



Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 08 October 2019
in the Vannes/Pulheim Room, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillors Alan Glass
Ray Bolton
Dan Fitzhenry
Judith Smyth
Ray Bolton
Phil Bundy
Dominic Hiscock
Peter Davies

Authority Represented:

New Forest DC
Hampshire CC
Southampton CC
Portsmouth CC
Hampshire CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC
Fareham BC

Also in attendance:

Paddy May
Richard Ivory
Mike Allgrove
Claire Upton-Brown

PfSH
Solicitor
PfSH Consultant
Chairman PfSH Planning Officers Group
(via conference call)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Malcolm Johnson (East Hants DC); Councillor Tom Davies (Fareham BC) with Councillor Peter Davies deputising; Councillor Bruce Tennent (Eastleigh BC).

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 August 2019, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

At the agreement of the Chairman this item was brought forward on the agenda to allow Claire Upton-Brown to take part in the discussions.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report updating on the progress in drafting a joint Statement of Common Ground (SOCG).

Mike Allgrove explained the current position with the draft SOCG, that the PfSH Joint Committee will be asked to agree a draft which sets out the correct issues before the PfSH SOCG is finalised and approved by the Joint Committee later this year.

Ray Bolton commented that there was still a lot of work to be done and the Chairman agreed that it is important to get the details right in order for the SOCG to enable PfSH to work together effectively.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES the contents of the report and considered comments to pass the Joint Committee for consideration.

7. PFSH MANAGERS REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report from the PfSH coordinator, Paddy May on matters that are significant but did not justify a full report in its own right.

The Chairman enquired as to whether, in the future there were any plans for PfSH planning authorities to combine across the PfSH boundaries. Mike Allgrove confirmed that the SOCG was purely a mechanism for PfSH authorities to work together across the boundaries to identify development opportunities but there would be no change to individual authority's governance arrangements.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES the contents of the report and considered comments to pass the Joint Committee for consideration.

8. PFSH JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the revisions to the PfSH Joint Committee Agreement. Paddy May addressed the Committee advising that the PfSH Agreement under pins the work of PfSH and explained the reasons for the review.

One of the main areas of the agreement that the Joint Committee are being asked to consider is the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with the change to pre-scrutiny allowing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to feed comments to the Joint Committee. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to attend the Joint Committee meetings to feedback comments and if necessary a written paper or, where time allows, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes will be published prior to the Joint Committee meeting to allow comments to be considered in the decision making of the Joint Committee. Richard Ivory confirmed that this was a trial period and after six months the new process will be reviewed to confirm if effective scrutiny is being carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Ray Bolton enquired about the endorsement of the new agreement to ensure that this is actioned correctly. Richard Ivory confirmed that the new agreement would be monitored and formally endorsed by each authority within PfSH.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES the contents of the report and considered comments to pass the Joint Committee for consideration.

9. PFSH NITRATE NEUTRALITY UPDATE

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining work that PfSH is undertaking to address the impact of the nitrate neutrality on housing developments across the region. Paddy May, Claire Upton-Brown and Mike Allgrove explained the complex topic to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the nitrates issue at length, raising concerns over the long-term impact that delays in building houses will have across the region. Councillor Dan Fitzhenry advised that working together at a local level is where PfSH has strength and working to investigate mitigation solutions must to be a priority. It was agreed that the Chairman would ask Joint Committee to ask each PfSH Local Authority to come up with the list of schemes that could solve this problem. This would provide a useful start if any funding materialises. The Committee discussed S106 developer contributions and how this is likely to be the only way in which mitigation solutions can be funded by each PfSH planning authority in the short term.

The Committee agreed that more work needed to be done to voice concerns to the Government, specifically in respect to the affect that the pause in issuing planning consents will have on affordable housing and housing stocks in general. Richard Ivory addressed the Committee to advise that lobbying of Members of Parliament had already taken place and the focus for PfSH needed to be on how to work together to mitigate the effects on each of the local planning authorities within PfSH. The Committee took onboard the comments from Richard Ivory but agreed that a letter to DEFRA would still be the right thing to do to voice the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A letter will be drafted with the Chairman and circulated to Members. This letter would include reference to the fact that if we use S106 / CIL funding to fund nitrate neutrality requirements this will reduce the ability to use the funding to meet other priorities such as affordable housing. It will also state that with nitrate issues and other environmental concerns within the Solent area significant increases in housing numbers, evidenced through the MHCLG targets, will exacerbate these environmental concerns.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: -

- (a) NOTES the contents of the report;
- (b) SUPPORTS the Joint Committees approach; and
- (c) AGREES a letter be sent to DEFRA outlining the specific concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(The meeting started at 10.30am and ended at 11.28am)