



## Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

**Date:** 30 September 2020

**Report of:** Alison Barnes (NFNPA & Green Halo Partnership), David Hutchinson (University of Portsmouth & Future South) and Simon Eden (Southern Policy Centre & Green Halo Partnership)

**Subject:** A GREENPRINT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE: THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

### SUMMARY

South Hampshire has shown real commitment to addressing Climate Change and building sustainable businesses and communities. Recently that desire for change has been reinforced by a wish to create a more prosperous, fair, resilient and environmentally aware society as we tentatively emerge from the Covid-19 crisis.

These aspirations reflect new and emerging legislative requirements: whether the commitment in the Environment and Agriculture Bills to a support system based on 'public money for public good', the duty on local authorities to prepare local nature recovery strategies and plan for biodiversity net gain, or Treasury plans to shape funding regimes to support 'Clean Growth'.

South Hampshire is well placed to respond to these opportunities, building on existing plans, collaborations and activities, to help shape the emerging economic, social and environmental agenda. This paper outlines a practical approach to delivering a '*Greenprint*' for South Hampshire, a model for policy-making which could reflect our commitment to a green recovery, shaping our plans and programmes across sectors to deliver a world-class economy in a world-class environment.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee is asked to agree to PfSH officers, working with colleagues from the business, environmental and Higher Education sectors to: -

- a) PREPARE a '*Greenprint for South Hampshire*', articulating our shared economic, environmental and social objectives;
- b) DEVELOP further the draft framework outlined in this paper as a basis for assessing how our policies, plans and programmes and those of our partners can contribute to those shared objectives;
- c) WORK WITH senior leaders and resources from across the business, environmental and community sectors to agree a common approach to shaping a green and fair recovery; and

- d) REVIEW key plans and policies to identify common themes where collaboration can help build a green recovery.

## Introduction: The opportunity to deliver a Greenprint for South Hampshire

1. After the traumatic events of the past few months and the way they have altered our view of society, nature and the economy, there is a demand from the public for more permanent and sustainable change. [A recent survey conducted for the not-for-profit advocacy group Positive Money](#) by You Gov found that 82% of members of the public questioned wanted the Government to prioritise the health and wellbeing of citizens over economic growth as they shaped a recovery. In the same survey 61% of respondents wanted improved social and environmental outcomes to be the Government's priority.
2. There are also those arguing that we simply need to "prioritise" the economy and get back to behaving as we did before, notwithstanding the clear appetite for a different approach. However, if we simply try to refresh our economy it will probably be unsuccessful. It will also miss a significant and real opportunity to tackle deeply ingrained environmental, economic and social challenges – from climate change and inequality, to our physical and mental health.
3. A recent discussion convened by the Southern Policy Centre<sup>1</sup> showed that a wide range of leaders from the public and private sector are looking to utilise opportunities to re-build social cohesion in our communities and recognise our world class environment as a shared asset. Conversations at the Hampshire 2050 Commission's July event exploring a sustainable recovery also concluded that future activity should build on the region's economic and environmental strengths, seizing opportunities to reduce pollution and reverse our negative impact on the environment.
4. Internationally the same policy direction is evident. At the time of writing, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are about to publish a report on a green, inclusive recovery, which calls for policy making based around four objectives: environmental sustainability, rising wellbeing, lower levels of inequality and more resilient economies (see <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/themes/green-recovery/>).
5. South Hampshire can already point to programmes, rich natural habitats and partnerships that give us a head start. These are also the things that define us and make this place so special, and suitable for such an approach. As we seek to re-build our economy and communities, so there is an opportunity to avoid a compartmentalised approach, and instead consider how we can shape an economy that builds on our strengths and works for the environment and our communities.
6. Such a coherent and collaborative approach is not simply a 'nice to have'. It is also an opportunity to respond the agenda being set by central Government through legislation such as the Environment Bill: for example their focus on investing public money to ensure it delivers 'public good' in terms of environmental gains through to the requirements they are placing on local authorities to protect and enhance nature and the natural environment. Moreover, as our LEP colleagues have made clear, HM Treasury have indicated that, as they look to support our economic recovery, so they will prioritise support for activity which offers 'clean' or 'green' growth. 'First mover advantage' will also mean we are well placed to take advantage of the legislative changes that are expected and the funds that will be made available to support 'Clean Growth'.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://southernpolicycentre.co.uk/policy-and-research/recovery-in-the-central-south-collaboration-for-growth/>

7. This paper sets out a possible way forward. It proposes that PfSH lead an initiative to draw together a '*Greenprint*' for our area – embracing ideas and partners from within and beyond the Partnership's immediate area. That should take the form of a shared statement of our ambitions alongside a robust approach to building the policies, plans and programmes which will deliver a coherent and integrated approach to economic, environmental and social improvement – to deliver a better quality of life for local people.
8. The approach outlined below has been drawn together by the Green Halo Partnership, Future South and the Southern Policy Centre<sup>2</sup> and reflects discussions each of our organisations have had with a range of partners. We also acknowledge the variety of thinking and debate already underway – whether through the Hampshire 2050 Commission, the Local Resilience Forum or our councils, LEPs and HEIs. Our focus is very much intended as complimentary, acting as a catalyst to ensure a practical approach to driving the behaviours and outcomes which will lead to real improvement.

### **A common approach**

9. Communities across South Hampshire face many common opportunities and challenges. There are shared economic priorities, demands for investment in critical infrastructure, and common social and environmental challenges. It makes absolute sense for councils and their partners to work together to find shared answers to these problems, rather than acting in a way which may solve one problem whilst exacerbating others or, worse still, develop inconsistent, incompatible approaches in different localities.
10. We do not start from scratch. Our region already has the partnerships and the ambition to shape a green and inclusive future. There are already many exciting projects underway across the region which show what we can achieve – appendix one offers some examples. Economic and environmental initiatives, from Future South to the Green Halo Partnership, are bringing people and partners together to find ways of building an economy that operates within environmental limits.
11. We do not require a radically different set of policies across the area to achieve coherence and a way forward. Instead, we suggest that all organisations ought to work within a common framework: a shared suite of principles and priority outcomes which, when taken together, offer a template for significant progress and added value. Such a template will give us a basis for testing both existing and new plans, policies and programmes to ensure they contribute to realising the economy, society and environment we want.
12. With a common framework in place there are two prerequisites to us making progress: leadership and collaboration. The former needs to come from those with the vision to see the opportunity on offer, and the status and authority to draw together a broad range of actors from across the region and from different sectors. Collaboration is essential if we are to avoid partners falling into the narrow trap of progressing with their own plans without playing their part in the 'bigger picture'. PfSH can offer both that leadership and a proven example of collaboration.

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<sup>2</sup> See Green Halo Partnership ([www.greenhalo.org.uk](http://www.greenhalo.org.uk)), Future South ([www.futuresouth.org](http://www.futuresouth.org)) and Southern Policy Centre ([www.southernpolicycentre.co.uk](http://www.southernpolicycentre.co.uk)) for more details

## **A shared framework**

13. There is much planning for net zero and 'green recovery' which is too often disjointed and piecemeal. Our challenge is to get better at being consistent in that planning, to shape common policies and make sure we are working together where that can achieve more. That will allow us to build on the things already happening across our region to re-shape an economy which is in harmony with our world class environment and which helps our communities thrive.
14. We do not need new structures, rules or bureaucracies to achieve consistency and more 'bang for our bucks'. It is a simple matter of ensuring that we work together to design and implement programmes that achieve economic, environmental and social improvements. As we note above, a common framework for our achieving these objectives will allow us to ensure that all our policies and plans help achieve our aims.
15. Building on discussions with colleagues, we have drafted a framework that could guide the inclusions of projects to achieve a Greenprint for South Hampshire. That draft framework, at Appendix 2, is based on:
  - Five principles which set out shared strategic objectives
  - Under each of these principles a set of priority outcomes which identify our shared aspirations
  - Performance measures to assess our progress towards those outcomes
16. This model offers a balanced scorecard. That provides a template against which we should measure projects and programmes and identify gaps in our plans. It is not a 'pass/fail' test, but merely a way for councils and others to check that what they do is delivering the best outcomes it can for the economy, environment and society.
17. This framework is a starter for ten. It needs to be developed with contributions from key organisations across our area. That includes not just councils but businesses, health colleagues and environmental organisations. Local universities have an important role to play, with their research helping to identify what can work best.

## **Next Steps**

18. There is an immediate opportunity to shape a future which achieves a better balance between nature, business and our communities. It is clear that many people want and hope for that balance after the trauma and the learning of lockdown. However, if we are to achieve that, we need a clear and consistent understanding of what we are trying to achieve and how best to realise it.
19. One vehicle for delivering shared ambitions will be through the planning framework, notwithstanding that framework may be subject to significant change in the coming months. The Statement of Common Ground PfSH is preparing can help articulate those ambitions and is also the place to set out the emerging policies and plans which can help deliver it. If the Joint Committee agree to the approach outlined in this paper then colleagues working on that Statement will need to be closely involved in shaping the way forward (this is reflected in the paper on SoCG elsewhere on this agenda).
20. The pay-off if we can achieve a shared approach will not just be in better outcomes locally. It will also put us on the front foot in responding to the new initiatives from central Government, whether statutory obligations placed on local authorities or the opportunities for LEPs and others to bid for funding to support 'green growth'.

## CONCLUSION

The model outlined here needs to be developed further, identifying principles, outcomes and performance measures which genuinely reflect the shared aims and aspirations of all partners. That cuts across all aspects of the Partnership's work, from planning and economy to sustainability and culture.

It is likely that the actions proposed will require some additional resource beyond officer time. That will need to be quantified and the agreement of member authorities to making appropriate contributions sought.

## RECOMMENDATION

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- c) WORK WITH senior leaders and resources from across the business, environmental and community sectors to agree a common approach to shaping a green and fair recovery; and
- d) REVIEW key plans and policies to identify common themes where collaboration can help build a green recovery.

**Appendices – Appendix 1** - Examples of projects across South Hampshire addressing economic, social and environmental concerns.

**Appendix 2** - Draft Framework for a Green Recovery

**Background Papers:** None

**Reference Papers:** None

### Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact:-

Alison Barnes, Chief Executive, New Forest National Park Authority

T: 01590 646633

E: [alison.barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:alison.barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1:**  
**Examples of projects across South Hampshire addressing economic, social and environmental concerns**

<b>Energy Hubs</b>	Working to reduce consumption and increase the level of renewable generated in the region and providing leadership to show how smart networks can balance supply and demand and lead the way towards demonstrating how zero carbon communities can be created that involves innovation and empowering locally inclusive business models.
<b>Green training skills and expertise to support a regional economy</b>	To support a green recovery, maximise opportunities and ensure success it is widely recognised that we need to grow and enhance our skill base. The region already places host to a wide range of relevant and experienced trainers and skills providers. There is an emerging vision for a centre of excellence for green training and skills, supported by the rich and diverse habitats and world-class blue and green environments that surround us.
<b>Greentech South</b>	Since 2014 Greentech South have been helping businesses transform their innovative, low carbon ideas into commercialised products and services, stimulating sustainable economic growth and creating job opportunities in the green economy. It is our ready made gateway to large corporates and disruptive innovative start-ups to inform research, build industry-specific expertise, and move from concept to practice, driving change across value chains and industries.
<b>Hampshire Retrofit</b>	Supporting businesses and local authorities to understand the importance and potential opportunities that arise through climate retrofits and deliver programmes across the region. This includes bringing together best practice, innovation and where possible additional funding which can then be used by businesses and partners in the wider region. Retrofitting homes and businesses are crucial to delivering UK carbon targets as 80% of the homes that will be built by 2050 are already in existence. Utility companies are working together to ensure that water and energy efficiency are tackled together, alongside signposting all the types of affordability support available.
<b>Local Authority Plans</b>	Working in partnership with local authorities in the region to pool expertise, resources and create mutually beneficial links between sectors to pioneer new approaches and provide vision for a sustainable region. Local authorities are trusted partners with local residents and businesses and have a fundamental role on providing local leadership to deliver zero carbon policies and support for communities.
<b>Mobility as a Service</b>	Traditional ways of thinking about mobility are increasingly being challenged. Mobility is now a complex web of decision-making for consumers. Mobility as a Service attempts to respond to these changes by developing transport solutions that are customer-centric. Mobility as a Service puts the customer experience first, increasing convenience, effectiveness and satisfaction by enabling sharing and personalization through real-time connectivity.

<b>Natural Capital</b>	The Green Halo Partnership brings together businesses, universities, charities and communities who share a vision, acknowledging the contribution of natural capital in their planning, budgeting and decision-making. We aim to ensure our world class environment, centred around the New Forest National Park in the “Central South” region, flourishes as an integral part of our wider area’s thriving economy and society. Green Halo’s work is focused around Natural capital; the world’s stock of natural resources, which includes geology, soils, air, water and all living organisms – and their measurable value to our society. Natural capital assets provide people with a wide range of goods and services which underpin our economy and society – so-called “ecosystem services”. Supported via these services, it is essential that we develop ever-closer relationship to business, and Green Halo’s collaboration with Future South aims to accelerate integrated projects and dialogue between private and public sectors.
<b>Natural Health Service</b>	National Parks England and Public Health England have an accord to support joint action on improving health and wellbeing through our Natural Environment. The Accord represents a high-level commitment to work proactively and practically together to secure better public health outcomes. It draws on the strength of both organisations to deliver this shared goal by capitalising on the significant opportunities for people to improve their physical and mental health and overall wellbeing; and recognising the role which the National Parks play as part of our wider natural environment that can support keeping people healthy. Our national parks are very active in this accord, and partnerships in the region, such as Green Halo, include key partners, not traditionally associated with the natural environment, such as Clinical Commissioning Groups.
<b>New Development</b>	The South of England is due to expand rapidly and the Future South Board are focused on ensuring that this new development is sustainable, innovative and exemplary to make certain that the use of resources are minimised, quality of life is promoted and the region’s economy is fast tracked. We are actively working with a number of pioneering developments looking at water recycling, renewable energy generation and energy efficiency. We welcome partners to join us on this exciting journey.
<b>Plastic Revolution</b>	The plight of single use plastic has been a key environmental focus in recent years brought into sharp focus by the Blue Planet series. Plastic was originally designed to be a robust permanent material not something that provided a single use, little value, throw away item and correctly used can be a valuable material. At Future South we are looking to help drive the revolution that stops the leakage of valueless single plastics and materials into the environment swapping them for products and resource that have value through recycling and upcycling. We are interested in solutions that address the current plastic issue, looking at innovative ways to remove the fragments from the natural environment.
<b>Sustainable Finance</b>	The Hampshire Community Bank has been created with the intention of filling the current gap in the financial market where local Small and Medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are unable to acquire the much needed financing required to grow. We as a future Community Bank will look to finance the growth and future development of the SMEs with our lending services throughout Hampshire.

	<p>Currently, we have already started out lending to SMEs throughout Hampshire with our Green Growth Loans Program (GGL) which was initially backed by Eastleigh Borough Council and the Government. The GGL program is also diversified by the types of business, and this program only lends to businesses which are believed to have a positive economic benefit to Hampshire. Because of this a strong group of our shareholders are public institutions, including Hampshire local councils and universities.</p>
<b>Value of Water</b>	<p>The South East of England is officially declared as 'water stressed' and with population growth and future climate scenarios suggesting lower water availability then balancing supply and demand is in even greater focus. Target 100 is not just about reducing water consumption; it is about shifting society to value water. In a climate restrained world we are aiming to effectively manage water resources, keep bills affordable, drive innovation and support residents. One simple initiative to really change this perception is through the adoption of a water label on water using products. Southern Water has set a bold and UK leading demand reduction target to reduce per capita consumption to 100 litres per person per day across our region by 2040. Portsmouth Water is building a new reservoir to capture more of the excess winter storage together can work with the water companies to deliver on this ambition.</p>

## Appendix 2: Draft Framework for a Green Recovery

Proposed Principles	Suggested Priority Outcomes	Illustrative Performance Measures	Current performance	Target performance
<b>1: We are building low-carbon, sustainable economy</b>	Businesses follow zero-carbon principles and seek to minimise use of non-renewable resources	[is there a low/zero-carbon business assessment standard/badge?]		
	New businesses are built in those sectors of the economy which contribute most to our environment and to local communities	[Businesses/jobs in certain sectors eg. by sic code?]		
	Digital infrastructure supports new ways of doing business	Percentage 'super-fast' broadband connectivity coverage		
<b>2: We must reduce pollution and carbon emissions from business, homes and transport</b>	Our towns and cities are healthy and green places free from atmospheric pollution	Measures of atmospheric pollution Measure of carbon emissions (per capita/by sector?)		
	Travel by public transport, cycling or walking is the preferred choice	Proportion using public transport, cycling and walking for journeys		
	Energy use of homes, offices and other buildings is as low as we can achieve	Building's energy emissions [Sustainable energy generation]		
<b>3: Our villages, towns and cities are sustainable places</b>	Homes are affordable, are built using sustainable materials and designed to minimise their environmental impact	Affordable homes built Construction standards (Breeam)		
	All our residents have easy and quick access to the services they need	IMD measure of access to services [Citizen surveys]		
	All people feel they are part of a supportive community	[Citizen surveys]		
<b>4: Our communities are strong and inclusive</b>	All people in our communities are well housed and receive the support they need when faced with difficult circumstances	[Citizen surveys] [IMD measure]		
	Our young people have the skills they need for the new, green economy	[Achievement at school, FE and HE]		

	People in our region enjoy excellent mental and physical health	Physical health measures Mental health measures Wellbeing measures		
<b>5: We value our natural environment and all it offers us</b>	Our unique natural habitats are thriving, with high levels of biodiversity	Biodiversity surveys		
	Communities take full advantage of our natural capital to improve their prosperity and health	[tbc]		
	Nature is allowed to thrive in all our towns and cities	[Green infrastructure?]		

