AGENDA
PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE (PFSH) JOINT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2022

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

Members:

Chairman	Seán Woodward, Fareham BC
Vice-Chairman	Satvir Kaur, Southampton CC
Councillors	Ken Moon, East Hampshire DC
	Keith House, Eastleigh BC
	Peter Chegwyn, Gosport BC
	Stephen Philpott, Hampshire CC
	Alex Rennie, Havant BC
	Diane Andrews, New Forest DC
	Gavin Parker, New Forest NP
	Lee Hunt, Portsmouth CC
	Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
	Martin Tod, Winchester CC

Chief Executives

Adam Harvey, East Hants DC
James Strachan, Eastleigh BC
Peter Grimwood, Fareham BC
David Williams, Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC
Carolyn Williamson, Hampshire CC

Kim Sawyer, Havant BC
Kate Ryan, New Forest DC
Alison Barnes, New Forest NP
Mike Harris, Southampton CC
Andy Ferrier, Test Valley BC
Laura Taylor, Winchester CC

***Co-opted Members**:*

Charlotte Lines, Environment Agency
Paddy May, Partnership for South Hampshire
Richard Jones, Solent LEP

For further information please contact:
Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Fareham, PO16 7AZ
Tel: 01329 236100
democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To note any apologies and changes in membership for this meeting of the Joint Committee.

2. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest from Members, in accordance with the Joint Agreement.

5. DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations of which notice has been lodged.

6. REFERENCES FROM THE PFSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To receive any references from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. PFSH MANAGERS REPORT (Pages 13 - 24)

To receive a report on 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 a decision.

8. BIRD AWARE SOLENT ANNUAL BUDGET (Pages 25 - 30)

To receive a copy of the Bird Aware Solent Annual Budget Request 2023/24 for consideration by the Joint Committee.

9. BIRD AWARE SOLENT SITE-SPECIFIC FUNDING (Pages 31 - 40)

To receive a report recommending the allocation of Bird Aware Solent site-specific funding.

10. PFSH STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (Pages 41 - 76)

To receive a report outlining proposed amendments to the PfSH Statement of Common Ground.

For further information please contact:
Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Fareham, PO16 7AZ
Tel: 01329 236100
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Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 27 September 2022

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Councillor Seán Woodward, Fareham BC (Chairman)

***Councillors*:** Eamonn Keogh, Southampton CC
Keith House, Eastleigh BC
Stephen Philpott, Hampshire CC
Diane Andrews, New Forest DC
Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
Martin Tod, Winchester CC
Elizabeth Lloyd, Havant BC
Gordon Bailey, New Forest NPA

Chief Executives: James Strachan, Eastleigh BC
Richard Jolley, Fareham BC
Jayson Grygiel, Gosport BC
Kate Ryan, New Forest DC
Mike Harris, Southampton CC
David Hayward, Havant BC
Graham Smith, Test Valley BC
Dawn Adey, Winchester CC

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

***Also Present*:** Richard Ivory, Monitoring Officer
Anna Parry - Item 8
Charles Freeman – Item 9
Simon Eden – Item 9 & 10
Kristina Downey – Item 10
Karolina Zarzyczny – Item 10
Simon Kennedy - Item 11 & 12

Sandra Norval - Item 12
Joff Edevane - Item 12
Graham Horton – Item 12
Catherine Fuller – Item 12

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from:

Councillor Satvir Kaur (Southampton CC) with Councillor Eamonn Keogh deputising, Councillor Ken Moon (East Hants DC), Councillor Peter Chegwyn (Gosport BC), Councillor Alex Rennie (Havant BC) with Councillor Elizabeth Lloyd deputising, Gavin Parker (New Forest NPA) with Councillor Gordon Bailey deputising. Alison Barnes (New Forest NP), Peter Grimwood (Fareham BC) with Richard Jolley deputising, Carolyn Williamson (Hampshire CC), David Williams (Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC) with Jayson Grygiel (Gosport BC) & Paddy May (Portsmouth CC) deputising and Kim Sawyer (Havant BC) with David Hayward deputising, Andy Ferrier (Test Valley BC) with Graham Smith deputising and Laura Taylor (Winchester City Council) with Dawn Adey deputising.

There were no changes to the Joint Committee Membership.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 05 July 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made no announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

6. REFERENCES FROM THE PFSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee considered the references from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 21 September 2022.

MINUTE ITEM 8 - CULTURE, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Panel received a report by Charles Freeman, Co-ordinator for the Culture, Creative Industries Built Environment Themed Panel, which provided an update on the progress on work to Commission the Southern Policy Centre to facilitate a series of workshops designed to identify future ways of working in relation to culture and creative industries in the central south area and fund the delivery of the 2022 Solent Quality Place awards.

Members expressed views as to whether PfSH (including the Joint Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) was provided with enough information to enable them to understand the achievements and the wider benefits to economy and the region from the work that PfSH did on Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment. During discussion relating to appendix 1, Members noted the reference to the 'Solent strip' and shared their concerns that the current PfSH geography may not be quite right for this work and maybe should encompass a wider geographical area such as the Solent Strip or the whole of Hampshire.

RESOLVED that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

a) NOTES the contents of this report;

b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to AGREE that the Southern Policy Centre is invited to run a seminar with Partnership for South Hampshire representatives and appropriate others (for example the Solent LEP) to discuss the findings from the June and July workshops and agree a way forward;

c) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE that, following the two workshops undertaken over the summer, Creative Network South and Southern Policy Centre are running three follow up sessions;

d) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the progress and timetable for the 2022 Solent Quality Place Awards; and

e) ASKED the Joint Committee to note their comments in respect of:
    i. gaining a greater understanding of what the work is achieving and the benefits to the economy and the area; and
    ii. whether the work should be undertaken on a broader geographical area.

7. PFSH MANAGERS REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report from Paddy May, PfSH Co-ordinator, on issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report in their own right.

Members enquired as to whether the re-joining of the Isle of Wight Council to the PfSH Joint Committee would affect the progress of the Statement of Common Ground. The Chairman confirmed that the IoW re-joining would not impact on the existing work programmes.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

a) welcomes the interest from Isle of Wight Council to explore re-joining 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) AGREES 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.

8. BIRD AWARE (SOLENT RECREATION MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP) ANNUAL REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report by Anna Parry from Bird Aware Solent which asked the Joint Committee to consider the Bird Aware Solent Annual Report.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES and ENDORSES the Bird Aware (Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's) eighth Annual Report.

9. FUTURE OF CULTURE, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Joint Committee received a report from Charles Freeman, Co-ordinator for the Culture, Creative Industries Built Environment Themed Panel and Simon Eden, Southern Policy Centre, which outlined recommendations for the future

operation of PfSH's culture, creative industries and built environment strands of work.

The Chairman draw Members attention to item 6 – References from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members of the Joint Committee agreed that the third seminar would be a good opportunity to investigate opportunities to widen the geographical area of the work relating to culture and creative industries. Following a question from the Chairman, Simon Eden confirmed that this third seminar would be funded through existing budgets. Both Charles Freeman and Simon Eden agreed that this approach would be taken forward as a topic for discussion and fed back to the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED that Joint Committee:-

a) AGREES that the Southern Policy Centre is invited to run a seminar with Partnership for South Hampshire representatives and appropriate others (for example the Solent LEP) to discuss the findings from the June and July workshops and agree a way forward;

b) NOTES that, following the two workshops undertaken over the summer, Creative Network South and Southern Policy Centre are running three follow up sessions; and

c) NOTES the progress and timetable for the 2022 Solent Quality Place Awards.

10. GREENPRINT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

The Joint Committee received a report and supporting presentation from Simon Eden from the Southern Policy Centre & Green Halo Partnership, Karolina Zarzyczny from the University of Southampton and Kristina Downey from Portsmouth City Council. The report set out the outcomes of the 'communities of practice' workshops and emerging recommendations for future activity.

The presentation provided details to the Joint Committee of the Portsmouth City Council Greenprint Pilot being developed which will allow officers from Portsmouth CC to report how they are faring in delivering against the five Greenprint priorities.

A copy of the presentation will be published alongside these Minutes.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the progress to date on developing the Greenprint framework, in particular, the approach being taken to developing action plans for realising agreed priorities.

11. NUTRIENT MITIGATION

The Joint Committee received a report from Simon Kennedy, PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Manager, providing a general update on nutrient neutrality for PfSH authorities.

RESOLVED that Joint Committee NOTES the contents of this report.

12. NUTRIENT MITIGATION - DISCUSSION ITEM

At the invitation of the Chairman, Simon Kennedy PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Manager, Sandra Norval and Joff Edevane from Southern Water, Graham Horton from Natural England and Charlotte Lines and Catherine Fuller from Environment Agency, addressed the Joint Committee to provide details on the progress that their organisations are making in tackling both the nitrate and phosphates issues across the region.

Sandra Norval from Southern Water began by providing a detailed presentation outlining the processes the Future Growth team at Southern Water carry out to establish growth projects. Joff Edevane then provided details on the nutrient technically achievable limits, including details on the capital costs for achieving these limits.

A copy of the presentation will be published alongside these Minutes.

Catherine Fuller from the Environment Agency (EA) followed the presentation by providing details of the work that the EA is doing to regulate Southern Water, highlighting to Members their role in regulating the Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW). Catherine went on to explain that all WWTWs have a permit, but the type of permits varies depending on a number of factors, such as location, environment, population etc.

Graham Horton from Natural England reassured Members that there is no intention at this stage to implement any further change in relevant policies that might impact on development in the PfSH area, but he did advise that the more Natural England learns about the environment, the more problems that are uncovered. Natural England will continue to work constructively with authorities should any further relevant environmental policies be implemented in the future.

(The meeting started at 18:00
and ended at 19:41).

Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **07 December 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 NOTES the matters for information outlined in part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

There are no matters requiring a decision

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

1. Update on progress towards meeting PfSH Objectives as Outlining in the PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025

1.1 In October 2021 Joint Committee agreed the PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025. The Business Plan set out PfSH's six broad objectives and, given that a year has now passed since its publication on the PfSH website, PfSH Coordinators have taken some time to assess activity against objectives.

1.2 **Provide Democratic Leadership.** The PfSH Joint Committee continues to provide the appropriate form for decision making around the main streams of activity. Over the past 12 months the PfSH leadership has refreshed and reviewed its business plan to 2025, made changes to the structure by which its member local authorities' contribute funding, made provision for funding for the democratic services provided by Fareham Borough Council and has entered into discussions with Isle of Wight Council about re-joining the partnership.

The PfSH leadership has enabled the unblocking of housing development across the sub-region due to the requirement that it be 'nutrient neutral'. Officials have worked closely with government departments, local partners, developers and mitigation providers to do this - with DEFRA choosing to pilot its 'Solent Nutrient Market' in Test Valley. PfSH's Strategic Environmental Planning Team have been cited as exemplars to other local authorities nationally, and which are now facing the same issues, on how to manage finding solutions to the nutrient mitigation challenge.

In other areas, PfSH is evolving to better support both the growth of the cultural and creative industries through a review of how that support is delivered. Its support for green growth and green infrastructure has been demonstrated through funding for the 'Green Print for South Hampshire initiative and through a proposed restructure of its Planning Officers Group which will allow for greater focus and coordination on issues such as biodiversity net gain, nutrient neutrality, recreational disturbance, local nature recovery and the activities facilitated by Bird Aware Solent. Additionally PfSH continues to provide direct Governance to the Bird Aware Partnership which is now experiencing a notable increase in coastal visitors since the start of the pandemic (an average of 52 visitors observed per site visit now as opposed to 37 prior to the pandemic).

1.3 **Be a Voice for South Hampshire.** The partnership continues to respond to local and national consultations on issues where a collective response is appropriate and relevant. Since October 2021 PfSH has responded to three consultations. Given our interest and current focus on nutrient mitigation affecting housing development, these have been to Water Resources South East's Regional Plan, Southern Water's Hampshire Water Transfer and Recycling Project and to Southern Water's Drainage and Waste-water Management Plans.

In addition, and due in part to PfSH involvement and success in facilitating nutrient mitigation solutions, PfSH secured £200k funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to further the work of the PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Officer. This has resulted in the recruitment of two further officials on one-year contracts to further PfSH's more specialist work on handling management of the issue across its membership.

1.4 **Simplify Relationships Between Partners and Stakeholders.** Primarily through the work of the Planning Officers Group and the Water Quality Working Group, PfSH has continued to bring together its members and partners to discuss approaches to shared challenges. These include:

- Regular representation by standing invitation from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Southern Water, Portsmouth water and Solent Transport to meetings of the planning officer's group and water quality working group
- Attendance by PfSH officials at least three 'outreach' events (with the Local Nature Partnership, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and the Business South Housing Summit) to discuss PfSH's activity towards developing a Joint Strategy for housing development across the PfSH area
- Through its work on nutrient mitigation following previous lobbying of government ministers and officials, the Strategic Environmental Planning Officer has worked closely with government officials, developers, local planning authorities, mitigation providers and partner organisation to facilitate and manage mitigation projects that have enabled housing development to continue
- Through its strategy and governance partners, Bird Aware Solent has continued to successfully deliver on its business plan
- PfSH continues to provide a forum for our members' chief executives to meet to discuss PfSH business through regular meetings - enabling a common understanding of individual local authority needs and issues which helps find consensus when approaching solutions to challenges.

1.5 **Ensure Sustainable Development in South Hampshire.** Through the work on the PfSH Statement of Common Ground, development of a Joint Strategy in the approach to housing development to 2040 continues. While progress has been delayed for a number of reasons, there remains general consensus that PfSH continues to provide the right forum and collective leadership to take the work forward to conclusion for the wider benefit of its members.

Alongside the continuing work on the Statement of Common Ground consideration must be given to the potential impact that emerging central government policies such as environmental land management schemes and the Levelling Up and regeneration Bill will have on PfSH activity. In response, and in order to meet both existing demands, and shifts in focus, the PfSH Planning Officers Group has already considered changes to the way it functions to accommodate a broad scope. In particular to ensure that more equal priority is placed on planning for the built environment *and* to planning for the natural environment.

In February, Joint Committee committed to supporting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy by way of £20k annual funding for officer to support to facilitate its delivery. An update on how the funding is being used to support our members' local authority planning functions is outlined separately in this report.

1.6 **Support the Growth of the Cultural and Creative Industries.** Over the past year PfSH has been reviewing its approach to supporting creative industries and the cultural sector across South Hampshire. This follows many years of successful investment in initiatives to support the sector, including establishing Creative Network South (CNS), which is hosted by the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. The aim of the review project is two-fold:

- To give PfSH a clear sense of purpose in its response to and support for the creative and cultural sector - including an exploration of the breadth of the sector covered, for example is a narrow focus on the creative industries business sector required, or wider focus on the contribution of Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport sectors on the economy, including the visitor economy, regeneration and place shaping required
- To help build appropriate mechanisms for realising that purpose. This could be anything on a continuum between a loose joining of the dots linking organisations and initiatives (which is currently the role of creative network south) through to a strong developmental partnership.

Following two workshops facilitated by Southern Policy Network on PfSH's behalf, and attending by representatives drawn from across the creative sector, a set of proposals were presented to Joint Committee in September. It is expected that a plan for implementation of a new approach will be presented to PfSH Joint Committee in the spring of 2023.

In 2022, the Solent Quality Place Awards ran and are now in their sixth iteration. The awards focus on place making rather than on the design of an individual building. More detail on the outcome of the awards is covered separately in this report.

1.7 **Support Green Infrastructure and Green Growth.** To a greater or lesser extent, support for the growth of green infrastructure and growth runs through each of the other five objectives and has been demonstrated through:

- Expansion of the Strategic Environmental Planning Manager's role and a successful bid for funding to include a further two officers on short-term contracts
- Funding contributions to both the Greenprint for South Hampshire Initiative and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy
- The continued successful operation of Bird Aware Solent
- Consideration of green infrastructure needs 'built-in' to the work that will lead to a Joint Strategy determining the approach to house building across the PfSH area

- Reorganisation of the PfSH Planning Officers Group's operation to ensure that a priority of focus is aligned to emerging national environmental policies and initiatives.

2 Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy

2.1 In February, Joint Committee agreed continued PfSH support for the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SW&BGS) and committed to an annual contribution towards the cost of an officer post that will facilitate its delivery. The SW&BGS aims to identify, conserve and enhance sites that functionally support the Special Protection Areas (SPAs) of the Solent sub-region, and advise on mitigation for unavoidable impacts. This support agreed is aligned to, and complements, the work of Bird Aware Solent, and seeks to benefit local planning authorities by monitoring the impact of development on SPAs.

2.2 In April, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust appointed Tom Marceau as Coastal Birds Projects Monitoring Officer. With the PfSH funding, Tom is delivering the tasks outlined in the funding proposal put to Joint Committee in February. To date, he has offered to meet/has met with all of the PfSH local planning authorities to ensure all planning officers are up to date with site classifications, to inform local plans and to help the development control work and local mitigation solutions. Tom has also met with PfSH's Strategic Environmental Planning Manager to discuss joined-up mitigation opportunities.

2.3 Tom has provided data and advice on several individual planning cases and sits on the SW&BGS Steering Group. He has updated and shared key information to improve knowledge and understanding of the strategy, which has been published on the SW&BGS website and includes:

- Guidance on managing habitats for waders and brent geese
- Standard methodologies for survey work
- An online recording form
- Updated mapping
- FAQ's section
- Mitigation Project submission form

2.4 Tom will be working on creating a list of potential mitigation projects, building a register of existing mitigation projects, as well as analysing existing data on bird site use to understand site preferences and requirements. He will also be working on an update to the data layers for publication by the end of March 2023.

3. Nutrient Mitigation Update

3.1 At the last meeting of Joint Committee in September, he Strategic Environmental Planning Manager provided an update on nutrient neutrality. In addition, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Natural England provided a presentation to Joint

Committee in relation to addressing the issue of nutrient mitigation. Further to that meeting, Joint Committee requested further information on:

a. Waste-water Treatment Works (WwTW) operating in the River Itchen and Solent catchment operating without total nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) limits.

b. The potential for developer contributions to help fund upgrades to WwTWs

The potential to combine environmental requirements into a single payment/strategy, with the purpose of simplifying the complexity of different environmental mitigation requirements around the Solent

Wastewater Treatment Works without Nitrogen and Phosphorus Permit Limits

3.2 Based on information received from Southern Water, there are 55 WwTWs operating in the Solent catchments under Southern Water ownership. Of these, there are ten with a permit for total nitrogen and a further seven with a permit limit for inorganic nitrogen. The specific WwTWs and corresponding permit details are shown in figure 1.

Figure 1 - WwTWs with nitrogen permit limit

STW Name	N-Parameter	UWWTR - AA Total N Mean Limit (mg/l)	Habitats WRA AA Mean Limit (mg/l)	GW - WRA AA Mean Limit (mg/l)
Bishops Waltham	Total Nitrogen	15		
Bosham	Total Nitrogen		10	
Budds Farm	Total Nitrogen	10		
Budds Farm	Total Nitrogen		9.7	
Chichester	Total Nitrogen	15		
Chichester	Total Nitrogen		9	
Ivy Down Lane Oakley	Total Inorganic Nitogen			35
Ludgershall	Total Inorganic Nitogen			27
New Alresford	Total Inorganic Nitogen			25
North Waltham	Total Inorganic Nitogen			20
Millbrook	Total Nitrogen	10		
Millbrook	Total Nitrogen		10	
Peel Common	Total Nitrogen	10		
Peel Common	Total Nitrogen		9	
Milford Road Pennington	Total Nitrogen	15		
Milford Road Pennington	Total Nitrogen		9.5	
Shipton Bellinger	Total Nitrogen			8.4
Sidlesham	Total Nitrogen	15		
Slowhill Copse	Total Nitrogen	15		
Slowhill Copse	Total Nitrogen		14	
Thornham	Total Nitrogen	15		
Thornham	Total Nitrogen		10	
Whitchurch	Total Inorganic Nitogen			32
Woolston	Total Nitrogen	15		
Woolston	Total Nitrogen		15	

3.2 There are 19 WwTWs with a permit limit for phosphorus as shown in figure 2, there are 23 WwTWs without a permit limit for either total nitrogen or total phosphorus as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3 - WwTWs with total phosphorus permit limit

WTW Name	Driver	Mean Total P limit (mg/l)
Bishops Waltham	UWWTR	2
Brockenhurst	WRA	1
Chilbolton	WRA	1
Fullerton	UWWTR	2
Fullerton	WRA	1
Kings Somborne	WRA	1
Lyndhurst	WRA	1
Overton	WRA	1
Romsey	UWWTR	2
Romsey	WRA	1
Southwick STW	WRA	0.5
Stockbridge	WRA	1
Chickenhall	UWWTR	2
Chickenhall	WRA	1
Harestock	WRA	1
Morestead	UWWTR	2
Morestead	WRA	1
Barton Stacey	WRA	2

Figure 2 - WwTWs without P or N permit limit

Ashlett Creek
Boldre
Chale
Chillerton
East Boldre
East Grimstead
East Meon
Evans Close Over Wallop
Flexford Lane Sway
Godshill
Lavant
North Waltham
Portswood
Redlynch
Sandown
Shalfleet
St Helens
West Marden
West Wellow
Whitchurch
Whiteparish
Wickham
Willow Wood St Lawrence

Potential for development contributions to upgrade Wastewater Treatment Works

3.3 The Chief Planning Officer wrote to all authorities affected by nutrient pollution on the 16 March 2022 setting out information in relation to neutrality, support and funding. The letter highlighted that a Strategic Policy Statement has been sent to Ofwat which clarified the environmental duties that Southern Water and Ofwat should undertake in relation to nutrient pollution - including reducing nutrients at source[1].

3.4 At the Joint Committee meeting on 27 September, members requested further information from the Strategic Environmental Planning Manager as to whether developer contributions could provide funding to increase the N and P removal at WwTWs. The position of Southern Water, and other sewerage undertakers

[1] Strategic policy statement for Ofwat - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

nationally, is that they are unable to use developer contributions to fund improvements to WwTWs.

> *"Where developer contributions to maintain an increase in nutrient removal at a WWTW are suggested, this risks contravening Financial Competition Rules and the requirement to maintain a level playing field between all developers and other agencies operating in our region. Southern Water would be in a difficult situation in accepting a financial contribution to amend a WWTW which is already operating to acceptable standards and would be at direct risk of future challenge by accepting such a contribution should the present situation be resolved by a change in the present advice and position of Natural England."*
>
> https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/faq-removing-nutrients-from-wastewater-faq

Potential to combine environmental requirements to provide a more joined up approach to mitigation

3.5 There is significant potential to combine environmental requirements, both in terms of the land used for different environmental mitigation requirements and how the various mitigation requirements are dealt with in terms of developer contributions.

3.6 Using the extra capacity now available within the PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Team, work is currently being undertaken to understand the total need for mitigation across all major environmental constraints within the PfSH sub region. Once this work is completed, and there is a better understanding of how best to combine the relevant mitigation requirements, options for a more joined up approach will be presented for consideration by PfSH officers and members.

4. Strategic Recreation and Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

4.1 The focus of the Rangers activities is different during the summer months to the winter season owing to the birds not being present on the coastline during the summer. As this reporting period covers both seasons, their activities are split below:

For the period 1 August to the end of August 2022:

The Rangers do not conduct site visits during this period, instead using their 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 7
- People interacted with at events 1717

For the period 1 September to the end of October 2022:

The Rangers delivered:

- Site Visits 108
- People interacted with on-site 1180
- Events 18
- People interacted with at events 1100

4.2 Additional input has also been given to communications work and together with the Brand and Communications Lead, the team has achieved the following:

- Media relations for Great Coastal Birdwatch achieved, among other coverage, a feature on ITV News Meridian on Sunday 22 October including interviews with Cllr Woodward and Ranger Julie about raising awareness of coastal birds.
- Online promotional campaign for Great Coastal Birdwatch achieved 5,464 clicks to the Bird Aware website.
- Bird Aware Solent website achieved 11,047 pageviews, from 2,385 users within 4,042 sessions.
- Third newsletter issued to around 1,200 subscribers in October with a 69% opening rate (target rate is 50%). Events, the Great Coastal Birdwatch, and blog posts were popular links clicked on by users.
- 6 blog posts, 3 press releases, monthly radio interviews with Express FM

Social media August – October 2022

Facebook

- Number of fans 2,614 (up by 39, +1.518%)
- Accounts reached 77K
- Engagement – 2,708 (2,161 reactions, 239 comments, 195 shares)

Twitter

- Number of followers 2,767 (up by 46, +1.69%)
- 41.7 K impressions
- Engagement: 1,623 total engagement (1,012 likes, 611 retweets)

Instagram

- Number of followers 2,063 (up by 246, +13.5%)
- Accounts reached: 31,907 (+131.4% compared to preceding 5 months)
- Engagement: 8,018 likes, 97 comments

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

5.1 The Southern Policy Centre (SPC) held a final workshop on the 24 November to agree proposals for the future working of the workstreams delivered by the Culture,

Creative Industries and Built Environment Panel. Outcomes from the discussion will be reported to the PfSH Joint Committee Meeting scheduled for 30 January.

5.2 On 23 September SPC facilitated a highly successful workshop to explore support for the Film Sector in South Hampshire. Following the workshop, Solent University and The Growth Hub have, in partnership with Film Hub South West, submitted an application to the British Film Institute (BFI) Spotlight Fund to support sector development in the central south area.

5.3 Solent Growth Hub have launched the 'Solent Creative Growth Programme', which provides one-to-one business support to creative entrepreneurs and freelancers.

5.4 On the 20 of January 2023, Solent University will hold a Creative Industries Symposium, with a view to developing a network of university researchers, the aim of which will be to support the development of the creative economy in the central south.

The Solent Quality Place Awards https://solentqualityplaceawards.org.uk/

5.5 PfSH has supported the Solent Quality Place Awards since 2010. The Awards celebrate good practice in urban design and place making. Since 2019 the judges have focused on projects which enhance the quality of a locality or neighbourhood and the projects for the 2022 Awards were drawn from nine different local Authorities.

5.6 The Judges made awards to Seven Schemes.

- Buckland Granaries in The New Forest
- North Stoneham Park, Eastleigh,
- The West Downs Centre University of Winchester
- The Centenary Building, University of Southampton,
- God's House Tower, Southampton
- The Maggie's Centre building in Southampton.
- Romsey Market Place, Test Valley

The overall judge's choice and people's choice winner was Romsey market place. Voting for the people's choice took place in early September. More than 1,500 people voted, the winner receiving more than 700 votes.

6. Greenprint for South Hampshire

6.1 At the last meeting of Joint Committee in September, Joint Committee heard about the pilot for the Greenprint in Portsmouth City Council. That pilot is demonstrating how the Greenprint framework – the five priorities and ten outcomes agreed by members – can be turned into practical actions. Whilst the project steering group continue to work on action planning as explained in the report to the last meeting, they believe that we now have a robust framework which others can use to develop their own response to the demand for a green recovery.

6.2 With that in mind, members of the steering group have been discussing how best to roll the framework out to others, and encourage them to use it as a basis for action planning. They will be talking with local authority chief executives, colleagues in local

universities, in the health sector and in businesses to encourage them to adopt the framework and to use it as a basis for collaboration with others. Their experience will help develop the framework further. The project team will be preparing guidance drawing on learning from pilots to date to help in that roll out.

6.3 A key part of the project has been the input from experts across the public and private sector through the 'communities of practice' set up to advise on outcomes and possible actions on each of the five Greenprint priorities. They offer a vital resource for helping actions to be focused and meaningful, and should remain fully engaged both with the pilots and overall development of the framework. The Project steering group is planning an event for spring 2023 which will draw together south Hampshire's experience in developing action plans and highlight the practical way in which the Greenprint framework is being deployed. The communities of practice will be part of that event.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee 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:

Paddy May (PfSH Co-ordinator)
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Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **07 December 2022**

Report of: **Paddy May, Bird Aware Project Board Chair**

Anna Parry, Partnership Manager

Subject: **BIRD AWARE SOLENT ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST**

SUMMARY

This paper seeks approval from the Joint Committee for the Bird Aware 2023/24 budget request, a matter that is considered annually by the PfSH Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that Joint Committee: -

a) NOTES the contents of the report; and

b) ENDORSES the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2023/24.

Background

1. The Bird Aware Partnerships work is wholly funded by developer contributions.
2. The amount which will be received in the future cannot be accurately predicted, so a judgement needs to be made annually on an appropriate budget for the coming year. Information collected quarterly related to developer contributions received, and annual planning permission data, helps inform the budget for each coming year.
3. Additionally the Board maintains a financial reserve to cushion the peaks and troughs in development activity and thus money received by the Partnership. This means that if income is lower than outgoings in 2023/24, in the first instance money from the reserves would be used to meet any shortfall.
4. The proposed budget for 2023/24 is £2,242k, which includes a £1,250k contribution to the in-perpetuity fund, leaving £992k for the implementation of mitigation measures. These measures include a team of five all year rangers, further supported by three seasonal rangers during the winter, a campaigns and engagement officer, a dog initiatives leader, a monitoring officer and the partnership manager. For the fourth time, they also include £400k to support site specific projects. The in-perpetuity fund is part of the agreed strategy and vital to allow for the work of the partnership to continue until 2114, whilst payments into the scheme are due to halt in 2034.
5. The budget will also fund the vital monitoring surveys and data collection activities which will be taking place during winter 2022/23. Furthermore, it provides for the development of targeted engagement activities with dog owners and walkers, as research shows that around 47% of all major disturbance incidences involve a dog off the lead.
6. The proposed budget for 2023/24 is therefore:

Table 1: Proposed 2023/24 budget

Item	**000s**	**Comment**
Rangers	287	As per the SLA
Dog Initiatives Officer (FT role)	42	Includes element for travel costs
Dog initiatives	10	Promotion, website, resources
Campaigns and Engagement Officer (FT role)	50	Includes element for travel costs
Campaigns operational budget	10	Printing / Design / Freebies
Partnership Manager (0.6 F.T.E.)	45	Includes element for travel costs
Operating budget	10	Same as last year
Monitoring (consultancy support)	50	See note
Contribution to Monitoring Officer role	10	This is in addition to 10% of the site-specific funding money

Site Specific Projects	400[1]	Same as last year
Sub-total	**992**	
Contribution to in-perpetuity fund	1250[2]	As taken from the In-perpetuity tables
Total budget	**2242**	

Differences from 2022/23 Budget

7. The proposed budget for 2023/24 sees a broadly similar request to that of 2022/23 (shown in **Appendix 1** for information). This is because the Strategy is already in full delivery mode and therefore the main activities of the Partnership remain unchanged.

8. The monitoring budget is considerably smaller this year than last (£50k as opposed to £140k) which reflects the fact that the previous period covered the final payments for the 2021/22 monitoring work and the entirety of the five-year review work. As yet, there is no set plan for monitoring during this accounting period, but the results of the 5 Year Review work may dictate a need for such work, hence this element has been included within the budget request.

9. For clarity, the monitoring support officer role (0.7 f.t.e - hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and the additional work HIWWT undertake related to 'quality control' of the delivery of the site specific projects is paid for through the 10% from site specific projects and the £10k budget previously allocated to the now discontinued access management plans.

For information

Balances at 31/03/2021

Reserves brought forward @ 31/03/21	387,496
Contribution to reserves 21/22	744,083
Reserves carried forward @ 31/03/22	1,131,579

In-perpetuity fund @ 31/03/21	2,864,303
Transfer in 21/22	0
Interest received	22,229
In-perpetuity fund @ 31/03/22	2,886,532

[1] This is in addition to money committed in previous years but not yet drawn down (circa £900k)
[2] This amount is subject to review in the forthcoming financial review, but will be no less than the figure indicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that Joint Committee: -

a) NOTES the contents of the report; and

b) ENDORSES the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2023/24.

ENQUIRIES:

For further information on this report please contact:-

Anna Parry
Bird Aware Partnership Manager
Tel: 02392 834140
Email: Anna.Parry@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Approved 2022/23 Budget

Item	**000s**
Rangers	287
Dog Initiatives Officer (FT role)	42
Dog initiatives	10
Campaigns and Engagement Officer (FT role)	50
Campaigns operational budget	10
Partnership Manager (0.6 F.T.E.)	35
Operating budget	10
Monitoring (consultancy support)	140
Contribution to Monitoring role	10
Site Specific Projects	400[3]
Sub-total	**994**
Contribution to in-perpetuity fund	1110
Total budget	**2104**

[3] This is in addition to up to £700k of funds already allocated in previous years which are yet to be drawn down.

Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 07 December 2022

Report of: Paddy May, Bird Aware Project Board Chair

Anna Parry, Bird Aware Solent Partnership Manager

Subject: BIRD AWARE SOLENT / SOLENT RECREATION MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

SUMMARY

This paper seeks endorsement from the Joint Committee for the Bird Aware Partnership's recommendations for how site-specific funding should be allocated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:-

a) NOTES and ENDORSES Bird Aware Solent's proposed allocation of funding for site specific projects; and

b) NOTES and ENDORSES Bird Aware Solent's request for delegated powers to make the final decision on the release of the second year of funding allocation once sufficient supplementary evidence has been submitted by the applicant and reviewed by the project board.

Background

1. The Bird Aware Strategy includes support for site-specific projects to deliver mitigation measures. There is an annual allocation of £400k for this work and monitoring the effectiveness of it.

2. In January of this year, all partners were invited to submit project proposals for this funding and a 'site specific projects' sub-group has scored these proposals.

3. This project group comprises of the partnership manager together with a senior ranger, the monitoring officer, representatives from Natural England, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a local planning authority. Projects are scored under the following criteria:
    - Scale
    - Effectiveness
    - Value
    - Deliverability
    - Monitoring

4. The scores were presented to the project board which considered them in detail. The information below represents what the Project Board were prepared to offer support for.

Projects received

5. The Partnership received bids for 13 proposed projects, in total requesting £1,205,432 of funding. These bids contained a good spread of project type and size as well as representing a better geographical spread of bids than seen in the last round of funding.

6. As agreed at the project board in June 2022, the site specific project team were seeking to allocate £720,000 (the remaining sum retained for monitoring purposes) over a two year period covering 2023/24 and 2024/25. Members of the project team individually reviewed and scored the projects then met to compare results and seek a consensus for a final score for each project.

7. The Natural England representative on the site specific project group deemed two projects to be entirely unsuitable for supporting with mitigation funding. This has barred them from being recommended for funding in this round of allocation, but is not a comment on the overall strength or worthiness of the proposals. Likewise, the partnership is not able to support feasibility and pilot projects with funding received for mitigation purposes as it may leave us open to challenge from developers for not providing long term mitigation with their funding. This does not mean that we failed to recognise the quality and potential worth of the projects that fell into these categories.

8. The scores given have then been used to prioritise the funding recommendations which are outlined below in Table 1. More information related to the scoring can be found in the table which forms Appendix 1.

Bird Aware Site-specific Projects Scoring July 2022

Table 1: Projects

KEY

Year 1 (2023/24)
Year 2 (2024/25)
Supported
Not supported

Site Location and Proposer	Summary	Total score	Project cost £s	GROUP NOTES
SWLS - Lee on Solent - GBC	Alver Valley Country Park Improvements: Incorporation of additional land into the Country Park and the creation of a dog training park.	17	94,000	Good project with potential for good impact. Support for the dog area.
INLAND - Fishlakes Meadow - TVBC	The element of the project for which funding is being applied for will provide access infrastructure including bridges, boardwalks and a high quality hide and viewing platform at the Fishlakes Meadows Nature Reserve. The project will create a circular walk linking a number of public footpaths in the area and will facilitate access to the site and surrounding footpath network for people with mobility issues by creating a link which would bypass and existing bridge which is only accessible via a series of steps.	17	790,000 requested, 400,000 supported	**No support for Bird Hide or lift, scoring only related to Boardwalk and bridges element.** Scored for circular walk and bridges element only. Scores well if considered effectively to be a SANG.

Site Location and Proposer	Summary	Total score	Project cost £s	GROUP NOTES
CHEH - East Head - CHC	6 marker buoys at 4 sites to target watersports and stop them landing at hightide roost areas. Each site is approx 200m-300m long. Accompanied by email to 5000 promoting their presence.	17	13,692	There was general support for this project, especially given the pressures on high tide roosts in the area. The monitoring was also comprehensive.
NFHS - Hurst Spit - NFNPA	New Lane / Cut bridge)- Interpretation and physical measures (post and fence rail) Fencing and vehicle barrier	16	c10270	Good Project in recognised problem spot.
PHHI - Hilsea - PCC	To design and construct a dog activity area and 'off the lead' dog enclosure to draw dog walkers away from the sensitive bird areas - Coastal Partners Project	15	60,500	It was recognised that supporting the dog walking community is a key delivery strand, also that pressure on public spaces within Portsmouth is high so this may get high usage.
NFPD - Pitts Deep - NFNPA	Tanners Lane (Pitts Deep) Interpretation and vehicle barrier / gate	15	c13,770	This would seem a good way to stop vehicle access - but not people.

Site Location and Proposer	Summary	Total score	Project cost £s	GROUP NOTES
SWHH - Hill Head - FBC	Creation of a new 500m long Pathway suitable for wheelchairs, which will link with an existing path (also needing renovation) to form a 1km circular route around an area of established grassland and mixed scrub. Creation of 2 900m2 wildflower meadows proposed to improve the attractiveness of route and biodiversity.	13	46,000	Not certain how many visits this relatively small site would attract away from the coast. Accessibility issue considered to be a positive, but this user group do not tend to be high disturbance creators. However the year round path may be a draw for a wider demographic who are then well managed here. Need to expand monitoring to ask question to all users re would they otherwise have visited the coast. Some concern that this would actually attract more visitors to the coast, this risk was considered low.
SWHL - Hook Links - FBC	2.5km of wheelchair friendly path, establish safe entry points, resurface 1km of path, repair and resurface part of road and create 2 disabled parking spaces. 140m of stockfencing around ponds.	11	47,930 requested, 42,130 supported	Good overall scheme however **the pond should not be fenced through this scheme, as there is no evidence that the SPA birds use it.**
LHML - Milton Locks - PCC	Interpretation / engagement for the High Tide Wader Roost Island - Coastal Partners Project	11	46,000 requested, 23,000 supported	This would seem to be a public engagement initiative related to the wider coast, not directly related to this specific high tide roost. The promotion and support is a positive, but the route and outreach element here is not comprehensive enough. Scored on Interpretation and footprint elements only.

Site Location and Proposer	Summary	Total score	Project cost £s	GROUP NOTES
Eastern Solent - HBC	Pilot Project to trial techniques to deter informal access onto the foreshore - Coastal Partners project	17	35,000	Scored, but not able to support as a pilot project is not considered to be a robust use of mitigation funds.
CHNO - Northney - CHC	Feasibility Study for Shingle Banks near North Common, Hayling Island	9	10,000	Scored, but not able to support as a feasibility study is not considered to be a robust use of mitigation funds.
CHMA - Marina - CHC	Install 250 metres of offroad fencing and hedgerow along Dell Quay Road (leading to education centre) - increased pedestrian safety and provision to screen birds.	9	3,000	**RED FLAG RAISED BY NE -** There is already a planning application related to this, possibly increasing pressure next to a sensitive site, so it would need to provide it's own mitigation, it would be inappropriate for our mitigation money to pay for their mitigation need. **THIS PROJECT IS NOT TO BE SUPPORTED**
NFLK - Lymington Keyhaven - NFNPA	Oxey Marsh (Lymington–Keyhaven Nature Reserve) – Habitat creation, physical measures and interpretation	20	35,270	**RED FLAG RAISED BY NE -** "If off-site habitat creation (or enhancement) is being proposed to offset a likely impact of significant recreational disturbance, then this would be a compensatory measure. It is not the type of impact that determines whether a measure is mitigation or compensation – it's whether the measure (whatever and wherever it may be) is intended to avoid, prevent or acceptably reduce the likely risk/impact from occurring on the site in the first place, or to offset/compensate for that risk/impact where it cannot be avoided, prevented or reduced." Measures to improve or increase habitat

Site Location and Proposer	Summary	Total score	Project cost £s	GROUP NOTES
				availability for the birds fall within the latter part of the mitigation hierarchy, of offsetting/compensating for risks or impacts where they cannot be avoided, prevented or reduced. **THIS PROJECT IS NOT TO BE SUPPORTED**

KEY

Year 1 (2023/24)
Year 2 (2024/25)
Supported
Not supported

9. In the above table, the recommendation is to fund £303,362 of projects in year 1, and £400,000 of projects in year 2.

Additional comment related to year 2 funding

10. Under the current proposals, £400k would be given to support the Fishlakes Meadow site in year 2 (2024/25). The sub-group and project board were keen to support the boardwalks and bridges elements of the proposal as they would see the creation of all-weather walkways. With these in place it was felt it may prove to be an attractive location for people to spend their recreational time away from the coast.

11. However, the Project Board recognised that for this to be the case, the site would need to act as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and has therefore requested from the applicant additional information about the catchment of their visitors in order to be able to better judge if this site is able to attract visitors away from the coast. The Project Board would ask for delegated powers to make the final decision on the release of funds to support this site once they have had an opportunity to consider the additional information requested from the applicant.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:-

a) NOTES and ENDORSES Bird Aware Solent's proposed allocation of funding for site specific projects; and

b) NOTES and ENDORSES Bird Aware Solent's request for delegated powers to make the final decision on the release of the second year of funding allocation once sufficient supplementary evidence has been submitted by the applicant and reviewed by the project board.

ENQUIRIES:

For further information on this report please contact:-

Anna Parry
Bird Aware Solent Partnership Manager
Tel: 02392 834140
Email: Anna.Parry@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Bird Aware Site-specific projects scoring September 2022

Table 1: Projects

Site Location	Proposer	Type	Summary	Weighted scores					Total score	Project cost £s	GROUP NOTES
				Scale	E'ness	Value	Deliv.	Monit.			
SWLS - Lee on Solent	Gosport Borough Council	New or enhanced greenspace	Alver Valley Country Park Improvements: Incorporation of additional land into the Country Park and the creation of a dog training park.	4	6	4	2	1	17	94,000	Good project with potential for good impact. Support for the dog area.
INLAND - Fishlakes Meadow	Test Valley Borough Council	Enhanced greenspace / site specific visitor management and access improvements	The element of the project for which funding is being applied for will provide access infrastructure including bridges, boardwalks and a high quality hide and viewing platform at the Fishlakes Meadows Nature Reserve. The project will create a circular walk linking a number of public footpaths in the area and will facilitate access to the site and surrounding footpath network for people with mobility issues by creating a link which would bypass and existing bridge which is only accessible via a series of steps.	4	4	4	2	3	17	790,000 requested, 400,000 supported	No support for Bird Hide or lift, scoring only related to Boardwalk and bridges element. Scored for circular walk and bridges element only. Scores well if considered effectively to be a SANG.
CHEH - East Head	Chichester Harbour Conservancy	Site Specific Visitor Management	6 marker buoys at 4 sites to target watersports and stop them landing at hightide roost areas. Each site is approx 200m-300m long. Accompanied by email to 5000 promoting their presence.	4	4	4	2	3	17	13,692	There was general support for this project, especially given the pressures on high tide roosts in the area. The monitoring was also comprehensive.
NFHS - Hurst Spit	New Forest National Parks Authority	Public engagement and education/ site specific visitor management	New Lane / Cut bridge)- Interpretation and physical measures (post and fence rail) Fencing and vehicle barrier	4	4	4	2	2	16	c10270	Good Project in recognised problem spot.
PHHI - Hilsea	Portsmouth City Council	Site Specific Visitor Management	To design and construct a dog activity area and 'off the lead' dog enclosure to draw dog walkers away from the sensitive bird areas - Coastal Partners Project	4	4	4	2	1	15	60,500	It was recognised that supporting the dog walking community is a key delivery strand, also that pressure on public spaces within Portsmouth is high so this may get high usage.
NFPD - Pitts Deep	New Forest National Parks Authority	Public engagement and education/ site specific visitor management	Tanners Lane (Pitts Deep) Interpretation and vehicle barrier / gate	4	4	4	1	2	15	c13,770	This would seem a good way to stop vehicle access - but not people.
SWHH - Hill Head	Fareham Borough Council	Site Specific Visitor Management	Creation of a new 500m long Pathway suitable for wheelchairs, which will link with an existing path (also needing renovation) to form a 1km circular route around an area of established grassland and mixed scrub. Creation of 2 900m2 wildflower meadows proposed to improve the attractiveness of route and biodiversity.	2	4	2	2	3	13	46,000	Not certain how many visits this relatively small site would attract away from the coast. Accessiblity issue considered to be a positive, but this user group do not tend to be high disturbance creators. However the year round path may be a draw for a wider demographic who are then well managed here. Need to expand monitoring to ask question to all users re would they otherwise have visited the coast. Some concern that this would actually attract more visitors to the coast, this risk was considered low.
SWHL - Hook Links	Fareham Borough Council	Enhanced greenspace / site specific visitor management and access improvements	2.5km of wheelchair friendly path, establish safe entry points, resurface 1km of path, repair and resurface part of road and create 2 disabled parking spaces. 140m of stockfencing around ponds.	2	2	2	3	2	11	47,930	Good overall scheme however the pond should not be fenced through this scheme, as there is no evidence that the SPA birds use it.
LHML - Milton Locks	Portsmouth City Council	Public engagement and education	Interpretation / engagement for the High Tide Wader Roost Island - Coastal Partners Project	2	4	2	2	1	11	46,000	This would seem to be a public engagement initiative related to the wider coast, not directly related to this specific high tide roost. Will the costs hold for funding in 23/24 when the bid mentiones economies of scale in 22/23 as site construction works already taking place/on site. The promotion and support is a positive, but the route and outreach element here is not comprehensive enough. Scored on Interpritation and footprint elements only.
Eastern Solent	Havant Borough Council	Site Specific Visitor Management	Pilot Project to trial techniques to deter informal access onto the foreshore - Coastal Partners project	6	2	4	2	3	17	35,000	Scored, but not able to support as a pilot project is not considered to be a robust use of mitigation funds.
CHNO - Northney	Chichester Harbour Conservancy	Bird refuge and habitat provision/improvement	**Feasibility Study** for Shingle Banks near North Common, Hayling Island	2	2	2	2	1	9	10,000	Scored, but not able to support as a feasibility study is not considered to be a robust use of mitigation funds.
CHMA - Marina	Chichester Harbour Conservancy	Site Specific Visitor Management	Install 250 metres of offroad fencing and hedgerow along Dell Quay Road (leading to education centre) - increased pedestrian safety and provision to screen birds.	2	2	2	2	1	9	3,000	**RED FLAG RAISED BY NE** - There is already a planning application related to this, possibly increasing pressure next to a sensitive site, so it would need to provide it's own mitigation, it would be inappropriate for our mitigation money to pay for their mitigation need. **THIS PROJECT IS NOT TO BE SUPPORTED**
NFLK - Lymington Keyhaven	New Forest National Parks Authority	Public engagement and education/bird refuge and habitat provision/improvement	Oxey Marsh (Lymington–Keyhaven Nature Reserve) – Habitat creation, physical measures and interpretation	4	6	6	2	2	20	c35,270	**RED FLAG RAISED BY NE -** "If off-site habitat creation (or enhancement) is being proposed to offset a likely impact of significant recreational disturbance, then this would be a compensatory measure. It is not the type of impact that determines whether a measure is mitigation or compensation – it's whether the measure (whatever and wherever it may be) is intended to avoid, prevent or acceptably reduce the likely risk/impact from occurring on the site in the first place, or to offset/compensate for that risk/impact where it cannot be avoided, prevented or reduced." Measures to improve or increase habitat availability for the birds fall within the latter part of the mitigation hierarchy, of offsetting/compensating for risks or impacts where they cannot be avoided, prevented or reduced. **THIS PROJECT IS NOT TO BE SUPPORTED**

KEY

Year 1	Total Project Cost	£303,362
Year 2	Total Project Cost	£400,000
Not supported		
Full Support		

Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **07 December 2022**

Report of: **Claire Upton-Brown, Chairman PfSH Planning Officers Group**

Subject: **STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND 2022 – REVISIONS AND UPDATE**

SUMMARY

This report sets out proposed updates and revisions to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), first formally agreed in September 2020, to enable it to be signed as a formal SoCG by the PfSH authorities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee: APPROVES the content of the Statement of Common Ground, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, that will lead to the production of a PfSH Joint Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Committee agreed a draft framework for the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) at its meeting in October 2019. The Joint Committee subsequently agreed a formal SoCG in September 2020 and an updated version in October 2021. The SoCG sets out the key strategic cross-boundary planning issues and the programme of work that will lead to a new Joint Strategy, replacing the PfSH Spatial Position Statement 2016.

PROGESS MADE ON STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

2. Stantec and ITP were appointed in June 2020 to undertake the potential Strategic Development Opportunity Area (SDOA) comparative assessments and transport impact assessments and modelling. The work is well underway, with the transport impact assessment, sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment of individual potential SDOAs, leading to the identification of three alternative development strategies. The three alternative strategies have been further assessed through transport modelling, sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment.

3. Following consideration of the initial results of the comparative assessment work officers from the PfSH local planning and transport authorities are considering how to progress identification of a preferred strategy for further testing.

4. Progress has been made with the 'Green infrastructure needs and protection of landscape and settlement gaps' workstream. Land Use Consultants (LUC) were appointed in November 2021 and this work is well underway. Whilst the work is underway the PfSH Planning Officers Group (POG) has now agreed that some of the tasks need to be informed by the preferred development strategy before they can be completed.

REVISIONS AND UPDATES TO THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

5. The main changes to the SoCG 2021 are set out below:

- Summary of text provided by the Local Transport Authorities (LTAs).
- Removal of the timetable for completion of the evidence base workstreams.
- Updates to employment land/floorspace supply information.
- Updates to references to nutrients/water quality.
- Updates to reflect progress on the Fareham Local Plan.
- Updating the housing need and housing supply information to reflect the recently published affordability ratios, 35% standard method uplift for Southampton and estimated supply from 2021 to 2036.
- Change to the supply figure for Winchester City Council area to match the identified need with an accompanying footnote.
- Addition of text to reflect that using the current criteria to identify SDOAs it is to deal with all unmet housing need and that a revised process for agreeing its distribution will be set out in a future iteration of the SoCG.
- Changes to the membership of the Joint Committee (signatories).

Addition of text provided by the Local Transport Authorities

6. Text has been added to the SoCG at the request of the LTAs to reflect Local Transport Plan 4, the government's net zero and decarbonisation agenda and integrating land use and transport planning.

Timetable

7. Due to uncertainty about how to take the work forward in a way that would be acceptable to the local planning and transport authorities, the timetable has removed from the SoCG. Once there is clarity about how to take the work forward a revised timetable can be published on the PfSH website alongside the SoCG. If required there will be a further report to Joint Committee that will update the Statement of Common Ground.

Updates to housing need and supply information

8. The constituent LPAs have updated their housing need calculations according to the standard method by applying the latest affordability ratios that were published earlier this year. The housing need figure for Southampton includes the 35% uplift applied to the twenty largest cities in England.

9. The constituent LPAs have also updated their housing supply figures to take account of completions up to April 2022 and making any necessary adjustments to the amount of supply beyond this date.

10. The outcome of using the latest housing need and supply figures is that the current level of unmet need is some 20,000 dwellings up to 2036 (compared to 13,000 in the 2021 SoCG). There are a range of different factors that drive an increase or decrease in unmet need. These are summarised as follows:

<u>Increase to unmet need</u>

- The most significant increases in housing need are in New Forest (104 dpa), Portsmouth (34 dpa) and Southampton (82 dpa) due to the affordability ratios increasing. The net increase in need for the PfSH area is 250 dwellings per annum.
- Significant decreases in supply in Havant (3,063 dwellings due to withdrawal of Local Plan) and Winchester (1,859 dwellings due to meeting need in part of district outside PfSH).

<u>Decrease to unmet need</u>

- Annual need projected forward for 14 years rather than 15 years.
- Increase in supply in Southampton due to a revised Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA).

SDOAs are unlikely to deal with all unmet housing need

11. Following consideration of the initial results of the comparative assessment of SDOAs and the significant increase in unmet need to 2036 it is becoming increasingly less likely that SDOAs as currently defined will, by themselves, be able to address the large unmet housing need in South Hampshire. Text has been added to the SoCG to make it clear that the PfSH Planning Officers

Group is reviewing the overall process and is currently exploring potential additional and alternative ways to accommodate the growth required through a further round of technical work. The process for agreeing the distribution of unmet need will be set out in future iterations of the SoCG and it is anticipated that the SoCG will be updated to include this process earlier than the usual annual update of housing need and supply figures.

NEXT STEPS

12. Subject to the Joint Committee agreeing the recommendation to approve the content of the SoCG, each individual Local Planning Authority and the County Council can then sign the document (subject to their own governance or delegation arrangements) and it can be published on the website. This will ensure that an up to date SoCG is available to help Local Planning Authorities in demonstrating constructive and positive cooperation on strategic matters at local plan examinations.

13. The PfSH Planning Officers Group will continue to explore with the Local Transport Authorities whether their concerns can be satisfactorily resolved and alternative and additional ways to address the unmet housing needs, above and beyond SDOAs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee: APPROVES the content of the Statement of Common Ground, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, that will lead to the production of a PfSH Joint Strategy.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Partnership for South Hampshire Statement of Common Ground 2022

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

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APPENDIX 1

Partnership for South Hampshire – Statement of Common Ground

1. Introduction

2. Background

3. Content

   a. a short written description and map showing the location and administrative areas covered by the statement, and a brief justification for these area(s);

   b. the key strategic matters being addressed by the statement, for example meeting the housing need for the area, air quality etc.;

   c. the plan-making authorities responsible for joint working detailed in the statement, and list of any additional signatories (including cross-referencing the matters to which each is a signatory);

   d. governance arrangements for the cooperation process, including how the statement will be maintained and kept up to date;

   e. if applicable, the housing requirements in any adopted and (if known) emerging strategic policies relevant to housing within the area covered by the statement;

   f. distribution of needs in the area as agreed through the plan-making process, or the process for agreeing the distribution of need (including unmet need) across the area;

   g. a record of where agreements have (or have not) been reached on key strategic matters, including the process for reaching agreements on these; and

   h. any additional strategic matters to be addressed by the statement which have not already been addressed, including a brief description how the statement relates to any other statement of common ground covering all or part of the same area.

4. Signatories

1. Introduction

1.1. The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) – formerly the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) – was originally formed in 2003. It is a partnership of district and unitary authorities, together with a county council and national park authority, working together to support the sustainable growth of the South Hampshire sub-region. Whilst the membership has altered slightly over the years, the core membership has remained broadly consistent.

1.2. The Partnership has a strong track record in collaborative working to achieve common goals in South Hampshire. The Partnership was heavily involved in the production of a sub-regional strategy for development that formed part of the South East Plan. This strategy was tested through public examination and when adopted by the Secretary of State, formed part of the development plan at that time, which subsequently informed the production of local plans.

1.3. The ethos of collaborative cross boundary working has continued, and the Partnership has a successful track record in providing effective strategies for sub-regional planning. As well as joint working between member authorities, PfSH works with partner agencies in the sub-region as well as key Government departments to deliver joint strategies and pool resources.

1.4. Local planning authorities are being required to resolve cross-boundary strategic planning issues through their local plans. Complying with the 'Duty to Cooperate' (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) para 24) is a fundamental requirement for local plans to successfully be found sound through public examination.

1.5. In 2016 the PfSH authorities produced a framework, namely the PUSH Spatial Position Statement, to guide future local plans and housebuilding and development in the sub-region. However, since then much has changed. Notably all authorities in PfSH have followed the Government lead and signed up to be carbon neutral by at least 2050. The NPPF has been significantly revised, and a standard method for the assessment of housing needs has been issued by the Government. In line with the aim of addressing the national housing crisis, the Government has made clear that strategic policies within development plans should provide for unmet needs in neighbouring authority areas, unless this would contravene specific national planning policies, or these policies taken as a whole. Significantly boosting the supply of housing has been at the centre of all four versions of the NPPF.

1.6. PfSH has agreed that there is a need for its constituent authorities to work together to seek to produce a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and to explore the production of an Infrastructure Investment Plan. At its meeting on 31 July 2019, PfSH approved the commissioning of a number of evidence workstreams to inform the production of a PfSH Joint Strategy. In October 2019 PfSH agreed a draft framework SoCG. This document was subsequently revised and updated to form an initial Statement of Common Ground in September 2020. It has been further revised and updated in 2021 and 2022 and sets out the work

that will be undertaken and will be updated again as the evidence workstreams progress.

2. Background

2.1. In 2016 PUSH published a Spatial Position Statement to help inform Local Plans and assist individual Councils in meeting the Duty to Cooperate. It was developed as a non-statutory document to inform long-term decisions about the level and distribution of development across South Hampshire. The Position Statement resulted in all needs being met to 2026 and the majority of needs being met through to 2034, with the rate of delivery for new homes being increased by approximately 34%.

2.2. The Position Statement included a number of spatial principles that underpinned its development, a series of key principles that were applied through the evolution of the spatial approach and a suite of policies that form the spatial approach. These include housing distribution; strategic development locations; distribution of additional employment floorspace; strategic employment locations; waterfront sites of sub-regional significance; retailing and town centres; green infrastructure; strategic countryside gaps; environment; encouraging modal shift; highway improvements; social infrastructure; and utilities infrastructure.

2.3. Time has moved on since the production of the Spatial Position Statement and there is a clear need to review and update it. Standardised assessments of housing need (objectively assessed need) indicate a need to significantly increase housing provision, there is a need to extend the period covered by the Position Statement beyond 2034 and in particular, to address cross-boundary environmental issues such as the impact of development on water and air quality and on protected sites of international nature conservation importance. In planning for major development, it is also important to maintain and enhance a coherent pattern of town and countryside, to protect towns and villages with a distinct identity and appropriate countryside gaps.

2.4. In December 2018 PUSH agreed that the rationale and justification for a possible Green Belt designation be included as part of any joint work taken forward under the Duty to Cooperate initiative. Potential Green Belt designation has been considered alongside the role for green infrastructure, both to serve recreational needs of residents and provide environmental mitigation and enhancement, especially for likely adverse impacts on the integrity of European Nature Conservation sites, and in the context of protection for high value landscape and settlement gaps. In particular, cross-boundary (e.g. catchment-wide) mitigation measures may need land to be allocated to deal with recreation pressures and water and air quality issues, depending on the results of the Habitat Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. This could also help meet some of the policy aims around climate change (a number of local authorities have declared climate emergencies), nature recovery and health and wellbeing.

2.5. As well as the NPPF being changed the transport policy landscape has changed significantly since the 2016 PUSH Spatial Position Statement. Of note is:

- The Department for Transport (DfT) has produced a Transport Decarbonisation Plan 2020 which sets out the Government's ambition to decarbonise the transport system by 2050. Forthcoming guidance[1] and transport funding settlements will help drive decarbonisation in Local Transport Plans and Local Plans, supported by a focus on dramatically improving sustainable and active travel including bus services[2].

- Transport for the South East (TfSE) has produced a new regional transport strategy which sets a framework for moving away from a 'predict and provide' system of transport planning to a 'decide and provide' approach. This is a move away from simply applying the historic Transport Assessment methodologies that local planning and transport authorities have become used to and towards a more place and people focused approach to assessment. TfSE has also recently consulted on its draft Strategic Investment Plan which builds on the strategy and other studies. Reflecting the above national transport policy changes and the introduction of Clean Air Zones in Gosport, Portsmouth and Southampton, Local Transport Plans that prioritise sustainable and active travel to support people and places to reduce car dependency and vehicular emissions have been adopted or are being brought forward by Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

2.6. Other areas of government policy have also evolved and some strategic issues to be addressed through planning policies, particularly through the location and form of development, have gained greater priority. Issues such as climate change, health and wellbeing, biodiversity and natural capital and environmental net gain have all increased in prominence within public consciousness. All of these issues will affect the location and design of new development in the future.

2.7. National planning policy provided through the latest NPPF, published in July 2021, makes it clear that Local Plans should contain strategic policies that, as a minimum, meet their own needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, unless there are strong reasons to restrict the growth in the plan's area (as set out in para 11 of the NPPF and the accompanying footnote).

2.8. The NPPF (para 20) states that,

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[1] The DfT has indicated that it will be issuing Local Transport Guidance which requires plans to have developed decarbonisation pathways that evidence their activity is decarbonising the transport system with quantifiable carbon reductions.

[2] The DfT has issued:

- the 'Bus Back Better' strategy to deliver better bus services nationally, including integrating bus services within new development to reduce car dependency;
- the 'Gear Change' strategy setting out a desire to dramatically improve active travel infrastructure, including setting up a new executive agency to ensure national standards are met and development over a certain threshold has consulted with Active Travel England;
- the 'Inclusive Transport Strategy' that looks to ensure that everybody can get around regardless of disability or other restriction;
- 'Consultation to Update the Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development (Circular 02/2013) – if accepted LPAs will be required to show compliance with decarbonisation trajectories in their local plans.

‘*Strategic policies should set out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for:*

a) housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;

b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and

d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.’

2.9. Whilst the application of the standard method for assessing local housing need is now established in the NPPF (para 61), the sub-regional need for other forms of development and the opportunities to meet those needs were still to be established. PfSH has commissioned and published the Economic, Employment & Commercial Needs (including logistics) Study and further information on the need for, and supply of, employment land is set out in paras 3.59 – 3.61 of this SoCG.

2.10. This Statement of Common Ground sets out the workstreams for which PfSH will commission evidence to help lead towards the review of the Spatial Position Statement and the production of a Joint Strategy. The three remaining workstreams are:

- Strategic Development Opportunity Area (SDOA) and broad areas of search for growth assessments (including traffic modelling and transport impact assessments for the SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth)
- Joint Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Green Infrastructure Needs and Protection of Landscape and Settlement Gaps.

2.11. The SoCG has been prepared against the headings set out in national planning practice guidance (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 61-011-20190315).

2.12. It should be noted that the SoCG is intended to deal with strategic cross-boundary matters at a sub-regional scale and it does not negate or supersede any existing SoCG either between the PfSH and individual authorities or between individual authorities, within or outside the PfSH area.

2.13. The Joint Strategy will again be a non-statutory high-level strategic plan which can inform Local Plans and assist the Local Planning Authorities in meeting the Duty to Cooperate.

3. Content

a. a short written description and map showing the location and administrative areas covered by the statement, and a brief justification for these area(s)

3.1. The PfSH area has changed over the years, although the core membership, including the County Council and unitary authorities, has remained constant. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire was formed in 2003 and evidence secured to inform preparation of the South East Plan helped to establish it as an appropriate sub-region for the purpose of strategic planning.

3.2. The following local authority areas are fully within the PfSH boundary:

- Eastleigh Borough Council
- Fareham Borough Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Havant Borough Council
- New Forest District Council
- Portsmouth City Council
- Southampton City Council

3.3. The following local authority areas are partly within the PfSH boundary:

- East Hampshire District Council
- Hampshire County Council
- New Forest National Park Authority[3]
- Test Valley Borough Council[4]
- Winchester City Council

3.4. PfSH is a mature partnership with a lengthy track record of cooperation and collaboration on strategic planning issues and can work with flexible boundaries where necessary (e.g. Bird Aware Solent). PfSH has continued to secure evidence and propose solutions to meeting the need for development and investment in infrastructure.

3.5. The evidence base collated over recent years supports the definition of the South Hampshire sub-region for strategic planning purposes, whether it relates to the two closely linked housing markets around Portsmouth and Southampton, the functional economic market area or the physical geography of an area located between the South Downs and New Forest National Parks and the coast with islands and peninsulas interspersed with harbours and rivers.

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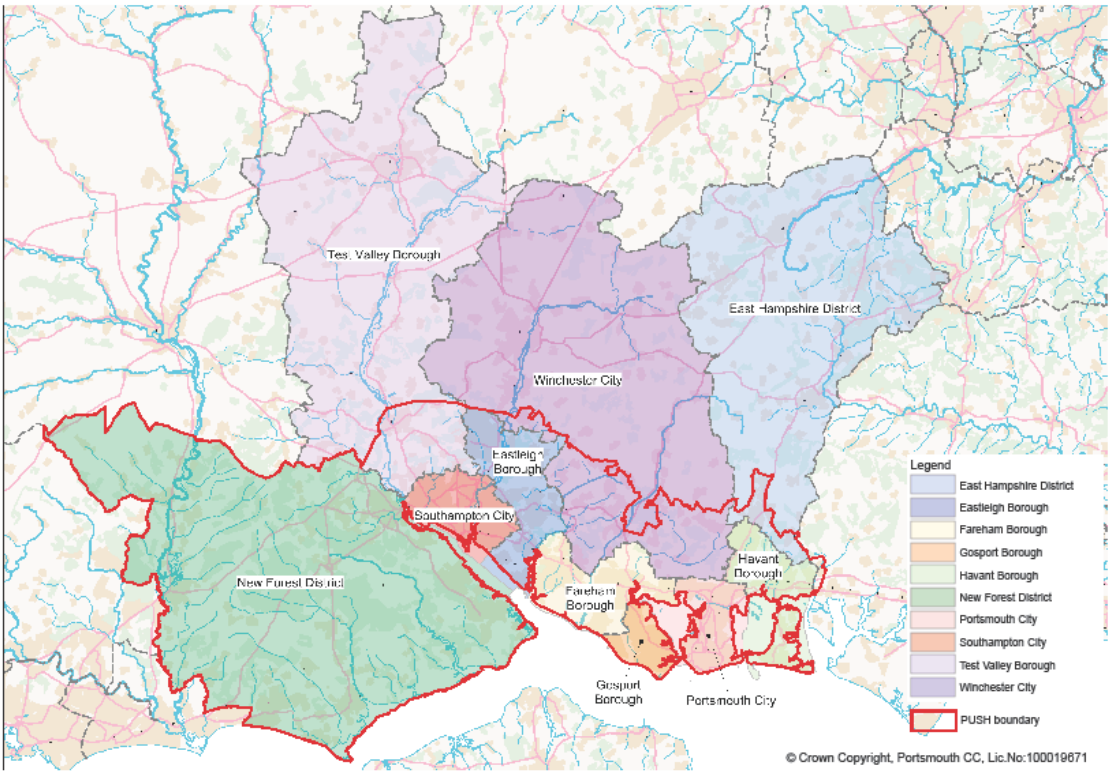
[3] The New Forest National Park Authority is not a local authority but is a local planning authority with plan-making responsibilities. A small part of the New Forest National Park is in Wiltshire.

[4] Please note that whilst only part of Test Valley Borough Council area falls within the PfSH boundary, the evidence base studies referenced in this report will cover the whole Borough, unless the Council determines otherwise.

3.6. There is common agreement amongst partner authorities that the PfSH area is an appropriate geography on which to prepare a Joint Strategy to deal with cross-boundary strategic planning matters and support the production of local plans. An extensive evidence base has identified the housing market areas and the need to plan at the South Hampshire scale has previously been considered. Significant information is included within the 2014 GL Hearn Strategic Housing Market Assessment and previous evidence base work related to the physical environment has demonstrated the synergies for collaborative planning in South Hampshire. It is not intended to revisit the definition of the sub-region as part of the work identified in this SoCG. However, it is acknowledged that there will be some strategic issues that need to be considered in the context of a wider geographical area than that within the PfSH boundary.

3.7. The map below shows the extent of the Partnership for South Hampshire.



b. the key strategic matters being addressed by the statement, for example meeting the housing need for the area, air quality etc.

3.8. Regard has been had to advice in the NPPF in defining the strategic matters to be addressed as set out below:

- Housing need
- Employment land
- Infrastructure investment
- Biodiversity net gain, environmental enhancement and avoidance and mitigation of environmental impacts
    - This strategic matter will consider climate change and health and wellbeing and include the need for sub-regional green infrastructure and strategic habitat mitigation.

3.9. The housing needs for each local authority area are calculated using the government's standard method for assessing local housing need and are set out in Table 2 below. The identified objectively assessed housing need is accepted as the correct level to test and to plan for strategically in accordance with government policy, to inform housing targets to be set in local plans. PfSH will address the issue of unmet housing need through the Joint Strategy as set out later in this SoCG.

3.10. PfSH has commissioned evidence with regard to employment land needs. The Economic, Employment and Commercial Needs (including logistics) Study sets out the overall need for industrial land and office floorspace for South Hampshire and each local authority area within the South Hampshire Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA). It should be noted that need identified for each local authority area could be met across South Hampshire, given the interconnected nature of the FEMA. In particular, it should be noted that the need for industrial floorspace reflects where provision has previously been made rather than any geographically specific demand led factors. Furthermore, it is considered that the need for office development would be more likely to be met within the city or town centres as part of comprehensive mixed-use schemes, especially where there is good accessibility to public transport.

3.11. The Study has concluded that there is significant headroom within the standard method housing figures to accommodate substantially more new jobs than the forecasts suggest are needed[5]. This means that potential nationally significant investments such as the expansion of the Port of Southampton or the successful development of a Freeport would not generate a need for additional housing.

[5] Analysis is contained in Section 9 Labour Supply and the Standard Method and conclusions at paragraphs 11.38 – 11.42

3.12. Infrastructure investment is a major priority for PfSH, both in terms of identifying the infrastructure needed to deliver development that represents 'good planning' and working together to secure investment in the sub-region. PfSH authorities and the Solent LEP have a good track record in successfully obtaining funding and investment for South Hampshire. Hampshire County Council, working closely with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers Group (HIPOG), has commissioned a county-wide study focusing on strategic natural environment and infrastructure opportunities in the period to 2050. This framework aims to guide environmental and infrastructure opportunities across Hampshire and provide a high-level vision to guide infrastructure planning and funding bids in the future. Hampshire County Council has determined that in order to inform any Hampshire-wide strategy documents, it is necessary to produce a series of documents that examine the state of: The Natural Environment; Economy; Society (all published January 2021); and The Built Environment and Infrastructure (expected to be published later this year). These follow on from the findings and recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry, which concluded in September 2019.

3.13. A long standing and continued objective of PfSH is to focus development within the major urban areas, cities and towns first. Our cities and towns form the economic and social heart of South Hampshire. Focussing major development in these locations will enhance economic synergies, the vibrancy of places, support regeneration, social inclusion and the effective use of existing infrastructure, focus people close to jobs, services and public transport (reducing our need to travel more by car), and protect more of our countryside. It is important to recognise that our need for homes and jobs will need new development and infrastructure in a range of locations both within and around our towns and villages, and a balanced investment strategy is needed to deliver development in our cities, towns, villages and new areas of growth.

3.14. PfSH has a strong track record in providing strategic environmental mitigation. As part of the formulation of the South East Plan it was identified that new development could lead to increased recreational pressure on the coast with the resultant disturbance of birds. As this could have had a negative impact on a statutorily protected habitat, PfSH led on the development of a strategic scheme of mitigation and then subsequently its implementation. This Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy has now been branded as 'Bird Aware Solent' and has enabled residential development to continue whilst protecting the natural environment from harm. PfSH continues to carry out a governance role in setting budgets, approving the business plan, monitoring the strategy and determining the funding of infrastructure improvements from developer contributions. The scope and extent of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy will need to be reviewed as part of the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the new Joint Strategy, as it currently deals with development to 2034, as identified in the Spatial Position Statement (2016).

3.15. Similar recreational disturbance issues affect protected species in the international nature conservation sites within the New Forest National Park. Development currently contributes to various mitigation schemes prepared by individual planning authorities, albeit that this only applies to some planning

authorities in the sub-region. There is a need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to addressing the impact of development on the sensitive areas within the New Forest National Park arising from growth in part of the PfSH area. A partnership[6] has commissioned a new study of visitors to the New Forest's Natura 2000 sites. This research provides updated information[7] on visitor activity and the evidence base for the preparation of a new co-ordinated approach to addressing recreational pressures on the New Forest through appropriate planning and mitigation measures.

3.16. South Hampshire continues to face pressing new challenges over the potential impact of development on the environment. Climate change is a significant global issue affecting new development and impacting on existing settlements and a number of local authorities have declared climate emergencies. There is a need to ensure that development is planned in a way that minimises carbon emissions that cause climate change and that new development, so far as is possible, is not vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This overarching theme will be of great significance when considering the options for further development in the Joint Strategy and is of particular relevance to the UK's commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. PfSH will ensure through the approach in the Joint Strategy that the policy framework enables the creation of strong and resilient communities able to withstand the effects of climate change.

3.17. In addition to the existing prioritisation given to policies and proposals to address climate change, the Coronavirus pandemic has caused many to consider how the economic recovery should be focused on a 'green' recovery. This should ensure that planning for economic growth does not simply assume that it will carry on as before without considering the implications of the pandemic. There is an opportunity to tackle deeply ingrained economic, environmental and social challenges, from climate change and inequality, to the sub-region's physical and mental health. PfSH is supporting the development of a 'Greenprint for South Hampshire' that will provide a shared framework to enable authorities to work together to deliver programmes that achieve economic, environmental and social improvements. The framework for the 'Greenprint for South Hampshire' is based on five priorities which reflect shared commitments of local authorities and other partners across South Hampshire. The priorities – including net zero with nature to address climate change; world class blue/green environments; and creating great places through quality in design and build – are relevant to policy making in the sub-region. As work on the Greenprint develops, additional detail can be included in future iterations of the SoCG.

3.18. Emissions from transport (and particularly the private car) are a significant causal factor of climate change and poor air quality locally and are influenced through the location of new development. PfSH has commissioned an Air Quality Impact Assessment and acknowledges that air quality is a strategic issue that needs continued collaborative working amongst PfSH authorities[8]. The Air

[6] Test Valley Borough Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Southampton City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, Natural England
[7] Reports published to date can be accessed here.
[8] N.b. There is a separate Air Quality Study for the New Forest to 2036 that also flags up issues including potential impacts on New Forest habitats.

Quality Impact Assessment provides a strategic baseline for the purpose of informing planning policies but will need updating in due course as it currently only deals with development planned to 2034 in the Spatial Position Statement (2016).

3.19. One of the most significant current risks facing new development continues to relate to the impact of nutrient deposition (total nitrogen and phosphates) on protected habitats, albeit agricultural sources are the most significant cause. New dwellings add to this issue through an increase in foul wastewater, and in surface water run-off, that drain to the Solent.

3.20. Whilst this is a serious issue that has previously resulted in housing supply being delayed for a time in the impacted area, the work undertaken by PfSH, as outlined below, has now resulted in the implementation of a number of catchment-based solutions to provide strategic mitigation options for developers. As such, new development is now able to continue across much of the impacted area. However, new guidance issued by Natural England in March 2022 has resulted in the need to deliver phosphate mitigation schemes for development draining within the river Itchen catchment.

3.21. Work on longer term arrangements for mitigation measures continues as these will need to be put in place to ensure that the risk is mitigated, and development can continue on an ongoing sustainable basis. Mitigation solutions are likely to continue to require significant investment to meet the needs of future development, for example in removing sources of nitrogen deposition unrelated to wastewater treatment (e.g. taking land out of intensive agricultural production) or by providing enhanced treatment at sewage works.

3.22. PfSH has formed a Water Quality Working Group (WQWG) to coordinate a PfSH-wide response to addressing the medium to long-term strategy (including consideration of an initial pilot scheme as a potential starting point). Individual Local Planning Authorities are also progressing their own solutions. The Group also includes local authorities from beyond the PfSH boundary that need to address this issue. At its meeting in July 2020 the PfSH Joint Committee endorsed:

- The establishment of a dedicated officer resource as a temporary planning officer post to work on the nutrient neutrality issue, and take forward a pilot sub-regional mitigation scheme;
- Continued investigation into determining a sub-regional mitigation scheme, including working towards a Solent Nutrient Fund; and
- PfSH's continued work with wider local authority partners beyond PfSH members in addressing the nutrient neutrality issue, including on potential funding.

3.23. PfSH remains committed to working with central government agencies, and other stakeholders, to find efficient solutions and work continues on a number of workstreams in this regard:

- Use of the PfSH Water Quality Working Group to effectively engage with all authorities impacted, including authorities outside of PfSH but within the same fluvial catchment, as well as other key stakeholders such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Southern Water.
- Assisting DEFRA's Solent Nutrient Pilot project to establish a trading platform for nutrient and biodiversity net gain credits.
- The establishment of a dedicated officer resource to work on solutions and opportunities through a catchment wide approach (including the appointment of two additional officers funded by DLUHC[9]).
- Regular catchment level meetings to discuss issues specifically relevant to individual catchments.
- Substantive work on establishing a suitable legal framework to facilitate mitigation measures through the planning process.

3.24. Whilst ensuring that we plan for the new development we need, it is important for the successful delivery of that development that we do this whilst protecting a coherent pattern of town and countryside. This will ensure important countryside is protected by ensuring that the setting of towns and villages with distinct identities are protected by appropriate countryside gaps; and that the areas with most productive agricultural land, highest landscape value and greatest recreational or ecological benefit are protected and enhanced. Careful choices will need to be made to ensure that we plan for and deliver the homes, jobs and infrastructure that we all need whilst protecting and enhancing a coherent pattern of town and countryside which maintains and enhances our quality of life. The workstream on '*Green Infrastructure Needs and Protection of Landscape and Settlement Gaps*'' will relate to these broader objectives.

Integrating Land Use and Transport Planning

3.25. This cycle of strategic planning presents significant challenges to achieving sustainable development. The cities/urban areas first approach can still deliver significant growth and it is important that this is prioritised. It should still be the ambition as areas of brownfield land become available for redevelopment (e.g. Tipner or Southampton City Centre West). Nevertheless there is ultimately a limit to the availability of urban sites. Where densities are already high opportunities for further intensification may be limited – tall buildings are one approach but may not be acceptable for all locations.

3.26. Brownfield sites within the existing urban areas present the best approach for achieving net zero carbon from transport and low/zero car-based trips but greenfield sites outside if the existing urban areas will also need to be considered. As distance increases between denser development and key trip destinations the viability of road-based public transport decreases.

3.27. Greenfield sites are less likely to reduce car use to the extent achievable within urban areas and so the switch to electric vehicles/renewable energy will also be an important part of decarbonisation. However, to avoid locking in car

[9] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

dependency, planned new developments (alone or in combination) should be of sufficient scale and density to help make bus services viable, or be located to connect to existing services. Development which is predominantly car dependent and not well connected results in multiple poor outcomes, including lower Gross Value Added per head than better located development, does not support community cohesion, generates excessive pollution, adds to existing congestion on local and strategic routes, has poor health outcomes and the highest level of carbon emissions.

3.28. The regional and sub regional transport plans and strategies are evolving and will start to take effect over the next few decades as new local plans are formed. Transport for the South East's (TfSE) Regional Transport Strategy and subsequent Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) cover the Solent area. These include a focus on implementing a Solent Metro rail system, Mass Transit Networks, active travel infrastructure, important road schemes and other transport projects. The total cost of identified transport infrastructure in the Solent is £6bn and covers the period to 2050.

3.29. Solent Transport is a Joint Committee of the four Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) – Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. At the time of writing this Statement of Common Ground, Solent Transport is developing a new sub-regional transport strategy for the Solent area. This will take the headline plans identified in the SIP to the next level of detail. The LTAs, and Network Rail or National Highways, will be the scheme promoters for prioritised schemes in the Implementation Plans. This presents an opportunity for the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) within PfSH to continue to work alongside the LTAs to integrate and help secure and safeguard the transport investment plans alongside emerging land use allocations in local plans.

3.30. Many of the schemes, particularly those related to developing a better rail and mass transit network in South Hampshire will enable sustainable development opportunities and offer the potential to open up sites previously regarded as unsuitable. The key to ensuring that this issue is addressed in the future is for LPAs and LTAs to work collaboratively with early engagement in the preparation of their respective plans, delivery strategies, projects and funding bids, to ensure that land use and transport planning approaches are effectively integrated and mutually supportive in terms of both strategic planning and implementation outcomes. A co-design approach of this nature is likely to produce the best outcomes in line with the PfSH and LTP visions.

c. the plan-making authorities responsible for joint working detailed in the statement, and list of any additional signatories (including cross-referencing the matters to which each is a signatory)

3.31. The authorities responsible for the joint working detailed in this SoCG are:

- East Hampshire District Council
- Eastleigh Borough Council
- Fareham Borough Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Havant Borough Council
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Portsmouth City Council
- Southampton City Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Winchester City Council

3.32. In addition, the joint working will be undertaken in conjunction with:

- Environment Agency
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership
- National Highways
- Homes England
- Natural England

At this stage it is not anticipated that these organisations would be formal signatories to the SoCG. Other key infrastructure providers will also be involved, for example public transport providers and water companies.

d. governance arrangements for the cooperation process, including how the statement will be maintained and kept up to date

3.33. PfSH has long established governance arrangements, the full details of which are on the website. The PfSH Joint Committee members are the leaders or cabinet members of the constituent local authorities, supported by chief executives. The Solent LEP, Environment Agency and Homes England are represented on the Committee as observers and Natural England regularly attends the meetings.

3.34. Alongside the Joint Committee, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established to complement and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Joint Committee with regards to PfSH business. The Joint Committee comprises a nominated councillor and chief executive from each of the PfSH authorities.

3.35. The technical work that will be undertaken to lead to the new Joint Strategy will be overseen by the PfSH Planning Officers Group, a working group of planning officers from each of the partner authorities, including the county council, together with Natural England and the Environment Agency. PfSH has appointed a consultant Project Manager to coordinate the work on behalf of the Planning Officers Group.

3.36. The PfSH Joint Committee will make decisions on strategic planning matters referenced in this SoCG, based on officer recommendations. Each local planning authority will decide how to use its own decision-making mechanisms to consider its own approach to the decisions being made at the PfSH Joint Committee.

3.37. This SoCG sets out the process and workstreams that will lead to the review of the Spatial Position Statement and the production of a new Joint Strategy. As the evidence base progresses, it will be appropriate to produce further iterations of the SoCG to reflect the progress made and consider the next steps. Previous iterations of the SoCG included a timetable for the anticipated progress of the evidence workstreams and the production of the Joint Strategy. However, the PfSH Planning Officers Group is currently considering the initial results of the comparative assessment of SDOAs and how to take the work forward. When a clear process to finalise the evidence base is agreed, a new timetable will be published on the PfSH website alongside the SoCG. Particular regard will be had to the need to support Local Planning Authorities through the need to demonstrate compliance with the Duty to Cooperate and national planning policy at their local plan examinations when considering the timing of future iterations of the SoCG.

e. if applicable, the housing requirements in any adopted and (if known) emerging strategic policies relevant to housing within the area covered by the statement

3.38. The assessed housing need using the standard method (as required by government policy) for the local authority areas within the PfSH area is set out in the table below:

Table 1 Housing need 2022 – 36

Local Authority	Standard Method 2022 – 2036 (dpa)[10]	Total requirement 2022 – 2036[11]
East Hants (part)	113	1,582
Eastleigh	671	9,394
Fareham	541	7,574
Gosport	328	4,592
Havant	516	7,224
New Forest[12]	1,097	15,835
Portsmouth	906	12,684
Southampton	1,471	20,594
Test Valley (part)[13]	182	2,548
Winchester (part)	243	3,402
Total	6,068	84,952

3.39. There is no centrally produced figure using the government's standard method, and the above table has been compiled using the best figures available. Figures for districts which only partly fall within PfSH have been apportioned on the basis of the population of those wards which fall within PfSH, other than Test Valley as referenced in the table. All figures have been provided by the local planning authorities and represent their most up to date understanding of the application of the standard method on a consistent basis. It should also be noted that the figures are updated periodically as new sub-national population projections and affordability ratios are published[14]. The figure for Southampton includes the 35% uplift in need that the Government has applied to the 20 largest cities in England[15].

[10] Dwellings per annum.
[11] It should be noted that housing requirement figures in local plans may differ, even for the same time period, due to the need to include a delivery buffer.
[12] This figure covers the whole of New Forest District, including the part of the New Forest National Park within the district, and is covered by separate local plans prepared by NFDC & NFNPA.
[13] This figure is derived from the TVBC Local Plan. Previous estimates have used population splits based on ward boundaries, although the ward boundaries are not contiguous with the PfSH boundary. The Local Plan splits the housing market in the borough between north and south and assumes a 33% population split in the southern housing market area.
[14] Government policy requires the use of the 2014-based household projections. Revised affordability ratios are published every year.
[15] The 35% uplift for Southampton results in an increase in housing need of 382dpa, which equates to 5,334 dwellings from 2022 to 2036.

3.40. The annual housing need figures in Table 1 can be multiplied by the number of years being planned for to give the total housing requirement. This means that the total housing requirement for the PfSH area between 2022 and 2036 is for some 85,000 homes[16].

3.41. For the period to 2036, there is a significant amount of supply already identified through planning permissions, other urban[17] sites (either windfall or sites identified in strategic housing land availability assessments (SHLAAs[18])) and allocations in adopted local plans and made neighbourhood plans. Further allocations are proposed in the Fareham Local Plan 2037 which is currently at examination.

3.42. The New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016 – 2036 was formally adopted on 29 August 2019 and makes provision for 800 dwellings in the National Park over the Plan-period. The New Forest District Local Plan (2016 – 2036) was formally adopted on the 6th July 2020 and makes provision for 10,420 dwellings in the part of the District outside of the National Park over the plan period. The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016 – 2036) was formally adopted on 25th April 2022 and makes provision for 11,970 dwellings.

3.43. Fareham Borough Council has made significant allocations for development in its emerging local plan and whilst still subject to the outcome of the examination, these have reached a sufficiently advanced stage in the plan-making process to be considered as commitments for the purpose of calculating the remaining housing needs to be planned for. The supply figure in table 2 therefore includes the allocations in the emerging Local Plan (Fareham Local Plan 2037).

3.44. The housing supply position has been calculated by adding commitments in the form of planning permissions[19], SHLAA sites[20] and local plan allocations (adopted plans and the emerging Fareham plan) and a windfall estimate (predominantly or wholly urban sites). It is recognised that other local planning authorities are currently identifying additional sites for their areas as part of their emerging local plans and consequently the housing supply figures will increase. This SoCG will continue to be updated to reflect progress in local plans from Regulation 19 consultation through to adoption, with consequential adjustments to the housing supply figures.

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[16] Local plans within the sub-region can be prepared at different times and may not use a 2022 base, particularly as housing need information is updated.
[17] With the exception of the New Forest – see footnote 18 below.
[18] SHLAAs may also be referred to as SLAAs (Strategic Land Availability Assessments), HELAAs (housing and economic land availability assessments) or SHELAAs (strategic housing and economic land availability assessments)
[19] These may include C2 units with the ratio in the Housing Delivery Test Measurement Rule Book applied to give the C3 equivalent. C2 bedspace units as C3 equivalents are not currently included for Test Valley Borough Council, but their supply figures do include C2 single dwellings.
[20] SHLAA sites and other urban sites are included when they form part of the LPA housing land supply and are within existing settlement boundaries. SHLAA sites for New Forest District outside of settlement boundaries are also included as this source of supply has been tested through the examination of the Part 1 Local Plan and was found sound. Allocations will subsequently be made in their Part 2 Local Plan.

3.45. The identified housing provision for the local planning authority areas within the PfSH area is set out in Table 2 Housing Supply 2022 – 2036 below:

Table 2 Housing Supply 2022 – 36

Local Planning Authority	Total provision 2022[21] – 36
East Hants (part)	1,236
Eastleigh	6,663
Fareham[22]	9,646
Gosport	2,786
Havant	5,755
New Forest (outside national park)	7,622
New Forest National Park	654
Portsmouth[23]	10,203
Southampton	14,464
Test Valley (part)	2,656
Winchester (part)	3,402[24]
Total	65,087

3.46. As can be seen by comparing the assessed housing need to 2036 with the currently identified supply there is a shortfall of some 20,000 homes that needs to be addressed through the work identified in this SoCG and individual local plans. PfSH is aware that local planning authorities are preparing local plans that go beyond this date and the housing shortfall increases with longer time horizons. It is important to stress that this gap is split across the Portsmouth and Southampton housing market areas, the housing gap in the two individual housing market areas will be considerably smaller, although it still needs to be addressed. As work progresses through the evidence base leading to the Joint Strategy, and further progress is made with local plans, it is intended that this table is updated to reflect any changes in provision.

3.47. The supply deficit should be acknowledged as a point-in-time snapshot that is not planned for at the moment. It is recognised that the local planning authorities are currently, or soon will be, identifying additional sites for their areas as part of their emerging local plans or pending local plan reviews. Consequently the housing supply figures will increase and the shortfall will reduce in the short to medium term. This SoCG will continue to be updated to reflect progress in local plans from Regulation 19 consultation through to adoption, with consequential

[21] Base date is 1st April 2022.
[22] Includes sites with a resolution to grant planning permission.
[23] It should be noted that the housing supply figures for Portsmouth do not include additional development from potential land reclamation at Tipner West (although development on the existing land mass is included), or the full amount of development proposed for the city centre in the emerging local plan (due to the City Centre being included as a potential SDOA).
[24] The actual supply within the PfSH part of the District is higher than 3,402. This is because Winchester does not have a split in its adopted Local Plan between PfSH and the rest of the District, meaning that the figures for need and supply are estimated to be the same in this table. This may change as Winchester's local plan progresses.

adjustments to the housing supply figures. To further aid the understanding of the geographical distribution of housing need and current supply, the tables are combined below:

Table 3 Comparison of housing need and supply 2022 – 36

Local Authority	Annual Housing Need using Standard Method (dpa)	Total housing need 2022 – 2036	Supply = Commitments, local plan allocations + windfall estimate	Shortfall/ surplus
East Hants (part)	113	1,582	1,236	-346
Eastleigh	671	9,394	6,663	-2,731
Fareham	541	7,574	9,646[25]	+2072[26]
Gosport	328	4,592	2,786	-1,806
Havant	516	7,224	5,755	-1,469
New Forest	1,097	15,358	8,276	-7,082
Portsmouth	906	12,684	10,203	-2,481
Southampton	1,471	20,594	14,464	-6,130
Test Valley (part)	182	2,548	2,656	+108
Winchester (part)	243	3,402	3,402	0
Total	6,068	84,952	65,087	-19,865

[25] Includes sites with a resolution to grant planning permission.
[26] See para 3.49

f. distribution of needs in the area as agreed through the plan-making process, or the process for agreeing the distribution of need (including unmet need) across the area;

3.48. The majority of needs for housing and employment development up to 2036 are already planned to be met through existing planning permissions, allocations in local plans and neighbourhood plans and small-scale windfall development. However, there remain unmet housing and potentially employment needs which are not currently planned for across local authority areas and a strategic approach is needed to determine the most sustainable locations to accommodate this development within the sub-region.

3.49. As referenced in paragraph 3.44, Fareham Borough Council has progressed its plan to examination stage and its supply is now considered as a commitment. It should be noted that the Fareham Local Plan makes a commitment of 968 homes (900 homes plus a proportion of the 7.5% surplus in the supply) to the unmet need situation in the PfSH area. This contribution was agreed to be considered appropriate through a Statement of Common Ground signed between Fareham Borough Council and the PfSH authorities in October 2021.

3.50. PfSH has agreed a programme of work to review the Spatial Position Statement, leading to a new Joint Strategy. The three remaining workstreams are set out below:

- Strategic Development Opportunity Area (SDOA) and broad areas of search for growth assessments (including traffic modelling and transport impact assessments for the SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth)
- Joint Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment
- Green Infrastructure Needs and Protection of Landscape and Settlement Gaps.

3.51. The Spatial Position Statement (2016) includes Strategic Development Locations. The review of this document and the need to plan where further strategic growth will take place means the identification of further Strategic Development Opportunity Areas (SDOAs) and broad areas of search for growth is required. Some of these areas are already being identified through adopted or emerging local plans, e.g. Mayflower Quarter (Southampton). These sites are already included in the housing supply figures in Table 2. Whilst these major proposed allocations make significant contributions to accommodating housing needs, further SDOAs will inevitably be needed alongside smaller brownfield and greenfield developments.

3.52. Previous iterations of the SoCG have sought to address the majority of the current unmet housing needs through the identification of new SDOAs. Work has also been progressing to update the 2016 Spatial Position Statement with a new Joint Strategy. By identifying and testing a range of potential options the Joint Strategy process is seeking to update the PfSH development strategy set out in

the Spatial Position Statement and identify a set of preferred SDOAs and other options to meet identified supply shortfalls. Due to worsening housing affordability and the challenging nature of finding suitable sites, the scale of potential unmet need has increased significantly, to the extent that it would be challenging to accommodate it within the draft preferred locations that have been provisionally identified and assessed by the process so far. The PfSH Planning Officers Group is therefore reviewing the overall process and is currently exploring potential additional and alternative ways to accommodate the growth required, through a further round of technical work. The process for agreeing the distribution of unmet need will be set out in future iterations of this SoCG. It is anticipated that the SoCG will be updated to include the outcome of this process earlier than the usual annual update of housing need and supply figures.

3.53. The PfSH Planning Officers Group has agreed a process to identify potential SDOAs for further assessment. This involved the identification of all sites above a threshold[27] that have been previously promoted or considered as reasonable alternatives as part of local and strategic planning processes. Consultants have been appointed to identify any further options and potential choices for land to accommodate strategic development and these potential SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth were included in the analysis and appraisal work to establish the most sustainable options and the infrastructure investment needed to deliver them.

3.54. Potential SDOAs in Havant were not included in the SDOA identification process as they were proposed allocations within a reg 19 Local Plan which meant that they were already included in the supply and treated as commitments. The allocations from the now withdrawn Havant Local Plan 2036 have been removed from the committed supply, but as the comparative assessment work and the new Havant Local Plan progress, it is likely that strategic-scale sites will contribute towards meeting housing needs either as SDOAs or through committed supply.

3.55. The PfSH Joint Strategy evidence will undertake an assessment to select the most sustainable SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth. SDOAs are reasonably defined geographical areas for growth, although specific boundaries will be defined through local plans. However, in some parts of South Hampshire, there are a range of different potential options, and the selection of specific development sites within these areas will require a more detailed assessment. In these areas the PfSH assessment will be based on considering a broad area of search for growth. These areas will be described as general locations within a part of a borough or district, often associated with a transport corridor. This enables the PfSH Strategy to identify any suitable broad areas of search for growth whilst deferring the selection of specific strategic development sites within these areas to the more detailed assessment required through the local plan process.

[27] 20 hectares or 500 dwellings. A number of smaller sites in the same general location could potentially be combined to form a larger strategic site above the threshold.

3.56. The assessment of the SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth is following the process below:

- Identification of potential SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth
- Detailed assessments of potential SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth including:
  - constraint mapping and sustainability appraisal
  - habitat regulations assessment (including appropriate assessment)
  - transport modelling and transport impact assessments (commissioned as a separate study)
  - landscape impact / green infrastructure
  - strategic infrastructure requirements or opportunities.

3.57. PfSH has commissioned consultants to prepare the assessments and undertake the sustainability appraisal and habitat regulations assessment/appropriate assessment and this work is well underway. The transport modelling and transport impact assessments were the subject of a separate commission and were undertaken in conjunction with Solent Transport and its member organisations. The PfSH Planning Officers Group will consider the results of the assessments before making recommendations to the Joint Committee as to the SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth to include in the Joint Strategy. The sustainability appraisal will be key to making these recommendations.

3.58. The Joint Strategy will aim to address South Hampshire's housing needs up to 2036. However, given the lead in times for larger sites, it is likely that the SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth will continue to deliver new development well beyond 2036. The Joint Strategy will therefore provide an overall vision and strategic direction for new development up to 2050.

3.59. PfSH has commissioned and published the Economic, Employment and Commercial Needs (including logistics) Study which establishes the need for employment development in South Hampshire. It should be noted that the figures for office need are 'aspirational' in recognition of the time it may take before the market starts to deliver new development. The results of the Study are set out in Tables 4 and 5 below, alongside the estimated current supply of office floorspace and industrial land. This demonstrates that there is currently sufficient land allocated within South Hampshire to meet the need for employment development and there is no need to address this issue at the sub-regional level as is the case for housing development.

Table 4 Comparison of office floorspace need and supply

Local Authority	Office need (sqm) (2019 – 40)	Office supply(sqm) (2022 – 40)	Balance (sqm)
East Hants (part)	1,919	0	-1,919
Eastleigh	95,805	92,662	-3,143
Fareham	38,595	45,667	85
Gosport	14,616	10,258	-4,358
Havant	38,477	0	-38,477
New Forest	11,236	767	-10,469
Portsmouth	74,217	113,500	39,283
Southampton	60,959	111,851	50,892
Test Valley (part)	20,176	30,961	10,785
Winchester (part)	36,468[28]	0	-36,468
Total	392,468	405,666	13,198

Table 5 Comparison of industrial land need and supply

Local Authority	Industrial need (ha) (2019 – 40)	Industrial supply (ha) (2022 – 40)	Balance (ha)
East Hants (part)	1.4	1.7	0.3
Eastleigh	9.9	45.1	35.2
Fareham	25.5	50.5	25
Gosport	15.5	17.4	1.9
Havant	9.1	19.9	10.8
New Forest	-10.3	7.6	17.9
Portsmouth	52.6	38.2	-14.4
Southampton	-7.8	7.9	15.7
Test Valley (part)	52.6	21.8	-30.8
Winchester (part)	19.2	21.4	2.2
Total	167.7	231.5	63.8

3.60. It should be noted that Tables 4 and 5 present a general picture and probably slightly underestimate the need/supply balance given that the need calculation is from 2019 – 2040 and the supply figure is from 2022. Adding in completions from 2019 to the supply figure would likely increase it. Also, the need figures are for a net increase in space, whereas the supply figures do not take account of any losses of office or industrial sites. Individual local planning authorities will need to consider this further, although it can be noted that the surplus of office and industrial sites would enable further losses without the need to allocate new sites. Some of the industrial need figures for individual local planning authorities indicate a negative need. This should not be taken in itself as a policy

[28] Winchester City Council intends to meet most of this need in Winchester City where demand is stronger and development more viable – the overall surplus of office supply in the PfSH area is therefore likely to be understated.

requirement to reduce the stock of industrial sites in these areas, as industrial vacancy rates are low and sites are meeting the needs of local businesses. Again, individual Local Planning Authorities can consider this issue further.

3.61. The Study also makes recommendations with regard to the need to find up to five sites to meet the need for strategic warehousing. The PfSH Planning Officers Group has considered how this need could be met, although initial work indicates a lack of suitable sites.

3.62. There are clear benefits in planning for a mix of uses when planning for new communities. There are also opportunities within the existing urban areas for significant redevelopment. The identification of Strategic Development Opportunity Areas and broad areas of search for growth will potentially include urban and greenfield sites, expanding upon those identified as Strategic Development Locations in the Spatial Position Statement.

3.63. The need to mitigate potential adverse impacts of new development on the environment is apparent through the evidence base from previous local plans and current issues relating to water and air quality and recreational pressure and potential harm to protected habitats. It is a major priority for the PfSH authorities to ensure that the natural environment is not diminished through new development and where possible, is enhanced. Furthermore, government policy now requires development to provide a net gain for biodiversity.

3.64. Given the sub-region's location between two National Parks (the South Downs and the New Forest), the 'duty of regard' set out in Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 is also relevant. This duty ensures that any decisions that could affect National Parks must have regard to the two statutory Park purposes. The National Planning Policy Framework was revised in July 2021 (paragraph 176) to recognise the importance of ensuring development within the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is sensitively located and designed to avoid and minimise adverse impacts development may have on those designated areas.

3.65. There are legal requirements for carrying out strategic environmental assessment (incorporated within sustainability appraisal) and habitat regulations assessments (including appropriate assessments) when considering the location of new development. Given issues around recreational disturbance and the potential need to mitigate the impact of nutrient deposition from wastewater outputs and traffic emissions as a result of additional dwellings, there will be a requirement to allocate land to provide sustainable alternative natural greenspace and to reduce nitrate levels in the water environment. Consideration will need to be given to incorporating accessible natural green spaces within or close to SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth to ensure that they are accessible to residents and assist with the delivery of appropriate environmental mitigation.

3.66. Climate change is an overarching theme that will be at the forefront of the strategy for new development. Matters such as flood risk and policy approaches to resilience can be explored through the sustainability appraisal and SDOA and broad areas of search for growth assessments. Any opportunities to reduce

potential environmental impact through the location of development will be considered alongside mitigation measures that need to be addressed through planning policy.

3.67. PfSH has commissioned a new level one Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the majority of the PfSH region (except East Hampshire, which completed an SFRA for its planning area in 2018 and is currently updating it), along with the whole local planning authority areas of Test Valley, Winchester and the New Forest National Park. This takes account of changes in legislation and policy, as well as emerging updates to evidence, modelling and mapping of flood risk, since the previous SFRA and interim updates were published. It is expected that the SFRA will be published early in 2023.

3.68. Dealing with climate change issues can have a long-term beneficial impact on the health and wellbeing of the new communities now being planned. Other issues, such as access to green spaces and opportunities for active travel can also be addressed through the strategy for new development.

3.69. Impacts on health caused by poor air quality will be considered through the sustainability appraisal. Impacts on the natural environment (European and Ramsar sites) will be considered through the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Development should be located so as to minimise adding to air quality problems and regard should be had to designated Air Quality Management Areas when determining strategic approaches to development.

3.70. The strategy will meet development needs, informed by the comparative assessment of SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth, which will take account of all relevant factors as set out above, of which green infrastructure is one. The '*Green Infrastructure Needs and Protection of Landscape and Settlement Gaps*' workstream has commenced as the draft results of the SDOA and broad areas of search for growth assessments became available. This will enable considerationof the highest value landscape and settlement gaps and how to protect them, in the light of evidence as to development requirements and the most sustainable options for development in South Hampshire based on all relevant factors, including the green infrastructure needs of potential SDOAs and broad areas of search for growth. The policy approach to green infrastructure provision and protection of high value landscape and settlement gaps, if appropriate, can then be included in the Joint Strategy where, along with other policies, it will be subject to sustainability appraisal. Any proposals for formal policies for land allocation for green infrastructure needs or landscape and settlement gap protection would then need to be pursued through individual local plans.

3.71. PfSH intends that the review of the Spatial Position Statement will lead to a new Joint Strategy. Whilst the initial workstreams have been agreed and this work has commenced, further work remains to be undertaken to establish the full scope for the Joint Strategy.

3.72. The technical work outlined above will enable the preparation of a PfSH strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will be both evidence based and

aligned to an agreed distribution of development to meet the need for homes and jobs. This will provide a strong statement to Government of our strategic infrastructure ‘asks’, in order to deliver development. This will include for example transport, flood risk management, water and environmental infrastructure.

g. a record of where agreements have (or have not) been reached on key strategic matters, including the process for reaching agreements on these

3.73. PfSH published a Spatial Position Statement in 2016. This SoCG sets out the process to update and replace that document and is agreed by the PfSH authorities. It is anticipated that the new Joint Strategy will set out the distribution of housing and employment provision between the respective Local Planning Authorities, particularly with respect to providing for unmet needs, amongst other strategic spatial policies (including the sub-regional approach to the provision of green infrastructure and protection of high value landscape and settlement gaps).

3.74. PfSH Joint Committee agreed a SoCG with Fareham in October 2021 acknowledging the contribution to unmet need in their emerging Local Plan.

h. any additional strategic matters to be addressed by the statement which have not already been addressed, including a brief description how the statement relates to any other statement of common ground covering all or part of the same area

3.75. The SoCG sets out a process by which the PfSH authorities will review and update the Spatial Position Statement (2016). It is not intended to replace or supersede any existing SoCG that exists between PfSH and individual local planning authorities or bilateral agreements between local planning authorities.

3.76. There are no other strategic matters to be addressed by the SoCG that have not been referenced earlier in the SoCG.

4. Signatories

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Eastleigh Borough Council

Seán Woodward
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