



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

JOSC Work Programme update and Work Programme setting for 2024/25

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report outlines progress in implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2023/24.
- 1.2 This report also includes a draft JOSC Work Programme for 2024/25 which is submitted to the Committee for consideration and comment. Members are asked to note that the 2024/25 Work Programme is subject to further change following the outcome of the JOSC Member Working Group Scrutiny Review on the effectiveness of scrutiny. The outcomes from the review will be reported by the Working Group to the Committee at the first meeting in the new municipal year taking place in June 2024.
- 1.3 Members of the Committee are asked to note and support a request by the Joint Chairs and Working Group to attend a JOSC Workshop (to be held in advance of the June meeting) to enable all Committee Members to consider the purpose and principles of effective scrutiny; the factors that contribute towards effective scrutiny; how the Committee will manage and resource an effective scrutiny work programme; how the Committee might develop a positive culture of scrutiny across our organisations; the establishment of a JOSC Member finance Working Group for budget development and to

provide important time for new and existing members to discuss their common purpose and aims for effective scrutiny over the next municipal year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That JOSC note the progress made in delivering the JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24;
- 2.2 That JOSC consider and confirm a draft Work Programme for 2024/25 whilst noting that proposals from the Working Group Report in June may affect further changes to the Work Programme;
- 2.3 That the Committee approves the referral of the confirmed draft JOSC Work Programme for 2024/25 for reporting to the Full Council meetings in March 2024 for approval; and
- 2.4 That Members of the Committee consider collectively a suitable time and date for the pre-June workshop to enable the Joint Chairs to ensure best attendance for the review, the outcomes of which will be reported back to the Committee in June.

3. Context and purpose of Scrutiny

- 3.1 The JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 has been reviewed at each meeting during the 2023/24 Municipal Year with the last of those being at the meeting on 30 January 2024. The Work Programme has again been a very busy Work Programme and in line with good practice it is now necessary for JOSC to set a Work Programme for 2024/25 which can then be reported to the Council meetings in March in accordance with the terms of the Constitution.
- 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 JOSC Work Programme will be approved by both Councils in April each year. 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 was done in December 2023.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 A draft Work Programme for 2024/25 has now been produced for the

Committee to consider which is set out in the Appendix to this report. This Work Programme includes items already requested by JOSC and routine items considered by JOSC. Items for the Work Programme should be chosen/ guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic priorities and 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 consider the draft Work Programme and recommend it to the Council meetings but note that the JOSC Working Group that was set up by JOSC in June 2023 to review the effectiveness of JOSC, will be reporting its findings and recommendations to the JOSC meeting in June 2024 and, therefore, further changes to the Work Programme will likely be required with a further update to the Council meetings as appropriate.
- 4.3 There will also be a need to reimagine the work for the Committee set out for the June meeting and it is proposed that the meeting will consider two matters - Consideration of the JOSC Working Group report and the determination of a Work Programme for 2024/25 (in light of the outcome of the Working Group report). Prior to the June JOSC meeting (after the local elections), there will also be a Scrutiny training day and informal gathering/discussion for all new and existing JOSC Members. At the training day officers and members will have an opportunity to informally consider the proposals as indicated in Paragraph 1.3 above and discuss how they might affect /reset the work programme for 2024/25.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairs and Vice-Chairs and the Council Leadership Team 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 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. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes the overview and scrutiny role for the Councils and helps drive improvement and can review new ways of delivering services.
- 7.4 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to set a Work Programme each year in order to manage its work. 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 and any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.

Background Papers

Constitution and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

Report on JOSC review and refresh - JOSC meeting on 8 June 2023 [JOSC review and refresh](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Some of the issues scrutinised as part of the Work Programme could impact on the local economies.

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. All items considered by JO SC will consider any impacts on climate change.

4. Governance

Items for the Work Programme should be chosen guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic priorities and 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. It is good practice for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set its Work Programme ahead of the next Municipal Year. The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules state that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils in April and that any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.