



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 March 2024

ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Interview with Adur Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose of Scrutiny

1.1 This report sets out background information on the Portfolio of the Adur Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within his Portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Adur communities.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee question the Cabinet Member on the work within his 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 his consideration.

3. Context

- 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 Adur Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning, Councillor Steve Neocleous. Part of the scrutiny role is to fact find/investigate in the form of questions to the Cabinet Member that relates to his 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 Cabinet Member was previously interviewed by JOSC at its meeting on 16 March 2023 - The minute extract (JOSC/98/22/23) which includes the detail of the previous discussion and previous questions from that interview is set out here [JOSC Minutes 16/3/23](#) 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 Adur Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning has responsibility for the following:-
- Economic strategy and development, including regeneration (visitor economy, tourism, Adur Festival, business partnerships, concessions, events and/or projects to encourage or are likely to generate viable, sustainable economic gain)
 - Education liaison
 - Transport planning and infrastructure.
 - Planning policy; Local Development Plans, conservation areas and management plans, development briefs, infrastructure delivery plans.
 - Building control.
 - Coastal West Sussex.
 - Town Centre Management.

- Flood prevention, including Coastal protection, land drainage and flood protection.
- Adur Local Plan.

4.2 JOSC is requested to question the Cabinet Member based on his responsibilities outlined in paragraph 4.1 above.

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 The JOSC Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Cabinet Member and relevant Officers 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 Adur District Council: 2022/23 Progress update report and New Priorities for 2023/24 - [Adur JSC Sub-Committee 27 September 2023](#)

Our Plan - A three year framework for Adur and Worthing Councils

[Our Plan](#)

Officer Contact Details:-

Mark Lowe

Scrutiny & Risk Officer

Tel:01903 221009

mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. There are a number of issues contained within the Cabinet Member Portfolio which can impact on the overall economy of the area.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. The aims of the Cabinet Member Portfolio seek to achieve improved social value through improvements to the local economy and regeneration.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered. The Cabinet Member will apply relevant equality considerations when considering issues within the Portfolio as appropriate.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. Relevant community safety issues are considered by the Cabinet Member when dealing with issues within the Portfolio as appropriate.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. The Cabinet Member will consider relevant environmental and sustainability issues when dealing with the issues within his portfolio.

4. Governance

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. JOSOC has responsibility for holding the Cabinet Members to account and for reviewing their work and decisions. In accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils constitution JOSOC can request the Cabinet Members to attend its meetings and can ask questions of the Cabinet Members as part of this process.