



WORTHING BOROUGH  
C O U N C I L

29 June 2022

**Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing)**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>5 July 2022</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>8.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Worthing Town Hall</b>

**Committee Membership:** Councillors Dr Beccy Cooper (Leader), Rita Garner, Martin McCabe, Helen Silman, Emma Taylor, John Turley, Carl Walker (Deputy-Leader), Vicki Wells and Rosey Whorlow

**NOTE:**

The start time of this sub-committee meeting is dependent upon the finishing time of the preceding Joint Strategic full committee meeting.

**Agenda**

**Part A**

**1. Declarations of Interests**

Members and officers must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in relation to any business on the agenda. Declarations should also be made at any stage such an interest becomes apparent during the meeting.

If in doubt contact the Legal or Democratic Services representative for this meeting.

**2. Public Question Time**

To receive any questions from members of the public.

Questions should be submitted by noon on Friday 1 July 2022 to Democratic Services, [democratic.services@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

*(Note: Public Question Time will operate for a maximum of 30 minutes.)*

**3. Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions**

To consider any items the Chairman of the meeting considers to be urgent.

**4. New Priorities for Worthing Borough Council (Pages 3 - 18)**

To consider a report from the Chief Executive, a copy is attached as item 4.

**5. The Future of Public Space Protection Orders (Pages 19 - 32)**

To consider a report from the Interim Director for Communities, a copy is attached as item 5.

**6. Worthing Town Centre Business Improvement District - Supporting the Fourth Term (Pages 33 - 42)**

To consider a report from the Director for the Economy, a copy is attached as item 6.

**7. Referral of Motion on Notice from Worthing Borough Council (Pages 43 - 46)**

To consider a report from the Interim Director for Communities, a copy is attached as item 7.

**Recording of this meeting**

Please note that this meeting is being live streamed and a recording of the meeting will be available to view on the Council's website. This meeting will be available to view on our website for one year and will be deleted after that period. The Council will not be recording any discussions in Part B of the agenda (where the press and public have been excluded).

For Democratic Services enquiries relating to this meeting please contact:	For Legal Services enquiries relating to this meeting please contact:
Neil Terry Democratic Services Lead 01903 221073 <a href="mailto:neil.terry@adur-worthing.gov.uk">neil.terry@adur-worthing.gov.uk</a>	Andrew Matthias Senior Solicitor – Legal Services 01903 221032 <a href="mailto:andrew.mathias@adur-worthing.gov.uk">andrew.mathias@adur-worthing.gov.uk</a>

**Duration of the Meeting:** Four hours after the commencement of the meeting the Chairperson will adjourn the meeting to consider if it wishes to continue. A vote will be taken and a simple majority in favour will be necessary for the meeting to continue.



Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing)  
5 July 2022

## WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Key Decision - Yes

Ward(s) Affected: All

### **New Priorities for Worthing Borough Council**

#### **Report by the Chief Executive Officer**

##### **Officer Contact Details**

Richard Tuset,  
Chief Executive's Policy Lead  
[Richardtuset@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:Richardtuset@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

**1.1** Following the May 2022 local elections a Labour administration has been formed to lead Worthing Borough Council. The administration seeks to form a council that delivers change and further improve the lives of all who live and work in Worthing.

**1.2** This report sets out the ambitions of the administration, including actions started in the first 100 days, as well as ambitions for the medium and longer term. Additional reports enabling the delivery of specific ambitions will be prepared and brought to members for agreement at later meetings, as required.

**1.3** The plans identified for delivery in 2022 to 2023 will be resourced through existing budgets, with the exception being some additional community engagement work. The report therefore includes a recommendation for the release of £76,500 from reserves to resource this activity.

**1.4** The plans described in the report are helping to shape and will be delivered through the new joint delivery plan currently being developed with Adur District Council.

## **2. Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1. Note and approve the plans for change and delivery set out in the report.
- 2.2. Agree the release of £76,500 from the capacity issues reserves to resource additional activities supporting community engagement, inclusion and participation.

## **3. Context**

- 3.1. Following the local elections on the 5th of May 2022 the Labour group gained a majority of seats and a Labour led administration was subsequently formed to lead Worthing Borough Council.
- 3.2. The administration comes with a mandate for change and has set out plans to shape and develop the council and its services in a number of ways. Key priorities include being responsive to the needs of the community by opening up democracy and undertaking a more progressive approach to engagement and participation work. Reflecting the pressing issues of poverty and inflation, the council will also seek to strengthen support for residents and businesses through the cost of living crisis. In addition, the work of the council in responding to the climate emergency and achieving net zero will be further accelerated.
- 3.3. The administration has, from day one, been working with officers in order to develop and agree the plans and resources required to deliver upon their ambitions. The plans set out in this report include a range of key actions that are to start and where appropriate complete in the first 100 days of the new administration. Where plans involve a shared service, the borough will work in partnership with Adur, as appropriate.
- 3.4. Further projects and initiatives will come forward as part of the

administration's long term plans for change. These projects and initiatives will be developed in response to opportunities as well as needs, including those identified through community participation and collaborative decision making with communities.

## **4. Priorities and Actions**

### **4.1 Governance and Engagement**

4.1.1. The golden thread running through the work and approach of the new administration will be to listen to its communities, business and partners. In this way the council's intention is to become a community-first council, tapping into the enormous capability and enthusiasm seen across the borough's communities, exemplified perhaps most powerfully during the pandemic.

4.1.2. The ambition is for the council to gain a deeper understanding of its local communities, ensuring the priorities for Worthing Borough Council, and for the Town, are driven by the needs of its residents, partners and businesses. This means residents having the opportunity to be genuinely listened to and being able to work with the council in finding solutions to local problems. To help us move forward with this approach the council will undertake a range of actions and initiatives including the following:

**4.1.3. Opening up Decision Making** - The establishment of Worthing Executive meetings starting in July, where the council is able to focus on the issues and interests of the borough, forms part of an overall ambition to open up democracy and share decision making. Council meetings, for example, will be taken into community settings, encouraging participation and representation. We will investigate and consult on how the council, through a number of different ways, can better engage local communities in decision making processes. We will as part of this work undertake a process to review our overall budget to identify which funding could be released for direct spend in our local neighbourhoods and communities of interest. Ward councillors will play a key role in working with neighbourhood communities, making this a council wide initiative benefiting all wards.

**4.1.4. Big Listening Campaign** - Starting in the first 100 days we are going to embark on a town-wide Big Listening Campaign with Phase 1 running from mid summer to early Autumn 2022. The Campaign is the first step in exploring the potential role of the Borough Council in creating more opportunities for citizen participation, improved communication and inclusion. The campaign will

aim to listen to thousands of residents, in many different locations, sharing different ideas across every area of council activity. The campaign will be delivered through a range of engagement opportunities, such as evening events, online surveys and work with specific community groups, ensuring we are able to reach as many different residents as possible.

4.1.5. The outcomes from the campaign will be used to shape council strategy and direct the delivery of council services going forward. The approach will not be about identifying what more the council can do, but rather on making sure the council is doing or enabling the right things in the best way possible; supported and enabled by citizens and businesses playing their own important part in delivering changes and improvements.

**4.1.6. Big Clean-Up Week** - Alongside the Big Listening Campaign this summer, starting in the first 100 days of the new administration, the Council will also be running a Big Clean-up Week focusing on the town centre and seafront. We will work with the Worthing Town Centre Initiative, local businesses, residents and community groups in identifying problems, for example areas blighted with graffiti and litter, and work with the community in getting them cleaned up. Feedback from residents and businesses in undertaking this work will be used to further inform and direct regeneration work in these areas going forward.

## **4.2 The Cost of Living Emergency**

4.2.1. The impact of the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis is affecting every household. Inflation reached a 40-year high in early summer (9%) and is set to rise further in the months to come. Inflation is being most visibly seen in the sharp rise in energy bills and the highest food price inflation in a decade. Whilst many households and businesses are struggling, it is the living standards and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents that requires the most urgent action.

4.2.2. In response to this crisis the administration will seek to declare a 'Cost of Living Emergency' at the July full council meeting. As part of this declaration the council will work with residents, businesses and partners in the creation of an action plan to immediately start addressing needs. Actions will include how the authority can help prevent households entering crisis as well as helping those who are already struggling. This assistance includes making the most of the recent support packages announced by the Government plus support for food banks, the provision of advice and guidance through the Citizens Advice and our Proactive programme that is seeking to help

residents in crisis and to assist potentially vulnerable households, before problems arise. The council is also reviewing the Revenue and Benefits service (see below), to ensure it is more responsive and as part of this we are moving to an ethical debt collection policy.

4.2.3. In addition the £5 minimum council tax charge will be completely removed in 2023 and the council will consider the allocation of further resources to support residents in need, based on the outcomes of the Cost of Living Emergency action planning work described above and the changing support arrangements being made available by Central Government.

4.2.4. The action plan and its associated engagement processes will enable the council to better understand the scale of need, identify who most needs support and how best this support can be given. A further paper will be prepared for the Executive Committee in the autumn, presenting the action plan and identifying any additional resources, should these be needed in order to provide the help required.

### **4.3 Community Wellbeing**

4.3.1. The council will, in this challenging context, seek to improve wellbeing and community safety, making Worthing a seaside town to start well, live well, and age well in. Areas of immediate focus include the following:

**4.3.2. Communities** - The main programme of work to support our communities starts with the above programme of engagement work. The council will be data led and will use, for example, findings from the Big Listening Campaign and the Census, to give unparalleled insight into our communities, helping to inform and guide our work with all communities.

4.3.3. In line with the council's focus on equality, diversity and inclusion, additional work will be undertaken over the summer to set up an access group to regularly meet with councillors and officers to identify accessibility problems and agree solutions. In the coming year the council will also seek to develop its relationships with other underheard minority groups, including the LGBTQ community and the borough's ethnic communities. The responsibility for refugees and asylum seekers sits with West Sussex County Council and the Borough will work actively with the County to ensure Worthing is a welcoming and safe place for those placed in the borough. Support for the Third Sector will also be prioritised to ensure communities have the resources and structures to facilitate advocacy, community voice, inclusion, engagement and participation.

**4.3.4. Health and Wellbeing** - The council will ensure Health and Wellbeing is properly integrated into all policy development and service delivery helping to develop a collaborative approach to health and wellbeing across the council. Through the Big Listening Campaign, other engagement opportunities (especially targeted at the most excluded) and information gained through data sources, we will test the existing strategy, address gaps in provision and ensure our services meet the changing needs of our diverse communities.

**4.3.5. Young People** - The pandemic and the ongoing impacts of the cost of living crisis have affected young people in many ways, including access to education and training, homelessness, social isolation and wellbeing, including mental health. The council intends to improve support for young people in the borough, directly where it can but also through partnership working and advocacy with agencies who are responsible for ensuring young people are able to thrive. Actions in the first 100 days include setting up a Young Person's group to meet regularly with councillors and officers to identify how best the council can support and meet the needs of young people in Worthing. In addition, we will explore the possibility of running a mental health engagement event for young people, identifying issues and the kinds of solutions needed by the young people of Worthing.

4.3.6. As part of this work, over the next 12 months, the council will explore provision for young people (14yrs - 17yrs) in Worthing. This will include council provision, youth clubs, recreational facilities and amenities utilised by our young people. This information and associated engagement with young people on their social needs will help us to formulate a long term plan to better support and enable the flourishing of young people living in the borough.

**4.3.7. Community Safety** - The council will actively work to ensure the successful implementation of the recently adopted Community Safety Partnership Strategy. The council will for example support stronger partnership working between the police, businesses, communities and the Licensing team, addressing concerns over impact of night-time economy both on health and wellbeing and community safety. We will, as part of this work, also work with partners to review recent issues with youth violence and using a multidisciplinary safeguarding approach, seek to reduce youth crimes, supporting both the families affected and victims.



## 4.4 Climate Emergency

4.4.1. The council is reviewing existing plans and strategies to ensure the climate emergency response is a golden thread running through everything the authority does and spends. Keys actions already started in the first 100 days include:

**4.4.2 District Heat Network** - The Council is reviewing the procurement process and business model for the Heat Network to ensure our ambitions and processes are sufficiently robust, delivering the very best sustainability outcomes and retaining as much investment as possible in the borough.

**4.4.3 Reviewing Regeneration Schemes** (see also improvement areas below) - The Council is pursuing an integrated area based approach that looks at the contribution each new development can make to our places and pays attention to the spaces in between. As part of this approach we will use eco design principles to retrofit and repurpose buildings and when new buildings are required this will be designed to the highest possible sustainability standards. To support this work the council will be running an eco design competition, to generate new ideas, learn from best practice and deliver long term sustainability outcomes.

**4.4.4. Carbon Reduction Review** - The Council will re-evaluate council owned and jointly owned buildings, green spaces and other council assets (including vehicles) to ensure climate change and carbon reduction plans are in place or will be put in place by the timetables agreed. We will as part of this work undertake an energy efficiency assessment of all emergency and temporary council owned accommodation. Where energy efficiency measures are required, Decarbonisation of the Public Sector funds will be applied for. The Council will also work with Turning Tides to better collaborate and deliver an energy efficiency assessment of all Turning Tides. In a similar way the Council will seek to work in partnership with the owners of 'Open Doors' properties and the owner/occupiers of properties with energy efficiency ratings F or below.

**4.4.5. Outreach and Engagement** - These and other initiatives will be supported through outreach programmes (part of Big Listening campaign) helping residents and businesses to better understand and benefit from energy efficiency measures.

**4.4.6. Natural Areas** - The Council, through the Environmental Services and Climate Emergency portfolio leads, will initiate and drive a set of meeting with

the South Downs National Park, to discuss the Climate Emergency impacts, mitigation and adaptation to ensure the future of Cissbury, Shepherds Mead land and the Sanctuary land in Salvington ward

## **4.5 Environmental Services**

4.5.1. The council will create the greenest town on the South Coast by combining regeneration, with climate action and the protection of our seafront, parks and open spaces. As part of this ambition the council will work to ensure development projects enhance and protect nature and wildlife in the borough. The council will further support and develop our approach to waste collection, keeping our streets clean and protecting our quality public amenities. Additional work is being undertaken with the council's Public Health and Regulation Team, improving information, advice and regulatory support to our food businesses and licensees whilst also working to improve air and bathing water quality. Officers are also undertaking work to further improve the work of our Bereavement Services, ensuring they are able to meet the needs of our residents now and in the years to come. Specific actions include:

**4.5.2. Waste and Recycling** - In partnership with Adur, the council will start the development of a new Waste Management Strategy, incorporating Listening Campaign feedback on options around recycling provision, food waste collection and smart collection services. Immediate actions being underway include an audit to assess current bin provision at flats and smarter routing of waste collection vehicles. We will develop new resident engagement and communication plans that will increase recycling and reduce waste, for example by providing clearer guidance on what can and cannot be recycled. Food waste collection pilots will be undertaken in the next 12 months.

**4.5.3. Parks and Open Spaces:** In partnership with Adur, the Council will seek to prepare a Parks and Open Green Spaces Management Strategy (incorporating Listening Campaign feedback) helping the council make better and fairer use of its capital and revenue expenditure. As part of this, the council will undertake a strategic review of planned investment into parks (e.g. play equipment, grounds, seating and biodiversity improvements) and will seek to support and resource community groups to realise "Green Corridors" and "pocket parks" wherever possible. We will work with residents, business and the Foreshore Team to further improve bathing water standards and facilities with the aim of obtaining a high bathing water status from DEFRA for Goring Gap and Splash Point beach. The council will also identify the possibility of improved changing facilities on the seafront in both east and

west locations. Tree planting will be increased and the council will work with Highways and other partners to develop a revised street tree replanting programme, enabling communities to nominate locations that need trees or pocket parks. With the rise in dog ownership we will undertake a dog provision survey and use this to revise the location of bins and provide better support and guidance.

## **4.6 Citizen Services**

4.6.1 The council will work in new and innovative ways to help ensure residents have access to suitable housing and will seek to implement development models that provide this in a sustainable way, for example by repurposing existing buildings and protecting our limited green spaces. We will review our benefits system to ensure it is fair and accessible; ensuring everyone can get the help they need. Specific areas of focus include:

**4.6.2. Housing** - Work is underway in planning a landmark housing conference for Worthing, where experts, partners, developers and communities will be invited to explore the best approaches for providing housing, including Council Housing provision, across the borough. Existing schemes are being reviewed to ensure they are able to provide the best possible housing provision for our residents and deliver on our ambitions to protect green spaces and respond to the climate emergency. The council's focus on preventing and responding to homelessness will be supported through this work and we will, as part of this, actively explore the development of a Worthing 'Housing First' model to tackle rough sleeping.

**4.6.3. Revenue and Benefits** - In partnership with Adur, we will seek to accelerate the process of digitisation ensuring the Revenues & Benefits system is more efficient and responsive to the needs of our residents. As part of this work we will ensure people can link their Universal Credit payments to local authority assistance, triggering adjustments to ensure residents get the right support. We will develop an ethical debt collection policy that supports and enables residents to resolve payment issues before they become problematic and the council will seek to stop the use of bailiffs for Council Tax collection wherever possible. The £5 minimum council tax charge will be completely removed in 2023 and the council will consider the allocation of further resources to support residents in need, based on the outcomes of the Cost of Living Emergency engagement and action planning work described above.

## 4.7 Regeneration

4.7.1. The council's regeneration approach will reflect our care for the borough and support our other objectives, for example, listening to the needs of our residents, protecting the environment, reducing climate impact, providing homes and responding to the cost of living crisis. In this way, existing and future developments will be carefully reviewed, and developments will enhance the environment, reflect the creativity and heritage of Worthing, as well as providing the housing and amenities that our town requires. The council will work with local businesses, colleges, schools and employers enabling them to flourish, providing the jobs and training opportunities that our residents, including our young people, need. Specific areas of focus include:

**4.7.2. Improvement Area 1** - Over the summer the council will start its work on 'Improvement Area 1' (Town Centre and Seafront) with a 'Big Clean-up Week' that will run alongside the Big Listening Campaign. This event is described above and will involve the council working with residents, business and the TCI to bring neglected and forgotten areas back to life. In collaboration with stakeholders, the council will then plan, resource and start the implementation of a bespoke set of public realm, property related, climate action and other improvements for this area.

4.7.3. As part of this work the council has commenced a review of existing plans to identify the best way forward for major sites, including Colonnade House, Teville Gate, Union Place and the Lido. The council will in the next 12 months explore the creation of a car-free town centre and seafront, with a new network of pedestrian and cycling routes providing safe and easy access.

4.7.4. **Further Area of Focus** - The council will generate opportunities and social benefits by bringing economic activity to areas and communities where it is most needed. The council will as part of this approach rollout a 3 year programme of engagement and collaborative planning, guiding the implementation of similar regeneration schemes in further improvement areas outside the town centre:

- Improvement area 2 – Montague Street (West)
- Improvement area 3 – Brighton Road/High Street junction to Egremont
- Improvement area 4 – Chapel Road from St Pauls to Teville Gate

**4.7.5. Green Inward Investment** - The council will renew its commitments to actively working with local businesses and will work with the TCI and others

to support start ups and encourage more networking and collaboration between businesses, communities, the council and Not For Profits. As part of this work the council will seek to stimulate green businesses promoting low carbon economies and developing Sussex Bay as the powerful delivery framework for sustainable tourism, aquaculture and fisheries, carbon storage, renewable energy and nature conservation. We will also review the opportunities for the Decoy Farm to make a significant contribution to our Net Zero economic ambitions.

## **4.8 Culture and Leisure**

4.8.1. The cultural offer in Worthing is rich and diverse and the council wishes to develop this further, providing the conditions and opportunity for the arts and creative industries to grow, thrive and be accessible to all. The council will, as part of this work, seek to support our home-grown talent and small independent venues throughout the town. The links between wellbeing and leisure will be actively reviewed and developed further. Specific areas of work will include:

- The council will review the Worthing Theatres and Museums (WTM) offer, clarifying and agreeing outcomes and performance indicators and making these available to the public (where they are not commercially sensitive). This work with WTM will include seeking to improve the cultural offer of the Trust to hard to reach communities.
- The council, with its partners will review the Time for Worthing Brand and consider options for the development of this key area of work.
- As part of the Listening Campaign, the council will review the status of the 'Meanwhile' project currently proposed for Teville Gate.
- The council will work with partners to provide better signposting to our arts, music and heritage venues. The council will also review and improve Broadwater Bridge temporary hoarding, improving one of the main entrances to the town.
- The council will ensure the Big Listening Campaign reaches minority groups to ensure communities have the services, education, language assistance and support for multicultural events they require.
- Feedback from the Big Listening Campaign will also be used to review and improve the quality and accessibility of the leisure offer in Worthing parks, seafront and foreshore.
- In the coming year the council will work with partners to establish an improved accommodation offer in Worthing for visitors and families and the council will explore the possibility of a Festival of Worthing.

## 4.9 Resources

4.9.1 Adur and Worthing face a range of social, economic and environmental challenges and the council's response needs to be equal to these challenges if we are to both overcome the difficulties and release new opportunities. The council will manage and use its resources carefully and responsibly, and will draw on community wealth building models (learning from successful areas such as Preston and using these learnings to build our own “Worthing model” to respond to the needs of a seaside town) to ensure we invest our money and resources in Worthing and its communities. The council will as part of this work undertake a comprehensive review of its assets, to make sure we are using them well and to the greatest benefit for our residents. This approach will increasingly see the council, with its partners, use economic levers to create a more resilient and sustainable local economy, with more diverse businesses, creating more employment and well-paid jobs for local people.

4.9.2 The council will review both the 2021/22 budget outturn and current budget allocations to identify areas for particular attention, potential areas in which savings can be made, and where possible, allocating these funds to support new areas of work. The council will maximise the opportunities provided to us through our procurement approaches giving additional emphasis to better outcomes for residents, investments in local supply chains and enhanced local employment opportunities.

4.9.3 The council will look to use its resources in a wide number of ways, responding to community needs and interests on a number of scales. This work will be across the portfolios and include the following examples:

- Explore how vacant buildings could be offered to charities on a short-term basis and identify pop up spaces for crafts and artists
- Consider if Decoy Farm could support green businesses development
- Develop plans to incentivise business to be more green
- Develop a support package for start up businesses
- Explore the possibility of developing a local Climate Bonds scheme
- Developing a Worthing Good Business Charter (in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce who have already signed up to the Charter)

**Digital Access** - Work will be accelerated to ensure free public space broadband is available across the borough, and the council will work with the County and other partners to improve digital access in our libraries, council offices, community hubs and children’s centres. The council will as part do this

seek to improve the provision of digital literacy support across our community hubs.

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1. Engagement and communication; leading to more inclusive participation is a central tenet of our overall approach. Engagement with our communities and partners, through the Big Listening Campaign, the opening of democracy and other engagement opportunities described in the report, will inform and direct the plans of the council going forward. We will make the connection between what we hear from the communities in Worthing to the decisions we make and we will do this to the highest standards of openness and transparency.
- 5.2. Delivery of specific projects will be communicated through the councils' communications channels, press releases, social media etc as appropriate but we will also use these channels to amplify community voices and to invite new ideas and contributions to the work of the Council.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The majority of the commitments are in the current budget or will utilise existing budget allocations. However there are two commitments which will require funding:
  - Big Listening Campaign
  - Big Clean-Up Week
- 6.2. To facilitate this work it is proposed that £76,500 be released from the capacity issues reserve to take this work forward. The funding will be used to increase capacity within the organisation to undertake the 'Big Listening Campaign, hire venues and fund other costs associated with the campaigns.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides all local authorities with the power to take any steps which are likely to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their area and residents. It also places a duty on authorities to develop a community strategy, together with other local bodies, for this purpose, and is a strategy that also contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK
- 7.2 s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation
- 7.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- 7.4 Specific legal implications arising from any of the commitments referred to in this report, will be reported to Members, in each commitment specific report delivered as part of the usual decision making process.

### **Background Papers**

#### **Officer Contact Details:-**

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

The council priorities set out in the paper will become one of the key documents informing the direction and prioritisation of the council's work with regard to economic development in the Borough. The plans for change and delivery for Worthing Borough Council, described in this report, have helped shape and will be delivered through the proposed shared delivery plan being developed in partnership with Adur District, for consideration by the Joint Strategic Committee.

### **2. Social**

**2.1 Social Value** - Key priorities set out in the report include being responsive to the needs of the community by opening up democracy and undertaking more engagement and participation work. In response to the cost of living crisis, for example, the council will work with residents, businesses and partners in the creation of an action plan to immediately start addressing needs. Actions will include how the authority can help prevent households and businesses entering crisis as well as helping those who are already struggling. The action plan and its associated engagement processes will enable the council to better understand the scale of need, identify who most needs support and how best this support can be given.

### **2.2 Equality Issues -**

2.2.1 The council is subject to the general Equality Duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The proposed changes will advance the council's legal duties by supporting further engagement with communities; helping to ensure services are designed and delivered in ways that better meet specific needs and address areas of historic and ongoing disadvantage and inequality. It is the clear intention of the council to actively engage with groups that have traditionally found it difficult to be heard in decision making spaces. This will be done primarily via the Big Listening work but will be developed in all programmes of activity.

2.2.3 As part of these arrangements, should council meetings be located out of the Town Hall and in community settings, an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to help ensure equality of access by the community, Members and officers. For example, the assessment process will help ensure any new venue has appropriate access for those with impairments and that meetings are held in safe locations, with appropriate transport links and disabled parking. Similar impact assessment processes will be followed, as appropriate, for each significant project or policy change identified in the report.

### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

There are specific commitments in the report which relate to the promotion of communities as safe places. Delivery of these commitments by working in partnership through multidisciplinary teams is in progress and will be strengthened.

### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

The programme of work set out in the report will enable the council to identify solutions with other partners that will enable our residents, communities and neighbourhoods to flourish.

This plan specifically looks at aspects of inequality in our communities currently, from having a voice in our democratic system to being able to feed your family and heat your house. This Council is clear that these issues must be addressed for all in our communities

## **3. Environmental**

Developing the council's role in responding to the climate emergency and in protecting and developing the natural environment are key priorities for the council and its ambitions.

## **4. Governance**

The council's key priorities include being more responsive to the needs of the community by opening up democracy and undertaking more engagement and participation work. The approach and ambitions set out in this paper will be further developed through the constitutional review process being undertaken this summer in partnership with colleagues from Adur District Council.



WORTHING BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing)  
5 July 2022

Key Decision: Yes

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

## **The Future of Public Space Protection Orders**

### **Report by the Interim Director for Communities**

#### **Officer Contact Details**

Sophie Whitehouse  
Early Help and Wellbeing Lead  
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#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. Worthing Borough Council is committed to ensuring that our public spaces are safe, vibrant and welcoming places to live, work and visit. Achieving this is a careful balance of using legislative tools and powers, balanced with a supportive approach to those who need it to live safely and well.
- 1.2. Tackling anti-social behaviour in our public realm is a key part of this approach and is a priority under the Safer Communities 3 year strategic plan as endorsed by this committee in October 2021.
- 1.3. In August 2016, Worthing Borough Council introduced three Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) as a key tool to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour. All three orders were extended for a further three years in August 2019 and must now be reviewed before they expire on 21 August 2022.
- 1.4. In order to extend or vary a PSPO, the Councils must be satisfied that the behaviours and activities addressed in the Order have had or will have a detrimental impact on the community. It is then a requirement to consult with key stakeholders and community representatives on the proposals.

- 1.5. From March 1st 2022 to April 12th 2022, Worthing Borough Council undertook public consultation to extend the PSPO for public place drinking for a further 3 years until August 21st 2025. This proposal was supported by key stakeholders and 92% of consultation respondents and should therefore be approved for extension.
- 1.6. During the same period, Worthing Borough Council consulted on the variation and extension of the PSPO to address unauthorised camping to cover Goring Greensward only. Again this was supported by partners and 86% of respondents and is therefore recommended for approval.

## **2. Recommendations**

That the Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing) resolves to :

- (a) Extend PSPO 1 (Public Place Drinking) in its current form for a further three years until 21 August 2025;
- (b) Allow PSPO 2 (Begging in Worthing Town centre) to expire on 21 August 2022 without being extended;
- (c) Vary PSPO 3 (Unauthorised Camping) to cover the Greensward only for a further three years until 21 August 2025.
- (d) Request that the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews all Worthing Borough Council PSPOs on an annual basis.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 Worthing Borough Council is committed to ensuring that those who live, work and visit our area feel safe and are safe whilst they enjoy all that our towns and open spaces have to offer. Promoting safety benefits everybody, contributing to a vibrant economy for visitors and residents and increasing participation in activities that enhance health and wellbeing.
- 3.2 In October 2021, this committee endorsed the Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership three year strategy, which created a vision in which initiatives to promote safety were linked to increased equality of opportunity, economic vibrancy and better health and wellbeing. Increasing community cohesion and reducing anti social behaviour and hate crime is identified as a priority in this strategy. Using a balanced approach of support, tools and powers is key to ensuring that anti-social behaviour is prevented wherever possible. As part of this approach, Worthing Borough Council has previously implemented three Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to provide authorised officers with powers to deter and prevent anti-social behaviour in public spaces.
- 3.2 The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides a power to local authorities to implement PSPOs in specified locations. A PSPO is designed to prevent or deal with a particular nuisance or problem that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life by placing conditions on the use of the area and imposing sanctions on those who do not comply. Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence for which a fixed penalty notice can be issued and on summary conviction, a fine of up to £1,000 can be imposed. The fixed penalty can be up to £100. At the time of original implementation in 2016, Adur and Worthing Councils set the fixed penalty for breach of a PSPO at £50.
- 3.3 On 22 August 2016, following extensive public consultation, Worthing Borough Council's Joint Strategic Committee approved the following three PSPOs in response to a number issues of public place nuisance and disorder:
- PSPO 1: Public Drinking in Worthing  
PSPO 2: Begging in Worthing Town Centre  
PSPO 3: Unauthorised Camping in 8 locations in Worthing
- 3.4 Under the terms of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the maximum term of the orders is 3 years. Following consultation in 2019, the orders were extended in their current form for a further 3 years, therefore the current orders will all expire on 21 August 2022.

- 3.5 Local authorities are able to extend a Public Space Protection Order under Section 60(2) of the 2014 Act if they believe that it is necessary to to prevent occurrence or recurrence of the activities identified in the order or, an increase in frequency or seriousness of those activities.

#### 4. **Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 PSPOs must be evidence based. It is therefore necessary for decision makers to be satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the following two conditions are met, should they wish the orders to continue.

##### **Condition 1**

Activities carried out in a public space within the local authority's area have had a detrimental effect on those in the locality, or it is likely that activities carried out in a public place will have such an effect.

##### **Condition 2**

The effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent and continuing nature and is, or is likely to be, such as to make these activities unreasonable, and this justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

- 4.2 For the orders to be extended, they must be deemed necessary, with supporting evidence. Following initial consultation with partners it was agreed that there is insufficient evidence of a significant and persistent problem of aggressive begging in Worthing town centre. This has largely been due to the increased support to those facing homelessness and financial hardship that has been provided by Adur and Worthing Councils' street outreach team and One Stop support to access financial assistance and employment support. Due to the absence of aggressive begging, it is not proportionate to extend this order and it will cease at midnight on 21 August 2022.
- 4.3 **PSPO 1: Public Place Drinking:** The current PSPO to address public place drinking covers all of Worthing and allows authorised officers to confiscate alcohol if they believe it has led or will lead to anti-social behaviour. Failure to comply with a request to stop drinking is a breach of the order and can result in a fixed penalty notice.
- 4.4 Alcohol is recognised as a key driver for crime and anti-social behaviour. Sussex Police figures show that from 1 May 2021-1 May 2022, there were

654 crimes in Worthing that had an alcohol marker. This figure does not include low level incidents of anti-social behaviour but demonstrates the importance of ensuring there are a range of powers to tackle excessive and anti-social drinking in the town's public spaces.

- 4.5 The PSPO introduced in 2016 replaced the previous Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) that also provided this power. The power to remove alcohol has therefore been in force in Worthing since 2005, playing an integral part in preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour linked to excessive drinking. This power is currently enforced by Sussex Police and is used both as "business as usual" and during targeted operations to reduce street disorder.
- 4.6 Consultation with Adur and Worthing Borough Commander Chief Inspector Sarah Leadbeater has confirmed that Sussex Police support the continuation of this power as it offers a low level intervention that is effective in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. This has been used effectively where police are able to target groups drinking in Worthing town centre for several hours throughout the day, attracting complaints from businesses and residents. Officers are able to prevent continued drinking which can lead to public order issues such as rowdy and aggressive behaviour. Since 2016, there have been no fixed penalty notices issued in breach of the order, demonstrating the value in the order both as a deterrent and preventing an escalation in alcohol-fuelled disorder.
- 4.7 From March 1st 2022 to April 12th 2022, the public were invited to respond to consultation to extend this PSPO for a further 3 years. Total number of respondents: 74 with 91.9% in favour of extending the order for a further 3 years. Furthermore, 70.3% reported witnessing anti social behaviour related to public place drinking, highlighting the importance of continuing the powers to tackle these issues. It is therefore recommended that the PSPO to address Public place drinking is extended until August 21st 2022.
- 4.8 **PSPO 2 : Unauthorised Camping-** the current PSPO places restrictions on 8 Green spaces in Worthing. The order was introduced in 2016 in response to an increase in the number of people using these leisure spaces in lieu of authorised campsites. This increase led to litter, improper waste disposal and impacted access to these spaces for our local residents. This order was extended in its current form 2019, however following a review with council colleagues and partners in early 2022, there was no evidence of a continuing issue at any location other than Goring Greensward.
- 4.9 Between June 2021- September 2021, there were four separate incidents of

unauthorised camping pertaining to groups and families using the space for recreational camping. The PSPO provides our Parks and Foreshore staff with the power to ask people to remove their camping paraphernalia and in conjunction with the deterrent effect, is a valuable tool to ensure that our Spaces remain clean, safe and accessible to all.

- 4.10 From March 1st 2022 to April 12th 2022, the public were invited to respond to the consultation to vary and extend this order. The variation and extension was widely supported; We received 58 responses with 86% in support. It is therefore recommended that this order is varied and extended for a further 3 years until August 21st 2025.

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement to carry out consultation before introducing, extending or varying a PSPO. Whilst the scope of the consultation is not legally defined, it must include the following key stakeholders:

- The local Chief Officer of Police
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Owners or Occupiers of the land affected
- Appropriate Community Representatives

- 5.1.1 Sussex Police and the Police Crime Commissioner are in support of the proposals to extend both of the orders detailed above.

- 5.1.2 The requirement to consult with “community representatives” is not legally defined, however, best practice dictates that effort should be made to engage with those in the community who have an interest in the area affected or who might be impacted by the orders. Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Team carried out extensive consultation between March 1st - April 12th 2022. This consultation comprised:

- Online consultation from March 1st-April 12th 2022
- 5 community listening events
- targeted communication through Worthing Town Centre Initiative (TCI)
- Targeted consultation through Worthing Central Neighbourhood Panel.

- 5.1.3 Results of the consultation can be found at Appendix 1 but are



summarised below

**Proposal 1:** To extend the PSPO for Public Place drinking in its current form until August 21st 2025. Total number of Respondents: 74 with 92% in support of extending this order And 75% either very concerned or concerned about public place drinking.

**Proposal 2:** To extend and vary the PSPO for unauthorised camping until August 21st 2025. Total number of respondents: 58 with 86.2% in favour of the proposal and 72% said they were concerned or very concerned about unauthorised camping in this location.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no unbudgeted financial implications arising from this proposal.

## 7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 PSPO were introduced under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Act gives councils the authority to draft and implement PSPO's in response to the particular issues affecting their communities.
- 7.2 The proposed restrictions should focus on specific behaviours and be proportionate to the detrimental effect that the behaviour is causing and are necessary to prevent it from continuing.
- 7.3 The PSPO must set out the detrimental activities; what is being prohibited; the area covered; the consequences for breach and the period for which it has effect which can be for a maximum of 3 years but thereafter it must be reviewed.

### Background Papers

- The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>
- [Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Strategy 2021-2024](#)

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

1.1 Implementing measures that increase safety in our public realm encourages individuals and businesses to be economically active in our Town centres and in the wider community.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Implementing these measures will promote safety in our public spaces, encouraging communities to use the resources available to them, promoting health and wellbeing, a vibrant visitor and leisure economy.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

For the last 6 years, the PSPOs have been subject to scrutiny via the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure fairness and proportionality. It is proposed that this continues on an annual basis. In addition, an Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed.

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#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

- Using an approach that balances support and enforcement is key to achieving the priorities in our Safer Communities Strategy including “ Increasing Community Cohesion” and “ Reducing Public Place Violent Crime”.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

- The Council must ensure that the powers afforded by the PSPO is used responsibly and proportionately, and only where necessary to protect the public.
- Due regard must be had of the Equalities Act 2010. The PSPO must not be directly or indirectly discriminatory. Consideration should be given to certain groups of persons who may be disproportionately affected, .e.g. vulnerable persons, persons living in poverty and travellers.
- The PSPO should not restrict rights protected under the Human Rights Act , in particular Article 8, the right to a private and family life, Article 10, the right to freedom of expression and Article 11, the right to freedom of assembly and association.
- Wherever proposals for an Order have the potential to impinge on the rights under articles 10 and 11, consideration must be given as to how to demonstrate that they satisfy the requirements of paragraph 2 in each of the articles

### **3. Environmental**

- Preventing anti-social behaviour and limiting activities that damage our natural environment contributes to protecting our green and blue spaces.

#### **4. Governance**

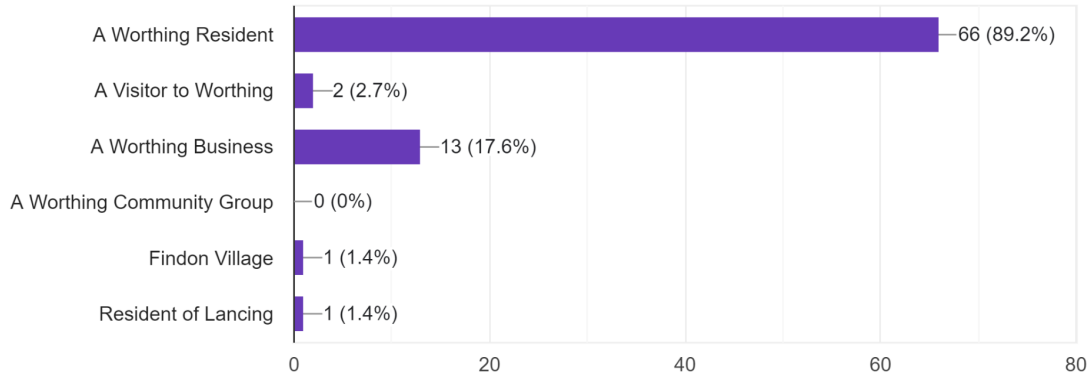
- Using the tools and powers available to the councils supports our community safety strategy priorities and our health and wellbeing priorities.

## Appendix 1: Consultation Results

### PSPO 1: Public Place Drinking

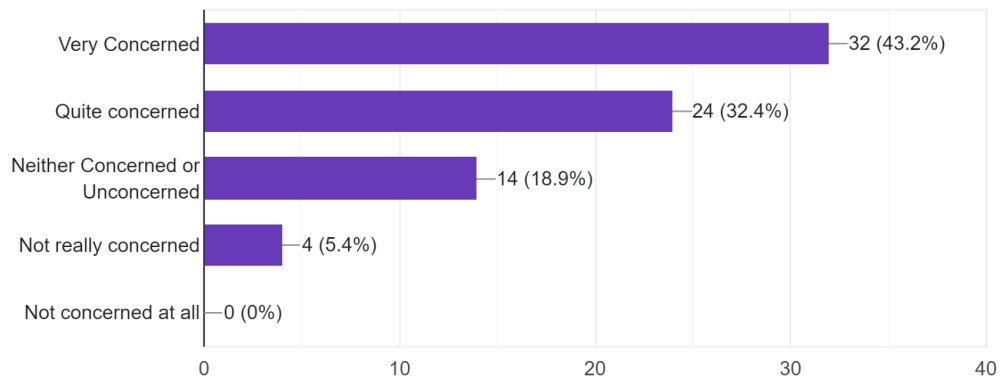
Are you:

74 responses



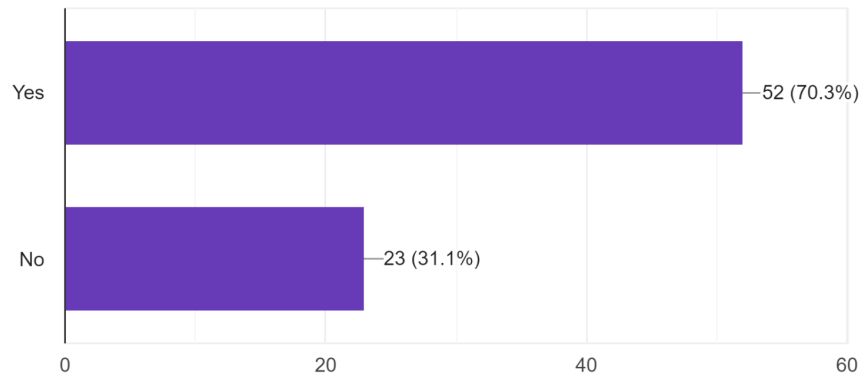
How concerned are you about anti social behaviour related to drinking alcohol in public space?

74 responses



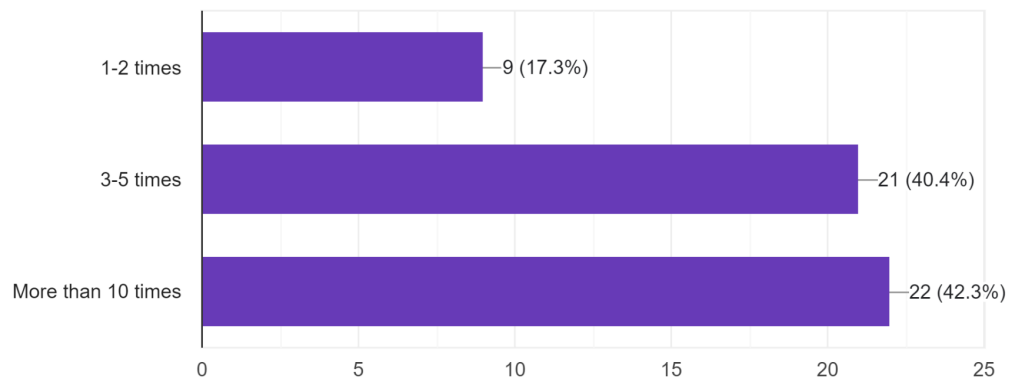
In the last year, have you witnessed anti social behaviour related to drinking alcohol in a public place?

74 responses



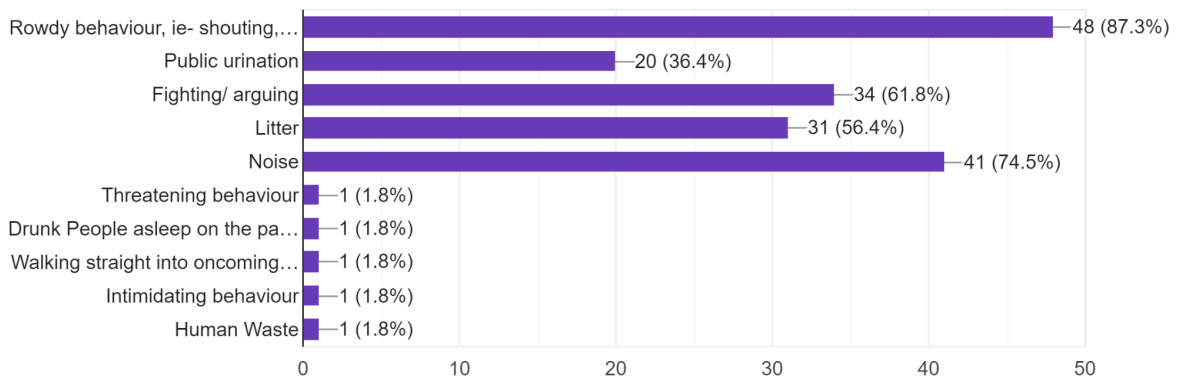
If you answered Yes, how often would you say this happened?

52 responses



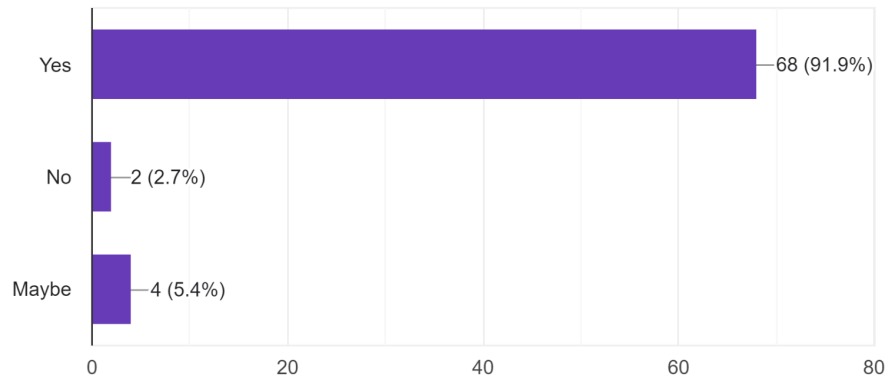
If you answered yes, what sort of behaviour did you witness?

55 responses



### Do you support the extension of the PSPO powers in Worthing?

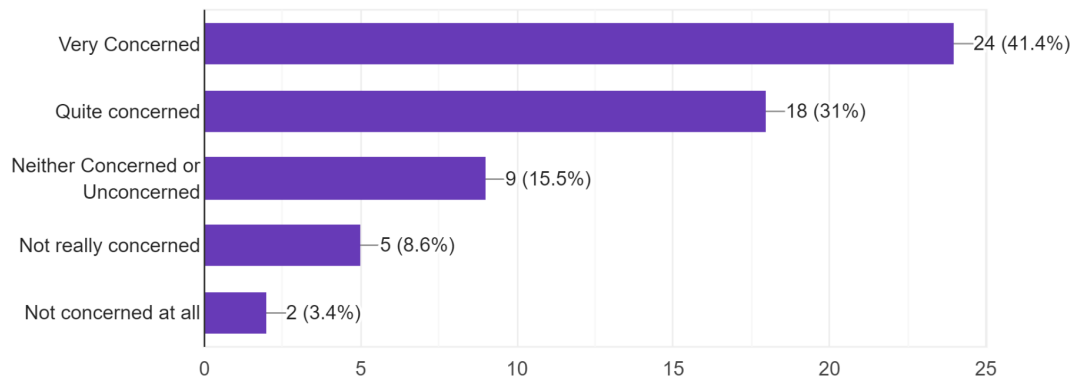
74 responses



### PSPO 2: Unauthorised Camping Goring Greensward

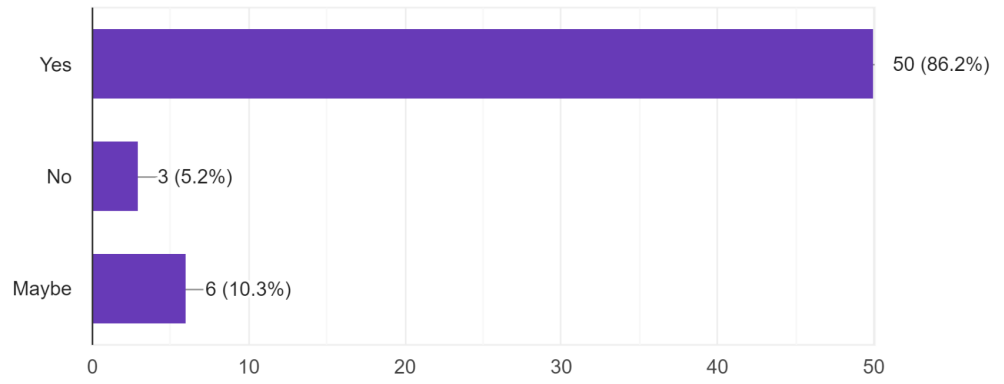
#### How concerned are you about unauthorised camping on Goring Greensward?

58 responses



Do you support the extension of the PSPO powers to prevent unauthorised camping on Goring Greensward?

58 responses



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WORTHING BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing)  
5 July 2022

Key Decision [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected:

## **Worthing Town Centre Business Improvement District - Supporting the Fourth Term**

### **Report by the Director for the Economy**

#### **Officer Contact Details**

Andrew Willems  
Head of Place & Economy  
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#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Town Centre Initiative's (TCI) proposal to ballot businesses located within the existing Worthing Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID), with a view to extending the term of the BID for a further five years.
- 1.2. Consider how best in the renewal of the BID, use this opportunity to strengthen partnership working between the TCI and the Council; to recommend that Members ensure both parties work collaboratively, in a spirit of mutual trust and cooperation; to align resources and activities that support shared priorities; and to communicate the work of BID partners in a way that enhances their reputation and that of the Town.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Sub-Committee supports the proposal for a fourth term of the Worthing Town Centre BID for a period of five years to commence on 1st April 2023, and approves BID levy proposed by the TCI of 1.25%
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee authorises the Director for the Economy to:-
  - 2.2.1. Receive the regulatory Notice to Renew the BID from the TCI; to agree any minor amendments to the renewal BID proposals and to work with Civica to hold the renewal ballot
  - 2.2.2. To finalise the terms of, and enter into, the BID Agreement between the TCI and the Council, and to incorporate into that Agreement the recommendations at paragraph 6.5 below.
  - 2.2.3. The Sub-Committee acknowledges the JOSC Working Group's response to its review of the Worthing Business Improvement District in 2022 and the Working Group's input into the recommendations contained in this report.

## **3. Context**

- 3.1. A Business Improvement District (BID) is a defined geographical area where business ratepayers have voted to collectively invest in local improvements, in addition to those already delivered by the Council and other bodies. BIDs are a proven way for businesses to work together and generate funds to improve their local trading environment and provide additional services.
- 3.2. A BID allows the businesses to develop a business plan covering the services and projects to be implemented in the BID area, which is then voted on by those that would be liable to pay the BID levy. A 'Yes' vote requires at least 50% of those voting to be in favour of the BID, and for those businesses voting in favour to represent a greater total rateable value than those voting against.
- 3.3. A BID is usually managed by a not-for-profit company, which can only be formed following consultation and a ballot.

- 3.4. The Worthing Town Centre BID was first proposed and put to the ballot by the Worthing Town Centre Initiative during 2007. The initiative was supported by Worthing Borough Council at its Cabinet meeting on 6th June 2007 and, following a successful vote, the BID launched on 1st April 2008 for a term of five years. The levy was 1% of rateable value, with businesses having a rateable value of £10,000 or less per annum exempt. This raised approximately £200,000 per annum towards the three priorities identified by businesses, which were:
- a cleaner and well-maintained town centre
  - a safer and welcoming town centre
  - a vibrant and well-marketed town centre
- 3.5. In 2012, consultation and a ballot for a second five year BID term took place. This was successful and commenced on 1st April 2013. The levy remained at 1% and businesses with a rateable value of £10,000 or less remained exempt. The amount available to spend on priorities rose slightly to an estimated £210,000 per annum. Business priorities for the BID remained unchanged, with the addition of a fourth priority:
- to improve transport, parking, orientation and accessibility
- 3.6. In 2017, a further consultation and ballot was agreed for the third five year BID term. This was successful and commenced on 1st April 2018. Whilst the priorities remained relatively unchanged for this term, business support was included as an additional priority whilst there was a slight increase in the levy to 1.25% of rateable value. The Council's support was agreed at the Joint Strategic Committee on 4th April 2017.
- 3.7. Since its inception, Worthing Borough Council has collected BID levies on behalf of the Worthing Town Centre Initiative. The Council charges for this service and holds regular BID monitoring meetings with the TCI to ensure the collection and management of monies runs smoothly.
- 3.8. From January 2022, and in support of the BID's fourth term plan, the Council agreed for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the mechanics of the BID and the relationship with the Council. The recommendations of the JOSOC Working Group is outlined in Section 5, whilst the full JOSOC report is referenced in the background papers.

#### **4. Review of the third term**

- 4.1. Over the last three terms, the BID will have invested significantly in activities to benefit Worthing Town Centre. The intended outcomes of this investment included helping to maintain footfall, reduce vacant property rates and improve the ambience and appeal of the town centre.
- 4.2. The BID has provided details of its own review of the activities undertaken during the last five years. This is detailed under their Fourth Term Business Plan 2023 - 2028, link provided in the background papers, however highlights include:
- 500 hours a year of deep cleaning / chewing gum removal
  - 1.2 miles of Christmas lights installed
  - Over 5,000 business interactions annually
  - 8,000 Worthing Guides distributed promoting all town centre businesses
  - 80% of the businesses support having a BID
- 4.3. In addition to the activities listed, the BID supports a database of all town centre businesses and through the TCI collates data on footfall and vacant premises, which is reported at meetings of the Steering Group. Communications with businesses are maintained through email, newsletters, visits, meetings, surveys and events. The BID also provides a business voice on Town Centre issues and developments.

#### **5. Proposals for the fourth term**

- 5.1. The Worthing Town Centre Initiative is now preparing for the fourth term ballot, which will take place in Autumn 2022. If successful, it will come into effect on 1st April 2023.
- 5.2. The BID has carried out detailed consultation since September 2021 to determine the Business Plan for the fourth term. Engagement included:
- September 2021: online survey focusing on current activity and what else is needed
  - November 2021: a face-to-face visit surveys to set priorities
  - February 2022: open event to launch the draft business plan and seek ideas and new suggestions

- April 2022: draft business plan circulated for comments

Throughout June and July the BID will continue to engage with visits to businesses planned, dedicated newsletters and targeted emails all to raise awareness of the business plan and its priorities.

5.3. Following the feedback, the Business Plan signals the following areas as priorities for the fourth term:

- Promoting the town and its businesses
- Improving the visual appeal of the town centre
- Delivering a safer and more welcoming town centre
- Driving footfall with markets, events and activities
- Providing business support and advice

Further details on the projects contained within these priorities can be found in Appendix C.

5.4. Due to the conditions experienced by businesses across, and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it's been confirmed there will be no financial increase. The BID committee has agreed to remain at 1.25% of the rateable value for businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 and above. Any businesses with a rateable value below this threshold will not be required to pay the levy.

## **6. Worthing Borough Council Position**

- 6.1. The Council has supported the Worthing Town Centre BID since its inception and made a significant financial contribution through the payment of levies on a number of Council-owned properties within the BID boundary.
- 6.2. The priorities of the BID continue to align with those of the Council and there is much to be gained by collaborating on initiatives that deliver shared outcomes. Specific opportunities exist to support the attractiveness and financial viability of the town centre through improvements to public realm; place marketing; and development of the visitor offer.
- 6.3. The investment made by the Council, including into the public realm and major projects around the town centre, continue to compliment the BID. However, the last five years has seen a significant change in the

town centre to a more experiential offer, complimented by retail rather than the latter being the key driver. Moving forward there continues to be real opportunities for the Council to collaborate with the BID to ensure growth and continued adaptation of the town centre, especially in a post-pandemic landscape.

- 6.4. The Council's proposition, in supporting the BID, is therefore to place a greater emphasis on aligning the resources available where they contribute to shared priorities. For example, the development of a 'town team' jointly delivering initiatives such as the 'Big Clean Up' (planned for Summer 2022) combines resource and expertise. Such an approach, based on partnership principles, fits well with the recommendations provided by the JOSOC Working Group, highlighted in 6.5.
- 6.5. From January 2022, a JOSOC Working Group was convened to scrutinise and review the BID and the relationship that exists between both parties. Following a number of interviews and inputs, a paper was presented to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 9th June 2022. This paper recommended the Council support the BID with a number of recommendations, as follows:
  - Having reviewed the Worthing BID proposals for 2023 - 2028 the Working Group considers that the Council should support the BID and vote 'Yes' in the ballot but that processes should be put in place to ensure that there is better communication and collaboration from the Council and others to help the BID be more successful.
  - That the Worthing BID and the 'Time for Worthing' Initiative should work in closer partnership once the TFW Business Plan is produced.
  - That the Town Centre Manager and Chairman of the Town Centre Initiative and Worthing BID Team be congratulated on the work that they are undertaking to provide the BID and offer
  - That an annual review report on the work of the BID be presented to the Joint Strategic Committee and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- That the Council should continue with having Officer and Member representation on the BID Steering Committee only

6.6. The Council is likely to receive four ballot votes in respect of the properties below. It is worth noting this has been reduced since the last ballot in 2017/18 as Worthing Theatres & Museum Trust are now responsible for the cultural assets, including Connaught and Pavilion Theatres:

<b>Property</b>	<b>1.25% Bid Levy 2022/23)</b>	<b>1.25% Bid Levy (estimate 2023/24)</b>
Municipal Centre*	5,181	4,000
Car Parks	9,653	9,653
Pier & Tollhouse	581	581
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,415</b>	<b>14,234</b>

\*includes Cannon House, Town Hall and Portland House. There will be no levy due for Cannon House in 2023/24 as it will be the responsibility of the tenant.

- 6.7. It's worth noting that the BID is also a customer of the Council. Through a series of costs, including BID collection, refuse collection for markets and events, other event costs (for example parking) and storage for equipment, on average, the BID spends £28,000 a year with the Council.
- 6.8. Subject to the recommendations highlighted, it is proposed that the Director for the Economy be authorised to vote in support of the BID on all the ballot papers issued to the Council. This recognises that the priorities of the BID align with the Council's aspirations for the town centre, that a successful BID leverages in significant additional investment for the benefit of the town and that together they can help to strengthen Worthing's reputation as a place where people want to live, work and visit.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. The current cost of the BID levy is built into the Council's overall revenue budget. If the result of the ballot is in favour of the BID,

Worthing Borough Council will be committed to paying an annual 1.25% BID levy on the rateable value of the Borough Council's property holdings for a period of five years, effective from 1st April 2023.

- 7.2. The Council could have additional levy costs to those set out in section 6.6 should any council owned business properties within the BID area become void and, as the landlord, we become responsible for the business rates and the BID levy until re-let.

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004 govern the arrangements for the BID and the administration of the ballot process.
- 7.2 s1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 confers power on the Council to enter into a contract for the provision of making available assets or services for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the Council.
- 7.3 s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation

### **Background Papers**

- [Third Term Council Agreement - Joint Strategic Committee \(4th April 2017\)](#)
- [JOsc Working Group: Review of the Worthing Business Improvement District \(BID\) - Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee \(9th June 2022\)](#)
- [Worthing Town Centre Initiative Business Improvement District Fourth Term Business Plan 2023 - 2028](#)



## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

- The Worthing Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) generates and delivers activities that contribute to the economic wellbeing of the town centre.
- One of the BID's priorities is to provide business support and advice to those companies residing in the town centre. This work, including the analysis around vacancy rates, provides reassurance that the town centre is being managed and, working in partnership with other parties, looks to grow the town centre economy.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

- The BID seeks to work with and impact upon a number of communities in the town centre. Not only serving the business community, the actions as a result of the Business Plan seeks to deliver social value for residents and visitors by making the town centre more appealing.
- The BID Business Plan will help to deliver community wealth, in line with the priorities of the Council

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

- The BID levy takes into account the impact on sole traders and small businesses, where they are operating in premises with a rateable value less than £12,000 per annum. All such businesses are exempted from paying the levy.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

- The Town Centre BID works with the Safer Community Partnership to help identify and address community safety issues in the town, and this work will continue if the BID is successful.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

- Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

- The BID are committed to working with the Council in it's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### **4. Governance**

- The Council is part of the BID steering group, which enables the Council (both Officer and Member) to have a 'voice' in terms of the delivery of the BID. In addition, the Council and BID will look to align policy and resources (where appropriate) to deliver an enhanced offer in the town centre.

- The JOSC report (identified under 6.5) recommends that an annual review report on the work of the BID is presented to the Joint Strategic Committee and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is a new recommendation and will provide a continuous review of the Council and BID partnership over the next 5 year term.
- A number of initiatives and interventions are currently worked through in partnership, however this report represents an opportunity to work in a more systematic way to ensure resources are directed and prioritised in a collaborative manner. Any involvement by the Council will be agreed with Members ahead of any significant decisions relating to joint working with the BID.



Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing)  
5 July 2022

WORTHING BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Key Decision: [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

## Referral of Motion on Notice from Worthing Borough Council

### Report by the Interim Director for Communities

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out a motion (attached as Appendix 1) referred from the meeting of Worthing Borough Council on the 5th April 2022.
- 1.2. Members of the Joint Strategic committee are asked to consider and determine the Motion.
- 1.3. Members can either support the motion and ask for further work to be carried out in this regard, or, members can reject the motion.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion and determine how further work is carried out; or,
- 2.2. That the Joint Strategic Committee reject the motion.

#### 3. Context

- 3.1. At its meeting on the 5th April 2022, Worthing Borough Council received a motion from Councillor Vicki Wells, seconded by Councillor Martin McCabe, details of which can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The motion submitted to Council contained subject matter that is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee, as defined in para 14.4.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it was moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.3 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Joint Strategic Committee, the mover, or the seconder in the absence of the mover, shall be entitled to attend the relevant meeting of the Executive and explain the motion. Councillor Vicki Wells has been made aware that the motion has been referred to this Committee.

#### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 The Joint Strategic Committee can either support or reject the motion.
- 4.2 Should the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion, then the Committee should ask Officers to prepare a further report on the substantive issues to be presented at a future meeting of the JSC.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There may be direct financial implications in future depending on the course of action the Joint Strategic Committee wishes to take.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under paragraph 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

### **Background Papers**

Motion to Worthing Borough Council on the 5th April 2022

**Officer Contact Details:-**

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## **Glyphosate-Free Worthing**

1. This Council recognises the biodiversity decline in species of pollinating insects including bees, wasps, hover flies, moths, butterflies and beetles due to the destruction of natural habitats. Pollinating insects are the 'key workers' that ensure the successful fertilisation of flowering plants. This Council acknowledges that over 40 vascular plant species including flowering plants, formerly recorded in Sussex have become extinct in the last 60 years.
2. This Council acknowledges that glyphosate based herbicides and pesticides have been traditionally used to maintain Worthing's green, open public spaces including parks and bowling greens and on hard standing areas including the Promenade.
3. Glyphosate-based pesticides and herbicides have a devastating impact on both flora and fauna and are associated with several forms of cancer and have been banned or restricted in many countries including France, Denmark and The Netherlands. This Council agrees that Worthing's green, open spaces need to be safe for children, pets and patrons and places that enhance biodiversity.
4. Over 80 local authorities across the UK have phased-out or put measures in place to phase out toxic pesticide use. Other local authorities have unanimously passed a Motion to phase out the use of glyphosate and have adopted non-chemical alternatives.
5. This Council calls on the administration to set out a plan to employ safe and environmentally friendly alternatives and phase out the use of glyphosate and other synthetic herbicides and pesticides in all parks, public green spaces and hard standing areas within the next 18 months.

### References

<https://www.iarc.who.int/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/insect-pollination.html>

<https://www.pan-uk.org/alternatives-to-herbicides-a-new-guide/>

**Proposer:- Councillor Vicki Wells**  
**Secunder:- Councillor Martin McCabe**