

# Three Rivers Community Strategy 2023-2028

*Three Rivers  
'a district of  
connected  
communities'*



# LSP Board Members



---

 Three Rivers District Council

---

 Herts County Council

---

 Ascend


---

 Herts Constabulary

---

 West Herts College

---

 Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Partnership


---

 Thrive Homes


---

 Watford Community Housing

---

 Watford and West Herts Chamber of Commerce


---

 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

---

 Watford and Three Rivers Trust

---

 Citizens Advice Service

---

 Job Centre Plus

---

 Herts Mind Network

---

 South West Herts Schools Partnership

# Contents

	Page
<b>Introduction and Foreword</b>	4
<b>Our District</b> - infographics of Three Rivers	5-9
<b>Our Vision</b>	10
<b>Our Themes</b>	11
<b>Delivery</b>	12
<b>Stable Economy</b>	13
<b>Thriving Environment</b>	14
<b>Safe &amp; Well Communities</b>	15
<b>Belonging</b>	16
<b>How we Deliver our Objectives</b>	17



## Foreword

If the past few years have taught us anything it is that in the darkest, most difficult times, the brightest examples of community spirit shine out. I have learned that there is no better place to find community spirit than right here in Three Rivers. I am therefore delighted to present this new Community Strategy, in my capacity as both Council Leader and Chair of the Three Rivers Local Strategic Partnership.

Three Rivers is an area of smaller local communities, each with their own identity and strengths. Nothing is more important in society than community, which can be made up of people living in a similar area, having shared characteristics, or shared interests.

At the beating heart of this strategy is our desire to promote wellbeing. We want our residents to feel safe, healthy and form part of their community, we want to grow our local economy and make sure it benefits our residents, and we want to continue to take steps to respond to the climate emergency. In the pages that follow, you will read how we intend to make this happen.

*Leader, Sarah Nelmes*

## Introduction

The Three Rivers Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brings together representatives from the local public, community, voluntary and private sectors to address local problems and develop strategies and initiatives to respond to them. We aim to work jointly and with our communities to ensure resources are targeted at a local level, in a way that will benefit our residents the most.

Over the last few years, there have been a number of significant global challenges that have resulted in adverse changes to our communities, peoples' livelihoods, health and wellbeing and the way in which we connect with each other. During this time, communities and local organisations were at the forefront, by bringing people together, checking in on vulnerable residents, and providing support to those in crisis.

Three Rivers LSP has reviewed local data and received input from our local communities to develop the Community Strategy 2023 – 28 which will guide the work of the LSP and other partnership groups over the next few years. It is important that the challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic are addressed, whilst building upon the strengths that have developed over this time to recover, rebuild, and grow.

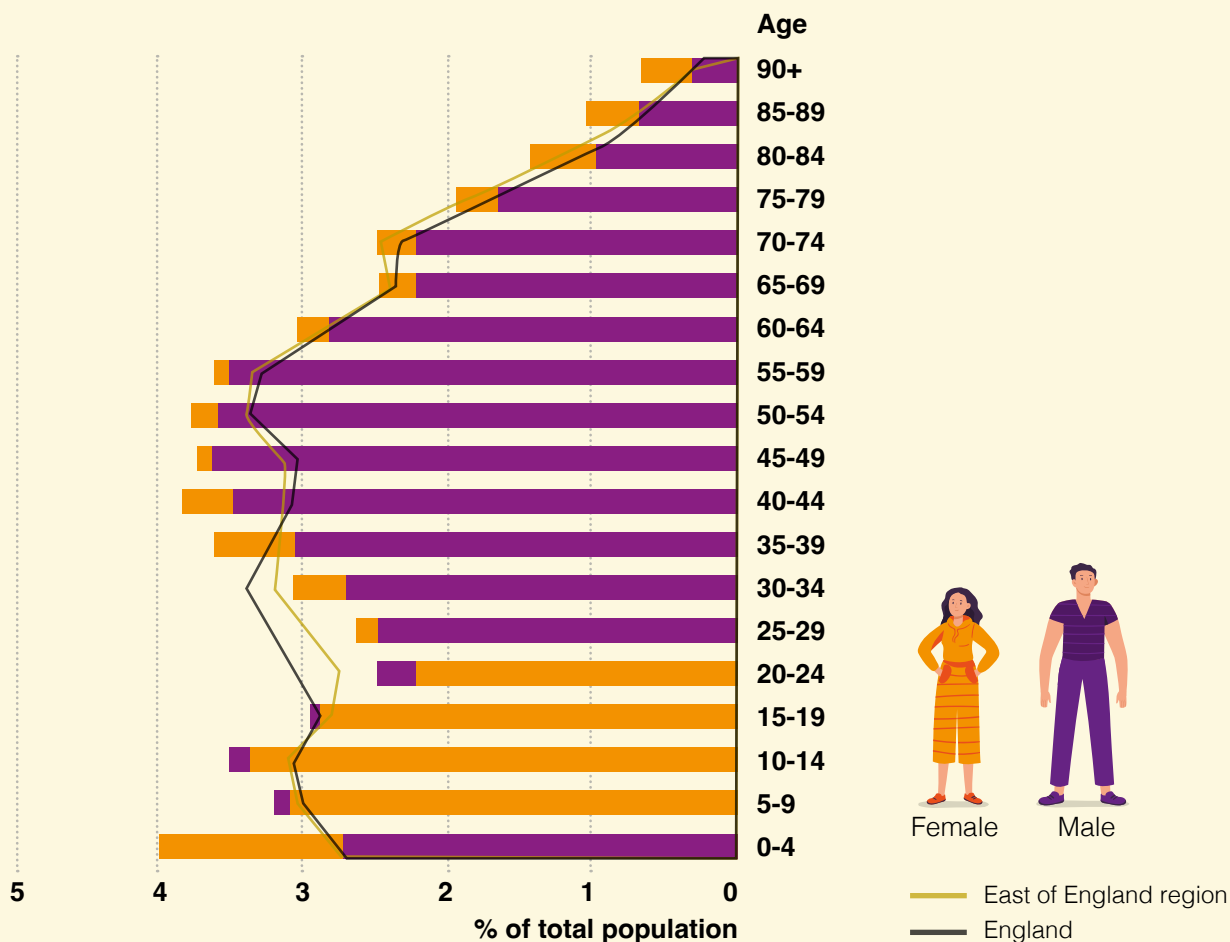


# Our District

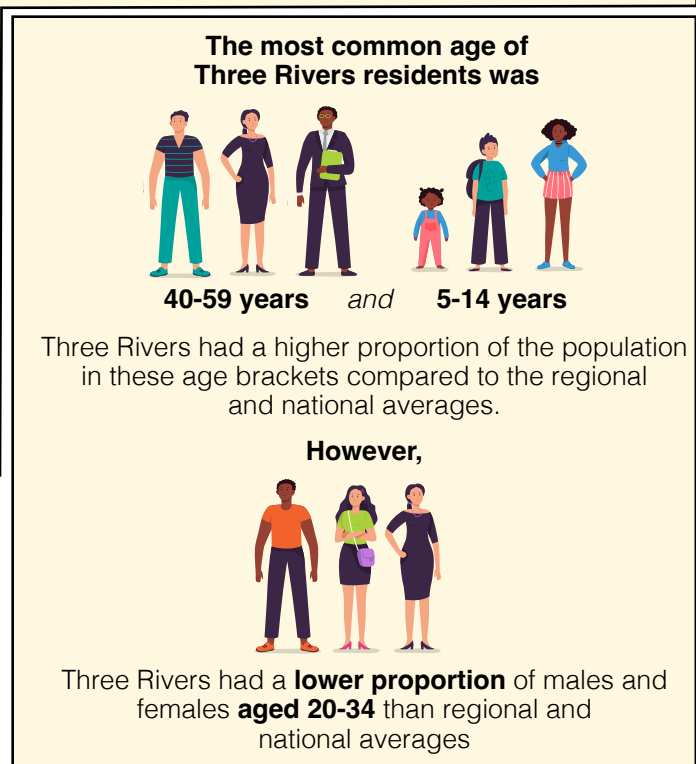
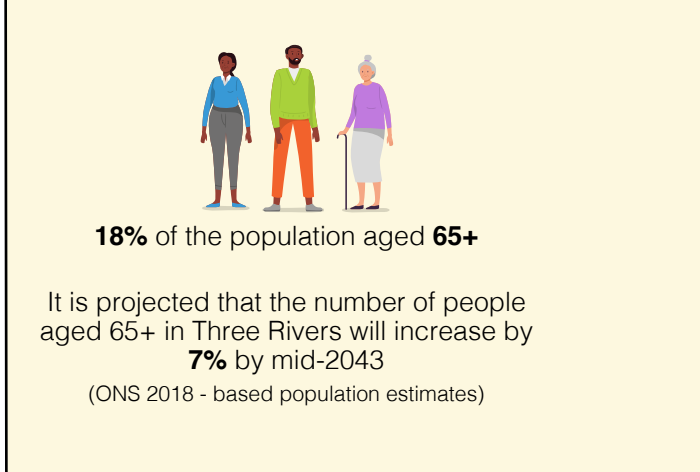
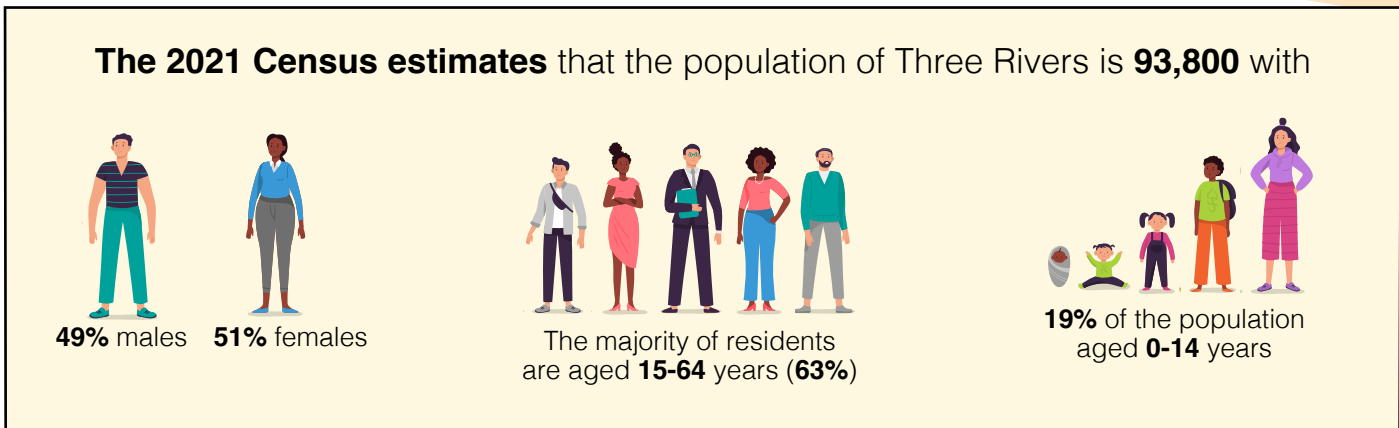
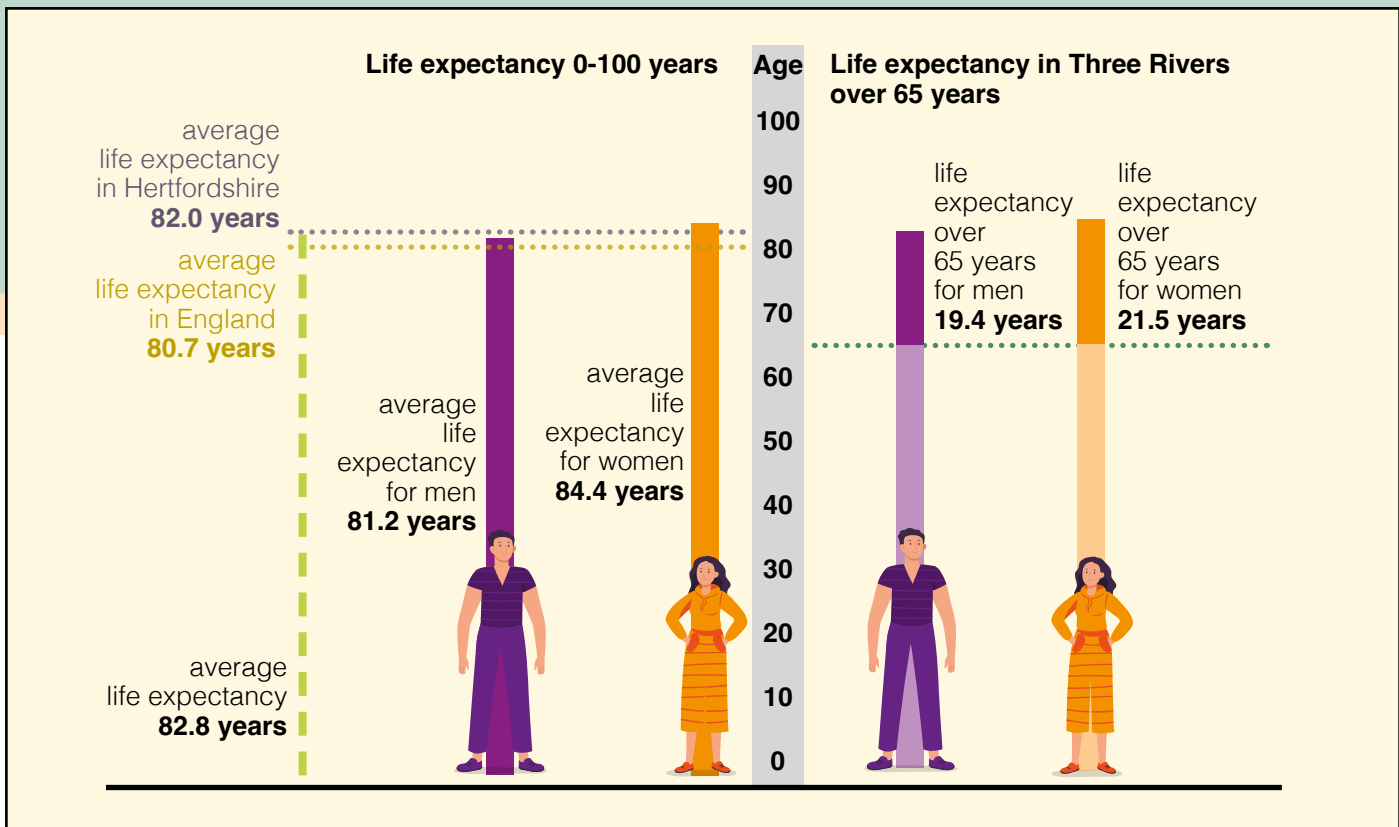


The following graphics show the breakdown of Three Rivers' district population.

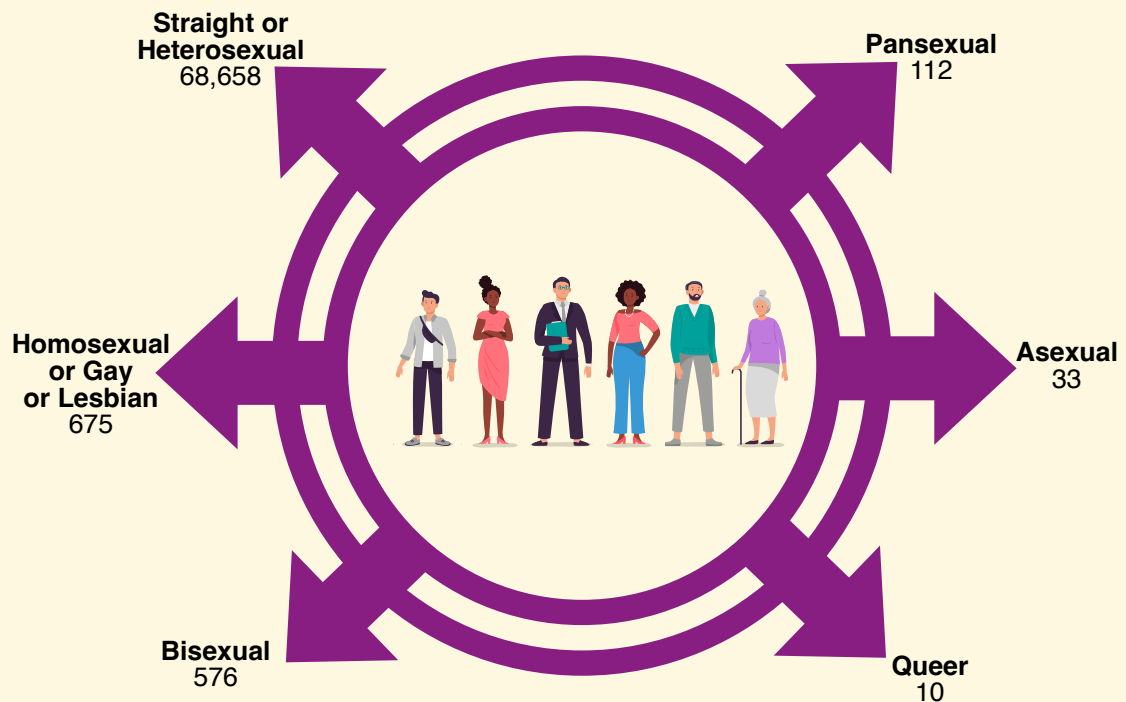
**Sex and age population profile of Three Rivers residents, compared to regional and national benchmarks (2021)**



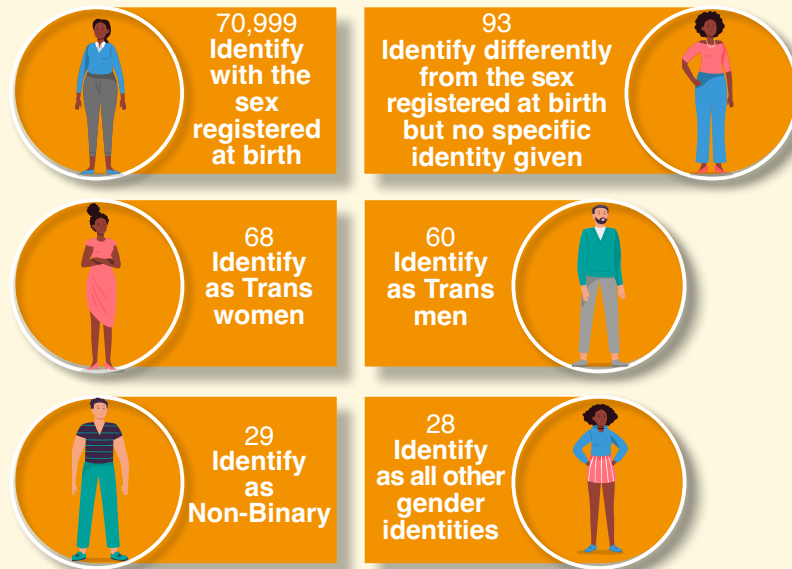
Source: Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) Fingertips website, Census 2021.



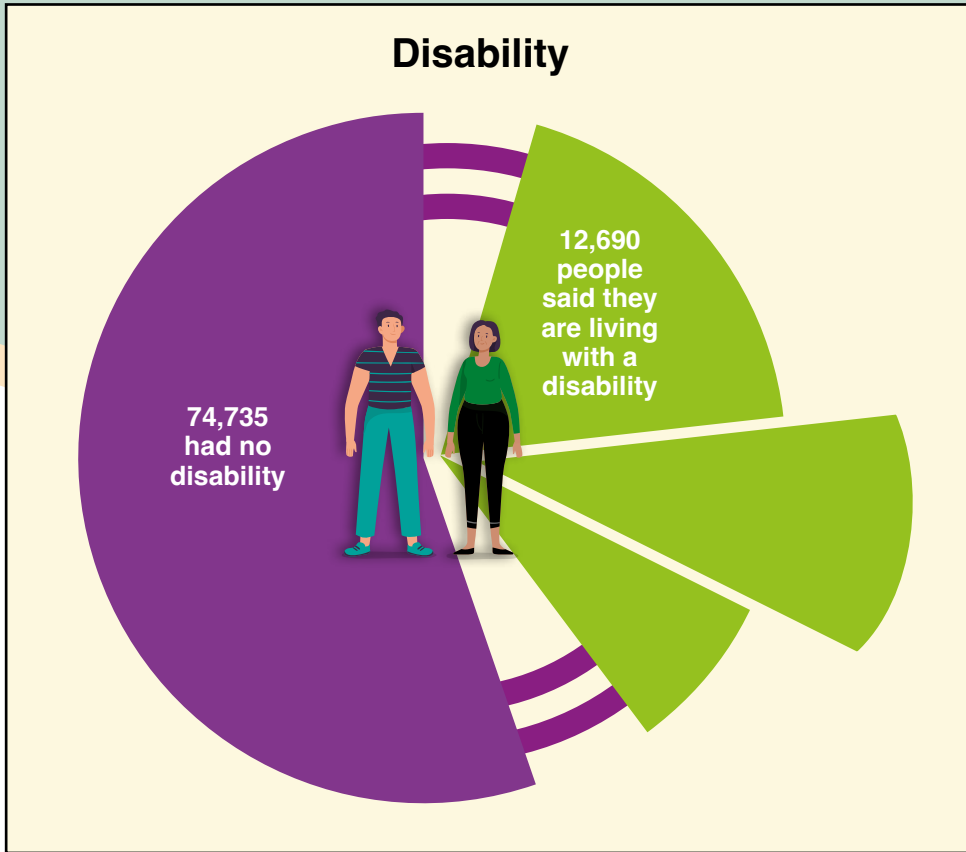
## Sexual orientation profile of Three Rivers residents from the census data



## Gender Identity



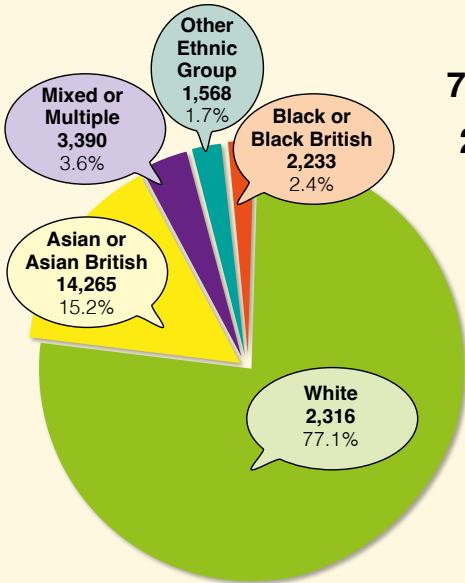
## Disability



## As of March 2021

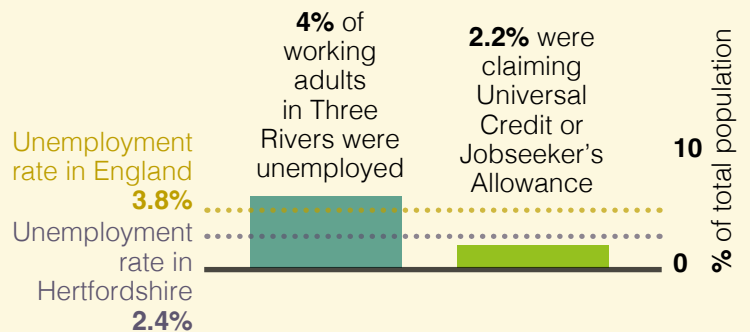
**77%** of residents in Three Rivers identified as White and **23%** identified as being from an ethnic minority group.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021



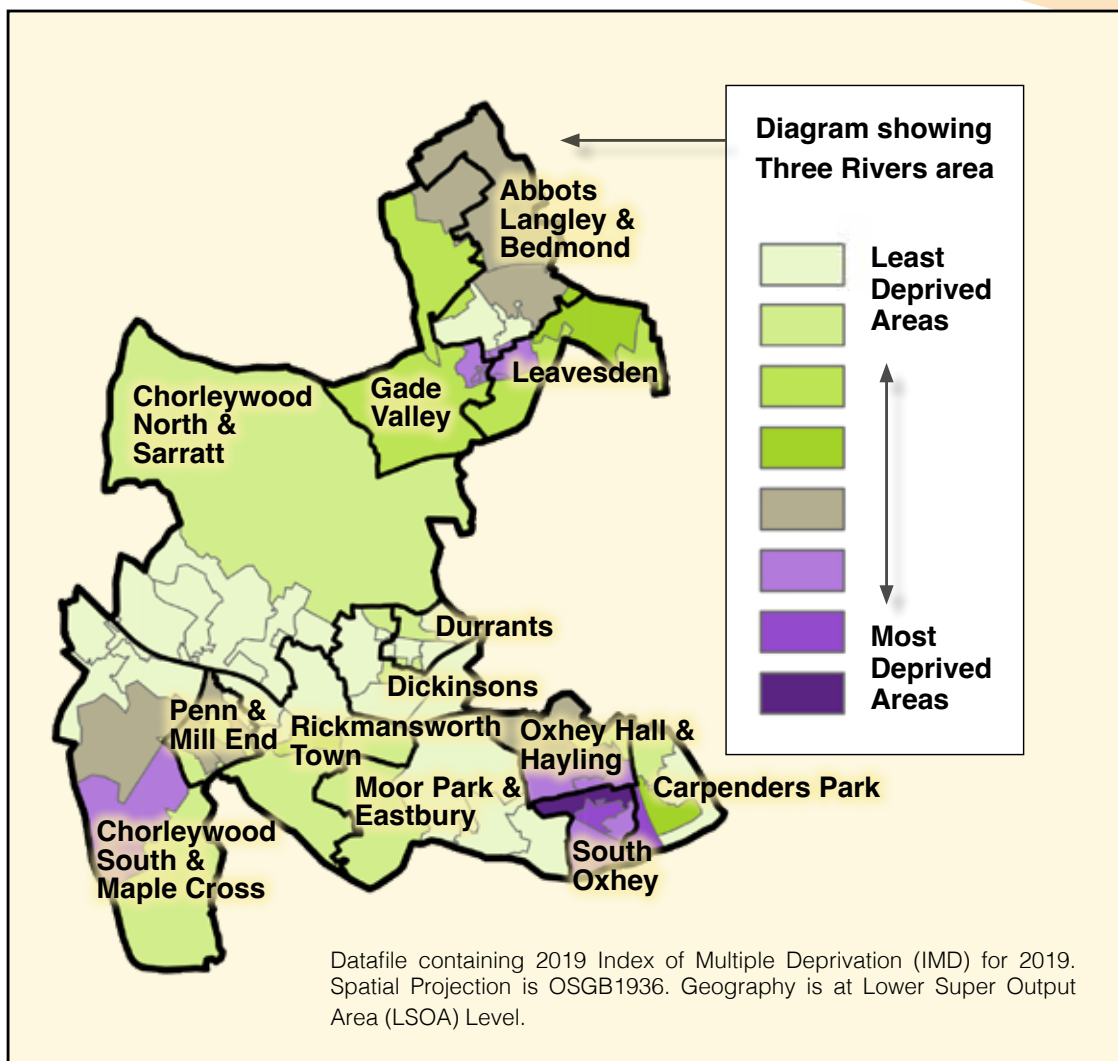
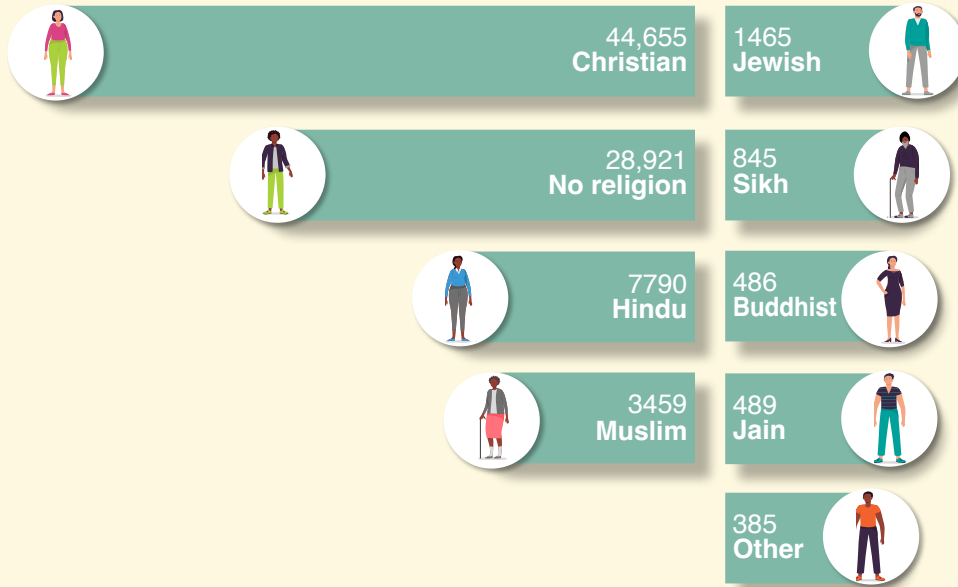
## Work

### 2021-22 Annual Population Survey





## Religion



# Our Vision



Three Rivers:  
**A district of connected communities.**

## We want Three Rivers to be a district . . .



. . . that is inclusive and where people feel they are welcome and belong

. . . where local infrastructure supports healthy lifestyles and addresses health inequalities



. . . where our residents are supported and feel safe

. . . that takes action to mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency



. . . where our local businesses are beneficial to and benefit from local people

# Our Themes

In order to realise our vision, we have **four** district themes.



Belonging

Safe and Well Communities

## Connected Communities



Thriving Environment



Stable Economy

# Delivery



**The Community Strategy** is influenced by **four** important factors that cut across all of our themes.

**Responsive, responsible and local leadership**



**Evidence led and co-designed with communities**



**Whole Systems Approach**



**Partnership collaboration**



# Stable Economy



## Three Rivers

is a district with a strong local economy with varying opportunities for local people

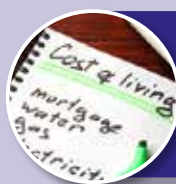
Three Rivers is one of the most prosperous economic areas outside London. The district hosts several national and international headquarters and the largest state-of-the-art film studios in Europe, which with a strong arts and entertainment sector creates areas of growth and opportunity. This, combined with the strong cultural sector and a culture of enterprise, all serves to make Three Rivers a welcoming, distinctive and attractive place to live, work, and visit.

We are committed to supporting our residents in accessing jobs within these sectors, to develop the skills required for these jobs and to work alongside local businesses to promote the local workforce. Our local businesses are uniquely placed to provide advice and guidance to young people entering the workforce. The Local Strategic Partnership will work with businesses to encourage engagement with our local communities and promote opportunities for learning and development to ensure our residents have the skills required to enter local industries.

We understand that even though Three Rivers is a prosperous district, there are some areas that do not benefit from this. The impact recent years have had on the cost of living is an important issue to address, and the LSP need and want to support our residents to

navigate increasing costs. We will do this by ensuring residents are aware of the support available, and are able to access support already in place and that our partners are able to do this. We will work with residents and the partnership to understand how need is changing and determine whether support is required to change too.

### What we aim to do



**Support our residents through the cost of living crisis**



**Work with local businesses to up skill the local workforce**



**Promote local employment and volunteering opportunities**

# Thriving Environment



**A district** that is climate resilient and nature-rich, with communities inspired to live sustainability

Three Rivers has been at the forefront of developing areas of work to manage the impact of the climate emergency.

We recognise the urgency of the climate emergency, and the importance of becoming a Net Zero carbon district as soon as possible.

Three Rivers is one of the top recycling areas in the country and we want to build on this success by working with our residents to reduce food waste and encourage consumption of seasonal foods.

We understand the impact heatwaves, drought, extreme cold, flooding, and storms can have on our residents and our local environment.

To prevent these impacts widening the inequalities that already exist in Three Rivers, the Local Strategic Partnership will work with specialist organisations to prepare residents, businesses, and communities for the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events associated with climate change.

We will work to maximize access to and uptake of funding for home energy efficiency upgrades such as ECO funding, which can help improve the health and wellbeing of homes, combat fuel poverty, and significantly reduce domestic carbon emissions.

The LSP will be guided by evidence and best practice, and ensure a sustainable and Net-Zero carbon approach is embedded into every project developed under the partnership.

## What we aim to do



**Lead, enable and inspire our communities to reduce their carbon emissions and proactively offset carbon emissions**



**Support our communities to adapt to extreme weather**



**Increase locally grown produce and reduce food waste**

# Safe & Well Communities



## A district that promotes healthy and safe communities

The wellbeing and resilience of our local communities is impacted by several aspects of life, from health to risk of crime.

Three Rivers Local Strategic Partnership has seen the impact of the pandemic on these factors within our communities. We understand the long term impact that adverse experiences can have in later life and we are committed to working in partnership to address the issues and determining factors. We have also witnessed the strength and resilience of our communities throughout the pandemic, from offering support to neighbours, to community led initiatives.

In 2022, the Local Strategic Partnership developed the Three Rivers Health and Wellbeing Partnership to collaboratively address and improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents within Three Rivers. We will develop a plan to tackle health inequalities within the district using a place based approach to support specific communities alongside the further development of our Healthy Hub offer. Healthy Hubs have been established in South Oxhey, Mill End and Abbots Langley, making services and support accessible for our residents and bringing services into the heart of our communities.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) forms part of the LSP, and annually assesses the level of crime and disorder within the

district, along with concerns expressed by the local community to develop priorities, objectives and an action plan. We will focus on projects and services that are beyond daily business for organisations forming the CSP and directly address the priorities. We will secure funding through grants and partnerships if resource is unavailable to provide services and support needed locally.

### What we aim to do



**Adopt a place based approach to address health inequalities**



**Maintain and grow the work of the Community Safety Partnership**



**To empower residents to adopt healthier lifestyles.**

# Belonging



**A district** where everyone can belong and be represented in local culture

Communities can be created in several ways, whether based on geography, shared characteristics, or brought together by shared interests, communities provide us with a sense of belonging, an opportunity to connect with others, an ability to influence and a channel through which to contribute.

We recognise the contribution that strong local communities were able to provide in supporting communities in response to the various crises that have occurred over the past years. They possess local knowledge, an understanding of need within their communities and passion to drive action.

We understand Three Rivers is a district made up of several local communities, each with their own identity and strengths. We will utilise funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to ensure sustainable community hubs are developed at a neighbourhood level. Through these hubs we can begin to develop a local culture that reflects all our communities.

It is important that we bring local services and opportunities to residents, which will allow us to tailor delivery based on what is needed in an area. This can be done through initiatives aiming to bring people together by offering free activities and providing an opportunity for residents to find out more about local support services, community groups and activities available to them in their local area.

The LSP will develop opportunities for our residents to learn more about our communities and to improve understanding of what is available within the district. We will continue to engage with our communities, through groups, forums and in everyday spaces to co-develop this work and to ensure we understand and act on what our residents want.

## What we aim to do



**Celebrate and create local culture that reflects our communities**



**Support in the development of sustainable community hubs**



**Develop and coordinate the community and voluntary sector**



# How we will deliver the objectives



**This strategy** will guide the work of the Local Strategic Partnership.

This strategy will guide the work of the Local Strategic Partnership until 2028. This will ensure our day to day partnership working has these long term objectives embedded within it.

Plans will be bi-annually developed by the LSP to ensure we are able to react to changing need and take proactive action to mitigate any risk. The partnership will identify and prioritise work programmes and projects that will deliver the greatest social and environmental

benefits and long term impact.

This will take into consideration planning, statutory services and resource available. This plan will guide and feed into the work of the following partnership structures.



*Three Rivers  
'a district of  
connected  
communities'*

