

Test Valley Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023

Review of Corporate Action Plan – Year 4



CLlr Phil North

Corporate Action Plan review



- The Corporate Action Plan (CAP) is the delivery document for the **Corporate Plan 2019-23: Growing Our Potential**. It has set out the Council's key projects for the past four years.
- It sets direction and **provides a focus for activities and services**. As a result, it **informs decision making and allocation of resources** across the Council.
- Each year a review has been undertaken by Cabinet to update the CAP to ensure it continues to highlight the significant projects that the Council is taking forward in pursuit of its key corporate aims: **growing the potential of town centres, communities, people and the local environment**.
- This has included consideration of any **new projects**, any **completed projects** to be removed and updating the onward programmes of those **projects that will be retained on the action plan**.



Town Centres

Romsey



- Following a large programme of public engagement, including a citizens' assembly, the **Masterplan for South of Romsey Town Centre** was developed and adopted. The Masterplan includes visions for Crosfield Hall and the Bus Station site.
- Work on the plans for the **reprovision of Crosfield Hall** continues, with a focus on the evaluation of potential sites. This has concentrated on understanding the complex lease arrangements and covenants that apply to the land and buildings around The Rapids.



Town Centres

Romsey



- A comprehensive development appraisal has been carried out for the Bus Station site. This includes a **new Transport Hub**, commercial and community facilities and 30 new residential apartments.
- The design for the Bus Station redevelopment incorporates the public realm improvements for **Holbrook Stream and Stirling Walk**, which would be delivered as part of the development.
- We held the first **Test Valley Tourism Information Exchange Event** at Crosfield Hall, strengthening our relationship with our Tourism sector.



Andover

- After significant engagement with over **4,000 residents** and with stakeholders, the **masterplan for Andover Town Centre** was developed and approved.
- The first major piece of regeneration work, the £1.6M **Town Mills Riverside Park**, was completed in 2021. The park provides a peaceful setting for those wishing to enjoy the space to play, picnic and relax.
- The **Andover Public Realm Design Guide** and the **Andover Public Realm Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document** (SPD) were adopted by Council. Both will be an important tool for Development Management to drive up quality of development.



Andover

- As part of the Andover Town Centre Masterplan, the Council has commissioned Hemingway Design and their partners, CT Consults, to create a new place brand for the town that will bring to life **all of the positive things about Andover** and help us to define how we want the town to develop and be perceived.
- **A programme of events and activities** have been developed to encourage footfall into the town centre and to open up new experiences for people visiting Andover. This has included the new **Second Sunday's markets**, **Step into Summer events** and renewed **Christmas lights switch on**.
- Building on the success of the vaccination centre, **a new Health Hub** has opened in the Chantry Centre in partnership with the Andover Primary Care Network and the Integrated Care Board.



Communities



- We have provided **£1.9m in revenue funding** to support charity and voluntary organisations across the borough such as Unity and Citizens Advice Test Valley.
- Over **£900k of funding** has been distributed from **the Community Asset Fund**. Organisations across the borough received funding including Romsey Young Carers, Yellow Brick Road Projects, Little Fingers Pre-school, Trojans Sports Club, The Boaz Project, and Abbots Ann Village Shop.
- Borough councillors have awarded **£300k of funding through Community Councillor Grants**, supporting local people and encouraging community led initiatives that directly benefit their local residents.



Communities



- We opened the multi-million-pound sports facility at **Ganger Farm** in September 2022.
- Just under **£40k of funding** was given to local organisations and residents to enable them organise events commemorating the recent coronation of King Charles III. In addition, we **waived application fees for those wanting to hold street parties** to bring people together to celebrate the King's coronation and the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Over the last 4 years over **5,300 volunteer hours** have been contributed to support our Countryside team, with over **1,800 people participating in practical nature conservation**, wildlife survey and recording.



Communities



- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we worked with more than **50 community groups and over 1,000 volunteers** to provide a range of support to communities.
- Working with partners through the Test Valley Partnership, we established a Cost-of-Living Grant Scheme that has provided over **£60,000 across 60 grants** to help organisations that are supporting people who are struggling with rising costs
- The Council continued to support the work of the borough's two community partnerships, **Andover Vision** and **Romsey Future**.



People



- Between 2019-2023 the Council enabled the delivery of **1117 new affordable homes**. This equates to average delivery of 279 new affordable homes per annum, which exceeds the target of 200 homes per year set out in the Housing Strategy 2020-25.
- Work commenced on preparing the **next Local Plan (2040)**. This includes several **public consultations**, undertaking a series of evidence-based studies, including, landscape sensitivity analysis and transport assessment.
- The Council has been supporting **rural parishes** with the production of **Neighbourhood Development Plans**, with seven 'made' plans, including those for Charlton, Houghton and Goodworth Clatford. There are currently two plans at examination, and a further seven plans in progress.



People



- From 2019-2023, there were a total of **341 Disabled Facilities Grants** completed in Test Valley. Each grant enables an adaptation to be made to a resident's home which helps them **to live safely and independently** in their own home.
- In January 2022, using Rough Sleeping Initiative funding from the national government, the Council has appointed a **Prevention Support Officer**, dedicated to working with people on the verge of losing their social housing tenancy and becoming homeless. Since that time, **their work has prevented 19 households from becoming homeless**.
- In conjunction with Aster and Vivid, the Council was awarded **nearly £1m** as part of the **Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme** to purchase 10 one-bedroom properties to increase the supply of affordable accommodation to those high risk of, or currently experiencing, rough sleeping.



People



- The Council has unlocked **access to £1m of funding** from the Shared Prosperity Fund to help local partner organisations **deliver six major projects** across the Borough, including a Rural Net Zero Business Service.
- Across 2019-2023, **88 Business Incentive Grants** were paid out, to the value of **£66,00**. Additionally, **44 Independent Retailer Grants** were paid out, to the value of 25,400. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council delivered **£9.65m of grants to local business**.
- 2022 saw the **first in person Andover Graduation (post Covid-19) with over 600 children** from 10 junior schools in Andover. The aim of this event is to raise aspirations and inspire our young people to consider their further and higher education options.



- The Council **declared a climate emergency** in September 2019 and committed to identify steps we can take to achieve carbon-neutrality as soon as possible. In June 2020 the Council approved its **climate emergency action plan**.
- We have **worked alongside partners** to deliver or participate in a number of **events for communities and businesses** in relation to the climate emergency.
- We have worked with external organisations to help local businesses access energy audits and secure **more than £100,000 in grant funding** to deliver low carbon projects.



- Our fleet of vehicles includes **11 electric vehicles**, and we have switched **three pedestrian sweepers to electric models**.
- More recently, we have switched the fuel used in running our fleet vehicles from diesel to **hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO)** which has the potential to **reduce the associated carbon dioxide fuel emissions by about 95%**.
- The most recent figures (from 2021/22, published in March 2023) show that we achieved a **38.5% recycling rate**, our highest ever and the **4th highest in Hampshire**.



- We continue to hold the **Green Flag Award** for **War Memorial Park, Rooksbury Mill and Valley Park Woodlands**. These sites represent some of the best green spaces in the UK and reflect the great management and high community and volunteer input throughout the year.
- TVBC's first Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) was opened in 2020 at **Mill Lane, Sherfield English**. It is a **35-acre site** which has been designed to **welcome dog walkers into a safe and accessible environment** with the aim of reducing visits to protected internally designated landscapes of the New Forest and Solent.
- Our newest site was opened to the community in early July 2023. **Bury Hill Meadows** was purchased in 2021 to increase access opportunities to the countryside.



- Engaging the community in the management and care of our key nature reserves is essential. We welcome visits from schools, and universities across our sites to promote a greater understanding of the natural world. **Over the four-year period over 1500 children and students have attend organised study visits.**
- We have continued to work with Hampshire County Council on their production of **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)**, which indicate where investment is needed to improve the opportunities for walking and cycling in the area.
- We are now in our **third year of implementing the urban meadows initiative** and each year have increased the scale of land managed in this way.
- Over the last 2 years **we have planted over 22,000 trees** at sites across the borough which includes both street trees and whips (woodland planting and hedgerows).

Looking to the future



The new Corporate Plan 2023-27, **“A Place for Everyone – Supporting our communities to Thrive”**, was adopted by Council in April 2023.

This plan was drafted following extensive consultation with the public and delivery of a programme of deliberative events in partnership with the Involve Foundation.

We engaged with more than 1,500 residents across the borough and collated an extensive evidence base, to ensure that the plan accurately reflects the needs and ambitions of our communities.

Looking to the future



A Place for Everyone – Supporting our communities to Thrive, is more than just a title for this corporate plan.

It reflects our passion and commitment to work with our communities in a way that celebrates their uniqueness, sense of belonging and the ambitions people have for the places where they live.

Looking to the future

OUR COMMUNITIES



The Corporate Plan **outlines five strategic priorities** that will provide the focus for our activities over the next four years: **sustainability, connection, inclusion, environment and prosperity**. This will be underpinned by a new **Corporate Action Plan** which will develop the priorities into distinct projects that will deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

Questions