

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 17 February 2016 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor Hawke  
Councillor Hatley  
Councillor Giddings

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**Minutes**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

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**Test Valley Partnership Annual Review**

Consideration was given to a report by the Policy Manager which provided members of the Committee with an update on the work of the Test Valley Partnership.

The Test Valley Partnership is the single strategic partnership for the Borough. Its role is to bring together key partner organisations who can then work jointly on the things that can't be achieved by any one organisation alone. The Partnership meets as a whole group twice a year (April and November). In between these meetings partners work together on delivering joint activities.

Partnership working in Test Valley has always been very strong. Partners had developed good organisational relationships and there was a clear purpose about what was trying to be achieved overall rather than focusing on overly complex partnership structures.

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### **Responsible Dog Ownership Project Update**

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Health Manager which gave a progress update on the implementation of the pilot involving parish councils to promote responsible dog ownership within their parish. The report also provided a progress update concerning the implementation of joint working with housing association Registered Providers (RPs) to promote responsible dog ownership on housing estates which include RP owned and managed properties.

Following a proposal from the Lead Member for the Environment on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a review was undertaken of the Animal Welfare service provided by the Council in September 2013. The purpose of the review and policy was to improve transparency and understanding for all concerned. The review identified that some targeted work had been done with a number of Parish Councils in the past, to assist them in tackling the irresponsible dog owners in their areas.

A report on the review and its findings was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 6 November 2013 and the Committee made recommendations to Cabinet on 27 November 2013 which were agreed.

The Committee discussed enforcement of irresponsible dog owners and the Lead Member explained the recent work which had been undertaken and the Valley Park pilot study. A checklist for responsible dog ownership had been drawn up for Parish Councils.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the progress of the Responsible Dog Ownership Project and the identified next steps, be endorsed.**

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### **Public Involvement Panel**

Consideration was given to a report of the Public Involvement Panel Lead Member, Councillor Drew.

The Committee considered the draft scoping template for the Public Involvement Panel.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the Public Involvement Panel's scoping template be approved.**

283 **Consultation on Proposed Changes to National Planning Policy**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Housing & Environmental Health and the Planning Policy Manager which provided the Committee with the Council's proposed response to the consultation on changes to national planning policy.

On the 7 December 2015 the Department for Communities and Local Government published a consultation on potential changes to national planning policy (National Planning Policy Framework) that are focused on supporting housing delivery.

The consultation seeks views on the changes to national planning policy and closes on the 22 February 2016.

Concern was raised over the continuation to promote starter homes and the government's proposal to widen the scope of the current exception site policy. This could affect the 40% of affordable housing within the Borough Local Plan resulting in fewer affordable homes being available for allocation. This matter would be covered under a future Housing Strategy item.

Members also discussed the proposed changes to the policy with regard to increasing the density of development around commuter hubs.

**Resolved:**

**That the proposed response to the consultation on the proposed changes to national planning policy be supported.**

284                    **Romsey Future – A Vision for Romsey 2015-2035**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, which provided the Committee with an update on the Romsey Future Vision document which was reported to Cabinet on 10 February and would be considered at Council on 25 February 2016.

Romsey Future was a process, established by the Council, to create a long term vision for the town. In particular, it was agreed that it would be important to have a document that helped deal with the changes that would inevitably come to the town as a consequence of the new Local Plan.

The town had many groups and organisations that were active within the community. One of the aims of the Romsey Future process was to provide a mechanism for these groups to get together in order to agree on shared priorities. It was agreed at the outset that Romsey Future would be a partnership project made up of the voluntary, business and statutory sectors.

The First Romsey Future vision document had now emerged from this process and it was proposed that the Council along with other partners in the town formally sign-up to the document.

The Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder explained that letters had been sent to relevant partners asking them to sign up to the vision document and a number of responses had been received. The projects would commence in the summer and some project support would be made available. An action plan would be produced and brought to the Committee in September and an annual update is scheduled for February.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Committee endorse the signing up to the Romsey Future Vision Document.
2. That an Action Plan be provided for the September OSCOM meeting.

285 **Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Chairman reminded the Committee about the Away Day on 7 July.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Romsey Future – A vision for Romsey 2015-2035 Action Plan to be added on 13 September 2016.
- Community Infrastructure Levy to be added at a date to be agreed.
- The Environmental Portfolio Holder to be asked to undertake a presentation on his Portfolio on 10 May 2016.

Councillor Adams-King informed the Committee that the report being submitted at the next meeting would report on Planning Advisory Panels and the Planning Control Committee. The panel would report back on the area Committees at a later stage.

**Resolved:**

**That the future work programme, as amended, be approved.**

(Meeting terminated at 6:55pm)