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

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 14 July 2025

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Chair Councillor Keith House, Eastleigh BC (Chair)

Vice Chair Councillor Steven Pitt, Portsmouth CC (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Simon Letts, Southampton CC (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Robert Hylands, Gosport BC
Councillor Lulu Bowerman, Hampshire CC
Councillor Philippa Gray, Havant BC
David Bence, New Forest NPA
Councillor Phil Bundy, Test Valley BC
Councillor Neil Cutler, Winchester CC

Chief Executives: Andrew Wannell, Fareham BC
Debbie Gore, Gosport BC
Gary Westbrook, Hampshire CC
David Hayward, Havant BC
Tim Guymer, New Forest DC
Graham Smith, Test Valley BC
Laura Taylor, Winchester CC

Co-opted Members: Paddy May, PfSH – Item 10

***Also Present*:** David Balding, Fareham BC – Item 9
Rachel Jones, Fareham BC – Item 9

Acqusilia Mudzingwa, Southampton CC – Item 11
Anna Parry, Bird Aware Solent – Item 12
Jayson Grygiel, Gosport BC – Item 13

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Having been duly proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Keith House from Eastleigh Borough Council be elected as Chair for the 2025/26 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Having been duly proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that Councillor Steve Pitt from Portsmouth City Council, Councillor Nick Adams-King from Hampshire County Council and Councillor Simon Letts from Southampton City Council as Vice-Chairs for the 2025/26 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received as follows: -

Apologies from:	**Deputy**	**Council/Organisation:**
Cllr Derek Tipp	n/a	New Forest DC
Cllr Simon Martin	n/a	Fareham BC
Cllr Nick Adams-King	Cllr Lulu Bowerman	Hampshire CC
Cllr Martin Tod	Cllr Neil Cutler	Winchester CC
Jillian Kay	n/a	Southampton CC
James Strachan	n/a	Eastleigh BC
Kate Ryan	n/a	Tim Guymer
Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Paddy May	Portsmouth CC
Alison Barnes	n/a	New Forest NPA

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes from the 05 March 2025 PfSH Joint Committee meeting be agreed as a correct record.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement:-

Work is continuing with individual authorities through the Planning Officer Group to consider the impact of the new Housing Delivery targets.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at this meeting.

7. REFERENCES FROM THE PFSH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee considered the reference from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 02 July 2025: -

MINUTE ITEM 13 - LOBBYING FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FLOOD DEFENCES ON BROWNFIELD SITES TO FACILITATE NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee received a report proposing that PfSH write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in order that the Government can consider providing specific funding for flood defences associated with brownfield sites.

Councillor Graham Heaney queried the information on the St James and Langstone campus sites set out in the report and asked if this information could be checked with regards to the estimate for the site being within the flood zones 2 & 3a by 2122. Jayson advised he would check this information with the Planning Officers at Portsmouth City Council.

Members of the Committee suggested that the letter should also be sent to all local MP's as well as the relevant Government Departments and asked that this be recommended to the Joint Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to NOTE PfSH's intention to write to relevant government departments (as drafted at Appendix 1), requesting that they consider the issue of funding flood infrastructure associated with brownfield development; and

iii) ASK that the Joint Committee consider writing to all local MP's as well as the relevant government departments.

8. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received at this meeting.

9. SOLENT MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report from David Balding, Interim Programme Manager, detailing the development of the Solent Mitigation Partnership to facilitate the nutrient Mitigation credit sales function and delivery of the central government Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund from inception in 2024, through to March 2025.

David introduced Rachel Jones to the Committee as the newly appointed Solent Mitigation Partnership Manager. Rachel will be attending the Joint Committee meetings moving forward to present the Solent Mitigation Partnership reports.

Councillor Phil Bundy addressed the Committee to ask if the wording could be changed within paragraph 5.2.1 of the report to say - *The main negotiations with the landowner on the Test Valley Agricultural reversion scheme are still ongoing with the exchange of contracts and transfer of payment planned for Winter 2025.*

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the content of this report and the Solent Mitigation Partnership Annual Report.

10. PFSH COORDINATORS REPORT

The Committee received the Co-ordinator's report from Paddy May, 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.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) AGREED that future contributions (2026/27) be recalculated and updated to reflect East Hampshire District Council's withdrawal from PfSH using the established methodology for doing so; and

iii) AGREED that PfSH Coordinator should undertake a light-touch review and update of the PfSH Business Plan 2021-2025 (reflecting its current operational context as local government reorganisation and the creation of a strategic mayoral combined authority progresses).

11. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024-25

The Committee received a report summarising the outturn against the budget for the financial year 2024/25 and included presentation of the Statement of Accounts 2024/25 for approval. The report also notes the revenue budget for 2025/26 as approved at the Joint Committee meeting in March 2025.

RESOLVED that Joint Committee: -

i. NOTES the outturn for the financial year 2024/25 (Table 2);

ii. APPROVES the Statement of Accounts for the 2024/25 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1); and

iii. NOTES the revenue budget for 2025/26 as set out in the report (Table 4).

12. BIRD AWARE SOLENT

The Committee received a report seeks approval from the Joint Committee for a number of matters related to the Bird Aware Partnership, namely the process for assessing small value project bids, a change to the timeline for a Partnership review, additional budget to pay a Partner organisation to fulfil the Accountable Body role and the recruitment of additional staff.

Councillor Phillipa Gray proposed an amendment to recommendation iv) to read – iv) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's request for an additional £15k to the Bird Aware 2025/26 budget to cover the likely costs of resources necessary to undertake the Accountable Body role going forward, with any significant further amounts being agreed with the Lead PfSH Chief Executive, in consultation with the Joint Committee Chair.

The Chair agreed that this was a sensible addition to recommendation iv) with no objections from Committee members.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee is asked to:-

i) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposal for steps to review and support £5k and under site specific projects, and the proposed panel assessment scoring system;

ii) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposal for the Chair of the Project Board to be granted delegated authority to make the final funding decision on these proposals;

iii) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposal for a process of review/reflection in 2027, with a full independent review conducted in 2031;

iv) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's request for an additional £15k to the Bird Aware 2025/26 budget to cover the likely costs of resources necessary to undertake the Accountable Body role going forward, with any further significant amounts being agreed with the Lead PfSH Chief Executive, in consultation with the Joint Committee Chair.

v) NOTE and ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's request for an additional £5k to the Bird Aware 2025/26 budget to cover the costs now indicated by the current Accountable Body;

vi) NOTE and ENDORSE the ongoing review work being undertaken surrounding our financial position.

13. SUPPORT FOR FLOOD DEFENCES ON BROWNFIELD SITES

The Committee received a report from Jayson Grygiel from Gosport Borough Council proposing that PfSH write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Environment,

Food and Rural Affairs and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in order that the Government can consider providing specific funding for flood defences associated with brownfield sites.

The Joint Committee considered the reference from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on the 02 July 2025 that were circulated before the meeting. Members of the Joint Committee agreed that the letter should also be circulated to local MP's from the region.

Members of the Joint Committee commented on the uncertainty surrounding future funding for coastal defences with the implementation of a new regional mayor, however it was agreed that a letter should be sent, and any responses monitored and followed up once things are more certain.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES PfSH's intention to write to relevant government departments and circulated to local MPs (as drafted at Appendix 1) requesting that they consider the issue of funding flood infrastructure associated with brownfield development.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.39 pm).

……. Chair

…..…….. Date