

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14th March, 2019

Present: Cllr F G Tombolis (Vice-Chairman in the Chair),
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr M C Base, Cllr J L Botten,
Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp, Cllr Mrs S L Luck,
Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr M Taylor, Cllr Miss G E Thomas and Mr D Still
(co-opted Member).

Councillors O C Baldock, M A Coffin, Mrs T Dean, N J Heslop and D Lettington were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A K Sullivan (Chairman), Mrs A S Oakley (Vice-Chairman), P F Bolt and D Keers

PART 1 - PUBLIC

OS 19/8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

OS 19/9 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

OS 19/10 THE INDUCTION PROCESS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Following a recent review of the Member Induction process, the report of the Chief Executive set out options for improvement for newly elected Members. It was proposed that the new measures be implemented from the Borough Council elections on 2 May 2019.

Members welcomed the introduction of a series of shorter induction meetings which would concentrate on the Constitution, the Code of Conduct, the Scheme of Allowances and practical issues around meeting protocols and use of emails.

A number of ideas were put forward for further consideration. These included the addition of maps of the Borough and locations of internal meeting rooms and a directory of how to respond to routine requests from residents, such as missed bins and graffiti, to be placed in the

Welcome Pack given to new councillors at the count. Members also suggested that the programme be extended to include councillors elected as a result of a by-election.

Particular reference was made to the value of informal meetings between newly elected and experienced Members where general advice and guidance could be shared.

Finally, the Committee considered it beneficial for new Members to have a coach trip to strategic sites in the Borough and for a 'buddy system' to be adopted to offer informal advice on any issues or concerns during the first few months. It was also noted that Democratic (Committee) Services could support the 'buddy system' by signposting new Members to relevant service areas and offering general advice on issues related to meetings.

RECOMMENDED: That the proposals outlined in the report and raised by the Committee (summarised above) be agreed and implemented as part of the Member Induction Process for 2019.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

OS 19/11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm