

Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2016/17

Report by the Director for Digital and Resources

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines progress on the work contained in the 2016/17 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 2016/17 was previously reviewed by the Committee at its meeting on 14 July 2016.

3.0 Progress with the Work Programme for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016/17

- 3.1 Detailed progress with the Work Programme is 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 also 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.
- 3.3 In accordance with the new ways of assessing Scrutiny requests, JOSOC Chairmen have also considered other potential issues for consideration by the Committee. A bid/scope request is attached for the Committee to review an item which asks the Councils to review and address the issues of hate crime following Brexit. This review has been suggested by Councillor Hazel Thorpe (Worthing) and two members of the public.

4.0 Proposals

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2016/17, to consider the Bid proposal for the review of hate crime issues and to consider any further issues for review.

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 2016/17 be noted; and**
- 7.2 That the Committee considers/agrees the scope proposal and scrutiny bid request relating to a review of hate crime issues following Brexit as set out in the appendix to this report and considers any other issues/reviews which it would like to be included as part of the 2016/17 Work Programme.**

Background Papers:

None.

Contact Officer:

Mark Lowe, Policy Officer – Tel 01903 221009
13 September 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

Scrutiny Review Request scoping request from Cllr Hazel Thorpe, Amanda Guedes-Wright , Pauline Cory:-

Proposed review - Addressing issues of Hate Crime and discrimination following the Brexit result.

Public interest - The Council agreed a motion condemning hate crime and xenophobia. This review would aim to put in context actions already in place to address discrimination on race or culture and would show gaps which could be addressed in the light of public concern.

Ability to change - The JOSC can by definition raise awareness within the Town of strategies that could be accessed more effectively and communicated more widely. It could demonstrate a positive mindset to allay concerns and reassure residents, those from the EU and overseas in particular, in a currently uncertain period. It could evidence value for those partnerships and encourage more civic engagement.

Performance - The review would we believe enhance the current service, evidence the council as a more accessible, aware and listening Council since it is responding to current local and countrywide issues.

Extent - The issue of hate crime and discrimination is both local and national as shown by the responses within Worthing Borough's debate and the media.

Replication - We are not aware of this review being considered elsewhere though we have no doubt that under the Wellbeing team some work is being carried out but the value of this has not yet reached the resident on the street. This could be part of an improved communication strategy.

Outcomes - We would wish that a strategy is in place to deal with issues with signposting to sources of support .