



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with information on the work of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (A&WSCP) in order for JOSC to scrutinise the work of the A&WSCP and interview the Executive Members for Health and Wellbeing who represent the Councils on the Partnership.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC is asked to review the work of the A&WSCP and question the Executive Members for Health & Wellbeing on the work being undertaken by the Partnership.

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2020/21, JOSC have agreed to scrutinise the work of the A&WSCP.
- 3.2 Councillors Kevin Boram and Val Turner will be present to speak on the work of the A&WSCP and JOSC will have the opportunity to question them.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 JOSC has the responsibility under the Police and Justice Act 2006 to scrutinise crime and disorder and the work of the A&WSCP. As part of its crime and disorder scrutiny role, JOSC are asked to consider the role of the A&WSCP. The Committee are entitled to ask for further investigation into items where they may not be satisfied with the progress.
- 4.2 The Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership vision is to reduce crime and disorder through effective multi-agency working to make Adur and Worthing a safer place to live, work and visit. Safer Communities is also about how safe people feel in their own communities and how it is possible to make a real difference by working together to help cut crime and its causes and the fear of crime.
- 4.3 The A&WSCP has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder. The Partnership includes representatives from a range of agencies:-
 - Adur & Worthing Councils
 - Sussex Police
 - Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner PCC (Previously the Sussex Police Authority)
 - West Sussex County Council
 - West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
 - NHS West Sussex
 - Sussex Probation

Other partners contribute to the work including organisations from the the voluntary sector, local businesses and members of the community.

- 4.4 The Safer Communities Partnership Plan is currently being rewritten but will direct and focus the work being undertaken and identifies key priorities in helping to reduce crime and disorder in Adur and Worthing. The current priorities are:-

Anti social behaviour - with particular regard to youth disorder

Alcohol, drugs and substance misuse - with particular regard for young people and the street drinking community

Harm reduction - To tackle domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, hate crime and support vulnerable victims

Safer roads - To reduce road traffic deaths, serious injuries and anti social driving

Priority crime - (including violent crime; theft (other); burglary other than dwelling; and arsons) to reduce the levels of crime and disorder

These priorities are set by looking at local crime and incident data in conjunction with public consultation.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSOC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, relevant Officers and Executive Members have been consulted on the contents of 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 Under the relevant Sections of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Councils have authority to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny and scrutinise the work of the Safer Communities Partnership.

Background Papers

Information on the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership contained on the Adur & Worthing Councils website

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/safer-communities/safer-communities-partnership/>

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. Improved community safety and a reduction in crime and disorder issues can lead to improved social value for local residents and communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

The Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder and make Adur & Worthing a safer place. Constructive Scrutiny of the work of the Partnership will help in achieving that vision.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no issues identified.

4. Governance

Matter considered. Under the relevant Sections of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Councils have authority to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny and scrutinise the work of the Safer Communities Partnership.