

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Annual Report

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Message from

Jackie King

Chief Executive of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

Welcome to this year's annual report where we showcase some of our excellent achievements from 2024/2025. Here, at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council I've become used to a fast pace of change, and 2024/25 was no exception.

The year saw a new governing party, prime minister and our first woman member of parliament in Epsom & Ewell. This was my first general election as returning officer in Epsom & Ewell, and I was extremely proud of how officers and the community worked together to deliver it. An election is a huge undertaking, and a lot of the work goes on behind the scenes – for example ensuring that polling stations are clerked and accessible, votes counted and checked, candidates, their agents and local and national media are supported. This year was also the first year that voters needed to show photograph ID, a significant change to previous elections.

The year saw a number of other big changes. We started the year planning the move of the Town Hall to offices in East Street, a long-term strategy which would have created an opportunity to create much needed affordable housing in the town centre and reduced running costs for the council. In light of local government reorganisation this is no longer a financially viable endeavour, although we continue to investigate new ways to deliver affordable housing in our borough. Our new strategic priorities can be found here: [Epsom & Ewell Borough Council agrees to submit proposal recommending three unitary](#)

[councils for Surrey | Epsom and Ewell Borough Council](#)

Changes to local government in Surrey will see the abolition of all current councils in Surrey including Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and the County Council. In May 2025, we were one of nine district and borough councils to collectively submit a proposal to government outlining our recommendation to create three new unitary councils in Surrey. I am extremely proud of how officers and Councillors rose to the challenge and delivered the comprehensive proposal to government by the 9 May deadline. We continue to work with colleagues in councils across Surrey to deliver local government reorganisation.

In June 2024, we were honoured to light the beacon on Epsom Downs as part of a national chain of beacons to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. It was a pleasure to see the community come together to express our gratitude for those who gave their lives during the D-Day Landings, and express gratitude and respect for all those in our community who serve or have served their country along with the legion of friends and family who supported them and the nation in all sorts of ways.

In my role I am very fortunate to be able to attend many events

across the borough meeting residents, voluntary groups and partners and over the year I have been able to attend some that have taken place as part of our Arts Culture & Heritage strategy, which are always very moving and thought provoking. It is a great pleasure to spend time at these events and they really demonstrate the impact of the work we do here at the council in and with our local communities.

Another personal highlight saw me use one of my volunteering days to spend a morning at The Pantry in Epsom and the Foodbank at St Barnabas Church. These are both organised through the Good Company, and it was fantastic to witness the amazing work that both groups carry out for our communities. The Foodbank also have an advice café running at the same time where other agencies are onsite to assist with various issues and it was heartwarming to hear the praise for our housing team officers and the work that they do alongside these partners.

The coming months are likely to feel very challenging, but I know that both officers and Councillors at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will continue to deliver excellent services for our residents and communities and support each other through the changes ahead.



D Day Beacon Lighting 2024

Message from

Councillor Hannah Dalton

Leader of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council,
Chair of the Surrey Leaders Group and Vice Chair
of The District Council's Network (DCN) for the
Independent Group.

**Since the last Annual Report, we have seen the beginning
of the largest change to local government in 50 years.**

In February 2025, it was announced by government that Surrey would be on the local government reorganisation fast track. In May, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council was one of nine councils in Surrey to propose that councils be reorganised into three unitary councils: East, West and North Surrey. We strongly believe that while this change is coming from central government the future structure needs to provide a strong foundation for high-quality local government that is responsive, accountable and closer to residents and local communities.

In October, we expect to hear the decision from government and then we will begin work to build the new structure of local government in Surrey that can deliver the support and services our residents and communities need to thrive, both now and for future generations.

New local government bodies, whether it is two or three unitaries, will face a challenging landscape. Last November I spoke at the first public evidence session of the Housing, Communities and local government Committee meeting at the Houses of Parliament

about the issues that children and families who are living in temporary accommodation face, as well as the pressure on local authorities and officers who support them.

Increasingly, here in the borough we are seeing an unprecedented number of households facing homelessness. Our teams work hard to provide advice, assistance, and temporary accommodation to those at risk of homelessness, and work to prevent homelessness in a range of ways, which are covered later in this report. However, the current cost of temporary accommodation is unprecedented and continues to be our largest expenditure.

Part of the plan to support the development of new housing in the borough is the Local Plan. The Local Plan will play an important role in shaping Epsom and Ewell's future, including how the borough will develop, protecting and enhancing our natural environment, developing our local economy, improving leisure and visitor facilities, and supporting more sustainable forms of travel. The plan is now at the examination stage; hearings will commence at the Town Hall from

28 August and can be attended by interested members of the public who wish to observe proceedings. To find out more please visit [Local Plan Examination | Epsom & Ewell Borough Council](#)

One of our priorities as a result of local government reorganisation, is to undertake a community governance review. Epsom & Ewell is currently an unparished borough, which means there is no lower tier of local government below that of the borough council, nor will there be in the new unitary council when Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is abolished in 2027. We're asking residents and partners to tell us whether parish councils should be created in Epsom & Ewell. The consultation closes at 23.59pm on Thursday 9 October 2025, and I hope you will take the time to have your say. You can find out more about the review and complete the consultation at our website: www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/CGR.

Introduction:

Epsom and Ewell

Epsom and Ewell is the smallest and most densely populated borough in Surrey, **occupying just 13 square miles** and **42% categorised as greenbelt**. Our population is growing; according to the 2021 Census between 2011 and 2021 our **population increased by 7.7%**, which is **around 5,800 more residents, to nearly 80,900**.

In challenging times our workforce of more than 280 officers take pride in delivering high quality services to around 80,000 residents and 3,700 businesses.

Currently, we're undergoing the biggest change to local government in more than 50 years. In this report we explain how we are working towards the reorganisation of local government, what that means for residents and how we anticipate services in Surrey will be delivered in the future. In light of this milestone change, we are exploring community governance in Epsom & Ewell. This summer we're asking residents to tell us whether they think there should be parish councils in Epsom & Ewell. The community governance review consultation asking residents to have their say, is now underway. The consultation closes on 9 October 2025 and the CGR is estimated to be completed by summer 2027.

Like many councils across the UK our funding from central government has decreased steadily since 2010. This, compounded by the continued rising cost of living, pressures around affordable housing

and the cost of housing families in need in temporary accommodation, continues to create a significant challenge.

We operate a number of initiatives to support those in our borough facing homelessness, including liaising with landlords, friends and family to prevent homelessness, assisting with deposits, operating a private sector leasing scheme for homeless households, working with registered providers to increase affordable housing, encouraging owners to bring empty properties back into use, and challenging developers to provide much needed affordable housing on eligible housing sites; however finding solutions for those in the borough facing homelessness is increasingly difficult.

We continue to pursue our goals around climate change. This year the Environment Committee officially noted progress made in the delivery of our first Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2024 and adopted our second Climate Change Action Plan, which runs from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029. This plan continues to support our ambitious commitment to be carbon neutral by 2035.

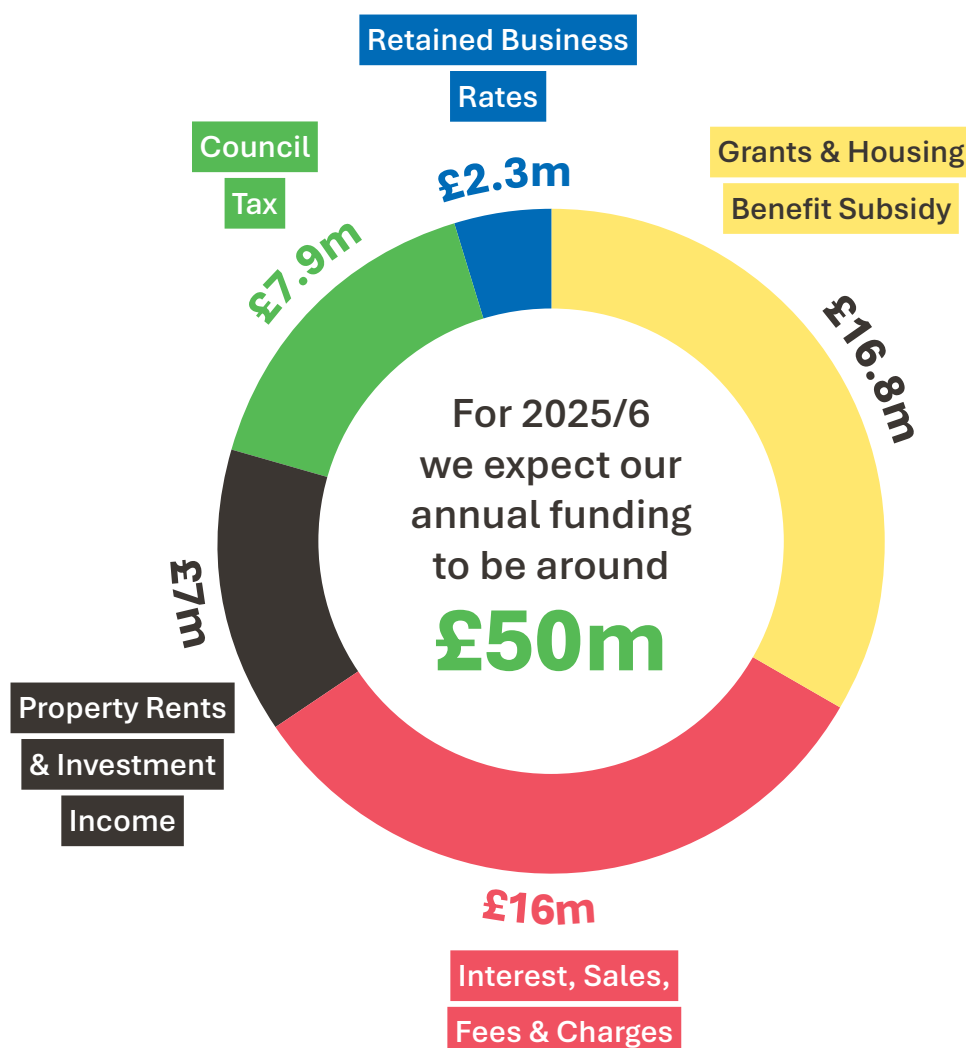
Our achievements show how committed we are to tackling climate change, our Climate Change Action Plan is embedded across the council through key reports, policies and plans from the Corporate Plan through to the Capital Investment Programme. Whether through our own council initiatives such as installing solar panels or replacing old diesel vehicles with electric ones, we have done our best to ensure that our community can benefit from climate change improvements for years to come. Our team's passion, determination and drive has seen them build key relationships and harness vital funding and resources to deliver our activities. I would like to thank the team for their tireless efforts and to our partners who have provided their invaluable support as we strive to meet our target to be carbon neutral by 2035.

Councillor Liz Frost,
Chair of the Environment
Committee

Our finances

We continue to ensure that our services are delivered in a cost-effective way, balancing our responsibility to support residents using all available income streams including the council's commercial activities, fees and charges for certain services, business rates, government grants and council tax.

Where Epsom & Ewell Borough Council gets its money from:



The council needs to ensure that services are delivered in a cost-effective way, which meets the needs of our residents but at a price the council can afford. Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is funded by five separate income streams and with this income the council must fulfil its statutory duties as well as deliver the council's priorities. In 2024/5 our funding was around £47m. For 2025/6 we expect this to be around £50m.

In February 2025 the council once again set a balanced budget for 2025/6 without needing to draw from council reserves. This was achieved despite a difficult climate, including inflationary pressures, a rise in staffing costs owing to the increase in Employer National Insurance contributions, and the increasing demands of homelessness provisions. There was no boost to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's (EEBC) financial settlement from the central government.

Council tax for our borough remains below the average for Surrey and we collect it on behalf of Surrey County Council, Surrey Police Authority, and ourselves.

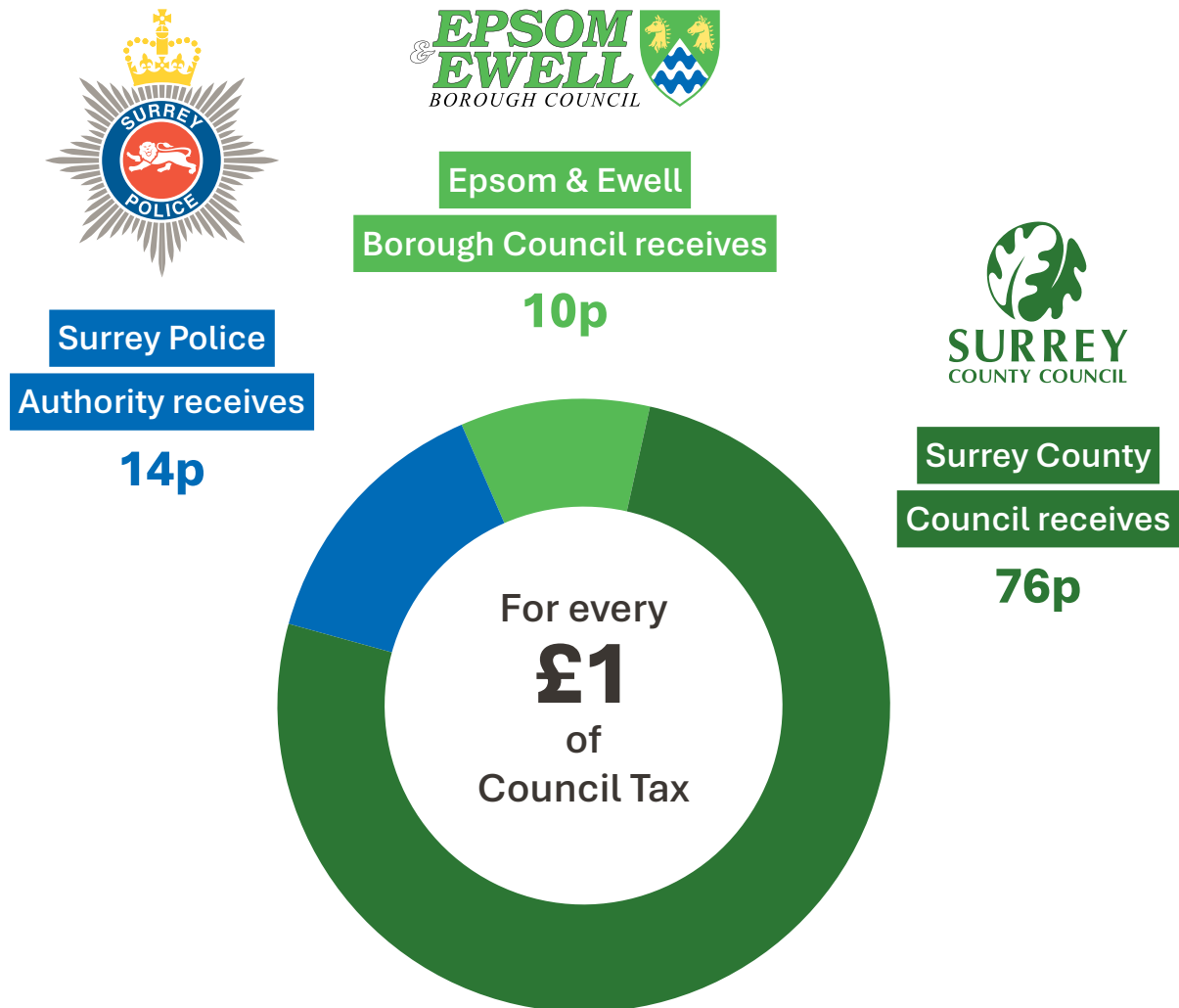
Of the overall council tax paid by residents, EEBC receives just 10%, Surrey Police receives 14%, and 76% funds Surrey County Council activities.

Did you know

... for every £1 of Council Tax,
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council receives just 10p?



Where your council tax goes

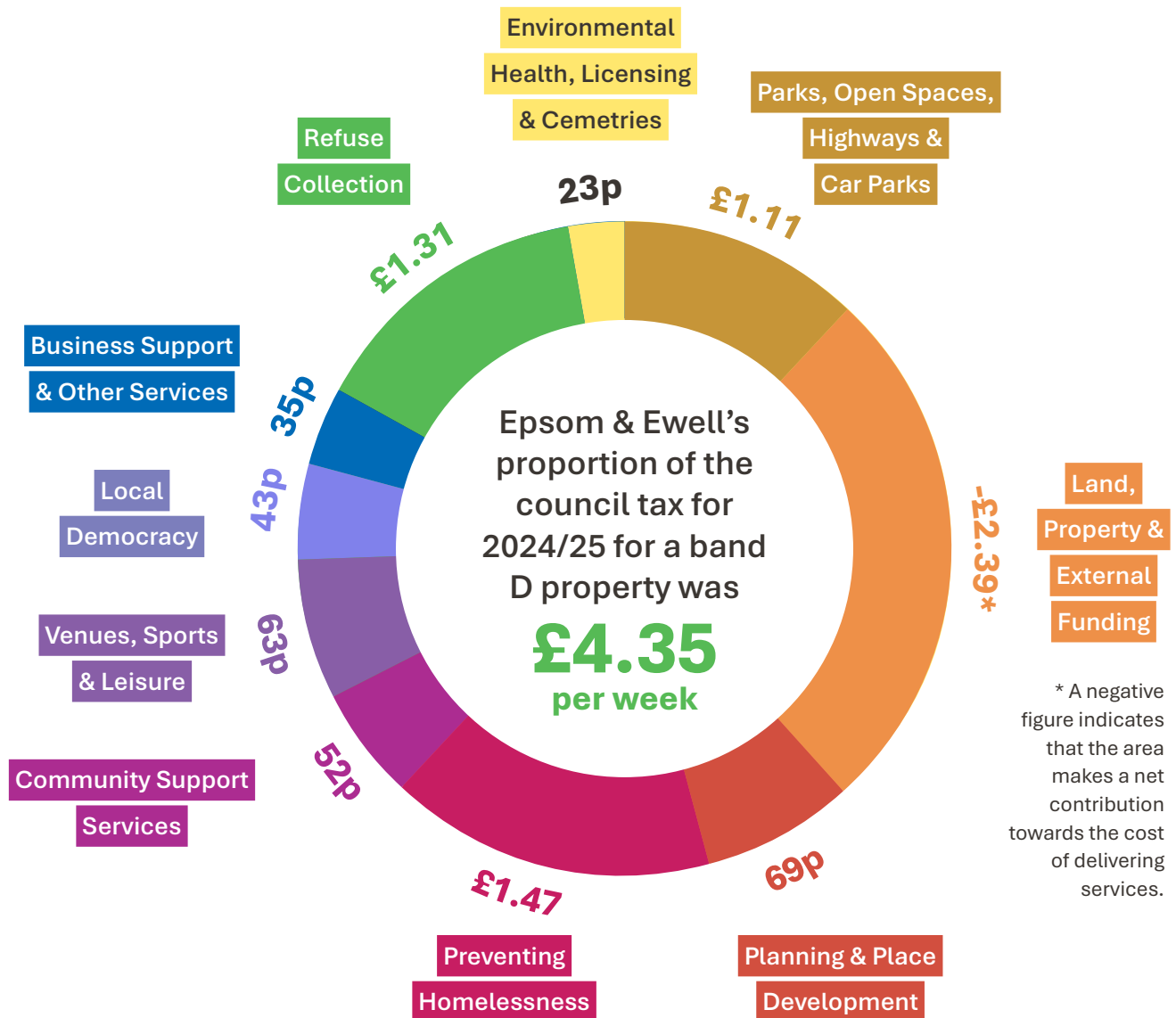


The 10% of council tax that EEBC receives allows us to deliver a wide range of services for residents including: waste and recycling collections, tending to the borough's green

spaces, supporting people facing homelessness, licensing, planning and development, managing car parks, environmental enforcement, community outreach services

and running and maintaining venues such as the Community and Wellbeing Centre for people aged 55+, community venue Bourne Hall and Epsom Playhouse Theatre.

How your money was spent delivering key services in Epsom & Ewell in 2024/5:



"

The prudent administration of Residents' Association run Epsom & Ewell Borough Council means we have been able to balance our budget without needing to draw on reserves or cut the essential services our residents rely on. We have also improved the efficiency of Bourne Hall with solar panels and are installing

double glazed windows which will reduce the venue's carbon footprint. As we prepare for local government reorganisation in the coming months, we do so in the knowledge that we are in a financially stable position, delivering real value for money for our residents and local communities. "

Our proportion of the council tax for 2025/26 for a band D property is **£4.48** per week.

Councillor Neil Dallen,
Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee



New strategic priorities

& Town Hall move

In May 2025, Councillors approved an amendment to the Council's Four-Year Plan, replacing it with strategic priorities for 2025-2027 and aligning resources by setting up a new local government reorganisation (LGR) reserve.

Councillors agreed that strategic priorities will no longer include a proposed office move from the current Town Hall, instead relocating to the new Town Hall

building and completing works to make the newer building fit for purpose for the next two to three years.

Strategic priorities agreed by the council are:

Explore future local governance

e.g. a Community Council

Move the old Town Hall into the existing new Town Hall

Investigate future options for the existing Town Hall site and 70 East Street

Carry out a review of major assets

Create an Epsom Town Centre Car Park Strategy/ Deliver the Hook Road (Utilities site) Car Park re-development

Strategic CIL Projects

Consider options for the future of Bourne Hall Museum

" While we work towards local government reorganisation, the Council will prioritise strategic projects that can be delivered in the time available and that offer best value for our residents.

Our goal is to meet the ambitious deadlines set by government to transition to a new era of local government, whilst protecting the best interests of our local communities for the future. "

Councillor Hannah Dalton,
Leader of Epsom & Ewell
Borough Council



Epsom & Ewell Services

We carry out a wide range of services for our residents and businesses in Epsom & Ewell, and work in partnership with other councils, Go Epsom and services such as Epsom and Ewell Safer Neighbourhood Team within Surrey Police, and Surrey Fire and Rescue, to improve life for Epsom & Ewell residents.

Dealt with
over
1,700
environmental
health cases

In 2024/25, we:



Answered
60,741
phone calls



Helped
10,793
visitors in
Town Hall
reception



Answered
71
text messages



Responded to
7,421
emails



Processed
5,990
online web
forms



Recorded
533
complaints



Completed
662
moving
requests

Delivered **16,278** meals
at home to vulnerable residents

Helped **11,903** vulnerable residents' travel around the borough to appointments, shopping trips, visits to family and more

Installed **132** community alarms to help keep vulnerable residents safe in their own homes

Licensed over **1,585**
taxis & drivers

Helped
over **195**
households with
housing needs

Awarded
around
£214,000
in grants to
local voluntary
organisations

Managed
over **80**
sports, recreation
and entertainment
facilities and venues

Licensed
over
373
restaurants,
bars &
events

Published
more than
1,800
posts on social media
which had over
1 million
impressions
(number of times it was shown
on someone's screen)

Issued **61**
media releases

Videos
shared on
social media
were viewed
5.7k
times

Waste and recycling

In 2023/24 our waste & recycling teams:

Collected
more than
13,000
tonnes of rubbish

Collected
99.9%
of bins on time

Collected
over
9,000
tonnes of recycling,
food waste and
garden waste



Democratic

Services

**Number
of council
meetings
organised**

(April 24-April 25)

70

**Number of
elections
organised**

(Police and Crime
Commissioner &
General Election)

2

**Polling
cards
issued**

(Electorate)

77,530

**Ballots
issued and
counted**

(Police and Crime
Commissioner Election)

14,128 (79rejected)

**Ballots
issued and
counted**

(General Election)

54,697 (172rejected)

Planning

In 2024/25 the number of decisions made within the statutory timeframe of 8-13 weeks was more than 90% across the year, including 100% of all major or larger applications.

Sensitive applications heard by the Planning Committee included a new Aldi supermarket in Epsom and accommodation to house homeless families in Epsom. Officers presented both items to the Planning Committee with professionalism against a backdrop of significant resident and political interest.

In the area of planning enforcement there was a 15% reduction in the number of outstanding cases, achieved against a near 20% increase in new cases over the year. There were 337 closures, well above the previous average of 250.

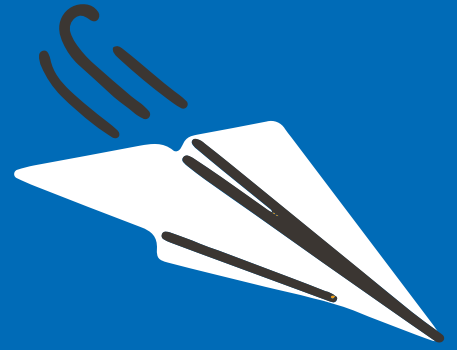
The effectiveness of the enforcement department is evidenced with the issuing of 10 enforcement notices, up from zero the year before. Areas of improvement were outlined in a November 2023 audit, and significant improvements were made to address findings.

The department's appeal record is commendable and well above any level of designation threat. 73% of the total decisions referred to the Planning Inspectorate in 2024/5 were dismissed.

Service improvements included the introduction of the fast-track planning service, which allows for expedited decision making of applications. There have been 37 applications made using this

service and staff have worked efficiently to deliver the service.

The back of house operating system PlanX has enabled a user-friendly website where residents can find information on planning matters. The Council's Enforcement Plan and Local Validation List were also updated.



Local Plan

In December 2024 we launched our Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) consultation, which ran for six weeks.

Part of the process of preparing the Proposed Submission Local Plan included taking into consideration feedback received during the previous Regulation 18 consultation (February/March 2023). Changes to the Draft Local Plan following the consultation included increased energy efficiency standards for new homes and the allocation of additional sites in the urban area.

A key piece of evidence for our Local Plan was the Town Centre Masterplan which has just been awarded “Best Plan” at the Royal Town Planning Institute’s South East Awards for Planning Excellence.

The Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) consultation was the final opportunity for residents, visitors, local businesses and partner organisations to tell Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, and a government appointed planning inspector, whether the plan was legally compliant and sound, based on criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

We submitted the Local Plan to government for Public Examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 10 March 2025. Submission at this time ensured that the Local Plan will be examined against the December 2023 version of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An inspector has now been appointed to lead the examination of the Epsom and Ewell Local Plan on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The examination hearings will commence at 10am on Thursday 28 August 2025 at Epsom Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5BY and can be attended by interested members of the public who wish to observe proceedings. Find out more on the council’s local plan examination page: <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/localplanexamination>

“ I am very grateful to EEBC officers who have worked diligently throughout the process of drawing up the borough’s Local Plan, from preparing the first Regulation 18 Consultation in February and March 2023, to ensuring that the Submission Plan was assessed against the framework to which it was developed by submitting it in March this year. I thank all the residents who took the time throughout the process to tell us their views. The plan is a step forward for our borough and our communities, and if adopted it will help ensure that all Epsom & Ewell residents can enjoy the benefits that this strategic plan aims to deliver – whether their focus is on access to affordable homes, leisure facilities and green space, to jobs and economic growth. ”

Councillor Peter O’Donovan,
Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee



Community Infrastructure

Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local authorities to raise funds from new developments for infrastructure projects.

In 2024, following the annual bidding round five Neighbourhood CIL projects were allocated £331,966 following bids by community groups and organisations, £1,755,000 was allocated to three Strategic CIL projects:

- ✓ Rebuilding Glynn Hall in Ewell Village
- ✓ Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve footpath improvements
- ✓ New Bourne Hall Woodland play area
- ✓ Gateley Green Playground improvements
- ✓ Gibraltar Playground improvements
- ✓ Waterloo Road street tree planting
- ✓ Ewell Village public realm enhancements
- ✓ Priest Hill Football Improvements with full 3G Football Association pitch
- ✓ New Club House at Hold Schools Lane, Ewell

" Our aim is to maximise the benefit for residents through the funds we have available. The Community Infrastructure Levy offers a significant opportunity to deliver projects that will not only benefit the community now but will also have a lasting impact on quality of life for future generations. The borough has a wealth of outdoor parks and open spaces that support health and wellbeing, and most of the approved projects focus on improving these facilities. "

Councillor Neil Dallen,
Chair of the Strategy and
Resources Committee



Environmental

Health

Our Environmental Health Services are responsible for helping to ensure our borough is safe, and a healthy and hygienic place to live, work and visit.

In 2024/5, the team responded to 1,700 service requests and conducted 460 site visits. The team issued four fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping, prosecuting in two instances, and 145 enforcement notices, generally ranging from community protection notices to housing improvement and prohibition

notices, health and safety improvement notices, waste duty of care notices and food hygiene improvement notices. The team also carried out 38 samples as part of an E. coli investigation and to support a project around hygiene in tattooing and body piercing premises.



Parks and

green spaces

We're hugely fortunate to have such a wealth of publicly accessible, biodiverse countryside in Epsom & Ewell.

Of our three local nature reserves (LNR), Epsom Common is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, Horton Country Park LNR is home to ancient woodland and the Hogsmill River LNR is home to a newly created wetland at Chamber Mead which will increase biodiversity as well as improving water quality in the Hogsmill River, which as a chalk stream is a habitat of international importance. Hogsmill LNR has been identified as a suitable site to reintroduce water voles for the first time in over 20 years.

Epsom Common LNR, along with the adjoining Ashted Common National Nature Reserve, are both nationally and internationally important sites for nature harbouring very rare insects in

their veteran and ancient trees and providing much needed habitat for breeding birds.

Our countryside team run regular walks and talks which can be found on our website epsom-ewell.gov.uk/whats-on ([What's on | Epsom & Ewell Borough Council](#)).

They couldn't care for these incredibly special places without the teams of volunteers who support them in their work.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who turn out every week in all weathers helping to protect and conserve our nature reserves and green spaces around the borough. A huge thank you also to our monitoring volunteers who help us survey the wildlife that make these sites so special.

“ Green spaces are for everybody to enjoy, and it's great being part of such a passionate team that works hard to make this a reality! Our strong relationships with partners and volunteers enable us to manage biodiversity, improve public access and enhance visitor experiences within all our local nature reserves. ”

Sarah,
Senior Countryside Officer



Volunteers



Volunteers



Epsom Common



Roseberry Park



Green Flag award
Epsom Common

Green Flag Award



Cows on Epsom
Common

Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve was awarded the Green Flag award for the 18th year in a row in 2024 – a huge testament to the work of our Countryside team and the volunteers who so diligently and passionately care for this space.

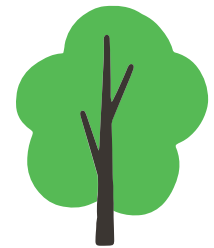
The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and

rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.



Horton Country Park

Local Nature Reserve



Horton Country Park is a rural landscape of fields, hedgerows, ancient woods and ponds of great wildlife and historical interest.

The site achieved Local Nature Reserve Status in 2004 as a place where people can enjoy nature on their doorstep.

All year round, our dedicated volunteers have supported our Countryside team to carry vital works in the local nature reserve.

One activity that took place at short notice was on 9 November, when nine volunteers including three from the Friends of Horton Country Park helped plant three apple trees and one greengage tree in the Lambert Orchard. As some trees in the park are over 100 years old, this tree planting helps to replenish stock.

Volunteers also cleared away scrub, which was invading the orchard and smothering smaller trees. With some trees over 100 years old, this will help to replenish stock, scrub was also cleared away that was invading the orchard and smothering smaller trees.



Red Windsor
Tree planted

Commercial Dog Walking

Licensing Scheme

In April 2024, the council's Streetcare team carried out a six-week consultation on whether to implement a commercial dog walking licensing scheme in Nonsuch Park.

The consultation was commissioned by Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee following concerns raised by visitors about the increase in dog walkers with multiple dogs in the park.

The consultation was promoted through social media, community noticeboards, banners at the entrances to the park and in-person interactions between our Streetcare Team and dog walkers, which resulted in almost 1,000 responses.

The initial consultation was followed by a meeting in August,

where members of the public could help shape what the license scheme would look like.

In October, the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee voted to launch a 12-month pilot Commercial Dog Walking Licensing Scheme in Nonsuch Park, starting in April 2025.

The licensing scheme brings dog walking in line with other commercial activities in the park and helps reassure the public that commercial dog walking in Nonsuch Park is responsibly carried out and regulated.



An annual licence costs £200 and limits the number of dogs that can be walked at one time to a maximum of six. As with other commercial activities in the park, dog walkers are required to provide proof of public liability insurance, risk assessments and sign an agreement which sets out how commercial dog walking can be undertaken.

The committee also set out plans to develop a Dog Walking Code of Conduct in collaboration with the dog walking community and enforcement where there is evidence of non-compliance.

Epsom & Ewell

in Bloom



Nonsuch Park won two awards in 2024/5

The South & South East in Bloom Heritage Parks and Gardens category showcases some of the region's most exquisite gardens that are open for public enjoyment. The award celebrates these remarkable spaces not only for their unique qualities but also for the dedicated individuals who care for them. In 2024, we are very proud that Nonsuch Park

received a silver gilt award in this category.

Nonsuch Park was awarded a gold in the "Large Conservation Area Award", which is part of the larger Britain in Bloom initiative. This award recognises parks that are larger than 10 acres for their overall quality, including natural features, wildlife habitats, facilities, and community involvement.



Congratulations everyone who helps care for Nonsuch Park for these fantastic awards!

Climate Change

Pledge

On 23 July 2019, we committed to tackling Climate Change and addressing the council's carbon emissions and have set a target for our operations to be carbon neutral by 2035.

Our first Climate Change Action Plan was developed in 2020 and a cross-party group was formed to oversee it. The plan came to the end of its five-year term in 2024 and a new action plan covering the period 2025-2029 was developed and adopted in October 2024.

The plan sets out measures to reduce the council's own emissions from buildings and vehicles as well as promoting good practice in local community and businesses throughout the borough.

**We installed
solar
panels
at Bourne Hall
and Rainbow
Leisure Centre**



In 2024/25, we:

- ✓ Secured £566k of external funding to deliver carbon saving projects.
- ✓ Installed our largest solar panel installation to date on the roof of the Rainbow Leisure Centre.
- ✓ Installed solar panels at Bourne Hall and Rainbow Leisure Centre
- ✓ LED lighting replacement programme completed for council-owned streetlighting.
- ✓ Installed a voltage optimiser at Epsom Playhouse.
- ✓ Replaced our three Meals-at-Home vehicles with electric and installed three electric charge points for charging at Longmead Wellbeing Centre.
- ✓ Planted 2,610 new trees across 6 Council owned sites.
- ✓ Continue to support and promote Surrey wide onsortium schemes, including home energy grants and a third round of Solar Together. In the past year this has led to 89 home energy efficiency measures being installed, 38 home energy surveys conducted under the HEAT scheme, 12 home boilers upgraded and 18 households completing solar installations, with more planned.

Housing

Landlords' Forum

In September 2024, we held a Landlords' Forum at Bourne Hall and invited local landlords to attend.

The forum was part of a concerted effort by the council to work and engage with landlords to help tackle housing issues in the borough.

The event was well attended and gave landlords the opportunity to hear from the National Residential Landlord's Association on legislative changes and licensing requirements and the Department of Work and Pensions on Universal Credit and other related payments. Our Environmental Health Team and Action Surrey gave information on how landlords could improve their EPC rating.

We talked about ways in which landlords could help to support households who are trying to secure accommodation, through:

- The Private Sector Leasing Scheme, whereby the council leases a property for between three and five years from a private landlord for use as temporary accommodation.
- The Rent Deposit Scheme, whereby the council supports residents with rental deposits and guarantees to help them access accommodation that would otherwise be unaffordable.

"Lack of housing is an issue that affects councils across the country, including Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. Our housing team work regularly with private landlords to ensure families in need can be housed in the local area. The Landlords' Forum is opportunity to nurture existing relationships with landlords, make connections with new landlords who are not aware of the services and help the council can offer, and enable networking with the National Residential Landlord's Association and Department of Work and Pensions."

Councillor Clive Woodbridge,
Chair of the Community
and Wellbeing Committee

Home Improvement Agency

The Home Improvement Agency is a council service that helps elderly people, those on low-income or benefits and people with a disability stay safe, healthy and independent in their own home. The service offers help or advice on such matters as adaptations, repairs, energy efficiency and benefit entitlement.

450

residents have
been helped by
our handyperson
service

88

residents have
been supported
via our Disabled
Facility Grants and
discretionary grants

20

residents got
replacement boilers
through our Epsom
& Ewell Boiler
Upgrade Scheme

Community health

and wellbeing

Through our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, we aim to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of all our residents and to support this goal, the Community Development team provide services and targeted support.

In 2024/25 we oversaw the allocation of the governments Household Support Fund, working with the Good Company, The Meeting Room and Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell to help distribute funds to residents experiencing financial hardship.

Last autumn, as part of our first Suicide Prevention Action Plan we hosted an event to mark Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September 2024. Working in partnership with local charities and organisations We Power On, End Stigma Surrey, the Samaritans and Epsom Downs Racecourse, and residents, we organised a community 'walk and talk' event that helped to raise awareness and encourage open conversations about mental health.

We continued to provide support and oversight of the national refugee schemes, including Homes for Ukraine and the Afghan resettlement programmes.

To date, we have welcomed more than 200 people through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, supporting more than 100 host families across the borough. We work with local partners and other councils in Surrey to meet individual's different needs, helping them feel settled, and work with the Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network to provide ongoing support ranging from

English courses, support to find work, through to support with documentation and visa applications.

We continue to work closely and collaboratively with the community and voluntary sector. This year we launched the neighbourhood board partnership forum, bringing together representatives from this sector to look at ways we can support the health and wellbeing of residents.

*Suicide Prevention
Walk and Talk event*



Tennis

courts

In April 2024, we entered a partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association as a more sustainable way of running 12 tennis courts across the borough.

The partnership saw an investment of £26,650 in the courts, new gate access technology and an online booking system.

A Pay-to-Play tennis scheme was also introduced. Residents either purchase a household membership for up to five people at a cost of £40 per year (£20 per year for low-income households), allowing unlimited play, or book courts on an ad-hoc basis at a rate of £6 per hour.

Between April 2024 and February 2025, 235 households subscribed for an annual membership. In the same period, there were 1,227 ad-hoc bookings.

Tennis coaches were appointed at Court Recreation Ground, Alexandra Park and Auriol Park, who provided free sessions as part the Barclays Free Park Tennis Initiative, alongside their paid-for sessions. Free morning tennis sessions on the weekends at Gibraltar and Poole Road Recreation Grounds were introduced.

There were also free tennis sessions over the summer holidays to encourage more families to use the tennis courts.

All revenue raised through the new booking system has been reinvested back into the courts. Maintenance of the courts over this period has included: jet washing, moss removal, leaf blowing, improved signage, line marking, wind breakers at Court Rec, Gibraltar Rec and Poole Road and new benches at Poole Road and Auriol Park.



Arts & Culture in Epsom and Ewell

This year we worked with a number of local community groups to create more stunning murals in the borough.

With the help of internationally renowned street artists, Positive Arts, we were glad to be able to offer Epsom Playhouse, Epsom Girlguiding division, men's mental health charity, We Power On and Glyn School the chance to create some seriously inspiring artwork to represent their core beliefs.

The murals were fully funded via the Arts, Culture and Heritage UKSPF 2024/25 allocation and contribute to the council's overall vision for curating art projects that build pride with local community stakeholders.

In addition to the murals, our Arts, Culture and Heritage team were also proud to announce the launch of their second digital guide – a virtual tour of Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve. This digital guide is now available to view for free via Bloomberg Connects – both on the web and via their app.

The tour fulfils the Arts, Culture and Heritage objective to increase access to culture and heritage in Epsom & Ewell, allowing people to engage with our colourful and varied cultural past in new and engaging ways.

There was also another successful 'takeover' project at Bourne Hall Museum with Kids in Museums and Ewell Grove Primary and Nursery School. This year, the theme was 'careers' and as part of the 'takeover', Ewell Grove students were able to experience what it would be like to be a Curator and an Exhibition Officer for the day.

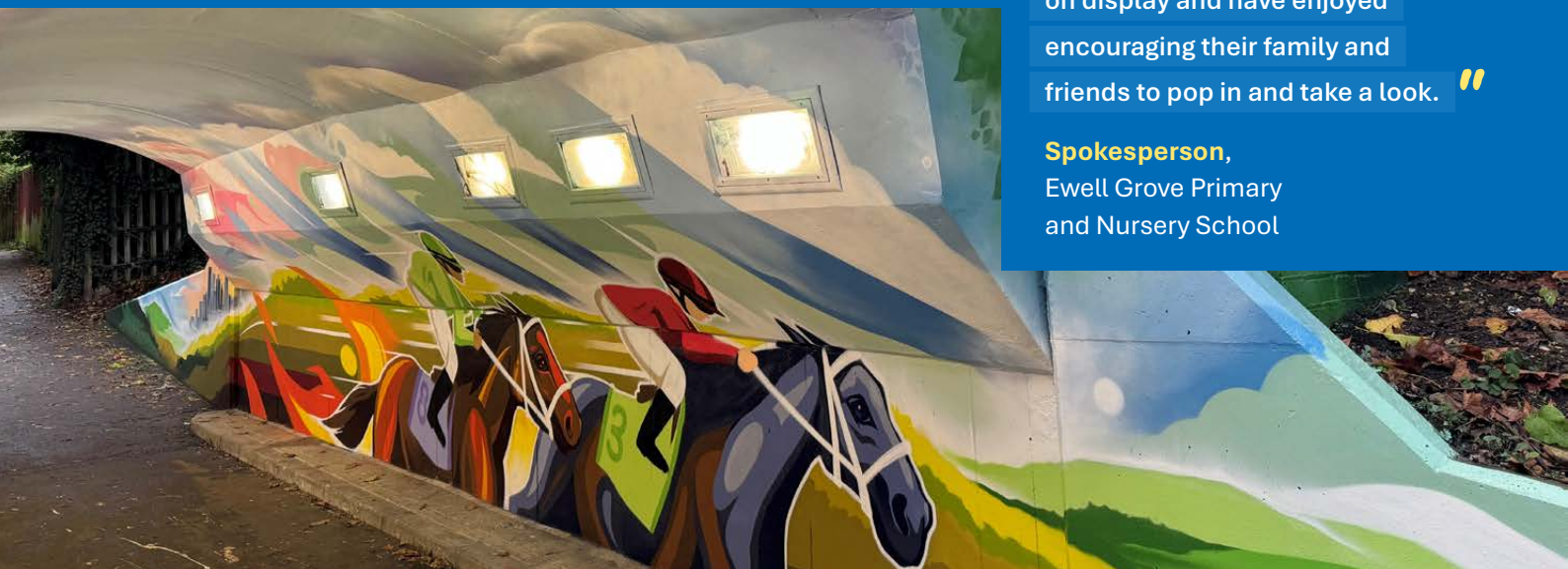
This project sits within Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy which aims to increase access to art, culture and heritage within the borough, as well as nurturing local, creative talent.

"The amazing thing about these projects is that they've allowed the participants to develop their social and technical skills simultaneously. I really hope that everyone who's had contact with Positive Arts through the creation of these murals has walked away feeling as though they've unlocked a skill they didn't have before – whether that's practical, via painting the area or socially via the teamwork that was essential for success!"

Councillor Clive Woodbridge,
Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Committee

"What a great experience we had, visiting Bourne Hall museum and becoming museum curators and exhibition designers for the morning. Our Year 5 children explored the artefacts with great enthusiasm and keen interest, with many of them saying they didn't realise that museums could be so much fun. The children were incredibly proud to see their exhibition posters on display and have enjoyed encouraging their family and friends to pop in and take a look."

Spokesperson,
Ewell Grove Primary
and Nursery School





“ I am delighted to support the launch of our latest free-to-enjoy digital tour about the Horton Light Railway at Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve. Showcasing the richness of our borough’s heritage, the tour is a great way to spend time outdoors, learning about the importance of the railway and its vital contribution to the borough’s hospital cluster. ”

Councillor Clive Woodbridge,
Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Committee



Bourne Hall

The last year has seen the addition of new play equipment outside of Bourne Hall, as well as an internal refresh, a buzzing summer festival and a variety of Christmas activities.



Bourne Hall is a popular venue for young families, many of which enjoy using the museum's kids club, a sing-song at the library or a bite to eat in the café. Families visiting Bourne Hall can now enjoy a playground area, aimed at children aged 8 and under. There are further opportunities for exploration in the surrounding park area, where interactive, sensory sculptures can be found. These new additions are part of the ongoing work in the Arts, Culture and Heritage team to increase access to creativity, support community wellbeing and encourage residents and visitors to engage with our green spaces in new ways. As well as some fantastic outdoor installations, Bourne Hall has benefited from new

solar panels and complete window replacements as part of our Climate Change Action Plan, specifically to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to make the building more sustainable and to help us achieve our goal of carbon neutrality by 2035. The foyer area has also been significantly modernised, with new furnishings throughout.

In May 2024, Bourne Hall hosted a Festival of Art and Sustainability. The free event offered a wide variety of environmentally-friendly and nature-based activities, entertainment, eco-friendly shopping and live music. Social enterprise, Creative Minds, ran art workshops and the Seed Hunters trail was

launched - designed to provide an education on the plants and trees at Bourne Hall.

The summer festival was followed by an equally successful event during December. This event included a Christmas light-switch on, special community panto 'A-Lad-in-Ewell' raising money for Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, an array of market stalls, live music and carol singing from Heart & Soul Choir.

Alongside the big summer festival and Christmas events, Bourne Hall trialled a number of new events, including an open mic night, magic shows and saw visits from a number of community groups, who visited the venue to understand more about its place in history.

Moving into 25/26

Local government

reorganisation



On 16 December 2024, central government published a White Paper on the topic of devolution, the de-centralisation of government power to local or regional authorities.

The White Paper detailed the proposal to ultimately deliver devolution through the creation of Strategic Mayoral Authorities in all areas which currently lack them, including Surrey. The government says that this approach aims to empower local communities, giving them greater control over decision-making and service implementation.

The first step to devolution in Surrey is the creation of fewer and larger unitary councils, through local government reorganisation, which the government believes will simplify and streamline local governance. On 9 May 2025, Surrey's district and borough councils submitted final proposals for local government reorganisation to the government, following a series of public council meetings held between 29 April and 8 May.

Nine district and borough councils support the formation of three unitary councils (Epsom & Ewell, Guildford, Reigate & Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Tandridge, Waverley and Woking) aimed at preserving local democracy, enhancing

accountability, and aligning new councils with Surrey's existing economic and community identities.

This model is intended to support more responsive governance and stronger local economies.

Two district and borough councils (Elmbridge and Mole Valley) and the county council favour two.

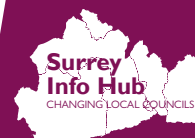
On 17 June 2025, the government launched a formal statutory

consultation to gain feedback from statutory consultees and residents on local government reorganisation in Surrey, which ran for seven weeks. We expect to hear the government's decision on the future of local government structures in Surrey in October 2025.

Find out more [Surrey Local Government Reorganisation Hub – Surrey LGR Hub](https://www.surreylgrhub.org)

HAVE YOUR SAY

On Surrey's future



Scan here to share your views



Local government in Surrey is changing

The government has launched a consultation to give residents, community groups and stakeholders the chance help shape Surrey's future.

The 3 Unitary Council Proposal

- **Better Local Services**
More responsive, place-based services with stronger local representation
- **Local Control & Growth**
Powers over housing, transport, and skills to boost Surrey's economy
- **Smarter, Efficient Spending**
Savings and streamlined services focused on prevention and innovation.



For more information and to have your say on Surrey's future visit www.surreylgrhub.org

Community Governance

Review

On Thursday 26 June at a meeting of full Council, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council agreed to carry out a Community Governance Review in the borough.

The initial consultation with residents and stakeholders started in July and will close on 9 October 2025. Find out more and have your say, here: epsom-ewell.gov.uk/CGR

The Community Governance Review aims to ascertain whether there is a need to create parish areas along with a parish council or councils in Epsom & Ewell: it includes options for geography, number of councillors and what councils should be called, e.g. parish, community, neighbourhood or village council(s).

As part of local government reorganisation, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will be dissolved in April 2027 along with all 12 district, borough and county councils in Surrey, and two or three new unitary councils will be created. New unitary councils will be responsible for services currently delivered by both Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and Surrey County Council in the borough – including waste and recycling, community support services, planning, education, social care and more. This is the biggest change in local government in fifty years.

“ We believe that parish councils would provide an essential link between Epsom & Ewell residents and a new unitary council, which will be responsible for a much larger area in Surrey; ensuring that resident and community voices in Epsom & Ewell are heard and considered by decision-makers in local government in the future.

Historically, Epsom & Ewell has had a strong local voice, with almost ninety years of continuous service on Epsom & Ewell Borough Council by the elected Residents' Association majority group.

We want to ensure that the interests of our residents and local communities have a platform, and that our vital local voice is not lost for future generations.”

Councillor John Beckett,
Chair of the Standards and
Constitution Committee



A historic

market town

First granted by Royal Charter in 1865, Epsom Market has been a defining focal point for this bustling town for hundreds of years.

Today, Epsom & Ewell is still home to regular markets where you can buy fresh food and drink, accessories, locally produced arts and crafts, and more.

Regular Market, Epsom Market Square, Thursday and Saturday

A variety of stalls selling fresh, local products such as seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh bread and baked goods, butchers, fashion and more.

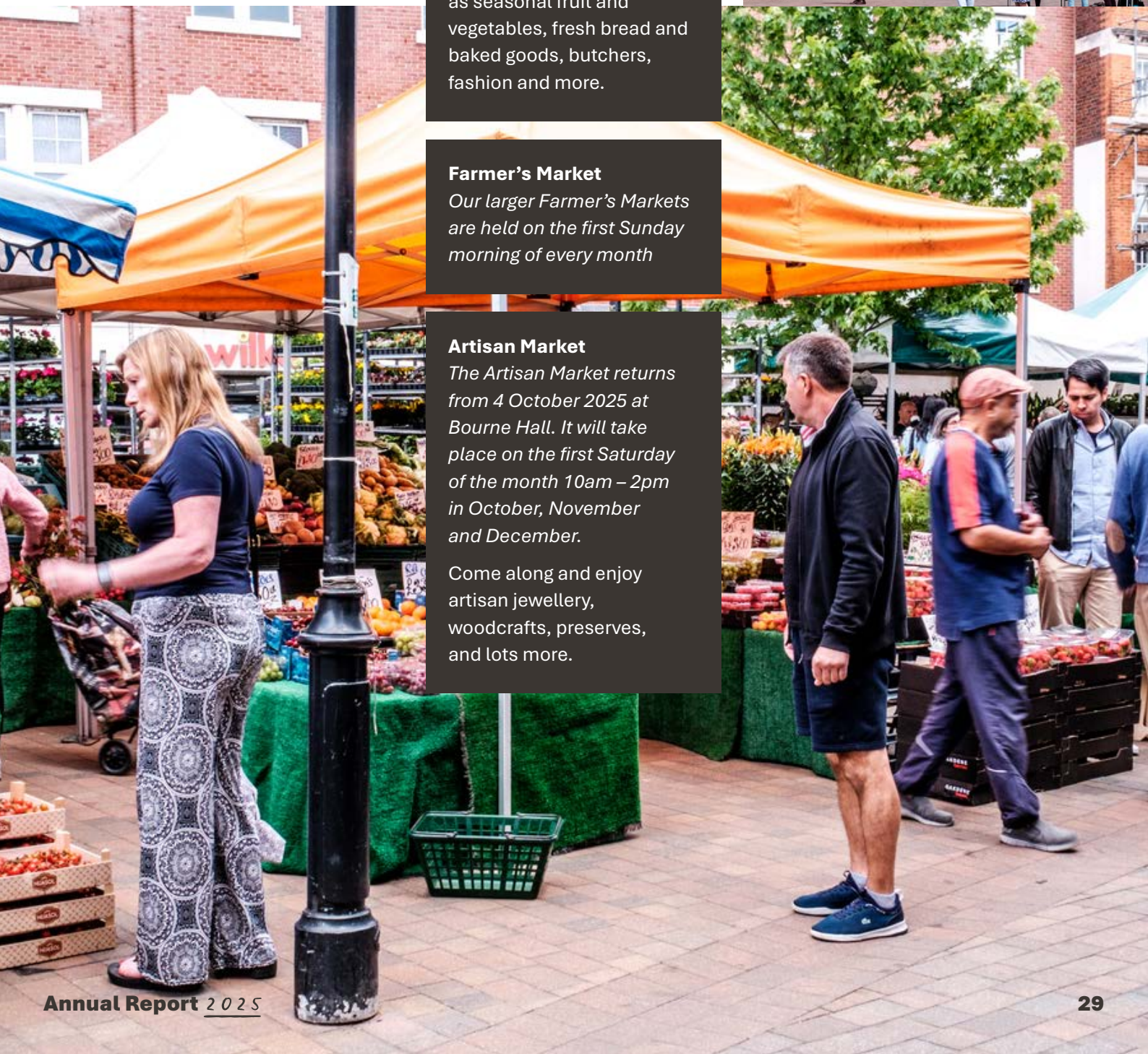
Farmer's Market

Our larger Farmer's Markets are held on the first Sunday morning of every month

Artisan Market

The Artisan Market returns from 4 October 2025 at Bourne Hall. It will take place on the first Saturday of the month 10am – 2pm in October, November and December.

Come along and enjoy artisan jewellery, woodcrafts, preserves, and lots more.



Contact us:

Call: **01372 732000**

Hard of hearing can SMS on **07950 080 202**

www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk

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