

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

Gordon Room, Worthing Town Hall

17 March 2016

Roy Barraclough (Chairman)
Keith Bickers (Vice Chairman)

Adur District Council:

James Butcher
Stephen Chipp
Ken Bishop
*Ann Bridges
Liz Haywood
Rod Hotton
Emily Hilditch
Liza McKinney

Worthing Borough Council:

Charles James
*Mary Lermite
Nigel Morgan
*Luke Proudfoot
Vino Vinojan
Keith Sunderland

*Absent

JOSC/15-16/51 Declarations of Interest/Substitutions

Councillor Emma Evans declared her substitution for Councillor Ann Bridges

JOSC/15-16/52 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Committee held on 21 January 2016 be approved as the correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

JOSC/15-16/53 Public Question Time

There were no public questions

JOSC/15-16/54 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

JOSC/15-16/55 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no items.

JOSC/15-16/56 Interview with the Executive Members for Environment

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 the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. As part of the current Work Programme, the Committee had agreed to interview Executive Members on their portfolio responsibilities and priorities for 2015-16. The Leader of Adur District Council attended on the behalf of Adur District Council as he was currently undertaking the responsibilities of the portfolio.

The Portfolio holders introduced work they were undertaking.

The Worthing Executive Member responded to a pre-written question concerning the appearance of the public toilets on the seafront. Members were told that the cleaning of public conveniences contract was due to end and that the service would be brought in-house to be run by AWCS (Adur and Worthing Council Services) resulting in a more agile and flexible approach. The Executive Member explained the planned maintenance programme, how general maintenance was carried out on Council properties and the process that needed to be undertaken for larger capital projects such as the major renovation of a toilet block.

The Adur Leader let Members know that a decision had recently been made to turn the Ham road car park into a pay and display that would offer season tickets cheaper than those sold at the train station car park.

A Member asked the Leader why applications had been withdrawn for certain green spaces to become fields in trust and was told that it would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy making it difficult to establish play areas and refurbish or enlarge existing buildings.

A Member asked if the newly instituted 'star recycler' scheme would be expensive to run given the £10 prize for start recyclers. The Committee was told that the scheme had been fully funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and that the £10 was a voucher to spend at South Downs Leisure, Adur Community Leisure, Worthing Theatres or Ropetackle in shoreham.

A Member asked about the move to open burial services on the weekend and were given figures to show that the decision had brought in significant revenue and had added convenience .

Resolved: that the Executive Member interviews be noted

JOSC/15-16/57 Review of the Performance of Adur Community Leisure and South Downs Leisure

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of 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 7. The report before Members provided a briefing on the performance of Adur Community Leisure and South Downs Leisure.

A Member asked if Adur Community Leisure were considering amending its price structure to compete with other local businesses. The Director for Communities told members that Impulse Leisure was looking at its membership scheme with a view to being more competitive and to attract more business.

The Committee discussed the service fee payment made to Adur Community Leisure and what plans were to be made for future payments. The service fee had reduced from £405k to £170k since 2006. Members were told that there was an opportunity to renegotiate in 2018. Members were told that the industry model had changed and that contained mechanisms for Southdowns leisure to pay the Council.

The Committee discussed Capital investment in leisure sites across Adur and Worthing and learned that expenditure at Lancing Manor to improve the car park would lever in £350k investment from Impulse Leisure.

The Committee discussed the changing nature of the leisure business. The CEO of Southdowns Leisure told Members that the business had a sharp commercial focus.

Members lauded performance indicators used by Southdowns Leisure and remarked that they were a good way to show accountability.

Resolved: That the interview be noted

JOSC/15-16/58 Review of the Grounds Maintenance Budget

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, 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. The report provided information relating to a review of the Grounds Maintenance budgets for the in house Grounds Maintenance service for Adur & Worthing which was formed on the 1st January 2013.

The Head of Environment introduced the report to the Committee and outlined the work undertaken relating to Grounds Maintenance, the successful initiatives instilled since the services was formed and the improved financial position of the service.

A Member asked about the sustainability of the rethinking parks project. The Head of Environment told Members that the Council strategically withdrew as participating groups became more confident in what they were doing.

The committee discussed the benefits of involving local sports clubs in the management of green space areas.

Resolved: that the report be noted

JOSC/15-16/59 Worthing Theatres Review - Maintenance and Work and Recharges

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 9. The report informed Members of the process and procedures for the charges made for building maintenance works and the recharges applied by the Business and Technical Services division.

Members discussed the report and quized the chief financial officer about how recharges were applied to budgets.

Resolved: that the report be noted

JOSC/15-16/48 Digital Inclusion Review

Before the Committee was a report by the Digital Inclusion Joint Scrutiny Working Group, 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 set out the findings of the Adur and Worthing review of Digital Inclusion which was undertaken by a working group set up by the Committee.

The Chairman of the working group introduced the report to the Committee. The Committee discussed the report and responded positively to the current work of the Council and the Working Group's investigation.

Resolved: That the recommendations from the Working Group be endorsed and submitted to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration.

JOSC/15-16/49 Change of Order to Agenda Items

The Chairman of the Committee announced that the item on the Work Programme would be taken before the Revenue Budget.

JOSC/15-16/50 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 12. The report outlined progress on the work contained in the 2015/16 work programme.

The Committee discussed forthcoming items for the Work Programme and agreed to add two items recommended for inclusion onto the work programme

Resolved: That the Committee notes the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2015/16

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.52pm it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Chairman