

INTRODUCTION:

- Our State of the District report provides a snapshot of the current social, economic, environmental and health and well-being trends across our district. The report supports and informs local decision-making and setting of priorities. It also provides an overview for all those who currently, or wish to, live, work, or invest in the Dover district.
- To prepare the report, we collate information from a wide-range of data sources and bring it all together under nine chapter headings: Population Profile; Housing; Economy Business and Employment; Finance; Education and Skills; Health and Wellbeing; Deprivation and Poverty; Community Safety and Quality of Life.
- The report is a backward look at the overall state of the district highlighting data about the conditions and circumstances affecting people's lives. This is especially important during a national period of fragile economic recovery, major reductions in public spending and the unknown impact of Brexit negotiations.
- Our vision, as set out in the [Corporate Plan 2016-2020](#)¹, is to secure a prosperous future for the Dover district, which will be a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit. Taking stock of the "State of the District" allows us to take account of changes that are happening in the district so that we can see the effects of the work that we, and our partners, have been doing and where we need to channel resources to be able to help us achieve our vision.
- The report uses the latest data available at the time of drafting. However, there are often time lags and not all information is updated annually and different agencies update their information at different time periods during the year.

How to use the report

- The report is divided into chapters. Each chapter can be read alone or alongside one another. The strategic highlights contain a number of key facts from each of the chapters. We have added links throughout the report to where you can find additional information.
- The Census is a count of all people and households in the country and is conducted every 10 years. Every household must, by law, complete a census questionnaire and it is therefore a rich data source providing a detailed snapshot of the population and local characteristics. It also enables us to track changes in society over time. The data from the Census is not always repeated in the State of the District report – please see our [Census 2011](#)² webpage for a Dover District factsheet and ward-level findings.
- The English Indices of Deprivation is another dataset that provides a valuable source of information and was last conducted in 2015. Our 'Poverty and Deprivation' chapter includes a summary of the findings from this statistical release but our [Deprivation](#)³ webpage has more detailed information.

¹ dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Corporate-Plan.aspx

² dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Facts-and-Figures/Census-and-Statistics/Census-and-Statistics.aspx

³ dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Facts-and-Figures/Deprivation/Deprivation.aspx

Family of strategies and plans

a) Corporate Plan

- The [Corporate Plan 2016-2020](#)⁴ is our main strategic document, providing a framework for the delivery of services. It is a clear statement of our vision and priorities and provides the context for other strategies and plans that we produce.
- Directorates within the Council also prepare annual business plans, which set out their objectives for the coming year. These plans reflect the corporate priorities contained in our Corporate Plan, setting out how we intend to turn our vision into actions that achieve positive results. Quarterly monitoring reports to our public decision-making Cabinet set out how we are performing against Corporate and Business Plan objectives; you can find these on our [Performance Monitoring](#)⁵ webpage.

b) Medium Term Financial Plan

- The [Medium Term Financial Plan](#)⁶ is our key financial planning tool and underpins the strategic approach to financial planning. Although it spans a period of four years, we review the plan annually, and monitor it continuously during the year.

c) Local Plan

- The [Local Plan](#)⁷ sets out local planning policies and sets out the framework for development in the district. It addresses needs and opportunities across a number of themes, including housing, the economy, community facilities, infrastructure, and the environment.
- In March 2017, we took the decision to produce a new Local Plan to support housing and economic growth in the district between now and 2037. Local peoples' views are vital in shaping the local plan and we are committed to engaging with our residents throughout the process. We anticipate that Full Council will formally adopt the Local Plan in July 2020.
- Our [Annual Monitoring Report 2016/17](#)⁸ includes further details on the process of preparing the Local Plan and timescales.

⁴ dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Corporate-Plan.aspx

⁵ dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Performance.aspx

⁶ dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Financial-Information/Budgets--Accounts.aspx

⁷ dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/Plans-in-Progress/Local-Plan.aspx

⁸ dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/PDF/Authority-Monitoring-Report-2016-17.pdf