

## **Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2015/16/17**

### **Report by the Director for Digital and Resources**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines progress on the work contained in the 2015/16 Work Programme.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme is a 'rolling' Programme which the Committee reviews at each meeting.
- 2.2 The Work Programme for 2015/16 was previously reviewed by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2016.

#### **3.0 Progress with the Work Programme for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2015/16**

- 3.1 Detailed progress with the Work Programme is now set out in a Trello Board to help in the monitoring of the work and this can be accessed via the following link <https://trello.com/b/g16nZ3mf/josc-work-programme-2015-16> The Trello Board will be displayed at the meeting.
- 3.2 The Work Programme includes details of any changes to work and dates made since it was last reported to the Committee. At its meeting on 21 January 2016 the Committee agreed to go ahead with new working arrangements which would be phased in with the aim of the new arrangements to be fully operational from the first meeting of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.
- 3.3 As part of these new working arrangements it was suggested at the Committee on 21 January 2016 that an issue based meeting could be held to consider issues connected with the flooding/sewage spill incidents which had affected the Adur and Worthing beaches in September 2012. The Committee has previously been restricted from discussing these issues because of legal issues which have now

been resolved. In accordance with the new ways of assessing Scrutiny requests, the Bid request for this item was considered by JOSC Chairmen at a meeting on 2 March which is set out on the Work Programme Trello Board. Having considered the Bid, the Chairmen are recommending that the item should be considered as an item on the JOSC Work Programme in 2016/17. A copy of the Bid proposal is also attached to this report.(Appendix 1).

- 3.4 The JOSC Chairmen have also considered a request for JOSC to review the proposals from Govia Thameslink Railway on their plans to close some ticket offices and amend opening hours of some of the ticket offices in the Adur and Worthing area. A copy of that Bid proposal is also attached to the Trello Board and attached to this report (Appendix 2). The Joint Chairmen are also recommending that that item be included as an item at a future JOSC meeting.
- 3.5 A Scrutiny request form has been developed for members of the public/Councillors to submit future scrutiny request bids. This form will be available on-line and paper copies will also be available at Council Offices. An example of this form will be displayed at the meeting.

#### **4.0 Proposals**

- 4.1 To note the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2015/16 and, to consider the Bid proposals for reviews of the flooding/sewage spill in 2012 incident and proposed closures of rail ticket offices and to confirm if they should be added to the Work Programme.

#### **5.0 Legal**

- 5.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 5.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals generally may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).
- 5.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5.4 Section 1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 empowers the Council to enter into a contract in relation to any of its functions.

#### **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no known financial implications arising from this report but some of the recommendations arising from the issues being considered in the Work Programme may have financial implications.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2015/16/17 be noted; and**
- 7.2 That the Committee considers any other issues/reviews which it would like to be included as part of the 2016/17 Work Programme including the Scrutiny Bid requests for reviews of the sewage and flooding incidents which occurred in September 2012 and proposed closures/amended opening hours of the rail ticket offices.**

### **Background Papers:**

None.

### **Contact Officer:**

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7 March 2016

## **Schedule of other matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 Matter considered and issues related to Council Priorities identified.

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Matter considered. Some of the issues to be considered by the Committee may impact on equality issues.

### **5.0 Community Safety issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered. Issues relating to crime and disorder are contained in the Work Programme.

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified. Outcomes from the discussion of the issues can help to improve the reputation of the Councils.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Matter considered. Some of the issues identified in the Work Programme may involve some form of consultation.

### **9.0 Risk assessment**

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

## 12.0 **Partnership working**

- 12.1 Matter considered. Some of the issues identified do involve working together and also in partnership with other Councils.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## Scoping report for proposed review of Sewage spill and flooding incident in 2012

This review has been assessed against the 'PAPER' criteria which JOSC approved at its last meeting.

### **Request by Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Proposed review** - Sewage Spill and Flooding incident 2012 - To hear more about what Southern Water and the Environment Agency are doing/have done to prevent a similar incident occurring.

**Public interest** - The Committee is keen to find out more about the sewage spill incident from 2012 as this adversely affected a number of residents and visitors and had an impact on the tourism economy at the time.

**Ability to change** -The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will request Southern Water to speak about the incident and the Environment Agency to find out what has changed and how the Councils can work with these agencies to influence future improvements.

**Performance** - The review is about the performance of Southern Water in the interests of the wider community.

**Extent** - The suggested request relates to the 2012 sewage spill and related incidents affecting the Adur and Worthing beaches covering a large proportion of the Council areas and also affecting local residents. There are current flooding issues which the Committee want to discuss.

**Replication** - The matter has been considered by the Courts and Southern Water have been fined for their part in causing the sewage spill. The matter has also been reported in the local press. The incident occurred in 2012.

**Outcomes** - To discuss the matter in a public meeting with a view to understand what lessons have been learnt and to consider if anymore can could be done to stop the situation occurring again and to assess if there can be any further investment in infrastructure to prevent reoccurrence

## **APPENDIX 2**

## Scoping report for possible review of Southern Rail plans to close ticket offices

This review has been assessed against the 'PAPER' criteria which JOSC approved at its last meeting.

### **Request by Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Proposed review** - Southern Rail Ticket office closure plans - To hear more from Govia Thameslink Railway on their plans to close some tickets offices in the Adur and Worthing area and change opening hours of other ticket offices.

**Public interest** - The Committee is keen to find out more about the proposals to close some ticket offices and alter opening hours as these proposals will adversely affect local residents and visitors to the area.

**Ability to change** -The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee can request representatives from Govia Thameslink Railway to speak about their proposals and seek to influence changes in those plans.

### **Performance -**

**Extent** - The suggested request relates to proposals to close some ticket offices and alter opening hours in the areas.

**Replication** - This issue has not been considered by JOSC.

**Outcomes** - To discuss the matter in a public meeting and ask Govia Thameslink Railway company about their proposals to close some ticket offices and amend opening hours and to consider if anything can be done to influence the outcomes.