



## **Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee**

**Date:** 07 July 2020

**Report of:** Claire Upton-Brown, Chairman PfSH Planning Officers Group

**Subject:** STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND – PROGRESS

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on progress towards the Statement of Common Ground.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Joint Committee agreed a draft framework for the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) at its meeting in October 2019. The report also set out a broad, draft timetable for the five workstreams that were included in the draft framework for the SoCG. The Joint Committee also received a report updating progress on the SoCG in February this year.

## **PROGRESS MADE ON STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

2. A workshop for leaders and chief executives was held immediately after the Joint Committee meeting on the 10 February. During the workshop Leaders and chief executives received updates on:
  - The ongoing work of the PfSH Planning Officers Group (POG) to prepare the Statement of Common Ground to support the production of a new Joint Strategy
  - The evidence base being developed being by the POG
  - The national context for strategic planning
3. At the workshop leaders and chief executives agreed the key drivers, what the Joint Strategy should include/aim to do, the timetable and 'next steps' for the work.
4. Procurement of consultants to undertake the potential strategic development opportunity area comparative assessments and transport impact assessments and modelling has now been concluded. Stantec and ITP (Integrated Transport Planning) have been appointed to undertake the respective studies. The tender award decisions have been made and the short period of time during which any aggrieved party can challenge the decisions has passed. The inception meeting has been held and the contract can now be concluded.
5. The POG has now agreed the brief for the procurement of consultants to undertake the Economic, Employment and Commercial Needs (including logistics) Study. The procurement process is now underway, and it is expected that a consultant will be appointed by early August.
6. The procurement process for consultants to undertake the evidence base studies has been delayed due to circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic. Given the delays to commencing procurement of consultants that had already occurred since the Joint Committee agreed the broad draft timetable for the work in October 2019, the timetable will need to be revisited. The PfSH consultant project manager is working with the project managers from the successful consultancies and will take account of the methodology and timetable in the detailed bids for the employment study before proposing revisions to the timetable. However, it is expected that the original target date for concluding the studies and presentations to Joint Committee in January 2021 will need to be extended.
7. The POG has considered a paper that set out the methodology and timetable for the Urban Capacity Assessment. This work focuses on assessing the potential for development at locations in Gosport, Portsmouth and

Southampton, as well as windfall rates across the sub-region. Technical work is being undertaken and it is anticipated that the results of that work should be available to inform the update to the SoCG.

8. The POG is due to consider a paper on the Housing Market Areas Housing Product Delivery Report at its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. The paper will set out the proposed scope and requirements for the report for consideration by the POG. Following agreement on these matters a detailed brief to procure consultants can be drafted. A timetable that delivers the final report by Q1 2021 is still possible, although should there be any delays to the procurement process or issues concerning the availability of consultants and/or PfSH local authority staff, it may need revising.

## **NEXT STEPS**

9. The Joint Committee agreed the draft framework for the SoCG in October 2019. The information contained in the draft framework for the SoCG, particularly around housing need and supply, needs to be updated. Progress on delivering the evidence base workstreams should also be included, alongside further information on the process and timetable for preparing the new Joint Strategy.
10. The proposed updates to the SoCG will be agreed by the POG before consideration by the Joint Committee – likely to be the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. At this stage it would also be appropriate for the draft framework for the SoCG to be formalised into a signed SoCG (i.e. not a 'draft framework') so that it will subsequently have more weight in assisting the local planning authorities in demonstrating constructive and positive cooperation on strategic matters at local plan examinations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Reference Papers:**

Draft Framework for PfSH Statement of Common Ground – Report to PfSH Joint Committee 14 October 2019

Statement of Common Ground – Progress – Report to PfSH Joint Committee 10 February 2020

**Enquiries:**

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