

# PLATFORMS FOR OUR PLACES

## Progress on Commitments Report

### January - June 2017

PLATFORMS  
FOR OUR  
PLACES

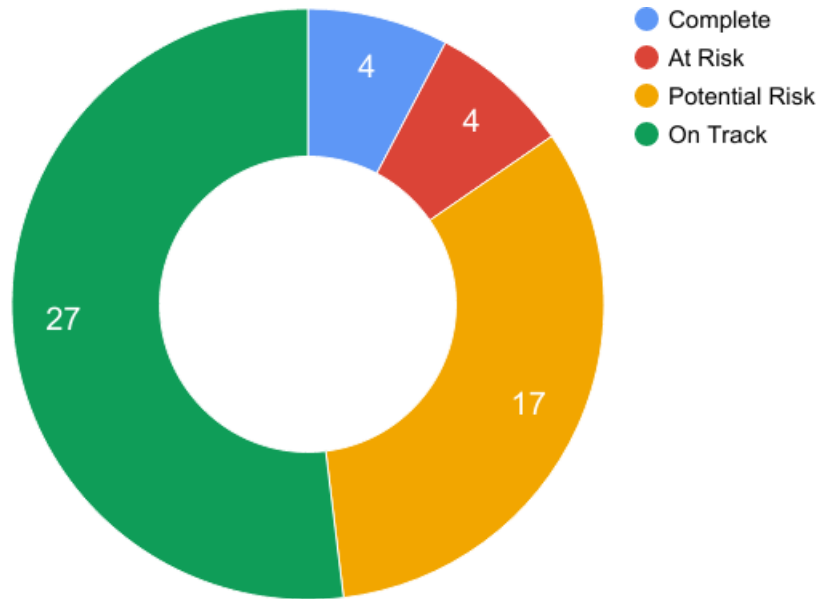


ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS





## Commitment Progress Tracker



## Overview

A number of significant commitments have been achieved in first six months. We secured £15.9m of Local Growth Funding for our major sites; attracted additional funding to demolish the former Adur Civic Centre; began a 'design and build' programme to deliver a major new office development on the site of the former Adur Civic Centre car park; and approved the Aquarena planning application. Work has begun in earnest on an Economic Strategy and a programme of improvement for the town centre and seafront. A new visitor economy agenda has been landed for Worthing, and the Adur Local Plan is currently out for re-consultation following the inspector's suggested changes.

## Platform Highlights

### 1. **Secure Public Monies to leverage Private Sector**

**Investment:** A series of successful bids for Local Growth Funding (LGF) to pursue the development of a number of major projects in Adur and Worthing.

**2. Gigabit broadband for Adur and Worthing:** Working with West Sussex County Council we are making good progress, engaging Department of Culture, Media and Sport, with an open procurement planned in the Autumn to connect Adur & Worthing Councils sites in Phase I.

**3. Aquarena:** The first major Investment Prospectus Scheme to secure planning permission. Sale of land to the developer should be completed by July 2017, with work anticipated to start on site shortly thereafter.

**4. Adur Civic Centre:** Demolition of the former Civic Centre was completed before the end of May 2017 and a pre-let agreement signed for 24,000sq ft of office space on the former car park site.

**5. Establish an upto date planning framework for Adur and Worthing:** Examination in Public into the Adur Local Plan held in February 2017. Preliminary findings of the Inspector issued on May 2017 and overall strategy for balancing employment and housing growth and protecting the environment supported. The issues and options stages for a new Worthing Local Plan has been completed on time.

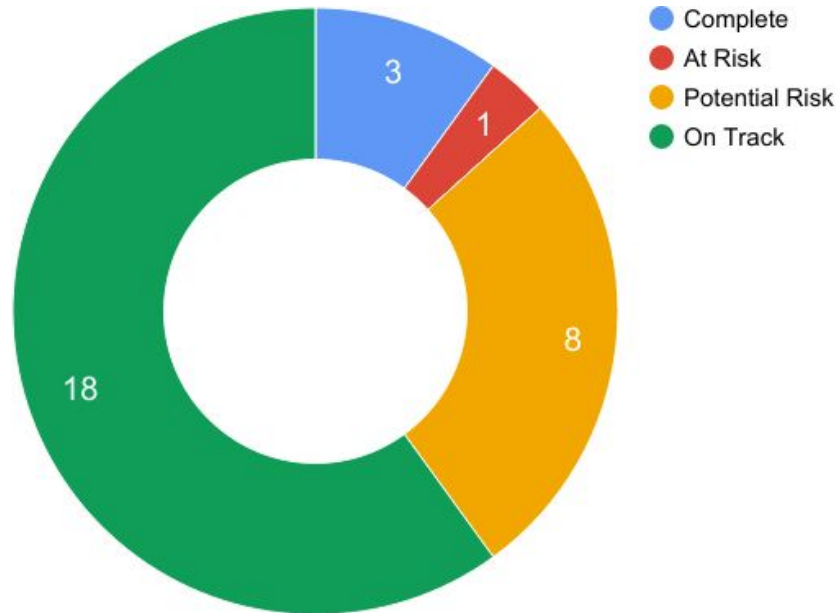
## Challenges

1. **Securing the redevelopment of major projects:** Finding innovative ways to unlocking sites purchased for inflated sums by third parties at price that make the scheme's viability chanelleging.
2. **Bringing forward those sites with viability and infrastructure challenges.**

## Future Focus

1. **Completing an Economic Strategy for Adur and Worthing:**  
A clear direction and set of priorities for our future, supported by our partners.
2. **Seafront Investment Plan:** Establishing a shared vision for the seafront that improves access to the seafront, incorporates proposals to enhance the promenade and seafront infrastructure.
3. **New Visitor Branding and Website:** Development of contemporary visitor branding in partnership with industry and stakeholders to re-position Worthing and inspire and attract repeat and new visitors.
4. **Improving our regulatory work:** Improving systems and services to speed up business and taxi license applications and working with businesses to improve our services.
5. **Major Projects:** Developing options for taking a more pro-active role in securing development that will help realise the economic potential of our places.

## Commitment Progress Tracker



### Overview

The delivery of commitments are on track with strong progress in all areas. We have invested significant time and energy into understanding the detailed housing needs of our residents, whether they be tenants in Adur or those seeking assistance with Homelessness in Worthing. In June we will launch a digital package for housing register applicants. Our ‘Wise Regulation Framework’ supports local residents and businesses and is now embedded in how we work and strong partnerships have been established to deliver our Wellbeing & Public Health Delivery Plans. On a daily basis our Environment teams supports and develops our social economies through their successful community engagement programme.

## Platform Highlights

- Housing:** Completion of the Adur & Worthing Housing Strategy ‘Housing Matters’. We have moved forward our customer facing digital solutions across both Housing Solutions and Adur Homes.
- Environment:** The Green Space Partnership continues to grow with 43 groups across the District and Borough now part of this approach. In partnership with the The Conversation Volunteers we have had a successful Growing Community bid of £650,000 in to support engagement and activities with communities in our most deprived areas.
- Communities:** Created our new Intelligence Framework, using data and insights about A&W communities to understand needs and assets, enabling us to target our front line resources to where they are most needed.
- Systems Leadership:** Working with the Local Government Leadership Centre and public and voluntary sector leaders and young people themselves, we are developing a “What young people need to thrive” programme.

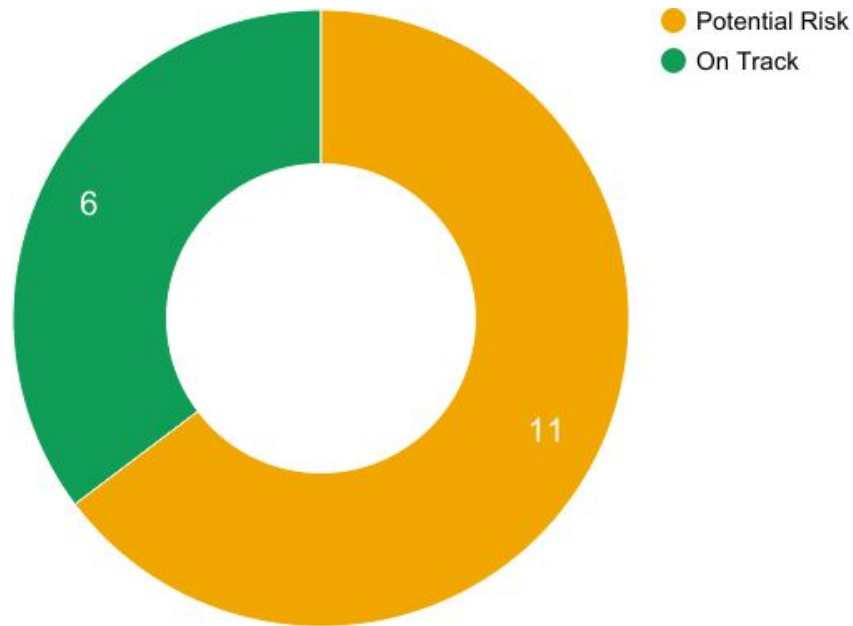
## Challenges

- Homelessness:** Continuing high levels of demand by those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness continues to impact on delivering our commitments.
- Partner Capacity:** The challenging environment for statutory and non-statutory partners critical to delivering some of our ambitions, puts at risk some of commitments.

## Future Focuses

1. **Community Leadership & Engagement:** redefining and reshaping our offer to our communities and enabling proactive community leadership
2. Increasing **our supply of homes and temporary accommodation.**
3. Exploring **new models of delivering housing in Adur.**
4. **Delivering key Environmental projects:** Brooklands lake; Conservation Volunteers; Maintaining and Improving our beaches and parks.

## Commitment Progress Tracker



## Overview

- Our strategic approach to sustainability is now stronger, with a dedicated network of officers to drive improvements, including an internal training programme
- Our work to lead communities, includes co-chairing the Green Space Partnership and launching a new network for sustainability professionals.
- We are delivering tangible improvements through projects like Housing of Multiple Occupation recycling, solar panel installation on Portland House, Improvements Brooklands and the HiyaCar pilot.

## Platform Highlights

1. **Renewable Energy:** Solar panels installed on Portland House, saving over 4 tonnes of CO2 to date and approx £500 on energy bills per month. Options for Shoreham Centre are being assessed.
2. **Sustainability Network:** Attended by representatives from Worthing Homes, Southern Water, Future Proof and Low Carbon Europe among others to explore collaboration opportunities.
3. **Sharing Economy - Council Fleet:** Launching of “HiyaCar” pilot in June 2017, a staff car sharing scheme for business travel.
4. **Green Spaces:** £88,000 refurbishment of Hamble Recreation Ground play area, including a seed planting event.
5. **Recycling:** National Award for increasing recycling in Households of Multiple Occupation, with County and District partners.

## Challenges

1. **Brooklands Lake:** A significant project involving dredging and environmental improvements involving ongoing consultation work with the community.

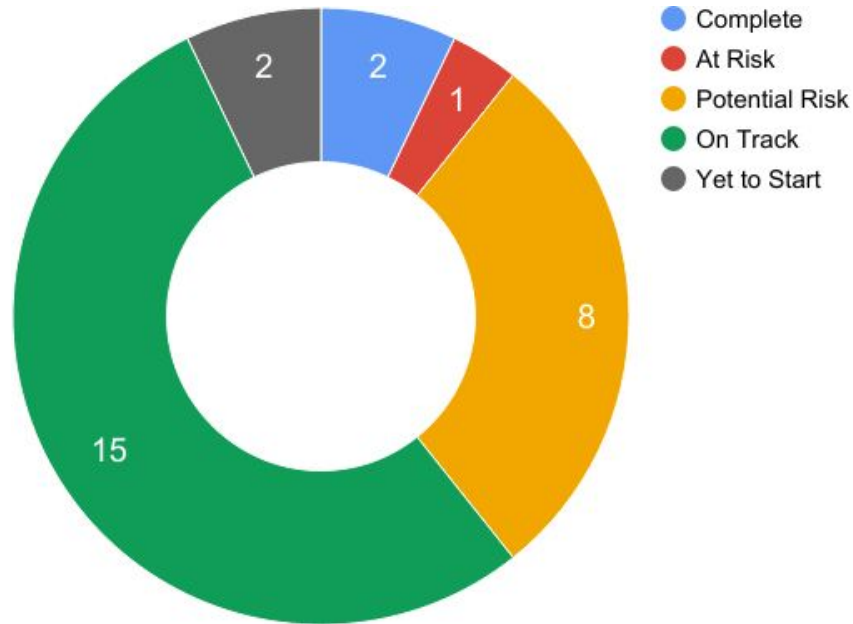
## Future Focus

1. **Highdown 50:** Commemorating Worthing Borough Council’s custodianship of a botanic collection of national significance.
2. **Carbon Reduction Plan:** To drive energy efficiency, carbon reduction and financial savings.
3. **Transport:** Development of further business and community travel options, including potential Hiycar expansion to local companies.
4. **Waste Reduction:** Programme to reduce waste production through a customer behaviour change programme.





## Commitment Progress Tracker



## Overview

The Councils and its officers are taking steps to improve the customer experience and efficiency of the Councils' services. This includes employment of technology and digital services to improve service access and reduce waiting times, and a £4 million investment in our Waste Service fleet. We are also transforming our services in response to emerging priorities and opportunities. Returning Adur Revenue and Benefits in-house, and restructuring our Place and Investment teams are designed to better respond to the needs of our communities and places. We have also developed service redesign principles and are using data to better adapt respond to residents' needs.

## Platform Highlights

- Commercial Income:** Continued strong performance overall for our income generating services.
- Delivering new revenue streams:** Acquisitions made through the Strategic Property Investment Fund anticipated to deliver additional revenue of £543,000 against a target of £420,000.
- Digital solutions:** Improved capacity and delivery from the digital programme, with Housing, Planning and Building Control among the services undertaking digital transformation this year.
- Call Centre Performance:** Average wait times for call have dropped to under two minutes from eight minutes in Sept 2016.
- Financial Position - Culture:** Strong programming, including a record year for Panto and the introduction of a cultural exemption on ticket sales VAT, all helped to deliver a significant year end improvement. At 2016/17 year end overspread was reduced from £120,000 to £25,000.
- Engaging Communications:** A new strategy focused on messages that are sharper, clearer that are reaching target audiences.

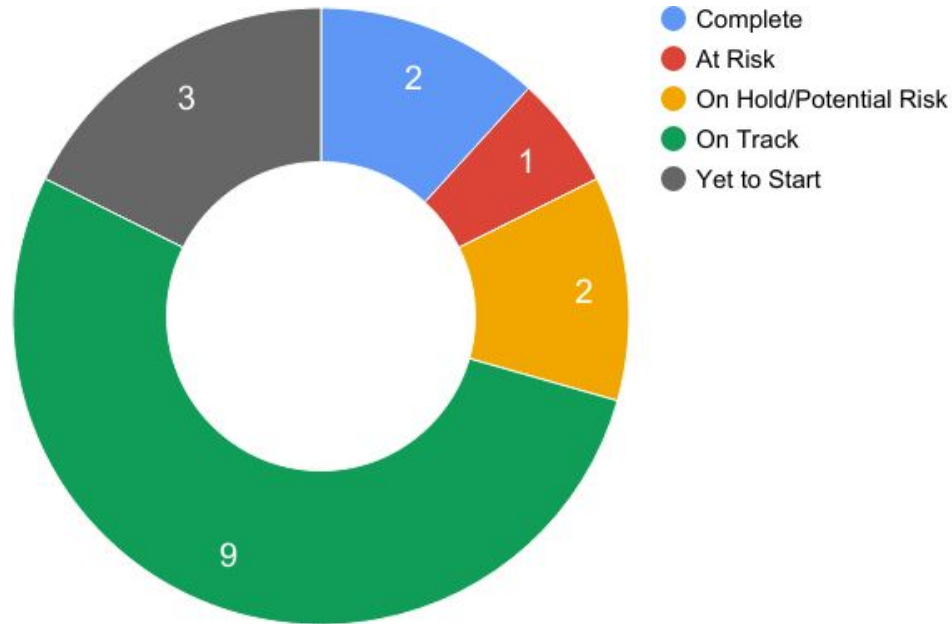
## Challenges

- Partner Capacity:** Services are encountering partners with constraints due to availability of resources, competing commitments or the alignment of priorities with our partners, in particular to our public and not-for-profit partners.
- Population increase:** Increasing property numbers in Adur and Worthing requires a review of services, for example waste collection rounds.

## Future Focus

1. **Commercialisation:** Ensuring we maximise income generation through growing and extending chargeable services, as well as creating new business opportunities.
2. **People Strategy:** Identifying actions to support our staff and improve the organisation to be the best we can.
3. **Adur Revenue & Benefits:** Providing a joint in-house revenue and benefits service on track for implementation by October 2017.

## Commitment Tracker



## Overview

The Councils continue to build strong relationships with our community and place leaders to make our places to thrive. We have seen particular successes through developing networks and partnership to assist in stewarding our natural resources, and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. Place Leaders through their partnerships and networks are taking a more prominent role in our places. The Councils will continue to work with place leaders to build their capacity, and improve our understanding of our places through better data and engagement.

## Platform Highlights

- 1. Growth Deal:** Signing an agreement with West Sussex County Council to secure funding and work effectively to deliver projects to support the economic development of our places.
- 2. Greater Brighton Economic Board:** The respective chairmanships of the Adur and Worthing Councils Leaders over the past two years has seen the Economic Board establish itself as a legitimate voice for the Greater Brighton City Region.
- 3. Forging Partnerships for our Places:** Building our relationships with the National Health Service and newly established Greater Brighton Metropolitan College to identify place-based solutions for our Communities.
- 4. Place based health and wellbeing:** Over 260 people were supported through our social prescribing programme 'Going Local' delivered with the Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group and the West Sussex County Council.

## Challenges

- 1. Partner Capacity:** Services are encountering partners with constraints due to availability of resources, competing commitments or the alignment of priorities with our partners, in particular to our public and not-for-profit partners.

## Future Focuses

- 1. Developing our community leadership and engagement:** Creating principles and tools with our partners to redefine and

reshape our offer to communities and enable proactive community leadership.

- 2. Engaging Place Leaders:** Reviewing the Local Strategic Partnership to ensure it remains an effective forum for places leaders to engage and discuss key issues affecting Adur and Worthing.
- 3. Developing our understanding of our Places:** Drawing together data to better understanding of the economic, social and environmental factors that make up Adur and Worthing.