



# Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 17 September 2020

**Report of:** Claire Upton-Brown  
Chair, PFSH Planning Officers Group

**Subject:** STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND - REVISIONS AND UPDATE

Summary of the report being presented to PFSH Joint Committee, 30 September

### SUMMARY

The report will set out proposed updates and revisions to the draft framework Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) - to enable it to be signed as a formal SoCG by the PFSH authorities.

### 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. APPROVE the content of the Statement of Common Ground that will lead to the production of a PFSH Joint Strategy; and
  - ii. NOTES the summary of the Planning for the Future White Paper set out at Appendix 2 to this report; DETERMINES whether PFSH should respond to the consultation and if so, the nature of the response; and AGREES that the detail of the response be delegated to the Chairman of the PFSH Planning Officers Group and following consultation with the Group, is signed off and submitted by the Chairman of PFSH.

## **BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY**

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 received reports updating progress on the SoCG in February and July this year.
2. Subject to the Joint Committee agreeing the recommendation to approve the content of the SoCG, each individual Local Planning Authority and the County Council can then sign the document (subject to their own governance or delegation arrangements) and it can be published on the website. This will ensure that the SoCG is available to help Local Planning Authorities in demonstrating constructive and positive cooperation on strategic matters at local plan examinations.
3. The government is currently consulting on 'Planning for the Future', a white paper setting out significant proposed reforms to the planning system, focused on local plans. Members will be asked to provide a steer on whether PfSH should respond to this consultation and if so, what should be included in the response. The consultation closes on 29 October 2020.
4. The government will need to take account of consultation responses before taking new legislation through the parliamentary process. The outcome of these proposals is uncertain and will require new legislation to become the statutory basis for future local plans. Until there is more certainty, local plans will continue to be prepared in accordance with current legislation and government policy. When the reforms to the planning system are more certain, PfSH can consider how this affects the work under the SoCG and the production of local plans. Government proposals for devolution are expected to be announced in the Autumn and these could also have a significant impact on the context for future strategic planning work.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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- b) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to:-
  - i. APPROVE the content of the Statement of Common Ground that will lead to the production of a PfSH Joint Strategy; and
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## **ENQUIRIES:**

For further information on this report please contact:-

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