

ITEM 10

Update on Romsey Future

Report of the Deputy Leader

Recommended:

That OSCOM endorses the direction of travel of the Romsey Future process.

SUMMARY:

This report outlines progress on the Romsey Future initiative since the Committee last considered the matter in February 2016.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting In February 2016 OSCOM endorsed the proposal that TVBC sign-up to the Romsey Future Vision document.
- 1.2 OSCOM noted at that time that a number of partner organisations were also being asked to sign-up to the document.

2 Background

- 2.1 Romsey Future is a process, established by the Council and its partners, to create a long term vision for the town. In particular, it was agreed that it would be important to have a document that helped deal with the changes that would inevitably come to the town as a consequence of the new Local Plan.
- 2.2 The town has many groups and organisations that are active within the community. It was agreed at the outset that it was important that Romsey Future should be a partnership project made up of the voluntary, business and statutory sectors. Romsey Future is providing a successful vehicle for these groups to work together on a regular basis to agree on shared priorities.
- 2.3 It is also providing an ongoing process that brings people together to help influence and shape the town for many years to come.

3. Progress

- 3.1 Since the OSCOM meeting in February the Council has now formally signed up to the vision document along with a number of other key organisations working in the town. These include a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations. The vision document itself was launched by the partners in June and is attached as Annex 1 for information.

- 3.2 OSCOM members will recall that Councillor Hatley, TVBC's lead on Romsey Future, established a Co-ordinating Group in 2014 to help develop the vision and main strategic aims based on community input. The Co-ordinating Group is made of representatives from organisations from across Romsey. Following the development of the vision document, the Co-ordinating Group has taken on the role of Programme Board. In the next phase of work its main role will be to co-ordinate the development of an action plan to underpin the vision document. It will then oversee progress against the action plan.
- 3.3 The areas of the action plan, based on the large scale community involvement exercises within the town, have previously been agreed. The Co-ordinating Group has now appointed an individual as lead for each work stream of the emerging action plan. These are shown at Annex 2. It can be seen that the lead individuals come from across the Romsey Future partnership and represent a diverse range of organisations.
- 3.4 Each lead has been asked to develop an initial feasibility study on the projects identified by the public. Specifically they have been asked to use a 'logic model' technique developed by the Department of Local Government and Communities to undertake a rigorous assessment of the project ideas. The model helps identify whether or not the project ideas remain viable and/or whether they will deliver on Romsey Future's ambitions. Project scoping documents, based on this work, will then be completed and actions plans developed to underpin them. In order to assist in this complex process, Romsey Future now has a project manager allocated to it from TVBC.
- 3.5 The scoping documents will be fully complete for the next public engagement event that will take place on 26th November. This will take the form of a "you said, we did" event. In the meantime each work stream area has been active in developing their area of work and where practical moving issues forward. These are briefly outlined below:

Tourism

Revd Canon Tim Sledge hosted a tourism conference in Romsey Abbey in April 2016. This conference was attended by more than 40 people who shared their ideas for establishing Romsey as a renowned tourist destination. A working group of people from across Romsey's tourism sector is using the conference outputs to develop an action plan for the tourism work stream. This will be presented to the Co-ordinating Group in September.

Living Well

Anne Meader, the lead for this work stream, hosted a Romsey health conference in June with attendance from a wide range of stakeholders. Outcomes from the conference are now being used for further consultation. A logic model has been agreed and an action plan developed to progress community wellbeing and health initiatives. A meeting of the Romsey Community Network group is being arranged to identify further community development opportunities and volunteering in in Romsey so that they can be progressed.

Environmental Risks

An outline business case is currently being developed by the Environment Agency for proposed flood alleviation works in Romsey. Subject to funding being available a scheme could commence in 2017.

Employment/Business

The logic model is currently being reviewed in light of the Government's new apprenticeship scheme which will be introduced in May 2017.

Town Centre Facilities and Infrastructure

TVBC officers are currently preparing a scoping on the feasibility work for this work stream. A report will be presented to Cabinet and the Romsey Future Members' group, in due course.

Cycling and walking

A logic model has been drafted. A meeting of the 'Getting Around' working group is being arranged to agree the logic model and assign a community lead for the work-stream.

Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan

A register of aspects to feed into the work of the Romsey Neighbourhood Planning Group is being drafted. Project initiation will begin when a decision is made on the options for addressing planning issues in the area.

Others

Logic models will be prepared over forthcoming weeks for the *Sustainability and Town Centre design work-streams*.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Since OSCOM last considered the position in respect of Romsey Future, good progress has been made. Activity under each work stream has continued and a sustainable structure to help develop the next phase of work has been established.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
<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:	2		
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