

# Population Migration Flows into and out of Shropshire

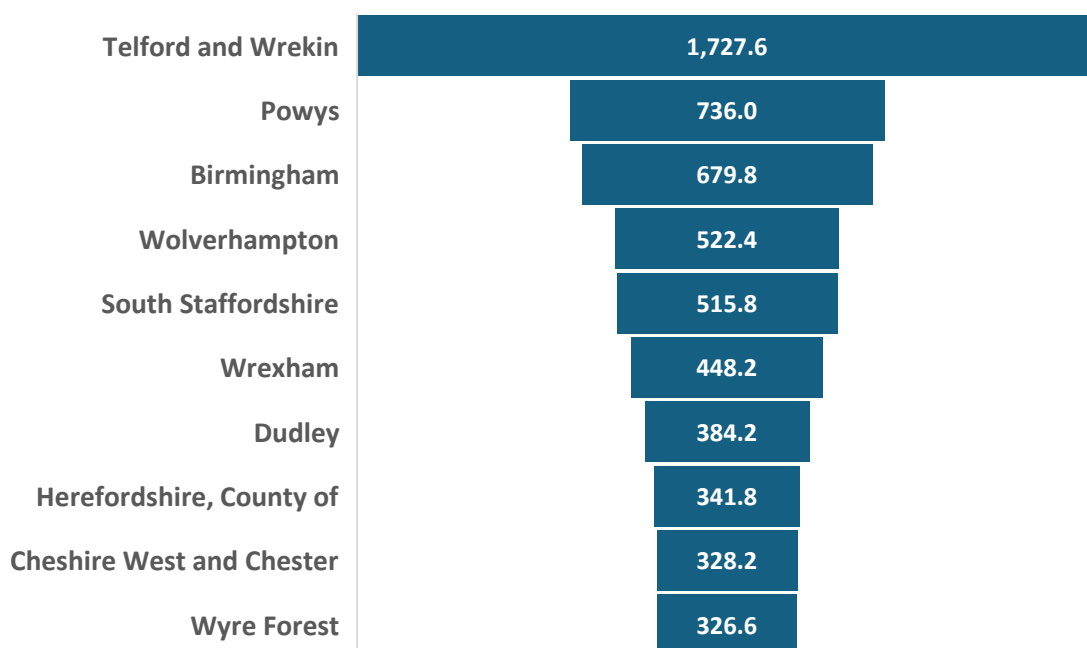
*Report Based on the latest data available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Year Ending June 2022 based on Local Authority Boundaries 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Prepared in Autumn 2024 by the Business Intelligence and Insight Team, Shropshire Council*

## Migration Flows into and out of Shropshire

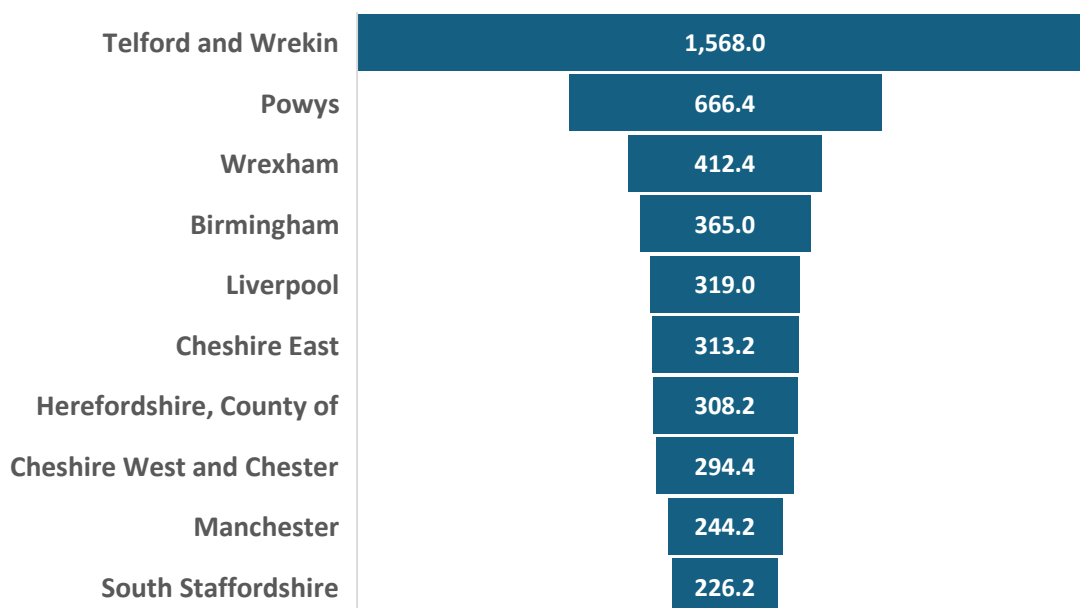
- 1.1 **Shropshire is a net attracter of people.** The five-year average between 2018 and 2022 shows that Shropshire had an average net gain of 3,588 people a year. The information in this report analyses population flows in and out of Shropshire from local authorities within England and Wales.
- 1.2 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 2018 – 2022. 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 13,646 in 2014 to 15,769 in 2022. This data is recorded to June 2022, the first Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown period began in March 2020 and continued up until the summer of 2020 with a second lockdown in November 2020 and a third in the first three months of 2021, 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. The growth in population may also reflect increases in the level of house building in Shropshire during the last five years since 2017 which has now begun to fall slightly since 2019/20. Whilst migration into Shropshire peaked in 2021, numbers whilst still displaying a long-term upward trend, have begun to fall back to pre-pandemic levels and do not appear to be continuing at the same rate as in 2021.
- 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 2018-2022. 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 11,767 2014 to 12,733 in 2022. However out migration from Shropshire reduced in 2019/2020 to 11,199.

- 1.4 Figure 3 shows total flows and demonstrates Shropshire's strongest migration links are with Telford and Wrekin (3,295.6 total flows) followed by Powys (1402.4 total flows). Overall, more people are migrating from Telford and Wrekin to Shropshire than leaving Shropshire to go to Telford. In 2022, 1,728 people moved from Telford and Wrekin (figure 1) to Shropshire and 1,568 (figure 2) 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, 83% 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 in 2021, this figure is likely higher than usual due to the Covid-19 Pandemic when more people were working at home).

**Figure 1: Cross Local Authority Boundary Migration into Shropshire Five Year Average 2018 - 2022, Top Ten Local Authority Origins (all flows, persons)**

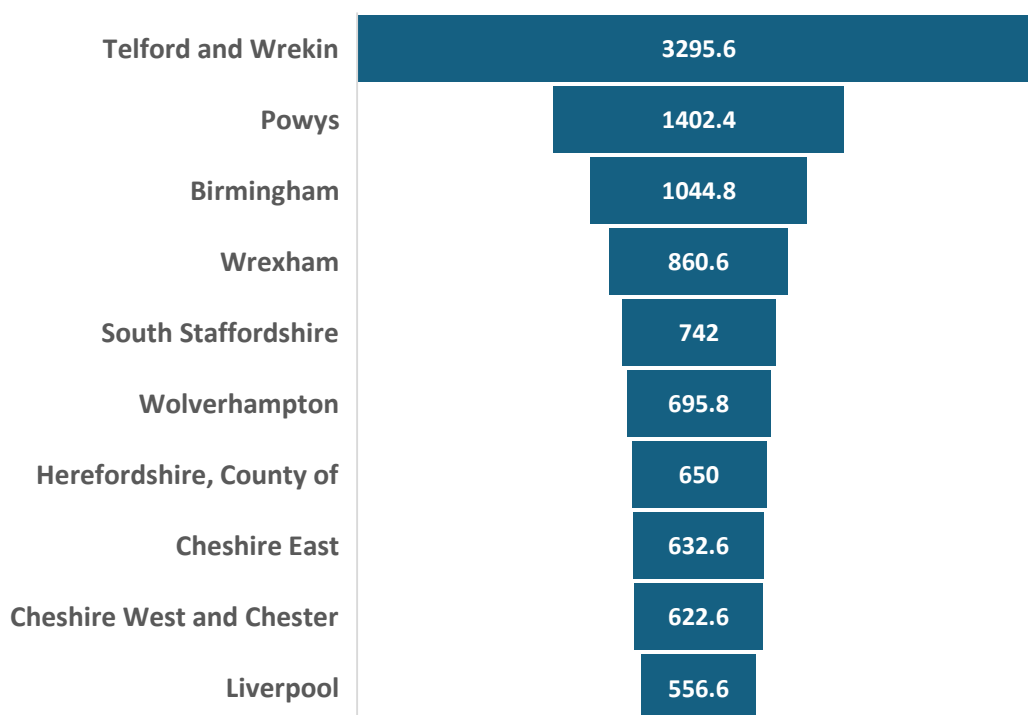


**Figure 2: Cross Local Authority Boundary Migration out of Shropshire Five Year Average 2018 - 2022, Top Ten Local Authority Destinations (all flows, persons)**



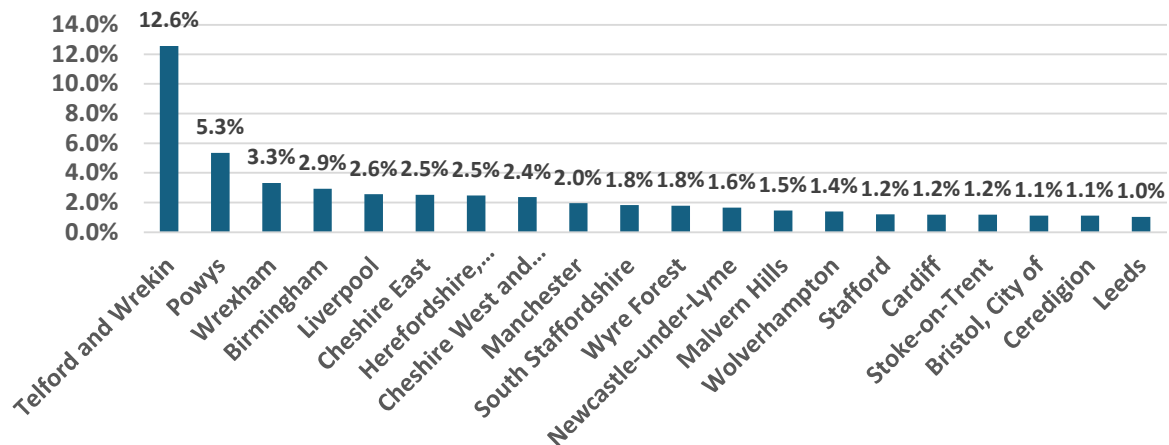
*Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2022 Outflows Figure 1 and Inflow Figure 2.*

**Figure 3: Cross Local Authority Boundary Migration Total Flows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2018 – 2022, Top Ten Local Authorities (Inflows and Outflows added together)**



## Outflows

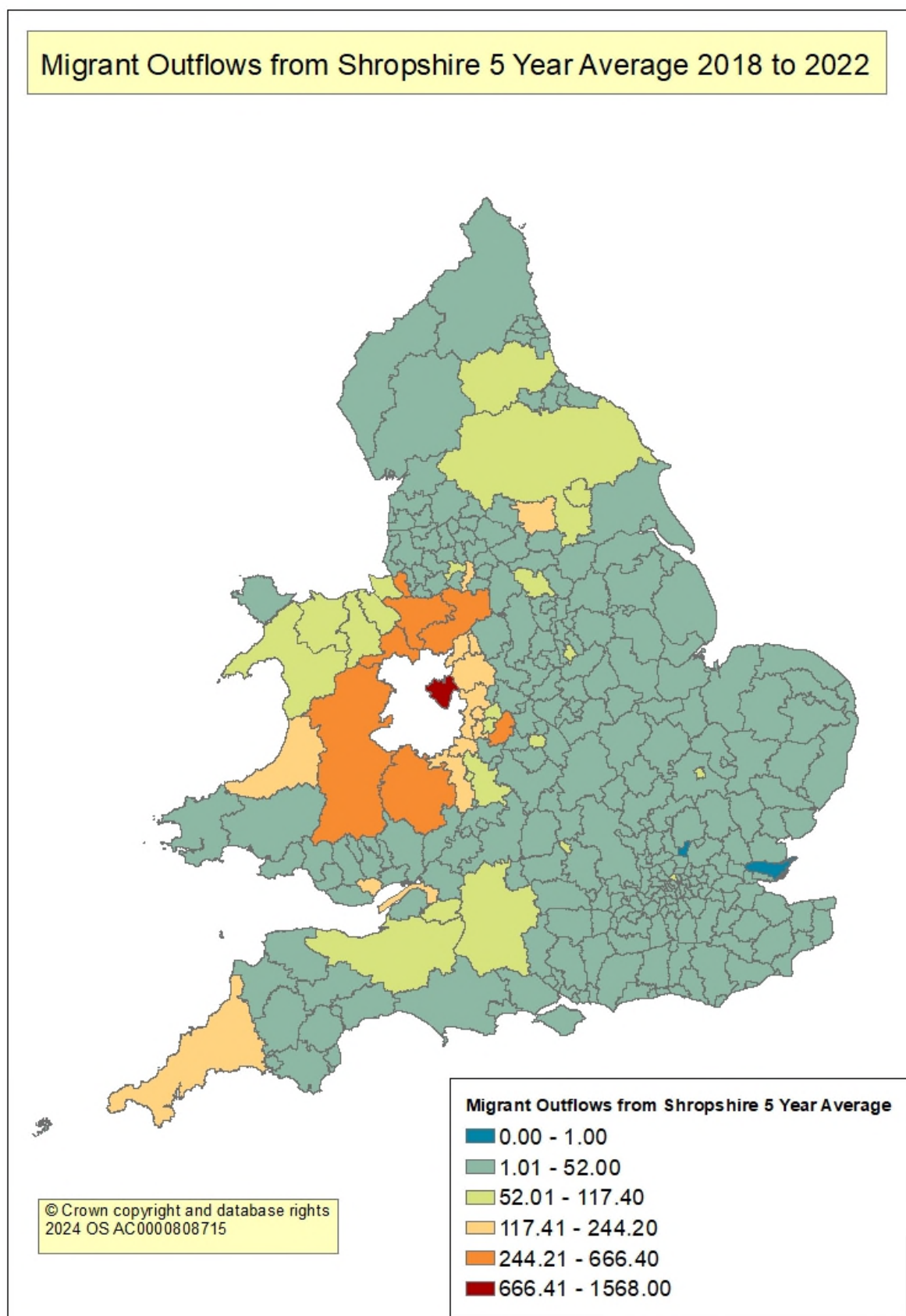
**Figure 4: Migrant Outflows from Shropshire 5 Year Average 2018 - 2022**



*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 2022*

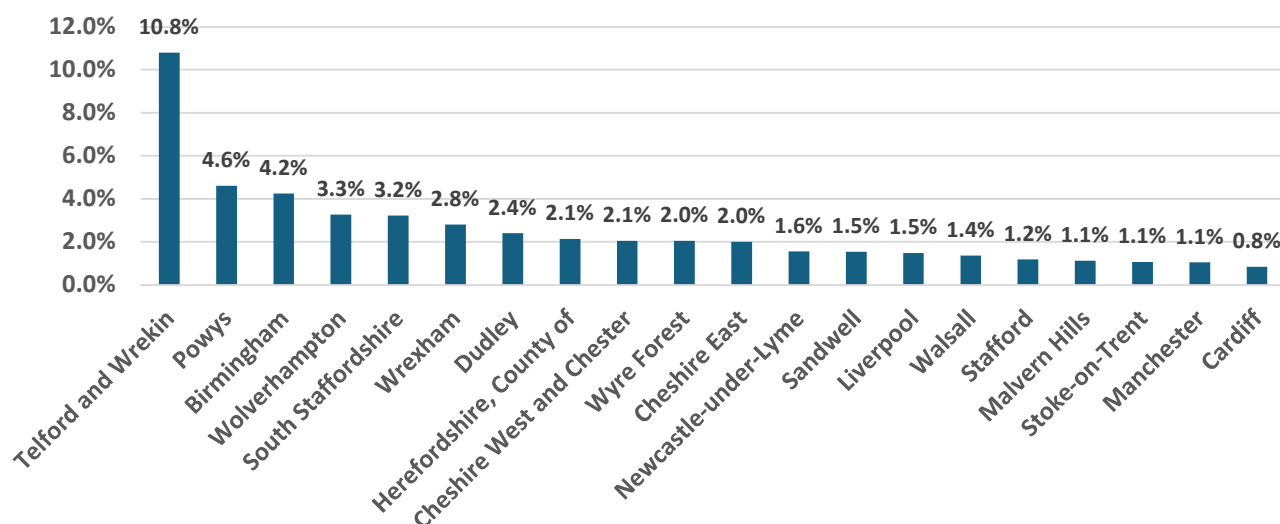
- 1.5 The five-year annual average shows 12,200 people leaving Shropshire each year and 15,788 people arriving in Shropshire each year. Based on these annual average figures, this indicates an approximate net gain of 3,558 people within this period.
- 1.6 As would be expected a large proportion of people leaving Shropshire are going to neighbouring authorities. Map 1 shows seven out of the top ten destinations border Shropshire. Figure 4 shows the proportion of migrants moving out of Shropshire to other authorities. There is strong outmigration to Telford and Wrekin, Powys, Wrexham, Birmingham and Liverpool. There are also strong links with Manchester, Cheshire, South Staffordshire, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Wyre Forest and Wolverhampton (some of these locations have large universities where students may relocate to). Map 1 also shows higher levels of migration into Wales, the West Midlands 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



## Inflows

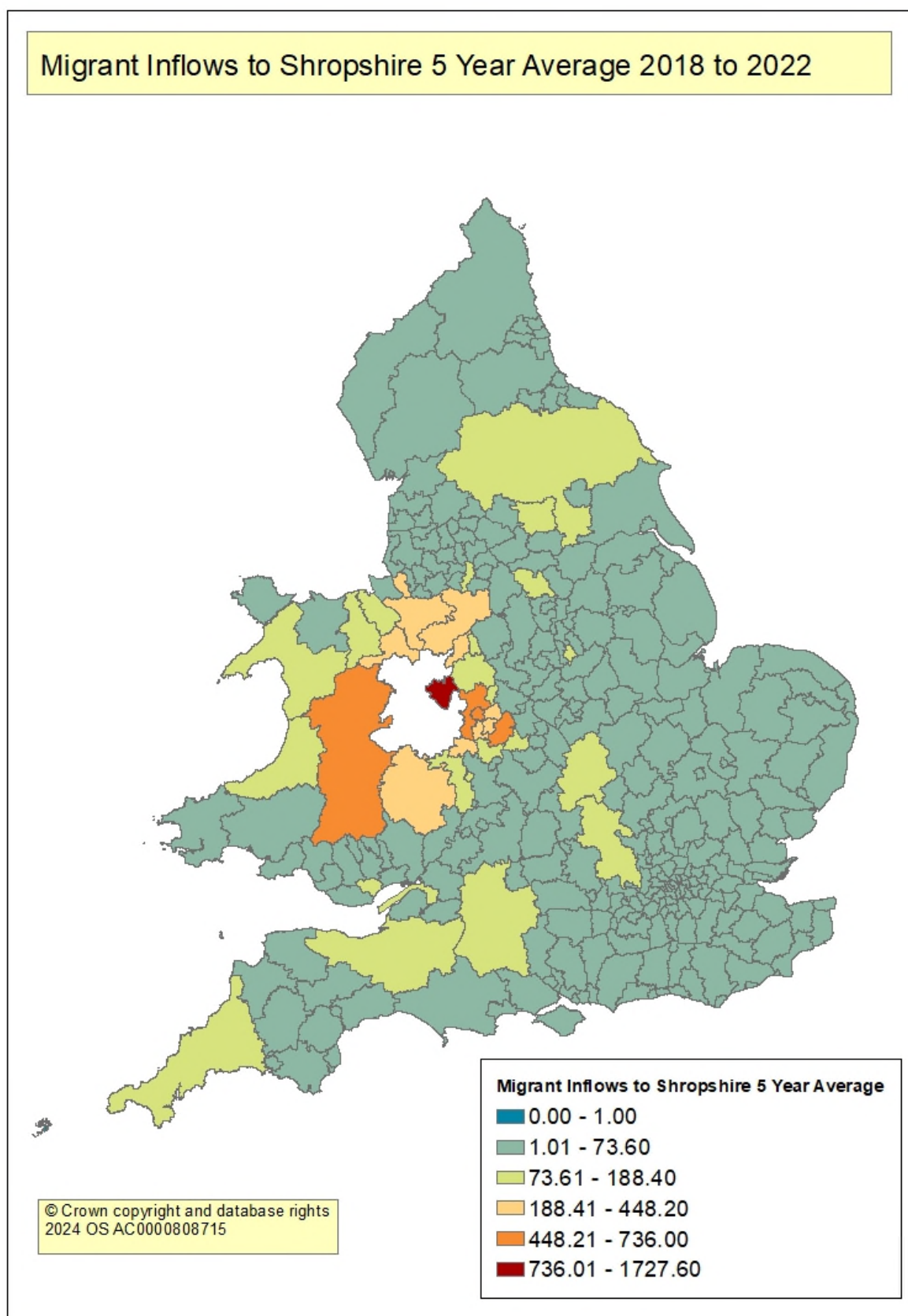
**Figure 5: Migrant Inflows to Shropshire 5 Year Average 2018 – 2022**



*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 2022*

- 1.7 The five-year annual average shows 15,788 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 5). There is strong outmigration into Shropshire from Telford and Wrekin, Powys, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Wrexham, Dudley, Herefordshire and Cheshire. There are also strong links with Newcastle under Lyme, Wyre Forest, Walsall and Sandwell. Further afield there are strong links with large cities Manchester, Liverpool and Cardiff. Map 2 also shows relatively higher levels of in-migration from other parts of Wales, Yorkshire, Wiltshire and Cornwall.

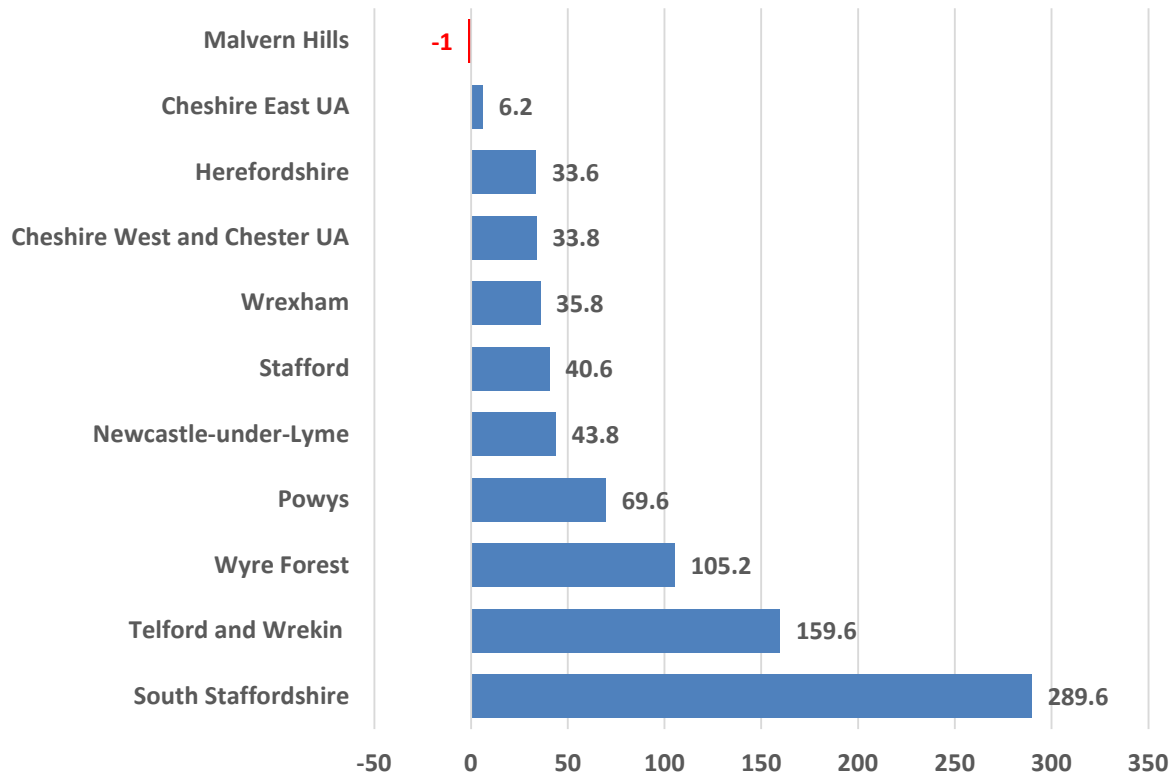
Map 2





## Net Flows

**Figure 6: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire Bordering Authorities 5 Year Average 2018 – 2022**

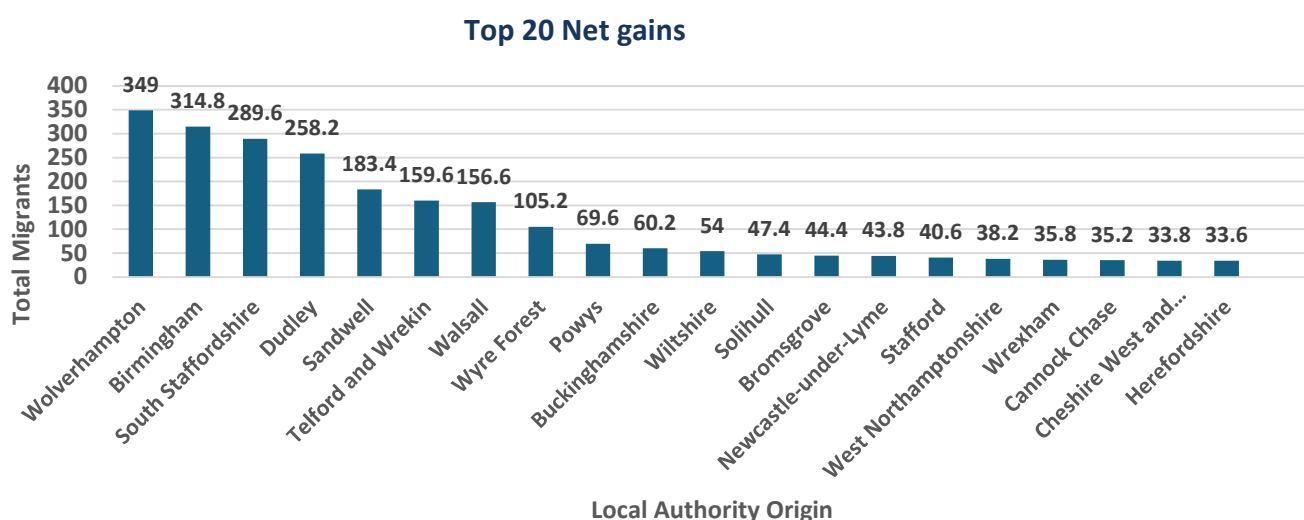


*Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Migration Unit, NHS Patient Register, the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Data on Student Moves Estimates, Internal Migration by Local Authority in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2022. A positive number shows 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 6), 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, Wyre Forest 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 7) 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 coronavirus pandemic 2020/21 had meant an increase in people working from home. As a result of this pandemic, many people, who are able, favoured relocating from large cities to live in more rural areas. This trend is continuing but levels have fallen back to pre-pandemic numbers in 2022, so it would seem that high levels of in migration in 2022 have not continued at the same rate in 2022. (figure 11, page 14).

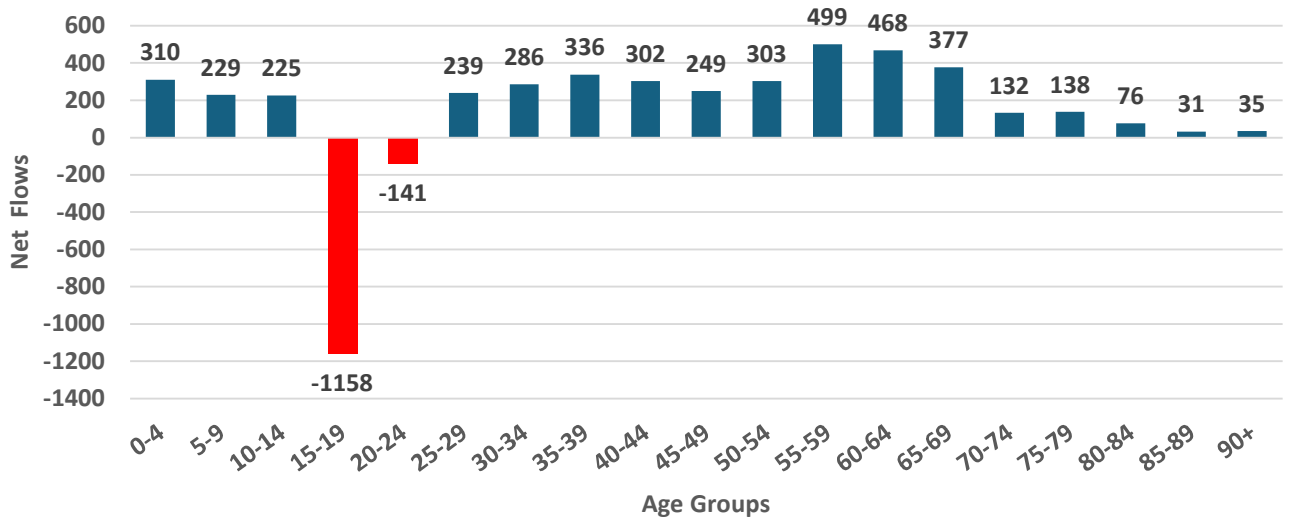
**Figure 7: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2018- 2022**



*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 2022*

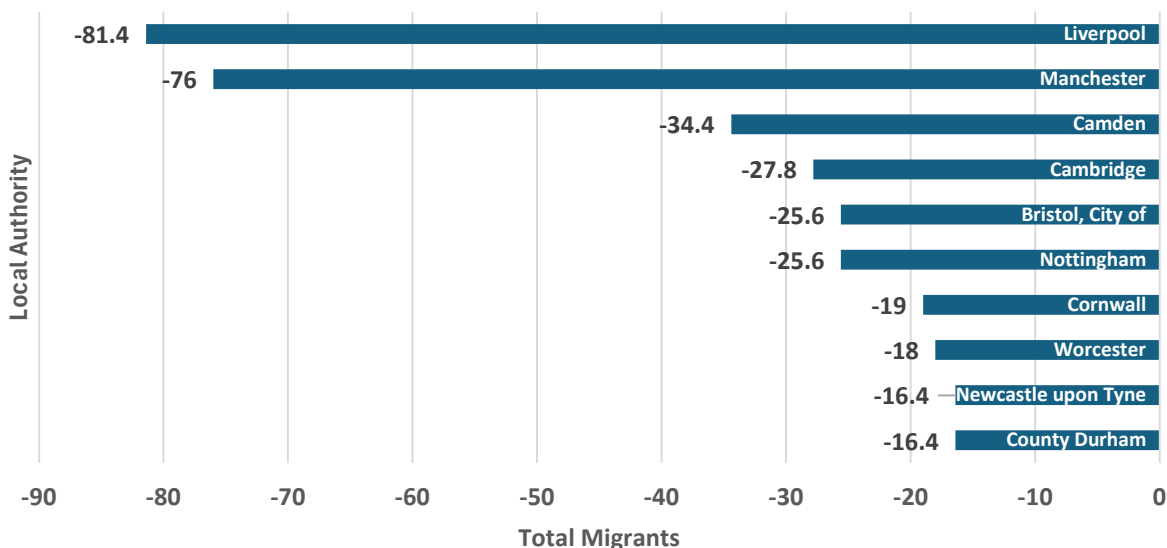
- 1.9 Figure 8 shows migrant net flows by age group for the year 2022. All age groups show more people migrating into Shropshire than out, with the exception of the 15 to 19- and 20-24-year age groups. In the age group 15-19 group 724 people arrived in Shropshire and 1,882 left, a net loss of -1158. 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. There is also a net loss of a 141 people aged 20 – 24 years, this may be for similar reasons as the 15 – 19 years age group but more focused on people leaving Shropshire for work opportunities elsewhere. In 2022 net flows were greatest in people aged 55 to 59 and age 60 to 64 (figure 8). Shropshire had a net gain of 499 people aged 55 to 69 and a net gain of 468 people aged 60 to 64. This suggest people move to Shropshire to possibly retire.

**Figure 8: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Age Group 2022**



1.10 When looking at areas where Shropshire lost more population than gained over the last 5 years (figure 9), the top ten, includes Manchester, Bristol City, Liverpool, Cambridge, Nottingham, Worcester and Camden. Map 3 shows net population flows.

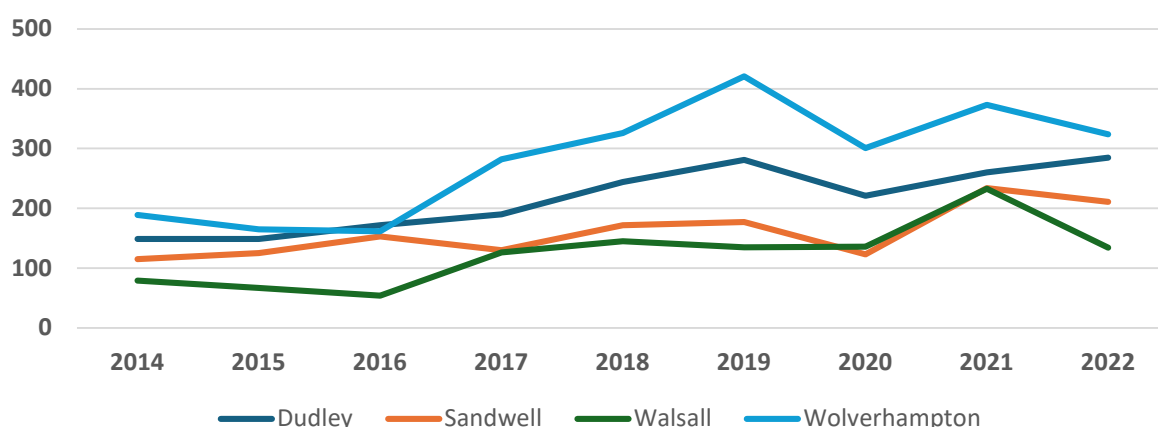
**Figure 9: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 5 Year Average 2016 – 2020  
Top 10 Net Losses**



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 2022

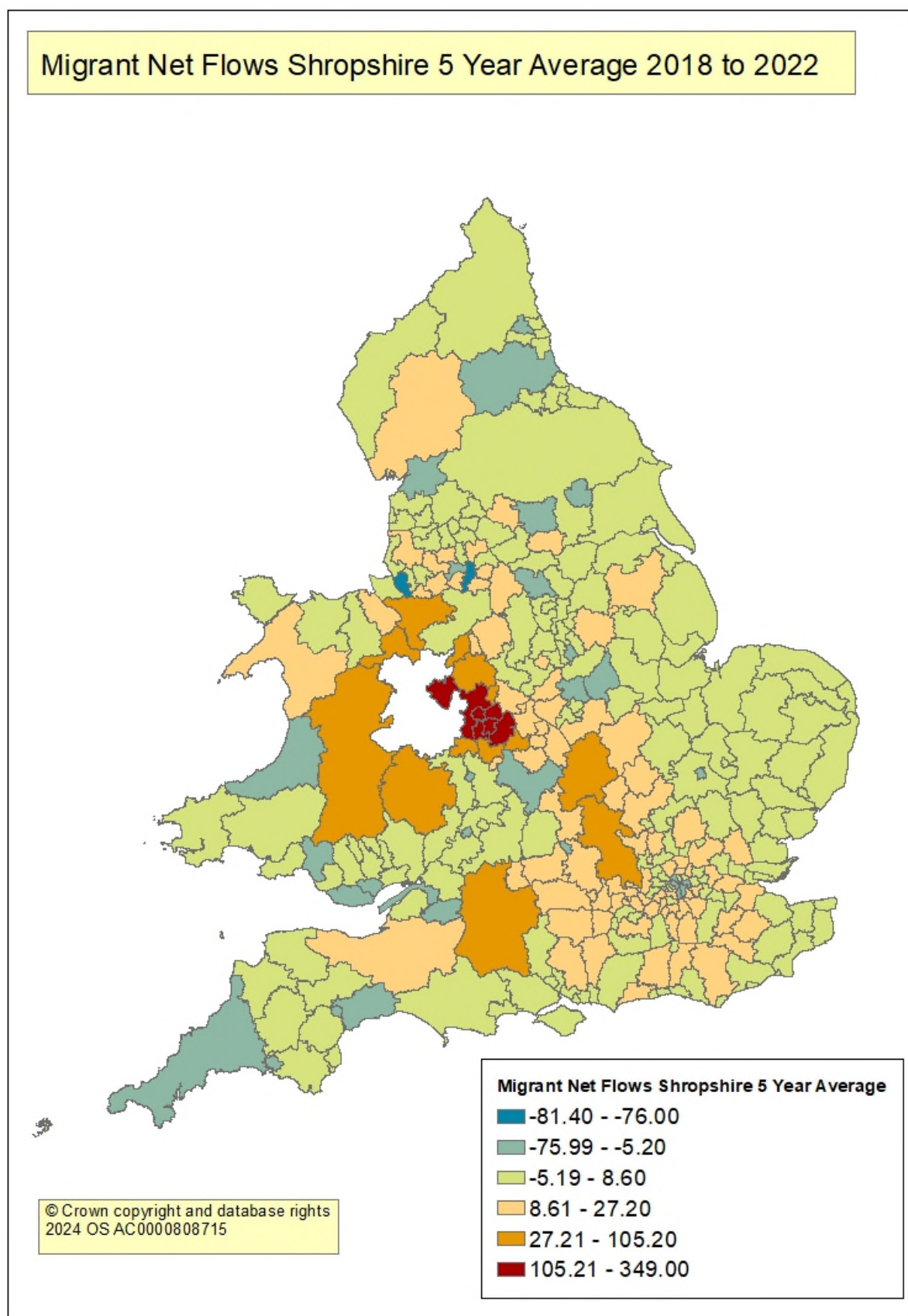
1.11 When looking at local authorities in the Black Country there has been a marked increase in people migrating from Wolverhampton to Shropshire since 2014 (figure 10). In 2014 net migration from Wolverhampton to Shropshire was around 189 rising to 324 in 2022. There has also been an increase in the number of people migrating from Dudley and Sandwell. The number of people moving from Walsall has also had a much slighter increase. There was a noticeable peak in migration in 2019 from Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell. These numbers dipped in 2020 this is likely due to the Covid-19 lockdown period. There was a second peak of migration from these areas in 2021. It is worth noting that during the Pandemic the stamp duty on house purchases was removed, leading to an increase in house prices and transactions UK wide. The trend in 2022 shows migration falling back from a peak in 2021 and beginning to reduce although Dudley has continued with an upward trend. It will be interesting to see if this long-term trend for migration to Shropshire from the Black Country continues. Clearly, after the lockdowns of the Covid-19 Pandemic levels of migration increased in 2021. In Wolverhampton levels have not reached the 2019 peak, in Dudley and Sandwell numbers have surpassed the 2019 migration and Walsall is nearly equal to 2019 figures. There has been a large amount of house building in the Shifnal area of Shropshire which is particularly attractive to people re-locating from the Black Country due to its proximity to the West Midlands. This overall long-term trend is likely to continue as more people may choose to relocate to Shropshire from these areas as a result of the ability to work from home or hybrid work patterns or a re-evaluation of their lifestyle.

**Figure 10: Net Population Migration from the Black Country 2014 to 2022**



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 2022

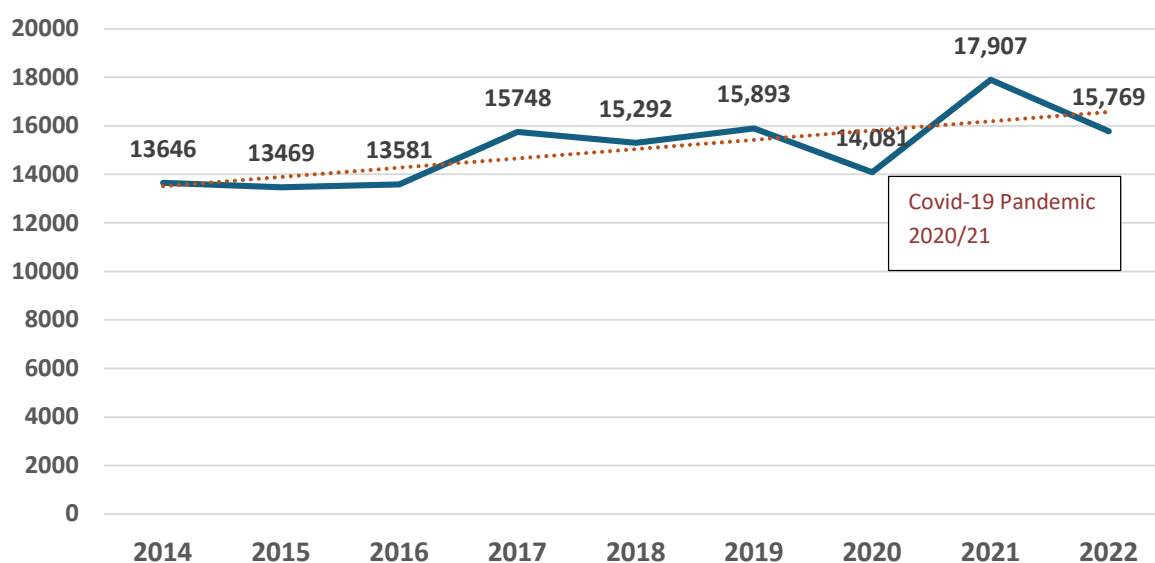




## Longer Term Trends in Migration Flows

- 1.12 Figure 11 shows longer term migration trends in Shropshire. Net migration has had an upward trend since 2014, reaching a peak in 2021 after a noticeable dip in 2020. The Covid-19 Pandemic would have caused a dip in migration due to lock downs and people unable to move around as freely, this probably contributed to a peak in migration during 2021 where net flows for Shropshire rose to 4,962. While the overall trend in net migration has continued to show an upward trend, numbers have fallen back to approximately 2017 levels after peaking in 2021.

**Figure 11: Migrant Net Flows Shropshire 2014 – 2022**



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## Notes

1. As part of the rebasing of mid-year estimates for 2012 to 2021 following the 2021 Census we have revised our internal migration estimates. These revisions make the methods and data used in each year's internal migration more consistent and provide a better measure over the decade.
2. These data tables form part of the release: [Population estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2022](#)
3. **Definitions:** Internal migration is defined as residential moves between different local authorities (LAs) in the UK, including those that cross the boundaries between the four UK nations: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, only moves affecting LAs in England and Wales are included; moves that occur solely within Scotland and/or Northern Ireland are excluded. The statistics also exclude any moves within a single LA and any international moves either into or out of the UK. The local authority and age/sex tables use this definition. The regional table follows the same principles, except that it only includes moves that cross the boundaries of the English regions or the boundaries between the four UK nations. Any moves occurring within a single English region, or within Wales, are excluded.
4. **Data sources and methods:** The estimates are produced using a range of administrative data sources. Information on methods and quality can be found here: [Population estimates for the UK, mid-2022: methods guide](#)
5. **Age:** Defined as age as of 30 June, so in many cases will be one year older than age at actual move.
6. **Aggregating figures:** Regional totals are provided but LA net moves may also be added together to form totals for other geographies, such as counties. However, inflows and outflows for groups of LAs should not be added together, as the totals will include moves between those LAs. You can derive the correct totals from the LA matrix or the detailed dataset.
7. **Geography:** These outputs use the names and standard 9-digit codes of the areas existing as of 1 April 2023 (comprising 318 English and Welsh local authorities, 9 English regions and Wales) and as at 1 April 2021 (comprising 331 English and Welsh local authorities, 9 English regions and Wales).
8. **Cross-border flows:** Figures for total flows across the borders of England and Wales (either to or from Scotland and Northern Ireland) are agreed with National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) respectively. This is because the figures are adjusted to take account of differing methods in the respective countries.
9. **Rounding:** Values in LA and region tables are rounded to the nearest unit. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.



