



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 27 September 2022
Report of: Paddy May, PfSH Coordinator
Subject: PFSH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY

The Co-ordinator's report 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. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:-

- a) welcomes the interest from Isle of Wight Council to explore rejoining the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH);
- b) AGREES that discussions should continue to take place that explore Isle of Wight Council's options for re-joining the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH);
- c) AGREES that the PfSH Coordinator be given delegated authority to agree any formal terms for the Isle of Wight's membership of PfSH - which will be undertaken after consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Chairman;
- d) AGREES that the terms of any proposed formal agreement reached between Isle of Wight Council and PfSH on its membership be put to Joint Committee members for final decision;
- e) AGREE that, should members of Joint Committee agree to the Isle of Wight's membership of PfSH, the Monitoring Officer will draft an addendum to the [PfSH Joint Agreement 2021](#) to reflect the changes.
- f) AGREES that, until such time as Isle of Wight Council's membership of PfSH be ratified, its leader and chief executive be invited to PfSH meetings (including Joint Committee as a non-voting member); and
- g) NOTES the matters for information outlined in part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. Consideration of the Isle of Wight Council's Interest in re-joining as a member of PfSH

- 1.1 In recent weeks an approach has been made by the interim chief executive of Isle of Wight Council about exploring the possibility of Isle of Wight Council (IoW) re-joining as a full member of PfSH. This follows a request by the leader of Isle of Wight Council that she explore this opportunity with PfSH. The Joint Committee is asked to welcome this development in principle and that further discussions should take place to explore the details of what this would involve so that both parties can make a decision on whether to proceed.
- 1.2 No formal discussions have yet taken place on the matter. Joint Committee members are asked to agree that discussions should continue to take place that explore Isle of Wight Councils options for re-joining PfSH and, subject to an acceptable outcome being reached, the PfSH Coordinator should have delegated authority to agree terms and a formal request for membership on behalf of Joint Committee. That request would then be put to Joint Committee members for consideration and agreement. Given that the Joint Committee is not scheduled to meet until December, that agreement may be sought of members by way of a formal letter or email.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

2. Update on recruitment of extra nutrient mitigation resource

- 2.1 At its meeting in July, Joint Committee agreed that funding recently secured from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities be spent on additional nutrient mitigation staffing capacity, with some funds set aside for required consultancy work. Joint Committee also agreed that PfSH Planning Officers Group should have the authority to manage the details relating to the recruitment of further staff as appropriate.
- 2.2 Following a successful recruitment exercise in August, two part-time officers (Emma Betteridge and Millicent Payne) joined PfSH as Strategic Environmental Planning Officers on 12 September, reporting to Simon Kennedy the Strategic Environmental Planning Manager.

4. Addressing Forthcoming Environmental Matters

- 4.1 The last update to Joint Committee included a section about what opportunities there are for PfSH to address new areas of environmental policy coming up in the next few years - as part of the government's ambition to deliver nature recovery and respond to the climate crisis. Natural England had previously brought a discussion paper to the PfSH Planning Officers Group (POG) asking it to consider the challenges, opportunities, and appetite of members to deliver new policy objectives by taking a strategic approach delivered by building upon the Bird Aware Solent model. In this

context, there are also issues which PfSH's members are grappling with right now, notably though not exclusively nutrients. There are also several significant workstreams that are at their inception, including biodiversity net gain and local nature recovery strategies.

- 4.2 Following discussions undertaken by a sub-group of members of the PfSH POG, Natural England, Bird Aware Solent and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, officers agreed that, rather than focussing on one delivery model, i.e. Bird Aware Solent, PfSH should be responding to the expanding environmental agenda from government. The overall conclusion of the sub-group was that one partnership or group could not realistically take on all of the environmental workstreams that are in place or emerging. It is not considered possible to create a single geography or accounting mechanism which would be able to satisfactorily address the wide variety of topics and workstreams. The recommendation of the sub-group is that this is best achieved through reform of the POG.
- 4.3 At this point in time in particular, there is a great deal of work that the POG needs to consider and provide a strategic direction on. In particular, a great deal of work and discussion is needed on the Joint Strategy. However the environmental workstreams, particularly the emerging ones, need strategic direction as well. It is not considered that they get sufficient time to enable a full discussion.
- 4.4 A strong understanding of the organisations/groups involved in the topic sub-regionally is required to inform further discussion and avoid duplication of effort. PfSH also needs to develop a strong vision for this work - so that it can determine how best to implement what it wants to achieve. The work will also need to consider how to align with the proposed local nature recovery strategy work which is being looked at on a Hampshire and Isle of Wight geography with Hampshire County Council as the lead body.
- 4.5 As such, POG has agreed the sub-group's proposal is to amend the way the POG operates as follows:
 - i. The frequency of meetings should increase
 - ii. Meetings to alternate between setting a strategic direction on 'planning' and 'environmental planning' focussed agendas
 - iii. Environmental partnership/group leads to be invited to the environmental planning focussed meetings, similar to Solent Transport being part of POG discussions to provide specialist input to the discussions
- 4.6 It is proposed that meeting agendas be alternated between focussing on 'green' planning matters and 'grey' planning matters. This would allow POG members to be focussed on one general area of work throughout the meeting. It would also be appropriate to invite key partnership leads to the environmental focussed meetings. This reflects the need to have specialist advice as part of the discussions and ensure that this is considered when coming to decisions.
- 4.7 It would be important to stress that as it would still be POG rather than a sub-group, the intention is that the head of planning policy for each respective LPA attends, so

that attendees are able to set the strategic direction on these matters. There would remain a role for working groups to discuss more detailed matters and different officers often attend as a result.

4.8 This approach would additionally provide smoother governance and accountability of workstreams, bringing the discussion within PfSH and the oversight of the Chief Executives Group and Joint Committee in terms of decision making.

4.9 The intention is now for the same sub-group of the POG to now look at the detail of the proposed approach, how it would work in practice, and draft revised terms of reference for discussion at the meeting of POG scheduled in October.

5. Strategic Recreation and Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The following covers the period 1 June to the end of July 2022.

5.1 The Rangers do not conduct site visits during this period, they use this time to develop other workstreams such as codes of conduct, signage and educational resources. They also undertake the recruitment of the seasonal rangers for the following winter. They continue to conduct events and have delivered:

- Events 6
- People interacted with at events 432

5.2 Additional input has also been given to communications work which is led by the Campaigns and Engagement Officer, together the team has achieved the following:

Website

7,022 page views over the two-month period (up by 73%) and 3,431 sessions (up by 117%)

Instagram

- Number of followers 2,153 (up by 63)
- Accounts reached: 13,745 (up by 626% compared with June-July 2021: 2K)
- Engagement: 2,601 (2,577 likes, 24 comments)

Facebook

- Number of fans: 2,525 (up by 35)
- Accounts reached: 67K (up by 335% compared June-July 2021: 20K)
- Engagement: 1,748 (reactions: 1,255; comments: 88; shares 168)

Twitter

- Number of followers 2,721 (up by 17)
- 33k impressions
- Engagement: 638 total engagement (482 likes, 96 retweets)

Other Campaigns and Engagement highlights include:

- June's newsletter was sent to 882 subscribers and had an opening rate of 65%. The next edition is due in September.

- Six blog posts, two press releases, monthly radio interviews with Express FM.
- Campaign to promote career opportunities at Bird Aware Solent during July resulted in a reach of 11k and just over 1,000 clicks to Bird Aware Solent webpage.
- Campaigns to promote summer events over this month achieved 315 clicks to our events web page and a 21.5k reach

6. Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment Themed Panel

6.1 The activity of the culture, creative industries and built environment themed panel is the subject of a full report to Joint Committee 27 September in its own right.

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- g) NOTES the matters for information outlined in part B of this report.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact:

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