



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8 June 2023

ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the draft Annual report for the Committee covering the 2022/23 Municipal year in accordance with the terms of the Councils' constitutions.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report for 2022/23; and**
- 2.2 That the Annual report be submitted to the Adur and Worthing Council meetings in July 2023 for approval.**

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of good practice and a requirement in the Councils' constitutions, the Councils are required to produce a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Annual report for 2022/23 for approval by the Committee and thereafter by the Full Councils. The final Annual report will be available from the Councils' website.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 In the 2022/23 Municipal Year the JOSC has directed its resources to scrutinise issues where it could make the most impact. The Committee has continued to ensure that there has been a 'Holding to Account/Challenge' role applied. A summary of the work is contained in the JOSC Annual report for 2022/23 which is attached as an appendix to this report. As well as being a requirement of the Constitutions, it is good practice to produce an Annual report on the work of Overview and Scrutiny which can help publicise and promote the work undertaken amongst the local community and local partners.
- 4.2 Members of the public and/or local partners are able to make a scrutiny request using an online scrutiny form and this helps encourage people to take part in the scrutiny process and the democratic process as well as helping the public to influence decision making.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The Joint Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the JOSC have been consulted on this report and the previous Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the Committee have also been consulted.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Councils have the powers 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 The JOSC is required to produce an Annual report for approval by the Councils in accordance with the Councils' constitutions and good practice. The Council meetings in July will be required to receive the Annual report.

Background Papers

Agendas, reports and minutes from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings during 2022/23.

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. No direct issues identified but some issues discussed by the Committee have an economic impact.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. It is good practice for the Councils to produce an Annual report which can help publicise and promote the work of the Committee amongst the local community and local partners. The work of the Committee may lead to improvements in communities and help promote social value.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered. Copies of the Annual report will be available on the Council website and can be made available to people on request if they do not have access to a computer or are blind or partially sighted.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no direct issues identified but the Committee has discussed community safety issues during 2022/23.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. The Committee has scrutinised the progress with Sustainable AW as part of its Work Programme.

4. Governance

Matter considered. It is good practice for the Councils to produce an Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny and is a requirement of the Constitution and the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. It is also part of good Governance practice for the Councils to have an effective oversight and scrutiny function in place to encourage constructive challenge and debate on Council policies and practices.