

Minutes of the **Council**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held virtually via Microsoft teams
on 10 June 2020 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor M Hatley (Chairman)

Councillor M Cooper (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor N Adams-King
Councillor I Andersen
Councillor G Bailey
Councillor D Baverstock
Councillor C Borg-Neal
Councillor Z Brooks
Councillor P Bundy
Councillor T Burley
Councillor J Burnage
Councillor D Coole
Councillor S Cross
Councillor N Daas
Councillor C Donnelly
Councillor A Dowden
Councillor C Dowden
Councillor D Drew
Councillor C Ecclestone
Councillor A Finlay
Councillor M Flood

Councillor S Gidley
Councillor N Gwynne
Councillor K Hamilton
Councillor V Harber
Councillor I Jeffrey
Councillor A Johnston
Councillor L Lashbrook
Councillor P Lashbrook
Councillor N Lodge
Councillor N Matthews
Councillor R Meyer
Councillor K North
Councillor P North
Councillor J Parker
Councillor T Tasker
Councillor C Thom
Councillor A Ward
Councillor A Warnes
Councillor A Watts

49

Prayers

Prayers were led by Reverend Chris Bradish on behalf of Reverend Jill Bentall.

50

Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

51

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

52

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

53 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2020 and 6 May 2020

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26 February 2020 and 6 May 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

54 Mayor's Announcements

The Worshipful the Mayor announced that he had been keeping in touch with a number of community groups and individuals across the Borough to offer them support during the current circumstances and would be sending a letter out to community support group co-ordinators thanking them and all volunteers for their efforts to support the communities of Test Valley.

55 Appointment of Chief Executive

In his capacity as Chairman of the General Purposes Appointments Sub-Committee, Councillor North presented Council with details of the recruitment process undertaken to appoint a new Chief Executive.

Resolved:

- 1. That Andrew Ferrier be appointed to the post of Chief Executive, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer of Test Valley Borough Council.**
- 2. That the Human Resources Manager and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Appointments Sub Committee are delegated authority to agree the date of appointment and terms and conditions thereof.**
- 3. That Carol Moore, Acting Chief Executive be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer until the Chief Executive commences their employment.**

56 To receive and adopt Committee reports

56.1 Minutes of Meetings:

Resolved:

That the minutes of the following Committees and Cabinet meetings be received:

Cabinet – 12 February 2020

Southern Area Planning Committee – 18 February 2020

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 19 February 2020

Northern Area Planning Committee – 5 March 2020

Southern Area Planning Committee – 10 March 2020

Cabinet – 11 March 2020

Licensing Committee – 12 March 2020

General Purposes Committee – 18 March 2020

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 18 March 2020

General Purposes – 6 May 2020

Southern Area Planning Committee – 12 May 2020

Cabinet – 13 May 2020

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 20 May 2020

Cabinet – 29 May 2020

Southern Area Planning Committee – 2 June 2020

General Purposes – 9 June 2020

56.2 To adopt recommendations from the following:

56.2.1 Cabinet – 11 March 2020

56.2.1.1 Capital Strategy 2019/20 – 2024/25

Resolved:

That the updated Capital Strategy 2019/20 to 2024/25 be approved.

57 Questions under Rule 11.1

There were no questions under rule 11.1.

58

Questions under Rule 11.2

Councillor Coole submitted a question asking “Andover Special Expenses Levy Urban Parks and Open Spaces Service. Could you please provide the list (with locations) of the land included in the Urban Parks and Open Spaces Service?”

The Deputy Leader responded that the Head of Finance had provided Councillor Coole with details of the calculation of the Andover Levy and had met with him to discuss its calculation. The Council’s Environmental Services undertook maintenance in all parks and open spaces. There was no specific list of land associated with the Levy. The Deputy Leader advised that the Council’s focus was currently on supporting and helping communities to recover from the significant impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. When time was available, a list of the full parcels of land that maybe maintained beyond the parks and playgrounds would provide to the Andover Town Council Clerk.

Councillor Coole submitted a question asking “Andover Special Expenses Levy Grounds Maintenance Service. Could you please provide the list (with locations) of the land maintained under the Grounds Maintenance Service?”

The Deputy Leader advised that his response to the question was the same as for the previous question.

Councillor Coole asked a supplemental question enquiring as to how the Council was able to charge for grounds maintenance if it was not aware of which areas were being maintained as part of the Andover Special Expenses Levy?

The Deputy Leader responded that the information requested required a detailed piece of work to be carried out which was not able to happen at present due to Covid-19 as previously mentioned. A list would be provided at a future point.

Councillor Coole submitted a question asking “Andover Special Expenses Levy Asset Valuation. Could you please provide a valuation list of the buildings (public halls, sports pavilions, etc) and land (playgrounds, sport fields, urban parks, cemeteries, open spaces, and any other land maintained under the Grounds Maintenance Service), which is included in the Andover Special Expenses Levy?”

The Deputy Leader confirmed that no assets were charged to the Andover Special Expenses Levy. The Levy contained only revenue costs not capital. The Borough Council had no intention of transferring or selling its Andover assets and would continue to hold them in trust for the enjoyment of Andover residents.

Councillor Coole asked a supplemental question asking if, as residents were required to pay the additional levy, was it not morally wrong of the Council not to include the assets as part of the Levy?

The Deputy Leader responded that it was not morally wrong because the assets associated with the Andover Levy were transferred from the Andover District Council. The Levy covered the costs of maintenance that would in normal

circumstances be met by a parish level authority and there were many examples across the Borough of parishes paying for the maintenance of land, the asset of which was held by the Borough.

Councillor Celia Dowden submitted a question asking “The council will have suffered loss of income from parking, rent and other sources during this unprecedented pandemic crisis and will have incurred additional costs including paying out government mandated grants some of which might be reimbursed.

What impact is this expected to have on our financial expectations for this year?”

The Finance Portfolio Holder responded that she would be giving a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the financial implications of the Covid-19 response at its meeting on 22 July. The Portfolio Holder would also be attending the OSCOM Budget Panel meeting on 29 June where the Head of Finance would be presenting details of the financial returns made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and to discuss the scale of the impact being experienced by the Council.

Councillor Celia Dowden asked a supplemental question to request that at the Portfolio Holders presentation to OSCOM in July, details of the impact on the value of the Council’s property holdings be included.

The Finance Portfolio Holder responded that she would look to include this information where possible in her presentation to OSCOM in July.

Councillor Parker submitted a question asking “On 28 May 2020 the government issued the annual Heatwave Plan for England which has been updated to provide advice and guidance for coping with a heatwave whilst still suffering from COVID-19. Could you please advise me what actions the Local Resilience Forum has planned in order to communicate this advice to the public and care homes and what role TVBC is expected to play?”

The Leader responded that the Heatwave Plan for England was published annually by the Department for Health. The Plan aimed to prepare for, alert people to, and prevent, the major avoidable effects on health during periods of severe heat in England. The role of the Local Resilience Forum was to ensure that its member organisations were aware of the Plan and the possible need to use existing communication channels to warn the public when very warm weather is due. The Council would direct residents to appropriate warning messages and guidance should the need arise.

Councillor Parker asked a supplemental question enquiring as to whether the Council would be issuing specific advice to community resilience groups given the current circumstances recommending that they prepared for a possible heatwave.

The Leader responded that the Council would be guided by the Local Resilience Forum as to the appropriate time to disseminate information but would provide any guidance and advice to community resilience groups across the Borough.

Councillor Parker submitted a question asking “We rely on and encourage many voluntary and charitable groups to support the community across Test Valley. During this period of lockdown many will have had to stand down their volunteers and will have lost income as a result of having to cease trading or running fundraising events. Do we know which organisations will struggle to recover?”

The Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder responded that the strength of the voluntary and charity sector in Test Valley had been at the heart of the Council’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Test Valley.

The Council was very supportive of the charity and voluntary sector with the community impact and supporting community groups being a key work stream in the Councils recovery plan. The Council would continue to work community groups to understand the impact for them and to continue to support them.

One of the areas where we have been able to help sustain the sector is in paying business support grants to local associations and businesses. The Portfolio Holder encouraged all local voluntary and charitable groups with ongoing property-related costs to check the Council’s website for advice on eligibility and to make an application to the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund scheme which was open for applications until Sunday 21st June

59

Notice of Motion - Rule 12

There were no motions to consider.

60

Climate Emergency Action Plan

Consideration was given to the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder which presented the Council’s Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan had been prepared and endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in line with the resolution of Council on 4 September 2019.

The proposed actions had been formed following work undertaken by groups of cross party members, representatives of communities and businesses and Council officers. The action plan was a living document in order for changes in technology, government policy and people’s behaviour to be taken into account and would move the Council towards being a carbon neutral organisation.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Climate Emergency Action Plan (Annex 1 to the report) be approved.**
- 2. That the Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development, in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder, be authorised to make changes of a minor nature to improve the presentation of the Climate**

Emergency Action Plan and correct typographical errors prior to publication.

61 Appointments to Project Enterprise Member Panel

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which proposed appointments to the Project Enterprise Member Panel to reflect the political proportionality of the Council.

The Constitution included a delegation to the Head of Property and Asset Management, in consultation with a panel of Members to consider property investments and authorise expenditure from a pre-approved capital budget allocation.

The Corporate Portfolio Holder proposed an alteration to the recommendation to reflect the updated job title of the Head of Property and Asset Management. The meeting consented to this alteration without discussion.

Resolved:

That Councillors Cross, A Dowden, Flood, P North and Ward be appointed to the Member Panel to be consulted by the Head of Property and Asset Management in respect of proposed property investments.

62 Amendments to the Constitution

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which provided details of proposals for a number of amendments to the Council's Constitution to reflect updates to legislation as well as amendments made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Council's Constitution be amended as shown in Annex 1 to the report.**
- 2. That amendments to the Council's Constitution as set out in Annexes 2 and 3 be noted.**

63 Reporting of Urgent Decisions

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which contained details of the urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive and the Leader in light of the emergency presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Constitution provided for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to take urgent decisions to discharge the Council's functions subject to the matter being regarded as an emergency or urgent situation and that the decision is reported back to Council.

Resolved:

That Council notes the urgent decisions set out in the annexes to this report which were taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader during the period of national emergency presented by the Coronavirus pandemic.

(The meeting terminated at 7.34 pm)