



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 despatch of the agenda for the last ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the [Executive Members Decisions webpage](#) .

Leader

LDR/009/20-21	Sompting Parish Neighbourhood Plan
LDR/001/21-22	Representing the Council in the Community - appointments to outside organisations
JAW/032/20-21	Solar Together Sussex - 2nd Auction

Executive Member for Regeneration

JAW/001/21-22	Open Space Standards
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Executive Member for Resources

JAW/034/20-21	Award of Microsoft Enterprise Licence Agreement
JAW/003/21-22	Voluntary Redundancy
RES/002/21-22	Irrecoverable Debts – overpaid Housing Benefit

Executive Member for Customer Services

JAW/033/20-21	Call Centre Contract for Community Alarm
JAW/002/21-22	Refurbishment Scheme at 7-9 Albion Street

Executive Member for the Environment

JAW/031/20-21	Arboriculture Provision Contract
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Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

B. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 8 June 2021

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 it's 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. Joint Strategic Committee - 13 July 2021

JSC/012/21-22 “Platforms for our Places: Going Further” 6 Month Progress Report for January to June 2021.

“Platforms for our Places: Going Further” was the Councils’ ambitious strategic programme designed to help create the healthy, prosperous and well connected communities its residents and businesses had told the Councils they wanted to see.

This was an updated report to the Joint Strategic Committee describing the strong progress made by the Councils in achieving those commitments and ambitions over the past 6 months.

The report reflected the Councils’ shift from pandemic response and reflected the impact of the pandemic on the Platforms ambitions. Whilst progress against some of the commitments had slowed because of the pandemic, most were on track. The impact of the pandemic on other commitments had enabled them to develop further and faster (for example some economic interventions) than might otherwise have been the case. The report also picked up progress against the “And Then ...” objectives (Adur & Worthing Councils’ initial response to the easing of the first national lockdown).

Looking forward, the Councils would be embedding the lessons it had learned from the pandemic and the opportunities it had given the Councils to accelerate some of its strategic ambitions into the next phase of work on the Platforms strategy.

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

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee considered and noted the 6 months progress report on the implementation of “Platforms for our Places: Going Further” over the period January to June 2021 and agreed to refer the report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

JSC/017/21-22 Proactive interventions to support low income residents

In February 2021, the Director for Communities presented a Report titled “Covid Benefit Measures impact on Vulnerable Residents” to the Joint Strategic Committee. That report described the financial impact of the Covid pandemic on the councils’ more financially vulnerable residents, and set out how, through the proactive use of data, the councils planned to mitigate that impact.

Since March 2021, the Councils had developed and tested a simple pathway for providing proactive support to residents that its data told it was experiencing financial

hardship. The Councils' focus for the next six months would be to explore how it could undertake that work on a larger scale.

The report was therefore an update report to set out progress made since the February 2021 JSC report and to outline next steps.

Members welcomed the report, endorsing the power of data to target what we know to the delivery of key services.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Kevin Boram seconded by Councillor Heather Mercer and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee received and acknowledged the report and requested that the Director for Communities report back in 6 months as to progress on the roadmap / next steps outlined in the paper.

JSC/018/21-22 Treatment of income from War Pensions in the calculation of Housing Benefit

Members were asked to reconfirm that war pensions should be fully disregarded as a source of income when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Emma Evans seconded by Councillor Heather Mercer and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee

- a. Noted the content of this report; and
- b. agreed that the war pensions described in paragraph 4.6 of the report should continue to be fully disregarded as a source of income by both Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council when claims for Housing Benefits are assessed.

JSC/019/21-22 SustainableAW update on progress and new targets for councils and community

The report updated the Committee on progress made around the successful implementation of SustainableAW 2020-23, the councils' shared framework for action on sustainability, and presented members with an improved version of SustainableAW for the 2021-23 period. This version introduced new shared actions

put forward by the wider community of groups, organisations, business and landowners. It also had new actions put forward by the councils.

The new actions reflected the extraordinary and coordinated level of activity across the Councils' communities on climate and ecology which would act as a showcase for Adur & Worthing as a hub of excellent practice, and would assist in increasing engagement and momentum. It followed an extensive period of engagement with council officers and the wider community, with over 60 actions being put forward and over 200 organisations involved in the process.

The new plan pulled together many of the actions that were put forward at the successful community-led Zero 2030 Climate Conference (March 2020) and the Food, Land & Learning event (September 2019).

The plan also helped to address many of the eighteen recommendations which were put forward at the Adur & Worthing Climate Assembly. This was an important deliberative democracy process that the councils engaged in to listen to and understand the views of local residents towards climate change.

Approval was being sought from members to adopt the new Draft SustainableAW 2021-23, a shared action plan between council and community, which showcased much of the important climate and nature-related work going on across Adur and Worthing.

SustainableAW was intended to provide a framework to address the crisis in natural ecosystems and the Climate Emergency declared by members at the Joint Strategic Committee on 9 July 2019.

To address the Climate Emergency, greater collaboration on climate action was proposed through enhanced engagement with community, business and public sector partners; developing joint ownership of a refined SustainableAW plan; and creating clearer methods of joint working.

A member asked a question about how this work was being communicated to local residents. Officers advised that information was available on the Councils' website and that the Sustainable AW Magazine had been designed to celebrate the work undertaken and tell the story.

The Committee welcomed the proposals and thanked the team for all of their work.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Daniel Humphreys seconded by Councillor Neil Parkin and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee :

- 2.1. Noted the success of SustainableAW 2020-2023;

- 2.2. Approved the adoption of SustainableAW 2021-23;
- 2.3. Approved a report being brought back to Joint Strategic Committee in autumn 2022 with an update on progress;
- 2.4. Approved the referral of the report to the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 15 July 2021 for noting.

JSC/020/21-22 Bike share - progressing an Adur & Worthing scheme

The report noted that progress had been made on the strategic opportunity for Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils to introduce a large scale bike and e-bike share scheme to Adur and Worthing through Brighton & Hove City Council's new BTN Bikeshare Procurement Framework.

This presented the opportunity to benefit from one of the most successful bike share schemes in the UK outside London, which could transform the way local people travel; open cycling to a wider audience; help reduce congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions; improve the health of local communities; benefit the visitor economy and increase connectivity across our places.

Adur & Worthing Councils and Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) had worked closely together on procurement specifications and governance arrangements since the approval by Joint Strategic Committee in February 2021 to become party to the BTN Bikeshare Framework.

Brighton & Hove City Council were exploring options to build flexibility into the BTN Bikeshare Operator Framework to facilitate future e-scooter integration into the contract. This could provide some local control of the safety and sustainability of e-scooter rental if integrated into the bike share scheme, while maintaining scheme viability.

This report brought detail of the options appraisal, the funding strategy that had been produced and requested approval to progress to the procurement stage to seek an Operator for an Adur and Worthing scheme in parallel with the Brighton & Hove scheme.

Members welcomed the report and were interested to see how an e-scooter scheme would work in Worthing, acknowledging that both e-scooter legislation and local infrastructure needed to catch up.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Sean McDonald seconded by Councillor Kevin Boram and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee :

- 2.1. Approved that Adur District and Worthing Borough Council proceed to procure a bike share Operator for an Adur and Worthing scheme, using call off contracts from the Brighton & Hove City Council Framework; noting that a report would be brought back to Joint Strategic Committee in December following the outcome of the procurement process to approve the award to the successful operator.
- 2.2. Noted the proposed finance strategy for funding bike share, subject to final approval at Committee in December 2021; and noted the indicative map of hub locations.
- 2.3. Delegated authority to the Director of Digital, Sustainability & Resources in consultation with the relevant Executive Members from Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils to approve the inclusion of e-scooters in the call off BTN Bikeshare contract for Adur & Worthing should B&HCC include this option within their Framework

JSC/021/21-22 Major Works Payment Options for Council Leaseholders

The report proposed a new policy on payment options for the Adur District Council homes leaseholders that reflected current best practice.

The report sought approval to consult leaseholders on the Major Works Payment Options Policy.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Carson Albury seconded by Councillor Angus Dunn and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee agreed that Adur District Council consult leaseholders on the proposed Major Works Payment Options Policy.

JSC/022/21-22 Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum Application for Redesignation

A report was taken to the Joint Strategic Committee on 7th July 2020 with regard to an application from the Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum which sought redesignation of the Forum, in order that it might progress a Neighbourhood Plan.

The item was deferred in order that further information be brought to a future meeting. This report both addressed and provided the additional information. The original application was also attached at Appendix 1.

The Committee was advised that if designation was made, no other body or organisation may be designated for this neighbourhood area until that designation expired or was withdrawn.

The Committee welcomed the additional information whilst seeking reassurance in regards to the Forum's governance arrangements. Officers advised that the Forum were committed to holding an AGM within 2 months of redesignation and were very aware that they needed to be clear on governance moving forwards.

Members reaffirmed the importance of good governance and wished to see the Forum demonstrate that they had complied with their governance and constitution before the Council put any officer time or resource into this activity.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Angus Dunn seconded by Councillor Kevin Boram and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee designated the Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

JSC/023/21-22 Ashcroft Sheltered Housing Scheme

The report introduced members to the refurbishment and redevelopment options that had been considered at the vacant sheltered housing block at Ashcroft; updated them on the results of the consultation exercise with residents seeking their comments on these options and sought agreement on the preferred option for redevelopment of the site along with approval of a budget to progress this option.

The recommendations set out in the report were proposed by Councillor Carson Albury seconded by Councillor Emma Evans and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee

- 2.1. Approved the preferred Option A for a New Build at Ashcroft;
- 2.2. Approved the release of a budget of £540,000 from the development programme contingency to enable the project to progress;

- 2.3. Delegated authority to the Head of Major Projects & Investment to enter into all necessary contracts to carry out the matters referred to in clause 2.2;
- 2.4. Noted that a further report would be brought back to JSC in early 2022 following the grant of planning permission and following the completion of the procurement process to present and agree a Full Business Case to deliver the preferred option through to completion of new build properties.

Local Government Act 1972

Background papers

Reports and Record of decisions of various are available on the Council's web site www.adur-worthing.gov.uk or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports may contain exempt information and not fully published on the websites.

Councillor Neil Parkin
Leader of the Council