

Minutes of the **General Purposes Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover
on Thursday 29 September 2011 at 4.30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor I Carr (Chairman)	(P)	Councillor M Hatley (Vice Chairman)	(P)
Councillor D Busk	(P)	Councillor M Cooper	(P)
Councillor A Dowden	(P)	Councillor P Giddings	(P)
Councillor I Hibberd	(P)	Councillor J Neal	(A)
Councillor N Whiteley	(P)		

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Minutes of Sub-Committees

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the two General Purposes Sub-Committees held on 23 June 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

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Statement of Accounts 2010/11

The Council is required to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts and have those accounts audited. The report presented the audited Annual Statement of Accounts for approval together with the Annual Governance Report of the Audit Commission.

The Statement of Accounts was presented with an unqualified opinion; this meant that the auditors found no material errors or mis-statements in the accounts.

Members congratulated the officers for an exceptional piece of work in a very short timescale.

Resolved:

1. Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report (Annex 1 to the report):

That the matters raised in the report be considered before authorising the financial statements for issue,

That the adjustments to the financial statements be noted,

That the proposed audit opinion and value for money conclusion be noted.

That the letter of representation be approved.

- 2. That the audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2010/11 (Annex 2 to the report) be approved.**

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Changes to Pensions Policy

The policies operated by the Council need to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to comply with employment legislation and best practice.

The revised policy reflected legislative changes that came into force and changes instructed by the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Resolved:

That the changes to the Pensions Policy as set out in paragraph 3 of the report be approved with immediate effect.

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Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference and Name of the Dismissals Appeals Sub-Committee

The Dismissals Appeals Sub-Committee was established to consider employee appeals against a range of issues most notably that where an employee had been dismissed because of a disciplinary, capability or ill-health reason.

There was a need to extend the remit of this Sub-Committee of the General Purposes Committee to cover grievance appeals as well as appeals against management decisions taken on access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Rather than creating a third Sub-Committee, the other being the Redundancy Sub-Committee, it was proposed that the name of the Dismissals Appeals Sub-Committee be changed to the Employment Appeals Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Committee extend the terms of reference of the Dismissals Appeals Sub-Committee to include those matters noted in paragraph 2.2 of this Report and that the Sub-Committee's name be changed to the Employment Appeals Sub-Committee to reflect its wider terms of reference.**

2. That membership of the Sub-Committee be increased to five and that Councillor Cooper be appointed in addition to Councillors Carr, Hatley, A Dowden and Giddings.
3. That the above changes apply to appeals received after 29 September 2011.

153 **Corporate Annual Health & Safety Report 2010-2011**

The report covered the year 2010/2011 and demonstrated the Council's compliance with its statutory responsibilities under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.

Resolved:

That the contents of the Report and Action Plan be approved.

(Meeting terminated at 5.36 pm)