

## Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18

### Report by the Director for Digital and Resources

#### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines progress with work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2016/17 and asks the Committee to consider issues to be included in the Work Programme for 2017/18.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The current JOSC Work Programme for 2016/17 is reviewed annually at each meeting. Paragraph 8.1 of the current set of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the work programme will be approved by both Councils. A report must be taken to each full Council on an annual basis seeking Councils' approval of the JOSC Work Programme for the forthcoming year.

#### 3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 Details of the completion of the Work Programme for 2016/17 can be viewed in a Trello Board to help in the monitoring of the work and can be accessed via the following link <https://trello.com/b/g16nZ3mf/josc-work-programme> The Trello Board will also be displayed at the meeting. The Committee has received regular progress reports with the Work Programme and the most recent of these was presented on 26 January 2017.
- 3.2 A draft Work Programme for 2017/18 has also now been produced for the Committee to consider and this can be viewed in a Trello Board via the following link <https://trello.com/b/7AXUSG58/draft-josc-work-programme-for-2017-18> The Committee is requested to consider the draft Work Programme and consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme. During the Municipal year, items may be added to the JOSC work programme, where appropriate. Requests for additional matters to be included in the work programme will initially be considered by the Joint Chairpersons in accordance with the criteria and they will make their recommendations to the next JOSC for consideration and determination, following receipt of the Officer report. Consideration should also be

given to capacity of the Committee and resources available when considering further Work Programme items.

- 3.3 As part of the consultation for this report, all Members of the Council have been consulted to see if they have any other items/issues that they would like to be added to the Work Programme. The detail of issues which have been suggested by Councillors are set out in the Appendix to the report. Items for the Work Programme need to be chosen guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic objectives, how the Committee can influence the outcomes and also general value and outcomes in accordance with the (PAPER criteria) - (P) - Public Interest, (A) - Ability to Change, (P) - Performance , (E) - Extent and (R) - Replication. An assessment of each request has been undertaken, the suggestions discussed with the Joint Chairpersons and their recommendations are included with the detail of each request set out in the Appendix.

#### **4.0 Legal**

- 4.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Councils have the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 4.2 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).
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Paragraph 8.1 of the current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils. A report must be taken to both Councils on an annual basis seeking Councils' approval of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the forthcoming year.

#### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 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.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2016/17 be noted;**
- 6.2 That the Committee consider and confirm its Work Programme for 2017/18;**
- 6.3 That the proposed JOSC Work Programme for 2017/18 be reported to the Adur and Worthing Council meetings in April 2017 for approval.**

### **Local Government Act 1972**

#### **Background Papers:**

None.

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## **Schedule of Other Matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

- 1.1 Matter considered. No direct issues identified as part of the report but the issues considered as part of the Work Programme may relate to the Councils' strategic objectives.

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

- 2.1 Matter considered. No direct issues identified as part of the report but some of the issues identified as part of the Work Programme may relate to the Councils' strategic objectives.

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

- 3.1 Matter considered. Issues to be considered as part of the Work Programme may relate to sustainability issues.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

- 4.1 Matter considered. Issues to be considered as part of the Work Programme may involve equality issues.

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

- 5.1 Matter considered. Issues to be considered as part of the Work Programme may relate to community safety issues. In accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Committee is required to meet to discuss crime and disorder issues at least once a year.

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

- 6.1 Matter considered. No issues identified.

### **7.0 Reputation**

- 7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **8.0 Consultations**

- 8.1 All Members of the Council have been asked to identify issues for inclusion in the Work Programme as part of this report.

### **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 in the Work Programme may involve working in partnership with other partners.

## APPENDIX

### **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request 1**

#### **Issue - Possible review of Worthing Theatres Budget and tourism promotion**

This review has been proposed and assessed below in accordance with the 'PAPER' criteria approved by JOSOC.

#### **Request from - Councillor Bob Smytherman**

**Public interest** - The Theatres budget has been increased Year on Year for the last 5 years now totalling 10% of the overall budget and at the same time the Tourism budget to promote the Worthing visitors has been cut Year on Year.

**Ability to change** - Yes the Councils have the ability to change the budgets as both services are a matter for Executive Members in Worthing.

**Performance** - This proposed review is not about the performance of the service but it is about value for money given the increases to the Theatres budget and whether the Tourism promotion has been impacted by the cuts over the last four years.

**Extent** - This is an important issue for Council Tax Payers as Worthing Theatres cost each home without them even stepping foot in either of the venues.

**Replication** - This issue was briefly considered by the Committee as part of the 2017 Budget setting and should be considered again following the concerns raised by the Committee.

(**NB** - A Scrutiny review of Worthing Theatres budgets was undertaken by JOSOC during the 2014/15 Municipal Year and the conclusions from the review were completed in March 2015.

**Expected Outcomes** - The Council will agree that better value can be achieved from transferring the venues to a Community Theatre Trust that will have the ability to raise additional income from sources not available to the Council.

**Does the proposed review link with the Councils' strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?**

This proposed review links closely with some commitments and activities and projects contained within the Council's strategic vision document 'Platforms for our Places'. This covers Platform 1 - 'Our Financial Economies' and activities and projects relating to developing a visitor economy and the commitment to continue to develop the Worthing cultural offer.

A review on this issue could help support the Councils in delivering the commitments from 'Platforms for our Places' as referred to above and help and influence future policy on these issues.

### **How could this review be undertaken?**

This review relates to Worthing Theatres and Worthing visitors/tourists so, if it is agreed to include this item as part of the Work Programme, the Committee has the option to create a small Working Group to discuss these issues (Worthing only). Also, because the overall visitor economy commitment set out in Platforms for our Places relates to Adur and Worthing it may be more appropriate to consider this issue as part of the main Committee or a Joint Working Group.

### **Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen:-**

That the request be rejected on the basis that the matter has previously been discussed but that the Worthing Executive Member for Customer Services be requested to attend JOSC in November 2017 as part of the Worthing Budget scrutiny process to explain the detail of the Worthing Theatres and Tourism budgets.

## **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request 2**

**Issue** - The cleaning of Brooklands Lake and maintenance/improvements to the play area.

This review has been proposed and assessed below in accordance with the 'PAPER' criteria approved by JOSOC.

**Request from** - Councillor Keith Bickers

**Public interest** - This issue is of Public Interest. A petition was put to Worthing Council on 25 October 2016 which had been signed by 1,500 people. The petition said 'we have serious concerns about the condition of Brooklands Lake and require the Council to have it dredged and cleaned'.

**Ability to change** - The Worthing Executive and Executive Member can commit resources to this project to ensure that it is implemented.

**Performance** -.This proposed review is not about the poor performance of a service but is seeking to make sure that work actually happens.

**Extent** - This issue affects a large number of families in Worthing, Lancing and surrounding areas who use facilities at Brooklands. The issue also affects a large number of visitors/tourists to the area who aim to enjoy the facilities at Brooklands.

**Replication** - A report will be presented to the Joint Strategic Committee in June 2017 on progress in the cleaning of the Brooklands Lake and procurement exercise.

**Expected Outcomes** - The final outcomes expected are for the improvements promised to actually happen or reasons why they did not.

**Does the proposed review link with the Councils' strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?**

Proposal links with strategic objective in 'Platforms for our Places' - Platform 3 'Stewarding Our Natural Resources'.

**How could this review be undertaken?**

By report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee or by way of report to a Working Group.



**Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen:-**

1. That the proposal to discuss the Brooklands Lake issues be rejected on the basis that the matter is to be discussed by the Joint Strategic Committee in June 2017 and that matters on the issue are proceeding following the discussions at Worthing Council and Joint Strategic Committee.
2. That JOSOC receive a report to a future meeting on general play area provision across Adur and Worthing (including the Brooklands Play area)

### **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request 3**

**Issue** - Solar energy - Providing solar panels on Council buildings in the Adur District

This review has been proposed and assessed below in accordance with the 'PAPER' criteria approved by JOSOC.

**Request from** - Councillor Geoff Patmore

**Public interest** - It is in the interest of the public for the Councils to undertake this review because the provision of solar panels on Council buildings is affordable, economical and can provide savings on energy and energy costs.

**Ability to change** - This review would give the Councils the opportunity to explain more about the installation of solar panels and by providing solar panels on Council buildings such as the Shoreham Centre would help improve the environmental resilience of the Adur District.

**Performance** - This review is about the lack of action taken by the Council in this area of work.

**Extent** - This review relates to corporate buildings in the Adur District but ultimately relates to the whole District with the opportunity to improve environmental resilience.

**Replication** - This issue has not been considered by another Committee.

**Expected Outcomes** - For the Council to agree to the installation of solar panels on Council buildings and for the Council to promote their installation more generally within the District to help improve environmental resilience in the Adur District.

**Does the proposed review link with the Council strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?**

Links with Platform 3 in Platforms for our Places - Stewarding our Natural Resources. This contains a Commitment to improve environmental resilience in Adur and Worthing and with an aim to deliver solar panels on our corporate buildings. (NB - Work is already ongoing to provide solar panels on Adur and Worthing Council buildings and subject to relevant consents being obtained should commence later in 2017).

**How could this review be undertaken?**

The suggested review is for the Adur District but this issue is something which applies to both Adur and Worthing. If the issue is considered for both Council areas then it could be reviewed by the main Committee or alternatively referred to a small Working Group for Adur and Worthing.

**Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen:-**

That a report be presented to JOSC at the June 2017 meeting which provides the Committee with an update on the current status of the provision of solar panels on Council buildings and also plans for future solar panels elsewhere in the communities.

## **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request 4**

**Issue** - The cost effective alternative options available for the provision of fitness centres that are currently run in the Adur District by Impulse Leisure

This review has been proposed and assessed below in accordance with the 'PAPER' criteria approved by JOSOC.

**Request from** - Councillor George Barton

**Public interest** - It is in the public interest for JOSOC to review this issue to explore alternative, more cost effective options for fitness centres in the Adur District to see if it is possible to provide better value for money and improve the quality of fitness centre provision.

**Ability to change** - There is the potential to review the current provision of fitness centres in the Adur District and recommend alternative provision/choice which could help improve the quality and availability of fitness centres.

**Performance** -. This review is not looking at the poor performance of the provision but is just looking at alternatives to compare and assess if the Council and the communities are obtaining value for money provision.

**Extent** - This review covers the provision of fitness centres in the Adur District.

**Replication** - There is no evidence that this matter has been considered elsewhere.

**Expected Outcomes** - For JOSOC to undertake the review of fitness centre provision provided by Impulse Leisure in the Adur District and to identify if any alternative provision can be provided by other operators.

**Does the proposed review link with the Council strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?**

A review of this kind could help in the development of the new Sports Strategy for Adur and Worthing which is an activity and project contained in the new strategic vision 'Platforms for Our Places' - Platform 2 - Our social economies (Commitment to promote good physical and mental health).

JOSOC has the ability to scrutinise this issue and highlight any areas where improvements can be made and recommending if further action should be

taken.

**How could this review be undertaken?**

This review request relates to the Adur District but there is the potential to assess how fitness centre provision in Worthing is provided. The review could be undertaken by way of report to JOSOC or to set up a Working Group.

**Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen:-**

That this request be deferred until Autumn 2017 to await the outcomes of further discussions.