

Minutes of the **General Purposes Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover
on Wednesday 25 July 2012 at 4.00 pm

Attendance:

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

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2012 and the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Sub-Committee held on 9 July 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Staff Pay Award for 2012/13

The report of the Chief Executive addressed the pay claim submitted by Unison for the year 2012/13. The Council's approved budget for 2012/13 contained provision for a potential pay award.

Resolved:

That a pay increase of one per cent be awarded to all employees subject to a minimum increase of £250 with effect from 1 April 2012.

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Ethical Framework Arrangements

The Localism Act 2011 changed the ethical framework that applied to Councils within England.

Each Council was free to adopt its own arrangements and procedures for dealing with complaints alleging failure to comply with a Council's Code of Conduct and for granting dispensations to its Members.

This report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services provided for the arrangements and procedures for dealing with complaints and the granting of dispensations.

Resolved:

1. That an Ethics Sub-Committee comprising Councillors Carr, Cooper, A Dowden, Hatley and Giddings be established and that the powers and duties set out in Annex 1 of the report be delegated to it.
2. That the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints set out in Annex 2 of the report be approved subject to the following wording being added to the end of the last sentence in paragraph 5 (d) of Annex 2 of the report: “... and report back to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.”
3. That authority to deal with complaints in the circumstances referred to in sections 2 and 3 of the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints (set out in Annex 2 of the report) be delegated to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services as Monitoring Officer.
4. That the complaint form and guidance notes set out in Annex 3 and 4 of the report respectively be approved subject to bullet 7 on page 31 of Annex 4 of the report be reworded to reflect similar wording to that used in (c) of Appendix 1 of the report.
5. That the Monitoring Officer be designated the Proper Officer for the purpose of Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.
6. That authority to grant dispensation to Members of Test Valley Borough Council pursuant to Section 33(2)(a), (b) and (d) be delegated to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services (LD01), the Common Law Solicitor (LD03) , the Assistant Solicitor (LD05) and the Head of Administration (LD02).
7. That authority to grant dispensations to Members of Test Valley Borough Council pursuant to Section 33(2)(c) and (d) be delegated to the Ethics Sub-Committee.
8. That the Monitoring Officer report to General Purposes Committee at six monthly intervals on the operation of the arrangements.
9. That Authority be delegated to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to make minor amendments to the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints in consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.
10. That the arrangements be reviewed in 12 months time.

(Meeting terminated at 4.55 pm)