

Joining the Runnymede Housing Register

If you are looking for somewhere to live and come to us for help, you may not be aware that there could be a long wait and there are no guarantees of success. The following may help you to decide whether you want to join the Housing Register or look at other housing options.

- currently there are more than 3,100 people on the waiting list for homes in the Runnymede area and the list grows every day
- there is a very high demand - higher than the supply, with only 150 properties let a year. That is only 5% of the applicants who apply on the Housing Register being housed. 95% will not be successful
- waiting times are three to four years for a two or three bedroom property and this wait is likely to get longer as more people join the Housing Register
- if you apply, you will need to complete an application form - available at the reception or on our website. We can help you to complete this if you need help.
- decisions are made on the basis of the greatest need and how long you have been on the Housing Register - according to 'bandings' - Band A being the highest need and Band E being the lowest need.
- applicants in Bands D and E are extremely unlikely to be housed. Band D means you have no local connection to Runnymede. Band E means you have low or no housing need for a number of reasons

In the last three years, we have worked with housing associations and other providers, to build the second highest number of new homes in Surrey. However, the economic situation means that there has been a slow down in new building and this may take a long time to pick up. This has a direct impact on applicants on the Housing Register

You need to think about helping yourself also. Look at other routes into housing rather than just social housing. There are properties available to rent in the private sector and if you need to claim benefits to help you with rent payments you can do so, if you are eligible. This is called Local Housing Allowance and you can read more about this on our website on the Housing Benefit webpage. There is also a tri-Borough partnership (called [Search Moves](#)) between Runnymede, Spelthorne and Elmbridge which enables people already on the housing waiting list to bid for homes in the three Boroughs.

You can contact local lettings agents or search the web on sites like www.rightmove.com.

Shared ownership is another option if you have enough money to pay a mortgage and you can find out more about this if you click on the Catalyst website who are the agents in Surrey who deal with this option for housing www.chg.org.uk

If you have a place to live, you should make every effort to remain in that home. If you are at risk of losing your home, let us know as soon as possible by going to www.runnymede.gov.uk and clicking on the housing advice webpage or call 01932 425831.

If we cannot prevent you losing your home, and you are eligible for our help we may only be able to place you in emergency accommodation which may be in bed and breakfast accommodation and could be anywhere in the south east of England.

Please look at our Housing Advice factsheet on www.runnymede.gov.uk by clicking on the housing advice webpage for more information on prevention of homelessness and the housing options service.