



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
14 October 2021

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 the progress in implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2021/22 which was confirmed by the Councils in April 2021.

1.2 This report also includes two Scrutiny requests which JOSC is requested to consider relating to Southern Water services and the Worthing Business Improvement District (BID) process.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC note the progress in delivering the JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22 as set out in the Appendix to the report; and

2.2 That JOSC consider the two scrutiny requests attached at Appendix B to this report.

3. Context

3.1 The JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22 was agreed by the Councils in April

2021 and was reviewed by JOSC at its meeting on 16 September 2021. A copy of the latest version of the Work Programme is attached as the Appendix to this report.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Committee will receive regular update reports on the implementation of the Work Programme at each meeting throughout the Municipal Year.
- 4.2 The Committee is requested to review the revised Work Programme and consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme or items to be reviewed.
- 4.3 Additional items may be added to the 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. When considering further items for the Work Programme, consideration should also be given to the capacity of the Committee and resources available.
- 4.4 This report includes two scrutiny requests concerning issues relating to Southern Water services and the Worthing Business Improvement Districts (BID) process. JOSC is requested to consider and decide whether or not the requests should be added to the Work Programme. Details of the requests are set out at Appendix B to the report including the recommendations from the Joint Chairpersons.
- 4.5 Items in the Work Programme for 2021/22 have been produced for the Committee guided by issues that closely align with the Councils' Strategic Objectives included in 'Platforms for our Places: Going Further' and 'And Then' document - 'Bouncing back in post pandemic Adur and Worthing', 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.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairmen/Vice- Chairmen and the Councils Leadership Team have been consulted on the contents of the JOSC 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 the 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 and this will be undertaken in December 2021.

Background Papers

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules
Reports on the Work Programme to the JOSC meeting on 16 September 2021

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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 a Work Programme. 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.