



Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Wednesday, 28 June 2023

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Allan Glass, New Forest DC (Chairman)

Councillor Peter Latham, Hampshire CC (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Councillor Malcolm Daniells, Fareham BC
Martin Pepper, Gosport BC
Neil Gwynne, Test Valley BC

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

**Also
Present:** Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant – Item 9
Jonathan Evans, Southampton CC – Item 10

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been duly proposed by Councillor Peter Latham and seconded by Councillor Martin Pepper, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Allan Glass from New Forest DC be elected as Chairman for the 2023/24 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Having been duly proposed by Councillor Allan Glass and seconded by Councillor Martin Pepper, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Latham from Hampshire CC be elected as Vice-Chairmans for the 2023/24 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Richard Gomer from Eastleigh BC and Councillor Richard Kennett from Havant BC.

New Members of the Committee are as follows: -

Councillor David Evans from East Hants DC, Councillor Richard Kennett from Havant BC, Councillor Mary Valley from Portsmouth CC, Councillor Daniel Fitzhenry from Southampton CC and Councillor Neil Gwynne from Test Valley BC.

Winchester CC have not yet appointed their representative to the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 29 March 2023 be signed and confirmed as a correct record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the new Members to the Committee and highlighted the interesting work of PfSH and in particular the Statement of Common Ground which is on today's agenda.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PFSH JOINT COMMITTEE

At the agreement of the Chairman this item was moved forward on the agenda to allow the deputation to be heard alongside the Statement of common Ground item.

Members of the Committee were asked to consider any matters arising from the previous meeting of the Joint Committee held on the 04 April 2023.

Paddy May addressed the Committee to explain that the comments made by the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its last meeting were considered by the Joint Committee at its meeting on the 04 April. The suggested amendment to item 10 – Nutrient Mitigation, recommendation b) iv. was agreed by the Joint Committee.

8. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was received from Richard Norman, Litchfields for Minute item 9 – Statement of Common Ground.

9. PFSH STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

At the agreement of the Chairman this item was brought 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 sets out the proposed updates and revisions to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). Mike explained that this report sets out the most significant changes to the SoCG since it was first agreed by the Joint Committee in September 2020.

Members of the Committee discussed the report and the SoCG, set out at appendix 1 and asked questions pertaining to the uncertainty around potential changes to the planning system, which may fundamentally change the approach to local planning processes across the country. Mike reassured Members of the Committee that the uncertainty during this period of government reform has led to the SoCG having to cover various eventualities, but he confirmed that, further revisions and updates will be required to the Spatial Position Statement as these Government reforms are implemented and these revisions will be brought to the Joint Committee for consideration at each stage.

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 the report, that will lead to the production of a PfSH Spatial Position Statement (SPS); and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

10. PFSH MANAGERS REPORT

The Committee received a report from the PfSH Coordinator, Paddy May which provides an opportunity for issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report in their own right to be brought to the Joint Committee.

Councillor Latham asked for a progress update following the Culture, Creative Industries and Built Environment Themed Panel workshops that have been carried out by the Southern Policy Centre. Paddy advised that a full report updating Members on these workshops and other activities will be brought to the Committee in September. Members asked that any current information available, be circulated to the Committee before the next meeting to provide Members with a more timely overview of this work stream.

Councillor Latham queried the figures set at Minute item 11 – Statement of Accounts, which shows a reduction of £13k between the 2022/23 and 2023/24 budget for the Culture, Creative Industries and Built Environment Themed Panel. Paddy advised that the increase in budget was agreed to fund the workshops which is now no longer required for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the matters for information outlined in part B of the report; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

11. PFSH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Committee received a report on the PfSH Statement of Accounts from Jonathan Evans, Southampton CC. The report summarises the outturn against the budget for the 2022/23 financial year and the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 for approval by the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to:
 - i. NOTE the outturn for the financial year 2022/23 (Table 2);
 - ii. APPROVE the Statement of Accounts for the 2022/23 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1);
 - iii. NOTE the revenue budget for 2023/24 as set out in the report (Table 4); and

- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

12. SOLENT WADERS AND BRENT GOOSE STRATEGY

The Committee received a report which seeks to update the Joint Committee on the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy. Paddy May delivered the report to the Committee providing an overview of progress since funding was agreed in February 2022.

Paddy emphasised the difference between this Strategy and the work of Bird Aware, explaining that Bird Aware works to mitigate the recreation effects of development near to the coast across the PfSH region whilst the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy aims to conserve and enhance those areas currently used by overwintering wading birds and brent geese and mitigate where relevant land is lost to development. Paddy also highlighted that this piece of work is a great example of how the PfSH authorities work together to develop sites whilst protecting the natural environment.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the contents of the report; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

13. NUTRIENT MITIGATION

The Committee received a report on the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund. Paddy May delivered the report to the Committee which sets out the proposed use of potential government funding for the purposes of nutrient mitigation.

Members discussed the proposed projects and agreed that a mixture of mitigation and preventative options need to be considered when allocating the funds. The process of how the nitrate credits are purchased and sold was explained and Paddy advised that complex legal agreements will be drawn up to ensure good governance for this process, as the proposed projects are delivered.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that the Joint Committee will be asked to:
 - i. NOTE the contents of the report

- ii. AGREE the outline approach for use of the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund should funding become available
 - iii. APPROVE implementation of the following projects on receipt of funding
 - Water efficiency project
 - Small wastewater treatment works and septic tank upgrade project;
 - iv. AGREE that a further report come back to the Joint Committee about the proposed governance needed for delivery of any project not listed in recommendation iii; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

(The meeting started at 10.30 am
and ended at 11.30 am).