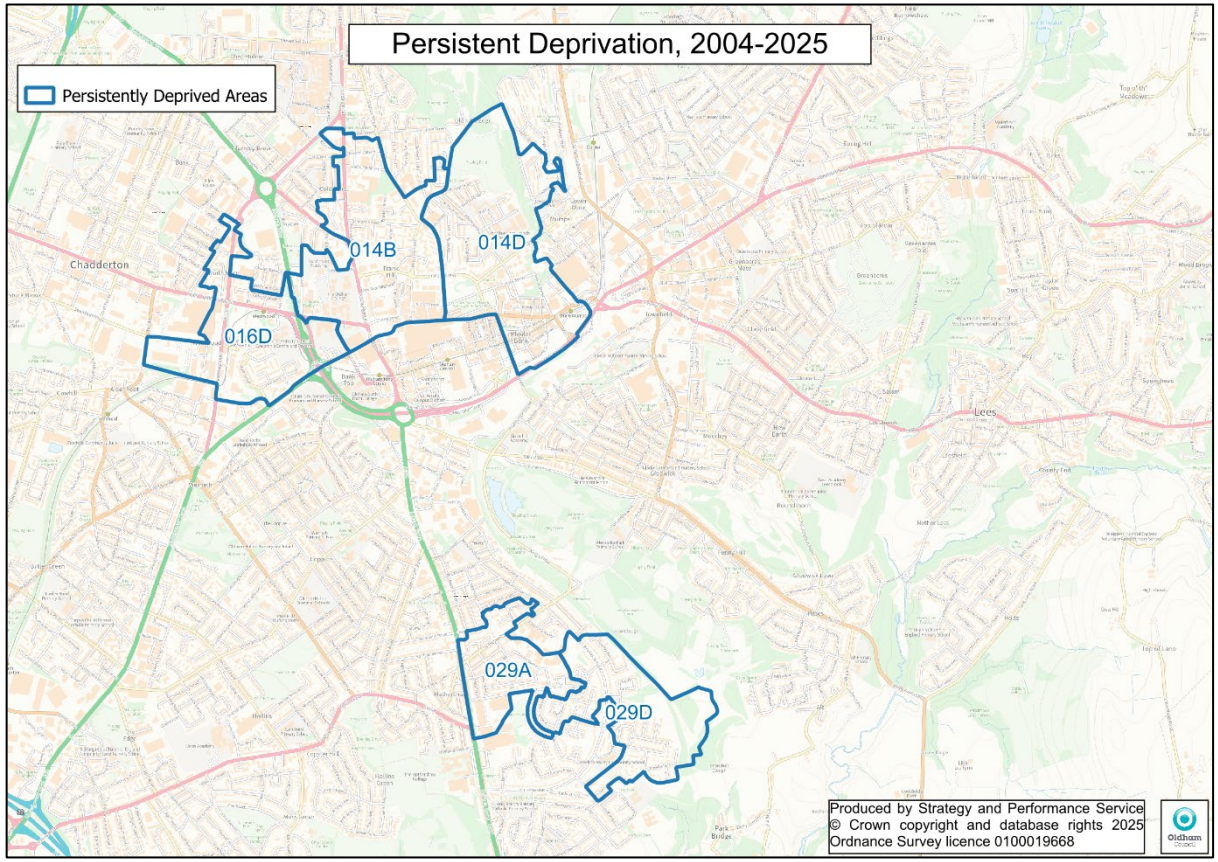
Persistent Deprivation in Oldham 2004-2025: Collaborative work with Queens University Belfast

The five areas shown on the map are amongst the most deprived in the country, and they have been that way for at least 20 years. This makes them extremely rare and truly intensely deprived. Most authorities of our size would expect to have either no areas like this, or just one; we have five that have been in the 2% most deprived in the country in every IMD[1], and 014B (the area around Belmont Street) has always been in the 1% most deprived.

This persistent and intense deprivation is the reason for producing this set of five reports (links below); to dig deeper into the data and better understand the nature of the areas. The work is a collaboration with Professor Chris Lloyd at Queens University Belfast and covers the period from 2004 to 2025.



How the reports might be used

- As a catalyst for intervention in these areas
- As the basis for further research
- As evidence for the need for funding in these areas

1. The Indices of Deprivation

Often known as the IMD, it is a set of measures of relative deprivation at a small area geography. It comprises seven themes (or 'domains') of deprivation (Income, Employment, Education, Health, Crime, Living Environment, and Barriers to Housing & Services) and an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which combines the seven themes. The update in 2025 was the latest in a series going back to 2000 (though this analysis starts in 2004).

The IMD feeds into funding calculations, and often we only use the overall measure at Local Authority level. However, there is a wealth of data that are calculated at these small areas (142 of these areas are in Oldham in all), for those seven different themes (domains). The five most persistently deprived areas of Oldham – as shown on the map - are the subject of these reports.

Click the links to open each of the five reports:

014B Belmont Street | 014D St. Mary's Estate | 016D Westwood Tram Stop | 029A Hathershaw South-East | 029D Fitton Hill East

Council Authors: John Pritchard, Zaiem Khan, Jonathan Downs