

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 7 November 2017

JSC/061/17-18 Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy

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 7.

The report outlined the strategic and operational commitments, as set out in the Housing Strategy and Platforms for our Places, and provided information to support the adoption of a Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy. By developing this policy, the Councils sought to address two related issues:

- i) ensuring that both customers and communities were aware of the criteria that would be used for the allocation of temporary accommodation placements, and
- ii) the plans for securing temporary accommodation to meet this need.

The Committee was presented with a draft Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy and requested to agree to refer the Policy to Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils for adoption with immediate effect, subject to the outcome of a consultation process.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- I. approved the draft Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy;
- II. noted that the Head of Housing would be undertaking consultation with stakeholders and partners on the draft Policy for a period of 6 weeks;
- III. delegated authority to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Executive Members for Customer Services, to make minor and/or consequential changes to the draft policy arising from the outcome of the consultation process, in order to finalise the Policy;
- IV. recommended to both Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council the adoption of the Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy, subject to the outcome of the consultation process.

Extract from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 30 November 2017

JOSC/17-18/39 JOSC Work Programme 2017/18

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which was sent to all members, a copy of which was attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 11. The report updated the Committee on the work contained in the 2017/18 Work Programme.

Members discussed the Work Programme and Members involvement in working groups and meetings

Recommendation: That the meetings of Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council in December 2017 note the changes made to the Work Programme since it was agreed by both Councils in April 2017

Extract from the Executive 4 December 2017

A EX/004/17-18 Adoption of the Adur Local Plan

The report before the Executive sought approval for the adoption of the Adur Local Plan (and accompanying Policies Map) which, once adopted, would replace the saved policies of the Adur Local Plan 1996 as the Council's Local Plan.

The report from the Director for the Economy explained that the Council had received the final report of the Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Inspector concluded that the Plan was sound subject to the recommended Main Modifications (which were previously consulted on from 15th June - 26th July 2017, together with a Sustainability Appraisal) and legally compliant. In addition, the Inspector found that the Council had complied with Section 20(5) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act with regards to the Duty to Co-operate.

The Inspector's Report made clear that he had taken into account the consultation responses on the Main Modifications in coming to his conclusions.

A Member asked a question about employment areas (floorspace) and sought clarification as to whether the Council, as the planning authority, had any input into what kind of employment was provided in those spaces to encourage a diversity of businesses. He also asked about the protection of existing employment areas and whether this included the road network as the delivery of more homes would put additional pressures on that infrastructure.

Officers advised that there had been plenty of discussion at the examination about the type of employment floorspace that could be provided at various sites. The policies were aimed at encouraging B1, B2 and B8 traditional employment uses but there was recognition during the examination, that there were other employment generating uses, not just the traditional ones. The Inspector felt that the wording of specific policies and allocations was appropriate. For some of the allocations, that did indicate what type of employment generating uses might be suitable, for example, the Western Harbour Arm for Shoreham Harbour, Shoreham Airport and New Monks Farm.

A number of policies in the plan recognised that there were issues with connectivity and problems on the A259 and A27. The transport and connectivity policy within the plan made specific reference to the need to mitigate the impact of new development on existing roads. Significant emphasis had been placed on the need to encourage more sustainable modes of transport including improvements to cycle networks and footpaths.

Council control would be achieved through the consideration of individual planning applications to determine whether the employment uses proposed were in line with the policies in the plan. Employment generating uses could include retail but there were also very clear central government and local policies about town centre first for retail uses. Therefore, any proposed planning application for retail uses, would need to be considered carefully in line with national and local policies.

A Member highlighted that the Inspector required a full or partial review of the Local Plan within 5 years. It was proposed that a Working Party be established to examine the progress of achieving the objectives of the plan, during this period, rather than leaving it to a review at the end of 5 years.

Decision the Executive

- (i) agreed that the Working Party, as it exists, continues to prepare for review on a regular basis;
- (ii) recommended to Full Council that the Adur Local Plan and Policies Map (amended to include all Main Modifications and Minor Modifications) be adopted and published (including any consequential and other appropriate minor amendments) in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and Section 23(2) and (3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by s112(3) of the Localism Act 2011).

Reason for Decision

Statutory requirement to prepare a Local Plan

Alternative options considered

-

Call In

There is no call in for recommendations to Council .

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 December 2017

**JSC/068/17-18 Mid-year Review of Treasury Management 2017-18, Adur
District
Council and Worthing Borough Council**

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 5.

The report asked Members to note the Treasury Management mid-year performance for Adur and Worthing Councils at the 30 September 2017, as required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Decision,

That the Joint Strategic Committee noted the report and recommended that Adur and Worthing Councils approve increases in the Prudential Indicator limits for the Operational Boundaries and the Authorised Limits for borrowing, due to the approved strategies for additional expenditure on the purchase of strategic property.

Call In:

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council.

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 December 2017

JSC/069/17-18 Sustainable Councils: 5 Year Forecast 2018/19 – 2022/23 and Savings Proposals

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 provided an overview of the continuing success of our Sustainable Councils Financial Strategy, along with the detailed proposals for 2018/19 to deliver a balanced budget.

The report outlined the medium term financial challenge through to 2022/23, and set out performance in the key strategic areas of commercialisation, digital transformation and strategic property investment.

The Committee was informed that the Sustainable Councils Financial Strategy aimed to ensure that the Councils were fully community funded by 2020. The digital programme had delivered £379k in annual savings, the commercial strategy had added £1.5m income annually to the budget and the Councils prudent strategic property investment approach had added nearly £0.5m of income in the current year.

A forecasting and market analysis exercise was being undertaken, using external experts, to determine the Councils expected income growth over the next 3 to 5 years as well as exploring additional business opportunities.

The Councils financial strategy recognised pressures around rising demand for temporary accommodation, reducing grant income and the impact on income by the major developments coming forward.

Members noted that it had been necessary to find additional savings in 2018/19 which were set out in Appendix 3. This included significant efficiencies which had been driven by the merger of environment and waste management teams as well as a large saving identified as a result of the Councils strategy to move to the cloud.

A Member proposed reducing the savings identified from the Adur Grants fund to £40k as it had never been more important to support the work of the voluntary sector. The proposal was seconded.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee

- i) noted the current 5 year forecast;
- ii) noted the committed growth items as set out in appendix 2;
- iii) approved the proposed savings set out in appendix 3 as amended (Adur Grants savings to reduce to £40k);
- iv) recommended to Council to use the following capital receipts to fund redundancy costs associated with the savings proposals outlined in appendix 3:
 - Adur: £14,000
 - Worthing: £300,000
- v) delegated to the Executive Members for Resources to release the funding when any redundancy proposals which generate savings to the revenue budget were approved.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for decisions will be 5.00pm on 15 December 2017.

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council.

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 December 2017

JSC/070/17-18 Investing in Service Delivery: Capital Investment Programme 2018/19 to 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 7.

The report recommended the schemes for inclusion in the overall Capital Investment Programme for the three years 2018/19 - 2020/2021 for Adur District Council, Worthing Borough Council and the Joint Strategic Committee. The report informed Members of the resources available for future capital investment, and updated Members about the financing of the proposed three-year programmes.

A Member welcomed initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing and sought clarification around the numbers of new affordable homes to be delivered. The target for bringing empty properties back into use was also challenged. It was noted that the Councils were awaiting an announcement from the DCLG in relation to affordable housing and that the target set for empty properties being brought back into use was achievable but the Councils would be hoping to deliver an increased number.

The Committee acknowledged that Officers had linked capital schemes to equality issues in the report including; Affordable Housing Schemes, Disabled Facilities Grants, Home Repair Assistance Grants and the replacement of play area and outdoor fitness equipment, designed to be more accessible and inclusive.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (a) considered the three General Fund Capital Investment Programmes for the three-year period 2018/19 to 2020/21 and confirmed the schemes to be included for 2018/19 and 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix 2, 3 and 4;
- (b) noted the approved Adur Housing Renovation Programme for 2018/19 as detailed at Appendix 5;

- (c) agreed the amendments and additions to the reserve lists as detailed in Appendices 6 and 7; and
- (d) recommended the full programmes for approval by the respective Councils on the 14 December 2017 (Adur) and 19 December 2017 (Worthing) as detailed in Appendices 8 and 9.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for this decision will be 5.00pm on 15 December 2017.

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council.

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 December 2017

JSC/071/17-18 Business Rates Discretionary Relief

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 8.

The report provided the results from the public consultation, outlined in Appendix 6, and asked Members to recommend to the respective Full Councils the criteria that should be applied to enable the local discretionary schemes to be implemented in Adur and Worthing.

Members expressed disappointment at the low number of responses received in response to the consultation and their support for option 4.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee

- noted the content of the report;
- agreed that Option 4 (including pubs) should be recommended to the meetings of the Full Councils on 14 and 19 December 2017 in respect of the rules to be applied to the discretionary award schemes for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council respectively for 2017/18; and
- agreed that the criteria detailed in paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7 of the report should be recommended to the meetings of the Full Councils on 14 and 19 December 2017 in respect of the rules to be applied to the discretionary award schemes for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council respectively for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Call In:

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council.

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 December 2017

JSC/072/17-18 Council Tax Support Schemes for 2018/19

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 outlined the costs of the 2017/18 Council Tax Support schemes and provided an analysis of the responses that were received to the public consultations which were conducted during October 2017 in respect of options for the schemes for 2018/19.

The Committee was asked to recommend to their respective Full Councils the Council Tax Support Schemes in respect of 2018/19.

In light of an earlier public question regarding empty properties, Members sought guidance around levying 100% Council Tax on empty properties. Officers advised that they were awaiting guidance following an announcement in the budget and clarified that it was not possible to claim council tax support in respect of a property that wasn't occupied. There was already a 50% premium on properties unoccupied for more than 2 years, in both Adur and Worthing.

A Member queried the proportion of the £80k Discretionary Budget that had already been spent. Officers advised that the Council had committed well over £60k and would provide the exact figure in writing after the meeting.

An Adur Member challenged the suggestion that Adur District Councillors did not consider these types of matters carefully or without due regard to those whom decisions might affect or those who have to pay the bill. It was noted that the Adur Council Tax Support Scheme would cost just over £0.5m, if left as is, in 2018/19.

The Committee considered the low number of responses to the consultation whilst acknowledging that it had been publicised via a number of channels. Members questioned whether the consultation could be sent out with council tax bills or conducted through street surveys. Officers advised that the council tax bills were issued in February which was the wrong time of year to send out the questionnaires.

Members suggested that a JOSC Working Group be established to investigate how to maximise responses to Council consultations. The proposal was seconded.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (i) requested that JOSC establish a Working Group to investigate how to maximise responses to Council consultations;
- (ii) recommend to Adur District Council that
 - 1. the Council Tax Support scheme for Adur District Council in respect of working age customers for 2018/19 should be based upon the scheme for 2017/18 with no restrictions;
 - 2. no other changes should be made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit;
 - 3. A further public consultation should be conducted during the summer of 2018 to inform the decision in respect of the scheme to be implemented in respect of 2019/20.
- (iii) Recommend to Worthing Borough Council that:
 - 1. The Council Tax Support scheme for Worthing Borough Council in respect of working age customers for 2018/19 should be based upon the scheme for 2017/18 with
 - a. the £5.00 weekly restriction retained; and
 - b. the discretionary budget to support those in severe financial difficulties retained; and
 - c. no other changes made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit.
 - 2. A further public consultation should be conducted during the summer of 2018 to inform the decision in respect of the scheme to be implemented in respect of 2019/20.

Call In:

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council.

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 December 2017

JSC/074/17-18 Delivering our Housing Strategy - the draft Adur and Worthing Community Homelessness Strategy

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.

The report highlighted the plans of the Councils and their partners to work collaboratively to tackle an increase in homelessness in Adur and Worthing. The Councils' sought to place customers and communities at the heart of delivering homelessness prevention initiatives, and draw on the expertise within our communities.

Members acknowledged the importance of identifying residents at risk at the earliest opportunity and bringing agencies together to tackle the problem and were requested to recommend the adoption of the Community Homelessness Strategy, to Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils.

The Committee discussed the difficulties around measuring outputs of the strategy identifying a need to focus on measuring the reduction in risk of homelessness rather than measuring a reduction in homelessness itself. It was also noted that there were a number of variables associated with homelessness which were outside of the Councils control.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee recommended the adoption of the Community Homelessness Strategy to both Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

Call In:

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council.