

Population:

Eastleigh Borough has a total population of almost 130,000. This has grown steadily over the last 10 years from just over 119,000 in 2006, an increase of almost 9%. This is very similar to the national average. Within the borough population growth has varied quite significantly, Eastleigh town has seen the most growth at over 17% whilst in Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath the population has increased by 2.5% during this period.

The age of the Borough's population is similar to the national average, there are however slightly fewer people aged 18-29 years and slightly more in the older age groups. In Eastleigh town area the population is younger whilst in Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury there are more people in the older age groups.

Housing:

Across the Borough the most common dwelling type is detached houses and bungalows (over one third of all properties according to the 2011 census) with three bedroom houses being the most popular.

The 2011 census reported that only 35% of the housing stock was made up of one and two bedroom dwellings. Since 2011 however, 47% of market dwellings and 69% of affordable dwellings built were either two bedrooms or less. Also at this time almost three quarters of homes in Eastleigh were owned and less than a quarter rented. Nationally the split was two thirds owned and a third rented.

House prices and affordability:

The average house price is £256,000, this is more than nine times the average wage. Across England & Wales the average house costs seven times the average wage. However the picture in Eastleigh Borough is worse still for those on lower incomes. The cheapest 25% of houses cost an average of £210,000 this is over ten times the average wage across the lowest 25% of incomes.

School & nursery places:

Hampshire County Council is responsible for the planning and provision of these. Schools in the Borough do well in terms of Ofsted assessments and attainment at GCSE level is above the national average with almost 65% gaining 5+ grades A-C. Demographic change is leading to increasing primary and secondary school rolls in many parts of the Borough. With some of these schools already at capacity, there is a need to increase the number of places available either through extensions to existing schools or the building of new schools. A number of the secondary schools in the Borough are also at or nearing capacity.

Whilst the County Council report a reduction in the number of childcare spaces they state that there is no current parental demand although this will be closely monitored as new housing is built.

Air Quality

There are significant areas of air pollution caused by road traffic, and the motorways, airport and railways give rise to noise pollution. Eastleigh Borough Council have three 'Air Quality Management Areas' (AQMA). These are areas where levels of air pollution are not meeting the required standards. Two of the AQMA's are in Eastleigh and one in Bursledon. All three AQMA's have been declared because levels of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide are too high, the primary source of this is road traffic.

Jobs & training

The Borough is relatively prosperous, the third most prosperous economy in the Solent Local Economic Partnership (LEP) with over 6,200 business units employing approximately 62,200 people.

Unemployment is low at just over 3%, and almost 86% of adults aged 16-64 years are economically active. However, the levels of in- (32,500) and out- (3,400) commuting suggest a possible mismatch between the jobs available in the Borough (tending towards lower skill and pay levels) and those of the resident population. The Borough is a net exporter of professional and technical (Level 4 qualified) residents. This is clearly shown by the difference in earning of those who live in the Borough £550 per week, compared to just £523 per week for those who work in the Borough. This directly impacts on the affordability of homes in the Borough.

Nature conservation & biodiversity

The Borough's countryside varies in character, from the relatively flat and open countryside bordering the coast to the gently rolling wooded areas to the north. It includes the valleys of the River Itchen and the River Hamble, and a coastline that borders Southampton Water. The coast and rivers are important areas of biodiversity interest, which are subject to international and national designations. However the Borough is also locally important for its ancient woodland. There are some rare and valued habitats and species associated with the river catchments, the coast and the woodland.

Medical facilities

The health of people in the Borough is generally better than the regional and England average but varies across the Borough and there is an increasing ageing population. The latest Health profile identified that Eastleigh Borough had a higher proportion of adults who are overweight and obese and a lower proportion of physically active adults than the regional and national averages.

Reducing traffic congestion

The M3, M27 and many local roads across the Borough suffer congestion, particularly at peak hours, creating related problems of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. There is substantial commuting into and out of the Borough. There is an assumption that new development will significantly increase congestion. However traffic modelling has shown, that almost 80% of the growth in traffic will happen, irrespective of new housing.

Open space, sports & play facilities

Eastleigh Borough contains a wide variety of green infrastructure with country parks, wildlife reserves, sports facilities, recreation grounds and allotments. Fleming Park contains a large area of formal and open space which acts as a green lung through the centre of Eastleigh and significant formal sports provision is available at the Bishopstoke Hub and within the new sports grounds associated with the development at Stoneham Park. There is a large new leisure centre opening at Fleming Park with smaller centres at Bishopstoke Hub, Hamble and Wildern Schools.

Countryside gaps between towns/villages

With Southampton in close proximity, and the Borough's own network of settlements, the Borough's countryside has a particularly important role in separating settlements and ensuring that they retain their individual identity distinct from each other and from the city.

Shops

Eastleigh town centre: there are long-standing proposals to regenerate Eastleigh, by providing high-density, high quality development including retail, leisure, residential, healthcare and offices. There may also be potential to link across the railway to Barton Park.

District and local centres: these bring local shops and other facilities within easy reach for many people. However, some of these centres and parades have poor environmental quality, with

buildings and external spaces in need of improvement and renovation, and pressures for uses other than shops.

Footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways

The Borough contains a fairly extensive network of footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways, but this network is fragmented in places and the quality and safety of some existing cycle paths in particular could be improved. We need to look at how to provide new routes, maintain and improve existing routes, and provide links with other transport systems such as railway stations and bus routes. We also need to develop these networks to more effectively connect homes, workplaces, local centres and recreation areas and to contribute to green links across the Borough and to adjoining areas.

Cultural facilities

Most settlements have access to at least one good quality community hall, with the exception of Allbrook which shares a community hall with a neighbouring parish outside the Borough. Most of these halls serve a variety of needs. There are seven libraries, of which all but one are considered too small to meet the needs of their communities. The Arts Survey carried out in 2011 demonstrated a considerable improvement in arts and leisure provision in the Borough in recent years. Particular highlights are the extension of The Point and the development of the Vue Cinema in Eastleigh and The Berry Theatre at Hedge End. There has also been a general improvement in provision for performance arts and other forms of cultural and leisure activity in community halls throughout the Borough.