

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

JAW/032/20-21 Solar Together Sussex - 2nd Auction

Executive Member for Regeneration

JAW/001/21-22 Open Space Standards

Executive Member for Resources

W/RES/003/21-22 Irrecoverable Debts – overpaid Housing Benefit

Executive Member for Customer Services

JAW/033/20-21 Call Centre Contract for Community Alarm

W/CSE/001/21-22 Connaught Ventilation Scheme

JAW/002/21-22 Refurbishment Scheme at 7-9 Albion Street

Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services

JAW/031/20-21 Arboriculture Provision Contract

JAW/034/20-21 Award of Microsoft Enterprise Licence Agreement

Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

B. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 8 June 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/005/21-22 Covid Funding and use of the Chief Executive's Urgency Powers

The report outlined how Adur and Worthing Councils had applied for and subsequently been awarded a very significant grant allocation from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). This was a ring-fenced fund focusing on delivering extensive and much needed public health outcomes for Adur and Worthing Residents in relation to Covid-19. In addition, the councils applied for Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) and had been awarded further funds that were ring fenced for delivery of rough sleeper services, support and accommodation with an allocation to support any surges in accommodation demand.

The report reflected the necessity for responsive and fast moving public service responses during the pandemic the funding awarded had to be fully spent by 31st March 2022. To ensure that the Councils could meet this challenging timescale, the Chief Executive had been called upon to use his powers to make an urgent decision and this report advised Members of the Executive of the executive decisions made, and asked for their endorsement of the decision.

Members welcomed the funding and wished to place on record the Committee's thanks to Officers for the programme of work outlined.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Daniel Humphreys, seconded by Councillor Neil Parkin and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee noted the contents of the report and endorsed the decisions made by the Chief Executive.

JSC/006/21-22 Sussex Bay: Restoring our marine and estuarine habitats, supporting our coastal communities

The report set out a long term vision for estuarine, coastal and marine nature restoration at scale in Sussex, aimed at attracting investment into various "blue" habitats, and supporting revitalised, and sustainable coastal industries, enhanced recreation opportunities and ecotourism.

The report also sought support for the Sussex Bay concept and the next stage of development work.

The Committee noted that a report would be presented at its July meeting providing a progress update across the whole SustainableAW programme. This would include an update on the Shepherds Mead restoration project, the Worthing Heat Network and the many smaller projects led by the councils and also communities, that demonstrated a wide ranging response to the climate and biodiversity crisis in its neighbourhoods.

Consideration was given to the funding of the project, kelp certification, measuring biomass in the local area and the prevention of seaweed deposits on the beach.

Members welcomed the report and expressed their support for the innovative proposals.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Daniel Humphreys, seconded by Councillor Emma Evans and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee :

- 2.1. Endorsed the Sussex Bay approach to build a delivery model for marine, coastal and estuarine habitat restoration at scale, creating the exciting prospect of Sussex Bay as a “destination” and new economic opportunity.
- 2.2. Noted that by developing Sussex Bay, Adur & Worthing Councils had an opportunity to create local carbon offsetting opportunities for multiple organisations, while meeting its own carbon neutral 2030 target through blue carbon offsetting.
- 2.3. Noted the excellent progress on a natural capital seabed lease with The Crown Estate, the first of its kind in the UK, and agreed to the release of £50k of project development funds (from existing budgets) to commence the legal and financial work to set up a trial kelp blue carbon investment product.
- 2.4. Noted the £75k of funds already offered by a local organisation seeking carbon offsetting options (agreement in process), and the financial support committed by the Blue Marine Foundation for the September launch event, circa £10k.
- 2.5. Approved a budget virement of £85,000 to create funding for the project part funded from within existing budgets and part funded from external funding
- 2.6. Requested, subject to progress, a report as early as the July JSC, recommending approval for incorporation of a new legal entity, Sussex Bay.

C. Decisions taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 13 July 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:-

Decisions will be published following publication of the minutes of the Joint Strategic Committee meeting on the 13 July 2021.

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