



Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council

A Decisions Taken by Individual Executive Members

Listed below is a summary of decisions taken by the individual Executive Members since the despatch of the agenda for the last ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the [Executive Members Decisions webpage](#) .

Leader

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Executive Member for Regeneration

REG/007/19-20 Sompting Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, Habitat Regulations

Executive Member for Resources

RES/006/19-20 Irrecoverable Debts - Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates
JAW/023/19-20 IT Procurement for the Supply Implementation and Maintenance of an Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing and Licensing IT Solution

Executive Member for Customer Services

JAW/026/19-20 West Sussex Disabled Facilities Grants Policy 2020-2024
JAW/028/19-20 Entering into Contract for the Conversion of Property at 151 Rowlands Road, Worthing BN11 3LE for use as Temporary Accommodation

Executive Member for the Environment

JAW/025/19-20 Award of Contract - Highdown Gardens

Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

JAW/022/19-20 Eastbrook Manor and Sussex Community Development Association - Underwriting of TUPE costs
JAW/024/19-20 Food Service Delivery Plan for 2019-20

B. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 14 January 2020

JSC/078/19-20 Delivering our Housing Strategy - Housing Development Next Steps

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 5.

The report updated Members on the latest progress with the housing development programme across the two Council areas, and the next steps in regards to the small sites programme (Hidden Homes).

The Committee's approval was sought for the release of funding for the Small Sites Programme.

A Member sought clarification to the source of the funding requested. Officers confirmed that the development budget would come from the Adur District Council Housing Revenue Account.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee is recommended to:

- I. noted the progress on the schemes;
- II. approved the release of £235,000 from the development budget to progress work on the Small Sites Programme;
- III. delegated authority to the Director for Communities, following a tender process, to award the contract for design and consultancy services in respect of the Small Sites Programme;
- IV. noted that a further report would be presented in February 2020 updating members on the final cost of Cecil Norris development, and detailing the outcome of the tender process for Albion Street together with the associated updated budget requirements.

JSC/081/19-20 A Climate Assembly for Adur & Worthing

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital & Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 8.

The report set out Adur & Worthing Councils' strong commitment to tackling climate change locally, outlining progress so far, including community engagement activities

It proposed the establishment of a Climate Assembly in 2020/21, to create a robust, independent and representative engagement approach with our local communities

on climate change and ecological issues.

Members gave consideration to the cost of facilitating the proposed Climate Assembly, the procurement process for including the number of interested parties and who would sit on the assembly.

The Committee expressed support for the proposals and welcomed the progress made so far. It was also noted that the assembly was not just about climate change, but how the community got involved with Adur and Worthing Councils decision-making.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee

1. noted the strong progress made with the climate change agenda;
2. agreed to establish a Climate Assembly in 2020/21, funded from the Business Development budget at a cost of £42,000 for Worthing Borough Council and £28,000 for Adur District Council

JSC/082/19-20 Preventing anti-social behaviour: Trialling the extension of Community Protection Notice powers with Worthing Homes

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 9.

It was noted that Community Protection Notices were part of the legal remedies available to the Councils to address anti-social behaviour and were used as an early intervention warning and enforcement measure.

The report considered a request to extend those powers to Worthing Homes for a one year pilot, as an early intervention measure with tenants that were involved in anti-social behaviour.

A Member sought clarification regarding the compliance rates following Community Protection Warnings set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report. Officers confirmed that there was compliance of 72% following the issue of Community Protection Warnings and compliance of 96% following the issue of a notice.

The Committee welcomed the proposals, acknowledging the importance of joined up working in relation to this issue.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee

- 1) noted the background to Community Protection Notices as an early intervention approach for anti-social behaviour;
- 2) considered the proposals set out in the report and agreed to delegate authority to Worthing Homes for issuing Community Protection Warnings and Notices for a pilot period of one year;
- 3) noted that the pilot, if agreed, would be subject to review meetings and monitoring of these measures.

C. Decisions Taken by the Adur Executive on 4 February 2020

A EX/004/19-20 Housing Revenue Account: 2020/21 Budget

The Executive had before it a joint report from the Director for Digital and Resources and the Director for Communities, attached to these minutes as item 4.

The report set out the current and future financial landscape for the Housing Revenue Account and requested that Members agree the rent levels and service charges for 2020/21 as set out in the report. The report also considered some of the strategic challenges facing the Housing Revenue Account in future years and the impact these would have over the next 30 years.

Members were informed that the rent limitation announced in 2015/16 had significantly affected the financial viability of the Housing Revenue Account for the past four years. However, the Council was now permitted to increase rents on social rent and affordable rent properties by up to the September CPI +1% each year from 2020. It was the Government's intention that this arrangement should remain in place for a period of at least five years.

Members discussed the space allocation on existing and future housing sites, including the Hidden Homes Programme. Officers advised that the Housing Development Strategy was currently being developed alongside the Capital Improvement Programme, both would consider how the Council could best use the space that it had.

It was noted that although it was proposed to increase rents by the maximum amount, this equated to an increase of £2.40 per week on average and rents were still lower than they had been 4 years ago.

Decision

The Executive:

- (i) approved the Housing Revenue Account estimates for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1;

- (ii) approved that the rents of Council Dwellings would increase by 2.7% increasing the average council dwelling rent by £2.42 to £92.18 per week (average rent currently £90.02 per week) – (Paragraph 6.3);
- (iii) determined the level of associated rents and charges with effect from week one of 2020/21:
 - (a) **Rents of Council garages** – agreed an increase of 2.7% to £10.57. (currently £10.29 per week, plus VAT for non-Council tenants) (Paragraph 6.6);
 - (b) **Service Charges** - delegated to the Head of Housing and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Customer Services, the setting of the service charges (paragraph 9.2);
- (iv) approved the HRA Treasury Management Strategy contained in Appendix 3.

D. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 11 February 2020

Updated report to follow publication of the record of decisions from the Joint Strategic Committee

E. Urgent Executive Decisions Taken

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2000 as amended. The following is reported to Council:

Local Government Act 1972

Background papers

Reports and Record of decisions of various are available on the Council's web site www.adur-worthing.gov.uk or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports may contain exempt information and not fully published on the websites.

Councillor Neil Parkin
Leader of the Council