



## Learning about a new area

### At the existing property

If you are moving to a new area, you may want to do some research to see if it is suitable for your lifestyle. Useful information about house prices, school performance, public transport links and other amenities can be found on [rightmove.co.uk](http://rightmove.co.uk), where you can also view aerial and bird's-eye view maps of the area. The checklist below covers some of the most important things you need to know and where to get the information:

- Use the government websites to find out what the council tax bandings are in the new area. The VOA website can be used for England and Wales while the SAA website is for Scotland.
- Visit the Local Council website for more information on all local amenities, including what happens with important services such as refuse collection.
- Look at the average sold house prices, in the area on [aboutmyplace.co.uk](http://aboutmyplace.co.uk) or by using the sold house prices facility on Sellsureuk.
- Information about local schools including DfES performance tables and OFSTED Reports on the OFSTED/DFES websites.
- Get information on a variety of subjects including: population, crime, health and housing from the Office for National Statistics website.
- Check out the public transport links on the Transport Direct or the TFL website for London.
- Visit the Highways Agency website to check your road transport links and any plans for future road developments that may affect house prices in the future.
- Look at the Environment Agency website to find out more about the local environment; from pollution to flooding.

...a move to be sure of



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