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

## (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

***Date:*** Tuesday, 16 July 2024

***Venue:*** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**PRESENT:**

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

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

Councillor Tina Ellis, Fareham BC
Councillor Julie Westerby, Gosport BC
Councillor Gwen Robinson, Havant BC
Councillor Mary Vallely, Portsmouth CC
Councillor Neil Gwynne, Test Valley BC
Councillor Sudhakar Achwal, Winchester City Council

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

***Also Present*:** Jonathan Evans - Item 10
Simon Kennedy – Item 11

## 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been duly proposed by Councillor Peter Latham and Seconded by Councillor Sudhakar Achwal, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Allan Glass from New Forest DC be elected as Chairman for the 2024/25 municipal year.

## 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Having been duly proposed by Councillor Allan Glass and seconded by Councillor Neil Gwynne, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Latham from Hampshire County Council be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2024/25 municipal year.

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

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Chris Tonge from East Hants DC and Councillor Peter Baillie from Southampton City Council with Councillor Valerie Laurent deputising.

New Members of the Committee are as follows: -

Councillor Julie Westerby from Gosport BC, Councillor Chris Tonge of East Hants DC, Councillor Gwen Robinson from Havant BC, Councillor Tina Ellis from Fareham BC and Councillor Peter Baillie from Southampton CC.

## 4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 07 March 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PFSH JOINT COMMITTEE

Paddy May addressed the Committee to inform Members that the comments made at the last meeting on the 07 March 2024 were referred to the Joint Committee on the 14 March 2024 for consideration and were noted as appropriate. Specifically, Paddy highlighted to Members that following the Committees recommendation to request more detailed reporting on the activities of Creative Network South (CNS) before allocating the budget, Charles Freeman agreed that for future budget requests he would look to provide more information on the outcomes achieved.

## 6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman invited paddy May to address the Committee to explain the scrutiny role for PfSH and how the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee feed into the Joint Committees decision making process.

## 7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

## 8. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received at the meeting.

## 9. PFSH COORDINATORS REPORT

The Committee received the 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 highlighted the two recommendations that Joint Committee will be asked to agree at their meeting on the 23 July and invited comments from the Committee. The Committee agreed to support both recommendation b) and c) and in particular expressed support to fund the 'Environment Act 2021: Implementation Workshop for Local Authorities. Members of the Committee asked that the Joint Committee consider asking for feedback to be provided on the workshop facilitated by the Local Nature Partnership once it has taken place.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

a) NOTES the contents of this report;

b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to agree a PfSH contribution of up to £4k, from unallocated reserves, to fund an 'Environment Act 2021: Implementation Workshop for Local Authorities' facilitated by the Local Nature Partnership;

c) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to agree to support a funding application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for initiatives that will help to increase the impact of the creative research network in South Hampshire;

d) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to note the matters for information outlined in part B of the report; and

e) ask that the Joint Committee support both recommendation b) and c) and consider requesting that feedback be provided on the Environment Act 2021: Implementation Workshop for Local Authorities.

## 10. PFSH BUDGET MONITORING AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Committee received a report summarising the outturn against the budget for the financial year 2023/24 and includes presentation of the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 for Joint Committee approval. This report also notes the revenue budget for 2024/25 as approved at the Joint Committee meeting in March 2024.

Paddy May addressed the Committee to advise that there was a minor typo on the published recommendation b) which has been removed from these minutes.

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 outturn for the financial year 2023/24 (Table 2).

c) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to APPROVE the Statement of Accounts for the 2023/24 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1);

d) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the revenue budget for 2024/25 as set out in the report (Table 4); and

e) CONSIDERED any comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration.

## 11. NUTRIENT MITIGATION - DEPLOYMENT OF LOCAL NUTRIENT MITIGATION FUND

The Committee considered if it was in the public interest to exclude the public and representatives of the Press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters to be dealt with involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED to exclude the public and representatives of the Press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters to be dealt with involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Committee received a report providing an update to the Joint Committee on the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund (LNMF), setting out the capital programme proposed for the fund, and requests spending authorisation from both the capital and revenue elements of the LNMF. For the benefit of newer Members of the Committee, a wider overview of Nitrate Neutrality was delivered providing Members the opportunity to ask questions for clarity before discussing the specifics around the deployment of the LNMF.

Simon Kennedy highlighted two changes to the recommendations that have been made to the published Joint Committee agenda.
*These are in bold below:*

d) AGREES to delegate detailed spending authorisation, within the agreed capital and revenue allocations, to the lead PfSH Chief Executive, in consultation with the **Chair of the Joint Committee**, PfSH Monitoring Officer,

Fareham Borough Council's Section 151 Officer and following consultation with the wider PfSH Chief Executives Group; and

e**) AGREES that PfSH Joint Committee should engage with the new government to ensure that the needs of the Solent area, in relation to nutrient mitigation, are fully understood.**

The Committee expressed their support for the recommendations however asked if consideration can be given to provide information on other forms of mitigation that have been investigated by Simon and his team at future meetings of 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 APPROVE the proposed £9.6M capital programme funding allocation from the LNMF;

c) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to APPROVE the proposed £422,610 revenue funding allocation from the LMNF;

d) AGREES to delegate detailed spending authorisation, within the agreed capital and revenue allocations, to the lead PfSH Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Committee, PfSH Monitoring Officer, Fareham Borough Council's Section 151 Officer and following consultation with the wider PfSH Chief Executives Group; and

e) AGREES that PfSH Joint Committee should engage with the new government to ensure that the needs of the Solent area, in relation to nutrient mitigation, are fully understood.

f) ask that the Joint Committee consider asking that that information be provided on other forms of mitigation that have been investigated by Simon and his team be brought to future meetings of the Joint Committee.

(The meeting started at 10.30 am
and ended at 11.37 am).

……. Chairman

…..…….. Date