



## ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

### **Interview with the Worthing Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency**

### **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 Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

##### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee question the Cabinet Member on the work within her Portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in; and
- 2.2 That the Committee consider if it would like to make any recommendations or comments to the Cabinet Member for her 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 hold interviews with the Adur and Worthing Cabinet Members and question them on their priorities for 2023/24.

- 3.2 As part of its 'Holding to account role' and the responsibility for reviewing Cabinet Member work and decisions, JOSC is requested to consider the work and responsibilities of the Worthing Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Councillor Sophie Cox. Part of the scrutiny role is to fact find/investigate in the form of questions to the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and other issues involving the Cabinet Member that relates to her Portfolio. This questioning should also relate to those matters within the Portfolio which the Councils are directly responsible for.
- 3.3 JOSC plays a similar role to that played by the Parliamentary Select Committees in Westminster and is entitled to ask for further investigation or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress of issues as described by the Cabinet Member.
- 3.4 The former Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency was previously interviewed by JOSC at its meeting on 16 February 2023 - The minute extract (JOSC/87/22/23) which includes the detail of the previous discussion and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC Minutes 16/2/23](#) 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 Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency has responsibility for the following:-
- Climate and nature positive policy
  - Carbon reduction and energy management policy, including low carbon building standards
  - Economic strategy and development, including regeneration, visitor economy, business partnerships, concessions, events and/or projects to encourage or are likely to generate viable, sustainable economic gain (to share with Regeneration portfolio)
  - Energy management and sustainability strategy
  - Environmental management and strategy (to share with Environmental Services Portfolio)
  - Environmental protection and ecological sustainability, including noise, dog control, food hygiene, land drainage, pest control and air quality (to share with the Environmental Services portfolio)
- 4.2 JOSC is requested to ask questions of the Cabinet Member based on her

responsibilities outlined in paragraph 4.1 including any high level strategic issues relating to the Councils and our communities.

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons 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.

Finance Officer: Emma Thomas

Date: 26/02/2024.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 JOSC 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:-**

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Matter considered. A sustainable environment is desired and the Cabinet Member has aims in their Portfolio to help achieve this.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

#### **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. The Cabinet Member has within her Portfolio the responsibility for overseeing the Council Climate Emergency and sustainability policies.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. 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.