ADUR & WORTHING
C O U N C I L S

Key Decision [No]
Ward(s) Affected: All

Platforms for our Places Progress Report (July - December 2019)

Report by the Chief Executive

Executive Summary

1.   Purpose

1.1.   This is the final six-monthly report informing the Committee on the Councils' progress against the commitments and objectives set out in *Platforms for our Places*. It contains an overview of the progress on delivering the ambitions and commitments set out in *Platforms for our Places* and highlights certain areas of strategic importance.

1.2.   The Councils have been clear that *Platforms for our Places* was an ambitious strategic programme, designed to help create the healthy, prosperous and well connected communities that our residents wish to see.

1.3.   The Councils identified 147 actions in *Platforms for our Places*. At the end of the three-year nearly 60% are complete, just over 30% are on-track and primarily reflect ongoing activities within our communities, while less than 10% are at potential risk (and this will not be completed by year end).

2.   Recommendations

2.1.   Note the final progress report on the implementation of *Platforms for our Places* over the period January to July 2019.

2.2.   Agree to refer this report to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

3. Context

3.1. In December 2016 Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils adopted *Platforms for our Places* as the Councils' direction of travel for the next three years. In July 2018 (18 months into that programme) both Councils adopted a revised set of commitments and activities to reflect the progress that had been made and the issues that had emerged over the first half of the programme.

3.2. *Platforms for our Places* builds on the need to explore and reset our relationship with our residents, recognising as Councils we cannot and should not do everything for everyone. Our role as Councils (as well as providing great services and vital safety nets) is to create and maintain five essential platforms upon which our communities can build happy, healthy, prosperous and connected places.

3.3. *Platforms for our Places* identifies five platforms underpinned by a series of commitments namely:
   a) Our Financial Economies
   b) Our Social Economies
   c) Stewarding our Natural Resources
   d) Services and Solutions for our Places
   e) Leadership of our Places

Platform	Commitments	Activities & Projects
Our Financial Economies	11	47
Our Social Economies	8	31
Stewarding our Natural Resources	7	21
Services and Solutions for our Places	5	18
Leadership of our Places	7	30

Table 3.1: Five Platforms and associated commitments, activities and projects

3.4. Progress reporting draws on the progress of the 147 projects and activities and the Councils broader activities to provide a snapshot of how the Councils are contributing to the development of the five

identified platforms. Table 3.2 shows how the status of projects and activities are determined.

Status Indicators	Status Definitions
Blue	Completed
Greeen	In progress: on track and on time
Amber	In progress: but delays anticipated or minor issues to be resolved (no apparent 'show stoppers' identified)
Red	Significant difficulties in implementation
Grey	Yet to start

Table 3.2: Status Indicators and definitions

3.5.   All previous six-monthly update reports to the Committee have also been considered by Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC).

4.   Issues for consideration

4.1.   The progress report (Attachment A) provides an overview of the main highlights, challenges and future focus in the development of the five Platforms over the last six months. The progress report also provides an overview of the current status of Platform Commitments. Table 4.1 provides a further breakdown of these activities and projects. In evaluating the progress of these activities and projects a reasonably objective analysis has been employed, and while there may be debate on 'how green' or 'how amber' a particular project may be, the overall assessment gives a reasonably robust view of our progress.

Platform	On Track	Potential Risk	Complete
Our Financial Economies	19 (40.4%)	5 (10.6%)	23 (48.9%)
Our Social Economies	3 (9.7%)	4 (12.9%)	24 (77.4%)
Stewardship our Natural Resources	11 (52.4%)	1 (4.8%)	9 (42.9%)
Services and Solutions	8 (44.4%)	1 (5.6%)	9 (50%)
Leadership of our Places	5 (16.7%)	3 (10%)	22 (73.3%)
Total	**46 (31.3%)**	**15 (9.5%)**	**87 (59.2%)**

Table 4.1 Status of Commitments by Platforms

4.2.   It is also perhaps worth remembering that these 147 commitments are not "everything we do". Whilst progressing our Platforms agenda we have continued to provide a full portfolio of universal services to the communities we serve. At times this has been challenging, particularly in some of those demands led areas where we have seen an increase in need, without a consequent increase in resources either in terms of finance or assets, for example housing.

4.3.   It is not intended in this covering report to comment on each and every issue flagged in the progress report. There are, however, certain strategic themes that can be drawn from the past six months that are probably worthy of drawing to the attention of the Committee.

4.4.   **Developing our places for the future**

    4.4.1.   We have seen progress around strategic developments across Adur and Worthing. These developments support employment (Teville Gate House, Worthing), Housing (Adur Civic Centre - Phase Two and Fulbeck Avenue, Worthing) and seeing the regeneration of key areas in our town centre (Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan and Union Place, Worthing).

    4.4.2.   We are also seeing work begin on the installation of Gigabit Adur & Worthing. Through public and private investment we will see 90 council sites and 50,000 homes connected to full fibre between 2019 and 2022. This will enable ultrafast (gigabit) broadband service and positioning our local communities and economies to take up the emerging opportunities enabled by this infrastructure.

    4.4.3.   Despite ongoing uncertainty for our economies, this investment sends strong signals of local confidence in our economies. We will continue to build on this confidence through positioning our places for investment, supporting innovative and clean growth, and developing a framework to promote the vitality and distinctiveness of our town centres.

4.5.   **Building homes and thriving communities**

    Housing and Homelessness
    4.5.1.   As outlined in previous reports we continue to see an increase in demand in temporary and emergency accommodation. In

response the Councils have taken proactive steps to prevent homelessness, support rough sleepers and build new homes and temporary accommodation.

4.5.2. We have seen the lowest rate of rough sleepers across Adur and Worthing, (standing at seven in November). We continue to work with partners to support homeless people with our work being recognised nationally.

4.5.3. Our innovative social lettings agency "Opening Doors" now has more than 20 properties with more in the pipeline. All tenancies to date have been successful with no evictions or bad debts. We continue to work across boundaries to maintain a systemic focus on preventing homelessness, and in the last six months we have prevented or relieved homelessness for 166 households.

4.5.4. We are also building our capacity to deliver new temporary, social and affordable housing across our communities. In Adur with developments at 101 North Road, Lancing and Cecil Norris House, Shoreham. Developments at the former Downview pub and Rowlands Road in Worthing will provide valuable council-opened temporary accommodation. While through partnership with Boklok UK we are at the forefront of new opportunities to provide 150 units at Fulbeck Avenue, Worthing, as part of an overarching agreement to deliver up to 500 units.

4.5.5. We will continue to build on this progress through the adoption of a new Housing Strategy and strengthen our approach across services to ensure resources are aligned to support a prevention approach to housing and residents' wellbeing.

Thriving communities

4.5.6. We are also making progress on our efforts to enable members of our communities to lead healthy and engaged lives. This involves work to improve health outcomes for our communities, supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing, fostering opportunities for skills development and employment, and addressing loneliness and social isolation.

4.6.   Responding to the Climate Emergency

4.6.1.   Following the Councils' declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019 there has been significant acceleration in the Councils' sustainability agenda. In addition to bringing forward the Councils' Carbon Reduction Plan elsewhere in this agenda, the Councils' have supported a number of initiatives to address climate change:
- promoting public and active transport through the easitAdur & Worthing discount travel scheme available to 25,000 local employees, and developing a draft Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan as a first step to develop safer active travel options.
- 528 energy saving interventions, saving £232,000 for residents through the LEAP energy saving scheme. Adur District Council installed a further 20kW Solar PV array on the Shoreham Centre, which is predicted to reduce the Council's carbon by 32 tonnes annually.
- Continue to reduce the Councils use of single use plastic in its efforts to become Plastic Free Councils, and supporting Plastic Free Worthing, Refill Shoreham-by-Sea and Refill Lancing.
- Starting to transition the Councils' fleet to ultra low emissions as part of an ongoing medium term fleet replacement programme.

4.6.2.   We also continue to progress efforts to manage our natural environment:
- Shoreham Beach has received an 'Excellent' result for bathing water quality.
- Strong efforts have been made to engage our communities in the future of Brooklands Park, with hundreds of families welcomed to events over the summer and autumn and the revised Masterplan presented at a family halloween event.
- The Councils continue to pursue the Green Flag award for our parks and open spaces. All management plans have also been reviewed to put an increased emphasis on biodiversity.

4.7. Positioning the Councils and our Places for the future

4.7.1. New approaches to how the Councils deliver services and act as leaders in our communities are central to the approach outlined in *Platforms for our Places.* The Councils continue to pursue their strategies to improve customer service, enhance our commercial services, and strengthen our investment portfolio. These efforts contribute to ensure our services are more responsive and contribute to the financial sustainability of the Councils.

4.7.2. Over the past six months we have continued to engage and take-up positions of leadership across our communities and region. The Councils are currently consulting on a new guide on how we engage, the leader of Worthing Borough Council has taken up key positions in regional organisations, and we have made a significant move to improve digital access to the Councils' decision-making processes.

4.8. Going Further - concluding *Platforms for our Places*

4.8.1. Elsewhere on this agenda the Committee will also consider *Platforms for our Places: Going Further* as the next iteration to the Councils' approach and ambition our places.

4.8.2. Over the past three years the Councils have successfully used *Platforms of our Places* to help set our direction. At the core of our approach was the importance of Platforms as foundations for great community activity, the profound impact on our communities that focusing on local places and activities can have, and the evolving role for the Councils (and our relationship with our partners) to address the needs, challenges and opportunities facing our communities.

4.8.3. While not all commitments have been completed they have articulated a clear statement of intent to the Councils ambitious approach. While *Platforms for our Places: Going Further* represents a revised approach it will retain the broad thrust of its predecessor.

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1. As outlined in the progress report (<u>Attachment A</u>) engagement with our communities and partners is critical to realise our objectives and deliver the individual commitments outlined in *Platforms for our Places.* This will remain an important area of focus as we move into the *Platforms for Places - Going Forward* programme.

5.2. Delivery of specific projects are communicated through the Councils' communications channels and press releases as appropriate.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no unbudgeted financial implications in this report. Specific commitments that have capital or revenue consequences are individually assessed as part of the decision making process. The setting of a draft budget for both Councils for 2019/20 has been undertaken with the *Platforms for our Places* commitments in mind, as will be seen from a variety of reports to JSC in the near future are consistent with the revenue budget and capital strategies.

7. Legal Implications

7.1. There are no specific legal implications relevant to this report. The legal implications relevant to any individual commitment are reported in the usual decision making process.

Background Papers

- [Platforms for our Places Progress Report (January to June 2019)](#) - Joint Strategic Committee (Item 5) - 9 July 2019

- [Platforms for our Places Progress Report (July to December 2018)](#) - Joint Strategic Committee (Item 5) - 31 January 2019

- [Mid-Term Review and Refresh of Platforms for our Places Commitments](#) - adopted by Adur District Council - 19 July 2018; adopted by Worthing Borough Council - 17 July 2018

- [Platforms for our Places: 6 month Progress Report (January to June 2018)](#) - Joint Strategic Committee (Item 5) - 10 July 2018

- [Delivering Platforms for our Places: Progress Report June - December 2017](#) - Joint Strategic Committee (Item 5) - 9th January 2018

- [Delivering Platforms for our Places: Mid-Year Report 2017 and Appendix](#) - Joint Strategic Report (Item 5) - 11 July 2017

- ["Platforms for our Places" unlocking the power of people, communities and our local geographies](#) - adopted by Adur District Council - 15 December 2016; adopted by Worthing Borough Council - 20 December 2016

Officer Contact Details:
Alan Higgins, Chief Executive's Policy Officer 01903 221003
alan.higgins@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Alex Bailey, Chief Executive 01903 221001
alex.bailey@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1.   Economic

1.1   Delivering our financial economies is one of five Platforms for development in *Platforms for our Places*. The progress report (Attachment A) provides an overview and highlights on how the Councils are working to develop this Platform.

2.   Social

2.1   Social Value

2.1.1 Developing our Social Economies is one of five Platforms for development in *Platforms for our Places*. The progress report (Attachment A) provides an overview and highlights on how the Councils are working to develop this Platform**.**

2.1.2 A particular focus on several elements of *Platforms for our Places* is how to build capacity within our communities and community partners to enable them to shape and lead our places, while at the same time ensuring the Councils provide a robust "safety net" for vulnerable members of our communities.

2.2   Equality Issues

2.2.1 *Platforms for our Places* objectives include building the capacity of our communities, engaging with them to find solutions that ensure that our services (and interventions) are designed to meet specific needs and address areas and issues of historic disadvantage**.**

2.3   Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

2.3.1 There are specific commitments in *Platforms for our Place*s which relate to the promotion of communities as safe places. Delivery of these commitments are in progress.

2.4   Human Rights Issues

2.4.1 Through the implementation of *Platforms for our Places* the Councils are seeking solutions with other partners to enable our residents, communities and places to thrive.

3.   Environmental

3.1   Developing the Councils and communities role in stewarding our natural resources is one of five platforms for development in *Platform for our Places*. The progress report (Attachment A) provides an overview and highlights how on how the Councils are working to develop this platform.

4.   Governance

4.1   This report provides Joint Strategic Committee an overview of the progress being made to implement *Platforms for our Places*, the Councils' three-year plan to enable our places to thrive.

4.2   The presentation of this report and proposed recommendations to refer it to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ensure that officers are accountable in delivering elected members' ambitions for our places.

4.3   Working with local and sub-regional partners is a critical element in delivering *Platforms for our Places*. It will remain an important area of focus for Officers.