

**Fareham Borough Council's  
Leisure Strategy  
2013-18**

Leisure Opportunities for Health & for Fun

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>What is the Context of the Strategy?</b> .....	5
<b>Corporate Strategy 2011-2017</b> .....	5
<b>Resources</b> .....	6
<b>Partnerships</b> .....	6
<b>Non Priorities</b> .....	6
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity</b> .....	6
<b>Local Influences</b> .....	7
<b>Fareham Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020</b> .	7
<b>Fareham Local Development Framework (LDF) – Core Strategy 2011</b> .....	7
<b>Sport Hampshire &amp; IOW Strategy 2010-2013</b> - .....	8
<b>Hampshire’s Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-2012</b> -.....	8
<b>Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)</b> - .....	9
<b>Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)</b> - .....	9
<b>What does the Council aim to achieve?</b> .....	12
<b>Overarching Strategic Objectives</b> .....	12
<b>Scope of the Strategy</b> .....	12
<b>Parks &amp; Open Spaces</b> .....	13
<b>Foreshore</b> .....	14
<b>Culture &amp; Heritage</b> .....	15
<b>Community Development</b> .....	16
<b>How is the service financed?</b> .....	18
<b>What is the plan of action for 2013 and beyond?</b> .....	23

## **Introduction**

Leisure activities are an important part of people's lives, providing opportunities for personal fulfilment and a healthy lifestyle, while promoting family cohesion and community identity. They are important to the quality of life in the Borough of Fareham and make a significant contribution to the Council's vision; "Fareham, a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work".

A high quality natural and built environment with a good range of facilities helps raise the profile of the Borough to residents and visitors alike which also helps to promote local identity. The Leisure Strategy sets out the Council's commitment to address the needs of people who live and work in the Borough and to facilitate the contribution of private, public and voluntary providers of leisure and cultural activities. It also recognises that leisure and cultural opportunities cross local authority boundaries, reflecting the range of opportunities available in the sub region.

Through this strategy, Fareham Borough Council will facilitate community involvement in the development of leisure and cultural initiatives and projects that will secure high quality facilities for local people. This will involve innovative methods of service delivery, maximising funding opportunities and partnership working.

The aim being that the Borough of Fareham will continue to be a place where people enjoy their local environment and have an opportunity to participate in a range of quality leisure and cultural opportunities.

Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley  
Executive Member for Leisure & Community

## **What's it like in Fareham?**

### **The Borough of Fareham**

Fareham is located in an area of some 30 square miles along the south coast of Hampshire between Portsmouth and Southampton. The population of 111,500 is expected to grow by 5.4 per cent over the next 20 years with a growing number in the population aged 45 or more. Black and minority ethnic groups make up a small proportion of the population in comparison to the rest of the south east region. A new development of up to 6,000 homes, commercial buildings and community facilities is planned to start in 2016 in an area to the north of Fareham known as Welborne.

Within Fareham's boundaries there are six nationally important sites of special scientific interest, 92 sites of importance for nature conservation and four nature reserves. The Borough has many historic buildings, 13 conservation areas, nearly 600 listed buildings plus seven historic parks and gardens of regional or local importance. Residents have said consistently in national and local surveys that they are satisfied with the local area as a place to live.

Fareham is a thriving business area with low unemployment. The proportion of Fareham's working age population that are in work is higher than both the regional and national rates and the average annual salary for a full time worker living in Fareham is significantly higher than national average earnings.

Fareham is a safe and healthy place compared to many other parts of the country. The total number of recorded crimes in Fareham has been falling in recent years. Based upon the number of crimes recorded, Fareham's Community Safety Partnership is the second best performing partnership in Hampshire and is in the top quartile when compared to other similar authorities.

The health of people living in Fareham is generally good when compared to other areas. Life expectancy is higher than the national average for men and women and over the last 10 years, the rate of death from all causes, and early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke, has all fallen and remain lower than the national average. Deprivation levels across the borough are generally very low. However, there are pockets of deprivation where unemployment is much higher and educational achievement is much lower when compared to other parts of the Borough.

## What is the Context of the Strategy?

### Corporate Strategy 2011-2017

The corporate strategy takes account of government priorities and the Council's ongoing commitment to maintain and improve its services with limited and reducing resources. The strategy includes a reduced number of priorities to provide a clear focus on the most important issues that need to be addressed by the Council over the next six years.

#### Vision

Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work. This has not happened by accident but by careful management and constant attention to our environment and the needs of our communities. Our vision for Fareham's future is based upon the assumption that residents want to preserve all that is good about Fareham, whilst increasing prosperity and making it an even more inclusive and attractive place to live and work.

#### Values

Everything we do is guided by a set of values which are shared by all elected members and employees. These are:

- Listening and being responsive to our customers;
- Recognising and protecting the identity of existing settlements;
- Enhancing prosperity and conserving all that is good;
- Being efficient and effective and providing value for money;
- Leading our communities and achieving beneficial change.

The corporate priorities and their associated priorities for improvement that relate to the Leisure Strategy include the following:

To provide a reasonable range of **leisure opportunities for health and fun** so that residents and visitors of all ages can socialise with other members of our communities; participate in arts and entertainment activities; and improve their fitness and health.

#### Our priorities for improvement are:

- Provide community facilities at the Coldeast site to provide a swimming pool, cemetery, allotments, parkland and sports pitches.
- Implement findings of our review of community centres and sports pavilions and modernise buildings as appropriate.
- Develop new and improved parks, play area and sports facilities using developer contributions and external funding.

To build **strong and inclusive communities** by providing strategic leadership to help bring together key partners and encourage them to improve services and provide opportunities for residents of the borough. We will also give people greater influence and power over the decisions that affect their lives and build more inclusive communities by providing easy and affordable access to information and services provided by the Council.

**Our priorities for improvement are:**

- Providing support to the community through initiatives such as in the Fareham Park Project.

**Resources**

Whilst the possibilities for providing leisure opportunities and for achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities are limitless, the resources available for services are not. The impact of this strategy seeks to maximise the impact of modest resources available to the Council by prioritising effort and striving for increased efficiency. The focus will be to deliver improvements by identifying opportunities for savings, reallocation of budgets, bidding for funding from external sources and exploring ways of achieving better value for money within available resources. The strategy acknowledges the limited resources available to the Council for the provision of leisure and cultural services. In addition the unprecedented need to deliver efficiency savings may impact on the ability to fully implement the action plan

**Partnerships**

The Council seeks to maximise the impact of its limited resources by working in partnership with others wherever possible. The Council works in partnership with voluntary, statutory and commercial organisations as well as relevant government agencies to maximise the effectiveness of its work.

**Non Priorities**

There will always be more opportunities and possibilities for providing leisure and cultural services than there are resources available. The Council is therefore clear about what it does not consider to be a priority. The non priorities are identified in part by taking into account existing provision in the Borough which is offered by other commercial, voluntary and statutory organisations.

Currently these non priorities include promotion of Fareham as a tourist destination, other than Fareham Shopping Centre, and promotion of the arts, other than the activities that take place at Ferneham Hall. The Council does not deny the value of these activities but does not plan to commit resources to delivering them directly.

**Equality & Diversity**

The aim is to make leisure and cultural activities within the Borough as accessible and inclusive as practically possible for everyone irrespective of age, gender, ethnic origin, financial situation or mobility. Access is meant not only in the physical sense but also in terms of removing barriers such as cost, transport difficulties and the factor of not even knowing what facilities are available.

## What else influences the strategy?

### Local Influences

**Fareham Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020** - The Council's vision for the Strategy is to make life better for the people of the Borough by working together as partners and with local communities to achieve improvements in economic, social and environmental wellbeing that would not otherwise happen. One key objective is to encourage the provision of affordable, accessible leisure and community facilities which will meet local needs. The priorities for health and well-being are to increase physical activity across all age groups and to reduce levels of obesity.

**Fareham Local Development Framework (LDF) – Core Strategy 2011** - The Core Strategy is a key part of the Fareham LDF and will help to deliver the spatial elements of Fareham's Sustainable Community Strategy. The LDF is not a single plan but a suite of documents which will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain current.

**Green Spaces Study** This is an evidence study produced to inform the LDF. It describes the quantity and quality of open spaces in the Borough, including parks and amenity open space, young persons' provision (including both children's play areas and youth related provision) and 'accessible natural green spaces' such as woodlands and natural grasslands.

**Fareham Indoor Sports Facilities Assessment 2012** - This factual report provides a quantitative and qualitative audit based assessment of indoor sports facilities. It is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is a robust, up-to-date assessment of the needs for indoor sports facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform what provision is required.

**Fareham Playing Pitch Study 2012** - This strategy covers the period 2012 -2026 and feeds into the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF sets out the spatial strategy, policies and proposals, which will guide the future development and use of land in the Borough of Fareham. The study includes the following:

- An audit of the current levels of provision for outdoor sports, including Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs), in Fareham across all sectors.
- The current demand from clubs and teams for the following sports; Football, Cricket, Tennis, Bowls, Rugby Union, Hockey, Artificial Turf Pitches (all sports)
- The future demand (for the period 2015 - 2026 for both junior and adult participation.
- An assessment of supply and demand by Fareham Borough Councils Community Action Teams (CATS) areas.

## **Regional Influences**

**Sport Hampshire & IOW Strategy 2010-2013** - The vision for Sport Hampshire & IOW County Sports Partnership is to inspire more people to be more active, more often. The strategy has four strategic aims:

- To inspire and sustain greater participation in physical activity and sport, enabling all to fulfil their potential.
- To support activity at all levels through the development of a quality workforce; coaches, instructors, leaders, volunteers, officials and administrators.
- To plan strategically and provide a range of high quality, active environments and appropriate facilities supporting introductory activities, participation and performance sport.
- To implement a strategic, coordinated approach to marketing and communications, enabling information to be communicated more effectively.

**Hampshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012** - The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the key strategic plan for Hampshire's Children's Trust, establishing priorities for the delivery of services to children, young people and families. The vision of the plan is to make Hampshire a better place for children and young people where all of them have the best possible start in life and are supported by the whole community. In order to achieve this vision there are six priorities for Hampshire:

- Reducing the incidence and impact of poverty on the achievement and life chances of children and young people.
- Securing children and young people's physical, spiritual, social, emotional and mental health, promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing inequalities.
- Providing opportunities to learn that raise children and young people's aspirations, encourage excellence and enable them to enjoy and achieve beyond their expectations.
- Ensuring that children and young people are safe and feel safe, enabling them to build resilience and personal confidence.
- Providing vocational, leisure and recreational activities that provide opportunities for children and young people to experience success and make a positive contribution.
- Removing barriers to access, participation and achievement and not tolerating discrimination and abuse.

## **National Influences**

**Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)** - In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England wants to have transformed sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
- Create more opportunities for young people.
- Nurture and develop talent.
- Provide the right facilities in the right places.
- Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
- Ensure real opportunities for communities.

**Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)** - The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- Maximise value from current National Governing Body (NGB) investment.
- Places, People, Play.
- Strategic direction and market intelligence.
- Set criteria & support system for NGB 2013-17 investments.
- Market development.

## What's happening in Fareham?

### How healthy is Fareham?

The latest health profiles for Fareham were published in 2012. The following provides a summary of the key facts:

- The health of people in Fareham is generally better than the England average.
- Deprivation is lower than average, however about 1,900 children live in poverty.
- Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average.
- Life expectancy is 5.3 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of Fareham than in the least deprived areas.
- Over the last 10 years, all cause mortality rates have fallen.
- Early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average.
- About 15.7% of Year 6 children are classified as obese, lower than the average for England.
- Levels of teenage pregnancy and breast feeding initiation are better than the England average.
- The estimated level of adult smoking is better than the England average.
- Rates of sexually transmitted infections, road injuries and deaths, smoking related deaths and hospital stays for alcohol related harm are better than the England average.
- The incidence of malignant melanoma is higher than average.
- Priorities in Fareham include alcohol disease and cancer, alcohol and healthy ageing.

Source: Department of Health. © Crown Copyright 2012

### How active is Fareham?

- 22.6% of adults in Fareham regularly take part in sport and active recreation compared to the national average of 21.8%.
- 44.7% of adults do no sport or active recreation at all.
- 57.8% of adults say they want to start playing sport or do a bit more.
- 27% are members of sports clubs, compared to 23.3% nationally.
- The most popular sports in Fareham for adults are: swimming, gym, cycling, athletics and football.

Source: Sport England Active People survey (APS)

## **How satisfied are Fareham residents?**

The most recent resident's survey was carried out in 2011 and indicated the following levels of satisfaction:

- 84.8% were satisfied with the children's play areas in the Borough;
- 87% were satisfied with the Borough's community centres;
- 80.4% were satisfied with their local sports facilities including pitches, tennis courts and bowling green's;
- 94.3% of people were happy with Fareham Leisure Centre; and
- 95.1% of respondents were either very or fairly happy with Ferneham Hall, 6% more than in 2009.

## **Has Fareham got adequate sports facilities?**

The Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) indicates that there are 12 sports halls in the borough which equates to approximately 4 courts per 10,000 people. This is equal to county, regional and national levels.

When comparing to neighbouring areas, Fareham is in the middle. Gosport and Portsmouth only have 2 and 3.5 courts respectively per 10,000 people. However, Eastleigh and Winchester have 4.5 and 5 courts respectively per 10,000 people.

The Sport England FPM for swimming pools indicates there is only one pool site in Fareham which contains two pools, Fareham Leisure Centre. Fareham does not compare favourably to national, regional, county or neighbouring area figures regarding waterspace per 10,000 people. Fareham has 3.8 sq metre of water per 1000 population. This compares to 11.8 sq metre per 1000 in Hampshire, 13.8 in the South East and 12.6 in England as a whole.

Fareham also has the lowest amount of waterspace per 1000 compared to neighbouring areas Winchester (16.6), Gosport (9.7), Eastleigh (9.5) and Portsmouth (13.7). The audit excludes facilities that are deemed to be either for private use, too small or there is a lack of information, particularly relating to hours of use.

The Sport England FPM for Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) indicates there are 3 public facilities in the Borough located at The Henry Court Community College, Warsash Wasps Football Club and Portchester Community School.

## **What does the Council aim to achieve?**

### **Vision**

Access to good quality leisure opportunities that let residents, visitors and people who work in the Borough enjoy the local environment, pursue recreational interests, keep healthy and participate in community events.

### **Overarching Strategic Objectives**

There are key overarching strategic principles, which relate to every element of the strategy, these are set out at the very start of this document as follows:-

- Where feasible, to ensure that all leisure provision in the Borough is of a high standard.
- To work in partnership with voluntary, statutory and commercial agencies to provide new and improved leisure opportunities.
- To focus resources on priority improvements, particularly those identified in consultation with local residents and in areas where this is a deficiency in provision.
- To seek to reduce barriers to participation e.g. access, transportation, price, lack of awareness etc.
- To empower local community and voluntary groups and clubs to meet their own identified needs.

### **Scope of the Strategy**

The Leisure Strategy is structured around the following core elements:

- Parks and open spaces
- Foreshore
- Sport and recreation
- Culture and heritage
- Community development
- Children's play and activities for young people

## **Parks & Open Spaces**

The total area of open space in the Borough is c. 318 hectares. This includes a variety of landscapes including the coastal areas, countryside, woodlands, recreation grounds, nature reserves, informal open space in urban areas, local parks, verges and roundabouts, equipped play areas, churchyards, cemeteries and allotments. Fareham Borough also contains 4 nature reserves, Titchfield Haven, Hook-with-Warsash, Kites Croft and Swanwick. In recent years, both Holly Hill Woodland Park and Warsash Common have obtained National Nature Reserve (NNR) status.

There are eight cemeteries and a number of churchyards that are the responsibility of the Council together with the provision of a sympathetic and efficient burial service. Although there is sufficient burial space in the Borough, the residents in Western Wards have limited choice as Holly Hill Cemetery is full. Opportunities for a new cemetery are being investigated as part of the re-development of the former Coldeast Hospital site.

Fareham has a very dedicated volunteer base and many areas of work would not be possible without them. Fareham in Bloom Volunteers work extensively in administering the Council's own 'In Bloom' competition, assisting with events and the Council's entry to South and South East in Bloom. There are also considerable contributions made by the 'Friends of Holly Hill' and other conservation groups in Fareham who undertake works in parks such as Holly Hill Woodland Park and Warsash Common. Work by volunteers has contributed to the successful achievement in obtaining Green Flag Awards in two of the Council's parks.

Due to the high demand for allotments within the Borough there are limited plots available. The provision of allotments is the only statutory Council leisure related activity. An Allotment Strategy has been developed with the aim of identifying opportunities to increase the current provision in order to meet demand; this includes identifying areas where additional allotments could be accommodated if funding was available.

## **Parks & Open Spaces Strategic Objectives**

- Protect and enhance areas of green and open space in the Borough which are of “special biodiversity interest”.
- Ensure that the planning policy of the Council seeks to protect and enhance areas of green and open space.
- Maintain and enhance the diverse range of open space throughout the Borough to meet the needs of the local community.
- Employ and promote sustainable management practices in the maintenance and development of Council owned open space.
- Seek solutions to address the shortfalls in accessible green space, as identified in the Green Spaces Study, in particular opportunities in the Welborne development.

- Encourage local community volunteer involvement in the management of foreshore, countryside and woodlands.
- Seek opportunities to address the shortfall in allotment provision.
- Increase cemetery provision in the West of the Borough.

## **Foreshore**

The coastline within the Borough falls into four areas comprising the northern shores of Portsmouth Harbour, including Fareham Lake and the lower Wallington River; the Hill Head seafront; the largely undeveloped coast between Meon Shore and Hook; and the eastern bank of the lower and upper River Hamble. Much of the shoreline is of International Nature Conservation importance and is subject to special controls.

Traditional activities that take place on the foreshore include walking, swimming and boating with angling and seafood gathering also popular. Water sports such as wind and kite surfing and jet skiing are increasing in popularity and the foreshore around Hill Head attracts kite surfers in numbers when the conditions are favourable.

## **Foreshore Strategic Objectives**

- Protect and where possible enhance the areas of the foreshore in the Borough which are of “special biodiversity interest”.
- Maintain the natural environment along the foreshore for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Borough.
- Where practical promote self supervision of recreational activities taking place on the foreshore and avoid over regulation.
- Ensure that the planning policy of the Council seeks to protect areas of the foreshore.

## **Sport & Recreation**

Fareham has a substantial number of opportunities available for recreation and sport. A range of providers, including the Borough Council, County Council, Schools, Sports Clubs, Community Organisations, Social Clubs and the private sector. They provide a wide of facilities including football pitches, cricket wickets, rugby pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and artificial grass pitches.

Fareham Leisure Centre is the key strategic site for sport and recreation in the Borough. The facility received a major £1.4m capital investment to improve the facilities in 2006 after the management of the centre was transferred to Sport & Leisure Management Ltd. A further investment was made in 2010 with the operator's installing £220k of new fitness equipment and a new indoor cycling and dance studio was installed in 2011.

A review of the Playing Pitch Assessment & Strategy was completed in 2012. The study considered the current quantitative and qualitative provision for each catchment area for outdoor sports and estimated future demand for 2015 and 2026 for the whole Borough.

It concluded overall there was generally adequate provision for most of the main outdoor sports with the exception of junior football pitches and cricket pitches. Other needs identified include, a full size artificial pitch, outdoor floodlit netball, MUGA located in each CAT area.

The open spaces improvement programme details seek to address shortfalls and increase standards in outdoor sports facilities and play provision in the Borough over the next five years by utilising the £3m in developer contributions.

Hampshire County Council's Local Transport Plan sets out a broad approach towards the promotion and encouragement of cycling within the County. The Fareham Borough Cycling Strategy is currently being updated and will reflect both the County and National Cycling Strategy Objectives.

### **Sport & Recreation Strategic Objectives**

- Provide a new swimming pool for the western wards.
- Develop partnerships with sports clubs and organisations that provide opportunities for local management arrangements that improve the quality of provision.
- Encourage participation in sport and physical activity.
- Pursue external funding opportunities that improve the quantity and quality of sport and recreation facilities in the Borough.
- Promote opportunities for establishing new and improved sport and recreation facilities in the Welborne Development.
- Provide a full size artificial grass pitch in the Borough
- Work in partnership with the County Council to provide new cycle routes with the aim of encouraging people to undertake leisure cycling to promote fitness and improved health.
- Implement the programme of new and improved sports facilities utilising developer contributions and external funding.

### **Culture & Heritage**

Culture and heritage covers a diverse range of entertainment and artistic pursuits. The three main venues in the Borough for culture provided by local authorities are:

- Ferneham Hall owned and managed by Fareham Borough Council.
- Ashcroft Arts Centre managed by Hampshire County Council.
- Westbury Manor Museum provided jointly by Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council

Ferneham Hall is a 732 seater multi-purpose arts and entertainments venue offering a varied programme of concerts, shows, an annual family pantomime and light entertainment.

The Ashcroft Arts Centre offers the opportunity for the local community to get involved in arts activities and includes a small exhibition gallery and space for performances that would not normally be shown at Ferneham Hall.

Westbury Manor Museum includes a display of local history and also hosts touring exhibitions. The Westbury Manor also hosts the Fareham Tourist information Centre.

Hampshire County Council are currently undertaking a strategic review of the museum and arts service as a result of changes to central funding arrangements for museums and pressures on local government finances. The outcome is likely to have a significant impact on the provision of the service in the future.

The Borough contains a number of ancient monuments, e.g. Portchester Castle and retains strong naval traditions. There are a number of other venues of cultural interest in the Borough including Bursledon Brickwork's Museum and Conservation Centre and Titchfield Abbey, which plays host to a number of events each year.

It should also be noted that Fareham lies in a sub region rich in arts, with high profile areas for major facilities (Portsmouth, Southampton), major cultural events (Chichester, Winchester, Salisbury) and entertainment (Bournemouth, Poole). Local authority boundaries have little relationship to cultural, heritage and entertainment needs.

### **Culture & Heritage Strategic Objectives**

- Provide the opportunity for people to explore the history of the local area.
- Improve the programme, whilst reducing the costs of Ferneham Hall

### **Community Development**

The Council provides and maintains 37 community buildings. These include community halls, youth centres and scout buildings that are managed by local groups and Community Associations. In the main this is an ageing building stock that requires ongoing investment to bring up to modern standards. The Council has identified the review of community buildings as a corporate high priority. Reviews have been completed in the Portchester, Crofton and Fareham Town CAT areas and work is currently underway on the Titchfield CAT area.

A new £2m community centre building was opened in Portchester in January 2013.

In 2011 Hampshire County Council made the decision to withdraw grant funding for the four Community Schools in the Borough. The withdrawal of funding resulted in the termination of community schools agreements that was intended to support the schools in developing their programmes to offer wider community use of their facilities. One of the consequences of the termination is the management of the Lockwood Community Centre reverted back to the Council.

Service Level Agreements with grant funding from the Council are in place with Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Action Fareham and Relate for provision of services to the local community.

In 2008, Fareham Park was identified by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) as an area of the Borough requiring help and support. Following the demise of the LSP in 2010, the Council adopted the project as a corporate priority with the aim of providing multi agency support for the community in Fareham Park.

### **Community Development Strategic Objectives**

- Review the use of community centres, youth centres and sports pavilions; rationalise provision and then modernise the buildings as appropriate.
- Provide multi agency support to the community in the Fareham Park area.
- Work in partnership with voluntary organisations and statutory agencies to address the emerging community development needs in the Borough of Fareham.
- Provide grant aid for local community projects via the Community Fund and Matched Funding grants programme.

### **Children & Young Persons Play**

Fareham has approximately 45 play areas and five skate/MUGA sites which are inspected and maintained by the Council's Streetscene Team. These facilities provide play opportunities for a wide age range of children and young people across the borough although there is deficiency in some areas. Developer contributions are allocated to upgrade and provide new play areas. Additional play areas will also be provided as with site development schemes.

Following the success of the Play Ranger service that ceased in 2012 when the funding expired, the Council has been successful in obtaining some additional funding which will provide a limited service during the 2013 school summer holidays.

The Corporate safeguarding policy was revised in 2012 and updated to take account of safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults.

## Children and Young Persons Play Strategic Objectives

- Establish new play areas funded with developer's contributions as opportunities arise.
- Implement the Council's corporate Safeguarding policy and increase the level of awareness for staff, elected members and groups and organisations working with the Council.

## How is the service financed?

### Revenue Budget

The table below illustrates the net budget for each of the relevant leisure and cultural service areas.

	<b>Revised Estimate 2012/13 £000s</b>	<b>Base Estimate 2013/14 £000s</b>
GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	287,400	318,300
LEISURE PARTNERSHIP	58,000	100
FERNEHAM HALL	433,100	390,800
ALLOTMENTS	25,000	27,800
FAREHAM LEISURE CENTRE	281,000	285,900
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	135,900	107,900
COMMUNITY CENTRES	330,500	342,200
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE	55,100	51,000
WESTBURY MANOR MUSEUM	103,200	104,000
CEMETERIES & CLOSED CHURCHYRDS	251,200	221,000
COUNTRYSIDE REC & MANAGEMENT	137,900	135,300
OUTDOOR SPORT & RECREATION	361,300	367,400
COMMUNITY PARKS & OPEN SPACES	930,500	913,500
MEALS ON WHEELS	8,400	4,400
FORESHORE	-36,400	19,600
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3,362,100</b>	<b>3,289,200</b>

## Capital Budget

The table below illustrates the profiled Council committed capital expenditure for leisure & cultural related services that fall within the remit of the Community Portfolio.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount £000s</b>
2012/13	3,171
2013/14	1,610
2014/15	1,644
2015/16	286
2016/17	425
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,136</b>

## Section 106 Developer Contributions

Fareham Borough Council has been collecting developer contributions for the provision of open space since the 1980s. The method for collecting contributions is set out in the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Open Space.

In October 2010 the Executive agreed to combine allocations of contributions into two open space types as opposed to five and allocating the different types of contributions into the respective five Community Action Team (CAT) areas.

There is £3.9m allocated to play space and other recreational space and outdoor sports facilities which is part of the Open Spaces Improvement programme funded from developer contributions.

The Open Spaces Improvement programme is reported to the Executive annually and confirms projects completed and how the balance once funding is allocated for new projects in the programme.

In May 2013 the Council introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that will largely replace Section 106 Contributions. This effectively means that the Council will no longer collect developer contributions specifically for the provision of open space.

## What were the main achievements in 2012/13?

The following provides a list of the achievements of Fareham Borough Council in support of the corporate objective, Leisure for Health & for Fun, in 2012/13.

- **Olympic Torch Relay** - On Sunday 15 July 1000,s of people descended on Fareham Town Centre to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic Torch. The event was the culmination of a series of events that took place across the Borough to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games.
- **Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations** - Community events were organised over the spring bank holiday weekend to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The events were held in the four parks that were awarded QE II Fields in Trust status and included the unveiling of a stone and plaque to mark the occasion.
- **Portchester Community Centre** - The construction of a new £2m community centre to serve the residents of Portchester was completed in December 2012 and opened in January 2013. The old dilapidated community centre building has been demolished along with the old tennis courts and additional car parking is being created.
- **Wicor Pavilion** - The construction of a new £700k 6 team changing room pavilion was completed in December 2012 ahead of schedule and was opened for use in the first week of January 2013. The facility was jointly funded by the Football Foundation in partnership with the Council and AFC Portchester.
- **Lockwood Community Centre** - The management of the Lockwood Community Centre at Centre Way, Locks Heath, transferred from the Brookfield Community School to Fareham Borough Council on 1 April 2012. Six individuals from groups who use the Lockwood Community Centre set up a charitable organisation with the aim of taking on the management of the facility. The group have developed a business plan that has been approved by the Executive and are in the final stages of agreeing the arrangements to take over the management of the building.
- **Assets of Community Value** - Under the Localism Act 2011, voluntary and community organisations and parish councils can nominate an asset to be included in a 'list of assets of community value'. A new procedure for nominating such assets has been developed and published on the Council's website.
- **Review of Community Buildings** - The review of community buildings is a corporate priority and the third phase of the process, the Fareham CAT area needs assessment and draft master plan was completed in March 2012.

- **Fareham Park Project** - Fareham Park has been identified as an area of the Borough requiring help and support. Following the demise of the LSP in 2010, the Council adopted the project as a corporate priority with the aim of providing support to the local community in Fareham Park. A new steering group has been formed to lead the project and a Project Officer appointed on a 3 year contract. £17,500 "Have Your Say" funding has already been secured and work is currently being undertaken to organise community event to determine how this money will be allocated.
- **Indoor Sport Study & Playing Pitch Strategy** - These two key studies were completed in 2012 and will inform the future provision of sports pitches and indoor sports facilities in the Borough.
- **Play Area Improvements** - New play areas were installed at Laurel Gardens and Locks Heath Park.
- **Tennis Court Improvements** - Improvements to the court surface and fencing was undertaken at Locks Heath and Titchfield Tennis Courts.
- **Matched Funding Grants** - The Council awarded matched funding grants to the following groups to provide new and improved sport and community facilities in the Borough; Titchfield Boxing Club £25,000, Fareham Bowls Club, £25,000, Sarisbury Community Centre £7,500, Salmiakki Indoor Sports Centre £21,500 and Portchester Community School All Weather Pitch £50,000.
- **Bath Lane Pavilion** - Plans have been developed to refurbish the existing changing rooms at Bath Lane which include the provision of a new club house for Fareham & Crofton Cricket Club. The old dilapidated clubhouse will be demolished and a new grounds maintenance store provided.
- **Community Action Fareham - SLA Review** - Review completed and reported to March Executive with decision to reduce funding by 4% and review again in 6 months when results of HCC CVS review have been finalised.
- **Play Ranger Service** - The 3 year Play Ranger programme, funded by the Big Lottery, came to an end in August 2012. The service was very popular with children and young people across the borough.
- **Fareham Community Savers** - The Council has developed a new credit union in partnership with First Wessex Housing Association and the Southern Co-operative.
- **Broadlaw Walk** - Support and guidance has been given to First Wessex Housing Association and the Community Volunteers to assist with the development of the new Broadlaw Walk Community building.
- **Safeguarding Policy** - The current policy has been revised and updated to take account of safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults.

- **Red Barn Allotments** – Refurbishment of building including a new pitch roof, new electrics and redecoration.
- **Linden Lea** - Creation of Wildflower Meadow and successful Botanical Art event with local school children.
- **South and South East in Bloom** - Gold Award in large Town/City Category, also Gold Awards for other Parks including Westbury Manor Garden, Sensory Garden, Holly Hill and Warsash Common plus Green Flag Awards for Holly Hill and Sensory Garden.
- **Roman Grove Cemetery** - New entrance gates, pillars and walls.
- **Parks and Countryside Events** - Successful programme of events organised across the Borough.

## What is the plan of action for 2013 and beyond?

The following provides a summary of the key actions emerging from the strategy that will form the work programme for the Leisure & Community team.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Action/Improvement</b>	<b>Target</b>
Children & Young Persons Play	Provide a targeted Play Ranger Service for 11 weeks of the school holidays in 10 locations across the borough.	July 2013
Parks & Open Spaces	Complete feasibility study for provision of community facilities at the Coldeast site to include a new swimming pool, cemetery, allotments, parkland, play area, community pavilion and sports pitches.	Sept 2013
Community Development	Agree new Service Level Agreement with Community Action Fareham, taking account of new funding arrangements resulting from HCC review of funding for Councils for Voluntary Services.	Sept 2013
Culture & Heritage	Implement the new management arrangements arising from HCC Strategic Review of Museum and Arts Service.	Sept 2013
Parks & Open Spaces	Introduction of bees on Allotment sites (Allotment Rd Allotments as a trial)	Sept 2013
Sports & Recreation	Complete the installation of a new cricket square at Bath Lane Recreation Ground.	Nov 2013
Sports & Recreation	Establish future arrangements for the management of Fareham Leisure Centre when the current contract expires in May 2015.	Dec 2013
Community Development	Complete community buildings needs assessment and master plan for community buildings in the Titchfield Community Action Team area.	Dec 2013
Parks & Open Spaces	Wickham Road Cemetery - Extensive repairs/rebuilding of walls and pillars	Dec 2013
Parks & Open Spaces	Play area improvements at Swanwick Lane/Sarisbury Green play areas.	Dec 2013
Parks & Open Spaces	Play area improvements at Abshot Road.	March 2014
Parks & Open Spaces	Landscape improvements at Portchester Park	March 2014
Sports & Recreation	Complete improvement works to Salterns promenade and provision of a cycleway on the land ward side of sea wall.	May 2014
Parks & Open Spaces	Introduction of new wild flower meadows on the QE11 sites as part of the WW1 & D Day celebrations (subject to approval of funding)	June 2014
Sports & Recreation	Finalise the draft master plan to deliver the improvements identified in the vision for Park	July 2014

	Lane Recreation Ground.	
Sports & Recreation	Complete the installation of land drainage system at Burrige Recreation Ground.	Sept 2014
Sports & Recreation	Refurbishment of the cricket pavilion at Bath Lane Recreation Ground and demolition of dilapidated clubhouse in partnership with Fareham & Crofton Cricket Club.	Jan 2015
Community Development	Implement actions arising from the Fareham Park Project.	March 2015
Children & Young Persons Play	Implement programme of new and improved parks, play area and sports facilities using developer contributions and external funding as identified in Open Spaces Improvement Programme.	March 2015
Parks & Open Spaces	Implement proposals to provide new allotment provision on the Coldeast site in Sarisbury and Daedalus in Stubbington/Hill Head	Sept 2017