

# AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT 2019





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## Notes

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This document reports on the monitoring year **1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019**.

Following the close of the monitoring period, on 1 April 2018, the local planning authority changed its name from 'Shepway District Council' to 'Folkestone & Hythe District Council'. Please note that documents referred to in this Monitoring Report produced by the district council before the 1<sup>st</sup> April will be referenced as Shepway.

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This document has not been formally adopted by the district council and is presented as a factual source of local data. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information but responsibility is not accepted for any errors that may be reproduced from this publication. Interested parties are strongly advised to raise any uncertainties or queries with the Planning Policy Team using the contact details below.

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. This is the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for the district of Folkestone and Hythe. Its purpose is to report on planning policy performance over the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 to:

- Enable the success of existing policies and planning decisions to be evaluated; and
- Assist in the review and maintenance of up-to-date local planning policies.

1.2. This main body of the report is structured according to the aims and monitoring indicators set out in the Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan (2013). The data contained is based on the most recent information available at the time of writing relating to the monitoring year (2018/19) unless stated. The council is reviewing some of the indicators to ensure more accurate monitoring of the Core Strategy Local Plan.

1.3. The AMR is produced in accordance with the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. These regulations are outlined in the paragraphs below.

### **Regulation 34(1): progress on producing local plan documents**

1.4. The Local Development Scheme 2016 identifies five documents or plans. These are the:

- Places and Policies Local Plan;
- Policies Map
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Authority Monitoring Report
- Core Strategy Partial Review

#### Places & Policies Local Plan

Stage	LDS Timetable	Actual Date	Reason
Commencement of public consultation on options	January 2015	January 2015	--
Commencement of public	October 2016	October 2016	--

consultation on draft plan			
Submission for Examination in Public	July 2017	September 2018	Changing Legislation Requirements for SA and HRA
Adoption (if found 'sound' at Examination).	April/May 2018	TBC	Additional work required for Gypsy & Traveller allocation

- 1.5. The Places and Policies Local Plan (PPLP) 'Issues and Options' draft was produced for consultation in January 2015, to deliver Core Strategy requirements through new land allocations and development management policies. The document also invited land submissions (incorporating a 'call for sites'). A Preferred Options Places and Policies Local Plan was published for consultation in October 2016. The Submission Draft was prepared and published for consultation in February 2018. The delay in publishing the Submission Draft was primarily due to further work carried out on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to include an updated air quality assessment, undertaken in light of a High Court judgement in April 2017.
- 1.6. The Plan was then submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 28 September 2018.
- 1.7. The Places and Policies Local Plan progressed significantly following the close of the monitoring period for this AMR on 31 March 2019. The public hearing for the Examination in Public commenced on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 for three days.
- 1.8. During the examination of the Places and Policies Local Plan, the Planning Inspector directed the council to allocate a site(s) to meet the future needs for the Gypsy and Traveller community. The council's preferred site was published for public consultation for a six week period between 2 September 2019 and 14 October 2019. A further update will be provided in the 2019/20 AMR.

### Policies Map

- 1.9. This map shows all the allocations and designations arising from policies in the Local Plan, for example settlement boundaries, site-specific allocations, retail frontages, key local environmental characteristics etc. The Policies Map will be updated when the PPLP has been adopted.



## Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

1.10. The AMR is published for each year. There is no formal process to map out other than to publish it at the end of each year. The publication of this year's document has been delayed due to work relating to the PPLP and Core Strategy Review (CRS)

### Core Strategy Partial Review

Stage	LDS Timetable	Actual Date	Reason
Commencement of public consultation on options	Quarter 4 2016	Options work carried during 2016 and 2017	This stage was not statutory part of plan-making process. Council published Reg 18 draft first.
Commencement of public consultation on draft plan	Quarter 1 2018	March 2018	Regulation 18 consultation within time.
Submission for Examination in Public	Quarter 1 2019	January 2019	Regulation 19 consultation within time.
Adoption (if found 'sound' at Examination).	Quarter 4 2019		Submission delayed due to changing Government methodology for the supply of housing

1.11. The Core Strategy Review Submission Draft (Reg 19) was published in January 2019 for a six week period of public consultation. However, during this period, the Government introduced a new methodology to calculate the housing requirement for each local authority. The District Council is considering what the impact on this would be on the CSR housing figures and whether further consultation is required. The submission of the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate could be delayed and this will have an impact on the date of the final adoption.

### **Regulation 34(2): implementation of local plan policies**

1.12. The council is no longer applying a number of formerly 'saved' District Local Plan Review (2006) policies, particularly following adoption of the Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan (18 September 2013). The Core Strategy introduced five development plan policies under its 'spatial strategy' section, nine 'Core Strategy Delivery' policies, and Policy DSD: Delivering Sustainable Development, reflecting the national 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Appendix 5 of the adopted Core Strategy sets out the continuing saved Local Plan (2006) policies effectively supporting the Core Strategy. It also outlines applicable supplementary planning documents, and the PPLP emerging policies now gaining weight under paragraph 48 of the NPPF.

**Regulation 34(3) and 34(7): housing supply and monitoring (respectively)**

1.13. Other sections in this Report deal with the monitoring of specific policies that have been applied in decision-making and provide further detail on housing supply.

**Regulation 34(4): Neighbourhood Development Plans**

1.14. There is currently one Neighbourhood Development Plan being prepared within the district, for St Mary in the Marsh.

1.15. A draft of the St Mary in the Marsh Neighbourhood plan was submitted to the council for an initial assessment in August 2015. The district council has worked alongside the parish council to refine the content and policy of the plan, as well as to develop the supporting documents. Following a period of consultation, the draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public (EiP) in December 2018. Rosemary Kidd was appointed as the independent examiner in January 2018. The examination into the St Mary in the Marsh Neighbourhood Plan is currently underway.

1.16. During the 2017/18 monitoring period, on 12 May 2017, the Dance Easy Studio, 19 The Bayle, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1SQ was added as an Asset of Community Value to the council's list of assets. A full list of Assets of Community Value is provided on the ['Right to bid'](#) page of the council's website.

**Regulation 34(5): Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

1.17. Regarding the examination of the council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) draft Charging Schedule, this was led by an independent Examiner and was conducted by written representations between October and December 2015. Following the close of the examination, the Examiner submitted his report to the council on 3 March 2016.

1.18. The council began operating CIL on 1 August 2016, and it has started to collect receipts, and the expectation is that there will be a relatively consistent flow of payments in the future. Further information is provided on the [CIL pages](#) of the council's website.

## **Regulation 34(6): Duty to Cooperate**

- 1.19. To ensure that the council meets the Duty to Cooperate, set out in the 2011 Localism Act, the following issues have been identified as being of strategic importance to be agreed with partners:
- Housing (such as assisting with housing requirements, implications for schools or impacts on nature conservation sites);
  - Economic development and employment allocations;
  - Retail and town centre policies and allocations;
  - Strategic transport matters (including any implications relating to 'Operation Stack');
  - Gypsy and Travellers policies and allocations;
  - Renewable energy and climate change; and
  - Green infrastructure.
- 1.20. Significant collaborative work in the sub-region has already been undertaken by the East Kent Regeneration Board (EKRB) to confirm shared infrastructure priorities. This is informing Community Infrastructure Levy activity and influencing strategic funding bids, especially through the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (a sub-regional board of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership).
- 1.21. General information sharing on strategic planning is well established in the county and East Kent through a number of existing professional groups such as the Kent Planning Officers Group (KPOG) and the Planning Policy Forum (PPF).
- 1.22. The EKRB also agreed a Memorandum of Understanding, initially drafted by Ashford Borough Council, to help formally tackle the duty. The District Council formally agreed to this in June 2014. The Memorandum provides the basis for fulfilling the duty by setting out broad objectives and the topics where *"we will work together ... where possible"*.
- 1.23. Notable studies undertaken under the Duty to Cooperate in 2018/19 include:
- 1.24. An update to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) undertaken by an external consultancy called Arc<sup>4</sup>. This study is a multi-authority study involving six East Kent local authorities including Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Swale Borough Council and Thanet District Council. The revised GTAA will address the council's Duty to Cooperate obligations with neighbouring local planning authorities. The GTAA published in August 2018 identified a need of 5 permanent pitches and 3 – 5 transit pitches for Folkestone & Hythe district
- 1.25. Folkestone & Hythe and Rother District Councils worked in partnership for the development of the the Sustainable Access and Recreation Management

Strategy, (or SARMS) and consulted Natural England when necessary, from conception to drafting of the final Strategy.

1.26. The duty also includes cooperation with other prescribed public bodies, such as Historic England, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Local authorities must also cooperate with the Local Enterprise Partnership and local nature partnerships. District council officers took part in consultation exercises, in the form of a workshop and formulating responses to the South Marine Plan. Officers also regularly attend the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership and Local Nature Partnership meetings.

## **2. Strategic Need A: Challenge to improve employment, educational attainment and economic performance**

2.1. This section sets out performance against the aims in the adopted Core Strategy Local Plan (2013). The aims are listed in Core Strategy Appendix 3: Monitoring and Risk, and highlighted in bold in the coloured boxes below.

### **A1. Increase the population of settlements and their prosperity**

2.2. The most recent official statistics state that the population of the district has increased from 100,300 in 2006 to 108,000 in 2011, a growth of 7,700 over a five year period (Source: Census 2011).

2.3. The 2018 mid-year estimate from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) indicates that Folkestone and Hythe District currently has a population of 112,600, comprising 55,700 males (49.50 per cent) and 56,900 females (50.5 per cent).

2.4. The Core Strategy aims to deliver a total of 8,000 new dwellings between 2006 and 2026 resulting in an overall population growth of 7 per cent (0.4 per cent a year). To date this target is being exceeded, as the Office for National Statistics' population figures for Folkestone & Hythe District estimate that the district's population has grown by 12,300 since 2006, representing an actual population growth of 12 per cent.

2.5. A simple increase in population, will not necessarily add to the district's prosperity, however an increase in the 'economically active' proportion of the population would have a positive effect on prosperity by increasing overall purchasing capacity.

2.6. Based on the 2018 mid-year estimates from the Office for National Statistics, the profile for Folkestone & Hythe District shows an ageing population. With a median age of over 43 years, Folkestone & Hythe (along with Dover) have the oldest average age of residents in the Kent districts. The median age in Kent is 41.1 years, with the UK figure being 39.1 years.

2.7. The Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics for April 2018 to March 2019 show that there were 53,400 'economically active' people in the district aged 16 or over, either in employment or unemployed. Of this figure, 82.9 per cent fell within the 16 to 64 'working age' group, an increase of 6.9 per cent on the previous year's figure of 76 per cent. The district is now above the South-East regional average of 81.6 per cent, and the national average of 78.9 per cent.

2.8. The annual average unemployment rate for 2018/19 in Folkestone & Hythe District is now estimated to be 3.6 per cent of the district's economically active

population. This is down 0.8 per cent in 2017 and above the current South-East regional average of 3.1 per cent and the current national unemployment average of 4.1 per cent. (Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS and Nomis).

**A2. Enhance the viability/vitality and appeal of Town Centres, with Folkestone as a major commercial, cultural and tourism centre featuring upgraded connections and public realm**

2.9. Policy SS4 of the Shepway Core Strategy (2013) requires that all development in Town and District Centres should contribute to a mix of active ground floor uses with predominantly retail goods (A1) frontage shopping retained at the core of the centres. This is measured through an annual survey of town centre vacancy rates in Folkestone Primary, Hythe, New Romney, Cheriton and Sandgate shopping areas. Secondary shopping areas are not monitored. The vacancy rates are reported on shop frontage length not number of units. The target is that vacancy rates by frontage should not exceed 10 per cent.

2.10. The annual shop front survey revealed that Folkestone and Hythe have experienced minor increases in vacancy levels; whilst Cheriton vacancy levels have reduced compared with last year and now only just exceeds the maximum 10 per cent vacancy target.

2.11. The vacancy rates for each District Shopping Area for 2018/19 are as follows:

Shopping Area	Vacancy Rate 2017/18 (per cent)	Vacancy Rate 2018/19 (per cent)
Folkestone Primary	7.2	7.2
Hythe	5.1	5.1
New Romney	3.3	2.7
Cheriton	9.8	10.6
Sandgate	6.0	1.5

2.12. Over the course of the monitoring period, the projects set out below have helped to enhance the viability, vitality and appeal of Town Centres.

**Folkestone**

2.13. The Masterplan setting out the regeneration of Folkestone seafront and harbour received outline planning permission in early 2015.

2.14. The first stage of realising the vision for the area was the £3.5 million renovation of the Harbour Arm, which was completed and opened to the public in August 2015. This includes a number of small independent restaurant (A3) and drinking (A4) establishments.

- 2.15. Listed building consent for a change of use of the former railway viaduct to public space was approved in February 2017. Completion of the new 'green walkway' was in summer 2017; with further works to the railway viaduct including the introduction of a new stairway and lift from the Stade and Fish Market, finished at the end of 2018.
- 2.16. The boardwalk, which meanders between the Harbour Arm and the Lower Leas Coastal Park opened in the summer of 2017. At approximately 800m long and made from old railway sleepers, it continues the landscaped pedestrian route that begins at The Stade, follows the viaduct and restored station and links the bars and cafes of the Harbour Arm to the Lower Leas Coastal Park and the historic Leas Lift. A reserved matters application for phase one of the Folkestone Seafront development was approved in December 2018. The block is to be built at the western end of Folkestone beach, next to the Leas Lift, and will see the creation of 84 homes in a crescent shape with up to eight storeys on either end and three to four storeys in the middle.
- 2.17. In addition, there are a number of ongoing initiatives to regenerate the district and attract higher value employment opportunities into the district, including the following:
- The Roger De Haan Creative Foundation's investment continues in the Old High Street and Tontine Street to enable the development of a growing creative industries quarter in the town;
  - Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) continue to encourage property owners in Folkestone's Old Town to renovate and improve their buildings with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund; and
  - The construction of a new Folkestone Urban Sports Park is ongoing. The multi-storey building will include a 15 metre climbing wall, a suspended skate bowl, offices and a café. It is sited on Tontine Street in Folkestone and is due to open in summer 2020.

## **Hythe**

- 2.18. Following the creation of the Hythe Coastal Community Team – Economic Plan 2017 – 2037 the objectives are to increase connectivity, increase its brand identity and to diversify the employment base, create a sense of place for the community, improve the tourism offer and establish more partnerships.
- 2.19. A planning application for Princes Parade was approved by Planning Committee in August 2018. Proposals would see the construction of 150 homes, open space; and a new leisure centre, hotel, and other facilities.
- 2.20. Regeneration of the former Kengate Industrial Estate on Dymchurch Road, is progressing. Planning permission was granted in August 2019 for a new 1,800 sqm Aldi supermarket. Site preparation is underway with the demolition of the

existing buildings taking place in early 2019, with construction on the new building due to commence imminently. The new store is anticipated to be completed in September 2019.

### **A3. Achieve real terms increases in gross incomes**

- 2.21. Recent figures for Folkestone & Hythe District (KCC 2018) show that the average gross weekly pay for residents in full-time employment was £556.10, an increase of £36.40 since last year and significantly below the Kent and UK national average of £636.00 and £587.00 respectfully.
- 2.22. The current average gross weekly pay of £556.10 is an increase of £21.70 over the period from 2013, equating to an average growth of £4.34 per annum and therefore exceeding the target as set out in the Core Strategy (2013) of £3.35 per annum. The data can also be used to compare female and male earnings; however, it does not show differences in rates of pay for comparable jobs. This is because they do not allow for the different employment characteristics of men and women, such as the proportion in different occupations and their length of time in jobs. In 2018, male full-time weekly earnings were £628.40, for females it was £471.90. Although both male and female earnings have grown, the difference between male and female earnings living in Kent has increased since 2002.

### **A4. Grow the proportion of residents with higher-level qualifications**

- 2.23. The Kent Economic Indicators report 2018/19 shows that the percentage of Folkestone & Hythe District residents (aged 16-64) with qualifications at NVQ Level 4 and above was 20.1 per cent, a decrease of 16.1 per cent from last year's figure.
- 2.24. The aim of the Core Strategy is to achieve an annual growth rate of 0.3 per cent growth, which sought to reduce the attainment gap to the South East Region.
- 2.25. In 2013, a total of 26.8 per cent of the District's population had a qualification at NVQ Level 4 and above; and the attainment gap to the South East stood at 12 per cent. Following a period of growth, the figures published by Nomis for the current monitoring year 2018/19 show a drop in the proportion of the population with a NVQ4 or above qualification and a subsequent widening of the attainment gap to 22.1 per cent with the South East. This places Folkestone & Hythe in the bottom 5 per cent of authorities for the proportion of people with NVQ4+.



2.26. As such, this indicator will need to be monitored carefully in subsequent years. It should be noted that the figures quoted are based on a sample survey and therefore the results at district level may fluctuate year to year.

#### **A5. Deliver a flexible supply of employment land in terms of location, size and type**

2.27. Due to the PPLP Examination in Public the Commercial Information Audit for 2019 was not carried out. This will be updated and reported alongside the 2020 CIA in next years AMR.

2.28. A flexible supply of employment land in terms of location, size and type can be demonstrated by the following sample of planning applications received for B class uses during 2018/19:

- **Land Rear Rhodes House, Main Road, Sellindge (Y16/1122/SH):** Outline planning application for a neighbourhood extension for the creation of up to 162 houses including affordable, self-build and retirement housing, up to 929 square metres Class B1 Business floorspace, allotments, recreational ground and multi-use games area, nature reserve, and associated access, parking, amenity space and landscaping.
- **Mountfield Industrial Estate, New Romney (Y17/1432/SH):** Erection of an industrial unit, comprising offices and warehouses.
- **Land adjoining Church and Dwight, Caesars Way, Folkestone (Y17/0888/SH):** Erection of 49 industrial units (4562 sqm) and 2 office blocks (1240 sqm), together with the construction of the industrial estate road and parking and turning areas and landscaping throughout the site being details pursuant to outline planning permission Y13/0024/SH (details relating to appearance, layout, scale and landscaping).

#### **A6. Maximise the efficient use of infrastructure and secure further improvements unlocking the development of priority sites, communities and areas**

2.29. In July 2014 the South East Local Enterprise Partnership secured a £442 million funding package as part of the Government's localism agenda to boost economic growth in the South East.

2.30. The funding was allocated based on the South East Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan. This set out the infrastructure and business needs required to support economic growth in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership area. Kent's allocation of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership award is £98 million for transport initiatives. This funding will be made available from April 2015 until March 2021.

2.31. In December 2018, the Government launched its Future High Streets Fund to help local areas to respond to and adapt to changes. In March 2019, F&HDC

submitted an expression of interest setting out the challenges and strategic approach to regenerating Folkestone Town Centre. An announcement on places moving forward to Phase 2 is expected in summer 2019.

### **Critical Infrastructure**

2.32. The following section provides an update on the progress made delivering critical infrastructure identified by the Core Strategy (2013) during the 2018/19 monitoring year

- **South of Hawkinge – A20/A260 junction:** These works have now been completed.
- **Cheriton High Street A20 Spur Junction:** The hybrid application (Ref 14/0300) for the redevelopment of land at Shorncliffe Garrison was granted permission in December 2015. This included technical approval for a series of highway improvements by Kent County Council (KCC) to be undertaken prior to first occupation. A deed of variation has since been agreed between KCC and the district council, which now requires this junction improvement to be provided by 300 dwellings on the Shorncliffe Barracks site – yet to be triggered. This trigger point has not currently been reached and so KCC does not currently have a timescale as to when these works will take place.
- **Newingreen - A20/A261/Stone Street junction:** The requirement for any improvement at this junction will need to accommodate future traffic growth generated by Martello Lakes and Otterpool Park (the proposed new garden settlement). The final configuration of this junction (and thus its capacity) will depend upon the local road network arrangement to serve Otterpool Park.
- **New Romney A259/B2071 Church Road Junction:** The scheme is dependent on the two Section 106 contributions from the two Broad Location sites. One of the sites still does not have a signed Section 106 Agreement; although an application for this site (excluding the KCC land) has been submitted and is currently awaiting determination. The scheme is unlikely to be delivered in the short term due to this issue.
- **Scanlons Bridge, Hythe:** Junction modifications and improvements to the A259/A2621 at Scanlons Bridge, Hythe were completed between September and November 2015. The scheme, funded by Section 106 monies from Sainsbury's and Nickolls Quarry, was designed to remove the bottleneck and ease the flow of traffic by increasing Folkestone-bound lanes on part of the A261 from one to two.
- **Folkestone Seafront priority connections including Tram Road:** Works to make Tram Road, Folkestone a two-way road were completed on 5 May 2014, thereby improving accessibility to and from the harbour and seafront. Further highway improvements to make Tontine Street two-way for buses were completed in May 2016.

- **Folkestone Central Railway Station Access Upgrades:** A comprehensive way-finding initiative to improve linkages between Folkestone Central Railway Station and Folkestone Town Centre and Coastline was completed in 2015.
- **Folkestone West Railway Station:** Improvements to Folkestone West Station were completed in July 2015 as part of £1.7 million investment. Southeastern are programmed to implement a ‘cycle hub’ project at this station by the end of March 2020 utilising funding made available from the Department for Transport (DfT) through the Cycle Rail funding scheme in combination with a component of match-funding from F&HDC from its capital budget to support initiatives that help to reduce car journeys.
- **Shorncliffe Primary School:** The provision of a new two-form entry primary school is dependent on a series of phased Section 106 contributions as part of the redevelopment of land at Shorncliffe Garrison. Final payment would need to be made by the earliest date of either the occupation of the 142 dwelling or 34 months after commencement – yet to be triggered. Timescale for the delivery thereafter is in the control of KCC. The delivery of the primary school on site will be driven by Kent County Council, as the Local Education Authority. On the basis that contributions are to also flow from the Folkestone Seafront scheme, the lack of delivery of housing completions at the Folkestone Seafront site is likely to result in a pushing back of the programme for delivery of the primary school.
- **Seabrook / Shorncliffe Green Infrastructure:** The hybrid application (Ref 14/0300) for the redevelopment of land at Shorncliffe Garrison was granted permission in December 2015. The Interim Management Plan for the Backdoor Training Area was submitted and approved by the council in December 2016 under Condition 20(a) of the planning permission. The full management plan as required by condition 20(b) of permission Y14/0300/SH subsequently approved in February 2019.
- **Folkestone Seafront Flood Defences:** A programme of flood defence work was completed by the council in 2004 and now undergoes maintenance twice yearly. Further sea defences, beach nourishment and other groundwork commenced in early 2017 as part of Seafront development.

### Housing and Employment Delivery

2.33. The Core Strategy (2013) set a minimum target of **3,500 net** additional dwelling completions from 2006/07 and 10ha net additional employment floor space by 2016.

Monitoring Period	Residential Net Completions	Employment Net completions (sqm)
2006/07	146	-5,440

2007/08	402	7,493
2008/09	562	5,729
2009/10	180	-8,765
2010/11	132	919
2011/12	207	6,148
2012/13	206	4,016
2013/14	165	2,800
2014/15	348	-1,679
2015/16	293	2,777
2016/17	567	-736.6
2017/18	411	**
2018/19	446	**
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,619</b>	<b>13,261.1 (1.3 ha)</b>

\* Prior to 2008 only the B use classes were monitored and A2 was included with B1.

\*\* Employment monitoring not finalised in time for publication of the AMR (2018 and 2019).

*Due to work on the examination of the Places and Policies Local Plan and public hearings, it has not been possible to employment monitoring for the monitoring year 2018/19. An update will be provided for the next AMR.*

#### **A7. Provide housing of a quality and type suited to long-term economic development needs**

2.34. A total of 79 new affordable homes (34 Affordable Rent, 9 Social Rent 14 Intermediate Rent and 22 Shared Ownership) were provided over the course of the 2018/19 monitoring period.

#### **A8. Regenerate deprived neighbourhoods, including Central and Northern Folkestone and in pockets within Romney Marsh**

2.35. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) updated the indices of deprivation, including the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) in 2015. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domains are combined using the following weights:

- Income Deprivation (22.5 per cent);
- Employment Deprivation (22.5 per cent);
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5 per cent);
- Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5 per cent);
- Crime (9.3 per cent);
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3 per cent); and

- Living Environment Deprivation (9.3 per cent).

2.36. There has been no new data since 2015 so the district remains ranked 113/326 of local authorities nationally and 3 of 12 in Kent. (A rank of 1 represents the most deprived area.) The district has moved down in the rankings from a position of 97/326 in 2010 which indicates that levels of deprivation have reduced between 2010 and 2015, relative to other local authorities in England.

2.37. The Core Strategy (2013) aims to monitor the regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods in Folkestone East, Foord, Harbour, Central, Lydd Ward and in the westernmost part of Romney Marsh Ward. Since the adoption of the Core Strategy ward names within the district have been amended and ward names in this section refer to the old wards. This section uses the most recent data from 2015 and will be updated in future AMRs as new deprivation information becomes available from the Department for Communities and Local Government. A summary of ward deprivation data is provided below:

- **Folkestone East (LSOAs 003A, 003C, 003B):** Neighbourhoods within this ward range between the 10 per cent and 30 per cent most deprived in the country. Deprivation across all these areas has increased compared to the equivalent figures from 2010.
- **Folkestone Foord (LSOAs 004A, 004B, 004C, 004D):** Neighbourhoods within this ward range between the 20 per cent and 30 per cent most deprived in the country. Results have been mixed, with deprivation reducing in some areas but increasing in others.
- **Folkestone Harvey Central (LSOAs 015A, 014B, 014C, 014D):** Neighbourhoods within this ward range between the 10 per cent and 30 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. However, the LSOAs here are where there has been the most marked improvement in rankings. The development of the Creative Quarter is likely to have been the key driver of the improvement.
- **Folkestone Harbour (LSOAs 014A, 004E, 003D):** Neighbourhoods within this ward range between the 10 per cent and 50 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. Deprivation has increased in and around the harbour despite being earmarked for regeneration. The process of regeneration can cause an area to get worse before it gets better because of the negative effects for local communities associated with relocation, demolitions, void housing, environmental quality and general uncertainty.
- **Lydd (LSOAs 013A, 013B, 013C, 013D):** Neighbourhoods within this ward range between the 30 per cent and 50 per cent most deprived in the country.
- **Romney Marsh (LSOA 011D):** The neighbourhoods within the westernmost part of this ward are amongst the 30 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods in the country.

*Source: Index of multiple deprivation explorer 2015.*

## **A9. Expand cultural and creative activity in the district, with refurbished premises and spaces in Folkestone's old town forming a vibrant Creative Quarter visitor attraction**

- 2.38. In March 2016, the district council awarded planning approval for a new indoor Urban Sports Park. Following a series of public consultation events in May 2015, detailed proposals were developed by Guy Hollaway Architects for the new centre which will include a multi-storey skate park, together with state of the art facilities for climbing, bouldering and boxing. Construction work that sees the regeneration of the former Bingo Hall and Co-op buildings at the junction of Dover Road and Tontine Street began in October 2017 and is due for completion in the summer of 2020.
- 2.39. Construction work to regenerate 11-13 Tontine Street and 69 The Old High Street commenced in mid-2018. The development will re-establish the original building form and façade of 69 The Old High Street. It will also create four floors of flexible, high quality commercial studio/office space on the site of 11-13 Tontine Street, a fifth floor will incorporate a live/work unit. The design also includes a small courtyard and exhibition space. Construction is expected to be completed in 2019/2020.

## **Strategic Need B: Challenge to enhance the management and maintenance of natural and historic assets**

### **B1. Expand green infrastructure and enhance its connectivity, making a positive contribution to managing the impacts of climate change through adaptation and mitigation**

- 3.1. There have been neither gains nor losses in the number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), and there have been no updates to Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the Folkestone & Hythe district for the period of this AMR.
- 3.2. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 allows for the creation of a type of Marine Protected Area (MPA), called a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). MCZs protect a range of nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology and can be designated anywhere in English and Welsh inshore and UK offshore waters. There are currently two MCZs in the district, Folkestone Pomerania and Dover to Folkestone. A further site at Hythe Bay was proposed for designation as part of the 2013 DEFRA consultation. However, as the proposal raised strong opposition from the fishing industry, the decision to designate was deferred to allow for further discussion with local fishing representatives. The decision on the Hythe Bay MCZ was deferred until 2018 and it was not included in the Tranche 3 proposals last year. It has therefore effectively been dropped from the network, despite this omission leaving an acknowledged gap in the national marine protected area network for the important mud habitat that it contains.
- 3.3. In June 2018, Natural England provided advice to DEFRA on new MCZ site options which included an additional new site South of Hythe Bay, located south of the Tranche 3 Regional Project recommended Hythe Bay rMCZ. The broad-scale habitat, Subtidal mud, currently represents a network shortfall in the Eastern Channel region and the South of Hythe Bay new site option was proposed in order to contribute to filling this gap in the network. The results of this advice will be published in 2019 and will be reported in the next AMR period.

### **B2. Minimise local carbon emissions, maintain air quality, control pollutants and promote sustainable waste management**

- 3.4. In June 2018, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy published revised figures for carbon emissions for local authorities for 2005 - 2016. In the production of the 2016 estimates, new data were introduced, together with some improvements to the underlying methodology. In order to ensure that the data for 2005 to 2015 are consistent with the data now available for 2016, the estimates for these years have been revised to

incorporate both the new data and the improvements in the underlying methodology. For Folkestone & Hythe district, as well as other local authorities, these revisions have resulted in noticeable changes to the emissions estimates for previous years. The table below contains the updated figures from these new estimates.

3.5. It can be seen from the table that there is still an overall trend towards a decline in carbon emissions over the last ten years in this district.

Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total Per capita
2005	326.9	258.3	229.5	7.8
2006	331.6	257.7	236.9	7.8
2007	310.4	249.1	239.2	7.5
2008	232.9	250.1	229.2	6.6
2009	193.5	227.2	218.5	5.8
2010	206.6	245.3	211.3	6.0
2011	186.3	214.2	207.9	5.4
2012	191.0	228.6	209.5	5.6
2013	172.9	221.4	208.0	5.3
2014	152.0	187.1	212.1	4.8
2015	142.8	183.5	217.9	4.7
2016	119.9	171.1	222.4	4.4

3.6. There have been no significant planning applications granted for minerals and waste development in the Folkestone & Hythe district by Kent County Council during this monitoring period.

3.7. The council monitors air quality across the district. The main source of air pollution in the district is road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the M20, A20, A259, A260 and A2034. Other pollution sources, including commercial, industrial and domestic sources, also make a contribution to background pollutant concentrations. There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the district. There have never been any exceedances of the air quality strategy annual mean objective for NO<sub>2</sub> recorded by the current monitoring network across Folkestone & Hythe. Results from 2017, compared to 2016 report NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean concentrations to have increased at 7 out of the 13 monitoring locations with large increments observed at sites just off the A260, M20 and A20.



- 3.8. Looking at the past five years, the 2017 annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations appear to be the highest (even if it is only slightly), with concentrations increasing at the majority of the sites since 2015.
- 3.9. The highest NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean concentration in 2017 was recorded at DT5 (Blackbull Road) with a concentration of 30.2µg/m<sup>3</sup>, this is well below the annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. )
- 3.10. These results have not been updated for the 2018/19 AMR period.

**B3. Protect and enhance habitats and species to sustain biodiversity, particularly where of international and national significance including a focus on Dungeness and Folkestone Warren**

- 3.11. The status of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land is monitored by Natural England. Surveys of SSSI land are not carried out by Natural England every year. There have been no new surveys of Folkestone Warren since last year's AMR. As mentioned above an extension to the existing Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) to include important marine foraging areas used by little, common and Sandwich terns from breeding colonies within the existing SPA was approved by DEFRA in December 2017.
- 3.12. An alternative indicator is being developed to consider all SSSI sites in the district on an annual basis given the infrequency of the surveys by Natural England.

**B4. Manage sensitive landscapes shaping the character of the district, especially on the edge of settlements or within the Kent Downs AONB and its setting**

- 3.13. The current Kent Downs Management Plan and associated Action Plan are for the years 2014-2019. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW Act) 2000 (sections 89 and 90) created a statutory responsibility for local authorities to act jointly to prepare, adopt and subsequently review Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans at intervals of not more than five years. In undertaking the review the AONB Unit conducted a series of 'expert opinion debates' focusing on each management plan chapter and also carried out public consultation exercises.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/943/fhdc-air-quality-status-report-2018>

## **B5. Increase the efficiency of water management to maintain local water resources and to improve the quality of watercourses and the sea**

- 3.14. The Environment Agency (EA) collects scientific data on the cleanliness of bathing waters each year from May to September. In the district, six beaches are measured: Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate, Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay and Littlestone. A classification for each bathing water is calculated annually, based on all of the samples from the previous four years. These classifications, from best to worst, are: 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor'. From 2015 there are new, tighter standards. The first official classification under these new standards was published towards the end of 2015, when a full four-year dataset was first available.
- 3.15. Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate have again all met the 'excellent' standard, reflecting no change from the previous four years. Dymchurch, and Littlestone and St Mary's Bay have again been classed as good. The Environment Agency state that at Dymchurch beach *"Marsh river drainage, which includes sewage effluent and diffuse agricultural runoff, may be the reason for occasional water quality of a lower standard."*
- 3.16. At St Mary's Bay, Environment Agency investigations have identified the New Sewer as a source of pollution to explain reduced water quality in the past. This river takes the drainage from the surrounding marshland, which includes agricultural runoff and private sewage effluents. Discharge from the long sea outfall in Hythe may also occasionally cause a reduction in water quality at St Mary's Bay.
- 3.17. At Littlestone there are a high number of private sewerage systems in place in this area, especially towards Greatstone. Since the sewer network was recently extended to serve this previously un-sewered area, the impact of private discharges on water quality should start to decrease as households connect to the new system. According to the Environment Agency's investigations some exceedances have been attributed to storm overflow discharges and contamination from marsh drains. The reason for the frequent exceedance of guideline standards, which occur particularly during the holiday season, is not yet identified. There is a drainage ditch, which receives the effluent from New Romney sewage treatment works and discharges onto the beach at regular intervals. Diffuse agricultural pollution from the marsh drainage may also affect bathing water quality.

## **B6. Maintain the sense of openness and tranquillity of the countryside and undeveloped coast**

3.18. Information relating to planning permissions for new build residential development is not currently available. Work will be undertaken to develop a more suitable indicator to monitor openness and tranquillity

**B7. Manage Folkestone & Hythe District's coast to ensure resilience to climate change processes, reducing the risk to life and property from flood hazards, and actively managing coastal environments for green infrastructure and sustainable recreational purposes**

3.19. Much of Romney Marsh is below the present day high tide level and 14,500 homes, 700 businesses and nationally important critical infrastructure are at risk of flooding. Climate change and rising sea levels mean the number of people affected by flooding and erosion will increase significantly in the coming years if no new defences are constructed. In the Folkestone to Cliff End Strategy (FoCES), the Environment Agency set out plans to manage flood and erosion risks along the coastline of Romney Marsh over the next 100 years, taking the predicted impacts of climate change into account.

3.20. The Folkestone to Cliff End strategy is led and maintained by the EA, but the district council does have an obligation to protect our sections of the coast in line with the strategy, although due to the high risk nature of the Marsh the EA manage that section in conjunction with the Lead Local Flood Authority (KCC) and the Internal Drainage Board. The district council is undertaking programmes to ensure the strategy is met. For example Coronation Parade phases 2 and 3, the annual beach recycling programme, the Greatstone dunes protection scheme, and the beach recharge scheme are scheduled for 2020/21.

3.21. Some of the existing defences are reaching the end of their design life, leaving areas at an increased risk of flooding. The FoCES identified how the existing defences can be improved to reduce flood risk to Romney Marsh to a 0.5% chance. The Environment Agency have already completed several projects around the marsh at a value of £130 million. These include new defences on the western bank of the tidal River Rother (2007), a new seawall and rock revetment at Dymchurch (2011) and 0.7km groyne field with shingle and a 1.8km rock revetment at Broomhill Sands (2016). To ensure that tidal flood risk is reduced to the entire marsh, four further schemes need to be constructed.

3.22. The four remaining schemes currently at Outline Business Case (OBC) development are Rother Tidal Walls East, Lydd Ranges, Hythe Ranges and Romney Sands. The Lydd Ranges frontage is approximately 7.5km long and

consists of a shingle beach which provides protection to an earth embankment secondary defence, fronting low lying land used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a training facility. There is limited public access along this frontage. The EA have been working closely with key stakeholders (MOD, Natural England, RSPB) to agree a preferred option for this frontage. They are now moving forward with a 'hold the line' option that will be phased over 50 years. In 2009 the strategy identified a policy of managed realignment for this frontage. However following discussions with the MOD, Lydd was identified as a key training ground and it was agreed that there was a need for a scheme to 'hold the line' in this area. This scheme will involve:

- Installing a 1.8km groyne field east of Jury's Gap.
- Recharging this section of beach with imported shingle
- Widening and raising sections of the Green Wall from Jury's Gap to the Wicks (2.2km) and at South Brooks (1km)
- Relocating the Denge Marsh outfall approximately 80m inland, to accommodate future erosion.

3.23. Periodic shingle recharge will take place at the groyne field once the scheme is complete as well as occasional work to repair any storm damage. The EA have carried out a range of habitat and species surveys and are working with Natural England to identify impacts and suitable compensatory habitat. They have identified land at Hythe Ranges (another MOD training facility), which will provide the compensatory shingle habitat required for this scheme.

3.24. The Hythe Ranges frontage is approximately 3km long and consists of a shingle beach with timber groynes backed by a clay wall with a poor rock revetment. In the 2009 strategy, the preferred option for this frontage was to hold the line. At this time a rock revetment was the most economic option. However, since then the cost of rock has increased (more than doubled) and a shingle beach recharge is now more economic, with a small section of rock revetment still required around Dymchurch Redoubt. This option is also environmentally preferred as it will support shingle vegetation. It will also have less of a visual impact on the Scheduled Monuments (the Redoubt and Martello Towers). The EA have been working closely with interested parties, including Historic England and the County Archaeologist to reduce potential archaeological impacts.

3.25. The EA have completed a comprehensive study to assess the condition of the Romney Sands frontage. In spring 2016 they replenished shingle on the adjoining Littlestone frontage (53,000m<sup>3</sup>) to improve the standard of protection that the beach provides. This, together with a new terminal rock groyne at the southern end of Romney Sands near the lifeboat station built

in 2014, has allowed shingle to build up reducing the overall level of flood risk. As a result, the majority of the frontage is providing a good standard of protection and a major shingle replenishment scheme is not required. Work is however required for a short section of the frontage adjacent to Varne Boat Club.

3.26. The Environment Agency will be producing a new beach management plan (BMP) covering the Littlestone and Romney Sands frontages. At present there are two separate BMPs in place, but analysis of sediment movement has shown that in order to manage this area effectively, these frontages will need to be looked at in combination.

#### **B8. Enhance the character and function of Folkestone & Hythe District's historic towns and villages, and the management of historic assets/visitor attractions**

3.27. No further Conservation Area Appraisals have been produced or reviewed. Folkestone & Hythe District Council appointed Kent County Council to undertake a Heritage Strategy for the district. This strategy will ensure that the heritage of the district plays an important role in shaping future development by providing clear guidance for the Places and Policies Local Plan. It is also intended that the strategy will have a wider role, raising the awareness of heritage and assisting with regeneration and project funding bids by providing a strategic and clear approach in dealing with the many heritage assets in the district.

#### **B9. Promote choice in means of transport through opportunities for walking and cycling and improved public transport networks and information**

3.28. The Council is working with KCC on a new cycle strategy for the district which will improve cycling routes in the district. It is hoped this will be published in the next AMR period.

3.29. Train station usage data, gathered by the Office of Rail and Road, for the estimated total number of entries and exits made at stations shows that for the year 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 there was:

- An increase in station usage at Folkestone West of 31.9 per cent;
- A decrease at Folkestone Central of 3.4 per cent;
- An increase at Sandling of 9.3 per cent; and
- An increase at Westenhanger of 18.6 per cent.



**Strategic Need C: Challenge to improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy and social mix**

**C1. Maintain cohesive neighbourhoods and encourage increased voluntary activity, retention of viable local community buildings and civic interest in community development**

- 4.1. The Community Right to Bid allows local groups to nominate buildings and land that they consider are of value to the community to be included on a local authority maintained list. If any of the assets on the list are put up for sale, the group is given a window of time to organise a local bid to buy it. One nomination was received within the monitoring period, this was for the Littlestone Warren Golf Club Clubhouse and adjacent tennis court on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The nomination was successful and from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the land and building was listed as an asset of community.
- 4.2. Further information on these nominations is available to view on the council's website at  
<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy/assets-community-value-community-right-bid>
- 4.3. One Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared within the district by St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council. Following a successful independent examination, undertaken by written representations, Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Cabinet agreed on the 12th September 2018 that the St Mary in the Marsh Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
- 4.4. The Neighbourhood Planning Referendum was held on the 8th November 2018. Local people were asked whether they wanted the District Council to use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help decide planning applications in the St Mary in the Marsh Neighbourhood Area. Of those who voted, 87.2% (477 people) voted in favour of using the Neighbourhood Development Plan. A simple majority of 51% (of those who had voted) in favour of the Plan is required to bring the plan into force.
- 4.5. At Council on the 13th March 2019, in accordance with Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) the District Council made the Plan part of the development plan for the district.
- 4.6. Within the monitoring period member ward grants have been awarded to 38 groups for projects to improve local facilities across the district. These groups included Folkestone Youth Project, Cheriton Bowls Club, Etchinghill Residents

Association, Elham Valley Cricket Club, 1<sup>st</sup> Hythe Scout Group, All Saints Church Lydd, and Brenzett Aeronautical Museum.

- 4.7. The council held community networking events on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (Hythe) and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (Folkestone) and a Meet the Funders event on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- 4.8. The council encourage community spirit amongst young people by sponsoring a Community Service Award at each of the district's secondary schools.
- 4.9. Each year the council grant Free Use Days for local community events at The Leas Cliff Hall and Quarterhouse. The council are keen to support events that give people from across the district, of all ages and backgrounds, the opportunity to take part. In particular the council encourage projects that embrace both community involvement and community learning.
- 4.10. The council launched its online community directory 'Spotlight' on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 ([www.spotlight-folkestone-hythe.org.uk](http://www.spotlight-folkestone-hythe.org.uk)) to help people discover activities and services in their local area.

**C2. Ensure choice of high-quality residential accommodation is maximised within individual neighbourhoods and villages, with a mix of housing size, type and tenure**

- 4.11. During the monitoring period the Council's new build programme has delivered the following:
  - Phase 2 on the Military Road site now known as Gurkha Way, Folkestone. The properties were acquired from the developer, 18 units for Affordable Rent of which there were 6 x 3 bed houses, 6 x 2 bedroom flats (2 of which were wheelchair accessible with fully adapted wet rooms), 6 x 1 bedroom flats, 2 x 3 bed houses for Shared Ownership by first time buyers.
  - Roman Court, Horn Street, Folkestone – block of 6 x 1 bed flats with combined kitchen/dining/lounge area built on council owned land, and designed by the council's in-house Architect. The 2 ground floor flats are both wheelchair accessible with manually adjustable worktops with sink top inserted in one and electric hob in the other. The bathrooms are fully adapted wet rooms. The 4 upper flats have Juliet balconies accessed from the lounge area.

**Self-build and Custom Housebuilding**

- 4.12. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, the [Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015](#) required all local authorities, including the district council, to keep a register of individuals or associations / groups who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in the district on which to build their own homes.



4.13. The council has set up a register to determine the demand for sites from those interested in undertaking self-build and custom housebuilding projects. The number of entrants onto the self-build register during each base period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 is shown in the table below:

<b>Self-build register monitoring information</b>	
<b>Number of new entrants onto the register 31 October 2017 – 30 October 2018 (Base period 3)</b>	
Individuals	50
Associations / Groups	0
Total	50
<b>Number of new entrants onto the register 31 October 2016 – 30 October 2017 (Base period 2)</b>	
Individuals	52
Associations / Groups	0
Total	52
<b>Number of new entrants onto the register 1 April 2016 – 30 October 2016 (Base period 1)</b>	
Individuals	32
Associations / Groups	0
Total	32

4.14. More details about the self-build and custom housebuilding register, and how to apply, can be found on the council's website at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy/self-build-custom-housebuilding>

### **C3. Assist in meeting the essential needs of vulnerable local social groups and provide more properties that allow people to remain living independently**

4.15. The government allocates funding to Local Housing Authorities through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to enable disabled residents to adapt their homes so that they can remain independent. In 2018/19 the DFG was £1,366,296. A total of 58 adaptations in residents' homes were completed, these included installation of stair lifts, flush access bathrooms, ramping, door widening and lowering kitchen worktops. In addition to the adaptations, some of the allocation was used to fund further projects to enable disabled, vulnerable and elderly people to remain independent in their homes or be discharged from hospital in a timelier manner.

4.16. The Shepway Home Enablement Scheme (Handyman Service) was launched in October 2016 for people who are either in hospital and cannot be discharged because of issues at homes, or to prevent admission in the first place. In May 2018 a Health and Housing Co-ordinator has been funded and is based at the William Harvey Hospital. In 2018/19 both these services have helped over 150 people to be discharged from hospital earlier, or potentially prevented an admission to hospital. The Handyman can carry out small works such as fitting

grab rails, moving a bed from upstairs to downstairs and removing trip hazards and carrying out deep cleaning.

4.17. Other interventions include:

- A total of 12 Winter Warmth loans to replace broken boilers in elderly and chronically sick residents' homes; and
- A total of 6 Home Safe loans to improve and remove hazards in vulnerable people's homes.

#### **C4. Improve sports facilities and reduce relative disparities in the health of communities**

4.18. In March 2016, the district council awarded planning approval for a new indoor Urban Sports Park at the junction of Dover Road and Tontine Street in Folkestone. Following a series of public consultation events in May 2015, detailed proposals were developed by Guy Hollaway Architects for the new centre which will include a multi-storey skate park, together with state of the art facilities for climbing, bouldering and boxing. The Urban Sports Park, titled F51 will be managed by Shepway Sports Trust the Folkestone-based independent charity established to encourage participation and excellence in sport.

4.19. The project commenced in November 2017 and is due to be completed in summer 2020.

4.20. The council work closely with Shepway Sports Trust on sport-related initiatives. During 2018/19 the district council's elected members awarded grants for equipment to:

- Folkestone Rugby Club Ladies Section
- Folkestone United
- Hythe Town Youth Football Club
- Hythe & Saltwood Sailing Club

4.21. The council provides support to Cycle Shepway to improve cycling facilities in the district. New cycle routes and Sheffield bike stands have been installed in Folkestone and Cheriton including at Folkestone West. Progress is continuing on the Cinque Ports Cycleway, which will connect Folkestone and Dungeness along the coast.

4.22. In autumn 2017, the District Council commissioned Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd (PLC) to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the district. This is part of a wider assessment of sport and leisure provision in the district which also includes a Sports Facilities Strategy. Both strategies were completed in 2018, and form part of the evidence base to the emerging Core Strategy Review.

4.23. The objective of the PPS is to undertake an assessment of playing pitches and the future need for provision, driven by increased population and to identify any gaps in the existing network of provision.

4.24. The outputs of the PPS are as follows:

- The preparation of the strategy will enable the district council and other local providers to shape their future playing pitch offer. This may comprise direct provision by the council and that undertaken by education, voluntary, community and private sectors. The strategy will also inform site-specific and wider policies within the emerging Core Strategy Review.
- The strategy will underpin the contribution that sport can make in support of the health and well-being objectives in the council's Corporate Plan and priority objectives. It will also help provide a rationale for other local and wider stakeholders to plan for current and future needs.
- The development of the strategy is an opportunity to set out a strategic vision for future provision of playing pitches, based on robust evidence and a needs assessment. This will guide and inform future investment and partnerships, influence the Local Plan and Core Strategy Review, future-proof and increase participation opportunities to 2037 and beyond.

Going forward there will be a requirement to ensure the strategy, and the evidence it presents, remains robust and up-to-date.

## **C5. Increase access to services that are appropriate to the needs of the local population and maintain essential rural services**

4.25. In September 2018 the Turner Free School, the first new secondary school in Folkestone for 11 years, opened its doors. Turner Free School has replaced Pent Valley Technological College in Cheriton, which closed at the end of the summer term in 2017. The new non-selective school, for 11-18 year olds, welcomed 120 year 7 students through its gates. The Turner Free School is part of the Turner Schools Trust, which also runs the Folkestone Academy and two primary schools in the area. The school hopes to build a new state of the art facility to accommodate the students.

4.26. During this monitoring period the Places and Policies Local Plan proposed a draft allocation (Policy RM5) to safeguard land in New Romney for a new medical hub facility. Engagement with the South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group

(CCG) has been ongoing regarding the requirement for new and/or improved healthcare facilities to serve the Romney Marsh area.

- 4.27. The South Kent Coast CCG also provided a response to the emerging Core Strategy Review for Folkestone and Hythe District in August 2018. Whilst broadly supporting the outcomes and direction of the strategy, the CCG identified a number of considerations for documentation in terms of future health care provision across the district.
- 4.28. The increase in population, along with the increased life expectancy has not been in line with an increase in health care provision. GP numbers have decreased over recent years, with recruitment of healthcare professionals, in particular GPs, remaining a major issue in the South East. Recent practice closures have resulted in GPs operating formally closed patient lists, limiting patient choice and access to primary care services.
- 4.29. The South Kent Coast CCG recognises that these challenges can be partly addressed with the development of appropriate health care facilities, however workforce issues are likely to remain. The CSR allows for 12,845 new homes in the period to 2037 – this could equate to an additional 30,000 residents in the District – solutions will therefore be needed to mitigate the impact of this increase on health services. In this respect, the CCG supports Policy SS5 of the CSR.

**C6. Improve the urban environment, including the usage and sense of security of key public spaces including major parks, town centres and public transport stations**

4.30. The heritage lottery fund Folkestone townscape heritage initiative (THI) project is helping to transformed Folkestone. The five-year, £1.8 million project has restored some of Folkestone’s most historic buildings to their former glory. The Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative, a partnership between Kent County Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the Creative Foundation, has seen the restoration and refurbishment of almost 15 properties and Public Steps in the Old Town. By the end of the monitoring period the following work had been completed:

4.31.4.31.

<b>Bringing Vacant Historic Floor Space Back Into Use</b>	
Nos. 18 to 24 & 25 to 29 Old High Street	Completed and continues to be occupied
<b>Building Repairs and Restoring Architectural Features</b>	
No.29 Rendezvous Street (Prince Albert)	Completed

No.30, 32 & 34 Rendezvous Street	Completed
No.1 Grace Hill (Metronome);	Completed
4a Church Street	Completed
61 Tontine Street	Completed
40 Old High Street	Completed
<b>Public Realm Steps Refurbishment Projects</b>	
Parade Steps	Completed
Bayle Steps	Completed
Tontine Street steps	Completed
<b>THI Activities</b>	
All THI Training and Events have been completed including delivery of the Evaluation Report releasing the final HLF Contribution and closing the Project.	

4.32. Cllr David Monk, Leader of the District Council, which provided £100,000 towards the THI project, said: “The work of Folkestone THI is apparent as you walk around the Old Town and I have been hugely impressed with the scheme. The investment and delivery for the THI goes well beyond the Built Environment and has contributed in helping turn around local economies, not only by improving how they appear and are experienced, but by providing Heritage Skills training opportunities through East Kent College leaving Students with a lifelong impression and a legacy. The project was signed off by the HLF having received full grant funding in October 2018.

4.33. In November 2018 the council began consulting on new Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) for the district. PSPOs are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour such as harassment, aggression and any other behaviours which may have a detrimental effect on communities. The creation of bespoke PSPOs provides officers and partners (Kent Police) with an additional tool on top of existing powers and legislation to help tackle specific issues of antisocial behaviour affecting parts of the District.

**C7. Reintegrate physically divided or highly linear villages and neighbourhoods through central social infrastructure or community development (UPDATE WITH CSR)**

4.34. Proposals that would include residential development, community buildings and a village green continued to be progressed at Sellindge following the approval of a hybrid application for the redevelopment of land between the A20 and M20. The application was for outline permission (with all matters reserved except access) comprising 200 dwellings, a local mixed-use centre containing parish offices, and

associated storage and commercial space together with access from the A20, associated roads, parking, earthworks, open space including attenuation features and landscaping. The full application comprised 50 dwellings, village green and play equipment, access from the A20, associated roads, community car parking, earthworks, open space including attenuation features and landscaping. This application was granted planning permission on 22 January 2016. Sellindge is currently highly linear and therefore lacks a central focus that helps to foster community development.

#### **C8. Improve Town Centre environments, facilities and communications for businesses and visitors in the Romney Marsh area**

4.35. The district council's Economic Development Team continues to work with local organisations to improve the economic prospects of the Romney Marsh. The RMP supports the Romney Marsh Delivery Plan which aims to mitigate the impacts of the closure of Dungeness 'A' Nuclear Power Station. The RMP includes partners from Ashford, Rother, Kent and East Sussex County Councils, the nuclear industry, education, and the private sector. The council employs a Coordinator on the partnership's behalf. As part of this work the team secured funding from Magnox to masterplan the further development of Mountfield Road Industrial Estate at New Romney for employment and skills training/business development uses. This work has progressed during this year and plans have come forward for a new employment hub, together with new infrastructure to unlock the remaining plots for employment uses. In February 2017 applications for funding were made to the Coastal Community Fund and to the SE LEP Local Growth Fund for a funding contribution towards developing the employment hub. While the CCF application was unsuccessful, the LGF application was received favourably and the possibility of funding due to underspend from committed projects remains.

4.36. The Team was instrumental in securing Heritage Lottery Fund grant support for the Kent Wildlife Trust-led Fifth Continent Romney Marsh Landscape Partnership Scheme, which has subsequently secured full funding. The approximately £2 million programme started in the summer of 2017 and the council continues to support the scheme, for example by providing office accommodation for the Fifth Continent Team.

#### **C9. Consolidate communities that are hosting significant new developments including at Hawkinge and Hythe (UPDATE WITH CAROLINE)**

4.37. Progress has continued on a number of 'major' residential developments which will see many new community facilities, public services and new build

employment premises. In addition to the planned new development at Sellindge discussed in Section C7, the following developments have also begun:

- **Folkestone Seafront** – The plan prepared by Sir Terry Farrell for the development of Folkestone seafront was granted permission in early 2015. This was a key step forward and followed extensive public consultation and planning by teams of experts. Outline planning permission has established clear design principles and an overall vision for the site. Securing interest from potential developers who will be attracted by the seafront’s undoubted potential will be largely driven by the prevailing economic climate, and in particular the strength of the housing market. The approach throughout has been governed by the ambition to create a new seafront for Folkestone that significantly enhances the town and provides benefits for its residents and for visitors. Central to this are attention to design excellence and the aspiration to realise long-term regeneration goals that complement initiatives elsewhere in the town. The plans include public spaces and leisure facilities and will make a major contribution to the attractiveness of Folkestone as a successful place where people can live, work and bring up their children.

The first phase of the project at the western end of the site received detailed planning permission at the end of 2018 and work is due to start in 2020. The new homes will be close to the Leas Lift and Coastal Park.

- **Folkestone Harbour Arm** - The harbour arm reopened in the summer 2015 following the completion of an initial £3.5 million renovation project and has rapidly become a food, drink and entertainment destination for the town. In January 2017, work began on the beach nourishment and seafront boardwalk to create a new access to Folkestone Harbour Arm and connect it with the Lower Leas Coastal Park. The completed boardwalk is 800m long and made from old railway sleepers. The former station and its platforms were restored and reopened in spring 2018. The platforms are now a sheltered space with stepped seating areas down to the track bed which allow the space to be used for events and performances. The route that once carried the boat train is now a linear park, a landscaped pedestrian link through from the harbour viaduct out to the Harbour Arm.
- **Hawkinge Mixed-use Land** –This development includes a retirement village and care facilities.
- **Nickolls Quarry** –This residential led development will include a major community facility.
- **Shorncliffe Garrison** – This development will provide a new primary school, leisure facilities including a pavilion for the football pitches and a large area of open space.





## 5 FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2018 TO 31 MARCH 2023

- 5.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Paragraph 73, requires local planning authorities to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements.
- 5.2 The five-year housing land supply calculation is a comparison between the anticipated supply of new homes against the number of new homes that are required to be built within the district in the next five years.
- 5.3 A formal assessment is conducted on five-year housing land supply annually, with a year running from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year. The relevant five-year period is currently 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- 5.4 Using net housing figures, the assessment demonstrates that as of the 1st April 2019 the Council has a 5.17 year housing land supply based upon an annualised requirement of 775 dwellings and inclusive of a 5% buffer to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. This equates to a surplus of 133 dwellings over the five year period.
- 5.5 The NPPF (Paragraph 75) applies a Housing Delivery Test (HDT) aimed at monitoring where delivery has fallen below 95% of a local planning authority's housing requirement over a three year period; and if necessary to take action to assess the causes of under-delivery and identify actions to address these.
- 5.6 The Folkestone & Hythe District continues to perform extremely well against the Housing Delivery Test (HDT). The council's housing completions performance over the last three years has resulted in an overall HDT score of 127% - confirmed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in February 2020.
- 5.7 A score of 95% or above means that the council avoids the various penalties that can be imposed by the HDT for persistent under-delivery and justifies the application of only a 5% buffer to its 5-year housing land supply.
- 5.8 The five-year housing land supply figures across Folkestone & Hythe District are summarised in table 5.1 below:

<b>Table 5.1 Five Year Housing Land Supply 2019/24</b>			
<b>Row</b>			<b>5 YHLS :April 2019- March 2024</b>
1	Annualised Figure across Five Year Period	Calculated using the Standard Methodology which uses the recently updated Housing Projections (updated 20/09/2018)	738
2	Five Year Requirement	Row 1 multiplied by 5	3690
3	Current Shortfall	The new Standard Method used to calculate housing requirements takes into account Current Shortfall	0

		past under supply, therefore there is no need to address previous under delivery or a shortfall	
4	Five-Year Requirement plus Shortfall	Row 2 plus Row 3	3690
5	Annualised Figure with Shortfall	Row 4 divided by 5	738
6	5% buffer	Add 5% buffer as required by paragraph 73 in the NPPF. Calculate as 5% of Row 4	185
7	Total 5 Year Land Supply Figure	Row 4 plus Row 6	3875
8	Total 5 Year Land Supply Figure (Annualised)	Row 7 divided by 5	775
9	Capacity of identified sites	A separate list is provided to support this figure in appendix 1. Capacity used is that expected to be delivered within five years so may be less than the final capacity of a site	1,365
10	Extant planning permissions	A separate list is provided to support this figure, less 5% to allow for non-delivery in Appendix 2. An explanation of the capacity used is explained below	2,453 (inc 5% lapse rate)
11	Windfalls (Years 4 & 5)	This figure is calculated at 95 units per year base on work carried out by the Planning Policy Team as part of the preparation for the new Local Plan	190
12	Total Identified Supply	Total of Rows 9, 10 and 11	4,008
13	Supply Position (Years)	The number of Years Supply ((Row 12 minus Row 7) divided by (Row 8)) plus 5	<b>5.17</b>

5.9 Further information on the Council's methodology in determining its five-year housing land supply calculation can be found in the Core Strategy Review (CSR) Revised Housing Need and Supply Evidence Paper (Document EB 03.10) , which is listed as part of the evidence base for the CSR Examination at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/evidence-base-library>

5.10 The five year housing land supply is always a snapshot in time and the calculation is based on the current housing requirement set by the government's Standard Methodology and the Household Projections. It is important to remember that the objective of the five year housing land supply is not simply to achieve a five year supply

of housing, but to maintain a minimum of five years' worth of housing supply plus the required buffer on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Council recognises that, in light of any changes introduced to national planning policy and guidance, as well as the status of the Local Plan preparation, future monitoring reports will need to consider the five year housing land supply against the level of housing requirement dictated by the Household Projections given the nature of the Standard Methodology in the NPPF.

