

**Extract from Joint Strategic Committee - 8 January 2019**

**JSC/081/18-19      The Future of Public Space Protection Orders**

**Purpose**

1. In August 2019, the three Public Space Protection Orders in Worthing were due to expire.
2. The orders could be extended for a further 3 years if certain conditions were met.
3. The report outlined the conditions for extending the orders, the process and the timeline that needed to be followed if members wished to extend the orders and recommendations as to next steps.

**Summary of Discussion**

The Committee was informed that in August 2019, the three Public Space Protection Orders in Worthing would expire. However, the orders could be extended for a further 3 years if certain conditions were met.

The report outlined the conditions for extending the orders, the process and the timeline that needed to be followed if members wished to extend the orders and recommendations as to next steps.

During discussion of the item, Members expressed their support for the continuation of the Public Space Protection Orders in Worthing and noted that no changes to these measures had been proposed through the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee were notified of an amendment to recommendations 2.1 (a), (b) and (c). It was proposed that the PSPOs be extended in their current form for a further three years until 21 August 2022 (not 21 August 2021 as stated in the report).

## **Resolution from Committee**

That the Joint Strategic Committee:-

- 1. recommended to Worthing Borough Council that :**
  - (a) PSPO 1 - Public Place Drinking, be extended in its current form for a further three years until 21 August 2022;**
  - (b) PSPO 2 - Begging in Worthing Town centre, be extended in its current form for a further three years until 21 August 2022;**
  - (c) PSPO 3 - Unauthorised Camping, be extended in its current form, for a further three years until 21 August 2022.**
- 2. requested that the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review all Worthing Borough Council and Adur District Council PSPOs on an annual basis.**

(Link to the report on the website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.152021.en.pdf>)

**Extract from Joint Strategic Committee - 31 January 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**

**Purpose**

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.

**Summary of Discussion**

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.

**Resolution from Committee**

That 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.**

(Link to the report on the website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.152368.en.pdf>)



**Extract from Joint Strategic Committee - 31 January 2019**

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

**Purpose**

Members are asked to recommend to their respective Full Councils the Council Tax Support Schemes in respect of 2019/20.

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

**Summary of Discussion**

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.

**Resolution from Committee**

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**

(Link to the report on the website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.152369.en.pdf>)



**Extract from Worthing Executive - 4 February 2019**

**W EX/004/18-19      Worthing Overall Budget Estimates 2019/20 and Setting of  
2019/20 Council Tax**

**Purpose**

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

- the final revenue estimates for 2019/20 including any adjustments arising from settlement;
- an updated outline 5-year forecast; and
- the provisional level of Council Tax for 2019/20, prior to its submission to the Council for approval on the 26th February 2019. This will be subject to any proposals to change the draft revenue budget following the consideration of the budget by the Executive.

The report outlined the medium term financial challenge through to 2023/24, and set out performance in the key strategic areas of commercialisation, digital transformation and strategic property investment. The current budget strategy was having a significant effect on how the Councils would be funded in the future with increasing income generated from commercial income and rents. However, the challenge still remained significant for 2020/21, with the earlier identification of initiatives to bridge the emerging budget gap a priority.

These budgets reflect the Councils' ambitions set out in Platforms for our Places, and agreed savings proposals contributing to the financial sustainability of the Councils. The report also updates members about the impact of the draft 2019/20 settlement.

The major points raised within the report included:

- A full update on the impact of settlement. The Council should prepare itself for a continuation of the reduction in Government resources for 2020/21 and beyond (see section 4.2) ;
- Highlighted the proposed funding for initiatives to support the Councils' ambitions set out in Platforms for our Places;
- The impact of recent County Council decisions upon the Council;

- The Executive needed to consider the proposals to invest in services outlined in Appendix 2. The Executive needed to consider whether to increase Council Tax by maximum level possible 3% or by a lower amount (paragraph 5.11).

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 costs adjustments that did not impact either on the Budget Requirement or the Council Tax Requirement).

The Police and Crime Commissioner had consulted on an increase to the Council Tax for 2019/20 of £12.00 or 7.23%. The proposed 2019/20 budget was due to be considered by the Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP) on 1st February 2019. If the proposals were vetoed by the PCP, revised proposals would be considered by the Panel on the 18th February 2019 at which point the Commissioner would be in a position to confirm the Council Tax for 2019/20 just in time for Council on the 26th February 2019.

The draft Local Government Settlement allowed Councils to increase core Council Tax by up to 3% which was in addition to the 2% Council Tax increase permitted specifically to support adult social care services (subject to a maximum increase for social care of 6% in the period 2017/18 to 2019/20). Therefore a maximum Council Tax increase of 5% for Councils with social care responsibilities was allowed.

The precept for West Sussex County Council had not yet been finalised and would not be confirmed until 15th February 2019. The formal detailed resolution setting the overall Council Tax for next year would be presented direct to the Council Meeting on 26th February 2019.

### **Summary of Discussion**

The Police and Crime Commissioner had consulted on an increase to the Council Tax for 2019/20 of £12.00 or 7.23%. The proposed 2019/20 budget was considered by the Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP) on 1 February 2019 and an increase for 2019/20 of £24 or 14.5% had been proposed.

The Director for Digital and Resources introduced the report highlighting the changing nature of Council funding. The change in income over time from 2016/17 to 2023/24, was highlighted on page 7 of the report. The Council's strategy for local income generation had been reasonably successful to date but there were still significant changes ahead. The report set out plans for a balanced budget in 2019/20. Looking ahead, government funding would continue to reduce and the Council would become more reliant on council tax and business rates, along with its strategies to invest in property, boost commercial income and drive digital efficiency.

The Head of Financial Services explained that the Settlement had now been confirmed and the details within the draft settlement had not changed for the Council. The Council had just received notification from the Police and Crime Commissioner of their precept. The PCC was proposing to put up a band D by £24 which was equivalent to a 14.5% increase. Members were informed that in order to invest in services, as per the proposals outlined in Appendix 2,

the Council would need to raise Council Tax by at least 2.8%. It was noted that the Council had the flexibility to set a higher increase in order to increase reserves.

The Executive Member for Resources advised that the challenges of the portfolio were many, not least the eradication of the Revenue Support Grant. Members had to acknowledge that government resources would continue to reduce and therefore the Council must plan ahead for 2020/21 and beyond.

It was crucial to keep delivering against the Council's financial strategy of property investment, commercial income and digital efficiency. In order to achieve this, it was essential that the Council continued to invest as per the proposals set out in Appendix 2. It was also important to have a gradual Council Tax increase, in order to achieve a balanced prudent strategy.

The budget forecast presented, assumed that Council Tax would increase by 2% in 2019/20 in order to achieve a balanced budget for which the Council had a statutory duty. The referendum criteria, announced just before Christmas, gave the Council flexibility to raise Council Tax by up to 3% and the consumer price index was currently 2.3%. A higher increase would enable the Council to invest in priority services. A 3% uplift would represent only a small increase in the Council's share of the Council Tax Bill. However, the Executive Member was mindful of the financial pressures facing Worthing residents and therefore did not wish to recommend that the full amount be taken.

Therefore, it was recommended that the Worthing Borough Council share of Council Tax be increased by 2.8% which represented a weekly increase on a band D of 12p. This would increase the annual cost of a band D to £237.78 which would allow for further reinvestment in services and the benefit of the cumulative increase over the next 5 years to address future budget shortfalls.

The Leader of Worthing Borough Council seconded the proposal.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the pressures arising from anticipated increases by West Sussex County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner imposing a 14.5% increase. He stated that it would be wrong to purely set the Council Tax in Worthing based WBC Executive - 4 February 2019 on what others were doing. Members were responsible for ensuring the delivery of services for the people of Worthing, services which the Council was statutorily obliged to deliver in an efficient way. The Council's ambitious plan, set out in Platforms for Places, needed to be moved forwards in order to bring projects to fruition and the regeneration of the town. Therefore, on that basis, he supported the proposed increase of 2.8%.

## **Decision**

The Executive

- 1) approved the proposals to invest in services outlined in Appendix 2;
- 2) recommended to Council the draft budgets for 2019/20 at Appendix 5 as submitted in Executive Member Portfolio order, and the transfer to Reserves**

**leading to a net budget requirement of £13,633,430, subject to any amendments agreed above; and**

- 3) recommended to Council an increase of 2.8% making Band D for Worthing Borough Council's requirements in 2019/20 as set out in paragraph 5.10 of £237.78 per annum.**

(Link to the report on the website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.152393.en.pdf>)

**Extract from Licensing and Control Committee 'A' - 13 February 2019**

**LCCA/015/18-19      Animal Welfare Licensing Policy**

**Purpose**

To consider the introduction of an Animal Welfare Licensing Policy (Appendix A) pursuant to requirements under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

**Summary of Discussion**

The Presenting Officer introduced the report to the Committee and set out proposed arrangements including the type of activities that would be covered, how the arrangements were developed and the introduction of a new rating system.

The Committee questioned the presenting officer and it was agreed that information be provided to the Committee concerning the implemented fee structure and how the amounts therein had been formulated.

**Resolved**

**That the Licensing and Control Committee 'A' recommended the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy, to Council, for adoption.**

(Link to the report on the website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.152595.en.pdf>)