**Overview**

The Borough of Waverley was formed on 1 April 1974 as a merger of the former municipal borough of Godalming, with Farnham and Haslemere urban districts and Hambledon Rural District. The borough is completely parished, with 18 parish councils and 3 town councils (Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere) and is bordered by the borough of Guildford to the north, Mole Valley district to the east, West Sussex to the south and Hampshire and Hart districts to the west and northwest. In 2013, Waverley was considered the fourth best place in England for the quality of life of its residents.

The Borough has three main towns - Farnham in the west, Godalming in the north, Haslemere in the south, plus the large village of Cranleigh in the east, with a range of villages and hamlets in between. The arterial route from Portsmouth to London (A3) dissects the borough, and the Hindhead Tunnel has been the biggest development along that route.

The borough of Waverley doesn’t have an area that ranks highly on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), although the areas of highest deprivation in the borough are within or close to the towns, including Farnham Upper Hale (and the Chantries) and Godalming (Ockford Ridge and Binscombe). The housing stock remains under Borough Council management; there are in addition a number of Registered Social Landlords with modest holdings, most significantly First Wessex at Sandy Hill, Farnham.

The borough is located between the North and South Downs (a Wealden borough) predominantly within the Green Belt and pockets within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). However there are concerns regarding the air quality in areas such as Farnham and the south eastern villages of the borough (IMD 2016).

**Significant demographic information**

* In 2016, the borough had a population of 124, 593 which is the fourth most populous in the county. 18% of which were under 15, 22% were over 65, and 60% were between 16 and 64.
* Around 70% of population lives in one of the 3 towns and Cranleigh; remainder in rural wards; the diversity of rural and urban environments is seen as a significant feature and asset of the borough.
* Crime within Waverley is consistently below average for Surrey.
* Waverley has a significantly lower than average population density for Surrey (3.29 people per hectare).
* Residents are largely healthy, with above average life expectancy except within Farnham Upper Hale area. Waverley has wards with the highest (Godalming Holloway ward) and lowest (Hindhead ward) life expectancy for females in Surrey. Waverley has the highest life expectance for males in Haslemere East and Grayswood Ward.
* The key areas of relative deprivation are in Farnham Upper Hale and north Godalming in Ockford Ridge and Binscombe (IMD 2016). Within Farnham Upper Hale, there is a good history of productive multi-agency social inclusion activity not only here but in a number of other neighbourhoods with a similar profile, e.g. The Chantrys (Farnham). At Sandy Hill a successful transfer of a community asset to the voluntary sector, on a long lease from the County Council, has taken place (The Bungalow).
* Waverley has the lowest level of unemployment in the county with 0.5% of the economically active population being unemployed, and the greatest pocket of involuntary unemployment being within Ockford Ridge and Binscombe.

**Current Local Issues**

* **The Waverley borough Local Plan Part 1: strategy and sites was adopted by the Council in February 2018. Part 2 – setting out how the Council plans to deliver this strategy is currently in the consultation phase, in preparation for it to be published late 2018, submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration early 2019 and implementation in 2019. As well as proposed developments in the borough, e**xtensive residential developments in surrounding areas (e.g. Farnborough, Bordon/Whitehill, Fernhurst) are anticipated to have an effect on Waverley, especially on major traffic routes, but also parking at rail-heads, as well as the demand for affordable housing. <http://www.waverley.gov.uk/localplan>
* **One of the key priorities for Waverley Borough Council is the redevelopment of Farnham town centre called the Brightwells Regeneration Scheme. The aim is to introduce a new focus for the town, improving leisure facilities, part-pedestrianisation and to improve traffic flow in the town centre. This is one of several large developments in Farnham taking place at the same time. There is a concern regarding the air quality for residents in Farnham, as well as the need to reduce congestion (especially when the Hindhead Tunnel closes). For more information:** <http://www.waverley.gov.uk/info/200349/view_and_comment/516/brightwells_farnham_regeneration_scheme/1>

**The local political structure**

There are two parliamentary constituencies in this area. Each constituency has one MP:

* Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt, South West Surrey (Conservative)
* Rt Hon Anne Milton, Guildford (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).

**Waverley Local Committee**

There are [9 county councillors](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1) representing the area of Waverley. They work with services and committees at a county level, but are also involved in the [Waverley Local Committee](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=195) which aims to make decisions on county functions at a borough level, such as highways, speed limits, on-street parking, rights of way and youth services.

The Local Committee is a forum for councillors, residents and businesses to engage with the county’s services at a local level and allows residents to engage with their local representatives on a regular basis, so that their voices and opinions are heard. The committee’s reach goes beyond those who attend the meetings, through social media and online presence, aiming to bring the county council and their services closer to the residents of Waverley.

Waverley Local Committee comprises 9 County and 9 Borough Councillors. The Chairman is County Councillor Victoria Young and the Vice-Chairman is County Councillor David Harmer.

**Waverley Borough Council**

There are [57 members of Waverley Borough Council](https://modgov.waverley.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1). Following the elections in May 2019, Waverley has gone from having a large Conservative majority to No Overall Control. It comprises 23 Conservative, 15 Farnham Residents, 14 Liberal Democrat, 2 Labour, 2 Green, 1 Independent. The current Leader is Councillor John Ward (Farnham Residents), who leads an [Executive of 9 members](https://modgov.waverley.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=132).

Waverley Borough Council’s5-year Corporate Plan from 2018-2023 <https://www.waverley.gov.uk/info/200313/about_your_council/524/waverley_corporate_strategy_2018-2023> lays out how it plans to meet the needs of residents, with a vision that Waverley borough will continue to be an attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit. A place where residents can take pride in their communities and where there are opportunities for all to thrive and lead healthy lives. A place that is valued by its community and supported by quality public services. The work is themed under People, Place and Prosperity.

**Parish Councils**

Every resident within Waverley lives within a parished area. There are 18 parish councils and 3 town councils in Waverley, the second largest number within a Surrey borough or district: <https://modgov.waverley.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?bcr=1>

**Local Services**

**Children and Young People**

There are three youth centres in the Waverley:

* 40 Degreez Centre, Dogflud Way, Farnham, GU9 7UD
* Cranleigh Youth Centre, Snoxall Fields, Knowle Lane, Cranleigh GU6 8JW
* Sandy Hills, Lyall Place, Farnham GU9 0EQ

**Vulnerable Adults**

The Adult Social Care locality and reablement teams are based in Waverley Borough Council offices in Godalming alongside Waverley Borough Council staff and the locality teams for the borough of Waverley.

There are five grant funded centres for retired people in Waverley in Milford, Cranleigh, Farnham and Farncombe focused on improving the active older generation. Find out more: <https://www.waverley.gov.uk/info/200091/older_people/659/active_older_age>

* [The Clockhouse](http://www.clockhouse.org.uk/), Chapel Lane, Milford - 01483 420668 - manager@clockhouse.org.uk
* [Rowleys Centre for the Community](http://www.rowleyscranleigh.co.uk/), Victoria Road, Cranleigh - 01483 277155 - info@rowleyscranleigh.co.uk
* [Brightwells Gostrey Community Centre](http://www.brightwellsgostreycommunitycentre.co.uk/), off East Street, Farnham - 01252 725330 - brightwells.admin@btconnect.com
* [Farncombe day centre](http://home2.btconnect.com/farncombedaycentre.org.uk/), St Johns Street, Farncombe - 01483 426685 - farncombedaycentre@btinternet.com
* Haslewey Community Centre, Lion Green, Haslemere - 01428 648716 – info@haslewey.org

**Schools in Waverley**

Waverley has 43 infant, junior and primary schools, of which 8 are academies. There are 7 secondary schools, of which 3 are academies. There are 2 special schools, 1 of which is an academy.
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/directory>

**Fire Stations**

There are 5 fire stations in Waverley in Cranleigh, Dunsfold, Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere. The Farnham fire station is the only wholetime crew with 1 fire engine, 1 water carrier and 1 landrover. For more information: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/fire-and-rescue>

**Partnership activity**

**Community Safety Partnership**

In Waverley, the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is known as the Safer Waverley Partnership and aims to tackle crime and anti- social behaviour on behalf of residents. The partnership is currently chaired by the Surrey Police West Area Superintendent and meets quarterly, with further special/themed meetings, for example SOC (Serious Organised Crime), as required. The legislative framework is designed around officers, with elected members having a role in scrutinising the work of the CSP on an annual basis.

As part of its role, the Safer Waverley Partnership is required to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). DHRs are a statutory requirement under the Domestic Violence & Victims Act 2004 and review any case where there has been a death at the hands of a relative or member of the same household. The purpose of a review is to evaluate the role of the authorities prior to, during and after the incident. Since the inception of these measures, Waverley had conducted 4 DHRs.