



Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
24 November 2022

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;
- 2.2 That JOSC consider if any amendments are required to the Work Programme;
- 2.3 That the meetings of Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council in December 2022 note the changes made to the JOSC Work Programme since it was agreed by both Councils in April 2022; and
- 2.4 That JOSC resolves to monitor the effect on its work programme arising from the changes to the Constitution as set out at Paragraph 4.5

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 22 September 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.

- 4.3 When considering further Work Programme items, the Committee should assess the capacity and resources available to scrutinise the issues within the timescales required and the impact this might have on existing work within the Work Programme.

- 4.4 JOSC already has a congested Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year and it will be challenging to deliver the items within the timescales prescribed and appropriate prioritisation might be required.

- 4.5 The recently agreed changes to the Constitutions may also lead to a further increase in the work programme. It is recommended that JOSC monitors any effect on its work programme after the Constitutions have been approved by both Full Councils. Depending upon the effect JOSC may want to consider a review to its structural arrangements and whether there is a need or desire to

operate in a similar way to the Joint Strategic Committee using JOSC Sub-Committees. If the effects are such that the Committee are minded to consider this approach then a detailed report on the full impact of such an approach would need to be considered by JOSC in due course.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report and agreed to the amended Work Programme as set out in the Appendix to this report.

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.