



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 September 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

JOSC Work Programme review

Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report outlines progress and plans for implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2023/24.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC notes the progress to deliver the JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 and agrees to the proposed changes required to accommodate discussions with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and Southern Water as set out in Section 4 of the report.

3. Context

3.1 The JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 was agreed by the Committee in March and confirmed by both Councils in April 2023. It is usual practice for the Work Programme to be reviewed at each meeting during the Municipal

Year and the previous review was undertaken at the JOSC meeting on 6 July 2023. A copy of the 2023/24 Work Programme is attached as part of the Appendix A to this report and any reviews and changes to this have been agreed in consultation with the JOSC Chairs and Vice-Chairs. The Work Programme now includes a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status to reflect how long items have been on the Work Programme and /or changes to when the item is expected to be presented to JOSC. This will help JOSC manage and prioritise its Work Programme and is one of the new options introduced by JOSC at its previous meeting as part of the new ways of working.

- 3.2 Paragraph 9.2 of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the work programme will be approved by both Councils. A report must also be taken to each full Council on an annual basis detailing any changes to the Work Programme and this is usually reported mid year and for 23/24 this will be done in December 2023.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Items for the JOSC Work Programme need to be chosen guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic objectives, how the Committee can influence the outcomes and also general value and outcomes in accordance with the (PAPER criteria) - (P) - Public Interest, (A) - Ability to change, (P) - Performance, (E) - Extent and (R) - Replication.
- 4.2 The Committee is requested to review the draft Work Programme and consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme. During the Municipal Year, items may be added to the JOSC Work Programme, where appropriate. Requests for additional matters to be included in the Work Programme will initially be considered by the Joint Chairs in accordance with the criteria and they will make their recommendations to the next JOSC for consideration and determination following receipt of the Officer report. Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the Committee and resources available when considering further Work Programme items. JOSC should also use the Forward Plan of Key decisions as a tool to identify and scrutinise items before the Executive decision is taken. This will assist in the Pre scrutiny role and the latest editions of the Forward Plan can be accessed here - [Forward plan of Key decisions](#)
- 4.3 The JOSC meeting on 6 July 2023 requested that the Committee should hold interview question and answer sessions with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Local Police Commander to discuss local policing and anti

social behaviour issues and should also interview the Chief Executive Officer of Southern Water regarding issues of concern. These matters have been discussed with the Joint Chairs in order to finalise the best approach, taking into account the availability of attendees, time available and the existing business on the JOSC Work Programme.

- 4.4 **Southern Water** Officers are very keen to engage in a meaningful way with JOSC and are willing to attend JOSC in early November, however, as an alternative to them attending the Committee on that date, they would like to offer all JOSC Members a tour of a local working wastewater treatment plant to provide a comprehensive overview of the Southern Water work and how it impacts on Adur and Worthing residents. They have taken that approach with other Local Authorities in the region, who have found it very beneficial to see the process first-hand, which often answers many questions.
- 4.5 If JOSC agree to this approach then it is envisaged that the tour could be followed by a full question and answer session in a meeting room on site with a full transcript taken to ensure full accountability and transparency. (Questions could be submitted in advance with the opportunity for the public to provide questions for Members to put to Southern Water). A follow up item could then be added to a JOSC agenda for JOSC to review the issues discussed in the public arena and consider if any recommendations or follow up action needs to be taken. It is anticipated that a tour could be arranged in a shorter timescale than the Committee meeting (late September or October), meaning that the discussions will be ahead of any emerging issues.
- 4.6 **The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner** has accepted the invitation to attend JOSC and can attend the JOSC meeting on Thursday 30 November. It is suggested that the JOSC meeting on that evening could start earlier at 6pm to accommodate this interview session with the Commissioner and existing business. It is also proposed that the interview with the Chief Executive regarding 'Our Plan' should be deferred to an alternative date to be confirmed which will allow more time for the Commissioner interview.
- 4.7 JOSC Chairs and Vice-Chairs support the proposals suggested for these additional interviews and JOSC is requested to confirm the approach.

5. Engagement and Communication

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report, however, some items contained in the Work Programme do have financial implications for the Councils.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Councils have 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 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 Paragraph 9.2 of the current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils. A report must be taken to both Councils on an annual basis seeking both Councils' approval of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for the forthcoming year and any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.

Background Papers

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Some of the issues scrutinised as part of the Work Programme could impact on the development of our places or the economic participation of our communities if implemented.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Some of the issues to be scrutinised as part of the Work Programme will have an impact on the communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Some of the issues being scrutinised will have community safety implications.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. The Work Programme includes an item to receive an update on the Councils approach to climate change.

4. Governance

- 4.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified. It is good practice for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set its Work Programme ahead of the Municipal Year. The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules state that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils and that any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.

