

# Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Quarter 1 & 2 Performance Report (April-September 2021)



#### **Your Cabinet Members**



**Cllr David Monk**Leader of the Council



Cllr Jennifer Hollingsbee
Deputy Leader of the
Council and Cabinet
Member for Communities



Cllr John Collier
Cabinet Member for
Property Management &
Grounds Maintenance



Cllr David Godfrey
Cabinet Member
for Housing and Special
Projects



Cllr Stuart Peall
Cabinet Member for
Enforcement, Regulatory
Services, Waste &
Building Control



Cllr Lesley Whybrow
Cabinet Member for the
Environment



Cllr Tim Prater
Cabinet Member for
Revenues, Benefits,
Anti-Fraud and Corruption



Cllr David Wimble
Cabinet Member for the
District Economy



Cllr Ray Field
Cabinet Member for
Transport and
Digital Transformation

#### **Your District - An Overview**

Our district is situated on Kent's south east coast and covers an area of 140 square miles. It is a place of variety and contrast with a landscape characterised by rolling chalk downland, wooded valleys, wild marshes, and a 26-mile coastline. The district has a population of approximately 113,000 of which 57.5% (32,800) of female residents and 59.1% (33,000) of males are of working age.

Our principal town, Folkestone, is home to just under half the district's population. It is also the area's commercial hub, particularly for creative and digital media - one of the UK's fastest-growing sectors. The Creative Quarter in Folkestone's Old Town is home to a thriving collection of artists' studios and creative businesses and offers artists, retailers and business people the chance to become part of this lively and ever-growing community.

As well as its strong creative focus, the district attracts a variety of innovative small and medium size businesses (SMEs) and is home to strong brand names including Saga, Eurotunnel, Holiday Extras, the Aspinall Foundation and Church & Dwight.

The historic town of Hythe is the district's second centre of population and one of two ancient Cinque Ports in the district. Its central feature is the Royal Military Canal, built for defence against invasion in the Napoleonic wars with France. To the west are the wide open spaces of Romney Marsh, home to New Romney, our second Cinque Port; Lydd, a member of the Confederation of Cinque Ports as a 'limb' of New Romney, and a number of smaller coastal communities. Contrasting with the wild expanse of marshes are the North Downs, a ridge of chalk hills that stretch from Dover to Farnham. The Downs are home to pretty villages, including Elham, Lyminge and Postling, hidden valleys and thriving vineyards.

Although the district is rural and coastal in character, it is very well connected. The M20 offers easy access to London and other major motorway networks, London is under an hour away via High Speed 1 (HS1) from Folkestone and we have unrivalled access to mainland Europe via the Channel Tunnel.

We think our district is a great place to live, work and visit. It's where the past has made its mark and where a bright new future is unfolding. As the local authority for the district, we have a key role to play in shaping that future.



The Old High Street, Folkestone



Royal Military Canal, Hythe



**Dungeness, Romney Marsh** 

#### Introduction

In February 2021, we published our new Corporate Plan 'Creating Tomorrow Together', a 34-page document setting out our over-arching principles and service ambitions up until 2030 following approval by councillors.

The plan identifies the main priorities and themes of the council, including the key role we will play in leading the district's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic over the next three years.

The name of our corporate plan was inspired by the excellent relationships and networks which the council already has - and will continue to build on for the benefit of residents. It also alludes to the recovery work already being undertaken.

The plan was subject to public consultation in late 2020 and incorporates the key points raised during the consultation period to ensure it reflects the needs and ambitions of our residents, businesses and key stakeholders across the district.

The plan is focused on four service ambitions which are priority areas of action that relate to the key services that the council plans, delivers and commissions and six guiding principles that guide everything that we do (see summary image).

The adopted service priority actions as part of the plan have been further developed into a corporate action plan, with progress against the plan itself monitored annually, and the plan will be comprehensively reviewed in 2024 to ensure it remains appropriate for the district.

A copy of our new corporate plan can be found here: Creating Tomorrow Together – Corporate Plan 2021-30



#### Creating Tomorrow Together: Corporate Plan 2021-30

Positive community leadership A thriving environment

Priorities in the next three years Priorities in the next three years





Grow the circular economy & reduce



resilience to climate

Priorities in the next three years



nigh streets

& diverse business



Quality homes and infrastructure Priorities in the next three years









We will do all we ca to ensure a strong district from the effects of COVID.

We will protect the special distinctive and diverse nature of with our key partners to enhance it.

Hythe

We will encourage and create a more sustainable distric consuming fewer natural resources.

and accessible We will be financially sustainable and ommunicate

effectively with our

communities in an

Working effectively with partners We will engage with partners to inderstand the vita role they play and work collaboratively with them to ensure

We will embed a culture of continuou eeking feedback and being innovative and creative to find the best outcomes new ways to delive





Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Number of new priority play areas improved by the Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 site per year	-
				r is collated or pe available a			vailable quarterly.	
Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit from the date complete evidence is received.	-	-	3.4	3.4			7 Days (Monthly)	✓
Average number of days taken to process new claims for Housing Benefit	20.9	17	14.7	12.2			17 Days (Monthly)	<b>√</b>
% food premises broadly compliant ( equivalent to 3 rating)	92%	92%	Figure unavailable	Figure unavailable			95% (Quarterly)	-
			The Environme in Quarters 1 & error between own case mode by the System Quarter 3 the continuous complete when the link					
Number of community safety events held and projects delivered	-	-	0	0			10 (Annual)	X

#### 01 Positive Community Leadership

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
	the departure successfully revents with must events with must events with must events with must event with must event ev	of the existing of cruited to in Auditi agency part of will be supported as document of awkinge and Four with the 12 and are supported are supporting an event on the port the safety in the safety in the safety in the safety has also developed.	Community Solutions that are to the countries of Christing the Night Times wareness session to address, vening Op.	ifety Specialism Community Stock to be delivered by Line Intensional Lights of the Economy consistency of the Economy of the Economy consistency of the Economy of the E	t from post. To Safety Special desired Quartification weeks thers. In the will be held note the youth of the desired Women ampaign that sed venues are port any type of safety partners	ns will be distrib	advertised and d a number of ude: the an ew Romney, gn and in oer. ty campaign- 12 uted to support event and will be g developed, ousinesses t. This will be update. This	

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Retain Green Flags for the Coastal Park, Royal Military Canal and Radnor Park sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 (Annual)	-
				r is collated or available at t			ailable quarterly. A	
Number of enforcement notices served (e.g. Abatement Notices, Community Protection Notices)	13	12	14	39			*100 (informal) (Annual)	✓
Enforcement - Fixed Penalty Notices issued	59	92	92	105			*300(informal) (Annual)	✓
Percentage of street surveyed clear of litter within in the district	83%	96%	Figure Unavailable	Figure Unavailable			95% (Monthly)	-
			undertaken l Councils' to improve ove	between Veoli develop a nev rall informatio	ia and both Fow w regime of in on on street o	olkestone Hythenspection monit	due to work being and Dover District toring that will help ving forwards. The	
Number of community environmental volunteer events supported	2	15	17	18		start darling de	15 (Quarterly)	✓
Number of recorded See it, Own it, Do it (SOD It) interventions completed	263	1,918	2,510	3,155			1200 (Quarterly)	<b>√</b>
Average time for graffiti to be removed from the time of being reported	48 hours	48 hours	24 hours	24 hours			48 Hrs (Quarterly)	✓
Number of new electric vehicle charging points installed within district owned car parks	-	-	-	-			2 charging points per car park (Annual)	-
			No new electric vehicle charging points have been installed within district owned car parks during Quarters 1 and 2 due to feasibility studies being carried out by Connected Kerb, who have won the contract to install charging points in 150 locations across Kent. The studies have now been completed and the next stage is for the formal contract to be signed by the Council following agreement of the car park locations, where new charging points will be installed.					

### 02 A Thriving Environment

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Percentage of street lighting within the district converted to LED	-	-	-	-			100% completion by March 2023	-
			and 2. Work Bouygues. A	is being unde A report to Cal ling the upgra	ertaken with KC binet is due to	CC's maintenan be presented i		
Number of missed bin collections per 100,000	8.22	11.47	109.2	144.5			50 (Monthly)	X
			2021and as collection ro increasing the	a result collect ounds, this res hroughout Qu	ction crews we ulted in the nul arters 1 & 2. Th	ct commenced re unfamiliar w mber missed co re number of m eptable levels i	ith their new ollections is	
Percentage of household waste recycled	48%	49%	50%	TBC			50% (Monthly)	✓
			currently und	available as ti	nis is provided ns in arrears. T	by Kent County	eptember 21) is Council. This is of Quarter 2 will be	
Number of days to remove fly tipped waste on public land once reported	1.2	1.1	31.5	6	,		3 Days (Monthly)	X
			2021. A num the early sta allocating to	nber of technic ages, notably i o removal tear	cal issues have In relation to fly	v-tip clearance nas now been r	nced, particularly in tasks not	
Percentage of compliant air quality monitoring sites	-	-	100%	100%			100% (Quarterly)	✓
			line with the	DEFRA Natio It over a yearl	nal Air Quality y basis and fin	Objectives. Air	ict are currently in quality monitoring will be carried out ctives are fully	

# 02 A Thriving Environment

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Enforcement - Percentage of successful prosecutions (Incl Fly tipping and Littering)	-	-	100%	100%			100% (Quarterly)	✓
			prosecuted. (were due to land) In Quarter 2, were all succ	One case was preaches of Co a total of 3 cas	in relation to to ommunity Prot ses were take cuted. Two ca	n to court in Seses were in re	other 3 cases (CPN) eptember and	

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Total Folkestone & Hythe High Streets funds allocated			from the Hig applications in Folkeston were 3 coun Town Counce The external refurbishmen improvement premises. Co	th Streets fund, totalling almose and 4 in San cil-led projects ii.  Ily funded projects and renove the totalling the extended projects to the extended projects to the extended projects and renove the total projects to the extended projects to th	out of this functions out of this function was allocated attempted at the control of the control	nding, eleven ere approved omney and H 133 delivered I funding have ness premises, ce of high stre	with 7 of these ythe, and there by Folkestone included as well as	
Number of engagements undertaken by the Folkestone & Hythe Place Panel on projects aimed at improving the public realm.	-	-	2	building in Fol			3 (Annual)	✓
Total funding allocated from the Romney Marsh Business Hub grant support scheme	_	-	-	-			50% of available funds allocated in 2021-22	-
			No grant funding has been allocated under 'The Romney Marsh Business Hub grant scheme'. The scheme is due to be launched as part of the wider marketing for the scheme in Quarter 3.					

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target	
Total Amount of business space created at Mountfield Road	-	-	-	-			751sqm created (Annual)	-	
umber of Folkestone & Hythe businesses			The 751 square meters of business space at the Romney Marsh Business Hub is due for completion in Quarter 3. The second phase of the Mountfield Road scheme is due to be marketed for employment purposes from Quarter 2 onwards with sales agreed for land plots by end Quarter 4 this year.						
Number of Folkestone & Hythe businesses accessing business support and grants from public sector programmes	-	-	-	-			10 (Annual)	-	
			This indicator is collated on an annual basis and not available quarterly.  A figure will be available at the end of Quarter 4.						
Number of businesses or potential entrepreneurs/ new start-ups signposted to support programmes and events to facilitate growth	-	-	-	-			50 minimum (Annual)	-	
			This indicator is collated on an annual basis and not available quarterly.  A figure will be available at the end of Quarter 4.						
Number of businesses engaged with in the district to support growth and retention of local beople	-	-	8	2			12 (Annual)	<b>√</b>	
			In Quarters 1 and 2 a total of 10 Businesses were directly engaged with to support growth and retention of local people, these include, Plamil Foods, SWP, Pentland Homes, Magnox, Church & Dwight, Motis, Saga, Screen South, NIC instruments and BigJig Toys.						

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Total funds allocated from the Folkestone Community works Programme	-	-	71% (cumulative)	74% (cumulative)			70% of the allocated funds spent by end of 2021/22	✓
			In Quarter 1: 2 (ESIF) have be defrayed by a lin Quarter 2: projects and 2021/22. The proceeding of following DW match.  The projects and budding local of premises were defined as the projects and a line of premises were defined as the projects and budding local of premises are defined as the projects and budding local of premises are defined as the projects and budding local of premises are defined as the projects and budding local of premises are defined budding local of premises and budding local of premises and budding local of premises are defined budding local of premises and budding local of premises are defined budding local of premises and budding local of premises and budding local of premises an	£821,836 (37%, een allocated the end of Q1 2 £789,058 (40%) £581,637 (74%) allocation of the expected and P's decision to Upportunities where awarded the Alliance Building entrepreneurs were awarded the Alliance Building entrepreneurs was a supplicated the end of Q1 2 £10 £10 £10 £10 £10 £10 £10 £10 £10 £10	of European to projects and 2021/22. %) of ESIF fund ) has been defunds has bee d match fund o classify seve hig Q1 & Q2 ind which provides s and grants for	Structural Invented £580,805 (7)  It is have been of the frayed by the fing has been of the funding structure of the focal SMEs, in the focal SMEs	estment Funds 71%) has been allocated to end of Q2 al proposals not a major issue reams as ineligible ast Kent's support to nent or upgrading acluding Sleeping	

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Numbers of new homes built within the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	738 homes (Annual)	-
			This indicator is collated on an annual basis and not available quarterly A figure will be available at the end of Quarter 4.					
Percentage reduction in homelessness	-	-	-	-			5% based on 2020 data	-
				r is collated or be available at			railable quarterly.	
Number of homelessness approaches (includes Triage, Prevention, Relief & Decision cases)	317	348	373	369			No Target	-
			Homelessness approaches to the Council are up on this time last year. This is in part due to the ending of the embargo on evictions that was put in place during the lockdown period and also due to the impacts of the Domestic Abuse Act that places duties on local authorities to provide safe accommodation to victims of abuse who present themselves to the Council as homeless. The numbers of approaches appear to have levelled off in Quarter 2.					
Percentage of homelessness approaches closed as 'homelessness prevented'	-	-	3.59%	3.72%			4% (Monthly)	X
			This represents the number of 'preventions' against the total number of people that approached the council shown as a percentage. We prevented homelessness in 13 cases in quarter 1 and 14 in quarter 2. We expect to prevent homelessness in approx. 4% of approaches, which becomes a challenge when the numbers increase. If the percentage is higher it means we are either able to prevent a greater proportion, or that the need has increased (compare to the 'number of homeless approaches' above). These outcomes are also determined in most cases by the stage at which clients approach the service. If the homeless circumstances are already advanced, prevention may not be an option.					

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Average number of rough sleepers in the period	-	-	4.2	7.4			<6 (Monthly)	X
			and 2, which following the	may be as a r pandemic. In total of 10 pec	esult of the Ulany case, the	Copening itseligeneral trend	veen quarters 1 If up again of rough sleep is ing rough at the	
Average number of households in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation	16	12	2.3	1			0 (Monthly)	X
		The number of households in B & B were particularly high during 2020/21 due to the significant number of single people placed in temporary accommodation during the lockdown period. The Housing Options Team have worked to enable these clients to move into suitab long-term accommodation in the district.						
Average number of households in Temporary Accommodation	44	44	29.3	26			<35 (Monthly)	✓
			2020/21 due temporary ac Options Tear long-term ac prevent home	n have worked commodation elessness whe ernative long-	ant number of during the Lod to enable the in the district.	single people ckdown period ese clients to n They are also e and enable h	placed in d. The Housing move into suitable working to	
Number of units delivered under the Next Steps Accommodation Programme	-	-	0	4			6 (Annual)	✓

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Long-term Empty Homes brought back into use	29	13	8	7			70 (Annual)	<b>√</b>
			homes back partnership v Hythe. The C identify long- return them t	into use in the with KCC. The p Council's Private term term emp	district through properties are e Sector Hous oty homes and nemes current	gh the No Use located in Fol sing Team are of to work with t	also working to	
Affordable homes delivered by the Council and its partners	3	4	27	0			80 (Annual)	<b>√</b>
			district. The h provider part low cost hom	tners, will help	re being deliv provide more on sites in Che	rered by the Co homes for affor riton and Sellin	n site in the ouncil's registered ordable rent and ndge. The homes	
Affordable homes for low cost home ownership delivered by the Council and its partners	0	0	0	0		,	32 (Annual)	Х
			See commen	at above				
Private sector homes improved as a result of intervention by the Council	33	66	54	74			200 (Annual)	
Council home new builds and acquisitions started on site	3	3	15	0			20 (Annual)	<b>√</b>
				n site so far in 2 nt in Folkeston t.	•			

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Percentage of properties that meet the decent homes standard	-	-	99.97%	99.97%			99% (Annual)	<b>√</b>
		The Decent Homes position remains at 99.97%; however, until the results of the stock survey have been analysed, reported figures are based upon a sample of surveyed properties only. By this calculation, only one block is reported to have a failing under Category 2 of the Decent Homes definition due to one of the key components being old (the roof listed building)						
% of major planning applications to be determined within statutory period (including any agreed extension of time)	75%	86%	100%	85.7%			60% (Quarterly)	<b>√</b>
% of minor applications to be determined within the statutory period (including any agreed extension of time)	78%	76%	81.94%	89.71%			70% (Quarterly)	<b>√</b>
% of other planning applications to be determined within statutory period (including any agreed extension of time)	93%	89%	89.88%	91.92%			85% (Quarterly)	<b>√</b>

#### Transparent, Stable, Accountable and Accessible

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target
Council tax collection	28.82% (Cumulative)	55.53% (Cumulative)	28.55% (Cumulative)	54.81% (Cumulative)			97.3% (Annual)	<b>√</b>
Business Rates collection rate	32.94% (Cumulative)	56.83% (Cumulative)	23.82% (Cumulative)	52.03% (Cumulative)			97.5% (Annual)	<b>√</b>
Increase take up of My Account and online transactions	-	-	14.16%	7.09%			15% (Annual)	<b>√</b>
			Since the launch of My Account in August 2020 a total of 24,219 customers overall have so far registered for the service.  In Quarter 1, a total of 7,355 customers have registered, a take up of 14.16% and in Quarter 2, a total of 3,683 customers have registered, a take up of 7.09%.					
All Freedom of Information / Environmental information Requests to be responded to within the statutory period of (20 working days or lawful extension).	64.8%	87.4%	87.52%	69.46%			90% (Monthly)	X
			Performance for both Quarter 1 and 2 has been below target whilst Case Management and Information Governance teams address some of the historic caseload which accrued over the past 18 months. These difficult cases have now been reduced significantly and we expect to see an upturn in compliance going into Quarter 4. Whilst resources have been a challenge during the past 12 months further cross training and recent recruitment is continuing to provide greater resilience to this area. In addition, further work is being undertaken on both process improvements and the development of the Staff Hub as the Information Governance Management system to yield more positive results going forward.  For context in Q1 and Q2 2020 the total number of requests received was 272 and for the same period in 2021 the number of requests received was 423					

#### Transparent, Stable, Accountable and Accessible

Description	Q1 2020-21 Comparison	Q2 2020-21 Comparison	Q1 Actual 2021-22	Q2 Actual 2021-22	Q3 Actual 2021-22	Q4 Actual 2021-22	Target	On Target	
All Subject Access Request responses to be provided within the statutory period (1 calendar month or lawful extension).	16.6%	88.8%	0%	0%			90% (Monthly)	Х	
			The increase in FOI/EIR caseload has had an impact on the ability to obtain the information for SARs and accurately redact them within the compliance period. Although they are not significant in volume (11 requests for Q1 & Q2) they can be complex and large with some requests requiring a manual review and redaction of over 1000 pages of documents. In addition to this we are also somewhat hampered by needing to liaise with 3rd parties to check if they have any objections to their data being disclosed. An action plan is being put in place to address these issues going forward and the reduction in the historic work as well as the cross training will free up time to improve compliance.						
Percentage of data breaches assessed within 72 hours to decide if it is reportable to the ICO.	-	-	100%	100%			100% (Monthly)	✓	
Percentage of reportable data breaches that were submitted to the ICO within 72 hours.	-	-	100%	100%			100% (Monthly)		

#### Online anytime at <u>www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk</u>

Register for 'My Account' - The easy way to access Council information:

- Pay your council tax and view your previous council tax bills
- Find your bin collection day
- See planning applications within a 500m radius of your registered property
- Report missed bins and dog fouling
- View a history of your council tax reductions and housing benefits
- View details of your local councillors.... and more!

To register and go find out more information about 'My Account' please visit: <a href="https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/myaccountinfo">www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/myaccountinfo</a>

It's clear, simple and fast and is also available on your tablet and mobile.

**Website**: <u>www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk</u> **Facebook**: FolkestoneandHytheDC

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