



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 September 2020

Report of: David Bibby, Principal Planning Officer (Strategy),
Test Valley Borough Council

Subject: PFSH NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY UPDATE
Summary of the report being presented to PFSH Joint
Committee, 30 September

SUMMARY

The purpose of the report will be to update Joint Committee on progress towards the implementation mitigations that unlock the backlog of required housing consents caused by the requirement that all new housing to be nutrient neutral.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of this report and consider any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.
- b) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to:-
 - i. NOTE the award of funding of £2m by the Solent LEP from the Government's Getting Building Fund to be used to secure off site mitigation land in order to assist in unlocking the delivery of housing which has been on hold due to the nutrient neutrality issue.
 - ii. NOTE the recruitment of a dedicated officer resource as a temporary post to work on the nutrient neutrality issue following confirmation of funding, to take forward a pilot sub-regional mitigation scheme, and continued investigation into determining a sub-regional mitigation solution, including working towards a Solent Nutrient Fund.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

1. The report will provide an update on recent progress made on the work that PfSH is undertaking with partners to address the issue of achieving nutrient neutrality from housing development across the sub-region. In light of the advice from Natural England, the aim continues to be to develop a PfSH wide strategic approach to mitigation in order to deliver the planned housing development compliant with the Habitats Regulations. Action continues under a number of workstreams that will be outlined in the report - in order to progress resolving the nutrient neutrality issue by working with key partners and stakeholders.
2. In August PfSH was awarded funding of £2m by the Solent LEP from the Government's Getting Building Fund. This will be used to secure off site mitigation land in order to assist in unlocking the delivery of housing which has been on hold due to the nutrient neutrality issue. It is not yet clear whether this funding will go to PfSH or directly to a third party that will be purchasing and managing the land.
3. In light of confirmation of funding in response to the requests made from PfSH members and other affected local authorities, the recruitment of a dedicated resource in the form of a temporary planning officer post will now proceed. This post will work to establish a pilot sub-regional mitigation scheme, together with continuing to work towards a Solent Nutrient Fund as a sub-regional mitigation solution.
4. For those unfamiliar with the background to the issue, a summary was provided as Appendix 1 to the previous report to the Joint Committee on 10 February 2020 and can be found [here](#).
5. Since the last meeting of Joint Committee 7 July, the following activity has taken place:
 - £2m funding awarded by the Solent LEP from the Government's 'Getting Building Fund' to secure off site mitigation land in order to assist in unlocking the delivery of housing, which has been on hold due to the nutrient neutrality issue.
 - Moving towards the recruitment of a dedicated officer resource for PfSH to work on the nutrient neutrality issue and take forward a pilot sub-regional mitigation scheme, including the agreement by all PfSH members and other affected local authorities to jointly fund the post.
 - Discussion between Natural England (NE) and the Environment Agency (EA) on a potential Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) permit review, due to recommence
 - Work completed on the Integrated Water Management Study (IWMS) addendum update.
 - Continued progress in developing and implementing the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) mitigation scheme.

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ENQUIRIES:

For further information on this report please contact:-

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