



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/009/19-20 Clarification of Adur Affordable Housing Threshold

JAW/032/19-20 Worthing Civic Quarter Heat Network Funding Approval (*The Adur Executive Member for Regeneration agreed to abstain from the above decision as a Worthing matter*)

Executive Member for Resources

JAW/029/19-20 Parks & Open Spaces Redesign

JAW/030/19-20 Irrecoverable Debts

Executive Member for Customer Services

Executive Member for the Environment

Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

JAW/031/19-20 Adur Community Grants Allocation of Funds for 2019/20 Round Three, final for year

B. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 10 March 2020

JSC/101/19-20 3rd Quarter Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20

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 6.

The report updated the Joint Strategic Committee with the latest expenditure and income projections for each Council in the current financial year 2019/20, compared to the Revenue Budget approved by both Councils in February. Whilst the 'spend to date' would be the position as at 31 December 2019, the forecast position reflected the latest information available to ensure an up-to-date forecast was presented.

The Councils had positioned themselves to manage risk and contribute to reserves for the future. After allowing for the initiatives undertaken to enable this and for the revision of project delivery into the future, the operational over/underspends were projected to be an underspend of £96,000 in Adur and an overspend of £94,000 in Worthing.

During consideration of the item, Members sought clarification regarding utilities billing, the income from Worthing Car Parks, contaminated waste costs and fleet maintenance. Officers advised that utilities usage was looked at in detail with all relevant budget holders and that the Councils had mitigated risks associated with gas & electricity. Worthing Car Parks were under budget as Officers had been expecting the Teville Gate surface car park would open earlier in the year. The amount of recycling credit income per tonne from WSCC was estimated to be lower than budgeted in part due to an uncommunicated WSCC deduction for contamination of £80k. The deduction was being queried with the County Council.

Officers agreed to investigate the overspend associated with fleet maintenance and report back following the meeting.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee noted the report and projected outturn position for the Joint Committee, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council against the approved revenue budgets and proposed use of reserves (Appendix 1b and 2b).

JSC/102/19-20 3rd Quarter Capital Investment Programme & Projects Monitoring 2019/20

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 7.

The report updated the Joint Strategic Committee on the progress made on the 2019/20 Capital Investment Programmes for Adur District Council and Worthing

Borough Council. The programmes included schemes which supported the delivery of services by the Joint Strategic Committee.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

(a) with respect to the Capital Investment Programme of Adur District Council

- i) noted the reprofiling of the Adur District Council capital schemes as advised in paragraphs 7.2.1 and Appendix 3;
- ii) approved the use of ring-fenced capital receipts to fund the overspend of £23,134 on the Shoreham Air Crash Memorial Project as detailed in paragraph 7.2.3;
- iii) agreed to increase the budget for the Extended Ultrafast Network Fibre Network by £800,000 to £3.3m, funded by a combination of the Local Growth Fund Grant funding of £676,500 and a contribution from the WSCC Business Rate Pool of £1,250,000 as detailed in paragraph 7.1.3. The Adur District Council share of this scheme was £376,000;
- iv) approved the virement to fund the overspend on the purchase of wheeled bins for the new alternate weekly collection service and approve the funding as detailed in paragraph 7.1.2;
- v) approved the increase in the Disabled Facilities Grant Budget by £64,790 funded by Better Care Fund Grant as detailed in paragraph 7.2.4.

(b) with respect to the Capital Investment Programme of Worthing Borough Council

- i) noted the reprofiling of the Worthing Borough Council capital schemes as advised in paragraphs 7.3.1 and Appendix 4;
- ii) approved the virement to fund the overspend on the purchase of wheeled bins for the new alternate weekly collection service and approve the funding as detailed in paragraph 7.1.2;
- iii) agreed to increase the budget for the Extended Ultrafast Network Fibre Network by £800,000 to £3.3m funded by a combination of the Local Growth Fund Grant funding of £676,500 and a contribution from the WSCC Business Rate Pool of £1,250,000 as detailed in paragraph 7.1.3. The Worthing Borough Council share of this scheme was £424,000;
- v) approved the increase in the Disabled Facilities Grant Budget by £204,240 funded by Better Care Fund Grant as detailed in paragraph 7.3.2.

JSC/103/19-20 Strategic Property Investment Fund 2020 and the Annual Commercial Property Investment Strategy 2020/21

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, 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 updated and confirmed the Councils' robust Commercial Property Investment Strategy (CPIS) to support the Councils' strategic income generation objective.

The Committee was informed that there was a statutory obligation to prepare an annual investment strategy to be approved in advance of the relevant financial year by Full Council.

The report supported the Councils' medium term financial strategy and sought to renew and refresh the current investment strategy in relation to the investment funds providing details on:

- Robust parameters to guide and support the development of an income generating property portfolio that seeks to manage and provide a financially resilient income stream for the Councils
- Update governance criteria to ensure diligent analysis and transparency to support the transparent decision making process

It was noted that the Joint Governance Committee gave a strong challenge to the position of risk at its meeting on 28 January 2020.

Members welcomed the report whilst acknowledging the significant contribution commercial property investment had made to Adur and Worthing Councils financial positions.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee:

- i. agreed the suggested delivery and governance model as set out in the report which was to be approved by full Council as part of the overall Commercial Property Investment Strategy;
- ii. noted that at the end of the 2019-2020 financial year a Commercial Property Investment Fund Annual Asset Review was to be undertaken to detail specific performance of assets and potential future risks and opportunities along with proposals to manage these individual sites moving forward. This would be reported to JSC by the end of September.
- iii. noted that as part of the 2020/21 capital strategy, consideration be given to increasing the overall investment size from £125m to £175m per

Council which will be funded from borrowing;

- iv. approved that the average lot size be increased from £5m - £15m, to £10m - £20m;
- v. recommended that Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council adopt the Commercial Property Investment Strategy for 2020-2021;
- vi. approved that the budget for future years may be brought forward with the approval of the relevant Executive Members for Resources, following their consideration of a business case.

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