

Notice of Meeting

Council

A meeting of the Test Valley Borough Council will be held on

Date: Wednesday 17 April 2024

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8GL

when your attendance is required to consider the business set out in the agenda.



Head of Legal and Democratic Services

For further information or enquiries please contact:

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Legal and Democratic Service

Test Valley Borough Council,
Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road,
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SCHEME

If members of the public wish to address the meeting they should notify the Legal and Democratic Service at the Council's Beech Hurst office by noon on the working day before the meeting.

Council

Wednesday 17 April 2024

AGENDA

**The order of these items may change as a result of members
of the public wishing to speak**

- 1 Prayers**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Public Participation**
- 4 Declarations of Interest**
- 5 Minutes of the previous meeting 3 - 22**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 February 2024.
- 6 Mayor's Announcements**
- 7 To receive and adopt Committee reports 23 - 46**

To receive and, where necessary, adopt reports of Committees.
- 8 Questions under Rule 11.1**
- 9 Questions under Rule 11.2**
- 10 Notice of Motion - Rule 12**

ITEM 5

Minutes of the **Council**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1NT
on 29 February 2024 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor P Lashbrook
(Chairman)

Councillor G Bailey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor N Adams-King
Councillor I Andersen
Councillor K Brooks
Councillor Z Brooks - arrived at 17:40
Councillor J Budzynski
Councillor P Bundy
Councillor J Burnage
Councillor G Cooper
Councillor M Cooper
Councillor N Daas
Councillor C Donnelly
Councillor D Drew
Councillor K Dunleavey
Councillor M Flood
Councillor A Ford
Councillor S Gidley

Councillor L Gregori
Councillor S Hasselmann
Councillor R Hughes
Councillor I Jeffrey
Councillor A Johnston
Councillor R Kohli
Councillor L Lashbrook
Councillor M Leech - left at 19:08
Councillor N Lodge
Councillor S MacDonald
Councillor L Matthews
Councillor J Parker
Councillor T Swain
Councillor A Warnes
Councillor S Yalden

463

Prayers

Prayers were led by Reverend Waako.

The Mayor called for a one-minute silence to reflect on people across the world who were impacted by conflict.

464

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Dowden, C Dowden, Gillies, Gwynne, Neal, K North, P North, and Sangster.

465

Public Participation

Mr Burley had registered to speak in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme under item 7 - To Receive and Adopt Committee Reports and Item 11 – Regeneration programme and Financial Strategy.

Mr Vignaux, Dr Dougall and Mr Taylor had registered to speak in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme under item 14 – Notice of Motion Rule 12.

466 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

467 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 January 2024 were proposed by Councillor Adams-King and seconded by Councillor Flood.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 17 January 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

468 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Worshipful The Mayor of Test valley advised that the Borough Council had received the official portrait of His Majesty King Charles III from the Palace which was now displayed in the main chamber of the Guildhall, Andover.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the Commonwealth Day flag raising ceremonies would be held in Andover High Street and outside the FMC in Romsey on Monday 11 March from 9.50am. All Councillors were welcome to attend.

469 **Notice of Motion - Rule 12**

The Mayor moved agenda item 14 forward due to the number of members of the public who had registered to speak on this item.

In accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme, Mr Vignaux, Dr Dougall and Mr Taylor each made a statement on the motion as set out in the agenda.

Councillors asked the public speakers a number of questions on their statements which they responded to.

Council considered the following motion moved by Councillor Drew and seconded by Councillor Hasselman:

This Council strongly opposes Southern Water pumping wastewater into the River Test or its tributaries. The Council is therefore calling on Southern Water to fix the problem by improving its infrastructure more widely and at greater speed, and work with OFWAT and the Environment Agency to enable the required investment funding to be released. In addition, we are calling on all parties to inform and closely engage with affected communities and relevant agencies. Water quality must be monitored and transparency must be maintained by publishing all testing data promptly.

Upon being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

470 **To receive and adopt Committee reports**

470.1 **Minutes of Meetings**

The minutes of meetings were proposed by Councillor Adams-King and seconded by Councillor Flood.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the following Committees and Cabinet meetings be received:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 January 2024

General Purposes Committee - 8 January 2024

Northern Area Planning Committee - 25 January 2024

Southern Area Planning Committee - 30 January 2024

Cabinet - 31 January 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 February 2024

470.2 **To adopt recommendations from the following:**

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Adams-King and seconded by Councillor Flood.

Cabinet – 28 February 2024

470.2.1 **Capital Programme Update**

Resolved:

That the revised estimates and financing for the 2023/24 to 2025/26 Capital Programme, as shown in the Annex to the report, be approved.

470.2.2 **Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25**

Resolved:

- 1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25, as set out in the report, be approved.**
- 2. That the Minimum Revenue Provision policy, as shown in paragraph 4.5 of the report, be approved.**

3. That the Prudential Indicators, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, be approved.

470.2.3 Capital Strategy Update 2023/24 – 2028/29

Resolved:

That the Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2028/29 be approved.

470.2.4 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Proposals 2024/25

In accordance with the Council’s Public Participation Scheme, Mr Burley made a statement on the Revenue Budget and Council Tax Proposals 2024/25.

Councillors asked Mr Burley a number of questions on his statement which he responded to.

The Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder introduced the item by delivering her annual budget speech. A balanced budget had been achieved, no front line services had been cut and the proposed Council Tax increase was below the rate of inflation.

As required by law, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services took the vote on the original motion, Councillors voted as follows:

For	Against	Abstained
Adams-King	Gregori	Burnage
Andersen	Hughes	G Cooper
Bailey		M Cooper
K Brooks		Dunleavey
Z Brooks		Daas
Budzynski		Ford
Bundy		Gidley
Donnelly		Kohli
Drew		Parker
Flood		Warnes
Jeffrey		Yalden
Johnston		
L Lashbrook		
P Lashbrook		
Leech		
Lodge		
MacDonald		
Matthews		
Neal		
Swain		

Resolved:

1. That the Forecast for 2023/24, as set out in Column 3 of Annex 1 to the report, be noted.
2. That the Income Generation Proposals, Savings Options and Revenue Pressures, as set out in Annexes 2 and 3 to the report, be approved.
3. That the transfers to or from reserves, as detailed in paragraph 4.34 of the report, be approved.
4. That subject to recommendations 2 and 3 above and taking due regard of the Head of Finance and Revenues' comments in Annex 7 to the report, the budget for 2024/25, as set out in Column 6 of Annex 1 to the report, be approved.
5. That subject to recommendations 2, 3 and 4 above, the revenue estimates for each Service contained in Annex 6 to the report be approved.
6. That a Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25 of £11,012,693 be approved.
7. That a Special Expenses Levy of £343,604 be made in respect of the area of Andover to cover the cost of providing burial grounds, sports grounds and playgrounds.
8. That a general precept of £8,532,991 be levied for the year 2024/25.
9. That the Medium Term Forecast, contained in Annex 5 to the report, be noted.
10. That a Band D Council Tax, excluding Parishes and Special Expenses, of £163.91 in 2024/25 be approved.

471 To adopt a resolution relating to the Council Tax for 2024/2025

The Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder presented details of the Council Tax for 2024/25 and proposed an alteration to the motion to replace the figure shown for Andover Town Council on page 103 from £226.17 to £206.32. The meeting's consent was signalled without discussion.

The Worshipful the Mayor reminded Councillors that a recorded vote was required on this item. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services took the vote, Members voted as follows:

For	Against	Abstained
Adams-King	Gregori	Burnage
Andersen	Hughes	G Cooper
Bailey		M Cooper

K Brooks		Dunleavey
Z Brooks		Daas
Budzynski		Ford
Bundy		Gidley
Donnelly		Kohli
Drew		Parker
Flood		Warnes
Jeffrey		Yalden
Johnston		
L Lashbrook		
P Lashbrook		
Lodge		
MacDonald		
Matthews		
Neal		
Swain		

Resolved:

1. That approval is noted of the revised revenue forecast for the year 2023/2024 and the revenue estimates for the year 2024/2025, together with the revised capital programme for the year 2023/2024 and the capital programme for the year 2024/2025.
2. That for the purposes of Section 35(2) (d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act), the sum of £343,604, being the aggregate sum of expenses in relation to burial grounds, sports grounds and playgrounds incurred by the Council in performing in the parish of Andover the functions not performed by the Town Council, shall be treated as Special Expenses and any expenditure other than the £343,604 herein specified shall be treated as general expenses. The Special Expenses sum equates to an amount of £19.85 per Band D Council Tax.
3. That it be noted that the Head of Finance & Revenues has calculated the Council Tax Base for 2024/2025 for the whole Borough area as 52,059 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act) and, in those parts of its area to which a Parish/Town precept relates, as per the table below:

Parish of	Tax Base	Parish of	Tax Base
Abbotts Ann	637	Lockerley	370
Ampfield	915	Longparish	351
Amport	562	Longstock	225
Andover Town	17,310	Melchet Park & Plaitford	132
Appleshaw	274	Michelmersh & Timsbury	456
Ashley	42	Monxton	140

Awbridge	555	Mottisfont	150
Barton Stacey	405	Nether Wallop	415
Bossington	23	North Baddesley	2,531
Braishfield	371	Nursling & Rownhams	2,692
Broughton	568	Over Wallop	814
Bullington	64	Penton Grafton	354
Charlton	865	Penton Mewsey	179
Chilbolton	535	Quarley	77
Chilworth	731	Romsey Town	8,330
East Dean	93	Sherfield English	349
East Tytherley	94	Shipton Bellinger	512
Enham Alamein	254	Smannell	153
Facombe	47	Stockbridge	349
Fyfield	136	Tangley	301
Parish of	Tax Base	Parish of	Tax Base
Goodworth Clatford	419	Thrupton	290
Grateley	265	Upper Clatford	643
Houghton	246	Valley Park	2,987
Hurstbourne Tarrant	393	Vernham Dean	285
Kimpton	167	Wellow	1,570
King's Somborne	743	West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt	303
Leckford	69	Wherwell	252
Linkenholt	25	Total	52,059
Little Somborne	41		

4. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/2025 in accordance with Sections 31, 34 and 35 of the Act and subsequent regulations:

- 4(a) £133,218,927 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish/Town Councils.
- 4(b) £122,206,234 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- 4(c) £11,012,693 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for

the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).

4(d) £211.54 being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R), divided by 3 above (Item T), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish/Town precepts).

4(e) £2,479,722 being the aggregate amount of all special items (the amount at 2 above and Parish/Town precepts) referred to in Section 35(1) of the Act.

4(f) £163.91 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by 3 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish/Town precept relates.

4(g) Part of the Council's area:

Parish of	£	Parish of	£
Abbotts Ann	231.81	Melchet Park & Plaitford	192.70
Ampfield	212.84	Michelmersh & Timsbury	211.06
Amport	211.95	Monxton	221.05
Andover Town	226.17	Mottisfont	218.91
Appleshaw	218.65	Nether Wallop	268.37
Awbridge	188.50	North Baddesley	222.25
Barton Stacey	219.45	Nursling & Rownhams	190.66
Braishfield	227.59	Over Wallop	215.51
Broughton	216.48	Penton Grafton	206.28
Bullington	209.22	Penton Mewsey	230.95
Charlton	210.15	Quarley	204.82
Chilbolton	219.61	Romsey Town	223.59
Chilworth	211.79	Sherfield English	195.43
East Dean	201.54	Shipton Bellinger	226.41
East Tytherley	211.09	Smannell	191.23
Enham Alamein	198.04	Stockbridge	233.59
Fyfield	230.09	Tangley	213.74
Goodworth Clatford	239.06	Thrupton	224.25
Grateley	201.65	Upper Clatford	225.73
Houghton	241.15	Valley Park	177.30
Hurstbourne	210.98	Vernham Dean	213.03

Tarrant			
Kimpton	223.79	Wellow	218.55
King's Somborne	256.10	West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt	214.41
Lockerley	225.14	Wherwell	205.58
Longparish	221.73	All other parts of the Council's area	163.91
Longstock	203.91		

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the Council Tax Base for that part of the Council's area, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

4(h) Part of the Council's area:

Valuation Bands

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parish of								
Abbotts Ann	154.54	180.30	206.06	231.81	283.32	334.84	386.35	463.62
Ampfield	141.89	165.55	189.19	212.84	260.13	307.44	354.73	425.68
Amport	141.30	164.85	188.40	211.95	259.05	306.15	353.25	423.90
Andover Town	137.54	160.48	183.39	206.32	252.16	298.02	343.86	412.64
Appleshaw	145.76	170.07	194.36	218.65	267.23	315.83	364.41	437.30
Awbridge	125.66	146.62	167.56	188.50	230.38	272.28	314.16	377.00
Barton Stacey	146.30	170.69	195.07	219.45	268.21	316.98	365.75	438.90
Braishfield	151.72	177.02	202.30	227.59	278.16	328.74	379.31	455.18
Broughton	144.32	168.38	192.43	216.48	264.58	312.69	360.80	432.96
Bullington	139.48	162.73	185.98	209.22	255.71	302.21	348.70	418.44
Charlton	140.10	163.45	186.80	210.15	256.85	303.55	350.25	420.30
Chilbolton	146.40	170.81	195.21	219.61	268.41	317.22	366.01	439.22
Chilworth	141.19	164.73	188.26	211.79	258.85	305.92	352.98	423.58
East Dean	134.36	156.76	179.15	201.54	246.32	291.11	335.90	403.08

East Tytherley	140.72	164.19	187.64	211.09	257.99	304.91	351.81	422.18
Enham Alamein	132.02	154.04	176.04	198.04	242.04	286.06	330.06	396.08
Fyfield	153.39	178.96	204.53	230.09	281.22	332.35	383.48	460.18
Goodworth Clatford	159.37	185.94	212.50	239.06	292.18	345.31	398.43	478.12
Grateley	134.43	156.84	179.25	201.65	246.46	291.27	336.08	403.30
Houghton	160.76	187.57	214.36	241.15	294.73	348.33	401.91	482.30
Hurstbourne Tarrant	140.65	164.10	187.54	210.98	257.86	304.75	351.63	421.96
Kimpton	149.19	174.06	198.93	223.79	273.52	323.25	372.98	447.58
King's Somborne	170.73	199.19	227.65	256.10	313.01	369.92	426.83	512.20
Lockerley	150.09	175.11	200.13	225.14	275.17	325.20	375.23	450.28
Longparish	147.82	172.46	197.10	221.73	271.00	320.28	369.55	443.46
Longstock	135.94	158.60	181.26	203.91	249.22	294.54	339.85	407.82
Melchet Park & Plaitford	128.46	149.88	171.29	192.70	235.52	278.35	321.16	385.40
Michelpersh & Timsbury	140.70	164.16	187.61	211.06	257.96	304.87	351.76	422.12
Monxton	147.36	171.93	196.49	221.05	270.17	319.30	368.41	442.10
Mottisfont	145.94	170.27	194.59	218.91	267.55	316.20	364.85	437.82
Nether Wallop	178.91	208.74	238.55	268.37	328.00	387.65	447.28	536.74
North Baddesley	148.16	172.87	197.56	222.25	271.63	321.03	370.41	444.50
Nursling & Rownhams	127.10	148.30	169.48	190.66	233.02	275.40	317.76	381.32
Over Wallop	143.67	167.62	191.57	215.51	263.40	311.29	359.18	431.02
Penton Grafton	137.52	160.44	183.36	206.28	252.12	297.96	343.80	412.56
Penton Mewsey	153.96	179.63	205.29	230.95	282.27	333.60	384.91	461.90
Quarley	136.54	159.31	182.06	204.82	250.33	295.85	341.36	409.64
Romsey Town	149.06	173.91	198.75	223.59	273.27	322.96	372.65	447.18
Sherfield English	130.28	152.01	173.72	195.43	238.85	282.29	325.71	390.86

Shipton Bellinger	150.94	176.10	201.26	226.41	276.72	327.04	377.35	452.82
Smannell	127.48	148.74	169.98	191.23	233.72	276.22	318.71	382.46
Stockbridge	155.72	181.69	207.64	233.59	285.49	337.41	389.31	467.18
Tangley	142.49	166.25	189.99	213.74	261.23	308.74	356.23	427.48
Thruxton	149.50	174.42	199.34	224.25	274.08	323.92	373.75	448.50
Upper Clatford	150.48	175.57	200.65	225.73	275.89	326.06	376.21	451.46
Valley Park	118.20	137.90	157.60	177.30	216.70	256.10	295.50	354.60
Vernham Dean	142.02	165.69	189.36	213.03	260.37	307.71	355.05	426.06
Wellow	145.70	169.99	194.27	218.55	267.11	315.68	364.25	437.10
West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt	142.94	166.77	190.59	214.41	262.05	309.70	357.35	428.82
Wherwell	137.05	159.90	182.74	205.58	251.26	296.95	342.63	411.16
All other parts of the Council's area	109.27	127.49	145.70	163.91	200.33	236.76	273.18	327.82

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which, in that proportion, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. That in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Act, the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for the year 2024/2025 is not excessive.
6. That the following details in respect of precept authorities are noted. These figures are based on anticipated budget amounts that will be approved by the various preceptors between the publication of this agenda and the Council meeting. Any changes to the figures below will be reported accordingly.

6(a) For the year 2024/2025, the Hampshire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,022.16	1,192.52	1,362.88	1,533.24	1,873.96	2,214.68	2,555.40	3,066.48

- 6(b) For the year 2024/2025, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
174.31	203.36	232.41	261.46	319.56	377.66	435.77	522.92

- 6(c) For the year 2024/2025, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
55.23	64.43	73.64	82.84	101.25	119.66	138.07	165.68

7. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4(h) and 6(a), 6(b) and 6(c) above, the Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for each of its areas for the year 2024/2025 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parish of								
Abbotts Ann	1406.24	1640.61	1874.99	2109.35	2578.09	3046.84	3515.59	4218.70
Ampfield	1393.59	1625.86	1858.12	2090.38	2554.90	3019.44	3483.97	4180.76
Amport	1393.00	1625.16	1857.33	2089.49	2553.82	3018.15	3482.49	4178.98

Andover Town	1389.24	1620.79	1852.32	2083.86	2546.93	3010.02	3473.10	4167.72
Appleshaw	1397.46	1630.38	1863.29	2096.19	2562.00	3027.83	3493.65	4192.38
Awbridge	1377.36	1606.93	1836.49	2066.04	2525.15	2984.28	3443.40	4132.08
Barton Stacey	1398.00	1631.00	1864.00	2096.99	2562.98	3028.98	3494.99	4193.98
Braishfield	1403.42	1637.33	1871.23	2105.13	2572.93	3040.74	3508.55	4210.26
Broughton	1396.02	1628.69	1861.36	2094.02	2559.35	3024.69	3490.04	4188.04
Bullington	1391.18	1623.04	1854.91	2086.76	2550.48	3014.21	3477.94	4173.52
Charlton	1391.80	1623.76	1855.73	2087.69	2551.62	3015.55	3479.49	4175.38
Chilbolton	1398.10	1631.12	1864.14	2097.15	2563.18	3029.22	3495.25	4194.30
Chilworth	1392.89	1625.04	1857.19	2089.33	2553.62	3017.92	3482.22	4178.66
East Dean	1386.06	1617.07	1848.08	2079.08	2541.09	3003.11	3465.14	4158.16
East Tytherley	1392.42	1624.50	1856.57	2088.63	2552.76	3016.91	3481.05	4177.26
Enham Alamein	1383.72	1614.35	1844.97	2075.58	2536.81	2998.06	3459.30	4151.16
Fyfield	1405.09	1639.27	1873.46	2107.63	2575.99	3044.35	3512.72	4215.26
Goodworth Clatford	1411.07	1646.25	1881.43	2116.60	2586.95	3057.31	3527.67	4233.20
Grateley	1386.13	1617.15	1848.18	2079.19	2541.23	3003.27	3465.32	4158.38
Houghton	1412.46	1647.88	1883.29	2118.69	2589.50	3060.33	3531.15	4237.38
Hurstbourne Tarrant	1392.35	1624.41	1856.47	2088.52	2552.63	3016.75	3480.87	4177.04
Kimpton	1400.89	1634.37	1867.86	2101.33	2568.29	3035.25	3502.22	4202.66
King's Somborne	1422.43	1659.50	1896.58	2133.64	2607.78	3081.92	3556.07	4267.28
Lockerley	1401.79	1635.42	1869.06	2102.68	2569.94	3037.20	3504.47	4205.36
Longparish	1399.52	1632.77	1866.03	2099.27	2565.77	3032.28	3498.79	4198.54
Longstock	1387.64	1618.91	1850.19	2081.45	2543.99	3006.54	3469.09	4162.90
Melchet Park & Plaitford	1380.16	1610.19	1840.22	2070.24	2530.29	2990.35	3450.40	4140.48
Michelmersh & Timsbury	1392.40	1624.47	1856.54	2088.60	2552.73	3016.87	3481.00	4177.20
Monxton	1399.06	1632.24	1865.42	2098.59	2564.94	3031.30	3497.65	4197.18
Mottisfont	1397.64	1630.58	1863.52	2096.45	2562.32	3028.20	3494.09	4192.90

Nether Wallop	1430.61	1669.05	1907.48	2145.91	2622.77	3099.65	3576.52	4291.82
North Baddesley	1399.86	1633.18	1866.49	2099.79	2566.40	3033.03	3499.65	4199.58
Nursling & Rownhams	1378.80	1608.61	1838.41	2068.20	2527.79	2987.40	3447.00	4136.40
Over Wallop	1395.37	1627.93	1860.50	2093.05	2558.17	3023.29	3488.42	4186.10
Penton Grafton	1389.22	1620.75	1852.29	2083.82	2546.89	3009.96	3473.04	4167.64
Penton Mewsey	1405.66	1639.94	1874.22	2108.49	2577.04	3045.60	3514.15	4216.98
Quarley	1388.24	1619.62	1850.99	2082.36	2545.10	3007.85	3470.60	4164.72
Romsey Town	1400.76	1634.22	1867.68	2101.13	2568.04	3034.96	3501.89	4202.26
Sherfield English	1381.98	1612.32	1842.65	2072.97	2533.62	2994.29	3454.95	4145.94
Shipton Bellinger	1402.64	1636.41	1870.19	2103.95	2571.49	3039.04	3506.59	4207.90
Smannell	1379.18	1609.05	1838.91	2068.77	2528.49	2988.22	3447.95	4137.54
Stockbridge	1407.42	1642.00	1876.57	2111.13	2580.26	3049.41	3518.55	4222.26
Tangley	1394.19	1626.56	1858.92	2091.28	2556.00	3020.74	3485.47	4182.56
Thrupton	1401.20	1634.73	1868.27	2101.79	2568.85	3035.92	3502.99	4203.58
Upper Clatford	1402.18	1635.88	1869.58	2103.27	2570.66	3038.06	3505.45	4206.54
Valley Park	1369.90	1598.21	1826.53	2054.84	2511.47	2968.10	3424.74	4109.68
Vernham Dean	1393.72	1626.00	1858.29	2090.57	2555.14	3019.71	3484.29	4181.14
Wellow	1397.40	1630.30	1863.20	2096.09	2561.88	3027.68	3493.49	4192.18
West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt	1394.64	1627.08	1859.52	2091.95	2556.82	3021.70	3486.59	4183.90
Wherwell	1388.75	1620.21	1851.67	2083.12	2546.03	3008.95	3471.87	4166.24
All other parts of the Council's area	1360.97	1587.80	1814.63	2041.45	2495.10	2948.76	3402.42	4082.90

The meeting was suspended from 19:19 to 19:31 to allow for a comfort break.

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Questions under Rule 11.1

Councillor Geoff Cooper asked a question in relation to the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 January 2024, minute number 408 – Notion of Motion – Rule 12. Councillor Geoff Cooper asked whether the Chief Executive had written to the CEO of Aster Group outlining the Council's concerns and whether he had received a response.

Councillor Adams-King responded to confirm that the Chief Executive had written the letter, but no response had been received to date. Councillor Adams-King further advised that he understood Aster were now looking to assess the maintenance of sewage treatment plants in their ownership to review whether there was outstanding maintenance that should have been undertaken and consider next steps.

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Questions under Rule 11.2

Councillor Yalden asked the Recycling and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder the following question:

'As the Councillor is aware, there are 24 recycling centres in the HWRC network of which 12 are under consultation for closure. Hampshire County Council has stated that Casbrook recycling centre at Romsey will be closed unless there is significant investment. Council leader Rob Humby said: "We currently have 24 HWRCs and we think that's more than any other shire county. He said "We truly believe most of the residents of Hampshire are law abiding and will not fly-tip." However, as you can imagine residents are very angry about these proposals. Will TVBC formally request via the current consultation that HCC retains and upgrades Casbrook Common HWRC?'

Councillor Drew responded to confirm that the Council did not support the closure of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre located at Bunny Lane, Romsey. He noted that it was an important and essential facility that was valued by residents based in the south of the borough and that closing the site would cause an inconvenience to residents who, in many cases, would have to travel much further afield to dispose of their waste.

Councillor Drew further advised that the Council would be making this clear in the formal consultation response to the County Council and thanked Councillor Yalden for her question.

Councillor Yalden asked a supplementary question expressing concern that the closure of the site could lead to an increase in fly tipping and a reduction in the Council's recycling rate and that if the centre should be closed would the Borough Council consider assisting with funding to allow the centre to remain open and to make improvements to the facilities available?

Councillor Drew responded that he felt that most residents would not fly tip should the centre close and that the recycling rates at the centre were unlikely to impact on the Council's own recycling rate as it was owned and operated by Hampshire County

Council. He further advised that he would not be supportive of the Council investing funding in the Household Waste and Recycling Centre located at Bunny Lane, Romsey.

Councillor Drew noted that it was vital that all Councillors made their own representations to the consultation and encouraged their communities to do so to.

Councillor Parker asked *the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder the following question:*

'Could the portfolio holder please advise us as to when the report from the consultants conducting the review of tourism in Test Valley will be made available to members?'

Councillor Swain responded that the outcomes of the report were presented to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee roundtable on 22 November 2023 where the consultant outlined the outcome of the study and what actions could be undertaken to best support the tourism sector in the borough. Councillor Swain confirmed that the tourism review report would be made available on a confidential basis to Councillors in the next Councillor Bulletin.

Councillor Parker asked a supplementary question asking what the timetable was for the recommendations of the tourism review being considered by Cabinet?

Councillor Swain responded that the timetable was not yet confirmed but details would be brought forward once known.

Councillor Parker asked the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder the following question:

'A recent report from the Electoral Reform Society suggests that as many as 11,696 voters could be missing from the electoral roll for Romsey and Southampton North constituency. Does the portfolio holder believe this figure to be reasonably accurate and, if so, what is being done to increase voter registration?'

Councillor Lodge responded to state that he did not believe the figure to be accurate and that it was unclear what figures the Electoral Reform Society had used, but it was likely that they had scaled national data. Consideration of locally available data showed that there were 55,144 electors registered to vote in parliamentary elections for the constituency with the Office for National Statistics census figures from 2021 suggesting there were 59,187 people aged 18 and over living within that area, which would include residents of all nationalities. Therefore, the figure was likely to be significantly lower.

The council undertook an extensive range of activities to encourage voter registrations including an annual canvass, sending empty property poll cards and leaflets with annual council tax bills, registering people over the phone if they contact the Council to say they have recently moved and working with colleagues in communities to ensure information on registering for elections was available.

Councillor Parker asked a supplementary question enquiring as to whether Southampton City Council, who were responsible for two areas within the parliamentary constituency outside of Test valley, carried out the same number of initiatives and activities to encourage voter registration?

Councillor Lodge responded that the Council had no authority over those two areas within the Southampton City Council boundary and he was therefore unable to advise on the work they undertook, but that Councillor Parker could contact them asking for details.

Councillor Gidley asked that Portfolio holder for Climate Emergency and Countryside the following question:

‘Since the beginning of 2023, how many reports of instances or complaints of pollution in Test Valley’s waterways have been brought to the attention of the Portfolio holder and what action has been taken as a result’.

Councillor Adams-King responded as the relevant Portfolio Holder with responsibility for environmental Health. He responded to confirm that the control and regulation of the pollution of waterways lies with the Environment Agency (EA).

The EA did not have a statutory responsibility to report pollution incidents to the Borough Council. Since the beginning of 2023 the EA had however reported two incidents of pollution by Southern Water, to the Council one of which being the recent incident which occurred on the River Test at Fullerton, this week. The incident was reported to him as the relevant portfolio holder, along with the Overview and Scrutiny chairman and local ward members.

The Council had no authority to take action against Southern Water. However, he was pleased to say that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (LRF) had taken up a number of operational issues up with Southern Water this week. Due to the LRF’s scale and membership, it was the Council’s best chance of getting action from Southern Water.

Councillor Gidley asked a supplementary question to note that she did not believe there had only been two incidents and asked what assurances there were that Southern Water and the EA were reporting what was necessary?

Councillor Adams-King responded that the figure he had reported represented all reports from the EA to the Borough Council but acknowledged this was unlikely to be all incidents that had occurred. He noted that obtaining information from the EA was challenging with further work to understand the number of incidents along with other issues being investigated by the LRF.

Councillor Geoff Cooper asked the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following question:

‘Following Councillor Neil Gwynne’s motion of November 2022 with amendments from Councillor Adams-King, which was passed by this Council, how many reports from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency and Countryside regarding instances or reports of pollution have been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee?’

And in light of recent events involving Southern Water, has there been any progress by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in summoning the Chair of Southern Water to appear before the committee, to answer for his company’s poor lack of service to residents, including losses of supply and data breaches and for Southern Water’s persistent environmental vandalism of our rivers and waterways?’

Councillor Jeffrey responded to confirm that both Southern Water and the Environment Agency had been invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to discuss incidents of pollution and general issues of Southern Water’s performance in Test Valley. The Council had not received a response from Southern Water however, the Environment Agency had indicated that it may send a representative to a future meeting although there had been no confirmation of when this might be. Councillor Jeffrey noted that the committee did not have the power to summons either of the agencies to attend one of its meetings. Councillor Jeffrey would continue to pursue the invitation to both agencies to attend a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Geoff Cooper asked a supplementary question as to whether the request for attendance by the CEO of Southern Water could be broadened to allow an alternative representative from the organisation?

Councillor Jeffrey responded to confirm that he would of course welcome any representative from Southern Water to a meeting of the Committee.

474 **Regeneration Programme and Financial Strategy**

In accordance with the Council’s Public Participation Scheme, Mr Burley made a statement on the Regeneration Programme and Financial Strategy.

Councillors asked Mr Burley a number of questions on his statement which he responded to.

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships (North) which considered the priorities and funding strategy for the delivery of the regeneration programme for Romsey and Andover town centres.

The report set out the background of the masterplans approved for both town centres and highlighted four priority projects which had been identified and well as considering the financial resources available to the Council to meet the forecast cost of the projects, setting out a range of potential funding delivery mechanisms.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Flood and seconded by Councillor Adams-King.

Resolved:

1. To approve the regeneration priority projects as identified in section 3 of the report.
2. To approve the funding strategy for the regeneration programme, as outlined in section 4 of the report.
3. That £2M be added to the Capital Programme for architectural services for the Romsey Bus Station redevelopment, as set out in paragraph 7.5 of the report, to be funded from the Capital Receipts Reserve and that officers be authorised to procure the works set out in paragraph 3.13 of the report to deliver this.
4. That £3M be added to the budget for the creation of the linear riverside park at Western Avenue, as set out in paragraph 7.3 of the report, to be funded from the Capital Receipts Reserve.
5. That the funding sources identified in paragraph 4.30 be approved for delivery of the regeneration projects identified in the report, in respect of:
 - Levelling Up Funding
 - Capital receipts from the disposal of assets
 - Use of Capital Receipts Reserve balances
 - Use of Regeneration Reserve balances
 - Use of Community Infrastructure Levy contributions

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Broadcasting Committee Reports

Consideration was given to a report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder which considered the work undertaken by the Member and Community Development Group to consider options available for the broadcasting of the Council's Democratic meetings.

The Member and Community Development Group had agreed principles for any broadcasting system which had been used in considering the options available to provide a live stream of Council meetings to allow members of the public to access meetings without attending in person.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Lodge and seconded by Councillor Adams-King.

Councillor Daas proposed an amendment to the second recommendation as set out in the report, to remove the current wording and include that the Council commits to section 5.18 of the report – option 2 – to install an audio only solution in all 4 current meeting venues. Councillor Gregori seconded the proposed amendment.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Resolved:

- 1. That the work undertaken by the Member and Community Development Group to investigate the implications of broadcasting the Council's Democratic meetings as set out in the report be noted.**
- 2. That the Council commits to paragraph 5.18 of the report – Option 2 – to install an audio only solution in all 4 current meeting venues.**

476

Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader which set out the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25. The Council was required in accordance with section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 to prepare and publish an annual Pay Policy Statement.

As a minimum, the pay policy statement must set out the Council's policies for the financial year relating to:

- The remuneration of its chief officers,
- The remuneration of its lowest paid employees,
- The relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.

The Pay Policy Statement attached as an annex to the report assembled the required statutory information from the Council's existing policies and presented them as a single document to meet the requirements of the Localism Act.

Councillor Adams-King proposed, and Councillor Flood seconded the recommendation.

Resolved:

That the Pay Policy Statement, attached at the Annex to the report, be approved.

(The meeting terminated at 8.49 pm)

ITEM 7 To receive minutes and, where necessary, adopt reports of Committees

(Some reports may involve the disclosure of exempt information. If the Council wishes to debate them, for each individual case the Council will need to adopt a suitable motion).

7.1 To receive the minutes of the following meetings:

7.1.1 [Cabinet](#) – 28 February 2024

7.1.2 [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) – 6 March 2024

7.1.3 [Southern Area Planning Committee](#) - 12 March 2024

7.1.4 [Audit Committee](#) - 18 March 2024

7.1.5 [Northern Area Planning Committee](#) – 28 March 2024

7.1.6 [Southern Area Planning Committee](#) - Southern Area Planning Committee – 2 April 2024

7.1.7 [Cabinet](#) – 3 April 2024

7.2 To adopt recommendations from the following:

7.2.1 [Audit Committee 18 March 2024](#)

7.2.1.1 [Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 \(Appendix A\)](#)

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Finance and Revenues which sought approval for the Annual Governance Statement, which will accompany the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

Best practice requires that the approval of this Statement is considered separately from the Statement of Accounts, although both are published together each year.

The Annual Governance Statement is part of the framework for delivering good governance in local authorities. The Statement is signed by both the Leader and Chief Executive and is published with the Statement of Accounts each year to demonstrate a commitment to the continuous review and development of the Council's governance arrangements.

Following a request from the Committee, Officers will investigate whether there is an official 'lessons learnt' document in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The following recommendation was proposed by Councillor Hasselmann and seconded by Councillor Hughes.

Recommended to Council:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 be approved and that the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council.

7.2.2 Cabinet – 3 April 2024

7.2.2.1 Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds – Community Projects Reserve (Appendix B)

Consideration was given to a report of the Planning Portfolio Holder which set out a summary of the bids received during the most recent round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bidding.

Four projects were submitted which were evaluated against the CIL Bid Assessment Protocol. Each of the projects were evaluated with recommendations for funding proposed for Picket Piece Village Hall Extension, Ampfield Recreation Ground Cricket Training Facilities, Broughton Sports Pavilion Additional Funding and Wellow Men's Shed.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, the recommendations were proposed by Councillor Bundy, seconded by Councillor North and Cabinet agreed to the following:

Recommended to Council

1. **That £467,910 be allocated to the following projects, as set out in section 3 of the report:**
 - **Picket Piece Village Hall Extension - £245,000**
 - **Ampfield Recreation Ground Cricket Training Facilities – £46,639**
 - **Broughton Sports Pavilion Additional Funding – £100,000**
 - **Wellow Men's Shed – £76,271**
2. **That the projects identified in recommendation 1, be added to the Council's Capital Programme, to be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy Community Projects Reserve.**

Audit Committee – 18 March 2024

Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

Report of the Head of Finance and Revenues

Recommendation:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 be approved and that the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council.

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement, which will accompany the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.
- Best practice requires that the approval of this Statement is considered separately from the Statement of Accounts, although both are published together each year.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Test Valley Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 1.2 The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

2 Background

- 2.1 As part of its responsibilities outlined above, the Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and publish the Statement alongside its Annual Statement of Accounts. The format of the statement is based on guidance produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) in conjunction with the Society of Local Chief Executives (SOLACE) titled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework".

APPENDIX A

- 2.2 The Statement is attached as an Annex to this report and covers the following areas:
- (a) Scope of responsibility
 - (b) The purpose of the Governance Framework
 - (c) The Governance Framework in place at the Council
 - (d) A review of its effectiveness
 - (e) A separate Annex of best practice actions that have been identified and will be implemented during 2024/25.
- 2.3 The Review of Effectiveness has been carried out by the Internal Audit Manager, who has reviewed all of the internal audit work carried out during the year.
- 2.4 On the basis of Internal Audit work completed in 2023/24, the Internal Audit Manager has provided a “substantial assurance” opinion in respect of the Council’s risk management, control and governance arrangements.
- 2.5 The report is being presented to the Audit Committee ahead of the end of the financial year to which it relates. However, to receive the Council approval that will enable the AGS to be published alongside the Statement of Accounts, it needs to be considered at this meeting. An update to Councillors will be provided if any material events occur between the date of the meeting and 31st March.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 In addition to its legal responsibilities, approval of an AGS is considered to be best practice and will ensure that proper arrangements are in place to deliver the aims of the Council’s Corporate Plan.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and all Heads of Service have been asked to review the AGS and consider whether there are any areas which they felt are appropriate for disclosure. All comments received have been incorporated in the Statement.

5 Options and Options Appraisal

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to approve an AGS. In view of this, if the annexed AGS is not recommended for approval, the Audit Committee should provide a clear indication as to what changes are needed in order for a revised version to be presented as soon as possible.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 The research and preparation of the 2023/24 AGS has not identified any significant red or amber risks that need addressing.
- 6.2 Three areas have been identified where improvements can be made to existing controls to further strengthen the Council’s governance arrangements. These are summarised as an appendix to the AGS.

APPENDIX A**7 Resource Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct resource implications in approving the AGS. The publication costs can be met within existing budgets.

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 to approve, and subsequently publish, the AGS with the Statement of Accounts.

9 Equality Issues

- 9.1 This report has not identified any equalities matters.

10 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 10.1 The AGS is part of the framework for delivering good governance in local authorities. The Statement is signed by both the Leader and Chief Executive and is published with the Statement of Accounts each year to demonstrate a commitment to the continuous review and development of the Council's governance arrangements.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

[Accounts and Audit \(England\) Regulations 2015](#)

Confidentiality

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:	1		
Author:	Carl Whatley	Ext:	8540
File Ref:	N/A		
Report to:	Audit Committee	Date:	18 March 2024

**Test Valley Borough Council
Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

1 Scope of responsibility

- 1.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 1.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.3 The Council has approved and adopted a local code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. A copy of the Local Code of Corporate Governance is on the Council's website at:
<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/local-code-corporate-governance>, or can be obtained from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
- 1.4 This statement explains how the Council has complied, and continues to comply, with the principles underlying this code and also meets the requirements of regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which requires all relevant bodies to prepare an annual governance statement.

2 The purpose of the governance framework

- 2.1 The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, value for money services.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk at a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

2.3 The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks occurring and the impact should they happen, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

2.4 The governance framework that has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 is explained in the following sections.

3 The governance framework

3.1 The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Council's governance arrangements are as follows:

- The Council has fulfilled the following key roles (now formally adopted as part of the Local Code of Governance):
 - To promote the well-being of the area and provide leadership to the community;
 - To ensure the provision of high quality services provided in-house, by private sector companies, (where the ability to influence exists), jointly with other Councils or agencies, or by the voluntary sector;
 - To be accountable and provide stewardship for the use of public funds and resources;
 - To build a strong sense of community.

3.2 In fulfilling these roles the Council is committed to following the seven core principles of good corporate governance identified in the CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance.

3.3 Partnership Working

3.3.1 A single strategic partnership for the Borough is in place called the Test Valley Partnership. It brings together the key partner agencies from across the public and voluntary and community sector. It meets twice a year and provides a place in which the key strategic issues facing the borough can be discussed, joint work developed and statutory duties (such as community safety) met.

3.3.2 The Test Valley Partnership and its umbrella groups (community safety management group, community resilience forum and the civilian military forum) all continued to meet during 2023/24. The partnership reviews its programme of work in light of where evidence is demonstrating a focus is required.

3.3.3 During this year the partnership has continued to demonstrate its added value by bringing partners together to work on key issues affecting communities in Test Valley by aligning work and resources and taking a focused and targeted approach to where it can make its greatest impact. A good example of this in practice has been the response to the Cost of Living crisis.

3.3.4 The headline outcomes were:

- A cost-of-living **information hub** on the Council website with input from a host of agencies.
- In 2023/24 the Cost of Living Grant scheme has awarded £21,000. This has enabled community-based organisations, from the hyper-local to the borough-wide, to support households struggling through the increasing cost of living. Projects funded include placing Citizen's Advice case workers at Foodbanks to extend their reach, clothing, shoe and school uniform provision for children, a travelling food pantry providing subsidised, healthy food in the rural areas, advice cafes, free dentistry, and a range of food support and breakfast club type projects.

3.3.5 As the Council's place-based approach has continued to develop, partnership websites such as Andover Vision and Romsey Future have been developed, where appropriate, due to the collaborative nature of the projects e.g. Romsey South of Town Centre. Consultation and project information has been posted to these websites with clear links back to relevant Council Services.

3.4 Community Working and the Corporate Plan

3.4.1 The Council has a clear vision of its purpose and desired outcomes for the short, medium and long term. These are encapsulated in its Corporate Plan and in its delivery vehicle, the Corporate Action plan through a range of corporate and service strategies.

3.4.2 There has been considerable consultation and stakeholder involvement in the development and progression of these plans and strategies and they are made available to the public through a variety of means including the Council's website , online newsletter and Test Valley News.

3.4.3 In April 2023 a new Corporate Plan "A Place for Everyone – Supporting our communities to thrive" was approved by Full Council. This followed an extensive evidence-led process that brought together the strategic influences facing the authority and an innovative and robust package of community engagement working with the Involve Foundation (a leading national organisation) to design and deliver a series of deliberative events across the borough to enable a representative group of the borough's population to come together to explore the future focus of the council's corporate plan priorities. Drawing upon lived experience, data and insights and facilitating deliberation amongst participants culminated in a series of robust outcome statements that informed the development of the council's strategic priorities.

3.4.4 The process to develop the Corporate Plan actively engaged Councillors throughout with involvement in the first phase of engagement at local events and with the active engagement of the council's overview and scrutiny committee throughout the process.

- 3.4.5 The Council has a longstanding strategic commitment to work with its communities collaboratively and the new corporate plan strengthens this further with recognition of how our strategic priorities will need to be agile in responding to the different needs of our communities within the borough. At the centre of this is the democratic role elected councillors play in bringing communities together to ensure inclusivity when undertaking local action planning and priority setting. The Council's Member and Community Development Group, chaired by the Leader of the Council, supports community councillors to engage more effectively with local residents and communities and has undertaken work to review and update its action plan which will ensure members are supported effectively in their role as community councillors.
- 3.4.6 In 2023 a focused programme of work to develop this further has been undertaken, supporting councillors to come together with local partners (such as parish councils) within their communities to explore the emerging issues and priorities and to begin a process of local (community-led) action planning. Further strengthening the approach to place-based working, this has involved the council's senior managers working alongside the community team and local councillors in delivering this programme of work. It forms a key part of the council's ongoing organisational development to enable us to be able to support our communities to thrive.
- 3.4.7 Building upon the practice and learning gained as part of the council's participation in the Innovation in Democracy Programme and our use of the approach to develop the new Corporate Plan, further opportunities to embed and develop our approach to innovative engagement practice through the use of deliberative engagement has taken place in 2023/24. This has included topics such as the future priorities for the Business Improvement District, the Council's approach to Communications and with plans for the year ahead for a second citizens assembly to take place in Romsey in summer 2024.
- 3.4.8 The Council formally reviews its progress and performance against its corporate priorities through an Annual Corporate Action Plan Report <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/corporate-plan-for-2019-to-2023> which is presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSCOM) and the Cabinet.
- 3.4.9 The Council's Consultation Portal provides a single link to all our current 'live' consultations, giving residents the opportunity to get involved, as well as access to details of the feedback from previous consultations.
- 3.4.10 There are a number of tools in place to enable the Council to hear the widest range of views from local communities, in a consistent way, as part of an evidence led approach to decision making. These include:
- Statement of community involvement.
 - Community Planning Toolkit.
 - Specialist advice and support through Community Engagement Officers and policy Team.
 - Equality objectives which set out how the Council will ensure an inclusive approach to consultation.

3.5 Committee Role in Governance

- 3.5.1 The Corporate Plan is supported by a performance management framework (including performance indicators) to measure progress and performance against the Corporate Action Plan is reported annually to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5.2 At its meeting on 6 April 2022 Council resolved to form an Audit Committee with effect from 18 May 2022 replacing the arrangements previously undertaken by the OSCOM Audit Panel. This committee has embedded itself effectively into the overall Council governance environment and met four times during the year.
- 3.5.3 Full Council is ultimately responsible for approving amendments to the Council's Constitution. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the Constitution which is undertaken at least annually to ensure that it is up to date with current legislation and best practice.
- 3.5.4 The Cabinet has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Council's business unless that business is delegated specifically to another committee (e.g. Planning, Licensing) and ensuring that governance arrangements and compliance is adequate for the conduct of that business.
- 3.5.5 As part of the Council's open and transparent approach, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutinising the decisions of the Cabinet and reviewing the Council's policies and functions and making recommendations to the Cabinet as appropriate.
- 3.5.6 The Council's Audit Committee takes responsibility for audit and risk management issues, reviewing the Council's work in these areas and monitoring the progress and performance of both Internal and External Audit.
- 3.5.7 The Council's General Purposes Committee, together with the General Purposes Employment Appeals and Ethics Sub-Committee, have the role of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst Members and assisting them to observe the Authority's Code of Conduct. The work of the Sub-Committee is supported by the appointment of Independent Persons as required by the Localism Act 2011. The General Purposes Committee may receive reports as to the operation of the Code of Conduct. In addition, the General Purposes Employment Appeals and Ethics Sub-Committee will be required to determine complaints which are referred to it by the Monitoring Officer following investigation and direct or recommend any further action required consistent with the Localism Act 2011 and associated regulations.
- 3.5.8 Members of OSCOM undertake task and finish panel reviews. Once an area for review has been identified, the lead member/chairman of the panel presents the draft scoping document for the review to the full committee for consideration.

- 3.5.9 A full report is then subsequently presented to OSCOM once the review has been completed or reached an appropriate stage. This process has ensured more effective and focused reviews and a clear line of responsibility to the main committee. In addition, there is a standing Budget Panel which meet regularly throughout the year and covers the budget setting process of the Council. This panel reports to OSCOM on a regular basis and brings any issues of concern to the attention of the Committee.
- 3.5.10 The roles of the Cabinet, OSCOM, and other committees of the Council as well as specific roles assigned to the Leader, Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders and senior officers of the Council are defined and documented within the Council's Constitution.
- 3.5.11 The Constitution clearly identifies the powers, duties and responsibilities delegated to the Leader, Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders and Officers, and includes rules for how Council and committee meetings should operate and the relationship between Members and Officers.
- 3.5.12 The conduct of Members and Officers is regulated by separate codes of conduct within the Council's Constitution. The Council's General Purposes Committee together with the General Purposes Employment Appeals and Ethics Sub-Committee promote high standards of conduct by Members and the latter considers allegations of breach of the Code of Conduct by Members where referred to them.
- 3.5.13 Having regard to the benefits of remote meetings, the Council responded to the Government's consultation/call for evidence on the subject though legislation has not been forthcoming reinstating remote meetings. The Council has been able to continue to avail itself of the ability to conduct non-committee business remotely or in a hybrid fashion where appropriate. Officers are investigating the potential for live streaming Council meetings.
- 3.6 Supporting the Committee Role
- 3.6.1 The Council has a Strategy and Innovation Service to strengthen the Council's ability to develop and manage its corporate planning processes. The Service leads on key projects and programmes including the Council's approach to modernisation in its ways of working.
- 3.6.2 The quality and value for money of services provided to users is measured through the Authority's performance management system. This includes the measurement and review of performance against national and local performance indicators and actions taken to address areas for improvement. Performance is monitored regularly throughout the year.
- 3.6.3 The conduct of day-to-day Council business is regulated through policies and procedures such as Contract Standing Orders and Financial Procedure Rules. The delegations to Members and Officers are kept continually under review and revised as appropriate.

- 3.6.4 A comprehensive set of Human Resources policies ensures compliance with employment legislation and promotes good personnel practices. These include disciplinary and capability processes to deal with conduct or performance which is unacceptable. These policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and revised.
- 3.6.5 A People Strategy helps shape the cultural direction and people management practices for the future to enable the Council to achieve its ambitions over the next 3-5 years. This has been enhanced over 2023/24 through a process where all senior managers have participated in an exercise to review our values as an organisation and the culture within which we work.
- 3.6.6 Whilst being able to respond to the changing needs of local government and the borough's residents, this forms part of the Council's Corporate Framework with close links to the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy. Work has also been undertaken during the year to identify and review hard-to-recruit-to posts.
- 3.7 Finance and Risk Management
- 3.7.1 The Council has in place a Medium Term Financial Strategy, updated annually, which supports the aims of the Corporate Plan. The Medium Term Financial Strategy has been materially affected by macro-economic factors of high inflation and sustained increases in interest rates. The greatest risk to the MTFS is the uncertainty surrounding the potential for a business rates re-set which could see a material reduction in a key income stream, the timing and extent of which is beyond the Council's control.
- 3.7.2 Risk management is outlined in a Risk Management Strategy. Corporate and Service specific risks are subject to ongoing review and progress in managing the corporate risk register is reported to the Audit Committee on a six monthly basis.
- 3.7.3 Risk management is embedded within the Council's processes e.g. reports to decision-making committees use a template which includes a section on risk assessment which must be completed before the report can be considered. Risk registers are also established and managed for all major projects.
- 3.8 Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion
- 3.8.1 Elected Members and all officers are aware of their obligations under equality legislation, as well as the standards of behaviour and language which are expected from representatives and employees of the Council. Ongoing training is provided for both Members and officers.
- 3.8.2 Equality considerations including full impact assessments where necessary and appropriate are built into the Council's decision-making process. The Council has reviewed its corporate equalities objectives, alongside its duties under the gender pay gap publication requirements and Public Sector Equality Duty. The Council continues to deliver training on the Equality Act 2010 to new members of staff and to Members.

- 3.8.3 There is an area of Portfolio responsibility focused on “Diversity and Inclusion”. The Council has published information that demonstrates compliance with the Equality Duty as defined by the Equality Act 2010 on its website.
(<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/equality---diversity/equalities>)
- 3.8.4 The Council has established Disability Focus Groups that contributed towards the development of the new Corporate Plan. The groups are helping the Council and its partners on an ongoing basis.
- 3.8.5 The Council is a statutory partner with regards safeguarding its residents of all ages under both The Children Act 2004 and The Care Act 2014. The Council has in place a Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and this and the associated procedures are monitored regularly to ensure compliance with these duties. The Council also liaises with both the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure this.
- 3.8.6 On an annual basis, the Council is required by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) to complete the required Section 11 audit which is a self-assessment of its position with regards its safeguarding duties. The last full audit which took place in 2023 concluded that the Council is compliant with Section 11 of The Children Act. Some minor areas of learning were identified through this process and actions have been implemented to address these. This will be reviewed by the HSCP in spring 2024.
- 3.8.7 On a bi-annual basis the Council is also required by the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board to undertake an audit of its position with regards its safeguarding duties, the last audit was undertaken in 2022 and concluded that the Council are compliant with our safeguarding duties. The 2024 audit will be due in March 2024.
- 3.9 Environmental and managing a changing climate
- 3.9.1 The Council approved a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in 2020 to identify the steps it will be taking to work towards achieving carbon neutrality. Evidence has been gathered to provide information on greenhouse emissions, decarbonisation and how the Council can deliver its services in a more environmentally friendly way.
- 3.9.2 Measures have been introduced which have reduced the Council’s emissions. Work is ongoing to review the content of the CEAP considering both measures within the organisation but also supporting communities within the Borough to reduce their emissions.

3.10 Officer structure

- 3.10.1 The Chief Executive is the Council's Head of Paid Service and has overall corporate management and operational responsibility for the way in which the Council delivers its services. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services is designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer and has responsibilities under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for ensuring that the Council complies with relevant laws and regulations and internal policies such as Contract Standing Orders. The Head of Finance and Revenues is designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer with responsibility for ensuring the "proper administration of financial affairs".
- 3.10.2 The Head of Finance and Revenues also has responsibility under section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 for reporting to the Council and the external auditor if the Council has made, or is about to make, expenditure which is unlawful.
- 3.10.3 These three statutory officers meet regularly throughout the year (plus as required on an ad hoc basis) to discuss significant corporate issues.
- 3.10.4 The CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government recommends that the Chief Finance Officer reports directly to the Chief Executive and be a member of the 'Leadership Team', of equal status to other members. The Council does not strictly comply with this requirement in that the Head of Finance and Revenues reports to the Deputy Chief Executive; however, he is a member of the Management Team (which is the local comparison with the CIPFA Leadership Team reference). In practice, the Head of Finance and Revenues is able to report directly to the Chief Executive and Members as and when required and is involved and consulted in all matters which have financial implications for the Council.

3.11 Complaints and Whistleblowing

- 3.11.1 The Council's Constitution contains a Confidential Reporting Code for Employees which safeguards "whistle-blowers" who raise legitimate concerns about the Council's actions and specifies how their concerns should be addressed. The Code is monitored by the Audit Committee.
- 3.11.2 Financial Procedure Rules require all staff to raise concerns about the use or misuse of Council resources with the Head of Finance and Revenues or Internal Audit who will carry out an independent investigation of the circumstances. Internal Audit also actively encourages staff to raise matters of concern through "Speak Up" campaigns. A form is available on the Council's intranet for staff to raise concerns (anonymously if desired) about the use of Council resources and this facility has been extended to the website so that members of the public can raise concerns in this area.
- 3.11.3 The Council also has a formal complaints procedure for members of the public to raise issues, e.g. where they are dissatisfied with the service they have received, and an annual report is prepared for the Audit Committee summarising these complaints and how they were resolved.

3.11.4 The Council has a detailed Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy which includes Whistleblowing and sets out the roles, responsibilities of officers and Members and actions to be taken when fraud or corruption is suspected. In addition, an Anti-Bribery Policy has been approved to address the requirements of the Bribery Act 2010.

3.12 Training and awareness

3.12.1 The Democratic Services Manager is responsible for identifying and providing for Councillors' training needs. The Council has a cross-party Member and Community Development Group which is supported by officers from a range of services.

3.12.2 This Group has continued to work to promote an enhanced 'Community Councillor' role for Councillors that focuses on them acting as a catalyst for change to encourage communities to reach their full potential. This work has brought together the needs and expectations of our communities in order to make balanced decisions, and has ensured a culture of democratic accountability is embraced throughout the Council.

3.12.3 The Group assists the Council in developing a programme of Councillor training and development that is shaped by the Councillors themselves, ensuring that training and development activities offered is tailored to individual Councillor needs as well as the needs of Councillors generally, the council and communities. This work has been shared with the Councillor Commission and has become a key part of the ongoing work that supports this national project.

3.12.4 All new Councillors are provided with induction training to assist them with understanding and successfully carrying out their different roles, with an ongoing programme of training and development provided on specific issues where appropriate e.g. planning, and to build key skills and knowledge.

3.12.5 All officers also receive induction training and appropriate professional and skills training and development identified, for instance, through annual performance discussions.

3.12.6 An exercise was undertaken during the year to remind all officers with responsibility for procuring goods and services of the requirements of Contract Standing Orders. This has proved to be successful, with the Procurement Officer reporting an increase in requests for support in undertaking procurement exercises.

3.12.7 Publications such as Test Valley News are sent to all households and the Council's website is an important source of information about the Council and its services. The Council's website has been designed to make it more accessible to residents and businesses of Test Valley and to make it easier to undertake transactions online.

3.12.8 In addition, the council has continued to grow its email newsletter with the inclusion on specific topics that residents can subscribe to. This includes Green Test Valley, Business Matters, Events and News and Regeneration. During the last year for news and events there has been an increase of 2000 subscribers demonstrating this method of communication is becoming a key part of reaching a wider audience. A Communications Strategy has been produced to support the emerging Corporate Plan.

4 Review of effectiveness

- 4.1 The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the senior managers within the authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the annual report of the Internal Audit Manager, and also by comments made by the external auditor and other review agencies and inspectorates.
- 4.2 The Council's Internal Audit team, located within the Finance and Revenues Service, carries out a continuous review of the Council's systems to provide independent assurance that the control environment is effective in achieving the Council's objectives. The team objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of the control environment as a contribution to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of the Authority's resources.
- 4.3 The performance of the Internal Audit team is monitored by the Council's Audit Committee and Section 151 Officer. The Internal Audit Manager presents the Internal Audit Charter, Strategy and Annual Audit Plan to the Audit Committee and produces an Annual Report giving an opinion of the adequacy of the Council's systems of internal control.
- 4.4 An external assessment of the internal audit function's conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) was carried out in February 2024. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards are a mandatory requirement, the objectives of which are to:
- define the nature of internal auditing within the UK public sector,
 - set basic principles for carrying out internal audit in the UK public sector,
 - establish a framework for providing internal audit services, which add value to the organisation, leading to improved organisational processes and operations, and
 - establish the basis for evaluation of Internal Audit performance to drive improvement planning.
- 4.5 The external assessment concluded that the function "generally" conforms to the standards A report of the outcomes together with a development plan is reported to the Audit Committee.

- 4.6 There is evidence that the work the Internal Audit function has delivered is effective. It is a highly respected service that is engaged with the organisation and which provides ongoing support in key areas, as well as effective assurance on controls.
- 4.7 The Internal Audit Manager has provided substantial assurance in respect of the Council's risk management, control and governance arrangements. "Substantial Assurance" means that systems in place are generally sound, but some best practice developmental areas have been identified to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements. These form the basis of the action plan appended to this Statement.
- 4.8 The Council is regularly audited by the External Auditor (Ernst and Young LLP) who independently examines the Council's accounts and financial systems and who presents an [Annual Audit Report](#) to Members, the latest available covering the financial year 2021/22. This was a positive report with an unqualified opinion on the Council's accounts, system of internal control and arrangements to achieve value for money. Due to issues at a national level with auditor capacity in the public sector it is not expected that an audit opinion will be received for the 2022/23 financial year.
- 4.9 EY have, however, been able to issue a value for money statement in respect of the 2022/23 financial year which identified no weaknesses in the Council's financial sustainability; governance; or efficiency and effectiveness.

5 Declaration

- 5.1 We have been advised on the implications of this review of the effectiveness of the governance framework and of any significant governance issues. A plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place as shown in the attached annex.
- 5.2 We propose over the coming year to take steps to address these matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed: **Signed:**

Leader of the Council

Chief Executive

Governance Actions for 2024-25

No significant governance issues have been identified. The following are best practice developmental areas to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements.

Issue	Action to be Taken	Timescale	Lead Officer
Risk Management To develop the links between the Corporate Risk Register and Service Registers following a change to the way the Corporate Risk Register is presented.	For the Internal Audit team to work with all services to ensure a consistency of approach in preparing and reviewing Service Risk Registers.	31/03/25	Head of Finance and Revenues
Service Planning and Performance Management Embed the council's new performance management framework launched in April 2024	To deliver an integrated approach to performance management, the preparation and monitoring of the Corporate Action Plan, new approach to Service Planning, Performance indicators/ impact measures and risk.	September 2024	Head of Strategy and Innovation
Procurement, Contract Management and Monitoring To strengthen procurement, contract management and monitoring practices in light of changes required by the Procurement Act 2023.	Update the Contract Standing Orders section of the Constitution to ensure the Council's policies and procedures reflect changes to legislation.	31/07/24	Head of Finance and Revenues / Head of Legal and Democratic
	Implement training on the requirements of the Act to ensure all officers who procure goods on behalf of the Council are aware of their responsibilities.	30/09/24	Head of Finance and Revenues / Head of Legal and Democratic
	To introduce a more rigorous approach to contract monitoring within services.	31/03/25	Head of Finance and Revenues

Cabinet – 3 April 2024

Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds – Community Projects Reserve

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

- 1. That £467,910 be allocated to the following projects, as set out in section 3 of the report:**
 - **Picket Piece Village Hall Extension - £245,000**
 - **Ampfield Recreation Ground Cricket Training Facilities – £46,639**
 - **Broughton Sports Pavilion Additional Funding – £100,000**
 - **Wellow Men’s Shed – £76,271**
- 2. That the projects identified in recommendation 1, be added to the Council’s Capital Programme, to be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy Community Projects Reserve.**

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The report sets out a summary of the bids received during the current funding round including an evaluation of each project against the criteria set out in the Council’s Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bid Assessment protocol.
- Recommendations with regard to the allocation of funding for each project based on the approved scoring methodology have been proposed.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines four projects that were submitted, a brief description of each project, a percentage score against the adopted scoring criteria and a funding recommendation for each scheme.
- 1.2 There is currently £600,000 in the Community Projects Reserve. This is after taking into account the Regeneration Reserve, Neighbourhood Portion passed to Parish and Town Councils as well as administrative expenses.

2 Background

- 2.1 The CIL Spending Protocol and scoring methodology was adopted by Council on the 8 November 2017.
- 2.2 Section 3 of this report identifies each project and provides a recommendation for funding based on the approved scoring methodology.
- 2.3 The approved Bid Assessment document is made up of 10 questions with a maximum score of 120 points. Questions 1 and 2 are weighted as they are linked to CIL's main purpose which is to enable or mitigate the impacts of development. An average percentage score is presented below alongside a funding recommendation.
- 2.4 All bids are assessed against the same criteria meaning that a scheme with a total cost of £15,000 will be scored in the same way as a scheme with a total cost of £15,000,000.

3 Funding Recommendations

3.1 Project 1 – Picket Piece Village Hall Extension

Lead Organisation – Picket Piece Sports and Social Club

Description – The extension of the existing village hall alongside the addition of new storage space, upgrading existing energy systems, new parking area and a new footpath to connect the site to the new properties in the area.

Evaluation of project – This bid is a result of extensive consultation with the community and addresses a number of issues that prevent the current hall from being utilised to its full potential. The proposals both help to ensure that the hall sees increased use by the community but also remains sustainable with improvements to energy efficiency to reduce running costs.

Total project cost – £663,378

Amount of CIL funding requested – £245,000

Average Score – 67%

Recommendation – That the allocation of £245,000 to the extension of Picket Piece Village Hall be approved.

3.2 Project 2 – Broughton Sports Pavilion

Lead Organisation – Broughton Parish Council

Description – Replacement sports pavilion at Broughton Playing Field, Buckholt Road. The pavilion will primarily serve the local football and cricket teams alongside other local groups both sporting and non-sporting clubs. The Council approved an initial allocation of £200,000 in August 2021. Building costs have increased significantly since this award and the additional

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£100,000 requested will allow the project to move forward as originally planned.

Evaluation of project – Clearly evidenced submission with strong support from the clubs that utilise the formal recreation facilities. The project looks to address issues of compliance with sporting bodies from the current outdated pavilion. A strong project that will deliver clear benefits to the users of the playing fields.

Total project cost – £655,853

Initial CIL funding allocation – £200,000

Amount of additional CIL funding requested – £100,000

Average Score – 65%

Recommendation – That the allocation of an additional £100,000 towards a replacement sports pavilion at Broughton Playing Fields be approved. This would result in total award of £300,000.

3.3 **Project 3 – Ampfield Recreation Ground Cricket Training Facilities**

Lead Organisation – Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club

Description – Multi-lane artificial surface with netting, additional wicket for matches, portable playing surfaces and bicycle parking facilities.

Evaluation of project – Whilst the schemes focus is on the local cricket clubs it has had ample consultation with all local stakeholders. A 300% increase in youth participation in the area has shown clear evidence that new and improved training facilities are needed. The proposals allow for an increased capacity in terms of number of games per year and a free training facility for all local clubs.

Total project cost – £93,277

Amount of CIL funding requested – £46,639

Average Score – 61%

Recommendation – That the allocation of £46,639 towards cricket training facilities at Ampfield Recreation Ground be approved.

3.4 **Project 4 – Wellow Men’s Shed**

Lead Organisation – Wellow Men’s Shed

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Description – Construction of a 20 metre by 5 metre shed on land owned by Wellow Parish Council adjacent the tennis club at Hatches Farm, West Wellow. To be used to repair, repurpose and manufacture furniture, ornaments and any other items for the local community and act as a meeting point for the group. A new wheelchair accessible footpath is also included leading to the building.

Evaluation of project – A scheme with widespread support from the local community. A facility that can provide a meeting point and workshop for members of the group that will help expand the scope of potential projects. The new shed will operate as a repair shop of sorts and look to assist the local community with any repair or refurbishment activities to support the community groups and facilities in the area. Current membership is limited by the poor facilities at the current temporary stable block. This project will enable the group to expand and deliver more projects for the community.

Total project cost – £152,600

Amount of CIL funding requested – £76,271

Average Score – 53%

Recommendation – That the allocation of £76,271 towards the construction of a Men's Shed at Hatches Farm Recreation Ground be approved.

4 Objectives and Priorities

- 4.1 This report covers the following Corporate Priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027 as shown below.
- 4.2 Environment – 3 out of the 4 projects aim to ensure that they are as energy efficient as possible utilising solar panels, heat pumps and other construction methods that help to reduce the impact on the local environment.
- 4.3 Connection – The projects within the report display different priorities from our communities and all aim to connect people via shared interests. The proposals come from a range of organisations and show the ambitions of these local groups.
- 4.4 Prosperity – The funds from the Community Projects Reserve originate from CIL receipts secured against development within the borough. The income from this development allows us to fund new infrastructure to ensure we support and grow our new and existing communities.

5 Consultations/Communications

- 5.1 There has been no external consultation because the report reflects the outcomes of an approved methodology. Projects listed have gone through various forms of consultation prior to bids being submitted as is required by the assessment criteria.

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6 Options

6.1 Option 1

6.1.1 Support the recommendations and approve these allocations totalling £467,910.

6.2 Option 2

6.2.1 To decline to support or not support the projects for which CIL funding has been requested, in line with all or some of the recommendations set out under Option 1, following consideration of each scheme against the agreed criteria.

7 Option Appraisal

7.1 Option 1

7.1.1 The recommendations are based upon the criteria approved by Cabinet on the 18 October 2017 as such each project has been assessed on a fair and consistent basis.

7.1.2 For the reasons set out above the four schemes for which funding is recommended would have positive impacts for our existing and growing communities across the borough by improving recreational and sporting facilities in Andover, Wellow, Ampfield and Broughton. It is considered that these schemes would represent an appropriate use of CIL funding.

7.2 Option 2

7.2.1 Projects may be approved or refused against the recommendations. Feedback will be given to applicants where a project is refused funding.

7.2.2 If funding were not approved for all or some of the four projects recommended for support by allocation of CIL funding, they would be unlikely to be delivered. This would mean that the positive impacts and benefits resulting from the provision of new and improved infrastructure, which would be delivered by these schemes, would not be realised.

8 Risk Management

8.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report indicate that further risk assessment is not needed because the changes/issues covered do not represent significant risks or have previously been considered by Councillors.

9 Resource Implications

9.1 The funding for these projects will come from the Council's CIL receipts. No other resources will be used.

10 Legal Implications

10.1 No legal implications for Option 1

11 Equality Issues

11.1 An EQIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

12 Other Issues

12.1 Wards/Communities Affected – The projects listed affect the following communities: Andover, Ampfield, Broughton, Wellow.

13 Conclusion

13.1 Approval is sought to allocate £467,910 of Community Infrastructure Levy funds to the following projects:

- Picket Piece Village Hall Extension - £245,000
- Ampfield Recreation Ground Cricket Training Facilities – £46,639
- Broughton Sports Pavilion Additional Funding – £100,000
- Wellow Men's Shed – £76,271

13.2 It is considered that these schemes represent an appropriate use of CIL income, which would support development in the borough, for the reasons summarised above, having been assessed against the approved criteria. The 4 projects will be added to the Council's Capital Programme, to be funded by the CIL Community Projects Reserve.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
<u>Cabinet 18 October 2017.</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:	None	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Planning) Councillor P Bundy			
Officer:	Oliver McCarthy	Ext:	8176
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	3 April 2024