

# Your Future Your Fareham



*Fareham Quay*

## **A Sustainable Community Strategy for Fareham 2009 - 2020**

**Executive Summary  
for public consultation**

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*Portchester Castle*

# 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.

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? Now is the time to share your views with us before the final version is written. See page 5 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.

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# 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 solve traffic congestion?
- **Health and well-being**  
What makes us stay fit and healthy?
- **Housing**  
Could your children afford to live here?

Some of the answers will be found in "**Your Future, Your Fareham**" our Sustainable Community Strategy. You can read the whole strategy document by visiting our website: <http://www.networkfareham.org.uk> .



*Titchfield Abbey*

## Have we got it right?

The next pages look at each of the themes opposite and ask:

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

We are now seeking more views on these proposals before writing the final version.

## Over to you ...

What should we change to make Fareham a better place to live, work and visit, now and in the future?

What needs to be improved in your neighbourhood or across the borough as a whole?

Which things should be done first?

You are invited to take a look at each of the themes and send us your thoughts using the enclosed questionnaire.

**... we want to hear from you**

**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, Fareham Community Action, and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

# 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.



*The Rainbow Centre, Fareham*

## 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.

Five 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.



*A pile of questionnaires*

## 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.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams have helped to reduce the number of reported incidents. Burglaries and the theft of motor vehicles have reduced.

Reports of anti-social behaviour have increased. This may be because it became easier for residents to report incidents. Anti-social or nuisance driving has increased whereas the incidence of criminal damage has gone down.

Most violent crime happens in and around Fareham town centre. Reports of drug related offences have risen. Almost all top level offenders are drugs or alcohol dependent. Reports of domestic violence have also risen.

## 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.



*Police on the beat*

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:

- limit the opportunities for committing criminal damage and arson,
- tackle perceptions of anti-social behaviour
- identify and tackle 'hot spots' of violent crime,
- work in partnership to reduce alcohol and drugs related offences.

## What are the top priorities?

- Respond to community priorities in reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce domestic violence and alcohol related public violence.
- Reduce criminal damage and arson.

# 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.



*Fareham College*

## 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.



*Holly Hill Woodland Park*

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.



*Walking to health*

## 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.



*Frosthole Close, Fareham*

## 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.
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# Joining in

## Find out more

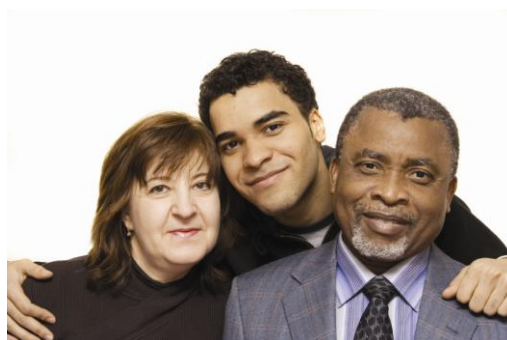
If you would like more information and supporting papers or would like to comment on this sustainable community strategy please contact:

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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 Team on 01329 236100 ext: 4447 or 4448 or e-mail [cats@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:cats@fareham.gov.uk) or visit their website at:  
[http://wwwfareham/farehams\\_community/community\\_action/intro.aspx](http://wwwfareham/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:  
Fareham Community Action  
by telephone: 01329 231899  
or by email:  
[enquiries@farehamaction.org.uk](mailto: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.

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Produced on behalf of  
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