



# FELIXSTOWE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### **BUSINESS PLAN 2024-28**

A strategic vision for the four years ahead

Contact information:

- Website: [felixstowe.gov.uk](http://felixstowe.gov.uk)
- Twitter: @felixstowetc
- Facebook: @FelixstoweTownCouncil
- Address: Felixstowe Town Council, Town Hall, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG
- Phone: 01394 282086
- Email: [enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk)

### **Foreword**

Welcome to Felixstowe Town Council's Business Plan for 2024 – 2028, outlining our strategic objectives for the next four years. This plan reflects the Council's commitment to addressing challenges while advancing its vision of Felixstowe as **a thriving and dynamic community that welcomes all people to live, work and visit in a clean and safe environment.**

Following the May 2023 elections, the Council initiated the development of this plan through workshops and community input. The valuable suggestions and feedback received have shaped the priorities outlined in this document. After a period of public consultation from 22 March to 6 May 2024, the plan was finalised and adopted by the Council.

The Council extends its gratitude to all who participated in this process, especially the residents of Felixstowe. Your dedicated team of councillors and staff is eager to implement this plan, employing efficiency, innovation, and effectiveness to serve our community. While the objectives outlined here will guide our work, we remain open to new projects, challenges, and ideas. Community engagement is essential to our success, and we encourage your continued input and involvement.

Thank you for your support as we continue the journey to build a better Felixstowe.

Councillors and Staff of Felixstowe Town Council, May 2024

YOUR COUNCIL

Felixstowe Town Council consists of 16 Members representing five wards, elected every four years. In addition to meetings of the full Council, the Council delegates functions to several Committees:

- Finance & Governance Committee: Responsible for considering and monitoring the Council's finances and reviews the governance of the Council.
- Assets & Services Committee: Oversees the management of Council's of assets and services, such as its buildings, parks, allotments and the cemetery.
- Civic & Community Committee: Considers civic functions, community engagement, partnership working and the provision of grants.
- Planning & Environment Committee: Makes recommendations on planning applications and policies affecting local development to East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, and other relevant authorities.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend all Council and Committee meetings, typically held at the Town Hall. A 15-minute period is allocated for public participation, allowing members of the public to speak or ask questions. Detailed information about meeting schedules, agendas and decisions made are accessible on our website: [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk) Encouragement for public participation at Council and Committee meetings.

## **BUSINESS PLAN OBJECTIVES**

### **TAKE PRIDE IN PUBLIC SPACES & SERVICES**

- The Town Council places high importance on ensuring the exceptional quality of our town's public spaces and services. We are committed to investing in our community spaces and delivering excellent services, fostering partnerships with relevant agencies to maximise opportunities for Felixstowe.

### **ENABLE OUR COMMUNITIES**

- The Town Council is deeply rooted in the community, and engaging with local stakeholders is fundamental to our role. We are committed to collaborating with the community to identify and address local needs. Additionally, we will continue to provide financial support through our occasional and annual grants scheme.

### **CELEBRATE FELIXSTOWE**

- The Town Council will support initiatives aimed at promoting a vibrant Felixstowe, including its town centre, seafront, heritage, and culture.

### **PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

- Since declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, the Council has prioritised climate change action and environmental improvement. This Business Plan objective aims to deliver on that commitment.

## TAKE PRIDE IN PUBLIC SPACES & SERVICES

*Over the next four years, Felixstowe Town Council will...*

1. Have a voice in the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood planning consultation with the aim to protect as much open space as possible.
2. Keep some areas wild/nature reserve, continue planting new trees and promote wildlife through planting and management of suitable areas.
3. Promote our public spaces and encourage their use through the Town Council magazine and via social media.
4. Continue to improve the standard of local play areas.
5. Promote Community Action Days to clean areas of the town requiring a boost ie 'Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean'.
6. Plan for the extension and enhancement of Felixstowe Cemetery.
7. Consider opportunities for community gardens, providing local produce.
8. Consider areas for provision of benches.
9. Collaborate with local authority partners to develop a vision for the town centre.

## ENABLE OUR COMMUNITIES

*Over the next four years, Felixstowe Town Council will...*

1. Support all ages of our diverse community including working with young people and supporting the provision of youth groups and activities.
2. Promote community activities through our printed magazine, online and at Council meetings.
3. Promote grants to local community groups, through the Council and via Councillors working in the community and with local stakeholders/partners.
4. Review and upgrade local CCTV, working with a range of partners to implement and provide this alongside other initiatives to ensure the town remains a safe place.
5. Connect the Town Hall with our community by making it more accessible.
6. Promote and support sports and health projects working with stakeholders and partners.
7. Celebrate our community heroes through the annual Civic Award Scheme.

## CELEBRATE FELIXSTOWE

*Over the next four years, Felixstowe Town Council will...*

1. Encourage and support local community groups to provide a range of events via grants. Requesting promotion of Felixstowe Town Council as a key stakeholder to encourage other groups/events to apply.
2. Promote & support initiatives with positive impact on tourism and the town centre – in particular continuing to support Tourist Information Volunteers.
3. Help to support Love Felixstowe and promote a 'Love Green Felixstowe' campaign.
4. Promote and continue to support the Blue and Green Flags.
5. Work with local authority partners to improve the gateway to the town.
6. Celebrate and champion the unique opportunities of our seafront and work with partners to improve transport links from the Town Centre to the Seafront.

7. Support cultural activities that foster civic pride.
8. Promote and protect Felixstowe's heritage and participate in Heritage Open Days to enable the community to see inside the Town Hall.

## PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

*Over the next four years, Felixstowe Town Council will...*

1. Continue to deliver a proactive action plan targeted at reducing our corporate environmental impact to meet our aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Further develop and widen the reach of the Climate Emergency Action Group including educating others on carbon literacy and promoting wider behaviour change.
3. Consider investment in energy saving projects at Council-owned buildings such as further insulation, solar panels and battery storage.
4. Improve standard of all parks and play areas, increasing biodiversity. Working in partnership for the parks that are not owned by us.
5. Continue to make grants available to support and encourage environmental initiatives.
6. Increase public awareness of positive actions that can be taken to reduce carbon footprint, promoting campaigns and encouraging local initiatives.
7. Help support opportunities for new and enhanced cycle and walking routes. Promote public transportation links by working with responsible appropriate authorities.
8. Support the provision of EV car charging points in Felixstowe.
9. Consider implementing a Neighbourhood Plan to focus on the environmental impact of developments and encourage homes to be built to green standard.

## MONITORING PROGRESS

The actions outlined in this Business Plan 2024 – 2028 will be regularly monitored to ensure their successful implementation in alignment with the Council's four main objectives. A comprehensive delivery plan will be developed, outlining how the Council intends to prioritise and achieve the objectives outlined in this Plan starting from May 2024. This plan will contribute to setting appraisal targets and facilitating performance management processes.

Progress will be evaluated by the Council's Finance & Governance Committee, and a summary of the progress made will be made available to the public through the Town Council's Annual Report. Additionally, the Council will maintain transparency by updating the public on its activities through various channels, including our seasonal magazine, website, and social media platforms.

For further information about our work, please visit our website [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk) or you can reach out to the Council directly via the contact details above.