

Test Valley Environment Action Group: Where Next for the Group?

1 Introduction

- 1.1 We have an opportunity to review the way the Environmental Action Group (EAG) has been working, how to encourage more organisations to be represented and to re-focus the work of the group around the aims and outcomes in the Community Plan¹.
- 1.2 This Paper is intended to provide a framework for discussion at the EAG meeting on the 16th June 2009.

2 Possible Approaches to Re-Focus the Group

Agenda

- 2.1 It is proposed that the agenda should be based on the Environment theme outcomes of the Community Plan. This would strengthen discussions at the action group in terms of the wider working of the Local Strategic Partnership. For ease of reference, the agreed outcomes for the Environment are set out below:
 - 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
- 2.2 To ensure time on the outcomes is fairly distributed each will be rotated within the agenda.
- 2.3 For each meeting it would be aimed to arrange a guest speaker to discuss key projects linked to the themes and outcomes in the Community Plan.
- 2.4 To provide for information sharing at the meetings, it is envisaged that every agenda could include an item to allow for individuals / organisations to provide a brief update on current or pending projects and any meetings coming up.
- 2.5 Comments on the proposed shape of the agenda are welcome.

Joint Areas of Focus

- 2.6 Joint Areas of Focus (JAFs) have been developed to try and enable action on a number of specific issues which are relevant to multiple action groups. It is

¹ Your Test Valley Community Plan, Test Valley Partnership, June 2007

envisaged that the JAFs will promote cross working between groups and form the basis for developing action plans.

- 2.7 There are 14 JAFs which have been agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – a full list is provided in Appendix 1. One of the JAFs relates directly to the Environment Group, with two others also being relevant. Those most relevant to the EAG are:
- JAF 12: Support businesses, organisations and communities in Test Valley to act sustainably and to reduce their carbon emissions.
 - JAF 3: Anti Social Behaviour
 - JAF 8: Major Development Areas
- 2.8 Workshops have been undertaken for a number of the JAFs, the environment and economic JAF workshops remain to be carried out. It is suggested that the workshop for this group is held in early September.

Participation

- 2.9 To enhance the role and effectiveness of the action group, it would be beneficial to increase the range and number of participants involved, particularly given the range of matters to be covered by the group (see paragraph 2.1). Your thoughts on who else should be encouraged to attend are welcome.
- 2.10 It is important that individual members of the group contribute to discussions and share their knowledge and experience. With that in mind, it is proposed that wherever possible members should present items for discussion relevant to the themes identified in paragraph 2.1.

Action Plan

- 2.11 Following on from further work on the Joint Areas of Focus, it is intended that all of the LSP's action groups will prepare action plans. An action plan would aim to identify a range of measures that can be delivered by all the partners within the group. Implementation and monitoring will be key issues to consider in developing an action plan. This group will need in the coming months to agree its action plan. Comments on what it could include are welcome.

Frequency of Meetings

- 2.12 It is proposed that meetings continue quarterly as is currently the case.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The action group has an important part to play in the LSP and the suggested changes set out above are put forward with that objective in mind. Comments are invited.

Appendix 1: Joint Areas of Focus

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	Major Development Areas
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	Support 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	Identify innovative solutions so that vulnerable and isolated groups can access key services