

# South East Plan: Changes for Guildford

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The Final Draft South East Plan sets the town of Guildford a *minimum* target of 27% more households by 2026 and 34% by 2031\*.

Given that Guildford is a dynamic, historic town but so geographically constrained being:

- squeezed into a gap in the Downs
- dissected by floodplain
- surrounded by the highly protected Surrey Hills and Thames Basin Heaths
- a pinch point in the road network

We need to:

- reduce Guildford's housing growth target to a more sustainable level whilst addressing local needs (Ch7,4)
- take Guildford off the list of "Regional Hubs" for major, high density housing and economic growth (Ch4,6)
- reinstate policy giving priority to local housing needs (Ch20,2)
- rethink wisdom of building London overspill housing in Guildford (Ch7,2)
- change goal of town centre being a "Centre for Significant Change" (Ch4,11)

This will:

- allow Green Belt to be protected (Ch4,14)
- reduce unacceptable "town cramming and loss of urban quality"
- stop trend towards an increasingly merged Guildford and Woking double hub.

We are also concerned by:

- difficulties over consultation procedures
- questionable growth assumption from SE England Development Agency
- disregard for damaging impacts of growth proposals identified in Government's own appraisal
- removal of condition that development be conditional upon necessary infrastructure
- loss of safeguards for established residential character (Ch20,17)

We call upon Government to amend the draft policies as proposed to deliver a more sustainable strategy for Guildford taking account of its special circumstances:

Anne Milton  
Member of Parliament  
Guildford

Sue Doughty  
Past MP  
Guildford

Margaret Wailen  
Chairman  
Guildford Society

Tim Harrold  
Chairman Surrey & Guildford  
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Graham Hibbert  
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\* compared with 2006 (minimum excludes windfall development which is significant in Guildford)