**Overview**

* Elmbridge covers 9,506 hectares and is situated seventeen miles south west of central London. The borough is bordered by the River Thames to the north and the M25 to the south.
* The 2011 Census indicated that the population was 130,857 and the total number of dwellings in the borough was 52,922. The borough has many large open spaces and 58% of its land is designated as green belt.
* Elmbridge is well located and linked, with two national primary routes passing through the Borough - the M25 and A3. It is linked to Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and has good rail links to Central London. It is bounded by the River Thames to the north and west.

**Significant demographic information**

* The population is 130,857 It has the highest proportion of people aged 5-15 in Surrey 18,512, 14.1% of the population, but the lowest proportion of young people aged 18-24, 7,448 (5.7%)
* The 2011 census indicates that people in Elmbridge are generally in good health with only 3.1% indicated as having bad or very bad health, the lowest in Surrey, other health indicators are also low. This leads to the number of carers in the Borough also being at a low percentage compared to the rest of Surrey.
* It has the best life expectancy in Surrey, with an average for men of 82.3 and for women 85.6
* There are high levels of car ownership with 88.2% of people having at least one car or van per property.
* 73.4% of the population are economically active and Elmbridge has the highest proportion of self-employed people in Surrey at 14.7%.
* All the social rented housing within Elmbridge is owned by housing associations, the Council having transferred its housing stock to Elmbridge Housing Trust (now part of Paragon Housing) in 2000. As at March 2008, there were estimated to be 5624 social rented homes within Elmbridge. About 77% (4312 homes) of these are general-needs properties, whereas 1223 homes are within retirement housing schemes for older people owned by housing associations.

**Current Local Issues**

* Highways England are planning to reconfigure junction 10 of the M25 to increase capacity and this may have implications for the A3 and adjacent roads in the area.
* According to the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2015), Elmbridge is the second least deprived of the 11 boroughs/ districts in Surrey and is ranked at 322 out of the 326 local authorities in England in terms of levels of deprivation. However, pockets of relative deprivation do exist, most notably Cobham and Downside, Lower Green, Molesey West, Fieldcommon and Walton North.
* Following on from the cycle events during the Olympics in 2012, the Prudential RideLondon has held events each Summer since August 2013 taking in Elmbridge on part of the race.
* Elmbridge Borough Council was the first borough in Surrey to start collecting Community Infrastructure Levy in April 2013. Up to 25% of the money collected is spent directly in the areas where the development has taken place. This is allocated through local spending boards in the 6 settlement areas and through Claygate Parish Council, as the only parished area. The remainder is allocated through the Strategic Spending Board which meets currently on an annual basis

**The local political structure**

MP’s representing Elmbridge Borough (Parliamentary elections May 2017):

* Dominic Raab (Esher & Walton)
* Philip Hammond (Runnymede and Weybridge in Elmbridge)

**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 [9 county councillors](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1) representing the area of Elmbridge. They will work both with services and committees at a county level, but are also involved in the Local Area Committee ([Elmbridge Local Committee](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=156)) 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 Peter Szanto and the Vice-Chairman is County Councillor Mike Bennison.

[Elmbridge Borough Council](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/)

There are [48 members of Elmbridge Borough Council](http://www2.guildford.gov.uk/councilmeetings/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1). Following the elections in May 2019, the current political breakdown in the borough council is Conservative Group 21, Residents' Associations Group 15\*, Liberal Democrats Group 10, Hinchley Wood Residents' Association Group 2, (\*The Residents' Associations Group is made up of the Molesey Residents' Association, Weybridge & St. George's Hill Independents, the Walton Society the Hersham Village Society and the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents’ Association.)  The next borough elections are in May 2023. The current Leader is Stuart Selleck, who leads a [Cabinet of 9 members](http://mygov.elmbridge.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=146).

Elmbridge Core Strategy Development Plan Document sets out a plan for the future development of the Borough in the period 2011 to 2026. Some of the main objectives of the Core Strategy are detailed below:

* + To protect the unique character of the Borough, and to enhance the high quality of the built, historic and natural environment.
	+ To continue to protect the Green Belt, in order to prevent the coalescence of the Borough’s towns and villages and retain the distinctiveness of our local communities.
	+ To provide sufficient housing to meet the local target of 3,375 additional units in the most sustainable locations in the urban area.
	+ To adopt a viable approach to contribute to increasing the supply of affordable housing as a key priority.
	+ To meet the needs of an increasingly ageing population through a variety of measures, including lifetime homes, specialist accommodation and care and support services that respond to their needs.
	+ To support and develop the distinctive roles of our town and village centres, in order that they provide a strong focus for commercial and community development.

**Parish Councils**

There is 1 parishes within the Borough of Elmbridge in [Claygate](http://claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk/).

**Local Services**

**Children and Young People**

Family services aim to:

• Reduce the number of young people not in education, training and employment

• Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system

• Deliver more youth work locally

There are [5 youth centres](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-elmbridge) within the Borough

Work is in progress to develop an early help service for those aged 0-19 and this is supported by the Early Help Advisory Board which brings together a partnership in each borough or district invested in developing a coherent local early help offer and manage the successful delivery of this offer. There are currently six [Children’s Centres](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service/support-and-advice-for-parents-and-carers/sure-start/sure-start-childrens-centres-in-surrey/sure-start-childrens-centres-in-surrey/sure-start-childrens-centres-in-elmbridge) in the Borough.

**Vulnerable Adults**

The Adult Social Care locality and reablement teams are based in the Elmbridge Civic Centre to allow them to work with Borough Council staff. The Elmbridge Social Care team provide support for 1696 adults, this includes 149 carers. This is mainly older people (1167 people) and adults with learning disabilities (232 people). They aim to promote peoples independence and wellbeing through providing personalised care and support, ensuring people are safeguarded and working collaboratively with partners. The reablement team provides a short term service up to a maximum of 6 weeks to help people regain their independence and typically support 49 people a month.

Adult Social care commission, in partnership with the local CCG services under the prevention agenda these include support for carers, social prescriptions and winter initiatives. The Borough Council operates seven community centres.

**Schools**

The Borough has 4 secondary schools all are academies. There are 6 Infant Schools; 4 Junior Schools; 18 Primary Schools; 1 Free school for ages 4-16, 1 special school and 1 pupil referral unit.

**Fire Stations**

There are [three fire stations](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) in the Borough in Esher, Painshill and Walton.

**Libraries**

There are [seven libraries](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/your-library/find-your-nearest-library) in the Borough.

**Partnership activity**

**Community Safety Partnership**

For 2018/19, the Elmbridge Community and Safety Partnership Priorities are:

•reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

•reduce violence and substance misuse in our communities

•protect the most vulnerable in our communities and support positive youth activities

•empower our local communities and increase public confidence

