



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 dispatch of the agenda for the last Ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the Executive Members Decisions webpage

Leader

Executive Member for Regeneration

Executive Member for Resources

W/RES/010/20-21	Irrecoverable Debts - Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates
JAW/021/20-21	Disposal of Former Cemetery Lodge Shoreham, Mill Lane Cemetery
JAW/025/20-21	Mutual Agreement
JAW/026/20-21	Surrender of land at Shepherd's Mead/Long Meadow & Disposal of land at Cote Street
JAW/028/20-21	Asbestos Removal from the Town Hall

Executive Member for Customer Services

JAW/022/20-21	Fire Safety Works to General Needs Blocks of Flats
JAW/023/20-21	Collaboration Agreement to deliver Housing Related Support

Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services

Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

JAW/027/20-21	Out of Hours Noise/Nuisance Contract renewal
JAW/029/20-21	Adur and Worthing Community Transport Grants Allocation of funds for 2020/21
JAW/030/20-21	Adur Community Grants

B. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 2 March 2021

Items related to Adur District Council are not reproduced on this agenda.

Full details can be found [by clicking on this link](#)

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

JSC/126/20-21 3rd Revenue Budget Monitoring Report (Q3)

The report updated the Joint Strategic Committee with the latest expenditure and income projections for each Council in the current financial year 2020/21, compared to the Revenue Budget approved by both Councils in February. Whilst the 'spend to date' would be the position as at 31st December 2020, the forecast position would reflect the latest information available to ensure an up-to-date forecast was presented.

The Coronavirus pandemic had had a significant impact on the financial performance of the Councils with the pressure of both additional expenditure and reduced revenue income. Those financial strains were reflected in the quarter 3 outturn projection for the 2020/21 financial year with net operational budget overspends predicted of £1,157,000 in Adur and £3,914,000 in Worthing. The government had recognised this pressure and provided funding to local authorities in the form of grants and the Income Guarantee Scheme. After allowance for the offsetting of this support funding it was currently estimated that the outturn position would be a net underspend of £223,000 in Adur and £13,000 in Worthing. A breakdown was set out in section 4.4 of the report.

Members expressed their support for the proposals.

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.

JSC/127/20-21 3rd Quarter Capital Investment Programme & Projects Monitoring 2020/21

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & 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 on the progress made on the 2020/21 Capital Investment Programmes for Adur District Council, Worthing Borough

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

A Member requested updates in relation to the Highdown, Pier and Brooklands projects. Officers confirmed that the works at Highdown were nearing completion and it was anticipated that the gardens would open in August 2021; sprinkler works were underway at the Pier and the operator was hoping to hit some of the summer season and there had been a small delay with the delivery of Brooklands due to staffing changes overseeing the project. However, it was anticipated that the Council would go out to tender later in the year and an update report be brought to the Committee at that time.

A Member sought an update on the situation with Broadwater Green and Officers agreed to provide a written response following the meeting.

The Committee acknowledged that a number of major projects were on track and thanked officers for all of their efforts.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee:

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 7.2.1 and Appendix 4.
- ii) approved the increase in the Disabled Facilities Grants Budget funded from additional Communities and Local Government Better Care Fund in line with anticipated grant allocations in 2020/21 as detailed in paragraph 7.3.2.
- iii) approved the addition of the energy efficiency schemes funded by Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant to the 2021/22 Capital Investment Programme as detailed in paragraph 7.3.3.

JSC/128/20-21 Carbon Neutral 2030 - Worthing Heat Network

The report set out the significant progress being made to deliver a flagship heat decarbonisation scheme in the heart of Worthing. Using technology well proven in Europe, the Worthing Heat Network would be one of the very first of its kind in the UK, cost effectively delivering against the Councils' 2030 carbon neutral target, in a large scale scheme already well supported by BEIS, and strongly aligned to national government ambitions in the lead up to COP 26.

The scheme proposed to deliver a heat network that would enable heat decarbonisation at scale not just for 8 council-owned existing buildings (accommodating staff from both councils), but also for other public sector buildings (WSCC, MoJ, NHS, Police) along with major development sites including the Worthing Integrated Care Centre, Union Place and Teville Gate.

Adur & Worthing Councils, in leading the development of such scalable infrastructure, would provide a platform for cost effective decarbonisation of heat for multiple organisations, providing the leadership needed to help accelerate reductions in area-wide carbon emissions. Phase 1 of the network was expected to save 3,000 tonnes CO2 each year, supporting the shared challenge to become carbon neutral for the council and the area.

The report sought approval from Joint Strategic Committee to progress applications to the Heat Network Delivery Unit and the Heat Network Investment Programme in April 2021 for circa £4m, with further reports to JSC in September 2021 (approval to procure) and April 2022 (concessionaire contract award).

The feasibility of delivering a Worthing Heat Network was well progressed. The project had attracted £300,000 funding from the Government through the Department of Business Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), its Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) and the Greater South East Energy Hub. Expert technical, commercial and economic support had been provided by BEIS who had recommended the project proceed to submit a funding bid to the Government's Heat Network Investment Programme (HNIP) for Commercialisation and Construction.

The proposed primary heat source was extraction of waste heat via a heat pump from the Worthing mains sewer. This zero carbon solution offered value for money when compared to individual building-level heat pump solutions, and would constitute one of the first innovations of its kind in England, though a successful project operated in Scotland and the technology was well used in Europe.

The report updated Members on work undertaken since December 2019. The proposed next steps for the Worthing Heat Network were set out at Section 6 . Members approval was sought to continue working with BEIS, consultants and stakeholders to finalise the draft Outline Business Case (OBC); submit a funding bid to the HNIP for Commercialisation and Construction; and if successful to undertake a procurement process for a private sector provider to deliver the Worthing Heat Network under a finance, design, build, operate and manage Concession Contract.

Members considered the project chart outlined in section 6.5 of the report and noted that reports would be brought back to update the Committee at key stages of the project. Consideration was also given to how the project would connect with the Worthing Integrated Care Centre (WICC) project and the capacity of the scheme to be extended.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee

1. Noted the good progress made to date with the feasibility work on the Worthing Heat Network and to approve the recommendations set out below to enable project development proceed to the next stage:-
2. Agreed to develop and submit a funding bid to the Heat Network Investment Programme (HNIP, BEIS) for finance to support the Commercialisation & Construction of the heat network, to be submitted on April 2nd 2021; and
3. Agreed to submit a further funding application to the Heat Network Delivery Unit (BEIS), late April 2021, for finance to develop the Full Business Case and prepare a technical specification to support the proposed procurement process should the HNIP bid be successful; and
4. Approved the allocation of £50,000 match funding by the Councils to support the HNDU bid from the Councils reserves as follows:
 - Adur District Council £4,760
 - Worthing Borough Council £45,230
5. Delegated authority to the Director of Digital, Sustainability and Resources to accept any grant funding to be received into the Council's budget for allocation to development of the heat network project; and to enter into any necessary consultancy contracts arising from the expenditure of the approved budget;
6. In anticipation of securing the HNIP Funding, authorised the Director of Digital, Sustainability and Resources to commence a two staged procurement exercise to establish the final delivery route, model and costs; and
7. Requested a further report back to Members on the conclusion of the procurement process, to approve the Final Business Case and final costs; seeking approval for the proposed approach to fund the connection fees and heat supply tariffs for council owned buildings.

C. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 30 March 2021

Items related to Adur District Council are not reproduced on this agenda.

Full details can be found [by clicking on this link](#)

The matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:-

JSC/135/20-21 Enabling and encouraging an Active Adur and Worthing

The report provided an update on the progress of the Activities Strategy, an overview of work already happening across the Councils to enable and encourage physical activity across both Adur and Worthing and detailed what was being experimented with, across the Councils, to encourage people to be active.

Members discussed the promotion of cycling across Adur and Worthing and how this was being taken forward by the Sussex-wide LCWIP, led by West Sussex County Council, alongside the internally focussed Travel Action Plan and the community-wide Walking and Cycling Action Group.

Consideration was also given to 'Active Park' and officers agreed to provide a list of activities taking place across parks following the meeting.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee noted the content of the report and strategically supported the approach to enabling and encouraging the Councils' place, businesses and communities to be more active.

JSC/137/20-21 Council Tax Support Scheme - Additional discretionary discounts

The report informed members that the Councils received, as part of the local government finance settlement, Council Tax Support Grant which was intended to compensate Councils for income lost due to the rise in Council Tax Support (CTS) claimants throughout the pandemic and to give Councils an opportunity to award additional discounts.

The report sought approval to replicate the additional covid related support given to working age CTS claimants in 2020/21 of an additional council tax discount of up to £150.00 per household.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee approved an additional discretionary discount of up to £150.00 per household for working age claimants in line with the principles detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

Local Government Act 1972

Background papers

(Reports and decisions are available on the Council's website or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports contain exempt information and therefore are not fully published on the website)

Councillor Daniel Humphreys
Leader of the Council