

Public Document Pack

Subject to approval at the next Covid-19 Recovery Working Party meeting

1

COVID-19 RECOVERY WORKING PARTY

2 July 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Bennett, Chapman, Cooper, Mrs Cooper, Dendle, Mrs Haywood, Mrs Staniforth, Ms Thurston, Tilbrook and Dr Walsh

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Working Party

RESOLVED

That Councillor Chapman be appointed Chairman of the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party.

The Working Party

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tilbrook be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dr Walsh declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 5 [Approaching the Council's Recovery Arrangements for Covid 19] in his capacity as a Member of West Sussex County Council.

3. START TIMES

The Working Party

RESOLVED

That its start times for meetings for the remainder of 2020/21 be 6.00 pm.

4. APPROACHING THE COUNCIL'S RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVID-19

Following the establishment of this Working Party by Cabinet on 22 June 2020, a report was presented by the Chief Executive setting out proposals for approaching the Council's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 Recovery Working Party - 2.07.20

The report recommended that the Working Party investigate five core themes that were being used by the Government Recovery Group, working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the District Council Network (DCN) and County Council Network (CCN). The core themes used by the Government for their “Recovery Cell” were discussed and the following is the proposed schedule of work which the Working Party wished to consider further:

1. Business Communities, Sector and Innovation

- The Council needs to understand the impact on Arun businesses, possibly through our Arun Business Partnership, as a start. Arun Business Partnership - % of the total in ADC?
- We need to provide as much help and advice online as possible.
- The council should do more to support “offline businesses” to move more of their business online
- How can we encourage start-ups/new ventures?
- Some businesses can't get loans
- Horticultural sector important
- SME's key
- Hospitality Sector important – “staycations” will be important
- Culture sector – broadband important – City Fibre update?
- Green business and making businesses more aware of green issues
- Buying local – encourage large supermarkets to buy local
- How do we promote opportunities to graduates?
 - Northbrook College
 - University of Chichester
- No employment opportunities for young people
- Out of town retail going out of business – do we have accommodation/space in the Civic Centre?
- SME's toughest point in six months' time
 - January – resilience and support
 - Help existing businesses by online support
- We have more knowledge of our businesses now than before Covid 19

2. Labour Markets, Unemployment and Skills

- Cllr Bennett declared his interest in student accommodation
- Training for different occupations as we come out of the pandemic?
 - Work with Further Education/Higher Education
 - Provide courses that match skills shortage and added value – not low wages
- Solar panels on our properties developed by a local company?
- Survey on missing skills?

3. Visitor Economy and Rural Areas

- Branded names to strengthen accommodation sector (Premier Inn etc)
- “Not spots” not an issue for Arun District
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds – give them the IT to progress
- Package bundles and work more regionally (itinerary) to make Arun more attractive to come to
- Transport links important/discounted public transport important

4. Place Making, High Streets and City Centre

- Drop ‘City’ from title
- Retail/online change likely to continue more. Wi-fi a must for the High Street. More hospitality likely to encourage overnight stays.
- Belgium model – inner circle discussed
- Think radically
 - What is happening elsewhere?
 - Towns next to coast USP
 - Seaside towns and towns by the sea
 - Encourage beach to town spend
- Sussex by the Sea – sell off to travel agency (privatise the brand)
- Build property in town centres and convert others to include accommodation
- Food festivals and events positive (Taste of Sussex)
- Changes to planning roles – announcement today – Karl Roberts to circulate
- Link to Experience West Sussex – brief update provided by Nigel Lynn

5. Green/Sustainable Recovery

- Solar panels on properties more, link to good weather (plus batteries).
- Electrical vehicle strategy agreed – how do we speed this up?
- Now house building – sustainability built in – eg. Air source, heat pumps
- Bring the energy of disparate environment groups together – events and information for public. Climate action groups – Haslemere a good example
- Share with the community
- Sign up to the West Sussex Solar Scheme
- Sign up to a green energy supplier
- Encourage biodiversity groups to help us
- Geothermal bore holes – encourage businesses to set up in our area – preferred suppliers for local residents – easy guides for residents
- Grants for the public?
- Regular cash flow for this group?

Covid-19 Recovery Working Party - 2.07.20

Following some further discussion, the Working Party

RECOMMEND TO CABINET

That the report presented be noted with Cabinet considering the points raised by the Working Party as outlined in the minute above.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Working Party noted that its next meeting would be held on 23 July 2020.

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm)