

Response of the Executives to reports of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

JSC/009/17-18 Scrutiny Major Projects Working Group Report

Before the Committee was a report by the Chairmen of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 7.

The report set out the findings and recommendations from the Major Projects Working Group set up by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC).

The Committee noted that at the JOSC meeting on 14 July 2016, it was agreed that a Working Group be set up to review how the Councils work on major projects in partnership with West Sussex County Council and to assess if improvements were required. The decision to set up the Working Group was one of the outcomes from the JOSC meeting which discussed the lack of progress in implementing the Ferry Road enhancement scheme in Shoreham-by-Sea. Full details of the Working Group including recommendations, membership and terms of reference were set out in the Working Group's report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chairman of the Working Group, Cllr Kevin Boram, attended the meeting in order to present the Group's findings and recommendations.

The Committee thanked the Working Group for its work whilst challenging the evidence that projects were not working and raised concerns that the recommendations could add an additional and unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to major projects.

Officers acknowledged that the Ferry Road enhancement scheme was an example of how not to run a project. The report offered a template for delivering effective project management through the provision of a useful 'pick list' that could be applied to future projects depending on their size, scale and the number of partners involved.

Members discussed the merits of the proposals in the context of them providing a list of suggestions, rather than a prescribed protocol for all future projects and the types of future projects they could be applied to. The Committee acknowledged that a lack of democratic support for the Ferry Road enhancement scheme, by a previous County Councillor, had significantly affected that specific project.

Officers advised that the recommendations put forward by the Working Group outlined the fundamentals of good project work. It was suggested that Members did not necessarily see this work on a project by project basis and that there were lots of examples of projects which were working well such as the Tidal Walls scheme.

The Committee supported the use of project plans, for all projects, which were appropriate to the size of the project. Members also acknowledged that Officers were doing a lot of this work already.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee

- thanked the Working Group for their report and requested that Officers ensure that an appropriate, validated toolkit was used for managing projects moving forwards;
- requested that a report be brought back to the Committee in December 2017, providing an update on projects undertaken in partnership with West Sussex County Council, outlining the methods of project management applied along with the lessons learned from any completed projects.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for this decision will be 5.00pm on 16 June 2017.