

Your Future Your Fareham



**A Sustainable Community Strategy
for Fareham 2010 - 2020**

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Foreword



by Councillor Trevor Cartwright
Chairman of **networkfareham**

Welcome to **“Your Future, Your Fareham”**. This is Fareham’s Sustainable Community Strategy. It tells you about our vision to improve the quality of life for all the borough’s current and future residents.

Why not take a look? See how we will be working with local people and our partner organisations to make it all happen.

Our 2020 Vision

Fareham is already a pleasant place in which to live and work. However, we live in a world of changing needs and changing aspirations. To keep pace with, respond to and influence these changes our vision is:

“To improve the quality of life for all current and future residents by preserving all that is good about Fareham, whilst increasing prosperity and making it an even more inclusive and attractive place to be.”

You have told us that by 2020 or earlier you would like to see Fareham as a borough where people:

- feel safer,
- are decently housed in homes they can afford,
- are fitter and healthier,
- have better access to well paid jobs,
- live in a more sustainable, greener and cleaner environment,
- are able to enjoy better quality open space and leisure provision, and
- feel more involved in the community.

We have called the strategy **“Your Future, Your Fareham”** because it really is all about your future well-being.

Today we are facing difficult times as the world’s economies face recession. Our priorities and actions will change as we work to lessen the impact on local people.

Much good work remains to be done if we are to give a better quality of life to the next generation.

Have we got it right? You are welcome to share your views with us at any time. See page 11 about how to do this.

There is room for everyone to be involved in making Fareham a prosperous, safe and attractive place to be.

I hope you will want to join us.



Introduction

Looking ahead

What's it like to live, work and play in Fareham? And what will it be like in 2020? networkfareham is a partnership for the communities of Fareham, which brings people together from all walks of life from across the borough, to look at what affects the quality of your life in Fareham, including:

- **Children and young people**
How do the young get a good start in life?
- **Community Engagement**
Could you volunteer to help?
- **Community Safety**
How safe will our homes and streets be?
- **Economic development**
What about people's local job prospects?
- **Environment and transport**
How do we reduce traffic congestion?
- **Health and well-being**
What makes us stay fit and healthy?
- **Housing**
Could your children afford to live here?



Strategic Development Area

For a long time, economic growth in South Hampshire has been below that for the South East Region. There are pockets of high unemployment and deprivation.

Brownfield sites alone are not enough to meet the development needed to improve economic performance. Some greenfield development needs to be planned as well.

Part of the solution is the location of a Strategic Development Area in Fareham Borough to the north of the M27 motorway comprising up to 8,000 new homes of mixed tenures. Development is expected to happen in 2016-2026.

It is vital that our vision for Fareham applies equally as much to the SDA as it does to the rest of the Borough.

We share people's widely held concerns about the size and sustainability of the proposed development and for the infrastructure to be provided to cope with it all - schools, employment, roads, transport, shops, health services and leisure facilities, etc.

Overall, we will look to see a balance maintained between the natural and built environments with strategic gaps between communities.

Children and Young People

Vision

A borough whose children and young people will continue to get a good start in life and are able to fulfil their potential in future years.

Where are we now?

Fareham's children and young people are generally fitter, healthier, more active and achieve more than those elsewhere. Youth homelessness tends to be a hidden problem.

Educational attainment is generally above the national average. No schools are in special measures and absence and exclusion rates are low.

The provision of school places needs to reflect more accurately the distribution of the population both now and in the future.

A relatively high number of children have a special educational need and there is a relatively high number of children with disabilities.

In further education, the colleges in Fareham and Gosport need to correct an imbalance of needs and demands in post 16 provision.



What you told us

Fewer teenagers are perceived to be hanging around on the streets and activities for teenagers are felt to need improvement.

Where do we want to be?

To achieve our vision we need to:

- support children living in poverty or relatively deprived areas,
- help reduce childhood obesity,
- continue improvements at all educational key stages particularly for those with special educational needs,
- prepare young people for work,
- take into account the views of children and young people,
- provide sufficient leisure, sporting and cultural facilities,
- ensure access to facilities for the vulnerable and those with disabilities and other needs to reach their full potential.

What are the top priorities?

- To improve the life chances of children and young people.
- To improve leisure and play opportunities.
- To reduce childhood obesity.

Community Engagement

Vision

A borough whose residents are involved in the community and able to participate actively in its affairs.

Where are we now?

Fareham's population is relatively well off, well educated and articulate. Voluntary sector and community groups are thriving.

Six Community Action Teams meet quarterly across the borough. They allow residents to meet with councillors, the police and other public services. Funding is available to support local community initiatives.

The Fareham E-Panel is being set up to consult with residents from all sectors of the community. Its views will help to give a better shape to existing and future services.

What you told us

You said that you felt unable to influence Council decisions and many people feel disempowered.

Most residents are not involved in any formal volunteering of two hours a week or more.



Most residents are satisfied with local leisure and social facilities. Community facilities, youth centres and sports facilities are generally well used.

Where do we want to be?

To achieve our vision we need to:

- involve local people more in decision-making processes,
- engage with young people and take account of their views,
- encourage volunteering to help meet the needs of the community,
- develop a greater sense of community identity and pride,
- address the needs of minority groups,
- review community facilities across the borough.

What are the top priorities?

- To empower people to have a greater voice in the provision of services.
- To engage with young people and groups of people who struggle to be heard.
- To encourage and support volunteering.

Community Safety

Vision

A borough whose residents feel it remains a safe place in which to live, work and visit.

Where are we now?

Fareham is already a safe place in comparison with many other areas of the country. There are relatively low levels of burglary and violent crime.

Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams have helped to reduce the number of reported incidents with 900 less crimes reported in 2007/08.

Reports of anti-social behaviour are a major concern of residents and continue to be a priority of the Community Safety Partnership. Anti-social or nuisance driving has increased whereas the incidence of criminal damage has fallen over the last three years.

Violent crime in and around Fareham town centre has been reduced considerably. Almost all prolific offenders are drugs or alcohol dependent and a multi-agency approach is adopted.



What you told us

You said that a low level of crime is the most important issue in making Fareham a pleasant place to live.

Anti-social behaviour in public places is perceived to be a big problem.

Where do we want to be?

To achieve our vision we need to:

- tackle alcohol misuse with enforcement, education and improved diversionary activities,
- tackle repeat issues and perceptions of anti-social behaviour with long-term sustainable solutions,
- identify and tackle 'hot spots' of violent crime,
- work in partnership to reduce alcohol and drugs related offences.

What are the top priorities?

- Criminal damage.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Violent crime.
- Drugs and alcohol misuse.

Economic Development

Vision

A borough with a sustainable local economy where people are more skilled, wealth generating businesses are encouraged to locate and benefits accrue to the community at large.

Where are we now?

Fareham is a thriving business area with low unemployment. It is one of the least deprived areas of England although there are pockets of relative deprivation.

Many of Fareham's businesses are of local origin with a high survival rate from start-up.

Most of Fareham's employees work in service activities. However, earnings are below the national and South East averages.

More people travel out of the borough to work than travel in. The growth in jobs at Whiteley and Segensworth and the Solent Business Park has reduced the net outflow of commuters.



What you told us

You said that shopping facilities make Fareham a pleasant place to live.

Wage levels and the cost of living are issues you want to see improved.

Where do we want to be?

To achieve our vision we need to:

- engage with and support local businesses,
- improve people's ability to get to work,
- ensure enough land is set aside for business use,
- involve businesses in identifying skills shortages.

Economic growth will depend on land availability, increased productivity, a better matched skills base, better transport and reduced traffic congestion. Young people need help with skills for starting work.

What are the top priorities?

- Improve skills and match to business needs.
- Promote alternative means of getting to work.
- Improve support for local businesses.

Environment and Transport

Vision

To maintain and enhance the quality of the natural and built environments and biodiversity of the borough, understand the 'carbon footprint' of the borough and plan for the potential local impacts of climate change and to work towards the delivery of a more sustainable transport infrastructure.

Where are we now?

Fareham has a good record on environmental sustainability. A relatively high amount of household waste is recycled. The carbon dioxide emissions rate is one of the lowest in Hampshire.

There is a wide variety of natural landscapes such as chalk downland, coastal saltmarsh and mudflats, grasslands, ancient woodlands and wetlands.

Most residents travel to work by private motor vehicles. Many of them work outside the borough.

Traffic congestion is a big problem particularly along the M27 and A27 corridors and on the A32 to and from Gosport. High traffic flows contribute to poor air quality.



What you told us

You said that improving traffic conditions, public transport and roads and pavements are top priorities.

Overall, you are reasonably satisfied on a number of the larger environmental issues but less so about the quality and cleanliness of public conveniences and the provision of education, health and community facilities on new developments.

Where do we want to be?

Fareham has a part to play in minimising its impact given the threat of rising sea levels and increased risk of flooding. Climate change factors will need to be taken into account in the planning of new developments.

The level of car use and the number of car journeys needs to be tackled.

Similarly, there needs to be an improved and integrated public transport system.

What are the top priorities?

- Reducing traffic congestion.
- Maintaining and enhancing our natural environment.
- Mitigating the impact of climate change.
- Improving the overall sustainability of the borough.

Health and Wellbeing

Vision

A borough where all its residents are enabled to live longer, fitter and healthier lives.

Where are we now?

Fareham's residents are in good health. This compares well with national averages. Women's life expectancy is 83.5 years and men's 80.0 years.

Participation in recommended levels of physical activity is slightly lower amongst Fareham residents than for Hampshire. Childhood obesity is higher than the Hampshire average.

Smoking, drinking and the illegal use of drugs are below Hampshire estimates. The teenage conception rate is much lower than for Hampshire and England.

The population over 85 years old is growing. A large increase is expected in the number of people suffering from dementia. Some 1,000 older people have a high need for social care services.



What you told us

You said that health services are the second highest factor in making Fareham a pleasant place to live. Access to an NHS dentist and travelling by public transport to major hospitals are significant concerns.

Where do we want to be?

To achieve our vision we need to:

- increase physical activity,
- reduce levels of obesity,
- continue to cut smoking,
- provide more health information, advice and support,
- tackle health inequalities in less well off areas,
- promote independence and quality of life for older people,
- support older people to stay in their own homes,
- plan the delivery of dementia services,
- open a new swimming pool in the west of the borough,
- develop a new community hospital.

What are the top priorities?

- To increase physical activity across all age groups.
- To reduce levels of obesity in children and adults.
- To promote independence and quality of life for older people.

Housing

Vision

A borough whose residents are all decently housed in homes that they can afford.

Where are we now?

Fareham's residents are, on the whole, well housed. The proportion of owner occupied homes is the fourth highest in the country. In contrast, the proportion of social and private rented housing is very low.

Average house prices are significantly higher than for neighbouring local authorities but are lower than in Hampshire as a whole.

The housing stock is generally in good condition. Few properties require major repair or are lacking in standard amenities. However, a very low proportion of homes are energy efficient.

The housing available for older people doesn't always meet their needs and aspirations.

There is an acute shortage of affordable housing.



What you told us

You told us that you would like to see more rented housing built by housing associations for local people, that there should be more opportunities for first time buyers and an increase in the provision of private rented accommodation.

Where do we want to be?

To achieve our vision we need to:

- build a minimum of 100 new affordable homes every year,
- provide advice and support to prevent homelessness,
- address issues concerning the housing of vulnerable people,
- provide flexible housing that continues to meet people's needs as their lifestyles change,
- ensure that all homes in the borough reach the decent homes standard and are energy efficient and sustainable.

What are the top priorities?

- To provide more decent and affordable housing for local people.
- To enable older people to remain at home for as long as possible.
- To meet the housing needs of vulnerable people.

Joining in

Find out more

If you would like more information and supporting papers or would like to comment on this sustainable community strategy please contact:

networkfareham Coordinator
Fareham Borough Council
Civic Offices
Civic Way
Fareham
Hampshire
PO16 7AZ

or email:

networkfareham@fareham.gov.uk

or visit our website at:

<http://www.networkfareham.org.uk>



Take part in your community

There's a Community Action Team meeting in your neighbourhood. Why not come along and tell us what needs doing?

For more information please contact the Community Action Team on 01329 236100 or email cats@fareham.gov.uk or visit their website at: http://www.fareham/farehams_community/community_action/intro.aspx



Act locally

Can you volunteer some of your spare time? There are many opportunities for all types of skills.

Find out more by visiting the Fareham Volunteer Centre's website:

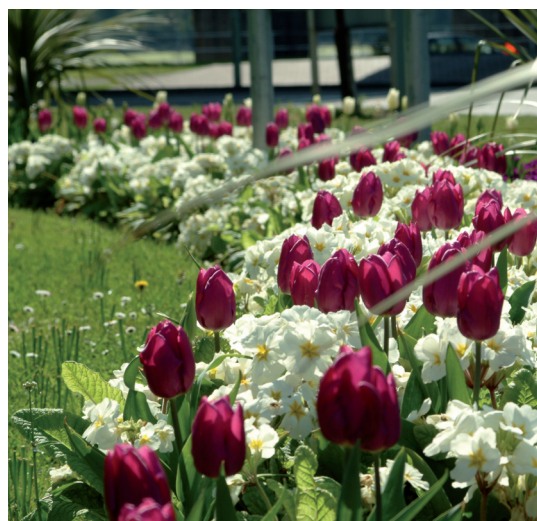
<http://www.farehamaction.org.uk/vb.htm>

or contact:

Community Action Fareham
163 West Street, Fareham
PO16 0EF

by telephone: 01329 231899

or by email: enquiries@farehamaction.org.uk





Thank you

networkfareham would like to thank everyone - individuals, groups and organisations - who have helped to put this strategy together.

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

networkfareham includes organisations such as Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Primary Care Trust, Portsmouth Housing Association, Segensworth Business Forum, Churches Together in Fareham, Community Action Fareham and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Produced on behalf of
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by the Performance and Improvement Team
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Fareham's Community Partnership