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## Spelthorne Area Profile

**Overview**

The borough of Spelthorne has a population of approximately 101,000 and covers an area of 20 square miles. It is located on the south-west edge of London and in the north-west of the county of Surrey. Neighbouring boroughs are Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead, Runnymede, Elmbridge, and the London Boroughs of Richmond upon Thames, Hounslow and Hillingdon. Spelthorne is densely populated and has five main urban areas - Ashford, Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames, Stanwell and Sunbury. Outside the urban areas, 65% is green belt and 30% of the total area is either flood plain or reservoir. 17% of the borough is water, and Spelthorne has 12 miles of River Thames frontage.

Seven of Surrey’s 20 most deprived super output areas are in Spelthorne. Three are in the ward of Stanwell North, two in Ashford North and Stanwell South and one in each of Ashford East and Sunbury Common. 21.5% of those in work in Stanwell North are in low level employment compared to an average of 11.6% in Surrey. The majority of the Social Housing stock is owned by A2 Dominion, with approximately 5000 properties in the borough.

According to the 2013 UK Competitiveness rankings Spelthorne was ranked 13th out of 379 authority areas. This is a higher ranking than any surrounding neighbouring authority areas (including London Boroughs) other than Windsor & Maidenhead (ranked 10th) and in Surrey is second only to Mole Valley (ranked 11th).

**Significant demographic information**

In the 2011 ONS Census, the population was 95,598. This has increased by 5,208 since 2001, and was estimated to rise to 98,902 in 2016. There is a lower percentage of people aged under 30 (34.4%) compared to the South East (36.3%) and England (37.7%), but a higher percentage of people aged 65+ (17.4%).

The borough has the highest number of lone parent families and the highest level of child poverty in Surrey; it also has the highest under-18 conception rate in the county.

Residents are largely healthy, with life expectancy for both males and females slightly above the national average.  
  
Heathrow is a significant local employer, taking 8.3% of Spelthorne’s working population. Overall, the borough has a low rate of unemployment (2.6% of those aged 16 and over) compared to the South East (3.5%) and UK as a whole (4.2%).

**Current Local Issues**

Spelthorne is developing its new Local Plan for 2020 - 2035. The next phase of public consultation is scheduled from November 2019, and adoption of the plan is expected in spring 2021. Pressure on the green belt will remain as the borough considers how to provide a sustainable housing development programme in balance with other priorities. Read more <https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/localplan>.

Flooding and the proposed construction of the flood-relief channel remains a key topic. Staines, Shepperton and Sunbury each have extensive frontage along the Thames and the area remains vulnerable to flooding.

With the vote by central government in 2018 to support the building of a third runway at Heathrow, this will be a significant subject for the council and residents over coming years. Business and employment opportunities, environmental concerns and transport infrastructure will all be looked at carefully.

**The local political structure**

The MP for Spelthorne since 2010 has been Kwasi Kwarteng.

**Surrey County Council**

There are 81 member of Surrey County Council. Following the elections in May 2017, 61 are Conservative, 9 Liberal Democrats, 9 Residents’ Association/Independents, 1 Labour and 1 Green. The Leader is Tim Oliver, who leads a [Cabinet of 10 members](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=120).

There are [7 county councillors](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1) representing Divisions in Spelthorne: 6 Conservative, 1 Labour.

The Borough Council has 39 Members: 23 Conservative, 8 Liberal Democrat, 4 Labour, 2 Green, 2 unaffiliated independents. The Leader of the Council is Cllr Ian Harvey (Con).

Spelthorne Joint Committee:

The Joint Committee is made up of 14 Councillors (seven County Councillors and seven Borough Councillors). The Chairman of the Joint Committee rotates between Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council. In 2019-20 (period ending in May) it is Mr Richard Walsh, with borough councillor Ian Harvey as vice-chairman.

The Spelthorne Joint Committee aims to improve outcomes and value for money for residents by strengthening local democracy and improving partnership work within the borough. See [www.surreycc.gov.uk/spelthorne](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/spelthorne)

### Local priorities

Spelthorne Borough Council’s mission is to deliver ‘quality, best value for money services that matter most to our residents’. Its values are: Accountability, Self-Reliance, Community, Opportunity, Tradition.  
  
Its priorities are:   
  
• Housing  
• Economic Development  
• Clean and Safe Environment  
• Financial Stability.

**Local Services**

**Children and Young People**

SCC operates six Children’s Centres in Spelthorne:

* Buckland Sure Start Children's Centre, Staines
* Clarendon School & Sure Start Children's Centre, Ashford
* Saxon Sure Start Children's Centre, Shepperton
* Stanwell Sure Start Children's Centre, Stanwell
* Kenyngton Manor Primary School & Sure Start Children's Centre, Sunbury on Thames
* Spelthorne School & Sure Start Children's Centre, Ashford

There are five youth centres in Spelthorne:

* Ashford Youth Centre, Kenilworth Road, Ashford TW15 3EL
* Leacroft Youth Centre, Raleigh Crescent, Staines TW18 4PB
* Shepperton Youth Centre, Shepperton Court Drive, Shepperton TW17 8EJ
* Stanwell Youth Centre, Hadrian Way, Stanwell TW19 7HE
* Sunbury Youth Centre, Bryony Way, Beechwood, Sunbury TW16 7QL

Find out more here: <https://familyinformationdirectory.surreycc.gov.uk/kb5/surrey/fsd/home.page>

**Community Centres**

There are four community centres in Spelthorne:

* The Benwell Centre, Sunbury TW16 6RT
* The Fordbridge Centre, Ashford TW15 2PU
* The Greeno Centre, Shepperton TW17 9DH
* The Staines Community Centre, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 4EA

More information: <https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitycentres>

**Spelthorne Family Support Programme**   
The Government’s ‘Troubled Families Programme‘ supports families with complex and multiple needs in every borough and district across Surrey. In Spelthorne, it is known as the ‘Spelthorne Family Support Programme’. The programme focuses in particular on families whose children or young people:   
- have very poor school attendance;   
- have behavioural difficulties at school that have led to exclusions;   
- have been involved in anti-social behaviour or offending; and   
- are working age adults or young people who are in receipt of unemployment benefits;   
- have been involved in anti-social behaviour or offending.   
  
Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Epsom and Ewell are working together with approximately 280 families to deliver the programme. The main base for the staff is Elmbridge but there is a hot desk in Spelthorne.   
  
See <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/familysupportprogramme>

### Schools and Colleges in Spelthorne

* Primary Schools: 23

(15 LA maintained, 6 Academy, 1 independent, 1 Pupil Referral Unit)

* Secondary Schools: 8

(5 Academy, 2 independent, 1 LA maintained)

* Special Schools:

(1 Community)

* Further Education Colleges

1 – Brooklands College

**Fire stations**

Spelthorne has fire stations in Staines and Sunbury. A new fire station currently under construction at the Fordbridge junction on the A308 between Staines and Ashford will replace the two existing stations once completed.

Find out more: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/fire-and-rescue/locations/fire-stations

**Libraries**

There are five libraries in the borough:

* [Sunbury library](https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2374/Sunbury-library)
* [Ashford library](https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2375/Ashford-library)
* [Staines library](https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2376/Staines-library)
* [Stanwell library](https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2377/Stanwell-library)
* [Shepperton library](https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2378/Shepperton-library)

**Partnership Working**

1. **Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP)**

Membership of this Partnership includes the Borough and County Councils, police and fire services, and the north-west Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group. Other organisations can attend meetings when appropriate. The vision for SSSP is the creation of a safe and stronger borough through the reduction of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour; engaging and empowering communities; and improving confidence and providing greater reassurance for all those who live and work in the borough.

1. **Health and Wellbeing Strategic Group**

This group oversees progress towards the priorities set out in the Spelthorne Health and Wellbeing strategy – read more here <https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/17592/Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy>

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