

Minutes of the Proceedings of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in the Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey
on 24 January 2018 at 4:00 pm

Details of Attendance	Cllr C Borg-Neal - The Worshipful the Mayor (Chairman)	(P)
	Cllr I Carr - Deputy Mayor (Vice-Chairman)	(A)
	Cllr P North (Leader of the Council)	(P)
Cllr N Adams-King	(P)	Cllr P Giddings (P)
Cllr J Anderdon	(P)	Cllr K Hamilton (A)
Cllr I Andersen	(P)	Cllr M Hatley (P)
Cllr G Bailey	(P)	Cllr S Hawke (P)
Cllr D Baverstock	(A)	Cllr I Hibberd (P)
Cllr A Beesley	(P)	Cllr A Hope (A)
Cllr P Boulton	(A)	Cllr P Hurst (P)
Cllr A Brook	(A)	Cllr I Jeffrey (P)
Cllr Z Brooks	(P)	Cllr A Johnston (P)
Cllr J Budzynski	(P)	Cllr P Lashbrook (-)
Cllr P Bundy	(P)	Cllr J Lovell (-)
Cllr D Busk	(A)	Cllr C Lynn (A)
Cllr J Cockaday	(P)	Cllr P Mutton (A)
Cllr C Collier	(A)	Cllr J Neal (P)
Cllr M Cooper	(P)	Cllr B Page (P)
Cllr S Cosier	(A)	Cllr T Preston (P)
Cllr D Denny	(P)	Cllr J Ray (-)
Cllr A Dowden	(P)	Cllr I Richards (P)
Cllr C Dowden	(P)	Cllr G Stallard (P)
Cllr D Drew	(P)	Cllr C Thom (P)
Cllr B Few Brown	(A)	Cllr A Tupper (P)
Cllr A Finlay	(P)	Cllr A Ward (A)
Cllr M Flood	(P)	

233

Prayers

Prayers were led by Reverend David Potterton.

234

Apologies

Resolved:

That the apologies of Councillors Baverstock, Boulton, Brook, Busk, Carr, Collier, Cosier, Few Brown, Hamilton, Hope, Lynn, Mutton and Ward be noted.

235

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 November 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

236

Mayor's Announcements

The Worshipful the Mayor announced that he was hosting a Burns Night at Keats Restaurant in Ampfield from 7pm on Friday 26 January and that all Councillors were welcome to attend.

The Worshipful the Mayor also announced that Reverend John Harkin, who on many occasions had served as Chaplain to the Mayor in the north of the borough, had decided to retire from full time ministry in March 2018 to take up a retirement post in Guildford. On behalf of the Council the Mayor expressed his thanks to Reverend Harkin for his years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

237

Committee Reports

237.1 **Minutes of Meetings**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the following Committees and Cabinet meetings be received.

- 237.1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 October 2017
- 237.1.2 Northern Area Planning Committee – 26 October 2017
- 237.1.3 Southern Area Planning Committee – 31 October 2017
- 237.1.4 Cabinet – 15 November 2017
- 237.1.5 Southern Area Planning Committee – 21 November 2017
- 237.1.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2017
- 237.1.7 Southern Area Planning Committee – 12 December 2017
- 237.1.8 Cabinet – 13 December 2017
- 237.1.9 Planning Control Committee – 19 December 2017
- 237.1.10 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 December 2017

- 237.1.11 Northern Area Planning Committee – 4 January 2018
- 237.1.12 Southern Area Planning Committee – 9 January 2018
- 237.1.13 Cabinet – 17 January 2018
- 237.1.14 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 22 January 2018
- 237.1.15 Southern Area Planning Committee – 23 January 2018

237.2 **Recommendations**

- 237.2.1 Cabinet – 15 November 2017

237.2.1.1 **Asset Management Plan Update**

Consideration was given to the report of Finance Portfolio Holder which provided an update on the approved 2017/18 Asset Management Plan (AMP) and recommended the projects to be included in the 2018/19 budget.

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

Resolved:

1. **That the revised 2017/18 and original 2018/19 Asset Management Plan, as shown in Annexes 1 and 2 to the report, be approved.**
2. **That the Head of Finance, after consultation with the Finance Portfolio holder and Head of Service responsible for any project, be authorised to amend the Asset Management Plan during the year, as discussed in paragraph 7.3.**

237.2.1.2 **Capital Programme Update – 2017/18 to 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the report of Finance Portfolio Holder which provided an update on the progress of the existing 2017/18 Capital Programme and included forecast changes to its timescale and total cost.

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

Resolved:

- 1. That the new capital schemes with a total cost £1,098,225 as shown in Annex 1 to the report, be added to the 2017/18 to 2019/20 Capital Programme.**
- 2. That the revised estimates and financing for the 2017/18 to 2019/20 Capital Programme as shown in Annex 2 to the report, be approved.**

238

Questions under Rule 11.2

Councillor C Dowden asked a question of the Leader regarding the number of vacant homes in Test Valley and whether the Council has used an Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO).

The Leader referred the question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environmental Health who replied that the number of vacant homes in Test Valley was approximately 171. According to Council Tax records there were 36 properties that had been empty for over 2 years. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Council had not used any Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs).

The Portfolio Holder advised that BBC data ranked Test Valley as one of the best areas in the country for the lowest number of empty homes per square kilometre and for the lowest number of empty homes by population.

Councillor C Dowden thanked the Portfolio Holder for his response and asked a supplemental question regarding whether the Council intended to make use of Council Tax Premium Increase on empty properties.

The Portfolio Holder replied that this provision would be given due consideration at the appropriate time.

239

Review of the Council's Constitution

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which proposed a number of amendments to the Council's Constitution following the most recent review.

The Council's Constitution underpins all of the Council's areas of activity and therefore contributes to the achievement of all its strategic objectives. The review ensured that the Constitution was up to date, accessible and reflected current practice. Henceforth, the Council's Constitution would be reviewed at least on an annual basis.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Constitution be amended as shown in the Annex to the report.**

2. **That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make these changes and any further minor or consequential amendments.**
3. **That rule 11.2 of the Council Procedure Rules ‘Questions on notice at Council’, be amended to include Portfolio Holders in the list of those to whom a question can be directed to.**

240

Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19

Consideration was given to a report of the Economic Portfolio Holder which presented the local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19.

Resolved:

That the local Council Tax Support Scheme (also known as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme), detailed at Annex A to the report, be adopted - the main principles of which are as follows:

- a) **base the local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19 on the existing scheme for 2017/18;**
- b) **continue to disregard 100% of certain payments (for working age and pensioner age customers) made under the War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme;**
- c) **the annual uplift of the components of the Council Tax Support Scheme is in line with the uplift for the national Council Tax Support Scheme for Pensioners and the Housing Benefit Scheme.**

(The meeting ended at 4.41pm)