

▶ Tunbridge Wells continued...

There are numerous hotels and award winning restaurants in the town. There is also a wide range of bars and coffee shops and hundreds of high quality shops in the town centre, including two quality department stores (Fenwick and Hoopers) and leading high street retailers. It also hosts a number of quality and interesting independent shops for browsing and buying. The historic Pantiles, one of the oldest and finest pedestrian shopping areas in the country, complements the award-winning Royal Victoria Place, a large and very popular shopping mall in the centre of town.

Demography

There are just over 106,000 people living in the Tunbridge Wells area, with about 45,000 in Royal Tunbridge Wells. There is almost full employment (1% unemployed) and the workforce is highly skilled. Over the past few years the area has experienced economic growth, with an increase of 3,600 jobs between 1995 and 2006.

The borough of Tunbridge Wells is also a favourite location for all types of businesses, both in the urban and rural areas. This reflects the entrepreneurial culture of the borough's community and its high level of business start-ups. Key growth sectors include PR and marketing, media, business services, health and education.

Local people are highly educated and almost one quarter of residents have attained degree level or equivalent qualifications, in comparison with 17% for Kent and 22% for the South East.

The Council has three key economic objectives for Tunbridge Wells:

- To encourage the continued development of a wide range of enterprise in the borough.

- To enhance the attractiveness of the towns and other centres in the borough as places to work, visit, shop and establish new and enhance existing enterprises.
- To support the sustainable development of the more rural areas.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council works in partnership with Locate in Kent and the South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA) to attract investment into the borough.

There is a continual effort to improve and regenerate the borough of Tunbridge Wells and other towns to meet the changing economic needs and the planned growth. Local villages, historic towns and rural areas are adapting to high demand for rural business space but still retain that Kent character and attractiveness which businesses prefer.

Quality premises and sites for your business

The borough of Tunbridge Wells hosts a variety of good quality and well located business premises in both the towns and rural areas.

The Borough Council's Local Plan outlines a number of locations and sites currently available for economic development uses. The borough hosts a number of small business centres supplying small business workspace and starter units that are proving to be extremely popular and are located in many parts of the borough including town centres, industrial estates and on farms.

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North Farm Industrial Estate,
Royal Tunbridge Wells



Windmill at Cranbrook