

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in The Annexe, Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey
on 11 December 2019 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor I Jeffrey (Chairman)

Councillor Z Brooks (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor G Bailey

Councillor D Baverstock

Councillor C Borg-Neal

Councillor T Burley

Councillor C Donnelly

Councillor C Dowden

Councillor S Gidley

Councillor N Gwynne

Councillor K Hamilton

Councillor N Lodge

Councillor K North

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Coole, A Finlay, R Meyer and J Parker

241 **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

242 **Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder Presentation**

Councillor Bundy, Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder gave a presentation on his Portfolio.

The presentation covered Housing, Environmental Health, staff structure, service budget, Corporate Plan links, action plan links, measuring success; examples of KPIs, key challenges and risks, consultation, changes and future plans.

The Housing and Environmental Health Service delivers the Council's strategic housing functions and environmental health responsibilities. Officers have a significant amount of direct contact and interactions with residents and stakeholders, many of whom are valuable.

Members discussed the following;

- Rental market in Romsey
- Homeless Reduction Act and national changes
- Recruitment of Environmental Health Officers
- Affordable and social housing

- Housing Register
- Working closely with housing providers and independent organisations

Councillor Bundy thanked the officers in the Housing and Environmental Health Service for all their hard work in the deliverance of a number of essential services.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Bundy for his interesting and informative presentation.

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Updates on Panels

The Future of Health Provision in Andover and Romsey – The next meeting of the Panel will be on 7 January 2020 where Rachael King, Director of Commissioning (South West) and Martyn Rogers, Head of Primary Care will be attending to discuss health provision in the south of the Borough.

Armed Forces Covenant – The scoping report was considered at this meeting.

The Council Tax Support Scheme Panel – The Cabinet would consider the Panel's recommendations on 18 December and a full report will be considered at Council on 23 January 2020.

Climate Emergency Working Groups – The scoping documents for each of the work streams was considered at this meeting.

Budget Panel – The next meeting of the Budget Panel will be held on 29 June 2020.

Audit Panel – The Audit Panel met on 9 December 2020 where they discussed the Internal Audit Progress Report for 2019/20 to 30 November 2019, the Annual Audit Letter, Grant Claim Certification Report and the Audit Panel Work Programme 2020. The next meeting of the Audit Panel will be held on 16 March 2020.

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Armed Forces Covenant Panel Scoping Document

Consideration was given to the Lead Member of the Armed Forces Covenant Panel's scoping document.

The scoping document set out the key areas of focus, the key areas to be developed or reviewed and the rationale. The three key areas of focus are;

- How the Council's strategic approach to community engagement guides its approach to engaging with working with military communities.
- The current and future work undertaken by the Council as part of the commitments outlined in the armed forces covenant and a reflection on what has worked well and what could be done differently.

- Review of best practice – what other local authorities do and how military partnerships have developed in other places.

The anticipated benefits are to strengthen relationships with our military partners and provide the evidence-base for future development of the Armed Forces Covenant in Test Valley.

Resolved:

That the Armed Forces Covenant Panel's scoping document be approved.

245 **Update on Climate Emergency Work Streams**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development which provided an update on the climate emergency work streams and confirms the scope of each work stream following the verbal update to the Committee on 13 November 2019.

In order to deliver the resolution of Council on 4 September 2019, the Committee had been tasked with establishing a cross party working group that will be developing a draft action plan to identify the steps the Council can take to achieve carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

At the Committee's meeting on 16 October it was agreed that seven work streams, each with their own member and officer working group, would be established. The seven work streams are;

- Digital and Smart Working
- Working with our Communities and Businesses
- Premises and Asset Management
- Reducing, Reusing and Recycling
- Transport, Fleet and Plant
- Enhancing the Natural Environment
- Infrastructure and the Built Environment

An update was given on each of the work streams made and endorse the scoping document for each work stream.

The Committee noted changes to the membership of two work streams in that Councillor K North would join the Enhancing the Natural Environment and Councillor Gwynne would be Deputy Lead Member.

Resolved:

That the scoping document for each Climate Emergency Work Street as set out in Annex 1 to the report, be endorsed.

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

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows;

- Add Climate Emergency work streams to each agenda until March 2020.
- Add Youth Provision round table discussion to January 2020.
- Move Cemetery Rules and Regulations Review to early 2020.

Resolved:

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

(The meeting terminated at 7.05 pm)