

## TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COMMISSION OF INQUIRY – VISION FOR HAMPSHIRE 2050

#### THEME 4 THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF PLACE

##### 1 Natural environment

- What are the elements of Hampshire's Natural Environment that create the quality of place? Including landscapes and heritage features

*The quality of place is derived from the natural environment comprises: landscapes; nationally important National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the suite of international, national and local nature conservation sites, the county's coast, watercourses, trees, parkland/open spaces, registered historic parks and gardens and farmland*

*Test Valley is currently finalising an updated Landscape Character Assessment*

- What are the impacts from a changing climate and natural environmental hazards (such as drought and flooding) and how will these be managed (e.g. Natural Flood Management, coastal defences)?

*We consider that this should look forward to at least 2115 (100 year, using current Environment Agency data) as the time horizon for flood risk, look to the post Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) farming and land management support regime, the implications for recreation and nature conservation/habitats, and how we should aim for climate adaption*

- How will the competing demands on countryside and farmland impact on the environment (landscape, biodiversity, heritage, water management etc.)?

*The Council considers that the post Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) farming and land management support regime, with farmers as land managers as well as food producers will be crucial. Efficient and productive agriculture should operate alongside maintenance and opportunities for enhancing environmental assets.*

- What are the necessary future land management interventions?

*The Council believes that this should taken forward through holistic and long term approach, which is catchment wide, and landscape wide. The use of whole farm/estate management plans should be encouraged.*

- How will waste and litter be managed across Hampshire in the future?

*Opportunities should be taken to maximise waste reduction and recycling, including the provision management regime for Household Waste Recycling Centres HWRCs) and Local Recycling Centres, and strong enforcement of flytipping. The county*

*council together with the districts/boroughs/cities should continue to work in partnership and through Project Integra.*

- How can pollution be minimised (AQMA linked to current transport pollution) and biosecurity enhanced?

*Clean Air Zones should also be considered, alongside promoting viable opportunities for alternative sustainable transport modes, and initiative such as park & ride.*

- What are the implications of a 'Natural Capital' approach to development and the principle of 'environmental net gain'?

*The Council considers that we should look to enhance wildlife corridors and opportunity areas. In this regard, data and maps held by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) are a valuable resource.*

- How can we make better sustainable use of the natural environment to improve our health and well-being, both mental and physical?

*Accessible open space should be linked to/integrated with new residential development, including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), proposed Southern Test Valley Forest Park, and enhanced countryside access associated with new neighbourhoods.*

## 2 Built environment

- What constitutes sustainable built environment for Hampshire in the future?
  - Location – South Hampshire cities, M/A27 corridor, MDAs, new settlements?

*The Council considers that additionally appraisal of potential opportunities in the A303/A34 corridors and rail corridors should also be explored, together with consideration of potential new settlements/expanded settlements, increased densities in urban areas, and maximising the potential of redevelopment on Previously Developed/Brownfield land (PDF).*

- What will the future housing needs be (affordable & specialist housing, assisted living, key workers, rural and National Park need etc.)?

*Particular consideration should be given to the varying housing needs of older people, together with the suitable mix of type, size and tenure overall to meet future needs, including affordable housing in so far as is viable. Key/rural workers should potentially be treated as special categories of households through specific planning policies.*

- How will sustainable built development be planned for and delivered to meet the identified needs?

*We consider that needs should be assessed through Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) studies and aim to build sustainable communities (not housing estates), which include community facilities, open space, landscaping and integrate with existing settlements. Test Valley has successfully recently delivered a number of new communities in Andover and Romsey.*

- What are the infrastructure needs (built, green, blue, power, waste) and how will they enable or constrain the location of development?

*The Council supports the preparation of Infrastructure Delivery Plans and Green Infrastructure (GI) strategies to inform needs and priorities*

- What resources and materials will be available (recycled first, modular building etc. – reduced reliance on minerals?)?

*Modern construction methods may afford scope for such innovation, provided that design standards as used to maintain quality.*

- What will future houses, work places, schools etc. look like and how will they achieve low carbon, energy efficiency?

*We should seek to promote higher buildings standards. Increases in water efficiency should be sought, moving towards Southern Water's target of 100lppd by 2040. A South Hampshire Integrated Water Management Study has recently been prepared by the Partnership of Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) and a Water Quality Group comprising local authorities, Environment Agency, Natural England and the water companies has recently been established. The design and layout of developments to achieve passive solar gain etc. should be included within masterplanning.*

- How will the historic built environment be enhanced and protected?

*Non-designated heritage assets should also be protected where possible and the use of, conservation area character appraisals and village/town design statements can help to ensure that new development is in keeping with and respects the existing local vernacular and key features and characteristics of the built environment.*

- What impact will transport infrastructure & costs have on the location and function of future development?

*Use should be made of settlement hierarchies which include the assessment of the availability and accessibility to facilities and services to determine sustainable locations. Make use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 contributions towards the enhancement and expansion of infrastructure.*

### 3 Quality of place and community

- What defines 'quality of place' and how does it equate to quality of life and economic prosperity?

*We should use design standards/policies and appropriate materials. Quality of life is an important aspect of making areas attractive for both inward investment and as an asset in supporting the economic success. Countryside, coast and historic settlements are a strong parts of the county's economic offer.*

- How will 'quality of place' be perceived in the future and how will it be protected and maintained?

*We should seek to preserve key environmental assets*

- Do younger generations value the same 'place making' elements as previous generations (*are hand made clay tiles really that important?*)

*Whilst younger people may have different priorities, they are still considered to value quality places.*

- How is 'quality' secured and maintained with reduced investment in the built environment and public space maintenance?

*This should be secured through the use of design standards/policies. Quality should be sought in line with what can viably be achieved.*

- How will the natural and built environment co-exist to create quality places (green infrastructure, outdoor recreation, walking & cycling etc.)

*The Council considers that new developments should be designed through masterplanning taking account of all these requirements.*

- What will communities look/behave like – where will we live, work, shop and play? What are the impacts of:
  - Transport – self driving, electric cars
  - Robotics, technological advances and improved 'broadband' and connectivity, networked systems, smart metering
  - Energy constraints/opportunities?
  - Evolving recreation trend/needs
  - WAH as the norm?
  - Aging population
- Continued move to urban/city living or rural renaissance?

*The Council considers that assessment of such issues should be thorough a complementary approach, taking these trends into account in so far as is practicable, although the extent to which they will impact on communities and behaviour and the speed at which this may occur cannot currently be fully anticipated.*

- Implications of individuals and communities taking increased responsibility for maintaining local services (as public sector funding is squeezed)?

*The Council considers that building upon the concepts of the Big Society and Localism there are a number of initiatives which can be used by communities: Community Right to Build, Neighbourhood Plans, Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value). Finance is also potentially available through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), including the 15%/25% to parish councils. Test Valley has implemented a Community Asset Fund using New Homes Bonus funding.*