



ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

JOSC Work Programme review

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report outlines progress in implementing the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That JOSC note the progress in delivering the JOSC Work Programme for 2022/23 and consider the Scrutiny requests set out in the Appendix B to this report .

3. Context

- 3.1 The JOSC Work Programme for 2022/23 was agreed by the Committee in March and confirmed by both Councils in April 2022. It is usual practice for the Work Programme to be reviewed at each meeting during the Municipal Year and the last review was undertaken at the meeting on 14 July 2022. A copy of the updated 2022/23 Work Programme is attached as part of the Appendix A to this report for review.
- 3.2 Paragraph 9.2 of the 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 also be taken to each full Council on an annual basis detailing any changes to the Work Programme and this is usually reported mid year and for 22/23 this will be done in December 2022.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Items for the JOSC Work Programme need to be chosen guided by how closely they align with the Councils' Strategic objectives, 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.
- 4.2 The Committee is requested to review the draft Work Programme and consider if any further items are required to be added to the Work Programme. During the Municipal Year, items may be added to the JOSC 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 following receipt of the Officer report. Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the Committee and resources available when considering further Work Programme items. The Committee should also be aware that work is ongoing to review the Constitutions (via the Joint Governance Committee) - see report elsewhere on this agenda - and the outcomes from this work might impact on the role of JOSC, the individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Work Programmes.
- 4.3 JOSC will also need to consider the Scrutiny requests attached at Appendix B to this report which relate to planning enforcement received from a Worthing Borough Councillor and the Cost of living crisis to be submitted by the JOSC Chairpersons. The Committee is asked to consider the issues in the requests and decide if the matters should be added to the Work Programme. A recommendation from the JOSC Chairpersons is included with the requests.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and the Councils Leadership Team have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report and in the 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 do have financial implications for the Councils.

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 both 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.

Background Papers

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

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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.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Some of the issues being scrutinised will have community safety implications.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. The Work Programme includes an item to receive an update on the Councils approach to climate change.

4. Governance

- 4.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified. It is good practice for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set its Work Programme ahead of the Municipal Year. 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.

Scrutiny request

Issue - The Committee is asked to review planning enforcement issues, planning enforcement policy and the Councils approach to planning enforcement.

Request from - Councillor Russ Cochran

Public interest - It is of public interest for residents to be informed on how the planning enforcement system works and to have confidence that planning conditions applied to developments are being enforced.

Score = High

Ability to change - .JOSC cannot get involved in particular planning applications or get involved in reviewing live Section 106 issues but can review the general Council Planning Enforcement policy.

Score = High

Performance - The matter does not relate directly to the performance of a Council department.

Score = High

Extent - Planning enforcement applies to both Adur and Worthing.

Score = High

Replication - No

Score = High

Expected Outcomes - The Committee is asked to review planning enforcement issues, planning enforcement policy and the Councils approach to planning enforcement in Adur and Worthing.

Does the proposed review link with the Council strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?

An effective planning enforcement system will assist in providing Prosperous Places.

Score = High

How could this review be undertaken? Officer report presented to JOSC or JOSC Working Group to review the policy.

Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons/Vice-Chairpersons:-

That JOSC receives a report to a future meeting which reviews planning enforcement issues, planning enforcement policy and the Councils approach to planning enforcement in Adur and Worthing.

<p>Scrutiny request</p>
<p>Issue - Responding to the cost of living emergency</p>
<p>Request from - JOSC Chairpersons</p>
<p>Public interest - The Cost of living crisis is generally being referred to as the fall in 'real' disposable incomes (that is, adjusted for inflation and after taxes and benefits) and has been experienced in the UK since late 2021. It is being caused predominantly by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases and has been further exacerbated by recent tax increases. High energy costs and food bills which are being experienced by the UK population as well as some international causes such as the Ukraine War.</p>
<p>Score = High</p>
<p>Ability to change - .The Councils cannot directly control the inflation increases and high energy costs but can help by taking a realistic approach to the services it provides to assist local residents and support the most vulnerable in the communities. Assistance from the Councils can assist residents in finding support with food poverty, housing debt, energy bills, unemployment and health and wellbeing. The Councils can work with partners to support and help to minimise the impact of the cost of living emergency. The Councils can also help to develop its Strategy to provide this support.</p>
<p>Score = High</p>
<p>Performance - This request does not directly relate to the performance of a Council service.</p>
<p>Score = Low</p>
<p>Extent - The cost of living crisis is impacting on all UK households</p>
<p>Score = High</p>
<p>Replication - No. JOSC has not undertaken any direct scrutiny work on the cost of living crisis.</p>
<p>Score = High</p>
<p>Expected Outcomes - To review the work the Councils are undertaking to support the local communities in the cost of living crisis. Reports outlining the Councils cost of living strategy are being tabled at meetings of the Joint Strategic Sub-Committees in September and October.</p>
<p>Does the proposed review link with the Council strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?</p> <p>Worthing Borough Council has identified the cost of living crisis as a major priority to deal with and has also declared a cost of living emergency with a commitment to urgently help feed those most in</p>

need. Further scrutiny from JOSOC can help in this process.

Adur District Council has also agreed to work with the Government and West Sussex County Council to ensure that the household support fund is delivered in Adur in a timely manner and write to the Government to express concerns and ensure that levelling up funding is provided to assist households. Support will also be provided for the Proactive Project.

Score = High

How could this review be undertaken? Report to JOSOC or review undertaken by a JOSOC Working Group. JOSOC could also request to review the reports on the Councils response to the cost of living emergency which are being reported to the Joint Strategic Sub-Committees later this autumn and ask to receive updated progress reports on a three or six monthly basis.

Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons/Vice-Chairpersons:-

That JOSOC review the Councils responses to the cost of living emergency which are being reported to the Joint Strategic Sub-Committees.