

Worthing Council Meeting 12 December 2023

The Gordon Room, Worthing Town Hall

6.30 pm

Agenda

4 December 2023

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL are hereby summoned to attend for the following business:

Part A

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 October 2023, copies of which have been previously circulated.

A copy is available to view at

https://democracy.adurworthing.gov.uk/documents/g1920/Printed%20minutes%2017th-Oct-2023%2018.30%20Worthing%20Council.pdf?T=1

4. Questions from the Public

To receive any questions from members of the public addressed to Members of the Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11. There is up to 5 minutes for each question, one supplementary question may be asked arising from the original question.

Director for Sustainability & Resources: Paul Brewer Adur & Worthing Councils, Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1HA Questions must relate to any matter the Council has power or which affects the Borough, except no questions may be asked in relation to

- a) A specific planning or licensing application
- b) A specific staffing appointment or appeal, or Standards determination

Public question time will last up to 30 minutes; questions will be taken in the order of receipt.

The deadline for submission of questions is **7th December 2023 at 12 noon**. Questions to be submitted to <u>democratic.services@adur-worthing.gov.uk</u>

5. Announcements by the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Executive Members or the Head of Paid Service

6. Items raised under Urgency Provisions

To consider any items the Mayor has agreed are urgent.

7. Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider recommendations to the Council, details of which are set out in the attached items as 7A, 7B and 7C.

	Executive / Committee	Date	Item
A	Worthing Licensing &	18 September	(i) Licensing Act 2003 -
	Control Committee	2023	Review of Statement of
			Licensing Policy
В	Joint Overview &	30 November	(i) Review of JOSC Work
	Scrutiny Committee	2023	Programme
С	Worthing Joint	5 December	(i) Council Tax Support
	Strategic Sub-	2023	Scheme for Worthing Borough
	Committee		Council in respect of 2024/25

Reports are available on the website as listed below:

8. **Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by the Executive** (Pages 9 - 12)

To receive a report from the Leader as item 8. The report contains decisions taken by the Cabinet, Cabinet Members, the Joint Strategic Committee and the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee since the last Council meeting.

There will be up to 15 minutes for Cabinet Members to make any statements on the report. There will also be up to 15 minutes for Executive Members to respond to questions on the report. These questions will not be the same as any to be asked under Item 9.

9. Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12

Members' question time will last up to 30 minutes, with questions being taken in

the order of receipt and in rotation from each political group on the Council. The deadline for submission of questions is **7th December 2023 at 12 noon**. Questions should be submitted to <u>democratic.services@adur-worthing.gov.uk</u>

Questions can be asked of the following:

- a) The Mayor
- b) A Member of the Executive
- c) The Chairman of any Committee
- d) The Council's representative on any outside body

Questions cannot be asked in relation to the following:

- a) A specific planning or licensing application
- b) A specific staffing appointment, appeal or Standards determination
- 10. Motion on Notice (Pages 13 20)

To consider a Motion on Notice, submitted by the Proper Officer on behalf of Councillor Claire Hunt, detailed as item 10.

Part B - Not for Publication - Exempt information Reports

None.

Paul Brewer Director for Sustainability & Resources

Recording of this meeting

The Council will be live streaming this meeting, including public question time. A recording will be available on the Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting. 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:

Neil Terry Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer 01903 221073 Email: neil.terry@adur-worthing.gov.uk For Legal Services enquiries relating to this meeting please contact:

Joanne Lee Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer 01903 221134 jo.lee@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Agenda Item 7



Council 12 December 2023

Extract from the minutes of the Worthing Licensing and Control Committee - 18 September 2023

WBC - LC/006/23-24 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Members asked the Officer if a Saturation Zone Policy could ever be imposed upon any part of the borough by authorities. The Officer explained that should a policy ever be thought necessary by authorities they would have to bring the proposal before the Licensing Committee who would have the option to approve or refuse it based on the evidence supplied. Any such amendment to the Council's licensing policy would require full consultation.

Members also asked for clarity regarding issuing licences to those who have restrictions on the length of time they may work in the UK. The Officer explained that although the Licensing Department did issue licences to those who had limited right to work entitlements, it was the Home Office who would perform enforcement if there were breaches in those instances. However, If a licence holder's permission to work expired, their personal and or premises licence would also expire and in cases such the Council could also prosecute if licensable activity was conducted without the required valid licence in place.

Members asked what more could be done by the Council to reduce alcohol related harm and the Officer clarified that because public health is not one of the licensing objectives this would be the jurisdiction of the WellBeing team and he confirmed he would feed back the comment to them.

Resolved,

The Licensing and Control Committee considered the draft Statement of Licensing Policy and the representations received and recommended it to Worthing Borough Council for adoption.

(Link to the report on the website - <u>Worthing Licensing & Control Committee - 18 September</u> 2023)

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Extract from the minutes of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 30 November 2023

JOSC/0xx/23-24 Review of JOSC Work Programme

Details to follow the publication of minutes from the meeting of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 30 November 2023.

Resolved

(Link to the report on the website - <u>Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 30 November</u> 2023)

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Extract from the minutes of the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee - 5 December 2023

WJSSC/0xx/23-24 Council Tax Support Scheme for Worthing Borough Council in respect of 2024/25

Details to follow the meeting of the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee meeting on the 5 December 2023.

Resolved

(Link to the report on the website - <u>Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 5 December</u> 2023)

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Agenda Item 8



Council 12 December 2023

Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Cabinet Members, the Joint Strategic Committee and the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee since the last meeting of Council

A Decisions Taken by Individual Cabinet Members

Listed below is a summary of decisions taken by the individual Cabinet Members since the dispatch of the agenda for the last Ordinary Council Meeting. Details can be found on the Cabinet Members Decisions webpage.

Leader

None

Deputy Leader None

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Cabinet Member for Regeneration

* JAW/010/23-24	Conservation Area Character Appraisal Reviews
JAW/011/23-24	Worthing Conservation Area Reviews
JAW/013/23-24	Joint Draft Statement of Community Involvement
JAW/015/23-24	BEACH bid

Cabinet Member for Resources

JAW/012/23-24	Application for Voluntary Redundancy
* JAW/014/23-24	Strategic Property Investment Fund Refurbishment Contract
	Award - Eskan Court, Milton Keynes

Cabinet Member for Housing & Citizen Services

None

Cabinet Member for the Environment

None

Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing None

Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure

None

Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency None

* The Worthing Cabinet Member abstained as this was a matter relating to Adur District Council

B. Decisions taken by the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 9 November 2023

Details can be found by clicking on this link.

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

JSS-C(W)/031/23-24 Greening Principles - Approach to greening our spaces

The purpose of the report was to outline the Council's approach to greening our spaces and to deliver the headline principles that guide the approach. The key pillars of the Council's support of greening, across the borough, were taken from the administration's values to be Fair, Green and Local.

In recognising the breadth and passion of local residents, Friends of, and environmental associations and in understanding the administration's vision to be a 'Council for the Community' and in light of the Council's commitment to the climate and ecological emergencies, the report outlined the need for wider community participation and stewardship of our green spaces.

Decision

- 1. That the emerging Greening Principles for Worthing and their adoption for use across the council's practice be affirmed.
- 2. That the authority embeds the emerging Greening Principles as foundation values within the new Parks & Open Spaces Management and Town Centre Management Plans.
- 3. That the Greening Principles be used as core to the Greening Guide.
- 4. That the Greening Principles, as pivotal policy in all aspects of environmental growth and development, be endorsed.
- 5. That the authority promotes the Greening Principles as a way to harness community power and engagement in the fight against climate change and the ecological emergency.

JSS-C(W)/032/23-24 Carbon Emissions 2022/23

The report updated the Sub-Committee on the progress made on the delivery of the 2023/24 Capital Investment Programme for Worthing Borough Council. The programme included schemes which supported the delivery of services by the Joint Services Committee

Worthing Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. As part of the declaration, Members committed to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The report before members presented the fourth annual update on progress towards that target.

Since the previous report, the council had completed a number of decarbonisation projects that had significantly decreased gas consumption across the councils' property portfolio. As a result, reported emissions for 22-23 decreased by 5.4% when compared to the previous year.

Members were given an update on carbon reduction projects and were told that a fleet strategy would be introduced in the following year.

Members discussed the report and noted that the update presented part of the council's work. There was other work ongoing towards the climate emergency that would involve other stakeholders within the community.

Decision

- 1) That the councils' current carbon emissions and carbon reduction work programme be noted; and
- 2) That it be noted that further funding bids may be made, in consultation with the relevant executive member, and that if required further reports would brief members on the outcome of the bidding process.

JSS-C(W)/033/23-24 Marketing of Grafton Multi-Storey Car Park

The report before members advised members of the proposed marketing of the Grafton Multi-Storey car park (GMSCP) and adjoining council owned properties and sought the Committee's approval of the assessment criteria for those bids received.

Decision

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted and that the key development priorities for the site be agreed.
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Regenerative Development to:

- a. Proceed with the marketing of Grafton Multi-Storey car park and adjoining council owned properties.
- b. Present a report back to the Joint Strategic Sub-Committee following the outcome of the marketing process (set out in pages 5 to 6).
- 3. That authority was delegated to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to approve the Marketing Brochure.

C. Decisions taken by the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 5 December 2023

Details can be found by clicking on this link.

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

Details to follow the meeting of the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee meeting on the 5 December 2023.

D. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 7 December 2023

Details can be found by clicking on this link.

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

Details to follow the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee meeting on the 7 December 2023.

E. Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

None.

Local Government Act 1972 Background papers None.

> Councillor Dr Beccy Cooper Leader of the Council

Agenda Item 10

Council 12 December 2023



Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Officer Contact Details:-Neil Terry Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer 01903 221073 neil.terry@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Claire Hunt which has been seconded by Councillor Sophie Cox.
- 1.2. Council is asked to consider and debate the motion prior to it being referred to the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee for determination under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Council is asked to debate the motion, as set out in Annex A to this report, prior to its referral to the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee for consideration and determination.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Claire Hunt, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which specifically affects the Borough.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee will consider whether there are any financial impacts arising from the motion as appropriate.

6. Legal Implications

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

Background Papers

None.

Motion on Sustainable Marine Recovery

This Council declares an urgent need for Marine Recovery and Sustainability. We recognise that local authorities cannot solve the marine crisis alone but we can and must play our part in realising clean, healthy and productive seas, to meet our net zero targets and for all of the direct economic, health and wellbeing benefits it will bring.

Why is this declaration needed now?

In 2019 Worthing Borough Council (WBC) declared a climate emergency and is continuing to make progress towards reducing both the Council's own carbon footprint and that of the Borough. In early 2023, the Council also declared an Ecological Emergency and is working to encourage ecological recovery in our borough, including ensuring that our biodiversity and climate strategies, such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, recognise how land and rivers connect to and impact the ocean and strive to support marine recovery through a 'source-to-sea' approach.

The Council is working with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in marine industries and developing a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity; including the local fishing industry and the vital work of Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA). WBC recognises the essential roles the sea and coast have in contributing to our climate and ecological emergency declarations, as well as the wider objectives of a resilient and sustainable economy, and the health and wellbeing of our residents. Working with Adur Council, it is leading the development of Sussex Bay - a vision for nature recovery along the whole of the Sussex coastline.

The Sussex Bay programme, supported by Esme Fairbairn Foundation, is working to connect and support remarkable projects across the Bay like the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project, Adur River Restoration and the Eastbourne-Pevensey coastal defence scheme. It is already a UK leading light in the development of new funding mechanisms that aim to place appropriate financial value on the range of vital benefits that healthy rivers and seascapes bring. A major research funding bid has been prepared working with the Universities of Sussex, Brighton and Portsmouth, and a UK-first partnership has been established with The Crown Estate, owners of the seabed. The £2.9m UKRI Resilient Coastal Communities funding bid, if successful, would support significant community engagement and participation work, helping communities connect and participate in a large-scale generational recovery of our seascape. Close partnerships have been established through Sussex Bay with a range of organisations including Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust, South Downs National Park, Environment Agency, Sussex IFCA and other coastal local authorities. Given the work that is already taking place, it's a natural next step to continue to look at how our own operations influence ocean recovery and so we are bringing forward this Motion on Sustainable Marine Recovery.

This Motion would support, reinforce and further enhance the work of Sussex Bay in important ways:

- 1. This Motion is about ensuring that we further embed marine recovery in our strategic decision-making, policymaking and budget-setting, at the highest levels and throughout the whole council. At its core, the motion aims to help the council and the community we serve to "think ocean" and ensure the development of the blue economy is regenerative, delivering the recovery of our seas in a holistic way, reconciling potentially competing ambitions for economic development, health and wellbeing and a healthy marine environment, foreshore and coastal defences, and reducing socio-economic inequality in our coastal communities.
- 2. Helping individuals develop their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the sea) is an essential part of this motion, as is individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding marine recovery through local, national and international policy changes). Even within Worthing, there are people of all ages who don't have the opportunity or means to access and enjoy the beach 38% of Adur & Worthing's population visit the beach less than once a month and 13% have never been to the beach.
- 3. Nineteen councils in England and Wales have to date declared an urgent need for ocean recovery using a locally-adapted motion. WBC should be amongst these leaders, uniting with other local authorities to present a 'stronger together', united, coordinated pressure on the central government to act quickly for the marine recovery our residents want and deserve.
- 4. Water quality improvement begins on land and it will require local and national action to tackle sewage pollution, chemical pollution, agricultural run-off, urban run-off, nutrient neutrality from developments, and more. This Motion asks us to join the dots, work in partnerships and with residents, and deal with pollution from every source, in policy and in practice, using innovative, scientifically-led, marine and nature-based solutions.

This Council pledges to:

- Ensure that we are continuing to provide detailed updates on strategies, actions and the administration's projects, including Sussex Bay, set out in this motion through documents and reports at Full Council and Joint Strategic Sub-Committee.
- 2. Further embed marine recovery in strategic decisions, plans, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate

change mitigation and adaptation requirements (including future sea-level rises), and considering sea-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.

- 3. Ensure that local planning supports marine recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plan and the South Marine Plan to support recovery of our sea.
- 4. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in Worthing, including:
 - a. Promoting sustainable and equitable access to the sea through in-person and online experiences for all residents. We want to encourage all children to experience the sea and beach first-hand before leaving primary school by working with our local schools, alternate provisions and home-schooled children as well as engaging college and further education students.
 - b. Through these actions, embed understanding of the "source-to-sea approach" and how people, wherever they live, impact and are impacted by marine health.
- 5. Launch a Sussex Bay website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to marine literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
- 6. Whilst continuing to hold all polluters and regulators to account, continue to meet regularly with Southern Water, the Environment Agency, developers and other agencies to improve the water quality of our rivers and coastal waters around Worthing, benefitting nature and residents alike.
- 7. Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 through the following actions:
 - a. Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
 - b. Produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth,flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire sea that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.

- iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of marine recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.
- c. Embed ocean literacy in the national curriculum
- d. Incorporate marine commitments into the UK Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement to embed marine conservation within the UK's decarbonisation targets
- e. Within 'Levelling Up' and other economic development initiatives, focus attention on technical upskilling to support the workforce development needed to ensure a just transition to new marine natural capital opportunities
- f. Develop more integrated marine spatial planning that is fit for purpose to facilitate marine natural capital project development
- g. Develop integrated policymaking, including the consideration of the terrestrial environment in marine policymaking, to incorporate impacts and dependencies and working with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.
- h. Provide enhanced guidance for local marine planning on how to manage trade-offs between production of blue foods, achieving net zero, delivering biodiversity outcomes, and improving water quality across multifunctional seascapes
- i. Ensure IFCAs have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
- j. Provide government funding to help develop a network of 'blue natural capital labs' including facilitating uptake of emerging technologies suited to local environments, to reduce project implementation and management costs.
- k. Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
- I. Improve the water quality of our rivers, coastal waters and sea to benefit nature and health and the wellbeing of all UK residents, including stoppingthe regular pollution of our rivers and seas.

Background and supporting evidence

Our sea is in a state of emergency and the communities we serve are on the frontline. The impact of the climate crisis on the sea is profound, from rising water temperatures and changes in marine chemistry, to sea level rise and increased storminess. This changes what seafood is caught locally, accelerates the erosion of our coastline, increases the risk to infrastructure and properties, and increases the risk of flooding and storm damage. Decades of irresponsible marine exploitation and pollution have led to significant levels of degradation. Water quality is an issue of great concern to residents. It is influenced by a wide range of factors, including land management, farming practices, road run-off, leachates from historical sources, pollution from shipping and individual actions, and combined sewage overflows. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans and the species of fish we regularly eat.

Urgent action is needed to halt these devastating changes and recover the health of our sea to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including climate regulation, carbon storage in coastal and marine habitats, coastal protection, a thriving local economy, clean, safe bathing and recreation and happy, healthy coastal communities.

The UK government's 2019 Marine Strategy assessment confirms that our marine environment is not healthy. An unhealthy sea does not absorb or store carbon as effectively as a healthy one, further worsening the impacts of the climate crisis.

A healthy sea is fundamental in regulating the global climate system and is an essential ally in our fight against climate change. The sea absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system as well as absorbing around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions generated by human activity.

There are many opportunities for economic development in the marine environment, but these must be harnessed in a regenerative, rather than damaging, way. Delivering the pledges set out in this Motion would yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal economies, and happier, healthier people; as well as a cleaner, healthier and more productive natural environment. A healthy sea is an essential ally in our fight against climate change and blue carbon could play an integral role in helping us meet our net zero targets.

The original 'Motion for the Ocean' was developed by:

Dr Pamela Buchan, marine social scientist and former Plymouth City Councillor

Emily Cunningham, marine and coastal expert and formerly led the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

and Nicola Bridge, ocean literacy specialist and Head of Advocacy and Engagement at the Ocean Conservation Trust

Councils that have passed a 'Motion for the Ocean' include

- Plymouth City Council, 22 November 2021
- Falmouth Town Council, 10 January 2022
- South Tyneside Council, 13 January 2022
- North Norfolk District Council, 9 February 2022
- North Devon Council, 23 February 2022
- Monmouthshire County Council, 3 March 2022
- Seaton with Slingley Parish Council, 16 March 2022
- Seaham Town Council, 22 March 2022
- Portsmouth City Council, 17 May 2022
- Devon County Council, 27 May 2022
- Torridge District Council, 6 June 2022
- Blandform Forum Town Council, 25 July 2022
- Teignbridge District Council, 26 July 2022
- Blackpool Council, 5 December 2022
- Isle of Wight Council, 19 July 2023
- Canterbury City Council, 20 July 2023
- North Somerset Council, 19 September 2023
- Havant Borough Council, 20 September 2023
- Newark & Sherwood District Council, 17 Oct 2023

In addition to the local Councils who have individually declared, the Local Government Association also supported the Motion for the Ocean on 29th September 2022.

Proposer - Councillor Claire Hunt Seconder - Councillor Sophie Cox