

Romsey Future – A Vision for Romsey 2022-2042

Report of the Strategic Regeneration Partnerships (South) Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the Romsey Future Vision 2022-2042 document attached as the Annex to the report be endorsed.

Recommendation to Council

Summary:

- Romsey Future is a community partnership that brings together the town's key stakeholders from the voluntary, business and statutory sectors. Since its inception in 2013, the Council has supported the work of Romsey Future and had endorsed the aspirations it set out in its 2015 Vision document.
- Following extensive consultation with the local community, Romsey Future has now refreshed this Vision document and has requested that its stakeholders actively endorse it as a demonstration of their commitment to bringing this vision to fruition.
- This report provides a summary of the work Romsey Future has undertaken since its inception, as well as the way in which it has refreshed its vision. On this basis, Cabinet is requested to formally endorse the Partnership's refreshed Vision document.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Romsey Future began in 2013 as an active partnership that brings together the town's key stakeholders to deliver on their shared ambitions and aspirations. Since its inception, the Council has actively supported the work of Romsey Future and it continues to be a key corporate priority for the Council, as articulated in the Corporate Action Plan project *Work with partners to take forward projects agreed as part of the Romsey Future Delivery Plan*.
- 1.2 Guiding the Partnership's work until this point has been its Vision document; this was launched in December 2015 and set out Romsey Future's key ambitions for the town over the next twenty years.
- 1.3 Over the past eighteen-months, Romsey Future has consulted extensively with the local community as it refreshed its strategic vision. This refreshed Vision document, attached as an Annex to this report, sets out the partnership's priorities for the next twenty years and stakeholders of Romsey Future, including the Borough Council, have been asked to endorse the vision it has for the town.

2 Background

- 2.1 When drafting its initial Vision document, Romsey Future consulted extensively with its stakeholders and the local community to create a shared vision that would articulate the ambitions of its stakeholders and guide its ongoing work. This was published in December 2015. Following its launch, stakeholders were invited to endorse this vision, this was something Cabinet did in February 2016.
- 2.2 Since then, this vision has provided a framework through which partners have worked collaboratively to deliver a number of successful projects for the town. This allows the Borough Council to work with partners to gain agreement and make progress on delivering projects in areas that lie beyond the Council's authority.
- 2.3 Successful projects that Romsey Future has delivered include: new cycling infrastructure (such as a cycle hub and cycle parking in War Memorial Park); development of coach parking at the Rapids and new outdoor gym equipment. One of the most notable and prominent outcomes of the initial consultation was the aspiration of local residents for the area south of the town centre to be revitalised. This led to Romsey Future working in partnership with the Council to deliver the South of Romsey Town Centre Masterplan which was adopted by Council in September 2020.
- 2.4 Whilst the Vision document set out a strategic vision for the next twenty years, it was always Romsey Future's intention to refresh this Vision document every five years. Accordingly, in December 2020, the partnership began the process of consulting with stakeholders and the local community to understand their priorities and aspirations for their lives and the town.
- 2.5 The consultation ran from December 2020 through to July 2021, it consisted of a number of different activities including:
 - An online survey that received 424 responses.
 - A pop-up stall in the Marketplace in the spring and summer of 2021 that promoted the online consultation and handed out paper copies of the survey.
 - Workshops with key stakeholders such as businesses, community groups and sports groups.
 - Focus groups with those that were underrepresented in the survey consultation such as older residents, those with disabilities and young people.
- 2.6 Following this consultation exercise, several months of drafting was undertaken by Romsey Future. From the feedback received in the consultation, the key ambitions identified for the partnership to pursue are for Romsey to be:

- Well connected
- Environmentally responsible
- A strong community
- Place focused
- People centred
- Economically thriving

2.7 These ambitions are set out in more detail in the partnership's Vision document, attached as an annex to this report. The new vision was launched by Romsey Future at its stakeholder event on 28 March 2022 with all stakeholders asked to endorse the vision it sets out for the town.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

3.1 One of the key ambitions set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023 *Growing our Potential* is to grow the potential of the Borough's communities. This priority includes a commitment to work with Romsey Future in helping to deliver the local community's shared ambitions for the town.

3.2 This is set out in more detail in the Corporate Action Plan 2019-2023 (year four), approved by Cabinet in March 2022, which includes the project *Work with partners to take forward projects agreed as part of the Romsey Future Delivery Plan*.

4 Consultations/Communications

4.1 As set out above, Romsey Future's new Vision document was formulated following extensive consultation with stakeholders and the local community. As a community partnership, engagement with local residents and businesses will continue to be key to Romsey Future's operation in the years ahead as it seeks to progress projects that emerge linked to its key ambitions.

5 Options

5.1 The options facing cabinet are to endorse Romsey Future's Vision document or to decide not to endorse it.

6 Option Appraisal

Endorse the Vision document

6.1 Supporting the work of Romsey Future is a key corporate priority for the Council. The Council has led on the implementation of the Romsey Future process and has invested much effort in facilitating the refreshed Vision document, in partnership with other organisations.

6.2 Romsey Borough Councillors, as well as Cllr Adams-King as Chair of Romsey Future, have also been fully involved and engaged in the development of the Vision document.

6.3 This is the recommended option

Not endorsing the Vision document:

6.4 Romsey Future has asked all its stakeholders to endorse its Vision document to demonstrate their commitment to the ambitions it sets out. As a stakeholder that is key to delivering many of these ambitions, not endorsing it would be contradictory to the aspirations set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

6.5 If the Vision document is not recommended for endorsement, clear reasons should be given that can be fed back to the Romsey Future Programme Board.

6.6 This option is not recommended.

7 Risk Management

7.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report indicate that a further risk assessment is not needed to endorse the refreshed Vision document.

7.2 Consideration of the risks associated with individual projects that Romsey Future requests that the Council supports will form part of the decision making process and project management arrangements for each project and reported to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.

8 Resource Implications

8.1 A number of relevant partners are being asked to sign up to the Vision document. The basis of the sign up will be that the ideas are supported as aspirations and that the funding and project development will require further work. It is envisaged that as Romsey Future's work progresses, a number of projects will come forward that will require financial support and staff resource from a number of organisations.

8.2 Any costs recommended to be incurred by the Council will be approved in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules. This may necessitate further reports at the appropriate time.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10 Equality Issues

10.1 No equality issues have been identified in the Council signing-up to the Romsey Future Vision document. As a result, a full Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology as a result.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety - none
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues - none
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate - none
- 11.4 Property Issues – none
- 11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – Romsey Abbey, Romsey Cupernham and Romsey Tadburn

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 12.1 Supporting the work of Romsey Future is a key corporate priority for the Council. Romsey Future's refreshed Vision document has emerged from a comprehensive consultation process that has been supported throughout by the Borough Council. It is therefore proposed that the Council, along with other partners which work in the town, formally endorse the document.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

[Report recommending Cabinet endorsement of first Vision document](#) – 10 February 2016

[Report recommending adoption of the South of Town Centre masterplan](#) – 2 September 2020

[Report recommending Cabinet approve the amended Corporate Action Plan](#) – 30 March 2022

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	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Strategic Regeneration Partnerships (South) Councillor N Adams-King)			
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	22 June 2022