





















# WHITCHURCH MARKET TOWN PROFILE

**Spring 2021** 











### INFORMATION, REPORTING & INSIGHT TEAM

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INFORMATION, REPORTING & INSIGHT TEAM

# **Market Town Profile**

# Whitchurch

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Whitchurch is the northern most market town in Shropshire located on the border of Cheshire and Wales. The town has been inhabited since Roman times and is still a thriving market town.

This North Shropshire market town has many buildings dating from Medieval ,Tudor and Georgian times. Whitchurch is reputed to be the oldest continually inhabited towns in the county. Within the town is the wooded Victoria Jubilee Park and picturesque Memorial Garden.

Named Mediolanum by the Romans and chosen for its strategic location, Whitchurch soon had legions passing through to reach the outposts of Roman Britain. The town was the heart of the Roman road network, a fact reflected today, and one that makes Whitchurch so central and accessible for visitors.

The Whitchurch firm of J B Joyce (tower clock makers) was established in 1690. Whitchurch Heritage Centre hosts information on J B Joyce for visitors. These clocks have an international reputation and can be found on cathedrals and palaces from Singapore to Kabul. Many examples of Joyce's work can be seen around the town making Whitchurch "the Home of Tower Clocks".

The town is surrounded by beautiful countryside and there are walks along the North Shropshire Canals to Grindley Brook and through the Whitchurch Waterways County Park, also a haven for wildlife and containing Greenfields Nature Reserve managed by The Wildlife Trust.

## **Area Quick Statistics**

2,381 hectares

4,282 households

10,500 people

4.4 people per hectare

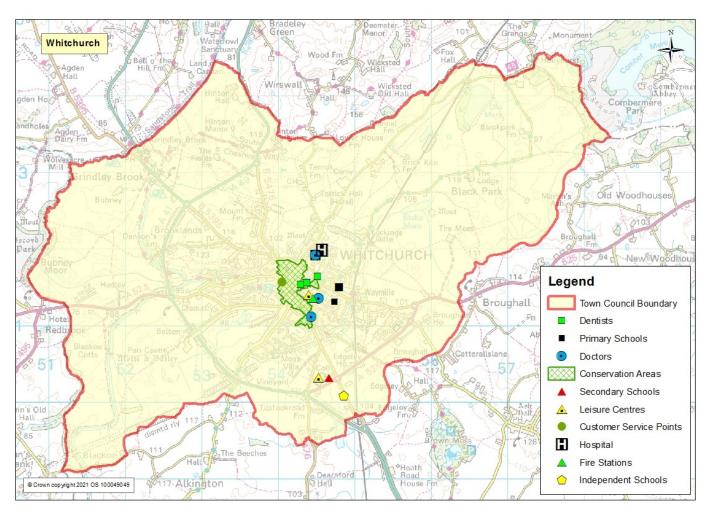
4,454 dwellings

44 is the average age

This town profile has been produced by the Information, Intelligence and Insight team of Shropshire Council. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein, Shropshire Council cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

## **Whitchurch Town Council Area Key Assets**

The information in this market town is predominantly focussed on the town council area of Whitchurch. Due to the nature of national statistical data it is not always possible to fully replicate these boundaries. Statistics quoted in this profile will use the best fit to the town council area. If these are not available the next best fit is the use of Lower Super Output Areas. These small area figures are part of a national dataset which comprises of 32,000 areas of which there are 192 in Shropshire and 6 which cover the town council area.



# **Local Politics**

Whitchurch is represented by a local town council that is responsible for the management of a range of services including; the civic centre, weekly market, Christmas lights, the Community Hub, parks, some street lighting and CCTV. See the council website for full details of services.

### https://whitchurchcouncil.uk/

Whitchurch Town Council area has three wards (North, South and West) these are represented by 9 members.

A mayor is elected each year – the mayor for 2020/21 is Beverly Duffy

**Shropshire Council** is responsible for many services including; education, environment, highways, licencing, planning, social care, trading standards and waste collection. Details of all services can be found at https://shropshire.gov.uk/

There are 2 Shropshire Council wards covering the town council area. Elections are held on a 4 year cycle with the next elections due May 2025. Ward councillors are -

Whitchurch North – Councillor Thomas Biggins and Councillor Peggy Mullock

Whitchurch South – Councillor Gerald Dakin

#### **Member of Parliament**

Whitchurch is part of the North Shropshire parliamentary ward which is represented by the Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP.

https://www.owenpaterson.org/

#### **Other Representative Groups**

Whitchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce - <a href="http://whitchurchchamberoftrade.co.uk/">http://whitchurchchamberoftrade.co.uk/</a> - aims to promote business in the town and influence decisions that may impact on the business community.

Whitchurch Town Team - http://whitchurch.info/town-team/ a partnership organisation of the Town Council, Chamber of Trade, Shropshire Council, social housing landlords, Fairtrade and other groups who aim to deliver the town action plan.

# **Community Assets**

Whitchurch has a number of public services which operate from the town. There are also a number of facilities which can be used for hire.

### **Public Services**

Shropshire Council, community hub services delivered from the Whitchurch Civic Centre

Whitchurch Fire Station, Bridgewater Street SY13 1QL- https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/stations/whitchurch-fire-station

Whitchurch Household Recycling Centre, Whitchurch Waste Transfer Station, Waymills, Whitchurch SY13 1TT <a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/">https://shropshire.gov.uk/</a>

Whitchurch Library, Civic Centre High Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1AX- https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/whitchurch-library/

Whitchurch Town Council, Civic Centre, High St, Whitchurch SY13 1AX <a href="http://whitchurchcouncil.uk/">http://whitchurchcouncil.uk/</a>

### **Community Facilities**

Beechtree Community Centre, Whitchurch Community Hospital, Claypit St, Whitchurch SY13 1NT - <a href="https://www.beechtreecentre.org/">https://www.beechtreecentre.org/</a>
A centre which provides services to promote health and well-being, arts and crafts, IT lessons, café and room hire.

Whitchurch Fire Station, meeting room available for public use, with whiteboard and kitchen facilities. The room has seating for around 24 people and has facilities for people with disabilities. For details of booking visit <a href="https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/stations/whitchurch-fire-station">https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/stations/whitchurch-fire-station</a>

Whitchurch Town Council, range of rooms and main hall, kitchen and bar are all available for hire. For details of booking and charges visit <a href="http://whitchurchcouncil.uk/">http://whitchurchcouncil.uk/</a>

# **Demographics**

Shropshire Town and Parish	1981 Census	1991 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census
Whitchurch	7,246	7,868	8,815	9,871

Source: Census data

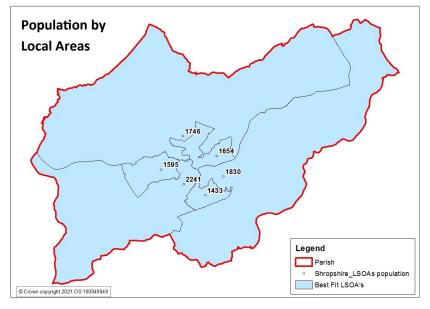
Whitchurch is the sixth largest town in Shropshire by population. The latest population of Whitchurch is 10,100 (Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS, 2015) covering 2,381 hectares. Whitchurch's population density was 4.1 people per hectare, making it the ninth most densely populated of all Shropshire market towns. Whitchurch's population consists of 51% female and 49 % male. Whitchurch Town Council population has increased since 1981 from 7,246 to 9,871. This is an increase of 36% in 30 years.

### **Population Forecast**

Built up Area Geography	Census Day	2016	2026
Population	9,700	10,100	12,300
Dwellings	4,400	4,500	5,500
Households	4,200	4,400	5,400

Note: the population, dwellings and household figures are based on an urban area smaller than the parish council area. Population forecasts are based on developments of new housing.

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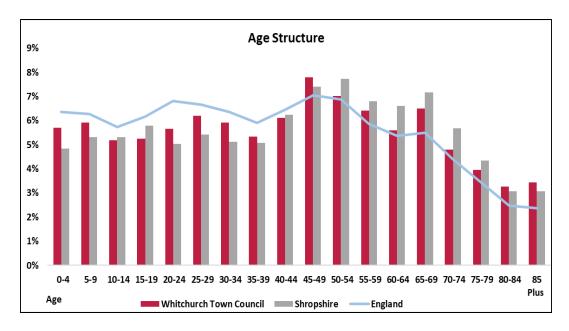
The population of Whitchurch area is forecast to rise from 9,700 in 2011 to 12,300 in 2026. This is a rise of 26.1% over this period. The largest part of this increase is expected between 2016 and 2026, where the population is forecast to rise by approx. 2,200 people or 21.7%.

The number of dwellings is also forecast to increase from 4,400 in 2011 to 5,500 in 2026. This is an increase of 25%. Similarly the largest part of this growth is forecast to happen between 2016 and 2026.

The number of households are forecast to increase by 28.5% between 2011 and 2026, in a similar manner to dwellings.

### **Age Structure**

Compared to Shropshire, Whitchurch has a lower age profile, with all age bands under the population. This compares with 58.9% for Shropthe age of 40, (except 10 -14 and 15 -19) having a higher percentage than the Shropshire shire as a whole, 61.7% in the West Midlands and average. There are a greater proportion of young children aged 0-9 than the Shropshire 62.5% in Great Britain. average, but less than the national average. Whitchurch has a greater number of people aged between 20 and 34 than the Shropshire average. Whitchurch has fewer people aged 50 plus than the Shropshire average but more than the English average.



Source: Office of National Statistic (ONS) Mid Year Estimates, 2019 - Ward Level Mid Year Population Estimates, 2019.

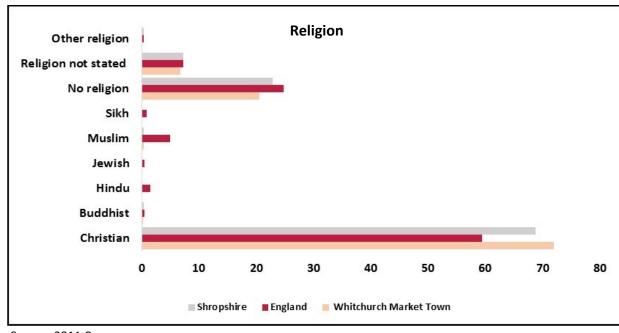
6.300 of Whitchurch residents are of traditional working age (16-64) which is the equivalent of 59.6% of

Place	Working Age as % of population
Albrighton	53.8
Bishop's Castle	52.6
Bridgnorth	55.8
Broseley	58.0
Church Stretton	47.7
Cleobury Mortimer	59.6
Craven Arms	57.2
Ellesmere	56.8
Highley	56.2
Ludlow	55.0
Market Drayton	59.0
Much Wenlock	51.6
Oswestry	61.1
Shifnal	60.7
Shrewsbury	61.4
Wem	57.5
Whitchurch	59.6
Shropshire	58.9
West Midlands	61.7
Great Britain	62.5

## **Ethnicity and Religion**

The total BME (black minority ethnic group) in Whitchurch was 1.3% or 128 of the total population at the time of the 2011 Census. The largest group was Asian/Asian British, 0.6%. Ethnicity levels in Whitchurch are lower than Shropshire and significantly lower than England.

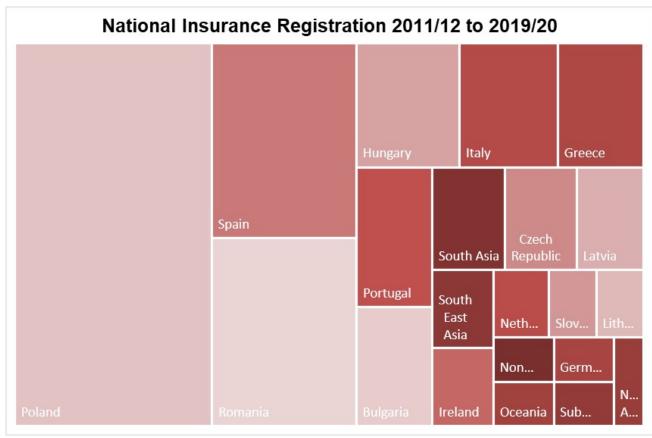
Area	White	White: British	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British	Other ethnic group	Total BME
Whitchurch	98.7%	94.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	1.3%
Shropshire	98.0%	95.4%	0.7%	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	2.0%
England	85.4%	79.8%	2.3%	7.8%	3.5%	1.0%	14.6%



In 2011, 72.7% Whitchurch population affiliated themselves with a religion. This percentage is marginally higher than for Shropshire or England. As is the case county-wide and nationally, the vast majority classified their religion as Christian (71.9% of the population or 99.0% of those expressing any religious affiliation). Other religions represented in Whitchurch include Buddhism and Hinduism, however these are very low compared to England.

Source: 2011 Census

### **Ethnicity**



The latest ethnicity data is taken from the 2011 census. The next census is due in 2021 with the results likely to be published from 2023. To help provide an indication of changes to ethnicity data the number of National Insurance registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK are shown. These numbers should only be used as an indication of population changes. A registration does not mean that a national has made permanent residence or has remained in the area.

The numbers shown are based on Middle Layer Super Output Areas. These areas are larger than the Lower Layers described in the population map. There is one middle layer that covers the Whitchurch market town area.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions - Stat-Xplore

The number of National Insurance registrations provided to adult oversea nationals entering the UK within the Whitchurch area from 2011/12 to 2019/20 has seen 453 registrations. The majority of NI registrations from this period has been from Polish nationals which totalled 142, followed by Spain 53 and Romania 51.

## **Ethnicity and Religion**

Whitchurch is home to a number of churches and chapels which reflect the majority of the population who have a Christian faith.

The Beacon Church - 5 Post Office Court, St John's Street, Whitchurch SY13 1QT - http://www.tbcw.org/

A community church which opened in 2008 after being donated from Barnabus Community Church

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness - 47-51 Claypit Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1LF

St Alkmunds - Church Street, Whitchurch SY13 1LB - http://www.stalkmunds.com/

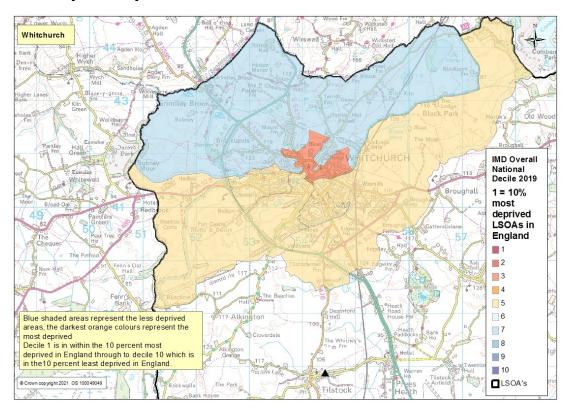
There has been a church on the site from 1089, originally built in white stone, which gave the name to the town. The central tower of this building collapsed in 1711 leading to the building of a new church. The grade 1 listed church is now the largest Georgian church in the county outside of Shrewsbury.

Saint George's Roman Catholic Church - 14A Claypit St, Whitchurch SY13 1LD

St John's Methodist Church - St John's St, Whitchurch SY13 1QT - https://www.stjohnswhitchurch.org.uk/

Wesleyan Methodist congregations have met in Whitchurch since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The current grade II listed building opened in 1879.

### **Multiple Deprivation**



Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, crown copyright 2019

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019) is designed to identify areas where communities lack resources and are in need. To do this, seven factors are considered, which are:

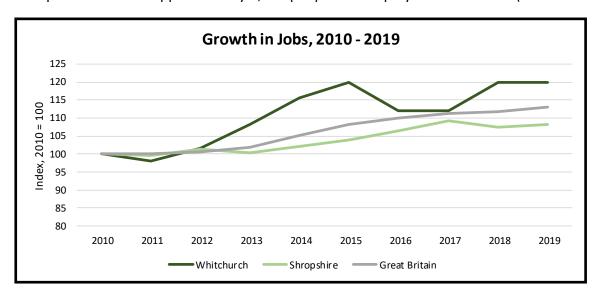
- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health deprivation and disability
- Education deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Crime
- Living environment deprivation

Compared to national levels Whitchurch has very low levels of deprivation. There is one area in Whitchurch which falls into the 30% most deprived nationally, this area is within Whitchurch North division. The other areas around Whitchurch fall into the least deprived areas nationally and into the 50% and 70% decile.

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indicesof-deprivation-2019

# **Economy**

Whitchurch is the sixth largest employment centre in Shropshire and is one of the main locations of businesses and jobs in the north of the County. 362 businesses have registered offices in Whitchurch (Source: FAME (Bureau van Dijk), February 2021) which is less than 2% of the Shropshire total and approximately 3,800 people are employees in the town (3.0% of the Shropshire total).



Over the last nine years, the number of jobs in Whitchurch has risen faster than job growth throughout Shropshire, at +19.9% compared with +8.3%. This equates with an additional 600 jobs, or an increase of approximately 70 on average per annum. Growth was particularly strong between 2012 and 2015, fell somewhat in 2016 and has since picked up again.

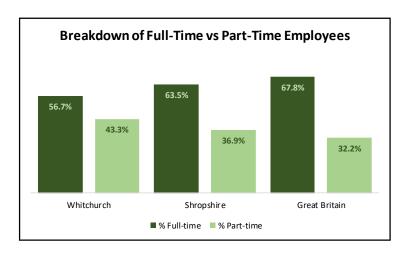
In addition, there are 200 business proprietors/sole traders based in the town, which takes overall employment levels to 4,000.

## **Breakdown Part/Full Time**

Part-time employment is more common in Shropshire than it is regionally or nationally. The proportion of the Whitchurch workforce that is employed on a part-time basis is even more pronounced, accounting for 43% of the total.

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office of National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021

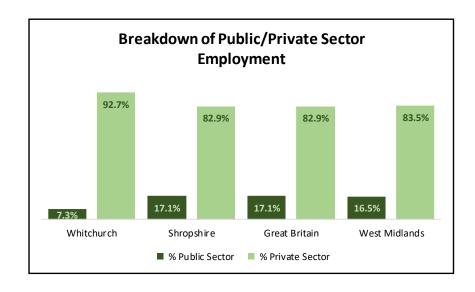
Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding



## **Public/Private Sector**

Across Shropshire, the number of public sector jobs has fallen by 4,700 since 2010 (-18.2%) while the number of private sector jobs has risen by 17,800 (+20.9%). The share of all the jobs attributable to the public sector has declined from 23.3% in 2010 to 17.1% by 2019. Employment in the public sector has been largely stable since 2015, with the rapid decline in public service based employment occurring during the first half of the 2010's.

In Whitchurch there are relatively few public sector jobs (less than 300) with the number declining by -6.5% since 2015. Consequently, they account for less than 10% of all employment in the town, with private sector employment representing almost 93% of the total.



### **Employment Sectors**

The four largest employment sectors in Whitchurch are retail, health, transport and storage and accommodation and food services. Together these account for 57.3% of employment within the town. Retail is typically over-represented in towns, and accounts for almost twice as much employment in Whitchurch, at 18.6% of the total, than it does in Shropshire (9.5%). Health meanwhile, despite being the second largest sector, is slightly under-represented, accounting for 13.6% of jobs against 15.1% for the whole of Shropshire. Transport and storage is of particular importance in Whitchurch, providing 12.6% of jobs (3.8% for Shropshire and 4.9% nationally). Accommodation and food services also accounts for 12.6% of employment.

Other sectors accounting for more than 5% of jobs include manufacturing and education.

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office of National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021

## **Employment Sectors**

Employment Sector	Whitchurch	Shropshire	West Midlands	Great Britain
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	0.0%	3.0%	0.8%	0.7%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	0.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Manufacturing	7.3%	9.9%	11.6%	8.0%
Construction	4.5%	6.0%	4.4%	4.9%
Motor trades	2.9%	3.0%	2.5%	1.9%
Wholesale	4.0%	4.4%	4.9%	3.9%
Retail	18.6%	9.5%	8.5%	9.2%
Transport & Storage	12.6%	3.8%	6.0%	4.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	12.6%	9.9%	7.3%	7.6%
Information & communication	0.5%	2.0%	2.6%	4.3%
Financial & insurance	0.9%	1.2%	2.4%	3.5%
Property	2.4%	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
Professional, scientific & technical	4.3%	7.2%	6.4%	8.7%
Business Administration & Support	4.5%	4.8%	9.4%	8.8%
Public administration & defence	1.2%	4.0%	3.7%	4.4%
Education	6.7%	8.3%	8.8%	8.6%
Health	13.3%	15.1%	13.3%	13.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation	3.2%	4.8%	4.3%	4.5%

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 20121

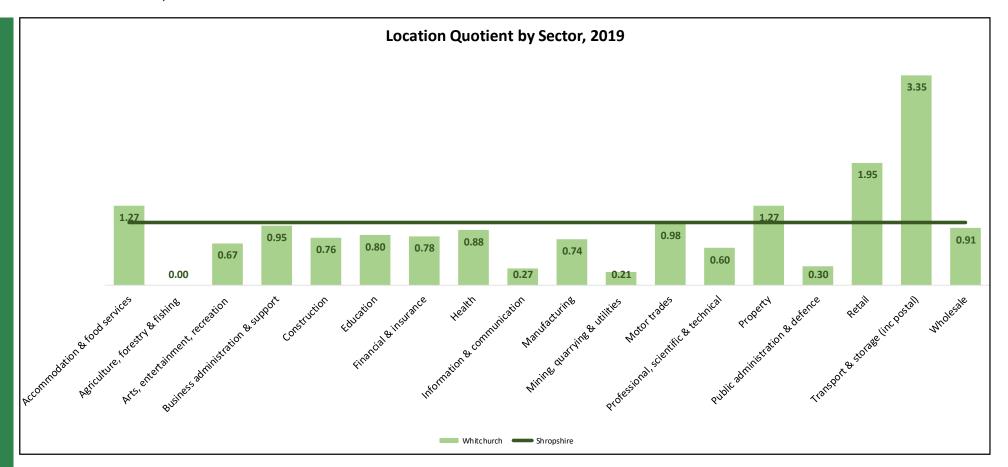
Note: Excludes land-based agriculture

The adjacent table shows the breakdown of employment sectors in Whitchurch alongside the comparable breakdowns for Shropshire, the West Midlands and for Great Britain.

It shows that agriculture, mining & quarrying, construction, motor trades, wholesale, information & communication, finance & insurance, property, professional, scientific & technical, business administration & support, public administration and defence and arts, entertainment and recreation employ relatively few people in Whitchurch (28.8% of the total), with none of these sectors accounting for as much as 5% of total employment.

The chart on the following page shows the relative importance of each sector in Whitchurch according to its location quotient. This measures each sector in relation to the Shropshire average, with any score over 1 reflecting a sector that is more important than the Shropshire average, and any score under 1 reflecting a sector that has less importance.

Transport & storage, retail, property and accommodation & food services emerge as sectors with significant clusters in Whitchurch.



Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 20121

Note: Excludes land-based agriculture

## **Main Employers**

The following organisations are identified by the business directory MINT as being the largest employers in Whitchurch. This suggests that there are three employers with a workforce of 50 or more and an additional 8 who employ at least 40. The largest employer, Grocontinental, operates in the transport and storage sector, which explains the sector's importance to the local economy.

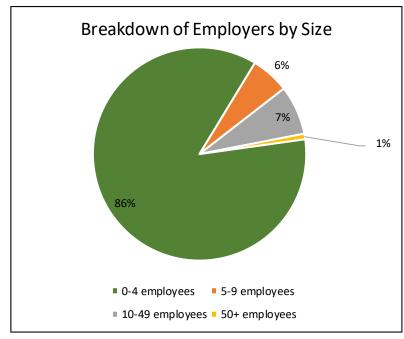
Employers	Number of Employees	Turnover (£'000s)
Agromerchants (Grocontinental)	379	39,800
Belton Farm Group Limited	108	31,995
Colour Supplies	64	6,586
DA Roberts Fuel	30	53,666
Etzio Ltd	30	n.a
Dairy Spares Ltd	28	n.a
JTG (Cheshire Ltd)	25	n.a
Needham Inks Limited	35	n.a
Lyon Made Ltd	24	n.a
Secura Sound Ltd	21	n.a
Whitchurch Pre-School Nursery	20	n.a

Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk), February 2021

Note: Information based on company accounts returned to Companies House. May include businesses that are registered in the town but which do not necessarily trade there. Excludes branch businesses which have their HQ elsewhere in the UK.

Large employers which are not included within the above table include national retail stores, of which there are several in Whitchurch. The largest retailers in the town include Lidl, Sainsbury's and Tesco.

More than nine out of 10 businesses in Whitchurch employ less than 10 people, with more than 80% employing between 0 and 4 only. Just 1% have a workforce of 20 or more.

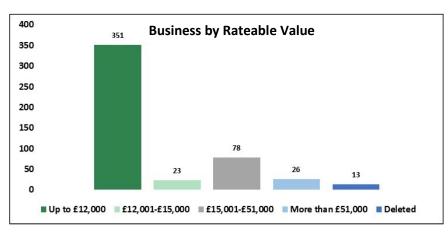


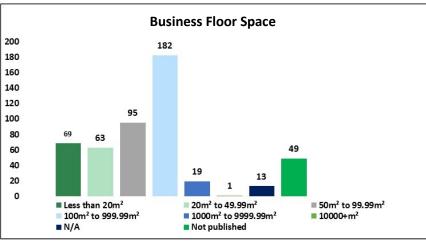
Note: 0-4 employee category includes all companies where employment levels are unknown.

### **Business Rates**

491 establishments have a rateable value in Whitchurch and the combined rateable value of these organisations is £9.8 million. This is the equivalent of 4.2% of the total rateable value of all businesses in Shropshire.

351 businesses have a rateable value of less than £12,000, which means that they are eligible for 100% small business rate relief. Just 26 (5.3%) have a rateable value of more than £51,000.





Source: Valuation Office Agency

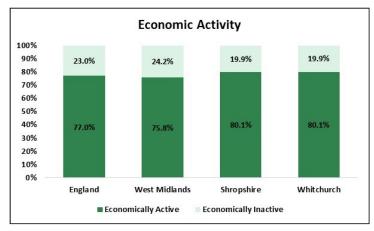
The majority of organisations on the Whitchurch business rates list are classed as commercial—primarily retail outlets and offices. These account for 77.2% of the total. Industrial is the second largest classification, accounting for 11.6% of the total.

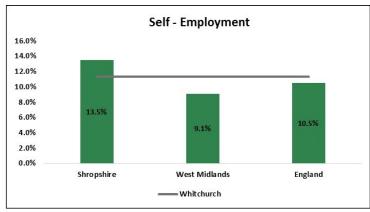
Count of Classification	Whitchurch
Commercial	379
Education Training and Culture	7
Industrial	57
Leisure	14
Miscellaneous	27
Utilities	7
Total	491

227 businesses have a floor space of less than 100m<sup>2</sup>, while just 20 have floor space of more than 1,000m<sup>2</sup>. The largest organisation covers almost 66,000m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Economic Activity**

The status of Whitchurch residents aged 16-64 at the time of the 2011 Census showed 80.1% of residents were economically active, which includes people who are both employed and actively seeking employment. This is comparable to the percentage of Shropshire residents who are economically active. Economic activity rates in Whitchurch (and Shropshire) compare favourably with those in England (77%) and the West Midlands (75.8%).





Source: 2011 Census

Of those who were economically active, 74.4% were in employment while 5.8% were unemployed. This compares with 75.8% and 4.3% for Shropshire as a whole and with 71.2% and 5.8% for England. At the time of the Census, therefore, unemployment in the town was comparable with the national average and discernibly higher than the average for Shropshire.

Of the 4,581 Whitchurch residents in employment, the majority are employees (84.8%) while the remainder are self-employed. 69.5% of employees work full –time compared with 76% of the self-employed.

Employment Breakdown	Whitchurch
In Employment Total	4581
Of which Employee: Total	3885
Of which Employee: Part-time	1183
Of which Employee: Full-time	2702
Of which: Self-employed: Total	696
Of which Self-employed: Part-time	167
Of which Self-employed: Full-time	529

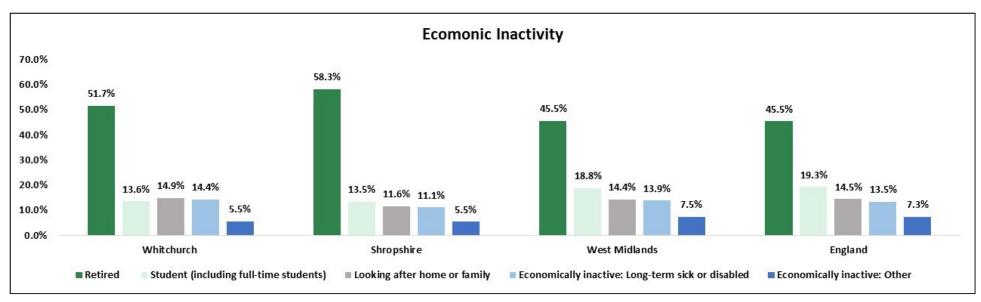
Self-employment is notably higher in Shropshire than it is nationally, accounting for 13.5% of 16-64 year old residents (10.5% in England). Typically, levels of self-employment are lower in the County's market towns, especially the main employment centres. The self-employment rate stands at 11.3% in Whitchurch.

### **Economic Inactivity**

1,223 Whitchurch residents aged 16-64 were economically inactive in 2011, which represents almost a fifth of the age cohort. These people – representing those who are neither working nor seeking employment – include those who are retired, full time students, those looking after family or the long term sick. The proportion of the Whitchurch population which does not participate in the labour market is on a par with the average for Shropshire.

The following chart shows the breakdown of the economically inactive population in Whitchurch, Shropshire, the West Midlands and England according to the reason why they do not participate in the labour market. These figures relate to the 16-74 population rather than to 16 to 64 year olds.

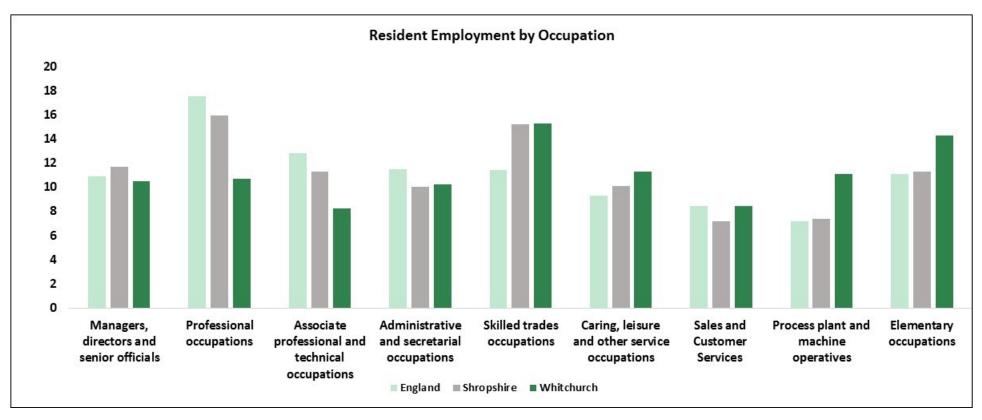
It is apparent that a lower proportion of economically inactive Whitchurch residents are inactive because they are retired than is the case across Shropshire although the proportion is still high compared with the West Midlands and England. Compared with Shropshire, a slightly higher proportion are long-term sick or disabled or looking after a home or family.



Source: 2011 Census

### **Employment by Occupation**

A relatively small proportion of Whitchurch resident workers are employed in the Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) SOC 1 to 3 professions, with 29.4% of residents in work employed as managers, directors and senior officials, in professional occupations or in associate professional and technical occupations compared with 38.9% in Shropshire. 10.5% work as managers, 10.7% in professional occupations and 8.2% in associate professional occupations. A higher proportion are employed in lower level occupations, including elementary occupations (14.3% compared with 11.3% for Shropshire) and process, plant and machine operatives (11.1% compared with 7.4% for Shropshire). Whitchurch residents are slightly more likely to work in caring and leisure and sales and customer service occupations, while similar numbers in skilled trades and in administrative/secretarial occupations.



Source: 2011 Census

## Qualifications

According to the Census 2011, 22.0% of residents had a level 4 qualification or above, significantly below the Shropshire average of 29.4%. In total 18.1% of people had no qualification. This is much lower the Shropshire average (14.0%). Comparatively low skills levels correlates with the low numbers employed in SOC 1-3 occupations, which typically require higher qualification levels.

Qualifications	Whitchurch	Shropshire	England and Wales
Level 1	17.8	15.4	15.2
Level 2	19.6	19.4	17.2
Level 3	13.8	14.7	14.5
Level 4/5	22.0	29.4	29.7
Other qualifications	8.7	7.1	8.6
No qualifications	18.1	14.0	15.0

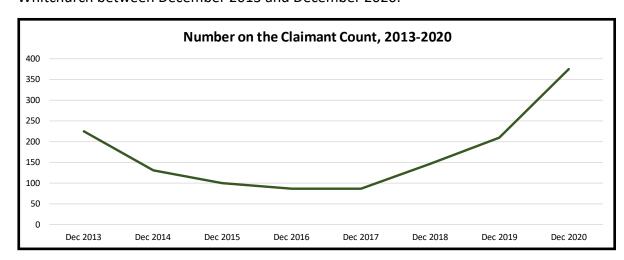
Source: 2011 Census, ONS, Highest Level of Qualification Population aged 16-64

For further information on qualification levels and definitions visit Office of National Statistics (ONS)

http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/qualificationsandlabourmarketparticipationinenglandandwales/2014-06-18#background-notes

### Unemployment

The claimant count is the main measure of people who are under pensionable age who are available for and actively seeking work and who are claiming out-of-work benefits (mostly Universal Credit but also Jobseekers Allowance). The chart below shows the number claiming this benefit in Whitchurch between December 2013 and December 2020.



Source: Department of Work and Pensions/ONS

### **Universal Credit**

The following table shows the number of people claiming Universal Credit in Whitchurch in January 2021. It includes those who are out-of-work (and hence on the claimant count shown above), and also those who are on low incomes and entitled to in work benefits. The table also shows the number of households on universal credit in the town.

	Number
People on Universal Credit (Jan 21)	916
Households on Universal Credit (Nov 20)	723

In December 2020, 375 Whitchurch residents were on the claimant count, which is more than four times higher than the 85 who were on the count in December 2017. The claimant rate in Whitchurch (the percentage of the 16-64 population which is claiming) is notably higher than the average for Shropshire (6.0% compared with 4.4%). This rate is similar to the average in Great Britain (6.2%) but lower than in the West Midlands (7.2%). Claimant numbers everywhere were elevated throughout 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

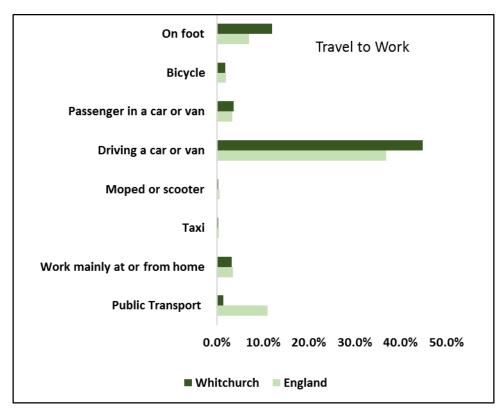
### **State Pension**

In Shropshire there were 75,688, people claiming state pension in August 2020. This is slightly lower than 76,250 in February 2017, which is attributed to changes in retirement age.

Claimants in Whitchurch total 2,334 or 3.1% of the state pension claimants in the county.

## **Travel and Commuting**

The most commonly used method of transport to work for Whitchurch residents who work was to travel by car or van. 45% of workers drove to work, while an additional 4% were a passenger in a car or van. A comparable proportion of Whitchurch residents work primarily from home as is the case nationally (3%), but this is less than the Shropshire average of 6%. A relatively high number walk to work (12% compared with 9% for Shropshire and 7% for England). There were considerably fewer people travelling by public transport than is the case nationally. This is a pattern similar to many rural areas

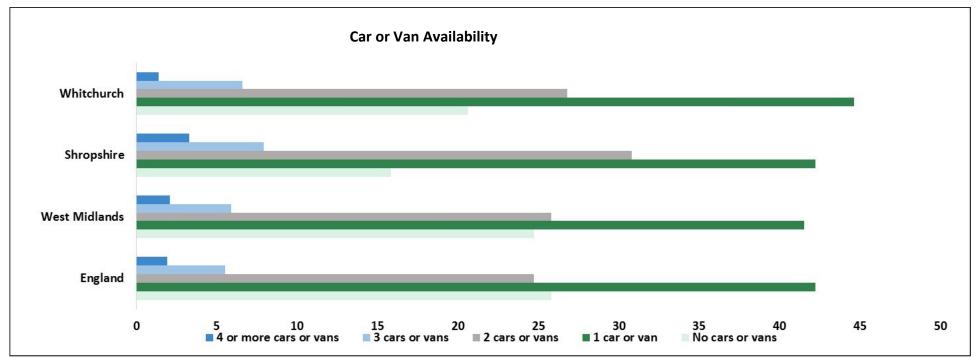


Source: 2011 Census

# **Car or Van Availability**

Car ownership is high in Shropshire, which is typical of a rural area. Just 15.8% of households in the county do not have a car or van compared with a 25.8% of households nationally according to the 2011 Census. The proportion of households without a car in Whitchurch is higher than it is in Shropshire, at 20.6%, but this is still way below what is usual nationally.

44.6% of households have one car, 26.8% have two cars while 8.0% have three or more. The total number of cars and vans owned by Whitchurch households stood at 5,328 in 2011.

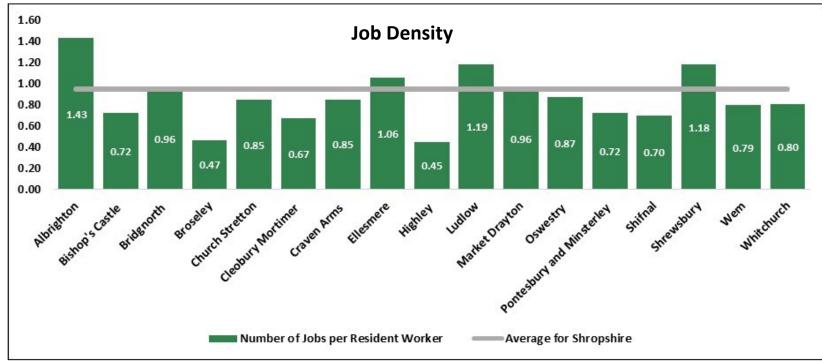


Source: 2011 Census

### **Commuting Patterns**

Whitchurch (place plan area) supports a lower level of employment self-containment than any other main Shropshire market town with the exception of Bridgnorth. Easy access to employment in the North West clearly influences this. 46.6% of all Whitchurch jobs are filled by Whitchurch residents while 37.5% of working people who live in Whitchurch also work there, which gives an overall level of self-containment of 41.6%. The difference between destination self-containment (the percentage of Whitchurch jobs filled by Whitchurch residents) and origin self-containment (percentage of Whitchurch residents employed in the town) means there are 4,017 people living in Whitchurch but working elsewhere and 2,759 people working in Whitchurch but living elsewhere, giving a net out-commuting figure of -1,258.

Job density in Whitchurch is lower than the County average, with 0.80 jobs per resident worker compared with 0.95 in Shropshire. As illustrated in the chart below, the only towns where the number of jobs exceeds the resident workforce are Albrighton, Ellesmere, Ludlow and Shrewsbury.



Source: Census 2011

Note: Data relates to Mid Super Output Areas (MSOA) aligned as closely as possible to Shropshire place plan areas

# **Origins and Destination of Workforce**

Other than Whitchurch, the rest of Shropshire is the main source of workers for Whitchurch jobs, with significant numbers also commuting into the town from Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Wrexham. Likewise, a significant proportion of Whitchurch resident workers who are not employed in Whitchurch work elsewhere in Shropshire, with significant numbers also working in Cheshire, Telford and Wrekin and Wrexham.

Main Origins of Whitchurch Workforce	Number	%
Whitchurch	2,410	46.6%
Rest of Shropshire	1,265	24.5%
Cheshire East	306	5.9%
Cheshire West and Chester	200	3.9%
Telford and Wrekin	117	2.3%
Stoke-on-Trent	58	1.1%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	118	2.3%
Wrexham	263	5.1%
Cardiff	55	1.1%
Other	377	7.3%

Source: Census 2011

Note: Data relates to Mid Super Output Areas (MSOA) aligned as closely as possible to Shropshire place plan areas this covers a wider geographic area than the Parish. This results in a higher workforce number than quoted in the economic activity table.

Main Destinations for Whitchurch Resident Workers	Number	%
Whitchurch	2,410	37.5%
Rest of Shropshire	1,655	25.8%
Cheshire East	555	8.6%
Chester West and Chester	428	6.7%
Telford and Wrekin	279	4.3%
Stoke-on-Trent	140	2.2%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	139	2.2%
Stafford	92	1.4%
Wrexham	268	4.27%
Other	461	7.2%

Note: Data relates to Mid Super Output Areas (MSOA) aligned as closely as possible to Shropshire place plan areas

### **Household Income**

Market Town	Households	15k or less	15k - 30k	30k - 50k	50k - 80k	80k +
Albrighton	2,285	17%	29%	26%	18%	10%
Bishop's Castle	708	23%	33%	24%	14%	6%
Bridgnorth	5,911	16%	28%	26%	19%	11%
Broseley	2,568	18%	29%	26%	18%	10%
Church Stretton	2,374	16%	28%	26%	19%	10%
Cleobury Mortimer	1,506	15%	26%	27%	20%	12%
Craven Arms Town Council	1,380	24%	32%	24%	14%	6%
Ellesmere	2,263	21%	31%	25%	16%	8%
Highley Parish Council	1,710	21%	31%	25%	16%	7%
Ludlow	5,436	21%	32%	25%	15%	7%
Market Drayton	5,549	21%	31%	25%	16%	7%
Minsterley	810	20%	30%	25%	17%	8%
Much Wenlock	1,537	15%	27%	26%	20%	12%
Oswestry	8,387	23%	31%	24%	15%	7%
Pontesbury	1,589	13%	26%	27%	21%	13%
Shifnal	4,116	17%	27%	26%	19%	11%
Shrewsbury	34,187	18%	28%	26%	18%	10%
Wem	2,937	22%	33%	25%	14%	6%
Whitchurch	4,638	21%	31%	25%	16%	7%

Source: CACI, 2020, Paycheck Income Data, Shropshire

Note: the methodology to calculate the number of households is based on commercial and credit data rather than census information.

Household income table for Shropshire shows that 21% or 977 households in Whitchurch earn less than £15,000 per year. At the other end of the scale 7% of households had an income exceeding £80,000 per annum. Household income rates in Whitchurch are lower than the Shropshire average.

## **Retail Economy**

Retail accounts for 18.6% of total employment is Whitchurch, which makes it the largest employment sector in the town. 5.8% of all retail employment across the whole of Shropshire is absorbed by Whitchurch.

Retail plays an important role in the economy of Whitchurch. Providing everyday amenities and shopping for local residents and serving as a shopping hub for the hinterland of the market town. The retail sector offers a wide variety of local independent stores whilst being large enough to attract some of the national retailers. Whitchurch holds a weekly market and is attracting new visitors through its development and co-ordination of regular events. The town offers a good range of establishments for eating and drinking.

**High Street Shopping,** Whitchurch's main shopping areas are centred along the narrow High Street and Green End area with many traditional timber framed black and white buildings.

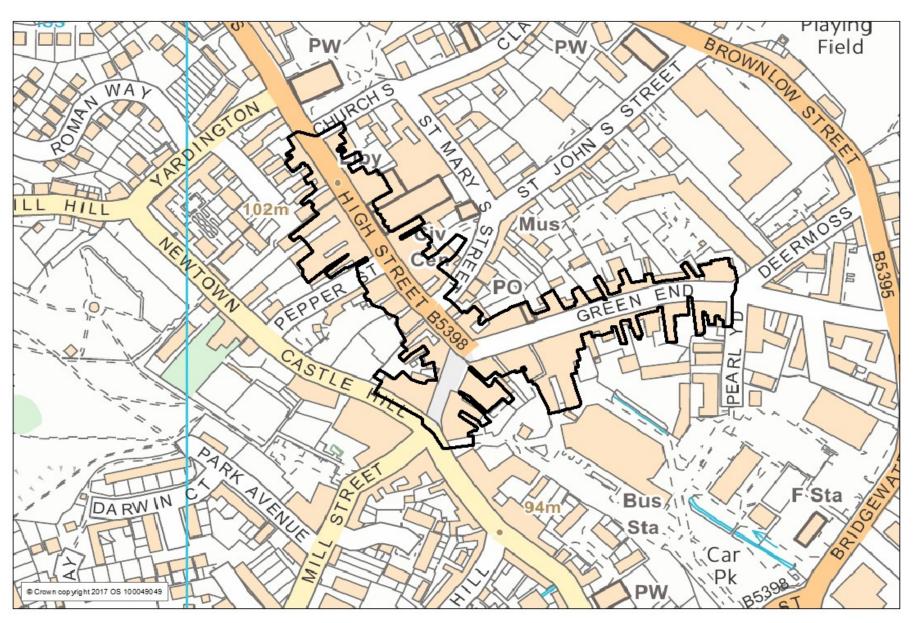
**Supermarkets,** The main supermarkets in Whitchurch are close to the town centre and include Lidl, Sainsburys and Tesco superstore. Also available are a Co-operative and Iceland.

#### **Markets**

Friday Market, held every Friday at the Civic Centre and Market Hall the market offers a wide variety of stalls.

**Saturday Makers Market**, held on the first Saturday of each month the market showcases artisan crafts, homemade producers and tasty food from the local area.

# **Main Retail Area**



# **Tourism & Leisure**

Approximately 600 people are employed in the tourism sector in Whitchurch, of which around 500 are employed in accommodation and food services and 100 in arts, entertainment, recreation and other services. This is the equivalent of 15.8% of the total Whitchurch workforce which represents a slightly higher share than for Shropshire as a whole (14.7%). 3.2% of total employment in the tourism sector in Shropshire is provided by Whitchurch.

### **Visitors Attractions**

An ideal starting place for information on places to visit is the -

Whitchurch Visitor Information Centre, Whitchurch Community Hub, Civic Centre, High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AX <a href="https://www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/visitor-information-centres.html">https://www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/visitor-information-centres.html</a>

Another good source of information is - <a href="http://whitchurch.info/">http://whitchurch.info/</a>

Places to see in Whitchurch include:

Alderford Lakes, Tilstock Road, Whitchurch, SY13 3JQ - http://alderford.com/

Following the extraction of gravel to help build the by-pass a fishing lake was developed. Today the site has been further developed to provide walks, a cafe and hosts a range of events.

Greenfields Nature Reserve, off Greenfields Way, Whitchurch, SY13 1GE - <a href="https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/greenfields">https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/greenfields</a>
Run by volunteers this site provides walks to view meadow flowers and woodlands.

Shropshire Way, route 22 Wem to Whitchurch.

This 14 mile section of the route takes in Whitchurch. After Wem, the route takes you along Dodington with its classical frontages, past the former canal wharfage and into Jubilee Park (1897). The path runs through Whitchurch Waterway Country Park, with an optional detour to the Greenfields Nature Reserve. <a href="http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/route/shropshire-way-route-22-wem-to-whitchurch-grindley-brook/">http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/route/shropshire-way-route-22-wem-to-whitchurch-grindley-brook/</a>

Whitchurch Clock Trail, http://www.whitchurch-heritage.co.uk/flagallery/clock-trail/

Follow the trail around the Town, an ideal way to see the town centre.

Whitchurch Heritage Centre, 12 St. Mary's Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1QY - housing a range of artifacts depicting the history of the town since Roman times. Houses a collection dedicated to J B Joyce tower clocks which were produced in the town from 1790 to recent times.

### **Events**

Whitchurch hosts a number of events throughout the year. Key annual events are listed here but it is worth visiting <a href="http://whitchurch.info/">http://whitchurch.info/</a> to keep up-to-date with the latest events.

Party in the Park, annual event held on a Saturday in June the entertainment includes live music, food and stalls. http://whitchurch.info/

Whitchurch Food & Drink Festival, http://www.whitchurchfoodanddrink.com/

Held in May the festival provides live cookery demonstrations and a wide range of exhibitors.

Whitchurch Walking Festival, <a href="http://www.whitchurchwalkers.co.uk/festival.htm">http://www.whitchurchwalkers.co.uk/festival.htm</a>

3 days of walking opportunities and activities that provides an opportunity to explore Whitchurch and the surrounding countryside.

# **Sports, Leisure & Culture**

Whitchurch has an active range of sporting, leisure and social clubs. If you are looking for particular activities the Community Directory is a good starting place –

www.new.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/community-directory

The following list highlights some of the cultural, sporting groups and facilities in the Whitchurch area:

Archibald Worthington Bowling and Snooker Club, Castle Hill, Whitchurch SY13 1BQ

Bridgewater Bowling Club, off Anchor Close, Whitchurch SY13 1TJ

Chester Road Bowling Club, Chester Rd, Whitchurch SY13 1ND

Tilstock Bowling and Tennis Club, 2 Tilstock Ln, Whitchurch SY13 3JL

Whitchurch Alport Football Club, Yockings Park, Black Park Rd, Black Park Rd, Whitchurch SY13 1PG - www.whitchurchalportfc.co.uk

Whitchurch Rugby Club, 21 Edgeley Rd, Whitchurch SY13 1EU - <a href="http://www.whitchurchrugby.co.uk/">http://www.whitchurchrugby.co.uk/</a> a wide range of teams for midi, junior and senior players.

Whitchurch and District Bowling Club, St John's Park, Whitchurch SY13 1QT

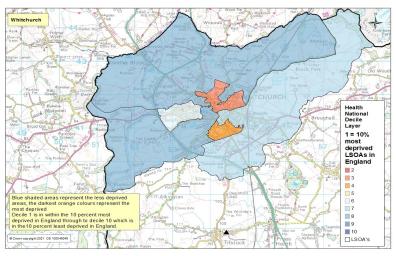
Whitchurch Cricket Club, Greenfoot Ln, Whitchurch SY13 3JG - http://whitchurchcc.play-cricket.com/

The club runs a number of senior, women's and junior teams.

Whitchurch Hockey Club, Whitchurch Sport & Leisure Centre, Heath Rd, Whitchurch SY13 2BY www.whitchurchhockeyclub.com

# Health

Residents of Shropshire generally enjoy better health than across England as a whole with a healthy life expectancy being higher than average. Life expectancy in Shropshire is also higher than the national average. Life expectancy for births in Shropshire between 2016- 18 are 80.5 for males and 83.5 for females. This compares to an average of 79.3 and 82.9 for England. Despite this there are areas in Shropshire where health inequalities may exist. The index of deprivation, shown in the following map, highlight the areas where there are higher degrees of deprivation. The life expectancy variation between the least and most deprived health areas in Shropshire is equivalent to 4.2 years for men and 3.3 for women.



Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, crown copyright 2019

This domain measures the following:

- Years of potential life lost
- · Comparative illness and disability ratio
- Acute morbidity
- Mood and anxiety disorders

Levels of health deprivation are low in Whitchurch compared to national levels. Health generally improves the further people live from the town centre. There is one area in Whitchurch within Whitchurch North division which falls into the 30% most deprived areas nationally in terms of health, this is the most deprived area of Whitchurch.

Of the 9,871 residents of Whitchurch in the last census reporting on their health conditions:

932 reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot

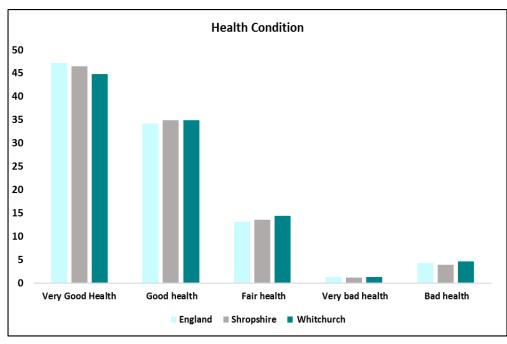
965 reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a little

7,974 reported that their day-to-day activities were not limited

The rate of people expressing that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot was 9.4% which is slightly higher than the rate for Shropshire 8.4% and England 8.3%.

### **Health Conditions**

At the time of the 2011 Census, 80% of residents in Whitchurch, said that they felt they were in very good or good health. This was similar to the Shropshire and England average of 81%. In contrast 4.6% of people said their health was bad and 1.3% said their health was very bad.



England 6.5%
Source: 2011 Census

1 to 19 hours

5.8%

7.5%

Area

Whitchurch

Shropshire

5.8% of people in Whitchurch provided unpaid care for 1-19 hours per week, this was slightly lower than Shropshire as a whole. Whitchurch has a similar proportion of people providing care for 50 or more hours per week 2.6% compared to 2.4% for Shropshire and England.

Provide unpaid care a week

20 to 49 hours

1.6%

1.3%

1.4%

50 + hours%

2.6%

2.4%

2.4%

Source: 2011 Census

### **Health Economy**

Approximately 500 people are employed in the health sector in Whitchurch (13.6% of total employment) which is slightly lower than is the case across Shropshire, where health accounts for 14.7% of employment. Notwithstanding this, it is the second largest employment sector in the town.

### **Health Facilities**

Whitchurch has local access to a range of health facilities including chemists, doctors, dentists and a minor injuries unit. The nearest accident and emergency services is based in Crewe. Check with the NHS for latest opening times and which services should be used.

Health Services available in or near Whitchurch include:

### **Hospitals**

Accident & Emergency, 13.4 miles to the nearest Accident and Emergency service provided at Leighton Hospital, Middlewich Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4QJ

Minor Injuries Unit Minor Injuries Unit, the nearest minor injuries unit at Whitchurch Community Hospital, Claypit Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1NT

### **Doctors**

Bridgwater Family Medical Practice, Drumcarrig, Bridgewater Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1QH http://www.bridgewatersurgery.nhs.uk/

Claypit Street Medical Practice, Community Hospital, Claypit Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1NT

Drs Clayton & Rogers, 29 Dodington, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1EN

### **Dentists**

Corser House Dental Practice, 17 Green End, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AD

Green End Dental Practice, 43 Green End, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AD

Whitchurch Dental Studio, The Old Fire Station, Brownlow St, Whitchurch SY13 1QS <a href="http://www.whitchurchdentalstudio.com/">http://www.whitchurchdentalstudio.com/</a>

### **Pharmacies**

Boots, 10-12 Watergate Street, Whitchurch SY13 1DW

Green End Pharmacy, 13-13A Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

Rowlands Pharmacy, 11 High Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1AX

## **Residential Nursing Homes**

The following care providers, residential and nursing homes are within or close to Whitchurch Town. Please check with the Care Quality Commission for the latest details of providers and their care ratings -http://www.cqc.org.uk/

Care Providers in Whitchurch include:

Bradbury Lodge, Claypit Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1NT

Residential care home, the latest CQC inspection rating in Oct 2018 – Good

Cloverfields, Chester Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 4QG

Residential care home, the latest CQC inspection rating in Jan 2021 – Good

Edgeley House Care Home, Edgeley Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 4NH

Residential care home, latest CQC inspection rating in Feb 2020 – Good

Greenfields Care Home, Liverpool Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1SG

Nursing and residential care, the latest CQC inspection rating in Feb 2020 – Requires improvement

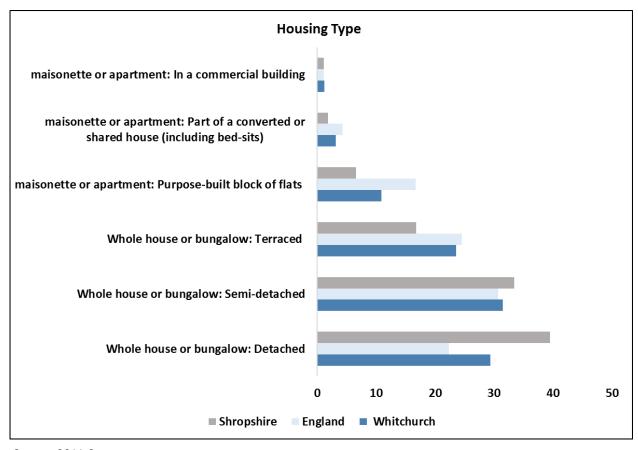
Weston House Care Home, 58 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AJ -

Residential care home, the latest CQC inspection rating in Aug 2018 – Good

Ratings shown as at March 2021

# Housing

The largest housing type in Whitchurch was semi detached closely followed by detached houses. There are a greater number of terrace houses than in Shropshire as a whole.



detached properties (29.4%) compared to Shropshire as a whole (39.5%).

spaces were

Fewer Whitchurch household

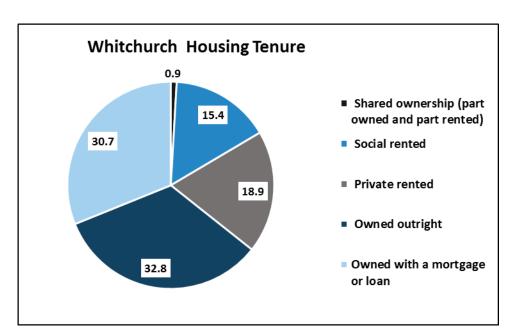
A lower percentage of household spaces were semi-detached (31.5%) compared to Shropshire as a whole (33.4%). This is the largest housing type in Whitchurch as is the case nationally. In Shropshire the largest housing type was detached.

There were a greater proportion of household spaces which are terrace (23.6%) compared to (16.8%) for Shropshire. There were slightly more maisonette or apartments, part of a converted or shared house (3.1%) compared to (1.1%) for Shropshire.

Source: 2011 Census

## **Housing Composition**

- 31.6% of households were One Person Households greater than the Shropshire average (28.9%) and England (30.2%)
- 5.8% of households were Lone Parent with dependent children higher than the Shropshire average (5.2%) and similar to England (7.1%)
- 14.2% of households were One Person Pensioner aged 65 and over, greater than the Shropshire average of (13.9%) and England (12.4%)
- 14.2% of households were married couples with dependent children lower than the Shropshire average of (15.3) and England (15.3)



Source: 2011 Census

In Whitchurch, at the time of the 2011 Census, there were 4,282 households, 4,454 dwellings and 10 Communal Establishments housing 153 people.

The largest proportion (32.8%) of houses in Whitchurch were owned outright, less than the Shropshire figure of 39%.

15.4% of households were social rented housing, this was greater than for Shropshire as a whole (13.5%) and for England (17.7%).

There were a greater number of houses privately rented 18.9% compared to 15% for Shropshire and 14% for England.

In Whitchurch there are 468 registered social landlord (RSL) homes. These homes are owned by a range of RSL's.

## Housing

		Median Gross Household In-	Median House	Median Affordabil-	Lower Quartile Gross House-	Lower Quartile	Lower Quartile Affordability Ra-
Uses town council boundaries	Sales 2020	come	Price	ity Ratio	hold Income	House Price	tio
Albrighton	52	£32,252	£250,000	7.8	£18,701	£185,250	9.9
Bishop's Castle	24	£26,663	£256,500	9.6	£15,701	£172,500	11.0
Bridgnorth	148	£33,596	£221,000	6.6	£19,216	£170,000	8.8
Broseley	37	£32,187	£195,000	6.1	£18,277	£161,000	8.8
Church Stretton	70	£33,396	£320,000	9.6	£19,220	£198,250	10.3
Cleobury Mortimer	31	£36,028	£185,000	5.1	£20,691	£114,500	5.5
Craven Arms	23	£26,872	£175,000	6.5	£15,391	£153,750	10.0
Ellesmere Urban	73	£28,943	£178,000	6.1	£16,630	£156,000	9.4
Highley	51	£28,869	£172,000	6.0	£16,716	£151,875	9.1
Ludlow	121	£28,487	£230,000	8.1	£16,559	£160,000	9.7
Market Drayton	157	£29,144	£180,000	6.2	£16,761	£145,000	8.7
Much Wenlock	32	£35,467	£238,475	6.7	£20,282	£191,863	9.5
Oswestry	222	£27,730	£151,000	5.4	£15,944	£125,000	7.8
Shifnal	139	£34,191	£239,995	7.0	£19,268	£198,725	10.3
Shrewsbury	932	£32,548	£203,500	6.3	£18,525	£159,713	8.6
Wem Urban	83	£27,362	£187,500	6.9	£16,007	£135,250	8.4
Whitchurch Urban	144	£28,931	£179,775	6.2	£16,668	£135,000	8.1
Shropshire	3,626	£33,337	£222,500	6.7	£19,089	£163,625	8.6

The table shows affordability ratios for housing in Shropshire. The income data relates to Shropshire Place Plan areas which are a slightly broader geography than market towns, and take account of hinterlands. The table shows that in Whitchurch a household with a median household income of (£28,931) would need 6.2 times this income to afford a median priced house (£179,775) as of year end 2020. This is lower than a ratio of 6.7 for Shropshire.

Source: Shropshire/England House Price Figures—ONS House Price Datasets, CACI Paycheck Data, DCLG Land Registry Price Paid Data. Year end 2020

# **Housing Developments**

Shropshire's Core Strategy (March 2011) sets out the strategic vision and objectives to guide development and growth for the period 2006-2026. This includes a vision for Whitchurch.

Detailed proposals to deliver the strategic vision within the Core Strategy are contained within the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) document which together with the Core Strategy forms Shropshire's Local Plan for 2006-2026.

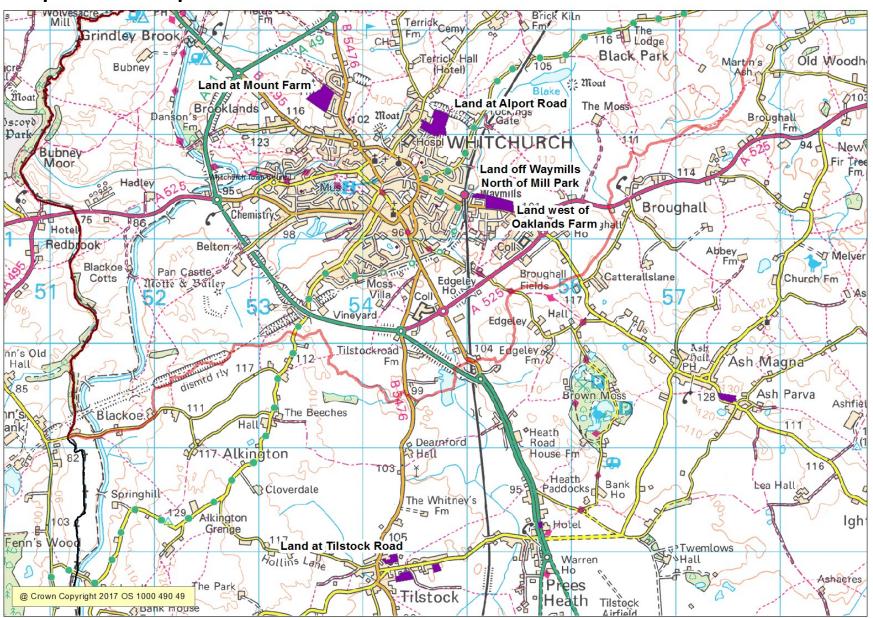
Consultations on the Local Plan Review Preferred Scale and Distribution of Growth for the period to 2036 were presented to Cabinet on 18th October 2017.

The following table shows progress and expectations with current site allocations:

Housing Allocations / Outstanding Approvals	Provision	Already Completed	Expected Build Out Rate								
			2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Land west of Oaklands Farm Whitchurch	60	0	0	0	0	25	25	10	0	0	0
Land at Mount Farm Whitchurch	100	58	25	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land north of Mill Park	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land at Alport Road	90	0	0	0	25	25	25	15	0	0	0
Land at Tilstock Road	500	0	0	35	35	55	75	75	75	75	75

There are further sites with Planning Permission (excluding allocated sites) for 264 dwellings.

### **Proposed Development Sites**



# **Education**

Whitchurch is a key educational centre for north of Shropshire. Pupils are mainly drawn from the Whitchurch Town area but schools also attract pupils from the surrounding hinterland areas.

The town council area has one infants, junior and secondary school.

### **Primary Schools**

Whitchurch Infants, Station Rd, Whitchurch SY13 1RJ - http://www.whitchurchinf.co.uk/

School capacity of 270 with 258 currently on roll. 17.5% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. Latest Ofsted rating Jun 2013 – Good.

Whitchurch Junior, Salisbury Road, Whitchurch, SY13 1RX - http://www.whitchurch-jun.shropshire.sch.uk/

School capacity of 360 with 341 currently on roll. 29.7% of pupils are eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years, this is higher than the average for England. Latest Ofsted rating Jan 2013 – Good.

#### **Secondary Schools**

Sir John Talbots Technology College, Tilstock Road, Whitchurch, SY13 2BY http://www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk/

Part of the Marches Academy Trust with a capacity of 771 with 495 currently on roll. 35.3% of pupils are eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years, this is higher than the average for England. Latest Ofsted rating Apr 2017 – Good.

#### **Further Education College**

There are no college facilities within Whitchurch however the secondary school does provide sixth form education.

The nearest college is North Shropshire College in Oswestry around 20 miles west of Whitchurch - <a href="http://www.nsc.ac.uk/">http://www.nsc.ac.uk/</a>

# **Transport and Infrastructure**

From its development in Roman times Whitchurch has been a key staging post with direct connections. Cheshire to the north, Stoke to the west, Shrewsbury to the south and Oswestry to the west. The A roads are the A495 heading west to Oswestry (20 miles) A525 east to Stoke (25 miles) A41 north to Chester (21 miles) A49 north to Warrington (39 miles) A41 south to Newport (20 miles) and on to Wolverhampton (40 miles) A49 south to Shrewsbury (20 miles).

### **Airports**

The nearest main international airports to Whitchurch are Liverpool and Manchester.

Manchester Airport, Manchester M90 1QX – 41 miles north of Whitchurch

Liverpool Airport, Speke Hall Ave, Speke, Liverpool L24 1YD- 43 miles north west of Whitchurch

Light aircraft facilities are available at:

**Shropshire Aero Club**, Sleap Airfield, Harmer Hill, Shrewsbury SY4 3HE <a href="http://www.shropshireaeroclub.co.uk/">http://www.shropshireaeroclub.co.uk/</a> - 13 miles south of Whitchurch the airport provides facilities for general aviation operators.

### Rail

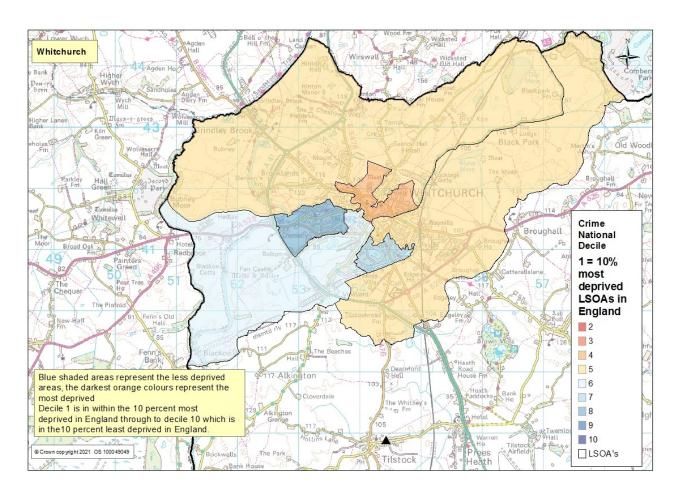
Whitchurch is located on the rail network with its own railway station located on Station Road, Whitchurch, SY13 1RL.

### **Broadband**

Digital connectivity is viewed as an increasingly important factor for business success, and nowadays broadband speed is a vital consideration when businesses are looking to relocate.

Superfast broadband is being rolled out across Shropshire, and nearly all premises in Whitchurch have access, or will have access within the next two years, to infrastructure that allows downloads speeds of at least 30 Mbps. 11 premises (0.2% of the total) are expected to have speeds that fall below this threshold. All premises in Whitchurch (and throughout most of Shropshire) are supplied by just one infrastructure provider.

# **Community Safety**



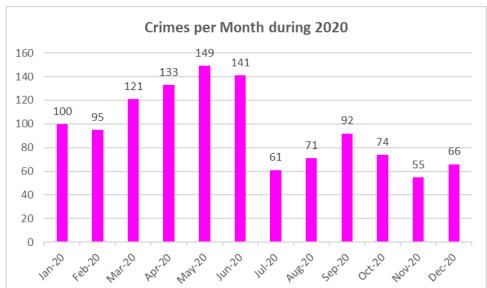
Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, crown copyright 2019

The Crime Domain comprises four underlying indicators, each one accounting for a proportion of the total Crime domain score. They are weighted as:

- Violence 32.4%
- Cri.minal damage 26.5%
- Theft 22.2%
- Burglary 18.9%

There is one area in Whitchurch which falls into the 40% most deprived areas nationally. This area is located in Whitchurch North division. A further two areas falls into the 50% most deprived areas nationally. Crime reduces the further the location is from the town centre.

### **Crime - Whitchurch Central**





278

427

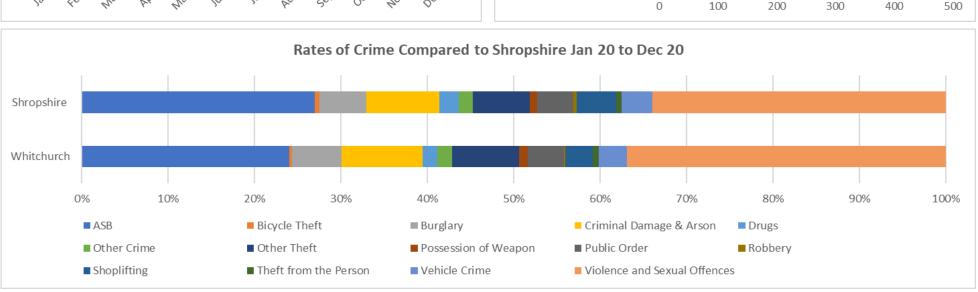
Number of Crimes by Type 2020

109

38

12

20



Violence and Sexual Offences

Vehicle Crime

Shoplifting

Public Order

Other Theft

Other Crime

Bicycle Theft

Drugs

ASB

Burglary

Robberv

Theft from the Person

Possession of Weapon

Criminal Damage & Arson

Overall levels of crime in Shropshire are low. Town centres generally experience higher rates of crime through anti-social behaviour and shoplifting. Latest crime data and more precise details of localities and investigations can be found by using the police crime map at https://www.police.uk/

# **Additional Information**

## Produced and designed by the Information, Intelligence and Insight team of Shropshire Council

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this profile, Shropshire Council can not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions. The inclusion of associations, organisations or facilities in this profile should not be taken as an endorsement by Shropshire Council of the services offered.

# Easy ways to get in touch

- Telephone **0345 678 9000**
- Email commissioning.support@shropshire.gov.uk

# Find out more information on Shropshire

For more information on Shropshire including ward profiles, population data, Shropshire Snapshots, economic data and reports - visit our webpages at: https://shropshire.gov.uk/information-intelligence-and-insight/facts-and-figures/