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AGENDA
PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Members:

Chair	Councillor Allan Glass, New Forest DC
Vice-Chair	Councillor Peter Latham, Hampshire CC
	Councillor Chris Tonge, East Hants DC
	Councillor Richard Gomer, Eastleigh BC
	Councillor Tina Ellis, Fareham BC
	Councillor Julie Westerby, Gosport BC
	Councillor Gwen Robinson, Havant BC
	Councillor Mary Vallely, Portsmouth CC
	Councillor Peter Baillie, Southampton CC
	Councillor Neil Gwynne, Test Valley BC
	Councillor Sudhakar Achwal, Winchester City Council

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

1. **Apologies for Absence and Changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership**
   To note any apologies and changes in membership for this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
   To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 September 2024.

3. **Chair's Announcements**

4. **Declarations of Interest**
   To receive any declarations of interest from members, in accordance with the Joint Agreement.

5. **Matters Arising from PfSH Joint Committee**
   To consider matters arising from the PfSH Joint Committee meeting held on the 30 September 2024.

6. **Deputations**
   To receive any deputations of which notice has been lodged.

7. **PfSH Co-ordinators Report** (Pages 11 - 16)
   To receive a report on 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 a decision.

8. **Bird Aware Solent Budget Request for Financial Year 2025/26** (Pages 17 - 20)
   To receive a report outlining the Bird Aware Solent Budget Request for financial year 2025/26.

9. **Deployment of the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund** (Pages 21 - 26)
   To provide a general update on nutrient neutrality, confirm signatories to the inter Authority Agreement for the purposes of providing a local authority led nutrient mitigation solution. To request an adjustment to the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund Capital programme and agree the benefitting parties to the Winchester Package Treatment Plant upgrade Project.

For further information please contact:
Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Fareham, PO16 7AZ
Tel: 01329 236100
democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk

Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Chair Councillor Allan Glass, New Forest DC (Chair)

Councillor Chris Tonge, East Hants DC
Councillor Tina Ellis, Fareham BC
Councillor Julie Westerby, Gosport BC
Councillor Sudhakar Achwal, Winchester City Council

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

***Also Present*:** Anna Parry – Item 9 & 10
Simon Kennedy - Item 11

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

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Gwen Robinson from Havant BC, Councillor Neil Gwynne from Test Valley BC, Councillor Peter Latham from Hampshire CC and Councillor Mary Vallely from Portsmouth CC.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 16 July 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement: -

At the request of James Strachan, in his capacity as lead PfSH chief executive, the chief executive of the Solent Freeport, James Hassett, has been invited to attend Joint Committee on 30 September.
Given the planning and infrastructure implications of the initiative, it has been suggested that now is a good time for Joint Committee members to receive an update on the Freeport's impact across the South Hampshire area. James Hassett will provide a short presentation for members, followed by an opportunity for members of the Joint Committee to ask questions. The presentation will be available to view online with the minutes once published.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PFSH JOINT COMMITTEE

Paddy May addressed the Committee to confirm that the points raised by Members at the last meeting with regards to the recommendations within the PfSH Coordinators report had been well received. In particular the request for feedback on the Environment Act: Implementation Workshop for Local Authorities was endorsed by the Joint Committee. Paddy also advised that the Environment Act workshop is due to take place on the 25 November 2024.

Simon Kennedy went onto confirm that the Committees comments with regards information on other types of nutrient mitigation measures was considered by the Joint Committee. Simon confirmed that although focus for his team at this time is around finalising the Inter Authority Agreement and ensuring the deployment of the Nutrient Mitigation Fund, any information would be included in future reports as appropriate.

6. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received at the meeting.

7. PFSH COORDINATORS REPORT

The Committee received a report from the PfSH Coordinator providing 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.

Councillor Chris Tonge addressed the Committee to ask that work be done to encourage television production and its associated industries into the region as this is proven to have a high economic value. It was agreed that Paddy would pass Councillor Tonge's details to Charles Freeman from the Creative Network South, as it was agreed that this is something that should be investigated in more detail.

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 in part B of this report; and

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

8. GREENPRINT: A LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR PFSH

The Committee received a report which seeks to update the Joint Committee on the outcomes of the two PfSH local authority workshops commissioned to consider how the Partnership for South Hampshire can provide leadership for the Greenprint initiative.

Members of the Committee were very supportive of the need for collaboration across the PfSH region, in particular on the approach to improve air quality across local authority boundaries. The Chair also requested that consideration be given to establish an Environmental Liaison Committee to assist with this work and Paddy said he would pass this suggestion to the Greenprint Steering Group.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

a) NOTES the contents of this report;

b) ENDORSES the formation of a 'Greenprint Network' of relevant officials drawn from across (but not confined to) the PfSH membership of local authorities. The purpose of the group will be to grow collaboration, share skills and knowledge, facilitate projects, encourage joint working and win resources. Leadership of the wider Greenprint initiative would be retained by the existing Greenprint Steering Group including New Forest National Park Authority and the universities of Portsmouth and Southampton. A network can fulfil a range of functions:

i. nurture a community of practice and a monitoring function to maintain an overview (or measure) of the collective impact of delivery against the Greenprint Framework. PfSH would provide a basic secretariat function for the group and it is anticipated that the network would meet three times a year.

ii. permanently plug PfSH local authorities into the initiative and demonstrate their continued support and leadership.

iii. provide a conduit for the collective and regular reporting into Joint Committee - taking into consideration the range of other initiatives with shared outcomes, for example those identified in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of this report.

c) NOTES that the Joint Committee will be asked to AGREE that a terms of reference will be developed by the Greenprint network and then brought to the Joint Committee for approval.

d) support the collaborative approach and ask that the Joint Committee consider appointing an Environment Liaison to assist with this work.

9. BIRD AWARE SOLENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report providing an update on progress and changes within the Bird Aware Solent Partnership during the last financial year and their annual report covering the period from April 2023 to March 2024.

Members requested additional information on how the work of the partnership has grown over the past 5 years, as although the report provides details of the previous year's figures, it would also be useful for Members to understand how these figures have increased since the strategy came into effect in 2018. Anna Parry agreed to provide these figures to the Committee outside of the meeting.

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 Solent Partnership's tenth Annual Report; and

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

10. BIRD AWARE SOLENT STRATEGY REVIEW

The Committee received a report outlining steps undertaken to review the work and finances of Bird Aware Solent the revised Bird Aware Strategy and financial model.

Members raised concerns about how the costs outlined in the report could be affected by the proposed changes to the Governments National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which if adopted, could see an increase in housing

numbers nationally. Anna Parry explained that although the figures will be reviewed regularly, there is confidence in the methodology used to calculate the predicted project incomes are robust and the increased housing numbers would increase confidence that income will increase.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

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

b) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's revised strategy and supporting financial model;

i. PERMIT Appendix B financial model of the revised strategy to be updated over time, as required by emerging guidance, caselaw and local circumstances - through delegated authority to the PfSH lead chief executive in consultation with the Chair of Joint Committee with any significant changes to be reported to the Joint Committee;

ii. PERMIT the financial model to be updated over time, as required by operational need and market influences, through delegated authority to the PfSH lead chief executive in consultation with the Chair of Joint Committee, with any significant changes to be reported to the Joint Committee; and

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

11. LOCAL NUTRIENT MITIGATION FUND (LNMF)

The Committee received a report providing an update on the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund (LMNF) capital programme as agreed at the last Joint Committee Meeting, the main focus of which is the final draft of the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA).

Simon Kennedy addressed the Committee to explain that a number of amendments to the published Joint Committee report will be tabled at the meeting on the 30 September, as conversation are still ongoing to finalise the draft IAA. These amendments will also be sent to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

Members of the Committee discussed the report in detail and asked several questions for clarification to understand in more detail the complexities surrounding the 5 main principal of the IAA.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

a) NOTES the contents of this report; b) NOTES that Joint Committee wil be asked to note the update on projects within the LNMF capital programme;

b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to agree the principles of the Inter Authority Agreement and supports their individual authorities to enter into the agreement as appropriate;

c) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to agree the sales approach, including sales price and approach to allocation of credits; and

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

(The meeting started at 10.30 am
and ended at 11.59 am).

……. Chair

…..…….…….. Date

Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **04 December 2024**

Report of: **Paddy May, PfSH Coordinator**

Subject: **PFSH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

SUMMARY

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 and Overview and Scrutiny Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to AGREE the scheduled of PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Joint Committee meetings for the period 2025/26;

iii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the matters for information in part B of this report; and

iv) CONSIDERS any comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration

PLEASE NOTE this report is a draft version of the PfSH Joint Committee report and is subject to change before being considered by the PfSH Joint Committee. The final report will be published ahead of the PfSH Joint Committee.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. On behalf of the Partnership, the democratic services team at Fareham Borough Council has prepared, and will propose, the following schedule of PfSH Overview and Scrutiny and Joint Committee meetings for the period 2025/26. Members of Joint Committee will be asked to agree the schedule of four meetings for each committee next year.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Location: 10:30hrs Fareham Borough Council Offices	**Joint Committee** Location: 18:00hrs Fareham Borough Council Offices
2 July 2025	14 July 2025
17 September 2025	29 September 2025
3 December 2025	15 December 2025
4 March 2026	16 March 2026

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Support for the Cultural and Creative Industries

Film Agency Feasibility Study

2. Creative Network South (which is funded by PfSH) has over the past year managed the preparation of a feasibility study looking at ways in which the film sector can be supported in South Hampshire. The study proposes the establishment of a self-funding, film location agency, tasked with attracting film and tv projects to the area. Options for funding the establishment of the agency are currently being reviewed.

2.1 The study funding partners are Creative Network South/Partnership for South Hampshire, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and Fareham Borough Council. These partners were joined by representatives from Solent University, Southampton Forward, Portsmouth Creates and Creative Island to form the project steering group.

2.2 The feasibility study will be launched at Fareham College on 11 December. https://solentpartnersevents.evolutive.co.uk/event/details/1096129/A-New-Vision-for-the-Region's-Screen-Sector. Partner local authorities will be invited to join the consortium supporting the establishment of the location agency.

Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

2.3 Creative network south is working to support Hampshire Chamber of Commerce in delivering the creative industry ambitions set out in the LSIP:

Brokerage of work placement opportunities (T Level and Apprenticeships)

- Demand for creative courses at local further education colleges is growing fast. To maximise career opportunities, students need high quality work placements and or apprenticeships. The majority of businesses in the sector however employ less than ten people. They therefore find it hard to manage placements and apprentices.
- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is seeking to find ways to address this challenge. It is investigating the possibility of establishing an intermediate employer to offer T-level or other work-based learning placements. It is hoped a pilot programme will be delivered in 2025.

Games Industry

- Creative Network South has commissioned a mapping of the games industry across Hampshire and surrounding areas. Working in partnership with Solent Partners, Creative Network South has established a working group, which is looking into the feasibility of running a skills for life games industry boot camp.

Film Sector

- In association with the work to develop film agency, Creative Network South is also looking to support local organisations including City Eye to develop skills training within the screen industry. These include the delivery of a British Film Academy (BFI) academy and possibly a skills-for-life boot camp.

Research Network

- The Partnership for South Hampshire have supported Solent University in writing an application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council to support the development of a creative industries research network, the outcome of this application will be known in December.
- With support from CNS , Solent University hosted a successful creative industries symposium in each of the past 2 years. We will hold a third symposium on 17 January 2025 - Narrating Creative Regions Half Day Symposium Tickets, Fri, Jan 17, 2025 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite

Strategic Recreation and Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware Solent)

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

3. This reporting covers the period 1 August till the end of October 2024.

3.1 The Rangers do not conduct site visits during the summer period (1 April to 30 September), they use this time to develop other workstreams such as codes of conduct, signage and educational resources. They continue to conduct events and during August and September delivered:

- Events: 14
- People interacted with at these events:1,885

During the period 1 October 2024 to the end of October 2024 the Ranger team delivered the following site engagement activities[1]:

Engagement Activity	Number Delivered	People Interacted With
Site Patrols	42	295
Site pop-ups (low key 'event' stands)	11	362
Guided Walks	4	48
Events	13	1,270

During the same 3-month period (August to October), our communications lead continued to encourage traffic to the website, run promotional campaigns and to grow our social media presence as follows:

- From the start of August until the end of October, the Bird Aware Solent website achieved 30k pageviews. This compares with 16k pageviews in the same period in the previous year, almost doubling the number visits (88%). This is unusually fast growth which has slowed slightly in the most recent quarter with interest in the viral blog about corvids finally beginning to subside.
- Our most popular pages, other than blogs, were our events page (3k) our Great Coastal Birdwatch page (2.3K), and our vacancies page (2k).
- Social media accounts saw growth across Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn. Engagement and followers on X continue to decline in line with use of the platform more generally, although detailed analytics are now difficult to track. The resulting engagement is as follows:
    - Instagram: followers 3,727 (up by 98), accounts reached: 31k, engagement: 7.2k
    - Facebook: followers 5,186 (up by 101), accounts reached 244k, engagement: 7.6k
    - YouTube: number of subscribers 276 (up by 89), 34k views, 324 hours watched
    - LinkedIn: followers 143 (up by 58), 2,037 impressions, 163 clicks
- Online promotional campaigns included:
    - the continuation of the wildlife-aware water sports campaign - achieving a total of 1,580 clicks to the website, and a reach of 102k.
    - a recruitment drive in August - achieving 1,330 clicks and a reach of 19k.
    - a raft of promotions for the Great Coastal Birdwatch and its events including:

[1] New engagement approaches are being trialled before the Revised Strategy comes into effect from 1st April 2025, as a result, these figures may be reported differently in future. Additionally, due to the reporting schedule, they are currently 'provisional' and may be subject to slight change prior to the production of the Annual Report.

- two videos (animated and Ranger Eloise talking to camera) achieving a total of 950 clicks via Meta and 57.5 impressions via Google ads.
- Facebook and Instagram campaigns achieving 1,337 clicks, and a reach of 91.5k.
- a Google Display campaign achieving 171 clicks and 444k impressions.

- During this period we published 9 blog posts and a newsletter which was emailed to 1.8k subscribers. The opening rate for the newsletter was over 58% with a 'click-to-open' rate of 51% - both significantly higher than industry standards.
- A press release issued about the Great Coastal Birdwatch achieved coverage including a mention on the ITV Meridian News, an interview with Ranger Eloise on That's TV Solent, articles in the Daily Echo, the Isle of Wight News and Yahoo press.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to AGREE the scheduled of PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Joint Committee meetings for the period 2025/26;

iii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE the matters for information in part B of this report; and

iv) CONSIDERS any comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration

Background Papers: None
Reference Papers: None
Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact:

Paddy May (PfSH Co-ordinator)
Tel. No. 023 9283 4020
E-mail: paddy.may@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **04 December 2024**

Report of: **Paddy May, Bird Aware Board Chair**
Anna Parry, Bird Aware Solent Partnership Manager

Subject: **BIRD AWARE SOLENT PARTNERSHIP BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2025/26**

SUMMARY

The report to Joint Committee will seek approval from the Joint Committee for the Bird Aware 2025/26 budget request, a matter that is considered annually by the PfSH Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTE the contents of this report;

ii) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2025/26; and

iii) CONSIDER and comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration.

PLEASE NOTE this report is a draft version of the PfSH Joint Committee report and is subject to change before being considered by the PfSH Joint Committee. The final report will be published ahead of the PfSH Joint Committee.

Background

1. The Bird Aware Partnerships work is wholly funded by developer contributions.
2. The amount which will be received in the future cannot be accurately predicted, so a judgement needs to be made annually on an appropriate budget for the coming year. Local planning authorities provide information about predicted housing growth within their areas, together with additional information collected quarterly related to developer contributions received and planning permission data - which helps inform the budget for each coming year.

2025/26 Budget Request

3. The budget request, set out in Table 1, reflects the commitments within the updated financial model, which supports the Revised Strategy, and is the first request made in support of the Revised Strategy.

TABLE 1 - Budget Request 2025/26

ITEM	000s
13 HCC Team	869
Partnership Manager	54
Campaigns & Engagement Officer	64
Campaigns operational budget	30
Dog initiatives	30
Monitoring (Consultancy Support)	25
Materials (signage)	15
Collaboration	15
Contribution to Monitoring Officer	12
Operating budget	10
Stakeholder workshops	5
Site Specific Project Monitoring Officer	40
Site Specific Projects	400[1]
Sub Total	**1,568**
Contribution to in-perpetuity fund	2,130[2]
Total budget	**3,698[3]**

Differences from Last Years Request

5. Whilst this years' request is considerably higher than last years (approx. £3.6m as opposed to approx. £2.25m) the values are expected to be largely familiar to both officers and members of the Joint Committee.

6. An extensive overhaul of the financial model was undertaken as part of the strategy review. As part of this exercise, the number of new dwellings that the Partnership is anticipating to mitigate for was examined in detail. This work concluded that over the extended timeframe of the revised strategy, the annual

[1] This is in addition to money committed in previous years but not yet drawn down (circa £1300k)
[2] This is a maximum figure and may not be achieved during 2025/26, but it is anticipated that any underpayment now will be compensated for in later years.
[3] This is a maximum figure, dependant upon the contribution to the in-perpetuity fund during this period.

housing delivery was expected to rise from an average of 2,432, to an average of 5,674. It is therefore expected that over time our income will rise to meet this higher budget request.

7. It is recognised that this rise in income may take time to be felt, and that the model is created using a series of mean values. In reality, we expect that in the short term that we may not be able to make the full payment to the in-perpetuity fund, and that over payments may need to be made to compensate for this fact in later years. Therefore, the figure provided for 'contribution to in-perpetuity fund' in Table 1, is a maximum figure and may not be fully achieved within 2025/26.

8. What we do need however, is a level of assurance that the operating costs (£1,568k) will be covered by either expected income, or a mix of income and reserves.

9. The average income for the last three years stood at just over £1,400k, giving us a high level of confidence that we can expect at least as much in the coming financial year. This, coupled with the reserve figure of £353k, is considered sufficient to cover the operational budget request for the coming financial year.

10. Given the above, we shall continue to keep a close watching brief on this issue and initiate a phased expansion of the Bird Aware team (as opposed to recruiting all new posts immediately) as a prudent approach to committing additional funds. With this in mind, it is our intention to return to the PfSH Joint Committee with a mid-year review and update.

11. The main differences in the request reflect a new SLA costing structure (as the initial five-year fixed price period has expired), an expanded team and additional resources to support increased comms work and additional dog initiatives.

For information

Balances at 31/03/2024

	Actual £s
Reserves brought forward @31/03/23	891,538
Contribution to reserves 22/23	711,637
Transfer from reserves to LT perpetuity	(1,249,575)
Reserves carried forward @ 31/03/24	353,601
In-perpetuity fund @ 31/03/23	4,209,248
Transfer in 23/24	1,249,575
Interest received	162,030
In-perpetuity fund @ 31/03/24	5,620,853

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTE the contents of this report;

ii) NOTE that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2025/26; and

iii) CONSIDER and comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration.

ENQUIRIES:

For further information on this report please contact:-
Anna Parry
Bird Aware Partnership Manager
Tel: 02392 834140
Email: Anna.Parry@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **04 December 2024**

Report of: **Simon Kennedy, PfSH Strategic Environmental Planning Manager**

Subject: **DEPLOYMENT OF THE LOCAL NUTRIENT MITIGATION FUND**

SUMMARY

The report to Joint Committee will update members on the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund (LNMF) capital programme as agreed at the last Joint Committee Meeting. The main focus of the report will be to agree adjustments to the capital programme, confirm benefiting authorities for the sewerage plant upgrade project, and to provide details of the successful bid into round two of the LNMF.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;
ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to:

- NOTE the update on projects within the LNMF capital programme, as well as the successful bid into round two of the LNMF;
- AGREE the revised capital programme;
- AGREE the authorities benefiting from the waste-water treatment plant upgrades; and

iii) CONSIDERS and comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration.

PLEASE NOTE this report is a draft version of the PfSH Joint Committee report and is subject to change before being considered by the PfSH Joint Committee. The final report will be published ahead of the PfSH Joint Committee.

1. Project updates

Agricultural Reversion

1.1 The benefitting authorities for the mitigation project known as land at Stubbington are provided within **Appendix 1** of this report. The mitigation from this project is now available for sale in those local authority areas benefiting from the project. Due to weather conditions, the soonest that the site will be able to be seeded will be spring of 2024. BNG units will be sold shortly after seeding, and a partnership agreement is under development with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust with regard to the ongoing management of the site and the sale of BNG units arising.

1.2 A number of further agricultural reduction and conversion schemes are currently under investigation - primarily in the Test and Itchen and Chichester (Western Streams) catchments. Although some conditional bids have been made on agricultural reversion schemes in these areas, no bids have yet been accepted.

Water Efficiency

1.3 The rollout of water efficiency upgrades across those authorities with their own housing stock continues, with only two eligible authorities yet to agree receipt of the funds. The Strategic Environmental Planning Team (now Solent Mitigation Partnership Team) continues to record the specific details of any upgrades undertaken; this record will support the upgrades being used as mitigation for the development of new council built affordable homes in due course.

Winchester City Council Private Treatment Plant (PtP) Upgrades

1.4 A full business case has now been developed for the first tranche of ten upgrades. Additionally, Natural England confirmed the technical elements of the scheme and agreed the proposed mitigation arising from the upgrades. Procurement for the upgrades has been undertaken by Winchester City Council, with the first upgrades expecting to take place early in the new year. The speed at which the mitigation takes effect and can be used by developers to mitigate the occupation of dwellings varies greatly between each upgrade. However, there will be both phosphorus and nitrogen mitigation available immediately after the first upgrades. As the upgrades and first credit sales will be undertaken prior to the next committee meeting, the proposed benefiting parties for the scheme are listed in **Appendix 1** (project 2).

1.5 Due to the success of this project, and the availability of further upgrades, it is recommended that further budget is allocated to investigate and implement a further tranche of upgrades.

Eastleigh Wetlands

1.6 Following further detailed work, building on the initial feasibility studies, it has become clear that both potential wetland sites have constraints that render both potential schemes un-viable. It is recommended to close down this project and reprioritise most of the allocated funding to another viable scheme.

1.7 Although it is recommended that this particular project is no longer progressed on viability grounds, the work undertaken on the project has confirmed the potential for constructed wetlands as a mitigation method. It is intended that wetlands will continue to be investigated for future mitigation projects.

2. Revisions to the Agreed Capital Programme

2.1 As work has progressed since receiving the funding early this year, and agreeing the initial capital programme at the July Joint Committee meeting, our understanding of the potential cost and likelihood of delivering each project has increased. Based on our best understanding of the most effective way to deploy the fund it is now necessary to request an adjustment to the agreed capital programme.

2.2 The recommended revisions to the capital programme are provided below. The revisions are predicated on moving funds away from the abortive wetland projects and integrating those funds into proven solutions such as reduction in intensive agriculture and upgrades to Winchester City Council owned sewerage infrastructure. Additional funds have also been applied to development of the institutional framework (including sales framework) and an allocation for capitalised costs.

Project type	**Budget Allocation**	**Catchment**
Reduction in intensive agriculture	£6,860,336	All
Water efficiency	£547,430	Test and Itchen, Itchen, New Forrest Rivers, East Hampshire
Winchester City Council owned sewerage upgrades	£1,985,000	Test and Itchen, Itchen
Wetland	£67,234	NA
Institutional Framework	£90,000	All
Capitalised Staff Costs	£50,000	All
Total	**£9,600,000**	

3. Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund – Round 2 Award

1.1 Following a bid into round two of the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund, it was announced on 30 October 2024[1] that the Solent is to receive a further £6,930,000 in capital grant funding, £224,498 in revenue funding to support deployment of the capital fund, £100,000 in nutrient support funding for nitrogen across the Solent, and £100,000 in nutrient support funding for phosphorus in the Itchen catchment. The total additional funding to be received in this round is £7,354,498**.**

1.1 The addition of the round two funds into the capital programme will be assessed and a recommendation presented to Joint Committee at the meeting scheduled for March 2025.

4. Summary

4.1 With the successful delivery of the first nutrient mitigation project, the development and agreement of an inter-authority agreement, and the provision of a mitigation sales function, the first nutrient credits will be sold shortly.

4.2 Prior to the next Joint Committee meeting there is a high likelihood that the second project will be delivered and will have already sold the first phosphorus and nitrogen credits.

4.3 The award of the round two fund is welcomed and, with effective deployment, will be sufficient to ensure a sustainable five-year supply of mitigation across all catchments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;
ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to:

- NOTE the update on projects within the LNMF capital programme, as well as the successful bid into round two of the LNMF;
- AGREE the revised capital programme;
- AGREE the authorities benefiting from the waste-water treatment plant upgrades; and

iii) CONSIDERS and comments to be passed to Joint Committee for its consideration.

[1] Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund Round 2: funding allocations - GOV.UK

Enquiries:
For further information on this report please contact:-

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Appendix 1

PROJECT 1

The proposed Benefiting Parties, subject to signing the Inter Authority Agreement, for the scheme known as Land at Stubbington are:

East Hampshire District Council
Fareham Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
New Forest District Council (Development draining to Ashlett Creek Waste Water Treatment Works)
Winchester City Council (East Hampshire Catchment)

Portsmouth City Council and Eastleigh Borough Council are not listed as proposed Benefiting Parties as there is currently no reason for those authorities to accept potential liability for a scheme whilst they have their own mitigation offer. These authorities have the ability to be elected as Benefiting Parties at a later date should it become appropriate for them to do so.

PROJECT 2

The proposed Benefiting Parties, subject to signing the Inter Authority Agreement, for the scheme known as upgrades to Winchester City Council Owned Sewerage Infrastructure:

Winchester City Council

Initially Winchester City Council will be the only authority area in which the mitigation from this project will be available. Primarily this is due to all other authorities within the catchment having an agreement with the Eastleigh Borough Council scheme which has sufficient supply to meet the short to medium term demands of developments in their areas at the same cost. It is likely that further authorities will become benefiting parties to this project over time.

ENDS