



# Your Test Valley

## Community Development Action Plan

2009 - 2011



### Test Valley PARTNERSHIP

## About Test Valley

Test Valley is a mainly rural borough covering 628 square kms (243 square miles) of the western side of Hampshire. The borough has high quality natural and built environments, with a number of conservation areas, listed buildings and areas covered by designations, such as the New Forest National Park, and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding national Beauty (AONB).

In 2006 the population of the borough was 112,739 and this is projected to increase by around 7.1% by 2026. The increase in growth will not be uniform across Test Valley and Alamein ward will experience the highest % increase, with a predicted 39.2% growth from 2007-2013 (HCC small area population forecasts).

Some 64% of the total population in Test Valley live in urban wards within the two market towns of Romsey in the south and Andover in the north. The rest of the population live in the smaller rural settlements scattered across the borough (Census 2001).

Test Valley is not a deprived area. The Combined Indices of Multiple Deprivation in 2007 show that 19 of the 24 wards in Test Valley, are among the 25% least deprived in the country. However the Borough does contain some pockets of relative deprivation, and one ward is among the 50% most deprived wards in the country.

Across Test Valley, a relatively high % of the population in Test Valley are employed or self employed and a relatively low % are unemployed, in comparison with England and the South East. However there are some differences in economic activity. For instance in Alamein and St Mary's there is a high percentage of people who are unemployed in comparison to the rest of Test Valley and the South East, and in Abbey ward there is a very high percentage of people who are retired in comparison to local, regional and national averages.

Average house prices are higher than those nationally and regionally. Crime rates in Test Valley are amongst the lowest in the country.

## Communities in Test Valley

Test Valley has a diverse range of local communities. Some are long established and have a strong sense of community with active community leaders. Others are less developed. A significant amount of community and voluntary activity already takes place, but there is a need to improve co-ordination to meet the needs of diverse communities in both urban and rural areas.

Most residents enjoy a wide range of opportunities and strong social networks reflecting the relative affluence that is characteristic of the borough as a whole. However, there are pockets of deprivation where quality of life is less satisfactory and opportunities are more limited, with a need for greater support to encourage community leaders and to promote community development.

Test Valley is becoming more culturally diverse, with parts of the borough seeing a significant increase in the number of migrant workers from Eastern Europe. Welcoming new residents and ensuring they are fully integrated into the community presents a new and important challenge. In addition, the population of Test Valley is set to grow significantly with government requirements for an extra 8,920 homes by 2026. In the short to medium term, three new neighbourhoods will be built as extensions to Andover and Romsey providing around 4,500 new homes. Planning for these major development areas will be challenging, and ensuring new residents feel part of our existing towns and settlements, is crucial. However the opportunities these new neighbourhoods present for benefits for local communities are significant, with new community facilities and buildings, open space, play areas, sports pitches, transport and highway improvements

Test Valley is fortunate in having a diverse range of residents, including a considerable military presence, and, Enham and other charities providing accommodation and support for a significant number of people living with disabilities. Being inclusive, ensuring **all residents** have access to services and facilities and a sense of “belonging” to their community, will result in the development of a happier and more sustainable society.

## The Test Valley Partnership

The Test Valley Partnership was formed in April 2002 and has developed in line with Government guidance. It brings together a wide range of groups and organisations drawn from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors, sharing the single aim of working together to improve quality of life for 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.’***

The Test Valley Partnership produced its first Community Plan in 2003 and this was reviewed and updated in 2007. The Community Plan sets out the desired outcomes for Test Valley based around eight themes:

- Community safety
- Education and lifelong learning
- The Environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Leisure and Culture
- The Local Economy
- Local communities
- Transport

## Community Development Action Group

The Community Development Action Group (CDAG) is one of seven action groups within the Test Valley Local Strategic Partnership. It works to achieve the outcomes around 'Local Communities' in the Community Plan. CDAG is a vibrant group made up of a diverse range of partners from the statutory, voluntary and community sector who have an interest in community development. CDAG's aim is to:

*"Support and encourage a strong sense of local community" – Test Valley Partnership Community Plan*

To achieve this, CDAG work towards delivering a number of outcomes in the Test Valley Community Plan:

- People have access to the amenities and services they need wherever they live
- People feel that they live in strong, safe and supportive communities
- People are able to influence what goes on locally and more are involved in community activity
- Improved availability of a range of affordable and suitable housing to meet people's needs
- An improved standard of housing across both public and private sectors

## Joint Areas of Focus

In 2009 partners through the Test Valley Partnership, identified a number of barriers stopping the outcomes in the Community Plan being achieved. To overcome these barriers, fourteen 'Joint Areas of Focus' (JAFs) were agreed. JAFs are the cross cutting issues that currently affect Test Valley and require a partnership approach in the short (0-6 months) to medium (6-18 months) term. Tackling JAFs at this time, will directly contribute to the Partnership meeting the longer term outcomes it has set itself in the Community Plan.

The fourteen Joint Areas of Focus are:

**JAF 1** Domestic Abuse

**JAF 2** Alcohol

**JAF 3** Anti Social Behaviour

**JAF 4** Support more cohesive and resilient communities in targeted areas of Test Valley

**JAF 5** Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system

**JAF 6** Raising the educational attainment of children and young people in targeted areas of Test Valley

- JAF 7** Breaking down the barriers to adult & community learning opportunities in Test Valley
- JAF 8** Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley
- JAF 9** Reducing obesity in Test Valley
- JAF 10** Reducing the rising trend of teenage pregnancy in Test Valley
- JAF 11** Reducing health inequalities in targeted areas of Test Valley and amongst vulnerable groups
- JAF 12** Supporting businesses, organisations and communities in Test Valley to act sustainably and to reduce their carbon emissions.
- JAF 13** Supporting the development of the rural economy
- JAF 14** Partners and local communities to identify innovative solutions so that vulnerable and isolated groups can access key services

## CDAG Joint Areas of Focus

To achieve the outcomes in the Community Plan, partners through the Test Valley Partnership, identified that CDAG should lead on the delivery of two JAFs for 2009/11:

<b>JAF 4</b>	Support more cohesive and resilient communities in targeted areas of Test Valley
<b>JAF 8</b>	Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley

It was also agreed that CDAG would contribute towards the delivery of a further four JAFs:

<b>JAF 2</b>	Alcohol
<b>JAF 3</b>	Anti Social Behaviour
<b>JAF 7</b>	Breaking down barriers to Adult and Community learning opportunities in Test Valley
<b>JAF 11</b>	Reducing Health Inequalities in targeted areas of Test Valley and amongst vulnerable groups

## CDAG Action Plan

This Action Plan sets the direction for community development activity within Test Valley between 2009 and 2011. It has been developed around the 6 JAFs that CDAG will lead on and contribute towards, beginning with the two JAFs that CDAG are leading on:

**JAF 4: Support more Cohesive and Resilient Communities in targeted areas of Test Valley**

**JAF 8: Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley**

The Action Plan then outlines the actions in the JAFs that CDAG are contributing towards. Where the actions identified address more than one JAF, the JAFs have been combined.

The Action Plan has been informed by the findings of four workshops held across the Partnership as part of the JAF consultation process. Alongside this, it builds on the achievements of the previous CDAG Action Plan, and further develops the valuable roles that CDAG currently play in the Partnership. These include providing a forum for sharing information and good practice on community development activity in Test Valley and making recommendations to the LSP board on the endorsement of Parish Plans and service delivery, based on the identified needs of our communities.

The Action Plan identifies key actions under each JAF that we will work towards as an Action Group. It also identifies milestones in order to check progress, the organisation and/or individual who will lead on delivery of the action – and the other partner organisations that will be involved in supporting delivery.

# Action Plan 2009-2011

## **JAF 4: Support more Cohesive and Resilient Communities in targeted areas of Test Valley**

Supporting communities to be more cohesive and resilient enables local people to tackle the issues they face in their area. This generates a sense of ownership and enables a more sustainable approach to developing local communities and shaping services. CDAG is leading on the delivery of this JAF. The targeted areas of Test Valley that CDAG will work with, refers to geographical areas and also communities of interest. Particular targeted areas identified by CDAG are:

- Communities living in our most deprived areas
- Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities
- Rural communities, and particularly residents facing isolation

In order to achieve this JAF, it is important to coordinate community development activity across Test Valley to ensure that all communities in need are supported and to avoid duplication.

### **Commitment to Action**

Over the next 18 months we will:

- Continue to target resources in the most deprived wards in Test Valley and contribute to the work of the Turnaround project.
- Work with ethnic minority communities across Test Valley, to support those facing social exclusion and promote cultural diversity as a means of community integration.
- Strengthen work within targeted rural communities to address issues of isolation and access to services.
- Coordinate community development activity across Test Valley to make most effective use of resources in order to reach a greater number of communities in Test Valley.
- Coordinate, promote and develop Volunteering opportunities in Test Valley

## Objectives for this priority:

- Develop the Askalot shop and neighbourhood activities in Alamein, and undertake an evaluation of the Turnaround project to identify how the project should continue in the medium term. Support proposals to redevelop St Paul's Church Centre, Smannell Road, as a community resource.
- Engage with and support members of the BME community to improve their well being and access to services, through 'drop in' sessions, cultural events and involving service providers in the Andover Cultural Diversity Forum
- Increase the number of Parish Plans and hold Parish Plan training and networking events
- Develop a network for community development practitioners and develop a calendar of events across Test Valley. Support large community events.
- Develop volunteering across Test Valley in line with the increased demand

<b>JAF 4: Support more Cohesive and Resilient Communities in targeted areas of Test Valley</b>				
<b>Objectives for Priority</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Lead Person/ Organisation</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Develop the Askalot shop and neighbourhood activities in Alamein	Askalot open for increased hours	Turnaround steering group, Community Support officer (TVBC), Alamein Community Association	Testway, TVCS, HCC, Andover Churches Together, PCSOs, TVBC	October 2009
	Set up 'Job club' at Askalot and King Arthur's hall			September 2009
	Employ an additional neighbourhood activity worker for Turnaround			December 2010
Undertake an evaluation of the Turnaround project to identify how the project should continue in the	Partners involved in evaluation	Partnership Manager (TV Partnership),	Turnaround steering group	December 2009
	Board review evaluation Improvement			

medium term	plan agreed			
Support proposals to redevelop St Paul's Church Centre, Smannell Road as a community resource	Community consultation undertaken  Funding sources identified			
Engage with and support members of the BME community to improve their well being	Re-launch BME 'Drop in' at library  Hold cultural community evening	BME Community Development Officer (TVBC), Testway  BME Community Development Officer (TVBC), Testway, Crosslinks, Muslim Society	All CDAG  All CDAG	October 2009  January 2010
Improve BME access to services	Engage new organisations in Andover Multicultural Forum  Hold three Forum meetings a year	BME Community Development Officer (TVBC)	Testway, TVCS, Andover Mind, Romsey Carers, Andover Multicultural Forum	Ongoing

Increase the number of Parish Plans.	Complete 3 Parish Plans annually.  Start 3 Parish Plans annually.	Community Action Hampshire, Parish Councils, Community Support officer (TVBC)	All CDAG members involved in endorsement	December 2009
Hold annual Parish Plan training and awareness raising event	Event held annually	Community Support Officer (TVBC), Community Action Hampshire	Parish Councils, TVCS	December 2010
Develop a network for community development practitioners, to coordinate community development and funding bids	First meeting of community development practitioners (face to face, or online)	Senior Community Development Officer (TVBC)	Testway, TVCS, Andover Churches Together, Enham, Testway, TVCS, HCC and expand appropriately	March 2010
Develop a calendar of events/ community activities across Test Valley for 2010	Collate dates from partners on events planned for 2010  Maintain community activities and events on HCC Evolve database and review on 6 month basis	Senior Community Development Officer, TVBC  TVCS	All CDAG  All CDAG	December 2009 and ongoing  Ongoing
Support large community events bringing different generations together	Support Hope Andover 2009 and 2010 by promoting on websites	Andover Churches Together, Enham, TVCS, Community Support Officer (TVBC), Romsey	All CDAG	Ongoing  March 2010

		Carers, Parish Councils, MOD		
Develop volunteering across Test Valley in line with the increased demand	Strengthen links between Volunteer Centre and Leisure and Wellbeing service at TVBC	TVCS, TVBC	All CDAG	December 2010
	Pilot volunteer placements at Jobcentre	TVCS	Education/ Economic Action group	September 2009

## **JAF 8: Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley**

The Borough is going to experience high levels of housing growth over the next 20 years with developments planned in and around both Andover and Romsey. The implications of these “new neighbourhoods” are significant not only in creating new communities but also in relation to existing ones.

It is therefore essential that partners consider the impact and service delivery implications in relation to the new neighbourhoods across Test Valley. Over the next twelve months, residents will begin moving in to East Anton, the first of the new neighbourhoods.

CDAG are leading on the delivery of this JAF.

### **Commitment to Action**

Over the next 18 months we will:

- Involve partners and communities in decisions around what and how services are provided in the new neighbourhoods
- Empower new and existing residents in and around the new neighbourhoods to be involved as far as possible, in how the new developments progress
- Help build a sense of ‘community spirit’ in the new neighbourhoods and develop links between new and existing communities

### **Objectives for this priority:**

- Set up and coordinate ‘Delivery groups’ involving key partners and residents (as they arrive) that prepare for the arrival of the new communities, and are part of the LSP structure.
- Hold information/activity events to inform and engage existing and new residents on progress at the new development and provide opportunities for involvement
- Employ a dedicated community officer to work with local communities to find out what community activities should be offered in the new neighbourhoods, and how to link new and existing communities.

- Identify regeneration opportunities in the adjacent existing housing areas arising from the direct impact of the new communities.

<b>JAF 8: Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley</b>				
<b>Objectives for Priority</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Lead Person / Organisation</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Set up and coordinate 'Delivery groups' involving key partners and residents, as they arrive.	Develop and hold calendar of meetings  Decide what themes different meetings will have (e.g. health)	TVBC	Knights Enham Church, TVCS, Parish Council, MOD, Alamein Community Association, residents – and expand as appropriate	July 2009 and ongoing
Hold events to inform and engage existing and new communities on progress at the new development and provide opportunities for involvement	Hold information/activity events for local residents	TVBC	Knights Enham, TVCS, Alamein Community Association, residents	May 2009 and ongoing
	Provide learning experiences for schools and colleges in the development and construction process	TVBC	Schools and colleges, Education Action Group	September 2010
Employ a dedicated community officer to work with local communities to find out what community activities should be offered in the new	Community development worker employed at East Anton	TVBC	All Action Groups, residents	December 2009

neighbourhoods, and how to link new and existing communities				
Identify opportunities for regeneration in existing areas as a result of the impact of the new communities.	Hold meeting with Testway			Ongoing

## **JAF 2: Alcohol**

Alcohol is a cross cutting issue that runs through many of the community plan themes as it impacts on a number of public and voluntary sector services and can have a major affect on local communities.

Alcohol related violence is one of the key drivers for crime and offending in Test Valley and it is estimated that around 52% of children and young people drink alcohol.

The Annual public health report, the sustainable community strategy for Hampshire and the Test Valley Community safety Strategic Assessment all highlight Alcohol as a key area for focus. Tackling alcohol requires a multi agency approach in order to slow the rate of impact on individuals and communities. CDAG are contributing towards the delivery of this JAF.

## **JAF 3: Anti Social Behaviour**

Perception of how safe people feel remains disproportionate to the reality, and Test Valley is no different as people's perceptions are driven both by what they see locally and what they see and hear nationally. This is an issue in both our urban and rural areas. Communicating with the local community about the action taken to tackle the problems they are facing is vital. CDAG are contributing towards delivery of this JAF.

### **Commitment to Action**

Over the next 18 months we will:

- Develop closer links with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Health and Wellbeing group to develop shared projects around alcohol and realities and perceptions of antisocial behaviour.

### **Objectives for this priority:**

- Support the delivery of the successful 'Alcohol Theatre project' in community settings across Test Valley.
- Support the development of diversionary activities for young people, including an intergenerational pilot project in a rural area facing antisocial behaviour issues
- Work with CDRP to pilot 'Neighbourhood Management' in targeted areas of Test Valley. Neighbourhood management means residents working in partnership with mainstream service providers, the local authority, businesses and the voluntary and

community sectors, to make local services (e.g. policing) more responsive to the needs of their area

<b>JAF 3: Anti Social Behaviour JAF 2: Alcohol</b>				
<b>Objectives for Priority</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Lead Person / Organisation</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
Support the delivery of the Alcohol Theatre project in community settings	Identification of community settings	CDRP, Health and Wellbeing Group	Andover Churches Together, North Baddesley Parish Council and CDAG	December 2010
	Identifying and securing funding	CDRP. Extended Schools (HCC)		December 2010
	Hold joint meeting with CDRP and HWB group coordinators			
Support the development of diversionary activities for young people, including an intergenerational pilot project in a rural area facing antisocial behaviour issues	Identification of rural areas and working with local community to develop project  Securing funding  Agree approach between CDRP, CDAG and HWB group	CDRP, Health and Wellbeing group, Parish Councils	CDAG	September 2010

<p>Work with CDRP to pilot 'Neighbourhood Management' in targeted areas of Test Valley.</p>	<p>Residents engaged in neighbourhood management pilot</p> <p>Agree approach between CDRP, CDAG and HWB group</p>	<p>CDRP</p>	<p>CDAG</p>	<p>December 2010</p>
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## JAF 7: Breaking down barriers to Adult and Community learning opportunities in Test Valley

Supporting adults and families to learn and develop their skills through informal techniques within their communities can help embed a culture of learning and remove potential barriers to education and isolation suffered as a result. Volunteering can provide an excellent mechanism of acquiring these skills.

CDAG will contribute to the delivery of this JAF.

### Commitment to Action

Over the next 18 months we will:

- Work with the Education Action Group to support the development of adult learning

### Objectives for this priority:

- Support the promotion and development and promotion of community based learning across Test Valley

### Objectives for this priority:

Breaking down barriers to Adult and Community learning opportunities in Test Valley				
Objectives for Priority	Milestones	Lead Person / Organisation	Partners	Timescales
Support the promotion and development of community based learning across Test Valley	Development of Jobclub at Askalot and King Arthur's Hall	Community Support officer (TVBC), Turnaround steering groups, TVCS, Andover Churches Together, Alamein Community Association	CDAG, Education Action Group	October 2009
	Development of community based learning opportunities	Testway, Enham, Education Action Group	CDAG	December 2010

	across Test Valley  Hold focus session with E&L Action group			

## **JAF 11: Reducing Health inequalities in targeted areas of Test Valley and amongst vulnerable groups**

Health inequalities can be one of the major challenges facing local communities. Often where there is a higher score of deprivation there are usually poorer levels of health. Rural deprivation can also lead to health inequalities as higher scores in this domain are usually associated with difficulties in accessing local services such as GP surgeries given the remote nature of some of our communities.

Reducing health inequalities in targeted areas and amongst vulnerable groups focuses around life expectancy rates, smoking, physical activity and accessibility to local services. Although these issues relate to health many of them require a partnership approach in order to tackle some of the wider factors facing these communities.

### **Commitment to Action**

Over the next 18 months we will:

- Work with the Health and Wellbeing Action Group to develop community based health promotion activities in the most isolated and deprived communities in Test Valley.

### **Objectives for this priority:**

- Work with the Health and Wellbeing Action Group to extend the health walks and other physical activity opportunities into further community settings and support volunteer training
- Work with Health and Wellbeing Action group to develop the smoking cessation service into further community settings
- Work with community and voluntary groups to increase the number of local food/ healthy eating projects in targeted areas in Test Valley
- Support the development of health and wellbeing diversionary activities for young people, including an intergenerational pilot project in a rural area facing antisocial behaviour issues

**Reducing Health inequalities in targeted areas of Test Valley and amongst vulnerable groups**

<b>Objectives for Priority</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Lead Person / Organisation</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
Work with the Health and Wellbeing Action Group to extend the health walks into further community settings and support volunteer training	Identify two new routes for Health walks in community settings	Health Promotion Officer, Community Support officer (TVBC),	All CDAG	September 2010
	Identify volunteers for leading health walks	TVCS	All CDAG	Ongoing
Work with Health and Wellbeing Action group to develop the smoking cessation service into further community settings	Identify and promote new community settings	Health Promotions Officer, Community Support officer (TVBC),	Parish Councils, Andover Churches Together, Community Life Centre, Testway	September 2010
Work with community and voluntary groups to increase the number of local food/ healthy eating projects in targeted areas in Test Valley	One local food/healthy eating project piloted	Health and Wellbeing group,	Andover Churches Together, (supporting Transition Towns Andover), TVBC, Testway	September 2010
Support the development of diversionary activities for young people, including an intergenerational pilot project in a rural area facing antisocial behaviour issues	Identification of rural areas and working with local community to develop project	CDRP, Health and Wellbeing group Parish Councils	CDAG	September 2010