

Minutes of the **General Purposes Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Andover
on Wednesday 24 September 2014 at 4:00 pm

Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Malcolm Haines, Ernst & Young

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Minutes of Sub-Committees

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Employment Appeals and Ethics Sub-Committees held on 14 July 2014 and 30 July 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

132 **Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2013/14 and Action Plan 2014/15**

Consideration was given to the Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2013/14 and Action Plan which demonstrated the Council's compliance with its statutory responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

The year 2013/14 saw the continued review of the work of the HSE with a change from routine inspections to a more targeted approach in an effort to achieve health and safety compliance and improve standards. These changes mean that HSE Inspectors focus on certain high risk industry sectors or on those businesses with a poor compliance track record. As a result the likelihood of Test Valley Borough Council having a routine inspection by the HSE is reduced and this reflects the Council's ability to manage health and safety in a good and proportionate manner.

Resolved:

That the Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2013/14 and Action Plan be approved.

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Statement of Accounts 2013/14

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Finance which set out the audited Annual Statement of Accounts for approval together with the Annual Governance Report of the Council's external Auditors, Ernst & Young.

An unqualified opinion has been given in respect of both the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Council's Value for Money arrangements. This means that the Auditors found no material areas of concern as part of their audit.

The Economic Portfolio Holder felt that it was an excellent report and that the Finance team should be congratulated on producing an excellent set of accounts and a satisfactory audit.

Resolved:

1. **Ernst & Young's Annual Governance Report (Annex 1 to the report):**
 - a. **That the matters raised in the report be considered before authorising the financial statements for issue,**
 - b. **That the proposed audit opinion and value for money conclusion be noted.**
 - c. **That the letter of representation (Annex 2) be approved.**
2. **That the audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2013/14 (Annex 3) be approved.**
3. **That the Council's staff be congratulated for their contribution towards a successful audit and that the Finance team be congratulated on producing an excellent set of accounts and a satisfactory audit.**

(Meeting terminated at 4:48 pm)