



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

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Councillor Seán Woodward, Fareham BC (Chairman)

Councillor Dan Fitzhenry, Southampton CC (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council
Graham Burgess, Gosport BC
Robert Humby, Hampshire CC
Diane Andrews, New Forest DC
Hugh Mason, Portsmouth CC
Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
Gwen Robinson, Havant BC

Chief Executives: Peter Grimwood, Fareham BC
David Williams, Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC
Sandy Hopkins, Southampton CC
Natalie Wigman, Eastleigh BC
Claire Upton-Brown, New Forest DC
David Hayward, Havant BC & East Hants DC
Keith Wilcox, Hampshire CC

Co-opted Members: Charlotte Lines, Environment Agency
Paddy May, Partnership for South Hampshire

Also Present: Richard Ivory, Solicitor

Jonathan Evans, Southampton CC – Item 10
Simon Eden, Southern Policy Centre – Item 11
Simon Kennedy, Fareham BC – Item 12 & 13

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Seán Woodward from Fareham Borough Council be elected as Chairman for the 2021/22 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Having been proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Dan Fitzhenry from Southampton City Council be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2021/22 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from:

Councillor Alex Rennie (Havant BC) with Councillor Gwen Robinson deputising, Councillor Ken Moon (East Hants DC), Councillor Neil Cutler (Winchester CC), Gavin Parker (New Forest NP), Alison Barnes (New Forest NP), Nick Tustian (Eastleigh BC) with Natalie Wigman deputising, Stuart Jarvis (Hampshire CC) with Keith Wilcox deputising, Bob Jackson (New Forest DC) with Claire Upton-Brown deputising and Andy Ferrier (Test Valley BC).

The Chairman announced and welcomed new Members to the Joint Committee:

Councillor Graham Burgess from Gosport Borough Council, Councillor Hugh Mason from Portsmouth City Council, Councillor Alex Rennie from Havant Borough Council, Councillor Diane Andrews from New Forest District Council, Councillor Dan Fitzhenry from Southampton City Council, Councillor Rob Humby from Hampshire County Council.

Attendees joining virtually (*as permitted under current legislation as non-decision makers*):

Charlotte Lines (Environment Agency) and Sandy Hopkins (Southampton CC) joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes from the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 22 March 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the following –

Regarding the very large fine that has been handed down to Southern Water recently, for over 6000 illegal acts of discharging raw sewage into water courses including The Solent, literally hundreds of millions of gallons went in.

The Environment Agency were the prosecutors in the legal challenge, and this is the second fine of this kind that has been issued to Southern Water in very recent times.

The Chairman stated that this has posed questions regarding the nitrate issues within The Solent and one wonders whether it has more to do with Southern Water's illegal discharges rather than agriculture and residential sewage as previously thought, although this is difficult to prove.

The Chairman announced that he had a meeting with Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP a couple of weeks ago and had suggested to him that it would be a good idea if the fine be retained within the Solent area, within the PfSH region, to help mitigate the damage caused due to nitrates. It was agreed that this would be something worth investigating.

The Chairman further stated that he had a meeting yesterday with Ian McAulay, CEO of Southern Water who informed those present of £2.5billion investments to be made to the infrastructure to help prevent illegal discharges in the future. The Chairman has written to him, on behalf of PfSH, to request his backing in retaining this fine locally to assist in purchasing land to set aside for nitrate mitigation and rewilding and for purchasing nitrate credits.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

7. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

8. REFERENCES FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 July 2021: -

Minute Item 9 – Greenprint for South Hampshire: Update

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report by Alison Barnes (NFNPA & Green Halo Partnership), Simon Eden (Southern Policy Centre & Green Halo Partnership) and David Hutchinson (University of Portsmouth & Future South) updating the Committee on the Greenprint for South Hampshire work that is underway.

Paddy May presented the report to the Committee highlighting the work so far in developing the Greenprint for South Hampshire and provided an overview of the five principles of the framework that the Joint Committee will be asked to note.

Members of the Committee asked that quarterly updates be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress of developing the Greenprint for South Hampshire and what is being achieved. It was also agreed by the Committee that it be recommended to the Joint Committee that

they too request similar regular updates on the Greenprint for South Hampshire during its development.

RESOLVED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the content of this report;
- b) NOTE the progress on developing the Greenprint for South Hampshire; and
- c) suggest to the Joint Committee that they request regular updates on the Greenprint for South Hampshire, and what it is achieving, during its development.

A report on this item will be received at Item 10 on this Agenda.

Minute Item 11 – Nutrient Neutrality Update

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a summary report by David Bibby from Test Valley Borough Council on the PfSH Nutrient Neutrality Update. The report was presented to the Committee by Simon Kennedy, the PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Officer. The report provided an update on the progress towards the implementation of mitigation strategies that unlock the backlog of required housing consents caused by the requirement that all new housing to be nutrient neutral.

Members commented on the recent fine imposed on Southern Water, who had been found to be discarding raw sewage into the Solent. Members asked if these funds would be used to assist in mitigating the Nutrient Neutrality issues within the Solent. Simon Kennedy commented that this is something that will be looked into. The Committee asked that this be recommended to the Joint Committee to investigate further and make a formal request that an allocation of these funds be used to support local authorities across the PfSH region with nitrate mitigation measures.

RESOLVED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the content of this report;
- b) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to note the content of the report outlining PfSH's activity towards unlocking the delivery of housing which has been on hold due to the nutrient neutrality issue; and
- c) asked that the Joint Committee investigate the allocation of the funds received from the fine imposed on Southern Water and make a formal request that an allocation of these funds be used to support local authorities across the PfSH region with nitrate mitigation measures.

A report on this item will be received at Item 12 on this Agenda.

9. PFSH MANAGERS REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report by the PfSH Coordinator, Paddy May, that covered issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report to be brought to the 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 for note.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the content of the Bird Aware Solent Annual Report at Appendix A of this report and APPROVES it for publication on the PfSH website; and
- b) NOTES the matters for information outlined in part B of this report.

10. GREENPRINT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

The Joint Committee received a report by Alison Barnes (NFNP & Green Halo Partnership), David Hutchinson (University of Portsmouth & Future South) and Simon Eden (Southern Policy Centre & Green halo Partnership) updating on the Greenprint for South Hampshire initiative.

The comments from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee were taken into account in considering this item and Simon Eden confirmed that regular updates will be brought to the Joint Committee during the development of the Greenprint for South Hampshire either by way of a report, or included within the PfSH Coordinators report.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee: -

- a) NOTES the progress on developing the Greenprint for South Hampshire; and
- b) Requests that regular updates be brought to the Joint Committee during the development of the Greenprint for South Hampshire.

11. PFSH BUDGET

The Joint Committee received a report by John Harrison, Executive Director – Finance & Commercialisation (Southampton City Council) on the PfSH Budget and Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 and Revenue Budgets 2021/22. Jonathan Evans (Southampton City Council) presented the report to the Committee, summarising the contents of the Statement of Accounts, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the outturn for the financial year 2020/21 (Table 2);
- b) APPROVES the Statement of Accounts for the 2020/21 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1); and
- c) APPROVES the updated revenue budget for 2021/22 as set out in the report (Table 5).

12. NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY

The Joint Committee received a report by David Bibby, Principal Planning Officer (Test Valley Borough Council) updating on the impact of the nutrient neutrality requirement on housing building. Simon Kennedy, PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Officer, presented the report to the Committee.

The comments of the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee were taken into account in considering this item.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the content of this report outlining PfSH's activity towards unlocking the delivery of housing which has been on hold due to the nutrient neutrality issue.

13. NUTRIENT MITIGATION: ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF THE NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY REQUIREMENT ON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Joint Committee received a report from Simon Kennedy, PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Officer on his recommendations to mitigate nutrient neutrality in the Solent.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the content of this report; and
- b) ENDORSES the recommendations to member local planning authorities that:-
 - i. PfSH local planning authorities consider the purchase of nitrogen mitigation credits from mitigation suppliers specifically to meet the needs of minor development based on an individual Authority's assessment of need.
 - ii. PfSH local planning authorities that wish to purchase credits are recommended to do so on a combined catchment basis to ensure best market value is achieved.
 - iii. PfSH local planning authorities use a standard suite of template legal agreements to reduce the legal costs to developers and to make the determination of application process more efficient.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm
and ended at 6.35pm).