



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 25 October 2021
Report of: Paddy May
PfSH Co-ordinator
Subject: PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025

SUMMARY

The current PfSH Business Plan expires this year. Following consultation with PfSH chief executives a refresh of the Business Plan has been drafted for consideration by Joint Committee. Previously, short-term business plans have been prepared cover periods of one or two years. The new plan covers a slightly more medium-term period of four years.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of the PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025 (**Appendix 1**); and
- b) APPROVE the Business Plan for 2021-2025 for publication on the PfSH website.

BACKGROUND

1. The current PfSH Business Plan expired in 2020, but due to member local authorities' need to manage other pressing priorities and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, Joint Committee agreed at its meeting on 7 July 2020 to let it roll over into the autumn of 2021.
2. It has been agreed that there should be a 'light touch' approach to amendments to its content, considering that the existing version generally continued to cover PfSH's main priorities and activity to 2025.
3. PfSH has a considerable role in facilitating activity that serves to progress, or contribute to initiatives that benefit member local authorities, their ability to provide sustainable housing development, promote green growth and allow the cultural and creative industries to thrive. The draft Business Plan reflects this. The draft Business Plan also reflects the fact that PfSH's purpose is best served when it works together with partners and stakeholders - using the strength of its joint membership to influence policy and strategy making.
4. The draft Business Plan sets out PfSH's vision and statement of intent for the next four years. It outlines its objectives that will allow PfSH to positively contribute to the development, and facilitate the implementation of, relevant policy that improves the lives of the people of South Hampshire.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of the PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025 (**Appendix 1**);
and
- b) APPROVE the Business Plan for 2021-2025 for publication on the PfSH website.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Draft PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact:

Paddy May

PfSH Co-ordinator

T: 02392 834020

E: paddy.may@portsmouthcc.gov.uk



Business Plan 2021-2025

Local authorities working together

for a better future for South Hampshire

October 2021



About us

1. The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) provides a mechanism for bringing together local authorities around the Solent for the purposes of facilitating sustainable regeneration and development in South Hampshire. It provides a forum for the leaders of all our members to engage in meaningful discussion on issues of strategic importance that cross individual local authority boundaries.
2. PfSH works closely with a wide range of partners to deliver the kind of sustainable growth we want in the South Hampshire area. While a number of organisations now have prime responsibility for the policy agenda that was historically part of or remit, there is still an important influencing and engagement role for PfSH. PfSH enables collective decisions to be made on issues that cut across local authority boundaries and for which joint working is necessary.

Our Vision for South Hampshire

Vision

The lives of people in south Hampshire are enhanced through a sustainable approach to housing development and related infrastructure, through a shared approach to tackling climate change and through a thriving cultural and creative offering

Statement of Purpose

To enable our members to speak with one voice. To take coordinated action to provide sustainable housing development, support initiatives that improve our environment and green growth, and help to facilitate cultural and creative industry

3. We believe that collaboration across our membership is a key to having greater impact - both in terms our ability to influence decision making among those external organisations we must work with - and for the benefit of the people who live in, work in and visit South Hampshire. Our partnership's approach to realising those values is one that recognises that our individual members are considered equals (regardless of demographics or size of local authority). We believe that the diversity of the priorities across our various boroughs and districts is an opportunity to recognise more of what we have in common and helps us to recognise our strengths.
4. PfSH was originally formed to facilitate regeneration of the core urban areas of the Solent - focused on the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. This was in response to economic underperformance, poor productivity and poor infrastructure. Over time, and as membership grew, the adjoining older urban areas also became very much at the heart of the development of good planning in South Hampshire - recognising that strong functional and physical links between the core urban areas, towns, the semi-rural and rural hinterland form the basis for this.

5. As a partnership of local authorities, achieved through a formal Joint Committee, we are responsible for delivering the housing that our communities need. Our approach has always been to do this in a sustainable way that helps protect our important natural environment - and recognises the role that we collectively have to play in addressing climate change issues. Many of our members have declared climate change emergencies.
6. We consider it important to balance the need to provide housing against the need for employment land, while protecting some of the unique assets of the area such as our deep-water frontages. These areas are vital to supporting South Hampshire as a world leader in the marine and maritime sector and the role our ports play in the global trading economy.
7. Following revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework in 2019, and the need to prepare Statements of Common Ground, it is more important than ever that PfSH helps drive forward this collective work.
8. PfSH believes that managed and sustainable growth as a policy instrument to help lift deprived communities and households out of poverty and deprivation - while providing a foundation for the long-term security of the quality of life of all of the people living in and working in the area. This is dependent on economic prosperity led by the Solent LEP, adequate provision of (and access to) housing - to provide strong, vibrant and healthy communities and protection of our natural assets.

Our Objectives

9. In order to deliver our vision the objectives for PfSH are to:

1. Provide Democratic Leadership

Through its formal Joint Committee, allow for democratic debate on issues affecting the sub-region - and democratic legitimacy to sub-regional decisions. This will complement the decision making of individual local authority members and present collective thinking to assist and influence decisions on issues that impact on the wider area.

- Through the mechanisms in place, continue to provide the means to seek agreement and make decisions across the membership in an accountable and transparent way.
- Provide locally-led and democratically accountable leadership, management and delivery of the vision and spatial planning for the sub-region. Securing the participation and engagement of communities and the private sector which are integral to delivering growth.

2. Be a voice for South Hampshire

PfSH is part of a triumvirate of key strategic organisations (with the Solent LEP and Solent Transport) that manage the policy agenda in the sub-region. Collectively we need to work better together to lobby government, working with local MPs, to make sure we obtain the buy-in and funding that we need to meet our collective needs. There is a large infrastructure deficit in the South Hampshire area and we need to do more to understand the deficiencies and the impact that is having on growth - using evidence to help get the funding that we need.

- Collectively, our membership has a more powerful voice - if it 'speaks with one voice' on issues that cross our local authority boundaries. We will continue to undertake joint lobbying of central government, its agencies, MPs, our partners and stakeholders to affect policy that is right for South Hampshire. This will include responding consultations and funding opportunities as appropriate.
- Lobby for the PfSH area to be able to access UK Shared Prosperity funding to meet the specific needs of PfSH member local authorities.
- Work with our partners to lobby on behalf of the South Hampshire area, and influence local agencies so that together we can achieve PfSH's vision.
- Play a key role in helping to develop the effectiveness of the Solent Leaders' Forum by helping to shape and lobby for the wider sub regional agenda.
- Continue to identify how PfSH can support the activity of other regional bodies such as the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and Solent Transport.

3. Simplify relationships between partners and stakeholders

PfSH brings together key organisations at both a political and managerial level. This aids joint working and also supports the plan making of PfSH member local authorities. PfSH also provides the mechanism for organisations to engage with the local democratic voice collectively in the sub-region. PfSH can simplify interfaces with, and for, other organisations and should therefore make the most of its ability to influence.

- PfSH is part of a triumvirate of key strategic organisations in South Hampshire (with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and Solent Transport) that manage the policy agenda in the sub-region. PfSH will continue to forge a 'joined-up' approach to policy making and other activity in the interest of understanding the cross-over between various streams of work and identifying complementary outcomes.
- Consider options for the provision of a permanent and jointly funded planning officer resource to assist our member local authorities to work together to meet their 'duty to cooperate' on planning matters across the PfSH sub-region.
- Working with others helps us understand the infrastructure needed to support growth, and to secure necessary enhancements to infrastructure (transport, energy, flood protection, air quality, water supply and wastewater treatment, social and community facilities, education and healthcare provision and green infrastructure). The aim is to support and enable new development to address infrastructure deficits.
- Consider options for the provision of a jointly funded Strategic Environmental Planning Officer resource to work across the PfSH membership and with partners and stakeholders on the development and implementation of emerging environmental and green growth policies.

4. Ensure sustainable development in South Hampshire

There is a need to provide significant numbers of new houses in the area for our local communities, but this should be done sensitively - in a way that is not detrimental to our environment now or in the future. PfSH will also continue to work with government agencies to ensure that the need for development meets environmental requirements - including those undertaken by organisations such as utility companies.

Bird Aware Solent

- Continue to provide the governance structure for Bird Aware Solent (Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership). Bird Aware Solent supports the recreational mitigation in place to support coastal housing.
- Organise for the approval of a new service level agreement to provide the ranger service from August 2024, and oversee any changes necessary as a result of the outcome of the five year monitoring review.

PfSH Joint Strategy

- Utilise the evidence base to develop a new Joint Strategy to replace the Spatial Position Statement 2016 - including preferred strategies for development and green infrastructure/green belt.
- Engage and participate with Hampshire County Council in the work being undertaken to produce a Hampshire Spatial Framework, in particular the investment needed in infrastructure.
- Complete the evidence base programme set out in the Statement of Common Ground agreed in 2020 and continue to monitor the sub-regional need for development against committed supply.
- Provide the planning and environmental policy input to a triumvirate of sub-regional leadership organisations alongside the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and Solent Transport.
- Consider the results of the evidence base work stream set out in the Statement of Common Ground: '*Green Infrastructure Needs and Consideration of Mechanisms on how to achieve Green Belt Designation*' - before determining the approach to be included in the new Joint Strategy (including links with the Greenprint for South Hampshire initiative).
- Continue to develop the nutrient mitigation strategy, together with facilitating the implementation of mitigation measures, that will enable local authorities to ensure continued development in South Hampshire.
- Encourage conditional, managed growth through the adoption of a 'plan, monitor and manage' approach to land release and local plan review, with development conditional on timely and adequate infrastructure provision.

Through our objectives we want to:

- facilitate a balanced approach to development, with economic, social and environmental sustainability at its heart. It is the responsible and appropriate way to plan for the future of South Hampshire with an inclusive and integrated spatial strategy delivering sustainable communities into the future. Clearly, aspects of this are dependent on influencing, and informing, partner organisations such as the Solent LEP and Solent Transport.
- adopt an evidence base to support a strong policy protection for strategic gaps, designated nature conservation and protected landscapes, and areas of high-quality built environment.
- work together with our members to form an evidence base to support our members' local plans.
- achieve the highest environmental standards for new development - particularly in terms of resource conservation and reduction of environmental impact, by the application of consistent standards and policy approaches in partner authorities' local development documents covering the PfSH area.



5. Support the growth of the cultural and creative industries

Promote access and participation in a wide range of cultural activities while at the same time developing an environment in which cultural and creative industries can thrive. These industries are significant drivers of the economy and contribute to quality of place and enrich people's lives. In addition, they help to ensure that new developments conform to high standards of design so as to increase liveability in the sub-region, at the same time contributing to growth in tourism and the visitor economy.

Creative Industries

- Conduct a review of the support needs of the creative economy in the light of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership 2050 strategy. In partnership with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, universities and existing support organisations, review and explore the appetite for establishing an infrastructure body to support the sector or to better join up existing infrastructure. Engage with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership in support of the delivery of the Solent 2050 strategy.
- Support Creative Network South as a sector led organisation - articulating the needs of the creative sector in South Hampshire. Review and facilitate the need for the establishment of a new approach to the development of the sector from 2022/2023 onwards.
- Extend the creative industries business support programme from the Southampton area, to include the Portsmouth area. Use agreed PfSH funding to bring in matched funding to develop the programme further. Review how business support can be resourced and delivered in the wider South Hampshire area in the future.

Design and the Built Environment

- Facilitate knowledge exchange development of good design practice in the built environment by sustaining the quality place practitioner group - led by design managers from South Hampshire planning authorities.
- Extend the creative industries business support programme from the Southampton area so that it includes the Portsmouth area and use the agreed PfSH funding to bring in matched funding to develop the programme.
- To support the delivery of the biannual Solent Quality Place Awards to celebrate good practice.
- Publish and update design guidance to inform developers and planning officers of good design practice in the built environment.
- Promote good quality urban design through the production of design bulletins and hold a design awards, if necessary holding it in conjunction with an existing award ceremony.

Through our objectives we want to:

- contribute to creating an environment that encourages the cultural and creative industries that help to drive the local economy - and as contributors to quality of place.
- facilitate a range of cultural and sporting activities for residents and visitors.
- enhance the tourism offering and see growth in the visitor economy.
- Help to development high standards of design to increase the liveability of South Hampshire.
- promote excellent cultural facilities which are of national, international or regional repute. These provide a building block not only for the successful integration of culture into our communities, but also for South Hampshire's worldwide 'brand'.
- promote good design. This will be at the top of our agenda to create a sense of place in every new development and regenerated community.
- ensuring we do all we can to encourage involvement and participation in culture, sport and recreation.
- enhance quality of life through a diverse and vibrant cultural and sporting offer, using culture and heritage to create a sense of identity and distinctiveness.
- see thriving creative businesses sector and a healthy visitor economy.



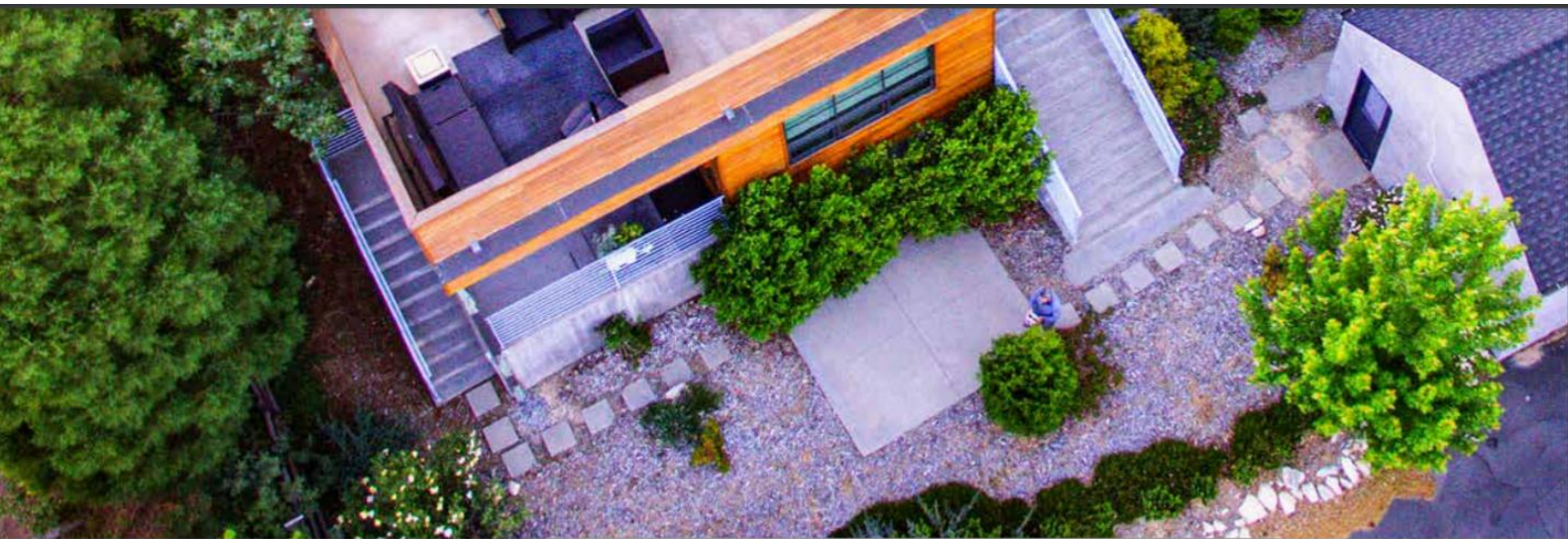
6. Support green infrastructure and green growth

Getting the right community infrastructure in place, both for regeneration and new communities - is crucial to inward investment and effective delivery. Climate change is a major challenge to the resilience of infrastructure for both existing and new communities. South Hampshire has a wealth of environmental, economic, historical and cultural assets and consequently one of PfSH's key priorities is to ensure that its approach to growth and development protects and enhances these assets whilst being environmentally sustainable.

- Support member local authorities to implement the PfSH Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan, and identify how to progress the strategic green infrastructure proposals and how to fund them.
- Continue to support the Greenprint for South Hampshire initiative and examine ways to facilitate the implementation of its recommendations
- Investigate how PfSH can support initiatives outlined in the Solent LEP's Energy Strategy 2050
- Consider the value of extending the both the remit and contract length of the Strategic Environmental Planning Officer (SEPO) function for the benefit of managing green initiatives cross the membership, and enable PfSH members to jointly and proactively participate in environmental policy and planning
- Protect existing open space and habitats and recognise the role of assets beyond the boundary of PfSH (this links to the evidence base needed for the Statement of Common Ground).
- Investigate what PfSH local authorities can collectively do to address climate change issues and bring a report to Joint Committee to enable this to happen.
- Engage with other agencies to understand how PfSH can support the Government's new 25 Year Environment Plan
- The Air Quality sub-group to facilitate the production of an 'air quality supplementary planning document' for the PfSH area and ensure the appropriate processes are in place for formal approval.

Through our objectives we want to:

- achieve the highest environmental standards for new development particularly in terms of resource conservation and reduction of environmental impact - through the application of consistent standards and policy approaches in partner authorities' local development documents covering the PfSH area.
- work collectively to deal with climate change issues and make sure that the South Hampshire area is doing what it can help to help support the national and international agenda.
- facilitate enhancements to the green infrastructure and high-quality design in the built environment to consolidate and improve the environment and quality of life of the sub region and to promote urban renaissance.



Urban Design Bulletin 2 Trees in Housing Development

Produced by the Quality Places Practitioners Group (QPPG) on behalf of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). The QPPG is composed of built environment professionals representing Local Authorities in South Hampshire: Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Isle of Wight, New Forest, Portsmouth, Southampton, South Downs National Park, Test Valley, Winchester and Hampshire County Council.

Members of the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee (September 2021)

- Cllr Ken Moon (East Hampshire District Council)
- Cllr Keith House (Eastleigh Borough Council)
- Cllr Seán Woodward (Fareham Borough Council) (Chairman)
- Cllr Graham Burgess (Gosport Borough Council)
- Cllr Robert Humby (Hampshire County Council)
- Cllr Alex Rennie (Havant Borough Council)
- Cllr Diane Andrews (New Forest District Council)
- Professor Gavin Parker (New Forest National Park Authority)
- Cllr Hugh Mason (Portsmouth City Council)
- Cllr Dan Fitzhenry (Southampton City Council)
- Cllr Nick Adams-King (Test Valley Borough Council)
- Cllr Neil Cutler (Winchester City Council)

