



ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
14 July 2022

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Worthing Leader interview

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report sets out background information on the Portfolios of the Worthing Leader to enable the Committee to consider and question the Leader on issues within her portfolio and any high-level strategic issues which the Leader is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee consider any representations from the Leader on the work within her Portfolio and other high-level strategic issues which the Leader is involved in and question the Leader on this and recommend any suggested action or make appropriate comments to the Leader for her consideration.

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2022/23, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) have agreed to interview the Worthing Leader on her priorities for 2022/23.
- 3.2 As part of its fact finding/investigative role, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the roles and responsibilities of the Leader. It is part of the Scrutiny role to fact find/investigate in the form of questions and JOSC is asked to direct questions to the Leader on any high level strategic issues involving the Leader and also issues relating to her portfolio, however, this will not extend to day to day Council matters.
- 3.3 The Committee is entitled to ask for further investigation into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress as described.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Worthing Leader has responsibility for the following:-
- Overall policy and strategy (vision and priorities)
 - City Deal – strategic matters
 - Democratic Services, including committee management
 - Devolution and County liaison lead, including education and highways (Active/sustainable transport, in partnership with Regeneration’s management of transport planning and infrastructure)
 - Electoral Services within the remit of the Cabinet
 - External relations, including complaints management, marketing and promotion.
 - Head of Paid Service responsibilities
 - Mayor of the Borough and Civic matters
 - Media and communications (internal and external)
 - Member Services
 - Partnership working (lead)
 - Performance management, including improvement plans
 - Reputation management, including risk (policy)
- 4.2 JOSC is requested to ask questions of the Leader based on her responsibilities outlined in paragraph 4.1 including any high level strategic issues relating to the Council and communities.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider within this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 JOSC is responsible for holding the Executive Members to account, reviewing their work and decisions and in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils' constitution, can request Executive Members to attend its meetings.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

Background Papers

'Platforms for our Places: Going Further'

'And Then - Bouncing Back in Post pandemic Adur and Worthing'

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some issues contained within the Leader Portfolio are related to economic issues and impact.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some issues within the Leader Portfolio do impact on the communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified but some of the Portfolio areas do impact on access or participation.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

4. Governance

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. JOSC is responsible for holding the Executive Members to account, reviewing their work and decisions and in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils' constitution, can request Executive Members to attend its meetings.