



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

**Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Interview with Local Police Commander and Superintendent and Scrutiny of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership**

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

**Executive Summary**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report provides some background information and guidance to assist the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) in interviewing Chief Inspector James Davidson, Sussex Police District Commander for Adur, Horsham and Worthing and Superintendent, Nick Dias, Sussex Police (Local Policing) on local Adur and Worthing Police and crime issues covered within their remits.
- 1.2 This report also provides JOSC with information on the work of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (AWSCP) in order for JOSC to scrutinise the work of the AWSCP and interview Chief Inspector Davidson who has also recently become the Co-Chair of the Partnership. Adur Cabinet Member for Communities & Wellbeing, Councillor Sharon Sluman and Worthing Cabinet Member for Safety, Equalities & Inclusion, Councillor Rosey Whorlow, who are both Members of the AWSCP, will also be attending the meeting and will be able to answer questions relating to issues on community safety and safer communities which fall within their Portfolios.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That JOSC is invited to question the Chief Inspector and Superintendent on local Police and Crime issues affecting Adur and Worthing and also review the work of the AWSCP and question Chief Inspector Davidson and Cabinet Members on the work being undertaken by the Partnership.
- 2.2 That JOSC consider making comments/recommendations on the local Police and crime issues and the work of the AWSCP.

## **3. Context**

- 3.1 As part of its current Work Programme for 2024/25 and a Community Safety themed meeting, JOSC invited the local Adur and Worthing District Police Commander, Chief Inspector James Davidson and Superintendent Nick Dias to attend this JOSC meeting in order that they can be questioned on local policing and crime issues which have affected Adur and Worthing and also to question Chief Inspector Davidson, the new Co-Chair of the AWSCP, on the work of the Safer Communities Partnership. The previous Adur & Worthing District Police Commander, Chief Inspector, Sarah Leadbeatter, last attended JOSC at its meeting on 30 November 2023 which was also attended by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne. At that meeting, JOSC also interviewed the Adur Chair of the AWSCP, former Adur District Councillor Kevin Boram.

## **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 JOSC has the opportunity to interview the Local Police Commander and Co-Chair of the AWSCP. The Police and Justice Act 2006 allows the Councils to scrutinise the work of the Safer Communities Partnership under sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Act and Councils can also hold representatives from the Partnership Responsible Authorities to account, such as local police officers, through the JOSC. The approach to scrutiny of the Partnership is flexible.
- 4.2 Sussex Police and the Adur and Worthing Divisions of the Police are responsible for protecting the communities of Adur and Worthing by preventing crime and making arrests. The Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership adopts a holistic, multi agency approach to reducing crime and the fear of crime, working together to make Adur and Worthing

safer places to live, work and visit. The Partnership has just revised its terms of reference and details of these are attached in the Appendix to this report.

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

5.1 The JOSCS Chairs, the Local Police Commander, Cabinet Members and relevant Officers have all been consulted on this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 Section 9F to 9FI of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 provide that Executive arrangements of a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power between them):-

- a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
- b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
- c) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- d) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- e) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

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

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.

### **Background Papers**

Minutes of the JOSOC meeting on 30 November 2023- see link to minutes here [JOSOC minutes 30/11/23](#)

Other information referenced in the report.

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

There is a correlation between economic development and growth being improved with lower rates of crime and improved policing whereas there is a correlation between economic downturn if there are higher rates of crime or reduced policing.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Effective policing, low level crime rates and the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan will help achieve social value.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

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

The remit of the Police and the AWSCP is set out in this report.

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

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered. JOSC can request the Police Commander to attend its meetings to ask him questions on matters relating to local Police and crime issues and under the Police and Justice Act 2006, JOSC has a role to scrutinise the work of the AWSCP.