

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RICHER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON - SCRUTINY INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	8 SEPTEMBER 2022		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Director of Legal and Business Services	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
It is the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to determine the scrutiny inquiry programme. This report requests that the OSMC agrees the terms of reference for a scrutiny inquiry focussing on protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen in Southampton.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee consider and approve the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny inquiry.	
	(ii)	That authority is delegated to the Director - Legal and Business Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, to finalise the inquiry plan.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to commence the scrutiny inquiry.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
5.	The River Itchen in Hampshire 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.		
6.	The River Itchen is an example of a chalk stream, rivers that rise from springs in landscapes with a bedrock of chalk.		

7.	The river runs through the heart of Southampton dividing the city in two. It has been the lifeblood of the city since Roman and Saxon times and is an important commercial and natural resource.
8.	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.
9.	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.
10.	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.
11.	Reflecting the importance of the river to the city and the issues identified above, this Committee, at its meeting on 11 th August 2022, agreed that protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen in Southampton would be the subject of the 2022/23 scrutiny inquiry. Attached as Appendix 1 are draft terms of reference and an outline project plan for the proposed inquiry. Members are recommended to consider and approve the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny inquiry to enable the inquiry to commence.
12.	The final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel will be considered by the OSMC prior to Cabinet to ensure that the review has met the agreed terms of reference set by this Committee.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	There are no additional financial implications arising from the approval of the recommendations.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
15.	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>	
16.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
17.	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	

18.	None	
KEY DECISION		No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
Appendices		
1.	Draft Inquiry Terms of Reference and Outline Inquiry Plan	
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	