



## **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, the 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 Nitrogen			35
Ludgershall	Total Inorganic Nitrogen			27
New Alresford	Total Inorganic Nitrogen			25
North Waltham	Total Inorganic Nitrogen			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 Nitrogen			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<sup>1</sup>.

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

<sup>1</sup> [Strategic policy statement for Ofwat - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/strategic-policy-statements)

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:

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