

**NEW NOTICE OF MOTION: – COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**Councillor Mrs J Blake**

**Cabinet Member for Commercialisation and Business Transformation**

**1 Purpose/For Decision**

**1.1** To consider the Notice of Motion set out below.

**2 Supporting information**

**2.1** The following Notice of Motion has been submitted by **Councillor Christensen** and seconded by **Councillor Mrs Harrison**:-

“This Council recognises that with the withdrawal of Government grant we need to explore commercial opportunities which could offer revenue streams and create a sustainable financial future.

This Council notes that it has entered into the commercial environment with Aylesbury Vale Broadband, IncGen, Vale Commerce and LimeCart to date, with varying degrees of success.

However in each of these cases, corporate oversight and scrutiny of these ventures has been limited which many Members are deeply concerned about. In addition there have been conflicts of interest for Directors/ Cabinet Members and their places on the boards. They have had to meet their Directorship responsibility to the commercial venture and that of the Council. Similarly the Cabinet Members have been unable to answer questions to Members of this Council, citing commercial sensitivities.

Therefore this Council resolves to address the growing gap in executive oversight and scrutiny with open and transparent use of taxpayer’s money by;

1. Creating a commercial oversight and scrutiny committee with proportionate representation from across the Council.
2. Recognising the inherent conflict of interests that exist when establishing companies with Council money and commits itself irrevocably to full disclosure of all commercial matters to Members without exception.
3. Undertaking a detailed external audit of Aylesbury Vale Broadband Limited. The audit shall;
  - a. Commence no later than 1 Calendar month from the sale of AVB or by the 31st of January 2018 whichever is the sooner.
  - b. The Audit should report no more than 3 months after commencement
  - c. The report will be published in full and in public.
  - d. Be conducted by a qualified individual appointed by the Chief Executive but with the express agreement of all Group Leaders.
  - e. Include, but not be limited to, a review of the management of the business including the performance of the management team, delivery of services to target villages, performance against business plans, and the use of capital.

- f. review of the oversight provided by Cabinet members and Officers while acting as Board members of Aylesbury Vale Broadband Ltd

**2.2** The Chairman has consented to this Motion being dealt with at this meeting. and the procedure will be as follows:-

- Councillor Christensen will be invited to propose the Motion and explain the rationale. **(Maximum of 5 minutes)**.
- Councillor Mrs Harrison will then be invited to second the Motion. Councillor Mrs Harrison may speak at that point or reserve her speech until later during the debate. In either case, Councillor Mrs Harrison will have a **Maximum of 5 minutes**.
- The Motion will then be open for debate.
- The Chairman of the Council will ask Members who wishes to speak.
- Councillor Christensen will have a right of reply at the end of the debate.
- A vote will then be taken.

Contact Officer: Bill Ashton (01296) 585040 (Re. the process)