



Your Test Valley Community Plan

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Test Valley
PARTNERSHIP

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Foreword by the Chairman of the Test Valley Partnership

Welcome to our second community plan.

We published our original plan in December 2003 and intended to set out a long-term vision for the future clear for some time that it was in need of up-dating.

Because the essence of that long-term vision has not changed, the framework of the plan continues to reflect the things that you and I were most important to you. Our initial consultation identified eight key themes - the issues that most affect the quality of life of the residents of Test Valley. This new plan retains those eight chapters, and sets out in each section the outcomes we aim to achieve.

I am extremely grateful to all my colleagues in the Partnership, and in particular, to the members of the various action groups, for all the hard work they have done in defining these outcomes, as well as agreeing the measures that will be used to monitor our progress. This version of the plan also includes some examples of the steps partners will be taking to ensure that we turn words into action.

We have made excellent progress since the Partnership first came into being in 2002 and we can point to a sound record of achievement. However, many of the issues we are concerned with - issues like educational attainment, healthy lifestyles and sustainability - present a long-term challenge, and will require concerted action over a period of years if we are to bring about significant progress.

We know that there will be significant levels of new housing development in the next twenty years, and a substantial increase in the borough's population. Accommodating that new development and meeting the needs of the new communities will present the Partnership with a considerable challenge.

I am delighted to have been elected as Chairman of the Partnership and look forward to working with all partners to ensure that, by working better together, we will continue to make a difference to the lives of those who live and work in this beautiful borough.

Janet Blann
Chairman, Test Valley Partnership



Introduction

Profile of Test Valley

Test Valley is a mainly rural borough covering 628 square miles (243 square kms) 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 Natural Beauty (AONB).

At the 2001 census, the population of the borough was 109,760. This population is projected to increase by around 14% by 2026 (HCC projections). Around half of the total population lives in the two market towns - Romsey in the south and Andover in the north. The rest of the population lives in the small rural settlements scattered across the borough.

Test Valley is a predominantly affluent area. The Indices of Multiple Deprivations show that of 354 local authority areas, Test Valley ranks 317th (where 1 is the most deprived). However the Borough does contain some pockets of relative deprivation, and average incomes are lower than those regionally and nationally. Average house prices are higher than those nationally, and comparable to regional averages. Crime rates in Test Valley are among the lowest in the country.

A wider range of demographic and statistical information can be found in the Test Valley Borough Profile.

The Test Valley Partnership

The Test Valley Partnership was formed in April 2002 and has been developed in line with Government guidance. It brings together a wider 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 Partnership will bring about this improvement by:

- listening to the needs, aspirations and views of local people.

- using the information gained to produce 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.

Membership of the Partnership is open to all the many groups and organisations in the borough with an interest in the social, environmental and economic well-being of its residents. In addition to the various statutory agencies, there are numerous voluntary and community organisations, representing a wider range of interest groups that make an important contribution to the fabric of life in the borough.

From this wider membership a smaller number of partners (details on page 34) form the Partnership Board which is responsible for setting the overall strategic direction, carrying out detailed planning and generally driving forward the work of the Partnership.

The Partnership primarily exists to ensure that the actions of its members are co-ordinated as far as possible in pursuit of an agreed set of strategic objectives. The Partnership has no executive powers and no budget of its own. Its strength comes from its ability to draw on the considerable resources of all the partners. This represents a significant force for change. Working together we aim to ensure that we can deliver more than individual organisations working on their own would be able to achieve.

The Partnership places value on achieving the following objectives as a result of its joint working:

- agree common aims and priorities
- co-ordinate delivery of services
- avoid duplication
- share information and good practice
- co-ordinate consultation
- make best use of resources
- rationalise existing partnerships

The Community Plan - 'Your Test Valley'

'Your Test Valley', the first community plan, was published in December 2003 following extensive public consultation to identify what residents considered to be the most important issues affecting their quality of life. The plan was developed around the eight key themes that emerged from this consultation:

- community safety
- health and well-being
- education and lifelong learning
- housing and community development
- leisure and culture
- economic development
- transport
- the environment

The plans set out a shared view of the aims and outcomes to be achieved in order to deliver real improvements in each of these areas. Action groups were then established for each theme, charged with drawing up detailed plans and monitoring the activities of partners to ensure effective delivery.

Making the Links between the Themes

This theme-based approach, reflected in the Partnership's action group structure, is an effective way of focusing on the key issues. However, it is important to recognise the close links that exist between the various themes and the extent to which work in one area will have an impact on another. So it is for example, that good transport arrangements (particularly in a largely rural area like Test Valley) underpin people's ability to access education, employment, health services and leisure facilities. That the availability of good quality, affordable housing impacts on health, well-being and economic prosperity. And that leisure and cultural activities offer people so much more than just a way of spending the time. They make an enormous contribution not only to individual health and well-being, but also to the economic health of the community as a whole.

There are also issues for different client groups, eg younger people or older people, that don't fall neatly into the work of any one action group and we need to be sure that our arrangements are flexible enough to respond appropriately.

The Partnership Board has overall responsibility for ensuring that groups work together in an integrated way to deliver the strategic objectives set out in the Community Plan. In addition, there are regular meetings of the chairmen and the officer co-ordinators of all the action groups to make sure that cross-cutting issues, relevant to more than one group, receive proper attention.

A Focus on those in the Greatest Need

The aim of the Partnership is to improve the quality of life of everyone in Test Valley. It is inevitably the case, though, that not everyone presently enjoys the same quality of life.

While Test Valley as a whole is a prosperous place and most people enjoy comfortable lifestyles, there are areas of relative deprivation and a percentage of the population that is relatively disadvantaged. In recognition of these inequalities, and because resources are inevitably limited, the Partnership agreed to add the words 'especially those most in need' to its commitment to improve quality of life for residents.

The most obvious example of this focus is what has come to be known as the Turnaround Project (TAP). TAP brings together representatives from all the key partners working together to make a real difference to the lives of people in Andover's Alamein ward, an area with some particularly low scores on the national indices of deprivation.

Though not reflected in the examples given here, many of the groups' action plans include a range of actions specifically designed to support the work of the Turnaround Project.

Reviewing the Community Plan

Strategic plans must be kept up-to-date and adapted to changing needs and different circumstances. For this reason the Partnership decided that the original Community Plans should be reviewed.

At the start of the review process the decision was taken to retain the plan's existing framework on the basis that there was no reason to suppose that there had been any change in the relevance of the eight key quality of life issues. No contrary views were expressed in the consultation process that subsequently took place.

This meant that the Partnership's existing eight action groups could undertake a review of the aims and outcomes for their particular area.

This review was undertaken in a series of workshops and the outputs were subsequently tested through a consultation process involving all the members of the wider partnership.

In addition to this full version of the Plan, which is primarily intended for partners, practitioners and those with a particular interest, a summary version has also been produced for wider distribution.

Our Key Aims

The overall aim of the Partnership is

...to create a Test Valley community where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and to enjoy a good quality of life.

The aims for each of the key themes of the plan are as follows:	
Community Safety...	
...to ensure that people in all parts of the borough are not diminished by crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	to ensure a high quality of life that is free from crime and anti-social behaviour
Education and Lifelong Learning ...	
...to promote a learning culture in the whole community and to provide education and learning that meets the needs of individuals	to provide a high quality of education and learning that meets the needs of individuals
The Environment...	
...to enable everyone to play their part in ensuring the quality and sustainable environment	to maintain a high quality and sustainable environment
Health and Well-being...	
...to promote and improve the physical, mental and social health and well-being of residents in Test Valley	to improve the health and well-being of residents in Test Valley
Leisure and Culture...	
...to enable all residents and visitors to enjoy a wider range of leisure and cultural activities	to provide a wide range of high quality leisure and cultural activities
The Local Economy...	
...to ensure that the local economy thrives and remains competitive	to ensure a competitive local economy
Local Communities...	
...to support and encourage a strong sense of local community	to support and encourage a strong sense of local community
Transport...	
...to ensure a sustainable, efficient and integrated transport network which is based on the real needs and choices of local people and visitors	to ensure a sustainable, efficient and integrated transport network which is based on the real needs and choices of local people and visitors
Action Plans	
This document includes only a few illustrative examples of the early actions members of the Partnership propose to take to achieve our strategic objectives.	the early actions to be taken to achieve our long-term strategic objectives.

It is the responsibility of the Partnership's Action Groups to ensure that detailed action plans are in place and that relevant partners meet their commitments and deliver the actions for which they are responsible.

In developing their detailed action plans groups will include baseline data to enable subsequent progress to be measured against the situation as it is now for all the key measures shown in the plan.

Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements

Action groups will be responsible for monitoring progress against the targets set out in the Plan. Summary reports drawing attention to any significant issues will be considered by the Partnership Board twice a year and an annual report will be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Partnership.

Arrangements for Reviewing the Plan

The Community Plan is intended to provide a long-term strategic vision for the future of the borough. Long-term in this context may be considered to be something in the order of 15 to 20 years. However, the Partnership Board will ensure that the Plan is kept under regular review, agree any minor amendments that may become necessary (after appropriate consultation) and determine the point at which a full re-working of the Plan is required.

Links with Other Strategic Plans

The Community Plan is the key strategic planning document for the Test Valley Borough. It sets out a shared vision for the area agreed by all the partners. It follows from this that the individual business plans of the various partner organisations will support the broader strategic objectives of the Community Plan and represent their contribution towards its delivery.

There are also close links with a number of other important elements of the strategic planning process, such as the Local Development Framework, the Hampshire Local Area Agreement, and other specific plans such as the Community Safety Strategy.

The Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a key set of documents which will replace the Local Plan, and will guide spatial and land use planning in the borough over the long term. The LDF will be prepared over the coming months, as set out in the Borough Council's Local Development Scheme. A

key planning document is the Core Strategy which will set out a spatial vision for Test Valley along with a series of strategic objectives. A set of core policies will also be contained in the Core Strategy which will guide future development in the borough.

The draft strategic objectives which have been developed for consultation on the Core Strategy, align well with the outcomes in the Community Plan. The policies developed as part of the LDF will contribute to the delivery of a number of four priority outcomes, particularly in relation to the Environment.

Hampshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The Hampshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3 year agreement between partners in Hampshire and the Government, to improve lives and conditions in Hampshire communities. The Agreement has eight priority outcomes drawn from the Hampshire Community Strategy and the 11 District Community Strategies. The outcomes, indicators and targets are detailed in a shared three-year LAA Action Plan (April 2006 to April 2009).

Children & Young People

The Partnership is concerned to improve outcomes for children and young people. The Government's vision for children's services, published in 2003. It is structured around 5 key outcomes for children and young people. These are:

- ◆ Be healthy
- ◆ Stay safe
- ◆ Enjoy and achieve
- ◆ Make a positive contribution
- ◆ Achieve economic well-being

The Hampshire Children's & Young People's Partnership has set out its priorities in the Hampshire Children & Young People's Plan. The Test Valley Partnership has a significant role to play in contributing to the achievement of these outcomes and by working to develop a local partnership and local plan for Children & Young People.

Related Community Planning Activities

A number of related pieces of work have been undertaken since the publication of the original Plan. These projects bring community planning principles to the study of needs and aspirations of particular parts of the borough. The Partnership warmly welcomes these local initiatives as a significant contribution to our understanding of the requirements of the borough as a whole.

The Andover Vision, the plans produced in Romsey and Stokbridge in connection with the Market Towns Healthcheck initiative, and the Parish Plans produced by villages such as Longparish and Kings Somborne (with more in production) are all the result of engagement with local communities to develop consensus about the sort of place in which people want to live, and the steps that need to be taken to deliver the desired outcomes.

ASustainableCommunityPlan

The sustainability agenda has increased in profile nationally and represents a key challenge over the lifetime of this plan and beyond. Government guidance places increasing emphasis on the importance of community plans becoming sustainable community plans. This reflects their increasingly important role in helping to deliver genuinely sustainable communities which balance and integrate economic, social and environmental goals.

Four priorities for the UK have been set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy - *Securing the Future*, published in 2005. These are:

- ◆ Sustainable consumption and production
- ◆ Climate change and energy
- ◆ Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- ◆ Sustainable communities

The Environment chapter of the Plan pays particular attention to these issues. However, in developing the Plan as a whole we have tried to have regard to the impact of our actions on future generations. The Plan has been subject to a sustainability appraisal, the results of which indicate a reasonable degree of balance in the way it seeks to contribute to social, environmental and economic objectives.

ADiverseCommunity

Members of the Partnership are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all. In drawing up the Community Plan, we have endeavoured to recognise the various needs of a diverse community. Equality and diversity considerations (fair treatment and equal access) are an integral part not just of all our strategies and policies, but also of our service planning and delivery.

TheEightKeyThemes

The following chapters set out in greater detail the aims and outcomes we seek to achieve for each of the key quality of life issues.

Community Safety

Our aim

is to ensure that people in all parts of the borough enjoy a quality of life that is undiminished by crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

Test Valley as a whole, experiences low levels of crime, and associated drug misuse. Statistical information shows such as burglary, robbery and drug supply offences have remained at a very low level and violent crimes dropped from 1,863 in 2004/5 down to 1,783 last year. However key recorded crime figures for the borough in the last few years with figures suggesting that there are higher levels of less serious crime in Test Valley compared to others similar are anti-social behaviour that serious crimes have risen steadily are higher levels of less as.

The steady rise appears to be primarily linked to increases in the recorded incidents of criminal damage which indicate that anti-social behaviour is an important issue of primary concern. Also there appears to be persistent crime and anti-social behaviour that is more prevalent in some areas of Test Valley than others; this results in some people being disproportionately affected by these problems.

Anti-social behaviour encompasses issues such as street drinking, noise, substance abuse/drug dealing, rowdy behaviour, intimidation and criminal damage. All of these concerns have featured highly in borough-wide citizens' surveys. Combating this behaviour is a crucial ingredient in reducing crime and responding to what residents say is important to the m.

To achieve this, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is targeting resources to interventions that will have the greatest impact and those that are rooted in best practice. The CDRP has successfully piloted a range of youth crime prevention measures and is working closely with the Youth Offending Team to adopt a coordinated, consistent and effective approach to youth crime.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour**

- **People feel that they live in a safe community**
- **Young people at risk of offending receive early and effective support**
- **Communities play an active role in identifying and addressing local issues related to crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour**

We will show our progress by

- A reduction in crime with a focus on the three biggest crime types: criminal damage, assaults (including domestic abuse) and theft from vehicles
- A reduction in the number of people who state that there are problems of anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood
- A reduction in the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system

These are examples of some early actions:

A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour

- Ensure that 'Safer Neighbourhood' staff (including police, wardens and other key agencies) work closely together
- Develop a project focusing on changing the behaviour of the few offenders who commit the most crime
- Develop a system of brief intervention treatment for hazardous drinkers in Test Valley

People feel that they live in a safe community

- Develop a 'Safer Neighbourhood' project to increase high visibility patrolling
- Work with families who are involved with high levels of anti-social behaviour
- Develop a community-based mediation service

Young people at risk of offending receive early and effective support

- Extend the Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) beyond Andover to support young people across the whole borough
- Develop and improve the ability to identify 'at risk' young people and provide them with tailored support

Communities play an active role in identifying and addressing local issues related to crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

- Develop regular neighbourhood meetings between local people and key partners to discuss issues and solutions
- Extend the reach of Neighbourhood Watch
- Organise street briefings and other innovative ways to engage with the community as part of the PRIME initiative (Problem Resolution in Multi-Agency Environments)

Education and Lifelong Learning

Our aim

is to promote a learning culture in the whole community and to provide education and learning that meets the needs of individuals

Test Valley, as a whole, scores well on education and skills, but this average masks significant variation across the borough. While we can celebrate the fact that in 2006, Romsey Community School achieved national recognition as 'Community School of the Year', the situation is less satisfactory in the north of the borough.

Global competition for investment and jobs means our economy is more dependant than ever before on a well-educated and skilled workforce. At the same time, changes in education, especially for 14-19 year olds and the focus on vocational learning (reflected in the Specialised Diplomas), requires greater collaboration between local schools, colleges and universities and employers too.

Staying on in academic education may not be the best option for many young people. Those in a position to influence and support young people's key choices need to understand the range of opportunities available and to give equal emphasis to academic and vocational routes if pupils are to reach their full potential.

For those choosing to stay on in formal education, Andover Sixth Form Academy will be a centre of excellence and it is a College's new Professional Academy will offer an extended curriculum.

Working through the Test Valley Partnership and the Andover and District 14-19 Consortium, local schools, the new college, university, employers and others will endeavour to develop more integrated provision and a common timetable. Using the European Social Fund, the Consortium is working with pupils at risk of exclusion to motivate and support them as they make the transition to work.

Recognising the part played by education taking place outside the classroom and inside the home, we need to ensure that appropriate support is provided by adult and community learning, notably family learning, as well as in a formal teaching context. Provision of essential skills needs to happen wherever is most convenient for the learner and often this will be in the community. Schools and community facilities will be used as the hubs for extended services.

Lifelong learning brings benefits of personal development and health as well as improved employability so we need to ensure that it remains as accessible as possible, both physically across the rural area and financially.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **Raised educational aspirations and attainment**
- **People have access throughout their lives to appropriate and affordable ways of learning**
- **A skilled workforce that is able to rise to the challenges of employability in the 21st century**
- **Parents/carers have the skills, knowledge and information to support their children’s development, education and skills**

This is how we will show our progress

- An increase in the number of pupils gaining 5A-C grades in English and Maths
- An increase in the number of pupils gaining 5A-C grades
- An increase in the number of students that go onto Further Education
- An increase in the number of students that go onto Higher Education
- An increase in the number of pupils taking vocational learning pathways
- An increase in the number of adults participating in adult education
- An increase in those gaining NVQ Level 2 Apprenticeships
- A reduction in the number of students below the age of 18 going outside the borough for their re-education

These are examples of some early actions:

Raised educational aspirations and attainment

- Improve performance through the Andover Partnership (formerly the Andover Project), which brings together the Andover College, secondary and primary schools in the town
- Promote higher education through the Aim Higher Programme by providing ‘taster days’ at the University of Winchester
- Achieve specialist school status for all Test Valley schools

- Improve the quality of education and training in Andover to reduce the number of students being educated outside the borough

People have access throughout their lives to appropriate and affordable ways of learning

- Promote new pathways to learning, especially the new Specialist Diploma, through the Andover and District 14-19 Consortium
- Deliver accredited family literacy and numeracy courses to adults without level 2 qualifications
- Provide programmes such as Supporting Parents of Teenagers and Family Links Nurturing
- Create an informal mentoring scheme in Andover for adult literacy and numeracy.

A skilled workforce that is able to rise to the challenges of the 21st century

- Broker skill training for Test Valley businesses
- Provide enhanced education and training through the new Andover College
- Deliver enhanced vocational training
- Deliver Train to Gain (free training for level 2 qualification) to the workforce

Parent/carers have the skills, knowledge and information to support their children's development, education and skills

- Develop extended services through the Extended Schools Programme to provide access by parents to a range of services and information

The Environment

Our aim

Is to enable everyone to play their part in ensuring that we maintain a high quality and sustainable environment

The local environment is important for the quality of life for the residents in Test Valley. Our work to date has focused on improving urban environmental quality.

Improving the standard of street cleaning is a priority. Cleanliness of villages and town centres is generally well regarded but residents believe that more should be done by way of enforcement and higher penalties for littering.

Residents also believe that recycling is important. The Council has introduced a new method of refuse and recycling collection that has increased recycling rates from 22% to nearly 30%. On average, every resident is throwing 32kgs less rubbish away. Work on recycling will continue as we strive to become a sustainable borough.

In addition to the urban environment, our efforts also focused on the natural environment which is cherished by local residents. We have developed a Biodiversity Action Plan which recognises the importance of natural resources and it will be incorporated within the Council's Local Development Framework.

While we will continue to work in these areas, we also need to have regard to broader environmental issues. Climate change is of critical importance and ensuring that our communities are as self-sustaining as possible. We have integrated these two key areas into our future plans.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **Improved understanding of climate change and appropriate action on the part of individuals, businesses and other organisations to reduce its impact**
- **People buy locally and support local producers and**

businesses

- **Individuals, businesses and other organisations take action to reduce their impact on the environment, re-use materials and recycle wherever possible**
- **Water, waste and energy are managed in a sustainable way**
- **The quality of the natural and built environment is protected and enhanced**

We will show our progress by

- A reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from our homes
- A reduction in the amount of waste collected per household
- An increase in the number of residents supporting local businesses and buying local products
- An increase in the percentage of waste that is recycled
- A reduction in the number of buildings on the 'at risk' register

These are examples of some early actions:

Improved understanding of climate change and appropriate action on the part of individuals, businesses and other organisations to reduce its impact

- Co-ordinate a campaign to raise awareness of climate change and also encourage everyone to take on more environmentally-friendly behaviours, such as reducing waste, water and energy use

People buy locally and support local producers and businesses

- Provide information on the advantages of buying locally (e.g. increased wellbeing, reducing food miles, buying locally at farmers' markets)
- Provide information to businesses and individuals to encourage more use of local resources

Individuals, businesses and other organisations take action to reduce their impact on the environment, re-use materials and recycle wherever possible

- Co-ordinate an environmental improvement campaign, with a programme of clean-up events ensuring multi-agency and community participation to tackle areas with environmental problems
- Maximise efficiency from the new ABC (Alternative Bin Collection) system and develop a Community Champion model to increase public participation in recycling

Water, waste and energy is managed in a sustainable way

- Work with businesses to encourage sustainable use of resources, increased recycling and reduction of commercial waste
- Work with the Environment Agency to develop policies in relation to water use for inclusion in the Local Development Framework work, with particular attention to the location of major development sites and also to the detailed design of the development to agree opportunities for reduce water use
- Review the location of bottle banks and other recycling sites for efficiency and effectiveness

The quality of the natural and built environment is protected and enhanced

- Develop the biodiversity plan

Health and Wellbeing

Our aim

is to promote and improve the physical, mental and social health and well-being of residents in Test Valley

Test Valley is a relatively healthy and wealthy borough with a high quality of health provision. However, statistics show us that pockets of deprivation exist where health inequalities are evident.

Health and social well-being are influenced by a variety of factors, termed the wider determinants of health. These include poverty, education, gender, ethnic background and the home and work environment.

The Government white paper 'Choosing Health: making healthier choices', published in 2004, set out to address these issues. It was shaped by an extensive national consultation exercise that translated into a comprehensive plan to improve health by reducing health inequalities and promoting healthy lifestyles.

At a local level we have made good progress in delivering that plan, although we recognise that altering behaviour through education, support and improved access to services takes time, sometimes even generations to achieve.

We have introduced a range of successful initiatives. Some of these, for example, have resulted in fewer teenage pregnancies. In contributing to an improvement in the general level of health in Test Valley we have promoted and organised regular healthy walks in collaboration with GPs. We have also supported the development of accident prevention and health promotion in the elderly.

We recognise the need to continue our efforts, particularly with regard to reducing inequalities. Research shows that life expectancy is ten years less for those who live in some areas of Test Valley compared to one neighbouring ward that is more affluent. To overcome this it is important to consider both the short and long term causes of avoidable ill health.

Factors like obesity, smoking and lack of exercise all have an impact on premature mortality and ill health. The outcomes that we have identified below seek to provide a necessary focus for partners to align their plans so that together we can make a real difference.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **People adopt healthier lifestyles and stay healthier for longer**
- **Children and young people have a healthy start in life**
- **People in the most deprived wards of Test Valley have improved health and life expectancy**
- **People have access to information and advice to improve their health and well-being**

We will show our progress by

- A reduction in the percentage of people aged 15-75 with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of more than 30
- An increase in the number of adults participating in moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes five times a week
- A reduction in the number of children aged under 11 classified as being overweight in targeted schools
- A reduction in the percentage of children aged 11 classified as being obese in targeted schools
- A reduction in the difference of life expectancy between the lowest and highest wards in Test Valley
- A reduction in premature mortality from heart disease and stroke
- A reduction in premature mortality from cancer
- A reduction in the variation between wards as detailed in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation

These are examples of some early actions:

People adopt healthier lifestyles and remain healthy for longer

- In appropriate circumstances, encourage and support people to lose weight
- Develop exercise referral schemes for patients with established risk factors
- Develop opportunities for people to participate in physical activity

Children and young people will have a healthy start in life

- Support pregnant women to quit smoking

- Develop healthy eating support within targeted schools
- Increase the availability of advice and contraception services for young people

People in the most deprived wards of Test Valley have improved health and life expectancy

- Target work on at risk population groups and/or neighbourhoods in order to reduce health inequalities
- Support the work of the Turnaround Project by improving access to services to prevent ill health
- Provide services for smokers who want to quit

People have access to information and advice to improve their health and well-being

- Develop community food initiatives
- Improve access to community sexual health services
- Provide support and information that will contribute to the health and well-being of older people
- Support campaigns to encourage sensible drinking

Leisure and Culture

Our aim

is to enable all residents and visitors to enjoy a wide range of high quality leisure and cultural activities

Over the past four years we have made significant strides to deliver improved cultural opportunities in Test Valley. Major achievements include the opening of 'The Lights' entertainment venue in Andover, the completion of extensive refurbishment and new dry sided development at Romsey Rapids, the refurbishment of Romsey library and development of the 'Andover Live' programme of events. The new Andover cinema is under construction and expected to open in Spring 2008.

Leisure and cultural pursuits are increasingly being recognised for their wider benefits in improving overall quality of life. Cultural activity plays an important role in improving people's overall health and well-being, developing vibrant, strong and safe communities, and contributing to a thriving local economy. An example is the role that physical activity can play in combating rising obesity levels. A recent Sport England survey shows that Test Valley residents currently have the seventh highest level of exercise in the country. We aim to increase that level by 3.5% by 2009.

The construction of new housing development in Andover is about to commence and priority will be given to integrate the new communities and provide new facilities where needed. We also want to ensure that cultural activities are accessible to all and encourage wider participation across the whole community by developing opportunities within local communities and the villages.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **People of all ages regularly take part in sport, recreational and cultural activities**
- **People are better informed, with a wider range of available options, to support healthy lifestyle choices**
- **A thriving leisure and creative economy in the borough**

We will show our progress by

- An increase in the number of residents participating in leisure, recreational and cultural activities
- An increase in the number of residents who say that they are satisfied with leisure and cultural services
- An increase in the number of residents who take part in physical activity
- An increase in levels of investment, income generation and employment associated with the leisure and creative economy

These are examples of some early actions:

People of all ages regularly take part in sport, recreational and cultural activities

- Encourage Parish and Town Councils to help increase participation through incentives and sharing good practice
- Support the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance to achieve its action plan
- Make the case for the ongoing funding of outreach programmes that lead to increased participation
- Support and increase voluntary sector networks that provide opportunities in towns and villages (e.g. health walks groups, sports clubs, arts groups, 'friends of' groups)
- Achieve better outcomes for young people by working in partnership with Locality Teams to implement the Targeted Youth Support initiative

People are better informed, with a wider range of available options, to support healthy lifestyle choices

- Improve access to information, reviewing what is currently available and filling gaps (ie both web-based and hard copy information)
- Respond to the 'Youth Matters' Green Paper and develop a youth offer for young people aged 13-19
- Continue to produce a collective brochure on activities and information for children and young people during the summer holidays
- Encourage schools to take part in Rock Challenge - an initiative designed to inspire and motivate young people to live healthy, positive lifestyles by using performing arts as a medium.
- Develop/refresh library and heritage services in Andover

A thriving leisure and creative economy in the borough

- Establish a research project to assess the impact of investment in the leisure and creative industry on the wider economy in Test Valley

The Local Economy

Our aim

is to ensure that the local economy thrives and remains competitive

Test Valley enjoys a strong local economy. Employment grew by one quarter in the decade between 1991-2001 and unemployment is currently less than 1%.

While most Test Valley businesses are small, others are household names and make an important contribution to the national economy - Simply Health, Siemens, Merck, Stannah Lifts, Twinings, Euronics, Tesco and the John Lewis Partnership.

Business faces ever stronger competition from the likes of China, India and Eastern Europe, as well as from western economies. The cost of regulation, skilled labour, infrastructure and a welcome climate for investment are important if local economies are to continue to support national growth.

Andover continues to experience spare capacity on its large industrial estates (where 0.7m. square feet remains vacant). Other parts of the borough are more buoyant and the rural economy continues to develop as the leisure and tourism sector replaces jobs lost in agriculture.

The borough's existing workforce needs new skills for businesses to remain competitive and its future workforce needs the vocational as well as academic education to allow young people to realise their potential and contribute to the community and through employment.

In the face of these pressures, there is a continuing need for businesses (especially new and small businesses) to receive high quality, impartial and accessible support.

One aspect of this support is for businesses to make greater use of technology, especially broadband internet, to enable work from home and to increase productivity. Achieving 'Smart Growth', by making better use of existing resources will be important. Supported by technology, our high quality environment is attracting skilled people and businesses, often to the rural areas, to produce high value goods and services. Employment generated in this way can help support local facilities which are as important for social well-being as for economic reasons.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **A skilled workforce that meets the needs of employers and can rise to the challenges of employability in the 21st century**
- **Businesses are environmentally friendly**
- **A strong rural economy**
- **High quality business advice to maximise productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness**
- **Smart Economic Growth**

Note - 'Smart Growth' means using technology to enable flexible working in order to raise productivity, achieve higher skills, better use of workers' time and generate less commuting.

We will show our progress by

- A reduction in the percentage of the population who have no qualifications
- An increase in the number of people gaining NVQ Level 2 Apprenticeships
- An increase in the number of rural businesses that start up and survive
- An increase in the number of Test Valley businesses receiving advice which adds value to the business
- An increase in the number of those who take up Broadband
- An increase in the number of Test Valley businesses progressing up the e-ladder (ie. *making increased use of broadband, from using e-mail to transactional websites and e-ordering etc*)

These are examples of some early actions:

A skilled workforce that meets the needs of employers and can rise to the challenges of employability in the 21st century

- Organise a conference (Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce Today) to discuss new vocational courses

Businesses are environmentally friendly

- Support businesses to use measures which minimise energy and waste through local and national advice agencies
- Promote local businesses which act as models for waste and energy minimisation and recycling eg. spreading best practice on transport plans

A strong rural economy

- Promote local producers through the Hampshire Fare marketing group and through new marketing material
- Host and promote Hampshire Farmers' Markets in Andover and Romsey
- Promote local attractions and accommodation providers through a new tourism website
- Support Stockbridge Area Partnership's bid for SEEDA Hampshire Market Towns funding to strengthen the local economy by holding more events, promotion, food trails etc.
- Provide business advice to hard to reach groups in rural Hampshire who are considering starting a business

High quality business advice to maximise productivity, efficiency and competitiveness

- Organise and support events, road shows and exhibitions
- New Business X-Change (advice/networking)
- Provide free business advice from Business Link Wessex to Test Valley retailers

SMART Economic growth

- Support businesses to become more competitive through e-commerce
- Encourage new high technology businesses for startups and growth throughout southern Test Valley

Local Communities

Our aim

is to support and encourage a strong sense of local community

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.

Parts of the borough are seeing a significant increase in the number of migrant workers from Eastern Europe. Welcoming these new residents and ensuring they are fully integrated into the community presents a new and important challenge.

House prices in Test Valley are significantly higher than national averages. This combined with lower than average wage levels for many jobs in the borough, means that affordability of housing remains a key issue for local people. Over the past three years we have exceeded our targets on delivery of affordable housing, including an innovative development of eco-homes. Working in partnership through the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) we have delivered affordable housing in rural areas.

Major development commencing in Andover this year will see 3700 new homes by 2016, of which 40% will be available for rent or shared ownership through a housing association. A significant number of new homes are also planned for southern Test Valley. Planning for these major development areas will be challenging, but they provide opportunities for a range of benefits for local communities including community facilities and buildings; open space, play areas; sports pitches and facilities; transport and highway improvements.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **People have access to amenities and services that 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 people 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 the public and private sectors**

We will show our progress by

- An increase in the number of residents who say that they have access to amenities and services
- An increase in the number of residents who say that they have a sense of belonging to an area
- An increase in the number of residents who are involved in community activities
- An increase in the number of people voting in local elections
- An increase in the number of completed Parish Plans
- An increase in the number of residents who are involved in voluntary activity
- An increase in the number of affordable homes built
- Decent Homes Standard achieved in all properties occupied by vulnerable people

These are examples of some early actions:

People have access to amenities and services that they need wherever they live

- Improve access to elected representatives
- Support the Turnaround Project

People feel that they live in strong, safe and supportive communities

- Organise community events with a focus on bringing different generations together
- Celebrate positive community activity – ‘community pages’ in press, community newsletters and the promotion of good news stories

People are able to influence what goes on locally and more people are involved in community activity

- Promote and encourage community planning and the production of Parish Plans
- Promote volunteering

Improved availability of a range of affordable and suitable housing to meet people’s needs

- Produce a new three-year housing strategy for the borough (2008 – 2011)
- Review Supplementary Planning Guidance for affordable housing
- Ensure affordable housing requirements are provided as part of the Andover Major Development Area and other sites within the borough

An improved standard of housing across both the public and private sectors

- Ensure Decent Homes Standard are met by 2010 for housing association properties and private sector homes occupied by vulnerable people
- Reduce levels of unfit houses in the private sector
- Promote energy efficiency and improve energy efficiency levels in the private sector housing stock
- Provide help and advice to householders in applying for home improvement grants and Disabled Facilities Grants

Transport

Our aim

is to ensure a sustainable, efficient and integrated transport network which is based on the real needs and choices of local people and visitors

With a large part of the borough being rural there is a considerable reliance on the car to provide access to services and employment. In these areas, population density is low and settlements are dispersed. It is therefore difficult for public transport to provide the level of service and frequency to be seen as an acceptable alternative to the car.

In the towns, especially in Romsey, this high level of car ownership can contribute to localised congestion in the centres at peak times. The narrow roads and footways, particularly within the older areas of the towns, can add to problems of congestion and restrict ease of access on foot and by bicycle.

There are some good rail links from Andover, Romsey and Grateley, but other parts of the borough have either no, or only limited, access to rail services. Bus patronage across the borough is fairly low, particularly outside the urban areas, and many areas are poorly served, placing a high degree of reliance on community transport, especially as regards those residents who are unable to drive. Journeys to many essential services, such as health care, can be difficult. The Local Transport Plan has four accessibility pilot projects, one of which involves access to the hospital in Winchester from northern Test Valley.

National transport guidance seeks to promote more sustainable transport choices, better accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services which will serve to reduce the need to travel, especially by car. Travel plans for schools and for workplaces provide a means of promoting and encouraging sustainable travel choices and enhancing accessibility. We are particularly working to promote school travel plans, in order to ensure that children have a safer route to school.

Prime responsibility for transport planning and road maintenance rests with the County Council, through its Local Transport Plan. Planning for new developments, ensuring that they are sustainable and reducing the need to travel, is the responsibility of the Borough Council through the new Local Development Framework.

We will focus on achieving these outcomes

- **Public and community transport services, and environmentally-friendly forms of transport, are well publicised and co-ordinated**
- **Vulnerable groups will not suffer disadvantage when accessing services and facilities**
- **The transport infrastructure is maintained and enhanced**
- **People have local access to essential services and facilities**

We will show our progress by

- Increased, improved and simplified access to information on the choice of transport services/options available
- Additional/improved links provided between different forms of transport
- An increase in the availability of suitable services to enable vulnerable groups to have access to services and facilities
- An increase in the number of schemes to enhance transport infrastructure (including work on access plans for Andover and Romsey)
- An increase in the number of school, workplace and residential travel plans approved

These are examples of some early actions:

Public and community transport services, and environmentally-friendly forms of transport, are well publicised and co-ordinated

- Ensure the most effective and efficient use of community vehicles and enhance services, wherever possible, to ensure that vulnerable groups and those in rural areas have improved and connected services
- Increase and improve the availability of information including new leaflets and online information

Vulnerable groups will not suffer disadvantage when accessing services and facilities

- Improve access to health facilities with specific focus on access from northern Test Valley to Winchester Hospital

The transport infrastructure is maintained and enhanced

- Investigate the possibility of providing more cyclist routes, with particular emphasis on providing the missing links within the existing network
- Improve the facilities and services at bus and railway stations

People have access to essential services and facilities

- Improve access to information about transport services
- Require travel plans from new development where appropriate

Members of the Test Valley Partnership Board

*Janet Blann (Chairman of Test Valley Partnership) (Chairman of Community Development Action Group)	Test Valley Community Services
Cllr Ian Carr (Vice-Chairman of Test Valley Partnership)	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
*Sian Campbell	Hampshire County Council
Lyn Penny	Hampshire County Council Children's Services
David Bidwell (Chairman of Transport Action Group)	Association of Parish Councils
Charles Milner-Williams	Association of Parish Councils
*Christine Jackson	Hampshire PCT
*Janet Rowse	Winchester and Eastleigh Health Trust
Neil Greenfield	Andover Chamber of Commerce
*Philip Liddell (Chairman of Economic Development Action Group)	Romsey Chamber of Commerce
*Chief Superintendent Ann Wakefield	Hampshire Constabulary
Carol Rooke (Chairman of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership)	Victim Support
Rev. Derek Overfield (Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Action Group)	The Faith Community
Madeline Edmonds (Chairman of Leisure and Culture Action Group)	Test Valley Arts Foundation
Lt Col Alan Parvez	Defence Equipment & Support
Jan Lefley (Chairman of Education and Learning Action Group)	Romsey Community School
Tim Jackson	Andover College
*Steve Benson	Testway Housing

JillGethin	Romsey20/20
MollieAntrobus	AndoverMencap
SusanChivers	Government Office South East
*MarionWoods	PartnershipManager

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

GLOSSARY

While care has been taken to avoid the use of unexplained acronyms, the following quick guide to some of those in most common use may be of assistance.

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maybe of

ABC	Alternate Bin Collection
ACE	Additional Curriculum Experience
AONB	Area of Outstanding National Beauty
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BAP	Bio-Diversity Action Plan
BCS	British Crime Survey
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDRP	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
DFG	Disabled Facilities Grant
EA	Environment Agency
ESF	European Social Fund
ESS	Extended School Services
GOSE	Government Office for the South East
HARAH	Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing
HCC	Hampshire County Council
HLC	Healthy Living Centre
IDeA	Improvement Development Agency
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LGA	Local Government Association
LPSA	Local Performance Service Agreement
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MDA	Major Development Area
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PMG	Partnership Management Group
PRIME	Problem Resolution in Multi-Agency Environments
SEEDA	South East Economic Development Agency
SHA	Strategic Health Authority
TAP	Turn Around Project
TVBC	Test Valley Borough Council
TVP	Test Valley Partnership
TYS	Targeted Youth Support
YISP	Youth Inclusion and Support Panel
YOT	Youth Offending Team