

## CHAPTER 1

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC/DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE BOROUGH

### 1.1 Demographic Context

1.1.1 The Borough covers an area of 5,095 hectares in southwest London and is the only London Borough spanning both sides of the Thames, with river frontage of 34km. The Borough is made up of a series of towns and villages joined by suburban development, although more than a third of its land is open space. Appendix H – Map 2 provides an overview of the Borough.

1.1.2 The Borough is bordered by the London Boroughs of Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham, Wandsworth, and Kingston and to the west, by the Surrey Boroughs of Spelthorne and Elmbridge.

### 1.2 Key features

#### 1.2.1 The Thames

1.2.1.1 The Thames offers many opportunities for active and passive recreation with public access to 27km of the 34km of riverbank in the Borough either by towpath or riverside open space. In addition, tributaries of the Thames, the Beverley Brook, the River Crane, the Duke of Northumberland's River, the Whitton Brook and the Longford River, all provide additional open space, with riverside walks and associated recreational activities.

#### 1.2.2 Conservation Areas

1.2.2.1 The Borough has 70 Designated Conservation Areas and around 1200 listed buildings and 4,890 Buildings of Townscape Merit, key conservation areas include:

- Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
- Old Deer Park
- The Wetland Centre Barnes
- Richmond Park
- Bushy Park
- Crane Valley Nature Reserve

1.2.2.2 The local community has a clearly expressed view that the Borough's natural and built environment, which is of the highest quality, should be protected and enhanced.

1.2.2.3 The Council will continue to pay special attention to the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of the conservation areas.

#### 1.2.3 Areas of Deprivation

1.2.3.1 The overall perception of Richmond upon Thames is that of a comfortable Borough; nevertheless pockets of social deprivation do exist. The most deprived wards according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation include Ham, Hampton North, Heathfield, Mortlake and Barnes Common, and Whitton.

**1.2.4 Local Strategies and Plan Proposals**

1.2.4.1 The UDP has identified nine areas in the Borough and is developing local strategies and plan proposals for each one. The priorities in these documents include:

- Guidelines for land use specific to the area and assurance that the maximum benefit is derived from the opportunities presented
- The protection and enhancement of conservation areas
- Recommendations for measures to improve the main shopping areas
- Improve the transport environment for all modes.

The nine areas are:

- Barnes
- East Sheen and Mortlake
- Ham and Petersham
- Hampton and Hampton Hill
- Kew
- Richmond Town
- Teddington and Hampton Wick
- Twickenham
- Whitton and Heathfield

**1.3 Population**

The Borough has a population of 172,808 with an increase of approximately 9,000 people from 1991, according to the mid-year estimates for 2002 produced by the Office for National Statistics.

**1.3.1 Age**

1.3.1.1 Table 1.1 suggests that the Borough has a lower proportion of persons aged 65-84 than for England and Wales on average. However, it has one of the highest proportions of those aged 85 and over. Conversely, there are a higher proportion of residents in the 0-4 and 25-40 year age bracket than the national average.

**Table 1.1 – LB of Richmond upon Thames age breakdown**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-4	6,011	5,831	11,842
5-14	9,706	9,325	19,031
15-24	8,675	8,816	17,491
25-34	14,739	15,319	30,058
35-44	15,136	15,367	30,503
45-54	11,630	12,359	23,989
55-64	8,111	8,164	16,275
65-74	5,188	6,076	11,264
75+	4,281	7,974	12,355
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,577</b>	<b>89,231</b>	<b>172,808</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics. 2002 mid-year estimates.

**1.3.2 Live Births Data**

1.3.2.1 The Borough's birth rate has been increasing in recent years and in 1998 the birth rate was 13.6 per 1,000 people, which is higher than the national average of 12.2 births per 1,000. The death rate, 852 per 100,000, is below the national average. The average life expectancy of the Borough's residents from 1992-96 was 78 years.

**1.3.3 Indices of Deprivation**

- 1.3.3.1 The Indices of Deprivation show that the Borough had 5,520 people who are considered 'employment deprived' and 18,616 people who were 'income deprived'. This means Richmond upon Thames ranks 166 and 184 respectively out of the 354 Boroughs and counties in Britain, where 1 is the most deprived and 354 the least deprived. The overall index ranks the Borough 341 out of 354 authorities.

**1.3.4 Ethnicity**

- 1.3.4.1 Table 1.2 presents the ethnic background of the Borough's population. Although minority ethnic backgrounds make up just over 12% of the Borough's population and this includes 3% of people from Irish backgrounds, the figure for the Borough's black and minority ethnic population is 9%, which is almost double the 5.5% recorded in 1991. Those from Asian backgrounds form the single largest ethnic group at 4% and those from Indian backgrounds form the largest sub-group at 2.5% of the Borough's population. People from mixed ethnic backgrounds comprise just over 2% and those from Black and Chinese backgrounds make up roughly 1% each.

**Table 1.2 - Percentage of the Richmond upon Thames resident population in ethnic groups**

	Richmond upon Thames		London	England
	Numbers	%	%	%
<b>White</b>	<b>156 785</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>90.9</b>
White British	135 655	78.7	59.8	87.0
White Irish	4 805	2.8	3.1	1.3
Other white	16 325	9.5	8.3	2.7
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>3 797</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	<b>6 669</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Black or Black British</b>	<b>1 614</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Chinese or Other</b>				
<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>3 470</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics. 2001 Census

**1.3.5 Disability**

- 1.3.5.1 The Labour Force survey data for London 2001/02 (Disabled People and the Labour Market) show that 8.3% of the Borough's working age population are disabled and economically active. The Census data show that 12.5% of the Borough's population has a long term limiting illness and 2.5% of the working age population are permanently sick or disabled and unable to work as a result. These are each significantly lower than the national average.

**1.3.6 Religion**

- 1.3.6.1 The majority of residents 65.8% gave their religion as Christian in the 2001 Census, 2.5% as Muslim, 1.5% as Hindu, 0.9% as Jewish, 0.7% as Sikh, and 0.7% as Buddhist and 27.8% recorded that they had no religion.

**1.4 Local Economy**

Although the Borough has a number of international headquarters, over two thirds of businesses are sole traders or independents. The size of businesses is generally small with fewer than ten employees each, including branches or divisions of larger companies. Retailers and hotels in particular depend upon a thriving local market but the majority of suppliers are not locally but nationally based.

### **1.4.1 Employment and Unemployment**

- 1.4.1.1 The annual business inquiry (2001) showed that there were approximately 70,000 workers employed in the Borough. Richmond upon Thames' industrial structure is fairly typical of an outer London Borough, which compared to Great Britain has a smaller proportion of the workforce employed in manufacturing, and a larger proportion in service sectors. Nearly 89% of the workforce is employed in service industries. Hotels, restaurants and distribution account for 26% of the Borough's workplace jobs and other tourism-related jobs a further 13%. Financial, ICT and business activity provide 28% of the jobs in the Borough and public administration, health and education just over 20%. Manufacturing continues to account for nearly 7% employment.
- 1.4.1.2 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).
- 1.4.1.3 Unemployment, currently at 2.2% (December 2002), has remained low over the last few years and is amongst the lowest in London.

### **1.4.2 Retailing**

- 1.4.2.1 Richmond town centre, with approximately 46,000m<sup>2</sup> (net) of retail and service floor-space, is the largest commercial centre in the Borough, there are also four district centres located at East Sheen, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton. Each district centre has over 100 units, and provides a range of convenience shopping and a more limited range of comparison goods shopping. Each includes one or more supermarkets and a range of services. Most have car parking available.
- 1.4.2.2 Local centres of varying size complement the town centres, provide the essential day-to-day needs, and isolated groups of shops comprise the fourth tier of the shopping hierarchy.

### **1.4.3 Town Centre Management**

- 1.4.3.1 Town Centre Management Boards have been established for Richmond and Twickenham. The Boards draw their membership from the Local Authority, local community organisations and local businesses. Their remit is to maintain economic buoyancy, promote business activity through seasonal and special events and to maintain the quality of the trading environment.

### **1.4.4 South London Partnership**

- 1.4.4.1 The Council is a member of the South London Partnership, which also includes Bromley, Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Sutton, and Wandsworth. Its purpose is to assist in formulating sub-regional policies and to lobby for South London, particularly in relation to working with the Mayor for London.

### **1.5 Tourism**

The Borough is an important tourist destination and an increasing number of tourists and visitors are attracted by the Borough's heritage. Tourism is a particularly strong element of the local economy, attracting four and a half million visitors to the Borough each year, generating annual revenues in excess of £200 million and making substantial contribution to the number of jobs available within the area.

### **1.5.1 Borough attractions**

1.5.1.1 Richmond upon Thames benefits from a large number of national and local attractions including:

- Hampton Court Palace
- Orleans House Gallery
- Marble Hill House and Park Twickenham
- The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew
- Ham House
- Twickenham Rugby Stadium
- The King's Observatory (open by appointment)
- The London Wetland Centre in Barnes
- The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory
- Strawberry Hill House
- Richmond Park
- Bushy Park

### **1.6 Education**

1.6.1 The Local Education Authority maintains one nursery school and 12 nursery units, 41 primary schools, eight secondary schools and two special schools. Provision for children with special needs is made in all mainstream schools.

1.6.2 The Local Education Authority maintained schools have 12,400 full-time and part-time primary pupils on roll, and 7,400 secondary pupils. 150 pupils attend the Borough's special schools.

1.6.3 Further education is supplied at Richmond Adult Community College (RACC), which has two main campuses, one in Twickenham and one in Richmond. St Mary's College, part of the University of Surrey, is located at Twickenham, and the American International University in London is based in Richmond. Richmond upon Thames College, a large tertiary college, also has a significant impact on social and transport issues.

### **1.7 Health and Social Care**

1.7.1 Overall, the population in Richmond upon Thames is healthier than the national average. The trend in most instances is that the incidence of diseases is falling, with most improvement in the higher socio-economic areas.

1.7.2 The Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust (PCT) was established in April 2002 as the main commissioning body for primary healthcare in the Borough. Although no major hospitals are located within the Borough, nearby major hospitals serving the area include West Middlesex and Kingston Hospitals. In addition, community hospitals such as Teddington Memorial Hospital offer a range of community and outpatient services and there are also a number of clinics throughout the Borough providing a range of services. There are 31 general practices, 42 dental practices and 45 community pharmacies situated in the Borough.

### **1.8 Community Safety**

1.8.1 The Borough is one of the safest in London with a relatively low crime rate. The main types of crime in Richmond upon Thames are criminal damage, burglary, and motor vehicle crime. The total number of notifiable offences for the Borough in the twelve months to March 2004 was 15,446, a decrease of 8% on the previous year.

**Table 1.3 - Crime figures for LB of Richmond upon Thames**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>No of offences</b>	<b>Offences per 1000 pop.</b>
Violence against person	2,497	14.3
Sexual offences	101	0.6
Robbery	257	1.5
Burglary of dwellings	1,133	6.5
Theft of motor vehicle	515	3.0
Theft from motor vehicle	1,311	7.5

Source: Recorded Crime Statistics April 2003 to March 2004 (Home Office)

## **1.9 Housing**

- 1.9.1 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. The average size household in the Borough was 2.23 people, and over a third of households were single people. The Borough new housing target is 270 new units per year but it is understood that this will not meet demand. The majority of the Borough is built up and there is little opportunity to provide a substantial level of housing other than infill development. Occasional opportunities for vacated business premises also arise from time to time but this has to be weighed with other options such as maintaining local places of employment.

## **1.10 The Environment**

- 1.10.1 Richmond upon Thames contains some of the country's most important habitats for the preservation of Britain's flora and fauna.

- The Borough's two Royal Parks, Richmond Park- a National Nature Reserve; and Bushy Park, contain herds of red and fallow deer.
- The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew contains over 40,000 species of plants.
- The London Wetland Centre in Barnes has over 40 hectares of lakes, ponds and marshes, created from four disused reservoirs on the site.
- The Borough contains other preserved habitats, including Crane Park Island, in Heathfield.
- London's Arcadia project protects the famous view from Richmond Hill to the River Thames and involves a total of 124 environmental enhancement projects under the Thames Landscape Strategy. It includes extensive community involvement both in terms of voluntary action and achieving the necessary matched funding.

## **1.11 Leisure**

- 1.11.1 The Borough has a great variety of sporting facilities. The Borough runs 4 sports centres and 2 swimming pools and provides a range of facilities in its parks including tennis courts, athletics track, pitches for football, rugby and cricket, a golf course and pitch and putt course. There are approximately 180 voluntary sports clubs providing everything from water sports to martial arts. There are also numerous private health and fitness clubs in the Borough.

## **1.12 Olympic Games 2012**

- 1.12.1 The Borough supports London's successful bid for the Olympic Games in 2012 and whilst none of the events are proposed to be held in the Borough, the Council hopes to be involved at the periphery of the event and by attracting visitors to the numerous tourist attractions located within the Borough.

**1.13 Public Security**

- 1.13.1 The Borough has one of the lowest levels of crime in London. Despite this, the Council is still keen to maintain and enhance the high levels of public wellbeing and safety. Transport schemes and proposals can contribute to this through introducing measures to enhance safety, such as provision of CCTV and improved lighting, as well as carefully designed schemes which aim to remove the potential locations where crime can take place.