# THE STATION, IN STONELEIGH, REOPENS FOLLOWING MAJOR SIX-FIGURE INVESTMENT

#### SPONSORED ARTICLE:

Popular Stoneleigh pub, The Station, on The Broadway, has reopened to the public following an exciting six-figure renovation designed to revitalise the existing site and give it a brand-new look and feel.

The Station closed its doors in January and is now reopening following completion of major works both inside and out, reaffirming the popular pub as a central community space.



The inside of the pub has received a complete makeover to create a modern, welcoming atmosphere with new refreshed décor and an open plan layout divided into zones for various occasions, including a cocktail area, a TV-free restaurant/dining area, and a sports bar, with plentiful TVs including ones situated in the new outdoor pergola.

Customers will find comfort and convenience at the pub with the new layout, including bookable booths and a champagne table, providing a cosy and private space to enjoy time with friends and family. The pub can cater to gatherings of varying sizes in its revamped function room and the refurbished toilets offer improved facilities for all.

**Anna Carrier, General Manager of The Station said:** "Our brilliant team at The Station, are excited to showcase our new and improved pub to the local community. We're looking forward to welcoming both new and old customers!

"The renovation has given the pub a new lease of life, and we're confident that customers will love our improved facilities, whether they're looking for a drink with friends, a meal with the family, are booking a party, or enjoying a sporting event, there really is something for everyone!"

### 20th November 2025 Weekly

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The stunning gardens have undergone a huge transformation too and now offer a variety of comfortable seating from booths, high seats to normal tables, along with mood lighting and heating. The outdoor areas now offer even more space for relaxation or to dine and drink with friends whilst watching the sport on new outdoor TVs.

The pub offers Sky and TNT Sports, showing all major matches throughout the year, so sports fans need never miss a second of the action. The venue is also registered on the Greene King Sport App for countless deals.

Alongside seasonal events, The Station will host a regular programme of activities, including bingo every Tuesday, Thursday quiz nights, and live entertainment every Friday.

The Station reopens with a delicious menu, with many deals including irresistible small plates, perfect for sharing, priced at three for £15, or five for £22.50. Plus, there is a dedicated kids' menu, a Lunch Club menu, and a fabulous weekly Steak Thursday ensuring there's plenty of variety for everyone to enjoy. A Sunday menu is also available serving traditional roasts for all the family.

The investment has provided multiple job opportunities to the local community and the pub team has grown, offering around 10 new jobs for locals.

The Station reopened on the 21 February and is located on The Broadway, Stoneleigh, Epsom, KT17 2JA. For more information visit: https://www.greeneking.co.uk/pubs/surrey/station

# Local Labour view on Epsom and Ewell Council's future

Epsom and Ewell Times has invited representatives of The Residents Association, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservative Party to share their policies on local government reorganisation. Here is the first from Cllr Kate Chinn (Court Ward) of the Labour Party.

The government has directed a total reorganisation for two-tier local authority areas across the whole country. This was planned by the previous government and outlined in the Labour manifesto. Surrey County Council will cease to exist and will be divided up into, what Surrey Labour Party hopes, will be three unitary authorities.

Labour in Surrey has long argued that twelve councils, twelve civic centres or town halls, with twelve chief executives and a top-heavy administration is not the most economical way to deliver essential services. Small boroughs all with their own legal teams, revenue teams, housing teams, procurement staff—all duplicating roles unnecessarily. On completing the process, unitary authorities will soon start making efficiency savings.

Surrey Labour has been discussing for years how unitary authorities could be most effectively organised to best serve the residents of Surrey. Unlike the Liberal Democrats, who are hardly engaging, or the independents, burying their heads in the sand and calling for elections to be held in 2025, as did some council ruling groups. How they can claim good financial management whilst wanting an unnecessary election to go ahead makes no sense. Wasting taxpayers' money on a soon-to-be irrelevance would be unforgivable.

Surrey Labour has embraced the process, made a case for three unitary authorities, and carefully examined how they could be organised, taking into account the guidance from the white paper:

- Sensible economic geographies
- Travel to work areas
- The ability for local residents to engage and hold their devolved institutions to account

### The Case for Three Unitary Authorities

We believe that there is an overwhelming case for three councils based on existing geography, taking into account expected population growth and recognising the political, economic, and social challenges faced by the county.

Surrey is to be divided into unitary authorities (UAs), with the government suggesting a **population of 500,000 or more** as ideal but recognising that there *may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area*. The population of Surrey is **1.25** 

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#### million, which implies two or three authorities.

Dividing Surrey into two UAs would mean both would be oversized and geographically challenged in an area of anticipated population growth, whereas three would be initially undersized. The likely divisions would be:

- Two UAs (East/West) as proposed by the Conservatives
- Three UAs (North/South-West/South-East) as proposed by Labour and supported by all the boroughs and districts

### **Proposed Unitary Authorities**

With service delivery to residents being the most important issue, we suggest the following councils:

#### Middlesex-Surrey Borders

■ Elmbridge, Spelthorne & Runnymede

■ **Population:** 334,000

#### **Surrey Hills**

Guildford, Surrey Heath, Woking & Waverley

■ **Population:** 478,000

#### **North Downs**

■ Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, and Tandridge

**■ Population:** 416,000

These names and details are **provisional** and will be decided later. However, they best fit geographically and population-wise.

All these areas would have much stronger geographical links and community ties than the larger, two-unitary authority model. While all three are under the government's ideal **500,000 population** threshold, Surrey Hills is closer to that figure, and all are areas of **population growth**.

These three UAs could provide a more **local and focused** delivery of key services, ensuring better support for **adult social care and SEND needs**, both priorities for Surrey. It would give greater clarity for residents, with one authority being responsible for all local services. Service delivery would be **more efficient, more accountable**, and **free from disputes** over which council has responsibility in an area.

#### Local Voices Must Be Heard

It is essential to establish a close relationship between Surrey County and district councillors in shaping their new unitary authorities as they are formulated. The reorganisation process must not descend into factional disagreements but remain **focused on communities and democratic engagement** at a local level.

Other unitary councils, such as London boroughs, often have **local committees** to represent community views. Boroughs and districts in Surrey should now begin **engaging residents**, examining the options, and organising forums to ensure local voices are represented in the new UAs.

#### Conclusion

The devolution offer in the white paper suggests a **Surrey Mayor**, offering **priorities for funding that suit their areas** and providing **strategic leadership**. This could positively impact key Surrey priorities, including:

Skills and employment

- More housing
- Increased local investment
- Making Britain a clean energy superpower

Surrey's approaches to neighbouring areas for a joint strategic mayor have not been successful.

A Surrey Mayor would automatically represent an area that aligns with the current police and crime commissioner and the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service boundaries, as envisaged by the white paper's goal of "reforming and joining up public services".

Overall, we believe that our three-unitary authority model will best serve the needs of Surrey residents going forward.

Much of this is based on previous contributions by Robert Evans & Arran Neathey (2019), Cllr Catherine Powell (2025), Tony Rooth & Michael Moriarty, with additional input from Cllr Robert King, but it does not necessarily represent all of their individual views.

**Cllr Kate Chinn** Leader of the Labour Group February 2025

# 27th February 2025

**Business Local History Planning** 

# An Epsom 17th century pub to become supermarket?



26 February 2025

A 17th century pub could be transformed into a Sainsbury's Local. Plans have been submitted to refurbish the Grade II-listed drinking establishment, on Dorking Road in Epsom, to a convenience ... Read More

Council Finances

## What Epsom could do with Woking's £75 million bail out?



26 February 2025

Critical front-line services will be spared after a huge government 'bail out' was agreed, bankrupt Woking Borough Council has said. Officially referred to as Exceptional Financial Support for local authorities, ... Read More

**Business Council** 

# Poundland saving itself pennies in Elmbridge



26 February 2025

Poundland has been told to "show some local pride" and repair its broken shop front window and remove the graffiti from its East Molesey store. The low-price chain, which serves ... Read More

Community Letters Local History

# Epsom's Horton Cemetery gets attention of two kinds



24 February 2025

Just as The Epsom and Ewell Times was about to publish a letter concerning Council efforts to tidy and make safer the boundaries of Horton Cemetery (Hook Road / Horton  $\dots$  Read More

Community News Volunteers

# Epsom Stands in Solidarity with Ukraine on War's Third Anniversary



22 February 2025

Epsom's Market Place was a scene of unity and reflection today as residents, dignitaries, and members of the Ukrainian community gathered to mark the third anniversary (24th February) of Russia's ... Read More

Community Health

## Epsom Man's 56-Mile Walk to Raise Mental Health Awareness



21 February 2025

A local Epsom resident, Nicholas Mark Dulake, is set to complete an extraordinary challenge this Sunday, 23rd February 2025, as he concludes a 56-mile walk in aid of the mental ... Read More

**Education Health News** 

# Surrey Uni Zebrafish Study Links Blood Pressure Drug to Potential ADHD Treatment



20 February 2025

A commonly prescribed blood pressure medication could offer a safer alternative for treating ADHD symptoms, according to a new study involving the University of Surrey. The findings suggest that amlodipine, ... Read More

# **Epsom's Horton Cemetery gets attention of two kinds**

Just as **The Epsom and Ewell Times** was about to publish a letter concerning Council efforts to tidy and make safer the boundaries of Horton Cemetery (Hook Road / Horton Lane) a motor car struck railings near the roundabout and knocked over the Memorial to the near 9000 patients buried and neglected in the privately owned 5 acre cemetery.

**Surrey Police** issued a statement: "We were called to Horton Lane, Ewell at around 7:10pm on Wednesday 19 February after reports of a single vehicle collision at the location. Officers responded and found that the collision had resulted in damage to a fence and cemetery stone. The driver was not arrested and did not require medical treatment."



It is understood that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is responsible for the Memorial after former Labour Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, **Alan Carlson**, raised the money for its installation through a public appeal in 2004.

The charity The Friends of Horton Cemetery continues its campaign to restore the Cemetery to community ownership following the bizarre NHS transfer of the asset to a property speculator in 1983. **Michael Heighes** of Marque Securities has taken away the tombstones and all the crosses on each grave have gone. The cemetery is barely recognisable as a cemetery and relatives cannot enter without trespassing.

Recently, the Charity has made a submission to the Law Commission, which is considering reforms to cemetery law. It has submitted that the opportunity to update the laws should include a duty to maintain and allow access to cemeteries in private

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#### hands.

The charity has also sent a letter to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council in connection with the current Local Plan arguing any development of neighbouring **Horton Farm** for housing should seek developer's funds for the restoration of the Cemetery as an amenity of peace and remembrance open to the public.

Mr **Lionel Blackman**, Secretary of the Charity, said "The existence of the largest asylum cemetery in Europe is not going to disappear. With relatives coming forward every week and our research team publishing the lives of over 600 patients so far, it is only a matter of time and whichever local government takes over, that action will redress this historic outrage."

Sam Jones - Reporter

Letter from Matthew Walters, Epsom.

#### Dear Sir,

I would like to draw attention to recent developments concerning Horton Cemetery in West Ewell, Epsom.

For many years, concerns have been raised about the lack of respect shown to the 9,000 individuals buried there, whose graves are no longer marked. More recently, attention has also turned to the safety risks for road users on the busy Hook Road.

Until yesterday, the grass verge alongside the cemetery was largely inaccessible due to overgrown brambles and tree branches extending from the cemetery, as well as significant fly-tipping, including building waste.

It is therefore welcome news that Surrey County Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have worked together to clear the area, improving both its appearance and safety, as evidenced in the accompanying photographs.

While the decision to classify Horton Cemetery and its 9,000 graves as an "amenity woodland" remains a point of contention, the recent clearance has ensured that the surroundings are now more in keeping with a cemetery. However, the public should be aware that sections of the perimeter railings remain unsafe, with some sharp railings protruding towards Hook Road at dangerous angles, none of which are currently marked with hazard tape.

Falling branches from trees inside the cemetery continue to pose a risk to road users, and it is hoped that Surrey County Council will monitor this issue and take necessary action, as indicated in previous communications.

In the meantime, cyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists should exercise caution when travelling along Hook Road near the cemetery. Furthermore, steps should be taken to ensure that the cost of maintaining overgrown vegetation from within the cemetery does not fall upon Council Tax payers.

Horton Cemetery remains in private ownership by a property developer, and the recent clearance now allows for greater visibility into the site. This presents an opportunity for the public to assess whether greater care and respect should be afforded to those buried there.

Out of sight should not mean out of mind.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Walters

# 20th February 2025

**News Transport** 

## Surrey sink-hole major incident



19 February 2025

A significant sinkhole has emerged on Godstone High Street in Surrey, leading to evacuations and widespread disruptions. The incident began on Monday night when a section of the road collapsed, ... Read More

Council Housing Planning

## Councillor thinks new Ewell homes refusal is batty



18 February 2025

Plans for four new homes in Ewell have been refused over bats potentially living in the two bungalows. Although one survey was done, councillors could not rule out there were ... Read More

**Rugby Sports** 

# **Sutton and Epsom Soar in Nine-Try Extravaganza**



17 February 2025

Sutton & Epsom RFC 59 Dartfordians 20. Saturday 15th February. 1988, the first league season, was when Dartfordians last visited Rugby Lane on the final day of the season. On ... Read More

Football Sports

### Epsom and Ewell FC win for correspondent's 2000th match





17 February 2025

Epsom and Ewell 2-1 Abbey Rangers. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 15th February. Richard Lambert, both a dedicated fan of Epsom and Ewell FC, a club historian ... Read More

Council Finances

# **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council: Financial Crisis or Manageable Deficit?**



15 February 2025

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is under increasing scrutiny following the resignation of Councillor Alex Coley (Independent Ruxley Ward) from the ruling Residents' Association (RA) group. His resignation letter cites ... Read More

Local History

## The Plot of Gunpowder in Worcester Park



14 February 2025

Unearthing History: Worcester Park's Gunpowder Mills Rediscovered For centuries, the quiet banks of the Hogsmill River at Old Malden Lane, Worcester Park, concealed a remarkable piece of Surrey's industrial past. ... Read More

Council Finances

# Ex-Council Officers under investigation for Woking's £2 billion debt



13 February 2025

Two former officers at Woking Borough Council are being investigated over their roles in Woking Borough Council's bankruptcy. The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has confirmed that it is looking into ... Read More

Council News

## **Prominent Residents Association Councillor leaves the fold**



13 February 2025

Councillor Alex Coley, who has represented Ruxley Ward in Ewell for seven years, has announced his resignation from the ruling Residents' Association (RA) group, opting to serve as an Independent ... Read More

**News Policing** 

## **Epsom complainant changes Surrey police procedure**



13 February 2025

Surrey Police Accepts Recommendation to Improve Retention of Body-Worn Video Evidence in Complaints Surrey Police has agreed to implement a key recommendation from the Office of the Police and Crime ... Read More

Council Environment

# Surrey County Council's Climate Change Progress: Successes, Setbacks, and the Road Ahead



13 February 2025

Surrey County Council (SCC) has made notable strides in its efforts to combat climate change, cutting its own carbon emissions by 38% since 2019. However, despite significant progress, challenges remain, ... Read More

# 13th February 2025

Council Finances

# Epsom & Ewell Full Council Meeting: Budget Approved Amid Debate



12 February 2025

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council held a full council meeting on 11 February 2025, where key issues, including the approval of the council's budget, the mayor's upcoming engagements, and urgent ... Read More

**Business Council** 

# Funding for new apprenticeships now available to Surrey businesses

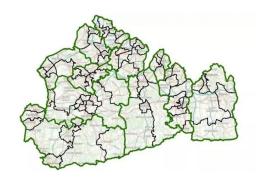


#### 11 February 2025

Businesses can grow their workforce and boost productivity in just a few clicks by getting an apprenticeship funded by Surrey County Council. As part of the Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Scheme, ... Read More

Council Council constitution

# Mega Surrey council ruled out as leader says it would 'lack accountability'



#### 11 February 2025

Council leaders across Surrey have ruled out making the county a single mega authority. The agreement was reached during a meeting on February 7, attended by leaders from all eleven ... Read More

**Environment News Transport** 

### Surrey leading the shout: "Keep the noise down will you!"



11 February 2025

An interdisciplinary network of engineers, policymakers, industry stakeholders and social scientists, led by the University of Surrey, will take on one of the UK's most overlooked environmental challenges: noise pollution. ... Read More

Council Council constitution Finances

# Epsom & Ewell Council not much in the red but too much in the pink!

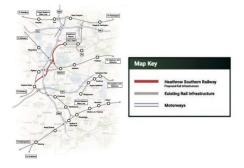


11 February 2025

Governance Failing Exposed by External Audit Findings The Audit and Scrutiny Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council convened on 6th February 2025, where the External Audit Report by Grant ... Read More

**News Transport** 

## Surrey's new rail link to Heathrow?



#### 11 February 2025

Plans for a new railway connecting Surrey to Heathrow and beyond have resurfaced as the track's backers welcomed government support for a third runway at the airport. The line, called ... Read More

Council Finances

# **Guildford Borough Council keeps its lights on**



8 February 2025

A Surrey council may have "kept the lights on" and balanced the budget this year but trouble could be looming. The pessimistic warning came during the budget meeting as councillors ... Read More

Council Environment

## Surrey's flood defences and energy efficiency funding



8 February 2025

Funding for Surrey's climate change programme has been reinstated after the county council received £1.5m more in government grants than it was expecting. Surrey's Greener Future's programme is a climate change ... Read More

Council Housing Planning

# Mole Valley setting a green belt development trend?



8 February 2025

Up to 200 new homes will be built on former green belt land despite fears they could overwhelm the already strained sewage system. Mole Valley District Council's planning committee approved ... Read More

**Business Education Environment** 

# Surrey Uni leads research to replace plastic with paper for liquids



8 February 2025

A multimillion-pound research project, called SustaPack, aims to overcome manufacturing challenges for the next generation of sustainable, paper-based packaging for liquids. Backed by a £1 million grant from the Engineering ... Read More

Council Elections News

# Elections Delayed as Surrey Faces Uncertain Future of Local Government Shake-Up



7 February 2025

Surrey residents will have to wait an extra year to vote in the county elections following the government's decision to postpone the polls from May 2025 to May 2026. The ... Read More

Council Finances

## Surrey mansion tax debated at County Council



6 February 2025

Plans for 'those with the broadest shoulders' to voluntarily pay more council tax to help those in need have been labelled 'morally

corrupt' in a heated debate. The idea is  $\dots$  Read More

Community News

# Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell Delivers Crucial Support Amid Rising Cost-of-Living Pressures



6 February 2025

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE) has revealed the scale of its impact over the past year, with thousands of local residents receiving support on a range of pressing financial ... Read More

**Council Elections** 

## Political furies over Surrey election postponement



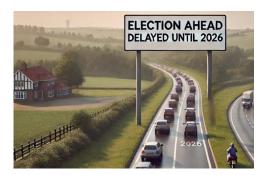
5 February 2025

Rival political parties are furious over the cancellation of Surrey's 2025 county council elections, with groups claiming the ruling Conservatives are "running scared". The government announced on Wednesday (February 5) ... Read More

# 6th February 2024

Council Elections News

## Surrey County Council election delay stirring up a storm



5 February 2025

Surrey County Council Elections Postponed Until 2026 Amid Local Government Reforms In a significant move reflecting the evolving landscape of local governance in England, the British government has decided to ... Read More

News Policing

## **Surrey Police hikes its Council tax share**



5 February 2025

Surrey Police's share of council tax bills will leap over £335 a year for the average Band D households. Lisa Townsend, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) said the 4.3 ... Read More

Arts Education Transport

# **Young Artists Brighten Up Tattenham Corner Station**



#### 4 February 2025

Passengers at Tattenham Corner station will soon be welcomed by a brand-new display of artwork, thanks to a creative collaboration between local students and The Arts Society Epsom. Led by ... Read More

Crime News

# Criminal car park QR codes wrong on many levels



4 February 2025

Fake QR codes, used to scam motorists into giving away their bank and card details, have been found in Guildford car parks. The scam codes have been placed on payment ... Read More

Council Finances Planning

# Planning a house extension in Epsom and Ewell? A hard lesson from Waverley



4 February 2025

A man who was charged £70,000 by a Surrey council said it was a "watershed moment" to be given recognition of his struggle and the right to appeal. A couple  $\dots$  Read More

**Rugby Sports** 

## Epic comeback against Sutton & Epsom RFC a fitting end





#### 3 February 2025

Medway 32 Sutton & Epsom RFC 31. Saturday 1st February. It was an emotional Saturday at Priestfields as the hosts had suffered the tragic passing of their cherished groundsman Mel ... Read More

Crime Policing

## Online Fraud in Epsom & Ewell: Call for an Online Crime Agency



2 February 2025

Online fraud, particularly through fake retail websites, has become a significant issue both nationally and within our local community of Epsom & Ewell. Recent data underscores the pressing need for ... Read More

**Business News** 

### Epsom & Ewell households drowning as water bills rise?



#### 2 February 2025

Epsom & Ewell Residents Face Sharp Water Bill Hike as Regional Disparities Emerge From April 2025, households in Epsom & Ewell will see a substantial increase in water bills, with ... Read More

Football Sports

# Epsom and Ewell FC strike back for draw





#### 2 February 2025

Sheerwater 2-2 Epsom and Ewell. Combined Counties League - Premier Division South. Saturday 1st February. Two second half goals enabled us to earn a 2-2 draw and break a five ... Read More

Council Council constitution Editorial

# What might local government reorganisation mean for Epsom and Ewell?



31 January 2025

As Surrey faces a significant overhaul of its local government structure, residents of Epsom and Ewell are rightfully concerned about the potential financial repercussions. The proposed reorganisation may lead to ... Read More

Council Finances

## Will Epsom and Ewell be bailing out Woking?



31 January 2025

Debt-ridden Woking Borough Council has approved the sale of two more assets as it continues slashing its way to a balanced budget. The bankrupt authority, with debts of more than ... Read More

Council Finances

## Will Epsom and Ewell be bailing out Guildford?



31 January 2025

A Surrey council faces tough decisions in the future after receiving a "very difficult financial settlement from the government".

Guildford Borough Council has no extra funding to meet inflation and  $\dots$  Read More Council Finances

## Will Epsom and Ewell be bailing out Spelthorne?



31 January 2025

"Significant weaknesses" in a council's financial records have been laid bare in a new report. External auditors for Spelthorne Borough Council said they could not fully assess or complete the ... Read More

# What might local government reorganisation mean for Epsom and Ewell?

As Surrey faces a significant overhaul of its local government structure, residents of Epsom and Ewell are rightfully concerned about the potential financial repercussions. The proposed reorganisation may lead to two unitary authorities that merge the county's 11 borough and district councils, a move intended to streamline services and reduce administrative costs. However, this consolidation raises pressing questions about fiscal responsibility and the equitable distribution of debt, particularly for boroughs like Epsom and Ewell that have historically maintained prudent financial practices.

#### The Financial Landscape of Surrey's Boroughs

The Epsom and Ewell Times has just published three reports detailing the financial woes of three councils within Surrey that are grappling with substantial debts resulting from ambitious investment strategies.

- Woking Borough Council declared effective bankruptcy in 2023, burdened by debts exceeding £2 billion due to failed investments in large-scale projects. The council has since been compelled to implement severe austerity measures, including significant tax increases, service closures, and asset sales.
- **Spelthorne Borough Council** faces over £1 billion in debt from investments in commercial properties. A recent audit revealed "significant weaknesses" in financial record-keeping, inadequate plans to address looming budget gaps, and concerns over governance and internal culture.
- **Guildford Borough Council** is confronting a challenging financial future, with projected budget gaps escalating to £5.9 million by 2028/29. The council has acknowledged the need for cost reductions and increased income to manage these pressures.

#### **Epsom and Ewell's Prudent Financial Management**

In contrast, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has consistently balanced its budgets or been able to use reserves to meet its obligations, demonstrating fiscal discipline and effective financial stewardship. This prudent management has enabled the council to maintain most services and infrastructure without accruing unsustainable debt levels.

#### The Justice of Debt Redistribution

### 20th November 2025 Weekly



ISSN 2753-2771

The proposed reorganisation raises a critical question: Is it just for residents of financially prudent boroughs like Epsom and Ewell to assume responsibility for the substantial debts incurred by other councils? Merging councils into larger unitary authorities could lead to a pooling of assets *and liabilities*, potentially obliging Epsom and Ewell's residents to contribute to servicing debts they had no part in accumulating.

This scenario not only challenges principles of fiscal fairness but also risks penalising councils that have exercised sound financial management. It is imperative to consider whether it is equitable for residents to bear the financial burdens resulting from the mismanagement of neighbouring authorities.

#### **Calls for Government Intervention**

Recognising the potential injustice, Surrey County Council's leader, Councillor Tim Oliver, has advocated for central government to write off the significant debts of councils like Woking before proceeding with devolution plans. This approach aims to mitigate the financial risks associated with high debt levels and prevent the unfair distribution of financial burdens across the county. How likely is it that a Labour Government will write off a debt accumulated by Woking under its previous Conservative led Council?

#### The Path Forward

As discussions about local government reorganisation progress, it is crucial to ensure that any new structures are underpinned by principles of fiscal responsibility and equity. Potential solutions include:

- **Debt Segregation:** Isolating the debts of heavily indebted councils to prevent them from being transferred to newly formed unitary authorities.
- **Government Debt Relief:** Advocating for central government intervention to alleviate or write off unsustainable debts, ensuring that the financial missteps of certain councils do not adversely impact the entire county.
- **Transparent Financial Assessments:** Conducting comprehensive financial evaluations of all councils involved in the reorganisation to inform fair and equitable decision-making.

The proposed reorganisation of Surrey's local government presents an opportunity to enhance efficiency and service delivery at the cost of Borough based democracy. However, it also necessitates careful consideration of the financial implications for all residents. Epsom and Ewell's community, having benefited from prudent financial management, should not be unduly burdened by the debts of other councils. It is incumbent upon policymakers to design a reorganisation framework that upholds fiscal justice, ensuring that the residents of Epsom and Ewell are not unfairly disadvantaged in the pursuit of broader administrative reforms.

#### Related reports:

All change! Epsom and Ewell Borough Council approaching its final stop?

Surrey's Conservative leader wants to postpone May's poll reckoning

Tiers to be shed if Epsom and Ewell loses its Borough Council?

# **30th January 2025**

Council Finances

# **Surrey County tax increase vote**

Valuation band	Core precept	ASC precept	Overall precept
Α	£1,039.83	£191.07	£1,230.90
В	£1,213.13	£222.92	£1,436.05
C	£1,386.44	£254.76	£1,641.20
D	£1,559.74	£286.61	£1,846.35
E	£1,906.35	£350.30	£2,256.65
F	£2,252.96	£413.99	£2,666.95
G	£2,599.57	£477.68	£3,077.25
Н	£3,119.48	£573.22	£3,692.70

29 January 2025

A council tax hike could be hitting Surrey as members take the first look at the county's budget. Residents could see a maximum increase of 4.99 per cent on council ... Read More

**News Transport** 

## **Heathrow expansion reaction**



29 January 2025

Heathrow has been given the go ahead to press forward with plans for third runway that will bring in hundreds of thousands of extra flights to the West London airport ... Read More

**News Westminster** 

# Parliament's sting in the tail for Epsom and Ewell WASPIs lamented by local MP



29 January 2025

Helen Maguire, the Liberal Democrat MP for Epsom & Ewell, has expressed her disappointment after a parliamentary vote on compensating WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) claimants failed to gain ... Read More

Council Local History

### Heritage at the heart of Epsom and Ewell



28 January 2025

The Licensing and Planning Policy Committee (LPPC) of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council convened on January 23rd, to address several key issues, including the annual Heritage Champion's statement, fees and ... Read More

**Rugby Sports** 

## **Sutton and Epsom rugby away win**



26 January 2025

SIDCUP 24 SUTTON & EPSOM RFC 34. Saturday 25th January. Crescent Farm has produced a bounteous harvest this season with a maximum crop yield of 35 points from a magnificent  $\dots$  Read More

Council Finances

## Epsom and Ewell car parking fees on new levels



24 January 2025

Epsom and Ewell Council Approves Changes to Car Parking Fees and Policies for 2025/26 In a meeting of the Environment Committee on 21 January 2025, councillors approved a series of ... Read More

Arts News

### New artwork takes centre stage at Epsom Playhouse



24 January 2025

During January two new murals were completed at Epsom Playhouse. The murals are part of a series of vibrant public art installations across the borough. Championing the 40-year history of ... Read More

**Environment News Transport** 

## "Blocks away" from airport expansions



24 January 2025

So called "blockers" to major transport projects will be cleared in a move that looks set to curb challenges to Heathrow and Gatwick Airport expansions, the Government has announced. The ... Read More

News Science Transport

# Surrey Uni making self-driving cars safer



23 January 2025

With self-driving cars expected to hit British roads next year (2026), a new motion forecasting framework developed by the University of Surrey and Fudan University, China, promises to make autonomous ... Read More

Arts Council Finances

# Epsom Playhouse £1.50 per ticket fee from 1st April



23 January 2025

The Epsom Playhouse will now charge an additional £1.50 facility fee per ticket as of the 1st April 2025. During its meeting on the 16th January 2025, the Community and ... Read More

Football Sports

## Epsom and Ewell's 11 to 9 win 1 to 0



22 January 2025

Epsom and Ewell 1-0 Spelthorne Sports. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Tuesday 21st January 2025. It was hard not to feel sorry for the visiting Spelthorne Sports team ... Read More

# **23rd January 2025**

**Education News** 

Parents lose trust in Surrey state "school family" admission priority



22 January 2025

A Surrey suburb is up in arms as an 'oustanding' secondary school could change its admissions, making it more tricky for local children to get a place. Consultation for the ... Read More

**Rugby Sports** 





# Sutton & Epsom RFC just fail to mount comeback

21 January 2025

SUTTON & EPSOM RFC 42 OLD TIFFINIANS 46. Saturday 18th January. Sutton and Epsom started this campaign with a rollicking runaway win over Old Colfeians. Since then the Rugby Lane ... Read More

Housing News Planning

### **New homes planned for Ashtead**

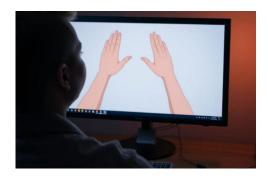


21 January 2025

Hundreds of new homes could be built in Ashtead if newly submitted plans to Mole Valley District Council are approved. Wates Developments and its partners, Vistry Group, have submitted outline ... Read More

Community Education

### Surrey Uni to lead on speech to sign GBT computer programme



21 January 2025

A large-language model (LLM) built to meet the needs of the Deaf community, translating between signed and spoken language, is the aim of a new project led by the University ... Read More

Community Health

# **Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust Calls Out Delays to New Hospital Programme**



21 January 2025

The long-awaited specialist emergency care hospital for southwest London and Surrey has faced yet another setback following the Government's announcement about delays to the national New Hospital Programme. Epsom and ... Read More

Football Sports

## **Epsom & Ewell FC knocked out by narrow loss**





21 January 2025

VCD Athletic 1-0 Epsom and Ewell FC. Isuzu F.A. Vase - Fourth Round. Saturday 18th January. After four home wins in the

competition, we departed the F.A. Vase in our  $\dots$  Read More Arts Culture



## **Epsom Jazz Club Brings Top Talent to Town**

18 January 2025

Epsom is swinging to the sound of jazz, thanks to the Epsom Jazz Club – a not-for-profit community project dedicated to bringing Nationally and Internationally renowned jazz musicians to the ... Read More

Council Housing Planning

# Local Plan lessons from a Surrey borough?



18 January 2025

Precious green belt sites could be at risk of speculative developments and Waverley Borough Council could be powerless to stop them after its biggest housing project was judged to be ... Read More

Arts Council

## The Redhill Harlequin Theatre bows out for 5 years.



18 January 2025

It could take another five years before the Redhill's Harlequin Theatre reopens after dangerous crumbly concrete forced its closure. The popular theatre and cinema space in the heart of the ... Read More

Community News

# New family mediation in Epsom



18 January 2025

Relate Mid and East Surrey Launches New Family Mediation Service Relate Mid and East Surrey is thrilled to announce the launch of its new family mediation service, designed to help ... Read More

**Business Environment Transport** 

## Surrey village to suffer a lot more Heathrow flights



18 January 2025

Residents could suffer "an unacceptable amount of noise" from an airport as flight directions change, meaning the number of landing planes could increase from 36 to over 300 a day ... Read More

Council Health

## Tackling health inequalities in Surrey



### 20th November 2025 Weekly



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18 January 2025

Surrey County Council has been awarded 5 years of funding by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to create a Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC). The £5m funding will ... Read More