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Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Wednesday, 07 December 2022

Venue: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham Borough Council

PRESENT:

Councillors: Councillor Seán Woodward, Fareham BC (Chairman)
Councillor Rob Humby, Hampshire CC
Councillor Eamonn Keogh, Southampton CC
Councillor Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
Councillor Martin Tod, Winchester CC
Councillor Keith House, Eastleigh BC
Councillor Gwen Robinson, Havant BC
Councillor Diane Andrews, New Forest BC
Gordon Bailey, New Forest National Park

Chief Executives: Peter Grimwood, Fareham BC
David Williams, Portsmouth CC
Stuart Jarvis, Hampshire CC
Graham Smith, Test Valley BC
Dawn Adey, Winchester CC
James Strachan, Eastleigh BC
David Hayward, Havant BC
Adam Harvey, East Hants DC
Kate Ryan, New Forest DC

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

Also present: Richard Ivory, Monitoring Officer
Anna Parry, for items 8 and 9
Mike Allgrove, for item 10
Claire Upton-Brown, for item 10

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Satvir Kaur (Southampton CC) with Councillor Eamonn Keogh deputising; Councillor Ken Moon (East Hants DC); Councillor Alex Rennie (Havant BC), with Councillor Gwen Robinson deputising; Carolyn Williamson (Hampshire CC), with Stuart Jarvis deputising; Kim Sawyer (Havant BC), with David Hayward deputising; Mike Harris (Southampton CC); and Laura Taylor (Winchester CC), with Dawn Adey deputising.

There were no changes made to the Joint Committee membership.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 27 September 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

The Chairman announced that he has recently written two letters which he sent on behalf of PfSH; one was sent to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, about housing figures and constraints about development and the other one was sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Thérèse Coffey MP, about permit levels for water for effluent from treatment works.

Housing Figures

The Chairman confirmed that Michael Gove has announced an intention to make several changes to planning regulations including housing targets. The Chairman however acknowledged that this will only happen if legislation changes via a Bill with Royal Assent. This means we will have to wait for any changes as the Planning Inspectorate has no difference in their instructions and there is no new structure in place for Local Plans.

Permit Levels

The Chairman confirmed that he had written regarding permit levels with a concern that the review of permit levels for the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) was not going to take place. The Chairman announced that an update had been received from the Environment Agency who confirmed they remain committed to plans to review the permits of the Solent and Southampton Water in line with the 2024 review requirements. The Chairman stated their response will be published on the [PfSH website](https://www.push.gov.uk/2022/12/08/environment-agency-committed-to-reviewing-nutrient-permit-levels-around-the-solent/).¹

¹ www.push.gov.uk/2022/12/08/environment-agency-committed-to-reviewing-nutrient-permit-levels-around-the-solent/

Isle of Wight Council

The Chairman announced that following the Isle of Wight's expression of interest in re-joining the Partnership for South Hampshire and the Partnership's agreement to this, the Isle of Wight will be re-joining PfSH at the start of the next financial year.

Stuart Jarvis

To conclude his announcements, the Chairman advised the Committee that Stuart Jarvis will be retiring at the end of December from his role as Director of Economy, Transport and Environment at Hampshire County Council.

The Chairman stated that Stuart had started as the Managing Director of PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) several years ago, where he was involved with the South East Plan and South Hampshire Strategy, helping this work to reach fruition. The Chairman thanked Stuart for all of his help, knowledge and support in Local Government and wished him a happy and long retirement.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was received by Martin Taylor in respect of item 10 – Statement of Common Ground.

6. REFERENCES FROM THE PfSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee considered the reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 30 November 2022:

Minute Item 7 – PfSH Statement of Common Ground

At the agreement of the Chairman this item was moved forward on the agenda to allow it to follow the deputation on this item.

The Committee received a report from Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant which set out proposed updates and revisions to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), to enable it to be signed as a formal SoCG by the PfSH Authorities. Mike highlighted an error on page 40, paragraph 5, as the second to last bullet point should read 'to identify SDOAs it is unlikely to deal with all unmet need'.

The Chairman asked when the revised timetable for the SoCG will be agreed. Mike advised the Committee that the Planning Officers Group will be working to develop a new timetable over the coming weeks and once agreed this will be reported back to Joint Committee. The Chairman asked that the Committee be

advised once the new timetable is available. The Chairman enquired as to whether, in the transport study, consideration had been given to ferry crossings that could be considered in some areas such as Hythe, within the local transport plans. Mike will investigate this further.

Members discussed the need to consider the wider Hampshire region with some strategic issues and agreed that it will be recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask the Joint Committee to consider that the Statement of Common Ground work be confined to the PfSH sub-region.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that the Joint Committee will be asked to APPROVE 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; and
- c) ask that the Joint Committee consider that the Statement of Common Ground be confined to the PfSH sub-region.

7. **STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND 2022 – REVISIONS AND UPDATES**

The Chairman brought this item forward on the agenda to enable discussion to take place following the deputation and reminded Members to consider the reference made from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Joint Committee received a report from Claire Upton-Brown and Mike Allgrove which set out proposed updates and revisions to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), which had been first formally agreed in September 2020, to enable it to be signed as a formal Statement of Common Ground by the PfSH Authorities.

The Chairman proposed that PfSH continues to work on those SDOAs with some merit, where agreement with the transport authorities can be reached, recognising that those homes will provide a contribution to the issue of unmet need when we understand what the new housing targets are. Alongside this, work will be prioritised to understand PfSH's response to environmental constraints with a view to putting a case together to demonstrate the true capacity of the sub-region and in the meantime, PfSH continues to lobby Government on how they should be setting the new methodology. In the eventuality that the new figures are still very challenging, PfSH will be in a much stronger position, having worked on the evidence together, and used a collective voice to demonstrate the true capacity of the sub-region. PfSH will then be in a much stronger position to move forward with the Joint Strategy when this uncertainty is resolved.

The Chairman suggested this was where PfSH focusses its work over the next three to six months and in order to support those colleagues progressing their Local Plans through to publication and submission to Government, if the new standard methodology is significantly delayed post that timeframe, progress will

still have been made with the Joint Strategy. The Joint Strategy should still define a housing distribution which will make a significant contribution to address the housing needs in the sub region.

During the discussion on this item, Councillor Tod referenced the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which he felt was a useful recommendation and overall support was given by the Committee to the proposed way forward.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:

- a) APPROVES the content of the Statement of Common Ground, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, that will lead to the production of the PfSH Joint Strategy; and
- b) AGREES to prioritise the focus of PfSH over the next three to six months to work on the SDOAs, prepare a case on environmental constraints and continue to lobby Government.

8. **PfSH MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

During discussion and following a query, Paddy clarified that on page 19 at paragraph 3.2, the references (in blue text) above the tables were incorrect and in fact Figure 3 – "*WwTWs with total phosphorus permit limit*" relates to the pink table on the right hand side, and the details of Figure 2 relate to the table (headed *WTW Name* on the left hand side).

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

9. **BIRD AWARE SOLENT ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST**

The Joint Committee received a report from Anna Parry from Bird Aware Solent which asked the Joint Committee to approve the Bird Aware 2023/24 budget request which is a matter considered by the Committee annually.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:

- a) NOTES the content of the report; and
- b) ENDORSES the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2023/24.

10. **BIRD AWARE SOLENT / SOLENT RECREATION MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY**

The Joint Committee received a report from Anna Parry from Bird Aware Solent seeking endorsement from the Joint Committee for the Bird Aware Partnership's recommendations for how site-specific funding should be allocated.

RESOLVED 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 application and reviewed by the Project Board.

The meeting started at 18:00 and
finished at 18:40