



## **Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**(to be confirmed at the next meeting)**

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 September 2023

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman** Councillor Allan Glass, New Forest DC (Chairman)

**Vice-Chairman** Councillor Peter Latham, Hampshire CC (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor David Evans, East hants DC  
Councillor Martin Pepper, Gosport BC  
Councillor Mary Vallely, Portsmouth CC  
Councillor Neil Gwynne, Test Valley BC  
Councillor Sudhakar Achwal, Winchester CC

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

**Also Present:** Mike Allgrove - Items 8&9  
Simon Kennedy – Item 13  
David Illsley – Item 14

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

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors M Daniells from Fareham BC and Richard Kennett from Havant BC.

The Committee welcomed Councillor S Achwal as the new representative from Winchester City Council.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 28 June 2023 be confirmed 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 made at the meeting.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PFSH JOINT COMMITTEE**

Paddy May, PfSH Coordinator, addressed the Committee to advise that there were no matters arising from the last PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 11 July 2023, but explained that the Statement of Common Ground item was deferred at the Joint Committee meeting which is why it was on the agenda again for this meeting.

**6. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations received at the meeting.

**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 completing 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.

## 8. PFSH SPATIAL POSITION STATEMENT - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE EVIDENCE

The Committee received a report from Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant which set out the results of the evidence commissioned under the Statement of Common Ground in relation to Green Belt/Green Infrastructure issues.

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 content of the following reports and that they will 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; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

## 9. PFSH SPATIAL POSITION STATEMENT - REVISIONS AND PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee received a report from Mike Allgrove, PfSH Consultant which sets out proposed updates and revisions to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that 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 Spatial Position Statement (SPS); and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

## 10. PFSH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

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.

RESOLVED 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. BIRD AWARE SOLENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report from Paddy May on the Bird Aware Solent Annual report, which once endorsed by the Joint Committee will be published on their website.

Members of the Committee asked if there were any statistics to provide evidence that Bird Aware is helping to prevent the additional recreational activities from harming over wintering birds. Paddy May addressed the Committee to confirm that, although it is very difficult to measure the impact that Bird Aware Solent is having, due to the various factors that influence bird numbers across the region, a recent study by Footprint Ecology did conclude that the strategy is working.

Members queried the costs of the strategy and how this would be affected by the introduction of measures to also protect summer-time breeding birds.

Paddy explained that the strategy would have to be updated to include the protection summer-time breeding habitats and subsequently, once a budget had been agreed, developer contributions fees would increase to cover these costs subject to approvals that would need to consider issues of viability as well.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE and ENDORSE the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's ninth Annual Report; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

## 12. BIRD AWARE SOLENT SITE SPECIFIC PROJECT FUNDING

The Committee received a report from Paddy May will seek endorsement from the Joint Committee for the Bird Aware Partnership's recommendations for how site-specific funding should be allocated for the years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed allocation of funding for site specific projects; and
- c) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

## 13. NUTRIENT MITIGATION UPDATE

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

Simon explained that the recent announcement from government seeking to remove nutrient neutrality as a planning consideration through an amendment to the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill, has led to this report being updated for the PfSH Joint Committee. The House of Lords did not approve the proposed amendment from the Government meaning that the supply and demand analysis contained within the report remains unchanged.

Members of the Committee asked for reassurance that the Officers are confident that land will continue to come forward to meet demand in the future.

Simon confirmed that this is the main part of his role, to secure sites for mitigation and he is confident that this demand can be met.

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.

#### **14. NEW FOREST RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE MITIGATION**

The Committee received a report from David Illsley, Policy & Conservation Manager, New Forest NPA on the New Forest Recreational Disturbance Mitigation.

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 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);
- c) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to ENDORSE 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; and
- d) considered any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

(The meeting started at 10.30 am  
and ended at 11.57 am).