

**Fareham Borough Council's  
Leisure Strategy  
2014-19**

Leisure for Health and for Fun

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## **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 and 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, have 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 six year period of the strategy.

#### 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 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 and 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 and IOW Strategy 2013-2017** - The vision for Sport Hampshire and 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 sport and physical activity.
- To make the case for sport and physical activity , building the evidence base, advocating its benefits and providing the right information to inspire people to be active.
- To support activity at all levels through the development of a quality workforce: coaches, instructors, leaders, volunteers, teachers, 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.

**Hampshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015** - The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the overarching strategy for Hampshire's Childrens trust, setting the direction and priorities for children, young people and families in the County over the three year period of the plan. 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 four key components to the plan:

- Sets out the Children's Trust shared vision and priorities.
- Outlines the key ingredients for delivering the plan, the things that need to be in place for it to be a success, e.g. integrated working.
- Informs the priorities and ensures that activities are targeted to those groups and areas in greatest need. There were two key needs assessments: the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- An action plan that establishes the overarching activities for delivery in each of the priorities and providing the framework for monitoring success.

## 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 and 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 2013. 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 1,800 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 the all-cause mortality rate for men has fallen. The all-cause mortality rate for women in the same period shows no clear trend..
- Early death rates from heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average.
- About 12.0% 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.
- An estimated 17.8% of adults smoke and 24.7% are obese.
- Rates of sexually transmitted infections, 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.

### **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.

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

The most recent resident's survey was carried out in 2013 and indicated the following levels of satisfaction:

- 90% were satisfied with the children's play areas in the Borough;
- 91% were satisfied with the Borough's community centres;
- 83% were satisfied with their local sports facilities including pitches, tennis courts and bowling green's;
- 93% of people were happy with Fareham Leisure Centre; and
- 94% of respondents were either very or fairly happy with Ferneham Hall.
- 95% of people were happy with Westbury Manor Museum.

### **Does Fareham have 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 metres per 1000 in Hampshire, 13.8 in the South East and 12.6 in England as a whole. Following completion of the Western Wards swimming pool, this figure will increase to 7.5 sq. metre of water per 1000 population.

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 Cort 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 and 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 and 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 and 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 £1.5m capital investment to improve the “dry side” facilities in 2006 after the management of the centre was transferred to Sport and 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. In 2014, both the main and the teaching pool were fully refurbished along with replacement of all plant and equipment, a renovated and enlarged changing village and new reception facilities.

A review of the Playing Pitch Assessment and 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 squares. 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 and 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 and 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.

Hampshire County Council has completed its strategic review of the museum and arts service. A new Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust is being established to take on the management of the service. This includes a new 3 year funding arrangement for Westbury Manor Museum and agreement to consider the potential for amalgamating cultural facilities in the Borough.

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 and 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 seeks to support a range of community opportunities to contribute to the enrichment of the residents living and working in the Borough. As well as supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of opportunities, the Council provides and maintains 37 community buildings. These include community halls, youth centres, sports pavilions 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 five CAT areas and a master plan for implementing the identified needs prepared.

The management of the Genesis Youth Centre passed to Fareham Borough Council from the County Council in June 2014. The centre is now operated on a day to day basis by Y services for young people, a local youth work charity.

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

### **Fareham Park Project**

In 2008, Fareham Park was identified by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) as an area of the Borough requiring help and support due to the high level of deprivation and skill deprivation. Following the demise of the LSP in 2010, the Council adopted the project as a Corporate Priority in order to continue this important project. The Fareham Park Project aims to work with the community to develop a multi -agency approach to tackling some of the key issues for the residents living 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.
- Tackle issues of deprivation by working in partnership with local agencies to support to the community in the Fareham Park area.

To attract external funding opportunities to the Fareham Park area, to support and continue to build on development of opportunities to tackle the effects of deprivation in the 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.

### **Play Opportunities**

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

The Council also commissions the services of Y Services for Young People, to offer the Play Ranger Service on behalf of the Council. This initiative seeks to utilise the many parks and open spaces across the Borough, by leading interactive, adventurous and accessible play sessions during school holidays which are free for children and young people to access.



## Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults

The Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy was revised in 2012 and updated to reflect additional safeguarding arrangements to support and protect some of the more vulnerable adults in the Borough.

### Children and Young Peoples Play and Recreation - Strategic Objectives

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

## How is the service financed?

### Revenue Budget

The revenue budget for all of the services covered by this strategy for 2014-15 is £3.5million. The major areas of expenditure within this are:

<b>Service</b>	<b>2014/15 Budget</b>
Community Parks and Open Spaces	£991,900
Outdoor Sport and Recreation	£485,100
Ferneham Hall	£386,900
Grants and Contributions	£363,700
Fareham Leisure Centre	£316,000
Community Centres	£246,900
Cemeteries and Churchyards	£211,800
Countryside Recreation and Management	£171,900

### Capital Budget

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount £000s</b>
2014/15	5,408
2015/16	5,836
2016/17	1,170
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,414</b>

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 2013/14?**

The following provides a list of the achievements of Fareham Borough Council in support of the corporate objective, Leisure for Health and for Fun, in 2013/14.

- **Lockwood Community Centre** - The management of the Lockwood Community Centre at Centre Way, Locks Heath, transferred from Fareham Borough Council to the newly formed Lockwood Sports and Community Association on 1 August 2013.
- **Genesis Young People's Centre** - The management of the Genesis Young Peoples Centre, Centre Way, Locks Heath, transferred from a joint arrangement with Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council to a newly formed partnership between Fareham Borough Council and Y Services, who now manage the facility on behalf of the Borough.
- **Review of Community Buildings** - The review of community buildings is a corporate priority and the fourth and fifth phases of the process, the Titchfield and Western Wards CATs areas needs assessment were completed and an action plan prepared in July 2014
- **Play Area Improvements** - New play areas were installed at Swanwick Lane and Sarisbury Green.
- **Tennis Court Improvements** - Improvements to the court surface and fencing at the Stubbington Recreation Ground Tennis Courts.
- **Fareham Park Project** - A funding stream was created with a grant from Hampshire County Council (£17,500) for residents in the Fareham Park area to tackle the lack of recreational opportunities in the area. This

provided funding support for nine new initiatives in the Fareham Park area through the development of the 'Fareham Park Purse', a free fun day was offered to the local community, attracting over 500 local residents.

- **'Clued Up 2 Go'** -Additionally, other external funding was secured for a new initiative aimed at improving advice, access and information for young people (15 -25 years) in the Fareham Park neighbourhood. This initiative, called 'Clued Up 2 Go' has secured £32,995 for this project over the course of the next 18 months.
- **Broadlaw Walk Youth Project** - a grant was secured from the Local Childrens Partnership (£6,000) to develop a youth project in the Broadlaw Walk area (Fareham South Ward). This area is poorly served by youth activities and the weekly youth club is attracting a regular membership of approximately 20 young people per evening.
- **Play Ranger Service** – The Play Ranger Service continues to see high numbers of local children and young people accessing the free, interactive play sessions at various locations around the Borough. Feedback from parents and children clearly demonstrates the value that local residents place in this free, fun service and the opportunities it provides for encouraging younger members to get out and about during school holidays, rather than more sedentary activities.
- **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;
  - Fareham Bowls Club for new changing rooms (£25,000)
  - Sarisbury Green Community Centre for a new heating system (£7,500)
  - The Salmiakki Group for an indoor multi sports rink (£21,500)
  - Portchester Bowls Club for a new bowling green (£22,500)
  - Titchfield Bowls Club for a new club house (£20,000)
  - Fareham Hockey Club for floodlighting improvements (£11,000)
  - St Margaret Mary Church for an outside play area (£7,500)
- **Bath Lane Pavilion** – The construction contract was awarded for the refurbishment and extension of the existing changing rooms at Bath Lane Recreation ground which include the provision of a new club house for Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club. The old dilapidated clubhouse will be demolished and a new grounds maintenance store provided.
- **A new cricket square** has been constructed at Bath Lane Recreation Ground in advance of the works to extend the changing accommodation. This allows the cricket outfield to continue to meet the grading requirements of the local cricket leagues.
- **A drainage system** has been installed on the football pitch at Burr ridge Recreation Ground. This allows the pitch to be used throughout the

football season rather than the occasional use it received during dry weather.

- **Parks and Countryside Events** - Successful programme of events organised across the Borough.
- **Wild Flower Meadows** - Introduction of new wild flower meadows on the QE11 sites as part of the WW1 and D Day commemorations.
- **Trinity Church open space** - Improvements to open space by the introduction of rose beds, tree planting and new seating.
- **South and South East in Britain –**
  - Gold Award and category winner for South and South East region
  - The Hampshire Life Award
  - Gold Awards for Holly Hill, Warsash Common, Sensory Garden and Civic Gardens

## What is the plan of action for 2014 and beyond?

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

Action/Improvement	Target
Complete construction of community facilities at the Coldeast site to include a new swimming pool, cemetery, allotments, parkland, play area, sports pavilion and sports pitches.	May 2016
Agree new Service Level Agreement with Community Action Fareham, taking account of new funding arrangements resulting from HCC review of funding for Support to the Community and Voluntary Sector.	March 2015
Secure funding for the Fareham Park Project through the 'Our Place' initiative, to review and improve employment and training opportunities for young people in Fareham Park, in order to raise aspiration and improve employability.	January 2015
Relocation of and improvements to the play area at Park Lane Recreation Ground	April 2015
Provision of a new skate park at the Park Lane Recreation Ground.	March 2015
Landscaping, tree planting, fencing, new signage and footpath improvements at Park Lane recreation Ground	March 2016
Provision of outdoor gym equipment at the Park Lane Recreation Ground.	March 2015
Play area / open space improvements at Birchen Road. (dependant on consultation outcome)	March 2015
Play area / open space improvements at Hammond Road. (dependant on consultation outcome)	March 2015
Play area improvements at King George V Playing Fields.	March 2015
Landscape improvements at Portchester Park	March 2015
Refurbishment of the cricket pavilion at Bath Lane Recreation Ground and demolition of dilapidated clubhouse in partnership with Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club.	February 2015
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.	Ongoing
Implement proposals to provide new allotment provision on the Coldeast site in Sarisbury and Daedalus in Stubbington/Hill Head	Sept 2017