



Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee
19 January 2023

ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Interview with the Worthing Deputy Leader

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report sets out background information on the Portfolio of the Worthing Deputy Leader to enable the Committee to consider and question him on issues within his portfolio and any other issues which he is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee question the Deputy Leader on the work within his Portfolio and any other issues which he is involved in; and
- 2.2 That the Committee consider if it would like to make any recommendations or comments to the Deputy Leader for his consideration.

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2022/23, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) have agreed to hold interviews with the Adur and Worthing Cabinet Members and question them on their priorities for 2022/23.
- 3.2 As part of its 'Holding to account role' and the responsibility for reviewing Cabinet Member work and decisions, JOSC is requested to consider the work and responsibilities of the Worthing Deputy Leader. Part of the scrutiny role is to fact find/investigate in the form of questions to the Cabinet Member on issues within his portfolio and other issues involving the Cabinet Member that relates to his Portfolio. This questioning should only relate to those matters within the Portfolio which the Councils are directly responsible for.
- 3.3 JOSC plays a similar role to that played by the Parliamentary Select Committees in Westminster and is entitled to ask for further investigation or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member into items where it may not be satisfied with the progress of issues as described by the Cabinet Member.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Worthing Deputy Leader has responsibility for the following delegated functions:-
 - In the absence of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council has overall responsibility for the portfolio of the Leader of the Council.
 - Big Listening
 - 15 minute neighbourhoods and place-based working
 - Children and young people, including mental wellbeing project (to share with Community Wellbeing portfolio)
 - Cost of living emergency
 - Developing community participatory decision-making structures
 - Public Consultation, including Community Engagement and Citizens Panels
 - Refugees Young Persons' audit and consultation
 - Youth Council

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Cabinet Member and relevant Officers 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 Cabinet 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 Cabinet 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

New Priorities for Worthing Borough Council agreed by Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 5 July 2022 [Worthing Priorities](#)

Our Plan - A three year framework for Adur and Worthing Councils

[Our Plan](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered. No direct issues connected with this report but some of the issues contained in the Cabinet Member Portfolio may lead to an impact on the local economy.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered. The aims of the Cabinet Member Portfolio seek to achieve improved social value through improvements to the wellbeing of individuals, Communities and the environment.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered. The Cabinet Member will apply relevant equality considerations when considering issues within the Portfolio as appropriate.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. Relevant community safety issues are considered by the Cabinet Member when dealing with issues within the Portfolio as appropriate.

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 has responsibility for holding the Cabinet Members to account and for reviewing their work and decisions. In accordance with the procedures outlined within the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Councils constitution JOSC can request the Cabinet Members to attend its meetings and can ask questions of the Cabinet Members as part of this process.