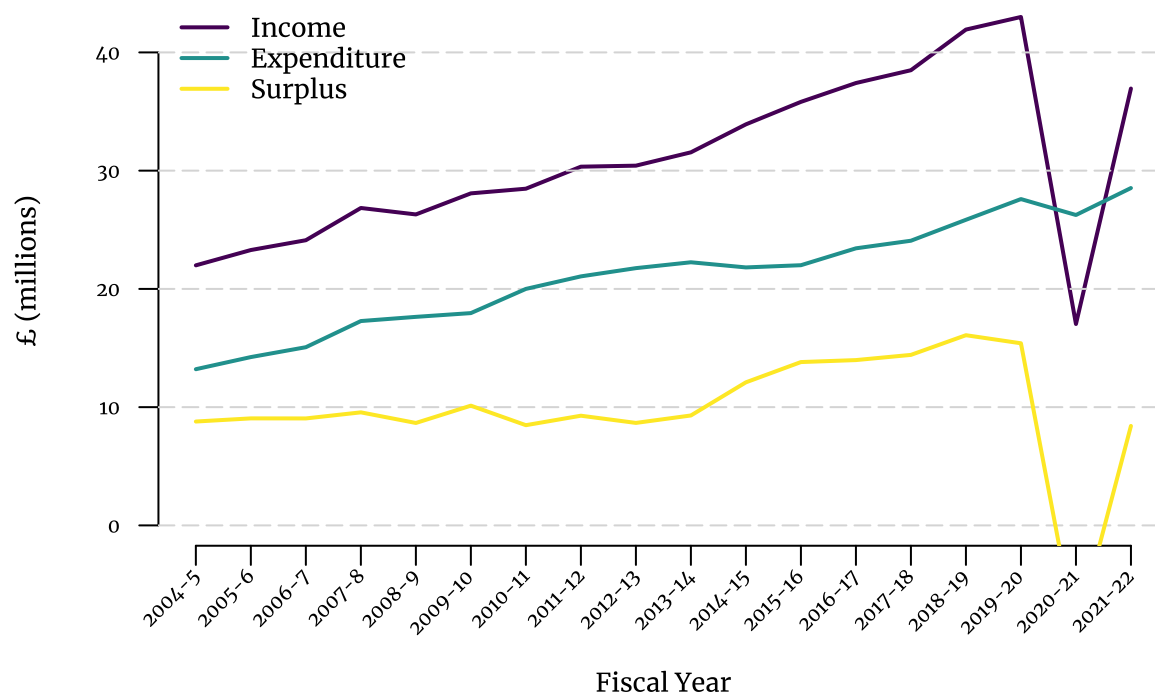


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

### 3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2021-22 was £36.9 million, 116.9% higher than 2020-21. Note that this includes penalty income, which is not shown separately, but does not include off-street income received by commercial off-street parking facilities. Table 2 ranks the Welsh councils in terms of parking income.

In Wales as a whole 19 councils increased their income over the past year and two decreased their income. Another single council's income stayed the same. The changes from 2020-21 are mapped<sup>2</sup> in Figure 4 in the Annex. The annualised changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 5, using the same colour palette.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd, and between them accounted for 40.6% of parking income.

The three councils which had the largest year-on-year percentage increases in income were Flintshire (up 807.7%), Ceredigion (up 693.6%) and Wrexham (up 292.1%). The biggest decreases were in Torfaen (2.7%), and Blaenau Gwent (0.0%) (excluding Caerphilly where income was under £30,000).

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change 2021-22 on 2020-21	Average annual change from 2017-18
Cardiff	8,629	9,739	9,551	3,421	7,011	104.9%	-5.1%
Swansea	5,932	6,978	6,441	2,715	5,188	91.1%	-3.3%
Gwynedd	2,539	2,697	2,699	1,507	2,795	85.5%	2.4%
Carmarthenshire	3,035	2,882	2,709	971	2,414	148.6%	-5.6%
Pembrokeshire	1,916	2,173	2,065	1,120	2,329	107.9%	5.0%
Conwy	1,903	2,227	2,391	1,015	2,237	120.4%	4.1%
Powys	1,653	1,683	1,741	721	1,777	146.5%	1.8%
Denbighshire	1,517	1,515	1,585	652	1,672	156.3%	2.5%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,090	1,324	1,764	936	1,599	70.8%	10.1%
Vale of Glamorgan	737	807	738	628	1,567	149.5%	20.8%
Monmouthshire	1,535	1,446	1,492	617	1,495	142.3%	-0.7%
Newport	591	649	637	502	1,255	150.1%	20.7%
Bridgend	1,139	1,211	1,712	673	1,230	82.7%	1.9%
Ceredigion	1,055	1,058	1,259	152	1,204	693.6%	3.3%
Neath Port Talbot	1,500	1,652	1,722	411	1,072	160.6%	-8.1%
Isle of Anglesey	639	682	599	263	674	156.3%	1.3%
Merthyr Tydfil	725	684	697	292	463	58.5%	-10.6%

<sup>2</sup>Boundary data for this and all further maps is from Office for National Statistics (2017). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change 2021-22 on 2020-21	Average annual change from 2017-18
Wrexham	1,113	1,067	1,092	113	444	292.1%	-20.5%
Flintshire	571	721	925	46	416	807.7%	-7.6%
Torfaen	4	6	108	75	73	-2.7%	106.7%
Blaenau Gwent	30	40	30	30	30	0.0%	-0.2%
Caerphilly	641	688	1,041	170	0	-100.0%	-100.0%
Total	38,494	41,929	42,997	17,030	36,943	116.9%	-1.0%

## 4 Expenditure

Table 3 ranks the councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure has risen by £2.3 million (8.7%) after a fall of £1.3m last year.

In Wales as a whole 16 councils increased their expenditures over the past year and six decreased them. The changes from 2020-21 are mapped in Figure 2 in the Annex. The average annual changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 3 in the Annex, using the same colour palette.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Newport where it increased by 106.3% while Vale of Glamorgan and Swansea increased by 27.1% and 26.5% respectively. The biggest decreases were in Caerphilly (58.1%), and Flintshire (21.5%).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2021-22. Nationally in Wales it is 77.2% with Cardiff at 85.4%.

Table 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change 2021-22 on 2020-21	Average annual change since 2017-18	Expenditure as proportion of income
Cardiff	4,764	5,291	5,559	5,688	5,987	5.2%	5.9%	85.4%
Swansea	3,087	3,697	3,833	2,705	3,422	26.5%	2.6%	66.0%
Carmarthenshire	2,115	1,925	1,948	2,143	2,190	2.2%	0.9%	90.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	906	1,255	1,389	1,362	1,561	14.6%	14.6%	97.6%
Neath Port Talbot	1,332	1,480	1,459	1,503	1,552	3.3%	3.9%	144.8%
Pembrokeshire	1,319	1,370	1,306	1,302	1,460	12.1%	2.6%	62.7%
Gwynedd	1,157	1,135	1,310	1,209	1,373	13.6%	4.4%	49.1%

Table 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change 2021-22 on 2020-21	Average annual change since 2017-18	Expenditure as proportion of income
Newport	286	468	325	629	1,297	106.3%	46.0%	103.4%
Bridgend	889	1,007	1,388	1,108	1,214	9.5%	8.1%	98.7%
Denbighshire	1,053	1,069	1,178	1,042	1,106	6.1%	1.2%	66.1%
Powys	822	823	858	873	1,001	14.6%	5.1%	56.3%
Conwy	954	1,058	1,158	1,067	980	-8.1%	0.7%	43.8%
Vale of Glamorgan	686	706	630	701	891	27.1%	6.8%	56.9%
Monmouthshire	671	667	816	733	851	16.2%	6.1%	56.9%
Ceredigion	567	572	639	641	672	4.8%	4.3%	55.8%
Wrexham	812	665	647	694	638	-8.1%	-5.9%	143.7%
Flintshire	678	400	564	631	496	-21.5%	-7.6%	119.3%
Merthyr Tydfil	510	404	417	392	455	16.1%	-2.8%	98.3%
Torfaen	82	121	410	316	395	24.9%	48.1%	540.5%
Blaenau Gwent	483	363	409	346	343	-0.9%	-8.2%	1144.5%
Caerphilly	550	990	1,024	809	339	-58.1%	-11.4%	-Inf%
Isle of Anglesey	351	379	326	355	307	-13.5%	-3.3%	45.5%
Total	24,074	25,844	27,595	26,250	28,530	8.7%	4.3%	77.2%

Table 4 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 77.2% compared to 154.1% in the previous year.

Cardiff's expenditure was 85.4% of its income having fallen since last year, while Swansea's has fallen to 66.0%.

Care should be taken in interpreting the percentages towards the bottom of the table, as the very low parking incomes can lead to extreme values which are less meaningful.

Table 4: Parking expenditure as a proportion of parking income

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Cardiff	55.2%	54.3%	58.2%	166.3%	85.4%
Swansea	52.0%	53.0%	59.5%	99.6%	66.0%
Cardiff	55.2%	54.3%	58.2%	166.3%	85.4%
Carmarthenshire	69.7%	66.8%	71.9%	220.7%	90.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	83.1%	94.8%	78.8%	145.5%	97.6%
Neath Port Talbot	88.8%	89.6%	84.7%	365.3%	144.8%
Pembrokeshire	68.8%	63.0%	63.2%	116.3%	62.7%
Gwynedd	45.6%	42.1%	48.5%	80.2%	49.1%
Newport	48.3%	72.1%	51.0%	125.4%	103.4%
Bridgend	78.0%	83.1%	81.1%	164.6%	98.7%

Table 4: Parking expenditure as a proportion of parking income  
(continued)

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Denbighshire	69.4%	70.6%	74.4%	159.8%	66.1%
Powys	49.7%	48.9%	49.3%	121.2%	56.3%
Conwy	50.1%	47.5%	48.4%	105.1%	43.8%
Vale of Glamorgan	93.1%	87.5%	85.4%	111.6%	56.9%
Monmouthshire	43.7%	46.2%	54.7%	118.8%	56.9%
Ceredigion	53.8%	54.1%	50.8%	422.7%	55.8%
Wrexham	73.0%	62.3%	59.2%	613.3%	143.7%
Flintshire	118.8%	55.4%	60.9%	1378.7%	119.3%
Merthyr Tydfil	70.4%	59.1%	59.9%	134.3%	98.3%
Torfaen	2050.0%	2016.7%	379.6%	421.3%	540.5%
Blaenau Gwent	1599.7%	918.1%	1364.1%	1154.7%	1144.5%
Caerphilly	85.8%	143.8%	98.3%	476.7%	
Isle of Anglesey	54.9%	55.6%	54.4%	135.0%	45.5%
Total	62.5%	61.6%	64.2%	154.1%	77.2%

\* Any empty cells indicate the council reported no income and/or no expenditure

## 5 Surpluses

Table 5 shows the parking surpluses from from 2017-18 to 2021-22 and the change from 2020-21 to 2021-22. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £10.2 million between 15 authorities of which Swansea, Gwynedd, and Conwy contributed 43.7%.

‘Seven councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits falling to £1.8 million from £9.5 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £8.4 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2021-22 compared with £-9.2 million in 2021-22, an increase of NA%.

Swansea increased their surplus by 17349.5% while Gwynedd and NA increased by 377.2% and NA% respectively. The biggest decreases were in Gwynedd (377.2%), and Swansea (17349.5%).

The largest increase of deficit was incurred by Torfaen which increased their deficit by 33.4 %

The biggest decrease was in Flintshire where the deficit fell by (86.3 %)

Table 5: Parking surpluses for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change 2021-22 on 2020-21	Surplus as proportion of transport spending
Swansea	2,845	3,281	2,608	10	1,766	17349.5%	7.6%
Gwynedd	1,382	1,562	1,389	298	1,422	377.2%	9.0%
Conwy	949	1,169	1,233	-51	1,257	NA%	13.4%
Cardiff	3,865	4,448	3,991	-2,267	1,024	NA%	3.5%
Pembrokeshire	597	803	759	-182	869	NA%	6.9%
Powys	831	860	883	-153	776	NA%	4.9%
Vale of Glamorgan	51	101	108	-73	676	NA%	7.8%
Monmouthshire	864	778	676	-116	644	NA%	10.3%
Denbighshire	464	445	407	-390	566	NA%	5.8%
Ceredigion	488	486	619	-489	531	NA%	4.3%
Isle of Anglesey	288	303	273	-92	367	NA%	4.1%
Carmarthenshire	920	957	761	-1,172	224	NA%	1.3%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	184	69	375	-426	38	NA%	0.2%
Bridgend	250	204	324	-435	16	NA%	0.1%
Merthyr Tydfil	215	280	279	-100	8	NA%	0.1%
Newport	306	181	312	-127	-42	-66.6%	-0.3%
Flintshire	-108	321	361	-585	-80	-86.3%	-0.5%
Wrexham	301	403	445	-581	-194	-66.6%	-2.0%

Blaenau Gwent	-453	-323	-379	-316	-313	-1.0%	-5.0%
Torfaen	-78	-115	-302	-241	-322	33.4%	-3.8%
Caerphilly	91	-302	17	-639	-339	-47.0%	-2.2%
Neath Port Talbot	168	173	263	-1,092	-480	-56.0%	-3.3%
Total deficit	-639	-740	-681	-9,529	-1,771	-81.4%	-2.1%
Total surplus	15,059	16,825	16,083	308	10,184	3205.1%	4.9%
Total	14,420	16,085	15,402	-9,221	8,413	NA%	2.9%

\* Where the change in surplus is actually a change in deficit, the values are in italics

## References

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## National comparisons

Table 6: Comparison of parking income and expenditure in across the nations of Great Britain (£ millions, latest year available)

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Fiscal year	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2017-18)	(2021-22)	(2017-18)
Parking income	1021.3	728.0	88.2	36.9	1787.1
Parking expenditure	539.6	273.5	43.6	28.5	854.8
Surplus	481.7	454.4	44.6	8.4	932.3
Surplus as proportion of income	47.2%	62.4%	50.5%	22.8%	52.2%

Table 6 provides a comparison with London, England excluding London, Wales, and Scotland for the most recent available data, while Table 7 compares the changes between 2021-22 and the previous year, with the average annual change over the four-year period starting in 2017-18 (or the most recent four-year period for which data is available). In the last year the surpluses for Wales have decreased by -191.2%, which is less than the average annual increase observed over the preceding four years, which was -12.6%.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 6.2% annually over the four years compared with 2.1% annually for the Retail Prices Index during the same period (Office for National Statistics (2022)).<sup>3</sup>

Table 7: Changes in parking income and expenditure over previous four years (from most recent year available) across the nations of Great Britain

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Most recent year available	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2017-18)	(2021-22)	(2017-18)
Average annual change in income	4.3 %	5.8 %	4.7 %	-1.0 %	4.2 %
Change in income since previous year	4.2 %	7.1 %	6.8 %	116.9 %	5.3 %
Average annual change in expenditure	2.8 %	0.0 %	2.3 %	4.3 %	1.3 %
Change in expenditure since previous year	5.1 %	-0.1 %	9.2 %	8.7 %	4.3 %
Average annual change in surplus	6.1 %	10.2 %	7.5 %	-12.6 %	7.3 %
Change in surplus since previous year	3.1 %	11.9 %	4.6 %	-191.2 %	6.2 %

<sup>3</sup>The most recent data available for Great Britain as a whole is from the year 2017-18 and all calculations are therefore performed for the four years previous i.e. from 2013-14.

## Maps

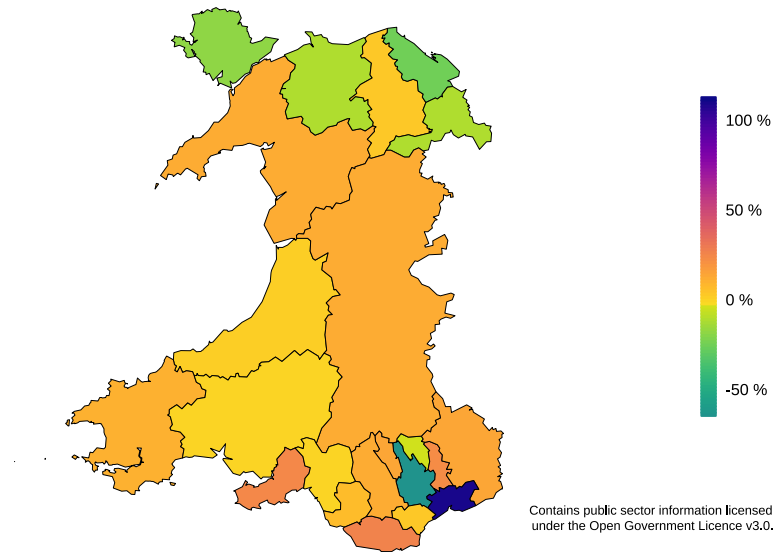


Figure 2: Map of change in parking expenditure from 2020-21 to 2021-22 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

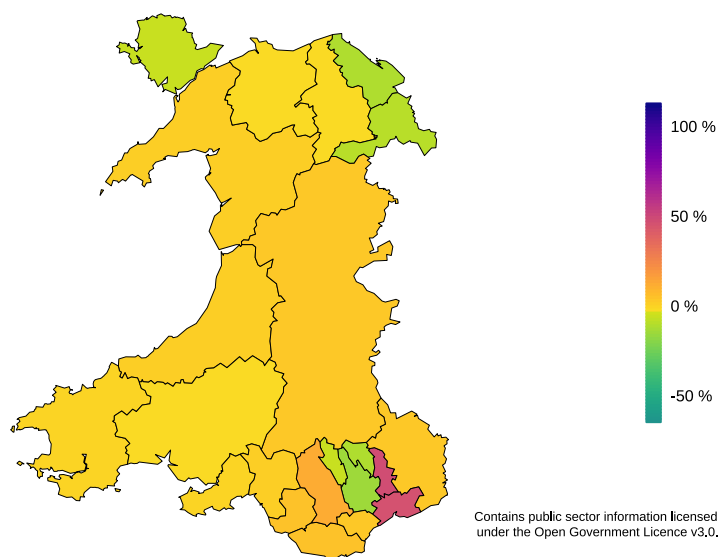


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years from 2017-18 to 2021-22 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

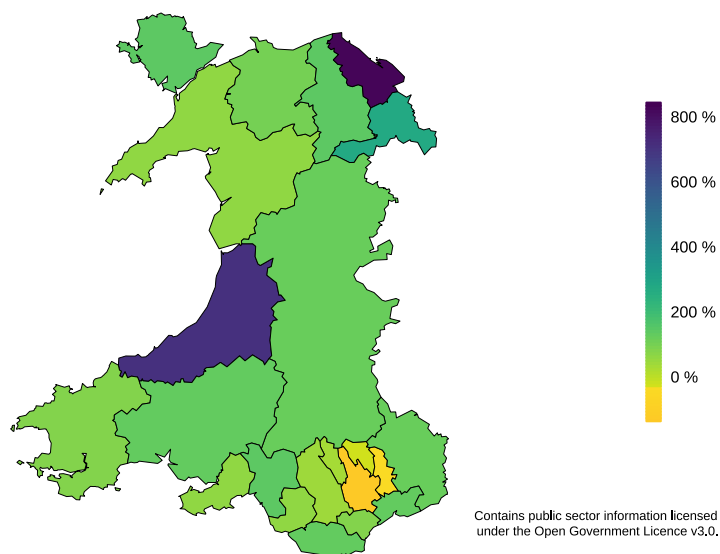


Figure 4: Map of change in parking income from 2020-21 to 2021-22 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

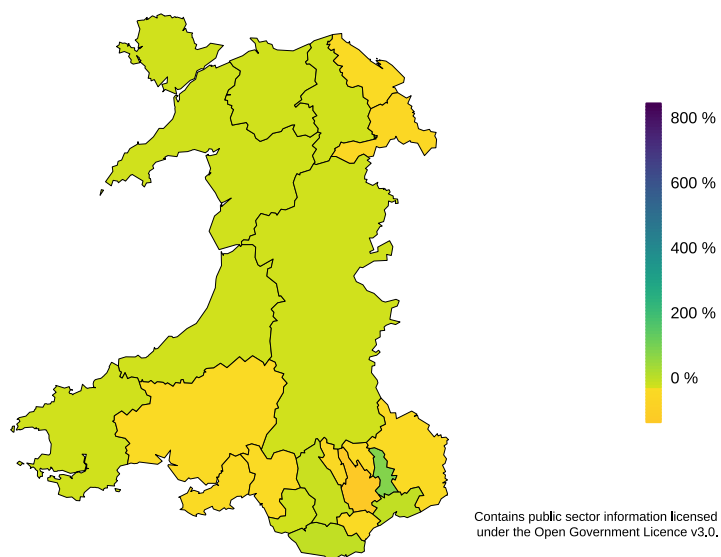


Figure 5: Map of average annual change in parking income over the past four years from 2017-18 to 2021-22 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))