



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 10 February 2020
Report of: Paddy May, PfSH Coordinator
Subject: PfSH MANAGERS CO-ORDINATOR'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 Joint Committee: -

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

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

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

- 1.1 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 revised version is attached as **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 1.2 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 Chairman of the Partnership for South Hampshire Planning Officers Group to become actively involved, as well as all of the nature conservation bodies to take a place within the Project Board (previously just 3 of the 4).
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee NOTES and ENDORSES these revised Terms of Reference.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

2. Planning & Infrastructure

2.1 Statement of Common Ground

- 2.1.1 An update on progress towards developing a PfSH-wide Statement of Common Ground and regional 'vision' is included on the main agenda for the Joint Committee Meeting 10 February.

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

- 2.2.1 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

2.2.2 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'

2.3 Water Management

2.3.1 An update on progress towards developing a strategy for achieving nutrient neutrality for new housing development across the PfSH region is included on the main agenda for Joint Committee 10 February.

2.4 Green Infrastructure

2.4.1 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 to be resolved is how this scheme can be funded. 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.

3. Update from Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment

3.1 An update on the work of PfSH's cultural, creative industries and built environment activity is included on the main agenda for Joint Committee 10 February.

3.2 **Local Industrial Strategy**

- 3.2.1 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.

4. **Energy and the Green Economy**

- 4.1 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.

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

- The first relates to the climate change motions 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 has been 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 projects under the PfSH using 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 LEP area. The project will require some match funding and the PfSH funding for the green economy could provide some of this.

- 4.1.3 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 we 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 to us. This will be the third phase for the Kent LoCASE project, the first phases have successfully led to significant environmental outcomes.

- 4.1.4 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 support it in principle. 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.

- 4.1.5 For information a concept note "*Exploring the potential in The Region's Low Carbon European Regional Development Funds*" is attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.

CONCLUSION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee: -

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

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact:

Paddy May (PfSH Co-ordinator)

Tel. No. 023 9283 4020

E-mail: paddy.may@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

SOLENT RECREATION MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose of the Partnership

- 1.1. The purpose of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (also known by its public facing brand name 'Bird Aware Solent') is to facilitate joint working by local authorities and other bodies on the implementation of measures which will mitigate the impact of additional recreational activity which will result from planned housing development so that it does not have a significant effect on the three Special Protection Areas in the Solent. It succeeds the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project which commissioned research into the impact.
- 1.2. The Partnership will undertake joint technical work to identify, implement and monitor the necessary mitigation measures, and facilitate liaison and information sharing between the partners.
- 1.3. The Partnership will maintain liaison with other organisations which are undertaking related activities in order to exchange information and avoid duplication of work.
- 1.4. For the avoidance of doubt, the Partnership cannot exercise any of the functions of a planning authority nor can it fetter any decisions made by such bodies, nor the rights and responsibilities of the landowners within the SPAs. The Partnership will recognise and take account of the interests, rights and responsibilities of landowners, users and other stakeholders.

2. Partnership membership, structure and relationships

- 2.1. The Partnership comprises the following local authorities and other organisations:-
 - Chichester District Council
 - East Hampshire District Council
 - Eastleigh Borough Council
 - Fareham Borough Council
 - Gosport Borough Council
 - Hampshire County Council
 - Havant Borough Council

- Isle of Wight Council
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Portsmouth City Council
- Southampton City Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Winchester City Council
- Natural England
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy.
- Arun District Council (in a non-voting capacity)

2.2. The Partnership will consist of two bodies:

- A Project Board which will determine the Partnership's overall direction;
- A Steering Group which will manage the Partnership's work and activities within the overall direction set by the Project Board.

2.3. The Project Board will comprise:

- the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Co-Ordinator;
- the Chairman of the Partnership for South Hampshire Planning Officers Group;
- four chief/senior officers from the local authorities listed in 2.1 (with the exception of any attending in a non-voting capacity) of which one will be from an authority which is not a member of PfSH;
- a representative of Natural England;
- a representatives of each of the three wildlife/conservation organisations listed in 2.1;

- an officer representative of any organisation which is employing staff on behalf of the Partnership¹.
- 2.4. The Steering Group will comprise an officer representative from each of the organisations listed in 2.1.
- 2.5. At the discretion of the meeting Chairman, staff which are employed to undertake the work of the Partnership will also be able to attend meetings of the Project Board and the Steering Group in a non-voting capacity.

¹The Partnership is not legally able to employ staff itself, so any staff will be employed on its behalf by one of the partner organisations.

3. Governance

- 3.1. The work of the Partnership will be overseen by PfSH, with the PfSH Joint Committee approving the annual work programme and priorities. PfSH will invite one representative of each of the local authorities listed in 2.1 which are not members of PfSH (Chichester District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Authority) to meetings of its Planning & Infrastructure Panel and Joint Committee where the work of this Partnership is to be discussed.

4. Project Board functions and procedures

- 4.1. The Project Board shall have the following functions:
- 4.1.1. To act on behalf of the member organisations in identifying and implementing the measures which are necessary to mitigate the impact of additional recreational activity on the Solent Special Protection Areas;
 - 4.1.2. To commission studies and surveys, and fund works relating to the Partnership's objectives;
 - 4.1.3. To fund and manage the employment of staff¹ to undertake the Partnership's activities;
 - 4.1.4. To administer funds received from member organisations or other sources to carry out these functions, and maintain accounts relating to the allocation and expenditure of these funds;
 - 4.1.5. To instruct the Steering Group to undertake work and to fund such work as appropriate;
 - 4.1.6. To approve and publish documents relating to the Partnership's objectives;
 - 4.1.7. To publish guidance and provide advice to member and stakeholder organisations, including making non-binding recommendations for a course of action or policy for adoption;
 - 4.1.8. To report on the Partnership's activities and seek approval of the future work programme, as necessary and at least annually, to the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH);
 - 4.1.9. To keep these terms of reference under review and make appropriate amendments as necessary.
- 4.2. The Chairman will be elected annually from amongst the nominated representatives of the partner organisations.

5. Steering Group functions and procedures

- 5.1. The Steering Group will provide technical support to the Project Board, prepare reports for the Board's consideration and carry out such actions as may be instructed by the Board including the following:
 - 5.1.1. To prepare, for approval by the Project Board, a long-term strategy which sets out the necessary mitigation measures and how they will be funded;
 - 5.1.2. To manage and implement the studies, surveys, and mitigation works commissioned by the Project Board;
 - 5.1.3. To prepare monitoring reports which set out the progress made in implementing the mitigation measures and their effectiveness;
 - 5.1.4. To prepare regular updates on progress and make recommendations to the Project Board annually on the work programme for the coming year
 - 5.1.5. To keep partner organisations briefed on the Partnership's work and activities.
- 5.2. The Steering Group will meet at least three times each year. A chairman will be elected annually from amongst the nominated representatives of the partner organisations.
- 5.3. The Steering Group may establish small project or working groups, resourced as necessary, to progress particular aspects of its work. Representatives of organisations who have a recognised interest in the planning or management of the Solent SPAs but are not Partnership members may be invited to join such groups.

6. Financial administration

- 6.1. The Partnership Project Board shall appoint one of the local authorities listed in 2.1 to hold and administer the Partnership's funds, and to provide advice and guidance on all financial matters.
- 6.2. The Project Board will prepare a financial protocol that will set out the procedures for approving expenditure and for accounting for money handled by the Partnership.

7. Other key support services

- 7.1. The Partnership Project Board shall also appoint local authority partners to undertake other key services for the Partnership. These shall include procurement advice and legal support.

These terms of reference were approved by the Project Board on 14 November 2019 and were endorsed by the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee on ***NEW DATE TO BE INSERTED***.

ENDS

Concept Note

Exploring the Potential in The Region's Low Carbon European Regional Development Funds

Low Carbon Across the South East - A Potential ERDF PA4 Project

With the recent successful delivery of the Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) project in South East LEP and the coordinated launch of the final Open Calls for PA4 funding across multiple LEP areas it has become apparent that there is a real opportunity to show just what can be done to link successful delivery of proven models across county boundaries, allied with some real funding. As well as the £3.6m Solent allocation, EM3 will have approximately £2.5m available, C2C approximately £4m available and SELEP have recently launched a call worth £6.5m meaning that of the £16.6m available there is potential to unlock over £33m funding for low carbon/energy projects across the four LEP areas.

The concept supports our own objectives to: provide a consistent, accessible business support programme across the Tri-LEP area and help SMEs optimise the use of resources and adopt eco-innovative and low carbon solutions in ways that improve business performance in terms of resilience, profitability and competitiveness, at the same time creating jobs and contributing to the protection of the environment. It would achieve this by bringing together 3 key requirements for the growth of a low carbon economy - "Stimulating Demand", "Supporting Supply" and "Transferring Knowledge". It would also look to increase local energy projects; raise local awareness of local energy investment potentials and to, enable local areas to attract private and/or public finance for energy projects. It also supports policy and strategy at local levels around energy, economy, carbon targets, skills and offers a response to the youth movement on climate change.

The concept had been designed to fit each of the calls and will complement the existing initiatives set out in the Energy South2East Energy Strategy.

Concept

At its core, the project would continue to build on the success of the current SELEP project through the grants offering to provide support for energy efficiency and low carbon product and service development. Additional support would be provided through specialist guidance, technical workshops and mentoring. An innovation scheme will provide the knowledge transfer offer and key sector cluster growth and supply chain development. In addition, a public sector infrastructure scheme will help with increasing the energy efficiency of the public sector estate through the implementation of low carbon technologies.

The Project will be structured into 6 distinct packages of work as follows;

Work Package	Title	Investment Priority
WP1	Project Management	All
WP2	Communications & Publicity	All
WP3	EE Support	4b
WP4	Low Carbon Sector Support	4f
WP5	Public Sector Building Improvements	4c
WP6	Innovation & Foresight	4a & 4e

These packages of support, delivered through a flexible framework to ensure all activity is delivered to a standard format, which offers SMEs a uniform level of support whatever route they are signposted towards, will be delivered over 3 years across the entire LEP region from Solent, through Enterprise M3 and Coast2 Capital to the South East LEP. Through the utilisation of existing extensive networks operated by each of the proposed Partners, SMEs will be able to seamlessly access support through multiple routes. This will include local authority and Growth Hub referral, and engagement at awareness raising events and through peer to peer referral.

Match Funding

Activity would require a substantial budget and 50% match funding models need to be explored. Ultimately the size of the budget will be determined by the match potential. This would then influence the scale of ambition of the potential project.

Some match could be from local authorities where they have sustainability staff, low carbon and or economic development teams who could contribute some time. Other funds may come from local authority pots that support their own public estate building stock.

The largest match element will be provided by the SMEs accessing the grant element of the project. The latter will not be in place at the commencement of the project but be collected during the lifetime of the project through the tested and proven grant defrayal process established by the Accountable Body. This has been successfully achieved through the current LoCASE project as well as the precursor projects to LoCASE delivered under the 2007-13 Programme.

The LoCASE funding model has again been designed to ensure maximum benefit is provided to SMEs accessing support through the project. Grants offered by LoCASE

will be at a fixed rate of 40%, with SMEs providing match of 60% of the total project cost. To ensure LoCASE complies with ESIF funding rules (i.e. a minimum of 50% Private/Public Match) private and public sector contributions will be utilised to support delivery of other project activities, i.e. those not associated with financial assistance, for example; green business audits, STEM workshops, knowledge transfer innovation and sector specific events. This will ensure the project achieves 50% of the total project costs, enabling draw down of the 50% ERDF contribution.

N.B. Please note that less than 1.5% of the total project budget will be utilised to support project management costs for the Accountable Body role.

General Notes

- This would be led by Kent County Council as per the previous iterations of the LoCASE project.
- It represents a collaboration on low carbon; skills and capital developments.
- It would be 3-year project aiming to begin ready for the next financial year.

Direct benefits:

- Significant carbon savings
- Improved energy efficiency for public sector buildings and estate
- Growth in low carbon retrofit industries and other related energy services
- Support for low carbon skills development and related career opportunities
- Financial support to local authorities and a means of reducing costs.

Budget Development Considerations

Operational costs will form the largest part of the project budget and are required to implement the project, administering the grant scheme and work towards deliverables in each of the Work Packages. These are broken down into cost categories as follows:

- Staff costs include officers participating in the internal administration and delivery of the project. Staff time will be drawn from a range of services within partner organisations to support the project delivery including business engagement, and finance.
- Travel costs include local travel (mileage) within partner areas as well as regional travel for quarterly SME engagement activities across all Work Packages and partnership meetings.
- Consultancy costs include procured services to undertake business engagement in order to recruit SMEs to the LoCASE grant scheme, as well

as providing advice and support to increase the use and take up of low carbon technologies, energy efficiency measures, renewable energy technologies and smart energy systems in public buildings. Across the sector public bodies are adopting a commissioning-based approach in order to recruit consultants to fill known gaps in expertise and capability with partner organisations.

- Marketing costs include printing, design, advertising and events.

The grant element is the single most important element of the project as it generates substantial private sector match. Value for money in terms of each grant was achieved based on the experience of average grants awarded in the current project.

Considerations

The challenges of ERDF are:

- 50% Match requirement– see above for options
- In arrears payment
- Administrative and project management burden (although largely dealt with by KCC as Project Lead)
- Eligibility – Recipients of assistance must conform to set criteria as set out in the ESIF Guidance

Contact

Christopher Seamark
Sustainable Business Programme Manager, Kent County Council
Christopher.Seamark@kent.gov.uk

ENDS