

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 27 May 2015 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

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| Councillor C Lynn (Chairman) | (P) | Councillor A Finlay (Vice Chairman) | (P) |
| Councillor N Adams-King | (A) | Councillor D Baverstock | (P) |
| Councillor P Bundy | (A) | Councillor J Cockaday | (P) |
| Councillor S Cosier | (P) | Councillor D Drew | (P) |
| Councillor B Few Brown | (P) | Councillor I Jeffrey | (A) |
| Councillor K Hamilton | (P) | Councillor J Neal | (A) |
| Councillor J Lovell | (P) | Councillor T Preston | (P) |
| Councillor B Page | (A) | Councillor K Tilling | (A) |
| Councillor J Ray | (P) | | |

Also in attendance:

Councillor P Giddings
Councillor S Hawke

The Chairman expressed thanks to Christine Hastings, Senior Committee Officer for her support and the excellent work she had undertaken on behalf of the Committee. He also expressed his personal thanks for all her help and support to him as Chairman. On behalf of the Committee he wished her a happy retirement.

The Chairman welcomed the new Members to the Committee.

18

Urgent Items

The Committee considered the appointments to the Budget Panel and the Audit Panel as an urgent item as both panels would meet prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved:

- 1. That Councillor Finlay be appointed Lead Member of the Budget Panel together with Councillors Baverstock, Drew, Hamilton, Hurst, Lovell and Giddings (Economic Portfolio Holder).**
- 2. That Councillor Finlay be appointed Lead Member of the Audit Panel together with Councillors Adams-King, Cooper, Bundy, Neal, Hamilton, Tilling and Giddings (Economic Portfolio Holder).**

19

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

20

A Competitive Local Economy

Councillor Hamilton, Economy Lead Member, presented a report which provided members of the Committee with the outcomes of the Lead Member's initial review on the Council's approach to developing a competitive local economy.

The review would be undertaken in two phases, the first phase comprised a brief overview of the range of work delivered by the Council to support the local economy. The second phase would be undertaken to review in more detail how the new Corporate Action Plan (2015-19) was taking forward the work relating to economic development.

Members raised the following issues:

- Phase 2 of the review would work with partners involved both in the north and the south and the benefit will come out in the second report.
- In the last 5 years other Hampshire Councils have adopted the CITB National Skills Academy approach to securing construction apprenticeships using S106 Planning Agreements. TVBC is considering this approach along with an alternative (Fusion 21) which is used by East Hampshire District Council.
- Depending on developer/sub-contractor apprentices would be trained up to level 3 or 4. Test Valley had around half a dozen apprentices.
- A lot of work was being undertaken with new and smaller businesses, larger businesses were better able to look after themselves.
- Test Valley was looking at how other Local Authorities work with partners to create successful Industrial Estates. Test Valley was working with the EM3 LEP and Solent LEP.
- The Andover Town Centre Manager is funded by Andover Town Council, TVBC and Hampshire County Council. The Romsey Town Centre Manager is employed by Romsey Town Council to which TVBC is awarding a 3 year grant (2014/15-2017/18).
- Broadband would be rolled out to 95% of Hampshire with approximately 5% of rural areas still to be covered. A map of the areas covered could be found on the Hampshire County Council website.
Visit www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com

Councillor Hamilton asked the Committee to give her any feedback. The report on the second phase would come before the Committee in November.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hamilton for the work she had undertaken in producing the report.

Resolved:

1. **To develop an Economic Development Strategy for the Borough, to build on the technical assessments that were undertaken to inform the Local Plan alongside our package of support to businesses and communities.**
2. **To undertake a review of what other similar Council's were doing and identify opportunities and share best practice**
3. **To consider whether Test Valley could be more effective in communicating what support the Council offered to businesses, in association with the role of the Ward Member as a local business champion.**

21

Final OSCOM Annual Report

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman which presented the OSCOM Annual Report to the Committee for approval.

The Annual report covered the work of the Committee for the period May 2014 to May 2015. The Committee commented on the draft report on 14 April and requested some additional points be included. The report was presented for approval prior to submission to full Council on 23 June 2015.

Some discussion was held about who the report was aimed at and suggestions on what could be included in the future.

Resolved:

That the final Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved.

22

Appointment to the Review of Council Tax Support Task and Finish Panel

As agreed by the Committee at its meeting held on 14 April 2015 consideration was given to appointing Members to the Review of Council Tax Support task and finish panel to review the options in detail.

Carol Moore, Corporate Director set out the background to the panel for new members of the Committee. She explained that this was due to the implementation of Universal Credit and subsequent change to the criteria on how Council Tax benefits had to be calculated. Universal Credit was set to roll out to some customers in Test Valley in September. The panel would consider and make recommendations on the new scheme which would need to be approved by Council in January 2017 and implemented in April 2017.

Councillors Lovell and Drew indicated that they would be interested in serving on the panel together with the Economic Portfolio Holder, Councillor Giddings.

An 'Interest and Experience' form had been circulated to all members of the Committee for them to indicate areas of interest and experience gained. Further members would be considered for the panel once the 'Interest and Experience' forms had been returned and evaluated.

Resolved:

That appointment to the panel would be considered once the 'Interest and Experience' forms had been returned and evaluated.

23 Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman explained that there would be a pre Away Day discussion to afford the Committee the opportunity to have an initial sift of ideas and suggestions. Dates for consideration would be circulated to members.

The Committee had previously agreed a round table discussion on traffic figures which had been raised by a previous member. The Committee discussed this and felt that they wished the discussion to also include S106 contributions. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the pre Away Day discussion as would an update on the partnership with Aster.

A member of the Committee requested that the role of the planning committees be added to the work programme and the Chairman informed the Committee that the Leader would be requesting the Committee through Cabinet to look in depth at Planning Committees and Planning Advisory Panels.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- The Community Safety Panel report would be deferred to the 9 September meeting.
- A Competitive Local Economy – Phase 2 would be submitted to the 4 November meeting.
- Appointment to Review of Council Tax Support Task and Finish Panel be considered at 22 July meeting.

Resolved:

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

(Meeting terminated at 6.45pm)