



GUILDFORD  
B O R O U G H

# Constitution

Guildford Borough Council

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As at June 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

The Borough of Guildford covers an area of some 27,100 hectares and has a population of over 145,000.

Guildford Borough Council was established in 1974 and provides many statutory services, either directly or in partnership with other agencies, to the residents and businesses of, and visitors to, the Borough. It also provides many other discretionary services, such as sports and leisure facilities, car parks and support for many local organisations.

Forty-eight councillors are elected to the Council and approximately 750 staff are employed to ensure its aim of maintaining, and where possible improving, the quality of life of all sectors of the community.

The main objectives and aims of the Council are set out in its [Corporate Plan](#). The Council's Strategic Framework including the Vision, the five fundamental themes that support the achievement of the Vision, Values for our Residents and the Mission are shown on the following page.

This document is the Constitution of the Council. It sets out the roles, responsibilities and rules of the Borough Council. We hope that it will help you to understand how your Council makes decisions and who is responsible for them.

If you have any questions about this document or the work of the Council, please contact the Democratic Services and Elections Manager.

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# THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (2021- 2025)

### **Our Vision:**

A green, thriving town and villages where people have the homes they need, access to quality employment, with strong and safe communities that come together to support those needing help.

### **Our Mission:**

A trusted, efficient, innovative, and transparent Council that listens and responds quickly to the needs of our community.

### **Our Values:**

- We will put the interests of our community first.
- We will listen to the views of residents and be open and accountable in our decision-making.
- We will deliver excellent customer service.
- We will spend money carefully and deliver good value for money services.
- We will put the environment at the heart of our actions and decisions to deliver on our commitment to the climate change emergency.
- We will support the most vulnerable members of our community as we believe that every person matters.
- We will support our local economy.
- We will work constructively with other councils, partners, businesses, and communities to achieve the best outcomes for all.
- We will ensure that our councillors and staff uphold the highest standards of conduct.

### **Our strategic priorities:**

#### Homes and Jobs

- Revive Guildford town centre to unlock its full potential
- Provide and facilitate housing that people can afford
- Create employment opportunities through regeneration
- Support high quality development of strategic sites
- Support our business community and attract new inward investment
- Maximise opportunities for digital infrastructure improvements and smart places technology

#### Environment

- Provide leadership in our own operations by reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption and waste
- Engage with residents and businesses to encourage them to act in more environmentally sustainable ways through their waste, travel, and energy choices
- Work with partners to make travel more sustainable and reduce congestion
- Make every effort to protect and enhance our biodiversity and natural environment.

#### Community

- Tackling inequality in our communities
- Work with communities to support those in need
- Support the unemployed back into the workplace and facilitate opportunities for residents to enhance their skills
- Prevent homelessness and rough-sleeping in the borough



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