



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

**Interview with Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment**

**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 Cabinet Member for the Environment to enable the Committee to consider and question the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in connected with the work of the Council and the Worthing communities.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the Committee question the Cabinet Member on the work within her Portfolio and any other issues which the Cabinet Member is involved in; and

2.2 That the Committee consider if it would like to make any recommendations or comments to the Cabinet Member for her 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 Cabinet Member for the Environment. Part of the scrutiny role is to fact find/investigate in the form of questions to the Cabinet Member on issues within her portfolio and other issues involving the Cabinet Member that relates to her 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 Cabinet Member for the Environment has responsibility for the following delegated functions:-
- Cemeteries and closed churchyards
  - Crematorium
  - Environmental protection and ecological sustainability, including noise, dog control, food hygiene, land drainage, pest control and air quality (to share with the Climate Emergency portfolio)
  - Foreshore – Sussex Bay and fishing community
  - Parks, open and green spaces, including ground maintenance and allotments
  - Public health, health protection and enforcement, including Food Safety Enforcement Plan
  - Public conveniences
  - Street cleaning
  - Waste minimisation, collection and recycling
  - Water Quality, including sea bathing water status
  - Environmental management and strategy (to share with Climate Emergency portfolio)

4.2 JOSC is requested to question the Cabinet Member based on her responsibilities outlined in paragraph 4.1 above.

## **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. There are a number of issues contained within the Cabinet Member Portfolio which can impact on the overall economy of the area.

### **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. The Cabinet Member has responsibility for Environmental protection and ecological sustainability, Environmental management and strategy (shared with the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency).

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered and no direct issues identified. JOSOC 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 JOSOC can request the Cabinet Members to attend its meetings and can ask questions of the Cabinet Members as part of this process.