



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
7 March 2024

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

## **Interview with the Worthing Cabinet Member for Regeneration**

### **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 Regeneration 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 Regeneration, Councillor Caroline Baxter. 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 Regeneration was previously interviewed by JOSC at its meeting on 16 March 2023 - The minute extract (JOSC/102/22/23) 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 Worthing Cabinet Member for Regeneration has responsibility for the following:-
- Beach Maintenance, including beach huts and chalets
  - Building Control
  - Coastal protection, including Coastal West Sussex
  - Economic strategy and development, including regeneration, visitor economy (in partnership with Culture & Leisure), business partnerships, concessions, events and/or projects to encourage or are likely to generate viable, sustainable economic gain (to share with Climate Emergency portfolio)
  - Foreshore management, including Worthing Pier
  - Health and safety and civil contingencies (Emergency Plan), including business continuity

- Minor amendments to planning policy, Local Development Plans, conservation areas and management plans, development briefs, infrastructure delivery plans
- On and off-street car parking
- Street-scene, including abandoned vehicles, bus shelters, enforcement, street names and numbering, road name plates, street furniture
- Transport planning and infrastructure (partnering with Leader portfolio for active/sustainable transport development)
- Transport (maintenance)

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 Chairs and Vice-Chairs 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:-**

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. 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 her portfolio.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. JOSC 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 JOSC can request the Cabinet Members to attend its meetings and can ask questions of the Cabinet Members as part of this process.