



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2 November 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 and also includes a Scrutiny request for consideration.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC notes the progress to deliver the JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 as contained in the Appendix A to the report; and

2.2 That JOSC considers the Scrutiny request as set out in Appendix B to 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 7 September 2023. A copy of the current 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 7 September 2023 made the request for Southern Water (SW) to attend the JOSC meeting on 2 November 2023 and agreed to accept the invitation from SW for JOSC Members to visit the East Worthing wastewater treatment works. JOSC is requested to note that the Member tour planned for 25 October had to be postponed at short notice by Southern Water and will be rearranged and SW are now unable to attend the JOSC meeting on 2 November and have indicated that they will not be able to attend JOSC until January 2024.

4.4 As part of the consideration of this report, JOSC is also requested to consider the Scrutiny request received from Councillor Hermitage, details of which are set out in Appendix B to the report and this request relates to Worthing Pub Watch.

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.