



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
13 October 2022

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Scrutiny review of the Adur & Worthing evening and night time economy

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the revised discussions and recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Working Group which was created as part of the JOSC Work Programme to review the previous JOSC reports and recommendations on the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy (ENTE) from 2020 and earlier in 2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That JOSC consider the report and revised recommendations from the ENTE Working Group and refer the recommendations to the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) for consideration and action in due course.

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme, JOSC agreed to set up a Working Group to review the Adur and Worthing ENTE to help improve the ENTE and to assist in the recovery process. A report was produced by the Working Group in March 2020 which was deferred because of the Covid-19 pandemic and then

a further report was reported in March 2022 from the Working Group which had the following terms of reference:-

1. To review the evening and night time economy in Adur and Worthing post Covid-19; and

2. To consider if there is a need for any new approaches/changes to be introduced in Adur and Worthing to improve the evening and night time economies and to assist in the recovery process post Covid-19.

3.2 Both JOSC Working Group reports can be accessed here [2020 ENTE report](#) [2022 ENTE report](#)

3.3 Recommendations from the Working Group reports were agreed by JOSC in March 2022 for referral to the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) which considered these at its meeting on 5 July 2022 but asked JOSC to review the report again in light of issues raised by JSC relating to the emerging cost of living crisis and the impact on the ENTE and wider economic planning. JSC asked JOSC to review if the recommendations are post-pandemic or general economy recommendations; to prioritise the recommendations based on realistic delivery and resource and to reframe the JOSC report to reflect that ENTE is part of a wider economic strategy question and any recommendations moving forward to be consumed into wider economic planning.

4. Issues for consideration

4.1 In order to consider the request from JSC, JOSC reconstituted a small Working Group to review the ENTE report again and then prioritise the recommendations in the report for JSC to consider. Councillors Carol Albury, Daniel Humphreys (appointed as Chairman), Paul Mansfield and Dan Hermitage (replaced by Councillor Jon Roser) were appointed to the Working Group which met on 31 August to undertake its work. The Working Group has now reviewed and prioritised the recommendations, the details of which are set out in Appendix A to this report.

- 4.2 The Working Group was advised that at August 2022, the Worthing evening and night time economy situation was appearing to be holding up well with bars and restaurants opening, not closing. Nando's were planning on investing in Worthing and 4 places to eat and drink were due to open in the Autumn period.
- 4.3 Worthing footfall appeared to be strong with the visitors, both day and overnight, helping to keep restaurants and bars busy - a mix of both daytime and evening customers. Footfall covering Saturdays in August had been over 41,000 which was a lot higher than the average footfall of 32,000 and the feedback was that people were still treating themselves to evenings out.
- 4.4 However, whilst things were positive in Worthing all businesses, not just pub bars and restaurants were extremely worried. The margins on food had already been cut back due to inflation and cost of living increases; therefore, the fuel and commodity increases expected in the winter were expected to make many businesses unsustainable. Another early sign that businesses were starting to see tough times ahead was an increase in 'businesses for sale' and over the previous 2 months prior to August 2022, 6 food related businesses had been advertised. Generally, it was considered that the weather and staycations had helped get businesses through the summer but October and November were set to be extremely challenging.
- 4.5 In Adur, business levels were holding up in Shoreham and Southwick, however, Lancing had experienced issues with some businesses closing.
- 4.6 Recruitment to the hospitality businesses was also an issue and businesses were having to offer inflated salaries to attract employees. Some restaurants had not been opening on a Monday or Monday and Tuesday to enable the staff they have to get time off, and some business owners were putting a shift in to cover absence. More businesses had managed to operate 7 days a week during the summer as they were able to take advantage of University students being home for the holidays, however, the impact of losing them back to University from Mid September was uncertain.

4.7 JOSC is requested to consider the review from the Working Group and its revised recommendations and findings and refer these to JSC as part of considerations of its work on the wider local economy.

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons have been consulted on the contents of this report and the previous Working Groups have undertaken consultation with the local communities and relevant stakeholders.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report, however, there may be financial implications arising from some of the recommendations if they are implemented.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has 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 may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).

Background Papers

Previous reports from the JOSC Working Groups as set out above - March 2020 and March 2022.

Report to Joint Strategic Committee on 5 July 2022 and the subsequent minute.

Officer/Member Contact Details:-

Councillor Dan Humphreys
Chairman of the JOSC Working Group
Worthing Town Hall
daniel.humphreys@worthing.gov.uk

Mark Lowe
Scrutiny & Risk Officer
Tel: 01903 221009
mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. The issues contained in the Working Group report relate to the economic recovery of the evening and night time economy.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. An improved evening and night time economy will improve social value for the communities of Adur and Worthing and visitors to the towns and village centres.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. The report from the Working Group has investigated public safety and other community safety issues which are detailed in the report.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

3. Environmental

The report from the JOSC Working Group has reviewed the environmental issues connected with the evening and night time economy and identified some issues to help climate change, air quality and encourage sustainability.

4. Governance

Matter considered. The JOSC Working Group has been set up in accordance with the JOSC Procedure Rules and forms part of the agreed JOSC Work Programme for 2022/23. Recommendations from the review will need to be presented to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration.