

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Andover
on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor Z Brooks	Councillor S Hawke
Councillor I Carr	Councillor G Stallard

354

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

355

Overview of Environmental Portfolio

Councillor Stallard, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services responded to preselected questions about his Portfolio. He had also made available to the Committee a copy of the updated Service Strategy and the Head of Environmental Services gave an update on recycling.

In response to the questions Councillor Stallard reported that he had regular contact with the Head of Environmental Services and direct contact with managers. He attended Sparkle days and reported on ongoing issues with Project Integra. He had a very light touch from an operational perspective and worked closely with the Head of Environmental Services on policy and strategic planning.

The top three main strengths of the Portfolio were a high quality service to residents in Test Valley, flexibility and willingness to adapt to change and innovation. Success was measure through performance indicators, quarterly board meetings, complaints monitoring and budget monitoring.

The most difficult aspect to manage was the sustainability strategy. Councillor Stallard would welcome help from the Committee on the sustainability strategy and would be happy to bring the strategy to the Committee for their comments.

The biggest challenge facing the portfolio over the next 12 months was further review of waste collection rounds and the ever changing landscape scene.

A question was asked about the review of household waste and recycling centres and Councillor Stallard encouraged Members to reply to the Hampshire County Council's public consultation on proposals for changes to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre service which could be found on the Hampshire County Council website. Closing date for comments was 25 May 2016.

The main sources of income were through recycling, garden waste and ground maintenance and this was used to offset cost to the Council. Savings had been made over the years through corporate challenge and increases in the number of properties had been absorbed within existing waste collection rounds. It was suggested these rounds were now at full capacity and further increases in the number of properties would necessitate additional rounds being set up.

The Head of Environmental Services updated the Committee on recycling.

- Alternate Weekly Collections of waste have been in operation since 2006.
- There appears to be an increase in the recycling rate which is expected to exceed 33%
- Early indications are that Test Valley are one of two Hampshire authorities to see an increase in recycling rate during 2015/16
- The contamination rate in the recycling bins is less than the Hampshire average.
- The network of Local Recycling Centres now extends to 100 sites
- Recycling Stars has now been in operation for over 2 ½ years. A range of groups have signed up to be 'Recycling Stars Supporters' including Parish Councils, schools, and Guides and Scouts groups.
- Recycling Stars Newsletter 'Stargazer' had been launched.
- Front line crews trained to advise residents on what should be added to which bin.
- Positive tags were being investigated for residents who were recycling well.
- Recycling guide had been refreshed and was given to new residents. This was also available online.
- Work was currently under way as part of the Corporate Action Plan to review the Council's waste strategy.

356

Presentation on Communications

The Chief Executive explained that the strategic approach to communication was split into three strands

- Corporate Communication – the Communications team working with Portfolio Holders who speak on behalf of the corporate body.
- Communication undertaken by an individual member in their community.
- Communication in support of Members political role or Group. This was not the responsibility of the Communications team but by individual members within their Political Group.

The Communications Manager explained the roles within the Communications team and the corporate objectives. All communications link back to the corporate aims focusing on what was important to residents.

The team work to promote good news stories, respond to media enquires, manage social media, provide a graphic design service and advise and assist Services to draft communications to residents.

The Communications Manager responded to a number of questions from Members and reported that they have a good working relationship with the local press and would continue to build on those relationships to promote more good news stories being published. There was a large distribution for press releases and these were generally picked up. Most of the press releases related to Community and Leisure, Environmental Services and business grants although they do try to seek variety. The Communications Manager took on board a suggestion that pictures should be included with press releases when they are circulated to Members.

It was also suggested that the Communications team make more use of 'snippets' to provide residents with useful information on what services were available and links to find out more information.

The Communications team make use of social media and are flexible in their approach to current trends.

357

Andover Vision

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Executive which provided the Committee with an update on the Andover Vision.

The Vision came together in 2005 following the identification of a common agenda between the private sector (as articulated by Des Benjamin, Chief Executive of HSA) and the public sector (led by TVBC). That agenda was about enhancing the lives and prospects of the people of Andover and enriching the environment in which they live and work

The Council's Corporate Plan had highlighted the renewal of the Andover Vision as a key priority. Following consultation with existing Andover Vision Board members, it was agreed that the Council would take a lead in facilitating and bringing together a new Vision with the local community.

An Andover Vision Community Workshop was held at The Lights on Saturday 9 April, to discuss ideas to help create a new vision for the town and make it an even better place to live. Local community groups and organisations came together to share their ideas, which will now be used to develop an Andover Vision action plan.

The Chief Executive previewed the themes arising from the Andover Vision Community Workshop which will be discussed by the members' reference group next week with a view to establishing working groups which will identify the issues to take forward for consultation over the summer.

Resolved:

That the progress and approach being taken by the Council to renew the Andover Vision, be endorsed.

358 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Update

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Community and Leisure which summarised the work undertaken in this area as requested by the Committee as part of a bi-annual review of the safeguarding policy and practices.

The Community Engagement Manager (Community Development) reported on the new areas of the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy which had been added to take into consideration new requirements upon local authorities. Those areas were Child Sexual Exploitations, Modern Slavery, Prevent (Governments counter-terrorism strategy) and The Care Act 2014.

Councillor Finlay requested the Community Engagement Manager (Community Development) to undertake further training for Members and she agreed that she would discuss this with the Democratic Services Manager. She would add the Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy & Procedures to the Members area of the website.

Resolved:

That the progress made with regards to safeguard be endorsed.

359 Community Safety Panel Phase 2 Scoping

The Committee considered the draft scoping template for the Community Safety Panel Phase 2 Scoping template.

Resolved:

That the Community Safety Panel Phase 2 Scoping template Panel's scoping template be approved.

360 Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It was suggested that a round table discussion be held prior to the next meeting of the Committee to review the effectiveness and measure success of past decisions prior to the Away Day in July.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Community Safety Phase 2 final report – 6 July 2016

Resolved:

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

(Meeting terminated at 7.40pm)