**Overview**

The Borough of Surrey Heath was formed on 1 April 1974 as a merger of the former Frimley and Camberley Urban & Bagshot Rural Districts. There are six parishes served by four parish councils within the borough – Bisley, Chobam, West End and Windlesham. The borough is located in the north west of Surrey and borders the Berkshire Borough of Bracknell Forest in the north and the Hampshire Boroughs of Hart and Rushmoor in the West, the Surrey Boroughs of Guildford, Woking and Runnymede on the South and East.   
  
The Borough has one main town: Camberley. The town has its roots in the building of the Royal Military College, which later became the Royal Military Academy (RMA), Sandhurst in 1812. The population make-up has been heavily influenced by Sandhurst and Camberley has the third highest Nepali population in the UK. In the 19th Century, Camberley’s population grew with the arrival of the railways and in the 1950s, the Old Dean housing estate was built for homeless residents of Surrey after World War II. There are two small airports nearby at Farnborough Airfield and Blackbushe Airport, Yateley.   
  
The key areas of deprivation in the borough are the Old Dean and St Michael’s wards. The Old Dean is a focus for partners in relation to reducing inequalities. Today, the majority of social housing in the Borough is owned by Accent Peerless housing trust.   
  
The borough is located in the Green Belt. There are five Sites of Special Specific Interest, four of which are part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area of European Importance as a habitat for certain endangered bird species. As such, planning applications in the borough are often subject to SANGS regulations (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space).  Chobham Common is the main area of heathland and is a priority for the Local Strategic Partnership in relation to reducing heath fires through arson.

**Significant demographic information**

* In 2016, Surrey Heath borough had a population of 88,705. 18% of which were under 15, 19% were over 65, and 63% were between 16 and 64.
* Crime within Surrey Heath is consistently below average for Surrey.
* Surrey Heath has a higher than average population density for Surrey (9.29 people per hectare).
* Residents are largely healthy, with above average life expectancy except within the Old Dean area. The key areas of relative deprivation are in Old Dean and St Michaels areas (IMD 2016).
* 0.7% of the economically active population of Surrey Heath are unemployed

**Current Local Issues**

* **One of the key priorities for Surrey Heath Borough Council is the redevelopment of Camberley town centre, and an Area Action Plan has been developed to identify the vision for the area:** <http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/other-planning-documents/camberley-town-centre-area-action-plan> **There is also a Camberley Town Centre Masterplan and Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document which was approved by the borough Executive in 2015:** <http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/camberley-town-centre-masterplan>
* **There are currently three big developments that will affect the infrastructure within Surrey Heath; the redevelopment of Deepcut Barracks, the DERA site at Longcross and the proposed Fairoaks Garden Village. Of the three the proposed Fairoaks development is due for consideration by the borough council.** <http://surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/planning/fairoaks-airport>
* Congestion along the A30 and around the Meadows Roundabout on the border with Hants and Rushmoor continues to be a local issue. There has been a round of public consultation on proposals to improve the layout of the roundabout over 2017/2018, and works are now being carried out in conjunction with funding from the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/meadows-roundabout>
* With Sandhurst Military Academy on the border of the council, one of the local aims is to work with the armed forces communities both active and retired to support improved integration of personnel between military and civilian communities. Surrey Heath borough support a Military Board that focuses on projects meeting the needs of these communities, which works in alignment with the Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board.

**The local political structure**

There is one MP who represents Surrey Heath Borough (Parliamentary elections May 2017):

* Michael Gove

**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 [6 county councillors](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1) representing the area of Surrey Heath. They will work both with services and committees at a county level, but are also involved in the Local Area Committee ([Surrey Heath Local Committee](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=144)) which aims to make decisions on county functions at a borough level, and allow residents to engage with their local representatives on a regular basis. The Chairman is County Councillor Bill Chapman and the Vice-Chairman is County Councillor Edward Hawkins (twin-hatted).

**Surrey Heath Borough Council**

There are [35 members of Surrey Heath Borough Council](http://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?FN=PARTY&VW=LIST&PIC=0) covering 14 wards. Following the elections in early May 2019, 18 are Conservative, 4 Independent, 10 Liberal Democrat, 1 Labour and 2 Green Party.  The Leader has an [Executive of 9 members](http://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=127).

Surrey Heath Borough Council have a [5-year plan setting](http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/council/about-council/five-year-strategy) out how it plans to meet the needs of residents. The work is themed under Place, Prosperity, People and Performance.

**Parish Councils**

There are 6 parishes Bagshot, Bisley, Chobham, Lightwater, West End and Windlesham within the borough of Surrey Heath, [4 have Parish Councils](http://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?ls=12&SLS=5&bcr=1) (Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham are under the purview of Windlesham PC).

**Local Services**

**Children and Young People**

There are two youth centres in the Surrey Heath area that are focused on the areas of highest deprivation (Indices of Multiple Deprivation June 2016). Find out more: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service/support-and-advice-for-parents-and-carers/young-people-information-for-families/youth-centres-and-projects/youth-centres-and-projects-in-surrey-heath>

* Frimley Green Youth Centre, Wharfenden Way, Frimley Green, Camberley GU16 6PJ
* Old Dean Youth and Community Centre, Kingston Road, Camberley GU15 4AF

**Vulnerable Adults**

The Adult Social Care locality and reablement teams are based in Surrey Heath Borough Council offices at Surrey Heath House, Knoll Road, Camberley, alongside Surrey Heath Borough Council staff.

There are two grant funded centres for retired people in Surrey Heath in Bisley and West End. Find out more: <http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/communities-wellbeing/care-support/centres-older-people>

**Schools in Surrey Heath borough**

* Infant Schools (Entry age 4 years +): 8

(6 Academy, 2 Community)

* Junior Schools (Entry age 7 years +): 5

(4 Academy and 1 Voluntary Controlled)

* Primary Schools: 9

(8 Academy and 1 Voluntary Aided)

* Secondary Schools: 3

(2 Academy and 1 Foundation)

* Special Schools: 2

(1 Academy and 1 Community)

**Fire Stations**

The main fire station in Surrey Heath is based on London Road in Camberley, with a secondary station in Chobham. The Camberley site has 2 Fire Engines, a Water Carrier and a Landrover, with the Chobham site housing a Fire Engine with an on-call crew. Find out more: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/surrey-fire-and-rescue/how-to-locate-and-contact-surrey-fire-and-rescue/fire-stations-in-surrey-and-their-action-plans>

**Partnership activity**

**1. Surrey Heath Partnership**

The Surrey Heath Partnership is the combination of the Heath and Wellbeing Board for the area and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (more recently know as the Community Safety Partnership). The Leader of the Borough Council chairs this Partnership. The Police, SCC Adults Locality & Partnership Teams and Clinical Commissioning Group are co-located within Surrey Heath House.

**2. Surrey Heath Joint Executive**

This is an informal meeting of members of Executives from both authorities alongside the Chief Executive of the borough council and a senior officer from Surrey County Council, which discusses collaborative working on strategic issues for the borough of Surrey Heath.