

**FAREHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Local Service  
Agreements  
How are we doing?**

**April 2012 - March 2016**

**Fareham Borough Council**

**Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ**

# What are Local Service Agreements?

This document provides an overview of how the Council is performing and provides more detail about the Council's Vision and Priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategy.

## What are the priorities?

- To Protect and Enhance the Environment
- To Maintain and Extend Prosperity
- To ensure Fareham remains a Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work
- To provide a range of Leisure and Cultural Opportunities for health and fun
- To work with key partners to enable and support a Balanced Housing Market
- To build Strong and Inclusive Communities
- To be a Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

## Why do we have Local Service Agreements?

Each priority has a number of measurements that allow the Council to monitor how well it is performing from year-to-year. The information allows the Council to make sure it remains on track in achieving its goals; whilst also providing an opportunity to tackle any issues that might arise.

The Local Service Agreements also provide a way for the Council to be open and transparent, by making its performance available to the residents of the Borough.

## What's new?

Welborne, the new community north of Fareham, continues to play an important role in all of the priorities. Welborne will include around 6,000 homes with businesses, schools, open spaces and local services. Welborne will help to meet our long term housing needs for the next twenty years, with work likely to begin around 2016.



# Protecting and Enhancing our Environment

## What is this priority about?

We need to look after our historic buildings and natural environment for future generations. Producing less waste, more recycling and using fewer natural resources are all things we can do to help make this happen.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- reduce the quantity of household waste and maximise the amount that is reused or recycled;
- provide leadership to residents and businesses in the Borough to reduce energy, conserve natural resources and save money.

## What else are we doing?

### Planning the future shape of the Borough

- Preparing plans that guide the future use and development of land within the Borough.

### Ensuring high quality development

- Providing planning advice to applicants seeking to undertake development in the Borough.
- Ensuring planning applications meet the Council's policies.

### Conserving and improving public spaces

- Protecting historic buildings and areas, trees and wildlife areas.
- Undertaking environmental improvements in public spaces.

## Managing the coast and responding to climate change

- Keeping the beaches clean.
- Looking after coastal and flood defences.
- Preparing for and adapting to a changing climate.
- Helping residents to improve home energy efficiency.

## Enabling easy access to well managed public and open spaces

- Providing and maintaining parks, open spaces, woodlands and allotments for your enjoyment.
- Mowing the grass.



## Improving local air quality and ensuring land is free from contamination

- Improving air quality through the local air quality action plan.
- Continuously monitoring air quality.
- Investigating land for contamination.
- Ensuring local businesses do not pollute the environment.

## Keeping streets and open spaces clean and tidy

- Cleaning the streets.
- Providing litter bins.
- Removing abandoned vehicles.
- Fining people for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping.
- Providing clean toilets for public use.
- Removing graffiti.

## Providing a sympathetic and caring burial service

- Maintaining cemeteries.
- Arranging burials and working in partnership to run Portchester Crematorium.

## Collecting waste

- Collecting household, garden, health care waste and recyclable materials.
- Providing assisted collections for households in need.
- Providing chargeable collections for bulky household waste, trade waste and commercial recycling.

## How happy are you with our services?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

### 1. How happy are you with the parks and open spaces in your local area?

| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 37%        | 55%          | 7%             | 1%           |

### 2. How happy are you with each of the following?

#### Household waste (refuse) collection

| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 46%        | 37%          | 10%            | 7%           |

#### Household recycling collection

| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 49%        | 42%          | 7%             | 2%           |

#### Garden waste collection

| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 43%        | 42%          | 11%            | 4%           |

#### Recycling sites e.g. bottle banks

| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 37%        | 47%          | 11%            | 5%           |

#### Clothing and textile recycling e.g. blue banks

| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 38%        | 52%          | 8%             | 3%           |



### 3. Thinking about your local area how happy are you with each of the following?

#### Keeping public land clear of litter

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 23%        | 59%          | 14%            | 4%           |

#### Keeping public land clear of fly tipping

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 31%        | 59%          | 8%             | 2%           |

#### Keeping public land clear of dog fouling

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 16%        | 54%          | 21%            | 9%           |

### How are we doing?

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

#### What percentage of household waste is sent for reuse, recycling and composting?

In 2013/14, 35% of household waste was sent for reuse, recycling and composting. This is a reduction of 1% on the previous year.

---

#### How long does it take to deal with incidents of fly-tipping on public land?

In 2013/14, 95% of fly tipped waste on public land was removed within five working days. This is the same as the previous year.

---

#### How long does it take to remove abandoned vehicles?

In 2013/14, 87% of abandoned vehicles were removed within 2 working days of the expiry of the Removal Notice. This is an increase of 3% on the previous year.

---

#### How long does it take to remove offensive graffiti from council property?

In 2013/14, 89% of offensive graffiti was removed from our property within five working days of any sightings or reports. This is an increase of 4% on the previous year.

---

# Maintain and Extend Prosperity

## What is this priority about?

We will work with our partners to support and promote the economic life of the Borough. Developing and improving lively town and district centres offering a range of shopping, leisure and employment opportunities will be vital to achieving this priority.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- work with partners towards the delivery of a successful airfield and aviation-led employment area at Daedalus;
- improve Fareham town centre by providing better shopping, parking, access and public services;
- support economic growth and skills through the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership.
- develop Locks Heath District Centre to meet the needs of local residents for shopping, community and leisure facilities and to complement neighbouring shopping centres and Fareham Town Centre.

## What else are we doing?

### Enabling employment opportunities

- Securing an adequate supply of land for business development in easy to get to locations.
- Encouraging new businesses and attracting well-paid jobs to the borough.
- Working with partners to enable residents to improve their workplace skills.
- Managing the Council's commercial land and properties.

## Improving town and district centres

- Planning a district centre for Welborne and for maintaining the prosperity of Fareham town centre.
- Identifying new sites for business development.
- Carrying out environmental improvements.
- Working in partnership with the Fareham Town Centre Management initiative.
- Supporting the provision of markets.
- Providing a range of off-street parking choices.



## Meeting transport and mobility needs

- Providing travel choices that are accessible and environment friendly.
- Supporting the provision of public and community transport.

## How happy are you with our services? How are we doing?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

### 1. What would make you visit your closest district centre more often? Please tick the three most important to you.

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| More variety of shops          | 71% |
| Better quality of shops        | 53% |
| Easier parking                 | 37% |
| More leisure facilities        | 25% |
| Better places to eat and drink | 23% |
| Better leisure facilities      | 18% |
| Better bus service             | 16% |
| Improved public spaces         | 16% |
| More cafes/restaurants         | 13% |
| More places to eat and drink   | 13% |

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

### What percentage of retail space in Fareham Town Centre is occupied?

In July 2014, 91% of the shops were occupied, which represents a 1% increase from last year.

---

### What percentage of people are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance?

In April 2014, 0.9% of working age residents in Fareham were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. The average for the South East for this period was 1.7%.

---



# A Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work

## What is this priority about?

We will work with others to continue to provide an environment where people of all ages feel safe. We will also ensure that measures are in place to protect the health and safety of people who live, work or visit the Borough.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- Work with our Community Safety Partnership to continue to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder in Fareham.

## What else are we doing?

### Reducing crime and disorder

- Providing CCTV coverage across the Borough in partnership with Gosport Borough Council.
- Providing community lighting for the safety of pedestrians on the public highway, parks and open spaces.

### Protecting the health and safety of people

- Controlling pests and preventing the spread of infectious diseases.
- Collecting stray dogs and encouraging responsible dog ownership.
- Controlling the pollution of air, land and water.
- Ensuring businesses comply with food safety and health and safety legislation.
- Licensing and checking of premises, vehicles and people to ensure activities are undertaken and provided safely.
- Using powers to ensure residents live in satisfactory housing conditions.
- Ensuring public safety and protecting the community against the consequences of major incidents.

- Providing an emergency out-of-hours service.
- Protecting public health and preventing nuisance.

### Managing highways, traffic and parking

- Assisting Hampshire County Council to manage traffic and keep the highways safe.
- Managing car parks and residents' parking schemes, applying traffic regulations, and taking action against parking offences.



### Promoting good health

- Working with Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group to improve access to health facilities.

### Ensuring new and existing buildings are safe

- Ensuring building works comply with building regulations and safety standards.
- Providing residents with pre-application advice on construction related projects.
- Providing a 24 hour emergency response service for unsafe buildings.
- Ensuring the safe demolition of buildings.



## How happy are you with our services? How are we doing?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

### 1. Do you agree or disagree that the police and Fareham Borough Council are successfully dealing with crime, anti-social behaviour and neighbour nuisance?

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 37%            | 55%           | 7%               | 1%                |

### 2. How much of a problem are the following?

#### Teenagers hanging around in public places

| Not a problem at all | Not a very big problem | A fairly big problem | A very big problem |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 22%                  | 62%                    | 13%                  | 2%                 |

#### People using or dealing in drugs

| Not a problem at all | Not a very big problem | A fairly big problem | A very big problem |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 52%                  | 40%                    | 6%                   | 2%                 |

#### People being drunk or rowdy in public places

| Not a problem at all | Not a very big problem | A fairly big problem | A very big problem |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 35%                  | 54%                    | 8%                   | 2%                 |

#### Abandoned or burnt out cars

| Not a problem at all | Not a very big problem | A fairly big problem | A very big problem |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 78%                  | 21%                    | 1%                   | 0%                 |

#### Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles

| Not a problem at all | Not a very big problem | A fairly big problem | A very big problem |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 38%                  | 53%                    | 8%                   | 1%                 |

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

### Has there been a reduction in the level of crime and disorder?

In 2013/14, the crime and disorder rate decreased by 5% when compared to the same period for 2012/13.



### How well does the Fareham Community Safety Partnership's performance compare with other similar partnerships in Hampshire?

In 2013/14, Fareham's Community Safety Partnership was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the 14 Community Safety Partnerships in Hampshire.

### What percentage of places for eating out or shopping for food have rating of satisfactory, good or very good (3\* or above)?

In 2013/14, 94% of businesses were rated satisfactory, good or very good, an increase of 3% on the same period last year.

# Provide Leisure and Cultural Opportunities

## What is this priority about?

We will provide opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to socialise with other members of our communities; participate in arts and entertainment activities and improve their fitness and health.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- provide community facilities in the Western Wards including a swimming pool, cemetery, allotments, parkland and sports pitches;
- modernise community centres and sports pavilions giving priority to Fareham Town;
- develop new and improved parks, play areas and sports facilities.

## What else are we doing?

### Providing leisure and cultural opportunities

- Providing a balanced programme of arts and entertainments activities at Ferneham Hall.
- Providing play equipment to meet the needs of the local community.
- Providing swimming, indoor sport and fitness facilities at Fareham Leisure Centre.
- Providing opportunities for residents and visitors to the Borough to explore the local history of the area.



## How happy are you with our services?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

### 1. How happy are you with each of the following in your local area?

#### Children's play areas

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 24%        | 66%          | 8%             | 2%           |

#### Community Centres

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 28%        | 63%          | 7%             | 2%           |

#### Sport facilities including pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 18%        | 68%          | 10%            | 4%           |

## 2. How happy are you with each of the following?

### Fareham Leisure Centre

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 36%        | 57%          | 6%             | 1%           |

### Ferneham Hall

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 35%        | 59%          | 5%             | 1%           |

### Westbury Manor Museum

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 31%        | 63%          | 4%             | 1%           |

## How many people have watched a performance at Ferneham Hall?

In 2013/14, approximately 57,500 people watched performances at Ferneham Hall.

---

## How many people visited Westbury Manor Museum?

In 2013/14, approximately 26,500 people visited the Museum, a decrease of 3,600 visitors on the previous year.

---

## How many people visited Fareham Leisure Centre?

In 2013/14, approximately 709,000 people visited Fareham Leisure Centre, a decrease of 15,000 people on the previous year.

---



## How well are we doing?

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

### What percentage of adults in the Borough regularly exercise?

In 2013/14, 38% of adults in Fareham took part in sport and active recreation. This is a 6% increase on the previous year.

---

# A Balanced Housing Market

## What is this priority about?

We will work with our partners to ensure that the residents of Fareham have access to good quality housing that is affordable and offers a choice of tenures. We will take action to prevent homelessness and help people to secure good quality accommodation. We will support vulnerable people to access housing suitable for their needs and help them to keep their tenancies going.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- enable the provision of 500 new affordable homes throughout the Borough by 2017;
- modernise and improve sheltered housing across the Borough, including the redevelopment of Collingwood House, Fareham.

## What else are we doing?

### Supporting and enabling an affordable housing market

- Enabling access to rented homes for people on low incomes and people who are homeless or vulnerable.
- Ensuring that there is enough land for housing development across the Borough.
- Ensuring that all sectors of the community are able to be housed appropriately.
- Working with landlords to maintain housing standards.
- Offering advice and grants to help reduce energy costs.
- Providing home safety and security checks.
- Providing grants to adapt homes to enable people with disabilities to live independently.

## Preventing homelessness

- Providing advice and assistance to prevent homelessness.
- Ensuring that good temporary accommodation is available for homeless people in priority need.



## Providing access to affordable housing

- Providing affordable homes for people in housing need.
- Providing a support and advice service to the Council's tenants.
- Repairing and improving the Council's housing.
- Consulting and involving the Council's tenants in the way the service is delivered.

## Maintaining the borough's rented housing stock

- Assessing local housing conditions.
- Providing advice on the legal standards for rented housing.
- Improving standards of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).
- Reducing the level of hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System.
- Improving home energy ratings under the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).
- Bringing empty properties back into use.
- Reducing the number of vulnerable households living in sub-standard homes.
- Working closely with private sector landlords to improve house conditions and standards of management and maintenance.

## How happy are you with our services?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

### 1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**There are enough opportunities for young people to rent or buy a home of their own in Fareham.**

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 4%             | 43%           | 40%              | 14%               |

**There are enough opportunities for young families to rent or buy a home of their own in Fareham.**

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 4%             | 46%           | 38%              | 12%               |

**There are enough opportunities for older people to rent or buy a home in Fareham.**

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 7%             | 62%           | 22%              | 9%                |

### 2. Should the Council be doing more to build new affordable\* homes for local people?

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 29%            | 39%           | 23%              | 9%                |

\*Affordable housing is provided by the Council or Housing Association at less than market rents. This also includes shared ownership properties whereby around 50% of the house is purchased and the other 50% rented.

### Tenant Satisfaction Survey

We aim to provide a high quality repairs service for tenants of the Council's housing. Each tenant is provided with a reply paid satisfaction survey card to be completed after a repair has been carried out.

### How satisfied are tenants with the responsive repairs service?

In 2013/14, 99.0% of the tenants who replied were satisfied overall with the Council's responsive repairs service, an increase of 0.5% on the previous year.



## **How are we doing?**

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

### **How many new affordable homes have been provided?**

In 2013/14, 44 new affordable homes were provided.

---

### **How long does it take to re-let Council homes?**

In 2013/14, the average re-let time was approximately 28 days compared to 26 days in 2012/13.

---

### **How much of the Council's housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard?**

99.11% of the Council's housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard.

---

# Strong and Inclusive Communities

## What is this priority about?

We will 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.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- tackle the underlying causes of deprivation through projects such as the Fareham Park 'Gateway' Project;
- focus on customer needs and satisfaction through improved communications and targeted service delivery.

## What else are we doing?

### Building stronger communities

- Providing opportunities for local people to get involved in their neighbourhoods.
- Ensuring customers can make their views known to the Council.

### Building inclusive communities

- Making sure all customers can access the Council's services.

### Enabling people to play an active part in society

- Helping vulnerable or disadvantaged people to become involved in community activities and use community facilities.
- Planning and providing community and leisure facilities.
- Providing grants to voluntary organisations.
- Ensuring that people who are eligible to vote are registered to vote.

### Paying housing and Council Tax Support

- Providing a housing benefit and council tax benefits service.
- Investigating all allegations of benefit fraud.

## How happy are you with our services?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

### 1. How well informed do you feel about each of the following?

#### Events going on in Fareham

| Very well informed | Fairly well informed | Not well informed | Not well informed at all |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 17%                | 64%                  | 15%               | 3%                       |

#### Fareham Borough Council Services

| Very well informed | Fairly well informed | Not well informed | Not well informed at all |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 14%                | 62%                  | 20%               | 3%                       |



Fareham Today magazine, produced three times a year and delivered to all households in the Borough, is one of the Council's main sources of communication with its residents.

**2. How many times a year do you read Fareham Today?**

|       |      |       |         |
|-------|------|-------|---------|
| Never | Once | Twice | 3 times |
| 6%    | 5%   | 8%    | 81%     |

**3. What would be the best way to distribute Fareham Today in the future?**

|                       |                  |          |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------|
| Online on our website | Through the door | By email |
| 7%                    | 84%              | 9%       |

**4. Thinking about your experiences, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

**I found the Council welcoming**

|                |               |                  |                   |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
| 24%            | 67%           | 7%               | 2%                |

**The Council is easy to contact**

|                |               |                  |                   |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
| 29%            | 61%           | 4%               | 1%                |

**I was treated with respect**

|                |               |                  |                   |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
| 32%            | 63%           | 4%               | 1%                |

**5. How would you prefer to be contacted in the future? Please only tick one option.**

|              |     |          |     |
|--------------|-----|----------|-----|
| Phone        | 40% | Website  | 10% |
| Email        | 25% | Facebook | 1%  |
| Face-to-face | 14% | Text     | 1%  |
| Letter       | 10% | Twitter  | 0%  |





## 6. How have you contacted the Council in the last 12 months?

|              | Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Quarterly | Never |
|--------------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Website      | 0%    | 1%     | 3%      | 24%       | 73%   |
| Letter       | 0%    | 0%     | 1%      | 14%       | 85%   |
| Text         | 0%    | 0%     | 0%      | 2%        | 98%   |
| Email        | 0%    | 1%     | 1%      | 23%       | 75%   |
| Phone        | 1%    | 1%     | 4%      | 42%       | 51%   |
| Face-to-face | 1%    | 0%     | 1%      | 22%       | 76%   |
| Facebook     | 0%    | 0%     | 0%      | 1%        | 99%   |
| Twitter      | 0%    | 0%     | 0%      | 0%        | 100%  |

## How are we doing?

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

### How long does it take to deal with new Housing Benefit claims?

In 2013/14, it took an average of 17 days to process new claims, a decrease of 2 days on the previous year.

---

### How long does it take to deal with new Council Tax Support claims?

In 2013/14, it took an average of 17 days to process new claims, a decrease of 2 days on the previous year.

Please note: Council Tax Support was first introduced in April 2013, so the comparison with 2012/13 is with Council Tax Benefit claims.

---

### How much have we paid out in community funding?

In 2013/14, we paid out 23 grants worth £60,600 in community funding. This is a decrease of 13 grants, but an increase of £5,000 on the previous year.

# A Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

## What is this priority about?

We will make clear decisions that can be understood by all. Action will be taken to improve our openness in decision-making. Above all our priority is to offer good value for money. We will do this by providing high levels of service that gain high levels of customer satisfaction. We will do this and still keep council tax levels low when compared to other district councils.

## What do we aim to achieve?

The improvement actions that we aim to achieve by 2017 are to:

- maximise the value gained from assets that are owned by the Council;
- save money, raise income and work in partnership with others to achieve more for less and continue to minimise council tax increases.

## What else are we doing?

### Managing the Council's resources

- Publishing a statement of the Council's accounts.
- Maintaining effective financial control and internal audit.
- Maximising the rate of Council Tax collection.
- Preventing, detecting and investigating fraud and corruption.
- Putting plans in place to keep our services going in an emergency.

### Ensuring transparent decision making

- Supporting elected and other members to carry out their role.
- Providing timely access to meeting papers and maximising decisions made in public.
- Setting rules and procedures to be followed by the Council and Committees when carrying out their business.

## Encouraging local democracy

- Registering residents who are eligible to vote in elections.
- Organising elections.
- Reviewing boundaries and election arrangements.



## Ensuring suitable measures are in place to bring about steadily improving services

- Demonstrating continuous improvement and achievement of value for money.
- Maximising partnership arrangements with other organisations to benefit the Borough.
- Reviewing services and achieving better value for money.

## How happy are you with our services? How are we doing?

Your answers to our 2013 Residents' Survey helped to give a snap-shot of public satisfaction with various council services.

**Band D Council Tax is £1,393.74 a year in Fareham. From this Fareham Borough Council only takes a sum of £140.22 to help fund your services. The majority of the Council Tax is passed on to the County Council, the Police and the Fire Authority.**

### 1. Do you agree or disagree that Fareham Borough Council provides value for money?

|                |               |                  |                   |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree |
| 23%            | 66%           | 9%               | 2%                |

### 2. Overall, how happy are you with your local area as a place to live?

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 54%        | 42%          | 2%             | 1%           |

### 3. Overall, how happy are you with the way that Fareham Borough Council runs things?

|            |              |                |              |
|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Very happy | Fairly happy | Fairly unhappy | Very unhappy |
| 30%        | 61%          | 7%             | 1%           |

**This year, Fareham Borough Council's share of the total Council Tax collected was frozen for the sixth consecutive year.**

### 4. Which Council Tax option do you prefer?

- 14% said Council Tax should be raised in line with inflation each year.
- 28% said people who use services, e.g. sports pitches and off-street parking, should be asked to pay more for them, rather than raise Council Tax.
- 57% said the Council should strike a balance between increasing charges to service users and small increases in Council Tax.
- 2% said Council Tax should increase by more than inflation, to provide even better services.

There are a number of performance measures that are used to show whether the Council is delivering its vision. These include:

### How much Council Tax due is collected?

The Council Tax collection rate for 2013/14 was 98.7%. This is an increase of 0.3% on the previous year.

### How low is Fareham's Council Tax compared to other district councils in England?

For 2014/15, Fareham's Council Tax is the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest out of all 201 district councils in England.

### How much of the Business Rates due are collected?

In 2013/14, 99.3% of the business rates due were collected. This is an increase of 1.2% on the previous year.

### How many people turn out to vote at local elections?

In the last local election (May 2014), 38.9% of the registered electors turned out to vote at the Fareham Borough Council election. This was 2.9% above the average for England.



# Strategic Framework

