



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

Test Valley PARTNERSHIP

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Agenda	3
Chair's Introduction	4
Reports from the Action Groups	
Community Safety	5
Environment	9
Transport	12
Education and Learning	15
Health and Well-being	20
Economic	23
Community development	27
Leisure and culture	31
Other key Partnership activities	34
Financial statement	35
Members of the Board	36
Terms of Reference	38
Partnership Accord	42

## Test Valley Partnership Annual General Meeting – 15 June 2006

### A G E N D A

- 1. Chairman's Report**
- 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
- 3. What Test Valley Partnership means to my organisation/service.**

*Some reflections on partnership working:*

Ann Wakefield – Hampshire Constabulary  
Jan Lefley – Romsey Community School  
Bob Coates – Mid Hants Primary Care Trust

*And some different perspectives on a practical example of what it means for the delivery of services at a local level:*

Verna Kempthorne – Mid Hants PCT/Eastleigh and TV South PCT/TVBC  
Malcolm Crabtree – Leckford Estate  
Jean Lannie – Andover Family Learning

- 4. The Andover Turnaround Project**

An update on progress - Janet Blann, TVCS and Steve Benson, Testway Housing

- 5. Question and Answer Session**

- 6. Closing Remarks**

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the fourth annual general meeting of the Test Valley Partnership.

The Partnership was first established in April 2002. Membership is open to all agencies and organisations operating within the Borough with an interest in the social, environmental and economic well-being of the people of Test Valley.

The Partnership has agreed the following statement of purpose:

**‘By working together we will use our combined resources to better effect to bring about a sustained and measurable improvement in the quality of life of the people of Test Valley, especially those in most need.’**

Details of the Terms of Reference and the Partnership Accord are set out at the back of this information pack.

The Partnership’s first major task was to draw up a Community Plan for Test Valley. ‘Your Test Valley’ was published in January 2004 following a great deal of work by those involved, and a significant level of public consultation. The Plan sets out a series of priority objectives, together with examples of the actions which members of the Partnership propose to take to make Test Valley a better place in which to live and work, based around the key quality of life issues identified through the consultation process.

Although many of these aspirations were long term, the Plan was intended to have a five year life. Inevitably it is already showing signs of needing to be updated and we have started to think about how we might go about this process.

However, this year’s AGM falls exactly half way through the life of the original five year Plan period. Consequently, those involved with the Partnership’s Action Groups have been asked to provide a half-term report to give some indication of the work they have been involved with and the progress that has been made in achieving the Plan’s various objectives. The following pages will hopefully convey something of the range of activities in which the members of the Partnership have been engaged. Further details can be found in a number of other key source documents, such as the Community Safety Strategy. The Partnership Manager will be happy to provide further information.

There will be an opportunity during the course of the evening to follow up any issues you may care to raise, or to ask any questions to which this report may give rise.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Partnership this year.

**Barbara North**  
**Chair of the Test Valley Partnership**

## **Priority 1 - A safe community**

A new Community Safety Strategy was published in the summer of 2005 which updates the Community Plan priorities for action. The new priorities are as follows:

- a) A reduction in the number of people whose lives are affected by the effects of alcohol abuse
- b) An improvement in the quality of life for residents and businesses through tackling anti-social behaviour
- c) A reduction in the number of people whose lives are affected by the effects of drug abuse
- d) A reduction in the levels of crime committed by young people
- e) An increase in support for victims of hate crime

### **We said we would:**

#### ***(i) Reduce crime and the fear of crime to improve the quality of life for local residents***

The Community Safety Strategy (2005-2008) prioritises the need to tackle anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour is a major contributor leading to an increase in the fear of crime among residents.

A recent Citizens Panel survey has shown that the percentage of citizens who feel safe walking home after dark has risen from 46% in 2004/05 and now stands at 57%. This improvement has been achieved through a number of initiatives including the appointment of an Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator who works mainly with individuals and their families. This Co-ordinator has been instrumental in drawing up Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and seeking Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. A total of 11 ASBOs have been served in Test Valley.

The number of young people involved in diversionary activities continues to grow. Approximately 280 young people participated in 2005/06 in addition to those attending the monthly SNAP discos. A Summer Diary of events was published for the Borough last summer. This will be repeated again this year.

The team of Neighbourhood Wardens has continued to work across the Borough dealing with anti-social behaviour and seeking to reassure residents. They have been involved in initiatives such as environmental clean-ups and the Clean and Safe Educate (CASE) programme has been very successful in primary schools. This is now being rolled out to secondary schools. The Borough Council agreed to fund the Team following the ending of the Government grant funding in March 2005.

All planning applications are considered by the local Crime Prevention Officer based within Hampshire Constabulary. Where affordable housing is concerned, the Housing Corporation insists that all new developments have 'Secure by Design' status before being approved.

A series of PRIMEs (Problem Resolution in a Multi-agency Environment) have been developed in anti-social behaviour hotspots across the Borough, notably in Nursling, Valley Park and Romsey and continue through joint working to identify ways of reducing these problems.

***(ii) Reduce burglary***

Unfortunately there has been an increase in both dwelling and non-dwelling burglary. The Police Intelligence Unit identifies any series or repeat victims and where this appears to be happening, cases are referred to the Targeting and Co-ordinating Group so that a more pro-active approach may be taken.

Most of the local persistent offenders are currently in prison. However tackling travelling crime has proved to be more problematic. While the actual number of offences per household remains amongst the lowest in the country, it is hoped that this position may be maintained by having a dedicated burglary unit within the local police force.

***(iii) Reduce vehicle crime***

There has also been an increase in vehicle crime in the area. However the Andover Sector has achieved a 19% detection rate which is the highest in the Hampshire Constabulary this year. The majority of these crimes relate to a series of car badge thefts and the offenders have now been detained and dealt with. Three youths were responsible for up to 100 of these crimes.

***(iv) Reduce violent crime***

Over the last year there has been a dramatic decrease in offences. Much of this success has been the result of high profile campaigns in respect of alcohol-related offences. The new licensing legislation has been used to good effect in challenging poorly-run premises. Test purchases have also been used leading to prosecution of offenders.

***(v) Address the problems related to drug and substance misuse***

The Community Safety Partnership funds a specialist worker employed by the Police, through the Odyssey Project. The worker has a caseload of up to six clients at any one time and provides intensive support to these individuals helping them to settle into the community and remain independent. This work feeds directly into the Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) programme. The PPO multi-agency group meets on a monthly basis to agree how clients' needs should best be addressed and supported and where release from custody is concerned, what arrangements need to be in place to reduce the risk of re-offending and failure.

Drugs awareness sessions in schools and through outreach services have been provided by the Youth Service and the Dale Trust. These sessions have also

included information about alcohol misuse. Drugs and drinks information packs were commissioned by the Eastleigh and Test Valley South Primary Care Trust for distribution among parents and carers to help inform through answering frequently asked questions and providing an up-to-date guide about local services. Other funding has been provided to offer a higher level of direct support to parents and carers and also for Options to provide a Tier 2 drugs advice service in North Baddesley and Romsey which has been well used.

***(vi) Support vulnerable victims***

The Community Safety Partnership has supported the Domestic Violence county-wide initiative through the Hampton Trust and their employment of a county-wide co-ordinator offering advice and support to agencies and organisations. A Domestic Violence Forum has continued to operate where individual cases can be discussed on a multi-agency basis and ideas and plans developed for future services.

A dedicated programme of developing supported housing and securing *Supporting People* funding has resulted in a substantial increase in the supply of supported housing. There are 14 bed spaces at Dene Court in Andover for street homeless people and further expansion is planned. Street homeless clients usually have complex needs often relating to drug and alcohol misuse. Bridge House in the centre of Andover provides 24 hour supported housing for 9 substance misuse clients. The Andover Crisis and Support Centre have expanded to provide 20 bed spaces for vulnerable women and teenage mothers. The Centre also provides advice on a drop-in basis.

***(vii) Improve communications and future planning of community safety issues***

A Communications Sub-group was established by the Partnership, but limited progress has been made. Individual news items have appeared for example in respect of the Neighbourhood Wardens and the launch of the latest version of the Community Safety Strategy, but a consistent programme of information has not been developed. This will be a priority area for the new Community Safety Manager.

**We said we would show our progress by:**

- **A reduction in house burglaries**  
There has actually been an increase from 241 in 2004/05 to 299 in 2005/06
- **A reduction in violent crime**  
There has been a reduction in violent crime - 1,863 in 2004/05 down to 1,783 in 2005/06
- **A reduction in vehicle crime**

Again, there has actually been an increase in vehicle crime - 655 in 2004/05 up to 835 in 2005/06

- **A reduction in the fear of crime**

The percentage of citizens who feel safe walking home after dark has risen from 46% in 2004/05 and now stands at 57.1%.

## **Priority 2 - A clean and attractive community**

### **We said we would:**

#### ***(i) Deal with waste responsibly and minimise the amount of waste created***

The principal method by which this has been achieved has been through the introduction of the Alternate Bin Collection system (ABC) as a way of achieving higher levels of recycling of waste through encouraging better levels of 'separation at source'. It will be in operation throughout the Council area by the end of 2006.

Waste management officers have visited an increasing number of schools to raise awareness of recycling.

#### ***(ii) Promote energy conservation***

This has been mainly achieved through encouraging higher levels of insulation in houses, so far 50 homes have received grants to improve their insulation this year. Alternative sources of renewable energy have been discussed, but rarely implemented. The recent global rise in energy prices, combined with the realisation of the uncertainty of some of the supply chains, has provoked a resurgence in interest and the recently announced Testway Housing Association's Artists Way scheme for 17 environmentally-friendly houses might provide a blueprint for future developments in the area.

#### ***(iii) Promote environmentally friendly practices to businesses***

Work in this area has mainly taken place through the planning process.

#### ***(iv) Keep our streets clean and tidy***

Recent changes in legislation have meant the introduction of 'on-the-spot' fines for littering. This has been reinforced by a publicity campaign and the appointment of Enforcement Officers. Between January and April 2006 the officers served 14 fixed penalty tickets. Work in schools has included the 'Clean and Safe Educate' (CASE) campaign which has targeted litter awareness in primary school children. Hampshire County Council has recently brought pavement maintenance and repair back under its direct control and it is implementing a system which (it hopes) will reduce the time-delay between notification of a problem and its repair; urban areas are inspected monthly, rural areas once or twice a year.

In autumn 2005 a District-wide graffiti clearance campaign was carried out with about 80 sites being cleaned. In future, the owners of affected properties will be pressed to clean up any new examples as quickly as possible and the council will take enforcement action where appropriate to deal with graffiti.

***(v) Improve air and water quality and protect water resources***

The maintenance of water quality and the policing of water pollution incidents remains the responsibility of the Environment Agency; they remain concerned about the long-term 'health' of the River Test if abstraction and diffuse agricultural pollution pressures increase.

The Environmental Protection Officers of TVBC report that there are no major chronic air pollution problems and there have been no major pollution incidents in the last few years.

***(vi) Increase awareness of the Test Valley environment***

The Countryside team continues to run an active 'walks and talks' programme for individuals and groups.

A joint bid has been made to DEFRA by most of the Borough Councils in Hampshire to sponsor a roadshow promoting recycling and home energy conservation; this should lead to performances in Test Valley during the summer. Joint working has taken place with the Environment Centre promoting environmental awareness in schools through talks and demonstrations at Assemblies, also events such as the 'solar car challenge' and 'CASE' (see above).

***(vii) Protect and increase the variety of plants and animals***

Active links have been forged with organisations such as the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust and RSPB, indeed HIOW WT produced the preliminary draft of the Biodiversity Action Plan for the Borough.

The Countryside Section's 'Countryside and Parks Initiative' which seeks to use the voluntary work of members of the public to achieve environmental improvements attracted 500 hours of work in the first year (2004-2005) and 2098 in the second (2005-2006).

**We said we would show our progress by:**

- **A percentage increase in recycling (and composting) rates**  
Recycling rates have increased from 13.80% in 2003/04 to 16.76% in 2005/06 and should increase to something in the order of 25% as the ABC system is rolled out across the Borough.  
Composting has increased from a zero base in 2003/04 (no system was available) to 4.96 in 2005/06 following the introduction of the green bag scheme.
- **An increase in key indicator species as identified by the Test Valley Biodiversity Action Plan**  
The Biodiversity Action Plan will shortly be completed in draft form, so no 'indicator species' have yet been identified or surveyed.

- **A percentage increase in working with schools**

Various staff within TVBC and in partner organisations (eg the Environment Centre) deliver environmentally themed training to schools.  
Every year 8 schools from within Test Valley compete in the Solar Car Challenge.  
A team of waste management officers are delivering sessions on recycling (5 in 2004, 14 in 2005 and so far 20 in 2006)  
Talks under the collective title Clean and Safe Educate (CASE), principally an anti-littering campaign, have gone from 0 in 2003 to about 7 in 2005.  
These talks are often undertaken in conjunction with Testway Housing  
The Environment Centre has undertaken 42 school visits in 2004 and 20 in 2005  
A number of schools have received talks on recycling and air pollution.  
The countryside management team is promoting a series of 'Wild Trek' nature trails for schools with 14 schools so far expressing interest.

### **Priority 3 - Meeting transport needs in Test Valley**

**We said we would:**

***(i) Support the development of innovative transport solutions that offer reliability and flexibility and make the best use of limited financial resources***

Through partnership working with the County Council demand responsive transport has been supported and promoted within the Borough.

***(ii) Maximise available resources by participating in future bids for new transport initiatives***

We have responded throughout the Local Transport Plan consultation process to promote and highlight awareness of transport priorities desired within the Borough.

***(iii) Encourage transport planners to take into account the differing needs of both residents and visitors and other groups such as, young people, older people and those with mobility difficulties.***

Work continues to ensure that services and facilities are accessible to all communities within the Borough.

***(iv) Co-ordinate transport services***

The dialogue within the Transport Action Group has developed an appreciation of the variety of transport providers and the services they offer. Work will continue to look at brokerage and the possibilities of closer working practices.

***(v) Promote and provide information about transport services***

Transport services continue to be promoted and supported by members of the group.

***(vi) Provide adequate facilities for transport users (e.g. bus shelters, bus stops, cycle storage, cycle routes, cycle stands, lighting, pedestrian crossings, more rail station parking).***

Members of the group have participated in accessibility walks around Andover town, identifying obstacles to access in and around Andover town. Further walks are planned for both Andover and Romsey.

***(vii) Promote the benefits of alternative modes of transport .***

Work will continue to promote the benefits of alternative transport.

## **We said we would show our progress by:**

- **Change in travel behaviour as identified by transport surveys.**

The Borough Council has now 11 approved travel plans and a further 10 awaiting approval. Travel plans are an effective way of encouraging and promoting sustainable travel.

- **An increase in the availability of and access to up-to-date information on transport services within Test Valley to both residents and visitors.**

The Council's web site has up-to-date information on transport services and facilities offered within the borough, linking with external transport routes.

- **An increase in the efficiency of existing community transport services and vehicles.**

The group has representatives from several community transport providers, who are able and willing to share information, best practices and resources where available.

- **An increase in the number of passengers using demand responsive transport**

In November 2005 a further demand responsive bus service became operational in southern Test Valley. Both the new service and the existing Cango in the north of the Borough are continually monitored to assess patronage levels and customer satisfaction.

- **An increase in the number of high frequency bus services**

Two Quality Bus Partnership (QBP) routes have been introduced in Test Valley, one from Salisbury to Andover and the other from Southampton to Romsey. Further discussions are taking place to introduce more QBP routes within Andover.

- **An increase in the transport links between bus and rail services**

There is collective working taking place on improving access to Romsey Station; a project team has been set up and there is potential funding available to ensure access for all is enhanced. Additionally the new Cango bus stops as close as possible to Romsey Station. The new Major Development Areas (MDAs) proposed for Andover will be financing new bus service/s which will serve both the bus and rail stations in Andover.

- **An increase in the number of schools and businesses with green travel plans.**

There are currently 48 schools with an approved travel plan. All schools in Hampshire will have a travel plan by 2010.

## **Priority 4- A community that provides education and lifelong learning**

**We said we would:**

### ***(i) Encourage a culture of learning***

The importance of life long learning was promoted during Adult Learner's Week and Family Learning Week in the autumn.

The growth in the celebration of Family Learning in Test Valley over the last few years has been dramatic; starting from a weekend event at Stockbridge Primary School in 2003 and becoming a month long event, involving schools from across the County at Calshot Activities Centre in 2005.

The development of locally-based skills programmes for those with learning difficulties e.g. joint work with Mencap and Cricklade College also demonstrates how learning in Test Valley is inclusive in its character.

### ***(ii) Increase the supply of good quality, accessible and affordable early education and child care***

There are shortfalls in places at Andover (265 places), Romsey (58) and Valley Park (62). Hampshire County Council's Early Education and Childcare Unit is working to address these shortfalls including by the creation in the next two years of four Children's Centres in areas of greatest deprivation: full core centres in Alamein and St. Mary's wards and outreach centres in Abbey and North Baddesley wards.

The development of extended schools network from 2006 will see the strengthening of networks providing a range of out-of-hours services, including breakfast, after school and holiday clubs based at local schools.

Comprehensive consultation took place in 2006 involving most of the Borough's schools and many voluntary and statutory agencies which provide children's services.

### ***(iii) Work with parents to raise educational attainment levels in schools***

Attainment figures for Stockbridge and Romsey schools have consistently remained above the national average (58% in 2006) between 1998 and 2005 while Andover schools have fared less well. In 2005, 64% of Romsey and Stockbridge school children achieved 5+A\*-C GCSEs whereas the combined Andover Schools achieved 38%.

The Andover grades need to be seen against a background in which several hundred Andover pupils travel out of the town every day for their secondary education. This out-commuting can lead to a negative spiral ultimately leading to unbalanced and falling rolls. The 'Andover Project' is seeking to address this serious problem by bringing together Andover primary and secondary schools and

Cricklade College to raise standards and persuade more local parents to send their children to local schools.

Attainment is the subject of targets 1 and 2 of Hampshire County Council's Local Public Service Agreement with Government.

***(iv) Improve levels of basic skills both in the community and through workplace skills training***

The Government's Skills for Life and Work programme, designed to improve adult literacy and numeracy, is being delivered locally (and funded by Hampshire Learning & Skills Council) through:-

- FE college provision (notably Cricklade College); and by
- Family Learning activity commissioned by Hampshire County Council.

Cricklade offers essential skills (literacy, numeracy and IT skills) for adults while Hampshire CC funds a wide variety of statutory and voluntary agencies to provide family literacy and numeracy courses. Andover and Romsey Family Learning, the PALs Learning Champions and Learndirect all provide courses for Test Valley residents.

In addition, the essential Skills Support Unit provides network support, including training courses, for basic skills workers, a free advisory service in Skills for Life at work and opportunities to access Learndirect.

***(v) Develop long term relationships between training providers, local employers and schools***

There is a wide range of activity linking schools with employers much of which is brought together under the Partnership. The following are examples:

**a) Education Business Partnerships:** The role of the local education business partnerships to bring schools and business closer together. In Test Valley these are First Partnership at Andover and Solent Skill Quest in the south of the Borough. the EBPs place pupils with employers as part of vocational course work. Andover and Romsey Family Learning won awards at a recent SSQ Recognition Awards event.

**b) Training brokerage service, "Andover Skills for Competitiveness"** has over the last two years built up a close relationship with the 200 local businesses it has helped to identify and then solve training needs. Previously supported by the Learning & Skills Council ESF funding, IBP Training & Employment Ltd. and the Borough Council the loss of ESF grant is threatening a very necessary and successful initiative.

**c) Young Enterprise** 2005/06 saw the entry by one of Andover's three secondary schools and Cricklade College in the Young Enterprise competition. The event was promoted by Andover Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Borough Council. Perhaps next year we will see more Andover schools enter?

**d) Cricklade College Employer's Forum** - recently set up to better understand the training needs of local businesses and to tailor their courses accordingly.

### **e) Andover & District 14-19 Learner Entitlement**

Supported by the Hampshire LSC a comprehensive 14-19 curriculum is being developed by Cricklade College and local schools that: meets the needs of local learners and local employers; increases the range of vocational learning available; co-ordinates the various post 16 institutions serving the area and improves links between the partnership and employers and improves work experience and work related content in learning and teaching.

#### ***(vi) Encourage post-16 participation in Further Education and Higher Education***

Participation in Further Education has risen among young people, for both Test Valley and Andover, (from 51.7% to 60.5% for Andover) but has declined among adults (from 14.2% to 10.6% for Andover). This probably reflects changes in national funding priorities (away from adult and community learning and towards 14-19 and basic skills).

The Government's new entitlement for free education for qualifications up to age 25 is intended to increase FE participation among younger adults.

As with increasing the number of young people taking Apprenticeships a strong and effective Cricklade College is critical.

The Aim Higher programme (which is designed to encourage young people whose family have little or no experience of Higher Education) started in 2003 but is unlikely to begin show effect until 2005/06 at the earliest.

A variety of events have been taking place involving Andover schools, Cricklade College and the University of Winchester (U of W) which are funded through Aim Higher. At Easter 2006 60 young people took part in a promotional event at Cricklade College sponsored by H S A at which the U of W demonstrated the benefits of higher education. Cricklade now have 10 Aim Higher Ambassadors whose role is to talk to fellow students and school pupils about higher education.

#### ***(vii) Encourage life long learning***

The high figures for Family Learning and Family Language, Literacy and Numeracy reflect the success of the Andover Family Learning Project (managed by Harrow Way Community School). Typically, the age profile for Family Learning and Family, Language, Literacy and Numeracy is much younger than in the rest of Adult Learning because the programmes are targeted at parents.

As part of the promotion of Family Learning the action group commissioned a report by the University of Winchester on "The Benefits of Family Learning in Test Valley." The results of the study were presented to the Test Valley Family Learning Conference in November 2005.

**We said we would show our progress by:**

- **An increase, subject to demand, in the number of childcare places**  
See the commentary in (ii) above
- **An increase in the percentage of 15 year old pupils, in local authority maintained schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C or equivalent**  
See (iii) above
- **An increase in the percentage of 15 year old pupils, in local authority maintained schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-G or equivalent**

All Andover schools exceeded the England average and demonstrate general improvement year on year. This measure shows the achievement of pupils who may be less academically included or experience behavioural issues.

- **An increase in the percentage of people participating in further education**  
See (vi) above
- **An increase in the percentage of people participating in higher education**

Acceptance rates from people living in Test Valley participating in Higher education are significantly above those for both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the South East region. They have fallen very slightly over the last couple of years and it remains to be seen what impact the introduction of Student Tuition fees will have.

- **increased participation in family learning**  
Test Valley has a relatively high number of learners, much higher than most other Hampshire districts (eg nearly twice as many as Basingstoke and Deane which lies in second place). Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the number of learners increased from 830 to 10,030.
- **An increase in the percentage of people over 60 engaged in lifelong learning**  
In 2003/04 this figure was 6.4% and in 2004/05 this increased to 7.1%
- **An increase in the number of people taking Modern Apprenticeships**

Nationally there is a shortfall in numbers of young people taking Apprenticeships but in Test Valley there has been an increase in both

numbers from 236 in 2003/04 to 266 in 2004/05 and participation rates. Cricklade College offers Apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds in Hairdressing, Motor vehicles, Catering, Administration and Retail.

- **Decrease in the number of people aged 16 - 18 not in employment, education or training**

The number of young people not in education, employment or training in Test Valley grew between 2005 and 2006, from 57 to 84. The social and economic factors which shape young people's behaviour are deep seated and long term.

Cricklade College is leading a partnership, involving Connexions, Basingstoke College of Technology and Farnborough College of Technology to address these issues under a 3 year ESF project (January 2004 – December 2006). Significantly, this is the only one of 5 similar projects across Hampshire where the target, of enrolling 380 beneficiaries (230 from priority groups such as the homeless) will be hit.

Nearly 80% of the sub target for Andover (126 enrolments) have already been met.

## **Priority 5 - A community that encourages healthy lifestyles**

**We said we would:**

### ***(i) Tackle health inequalities such as low income, isolation, education food and housing***

A Health Profile of the people of Test Valley 2005 has been produced in partnership with Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT. This summarises the most comparative indicators of the health of the residents of Test Valley. This has been distributed to all interested parties working in the borough.

A conference was held in November 2005 highlighting Childhood Obesity and Oral Health. Work continues via the Local Public Service agreement (LPSA) to put in place measures to reduce childhood obesity.

A number of projects have been supported such as Andover Family Learning Project and further joint initiatives are being developed.

The Food Forum group is a network of organisations covering south west Hampshire who meet to share good practice and implement initiatives to promote healthy eating and locally produced affordable foods to the communities. Eat to Live is one of the projects under the umbrella of this group. The aim of the Eat to Live project is to facilitate access to affordable fruit and vegetables, initially for disadvantaged communities within Test Valley. The project has been divided into 3 phases; Phase 1 working with schools and communities in Andover, Phase 2 schools and communities in Romsey, Phase 3 in village communities.

TVBC in partnership with Mid Hants PCT has led the 'Stay on Your Feet' campaign. Carers and voluntary workers have been trained to provide advice and information to older people about how to prevent falls and avoid accidents. The campaign commenced in Spring 2005; three public awareness events followed this with an information and advice campaign in local newspapers and radio. This will be replicated in 2006. We are also promoting the 'Stay on your Feet' campaign and the Fallers Clinic in southern Test Valley.

Two Junior Citizen schemes operate covering primary schools across the Test Valley. These are activity-based accident reduction and safety events targeting top primary aged children and providing them with life skills to keep themselves and others safe. This links with the Healthy Schools and Citizenship curriculum and is partly supported with Community Safety funds.

TVBC has supported the Healthy Schools scheme by providing information and lessons on topics related to the work of Environment and Health Service. This includes the environment, healthy lifestyles and safety awareness via projects such as Junior Citizen, C.A.S.E, animal safety etc.

The Fuel Poverty Forum is a widely representative multi-agency group which ran a Fuel Poverty conference in the autumn of 2005 with the aim of highlighting the

links between ill health and those living in cold damp homes. An action plan was drawn up following the conference and the priorities this year will be to train more front-line staff to identify and signpost vulnerable clients to the help available to them.

Links with GPs and other health professionals have also been made to ensure a joined up approach to promotional and seasonal campaigns such as flu jabs and advice being given out with prescriptions via pharmacies.

A full and thorough Participatory Needs Assessment was carried out in the communities of Alamein and St Mary's wards. The research has provided better information about the needs and wishes of those living in the areas of greatest deprivation within the borough and will help to direct resources to those areas. This led to a report published in July 2005 which highlighted the two main areas for action: improving the experience of those living on the estates and improving educational attainment. A steering group has been formed to take this work forward and the project has been named the Andover Turnaround Project (TAP)

***(ii) Improve access to services and amenities such as shops, hospitals and doctor's surgeries***

Valley Park – the room at Knightwood has not yet been used for Healthy Living activities, but negotiations have proved successful and the aim is to be operational by May for one session each week.

Satellite Healthy Living services will be run at The Junction and also King Arthur's Way Hall – both in Andover. Currently joint funding bids are being put together to fund a Drugs Education Worker to deliver work to young people at both sites.

Transport is a big issue, particularly at the rural HLC in Lockerley and also The Depot in Andover, neither of which are easily accessible for young people. Joint working has secured transport and discussions are taking place to formalise what is currently a temporary arrangement. The plan is to provide a regular shuttle between the Junction and the Depot, and also provide transport from central locations to the Depot for specific activities/events.

***(iii) Promote ways of reducing the number of people dying from the primary causes of death (coronary heart disease and cancer)***

The work of the Primary Care Trust smoke cessation services has been supported to promote their services to the wider public. Test Valley is part of the Hampshire and IOW Smoke Free Alliance and supports initiatives such as the Responsible Retailer scheme preventing under age sales of tobacco products to under 16 years olds and the Hampshire Smoke Free Eating and Drinking awards. 23 premises in Test Valley have gained 100% smoke free status (prior to the proposed changes in legislation announced in Feb 2006).

The Health Walks scheme encourages vulnerable groups to take a proactive approach to keeping themselves fit, active and more able. The Health Walks scheme is a jointly funded initiative. There are currently four free weekly Health Walks open to the public, aimed at all ages and abilities to help people to improve

their physical and mental well being. On average up to 120 people walk each week under the scheme. The Health Walks have been given a 3 Heart accreditation by the Walking the Way to Health organisation, this is worthy of note as the highest level of accreditation a Health Walks scheme can achieve.

The management of the Health Walks will be handed over to Valley Leisure from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 which will strengthen links with vulnerable and target groups via the exercise referral scheme.

***(iv) Improve mental health and wellbeing in the community***

This is an area where the group still has to develop its proposals.

***(v) Tackle drug and alcohol misuse***

SNAP Discos – The Healthy Living coordinator is the Chair of the Andover SNAP (Say No and Phone disco) which is a diversionary Saturday night event for young people to encourage them to enjoy themselves without drugs and alcohol. There are up to 600 young people attending each event (monthly except during school holidays) and it is hoped that these events will be used to highlight health issues with young people. SNAP are looking to develop a similar event in the Romsey area and also in Valley Park.

Lockerley – Hampshire County Youth Service (HCYS) currently deliver one open-access session each week. It is hoped that joint working will deliver a variety of services and activities at Lockerley and are currently in discussion with HCYS with regards them providing staff for an additional evening each week.

The Depot – a few Healthy Living activities have run from The Depot. HCYS will run their summer programme “Go For It!” from the there this year. This will involve at least 60 young people in activities each day as well as some off-site activities. This will lead into the Depot’s own summer activity programme, and we are hoping to recruit young people from “Go For It!” to join in further activities at the Depot over the summer.

The DVLA has sanctioned the use of the Depot for Momentum courses to take place there. These courses are aimed at young people under 25 and comprise basic vehicle control, maintenance and safety checks, and the development of positive attitudes to ownership and use. The “On Two Wheels” moped course and “First Gear” car course will be running both during school holidays and during term time, and will again introduce young people to the range of available facilities there. Leaflet racks and a notice-board have been ordered for the Blue Room so that we can display a selection of leaflets and information regarding issues affecting young people.

Youth In Romsey – the flagship Healthy Living Centre. Youth In Romsey continues to attract high numbers of young people every day. Hampshire County Youth Service currently run a Young Parents’ Group, a homework club, 2 open-access drop-ins, a 16+ drop-in, a Careers Info and Jobshop, an Art Drop-In, and a

Sexual Health Clinic each week. In addition to this, they run a lunchtime drop-in session each week at Romsey School, Mountbatten School and Test Valley School. During the school holidays, the opening hours are extended to cater for young people's needs. They provide a huge range of targeted youth support, including one-to-one counselling, work with EOTAS and Social Services, social inclusion projects, condom distribution, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Romsey Youth Council. Youth in Romsey also runs accredited courses for young people – recently the Red Cross First Aid course and Babysitting course.

***(vi) Improve sexual health and decrease sexual pregnancy***

A partnership between the Primary Care Trusts and the Youth Service has led to supported work to reduce teenage conception and Sexually Transmitted Diseases through Young Peoples Drop-in Centres hosted via the Healthy Living Initiative. This role will be strengthened as the Healthy Living coordinator is now in post and will be a key member of the Sexual Health Implementation Group.

Neighbourhood Wardens have been trained to distribute condoms and advise on safe sexual practices.

**We said we would show our progress by:**

- **A reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies and an increase in the number of teenage mothers who have access to education and training**

From 2000/02 there were 153 teenage pregnancies (number of conceptions to girls under 18) and in 2003 there were 61.

- **A reduction in the number of people who smoke**

Number of Test Valley residents attending smoke cessation courses (+16 yrs only) Measured at 4 weeks after quitting.

Mid -Hants Primary Care Trust area: 2005 454 attended, 289 quit  
2004 (partial year results) 479 attended, 322 quit

Eastleigh and Test Valley South Primary Care Trust area: 2003-2006 367 attended, 290 quit

- **An increase in the participation of problem substance misusers in drug treatment programmes**

Numbers of drug users accessing drug treatment programmes Hampshire wide figures only Jan-Dec 2005 1346

- **An increase in the number of schools participating in the Healthy Schools Award**

Data awaited

## **Priority 6 – A community with a thriving local economy**

**We said we would:**

### ***(i) Promote a long term vision for Andover’s economic future***

The Andover Vision is an innovative way for the community to re-establish its sense of identity and ambition for the long term. It is being led by the Chief Executive of Simply Health (formerly HSA) and supported by a wide range of partners, including the Borough and County Councils, local schools, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and private businesses – all with a single ambition – to raise Andover’s aspirations and quality of everything that happens in the town.

Simply Health is one of Andover’s few headquarter companies and its influence is important in articulating how the town should evolve to meet the global challenges ahead. Because there are only a handful of large local businesses, the Council’s role in championing the economic role of Andover is critical.

The Andover Vision partnership is also supported by Charles Landry and COMEDIA, a creative consultancy which is working with civic authorities across the world to transform cities. Unusually, for such a global consultancy, COMEDIA sees the importance of this “bottom up” initiative to enhance a relatively small community.

Among a number of “workstreams” or topic groups, the Business and Retail Workstream is preparing the ground for the economic regeneration of Andover, its town centre and industrial estates.

### ***(ii) Ensure the Borough has an effective and competitive workforce***

There are many different initiatives operating at various levels (national, regional and local) which are all helping to improve skills training in Test Valley:

(a) Essential Skills - The Government’s Skills for Life and Work programme, designed to improve adult literacy and numeracy, is being delivered locally (and funded by Hampshire Learning & Skills Council) through:-

- Cricklade College courses for adults; and by
- Family Learning activity commissioned by Hampshire County Council.

(b) Training Brokerage - At the national level Business Link are about to roll out the employer training pilots nationwide under the brand, Train to Gain. Employees will be offered free training up to level 3 qualifications.

At the local level training brokerage service, “Andover Skills for Competitiveness” has, over the last two years, built up a close relationship with the 200 local businesses it has helped to identify and then solve training needs. Previously supported by the Learning & Skills Council ESF funding, IBP

Training & Employment Ltd. and the Borough Council the loss of ESF grant is threatening a very necessary and successful initiative.

(c) Education Business Partnerships - First Partnership at Andover and Solent Skill Quest are working to bring schools and businesses closer together through, for example, placing pupils with employers as part of vocational course work.

Cricklade College is one of the key organisations providing skills training in Test Valley. It is currently seeking to improve how it supports Small to Medium sized Enterprises by, for example, creating an Employer's Forum designed to better understand the training needs of local businesses and to tailor their courses accordingly. Similarly, it is working with the Learning Skills Council and Andover's schools to devise an Andover & District 14-19 Learner Entitlement or comprehensive 14-19 curriculum which:-

- meets the needs of local learners and local employers
- increases the range of vocational learning available
- co-ordinates the various post 16 institutions serving the area and
- improves links between the partnership and employers and improves work experience and work related content in learning and teaching.

***(iii) Promote the key business sites of southern Test Valley and enable the local business community to prosper***

Southampton (formerly Chilworth) Science Park, Nursling Estate and the Adanac safeguarded site represent employment sites of strategic importance. The science park is home to 50 companies and about 750 people. It continues to evolve with the new £4m. 30,000 square foot Lime Tree Walk development and proposals (yet to be permitted) for a health and fitness centre.

On the 25 hectare safeguarded site east of M271 Ordnance survey hope to re-locate their headquarters from their current premises in Southampton. Subject to planning consent the move could take place in 2008.

***(iv) Promote the rural economy***

Promotion of the rural economy takes many disparate forms from individuals responding to supportive planning policies by creating new businesses to wider business support networks such as Hampshire Fare, which includes 20 Test Valley businesses dedicated to local produce. Other examples, include the work of the Council and Tourism South East to support businesses in the local tourism and arts sector businesses and work with the farming industry for example through the Hampshire Farmer's Markets and the forthcoming Hampshire Farming Conference being organised by the Hampshire Economic Partnership Task Group.

One new initiative, funded by SEEDA through Business Link Wessex, which is just beginning is a Rural Enterprise Gateway. The gateway, which complements new business clubs being set up in rural areas – including Stockbridge – will create a preferred point of contact (initial and continuing) for rural businesses.

***(v) Support small businesses across the Borough***

A great deal of work is taking place to support the creation and survival of small businesses from a variety of agencies. In addition to the points above made in relation to rural businesses, Business Link Wessex is funded by SEEDA to support Small to Medium Sized Enterprises and does this both by delivering services to local businesses itself and contracting the support for start-ups to enterprise agencies (Enterprise First and South Hampshire Enterprise Agency).

The Council also:

- supports the two enterprise agencies to hold regular, free and impartial advice clinics;
- supports The Prince's Trust to help disadvantaged young people who are considering running their own business
- owns and manages an enterprise centre and has facilitated the creation of others to provide "easy in- easy out" accommodation for start ups on a 4 week license
- gives a £500 Business Incentive Grant to start ups
- provides services such as the Test Valley Business Directory and a free grant-finder service for local businesses
- works with many different agencies and across specific sectors such as Town Centre Management, Tourism and Arts to support local businesses.
- awards discretionary rate relief for small businesses
- Test Valley Business Awards

***(vi) Foster a mutually supportive relationship with the Test Valley business community***

This ethos underpins the ethos of the Council and its partner organisations in their dealings with businesses.

**We said we would show our progress by:**

- **An increase in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the borough (per 10,000 population)**

In 2001 there were 4,315 VAT registered businesses. In 2005 there were 4,515

- **An increase in the number of jobs in the borough (per 10,000 population)**

There has actually been a fall in the number of jobs in the whole of the Borough from 48690 in 2001 to 47754 in 2003 with jobs in Andover decreasing from 22167 in 2001 to 21800 in 2003. Given the need for Andover's growing population and need for new facilities to support it it is of particular concern that Andover's jobs base is falling which must indicate an increase in net-out commuting to neighbouring centres.

- **An increase in the number of people of working age in employment**

Data awaited.

- **An increase in the percentage of people with Level 2 qualifications**

Data awaited.

- **An increase in the number of businesses and employees involved in training**

Data awaited.

- **An increase in new land allocated and permitted for business use**

The local planning authority has not identified any additional industrial land in its local plan review to 2011. Although representations were made for the inclusion of additional employment land in southern Test Valley the local plan inspector has supported the local planning authority's position.

## **Priority 7 – A place with strong local communities**

**We said we would:**

### ***(i) Support community groups and individuals in setting up and managing community projects and facilities***

The Grateley Rural research project has been completed and an action plan adopted. Following on from this, 'Community Development' has been identified as one of the themes for the Rural Mentoring Project. This will enable the lessons learnt from the Grateley research, as well as good practice from the other Local Authorities involved in the mentoring project, to be used in other rural areas, such as the Wallops.

External Funding Officer continues to attract funding into Test Valley (approx. £600,000 in 2005/06)

Funding secured to begin creating one database of community organisations, groups, clubs, sports clubs, etc. Necessary IT purchased, with TVBC and TVCS working in partnership

### ***(ii) Improve the skills, confidence and well-being of communities***

Turnaround Project. Consulted with local residents, resulting in those from the local community getting involved, such as new members of the King Arthur's Hall Management Committee. An Action Plan has now been agreed on how to take this project forward.

Joint training agreement between TVBC and voluntary organisations (via TVCS).

Rural Mentoring Project action plan focuses on improving performance on Parish Plans, Community Development and the delivery of services within the rural area

Community Hall Benefit assessment has provided information with regards areas of training needs. Analysis of information is due to be completed end of April 2006.

### ***(iii) Improve the co-ordination of community-based activities and resources***

'One Compact for Hampshire' has been adopted and launch event has taken place. Leaflet has been produced as a 'handy guide' for organisations, to be distributed via the CDAG. Future focus is on training and raising awareness – action plan to be developed and agreed

Programmes of activities for community halls (King Arthur's and Phoenix) have been produced in partnership, following consultation with communities

'Trustee Training Programme' on offer

Increase in number of community minibuses (5 as of June 2005)

***(iv) Equip residents to take part in influencing decisions***

Turnaround project – residents involved in making decisions. Action has taken place as a direct result of resident involvement (Easter Programme at King Arthur's Hall and new playground at King Arthur's way). Expansion is planned in membership of King Arthur's Hall Management Committee. Residents have been kept informed of progress via the 'Turnaround Lunch' at the Entertainer pub, leaflets, and posters.

Parish Plans – Rural Mentoring Project will be focusing on encouraging and supporting the development of Parish Plans – using best practice from other Local Authorities

Resident consultation has taken place with regard to the enhancement of open space at River Way/ Pilgrims Way – an action plan has been developed as a result of the consultation.

***(v) Enable at least 100 new affordable homes to be provided per year***

Achieved and exceeded

Partnership arrangements in place with PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) and HARA (Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing) to maximise development opportunities in the Borough

***(vi) Promote choice and resident satisfaction***

Test Valley Homes choice-based lettings scheme introduced and reviewed. Changes made in response to consultation (simplified points scheme, changes to website). Evaluation is ongoing. It has shown very positive feedback.

***(vii) Ensure the decent homes standard is met***

Government target re vulnerable households has been met. 82% of all households meet standard.

***(viii) Ensure there is a range of housing where support is provided to enable vulnerable people to live independently***

Testway Housing is completing a review of its sheltered housing stock, with a view to identifying extra-care provision.

Steering group (led by MENCAP) has been established to identify needs of learning disability clients

Supporting People Strategic Review has been completed and due to be reported in April 2006 – to include needs assessment of ex-offenders.

***(ix) Improve homelessness prevention and the quality of temporary accommodation***

Funding from ODPM – continued and increased funding secured until 2008 – to fund two Homeless Prevention Officers.

Testway Housing has taken over the Short-Term Let scheme (now the Private Sector Leasing Scheme). Number of PSL properties increasing, and meet decent home standards

60% of homeless applicants have been prevented from becoming homeless

**We said we would show our progress by:**

- **The number of new affordable homes provided per annum**

103 achieved in 05/06.

100 remains the target for 06/07

Target has been achieved and remains the same for the coming year.

- **Number of applicants placed in bed and breakfast accommodation**

In 05/06, 9 households were placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. Unfortunately, this is an increase on 04/05 in which no households were placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. Due to staff shortages, bed and breakfast accommodation has had to be used – but as of March 2006 no families were in bed and breakfast accommodation and two new Homeless Prevention Officers are due to start in April/May 2006.

- **Percentage of homes complying with the decent homes standard**

The Government target is for 70% of all dwellings occupied by vulnerable households to meet the decent homes standard. This has been achieved in Test Valley, with 85% of vulnerable households meeting the standard. As a whole, 82% of dwellings in Test Valley meet the decent homes standard (this is a baseline figure, as this has not previously been measured)

- **Resident satisfaction levels with their home and environment**

Difficult to measure, but the Citizen's Panel has been able to provide some useful feedback. Some examples of where this has been achieved may be a good way to show progress. For example, measuring resident satisfaction in the Alamein Ward following action from the Turnaround Project (i.e. some area specific research).

Citizen's Panel Survey (March 2006): 87% are either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their local area. 57% are either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the community facilities in their area (and 82% know where their nearest community facility is).

- **The percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area**

As above, this is difficult to measure, although the Citizen's Panel has again provided some useful feedback.

Citizen's Panel Survey (March 2006): 58% feel a sense of belonging to the area in which they live (compared to 53% in the February 2006 Citizen's Panel). 22% (27% last year) would take direct action to change something in their local area, 21% (17% last year) would take action with friends, and 44% (35% last year) would approach their local representative

- **The percentage of people belonging to new and existing community / residents associations**

Citizen's Panel Survey (March 2006): 22% belong to a community or resident's association (no change from February 2005). Again, area specific examples may be best used to illustrate this – such as the expansion of the King Arthur's Way Management Committee.

- **The number of successful lottery bids submitted by local organisations to develop new community initiatives**

External funding secured totalled approx. £600,000 for voluntary organisations in Test Valley (with the advice and assistance of the External Funding Officer)

## **Priority 8 - A community that knows how to enjoy itself**

**We said we would:**

### ***(i) Improve the quality of existing cultural activities and create new opportunities for the community***

Work is underway to transform Cricklade Theatre into a community cultural facility. The theatre block was purchased by Test Valley Borough Council last year and a design team selected. The building work commenced in January 2006. It is progressing well and an opening season programme is being planned. The facility will be called 'The Lights'. The target date for the completion of the work is October 2006.

Planning permission has been approved for a cinema in Andover and preliminary work has started

Slow but steady progress is being made in efforts to bring St Mary's Chapel into use. Hampshire County Council is currently assessing costs which will need to take account of structural and heritage issues.

### ***(ii) Do our best to see that new and existing cultural activities serve the needs of the whole community in Test Valley***

A major aim has been to provide sports and arts activities for children and young people living in urban neighbourhoods. Testway 7s programme of sports activities has proved very popular in Andover. This has been extended to provide an opportunity for young people to be involved in boxing and there has been a good take up rate

The provision of a series of SNAP discos has been supported and the Rock Challenge has been co-ordinated across the Borough.

Additionally there has also been support for the provision of a rural youth bus and a network of targeted youth activities/clubs across the Borough. The rural youth bus is proving very popular as is the Young People's Music Group at The Wedge.

There have been improved and increased facilities for young people at Knightwood Leisure Centre, Youth in Romsey Project, Lockerley Village Hall and The Depot Youth Complex, Andover.

### ***(iii) Use education and training to promote involvement in cultural activities***

A Healthy Living Co-ordinator has been appointed and lifestyle advice and support will now be available at a network of healthy living centres.

***(iv) Encourage residents to improve their health and well-being through involvement in cultural activities***

A Fit for Fun project for Enham clients has been co-ordinated for those who have a range of disabilities. They now enjoy regular use of The Depot as part of the project.

A multi-agency exercise referral service across the Borough has been developed.

A programme of events and activities that encourage physical activity, arts and sport amongst target groups has been co-ordinated and supported. These include an orienteering event in the Test Valley Tour, Fit for Work initiatives and more healthy walks

A successful bid to the HISI fund has been made and the exercise referral scheme is now underway

Additionally a successful bid to Sport England Active England Fund has led to the provision of Outreach Sports Development Officer who will be based at the Depot Youth Complex

**We said we would show our progress by:**

o **Achievement of actions set out in the Partnership's recently published Cultural Strategy**

The cultural strategy very much focused on three key areas:

(i) Creating a cultural venue in the north of the Borough

The theatre is not yet completed but work is ongoing to complete what will be a major cultural venue for Andover

(ii) Creating a multi-purpose activity centre for young people

The provision of The Depot and the development of a range of activities available there for young people has achieved this aim.

(iii) Physical activity

Progress is ongoing and is evidenced above (see above under 'Encourage residents to improve their health and well-being through involvement in cultural activities' )

o **Records of participation rates in leisure and cultural activities broken down into different activities (using the Audit Commission's tool for comparing performance against similar local authority areas)**

Leisure and Culture Usage Levels in Test Valley 2003/4,

- 49% have used a sports facility in last 6 months (66<sup>th</sup> percentile - just under the top quartile)

- 17% have visited a museum (35<sup>th</sup> percentile – between bottom and half way)
  - 21% have used a theatre (25<sup>th</sup> percentile – top of bottom quartile)
  - 80% have used parks and open spaces (100 percentile – the very top!)
- **Records of satisfaction levels with leisure and cultural provision (using the Audit Commission's tool, as above)**
- Leisure and Culture Satisfaction Levels in Test Valley 2003/4,
- 62% satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities (80<sup>th</sup> percentile – top quartile)
  - 39% satisfaction with museums and galleries (50<sup>th</sup> percentile – half way)
  - 37% satisfaction with theatres and concert halls (18<sup>th</sup> percentile – bottom quartile)
  - 77% satisfaction with parks and open spaces (71<sup>st</sup> quartile – just under top quartile)
- **Records of reported vandalism/anti-social behaviour incidences in public parks and open spaces**

Data awaited

### **Other key Partnership activities in the last twelve months**

- Children and Young People Plan consultation event at Paultons Park
- A response to the South East Plan consultation
- A response to the review of local health arrangements regarding Andover and Romsey Hospitals
- A response to the Hampshire County Council consultation on north and east Andover School Places Review
- A response to the Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS consultation
- A response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consultation on Local Strategic Partnerships – Shaping their Future
- Convened a special meeting to consider the implications of the Hampshire Local Area Agreement for Test Valley Partnership
- Co-hosted an event with Basingstoke and Deane and Winchester LSPs to promote Mark Friedman's Results Based Accountability framework for Community Planning
- Facilitated an ongoing consultation between Test Valley Partnership and Test Valley Borough Council's Planning Service with regard to the Local Development Framework

## **Financial Statement**

The Partnership has substantial resources and assets at its disposal, but has no budget directly under its control. This is because, with the exception of some Government funding for community safety purposes, it is entirely dependent upon the resources available to the various organisations and agencies that make up the Partnership.

Progress with the projects and initiatives included in the various action plans requires approval within the budgetary arrangements of the relevant partner where, inevitably, judgements have to be made about competing priorities.

In the case of a small, but increasing, number of initiatives, there is an element of joint funding.

Members of the Partnership are keen to pursue further opportunities to work together in ways that will enable available resources to be maximised for the benefit of the people of Test Valley. Action Groups will also be exploring the potential for attracting external funding and sponsorship wherever this is appropriate.

Several of the partner organisations have entered into an arrangement to make funding available to support a Partnership Manager post. Although hosted by the Borough Council, the postholder is employed by the Partnership and accountable directly to the Partnership Board.

The following partners are involved in this funding arrangement:

Eastleigh and Test Valley South Primary Care Trust  
Hampshire Constabulary  
Hampshire County Council  
Mid Hampshire Primary Care Trust  
Test Valley Borough Council  
Testway Housing  
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare Trust

Other administrative costs of servicing the Partnership are mainly borne by the Borough Council although the contribution of the County Council towards the cost of a number of special events is acknowledged.

## **Members of the Test Valley Partnership Board**

Barbara North (Chair of Test Valley Partnership)	Winchester and Eastleigh Health Trust
*Janet Blann (Vice-Chair of Test Valley Partnership) (Chair of Community Development Action Group)	Test Valley Community Services
Cllr Ian Carr	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Sandra Hawke	Test Valley Borough Council
Roger Tetstall	Test Valley Borough Council
*Bernard Sully	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
*Roger Lawes	Hampshire County Council
Anthony Fielding	Hampshire County Youth Service
Cllr David Bidwell (Chair of Transport Action Group)	Association of Parish Councils
Charles Milner- Williams	Association of Parish Councils
Mel Cook	Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT
*Christine Jackson	Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT
Bridget Phelps	Mid-Hampshire Primary Care Trust
*Bob Coates	Mid-Hampshire Primary Care Trust
Neil Greenfield	Andover Chamber of Commerce
*Philip Liddell (Chair of Economic Development Action Group)	Romsey Chamber Commerce
*Chief Superintendent Ann Wakefield	Hampshire Constabulary
Carol Rooke (Chair of Community Safety Partnership)	Victim Support
Rev. Derek Overfield (Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Action Group)	The Faith Community
Madeline Edmonds (Chair of Leisure and Culture Action Group)	Test Valley Arts Foundation
Paul Harris (Chair of Environment Action Group)	Defence Logistics Organisation

Jan Lefley (Chair of Education and Learning Action Group)	Romsey Community School
*Steve Benson (Chair of Turnaround Project Steering Group)	Testway Housing
Susan Chivers	Government Office South East
*Marion Woods	Partnership Manager

\* denotes that these Board members are also members of the Partnership Management Group



## Terms of Reference

### 1. Composition

The Test Valley Partnership was formed in April 2002. In accordance with Government Guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships, the Partnership is:

- An organisation that brings together at a local level the public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together.
- Chaired by a representative from the public, private, business, community or voluntary sector. (Nb. the Partnership is not required to be chaired by the Local Authority.)
- A non-statutory, non-executive organisation. Ultimate responsibility and accountability remains with individual organisations.
- A body that operates at a level which enables strategic decisions to be taken close enough to individual neighbourhoods to allow actions to be determined at a community level.
- Aligned with the boundaries of Test Valley BC

### 2. Aims

The Partnership has agreed the following statement of purpose:

**‘By working together we will use our combined resources to better effect to bring about a sustained and measurable improvement in the quality of life of the people of Test Valley, especially those in most need.’**

The Partnership will bring about this improvement by:

- Listening to the needs, aspirations and views of local people.
- Co-ordinating those needs, aspirations and views into a Community Plan setting out a shared vision for the future.

- Encouraging and facilitating closer working between local organisations and agencies to deliver the aims and objectives set out in the Community Plan better than could be achieved by organisations working on their own.
- Overseeing the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the Community Plan.
- Reporting publicly on progress in delivering the objectives of the Community Plan.
- Undertaking an ambassadorial role for the Borough.

### **3. Operational Arrangements**

#### **Leadership**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be selected annually by vote by members of the Test Valley Partnership.

#### **Test Valley Partnership**

Membership of the Test Valley Partnership (TVP) will be open to all agencies and organisations operating within the Borough with an interest in the social, environmental and economic well-being of the people of Test Valley.

The full Partnership is likely to meet no more than once or twice a year (there will be an annual general meeting) but members will be kept in regular contact through an informal communication network.

#### **Partnership Management Board**

Because of the size of the full Partnership (currently over 250 members), a Partnership Management Board (PMB) has been established to provide overall strategic direction, to carry out detailed planning and to drive forward the work of the Partnership. The Board is accountable to the full Partnership and reports on progress to the TVP Annual General Meeting.

Membership of the Board, which is chaired by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the TVP, ensures appropriate representation from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The Board will determine its own methods of working to support the Partnership in:

- Developing short, medium and long term targets to achieve the vision for the local area.
- Providing a forum to promote dialogue between local organisations and to bring together plans, partnerships and initiatives.
- More effectively targeting resources to support the delivery of Community Plan objectives.
- Co-ordinating planning cycles and performance management systems of member organisations and partnerships.
- Developing indicators to monitor the Partnership's progress in improving the economic, health, social and environmental aspects of peoples lives.
- Reviewing and bringing forward a new Community Plan for the Partnership's approval every five years.

### **Partnership Management Group**

The Partnership Management Group (PMG) is an officer group at Chief Executive/Director level. If the primary role of the PMB is to provide overall strategic direction, that of the PMG, working with the Action groups (see below), is to ensure effective delivery. The Partnership Management Group meets approximately six times a year, normally every other month. Chairmanship rotates, with each member of the PMG hosting meetings of the PMG in turn and taking the chair for the meeting that they host. The PMG will report progress to the Partnership Board at least twice a year.

The main functions of the PMG are to:

- Ensure delivery of the Community Plan by monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the work of the Partner Action Groups using a performance management framework.
- Ensure a local focus, in particular in the most disadvantaged areas of the borough, and more effective targeting of resources.
- Improve communications and co-ordination between members of the partnership to encourage greater sharing of information, promoting best practice and rationalisation of partnerships where there is an overlap.

- Develop and improve the Partnership through the preparation and implementation of annual 'health check' Improvement Plans.

### **Partnership Action Groups**

The eight key themes of the Community Plan are supported at a detailed operational level by Partnership Action Groups. These are relatively small working groups, made up of people who have expertise and/or an interest in a particular policy area. In some cases (for example the Community Safety Partnership, the Community Learning Partnership), the Action Groups consist of established partnership groupings working within the umbrella of the Test Valley Partnership. A member of the Partnership Board serves as a link person with each of the Action Groups. The link person is sometimes, but not in all cases, also the Chairman of the Group. Chairmanship is reviewed on an annual basis.

Action Groups determine their own working arrangements and frequency of meetings. They are responsible for:

- Taking forward all aspects of the work of the Partnership in the relevant policy area. This will entail:
  - considering local needs
  - developing an action plan
  - drawing up appropriate targets and performance indicators
  - monitoring delivery of the action plan
  - reviewing the action plan
  - investigating funding opportunities
- Preparing and implementing any related plans or strategy documents.
- Providing a focus for all partnership activity within the relevant policy area and will seek to co-ordinate that activity (including auditing and rationalising the number of policy groups where appropriate).
- Providing regular reports to the PMG/PMB as required and contributing updates on progress for Partnership bulletins and the Partnership web site.

At least twice a year, the Chairmen of the Action Groups and the relevant officer co-ordinators, meet to consider the links between their groups and ways in which they can work more closely together.

### **General Note**

At all levels, arrangements should be sufficiently flexible to permit the possibility of co-option where this is considered appropriate.

---

## *The Test Valley Partnership Accord*

---

The Organisations undersigned have distinct but highly complementary roles. They are of one accord in their belief that close partnership working between themselves and other organisations is an essential requirement of improving the wellbeing of the local area. These organisations commit to the objectives set out below and to the following principles of joint working to make the best use of available resources in improving the social, health, economic and environmental wellbeing of Test Valley borough.

### *Ten Principles of Joint Working*

#### **1. Wellbeing**

To promote the four indicators of wellbeing (economic, health, social and environmental) to ensure a high quality of life. Partners will endeavour to ensure equal access to:

- Affordable housing, food, water and fuel.
- Communities free from fear.
- A high quality environment.
- Leisure and recreational facilities.
- Opportunities to work, lifelong education and leisure.

#### **2. Community Priorities**

To create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to make a difference by endeavouring to:

- Listen to local people, organisations and agencies.

#### **3. Local Needs**

To strive for social inclusion within the community and take account of local community needs in the planning/delivery of services by endeavouring to ensure equal access to:

- Services and facilities based on need; and by
- Developing a sense of a local community and identity.

#### **4. Citizen Focus**

To ensure the Partnership is responsive to the public by endeavouring to:

- Take full account of the views of local people in the planning and delivery of high quality and effective services.

#### **5. New Ways of Working**

To challenge accepted ways of working with existing resources by endeavouring to:

- Provide the right service at the right time and place.
- Minimise the cost.
- Focus on outcomes NOT the process of delivery.

#### **6. Openness**

To make the work of the Partnership transparent and representative of the whole community by endeavouring to:

- Share information, knowledge and skill at all levels throughout organisations.
- Ensure that the public are fully engaged with the work of the Partnership.

#### **7. Staff Involvement**

To encourage an inter-departmental/inter-organisational approach by frontline staff by endeavouring to:

- Ensure employees look beyond the boundaries of their own organisation.
- Involve employees in the planning and reviewing of services.
- Encourage joint working.

#### **8. Effective Resource Management**

To focus resources on priority areas and to set clear priorities in the management of change/new development by endeavouring to:

- Commit to the process of scrutiny of services.
- Rationalise management.
- Minimise waste and adopt the principles of Best Value.

## **9. Mutual Respect**

To foster an atmosphere of trust and respect within the Partnership by endeavouring to:

- Promote and defend partnership between organisations.
- Respect the different roles of the various organisations.
- Allow members to discuss issues without reproach.

## **10. Equal Partnership**

To recognise that all members have a valuable contribution to make to the Partnership through encouraging partners to:

- Recognise the importance of all contributions.
- Have a shared understanding and responsibility for delivering key targets.