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# Runnymede profile 2019

### Overview

The administrative borough of Runnymede is one of the smallest in Surrey, covering very slightly over 30 square miles, and is made up of three distinct areas: Egham and Englefield Green to the north (county boundary with Windsor & Maidenhead), Chertsey and Virginia Water in the middle, and Addlestone and New Haw to the south, bordering Woking. The M25 runs through the borough from north to south, and the M3 from west to east. 78% of the Borough is Green Belt.

The Borough boasts several high profile local attractions such as Thorpe Park, The Savill Garden, Wentworth Golf Club, the Magna Carta Memorial, the Air Forces Memorial, Virginia Water Lake, Runnymede Meadows, Runnymede Pleasure Ground and the River Thames for leisure and commercial use.

Egham is home to some major businesses such as British Gas and Veolia Water. The borough’s largest employment sector is wholesale and retail trade, followed by health and social services.

**Significant demographic information**

The 2011 Census recorded a population for the borough of 80,510, an increase of 3.2% over the 2001 census. The percentage of adults over 65 was nearly 17%, putting it in the middle of the range of the county’s 11 boroughs and districts; the census data also indicates that the borough has the highest proportion of residents in the 18-25 age group in Surrey, and RBC wishes to retain this age group in the area by addressing their needs for housing, leisure, schools and so on. The average household size in Runnymede was 2.36, the second-lowest in Surrey – Mole Valley has the lowest at 2.34 and Surrey Heath the largest at 2.52.

The vast majority of businesses (89%) employ fewer than 10 people, and 97% employ fewer than 50.

**Current Local Issues**

Runnymede Borough Council is developing its new Local Plan, which was submitted to the Secretary of State in summer 2018. This will provide the framework to guide future development in the borough and will include policies for managing development and infrastructure to meet the identified social, environmental, and economic challenges facing the area up to 2030. <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/localplanconsultation>.

Following approval of its Masterplan in 2015, Royal Holloway College (University of London) is expanding its education and accommodation offer at its Egham/Englefield Green sites with a new Library on its main north campus and student accommodation to the south on Harvest Road.

Flooding and the proposed construction of the flood-relief channel remains a key topic. Approximately 30% of the Borough is located in the floodplain (flood zones 2 and 3) which leaves approximately 1300 commercial and approximately 11,600 residential addresses at risk from fluvial flooding.

New proposed housing developments such as those in Longcross, Virginia Water and Ottershaw, and proposed highways engineering schemes on the A320, are key areas of discussion, as is air quality along the motorway corridors.

**The local political structure**

The MP for Runnymede and Weybridge is Philip Hammond (Conservative).

**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). With 3 Deputy Cabinet Members.

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

**Runnymede Borough Council**

The Borough Council has 41 members. Three in each ward and two in Englefield Green East. Following elections in May 2019 there are 25 Conservative, 2 Labour, 6 Independent Residents’ Group, 3 Liberal Democrats, 2 Residents’ Associations of Runnymede, 2 Independents and 1 Green. The Council leader is Councillor Nick Prescot. The Council retains a committee structure and has no executive. The chief executive officer is Paul Turrell.

**Runnymede Joint Committee**

The Joint Committee is made up of 12 Councillors (six County Councillors and six Borough Councillors). The Chairman of the Joint Committee rotates between Surrey County Council and Runnymede Borough Council. In 2019-20 (period ending May 2020) it is Borough Councillor, Mark Maddox, with County Councillor Mark Nuti as vice-chairman.

The Runnymede 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/runnymede](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/runnymede)

**Local Priorities**Runnymede Borough Council’s community strategy A Vision for Runnymede (2012) highlighted these priorities for town centre revitalisation:

• To promote Addlestone as a centre for retail and leisure activity for the borough to provide an urban environment that is fitting for those who live, work and play in the town;

• To promote Egham as a university town providing the link between past, present and future;

• To protect the historic core of Chertsey town centre, whilst enhancing its retail offer.

• To enhance the village character of Virginia Water and rail connections to London.

**Local Services**

**Children and Young People**

There are two county-council owned youth centres in the borough:

* Addlestone
* Egham

<https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/article/15589/Youth-Centres-in-Runnymede>

There are also four Surestart children's centres: The Haven (Egham/Englefield Green), Chertsey, and New Haw, which will provide services under the Early Help offer. Sayes Court (Addlestone) has relocated to Addlestone Young People’s and Family Centre.

 <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families/support-and-advice/family-centres/locations/runnymede>

**Community Centres**

### **Three social centres are available in Runnymede:**

### **Eileen Tozer in Addlestone**

### **Manor Farm in Egham**

### **The Woodham and New Haw Centre**

### **Each of the centres offers a unique, varied and interactive timetable of activities for older residents throughout the week, from exercise classes, quizzes, games and more.**

### <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/centres>

**Runnymede Family Support Programme**

Runnymede and Surrey Heath Borough Councils have joined in partnership to deliver the Family Support Programme (FSP). It aims to inspire, motivate and enable families to learn, develop and implement change for families to enjoy all aspects of family life and make a positive contribution to their local community.

<https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/familysupport>

### Schools and Colleges in Runnymede

Primary: 20

(13 LA maintained, 1 Pupil Referral Unit, 4 independent, 2 academy)

Secondary: 10

(5 independent, 2 academy, 1 Pupil Referral Unit, 1 community special school, 1 free school)

**Universities and colleges**

Royal Holloway, University of London is located in Egham. It has 9511 students divided between 7,560 undergraduates, 1,333 postgraduate taught students and 618 postgraduate research students.

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2017/18 place RHUL 197th in the world and 31st overall in the UK. In the category of ‘International Outlook’, it was ranked 11th in the UK.

Both The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 and The Complete University Guide 2019 ranked the university 28th in the UK.

### Strode’s College in Egham, established in 1975 but dating back to 1706, takes over 1,100 full-time day-time 16-19 year old students and 1,500 adults who take advantage of an extensive evening class provision and courses run for the local business community.

**Fire stations**

There are two fire stations in Runnymede, in Chertsey and Egham.

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

**Libraries**Two libraries are run by community partners, at Virginia Water and New Haw, and the premises at Virginia Water were refurbished in 2015 so that community activities can run there. The libraries at Egham, Addlestone and Chertsey are run by the county council.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries>.

**Museums and heritage**

Chertsey Museum is set in a beautiful regency town house. It features the outstanding Olive Mathews collection of dress and textiles and other collections including Runnymede social history and Greek pottery.

Egham library exhibits photos, documents, objects, maps, etc. relating to the history of Egham, the Hythe, Englefield Green, Virginia Water and Thorpe.

Following the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta celebrations at Runnymede Meadows beside the Thames in 2015, and the popularity of the new memorial "The Jurors" (commissioned from artist Hew Locke), the county council is working with the National Trust and borough council on further improvements at this important site.

In June 2018, a new architectural artwork called *Writ in Water* opened at Runnymede. The work reflects upon the founding principles of democracy, and through a meeting of water, sky and light, provides visitors with a space for reflection and contemplation.

**Partnership Working**

1. **Runnymede Community Safety Partnership**

Membership of this Partnership includes the Borough and County Councils, police, youth service and Surrey Safety Partnership. The Partnership aims to ensure 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.

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