



# Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 10 February 2020  
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

**Members:**

**Councillors:**

Seán Woodward (Chairman)  
Judith Grajewski  
Neil Cutler  
Nick Adams-King  
Stephen Philpott  
Michael Wilson  
David Airey  
Christopher Hammond (Vice-Chairman)  
Ken Moon  
Barry Rickman  
Patrick Heneghan

**Authority Represented:**

Fareham BC  
Hampshire CC  
Winchester CC  
Test Valley BC  
Gosport BC  
Havant BC  
Eastleigh BC  
Southampton CC  
East Hampshire DC  
New Forest DC  
New Forest NP

**Officers:**

Peter Grimwood  
Roger Tetstall  
Laura Taylor  
Stuart Jarvis  
Bob Jackson  
Simon Jenkins  
Nick Tustian  
David Williams  
Alison Barnes  
Sandy Hopkins

**Authority Represented:**

Fareham BC  
Test Valley BC  
Winchester CC  
Hampshire CC  
New Forest DC  
Havant BC & East Hants DC  
Eastleigh BC  
Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC  
New Forest NP  
Southampton CC

**Co-opted Members:**

Paddy May  
Catherine Fuller

**Organisation represented:**

PfSH  
Environment Agency

**Also in Attendance:**

Johnathan Evans (Item 7)  
Claire Upton-Brown (Item 8)  
Mike Allgrove (Item 8)  
Charlotte Lines (Item 9)

Southampton CC  
New Forest DC  
PfSH Consultant  
Environment Agency

David Bibby (Item 9)	Test Valley BC
Joff Edevane (Item 9)	Southern Water
Andrew Smith (Item 9)	Natural England
Graham Horton (Item 9)	Natural England
Debbie Tann (Item 9)	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
John Durnell (Item 9)	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Anna Parry (Item 10)	Bird Aware Solent
Charles Freeman (Item 11)	Co-ordinator for Culture, Creative Industries Built Environment, Themed Panel

For further information, please contact Democratic Services at Fareham Borough  
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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Edward Heron (New Forest DC) with Councillor Barry Rickman deputising, Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (New Forest National Park) with Patrick Heneghan deputising, James Humphrys (Environment Agency), Gary Jefferies (Solent LEP), Gill Kneller (Havant & East Hants DC) with Simon Jenkins deputising, Councillor Keith House (Eastleigh BC) with Councillor David Airey deputising.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on 14 October 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that he will be attending a meeting with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP on the 12 February 2020 with items on the agenda for discussion including, Nitrates, funding for Junction 10 improvements and Housing Numbers.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this meeting.

**5. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations received at this meeting.

**6. PFSH MANAGERS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Joint Committee received a report by the PfSH co-ordinator, Paddy May, that covered issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B, with Part A outlining matters for decision and Part B providing information for the Joint Committee on a variety of PfSH matters.

RESOLVED 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 the report.

**7. PFSH CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2019/20 AND PROPOSED INTERIM REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21**

The Joint Committee received a report from Johnathan Evans, on the Capital and Revenue Budget 2020/21. The Joint Committee was asked to note an amendment to the figures within table 5 of the report. The New Forest National Park Authorities contribution of £750 was not added to the table at the time of publication in error.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) NOTES the spend for the year to date against the revenue and capital budgets and the forecast outturn for 2019/20, as set out in the report (tables 2 & 4);
- b) NOTES that the forecast outturn from the 2019/20 budgets is provisional and may be subject to change in the final outturn budget report; and
- c) with the addition of the New Forest National Park Authorities contribution of £750, APPROVES the proposed interim revenue budget for 2020/21, as set out in the report (table 5).

## **8. STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND - PROGRESS**

The Joint Committee received a report from Claire Upton-Brown which provides an update on the progress towards the Statement of Common Ground.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the progress made on the Statement of Common Ground set out in this report.

## **9. PFSH NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY UPDATE**

The Joint Committee received a report from David Bibby which provided an update to the Joint Committee on the recent progress made on the work of PFSH and its partners has undertaken to address the nitrate issue.

The Chairman, along with several other Members of the Joint Committee, expressed concern over the absence of a solution after over a year. It was stated that small developers, tradesman and agents across the region were going out of business, no homes were being built across large areas of the region and Local Planning Authorities were likely to fail their housing delivery tests.

The Chairman welcomed, Catherine Fuller and Charlotte Lines from the Environment Agency, Andrew Smith and Graham Horton from Natural England, Joff Edevane from Southern Water and invited them to comment on the contents of the report.

Graham Horton from Natural England explained that they, and colleagues from the Environment Agency have been working hard together to agree on a mitigation strategy, but the issue of nutrient neutrality is incredibly complex and with the two organisations having different requirements and expectations, although they are closer to an agreement, there is still some work to do.

Andrew Smith from Natural England added that all parties, including officers from across all the affected Local Authorities have been working incredibly hard to find a solution and that progress is being made, although they understand the perception may seem different to other agencies.

Catherine Fuller from the Environment Agency addressed the Joint Committee to advise that various pieces of work to tackle this issue are being progressed by numerous agencies, including; the MHCLG Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government, DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs),

Natural England and the Environment Agency. Catherine Fuller read out the following statement to the Joint Committee to outline the work in more detail: -

Environment Agency/Natural England Joint Position Statement:

- Natural England and Environment Agency issued a joint position statement which clarifies the agencies' respective roles in managing impacts on sensitive sites through the planning and permitting regime. This was shared with the PfSH secretariat for distribution to members in November last year and is available on its website: [www.push.gov.uk](http://www.push.gov.uk).

Nutrient Neutrality advice:

- Natural England are adjusting the method for calculating nutrient neutrality, taking into account information submitted by stakeholders, and are providing advice to Local Planning Authorities accordingly. A revised version is due to be published by the end of February 2020.
- Natural England and MHCLG working together to create a spreadsheet calculator to help standardise the application of the method across the PfSH authorities and to make it easier for developers and officers to quickly and easily calculate the overall nutrient budget of development proposals.

Wastewater Treatment Works permits:

- Natural England and Environment Agency are assessing the latest evidence to understand if a review of water discharge permits for wastewater treatment works discharging to the Solent and its harbours should be carried out. The agencies are meeting at the beginning of February 2020 to agree on a future approach.

Strategic Mitigation:

- MHCLG are seeking funding which could contribute towards developing strategic scale nature-based mitigation strategies in the Solent area.
- MHCLG have requested a teleconference with PfSH authorities to gather information to be used in support of this.
- Key practical mitigation options available and the key stages for securing a strategic nature-based nitrogen mitigation solution have been mapped. PfSH input on this is currently being sought in order to better understand the specific areas where the authorities may require additional information, support or resources to develop area-wide mitigation schemes.
- MHCLG are also exploring opportunities to minimise the costs of mitigation for developers, for example, by delivering this as part of environmental improvements already required by national or local planning policy, such as securing biodiversity net gain.

Planning Guidance:

- MHCLG are reviewing planning practice guidance to provide more clarity for local planning authorities and other stakeholders in relation to the application of the Habitats Regulations in the planning system.

Agricultural nitrogen:

- DEFRA are reviewing the effectiveness of measures to tackle pollution from agriculture including catchment sensitive farming.
- DEFRA are continuing work on Environmental Land Management (ELM), which will create a system that will pay farmers for public goods, including improvements in soil, air and water quality.

The Chairman thanked Catherine for her detailed update.

The Chairman then invited Debbie Tan and John Durnell from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to address the Joint Committee to deliver a presentation on a potential mitigation solution. The land Offsetting scheme was outlined to Members of the Joint Committee which provides a potential quick and simple solution. The Joint Committee were supportive of the scheme but agreed there were several issues which needed to be discussed in more detail, such as; the amount of land available to offset, cost per property, how contracts would be arranged etc. It was agreed as per the recommendation that a plan be worked on for the scheme's potential implementation.

*A copy of the presentation will be published with these Minutes.*

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) NOTES the representations made to MHCLG requesting that the period for the end of the transitional arrangements for the Housing Delivery Test (as specified in the National Planning Policy Framework) should be extended beyond 2020, so that completions in 2022/23 can be counted;
- b) NOTES that PfSH has made representations to MHCLG to support a request from members for financial support from government under New Burdens Funding, towards the additional costs and workload to local authorities in dealing with the consequences of the nutrient neutrality issue;
- c) NOTES that PfSH will continue to work closely with MHCLG and DEFRA to find both short and medium/long term solutions and to SEEK support to assist us in achieving these;
- d) ENDORSES PfSH's continued investigation into potential medium/long-term mitigation solutions to provide a strategic PfSH wide approach, including with wider local authority partners beyond PfSH members;
- e) NOTES that PfSH continues to seek potential options for funding to support potential mitigation measures;
- f) NOTES that PfSH continues to engage with Solent LEP about how to fund a mitigation scheme for the sub-region along the same lines as the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) 'Bird Aware Solent';
- g) AGREES that local authorities work up a plan for the potential implementation of the HIWWT nutrient offsetting scheme within their borough/district, to include issues of catchment inclusion, s106 enforceability and allocation of credits; and
- h) ENDORSES PfSH's investigation into the options for a dedicated officer resource for PfSH to work on the nutrient neutrality issue and wider Habitats Regulations and internationally designated sites matters, to reflect the specialist nature and workload volume associated with addressing the issues.

## 10. BIRD AWARE SOLENT – SOLENT RECREATION MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

The Joint Committee received a report from Anna Parry, which seeks approval of the 2020/21 Bird Aware Solent (Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership) budget.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES and ENDORSES the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's 2020/21 budget request.

## 11. CULTURE, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Joint Committee received a report from Charles Freeman outlining the work of the Culture Creative Industries and Built Environments theme panel during 2019/20.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) NOTES the delivery of Solent Quality Place awards (see section);
- b) NOTES Progress in developing refreshed Quality Place Design Guidance (see section);
- c) NOTES the work of the panel in relation to the creative economy. The work programme priorities in this area include: -
  - Influencing the Solent Local Industrial Strategy
  - Supporting the Solent apprenticeship hub in promoting the take-up of creative and digital apprenticeships
  - Establishing creative industry business support
  - Supporting the development of a creative industries related event programme;
- d) NOTES that The Panel is supporting a series of applications to Arts Council England to secure funding for creative industries business support. The outcome of these applications will not be known until financial year 2020-21. The Panel therefore requests that £30 000 from 2019-20 budget be carried forward to support these applications; and
- e) Agrees that £12 500 be added to the PfSH base budget for 2020-21 to continue the work of the panel (see section)
  - £10,000 would be used support the work of Creative Network South
  - £ 2,500 to cover costs of facilitating panel activities.

## 12. SOUTHAMPTON BID FOR UK CITY OF CULTURE DESIGNATION 2025

The Joint Committee received a verbal update from Sandy Hopkins, providing Members with an overview of the work around Southampton City Council's UK City of Culture 2025 bid.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the work around Southampton City Council's bid for UK City of Culture 2025.

*(The meeting started at 5:30pm and ended at 7:06pm)*

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee will be held on 24 March 2020).*