

ADUR
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Worthing
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2011/12

Message from the Chairmen

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee enables your Councillors to make sure that the services provided for residents are continually improving and provide good value for money.

Members of the Committee use their local knowledge to represent residents on issues that are important to our diverse communities. This can be concerns on the economic climate, local services, parking issues or leisure and recreation facilities.

In 2011/12 the Joint Committee has been undertaking a very valuable role as the watchdog of both Councils ensuring that the Joint Cabinets (Joint Strategic Committee) are held to account for the decisions made and to ensure that there is a greater transparency of the process.

Councillors Liza McKinney and Paul High
Joint Chairmen of the Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which decision-makers are accountable to local people via their elected representatives, for improving outcomes for the District and its residents. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not make decisions but seeks to influence those who do by considering the major issues affecting the areas and making recommendations about how services can be improved.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a number of different roles including:

- **Representing the views and wishes of Adur and Worthing residents about the services which they receive;**
- **Holding the Joint Strategic Committee to account and reviewing its decisions;**
- **Scrutinising the work of the Partnerships in Adur and Worthing;**
- **Helping to develop new policies and reviewing existing ones; and**
- **Monitoring the budgets and performance.**

There is one Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee made up of sixteen Councillors (eight Adur and eight Worthing) representing wards across the District. The Committee as a whole meets at least six times a year and the meetings are open to the public.

Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2011/12

The Joint Committee has played its part in scrutinising a number of issues. Successes in 2011/12 include:-

- Interviewing and ‘holding to account’ the Adur and Worthing Council Leaders and Cabinet Members to ensure that they are delivering on the Council’s priorities, their decision-making on service provision is transparent and provides value for money for the benefit of Adur and Worthing residents.
- Working with Arun District Council and reporting its findings on a review of Health Inequalities to help improve the lives of homeless people.
- Helping the Cabinets by scrutinising the proposed Corporate Priorities for 2011 – 2014.
- Reviewing and ‘holding to account’ the work of the Adur and Worthing Community Safety Partnership and its Chairman in accordance with powers under the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- Monitoring the progress in implementing the recommendations from previous joint reviews on Planning Enforcement, Fuel Poverty, Adur disability issues and Worthing Allotments.
- Undertaking other detailed reviews which are currently ongoing relating to a review of the financial and business structure of the Ropetackle Centre (Adur) and also a review of the Adur and Worthing on and off street parking arrangements prior to the renewal of the contracts in April 2014.
- Scrutinising the work of the Corporate Fraud Team

Membership of the Committee in 2011/12:

Adur District – Councillors Liza McKinney (Co-Chairman), Carol Albury, Pat Beresford, Emma Evans, Laura Graysmark, Rod Hotton, Peter Metcalfe and Janet Mockridge.

Worthing Borough – Councillors Paul High (Co-Chairman),

Roy Barraclough, Martin Coppard, Michael Donin, Dan Humphries, Charles James, Roger Oakley and Bob Smytherman

Have your say...

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.adur.gov.uk or www.worthing.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we have received, our recommendations and the minutes of our meetings.

Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council are committed to being more responsive to the way in which they provide services. They want more people to feel that they have the opportunity to influence matters that affect them. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee can look at these issues and the Committee would like to give more people the chance to contribute to its work.

Suggest a topic for scrutiny

The Joint Committee reviews its Work Programme throughout the year to make sure that it is working on topics that it can make a major impact on. If there is an issue or service which you think that Councillors should review, please return the form below to tell us about it.

Come along to a meeting

The Committee meets at least six times a year at either the Adur Civic Centre, Ham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea or the Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing. The meetings are open to the public and details of the meetings can be found on the Council's websites at www.adur.gov.uk or www.worthing.gov.uk

Tell us what you think

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a Work Programme that lists the topics and issues which the Committee is going to look at in the near future. If you have a particular interest in a

topic which the Committee is looking at, the Committee would like to hear from you. If you would like a copy of the Work programme, please contact the Policy Officer using the details below.

To find out more you can contact Mark Lowe, Policy Officer at Worthing Town Hall on 01903 221009

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Worthing

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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

TOPIC SUGGESTION FORM

Name

Organisation or member of the Public?

Tel: Email:

1. What is the heading for your topic?

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2. What is the background to the issue? What is the current situation/problem?

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3. How do you think that Overview and Scrutiny can make a difference and add value to this issue?

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Thank you for your suggestion

We will make every effort to cover as many topics as possible as thoroughly as possible. We will, however, prioritise those topics we feel can contribute to and benefit Adur and Worthing residents.

Please return this form to Mark Lowe, Policy Officer at Adur and Worthing Councils, Town Hall, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1HA