

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey
on 13 September 2016 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor Carr	Councillor Hatley
Councillor Giddings	Councillor North
Councillor Hawke	

115

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

116

Briefing Note

The Committee noted the Corporate Equality Objectives 2012-2016 briefing note.

117

Corporate Action Plan

The Leader gave a presentation on how the Council was delivering on its ambitions as set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-19, *Investing in Test Valley*. The presentation provided an update on each of the projects in relation to the Corporate Plan's four ambitions and outlined the new projects coming forward that would continue to deliver on the Council's ambitions.

The Leader explained that the Corporate Plan was underpinned by a Corporate Action Plan which ran for the lifetime of the plan and was updated annually. It showed in detail how the Council would make progress against its priority aims.

Each year a review was undertaken to update the Corporate Action Plan to ensure it continued to highlight the significant projects that the Council was taking forward in pursuit of its four corporate aims.

Members raised several points around technical skills training in the south, affordable housing in Test Valley and the Andover Vision.

Resolved:

That the progress made against the Corporate Plan 2015-19's ambition in year one of the Corporate Action Plan be endorsed and that the update be published on the Council's website.

118

Update on Romsey Future

The Deputy Leader outlined progress on the Romsey Future initiative since the Committee last considered the matter in February 2016.

He explained that Romsey Future was a process, established by the Council and its partners, to create a long term vision for the town. In particular 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. It was agreed at the outset that it was important that Romsey Future should be a partnership project made up of the voluntary, business and statutory sectors. Romsey Future was providing a successful vehicle for those groups to work together on a regular basis to agree on shared priorities.

Since the Committee's meeting in February the Council had now formally signed up to the vision document along with a number of other key organisations working in the town. These included a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations. The vision document itself was launched by the partners in June. Good progress had been made and activity under each work stream had continued and a sustainable structure to help develop the next phase of work had been established.

Project plans were now in the development phase and it was considered that the developing project plans should be made available to the Committee detailing milestones, objectives, timings and progress to date. The Corporate Director reported that these would be available for the Committee's December meeting.

Resolved:

- 1. That the direction of travel of the Romsey Future process, be endorsed and that they be congratulated on the encouraging progress to date.**
- 2. That a Project Plan be brought to the Committee in December.**

119

Plans and Process Panel

Consideration was given to a report by Councillor Adams King, Chairman of the Planning Process Panel which sought the Committee's approval on the Panel's recommendations following its review of the Plans Panel, the Area Planning Committees and the Planning Control Committee. The Panel also sought approval to continue its work on the Area Planning Committee for a further six months to enable the Planning Advisory Service to undertake a review of the various options for how the Area Planning Committees might operate in future.

The Panel had surveyed neighbouring and similar authorities, asking a number of questions about the function of their Strategic Planning and Local Planning Committees and attendant processes. Officers had been informed of the Panel's discussions and their recommendations as they had progressed and their response to the Panel's recommendations were available to the Committee.

Councillor Hatley also explained that in June 2016 Cabinet had considered a report on Members involvement in the preparation of Planning Policy, following a previous Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel concerning the role of the Members in the planning policy and development management process. Cabinet had agreed to retain an informal Planning Policy Panel of Members which would meet more regularly to monitor progress and receive technical reports. Cabinet had also agreed to circulate the minutes of that informal Planning Policy Panel and publish biannually a forward plan of future items for discussion which would allow for those Members who were not on the informal panel to attend and be involved in those items where they had an interest.

Following detailed discussions, the Committee could not reach a consensus on the Panel's recommendations. Some members had concerns around a number of recommendations but specifically around the proposal to adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes after the vote if the Area Committee voted to refuse an application to enable officers to confer with members. Some members also had concerns around the recommendation relating to member call ins.

There were a number of concerns around the recommendations relating to Member call in and refusal against officer recommendation for permission. It was therefore proposed that Councillor Adams King make amendments to the report and recommendations taking into account the comments made and bring these back to the next meeting in October.

Resolved:

That the Plans and Planning Panel be asked to re-consider its recommendations in light of the Committee's comments and re-submit the report to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Revised Member Role description – add to 12 October
- Planning Panel – add to 12 October
- Progress on Romsey Future Action Plan – add to 7 December

Resolved:

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

(Meeting terminated at 7.40pm)