

Notice of Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 19 July 2023

Time: 5.30 pm

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

For further information or enquiries please contact:

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Legal and Democratic Service

Test Valley Borough Council,
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www.testvalley.gov.uk

The recommendations contained in the Agenda are made by the Officers and these recommendations may or may not be accepted by the Committee.

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.

Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

MEMBER	WARD
Councillor I Jeffrey (Chairman)	Mid Test
Councillor J Neal (Vice-Chairman)	Andover Millway
Councillor G Bailey	Blackwater
Councillor C Borg-Neal	Andover Harroway
Councillor K Brooks	Andover Romans
Councillor D Cattell	Andover St Mary's
Councillor S Gidley	Romsey Abbey
Councillor A Gillies	Andover Winton
Councillor L Gregori	Andover Harroway
Councillor N Gwynne	Romsey Cupernham
Councillor S Hasselmann	Anna
Councillor R Hughes	Andover Harroway
Councillor M Leech	Andover Millway
Councillor S MacDonald	Mid Test
Councillor L Matthews	Andover Winton
Councillor J Parker	Romsey Tadburn
Councillor A Warnes	North Baddesley
Councillor S Yalden	Ampfield & Braishfield

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 19 July 2023

AGENDA

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

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Public Participation**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Urgent Items**
- 5 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023**
- 6 Call in Items**
- 7 Urgent decisions taken since last meeting**
- 8 Budget Panel Update**
- 9 Test Valley Partnership 4 - 9**

To receive an update on the work of the Test Valley Partnership (20 minutes)
- 10 Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10 - 16**

To enable Members to keep the Committee's future work programme under review (10 minutes)

ITEM 9

Test Valley Partnership

Report of the Head of Strategy and Innovation

Recommended:

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes and endorses the work of the Test Valley Partnership.

SUMMARY:

- To report on the background and purpose of the Test Valley Partnership.
- Provide a summary of key areas of work for the Partnership as well as their progress and continued focus.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the Test Valley Partnership and the benefit it brings to communities within the borough.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Test Valley Partnership brings together decision makers across the borough to work together for the benefit of our communities. The Partnership strives to have a good understanding of the place and its communities, being able to respond to needs in a co-ordinated and organised way by sharing skills, resources and information. Specifically focussing on addressing areas affecting the quality of life for residents in Test Valley
- 2.2 The Partnership was first established in 2002. This was in line with government guidance following the Local Government Act 2000, which placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a community strategy with a strategic partnership being a recommended vehicle in which to do this. This duty was later repealed in 2015 as part of the Deregulation Act.
- 2.3 In anticipation of this change in requirements, a review was undertaken with partners, and they were unanimous in their support for the role and value of the Partnership and agreed to continue its work. The removal of the requirement to prepare a community strategy has enabled the Partnership to become more community focused with greater alignment to the work of community-based partnerships such as Romsey Future and Andover Vision.
- 2.4 The Partnership also fulfils the function of the Community Safety Partnership which meets the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 2008 for statutory partners to work together in tackling instances of local crime and disorder. Previously, the Community Safety Partnership sat as a separate

board but as part of the review, partners agreed to the merger of the Community Safety Partnership Board and the Test Valley Partnership to ensure efficiency and avoid duplication of effort. Today, the Partnership is supported by a Community Safety Management Group which provides the tactical and operational focus whilst the Test Valley Partnership considers the annual strategic assessment and community safety priorities which guide the delivery of the work.

- 2.5 The Test Valley Partnership creates a space for local partners to develop effective relationships and organise cross working within communities in Test Valley. Meetings are held twice yearly and are chaired by the Leader of the Council. The meetings present an opportunity for partners to discuss complex issues impacting our communities and develop actions to tackle them. A number of sub groups meet throughout the year and report into the Test Valley Partnership, looking at more targeted or ongoing issues such as mental health, military support and cost of living.

3 Summary of key areas of work of the Partnership

- 3.1 The following are a few examples of how partners of the Test Valley Partnership are working together practically to take forward key strategic issues.
- 3.2 **Better Mental Health:** The Partnership are signatories of The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health; an OHID (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) scheme outlining a commitment to working together to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health through local and national action.
- 3.3 Identified by the Partnership as an area that required a collective focus, a sub group came together to build a case to become signatories of the Prevention Concordat. A detailed and considered piece of work which was approved by OHID in spring 2022. As part of this, the group developed a local action plan which identified areas of work such as: understanding local needs and assets, identifying opportunities for shared resource and the lasting impact of Covid on mental health. Partners have already been able to deliver outcomes by mapping local need and sharing access to data. This continues to be an important area of work for our communities and the Partnership will continue to progress and deliver against the action plan.
- 3.4 **Community Resilience:** Test Valley is recognised, at national level and regional level, as being an example of good practice in respect of community resilience. Reports of the National Preparedness Commission and the Local Government Association (links below) highlight this. The Borough Council co-ordinates the work of the Test Valley Resilience Forum which has been established for a decade and forms part of the wider Test Valley Partnership. The forum is led by Cllr Phil Lashbrook, the Council's member champion for Community Resilience, and provides a peer learning network. It has provided the conditions for many communities in Test Valley to have actively undertaken some form of community resilience. This was particularly apparent during the response to Covid. The Government recently published a new

national resilience framework (link below) which makes the promotion of community resilience the responsibility of public bodies such as the Council. Test Valley is in a strong position to build on its current strong foundations.

[Showcasing the value of democratic engagement in civil resilience: A collection of case studies | Local Government Association](#)

[NPC-CCA-Report-FINAL-FOR-PUBLICATION-ON-24-MARCH-2022.pdf \(nationalpreparednesscommission.uk\)](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-government-resilience-framework/the-uk-government-resilience-framework-html>

- 3.5 **Cost of Living:** A sub group was established in August 2022 to explore how partners could come together to plan for and mitigate against the impact of the rising cost of living on people living in Test Valley. The group was established following discussion of the issue at the Test Valley Partnership and as well as inviting the standing members of that group, also opened the invitation to a wider group of organisations concerned with supporting households.
- 3.6 From the work of this group, a Cost-of-Living Information hub was set up on the Council website, with contributions from a range of partners. This information is now well established, and organisations tell us they still refer people there as a good source of initial information. The group also helped establish the Council's Cost of Living grant programme, which has awarded more than £60,000 in grant funding to organisations supporting households in Test Valley. It also established a regular 'touch base' meeting between Citizen's Advice Test Valley, Romsey and Andover Foodbanks and the Council to specifically check on service demand and how families are being impacted locally. Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a more detailed update at its meeting in June.
- 3.7 **Civilian Military Forum (CMF):** The Test Valley CMF brings together partners with a military role, focus or responsibility to work together for the benefit of the Armed Forces community. Providing a space for relevant partners to network and support change. It is intended to compliment commitments to the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines a moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at a local level.
- 3.8 The CMF was first formed in spring 2021 following an overview and scrutiny endorsed review of local military support. The findings outlined five key areas of work: Housing, community engagement, health, education and business & transition. It was agreed as part of overview and scrutiny's recommendations to Cabinet that a CMF be established under the umbrella of the Test Valley Partnership. The group meet on a quarterly basis to discuss current challenges and priorities for the military community in these areas and report into the main partnership.

- 3.9 A number of outcomes have been achieved such as creating a single point of contact webpage and forming a mental health support hub. The CMF has also begun working with health professionals to drive forward work encouraging our local GPs to become registered Veteran Friendly Practices. More recently, the CMF have signed up to the Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance South Hub and will be attending meetings to ensure they are up to date and informed on progress surrounding Armed Forces children.
- 3.10 The CMF was instrumental in supporting the council to achieve an Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award, indicating that Test Valley Borough Council is an employer that actively supports and values the Armed Forces community.
- 3.11 **Community Safety:** The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership which brings together the council, police and probation, health and fire services to work collectively to reduce crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting communities in Test Valley); combat negative behaviours associated with the use of drugs and alcohol; and reduce the fear of crime.
- 3.12 As set out in 2.4, in Test Valley, the Test Valley Partnership acts as the Community Safety Partnership and the Community Safety Management Group is responsible for monitoring and driving progress against the priorities identified each year in the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment. They are currently working with partners, including the Police to explore opportunities to increase the participation of the Test Valley Partnership in both the review of data which informs the Strategic Assessment and to make the CSMG model more place-based and proactive to emerging issues.
- 3.13 Each year the partnership undertakes a strategic assessment of community safety matters taking into account local issues and the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This then results in a set of proposed priorities for Test Valley which the Test Valley Partnership approves. The current community safety priorities are as follows:
- (i) Community Crime Prevention
 - (ii) Tackling Anti-Social behaviour, through positive engagement and early intervention
 - (iii) Supporting Vulnerable people in need, including issues of domestic abuse, scams and Hate Crime
 - (iv) Drug related harm
 - (v) Fire Safety; including the promotion of the safe and well visits.
 - (vi) Maintain rural community confidence, through encouraging co-operative partnerships amongst landowners and partners.
 - (vii) Encourage co-operative partnership amongst agencies.
- 3.14 The Community Safety Management Group is then responsible for delivery against these priorities. The next meeting of the Test Valley Partnership in October will monitor the progress of the priorities and consider the updated strategic assessment.

- 3.15 The examples above demonstrate how the Test Valley Partnership has provided a vehicle in which to enable partners to collaborate on addressing key issues in a way that is based on evidence of need, is practical in its focus and seeks to remove unnecessary duplication of effort and deliver tangible benefits to local communities.
- 3.16 The conditions that enable this to happen are based on the development of a long-standing network of organisations where relationships and trust have been able to grow. It should not be underestimated the value the Partnership brings in enabling this to happen as was demonstrated both in the pandemic and the recent refugee crises when resources were able to be aligned at speed, focused on getting support to where it was needed most quickly. Without this trust and confidence amongst partners it is likely that the response to these issues would not have been as quick or effective in their deployment.

4 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 4.1 The Council's new Corporate Plan: A place for everyone – supporting our communities to thrive, recognises the need for the council to work collaboratively through partnership. Working in this way enables the council to have greater insight into the varying needs of communities across the borough and to be able to adapt and bring resources together with partners where they are needed most.
- 4.2 The Council will continue to work with partners through the Test Valley Partnership to champion the issues that are most important to our communities which are reflected within the strategic priorities of the new corporate plan.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This report summarises the work of the Test Valley Partnership and the associated workstreams and sub groups that fall within it. The Partnership continues to be an important mechanism in which to bring organisations together to focus on what is most important to communities across the Borough.
- 5.2 Whilst there is no requirement for partners to engage (apart from those who are required to do so regarding specific community safety matters), the real value is on how the strength of the network builds trust which then enables a collective focus and use of resources to follow. Over recent years, as set out in the report, the Partnership has been able to focus on some of the most challenging issues faced by communities and as a result has been able to make a positive impact and deliver tangible benefits.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	None		
Author:	James Moody	Ext:	8130
File Ref:	N/A		

ITEM 10

Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Chairman

Recommended:

The Committee is requested to:

- 1. Review the outcomes on the work programme and recommendations update.**
- 2. Approve the future work programme.**

SUMMARY:

- The purpose of this report is to enable members to keep the Committee's future work programme and recommendations update under review.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves a work programme every year, detailing selected issues that affect Test Valley or its residents. The work programme represents the work of scrutiny throughout the municipal year and is managed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The work programme is a rolling plan of in-depth reviews alongside standing items such as finance and performance.

2 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 2.1 Effective processes are used when selecting and prioritising review topics to ensure meaningful outcomes and tangible improvements. This involves including topics that are of community concern, contribute to the Council's Corporate Priorities, add value to the Council's overall performance, and have defined objectives and clear outcomes.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 3.1 Task and Finish Groups (panels) are small groups of members set up to examine specific issues in detail and report back to the Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Panels update will be presented as an annex for the Committee's review and comments.

- 3.2 Effective processes are used when selecting and prioritising review topics to ensure meaningful outcomes and tangible improvements. This involves including topics that are of community concern, contribute to the Council's Corporate Priorities, add value to the Council's overall performance, and have defined objectives and clear outcomes. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme is presented at Annex 1 for review and approval.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for examining decisions made by the cabinet as a whole, and individual Portfolio Holders, as well as key decisions delegated to Senior Officers. With each agenda, the Committee receives copies of the Cabinet Work Programme. The Committee can then decide or use pre-scrutiny for forthcoming decisions on the Cabinet Work Programme. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Annex 2 for the Committee to consider.
- 3.4 For Overview and Scrutiny to have an impact, it is important that recommendations to Cabinet and Council are followed up. At each meeting the Committee considers follow up action on recommendations to Cabinet and council as part of the review of the Work Programme. Also as part of the Work Programme the Committee considers actions arising from the previous meeting. Action tracking will be attached as an annex.

4 **Away Day**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Away Day will be held on Saturday 22 July at King's Somborne Village Hall starting at 9am and finishing around lunch time.

No of Annexes:	2		
Author:	Caroline Lovelock	Ext:	8014
File Ref:	N/A		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	19 July 2023

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME - JULY 2023

	*Scrutiny Indicator	Requested by	Purpose of Report (Responsible Officer / Member)
<u>19 JULY 2023</u>			
Round table Andover Vision			To receive an update on the work of the Andover Vision (Head of Strategy and Innovation)
Test Valley Partnership			To understand the work of the Test Valley Partnership (Head of Strategy and Innovation) (20 minutes)
<u>30 AUGUST 2023</u>			
Community, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Presentation			To review the Tourism, Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder's Portfolio focusing on Tourism Councillor Swain/Head of Community and Leisure) (45 minutes)
Corporate Action Plan	1		Presentation by the Leader on the Corporate Action Plan (Leader of the Council) (60 minutes)
<u>11 OCTOBER 2023</u>			
Presentation on local policing	5		To receive a presentation on local policing from Chief Inspector Haley O'Grady. (60 minutes)
Draft Budget Fees and Charges	1		To consider the Budget Panel's report on the draft budget and draft fees and charges (Budget Panel Lead Member) (20 minutes)
Climate Emergency Action Plan Update	2		To receive an update on the Climate Emergency Action Plan (Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development) (30 minutes)
Impact of Revenue Funding for Community Bodies	2		To receive an update on the impact of revenue funding for community bodies. David Growcott (Community Manager) (20 minutes)
<u>22 NOVEMBER 2023</u>			
Authority's Monitoring Report	2		To consider the findings from this year's annual Authority's Monitoring Report 22/23/ David Bibby, Principal Planning Officer (Strategy) (20 minutes)

* Scrutiny Indicator Key:

1 : Holding to Account	2 : Performance Management	3 : Policy Review	4 : Policy Development	5 : External Scrutiny
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Cabinet Work Programme

August 2023

Further information

1. This is a formal notice under Regulation 9 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012. This edition supersedes all previous editions.
2. Documents submitted to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member(s) for decision will be in the form of a formal report, which if public and non-urgent, will be available for public inspection on this website at least 5 clear working days before the date that the decision is due to be made.
3. Background papers for such reports are listed in this Programme where their identity is known in advance of the report being written.
4. Documents shown will be available from the Democratic Services Manager at Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hants, SP10 3AJ. They can also be contacted at admin@testvalley.gov.uk.
5. Please note that additional documents relevant to those matters mentioned in the Work Programme may be submitted to the decision maker.
6. Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in this Work Programme will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, this is formal notice under the above regulations that part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this Work Programme may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.
6. To view details of the members of the Council's Cabinet who will be making these decisions, please click the link below:
[Cabinet Members](#)

KEY DECISIONS

A key decision is one which is likely

1. to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;
- or
2. to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

The Council's thresholds are

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| a. | Decisions on spending which are within the annual budgets approved by the Council | NO THRESHOLD | NOT KEY DECISION |
| b. | Decisions on cash flow, investments and borrowings. | NO THRESHOLD | NOT KEY DECISION |
| c. | Decisions for spending or savings outside the budget, or included in the annual budget with reservations. | SPENDING EXCESS OF £75,000 PER ITEM IS A KEY DECISION | |

Arrangements for making representations to the cabinet regarding decisions contained within the work programme

A member of the public may address the Cabinet in accordance with the Public Participation Scheme. Notice must be given to the Democratic Services Manager by noon on the day before the meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to write to the appropriate Head of Service as listed in the Work Programme on any matter where a decision is to be made.

ANNEX 2

Date of Decision	Item	Key Decision	Decision maker	May include information which is not to be made public*	Documents to be submitted for consideration	Head of Service	Notice of proposed decision first published
23 Aug 2023 Andover	Valley Housing Outturn	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Property and Asset Management	2 Feb 2023
23 Aug 2023 Romsey	Member Champions	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder	Head of Legal and Democratic	20 Jan 2023
23 Aug 2023 Romsey	Consultation on draft Design Guide for Developers and Occupiers SPD	Yes	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships (North) Portfolio Holder	Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development	14 Mar 2023
23 Aug 2023 Andover	Corporate Action Plan Annual Report	Yes	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Leader	Head of Strategy and Innovation	27 Oct 2022
23 Aug 2023 Romsey	Corporate Financial Monitoring (1st quarter)	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	20 Jan 2023
23 Aug 2023 Romsey	Andover BID	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	21 Jun 2023

ANNEX 2

4 Oct 2023 Romsey	Medium Term Financial Strategy	No	Council	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	20 Jan 2023
4 Oct 2023 Andover	Andover BID	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	21 Jun 2023
15 Nov 2023 Romsey	Capital Programme Update	No	Council	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	20 Jan 2023
15 Nov 2023 Romsey	Asset Management Plan Update	No	Council	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	20 Jan 2023
15 Nov 2023 Romsey	Fees and Charges	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	20 Jan 2023
15 Nov 2023 Romsey	Corporate Financial Monitoring (6 months)	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder	Head of Finance and Revenues	20 Jan 2023
28 Feb 2024 Romsey	Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2026	No	Cabinet	Open	Report of the Housing and Environmental Health	Head of Housing and Environmental Health	20 Jan 2023