

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at the  
Town Hall Chapel Road Worthing on**

**20 February 2018**

The Mayor, Councillor Alex Harman  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Paul Baker

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Louise Murphy
*Councillor Antony Baker	Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Roy Barraclough	*Councillor Luke Proudfoot
Councillor Keith Bickers	*Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor Callum Buxton	Councillor Jane Sim
Councillor Rebecca Cooper	Councillor Bob Smytherman
Councillor Edward Crouch	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
*Councillor James Doyle	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Diane Guest	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Lionel Harman	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Joshua High	*Councillor Vicky Vaughan
Councillor Paul High	Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Paul Westover
Councillor Susan Jelliss	Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Mark Withers
Councillor Heather Mercer	*Councillor Tom Wye
Councillor Sean McDonald	Councillor Paul Yallop
Councillor Nigel Morgan	

\*=absent

**C/047/17-18 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ant Baker, Vaughan and Wye.

**C/048/17-18 Declarations of Interest**

The Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all Members who may have a discloseable pecuniary interest in relation to item 8, the setting of the Council Tax, in accordance with section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

Members were invited to make any other declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest, Councillors Atkins, P High, Smytherman, Sparkes, Waight, B Turner, McDonald and Barraclough declared interests as either a West Sussex Councillor or employee.

**C/049/17-18 Questions from the public**

The Mayor announced that there were 4 registered questions for the meeting.

### **Question 1 Ms Hawkins**

Ms Hawkins was unable to attend the meeting.

### **Question 2 Mr Saville to the Leader**

In October 2013 Councillor John Rogers proposed a motion that Worthing should promote cycling and that to do so it needed to create safer roads for cyclists to use. This was passed unanimously.

Much has happened since then and there has been a notable change in the demographic; despite the short time period. One consequence of this has been the huge increase in cyclists using pavements, particularly adolescent school children.

My question is to ask if cycling on the pavement has been the Council's answer to John Rogers motion that the town needed to create safer roads for cyclists or, if not, what the council has done, or is intending to do, in order to bring Adur and Worthing in line with other towns in the country with regard to safer roads for cyclists and, I should add, pedestrians?"

### **Response by the Leader**

- The Council is working closely with West Sussex County Council on developing a cycle strategy for the town and a number of improvement schemes are planned to provide cyclepaths in key locations.
- In line with the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy the County Council has published the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy (2016-26) which aims to increase the levels of cycling, reverse the decline in walking and improve safety.
- At the local level, the Adur & Worthing Walking & Cycling Action Group has recently been established. The key vision for this group is to create a place where walking and cycling becomes a safe and easy choice for moving around Adur and Worthing.

### **Question 3 From Mr Theodoridi to Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

Could the relevant executive member please remind me of the various costs of the introduction of the PSPOs back in 2016, and give an update on the number of prosecutions resulting from their implementation?

### **Response by Councillor Turner**

- When the PSPOs were introduced in 2016, officers' time was spent on their implementation.
- New signage for the PSPOs cost £400, existing signage was used for the Public Place Drinking PSPO.
- In the first 6 months in Worthing there were 22 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Dog Control. In the last quarter this has reduced to 4; 3 for dog fouling and 1 for a dog not on a lead.

In response to a supplementary question, the Executive Member explained that the Orders were made as powers under other legislation were about to expire.

#### **Question 4 from Ms Rennie to the Executive Member for the Environment**

Last week I undertook a survey of the beach between George V Avenue and Sea Lane. I walked 100 paces and encountered 13 piles of dog mess on the shingle. I was previously told that this is dealt with by the dog warden but no-one I questioned has ever seen him/her. And apparently there is only one in the whole of Worthing! What is the council's plan for tackling this problem effectively.

#### **Response by Councillor Guest**

- The Council is aware of issues of dog fouling and is proactive in tackling this problem. The Council employ one dog warden to cover Worthing and one for the Adur District, but they overlap where required geographically.
- The Dog Wardens carry out regular patrols of the District and Borough and together with the Council's Beach Office staff and Community Park Rangers are empowered to issue fixed penalty notices if they witness a dog fouling where the owner fails to pick up.
- The Dog Wardens together with other members of the Environmental Services team, are proactive in encouraging responsible dog ownership for example educating members of the public as to the impacts of dog mess on the wider community or encouraging participation in schemes such as the voluntary code of conduct for professional dog walkers.
- If a member of the public witnesses any dog related offence being committed or has any relevant information, they are encouraged to report this to the Council which can be dealt with confidentiality if required.

#### **Question 5 from Lynette Bickers to the Executive Member for Customer Services**

Given the recent high profile given by local and national media and press regarding homelessness and rough sleeping and the current very cold weather, can the Cabinet Member advise us of current levels of both homelessness and rough sleepers ?

#### **Response**

- In November 2017 the number of rough sleepers estimated to be in Worthing was 35, the actual count was 19
- Pre-2017 the number was based on street count figures, which is a snapshot taken on a single specific night. However In order to ensure we allocate appropriate resources and target them at those most in need, the council and our partner agencies took the decision to move to an intelligence-based estimate last year.
- During the recent cold weather, outreach and support workers from the council and other agencies have been in daily contact with many of our most vulnerable individuals and have worked proactively to ensure that all were accommodated at these times, in a variety of different settings.
- Attendance at the night shelters has been reduced this year. Last Friday places for 12 men and 2 women. Only 8 men and two woman attended. Take out meals were only 2. Normally 6-10

- Homelessness Forum which I chair which is a multiagency forum, identifying and developing strategies to address.

On a supplementary question the Executive Member updated on the progress with the Lyndhurst Road proposals.

There remained time in the 30 minutes allowed for public questions that had not been registered.

Mr Parker asked about the cuts to the dial-a-ride service which would lead to increased loneliness and isolation if users were no longer able to travel from their homes.

Councillor Crouch responded that the council needed to ensure value for money therefore it was prudent to re-tender for different services. The dial a ride service would be re-tendered by the Council to ensure that the service meet the needs of the users.

Mr Field questioned why the Council had replaced the Aquarena with a smaller swimming pool than the one it had replaced in Heene Road. The Leader responded saying that Splashpoint had a 25 m pool, childrens area diving facilities - user numbers showed that the residents of Worthing supported the facilities. On a supplementary about an extension to the pool, whilst the Leader stated that if demand and growth continued then at a point in the future consideration could be given to expanding.

#### **C/050/17-18 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 19 December 2017 be approved as a correct record and they be signed by the Mayor.

#### **C/051/17-18 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service**

The Mayor explained that during his time in Office he had spent time with various teams from across the Council, in the last month he had joined the kerbside deep cleaning crew and also the chief executive as they have gone about their daily work. It's been a fantastic opportunity to see and experience some of the great work that is done by council staff. He had also joined the neighbourhood prevention team and the response team with Sussex Police. It had been a fascinating few hours speaking with some of the people who help keep our borough safe. He thanked everybody who had made him welcome.

It was the first time that the Town Hall has had the honour to host a presentation of the Legion D'Honneur, the Mayor extended his thanks to all those involved in the organising and planning of the event. It was a very humbling and emotional day for all those present especially for the families of the 2 veterans who received their medals from the French Honorary Consul Capt. Francois Jean. Worthing is known for its acts of remembrance that we do so well and with civic pride!

The Mayor expressed the honour he had left to lead the commemorative service with his Chaplain at the Holocaust Memorial Tree on Saturday 27 January for the Holocaust Memorial Day.

On a personal note, the Mayor announced to those who didn't already know, that he and the Mayoress were very excited to be expecting their first child August.

On upcoming Mayoral Charity Events there were

- My Birthday Bash Event - Saturday 3 March 2018 at 6.30pm .
- Mayor's Charity Swim - Saturday 31 March 2018 at 3.30pm
- Charity Car Wash - Saturday 14 April 2018 - 9am -
- Glendale Theatre Arts Event - Sunday 22 April 2018 at 5.30pm

The Mayor encouraged those present to support the events.

No other announcements were made.

### **C/052/17-18 Items raised under the urgency provisions**

There were no items under the urgency provisions for Council.

### **C/053/17-18 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council**

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee and the Executive on 1 and 5 February respectively. Extracts of these minutes had been circulated and are attached to the minutes as items 7A and 7B.

#### **Joint Strategic Committee - 1 February 2018**

The Leader of the Council presented the recommendation on pages 5-6 circulated with the agenda, item 7A .

#### **Item A**

#### **Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21**

The Leader presented the recommendation of the Committee on 1 February to Council. The Joint Governance Committee identified that the Annual Statement should cover the capital investment in property as well as financial investments therefore the Statement was more comprehensive than previous Statements, new CIPFA and Treasury Codes underpinned these changes. A training session for Members on 19 June with the Council's treasury advisors had been arranged, further details would follow

Councillor Crouch seconded the proposal.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and MRP Statements be approved.

**Item B** the Overall budget estimates and recommendation from the Executive meeting on 5 February was taken with the next item.

## **C/054/17-18 Council Tax 2018/2019**

The Mayor introduced the item explaining that item B, the recommendation from the Executive would be considered as part of this discussion with the full proposed recommendation being contained in the green papers placed before Councillors in the Chamber. As required by the Regulations there would be a recorded vote on any amendments to the proposed budget together with the final vote.

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to address the Chamber.

In addressing the Chamber the Leader highlighted the progress over the last 12 months to deliver the 3 year strategy to make Worthing a better place to live, work and enjoy for residents and visitors.

The budget presented for approval supported a range of actions showing the administrations confidence in Worthing, a commitment to growth and delivery of quality services; underpinned by prudent financial management and measures to address the challenges faced in the next few years.

Underpinning the basics the administration were protecting services, maintaining parks and collecting rubbish. The capital programme would see £1.11m invested in parks and open spaces, including improvements to public conveniences. £1m was being invested in the waste and cleansing services together with a service redesign bringing the Environment and Waste and Cleansing services together.

The pressures on housing and homelessness felt by district and borough councils, particularly acute in the South East were mirrored in the Borough and a key concern of the Executive. The Worthing Local Plan would be seeking the views of the community on how the development of the Borough would be guided until 2033. A number of new homes had been approved but demand was greater than supply. Affordability of housing for rental or purchase was a continuing pressure on families in Worthing. £2M was in the budget to support local partners, in addition to the £10M loan agreed for Worthing Homes. Investment was also being made in temporary and emergency accommodation with £6M commitment for investment, working with Adur to maximise opportunities to meet the critical need. £2.61 investment was being made to support vulnerable residents in their homes.

The Leader mentioned the innovative track record of working in partnership to deliver services highlighting funding from the One Public Estate Fund to deliver a Primary and Community Health hub on the Town Hall car park, due to open in the Spring of 2021. The success of the Going Local programme was mentioned as was the sharing of leadership with the seconding of senior staff with health partners.

Looking to the digital future the Leader highlighted the opportunities presented by the Digital and Creative sector. Gigabit ultrafast broadband together with leading the national network programme using central government funding was highlighted. The next stage would be public wifi networks and a range of other digital solutions to improve services across the Council.

The Leader spoke on the investments in the local economy with the development of a seafront investment plan, the town's primary attraction for visitors, the Plan set out a clear and comprehensive vision for revitalising and renewing the Seafront. The budget

also contained a £1.3M investment in Worthing's heritage; Heritage Lottery Fund support for the redevelopment of the Worthing Museum and Gallery. Turning to the Worthing investment Prospectus the Leader identified progress on development supported by £6.6M of external funding - construction on the former Aquarena site, progress on Teville Gate, Public Realm work and the purchase of Union Place. The Grafton Car Park Site and the Stagecoach site each had complexities around redevelopment but the Executive was rising to the challenge.

In concluding his speech the Leader highlighted the exciting time for the people of Worthing, with the budget building on strong foundations to work together to create and build a sustainable future to show a dynamic coastal town of the 21st Century.

The proposal was seconded by the Executive Member for Digital and Resources, Councillor Crouch.

The Leader of the Lib Dem Group on the Council, Councillor Thorpe, rose to address Council, mentioning that the Group had continued to scrutinise the work of the Executive; applauding the work on Teville Gate, positive working with private landlords to reduce homelessness and seafront improvements. Mentioning reductions in budgets for services, she questioned the proposed budget for community transport.

There was praise for the commitment of officers for their daily work; how this had led to advances in community wellbeing with initiatives being delivered by volunteers without financial support. Mention was made of the phrase 'people have a choice' which was challenged with the continued austerity and cuts, those living with hardship, disability or health issues had fewer choices. Concern was expressed with the ongoing Theatres subsidy. The Housing service was commended.

The Council was urged to reconsider the Town's priorities and put those in need and support at the forefront of considerations. With the ongoing Theatres subsidy at £1.5M and services for groups like the Community Transport being cut, the Lib Dems were unable to support the budget as proposed.

A Lib Dem amendment was put forward:

The public has expressed a need for Safe Cycling and Community Transport including Dial a Ride, for people least able to use public transport – the Council holds £65,800 for sustainable transport initiatives – we propose this is increased by a third approximately to enable projects to proceed.

**Given the projected increases (£20 k) in textile recycling, courtesy of the work done by the Community Chest initiative for public grants –**

**We propose that the Council pledges match funding of the £20k to be allocated to the Sustainable Transport budget to enhance their budget to £85,800 for 2018/19.**

We propose this on the grounds that the additional £20 k required is less than the uncollectable council tax income of £25K and could be transferred from the Communications budget or the Theatres subsidy.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

There was discussion on the amendment, its wording and lack of notice for evaluation prior to discussion. Members mostly spoke against the amendment.

Following the Lib Dem right of reply the following was recorded:

**For (2)** : Councillors Smytherman and Thorpe

**Against (26)**: Councillors Atkins, Barraclough, Bickers, Buxton, Crouch, Guest, Lionel Harman, Joshua High, Paul High, Humphreys, Jelliss, Jenkins, McDonald, Mercer, Morgan, Murphy, Nolan, Proudfoot, Sim, Sparkes, Bryan Turner, Val Turner, Waight, Westover, Wills and Yallop

**Abstain (4)** : Councillors P Baker (as Deputy Mayor), Cooper, Alex Harman (as Mayor) and Withers.

The Leader of the UKIP Group on the Council, Councillor Withers addressed Council to support a number of the areas of investment mentioned by the Leader in his speech. He commented on the the challenge of the reducing RSG suggesting the opportunities for investment in the borough leading to income from property and the use of the local people as the resource for innovation leading to true community development. He supported the health and welfare programme and the cycling strategy, together with the Council investing in health trainers. He noted the continuing pressure on the Council budgets and the careful management of reserves.

Councillor Cooper addressed Council suggesting that the budget reflected the ongoing cuts to local authorities which was unprecedented. She highlighted a number of areas that were unacceptable - PCC increase, reduction in RSG, retention of business rates, increase in council tax to local residents. A suggestion was made that the local MPs should challenge central government on the unfairness of the system to prevent the systematic reduction in budgets which were not fair on the residents of Worthing.

Members in the Chamber rose to address the budget with broad support given by Councillors.

There was a challenge to the ongoing Theatres budget.

The Leader was given the right of reply.

**On a vote the following was recorded:**

**For (27)**: Councillors Atkins, Barraclough, Bickers, Buxton, Crouch, Guest, Lionel Harman, Joshua High, Paul High, Humphreys, Jelliss, Jenkins, McDonald, Mercer, Morgan, Murphy, Nolan, Proudfoot, Sim, Sparkes, Bryan Turner, Val Turner, Waight, Westover, Wills, Withers and Yallop

**Against (2)** : Councillors Smytherman and Thorpe

**Abstain (3)** : Councillors P Baker (as Deputy Mayor), Cooper and Alex Harman (as Mayor).



**Resolved that**

1. The Council noted that on 5 February 2018, the Executive calculated the Council Tax Base 2018/19 as **38,365.9** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)];
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2018/19 is **£8,874,030**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) **£81,622,430** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
  - (b) **£72,748,400** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) **£8,874,030** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R), in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
  - (d) **£231.30** being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
  - (e) **£0.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
  - (f) **£231.30** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
4. The Council noted that for the year 2018/19 the West Sussex County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council’s area as indicated in the table below:-

All of the Council's Area 2018/19	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Worthing Borough Council	154.20	179.90	205.60	231.30	282.70	334.10	385.50	462.60
West Sussex County Council Total as split below:	878.52	1,024.94	1,171.36	1,317.78	1,610.62	1,903.46	2,196.30	2,635.56
West Sussex Council – Core	830.18	968.54	1,106.91	1,245.27	1,522.00	1,798.72	2,075.45	2,490.54
West Sussex County Council – Adults Social Care element	48.34	56.40	64.45	72.51	88.62	104.74	120.85	145.02
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	110.61	129.04	147.48	165.91	202.78	239.65	276.52	331.82

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in table shown above, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
All of the Council's Area	1,143.33	1,333.88	1,524.44	1,714.99	2,096.10	2,477.21	2,858.32	3,429.98

### **C/055/17-18 Leader's Report on decisions taken by the Executive**

The Leader of the Council presented his report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Ordinary meeting of the Council; which were detailed in Item 9, on pages 11-18.

The Executive Member for Regeneration responded to a Member question on the progress to date with Stagecoach. Slower progress than expected had been made on this project. Stagecoach had appointed agents who were looking at the alternatives, including Decoy Farm.

### **C/056/17-18 Pay Policy Statement**

Council had before it the Pay Policy Statement as item 10 on pages 21 - 31. It was a statutory statement the Council was required to make and publish each year.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenkins seconded by Councillor Bickers.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that the Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 1 to the agenda be approved.

## **C/057/17-18 - Schedule of Meetings 2018/19**

Before the Council as item 11 was the schedule of meetings for the Council and other meetings; Council was invited to formally approve the dates for its meetings and note the proposed dates for the other committees.

It was proposed by Councillor Humphreys seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

On a vote For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 0

**Resolved** that the Schedule of Meetings for 2018/19 be approved.

## **C/057/17-18 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12**

The Mayor announced that the Proper Officer had received 14 questions from Members under CPR 12, which would be asked in accordance with the Rule, one supplementary question may be asked which must arise out of the original question or the reply. Questions will be asked in rotation around the Groups represented in the Chamber, there is 30 minutes allowed for questions. There are 5 rotations of speakers possible, at the end of 30 minutes the Mayor explained that he would extend the time to the end of the current rotation of speakers.

The Mayor announced that the following Councillors and their number of questions had been submitted:

Councillor Thorpe and Councillor Smytherman had submitted a question each.  
Councillor Withers 2 questions and Councillor Jelliss 1 question  
Councillor Cooper 4 questions and Councillor Murphy 2 questions

The order will be

First rotation:

Councillor Smytherman; Councillor Jelliss, Councillor Cooper Question 1, Councillor Murphy question 1

Second rotation

Councillor Thorpe; Councillor Withers, Councillor Cooper 2nd question, Councillor Murphy 2nd question

Third rotation

Councillor Withers, 2nd question, Councillor Cooper remaining questions

### **First Rotation:**

### **From Cllr Smytherman to the Executive Member for the Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment tell me what difference residents will notice when contacting the Council when faced with an infestation of Rats , Mice or other pests following the decision to move the Pest Control service to the cleansing department with a reduced budget?

### **Response by Councillor Guest:**

- The Pest Control service has been under the remit of the Waste and Cleansing service since July 2015. There has been no reduction in the budget implemented during that time to provide these statutory services.
- The Environment and Waste and Cleansing sections have recently been combined into one Service - Environmental Services. The Head of the new Service is presently working on a service redesign, ready for implementation this Spring/Summer. As part of this redesign, we will be reviewing how we deliver these services we provide to the community.
- I am not yet in a position to release the outcome of the service redesign as we have yet to complete the consultation process with the staff, but will be pleased to update you further, once the service redesign process and staff consultation has been completed.

### **Councillor Jelliss to Executive Member for the Environment**

There is an increasing awareness of the damage plastic is doing to our worldwide environment. Many towns have introduced schemes such as bottle recycling bins and free water top ups in bars and cafes so people can use reusable drinking vessels. Another innovation is the removal of plastic drinking straws and also throw away coffee cups.

With these ideas in mind what plans does the Council have to increase the recycling of plastic in our town centres and the reduction of its use in our bars and restaurants?

### **Response by Councillor Guest**

- The Council continues to support and promote locally with our business community national initiatives to reduce the volume of plastic finding its way into our waste streams.
- We provide as part of our commercial service a recycling service for businesses and are looking at ways of increasing the types of recycling materials we can collect. We are able to recycle certain coffee cups through the Viridor Contract WSCC manage.
- Town centre recycling bins have always been an issue in regard to contamination however we continue to look at ways of encouraging the public to recycle plastics and working with business for effective recycling.

### **Councillor Cooper to the Joint Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny**

Referring the Chair of Scrutiny to the recent CLG select committee report, would he nominate Worthing Borough Council as a pilot authority in the election of scrutiny chair by secret ballot (as described in the report) to show that this is a progressive Council, always willing to embrace change and be in the vanguard of this important area of Local Authority work?

## Response by Councillor Barraclough

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee has set up a Member Working Group to look at everything in the CLG report. I think that it would be premature for me to consider whether or not to nominate the Council at this stage until I have seen the results from the Working Group and the merits of such a proposal considered.

## Councillor Murphy to Executive Member for Customer Services

Can the Cabinet Member for Customer Services please outline what preparatory measures are being implemented to prepare for the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) in April 18?

## Response by Councillor Mercer

- The intent of the Homelessness Reduction Act (the Act) is laudable. The Council recognise the early identification of those at risk of homelessness is critical for prevention and sustainable management of support services. This is the approach that is already implemented
- However as Council we have to respond to the additional administrative burden and prepare staff, councillors and partners for the introduction so that we can best support those faced with homelessness:
  - **Providing training and developing awareness about the HRA**, such as:
    - delivering staff training, key workers have already received significant training, both in housing and revs and bens
    - developing my awareness by attending national conference, and
    - offering briefing and awareness sessions to elected members;
    - Duty of referral
  - **Introducing new processes to more effectively and efficiently respond to people's needs** - including:
    - introducing a new initial assessment form at Portland House, and
    - developing and trialing a HR Act assessment and personal housing plan process.
  - **Sharing information and working collaboratively with other councils and partners** - including:
    - joint working and visits across Brighton and Sussex Councils and authorities in the wider region,
    - working with the private and voluntary sectors and other councils to create additional temporary accommodation and identify further support and advice services.

## Second rotation:

## From Councillor Thorpe to the Leader

I trust that you would agree with us that the Safety of the Public is our duty of care and therefore we have a duty also to report back to the public about issues which concern them.

With this in mind, can you tell us what has the Council done with respect to the Motion on Cycle lanes and safety issues unanimously agreed by the Council in 2013 – we know about the success of the first two phases of the promenade cycle route but when will the final two be completed since Sea Place [Eirene Road 106](#) monies were allocated for purpose - has this issue been included in any reprofiling of the Town and when are we to expect a report on the improvement of cycling in Worthing in line with Government expectations

### **Response by The Leader**

- I understand that the funding for this infrastructure sits with West Sussex County Council, this was raised so that John Rogers would have backing for taking forward matters with the County Council.
- As Leader I have actively been working with officers and members of the community to look at how we can improve cycling infrastructure and safety for cyclists.
- S106 funding from the Eirene Road development is being held by WSCC for a cyclepath from the end of the Promenade to Sea Lane. A cycleway here was included in the WSCC application for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund second tranche although only 50% of the funding requested was secured and further funding is required for this project to proceed
- In 2017, Adur & Worthing Councils created an Arun & Worthing Walking & Cycling Action Group, of which the Worthing Cycle Forum (WCF) is a stakeholder.
- Already progress is being made to create the necessary Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP). We expect that this work will be done by September this year.

### **Councillor Withers to the Executive Member for Regeneration**

Have we heard news of any more progress on Mosaic redeveloping the Teville Gate site?

### **Response by Councillor Jenkins**

- Officers are in detailed discussions with the architects and various other Consultants who are preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- A design review of the scheme has been undertaken and WSCC are in detailed discussions with WSCC regarding parking provision and the impact of the development on key junctions around the site.

### **Councillor Cooper to the Executive Member for Regeneration**

Councillor Cooper withdrew her question as it was similar to the previous question from Councillor Withers.

### **From Councillor Murphy to the Executive Member for Digital and Resources**

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources please explain what safeguards there are in the budget to protect against unexpected and unplanned events with particular reference to Housing & Homelessness.

### **Response by Councillor Crouch:**

- It is the duty of any responsible Local authority to consider potential risks that exist within the system, be it financial or economic uncertainty or particular demands on service.
- The Council's reserves are in place to protect the Council against unexpected financial events. The Council has £1.9m of available reserves and has no active plans to draw down on those reserves in the next year.
- By setting the Council Tax at 2.96%, the Council will generate a small contingency budget of £40k to help mitigate against the risks.
- In addition, the *Homelessness Reduction Act* is expected to place increased pressure on demand for temporary and emergency housing, and associated services.
- Within the budget, the Council is investing a further £222,000, this not only supports the provision of affordable housing but includes additional staff needed to meet demands of the new *Homelessness Reduction Act*. Government funding of £48,000 to help support the roll-out of the Act.

### **Third rotation:**

#### **Councillor Withers to the Executive Member for Customer Services**

Is the Lyndhurst Rd housing provision planned to deal fully with the homelessness problem or do we need further strategies that have been used elsewhere e.g. using containers, old buses to fill the need?

### **Response by Councillor Mercer:**

- The new scheme at Lyndhurst Road will have a positive impact on homelessness but clearly cannot address all of the need in the borough.
- Officers and members are continually researching and looking into possible alternatives, which includes modular build systems. We continue to review all options to increase the supply of leased temporary accommodation and longer term solutions, such as supporting the conversion of a Worthing Homes property into flats for local residents.
- Whilst there are some good examples of using containers, the costs involved in providing services, insulation etc are often far higher than you would expect compared to more traditional or modular solutions.
- These strategies need to be accompanied by a constant supply of additional rented permanent homes which households do not need to move on from.

#### **Councillor Cooper to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

In light of the high level of cuts to the Community Safety Partnership across Adur and Worthing, what does the Executive Member propose to do to ensure that these cuts do not affect provision of our front line services in this area?

## **Response by Councillor Val Turner**

- The Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership are preparing a robust response back to the PCC to highlight their concerns about the method used to calculate the funding as well as other discrepancies.
- I cannot give assurance that this will not affect our front line services in this area. The effect will not be imminent as the PCC has confirmed funding at the same level for the next year.
- We are currently carrying out an impact assessment to plan for the proposed cuts.

## **Councillor Cooper to the Executive Member for the Environment**

Our Environmental Services team are doing a fantastic job in waste management, but there remains progress to be made in our recycling rates. Notwithstanding the fact that Worthing has lower levels of green waste to contribute to its rates, how does the Executive Member propose that we increase our recycling rates in the foreseeable future?

## **Response**

- Worthing in fact continues to grow its green waste service and is still seeing a year on year increase in tonnages.

## **C/058/17-18 Motions on Notice**

Before Council was a report from the Proper Officer as item 13, attached to these minutes, containing a Motion on Notice from Councillor Cooper. Councillor Smytherman confirmed he was seconding the Motion.

In addressing Council on her motion, Councillor Cooper mentioned the benefits of cycling for short journeys that would improve and develop Worthing as an attractive place to be. Air pollution would be reduced leading to safer areas increasing the wellbeing of the residents and visitors to the area. The motion called for a clear commitment from the Council and strategic planning to enhance cycling in the new local plan, in all the Town would be enhanced and the residents healthier. The Motion also called on the WSCC to take action by use of Section 106 monies

Members in the Chamber supported parts of the the Motion, but felt that the discussion had expanded upon the Motion before them. The Leader proposed that the Motion be forwarded to the Joint Strategic Committee for determination. Councillor Jenkins seconded the proposal by the Leader.

Councillor Cooper summed up the debate

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 2

**Resolved** that the Motion be sent to the Joint Strategic Committee for determination

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor