

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2013/14

Message from the Chairmen

In 2013/14 the Joint Committee has maintained its valuable role as the watchdog of both Councils, ensuring that the Joint Cabinets (Joint Strategic Committee) are scrutinised for the the decisions made on behalf of the residents and to ensure that there is a greater transparency of the process.

The Joint Committee has played its part in scrutinising a number of issues. Successes in 2013/14 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.
- 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 Fuel Poverty and Economic Recovery.

- **The Committee took part in a county wide review of the flooding incident in 2012 which presented recommendations for overcoming the problems.**
- **Reviewing the circumstances surrounding the ICT failure which hit the Councils in November 2012 causing a loss of service.** The Committee is committed to continuing to monitor the outcomes from this review and to ensure that the agreed actions are implemented so that the situation does not happen again.
- Following on from a review of the Age of School Transfer Policy in Worthing, which currently sees children transferring to secondary schools from Year 7 rather than Year 6 as elsewhere in West Sussex, the Committee has **interviewed the West Sussex Cabinet Member for Education and Schools and Officers on the work currently being undertaken by the County Council to implement a new Age of Transfer from Year 6 and provide funding for a new school in Worthing.**
- **Undertaking a review of Polling Stations in Adur and Worthing and recommending changes,** some of which were implemented for the elections in May 2014.
- **Undertaking a review of the help which the Councils provide to vulnerable housing applicants in Adur and Worthing.**
- Held to account Southern Water on incidents of flooding in East Worthing.
- Interviewed the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Worthing) on a lack of progress in implementing a new allotments policy for Worthing

**Councillors Liza McKinney and Roy Barraclough
 Joint Chairmen of the Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and
 Scrutiny Committee in 2013/14**

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.

Membership of the Committee in 2013/14:

Adur District – Councillors Liza McKinney (Co-Chairman), Ann Bridges, Darren Burns, Brian Coomber, Mary

Hamblin, Stephanie Hedley-Barnes, Rod Hotton and Janet Mockridge

Worthing Borough – Councillors Roy Barraclough (Co-Chairman), Noel Atkins, Keith Bickers, Michael Donin, Norah Fisher, Mark Nolan, Vino Vinojan and Keith Sunderland

Have your say...

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.adur-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 website at www.adur-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 (a copy of the current Programme is attached to this report). 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 or on mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk



Worthing

BOROUGH COUNCIL
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 or mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk