

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-32



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Dear neighbours

For many people Tunbridge Wells is a great place to live, a great place to work and a great place to visit.

Our towns and villages are full of caring, creative and community-minded people.

Our Borough oozes passion and dynamism!

As a Council, we are unashamedly ambitious for our Borough and we are about much more than the services we provide to residents and businesses.

This document sets out what your elected councillors and our talented Council staff want to achieve.

It contains our priorities that we believe will make Tunbridge Wells an even better place to live, work and play.

We may not be able to make all these projects happen but our commitment and ambition to our communities is clear.

I hope you enjoy exploring our Strategic Plan.

Cllr Ben Chapelard

Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council



**I believe
Tunbridge
Wells Borough
Council is a
force for good.**



OUR BOROUGH: DID YOU KNOW..?

19.4%
of people in Tunbridge Wells
are 65 years and over



Tunbridge Wells
Population - 115,311
increasing to
127,046
in 2043

91.5%
of the people in Tunbridge Wells
are white ethnic group

19.9%
of people in Tunbridge
Wells are 15 years and
under



The borough is
128
square miles (331 km²)

Percentage of population over
the age of 65 will increase to
27% by 2043



As of May 2024 there are
39 Councillors
and
14 wards



Number of Parish/Town Councils:
**14 parish and 2 town
councils**



Median monthly rent for a
two bedroom property:
£1,050

Average price for
a home in the
borough is
£446,000



29.4%
of households in Tunbridge Wells
have 1 person per household



People between 16-64
years with GCSEs in
English and Maths is
84.8%

5.5%
of people in Tunbridge Wells have a
disability limiting their day-to-day
activities a lot

Mid-point weekly pay
before tax is
£652



Employment rate for 16 to
64 year olds -
75.2%

Of the 68 neighbourhoods in
Tunbridge Wells,
1 neighbourhood
is among the 20 percent most
income deprived in England, 21
are in the least
income-deprived.

We have
22,000
subscribed to the fortnightly
garden waste collection.



What we do...



We provide events and activities such as the ice rink for residents to enjoy.

Over **500** planning applications are assessed each year to determine the environmental impact of proposed developments.

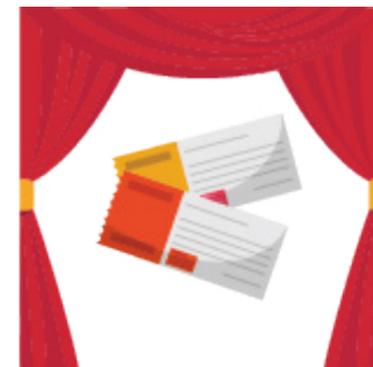


We provide **4,770** parking spaces in our car parks.

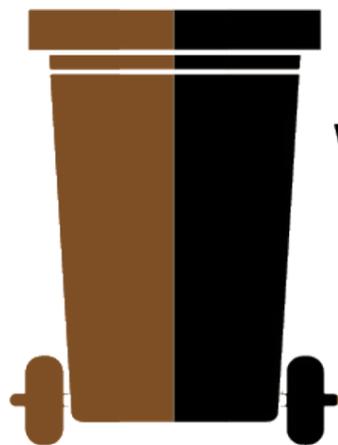


Our borough consistently remains one of the safest in the county.

We carry out a maintenance programme each year to ensure our buildings remain compliant and to prevent dilapidation.



We welcome around **100,000** visitors to the Assembly Hall Theatre each year.



We collect recycling and waste from over **53,000** households each week.



The Amelia Scott welcomes over **1,000** visitors a day.



We protect the public by ensuring legitimate taxis and private hire vehicles are licensed.

We negotiate lease renewals, new lettings and receive income from rents of around **£2.5 Million** each year.

We maintain and monitor **43 CCTV** cameras across the borough to keep residents safe.



We manage **23 parks** open spaces and sports grounds for residents to enjoy.



We support the business community and new businesses wishing to open in the borough.



We manage local and national elections in the borough, so that over **86,000 residents can vote with ease.**

The Visit Tunbridge Wells website is a great resource for residents to explore the borough and find out what is going on.



We respond to around 700 reports from residents about noise or other public health issues.



We receive approximately **£3.5 Million in developer contributions each year to spend on infrastructure across the borough to improve local communities.**



We inspect around **400 food businesses each year to check that hygiene standards are maintained for customers.**



We help over **3,000 residents each year who are looking to extend and improve their homes safely and sustainably.**

We support over **1,000 households each year with housing assistance and advice. Our work prevents over **130** households becoming homeless. We support over **100** homeless households find suitable places to live.**

The Kent & Sussex Crematorium supports over **2,000 bereaved families each year.**



We keep residents informed with a magazine each quarter for just **12p a copy 20,000 residents receive our weekly email, and our website is updated daily to ensure residents receive the most current information.**



A place where all generations can live healthy and fulfilling lives in vibrant and connected communities.

THREE PRIORITIES



Our Ambition



Sustainable Growth and Climate Action

We will continue to create a net-zero Borough, protecting nature and heritage, whilst building the right infrastructure for new homes.

HOW

- We will balance the need to deliver more housing with the need to protect and enhance our natural and built environment.
- We will support local towns and villages to shape their own local areas.
- We will improve the supply of affordable housing.
- We will create a more sustainable Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre.
- We will deliver more or better quality natural habitat.
- We will reduce the Council's emissions to net zero by 2030.
- We will look to reduce congestion and carbon emissions from vehicles.
- We will encourage alternative modes of transport to the car.
- We will explore options to deliver renewable energy generation to help meet our net zero carbon commitments.



2,857 listed buildings

Nearly 70% of the borough designated as National Landscapes (Previously Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

The borough covers 125 square miles (326km²)

Borough emissions % change - 42.3% reduction since 2005

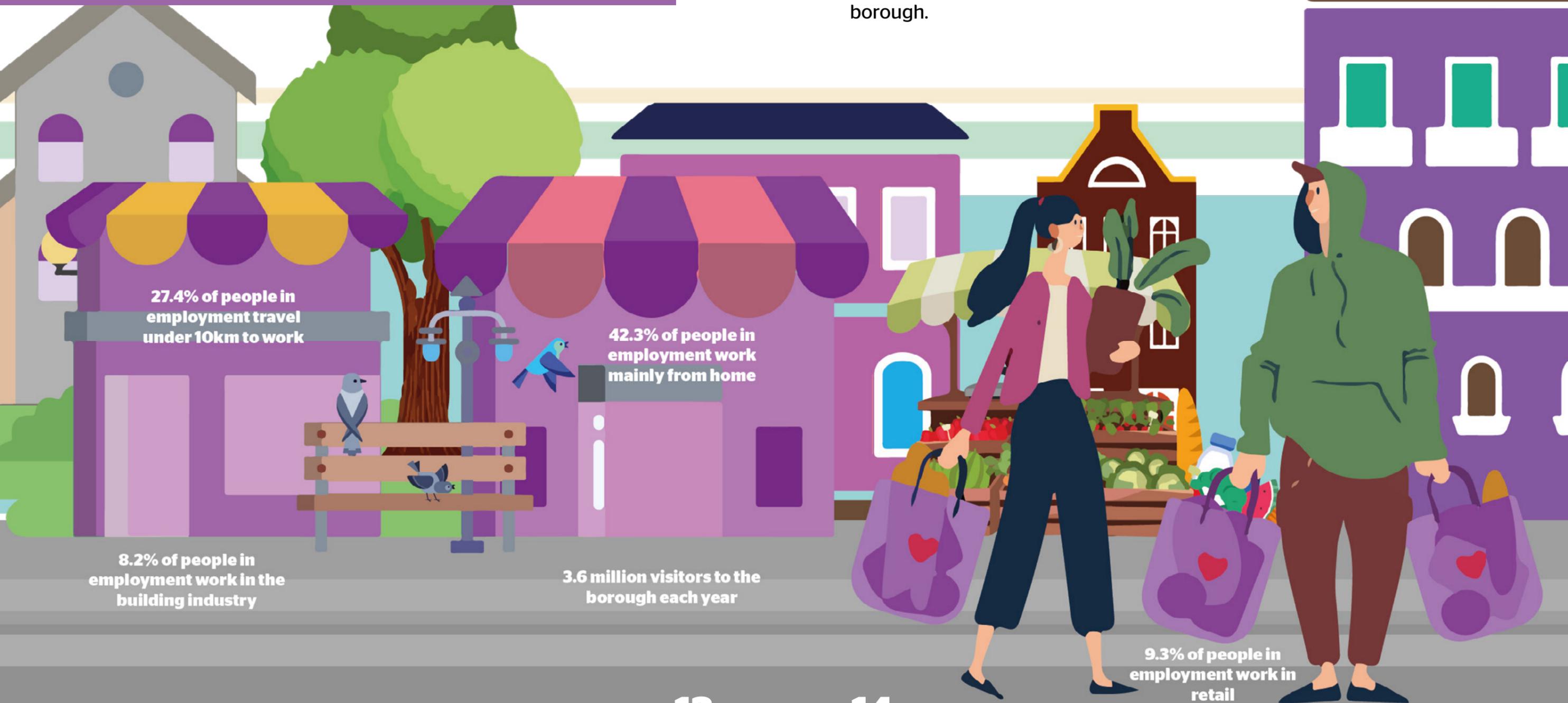
Corporate emissions % change - 24% reduction since 2018/19

Vibrant Economy

We want to support our urban and rural economies to thrive, creating local jobs in our communities.

HOW

- We will enhance the vitality of Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre.
- We will support the creation and growth of local businesses.
- We will increase tourism in our towns and villages.
- We will capitalise on funding opportunities to promote businesses and the rural economy.
- We will balance visitor and resident parking and encourage responsible car use.
- We will encourage new businesses to set up in the borough.



27.4% of people in employment travel under 10km to work

42.3% of people in employment work mainly from home

8.2% of people in employment work in the building industry

3.6 million visitors to the borough each year

9.3% of people in employment work in retail

Community Wellbeing

We will continue to look after the vulnerable and to support our urban and rural communities to flourish and fulfil their potential to be caring, healthy, connected and inclusive.

HOW

- We will work with clubs to invest in and improve sports facilities and playing fields.
- We will improve the Council's leisure centres.
- We will support parish and town councils to develop their own community facilities.
- We will work to ensure that the Borough remains one of the safest places to live.
- We will support the provision of modern healthcare facilities.
- We will protect and enhance our streets.
- We will maintain our parks and green spaces for all to enjoy.

378,000 Council-owned leisure centre activities per year

47,000 Swim school session attendances

96,000 Fitness class attendances

30,000 Racquet court hires



Around 30 community and support groups use the Wesley Centre and Camden Centre each week

Making it happen



Sustainable Growth and Climate Action



Community Wellbeing



Vibrant Economy

We will review outdoor sports facilities for grass-roots clubs across the borough to improve and develop provision



We will modernise and improve our existing three leisure centres in Cranbrook, Paddock Wood and Royal Tunbridge Wells



We will create youth hubs across the Borough for 12-17 year olds providing activities chosen by young people



We will introduce a new farmers' market, independently run in Royal Tunbridge Wells selling high quality, locally produced items



A26 between Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells and the boundary with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council cycling route

Southborough to High Brooms walking and cycling route

We will build a new, modern crematorium with more appropriate, comfortable and energy-saving facilities



We will provide new football pitches and facilities at Hawkenbury Hub, replacing pitches at Bayham West, Colebrook and Culverden



We will plant a tree for every resident - 116,000 over 10 years



Royal Tunbridge Wells cross town centre cycling route

We will design and deliver four improved walking and cycling routes



Langton Green through Rusthall to Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre cycling route

We will continue to redevelop Royal Victoria Place to create a modern location, including the regeneration of Palm Court and Ely Court



We will improve the road safety and livability of urban/residential streets in the borough - our first step is to implement Better Streets pilots in St James' and St John's areas



We will explore the business case for a Solar Farm to help the Council's aim of becoming carbon neutral



We will enable the delivery of a community centre and GP surgery in Cranbrook



We will examine how best to ensure the delivery of new affordable housing across the Borough



Please share your views...



Scan to find out more
consultations@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Closing date 13 October



Data Sources

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Office for National Statistics
Draft Parking Strategy



**Thanks for
reading!**

