

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

Gordon Room, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing Town Hall

30 November 2017

Roy Barraclough (Chairman)
Keith Bickers(Vice Chairman)

Adur District Council:

Carol Albury
Les Alden
George Barton
*Kevin Boram
Ann Bridges
Stephen Chipp
Joss Loader
*Robin Monk

Worthing Borough Council:

*Sean McDonald
Nigel Morgan
Louise Murphy
*Luke Proudfoot
*Bob Smytherman
Steve Waight

*Absent

JOSC/17-18/30 Declarations of Interest/Substitutions

Councillor Thorpe declared her substitution for Councillor Smytherman

JOSC/17-18/31 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Committee held on 21 September 2017 be approved as the correct record and signed by the Chairman

JOSC/17-18/32 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public

JOSC/17-18/33 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

JOSC/17-18/34 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no items.

JOSC/17-18/35 Protection of Public Buildings - Report from Scrutiny Working Group

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which was sent to all Members, a copy of which was attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report before Members set out the findings and recommendations from the Working Group set up to investigate the Councils' role/responsibilities in the protection of Council owned public Listed Buildings. The Group had particular regard to incidents involving some unauthorised advertising on the Worthing Museum and Worthing Theatres Buildings which occurred earlier in 2017.

As Chair of the Working Group Councillor Louise Murphy introduced the report to the Committee outlined the recommendations therein. A Member asked how much asbestos was present in the Councils' public buildings and Cllr Murphy stated that she would find out and get back to the Member.

Recommendation: that the report and recommendations of the Working Group be adopted.

JOSC/17-18/36 Responses of the Executive to reports of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Before the Committee was a minute extract of the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee that took place on the 10 October 2017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The minute extract detailed the Executive's response to the Committee's review of Youth Engagement, Members were told that the Executive would receive a further report in January 2018.

Resolved: That the response of the Joint Strategic committee be noted.

JOSC/17-18/37 Outcomes from the Worthing Theatres Budget Working Group

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, 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 9. The report before members set out the findings and recommendations from the Theatres Budget Working Group set up by the Committee as part of its 2017/18 Work Programme.

The Chairman of the Worthing Theatres working group introduced the report to the Committee and set out the findings of the group. The Executive Member for Customer Services was at the meeting to answer questions.

A Member asked the following question of the Executive Member for Customer Services: 'The Budget Book 17/18 (page 278) shows a net public subsidy to

Theatres of £1,613,360 for the current year. What is the proposed Theatres subsidy for 2018/19?' The Executive Member said that the budget for the Theatres should not be labelled as a subsidy but as a departmental budget. Members were told that the proposed budget figures for 2018/19 were not yet available and would be presented as part of the budget papers coming before the Committee on the 25 January 2017. Members were told that the theatres generated significant income for the Town, each £1.00 spent generates £7.00 to the local economy.

A Member asked what the local multiplier of 1.6 referred to in terms of assessing the impact of the theatres on the local economy, there was also a request for further detail surrounding the income and expenditure of the theatres and was told that the information would be provided. Members were told that the 1.6 multiplier came out of a consultant's report and demonstrated the effect that the Theatres offer could have for the town.

A Member opined that the improved financial position of the Theatres correlated with an increase in the budget and that the financial picture was different to what was being presented to the Committee. The Chairman of the Working Group told Members that the Working Group had not been charged with looking at financial questions but that further financial information would be made available at the January meeting.

A Member from the Gallery asked a question and was told that an answer would be provided.

Resolved:that the report be noted

JOSC/17-18/38 Outline 5 year forecast and savings proposals

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, 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 10. The report before Members provided an overview of the continuing success of the 'sustainable Councils financial strategy', along with detail of proposals for 2018/19 that will deliver a balanced budget.

The Head of Financial Services introduced the report to the Committee and set out economic factors and challenges that the Councils were facing.

A Member asked a question of the Executive Member for the Environment. 'Para 6.1 of the Worthing Parking Review report states that current income generated by the car parks is £2.48 million (broadly in line with the 17/18 Budget p246). The surplus generated by the car parks (Budget Book 17/18) would therefore be in the region of £830,000. Have you considered using some of the surplus already generated by the car parks to fund the required investment?' The Executive Member told the Committee that a £2.7 Million capital investment over three years had been made, however there was the need for a modest increase in charges for required additional investment to bring Buckingham Road and High Street Car

Parks up to an excellent standard. A Member asked if the Executive Member could provide details of the sensitivity analysis that were considered before supporting proposed increases. The Executive Member told the Committee that the revised charges had been modelled based on 12 months of transactional data and assumptions had been built into the model to ensure the projected increase in income was realistic.

The Executive Member for the Economy was asked to explain how the proposed increase in car park charges was consistent with the Parking Strategy? The Executive Member told the Committee that a Parking Strategy had been commissioned and that the increase in investment would allow for £1 million pounds worth of investment.

The Executive Member for the Environment was asked if the reduction in income due to competition from funeral directors for Chapel services was offset by a proposed increase in cremation charges and What other options (other than just increasing fees) did the Executive Member consider to compete with the funeral directors for these services? Members were told that the service provided a high quality service in a highly competitive market, however it was important that the Councils continue to work closely in partnership with local funeral directors to carry on providing a high standard of service for the deceased and their bereaved families, and not view them only as competition. The service was actively investigating other commercial activities although due to the competitive nature of this service the Executive Member would share these developments as and when appropriate.

A Member from the Gallery asked a number of questions and was told that an answer would be provided.

Resolved:that the report be noted

JOSC/17-18/39 JOSC Work Programme 2017/18

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which was sent to all members, a copy of which was attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 11. The report updated the Committee on the work contained in the 2017/18 Work Programme.

Members discussed the Work Programme and Members involvement in working groups and meetings

Recommendation: That the meetings of Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council in December 2017 note the changes made to the Work Programme since it was agreed by both Councils in April 2017

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 7.32pm it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Chairman