

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DELIBERATIVE ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER 2022

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Corporate Plan?

Test Valley Borough Council has a Corporate Plan which outlines the council's vision and priorities over a four-year period. The current Corporate Plan will expire in 2023, and so plans are underway to focus on the new emerging plan, for the next four years. The Corporate Plan is a document that guides the council in ensuring that it has the right focus on activities and services and assists with decision making and the allocation of resources. The current Corporate Plan can be found by using this link [here](#).

To help prepare for the creation of the next four-year priorities, and therefore a new Corporate Plan, the council has engaged extensively in the summer of 2022, by attending community events and meeting local people in their communities. The council invited residents to complete a survey, giving the council feedback on a range of services that it provides. The survey has now closed, and the council is entering a new phase of analysing the survey responses. We will be using an approach known as Deliberative Engagement to understand what it is like to live and work in the borough, through the eyes and voices of those who live or work here. The council is working with an external company in this process, to host workshops to bring a section of the community together, to discuss the survey results.

Who are Involve?

Involve has been chosen to work in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council, as they bring a level of experience and independence to a new process that the council wishes to use. They are one of the country's leading public participation organisations, that brings people together to revitalise democracy and improve local decision making. Involve will assist Test Valley Borough Council in the running of the workshops, which will involve discussion, evaluating opinion, testing new ideas and negotiating recommendations.

For further information about Involve please use this link [here](#).

What will taking part involve?

If you are selected to take part, you will have the opportunity to meet with others who live in the local area. You will hear from engaging expert speakers, and you will discuss the issues involved in small groups with facilitators making sure everyone's voice is heard. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of the topic – we will provide all the information you need on the day.

What happens after the workshops?

The discussions that take place at the workshops will help the council develop a deeper understanding of the issues and barriers facing residents, as well as help identify opportunities for the future. A detailed report of the process, along with recommendations of what the priorities might need to be, will be produced, and this will be presented to Test Valley Borough Council Members in January 2022 for consideration and discussion. The report will form the basis of recommendations that ultimately become the new Corporate Plan in late Spring 2023.

A summary of the report will be shared with those who participated in the workshops. The report will not include any personal details, but might include photos of those who give consent, along with quotes from those who give consent.

How do I get to the event?

We ask you to make your own way to the venue, but please let us know if this isn't possible and you need us to arrange transport for you. This will likely be a minibus/taxi.

How will we ensure that the sessions are accessible?

All the venues are wheelchair accessible and suitable for those who bring a support dog. If you require BSL interpretation or translation, hearing loops, or any form of additional support, then every attempt will be made to provide this. Please just let us know about your specific requirements when you complete the online expression of interest.

Will I need to bring my own food?

Lunch and refreshments will be provided during the sessions (let us know if you have any dietary requirements).

Will I be paid for my time?

We can't make a direct payment to you, but as a thank you for your time, you will receive a £50 shopping voucher.

Who can apply?

Everyone aged 18 and over on the closing date (16 October 2022), living in a household that has received this invitation, can register their interest, with a few exceptions set out below. However, please note that a maximum of one person from any single household will be selected to participate.

The following people cannot apply: Elected representatives (or co-opted councillors), from any level of government, or staff working for Test Valley Borough Council.

I'm on benefits. Will this mean that I can't attend?

If you are in receipt of benefits, it is your decision about whether to accept the thank-you gift as it may affect your benefits. You are welcome to attend the event without accepting the gift if you wish to do so.

After I register my interest, what happens next?

Once registration has closed (16 October 2022), the council will select 120 people to take part in the sessions by allocating them a space at the event that reflects where they live. This will be a selection based on ensuring that there is a fair representation of the people from all walks of life, and a number of different backgrounds, in each in the groups.

If you are selected, we will contact you by phone or email in the week of 24th October to let you know. We will then contact you with further information and discuss any requirements you may have to make it possible for you to attend and explain what happens next.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to talk to someone about the event before registering, please call: Charlotte Starkie, Policy Manager on 01264 368000

Or email at policyteam@testvalley.gov.uk

Thank you for your interest in this exciting project.