



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8 June 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

JOSC Work Programme review

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report outlines progress and plans for implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2023/24.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC note the progress to deliver the JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24;

2.2 That JOSC consider and confirm appointments to the JOSC Working Group as referred to in Paragraph 4.3; and

2.3 That JOSC consider the Scrutiny request from Councillor Crisp as set out in Appendix B to this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 The JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 was agreed by the Committee in March and confirmed by both Councils in April 2023 but is subject to ongoing review as part of the JOSC review work being undertaken which is considered in a separate agenda item elsewhere on this agenda. It is usual practice for the Work Programme to be reviewed at each meeting during the Municipal Year. A copy of the 2023/24 Work Programme is attached as part of the Appendix A to this report.
- 3.2 Paragraph 9.2 of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the work programme will be approved by both Councils. A report must also be taken to each full Council on an annual basis detailing any changes to the Work Programme and this is usually reported mid year and for 23/24 this will be done in December 2023.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Items for the JOSC Work Programme need to be chosen guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic objectives, how the Committee can influence the outcomes and also general value and outcomes in accordance with the (PAPER criteria) - P - Public Interest, (A) - Ability to change, (P) - Performance, (E) - Extent and (R) - Replication.
- 4.2 The Committee is requested to review the draft Work Programme, consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme and also requested to review the Scrutiny request attached at Appendix B to the report which has been received from Councillor Crisp and decide if the item should be added to the Work Programme. During the Municipal Year, items may be added to the JOSC Work Programme, where appropriate. Requests for additional matters to be included in the Work Programme will initially be considered by the Joint Chairpersons in accordance with the criteria and they will make their recommendations to the next JOSC for consideration and determination following receipt of the Officer report. Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the Committee and resources available when considering further Work Programme items.
- 4.3 At this meeting it is also necessary for JOSC to confirm members to its Working Groups as follows:-

- **Working Group which has been reviewing the policy for temporary accommodation outside of Council areas** - Members in the previous year were Councillors Mandy Buxton and Debs Stainforth (Adur) and Margaret Howard and Heather Mercer in Worthing.
- **Working Group to review Adur Homes Repairs and maintenance issues** (The Work of this Working Group is paused until further guidance is available from the Housing Regulator) - Previous Members were Councillors Carol Albury, Ann Bridges, Joss Loader, Sharon Sluman and Debs Stainforth.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSCS Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons and the Councils Leadership Team have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report and in the Work Programme.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report, however, some items contained in the Work Programme do have financial implications for the Councils.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Councils have the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals generally may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).
- 7.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.4 Paragraph 9.2 of the current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils. A report must be taken to both Councils on an annual basis seeking both Councils' approval of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for

the forthcoming year and any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.

Background Papers

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Some of the issues scrutinised as part of the Work Programme could impact on the development of our places or the economic participation of our communities if implemented.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Some of the issues to be scrutinised as part of the Work Programme will have an impact on the communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Some of the issues being scrutinised will have community safety implications.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. The Work Programme includes an item to receive an update on the Councils approach to climate change.

4. Governance

- 4.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified. It is good practice for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set its Work Programme ahead of the Municipal Year. The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules state that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils and that any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.