

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, Shakespeare's Forest of Arden, - at Keresley, Eastern Green, Coundon, and Cromwell Lane, and no need for 10,000 overspill homes in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and at Kings Hill and Westwood Heath.

If the Coventry population was suddenly growing far faster than its neighbours, we would see the effects on services and life events that take in most people— 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 fancy estimates except in 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 30 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.**