

**YOUR CRISIS OUR ACTION**

# Housing Commission – Session 1

## Paper 1 – Waltham Forest demographics and context

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# Waltham Forest Challenges and Priorities

# Waltham Forest challenges and opportunities



Like other local authorities across the UK, Waltham Forest is facing considerable budget pressures and financial uncertainty. We face many challenges; the impact of the pandemic, ongoing health inequalities, the climate emergency, the devastating cost of living increases, and structural inequalities. Meanwhile, demand for services continues to increase while the cost of providing them escalates.

These challenges call for us to develop new ways of working as an organisation, to ensure everyone is able to live healthier and happier lives. These challenges present new and exciting transformational opportunities; to improve the way we work with partners and residents and the way we prioritise and make decisions.

**“15-Minute Neighbourhoods” is our new corporate framework and our ambitious response to these turbulent times – it is a commitment to ensuring everyone can enjoy the benefits of life in easy reach.**

We believe having more of what we need within easy reach is something that can benefit everyone and how people want to live their lives and access public services. Our corporate framework is organised around three core themes that will underpin all the work we do together as residents, council and partners.

1. 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is everyone taking part and fulfilling their potential - everyone should be able to feel part of their local community and fully participate in things happening in their neighbourhoods
2. 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is everyone benefitting from shared prosperity – we will create places that benefit everyone, with accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods where residents can live full and enriching lives.
3. 15-Minute Neighbourhoods is improving the borough together - working together with residents in collaborative processes to make improvements that are right for each neighbourhood.

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# Waltham Forest demographics

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# Demography in Waltham Forest

# Demography in Waltham Forest

## Overview

**102,900**

households

vs 96,861 in 2011 ↑ +6.2%

**278,400**

residents

vs 258,200 in 2011 ↑ +7.8%



Median age of **35 years**

vs England average of **40 years**

## Household Composition

Waltham Forest's most prevalent household size has changed from **1 person** in 2011 (28,756) to **2 people** in 2021 (29,957)



Single-person households

**26,700** ↓ -7%



Cohabiting couples with no children

**7,900** ↑ +84%



Households with dependent children

**35,700** ↑ +7%



Lone parents with dependent children

**8,500** ↓ -4%



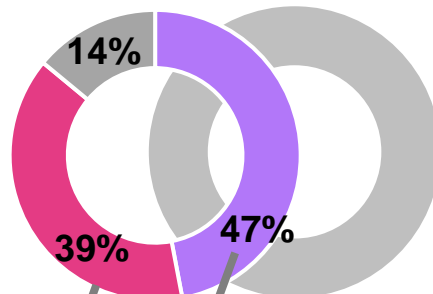
Multiple-family households

**14,200** ↓ -12%

## Marriages and civil partnerships

**16,422** residents are divorced

A rise of 7% from 15,412 in 2011



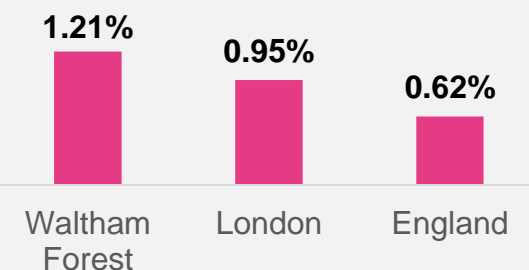
**104,046** residents are single

**87,974** are married / in a partnership



This includes **1505** same-sex partnerships and marriages.

Proportion of same-sex marriages



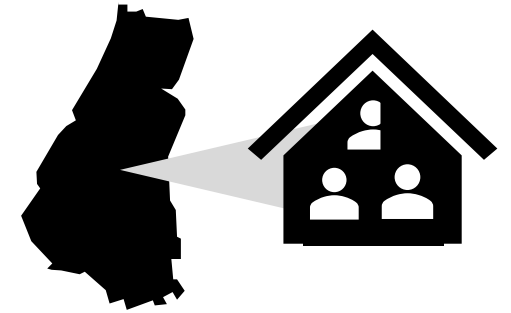
## Household size

Waltham Forest ranks **15<sup>th</sup>** in the country in terms of average household size.

**Waltham Forest**

**2.7** residents per household

Unchanged since 2011



**Greater London**

**2.5** residents per household

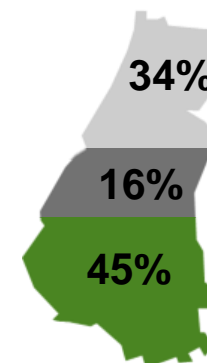


**England and Wales**

**2.4** residents per household



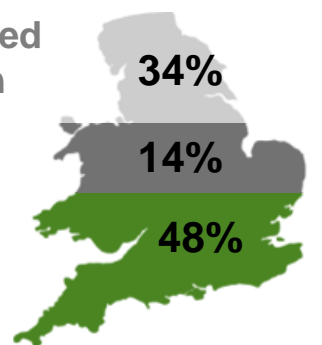
## Household deprivation



Households deprived in one dimension

Deprived in two dimensions

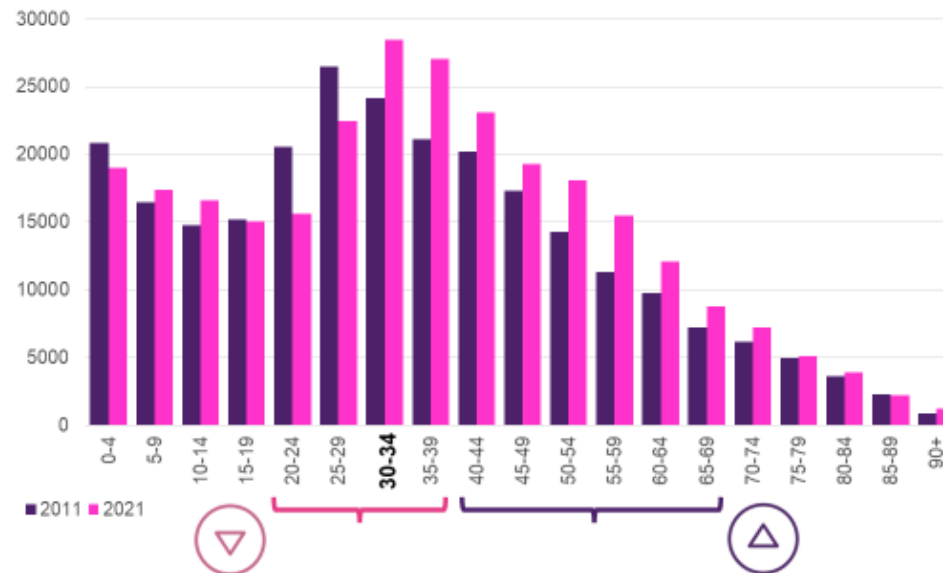
Not deprived in any dimension



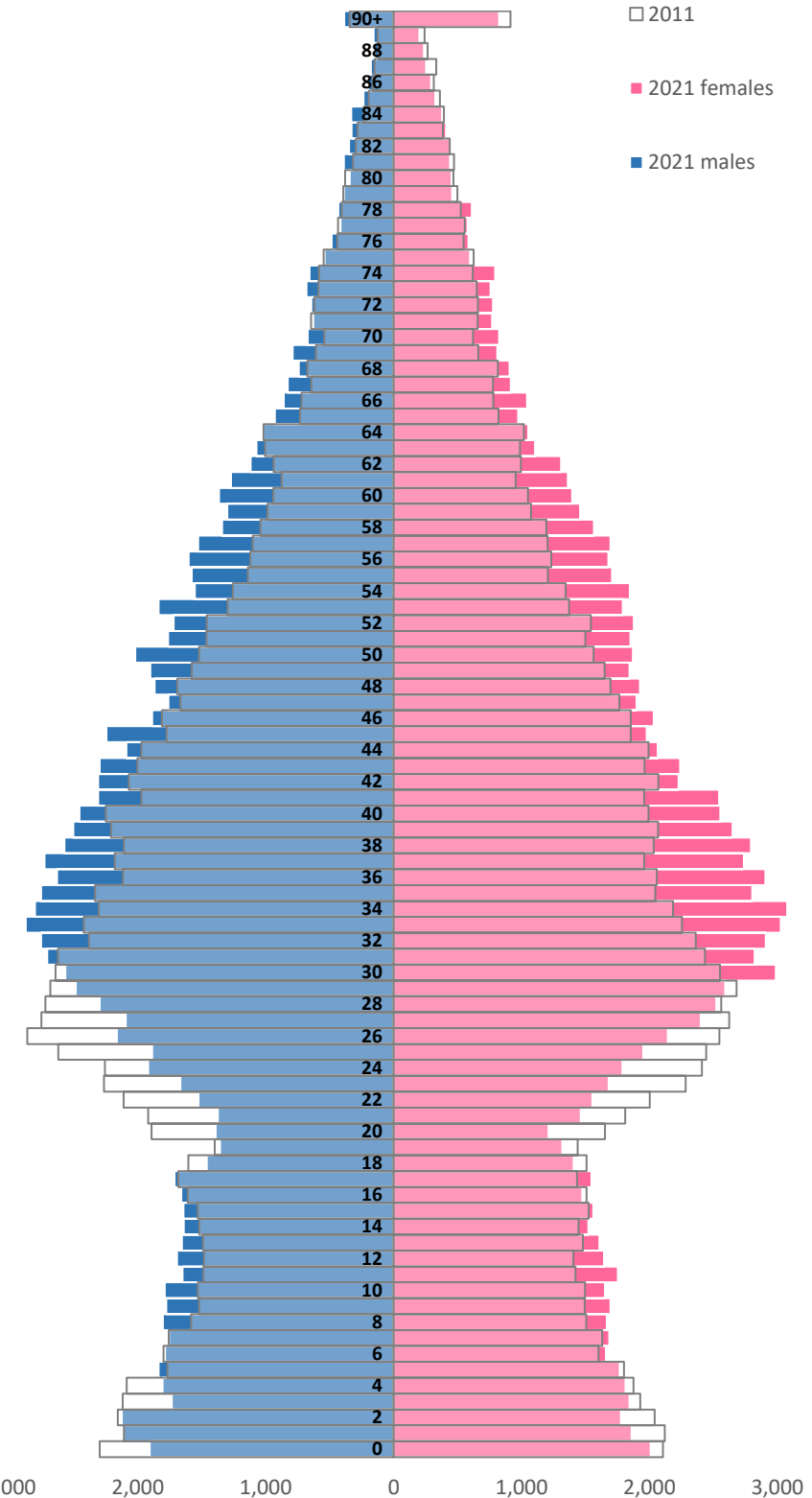
## Age structure in Waltham Forest



The trend of population ageing has continued in Waltham Forest, with **more people than ever before in the older age groups.**



Age	Census 2011		Census 2021		Change between Censuses		Difference between Census 2021 and MYE 2020	
	Census (2011) Population	Structure	Census (2021) Population	Structure	Change	% Change	MYE (2020) Population	Difference to Census2021 (%)
All	258249	100%	278,400	100%	20,151	8%	276,940	0.5%
0-4	20839	8.1%	19,000	6.8%	-1,839	-9%	21,329	-11%
5-9	16463	6.4%	17,400	6.3%	937	6%	19,847	-12%
10-14	14760	5.7%	16,600	6.0%	1,840	12%	16,801	-1%
15-19	15241	5.9%	15,100	5.4%	-141	-1%	14,475	4%
20-24	20604	8.0%	15,600	5.6%	-5,004	-24%	14,680	6%
25-34	50676	19.6%	51,000	18.3%	324	1%	47,797	7%
35-64	94100	36.4%	115,200	41.4%	21,100	22%	111,504	3%
65-89	24309	9.4%	27,200	9.8%	2,891	12%	28,748	-5%
90+	1257	0.5%	1,200	0.4%	-57	-5%	1,759	-32%



In 2011, the largest age group in Waltham Forest was 25-29 years old...

...In 2021, the largest age group is residents aged 30-34 (mature young adults)



In 2011, 36% of residents were aged 35-64 years old...

...this proportion is now up to 41%



Residents aged 20-34 years old made up 28% of the borough's population in 2011...

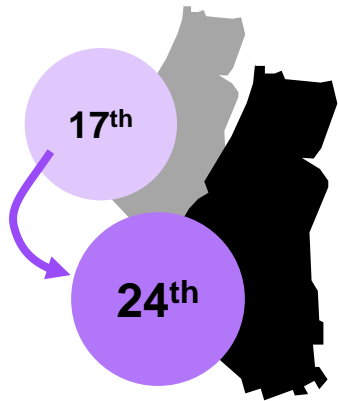
...they now make up 24%

4,000 3,000 2,000 1,000 0 1,000 2,000 3,000



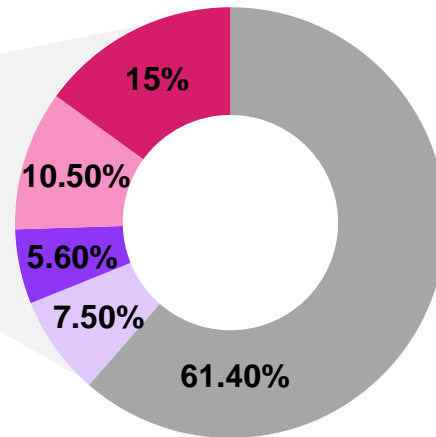
## Overview

**39%** of residents were born outside the UK



Although this proportion is unchanged since 2011, **Waltham Forest is now ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in England and Wales** for the proportion of residents born outside the UK, compared to being ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in 2011.

## Year of arrival



■ UK Born  
■ Arrived before 1991  
■ Arrived 1991 to 2001  
■ Arrived 2001 to 2011  
■ Arrived 2011 to 2021

## Passports held

The proportion of UK passports held by residents has been **largely unchanged** since 2011.



**71%** hold UK passports  
**23%** hold non-UK passports  
**6%** do not have a passport

## Top 3 non-UK countries of birth

**2011**

-  1. Pakistan (12,700, 5%)
-  2. Poland (8,200, 3%)
-  3. Other EU countries (7,250, 3%)

### Notable changes

#### Polish-born residents




8,200 (2011) **-33%** → 5,500 (2021)

#### Romanian-born residents

4,300 (2011) **+156%** → 11,000 (2021)

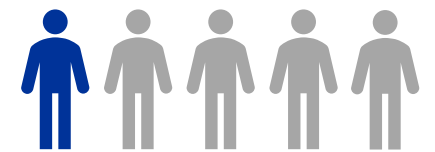
**Nationally, the number of Romanian-born people has risen by 576%**, driven by the lifting of working restrictions for Romanian nationals in 2014.

**2021**

-  1. Pakistan (11,035, 4%)
-  2. Romania (11,015, 4%)
-  3. Other EU countries (9,700, 3.5%)

## European-born residents

**Overall, 1 in 5 people in Waltham Forest were born in Europe** – the highest number of European-born residents ever recorded in the borough.



40,000 (2011) **+30%** → 52,000 (2021)

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# Housing in Waltham Forest



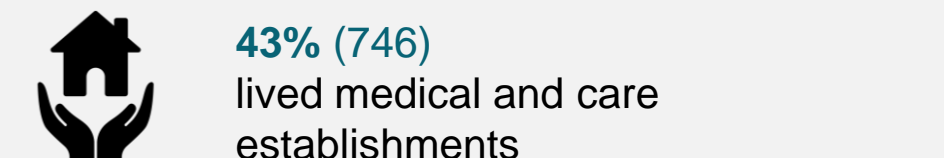
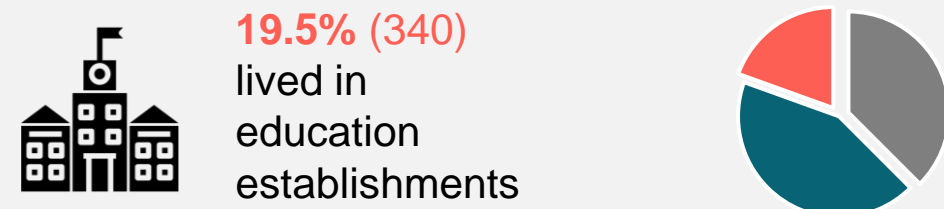
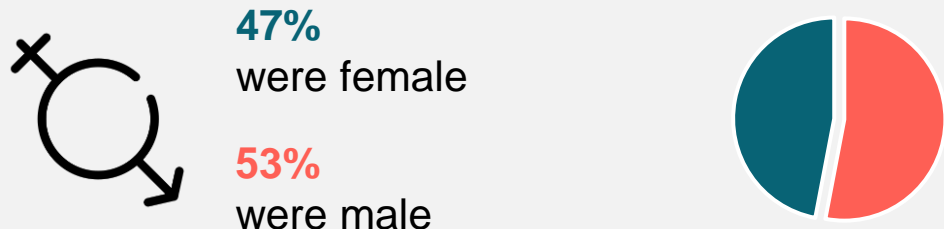
## Communal establishments

2021  
**1,740 residents**  
(0.6% of usual residents)  
lived across **161**  
different communal establishments in WF

+106 (0%)

2011  
**1,634 residents**  
(0.6% of usual residents)

### In 2021



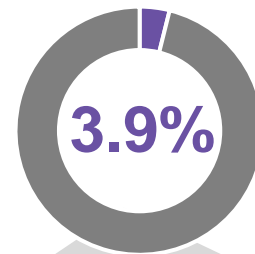
## Second addresses



**Greater London**  
**6%** of usual residents



**England and Wales**  
**5.4%** of usual residents



of Waltham Forest residents (**10,000**) reported staying at a second address for more than 30 days a year – ranking **25<sup>th</sup>** out of London's 32 boroughs.

**↑ 3.7%** (9,600 people) in 2011



**6,200 residents** (2.2% of residents overall) say this address is domestic / in the UK  
**+1,000 people** compared to 2011  
**Almost half** the England figure (4.1%)  
**Far below** the London average (3.4%)



**3,400 residents** (1.2%) say this address is another parent / guardian's address  
**The most common type of second address** in WF, London (1.7%), and England and Wales (1.8%)



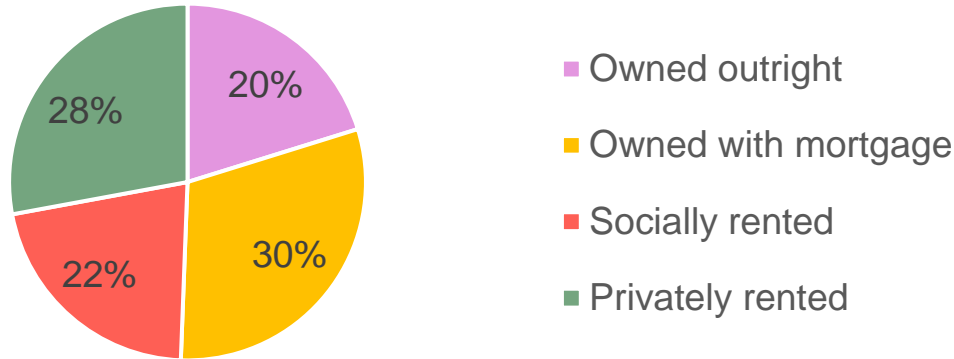
**1,600 residents** (0.6%) use a holiday home  
**Similar** to England (0.8%)  
**Half** the London average (1.1%)



**465 residents** (0.2%) are students with home addresses  
**Far below** England and London averages (1.1%)  
**Likely affected by the pandemic** – as fewer students would have been staying at another address than expected.

## Types of tenure

In 2021



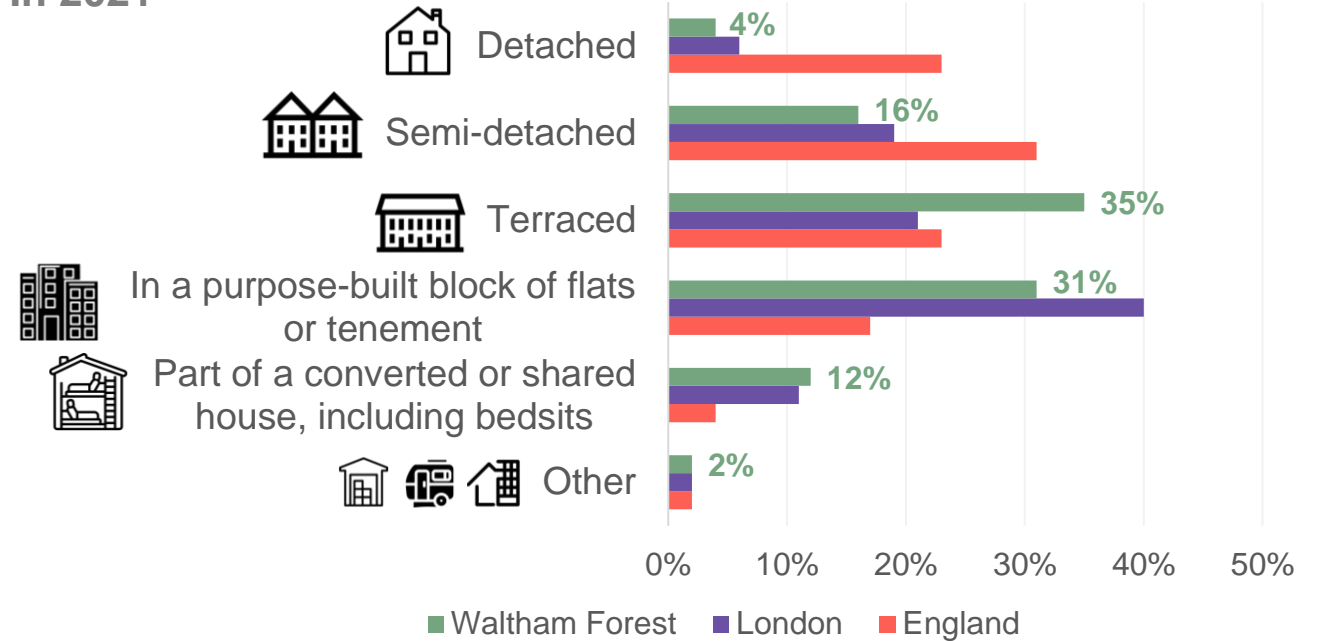
### London

- ❖ Has the lowest level of home ownership in the country (46.8% overall, compared to 48% in WF)
- ❖ Has the highest proportion of private (30%) and social renters (23.1%)



## Type of accommodation

In 2021



## Number of bedrooms

In 2021

Number of bedrooms



19.2%

11.4%



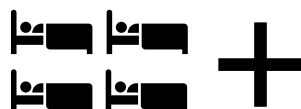
30.9%

27.1%



35.2%

40.4%



17.4%

21.1%

## Occupancy

In 2021

Waltham Forest ranks **7<sup>th</sup>** most overcrowded in London and **8<sup>th</sup>** nationally.

### Overcrowding



Overcrowded households are considered the ones that have fewer bedrooms than required

**13.5%** of households in Waltham Forest (13,800)

**11.1%** of households in London

**4.3%** of households in England and Wales

**are overcrowded**

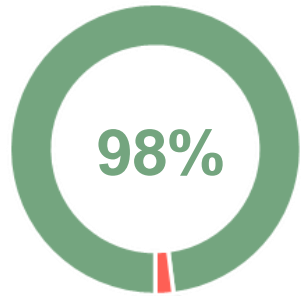
### Under-occupancy

**49%** of households (50,450) in Waltham Forest have **more bedrooms** than required

**37.5%** of households in Waltham Forest (38,600) have the **required number of bedrooms**

## Central heating

In 2021



98% of households have central heating

**2% of households** (2,000) reported they had **none**

- ↓ Lower compared to **3.2%** (3,100) in 2011
- Level with the London average (2.2%)
- ↑ Higher than the national average (1.5%)

Ranked **16<sup>th</sup>** worst in London compared to 7<sup>th</sup> in 2011

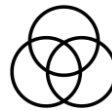
### Most common types of heating



**Mains gas**  
**76%**  
79,000 households



**Electric**  
**10%**  
9,800 households



**Two or more (not incl. renewable)**  
**8%**  
8,000 households



**500 households (0.5%) used at least one renewable energy source** – below the national average (0.9%) and on par with the London average (0.5%)



**Across London** WF ranks **21<sup>st</sup>** for households using at least one renewable energy source. The top boroughs are Southwark (0.73%) and Hackney (0.7%).

## Car ownership

In 2021



**59,600 (58%)** households owned a car



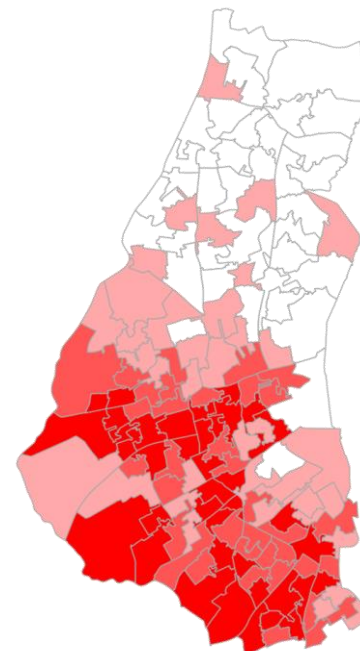
**43,000 (42%)** households did not own a car



**79,000 cars** in Waltham Forest overall



The proportion of households not owning a car stays stable at 42% since 2011, although the absolute number of cars is increasing slightly in line with the population increase in the borough.



**Map of households without cars**

\*where darker red more households with no cars

### Among households with cars...



**3,300**  
own 3+



**12,200**  
own two



**40,600**  
Own one

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**Ethnic groups, national  
identity, language and culture  
in Waltham Forest**

## Diversity



### Greater London

London is the most religiously diverse region in England, with just over **25% of people reporting a religion other than Christianity.**



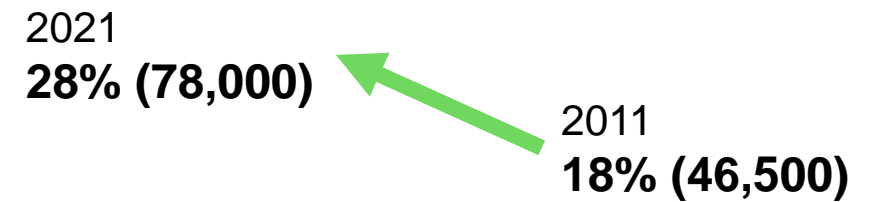
### Waltham Forest

Similar to the regional average – **26%** of people report a religion other than Christianity.

## Irreligion



'No religion' was the **second most common response** in Waltham Forest.



## Christianity



For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half the population described themselves as 'Christian'.



### England and Wales

2011  
59.3% (33.3mn)

2021  
**46.2% (27.5mn)**



### Waltham Forest

2011  
48% (125,000)

2021  
**39% (109,000)**

## Islam



The proportion of Muslim residents in Waltham Forest has remained **unchanged since 2011.**

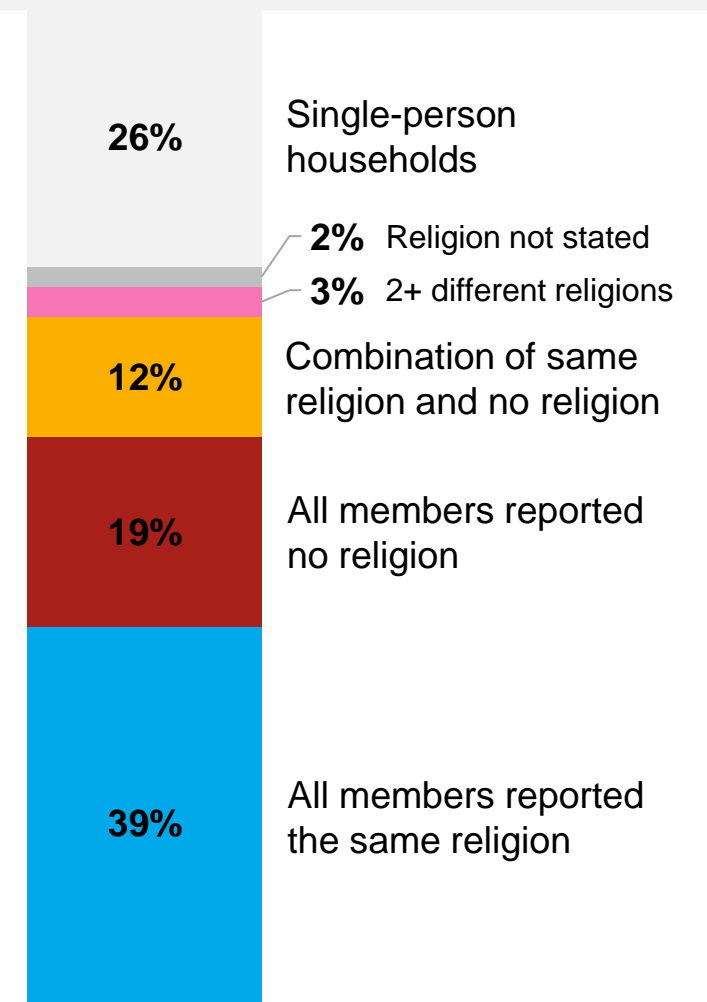
2021  
**22% (60,000)**  
...Compared to 6.5% nationally

## Responses



The religion question is **voluntary** – 93% of usual residents in Waltham Forest answered it in 2021. This is unchanged from 2011.

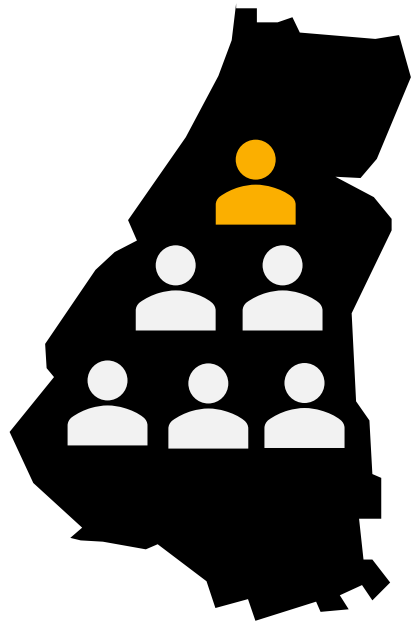
## Religion within households



## Multilingualism



**60,000** people speak another language in Waltham Forest ↓ **-8%** since 2011

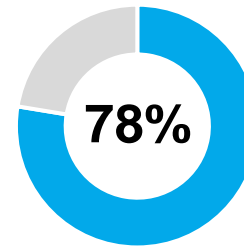


**1 in 6** households in Waltham Forest speak multiple languages...

...compared to **1 in 16** across England and Wales



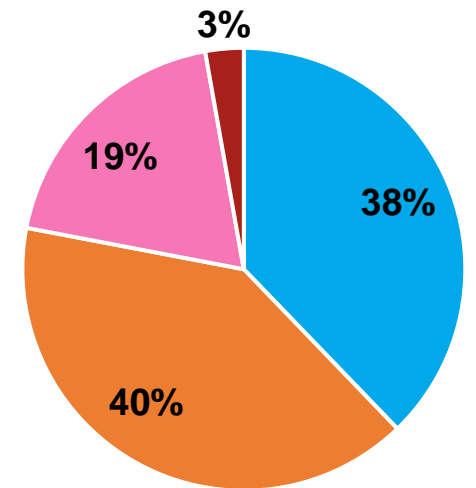
## English as a main language



... of residents aged 3+ have **English as their main language** ↑ **+4%** vs 2011

## English proficiency among non-native speakers

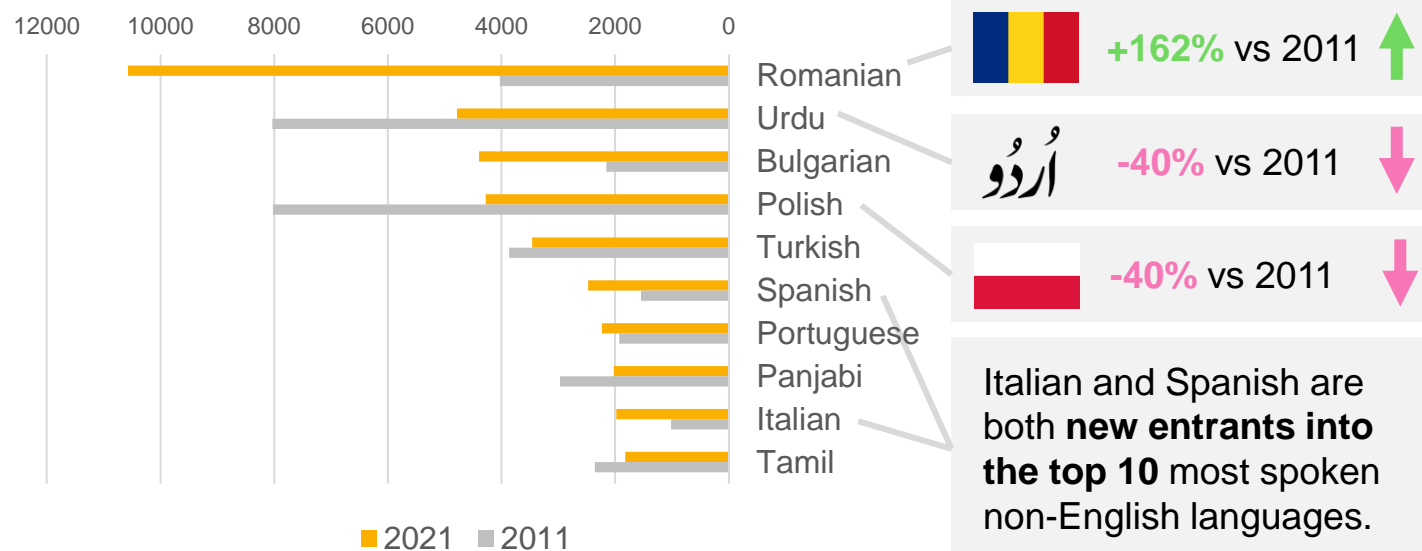
- Can speak English very well
- Can speak English well
- Cannot speak English well
- Cannot speak English



Waltham Forest ranks **29<sup>th</sup> out of 32 London boroughs** for percentage of very good English speakers.

Kensington and Chelsea ranks 1<sup>st</sup> (63%), and Enfield 32<sup>nd</sup> (34%).

## Top 10 non-English languages



Italian and Spanish are both **new entrants into the top 10** most spoken non-English languages.

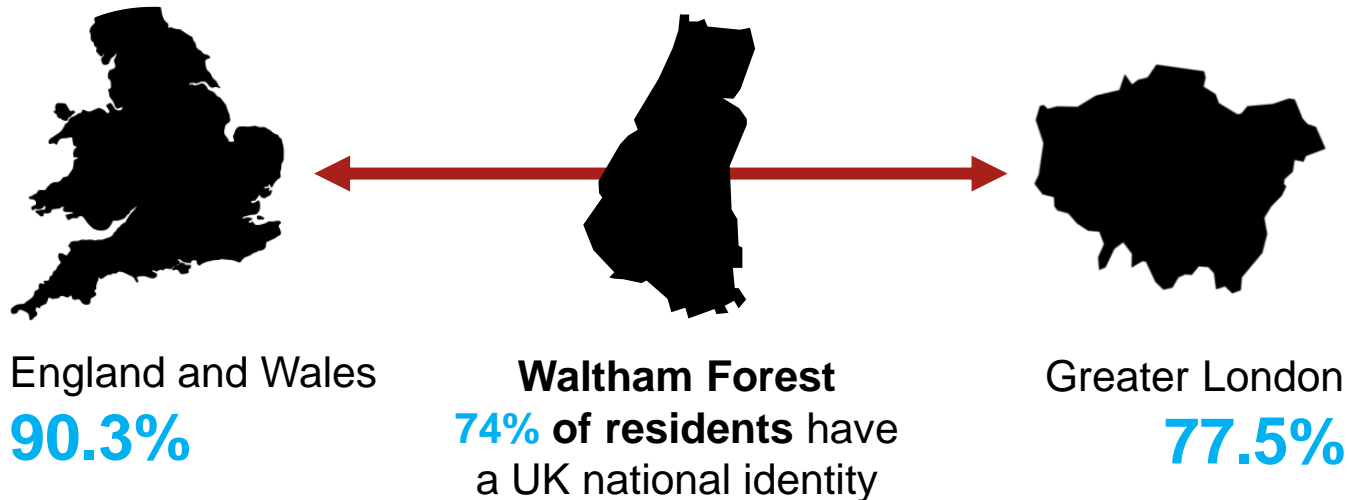
## British sign language



**134 residents** have British Sign Language as their main language



## Overview



## Deep dive: Romanian national identity



Romanians have seen the largest increase across many statistics – likely driven by working restrictions for Romanian citizens being lifted in 2014.

### UK picture

Census 2021  
**0.8%** of population  
**477,000** people  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** most common non-UK identity

Census 2011  
**0.1%** of population  
**73,000** people  
**16<sup>th</sup>** most common non-UK identity



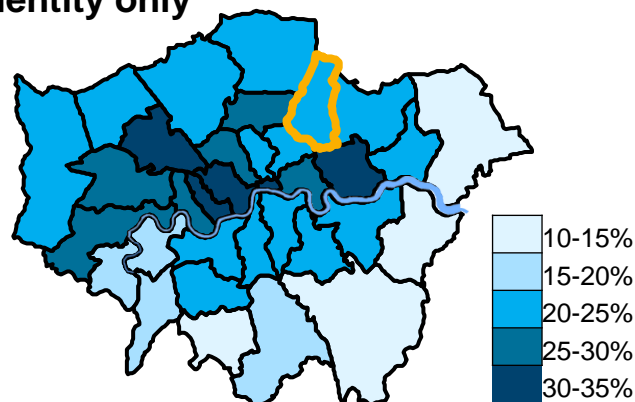
## Non-UK national identities



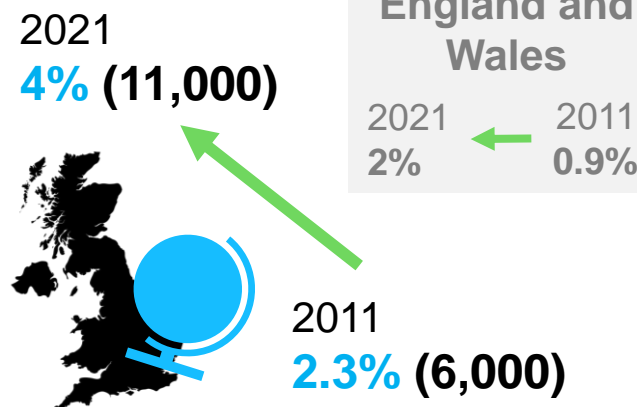
**22%** of the borough's population (58,000 people) identify with a non-UK national identity...

...compared to **25%** in 2011 (64,000) ↓

### % London residents with a non-UK identity only



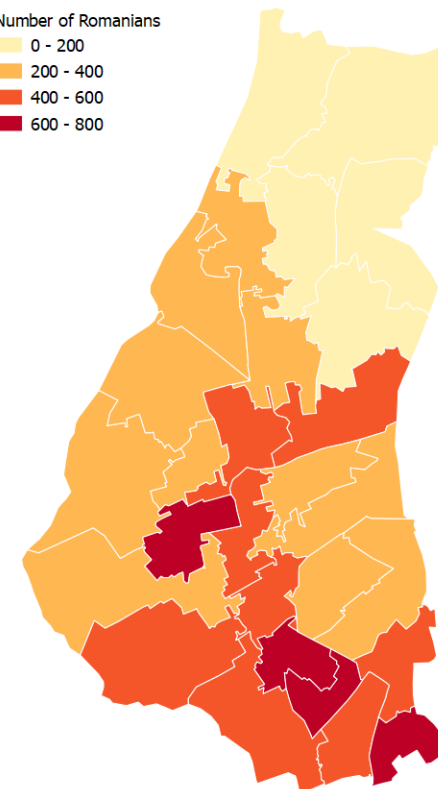
### Both a UK and non-UK identity



### Waltham Forest picture

Number of Romanians

- 0 - 200
- 200 - 400
- 400 - 600
- 600 - 800



Proportion of Romanians has increased from **1.7%** in 2011 (4,000) to **4%** (10,500) in 2021 – the largest increase for any non-UK identity.

**Waltham Forest ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the country for number of Romanian people.**

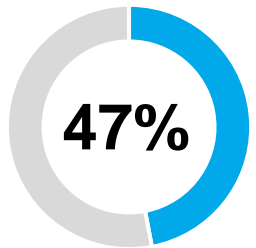
# Ethnic groups in Waltham Forest

## Overview

As of Census 2021, Waltham Forest is the...

**18th** most diverse local authority in England and Wales

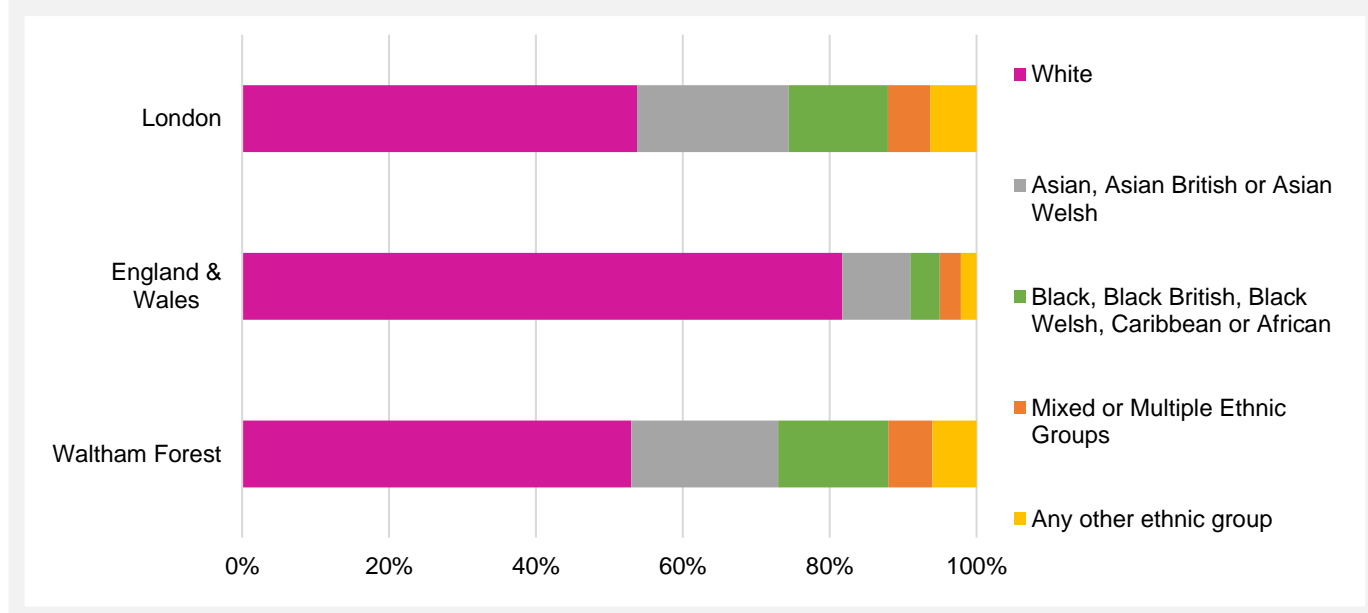
...compared to **10th** in 2011 ↓



...of residents are from ethnic minority backgrounds

...**1% decrease** from 2011 ↓

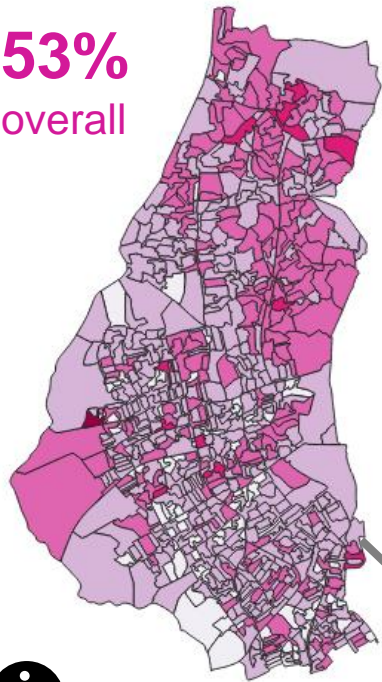
## Ethnic group breakdown



## Ethnicity by area

“White” population

**53%**  
overall



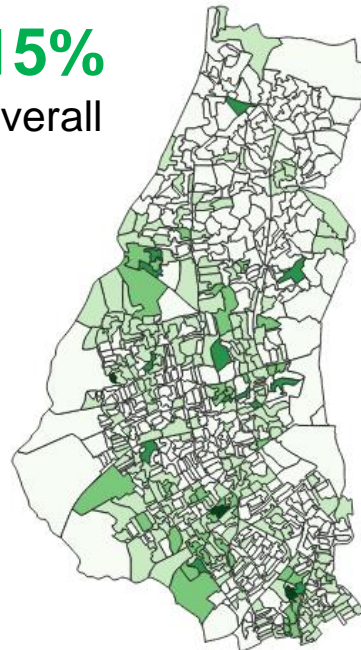
“Asian” population

**20%**  
overall



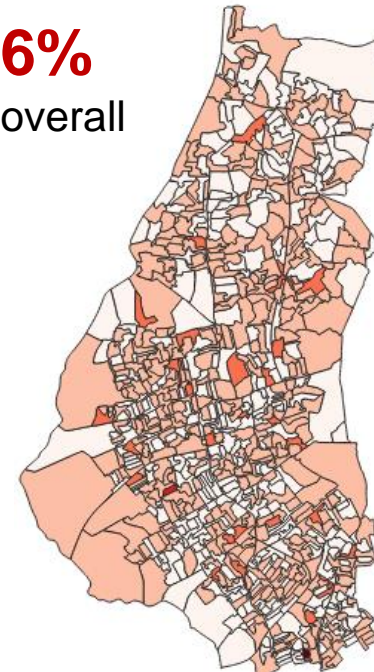
“Black” population

**15%**  
overall



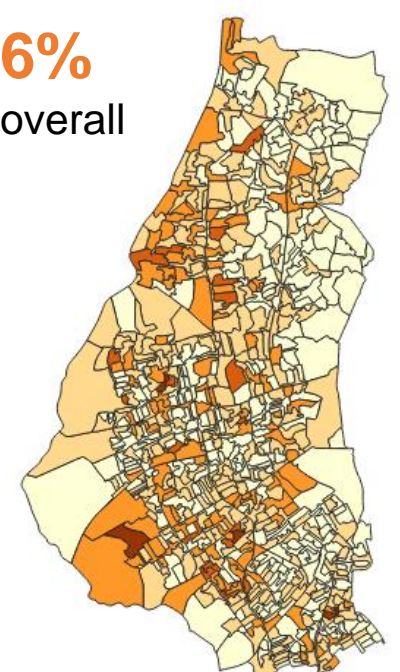
“Mixed” population

**6%**  
overall



Other ethnic group

**6%**  
overall



**i** **34% of total residents (95,000)** identified as “English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” - a continued decrease from 36% in 2011, and from 58% in 2001. A similar trend is recorded nationally.

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# Employment in Waltham Forest



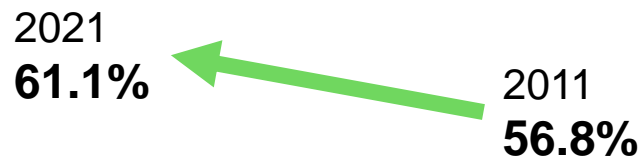
## Note on COVID-19



Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic – a period of unparalleled and rapid change. The national lockdown, associated guidance, and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topic.

## Employment

Waltham Forest saw **England's second-largest percentage-point rise** in the share of people aged 16 years and over (excluding full-time students) who were employed.



Among usual residents aged 16+ (excluding students)...

**47%** (104,000 residents) were **employees**

**14%** (32,000) were **self-employed**

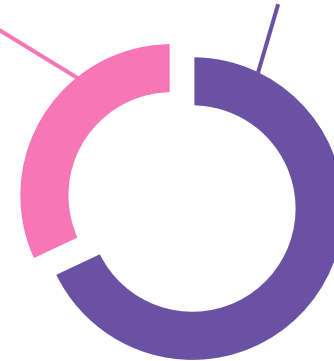
**4.5%** (10,000) were **unemployed**

## Economic activity

At Census Day, 21 March 2021, among usual residents aged 16+ in Waltham Forest...

**71,000 (32%)** were economically **inactive**

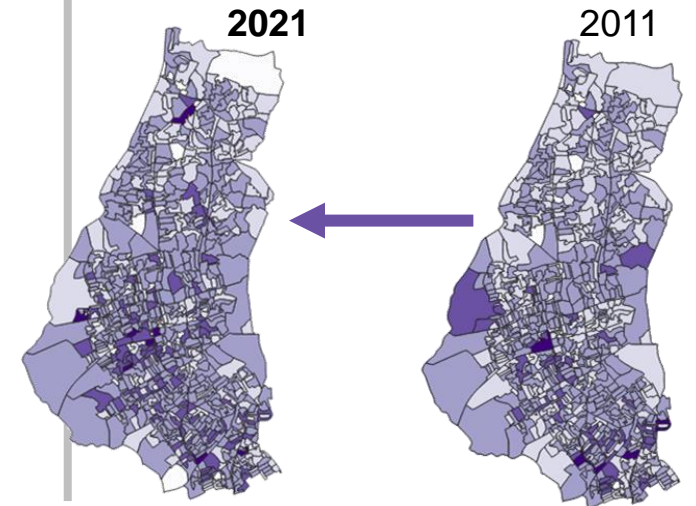
**151,000 (68%)** were economically **active**



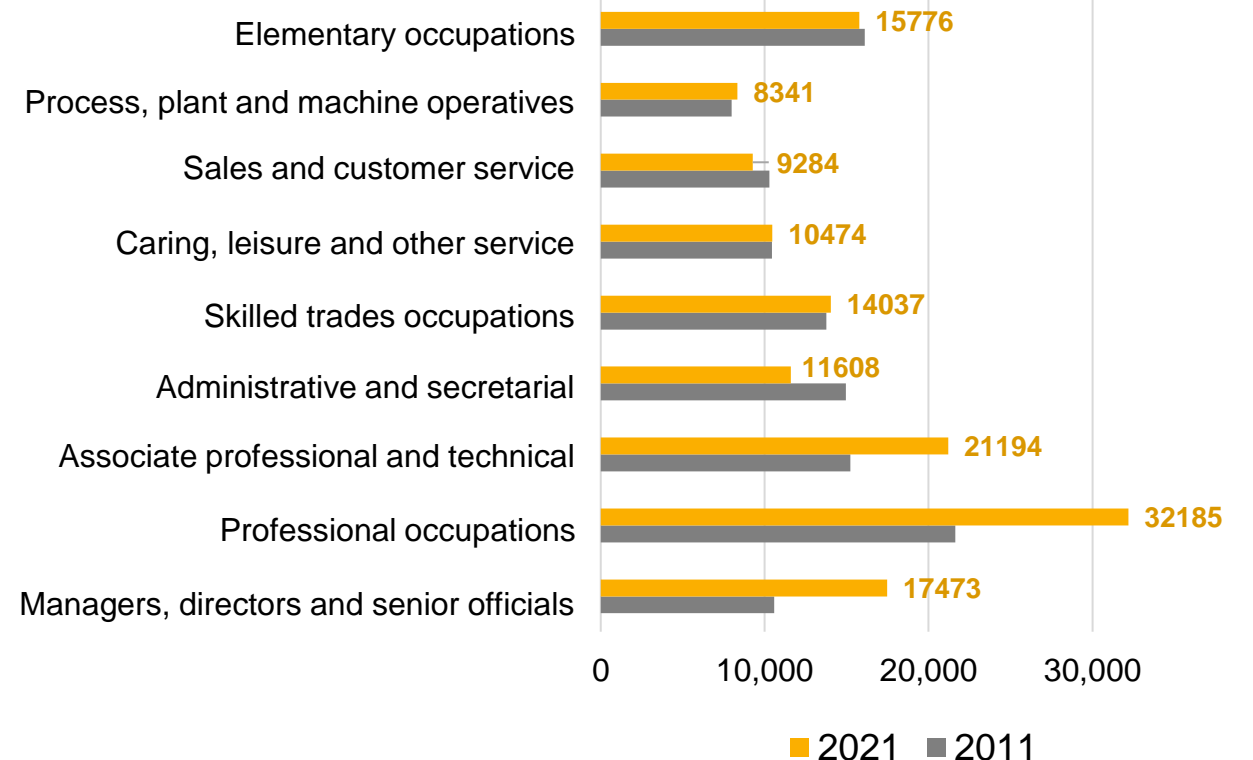
Over **1 in 10** usual residents aged 16+ were economically inactive because of **retirement** (11.6%, 26,000), with **clear concentration in the north** of the borough.



## Map of economically active residents



## Industry and occupation of usual residents



This is equivalent to **1 in 7** Waltham Forest residents being self-employed...

This is the **8<sup>th</sup> highest proportion among LAs in England and Wales**, on par with Kensington and Chelsea, and Richmond.

## Note on COVID-19

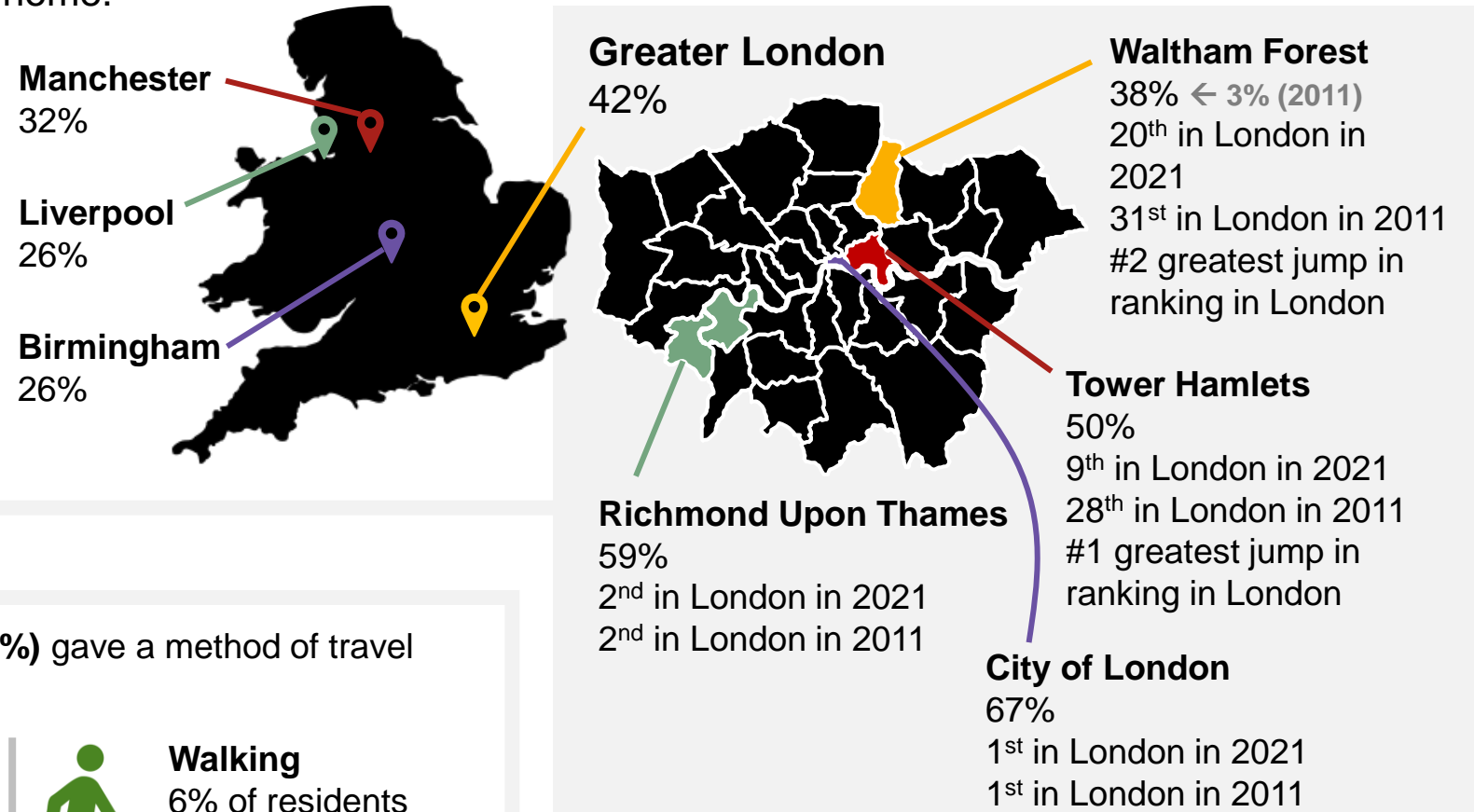


**Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic** – a period of unparalleled and rapid change. On Census day a nationwide lockdown was still in place, with government requiring people to work from home wherever possible, public transport discouraged, furlough measures, and non-essential shops and businesses closed. **Inevitably, this had an impact on travel.**

Due to questionnaire limitations, Census 2021 travel to work data contains a mixture of pandemic and pre-pandemic travel behaviours.

## Working from home

In the week before Census Day, 21 March 2021, **30% of usual residents across England and Wales** (aged 16+ and in employment) worked mainly at or from home.



## Modes of travel in Waltham Forest

Just over **87,000 usual residents of Waltham Forest (62%)** gave a method of travel other than 'at or work from home'. On Census Day...



**Driving a car or van**  
20% of residents  
Most selected mode of travel to work  
Well below England average (45%)



**Using the underground**  
18% of residents ← 33% (2011)  
2<sup>nd</sup> highest usage in London (after Newham)  
Well above London average (10%)



**Taking the bus**  
7% of residents  
Most selected mode of travel to work  
Well below England average (45%)



**Walking**  
6% of residents  
On par with London average



**Cycling**  
4% of residents ← 3% (2011)  
Above London (3%) and England average (2%).

## Travel distance to work

