

Land at Queen Court Farm – Criteria for devolved services and assets

Strategic Alignment	The transfer supports the Strategic Plan 2024–2028 under the <i>Environment</i> pillar by enhancing green space, encouraging sustainable development, and supporting biodiversity and community involvement in environmental projects.
Financial Viability	Potential for low ongoing maintenance costs due to natural land use. Opportunity for external funding via environmental grants and community-led stewardship models (e.g. volunteer involvement). Avoidance of development costs due to retained green space.
Community Need and Benefit	According to the 2024 Residents' Survey, 25% of respondents value proximity to countryside. The land offers opportunities for recreation, wellbeing, environmental education, and biodiversity enhancement – all highly beneficial to the local community.
Legal and Governance Considerations	The transfer process can follow established protocols under asset transfer legislation. Governance can be managed via existing council committees with potential for partnership agreements with local groups.
Operational Capacity	Faversham Town Council has growing experience in managing green spaces. Scope to collaborate with volunteers and local environmental groups to reduce staffing/resource demands. Existing infrastructure (e.g., tree wardens, Friends groups) may support operations.
Sustainability and Long-term Management	The site can be maintained with minimal intervention as a nature reserve or meadow. Long-term management could be community-led with council oversight, integrating with biodiversity strategies and climate adaptation goals.
Risk Management	Key risk is environmental mismanagement, mitigated by clear policies, local stewardship, and monitoring. Legal liabilities can be addressed through insurance and risk assessments. Positive public perception reduces reputational risks.
Decision-making and Transparency	Decision to transfer would be made in open council. Updates can be shared through council communications, meetings, and the website to ensure accountability.

Louise Bareham
Town Clerk