

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 16 March 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	(P)
Councillor S Cosier	(A)	Councillor J Cockaday	(P)
Councillor B Few Brown	(P)	Councillor D Drew	(A)
Councillor I Jeffrey	(P)	Councillor K Hamilton	(P)
Councillor J Neal	(P)	Councillor J Lovell	(P)
Councillor T Preston	(A)	Councillor B Page	(A)
Councillor K Tilling	(P)	Councillor J Ray	(-)
		Vacancy	

Also in attendance:

Councillor Bundy  
Councillor A Dowden  
Councillor C Dowden  
Councillor Giddings  
Councillor Hawke  
Councillor Ward

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### Minutes

#### Resolved:

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016 be amended to show that Councillor Hawke was present.
2. That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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### Presentation on Local Policing in Test Valley

Chief Inspector Thorne gave a presentation on local Policing in Test Valley and was supported by Inspector Markham.

Chief Inspector Thorne updated the Committee on 5 key areas; current issues, policing, crime and disorder, focus on current issues and how they are dealing them and the year ahead. At District level there had been £80m of cuts resulting in a loss of 1500 staff and 1000 Police Officers. There were now 2852 officers in Hampshire and recruitment is underway for 200 Police Officers to keep them at that level. However further savings would still be required.

The current Policing structure in the borough was 7.3 Police Officers (target 9) in Andover, 6.8 Police Officers in Romsey (target 8), 3 full time and 1 temporary Sergeants (target 4) and 21.4 PCSOs (target 20).

The types of crime has changed moving off the streets and into homes and online. Hampshire was the second highest in the Country for online fraud. On the whole crime has reduced during the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, was ASB down by 23% personal robbery was down 33%, dwelling burglary down 31%, non dwelling burglary down 16%, bicycle theft down 45%, Theft from motor vehicle down 15% and possession of offensive weapons down by 17%. However there was a recorded increase in serious sexual offences and violence against a person with injury. The increases were down to more people reporting sexual offences and domestic violence and also the changes to how the Police record these crimes.

Hampshire Constabulary sets a strategy each year with priorities based on threat, harm and risk to the community. Over the next 12 months PCSOs would concentrate on more innovative ways to engage with the community and especially the vulnerable.

Chief Inspector Thorne reported that he was proud of the achievements the Police in Test Valley had made and how local events had been policed.

The following issues were discussed;

- From April 2017 a private contractor would escort those under arrest to the Police Investigation Centre in Basingstoke which was currently under construction. This would then enable officers to stay in the local area.
- There was a huge reduction in crime in the Countryside and the Police worked closely with Gamekeepers and Country Watch.
- Some people that report crime are reluctant to get involved as witnesses in Court.
- Call handlers deal with 999 calls to ascertain inappropriate use. The 101 number was heavily used and for the most part was used well.
- There were 24 voluntary Police Constables in Test Valley used for responsive policing, neighbourhood policing and local events and Special Constables on traffic.
- There was a good relationship and co-operation with the Community Safety Partnership.
- There was no increase in suicides in Test Valley although the use of social media had focused more attention on the matter.
- Neighbourhood Watch needed to change from reactive to proactive as the shift in the ways crime was committed.
- Crimestoppers report anonymous information to the Police who can build a case around the information.
- There needs to be a realistic view of what PCSOs can do. They can deal with a lot of issues by reporting to partner agencies.
- There was a high tech crime unit at Hampshire Constabulary and the Police & Crime Commissioner would like to see more co-ordination around how internet crime was monitored.

- PCSOs have certain powers but in order to carry out effective community policing it was felt that there could be more scope.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Thorne and Inspector Markham for their interesting and informative presentation.

### 308 **Overview of the Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio**

Councillor Hawke, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environmental Health gave an overview of her Portfolio which included housing, food hygiene and safety, animal welfare, disabled facility grants and safety at work. Most of the areas of the Portfolio were statutory.

The Environmental Health Manager reported that building on the successful responsible dog owners workshop held in September a further workshop would be held in October/November. An update on the project would be given.

TVBC were on track to provide 800 affordable houses. In 2013/14 there were 129 provided, 300 in 2014/15, the 189 completions in 2015/16 are likely to exceed 200 and similarly for 2016/17 thereafter it may be more challenging.

Councillor Hawke answered a number of pre set questions on her Portfolio and then took further questions from Members which are summarised below;

- There was very little scope for further efficiencies as so much of the Portfolio is statutory.
- Valley Housing would focus on market rented housing so would have minimal direct impact on the Housing Register.
- TVBC had a receipt sharing arrangement for properties sold under the Preserved Right to Buy. In the event the RTB was extended under the Housing and Planning Bill, there was no guarantee that the proceeds from the sale of homes in Test Valley would be reinvested locally.
- It was anticipated that each Right to Buy sold would be replaced with at least one more property but not all for 100% rent some would be shared ownership.
- It was noted that the responsible dog ownership project had been mentioned at Crufts and the Environmental Health Manager would find a link to the website.

Councillor Hawke thanked all the officers and their staff for their continued hard work.

### 309 **Chairman's Annual Briefing 2015/16**

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

The Annual Briefing covered the work of the Committee for the period May 2015 to May 2016. The Committee were requested to comment on the draft Annual Briefing with the final Annual Briefing being brought back to the next meeting of the Committee for agreement prior to submission to full Council on 29 June 2016.

**Resolved:**

**That members consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Annual Briefing and submit any comments prior to final approval at the next meeting.**

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

Councillor Adams King, Lead Member for the Planning Panels requested that his final report be delayed until after the Planning Advisory Service had carried out their review of the planning processes, including committee structure and procedure so that their findings could be considered.

The Vice-Chairman requested the Communities & Leisure Portfolio Holder to circulate a short briefing note on the process and timescales for selecting a company to run the Leisure Centres.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Corporate Action Plan – move from July to September
- Leisure Contractor Annual Report – move from November to early 2017

**Resolved:**

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

(Meeting terminated at 7.11pm)