

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover
on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor C Lynn (Chairman)	(P)	Councillor P North (Vice Chairman)	(P)
Councillor I Andersen	(P)	Councillor G Bailey	(P)
Councillor D Baverstock	(P)	Councillor K Bird	(P)
Councillor C Borg-Neal	(-)	Councillor P Bundy	(P)
Councillor E Charnley	(-)	Councillor C Dowden	(P)
Councillor B Few Brown	(A)	Councillor A Finlay	(A)
Councillor K Hamilton	(A)	Councillor B Page	(P)
Councillor I Robin	(A)	Councillor K Tilling	(P)
Councillor J Whiteley	(A)		

Also in attendance:

Councillor P Giddings	Councillor M Hatley
Councillor S Hawke	Councillor A Ward

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Community Safety Review Scoping

The Committee considered the draft Template for a Corporate Priority review of the Community Safety responsibilities submitted by the Lead Member for Communities, Councillor Bundy.

Councillor Bundy introduced the item for review with reference to the Corporate Priority Review Template. He had consulted with the Head of Service prior to submitting the proposal.

The Lead Member outlined the rationale for the suggested topic and explained that it was important to review the Council's responsibilities for community safety to ensure that it was as effective as possible.

The Communities & Leisure Portfolio Holder suggested that when seeking information from Hampshire County Council concerning the statistics kept on their data base it would be necessary to pose specific questions, as the amount of data held was vast.

The Vice-Chairman requested that local housing associations should be included in the group of partner organisations and it was agreed that as Aster Communities had community safety staff and were part of the Test Valley Community Partnership, that they would be the appropriate organisation.

Resolved:

That the Council's responsibilities for community safety be approved as the topic for review.

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Romsey Future

The Corporate Director gave a short update on the latest developments concerning the Romsey Future project. For the benefit of Members less familiar with the project, he also gave an outline of the history and background to the project, which was chaired by the Deputy Leader Councillor Hatley.

Romsey Future is an exciting project that aims to ensure the town's future as a vibrant and thriving market town, interacting with its surrounding communities. The intention of the project is to develop a plan of action to help Romsey deal with factors like the impact of the emerging Local Plan. The project will build on work that has already been undertaken by other exercises such as the Romsey Masterplan and Romsey 2020.

A major event in the development of the project was held in November 2013. Over 50 people with an interest in the future of Romsey and its surrounding communities attended the day. This event started the process of creating a shared and detailed vision for the next 20 years which will help the Council decide the key practical steps necessary to deliver the vision.

A second community event was held on Saturday 14 June in Romsey Town Hall. More than 500 people dropped in to give their views on the future of the town. Each of the seven action groups showcased their group's key issues and main priorities.

A market stall invited people to vote for their favourite 'quick win' schemes, with the most popular ideas being community-led events to tidy up specific areas of the town; the production of walking and cycling guides, and the development of a teenage market.

Following this event those involved in the project were invited to help draft a document with ideas for short and medium term actions, along with a process for the ongoing development of longer term plans.

The Committee welcomed the progress made to date and congratulated those involved in the project on what had been achieved so far.

Resolved:

That the progress on the Romsey Future project be welcomed and all concerned in the project be commended.

278 Overview & Scrutiny Committee Constitutional Review

The Chairman reminded the Committee that a roundtable discussion had been held on 10 February 2015 to understand the options for Members in responding to Cabinet, and reach agreement as to the most appropriate way forward.

The Committee had regard to both the earlier discussion of OSCOM on 21 January 2015 and the examination of the issues conducted at the roundtable meeting.

The Committee agreed with the Cabinet's conclusion that there should be no change to the term of the Leader.

The Committee also agreed that the formal election of the chairman of OSCOM at Annual Council would remain as provided for in the Constitution and concurred with Cabinet that the matter should stand as a separate item on the Council agenda.

Members suggested that discussions should be held between the political groups on the best way to administer the nominations process.

Recommended to Cabinet:

That OSCOM endorse Cabinet's response and proposals in respect of those matters which Cabinet was asked to consider as follows:

- 1. Having regard to the various considerations noted in the report and particularly the necessary consistency in decision-making which is promoted by the Strong Leader model, Cabinet proposes that there should be no change in the term of the Leader being for four years subject to a resolution from a motion of no confidence; and**
- 2. The Chairman of OSCOM is appointed by Council as set out in the Constitution. The chairman of OSCOM can be removed by Council following a motion of no confidence. It is proposed that in future the appointment of the chairman of OSCOM shall stand as a separate agenda item at Annual Council.**

279 Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman gave a short update on the result of the round table discussion held prior to the meeting on the subject of the role of Members in planning policy issues raised by the Task & Finish Panel. A report to Cabinet on the subject was planned for April and this would be added to the work programme provisionally for May.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- The update on Affordable Housing would be reported to Committee on 18 March. A briefing note would be prepared by the Head of Housing and Environmental Health for members' comments. If a subsequent report was required it would be scheduled in the work programme.
- A round table discussion on the subject of the housing waiting list figures would be arranged if the briefing note mentioned above did not fully answer the outstanding questions.
- A proposal for a round table discussion on traffic and parking issues to be developed by Members and brought back to Committee for consideration.
- The update on Council Tax Support would be deferred to a date to be agreed.

Resolved:

That the outcomes of the OSCOM Actions Update be noted and the future work programme be approved.

(Meeting terminated at 7.06 pm)