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Fareham Sustainable Community Strategy

2009-2020

networkfareham
Fareham's Community Partnership

1: Introduction

What is the Sustainable Community Strategy?

The Sustainable Community Strategy is an umbrella strategy for the Borough of Fareham which sets out a vision for the future of Fareham and the priorities and parameters from which other more specific and detailed strategies and plans will take their cue. It has been developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, known as **networkfareham**, which is a partnership of local statutory agencies, businesses, voluntary and community organisations.

Sustainable communities have been defined as:

Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.

Sustainable communities embody the principles of sustainable development.

They:

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their community;
- Meet the needs of existing and future generations;
- Respect the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally also to make their communities sustainable.

Sustainability is built into all of our plans and actions for communities that are:

- **Active, inclusive and safe** – fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities.
- **Well run** – with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.
- **Environmentally sensitive** – providing places for people to live that are considerate of their environment.
- **Well designed and built** – featuring a quality built and natural environment.
- **Well connected** – with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.
- **Thriving** – with a flourishing and diverse local economy.
- **Well served** – with public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people's needs and accessible to all.
- **Fair for everyone** – including those in other communities, now and in the future.

Crucially, a Sustainable Community Strategy must plan to meet the needs of current citizens in the short, medium and long term without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

These are lofty aims and can only be achieved by all of the organisations who can have an impact on the quality of life in the Borough, now and in the future, working together with a common vision and common goals and priorities.

How has the Sustainable Community Strategy developed?

The Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2020 has evolved from the first Community Strategy published by **networkfareham** in 2004. Since then, the Government has required community strategies to be reshaped with a much greater emphasis on the relationship between the strategy and other local and regional plans, with particular regard to sustainability issues and a more evidence based approach.

This has resulted in **networkfareham** being reconfigured and the development of a number of thematic partnerships within its overall umbrella.

networkfareham itself now comprises a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board, the overarching partnership within the Borough, helping to co-ordinate and rationalise the activities of other partnerships. A total of seven themed partnerships have been formed covering:

- Economic Development
- Community Safety
- Environment and Transportation
- Housing
- Health and Well Being
- Children and Young People
- Community Engagement

The LSP Board includes a representative from each of these partnerships, and includes representation from:

- Fareham Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire Primary Care Trust
- Fareham Community Action
- Churches Together
- The Business Community
- Local Housing Associations.

As well as the above, the thematic partnerships include representation from many areas of local business, local voluntary and community organisations educational establishments and other statutory organisations such as the

Youth Service, the Probation Service, the Young Offending Team and the Learning and Skills Council.

In developing this Strategy, the LSP Board has taken into account the key linkages with other strategies and plans. Whilst it does represent the umbrella strategy from which others will flow, it has also developed within the context of existing plans and priorities and the evidence on which they were based. It has been developed simultaneously with Hampshire County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and the revised Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The government sees LAAs as the delivery plan for a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) based on a relatively small number of priorities for improvement. In areas of two tier local government, there is a single LAA managed by the County Council LSP. The original three year LAA has been superseded by a new agreement in June 2008 in tandem with a new Hampshire County SCS. This strategy reflects the priorities identified in the LAA and the Countywide strategy. In turn, the LAA and the County strategy reflect the issues and priorities identified within individual Districts.

Locally the Strategy has developed simultaneously with and has informed the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is part of a new development plan system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It replaces the old system of structure plans, local plans and supplementary planning guidance. The development plans contained within the LDF will set out the policies and proposals for use of land in the Borough and will effectively enable the principles of the SCS to be expressed in spatial terms.

Other strategies which have informed the SCS and future revisions of which will, in turn, be informed by the SCS include:

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Local Transport Plan
- Solent Transport Sub Regional Strategy
- Community Safety Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Housing Strategy and its family of sub strategies
- Public Health Plan
- Children and Young Persons Plan
- Older Person's Strategy
- Community Engagement Strategy

How the Sustainable Community Strategy is set out.

Following this introduction is a brief picture of Fareham at present. This covers some of the key facts about life in Fareham, how things are likely to change and the issues raised which the Strategy needs to address.

This is followed by an overarching vision for the future which we have called our 2020 Vision. This recognises that Fareham is already a very pleasant place in which to live and work, but also recognises that the quality of life needs to be both maintained and improved and the challenges of the future need to be met.

Each of the seven themes is then examined in turn and each of them has a “mini vision”. For each theme the Strategy aims to answer the questions:

- Where are we now?
- What did you tell us?
- Where do we want to be?
- What are our priorities?

These themes are dealt with fairly concisely as the detail will be contained in individual plans and strategies.

The SCS concludes with an Action Plan which summarises the key actions to be undertaken to achieve the LSPs ambitions, the timescales within which it is hoped to achieve them and the agencies within the LSP who will take the lead responsibility for them.

2: 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. **networkfareham** wants 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.

In order to achieve our vision by 2020 or earlier our aim is to make Fareham 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**
- **Feel more involved in the community**

3: A picture of Fareham

People and places

Fareham covers some 30 square miles of South East Hampshire between the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. It is mainly urban in character with the majority of the population living in the town of Fareham itself, in the “Western Wards” (comprising Locks Heath, Sarisbury, Park Gate and Titchfield Common) and in Stubbington, Portchester and Whiteley. 60% of the land area is, however, still rural and the Borough contains some attractive areas of countryside and coastal areas, with some of its boundaries being defined by the river Hamble, the Solent and Portsmouth Harbour. For a Borough of its small size, there is a rich variety of natural landscapes including chalk downland, coastal saltmarsh and mudflats, grasslands, wetlands and ancient woodlands. The rich biodiversity of the Borough includes internationally important SSSIs and Ramsar sites.

The M27 runs through the north of the Borough, giving easy access to the adjacent cities, the rest of Hampshire, the South East and London. The international airport at Southampton and the ferry port at Portsmouth also give easy access to continental destinations

According to the latest Office of National Statistics estimates produced in 2008, Fareham is home to 109,500 people, of whom 49% are male and 51% are female and who live in 46,000 households. 19.1% of the population is over 65, which is high compared with the rest of Hampshire and the rest of England. Obviously this also means that the number of young people and people of working age is relatively low, although there is high percentage of the population in the 45-64 age group. The age profile is much older than neighbouring Gosport, but slightly younger than Havant.

By 2021, the population is expected to increase by 12.25% to 121,689. Within this overall figure it is expected that the over 65 population will increase by 37.89% by 2020. By then the over 65 population will be 27,500 or 23.91%. By contrast, the population in the 0-14 and 25-44 age groups is expected to decline. This is largely in line with both national and regional trends.

98.3% of the population is white and consequently the Black and Ethnic Minority population at 1.7% is very small both in comparison with the country as a whole and with the rest of the South East. 0.64% of the population is of mixed race, 0.48% is Asian or Asian British and 0.34% is Chinese.

The average household size is 2.43 people, with 70% comprising married couples or cohabiting couples, 16% single person households and 14% divorced, separated or widowed

In the 2007 Residents Survey, 95% of residents were satisfied that Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

The Natural and Built Environments

Fareham has a variety of natural landscapes which include a large proportion designated as countryside, with areas of downland, woodland, grassland, wetland and coastline. Six areas of the Borough are designated as having Special Landscape Character and there are 6 Sites of Special Scientific and 4 nature reserves. In addition there are is a wide variety of parks and open spaces.

The built environment is largely modern in character. More than 57% of the total housing stock has been built since 1961 and the total number of dwellings has nearly quadrupled since 1951. Nevertheless, Fareham does contain some areas of special historic and architectural interest, with a total of 13 conservation areas, 435 listed buildings and a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

The balance between the natural and built environments is likely to change in the longer term with proposals for a Strategic Development Area to the north of the M27 likely to come on stream from 2016 onwards. If approved, this will contain 10,000 new homes and a variety of business uses and supporting community infrastructure.

Healthy, Wealthy and Wise?

Generally, the health of the population of Fareham is good and compares well with national averages. Average life expectancy for men is 80 for men and 83.5 for women. This is higher than Hampshire as a whole (79.4 and 82.9 respectively) and much higher than England (77.3 and 81.6).

Most of the health indicators for Fareham such as the incidence of coronary heart disease, various cancers, diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease are either around or below the national average. Fewer people in Fareham, smoke, “binge drink” or take illegal drugs than in the rest of the country. Infant mortality rates and teenage pregnancies are also very low.

There are still, however, causes for concern and there is a danger that some of the gains made in increasing life expectancy could be lost if more is not done to change the lifestyles of some of the population. Obesity is potentially a particular problem and healthy eating and a more active lifestyle are areas which could be further promoted for Fareham residents.

The impact of the growth of the older population on the development of health and social care services is also of concern. Older people generally require more health care than younger people, although this is partially offset by the fact that people are remaining healthier for longer.

Fareham is a relatively prosperous borough with a low unemployment rate of 3.7% and a low percentage of the resident workforce (1.1%) who claim Jobseekers Allowance. Gross weekly earnings are slightly lower than the South East and national averages, but higher than neighbouring boroughs in South East Hampshire.

Fareham's position, midway between two large cities with easy access to the motorway network, ferry terminals and international airports has enabled it to develop into a thriving business area which is well integrated into the South Hampshire economy. The Borough has a diverse economy in which smaller businesses predominate. Office businesses are in the majority, although there is a significant proportion of industrial employers. The economic growth rate of South Hampshire has been below that achieved within the South East generally for the past two decades. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) has been formed with the aim of improving the economic performance of the sub region.

Significantly, Fareham is a borough where more people commute out to work than commute in, although this situation has improved significantly in the last 20 years. About 81% of Fareham employees work in service activities and 11% work in the manufacturing sector.

Fareham is one of the least deprived areas of the country, ranking 338th out of 354 local authorities in England on an index of multiple deprivation. Nevertheless, this does mask pockets of relative deprivation. Fareham North West and Fareham South wards, both for example, rank within the most 50% deprived in the country.

Educational attainment in schools within the Borough is generally significantly higher than the national average and around the average for Hampshire. The number of students achieving 5 or more GCSE passes at grades A*-C, is 62%. There are, not surprisingly, large variations between individual schools but each school shows a year on year improvement. Performance assessed within schools at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 is generally above the Hampshire average, although slightly below for Key Stage 3 in English.

However, the current skills base in Fareham and South Hampshire does not meet the needs of the projected workforce and this is seen as a major impediment to the achievement of higher growth rates.

A Safe Place?

Fareham is a relatively safe place in which to live with relatively low levels of crime. It is ranked 325 out of 376 nationally for all types of crime.

However perceptions do not always match reality and there is often a widespread concern about crime amongst the population. Such perceptions appear to have improved in Fareham in recent years and in the 2007 residents' survey, the low level of crime was the highest factor commonly cited by residents as one of the most important issues in making the Borough a

pleasant place in which to live. However there were still concerns about the level of anti social behaviour and about going out after dark and safety was therefore also seen as the third most important priority for things which need to improve.

Housing and homelessness

Fareham residents are, on the whole, well housed. The housing stock is mostly modern, in good repair and benefits from relatively high energy efficiency. 86.1% of the housing stock is owner occupied, which is the highest proportion in Hampshire and the South East and the fourth highest in England and Wales. The proportion of housing rented from the Borough Council and from Housing Associations is very low (7.7% in total). Private rented sector housing accounts for only 3.7%, the lowest in Hampshire.

House prices are high and the subsequent lack of affordable housing to buy or rent gives rise to difficulties for newly forming households getting onto the housing ladder. As a result, there are 1780 households on the waiting list, although the number of households accepted as homeless has declined in recent years due to the homelessness prevention measures adopted by the Borough Council.

The lack of affordable housing has implications for the local economy and has contributed towards the level of in and out commuting.

Getting out and about

Fareham is a relatively congested borough. Congestion along the M27 and A27 corridors and on the A32 to and from the Gosport peninsula is particularly severe at peak times. 86% of households own at least one car. A high percentage of the population travel to work by car and a correspondingly low percentage by foot or bicycle. The number of people who commute in and out of the Borough contributes further to congestion levels. The high traffic flows contribute to poor air quality in parts of the Borough.

Public transport is not well co-ordinated and suffers from a common problem of distance between bus and rail interchanges.

In the 2007 residents' survey, improving traffic conditions ranked as the highest priority for Fareham residents, although interestingly, the low level of traffic also ranked as the fourth highest factor contributing to Fareham being a pleasant place in which to live. Improving public transport was the fifth highest priority.

Shopping, socialising and having fun

Fareham benefits both from a wide range of facilities within the Borough and from its proximity and easy access to Portsmouth and Southampton. In the 2007 Residents Survey 86% of residents were satisfied with the opportunities for both sporting and leisure and for arts and entertainment. 89% of residents

felt that the programme of events put on at Ferneham Hall met the needs of the community.

However, the Survey also highlighted the fact that only 62% of residents were satisfied with local leisure and social facilities, a drop from 78% in 2006. Community facilities are generally well used, but there is a geographical imbalance with a higher buildings to population ratio in the western wards.

87% of residents were satisfied with shopping facilities in Fareham Town Centre and 80% were satisfied with local shopping facilities. There is a perceived need for a new major food store within the town centre area.

There is also a perception that young people do not have enough to do and that this is perhaps a contributory factor towards antisocial behaviour.

A Sustainable Place?

At present Fareham has a good record on many issues related to environmental sustainability. The percentage of household waste which is recycled is relatively high with an aim of reaching 50% by 2010, and the percentage of waste which is landfilled is very low. The rate of carbon dioxide emissions is the fourth lowest in Hampshire. Fareham will need to ensure that it continues to make a local contribution to national and global targets to reduce the impact of climate change.

Maintaining and enhancing the quality, character and diversity of Fareham's natural and built environments will be crucial in the coming years. Ensuring the sustainability of major developments, particularly the proposed Strategic Development Area will also be a major challenge within the Borough.

Involving the Community

Fareham has a vibrant voluntary sector and many thriving community groups who help to provide leisure, sports and social activities for its residents. A large majority of residents (82%) do not however, get involved in any formal volunteer work.

However, according to the 2007 Residents Survey, 79% felt that they were unable to influence council decisions. Although many people feel disempowered, most do not seem to be willing to take part in the decision making process as only 20% expressed a willingness to take part in the recently formed Community Action Teams (CATs).

Overall the people of Fareham are happy with living in the Borough. The Survey asked people to indicate the five most important issues which made it a good place to live. The issues most commonly cited were:

- Low level of crime
- Health services
- Clean streets

- Low level of traffic
- Parks and open spaces

The five areas which were most commonly cited as needing improvement were:

- Traffic
- Roads and pavements
- Crime
- Activities for teenagers
- Public transport

These results are interesting in that they demonstrate some contrasting views, in relation to traffic congestion and crime. Subsequent chapters draw out more detail from the responses to the survey.

Conclusions

Fareham is indeed a safe, healthy and pleasant place in which to live and work, a view shared by the vast majority of its residents. However, this position needs to be not only maintained, but developed further so that Fareham citizens can continue to enjoy a good quality of life in the future. **networkfareham** will need to respond to the changes that will happen to the population and to the environment in the foreseeable future and be in a position to influence these changes so that the quality of life for future generations is not compromised.

There are many challenges to be faced which are covered in more detail in the following chapters. The most important, many of which are interlinked, can be summarised as follows:

- Ensuring that future plans reflect forecast population changes, particularly the needs of older people.
- Improving economic growth to ensure that there are more local jobs and that workforce skills meet the needs of the local economy.
- Reducing traffic congestion by reducing the number of car journeys, thereby contributing to improvements in the environment, in health and making a contribution to reductions in carbon emissions.
- Improving the health of the population by encouraging healthy eating and more active lifestyles.
- Enabling more affordable housing to be built and ensuring that all housing embodies EcoHomes standards.
- Improving leisure and community facilities, particularly for young people.
- Ensuring that the proposed Strategic Development Area and other major development proposals adhere to the principles of sustainable development and that the current quality of the environment is maintained and enhanced.

4: Health and Well-being in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our overall vision is that all of the residents of Fareham are enabled to live longer, fitter and healthier lives.

Where are we now?

Generally, the health of the population of Fareham is good and compares well with national averages. The average life expectancy is 80.0 for men and 83.5 for women. This is slightly higher than Hampshire as a whole (79.4 and 82.9 respectively) and much higher than England (77.3 and 81.6). However, some inequalities exist between different parts of the Borough and it is estimated that the average life expectancy is 3 years less in the fifth most deprived areas of the Borough in comparison with the fifth least deprived. These areas include parts of the Portchester West, Fareham East, North West, and South wards.

The prevalence of coronary heart disease is around the national average and slightly higher than the average for Hampshire. Deaths resulting from coronary heart disease are, however, slightly below average. Deaths from strokes are also below the average. The incidence of both lung cancer and breast cancer are the second lowest in Hampshire as are mortality rates from both diseases.

The prevalence of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, previously known as chronic bronchitis or emphysema, is around the average for Hampshire but much lower than nationally.

On the other hand, the prevalence of diabetes is around the Hampshire average, although slightly lower than the national average.

Infant mortality rates are below average for Hampshire whereas low birth weight births are around the average.

The lifestyle choices which have a bearing on health are also favourable in Fareham. Nationally around 24% of adults smoke. In Hampshire the figure reduces to 20.3% whereas in Fareham it is 16.9%. This has been reducing on a year on year basis due to the combined impact of stop smoking services and the legislation which banned smoking in enclosed public spaces and workplaces in 2007.

The number of adults who it is estimated “binge drink” is much lower in Fareham (15.3%) than for England as a whole (18.0%) and is slightly lower than Hampshire (16%). Similarly the estimated users of illegal drugs at 4.07 per 1,000 resident population is much lower than nationally (9.93/1,000), but slightly lower than Hampshire estimates (4.33/1,000).

The estimated number of people who participate in recommended levels of physical activity is 12.9% of the adult population compared with 13.1% in Hampshire and 11.6% in England.

The prevalence of obesity amongst the adult population (21.1%) is lower than the rest of England (23.6%) and Hampshire (22.1%). The prevalence of childhood obesity is 9.48% which is higher than the Hampshire average (8.97%) and 16.8% for children in year 6, which is again higher than the Hampshire average (15.16%).

The teenage conception rate is significantly lower than both Hampshire and England as a whole.

The growth in the older population, particularly the growth in the over 85s means that there is likely to be a significant increase in the number of people suffering from dementia. This growth is estimated to be around 21% by 2015 and 37.5% by 2020. Currently around 1000 older people in Fareham are assessed as having a high need for social care services and as a result are either admitted to residential or nursing care services or are helped to live at home through a variety of domiciliary or day care services.

What you told us.

In the 2007 residents' survey, health services were cited as the second highest factor in making Fareham a pleasant place to live. It was also cited as the sixth highest area which needed improvement.

Where do we want to be?

Whilst Fareham is generally a healthy place in comparison than England as a whole, it is, of course, not sufficient for it to be merely above average in these vital indicators. In most, there is still significant room for improvement and our aim is to be amongst the best in the country so that all residents are able to enjoy a long, active and healthy life, wherever they live in the Borough.

There is a danger that some of the gains made in increasing life expectancy could be lost if more is not done to change the lifestyles of some of the population. Obesity is a particular problem as this can be a major risk factor for coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, osteoarthritis and can contribute to some types of cancer. More needs to be done, therefore in encouraging healthy eating and encouraging a more active lifestyle. In particular, some good work has been done to date in using open spaces in the Borough to encourage informal exercise such as walking or cycling for those who are reluctant to take part in organised sport or visit the gym. Weight management programmes, both for adults and for children as part of the Healthy Schools Programme are also being implemented.

Whilst the levels of smoking, alcohol consumption and illegal drug use do not appear to be as much of a problem in Fareham as in some areas, they do significantly contribute to levels of ill health in the Borough. Indeed, alcohol

consumption could be a hidden problem, with potentially large numbers of people drinking above sensible limits in the privacy of their own homes. Excessive use of alcohol and drug use also have an impact upon the levels of violent crime, domestic violence and on relationship breakdown. Programmes to continue smoking cessation and to support the reduction of alcohol consumption are being implemented.

The impact of the growth of the older population on the development of health and social care services is also of concern. Older people generally require more health care than younger people, although this is partially offset by the fact that people are remaining healthier for longer. Many older people are currently cared for by family members but smaller family sizes and increasing population mobility mean that this is likely to change in the future, placing increasing pressure on health and social care agencies.

As noted above, the increase in the over 85 population is likely to mean an increase in the prevalence of dementia. Dementia is a progressive disorder which describes a collection of symptoms including a decline in memory, reasoning and communication skills and a gradual loss of skills needed to carry out daily activities. Alzheimer's disease accounts for around 62% of total dementia sufferers. The likely growth in dementia will put additional strain on both health and social care agencies and on unpaid carers. We need to plan for the development of these services in response to the National Dementia Strategy.

One issue in Fareham is public perception concerning access to both primary and secondary health facilities. There are particular issues around access to NHS dentistry and access by public transport to major hospitals in Cosham and Portsmouth. The development of a new Community Hospital in the Borough will help to ease at least some of these pressures.

Our priorities are to:

- Increase physical activity across all age groups
- Reduce levels of obesity in children and adults
- Continue to reduce the level of smoking
- Continuing to develop programmes which inform, advise and support people to help them make more informed lifestyle choices
- Tackle the health inequalities which exist by targeting health promotion services in the most deprived areas
- Promote independence and quality of life/well-being amongst older population groups
- Support older people to continue living in their own homes
- Plan the delivery of dementia services to meet the needs of an ageing population
- Provide a new swimming pool in the west of the Borough by 2009
- Enable the development of new Community Hospital by 2010

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities

- Provide information and support to older people to enable them to live independently
- Improve health and wellbeing of people in Hampshire and reduce inequalities between areas of Hampshire with high and low deprivation scores
- Promote independent living for vulnerable people
- Tackle alcohol abuse

Linked Strategies and Plans

- Hampshire PCT : Health Horizons
- Hampshire PCT/ Hampshire County Council Joint Commissioning Strategies
- FBC Older Person's Strategy
- FBC Leisure Strategy

5: Environment and Transport in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our overall vision is to maintain and enhance the quality of the natural and built environments and the biodiversity of the Borough and to work towards a future in which Fareham is more sustainable.

Where are we now?

At present Fareham has a good record on many issues related to environmental sustainability. The percentage of household waste which is recycled is relatively high with an aim of reaching 50% by 2010, and the percentage of waste which is landfilled is low. At 7.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide per capita in 2006, Fareham had the fourth lowest rate of emissions in Hampshire, although this is higher than neighbouring Gosport.

For a borough of its size, Fareham has a wide variety of natural landscapes. Such diverse landscapes as wetlands (including two Ramsar sites of international importance), chalk downland, coastal saltmarsh and mudflats, grasslands, and ancient woodlands all contribute to the rich biodiversity of the Borough. Within its boundaries are 6 nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 80 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and four nature reserves.

Fareham is a relatively congested borough. Congestion along the M27 and A27 corridors and on the A32 to and from the Gosport peninsula is particularly severe. 86% of households own at least one car. A high percentage of the resident population travel to work by private motor vehicle and a relatively low percentage travel to work by foot or bicycle. Although a large number of people, around 60%, commute outside of the Borough, relatively few travel over 20km, perhaps reflecting the position of the Borough within the travel to work areas of both Portsmouth and Southampton. The high traffic flows contribute to poor air quality in parts of the Borough and there are two air quality management areas around Gosport Road and Portland Street/Quay Street for which Action Plans have been developed.

The nature of road congestion in the Borough means that, as with most authorities, it can only be tackled in partnership with others, notably Gosport Borough Council

The number of serious road injuries and deaths in Fareham is relatively low. It is just over half the national rate and the second lowest rate in Hampshire after Rushmoor.

What you told us:

In the 2007 residents' survey, improving traffic conditions ranked as the highest priority for Fareham residents, although interestingly, the low level of

traffic also ranked as the fourth highest factor contributing to Fareham being a pleasant place in which to live. Improving roads and pavements and improving public transport were respectively the third and fifth highest priorities.

Overall, residents were reasonably satisfied on a number of issues to do with the environment. The table below summarises the results:

| | Very satisfied % | Fairly satisfied % | Fairly dissatisfied % | Very dissatisfied % |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Overall quality of the environment | 13.8 | 76.1 | 9.0 | 1.1 |
| Management of public spaces/coastal areas | 14.8 | 70.7 | 12.3 | 2.3 |
| Air Quality | 18.1 | 68.3 | 10.9 | 2.6 |
| Garden waste collection service | 46.7 | 44.2 | 5.8 | 3.3 |
| Recycling sites | 32.9 | 51.3 | 11.8 | 4.0 |
| New developments have appropriate community facilities | 38.0 | 22.3 | 25.8 | 7.5 |
| Open land is kept clear of litter and refuse | 7.8 | 55.8 | 28.8 | 7.6 |
| New developments in keeping with local area | 30.0 | 41.6 | 20.0 | 8.4 |
| Quality of public conveniences | 5.1 | 48.0 | 34.5 | 12.4 |
| Cleanliness of public conveniences | 6.5 | 49.6 | 31.4 | 12.5 |
| New developments have appropriate infrastructure | 37.4 | 27.4 | 22.4 | 12.8 |
| Quality of waste and recyclables collection service | 27.4 | 43.5 | 13.6 | 15.5 |

However, what these results demonstrate are that, whilst residents are satisfied with some of the larger environmental issues, satisfaction levels decrease when considering some of the issues which are closer to home, such as the quality and cleanliness of public conveniences, the waste collection service, the provision of road and transport infrastructure and education, health and community facilities on new developments.

Since the results of this survey the Borough has been making strenuous efforts to address some of the issues which cause most public dissatisfaction, with action plans to improve the quality of the waste collection service and public conveniences.

Where do we want to be?

The impact of climate change is obviously a major issue worldwide and Fareham has its part to play in minimising this impact. Though difficult to predict, it is believed that the South East region will become warmer all year round with wetter winters and drier summers. There also exists the threat of rising sea levels affecting coastal habitats and increasing the risk of flooding. Fareham and its partners need to take account of climate change factors as part of its Sustainable Community Strategy and particularly with regard to the planning of new development as part of its Local Development Framework and within the proposed Strategic Development Area.

The Strategic Development Area will be an area to the north of the M27 of up to 10,000 dwellings together with associated infrastructure and up to 121,000 square metres of employment floorspace. The SDA is a requirement of the draft South East Plan. Its precise location has yet to be determined and the location and form of the development of the area will be established through Local Development Documents. Development of the area is expected to commence around 2016 and be complete around 2026. However it is vital that this major development accords with the principles of sustainable development and that the appropriate education, health, community, shopping and leisure facilities are provided. It will also be necessary to ensure that the transport infrastructure encourages cycling and walking, ensures good access to high quality public transport and offers opportunities for new residents to work at or near their homes.

In the shorter term, one of the key factors is the level of traffic congestion mentioned above and the Borough will need to tackle the level of car use and the number of car journeys. This will be dependent on many other issues discussed in other chapters of this strategy including dealing with the imbalance in the numbers of people travelling into and out of the Borough to work and the number of car journeys associated with the distribution of school and college places. It is also interdependent on improvements in the level, reliability and integration of public transport and on a willingness of people to change their habits and lifestyles. The latter will need to be accompanied by improvements to facilities for walking and cycling.

Other issues relating to planning and sustainability are the importance of ensuring that the environmental character of the Borough, including the quality and varied biodiversity of its open spaces and the preservation of its historic buildings are enshrined in any future developments. New developments for either commercial use or residential use will need to ensure that they reach the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREAAM) standard or the Code for Sustainable Homes Standard. The latter has six levels and currently new developments have to reach Level 3. The future aim should be that all new homes, particularly those in the SDA should reach Level 6.

Our priorities are:

- Encouraging sustainable development and construction through the Local Development Framework and through the preparation of a common sustainability framework for the PUSH sub region.
- Influence the future development of a Strategic Development Area in terms of its sustainability and infrastructure.
- Raising awareness of sustainability issues amongst the business community and residents of Fareham.
- Promoting policies which ensure the sustainability of water resources.
- Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan for Fareham.
- Reducing car usage in the Borough through a series of measures which will include, promoting the use of public transport, improving accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, promoting training for cyclists, promoting car sharing and car club initiatives and developing sustainable travel plans with local businesses and schools.
- Influencing the improvement of interchange provision for bus and rail services to further encourage the use of public transport
- Supporting initiatives for new rapid transport proposals within the Fareham to Gosport corridor in the light of the Government's decision not to approve a light rail system
- Improving traffic management in specified areas to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and provide bus lanes.
- Improving highway safety for all users.
- Improving recycling for household and domestic waste. A recycling target of 50% has been set for 2010 and a further more challenging target will be set for 2020.
- Reducing CO2 emissions through a series of actions to reduce car usage, ensure sustainable design and progress towards carbon neutrality
- Managing Council land more sustainably by taking a more integrated approach to the management of land resources
- Continuing to review air quality in the Gosport Road and Quay Street areas and progress Action Plans to improve it.

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities:

Environment

- Use material resources more efficiently.
- Mitigate progress of Climate Change.
- Adapt to consequences of Climate Change.

Accessibility and Transport

- Highway maintenance
- Improve road Safety and reduce casualties:
- Quality of life and safety in rural villages
- Improve congestion
- Accessibility

Linked Strategies and Plans:

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Solent Transport Sub Regional Strategy
- Hampshire County Council Local Transport Plan
- Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

6: Economic Development in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our overall vision is to create a sustainable local economy where people are more skilled, wealth generating business is encouraged to locate and develop and the benefits accrue to the community at large.

Where are we now?

Fareham is an integral part of the South Hampshire economy and its future economic prosperity and success. Its position, midway between two large cities with easy access to the motorway network, ferry terminals and international airports has enabled it to develop into a thriving business area which is well integrated into the sub regional economy. It has also developed as a telecommunications hub with a high capacity infrastructure which has proved particularly useful to businesses involved in the information and communications fields.

The Borough has a diverse economy in which smaller businesses predominate. Evidence from the Fareham Local Business Needs Survey indicates that many businesses in Fareham are home grown or from the South Hampshire area and that the survival rate of business start ups is high. Office businesses are in the majority, although there are a significant proportion of industrial employers.

Fareham is therefore a relatively prosperous borough with a low unemployment rate. 3.7% of the population of working age were unemployed in 2007 according to modelled estimates produced as a result of the annual ONS Population Survey, compared with 4.2% in the South East and 5.2% in Great Britain as a whole. As a sub indicator of unemployment, 1.1% of the working age population were claiming Job Seekers Allowance in July 2008, compared with 1.4% in the South East and 2.3% in Great Britain. Gross weekly earnings average £476 for Fareham residents, which is slightly lower than the national average and slightly lower than the average for the South East, but higher than neighbouring boroughs of Gosport, Eastleigh and Havant. However, gross weekly earnings for people employed in Fareham are £400, which is significantly lower than the national and South East averages.

Significantly, Fareham is a borough where more people commute out to work than commute in. Around 25,000 people both live and work in Fareham. 32,000 Fareham residents work outside of the Borough and 21,000 people commute in. However these figures are based on 2001 census data and this net outflow of commuters has been reducing significantly due to the growth of employment opportunities at Segensworth and Whiteley. In addition, many people commute to just outside the borough boundary to the Solent Business Park. About 81% of Fareham employees work in service activities, 11% work in the manufacturing sector and 6% in the construction industry.

Fareham is one of the least deprived areas of the country, ranking 338th out of 354 local authorities in England in the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation. Nevertheless, this does mask pockets of relative deprivation. Parts of the Fareham North West ward, for example, rank within the 25% most deprived in the country. The Index of Multiple Deprivation divides the country into 32,482 Lower Super Output Areas, which are smaller than wards allowing the identification of small pockets of deprivation. Within Fareham, using this index, Fareham North West and Fareham South wards and parts of Fareham East and Portchester West wards rank as the most deprived areas of the Borough. However only 1.4% of the population (1474 people) live in areas which are within the most 20% deprived in the country, compared with a national average of 19.9%. 8.8% of the child population (1776 children) live in families receiving means tested benefits compared with 22.4% in England as a whole.

What you told us:

In the 2007 residents' survey, issues relating to economic development did not figure particularly strongly. Residents were asked to respond about what made Fareham a good place to live and what most needed improving. Out of 20 issues, job prospects and wage levels ranked quite lowly at 14th and 16th respectively, of the things which make Fareham a good place to live. However job prospects also ranked 18th out of the things which most needed improving, indicating that people had not really given the issue much thought, probably due to the relatively high levels of employment. Wage levels and the local cost of living ranked more highly at 9th amongst the things which people thought most needed improving, although the number of people who thought this was still low (4%).

Shopping facilities ranked 8th in the things which made Fareham a good place to live and 16th in the things which most needed improving. Residents were asked specific questions about town centre and district shopping facilities. 87% of people were either very or fairly satisfied with town centre facilities (a slight drop from 89% in 2006) whereas 80% were very or fairly satisfied with district centre facilities (a drop from 87%) in 2006.

Where do we want to be?

The economic growth rate of South Hampshire has been below that achieved within the South East generally for the past two decades. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) has been formed with the aim of improving the economic performance of the sub region with a target of raising GVA (Gross Value Added) from 2.7% to 3.5% growth per annum by 2026. This target relies on land availability and on increased productivity. The future supply of land for business use is one of the main issues which may hinder future economic development with some potential shortfalls in office and warehouse space. The preferred option for new business development is within town centre areas, but from 2016 onwards the proposed Strategic

Development Area (SDA) will give greater opportunities for business space within a new settlement that will be created north of the M27 motorway.

The current skills base in Fareham and South Hampshire does not meet the needs of the projected workforce and this is seen as a major impediment to the achievement of higher growth rates. At present there is thought to be a shortage of maths and science skills to support the development of technology based businesses, of management skills at NVQ Levels 4 and 5 and in team, work ethic and communication skills readying young people for work. It will be necessary to be specific about precisely where the shortfalls in skills lie and for the Borough Council and its partners to work together to identify how these might be addressed. Success in focussing efforts and improving standards will enable the skills of the existing workforce to be improved and matched to the needs of the higher value added industries we need to achieve above average growth for our area.

Poor public transport links to business locations and the traffic congestion which results from this and from the level of in and out commuting are of serious concern and are seen by the business community as one of the biggest single constraints on growth. This is particularly true in the Fareham-Gosport corridor and reducing traffic congestion, improving public transport links and promoting alternative means of getting to work is seen as essential in the future.

Similarly, the shortage of affordable housing in the Borough is an issue which contributes to the level of commuting, restricts businesses ability to import skills and is an inhibitor to growth.

Future development of the economy will need to take account of sustainability issues and look at how business fits in with the overall social, environmental and transport infrastructure of the Borough. In particular, it will need to look at the potential for homeworking, flexiworking and distributed business networks. The development of the SDA from 2016 onwards will give a unique opportunity for all of these issues to be taken into account.

Our priorities are:

- Contributing towards the PUSH target of achieving improved economic growth by increasing GVA from 2.7% growth per annum to 3.5% by 2026.
- Encouraging greater business engagement in the economic development process
- Improving support for business
- Promoting business engagement in the improvement and greater use of public transport and promoting alternative means of getting to work
- Ensuring sufficient land is allocated for business use as part of LDF and plans for SDA
- Involving key local businesses in identifying shortages in each skills category

- Set education and training objectives to address skills requirements and encouraging greater business representation on the Boards of governors of schools and colleges to help achieve this.

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities:

- Skills Levels - Improve skill levels, raising basic skills and move people up the skills ladder as measured by NVQs
- Employment rate
- Business growth
- Resident/ worker earnings gaps in targeted areas

Linked Strategies and Plans:

- South East Plan
- PUSH Sub Regional Economic Development Strategy
- FBC Economic Development Strategy
- FBC Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Solent Transport Sub Regional Strategy
- Hampshire County Council Local Transport Plan
- Local Development Framework – Core Strategy
- Housing Strategy

7: Housing in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our overall vision is that by 2020 all of the residents of Fareham are decently housed in homes that they can afford.

Where are we now?

Fareham residents are, on the whole, well housed. 86.1% of the housing stock is owner occupied, which is the highest proportion in Hampshire and the South East and the fourth highest in England and Wales. The proportion of housing rented from the Borough Council and from Housing Associations is very low (5.7% and 2% respectively). Private rented sector housing accounts for only 3.7%, the lowest in Hampshire.

In common with the rest of the country house prices have risen significantly over the past few years, but in 2008 have begun to level off. According to the most recent statistics available from the Land Registry, the average price of houses sold in the last quarter of 2006 was £223,884, compared with £218,357 during the same quarter in 2005. Average house prices for different types of housing ranged from £146,215 for a flat or maisonette through £198,353 for a semi-detached house to £316,595 for a detached house. Average prices are significantly higher than for neighbouring local authorities in South East Hampshire, although lower than Hampshire as a whole. The level of house prices is partly a reflection of the nature of the housing stock. 37.4% of it is detached, compared with 22.8% nationally. The number of detached houses has grown significantly since 1991, reflecting the growth of private sector development, particularly in the western wards of the Borough.

The housing stock is generally in good condition with few properties requiring major repair or lacking standard amenities. The number of properties without central heating (5.5%) is much lower than the national average (8.5%) as is the number of properties without sole use of bath, shower or toilet (0.2% compared with 0.56%).

A very low proportion of the total housing stock (2%) is identified as being energy inefficient. The average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating is 65.1 compared with a national average of 51.

The level of owner occupation and the level of house prices mean that, even with the downturn in the housing market which began in 2008, there is an affordability problem for most newly forming households causing pressures on the rented housing stock. There are currently 1780 households on the Housing Waiting list and the wait for family housing, particularly larger homes, is particularly severe. Levels of homelessness have come down due to the preventative measures adopted by the Council and in 2006/07, 42 households were accepted as being homeless and in priority need. The difficulties people are experiencing in maintaining mortgages combined with the recent house

price downturn, could potentially lead to people being in negative equity and ultimately to having their homes repossessed, which is of some concern at present.

The Housing Needs Survey, carried out in 2004, estimated that there was a total requirement for 495 new affordable homes per annum in order to fully meet the identified needs. The Housing Strategy recognises that the availability of land and finance makes this an impossible target to meet and has set an annual target of 100 new homes, rising to 175 when resources permit. To assist in the achievement of this, a percentage of 40% affordable homes is being sought on all new housing sites over 50 dwellings, 35% on sites of 25-49 dwellings and 30% on sites of 15-24 dwellings. This will be split between rented housing and shared ownership.

In view of the rise in the older population, there is a mismatch between the type of housing currently available for older people and the type of housing which meets their needs and aspirations. The overall trend is now to support older people to be independent and remain in their existing home and this approach is supported by a majority of residents in the 2007 survey. These issues are currently being addressed as part of a major review by the Borough Council.

There are also issues concerning the housing of vulnerable people, otherwise marginalised by society. This includes people with mental health needs, substance misuse problems, learning or physical disabilities, ex offenders and young vulnerable people.

Whilst the housing stock is generally of a good standard across all sectors and scores well on energy efficiency indicators, the Borough Council is still making strenuous efforts to target properties which fall below the fitness standard and which have an SAP rating of less than 40.

What you told us:

In the 2007 residents' survey, housing issues did not feature strongly amongst residents concerns, perhaps a reflection of the fact that the majority of residents are decently housed. Housing which is decent and affordable was 11th on the list of things which made Fareham a good place to live, although it came 8th on the list of things which most need improving. However, when asked specific questions about particular topics, concern about the housing situation became more apparent. 72% of respondents felt that more rented housing should be built by housing associations for local people, 94% felt that there should be more opportunities for first time buyers to get onto the property ladder and 59% felt that there should be more private rented accommodation provided in the Borough. Only 45% felt that there should be more housing built for sale on the open market.

Generally people did not feel that there was a big problem with homelessness in the Borough. The biggest area of concern was around repossessions due to mortgage difficulties which 37% of people thought was a big problem.

Interestingly this survey took place before the “credit crunch” problems emerged strongly.

When asked to consider a number of options concerning housing solutions for older people, the clear favourite was enabling people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible rather than building more homes, making better use of existing stock or providing more residential care homes, which was the least favoured option.

Where do we want to be?

We want to move towards a situation where all of the residents of Fareham, whatever their particular needs, are satisfactorily housed. This means reaching a point where the private market can provide a wide range of housing for sale at different levels of affordability so that people can get a foot on the housing ladder and ensuring that there is sufficient good quality housing for rent or shared ownership for those who are still unable to buy. This will include encouraging the development of lifetime homes to provide flexible housing that continues to meet people’s needs as their lifestyles change. We also want to ensure that there is sufficient housing available to cater for vulnerable people who have specific support needs and that we continue to prevent people becoming homeless. Finally, we want to ensure that all homes in the Borough reach the decent homes standard and are energy efficient and sustainable.

In the long term, the development of the SDA from 2016 onwards will provide a unique opportunity to ensure that a good mix of homes is built. These new homes could assist towards the provision of a balanced housing market in terms of size, type, tenure and affordability, catering for all of the needs of the Borough and its surrounding areas, with appropriate infrastructure and developed to high standards of sustainability.

Our priorities are:

- Building a minimum of 100 new affordable homes per annum
- Working towards the provision of balanced sustainable communities through the Local Development Framework and through increased partnership working with private developers
- Ensuring that all new homes are built to the highest possible level of the Government’s Code for Sustainable Homes
- Reducing further the number of people accepted as homeless
- Ensuring that advice and support is available to prevent people getting into mortgage difficulties and having their homes repossessed.
- Developing further accommodation and support services for vulnerable people including young people and those with substance misuse and mental health problems
- Maintaining the programme for Council housing to meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010
- Reducing the number of houses in private sector which do not meet the fitness standard

- Increasing the Energy Efficiency rating of all homes in the Borough
- Developing policies which enable older people to be supported to remain in their existing homes for as long as possible, ensuring that we make best use of existing sheltered housing and providing extra care housing for very frail older people as an alternative to residential care.

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities:

- Affordable housing
- Fuel poverty

Linked Strategies and Plans:

- FBC Housing Strategy
- FBC Homelessness Strategy
- FBC Affordable Housing Strategy
- FBC Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
- FBC Private Sector Renewable Strategy
- Fareham and Gosport Supporting People Strategy
- Fareham Local Development Framework
- South East Plan
- Regional Housing Strategy

8: Children and Young People in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our vision is that children and young people in Fareham will continue to get a good start in life and are able to fulfil their potential in future years.

Where are we now?

Children born in Fareham are likely to have a relatively good start in life, with lower levels of key risk factors. Indicators derived from the 2008 Annual Health Profiles suggest:

- Lower levels of smoking during pregnancy (14.8% compared with 16.1% nationally)
- A higher rate of breast feeding initiation (77.1% compared with 69.2% nationally)
- A low infant mortality rate (3 per 1,000 live births compared with 5 nationally)

The 2008 Health Profile also indicates that

- 94.3% of children are physically active, compared with 87.8% in Hampshire and 85.7% nationally
- 9.1% of children are obese, which is higher than the Hampshire average of 8.9% but much lower than the national average of 9.9%
- Children's oral health is good, with 5 year olds on average having 1.1 missing or decayed teeth compared with a national average of 1.5
- Teenage pregnancy levels are low with a conception rate of 25 per 1,000 females under 18, compared with a Hampshire average of 31.1 and a national average of 41.1
- The proportion of children living in families on means tested benefits is 8.8% compared with 12.4% in Hampshire and 22.4% nationally, although this has risen slightly from the previous year.

Educational attainment in schools within the Borough is generally significantly higher than the national average and around the average for Hampshire. The number of students achieving 5 or more GCSE passes at grades A*-C, is 62%. There are, not surprisingly, significant variations between individual schools but each school shows a year on year improvement. Performance assessed within schools at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 is generally above the Hampshire average, although slightly below for Key Stage 3 in English.

Fareham has a low absence rate at secondary school, a low exclusion rate and has no schools in special measures.

Compared with the rest of Hampshire, the number of children injured in road traffic accidents and the number of serious crimes against children are low. Referrals of children in need, the number of children on the Child Protection

Register and the number of children looked after by the local authority are also low. First time entrants into the Youth Justice system are just below the Hampshire average.

However, there are a higher percentage of children with a special educational need compared to the Hampshire average and there are also a relatively high number of children with disabilities. The percentage of 16-19 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is, at 5%, lower than most of the other authorities in Hampshire.

Generally speaking, then, Fareham's young people are healthier, safer and achieve more than their counterparts elsewhere.

However, whilst this is broadly the case, there are still issues which need to be addressed in order to improve outcomes for younger people in the Borough.

In terms of crime and anti social behaviour, children are both perpetrators and amongst the principal victims. More needs to be done to help divert young people away from crime and support those who suffer from it. Young people can also be demonised and marginalised with perceptions of any grouping of young people as being threatening and troublesome. To address this, the Borough Council wishes to work with the Youth Council and the media to help represent a more positive image of young people.

There are also concerns about the provision of school places, both now and in the future. The distribution of secondary schools does not reflect the distribution of the population, with a shortage of places within the Western Wards/Whiteley area. This increases the distances people have to travel to school, contrary to the sustainable development and transportation aspirations of the Borough Council. In the long term, this may be resolved if a new secondary school were to be provided as part of the proposed Strategic Development Area.

There is also a shortage of primary school places in Whiteley, but it has not been possible to identify a suitable site for a new school.

In terms of further education, there is an imbalance of provision in relation to needs and demands within the Fareham and Gosport areas with Fareham College providing a significant vocational offering and St Vincent's in Gosport having a more academic base. This results in a high number of students travelling from Gosport to Fareham and a high number travelling from Fareham to Gosport, Eastleigh and other areas. The Learning and Skills Council is considering options for the reconfiguration of post 16 provision.

About one in every hundred school pupils is a young carer, whose life is affected by looking after another family member, often a parent, with a disability or a long term illness. Apart from the burden of a caring role, young carers often suffer from their own mental health problems, severe levels of anxiety or depression, self harm or they may have eating disorders or use

alcohol or drugs. They can also suffer from bullying at school. It is vital, therefore, that young people in this situation have adequate support.

Although, not as big an issue as in some areas, there is nevertheless, a problem of young homelessness. Because this is often a hidden problem, the true extent of it is currently unknown, although research is currently underway to establish this.

What you told us:

In the 2007 residents' survey activities for teenagers ranked fourth highest in the issues which residents felt most needed improvement and both activities for teenagers and facilities for young people ranked relatively lowly amongst the issues which make Fareham a good place to live.

25.5% of residents felt that teenagers hanging around on streets was either a big problem or a very big problem, which is a significant decrease from 31% in 2006. 44.3% thought that it was a small problem, whereas 30.2% thought that it was not a problem, a significant increase from 23% in 2006.

This could indicate either a significant change in the perception of the problem or could be an indication that facilities have improved to the extent that there are less teenagers hanging around on the streets.

Where do we want to be?

Whilst earlier paragraphs indicated that children and young people in Fareham are generally fitter, healthier, more active and achieve more than their counterparts elsewhere and the expectations for the future are positive, there are clearly areas for improvement. It is obviously not sufficient for Fareham to be merely better than average.

Overall Fareham wants to be in a position where health outcomes for all children are improved, particularly in areas which have been identified as suffering from relatively high deprivation. It wants to ensure that improvements for all children at all educational key stages continue, particularly for those with special educational needs and that young people are prepared for work. It wants to take into account the views of children and young people, to listen to them and enable them to influence policy and practice, including working with the Youth Council to help influence the media to represent young people in a more positive light. It wants to ensure that there is sufficient leisure, sporting and cultural activities available to for children and young people. Finally, it wants to ensure that vulnerable children are enabled to access the facilities they need to reach their full potential.

The key priorities for Hampshire children and the actions required to achieve them are set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

Specific priorities for Fareham, grouped around the five "Every Child Matters" outcomes and which take into account the CYPP priorities are:

Being Healthy:

- Providing better information, advice and support to help reduce childhood obesity
- Identifying the impact on outcomes for children living in poverty or in areas of relative deprivation

Staying Safe:

- Reducing bullying
- Better support to improve parenting skills
- Supporting HCC work on transport to school issues and developing safe, affordable and accessible transport options for young people and families with young children
- Supporting young carers

Enjoying and Achieving:

- Promote and develop education, learning, training and volunteering opportunities
- Improving leisure and play opportunities
- Increasing leisure opportunities and holiday provision for children with disabilities, children at risk and Looked After Children

Making a Positive Contribution:

- Establishing mechanisms for consultation and participation

Achieving Economic Well-being:

- Providing information, advice, support and accommodation for young homeless people
- Help young people learn about money and work

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities:

- Improve mental and emotional health
- Tackle childhood obesity
- Reduce the number of teenage pregnancies
- Close the gap between the achievements and life chances of the most vulnerable children and young people (as identified in the CYPP) and the majority of Hampshire children and young people.
- Improve the life chances of those 16-19 year olds at risk of underachievement
- Improve services for children in our care and on the edge of care including the improvement of placement stability and choice
- Safeguarding children

Linked Strategies and Plans:

- Hampshire County Council Children and Young People's Plan
- Hampshire PCT Public Health Plan
- Hampshire County Council Children and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy
- Fareham Borough Council Housing Strategy

9: Community Safety in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our overall vision is to ensure that in the future the citizens of Fareham feel safer. This accords with the mission statement of the Fareham Community Safety Partnership which is:

To promote community safety in order to improve the quality of life for residents and ensure that Fareham 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, with relatively low levels of burglary and violent crime.

Between 2005 and 2008, the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams and a more targeted way of working has seen the reported number of incidents in a number of key crime categories reduce. In particular, burglaries and the theft of motor vehicles have reduced by 15% and 35% respectively between 2006 and 2007.

However, reports of antisocial behaviour have increased dramatically by 96% over the same period, although this may partly be a reflection of improvements in the methods by which residents can report such incidents. The greatest increase is in antisocial or nuisance driving and there is a reduction of 21% in the incidence of criminal damage.

Violent crime accounts for 26% of overall crime across the borough with the majority of incidents taking place in and around the Town Centre. Reports of domestic violence have risen by 25% in the last three years.

Drugs related offences reported across the borough showed a 49% increase over an eighteen month period, with cannabis being named in a large majority of these complaints and public drinking is seen as significant problem by some residents. There is a clear link between crime and substance misuse, with 95% of top level offenders being identified as drugs or alcohol dependent.

What you told us.

Although Fareham is a relatively safe place, perceptions do not always match reality and there is widespread concern about crime in the population, particularly prompted by the level of antisocial behaviour. However perceptions do appear to have markedly improved and in the 2007 Residents Survey the low level of crime was the highest factor commonly cited by residents as one of the most important issues in making the Borough a

pleasant place in which to live. However it was also cited as the third priority for things which need to improve.

The Survey also showed that there were concerns about going out after dark. Only 50% of residents felt safe after dark in town and district shopping centres, although 72% felt safe in their own neighbourhoods after dark and 98% felt safe during the day.

25% of residents ranked “teenagers hanging around on streets” as a big or very big problem and 21% of residents perceived drunken or rowdy behaviour in public places in the same way.

Where do we want to be?

Fareham Community Safety Partnership which comprises representatives of the Borough and County Councils, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Primary Care Trust is responsible for driving forward the community safety priorities within the Borough. It has produced a Community Safety Plan 2008-2011, which based on a strategic assessment of the issues sets out a number of key priorities and associated objectives.

These are:

- Reducing criminal damage and arson
 - Limiting opportunities for criminal damage and arson to be committed.
 - Identifying key locations and offenders
 - Responding more quickly to incidents
 - Encouraging reparation
- Reducing anti social behaviour
 - Responding to identified community priorities
 - Tackling anti-social driving
 - Developing diversionary projects for young people
 - Early identification and management of offenders
 - Supporting enforcement action and deterring offending
 - Tackling community perceptions of anti-social behaviour
- Reducing violent crime
 - Developing strategies to identify “hot spot” areas and tackling violent crime
 - Improving effectiveness of multi agency working in the field of domestic abuse
 - Improving support mechanisms and structures for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Reducing alcohol and drugs related offences.
 - Reducing substance misuse related crime and associated anti-social behaviour through partnership work
 - Raise awareness of the risks associated with alcohol

- Promote the exchange of information regarding individuals associated with drugs and alcohol misuse.

The Plan contains a series of detailed actions designed to achieve these priorities. However, many recent achievements have only been possible due to the availability of funding received from the Home Office. Changes to the way in which this funding is being distributed may have an adverse impact on the ability of the Partnership to achieve its aims in future years.

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities

- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour:
 - Alcohol Related Public Violence
 - Domestic Violence
 - Reduce adult re-offending (PPOs)
 - Tackle drug related offending
 - Reduce the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

Linked Strategies and Plans

- Hampshire Alcohol Strategy
- Hampshire Drug Strategy
- Community Safety Plan 2008 – 2011
- Youth Justice Plan

10: Engaging the Community in Fareham

Our Vision.

Our overall vision is that the residents of Fareham feel more involved in the community and are able to more actively participate in its affairs.

Where are we now?

Fareham has a relatively affluent, well educated and articulate population. It has a thriving voluntary sector and many thriving community groups who help to provide leisure, sports and social activities for its residents.

In order to improve the dialogue between the Borough Council and the residents of Fareham it has recently set up Community Action Teams for different areas of the Borough to enable information to be disseminated on a number of key issues and views to be sought. It has also set up a Citizen's e-panel which will enable opinions to be gathered on the major issues facing Fareham. Other means by which views are sought include the annual residents survey and consultation on specific aspects of the Council's services, for example council housing and the development of the Local Development Framework

The Community Actions Team meetings started in September 2007. There are five community areas – Portchester, Fareham Town, Crofton, Titchfield and Western wards and meetings are held in each area on a quarterly basis. They provide an opportunity for residents to hear about new initiatives in their area, as well as giving them the chance to raise issues of concern that they may have. Attending the meeting alongside councillors and officers of the council are police officers from each of the areas concerned.

Over the first twelve months, 20 meetings have been held across the Borough covering topics as diverse as parking enforcement, recycling and speeding traffic. There have been presentations from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Police and the Fareham Youth Council.

As well as achieving better community engagement, the CATs project has also been able to support local community initiatives with funding to the tune of some £43,000 (as at September 2008).

The Fareham E-Panel is being created to offer public and voluntary sector partners a single mechanism to consult with residents of the Borough. The Panel is currently under construction. It will comprise between 1,000 and 1,500 borough residents recruited from all sectors of the community. The panel will be demographically balanced to ensure that all members of our community are represented.

Once established the Panel will be approached at least four times a year with a range of questions. These will come from public sector organisations and their voluntary sector partners.

The Fareham E-Panel will be the most representative consultation panel used in the borough and will give a more accurate impression of the views of people living within our communities.

These views will help both the public and voluntary sectors to better shape future and existing services.

The first piece of consultation will ask panel members for their views on the credit crunch and whether or not they volunteer.

A number of issues are raised around the theme of community engagement.

First of all, there appears to be a different sense of community/sense of place between the older more established parts of the Borough and the newer communities in the western wards

Secondly it is possible that the projected rise in the number of older people in the Borough may lead to a comparable increase in the number of people living alone and an increase in the number of people experiencing social isolation.

Thirdly, the increase in older population may also require an increase in volunteering/caring activity. It is of particular concern that a number of people currently engaged in volunteering activity are becoming older themselves and are less able to continue with this work.

Finally, although the population of Fareham is relatively non diverse, with a small Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community, it will be necessary to ensure that there is sufficient engagement with minority groups to ensure that their views and needs are taken into account.

What you told us:

According to the 2007 residents' survey, 79% felt that they were unable to influence Council decisions. However, although many people feel disempowered, most do not seem to be willing to take part in the decision making process as only 20% expressed a willingness to take part in the recently formed Community Action Teams (CATs).

The Survey also asked if residents had been involved in formal volunteering of 2 hours a week or more over the past 12 months. 17.6% of residents replied yes to this question, whilst 82.4% replied no.

The Survey also highlighted the fact that only 62% of residents were satisfied with local leisure and social facilities, a drop from 78% in 2006. Community facilities are generally well used, but there is a geographical imbalance with a

higher buildings to population ratio in the western wards. This has led to a review of the use of community facilities youth centres and sports pavilions with a view to rationalising provision and modernising buildings as appropriate by 2012.

Where do we want to be?

It is obviously of concern that there is an apparent conflict that residents feel that they have the opportunity to express their views on the development of services within the Borough (65%), but do not feel that they have the ability to influence council decisions (20%) and do not wish to get involved in the CATs (20%)

Empowering local people to have a greater voice and a role in the provision of services will be an increasingly important theme for the Borough Council and its partners. This will mean building on existing mechanisms such as the Community Action Teams, the proposed e-panel, the newly formed LINKs, service user groups, neighbourhood watch groups, tenant and resident involvement processes and other consultation mechanisms. It is also felt to be important to engage more with young people by building on the work of the Youth Council and establishing links between it and the Community Engagement Partnership.

It will also involve in encouraging and recruiting more volunteers to help meet the needs of the community. Increasing the level of recruitment, retention and support for volunteers will be a key factor in developing community capacity and improving community cohesion.

It is recognised that proper engagement with the community takes time and effort to make it meaningful for people. If there is a significant local issue, people will get involved and the challenge for the Borough Council and its partners will be to ensure that such enthusiasm can be harnessed in a continuous process of engagement and that residents can be assured that consultation can make a difference.

Our priorities are:

- Establishing the Citizen's E-Panel to gain a better understanding of community needs
- Setting up Disability and Older Person's Forums and exploring potential for other more specific Forums
- Encouraging more volunteering
- Encouraging the involvement of young people
- Looking at ways in which a greater sense of identity and pride in the community can be developed in both the older and more newly established parts of the Borough
- Ensure that the needs of minority groups are addressed in the community engagement process
- Review of community facilities in the Borough

Local Area Agreement Linked Improvement Priorities:

- Improve Community Engagement
- A sustainable Third Sector

Linked Strategies and Plans:

- Community Engagement Strategy