

# Public Document Pack

Minutes of a meeting of the  
Worthing Council  
18 February 2020  
at 6.30 pm

Councillor Hazel Thorpe (Chair)  
Councillor Lionel Harman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Noel Atkins  
Councillor Paul Baker  
Councillor Mike Barrett  
Councillor Keith Bickers  
Councillor Ferdousi Henna  
Chowdhury  
Councillor Edward Crouch  
Councillor Jim Deen  
Councillor Paul High  
Councillor Margaret Howard  
Councillor Daniel Humphreys  
Councillor Kevin Jenkins  
Councillor Martin McCabe  
Councillor Sean McDonald  
Councillor Dr Heather Mercer  
Councillor Richard Mulholland

Councillor Richard Nowak  
Councillor Helen Silman  
Councillor Jane Sim  
Councillor Dawn Smith  
Councillor Sally Smith  
Councillor Robert Smytherman  
Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes  
Councillor Val Turner  
Councillor Nicola Waight  
Councillor Steve Waight  
Councillor Carl Walker  
Councillor Paul Westover  
Councillor Steve Wills  
Councillor Tim Wills  
Councillor Mark Withers

## **C/60/19-20                      Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Roy Barraclough, Beccy Cooper, Karen Harman, Charles James and Louise Murphy.

## **C/61/19-20                      Declarations of Interest**

The following interests were declared:-

The Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation under section 34 of the Localism Act 2011, to enable all Members to participate and vote on item 8 on the agenda.

Councillor Martin McCabe declared an interest in item 11 as a member of Worthing Community Chest.

Councillor Richard Nowak declared an interest in item 7A(ii) as a landlord.

Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes declared an interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.

Councillor Paul High declared an interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.

Councillor Noel Atkins declared an interest in item 11 as a Member of Worthing Community Chest.

Councillor Bob Smytherman declared an interest in item 11 as the president of Sight Support Worthing.

## **C/62/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary and Special Council meetings held on 17 December 2019 be approved as correct records and that they be signed by the Mayor.

## **C/63/19-20 Questions from the Public**

The Mayor announced that 2 questions had been submitted ahead of the meeting.

Q1 - Mr Davey, a Worthing resident, asked the following question:-

The recent consultation on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is a welcome first step in developing active and sustainable transport in Adur & Worthing. It is vital that cycling and walking is made safer and more attractive urgently if we are to make a contribution to tackling the Climate Emergency.

Could the Leader of the council please outline what will happen next? Specifically what he sees as being the priority area for investment and whether he anticipates making an application to the government's recently announced cycling fund.

*The Leader replied that the Council was already making good progress on this issue. The Council had recently consulted on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Offices were currently analysing the consultation responses received and a report would be considered by the Joint Strategic Committee later in the year. The plan would enable the Council to bid for government funds to support projects in Worthing and Adur.*

Mr Davey asked a supplementary question regarding the safety of existing cycling facilities and the conducting of a road safety audit.

*The Leader advised that there was a road space order being led by West Sussex County Council and safety issues were very much part of that work. The Leader would consider whether there was a need for a separate road safety audit.*

Q2 - Mr Davey, a Worthing resident, asked the following question:-

It is good to see Worthing included in the Centre for Cities analysis of the 63 largest cities and towns. Less welcome is its inclusion in the list of the most polluted areas. Particulate, PM2.5, pollution is particularly problematic. This pollution, mostly from motor vehicles, is literally killing people.

Since I last raised this with the council in October a number of UK towns and cities have announced plans for a variety of Clean Air Zones, Low Emission Zones and car free areas. Most recently Brighton & Hove with cross party support.

Could the Leader of the council please let us know whether he will be considering any similar measures for Worthing.

*The Leader replied that the Council was not ultimately responsible for highways, this responsibility resided with other authorities. The Council was trying to provide alternatives for residents through the Cycling and Walking Plan and the provision of electric charging points.*

Mr Davey asked a supplementary question regarding the provision of no idling zones outside schools and hospitals.

*The Leader replied that no idling zones was the remit of West Sussex County Council rather than the Borough Council.*

A local resident in the gallery indicated that he also wished to ask a question.

Q3 - Mr Baeza, a Worthing resident, asked a question regarding the adequacy of IT provision in the town whilst the Library was closed.

*The Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services advised that West Sussex County Council was the appropriate Council with responsibility for libraries.*

Mr Baeza asked a supplementary question asking whether Worthing Borough Council had liaised with West Sussex County Council regarding what IT provision there would be during the Library closure.

*The Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing advised that provisions had been made through smaller libraries who would be operating extended hours. In addition, IT access was available through the IT Hubs.*

#### **C/64/19-20                      Announcements by the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Executive Members or the Head of Paid Service**

A minute's silence was held to remember Mr John Davenport and Mr Peter Bailey.

The Mayor wished to place on record the Council's thanks to Mary D'arcy, Director for Communities for all her work and commitment during her time at Adur & Worthing Councils. The Council noted that Mary would be leaving to take up a new role as the Executive Director for Homes, Communities and Culture at Southampton City Council and the Council wished her the very best in her new role.

It was noted that the Mayor and the Chairman of Adur District Council had recently presented Long Service Awards to the following officers who had worked at Adur & Worthing councils for 25 years:-

- Charmaine Dore, a homelessness prevention team leader
- Lorraine Clark, Digital Support Officer
- Peter Whish, Head Gardener
- Julie Dunsmure, Bereavement Services Officer
- Paul Cherriman, Grounds Maintenance Operative

The Mayor updated the Council on a number of civic engagements that she had attended since the last meeting of Full Council and the following, forthcoming Mayor's Charity Events, were signposted:-

- Bohemian Rhapsody film night - Monday 24 February;
- Essential Tremors - an introduction - Saturday 7 March from 1.00pm; and
- Mayor's Charity Swim at Splashpoint Leisure Centre - Saturday 21 March from 4.00pm.

There were no announcements from the Leader, Executive Members or the Head of Paid Service.

## **C/65/19-20                      Items raised under Urgency Provisions**

There were no urgent items raised.

## **C/66/19-20                      Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council**

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee, Joint Governance Committee and Worthing Executive.

Extracts of these minutes had been circulated as items 7A(i) & (ii), 7B(i), 7C(i) and 7D(i) & (ii).

### **Item 7A(i)      Joint Strategic Committee - 14 January 2020**

#### **Council Tax Support Schemes for 2020/21**

The Leader of the Council presented recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 14 January 2020.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes.

During consideration of the item, Members discussed the fairness of the proposals and who should be asked to pay. It was noted that there was a Hardship Fund to help those most in need and that the proposals aimed to create a fair system that enabled people to come forward and pay their share.

On a vote: For 19, Against 12, Abstentions 1

#### **Resolved**

That Worthing Borough Council approved that the Council Tax Support scheme for Worthing Borough Council in respect of working age customers for 2020/21:-

- a) should be based upon the scheme for 2019/20 with the £5.00 weekly restriction retained; and
- b) that the discretionary budget to support those in severe financial difficulties should be retained; and
- c) no other changes should be made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit

## **Item 7A(ii) Joint Strategic Committee - 14 January 2020**

### **Council Tax “long term empty” premium and discounts**

The Leader presented recommendations (a), (b) and (c) from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 14 January 2020. The Council noted that 3(d) was not a recommendation to Council.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Heather Mercer.

On a vote: For 22, Against 0, Abstentions 10

### **Resolved**

That Worthing Borough Council approved

- a) that the “long-term empty premium” should be increased in accordance with the maximum figures detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report;
- b) that a discretionary policy should not be introduced; and
- c) that the local discount in respect of unoccupied properties undergoing structural alterations should be abolished with effect from 1 April 2020.

## **Item 7B(i) Joint Governance Committee - 28 January 2020**

### **Review of the Code of Conduct for Members**

The JGC Chairman introduced a recommendation from the Joint Governance Committee meeting held on 28 January 2020.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bob Smytherman.

The Council acknowledged the need for Elected Members to have Code of Conduct training at least once, every two years.

On a vote: For 31, Against 0, Abstentions 1

### **Resolved**

That Worthing Borough Council approved the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct for Members, attached to the JGC report as Appendix 1, as amended.

## **Item 7C(i) Worthing Executive - 3 February 2020**

### **Budget Estimates 2020/21 and setting of 2020/21 Council Tax**

The Mayor informed the Council that the recommendations from Worthing Executive would be considered as part of Item 8 on the agenda.

#### **Item 7D(i) Joint Strategic Committee - 10 March 2020**

##### **Delivering our Housing Strategy - Adur and Worthing Councils' Housing Allocations Policies**

The Leader presented recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 11 February 2020.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Elizabeth Sparkes.

Members discussed the Council's approach to public consultation and the need to encourage greater public participation.

On a vote: For 32, Against 0, Abstain 0

#### **Resolved**

That Worthing Borough Council approved the adoption of the Worthing Borough Council Housing Allocation Policy.

#### **Item 7D(ii) Joint Strategic Committee - 11 February 2020**

##### **Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council**

The Leader of the Council introduced the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 11 February 2020 and invited questions from members.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Keith Bickers.

On a vote: For 24, Against 9, Abstain 0

#### **Resolved**

That Worthing Borough Council approved the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and MRP Statements.

#### **C/67/19-20 Council Tax 2020/21**

The Mayor introduced the item explaining that item 7C(i), the recommendation from the Executive would be considered as part of this discussion with the full proposed recommendation being contained in the papers placed before Councillors in the Chamber. As required by the Regulations there would be a recorded vote on any amendments to the proposed budget together with the final vote.

The Mayor advised that the item would be dealt with under the new budget procedure rules and therefore, ordinary rules of debate did not apply.

The Council was asked to suspend Council Procedure Rules where they conflicted with the budget procedure rules, in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of the budget procedure rules.

The suspension of Council Procedure Rules was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Councillor Edward Crouch.

On a vote: For 32, Against 0, Abstentions 0

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to address the Chamber.

The Leader of the Council introduced the budget and setting of the council tax to members and a copy of the Leaders budget speech is appended to these minutes as Appendix A.

The proposal was seconded by the Councillor Kevin Jenkins.

The Deputy Leader of the Labour Group on the Council, Councillor Deen, addressed the Council, acknowledging the hard work of officers in producing a balanced budget and the difficulties that lay ahead with an even more challenging year to come.

Concerns were raised in regards to the delayed fairer funding deal, the loss of New Homes Bonus, the Council's strategy of investing in commercial property, reduced services (including fewer bin collections) and the overall problem of under provision in the local area.

The Labour Group had considered putting forward an alternative budget following conversations with over 20,000 local residents but saw little point in putting forward a transformative budget as it was hardly likely that the Council would accept the proposals and it would not be debated sensibly. It was noted that the Labour Group would take its plans to residents on 17 March instead.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group on the Council, Councillor Robert Smytherman, addressed the Council stating his group was committed to getting the people of Worthing what they want. There was much in the budget that the group could support, however, he considered that the budget process was a charade and would therefore abstain from the budget.

Councillor Mark Withers, UKIP, addressed the Council, acknowledging the limited resources available whilst expressing reserved support for the proposals. In addition, concerns were raised about the Council's investment in Commercial Property.

Members in the Chamber rose to debate the budget with Councillors stating their broad support.

The Leader was given the right of reply.

As no amendments had been put forward, the Mayor put the substantive motion to the Council for a vote. A recorded vote was taken, the results of which, are set out below:-

**For (20):** Councillors Atkins, Baker, Bickers, Crouch, L Harman, High, Humphreys, Jenkins, McDonald, Mercer, Nowak, Sim, Sparkes, Turner, N Waight, S Waight, Westover, S Wills, T Wills and Withers.

**Against (9):** Councillors Barrett, Chowdhury, Deen, Howard, Mulholland, Silman, D Smith, S Smith and Walker.

**Abstain (3):** Councillors McCabe, Smytherman and Thorpe.

**Resolved that**

1. The Council noted that on 3 February 2020, the Executive calculated the Council Tax Base 2020/21 as **39,269.5** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2020/21 was **£9,524,820**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) **£77,629,900** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
  - (b) **£68,105,080** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) **£9,524,820** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R), in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
  - (d) **£242.55** being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
  - (e) **£0.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.



- (f) **£242.55** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 the West Sussex County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below:-

<b>All of the Council's Area 2020/21</b>	<b>Band A £</b>	<b>Band B £</b>	<b>Band C £</b>	<b>Band D £</b>	<b>Band E £</b>	<b>Band F £</b>	<b>Band G £</b>	<b>Band H £</b>
<b>Worthing Borough Council</b>	<b>161.70</b>	<b>188.65</b>	<b>215.60</b>	<b>242.55</b>	<b>296.45</b>	<b>350.35</b>	<b>404.25</b>	<b>485.10</b>
<b>West Sussex County Council Total as split below:</b>	<b>959.16</b>	<b>1,119.02</b>	<b>1,278.88</b>	<b>1,438.74</b>	<b>1,758.46</b>	<b>2,078.18</b>	<b>2,397.90</b>	<b>2,877.48</b>
West Sussex Council – Core	874.81	1,020.61	1,166.41	1,312.21	1,603.81	1,895.41	2,187.02	2,624.42
West Sussex County Council – Adults Social Care element	84.35	98.41	112.47	126.53	154.65	182.77	210.88	253.06
<b>The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex</b>	<b>133.27</b>	<b>155.49</b>	<b>177.70</b>	<b>199.91</b>	<b>244.33</b>	<b>288.76</b>	<b>333.18</b>	<b>399.82</b>

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in table shown above, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
All of the Council's Area	1,254.13	1,463.16	1,672.18	1,881.20	2,299.24	2,717.29	3,135.33	3,762.40

### **C/68/19-20 Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by the Executive**

The Leader of the Council presented his report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Ordinary meeting of the Council, which were detailed in Item 9.

A question was asked in relation to the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change.

### **C/69/19-20 Schedule of Meetings 2020/21**

Before the Council, was the schedule of meetings for the Council and joint meetings for 2020/21. Council was invited to formally approve the dates for its Meetings during this period whilst noting the proposed dates for other committees.

The Schedule of Meetings for 2020/21 was proposed by Councillor Daniel Humphreys and seconded by Councillor Heather Mercer.

A proposal to change the time of the Annual Council meeting was not supported.

On a vote: For 28 Against 0 Abstentions 4

### **Resolved**

That Worthing Borough Council approved the Schedule of Meetings for 2020/21.

### **C/70/19-20 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12**

The Mayor announced that the Proper Officer had received 6 questions from Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12. She advised that one supplementary question could be asked which must arise out of the original question, or, the reply.

Questions would be asked in rotation of the Groups represented in the Chamber and there were 30 minutes allowed for questions with 2 rotations of speakers possible. At the end of 30 minutes the Mayor explained that she would extend the time to conclude the current rotation of questions.

The Mayor announced that the following Councillors had submitted questions:

Councillors Martin McCabe, Sally Smith, Bob Smytherman, Carl Walker and Mark Withers.

The order would be

First rotation: Councillors Sally Smith, Bob Smytherman and Mark Withers.

Second rotation: Councillors Carl Walker, Martin McCabe and Mark Withers.

#### **First rotation:**

#### **Question from Councillor Sally Smith to the Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services**

The removal of mature shrubs from the south end of Beach House Park has horrified park users who previously enjoyed an effective screen from the noise and pollution generated by traffic in Brighton Rd. Could the Executive member for the Environment please explain the rationale for the removal of shrubs without consultation, especially in view of the Council's declared carbon-neutral target?

*The Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services replied that a consultation had been carried out regarding the removal of the shrubs as well as some wider works and the future plans for the park.*

*The Council had engaged key stakeholder groups, including the bowling clubs, the café, creative waves and the resident gardeners. A community event also took place at the Community Centre in East Worthing on the 15th January to communicate the logic behind the proposals and to gather views.*

*While the Council had considered all of the views presented, it wasn't possible to create solutions that represent the range of views in the context of our wider approach to managing our parks and open spaces. The Parks team have made the best use of the information gathered during the consultation with our professional knowledge to identify the best course of action.*

*The Council managed the parks in a way that maintained aesthetics whilst also safeguarding the health of flora and fauna. The planting and maintenance plans for the park had accounted for wildlife corridors and the filling of habitat space. To a lesser extent we also take into account complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour in the area.*

*In the case of Beach House Park, we had the opportunity to remodel the planting in a way that would:*

- increase biodiversity,*
- allow for better management of the area, and*
- reduce Anti-Social Behaviour that had been consistently under-reported in the area.*

*The Council believed that once these areas became established there would be a net gain for all involved.*

*Clearly there are some residents that had differing views on the management of the park's planting. The Council would welcome the opportunity to create a Friends Group for*

*the Park that enabled wider engagement. Until now there has been limited appetite for this. We would hope that in future this will begin to materialise to ensure that the best interests of all stakeholders are met.*

Councillor Smith asked why no other measures had been adopted to discourage anti-social behaviour.

*The Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services replied that the Council had been working with partners. There were objections from neighbours regarding lighting, although he acknowledged that a balance needed to be struck.*

Question from Councillor Bob Smytherman to the Leader

As the leader will be aware Worthing was the home of Bowls for 40 years until 2013 when the English Bowls Association (EBA) decided to relocate to Leamington Spa having negotiated a new 10-year deal with Warwick District Council. Can the Leader say what discussions have been held with the EBA and /or Warwick DC to discuss the future arrangements from 2023 and can the leader assure the Chamber that Visually-Impaired Bowls England (VIBE) will be able to continue to hold their annual event in Worthing following the success of the World Championship held in 2013.

*The Leader replied that a meeting had been held on the 6 February. It was noted that the EBA favoured a central location and that things had been going well where they were but he would be happy to have a conversation.*

Councillor Smytherman asked 'can we ensure that EBA Members get a vote regarding their preferred location post 2023', as his supplementary question.

*The Leader replied that the Council could ask but could not ensure.*

Question from Councillor Mark Withers to the Leader

Given the increase in population in recent years in the Northbrook Ward particularly due to two significant housing developments are there any plans to increase the number of ward councillors to three?

*The Leader replied that there were no current plans to change the number of ward councillors in any of the wards of the Council.*

## **Second Rotation**

Question from Councillor Carl Walker to the Executive Member for Customer Services

Allocation of funds to assist the Rough Sleeping Initiative is obviously very welcome. However, rough sleeping counts for only a fraction of all homelessness figures. Can the Executive member for Customer Services give an estimated figure of how many people from Worthing are currently homeless or insecurely housed, for example in hostel accommodation or Bed and Breakfast?

*The Executive Member for Customer Services replied that the Council knew that the number of people insecurely housed was higher than those sleeping on our streets, however, the Council only held data regarding those who come to our attention.*

*As of 13 February, the Council was working with 195 households in Worthing who were currently working with, but had yet to make a decision on their homelessness application. These were households that were either threatened with homelessness or already homeless.*

*130 households were currently in temporary accommodation provided by the Council. Of those, 68 were households with children or were pregnant, and 62 were single homeless people.*

*Of the 62 single homeless people, 41 had been known to the multi-agency Rough Sleepers Team (RST) or had been identified as being at risk of rough sleeping. These cases were actively reviewed by the RST to support those individuals into supported accommodation or other longer term accommodation and prevent the risk of them having to sleep on our streets.*

Question from Martin McCabe to the Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing

Does the Executive Member share our disappointment at Tesco's recent actions at the Durrington site, where the Salvation Army Trading Company are now preferred as the single recycling partner for textile recycling for the store and will she personally intervene to allow ALL the credits to be spent on local community grass roots causes provided by the Worthing Community Chest?

*The Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing replied that SatCo had been awarded the Tesco's national tender to exclusively collect textiles and address fly tipping for all its stores, including Durrington. Some income from SatCo would be passed on to the national Salvation Army.*

*Following a meeting with the Salvation Army Trading Company (SatCo) and Worthing Community Chest, the Council had learned that Tesco was considering having a regional charity partner who would receive local proceeds.*

*Council Officers were now liaising with Tesco to recommend that this continued to be Community Chest.*

*Until this was decided, Community Chest bins would remain at the Tesco Durrington store.*

Question from Councillor Mark Withers to the Executive Member for Regeneration

Given concerns about car parking and with all the new smart technology is there scope for exploring more imagination in car parking charges as part of a holistic approach to encourage more people to visit and shop in Worthing e.g. more adjustment of prices to fluctuating demand at different times of year/seasons/days e.g dropping rates extremely low with slack demand?

*The Executive Member for Regeneration replied that the occupancy of MSCPs was relatively high, 78% on average. The Council regularly reviewed its parking charges, and while value for money was a major consideration, it was also balanced with other priorities such as minimising congestion and encouraging the use of sustainable*

*transport. We have no evidence that current charges were discouraging visitors to the town.*

*Charges were already variable depending on location, length of stay, time of day and day of the week. For example:*

- parking in our multi-storey car parks for £1 for the first hour Monday to Saturday rising to £4.30 for four hours,*
- and on Sunday for £1 an hour with a maximum charge of £3,*
- on Saturdays visitors can park in the civic centre car park for £1/hour up to four hours, and*
- the Council also offered discounted parking for people working in the town.*

*The Council continued to focus on improving the offer in the town centre to attract more visitors, including their experience at our car parks and were investing in technology:*

- we offer ticketless auto-billing for regular car park users, and*
- we are currently trialling a barcode system where traders cover the cost of parking, and offer customers discounted or free parking, for example when a customer spends over a certain amount.*

*The Council was also working on plans to refurbish Buckingham Road and High Street car parks, with work on Buckingham Road due to start later this year.*

*Those works would significantly improve the experience for people using those sites and include a review of payment technology to ensure it best met our future requirements and improved the customers experience.*

Councillor Withers asked whether a park and ride scheme had been considered, as his supplementary question.

*The Executive Member for Regeneration replied that it was something being looked at by WSCC, but the logistics suggested it was not viable.*

## **C/71/19-20**

## **Motion on Notice**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Communities, which had been circulated to all members and a copy of which is attached to the signed version of these minutes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Martin McCabe and seconded by Councillor Bob Smytherman.

## **Resolved,**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Motion was noted and immediately referred to the Joint Strategic Committee.

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Communities, which had been circulated to all members and a copy of which is attached to the signed version of these minutes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sean McDonald and seconded by Councillor Lionel Harman.

An amendment to the wording of the motion had been circulated prior to the meeting and was proposed by Councillor Helen Silman and seconded by Councillor Sean McDonald.

The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

Resolved,

That Worthing Borough Council adopts the following definition of anti-semitism developed by The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

*“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

*To guide International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:*

*Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.*

*Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:*

- 1. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.*
- 2. Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.*
- 3. Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.*
- 4. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (eg gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War 2 (the Holocaust)*
- 5. Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.*
- 6. Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*

7. *Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, eg., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.*
8. *Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.*
9. *Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (eg. Claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.*
10. *Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.*
11. *Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.*

**C/73/19-20**

**Motion on Notice**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Communities, which had been circulated to all members and a copy of which is attached to the signed version of these minutes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Bob Smytherman and seconded by Councillor Martin McCabe.

**Resolved,**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Motion was noted and immediately referred to the Joint Strategic Committee.

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The meeting ended at 9.33 pm





Council  
18 February 2020  
Agenda Item 9

## **Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council**

### **A Decisions Taken by Individual Executive Members**

Listed below is a summary of decisions taken by the individual Executive Members since the despatch of the agenda for the last Ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the Executive Members Decisions webpage

#### **Leader**

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#### **Executive Member for Regeneration**

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#### **Executive Member for Resources**

W/LDR/RES/010/19-20 Strategic Property Investment Fund budget

#### **Executive Member for Customer Services**

JAW/026/19-20 West Sussex Disabled Facilities Grants Policy 2020-2024

JAW/028/19-20 Entering into Contract for the Conversion of Property at 151

Rowlands Road, Worthing BN11 3LE for use as Temporary Accommodation

#### **Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services**

JAW/023/19-20 IT Procurement for The Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of an Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing and Licensing IT Solution

JAW/025/19-20 Award of Contract - Highdown Gardens

#### **Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

JAW/022/19-20 Eastbrook Manor and Sussex Community Development Association

- Underwriting of TUPE costs

JAW/024/19-20 Food Service Delivery Plan for 2019-20

## **B. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 14.01.2020**

*Items related to Adur District Council are not reproduced on this agenda.*

Full details can be found [by clicking on this link](#)

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

### **JSC/081/19-20      A Climate Assembly for Adur & Worthing**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, 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 8.

The report set out Adur & Worthing Councils' strong commitment to tackling climate change locally, outlining progress so far, including community engagement activities

It proposed the establishment of a Climate Assembly in 2020/21, to create a robust, independent and representative engagement approach with our local communities on climate change and ecological issues.

Members gave consideration to the cost of facilitating the proposed Climate Assembly, the procurement process for including the number of interested parties and who would sit on the assembly.

The Committee expressed support for the proposals and welcomed the progress made so far. It was also noted that the assembly was not just about climate change, but how the community got involved with Adur and Worthing Councils decision-making.

#### **Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee

1. noted the strong progress made with the climate change agenda;
2. agreed to establish a Climate Assembly in 2020/21, funded from the Business Development budget at a cost of £42,000 for Worthing Borough Council and £28,000 for Adur District Council.

### **JSC/082/19-20      Preventing anti-social behaviour: Trialling the extension of Community Protection Notice powers with Worthing Homes**

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 9.

It was noted that Community Protection Notices were part of the legal remedies available to the Councils to address anti-social behaviour and were used as an early intervention warning and enforcement measure.

The report considered a request to extend those powers to Worthing Homes for a one year pilot, as an early intervention measure with tenants that were involved in anti-social behaviour.

A Member sought clarification regarding the compliance rates following Community Protection Warnings set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report. Officers confirmed that there was compliance of 72% following the issue of Community Protection Warnings and compliance of 96% following the issue of a notice.

The Committee welcomed the proposals, acknowledging the importance of joined up working in relation to this issue.

### **Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee

- 1) noted the background to Community Protection Notices as an early intervention approach for anti-social behaviour;
- 2) considered the proposals set out in the report and agreed to delegate authority to Worthing Homes for issuing Community Protection Warnings and Notices for a pilot period of one year;
- 3) noted that the pilot, if agreed, would be subject to review meetings and monitoring of these measures.

### **JSC/083/19-20      Creation of a new Trust for Highdown Gardens**

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 10.

The report sought authority to set up a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to act as an independent development trust charity to raise future funds for Highdown Gardens, following the successful application for funding to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), in order to form part of the long term business plan for the sustainability of the Gardens.

The report provided the background to the recommendations and a number of options that had been considered as part of the process, including information on the legal status of Highdown Gardens, which were bequeathed to the Council in Trust,

by Lady Stern in 1968. The existing Charitable Trust was set up in 1968 in response to this bequest, with the Council being the sole Trustee.

**Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- i) approved the establishment of an independent development trust charity (CIO), whose sole aim was to raise funds for Highdown Gardens;
- ii) approved the appointment of the Head of Environmental Services to the Board of Directors of the new CIO;
- iii) delegated authority to the Director for Communities to appoint the trustees of the new CIO in consultation with the Worthing Borough Council Executive Member for Digital & Environmental Services;
- iv) approved the objectives of the CIO as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- v) approved the Director of Communities registering the new CIO with the Charity Commission.

**C. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 11.02.2020**

*Items related to Adur District Council are not reproduced on this agenda.*

Full details can be found [by clicking on this link](#)

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

**JSC/091/19-20 Final Revenue Budget Estimates for 2020/21**

The Committee received the final budget report of the year which was the culmination of the annual budgeting exercise. The report asked members to consider:

- the final revenue estimates for 2020/21 including any adjustments arising from settlement;
- an updated outline 5-year forecast.

The budgets reflected the decisions taken by members to date in relation to agreed savings proposals and any committed growth. The budgets were still to be adjusted for the proposals to invest in services detailed in Appendix 2 which were considered by the Executives last week.

The budget was analysed by Executive member portfolio. In addition, the draft estimates for 2020/21 had been prepared, in accordance with the requirements of the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (except in relation to pension cost adjustments that did not impact either on the Budget Requirement or the Council Tax Requirement).

The respective Adur and Worthing 2020/21 Estimates and Council Tax setting reports had already been considered by the Worthing Executive on 3 February 2020 and the Adur Executive on 4 February 2020. Both the estimates for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council included their respective share of the cost of the Joint Strategic Committee.

It was noted that both Councils had received the final written settlement which was due to be debated by the government in the week beginning 24 February 2020. Officers advised that no changes to the settlement were anticipated.

**Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee:

- 1) noted the proposals to invest in services outlined in Appendix 2 which were considered at the Executive meetings in early February;
- 2) agreed to the proposed 2020/21 budget detailed in Appendix 3.

**JSC/093/19-20      Beyond Consultation: Engaging Adur and Worthing - Adur & Worthing Councils' Engagement Guide**

The Committee agreed to consult on the document '*Engaging Adur and Worthing*' in November 2019. That consultation concluded on 17 January 2020.

At the Committee's request, the revised *Engaging Adur and Worthing - Adur & Worthing Councils' Engagement Guide* (Attachment A) was being presented for agreement following the consultation process which involved members of the public, staff and elected members.

A consultation report (Attachment B) had been prepared to provide a summary of the responses received and how officers had sought to incorporate these into the revised Guide which did not represent a significant change from the draft Guide considered by the Committee in November 2019.

Officers had also used the consultation process to update the Councils' website, as recommended by the Joint Overview and Security Committee, making it easier for the Councils' communities to get involved, have their say and stay informed.

Members considered the number of responses to the consultation and the weight that should be given to them. Officers advised that a similar point had been raised at the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting which had considered the guide. It was noted that consultation formed a part of the decision making process, but a number of strands of information were considered by Officers.

A Member sought clarification regarding the consistency of reporting and whether any structure was in place. Officers advised that the objective of the proposed toolkit was to enable the Councils to be more consistent in their approach to engagement.

**Decision:**

The Joint Strategic Committee:

1. noted the comments on the draft Engagement Guide outlined in the Consultation Report (Attachment B);
2. agreed to the Councils' adopting *Engaging Adur and Worthing - Adur & Worthing Councils' Engagement Guide* (Attachment A), replacing the Adur & Worthing Councils' Consultation Policy Statement;
3. noted the updates to the Councils' website to support our communities to get involved, have their say and stay informed on the Councils' activities.

Reports and decisions are available on the Council's web site [adur-worthing.gov.uk](http://adur-worthing.gov.uk) or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports contain exempt information and not fully published on the websites.

Councillor Daniel Humphreys  
Leader of the Council