

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held virtually by Microsoft Teams
on 21 April 2021 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor Z Brooks (Chairman)

Councillor N Lodge (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor D Baverstock
Councillor C Borg-Neal
Councillor T Burley
Councillor D Coole
Councillor C Dowden
Councillor N Gwynne
Councillor K Hamilton

Councillor M Hatley
Councillor N Matthews
Councillor K North
Councillor J Parker
Councillor A Ward
Councillor A Warnes

Also in attendance

Councillor I Andersen

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Bailey and V Harber

493

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

494

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

495

Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

496

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2021 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

497

Call in Items

There were no call in items.

498

Urgent decisions taken since last meeting

There were no urgent decisions taken.

499

Climate Emergency Action Plan Panel Scoping

Consideration was given to a report by Councillor Gwynn which requested the Committee to consider a scoping document for a Climate Emergency Action Plan Panel. The Panel will review the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan in readiness for an update in Q1 2022, pending approval of the review by the Committee in autumn 2021 and the Cabinet shortly after.

When created it was agreed that the action plan had to be a 'living document' i.e. updated on a regular basis throughout its period of application. The climate emergency having been declared in September 2019 (with the current action plan being formally approved in June 2020), a first review and update of the action plan that is formally adopted in Q1 2022 is appropriate. A panel, which will provide the time for an appropriate level of discussion and review, is the most appropriate mechanism to achieve this.

The anticipated benefits of a panel are to;

- Quantify what has been done to date.
- Quantify what will be done – and when – in the coming years. In particular between now and the next review/update.
- Identify any resources required to meet the proposed targets.
- Increase probability of TVBC achieving its overall target of net zero by the target date (that is yet to be agreed).
- Include actions re resilience to the anticipated increase in climate temperature.
- Identify appropriate qualitative actions, e.g. policy changes, behavioural changes.

The involvement of Partner Organisations in the panel will change however the panel will include discussions with The Environment Centre, Hampshire Solar Together and Hampshire County Council. There may be scope to invite other organisations such as the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The Committee were informed that a survey had been circulated to all Parish Councils and members will be requested to encourage those Parish Councils who had not responded. It was suggested that the Association of Town and Parish Councils also be consulted by the panel.

The Council's response to the climate change emergency is relevant to all of the Corporate Priorities, and this panel's work will assist in ensuring climate change considerations are integrated across all such corporate priorities.

The panel will consist of Councillor Gwynne (Lead Member) together with Councillors Burley, Coole, Johnston, Parker and Warnes. Any members of the Council will be invited to join the panel if they wish. It is anticipated that representatives of Andover Vision and Romsey Future and possibly other people with specific expertise will be invited to attend panel sessions.

It was suggested that there would also be a financial benefit and therefore it would be helpful to have costings of outlay, savings and carbon reduction. There is currently no budget for the plan however once targets have been established the panel can look at funding for each area.

Resolved:

That the Climate emergency Action Plan Panel's scoping document be approved.

500

Annual Chairman's Report

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Briefing report which covered the work of the Committee for the period May 2020 to May 2021. This report will be submitted to full Council on 9 June 2020. There were no comments or suggestions on the report.

Resolved:

That the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved.

501

Portfolio Co-ordinators

Councillor Lodge introduced the subject of Portfolio Holder Co-ordinators. He explained that this would entail the Co-ordinators taking on the responsibility of keeping track of each Portfolio and advising the Committee of any key issues that should be addressed during Portfolio Holder's presentations.

Members should notify Councillor Lodge or Democratic Services which Portfolio's they would like to follow.

The next Portfolio Holder presentation is scheduled for July and Councillor Lodge requested members to let him know if there were any key issues and subsequently which Portfolio Holder that they would like to be covered.

502

Outside Bodies Panel

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor C Dowden, Lead Member of the Outside Bodies Panel. The report brought together the findings of the panel to review the arrangements in place for councillor's representation on outside bodies.

The panel felt that the overall benefits of members being appointed to outside bodies was an important aspect of their community leadership role.

The panel concluded that there should not be any significant changes to the current arrangements regarding member representation on outside bodies. However, the panel agreed that there are opportunities to improve the way in which members report on their work as part of serving on an outside body, so that the council is able to have a broader understanding of the contribution these organisations are making and any issues they may be facing.

The panel also agreed that the training given to members acting as representatives, especially those acting in a legal role as a director or trustee, should be reviewed and that a summary version of the guide for members on outside bodies should be produced.

Resolved:

That OSCOM endorses the findings of the panel.

503

Updates on Panels

Budget Panel – The next meeting of the Budget Panel will take place on 28 June 2021.

Audit Panel – The next meeting of the Audit Panel will take place on 26 July 2021.

Review of Outside Bodies - Working with the Member and Development Group on how representatives are selected and to improve the way in which representatives report back and the panel will report back in due course.

Informal Process for the selection of Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny - The Committee had approved how the informal session would work in regards to the selection of the Chairman and the panel also felt that there could be merit in adopting a similar process for the selection of the Vice-Chairman. The panel recommended that any member of the Committee wishing to be considered for the role of Vice-Chairman be asked to make a short presentation of no more than 10 minutes at an informal meeting prior to the Committee meeting. Process and timescales will be considered and agreed in due course.

Resolved:

That the informal process for the selection of Vice-Chairman be agreed and that the process and timescales will be considered and agreed in due course.

504 Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Due to the change of cycle of both Cabinet and OSCOM the Chairman informed the Committee of a number of items that need to be moved.

- May – no meeting
- July - Risk Management report – move from June
- September - no meeting
- October - Complaints Report and Annual Audit Report – moved from September
- October – Review of Climate Emergency Action Plan ready for update in Q1 2022
- Remove Final Chairman’s Annual Report as this was agreed at this meeting without comment or suggestion.
- Communications before and after the Pandemic scoping document – TBC
- Spending Protocol Review (CIL and S106) – TBC
- Report back on Armed Forces Covenant panel – Civilian and Military Forum and delivery of accountable outcomes – TBC

Councillor Baverstock requested that the local health forum and health and social care committee feedback be added to the work programme as recommended by the Future of Health Provision in Andover and Romsey panel and that a scoping document for the 2nd stage of the Health Review comes back to Committee. Councillor Baverstock and the Head of Strategy and Innovation will discuss the way forward.

Councillor Gwynne suggested that an action plan be created and added to future agendas.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme as amended be agreed.

(The meeting terminated at 6.50 pm)