



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

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 5 July 2022

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Councillor Seán Woodward, Fareham BC (Chairman)

Councillors: Ken Moon, East Hampshire DC
Keith House, Eastleigh BC
Robert Hylands, Gosport BC
Stephen Philpott, Hampshire CC
Elizabeth Lloyd, Havant BC
Diane Andrews, New Forest DC
Gavin Parker, New Forest NP
Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
Martin Tod, Winchester CC

Chief Executives: Adam Harvey, East Hants DC
Andrew Trayer, Eastleigh BC
Richard Jolley, Fareham BC
Jayson Grygiel, Gosport BC
Richard Kenny, Hampshire CC
David Hayward, Havant BC
Claire Upton-Brown, New Forest DC
Graham Smith, Test Valley BC
Laura Taylor, Winchester CC

Co-opted Members: Paddy May, Partnership for South Hampshire

Also Present: Richard Ivory, Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Evans, Southampton CC (item 10)
Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant (item 11)
Simon Kennedy, PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Officer (item 12)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Seán Woodward from Fareham BC be elected as Chairman for the 2022/23 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Having been proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Satvir Kaur from Southampton CC be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2022/23 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from:

Councillor Satvir Kaur (Southampton CC), Councillor Alex Rennie (Havant BC) with Councillor Elizabeth Lloyd deputising, Councillor Lee Hunt (Portsmouth CC), Councillor Peter Chegwyn (Gosport BC) with Councillor Robert Hylands deputising.

Andy Ferrier (Test Valley DC) with Graham Smith deputising, Mike Harris (Southampton CC) with Richard Ivory deputising, Stuart Jarvis (Hampshire CC) with Richard Kenny deputising, Kate Ryan (New Forest DC) with Claire Upton-Brown deputising, David Williams (Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC) with Paddy May (Portsmouth CC) and Jayson Grygiel (Gosport BC) deputising, Kim Sawyer (Havant BC) with David Hayward deputising, James Strachan (Eastleigh BC) with Andrew Trayer deputising, Peter Grimwood (Fareham BC) with Richard Jolley deputising and Alison Barnes (New Forest DC).

The Chairman welcomed the new Members to the Committee:

Councillor Peter Chegwyn from Gosport BC, Councillor Lee Hunt from Portsmouth CC, Cllr Martin Tod from Winchester CC, Councillor Satvir Kaur Southampton CC and Councillor Stephen Philpott from Hampshire County Council.

The Chairman confirmed the Co-opted members for the 2022/23 Municipal year as:

Paddy May from PfSH, Richard Jones from the Solent LEP and Charlotte Lines from the Environment Agency.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 14 February 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made no announcements.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

7. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at the meeting.

8. REFERENCES FROM THE PFSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee considered the references from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 29 June 2022.

MINUTE ITEM 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) ask 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.

9. PFSH COORDINATORS REPORT

The Joint Committee 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.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the matters for information outlined in part B of this report.

10. PFSH REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Joint Committee received the Revenue Budget Monitoring and Statement of Accounts 2021/22 from Jonathan Evans from Southampton CC. The report summarised the outturn against the budget for the financial year 2021/22 and included a presentation of the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 for approval. The report also updated the Committee on the revenue budgets for 2022/23 based on the outturn position.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the outturn for the financial year 2021/22 (Table 2);
- b) APPROVES the Statement of Accounts for the 2021/22 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1); and
- c) NOTES the revenue budget for 2022/23 as set out in the report (Table 4).

11. STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND PROGRESS UPDATE

The Joint Committee received an update on the Statement of Common Ground from Claire Upton-Brown, Chairwoman PfSH Planning Officers Group. The report detailed progress towards completing the work identified in the PfSH Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). The report also provided some commentary on the planning reforms contained in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the progress made on the Statement of Common Ground set out in this report.

12. NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY UPDATE

The Joint Committee received a report on nutrient neutrality for PfSH authorities. The update focused 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 Joint Committee considered the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at item 8.

The Committee discussed both the Nitrates in the Solent and the Phosphates in the Itchen River and asked for clarification on the sources of these pollutants which impact on water quality issues. It has been documented that housing development contributes to a very small percentage of the overall levels of both Nitrates and Phosphates in the water courses. Members requested clarification on the guidance and policies for mitigation and how this will help to reduce these levels. The Chairman suggested that the Joint Committee ask Natural England, the Environment Agency and Southern Water to attend a future meeting of the Joint Committee to allow Members to ask questions directly. It was agreed that this would be useful now that the Committee has a greater understanding of the wider issues.

It is RECOMMENDED that Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report and provide any comments;
- b) AGREES 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;
- c) AGREES 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
- d) ask that representatives from Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Natural England be invited to attend a future meeting of the Joint Committee to allow offers to ask questions for clarification on both the Nitrate and Phosphate water quality issues.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.38 pm).