

Joint Strategic Committee  
1 October 2024

## ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Ward(s) Affected: All

### **New Approaches to funding community outcomes**

### **Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources**

#### **Officer Contact Details**

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### **Executive Summary**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. This report proposes that Adur & Worthing Councils extend and broaden existing approaches to the securing of external funding and investment to support the delivery of the administration priorities of each council.
- 1.2. In the context of constrained core council funding, inflation and other cost pressures, along with reduced commercial income post-covid, it is more important than ever for the councils to achieve the delivery of community outcomes through innovative, externally funded propositions, which will often be developed with partners and communities themselves.
- 1.3. The councils have achieved some significant success in securing external funding in recent years such as Gigabit, the Worthing Heat Network, Colonnade House and Sussex Bay, and we have also seen new opportunities emerge such as natural capital (e.g. biodiversity net gain developer payments) that the councils need to be able to fully exploit. More recently still, early stage government announcements regarding local energy, point to the need to prepare

Adur & Worthing propositions with partners and communities.

- 1.4. This report provides an overview of what we have learnt about how to secure external funding support, and the principles that have driven success and should be applied to a wider set of challenges and opportunities.
- 1.5. The report also updates the Committee on the development of central capacity (a funding & investment team) as part of organisational design to allow us to embed core competence and capacity, and upskill a wider group of officers across the organisation.
- 1.6. The result of this work will be to secure significant additional funds for either directly council-led projects, or for partners able to access other forms of funding who may take the lead, enabling the creative and collaborative local delivery of priorities for and with the community.
- 1.7. The report also includes a specific request to accept grant monies into the councils' capital budget for the proposed delivery of improvements to the Rotunda building on Worthing Seafront for the provision of a storage facility for fish caught by local commercial small boat fishers with a separate retail unit.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. That Joint Strategic Committee supports the principles of proposition development outlined in the report, aligned to the priorities of both administrations.
- 2.2. That the Committee supports the establishment of the funding and investment team as part of the organisational design process underway, and its role in proposition development alongside council commercial income growth.
- 2.3. That the Committee receive an annual report from the funding and investment team on funding success and programme impact.

- 2.4. To accept, on behalf of the Worthing Fishermen's Society, a grant from the Marine Management Organisation of £33,632.59 to be added to agreed CIL funding of £16,000 to create a capital project budget of £49,632.59 for "improvement works to the Rotunda building on Worthing seafront".

### 3. Local priorities and high potential areas

- 3.1. As set out in the Financial Strategy & Budget Update Report, also on this agenda, core council funding is severely constrained and of course has to be directed to essential services such as waste collection, street cleansing, planning and development, homelessness support and the maintenance of parks and open spaces among others. Both administrations have clear priorities around the provision of effective essential council services, and their ongoing modernisation and digitisation. This has been a critical priority for the councils in recent years, with the continuing organisational design programme supported by investment in additional resources for "rapid improvement" through digital transformation.
- 3.2. Alongside this, both administrations have clear ambitions for our places and communities that go well beyond delivering essential council services - to be councils that are able to deliver and enable broader and longer-term outcomes, working more deeply in partnership with local organisations and communities to respond to the multiple challenges we face including the cost of living, inclusion, well-being and community cohesion, and both climate and biodiversity crises. The Councils also want to ensure that opportunities arising from the drives from the new national government to build homes, decarbonise, invest in natural capital and grow the economy are taken.
- 3.3. The context we are in, of complex challenges and emerging opportunities, requires the development of propositions based on **regenerative principles** which prioritise capacity building and ongoing local collaboration and project development over the long term, avoiding the unhelpful cycle of projects and initiatives coming and going due to funding, with the risk of communities becoming dispirited, feeling briefly remembered and then forgotten.

3.4. The Administrations' priorities provide fertile ground for the development of such propositions, particularly in the context of the core aim of working in participation with local communities and businesses, through "Councils for the Community":

- 3.4.1. Fair, green and local
- 3.4.2. Becoming the most low carbon coastal towns
- 3.4.3. Regenerating our streets and spaces
- 3.4.4. Managing council land and assets well
- 3.4.5. Preventing homelessness, and supporting well-being
- 3.4.6. Helping citizens make active travel choices
- 3.4.7. Spending council money locally and supporting local businesses
- 3.4.8. Creating fair, green and safe neighbourhoods
- 3.4.9. Restoring nature and adapting to a changing climate
- 3.4.10. Restoring rivers, coast and sea through Sussex Bay

3.5. There are projects against these priorities across the strategic "Our Plan" programme which will be reviewed for external funding and investment needs, discussed in more detail below. Indeed, Our Plan will be reviewed during 2025 as the councils return to deeper consideration of administration priorities and the missions needed to deliver them.

3.6. Our learning from projects like Sussex Bay, is that sometimes "local" makes sense with a larger footprint, where scale creates a more compelling proposition, and delivers value back down into the local area. Moving forward this is also likely to be the case for net zero - the emerging Sussex Energy proposition - but also other strategic initiatives around for example transport (e.g. integrated transport), preventative health, learning and skills etc, working with strategic partners such as universities, central government, NHS and so on.

#### **4. The principles of proposition development**

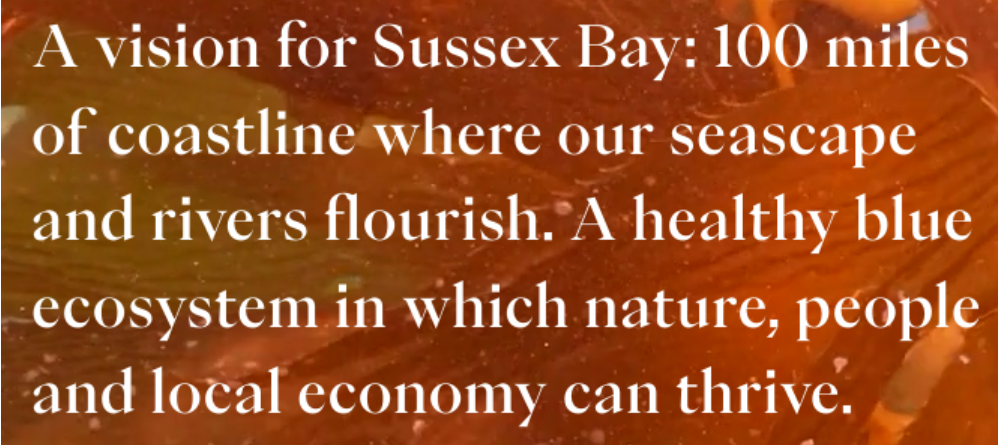
4.1. Adur & Worthing Councils have an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate how forward-thinking local authorities can be both providers of essential local services while also taking a powerful long term approach that weaves together the capacities of local public organisations, businesses and communities to create a better future for our places and communities. There are significant philanthropic funds developing ever stronger interest in local communities and their capacity to survive and thrive as we face into multiple long-term

challenges.

- 4.2. There are organisations out there taking a 500 year view of these challenges (health, well-being, community cohesion, climate, nature, water, migration). And whilst caution is needed around ensuring ethical and high-integrity approaches, government, private companies and investors are keen to apply funds-for-return into nature projects (carbon, biodiversity, water quality), renewable technologies and in some cases social outcomes. Social impact investments, made through finance institutions such as Triodos Bank, can include loans to community projects, such as the Blue Bell Community Hub in Cocking, West Sussex).
- 4.3. Adur & Worthing Councils have good experience of developing large propositions that have brought partners together to leverage very significant funding, and there are excellent opportunities to do more.
- 4.4. There are key themes that have been less fully explored so far, relating to poverty, well-being, learning, skills and local economic growth, as well as more innovative use of the councils' assets including community buildings, land and open spaces.
- 4.5. Nevertheless, the councils' experience so far has shown that bold, long-term mission-based proposals are highly valued by funders. These proposals are attractive because they provide the opportunity for value to be created on an ongoing basis. They set the wheels in motion, and provide the framework for growth and development, for new things to come along in pursuit of the mission - expansions, replication, new ideas, new connections - and therefore the chance for new funders and investors to be brought in over time.

***“The next big thing will be a lot of small things”***  
***(Novo Foundation)***

- 4.6. The Councils already have good experience in this approach with Sussex Bay, a regional and mission-based programme initiated by our councils.



A vision for Sussex Bay: 100 miles of coastline where our seascape and rivers flourish. A healthy blue ecosystem in which nature, people and local economy can thrive.

The project initially attracted central government funding from DEFRA and is now receiving core development funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. Esmee's interest comes from the potential of Sussex Bay to **deliver multiple, interconnected outcomes**, in this case taking the principle aim of restoring nature and delivering this through involving local communities in the work, creating well-being, inclusion, learning and skills outcomes along the way. Critically, the core Sussex Bay "team" expects to remain small, enabling existing organisations, community groups and new projects to create ideas and projects aligned to the mission, securing funding and support from the core.

- 4.7. Esmee Fairbairn as a funder recognises the need to fund core development capacity, placing an emphasis on the need for initiatives to develop sustainable funding strategies in the long term, enabling them as seed funder to eventually withdraw (3-5 years). A more detailed update will be provided to the Committee in November, where we expect to confirm significant further funding secured from several new sources.
- 4.8. A second example which has leveraged £25m of government support is the Worthing Heat Network - a low carbon infrastructure project which will help the councils decarbonise heat in its buildings through common infrastructure. The network, operated by private company Hemiko, will be expanded to connect more and more businesses and eventually homes using up to £500m of **private investment** through to 2050.
- 4.9. The project attracted such high levels of government support because it promised to develop a new contractual model (a concession

agreement) which could be used across the UK, along with showing how the public sector (local authority and NHS in this case) could act as **anchor organisations** leveraging their position as reliable long term customers. This anchor approach provides the investor certainty needed to unlock private capital.

- 4.10. Propositions with the **potential to be replicated** (such as the concession / anchor customer model) are understandably very attractive to funders seeking to support projects across the UK and internationally. And through its “Blue Natural Capital Lab” approach, Sussex Bay is beginning to work with Solent and Cornwall partners to propose the formation of a network, to help drive collaboration and establish common approaches across multiple sites, again aiming to create a replicable model for the UK.
- 4.11. It is important of course that these models are not seen as fixed templates that must just be *implemented*. Even in our local context - say neighbourhood by neighbourhood - any model is just a *starting point* that will meet with specific local conditions and need to be adapted and shaped *with* the organisations, businesses and communities that make up the unique local knowledge, connections and capacity of the particular place.
- 4.12. In these two examples, we see the value of ‘**pitching big**’, and creating propositions that have the potential to deliver outcomes well beyond the initial projects that make up the first phase. They are purposeful and long term, and continually generate interest, enthusiasm and new ideas. They are open and allow organisations and groups to join in while retaining their own sovereignty and identity. Across key themes, addressing equity and intergenerational justice, poverty, skills and well-being should be taken as core priorities.
- 4.13. Working with partners is critical. Such mission-base proposition development inevitably involves others beyond the councils’ teams and members. Those other organisations may well be far better placed to lead sometimes, with the council providing enabling support and using the mission as a helpful hook and framework in a bid. The councils’ nature work at Cissbury Fields and the Adur River has shown how vital this can be, and partners such as South Downs National Park, the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust bring such incredible experience and skill, and perhaps more importantly their own networks of connections in a place that can transform a piece of work

from a “council project” into a place-based mission that everyone can get behind. The councils have opportunities to develop exciting collaborations with strong and entrepreneurial local partners such as South Downs Leisure and a host of B Corp organisations.

- 4.14. Working with communities is of course at the heart of successful proposition development. We saw during the pandemic the power and scale of the community response - the mutual aid groups, the street by street WhatsApp groups. Programmes with larger geographies such as Sussex Bay will still aim to build opportunities for grassroots involvement, ideas and project creation. Support, enablement and curation in a highly distributed way, rather than centralised planning and control.
- 4.15. In this way of course, the “Council for the Community” approach will be key in developing the platform and networks to engage residents with mission-based proposition development.
- 4.16. The development or introduction of **digital community platforms**, ones that are locally controlled and curated (i.e. not from the tech giants like Facebook or X), have the potential to become part of a renewed “civic commons”, supporting the development and sustainment of connections between people and groups, promoting a sense of enablement and empowerment for people to self-organise, seek help, challenge each other, learn, differ, join forces to raise funds and deliver community projects.
- 4.17. Such community platforms (some digital tools are already supporting communities really well like *Neighbourly* and *Plinth*), along with new approaches to community data and insight, will be critical in driving understanding, connection and collaboration, helping people explore different perspectives, and providing a different approach to **local democratic engagement**, allowing the council to join in with conversations and explore ideas and plans, rather than only determine them through committee agendas and existing formulaic “consultations” on the councils’ terms.
- 4.18. With this approach, the many “small things” that make up a places’ efforts to create a better future, can be helpfully assembled to attract funders. Assembling ideas into useful “containers” or themes is incredibly powerful in the development of an attractive mission- and place-based proposition. The new funding and investment team



outlined below will undertake some assembly work as a first exercise - bringing existing ideas and projects together and creating an initial set of mission-based proposals, which will have the significant advantage of creating a manageable way to engage with and shape the many fantastic ideas that are generated by officers, members and communities.

- 4.19. For example, Joint Strategic Committee in September 2024 considered improvements at Homefield Park, Worthing and a Phase 2 SUDs garden project. Requiring external funding, the team will scan for specific opportunities, but also consider whether this project can be presented as part of a wider mission-based proposition regarding addressing flood risk - for example exploring strategic conversations with the Environment Agency, the County Council and Southern Water about strategic opportunities to work together through a repeatable model.
- 4.20. By way of illustrating further how the **assembly of small things** might work, we might imagine a neighbourhood that has an aim to work on making its homes sustainable and resilient. This mission-based framing might help assemble a package of ideas, and create an attractive “way in” for funders of different types of scheme, assembling match funding, creating a better way to engage residents for everyone, and reducing risk to individual funders. It might help the councils’ neighbourhood team spot how to support and develop a replicable model for other neighbourhoods.

The package could include

- 4.20.1.1. Learning to grow food and minimise food waste
- 4.20.1.2. Home composting
- 4.20.1.3. Rewilding the garden
- 4.20.1.4. Getting help with the garden (neighbourly help)
- 4.20.1.5. Planting a tree outside in the street
- 4.20.1.6. Help with energy bills and fabric improvements
- 4.20.1.7. Applying for solar panels and wind turbines
- 4.20.1.8. Sharing, learning and helping together
- 4.20.1.9. And from this simple base .. finding out about other support (financial advice, social prescribing, housing advice etc)

- 4.21. This kind of *assembly* doesn't prevent individual initiatives approaching their niche aim in other ways at the same time (e.g. a regional initiative to "rewild your garden"), but it creates a new and powerful "way in" to delivering outcomes which generate a "multiplier effect" and crucially emphasises **ongoing relationships and networks over particular ideas and schemes**.
- 4.22. The final principle is perhaps the most important. Priorities and their missions must be developed and put out into the world **before** the application form is filled in. Funders want to 'see the thing', and also get to know the people involved. It's important to have a fairly well formed idea in place, with good support already achieved, demonstrating energy, ambition and capability. In many cases this will be a "published intent" and for the councils this may well be a programme of ambitions put out into the world to be delivered "subject to funding". Or at times, it will be reaching out proactively to funders to discuss and explore ideas and develop alignment between their goals and the councils'.

## 5. Establishing the central team

- 5.1. As part of organisational design, a team is being developed to drive forward the work outlined in this paper. Whilst the Councils already hold traditional external funding expertise the ambition is this extends and develops to allow the team to have the capability to deliver proposition development and drive innovative inward investment into Adur and Worthing.
- 5.2. Whilst there are real opportunities for this team to grow and develop, it should be noted that two full-time equivalent officers will form part of the core team, however the capability of drawing different types of investment will be expected to be built across the organisation through a hub and spoke model, similar to other capabilities being developed across the Councils - e.g. participation. Due to the capacity in the team it's important that the team are focused and clear on the propositions that need to be developed, including those that are most impactful against Member priorities and Our Plan.
- 5.3. When developing propositions, and developing different concepts, it will be important that the team includes methods such as 'full cost recovery' with any funder or investor to ensure impacts on council core

staffing and resources are understood and accounted for. This again points back to the need for deliberate and extensive prioritisation.

- 5.4. The ambition is for the new team to be in place by December '24 / January '25 and following the initial creation of the team will be asked to develop a work programme, co-produced with senior officers and members, to allow the team to 'get up and running' as quickly as possible. To assist in the team's development, lessons will be learnt from existing successful / inspirational projects (including those identified in 1.6) that should assist in accelerating to this new way of working.

## **6. Opportunity areas for funding**

### **6.1. National government funds**

- 6.1.1. Through the national government's Budget on 30th October 2024, funds available to local government could change. As the Institute for Fiscal Studies notes,

*“The new government plans to devolve powers over, and funding for, transport, skills, housing, planning and employment support, that some of the mayors of combined authorities have, to more areas of England. It also plans for more areas to receive funding for such responsibilities via a ‘single pot’ that they are free to allocate as they see fit, rather than use a plethora of ring-fenced grants as is now usually the case. More generally, all councils will benefit from multi-year as opposed to single-year funding settlements.” (Sept 2024).*

The councils will of course review the outcomes of the budget and the implications and opportunities for funding, and how funds could be used to support mission-base propositions, potentially “crowding-in” further support from philanthropic funders and elsewhere to make everyone's investment go further.

- 6.1.2. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is the government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council each received £1m over 3 years, with 2024/25 being the final year of delivery. The Investment Plans were agreed at JSC

in 2022 that included project allocations and agreed KPI's. Officers have kept relevant Executive Members informed on the progress within the three core themes of Cost of Living, Sustainable Travel and Business Support.

6.1.3. The Department for Energy and Net Zero (DESNZ) provide a range of opportunities for local government, some of which Adur & Worthing Councils have successfully accessed, including

- 6.1.3.1. Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund
- 6.1.3.2. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
- 6.1.3.3. Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund
- 6.1.3.4. Green Heat Network Fund

6.1.4. The Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) provides support to landowners around nature restoration through funds including

- 6.1.4.1. Test & trials. Adur Council received £78k for work towards a research programme for kelp natural capital), and a further £60 for assessment work at New Salts Farm and Pad Farm
- 6.1.4.2. Landscape Scale Recovery. Adur Council partnered with Knepp Estate to secure £250k for a landowner engagement and assessment stage for Adur River Recovery

6.1.5. Innovate UK is the government's innovation agency and for some years innovation has been driven through a network of Catapults (Digital, Energy, Connected Places, Satellite and others). There are also grant competitions issued through the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and partnering with universities is often an effective route to access such funds. Sussex Bay is currently developing a major funding application to the Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Fund with the universities, having previously come close with a UKRI fund in a proposition led by Sussex University.

## 6.2. **Statutory - national**

- 6.2.1. Biodiversity Net Gain is an instrument of the Environment Act 2021 and became mandatory in February 2024. It ensures developers leave habitats for wildlife in a measurably better state than they were before development, and includes the ability to enhance habitats “off-site” as close as possible to the development. Planning permission will include a statutory biodiversity gain condition. The new BNG world is already stimulating massive amounts of activity in the sector, including investors acquiring land for rewilding with an anticipated financial return. Adur & Worthing Councils need to do more both in relation to the planning function and as a landowner, and a paper is being prepared for the next Committee on a Natural Capital Team to be able to exploit the clear opportunities in this space, in order to leverage funds for the delivery of the forthcoming Adur & Worthing Nature Plan.
- 6.2.2. Countryside Stewardship (CS) provides financial incentives for farmers, foresters and land managers to look after and improve the environment. Through agreements based on an annual payment regime, landowners can receive funds for habitat recovery and protection activities, and the councils are actively engaging a consultant to explore opportunities here. Hastings Borough Council was recently awarded a 10-year Countryside Stewardship government grant to help manage Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve.

## 6.3. **Statutory - local**

- 6.3.1. The Community Infrastructure Levy Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) provides a framework for how collected CIL funds in Worthing are to be distributed, split into 70% for strategic infrastructure (councils), 10% for strategic infrastructure (other agencies), 15% for neighbourhood funding and 5% for administration costs, governed by the CIL Board with member involvement. Opportunities exist in future years again to align mission-based propositions with CIL funds, to potentially crowd-in funding and investment.
- 6.3.2. Although CIL is now the dominant means for securing financial contributions from development in Worthing, Planning

Obligations (Section 106), despite being 'scaled back', continue to play a key role in relation to affordable housing and certain site specific requirements. In 2017 Adur Council resolved not to pursue a CIL scheme, with Section 106 agreements used to secure infrastructure, however this will be reviewed by the new administration.

6.3.3. The CIL Neighbourhood Fund has been a successful mechanism for distributing funds to communities, but there are others which the councils could be more active around, helping communities access them, such as Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund, by West Sussex County Council which has supported over 400 projects and distributed over £4m to address flood risk including work on the riparian ditch network, damage to roads, and improving resilience to protect homes, businesses and highways.

6.3.4. These government funds will of course go further if assembled and matched up with philanthropic or crowd funds.

#### 6.4. **Philanthropic funding**

6.4.1. Adur & Worthing Councils are currently receiving £150k p.a. support from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, a large UK leading funder, for Sussex Bay. Rather than responding to a particular call for applications, the Director for Sustainability & Resources approached the Funding Manager for the foundation's Our Natural World programme. Discussion and exploration led to advice and shaping which ultimately assisted the formation of an acceptable proposal.

6.4.2. Similar exploratory discussions with Joseph Rowntree Foundation by the Chief Executive have led to a referral of Sussex Bay to the Novo Foundation with discussions developing very positively.

6.4.3. Opportunities are developing to broaden strategic conversations with these and other funders in relation to other key outcomes areas such as **poverty, skills, inequality, regeneration and local economic transition**.

- 6.4.4. Other key funders include the National Heritage Lottery Fund (who have recently funded Plymouth National Marine Park £11.1m), People's Postcode Lottery, Berkeley Foundation, Arcadia (Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme), Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Leverhulme, Arts Council and Wolfson Foundation. Some funds do not fund local authorities directly, but with a partnership and community approach to proposition development, it is very possible for another organisation to take the lead, rather than discount the opportunity.

## **6.5. Crowdfunding and High Net Worth Individuals**

- 6.5.1. Sussex Bay launched a Crowdfunder at the event in June 2024, which has raised £5,000 to date with 52 contributions ranging between £1 and £1,000. Whilst this is a modest amount, it is meaningful and a useful learning experience to take into other programmes and projects. Discussions are underway with Sussex Community Foundation and a possible partnership to administer a small grants programme to grass roots projects, assembling crowdfunds with larger funds in the future, for example from local SMEs such as B Corps.
- 6.5.2. It is also striking how much pro bono support has been offered to Sussex Bay, including legal, marketing, finance, graphic design, project management, surveying, architecture, design, communications and digital expertise.
- 6.5.3. Consideration is being given to approaches to local high net work individuals, and all learning from Sussex Bay will pass into the new funding and investment team for development in other programmes.

## **6.6. When not to seek funding**

- 6.6.1. It is equally critical to understand the circumstances where the pursuit of external funding and investment is not feasible.
- 6.6.2. The central team can be expected to develop a significant list of requests which will need to be prioritised for attention, and assessments made of the likelihood of success and therefore whether effort should be expended in developing a proposition.

There could be a number of reasons for not taking an idea forward such as:

- 6.6.2.1. The development time vs reward ratio is poor
  - 6.6.2.2. Strong competition reduces expected chance of success
  - 6.6.2.3. The proposal is too similar to others previously funded and is likely to be rejected
  - 6.6.2.4. It has not been possible to secure the right level of local partnership or community support
- 6.6.3. A further set of criteria will need to be developed around internal capacity and liability such as:
- 6.6.3.1. The strategic importance of the proposition (scored)
  - 6.6.3.2. The internal resource required at each stage and whether there would be the right availability at the right times
  - 6.6.3.3. Whether overheads can be adequately assessed and included in the bid
  - 6.6.3.4. The nature of the project and whether a maintenance or other liability could be left with the councils (or indeed partners or community groups) that could cause issues
  - 6.6.3.5. The sustainability strategy (financial etc) after the funding period ends, and project closure liabilities and costs
  - 6.6.3.6. Appropriate levels of contingency in the costings
- 6.6.4. Assessment and selection criteria such as these will be created by the new team and applied to the work as a critical aspect of establishing a high performing and reputable approach to fundraising.

## **7. Next steps**

- 7.1. This paper has set out how a renewed and extended approach to external funding and investment will support delivery of both administration's priorities.
- 7.2. A new funding and investment team is being created that will adopt the principles set out in this paper, harnessing the funding opportunities discussed here. Among its first tasks will be wider research to extend our understanding even further, and building proactive relationships with funders and investors in the development of mission-based propositions that will be ready in advance of funding calls. Building



capacity and awareness across the organisation will be key, including into key linked initiatives such as Council for the Community, the neighbourhood model, regeneration, housing and proactive. The new team is expected to be in place by January '25.

- 7.3. In order to establish a prioritised approach, and create the containing themes and blocks for the work, the new team will immediately review existing programmes, and their funding status, developing a list of ideas and projects that require full or part external funding and investment to be able to proceed. The team will work closely with participation and neighbourhood colleagues to work with them into community groups and partnerships to build a collaborative approach that enables bid partnerships to be formed.
- 7.4. It is anticipated that the team will have an initial programme of work defined by April 2025, with plans in place to submit strategically significant applications during that year, and effective governance linked to the Strategic Finance Board and the Executive.

## **8. Funding for the Rotunda Project**

- 8.1. As discussed, a range of work to support delivery of community outcomes continues, and the Worthing Rotunda project is a current example.
- 8.2. Having been awarded £16k of funding from Worthing CIL funding, Worthing Fishermen's Society, working with the Fishing Animateurs (a Cornwall base charity supporting small boat fisher communities) were successful in their bid to the Marine Management Organisation's Fisheries and Seafoods Scheme for £33,632.59 of capital funds to develop the Rotunda site in terms of: Utilities, Water/Electric Cold Store Ice making machine Toilet and drainage, sales area. A two unit design has been developed, with storage and toilet plus separate retail unit.
- 8.3. Work is progressing with pro bono support from a local surveying company, our Surveying and Estates teams, and project management support from Sussex Bay. A planning application has been made and draft Heads of Terms and lease have been prepared. The recommendation in this report relates to the acceptance of the grant monies and the creation of a capital budget to enable the project to move into delivery, subject to a final programming decision by the

council's asset management board.

## **9. Engagement and Communication**

- 9.1. Existing externally funded projects such as Sussex Bay have established good engagement and communication approaches, digitally (#SussexBay) and in-person, attending community events, an e-newsletter and attending multiple partnership events and meetings.
- 9.2. The Council for the Community approach, and the series of community leaders events underway is providing the platform for engagement on needs, opportunities and project development. As part of this, we'll be making it easier for people to get involved and help strengthen their communities through funding that support communities to make a difference, improving how our services work with our residents to best support them, listening to lived experience to shape the future of our services and places and supporting our civil society to build more inclusive and connected communities.
- 9.3. The new neighbourhood team, working through the Council for the Community approach will provide deeper connections and insights from neighbourhoods around needs and opportunities, and will work closely with the new funding and investment team.

## **10. Financial Implications**

- 10.1 New approaches to funding community outcomes is a key strategy within the new Financial Strategy adopted by Adur and Worthing councils in July 2024. The approach will look to create opportunities to leverage external funding to support the delivery of the administrations priorities. The councils will of course review the outcomes of the budget and the implications and opportunities for funding. As set out in section 3, a new team is being established through the organisation redesign and will be funded from existing core budgets.
- 10.2 Section 6 of the report refers to the Rotunda project and the funding allocations that have now been awarded to develop the site. Members are asked to accept, on behalf of the Worthing Fishermen's Society, a grant from the Marine Management Organisation and approve the proposed development of a capital budget of £49,632.59 for "Improvement works to the Rotunda building on Worthing seafront",

subject to final programme approval by the Councils' Asset Management Board. In summary;

**Improvement works - Rotunda Building on Worthing Seafront**

Capital Budget Funding

Marine Management Organisation - grant £33,632.59

Community Infrastructure Levy funds allocation £16,000.00

Total budget funding £49,632.59

**11. Legal Implications**

11.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

11.2 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

11.3 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.

11.4 In receiving Grant Funding the Councils must ensure that grant funding is spent for the purposes for which it is received and in accordance with the Grant Funding Terms and Conditions. Any expenditure of grant funding must be in accordance with the grant funding terms and conditions and is spent for the purpose for which it was received in a manner compliant with rules on public procurement where applicable.

**Background Papers**

None

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

In adopting a stronger approach to external funding and investment, Adur & Worthing Councils can leverage in more funding through its mission-based programmes and projects. The Worthing Heat Network has already created 40 local jobs, and potentially this could be 500 by 2050. Projects can directly improve local infrastructure, supporting businesses, and support people to improve their well-being and develop skills and pathways to work.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Many mission-based proposals will have specific aims to address social inclusion, poverty and well-being, and will secure additional funds to support local communities, particularly the most vulnerable.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

All proposals will use the Equalities Impact Assessment approach to ensure appropriate proposal design that supports EIA aims.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

Issue considered and none identified.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Issue considered and none identified.

### **3. Environmental**

There are significant opportunities in this area as outlined in the report.

### **4. Governance**

All proposals developed will be run through the council's governance processes in the appropriate way.