



## Extract from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 21 June 2018

### JOSC/17-18/64 JOSC Annual Report 2018/19

#### Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the draft Annual report for the Committee covering the 2017/18 Municipal year in accordance with the terms of the Council's constitution.

#### Summary of Discussion

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, a copy of which was sent to all Members, a copy of which was attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report before Members presented the annual report for the Committee's work during 2017/18.

A Member asked the Chairman the following question *There have been numerous Executive decisions made in 2017/18, but there are no recorded challenges to any of these decisions. Could the Chair(s) please explain why this is and whether this means that Scrutiny agrees with all Executive decisions?* The Adur Chairman told the Committee that he hadn't felt the need to challenge any Executive decisions. Every single Member for the Council had the ability to call-in any decision by the Executive and there had been one call-in which did not meet the criteria and he would not answer for all Councillors across Adur and Worthing. The Chair of Worthing concurred with the statement. As a supplementary the following question was asked *In light of the fact that no Executive decisions have been called-in could the Chairs please highlight measurable successes to show how the Executive have been held to account by JOSC.* The Chairman detailed work that had been taken in the previous year including Scrutiny of the Budget and Youth Engagement. The Committee discussed the matter and Scrutiny of the budget was highlighted as a good example of the Executive being held to account.

A Member asked the following question *How do the Chairs think that Scrutiny could be improved in the coming year?* The Chair told the Committee that by having a Committed Committee membership that did not use the Committee as a political platform and who added value to the work of the Committee. The Committee were blessed to have a few Members who added an awful lot of value and it was fair to say in the past there were Members who had not added value to the Committee. A

Scrutiny Committee was only as good as the people who sat on the Committee. Having active Members would improve the scrutiny process. As a supplementary the Chair was asked *Are there any ways in which members could become more adept at Scrutiny?* The Chair stated that the Committee needed to use member's experience and expertise and for Committee Members to come properly prepared for a meeting.

The Committee discussed the criteria for call-in and were given advice about the call-in process and it was asked that unsuccessful call-in requests appear on future committee agenda if legally and constitutionally possible.

A Member commented that the effectiveness of an overview and scrutiny committee should not be judged on its use of call-in rather the real role of the committee was to assess how well the executive member decisions panned out in practice. The Committee discussed call-in rules further and a proposal was put to recommend that the Joint Governance Committee review the call-in criteria. The proposal was seconded but not carried by vote.

### **Resolution from Committee**

**Resolved:** that the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee annual report for 2017/18 be approved;

**Recommended:** that the that the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee annual report for 2017/18 be recommended for approved to the full council meetings in July 2018.

(Link to the report on the website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.149562.en.pdf>)