

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

Gordon Room, Worthing Town Hall

17 November 2016

*Roy Barraclough (Chairman)
Keith Bickers (Vice Chairman)

Adur District Council:

Carol Albury
George Barton
Kevin Boram
Clive Burghard
James Butcher
Stephen Chipp
Joss Loader
*Robin Monk

Worthing Borough Council:

Nigel Morgan
Louise Murphy
Luke Proudfoot
*Bob Smytherman
Jane Sim
Steve Waight

*Absent

JOSC/16-17/34 Declarations of Interest/Substitutions

Councillor Hazel Thorpe declared her substitution for Councillor Bob Smytherman.

Councillor Murphy declared an interest as an employee of HSBC which had been mentioned in the report for agenda item 8.

JOSC/16-17/35 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Committee held on 20 October 2016 be approved as the correct record and signed

JOSC/16-17/36 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public

JOSC/16-17/37 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

JOSC/16-17/38 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no items.

JOSC/16-17/39 Review of Public Space Protection Orders

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, a copy of which was sent to all members, a copy of which was attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. In August 2016 Worthing Borough Council implemented three Public Space Protection Orders and it was agreed by Worthing Full Council that enforcement of the PSPOs would be monitored by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Director for Communities summarised the report for the committee and the progress in the use of the three PSPO's.

The executive member for health and wellbeing of Adur made a representation to the committee. He told members that PSPOs in relation to dogs were being introduced to Adur and that there would be a need for staff to become involved in the enforcement of those orders.

A Member asked if there were measures being planned in order that the council be enabled to enforce PSPO one: 'Public Drinking in Worthing'. The director told members that the councils were working closely with Sussex Police to assess whether it was reasonable or safe for council officers to undertake that work. The Adur executive member for wellbeing stated that the councils had a duty of care to its officers and that the Police would attend incidents relating to intoxication where there was a threat.

A Member noted that there had been 15 reports of individuals sleeping in tents since the implementation of PSPO three: 'unauthorised camping in 8 locations in Worthing' he asked if there were figures to compare incidents prior to the setting up of the PSPOs. The member also noted that there were ongoing discussions with legal to consider different approaches to tackle breaches of PSPO 3 and asked if an indication could be given as to what these approaches could be. The director told members that she was unaware of comparative data but would investigate, the director stated that she would update the committee regarding the outcome of discussions with legal. The executive member added that the street team referred people on to 'worthing churches homeless project' also 'stone pillow', another organisation that provided support to homeless people.

Resolved: that the Committee notes the report and continue to monitor the use of the PSPOs on a quarterly basis.

JOSC/16-17/40 Hate Crimes Issues following the EU Referendum

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report before members outlined a review into the anecdotal reports of a rise in hate crimes following the result of the EU referendum on June 23rd 2016, and considered the role of Adur and Worthing Councils in monitoring and responding to hate crimes.

The director for communities introduced the report to the committee, members were told that the paper outlined the monitoring of hate crime. It was explained that examination of data could not conclude that there had been a rise in hate crime across Adur and Worthing. However, this did not mean that the councils could ignore individual feelings or community fears arising following the referendum and there could be low levels of hate crime causing people to feel uncomfortable within their communities. He told members that within the community residents may be reluctant to report incidents because they were fearful of creating problems within their neighbourhoods

The executive member for Adur told members that although reported figures showed no rise there had been a number of issues that could be directly related to the the EU referendum result. There was no doubt that there were tensions and incidents within the community that were not being reported. Work was being undertaken in schools in January under the 'be safe, be well' project. Members were told of the information on the councils' website and of a 'self evident' app which was a toll for reporting hate crime. The committee questioned the take-up of the app and discussed ways in which it could be better circulated.

The Committee questioned the executive member about hate crimes committed online and was told that the issue was a broad picture. Reports made locally would be dealt with but the issue of hate crime on line was too big for the council to look at.

A member asked if there was a proactive strategy to deal with upcoming events that could trigger incidents of hate crime. The executive member told the committee that the Police would undertake a 'threat, harm, risk' assessment based on intelligence. The executive member explained to the committee that ward councillors were in a good position to determine tensions building up within their communities and could report this.

Members were told of training sessions provided in the past and upcoming training sessions in the new year on hate crime and equalities. The executive member highlighted the importance of training and stated that he felt the training should be mandatory for all members.

A Member asked about how the executive member felt about the loss of community policing and the effect that this could have on hate crime reporting. The executive member stated that he regretted the loss of local knowledge but the new model of

policing was in its early days and it would be difficult to assess the implications of the change.

Resolved: that the Members note the report and agree to monitor the work programme on an annual basis.

JOSC/16-17/41 Outline 5 year forecast and savings proposals

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources a copy of which was circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The purpose of the report before the committee was to update members on the latest financial forecast for 2017/18 to 2021/22 and to propose options for meeting the projected budget shortfall in 2017/18.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report to the Committee and set out the challenges facing the councils over the forthcoming procedure. Members were told that the item before members was relevant to the budget of Worthing borough council following a decision of full council at Adur.

Members discussed the report and felt that the political nature of questions that they wanted to ask were better answered by the relevant executive members, who were not present at the meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the Committee has no comment to make on the report in the absence of the relevant executive members;
2. That the relevant executive members be requested to attend the meeting in January to answer questions on the budget.

JOSC/16-17/42 Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2016/17

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which was sent to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 9. The report outlined progress on the work contained in the 2016/17 Work Programme.

Members discussed making the review of PSPOs a six monthly review and it was agreed that investigations would be undertaken to determine if the direction from Council that the reviews be quarterly could be amended.

Members discussed the review of the work programme and agreed that the item should be brought forward to the January meeting and that members should email the policy officer with area that they wished to cover as part of the review.

The Committee heard from Cllr Boram who updated Members on the ongoing progress with work regarding the review of major projects and cross council working.

Resolved: that progress on the work programme be noted

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.08pm it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Chairman