

Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council

A Decisions Taken by Individual Executive Members

Listed below is a summary of decisions taken by the individual Executive Members since the despatch of the agenda for the last ordinary Council Meeting. Full details can be found on the Executive Members and Portfolios, Reports and Decisions webpage: www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/agendas-minutes.htm

Leader

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Executive Member for Regeneration

JAW/010/17-18 Worthing Community Infrastructure Levy - Instalment Policy

Executive Member for Resources

JAW/012/17-18 Adur Civic Centre Phase 1: Office Development -
Construction Contract

JAW/013/17-18 Application for Compulsory Redundancy

Executive Member for Customer Services

JAW/014/17-18 Supporting the delivery of Affordable Homes in Worthing -
35 Parkfield Road

Executive Member for the Environment

JAW/008/17-18 Self-Management of Halewick Lane Allotments

JAW/011/17-18 60 Brighton Road, Shoreham - Car Parking Review

Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

JAW/009/17-18 Food Service Delivery Plan for 2017-18

B. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 9 January 2018

Full details can be found:

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/cab-docs-joint-strategic.htm

Items relating to Worthing Borough Council are not reproduced on this agenda

JSC/068/17-18 Delivering Platforms for our Places: Progress Report June - December 2017

Before the Committee was a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 5.

Before the Committee was the second, 6 monthly, report on the Councils' Implementation of *Platforms for our Places*, which (along with the Progress Report at Attachment A) outlined the progress made and challenges experienced during the period June - December 2017.

Members noted that there continued to be real progress on many of the 135 commitments made by the Councils with 14 now being completed, many in progress and only one identified as 'red' (having significant difficulties in implementation).

An overview of the Councils progress was provided in paragraph 4.2 of the report, identifying the significant progress made on prominent commitments in each of the five platforms.

The Director for the Economy updated Members in relation to Stagecoach. The Committee noted that Stagecoach had appointed agents who were working with the Council on the viability of the existing site i.e. the Bus Station and on the alternative site, Decoy Farm. Officers were looking at Decoy Farm in much more detail, to determine how quickly a site could be brought together which was capable of delivering Stagecoach's needs. The Committee were advised that additional capacity may be required in order to provide the project management focus which had been given to other major schemes.

Adur Members acknowledged the outstanding work conducted by Officers in order to get the Adur District Council Local Plan approved at Full Council on the 14 December 2017.

The issue of empty homes in the District of Adur was raised by a Member who requested a greater focus on identification and bringing them back into use. It was noted that the Councils had had significant success in bringing empty homes back into use and Officers were requested to share the number of Adur Homes brought back into use with the Committee.

A Member sought clarification of the timeline for delivering the Public Health Strategy (PHS) and challenged the level of progress made in regards to the Temporary Accommodation Strategy. Offices advised that the PHS was being drafted and would be completed in the Spring. There were challenges in relation to Temporary Accommodation, however, the Councils had identified up to 60 units of Temporary and Emergency Accommodation over the last few months. If leases were signed in the next couple of months, those units would be coming online very quickly. It was noted that the Councils had also acquired 7 properties that had up to 19 bedrooms to provide longer term, temporary accommodation for families. A number of other properties were in the pipeline and Officers were speaking to partners across West Sussex to see how they could work more collectively.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee

- noted the progress made and challenges experienced during the implementation of *Platforms for our Places* over the period June - December 2017;
- requested a further report in July 2018 outlining the progress for the period January - June 2018;
- requested that the report in July 2018 include a review of the commitments identified in *Platforms for our Places* and that in the light of completion of a number of these commitments, appropriate additional commitments are added in consultation with relevant Executive Members against each of the Platforms;
- agreed to refer this report to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

JSC/069/17-18 Response to the JOSC Youth Engagement Report

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 6.

The report sought to address the issues / recommendations and any financial / legal considerations for each recommendation contained in the Youth Engagement Scrutiny Report in order to assist the Executive in providing a formal response to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the importance of engaging with all young people as they were the Councils customers of the future.

Decision:

The Joint Strategic Committee agreed:-

- 2.1 In relation to JOSC Recommendation One** - that the Councils support and encourage the Youth Councils to work with Community Works, with a view to enabling funding for their Support Worker to continue after the current one year funding ends;
- 2.2. In relation to JOSC Recommendation Two** - that the Councils review their web pages and social media interaction with young people;
- 2.3 In relation to JOSC Recommendation Three** - that there should be Young People Member Champions;
- 2.4 In relation to JOSC Recommendation Four** - that the Councils work with the Youth Councils and Young People Member Champions, to identify key policies that are being reviewed that the Youth Councils will be consulted on;
- 2.5 In relation to JOSC Recommendation Five** - that Council Officers work with the Youth Council and others to review their priorities and assess whether these are viable.

JSC/070/17-18 Adur Infrastructure Contributions - the Way Forward

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 7.

The report discussed the current system for obtaining infrastructure contributions in the Adur Local Plan area (Adur District, minus the South Downs National Park); the work which had been undertaken so far on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); and options for the future.

It was recommended that no further work was undertaken on CIL, but that the current approach of using solely planning obligations should be maintained until there was greater certainty as to whether the Government would proceed to an alternative to CIL as outlined in the Expert Panel Report accompanying the recent Housing White Paper.

The Committee noted that CIL would not bring any additional financial benefits from certain strategic allocations and therefore accepted that it was futile to change systems at this point.

It was proposed and seconded that the Committee approve Option 2: Not to progress CIL, but to maintain the current s106 regime until an alternative to CIL is introduced by government.

Members requested that Officers deliver a more transparent way of recording s106 monies and publish this information on the Councils website.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee agreed the recommendation made by the Adur Planning Committee on 24 July 2017, that Option 2 of that report be taken forward, i.e. not to progress the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Adur, but to maintain the current s106 regime until an alternative to CIL is introduced by the Government.

C. Decisions Taken by the Joint Strategic Committee on 1 February 2018

Full details can be found:

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/committee/cab-docs-joint-strategic.htm

Items relating to Worthing Borough Council are not reproduced on this agenda

None

D. Decisions taken by the Executive on 6 February 2018

A EX/009/17-18 Housing Revenue Account – Budget 2018/19

The Executive had before it a joint report from the Director for Digital and Resources and the Director for Communities, attached to these minutes as item 5.

The report set out the financial challenges for the Housing Revenue Account and asked Members to set the rent levels and services charges for 2018/19. The report also considered some of the strategic challenges facing the Housing Revenue Account over the next few years and the impact that these would have on the next 30 years. Members were reminded that the rent limitation announced in 2015/16 continues to have a profound effect on the financial viability of the Housing Revenue Account. However it was expected that this would end in 2019/20 allowing the HRA's finances to become more sustainable in the future.

Attached to the report were 3 Appendices, the proposed budget for 2018/19, 30 year financial forecast and the HRA Treasury Management Strategy.

The Head of Finance reminded the Executive of the effect of the change in 2012/13 when the Government ended the Housing Subsidy system and Council financed its independence with a £51m loan. The new system was to provide Councils with greater freedom over rent levels, however a change in central government policy in 2015/16 now means that the Secretary of State, rather than the Council, set the rent levels. The cost of that change in government policy was detailed in page 5 of the report. In 2021 the Council would regain the ability to increase rent levels however

this is to be limited to CPR +1%. A 30 year Business Plan in Appendix 2 identifies the impact of the rent levels in the future.

The Executive Member for Customer Services spoke on the rent limitations and the likely deficit by 2020/2021 of £1.9M that would have to be addressed. Officers were looking at contracts and other spending to ensure value for money. He thanked all Officers for their continuing efforts and hard work.

Decision the Executive

(i) considered and approved the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) estimates for 2018/19,

(ii) Noted that the rents of Council Dwellings would decrease by 1.0% reducing the average council dwelling rent by £0.91 to £90.44 per week as detailed in paragraph 6.3

(iii) determined the level of associated rents and charges with effect from week one of 2018/19 as follows:-

(a) **Rents of Council garages** – agreed an increase of 3.0% to £9.96. (currently £9.67 per week), plus VAT for non-Council tenants) (Para. 6.6 of the report)

(c) **Service Charges** - delegated to the Head of Housing and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Customer Services, the setting of the service charges (Para. 9.2 of the report)

(iv) Approved the HRA Treasury Management Strategy contained in Appendix 3 to the report.

Reason for Decision

To set the rent level for 2018/19

Alternative options considered

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E. Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended.

The following is reported to Council:

Nil

Councillor Neil Parkin
Leader of the Council

Local Government Act 1972
Background papers

Reports and Record of decisions of various are available on the Council's web site www.adur-worthing.gov.uk or as indicated in each of the paragraphs above. Some of the reports contain exempt information and not fully published on the websites.