

ITEM 10

Andover Vision

Report of the Chief Executive

(Portfolio: Corporate)

Recommended:

That OSCOM notes the progress of the Andover Vision and endorses the approach being taken by the Council to renew the Vision.

SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Andover Vision.
- After a successful ten years in which a number of high profile projects have been delivered, the Vision has in recent times started to lose some momentum.
- In response to this, and following consultation with existing Andover Vision Board members, it was agreed that the Council would take a lead in facilitating and bringing together a new Vision with the local community.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Andover Vision. It will reflect on the Vision's story so far and set out the approaches being taken to reinvigorate the Vision for the next twenty years.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Vision came together in 2005 following the identification of a common agenda between the private sector (as articulated by Des Benjamin, Chief Executive of HSA) and the public sector (led by TVBC). That agenda was about enhancing the lives and prospects of the people of Andover and enriching the environment in which they live and work.
- 2.2 A public / private partnership was developed which included all of Andover's major employers, media outlets and public sector organisations as well as the town's MP, Sir George Young. Vision activities were coordinated by a Board chaired by the Leader of the Council who operated alongside the then Chief Executive of HSA, Des Benjamin, as Project Leader.
- 2.3 In late 2006 the Andover Vision document – *It's our time* - was distributed to all houses in the town. It contained an ambitious programme of projects for Andover for the period 2006–2009 and draft plans for the next 7 years (2010–16). Crucially, the Vision itself was not intended to be a delivery vehicle but to catalyse, support or promote the projects of others. On occasion, it sought to 'promote and float' a particular initiative – that is, to get it off the ground and then hand it over to others for the future.

- 2.4 All the major ‘first 3 year’ projects were delivered and a number of the ‘next 7 years’ projects were also underway. In order to ensure that the Vision could continue to make a meaningful contribution, 4 workstreams were established:
- Business and Enterprise
 - Education For All
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Passionate Participation
- 2.5 Each workstream was led by a volunteer Project Leader who developed a work programme and aimed to build a team of volunteers. This approach supported a range of relatively high profile events (eg. Heart Town, Prince’s Trust Team Programme and Pride of Andover).
- 2.6 Over recent years the Vision has started to lose some momentum due to capacity reducing, previous funding streams ending and a sense that the Vision’s future as a public / private partnership needed to be re-shaped and become a partnership which is driven more by the local community.
- 2.7 In response to this, the Council’s new Corporate Plan made provision for supporting the renewal of the Andover Vision. In December 2015 Andover Councillors came together to begin this process, which will see the Vision reinvigorated over the next twelve months.

3 Achievements of the Andover Vision

- 3.1 In 2006 the Andover Vision published the Vision document – *It’s our time* – which contained an ambitious programme of projects for the town. Over the last ten years the Vision has been able to achieve a large number of the projects listed and more, most notably:
- A new theatre, cinema and college for the town
 - An annual programme of town events and markets including the sports fairs and the Pride of Andover Awards
 - An annual Junior Graduation for Year 6 students
 - Delivery of key activities such as the Princes Trust Team Programme and the Heart Town initiative.

4 Renewing the Andover Vision

- 4.1 The Council’s new Corporate Plan has made provision for supporting the renewal of the Andover Vision. Following consultation with existing Andover Vision Board members, it was agreed that the Council would take a lead in facilitating and bringing together a new Vision with the local community.

- 4.2 Borough Councillors from across Andover have formed a working group which is chaired by Councillor North. The group has been working with officers to shape the process of how the Vision will be renewed. This has included reflecting on the successful work that has been undertaken as part of the Romsey Future project to see if any of the approaches and techniques that have been used could be adapted for use in Andover. Members have also been able to reflect on their own local action planning experiences and whether lessons can be learnt from those.
- 4.3 The programme for renewing the Vision involves the following key elements to be taken forward over the next twelve months:
- Delivery of a Community Stakeholder Workshop
 - Establish a small number of groups for a short period of time to further develop and test the ideas from the workshop
 - Undertake community engagement on the emerging ideas and priorities linking with events in the town throughout the summer
 - Launch the renewed Vision and action plan in April 2017
 - Where possible, try to achieve some quick wins along the way which will include a £5K project competition similar to the one that took place under Romsey Future.
- 4.4 The Community Stakeholder Workshop took place on Saturday April 9th. It was a very well attended event with seventy people from across a range of community groups and organisations coming together to share their ideas and aspirations for what the Vision can achieve in the future. The outcomes from the workshop will form the foundations for the next phases of the project.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Council's Corporate Plan – *Investing in Test Valley* – sets out ambitions to help more communities plan for their own needs which will result in local communities and organisations working together more closely on the issues that matter most. Andover Vision and Romsey Future are both examples of how this can happen across a larger community area such as our towns.
- 5.2 Supporting the community in developing these initiatives will unlock capacity to deliver projects, attract funding and help provide an evidence base which can guide future policy and strategies relating to the area.

Andover Vision has had a very successful ten years, however, this is now an important opportunity to work with the community to re-shape it to provide new momentum that will carry it forward for years to come.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	0		
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