



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Ward(s): N/A

Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme update - 2017/18

Report by the Director for Digital & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report updates the Committee on progress with the work contained in the 2017/18 Work Programme. The Committee are also requested to consider three Scrutiny review requests which the Committee have been requested to add to the Work Programme.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the progress in implementing the Work Programme for 2017/18 be noted;

2.2 That the Committee consider whether or not to add the three suggested Scrutiny reviews to the Work Programme, and also consider if any further issues are required to be added to the Work Programme.

3. Context

3.1 The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme is reviewed by the Committee at each meeting.

3.2 The Work Programme for 2017/18 was confirmed by both Councils in April 2017 and changes made to the Work Programme during 17/18 were also

reported to the Councils in December 2017. The Committee last reviewed the Work Programme at its meeting on 30 November 2017.

- 3.3 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 can be submitted on line via the Scrutiny review request form on the Councils' website at <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/about-the-councils/scrutiny/#are-you-concerned-about-local-issues>

These requests are then 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)

4.0 Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Detailed progress with the approved Work Programme can be accessed via the following link

<https://trello.com/b/7AXUSG58/josc-work-programme-for-2017-18> or viewed in the Appendix 1 attached to this report.

- 4.2 The Work Programme includes details of any changes to work and dates made since it was last reported to the Committee on 30 November 2017. JOSC is requested to review the current Work Programme status and consider if it would like to add any other issues to the Work Programme.

- 4.3 As part of this review, JOSC will need to consider if the three Scrutiny requests received since the last meeting of the Committee should be added to the Work Programme. The full assessments of each request are set out in the Appendix to this report but are summarised as:

- Request A - Request from Councillor Beccy Cooper for JOSC to scrutinise housing provision in the areas, particularly regarding the issues of affordable and social housing and homelessness; and
- Request B - Request from the Joint Strategic Committee that JOSC establish a Working Group to investigate the effectiveness of Council consultations and how to maximise responses to Council consultations; and
- Request C - Request from member of the public for JOSC to investigate play area refurbishment changes at the West Park play area in Worthing.

- 4.4 In accordance with the usual practice, the JOSC Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen

have been consulted on the proposed requests and their views are set out in the request templates at Appendix 2.

5.0 Engagement and Communication

5.1 The JOSC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen have reviewed the JOSC Work Programme and are broadly in agreement with the proposed timings and changes. The views of the Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen on the proposed review items are set out in the appendix 2 to this report.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report, however, some of the items to be scrutinised may have financial implications.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 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.

7.2 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).

7.3 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.

7.4 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 Councils. 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 approximately mid municipal year for noting.

Background Papers:

None

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12 January 2018

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. Some of the issues contained in the Work Programme could impact on the development of our places or the economic participation of our communities if implemented.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Some of the issues to be discussed in the Work programme will impact on the Communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

At the February 2018 meeting of the Committee, the Police and Crime Commissioner will address the Committee on issues within her areas of responsibility and these do relate directly to community safety issues.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no issues identified.

4. Governance

Matter considered and no issues identified.

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>	<u>Executive Members invited</u>	<u>Change to original Work Programme?</u>
29 June 2017	Review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly update	Director for Communities	Executive Members for Environment & Wellbeing	No
	Review of the provision of solar panels on Council buildings	Director for Digital & Resources	Executive Members for Environment	No
27 July 2017	Joint Revenue Outturn report 2016/17	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer	Executive Members for Resources	No
	Outline Budget forecast 2017/18 to 2021/22 and Budget Strategy	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer	II	No
	Adur & Worthing Play areas review	Director for Communities/Head of Environment	Executive Members for Environment	No
	Annual JOSC report for 2016/17	Joint Chairmen of JOSC	N/A	No
21 September 2017	Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly updates	Director for Communities	Executive Members for Environment & Wellbeing	No
	Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive	Chief Executive	Adur & Worthing Executive Members	No
	Annual interviews with Council Leaders	Director for Digital & Resources	Leaders	No
	Scrutiny Youth Engagement Working Group - Final report and recommendations	Chairman of the Working Group	Executive Members for Wellbeing	Yes - Item moved back from the 27 July to allow further consultation with Youth Council
30 November	Worthing Outline 5 year forecast and savings	Director for Digital &	Worthing Executive	No

2017	<p>proposals - Executive Member interviews</p> <p>Worthing Executive Member for Customer Services re Worthing Theatres budgets and outcomes of JOSC Working Group</p> <p>Protection of Public Buildings - Response from Working Group and recommendations</p>	<p>Resources/Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>Chairman of the JOSC Working Group</p> <p>Chairman of the Working Group</p>	<p>Worthing Executive Member for Customer Services</p> <p>Executive Members for Regeneration, Worthing Leader and Adur Executive Member for Resources</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes. Item added to the Work Programme following assessment of the request from Worthing Councillor Kevin Jenkins. Originally scheduled for October 2017.</p>
25 January 2018	<p>Worthing Budget Estimates 18/19 and setting of 2018/19 Council Tax</p> <p>Effectiveness of local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report from House of Commons Communities & Local Government Select Committee</p>	<p>Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>Director for Digital & Resources</p>	<p>Worthing Executive</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>New meeting added.</p> <p>Yes</p>
15 February 2018	<p>Interview with Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and local District Commander</p> <p>Air Quality Management briefing report</p> <p>Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Quarterly update</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Director for Communities</p> <p>Director for Communities</p>	<p>Executive Members for Wellbeing</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Executive Members for Wellbeing and Environment</p>	<p>Yes. Item added at the request of the Committee following assessment.</p> <p>Yes. Item added to the Work Programme following assessment of public request</p> <p>Yes. Originally scheduled for January 2018.</p>
22 March 2018	<p>Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive</p> <p>Leader interviews</p> <p>Report on the review of the potential loss of public car parking spaces in Worthing given the closure of Teville Gate and future development planned at Grafton Car Park.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Director for Digital & Resources</p> <p>Director for the Economy</p>	<p>Adur and Worthing Executives</p> <p>Leaders</p> <p>Worthing Executive Members for the Environment and Regeneration</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes. Item added at the request of the Committee.</p>

	Annual Work Programme 2018/19	Director for Digital & Resources	N/A	No
Date to be confirmed	<p>Possible attendance by Southern Water and the Environment Agency re sewage spill incident - July 2017</p> <p>Major Projects being undertaken in partnership with West Sussex County Council - Update</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Director for the Economy</p>	<p>Executive Members for Environment & Wellbeing</p> <p>Executive Members for Regeneration and relevant West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Yes. Item added at the request of the Committee.</p> <p>Yes. Item added at the request of the Committee. Request to view the report on this issue which will be presented to JSC.</p>

APPENDIX 2

REQUEST A

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request received from Councillor Beccy Cooper

Issue - I would like the committee to look at housing provision in the area, particularly at the issues of affordable and social housing and homelessness. As the Worthing Local Plan is currently being revised, it would be good to include this as part of the housing scrutiny to look at strategic direction for the area.

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

Request from - Worthing Borough Councillor

Public interest -

A lack of housing is one of the main issues facing the area currently. Increasing numbers of people in Worthing and Adur are having difficulty with rising rent costs and house prices.

Ability to change -

The housing directorate is situated in the Council. The Committee can bring about positive change by deep diving into the housing issues that the area currently face, holding members to account on key decisions, scrutinising Council plans and policy on addressing housing and bringing in external agencies to better understand how they are able to contribute to solutions.

Performance -

The review is about the housing crisis that this area, like many areas nationwide, are currently facing. It is intended to highlight this issue, bringing to public attention and the attention of members alike areas that need greater attention and more innovative approaches.

Extent - This issue affects the entire area. Increasing numbers of people in Worthing and Adur are unable to afford a home here. Putting this on the scrutiny agenda is an ideal opportunity to look strategically at the major issues and to deep dive into more specific areas within the remit.

Replication - Housing is a major issue for the Council and many external agencies. However, the role of scrutiny is unique and is not currently replicated elsewhere.

Expected Outcomes -

By submitting this request, it is my hope that the Scrutiny committee will recognise this as a key issue for Worthing and Adur and will allocate considerable resources to understand, scrutinise and highlight strategic direction, policy development and current processes. From this work, I would anticipate that the Scrutiny committee will be able to make suggestions for improvements

in this key area that will strengthen the Council's approach to housing and allow external agencies to work more productively.

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?

Platform 2 of the Strategic vision - 'Platforms for Our Places' (Our Social Economies) sets out to tackle the challenge of insufficient supply of housing.

Within this Platform is a commitment to provide and enable homes across Adur and Worthing. A number of activities and projects will also be required to help achieve this commitment :-

2.2.1 Lead the development of an Adur and Worthing Housing Strategy, establishing a clear vision and plan of work for our places

2.2.2 Lead on the development of an Adur & Worthing Homelessness Strategy

2.2.3 Develop clear and consistent housing need policies and pathways for local communities

2.2.4 Complete the assessment of the requirements of our Adur Homes stock and develop a plan to manage those assets

2.2.5 Lead on, influence and commission new housing supply (all tenures) that meet the needs of communities

2.2.6 Cost effectively improve the supply of emergency and temporary social and affordable housing

2.2.7 Support the delivery of digital solutions to support Adur Homes residents and help them to self manage elements of the housing process.

The Adur & Worthing Economic Strategy also has a vision for the provision of housing and an aim for the Councils to take the lead to ensure mixed developments including housing provision on key sites press ahead rapidly.

The Community Homelessness Strategy sets out plans by the Councils to tackle the increase in homelessness.

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, the Executives and other stakeholders connected with this issue.

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

JOSC Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen recognise that this is an important issue and recommend that JOSC should receive a report on the ongoing work of officers to tackle the housing issues early in the new municipal year and at that point JOSC can consider an appropriate course of action to review the issue and consider if any further investigative work is required by JOSC or recommendations need to be made to JSC to take any further action.

REQUEST B

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request received from Joint Strategic Committee

Issue - The effectiveness of consultations conducted by the Councils. How to maximise responses to Council consultations.

Request from - Adur & Worthing Joint Strategic Committee

Public Interest -

Public Consultations are processes affecting the public by which the public's views on matters affecting them are sought. The main goals in public consultation are in improving the efficiency, transparency and public involvement in large-scale projects or policies which the Councils are considering to help shape future services and improve decision making. It is important for the Council's to seek feedback and understand the views of the public.

Ability to change

The Councils have various techniques in place when undertaking public consultations to gain as much meaningful feedback from the public as possible.

The Committee can consider if changes are required to these approaches by undertaking a review of the processes and recommending any areas for change which are considered appropriate.

Performance

The review is about aiming to maximise the responses to public consultations and follows a very low level of public response to the recent consultation undertaken on Council Tax support schemes for 2018/19.

Extent

This issue affects all public consultations which the Councils undertake. This review has the potential to scrutinise the current processes to assess if changes need to be made.

Replication

Public consultation is very important to the Councils and has not been reviewed elsewhere at this stage.

Expected outcomes

The aim of this review will be to investigate the current practices which the Councils use in undertaking public consultations and to make recommendations for changes to the public consultation processes if changes are required in order to increase the responses to public consultations.

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?

Platform 2 - Our Social Economies, sets out a commitment for the Councils to better understand its communities.

Within this commitment are activities and projects which can help achieve this commitment. 2.3.3 sets out to review and update our approach to community participation and engagement across all Directorates, 2.3.4 sets out to agree core principles of engagement and community involvement in design and delivery of the Council's work.

How could this review be undertaken?

By report to JOSC or JOSC could set up a small Working Group which JSC has suggested to investigate the issues and report findings to JOSC, the Executives and other stakeholders connected with this issue.

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

That a JOSC Working Group be set up to review this issue comprising 2 Adur and 2 Worthing Members.

REQUEST C

<p><u>Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Request received from local resident</u></p> <p>Issue - Unnecessary scrapping of playground equipment at West Park play area.</p>
<p><u>Request from</u> - Member of the public.</p>
<p><u>Public Interest</u> - This facility is used by the majority of young people and parents in the area.</p>
<p><u>Ability to change</u> - Transparency. Despite numerous requests over an extended timescale, it is claimed that no credible evidence has been offered to support the need to scrap this playground's swings, slides and iPlayer - all popular items with the local community. The authority has full powers over this.</p>
<p><u>Performance</u> - It is claimed that the refurbishment of this play area has become much delayed and very few of the community's consultation choices are being met.</p>
<p><u>Extent</u> - There is £75,000 involved. This is the only traditional play park south of the railway between Victoria Park and Goring serving a huge conurbation, probably the last investment in a generation given grant settlements, a public facility for all, free of charge, needing a great offering to get kids off their screens and active, so yes, this is important.</p>
<p><u>Replication</u> - No. The resident has had ongoing discussions trying to get information about what the Council is proposing to remove and to get to the bottom of the iPlayer issue which it is claimed has only suffered average maintenance issues and relatively low cost. It is claimed that information has been withheld and attempts at meaningful conversation prevented.</p>
<p><u>Expected outcomes</u> - Council's actions to be aligned to the consultation results i.e..the community's wishes, meaningful balanced conversations with the Friends Of West Worthing Park - and most importantly, for the funding to be spent wisely.</p>
<p><u>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?</u></p> <p>The provision of good Playground and Parks facilities links with Platform 3 from 'Platforms for our Places' Strategic vision - Stewarding our natural resources - Commitment to use our natural environment to promote good health and wellbeing in our places.</p>
<p><u>How could this review be undertaken?</u></p> <p>Report to JOSc on this issue or JOSc Working Group to review this matter.</p>
<p><u>Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen</u></p> <p>This is a safety matter and the advice is that the play area be removed on safety grounds. Funds have been sourced to refurbish and new equipment installed in Summer 2018. We do not consider this is a matter for review at this stage having already scrutinised the play area review procedures in place in July 2017.</p>