

Public Document Pack

Cabinet

Tuesday, 13th June, 2023
at 4.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Council Chamber, Civic Centre

Members

Leader – Councillor Kaur

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health
and Housing – Councillor Fielker

Cabinet Member for Finance and Change – Councillor
Leggett

Cabinet Member for Economic Development – Councillor
Bogle

Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport -
Councillor Keogh

Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – Councillor
Winning

Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure–
Councillor Kataria

(QUORUM – 3)

Contacts

Cabinet Administrator

Claire Heather

Tel. 023 8083 2412

Email: claire.heather@southampton.gov.uk

Director of Legal Governance and HR

Richard Ivory

Tel: 023 8083 2794

Email: richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk

BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT INFORMATION

The Role of the Executive

The Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members make executive decisions relating to services provided by the Council, except for those matters which are reserved for decision by the full Council and planning and licensing matters which are dealt with by specialist regulatory panels.

The Forward Plan

The Forward Plan is published on a monthly basis and provides details of all the key executive decisions to be made in the four month period following its publication. The Forward Plan is available on request or on the Southampton City Council website, www.southampton.gov.uk

Implementation of Decisions

Any Executive Decision may be “called-in” as part of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny function for review and scrutiny. The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel may ask the Executive to reconsider a decision, but does not have the power to change the decision themselves.

Mobile Telephones – Please switch your mobile telephones or other IT to silent whilst in the meeting.

Use of Social Media

The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair’s opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council’s Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so. Details of the Council’s Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council’s website.

Municipal Year Dates (Tuesdays)

2023	2024
13 June	16 January
18 July	6 February
15 August	20 Feb (budget)
19 September	19 March
17 October	16 April
14 November	
19 December	

Executive Functions

The specific functions for which the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members are responsible are contained in Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution. Copies of the Constitution are available on request or from the City Council website, www.southampton.gov.uk

Key Decisions

A Key Decision is an Executive Decision that is likely to have a significant:

- financial impact (£500,000 or more)
- impact on two or more wards
- impact on an identifiable community

Procedure / Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Fire Procedure – In the event of a fire or other emergency, a continuous alarm will sound and you will be advised, by officers of the Council, of what action to take.

Smoking policy – The Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Access – Access is available for disabled people. Please contact the Cabinet Administrator who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key outcomes:

- Communities, culture & homes - Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities.
- Green City - Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping - Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time

CONDUCT OF MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the Cabinet, and its Executive Members, are set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting is governed by the Executive Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" or "Other Interest" they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

(i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

(iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

(v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

(vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

(vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or

b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 3.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

2 **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

3 **STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER**

4 **RECORD OF THE PREVIOUS DECISION MAKING** (Pages 1 - 2)

Record of the decision making held on 18th April 2023, attached.

5 **MATTERS REFERRED BY THE COUNCIL OR BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR RECONSIDERATION (IF ANY)**

There are no matters referred for reconsideration.

6 **REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (IF ANY)**

There are no items for consideration.

7 **EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS**

To deal with any executive appointments, as required.

ITEMS FOR DECISION BY CABINET

8 **SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON** (Pages 3 - 62)

Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel 2022/23 recommending that Cabinet receive the attached Scrutiny Inquiry Panel report to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it.

9 **EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2023-2024** (Pages 63 - 78)

Report of the Director of Governance, Legal and HR detailing the Executive Appointments for 2023-2024.

10 PROPOSED SOUTHAMPTON MUSIC HUB BID □ (Pages 79 - 86)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning seeking approval of the proposed Southampton Music Hub Bid.

Monday, 5 June 2023

Director – Legal, Governance and HR

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

RECORD OF THE DECISION MAKING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2023

Present:

Councillor Kaur	-	Leader
Councillor Fielker	-	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Health Adults and Leisure
Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Councillor Keogh	-	Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration
Councillor Leggett	-	Cabinet Member for Finance and Change
Councillor Mitchell	-	Cabinet Member for Housing and the Green Environment
Councillor Dr Paffey	-	Cabinet Member for Children and Learning
Councillor Renyard	-	Cabinet Member for Safe City

Apologies: Councillor Kataria

69. CORPORATE ASSETS DECARBONISATION SCHEME (CADS) PHASE 2 - APPROVAL TO SPEND

DECISION MADE: (CAB 22/23 37424)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cabinet agreed the following:

- (i) Cabinet approves spend on Phase 2 of CADS of £0.95M, currently budgeted within the existing Place capital programme for financial year 2023/2024.
- (ii) Cabinet approves a revenue saving of £0.13M from the corporate energy budget, from 2024/25 onwards, which will more than cover the additional costs identified below.
- (iii) Cabinet approves the additional budget of £0.03M in 2023/24 and £0.067M from 2024/25 onwards for financing costs, to be added to the existing Capital Asset Management (CAM) budget. Capital financing was previously removed from the MTFs - pending the business case and confirmation the costs would be covered.
- (iv) Cabinet approves the budget of £0.004M from 2029/30 onwards for the additional maintenance cost of the Solar PV units.
- (v) Cabinet delegates authority to the Head of Corporate Estate and Assets following consultation with the Head of Supplier Management, to finalise any specific terms of the proposed contracts outlined within this paper, then award and enter the call off contract under the relevant framework agreement, and carryout all necessary actions to facilitate the execution, implementation and operation of the contracts.

70. ST MARY'S LEISURE CENTRE

DECISION MADE: (CAB 22/23 36269)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Adults and Leisure, Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Head of Supplier Management to undertake a procurement process to appoint a long-term operator for St. Mary's Leisure Centre.

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL – PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON		
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JUNE 2023		
REPORT OF:	CLLR SAVAGE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - 2022/23		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
	Name	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>From October 2022 to March 2023 the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook evidence gathering sessions as they conducted the Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton inquiry. The final report was approved by the Inquiry Panel on 20 April 2023.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel final report, attached as Appendix 1, contains a number of recommendations. The report is to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) on 8 June. If OSMC approve the report at their June meeting, Cabinet needs to formally respond to these recommendations, summarised in Appendix 2, within two months to meet the requirements in the Council's constitution.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	Subject to the report being approved by the OSMC on 8 June, Cabinet is recommended to receive the attached Scrutiny Inquiry Panel report to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it, in order to comply with the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	The overview and scrutiny procedure rules in part 4 of the Council's Constitution requires the Executive to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by the OSMC, and to submit a formal response to the recommendations contained within them within two months of their receipt.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	Not applicable.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	The OSMC, at its meeting in September 2022, requested that the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertake an inquiry focussing on protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen in Southampton.		

4.	The set objectives of the inquiry were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To identify the various different users and uses of the River Itchen in Southampton and the challenges this presents. b. To understand existing plans and opportunities to address the identified challenges. c. To identify good practice being employed to protect, preserve and promote urban rivers elsewhere. d. To identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen.
5.	The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook the inquiry over 6 evidence gathering meetings and received information from a wide variety of organisations. This included Wessex Rivers Trust, Natural England, The Environment Agency, Southern Water, ABP, Ocean Infinity, MDL Marinas, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Business South, British Canoeing, Glasgow City Council, Thames21 and Solent Forum.
6.	Evidence was also provided by Southampton City Council officers representing various departments and from numerous voluntary, community and recreational groups who are passionate about the River Itchen in Southampton.
7.	The final report, attached as Appendix 1, will be considered by the OSMC on 8 June 2023. The report contains a number of recommendations which, if implemented, the Panel believe will improve the protection, preservation and promotion of the River Itchen in Southampton. The conclusions and recommendations are summarised in Appendix 2.
8.	Subject to approval by the OSMC, the Executive needs to consider the inquiry recommendations and to formally respond within two months of the date of receiving this report in order to meet the requirements set out in the Council's constitution.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
9.	In practice any future resource implications arising from this review will be dependent upon whether, and how, each individual recommendation within the Inquiry report is progressed by the Executive. More detailed work will need to be undertaken by the Executive in considering its response to each of the recommendations set out in the Inquiry report.
10.	During the Inquiry a number of potential sources of funding were identified that could help to deliver certain recommendations. These include the Nitrogen Neutrality Scheme.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
11.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	

12.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
13.	The requirements with regards to receiving and responding to scrutiny inquiry reports are set out in the constitution and have been explained to those who contributed to the inquiry.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
14.	In the 2022/2030 Corporate Plan, under the goal of - 'A proud and resilient city', a key objective is to create cleaner, more attractive, and welcoming green and open spaces, to improve the experience of those living, working, studying and visiting Southampton. Implementing the recommendations within the attached inquiry final report would help to deliver this objective.
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Inquiry – Final report
2.	Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Inquiry – Conclusions and recommendations
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents	
Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

This page is intentionally left blank

Protecting, Preserving & Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton - Final Report



Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

PANEL MEMBERSHIP – 2022/23

Councillor Savage (Chair)

Councillor Moulton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor A Bunday

Councillor Cooper

Councillor White

Scrutiny Manager – Mark Pirnie



Contents

Contents	Page
Chair's Introduction	3
The Aim of the Inquiry	4
Introduction and Background	6
Ambitions for the River Itchen in Southampton?	9
A Healthy and Resilient River	11
A Vibrant River	23
A Connected River	31
Strategic Management and Partnership Working	39
Conclusion and Recommendations	41
Appendices	45

Chair's Introduction



Councillor Savage - Chair of the Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Inquiry Panel (2022/23)

*'Urban and rural populations consistently gather, grow and prosper around a healthy river.'*¹

This has been a fascinating inquiry which has resonated with residents and has generated significant public interest. Before the inquiry commenced a survey on the River Itchen in Southampton received an unprecedented 728 responses within a two-week period.

The response to the survey, and the inquiry in general, relates to the strong connection between the River Itchen and Sotonians, and the sense of the river giving the city its identity.

Southampton is blessed with having two globally rare chalk streams and a tidal estuary. The River Itchen that runs through our city is a prized asset that should be cherished and nurtured but, despite numerous positive developments that will help to protect, preserve and promote the river, such as the emerging City Vision Local plan, the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Plastic Pollution Partnership Project and the proposal for water taxis on the river, there is view that the River Itchen in Southampton is under appreciated and is taken for granted, and that identified threats leave the health of the river in the balance.

The health of the River Itchen is of paramount importance. A healthy river leads to a more vibrant river and a better-connected river contributing to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the city. An unhealthy river, however, is an eyesore that detracts from the character and natural beauty of a city and diminishes the wealth, health and wellbeing of its residents.

Numerous contributors have outlined their ambitions for the River Itchen in Southampton to be a healthy, resilient river, with a well-designed and distinctive waterfront, connecting people with places and habitats, that supports a thriving economy. Now is the opportunity for the City Council and key partners to lead by example, to adopt a common approach towards managing the river sustainably that focuses on investing in the health of the river and a high-quality river environment, rather than exploiting the river. By implementing the recommendations identified in this report we can make the ambitions of our communities a reality and have a river that people want to be beside, exercise on and in, and live alongside.

I would like to thank all those who gave evidence to the inquiry; the tremendous work of our community groups and volunteers who work tirelessly to support the River Itchen in Southampton; and members of the Panel for their commitment and support throughout the inquiry. For that I am genuinely grateful.

¹ [5667 Thames21 5 Year Plan](#) – Foreword from Debbie Leach, Thames21 Chief Executive

Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton

The Aim of the Inquiry

1. The River Itchen has been the lifeblood of Southampton since Roman and Saxon times, it divides the city in two and is an important natural and commercial resource.
2. It is a globally important river of significant ecological interest. Areas of the River Itchen in Southampton are identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and, as the Itchen meanders through Southampton, it does, in places, offer opportunities for communities to access the waterfront and enjoy being by the water.
3. Marinas, wharves, and quays are located at the lower reaches of the river and businesses line its banks. In Southampton the river is also used by numerous clubs involved in water sports as well as SWAC (Southampton Water Activities Centre) and Woodmill Activity Centre.
4. However, the river is subject to use by numerous, and, at times competing interests that can create pressure on the natural environment and tensions between users.
5. Climate change is also impacting the river. The Itchen corridor is a flood risk zone whilst drought is an increasing concern with water being extracted upstream to provide for our growing demands.
6. Given the importance of the River Itchen to Southampton, and concerns about its health and resilience, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommended at the September 2022 meeting, that an inquiry focussing on protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen in Southampton be undertaken by the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel.
7. The set objectives of the inquiry were:
 - a. To identify the various different users and uses of the River Itchen in Southampton and the challenges this presents.
 - b. To understand existing plans and opportunities to address the identified challenges.
 - c. To identify good practice being employed to protect, preserve and promote urban rivers elsewhere.
 - d. To identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen.
8. The full terms of reference for the inquiry, agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, are shown in Appendix 1.

How the inquiry was conducted

9. The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook the inquiry over 6 evidence gathering meetings. The Panel received information from a wide variety of organisations including Wessex Rivers Trust, Natural England, The Environment Agency, Southern Water, ABP, Ocean Infinity, MDL Marinas, Hampshire Chamber of

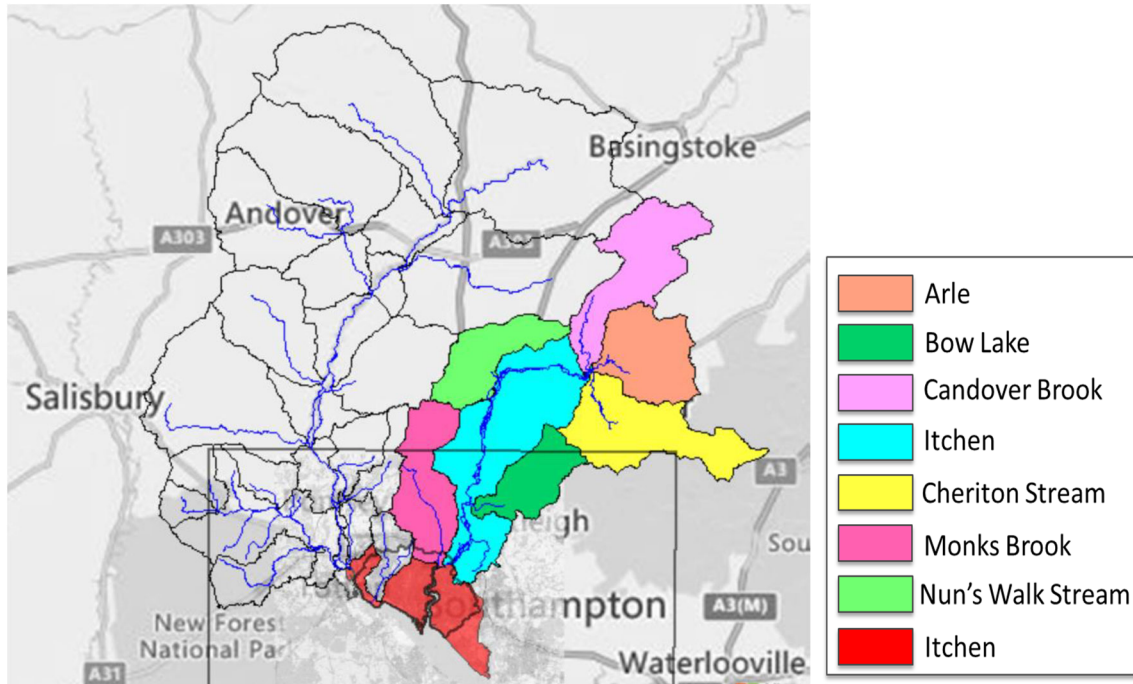
Commerce, Business South, British Canoeing, Glasgow City Council, Thames21 and Solent Forum.

10. As well as Southampton City Council officers representing various departments, the Panel also received evidence from numerous voluntary, community and recreational groups who are passionate about the River Itchen in Southampton. A full list of those who provided evidence is attached as Appendix 2.
11. The key findings, conclusions and recommendations from the inquiry are detailed succinctly later in this report.
12. Members of the Panel would like to thank all those who have assisted with the development of this review, in particular the following who have provided the Panel with invaluable advice throughout the inquiry:
 - Lindsay McCulloch – Natural Environment Manager, SCC
 - Dr David Rumble – Chief Executive, Wessex Rivers Trust
 - Sam Foulds - Flood Risk Management Team Leader, SCC
 - Cara Brims - Flood Risk Officer, SCC

Introduction and Background

The River Itchen

13. The River Itchen rises from Hampshire's chalk downs at Hinton Ampner and is approximately 28 miles in length. The river, as shown in the map below, is fed by multiple smaller river catchments covering a large area of Hampshire.



Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022. Ordnance Survey 100019679 © Environment Agency 2022

Figure 1 - River Itchen sub catchments

14. The River Itchen is one of the most famous 'chalk streams' in the world. Chalk streams are a globally rare type of river, famed for their crystal clear waters which support a wide range of plants and animals. More than half of the world's chalk streams are found in southern England.
15. Below Woodmill Bridge in Southampton the river changes from being fluvial to tidal and becomes more industrial and modified before joining the River Test to form Southampton Water.

Environmental Designations

16. Due to the steady flow, clear alkaline water and stable temperature, the chalk river is an ideal habitat for specific plants and it supports some of our rarest and most iconic wildlife, including salmon, otter, water vole, water crowfoot and many more.
17. Tidal zones of the Itchen are characterised by soft mud flats and saltmarsh habitats that are rich feeding grounds for birds and acts as a nursery for commercially important fish species such as Bass.
18. In recognition of its national and international importance its environment is highly protected by several pieces of legislation including:

- Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Nationally important for over-wintering dark-bellied brent geese.
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar – Globally significant wetlands that support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations, rare invertebrates and plants.
- Solent and Southampton Water Special Areas of Protection (SPA) – These sites are regularly used by several species of gull, tern, geese, plover and godwit.
- Non-Tidal River Itchen is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – Due to the freshwater habitats.
- Chessel Bay Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – Became the first LNR in Southampton in 1989.

Uses of the River Itchen in Southampton

19. People live on the river and the river is also home to numerous recreational activities from angling to open water swimming.
20. It is a popular location for walkers and cyclists who value the opportunity to be beside the river and enjoy the associated health and wellbeing benefits.
21. The river is of importance to the local economy. Boatyards, marinas, auxiliary industries and aggregates rely on the Itchen and many are located beside it. These industries provide employment and create wealth.



Figure 2 - Marine and Industrial businesses by the River Itchen in Northam

22. The river is also an important source of water. In the east of Southampton, 52% of the freshwater supply comes from river abstraction (Test and Itchen rivers). In the west of Southampton 100% of freshwater supply is abstracted from the Test and Itchen rivers.

Ownership and responsibilities

23. Ownership of the river is complex with numerous different land interests. The Crown Estate own and manage the majority of the foreshore (area between mean high water and mean low water marks of the tidal river) and the bed of the estuary.
24. The majority of land adjacent to the River Itchen is privately owned by multiple individual landowners for commercial, industrial and residential use.
25. Southampton City Council own areas of land along the River Itchen, including Riverside Park, and small areas of mudflat.
26. There is no single organisation that oversees the management of all watercourses, estuaries or bodies of water. As a result, different organisations and landowners have different roles and responsibilities as it relates to the River Itchen in Southampton.
27. Key organisations include:



- Southampton City Council – Local Planning Authority; Lead Local Flood Authority; Environmental Health (Pollution); Ecology and Biodiversity; Parks and Open Spaces (landowner for watercourses that cross Southampton’s parks and open spaces); Emergency Planning.



- Environment Agency - Managing flooding risk; Regulating major industry & waste (including storm water overflows); Treatment of contaminated land; Water quality & resources (including abstraction licences for rivers); Fisheries; Inland river, estuary, harbour navigation; Conservation & ecology.



- Associated British Ports (ABP) - The Statutory and Competent Harbour Authority for Southampton; Manage access restrictions, speeds and general activities within the Harbour Authority area of jurisdiction.



- Marine Management Organisation (MMO) - The MMO is responsible for marine licensing in English waters. An MMO licence will be required for construction, dredging, deposit of substance/ object, removal of substance/ object.



- Southern Water - Freshwater and waste water supplier for Southampton; Managing storm overflows - discharging excess water during heavy or prolonged rainfall when the network becomes overwhelmed to prevent flooding to property.



- Natural England - Enforcing laws that protect wildlife and the natural environment.
- Riparian landowners - Those with a watercourse running through, adjacent or under their land. Key responsibilities: Report incidents of flooding, pollution or unusual change in flow of water to the Environment Agency; Let water flow naturally; Prevent pollution; Protect wildlife.



- The Crown Estate

Rules governing the river

28. Lots of directives, acts and regulations cover the River Itchen. These encompass water, the environment, biodiversity, drainage and flooding. At the inaugural meeting of the inquiry Sam Foulds, Southampton City Council's Flood Risk Management Team Leader, highlighted the following rules governing the River Itchen:

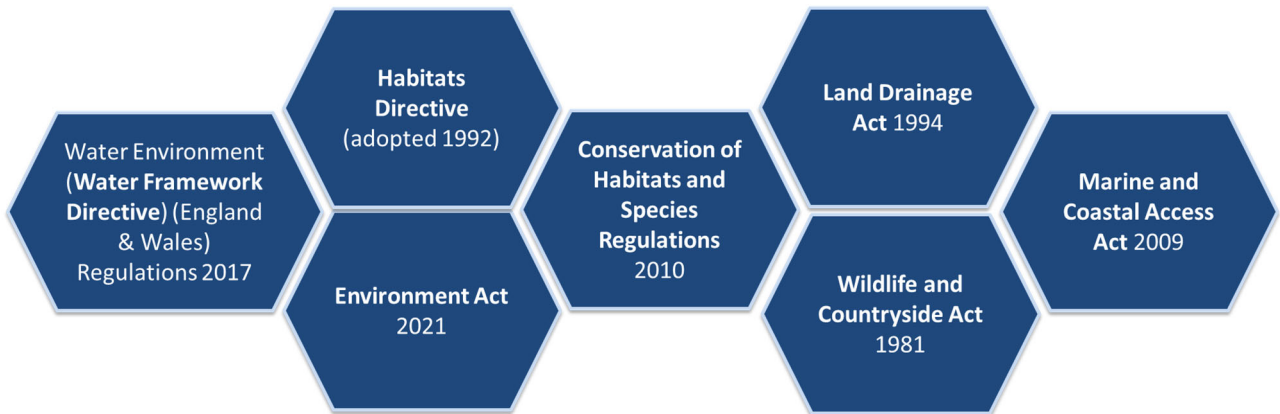


Figure 3 – Key Directives, Acts of Parliament and Regulations covering the River Itchen

29. Whilst no specific plan focusing on the River Itchen exists, the Council and other key organisations have several plans, frameworks and strategies which cover different aspects of the River Itchen. Key Council Plans include, but are not limited to:
- Adopted Local Development Plan and emerging Southampton City Vision Local Plan
 - Economic and Green Growth Strategy (2020-2030)
 - Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy
 - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
 - Minerals and Waste Plan
 - Nitrates Position Statement
 - Coastal Pollution Plan
 - Biodiversity Action Plan
30. Relevant strategies, policies and plans from organisations other than Southampton City Council include:
- Solent European Marine Sites Management Plan
 - North Solent Shoreline Management Plan
 - The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan
 - Environment Agency's River Basin Management Plan
 - Southern Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan
 - MMO South Marine Plan
 - ABP Port of Southampton Master Plan - 2009-2030

Ambitions for the River Itchen in Southampton?

- 31. As identified in the previous section, there is no existing Council plan that identifies desired objectives or outcomes relating to the River Itchen in Southampton.
- 32. Based on extensive consultation, Glasgow City Council identified 4 outcomes in their River Clyde Corridor Strategic Development Framework published in February 2020.

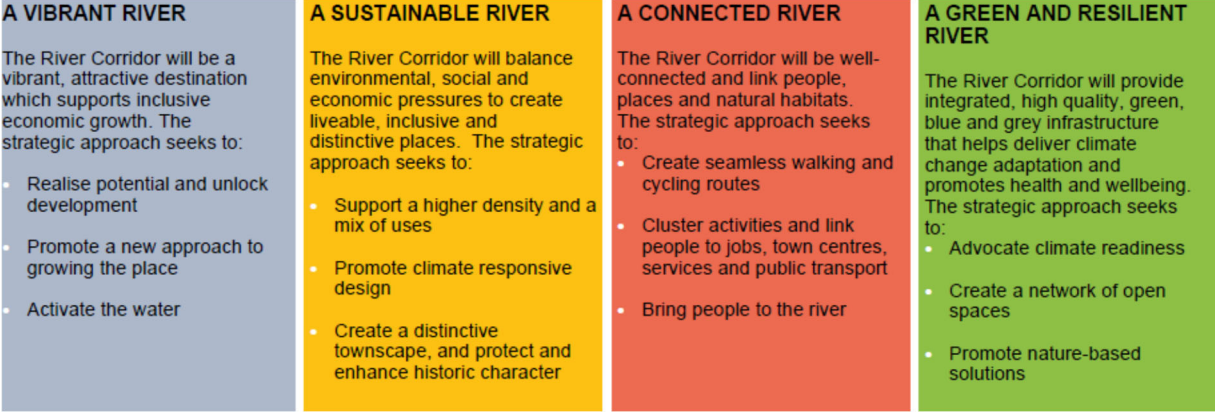


Figure 4 - River Clyde Corridor SDF Outcomes

- 33. Whilst recognising that Glasgow and Southampton, and their respective rivers, have different pressures and challenges, the outcomes identified above, if not all of the related strategic approaches, resonate with the findings from the River Itchen Survey that was conducted prior to the inaugural Inquiry Panel meeting and received 728 responses over a 2-week period.
- 34. When asked what developments or improvements you would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton, the most popular responses, in order, collectively related to:
 - **A Healthy (Green) and Resilient River** – Improvements to water quality; Improvements to natural habitats and biodiversity.
 - **A Vibrant River** – Increased use of the river to support economic growth; Opportunities to participate in water sports; Removal of wrecks.
 - **A Connected River** – More public access to the river.
- 35. The requirement for a sustainable approach that balances environmental, social and economic pressures is paramount and therefore should be embedded into all of our approaches associated with the river.
- 36. Reflecting the survey findings, the next section of the report will, utilising the evidence presented to the Inquiry Panel, seek to identify against each of the 3 identified outcomes/objectives, how Southampton and the River Itchen is currently performing; the plans and initiatives in place designed to improve outcomes; and, recommended actions that will support the delivery of the objectives.

A Healthy and Resilient River

River Itchen Survey - Improvements to the water quality (87%) and improvements to natural habitats and biodiversity (75%) are the improvements that most respondents would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton.

37. The River Itchen is a globally important river due to it being a spring fed chalk stream. The chalk acts as a sponge and the water entering the river now may have fallen as rain 40 to 50 years ago.
38. The non-tidal river is a classic example of a chalk river with clear water and high biodiversity.
39. Despite the loss of much of the wildlife rich saltmarshes and habitats the tidal Itchen Estuary that runs through the heart of Southampton is still important. Estuaries in general are critical for the survival of many species. Tens of thousands of birds, mammals, fish and other wildlife depend on estuarine habitats as places to live and breed.²
40. Graham Horton, Thames Solent Team Manager at Natural England, provided the Panel with a summary of the environmental importance of the River Itchen:

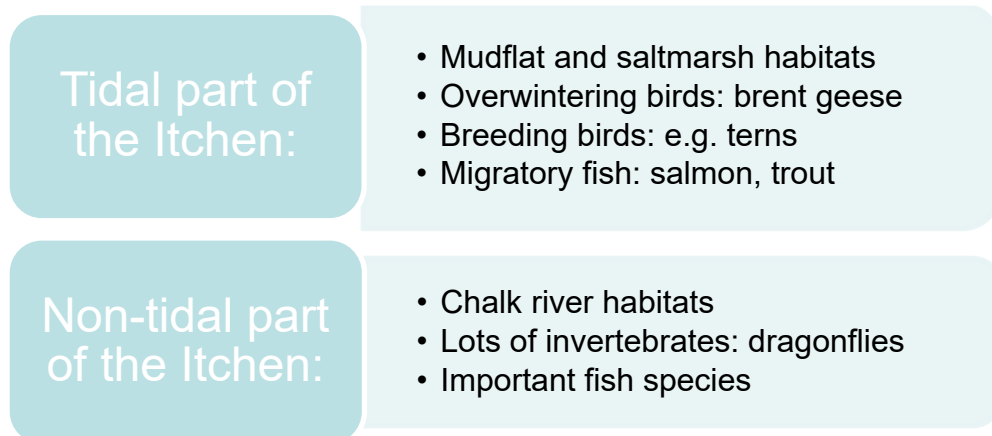


Figure 5 - Environmental importance of the River Itchen summary

Threats to the River Itchen's ecology, diversity and resilience

41. In his presentation Graham Horton informed the Panel that, like many rivers and estuaries in the Solent, the Itchen is facing a number of threats that could impact on the fragile river environment. These included:

Population and development pressures

42. Whilst it was recognised that the Itchen environment, particularly in the tidal areas, is pretty robust and that much of the sensitive, easily disturbed wildlife has probably

² [Estuaries | WWT](#)

already disappeared, increased population and development within the Itchen Catchment could create additional demand for water at a time when the Test and Itchen Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy identifies that in Southampton water resources are over licenced or over abstracted to some degree.³ This could adversely impact the River Itchen environment, and could increase pressure on undeveloped and less developed sections of the river.

Pollution - Nutrients and other sources

- 43. Information provided by the Environment Agency and analysed by Dr David Rumble, Chief Executive at Wessex Rivers Trust, identified that the tidal Itchen was being affected by a number of pollutants emanating from both rural and urban areas. Pesticides, fine sediment and organic waste were largely derived from rural areas; Particulates, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, pathogens, plastics, emerging chemicals, persistent synthetics originated predominantly from urban areas; Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) come from both rural and urban areas.
- 44. Dr Rumble outlined the main sources of the pollution in the tidal River Itchen and these are outlined in the diagram below. Agriculture is thought to be the source of between 70-75% of nitrogen in the River Itchen.

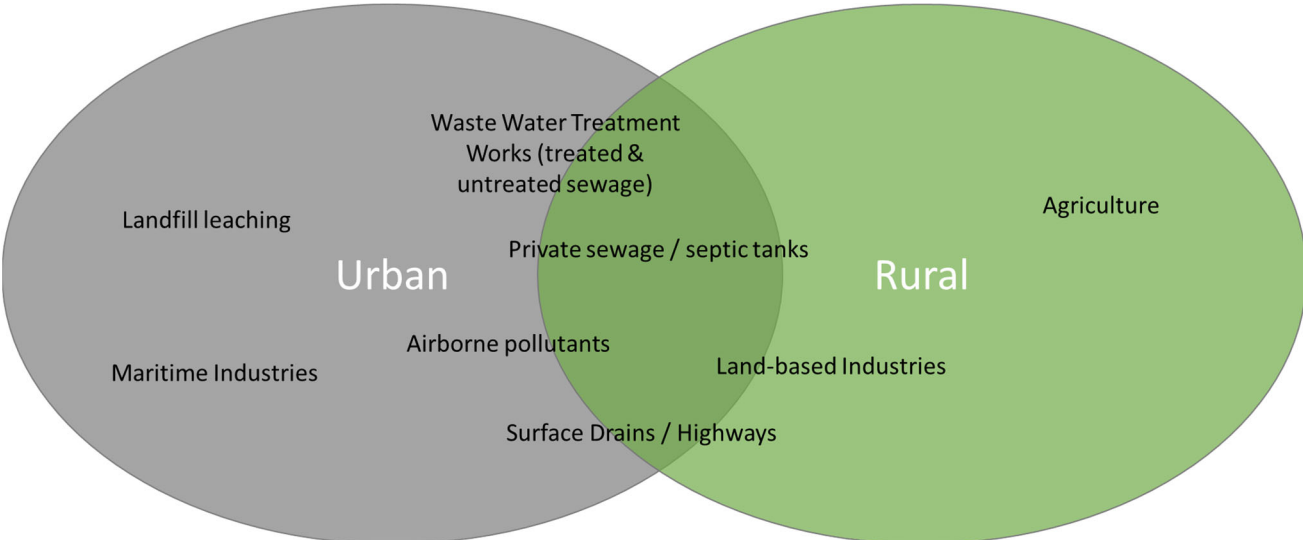


Figure 6 - Pollution sources affecting the tidal River Itchen

- 45. Nutrients are essential for plant growth, but the overabundance of nutrients in water can have many harmful health and environmental effects. An overabundance of nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, in water starts a process called eutrophication. Algae feed on the nutrients, growing, spreading, and turning the water green as well as blanketing vegetation and mudflats. Algae blooms can smell bad, block sunlight, and even release toxins in some cases. When the algae die, they are decomposed by bacteria, this process consumes the oxygen dissolved in the water and needed by fish and other aquatic life to breathe. If enough oxygen is removed, the water can become hypoxic, where there is not enough oxygen to sustain life, creating a "dead zone".

³ [Test and Itchen Abstraction Licensing Strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

46. Information provided by the Environment Agency stated that:
*'In common with many rivers, levels of nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates are elevated above natural levels in the River Itchen. Our evidence also shows that run-off can introduce high levels of sediment into the river in certain areas which can smother gravels and affect the associated habitats and species.'*⁴
47. Under the Water Framework Directive, the River Itchen is classified by the Environment Agency as being at Good Ecological Status. Southampton Water (this includes the tidal Itchen) is classified as being at Moderate Ecological Status. The reasons why this water body does not achieve good status relate to dissolved inorganic nitrogen and mitigation measures.
48. The chemical status for both the River Itchen and Southampton Water is defined as failing due to priority hazardous substances (UPBTs - Ubiquitous Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic substances). All water bodies now fail the chemical status due to UPBTs. If UPBTs are excluded the River Itchen is 'Good', Southampton Water is 'Moderate' due to Tributyltin (found in anti-fouling paints used to prevent biofouling on boat hulls).

Storm water overflows, treated wastewater and surface water outfalls

49. The Environment Agency's submission identified that the main sources of potential point source pollution (single, easily identified points of discharge) in the Itchen include treated wastewater, storm water from sewerage systems, pollution from privately owned sewage treatment works and septic tanks, and road run-off.
50. The Panel were informed by Southern Water that during heavy storms the rainwater, combined with the wastewater can exceed the capacity of the storm tanks. To protect homes and businesses the storm overflows are released into the Itchen. In Portswood up to 90% of flow arriving during a storm is rainwater, mainly from roof and road run-off, however, the storm overflow includes silt, sewage and other contaminants that, along with treated wastewater, increase the level of nutrients in the river harming the ecology and creating a health concern for recreational users.

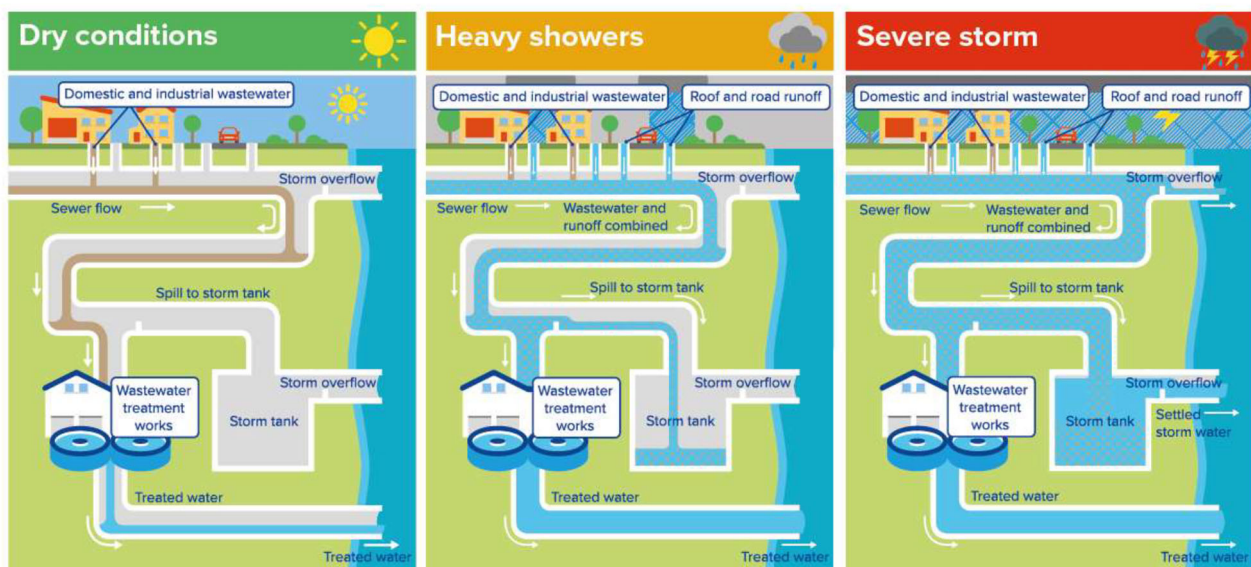


Figure 7 - An explanation of storm overflows

⁴ [River Itchen Water Quality - Environment Agency](#)

51. In total there are 15 storm overflows in Southampton's wastewater systems discharging to the River Itchen.
52. Of the 15 overflow sites, which excludes the Chickenhall Wastewater Works in Eastleigh located just a few miles north of the city boundary, 3 spill more frequently than the new DEFRA requirements of 10 per year:
 - Sirdar Road – average of 18 discharges per year
 - Woolston Storm Tanks (Woolston Wastewater Works) – average of 29 discharges per year
 - Portswood Storm Tanks (Portswood Wastewater Works) - average of 56 discharges per year
53. In addition to the 15 overflow sites owned by Southern Water, there are at least 50 outfalls from public surface water sewers, and numerous private connections, that discharge into the River Itchen. These operate every time it rains.
54. Land based activities can influence water quality as runoff from buildings and roads collected by surface water sewers and highway drains is typically not treated or monitored.
55. The Panel were also informed by Southern Water that misconnections from homes is a source of pollution into surface water sewers and on to the River Itchen. Southern Water work with the City Council when properties are found to be misconnected to the wastewater system.



Figure 8 - The location of surface water outfalls into, and near to, the River Itchen in Southampton

Pollution - Plastics and other litter

56. The threat from plastic pollution and litter is summed up by the findings from studies being undertaken at Chessel Bay, the last undeveloped section of the tidal river in Southampton. It is an SSSI, SPA and Ramsar designated site and it was the first Local Nature Reserve in Southampton in 1989.
57. The City Council is working with the Environment Agency, Natural England, University of Southampton and Nurdle to remove debris, including plastic nurdles (small pellets of plastic which serves as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products), from Chessel Bay. A recent clean up using Nurdle's technology removed 600kg of micro-plastic from Chessel Bay. Prof Malcolm Hudson from the University of Southampton is analysing the findings, support has been provided by Surfers Against Sewage, but more plastic has arrived.
58. Plastic is not the only litter to be found at Chessel Bay. At community clean-ups, hard-working volunteers give up a significant proportion of their Saturdays to rid the bay of rubbish. With support from City Council officers, typically a ton of rubbish is removed during each clean up. This is replicated at other locations on the river, including by the Friends of Riverside Park and the Friends of the Itchen Navigation.



Figure 9 - Chessel Bay clean-up in 2017

Climate Change

59. Whilst coastal wetlands are effective at locking away carbon and play an important role in mitigating climate change⁵, there are signs that climate change is impacting on the River Itchen.
60. The 2022 drought put parts of the River Itchen ecosystem under severe pressure, and extreme weather events such as heatwaves, storms and flooding appear to be happening more often in the UK.⁶
61. The presentation delivered to the Panel on the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme outlined various scenarios based on the forecast rise in sea levels and extreme weather events. Vulnerability to tidal flood risk will increase over time and, with the rise in sea levels, it will result not only in the need for flood alleviation schemes but also in the loss of habitats along the river.
62. When considering the likely impact of climate change on the River Itchen, Dr David Rumble, at the inaugural meeting of the Panel concluded that:
“If the climate trends continue over the next 40 years winners and losers will emerge. New species will be attracted to the Itchen in Southampton but overall net losses to the diversity and the ecology are expected.”

Invasive species

63. Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) threaten our biodiversity, our ecosystems, and our economy. They are one of the top five drivers of biodiversity loss globally.⁷
64. The Climate Change Committees 2021 assessment of climate risks to the UK highlighted INNS as a priority risk facing terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats and species, as well as agriculture and forestry. Climate change is expected to increase the risk from many NNS that are currently unable to establish.
65. A combination of factors, such as frost-free winters and increased flooding events, will increase the range and abundance of many INNS. Stressed habitats may also be more vulnerable to invasion and disease, increasing the risk to natural habitats.⁸

⁵ [Estuaries | WWT](#)

⁶ [Climate change and extreme weather | Greenpeace UK](#)

⁷ [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services | IPBES secretariat](#)

⁸ [The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy 2023 to 2030 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

What action is being taken to combat the threats to the health and resilience of the River Itchen in Southampton?

66. The Panel were informed of a number of initiatives, plans or proposals designed to mitigate the environmental threats to the River Itchen and enhance the rivers health.

Population and development pressure

Southampton City Vision Local Plan – Biodiversity, Water consumption

67. The emerging Local Plan will guide planning applications for new development and will shape the city as a place to 2040 and beyond.
68. The protection and enhancement of the natural environment is a key theme in the emerging plan and the plan states that this should be considered at the outset of any development proposal.
69. The emerging plan includes a biodiversity policy that aims to protect sites designated due to their importance for habitats and species. It also delivers measurable biodiversity net gain to improve development sites biodiversity value.⁹
70. In support of the biodiversity policy, the draft Waterfront Policy (DE4(s) specifically states that waterfront development may be considered inappropriate where it would conflict with the biodiversity policy.
71. Finally, reflecting pressure on Southampton's water supply, Policy EN8 requires new development to meet a water consumption target of 100 litres per person per day. This is a more ambitious target than the optional Building Regulation standard.¹⁰

Southampton Nitrogen Mitigation Position Statement

72. In response to Natural England's concerns about eutrophication, particularly of the Solent, to comply with the provisions of the Habitat Regulations, Southampton City Council approved a policy in 2022 whereby new development which leads to a net increase in residential or hotel units must be subject to an appropriate assessment to demonstrate how mitigation measures will be implemented to achieve nitrogen neutrality.
73. Where possible, the Council will encourage the implementation of measures within the city and/or measures which contribute to a range of benefits for the city's residents and environment (for example - water efficiency, biodiversity net gain, suitable alternative natural greenspace, and carbon reductions).

[Southampton Nitrogen Mitigation Position Statement](#)

Pollution – Nutrients and other sources

Environment Agency – Farmers, landowners and water companies

74. The Panel were informed that the Environment Agency are working with farmers to support environmentally friendly farming that doesn't damage water quality. A dedicated agricultural team has been set up and they have been visiting farms across Hampshire and Sussex. Advice and guidance is being provided to ensure that

⁹ [Draft Local Plan with Options - Environment \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#) (Biodiversity from p134)

¹⁰ [Draft Local Plan with Options - Environment \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#) (Water Resource p164)

good practice is being followed and any necessary measures to protect the environment are implemented.

75. The Environment Agency work with other agencies including Natural England (Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers) to influence best practice land use to reduce run-off and lower pollution.
76. The Environment Agency are also trying to hold water companies to account to reduce pollution, tackle storm overflows and invest more of their profits into the environment.

Southern Water

77. Woolston Wastewater Treatment Works has recently been upgraded and fitted with membrane filtration treatment, primarily to reduce nutrient pollution.

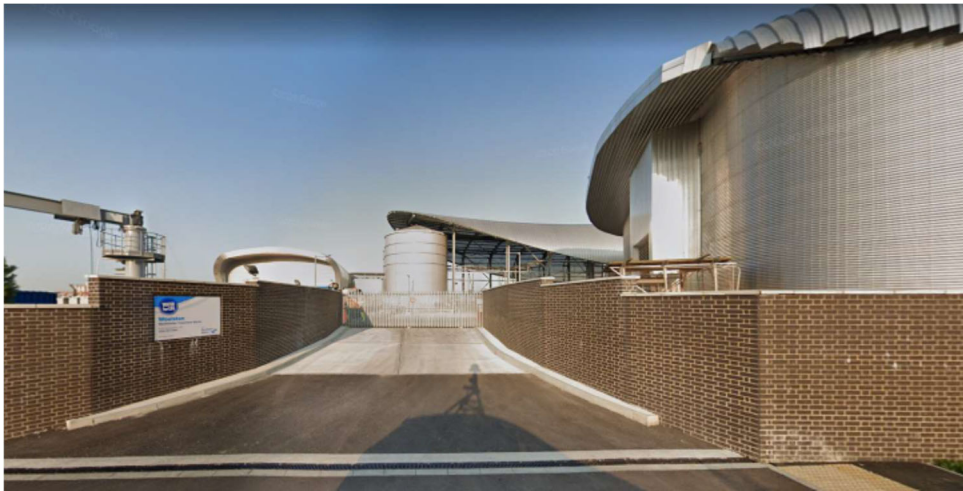


Figure 10 - Newly constructed Woolston Wastewater Treatment Works

78. Southern Water are also working with the Environment Agency and other organisations and stakeholders on Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP) for the Test and Itchen rivers. These plans identify risks to the environment from wastewater and drainage and identify where improvements need to be made to prevent deterioration or harm.
79. As a result of the DWMP process, Southern Water have identified planned investment to 2025 in excess of £25m in the wastewater infrastructure in Southampton and its environs. Proposals include increasing storm tank capacity at Portswood Wastewater Works and Woolston Wastewater works to reduce storm overflow events and a regional programme of pumping station refurbishment based on site criticality and performance.
[Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans \(DWMPs\) \(southernwater.co.uk\)](https://www.southernwater.co.uk)
80. Southern Water provides near real-time information about storm release activity near coastal bathing waters through its [Beachbuoy](#) tool. There are plans to improve the app to make the information more user friendly and extend it to inland waters such as the River Itchen. There are no set timescales for this at present.

Designated Bathing Water Status

81. Designated Bathing Water Status (DBWS) is an official way of recognising that a body of water (whether a beach, lake, or river) is a popular site for swimming, paddling, and other water-based activities.

82. Achieving DBWS means that each year over the peak bathing season, the Environment Agency will test the site for pollutants. For any DWBS sites that don't meet regulatory standards, the Environment Agency will investigate the sources of pollution to identify remedial measures.
83. At a meeting of the Inquiry Panel, local community groups outlined proposals to seek DBWS for parts of the River Itchen in Southampton known to be popular with swimmers and paddlers.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

84. In January 2023 the Government announced that it is committed to the enactment of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 by the end of 2024.

85. It will become a requirement that all new developments of more than 1 dwelling house or where the construction area is 100 square meters or more, will require sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) for managing surface water.



86. SuDS work with nature to slow the flow and recharge the ground at the point rain falls.

87. SuDS can support improvements to:

- Water quantity – reduce water entering underground drainage.
- Water quality – filter out sediments, chemicals and litter before water enters a watercourse.
- Biodiversity – provides habitat for insects and wildlife within urban setting.
- Amenity – visually attractive, helping to green grey spaces.



88. SuDS, if best practice is followed, could help to reduce the number of combined sewer overflows into the Itchen and improve the quality of highway runoff.



Figure 11 - Example of SuDS

89. The requirement for SuDS does not extend to highways projects. A recent report on [pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams](#) noted that diffuse urban pollution is a significant issue for chalk streams in Buckinghamshire due to surface water from road run-off carrying pollutants directly into watercourses. These pollutants include plant and animal matter and by-products from vehicles such as hydrocarbons, oil, brake dust, tyre fragments, hydraulic fluids, and anti-freeze.

90. Whilst road gullies include gully pots which trap solids to reduce contaminated sediment from entering watercourses, the report references technology that can be utilised in gullies to remove further pollutants from flowing surface water. One example is an adaptor that fits into standard road gullies and skims surface water to remove contamination without impacting flow or silt maintenance procedures. This type of product could potentially remove 95% of oil and pollutants that enter the gully if regularly maintained and replaced when necessary.

91. In Southampton it is usual for highways gullies to trap silts, but they don't have oil intercepting specifications and there are currently no plans for this technology to be introduced. In addition, there is no dedicated highways SuDS rollout programme.

Marina initiatives

92. MDL Marinas, who manage 19 marinas, including Saxon Wharf, Shamrock Quay and Ocean Village Marina on the River Itchen, informed the Panel of a number of initiatives they are engaged with designed to reduce pollution. These included the following:
- Water Filtration systems – MDL have installed filtration systems to clean wastewater from boatyard activities, improving local water quality. A system has been installed at Shamrock Quay with plans to roll them out across their estate.
 - Drive in boat wash – As identified, anti-fouling paints used to prevent the build-up of micro-organisms, algae or plants (known as biofouling) on boat hulls can have negative consequences for marine habitats and is a source of water pollution. MDL are currently researching methods of efficient antifouling without biocides but also systems that remove the need for antifoul all together. One of these methods is drive in boat washes. These machines are designed to stop using copper based and other harmful antifouling paint all together. MDL are hoping to work with local authorities to find suitable locations to locate the UKs first drive in boat wash.

Oyster Reefs

93. A single adult oyster can purify 50 gallons of water a day, removing pollutants including sediment and nitrogen as it sifts for food.¹¹
94. Pilot schemes to introduce oyster reefs are being trialled in the River Hamble and on the Isle of Wight. Natural England are working with universities and are ready to scale up the introduction of oyster reefs to rivers. In Southampton there is the opportunity for reefs to be established in the River Itchen. Care would need to be taken to pick viable sites but this would have a positive impact upon water quality.

Pollution – Plastics and other litter

Plastic pollution partnership project

95. Building on the success of the work to remove plastic nurdles from Chessel Bay, the Environment Agency, together with Southampton City Council, the University of Southampton and others, are now looking to support the development of a much larger 'preventing plastic pollution' partnership project that will aim to clean up plastic pollution across the wider River Itchen Estuary. The project includes plans to help reduce the amount of plastic entering the environment in the first place through engagement with local communities and businesses.
96. In Southampton 3 large plastics companies are regulated by the Environment Agency, a number of smaller plastics businesses are not regulated. SIVA Group

¹¹ [How oysters are cleaning New York's polluted harbor | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org/articles/how-oysters-are-cleaning-new-york-s-polluted-harbor/)

have invested significant resources to improve processes to reduce plastic pollution in the Itchen. Polystar are improving their processes.

Climate Change

Net Zero Strategy

97. Southampton City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and soon after set itself the challenge of being a net zero organisation by 2030. More recently, the Southampton City Council Corporate Plan (2022-2030) sets a vision for a zero carbon city by 2035, so that Southampton can be part of the solution to tackling climate change.
98. A Net Zero Strategy is currently being consulted on. This strategy provides the framework for actions to deliver net zero carbon.

Invasive Species

The Test and Itchen Invasive Non Native Species Project

99. This ambitious multi-year partnership project, led by the Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, aims to reduce the presence of invasive non native species on our native wildlife and habitats in the Test and Itchen River catchments. To achieve this goal, the project aims to develop a co-ordinated catchment scale approach to address the 14 priority target species highlighted as being the biggest threats to the health of these precious chalk streams.

Clean Before You Leave Campaign

100. This is a campaign across MDLs marinas and boatyards to reduce the volume of non-native species invading the River Itchen or other local waterways. If you go to any of the MDL owned marinas on the River Itchen you will see the campaign posters (Figure 12).
101. The posters outline a few easy steps for boat owners to follow to prevent the spread of invasive species. Key actions include cleaning off aquatic plants and animals before leaving the area and learning to identify common invasive species and reporting them to the marina office.

Co-ordinated Action

102. In addition to the specific actions and plans identified above, a number of bodies are seeking to raise awareness of the threats to the River Itchen and encourage collective action.
103. The Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership was established in 2013 and is made up of a number of organisations who share the common goal of working together to improve the management and health of the Test and Itchen river catchment.
104. The Panel were also made aware of the Respect the River Campaign, a community led campaign whose aim is a clean and pollution free city river – the tidal Itchen in Southampton.



Figure 12 - Clean before you leave campaign poster

Recommendations for a healthier and more resilient River Itchen in Southampton

105. The River Itchen is a globally important river of significant ecological interest. A healthy and resilient River Itchen in Southampton is an asset to the city. People want to be beside it, exercise on and in it, and live alongside it.
106. A healthy river, and a high quality natural environment benefits wildlife and our health and wellbeing.¹² However, the river ecosystem is fragile and, despite the numerous positive actions designed to mitigate the outlined threats, there remain significant concerns about the current and future health of the River Itchen in Southampton.
107. The Water Framework Directive Ecological Status rating for the River Itchen is good and for Southampton Water, including the tidal Itchen, it is moderate due to nitrates. In recognition of the bar being relatively low, Dr David Rumble, Chief Executive of Wessex Rivers Trust challenged Southampton to aim for a Water Framework Directive Ecological Status rating of good for the estuary and closer to high for the freshwater section of the river.
108. Opportunities exist that can help us to meet this challenge. The mitigating initiatives presented in this report need to be delivered in full and the health of the river needs to be nurtured and treated as a priority.
109. To improve the health and resilience of the River Itchen in Southampton and move it closer to a Water Framework Directive Ecological Status rating of high, the following actions are recommended:

General

- i. The Council works with partners to actively pursue opportunities to restore and enhance biodiversity and natural habitats along the river to improve the situation for wildlife. The Nitrogen Neutrality Scheme could be a source of funding to support such initiatives, dependent upon discussions with Natural England.

Pollution – Nutrients and other sources

- ii. Whilst the Panel support the proposed additional investment in Southampton's infrastructure by Southern Water to reduce wastewater incidents, Southern Water are encouraged to follow the example set by Thames Water relating to inland waterways and provide real time information about pollution events impacting on the River Itchen. The Panel request that this is undertaken as soon as possible, via the Beachbuoy tool or through other communication outlets, to enable informed decisions to be taken.
- iii. To reduce and slow the run-off and pollution into the River Itchen, build sustainable drainage solutions into highway projects, as well as those mandated for new developments by the enactment of Schedule 3 of the in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and utilise new gully technology to limit harmful chemicals from the highways entering the watercourse.

¹² [Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing | Scientific Reports](#)

- iv. If requested, the Council provides timely support to community groups in their campaign for areas of the River Itchen to be awarded Designated Bathing Water Status.
- v. If pilot schemes in the River Hamble and Isle of Wight identify them to be beneficial to the river environment, the Council should support the establishment of oyster reefs in the River Itchen to help improve water quality.

Pollution – Plastics and other litter

- vi. To help reduce locally produced waste and pollution and to build upon the momentum created by the work at Chessel Bay, work with partners to develop an accreditation scheme for businesses that 'respect the river'. There is potential for this initiative to be funded through the Southampton Airport Community Fund.

Strategic

- vii. To aid policy and decision making and encourage investment in our natural environment, consideration should be given by the Council to adopting a natural capital approach by placing a value on Southampton's natural environment.

A Vibrant River

River Itchen Survey – When asked what improvements respondents would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton, the removal of wrecks was supported by 48% of respondents, more opportunities to participate in water sports was raised by 28% and 17% favoured increased use of the river to support economic growth.

110. The River Clyde Strategic Development Framework identifies a vibrant river to be an attractive destination which supports inclusive economic growth. The approach to deliver this outcome for the River Clyde in Glasgow focuses on:
- Realising the potential and unlocking development
 - Promoting a new approach to growing the place
 - Activating the water.
111. Whilst recognising the primary importance of ensuring a healthy and resilient River Itchen in Southampton, and the need for development to be sustainable and in accordance with healthy river objectives, discussions at Inquiry Panel meetings identified support for growing the marine/maritime sector in Southampton; increasing recreational activity on the river and ensuring that future development contributes to the creation of a distinctive waterfront experience.

How ‘vibrant’ is the River Itchen in Southampton?

Economic function

112. Southampton has a long history associated with the marine industry. This includes the internationally significant port and port related activities, the Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute, the National Oceanography Centre, and a wide range of other marine industries.
113. The tidal Itchen is a working river and the riverbanks are home to a diverse range of businesses that provide employment and create wealth. These include boatyards, marinas, auxiliary industries and aggregates which supply a significant proportion of the aggregate needs for the city and wider sub-region and are safeguarded by the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. Many of the businesses rely on the Itchen and the limited number of sites which have access to the waterfront.
114. In 2021, ABP’s vessel tracking system recorded a total of 3,844 commercial vessel movements on the River Itchen. The recorded movements are all south of the Northam Bridge.
115. To provide economic context, the Panel were presented with a snapshot of the Northam/Itchen Riverside area of Southampton. Analysis identified that Itchen Riverside is home to a diverse range of businesses and many local marine companies and institutions. It is estimated that there are between 500-550 businesses in the immediate area.

116. Sectors represented include marine, manufacturing, aggregates, leisure and storage.



Figure 13 - Distribution of businesses in Northam

117. The Solent is at the centre of the growing UK marine sector. Recently, Ocean Infinity located its control, data, maintenance and engineering centre in the former Vosper Thornycroft shipyard, on the Centenary Quay employment site in Woolston. The site has been developed as a remote control and data-centre for robotic vessels, ensuring Southampton, and the wider Solent area, are at the forefront in deploying next generation marine technologies.

118. The Panel were also informed that the creation of the Solent Freeport is anticipated to create an additional 16,000 jobs in the locality. The challenge raised was not a lack of opportunity but one of recruitment and training for the marine and maritime sector in Southampton and the Solent region to enable these increasingly hi-tech, high skilled companies to prosper.

Development

119. Unlike Glasgow and the River Clyde Corridor, there are a limited number of vacant waterfront sites beside the River Itchen in Southampton that are suitable for development. The aggregate wharfs and metal recycling wharfs located in Northam/Itchen Riverside are currently protected within the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

120. The risk of flooding is also a constraint to redevelopment and regeneration in areas of Southampton. Significant parts of the city neighbouring the River Itchen are vulnerable to flooding. The greatest risk at present is the west bank as land is lower but, over time, the area vulnerable to flooding is expected to increase and the flood depths could reach 1.8m in places.

121. All new development (including change of use) in a present day or future flood risk area must be accompanied by a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment.

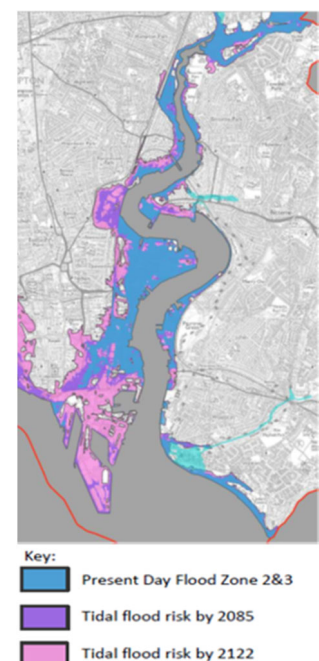


Figure 14 – Tidal flood risk in Southampton

Recreational and community usage

122. A number of community events are held on, in and alongside the river that help to drive engagement and interest in the River Itchen. These include the All Aboard Festival and Trifest.
123. The River Itchen in Southampton is also used for numerous water sports and other recreational activities. There are over 20 groups, clubs or activity centres concerned with the river with an estimated 20,000 people active on the river each year.



Figure 15 - Location of water sports clubs and activities associated with the River Itchen

124. Within the city, St Denys Sailing and Rowing Club are working with Southampton Water Activities Centre to broaden the appeal of water sports, including health and wellbeing benefits, to those communities who might not otherwise access the water.
125. There are multiple sporting events that happen on the river each year bringing visitors to the city, and many businesses in the city catering to the water sports market.
126. Southampton has a strong record of sporting success across the various water sports with representation in 2022 from Southampton Clubs in GB teams for sailing, rowing, kayak sprint and beach rowing.
127. However, in his presentation to the Panel, James Hinves - National Club Development Manager at British Canoeing, raised a number of challenges that were impacting on recreational users of the River Itchen. These included the following:
 - Water quality, litter and associated health risks
 - The lack of toilet facilities and infrastructure issues around the river – Including the public hard near to the football stadium that was currently inaccessible; Crosshouse Hard, a key point for accessing the water, being in need of remedial works.
 - There is a feeling that the river and its users are a blind spot for the City Council, with actions being focused around land based areas and objectives such as the parks rather than the river flowing through them. Both Bournemouth and Portsmouth have Blue Space Strategies, enabling a city-

wide approach to their water. Recent examples of this proving successful are the developing British Canoeing links with StreetGames in Paulsgrove, that was drawn together by Portsmouth City Council or the hosting of the National Beach Rowing Championships in Bournemouth.

128. To make the river more user friendly and safe, the clearance of boat wreckages from the River Itchen was also raised by rowing clubs.

What action is being taken to increase the vibrancy of the River Itchen in Southampton?

129. The Panel were informed of a number of initiatives, plans or proposals designed to stimulate activity and increase the vibrancy of the River Itchen in Southampton.

Economic function

Southampton City Vision Local Plan – Safeguarding Marine Sites

130. Reflecting the marine sectors importance to the economy of the city and wider sub region, and its reliance on the limited number of sites which have access to the waterfront, the emerging Local Plan that will guide planning applications for new development and will shape the city as a place to 2040 and beyond states that:

*'It is important that these sites are safeguarded for marine uses to support the success and growth of the marine sector, including hi-tech and skilled marine activities.'*¹³

Solent Skills Plans

131. The economic footprint of the marine and maritime sector is substantial, contributing £5.8 billion of Gross Value Added each year, equivalent to 19% of the Solent LEP economy.¹⁴ Critical to the successful performance of the sector locally is a world-class workforce and talent base that can adapt to the key drivers of change within global marine and maritime.
132. The impacts of digitisation and automation; the drive for greater environmental sustainability; and, global competition, are leading to significant changes in the demand for marine and maritime skills in the Solent. However, the UK's Maritime 2050 Strategy¹⁵ highlights the problems of attracting young people into the sector because of relatively poor conditions in some occupations, the lack of career progression, low diversity, and the general lack of visibility of the marine and maritime sectors.
133. To help address these challenges, Solent LEP has established Maritime UK Solent Limited to provide leadership for and promote a thriving maritime sector within the Solent through activities that support growth, collaboration, and innovation, and that showcase the Solent's maritime strengths on a national and international stage.
134. Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is also leading a Local Skills Improvement Plan for the Solent. Under the plan, the Chamber will use its convening power and

¹³ [Draft Plan with Options \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk) – p65

¹⁴ [Solent LEP Local Skills Report 2022](https://www.solentlep.gov.uk)

¹⁵ [Maritime 2050 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

knowledge of the local business landscape to bring stakeholders together to address long-standing skills challenges, including those in the marine sector.

135. Key players such as employers, colleges, universities, local authorities, the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and other business organisations will work together to align labour market needs more closely with training provision and skills support programmes.
136. Co-ordinated by Business South's Maritime and Transport Action Group, funded by the Solent LEP, ambassadors are also going to local schools to talk about the opportunities available in the marine, maritime and transport sectors.
137. At the December 2022 meeting of the Inquiry Panel, representatives from the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business South outlined the need for a collaborative approach to addressing the marine sector skills challenge, including engagement from the City Council.

Development

River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS)

138. Southampton has a number of areas that are vulnerable to flooding with a greater than 0.5% chance of flooding in any given year. Through the impact of climate change and rising sea levels vulnerability to tidal flood risk will increase over time and more land areas, property and critical infrastructure will become at risk or experience more regular flooding.
139. There are currently no formal raised flood defences in Southampton. There is a mix of engineered high ground, quay walls, low flood walls and embankments of varying condition and standard of protection. Where standard of protection is lower than a potential flood level, water is likely to overtop, resulting in flooding to the ground behind.
140. The Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy presents options for management of tidal risk on the west bank of the Itchen Estuary. The strategy will be delivered in stages over time to create a continuous raised flood defence from Woodmill to Redbridge.
141. To prevent future tidal flooding for communities where risk and need for defences is greatest, the Environment Agency are working in partnership with the Council and others to deliver the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS), a flood defence scheme between Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate to just south of the Itchen Bridge.
142. Plans are for the scheme to be delivered in two stages:
 - Phase one (present day) – Construct an interim height wall to provide a 0.5% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) standard of protection by 2070.
 - Phase two (future, before 2070) – increase the height of the wall to provide a 0.5% AEP standard of protection by 2120.
143. In January 2022 the estimated cost of the scheme was £85.6m. Confirmed funding currently stands at £45.5m. Construction is provisionally planned to commence in January 2026 and conclude in Sept 2028.

144. Funding is being sought from alternative external funding streams to plug the gap. Funding challenges are standard for such projects. If funding is not found consideration will be given to extending the timescales of the project to enable more time for funding to be sought.

145. On completion, the RIFAS will remove the constraint of flood risk to many areas and increase regeneration and development opportunities.

146. The RIFAS will seek to improve public access to the riverfront and the public realm along the waterfront, including planned improvements to the Boardwalk and Crosshouse Hard car park.

147. To facilitate improvements a bid to the Levelling Up Fund was submitted in August 2022. This was unsuccessful but another round, with objectives more aligned to the RIFAS scheme objectives, will commence next year.

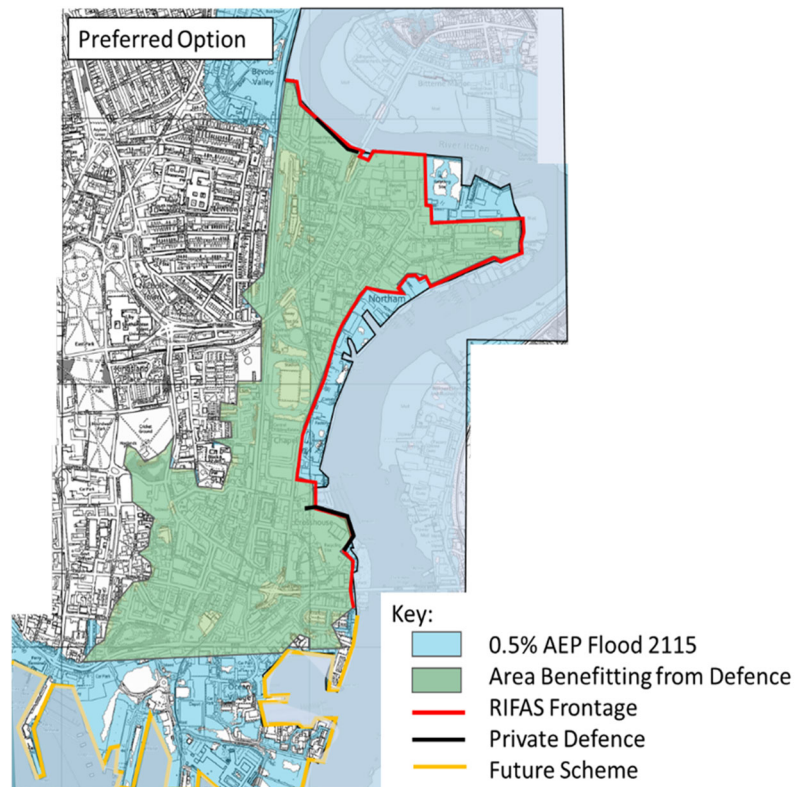


Figure 16 - RIFAS preferred option

Southampton City Vision Local Plan – Creating a Distinctive Waterfront

148. As mentioned earlier in the report, the emerging Local Plan includes Waterfront Development Principles within a draft Waterfront Policy. The overarching criteria is to ensure the creation of a distinctive waterfront experience by, for example, upgrading the quality and accessibility of the city's waterfront public realm where this is possible. This will create an improved sense of place in Southampton which will better reflect its maritime identity.

149. To ensure the creation of a distinctive waterfront experience, development proposals within any of Southampton's waterfront areas must preserve and enhance views of the water and from the water; Encourage a more distinctive and interesting skyline; Be well-designed, attractive, safe and comprise high-quality materials; Ensure appropriate, functional land use which is sensitive to the character and context of the area.

150. The Plan references five waterfront development areas – Ocean Village, Centenary Quay, Itchen Riverside, Weston Shore and Town Quay. Four out of the five, including the sites on the River Itchen, have site-specific policies providing clear expectations for future development, ensuring positive change which fits with overall strategic aims for the city.

Itchen Riverside

151. Partly enabled by the RIFAS, the largest of the development areas is the Itchen Riverside. The site currently plays a vital role supporting nearly 100 marine and

industrial businesses plus water sports activities. It includes a number of key waterfront regeneration sites, open space opportunities and residential areas. These include an opportunity for leisure-led regeneration linked to the football stadium and improved links to city centre and other waterfront areas.

- 152. The site includes nationally recognised Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), important habitats and ecosystems.
- 153. The development will be subject to master-planning activity. Initial focus for Itchen Riverside master-planning includes the Gas Holder site on Britannia Road, Stadium, Waterfront, Aggregate Wharves and Drivers Wharf.

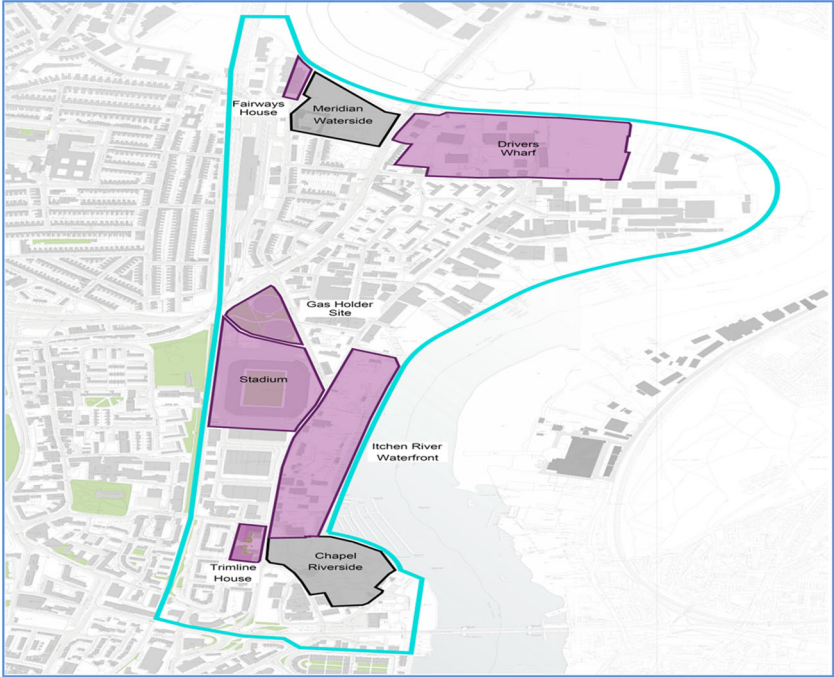


Figure 17 - Itchen Riverside focus of development

- 154. The Council’s Flood Risk Team are working closely with Economic Development, Strategic Planning and the Master-planning Team to align opportunities through RIFAS with the ambition outlined in the emerging City Vision Local Plan.

Recreation and community use

Southampton City Vision Local Plan – Safeguarding Public Hards

- 155. To support marine leisure activities the Waterfront Policy in the emerging City Vision Local Plan safeguards the 7 public hards in Southampton.

Wrecked and Abandoned Vessel Removal

- 156. The Harbour Master for ABP Port of Southampton informed the Panel that over the past 18 months, nearly 70 wrecked, abandoned or illegally moored vessels have been removed by ABP and either sold or scrapped depending on their condition.
- 157. ABP has invested over £500,000 in this project so far, and will continue to do more in 2023, whilst also undertaking increased patrols of river moorings to manage and prevent illegal mooring in the future.
- 158. This action has made the river more user friendly and safer for recreational groups.

Recommendations for a vibrant River Itchen in Southampton

159. The River Itchen has been vibrant for hundreds of years and remains a hub for the marine and maritime industry, and a magnet for water sports enthusiasts.
160. Concerns have been raised about the future prosperity of the marine and maritime sector due to skills and recruitment challenges, and recreational users have outlined limitations that, if addressed could further activate the water.
161. The development opportunities, partly enabled by the RIFAS, need to deliver in accordance with the principles within the Waterfront Policy and create a distinctive waterfront that is well-designed, attractive, sensitive to the character and context of the area whilst also protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
162. To increase the vibrancy of the River Itchen in Southampton the following actions are recommended:

Economic Function

- i. Whilst the Panel welcome the safeguarding of sites in the draft Local Plan for marine uses, to enable this vitally important sector to grow and prosper in Southampton it is recommended that the Council works collaboratively with partners, including British Marine, Solent Freeport, business representative organisations, and with existing marine and maritime businesses, to address the recruitment and training challenge via the Local Skills and Improvement Plan, to develop a skilled workforce now, and in the future.

Development

- ii. The Panel recognise the potential of the redevelopment of the Itchen Riverside to revitalise the waterfront, enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment. The Panel would support the creation of a distinctive, design led waterfront that, through the master-planning process, integrates biodiversity, public access to the waterfront, flood resilience and high quality green spaces into its design and planning from the outset.

Recreation and Community Use

- iii. In collaboration with partners, draft a 'Blue Space Strategy' for Southampton enabling a city-wide approach to recreation on the water to be developed and priorities for maintenance and infrastructure improvements to be identified.
- iv. To enable access to the water for watercraft, review the accessibility of the public hard on the River Itchen and ensure that they are well maintained and fit for purpose.
- v. In support of the ambition to activate the water the Panel welcomes the work that has been undertaken by ABP in clearing the wrecks and abandoned vessels from the River Itchen and encourage them to continue delivering their plans for further clearance activity until all such vessels are removed.

A Connected River

River Itchen Survey - When asked what developments or improvements people would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton, more public access to the waterfront was raised by 63% of respondents.

163. The River Clyde Strategic Development Framework identifies a connected river to be one that links people, places and natural habitats. The approach to deliver this outcome for the River Clyde in Glasgow focuses on:
- Creating seamless walking and cycling routes
 - Bringing people to the river (access)
 - Clustering activities and linking people to jobs, town centres, services and public transport.
164. Research by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) shows that being around coastal environments, such as estuaries, is fundamental to our mental health and wellbeing.¹⁶ Perhaps reflecting this, the River Itchen survey conducted in advance of the inquiry, identified that the most popular activity associated with the river was walking and cycling along the riverbanks.
165. People in Southampton want to be beside the river and feedback presented during the inquiry challenged decision makers to try to find more places where people can enjoy being by the river.
166. Creating seamless walking and cycling routes and using the river corridor to link people to jobs, town centres, services and public transport also supports ambitions in the Connected Southampton Local Transport Strategy.
167. A key strategic objective is 'a Better Way to Travel' - supporting people in changing the way they move around the city, by widening their travel choices so they can get around actively and healthily and travel moves towards becoming 'zero emission'.¹⁷

How well connected is the River Itchen in Southampton?

Seamless walking and cycling routes and access to the river

168. The map attached as Figure 18 details the parks, paths and access points to the Itchen in Southampton. There is not a continuous walking and cycling route along the river's banks and Lindsay McCulloch, Natural Environment Manager at the City Council, observed that opportunities to travel alongside the river, or enjoy the river from public open spaces, range from good to non-existent.
169. A notable trend is that access reduces as you travel closer to the mouth of the estuary. This is due to a combination of physical constraints and the historical economic uses of the river. Most economic activity has been on the west bank where land is flatter. This leaves legacy spaces for recreational access.

¹⁶ [Estuaries | WWT](#)

¹⁷ [Connected Southampton Transport Strategy - 2040](#)



Figure 18 - River Itchen parks, paths and access to water in Southampton

Paths

170. The east bank of the river enjoys considerably greater access to riverside paths than the west bank. There are 2½ Km of paths through Riverside Park, however, beyond that the paths move away from the river with only 380m of riverside footpath access before reaching Jurds Lake at the mouth of the estuary.
171. There are only 940m of waterside footpaths along the west bank of the river.
172. It was reported to the Panel that the stretches of pathways that are most heavily used are the continuous routes, paths that connect from one place to another.

Parks and open spaces

173. Along the river, open spaces occur where land is not suitable, or is no longer suitable, for commercial use. Large areas of informal green spaces exist above Woodmill that are ideal for walking and cycling.
174. The east bank enjoys Riverside Park, a parcel of land at Bitterne Manor (the site of Roman Clausentum), Chessel Bay and Peartree Green that has no direct access to the river but has excellent views.



Figure 19 – Riverside Park, north of Woodmill

175. The west bank has very limited open spaces. Small areas at Janaway Gardens and Pettinger Gardens exist and open space is due to be provided at the Meridian Waterside development.

Care and maintenance

176. Graham Linecar, Secretary of Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society (SCAPPS), when discussing the importance of access to the river in Southampton, raised concerns about the care and maintenance of open spaces and paths by the river's edge. Graham noted that some sites look neglected and linked high quality landscaping and regular maintenance with increased usage and a reduction in the likelihood of anti-social behaviour.

Signage

177. Having identified that the most popular paths are the routes that connect from one place to another, SCAPPS' submission also referenced several riverfront greenspaces which are not connected and are not part of a continuous route. They concluded that although perhaps known and used by locals, in some cases it is not immediately obvious if it is a public or private space and there is a need to heighten awareness of these sites. SCAPPS recommended improving signage to paths and open spaces, and the associated historic waterfront sites, to encourage greater use of these valuable community assets.

Access for anglers

178. Bill Baynes, Chairman of Southampton Sea Angling Club, raised the lack of access to the river for anglers. He explained that anglers are being prohibited from fishing in places where the waterfront is owned by private companies and fear that, with more waterfront development planned, the tidal River Itchen in Southampton could be a no fishing zone in the future.
179. In response to these concerns, the Panel referenced the role played by the planning process when determining waterfront access for new developments.

Linking people to jobs, town centres, services and public transport

180. The aforementioned restricted network of paths alongside the river, particularly on the west bank, and the limited river crossing points, currently restrict the ability of the River Itchen corridor to play a key role in supporting sustainable travel by connecting the river with key services and hubs via walking and cycling routes.
181. As previously noted, the longer riverside paths are well used and do perform an important role improving connections and linking people with places whilst benefitting from views of the Itchen.
182. A good example of this is the boardwalk in Bevois Valley. In 2010, a 300-metre length of boardwalk was constructed projecting from the railway embankment over the tidal flats of the estuary by a partnership of Sustrans, Southampton City Council and Network Rail. This path now links the northern suburbs of Southampton, the suburban centre of St Denys and St Denys main line station to the north, with the City Centre, Northam Bridge and St Mary's Football Ground to the south and forms part of National Cycle Network route 23 from Reading to Southampton.



Figure 20 - Boardwalk in Southampton

What action is being taken to improve the connectivity of the River Itchen in Southampton?

183. The Panel were informed of a number of initiatives, plans or proposals designed to link people, places and natural habitats via the River Itchen corridor in Southampton.

Seamless walking and cycling routes and access to the river

Southampton City Vision Local Plan – Waterfront Policy

184. The emerging Local Plan recognises that currently, waterfront accessibility is fairly limited for residents and visitors alike, particularly in the west of the city. To address this the Waterfront Policy states that:

‘To ensure creation of a distinctive waterfront experience, development proposals within any of Southampton’s waterfront areas must:

a. ensure waterfront accessibility for all, including Disabled People and those with reduced mobility;

b. create new continuous waterfront walkways, cycleways and public spaces, and create or enhance safe, well designed and attractive links to and from the waterfront from the city centre and between the city’s waterfront areas.’¹⁸

185. Additional detail within the plan outlines the overall approach:

‘The council will require all waterside development to incorporate or improve public access to and into the water unless this would adversely affect nature conservation interests or there would be unavoidable conflicts with other river users. Where possible, all areas of waterfront development must be linked together to eventually provide long stretches of accessible waterfront. This fits with the opening of the section of the England Coast Path between Calshot and Gosport to the public in August 2022. The provision of publicly accessible waterfront is a requirement in major development proposals such as Royal Pier, Chapel Riverside and longer-term schemes. However, in certain cases, such as the presence of dangerous or hazardous industrial operations, public access to the river frontage may not be appropriate, particularly if there is a danger to public safety.’¹⁹

River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS)

186. The RIFAS will seek to improve public access and the public realm along the west bank of the River Itchen. This project provides the ideal opportunity to implement the policy aspirations outlined above and deliver improved waterfront connections that link people to places and natural habitats. The boardwalk development demonstrates what can be achieved when stakeholders collaborate.

Linking people to jobs, town centres, services and public transport

187. Whilst recognising the significance of the requirement outlined in the emerging City Vision Local Plan for development proposals within any of Southampton’s waterfront to create or enhance safe, well designed and attractive links to and from the

¹⁸ [Draft Local Plan with Options - Development Principles \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#) - p219

¹⁹ [Draft Local Plan with Options - Development Principles \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#) – p220

waterfront from the city centre and between the city’s waterfront areas, the Panel were particularly animated about the potential for a zero-carbon water-borne, travel and transport network operating on the River Itchen in Southampton.

Southampton’s Blue Highway - Water Taxis

- 188. In his presentation to the Inquiry Panel, Andy Tourell - Head of Sustainable Logistics at Ocean Infinity, explained that our waterways, which include the River Itchen, River Test, River Hamble, Southampton Water and the wider Solent, present an opportunity to implement a city-scale “blue highway network” of water taxis enhancing connectivity between our communities, open spaces, the city centre, the port, employment and education hubs.
- 189. Initially, delivering a proof of concept service across the River Itchen, it is anticipated that the network would gradually expand along the Itchen before serving communities along both sides of Southampton Water, ultimately connecting the region.

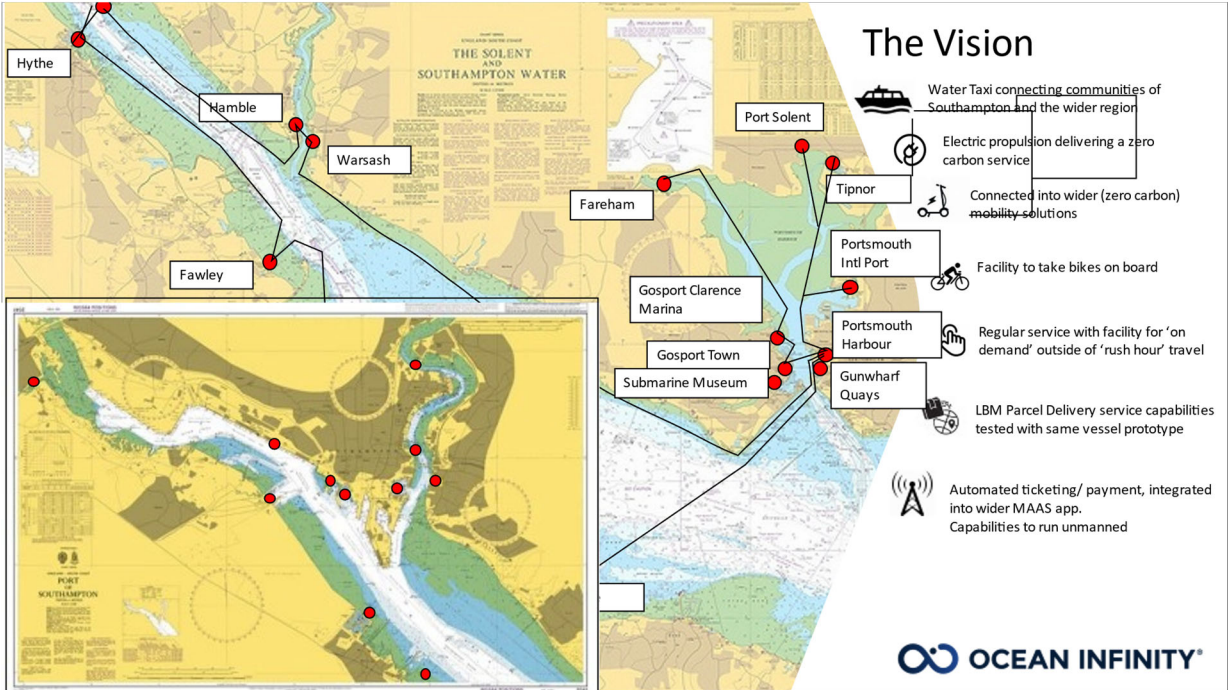


Figure 21 - A vision for a water taxi service connecting Southampton and the Solent

- 190. Fitted with zero carbon power and propulsion systems from day 1, there would also be a roadmap to unmanned vessel operation from a remote command and control centre in Woolston.
- 191. Southampton City Council, Solent Transport and ABP Southampton have demonstrated support for the project. Ocean Infinity are now building a consortium of partners, spanning local authorities, land owners, developers, operators and the maritime industry to bring this project to reality.
- 192. The Panel recognised that the project, fully integrated with the Local Development Plan, conceived on the banks of the river, proved at the mouth of the river, serving communities along the river could make a significant contribution to protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen now, and in the future.

Recommendations for a connected River Itchen in Southampton

193. In his presentation to the Panel, Graham Horton - Thames Solent Team Manager at Natural England, acknowledged that the River Itchen corridor was a fantastic asset to Southampton, providing direct access to valuable blue/green space that is beneficial to our mental and physical health and wellbeing. He noted that much of the sensitive, easily disturbed wildlife interest has probably already disappeared from the tidal River Itchen in Southampton and the river could accommodate increased recreational pressures, if well managed.
194. He concluded that there was:
- ‘Significant opportunity to increase access provision, build a stronger relationship with ‘place’ and with the natural environment.’²⁰*
195. During the inquiry the Panel were informed of opportunities to deliver increased access to, and along the river, that would link people, places and natural habitats thereby meeting the challenge to find more places where people can enjoy being by the river.
196. However, these opportunities need to be delivered, therefore, to increase the connectivity of the River Itchen in Southampton and meet the aspirations of residents for enhanced public access to the waterfront, the following actions are recommended:

Seamless walking and cycling routes and access to the river

- i. Access to the riverfront has improved in Southampton through developments such as the boardwalk and the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS) provides an opportunity to extend access to the river and the waterfront footpath network. The Panel recognise the intrinsic value associated with being by the river and therefore the Council should maximise opportunities, wherever they arise, to improve public access to the Itchen River in Southampton.
- ii. The draft Waterfront Policy in the emerging City Vision Local Plan seeks to enhance public access to the waterfront wherever possible and work towards creating continuous waterfront walkways, cycleways and public spaces. To deliver on this ambition the tools available to the Council must be deployed and City Council leaders need to provide a strong message that public access to the waterfront is a priority and that the Council will pro-actively pursue Rights of Way breaches and failures to follow Section 106 agreements. This will support officers when making decisions about future developments and balancing economic interests, environmental concerns and community aspirations regarding access and connectivity. To avoid anglers from being excluded, the ability of anglers to access the water needs to be a consideration when waterfront access for new developments is determined.
- iii. To promote and raise awareness of the ‘green’ riverside areas and waterside footpaths, tidy up the publicly owned open spaces and improve the signage of these routes and associated waterfront historic sights.

²⁰ [Graham Horton - Natural England presentation](#)

Linking people to jobs, town centres, services and public transport

- iv. The introduction of a zero-carbon water-borne, travel and transport network, connecting communities could help to create a distinctive waterfront experience in Southampton, enable businesses to connect with their workforce, and could make a significant contribution to protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen for years and generations to come. The Council needs to use its influence and connections to secure a Solent water taxi service, commencing initially on the River Itchen and promote within the Local Plan a requirement for new waterfront development over a certain size to include a docking facility.

Strategic Management and Partnership Working

River Itchen Survey - When asked what concerns, if any, you have about the River Itchen in Southampton, 229 out of the 647 comments received (35%) were linked to the management of the river.

197. Previous sections of this report have been focused on specific criteria and objectives – A healthy and resilient river; A vibrant river; A connected river. However, the examples of good practice considered at the March 2023 meeting of the Panel emphasised the importance of effective strategic management and partnership working if agreed objectives are to be delivered.
198. In the introduction to this report the complexity of the management, ownership, rules and regulations relating to the Itchen were outlined. There is no single organisation that oversees the management of all watercourses, estuaries or bodies of water. Different organisations and landowners have different roles and responsibilities.
199. There is currently no forum specifically focused on the River Itchen in Southampton where key stakeholders could meet regularly to address the challenges facing the river, and there is no plan or vision that they are signed up to.

Solent Forum

200. Like the River Itchen, the Solent has a highly complex system of planning and management due to the different regulatory systems across the land-sea divide and the wide range of authorities and agencies involved. There is a correspondingly large number of plans, strategies and other initiatives around the Solent, produced by a range of organisations for different purposes, covering different areas and timescales.
201. The Solent Forum was established in December 1992 with aims to promote, facilitate and support integrated planning and sustainable management of the Solent, and, to provide a broad-based consultative forum.
202. Karen McHugh, Solent Forum Manager, when discussing the achievements of the Forum, identified the benefit of bringing together often competing interests to develop a greater understanding of the problems and to determine collective solutions. Most challenges cannot be resolved by one organisation acting independently.
203. Southampton City Council used to be a member of Solent Forum, and a member of the Steering Group, but withdrew in 2018. Southampton City Council is the only key local authority that is not a member of the Forum. The Panel recognised that this limits the influence the Council is able to exert over issues impacting on the city.

Thames21

204. Thames21, like Wessex Rivers Trust, is a member of The Rivers Trust and acts as the voice for London's waterways, working with communities to improve rivers and canals for people and wildlife.
205. It has a track record of improving rivers but most of Thames21 work is delivered in partnership with other organisations. Debbie Leach, Chief Executive at Thames21 attributed part of their success to their ability to build strong relationships with the

complex array of stakeholders, thereby enabling the charity to exert influence, over organisations such as Thames Water, to champion the Thames and its tributaries.

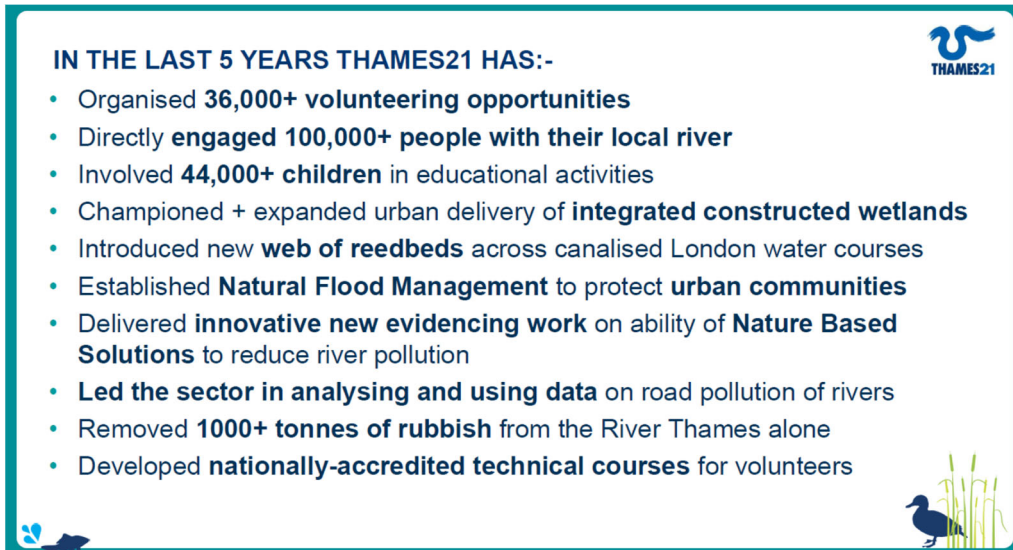


Figure 22 - Thames21 achievements since 2017

Glasgow – The River Clyde Strategic Development Framework

206. The Strategic Development Framework sets out key outcomes for the transformational regeneration of the River Clyde Corridor in Glasgow. The Panel were drawn to the clarity of the outcomes and the vision driving Glasgow’s approach:

‘The River Corridor will be a world-class destination, with an accessible waterfront and attractive spaces where people want to spend time. It will be climate-resilient and support a mix of uses. New houses and flats will be linked to existing neighbourhoods. The historic character will be protected and enhanced, while innovative design will help create a distinct identity. It will form part of a wider network of urban waterways, will support continuous walking and cycling routes, and be celebrated as the city’s largest, continuous open space.’

207. If Southampton is to effectively protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen it needs a vision for the future that is shared by stakeholders and the city, supported by a River Itchen plan with clear objectives.

208. To facilitate improved outcomes for the River Itchen in Southampton, the following actions relating to strategic, sustainable management, relationship building, and partnership working are recommended:

- i. Establish an Itchen River Forum comprising key stakeholders, including representatives from recreation users, community groups (Respect River Campaign), Wessex Rivers Trust, Southern Water, statutory agencies and the business community to develop relationships, acquire a greater understanding of the issues and to determine collective solutions.
- ii. Develop, through the Forum, a River Itchen vision and plan that sets clear objectives for the River Itchen in Southampton.
- iii. Undertake regular monitoring and evaluation to underpin the plans objectives.
- iv. To develop understanding and influence regarding issues impacting on the Solent coastline, the City Council should re-join Solent Forum as a full and active member.

Conclusions and Recommendations

209. A summary of the key evidence presented at each of the inquiry meetings is attached as Appendix 3. All the reports, presentations and minutes from the inquiry meetings can be found here:

[Browse meetings - Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Protecting, Preserving and Promoting The River Itchen in Southampton | Southampton City Council](#)

Conclusions

210. In his presentation to Southampton's historical Court Leet on 4th October 2022, Gavin Millar from the Friends of Itchen Estuary stated that:

'The Itchen Estuary has been central to the history and development of Southampton – from the Roman settlement of Clausentum, to the Saxon town of Hamwic, through to the period of industrialisation with shipbuilding and aircraft manufacturing amongst many other industries along its shores.

Over the centuries and through to the present day, Southampton citizens have made a living by this tidal river, they have fished on this river, walked by the river, swum in the river and rowed and sailed on the river.

Few cities can lay claim to a river estuary within their city boundaries. Although much of the wildlife rich salt-marshes and green riverbanks have been lost to development some still remain. The Itchen Estuary still has huge value for biodiversity, and carbon capture, and as the world's climate heats up, this estuary becomes increasingly important for countering the urban heat island we inhabit during our hotter summers.

Despite its huge heritage, wildlife, ecological and recreational value this precious open space within Southampton faces multiple threats from pollution, from increasing restrictions to access, and from development.²¹

211. Echoing Gavin's words, many of those who attended Panel meetings referenced the value of the Itchen Estuary, and the globally important non-tidal section of the river above Woodmill, to the city, recognising it to be an asset that we should cherish.
212. However, despite, as eloquently put by Graham Linecar from SCAPPs, *'the river giving the city its identity and a sense of place'*, he, like many, are of the view that the River Itchen in Southampton is under appreciated and is taken for granted.
213. The threats identified leave the river's health in the balance. A healthy river that supports abundant flora and fauna enhances our health and wellbeing, encourages recreation and active community support, and increases the desire to be by the river thereby increasing investment and economic prosperity.
214. A healthy river therefore leads to a vibrant river and potentially a better connected river.
215. Reflecting the concerns raised and the evidence presented, a different approach to the river is required. An approach that recognises the value of the River Itchen to Southampton, where the focus is on investing in the health of the river and a high quality river environment rather than, as has historically happened, exploiting the river.

²¹ [Appendix 1 Court Leet Presentments 2022.pdf \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#) – Number 8

216. Fortunately, a number of timely developments mean that this is an opportune moment to commit to the new approach. The most significant of these being the refresh of the Local Plan and the opportunity it presents to guide planning applications and shape the city as a place to 2040 and beyond.
217. Progress has been made, and if these opportunities are harnessed there is the potential to rise to the challenges set and to have a fluvial and tidal river that is closer to being of high ecological status; a distinctive waterfront that is well-designed, attractive, sensitive to the character and context of the area which also protects and enhances the natural environment; and a river that effectively links people, places and habitats.
218. This will contribute significantly to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the city as the foreword to Thames21 5 year plan explains:

*'A healthy and clean river is joyous and energising, it gladdens our hearts and restores our souls. It is abundant with nature and flourishing wildlife. It empowers, enables and protects human activity and achievement. A healthy river builds community. Urban and rural populations consistently gather, grow and prosper around a healthy river.'*²²

Recommendations

219. In this report recommendations have been identified against each of the ambitions for the river. In summary, reflecting the key findings and conclusions the following actions are recommended to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen in Southampton:

Strategic Management and Partnership Working

220. To facilitate improved outcomes for the River Itchen in Southampton, the following actions relating to strategic, sustainable management, relationship building, and partnership working are recommended:
1. Establish an Itchen River Forum comprising key stakeholders, including representatives from recreation users, community groups (Respect River Campaign), Wessex Rivers Trust, Southern Water, statutory agencies and the business community to develop relationships, acquire a greater understanding of the issues and to determine collective solutions.
 2. Develop, through the Forum, a River Itchen vision and plan that sets clear objectives for the River Itchen in Southampton.
 3. Undertake regular monitoring and evaluation to underpin the plans objectives.
 4. To develop understanding and influence regarding issues impacting on the Solent coastline, the City Council should re-join Solent Forum as a full and active member.

A Healthy and Resilient River

221. To improve the health and resilience of the River Itchen in Southampton and move it closer to a Water Framework Directive Ecological Status rating of high, the following actions are recommended:

²² [Thames21 5 year plan](#)

5. The Council works with partners to actively pursue opportunities to restore and enhance biodiversity and natural habitats along the river to improve the situation for wildlife. The Nitrogen Neutrality Scheme could be a source of funding to support such initiatives, dependent upon discussions with Natural England.
6. Whilst the Panel support the proposed additional investment in Southampton's infrastructure by Southern Water to reduce wastewater incidents, Southern Water are encouraged to follow the example set by Thames Water relating to inland waterways and provide real time information about pollution events impacting on the River Itchen. The Panel request that this is undertaken as soon as possible, via the Beachbuoy tool or through other communication outlets, to enable informed decisions to be taken.
7. To reduce and slow the run-off and pollution into the River Itchen, build sustainable drainage solutions into highway projects, as well as those mandated for new developments by the enactment of Schedule 3 of the in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and utilise new gully technology to limit harmful chemicals from the highways entering the watercourse.
8. If requested, the Council provides timely support to community groups in their campaign for areas of the River Itchen to be awarded Designated Bathing Water Status.
9. If pilot schemes in the River Hamble and Isle of Wight identify them to be beneficial to the river environment, the Council should support the establishment of oyster reefs in the River Itchen to help improve water quality.
10. To help reduce locally produced waste and pollution and to build upon the momentum created by the work at Chessel Bay, work with partners to develop an accreditation scheme for businesses that 'respect the river'. There is potential for this initiative to be funded through the Southampton Airport Community Fund.
11. To aid policy and decision making and encourage investment in our natural environment, consideration should be given by the Council to adopting a natural capital approach by placing a value on Southampton's natural environment.

A Vibrant River

222. To increase the vibrancy of the River Itchen in Southampton the following actions are recommended:
12. Whilst the Panel welcome the safeguarding of sites in the draft Local Plan for marine uses, to enable this vitally important sector to grow and prosper in Southampton it is recommended that the Council works collaboratively with partners, including British Marine, Solent Freeport, business representative organisations, and with existing marine and maritime businesses, to address the recruitment and training challenge via the Local Skills and Improvement Plan, to develop a skilled workforce now, and in the future.
 13. The Panel recognise the potential of the redevelopment of the Itchen Riverside to revitalise the waterfront, enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment. The Panel would support the creation of a distinctive, design led waterfront that, through the master-planning process, integrates biodiversity,

public access to the waterfront, flood resilience and high quality green spaces into its design and planning from the outset.

- 14.** In collaboration with partners, draft a 'Blue Space Strategy' for Southampton enabling a city-wide approach to recreation on the water to be developed and priorities for maintenance and infrastructure improvements to be identified.
- 15.** To enable access to the water for watercraft, review the accessibility of the public hard on the River Itchen and ensure that they are well maintained and fit for purpose.
- 16.** In support of the ambition to activate the water the Panel welcomes the work that has been undertaken by ABP in clearing the wrecks and abandoned vessels from the River Itchen and encourage them to continue delivering their plans for further clearance activity until all such vessels are removed.

A Connected River

223. To increase the connectivity of the River Itchen in Southampton and meet the aspirations of residents for enhanced public access to the waterfront, the following actions are recommended:

- 17.** Access to the riverfront has improved in Southampton through developments such as the boardwalk and the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS) provides an opportunity to extend access to the river and the waterfront footpath network. The Panel recognise the intrinsic value associated with being by the river and therefore the Council should maximise opportunities, wherever they arise, to improve public access to the Itchen River in Southampton.
- 18.** The draft Waterfront Policy in the emerging City Vision Local Plan seeks to enhance public access to the waterfront wherever possible and work towards creating continuous waterfront walkways, cycleways and public spaces. To deliver on this ambition the tools available to the Council must be deployed and City Council leaders need to provide a strong message that public access to the waterfront is a priority and that the Council will pro-actively pursue Rights of Way breaches and failures to follow Section 106 agreements. This will support officers when making decisions about future developments and balancing economic interests, environmental concerns and community aspirations regarding access and connectivity. To avoid anglers from being excluded, the ability of anglers to access the water needs to be a consideration when waterfront access for new developments is determined.
- 19.** To promote and raise awareness of the 'green' riverside areas and waterside footpaths, tidy up the publicly owned open spaces and improve the signage of these routes and associated waterfront historic sights.
- 20.** The introduction of a zero-carbon water-borne, travel and transport network, connecting communities could help to create a distinctive waterfront experience in Southampton, enable businesses to connect with their workforce, and could make a significant contribution to protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen for years and generations to come. The Council needs to use its influence and connections to secure a Solent water taxi service, commencing initially on the River Itchen and promote within the Local Plan a requirement for new waterfront development over a certain size to include a docking facility.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Inquiry Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 - Inquiry Plan

Appendix 3 - Summary of evidence

Appendix 1 – Inquiry Terms of Reference

Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry - Terms of Reference and Outline Inquiry Plan

1. Scrutiny Panel membership:

Councillor Savage
Councillor A Bunday
Councillor Cooper
Councillor Moulton
Councillor White

2. Purpose:

In partnership with stakeholders to identify opportunities to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen in Southampton.

2. Background:

- The River Itchen in Hampshire is an example of a chalk stream, rivers that rise from springs in landscapes with a bedrock of chalk. It is approximately 28 miles in length.
- The source of the river is just south of the village of Cheriton, and the river becomes tidal after it passes under Woodmill Bridge in Swaythling.
- The Itchen has been the lifeblood of Southampton since Roman and Saxon times, it divides the city in two and is an important commercial and natural resource.
- Marinas, wharves, and quays are located at the lower reaches of the river and businesses line its banks. In Southampton the river is also used by numerous clubs involved in water sports as well as SWAC (Southampton Water Activities Centre) and Woodmill Activity Centre.
- Areas of the River Itchen in Southampton are identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and as the Itchen meanders through Southampton it does, in places, offer opportunities for communities to access the waterfront and enjoy being by the water.
- The river is subject to use by numerous, and, at times competing interests that can create pressure on the natural environment and tensions between user groups. In addition, ownership and oversight of the river is complex and the responsibility of a number of different organisations.
- Reflecting their importance to communities, across the UK there are examples of local approaches where stakeholders are working in partnership to protect, preserve and promote urban rivers.

3. Objectives:

- a. To identify the various different users and uses of the River Itchen in Southampton and the challenges this presents.
- b. To understand existing plans and opportunities to address the identified challenges.
- c. To identify good practice being employed to protect, preserve and promote urban rivers elsewhere.
- d. To identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen.

4. Methodology:

- a. Seek the views of residents and stakeholders
- b. Undertake desktop research
- c. Identify best practice

5. Proposed Timetable:

Seven meetings between October 2022 and April 2023

Meeting 1: 6 October 2022

- Introduction, context and background
 - Ownership
 - Responsibilities
 - Rules governing the river
 - Uses of the river
 - Feedback from resident's survey

Meeting 2: 17 November 2022

- The condition of the river and plans for improvement
 - Water quality
 - Habitat and biodiversity
 - Chessel Bay case study

Meeting 3: 1 December 2022

- Economic importance of the river (Understand the role of the river in the local economy and recognise the impact of some commercial use)
 - Wharfs
 - Marinas
 - Hazards / Wrecks
 - Business along riverbanks
 - Housing and transport developments
 - Planning policies and development

Meeting 4: 19 January 2023

- Flood Risk Management

- River Itchen Flood Risk Alleviation Scheme

Meeting 5: 16 February 2023

- Recreation / Community use and access to the river (How can more people enjoy the river?)
 - Water sports / Anglers
 - Friends of groups
 - Houseboat residents
 - Riverside walks and access

Meeting 6: 2 March 2023

- Review of best practice (What urban areas have sought to address the challenges raised?)

Meeting 7: 20 April 2023

- Consideration of the final report

Appendix 2 – Inquiry Plan

DATE	MEETING THEME	EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY
06/10/22	Agree Terms of Reference and Introduction, context and background to the inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr David Rumble - Chief Executive Officer, Wessex Rivers Trust • Sam Foulds - Flood Risk Management Team Leader • Cara Brims - Flood Risk Officer, SCC • Rose Nicole - Co-founder of Respect the River Campaign and Co-ordinator of Friends of Chessel Bay Nature Reserve • Mark Pirnie - Scrutiny Manager at SCC
17/11/22	The River Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Horton - Thames Solent Team Manager, Natural England • Dr David Rumble - Chief Executive, Wessex Rivers Trust • Andrew Adams - Catchment Planning Manager, Southern Water • David Murphy - Wastewater Strategy Manager, Southern Water • Lindsay McCulloch - Natural Environment Manager, SCC • The Environment Agency • Colin Perris - Service Manager, Highways Contracts, SCC • Tim Mayer - MDL Marinas Sales and Marketing Director
01/12/22	The Economic Importance of the River Itchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Masters - Harbour Master, ABP Port of Southampton • Matthew Hill - Economic Development Operations Manager, SCC • Paulina Piotrowski - Economic Development Operations Manager, SCC • Graham Tuck - Planning Policy Group Leader, SCC • Amber Trueman - Strategic Planning Manager, SCC • Andy Tourell - Head of Sustainable Logistics, Ocean Infinity • Leigh-Sara Timberlake – Group CEO, Business South Group Ltd • Gavin Hall - Chair of Planning & Transport Business Strategy Group, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

DATE	MEETING THEME	EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY
19/01/23	Flood Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Martin – Flood and Coastal Risk Management Partnership & Strategic Overview Team Leader, New Forest, Test & Itchen, The Environment Agency • Blake Jones – Project Executive, RIFAS, The Environment Agency • Sam Foulds – Flood Risk Management Team Leader, SCC • Cara Brims – Flood Risk Officer, SCC
16/02/23	How can more people enjoy the river?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay McCulloch - Natural Environment Manager, SCC • Graham Linecar - Secretary of Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society (SCAPPS) • Mark Pirnie - Scrutiny Manager, SCC • James Hinves - National Club Development Manager, British Canoeing • Feedback from - Friends of Itchen Navigation; Friends of Riverside Park; Friends of Chessel Bay; All Aboard Festival; Respect the River Campaign; SWAC and Woodmill Activity Centre; Coalporters Amateur Rowing Club; BTC Rowing Club; British Canoeing; Southampton Canoe Club; Southampton Sailing Club; St Denys Boat Club; 25th Northam Sea Scouts; Kingfisher Swimmers; Southampton Sea Angling Club; a Woodmill Activity Centre volunteer.
02/03/23	Exploring Good Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay Pratt - Principal Planner, Glasgow City Council • Debbie Leach - Chief Executive, Thames21 • Karen McHugh - Solent Forum Manager
20/04/23	Agree final report	

The minutes for each meeting, the evidence submitted to the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel and presentations delivered at each meeting is available at:

[Browse meetings - Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Protecting, Preserving and Promoting The River Itchen in Southampton | Southampton City Council](#)

Appendix 3 – Summary of Evidence

Following each meeting of the Inquiry Panel the Scrutiny Manager provided a summary of the evidence presented to Panel Members. The summaries can be accessed via the following link:

[Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton - Summary of evidence](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton - Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

In his presentation to Southampton's historical Court Leet on 4th October 2022, Gavin Millar from the Friends of Itchen Estuary stated that:

'The Itchen Estuary has been central to the history and development of Southampton – from the Roman settlement of Clausentum, to the Saxon town of Hamwic, through to the period of industrialisation with shipbuilding and aircraft manufacturing amongst many other industries along its shores.

Over the centuries and through to the present day, Southampton citizens have made a living by this tidal river, they have fished on this river, walked by the river, swum in the river and rowed and sailed on the river.

Few cities can lay claim to a river estuary within their city boundaries. Although much of the wildlife rich salt-marshes and green riverbanks have been lost to development some still remain. The Itchen Estuary still has huge value for biodiversity, and carbon capture, and as the world's climate heats up, this estuary becomes increasingly important for countering the urban heat island we inhabit during our hotter summers.

*Despite its huge heritage, wildlife, ecological and recreational value this precious open space within Southampton faces multiple threats from pollution, from increasing restrictions to access, and from development.'*¹

Echoing Gavin's words, many of those who attended Panel meetings referenced the value of the Itchen Estuary, and the globally important non-tidal section of the river above Woodmill, to the city, recognising it to be an asset that we should cherish.

However, despite, as eloquently put by Graham Linecar from SCAPPs, *'the river giving the city its identity and a sense of place'*, he, like many, are of the view that the River Itchen in Southampton is under appreciated and is taken for granted.

The threats identified leave the river's health in the balance. A healthy river that supports abundant flora and fauna enhances our health and wellbeing, encourages recreation and active community support, and increases the desire to be by the river thereby increasing investment and economic prosperity.

A healthy river therefore leads to a vibrant river and potentially a better connected river.

Reflecting the concerns raised and the evidence presented, a different approach to the river is required. An approach that recognises the value of the River Itchen to Southampton, where the focus is on investing in the health of the river and a high quality river environment rather than, as has historically happened, exploiting the river.

Fortunately, a number of timely developments mean that this is an opportune moment to commit to the new approach. The most significant of these being the refresh of the Local Plan and the opportunity it presents to guide planning applications and shape the city as a place to 2040 and beyond.

Progress has been made, and if these opportunities are harnessed there is the potential to rise to the challenges set and to have a fluvial and tidal river that is closer

¹ [Appendix 1 Court Leet Presentments 2022.pdf \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#) – Number 8

to being of high ecological status; a distinctive waterfront that is well-designed, attractive, sensitive to the character and context of the area which also protects and enhances the natural environment; and a river that effectively links people, places and habitats.

This will contribute significantly to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the city as the foreword to Thames21 5 year plan explains:

*'A healthy and clean river is joyous and energising, it gladdens our hearts and restores our souls. It is abundant with nature and flourishing wildlife. It empowers, enables and protects human activity and achievement. A healthy river builds community. Urban and rural populations consistently gather, grow and prosper around a healthy river.'*²

Recommendations

In this report recommendations have been identified against each of the ambitions for the river. In summary, reflecting the key findings and conclusions the following actions are recommended to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen in Southampton:

Strategic Management and Partnership Working

To facilitate improved outcomes for the River Itchen in Southampton, the following actions relating to strategic, sustainable management, relationship building, and partnership working are recommended:

1. Establish an Itchen River Forum comprising key stakeholders, including representatives from recreation users, community groups (Respect River Campaign), Wessex Rivers Trust, Southern Water, statutory agencies and the business community to develop relationships, acquire a greater understanding of the issues and to determine collective solutions.
2. Develop, through the Forum, a River Itchen vision and plan that sets clear objectives for the River Itchen in Southampton.
3. Undertake regular monitoring and evaluation to underpin the plans objectives.
4. To develop understanding and influence regarding issues impacting on the Solent coastline, the City Council should re-join Solent Forum as a full and active member.

A Healthy and Resilient River

To improve the health and resilience of the River Itchen in Southampton and move it closer to a Water Framework Directive Ecological Status rating of high, the following actions are recommended:

5. The Council works with partners to actively pursue opportunities to restore and enhance biodiversity and natural habitats along the river to improve the situation for wildlife. The Nitrogen Neutrality Scheme could be a source of funding to support such initiatives, dependent upon discussions with Natural England.

² [Thames21 5 year plan](#)

6. Whilst the Panel support the proposed additional investment in Southampton's infrastructure by Southern Water to reduce wastewater incidents, Southern Water are encouraged to follow the example set by Thames Water relating to inland waterways and provide real time information about pollution events impacting on the River Itchen. The Panel request that this is undertaken as soon as possible, via the Beachbuoy tool or through other communication outlets, to enable informed decisions to be taken.
7. To reduce and slow the run-off and pollution into the River Itchen, build sustainable drainage solutions into highway projects, as well as those mandated for new developments by the enactment of Schedule 3 of the in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and utilise new gully technology to limit harmful chemicals from the highways entering the watercourse.
8. If requested, the Council provides timely support to community groups in their campaign for areas of the River Itchen to be awarded Designated Bathing Water Status.
9. If pilot schemes in the River Hamble and Isle of Wight identify them to be beneficial to the river environment, the Council should support the establishment of oyster reefs in the River Itchen to help improve water quality.
10. To help reduce locally produced waste and pollution and to build upon the momentum created by the work at Chessel Bay, work with partners to develop an accreditation scheme for businesses that 'respect the river'. There is potential for this initiative to be funded through the Southampton Airport Community Fund.
11. To aid policy and decision making and encourage investment in our natural environment, consideration should be given by the Council to adopting a natural capital approach by placing a value on Southampton's natural environment.

A Vibrant River

To increase the vibrancy of the River Itchen in Southampton the following actions are recommended:

12. Whilst the Panel welcome the safeguarding of sites in the draft Local Plan for marine uses, to enable this vitally important sector to grow and prosper in Southampton it is recommended that the Council works collaboratively with partners, including British Marine, Solent Freeport, business representative organisations, and with existing marine and maritime businesses, to address the recruitment and training challenge via the Local Skills and Improvement Plan, to develop a skilled workforce now, and in the future.
13. The Panel recognise the potential of the redevelopment of the Itchen Riverside to revitalise the waterfront, enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment. The Panel would support the creation of a distinctive, design led waterfront that, through the master-planning process, integrates biodiversity, public access to the waterfront, flood resilience and high quality green spaces into its design and planning from the outset.

- 14.** In collaboration with partners, draft a 'Blue Space Strategy' for Southampton enabling a city-wide approach to recreation on the water to be developed and priorities for maintenance and infrastructure improvements to be identified.
- 15.** To enable access to the water for watercraft, review the accessibility of the public hard on the River Itchen and ensure that they are well maintained and fit for purpose.
- 16.** In support of the ambition to activate the water the Panel welcomes the work that has been undertaken by ABP in clearing the wrecks and abandoned vessels from the River Itchen and encourage them to continue delivering their plans for further clearance activity until all such vessels are removed.

A Connected River

To increase the connectivity of the River Itchen in Southampton and meet the aspirations of residents for enhanced public access to the waterfront, the following actions are recommended:

- 17.** Access to the riverfront has improved in Southampton through developments such as the boardwalk and the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS) provides an opportunity to extend access to the river and the waterfront footpath network. The Panel recognise the intrinsic value associated with being by the river and therefore the Council should maximise opportunities, wherever they arise, to improve public access to the Itchen River in Southampton.
- 18.** The draft Waterfront Policy in the emerging City Vision Local Plan seeks to enhance public access to the waterfront wherever possible and work towards creating continuous waterfront walkways, cycleways and public spaces. To deliver on this ambition the tools available to the Council must be deployed and City Council leaders need to provide a strong message that public access to the waterfront is a priority and that the Council will pro-actively pursue Rights of Way breaches and failures to follow Section 106 agreements. This will support officers when making decisions about future developments and balancing economic interests, environmental concerns and community aspirations regarding access and connectivity. To avoid anglers from being excluded, the ability of anglers to access the water needs to be a consideration when waterfront access for new developments is determined.
- 19.** To promote and raise awareness of the 'green' riverside areas and waterside footpaths, tidy up the publicly owned open spaces and improve the signage of these routes and associated waterfront historic sights.
- 20.** The introduction of a zero-carbon water-borne, travel and transport network, connecting communities could help to create a distinctive waterfront experience in Southampton, enable businesses to connect with their workforce, and could make a significant contribution to protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen for years and generations to come. The Council needs to use its influence and connections to secure a Solent water taxi service, commencing initially on the River Itchen and promote within the Local Plan a requirement for new waterfront development over a certain size to include a docking facility.

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS 2023/24		
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JUNE 2023		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE, LEGAL AND HR		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Director of Governance, Legal and HR	
	Name:	Richard Ivory	Tel: 023 8083 2794
	E-mail	Richard.ivory@southamoton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Snr. Democratic Support Officer	
	Name:	Claire Heather	Tel: 023 8083 2412
	E-mail	Claire.heather@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
N/A			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
Under the City Council’s democratic arrangements, it is a requirement that appointments to all organisations and bodies which relate to executive functions are determined by the Executive.			
Although the work of the bodies/organisations listed in the Appointments Register covers all aspects of city life and Council activities and therefore affects all wards, the decision to appoint to them is of administrative effect only.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Executive Appointments for the 2023/24 Municipal Year be approved as set out in the attached revised Register; and	
	(ii)	That all appointments be for one year save where the terms of reference and or constitution of the body or organisation concerned specify the duration of an appointment or where the decision on any nomination by the City Council to their membership is reserved to the body or organisation concerned to determine the appointment or continuation of appointments, in light of any changes in City Council Administration.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	Member appointments are required to a number of statutory and best practice bodies, as well as a number of external organisations with which the Council has strategic or significant community links.		
2.	Under the constitution or terms of reference in respect of some outside organisation’s appointments are in some cases specified as having a term of office/appointment longer than one year or are nominations, the final decision on appointment lying with the body itself. In such cases when a change of Administration occurs, and the appointment term has not expired and is of significance to the incoming administration that member/appointee should be encouraged to step down in favour of a new appointee from the incoming		

	administration but noting that the final decision in some cases lies with the organisation or outside body concerned.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
3.	No other options are presented, it is a matter for the Cabinet to determine whether it wishes to approve the revised appointments and be represented on all the bodies set out in the attached revised Register of Appointments.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
4.	The Executive Appointments set out in the appendix to this report have been the subject of consultation and agreement with all political groups represented on the City Council.
5.	After Annual Council, numerous appointments to a variety of statutory, best practice and external organisations and bodies which require City Council Member representation need to be made by the Cabinet.
6.	The following appointments were made at the Annual Council on 17 May, 2023:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors; • Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority; • Partnership for South Hampshire – Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and • Hampshire Police and Crime Panel
7.	Appointments are categorised into groups developed by the Director of Legal and Business Services as follows:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Statutory Partnership; b) Non-Statutory Partnership; c) Informal Groups; d) Appointments and/or Financial Commitments to Outside Bodies; e) Commercial Partnerships; f) Commercial or Contractual Agreements; and g) Legally Defined Arrangements.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
8.	The cost of travel and subsistence costs for Members meeting the commitment of serving as a representative on an Executive Appointment are met from existing budgets.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
9.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
10.	The Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and the Localism Act 2011.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
11.	None.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
12.	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
13.	Cabinet approval of the appointments listed in the Register of Appointments appended to this report are in line with the City Council's Policy Framework.
KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Revised Register of Appointments 2023/24
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

This page is intentionally left blank

REVISED REGISTER OF APPOINTMENTS 2023-2024

D R A F T
TO BE APPOINTED AT TUESDAY 13 JUNE CABINET

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
A1	Cabinet	Joint Pension Fund Panel and Board	The Pension Fund Panel monitors the performance of the investment managers and advises the Audit Committee on matters requiring decisions in connection with the investment of the pension fund. Shared seat with Portsmouth City Council. 2023/24 SCC will have the main seat with PCC as a deputy.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Leggett (Cllr M Bunday Deputy)	June 23	May 24	Steve Harrison (023 8083 4153)
A2	Cabinet	City of Culture Trust		1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur	May 23	May 24	Caroline Abel (023 8083 2882)
A3	Cabinet	ICB Southampton Health and Care Partnership	Board established to make joint decisions on behalf of the Council and CCG on certain agreed functions related to health and care.	3	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur Cllr Fielker Cllr Winning	June 23	May 24	Terry Clark (023 8029 6941)
A4	Cabinet	Learning Disabilities Partnership Board	Partnership Board established to take responsibility for local delivery of the Government's Valuing People White Paper, led by the Council with the active participation of all key stakeholders.	3	No		Cllr Fielker Cllr Windle Cllr Houghton	June 23	May 24	Kate Dench (023 8083 4787)
A5	Cabinet	Safe City Partnership	The Partnership brings together senior representatives of all the local agencies involved in community safety and includes; Southampton City Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Youth Offending, Primary Care Trust and Hampshire Probation established 1998 as the primary vehicle for tackling crime and disorder issues in Southampton.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kataria	June 23	May 24	Romilly Beard (023 8083 3310)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
A6	Cabinet	Schools Forum	To receive information on and comment on LEA's school funding formula, other issues in connection with schools budgets and service contracts.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Winning	June 23	May 24	Robert Henderson (023 8083 4899)
A7	Cabinet	Southampton International Airport Consultative Committee	To act as the consultative body in relation to the Airport for the purposes of Section and of the Civil Aviation Act 1968, between the airport management, users, local authorities and local organisations and the county.	6	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Savage Cllr Mintoff Cllr Moulton	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4611)
A8	Cabinet	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	To set the strategic direction of the organisation within the priorities set by the government and NHS, to oversee delivery of planned targets and ensure effective financial stewardship.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Cox	June 23	May 24	Amanda Luker (023 8029 6941)
A9	Cabinet	Integrated Care Partnership (Formally Clinical Commissioning Group)	Integrated Care Partnership helping to meet the health and care needs of local people. They are allocated a budget of just over £350 million a year to achieve this and use it to plan and pay for (or 'commission') health and care services from a number of service providers (such as hospitals, mental health and community trusts).	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Fielker	June 23	May 24	Terry Clark (023 8083 4162)
A10	Cabinet	Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) and Appeal and Scrutiny Sub Committee	To regulate sea fisheries within the Southern Sea Fisheries District, (coasts of Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight).	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Savage	June 23	May 24	Kelly Scott (023 8022 6631)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
A11	Cabinet	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (S A C R E)	Constructed under the Education Reform Act 1998 to advise the Authority on matters connected with collective worship and the teaching of RE in City Schools.	4	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Lambert Cllr Webb Cllr Beaurain Cllr Wood	June 23	May 24	Alison Philpott (023 8083 3076)
A12	Cabinet	Port Health Consultative Board	ABP led consultative board, non-decision making. Matters of interest to port community.	2	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Leggett Cllr Rayment	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4611)
A13	Cabinet	Business Improvement Board	Go! Southampton is an independent nonprofit Business Improvement District, businesses can influence the future of our City Centre and take the initiative on specific issues that businesses face.	1	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur (Cllr Bogle Deputy)	June 23	May 24	Romilly Beard (023 8083 3310)
A14	Cabinet	Community Chest Advisory Panel		6	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Every Cllr Lambert Cllr Paffey Cllr Ugwoeme Cllr Houghton Cllr Chapman	June 23	May 24	Wendy Flanagan (023 8083 2933)
A15	Cabinet	Connect	Southampton Connect is an independent, non-statutory partnership which exists to provide collaborative leadership for the collective development of Southampton.	3		2 Yr	Cllr Kaur Cllr Winning Cllr Fielker	June 23	May 24	Romilly Beard (023 8083 3310)
A16	Cabinet	Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Statutory overseeing body to ensure all partners adequately discharge their safeguarding roles.	1		1 Yr	Cllr Winning	June 23	May 24	Robert Henderson (023 8083 4899)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
A17	Cabinet	Local Safeguarding Adults Board	Statutory overseeing body to ensure all partners adequately discharge their safeguarding roles.	1		1 Yr	Cllr Fielker	June 23	May 24	Claire Edgar (023 8083 2237)
B1	Cabinet	Hampshire Partnership	The Hampshire Partnership is a voluntary collaboration made up partner agencies across Hampshire to promote and facilitate better cross-agency working.	2	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur Cllr Fitzhenry	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4611)
B2	Cabinet	King Edward VI School	Governor	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Rayment	June 23	May 24	Robert Henderson (023 8083 4899)
B3	Cabinet	F.W. Smith Bequest Purchasing Committee	To provide/buy pictures for the Art Gallery principally from English artists from the income of the F.W. Smith Bequest.	2	No	1 Yr	Cllr Mrs Blatchford Cllr Beaurain	June 22	May 23	Carolyn Abel (023 8083 2882)
B4	Cabinet	Solent Transport Joint Committee	To promote the sub regional transport agenda, implement schemes of a sub-regional nature and lobby and/or influence on all other associated aspects of life within the TfSH Area.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Keogh	June 23	May 24	Pete Boustred (023 8083 4743)
B5	Cabinet	Southampton 2025	To promote the educational and economic benefits of the cultural sector in the City	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	Claire Whitaker (023 8083 4872)
B6	Cabinet	Southampton Energy Partnership	The Energy Partnership brings together organisations and businesses in the City with high energy usage. To share information on best practice and local case studies the Partnership of organisations with the ability and commitment to take action to reduce energy needs and costs, and to reduce the carbon footprint of the City.	1	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Keogh	June 23	May 24	Jason Taylor (023 8083 2641)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
B7	Cabinet	Standing Conf on Problems Associated with The Coastline (SCOPAC)	To provide a more co-ordinated approach to coastal engineering and related matters between authorities on the Central South coast - Lyme Bay to Worthing	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Savage	June 23	May 24	Sam Foulds (023 8083 2076)
B8	Cabinet	Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) is a committee established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and independent members with relevant experience for 3 purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines •to encourage efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that represents value for money and benefits local communities •to provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to build understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area 	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Keogh	June 23	May 24	Sam Foulds (023 8083 2076)
B9	Cabinet	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	The principal purpose of the Trust is the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Ugwoeme	June 23	May 24	Debbie Chase (023 8083 3818)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
B10	Cabinet	The Wulfris Educational Foundation	Provision of school clothing, books and equipment to the needy children resident in Southampton.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Winning	June 23	May 24	Robert Henderson (023 8083 4899)
B11	Cabinet	Future of Work Advisory Board	The Future of Work Advisory Board Southampton exists to provide collaborative leadership for the collective development of local learning, skills and employment provision to meet current and future demands (employer, residents, provider).	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Winning	June 23	May 24	Romilly Beard (023 8083 3310)
C1	Cabinet	Corporate Parenting	The Council acting as a parent for children in care.	7	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Paffey Cllr T Bunday Cllr Lambert Cllr Winning Cllr J Baillie Cllr Beaurain Cllr Blackman	June 23	May 24	Robert Henderson (023 8083 4899)
D1	Cabinet	Hampshire British Legion Poppy Appeal	Armed Forces charity providing care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present and their families, administering and supporting the delivery of welfare services and the membership and fundraising activities of the Legion's branches and clubs throughout Hampshire. It also acts as the national Custodian of Remembrance and safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Rayment Cllr T Bunday (Deputy)	June 23	May 24	
D2	Cabinet	Solent Skies - Board Of Directors	To preserve the aviation heritage of Southampton. (Conditional appointment subject to satisfactory conclusion of lease and management agreement).	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Every	June 23	May 24	Carolyn Abel (023 8083 4516)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
D3	Cabinet	Southampton Record Series	To represent the City at the Joint Committee of the Southampton Record Series with the University.	3	Yes	3 Yr	Cllr Denness Cllr Evely Cllr S Galton	June 23	May 24	Carolyn Abel (023 8083 4516)
D4	Cabinet	Southampton Solent University Board Of Governors	Co-opted external Governor to sit on the Southampton Solent University Board of Governors to form a link between the Council and the Institute as one of the providers of higher education in the City.	1	No	4 Yr	<i>To remain vacant until the summer</i>	June 23	May 24	Debbie Chase (023 8083 3694)
D5	Cabinet	Southampton Voluntary Services	To provide a focus for the voluntary sector activities in Southampton and to act as a local development agency for voluntary action.	2	No	1 Yr	Cllr Ugwoeme Cllr Powell-Vaughan	June 23	May 24	Claire Edgar (023 8083 4611)
D6	Cabinet	Thorner's Homes	Almshouse Charity providing accommodation for women over 55 in limited financial circumstances.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Windle	June 23	May 24	Tina Dyer-Slade (023 8083 3597)
E1	Cabinet	Business South	To provide engagement between the private, public and voluntary sectors and promote Southampton City Region	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Bogle	June 23	May 24	Mike Harris (023 8083 2882)
E2	Cabinet	Community Champion For Older Persons	To lead consultation with relevant groups at both local and city wide level.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Windle	June 23	May 24	Claire Edgar (023 8083 2237)
E3	Cabinet	Community Champion for Armed Forces	To strengthen relationships between Southampton's Armed Forces community and the City Council through overseeing the Armed Forces Community Covenant.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr T Bunday Cllr Rayment	June 23	May 24	James Marshall (023 8083 3015)
E4	Cabinet	Community Champion for Heritage		1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Evely	June 23	May 24	Carolyn Abel (023 8083 4516)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
E5	Cabinet	Community Champion for Mental Health		2	No	1 Yr	Cllr Goodfellow Cllr P Baillie	June 23	May 24	Claire Edgar (023 8083 2237)
E6	Cabinet	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Health Scrutiny Panel	A Cross Council Panel monitoring the provision of Health Services.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr A Frampton	June 23	May 24	Mark Pirnie (023 8083 3886)
F1	Cabinet	Local Government Association	Pressure Group and lobbying organisation providing an overall national voice for local government in England with a view to promoting and protecting the interests of member councils by providing advice and support.	4	Yes	1 Yr	Cllr Fitzhenry Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	Romilly Beard (023 8083 3310)
F2	Cabinet	Local Government Information Unit	Independent research and information organisation with the principal aim of making the case for strong democratic Local Government together with information and support services to member authorities and individual councillors.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr M Bunday	June 23	May 24	Romilly Beard (023 8083 3310)
G1	Cabinet	Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH)	To promote sustainable, economic-led growth and development of South Hampshire supported by enhanced transport and other infrastructure and to lobby and/or influence on all other associated aspects of life within the PFSH Area.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur Cllr Fielker (Deputy)	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4670)
G2	Cabinet	Project Integra Strategic Board	Partnership body consisting of all Local Authorities in Hampshire to deal with waste management in the County.	2	No	1 Yr	Cllr Leggett Cllr Keogh	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4670)
G3	Cabinet	Solent Local	To provide a private sector led Local	1	No	1Yr	Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
		Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board	Enterprise Partnership to promote the economic wellbeing of South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight							(023 8083 4670)
G4	Cabinet	Solent Growth Forum	The Solent Growth Forum (SGF) provides an external scrutiny panel for the Solent LEP , with involvement of all Local Authorities within the Solent area. SGF meetings are open to the public and deputations can be made.	1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4670)
G4	Cabinet	Solent LEP – Skills and Advisory Board	The Solent Skills Advisory Panel will: •bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand and address key local challenges. This includes both immediate needs and challenges and what is required to help local areas adapt to future labour market changes and to grasp future opportunities	1	No	1Yr	Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4670)
G5	Cabinet	City Eye	Based in Southampton to support the community, arts organisations, individuals, emerging talent and established talent in the achievement of filmmaking goals.	1	No	1Yr	Cllr T Bunday	June 23	May 24	Carolyn Abel (023 8083 4516)
		Youth Justice Management Board		1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kataria	June 23	May 24	Rob Henderson (023 8083 4899)
		Arts Council		1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	Carolyn Abel (023 8083 4611)
		The Solent Freeport Consortium Ltd		1	No	1 Yr	Cllr Bogle	June 2023	May 24	Adam Wilkinson (023 8083 4670)

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
		Southampton Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board	The role of the Board is to provide advice to Southampton City Council ('the Council') on the exercise of its duties under Part 4 of the 2021 Act and the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support in its area. This will include the preparation of a draft strategy pursuant to s 57 of the 2021 Act and a system-wide strategy, addressing the 2021 Act in general and any other relevant need in the Council's area.	1	No	1yr	Cllr Kataria	June 23	May 24	Stephen Barratt 023 8083 3714)
		Violence Against Women and Girls Task Group	Task Group set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner	1	No	1 yr	Cllr Quadir	June 23	May 24	Claire Edgar (023 8083 4611)
		Renaissance Board (Master Planning Framework)		3	No	1yr	Cllr Kaur Cllr Bogle Cllr Moulton	June 23	May 24	Pete Boustred (023 8083 4743)
		PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Joint Committee		1	No	1 yr	Cllr Keogh	June 23	May 24	Rosie Zambra (023 8083 4044)
		SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities)	Interest group within the LGA (Local Government Association) representing the interests of authorities and urban communities in the northern, midland and south-coast regions of England. Providing an authoritative and influential voice on local government finance and funding issues to ensure member authorities remain well-informed	1	No	1 yr	Cllr Kaur	June 23	May 24	

*Ref No	Appt by	Committee/ Panel/ Group/ Organisation	Summary of terms of reference or purpose of organisation	No. Appts	Prop	Term	Membership	Appt Date	Appt till	Link Officer
			regarding central government policy.							

This page is intentionally left blank

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED SOUTHAMPTON MUSIC HUB BID
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JUNE 2023
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR WINNING CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & LEARNING

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director Wellbeing (Children and Learning)	
	Name:	Robert Henderson	Tel: 023 8083 4899
	E-mail	Robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Southampton Music Services Manager	
	Name:	Kath Page	Tel: 023 80833633
	E-mail	Kath.page@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

BRIEF SUMMARY

From 2024, to support the delivery of a refreshed National Plan For Music Education ([NPME2](#)), DfE have set out a rationale for fewer, more strategic, hub lead organisations, over a new set of prescribed geographical areas.

From September 2024, Southampton will sit within a prescribed geographical area — the “South Coast Music Hub Region” which covers:

- Southampton
- Isle of Wight
- Portsmouth
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)

An open application process to be the new hub lead organisation is expected to open in Summer 2023, close Autumn 2023, with the new lead organisations to begin delivery in September 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	To approve an application to be music hub lead organisation and Accountable Body for the new Department for Education prescribed geographical areas from September 2024 (BCP, Portsmouth, IOW and Southampton) and delegate authority to the Executive Director Wellbeing (Children & Learning), after consultation with the Executive Director Corporate Services and the Director of Governance, Legal and HR, to accept and take any action necessary to implement / deliver the service should the bid be successful.
--	-----	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	Southampton Music Services has a strong and proven track record of local, regional and national leadership and partnership meeting the needs of CYP and their diverse communities through a commitment to ensuring ambitious and high-quality musical activities that meet the needs of all children and young people in the communities that we serve.
2.	As the hub lead organisation (Accountable Body), Southampton Music Services can continue to increase investment into the city through the hub grant, as well as through additional funding leveraged against it.
3.	As hub lead organisation, Southampton Music Services can continue to build Southampton's reputation as a city of culture, a child friendly city, a green city and aligns with the Southampton Education Strategy.
4.	The local plan for music education in Southampton and the Isle of Wight is being co-created by the hub partnership, schools and young people. (See DMR 5 for list of partners). The successful application of the new hub grant would continue to support the wider music ecosystem including National Portfolio Organisations, freelancers, community musicians and small organisations by commissioning services and work, developing sustainable funding streams (as per principle 4 in the National Plan for Music Education 2) and workforce development and training.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
5.	<p>Making no application to be a Hub Lead Organisation, resulting in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of loss of investment from music education hub grant, impacting schools children and young people and the wider community - Risk of loss of additional investment leveraged against the music education hub grant impacting schools children and young people and the wider community - Risk of loss of influence and impact on quality for opportunities and outcomes for children and young people in Southampton - Risk of loss of current regional and national profile for the city
6.	<p>Contribution to another organisation's bid to be Hub Lead Organisation, resulting in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of some loss of investment to SCC from music education hub grant and therefore impact on opportunities available to children and young people - Risk of some loss of additional investment leveraged against the music education hub grant, impacting on amount and type of activity for children and young people - Risk of loss of influence over opportunities outcomes for children and young people in Southampton - No ability to sustain and build upon quality and current track record - Lack of ability to be responsive, dynamic, agile and strategic - Loss of current regional and national profile for Southampton
7.	<p>Formation of new company with other Local Authorities in the Geographical Area, to facilitate shared leadership resulting in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No return on investment and outcomes for children and young people or for Department for Education due to added layer of management and company costs resulting in no efficiencies of scale

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for exit costs and strategy as well as personal liabilities need consideration should there be a need to dissolve the new company - Create tax implications - LA would need to tender to deliver services – no direct relationship possible - Potential loss of additional investment leveraged against the music education hub grant impacting schools, children and young people and communities in Southampton - Potential loss of influence over opportunities outcomes for children and young people in Southampton - No ability to sustain and build upon quality and current track record - Lack of ability to be responsive, dynamic, agile and strategic unless democratically agreed.
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

8.	<p>Since the establishment of Music Education Hubs by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2012, Southampton Music Services (SMS) has operated as the lead hub partner for Southampton Music Hub, securing over £5 million of government funding and delivering on the outcomes set out in the National Plan for Music Education. Funding is drawn from the Department of Education, administered by Arts Council England.(ACE). This funding has enabled SMS to secure a further £556,000 of funding plus a further £2M of leveraged funding, supporting the wider music and cultural ecosystem in Southampton and the IOW. Southampton and IOW Music Hubs are a thriving partnership of over 40 local, national and regional organisations, engaging every education setting in the region, and building an inspiring and inclusive programme of music making that reflects the cultural diversity of the regions. The hubs are dedicated to delivering life-changing music experiences that enrich the life, health and well-being of children, young people and their communities. (see DMR 5 for a full list of hub partners).</p> <p>To date Southampton and IOW Music Hub have worked with in excess of 70,000 CYP over the past decade, 19,000 children have had the opportunity to learn an instrument for free and 30,000 have had an instrument free of charge, a saving of £10 million.</p> <p>In 2016, at the request of ACE, Southampton Music Services took over the management of Isle of Wight (IOW) Music Hub, leading a transformation process to improve the strategic and operational management of music education across the IOW.</p> <p>The role and liability of the hub lead organisation in set out in DMR 3 but is summarised below is set out in DMR 3 and summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an area-wide strategic vision, shared values, and budget, monitored by a representative Hub Board • A strategic approach to supporting inclusion and progression so that young people can connect to local, regional, and national structures • A shared understanding and approach to considering environmental responsibility
----	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collective commitment to consulting regularly, researching, and analysing need, evaluating and monitoring the impact of programmes, • A strategic approach to identifying shared fundraising and income generation opportunities, with resources and capability directed at the use of government funding to leverage further investment • The identification of opportunities to realise economies of scale and reduce duplication • A diverse and more equitable range of musical activities, opportunities, teachers, instruments and equipment • A better supported and more collaborative workforce that has access to training and networking, resources, and career progression opportunities • A strategic approach to ensuring quality through performance management, monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance processes and peer assessment • More strategic and high-profile engagement by Music Hubs with significant place-based infrastructure • Stronger communications and marketing <p>'Why SMS' (see DMR 2) includes details pertaining to the current success, valued leadership and proven track record of SMS and why SMS is best placed to lead a bid, providing detail on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing Investment and Value • Strategic Leadership and Partnerships • Cultural Development and Co-Creation • Improving Inclusion and Diversity • Digital Transformation • Alignment with Council Priorities • Support and Endorsements • Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People
9	<p>Commissioning and partnership agreements and terms and conditions are used to ensure that work delivered is effective and meets the needs of the National Plan. Such contracts allow termination of that work should it not meet agreed standards. The governance board would be the decision maker in this situation (NB the governance structure has still to be determined- see risk section).</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
10.	<p>The total bid for the new proposed geographical area amounts to £1.2M broken down as follows: (based on 22-23 pupil figures)</p>

Table 1: Grant Bid

Area	£
Southampton	334,852
Isle of Wight	159,482
Sub total (SCC & IoW)	494,334
Portsmouth	271,391
BCP	470,272
Total	1,235,997

The funding from the Arts Council is estimated to be the same as applied in 2022-23. In 2022-23 the amount received for Southampton and Isle of Wight combined was therefore just under £0.5M as shown in the above table.

Spend is defined by the number of children in each local authority area. Spend would be based on partnership activity including local authority music services and other partners. Money is allocated to and should be spent against the five principles of the National Plan for Music Education (see DMR 1). How the money would be administered is yet to be determined, but the under the current model, money is administered by Southampton Music Services for hub activity delivered by hub partners across Southampton and Isle of Wight.

Southampton City Council has been the accountable body since 2012. Terms and conditions of the current funding agreement are attached, (DMR6). It is likely that the terms and conditions would remain similar to any new funding agreement,

Property/Other

11. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. S.1 Localism Act 2011 permits the Council to do anything a private individual can do, subject to any statutory restrictions and subject to the power being exercised for the purpose of the delivery of the Council's statutory and discretionary functions (the 'General Power of Competence').

Other Legal Implications:

13. An EISA has been completed in relation to the proposed expansion of the Partnership arrangements in the event the Hub Bid is approved and is attached as a background document to this report. There are no identified Equalities impacts over and above current programme delivery. Procurement of services to support the Hub is subject to the Council's financial and contract procedure rules.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

14. The proposal may cause low stakeholder concern but there will be opportunities for this to be raised during subsequent consultations should cabinet agree to us making the bid.

The governance board has oversight of finances with reporting provided quarterly, minimising the risk of overspend. There has been no overspend of grant money since 2012.

If we become an accountable body for the larger area and if there is an overspend, the Council would be liable. However, the Council has current processes in place to mitigate this risk. Individual projects and activities are co designed and costed with partners. The agreed activity, including delivery timescales and cost, is put into a commissioning agreement between the Council and partner. On completion of the individual projects and activities the partners invoice the service for the fixed amount as agreed in the commissioning agreement.

The Arts Council can withdraw the bid as per their terms and conditions. The risk if this happening is low due to management and fulfilment of the hub terms and conditions. Robust partnership and commissioning agreements further negate this risk with other delivery partners.

There is a potential risk of loss of income for Southampton Music Services if we do not bid.

15. There is currently a separate board, as per the Arts Council funding agreement that has oversight of spend and governance. The future hub governance is yet to be determined and will need developing through consultation with strategic partners, but a governance board will need to be formed. Roles and responsibilities of the board are yet to be announced by Arts Council England but expected to be similar to current terms and conditions. (DMR 6). A framework will need to be looked at and included that manages any risks identified, whether they be operational or financial etc, such as for example use of Memorandum’s of Understanding to clarify roles and responsibilities.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. The proposal is consistent with SCC policies and strategies as well as the National Plan for Music Education from the Department of Education.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	
2.	

3.	
4.	
5.	

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	NPME2 The Power of Music to Change Lives
2.	Why SMS
3.	Guidance about the role of the new hub lead organisation and rationale about the new geographical areas
4.	Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA)
5.	Southampton and IOW Hub partners list.
6.	Music Education Hubs, Terms and conditions.

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	(any other document you may refer to put in here)
2.	

This page is intentionally left blank