

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Joint Governance Committee
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

QEII Room, Shoreham-Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea

29 July 2021

Councillor Andy McGregor (Chairman)

Adur District Council:

*Councillor Catherine Arnold
Councillor Kevin Boram
Councillor Gabe Crisp
*Councillor Lee Cowen
Councillor Tania Edwards
Councillor Jim Funnell
Councillor Rob Wilkinson

Worthing Borough Council:

Councillor Roy Barraclough
Councillor Mike Barrett
*Councillor Louise Murphy
*Councillor Helen Silman
Councillor Emma Taylor
Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Tim Wills
Councillor Steve Wills

*Absent

JGC/11/21-22 Substitute Members

Councillor Debs Stainforth substituted for Councillor Lee Cowen.

Councillor Daniel Humphreys substituted for Councillor Louise Murphy.

JGC/12/21-22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Steve Wills declared an interest in item 6 as a Non-Executive Director for Worthing Homes.

Councillor Andy McGregor declared an interest in item 7 as a member of both Lancing Parish Council and Sompting Parish Council.

Councillor Kevin Boram declared an interest in item 7 as a member of Lancing Parish Council.

Councillor Rob Wilkinson declared an interest in item 7 as a member of Sompting Parish Council.

JGC/13/21-22 Minutes

The minutes of the Joint Governance Committee meeting held on 27 May 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

JGC/14/21-22 Public Question Time

No questions from the public were received.

JGC/15/21-22 Items Raised under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items raised.

JGC/16/21-22 Annual Treasury Management Report 2020-21 for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council

Before the Committee was a report from the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources copies of which had been circulated to all Members and copies are attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 6.

The report asked the Committee to note the Treasury Management performance for Adur and Worthing Councils for 2020/21 as required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

The Committee questioned whether the report complied with the regulations, how that was verified, whether training would be provided to Members of the Committee and how the operation of the treasury management function was approved. Officers advised that professionally, the Councils adhered to the code through the setting of an annual strategy and reporting on it during the year. In addition, as part of the external audit each year, treasury management activities were reviewed. Officers confirmed that training would be provided for Members, however, dates for the delivery of this training had not been agreed.

Clarification was sought as to whether the two £5m loans to Worthing Homes offered good value, how many homes had been built as a result of the loans and assurance that the GBMet loan was safe. Officers advised that the primary consideration behind the loans to Worthing Homes had been the provision of housing rather than the return on the loan. However, due diligence was carried out to ensure that the return was beneficial to the Council and that it was not unsecured. Officers agreed to provide details of the number of houses that had been built following the meeting. In relation to the loan to GBMet, Officers advised that the loan sought to support educational provision and was secured against property and land.

Consideration was given to various aspects of the Investments held by Adur District Council as at 31 March 2021 with the following Counterparties:

- The maturity date of the Handelsbanken investment;
- The long term ratings of investments with CCLA Local Auth Property Fund & Boom Credit Union & War Bond;
- What type of investment was the War Bond?

Officers clarified that the interest rates were at the point the investments had been made and agreed to provide details of the maturity date for the Handelsbanken investment and details of the Boom Credit Union and War Bond investment.

A member queried the net underspend of £2.181m in relation to Adur District Council's HRA which had been attributed to a number of projects that the Council had been unable to deliver and sought clarification as to whether these had been profiled in for the next 12

to 18 months. Officers confirmed that the projects had been deferred and would come back in relation to the time period.

Resolved

That the Joint Governance Committee noted the annual report.

JGC/17/21-22 Joint Governance Committee Appointments: Parish Councillors

Before the Committee was a report from the Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and copies are attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 7.

The report advised the Committee of the nominations from Lancing Parish Council and Sompting Parish Council for Parish representatives to be appointed to the Joint Governance Committee as co-opted Members in accordance with the Constitution.

The recommendations were proposed by Cllr Kevin Boram, seconded by Cllr Rob Wilkinson and supported by the Committee.

Resolved

That the Joint Governance Committee

- I. noted the nomination from Lancing Parish Council of the appointment of Cllr Mike Mendoza as a Co-opted Member of the Joint Governance Committee for 21/22 and **recommended the appointment to Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.**

- II. the nomination from Sompting Parish Council of the appointment of Cllr Liz Haywood as a Co-opted Member of the Joint Governance Committee for 21/22 and **recommended the appointment to Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.**

JGC/18/21-22 Conferment of Honorary Alderman - Paul Baker

Before the Committee was a report from the Interim Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and copies are attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 8.

The Joint Governance Committee was asked to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Worthing, on former Mayor Paul Baker, who was no longer a member of the Council.

The recommendations were proposed by Cllr Steve Wills, seconded by Cllr Roy Barraclough and supported by the Committee.

Resolved

The Joint Governance Committee

1. approved the granting of the Honorary Aldermanship of the Borough of Worthing to former Mayor Paul Baker, and
2. recommended to Worthing Borough Council that a special meeting of the Council be arranged, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act, for the specific purpose of conferring the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to Paul Baker.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 6.59 pm, it having commenced at 6.30 pm

Chairman