



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 September 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Interview with Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment

Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report sets out background information on the Portfolio of the Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member 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 Cabinet Member on the work within her Portfolio and other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in and question the Cabinet Member on this and recommend any suggested action or make appropriate comments to the Cabinet Member 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 Adur and Worthing Cabinet Members on their 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 Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Vicki Wells. 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 Cabinet Member on any issues involving the Cabinet Member and also issues relating to her portfolio.
- 3.3 The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress as described and can recommend action or make comments to the Cabinet Member for consideration.
- 3.4 The Cabinet Member was previously interviewed by JOSC at its meeting on 19 January 2023 - The minute extract (JOSC/74/22/23) which includes the detail of the previous discussion and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC Minutes 19/1/23](#) Individual decisions made by the Cabinet Members can be found from the following link: [Individual Member Executive Decisions](#)

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment has responsibility for the following:-
- Cemeteries and burials
 - Crematorium
 - Environmental management and strategy (to share with Climate Emergency Portfolio)
 - Environmental protection and ecological sustainability, including noise, dog control, food hygiene, land drainage, pest control and air quality (to share with the Climate Emergency portfolio)
 - Foreshore - Sussex Bay and fishing community
 - Parks, open and green spaces, including ground maintenance and allotments
 - Public health, health protection and enforcement, including Food Safety Enforcement Plan
 - Public conveniences

- Street cleaning
- Waste minimisation, collection and recycling
- Water Quality, including sea bathing water status

4.2 JOSC is requested to ask questions of the Cabinet Member 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 Cabinet Member 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](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. Issues within the Cabinet Member Portfolio and actions taken by the Cabinet Member can help improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered. The Cabinet Member considers any relevant equalities and diversity issues when considering issues as part of her Portfolio.

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. The Cabinet Member has responsibility for environmental management and strategy which is shared with the Climate Emergency Portfolio and also has responsibility for environmental protection and ecological sustainability,

4. Governance

Matter considered. 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.