

Minutes of the **Cabinet**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover
on Wednesday 22 June 2016 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor I Carr (Leader)	(P)	Councillor M Hatley (Deputy Leader)	(-)
Councillor P Bundy	(P)	Councillor P Giddings	(P)
Councillor S Hawke	(P)	Councillor P North	(P)
Councillor G Stallard	(P)	Councillor A Ward	(A)

Also in attendance:

Councillor M Cooper

53

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

54

Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2016-19

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder which set out the Council's 5th Preventing Homelessness Strategy which had been brought in line with the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2016 '*Investing in Test Valley*'.

Significant progress had been made in tackling and preventing homelessness and providing sustainable housing options for customers and the key priorities, themes and the new Delivery Plan for 2016-2019 would seek to meet the immediate and future needs of households threatened with homelessness during the lifetime of this Strategy.

The Homelessness Strategy was evidence based and had been developed in consultation and partnership with stakeholders, and customers. Targets and evidence data detailed in the Delivery Plan would be used to measure progress and the Delivery Plan would be regularly monitored.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

1. That the Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2016-2019 be approved.
2. That the Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2016-2019 is reviewed in line with the forthcoming Housing Strategy.

55 **Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) update paper**

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder which recommended a targeted approach at improving the energy and efficiency and thermal comfort of the least energy efficient homes within the Borough and assisting residents on low incomes.

The Council was required to produce an updated HECA report and action plan every two years. Limited progress had been made in respect of the 2013/15 action plan due to the ending of the *Green Deal* and other priority and financial impacts from recent legislation

The HECA action plan would in due course form an integral part of the new Housing Strategy 2016/19 and could be subject to further revision to ensure it aligned with the new Strategy.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

1. That the update report and action plan 2016-2018 as set out in the annex to the report be approved.
2. That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health in consultation with the Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, be authorised to spend up to £50,000 of the Housing Renewals Capital Budget flexibly to improve the energy efficiency of the least energy efficient homes within the Borough.

56 **Changes to National Planning Practice Guidance on Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations**

Consideration was given to a report of the Planning Policy and Transport Portfolio Holder which set out the Council's position in response to the recent updates to national planning practice guidance in relation to Local Plan policies for affordable housing and planning obligations.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Recommended :

That for the purpose of determining relevant planning applications:

- 1. To reaffirm the designation of the rural parishes of the Borough as a Designated Rural Area (under S157 Housing Act 1985) for the purposes of seeking affordable housing (annex 1 to the report);**
- 2. To apply the adopted Local Plan (2016) affordable housing (Policy COM7) as amended (annex 2 to the report);**
- 3. To only seek financial contributions towards public open space (Policy LHW1) and highway infrastructure (Policy T1) under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where consistent with national planning guidance;**
- 4. That, in respect of any outstanding resolution to grant planning permission from Planning Control Committee or either of the Area Planning Committees, the Head of Planning and Building be authorised to dispense with any requirement of such resolution to secure Affordable Housing and/or financial contributions, where such contributions are inconsistent with the revised policy set out at Recommendations (b) and (c) above.**

57

Fishlake Meadows – Management Plan

Consideration was given to a report of the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder which set out the proposals to transfer the land at Fishlake Meadows to the Council as part of the s106 agreement for the development of land at Oxlease Farm, Romsey (TVN 15/03036/RESS).

The transfer was conditional upon the site being managed as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and the site being protected, managed and enhanced for its conservation value, protected species and ecological importance.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

- 1. That the management plan as set out in annex 1 to the report, be approved.**

2. **That approval is granted to market test for site management support by preparing a service level agreement (to be drafted on terms to be agreed by officers) and publishing an OJEU PIN Notice.**

58

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Economic Portfolio Holder which sought approval for the Annual Governance Statement, which accompanied the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts.

Best practice required that the approval of this Statement was considered separately from the Statement of Accounts, although both were published together in September each year.

The Economic Portfolio Holder sought approval for a minor amendment on the 4th bullet point of 'The governance framework' to change the number of Lead Scrutiny Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 5 to 4.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Recommended:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16 be approved subject to the minor amendment as set out above and that the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council.

59

Capital Outturn 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Economic Portfolio Holder which summarised expenditure on the Capital Programme in 2015/16 and explained the reasons for variances from the forecast, including a summary of the total budget slippage within the Capital Programme.

The report made recommendations for the carry forward of certain unspent capital budgets into 2016/17 as detailed throughout the report and provided an updated capital programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

That the updated Capital Programme as shown in Annex 1 to the report be approved.

60

Revenue Outturn 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Economic Portfolio Holder which set out the Council's Revenue outturn for the year ended 31 March 2016 and showed a net General Fund expenditure of £8.183M (Annex 2 to the report).

Following the completion of the revenue outturn work there was a positive variance to be allocated.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

1. That the Council's Revenue outturn for 2015/16, as shown in Annex 1 to the report, be noted.
2. That the reasons for the budget variances, as shown in paragraph 3 of the report, be noted.
3. That the items shown in paragraph 3.12 of the report, totalling £101,000, be approved for carry forward into the 2016/17 revenue budget.
4. That the transfers to reserves, as identified in paragraph 4 of the report be approved.

61

Treasury Management Outturn 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Economic Portfolio Holder which reviewed the performance of the Treasury Management function in 2015/16 compared with the forecasts and policies set out for last year.

Investment income for the year was £30,890 more than included in the forecast.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2015/16 and the Prudential Indicators for the year as shown in the Annex to the report be noted.

62

Asset Management Outturn 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Economic Portfolio Holder which compared the actual expenditure on Asset Management Plan (AMP) projects with the approved budget for 2015/16.

The total revised Asset Management Plan (AMP) budget in 2015/16 was £2.605M. Actual expenditure in the year was £1.955M. The main reasons for the budget variance were explained in the report.

After reviewing the outturn position for 2015/16, the AMP requirement for 2016/17 had been updated and was presented for approval.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

1. That the expenditure for the year on Asset Management projects, as shown in Annex 1 to the report, be noted.
2. That the updated budget for Asset Management projects in 2016/17, as shown in Annex 2 to the report, be approved.

63 **Amended Officer Scheme of Delegations and Article 12 of the Constitution**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which sought approval for changes in the Constitution which were now required in order that the Constitution reflected accurately operational changes within the organisation, established practice, and current law.

Whilst largely administrative in nature, and in part within the delegated authority of the Monitoring Officer, Officers sought the approval of Cabinet and Council to ensure organisational probity and transparency.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Recommended:

1. That the Officer Scheme of Delegations is amended as shown at Annex 1 to the report.
2. The Article 12 of the Constitution is amended as shown at Annex 2 to the report.
3. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make such amendments as duly approved and in consultation with the Corporate Portfolio Holder, all such necessary consequential administrative amendments which follow together with corrections of all typographical and minor errors appearing in the Constitution.

64 **Appointment of Temporary Members to Abbotts Ann Parish Council**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which sought to appoint Borough Councillors to act as Parish Councillors to Abbotts Ann Parish Council.

The Council had received notification that, due to the recent resignation of five Parish Councillors, Abbotts Ann Parish Council was no longer quorate and therefore unable to act.

The Borough Council had discretionary powers to appoint individuals to a Parish or Community Council where there were too many vacancies for the Parish Council to operate (section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 (Temporary Appointment of Members of Parish and Community Councils)).

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Recommended:

1. **That Borough Councillors Maureen Flood and Graham Stallard be appointed to Abbotts Ann Parish Council to fill vacancies upon the Parish Council and that they shall remain appointed until such time as other Parish Councillors are co-opted or elected and have taken up office.**
2. **That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Corporate Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to appoint individuals to parish and community councils should circumstances mean that they are no longer quorate in the future.**

(Meeting terminated at 6.28pm)