

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

Remote Meeting via Zoom

25 November 2021

Councillor Charles James (Chairman)
Councillor Richard Nowak (Vice-Chairman)

Adur District Council:

Joss Loader
Ann Bridges
Carol Albury
Vee Barton
Mandy Buxton
Joe Pannell
Sharon Sluman
Debs Stainforth

Worthing Borough Council:

Louise Murphy
Jon Roser
Sally Smith
Bob Smytherman
Rosey Whorlow

JOSC/40/21-22 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Sally Smith Declared an interest as an employee of the Health Central Surgery

Councilor Louise Murphy declared an interest as the advisor to the Executive Member for Customer Services

JOSC/41/21-22 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members

JOSC/42/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the 14 October 2021 be approved as the correct record

JOSC/43/21-22 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public

JOSC/44/21-22 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items

JOSC/45/21-22 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no call-ins

JOSC/46/21-22 Referral of Motion without Notice from Worthing Borough Council

The Committee had before it a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which had been sent to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report before members set out a Motion (attached as Appendix A) referred from the meeting of Worthing Borough Council on 19 October 2021.

The motion had arisen from a public question. The member of the public concerned had provided a statement which was read out by the Chairman. In summary the statement told the committee that the question had arisen due to concerns that appropriate questions had not been asked of a previous Conservative Councillor allowing a person with extremist hard right views to become elected. It was proffered that there should be an outside, independent investigation into the Conservative candidate selection processes,

The Chairman made a statement to the Committee in which the committee was informed of the Joint Governance Committee's decision to form a working group to inform the terms of reference of the proposed Community Cohesion Committee. With that in mind it was proposed that the subject matter of the question be referred to the Working Group for immediate consideration and that reference to 'Worthing Conservative Members' be amended to include 'all Elected Members' as the proposed new committee is a Joint Committee and to incorporate the legal advice from the Monitoring Officer. Members debated the matter and on a vote the motions were unanimously approved.

Resolved:

- 1) To refer the subject matter of the question to the Working Group for immediate consideration and
- 2) That reference to 'Worthing Conservative Members' be amended to include 'all Elected Members' as the proposed new committee is a Joint Committee and to incorporate the legal advice from the Monitoring Officer.

JOSC/47/21-22 Interview with Executive Members for Customer Services

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report before members set out background information on the Portfolios of the Adur and Worthing Executive Members for Customer Services to enable the Committee to consider and question the Executive Members on issues within their portfolios and any other issues which the Executive Members are involved in connected with the work of the Councils and the Adur and Worthing communities.

The Executive Members for Customer Services were present to answer questions.

A Member asked the following question *The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in extraordinary demands being made on Council staff. What impact has the pandemic had on the Customer Services team and how well are they placed for a potentially challenging winter ahead?* Members were told that in terms of the volume of work that the team has to deal with, reactive demand for both telephone and face to face advice has dropped since pre-pandemic. The team was dealing with about 80-85% of pre-covid volumes, and that had freed up its capacity to shift to a more proactive, preventative model (as reported to JSC in July 2021). In terms of the type of work that the team encountered, the level of need, and the complexity of residents' circumstances had increased. The team had formal training on recognising vulnerability, and on maintaining personal resilience whilst providing that type of support. It also received management and peer support – there were daily all-team meetings, regular 121 and coaching sessions and “debriefings” after particularly difficult calls. In line with other teams also had access to mental health first aiders and to the councils' Employee Assistance Programme. The team was well placed for the winter ahead. The main risk to its ability to support residents would be if covid or non-covid sickness levels had a significant impact. The team had recently recruited short term temporary staff specifically to mitigate the risk of increased demand in the winter months.

A Member asked the following question: *The short stay 37 bed accommodation unit for homeless people at 22 Lyndhurst Rd is coming towards the end of the free 5 year lease period. What plans are in place to rehouse the residents in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act?* The Committee was told that The Council's Housing Services had been in conversation with Turning Tides about the closure of Lyndhurst Road since the beginning of the year. Every resident in Lyndhurst road would have a move on plan which will depend on their current support needs. The move- on options are likely to be a move into independent or semi-independent living or move to another supported housing scheme if they still needed support. Residents who move into independent accommodation will continue to receive low level support.

A Member asked the following question: *The recent street count estimated 15 rough sleepers in Worthing. What provision will be made in Worthing in the absence of the winter night shelter? How does this break down in terms of gender and has this changed?* Members were told that Winter provision consisted of placements into temporary accommodation and some provision in communal areas of supported housing, with additional security staff being provided for high risk individuals who had been evicted from a variety of accommodation provision. In preparation for SWEP, which was being activated as of 25 November 2021, all rough sleepers had been made an offer of accommodation over the previous few days, for those who had refused an offer, it would remain open to them should they wish to access accommodation over the SWEP period. Outreach would continue to check on the welfare of anyone rough sleeping during this period. Support would be provided via Outreach who had additional resources for in-reach from Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding, the Singles Homeless Team as well as St Clare's Community Hub. Following agreement with DLUHC, RSI funding would be used to continue to house this cohort over the winter period as there will not be additional winter funding available for Worthing. Some of the night shelters were supporting those activities as they did the previous year. The gender breakdown for the Worthing Street Count was 14 males and 1 female. The number of females rough sleeping at any one time had on occasion in the past been as many as 5, the addition of Emerging Futures female provision in Worthing had resulted in a consistent reduction of female rough sleepers in Worthing.

A Member asked the following question: *The National Poverty Charity Turn2Us warned that at least seven million people across the UK are missing out on unclaimed benefits, increasing the risk of being pushed into poverty. Could the Executive Member give us an estimate of unclaimed benefits in Worthing?* Members were told that the majority of state benefits were administered by the Department for Work & Pensions with the Councils only responsible for the administration of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support. It was therefore not possible to provide an estimate of the unclaimed benefits across Adur and Worthing. However, one of the purposes of the Councils' Proactive project is to support customers to claim the benefits that they are entitled to and this is building on the work that Revenues & Benefits and Customer Services already undertakes to encourage customers to claim Council Tax Support.

A Member asked the following question: *Homelessness exacts a huge personal cost to those who endure it. In addition to the trauma and the emotional trauma that can accompany the events leading to the loss of one's housing, it can mark the beginning of a steep downward spiral. The unique distress of lacking a settled home can cause or intensify social isolation, create barriers to education, training and paid work and undermine mental and physical health. The impact on children can be more profound and long lasting. Does the council attempt to calculate a cost in £s in terms of the actual impact of being without a home, or in terms of the potential need for interventions to address the impact of homelessness on people's physical and mental health?* The Committee was told that It was difficult to calculate the cost of the impact of homelessness on individuals because individual circumstances varied and it was often complex. Several studies had estimated the cost of the impact by calculating the cost of meeting the increased demand on services that intervene when a person became homeless. It was beyond doubt that the impact of homelessness was devastating both on the individual, their family and also society. Proactive and early intervention had been shown to be more beneficial to the individual and their household and more cost effective to statutory services when compared to the cost of relieving homelessness. The Council could calculate the cost of relieving homelessness on the day but the actual cost of intervening to address the impact of homelessness includes the cost of other agencies such as mental health services, social care services, the NHS, Offender Management Services and many others who also intervened. As part of the Councils' "Make Homelessness Prevention Everyone's Business" campaign in 2018, it was estimated the resulting 113 successful homelessness preventions resulted in the following gross expenditure being avoided –

Housing	- £832,101.49
NHS	- £253,582 savings to NHS services,
Mental Health Services	- £123,841 savings
Offender Management services	- £707,469

While costs give a way to quantify expenses on homelessness, as identified during the "Make Homelessness Prevention Everyone's Business" campaign, it could sometimes obscure the individual tragedy that results from homelessness.

A Member asked the following question: *I know you have been managing this portfolio for over 4 years, what do you think are the biggest changes that have taken place and do you have one specific change that you think has been the most challenging?* The Adur Executive Member told the Committee that the introduction of a capital programme which had been non-existent when the Executive Member had taken over and dealing with Staff and Performance; getting the right staff to in to do the job

A member asked the following question: *The ATF is an important mechanism for liaison between the council and the tenants/leaseholders; we cannot see when the last AGM was held, nor minutes listed. We have members of our community keen to join and work with the ATF. For transparency, please can we ask them to host an AGM (if due) and publish minutes & meetings on their own and the Councils website. Is there a meeting planned for Dec (as stated on their website)?* Members were told that The Adur Tenants Forum (ATF) had been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. The Council was working with the ATF to restart the tenants forum. A venue in Fishersgate had been refurbished for the use of tenants and leaseholders. The venue was handed over to the Chairperson of the ATF on 17th November. The Council was providing administrative support to the ATF and would be meeting with the ATF to set a date for its next annual general meeting. Minutes of meetings would be published on the ATF's website (<https://www.adurtenantsforum.co.uk>). The Council continued to encourage residents in estates to set up residents groups which would form part of the ATF. Officers were keen to engage with resident groups to discuss issues that affected them locally.

A Member asked the following question: *On 10 July 2019 yourself, Cllrs Boggis and Parkin, featured in a press release about the old civic centre site. The central thrust of the piece was to herald the fact the site was to be used for 100% affordable housing. 'At least 40 per cent would be social rented and the rest shared ownership.' The planning statement on the Civic Centre site application AWDM/1450/21 says in section 6.4.4. 'In this respect, the proposal shall deliver a policy compliant level of affordable housing (30%) at the prescribed tenure mix of 75% social/affordable rented housing and 25% intermediate housing. The scheme will therefore be 100% compliant with Policy 21 of the Adur Local Plan.'* On the application form it is somewhat vague saying: *'out of 171 dwellings 38 are social, affordable or 'intermediate rent' and 13 are 'affordable home ownership'.* As Shoreham residents get increasingly outpriced, when is this council going to prioritise social rented housing for people in housing need, rather than backtracking on promises? The Adur Executive member stated that the planning application does propose a policy compliant scheme incorporating 30% affordable housing. However, the applicant Hyde Housing had indicated that following the grant of planning permission it would be able to draw down Homes England funding to deliver all 171 dwellings as affordable housing. The intended mix would be for 40% social rent and 60% intermediate (or shared ownership housing). Hyde Housing had entered into a strategic partnership with Homes England to provide additional affordable housing over and above what can be secured through the planning process. As a result the development would deliver a significant number of affordable homes to benefit the local community and in particular those in housing need. The Council's Joint Strategic Committee approved its Delivering Pathways to Affordable homes strategy in March 2021 which set out its approach to delivering affordable homes. In terms of prioritising homes for social rent the housing evidence pointed to the fact that homes of all tenure especially including social rent and affordable rent. The proposed development will provide a mix that meets the needs of a broad range of residents in line with our adopted policy. Rather than backtracking on its promises, the Council had just completed the construction of 15 new homes for social rent at Cecil Norris House in September year demonstrating the Authority's commitment.

A Member asked the following question: *The Adur Homes Management Board that was proposed by the JOSOC housing working group is still not functioning the way it was envisaged. Not all the roles have been filled and there are still documents or minutes from the previous meetings on the Council's website. What is hindering publication of the documents?* Members were told that the Adur Homes Management Board (AHMB) was reconstituted in 2020. The new board, which met quarterly, had met four times since it

was reconstituted and its next meeting was planned for December 2021. The Board had eight standing members, which was comprised of the Executive Member for Customer Services and the chair of the Board, three senior Council Officers and four resident representatives. The four resident representatives were Adur Tenants Forum (ATF) and Sheltered Housing Action Review Panel (SHARP), who were represented by their chairpersons, the Leaseholders Representative Group which had just been restarted and had nominated a representative to attend the AHMB and a young person's representative. The Council would work with both the ATF and the Leaseholders' Forum to identify and support a young person to sit on the board.

A Member asked the following question: *Council reports indicate that Adur Homes are 100% compliant on fire risk assessments. But Adur Homes does not seem to be 100% compliant on fire risk mitigation. For example, in Eastbrook, Cllr O'Neal has received and forwarded a number of complaints about unsafe doors which aren't a fire safety standard, and about windows which do not open. Can you tell us how you will work with Cllr O'Neal to address these as a matter of urgency?* The Committee was told that as a landlord, Adur District Council had a legal duty to ensure its properties had valid and up to date fire risk assessments. Fire Risk assessments were booked in advance and planned over a 3 year cycle. Appropriate actions were taken to address or mitigate any immediate risk identified but other risks which do not require immediate attention are in a current programme of works. For instance, properties with inner rooms were fitted with an enhanced smoke detection system and residents were provided with appropriate advice once the inner room was identified. The Council had commenced major remedial works on these properties. The Council had already delivered Phase 1 of the fire door programme, which were the critical door sets. Phase 2 commenced on Monday 29 November 2021. Over the next 18 months, the Council would replace about 1,000 door sets. Councillors should provide details of properties of concern, The Executive Member would ask officers to look at these and take appropriate action.

A member asked the following question: *Given the acknowledged state of Adur Homes' service to residents, what has been brought in to compensate individuals who have suffered losses and hardship as a result?* Members were told that to ensure fairness and consistency, residents who had suffered losses or hardship were encouraged to put in a claim with the Councils' insurers.

A Member asked the following question: *I have mentioned to the Executive Member before about one tenant who was in Adur temporary accommodation in Bognor Regis whose ceiling repeatedly flooded and ruined her belongings. I promised to forward the information by email. The resident has been told she should have had contents insurance. Can you tell me whether that actually exists in these circumstances, and whether any appraisal has been done as to how affordable that is for people in TA? What else can be done to compensate?* The Committee was told that the Executive Member was aware of the matter which involved a former tenant of Adur Homes, who made a homeless application. Officers had looked into this matter and provided a response to the resident. As the resident was not satisfied with the outcome, the matter was being dealt with through Councils' complaint process. The Executive Member was hopeful that this would resolve the matter to the resident's satisfaction. The resident would have an opportunity to refer the matter to the independent Local Government Ombudsman if they were not satisfied with the outcome of the complaints process.

Before the Committee was a report by the Interim Director for Communities, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 9. The report before members outlined progress made against the commitments in the Housing Strategy 2020-2023 'Enabling communities to thrive in their own home'

The Head of Housing was present to answer questions

A member asked the following question: *Could an update be provided please on the 'Discharge to Assess beds' scheme please and how has this initiative been impacted by the pandemic?* Members were told that WSCC held that data, however it could be reported that the move on from the Discharge to Assess Bed scheme had continued with those on the scheme being rehoused in the private sector with the support of the scheme with no one on the Discharge to Assess scheme needing to make a homeless application. 'The Discharge to Assess' scheme had faced some challenges with private sector landlord supply, which was an issue across all homelessness services in the South East of England, a steady flow in the scheme had been maintained. Worthing Borough Council was beginning an In-patient needs trial with WSCC, SPFT, OTs and Psychiatric Clinicians to identify as early as possible those with a housing need to improve discharge planning for this group.

A Member asked the following question: *Could an update be provided on the development of the accommodation for homeless people at Rowlands Rd and Downview Rd?* Members were told that Rowlands Road had recently been handed over from the contractor to enable the fit out programme to begin. Furniture was currently on order and being delivered to be assembled on site. Occupation of the homes was expected in December. The flats at Downview Road were complete with the contractor awaiting final NHBC (insurance) certification before handover could occur. The final inspection was recently undertaken and handover was expected shortly

A Member asked the following question: *The number of homeless people in temporary accommodation is increasing month on month with increasing numbers presenting multiple needs and action is needed to address the needs of our most vulnerable members of our community and is an area of work that is identified as a need by DLUCH through our Rough Sleeper Initiative work. How much does the Council currently spend on emergency temporary accommodation?* The expected net cost of temporary and emergency accommodation for 2021/22 was: Adur - £584,300 (based on accommodation costs of £1,250,480 and rental income of £666,180) Worthing - £1,529,550 (based on accommodation costs of £2,947,240 and rental income of £1,417,580) Overall the service was expected to cost in 2021/22 net of any grants and rental income: Adur - £336,900, Worthing - £1,060,450

A Member asked the following question: *Re acceptable living conditions and Regulation - .You note that between October 2020 and September 2021, that you have received 323 complaints from tenants about their poor housing conditions in the private sector. As part of your strategy commitment to driving up accommodation standards in the private rental sector you have indicated that between October 2020 and September 2021 there were 36 completed HHSRS assessments undertaken, that 82 formal notices to landlords were served and that there were three successfully defended FPN appeals, with 1 appeal lost. This forms a total 121 successful enforceable interventions on behalf of tenants. However, this also indicates that there were 222 complaints not upheld. Would you please outline what forms of interventions might the remaining 222 complaints have*

received in order to reinforce the commitment made by the council to driving up the standards of landlord accountability. Can you also please tell us if there are any records maintained relating to the different categories of accommodation that complaints are made against, especially in relation to complaints against landlords of licenced HMOs?

(c) Finally, is there any form of record maintained to identify landlords for which repeat complaints of poor housing conditions are made by their tenants? a) A proportion of the complaints about living conditions received during this period would still be under investigation and may yet result in formal assessments and the appropriate enforcement action being taken. The rate of complaints received accelerated in the latter part of the period under review. A further Fixed Penalty Notice had just been confirmed by the Tribunal, for example. In respect of other interventions, all complainants would be contacted and if an inspection is indicated as needed this would be carried out. If the conditions were as a result of the tenant's lifestyle for example, then appropriate advice will be given. Complainants would also be signposted to other services who may be able to help with applying for financial assistance or advice. Some complaints only related to advice and this was freely given. Complaints may also relate to housing association properties in which case a more informal approach may be indicated in the first instance and formal actions taken if not resolved. It was also the case that some complainants would not respond to contacts and these properties are kept on record should further complaints be received.

b) The Authorities did not currently keep records differentiating between types of property or tenure since the Housing Act 2004 itself is tenure neutral. The Authorities received very few complaints from occupants of licenced HMOs since the licensing process was designed to deliver safe properties.

c) The majority of landlords in Adur & Worthing only had single properties, but complaints about addresses were kept on the CRM database so that repeat complaints about properties could be identified. The approach was, however, designed to ensure that once an intervention had occurred no later work should be required. The Council was aware of some landlords with larger portfolios who had problematic properties and complaints relating to these were prioritised when received.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda page 16 - Paragraph 5.1.2 - It is stated that 52% of homelessness cases were prevented and 33% were relieved. Is this cumulative, what happens to the other 15% of cases and how many cases altogether?* 52% was the cumulative figure for homeless cases in the year 2020-2021 of households where a prevention duty was accepted; the total number of cases where a 'prevention duty' was accepted is 60. 33% was the cumulative figure for homeless cases in the year 2020-2021 of households where a relief duty was accepted; the total number of cases where a relief duty was accepted was 120. The other cases then have their applications assessed to establish if the council owes them a 'full housing duty'; if a full housing duty was owed then the household remained in temporary accommodation until they were rehoused; if the council did not owe a full housing duty, if there were children in the household the housing duty was transferred to children's services, if there weren't any children in the household then they were supported to access housing through the Rough Sleepers Team.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda page 17 - Paragraph 5.1.3 - How many of these cases (see Q1) were identified by TellJO and how much has the TellJO system cost to purchase, maintain and run? Once identified by TellJO, what support is available to these families starting to experience financial difficulty?* Members

were told that Para 5.1.3 referred to funding being secured, TellJo was in the procurement phase as the Countywide funding pot is in process of being disseminated to D&Bs to implement locally. Support available to families experiencing financial difficulties would vary depending on needs; examples of support available would include connecting to claim DHP and/or Council Tax Support, support from OneStop, CitA, Pathways Home, referral to Emergency Assistance Grant, support to manage debt / get debt advice, referral to housing team for homeless prevention support which included access to COMF secured to help people with meeting rental costs.

A Member asked the following question: *The report talked about the implementation of protocols and assessments to prevent homelessness leaving care. Beyond protocol and assessments, what practical support is available to these individuals due to their evidenced increased risk factors relating to homelessness? Care Leavers were provided support from WSCC Leaving Care and Young People Services. WSCC had an obligation to provide support to care leavers through a Personal Adviser up to age 25. The protocols ensured that WSCC services and Districts and Boroughs work together to meet the housing needs of care leavers in Adur and Worthing. All eligible care leavers are given Band A on the housing register as a recognition of our 'corporate parent' responsibilities. In addition the Young Persons Panel (separate panels for each area) attended by the councils, WSCC and providers where housing plans for this group are agreed, including for complex cases.*

A Member asked the following question: *The report mentions short term funding from WSCC for debt and financial inclusion work. However, its short term funding for a long term problem that is set to increase in severity. How will Adur ensure the continuation of this service once funding from WSCC has ended? Members were told that Autumn Recovery work and COMF Delivery Group would use the data from the outcomes achieved from the work to inform how we delivered services going forward. Tools such as LIFT and Telljo would assist in identifying and intervening, as early as possible, more households experiencing financial hardship. The lessons learned from the Autumn Recovery work would inform how the deliver services and work with community groups in the future, including helping people back into employment.*

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda page 22 - Paragraph 5.3.4-7 Having 'floated off' 16 tenancies since the council is no longer responsible to the landlord for rent guarantees and simultaneously acknowledging that tenants and landlords are returning to a market where rents are continuing to rise and LHA rents have been frozen, how are we ensuring that these landlords are not subsequently increasing rents to market value and returning our families to housing crisis? The Committee was told that The Council had no powers to prevent landlords from increasing property rents. Landlords who joined the Opening Door Scheme were aware that the setting rent at levels that tenants could afford prevented arrears or the need to evict tenants, costs of which they are unlikely to recover. The scheme was not suitable for every landlord, therefore care was taken in admitting landlords onto the scheme. Both landlords and tenants 'floated off' could still approach the Council for support.*

A Member asked the following question: *Years on from your original transformation plans, Councillors are still getting reports of tenants with horrendously poor service, recently from 10 days without heating, at least 5 weeks for a whole sheltered housing block with heating or hot water, and one resident 7 months now without a boiler. When exactly will this change and how? The Transformation Programme had begun with deliverables and the structure for the change in place by January 2022, which was the*

leadership team in Housing who would also be dually project managers to deliver the changes to people, processes, culture and digital improvements to systems within the scope of the programme. The visible improvements would begin then, with regular updates for members within the governance. There was a problem resolution group led by the Head of Housing with all leads in the service participating weekly to deal with issues that were brought forward which were rectified all as soon as possible, with tenant and councillor kept fully informed in the process. Changes would be made to processes, changes to the way work was delivered and to monitoring within the transformation.

JOSC/49/21-22 Towards a sustainable financial position - Budget development update

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 10. The report before Members provided members with a progress report on the delivery of the Authorities financial strategy for 2022/23, along with details of the proposals that would help deliver a balanced budget for the next financial year and beyond

The Chief Financial Officer was present to answer questions

A Member asked the following question: *In relation to the cost associated with temporary and emergency accommodation, how has the closure of the Turning Tides Hostel at 22 Lyndhurst Rd been planned for?* The Committee was told that the Council's Housing Services had been in conversation with Turning Tides about the closure of Lyndhurst Road since the beginning of the year. Every resident in Lyndhurst road would have a move on plan which would depend on their current support needs. The move- on options were likely to be a move into independent or semi-independent living or move to another supported housing scheme if they still needed support. Residents who moved into independent accommodation would continue to receive low level support.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 6.2 states work is still to be done to identify savings to meet the initial target. How much is still to be done and what is the risk of a shortfall?* Members were told that the budget was balanced for Adur, there was a small issue with Worthing of £54,000. The budgets both still contained allowances for new service investments which could be removed if necessary. Paragraph 6.2 did not refer specifically to identifying additional savings but additional work more generally. This would include: A reassessment of capital financing costs in the light of progress on the capital programme. This was likely to reduce costs based on our current understanding of progress in delivering the projects and, for Worthing, the new approach to calculating the MRP; A reassessment of cost pressures to ensure that we are setting a robust budget; the final assessment of the impact of settlement. Overall it was anticipated that the outcome of this work would be that the Council would be able to set a balanced budget without use of reserves.

A Member asked the following question: *Adur's revenue streams are rooted in business rates, parking, commercial, strategic investments & employment. Do we feel we are being innovative enough here or, could we be trading our services with other Councils for example? Last year London Borough of Harrow became one of the first local authorities in the country to sell its own recyclables in an online 'e-auction.'* *The council used an e-bay style system to sell 100 per cent of its dry recyclables to waste management firm Viridor. Could we replicate?* Members were told that the Council already sold services to

other public sector partners - e.g insurance services, legal services. The Councils were also one of the first to set up a partnership arrangements which levered in savings to both Councils' of £3.3m per year. Overall commercial services had delivered growth in income across the two councils of around £600k per year consistently over several years. Work with colleagues within the NHS was being undergone to create a shared campus for the Council and various health bodies - sharing our buildings with the CCG to generate a saving of £364k per year, the financial challenge was such that the Authorities were always seeking opportunities to work in partnership with others to reduce our cost base. With respect to the sale of recyclates, this sat within the disposal authority who processed recyclable waste.

A Member asked the following question: *The Council was planning to spend £44.9m over the next 3 years to increase the supply of affordable homes and improve the condition of existing housing stock. How much have we spent so far?* Members were told that the council had spent over £12m in the previous 3 years on the housing stock and new developments. There was a further budget to spend £5.6m per year on maintenance.

JOSC/50/21-22 Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2021/22

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes. The report outlined the progress in implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2021/22 which was confirmed by the Councils in April 2021. The report recommended that the changes made to the Work Programme since it had been agreed be reported to the next Council meetings in December 2021 for noting.

Members discussed the Work Programme and approved its recommendation to the meetings of Council in December

Resolved:

- i) That JOSC note the progress in delivering the JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22 as set out in the Appendix to the report;
- ii) That the meetings of Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council in December 2021 note the changes made to the JOSC Work Programme since it was agreed by both Councils in April 2021;

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.10 pm, it having commenced at 6.30 pm

Chairman