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

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 26 September 2023

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Chairman Councillor Seán Woodward, Fareham BC (Chairman)

Councillor Keith House, Eastleigh BC
Councillor Robert Hylands, Gosport BC
Councillor Stephen Philpott, Hampshire CC
Councillor Alex Rennie, Havant BC
Councillor Jill Cleary, New Forest DC
Councillor Hugh Mason, Portsmouth CC
Councillor Nick Adams-King, Test Valley BC
Councillor Martin Tod, Winchester CC

Chief Executives: James Strachan, Eastleigh BC
Andrew Wannell, Fareham BC
Debbie Gore, Gosport BC
Gary Westbrook, Hampshire CC
Alex Robinson, Havant BC
Tim Guymer, New Forest DC
Natalie Brahma-Pearl, Portsmouth CC
Ian Collins, Southampton CC
Graham Smith, Test Valley BC
Laura Taylor, Winchester CC

Co-opted Members: Paddy May, PfSH
Richard Jones, Solent LEP

Also

***Present*:** Simon Eden, Southern Policy Centre, Item 7
Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant, Item 8 & 9
Graham Tuck, Chairman, PfSH Planning Officer Group, Item 8 & 9
Anna Parry, Bird Aware Solent, Item 11 & 12
Simon Kennedy, PfSH Principal Strategic Environmental Planning Officer, Item 13
David Illsley, New Forest NPA, Item 14

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Derek Tipp (New Forest DC) with Councillor Jill Clearly deputising, Councillor Peter Chegwyn (Gosport BC) with Councillor Robert Hylands deputising, Councillor Lorna Fielker (Southampton CC) with Councillor Eamonn Keogh deputising, Steve Jordon (Havant BC) with Alex Robinson deputising, Adam Harvey (East Hants DC) and Mike Harris (Southampton CC) with Ian Collins deputizing and Alison Barnes (New Forest NPA).

The Chairman welcomed Natalie Brahma-Pearl as the new Chief Executive Officer at Portsmouth CC and Debbie Gore as the new Chief Executive Officer at Gosport BC to the Joint Committee.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 11 July 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made no announcements at the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received at the meeting.

5. REFERENCES FROM THE PFSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee considered the reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 20 September 2023:

MINUTE ITEM 7 - GREENPRINT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

The Committee received a report summarising the discussions and actions from the recent Greenprint Conference which was held in June of this year.

Members of the Committee agreed that the development of the Greenprint for South Hampshire is an extremely good idea, but raised concerns over the time that it has taken to develop and the need for clarity about the cost implications for local authorities in undertaking pilot schemes similar to that at Portsmouth CC and what had been achieved through the pilot. Paddy May addressed the Committee to explain that the costs for local authorities would primarily be staff resourcing at this stage. Paddy went on to explain that a lot of the objectives set out in the Greenprint are already being implemented within authorities across the region and the focus now needs to be in finding the gaps to ensure that the priorities can be met. Portsmouth CC are putting together a report about their pilot detailing the process followed, the costs involved and what has been achieved. This will be shared with other authorities who are

considering undertaking a pilot.

The Committee suggested that a timescale for competing the development of the Greenprint be set and agreed that detailed information be supplied by Portsmouth CC to those local authorities considering undertaking a pilot was sensible.

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 discussions which took place and actions which the inaugural Greenprint Conference suggested (at **Appendix 1**);

   ii. NOTE the list of priority actions which are suggested by the Steering Group, at **Appendix 2**;

   iii. ENCOURAGE the development of further Greenprint pilots, building on the example of Portsmouth City Council; and

   iv. AGREE to continue to take a leading role in driving forward a regional green recovery, with the Chief Executive group to advise on the best mechanism to achieve this; and

c) ask that the Joint Committee consider the Comments made by the Committee above.

6. DEPUTATIONS

The following deputations were received: -

Ben Walker & Matthew Turpin on behalf of Business South – received at item 6 – Deputations.

Richard Norman on behalf of Lichfields – received at Item 9 – Statement of Common Ground, Revisions and Updates.

Both deputations were received in person and were allocated 10 Minutes to speak.

7. GREENPRINT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

The Committee received a report on the Greenprint for South Hampshire from Simon Eden, which provided Members with a summary of the Greenprint Conference held in June 2023 and suggestions on how actions should be taken forward.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Simon for all his work, which has been of great value for South Hampshire, during his time at the Southern Policy Centre, which has ceased trading after 10 Years.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

a) NOTE the discussions which took place and actions which the inaugural Greenprint Conference suggested (at **Appendix 1**);

b) NOTES the list of priority actions which are suggested by the Steering Group, at **Appendix 2**;
c) ENCOURAGES the development of further Greenprint pilots, building on the example of Portsmouth City Council; and
d) AGREES to continue to take a leading role in driving forward a regional green recovery, with the Chief Executive group to advise on the best mechanism to achieve this.

8. PFSH SPATIAL POSITION STATEMENT - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE EVIDENCE

The Committee received a report from Graham Tuck, Chairman PfSH Planning Officers Group, setting out the results of the evidence commissioned under the Statement of Common Ground in relation to Green Belt/Green Infrastructure issues.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the content of the following reports and that they be published on the PfSH website:

i. Part 1: Green Belt/Green Infrastructure Designation Study: Policy Options Review – May 2022, attached at Appendix 1; and

ii. Part 2: Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Opportunities in South Hampshire – July 2023, attached at Appendix 2.

9. PFSH STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (PFSH SPATIAL POSITION STATEMENT)- REVISIONS AND PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee received the deputation referred to at Minute item 6.

The Committee received a report from Graham Tuck, Chairman PfSH Planning Officers Group and Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant which set out the proposed updates and revisions to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).

Mike Allgrove explained that Table 1, in Appendix 1 is in the process of being revised as the data is out of date. At this stage it is anticipated that there will be a slight increase in supply due to a number of factors, including the adoption of Fareham Borough Council's Local Plan for example. The updated details will be provided to the Joint Committee at its meeting in December as part of the Spatial Position Statement.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee APPROVES 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).

10. PFSH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Committee received the PfSH Co-ordinator's report 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 attention of the Joint Committee for decision or for information.

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

11. BIRD AWARE SOLENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received the Bird Aware Solent Annual Report from Anna Parry, Partnership Manager. The report provided details on the progress and changes within the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership during the last financial year and sought endorsement of the annual report covering the period of April 2022 to March 2023.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES and ENDORSES the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's ninth Annual Report.

12. BIRD AWARE SOLENT SITE SPECIFIC PROJECT FUNDING

The Committee received a report from Anna Parry on the Bird Aware Solent's Partnership's recommendations for how site-specific funding should be allocated for the years 2024/5 and 2025/6.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed allocation of funding for site specific projects.

13. NUTRIENT MITIGATION UPDATE

The Committee received a report from Simon Kennedy, PfSH Principal Strategic Environmental Planning Officer, providing an update on nutrient mitigation around the Solent.

Simon explained this is a turbulent time for the existing Nutrient Mitigation Scheme, due initially to the government’s proposed amendment to Levelling up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), which the House of Lords did not approve. However, there is now an expectation that the government might introduce a Bill in the King's Speech to achieve the same result. This uncertainty surrounding the government’s plans on nutrient mitigation has already seen a lack of confidence from landowners to come forward. Simon reassured Members that appendix 1 of the report which provides a full supply and demand analysis of nutrient mitigation availability in South Hampshire remains accurate at this time.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the contents of this report.

14. NEW FOREST RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE MITIGATION

The Committee received a report from David Illsley, Policy and Conservation Manager, New Forest National Park Authority, which outlined the key evidence and work undertaken to date by planning authorities on the New Forest Recreational Disturbance Mitigation.

Members welcomed a joint approach, expressing frustration and concern over the evidence provided by Natural England and the data used to determine the 'zone of influence' which uses a distance measure, rather than accessibility to the New Forest. It is hoped that this effected planning authorities can work together to challenge the evidence, as well as develop a package of mitigation measures.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

a) NOTES the key evidence base studies and joint working undertaken to date by local planning authorities within the zone of influence of the New Forest's internationally designated sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar); and

b) ENDORSES the principle of planning authorities continuing to work together to develop an agreed package of mitigation measures to be implemented within the New Forest's internationally designated sites, complementing the measures being delivered within surrounding local authority areas.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.57 pm).