

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee of
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

QEII Room, Shoreham Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea

Thursday 31 January 2019

Councillor Neil Parkin (Chairman)

Adur District Council:

Councillor Angus Dunn
Councillor Brian Boggis
Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Carson Albury
Councillor David Simmons

Worthing Borough Council:

Councillor Daniel Humphreys
*Councillor Kevin Jenkins
Councillor Edward Crouch
Councillor Heather Mercer
Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
*Councillor Val Turner

*Absent

Other Members Present

Adur District Council:- Councillors Les Alden and George Barton

JSC/082/18-19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

JSC/083/18-19 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 8 January 2019, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

JSC/084/18-19 Public Question Time

There were no questions received from the public.

JSC/085/18-19 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no items raised under urgency provisions.

JSC/086/18-19 Platforms for our Places Progress Report (July to December 2018)

Before the Committee was a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 5.

The report provided the Joint Strategic Committee with an update on the Councils' progress in delivering the ambitions and commitments set out in *Platforms for our Places* for the period July to December 2018, and highlighted areas of strategic importance.

All of the commitments adopted by both Councils originally in January 2017 (and then refreshed in July 2018) were progressing. One was complete, 72% of activities were on track (green) and 27% were at potential risk (amber).

The report provided an opportunity for JSC to report to both Full Councils and Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on progress.

The Committee noted that the 140 or so commitments were not everything the Councils do, as whilst progressing the platforms agenda, the Councils continued to provide a full portfolio of universal services to the communities they served.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following strategic themes:-

- Housing (supply and demand);
- Out town centres;
- Mobilising resources behind the agenda;
- Dealing with uncertainties; and
- Looking to the future.

Members welcomed the update on progress made and the challenges experienced.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

1. noted the progress made and challenges experienced in the implementation of *Platforms for our Places* over the period July to December 2018;
2. requested a further update report in July 2019 detailing progress over the next 6 month period; and
3. agreed to refer this report to Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for this decision will be 5.00pm on 12 February 2019.

JSC/087/18-19 Final Revenue Budget Estimates for 2019/20

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 6.

The report was the final budget report of the year and the culmination of the annual budgeting exercise, which asked members to consider:

- the final revenue estimates for 2019/20 including any adjustments arising from settlement; and
- an updated outline 5-year forecast; and

The budgets reflected the decisions taken by members to date in relation to agreed savings proposals and any committed growth.

Members were also asked to consider the proposals to invest in services outlined in Appendix 2, which were also included in the individual Councils budget reports.

The Committee noted that the budget was analysed by Executive member portfolio. In addition, the draft estimates for 2019/20 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (except in relation to pension cost adjustments that did not impact either on the Budget Requirement or the Council Tax Requirement).

The respective Adur and Worthing 2019/20 Estimates and Council Tax setting reports were due to be considered by the Worthing Executive on 4 February 2019 and the Adur Executive on 5 February 2019. Both the estimates for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council included their respective share of the cost of the Joint Strategic Committee.

It was noted that updated copies of appendices 2 and 3 to the report had been circulated electronically and hard copies were tabled at the meeting.

The Committee sought assurance that the additional senior planning officer post was required. Officers informed the Committee that the larger planning applications placed greater demands on the planning service and the calibre of individual was important reputationally. It was noted that increased fees would help to subsidise the post.

The proposed grant funding to support culture and arts development in the local community and to assist in unlocking Arts Council grant funding was discussed.

Members requested that additional information regarding the Arts Council funding and any associated guarantees, be provided at the Adur Executive meeting.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (a) considered and approved the proposals to invest in services which related to Joint Services outlined in Appendix 2;
- (b) agreed to the proposed 2019/20 budget detailed in Appendix 3 subject to the inclusion of the approved proposals to invest in services.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for these decisions will be 5.00pm on 12 February 2019.

JSC/088/18-19 Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 7.

The report asked Members to approve and adopt the contents of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 to 2021/22 for Adur and Worthing Councils, as required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Due to its technical nature, a Member sought clarification in relation to the format of report and the level of detail used for the Members Treasury Management Briefing. Officers advised that the format of the report was prescribed and that the scope of the Members Treasury Management Briefing had been revised following feedback from Members.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

1. approved and adopted the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 to 2021/22, incorporating the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and Minimum Revenue Provision Statements.
2. recommended the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and Minimum Revenue Provision Statements for approval by Worthing Council at its meeting on 26 February 2019, and by Adur Council at its meeting on 28 February 2019.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for decision (1) will be 5.00pm on 12 February 2019.

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council, decision (2).

JSC/089/18-19 Council Tax Support Schemes for 2019/20

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 8.

The report included details of the costs of the Council Tax Support schemes and an analysis of the responses that were received to public consultations that were conducted during November & December 2018 in respect of options for the schemes for 2019/20.

The Committee was asked to recommend, to the respective Councils, the Council Tax Support Schemes for 2019/20.

Members discussed the low number of responses received to the consultations and the need to educate residents on what Council Tax was being spent on. Officers advised that a leaflet was being designed to accompany the Council Tax bills.

The Committee also suggested to government that this process only be undertaken in future when changes to the scheme were being proposed.

Resolved,

That the Joint Strategic Committee

(i) noted the content of the report;

(ii) recommended to Adur District Council that

1. The Council Tax Support scheme for Adur District Council in respect of working age customers for 2019/20 should be based upon the scheme for 2018/19 with no restrictions;
2. No other changes should be made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit.
3. A further public consultation should be conducted during the summer of 2019 to inform the decision in respect of the scheme to be implemented for 2020/21.

(iii) recommended to Worthing Borough Council that:

1. The Council Tax Support scheme for Worthing Borough Council in respect of working age customers for 2019/20 should be based upon the scheme for 2018/19 with
 - a. the £5.00 weekly restriction retained; and
 - b. the discretionary budget to support those in severe financial difficulties retained.
2. No other changes should be made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit.
3. A further public consultation should be conducted during the summer of 2019 to inform the decision in respect of the scheme to be implemented in respect of 2020/21

Call In:

The call-in deadline for decision (i) will be 5.00pm on 12 February 2019.

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council, decisions (ii) and (iii).

**JSC/090/18-19 Investing in Worthing Town Centre - Action Plan for
Redevelopment of Grafton Car Park Worthing**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 9.

The report updated Members on work completed in respect of the Grafton site since the last report to the Joint Strategic Committee in November 2017.

The Committee was asked to consider and agree the next steps in the project to ensure development of the Grafton site and to provide approval for Officers to begin focussed engagement and negotiation with tenants and adjoining neighbours to achieve vacant possession of the Grafton site.

Members acknowledged the significant number of constraints associated with the site and sought assurances in relation to negotiations with residents. Officers advised that Officers would aim to work with all partners and neighbours in a respectful and appropriate way.

Resolved,

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

1. noted the headline summary of the CBRE Development Strategy Report;
2. noted the indicative timeline set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report and the work underway to resolve issues and progress the scheme;
3. note the continued collaboration with London and Continental Railways and exploration of a formal working relationship to jointly fund and develop the Grafton site;
4. noted that a further report would be submitted to the Joint Strategic Committee following the completion of the Vacant Possession Strategy setting out the precise details of achieving vacant possession of the site.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for the decisions will be 5.00pm on 12 February 2019.

** Councillors Crouch, Mercer and Sparkes left the meeting at 7.30pm in accordance with the Joint Committee Agreement.*

JSC/091/18-19 New Flood Defence for Shoreham Town Centre at Sussex Yacht Club

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 10.

The report updated Members on progress with the development of flood defences at Sussex Yacht Club and associated funding. It was noted that the anticipated funding from the Environment Agency had fallen from £1.2m to £600k.

The report also sought agreement for a preferred way forward on the purchase of land and funding of the flood defence barrier. Members were informed that the preferred option was outlined in paragraph 5.3 - Option 3.

The Committee discussed the importance of the scheme and how it related to the wider Tidal Walls Scheme. Consideration was also given to the sustainable transport strategy and the provision of land for a proposed cycle path.

Members requested an update briefing from officers prior to the 22 March 2019.

Decision:-

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

1. resolved that Option 3 in paragraph 5.3 be agreed as the preferred way forward: authorising the Director for Economy, to purchase, on behalf of Adur District Council, the land (edged in red on the attached plan) from Sussex Yacht Club for £3.365 million, using funding from Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership granted for that purpose, subject to Adur District Council approving recommendation 2.3;
2. requested a report back with an update on the project and to consider funding, procurement and contract issues relating to the flood defence wall within the next 12 months;
3. recommended to Adur District Council that:
 - i) the budget for the scheme be increased by £215,000 to accommodate a contingency sum for the coastal defence works;
 - ii) prudential borrowing of £778,070 be approved to part fund the coastal defence works, in the event that full funding for the flood defences was not secured from other sources, with the remainder of the funding being provided by the Environment Agency.

Call In:

The call-in deadline for decisions (1) and (2) will be 5.00pm on 12 February 2019.

There is no call-in for recommendations to Council, decision (3).

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 7.43pm, having commenced at 6.30pm.

Chairman