



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

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 4 April 2023

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillors: Seán Woodward, Fareham BC (CHAIRMAN)
Alex Rennie, Havant BC
Diane Andrews, New Forest DC
Gavin Parker, New Forest NP
Lorna Fielker, Southampton CC
Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
Martin Tod, Winchester CC
Robert Hylands Gosport BC

Chief Executives: James Strachan, Eastleigh BC
David Williams, Portsmouth CC & Gosport BC
Gary Westbrook Hampshire CC
David Hayward Havant BC
Tim Guyver, New Forest DC
Mike Harris, Southampton CC
Graham Smith Test Valley BC
Dawn Adey, Winchester CC
Richard Jolley, Fareham BC

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

Also Present: James Brewer – for Item 8
Chris Panther from Footprint Ecology – for Item 8
Anna Parry – Item 8
Jonathan Evans – Item 9
Simon Kennedy – Item 10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Peter Chegwyn (Gosport BC) with Councillor Robert Hylands deputising, Councillor Keith House (Eastleigh BC), Councillor Ken Moon (East Hants DC), Councillor Stephen Philpott (Hampshire CC), Adam Harvey (East Hants DC), Peter Grimwood (Fareham BC) with Richard Jolley deputising, Carolyn Williamson (Hampshire CC) with Gary Westbrook deputising, Steve Jordan (Havant BC) with David Hayward deputising, Kate Ryan (New Forest DC) with Tim Guyver deputising and Andy Ferrier (Test Valley BC) with Graham Smith deputising.

Councillor Satvir Kaur has been replaced by Councillor Lorna Fielker as the PfSH Joint Committee representative for Southampton City Council.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 07 December 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

The Chairman asked his thanks to be passed on to Claire Upton-Brown who has recently left her post as Chairman of the PfSH Planning Officers Group, and to Gayle Wootton who is leaving Fareham Borough Council shortly, Gayle was also a key member of the PfSH Planning Officers Group and has led the recent work on the Statement of Common Ground. Both have been valuable members of PfSH and will be missed.

The Chairman also asked for his thanks to be passed on to Peter Grimwood who is due to retire as Chief Executive of Fareham Borough Council in the next few months. The Chairman expressed his thanks and gratitude for all the help and support that Peter has given to PfSH since it began in 2003.

Councillor Diane Andrews from New Forest District Council confirmed that this would also be her last meeting as she was stepping down at the next Local Election in May. The Chairman thanked her for her support during her time on the PfSH Joint Committee.

The Chairman also informed the Committee that David Williams, Chief Executive for Portsmouth City Council and himself had spoken at the Southern Policy Centre Conference at Southampton Solent University on 28 March, which was very well attended and very informative.

Lastly, the Chairman announced Fareham's Local Plan is to be considered for adoption at Fareham's Council meeting on Wednesday 5 April.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received at the meeting.

6. REFERENCES FROM THE PFSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee considered the reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 29 March 2023:

MINUTE ITEM 8 – BIRD AWARE SOLENT 5-YEAR STRATEGY REVIEW

The Committee received a report from Anna Parry, Bird Aware Solent, that will update the Joint Committee on the initial findings of the 5 Year Review of the work of the Bird Aware Partnership and outline the next steps that will be taken following the results of this review.

Members of the Committee commented that if the proposed study is endorsed by the Joint Committee and the findings do increase the remit of the Bird Aware, this will greatly expand the scope for the partnership. Anna Parry confirmed that the strategy review would reflect the widening remit of the partnership if endorsed and these changes would be brought to the Joint Committee for consideration later in the year.

Members of the Committee voted to support recommendation b) ii, that the PfSH Joint Committee should endorse funding the study related to summer breeding birds if the legal view is that Bird Aware funds cannot be used for this purpose.

RESOLVED that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that PfSH Joint Committee will be asked to:-
 - i. NOTE and ENDORSE the content of this report related to the 5 Year review and the work that will now stem from this
 - ii. NOTE and ENDORSE funding the study related to breeding birds if the legal view is that Bird Aware funds cannot be used for this purpose; and
- c) ask the Joint Committee to support the recommendation above to fund the study related to summer breeding birds if the legal view is that Bird Aware funds cannot be used for this purpose.

MINUTE ITEM 10 – UPDATE ON NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY IN THE SOLENT

The Committee received a report from Simon Kennedy, from Fareham Borough Council, which provides an update on the supply of and demand for nutrient mitigation measures around the Solent.

Members of the Committee fully supported the need for funding to cover the operational costs of the Strategic Environmental Planning Team going forward and raised concerns over the lack of money being made available to fund solutions to the nitrates issue in the Solent from the Government.

The Committee also agreed to suggest to the Joint Committee that the wording of recommendation b) iv, be amended slightly to say – *AGREES that, should external funding not be available, local authorities are asked to agree to fund the operational costs to March 2025.*

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that it will be recommended to the Joint Committee on 04 April that it:-
 - i. NOTES the content of the report;
 - ii. AGREES that an extension to March 2025 for the Strategic Environmental Planning Team is necessary;
 - iii. AGREES that, in the first instance, external funding is sought to cover the operational costs of the Strategic Environmental Planning Team to March 2025;
 - iv. suggest to the Joint Committee that the wording of this recommendation be amended slightly to say - *AGREES that, should external funding not be available, local authorities are asked to agree to fund the operational costs to March 2025.*

7. PFSH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Joint Committee received the PfSH Co-ordinator's report from Paddy May, which provided 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.

Paddy May drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 5.1 of the report which should read *An update on the work of the Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment themed Panel is provided in Section 1 of this report.*

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

8. BIRD AWARE SOLENT

The Joint Committee received a report on the initial findings of the 5 Year Review of the work of the Bird Aware Partnership by Anna Parry from Bird Aware Solent and Chris Panther from Footprint Ecology.

Anna Parry provided the Committee with an update in respect of the legal view for the summer work for breeding birds, which is that Bird Aware are unable to pay for this work, and therefore if the study is go ahead this would need to be funded through the contributions from the Local Authorities. It has been suggested that this can be funded from the unallocated budget for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES and ENDORSES the content of this report related to the 5 Year review and the work that will now stem from this; and
- b) NOTES and ENDORSES funding the study related to breeding birds from the unallocated funds in the 2023/24 budget.

9. PFSH BUDGET REVIEW

The Joint Committee received a report on the PfSH Budget Review from Jonathan Evans, which provided an update for the Joint Committee on the position against the approved budget for 2022/23 and sets out the proposed revenue budget for 2023/24.

Following the request under Item 8 above that additional funding be granted for the Summer Breeding Bird study, Jonathan Evans agreed that this can be allocated from the current unallocated budget for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the budget monitoring position for 2022/23, as set out in the report;
- b) NOTES that the forecast outturn from the 2022/23 budgets is provisional and may be subject to change in the final outturn budget report;
- c) APPROVES the proposed revenue budget for 2023/24, as set out in the report;
- d) APPROVES the additional spend of £10,000 - £15,000 for the Summer Breeding Birds study from the unallocated fund; and
- e) APPROVES the partner contributions for 2023/24 as shown on table 5.

10. NUTRIENT MITIGATION

The Joint Committee received a report from Simon Kennedy providing an update on the Nutrient Mitigation measures around the Solent. It also outlined other key workstreams being undertaken by the PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Team and requests that Joint Committee consider further funding arrangements to March 2025.

RESOLVED that Joint Committee:-

- a) NOTES the content of the report;
- b) AGREES that an extension to March 2025 for the Strategic Environmental Planning Team is necessary;
- c) AGREES that, in the first instance, external funding is sought to cover the operational costs of the Strategic Environmental Planning Team to March 2025; and
- d) AGREES that, should external funding not be available, local authorities are asked to agree to fund the operational costs to March 2025.

11. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24

The Joint Committee received a report from the Head of Democratic Services at Fareham Borough Council outlining the Schedule of Meetings for the Joint Committee and Overview and Scrutiny meetings for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee APPROVES the dates on the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2023/24, attached at Appendix A.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm
and ended at 6.32pm).