



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2021/22

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and 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 2020/21. The report also contains a draft JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22 for consideration.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That JOSC note the progress in delivering the JOSC Work Programme for 2020/21;
- 2.2 That JOSC consider and confirm the draft JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22;
- 2.3 That JOSC consider the attached Scrutiny request; and
- 2.4 That the proposed JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22 be reported to the Council meetings in April 2021 for approval.

3. Context

- 3.1 The current JOSC Work Programme for 2020/21 has been reviewed at each meeting during the Municipal Year. A copy of the 2020/21 Work Programme is attached at Appendix A to this report which provides analysis of the changes made to the Work Programme during 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. This year it is proposed that the Work Programme for 2021/22 should be reported to the Councils at the April 2021 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 reported mid year and for 21/22 this will be done in December 2021.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Committee has received regular update reports on the implementation of the Work Programme at each meeting throughout the Municipal Year with the last of these being on 28 January 2021. A copy of the 2020/21 Work Programme is attached at Appendix A to this report for reference.
- 4.2 A draft Work Programme for 2021/22 has now been produced for the Committee to consider which is set out in the Appendix B to this report. 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. Also attached at Appendix C to the report is a Scrutiny request for JOSC to consider.
- 4.3 The Committee is requested to consider the draft Work Programme, the Scrutiny request and consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme. For 2021/22 it is once again proposed that JOSC should hold individual interviews with the Executive Members which enable JOSC to hold the Executive Members to account and review their work and decisions. It is also proposed that JOSC should receive regular twice yearly update reports from the Chief Executive on the delivery of the aims and commitments set out in the strategic vision 'Platforms for our Places: Going Further 2020 - 2022' in September 2021 and March 2022. These reports

enable JOSC to hold the Chief Executive to account and monitor the progress of the delivery of this important strategic vision.

- 4.4 2020/21 has been like no other Municipal Year in memory. Moving forward, as the country begins to emerge from 'Lockdowns' and starts to reopen the various strands of society and the economy, following the Government's road map to recovery [Covid-19 response- Spring 2021](#) , JOSC may also want to consider reviewing progress on the delivery of services that have been impacted by Covid-19 and the general impact on the local economy and the Adur and Worthing communities. This could include reviewing the work which the Councils are undertaking to help the communities thrive, prosper, be healthy and resilient during and after the Covid-19 pandemic as set out in ['And Then' document - Bouncing back in post pandemic Adur and Worthing](#)
- 4.5 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.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairmen/Vice Chairmen and the Councils Leadership Team have been consulted on the contents of the draft Work Programme.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report, however, some items contained in the Work Programme may have financial implications.

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 & 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 and provide social value.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

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

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. Some issues being scrutinised may relate to environmental and natural resources issues.

4. Governance

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.