

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

30 October 2018

The Mayor, Councillor Paul Baker
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hazel Thorpe

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Heather Mercer
Councillor Antony Baker	Councillor Nigel Morgan
Councillor Roy Barraclough	*Councillor Richard Mulholland
Councillor Mike Barrett	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Keith Bickers	*Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor Beccy Cooper	Councillor Jane Sim
Councillor Edward Crouch	Councillor Bob Smytherman
*Councillor Jim Deen	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor Alex Harman	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Karen Harman	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Lionel Harman	Councillor Nicola Waight
Councillor Joshua High	Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Paul High	Councillor Paul Westover
Councillor Margaret Howard	Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Mark Withers
Councillor Charles James	Councillor Tom Wye
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Paul Yallop
Councillor Sean McDonald	

*=absent

C/021/18-19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Deen, Richard Mulholland and Clive Roberts.

C/022/18-19 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to make any declarations of interest on items on the agenda, none were made at this point; however, during the meeting the following interests were declared:-

Councillor Roy Barraclough declared a personal interest during consideration of item 6 as an employee of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillors Louise Murphy and Steve Wills declared personal interests in Item 10 as Non Executive Directors of Worthing Homes.

Councillor Bob Smytherman declared a personal interest in Item 11 as a member of Coastal West Sussex Mind.

Councillor Steve Waight declared a personal interest during consideration of Item 12 as a member of West Sussex County Council.

C/023/18-19 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 17 July 2018 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Mayor.

C/024/18-19 Questions from the public

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

Ms Bickers asked a question in relation to recent reports in the National Press, regarding the challenges with the roll out of Universal Credit and how this was going in Worthing.

The Executive Members for Customer Services and Health & Wellbeing advised that the Council had been working closely with a wide range of agencies to support those most in need. In particular, the Councils had developed very close relationships with the Local Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), based at Worthing Job Centre.

Ms Bickers asked a supplementary question regarding the impact of negative press comments and the effect these had on claimants.

The Executive Member for Customer Services replied that she was not aware of any specific issues in Worthing.

Ms Bickers asked a second question. It was recently stated at a public meeting that Worthing Town Centre was declining. What response does the Executive Member for Regeneration have on this statement?

The Executive Member for Regeneration replied that he didn't recognise the statement or believe that Worthing was out of kilter with the rest of the Country. The Executive Member highlighted a number of projects including the regeneration of public realm in the Worthing Town Centre area (a project in partnership with West Sussex County Council); the provision of superfast broadband and wifi into the town centre as part of the gigabit project and the development of Union Place.

Mr Field asked a question regarding visits by Council Members to towns in Europe and South America with whom Worthing was twinned and occasions when the Council entertained town representatives of Pays des Olonnes, the Elstal region and Patos de Minas on a reciprocal arrangement. He sought confirmation from Council Members that the costs associated with their visits was wholly self funded and that no costs were born by Worthing tax payers.

The Leader of the Council replied that trips by previous Mayor's had been funded out of their own pocket as there was no Council budget for Twinning related activity.

Councillor Thorpe and Councillor McDonald confirmed that such trips were funded by individuals rather than the Council.

Mr McKnight asked a question regarding the Chief Executive's recent secondment with the NHS and how the Council would find the funds to cover the unexpected wage bill for many months that it had expected to be covered by the NHS.

The Leader of the Council replied that he had been happy to put forward the Chief Executive for the joint working project alongside the secondment of another senior officer of the Council. The Council had ambitions to work with other public services in the area and the secondment had always been about fostering joint working and the associated costs had been factored into the Council's longer term budgets.

Mr McKnight asked whether Adur and Worthing Councils could suffice with a part-time Chief Executive as a supplementary question.

The Leader of the Council replied that the secondment was not a money saving exercise but to strengthen joint working ambitions.

The Mayor invited those in the public gallery to ask questions, advising that responses would be provided either verbally or in writing within 3 working days.

Mr Angel, a Worthing resident, asked what the Council's response was to the £6m of proposed cuts to the 'supporting people' fund by West Sussex County Council (WSSC), and the impact this would have on front line services and the most vulnerable people in our town.

The Executive Member for Customers Services replied that WSSC was still consulting on the proposals. Worthing Borough Council would work closely with other Boroughs / Districts and colleagues from WSSC to fully understand the nature and impact of any proposed changes as well as reviewing how we can work together going forwards.

Mr Angel asked whether the Council would be advising on the impacts of such cuts as his supplementary question.

The Executive Member for Customers Services replied that the Council would, vociferously.

Ms Pauline Fraser, a Worthing resident, asked a question about Item 12 on the agenda 'Motions on Notice'.

The Leader advised that the motion would be debated later on the agenda.

C/025/18-19 Mayor's Announcement

The Mayor announced a change to the order of the agenda declaring that Item 12 - Motions on Notice would be considered after Item 5 - Petition to Council.

C/026/18-19 Petition to Council

A report to Council informed Members that a petition had been received on 8th October 2018 from Ms Helen Silman containing 1,001 signatures. The petition was received electronically by the Proper Officer and proposed making Worthing a plastic free town.

In accordance with the Council's petition scheme, Ms Silman presented the petition and addressed the Council, asking Members to vote in favour of making Worthing a plastic free town by 2021. Ms Silman suggested a 5 stage approach to delivering plastic free status for the town and urged Members to set an example to other towns.

The Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services addressed the Council with their right of reply to the petition. The Executive Member advised that the Council was already delivering a number of initiatives, including the Worthing Refill Scheme and frequent community beach cleans. The Council had also recently published its sustainability framework.

Whilst debating the petition, Members raised a number of issues, including the following:-

- the need to consider sensible exclusions, such as Worthing Hospital;
- the feasibility of delivering a plastic free town in 3 years;
- the need to increase recycling rates in Worthing;
- the need for cross party work on this subject;
- the need for Worthing Borough Council to lead by example and encourage residents to reduce their consumption of 'single use' plastics.

It was suggested that all Councillors could sign up to the sentiment of the petition, however, a number of impracticalities had been highlighted during its debate. The Council had been asked to make Worthing a plastic free town by 2021, which it would be unable to do.

A Member suggested that the Council could work to reduce its own plastic consumption whilst encouraging other activities around the town to further reduce the use of plastics.

It was proposed and seconded that the Council had considered the petition, supported the sentiment of it but did not propose taking any action at this stage. The Council wished to consider the motion, submitted by Councillor Nicola Waight, to consider the work the Council could do to reduce its own plastic use.

On a vote: For 30, Against 0, Abstain 4

Resolved that Worthing Borough Council considered the petition, supported the sentiment of it but did not propose taking any action at this stage.

C/027/18-19 Motions on Notice

The report before Council set out a motion which had been submitted by Councillor Nicola Waight and seconded by Councillor Bob Smytherman.

The Council was asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

Councillor Nicky Waight presented the motion to Council which was seconded by Councillor Bob Smytherman.

Members acknowledged the need to talk about the way forward, the need to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of food waste going into grey bins and the need to lead by example.

Members expressed their general support for the motion.

On a vote: For 34, Against 0, Abstain 0

Resolved that Worthing Borough Council agreed the motion as set out below:-

Plastic Free Council

Over recent years the detrimental environmental effects of single use plastics has become more apparent. Documentaries such as David Attenborough's Blue Planet have highlighted the damage that is being done to our oceans and given impetus to efforts to reduce the prevalence of plastic use where sustainable alternatives are available.

Worthing Borough Council has a good track record of recycling a wide range of plastics and organising regular beach clean ups to ensure that plastic waste and the associated effects are kept to a minimum. In June, I took part in the Goring Beach clean and was surprised at just how much plastic was recovered from the beach. The newly launched Worthing Refill scheme is a great example of the Council taking a leading role in reducing plastic waste. However, I feel the Council should now go further and faster and this motion calls on the Council to aspire to become a Plastic Free Council.

C/028/18-19 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service

The Mayor announced / presented the following awards:-

1. Electronic Temperature Instruments in Worthing had been awarded their fourth Queen's Award for Enterprise (innovation) earlier this year. The Lord-Lieutenant would be formally presenting the award on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen at ETI's premises in Easting Close, Worthing on Wednesday 7th November at 2.00pm. A congratulatory letter had been sent.

2. The Chatsmore Catholic High School had been chosen, as one of only four schools across the country, to receive an Outstanding Contribution to the Centenary Remembrance Awards 2014 - 2018 by the First World War Centenary Battlefield Tour Programme. This was in recognition of the exceptional work undertaken by the students on the First World War Centenary 'Legacy 110' projects, designed to ensure a lasting remembrance of the First World War across the local community. The school would receive the 'Legacy 110' Best International Community Award 2014 – 2018 on 7th November at the Tower of London during the awards ceremony.
3. The Mayor presented Milan Thankey, on behalf of the Worthing Connaught Cinema, with a prestigious award by More2Screen, a leading global distributor of Event Cinema. At a recent annual More2Screen Awards for Tremendous Achievement (MAFTA's), the Connaught was awarded the title of 'Best Indie Cinema Team'. The Best Indie Cinema Team recognises a venue that screens much of its content and always effectively promotes each event title to achieve maximum success. Just some of the recent films screened at the Connaught Cinema in collaboration with More2Screen include the latest award-winning West End musical Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Matthew Bourne's Cinderella, the Oscar Wilde Live season broadcast from The Vaudeville Theatre and the prestigious Royal Opera House 2017/2018 season; for which the Connaught Cinema has been acknowledged as the 3rd best-selling venue in the UK.
4. The Mayor presented Una Herring-Green, the Councils' Senior Addressing Officer/LLPG Custodian, with 3 certificates that were recently awarded by Geoplace to Adur and Worthing (as each Council is rated separately nationally):

GOLD PERFORMANCE AWARD for ADDRESS DATA 2018 - WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GOLD PERFORMANCE AWARD for ADDRESS DATA 2018 - ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

BEST ADDRESS DATA IN SOUTH EAST REGION 2018

Geoplace were the governing body that had formed a partnership with Local Authorities and Ordnance Survey. Geoplace set the rules and regulations in the Data Entry Convention (DEC) as to how the format of addresses should be created and submitted in the data file to comply with the British Standard of Addressing; known as BS7666.

All addressable objects were classified in compliance with the Data Entry Convention and assessed by Geoplace via monthly reports that were sent to Adur & Worthing for accuracy and performance. The accuracy then reflected the standard achieved and Una managed to be awarded 'Gold' standard for

both Adur & Worthing Councils. The councils were rated separately as they still had separate codes nationally and for this reason the Councils received two separate Local Land and Property (LLPG) Gazetteers.

Council noted that since the last council meeting the Mayor had attended many Civic Events, including:-

- The Lions Festival on the 26th/27th July;
- A 100th Birthday celebration on the 11th August;
- Canadian Memorial Service on the 19th August;
- The Rotary Festival on the 26th/27th August;
- Battle of Britain Service of Remembrance on the 16th September;
- Guild Care Network Business Breakfast Meeting on the 26th September;
- The High Sheriff of West Sussex Judges Service on the 5th October.

The Mayor informed Council of the following forthcoming Remembrance events:-

- Opening of the Field of Remembrance on Monday 5th November at 11.00am outside the Town Hall war memorial;
- 20-30 soldiers from the 12th Regiment Royal Artillery will be supporting the events on Monday 5th and Sunday 11th November;
- Unveiling of Soldier Silhouette and a commemorative Short Service at Worthing Railway Station on Friday 9th November at 2.15pm;
- Worthing Remembrance Service and Parade on Sunday 11th November at 10.30am at the Town Hall War Memorial;
- Beacon Lighting on Sunday 11th November at 7.00pm.

The Mayor highlighted the following forthcoming Charity events:-

- Mayoral Fundraiser at Giuseppe's Restaurant on Wednesday 28th November at 7.00 pm;
- Christmas Carol Concert at the Ardington Hotel on Sunday 9th December at 10.00am;
- Mayor's Carol Concert at St Mary's Broadwater on Sunday 16th December at 6.00pm.

The Leader announced that all Worthing Councillors had been provided with reusable drinking bottles as part of the Worthing Refill initiative.

The Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing wished to place on record the Councils thanks to the emergency services, the patrons of the Thomas A Becket pub and the local community, who had both attended the fire opposite the Thomas A Becket pub and been supporting the local community in the aftermath.

The Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services updated the Council on the Brooklands Masterplan Launch that took place on the 11 October 2018.

C/029/18-19 Items raised under the urgency provisions

There were no items under the urgency provisions for Council.

C/030/18-19 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Governance Committee, the Joint Strategic Committee and the Licensing & Control Committee 'B'. Extracts of these minutes had been circulated as items 8A(i) & (ii), 8B(i), 8C(i) and 8D(i).

Item 8A(i) Joint Governance Committee - 31 July 2018

Social Media Policy - updating the Councils' approach

The Joint Chairman presented the recommendation from the Joint Governance Committee meeting held on the 31 July 2018, to adopt the updated social media policy to form part of the Council's constitution.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Edward Crouch.

On a vote: For 31, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that Worthing Borough Council approved the adoption the updated social media policy to form part of the Council's constitution.

Item 8A(ii) Joint Governance Committee - 31 July 2018

Budget Procedure Rules

The Joint Chairman presented the recommendation from the Joint Governance Committee meeting held on the 31 July 2018, to adopt the Budget Procedure Rules as part of the Council's Constitution.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Nigel Morgan.

On a vote: For 33, Against 0, Abstain 1

Resolved that the Council approved the adoption of the Budget Procedure Rules as part of the Council's Constitution.

Item 8B(i) Joint Governance Committee - 25 September 2018

Governance of Partnership working between Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council: The Joint Committee Agreement

The Joint Chairman presented the recommendation from the Joint Governance Committee, to approve the amended Joint Committee Agreement.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Steve Waight.

Members welcomed the update to this important document.

On a vote: For 32, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that the Joint Governance Committee approved the amended Joint Committee Agreement.

Item 8C(i) Joint Strategic Committee - 9 October 2018

Increasing the number of Beach Huts available on Worthing's foreshore

The Leader presented the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Bob Smytherman. The recommendation requested that Council approve an increase to the current budget for the purchase and installation of beach huts.

On a vote: For 32, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that the Council approved an increase to the current budget for the purchase and installation of beach huts of £317,140. Funded partially through a capital receipt generated by the sale of pitches (£80,000) and partially funded via prudential borrowing, as outlined in paragraph 11.1 of the report, as an invest to save initiative.

Item 8D(i) Licensing & Control Committee 'B' - 15 October 2018

Licensing Act 2003 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

The Chairman presented the recommendation from the Licensing & Control Committee 'B' meeting held on the 15 October, which was seconded by Councillor Bob Smytherman.

On a vote: For 32, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that the Council approved the statement of Licensing Policy for adoption.

C/031/18-19 Decision Making following a change to the membership of the Labour Group

The report informed the Council of a change to the membership of the Labour Group and consequently, a change to the political balance of the Council.

The report also outlined decisions required by Council to ensure that committee appointments were determined according to the relevant legislation.

It was noted that the following changes to Committee memberships had been agreed at the May 2018 Council meeting:-

- Councillor Steve Waight replaced Councillor Mark Wither on Joint Governance Committee; and
- Councillor Louise Murphy replaced Councillor Edward Crouch on the Licensing & Control Committees A and B.

The Leader proposed that the amendments outlined be approved and the proposal was seconded by Councillor Rebecca Cooper.

On a vote: For 31, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that the Council:-

1. noted the revised political balance of the Council, as per paragraph 3.4;
2. appointed Councillor Richard Mulholland to the Planning Committee and Councillor Mike Barrett to the Joint Governance Committees, in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups on the Council, outlined in Annex B;
3. noted the change to the Deputy Leader of the Labour group, as confirmed to the Proper Officer.

C/032/18-19 Report of the Leader 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 10, on pages 39-48.

Questions were asked in relation to the Draft Worthing Local Plan, the Local Scheme for Business Discretionary Relief, Business Support Service Redesign and the cost of Affordable Housing units.

C/033/18-19 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12

The Mayor announced that the Proper Officer had received 11 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 would be asked in rotation around the Groups represented in the Chamber and there was 30 minutes allowed for questions with 5 rotations of speakers possible. At the end of 30 minutes the Mayor explained that he would extend the time to conclude the current rotation of questions.

The Mayor announced that the following Councillors had submitted questions:

Councillors Barrett, Cooper, Mulholland, Smytherman, Withers, Bickers and Murphy.

The order would be

First rotation: Councillor Cooper, Councillor Smytherman, Councillor Withers and Councillor Bickers

Second rotation: Councillor Cooper, Councillor Smytherman and Councillor Bickers

Third rotation: Councillor Barrett and Councillor Murphy

Fourth rotation: Councillor Mulholland

Fifth rotation: Councillor Mulholland

First Rotation:

Question from Councillor Cooper to the Leader

Could the Leader please indicate what response rate to the Local Plan consultation he is expecting, and what response rate he would consider a success?

Response

The Leader replied that consultation on the Worthing Borough Council draft Local Plan opened on Wednesday 31 October until 12 December 2018 and he encouraged all members to use their own communication channels to support the promotion of this consultation, which would inform the future development of Worthing.

Engagement with the community was a key part of the Council's decision making process, and officers were putting measures in place, which sought to maximise the opportunities to engage with the development of the Worthing Local Plan (a Consultation Strategy was published alongside the Plan).

The Leader was more concerned about the communities awareness and the quality of responses, rather than an arbitrary response rate.

He advised that the Council was already off to a good start with a media release prepared for JSC's consideration of the draft Local Plan in October reaching nearly 3,500 people on the Council's social media platforms. This did not include coverage using other channels.

There was also a good level of engagement during the fairly high level Worthing Local Plan Issues and Options consultation (50,000+ total impressions on social media, 1,000 views of a video-clip and over 2,200 visits to dedicated Local Plan web-page) which generated 261 responses.

The level of responses should also be considered in the context that:

- this was not the first time our community will have been consulted on many of the issues raised in the draft Local Plan,*
- the limited number of options for growth in and around the town, and*
- that response rates were largely dependent on the level of interest and sensitivities associated with the issue being consulted.*

Councillor Cooper asked whether the Council would consider trying to reach the demographics of Worthing who were not currently engaging with consultations as her supplementary question.

The Leader replied that a report from the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, proposing improvements to the Council's consultation process, was due to be considered by the Joint Strategic Committee on the 6 November 2018.

Question from Councillor Smytherman to the Leader

Following the recent news that the Chief Executive's secondment to the Clinical Commissioning Group is to end early resulting in projected savings for this Council not being made will the Leader consider reviewing the senior management arrangements as it would seem to me that the role can be carried out on a part-time basis as been proven over the last year with a part-time CEO?

Response

It was envisaged the Chief Executive would end his partial secondment to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in May 2019 but changing financial priorities within the health service brought this arrangement to an end earlier than expected.

The Chief Executive continued to foster the partnership between Adur and Worthing Councils and the CCG on a range of health and wellbeing issues for residents of the District and Borough. Many of the issues on this front demanded close working between public sector bodies.

It was always the case that he would return full time to his role as Chief Executive of Adur and Worthing Councils and the impact of this was built into the 5 year forecast.

Councillor Smytherman requested details of the benefits to the Council from the secondment of the Chief Executive.

The Leader of the Council agreed to provide a written response to the question.

Question from Cllr Withers to the Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services

My question is with regard to the commendable fibre infrastructure plans for Worthing, but involving their 5g future. There are concerns about effects on child development and human health even with current WiFi and 4g mobile phone frequencies, and the seeming lack of environmental impact reports by authorities piloting 5g installations. There is also the example of Sheffield where half of their trees were in the process of being felled, one view being because they are seen as an impediment to free propagation of 5g, with the strength of local opposition

forcing Sheffield council to put a moratorium on the felling. Have the council taken into account such concerns with future plans involving 5g in Worthing?

Response

The Executive Member for Environmental & Digital Services responded that Adur & Worthing Councils were very proud to have instigated the rollout of gigabit - that is now a major digital infrastructure scheme involving nine towns across West Sussex. This would see Local authority buildings being connected with new fibre cabling over the new few months, introducing the necessary infrastructure for our digital future.

It was very exciting to see the supplier Cityfibre announcing a multi million pound fibre to the home scheme for Worthing & Shoreham last week and the Council looked forward to hearing more about their proposals.

In regards to the rollout of 5G, there were no specific plans or projects running in the town at present. Any such schemes would need to be carefully considered and need to be consistent with our environmental priorities and planning principles, and the Council would keep the scientific research relating to 5G and population health under review.

Question from Cllr Bickers to the Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services

With the exciting plans for Brooklands now unveiled, what level of inclusive play equipment will be provided to ensure that Brooklands can be a park for all to enjoy?

Response

The Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services replied that it was vital that the new Brooklands was a place for everybody.

Brooklands already had a wonderful array of accessible equipment and as the Council develop the masterplan moving forwards, the aim was to retain and increase the number of pieces of equipment that have that wide appeal in terms of abilities.

In addition to this, the master plan also included the proposal to put in place a network of paths around the whole of the park that would provide access for all, including those with disabilities and limited mobility.

Councillor Bickers asked whether dog walkers would continue to enjoy unfettered access to the park, as a supplementary question.

The Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services replied that all responsible dog walkers would be welcome.

Second rotation:

Question from Councillor Cooper to the Leader:

Could the Leader please outline his vision for Active Transport development across the Borough as part of our Local Plan development?

Response:

The Leader of the Council replied that he would like to see the Local Plan facilitate a town where walking and cycling is a simple and safe option for people to take.

Councillor Cooper asked whether there were any cycleways that the Leader thinks we should be working on primarily, as her supplementary question.

The Leader of the Council replied that he was not going to pre-empt the work on the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Let's wait to see what comes out of this evidence based approach to identifying the most suitable locations.

Councillor Bob Smytherman to the Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing

Following the recent change of focus by the NHS that led to our Chief Executive's secondment to the CCG ending early can the Executive Member update Council on the current timescales for the new Health Hub located on the Town Hall site and what services can the public expect to be located to this new location?

Response:

The Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing replied that the Council was currently leading on the preparation of the Outline Business Case, Planning Application and Full Business Case for the Health Hub proposal.

It was anticipated that a planning application would be submitted in Spring 2019 (likely March), with construction starting in Autumn 2019 for a 24 months construction period.

Services would include primary care (GP services), mental health services provided by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust and community health services provided by Sussex Community Foundation trust in Worthing.

Councillor Smytherman asked whether the Health Hub could incorporate a 'safe haven' to support residents experiencing a mental health crisis, as his supplementary question.

The Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing replied that the Council was awaiting details of the funding and the associated criteria for applications for funding.

Councillor Keith Bickers to the Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services

Could Worthing Borough Council offer a Food Waste Collection Service?

Response:

The Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services replied that the Council should be taking all options in respect of recycling. He advised that food waste was currently extracted from general waste but was not of sufficient quality to meet the requirements to be considered as recyclable and therefore contribute towards the Council's 50% recycling target.

Third rotation:

Question from Councillor Barrett to the Executive Member for Regeneration

Could the Executive Member for Regeneration provide an update on the Teville Gate Development?

Response

The Executive Member for Regeneration advised that the developers for the site were still preparing the detailed Environmental Statement, to accompany the planning application, which was likely to include a detailed wind modelling assessment.

It was understood that the application would be submitted by mid-November.

Question from Councillor Murphy to the Executive Member for Resources

As you have recently taken over the Resources Portfolio, could you please outline the challenges posed for this Council by the eradication of the Revenue Support Grant and other Central Government funding and what the Council is doing to address these challenges?

Response:

The Executive Member for Resources advised that the Council would receive no Revenue Support Grant by 2019/20 and that since 2015/16, Revenue Support Grant had reduced by £2m. New Homes Bonus was also expected to be phased out in its current form from 2020/21.

As part of the fairer funding review, the Council expected to retain less business rates from 2020/21 onwards.

Overall funding controlled by Government was expected to reduce by the following amounts over the next three years with the bulk of the challenge in 2020/21:

- 2019/20 - £38,000

- 2020/21 - £1,128,000
- 2021/22 - £170,000

However, the scale of the challenge in 2020/21 was uncertain. There would be a Comprehensive Spending Review which would set out the overall amount of funding available for local government. There would also be a change to how funding was distributed across Councils and at the time of the meeting, the new method of funding local government had not been announced.

The Council had agreed a new budget strategy which outlined how the Councils would address the shortfall by:

- *Generating additional income from commercial income;*
- *Investing in digital technologies and business transformation to further generate efficiencies;*
- *Investing in commercial property;*
- *Through better procurement and contract management;*
- *Reviewing how services were delivered (e.g purchasing temporary accomodation to reduce costs, changes to refuse and recycling rounds to promote better recycling and generate savings)*

A full update on the budget and savings initiatives was due to be considered by JOSC on the 29th November and JSC on the 4th December.

Councillor Murphy asked a supplementary question requesting details of the financial returns on investments.

The Executive Member for Resources replied that she was personally involved in overseeing all property investments. Since May 2016, property with a value of £25m had been purchased, delivering an annual income of £617k.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.24pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor