

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee of  
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

**Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea**

**16 July 2015**

\*Councillor James Butcher (Chairman)  
Councillor Stephen Chipp (Vice Chairman)

**Adur District Council:**

\*Ken Bishop  
\*Ann Bridges  
Liz Haywood  
Rod Hotton  
Emily Hilditch  
\*Liza McKinney

**Worthing Borough Council:**

Roy Barraclough  
Keith Bickers  
\*Charles James  
Mary Lermite  
Nigel Morgan  
Luke Proudfoot  
\*Vino Vinojan  
Keith Sunderland

\*Absent

Also present:

WBC Councillors: Councillor Bryan Turner

ADC Councillors: Councillor Pat Beresford

<b>JOSC/15-16/09</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest/Substitutions</b>
Councillor Geoff Patmore declared his substitution for Councillor Ken Bishop  Councillor Tom Wye declared his substitution for Councillor Vino Vinojan	
<b>JOSC/15-16/10</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>Resolved</b> that the Minutes of the Committee held on 18 June 2015 be approved as the correct record and be signed by the Chairman.	
<b>JOSC/15-16/11</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b>
Mr Bill Freeman asked two questions on behalf of CPRE Sussex and Lancing Manor SE Residents Network	
<b>Question 1</b>	
We hear B&HA have acquired the NMF/golf course development site.	

In the Adur Plan allocations

what impact is this going to have on the numbers of houses and development areas within the NMF site,

What impact on the A27 roundabout junction position for that site and the Airport/College?

and most importantly,

What impact on the mitigation methods for managing surface and groundwater drainage risk for the NMF development itself and all 3<sup>rd</sup> party properties both north and south of the Lancing Gap?

## Question 2

For the Adur Tidal Walls Scheme and Shoreham Harbour Project, have increased river levels from surface water drainage been taken into account should the 10,000 homes be approved in Horsham/Mid Sussex for the Mayfield Town Project.

The Govt Inspector kicked the scheme into touch for lack of infrastructure but the developer is still pushing for the scheme.

Also, although Heathrow is looking the preferred airport, If the second runway were to ultimately be approved for Gatwick, increased employment will demand an increase in local housing and the argument for Mayfield could inevitably gain ground.

In terms of these schemes, has this increased drainage threat been taken into account and if not, would Adur and the other stakeholders for the Tidal Walls/Shoreham Harbour projects be prepared to argue the case against the Mayfield Development if it re-emerges as a threat to these lower areas affected by the River Adur?

The Chairman noted that the Committee had not been given the required two day notice of the question and was unable to answer the question at the meeting, however Mr Freeman would be answered in writing within two days of the meeting.

**JOSC/15-16/12**

**Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions**

There were no urgent items.

**JOSC/15-16/13**

**Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision**

There were no items.

**JOSC/15-16/14**

**Interview with the Executive Members for Regeneration (Pat Beresford ADC, Bryan Turner WBC)**

Before the Committee was a report by the Chief Executive, a copy 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. As part of its work programme, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee had determined to interview the Executive Members of Adur & Worthing Councils on their portfolio responsibilities and priorities for 2015-16.

The Adur Executive Member gave a precis of the work undertaken as part of his portfolio focusing on a fall in unemployment figures, regeneration projects, increased commercial developments, small business apprenticeship events, transport liaison responsibilities and the development of neighbourhood plans. Members were also told about the success of the Coastal West Sussex Partnership in delivering savings, the Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) and flood prevention schemes.

The Adur Executive Member was asked the following questions

1. Why has the Adur Local Plan been delayed given the urgency attributed to the Adur Local Plan at the Extraordinary Council Meeting convened earlier ?

The Executive member responded that difficulties had arisen with identifying information on specific sites as the Council was not the landowner it could be difficult to piece together the Local Plan. Members were also told that different housing figures had influenced that draft and meant necessary changes had needed to be investigated.

2. Can the Executive Member give an assurance that the C2mhill report "Lancing Brooks Drainage Survey" will be included in its entirety and that due consideration will be given to the content in the Adur Local Plan.

The Executive Member responded by stating that he could not give assurances as he did not know what was in the document. He explained that in any case the Local Plan was an amalgamation of different information and if the survey were used it was likely that it would be contained within a list of background papers. The Committee was also told that the document would be considered.

3. Given the now lengthy delay and the new information provided in the Adur Local Plan can the Executive Member give an assurance that there will be a further public consultation exercise please could he provide dates and timescales for the public consultation and adoption of the Adur Local Plan .

The Executive Member told the committee that it was up to the inspector to decide when a Local Plan could be adopted. He told members that there could be an opportunity for the Local Authority to put the plan out for further consultation should it be felt that the plan was markedly different. The meeting was told that coming to this conclusion was something that needed to be determined by

legal. The committee was told that there could be some merit in further consultation given a number of questions that had yet to be answered.

4. Could the Executive Member provide the total amount of S106 monies available also provide a strategy for expenditure benefitting our local community for 2015 / 2016.

The Committee was given figure for the last year in which £937k was collected although only £143k of that money was given to Adur District Council. Members were told that S106 money was allocated for specific projects mainly out of the control of Adur. With regards to strategy members were told that the s106 money was earmarked for specific uses when the agreements were signed.

5. As member responsible for economic strategy are you happy that the recent Wildlife festival benefited the local businesses as much as had been originally hoped? Was it restricted to catering establishments or did a broader range of businesses benefit?

The member explained that he was confident food and drink businesses and other businesses in the high street had benefited from the festival, however there was no statistical data to demonstrate that fact and local businesses would be unlikely to gather that information until the end of the financial year

6. In regards to planning policy how much land is available in Adur for development? Do we have brown field sites to develop new estates and developments?

Members were told that there were three main sites: shoreham harbour (1100), new monks farm (450-600) and west sompting (480) but there were usually a number of smaller and or unknown sites that would crop up. Members were told that more information could be found in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

7. In terms of flood protection what is the estimated lifespan of the proposed flood defenses that are to be built in conjunction with the Environment Agency and WSCC?

Members were told that the defences have a lifespan of 100 years but would be reviewed after 50.

The Worthing Executive Member gave a precis of the work undertaken as part of his portfolio which focused on economic development, a fall in unemployment figures, a reduction in vacant shops, an increase in applications for waterfront concessions and information regarding work undertaken with regards to education and transport liaison responsibilities.

The Worthing Member was asked the following questions:

1. Have you got any current information on the redevelopment of the Aquarena site? We know Roffey are looking again at their proposals and the whole area is looking very run down especially from the A259- Brighton Road side. Not a good advert for Worthing's regeneration?

Members were informed that Roffey Homes were due to submit revised plans for the site which the Executive Membere was looking forward to seeing.

2. What is being done to regenerate that part of the seafront which has many closed premises - Hitchcock's, Hearing place and former Visit Worthing premises?

Members were told that the executive member was hopeful that a tenant was lined up for the former Hitchcock's premises. Officer were making contact with an owner of another vacant premises in the area to put their property on the market.

3. What was the situation with the 'changing places' project on the promenade

The Executive Member informed Members that the project had stalled because the building had been found to have large amounts of asbestos, the council was currently working on a solution to move the project forwards.

4. A Member asked if all projects connected to the age of school transfer were on schedule to be completed before the start of the new term.

The Executive Member related that he had been informed that some projects were behind but would be completed by the end of the first term and some schools may have to use temporary classrooms during that period.

**Resolved:** that the interview with the Leaders be noted.

**JOSC/15-16/15**

**Joint Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 8. As part of good practice and a requirement in the Council's Governance Action Plan, the Councils are required to produce a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report for 2014/15.

Members noted the annual report and asked that emphasis be placed on the opportunity for Members of the Public to come forward and ask for the committee to undertake a review.

**Resolved:**

i) That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report for 2014/15 be approved.

ii) That the Annual report 2014/15 be submitted to Council for approval.

**JOSC/15-16/16**

**Outline forecast 2016/17 to 2020/21 and budget strategy**

Before the Committee was a report by the Chief Financial Officer, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report before Members outlined the key financial challenges that the Councils faced in the proceeding three to five years, proposed a budget strategy for managing emerging issues in 2016/17, and set a suggested broad financial policy framework which will inform the Medium Term Financial Plan for the next 5 years.

Members discussed the report following an introduction by the Chief Financial Officer. Members investigated the effect of keeping the Council tax at its current level and were told that there was uncertainty over the future of the Council Tax freeze grant.

There was support amongst the committee for generating income and suggestions were made concerning different income streams. Members also discussed limitations on officer pay levels.

**Resolved:** That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the content of the report.

**JOSC/15-16/17**

**Digital Update**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 8. On December 2nd 2014, Joint Strategic Committee approved funding for the introduction of new cloud-based technology platforms to support the re-design and 'digitisation' of council services and ways of working over the next three years. The preceding assessment work done during Autumn 2014 established that new enterprise-grade cloud technologies were critical enablers for the delivery of 'end-to-end' digital customer self-service at the scale and pace required to modernise operations, improve the customer experience and drive out efficiencies. The report before members provided an update on that strategy.

The Head of Digital and Design introduced the report to the Committee and emphasised the ground breaking work being undertaken by the Councils in creating platforms from which services could be developed and delivered.

A Member asked about the telephony situation and was told by the Head of Digital and Design that tenders for the new system had been received and were being assessed.

The Committee discussed the potential for turning the digital strategy into a revenue stream. The Head of Digital and Design explained the possibilities of selling the platform to other Councils.

The Committee talked about including digital inclusion as an item on the work programme and agreed that a working group could add value to the work being undertaken by the Council. Two councillors from each authority were selected to sit on the working group.

A Member asked about the Google privacy policy and how it affected data held by the Council. The Head of Digital and Design explained that data security was of utmost importance and had been investigated by the Councils' Senior Information Officer. The committee's attention was drawn to other organisations using Google such as the Cabinet Office. Members discussed some of the risks of using public wifi and the benefits of 'prototyping' new systems.

**Resolved:**

- i) that the report be noted;
- ii) that the Committee requests a further update in October 2015;
- iii) that a 'digital inclusion' working group be set up with the following membership:
  - Adur District Council - Councillors Rod Hotton and Liz Haywood
  - Worthing Borough Council - Councillors Keith Bickers and Nigel Morgan

**JOSC/15-16/18**

**Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme – 2015/16**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for digital and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 9. The report outlined progress on the work contained in the 2015/16 Work Programme.

**Resolved:** That the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2015/16 be noted

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.35pm it having commenced at 6.30pm.

**Chairman**