



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
16 March 2022
Agenda Item 16

Key Decision: [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

Referral of Motion on Notice from Worthing Borough Council

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out a motion (attached as Appendix 1) referred from the meeting of Worthing Borough Council on the 22nd February 2022.
- 1.2. Members of the Joint Strategic committee are asked to consider and determine the Motion.
- 1.3. Members can either support the motion and ask for further work to be carried out in this regard, or, members can reject the motion.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion and determine how further work is carried out; or,
- 2.2. That the Joint Strategic Committee reject the motion.

3. Context

- 3.1. At its meeting on the 22nd February 2022, Worthing Borough Council received a motion from Councillor Edward Crouch, seconded by Councillor Hazel Thorpe, details of which can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The motion submitted to Council contained subject matter that is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee, as defined in para 14.4.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it was moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.3 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Joint Strategic Committee, the mover, or the seconder in the absence of the mover, shall be entitled to attend the relevant meeting of the Executive and explain the motion. Councillor Edward Crouch has been made aware that the motion has been referred to this Committee.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Joint Strategic Committee can either support or reject the motion.
- 4.2 Should the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion, then the Committee should ask Officers to prepare a further report on the substantive issues to be presented at a future meeting of the JSC.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There may be direct financial implications in future depending on the course of action the Joint Strategic Committee wishes to take.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under paragraph 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

Motion to Worthing Borough Council on the 22nd February 2022

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Habitat enhancements in new buildings

1. This Council recognises the ecological crisis that threatens the natural world and its causes which include the consequences of climate change. Droughts, fires, floods, storms and heat waves, together with increased urbanisation and pollution have all resulted in significant loss of natural habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife
2. This council recognises that pollinators, such as bees, play an essential role in food production, accounting for up to £440m of added value in UK agriculture, equivalent to 13% of all UK farming income. The bee population has been in alarming decline in recent years due to a number of factors. These include the use of toxic pesticides, herbicides, and the uprooting of vegetation notably of hedges.
3. While natural habitats continue to decline, this Council supports the introduction of enhanced habitat features into the built environment by requiring their inclusion in all new buildings in the borough.
4. Examples of schemes adopted in other local authorities include “bee bricks” which provide ready-made habitat for bees in the form of a masonry brick; and “swift boxes” that are specially designed as nesting spaces for this threatened species.
5. This council requests that the Director for the Economy presents an options report to the next available Joint Strategic Committee meeting to enable a scheme to be adopted and amendments made to the relevant local planning policy document(s)

Proposed: Cllr Edward Crouch, Deputy Leader

Seconded: Cllr Hazel Thorpe

Sources:

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/policy-issues/environmental-sciences/bees>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/safeguarding-species/swiftmapper/are-your-swifts-under-threat/>