



# Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 17 September 2020

**Report of:** Paddy May  
PfSH Co-ordinator

**Subject:** CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT  
Summary of the report being presented to PfSH Joint Committee, 30 September

### 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.

### 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 NOTE the contents of the report only.

## **BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY**

### **Planning & Infrastructure**

#### **Statement of Common Ground**

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 30 September.

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

2. The focus of the Rangers activities is different during the summer months to the winter season owing to the birds not being present on the coastline during the summer. This summer, COVID related restrictions have resulted in many planned activities being postponed. During the period of 1 June until 31 July their outreach activities can be shown as:
  - Two virtual presentations
  - One virtual event
  - Managing the Instagram account
  - Managing the Twitter account from July onwards
  - Writing blog posts and articles for internal and external publications
  - Initiating a YouTube channel and creating 12 targeted engagement videos
  - Developing signage and interpretation opportunities and materials
3. Additionally the ranger team have planned for the delivery of the 2020/21 winter season activities in a COVID secure way. This has necessitated:
  - Updating site plans for all 96 sites
  - Planning site priorities and site visit targets
  - Contingency planning and risk assessments
  - Committing to undertake all fieldwork activities for the coming season's monitoring work and developing a secure methodology
  - Recruitment of seasonal rangers
4. During the same period, the Brand and Communications Lead has worked with the wider Ranger team to achieve the following:
  - Number and % growth of social media followers on each platform since last update
    - Twitter – 65 - 4%
    - Facebook – 65 – 5%
    - Instagram – 153 –17%
  - Impressions (number of times seen) for each social media platform
    - Twitter – 219k
    - Facebook – 62k
    - Instagram – 31k
  - Number of posts on social media
    - Twitter - 311
    - Facebook - 105
    - Instagram posts and stories – 64
  - Press releases
    - 2 in total - 1 each month.
    - 4 articles added to the section 'Blog'

## **Water Management**

5. 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 30 September.

## **Green Infrastructure**

6. No further update since the Co-ordinators Report submitted to Joint Committee 7 July. However, a report has been submitted separately to Joint Committee 30 September requesting consideration of the Future South report 'A Greenprint for South Hampshire: the opportunities ahead' that outlines post-Covid approaches to delivering green initiatives across the South Hampshire sub-region.

## **Energy and the Green Economy**

7. No further update since the Coordinators Report and on the Business Plan 2019/20 submitted to Joint Committee 7 July.

## **Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment**

### **Creative Industries**

8. In the light of Covid-19 both Portsmouth Creates and Southampton City Council conducted research into the needs of creative businesses within the LEP area. One of the identified sector priorities was sector specific business support.
9. In response the existing Creative Growth Southampton project, (funded by PfSH and delivered in partnership with Southampton City Council and Solent University) the project has been able to extend its remit and is open to creative businesses located anywhere in South Hampshire. One-to-one mentoring is currently being delivered by Nicky Curtis, who in the past was a business link advisor and currently also works for Solent University.
10. The target audience for Creative Growth South is early stage creative businesses, and freelancers with experience of trading and a turnover below £30k working towards sustainability. Since its launch over 40 businesses have received up to six 1-1 sessions. 16 businesses are currently working with Nicky. Prior to lock down the project also delivered a programme of monthly networking and training activity, this is currently on hold.
11. Funding is in place to continue Creative Growth South until the end of the calendar year, while opportunities to mainstream the approach by embedding this type of support within the emergent structures promoting the cultural and creative sector in the Portsmouth and Southampton travel to work areas are being explored.
12. Portsmouth Creates was launched in November 2019 in order to drive the delivery of the city cultural strategy and bring together the arts and culture industry and Community. In August it was agreed that £10 000 of PfSH funding should be used to support a joint post within Portsmouth Creates CIC. The post holder will have a remit to assist cultural organisations in the Portsmouth Travel to Work area to attract funding and provide business

support to creative businesses and freelancers operating in the travel to work area. It is expected the post holder will take up the appointment this autumn.

13. Similar discussions are at an early stage, with a view to embedding creative industry business support within the partnership structure surrounding the development of the Southampton City of Culture application - so as enhance the Southampton areas capacity to retain creative talent.

### **Website to Signpost Creative Studios, Flexible Workspaces, Maker Spaces and Digital Incubators**

14. Creative digital and tech businesses frequently do best when they are embedded within a community of similar businesses. In its early years, the then Partnership for Urban South Hampshire invested in a number of creative workspaces and continues to support a studio providers network. The lockdown period has presented studios and flexible workspaces with significant challenges. However, this infrastructure - which has been significantly strengthened in South Hampshire in recent years - will play a critical role in driving the recovery of the tech, digital and creative sector within the Solent LEP area.
15. Creative Network South is therefore working with the Solent Growth Hub to map all studios flexible workspaces and incubators, so that these can be signposted and promoted on the growth hub website.

### **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 NOTE the contents of the report only.

### **ENQUIRIES:**

For further information on this report please contact:-

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