



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
25 June 2020
Agenda Item

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/21

Report by the Director for Digital & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report outlines progress in implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2019/20. The report also includes a draft JOSC Work Programme for 2020/21 for consideration.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC note the progress in delivering the JOSC Work Programme for 2019/20;

2.2 That JOSC consider and confirm a draft Work Programme for 2020/21;

2.3 That JOSC consider the Scrutiny requests attached at Appendix C;

2.4 That JOSC confirm the memberships of the JOSC Working Groups; and

2.5 That the confirmed draft JOSC Work Programme for 2020/21 be reported to the Council meetings in July 2020 for approval.

3. Context

- 3.1 The current JOSC Work Programme for 2019/20 was reviewed at each meeting during the 2019/20 Municipal Year. A copy of the 2019/20 Work Programme is attached at Appendix A to this report which provides analysis of changes made to the Work Programme during the course of the year.
- 3.2 Paragraph 9.2 of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the work programme will be approved by both Councils. For the 2020/21 Municipal Year, because of delays in conducting business due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it is proposed that the Work Programme should be reported to the Councils at the July 2020 Council meetings. A report must also be taken to each full Council on an annual basis detailing any changes to the Work Programme and this is usually reported mid year and for 20/21 this will be done in December 2020.

4. Issues for consideration/Proposed changes to the Work Programme in 2020/21

- 4.1 The Committee has received regular update reports on the implementation of the Work Programme at each meeting throughout the 2019/20 Municipal Year with the last of those being at the meeting on 30 January 2020. A copy of the 2019/20 Work Programme is attached as Appendix A to this report for reference.
- 4.2 A draft Work Programme for 2020/21 was produced for the Committee to consider at its 19 March 2020 meeting which had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. An amended copy of this is now set out again in the Appendix B to this report which includes some changes made to items for the first two meetings in June and July as agreed in consultation with the JOSC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and notified to Committee Members. The version for the March meeting also included proposals for separate interviews with the Executive Members, scrutiny of the Forward Plan of Key decisions which was added following the review of JOSC procedures and also to receive feedback from the meetings of the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) from the Council representatives on the HASC. Those issues are again included in this revised draft.

- 4.3 Other key issues included are a Crime and Disorder update from the Safer Communities Partnership and scrutiny of the Budget issues. Regular reviews of *'Platforms for our Places :Going further'* are scheduled in for September 2020 and March 2021.
- 4.4 The Committee is requested to consider the draft Work Programme and consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme. During the Municipal Year, items may be added to the JOSC Work Programme, where appropriate. Requests for additional matters to be included in the Work Programme will initially be considered by the Joint Chairpersons in accordance with the criteria and they will make their recommendations to the next JOSC for consideration and determination following receipt of the Officer report. Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the Committee and resources available when considering further Work Programme items.
- 4.5 In setting its Work Programme for 2020/21, JOSC will need to consider the key issues now impacting on Council services and the local communities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Scrutiny should be timely, supportive and proportionate during this time but maintaining a form of scrutiny during this time is also important because decisions will be being made by the Councils and other partners which are likely to have an impact on the lives of residents and the places they live. The scrutiny function also has the opportunity to feed into the overall response strategy.
- 4.6 JOSC Chairmen/Vice Chairmen have been consulted on the contents of the draft Work Programme. Leader interviews are planned for the July meeting to receive updates on the Councils response to the pandemic.
- 4.7 As part of the production of this report, all Members of the Council were previously consulted to see if they had any other items/issues that they wanted to be added to the Work Programme. At the request of the Committee a detailed scrutiny request was received from Councillor Smytherman relating to Food Poverty, details of which are set out in Appendix C. JOSC is requested to consider this request and add to the Work Programme if acceptable. An assessment of the request from Councillor Smytherman has been undertaken and discussed with the Joint Chairpersons and their recommendations (included in Appendix C) are that the issue should be included on the 2020//21 Work Programme and that Officers should provide a briefing note on the issue for consideration in due course.
- 4.8 Also attached at Appendix C to the report is a further Scrutiny request from

the Joint Governance Committee relating to working relationships with West Sussex County Council and the Joint Chairpersons have been consulted on this request with their recommendation being that the request should not be accepted for the reasons set out in Appendix C.

- 4.9 Items for the Work Programme need to be chosen guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic objectives, how the Committee can influence the outcomes and also general value and outcomes in accordance with the (PAPER criteria) - (P) - Public Interest, (A) - Ability to Change, (P) - Performance, (E) - Extent and (R) - Replication.
- 4.10 In 2019/20 JOSC set up a small number of cross party Member Working Groups to undertake reviews of various issues. The Working Groups on Gypsies & Travellers encampments and the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny Committees have completed their work, however, the Working Groups reviewing the Climate Change issues and the Adur Homes Repairs and Maintenance issues are currently ongoing to complete work and the Working Group on Refuse and Recycling issues is due to report to JOSC later in 2020. To ensure that the membership of the Working Groups are kept up to date it is necessary to confirm the Members for the 2020/21 Municipal Year and some changes will be required following changes to the membership of JOSC (Only members of JOSC are able to be members of the JOSC Working Groups). Current memberships of the Working Groups and changes required are set out below:-

JOSC Adur Homes Repairs and Maintenance Working Group

Councillor Catherine Arnold

Councillor Kevin Boram

Councillor Stephen Chipp

Councillor Paul Mansfield

Plus Councillor Deb Stainforth (Co-opted Member)

New Members may be required to replace Councillors Andy McGregor and Lavinia O'Connor who are no longer members of JOSC. As Councillor Stainforth is now a member of JOSC she is entitled to be a full member of the Working Group.

JOSC Climate Change Working Group

Councillor Carol Albury

Councillor Catherine Arnold

Councillor Bob Smytherman

Councillor Carl Walker

JOSC Cultural Services Working Group

Councillor Margaret Howard

Councillor Paul Mansfield

Councillor Jane Sim

Councillor Carl Walker

- 4.11 JOSC is also requested to consider if it would like to receive the completed report from the JOSC Evening and Night Time Economy Working Group which was due to report to the JOSC meeting on 19 March. The findings from this review were comprehensive but have been overtaken by events and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the evening and night time is much greater now.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and the Councils Leadership Team have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Councils have the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals generally may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).
- 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.
- 7.4 Paragraph 9.2 of the current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which form part of the Councils' Constitutions and are binding on all Members, states that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils. A report

must be taken to both Councils on an annual basis seeking both Councils' approval of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for the forthcoming year and any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.

Background Papers

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

Officer Contact Details:-

Mark Lowe

Scrutiny and Risk Officer

Tel: 01903 221009

mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Some of the issues scrutinised as part of the Work Programme could impact on the development of our places or the economic participation of our communities if implemented.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Some of the issues to be scrutinised as part of the Work Programme will have an impact on the communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Some of the issues being scrutinised will have community safety implications.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. JOSC has set up a Working Group to provide it with a better understanding of Climate Change issues which might make recommendations regarding natural resources for Adur and Worthing.

4. Governance

- 4.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified. It is good practice for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set its Work Programme ahead of the Municipal Year. The current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules state that the Work Programme will be approved by both Councils and that any changes to the Work Programme should be submitted to the Councils approximately mid year for noting.

APPENDIX A

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019/20

<u>Date of meeting</u>	<u>Items for discussion</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Executive Members to be invited</u>	<u>Change to original Work Programme?</u>
20 June 2019	Annual JOSC report for 2018/19	Joint Chairmen of JOSC	N/A	No
	Report from the Transport issues Working Group	Chairman of the Working Group	N/A	Yes. Item was on pending list.
25 July 2019	Joint Revenue Outturn report 2018/19	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer	Executive Members for Resources	No
	Outline Budget Strategy 2019/20	Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer	II	No
19 September 2019	West Sussex Air quality Strategy	Director for Communities/ West Sussex County Council	Executive Members for Wellbeing	No
	Update on the delivery of the Housing Strategy - Review of progress	Director for Communities/Head of Housing	Executive Members for Customer Services	No
17 October 2019	Annual interviews with Council Leaders	Director for Digital & Resources	Leaders	No
	Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive	Chief Executive	Adur & Worthing Executive Members	Yes. Item put back to October meeting from September because Chief Executive was unable to attend.
	Report from the Working Group on the review of the procedures for dealing with Gypsy and Traveller encampments in	Chairman of the Working Group	N/A	Yes. Item was on pending list.

	Adur and Worthing and use of the transit site.			
21 November 2019	<p>Adur and Worthing and Joint Outline 5 year forecast and savings proposals - Executive Member interviews.</p> <p>Engaging Adur & Worthing - How we engage with our communities</p> <p>Report from the Working Group that has reviewed the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny Committees</p>	<p>Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>Director for Communities</p> <p>Chairman of the Working Group</p>	<p>Adur and Worthing Executive Members</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes. Item was on pending list.</p> <p>Yes. Item was on the pending list.</p>
30 January 2020	<p>Worthing Budget Estimates 20/21 and setting of 2020/21 Council Tax</p> <p>Presentation from Southern Water on bathing water quality issues</p> <p>Review of the Progress in delivering the activities in Platforms for our Places - Questioning Chief Executive</p>	<p>Director for Digital & Resources/Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Worthing Executives</p> <p>Adur Executive Member for the Environment, Worthing Executive Member for Regeneration, Executive Members for Wellbeing</p> <p>Adur and Worthing Executives</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes. Item brought forward to January meeting from March because Platforms update was considered earlier in December 2019 at the JSC meeting.</p> <p>New item. Added following a scrutiny request.</p>
19 March 2020 - Meeting cancelled	<p>Leader interviews</p> <p>Annual Work Programme setting 2019/20</p> <p>Report on the consultation</p>	<p>Director for Digital & Resources</p> <p>Director for Digital & Resources</p> <p>Director for the Economy</p>	<p>Leaders</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>New item. Added following a scrutiny</p>

	<p>processes undertaken for the disposal of publicly owned Council land and assets.</p> <p>Report from the JOSC Working Group on evening and Night Time economy</p>	Chairman of the Working Group	N/A	<p>request.</p> <p>No</p>
Date to be confirmed	<p>Major Projects being undertaken in partnership with West Sussex County Council - Update</p> <p>Review of Corporate Assets</p> <p>Worthing Theatres - Review of the operation of the new contract</p> <p>Report from the Working Group reviewing recycling</p> <p>Report from the Working Group reviewing the Cultural Services</p> <p>Report from the Climate Change Working Group</p> <p>Update on the delivery of the Housing Strategy - Review of progress</p> <p>Report from JOSC Working Group on Adur Homes repairs & maintenance service</p>	<p>Director for the Economy</p> <p>Head of Major Projects & Investment/Director for Economy</p> <p>Director for the Economy</p> <p>Chairman of the Working Group</p> <p>Chairman of the Working Group</p> <p>Chairman of the Working Group</p> <p>Director for Communities</p> <p>Chairman of the Working Group</p>	<p>Executive Members for Regeneration and relevant West Sussex County Council Cabinet Members</p> <p>Relevant Executive Members</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Executive Members for Customer Services</p> <p>N/A</p>	

Note - A progress report on the delivery of the work contained in the Work Programme will be presented to each meeting.

All timings are provisional and subject to change in agreement with the Joint Chairmen and the Committee.