In the top bracket for services, too

Fareham Council has just been rated as 'Good' by the Audit Commission and is in the top 20% in the country in terms of services and management and has recently become debt-free, meaning it is not penalised by interest rates.

Projects and services which were particularly commended include

- the town centre developments such as the refurbishment of the shopping centre, the Henry Cort Sculpture Park and now Market Quay;
- economic development such as the Air Traffic Control Centre and attracting a number of hi-tech companies to the Cams Estate;
- environmental improvements to parks and open spaces;
- improvements to processing times for planning applications;
- a high recycling performance, with 22% of waste being recycled in 2002/03; and
- a significant level investment in community safety, such as CCTV cameras.

■ Conservative Leader Michael Howard congratulates the Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward on the Council's performance

A Strong Conservative Record: Much done; much more to come

Service improvements for 2004/2005 include:

- Enforcement team to issue fixed penalties for litter, dog fouling, fly tipping etc
- Parking charges frozen for third year running.
- Introduction of pay-on-foot for Civic Way and Osborn Road multi-storey car parks and for Market Quay meaning no more searching for change and guessing how long a ticket should be bought for
- Vandalism task force has £40,000 to spend on safety schemes like covert CCTV

■ Fareham campaigner Matthew Dartmouth at the Market Quay development due for completion in September

- Five new neighbourhood facilities for young people, including skate parks
- Provision of a cinema and other leisure outlets at Market Quay development. The car park should be ready for June, the Cinema in July with the whole scheme including leisure facilities and extra shops complete in September

Already implemented improvements including grants made by the Council include:

- New community centres in Whiteley and Portchester and a new youth wing at Titchfield
- Environmental improvements to Castle Street, Portchester and Sarisbury Green
- 100% rate relief for all charity shops
- Travel concessions for the elderly and disabled
- Replacement street nameplates
- Completing backlog of new community lighting schemes

Time to end the war on the motorist

The Government has been told to stop squeezing hard-working motorists with excessive fines and penalties that hurt some of the poorest people in society.

Conservative Transport Spokeswoman, Theresa May, said that the use of speed cameras had fallen into disrepute because people too often saw them as money-raising devices rather than useful tools in the fight for better road safety.

And she revealed that a Conservative Government would take down speed cameras that do nothing to contribute to road safety. "Both the AA and Britain's top Police Officer, Sir John Stevens, have said that speed cameras shouldn't be used simply to raise money. We agree, which is why we will only use them where they can genuinely help to make our roads safer," she said.

"Many people rely on and enjoy driving their cars. They shouldn't be penalised for doing so"
Theresa May

The plans to reduce the number of speed cameras come on top of Conservative proposals to introduce fairer speed limits across the country – raising the limit to 80 mph on key motorways but reducing it on Britain's most dangerous roads, particularly around schools. The Party has also said that cars carrying two or more people should be allowed to use bus lanes, which otherwise lie largely empty.

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