



Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Allan Glass, New Forest DC (Chairman)

Councillor Peter Latham, Hampshire CC (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Richard Gomer, Eastleigh BC
Malcolm Daniells, Fareham BC
David Keast, Havant BC
Marley Guthrie, Southampton CC
Mike Maltby, Test Valley BC
Neil Cutler, Winchester CC

**Co-opted
Members:** Paddy May, PfSH Co-ordinator

**Also
Present:** Jonathan Evans, Southampton CC (Item 9)
Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant (Item 10)
Simon Kennedy, Fareham BC

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been duly proposed by Councillor Peter Lathan and seconded by Councillor Richard Gomer, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Allan Glass from New Forest DC be elected as Chairman for the 2022/23 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Having been duly proposed by Councillor Allan Glass and seconded by Councillor Malcolm Daniells, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Latham from Hampshire CC be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2022/23 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Malcolm Johnson from East Hants DC and Councillor Martin Pepper from Gosport BC.

The Chairman introduced the new Members of the Committee as follows: -

Councillor Martin Pepper from Gosport BC, Councillor David Keast from Havant BC, Councillor Ryan Brent from Portsmouth CC, Councillor Marley Guthrie from Southampton CC, Councillor Mike Maltby from Test Valley BC and Councillor Neil Cutler from Winchester CC.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 02 February 2022 be signed and confirmed as a correct record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman invited Paddy May, PfSH Co-ordinator to address the Committee and explain the purpose of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Paddy highlighted the recent change in 2019/20 to increase the number of meetings and to move the Committee from post-scrutiny to a pre-scrutiny role. This allows Members to comment directly on reports before they are considered by the PfSH Joint Committee and facilitates the mechanism for recommendation to be made from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Joint Committee from consideration. Paddy also explained that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can request items be brought to the Committee outside of the PfSH Forward Plan to assist Members with the role. These would be items of PfSH business that the Committee wish to examine in more detail.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at this meeting.

7. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received at this meeting.

8. PFSH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Panel received the PfSH Co-ordinator's report from Paddy May, which 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. On this occasion there were no items for decision.

Members asked if any further work had been done, following comments at the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to promote the work of PfSH. Paddy May explained that funds from within the current budget had been identified which will help develop a PfSH communication plan, with the assistance of the Portsmouth City Council's Communication Department. Paddy also advised that a great deal of work had been done to promote the Greenprint for South Hampshire project, with a promotional video being shared at national conferences recently. The Chairman asked that this video be shared with the Chamber of Commerce and other PfSH Local Authorities. Paddy agreed that this would be suggested to the Southern Policy Team who are leading on the project.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of PfSH Coordinator's Report;
- b) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the matters for information outlined in part B of this report; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

9. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22

The Committee received the Revenue Budget Monitoring and Statement of Accounts report from Jonathan Evans from Southampton City Council. The report summarised the outturn against the budget for the financial year 2021/22 and included the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 for Joint Committee approval.

Members enquired with regards to paragraph 3.15 of the Statement of Accounts, asking if it would be better practice for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to act as Audit Committee for PfSH rather than the Joint Committee. Paddy advised that this will be discussed with the monitoring officer for PfSH, Richard Ivory and the Committee would be updated in due course.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of the Revenue Budget Monitoring report and Statement of Accounts 2021/22;
- b) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to:-
 - i) NOTE the outturn for the financial year 2021/22;
 - ii) APPROVE the Statement of Accounts for the 2021/22 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement;
 - iii) NOTE the revenue budget for 2022/23 as set out in the report;
and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

10. STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

The Committee received a report from Mike Allgrove PfSH Consultant providing an update on progress towards completing the work identified in the PfSH Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).

Members suggested that land near the Hythe Ferry be considered as an appropriate location for a Strategic Development Opportunity Area (SDOA) as the transport link between the New Forest and Southampton and could assist with the housing shortage in these areas. Mike agreed to liaise with the New Forest DC to investigate this option further.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of the Statement of Common Ground progress update report;
- b) NOTE that the Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the progress made on the statement of common ground set out in this report; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration

11. NUTRIENT MITIGATION

The Committee received a report providing an update on nutrient neutrality for PfSH authorities from Simon Kennedy, PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Officer. The update focuses on the impact of updated advice from Natural England and the work being undertaken to ensure that sustainable growth can continue in the sub-region.

The Committee expressed concerns over the reactive approach to the current Natural England advice. Particularly as funds have now been made available from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities to support mitigation methods. It was suggested that the Committee ask the Joint

Committee to consider more work be done to find solutions to both the nitrate and phosphate issues across the sub-region. As the Committee agreed that funds would be better spent on investing in future long-term solutions rather than short term mitigation.

Members agreed that solutions for removing nitrates from Wastewater needs to be a priority and highlighted concerns with regards to the latest Southern Water consultation. One of the proposals within the consultation is to use Wastewater to fill the Havant Thicket Reservoir. The Committee asked that this be raised with the Water Quality Management Group.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTE the contents of the update on nutrient neutrality;
- b) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to:-
 - i. NOTE the contents of the report and provide any comments;
 - ii. AGREE that the available nutrient funding received from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will be spent on additional nutrient mitigation staffing capacity, with some funds set aside for required consultancy work; and
 - iii. AGREE that subject to Joint Committee agreement of recommendation b, that the PfSH Planning Officers Group should have the authority to manage the details relating to the recruitment of further staff as appropriate; and
- c) asked the Joint Committee to consider more work be done in finding long term solutions to both the nitrate and phosphate issues across the sub-region that particularly looked at the issue of removing nitrates from wastewater.

(The meeting started at 10.30 am
and ended at 11.50 am).