

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**  
held in The Annexe, Crosfield Hall, Romsey  
on Wednesday 20 December 2017 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

<b>Councillor C Lynn</b> <b>(Chairman)</b>	(P)	<b>Councillor I Jeffrey</b> <b>(Vice Chairman)</b>	(P)
Councillor D Baverstock	(P)	Councillor P Hurst	(-)
Councillor P Boulton	(P)	Councillor J Lovell	(-)
Councillor J Cockaday	(P)	Councillor P Mutton	(P)
Councillor C Dowden	(P)	Councillor J Neal	(P)
Councillor B Few Brown	(A)	Councillor B Page	(-)
Councillor A Finlay	(A)	Councillor T Preston	(A)
Councillor K Hamilton	(A)	Councillor I Richards	(A)
Councillor I Hibberd	(P)	Councillor C Thom	(A)

Also in attendance:

Councillor A Dowden  
Councillor S Hawke

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**Minutes**

**Resolved:**

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

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**Waste Strategy Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Environmental Services which introduced the Waste Strategy 2018-2023 and invited comment and endorsement before final approval by Cabinet in January 2018.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19 stated within its key priority 'Enjoy: the natural and built environment' that over the next four years and beyond, it would invest in 'increasing recycling and reduce the amount of household waste'. Furthermore the plan specifically states 'We will undertake a full review of our Waste Strategy, which will consider all the options and costs for how we could increase current levels of recycling.'

In preparing the strategy a range of consultation had been carried out with stakeholders. Initially during 2013 and again in 2015, community consultations were conducted, originally as part of the launch of Recycling Stars and latterly, as part of WasteWise – a project led by ResearchBods. Residents were given the opportunity to share their opinions on a variety of waste related topics. In addition to the borough specific consultation detailed above, during 2015/16, IPSOS MORI also carried out a satisfaction survey on behalf of Hampshire County Council. A workshop for Councillors was held in November 2016 where views and ideas were sought.

Members discussed and asked questions around;

- The 'Super' Materials Recovery Facility
- Behavioural changes and education
- Recovery and recycling facility at Barton Stacey
- Supporting community projects
- Packaging
- Wheelie bins

The Waste Strategy was fully supportable. It described the waste journey and highlighted significant areas of service change and improvement over time and set out ways that the service could be improved in terms of increased recycling and waste minimisation. The document itself did not commit the Council to any additional expenditure.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the Waste Strategy 2018 – 2023 be endorsed.**
- 2. That the Head of Environmental Services and his team be congratulated on the excellent work they have undertaken this year and specifically on the Waste Strategy 2018-2023.**

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**Council Tax Scheme Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Revenues (Benefits and Customer Services) The report gave the Committee the opportunity to decide whether to commence a review of the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20 considering the timetable for the rollout of Universal Credit and the financial impact of the 2017/18 scheme.

In April 2016 Cabinet recommended keeping the existing scheme for 2016/17 but to review the scheme for 2017/18 in light of the welfare reforms and in particular the introduction of Universal Credit. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed a Member Panel to review the current scheme and make recommendations for options to consult on changes to the Council Tax Support scheme for 2017/18.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewed the findings of the Member Panel in respect of the Council Tax Support scheme for 2017/18 and resolved that the current level of support for 2017/18 continued and reviewed in 12 months time once more claims for Universal Credit were in payment and the impact of the April 2016 Housing Benefit and Tax Credit changes were known. In December 2016 the Committee agreed that the current level of support for 2018/19 continue and reviewed in 12 months time once progress against the Universal Credit implementation timetable is known.

Roll out of Universal Credit full service for Jobcentres affecting Test Valley residents were Southampton - February 2017, Salisbury - 2017 and Eastleigh - July 2017 (this covered Romsey) and Andover and Winchester would be rolled out in July 2018.

The Committee felt that there was now enough evidence to review the options first considered by the Member Panel in 2016 together with any further options. The Panel would meet with the Acting Head of Revenues (Benefits and Customer Services) in the New Year and report back to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

**Resolved:**

**That a panel be set up comprising Councillors Baverstock (Lead Member) Cockaday, Mutton and Hawke (co-opted) to consider the options for the Council Tax Support scheme for 2019/20.**

216      **Programme of Work for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Corporate Director advised Members that the Member Development Group had identified some training to be run by the Centre for Public Scrutiny on Expert Chairing Skills to be held on 20 February 2018 in London. Any Member that wished to attend this training please contact Democratic Services.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Development of the Economic Development Action Plan – move to 21 February.
- Contact Police and Crime Commissioner about attending a meeting in 2018.

**Resolved:**

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

(The meeting terminated at 6.25pm)