

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

UPDATE REPORT TO THE CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: Update on the Future of Joint Arun Area Committees

REPORT AUTHOR: Jackie Follis - Group Head of Policy

DATE: 09.08.21

EXTN: 01903 737580

AREA: Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A decision was made by the Full Council at West Sussex County Council (WSSC) to establish a new informal District/Borough-based forum to replace the Joint Arun Area Committees. This paper informs Arun District Councillors of that decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report is to update Members on the decision made by West Sussex County Council, there are no recommendations for the Committee to consider.

BACKGROUND:

1. The West Sussex County Local Committees (CLCs) have existed for some years. These CLCs provided a forum for public question and answer sessions; the County Councillors at these meetings took decisions on grant funding (Community Initiative Fund); they also took decisions on some Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs); and Councillors were briefed on matters of mutual interest to the different tiers of local government. Membership was limited to the relevant WSSC Councillor and Parish Councillors for that area. It should be noted that the Community Initiative Fund ceased in 2021/22 as part of the WSSC budget process.
2. In Arun, following representations from Arun District Council Members, the membership was expanded to include Arun District Councillors and the Committees were known as Joint Arun Area Committees (JAACs). There were initially three JAACs, covering Eastern, Western and Downland areas within the District. The Joint Downland Arun Area Committee was later disbanded so that only two JAACs then represented the Arun District.
3. The meetings were administered by WSSC, although ADC did provide a financial contribution to this.

4. At its meeting on 28 June 2021, the WSCC Governance Committee received a paper setting out proposals to change the format of the meetings and move to a more informal local community engagement forum for county councillors. The paper is agenda item 5 in the following agenda:

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g2752/Public%20reports%20pack%2028th-Jun-2021%2014.15%20Governance%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

5. This paper included comments from Councillor Gunner on behalf of the Council and other Group Leaders, following a very short consultation by WSCC. On 16 July the Full County Council agreed the recommendation of the Governance Committee to remove County Local Committees, including the Joint Arun Area Committees.
6. We have been informed that an outline of the new, more flexible arrangements for community engagement to replace the CLCs will be provided to the WSCC Governance Committee on 6 September 2021 and a trial of the new format should be completed by March 2022 in order to establish a new model for 2022/23 onwards. Section 2.5 of the WSCC Governance Paper sets out the aims of a new model for these more flexible arrangements and local County Councillors

2. PROPOSAL(S):

This is an update on a decision made by another Council, there are no proposals

3. OPTIONS:

See 2.

4. CONSULTATION:

| Has consultation been undertaken with: | YES | NO |
|--|-----|-----|
| Relevant Town/Parish Council | | N/A |
| Relevant District Ward Councillors | | N/A |
| Other groups/persons (please specify) | | N/A |

**5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES:
(Explain in more detail at 6 below)**

| | YES | NO |
|---|-----|-----|
| Financial | | N/A |
| Legal | | N/A |
| Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment | | N/A |
| Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act | | N/A |
| Sustainability | | N/A |
| Asset Management/Property/Land | | N/A |
| Technology | | N/A |
| Other (please explain) | | N/A |

6. IMPLICATIONS:

To allow Arun Councillors to be aware of the decision taken by West Sussex County Council.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

N/A

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

WSSC Governance Committee Paper:

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g2752/Public%20reports%20pack%2028th-Jun-2021%2014.15%20Governance%20Committee.pdf?T=10>