



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
30 January 2024

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

**Interview with Worthing Deputy Leader**

**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 Deputy Leader to enable the Committee to consider and question the Deputy Leader on issues within his portfolio and any other issues which the Deputy Leader 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 Deputy Leader on the work within his Portfolio and other issues which the Deputy Leader is involved in and question him on this and recommend any suggested action or make appropriate comments to the Deputy Leader for his 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 Deputy Leader, Councillor Carl Walker. 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 his 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 19 January 2023 - The minute extract (JOSC/73/22/23) which includes the detail of the previous discussion and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC Minutes 19/1/23](#) Individual decisions made by the Cabinet Members can be found from the following link: [Individual Cabinet Member decisions](#)

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

- 4.1 The Worthing Deputy Leader has responsibility for the following:-
- In the absence of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council has overall responsibility for the portfolio of the Leader of the Council.
  - Big Listening
  - 15 minute neighbourhoods and place-based working
  - Children and young people, including mental wellbeing (to share with Community Wellbeing portfolio)
  - Cost of living emergency
  - Developing community participatory decision-making structures
  - Public Consultation, including Community Engagement and Citizens Panels
  - Refugees
  - Young Persons' audit and consultation
  - Youth Council

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1 The JOSCS 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 JOSCS 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](mailto: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. Issues within the Cabinet Member Portfolio and actions taken by the Cabinet Member can help improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Matter considered. The Cabinet Member considers any relevant equalities and diversity issues when considering issues as part of his Portfolio.

#### **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. JOSOC 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.