



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
30 November 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

## **Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Interview with the Chair of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (SCP)**

**Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This report provides the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with information on the work of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (AWSCP) in order for JOSC to scrutinise the work of the AWSCP and interview the Adur Co-Chair of the Partnership, Councillor Kevin Boram.

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That JOSC is asked to review the work of the AWSCP and question Councillor Boram on the work being undertaken by the Partnership.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2023/24, JOSC have agreed to scrutinise the work of the AWSCP.
- 3.2 Councillor Kevin Boram will be present to speak on the work of the AWSCP and JOSC will have the opportunity to question him. Councillor Boram was previously interviewed as Chair of the AWSCP by JOSC at its meeting on 24 November 2022 - The minutes extract (JOSC/56/22/23) which includes the detail of the previous discussions and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC Minutes 24/11/22](#) The Partnership is now chaired jointly by Councillor Boram from Adur and Councillor Rosey Whorlow from Worthing Borough Council (Councillor Whorlow is, however, unable to attend this meeting).

### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 JOSC has the responsibility under the Police and Justice Act 2006 to scrutinise crime and disorder and the work of the AWSCP. As part of its crime and disorder scrutiny role, JOSC is asked to consider the role of the AWSCP. The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress.
- 4.2 The AWSCP is a multi-agency partnership with the shared vision of reducing crime and disorder; working together to make Adur and Worthing a safer place to live, work and visit. The partnership recognises that making a community safer is not just about tackling crime and disorder; it is about how safe people feel in their own communities. Cutting crime and its causes, and the fear of crime, should involve everyone in the community.
- 4.3 The AWSCP has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder. The Partnership includes representatives from a range of agencies:-
- Adur & Worthing Councils
  - Sussex Police
  - Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
  - West Sussex County Council
  - West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
  - NHS West Sussex
  - Sussex Probation

Other partners contribute to the work including organisations from the

the voluntary sector, local businesses and members of the community.

- 4.4 The Safer Communities Partnership has reviewed its priorities for 2021- 2024 and developed a 3 year Safer Communities Strategy for 2021-2024. [Safer Communities Strategy 2021-2024](#)

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1 The JOSCP Chairs and Vice-Chairs, relevant Officers and the Co-Chairs of the Safer Communities Partnership have been consulted on the contents of this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report.

Finance Officer: Emma Thomas

Date: 17/11/23

## **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 Under the relevant Sections of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Councils have authority to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny and scrutinise the work of the AWSCP.

Legal Officer; Joanne Lee

Date: 09/11/2023

## **Background Papers**

As referenced in the report.

### **Officer Contact Details:-**

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

There can be a link between economic development and growth being improved with lower rates of crime and improved policing and a link between economic downturn if there are higher rates of crime or reduced policing.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Effective reduction in crime and disorder which the AWSCP has a statutory duty to achieve, will help achieve social value.

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#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

The AWSCP has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder and make Adur & Worthing a safer place. Constructive Scrutiny of the work of the Partnership will help in achieving that vision.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered. Under the relevant Sections of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Councils have authority to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny and scrutinise the work of the AWSCP.