



Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Cabinet Members and the Joint Strategic 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

Cabinet Member for Regeneration

JAW/013/22-23 Release of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to undertake a Feasibility Study for improving Somerset's Lake
JAW/015/22-23 Worthing Parking Review

Cabinet Member for Resources

* JAW/012/22-23 The Meads
JAW/014/22-23 Redundancy & Settlement Agreement
JAW/016/22-23 Settlement Agreement
JAW/017/22-23 Redundancies

Cabinet Member for Citizen Services

None

Cabinet Member for the Environment

JAW/008/22-23 Waste and Street Cleansing Vehicle Replacements: Moving to an ultra low emission fleet
JAW/018/22-23 Clinical Waste Collection

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 12 January 2023

Details can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

JSS-C(W)/051/22-23 UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Investing in Place

The report outlined the opportunity to obtain funding from Central Government, as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and use this to deliver against predetermined interventions relating to People and Skills, Community and Place and Supporting Local Business.

The funding would assist the Council to deliver interventions against agreed core themes which are pertinent locally. These included; Cost of Living, Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions, Community Participation and Engagement, Fuel Poverty and Business Support.

Members were given an outline of the impact of the UKSPF and associated interventions for Worthing Borough Council (WBC) with particular reference to those priorities that have been identified through other work strands and presented with the rationale for WBC to deliver the projects and agree relevant delegations and budgetary requirements to facilitate this.

The Cabinet welcomed the investment that replaced lost EU funding.

Decision

That the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee

- A. Noted that the s151 Officer has entered into a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (SOS) regarding the administration and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- B. Delegated authority to the Director for the Economy and/or the S151 Finance Officer to enter into a binding Funding Agreement with the SOS for receipt of the funding (if required to do so) on terms substantially the same as those set out in the MOU and this report.
- C. Approved the virement of the UKSPF into the Council's budgets and for that budget to facilitate accurate reporting for the receipt and spend of funds.
- D. Delegated authority to the Director for the Economy, Director for Communities and Director of Digital, Sustainability and Resources to develop a procurement strategy for the delivery of the interventions and to enter into any necessary contract, grant funding agreement, or make any required investment under the Council's Treasury Management Policy, to enable the interventions specified in this Report, providing the spend does not exceed the UKSPF Budget.
- E. Agreed to an annual report being submitted to JSC to provide an update on the intervention delivery and monitor the spend against authorised budget.

**JSS-C(W)/054/22-23 Teville Gate Regeneration - Marketing for
Development Partner**

Members were advised of the proposed marketing of the Teville Gate site and to seek the Committee's approval for the assessment criteria for those bids received.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and thanked all of those that had been involved in attempting to find a resolution to the future of the site.

Decision

The Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed the seven site aspirations set out in paragraph 4.6.

**C. Decisions taken by the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 1 February
2023**

Details can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

**JSS-C(W)/060/22-23 Becoming a council for the community: principles
and approach**

The report before Members outlined how Worthing Council will deliver on the Administration's commitment to become 'a council for the community'

The key pillars of the Council's participative approach reflected the vision of the Council: fair, green and local. The report outlined what this meant in terms of the way the council worked with the community and its partners as well as where it stepped back to enable communities to be better able to act for themselves.

The report also set out the commitment to make the best use of council assets in order to create an abundance of community action, where Worthing Council made change happen in partnership and in co-production with the community.

A foundation to this, as with the Council's economic approach, was community wealth building. This was a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirected wealth back into the local economy, and placed control and benefits into the hands of local people.

This kind of step change in the relationship between the Council and its community would take time. The report set out the Council's first steps in this direction and outlined an open and participative approach to developing this work going forward.

Members unilaterally supported the strategy and lauded the opportunities to change governance that it presented

Decision

That the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee agreed

- a) To set up a working group to manage progress which should include officers, members and representatives from community groups and to delegate to the Chief Executive authority to agree the terms of reference for the working group in consultation with the Leader which shall include the requirement to report back to the Committee (at such intervals to be agreed in the terms of reference) with further recommendations to the Committee.
- b) For the Working Group to design and develop outcome measures and a roadmap to be reported to the Committee with agreed outcome measures published every 6 months.
- c) To initiate a review of identified policies and strategies in section 7 in order to embed these principles.

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

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

Details can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

JSC/42/22-23 Final Revenue Budget Estimates for 2023/24

The report before Members was the final budget report of the year, the culmination of the annual budgeting exercise, and asked members to note:

- The final revenue estimates for 2023/24; and
- 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 Cabinets previously.

The budget was analysed by the Directorates. In addition, the draft estimates for 2023/24 had been prepared, as always, 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 2023/24 Estimates and Council Tax setting reports had already been considered by the Worthing Cabinet on 1st February 2023 and the Adur Cabinet on 2nd February 2023. Both the estimates for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council included their respective share of the cost of the Joint Strategic Committee.

Members agreed the recommendations within the report

Decision

That the Joint Strategic Committee

- (a) Noted the proposals to invest in services outlined in Appendix 2 which were considered at the Cabinet meetings in early February;
- (b) Noted the proposed 2023/24 budget detailed in Appendix 3, the respective Council shares, having been approved by the Adur and Worthing Cabinets. The budget would be adjusted for any changes to the Investment in Service proposals agreed by Cabinet.

E. Decisions taken by the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 6 March 2023

Details can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

JSS-C(W)/066/22-23 3rd Quarter Revenue Monitoring Report 2022/23

The report updated the Joint Strategic Sub Committee for Worthing Borough Council with the latest expenditure and income projections for both Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council for the current financial year 2022/23, compared to the Revenue Budget approved by both Councils in February.

Whilst the 'spend to date' was the position as at the 31st December 2022, the forecast outturn position would reflect the latest information available to ensure an up-to-date forecast was presented.

Decision

That the Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing) noted the report and projected outturn position for the Joint Committee and Worthing Borough Council against the approved revenue budgets and proposed use of reserves.

JSS-C(W)/067/22-23 3rd Quarter Capital Monitoring Report 2022/23

This report updated the Sub-Committee on the progress made on the delivery of the 2022/23 Capital Investment Programme for Worthing Borough Council.

The programmes included schemes which supported the delivery of services by the Joint Services Committee.

Decision

The Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee

- I. noted the reprofiling of the Worthing Borough Council capital schemes as advised in paragraph 6.1 and appendix 2.
- II. approved the urgent Health and Safety works at Commerce Way, and the addition of the schemes to the 2023/24 Capital Investment Programme funded from the 2023/24 capital contingency budget as detailed in paragraph 6.2.1.
- III. approved the decommission of the old diesel tank at Meadow Road and restoration of the site, and the addition of the scheme to the 2023/24 Capital Investment Programme. The estimated cost of the works is £30,000 to be

funded from the 2023/24 capital contingency budget as detailed in paragraph 6.2.2.

- IV. approved the additional funding of £100,000 for the Decoy Farm Business Case, funded from the Strategic Property Investment Fund as detailed in paragraph 6.2.3.

JSS-C(W)/068/22-23 The Principles Governing Climate Emergency Action for Worthing

The report outlined the Council's principles which underlie its response to the Climate Emergency Declaration (July 2019) and to propose an extension to the Declaration by adding the Ecological Emergency. The principles are relevant to work in all portfolios.

The supporting pillars of the Council's response were taken from the administration's commitment to be 'Fair, Green and Local' in policy and action.

The paper set out clearly the Council's commitment to putting Climate and Ecological action at the heart of policy actions. This reflects an approach which is both addressing the need to decarbonise across a range of realms at the same time as mitigating the impacts of climate damage on nature.

In recognition of being 'A Council for the Community', the paper explored ways the Council could support different organisations and community groups to work together to adapt to and mitigate the adverse consequences of Climate Change, to be coupled with working together to relieve the crisis in the Ecological sphere

Members lauded the principles and explored the connection between the Climate and Ecological Emergencies

Decision

The Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee

i) expanded the Council's July 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration to include the Ecological Emergency.

ii) agreed 'Fair, Green and Local' principles to underpin policies responding to the Climate and Ecological Crises.

iii) developed the Council's capacities to be effective leaders in delivering the policies – setting targets and reporting regularly on progress to all Members and citizens.

iv) recognised that most responses to the Climate and Ecological Crises - which were not contained within administrative boundaries, - demanded working in partnership with other local authorities and local interested organisations.

v) Continued to work in partnership with Adur District Council and others, in recognition that many climate and ecology issues fundamentally require cross-border responses and solutions.

JSS-C(W)/069/22-23 Trees for Streets

The report before members set out a new community tree planting initiative, working in partnership with specialist crowd funding and community engagement company, Trees for Streets.

It was highlighted to the Sub-Committee how open space and urban tree planting supported Worthing council administration's core principles to be 'Fair, Green and Local' and highlighted the benefits of local ownership and associated community power in the development of environmental improvements. The report recognised the emotional, environmental and economic betterment created through increased urban tree planting.

The Committee explored the scheme, the mechanisms for supporting trees and how this could be rolled out in differing areas across the Borough.

Decision

The Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee

- i) Agreed to enter into a 3 year contract with Trees for Streets for the facilitation of new street trees in Worthing Borough (circa £24K).
- ii) Delegated authority to the Director for the Economy to enter into all relevant contracts associated with the Trees for Streets programme.
- iii) Agreed to allocate funds for the maintenance of young trees as they become established within the Trees for Streets and celebration trees in the WBC programme.
- iv) Agreed to work collaboratively with WSCC in the licensing, future maintenance and ownership of the new street trees.

JSS-C(W)/071/22-23 Worthing Housing Strategy Roadmap

The purpose of the report before members was to request the extension of three housing strategies, including the: Housing Strategy: Enabling communities to thrive in their own home" 2020-2023, Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy, and the Community Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022.

Access to quality, affordable and sustainable homes was a fundamental priority for this Council. This paper outlines a roadmap to renew these important strategies

during 2023/24, to enable the development of a strategic approach which is shaped by the vision of Worthing to be the fairest and greenest coastal town and informed by the needs of local communities and which places prevention and early intervention at its heart.

Members were updated with some key interventions to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in Worthing and given the key commitments around finding, enabling and supporting more sustainable accommodation for our residents to provide help when people need it most.

Decision

The Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee agreed

i) that the following strategies/policies be extended until the end of March 2024:

- Housing Strategy: Enabling communities to thrive in their own home” 2020-2023 to March 2024;
- Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy; and
- Community Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022

ii) that the progress and plans underway to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping be noted; and

iii) that the roadmap for the development of the new strategies/policies during 2023/24, which will be reported back in January 2024.

JSS-C(W)/072/22-23 Union Place - Update on Joint Venture Partnership with Roffey Homes.

The purpose of the report to members was to advise on the progress with negotiations with the Council’s preferred Joint Venture Partner on the development of the Union Place site, and to seek the Committee’s comments on the proposed form of the joint venture agreement for the development of the site.

Members were given the detailed nature of the proposed joint venture agreement through the formation of an LLP between the Council and Roffey Homes, and the proposal for the Council to invest land into the LLP company at the outset, with a further parcel of land being invested following grant of planning permission.

It was explained how the value of the Council’s investment was then matched by Roffey Homes equity and set out how the development would be funded. Key issues were highlighted that remained to be resolved surrounding legal powers, procurement, state aid, and tax implications of the proposed joint venture. Members were given a summary of the work undertaken to date to design the scheme, agreed land valuations, and set out a proposed programme between the joint venture partners to finalise the agreement and deliver the site.

Members noted the progress of the project and looked forward to the development of the area. Questions were asked about the green spaces included within the scheme and the types of planting that could be incorporated.

Decision

The Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee

- i) noted progress made in developing and enabling the site since the most recent update to the Joint Strategic Committee in March 2022;
- ii) noted the principal purposes of the Council in relation to the development of the site as set out in paragraph 3.3;
- iii) noted that Officers would obtain updated procurement advice on the final proposals for developing the site and delegated authority to the Director for the Economy to take any recommended procurement action to appoint the Joint Venture Partner;
- iv) noted that a report would be brought back to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration detailing the final proposed documents, and to seek any required authorisations to continue with the proposed Joint Venture arrangement.

JSS-C(W)/073/22-23 Review of Governance and Procedures for Administering the CIL Neighbourhood Fund

The report before members presented a change to the process for distribution of CIL funds that better reflected the Council's ambition to become a Council for the community. The intention was to drive meaningful change in our approach to decision making that empowers local communities to have more influence on how CIL monies are spent at a neighbourhood level.

Members discussed the matter and noted the community aspects of the changes included the support for un-constituted groups or individuals seeking funding

Decision

That the Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee

- i) approved the proposed changes to the CIL Neighbourhood Fund process;
- ii) noted the suggested timeline for the next round of applications to the Fund

JSS-C(W)/074/22-23 New Culture Principles for Worthing

The purpose of the report before Members was to outline Worthing Council's approach for supporting the cultural and creative sector and to outline the headline

principles that would guide the approach. The key pillars of the Council's support to the sector reflected the vision of the Council: fair, green and local.

Members were detailed with the commitment to make the best use of Council assets to support the sector for the benefit of residents together with the wider economic benefits associated with places that people value and enjoy.

A foundation to this cultural approach was community wealth building. This was a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

Decision

That the Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee agreed

i) to develop the Arts Forum (outlined in 3.6) to be an effective reference group linking, and working with, an Officer / Member Working Group. To share and develop the principles with the Arts Forum and engage them fully in the shaping of a Cultural Plan.

ii) That the Officer / Member Working Group manage progress and report back, and take influence from, the Arts Forum and other creative networks. Delegated authority to the Director for the Economy to agree the terms of reference for the working group in consultation with the Cabinet Member which shall include the requirement to report back to the Committee (at such intervals to be agreed in the terms of reference) with further recommendations to the Committee.

iii) That the Working Group design and develop outcome measures to be reported to the Committee within appropriate timeframes as directed by the terms of reference.

iv) To further develop the principles, moving into the development of a Cultural Plan, as outlined in section 7. This should cross-reference to developing Service and Project Plans, as part of Our Plan.

JSS-C(W)/075/22-23 A27 Worthing and Lancing improvements scheme Options consultation

The purpose of the report was to provide members of the Joint Strategic Committee Sub-Committee with an opportunity to respond to the A27 Worthing and Lancing improvements scheme Options consultation currently being undertaken by National Highways.

Members were told that the proposed recommendations used diplomatic language. Overall the proposal was underwhelming given the small amount of money being pledged for four minutes improved journey time balanced against the disruption caused by potential roadworks and the impact on pollution and environmental and

ecological damage.

The Leader explained that Local Ward Councillor views would be added to the consultation response.

Decision

That Members of the Sub-Committee authorise the Council's response to National Highways consultation on the A27 Worthing and Lancing improvements scheme Options consultation in the following terms:

i) National Highways stated aim of making sure potential future improvements to transport in the Worthing and Lancing area can still happen is welcomed;

ii) the limited scope of the project and reduction in the finances available to deliver it, even compared with the RIS1 scheme, mean 157 Agenda Item 15 that Consultation Options do not reflect the strategic ambition set out in the Transport for the South East's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and in particular, the SIP's emphasis on integrating transport, digital and energy networks, together with a high-quality, reliable, safe, and accessible transport network;

iii) at a local level, it is not clear how the proposals set out in the Options would integrate with Worthing's adopted Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LCWIP) as part of a more coordinated approach to delivering transport infrastructure that supports active travel;

iv) the Consultation Options papers include welcome references to walking and cycling improvements but there is a concern that funding for these improvements is not identified at this stage;

v) the principal benefits for Worthing are reduced travel times between the key junctions on the A27 and that whilst significant in terms of the Department for Transport's Benefit Cost Ratio analysis, these represent only a modest improvement and would require a year-long construction period;

vi) it is disappointing that only slight improvements are recorded for air quality and noise and the accident level impact is recorded as only neutral;

vii) reduced levels of traffic for residents in Goodwood Road, Sompting Road, Upper Brighton Road and Hadley Avenue would be welcome. However, there is a concern that directing Sompting Road traffic through the Lyons Farm retail park prior to rejoining the A27 at the Lyons Farm junction could cause considerable congestion in the retail park area.

E. Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet

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

JSS-C(W)/076/22-23 Acquisition of Leasehold Interest to Enable Housing Delivery at Worthing Caravan Club

An urgent item was accepted by the Chairman by reason of special circumstances.

The report was in relation to the Acquisition of leasehold interest to enable housing delivery at Worthing caravan club. The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and all members confirmed that they had the opportunity to read the report.

The report sought authority to purchase the leasehold surrender of land at Worthing Caravan and Motorhome Club (the Club) for the purpose of enabling the land for the delivery of housing.

Decision

That the Worthing Sub Committee of the Joint Strategic Committee

- i) Approved the acquisition for the surrender of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 protected leasehold interest held by the Club of their site, at Titnore Way, Worthing.
- ii) Authorised an initial budget of £2.1m to meet all costs of acquisition to be funded from the Strategic Property Investment Fund.
- iii) Authorised the Head of Major Projects to:-
 - a) Enter into the Deed of Surrender and related transactional documents outlined in the Exempt Appendix on the terms set out in that Appendix; and
 - b) To finalise the detail of the transaction providing that the transaction remains within the terms set out in the Exempt Appendix.
- iv) Authorised the appropriation of the land shown on Plan A for planning purposes.
- v) Agreed to receive a report to the appropriate decision making body with further proposals for the site

Local Government Act 1972

Background papers

None.

Councillor Dr Beccy Cooper
Leader of the Council