

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in The Guildhall, High Street, Andover,
on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor P Giddings
Councillor S Hawke

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Project Enterprise Update

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Revenues (Local Taxation and Project Enterprise) which explained that Project Enterprise was established in 2014 to increase the income generated by the Council from its investments and reduce its reliance on government revenue support grant. Total expenditure on completed projects by 31 March 2017 was £18.745M with a further £10.140M approved in the Capital programme for further projects.

The report explained that the Project Enterprise Board is chaired by the Chief Executive and also includes the Corporate Directors; Heads of Finance; Legal and Estates. In January 2017 the Council approved an update to the Investment Strategy that was established to guide decision making for Project Enterprise investments. This strategy sets out a two-stage gateway process that investments should meet to be considered appropriate for Project Enterprise. The first state of the gateway process assesses the Council's powers to invest and the appropriateness of the investment, the second stage develops the business case for each project.

The Head of Estates has been delegated authority to purchase property investments after consulting a cross party Member panel established for that purpose and a budget of £3M is allocated in the Capital programme for purchases approved under that delegated authority.

It is estimated that the ongoing additional annual income from completed investments would be £1.465M which represented a return of 7.8% on the total investment and approximately £1.3M per annum more than would have been received for a similar level of cash investments.

The Acting Head of Revenues (Local Taxation and Project Enterprise) took a number of questions from Members around information sharing, due diligence, management of Valley Housing Limited and the cross-party Member panel.

A question was also asked about Overview and Scrutiny being involved earlier in the process. It was explained that the Investment Strategy and most investment approvals had been approved by Council and that all Councillors had oversight of the approved funding. The Project Board agrees projects within the set terms of reference and officer delegations and, where investments are approved under the Head of Estates' delegation, these were then reported retrospectively to Council.

Recommended to Cabinet

That Overview and Scrutiny supports the direction of travel of Project Enterprise and those officers involved in the work be commended for their efforts.

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Overview and Scrutiny Annual Briefing

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 2016 to May 2017. 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 28 June 2017.

It was suggested that the 'Crossing the River' task undertaken at the Away Day needed to be put in better context.

Resolved:

That minor amendments to the Annual Briefing be made and reported back to the next meeting of the Committee for final agreement.

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

Councillor C Dowden reported that she had attended Cabinet on 19 April and addressed them on the 'Review of Call in Process' item. She had explained the thoughts behind each of the recommendations and Cabinet had agreed for officers to be requested to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and report back to Cabinet. Overview and Scrutiny could revisit the recommendations should they not agree with Cabinet's decision.

Councillor Drew had indicated that he wished to step down as Lead Member on the Public Involvement Panel. Councillor Baverstock would take over as Lead Member together with Councillor C Dowden and Councillor Neal.

A Panel would be set up to look at PR and News Releases within Test Valley and lessons learnt from the Leisure Contract. This would be led by Councillor Preston together with Councillor Cockaday and Councillor Hurst.

Membership for the second phase of the Planning Control Panel/Planning Advisory and Planning Process Panel would be agreed at the next meeting.

A round table discussion will be held prior to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 June to discuss costs of postage and printing within the Council. This would be an opportunity for Members to look at future options for the use of technology and any potential savings.

Resolved:

- 1. That the membership of the Public Involvement Panel consist of Councillor Baverstock as Lead member together with Councillors C Dowden and Neal.**
- 2. That a panel be set up to look at PR and News Releases with Test Valley and lessons learnt from the Leisure Contract to comprise of Councillors Preston, Cockaday and Hurst.**
- 3. That the future work programme, as amended, be approved.**

(Meeting terminated at 6.25pm)