



Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 30 September 2020
Virtually via Microsoft Teams*

Members:

Councillors:

Seán Woodward (Chairman)
Christopher Hammond (Vice-Chairman)
Steve Pitt
Judith Grajewski
Neil Cutler
Nick Adams-King
Stephen Philpott
Michael Wilson
Keith House
Edward Heron
Patrick Heneghan
Ken Moon

Authority Represented:

Fareham BC
Southampton CC
Portsmouth CC
Hampshire CC
Winchester CC
Test Valley BC
Gosport BC
Havant BC
Eastleigh BC
New Forest DC
New Forest NP
East Hampshire DC

Officers:

Richard Jolley
Andy Ferrier
Kate Martin
Stuart Jarvis
Claire Upton-Brown (Item 8)
Alison Barnes (Item 6)
Natalie Wigman
David Williams
Laura Taylor
Simon Jenkins

Authority Represented:

Fareham BC
Test Valley BC
Southampton CC
Hampshire CC
New Forest DC
New Forest NP
Eastleigh BC
Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC
Winchester CC
Havant BC and East Hants DC

Co-opted Members:

Paddy May
Charlotte Lines
Brian Johnson

Organisation represented:

PfSH
Environment Agency
Solent LEP

Also in Attendance:

Mike Allgrove (Item 8)
David Bibby (Item 9)
Allison Potts (Item 9)

PfSH Consultant
Test Valley BC
Natural England

Simon Eden (Item 6)
Anna Parry (Item 7)

Southern Policy Centre
Bird Aware Solent

For further information, please contact Democratic Services at Fareham Borough Council
Tel: 01329 824594
democracticservices@fareham.gov.uk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Peter Grimwood (Fareham Borough Council) with Richard Jolley deputising, Sandy Hopkins (Southampton City Council) with Kate Martin deputising. Nick Tustian (Eastleigh Borough Council) with Natalie Wigman deputising, Bob Jackson (New Forest DC) with Claire Upton-Brown deputising and Gill Kneller (Havant BC & East Hants DC) with Simon Jenkins deputising.

Changes to the Committee –

New Forest National Parks' position is currently vacant until Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre replacement is elected next month. Patrick Heneghan attended as deputy for the authority

Councillor Steve Pitt has replaced Councillor Vernon-Jackson as Portsmouth City Councils represented. Councillor Vernon-Jackson is now deputy.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on 07 July 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcement: -

Bird Aware

The Bird Aware Partnership has won an Award from the Institute of Environmental Managers and Assessors for the Best Sustainability Campaign in the Public Sector. The Judges comment noted that 'The Judges rated this winning entry highly for its effective planning and Strategic vision in protecting local nature reserves, whilst also engaging with policymakers, local government, and housing developments'. This is very good news and I would like to pass on congratulations to Anna Parry and the team at Bird Aware.

Nutrient Mitigation

The legal agreement between Fareham Borough Council, Isle of Wight Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has been signed and completed today, meaning there are now approximately 820 homes worth of nitrates available to Fareham Borough Council to allow the release of Planning Consents, some of which are several years old, where the only issues holding up their release is the Nitrates issue. This will allow Developers to obtain their Nitrates Certificates

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. A GREENPRINT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE: THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

The Joint Committee received a report and supporting presentation outlining a practical approach to deliver a 'Greenprint' for South Hampshire. The report was presented to the Committee by Simon Eden from the Southern Policy Centre and Alison Barnes from the New Forest National Park.

The presentation will be published on the PfSH website alongside these Minutes.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee AGREED 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.

7. PFSH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report by the PfSH co-ordinator, Paddy May, that covered issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B, with Part A outlining matters for decision and Part B providing information for the Joint Committee on a variety of PfSH matters.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) NOTES and ENDORSES the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's proposed financial protocol in part A for this report;
- b) NOTES and ENDORSES the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's proposal to provide an indemnity to the Accountable Body in the unlikely event that the Partnership fails to 'make good' any loss of interest to the scheme's funds during the course of the agreement; and
- c) NOTES the matters for information outlined in part B of this report.

8. STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

The Joint Committee received a report updating the Committee on the revisions and updates to the Statement of Common Ground. Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant and

Claire Upton-Brown, Chairman PfSH Planning Officers Group presented the report to the Committee.

Councillor Judith Grajewski asked for confirmation that the response to the Governments White Paper 'Planning for the Future', be circulated to all Members of PfSH. The Chairman confirmed that he would personally ensure that the response, once agreed, would be circulated to all authorities within PfSH via their respective Planning Officers.

Councillor Keith House left the meeting during discussion on this item.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) APPROVES the content of the Statement of Common Ground, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, that will lead to the production of a PfSH Joint Strategy;
- b) NOTES the summary of the Planning for the Future White Paper, set out at Appendix 2 to this report;
- c) DETERMINED that PfSH would respond to the consultation; and
- d) AGREED that the detail of any PfSH response be delegated to the Chairman of the PfSH Planning Officers Group, following consultation with the Group and the Chairman of the Joint Committee, and once agreed be circulated to all authorities within PfSH.

9. PfSH NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY UPDATE

The Joint Committee received a report from David Bibby which provided an update to the Joint Committee on the recent progress made on the work of PfSH and its partners has undertaken to address the nitrate issue of achieving nutrient neutrality from developments across the sub-region.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Allison Potts from Natural England addressed the Committee to say that Natural England are very pleased that this stage has been reached where the funding which has been announced will move this work forward. The process has been frustrating at times but moving forward the work continues via their involvement through the Water Quality Working Group. Natural England will continue to look at the various schemes to ensure the objectives are closely aligned and they look forward to engaging with the dedicated PfSH officer once they are in post.

The two main elements to the potential funding are to bring forward nature-based solutions on a strategic scale beyond the Solent LEP area, to cover whole sub region. Discussions are still at an early stage. Potentially there is the ability to clear the back log and the Wildlife Trust is confident that they have sites in the pipeline that could unlock housing across the affected area, which is great news in the short term.

The Nitrate Trading Platform, looking to the medium to long term, would allow mitigation without having to purchase the land which will make a big difference in terms of a nitrate fund and really is about linking land managers with developers.

This is still a scheme that is being worked up and Natural England look forward to updating the Joint Committee as this project moves forward.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Charlotte Lines from the Environment Agency addressed the Committee stating that some of the Environment Agency's work paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic had restarted. Charlotte stated that things were picking up again and in November the EA have a meeting with their directors to discuss the Dutch ruling and the permits with the hope being that a further update will be available at the next Committee meeting, if not before

The Chairman suggested that any updates available before the next meeting scheduled for the 30 November 2020 be forwarded to him to circulate to Members.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) NOTES that PfSH's bid as a successful listed project (subject to appropriate approvals and quality assurance) for a £2m loan, as part of the funding in principle allocated to 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; and
- b) NOTES 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.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7.22pm)

(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee will be held on 30 November 2020).