

Briefing

Migration between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire

January 2018

1. This briefing note has been prepared to analyse the latest evidence of migration patterns between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire.
2. This note provides a summary of evidence presented within each iteration of the Welwyn Hatfield Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) relating to the migration relationship between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire. This is updated through consideration of the latest migration data from the Patient Register Data Service (PRDS).

Summary of Published Evidence

2014 SHMA

3. In defining housing market areas (HMAs), Appendix 3 of the 2014 SHMA presented analysis of migration flows, drawing upon the then-latest 2001 Census and more recent supplementary data sourced from the PRDS over the period from 2001 to 2011. The limitations of the latter were noted, given their exclusion of people that do not register with a new GP when they move¹.
4. Figure 3.7 of Appendix 3 presented analysis of annual net migration flows and gross flows between Welwyn Hatfield and other authorities, including East Hertfordshire. This evidenced a gross flow of 598 people per annum between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire, indicating that an average of 598 people moved in either direction across this administrative boundary each year over the ten year period. This represented the fourth largest such relationship between Welwyn Hatfield and another local authority, behind St Albans, North Hertfordshire and Barnet.
5. Alongside consideration of gross flows, the SHMA also considered net migration flows. This provides an indication of the net direction of movements, but is less revealing about the comparative strength of the relationship. In terms of average annual net flows over this period, East Hertfordshire did not rank amongst the three largest net inflows to Welwyn Hatfield or the three largest net outflows from the borough, which are also presented at Figure 3.7 of Appendix 3. Figure 4.10 of the main SHMA report did, however, confirm – based on the same PRDS data – that a net outflow from Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire was recorded during this period. This equated to an average of 66 persons per year, and represented the fourth largest net outflow from the borough after North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and Central Bedfordshire.
6. Migration data from the 2001 Census was presented at Figure 3.9 of Appendix 3. In summary, this showed that:
 - A gross total of 602 people moved between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire during the year before the 2001 Census. More moved from Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire

¹ Paragraph 3.13 of Appendix 3 to the 2014 SHMA

(361) than moved in the opposite direction (241), resulting in a net outflow of 120 residents from the borough during this period;

- 361 of the 11,602 people moving from an address in Welwyn Hatfield within the year preceding the Census moved to East Hertfordshire, accounting for 3.1% of all moves from the borough. St Albans and North Hertfordshire were the only authorities to see a larger inflow from Welwyn Hatfield during this time; and
- 241 of the 13,513 people moving from an address in East Hertfordshire within the previous year moved to Welwyn Hatfield. This represented 1.8% of all moves to an address in the borough. St Albans, Barnet, Hertsmere, Enfield and North Hertfordshire were more frequently recorded as the origin of moves to the borough, with East Hertfordshire therefore ranking sixth in this regard.

2015 SHMA Partial Update

7. Migration data from the 2011 Census was released in July 2014, and was reviewed within section 2 of the 2015 SHMA Partial Update. Over the year to March 2011, this showed that:
 - 2.4% of individuals moving from an address in Welwyn Hatfield moved to East Hertfordshire (Figure 2.3). This represented a reduction from the position recorded in 2001 (3.1%), indicating that proportionately fewer of the borough's moving residents chose to relocate to East Hertfordshire when compared with a decade earlier. The district was, however, ranked as the fourth most prevalent authority for residents moving out of Welwyn Hatfield, albeit having been surpassed by Stevenage since 2001; and
 - 1.8% of people moving to an address in Welwyn Hatfield originated in East Hertfordshire (Figure 2.5). This was proportionately unchanged from 2001 (1.8%) and again represented the sixth largest such flow.
8. The SHMA Partial Update primarily sought to assess the extent to which moves were self-contained within Welwyn Hatfield and adjacent authorities – reflecting the requirements of Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) – and did not consider flows between the borough and other authorities in detail. For the purposes of this note, however, additional analysis of migration between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire has been undertaken based on the same 2011 Census data.
9. In total, the 2011 Census recorded 622 people moving between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire over the previous year, representing a slight (3.3%) increase from the gross flow recorded in 2001. The flow from Welwyn Hatfield (347) was higher than the flow into the borough (275), resulting in a net outflow of 72 people from Welwyn Hatfield over the year. The scale of this net outflow was however smaller than recorded by the 2001 Census. This was driven both by a small reduction in the number moving from Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire, and an increased flow into the borough as summarised in Table 1 overleaf.

Table 1: Moves between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire (2010/11)

	2001	2011	Change
From Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire	361	347	-3.9%
To Welwyn Hatfield from East Hertfordshire	241	275	+14.1%
Net outflow from Welwyn Hatfield	120	72	-40.0%
Gross flow between authorities	602	622	+3.3%

Source: Census 2011

Recent Migration Trends

- The Census provides the most comprehensive record of migration between local authorities, albeit this is limited to moves during the year preceding the national Census held every ten years and most recently in 2011. A comparably detailed profile of moves will not be available before 2021 on this basis.
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does, however, continue to annually publish internal migration statistics derived from its Patient Register Data Service (PRDS), which updates the analysis of comparable data presented in Appendix 3 of the 2014 SHMA. This is based on individuals moving from one local authority and registering with a GP in another local authority area, and – unlike the Census – does not capture moves within the same local authority area. Nevertheless, this can be used to provide an indication of changes in migration flows between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire over the five years since 2011. This is presented in the following table.

Table 2: Moves between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire (2011 – 2016)

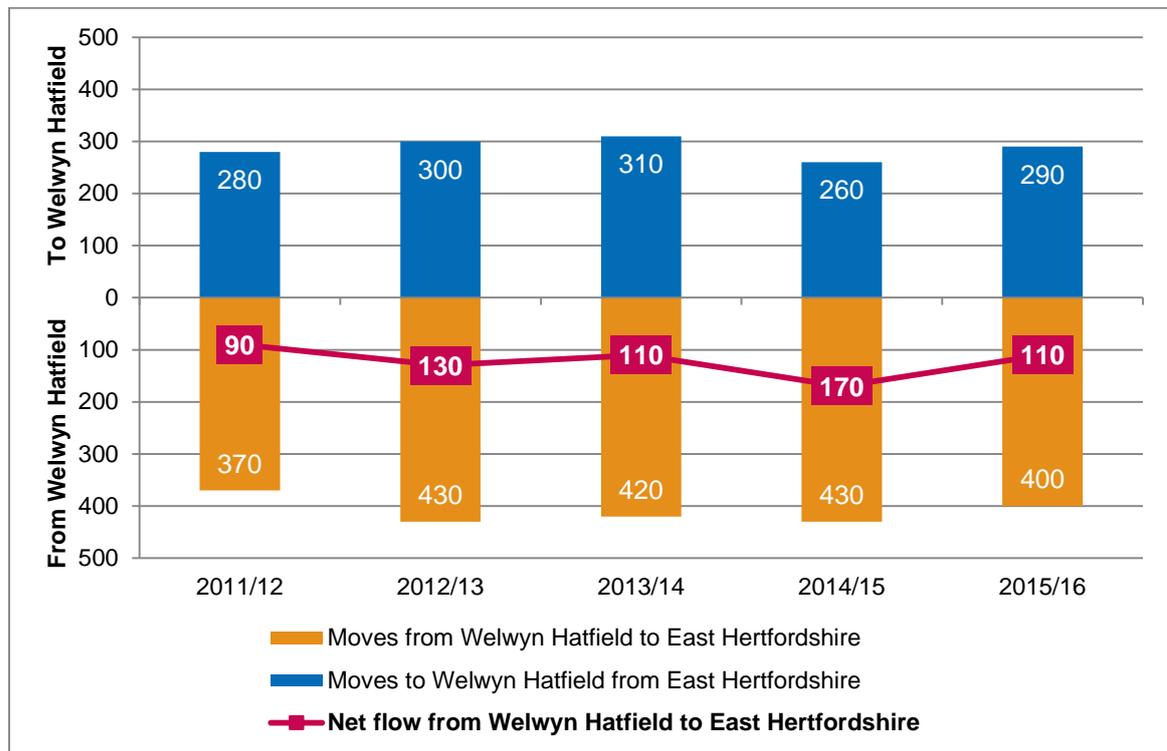
	Moves <i>from</i> Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire	Moves <i>to</i> Welwyn Hatfield from East Hertfordshire	Sum of all moves between authorities (gross)	Net outflow <i>from</i> Welwyn Hatfield
2011/12	370	280	650	90
2012/13	430	300	730	130
2013/14	420	310	730	110
2014/15	430	260	690	170
2015/16	400	290	690	110
Annual average	410	288	698	122
Total (2011 – 16)	2,050	1,440	3,490	610

Source: Turley analysis of PRDS data

Note – figures rounded

- This is further illustrated in the chart overleaf.

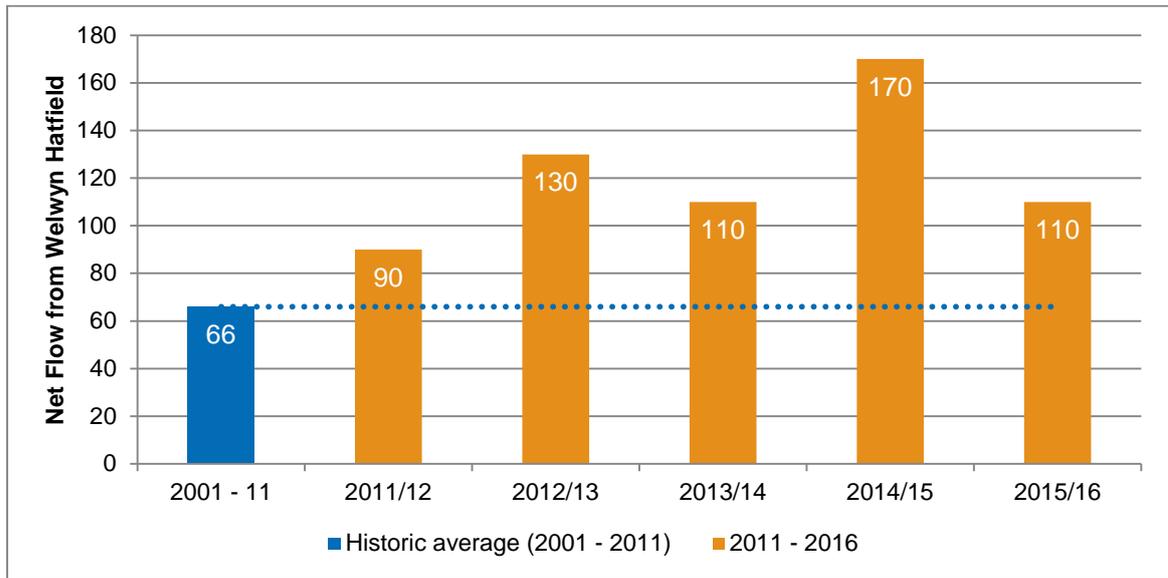
Figure 1: Moves between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire (2011 – 2016)



Source: Turley analysis of PRDS data

13. In general terms, it is apparent from Figure 1 that the scale of gross migration between the two authorities has remained comparatively consistent over the past five years, also demonstrating broad similarity with the scale of flow recorded by the 2001 and 2011 Census. This suggests a relatively stable migration relationship between the two authorities.
14. Indeed, an average of 698 gross moves between the authorities were annually recorded over this five year period. Whilst this slightly surpasses the trend recorded during the previous decade – when an average of 598 people annually moved across the administrative boundary – the difference is relatively small, when considering the overall scale of migration flows. This does, however, suggest an increased frequency of moves between the authorities, which – based on analysis of net flows – has disproportionately increased the net outflow from Welwyn Hatfield as considered below.
15. Over the past five years, PRDS data indicates that an average of 410 people have annually moved to East Hertfordshire from Welwyn Hatfield. This has been partially offset by 288 people on average moving in the opposite direction each year, resulting in an average net outflow of circa 122 people from Welwyn Hatfield each year. Whilst the gross flows have been broadly aligned, it is of note that this is almost double the net outflow of 66 people per year recorded over the preceding decade (2001 – 2011) identified within the SHMA. This suggests a short-term trend of increased net out-migration from Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire relative to this historic average, as illustrated below. It is important to recognise that the uplift in the net flow remains relatively modest when considering the overall scale of flows and the size of the population of each authority.

Figure 2: Comparing Recent Net Outflow (2011 – 2016) with Historic Trend (2001 – 2011)



Source: Turley analysis of PRDS data

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