New Evidence - Is Coventry growing far faster than it's neighbours?

The ghosts in the numbers:

People who

- don't vote,
- don't have children,
- don't go to A&E,
- don't have cars,
- don't collect state pension or ESA benefit,
- don't use electricity or gas.
- And don't produce trash.

Do they Exist?

Executive Summary: There is no need to build on Coventry's green fields [6000 homes at Keresley and Eastern Green] , Shakespeare's Forest of Arden, and no need for 4000 overspill homes in Nuneaton and Bedworth and no need for 4500 overspill at King's Hill .

If the Coventry population was suddenly growing far faster than its neighbours, we should see the effects on services and life events that take in most of the population– in A&E attendance, births, school admissions, car registrations, gas and electricity usage, state pensions, ESA benefits, people on the electoral roll, and waste collection. If ONS was right, and Coventry population is hugely outstripping its neighbours since 2011, we should see sharply rising trends in these statistics, with Coventry galloping away from other local authorities

In fact Coventry is just plodding along in step with its neighbours by these measures. Trends here – in A&E attendance, births, school admissions etc - are very similar to other cities and towns in the West Midlands. There is no sign that anything different is happening in Coventry. This is all based on published official government data, so called "administrative data", which counts everyone and everything (unlike the population figures, which are just estimates except for the census years)

If there are vast numbers of new individuals pouring into Coventry, they are ghosts or vampires – they leave no shadow. They don't vote, don't go to A&E, don't have babies or send children to school, don't claim ESA benefit or state pension, don't use electricity or gas, and don't make waste.

Furthermore, new research, published by ONS on 31 Jan 2019, shows undeniably that the annual population estimates, and projections, are at least 2000 too large every single year, and are probably 3000 too large each year. The error arises because they grossly undercount the number of foreign students who leave the country after graduating. Over 20 years, it balloons the predicted growth for Coventry by 40-60,000. Needless to say, if you take out 40,000 from the Coventry population growth, there is no need for 4000 overspill homes in Nuneaton Bedworth. .

The predicted population explosion in Coventry is a mirage - which is entirely consistent with previously reported evidence: that jobs growth in Coventry has been mediocre, that house prices are low, that housing delivery is far below the level which the extravagant projections of growth in Coventry would require, that there was no sign of record growth in the last census period, between 2001 and 2011.

If we assume that Coventry was growing at the regional average rate 14%– as this data indicates, - then the city would grow by just 44000 people, over the plan time frame of 2011-2031 instead of the 101,000 projected by ONS. And it would need 18,800 new homes, instead of the 42400 claimed by the city. **There would be no need to use green belt land. Coventry Council should start a review of the local plan immediately and return land to Green Belt.**

New Evidence - Is Coventry growing far faster than it's neighbours?

'The elephant in the bath tub'

''the onus of proof must surely be on the ONS ….and on Coventry to ….explain why the 'extra people' in the MYE have no impact." – Prof Tony Champion

This paper is about looking for evidence of extraordinary events happening in Coventry – extreme population growth far greater than any other town or city in the region. The Office for National Statistics, (ONS) and Coventry Council claim that the city is growing twice as fast as Birmingham or Rugby, three times as fast as Solihull or Warwick, and four times as fast as Stratford since 2011.

We ask the question, is this really happening? It doesn't seem very likely. At the last census in 2011, there was no sign of it. Population growth in Coventry, between 2001 and 2011, was just average for the region. We will know for sure what is actually happening, in 2022, when we get the results of the next census, but what can we find out now?

While we do not have a way to count the population now, we can ask the question, "Is something different happening in Coventry" Are the trends different to those in the other towns and cities in the region?

In this paper, we look at changes in officially collected, "administrative data" to measure trends in A&E admissions, gas and electricity use, electoral roll numbers, state pensions, births, school admissions, benefit claimants, car registrations, domestic waste, and house building. If trends in Coventry are the same as in their neighbours, it is very hard to see how there could be a population explosion going on there. Who would the people be who don't use more electricity and gas, who don't go to A&E, who are not being born, who don't claim pensions or benefits, who don't send children to school, who don't own more cars, and who don't produce extra waste?

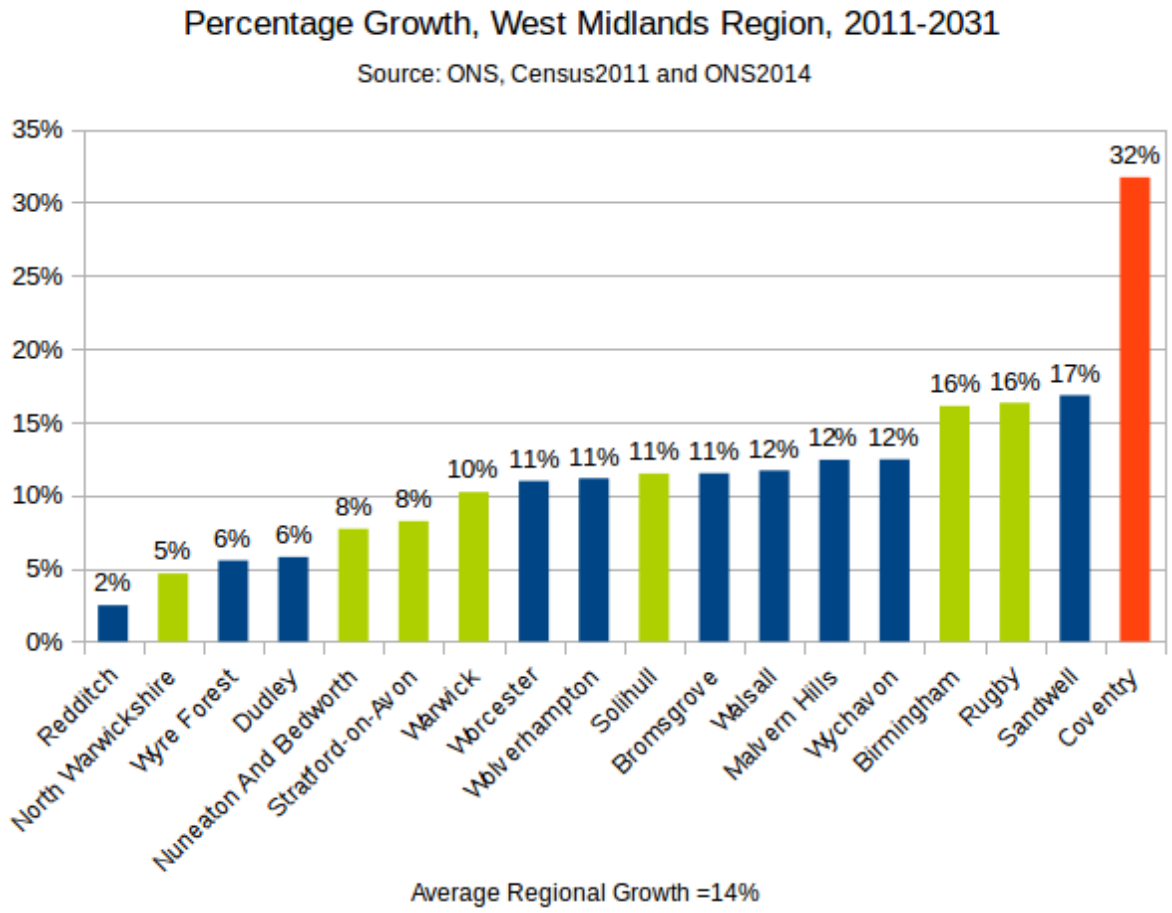
Metaphorically, we are looking for elephants in Coventry. If they are here, they will leave traces – we will be able to see their footsteps in the sand, ripples in the water when they step in the bath. Thus far, no such traces are visible, 7 years on from 2011.

There is one indicator which does run higher in Coventry and which might indicate higher population growth rates: Migrant National Insurance Registrations. However there is a good explanation, which has nothing to do with population growth. Every year there are roughly 10,000 foreign students starting at the universities. To work, they will need to apply for a national insurance number. . Recent ONS studies, indicate that about 4500 newcomers will work, and need a NINO. If you subtract out these student registrations, from the overall total, things are once again, unremarkable in Coventry.

The data used in this paper are collected and published every year, mostly with the status of national statistics, - which means they have a high degree of reliability, consistency, and a good degree of timeliness. The argument is that the numbers are proxies for population data - the relationship or correlation will not be exact, but nonetheless, there is inevitability a close relationship. For example, the correlation between A&E attendance and population growth, nationally, is very high: 0.97 between 1987 and 2017 The argument is that where there are vastly more people, there will be more electricity and gas used, more A&E attendances, more car registrations. school admissions etc.

One can imagine circumstances when there would not be exceptional increase in one or two of these categories - such as school admissions, or car registrations or births, but it seems nearly impossible that obvious and visible increase would be happening in none of them. If change - in the proxy data - in Coventry is similar to its neighbours the logical conclusion is that population is growing at a rate similar to the regional average 14%, instead of the 32% claimed by ONS projections and the Council. (SNPP2014)

Here is a visual summary of the ONS estimates and projections.



Data Sources:
Census2011 - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011
snpp2014
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2014basedprojections
Note: SNPP2014 is not the latest version of the SNPP. However, it was the basis of the Coventry local plan

We have argued previously that there is no reason for such exceptional growth to occur in Coventry - jobs and economic growth in Coventry have only been mediocre, population growth during the boom years of Eastern European migration was just average. House prices are low and do not show any sign of exceptional demand. No one from Coventry Council, nor ONS have been able to give any sort of credible reason why population growth in Coventry should far outstrip neighbouring towns and cities.

Graphs below tell the story. Very consistently, there is no difference in the way that these proxy indicators are going in Coventry, compared to neighbouring towns in the West Midlands. The touted population explosion in Coventry, is a mirage.

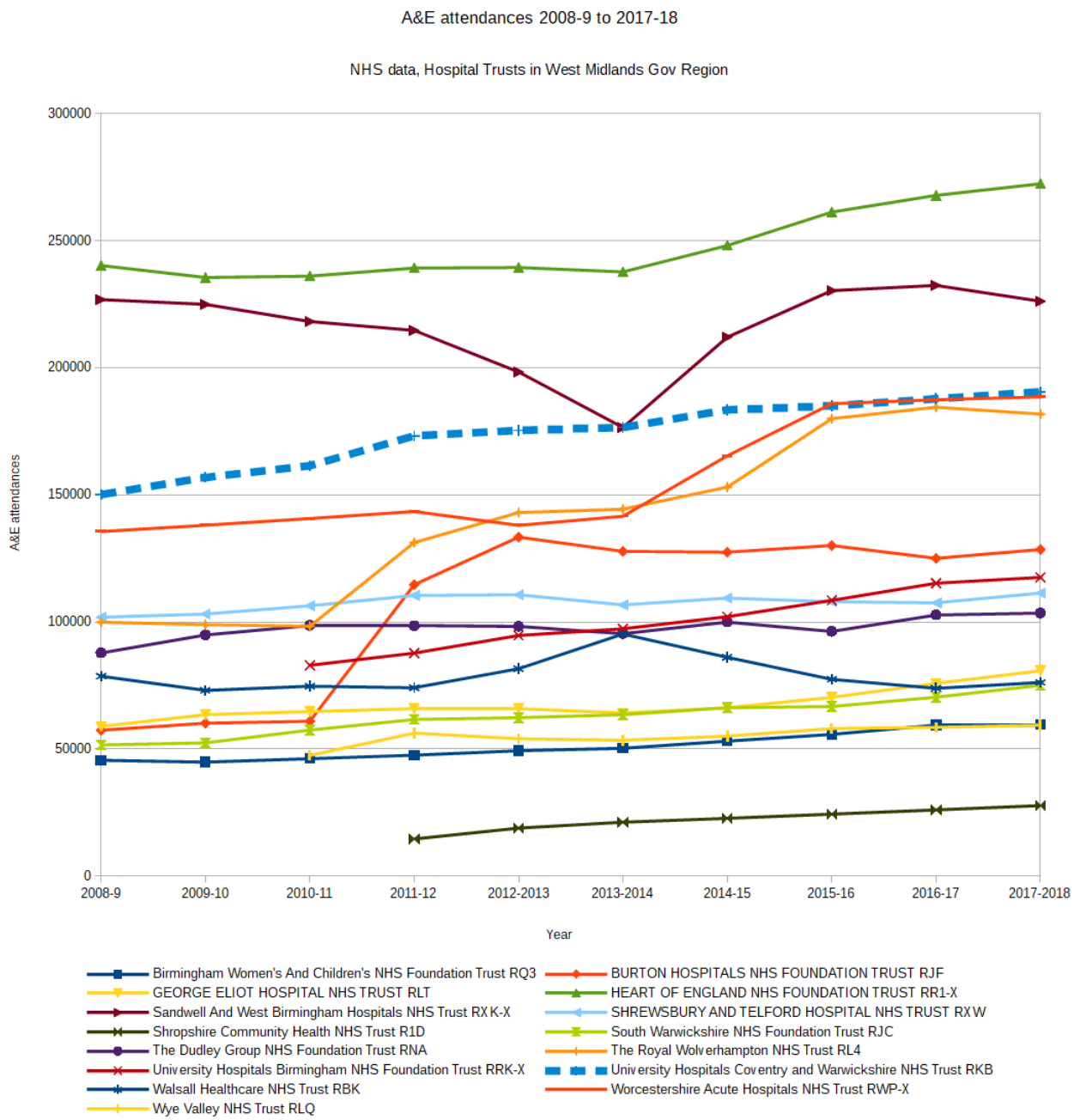
Metaphorically, if an elephant steps into the bathtub, the water level is going to rise, and probably overflow. Despite the claims being made, there is no evidence of rising "water" in Coventry. The evidence, from administrative data, points to the conclusion that there is no elephant and nothing special is happening to the Coventry population.

Early responses to this paper:

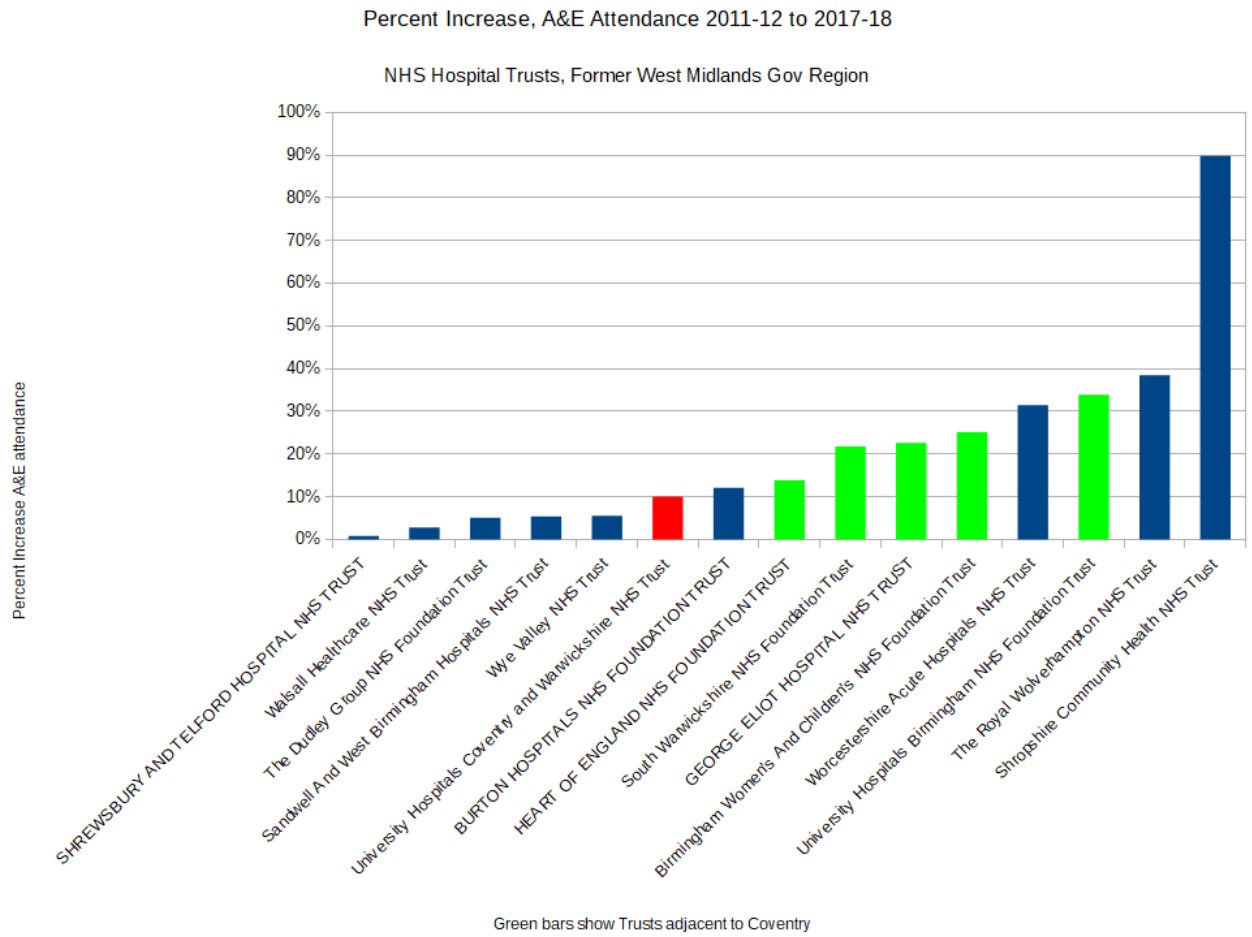
> "As I mentioned previously, scanning your material, I can see no evidence of the large hike in population that the MYE suggest for Coventry thru 2017. The poor recording of student/graduate departures from Coventry would seem to hold the key and ONS seem to admit as much by stressing the problems they are facing in using the admin data."
>
> if this did go to court, then the onus of proof must surely be on the ONS to set out their full calculations behind the MYE showing clearly how they get from the raw data from IPS etc to their final Components of Change data so that this can be examined in public (or at least by an agreed expert behind closed doors if disclosure control rules prove problematic) and on **Coventry to produce any alternative data to yours on all those measures or explain why the 'extra people' in the MYE have no impact on these measures.** [emphasis added]
>
> Prof Tony Champion, Newcastle University, former advisor to ONS and former Vice President of the British Society for Population Studies, 5 Feb 19
>
> **It is all compelling evidence** but you are still stuck with ONS methods and until there is a better way of calculating those (not just students) leaving the country and ONS continue to rely on the IPS and its minuscule response number (around 1,200 for UK and 92 for West Midlands! for 2017) to convert that to 350k then these are the sorts of results you get.
>
> Piers Elias
> Current President of the British Society for Population Studies
> 3 Feb 19
>
> [I am] "**highly impressed"** "Your local analysis is as good as it can be, I think **I'd be happy to recommend your study.**"
>
> Professor David Coleman, Emeritus Professor of Demography at Oxford University

Data Sources
Table 1: Number of A&E attendances by gender in each provider,

https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/



Drawing 1
https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/hospital-accident--emergency-activity



Drawing 2

A&E attendance:

Data Sources: as above.

Comment: A&E attendance.

Since 1987, national A&E attendance correlates reasonably well with population growth (except in the period 2002-2005). See Drawing 3 below. The coefficient of correlation of A&E attendance and England population is 0.97; r^2=0.95

Looking at A&E attendances in the West Midlands, (see Drawings 1 and 2) growth in Coventry has not been exceptional – A&E attendance has grown more in nearby areas: at the George Eliott NHS Trust in Nuneaton and Bedworth,(which adjoins Coventry on the north), at the South Warwickshire Trust (which includes the adjacent towns of Warwick and Leamington Spa to the south of Coventry) and at the Birmingham trusts, to the west of Coventry, If there were exceptional population growth in Coventry, one would expect that A&E attendances would rise faster than in the neighbouring towns. In fact, the reverse is true. A&E attendance in the Coventry Trust is rising more slowly than in neighbouring trusts.

One might speculate that attendance is low in Coventry because it has a young population, with 50,000 students at the universities. However, NHS data shows that A&E services are widely used across all age ranges, so there is no explanation there for slower rising attendance in Coventry.

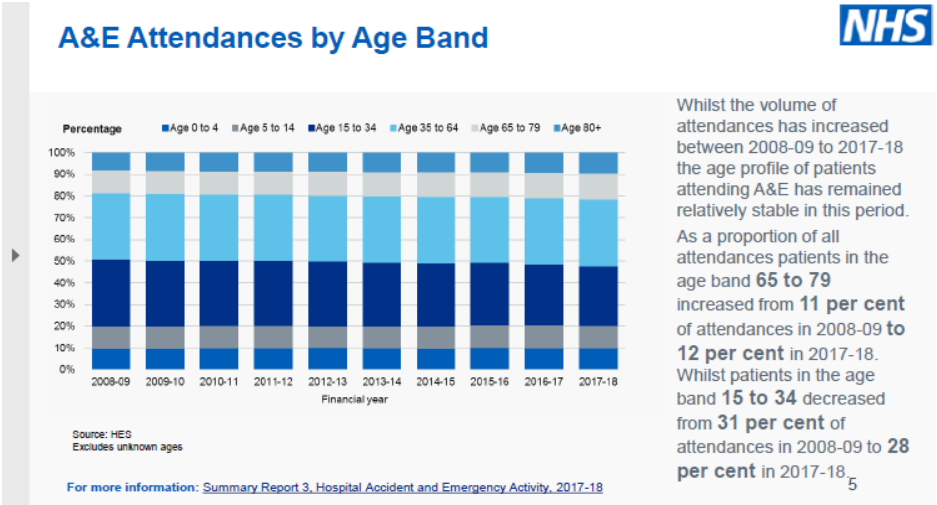
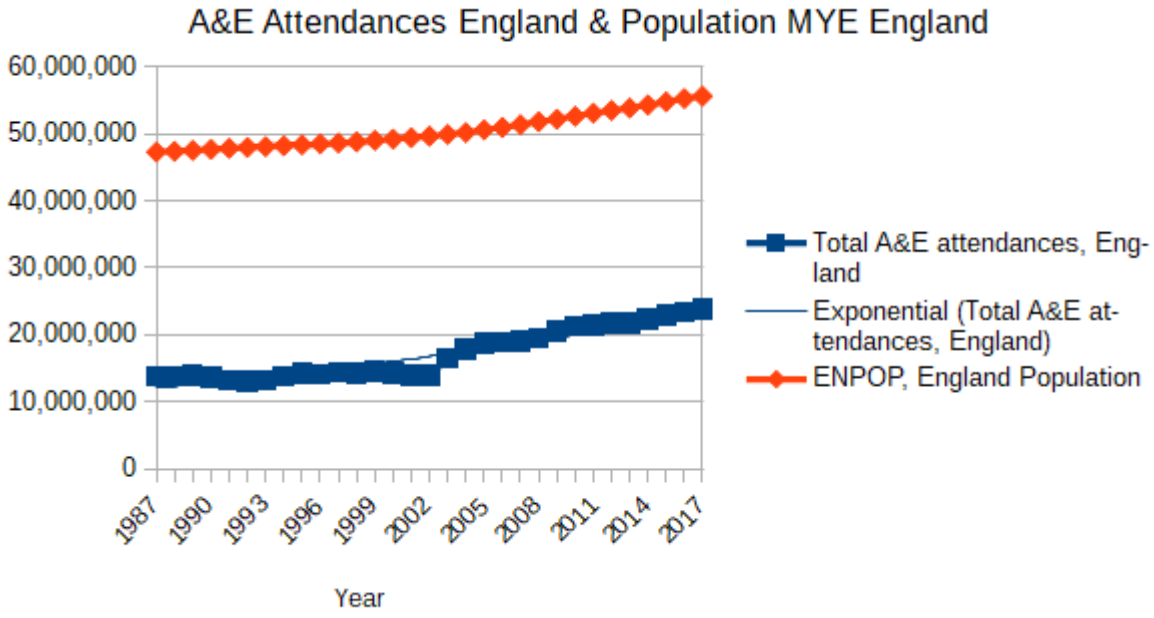


Table source: https://files.digital.nhs.uk/D3/CCB4FE/AE1718_%20Annual%20Summary.pdf
AE1718_ Annual Summary.pdf
Hospital Accident and Emergency Activity 2017-18

One must note that the data covers NHS hospital trusts which do not coincide with local authority boundaries. The University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire Trust will have catchment that includes parts of Rugby, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Warwick DC. Nonetheless, the Trust is centred on Coventry, and the neighbour trusts roughly coincide with nearby local authorities - George Eliot Trust for Nuneaton and Bedworth, South Warwickshire Trust for Warwick, Leamington and Stratford, and the Birmingham Trusts for Solihull and Birmingham.



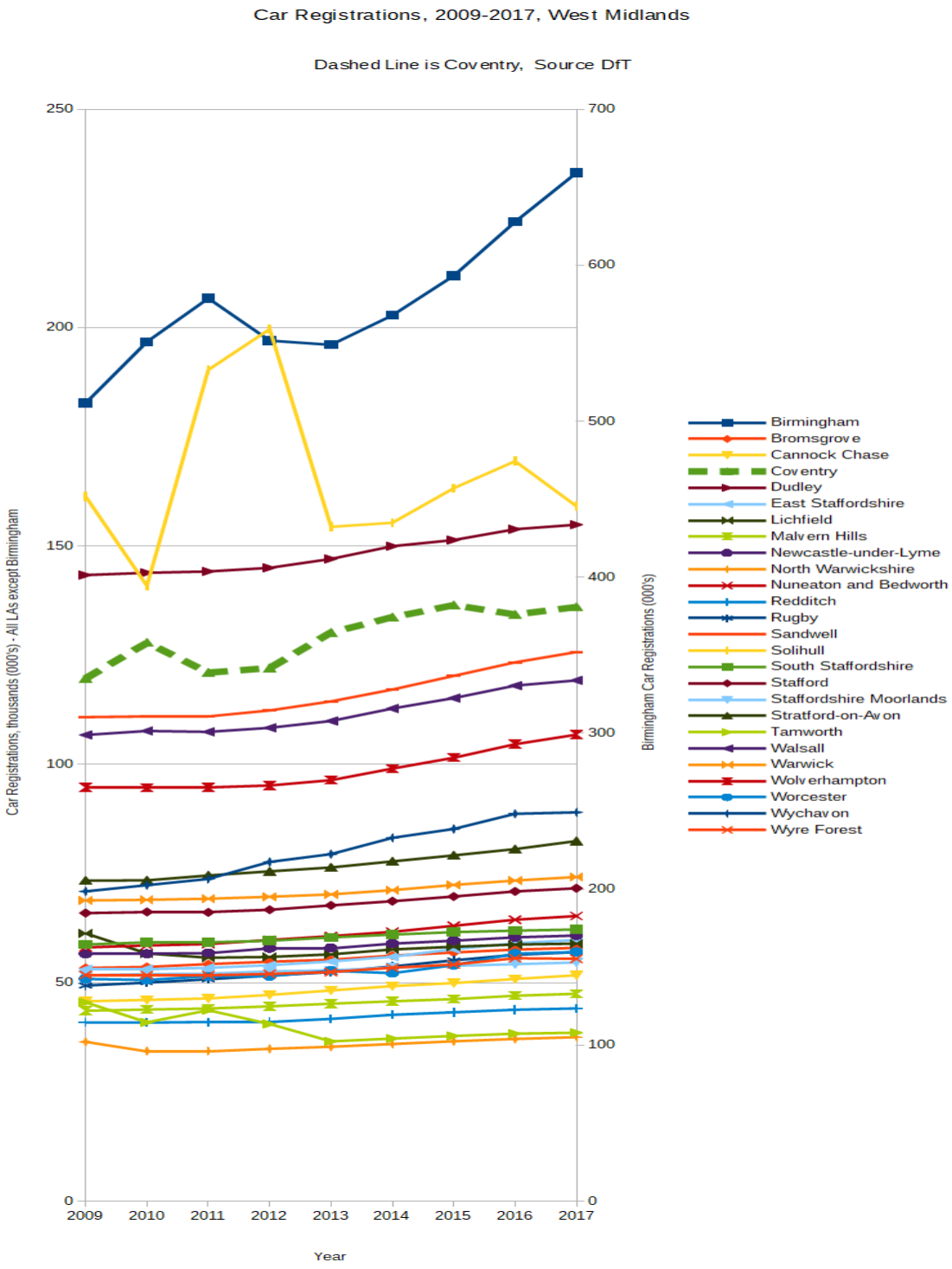
Drawing 3 coeff of correlation = 0.97; r^2=0.95

National figures – Correlation of A&E attendance and population growth

Data Sources: A&E attendances in England from 1988 to 2010-11
https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130104202127/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/AccidentandEmergency/DH_077485

https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/hospital-accident--emergency-activity A&E attendance 2007-08 to 2016-2017

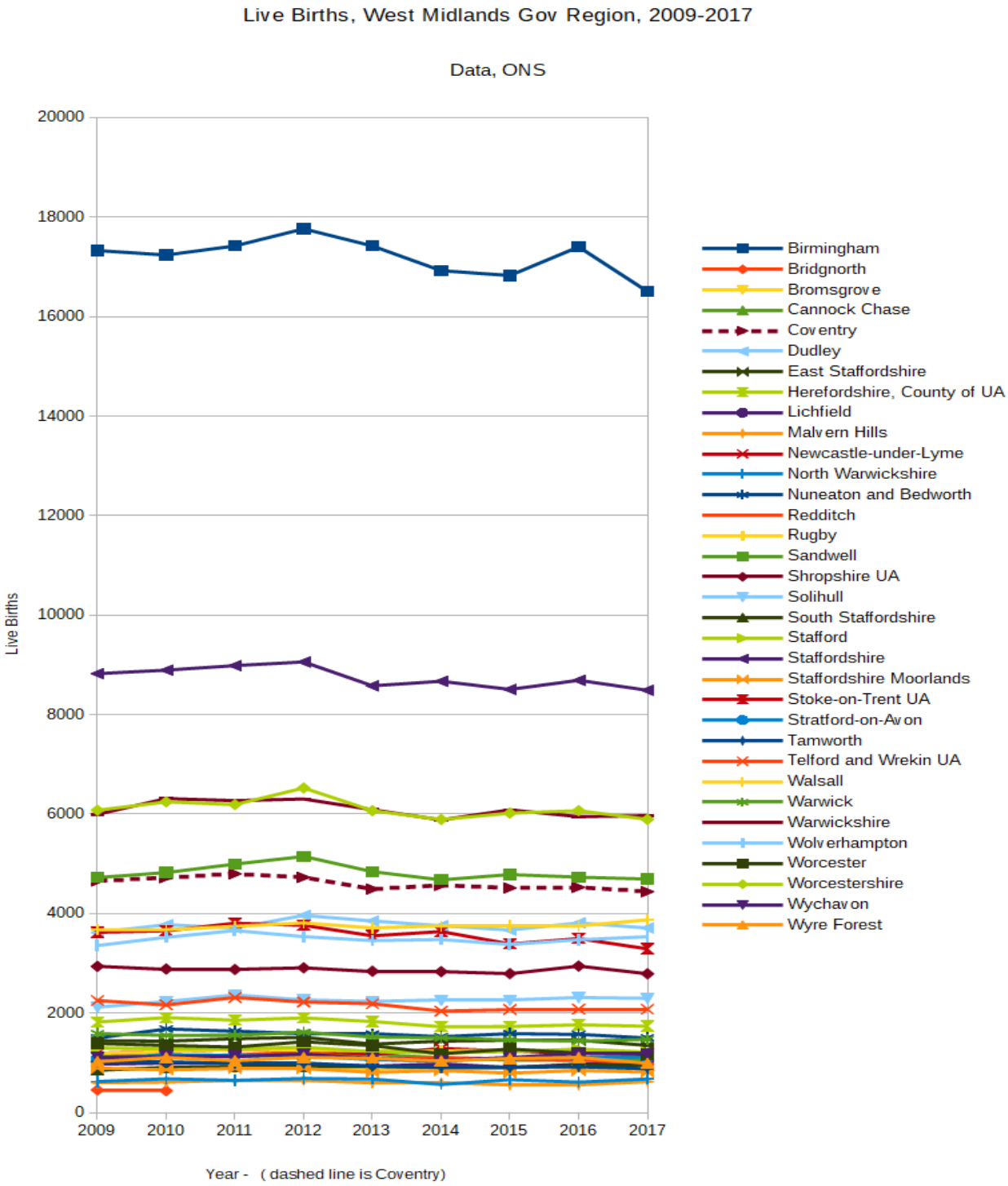
National population figures mid year estimates
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland



Drawing 4

Data Source: Vehicle Licensing Statistics (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vehicles-statistics) Table VE0105
Department for Transport statistics

Comment Car Registrations:
There is no indication that car registrations have increased rapidly in Coventry. The pattern is very much like its neighbours, going gently upwards – similar to Sandwell or Walsall. Car registrations have increased more rapidly in Rugby, Wychavon, and Birmingham than in Coventry.



Drawing 5

Comment Births:

Birth trends in Coventry are entirely average for the region. See Drawing 5 above. There is no sign of rapidly rising births. This also suggests that growth of child bearing adults is also just average. Admittedly, nuns and monks and students and single workers have low fertility – they could be rapidly increasing, and it would not show up in births, but it seems unlikely. We know that the peak year for university students in Coventry was 2011. A rapid rise in population after 2011 (as the Mid Year Estimates and Projections) would not be accounted for by increasing student numbers

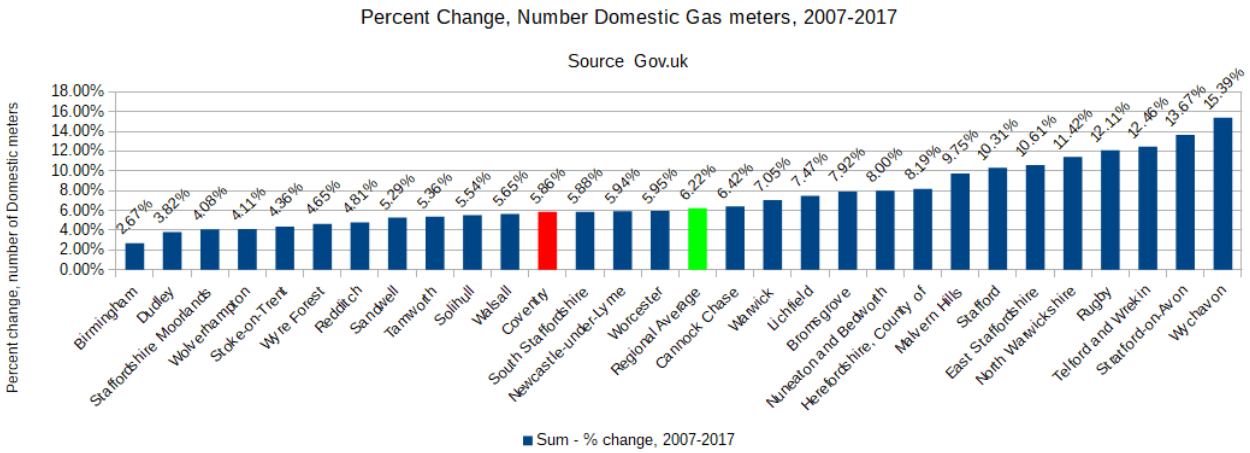
One could imagine young workers coming from Eastern Europe, and being slow to have children, but again, there was no population boom between 2004 and 2011 in Coventry, at the height of Eastern European migration. Coventry was not a magnet for them. So it would be perverse to assume they had suddenly started coming in huge numbers after 2011, after the financial crash. (again a scenario where birth rates might remain low, with increasing numbers of young single adults)

Overall Birth rates do not support claims of exceptional population increase – either of babies or reproductive age adults.

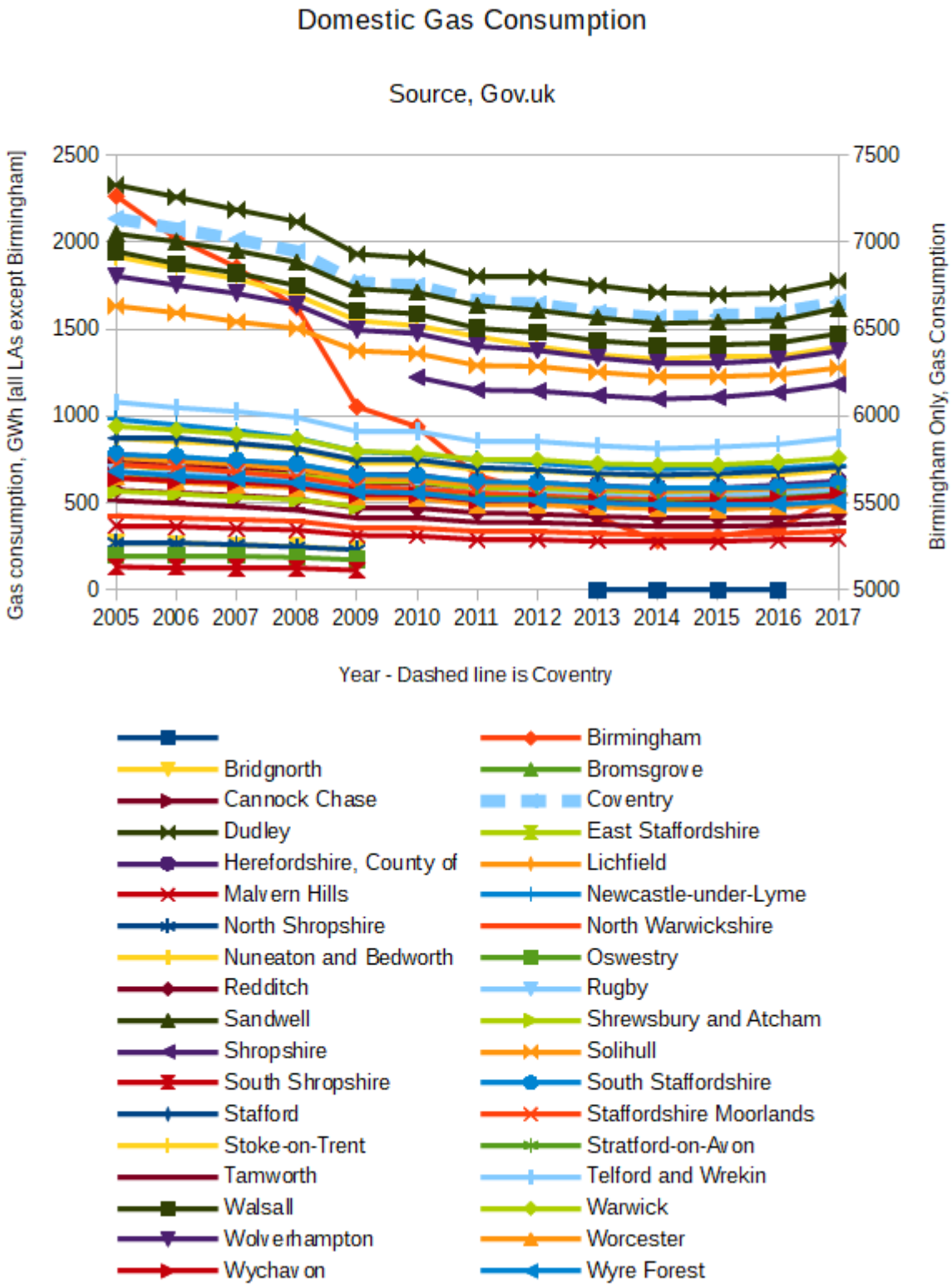
Data Sources:
Live births by local authority of usual residence of mother, numbers, General Fertility Rates and Total Fertility Rates…..
Summary: Live births (numbers, rates and percentages): administrative area of usual residence of mother, United Kingdom and constituent countries, …

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/datasets/birthsbyareaofusualresidenceofmotheruk

Gas Usage:



Drawing 6



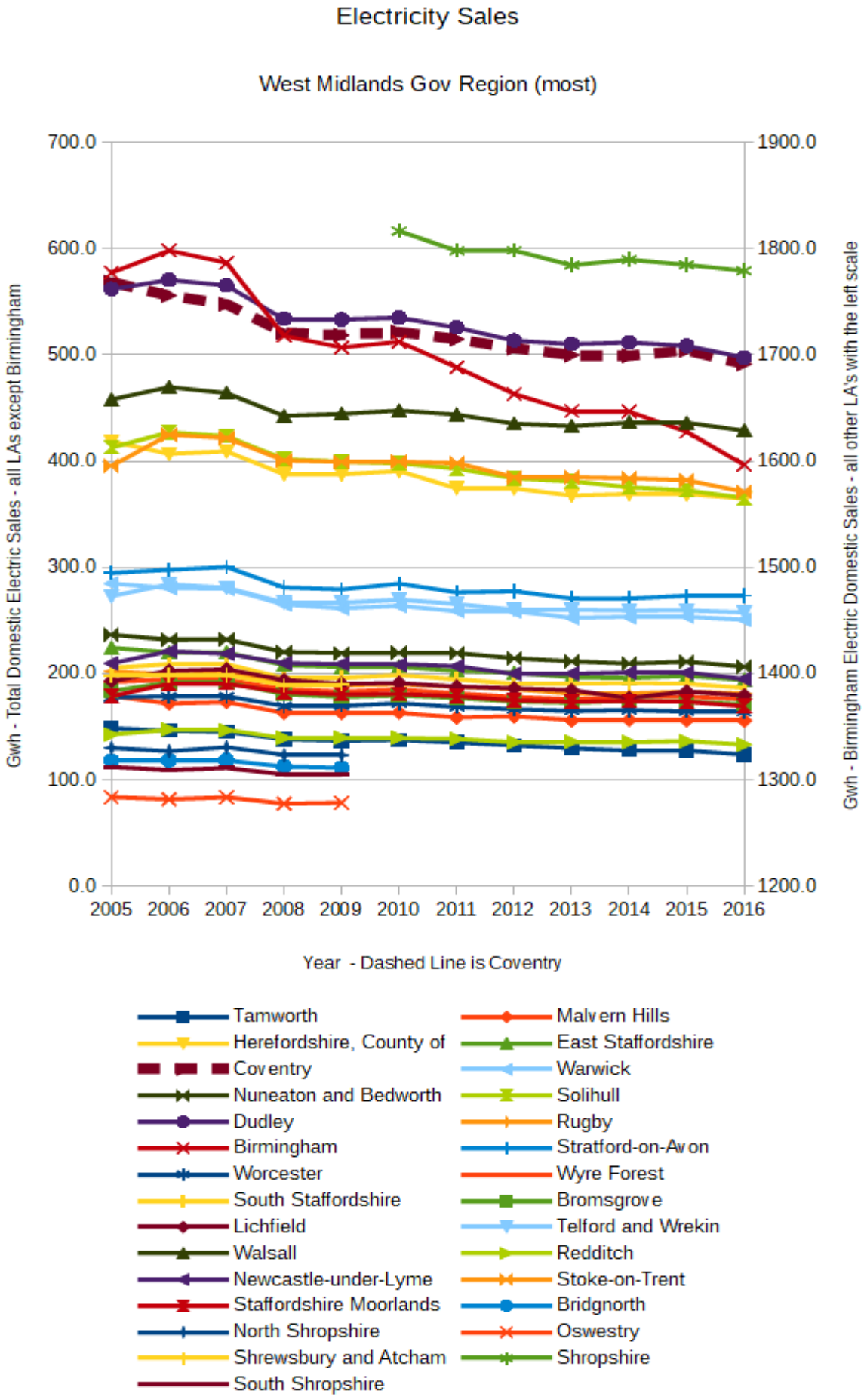
Drawing 7:

Data Sources Gas: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority

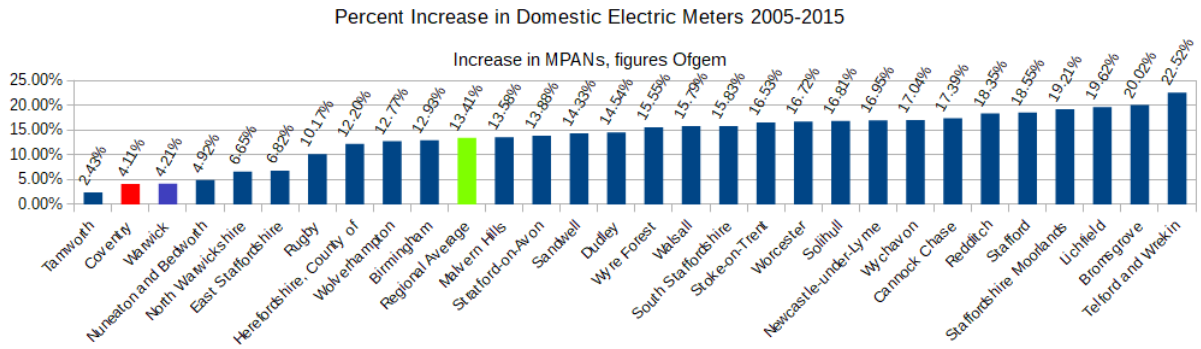
Comment Gas usage:

Domestic Gas usage across the region is declining, but there is nothing to show that the pattern in Coventry is different. If there was high population growth, it would buoy up gas use and retard the decline in use. (the line would go down less steeply) . Looking at Drawing 8, domestic gas use in Coventry very closely mirrors that in Sandwell, Walsall, Stoke on Trent, Wolverhampton and Solihull , other large West Midlands manufacturing towns, of similar size. Why should one believe that population growth in Coventry is nearly double that in Sandwell, when there is no effect on gas use? Are people cooking over wood fires in Coventry or only on electricity? Well, look at the electric consumption figures below.

Electricity Consumption
(see drawing 9 next page)


Electricity Sales
West Midlands Gov Region (most)
Gwh - Total Domestic Electric Sales - all LAs except Birmingham
Gwh - Birmingham Electric Domestic Sales - all other LA's with the left scale
700.0
600.0
500.0
400.0
300.0
200.0
100.0
0.0
1900.0
1800.0
1700.0
1600.0
1500.0
1400.0
1300.0
1200.0
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016
Year - Dashed Line is Coventry
Tamworth
Herefordshire, County of
Coventry
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Dudley
Birmingham
Worcester
South Staffordshire
Lichfield
Walsall
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire Moorlands
North Shropshire
Shrewsbury and Atcham
South Shropshire
Malvern Hills
East Staffordshire
Warwick
Solihull
Rugby
Stratford-on-Avon
Wyre Forest
Bromsgrove
Telford and Wrekin
Redditch
Stoke-on-Trent
Bridgnorth
Oswestry
Shropsire

Drawing 8:



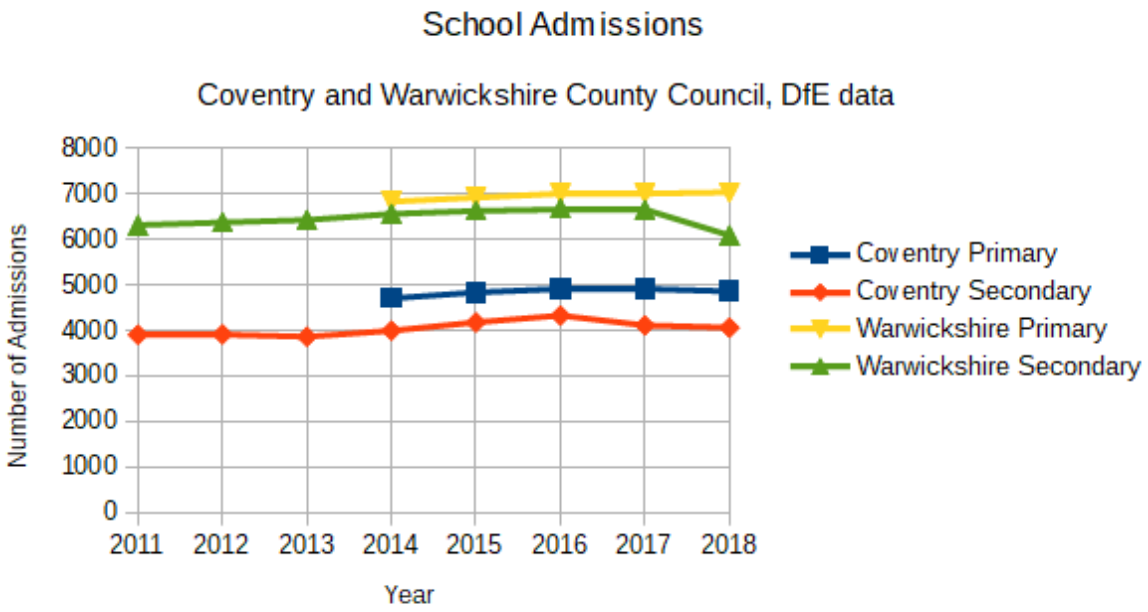
Drawing 9:

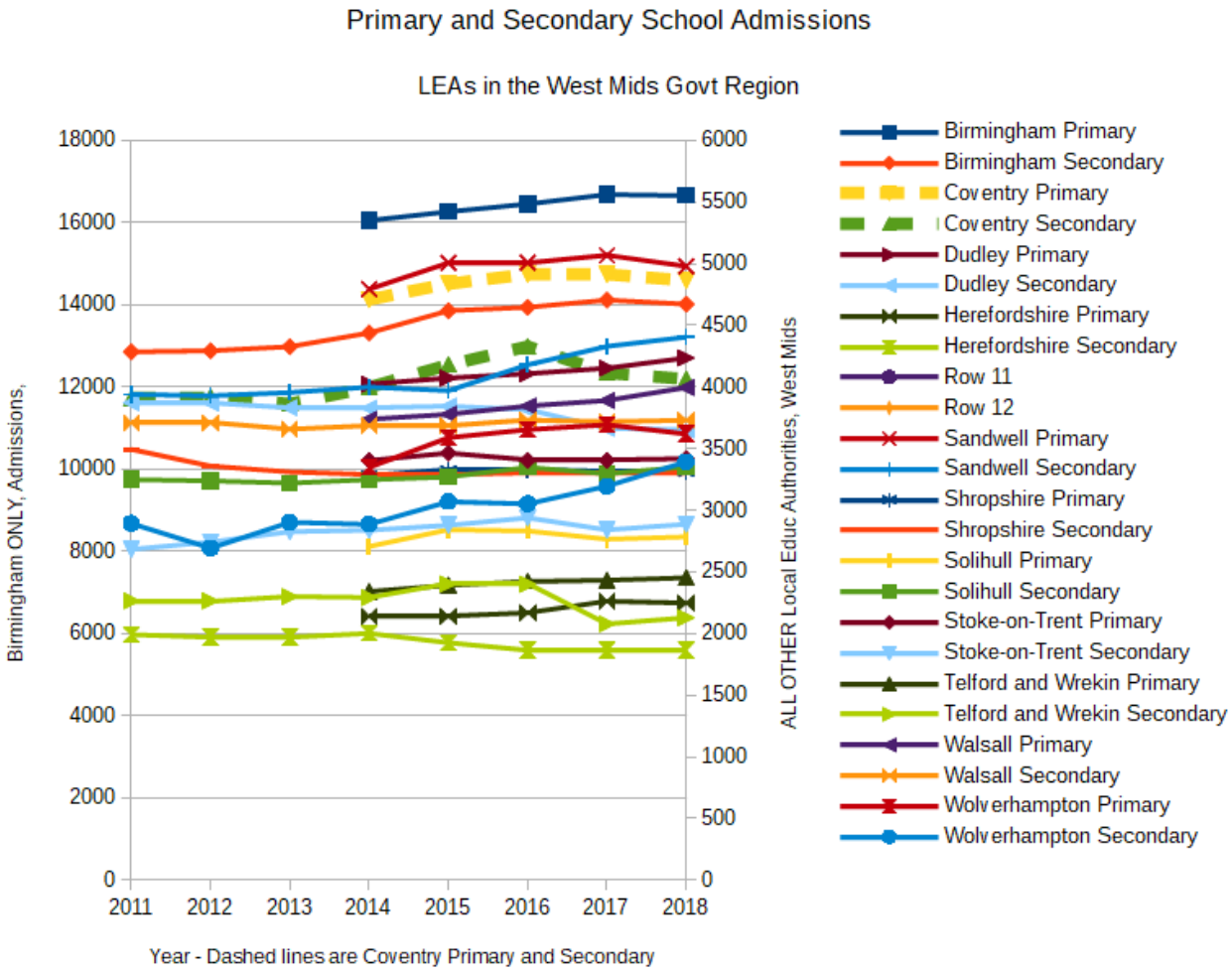
Electricity: Comment

Domestic Electricity use in Coventry is closely following the consumption in its neighbours, especially Dudley, Walsall, Stoke on Trent, and Herefordshire. If people are pouring into Coventry, more than into other local towns, they are not using more electricity nor getting more meters into dwellings. Maybe they are using candles and wind up radios. Or maybe they are not coming at all and actual population growth in Coventry is very like that in the neighbour towns and cities.

Data Source Electricity Consumption: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data

School Admissions:





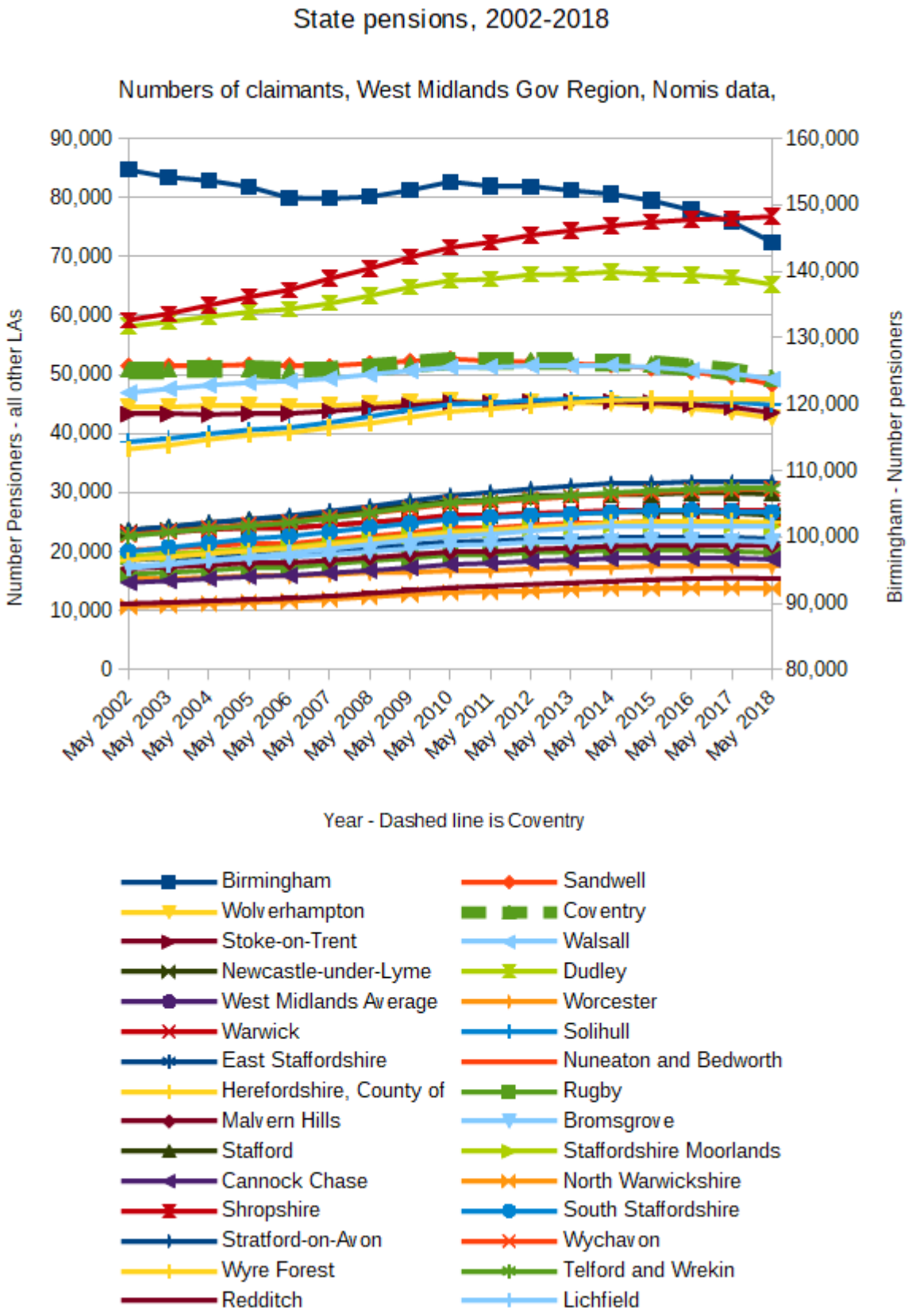
Drawing 10:

Data Source School Admissions:
2018 https://www.gov.uk/education/school-admissions
2017 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/secondary-and-primary-school-applications-and-offers-2017
2016 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/secondary-and-primary-school-applications-and-offers-2016
2015 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/secondary-and-primary-school-applications-and-offers-2015
2014 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/secondary-and-primary-school-applications-and-offers-2014
2011 onwards https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-applications

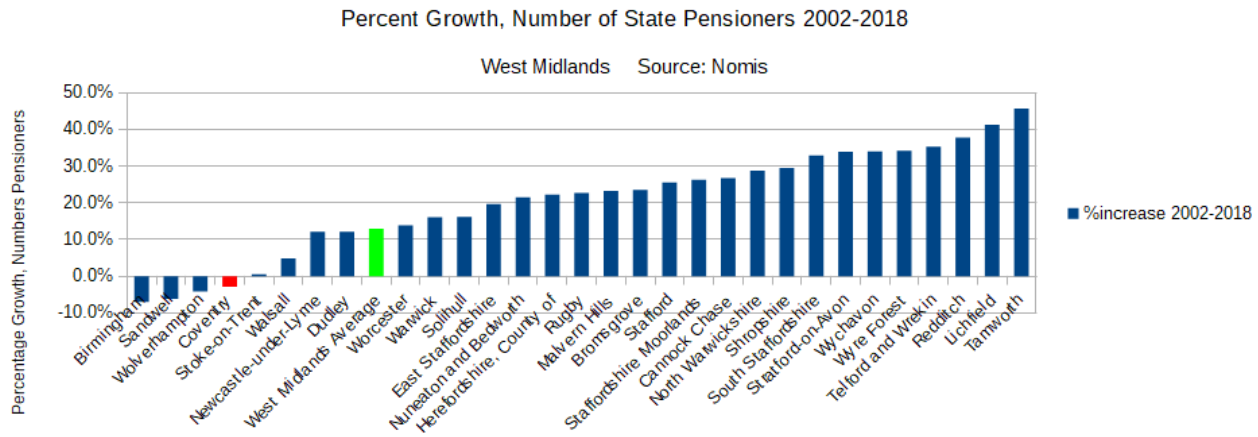
School Admissions Comment

School Admissions, both for Primary and Secondary, look pretty average for the region. If there is an exceptional population influx, it is not families with children who are making the numbers shoot up. See Drawing 10 and 11 above.

State Pension Recipients


State pensions, 2002-2018
Numbers of claimants, West Midlands Gov Region, Nomis data,
Number Pensioners - all other LAs
Birmingham - Number pensioners
90,000
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
160,000
150,000
140,000
130,000
120,000
110,000
100,000
90,000
80,000
May 2002
May 2003
May 2004
May 2005
May 2006
May 2007
May 2008
May 2009
May 2010
May 2011
May 2012
May 2013
May 2014
May 2015
May 2016
May 2017
May 2018
Year - Dashed line is Coventry
Birmingham
Wolverhampton
Stoke-on-Trent
Newcastle-under-Lyme
West Midlands Average
Warwick
East Staffordshire
Herefordshire, County of
Malvern Hills
Stafford
Cannock Chase
Shropshire
Stratford-on-Avon
Wyre Forest
Redditch
Sandwell
Coventry
Walsall
Dudley
Worcester
Solihull
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Rugby
Bromsgrove
Staffordshire Moorlands
North Warwickshire
South Staffordshire
Wychavon
Telford and Wrekin
Lichfield

Drawing 11:



Drawing 12:

Comment: Numbers of State Pension Claimants

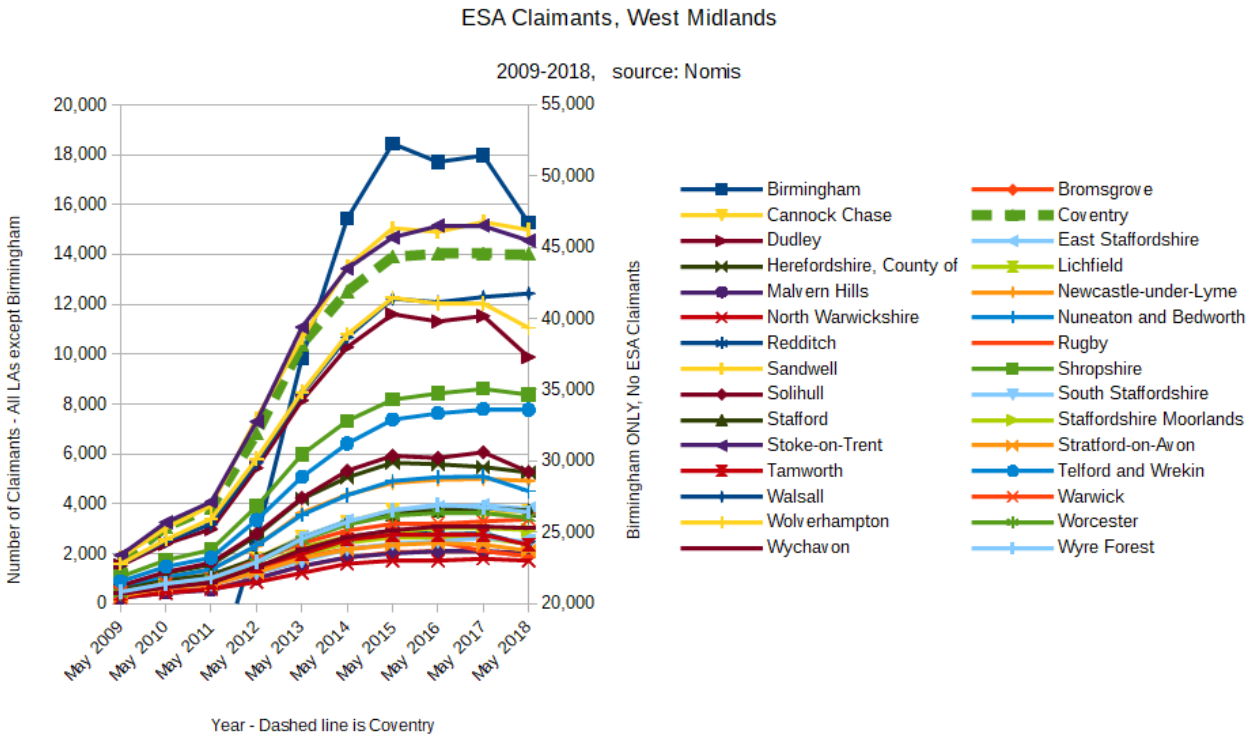
Compared to other parts of the region, it looks like people of state pension age are leaving Coventry. If there is a population boom, they are not the cause of it. It is not the Costa del Oobly of the Midlands, where they all go for the sunshine and good life (there are casino's but I guess it is just not enough

Data Source: Pensions
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=117

Table 9. State Pension: Caseload (Thousands) and Average weekly amount of benefit by Local Authority of claimant, at November 2016
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries

also on stat-xplore https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/tableView/tableView.xhtml
also on nomis:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=117

ESA Claimants



Drawing 13:

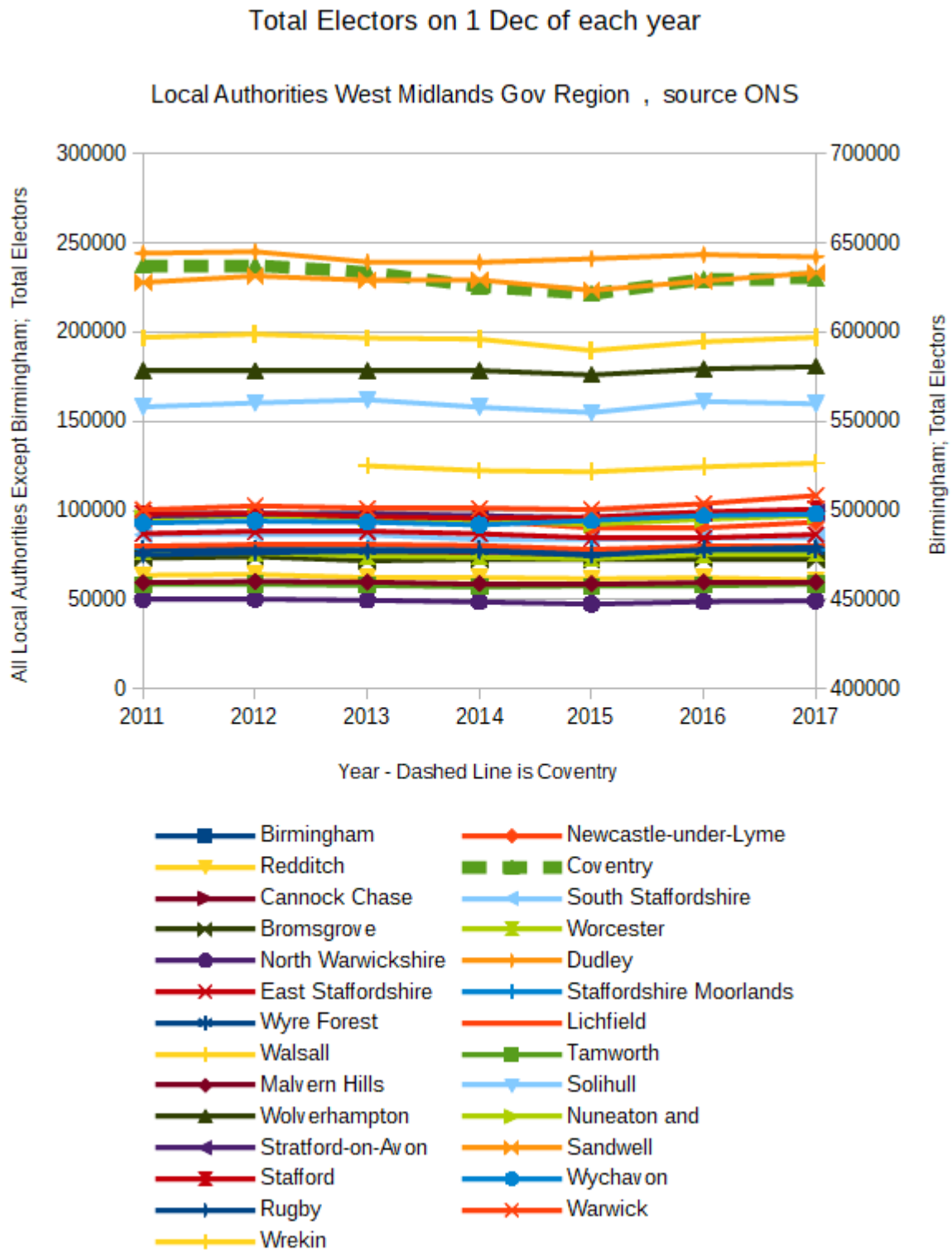
Number of Employment and Support Allowance Claimants
Comment: ESA claimants

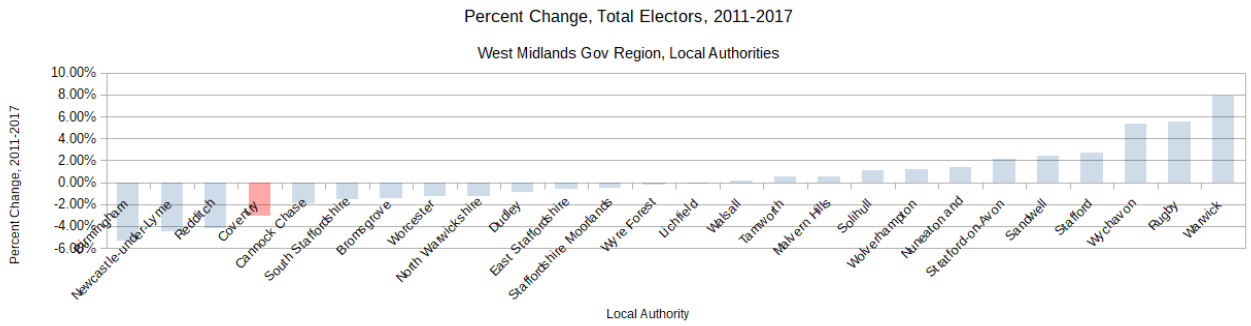
It looks like benefit claimants aren't flocking to Coventry for the good life either.- see Drawing 14 above. Numbers follow other towns in the area, being very like Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Stoke on Trent, Wolverhampton. They don't seem to be the source of exceptional population growth. See Drawing 14 above

Data Source: benefit claimants - employment and support allowance
ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 13 January 2019]

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=134

Electoral Roll


Total Electors on 1 Dec of each year
Local Authorities West Midlands Gov Region , source ONS
All Local Authorities Except Birmingham; Total Electors
Birmingham; Total Electors
300000
250000
200000
150000
100000
50000
0
700000
650000
600000
550000
500000
450000
400000
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Year - Dashed Line is Coventry
Birmingham
Redditch
Cannock Chase
Bromsgrove
North Warwickshire
East Staffordshire
Wyre Forest
Walsall
Malvern Hills
Wolverhampton
Stratford-on-Avon
Stafford
Rugby
Wrekin
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Coventry
South Staffordshire
Worcester
Dudley
Staffordshire Moorlands
Lichfield
Tamworth
Solihull
Nuneaton and
Sandwell
Wychavon
Warwick



Drawing 15:

Comment: Electoral Roll

Once again Coventry is lagging behind its neighbours. The electoral roll is growing more slowly than in other towns and cities. It isn't adults entitled to vote (ie, people 18-94, with eligibility) who are causing a population boom in Coventry

Data Source Electoral Roll:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration/datasets/electoralstatisticsforuk

there is a time series going back to 2002 on this page.

Bloated GP practices:

A few GP practices in Coventry have far more patients on their rolls, than were recorded in parts of their catchment areas in the 2011. Either lots of people have moved into those sub areas (Lower Super Output Areas, LSOAs) or, people are still on the GP registers who have left the area.

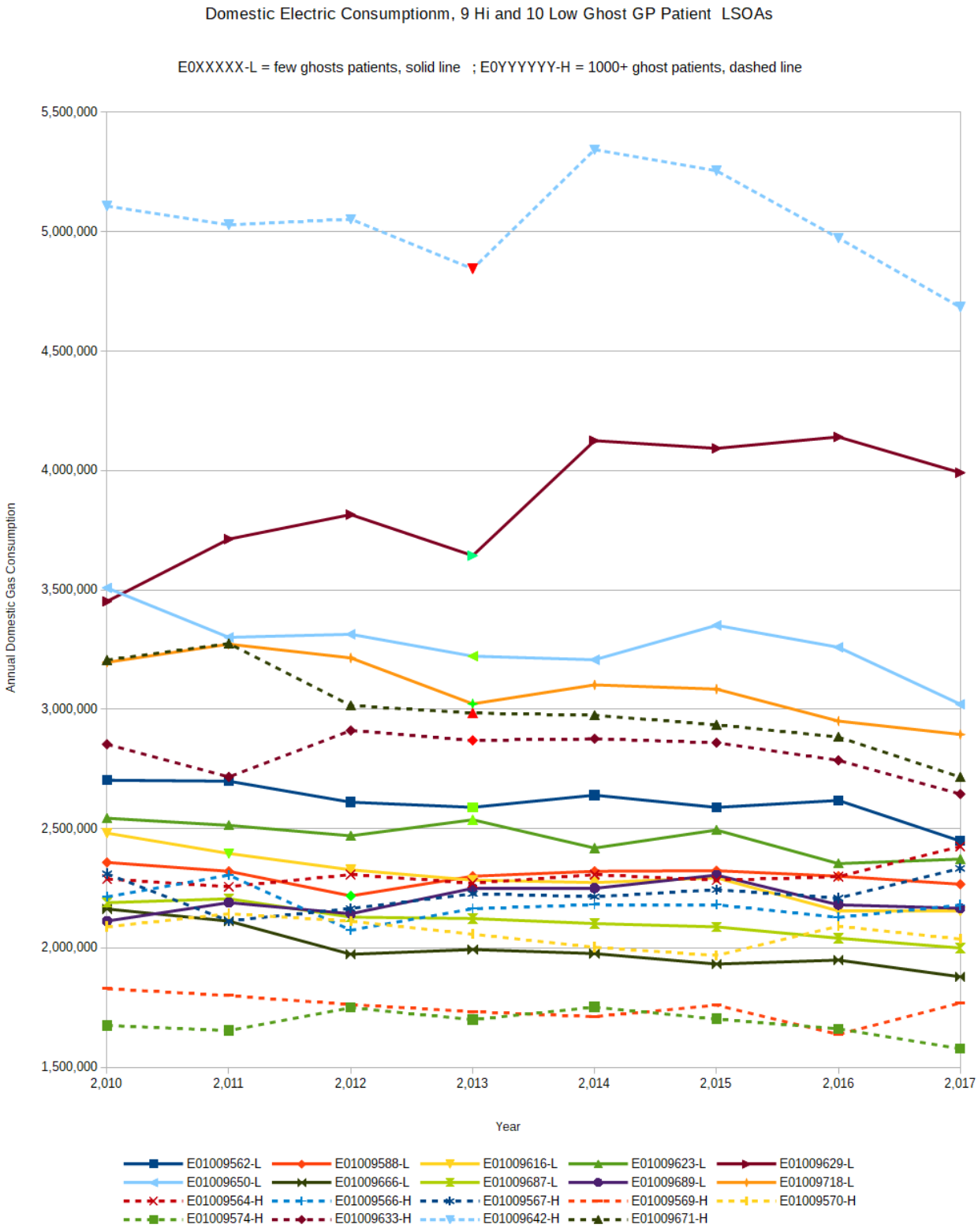
Gas and Electricity statistics, which are reported at LSOA level, can help us to decide which of these is true. If there really is a major population increase in an LSOA(say due to massive new building programmes), then gas and electricity use would shoot up as well. But if gas and electricity use does not significantly change, then it indicates that the GP registers are bloated with patients who are no longer in the area.

I have selected 19 LSOA in Cocventry to compare. 9 of them have 1000 or more patients on the GP register than resided in the area in the 2011 census. One of them has 8000 patients above the inhabitants reported in 2011. These 9 I have deemed "Hi Ghost LSOA"

10 other LSOA were selected that do not show a disparity between the 2011 census and the number of patients on GP registers – the 2011 census population is very close to the numbers on GP registers. I have called these "Low ghost LSOA".

There is no indication that gas consumption is much higher in those LSOA with high numbers of ghosts ie those with putative enormous population growth (60-300%) since 2011, compared to those with little growth since 2011 (as measured by the patient registers) . There is no obvious difference in the pattern of gas consumption between the two types of LSOA - . Those which seem to have gained in population since 2011 (according to the GP registers) and those which have

appeared to stay static, again according the the GP registers. See the chart below for an examination of domestic gas consumption



The dashed lines above are all LSOA with many more people on GP registers than were counted at the 2011 census. The consumption pattern in those LSOA (the dashed lines) is pretty similar to the solid lines (those without a substantial increase in population between 2011 and 2017, as measured by the GP registers.

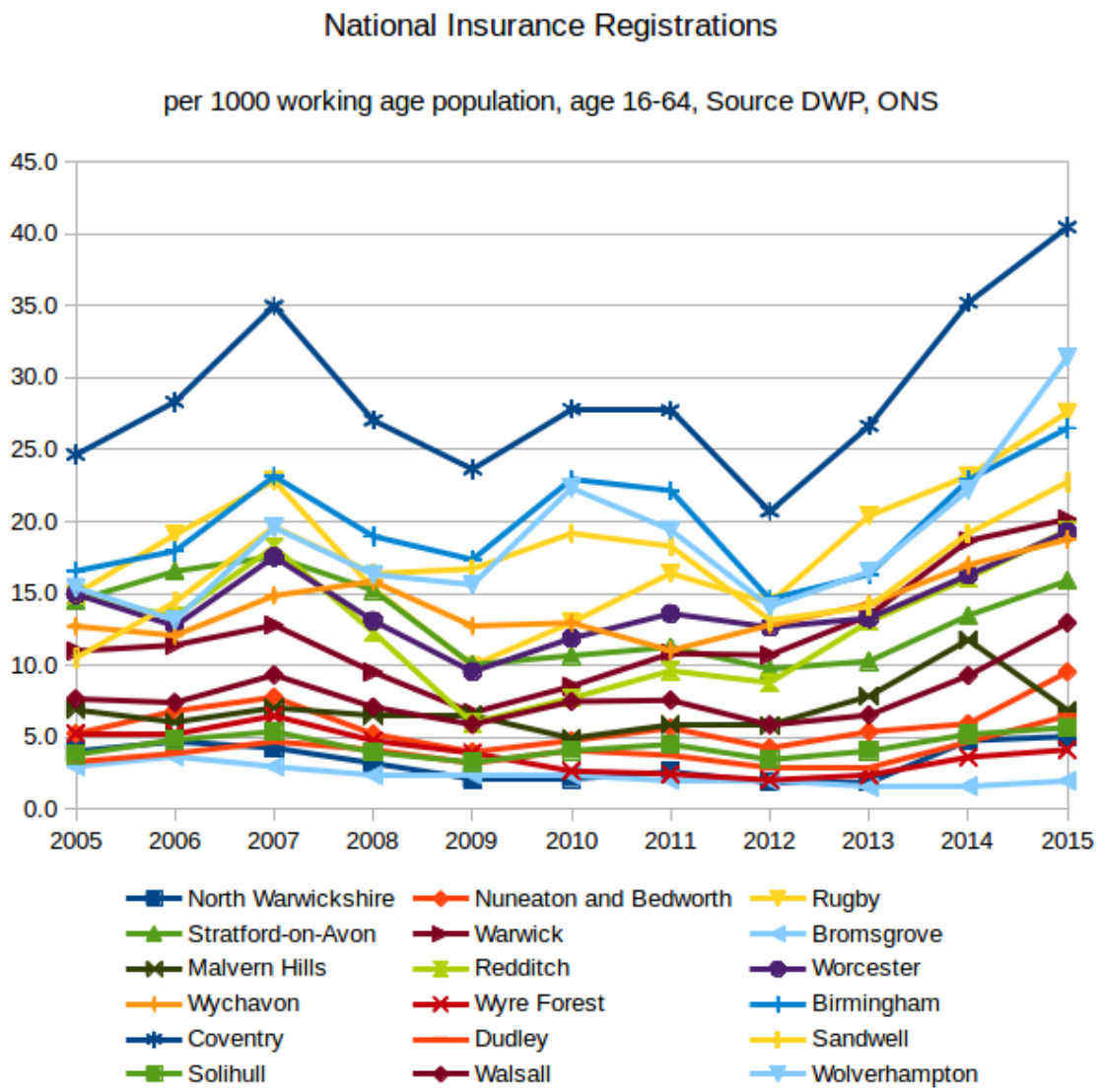
. For example, LSOA E01009671, (a "high ghost LSOA") which is around Gibbet Hill Road and Warwick University, has 12586 patients on GP registers in Coventry while at the 2011 Census, there

were just 4248 inhabitants living in the LSOA. Most of these patients were on the registers of just 2 GP surgeries (Allesley Park and Broomfield Road) which between them had 11556 patients on the register
Data Source: electricity consumption by LSOA, https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data
GP Register numbers,
https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice/october-2018 I think I used this dataset
https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice/february-2019 this is the latest release. The quarterly releases have data at LSOA level

https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice-april-2018-special-topic---registered-patients-compared-to-the-projected-resident-population-in-england this contains information about patients at LSOA level. The quarterly data releases contain LSOA information.
Census 2011 data was taken from Nomis

Migrant National Insurance [NINO] Registrations (reported in QMI statistics.)

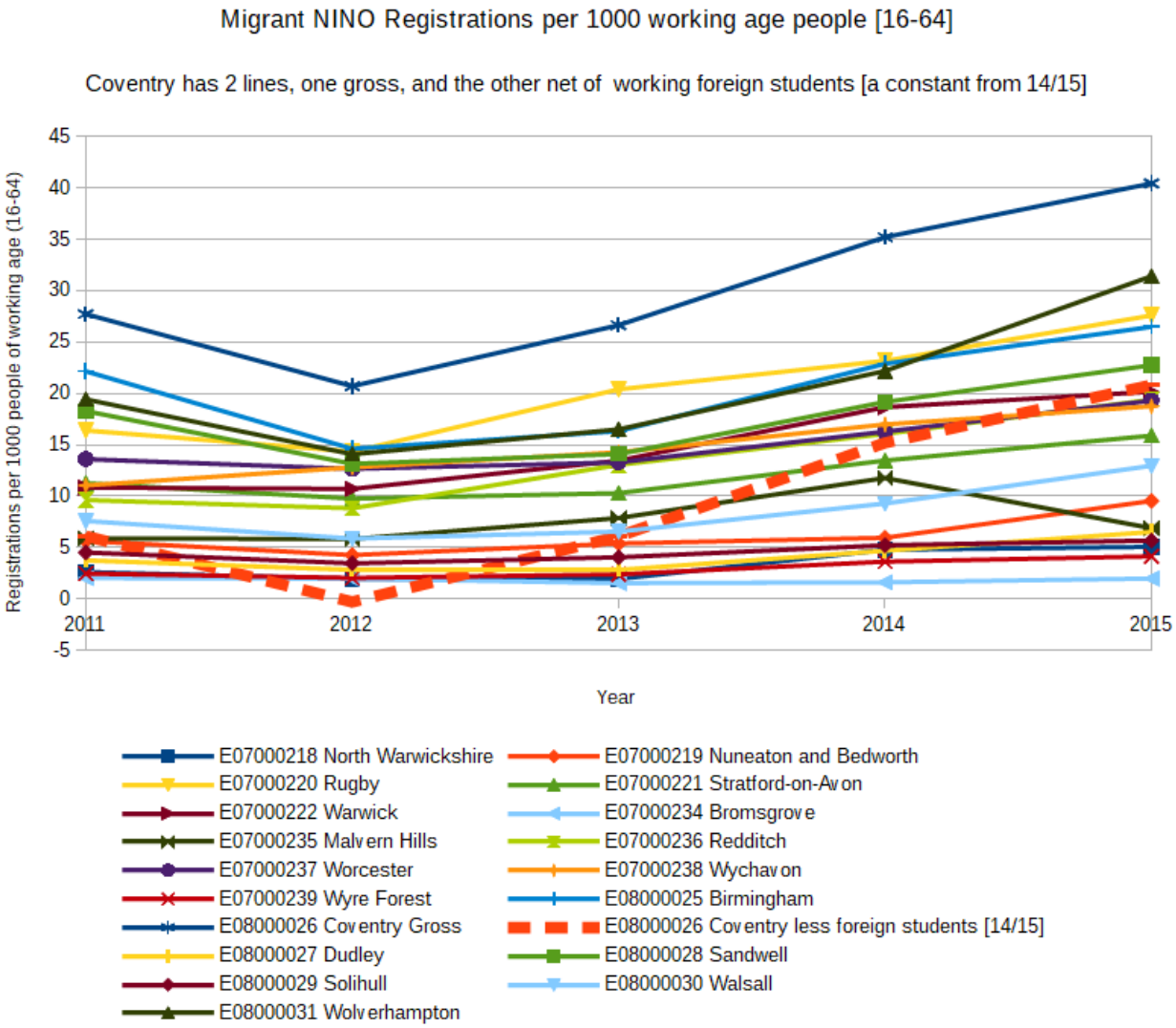
Here is a comparison of migrant NINO registrations in the West Midlands



Drawing 16: NINO registrations, unadjusted for foreign students registering to be able to work

It looks like there is a much higher rate of registration in Coventry than elsewhere. However, there is a good explanation for this which is not connected to population growth. Every year there are roughly 10,000 foreign students starting at the universities. To work, they will need to apply for a national insurance number. . Recent ONS studies of the proportion of students who work (for EU and non EU nationals) , indicate that about 4500 newcomers each year will work, and need a NINO[1]. If you subtract out these student registrations, from the overall total, things are once again, unremarkable in Coventry.

1 The number of foreign students working is based on ONS research published on 31Jan2019. Transforming population and migration statistics Case Study International student employment activity. 41% of non EU students work and 61% of EU students work. https://www.slideshare.net/statisticsONS/transforming-population-and-migration-statistics-emigration-patterns-of-noneu-students-129833903
The number of foreign students starting study each year is from HESA Table 1:…HE student enrolments by HE provider, domicile, level of study, mode of study, first year marker, sex and academic year https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-1 or https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-1-(2014-15).csv


Migrant NINO Registrations per 1000 working age people [16-64]
Coventry has 2 lines, one gross, and the other net of working foreign students [a constant from 14/15]
Registrations per 1000 people of working age (16-64)
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
-5
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
Year
E07000218 North Warwickshire
E07000219 Nuneaton and Bedworth
E07000220 Rugby
E07000221 Stratford-on-Avon
E07000222 Warwick
E07000234 Bromsgrove
E07000235 Malvern Hills
E07000236 Redditch
E07000237 Worcester
E07000238 Wychavon
E07000239 Wyre Forest
E08000025 Birmingham
E08000026 Coventry Gross
E08000026 Coventry less foreign students [14/15]
E08000027 Dudley
E08000028 Sandwell
E08000029 Solihull
E08000030 Walsall
E08000031 Wolverhampton

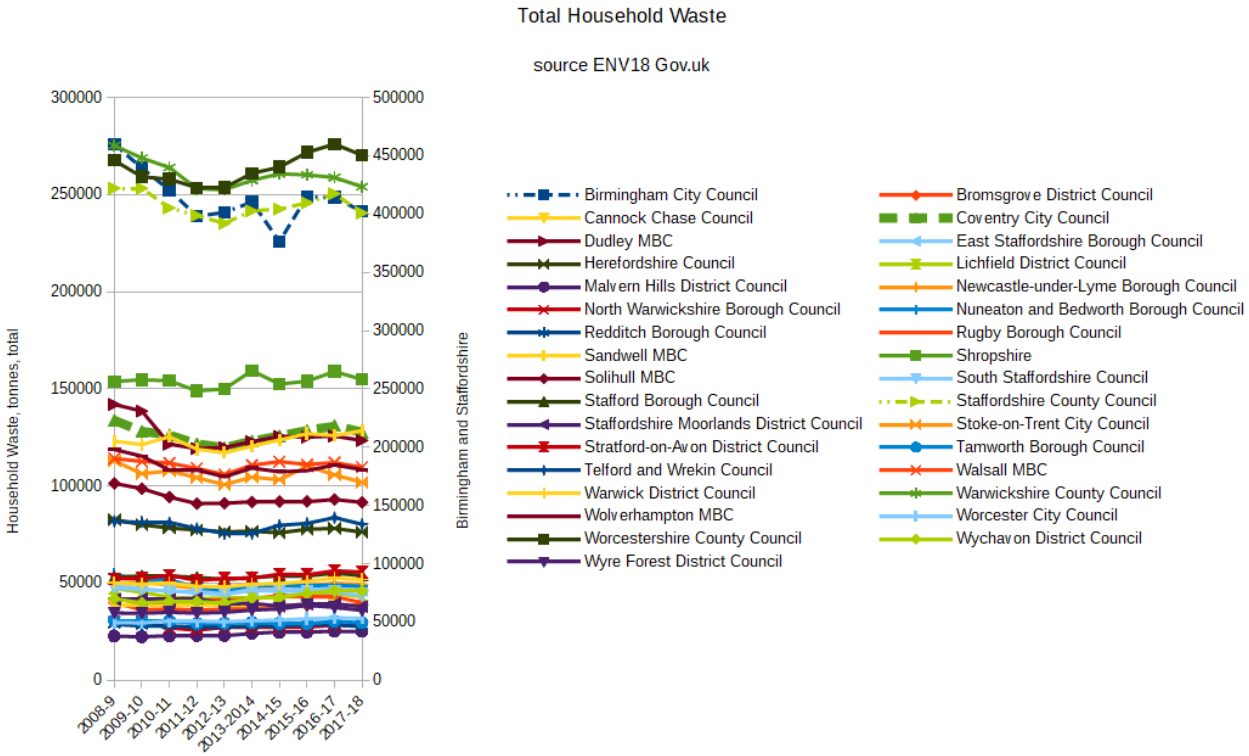
Drawing 17:

Drawing 18:

The chart above (drawing 18) shows the rates of registration/1000 working age people adjusted in Coventry for the 4447 new foreign students who will register each year for a NINO number. The rate for Coventry becomes entirely average once you adjust for the foreign students. Once again, nothing remarkable is happening in Coventry. (method note: from HESA data, the number of first year foreign students at the 2 universities in 14/15 was 4447 – I have used this as a constant estimate of the number of students working each year from 2011, and subtracted it from the QMI reported number of NINO registrations in Coventry each year – when I get more time, I will look up the actual numbers of foreign students each year and adjust the numbers. I do not expect much difference. The foreign student numbers at the universities have stayed fairly level since 2011)

Domestic Waste

The graph below (Drawing 19) shows the total domestic waste produced in each of the West Midlands Gov Region Local Authorities. Once more, the trend in Coventry is very similar to its neighbours, closely mirroring Sandwell and Dudley for example. Domestic Waste production is not rocketing away from its neighbours. There is no evidence of extra people arriving in the city, above and beyond what is happening nearby.



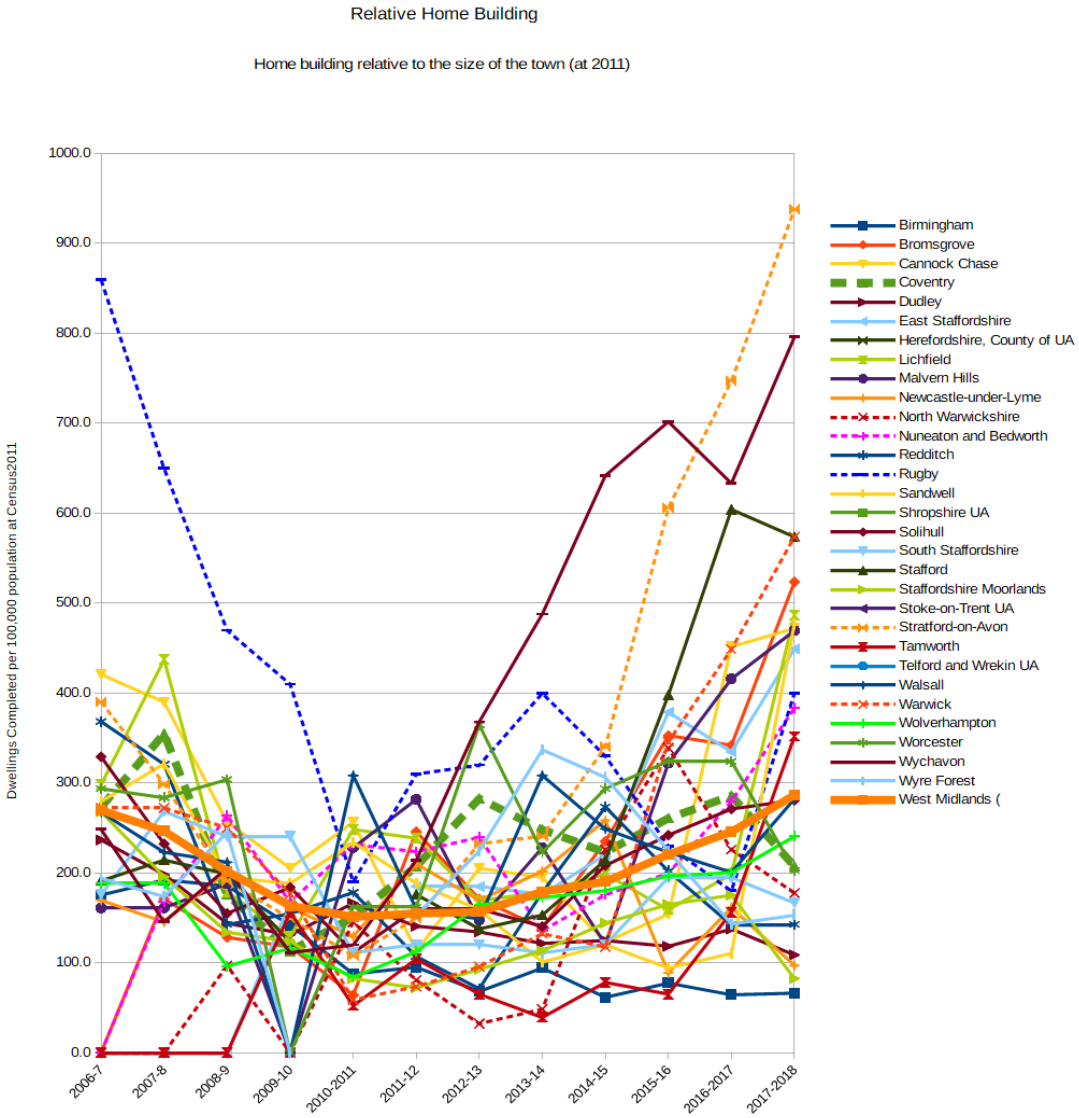
Drawing 19:

Data Source Waste Collection: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables

House Building: A Market signal

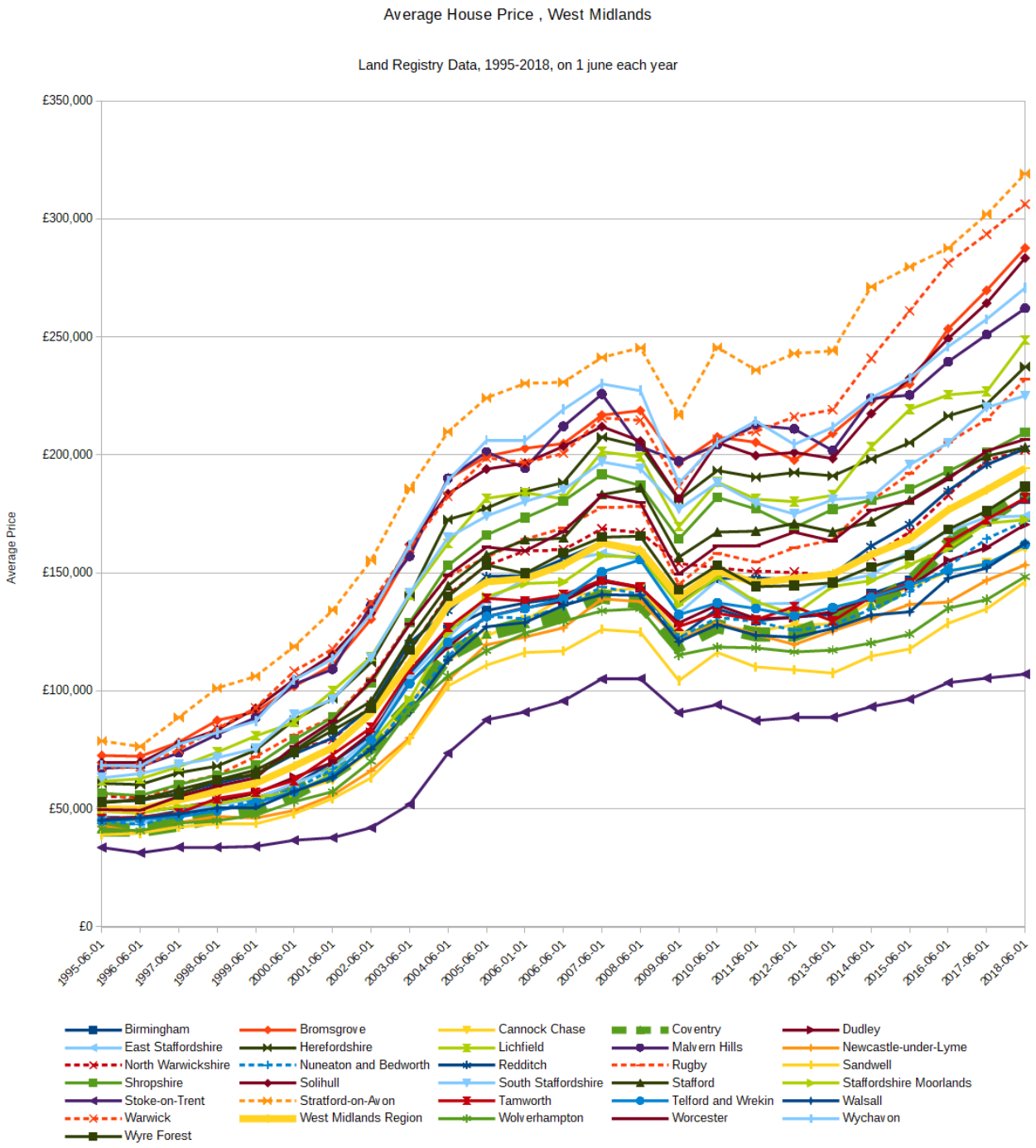
Finally, I chart housebuilding in the West Midlands. Drawing 19 , below, shows housebuilding activity relative to the size of the town (ie number of homes/100,000 of population). Relative to its size, housebuilding in Coventry (the thick dashed green line) is very close to the regional average (the thick ochre line in the graph). The thin dashed lines show other towns in the Housing Market Area (Warwick Stratford, Rugby, Nuneaton Bedworth, and North Warks). Relative to their size, far more house building is going in in Warwick and Stratford than in Coventry.

Market signals do not suggest that builders see any extra opportunity in Coventry. They see no reason to build extra houses there, above and beyond the regional trend.



Drawing 20:
Data source, average house prices http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi
population size at 2011: census 2011 from nomisweb

data source, housing completions https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-house-building



Drawing 21:

Average house pricees in Coventry have remained low over a long period. There is no sign of pent up demand in the market, arising from exceptional population growth, driving prices sharply upward. Neither house building (the developers view of where likely population growth is occurring) nor house prices (the market view of demand and population growth) show any sign of unusual population growth in Coventry.

Conclusions:

If there is a population explosion happening in Coventry, then they are ghosts or vampires: They cast no shadow. They don't vote, don't go to A&E, don't have babies, don't go to school, don't have cars, don't collect state pensions or ESA benefit, don't produce any wast, and don't use gas or electricity

Some might suggest that possibly university students or young single workers from eastern europe could fit the “ghost or vampire” profile, sort of (that they don't have cars, don't vote locally, have few babies and children, don't claim pensions or benefits) - but even they attend A&E, and use electricity and gas - if their numbers were burgeoning, you would see an effect on A&E and utility consumption, and sooner or later on births.

Having taken land out of the greenbelt, on the back of predictions of a huge population expansion starting in 2011 Coventry Council should now return that land to green belt. There is no justification for removing that land from green belt or for building on it. In 2016, the Coventry Local Plan inspector

In conclusion, having considered a wide range of reliable official data, there are no signs that anything exceptional or unusual is happening to population growth in Coventry.