



ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
30 January 2024

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Review of JOSC Work Programme

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 as contained in the Appendix A to the report and consider if any changes are required to the Work Programme.

3. Context

- 3.1 The JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 was agreed by the Committee in March 2023 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 30 November 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 helps JOSC manage and prioritise its Work Programme and is one of the new options introduced by JOSC as part of 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 was reported in December 2023.
- 3.3 As part of the review of the Work Programme at the JOSC meeting on 30 November 2023, JOSC agreed for the Chairs to write to the Chief Executive Officer of Southern Water (Lawrence Gosden) expressing concern that Southern Water would not attend a public meeting of JOSC. The Chairs wrote to the Chief Executive Officer who responded to explain the reason. He advised that as Southern Water's closest local Councils, Southern Water very much value the role the Councils play in the community and are committed to continuing to work collaboratively towards the common goal of protecting and enhancing the environment. However, working to achieve that, while giving the best possible service to customers, it was considered important by Southern Water that they engaged with the Councils efficiently and effectively, making best use of the finite resources that were available while remaining open, transparent and responsive. Southern Water further advised that they remain fully committed to transparency and being held accountable and would be very happy to meet with the two Councils' Leaders and Chief Executive at a convenient date to discuss any concerns and explain how the company is managing engagement.

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](#)

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 of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions confirms that the Work Programme is to be

approved by both Councils on an annual basis with any changes to the Work Programme being 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 direct 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.