



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **04 February 2020**

Report of: **Paddy May, PfSH Coordinator**

Subject: **PfSH COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

SUMMARY

The Co-ordinator's report provides an opportunity for issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report in their own right, to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee NOTES the contents of the report and consider any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware) Updated Terms of Reference

The Bird Aware Solent Partnership has fully transitioned from the planning phases of its work to the delivery of its long term Strategy. In line with this, the Partnership has taken the opportunity to update the Terms of Reference for the group which now better reflect the way it is operating in practice.

The updated version notes that the partnership is operating under the public facing brand 'Bird Aware Solent' and that governance is provided by PfSH (not PUSH). This version also refreshes the membership of the Project Board, allowing the Chair of the Partnership for South Hampshire Planning Officers Group to become actively involved, as well as providing an opportunity for all of the nature conservation bodies to take a place on the Project Board (previously just 3 of the 4).

Lastly, the update reflects that the Steering Group now meets three times a year (previously four) to better suit operational needs. These meetings are timed to allow for the plan for the winter to be signed off before the season begins.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Planning & Infrastructure

Strategic Recreation and Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Bird Aware Solent Partnership has got off to a strong start to the Winter season, with the Ranger team (1 Lead Ranger, 4 permanent Rangers and 3 Seasonal Rangers) managing to complete the following in the period 1 October to 31 December 2019:

- Site Visits 522
- People interacted with on-site 5,921
- Events 21
- People interacted with at events 837

During the same period, the brand and communications lead has also created several media opportunities and continued to grow our social media presence as follows:

- Number and % growth of social media followers on each platform since last update:
 - Twitter – 249 - 16%
 - Facebook – 238 – 28%
 - Instagram – 74 – 17%
- Impressions (number of times seen) for each social media platform
 - Twitter – 457k
 - Facebook – 117k
 - Instagram – 31.6k

- Number of posts on social media
 - Twitter - 396
 - Facebook - 112
 - Instagram posts and stories – 119
- Press releases
 - One each month with two circulated in November.
- The number of web stories uploaded
 - Eight added to the section 'blog'
 - Four added to the section 'partner news'

Green Infrastructure

A further meeting was held with the Chairman of the Bishop's Waltham to Botley Bridleway Project Working Group on 20 January. The project is one of the schemes outlined in the Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan that was agreed at the Joint Committee 4 June 2019. The issue that remains is how this scheme can be funded although it is clearly an important access route to green infrastructure for local communities. Colleagues from the Project Working Group are looking to make a number of bids for funding and are in discussion with landowners to secure the necessary land.

Local Industrial Strategy

Work to integrate the contribution of the creative economy into the Solent Strategy to 2050 (economic strategy) continues. The PfSH consultant working on the Statement of Common Ground / Joint Strategy is liaising with both the EM3 LEP and the Solent LEP to try ensure that there are strong links with this work.

Energy and the Green Economy

The original proposal for the Green Economy funding was to support energy schemes in Portsmouth and Southampton, if they met the criteria in the Solent LEP Energy Strategy. However, this Strategy has taken longer than anticipated and as a result these schemes are already underway and intervention from PfSH is no longer a priority.

There are two emerging work streams that may benefit from funding:

- The first relates to the Climate Change Emergencies that have been declared across the PfSH area and whether there are benefits from working together to tackle some of the issues. An initial meeting was held between Eastleigh Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council and Winchester City Council on 12 November 2019 to look at common priority areas with another meeting planned with all PfSH authorities to see if there is interest in pursuing this. If there are common priorities that work across local authority boundaries there may be some scope to develop some wider PfSH projects using the funding from the Green Economy budget.
- The second project that is emerging is an EU funded project for the green economy that will support businesses across the PfSH area. The project will

require some match funding and the PfSH funding for the green economy could provide some of this.

Kent County Council are the lead partners in the project called LoCASE and have submitted a bid to extend their existing project to cover the Solent LEP area. The bid itself includes a number of elements, most critically about £3.4m to engage with local businesses on energy and environmental efficiency, including grants to improve their efficiency and commercial viability. The project is expected to generate 500 interventions saving over 3000tCO₂e in the Solent LEP Area. This is a significant scheme that colleagues have been trying to get off the ground for several years, but it is the first time this category for the ERDF funding has been available. This will be the third phase for the Kent LoCASE project, the first phases have successfully led to significant environmental outcomes.

Involvement in this project has not yet been confirmed as more details are needed so agreement to allocate budget to it is not sought at this time, but members are asked to note it and consider whether it is something they would be interested in looking into further. The project may be progressed locally without the match funding from PfSH, but the more match funding the greater the outcomes from the project. The current value of the PfSH Energy and Green Economy Fund is £44k.

JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Overview and Scrutiny Members are asked to note that the recommendations being made to the Joint Committee will be to:

- a) NOTE and ENDORSE the revised Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware) updated terms of reference in Part A of this report; and
- b) NOTE the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report

Enquiries:

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