



# ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
6 July 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

## Worthing Leader interview

### Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

#### Executive Summary

##### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out background information on the Portfolio of the Worthing Leader to enable the Committee to consider and question the Leader on issues within her portfolio and any high-level strategic issues which the Leader is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

##### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee consider any representations from the Leader on the work within her Portfolio and other high-level strategic issues which the Leader is involved in and question the Leader on this and recommend any suggested action or make appropriate comments to the Leader for her consideration.

##### 3. Context and Purpose of Scrutiny

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2023/24, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) have agreed to interview the Worthing Leader (Councillor Beccy Cooper) on her priorities for 2023/24.
- 3.2 As part of its fact finding/investigative role, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny

Committee is asked to consider the roles and responsibilities of the Leader. It is part of the Scrutiny role to fact find/investigate in the form of questions and JOSC is asked to direct questions to the Leader as part of this interview process on any high level strategic issues involving the Leader and also issues relating to her portfolio, however, this will not extend to day to day Council matters.

3.3 The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress as described.

#### **4. Issues for consideration**

4.1 The Worthing Leader has responsibility for the following:-

- Overall policy and strategy (vision and priorities)
- City Deal (strategic matters)
- Democratic Services, including committee management
- Devolution and County liaison lead, including education and highways (Active/sustainable transport, in partnership with Regeneration's management of transport planning & infrastructure)
- Electoral Services within the remit of the Cabinet.
- External relations, including complaints management, marketing and promotion
- Head of Paid Service responsibilities
- Mayor of the Borough and civic matters
- Media and communications (internal and external)
- Member Services
- Partnership working (lead)
- Performance management, including improvement plans
- Reputation management, including risk (policy)
- Transport planning and infrastructure (to share with Regeneration portfolio for active/sustainable transport development)

4.2 JOSC is requested to ask questions of the Leader based on her responsibilities outlined in paragraph 4.1 including any high level strategic issues relating to the Councils and our communities.

#### **5. Engagement and Communication**

5.1 The JOSC Chairs and Vice-Chairs and the Leader have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 JOSC is responsible for holding the Cabinet Members to account, reviewing their work and decisions and in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils' constitution, can request Cabinet Members to attend its meetings.

7.2 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.

7.3 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

## **Background Papers**

Strategic Priorities for Worthing Borough Council: 2022/23 Progress Update Report and New Priorities for 2023/24 - [Worthing JSC Sub-Committee 13 June 2023](#)

Our Plan - A three year framework for Adur and Worthing Councils  
[Our Plan](#)

### **Officer Contact Details:-**

Mark Lowe

Scrutiny & Risk Officer

Tel: 01903 221009

[mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

## **Sustainability and Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

- 1.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some issues contained within the Leader Portfolio are related to economic issues and impact.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some issues within the Leader Portfolio impact on the communities and social value.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some of the Portfolio areas do impact on access or participation.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. JOSC is responsible for holding the Cabinet Members to account, reviewing their work and decisions and in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils' constitution, can request Cabinet Members to attend its meetings.