**Overview**

The Borough of Reigate and Banstead is located in the east of Surrey, and borders the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton in the north, the West Sussex borough of Crawley in the south, and the Surrey districts of Mole Valley in the west, and Tandridge in the east. It covers approximately 12,900 hectares.

The borough is located in the Green Belt. Key areas of open space include the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the North Downs Way, Walton Downs, Reigate Heath and Priory Park

There are four major towns; Banstead, an affluent commuter town; Reigate, a historic market town; Redhill, located on the main London – Brighton railway line; Horley, whose population doubled in the 1950s after the opening of Gatwick Airport; and is today a significant area for new housing.

**Significant Democracy**

The population is now the second highest of all Surrey boroughs and districts estimated at 145,600 (June 2016). In relation to figures for all of Surrey it has a higher than average number of 0-15 year olds (20.19%) and lower than average number of over 65 years (17.97%).

The key areas of deprivation are the Merstham Estate, Preston, and areas of Redhill and Horley; all four are regeneration priorities for the Borough Council.

Reigate & Banstead is currently home to almost 5,700 businesses and whilst the majority of these are small businesses, the borough has also attracted a number of major international companies including: Toyota, Pfizer and AxA Insurance

**Current Local Issues**

Local Plan: Examination Hearings into the Development Management Plan (DMP) were held from Tuesday 30 October to Thursday 8 November 2018. Following the hearings, and in response to the Inspector’s Post Hearing Advice Note (ID-6), a number of proposed Main Modifications to the DMP have been identified. A Main Modification is an amendment that is considered necessary to make the DMP “sound”, and is required in order to address concerns raised by either the Inspector. These Main Modifications were published for public consultation between 6 March and 18 April 2019. All responses received have now been collated and submitted to the Inspector for consideration. More information is available on the borough council’s website: <http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20381/emerging_planning_policy/888/development_management_plan>

Greater Redhill Sustainable Transport Package: The scheme is a package of walking, cycling and bus improvements focused on C2C strategic growth areas along the A23/A2044/A217 routes between the Redhill/Reigate and Horley/Gatwick areas. Delivery of the Greater Redhill Sustainable Transport Package (STP)

started during autumn 2015 and the majority of the works have been completed. Final works are in progress to finish the scheme. Find out more - https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-and-transport-policies-plans-and-consultations/major-transport-projects/reigate-and-banstead-major-transport-schemes#grstpheading

Regeneration: Large scale regeneration projects are continuing to be delivered in key areas by partner organisations including Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Surrey County Council and the Raven Housing Trust.

* Transformation of Redhill town centre – many improvements including the establishment of a major new supermarket, hotel, retail units and restaurants. Refurbishment of Memorial Park and Donyngs Leisure Centre. The next phase of the transformation include the development of the Marketfield Road car park. <http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20329/redhill/732/key_projects>
* Merstham regeneration: Redevelopment to provide improved housing, services and community hub including library.
* Preston regeneration: New homes, leisure centre and community facilities on public sector-owned land, accompanied by environmental, parking, highway and footpath/cycle network improvements.
* Horley Masterplan: Two new communities providing over 2000 new homes, supporting facilities and infrastructure, and improvements to Horley Town Centre

**Local Political Structure**

MPs representing Reigate and Banstead borough (June 2018):

* Sir Chris Grayling – Epsom & Ewell covering Nork, Preston and Tattenhams
* Sam Gyimah – East Surrey covering Horley East, Central and West
* Crispin Blunt – Reigate covering the remainder of the borough

**Surrey County Council**

There are 81 members of Surrey County Council.

The political composition of the county council as at May 2019 is:

* Conservative – 59
* Surrey Opposition Forum - 10
* Residents’ Association & Independent - 11
* Other - 1

The Leader is Mr Tim Oliver.

There are [10 county councillors](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1) representing Reigate and Banstead. They work both with services and committees at a county level, but are also involved in the local area committee (Reigate & Banstead Local Committee) which makes decisions on county functions at a borough level, and allows residents to engage with their local representatives on a regular basis. The political make-up of the committee is: SCC – 8 Conservative; 1 Green; 1 Residents’ Association. RBBC - 8 Conservative; 1 Residents’ Group and 1 Green. The Chairman of the Local Committee is County Councillor Jeff Harris and the Vice-Chairman is County Councillor Barbara Thomson.

The county councillors representing Reigate and Banstead are:

* [Mr Jeff Harris](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2248)  (Chairman)
* [Ms Barbara Thomson](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1007)  (Vice-Chairman)
* [Mrs Natalie Bramhall](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1030)
* [Mr Jonathan Essex](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1027)
* [Mr Bob Gardner](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1016)
* [Dr Zully Grant-Duff](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=148)
* [Mr Ken Gulati](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1001)
* [Mrs Kay Hammond](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=151)
* [Mr Nick Harrison](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=153)
* [Mr Graham Knight](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=915)

Each year, the borough council is invited to nominate 10 borough councillors to sit on the local committee. These 10 members represent the political proportionality of the wider borough council. For 2019/20, the borough council co-optees are:

* [Borough Councillor Gemma Adamson](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2839)
* [Borough Councillor Rod Ashford](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2401)
* [Borough Councillor Michael Blacker](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1510)
* [Borough Councillor Steve Kulka](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2841)
* [Borough Councillor Victor Lewanski](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2838)
* [Borough Councillor Kanika Sachdeva](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2837)
* [Borough Councillor Ruth Ritter](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2840)
* [Borough Councillor Tony Schofield](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=1512)
* [Borough Councillor Rachel Turner](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=252)
* [Borough Councillor Christopher Whinney](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2754)

**Reigate and Banstead Borough Council**

Reigate and Banstead is a Conservative controlled council. The Leader is Mr Mark Brunt.

Elections for Borough Councillors took place on Thursday 2 May 2019. The May 2019 elections were the first since a Boundary Review during 2018, which saw the number of borough reduced by 6 to 45, across 15 wards. All borough councillors were therefore up for election.

The Conservatives hold 29 seats, the Green Party is the second largest party with 6 seats.

*Table: Seats per party prior to the elections and following the elections*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Cons  | Green  | Lib Dem  | Labour  | RA  | Ind  |
| Prior to elections (51 total seats)  | 39  | 3  | 2  | 0  | 6  | 1  |
| Post May 2019 elections (45 total seats)  | 29  | 6  | 3  | 0  | 6  | 1  |

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's vision 2015 – 2020 is for a leading council recognised by its residents, peers and partners. They will:

* Deliver quality services and support
* Provide value for money
* Make the borough a great place to live
* Be flexible and sustainable, responding to the needs and demands of our borough, residents and businesses
* Be an increasingly commercial organisation

The Council is currently in the process of updating its 5 year plan, to cover the period from 2020 to 2025. A draft version of the new Plan was agreed by the Council’s Executive in March 2019 and is available to view on the council’s website: [**http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20205/plans\_and\_policies/280/our\_5\_year\_plan**](http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20205/plans_and_policies/280/our_5_year_plan)
A public consultation on the draft Plan is programmed to be held in Summer 2019.

**Parish Councils**

There are just two in the borough:

* Horley Town Council
* Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council

**Local Services**

The majority of social housing is owned by Raven Housing Trust.

The South East Surrey Family Support Team works with families who have multiple and complex needs, to enable them to achieve sustainable, transformational change in Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley, and Tandridge districts/boroughs.

Surrey Police work closely with the borough council’s Joint Enforcement Team to deal with a wide range of issues in the community such as fly-tipping and litter, anti-social behaviour and abandoned vehicles.

**Local Assets:**

6 Youth centres, 7 children’s centres,

6 libraries

7 infant schools, 6 junior schools, 20 primary schools, 1 junior/secondary school, 5 secondary and 3 special schools (6 academies in all)

**Children’s Centres**

In January 2019, the county council agreed to change its approach to children’s centres. Instead of being open to all families with young children aged 0-5, the council will focus its resources on those families most in need, with children aged 0-11, with a focus on targeting those families and working with them in their homes. A core element will be supporting families at a much earlier point, in their homes and communities, preventing problems escalating into a crisis that might require a child being taken into care.

In Reigate and Banstead, this means some changes – Merstham and Horley will have a family centre, but the remaining existing children’s centres will no longer provide services from the county council.

**Fire and Rescue**

There are 3 fire stations – located in Banstead, Reigate and Salfords. In Spring 2019, the county council consulted on proposals that would see some changes affecting the borough. Cabinet will be asked to take a decision in due course.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/fire-and-rescue/about/our-vision-mission-and-aims/priorities-plans-and-governance/plans-strategies-and-legislation/public-safety>

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