



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 September 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Interview with the Worthing Cabinet Member for Housing and Citizens Services

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 Housing and Citizens Services 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 Housing and Citizens Services, Councillor Emma Taylor-Beal. 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 13 October 2022 - The minute extract (JOSC/40/22-23) which includes the details of the previous discussion and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC minutes 13/10/22](#) 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 Housing and Citizens Services has responsibility for the following:-
- Affordable Housing Provision
 - Benefit Fraud Detection/Prevention
 - Customer contacts and services, including Help Points
 - Disabled Facilities Grant and other Housing Grants
 - Empty Properties
 - Homelessness and Advice (Prevention and Management), including Choice Based Lettings, Bed & Breakfast
 - Housing and Council Tax Benefits and Adjudication
 - Housing Need, Options and Advice and Housing Register
 - Housing Strategy Development and Review
 - Private Sector Housing
 - Revenues and Benefits
 - Strategic Housing and Enabling

- Supported People

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](#)

Officer Contact Details:-

Mark Lowe

Scrutiny and Risk Officer

Tel:01903 221009

mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and some issues within the Cabinet Member Portfolio will impact on some sections of the community and those in housing need.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

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. 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.