



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 26 June 2019

Report of: Garry King

Subject: **SOUTH HAMPSHIRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2019**

SUMMARY

The provision of an integrated Green Infrastructure (GI) network across the sub-region is crucial to enable planned sustainable economic growth and development set out in the PUSH Spatial Position Statement 2016. The Joint Committee at its meeting of 14 March 2017 adopted the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017. The Strategy was subsequently updated in July 2018 taking account of the publication of the Local Nature Partnership's (LNP) Local Ecological Network Map, national policy changes resulting from the review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the publication of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and published on the PUSH website. The GI Strategy provides the vision, policy framework, drivers and evidence for strategic GI planning for the South Hampshire part of the PUSH sub-region. This report provides a summary of the preparation of the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2019, which will deliver the GI Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES that the Joint Committee adopted the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2019, subject to any final changes recommended by the Joint Committee, further project clarification detail from PUSH partners and non-substantive improvements including formatting for publication.

INTRODUCTION

1. GI planning in the PUSH sub-region is supported by 'Position Statement G1: Green Infrastructure' and supporting text included in the PUSH Spatial Position Statement 2016 and planned through the delivery of the adopted PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017 (updated 2018).
2. In order to deliver the GI Strategy, PUSH agreed that the PUSH Green Infrastructure Implementation Framework 2012 should be reviewed and updated. The adoption draft South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2019 (appended to this report) is intended to replace the 2012 Framework.
3. There is a need to ensure that strategic GI projects are delivered in South Hampshire that enable growth and development by exploiting current and future funding streams including from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). It is also important that the South Hampshire GI Implementation Plan 2019 provides both an effective framework for and support to the delivery of the GI planning processes of PUSH constituent authorities and partners at a more local level.

BACKGROUND

4. The PUSH Planning Officers Group, at their 14 April 2016 meeting, agreed that the adopted 2010 PUSH GI Strategy and the 2012 PUSH GI Implementation Framework should be reviewed and refreshed, and continue to be presented as two separate documents, allowing the Implementation Plan to be readily updated to reflect changing circumstances and new GI opportunities. This approach was agreed by the PUSH Planning and Infrastructure Delivery Panel at their meeting of 13 May 2016.
5. Due to the natural separation of the Isle of Wight from the mainland, it was agreed prior to May 2015 and again ratified at the PUSH Planning and Infrastructure Delivery Group meeting of 13 May 2016, that the reviewed GI Strategy and reviewed GI Implementation Plan would cover the South Hampshire sub-region and compliment strategic GI planning work undertaken specifically for the Isle of Wight.
6. This South Hampshire GI Implementation Plan 2019 builds on earlier work undertaken by PUSH. In 2009 PUSH commissioned consultants to translate early baseline work into a GI Strategy in 2010, followed by the preparation of a GI Implementation Framework in 2012. The 2010 GI strategy was replaced by the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017 (updated 2018) and this Implementation Plan replaces the 2012 Implementation Framework. This Implementation Plan should be read in conjunction with the published GI Strategy.
7. A GI steering group comprising appropriate representatives of all PUSH local planning authorities and including representation from Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, New Forest National Park, South Downs National Park, Hampshire Wildlife Trust and Bird Aware Solent was established to steer the preparation of the South Hampshire GI Strategy 2017.

This steering group was re-established to steer the preparation of the South Hampshire GI Implementation Plan 2019.

8. A draft of the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2019 was taken to the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee of 4 December 2018. At that time insufficient project information had been received from the PUSH GI Steering Group. The current adoption draft, however, has benefitted from significant further input from the Steering Group and previous gaps in project detail have been resolved. Joint Committee also requested the following modifications:
- GI Opportunities Map – change shaded area in NFDC area to appear more indicative and match district boundary.
 - Add an appendix with details of strategic/local/countryside gaps in South Hampshire.
 - Add ‘Thumbnail’ maps for all location specific projects.
 - Add Southsea Seafront as a strategic project.
 - Change the South West Hampshire Forest Park from a strategic project to an opportunity.

These changes have been implemented in full.

South Hampshire GI Implementation Plan 2019

9. The purpose of the Implementation Plan is to identify a number of key strategic GI projects and opportunities which PUSH and its partners can focus on, the implementation of which will help deliver the objectives set out in the published GI Strategy (presented in Appendix 1 of the Implementation Plan). The scope of the Implementation Plan ensures that it:
- is focused on enabling sustainable economic growth and development
 - is informed by the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan;
 - is focused on strategic scale GI;
 - maintains close links with Bird Aware Solent (Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership) and is aligned with the delivery of its strategy;
 - fosters partnership working with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership (LNP);
 - integrates with GI planning in neighbouring areas and acts as a framework for the delivery of smaller scale GI at a local level;
 - will enhance quality of life for residents of the sub-region; and
 - improves the quality of South Hampshire’s valued natural environment.
10. Although the GI Implementation Plan is an integral part of the GI Strategy, it has been drafted to provide the reader with an appropriate level of GI planning context to underpin project selection, should the Plan be read in isolation.
11. Following assessment of potential projects, a number of strategic GI projects, identified as being of sub-regional importance against the criteria set out in the GI Strategy have been included in the Implementation Plan. The identification of projects is a combination of geographical/functional need and the exploitation of resource opportunities. Project lead organisations and supporting partners have been identified for each project, where agreed. Some strategic projects consist of a number of smaller sub-projects where these collectively are of strategic

importance to the PUSH sub-region. Strategic GI projects set out in the Implementation Plan are:

- Strategic Recreational Access Network and Capacity Project
- Strategic Flood Risk and Water Quality Project
- Strategic Waders and Brent Goose Refuges Mitigation Project
- New Forest Strategic GI and European Sites Mitigation Project
- Havant Thicket Reservoir GI Project
- Horsea Island Country Park Development Project
- Southsea Seafront
- England Coast Path Initiative
- Strategic Transport Corridor GI Project
- Greening the Urban Environment Initiative

12. Monitoring, review and update of the GI Implementation Plan is important to ensure continued and effective delivery of the GI Strategy. Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council have commenced or will shortly commence development of GI strategies for their areas and it is important that this GI Implementation Plan reflects emerging GI opportunities. It is recommended, therefore, within the document that a review group be established to monitor performance of Plan delivery and report this to PUSHPOG and that the Plan is reviewed and where necessary updated at least annually.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES that the Joint Committee adopted the South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2019, subject to any final changes recommended by the Joint Committee, further project clarification detail from PUSH partners and non-substantive improvements including formatting for publication.

Reference Papers:

[PUSH Spatial Position Statement 2016](#)

[South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017 \(updated 2018\)](#)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan 2019

Enquiries:

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