

Minutes of a meeting of the
Joint Statagic Sub-Committee (Adur)
29 September 2022
at 6.30 pm

Councillor Neil Parkin (Chairman)

Councillor Carson Albury
Councillor Kevin Boram
* Councillor Angus Dunn

Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Steve Neocleous

* absent

JSS-C(A)/7/22-23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

JSS-C(A)/8/22-23 Minutes

The minutes of the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee meeting held on 8 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

JSS-C(A)/9/22-23 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

JSS-C(A)/10/22-23 Items Raised under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items raised.

JSS-C(A)/11/22-23 Priorities for Adur District Council

Before the Committee was a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 5.

Adur District Council had a strong and highly successful track record in delivering quality public services, building new homes and transforming greenspaces, even in the most challenging of times.

In coming to the end of the current planning cycle, this report set out the plans and ambitions of the administration going forward, through 2022/2023 and beyond. Additional reports enabling the delivery of specific ambitions identified in this report would be prepared and brought to Members for agreement at later meetings, as required.

The plans for delivery in the 2022/2023 financial year would be resourced through existing budgets. Resources for the following financial years would be identified through the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Annual Budget setting processes for 2023/24.

The plans described in the report had helped shape and would be delivered through the new joint delivery plan, currently being developed with Worthing Borough Council, for consideration at the October Joint Strategic Committee.

Members welcomed the report, acknowledging the work undertaken by Officers over the past 3 years and noting that the Council was doing all of this work at a very low cost to the taxpayer.

The recommendations in the report were unanimously supported.

Decision

The Adur Joint Strategic Sub Committee

1. noted the strong progress made over the past three years, including the successful delivery of services through the pandemic; and
 - noted and approved the plans for change and delivery set out in the report.

JSS-C(A)/12/22-23 Responding to Cost of Living Impacts in Adur

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 6.

The Committee was informed that there was growing evidence to show the impact that rising costs and inflationary pressures were having on residents in Adur. Whilst all households were impacted upon, increases in energy, food and fuel prices were disproportionately affecting lower income families, lone parents, couples without children, those with disabilities, single income households, and those on fixed incomes. The cumulative impact of inflation was now having an impact on a growing number of households, including new households that had not had to access financial support to date.

Supporting residents to tackle cost of living pressures was a priority for Adur Council, and there was a clear recognition that following the impact of the pandemic on Adur communities, in particular for more vulnerable households, there was a need to help people to alleviate income pressures. This was not something that Adur Council could do alone - it needed to work collaboratively with other parts of the community, including business and voluntary sector organisations, residents, and local communities as well as other public sector organisations such as WSCC and Jobcentre Plus.

Assessment of Proactive data showed significant numbers of households that were in food, fuel, water and overall relative poverty and who were struggling now. Some of the community food groups were reporting unprecedented demand outstripping their ability to help.

The Council had been working to alleviate the pressures of firstly the pandemic and then emerging cost of living issues, over the last few years. Supported by Council's budget and COMF funding this work had included working with and supporting local community

food groups, establishing the Proactive response for those that were struggling, providing health and wellbeing support, and housing and homelessness initiatives.

In response to the ongoing pressures caused by cost of living impacts, an Adur Cost of Living Roadmap had been developed as a way to convene a range of partners to work together to support and enable as many people as possible to be able to cope over the next two years. The Roadmap aimed to respond to both immediate and urgent need, whilst building a longer and more sustainable approach by:

- supporting households to be as financially resilient as possible
- supporting communities to help each other and those in most need
- helping to reduce cost impacts on people
- developing sustainable approaches to address income inequalities

There were four major areas of focus for the Roadmap:

1. Providing Infrastructure support to where there was an immediate short term need
2. Developing a sustained and co-ordinated community response to ensure that residents who were vulnerable and most at risk of experiencing financial exclusion were able to achieve better financial wellbeing and resilience
3. That Adur Council considered its own organisational culture, policy and practice to ensure it addressed the cost of living crisis
4. That partners in Adur worked collaboratively to better utilise their resources to meet community needs and promote financial wellbeing and resilience

Critical to tackling cost of living impacts would be the need to balance the provision of immediate support for households with longer term sustainable measures that supported better financial resilience, increased independence and community infrastructure.

The report outlined why a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to tackling cost of living impacts was needed, and how Adur Council, through the Cost of Living Roadmap and a supporting Action Plan, would work with partners across government, non government and private sectors to collaboratively support residents. It described the purpose of the Cost of Living Roadmap and Action Plan and the partnership arrangements that had been set up to support delivery of the Plan.

The recommendations in the report were unanimously supported.

Decision

The Adur Joint Strategic Sub-committee approved the Adur Cost of Living Roadmap (at Appendix 1) setting out what Adur District Council would do to support residents to manage cost of living impacts.

JSS-C(A)/13/22-23 Public Space Protection Orders - Dog Control

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 7.

The report outlined the findings of a public consultation to renew the current Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), including some variations, and recommended approving the amendments to the PSPO and for it to be renewed for a further 3 years.

Members welcomed the report and proposed an amendment to the recommendations to include the fenced off area of the Meads Recreation Ground (children's play area leased by West Sussex County Council for Swiss Gardens Primary School).

The recommendations, as amended, were unanimously approved.

Decision

The Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee:-

1. considered the findings of the Public Consultation and approved the proposed amendments to the PSPO as detailed in section 4.1 through to 4.6 and the inclusion of the fenced off area of the Meads Recreation Ground (children's play area leased by West Sussex County Council for Swiss Gardens Primary School); and
2. resolved to refer these recommendations to the Adur District Council meeting on the 20th October for approval.

The meeting ended at 6.58 pm