

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Borough Profile

Introduction

The borough covers an area of 5,095 hectares (14,591 acres) in southwest London and is the only London borough spanning both sides of the Thames, with river frontage of 21½ miles. There are about a dozen towns and villages, although more than a third of its land is open space (including Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Kew Gardens).

Demographics

More detailed demographic data can be found at: <http://www.richmond.gov.uk/cenborough.pdf>

Ward level data can be found at:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/community_and_living/neighbourhood_information/census_information.htm

Population

The borough has a population of 182,000 according to the revised mid-year estimates for 2004 produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Age

2001 Census data shows that compared with Greater London boroughs, Richmond upon Thames now has the eleventh highest proportion of people aged 65 or over, and the seventh highest of people aged 75 and over. The proportion of those aged 65 or over (13.7%) is in line with Outer London (13.8%) and marginally above that for Greater London as a whole (12.4%). However, the proportion of people aged 85 and over in the borough is one of the highest in London.

Set against this is the fact that the borough has, on average, fewer young people than the rest of London. For example the 2001 census shows that only 5.4% of our population aged between 20 and 24 compared to 7.4% for the rest of London.

Homes and Households

At the time of the 2001 Census there were approximately 76,100 homes in the borough, representing an increase of just over 3000 on the 1991 figure. Approximately 1200 of these additional homes were attributable to boundary changes, with the remainder due to increases in supply brought about by new developments, conversions etc

In 2001 the average size household in the borough was 2.23 people, and over a third of households were single people. The level of home ownership is 69%, according to the 2001 census, with a further 15% renting from private landlords and another 12% (nearly 9,000) households renting from a registered social landlord.

House prices in the borough are considerably higher than the London average. The average price of a property in Richmond from Jan – March 2006 was £421,715 compared to £306,663 for Greater London.

An analysis of CACI's PayCheck modelled data¹ 2005 suggests that with the exception of the City, Richmond upon Thames has the highest average income (£46,415) of any London borough. St Margaret's & North Twickenham & East Sheen wards are amongst the ten wards with the highest gross household incomes in Greater London. Only 5.5% of households have an income of less than £10,000 compared to 9.6% in Greater London and 13.2% in Great Britain.

Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004) examines communities at a Super Output Area level. No areas within the borough are in either the top 10% or top 25% most deprived areas in the country. In fact, 24 areas (21% of those in the borough) were in the 10% least deprived areas in the country. 68 (60% of those in the borough) were amongst the 25% least deprived areas in the country. Although not deprived in a national sense, some areas in the borough are relatively deprived compared to others and pockets of deprivation do occur.

Ethnicity

Richmond is one of the least ethnically diverse boroughs in London, with a non-white population similar to the average for England & Wales. Just over 9% of the borough's population is made up of non-white minority ethnic groups, the largest of which is Indian - 2.46%.

Heathfield ward has by far the largest concentration of non-white ethnic minority groups (16.2%) living in the borough. Whitton and West Twickenham are also more ethnically diverse compared to the borough average, whereas Hampton is the least diverse. Further examination of the ethnic mix of these two wards reveals that the most significant non-white ethnic group is Indian. Approximately a quarter of all Indians in the borough live in these two wards.

Almost 10% of the borough's population falls within the "white - other white" category. The following map shows a distinct contrast between the west & east of the borough. There are a significant proportion of Irish people living in the borough (2.79% of the population). Barnes and South Richmond wards have a large proportion of residents in the "white - white other" category", 16.5% and 18.2% respectively. The group includes white people not classified as either "White British" or "White Irish".

Employment

There are approximately 67,000 workers employed in the borough with 69% of these workers are fulltime. Nearly 89% of these are employed in service industries. Hotels and catering account for 6% of the borough's workplace jobs, while professional and personal services contribute 10% and 8% of jobs respectively.

A continuing trend over the last decade has been for the creation of more jobs relating to construction and property development. The borough has the largest proportion of self-employed residents of all but one of the London boroughs, currently standing at 12.4%. (2001 Census).

83% of 16-74 year olds are economically active. Unemployment, currently stands at 1.9% (April 2005), has remained low over the last few years and is amongst the lowest in London. In April 2005, there were 1,715 claimants at job-centres in the borough. The borough has the smallest proportion of long-term unemployed (0.61%) in Greater London. The average for the outer London boroughs is 1.08%. There are marked variations from the outer London borough averages also in certain categories of occupation:

¹ gross household income - no deductions for housing or other costs

11.87% of borough residents are in higher professional occupations compared to the outer London average of 6.76%. Just over 28% are in lower managerial and professional occupations, compared to the outer London average of 21.91%

Greater London Authority analysis of Labour Force survey data for London 2001/2002 (Disabled People and the Labour Market) shows that 8.3% of the borough's working age population are both disabled and economically active.

Commuting

The 2001 census shows some 55,500 of the borough's residents commuted out of the borough to work. This amounted to 62% of all employed residents. Almost 34,000 people (38% of the resident workforce) both lived & worked in the borough. 34,500 people commuted into the borough to work, representing 50% of workers.

Education

The Local Education Authority maintains one nursery school and 12 nursery units, 41 primary schools, eight secondary schools for 11-16 year olds and two special schools. Provision for children with special needs is made in all mainstream schools. The Local Education Authority maintained schools have 12,560 full-time and part-time primary pupils on roll, and 7,350 secondary pupils. 150 pupils attend the borough's special schools.

Pupils eligible for free school meals represent 10.8% of the roll in primary schools, 16.2% in secondary schools and 36.7% in special schools. 23% of pupils are resident outside the borough, comprising 13% of primary pupils and 39% of secondary pupils.

The ethnic backgrounds of pupils attending the borough schools show that 82.7% are White, with the largest ethnic minority groups being pupils of Mixed/Dual background (5.8%) followed by pupils of Asian/Asian British background (5.4%). Children who attend schools in the borough speak over 78 languages other than English.

Standards achieved in National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests taken by 11-year-old pupils in the borough's primary schools are well above the national averages. In 2002:

- 84% of pupils achieved Level 4 or above in English (national averages of 75%);
- 83% in mathematics (73%); and
- 94% in science (86%),

Pupils in the borough's secondary schools achieve results similar to the national averages. In 2002, at Key Stage 4 (GCSE/GNVQ), 51% of pupils achieved 5 or more passes at A*-C grades and 89% achieved 5 or more passes at A*-G grades.

More information can be found on the Children and Young People's plan for 2006 - 2009 at: <http://www.richmond.gov.uk/cypp.pdf>

Health

Overall, the population in Richmond upon Thames is healthier than the national average, with the exception of breast cancer rates which are significantly above rates for neighbouring boroughs. The trend for most diseases is that instances are falling, with most improvement in

the higher socio-economic areas. The life expectation from birth of the Borough's residents is 77.9 years for men and 82.2 years for women. These are higher than the London average.

Each year, between 15% and 17% of deaths locally occur among people aged less than 65 years, many of which are potentially avoidable. Almost a third of deaths each year occur among people aged less than 75 years. The majority of deaths in the borough are caused by circulatory diseases (35%), cancer (24%) and respiratory diseases (20%)

The borough has the lowest age standardised mortality rates for men (683 per 100,000) women (489 per 100,000) and persons, i.e. both men and women, (573 per 100,000) of its neighbouring boroughs. It has the fourth lowest rate in Greater London.

The 2001 Census data shows that 12.4% of the borough's population has a limiting long term illness, health problem or disability which limited their daily activities or the work they could do (includes problems that are due to old age). 5.25% of the working age population are permanently sick or disabled. The England & Wales average for long term limiting illness is 18.2% and 13.6% for permanently sick or disabled respectively.

More information on the Health of the borough can be found at:

<http://www.richmondandtwickenham.nhs.uk/keypub/public-health-profile.cfm>

The Environment

Richmond upon Thames has over 21 miles of River Thames frontage, and has 96 parks. This includes two Royal Parks, Richmond and Bushy, containing herds of red and fallow deer, the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew and many other wildlife habitats. Richmond Park is 930 hectares in size and has been designated a National Nature Reserve. Bushy Park was first enclosed in 1499 and is 445 hectares in size.

Of key importance in Richmond upon Thames is the need to protect the borough's biodiversity. The priority habitats within this borough, which are also of regional and national importance, are: Acid Grassland, Ancient Parkland/Veteran Trees, Broadleaved Woodland, Reedbeds and Tidal Thames. The priority species, which are also of regional, national and international importance, are: Bats, Mistletoe, Song Thrush, Stag Beetles, Tower Mustard and Water Voles.

More information on Biodiversity in Richmond can be found at:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/richmonds_biodiversity_action_plan

We are also aware of the impacts that climate change can have on the borough with the risk of flooding being a major concern to many residents given the boroughs extensive river footage.

More information on the borough's work to act locally and contribute to reducing global warming can be found in a report by scrutiny committee on climate change:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/climate_change_stg_final_report.pdf

Pollution

Air pollution data from the period from 1993 up to November 2002 showed that in the long term the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) show a downward trend, in other words the air quality has been improving at the sites monitored. The diffusion tube results show that whilst some of the busiest road locations do exceed the objective limit for NO₂, many sites do not. However, work was carried out to predict air pollution levels in the Borough in the year 2005, taking into account anticipated changes in road traffic composition and volume. The modeling results

indicated that air pollution levels in 2005 would exceed the permitted limits for NO₂ and PM₁₀. Noise pollution and water pollution are also of concern in the borough.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/environment/pollution/air_pollution/air_quality.htm

Waste and recycling

Between 2005 and 2006 households in the borough created nearly 86,000 tonnes of waste. This equates to every person in the borough creating 470 kg of household waste.

Of this waste the Council recycled just over 20% (17,997 tonnes) of this waste, 7.53% (6,464 tonnes) was composted and 71.52% (61,434 tonnes) went into Landfill.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/environment/rubbish_waste_and_recycling.htm

Crime and Community Safety

Compared to the rest of London Richmond upon Thames has very low levels of crime and is one of the safest boroughs in which to live. The main types of crime in Richmond upon Thames are burglary (10% of all recorded crime), theft (3.93%) and motor vehicle crime (13.4%).

The total number of notifiable offences for the borough from March 2004 to April 2005 was 15,334, a slight decrease (-0.4%) on the previous year total of 15,400. The figures for Richmond upon Thames are the third lowest for all London boroughs and account for 1.5% of all notifiable offences in the Metropolitan Police Area.

More information on community safety in Richmond upon Thames can be found at:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/policing_and_public_safety/community_safety_partnership.htm

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/policing_and_public_safety/community_safety_partnership/community_safety_strategy_2005-08.htm