

Population Migration Flows Into and Out of Shropshire

*Report Based on the latest data available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Year Ending June 2020 and Prepared in **Spring 2022** by the Performance and Research Team, Shropshire Council.*

Migration Flows Into and Out of Shropshire

- 1.1 **Shropshire is a net attracter of people.** The five-year average between 2016 and 2020 shows that Shropshire had an average net gain of 3,035 people a year. The information in this report analyses population flows in and out of Shropshire from local authorities within England and Wales. A further report about international migration in Shropshire is also available.

- 1.2 Figure 1 shows the ten local authority areas which had the largest flows into Shropshire. These figures are derived from taking the 5-year average inward migration flows during 2016 – 2020. Figure 1 excludes people moving within Shropshire. The majority of people moving to Shropshire are from Telford and Wrekin or Powys. Year on year internal migration into Shropshire has increased rising from 10,314 in 2007/8 to 14,857 in 2018/19. However outmigration reduced to 12,859 in 2019/20. This data is recorded to June 2020, the first covid-19 lockdown period began in March 2020 and continued up until the summer of 2020, this has therefore had some impact on flows data. The number of people moving into Shropshire is projected to continue to 2043. The global Covid-19 Pandemic has altered population trends. Increases in the number of people working from home has allowed people to become more mobile and relocate often from urban areas to more rural locations. This trend could increase the number of people moving to Shropshire from urban areas primarily the West Midlands. This may become clearer on the release of future datasets.

- 1.3 Figure 2 shows the ten top local authority destinations for people migrating out of Shropshire. These figures are derived from taking the 5-year average outward flows during 2016-2020. Figure 2 excludes people moving within Shropshire. Telford and Wrekin and Powys are the top destinations for people leaving Shropshire. Year on year internal migration out of Shropshire has also increased but at a much lower rate than in migration. In the longer term the number of people leaving Shropshire has risen from 8,148 2007/8 to 11,430 in 2018/19. However out migration from Shropshire reduced in 2019/2020 to 9,945. This data is recorded to June 2020, the first covid-19 lockdown period began in March 2020 and continued up until the summer of 2020, this has therefore had some impact on flows data.

1.4 Shropshire’s strongest migration links are with Telford and Wrekin, followed by Powys. Overall more people are migrating from Telford and Wrekin to Shropshire than leaving Shropshire to go to Telford. In 2019/20, 1,627 people moved from Telford and Wrekin to Shropshire and 1,451 people moved from Shropshire to Telford and Wrekin. The last ten years has shown there has consistently been more people moving into Shropshire from Telford and Wrekin than leaving Shropshire to move to Telford and Wrekin. This is also the case for Powys. However, although these links are strong, it does not mean Shropshire is not self - contained. Shropshire is one of the most self-contained local authority areas in the country, 71% of people who work in Shropshire also live in the county. (Origin self-containment is the proportion of Shropshire workers that are employed in the county)

Figure 1: Cross Local Authority Boundary Migration into Shropshire Five Year Average 2016 - 2020, Top Ten Local Authority Origins (all flows, persons)

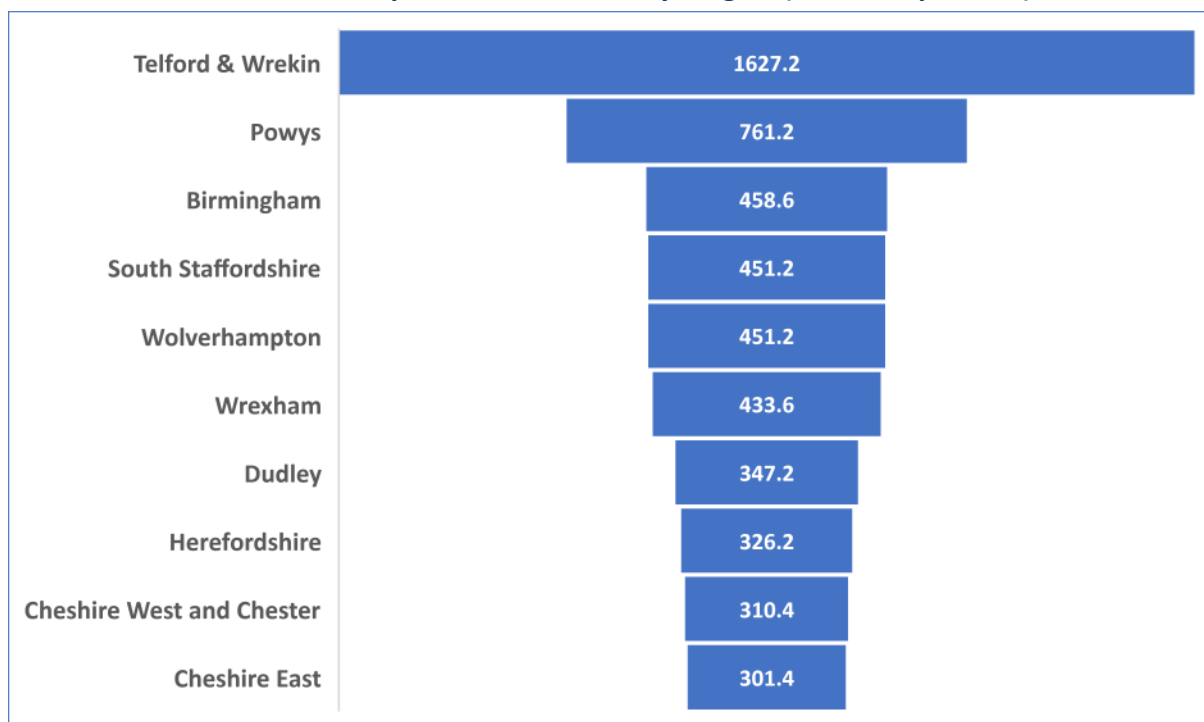
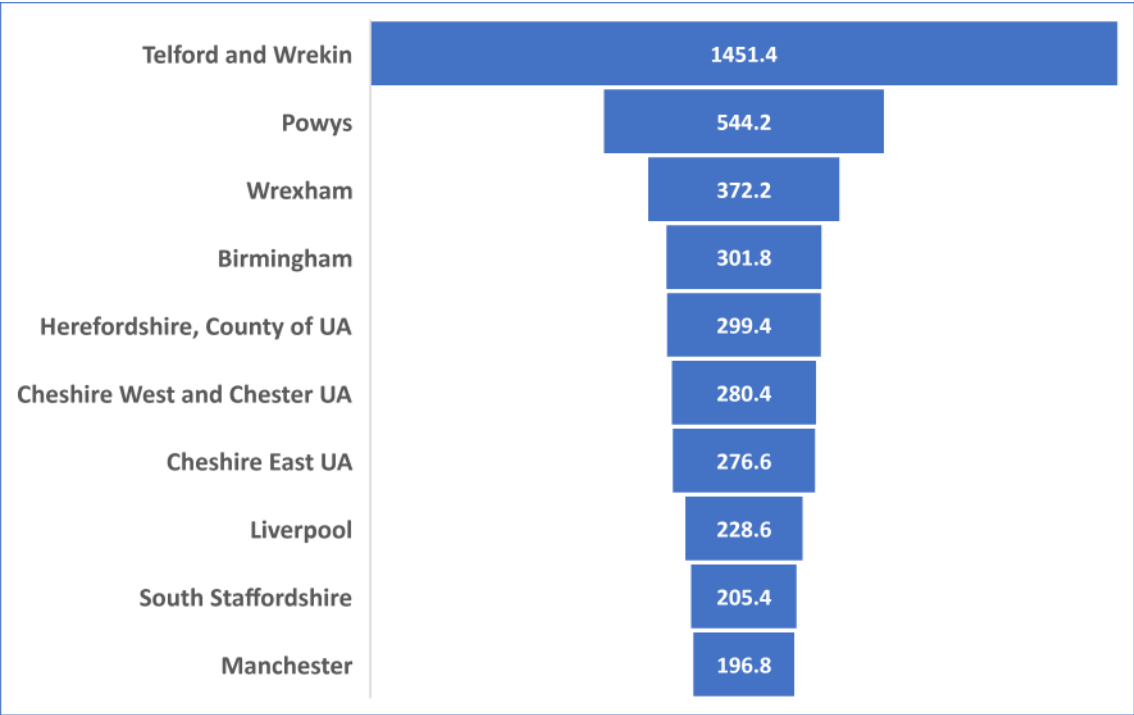


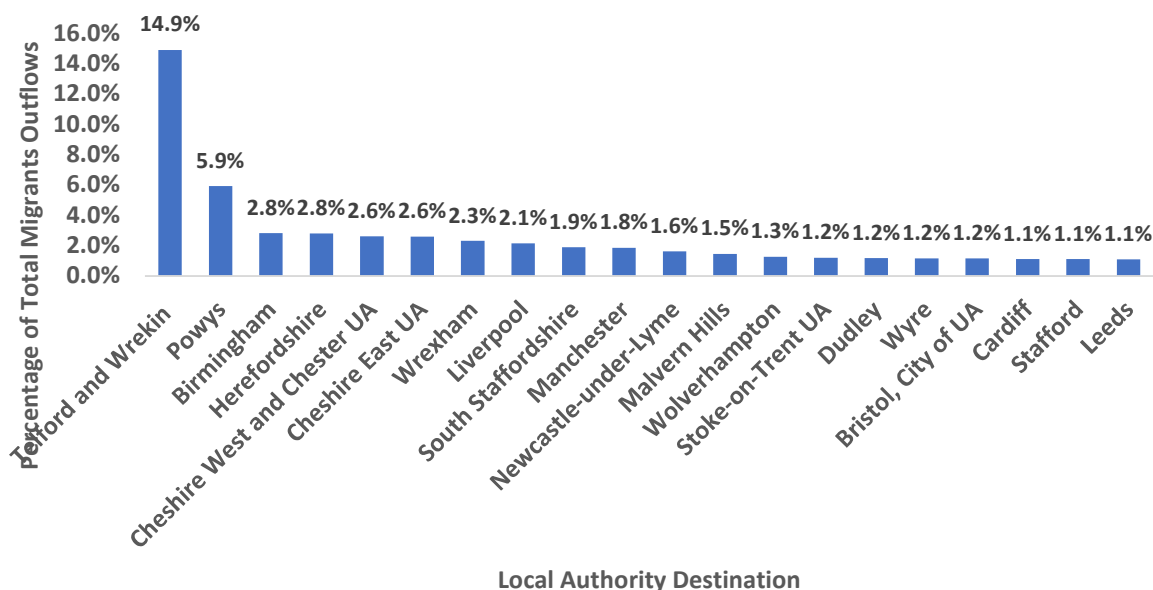
Figure 2: Cross Local Authority Boundary Migration out of Shropshire Five Year Average 2016 - 2020, Top Ten Local Authority Destinations (all flows, persons)



Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2020 Outflows Figure 1 and Inflow Figure 2.

Outflows

Figure 3: Migrant Outflows from Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016-2020



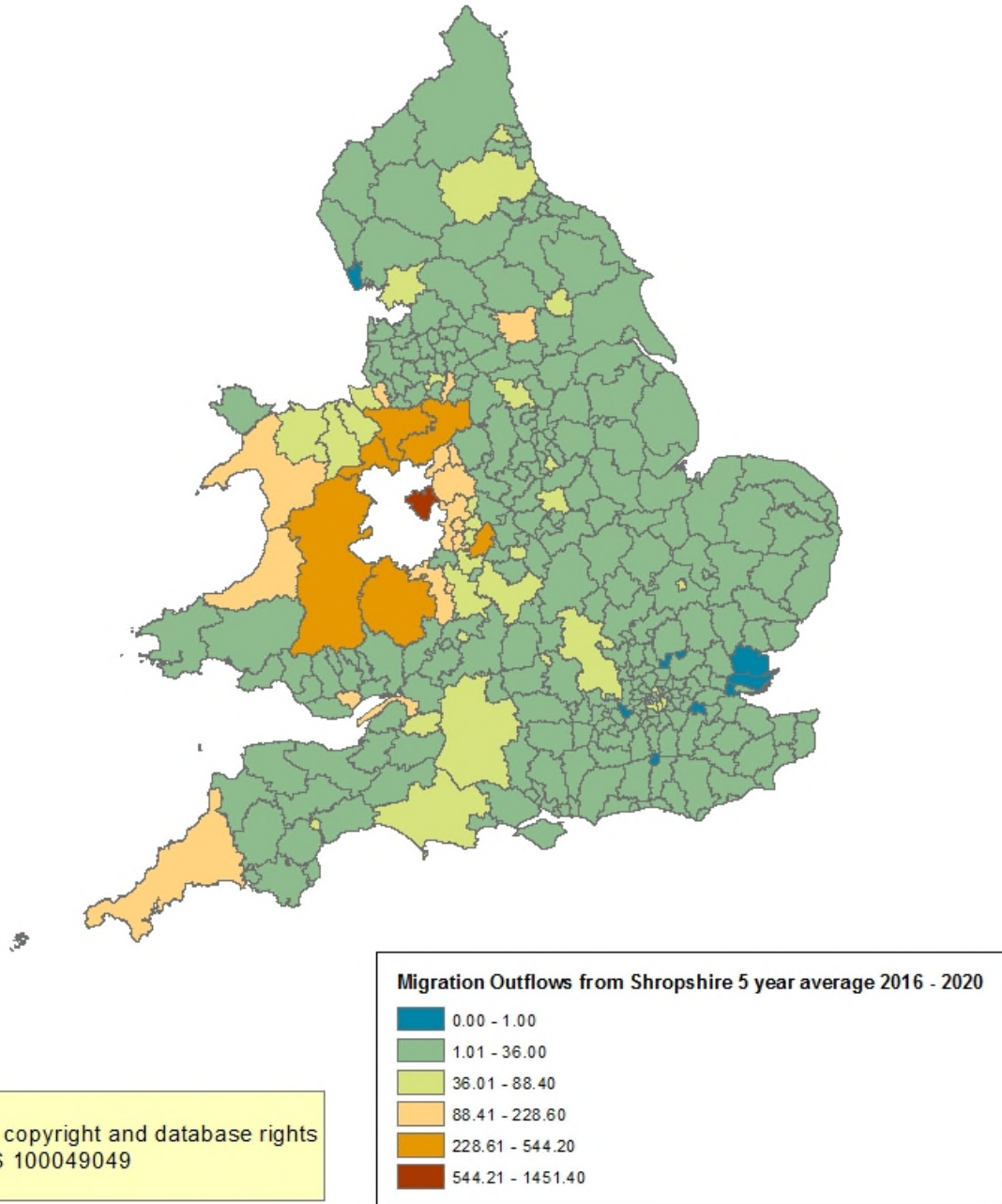
Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2020

- 1.5 The five-year annual average shows 10,716 people leaving Shropshire each year and 13,751 people arriving in Shropshire each year. Based on these annual average figures, this indicates an approximate net gain of 3,035 people within this period.

- 1.6 As would be expected a large proportion of people leaving Shropshire are going to neighbouring authorities. Map 1 shows seven out of the top ten destinations border Shropshire. Figure 3 shows the proportion of migrants moving out of Shropshire to other authorities. There is strong outmigration to Telford and Wrekin, Powys, Wrexham and Herefordshire. There are also strong links with Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, South Staffordshire, Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Wolverhampton (these cities have large universities). Map 1 also shows higher levels of migration into Wales, Leeds and Cornwall. Wales and Cornwall are popular retirement locations, often by the coast, which may explain some of the out migration from Shropshire to these areas.

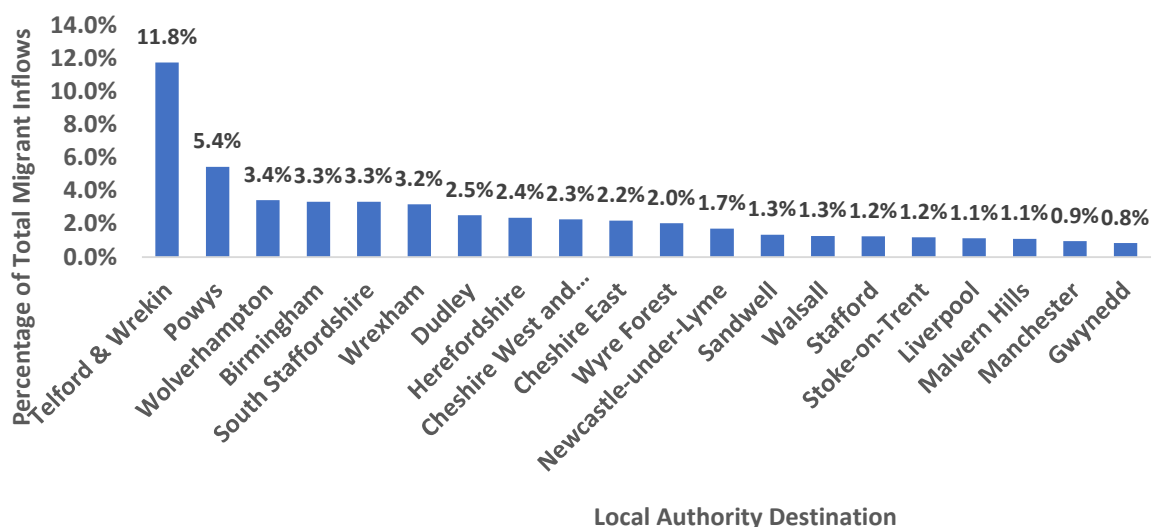
Map 1

Migrant Outflows from Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 to 2020



Inflows

Figure 4: Migrant Inflows to Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 – 2021

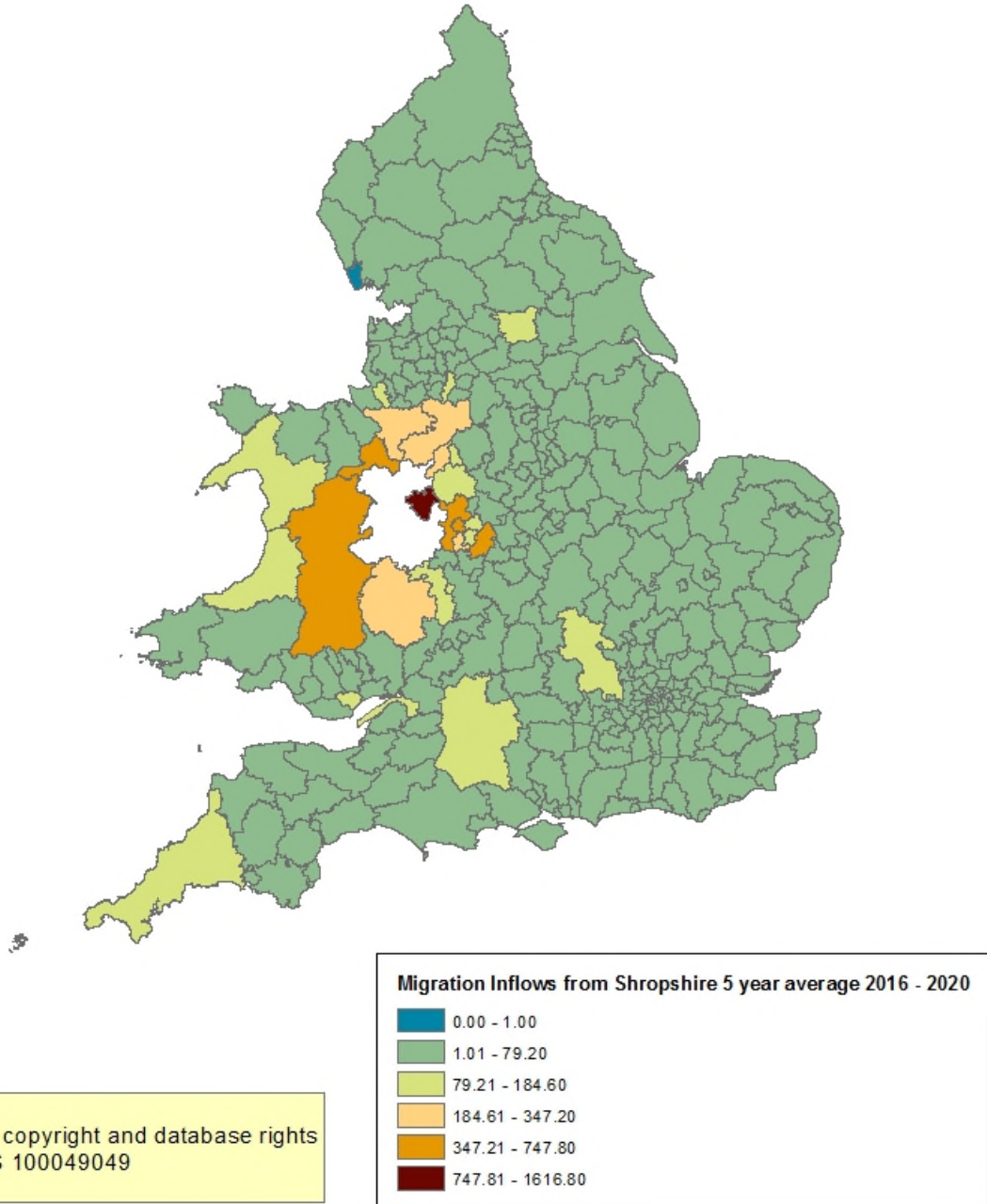


Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2020

1.7 The five-year annual average shows 13,751 people moving into Shropshire each year. As would be expected a large proportion of people moving into Shropshire are coming from neighbouring authorities, all eleven of Shropshire's bordering neighbours are in the top twenty (figure 4). There is strong outmigration into Shropshire from Telford and Wrekin, Powys, South Staffordshire, Wrexham and Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Chester and Herefordshire. There are also strong links with Dudley, Stafford, Newcastle under Lyme, Wyre Forest and further afield Manchester and Liverpool. Map 2 also shows relatively higher levels of migration from parts of Wales.

Map 2

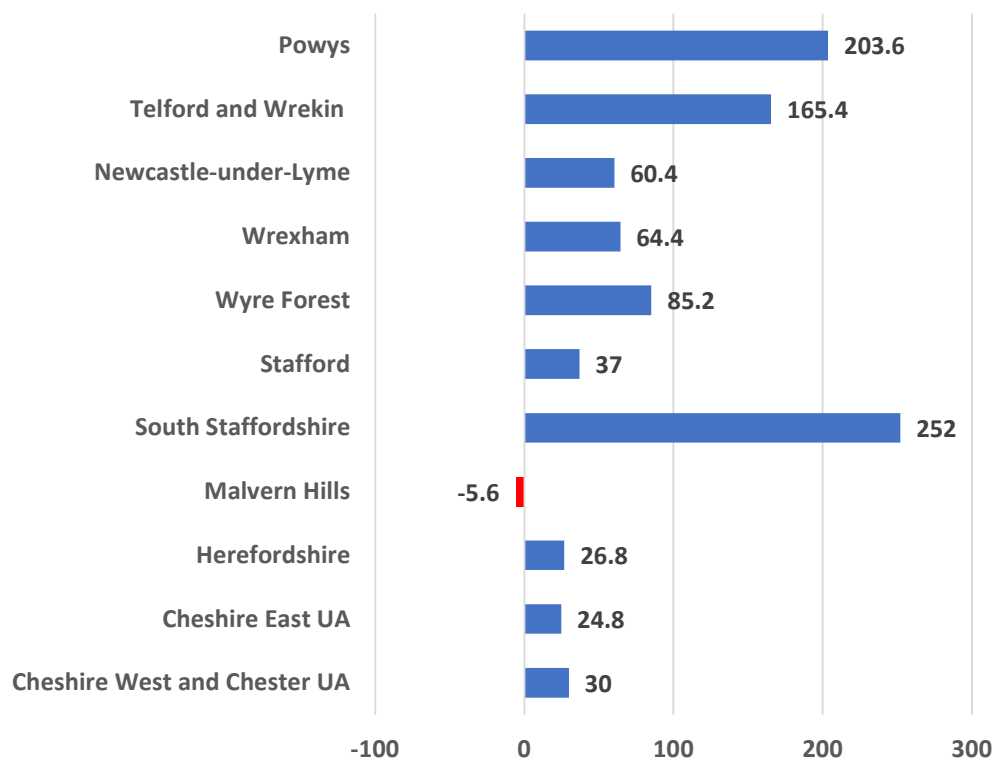
Migrant Inflows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 to 2020



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Net Flows

Figure 5: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire Bordering Authorities 5 Year Average 2016 - 2020

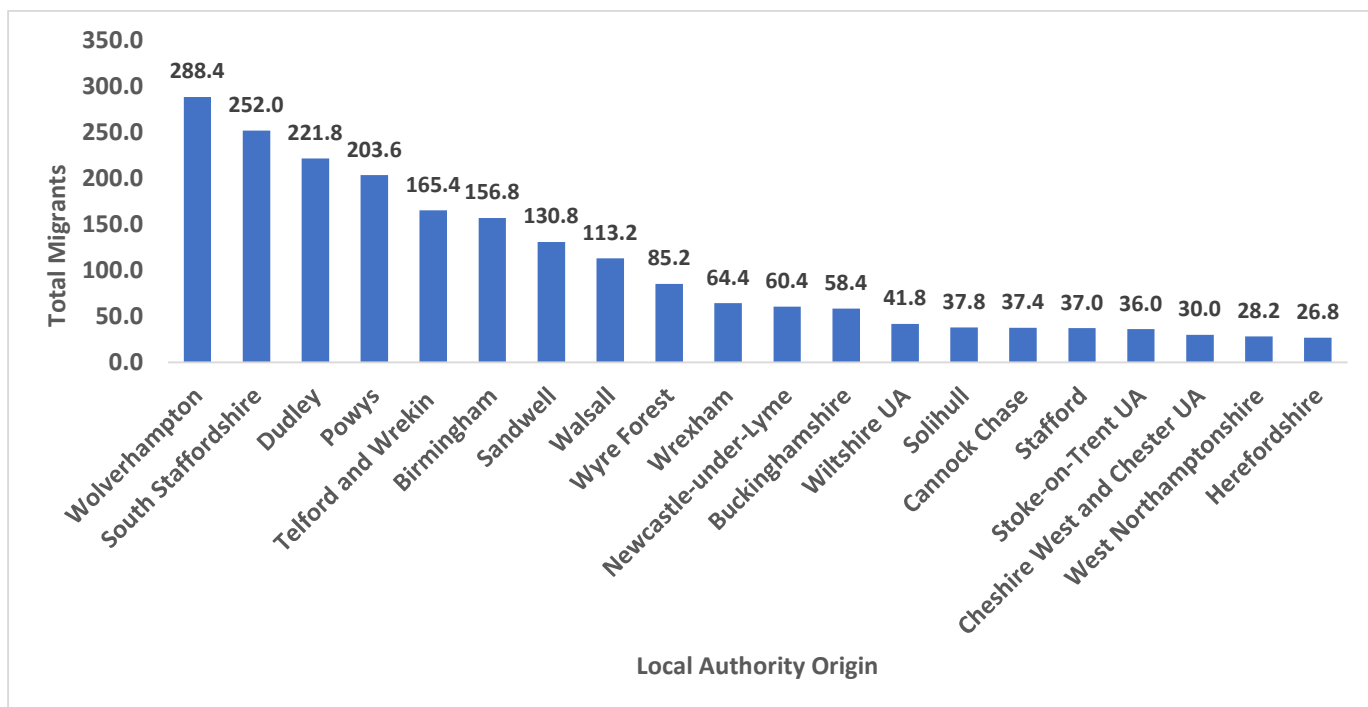


Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2020. A positive number shows where more people have moved into Shropshire from these areas than the number of people who have moved out to these areas. I.e. a net gain. A negative number shows a net loss.

1.8 When looking at the Local Authorities which share a border with Shropshire (figure 5), all, with the exception of Malvern Hills, showed positive net migration. In other words, more people came into Shropshire, from these areas, than left Shropshire to go to these areas. South Staffordshire, Powys and Telford and Wrekin showed the highest net flows into Shropshire. There was also a similar pattern when looking at surrounding authorities in the West Midlands Region, many of these local authorities appear in the top 20 (figure 6) of all the areas where Shropshire gained population. Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and West Northamptonshire are also in the top 20. The higher numbers of people moving into Shropshire from the urban centres e.g. Dudley, Birmingham, Sandwell, Wolverhampton is likely to be explained by people relocating to Shropshire, to work from home or commute to the urban areas of the West Midlands. The current coronavirus pandemic has meant an increase in people working from home. As a result of the current pandemic, many people, who are able, are

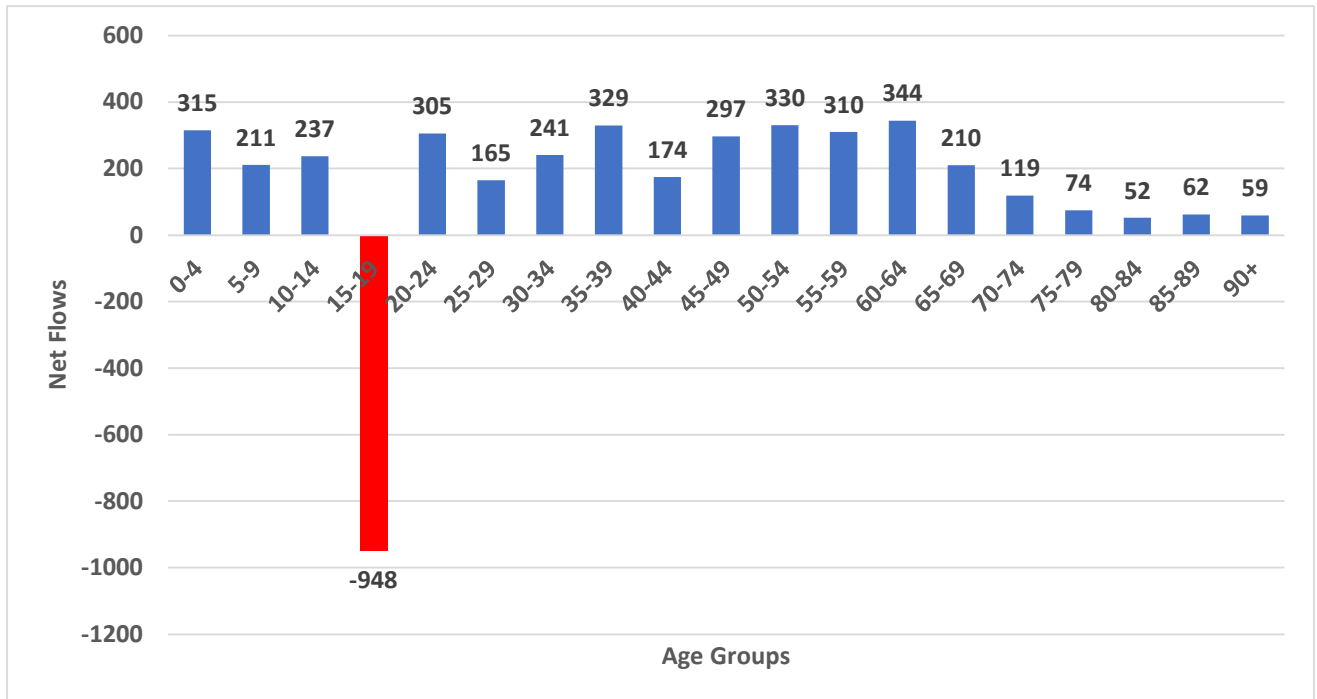
favouring relocating from large cities to live in more rural areas. It will be interesting to see if these trends continue and increase in the longer term.

Figure 6: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 - 2020
Top 20 Net gains



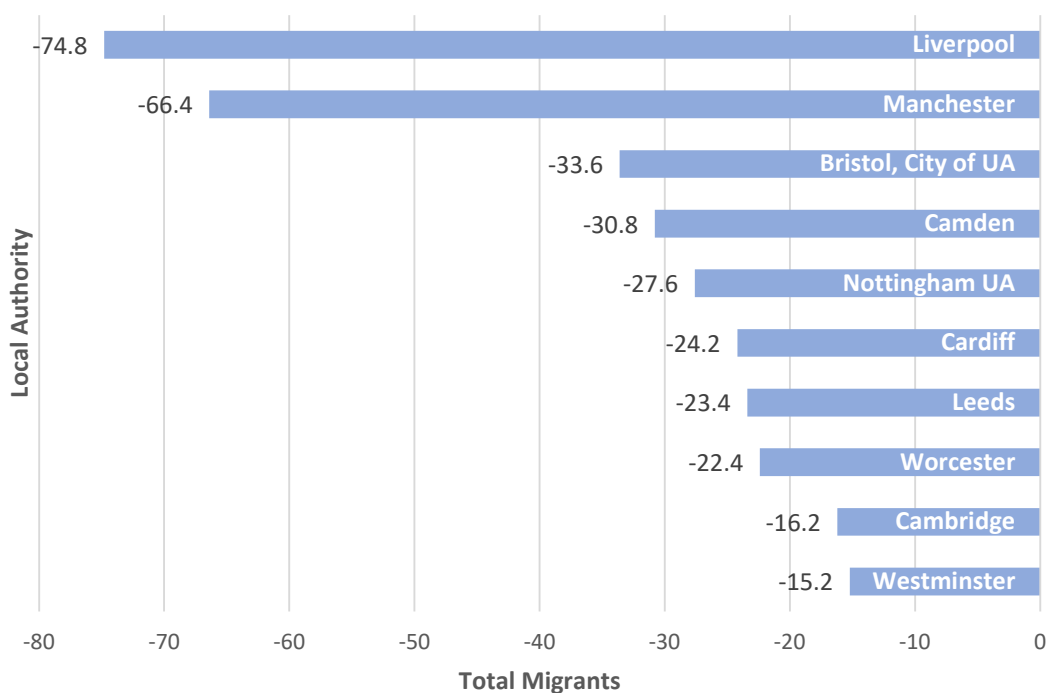
1.9 Figure 7 shows migrant net flows by age group for the year 2020. All age groups show more people migrating into Shropshire than out, with the exception of the 15 to 19-year age group. In this group 593 people arrived in Shropshire and 1,541 left, a net loss of -948. This is due to young people leaving to go to study or take up work opportunities outside Shropshire notably Bristol, Manchester, the West Midlands and other larger cities. However, ad-hoc evidence suggests a high proportion of students return to Shropshire in later life. In 2020 net flows were greatest in people aged 60 to 64 and age 50 to 54 or age 35 to 39 (figure 7). Shropshire had a net gain of 344 people aged 60 to 64 and a net gain of 330 people aged 60 to 64. This suggest people move to Shropshire to possibly retire.

Figure 7: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Age Group 2019/20



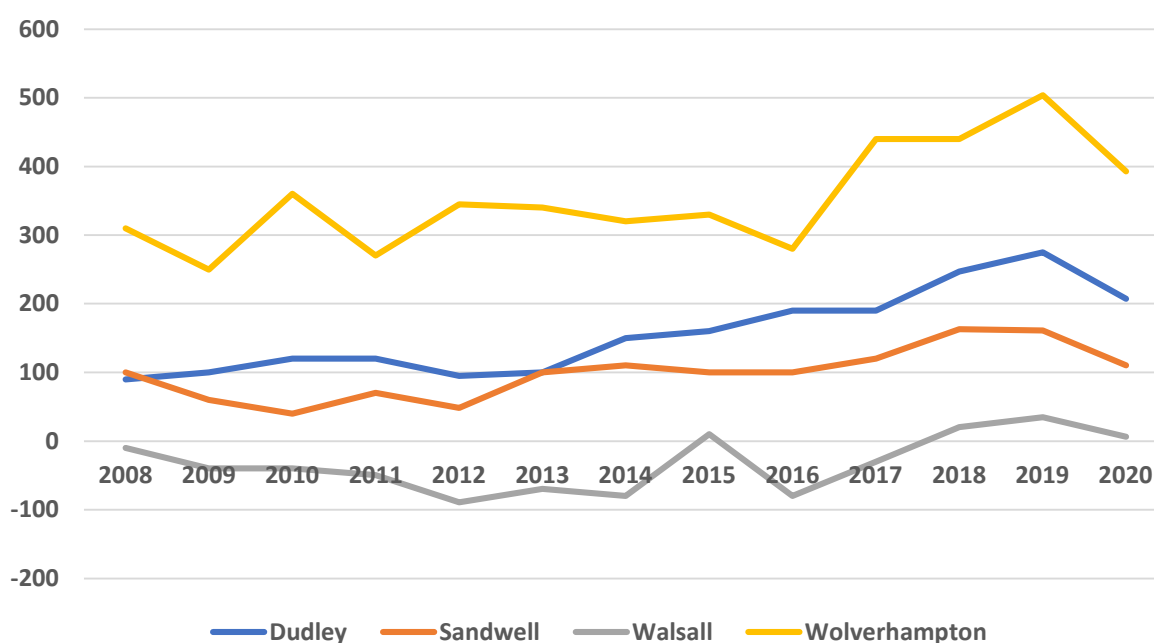
1.10 When looking at areas where Shropshire lost more population than gained over the last 5 years (figure 8), the top ten, includes Manchester, Bristol City, Liverpool, Cambridge, Leeds, Westminster and Nottingham. Map 3 shows net population flows.

**Figure 8: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 – 2020
Top 10 Net Losses**



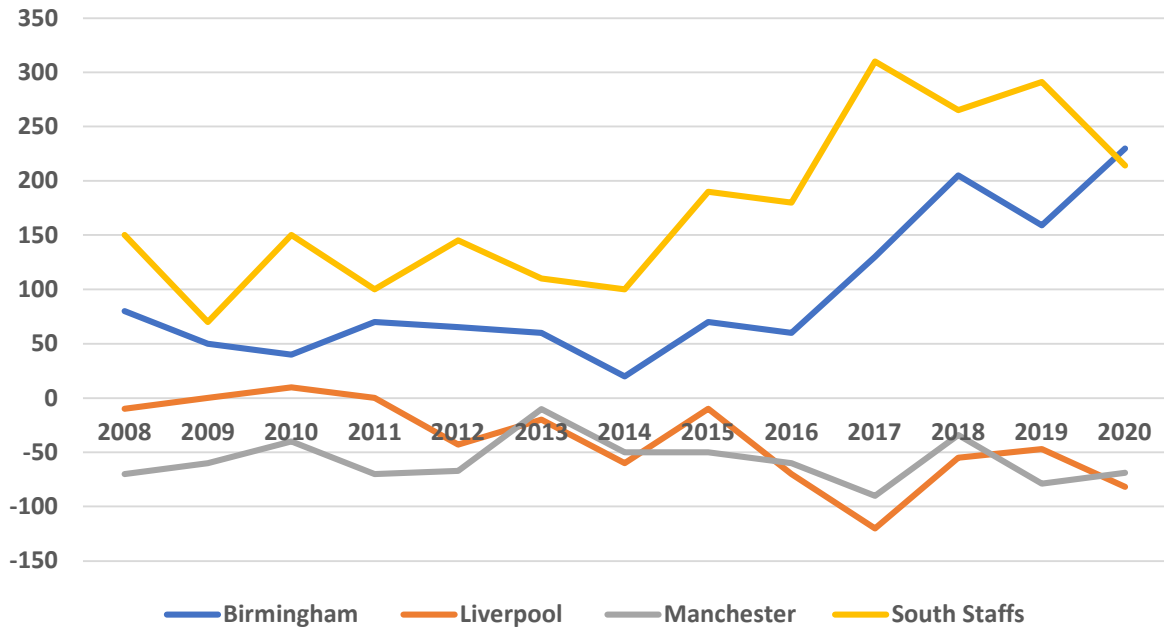
- 1.11 When looking at local authorities in the Black Country there has been a marked increase in people migrating from Wolverhampton to Shropshire since 2016 (figure 9). In 2016 net migration from Wolverhampton to Shropshire was around 280 rising to 500 in 2019. There has also been an increase in the number of people migrating from Dudley and Sandwell. The number of people moving from Walsall has also had a much slighter increase. These numbers have dipped in 2020 this is likely due to the Covid-19 lockdown period. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues or increases into 2021/22 as more people may choose to relocate to Shropshire from these areas as a result of the ability to work from home or re-evaluation of lifestyle.
- 1.12 Figure 10 shows net migration to Shropshire from surrounding urban areas. The graph shows a steep increase in people migrating from Birmingham and South Staffordshire since 2015. In 2015 Shropshire had a net gain of 70 people from Birmingham by 2020 the net gain in population was 230 (this trend did not reduce in 2020 but continued to rise). In 2015 Shropshire had more people moving from Liverpool to Shropshire this had declined since 2020 to a negative net migration where more people are leaving Shropshire to go to Liverpool. Manchester has also seen a similar pattern. Map 3 on page 13 shows net migration for Shropshire by local authority.

Figure 9 Net Population Migration from the Black Country



Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2020

Figure 10 Net Population Migration Surrounding Urban Areas



Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2020

Map 3

Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 to 2020

