

Romsey Future



Guidance and information for those submitting project proposals

Thank you for expressing an interest in submitting a project proposal to Romsey Future. We look forward to receiving your proposal soon. As you come to draft this, this information will hopefully answer some of the questions you may have about Romsey Future and this process.

What is Romsey Future?

Romsey Future is a community partnership that seeks to bring together businesses, community groups and other key stakeholders from across Romsey with a shared vision for the future of the town. Having started in 2015, the partnership has been responsible for the delivery of projects such as: the South of Romsey Town Centre Masterplan, new cycling infrastructure (such as a cycle hub and cycle parking in War Memorial Park); development of coach parking at the Rapids, and outdoor gym equipment.

From December 2020 to July 2021, Romsey Future undertook a comprehensive engagement process to understand the priorities and ambitions of local residents. Following this, the partnership launched a new strategy document *A Vision for Romsey, 2022-2042* which sets out the partnership's key ambitions for the town and will guide its work over the years ahead.

Guided by its new Vision document, Romsey Future is now focused on the delivery of projects and initiatives that align with this Vision and will benefit the town and its residents.

Who is involved with Romsey Future?

Romsey Future brings together a range of local stakeholders including local councils and other statutory bodies, charities, community groups, businesses and other local organisations. Those who have endorsed our Vision document include Test Valley Borough Council, Romsey Town Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Places Leisure, Unity, Aster Group, Romsey WI, Romsey and District Society, Romsey Abbey and Freedom Church. Our stakeholders come together several times a year to hear what work Romsey Future is coming forward and to guide the overall work of the partnership, if you would like to endorse the Vision that Romsey Future has, and become a stakeholder, please contact romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk.

The work of Romsey Future is overseen its Programme Board which meets bi-monthly and is made up of representatives from local councils together with individuals representing key sectors such as businesses, youth, events, infrastructure, faith groups, community and the environment. It is the Programme Board that is responsible for overseeing the work of Romsey Future, considering project proposals and monitoring the progress of agreed projects.

Why bring forward a project to Romsey Future?

Romsey Future brings together stakeholders from across the town in a way unlike any other organisation or partnership – proposing a project to us will mean that you are able to link in with other organisations with an interest in similar work who may be able to work with you to develop a project.

Furthermore, if you are planning to apply for funding for your project from local councils, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Community Asset Fund (CAF) from Test Valley Borough Council, Romsey Future's endorsement of your project will in part go towards demonstrating the community's support for your proposal.

How do I bring propose a project?

We have produced a project scoping template that can be used, if you would like a copy of this, please email romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk. Once you have completed your proposal, return it to the above email address and we will be able to advise you of next steps.

I have something that is a work in progress, can I bring that forward for Romsey Future to endorse?

Yes! We want to endorse things that are ongoing just as much as we want to help bring ideas into fruition. If you have a piece of work that is ongoing and you would like us to endorse it, please contact us.

What Romsey Future can and can't do?

As a community partnership, Romsey Future is able to bring together a wide range of people who share our Vision for the town and are commitment to working together to deliver positive improvements that benefit Romsey. Where relevant, stakeholders may be able to form part of the group overseeing a project and contribute to the delivery of the project and form part of the project group.

Whilst we are able to champion projects we have endorsed, Romsey Future is not a funding body so cannot fund projects itself. However, if you are planning to apply for funding elsewhere, we would be happy to endorse your proposal as a demonstration of community support for your project.

Where can I get funding from for my project or proposal?

Whilst Romsey Future itself cannot fund projects, there are a number of different options that may be available to you:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): CIL is funding that can be used to fund infrastructure improvements such as roads and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities, and open spaces. Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) will be accepting bids for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding between 1 April and 30 June each year. Bidding is open to Ward Members, Parish Councils, TVBC's internal services, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency and other

community groups and organisations that wish to deliver infrastructure that will benefit the residents and businesses of Test Valley. Local parish and town councils also receive CIL funding that they may be able to utilise, subject to their own regulations and funding criteria. Further information on CIL can be found at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/cil>.

Community Asset Fund (CAF): Not-for-profit, charitable community groups and organisations can apply to the Community Asset Fund for a grant of up to £25,000. Applicants can apply for up to 50% of the cost of a project to provide new or enhance existing, important community assets and facilities. There are various funding rounds throughout the year and further information can be found at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/workingwithcommunities/communitygrants/caf>.

Councillor Community Grant: Not-for-profit, charitable community groups and organisation, schools, parish and town councils can apply for up to £1,000 (or in some circumstances £2,000) towards projects that benefit the community. The grant can be used for project running costs, including towards staff or resources. Further information can be found at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/workingwithcommunities/communitygrants/test-valley-borough-councillors-community-grant>

Other funding: There are many other sources of funding, both at a local level and nationally. Much of this funding will be specifically targeted to certain sectors or types of proposals. Test Valley 4 Community is a funding portal which allows individuals and organisations to search both local and nationally across a range of funders including, lottery, charitable trusts, statutory, landfill trusts and many more. It can be found online at: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/testvalley?bcr=MTIzNA>.

Further Support: Further support and information is available from Unity whose role is to encourage, help and support voluntary and community groups in Test Valley. They provide a range of services including, specialist funding searches, grant advice and support. For more information please visit the Unity website www.unityonline.org.uk or call **0330 4004 116**

How are project proposals evaluated and who decides whether Romsey Future should endorse a project?

The Programme Board is responsible for deciding whether to endorse a project – to enable them to do this, we have devised a scoring and evaluation system that measures the key factors for their consideration such as whether the proposal links to our ambitions, the evidence for the support, the impact of your proposals, whether they've been costed and if they're funded.

If you only looking for your proposal to be endorsed by Romsey Future either because you can deliver this independently and/or because its already in progress, we will assess your proposal to see whether there are risks to Romsey Future's reputation.

Proposals will be scored before being received by the Programme Board and we will be happy to work with applicants to refine or improve their proposals before the Programme Board.

If you would like a copy of the scoring and evaluation sheet, please email us.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk.