

Surrey

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Comment text:

Related subject: Reigate and Banstead and Mole Valley

Since the last local government organisation Reigate and Banstead has been an entirely unrealistic group. Horley should have joined with Gatwick Airport in Sussex as the town is within its shadow but the residents objected. Banstead is remote from Reigate, entirely detached, and belongs to Sutton being well north of the M25. People in Reigate do not relate to Banstead nor visit the town.

The natural partner for Reigate is Dorking, a similar market town at the foot of the North Downs. Dorking and Reigate fall naturally together and many people shop in both towns, work in one or the other, and relate a great deal. Mole Valley and Reigate should somehow be combined into one unit. Banstead should be hived off and given to Sutton where it naturally belongs. Horley could remain but would actually be better placed with Crawley and Gatwick. Mole Valley and Reigate could become a unitary authority, perhaps with an area to the east such as Godstone and Oxted, and form a string of towns along the foot of the North Downs. This would save money as having local councils and then county councils is duplication and waste. Reigate and the east of Surrey are orientated north towards London and south towards Brighton. Guildford is not part of the life of this area. The church is under Southwark Cathedral and not Guildford Cathedral. We do not have the Guildford local papers in the area as they are completely irrelevant to us. The west of Surrey does not relate or impact upon us. Now that the Surrey County Council has left Kingston and opened local offices it adds to the case for a unitary authority structure and Woodhatch Place could be one of the hubs for this. It requires a new vision but the present Reigate Borough is utterly false and a result of residents objecting to being linked to where they naturally belong. Please be bold and consider a unitary authority and make sure Reigate and Mole Valley are together.

Attached Documents:

None attached