



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme update

Report by the Director for Digital and Resources

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on the work contained in the 2017/18 Work Programme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme is reviewed by the Committee at each meeting.
- 2.2 The Work Programme for 2017/18 was set by the Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2017 and has since been confirmed by both Councils in April 2017.
- 2.3 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 are initially considered by the Joint Chairpersons in accordance with the following criteria set out in the Procedure Rules:-
- (a) The Councils' Strategic objectives;
 - (b) The ability of the Committee to have influence and/or add value on the subject;
 - (c) The PAPER criteria; Public Interest (P), Ability to Change (A), Performance (P), Extent (E) and Replication (R)

3.0 Progress with the Work Programme for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18

- 3.1 Detailed progress with the approved 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/7AXUSG58/josc-work-programme-for-2017-18> or viewed in the Appendix attached to this report.
- 3.2 The Work Programme includes details of any changes to work and dates made since it was last reported to the Committee.

4.0 Proposals

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2017/18 and in accordance with the JOSCS Procedure Rules, to consider the proposals for an additional item for the Work Programme as set out in Appendix 2 to the report which relates to the Protection of Public buildings requested by Councillor Kevin Jenkins:-
- 4.2 This additional item for the Work Programme has been considered initially by the Joint Chairpersons and they have recommended that the matter should not be considered by the Committee as part of the Work Programme but relevant Officers and Executive Member be instructed to ensure that the incident does not happen again.

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 Paragraph 9.2 of the 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 Council. A report must be taken to full Council on an annual basis seeking Councils' approval of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the forthcoming year and any changes to the Work Programme should be reported to the Councils mid municipal year (October) for noting.

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 (1) That the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2017/18 be noted; and

(2) That the Committee consider whether or not to include the additional scrutiny request as part of the Work Programme and consider if it would like to consider any other items as part of the 2017/18 Work Programme.

Background Papers:

None.

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Schedule of other matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Matter considered. Issues included as part of the Work Programme are included based on their relevance to the Councils' strategic objectives.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 Matter considered and any relevant action plans referenced.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some issues contained in the Work Programme relate to sustainability issues.

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 community safety issues 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 but the issues being considered may involve some procurement work.

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

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18

<u>Date of meeting</u>	<u>Items for discussion</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
29 June 2017	Review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly update Review of the provision of solar panels on Council buildings	Director for Communities Director for Digital & Resources
27 July 2017	Joint Revenue Outturn report 2016/17 Adur & Worthing Play areas review Scrutiny Youth Engagement Working Group - Final report and recommendations Annual JOSC report for 2016/17	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer Director for Communities/Head of Environment Chairman of the Working Group Joint Chairmen of JOSC
21 September 2017	Outline Budget forecast 2017/18 to 2021/22 and Budget Strategy Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly updates Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive Annual interviews with Council Leaders	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer Director for Communities Chief Executive Director for Digital & Resources
19 October 2017	No items at present	
30 November 2017	Worthing Outline 5 year forecast and savings proposals - Executive Member interviews Worthing Executive Member for Customer Services re Worthing Theatres budgets and outcomes of JOSC Working Group	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer Chairman of the JOSC Working Group

25 January 2018	Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly update	Director for Communities
22 March 2018	Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive Leader interviews Annual Work Programme 2018/19	Chief Executive Director for Digital & Resources Director for Digital & Resources

APPENDIX 2

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request

Issue - Protection of Public buildings - The role of the Councils in protecting public buildings. A recent Planning application that was rejected by Members has given rise to concern that as Council/s charged with looking after public buildings and especially public buildings that are listed or heritage buildings, there is insufficient knowledge, expertise or realisation amongst staff and heads of service, what their legal obligations are in respect of protecting those buildings and in advance compliance with relevant legislation, including the planning process.

This is even more pertinent as we now lease out some of our listed buildings to the South Downs Leisure Trust, but as landlord retain a responsibility for how 'our building/s' are developed or altered. The JOSC are therefore invited to consider a piece of work that reviews the internal management of such buildings, the internal process for ensuring that managers are aware of the legislation that they must comply with before embarking on development and what checks and measures are put in place by the Directors to ensure compliance, that ensures that the credibility of the Council/s is not brought into disrepute.

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

Request from - Councillor Kevin Jenkins

Public interest - The works undertaken attracted public concern direct and in local media, the public need to be assured that the Council/s are fulfilling their public duty correctly.

Ability to change - JOSC has a scrutiny ability to probe and ask questions of the officers, as it is within this group of staff that the process and effectiveness must rest. The JOSC is then able to make recommendations that may enact changes with council processes.

Performance - This suggested review topic is about the poor performance of the service in dealing with these issues and the outcomes from the review can help to improve the service to avoid the issue occurring again.

Extent - This issue is fundamental to the credibility of the Councils and the failure by a service to comply with the legislation has directly impacted on another service being able to proactively deliver its work.

Replication - This issue has not been considered previously. There have been simple in house conversations but this is about the whole Councils and the various service departments that may manage such structures or locations.

Expected Outcomes - Either reassurance that a robust process exists, or changes that deliver such a robust process and avoids repetition of the current unacceptable situation.

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?

This proposed review does not link directly to any of the strategic objectives in 'Platforms for our Places', however, Listed Buildings form a very important part of the national heritage and owners of such buildings should see themselves as caretakers of that heritage.

How could this review be undertaken?

By report to JOSC or JOSC could set up a small Working Group to investigate the issues and report findings to JOSC/Planning Committees/Councils.

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

That the matter be referred back to Head of Service and relevant Executive Member as well as Planning Committee to advise that the request is noted but it is considered that the extent of the issue does not warrant an in depth Scrutiny review by JOSC.

The Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen would, however, like it noted that this issue had a potential for reputational damage for the Councils and would seek assurance that this isolated incident will not happen again.