

# Older People Internal Migration

## Introduction

There is a local narrative that a large number of older people move into Solihull and subsequently are likely to put pressure on health services. The demographic analysis carried out in 2018 by the Solihull Observatory did not support this. This report updates this previous analysis, based on the 2021 Census.

## Key Findings

- Between the 2011 and 2021 Census the population of Solihull did not increase as much as the West Midlands and England overall.
- Solihull has a larger population aged over 65 than the England average and the over 65 age range is the fastest growing population cohort.
- Solihull does not see a significant increase in inflow at traditional retirement ages.
- Most moves by older people are to and from other nearby local authorities.
- The inward migration from Birmingham is offset by outward migration to other nearby local authorities.
- It is projected that over 65 population of Solihull will increase by 10,600 from 2020 to 2040, to 56,700.

## Why do older people move?

Studies have shown that movement is often undertaken at a time of significant change in circumstances. Retirement from work is an important factor and then post-retirement migration ([Evandrou et al 2010](#)) has its own specific drivers for example, those who are newly widowed or those who have a deterioration in their health so they have to move to be closer to support networks or move into care.

Solihull does not see a significant increase in inflow at traditional retirement ages with the over 60 age range seeing a net reduction the year ending June 2020<sup>1</sup>.

Table 1: Solihull Internal Migration by Age 2016-2020

Solihull Internal Migration by Age 2016-2020				
Age	Inflow	Outflow	Net Migration	Migration Turnover
Age 0-14	10,291	6,582	3,709	16,873
Age 15-19	1,964	5,812	-3,848	7,776
Age 20-29	16,624	13,670	2,954	30,294
Age 30-39	11,584	9,048	2,536	20,632
Age 40-49	6,092	4,864	1,228	10,956
Age 50-64	4,972	6,123	-1,151	11,095
Age 65-84	2,401	2,756	-355	5,157
Age 85+	874	1,205	-331	2,079

Source: ONS Internal Migration by Age and Sex

An exception to this is movement from Birmingham to Solihull (according to the Census 2021 269 more over 55s moved into Solihull from Birmingham than left to go to Birmingham) but for Solihull's total net inflow this figure is balanced by movement out of Solihull to areas which are viewed as more rural than Solihull, with several of the smaller rural villages that people aspire to retire to, for example in the Stratford-on-Avon and Warwickshire Local Authorities.

<sup>1</sup> [Internal migration: by local authority and region, five-year age group and sex - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Research shows that movement is not a choice available to all and less wealthy people tend to only move when they are compelled by circumstances which then leads to poorer health and wellbeing outcomes due to the movement taking place later in age and so their support needs intensify. Those with above average incomes tend to move to improve their quality of life (Meyer and Speare 1985<sup>2</sup>).

Whether the movement is chosen or coerced is highly likely to make a difference to social isolation and poor health outcomes, diminished wellbeing and increasing financial costs.

### Where do older people move?

Traditionally, aspirational areas included coastal and rural areas however the data shows a more diverse picture of movement in Solihull. Most of the movement is to Solihull's immediate neighbours of Birmingham, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

Table 2: Top locations where Solihull residents moved to in 2021

Age Ranges			
55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Birmingham (155)	Birmingham (64)	Birmingham (72)	Birmingham (80)
Stratford-on-Avon (64)	Stratford-on-Avon (31)	Stratford-on-Avon (15)	Coventry (10)
North Warwickshire (32)	Warwick (25)	Coventry (14)	Stratford-on-Avon (9)
Warwick (32)	Coventry (13)	North Warwickshire (11)	North Warwickshire (8)
Bromsgrove (28)	Wychavon (10)	Warwick (9)	Bromsgrove (6)
Cornwall (23)	North Warwickshire (9)	Bromsgrove (8)	Warwick (5)

This type of movement to nearby local authorities is comparable to that from the previous 2018 report.

Recent migration from Hong Kong showed that Solihull was chosen as a destination due to the schools and the parks<sup>3</sup> which confirmed the narrative of Solihull as a location to move to for good schools rather than as a retirement destination. Older people are more likely to move into Solihull if they have family in the area<sup>4</sup> whether that is because they are moving close to family for support or to provide support particularly with childcare for families where both parents are working. Although the south of the Borough has areas which are described as rural locations, so potentially attractive to retirees, it is also considered one of the most prosperous areas in the UK and so is not likely to be a top destination for retirement with retirees not being able to free up capital to live off due to the house prices in the more rural areas of Solihull being well above the UK average, indeed Dorridge and Knowle are in the top five most expensive places to buy in the West Midlands<sup>5</sup>.

Solihull does have a larger population aged over 65 than the England average and it is the fastest growing population cohort. It is projected that the aged 65 and over population will gradually increase to 4.34% of the population by 2040 compared to 3.17% in 2020<sup>6</sup> likely due to aging in place.

<sup>2</sup> [Why move? Types of residential mobility among the elderly and nonelderly \(uno.edu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Safety, schools and 'beautiful' parks behind boom in Solihull's Hong Konger community - Birmingham Live \(birminghammail.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> An example being [Carol's story | Colourful stories | Legal & General \(legalandgeneral.com\)](#)

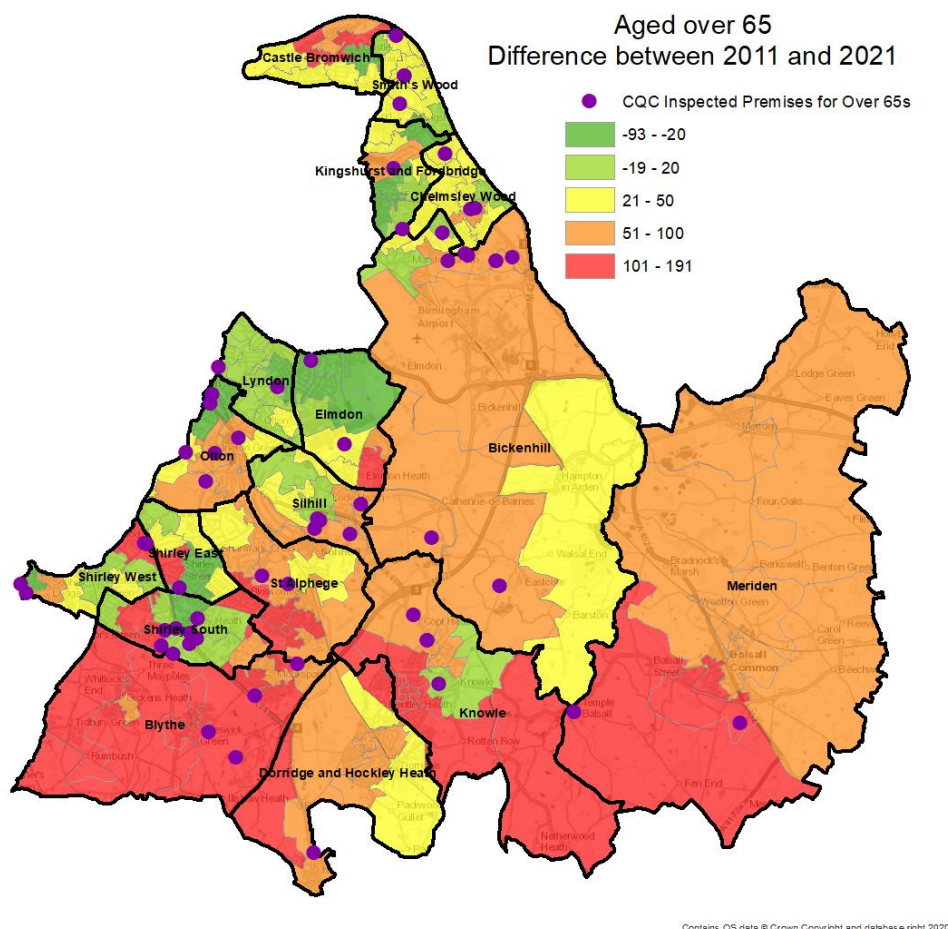
<sup>5</sup> [The top 5 most expensive places to live in the West Midlands \(unbiased.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [www.poppi.org.uk](#) data produced on 10/08/23

## The Solihull Picture

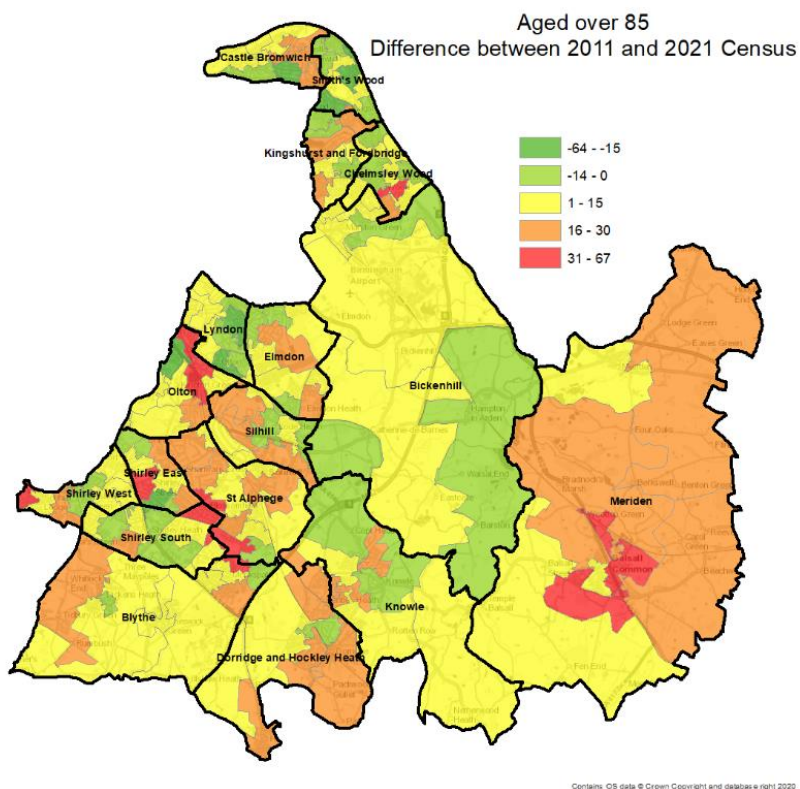
The population of Solihull increased by 4.6% from 2011 to 2021 however the population growth was smaller than seen in the West Midlands (up 6.2%) and England (up 6.6%) overall. The over 65 population increased by 13.2% but again this was a smaller percentage than seen in the West Midlands and England. The following two maps show the changes in population of those aged over 65 and those aged over 85 between the past two Census to determine if there are any localised hot spots of more dramatic change.

Map 1: Map to show the areas with the greatest increase in the over 65 population between the 2011 and 2021



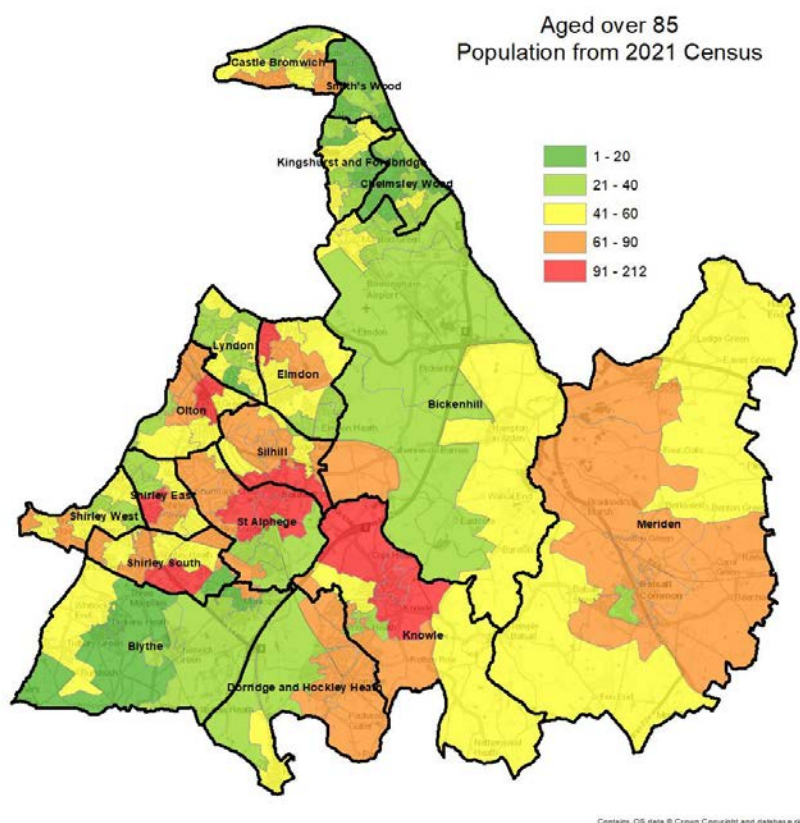
Included on Map 1 are the locations of CQC Inspected Premises for the over 65s.

Map 2: Map to show the areas with the greatest increase in the over 85 population between the 2011 and 2021 Census



Map 3 shows where the over 85 population live based on the 2021 Census. Knowle, Shirley South and the Hatchford Brook areas of Solihull show high levels of over 85-year-olds but did not see increases in the over 85 population between 2011 and 2021 so were already areas with an ageing population or highly concentrated developments of retirement apartments.

Map 3: Map to show the areas where the over 85 population live based on the 2021 Census

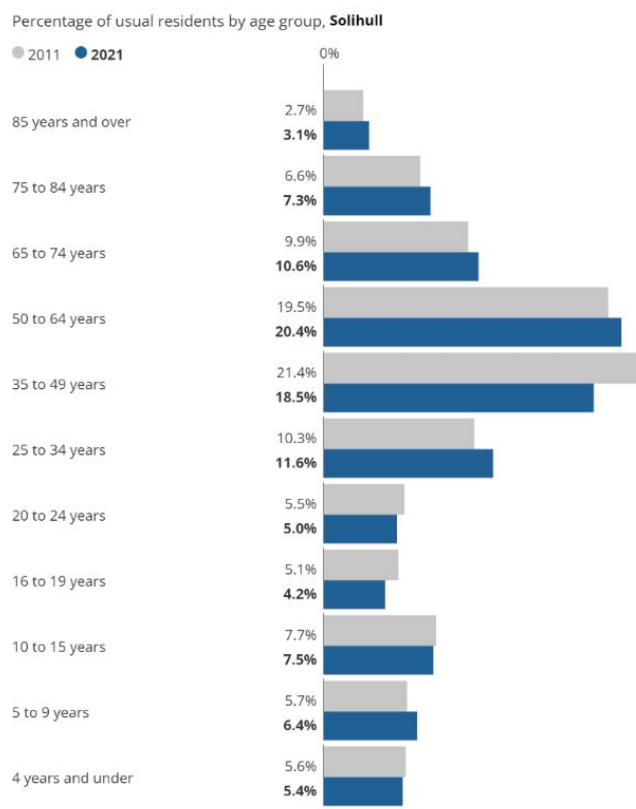


## The Future

Solihull has historically not seen significant increases in inflow at traditional retirement ages except from the Birmingham Local Authority. It is projected that the over 65 population will increase over ten thousand by 2040 but inflow after retirement is highly unlikely to be the reason for these increases.

Solihull has an ageing population, as seen in Chart 1, particularly in the south of the Borough and the challenge for Solihull will be how to match resources to the overall population growth. Solihull is not unique as even from a global perspective population growth is slowing and the population is ageing and at a faster pace than in the past<sup>7</sup>.

Chart 1: Chart to show the percentage of usual residents by age group from 2011 to 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

## Summary

Each year thousands of older people in England move across the country to set up home in a new location and whilst there will be those that migrate to areas traditionally associated with retirement such as a coastal or a rural location, most of the migration within Solihull is between local authorities with Birmingham contributing to the largest inflow and outflow. This migration has not been a significant cause of the increasingly ageing population in Solihull.

Solihull has an older ageing population with a larger proportion of the Solihull population aged over 65 than the England average. This age group is the fastest growing population cohort and is projected to be so over the next 10 years<sup>8</sup>. This has implications for many services, particularly rising demand for health and social care services. It will be important to encourage people to consider future movement earlier in life to ensure that their movement after retirement can be carried out willingly to improve health outcomes and reduce the demands on social care.

<sup>7</sup> [Ageing and health \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

<sup>8</sup> [The story of Solihull](#)

It should be noted that the implications of an ageing population will not be uniform across the Borough as shown in Map 1 with some areas seeing a reduction in their 65+ population over the ten years.

It should not be assumed that being elderly is a burden to society, the older population is unlikely to be free of health conditions but most when well controlled have little influence on their wellbeing and care needs. Further examination of those who currently have care needs to investigate whether someone's needs are dependent on their relationship to their environment and the personal characteristics which are known to impact on health inequalities will assist in identifying what is impacting on demand.

Solihull's Housing Strategy<sup>9</sup> identifies the challenges and opportunities for meeting the housing needs of older people and that every decision about care is a decision about housing. The Strategy identifies that many older people's preference is to stay in their existing homes and is consequently why internal migration<sup>10</sup> is not a significant factor affecting the demands on adult social care in Solihull.

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<sup>9</sup> [Appendix3SolihullHousingStrategyFinal.pdf](#)

<sup>10</sup> Internal Migration: An Internal Migrant is a person who between one year and the next, change their area of residence within England and Wales. There is no single system to record population moves between local authorities, therefore internal migration estimates are derived using administrative data from the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR), the GP Patient Register Data System (PRDS) and Higher Education Statistics

## Appendix A

Table 3: Solihull Population aged 60 and over, projected to 2040

Table produced on 10/08/23 09:39 from www.poppi.org.uk version 14.2

<b>Population aged 65 and over, projected to 2040</b>					
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>
<b>People aged 65-69</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>12,600</b>
<b>People aged 70-74</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>
<b>People aged 75-79</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>11,900</b>
<b>People aged 80-84</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>8,800</b>
<b>People aged 85-89</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>5,900</b>
<b>People aged 90 and over</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Total population 65 and over</b>	<b>46,100</b>	<b>48,300</b>	<b>52,100</b>	<b>55,200</b>	<b>56,700</b>

Figures may not sum due to rounding. Crown copyright 2020

Figures are taken from Office for National Statistics (ONS) subnational population projections by persons, males and females, by single year of age. The latest subnational population projections available for England, published 24 March 2020, are full 2018-based and project forward the population from 2018 to 2043.

Long-term subnational population projections are an indication of the future trends in population by age and gender over the next 25 years. The assumptions used in the subnational population projections are based on past trends. They show what the population will be if recent trends continue.

These projections do not take into account any policy changes, or economic, or recent global health factors that could impact the population in the future & They do not try to predict any potential demographic consequences of future political or economic changes, including the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, nor of the current pandemic.