



Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee
10 November 2022

ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Key Decision: [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All
Portfolio: Resources

Referral of Motion on Notice from Adur District Council

Report by the Director for Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out a motion (attached as Appendix 1) referred from the meeting of Adur District Council on the 20th October 2022.
- 1.2. Members of the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-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 Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee support the motion and determine how further work is carried out; or,
- 2.2. That the Adr Joint Strategic Sub-Committee reject the motion.

3. Context

- 3.1. At its meeting on the 20th October 2022, Adur District Council received a motion from Councillor Catherine Arnold, seconded by Councillor Jeremy Gardener, 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 Adur Joint Strategic Sub-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 Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.3 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee, the mover, or the seconder in the absence of the mover, shall be entitled to attend the relevant meeting of the Cabinet and explain the motion. Councillor Catherine Arnold has been made aware that the motion has been referred to this Sub-Committee.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee can either support or reject the motion.
- 4.2 Should the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-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 Sub-Committee.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There may be direct financial implications in future depending on the course of action the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-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 Adur District Council on the 20th October 2022

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Cost of business motion

For many of Adur's 2,200 businesses, simply surviving these last 2.5 years has felt like winning. This Council must do everything in its power to support our local businesses and prevent them from closing their doors.

The recent 6-month cap on price per unit of energy is a welcome government intervention for businesses. However, this will do little to tackle the other variables that are pushing businesses out of the marketplace. These include higher supply chain costs, business rates payments, delays in payment, difficulty recruiting staff and the cost-of-living crisis reducing spending in stores, cafes and on services.

Like individuals, businesses cannot reduce their fixed costs of: rent, business rates, employment costs and insurance. In a lot of cases, business owners are scaling back investment and expansion and reducing their take home pay, rather than passing on higher costs to customers. This means lower growth, less employment, reduced local spend and a smaller local economy.

May's 22 ONS statistics showed that 40%, or 2 million, of the UK's small businesses had less than three months' worth of cash left to support their operations. Of those 2 million, the Federation of Small Business's chairman said about 10% – or 200,000 – were in "serious trouble", and that another 300,000 "have only got weeks left".

In addition, the ONS showed that input price inflation for products (prices of goods bought and sold by UK manufacturers) rose to 24.0% in the year to June 2022 – the highest rate since records began in January 1985.

Businesses need the council's support as strategic partners, fundraisers and promoters through the council communications team. They need to be involved in a comprehensive plan of events, better signposting of businesses around the district and access to rescue packages for businesses to survive.

We note the good work the council is already undertaking through the small business grant programme.

On behalf of business we ask this Council to:

- ensure the take up of the small business grants to Adur is commensurate with that of Worthing

- urge central government to increase the business rates threshold
- examine the feasibility of establishing of a Town Centre Manager role to create a strategic programme for events to promote our high streets
- sign up to the Federation of Small Business's Good Business Pays movement and encourage contractors to do so. This is a campaign to stop late and slow payments
- improve signage for visitors to our high streets and town centres
- support our traders associations with funding applications to Save The High Streets
- encourage Council staff to shop local
- promote more widely the business support already on offer
- investigate the potential for bulk buying of energy with local businesses

Proposer: Cllr Catherine Arnold

Seconder: Cllr Jeremy Gardner