Minutes of the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Wednesday, 4 March 2026

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Chair Councillor Allan Glass(Chair)

Vice-Chair Councillor Peter Latham (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Margot Power, Winchester CC
Councillor Tina Ellis, Fareham BC
Councillor Julie Westerby, Gosport BC
Councillor Neil Gwynne, Test Valley BC

Co-opted Members: Paddy May – PfSH Manager

***Also Present*:** Anna Parry, Bird Aware – Item 7
Wayne Layton, Southampton City Council – Item 8
Rachel Jones, Solent Mitigation Partnership – Items 9 & 10

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

An apology of absence was received from Councillor Richard Gomer from Eastleigh Borough Council.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes from the PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 03 December 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair addressed the Committee to announce that this would be Vice-Chair, Councillor Peter Latham's last meeting as he will not be standing for election in May. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman for his time on the Committee and wished him well for the future.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PFSH JOINT COMMITTEE

Paddy May addressed the Committee to advise that as there were no references from the last PfSH Overview & Scrutiny Committee to the Joint Committee, there were no matters arising for the Committee to consider.

6. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received at this meeting.

7. BIRD AWARE SOLENT

The Committee received a presentation from Anna Parry from Bird Aware. The presentation provided an overview of the work of Bird Aware. Anna also invited Members of the Committee to a Bird Aware showcase that is happening on the 16 March 2026 at the Civic Offices in Fareham at 5.15pm.

Members of the Committee asked whether the Solent Area is considered special or unique in comparison with other regions involved in mitigation work across the country. Anna informed the committee that there are approximately 30 mitigation partnerships nationwide similar to Bird Aware. She noted that the Bird Aware brand is shared across multiple regions, with various teams operating under the Bird Aware identity across the country.

Anna highlighted interest in future opportunities for shared learning and networking. It was suggested by Members that future reporting include more details into the structure, operations, and experiences of other mitigation partnerships teams nationally and how this compares to Bird Aware Solent.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the contents of the presentation.

8. PFSH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee received the PfSH Co-ordinator's report 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - and that will be put to Joint Committee for decision or for information.

Paddy May addressed the Committee to advise that there have been some changes to the schedule of meetings since the Committee papers had been published. The new dates for the Joint Committee are as below –

Tuesday 21 July 2026
Tuesday 29 September 2026
Tuesday 15 December 2026
Monday 15 March 2026

These dates will be considered by the Joint Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny dates will be scheduled roughly a week before each Joint Committee.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to: -
   a) AGREE the proposed Joint Committee schedule of meetings for the committee year 2026-2027 with the changes highlighted above;
   b) NOTE and AGREE the light-touch revisions made to the PfSH Business Plan 2026;
   c) NOTE and ENDORSE the updated Terms of Reference for the Bird Aware Partnership; and

iii) CONSIDERED any comments to pass on to the Joint Committee for its consideration.

9. BUDGET MONITORING 2025/26 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2026/27

The Committee received a report providing an update for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the position against the approved budget for 2025/26 and sets out the proposed revenue budget for 2026/27 alongside the annual partnership contributions from members.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to:

(a) NOTE the budget monitoring position for 2025/26, as set out in the report;
(b) NOTE that the forecast outturn from the 2025/26 budgets is provisional and may be subject to change in the final outturn budget report;
(c) APPROVE the proposed revenue budget for 2026/27, as set out in the report;
(d) APPROVE the use of £38,000 of Unallocated balances in order to reduce the partner contributions for 2026/27 as shown in table 4;
(e) APPROVE the partner contributions for 2026/27 as shown on table 4; and

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

10. SOLENT MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP - PRICING STRUCTURE FOR NUTRIENT CREDITS

The Committee received a report presenting the revised pricing structure for nutrient credits.

Questions were raised about whether any modelling had been undertaken in relation to projected changes in the housing market. It was noted that although the market is slowing, by 2030 phosphates credits are expected to diminish significantly, creating potential challenges. Rachel explained that Officers have been considering this as a potential issue, and current modelling work incorporates a potential shortfall and is operating in a flexible manner to respond to emerging risks.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i) NOTES the contents of this report;

ii) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to:
(a) APPROVE the revised pricing structure for nutrient credits (Section 3);
(b) DELEGATE detailed decision-making for credit price setting for each mitigation scheme to the Chief Executive of the Lead Authority, in consultation with the Chief Executives of the Benefiting Parties and lead PFSH Chief Executive;
(c) AGREE that the authorities party to the Inter Authority Agreement shall enter into a Deed of Variation to vary the agreement on such terms as set out in paragraph 4.3 and 4.4 of the report; and

iii) CONSIDERED any comments to pass to the Joint Committee for its consideration.

11. SOLENT MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP - PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report providing an update on the projects being delivered by the Solent Mitigation Partnership (SMP) and seeks approval for two mitigation projects to help address predicted mitigation shortfall in River Test and Itchen catchments.

Members of the Committee asked several questions for clarification surrounding the projects set out in the report and the potential impact across the PfSH region.

A suggestion was made by the Committee that Officers look to undertake some work to understand the number of properties that are currently not connected to the mains sewerage system. It is understood that moving all properties that currently use septic tanks to the mains may not be feasible, but that this data would be useful to provide a greater understanding of the potential impact of doing this.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

i. NOTES the contents of this report;

ii. NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to:
   a) NOTE the contents of this report;
   b) APPROVE the Householder Septic Tank Upgrade programme – Grant Framework (Appendix 1);
   c) APPROVE the business case for the Householder Septic Tank Upgrade Programme – Phase 1, River Arle Waterbody (Appendix 2);
   d) APPROVE the reallocation of funding to the Working with Land Delivery Programme to enable the partnership project with the National Trust at Hinton Ampner;
   e) APPROVE the business case for the Land at Hinton Ampner, National Trust project (Appendix 3); and

iii. CONSIDERED any comments to pass on the Joint Committee for its consideration.

(The meeting started at 10.30 am
and ended at 11.29 am).

……. Chair

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