

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

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**14 October 2021**

Councillor Joss Loader (Chairman)  
Councillor Ann Bridges (Vice-Chairman)

**Adur District Council:**

Carol Albury  
Vee Barton  
Mandy Buxton  
Joe Pannell  
Sharon Sluman  
Debs Stainforth

**Worthing Borough Council:**

Charles James  
Richard Nowak  
Russ Cochran  
Louise Murphy  
Jon Roser  
Sally Smith  
Carl Walker

**Absent**

Cllr Mandy Buxton

**JOSC/29/21-22 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest

**JOSC/30/21-22 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members

**JOSC/31/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the 16 September 2021 be confirmed as the correct record.

**JOSC/32/21-22 Public Question Time**

There were no questions from the public

**JOSC/33/21-22 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions**

There were no urgent items

**JOSC/34/21-22 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision**

There had not been any call-ins

## **JOSC/35/21-22 Interview with Executive Members for Resources**

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 7. The report before Members set out background information on the Portfolios of the Adur and Worthing Executive Members for Resources.

The Executive Members for Resources for Adur and Worthing were present to answer questions.

A Member asked the following question: *As the Executive Member for Resources, what do you view as the most significant challenges, both now and in the coming months?* The Worthing Executive Member told the Committee that setting a balanced budget was the primary task along with tackling financial uncertainties. For example falling car park income had come about as a result of changing behaviours. Members were also told that it was difficult to make assumptions and predictions as it was unknown if there would be any further periods of lockdown.

A Member asked the following question: *Property/ asset management: with food/community hubs and groups like Esteem all openly needing storage or working space, why are the Council selling Adur owned assets eg Old School House, Mill Lane, Cemetery House, instead of putting them in the hands of the community?* Members were told that as part of the budget strategy, the Council had agreed to dispose of surplus assets to realise capital receipts which can then be used to support the Capital Programme financing requirements. Wherever possible assets were used to support community groups, however some assets were too expensive to maintain and it was not viable for them to be of continued community use.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 6.3 in the appendix to item 8 states 'our financial performance has been helped by some impressive redeployment of staff to priority areas and high quality in house digital work'. Can you quantify this increased financial performance for these interventions and explain how they saved/made money?* Members were told that throughout the pandemic staff were redeployed to areas of need. The Government provided grants to pay for the administration of these programmes of work, however as this was effectively administered using existing staff and digital utilities, the grants supported the overall financial position at a difficult time. Responding to a supplementary question the Executive Member told the committee that they were not aware of any data compared to other authorities but they would get back to the Committee.

A Member asked the following question: *Has the Council conducted an audit of all the grants awarded to groups and organisations during the pandemic? If not, when will they do it?* Members were told that the business grants were the subject of an extensive assurance programme required by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy which the internal audit team had been leading on. In addition the Councils had been providing regular financial information and reconciliation information to BEIS. This was an ongoing process. In addition the Councils, from April 2020, had to provide weekly updates on the grant streams, including the number of grants allocated across the different grant streams. The Adur Grants were audited as part of the ongoing schedule of

internal audit. This was last conducted in Dec 2020, a draft report had been prepared and comments are currently being sought by officers. The Self Isolation Grants were scheduled to be audited in November 2021. However, it was likely that this date would be postponed, due to this scheme being extended by the government to 31st March 2022. An insights report would be developed alongside the audit to guide future work and will be shared with Public Health England.

A Member asked the following question: *Officers have faced extraordinary pressures and challenges over the past 18 months. What support have staff been able to access via Occupational health?* The Committee was told that Managers could refer staff to Occupational Health to request advice on a member of staff's health and any support and reasonable adjustments that could be provided to support them in the workplace. Staff could also access the Council's Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The Employee Assistance Programme was a confidential and independent service providing free professional advice, counselling and information services to all employees - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All staff had been offered a Wellbeing Day as a gesture of appreciation for the support provided to the communities of Adur and Worthing throughout the Covid pandemic. Staff were being encouraged to use the extra day's leave to take some time out to focus on their own wellbeing.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 7.10 in the appendix to item 8 states that the councils have sought to secure public and private investment from a number of sources during the 6 months from January to June 2021. For instance working with Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. Can you quantify the amount of public and private investment we have secured, how it compares to previous six months blocks in the last few years and how it compares to local authorities nationally?* Members were told that the majority of funding received in the last 12 months had been in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which had combined grant distribution (e.g. covid business grants) and grants to support vital services, to serve communities. This had been based on a pro rata basis when comparing against other Local Authorities. Additional support was received to help support local leisure services (National Leisure Recovery Fund) whereby the Councils received £335K to help support leisure services. In the same period, the Councils had bid for funds where appropriate and where eligible to do so, including Levelling Up bids for Adur and Worthing (both approximately £10m) and the UK Community Renewal Fund (£250K). The Councils had also bid to a series of funding opportunities through government teams such as Homes England - one of those came to fruition this week with Adur being awarded £400k as part of the Land Release Fund and MHCLG in the form of Rough Sleeping Initiative. The funding landscape had changed over the last couple of years, however the Councils had secured significant Local Growth Fund monies, via Coast to Capital LEP, from 2017 onwards which had secured the purchase of Union Place, enabled the decontamination works at Decoy Farm, the delivery of Focus House in Adur and also the vital flood works at Western Harbour Arm, amongst others. The Councils continued to examine and bid to appropriate funding sources that would support ambitions in 'Platforms for our Places'. As part of the Government's Build Back Better programme, significant funding had been made available to public sector bodies to improve the energy efficiency of the public estate. In Spring, Adur and Worthing were successful in securing £43,000 of feasibility funding through the Low Carbon Skills Fund and £1.6m of capital grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - one of only 4 in Sussex to do so. An update on the programme, which would reduce the councils' energy costs and carbon emissions was provided to Joint Strategic Committee on 7 October. In addition, Worthing Borough Council had received over £250,000 from the Heat Network Development Unit of BEIS to

develop one of the UK's lowest-carbon district heating schemes, utilising waste heat from the town's main sewer to heat public sector buildings in the town centre. The Councils had recently learnt that the council has been awarded £5m of capital funding through the BEIS' Heat Networks Investment Project. This would leverage in over £6m of private sector funding to deliver the heat network and it was believed that Worthing Borough Council was the first lower-tier authority in England to be awarded funding through the main HNIP scheme.

A Member asked the following question: *How has the pandemic impacted on the learning and development of staff?* On the whole, the pandemic hadn't impacted on the learning and development of staff. At the start of the pandemic, learning & development offer shifted, with added emphasis being put on helping staff learning to develop their own resilience. The Councils had easily shifted mandatory learning (such as asbestos awareness training) online and continued leadership development - including quarterly gathering of the leadership community - online through Google Meet, Zoom or Microsoft Teams. For courses that required larger spaces for in-person training the Council had begun to use larger spaces available, such as the QEII room in Shoreham and the Council Chamber in Worthing. It was noted that many other externally delivered technical courses for professions such as planning and accounting had continued with an online delivery despite lockdown easing. This will provide benefits for the council, including removing travel costs/time, often lower course cost (due to larger cohorts of learners) and recordings for future reference.

A Member asked how the Councils Strategic Property Investment Programme was performing and was told that the Councils had recorded a 100% collection rate with a NET income of 5-6%. This had been a result of the Councils' robust policies.

### **JOSC/36/21-22      Delivering 'Platforms for our Places: Going Further' - Progress report January to June 2021**

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 signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report before Members provided the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with an overview of progress on the delivery of the commitments set out in 'Platforms for our Places: Going Further over the period January to June 2021.

A Member asked the following question: *Re Paragraph 7.14 in the Appendix - What has the uptake of the 'Opening Doors' scheme been and what impact has it had on the waiting list for housing?* Members were told that Opening Doors now had 66 properties in its portfolio, 22 Adur and 44 Worthing, in addition 21 units were soon to be delivered in Opening Doors first scheme with a small -scale developer plus an additional 3 in the pipeline with individual private landlords. Opening Doors was helping to transform the Councils' ability to help families most in need by making homes available in the private sector for homeless families which would ordinarily be 'out of reach' for them as landlords consider those homeless and/or on benefits too high risk to rent to. Opening Doors built landlord confidence. Whilst the Opening Doors Scheme did not directly take residents off the social housing waiting list, it reduced the number of households on the

list who would have become homeless and still be in temporary accommodation because they had not yet been successful bidding for social housing.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 22 - Paragraph 7.13 of the appendix - How many of these 1,400 homes are socially rented?* The Pathways to Affordable Homes strategy aimed to deliver a combined total of 1,400 affordable homes by 2025, a minimum of 250 of which would be directly commissioned by the Council. These would include a range of tenures - affordable/social rented, shared ownership and ownership under the new First Homes Scheme. It was not currently possible to provide a definite figure on how many of these will be let as social rent as the Councils would not be delivering all of those units and a number of sites were yet to be approved at planning. A number of schemes being self-delivered in Adur as part of the target would be social rented homes. These included 15 units in Cecil Norris that have recently been completed and allocated to households on the Adur Council's housing register, 32 units at Albion Street and a further c.50 homes at the Ashcroft Sheltered housing site.

A Member asked the following question: *In terms of Paragraph 6.6 of the appendix report, you note our communities are fragile and exhausted from the pandemic. To what degree have we sought to evaluate this pandemic impact on our different communities and what is the strategic plan to intervene on this data?* Members were told that the Councils had been gathering data throughout the pandemic regarding reach into communities and the help that had been provided. More recently the Councils had been doing work around the Proactive Project (reported to JSC in July) to help understand the impact on finance and debt and assist in targeting resources. The Authorities were currently reviewing the data in terms of the impact of Covid on different groups as part of the Autumn Recovery plans. This would be built into work on the Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 16 - Paragraph 5.2 of the report appendix - Regarding resilience and staff having what they need to do their job, removing constraints - could you give one example of where something you have implemented is working well, and one example of something that needs to change that you are working on?* Members were told that a significant outcome from the pandemic had been the ability of Councils to work differently and that the Councils were keen to avoid going back to an 'old normal' that no longer served Communities. During this time the councils had been able to reflect on the best way the authorities could work together in helping those most in need. Members were given examples of how this was achieved and were told that through this work staff were actively collaborating together to address operational issues and constraints, increasing service resilience and enabling our services to deliver our priorities and respond to community needs.

A Member asked the following question: *Re Paragraph 7.30 in the Appendix - How will the success of 'Time for Worthing' be measured over the coming months?* The Committee was told that Time for Worthing was supported by the Councils but had an established Management Group made up of business, community and third sector organisations. The work of the group spanned establishing inward investment propositions and providing a window for visitors to feel inspired to visit. The group worked on a number of key performance indicators (KPI) which included number of digital impressions (i.e. website and social media), number of investment / business enquiries and impact of extended marketing reach (which includes number of organisations carrying the brand). Those KPI's were monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 22 - Paragraph 7.14 of the appendix - Opening Doors - how many properties and landlords are registered with the scheme, what are the targets for success and how will the council secure enough registered landlords to make this an effective scheme?* Members were told that Opening Doors had 66 properties with 39 landlords in its portfolio, 22 Adur and 44 Worthing, in addition 21 units were soon to be delivered in Opening Doors first scheme with a small scale developer plus an additional three in the pipeline with individual private landlords. Members were told that as well as working with landlords who have one or two properties to rent, the Council was identifying and encouraging landlords with bigger property portfolios and to join the scheme. Members were told that in addition to communications the providing a good service was a critical element of encouraging and retaining landlords. The Opening Doors Scheme was already an effective scheme. The aim of the scheme was to enable households at risk of homelessness access the private rented sector and give private sector landlords the confidence to offer tenancies to households they would not normally consider. 66 households were currently not in temporary accommodation because they had been able to rent privately. To date, 14 households on the scheme had been successfully 'floated off'. That meant that their landlords had offered them a tenancy without the need for the Councils' involvement.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 7.10 of the appendix report mentions the Thrive Agenda, Building resilience and there is the broader backdrop of asset based development. Can you explain how all these concepts hang together to produce a coherent operational approach?* Members were told that 'Thrive' was a platform under current strategies and it was about meaning to have enough so that that people could relax and think about what they wanted to do rather than manage scarcity. Resilience was about coping and leaning into the unexpected and having capacity not just to react but to adapt and have some autonomy and control. Asset based development was how the Authorities did this, to achieve thriving communities to help build resilience required a different mindset and approach of working with what is strong and not what is wrong / missing in communities .

A Member asked the following question: *Regarding the Southwick Estate - please could you outline how Adur Homes will fulfil their obligations to the tenants regarding carrying out essential repairs during the period of consultation and up until decant?* The Committee was given an update on progress with repairs and planning for future planning.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 23 - Paragraph 7.15 of the appendix - A) How accessible are social prescriptions to the public? B) As part of the agreement secured by Adur Council and SDL. Why were opportunities for those on low incomes to access leisure facilities neglected and how will the council ensure the families on low incomes can access these opportunities for leisure and exercise to promote their wellbeing?* Members were told that the Local Social Prescribing Service was available to anyone registered at a GP surgery in Adur & Worthing. GP's and primary health care staff could refer people into the service, but residents of Adur & Worthing could also self-refer for Social Prescribing by using an online referral form or calling the associated number. The Social Prescribing team were able to support people over the phone, out in the community or could arrange to see people in their homes if they were not able to get out. The Adur and Worthing Wellbeing Programme, funded through the grant from Public Health West Sussex, had been developed to increase ease of access to prevention and lifestyle services, particularly for those with little previous health service contact. Enablement through this programme for residents to access leisure facilities includes our

Get Active programme which included passes to take part in taster sessions, as well as other community based activities. SDL had recently reintroduced an exercise on referral programme and consideration is being made as to whether the wellbeing programme can support reduced cost places for people on a low income who want to access the course. Members were also told of the 'Get outdoors' scheme that encouraged outdoor exercise.

A Member asked the following question: *How much has 'Time for Worthing' cost, what does the evaluation of it suggest has been the added value to the town and how does it link to 'Summer in Worthing?'* Members were told that this was currently resourced as 1.5 full time members of staff with an operating budget of £40k. Marketing and promoting place was important. The authorities were seeing early successes coming through Time for Worthing, including new campaigns, extended reach into the South East, new business enquiries, whilst also maintaining important assets including the completion of a full overhaul of the website and the new Visitor Guide. New partnerships have also been built and detailed work around inward investment value propositions is underway. The KPI's would be the measure for future success, however the brand was fast becoming established as the outward facing brand for Worthing.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 23 - Paragraph 7.16 of the report appendix refers to 'Money Mentors' - what is the scope and reach of this service, how are people who might benefit from it identified, and what is the commitment to keeping it / building on it going forward?* Members were told that the programme's criteria was to support residents who are struggling with self help services and who need additional support. There was strong commitment to the programme. There was funding for the project and external funding options were being sought for after this period.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 35 - What work has been done on internet poverty to ensure everyone can afford an internet connection. Gigabit Fibre programme is an excellent service but some people are unable to afford basic services?* Members were told that rates available were good value for Money however it was recognised that not all households would be able to afford the service. The Authorities were ordering fibre connections to its civic spaces to make broadband widely available.

A Member asked to following question: *Agenda Page 37 - Audioactive moving to Montague Street to offer young people employment skills relevant to the music industry is an excellent programme. When will Lancing see a similar levelling up opportunity?* Members were told about Fabric Lancing which would focus on Good Work and would provide a space in Lancing for communities and businesses to collaborate, connect and share ideas. This would provide a space for local groups to support and enable our communities around Good Work, including youth employment. Also to note there is also a Youth Employment Hub in place that also benefits Adur, situated in Worthing.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 40 - The supporting and enabling our food system by using £100k from the COMF grant to fund a community kitchen and pop up kitchens - has this money got a life span? What are the plans since the working plans for the community kitchen have not materialised? How successful/where have the pop up kitchens been?* Members were told that the COMF grant must be spent by March 2022; this was a stipulation of the grant. The funding identified for the Community Kitchen and pop up kitchens (£95,000) was being redirected, following further engagement with groups, to support and enable the food projects to increase their storage capacity through the purchase and siting of Porta Cabins and / or storage

containers and by purchasing food supplies to help the projects meet an increase in demand.

A Member asked the following question: *P13 What lessons have the Councils learned from the period and what opportunities had this given the Council?* Members were told that the Councils were still learning lessons and it was an ongoing process with the Autumn recovery work. There period had given the Authorities confidence with working with communities and the internal deployment of staff. The experience had provided an opportunity to look at the effectiveness of multi-disciplinary teams.

### **JOSC/37/21-22 Covid-19 response - Economic recovery, support for the vulnerable and health and wellbeing review**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy and 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 updated the Committee of the support provided to communities and businesses throughout the pandemic, notably from April 2020 to September 2021. The report also provided an overview of how the local economy in Adur and Worthing was 'bouncing back' from the pandemic, and highlighted the ongoing areas of work which were supporting the area's most vulnerable residents and businesses. The Head of Place and Economy and the Interim Director for Communities were present to introduce the report to members and answer any questions the Committee had.

A Member asked the following question: *Re Paragraph 4.15 - The COMF award has enabled the council to provide a variety of work and includes Dual Diagnosis support for those with mental health and substance misuse issues. How is this support being delivered and how are outcomes being measured?* Members were told that this was being delivered via a Dual Diagnosis Support Worker who is a qualified alcohol federation practitioner, experienced in working with complex mental health and an Expert by Experience. Outcomes being measured were: number of referrals; number supported into mental health and substance misuse support into accommodation. Those who experienced mental health challenges and substance misuse were often 'multiply excluded' from support and accommodation due to the 'challenging behaviours' associated with substance misuse and untreated mental health conditions. Initially the program was also linked with United Response, this element was paused due to the provider undergoing a Care Quality Commission inspection and the need to focus resources on this and supporting their client group who have needed additional support as a result of the pandemic.

A Member asked the following question: *Agenda Page 68 - Paragraph 5.2 - The Youth Employment Hub in Worthing, providing 'invaluable holistic support' for young people would also be an invaluable service in Adur also. Are there any plans for similar activity in Lancing, particularly with the recent loss of our Find It Out Centre?* Members were told that the Youth Employment Hub covered recipients in Adur as well as Worthing, the hub had been based in Worthing so young people accessing their Job centre appointments could also access the hub. The authorities were seeing Adur young people engaging with the Hub (29% of young people engaging are from Adur) it was recognised that there was the need for a Lancing base alongside this. The Councils were in discussions with DWP about this and using the outreach from the Lancing Fabric site which is themed around 'Good work'.



A Member asked the following question: *Q1 - Paragraph 3.7 mentions our national data and research. How have we modelled the impact of recent national policy changes (£20 UC uplift removal, eviction ban, end of the furlough scheme) on our residents and council support services in the coming 12 months?* The Committee was told that the Councils were still developing data and modelling. A data platform called LIFT was being used to identify those at risk and proactively reach out to them.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 5 - 'Looking forward'*  
*There are no immediate strategies listed which mention the physical health challenges being faced by residents. Should strategies be considered now before the full impact of winter is felt especially as covid infection rates are rising and this will be the first winter that covid and flu will be circulating, posing risks to vulnerable residents?* The Committee was told that this was the focus of the three year wellbeing programme which included a weight management and smoking cessation aspects. The Authority was working with NHS partners to promote key prevention messages including vaccination programmes and other public health information. In addition the rollout of Covid booster vaccines and Flu jabs had begun focusing on high risk groups.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 4.1 notes 5 priorities. We mention some strong successes. Can you also mention some challenges we foresee in meeting these priorities going forward in the next 12 months?* It was explained to the Committee that there had been a risk of a new health crises which was brought about by a number of factors including Long Covid, an increase in alcohol consumption and increased inequalities around smoking and obesity. There were wide range impacts around emotional wellbeing and mental health. Business stabilisation was an issue as well as financial resilience, Food Security, Housing and employment.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 5.2 - Are temporary agency staff still being employed to support the Proactive initiative? If so, how long are they expected to be employed for?* Members were told that no temporary agency staff had been employed to date to support the initiative. The authority were advertising for a specialist agency temp with DWP benefits knowledge for when the authority needed specialist knowledge.

A Member asked the following question: *Paragraph 4.40 mentions major developments. Please can we have a detailed update on both Union Place and Teville Gate, their 'mixed use' and when the public will see something tangible on these sites?* The Committee was told that the Council's development approach on Union Place was to complete site assembly and masterplan a comprehensive development in line with the Core Strategy and then seek a development partner who would build out the scheme over two phases. Marketing the site commenced in Summer 2021 and bids were received in September. At present the Council was reviewing all of the bids to assess the bidders experience, capability and financial offer with a view to selecting the preferred bidder by December. With regards to Teville Gate the first phase to complete the HMRC building had been completed and now is home to 900 staff and presenting an improved outlook to Railway Approach. The Council resolved in July to intervene in the continued market failure on the site to prevent it from being traded on between developers. Following extensive negotiations the Authority completed the purchase in September 2021. It was felt that the scheme proposed by Mosaic was not the best option for the site as the mix of uses, appearance of the scheme and public realm could all be improved significantly. To make sure there is a noticeable difference on the ground in the short term the Councils would renew the hoardings and had commissioned work to open up the north-south route across the site. There were plans to advertise for meanwhile uses similar to

the Level 1 project on the Grafton site. A development strategy for the site would be brought forward to the Joint Strategic Committee in December for agreement.

A Member asked if priorities were of a static or dynamic nature and was told that priorities were dynamic with an emphasis on practical measures.

### **JOSC/38/21-22      Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership**

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 provided the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with information on the work of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (A&WSCP) in order for JOSC to scrutinise the work of the A&WSCP and interview the Executive Members for Health and Wellbeing who represent the Councils on the Partnership.

The Executive Members for wellbeing were present to answer questions.

A Member asked the following question: *'Towards a Safer Adur and Worthing' suggests that 26% of Adur have no qualifications. What is the Council doing to improve the opportunities available to those who fall outside the most obvious support categories of young people/job seekers?* The Committee was told that the councils had a wide range of offers to people furthest from the job market who may face barriers due to lack of qualifications or other additional needs. There were two members of staff who could support people into education, training and employment, using creative and person centred approaches to explore aspirations and help find pathways to employment. The Councils had built good local partner relations so that referrals could be made from a variety of sources, including the Proactive Project and including homelessness services, social care and Mind. It was also possible to self refer for support. Self help was also available on the Councils website. Skills initiatives were being delivered and were in development to help upskill and reskill people cross Adur & Worthing, including linking up with partners e.g GBMET around their skills open door programme 19+

A Member asked the following question: *'Towards a Safer Adur and Worthing' states that crime rate was up 6% in Adur and down by 11% in Worthing. Does the Council have any data based reasons for this disparity and any plans to reduce the increasing crime rate specific to the needs and demographics of Adur?* Members were told that the reduction in Worthing was due to part of the reporting period coinciding with lock down restrictions therefore reflecting the lack of activity in the night time economy, less shops open etc. This would have meant an overall reduction in crimes such as assaults in the night time economy and shoplifting. The increase in Adur had no identified definitive cause. The largest increase was seen in drug trafficking which reflected increased police activity in the Adur area to tackle county lines and other drug supply models.

Further questions were asked about Crime Panels, Joint Action groups and the Safer Communities strategy.

### **JOSC/39/21-22      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 was circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 11. The report before members 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 also included two Scrutiny requests which JOSC was requested to consider relating to Southern Water services and the Worthing Business Improvement District (BID) process.

Members discussed the Southern water request and were informed that Southern Water were due to attend the Committee in connection with bathing water quality improvements member agreed to expand the scope of Southern Water's attendance.

Member discussed the request to Scrutinise the Worthing Business Improvement District (BID) process. It was agreed that a working group of members from Worthing be set up to carry out the work. Councillors James, Roser and Cochran were appointed.

**Resolved:** that the work programme be noted and approved as amended

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.20 pm, it having commenced at 6.30 pm

**Chairman**