



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 September 2023

ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Scrutiny review of the Adur & Worthing evening and night time economy

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report sets out the revised discussions and recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Working Group which was created as part of the JOSC Work Programme to review the previous JOSC reports and recommendations on the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy (ENTE) from 2020 through to 2023.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC notes the Cabinet Member responses to the recommendations from the ENTE Working Group and;

2.2 That JOSC agrees to receive an annual review report on progress with the works to improve the evening and night time economies as part of its Work Programme.

3. Context

3.1 As part of its Work Programme, JOSC agreed to set up a Working Group to review the Adur and Worthing ENTE to help improve the ENTE and to assist in the recovery process post pandemic. A report was produced by the Working Group in March 2020 which was deferred because of the Covid-19 pandemic and then a further report was reported in March 2022 from the Working Group which had the following terms of reference:-

1. To review the evening and night time economy in Adur and Worthing post Covid-19; and

2. To consider if there is a need for any new approaches/changes to be introduced in Adur and Worthing to improve the evening and night time economies and to assist in the recovery process post Covid-19.

3.2 Both JOSC Working Group reports can be accessed here [2020 ENTE report](#) [2022 ENTE report](#).

3.3 Recommendations from the Working Group reports were agreed by JOSC in March 2022 for referral to the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) which considered these at its meeting on [5 July 2022](#) but asked JOSC to review the report again in light of issues raised by JSC relating to the emerging cost of living crisis and the impact on the ENTE and wider economic planning. JSC asked JOSC to review if the recommendations are post-pandemic or general economy recommendations; to prioritise the recommendations based on realistic delivery and resource and to reframe the JOSC report to reflect that ENTE is part of a wider economic strategy question and any recommendations moving forward to be consumed into wider economic planning.

3.4 In order to consider the request from JSC, JOSC reconstituted a small Working Group to review the ENTE report again and then prioritise the recommendations in the report for JSC to consider. Councillors Carol

Albury, Daniel Humphreys (appointed as Chairman), Paul Mansfield and Dan Hermitage (replaced by Councillor Jon Roser) were appointed to the Working Group which met on 31 August 2022 to undertake its work. The Working Group reviewed and prioritised the recommendations, the details of which can be found in this [linked report](#).

- 3.5 At JOSC in [October 2022 a final report](#) came forward from the Working Group that responded to the JSC request in July 2022 and subsequently confirmed recommendations to the Executive Members for consideration. This report provides feedback to those recommendations in terms of an Adur and Worthing perspective.

4. Responding to the recommendations

- 4.1 At the [December 2022 Joint Strategic Committee](#), it was agreed to refer the findings and recommendations from JOSC and its Working Group to the relevant Adur and Worthing Cabinet Members (Adur Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing and the Worthing Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure) who had responsibility for this area of work, for consideration and action, the outcomes from which should be reported back to JOSC as part of the annual reviews of the ENTE which are to be included on the JOSC Work Programme.

- 4.2 This report provides the feedback to those recommendations and indicates those that will be taken forward and those that won't, although on the latter a reason has been provided as to why this won't be taken forward at this particular time.

4.3 Worthing Borough Council response

4.3.1 Following consultation with the Executive Member for Culture & Leisure, of which ENTE fits within the portfolio, the following actions have been agreed to be taken forward:

#	Recommendation	Agree (Yes / No / In part)	Response
1	Within the Corporate Strategy and Governance, ensure ENTE is captured and measured	Yes	The Council has set a series of priorities for 2023-24, one of which is to develop a ENTE Action Plan by Spring 2024. This aligns with Our

			Plan and, more specifically, the Place Missions of which ENTE will be captured as a work strand.
2	Continue to support ENTE businesses	In part	Support for businesses is being withdrawn from external partners due to reduction or no funding or the programme has ceased (e.g. Hot House Programme). Whilst the Council commits to continuing to liaise with all businesses, it should be noted there is limited support. However, as part of the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation, a programme (with Adur) will launch in the new year that will provide consultancy and grant support for a two year period. ENTE businesses will be encouraged to be part of the programme of support.
3	Work with stakeholders, including the Police and Safer Communities Partnership in the context of ENTE	Yes	There is a commitment to work with key stakeholders, including Worthing Town Centre BID to continue to share knowledge and expertise regarding the ENTE. The Council continuously liaises via the Safer Communities Partnership in which the strategy for that group runs until 2024 . Within that strategy ENTE is specifically referenced.
4	Annual Report on ENTE activity	Yes	The Council will establish an ENTE Action Plan and therefore this will be where ENTE activity will be monitored and tracked, linked to the Council's work around the town centre management. The work of the Action Plan will be made available to JOSOC to review on an annual basis.
5	Review the event programme and consider new opportunities to support ENTE, this includes how this could support overnight stays	In part	A much broader review of the events programme will take place from 2024 but this won't exclusively look at ENTE activity. This review will assess the opportunities to either change, add or remove events from the programme and it's anticipated

			that the ENTE Action Plan will focus on events in respect of the shoulder seasons of primarily October / November and February / March. It should be noted that the Council only directly delivers one event that supports the ENTE being Jack on the Green, the majority are coordinated by private organisations and community groups.
6	Levelling Up Bill and explore new statutory powers to effect the ENTE	In part	It is accepted that the Council needs to continuously review its powers that could affect the ENTE, however it should be noted that not all levers are held by the public sector. Whilst controls can be put in place around licensing and planning policy, the final occupation and delivery will be determined by the private sector, in the case of unit activation. However, powers will be explored around other areas such as improving safety.
7	To work with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators to help with regular audits of ENTE, which identifies areas of improvement	Yes	It's important the Council listens and responds to its community, therefore continued active dialogue with the Adur & Worthing representative, and any local neighbourhood watch groups, will be important. Where possible, there is always an Officer and Member in attendance. The level of resource will need to be determined to connect to these groups and how this aligns with other stakeholders and meetings.
8	Adur Only item	No	Not applicable
9	ENTE also addresses commitments around climate change, including sustainable travel, improving air quality, reduction in waste, recycling etc.	In part	Sustainability needs to be embedded into all aspects of the Council, therefore it's not anticipated there will be a dedicated strand of work for ENTE businesses. However, it is agreed that ENTE businesses will be captured when the Council is undertaking wider communications, promotions or interventions

			regarding this agenda. For example, a number of ENTE businesses are taking advantage of the Food Waste service, whilst sustainability is also critical to any businesses wanting to be part of local events. The Council is also reviewing the possibility of the Good Business Charter, which also has sustainability as a key criteria.
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4.3.2 The following table relates to those recommendations contained in the 2020 report, including the response and / or action to be taken forward:

#	Recommendation	Agree (Yes / No / In part)	Response
1	To set up a specific ENTE Transport Working Group, and reignite the Quality Bus Partnership	In part	A separate ENTE transport group won't be set up as the Council already has a number of working groups looking at transport measures, most notably the Sustainable Transport Group, which meets monthly. It's been agreed that any working groups will consider ENTE travel in the context of the broader transport matrix of Worthing. The Council re-established the Bus Partnership from May 2023; a quarterly meeting that brings together all operators running in and through Worthing.
2	To coordinate a review of the lighting in town and village centres and the consider ENTE in public realm improvements, including improvements to car parks	In part	West Sussex County Council (WSCC), as the Highways Authority, are the primary providers of ENTE lighting via the PFI lighting across the Borough and town centre. Any review and improvements should be led by WSCC. However, as the Council works with WSCC on a series of public realm schemes (e.g. Montague Place), lighting improvements will be taken into consideration as part of those designs and works. This will be the same consideration for any car park upgrades. It's not anticipated that a

			lighting review will take place across the town centre due to limited control on this particular area.
3	To ensure improvements are made to areas in the town centre, including cleanliness	In part	The Council is a partner in keeping the town centre clean and tidy, mostly through waste services. It is also important that partnership work is undertaken with WSCC and Worthing Town Centre BID, both of which also have funds to support the cleanliness of the place. A regular walkabout is undertaken, instigated by the Council, with key stakeholders to monitor the cleanliness of the place and react where necessary. For example, a 'collective clean' was organised in the town centre ahead of the school summer holidays in July with the aforementioned stakeholders and many more.
4	To assess licensing parameters and determine whether longer opening hours can be established in partnership with key stakeholders	Yes	Within the ENTE Action Plan, it's anticipated that licensing parameters will be reviewed, in the context of what the Council can and can't do in respect of the statutory duty. However, the Council may be able to offer extended hours in the future and implementation will be down to each individual business / applicant as they assess multiple factors. With increased hours comes increased staff and utility costs, therefore in the current economic climate these will be key factors that businesses will need to assess. In addition, any changes will also need to be agreed with key stakeholders, most prominently the police. The other consideration will be location as a balance will need to be struck between extended business use and the proximity to residential use in the town centre.
5	To invest further funding into the town centre to	No	The Council has limited financial capacity and there is no additional

	promote the ENTE		funding that will be able to be directly attributed to the ENTE. There are other work programmes, such as the Town Centre Reactive Maintenance Programme and Time for Worthing, both of which indirectly contribute to supporting the ENTE. However, there is a commitment to continually review external funding sources that may support ENTE as the Council has previously received funding for this area, especially around safer communities.
6	Achievement of Purple Flag status and continuation of the award	In part	Purple Flag status, a national accreditation for supporting ENTE, was achieved in 2019. The criteria used to measure success was useful, however the ongoing cost to maintain the accreditation didn't match against the benefits received. However, the framework of Purple Flag will be used to guide the ENTE Action Plan to ensure consistency in approach.

4.4 Adur District Council response

4.4.1 Following consultation with the Executive Member for Communities and Wellbeing, of which ENTE fits within the portfolio, the following actions have been agreed to be taken forward:

#	Recommendation	Agree (Yes / No / In part)	Response
1	Within the Corporate Strategy and Governance, ensure ENTE is captured and measured	Yes	The Council will be setting a series of priorities for 2023-24 at September JSC Sub Committee, one of which is to continue to support the local economic town and village centres. This aligns with Our Plan and, more specifically, the Place Missions of which ENTE will be captured as a work strand. These will take into consideration the very

			different market served by ENTE in Adur compared with Worthing.
2	Continue to support ENTE businesses	Yes	Support for businesses is being withdrawn from external partners due to reduction or no funding or the programme has ceased (e.g. Hot House Programme). Whilst the Council commits to continuing to liaise with all businesses, it should be noted there is limited support. However, as part of the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation, a programme (with Worthing) will launch in the new year that will provide consultancy and grant support for a two year period. ENTE businesses will be encouraged to be part of the programme of support. Furthermore, the Council has directly intervened around anti-social behaviour by providing a series of workshops to allow businesses to share concerns with the Council and the police. This will continue.
3	Work with stakeholders, including the Police and Safer Communities Partnership in the context of ENTE	Yes	There is a commitment to work with key stakeholders, including with Trader Associations to continue to share knowledge and expertise regarding the ENTE. The Council continuously liaises via the Safer Communities Partnership in which the strategy for that group runs until 2024 . Within that strategy ENTE is specifically referenced.
4	Annual Report on ENTE activity	In part	Due to Adur having three very distinct places and ENTE serving the local population rather than a major economic sector serving a significant proportion of visitors, the Council won't be pursuing an ENTE plan/s, however all relevant work will be picked up through other working groups, including the work around town / village centre maintenance and safer communities partnership.

			These updates can be made available to JOSOC to review on an annual basis.
5	Review the event programme and consider new opportunities to support ENTE, this includes how this could support overnight stays	In part	A much broader review of the events programme will take place from 2024 but this won't exclusively look at ENTE activity. This review will assess the opportunities to either change, add or remove events from the calendar. Equally, it should be noted that Adur doesn't have a high volume of events due to limitations on land availability and appropriate event locations. The Council only directly delivers two events that support the ENTE being Light Up Shoreham and Southwick Christmas Market.
6	Levelling Up Bill and explore new statutory powers to effect the ENTE	In part	It is accepted that the Council needs to continuously review its powers that could affect the ENTE, however it should be noted that not all levers are held by the public sector. Whilst controls can be put in place around licensing and planning policy, the final occupation and delivery will be determined by the private sector, in the case of unit activation. However, powers will be explored around other areas such as improving safety. A Levelling Up bid is being made for Lancing and ENTE is being considered as part of this bid.
7	To work with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators to help with regular audits of ENTE, which identifies areas of improvement	Yes	It's important the Council listens and responds to its community, therefore continued active dialogue with the Adur & Worthing representative, and any local neighbourhood watch groups, will be important. Where possible, there is always an Officer and Member in attendance. The level of resource will need to be determined to connect to these groups and how this aligns with other stakeholders and meetings.

8	Coordinate the setting up of an Adur ENTE Hospitality Scheme, to operate in a similar way to PubWatch	No	<p>Whilst this is a sound recommendation, the Council currently hasn't the capacity to set up, support and, probably in the short term, administer a working group similar to PubWatch. Further the level and number of issues facing publicans in Adur are significantly lower than Worthing due to the different market served. In addition the town and village centres are very dispersed making coordination much more challenging unless done at a very local level. The Council is happy to ask the question of publicans and the hospitality businesses to generate interest in the idea as any group needs to be independently run if it is to have any traction or success.</p>
9	ENTE also addresses commitments around climate change, including sustainable travel, improving air quality, reduction in waste, recycling etc.	In part	<p>Sustainability needs to be embedded into all aspects of the Council, therefore it's not anticipated there will be a dedicated strand of work for ENTE businesses. However, it is agreed that ENTE businesses will be captured when the Council is undertaking wider communications, promotions or interventions regarding this agenda. For example, a number of ENTE businesses are taking advantage of the Food Waste service, whilst sustainability is also critical to any businesses wanting to be part of local events. Further the core market for ENTE in Adur is the local community. Consequently, the policy to improve walking and cycling facilities will improve sustainability.</p>

4.4.2 The following table relates to those recommendations contained in the 2020 report, including the response and / or action to be taken forward:

#	Recommendation	Agree (Yes / No / In part)	Response
1	To set up a specific ENTE Transport Working Group, and reignite the Quality Bus Partnership	In part	A separate ENTE transport group won't be set up as the Council already has a number of working groups looking at transport measures. It's been agreed that any working groups will consider ENTE travel in the context of the broader transport matrix of Adur, however it should be noted that the Council will also rely on West Sussex County Council to support this recommendation.
2	To coordinate a review of the lighting in town and village centres and the consider ENTE in public realm improvements, including improvements to car parks	In part	WSCC, as the Highways Authority, are the primary providers of ENTE lighting via the PFI lighting across the District and town / village centres. Any review and improvements should be led by WSCC. However, as the Council works with WSCC on a series of public realm schemes (e.g. Southwick Square), lighting improvements will be taken into consideration as part of those designs and works. This will be the same consideration for any car park upgrades. It's not anticipated that a lighting review will take place across our town / village centres due to limited control on this particular area and our dispersed centres.
3	To ensure improvements are made to areas in the town / village centres, including cleanliness	In part	The Council is a partner in keeping the town and village centres clean and tidy, mostly through waste services. It is also important that partnership work is undertaken with WSCC, the Parish Councils and Trader Associations to support the cleanliness of our places. Regular walkabouts happen across Lancing, Shoreham and Southwick, instigated by the Council, with key stakeholders to monitor the

			cleanliness of the place and react where necessary.
4	To assess licensing parameters and determine whether longer opening hours can be established in partnership with key stakeholders	In part	In line with day-to-day work, it's anticipated that licensing parameters will be reviewed, in the context of what the Council can and can't do in respect of the statutory duty. However, the Council may be able to offer extended hours in the future and implementation will be down to each individual business / applicant as they assess multiple factors. With increased hours comes increased staff and utility costs, therefore in the current economic climate these will be key factors that businesses will need to assess. In addition, any changes will also need to be agreed with key stakeholders, most prominently the police. The other consideration will be location as a balance will need to be struck between extended business use and the proximity to residential use in our town / villages centres.
5	To invest further funding into the town centre to promote the ENTE	No	The Council has limited financial capacity and there is no additional funding that will be able to be directly attributed to the ENTE. There are other work programmes, such as the Town Centre Reactive Maintenance Programme, which indirectly contributes to supporting the ENTE. However, there is a commitment to continually review external funding sources that may support ENTE as the Council has previously received funding for this area, especially around safer communities.
6	Achievement of Purple Flag status	No	Purple Flag status, a national accreditation for supporting ENTE, hasn't been considered in Adur due to the different functions the town and villages play in the District. The

			<p>accreditation is not considered a priority at this time, however the framework of Purple Flag could be used in connection with a number of recommendations contained in this report.</p>
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5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSOC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons have been consulted on all previous reports and the previous Working Groups have undertaken consultation with the local communities and relevant stakeholders, whether directly as part of onsite visits or via community questionnaires and consultations.
- 5.2 The Executive Members for which they have ENTE in their portfolio, have been consulted. It should be noted that whilst some recommendations won't be taken forward, both Executive Members expressed their desire for Officers to ensure there is a cross-departmental view and relationship when delivering interventions around the ENTE.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report, however, there may be financial implications arising from some of the recommendations when they are implemented.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has 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 may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).

Background Papers

- Previous reports from the JOSOC Working Groups as set out above - March 2020 and March 2022.
- Report to Joint Strategic Committee on 5 July 2022 and the subsequent minute.
- Report to Joint Strategic Committee on 6 December 2022 and the subsequent minute

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. The issues contained in the Working Group report relate to the economic recovery of the evening and night time economy.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. An improved evening and night time economy will improve social value for the communities of Adur and Worthing and visitors to the towns and village centres.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. The report from the Working Group has investigated public safety and other community safety issues which are detailed in the report.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

3. Environmental

The report from the JOSC Working Group has reviewed the environmental issues connected with the evening and night time economy and identified some issues to help climate change, air quality and encourage sustainability.

4. Governance

Matter considered. The JOSC Working Group has been set up in accordance with the JOSC Procedure Rules and forms part of the agreed JOSC Work Programme for 2022/23. Recommendations from the review will need to be presented to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration.