



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
27 July 2017  
Agenda Item 10

Ward: N/A

## **Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2016/17**

### **Report by the Director for Digital and Resources**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 As part of good practice and a requirement in the Council's Constitution, the Councils are required to produce a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report for 2016/17 for approval by the Committee and thereafter by full Council.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee has once again undertaken a great deal of work during 2016/17 as part of the 'Holding to Account/Challenge' role. A summary of that work is contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report for 2016/17 which is attached as an appendix to this report. As well as being a requirement of the Constitution, it is good practice to produce an Annual report on the work of Overview and Scrutiny which can help publicise and promote the work undertaken amongst the local community and local partners.
- 2.2 Members of the public and/or local partners are able to make a scrutiny request using an online scrutiny form and this will encourage people to take part in the scrutiny process and the democratic process as well as helping the public influence decision making.

#### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 The draft Annual report is submitted to the Committee for its approval in accordance with the terms of the Council's constitution.
- 3.2 The final Annual report will be available from the Council's websites.

#### **4.0 Legal**

- 4.1 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.

- 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 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to produce an Annual report for approval by the Council in accordance the Council's constitution and good practice. The Council meetings in October will be required to receive the Annual report.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no known financial implications associated with this report.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the Committee approves the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report for 2016/17.**

## **Local Government Act 1972**

### **Background Papers:**

Agendas and minutes from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings during 2016/17.

### **Contact Officer:**

Mark Lowe  
Policy Officer  
Portland House,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex  
BN11 1HA  
Tel No: 01903 221009  
mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk

## **Schedule of Other Matters**

## **1.0 Council Priority**

- 1.1 Matter considered. Issues considered by the Committee are included in the Work Programme 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 considered by the Committee have had related sustainability issues.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

- 4.1 Matter considered. Some of the issues considered by the Committee may impact on equality issues.

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

- 5.1 Matter considered and community safety issues have been considered by the Committee as part of the Work Programme during 2016/17.

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

- 6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **7.0 Reputation**

- 7.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified. It is good practice for Councils to produce Annual reports on Overview and Scrutiny.

### **8.0 Consultations**

- 8.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **9.0 Risk Assessment**

- 9.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

- 10.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

- 11.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **12.0 Partnership Working**

- 12.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified. The Annual report is a joint report for both Councils.



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# Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2016/17



## **Message from the Chairmen**

In 2016/17 the Joint Committee has continued in its valuable role as the watchdog of both Councils, ensuring that the Joint Executives(Joint Strategic Committee) are scrutinised for the decisions made on behalf of the residents and to ensure that there is a greater transparency within the process.

The Joint Committee has played its part in scrutinising a number of issues, including:-

- Interviewing and 'holding to account' the Adur and Worthing Council Leaders and Executive Members to ensure that they are delivering on the Council's priorities; their decision-making on service provision is transparent and providing value for money for the benefit of Adur and Worthing residents. Executive Members are regularly invited to attend meetings of the Committee to answer questions on issues affecting issues within their remits.
- Looking back and reviewing the reasons why a sewage spill in 2012 had closed off Adur and Worthing beaches - Interviewing Southern Water, the Environment Agency and relevant Executive Members on this issue.
- Conducting an in-depth review of the reasons for a delay in implementing the proposed enhancement works to the Lower Beach Road car park/Ferry Road in Shoreham-by-Sea. The meeting was attended by over 100 local residents and resulted in work beginning on site shortly after the meeting following the scrutiny. As part of this the Committee also set up a Working Group to review the way that the Councils worked in partnership with West Sussex County Council on

major projects. Findings and recommendations from the Working Group were reported through to the Joint Strategic Committee.

- Carrying out detailed Scrutiny of Southern Rail levels of service and proposed ticket office closures in an effort to help bring an end to the rail dispute which was causing chaos and severe delays to local residents who use rail services. A public meeting was held and representatives from Southern Rail, User Groups and the RMT union attended with a series of recommendations being put to both sides.
- Conducting an in-depth review of local youth engagement which involved discussions with the local Youth Councils and other youth organisations/clubs in the areas. This scrutiny has resulted in further consideration of the issues by the Joint Executives (Joint Strategic Committee) and the setting up of a Joint Scrutiny Working Group with the Youth Councils which is currently investigating the issues concerning young people.
- Interviewing the Adur and Worthing Councils' Chief Executive on the progress made in delivering the commitments in the 'Surf's Up' Strategic vision for the Councils which had come to an end and also on the proposals set out in the new strategic vision 'Platforms for our Places'. This in-depth Scrutiny will continue during 2017/18 to enable the Committee to check on progress and delivery.
- Reviewing progress in the implementation of the Adur & Worthing Public Space Protection Orders which have been introduced recently to allow for the restriction and/or prohibition of certain activities in specified locations in the

communities. Regular monitoring of the Orders will continue throughout the year.

- Scrutinising the progress with the Worthing Local Plan and proposed spatial strategy and comments on this were forwarded to the Worthing Planning Committee and Joint Strategic Committee as part of the consultation process.

The Committee is keen to ensure that its working practices continue to be effective so as part of the ongoing review, revised Procedural Rules have been developed and agreed for the Committee which now form part of the Constitution. These Procedure Rules will assist the Committee in providing strong scrutiny, transparency and also ensure that all local decision makers are held to account for their decisions.



**Councillors Stephen Chipp and Roy Barraclough  
Joint Chairmen of the Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee in 2016/17**

## **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

The Local Government Act 2000 first introduced the requirement for every local authority to include provision for at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Subsequent amendments to the Act have further developed the role of Overview and Scrutiny within local authorities.

Although not a decision making body, effective Overview and Scrutiny has enormous potential to influence and inform decisions made by both the Councils and partner bodies connected with the areas.

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee can review and scrutinise any matters which affect the Councils, the areas or residents from those areas, in order to provide greater transparency and accountability in the delivery of local services.

**The following key roles have been identified as areas which Overview and Scrutiny should be concerned with in Adur and Worthing:-**



- **Representing the views and wishes of Adur and Worthing residents about the services which they receive;**
- **Holding the Joint Executives (Joint Strategic Committee) to account and reviewing the decisions made;**
- **Monitoring Council performance;**
- **Reviewing Policy;**
- **Developing Policy; and**
- **Scrutinising externally issues of public concern beyond the remit of the Councils.**

There is one Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee made up of sixteen Councillors (eight Adur and eight Worthing) representing wards across the areas. The Committee as a whole meets usually at least seven times a year and the meetings are open to the public.

Detailed procedure rules regarding the operation of overview and scrutiny can be found in the Council's Constitution at <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media,140002,en.pdf>

### **Membership of the Committee in 2016/17:**

Adur District Council – Councillors Stephen Chipp (Co-Chairman), Carol Albury, George Barton, Kevin Boram, Clive Burghard, James Butcher, Joss Loader (Co Vice-Chairman) and Robin Monk

Worthing Borough Council – Councillors Roy Barraclough (Co-Chairman), Keith Bickers (Co-Vice-Chairman), Nigel Morgan, Louise Murphy, Luke Proudfoot, Bob Smytherman, Jane Sim and Steven Waight

**Have your say...**

You can find out more about our work on the internet at <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/meetings-and-decisions/committees/joint/overview-and-scrutiny/> where you can look at the reports we have received, our recommendations and the minutes of our meetings.

Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council are committed to being more responsive to the way in which they provide services. They want more people to feel that they have the opportunity to influence matters that affect them. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee can look at these issues and the Committee would like to give more people the chance to contribute to its work.

## **Suggest a topic for scrutiny**

Each year the Joint Committee sets a Work Programme of issues that it would like to review. A copy of the Work Programme for 2017/18 is attached to this Annual report. The Joint Committee reviews its Work Programme regularly throughout the year to make sure that it is working on topics that it can make a major impact on. The Committee would like local residents and stakeholders to get more involved in the scrutiny process so if there is an issue or service which you think that Councillors should review, please make a 'scrutiny request' using the online Scrutiny request form which is accessible at

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/about-the-councils/scrutiny/>

The Committee will consider your request and when considering items for the Work Programme will be guided by the Council's Strategic Objectives, the ability of the Committee to have influence

and/or add value on the subject and the PAPER criteria (Public Interest (P), Ability to change (A), Performance (P), Extent (E) and Replication (R).

## **Come along to a meeting**

The Committee would also like more public engagement in its meetings and would encourage you to attend the public meetings which are held at least seven times a year at either the Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea or the Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing. You will also have the opportunity to ask a public question relating to Council Services at the start of the meeting.

**To find out more you can contact Mark Lowe, Policy Officer at Portland House, Richmond Road, Worthing on 01903 221009 or on [mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk)**

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

<b><u>Date of meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Items for discussion</u></b>	<b><u>Report Author</u></b>
29 June 2017	Review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly update	Director for Communities
	Review of the provision of solar panels on Council buildings	Director for Digital & Resources
27 July 2017	Joint Revenue Outturn report 2016/17	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer
	Outline Budget forecast 2017/18 to 2021/22 and Budget Strategy	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial

	Adur & Worthing Play areas review	Officer Director for Communities/Head of Environment
	Annual JOSC report for 2016/17	Joint Chairmen of JOSC
21 September 2017	Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly updates	Director for Communities
	Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive	Chief Executive
	Annual interviews with Council Leaders	Director for Digital & Resources
	Scrutiny Youth Engagement Working Group - Final report and recommendations	Chairman of the Working Group
19 October 2017	Council's role in protection of Public Buildings - Report from Working Group	Chairman of the Working Group
30 November 2017	Worthing Outline 5 year forecast and savings proposals - Executive Member interviews	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer
	Worthing Executive Member for Customer Services re Worthing Theatres budgets and outcomes of JOSC Working Group	Chairman of the JOSC Working Group
	Report on Major Projects working with West Sussex County Council	Director for the Economy
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	Chief Executive

	Leader interviews	Director for Digital & Resources
	Annual Work Programme 2018/19	Director for Digital & Resources