



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5 September 2024

ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Annual Performance update and work programme arising from the adoption of Our Plan and new Joint Priorities for Adur and Worthing Councils - including interview with Chief Executive and Leaders of Adur and Worthing Councils

Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report will assist the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) in questioning the Chief Executive and the Adur and Worthing Council Leaders.
- 1.2 Attached to this report are copies of two reports and appendices presented to the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) on 17 July 2024 - one relating to the work programme for the Councils arising from the adoption of 'Our Plan' including the performance of Council services (Appendix A) and the other relating to new Priorities for Adur and Worthing Councils (Appendix B).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That JOSC reviews the work programme for the Councils arising from the adoption of 'Our Plan' and the latest performance of Council services as contained in the report to JSC, questions the Chief Executive on this work

and considers if it would like to make any recommendations or comments for her consideration.

- 2.2 That JOSC reviews the new agreed Joint Council Priorities for Adur and Worthing, questions the Council Leaders on these and considers if it would like to make any recommendations or comments to the Leaders for their consideration.

3. Context and Purpose of Scrutiny

- 3.1 As part of the agreed Work Programme for 2024/25, JOSC has agreed to interview and question the Chief Executive, Dr Catherine Howe, on progress in delivering the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan, 'Our Plan' including the Work Programme relating to this and the performance of Council services.
- 3.2 JOSC has also agreed to interview and question Council Leaders, Councillors Sophie Cox (Worthing) and Jeremy Gardner (Adur) on the new Joint Council Priorities.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 JOSC is asked to consider the Corporate Plan and details of the report presented to the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) on 17 July 2024 which are set out as an Appendix to this report, and JOSC is requested to question the Chief Executive on the progress in delivering the Corporate Plan, the Work Programme agreed for the work and the performance of Council services.
- 4.2 JOSC is also requested to consider the new Joint Council Priorities and details of the report presented to the JSC on 17 July 2024 is also set out as an Appendix to this report. JSC approved the joint priorities and noted the work programme as outlined in the 2024 Annual Performance update. JSC also agreed the work programme for Adur & Worthing Councils arising from the adoption of Our Plan, noted the performance of council services, agreed the mitigations on the areas at risk and noted the governance for managing programmes and performance.
- 4.3 As part of the new JOSC Work Programme for 2024/25, JOSC has allocated this JOSC meeting as a themed meeting to find out more about the delivery of the Corporate Plan and related work and also to discuss the new Council Priorities recently agreed by the new Political Administrations. It is part of the

Scrutiny role to fact find/investigate in the form of questions and JOSC is asked to direct questions to the Chief Executive and the Leaders as part of this item. The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress as described and put recommendations to the Chief Executive and/or Leaders.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The Joint Chairs, Vice-Chairs of JOSC and relevant Officers have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There will be some financial implications arising from the overall content and delivery of the Corporate Plan and Council Priorities which will be covered under the overall budget process and other relevant reports on these issues.

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 continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Background Papers

Reports relating to the Annual Performance update and work programme arising from the adoption of Our Plan and new Joint Priorities for Adur and Worthing Councils presented to the Joint Strategic Committee on 17 July 2024

[Joint Priorities](#)

[Annual Performance update](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Information on the economic aspects of the new Corporate Plan, the performance of related Council services and the economic related Council Priorities are explained in the reports to the Joint Strategic Committee.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

While all the mission themes support local communities, the Thriving People mission theme outlines how the councils will support social development. The delivery of projects contained in the new Corporate Plan and new Council Priorities will help improve the communities and demonstrate Social Value.

2.2 Equality Issues

The reports presented to the Joint Strategic Committee outlines the importance of working with all local communities to tackle issues, as well as focusing on addressing inequalities, such as around cost of living and housing.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

The report presented to the Joint Strategic Committee on Council Priorities outlines the objective of having safer streets and homes that are more secure. There is also a specific indicator outlined in the Performance report relating to Annual Foundations 2023/24 on tackling anti-social behaviour.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Information on developing the Councils and communities role in Tackling Climate Change and Supporting our Natural Environment is contained in the Corporate Plan. The new Council Priorities set out how the Councils aim to improve the environment.

4. Governance

This report and interviews provides the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the progress with the delivery of the Corporate

Plan, the performance of Council services and information on the new Council Priorities which were agreed in July 2024.