



**Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council**

**A Decisions Taken by Individual Executive Members**

Listed below is a summary of decisions taken by the individual Executive Members since the despatch of the agenda for the last ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the Executive Members and Portfolios, Reports and Decisions webpage <http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/meetings-and-decisions/committees/worthing/cabinet-member-decisions/>

**Leader**

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**Executive Member for Regeneration**

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**Executive Member for Digital and Resources**

W/RES/004/17-18 Irrecoverable Debts

W/RES/005/17-18 Irrecoverable Debts - Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates

JAW/015/17-18 Decision to enter into Works Contract for Demolition of Teville Gate

**Executive Member for Customer Services**

JAW/016/17-18 Programme of works to HRA properties to comply with Landlord Compliance Requirements

**Executive Member for the Environment**

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**Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

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## **B. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 6 March 2018**

*Items related to Adur District Council are not reproduced on this agenda*

Full details can be found: [www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/your-council/](http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/your-council/)

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:

### **JSC/085/17-18 3rd Quarter Capital Investment Programme & Projects Monitoring 2017/18**

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 5.

The report updated the Joint Strategic Committee on the progress made on the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programmes for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council. The programmes included schemes which supported the delivery of services by the Joint Strategic Committee.

A Councillor queried why the '*summary of the progress of all schemes in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme*' was available on the intranet but hadn't been included with the report. Officers advised that this would be shared electronically in future.

Highlighting the delay to car park improvements at the Riverside (Lower Beach) Car Park resulting from the Coast Protection Tidal Walls Scheme, a member asked if the £50,000 compensation to the contractor should be paid by the Environment Agency rather than Adur District Council. Officers advised that there had been discussions with the Environment Agency, who had agreed in principle, to provide a refund for the delays caused to the car park project.

#### **Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- (a) With respect to the Capital Investment Programme of Adur District Council  
(not included here)
- (b) With respect to the Capital Investment Programme of Worthing Borough Council
  - 2.1 noted the reprofiling and likely phasing of the Worthing Borough Council capital schemes.
  - 2.2 approved the replacements of 14 town centre CCTVs funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the

- amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include this scheme.
- 2.3 approved the purchase of 4 vans for the delivery of the new public convenience cleaning contract funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include this scheme.
  - 2.4 approved the purchase of vibration safety equipment for Parks employees at a cost of £7,300 funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include this scheme.
  - 2.5 approved the replacement of the Town Hall fire alarms at a cost of £25,000 funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme, and the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include this scheme.
  - 2.6 noted the estimated overspend of £100,000 on the removal of the asbestos from the Town Hall roof space funded from underspends in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme.
  - 2.7 agreed the amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to include the Environment Agency Grant of £7,442.50 for the Adur Beach Management Plan.

### **JSC/086/17-18      3rd Quarter Revenue Budget Monitoring 2017/18**

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 updated the Joint Strategic Committee with the latest expenditure and income projections for each Council in the current financial year 2017/18, compared to the Revenue Budget approved by both Councils on the 23 February 2017 (Adur District Council) and 21 February 2017 (Worthing Borough Council).

The Committee noted the projected outturn positions as at quarter 3 which were underspends of £14,000 in Adur District Council and £46,100 in Worthing Borough Council. This was lower than anticipated in quarter 2 when underspends of £176,000 and £117,000 were being forecast in Adur and Worthing respectively.

The areas that had contributed to the net movement were highlighted in the report and appendix 4(b) and included; External borrowing costs, investment income, Minimum Revenue Provision, Homelessness and income from Environmental Services, Development Management, Building Control, and property investments. Income and expenditure would continue to be monitored against budget.

Whilst the 'spend to date' would be the position as at the 31 December 2017, the forecast position would reflect the latest information available as at 31 January 2018 to ensure an up-to-date forecast was presented.

A Member highlighted the vacancy saving target outlined in paragraph 4.11 and queried how many posts were vacant and the impact this was having on capacity. Officers advised that the vacancy provision was based on approximately 3% of the salary budget, which although a large figure, was a small percentage. Provision was based on the natural recruitment lag the Councils had when a post became vacant, it may take up to 3 months to fill it.

### **Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee noted the report and projected outturn position for the Joint, Adur and Worthing Revenue Budgets and proposed use of reserves.

### **JSC/087/17-18      Fairer Funding Review**

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.

Funding allocations to Local Government as outlined in the local government finance settlement were based on an assessment of individual council's relative needs and resources. The current allocations were based on formulas which were introduced over 10 years ago and which had not been updated since the introduction of the 50% business rate retention system in 2013/14. Consequently the allocations were now significantly out of date.

In the intervening time, changes to demographic pressures had impacted on the cost of delivery of services, particularly those services aimed at older persons. The Government announced a review last year to address concerns about the fairness of the local government funding allocations in recognition of the fact that the allocation of funding no longer reflected current demography and cost pressures.

The funding allocations not only influenced the amount of Revenue Support Grant that the Councils received, but also the amount of business rate income that could be retained via the Business Rate Retention Scheme (BRSS).

The report outlined the proposed response of the technical consultation on the fairer funding review (FFR). The consultation focused specifically on potential approaches that had been identified to measure the relative needs of local authorities. The consultation was released on the 19 December 2017 as part of provisional settlement and was due to close on the 12 March 2018.

A Member suggested the following:-

- the response to question 8 could have included visitor numbers to Worthing;
- the response to question 18B could have made reference to the cost of housing, building land and the shortage of both; and

- the consultation response should include a general comment about the unfairness of the funding review with the Councils lobbying for a special safety net with transitional provisions and equalisation.

Officers advised that the inclusion of visitor numbers had been considered, however, these generally benefited cities rather than districts because of the inclusion of commuters. In regards to the key cost drivers, the Committee were advised that the relationship between local housing allowance and the local housing market was the most important. This was illustrated by the higher cost pressures in Worthing resulting from the relatively low housing allowance in comparison to high market rents. In addition, Officers advised that it was highly likely that there would be some sort of transition arrangement and two further consultations were due on this matter. One of these would inevitably look at transition arrangements for moving from one funding system to another and would provide a better place to start to lobby for what the Councils would like to see.

### **Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee approved the draft consultation response detailed in Appendix 1 and delegated any final amendments to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources.

### **JSC/088/17-18 Brighton Mainline Alliance - supporting our Regional Infrastructure properties**

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 8.

The Coast to Capital LEP area, which runs from South London to Brighton and across the coast to Chichester, needed significant long-term rail investment to support a growing regional economy and maintain its competitive advantage, protecting the economic potential of the region and the contribution made to the wider economy.

Network Rail had identified the Brighton Mainline (BML) as the top priority for investment in the region and had proposed upgrades that included enhancement to the Windmill Bridge Junction, just outside East Croydon Station, and a major redevelopment of the station itself.

The Windmill Bridge Junction scheme would deliver a significant increase in regional rail capacity. Unlocking the bottleneck at Windmill Bridge Junction would enhance connectivity, capacity and resilience, and drive both growth and productivity throughout the region. Greatly improving links to London and international connectivity.

Coast to Capital LEP was leading a regional campaign to target Government investment in the rail infrastructure in Croydon, specifically targeting a Government commitment to the detail of the project at Budget 2019. The campaign, called the Brighton Mainline

Alliance, had strong cross-party support and was backed by regional businesses and business organisations. Included within these was the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

The scheme was costly, complex and of national significance, and Government had recently commissioned further work to develop the business case. Funding could be taken for granted, with many other regions in the UK proposing their own railway schemes for development. A joined up commitment to the development of the region through local authority and business voices, via the BMA, would encourage the Government to support economic growth in the Coast to Capital area.

Members expressed their support for the proposals acknowledging that other infrastructure, including the A27, needed improvement too.

### **Resolved,**

That the Joint Strategic Committee:-

- endorsed Adur & Worthing Councils adding their support to the Brighton Mainline Alliance in their advocacy for vital investment to infrastructure through the Windmill Junction Scheme;
- noted there were no resources required in the Councils' support of the Brighton Mainline Alliance.

### **JSC/089/17-18      Worthing Crematorium Improvements**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities and 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 9.

The report sought approval for the virement of underspends from this year's Capital investment programme to the scheme for improvements to Worthing Crematorium.

Following consultation with the Head of Environment and Crematorium staff the original remit was revised to take into account the future needs of the service. A revised estimate was subsequently carried out by external consultants also taking into account out of hours working, which has indicated a shortfall of £144,500 within the current approved budget.

Members expressed their support for the proposals.

### **Decision,**

The Joint Strategic Committee approved the virement of £144,500 from the underspends in the current 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme.

### **C. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 10 April 2018**

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The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:

***Decisions from this Joint Strategic Committee will be added to this document when the minutes have been published and it will be re-circulated prior to the Council meeting.***

### **D. Urgent Decisions taken by the Executive**

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended)

The following is reported to Council:

Nil

Councillor Daniel Humphreys  
Leader of the Council

### **Local Government Act 1972 Background papers**

Reports and Record of decisions of various are available on the Council's web site [www.adur-worthing.gov.uk](http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk) or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports contain exempt information and not fully published on the websites.