

Extract from the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee on the 11th July 2017

(i) Revenue Outturn Report

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.145065.en.pdf>

JSC/016/17-18 Revenue Outturn 2016/17

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 6.

The report outlined the revenue financial monitoring position for the end of the 2016/17 financial year for Joint Strategic Committee, Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils.

At the time of publication, the Statement of Accounts were still being audited and it was noted that any changes that emerged from that work would be reported to members later in the year. The Committee were informed that there was one update from the audit work since the report had been published. The auditors had identified that a batch of year end transactions had not processed properly, so the Worthing Outturn was slightly higher than that stated in the report. The final outturn was £13,369,000 and therefore the final underspend was £669,409.

Information was also provided in respect of earmarked reserves for the 2 constituent authorities.

A Member questioned a discrepancy in the Summary of Final Revenue Outturn figures on page 51 of the report, between the original budget, current estimate and outturn figures for the Executive Member for Regeneration. Officers agreed to provide a response following the meeting.

Decision,

That the Joint Strategic Committee:-

(1) noted the report and outturn positions for the Joint, Adur and Worthing Budgets proposed use of reserves; and

(2) recommended that Adur District Council, at its Council meeting on 20 July, 2017 and Worthing Borough Council at its Council meeting on 18 July 2017:-

(a) noted the overall final outturn for 2016/17;

(b) agreed the net carry over of revenue budget to 2017/18 where the original approval for 2016/17 was not utilised which will be funded from the Capacity Issues Reserve, totalling:-

Worthing Borough Council £38,590

(c) approved the net appropriation to General Fund reserves in the year, totalling:

Adur District Council £80,854

Worthing Borough Council £669,409 (as amended)

(d) agreed the net carry over of revenue budget to 2017/18 funded from reserves:

Adur District Council £8,000

Worthing Borough Council £89,970

(e) approved the consolidation into Adur's Capacity Issues Reserve of the Health & Safety Fund (£32,545) and the New Technology Fund (£22,300) in 2017/18; and

(f) approved a contribution for Adur District Council from the HRA to the Adur Housing New Development and Acquisition Reserve of £306,000.

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(ii) Capital and Projects Outturn for 2016/17
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.145066.en.pdf>

JSC/017/17-18 Capital and Projects Outturn for 2016/17

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 7.

The report outlined the financial monitoring position for the end of the 2016/17 financial year for capital schemes included in the capital programme of the Joint Strategic Committee, Adur and Worthing Councils.

At the time of publication, the Statement of Accounts were still being finalised. Any changes that emerged from that work would be reported to members later in the year.

Information was also provided on the progress of the Digital Programme which formed part of the capital programme.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

(1) noted the report and outturn position for the Adur and Worthing Capital Budgets.

(2) recommended that Adur District Council, at its Council meeting on 20 July 2017 and Worthing Borough Council at its Council meeting on 18 July 2017:-

(a) noted the overall capital final outturn for 2016/17;

(b) agreed the net carry over of General Fund Capital underspends for Adur District Council and for Worthing Borough Council as detailed in the report;

(c) approved the financing of the Capital Investment Programmes, including the use of capital receipts;

(d) noted the use of S106 receipts to fund the 2016/17 Capital Investment Programme, as previously approved.

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(iii) Towards a sustainable future - Budget Strategy for the 2018/19 Budget
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.145067.en.pdf>

JSC/018/17-18 Towards a Sustainable Future - Budget Strategy for the 2018/19 Budget

Before the Committee was a report from the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 8.

The report set out how the Councils would continue to address the changing financial climate over the next 10 years, outlining the revenue forecast and setting out the strategic response, creating the conditions to be self-financing by 2020/21. With the detailed budget proposals for 2018/19 coming forward to Joint Strategic Committee in December, the report set out the broader context for the detailed work that would be undertaken over the intervening months.

The Committee was informed that the Councils would be increasingly reliant on council tax income, business rate income, and income generating services. Adur and Worthing Councils' new strategy, 'Platforms for our Places', sets out how we can play an even greater role in helping to shape the future of our places.

Officers advised the Committee that in the face of a rapid reduction in revenue support grant, Adur and Worthing Councils were pursuing 3 strategic approaches:-

- maintain / increase commercial income;
- invest in property; and
- deliver digital transformation and back office savings.

It was acknowledged that the Councils had some pressures in respect of Emergency Housing provision and some income lines, however, the strategy aimed to deliver independence from central government by 2020/21.

The Adur Consultative Forum (ACF) representative challenged the wording in para 8.2, page 137 which stated that the ACF would be consulted regarding any proposed changes to the HRA. It was suggested that such consultation didn't often happen. Officers advised that this issue would be raised with the Head of Housing.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (a) noted the report and the outline 5-year forecasts in Appendix 2;
- (b) approved the proposed budget process as set out in section 8 of the report;
- (c) recommended to the Councils to approve the Budget Strategy for 2018/19 outlined in Section 9 of the report.

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(iv) Investing in Service Delivery - Capital Strategy 2018/21
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.145068.en.pdf>

JSC/019/17-18 Investing in Service Delivery - Capital Strategy 2018/19 - 2020/21

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 9.

The report sought the approval of the Council's Capital Strategy for 2018/21. The Strategy outlined the Council's approach to capital investment and how the Council ensured that capital investment was directed to the Council's Priorities. It also set out the basis for prioritisation of capital bids included in the 3 Year Capital Investment Programme and the monitoring of the programme.

The report proposed a move to 2 year budgeting which it was anticipated would provide better budget profiles for the Councils and would reduce the size of carry forwards requested in the future. An increase in the Strategic Property Investment Fund was also proposed as it was a key platform in the revenue budget and the Committee was asked to recommend the setting aside of resources for known strategic initiatives such as investment in digital capability and the replacement of the vehicle fleet.

Decision,

That the Joint Strategic Committee recommended to the Councils that the Capital Strategy 2018/21 be approved.

Extract from the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee of the 11th July 2017

(v) Building the Councils' Investment Portfolios: An update and future direction for Strategic Investment Fund

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.145069.en.pdf>

JSC/020/17-18 Building the Councils' Investment Portfolios: An update and future direction for Strategic Investment

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 10.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a progress report on the use of the Strategic Property Investment Fund and the associated financial, economic and social benefits.

Consideration was given to the opportunities presented by further judicious investment in commercial property and the rationale for extending the borrowing ceiling by a further £15m per authority from 2017/18.

A Member sought assurance that spending and future values of properties purchased would be reviewed. Officers advised that an Asset Portfolio Manager had been appointed to undertake this work.

Decision,

That the Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (a) noted the success of the Strategic Property Fund to date, and the above target income stream secured for 2017/18;
- (b) recommended to each Council to approve an additional allocation of £15m to the Strategic Property Investment Fund from 2017/18.

Extract from the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee of the 11th July 2017

(vi) Developing New Affordable homes for Adur Residents - Additional contribution to Worthing Homes

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.145070.en.pdf>

**JSC/021/17-18 Developing New Affordable homes for Adur Residents -
Additional contribution to Worthing Homes**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 11.

There was an acute need for new affordable housing in Adur District. Adur District Council had Right to Buy (RTB) capital receipts that could be used to support the development of new affordable housing.

The report recommended the Council used a further £379,602 of those receipts to support the development of new homes on the Southlands hospital site in partnership with Worthing Homes. The Council would have 100% nomination rights for Adur residents for the properties.

Decision,

That the Joint Strategic Committee recommended to Adur District Council the further release of £379,602 of the retained RTB receipts to enable grant funding to Worthing Homes for the provision of further family homes and amend the current 'Affordable Housing Grant - Worthing Homes' capital budget to £753,430.