

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

Gordon Room, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing Town Hall

16 February 2023

Adur District Council:

Councillor Joss Loader
Councillor Mandy Buxton
Councillor Carol Albury
Councillor Tony Bellasis
Councillor Ann Bridges
Councillor Paul Mansfield
Councillor Sharon Sluman
Councillor Debs Stainforth

Worthing Borough Council:

Councillor Jon Roser
Councillor Dan Hermitage
Councillor Ibsha Choudhury
Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies
Councillor Margaret Howard
Councillor Daniel Humphreys
Councillor Dr Heather Mercer
Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes

Absent

Councillor Mandy Buxton, Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies, Councillor Daniel Humphreys, Councillor Dr Heather Mercer

JOSC/75/22/23 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Sparkes declared an interest as a member of West Sussex County Council
Councillor McGregor declared an interest as a County Councillor

JOSC/76/22/23 Substitute Members

Councillor Andy McGregor substituted for Councillor Mandy Buxton

JOSC/77/22/23 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 19 January 2023 were approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

JOSC/78/22/23 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

JOSC/79/22/23 Members Questions

There were no Member questions.

JOSC/80/22/23 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

JOSC/81/22/23 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no call-ins.

JOSC/82/22/23 Annual Summary of Complaints and Compliments

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 8, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report provided an overview of compliments and complaints received by the councils for the financial year 2021/22. It included trend analysis for the previous two financial years.

It set out progress on improvements to the feedback process and policy and the steps that were planned for the next financial year to embed a feedback driven culture.

A Member asked “On page 11 paragraph 4.16 there are figures given for stage 1 complaints that take longer than the target of 10 days for a response. Whilst I appreciate that some complaints are more complex than others and thus need more time I am also aware that making a complaint can be stressful for the customer. What can be done to reduce the delayed response times and also to reassure the customers?”

Response -

Members were told that customers had shared with the council, that they valued clear communication and clarity around how and why decisions were made. When responding to complaints the council needed to ensure they provided clear and comprehensive responses. If this took longer than 10 working days, officers should contact customers and advise them when they were likely to get a detailed response. Acknowledging complaints in a timely manner and setting realistic response time-scales would help reassure customers as well as provide meaningful responses.

The new feedback system allowed for improved reporting on complaints, facilitating scrutiny on individual services and enabling managers to review performance more constructively.

A Member asked “In Paragraph 4.25 we see that housing has the highest number of complaints (9 of 13) being upheld or partially upheld at stage 2. What can be done to better support the staff managing stage one complaints to more accurately evaluate the complaints, providing a satisfactory resolution and response at stage one?”

Response -

Members were told the Housing Team was actively reviewing how it managed complaints and how performance could be improved.

The number of complaints escalated to stage 2 across the councils was relatively low. Despite that, they should have been looking at why some escalated complaints were fully or partially upheld at this late stage rather than being upheld at stage 1.

Sometimes complaints were upheld at stage 2 because the customer had provided additional information or evidence. Other times it was due to the senior reviewer taking a different view to the original officer who responded. Managers responding to stage 2 complaints should have been sharing their decisions with the officers who responded at stage 1 to facilitate learning.

They were continuing to train staff on complaints handling, including mandatory training, to help improve the quality of responses.

Finally, as had been referenced before, the new system would provide more accessible data (including reasons why complaints were or were not upheld) to be used to improve performance across the organisation.

A Member asked "Paragraph 4.22 states that '19.2% of stage two complaints have not been shown as responded to. This is likely to be due to responses being sent outside of the system'. This seems an awfully vague and uncertain response to a large number of mismanaged cases. Can we have some clarity please?"

Response -

Members were told the council needed to track and have visibility of complaints and responses for monitoring and training purposes.

The statistics referred to here related to the old system, which had less robust tracking mechanisms in place. The new system provided much better tracking and reporting to prevent situations like this arising in future.

A Member asked "Future Reporting - Paragraph 4.40 - New functionality also gives people the option of submitting equalities data. Can you explain more about how this function works, how staff identify the equalities data and what training has been provided in order to do this?"

Response -

Members were told the equalities questions were optional questions that they asked people submitting a complaint to complete, to provide them with better understanding of the communities who had reason to raise a complaint. The data was anonymised and not linked to specific complaint cases, but it was grouped on a service basis. The complaints team were at the time, the only ones who were able to analyse this data, and they had had training through the Equalities Champions.

A Member asked "(Annual report Paragraph 4.12) - The number of cases where the outcome of complaints is not logged is worrying, and particularly problematic in housing. I see that the council has introduced a new system which makes outcome logging compulsory. What about the complaints with no outcome - outlined in both reports - both stage 1 and 2, what process is being applied to ensure these customers are - or have been - properly responded to?"

Response -

Members were told the data provided a snapshot of performance at any one time, and did include complaints which were in the process of being responded to. It was crucial that residents had confidence in the response to complaints. The updated system provided greater visibility of performance (speed of response, and whether or not complaints had been responded to). It included compulsory fields that must be completed before a complaint is closed down, including whether a complaint was upheld or not, and if it was upheld what the reason was.

The data now being produced was being used by services, including housing, to improve performance. Live complaints were now being reviewed proactively and checks were being put in place to ensure that all managers had the necessary training. A complaints policy and procedure had been drafted to guide this work.

A Member asked “(Half year report Paragraph 4.11) - Having read both reports in detail, you can understand why I have lost all confidence in how Adur Homes in particular deal with complaints. What is being done to ensure that complaints coming into the system at various points are actually being diligently captured and logged onto the new system now? What’s being done differently?”

Response -

Members were told as detailed in the previous response, the data from the new system which had informed the half yearly report had triggered an urgent review of how complaints were handled within the service.

This work included reviewing the data, updating training and implementing a policy and procedure specific to the service.

Members also asked about incentive schemes to encourage officers to go above and beyond to satisfy complaints and were told that such schemes had been trialled before but were difficult to get right.

Resolved

Members noted the contents of the report.

JOSC/83/22/23 Annual update on progress with delivering the Climate Change agenda

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 9, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

The report updated JOSC on the progress made and delivery of the important Climate and Nature agenda.

A Member asked “Paragraph 7.3 talks of a feasibility study which modelled different food waste collection options considering cost, performance and ease of use. Will these have any consultation?”

Response -

Members were told there were different ways to collect food waste, particularly in relation to the frequency of collection with recycling and residual waste, collection vehicles and containers.

Which collection methodology the council would use would be informed by the study that had been completed and depend on funding arrangements from DEFRA, dialogue with West Sussex County Council as the waste disposal authority and the requirements of the Environment Act which were still awaited from central government. Taking this into account there was likely to be a single preferred option, which might need to be adapted for different housing types (eg flats vs suburban houses).

The council did not anticipate consulting on options, but subject to funding hoped to conduct a trial to get feedback from residents about how the service works, and what if anything could be done to enhance it further.

Officers were currently working up a scope for a trial which aimed to establish in 2023/24, subject to being able to secure the resources.

A Member asked "Paragraph 7.5 talks about the value of our circular economy, including community composting groups, etc etc. Is there a gap in knowledge that prevents more people in our community creating their own groups in their local community e.g. 'how to start community composting or friends of groups' and what can be done?"

Response -

Members were told support was available from the councils' commissioned Community Infrastructure provider, Community Works, to assist members of the community wishing to form community and friends groups. That there may have been some potential to undertake some targeted communications in relation to this area of focus.

A Member asked "Paragraph 6.2 Re-Naturing - there have been some complaints which demonstrates the need for further communications, engagement and signage to inform and educate as to the importance of renaturing.

On top of the engagement work planned throughout 2023 in section 9, what consideration has been given to doing education on re-naturing to those residents who have limited access and capacity to engage with the online updates?"

Response -

Members were told that at the outset, many of the renaturing locations had temporary signs placed outlining the principles and providing basic educational information to residents regarding renaturing. Providing permanent signage or interpretation boards was prohibitively expensive but some friends groups were commissioning these through CIL and external funding streams.

The councils web pages contained a renaturing map which detailed on a park by park basis the location of renaturing areas within the park and in the coming year it was hoped that they would provide more detailed information regarding which birds, insects and plants etc residents can expect to see at each location and would seek to place some detail and educational material in park notice boards.

Park Rangers spent considerable amounts of their time engaging with community groups, friends groups and other stakeholders attending task days and group meetings where they were on hand to provide education around renaturing, biodiversity and countryside management

A Member asked “Regarding the food waste trial - could you tell us about whether a review of Arun’s food waste trial was undertaken by our Councils, what that comprised of, and whether the results were fed into our strategy?”

Response -

Members were told there is a lot of information and case studies on food waste collection. The feasibility study that was commissioned through WRAP funding had drawn on this extensive national research. Officers were also reviewing trials that had been done more locally, working with colleagues at West Sussex County Council and in the Districts and Boroughs. This included Arun and Mid Sussex. They had requested that an operational group be set up with neighbouring authorities to share knowledge and experience, and this should happen in the next month.

Members also asked about the recommendations from the climate assembly that had not gone ahead and particular problems with them and trials in other authorities. Members were told a tracker exists to keep them up to date on where the various recommendations are in terms of progress and that issues like the Cost of Living had required a revaluation of priorities. Members were also told that trials in other authorities were being looked at and considered.

JOSC/84/22/23 Interview with Adur Cabinet Member for the Environment and Leisure

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 10, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report set out background information on the Portfolio of the Adur Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member was involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Adur communities

A Member asked “I’m hearing from more and more residents who are concerned about the number of aggressive, off-lead dogs in our community spaces. Does the council data reflect this and what can be done?”

Response -

Members were told that the council had noticed a slight increase in complaints regarding alleged out of control dogs causing issues to local residents. In response they were increasing patrols in problem areas they were made aware of and were able to use the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) powers to immediately get owners to put their dog on a lead if seen to be causing issues to others. They could also issue Community Protection Warnings to owners.

There seemed to be an issue with 'lockdown puppies' as they grew older. As a result of lockdowns many of these dogs didn't socialise or receive training as they would have under normal circumstances.

Many owners may not have understood that their dogs could cause fear and distress by letting their dogs be unruly. To combat this, they were increasing patrols in the problem

areas, talking to dog owners, using powers if needed and providing education through the use of blog posts.

A Member asked "Please can you update us regarding measures that ADC is putting in place to provide onshore and/or offshore beach patrols on Shoreham Beach over the summer period."

Response -

Members were told the Parks & Foreshore Service was in the planning stage of providing an onshore weekend Foreshore Safety and Wellbeing service for Shoreham Beach. Plans were being drawn up to provide a service from Easter and across the school summer holiday period.

During these patrols a Coastal Warden would be ensuring the compliance of beach safety equipment, managing designated swim areas, environmental protection and issuing safety and wellbeing advice to beach users between the Church of the Good Shepherd - Western harbour Arm, a distance of 1.8 miles. An additional Coastal Warden would be in place for this period.

A Member asked "Every month I do a walk round Manor Park , with an update from Head Ranger Anthony , having now lost one Ranger and one member of the senior management team , are these to be replaced. Are we making sure that Adur is receiving their full share of time from this dept. and that we are not losing out to Worthing in what is now a very overstretched dept. Can you tell me how this is monitored and is it being addressed?"

Response -

Members were told the resources deployed in Adur remain unchanged with the exception of the Park Ranger vacancy and the process to recruit a replacement Park Ranger was progressing. The vacancy would be filled shortly. In the meantime the work was being shared amongst the remaining Park Rangers so as to ensure planned activity continues. The Parks & Foreshore service was currently undergoing a service review as part of the wider restructure across the councils. An Acting Parks & Foreshore Manager had been in place since the departure of the previous post holder and this would continue until the implementation of a new structure planned to commence on 1st April 2023.

A Member asked "Has this local authority been made aware that a plastic bottle Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is due to be rolled out in October 2025? It's expected that plastic containers will continue to travel through the local authority waste stream and those can be picked out and deposited back into the scheme redeeming the deposit on them. Since this council is the kerbside collection service, is it the council's intention to participate in this scheme yourselves and if so how do you think this would impact the council's contract with Viridor through the County Council?"

Response -

Members were told officers and the council knew about the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) which was due to come into force in 2025. There were many complications to consider, such as the separation of recycled waste from residents and storage of collected material. A more detailed written response would be provided.

Resolved

The committee had no recommendations for the Adur Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure

JOSC/85/22/23 Review of JOSC Work Programme

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 11, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report outlined progress in implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2022/23.

Members asked about when the Adur Homes Working Group might be reconvened, the status of reports from the Procurement Working Group, consultations on the A27, getting more quantitative data from public consultations and asking the police and crime commissioner to attend the next JOSC meeting in March.

Members were told that the Adur Homes Working Group would be re-established, a report was coming from the Procurement Working Group, that items to appear on the JOSC agenda could be submitted through the proper channels and that the Chief Executive would liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner and let JOSC know when was a suitable time for the committee to consider community safety without cross cutting across any investigation on the matter.

Resolved

The committee noted the contents of the report

JOSC/86/22/23 Worthing Theatres Contract Monitoring

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 12, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report provided JOSC with the details of the annual review of the Worthing Theatres and Museum (WTM) which was reported to the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 5 December 2022.

This report would assist JOSC in questioning the Director for Economy who would present the annual review.

A Member asked "In the report there is in paragraph 3.9 reference to KPI's that you have set prior to next year's annual report. Can you say how you will measure success or failure against these performance indicators?"

Response -

Members were told yes, there was a series of KPI's that supported the Council's contract with Worthing Theatres and Museum. Over the course of the year they had worked with the WTM to revise those KPI's and set appropriate targets that were kept under review. The KPI's included targets for aspects that you would expect such as tickets sales; live performances; audience figures; and repeat bookings. However, the KPI's also included targets which reflected the Council's aspiration for broadening the cultural offer for the benefit of the local communities. So, they also included targets for the number of free

performances; public workshops; interaction with schools and local community groups and work to support local artists, makers and researchers. In addition, the KPI's covered the number of people engaging for the first time and participation of people with protected characteristics – as members of audiences but also among those performing at the venues.

A Member asked “Are you happy that the annual review shows engagement consistent with Worthing’s changing and increasingly diverse communities?”

Response -

Members were told this was one of the most important aspects of the Council’s relationship with Worthing Theatres and Museum; and in line with the question, they needed to ensure that there was continuous improvement. Whilst the Annual Review for 2021/22 highlighted some excellent work with community groups from a range of communities across Worthing, it was the current year, with the venues fully open throughout, that WTM had been able to extend the range and breadth of its programming and participation. This work included 11 shows featuring companies and performers with protected characteristics; support for 10 local community groups; 8 local partnership projects and a targeted approach to making tickets available to people who otherwise may be excluded. By continually monitoring audience and participation data, including detailed feedback, they would be able to help WTM continue to improve.

A Member asked “What improvements can we expect to see in next year’s review to reflect these diverse communities?”

Response -

Members were told that the 21 report showed a series of indicators of initiatives and performances that had been focused on inclusion and diversity. That in the future they would expect to see as well as events and exhibitions but better raw data to underpin and inform the council as a monitoring body, as to whether the trust is making inroads in terms of inclusion. It was believed however that it would be over a number of years to see if the offer from the trust showed a demonstrable improvement.

A Member asked in regards to page 5 under section 4.2 "The contract allows the Trust to retain the first £750k of any accumulated profits'

The return of any profits above £750k would help alleviate the budget restraints due to the reduction of funding coming from the government over the last few years.

On page 20 of the WTM report it says:

"At the end of the financial year we were able to move £379k to designated reserves and leave a surplus of £148k. This left us with a balance of designated reserves at the year end of £1,044k and a balance of free reserves of £293k.

I can see from your submitted report to the charities commission that the designated reserves are for specific items such as Theatre Auditorium seats £170K, New equipment £74,800, Building access improvement £66K, Museum cases & Roof lighting £17,200 etc.

Where in the contract did it specify that £1044k of the accumulated profits could be redesignated to reserve expenditure (for use in later years by WTM) meaning the accumulated profit remaining does not exceed £750k and therefore WBC loses sorely needed income?"

Response -

Members were told yes, when the 2021/22 Annual Review was published, the Council notified WTM that the correct figure after which the Trust can retain accumulated funds is £350k not £750k - and it was understood that this correction was made. Despite that, the Trust's general reserve reached £263k by the end of the 2021/22 year and remained below a level (£350k) at which the Trust could seek to retain any accumulated funds. This general reserve is distinct and separate from the £1.04m that the Member correctly identified – this much higher figure is the designated reserve held by the Trust and could only be spent on improvements to the buildings in line with the Trust's contractual commitments.

A Member asked "I notice the trading arm of WTM is a company solely owned by WTM (trading) and the current Directors are Andy Sparsis and Peter Cadwallar (the chair of WTM),

- A) Is this trading subsidiary under WBC jurisdiction and
- B) which venues are used by the trading company and
- C) do they pay WTM for the hire of those venues?"

Response -

Members were told no, the trading arm was not under the jurisdiction of the Borough Council; it was a trading arm of WTM that had been established to generate income through the sale of goods and services to support the parent Trust (WTM). If the trading arm were to use a venue then yes, it would be paid for and illustrated in the Annual Accounts.

JOSC/87/22/23 Interview with Worthing Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 13, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report set out background information on the Portfolio of the Worthing Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member was involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

A Member asked "Can you give us any up to date information on the development of the District Heat Network?"

Response -

Members were told the procurement process was progressing well, having now entered into the "preferred bidder" stage and final negotiations were underway. A report was being brought forward to Worthing Joint Strategic Sub Committee on March 6th, with contract award expected in April 2023. The network would provide low carbon hot water to council buildings, Worthing Hospital and others, and would be expanded over time to offer a solution to more buildings in Worthing, including homes.

A Member asked “What, in your opinion, are the main challenges facing us as a Council as we move towards becoming a net zero Borough?”

Response -

Members were told the council had indirect control only over a very small proportion of the Borough's emissions and direct control over even less.

There was a need for central government policy and funding to help the big transition to low carbon homes, and many businesses also needed support.

Significant partnership working at local, regional and national levels would be required to ensure a joined up and cohesive approach to reducing carbon emissions, for example on transport with the County Council and Transport for the South East.

To date the council had progressed a number of partnership projects such as Solar Together Sussex and the Warmer Homes programme, as well as taking a leading role in delivering the Heat Network, which would provide a meaningful way for residents and businesses of the borough to decarbonise their emissions more cost effectively than without council input.

A Member asked “What measures are you taking to encourage residents to replace their cars with environmentally friendly alternatives to support Worthing’s net zero agenda?”

Response -

Members were told at a strategic level recalled from that last year, the Borough Council expressed strong support for Transport for the South East’s Strategic Investment Plan which would identify the significance of Worthing as a key part of the regional rail and bus network with potential to link major transport improvements into an improved network for public transport and opportunities for active travel.

Locally, the our Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan continued to inform West Sussex's decision making on infrastructure investment in the town and consultation will shortly be underway on a number of strategically important cycle routes for Worthing. They had also made the decision to extend the Donkey Bike scheme; and were looking at how they could reintroduce a quality bus partnership for Worthing.

A Member asked “The council set a net zero target of 2030 in 2019. The council belongs to a local authority network that commits to being net zero for the Local Authority by 2045. With 15 years difference in target, what would you say is the realistic time frame for the Borough to turn net zero?”

Response -

Members were told that in 2019 the Council set a target to be net zero carbon for its operational emissions (called 'scope 1 and 2') for its own estate and fleet by 2030.

The UK100 network, which consisted of the UK's most ambitious local authorities leading on climate change, had an 'area-wide' target of 2045.

The council remained committed to meeting both targets and had multiple programmes of work ongoing to ensure they were met

Members also asked about the proposal from National Highways about the A27. Members were told a response was being prepared.

Resolved

The committee had no recommendations for the Worthing Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency

JOSC/88/22/23 Interview with Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 14, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report set out background information on the Portfolio of the Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member was involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

A Member asked “Regarding the Worthing Festival, how are you planning to work with existing venues, for example Worthing Theatres and museums to link with the wider festival?”

Response -

Members were told one of the hopes in starting the Arts Forum was that they could get different parts of the cultural ecosystem together. They had seen artists and venues making connections. They appreciated being in the same room and meeting especially in the time after covid.

The venue operators, including Worthing Theatres and Museum, had really bought into the Festival and seen how it could provide a platform for a range of innovative and interesting events.

In this very first year for the Festival they had tried to make it as straightforward as possible for the creative community generally to link their events and activities to the Festival and hopefully to generate that added impetus a festival can create.

They had over 70 register an expression of interest and the next stage would be to use the info gathered and share it so people could see if there were any clashes where they were planning similar events.

Where the council hadn't heard from venues, the Culture and Leisure team were following up with individual venues.

A Member asked “I am proud to acknowledge that we live in a culturally diverse community. What are you doing to ensure that underprivileged ethnic groups - especially the women of these demographics have access to culture and leisure facilities?”

Response –

Members were told that WTM, as part of their suite of KPIs, collected some helpful information. The latest Worthing census data 2021 showed 1.2% Black, 3.9% Asian, WTM Diversity of Audience KPI 22/23 Q2 1% black British and 3% Asian or Asian British

WTM also reported audience by ward in Worthing and % adjusted for population. It varied between 14.16% and 8.46%. This could give information to decide which communities to reach out to.

There hadn't been an analysis of gender and ethnicity and the way the data was collected was by person booking. So it would need to be discussed how this might be done. From discussions, they were confident that South Down Leisure and WTM would be open to ideas.

SDL had not reported participation data in their quarterly meetings but this was something that they would want to understand in future.

As part of the Worthing Festival they had engaged with the Women's Hub, a multi-cultural women's group and they had brought a number of ideas for events they wished to run. The Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure was looking forward to them having greater visibility in the town through this.

They welcomed a further discussion on how they might engage more and how they could overcome any barriers reported.

A Member asked the Trustees report of Worthing Theatres and Museum to the Charities Commission says on page 19 that:

'WBC currently provides a guarantee until 31st October 2024 that if the Local Government Pension Scheme exit debt is triggered, and WTM are unable to pay the exit debt ...that the Council will pay the remainder...'

It goes onto say:

'We are presenting a proposal to WBC that aims to release us from this liability by entering into a pass-through arrangement between WTM and WBC and hope to have a decision by March 2023.'

It further goes on to say 'WTM are currently in negotiations with WBC regarding an indefinite guarantee... for the duration of the Management Agreement and a pass through arrangement which will remove the exit debt risk.'

This seems that all of the risk regarding the Pension and none of the accumulated profits are being sent to WBC.

Can we be updated on whether WBC are considering agreeing to this proposal and if so why given that £1044k of the accumulated profits have been retained?"

Response -

Members were told the JSC Worthing in December received a technical paper regarding this proposal. It was related to both SDL and WTM.

The underwriting of the risk by WBC meant that the tender amounts did not need to be increased to include this risk.

As a 'mini' or closed pension fund the contributions are higher than if part of the council's pot.

At this time WBC paid the difference between the percentage WTM and the council percentage contribution, so the cost is with WBC.

So by becoming part of the larger pension pot, the percentage paid by both trusts and the additional difference saved WBC and the trusts would pay a lower percentage.

A Member asked "In 'Our Plan' one of the key principles is that "we are participative, putting people at the heart of decision making and services."

Can you provide the committee with any examples within the portfolio of how our communities are being put at the heart of decision making to create thriving places?"

Response -

Members were told as a new portfolio, they had put a lot of effort into meeting, listening to individuals and businesses in the culture and leisure sector. The best example was the Arts Forum. The first meeting was on June 22 where they had about 60 people from across the cultural scene. It was there that many were saying 'Let's have a Worthing Festival'. So after some thought, as they knew they didn't have additional resources, they decided on a pilot this year.

So far they had over 70 events for the 9 days. At the last Arts Forum the previous week, the Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure was bowled over by the engagement and energy, people developing ideas together, wanting to make Worthing a place known for the wide range of cultural opportunities. They had a real mix of types of events and were also free/ticketed.

They would have Northbrook College holding their end of year show in the Town Hall. They wanted people to see the wonderful opportunities there were in the cultural sector.

They had also engaged with some sports clubs and that would be the focus next year. There was some excellent work completed the previous summer which they would be able to use together with the current audit of sports areas and pavilions so together with the Environment and Wellbeing portfolios they could prioritise the future work. They would do this in discussion with relevant communities and sports clubs.

A Member asked "In the portfolio briefing for today's committee meeting - Section 7. Promoting Worthing and the events programme 'there is scope to increase accessibility for people with particular needs, reduce environmental impact and prioritise opportunity for local businesses. This has been the focus of our review of the events programme.'

Have you got any examples of what has been identified to reduce environmental impact?"

Response -

Members were told that in listening to the events team, it was clear that Worthing had become a desirable place to hold events. Organisers were coming to them without needing to coax them. They had also listened to the views of local businesses. How could their events also support local businesses to grow?

So, the Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure started thinking about what the events do for the people and businesses in the town? What does Fair, Green and Local look like for events? How do they make those changes?

The events team were looking at best practice and networking with other councils to build their knowledge. They were using 'The Green Guide', as a marker for excellence in environmental practice and that year, all events would be assessed on their environmental impact and monitored to ensure year on year improvements.

They introduced post event meetings. They asked them what they did and where necessary how it could be improved.

There would need to be changes in policy and amendments to the terms and conditions of hire. Some examples were:

- no single use plastic
- improved recycling facilities
- food waste bins

They believed that this was the standard people expected and wanted, when they were at any outdoor event.

If local businesses were involved rather than those coming from far afield, not only did it support them to grow but also reduced carbon use to travel.

Time for Worthing was moving towards paperless promotion and event organisers could now add a free listing which could then be promoted digitally. Time for Worthing marketing and promotional material actively sought to promote active travel, including the recent extension of the Donkey Bike scheme.

At this time the meeting had continued for 3 hours and In accordance with the Constitution, Members were asked if they wished to continue the meeting. They consented.

Resolved

The committee had no recommendations for the Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

JOSC/89/22/23 Interview Worthing Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing

The Committee had a report before it attached as item 15, this had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes.

This report set out background information on the Portfolio of the Worthing Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member was involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

A Member asked "We are aware that anti-social behaviour has increased in the Borough over the past few years. Does the data help us understand which specific demographic groups are involved and what measures are being taken to engage with them to reduce the negative behaviour?"

Response -

Members were told where data and evidence was available it greatly assisted the Council and partners to respond to specific trends and themes in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour. The partnership Joint Action Group acted as the conduit to share information and sought solutions to anti-social, criminal and problematic behaviour in communities, and resources were maximised through being data informed. Through leveraging in external funds such as funding from the Home Office for Violence Reduction they were able to commission discrete and targeted interventions to reduce crime, and anti-social behaviour.

A Member asked “How can Community Wellbeing connect with the wider community, including young people, to explore solutions to recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in the town centre?”

Response -

Members were told that the council continued to explore ways in which they could better connect with the wider community, they were currently considering ways to build on existing mechanisms such as street briefings, community pop ups, to build a wider place based approach to community engagement and participation. They recognised that their greatest asset is the community and building capacity and resilience with them was the key to creating places of greater safety. They were currently working on a JSC paper that formed the basis of the road map for working with and for children and young people.

Resolved

The committee had no recommendations for the Worthing Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.40 pm, it having commenced at 6.30 pm

Chairman