



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
12 January 2021
Agenda Item 6

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

Response to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny review of Climate Change

Report by the Director for Digital Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide a response and recommendations to the Joint Strategic Committee to the recommendations contained within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny working group review of Climate Change initially presented to this committee in November 2020.
- 1.2. The Report by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group produced 10 recommendations. The very fast moving nature of work on the climate and sustainability agenda through *Platforms for our Places* and *SustainableAW* has seen several of the recommendations implemented since the Working Group concluded.
- 1.3. Recommendations already actioned include:
 - 1.3.1. The publication of the annual report on council carbon reduction;
 - 1.3.2. Learning from best practice at other councils through the *UK100 Cities* network, the vanguard group local authorities leading on climate best practice;
 - 1.3.3. The development of the *Sustainable Procurement Strategy* and *Sustainability Code of Practice*;
 - 1.3.4. The development of a *Sustainability Checklist for Planning*;

- 1.3.5. A new *Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Document* requiring submission of the energy and carbon strategy of new development;
- 1.3.6. The draft *Worthing Local Plan* has developed energy and carbon standards in advance of national standards; and
- 1.3.7. The allocation of funding for active travel to the County Council, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council to enable greater promotion of active travel to the community.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That members approve the following actions:
 - 2.1.1. In relation to Recommendation One - that officers add the Fairtrade Directory once updated to the council website under SustainableAW pages.
 - 2.1.2. In relation to Recommendation Three on Adur Homes - that officers ensure decarbonisation and energy efficiency opportunities are considered in future Adur Homes capital investment plans.

3. Context

- 3.1. In 2019 as part of its work programme the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a working group to review activity to address climate change across the councils and Adur and Worthing.
- 3.2. The working group presented its findings to this committee in November 2020, the full report is attached at Appendix 1. At that meeting members of the committee requested that a report be prepared to consider and respond to the recommendations
- 3.3. Adur & Worthing Councils have made many commitments on Climate Change and as a result activity on this agenda is very fast moving. Since the Working Group met, progress has been made against many of the areas in which the Working Group made recommendations.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1. The JOSC report contained 10 recommendations.
- 4.2. Each recommendation is copied here, with an assessment of the impact and issues connected with the proposal and a proposed response for the committee:
- 4.3. **JOSC Recommendation 1: 2030 carbon neutral target**

That Adur and Worthing Councils monitor the work being undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and ensure that:-

- 1. The aims of the Adur & Worthing Sustainability framework and the delivery of the Carbon Neutral Plan with a baseline carbon reduction figure are more accessible and communicated via the Councils website in a proactive manner allowing more engagement with the communities about promotion of sustainability.***
- 2. A carbon reduction baseline figure is published on the Councils website;***
- 3. Public update reports are provided on this work at regular intervals.***
- 4. The Fair Trade Directory is published on the Councils website.***

4.4. Response

The Carbon Neutral Plan is available on the [council website](#), and includes the baseline emissions for the 2030 Carbon Neutral target. At the [Joint Strategic Committee of 6th November 2018](#), under item 8 *Stewarding our Environment Framework* members approved the commitment to the Government Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) '2020 Emissions Reduction Pledge'. Under this voluntary pledge, the council committed to annually report council carbon emissions to BEIS, and publish these on the council website annually. Since the Working Group met, in keeping with the Pledge, the first annual progress report on council carbon emissions against the 2030 target was presented to the [November 3rd 2020 Joint Strategic Committee](#). A reduction in carbon emissions of 13% against the baseline was reported. This report has been made available to the public in a user friendly format on the [council website](#) and will be published annually. In relation to 1, 2, and 3, no further action required - officers will continue to annually report on carbon reduction progress against the 2030 target, and improvements to the accessibility of the website are underway in relation to climate change and sustainability as a part of the redevelopment work on the website.

As part of ongoing improvements and changes to the councils website, the Fair Trade directory can be added to pages on Food under SustainableAW. The Fairtrade Directory is produced by Transition Town Worthing, who are intending to update it following the closure of some businesses as a result of the COVID pandemic. Once updated it can be added to the website.

4.5. JOSC Recommendation 2: Climate Change best practice

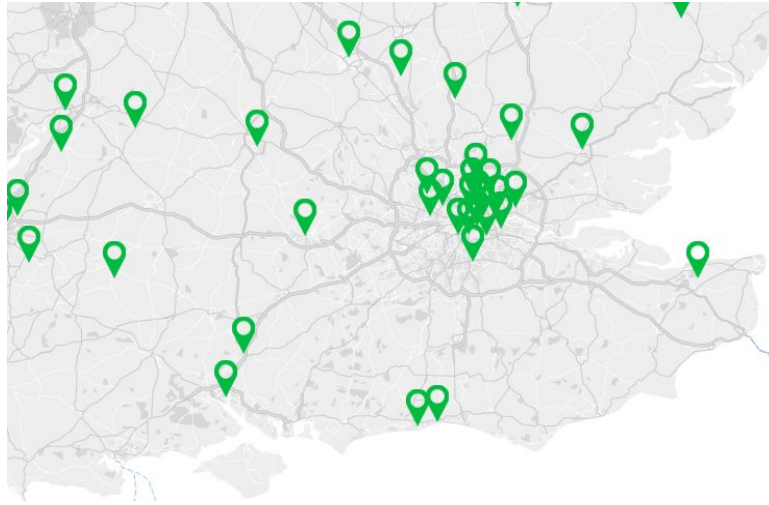
That Adur & Worthing Councils and West Sussex County Council be urged to review work on Climate change being undertaken by other Local Authorities that are more advanced in their work and to assess how they have created firm action plans to deal with the issues.

4.6. Response

This is a recommendation to West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) and Adur & Worthing Councils (AWC). The Recommendation will be passed to WSSCC, along with other recommendations as appropriate.

Both Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils are already learning from other vanguard councils having signed up in January 2019 to the [UK100 Cities Network](#), following approval by [JSC November 2018](#) item 8. UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, who have pledged to secure the future for their communities by shifting to 100% clean energy by 2050. UK100 is the only network for UK local authorities, focused on climate and clean energy policy. It connects local leaders to each other, to business and to national government, enabling them to showcase their achievements, learn from each other and speak collectively to accelerate the transition to clean energy. ADC and WBC are the only authorities in Sussex to have joined the network as can be seen from the UK100 Cities map of signatories:

UK100 Cities Signatory map



AWC also hosts a Sussex Climate Emergency forum attended by officers from East Sussex, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, but also East Hampshire and Havant, the South Downs National Park and the High Weald AONB. The forum aims to facilitate collaboration and best practice across the region in the development and delivery of action, projects and programmes to address climate change.

The Sustainability Team and officers from all areas of the council currently, and will continue to, review work on Climate change being undertaken by other Local Authorities with a view of informing work by AWC. No further action is recommended. See Section 5 for consultation with the County Council.

4.7. JOSC Recommendation 3: Adur Homes

That Adur District Council ensures that energy efficiency retrofitting of Adur Homes properties is undertaken and that there is a realistic and ambitious timeframe set for this.

4.8. Response - There is work underway to set out the statement of intent on the decarbonisation of Adur Homes stock generally and the question of retrofitting homes more specifically. There is no currently established programme of retrofitting for the Adur Homes stock. As a prerequisite to this programme additional action will be required to establish both the number of homes requiring retrofitting, the costs involved and a plan for determining how these funds might be raised. There is a present bid for technical assistance that may contribute towards generating the data needed to scope out the retrofitting requirement for the Adur Homes stock. There has been some recent internal

conversation about appointing a lead for retrofitting. In the context of Adur Homes stock this makes sense and would facilitate this task.

A funding bid was submitted in November 2020 to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Technical Assistance Pilot¹ (SHDTAP) for funding to develop a Housing Decarbonisation plan for Adur Homes (AH). The study would assess how AH could raise the energy performance rating of Adur Homes housing to a minimum of EPC C by 2030, to set housing on a path to net-zero carbon in line with the [Government's Clean Growth Strategy](#). Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful. The level of finance needed to decarbonise AH properties will be substantial. Officers will continue to investigate sources of funding for feasibility work on retrofitting, and finance for the delivery of projects.

It is recommended that in order to develop the Adur Homes Decarbonisation Plan a forward review of the Adur Homes Capital Investment Plan beyond the initially proposed next two years be conducted.

4.9. JOSC Recommendation 4: Procurement

That the Councils should consider only letting contracts to companies that have a good carbon reduction record identified in their supply chain. The Councils should adopt a local green procurement Strategy and produce a sustainability code of practice for companies. The Councils should also encourage this good practice to be extended to all other businesses operating in Adur and Worthing.

4.10. Response

The Council's new *Sustainable Procurement Strategy* is being brought to JSC as a separate item on this agenda. It emphasises the need for sustainability to be included in the assessment of potential suppliers which is further reinforced through a *Sustainability Code of Practice*. This includes a section on Environmental Impact which covers many environmental concerns and states '*We will: Build a requirement for CO2 reduction into the specification of contracts, where appropriate*'.

The qualification '*where appropriate*' relates to the need to encourage smaller and local businesses to bid for our contracts. Consequently, any requirements

¹ SHDTAF fund from Government is managed by the [South East Energy Hub](#)

for carbon reduction needs to be appropriate for the size and nature of the contract being let.

The recommendations are covered by other reports on this agenda and so no further action is required.

4.11. JOSC Recommendation 5: Local Plans

That the Councils ensure that the Adur and Worthing Local Plans are of a good quality and continue to address sustainability. The Local Plans also should contain 'requirement' type language rather than 'encouragement' type language where possible and also should require biodiversity gain and carbon reduction. There should also be a Planning sustainability checklist. Relevant Officers are advised to ensure that recommendations for Planning applications to be considered by the Adur & Worthing Planning Committees should have regard to the requirements of the Adur & Worthing Local Plans, the Joint Area Action Plan and the AW Sustainability framework. Officers should also be requested to change the current Validation requirements to require applicants to submit a carbon reduction statement for developments of 11 dwellings or more (with appropriate targets).

4.12. Response

Planning and Climate Change Checklists have already been prepared for each authority, and were considered by Adur Planning Committee and Worthing Planning Committee in the summer. These checklists, which will shortly be added to the Council's website, set out policy requirements in relation to climate change and guidance to further improve the sustainability of development.

On 14th August 2019 Adur District Council adopted the [Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#) which supports the policies referred to above, and explains how the requirements of the policy can be met. This includes the submission of an energy statement that gives specific information on carbon reduction to achieve the targets set out in policy.

Local Plans are assessed to ensure they meet 'Tests of Soundness' as part of the Local Plan examination process. Sustainability policies are already a part of the adopted Adur Local Plan 2017, adopted WCS and emerging Worthing Local Plan.

Adur & Worthing Councils current validation list refers to the Adur Local Plan Policy 19 which requires all new major developments within Adur to incorporate renewable/ low carbon energy production equipment to provide at least 10% of predicted energy requirements; and requires that a statement is submitted which demonstrates the proposal's contribution to reducing carbon dioxide emissions through an energy efficient design of the site, buildings and services; the use of decentralised energy, heating and cooling and on-site renewable technologies. The Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan also has policies on sustainable energy provision.

The Validation list will be updated in due course to reflect requirements of the emerging Worthing Local Plan, following examination. The emerging Worthing Local Plan has sought to respond to the declaration of a climate emergency and local commitments to achieve zero carbon and clean energy. To achieve this it embeds the UN Sustainable Development Goals, placing sustainability right at the heart of the Plan, to ensure that it is robust in addressing a range of sustainability challenges including climate change.

The Submission Draft version of the Worthing Local Plan sets out a number of policies that address sustainability issues including policies SP2: Climate Change, DM16 Sustainable Design, DM17 Energy, DM18 Biodiversity, DM20 Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage and DM21 Water Quality and Sustainable Water Use. These set minimum requirements which, where justified by evidence, exceed current national standards and also encourage developers to achieve even higher levels of carbon reduction and biodiversity gain beyond these minimum requirements where possible. Applicants for major developments are required to submit a sustainability statement at the planning application stage to demonstrate how these requirements are met.

Given the planned publication of the checklists, the requirement for energy statements through the Energy SPD and draft WLP policy, this recommendation is covered by current activity and no further action is proposed.

4.13. JOSC Recommendation 6: JOSC Climate Change Working Group

That JOSC agree to keep the constituted to monitor the progress with the actions recommended and report back to JOSC at regular intervals to ensure regular oversight and scrutiny is also taking place.

4.14. Response

This is a recommendation for JOSCC to consider when it reviews its Work Programme and to decide if it requires the Working Group to continue to meet.

4.15. JOSCC Recommendation 7: promote alternatives to car use

That the Councils allocate additional funding to be used for relevant campaigns to help promote alternatives to car use, to help reduce vehicle emissions and help assist in the overall aim for better air quality.

4.16. Response

WOSCC have recently been allocated £2,351,250 under the Government's [Active Travel Fund](#); there is intention by the County Council to run awareness campaigns as part of a programme of work covered by this finance.

The councils have been allocated funding through the county Business Rates Rebate Pool for walking and cycling which will be used to improve infrastructure, projects and communication programmes on active travel.

The Worthing and Shoreham Air Quality Action Plans contain action points relating to promotion of EV's and infrastructure, car clubs and promoting sustainable/active travel. There is a current campaign through the [Sussex-Air](#) partnership being delivered by Sustrans and Living Streets to schools. This is an education campaign in Primary and Secondary schools across Sussex to educate on air quality and promote alternatives to cars; the aim is that the children develop life changing habits and the message gets back to the parents. Sussex-air frequently runs County wide campaigns, which the councils are involved in. These are normally targeted to specific sectors, such as the schools campaign, rather than more widely. The WOSCC Inter Authority Air Group also runs campaigns but these are on hold by WOSCC due to our covid response work. Other campaigns are likely to be forthcoming as part of work under the Air Quality Action Plans.

If approved by members on a separate item on this committee agenda, the next steps on recommendations following the Climate Assembly will include a significant amount of community engagement and project development on various issues including active travel.

The intention of the recommendation is covered by current work allocated through WOSCC, Public Health & Regulation and partner organisations and therefore no further action is recommended.

4.17. JOSC Recommendation 8 (West Sussex County Council)

That West Sussex County Council be requested to ensure that the proposed review of the West Sussex Transport Plan should encourage modal shift and be transformative. This modal shift should involve the introduction of a series of innovative measures to allow for:-

- 1. Long term cycle infrastructure, including segregated cycle lanes and electric charging points;***
- 2. Sustainable Transport hubs - Where active travel, public and sustainable modes of transport can interchange; and***
- 3. Electric vehicle fleet, infrastructure and charging points***

4.18. Response

Recommendation 8 is a recommendation for West Sussex County Council and will be referred on to them. No further action required by JSC.

4.19. JOSC Recommendation 9 (West Sussex County Council)

That the work of West Sussex County Council in agreeing a West Sussex Climate Strategy be noted but that the Working Group considers that the West Sussex Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030 is very abstract and there is a lack of urgency and tangible targets which means that there are some gaps between the Strategy and the goals. It is considered that West Sussex County Council should review how it consults with experts when drafting Strategy documents of this kind in the future.

4.20. Response

Recommendation 9 is a recommendation for West Sussex County Council and will be referred on to the County Council. No further action required by JSC. See Section 5 for consultation with the County Council.

4.21. JOSC Recommendation 10 (Other Partners)

That in 12 months or so, all West Sussex District and Borough Councils be asked to consider setting up a Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to review how all the Councils are dealing with Climate Change issues. This Working Group should also focus on the proposed review of the West Sussex Transport Plan and consider recommending changes to

the way the Transport infrastructure investment bids are considered to ensure that the bids consider environmental objectives on an equal footing to economic objectives, which does not currently happen.

- 4.22. Response** - This proposal will need to be submitted to and considered by the West Sussex Scrutiny Steering Group (WSSSG), which comprises of the Chairmen of the West Sussex Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committees, in consultation with the West Sussex Scrutiny Officers Network (WSSON). There is an agreed Protocol for considering items for joint scrutiny which the Councils are party to. No further action required by JSC. See Section 5 for consultation with the County Council.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1. Officers from relevant departments have been involved in preparing these responses, including Planning, Health & Wellbeing; Environmental Health, Adur Homes, communications, Democratic Services.
- 5.2. Transition Town Worthing have been consulted over their Fairtrade Directory, which is currently out of date and needs to be updated following the effects of the lockdowns on local businesses.
- 5.3. Officers from the Sustainability Team at West Sussex County Council (WSCC) have been consulted. Initial responses to recommendations are noted below:

Recommendation 2: Climate Change best practice

WSCC are members of several national best practice networks for climate change, including:

- [ADEPT](#): Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport
- [LAAP](#): Local Adaptation Advisory Panel
- SE7: South East Seven Partnership

Recommendation 8: Transport Plan

The West Sussex Transport Plan (WSTP) is being reviewed to update the County Council's strategic approach to investment in, and management of, the transport network. A survey to gather information closed on 17th December 2020 that will help to prepare the draft plan. The draft plan is expected to be published for consultation in summer 2021

Recommendation 9 WSCC Climate Strategy

WSCC adopted their Climate Change Strategy in July 2020. In 2011, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 50% by 2022. By 2018/19 and had achieved a 46% reduction in carbon emissions from the original baseline. The [annual sustainability report](#) is published annually and shows how this was achieved. In February 2019, Full Council passed a motion pledging to try to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Recommendation 10 Climate Change Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

Leaders Board, November 2020, agreed to set up a joint member group to look at climate change and biodiversity. In 2021 this will review the countywide approach.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct unbudgeted financial implications arising from the recommendations of JOSCC.
- 6.2. The Councils are currently funding the sustainability objectives within both the revenue and capital budgets of the Councils.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee exercises the scrutiny function of both Worthing Borough Council and Adur District Council in relation to all matters other than those specifically reserved to be within the remit of the individual Councils or their Executives.
- 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 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.
- 7.4. Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 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

- [2020.11.03 - JSC - JOSC Review of Climate Change \(item 21\)](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

- Transition to a low carbon economy is vital to provide future energy systems resilience, and to address and reduce potential impacts of climate change

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

- Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.2 Equality Issues

- The impacts of climate change are predicted to impact on all communities, but the greatest impact is predicted to impact the most vulnerable communities. It is imperative that all is done to mitigate climate change.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

- The impacts of climate change are predicted to impact on all communities, but the greatest impact is predicted to impact the most vulnerable communities. It is imperative that all is done to mitigate climate change.

3. Environmental

- The key driver for the Councils' Climate Emergency Declaration and commitment towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030, is avert the predicted catastrophic impacts of climate change on the environment, economy and communities.

4. Governance

- Addressing the impacts of climate change is a key commitment within *Platforms for Our Places: Going Further 2020-22 and Sustainable AW 2020-23*.



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Scrutiny review of Climate Change issues

Report by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of a scrutiny review of climate change issues in Adur and Worthing which has looked at how Adur and Worthing Councils (the Councils) are implementing the aims of the Adur & Worthing Sustainability Framework including the Adur & Worthing Carbon Reduction Plan which is seeking carbon neutrality for the Councils by 2030 and also the plans to develop and inform future policy in a climate change strategy.
- 1.2 The scrutiny review has been undertaken by a Working Group of the Adur & Worthing Councils Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC).
- 1.3 The aim of the review has been to scrutinise climate change issues to help the Councils protect and improve the environment in Adur & Worthing and also help combat some of the biggest environmental issues of time including climate change, biodiversity loss, energy efficient developments, clean energy production and storage and the impact of transport on poor air quality, water efficiency, water quality and waste reduction.
- 1.4 The review has coincided with the Councils agreeing a Carbon Reduction Plan which aims for the Councils to be carbon neutral by 2030, plans by the Councils to deliver the aims of the Sustainability Framework including holding a Climate Assembly and the Zero 2030 Conference held in March 2020, therefore, the Working Group hopes that the review findings can feed into the processes for these issues and help the Councils deliver the aims of the Framework and Carbon Neutrality whilst also publishing a public benchmark and demonstrating progress against it.

2.0 Climate Change - Scope and Terms of Reference for the review

- 2.1 Climate change has been described as a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. Since this definition has emerged

Local Councils across the United Kingdom have moved to declare a Climate Emergency in their areas. On 9 July 2019 Adur & Worthing Councils declared a Climate Emergency which means that the Councils recognise that predicted global warming threatens future communities, populations, biodiversity and economies and that measures currently being taken are not enough to stop global warming and limit the changes predicted to be brought by it. The Councils have also committed to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

- 2.2 The Working Group has also recognised and agreed the urgent need that the climate emergency should be addressed and climate action taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts, including: climate-related hazards integrating climate change measures into local and national policies, strategies and planning; and improving education.
- 2.3 In order to try and address the issues connected with climate change, the Scrutiny Working Group agreed the following terms of reference and scope for the review:-
- (i) To receive a briefing on climate change issues to enable Members to be better informed to fully scrutinise the issues;
 - (ii) To scrutinise the Adur & Worthing Carbon Neutral Plan and review how the Councils are implementing the Carbon Neutral Plan aims by 2030. This should be done also using available best practice and information available from other Councils on this issue;
 - (iii) To scrutinise the processes and outcomes of the proposed Adur & Worthing Climate Change Strategy;
 - (iv) To liaise with representatives from the West Sussex Climate Change Task and Finish Group on the outcomes and objectives from that Group to help enhance the scrutiny of Climate Change issues in Adur and Worthing;
 - (v) To lobby Government as appropriate to provide the powers and the resources to make the 2030 target, as set out in the Carbon Neutral Plan, possible; and
 - (vi) To consider if there is a need for any recommendations to be put to the Joint Strategic Committee/relevant Executive Members to help with the implementation of the Adur & Worthing Carbon Neutral Plan and the Adur & Worthing Climate Change Strategy.

3.0 Membership of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Working Group

- 3.1 A Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group was set up by JOSC to undertake the review and the membership of the Working Group was as follows:-

Councillor Catherine Arnold - Adur District Council (Chairman)
Councillor Bob Smytherman - Worthing Borough Council (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Carol Albury - Adur District Council
Councillor Carl Walker - Worthing Borough Council

Co-opted Members were appointed to support the Working Group:
Chrissie Gunter - Adur Green Party
Jo Paul - Worthing Green Party

4.0 Method of the review

- 4.1 The JOSC requested that the Working Group undertake the review as part of the 2019/20 JOSC Work Programme. From the start of the review, the Working Group wanted to ensure that it was briefed on the background to Climate Change in Adur & Worthing to make sure that it fully understood what the Councils were striving to achieve in relation to climate change and the work that was being undertaken working with the communities and local business partners to achieve the aims of the Sustainable Adur & Worthing Framework and subsequent work to help the Councils work towards carbon neutrality by 2030.

- 4.2 The Working Group has held detailed evidence gathering meetings with the following witnesses:-

Rod Thick, Worthing Fair Trade;
Amber Benbow, Greenpeace;
Barbara O'Kelly, Adur Residents Environmental Action Group (AREA);
Heather Godfrey, Independent voice and member of Extinction Rebellion;
Clive Andrews, Shoreham-By-Cycle;
Francesca Iliffe, Strategic Sustainability Manager, Adur & Worthing Councils;
Moira Hayes and Ian Moody, Planning Policy Managers for Adur and

Worthing

respectively;

Councillor Kevin Boram, Senior Advisor to the Cabinet Member for the Environment, West Sussex County Council; and
Darryl Hemmings, Transport, Planning and Policy Manager, West Sussex County Council

Written evidence was also supplied by Lloyd Harris, Safety and Resilience Manager, Adur & Worthing Councils

5.0 Findings and Proposals

5.1 The Working Group has received good evidence from the witnesses on climate change in general, on how the Councils can look to work with the communities to achieve the aims of the carbon neutral plan and the Adur & Worthing Sustainable framework.

5.2 Evidence gathered from the witnesses and the Adur and Worthing Councils approach to delivering climate change

5.3 In December 2019, March, April and May 2020, to begin the evidence gathering part of the review, the Working Group received evidence from the witnesses referred to above in Paragraph 4.2 of this report. This included hearing from Francesca Iliffe, Adur & Worthing Councils Strategic Sustainability Manager, on progress in delivering the climate change initiatives. This briefing also included an appraisal of the 'Zero 2030' Community led conference held on 4 March. The Working Group was advised that the Councils had produced a Carbon Neutral Plan in December 2019

[Working towards the 2030 target - Adur & Worthing Councils' Carbon Neutral Plan](#)

The Councils had also approved a refreshed Sustainability Framework in December 2019 [SustainableAW Refresh - increasing ambition and deepening engagement](#) The Sustainability Framework is set out here

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/Media.152062.smxx.pdf>

Key issues raised by the witnesses were as follows:-

- That Fair Trade should be promoted on the Council website.
- There was not enough in the Adur and Worthing Sustainability Framework to explain how the relevant information will be disseminated to the wider audience. The view was that there needed to be some form of more detailed education plan provided for this.
- The Council's vehicles need to be improved for emission control.
- A good anti idling campaign was needed to be provided around schools and at level crossings.
- Bus routes needed to be with electric vehicles and with routes that encourage people to stop using cars and the Councils should ensure that more greenspace is provided in new developments.
- There should be more tree planting and shops to be required to pick up litter outside of their premises.
- Children's playgrounds to be provided near all new developments.
- The communities should be fully involved in the delivery of the Carbon Neutral Plan and the Sustainability Framework. There was a need to ensure that there is more community consultation, engagement and promotion about sustainability and that there is more accessible information about sustainability.

- That when letting contracts, the Councils should consider choosing companies that demonstrated through their supply chain that they have a good carbon reduction record.
- That the Councils make more use of the green areas for rewilding and exploit any opportunity for nature to be re-established whenever a site is cleared.
- That the District, Borough and County Councils needed to work better together in tackling climate change and there was a need for smaller, more immediate spending on selected small inexpensive improvements that will bring immediate benefit.
- Local Plans, Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP), Sustainable Planning documents (SPD's) and air quality mitigation statements need to be good quality and continue to address sustainability issues. They need to contain 'requirement' type language where possible to support radical carbon reduction.
- Planning enforcement teams to ensure that planning conditions relating to sustainability are tightly enforced. Evidence provided indicated that they are not. Use Section 106 funding to appoint extra enforcement staff?
- County Council to be encouraged to implement projects quickly to speed up sustainability. The view was that the County Council are sometimes too slow in delivering Highway projects for example.
- That the revised West Sussex Transport Plan and any applications for infrastructure funding should include a weighting in favour of carbon reduction objectives. At present the Plan has no such weighting in place.

5.4 As part of the evidence gathering for the review, the Working Group was also informed about the work and consultations undertaken by the West Sussex County Council to develop a Climate Change Strategy for 2020 - 2030 (Subsequently agreed in July 2020). The County Council had set up a Climate Change Advisory Group to advise on the preparation of a climate change strategy to deliver action for climate change and evidence was provided by Councillor Kevin Boram of West Sussex County Council who was Chairman of the Group and Senior Advisor to the Cabinet Member for the Environment. The Working Group notes this work but has made comments on the Strategy itself and the consultation undertaken, as part of the recommendations later on in this report.

5.5 The Working Group was also provided with information on the content of the West Sussex Transport Plan and the proposed consultation on the review of the Plan which was planned for 2021/2022.

5.6 Future work on Climate Change

5.7 Climate change measures being undertaken by the Councils to work towards carbon neutrality by 2030 have been moving at pace since the review began and the Working Group have been kept up to date on the progress with this work. The Working Group has welcomed this work covering the following issues:-

- Plans to create a Climate Assembly from Autumn 2020 as an approach to improve public engagement in climate change and help inform future policy and action locally including the development of a Climate Change Strategy based on the outcomes - Invitations are being sent to local residents inviting them to apply to take part in the Assembly <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/news/pr20-087.html> ;
- Production of an online SustainableAW magazine (first edition July 2020) to help showcase and inform the communities about local sustainable activity and how they can get involved and also help them understand the scale and urgency of the issues. <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/sustainable-aw-magazine/>

6.0 Conclusions and recommendations

- 6.1 The Working Group would like to thank Officers and the witnesses for their support and invaluable contributions into this review. The Working Group is pleased that there is work being undertaken by the Councils to address climate change, however, some strong recommendations have been identified to help the Councils and other partners tackle climate change which the Working Group would like to put to the Joint Strategic Committee for review to help the Councils keep on course to meet the aims of Sustainable Adur & Worthing and to help the Councils tackle some of the biggest environmental issues of our time.
- 6.2 A large part of this review and the evidence gathered has taken place during the ‘lockdown’ of the Covid-19 pandemic and some of the findings look at ways to change how the Councils and other partners operate and can become more climate resilient and learn from the pandemic to adapt to change and adopt new behaviours. The recommendations focus on the need for the Councils to review what else is being done to tackle climate change across West Sussex, the need to ensure that the communities in Adur and Worthing are fully briefed on the aims of Sustainable Adur & Worthing, that the Councils drive towards sustainable development and further ways for large scale carbon emissions reduction.
- 6.3 The Working Group recognises that there will need to be continued scrutiny and is recommending that it continues to meet to undertake this Scrutiny and oversight. The Working Group makes no apologies for the number of recommendations which it considers are needed and will help complement the detailed approach to climate change and the many factors and variables already included in the Adur & Worthing Sustainability framework that identify carbon reduction.

7.0 Recommendations

Adur & Worthing Councils

7.1 That Adur and Worthing Councils monitor the work being undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and ensure that:-

- **The aims of the Adur & Worthing Sustainability framework and the delivery of the Carbon Neutral Plan with a baseline carbon reduction figure are more accessible and communicated via the Councils website in a proactive manner allowing more engagement with the communities about promotion of sustainability.**
- **A carbon reduction baseline figure is published on the Councils website;**
- **Public update reports are provided on this work at regular intervals.**
- **The Fair Trade Directory is published on the Councils website.**

Reason - To ensure that the Councils and the communities are kept informed of the progress. The Communities need to be closely involved in the delivery of the Carbon Neutral Plan and the Sustainability framework and to be informed of its progress to ensure better community engagement. These extra requirements will ensure community involvement, transparency and demonstrate clear progress towards achieving carbon reductions.

7.2 That Adur & Worthing Councils and West Sussex County Council be urged to review work on Climate change being undertaken by other Local Authorities that are more advanced in their work and to assess how they have created firm action plans to deal with the issues;

Reason - To assess and learn how other Local Authorities across the United Kingdom are approaching the review of Climate Change with a view to learning from and adopting best practice.

7.3 That Adur District Council ensures that energy efficiency retrofitting of Adur Homes properties is undertaken and that there is a realistic and ambitious timeframe set for this;

Reason - To help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of the buildings and help reduce overall energy bills for tenants and leaseholders.

7.4 That the Councils should consider only letting contracts to companies that have a good carbon reduction record identified in their supply chain. The Councils should adopt a local green procurement Strategy and produce a sustainability code of practice for companies. The Councils should also encourage this good practice to be extended to all other businesses operating in Adur and Worthing.

Reason - To help with overall carbon reduction and encouraging good business practice by other local businesses and supporting these local businesses who operate these practices.

- 7.5 That the Councils ensure that the Adur and Worthing Local Plans are of a good quality and continue to address sustainability. The Local Plans also should contain 'requirement' type language rather than 'encouragement' type language where possible and also should require biodiversity gain and carbon reduction. There should also be a Planning sustainability checklist. Relevant Officers are advised to ensure that recommendations for Planning applications to be considered by the Adur & Worthing Planning Committees should have regard to the requirements of the Adur & Worthing Local Plans, the Joint Area Action Plan and the AW Sustainability framework. Officers should also be requested to change the current Validation requirements to require applicants to submit a carbon reduction statement for developments of 11 dwellings or more (with appropriate targets).**

Reason - To help improve the sustainability standards of development to improve quality of life in the areas, help reduce carbon and complement the aims of the Councils in striving towards climate change. To engage with the developers at an early stage regarding the principles of energy efficiency.

- 7.6 That JOSC agree to keep the JOSC Climate Change Working Group constituted to monitor the progress with the actions recommended and report back to JOSC at regular intervals to ensure regular oversight and scrutiny is also taking place.**

Reason - To ensure that progress in delivering the climate change actions is being monitored and scrutinised.

- 7.7 That the Councils allocate additional funding to be used for relevant campaigns to help promote alternatives to car use, to help reduce vehicle emissions and help assist in the overall aim for better air quality.**

Reason - To help promote alternatives to car use and improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

West Sussex County Council

- 7.8 That West Sussex County Council be requested to ensure that the proposed review of the West Sussex Transport Plan should encourage modal shift and be transformative.**

This modal shift should involve the introduction of a series of innovative measures to allow for:-

- **Long term cycle infrastructure, including segregated cycle lanes and electric charging points;**
- **Sustainable Transport hubs - Where active travel, public and sustainable modes of transport can interchange; and**
- **Electric vehicle fleet, infrastructure and charging points**

Reason - To help reduce vehicles and road traffic congestion and move away from car based travel through major investment in public transport, walking and cycling, radically reduce all emissions by 45%, to help make roads more environmentally friendly, improved air quality to help improve cycling safety and to ensure safer public health and fitness for Adur and Worthing residents engendering safe and improved cycling and walking infrastructure.

7.9 That the work of West Sussex County Council in agreeing a West Sussex Climate Strategy be noted but that the Working Group considers that the West Sussex Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030 is very abstract and there is a lack of urgency and tangible targets which means that there are some gaps between the Strategy and the goals. It is considered that West Sussex County Council should review how it consults with experts when drafting Strategy documents of this kind in the future.

Reason - To make West Sussex County Council aware of its concerns about the Strategy and the lack of consultation which was explained to the Working Group by some of the consultees.

Other partners

7.10 That in 12 months or so, all West Sussex District and Borough Councils be asked to consider setting up a Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to review how all the Councils are dealing with Climate Change issues. This Working Group should also focus on the proposed review of the West Sussex Transport Plan and consider recommending changes to the way the Transport infrastructure investment bids are considered to ensure that the bids consider environmental objectives on an equal footing to economic objectives, which does not currently happen.

Reason - This will enable all of those Councils to review the current position on climate change strategy and action across West Sussex and to assess if anything further needs to be done to combat climate change at a County level. It would also help in overall collaboration on this issue and help ensure that consideration is given in the review of the Transport Plan to applying environmental climate change objectives when considering new transport infrastructure schemes.

**Local Government Act 1972
Background Papers:**

None

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