

## **Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council**

### **A Decisions Taken by Individual Executive Members**

Listed below is a summary of decisions taken by the individual Executive Members since the despatch of the agenda for the last ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the Executive Members and Portfolios, Reports and Decisions webpage: [www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/agendas-minutes.htm](http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/agendas-minutes.htm)

#### **Leader**

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#### **Executive Member for Regeneration**

REG/009/17-18 Progression of the Sompting Parish Neighbourhood Plan

#### **Executive Member for Resources**

RES/008/17-18 Irrecoverable Debts

JAW/015/17-18 Decision to enter into Works Contract for Demolition of Teville Gate

#### **Executive Member for Customer Services**

JAW/016/17-18 Programme of works to HRA properties to comply with Landlord Compliance Requirements

#### **Executive Member for the Environment**

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#### **Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

HAW/007/17-18 Adur Community Grants - Allocation of Funds for Round 2 2017/18

### **B. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 6 March 2018**

Full details can be found:

[www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/cab-docs-joint-strategic.htm](http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/cab-docs-joint-strategic.htm)

*Items relating to Worthing Borough Council are not reproduced on this agenda*

**JSC/085/17-18      3rd Quarter Capital Investment Programme & Projects  
Monitoring 2017/18**

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 updated the Joint Strategic Committee on the progress made on the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programmes for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council. The programmes included schemes which supported the delivery of services by the Joint Strategic Committee.

A Councillor queried why the '*summary of the progress of all schemes in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme*' was available on the intranet but hadn't been included with the report. Officers advised that this would be shared electronically in future.

Highlighting the delay to car park improvements at the Riverside (Lower Beach) Car Park resulting from the Coast Protection Tidal Walls Scheme, a member asked if the £50,000 compensation to the contractor should be paid by the Environment Agency rather than Adur District Council. Officers advised that there had been discussions with the Environment Agency, who had agreed in principle, to provide a refund for the delays caused to the car park project.

**Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (a) With respect to the Capital Investment Programme of Adur District Council
- 2.1 noted the reprofiling and likely phasing of the Adur District Council capital schemes.
  - 2.2 approved the replacements of 4 town centre CCTVs funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include this scheme.
  - 2.3 approved the purchase of 4 vans for the delivery of the new public convenience cleaning contract funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include this scheme.
  - 2.4 approved the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include the external funding grant of £50,000 from Sport England towards the expansion of the changing rooms at Wadurs Swimming Pool.

- 2.5 approved the additional funding of £20,000 for the Parks and Open Spaces water stand pipes upgrades funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme.
- 2.6 approved the purchase of vibration safety equipment for Parks employees at a cost of £4,900 funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme.
- 2.7 noted the possible £50,000 overspend on the Riverside (Lower Beach) Car Park improvements scheme.
- 2.8 agreed the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include the Environment Agency Grant of £7,442.50 for the Adur Beach Management Plan.

(b) With respect to the Capital Investment Programme of Worthing Borough Council

*Not included here*

### **JSC/086/17-18      3rd Quarter Revenue Budget Monitoring 2017/18**

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 updated the Joint Strategic Committee with the latest expenditure and income projections for each Council in the current financial year 2017/18, compared to the Revenue Budget approved by both Councils on the 23 February 2017 (Adur District Council) and 21 February 2017 (Worthing Borough Council).

The Committee noted the projected outturn positions as at quarter 3 which were underspends of £14,000 in Adur District Council and £46,100 in Worthing Borough Council. This was lower than anticipated in quarter 2 when underspends of £176,000 and £117,000 were being forecast in Adur and Worthing respectively.

The areas that had contributed to the net movement were highlighted in the report and appendix 4(b) and included; External borrowing costs, investment income, Minimum Revenue Provision, Homelessness and income from Environmental Services, Development Management, Building Control, and property investments. Income and expenditure would continue to be monitored against budget.

Whilst the 'spend to date' would be the position as at the 31 December 2017, the forecast position would reflect the latest information available as at 31 January 2018 to ensure an up-to-date forecast was presented.

A Member highlighted the vacancy saving target outlined in paragraph 4.11 and queried how many posts were vacant and the impact this was having on capacity. Officers advised that the vacancy provision was based on approximately 3% of the salary budget, which although a large figure, was a small percentage. Provision was

based on the natural recruitment lag the Councils had when a post became vacant, it may take up to 3 months to fill it.

### **Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee noted the report and projected outturn position for the Joint, Adur and Worthing Revenue Budgets and proposed use of reserves.

### **JSC/087/17-18      Fairer Funding Review**

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.

Funding allocations to Local Government as outlined in the local government finance settlement were based on an assessment of individual council's relative needs and resources. The current allocations were based on formulas which were introduced over 10 years ago and which had not been updated since the introduction of the 50% business rate retention system in 2013/14. Consequently the allocations were now significantly out of date.

In the intervening time, changes to demographic pressures had impacted on the cost of delivery of services, particularly those services aimed at older persons. The Government announced a review last year to address concerns about the fairness of the local government funding allocations in recognition of the fact that the allocation of funding no longer reflected current demography and cost pressures.

The funding allocations not only influenced the amount of Revenue Support Grant that the Councils received, but also the amount of business rate income that could be retained via the Business Rate Retention Scheme (BRSS).

The report outlined the proposed response of the technical consultation on the fairer funding review (FFR). The consultation focused specifically on potential approaches that had been identified to measure the relative needs of local authorities. The consultation was released on the 19 December 2017 as part of provisional settlement and was due to close on the 12 March 2018.

A Member suggested the following:-

- the response to question 8 could have included visitor numbers to Worthing;
- the response to question 18B could have made reference to the cost of housing, building land and the shortage of both; and
- the consultation response should include a general comment about the unfairness of the funding review with the Councils lobbying for a special safety net with transitional provisions and equalisation.

Officers advised that the inclusion of visitor numbers had been considered, however, these generally benefited cities rather than districts because of the inclusion of commuters. In regards to the key cost drivers, the Committee were advised that the

relationship between local housing allowance and the local housing market was the most important. This was illustrated by the higher cost pressures in Worthing resulting from the relatively low housing allowance in comparison to high market rents. In addition, Officers advised that it was highly likely that there would be some sort of transition arrangement and two further consultations were due on this matter. One of these would inevitably look at transition arrangements for moving from one funding system to another and would provide a better place to start to lobby for what the Councils would like to see.

### **Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee approved the draft consultation response detailed in Appendix 1 and delegated any final amendments to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources.

### **JSC/088/17-18 Brighton Mainline Alliance - supporting our Regional Infrastructure properties**

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 8.

The Coast to Capital LEP area, which runs from South London to Brighton and across the coast to Chichester, needed significant long-term rail investment to support a growing regional economy and maintain its competitive advantage, protecting the economic potential of the region and the contribution made to the wider economy.

Network Rail had identified the Brighton Mainline (BML) as the top priority for investment in the region and had proposed upgrades that included enhancement to the Windmill Bridge Junction, just outside East Croydon Station, and a major redevelopment of the station itself.

The Windmill Bridge Junction scheme would deliver a significant increase in regional rail capacity. Unlocking the bottleneck at Windmill Bridge Junction would enhance connectivity, capacity and resilience, and drive both growth and productivity throughout the region. Greatly improving links to London and international connectivity.

Coast to Capital LEP was leading a regional campaign to target Government investment in the rail infrastructure in Croydon, specifically targeting a Government commitment to the detail of the project at Budget 2019. The campaign, called the Brighton Mainline Alliance, had strong cross-party support and was backed by regional businesses and business organisations. Included within these was the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

The scheme was costly, complex and of national significance, and Government had recently commissioned further work to develop the business case. Funding could be taken for granted, with many other regions in the UK proposing their own railway schemes for development. A joined up commitment to the development of the region through local authority and business voices, via the BMA, would encourage the Government to support economic growth in the Coast to Capital area.

Members expressed their support for the proposals acknowledging that other infrastructure, including the A27, needed improvement too.

### **Resolved,**

That the Joint Strategic Committee:-

- endorsed Adur & Worthing Councils adding their support to the Brighton Mainline Alliance in their advocacy for vital investment to infrastructure through the Windmill Junction Scheme;
- noted there were no resources required in the Councils' support of the Brighton Mainline Alliance.

### **JSC/091/17-18      Use of s106 Funding to enhance Sport and Recreation Facilities in Adur**

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 11.

The report recommended allocating £15,000 of the s106 funding secured in connection with the Brighton and Hove Albion Training Ground as a contribution towards the provision of a covered swimming pool at the Globe School, Lancing.

The School had been fund raising for some time and the financial contribution would help to deliver the project to benefit children at the school but also the local community. The report considered whether it was a good use of the funding and the extent to which the local community would benefit from the facility.

The report also recommended the allocation of a further £5,000 towards the provision of CCTV cameras at Sir Robert Woodard Academy to improve security in connection with the new 3G pitch currently under construction at the site.

The report also provided an update on other projects which had secured funding and the amount of funding still available to be allocated to worthwhile projects that enhanced sport and leisure activities across the District.

Members expressed their support for the proposals.

### **Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee

- agreed to the request for a £15,000 contribution towards the provision of a covered swimming pool (subject to the school entering into a community use agreement as part of any grant funding agreement) and a grant of £5,000 towards CCTV at Sir Robert Woodard Academy and agreed to amend the Capital Investment Programme accordingly; and,
- agreed that the decision to enter into the relevant grant funding agreements be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration.

### **C. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 10 April 2018**

Full details can be found:

[www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/cab-docs-joint-strategic.htm](http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/cab-docs-joint-strategic.htm)

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The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:

#### **JSC/096/17-18 Delivering our Housing Strategy - Review of Progress 2017-2018**

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 5.

The Adur and Worthing Councils Housing Strategy 2017-2020 'Housing Matters' outlined a vision for our communities where everyone could have a place they could call home. The Councils recognised that having a secure and safe home, not just a place to sleep, was one of the most important factors in enabling local communities to be ambitious, prosperous and resilient.

The report updated Members on all of the activities and outcomes that had been achieved to date in delivering the strategy, as well as highlighting challenges and opportunities for the future. The Committee noted that the strategy had three broad areas of focus; preventing homelessness, developing the supply of new homes and improving Adur Council's role as Landlord. It was also noted that the biggest change in legislation to impact statutory housing services had also now been implemented, the 'Homelessness Reduction Act'.

The report provided details of work that had been undertaken over the past year, including work to secure Emergency and Temporary accommodation and to deliver the repairs and maintenance programme. The latter included a project to deliver a digital tool for reporting and managing the delivery of repairs.

A Member asked a question regarding 'Temporary Accommodation and engagement with Private Sector Landlords'. Officers agreed to provide a response following the meeting.

The Committee was advised that the Albion Street project would deliver houses towards the Council's housing quota whilst also providing brand new social housing. Residents had shown a real interest, with a 150 of them attending a recent public meeting about the project. It was noted that Cecil Norris House was the next project in the pipeline following completion of work at Albion Street.

**Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee noted and commended the contents of the report.

**JSC/097/17-18      Supporting our Communities - Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion**

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 6.

The report outlined how the Councils had responded to and prepared local people and communities for, continuing Welfare Reform, in order to best support and enable resilient communities. The Councils roles were both providers of services but also creator of opportunities for communities to improve their skills across a range of areas such as; financial management, digital inclusion and skills whilst also supporting those in need to access affordable credit.

The Committee was advised that the 2017 Autumn Budget announced some significant changes to how Universal Credit would be administered and sought to address many of the issues and concerns that had been raised in relation to full service UC. The changes were outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report including from January 2018, an advance of up to 100% of expected benefit would be payable and stretching of the repayment over 12 months would be possible.

Officers advised that the Boom Credit Union provided loans to Adur and Worthing residents and requested that the Committee approve further investment in the Credit Union to support ongoing financial inclusion measures.

Members expressed their support for the proposals.

**Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- noted the contents of the report;
- approved the investment of an additional £25k, via the purchase of deferred shares, by Worthing Borough Council in Boom Credit Union which was to be



added to the capital programme and funded by a revenue contribution as outlined in paragraph 7.3;

- recommended that Worthing Borough Council approve the amendment of the Annual Investment Policy and Strategy document to allow the investment in the Credit Union to be increased to £50,000.

#### **D. Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive**

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended.

The following is reported to Council:

Nil

Councillor Neil Parkin  
Leader of the Council

#### **Local Government Act 1972**

##### **Background papers**

Reports and Record of decisions of various are available on the Council's web site [www.adur-worthing.gov.uk](http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk) or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports contain exempt information and not fully published on the websites.