

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Andover
on 23 May 2018 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor I Jeffrey (Chairman)	(P)	Councillor Cockaday (Vice Chairman)	(P)
Councillor G Bailey	(-)	Councillor I Hibberd	(P)
Councillor D Baverstock	(P)	Councillor P Hurst	(P)
Councillor C Borg-Neal	(P)	Councillor J Lovell	(A)
Councillor P Boulton	(P)	Councillor P Mutton	(P)
Councillor C Dowden	(P)	Councillor J Neal	(P)
Councillor B Few Brown	(A)	Councillor T Preston	(P)
Councillor A Finlay	(A)	Councillor I Richards	(P)
Councillor K Hamilton	(A)	Councillor C Thom	(P)

Also in attendance:

Councillor P Bundy
Councillor S Hawke
Councillor P North

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Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved:

1. That Council Procedure Rule 17.3 be suspended to allow a paper ballot to be undertaken .
2. That Councillor John Cockaday be appointed as Vice-Chairman until the first meeting after Annual Council in 2019.

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Overview of the work of the Environmental Health Department

The Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder gave a brief overview of the Service's functions.

The Environmental Health Manager (supported by the Head of Housing and Environmental Health) gave a presentation on each of the areas covered by the Service including Environmental Protection, Health Protection, Food Complaint Investigation and

Sampling, Workplace Safety, Nuisance Problems, Pollution, Planning Consultations, Local Air Quality, Private Water Supplies and Pest Control.

The Service contributed to the objectives of the Corporate Plan by

- influencing the location and design of new developments to protect the amenity of existing and future householders and ensure development land is cleaned up where appropriate
- inspecting business premises to protect the safety of workers; upholding legal standards for all, so maintaining a level playing field; supporting and advise new start-up businesses to meet regulatory standards in a cost effective manner
- Protecting the environment from contamination / pollution; helping ensure water from private supplies is safe to drink; tackle dog fouling etc
- Helping to resolve neighbour nuisance problems, avoiding growing conflicts; promoting responsible dog ownership etc.

The Environmental Health Manager answered a number of questions on the following issues:

- It wasn't illegal for dogs not to be on leads although this was under consideration under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act Public Open Spaces Order as well as the number of dogs walked at any one time by professional dog walkers.
- The Service had limited resources and had to prioritise. They had response time targets however if it was very urgent they would attend the same day. They tried to find a balance to resolve nuisance problems through advice and negotiation.
- The Environmental Health Manager was requested to bring some case studies to the Committee at a future date in order for them to better understand the processes.
- There were rat activity hot spots around the Borough and effort was being made to co-ordinate efforts.
- Fly tipping was dealt with by Environmental Services and the Council had been prosecuting where evidence was given.
- The Service works with Housing Associations to try to deal with noise complaints.
- There was a national problem with air quality and there were statutory limits for certain pollutants however Test Valley did not have exceedances whilst there were concerns in neighbouring areas.
- The Animal Welfare Officer was qualified to chip dogs and worked with other agencies i.e. RSPCA and vets to try to resolve issues.
- Water quality was monitored at food businesses if there was an issue except businesses on a private water supply which are monitored routinely under the Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016.

The Chairman thanked the team for their presentation.

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Corporate Action Plan

The Leader gave a presentation which reviewed how the Council was delivering on its ambitions as set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-19, *Investing in Test Valley*. This included a review of the third year of the Corporate Action Plan for 2015-19 and the

projects coming forward in year four. The presentation provided an update on each of the projects in year 3 in relation to the Corporate Plan's four ambitions.

The Corporate Action Plan detailed how the Council intended to make progress by focusing on the action it would take forward against each of the priorities of the Corporate Plan. As a result it informed decision making and allocation of resources across the Council.

Five new projects would come forward in year four;

- Prepare the evidence-base for the development of the Council's new Corporate Plan 2019-2023
- Participate in an LGA Peer Challenge
- Implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and innovation in housing options delivery.
- Hampshire Waste Partnership Recycling Project
- New Forest Special Protection Area Mitigation Project

The Leader explained that the Review of our Waste Strategy had been removed from the Corporate Action Plan as it was complete. An action plan was now in development.

There was a national decline in the High Street thought to be a combination in the growth of out of town shopping and internet shopping together with high rents and rates. The Council is embarking on a project to inject vibrancy into the town centre to try to encourage more people to come into the town.

The Chairman thanked the Leader for his informative presentation.

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Appointment to Audit and Budget Panels

The Committee considered the appointments to the Audit Panel and the Budget Panel.

Resolved:

- 1. That Councillor Cockaday be appointed Lead Member of the Budget Panel and Councillors Baverstock, Hurst, Lovell and Giddings (Finance Portfolio Holder) be appointed to the Panel.**
- 2. That Councillor Neal be appointed Lead Member of the Audit Panel and Councillors Borg-Neal, Cooper, Mutton, Thom and Giddings (Finance Portfolio Holder) be appointed to the Panel.**

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Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

Consideration was given to the Chairman's Annual Report to be submitted to Council on 27 June 2018.

Members suggested some minor textural changes and following discussion were happy for the Chairman to make minor changes to that wording. The Chairman would also add the Committee's thanks to the previous Chairman for his leadership over the past 6 years.

Resolved:

That subject to the minor amendments discussed, the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed.

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Work Programme Report

The round table discussion due to take place prior to this meeting on the Corporate Plan Survey had been postponed. The Policy Manager had advised that the draft survey work was nearly complete and they were keen for Overview and Scrutiny to be given the opportunity to look at the survey. The Policy Manager would therefore host a special session in the next couple of weeks for Members to look at the survey as this was due to be sent out before the next meeting.

Councillor Baverstock had submitted an item for the Work Programme on Parking (Car Park and Residential Streets). After discussion it was agreed that a Panel be set up comprising Councillor Baverstock (Lead Member) together with Councillors Cockaday and C Dowden.

Members discussed the Overview & Scrutiny Away Day. It was agreed that this should take place on a Friday afternoon in July. Dates would be circulated for agreement.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Change Tourism round table discussion to Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio Holder presentation on 25 June.
- Add outcomes of Car Parking study to 25 June.
- Audit Panel scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 July to move to a 4.30pm start.
- Move the round table discussion on the Andover Vision from 25 July to 19 September.

Resolved:

- 1. That Councillor Baverstock be appointed Lead Member of the Parking (Car Park and Streets) Panel together with Councillors J Cockaday and C Dowden.**
- 2. That the Audit Panel scheduled to take place on 25 July starts at 4.30pm**
- 3. That the future work programme, as amended, be approved.**

(Meeting terminated at 7.25pm)