

Public Document Pack

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Thursday, 22nd August, 2024
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Council Chamber - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Blackman (Chair)
Councillor Evely
Councillor Y Frampton
Councillor Kloker
Councillor Leggett
Councillor McManus
Councillor Powell-Vaughan
Councillor Renyard
Councillor Stead

Appointed Members

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Rob Sanders, Church of England
Vacant, Primary Parent Governor

Contacts

Judy Cordell
Democratic Support Officer
Tel. 023 8083 2766
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Mark Pirnie
Scrutiny Manager
Tel: 023 8083 3886
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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee holds the Executive to account, exercises the call-in process, and sets and monitors standards for scrutiny. It formulates a programme of scrutiny inquiries and appoints Scrutiny Panels to undertake them. Members of the Executive cannot serve on this Committee.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny includes the following three functions:

- Holding the Executive to account by questioning and evaluating the Executive's actions, both before and after decisions taken.
- Developing and reviewing Council policies, including the Policy Framework and Budget Strategy.
- Making reports and recommendations on any aspect of Council business and other matters that affect the City and its citizens.

Overview and Scrutiny can ask the Executive to reconsider a decision, but they do not have the power to change the decision themselves.

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

- **Strong Foundations for Life**.- For people to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.
- **A proud and resilient city** - Southampton's greatest assets are our people. Enriched lives lead to thriving communities, which in turn create places where people want to live, work and study.
- **A prosperous city** - Southampton will focus on growing our local economy and bringing investment into our city.
- **A successful, sustainable organisation** - The successful delivery of the outcomes in this plan will be rooted in the culture of our organisation and becoming an effective and efficient council.

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.

Access is available for disabled people.

Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Fire Procedure: -

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

Mobile Telephones: - Please switch your mobile telephones 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.

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

Dates of Meetings for the Municipal Year:

| 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|-------------|
| 20 June | 2 January |
| 11 July | 23 January |
| 22 August | 20 February |
| 12 September | 20 March |
| 24 October | 24 April |
| 21 November | |
| 12 December | |

CONDUCT OF MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The general role and terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, together with those for all Scrutiny Panels, are set out in Part 2 (Article 6) of the Council’s Constitution, and their particular roles are set out in Part 4 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules – paragraph 5) of the Constitution.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

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 4.

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.

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 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 AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect the Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2024-2025.

3 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.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

4 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

5 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

6 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING) (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Minutes – How do we get a better deal for private sector renters in Southampton and the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11th July 2024 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

8 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the confidential appendix to the following item.

Appendix 1 of this report is not for publication by virtue of category 7A (obligation of confidentiality) of paragraph 10.4 of Southampton City Council's ("the Council's") Access to Information Procedure Rules, as contained in the Council's Constitution.

It is not in the public interest to disclose this information as the report contains confidential and commercially sensitive information in relation to one of the Council's suppliers. It would prejudice the Council's ability to operate in a commercial environment and obtain best value in contract negotiations and would prejudice the Council's commercial relationships with third parties if they believed the Council would not honour obligations of confidentiality.

9 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 5 - 8)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

a) Budget Matters (Pages 9 - 14)

10 PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON INQUIRY - PROGRESS UPDATE (Pages 15 - 34)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Green City and Net Zero providing the Committee with a requested update on progress implementing agreed recommendations from the River Itchen Scrutiny Inquiry.

11 SCRUTINY INQUIRY 2024/25 - SHORTLIST (Pages 35 - 38)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Committee considers the shortlist of subjects for the 2024/25 scrutiny inquiry and identifies a preferred topic for which terms of reference can be developed for consideration at the October 2024 meeting of the Committee.

12 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE (Pages 39 - 42)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.

Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Director – Legal and Governance

SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE
SECTOR RENTERS IN SOUTHAMPTON?

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2024

Present: Councillors McEwing, Evemy, Windle and Blackman

Apologies: Councillor Powell-Vaughan

13. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received from Councillor Powell-Vaughan.

14. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

15. **HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR RENTERS IN
SOUTHAMPTON? - INQUIRY DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Mark Pirnie, Scrutiny Manager, Southampton City Council presented his draft report. The contributors to the Inquiry and members of the Panel had been sent a copy prior to its publication.

The Panel, with the consent of the Chair, received comments from representatives of landlords, tenants and the expert advisors.

RESOLVED following a Panel discussion that the final version of the draft report was agreed subject to the following changes:

- Recommendation 3 - That Southampton City Council develops and embeds a range of creative solutions, including the Call B4 You Serve initiative, to work with landlords and tenants in the private rented sector, at the earliest opportunity, to prevent homelessness.
- Recommendation 4 - Commission a private sector housing conditions survey. This is vitally important in developing a scientific basis for understanding housing conditions and targeting enforcement action in a proactive and structured fashion.

Authority is granted to the Scrutiny Manager to amend the final report following consultation with the Chair of the Panel.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2024

Present: Councillors Blackman (Chair), Evemy, Y Frampton, Kloker, Leggett (except part item 9), McManus, Renyard, Stead (except part item 9) and P Baillie
Appointed Member: Rob Sanders

Apologies: Councillors Powell-Vaughan

Also in attendance: Councillor Fielker, Leader of the Council
Councillor Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services

6. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor Powell-Vaughan from the Committee, the Monitoring Officer, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor P Baillie to replace her for the purposes of this meeting.

7. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

8. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the Committee meeting held on 20 June, 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

9. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

The Committee considered the briefing paper and Cabinet report setting out the Transformation programme.

Councillor Fielker, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, Andrew Travers, Chief Executive and Executive Directors and James Fleming-Wills, Director of Transformation were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed:

- What assurances could be provided ensuring the delivery of the transformation programme was successful now and in the future.
- Capacity within the Council to deliver projects running concurrently.
- What success looks like.
- How innovations and new ways of working being developed through transformation demonstrate the programme is not just a platform for service cuts.
- Steps being taken to ensure that programmes were resilient and not derailed by the loss of key staff members.
- The required level of savings that the Council was confident of delivering by the end of 2025/26 through the transformation programme.
- The expectation of the reduction in posts as a result of the transformation programme.

RESOLVED that a diagram identifying individual project timescales and programme interdependencies is shared with the Committee.

MTFS REBASE 2024/25 to 2027/28

The Committee considered the briefing paper and Cabinet report detailing the Medium Term Financial Strategy Rebase 2024/25 to 2027/28.

Councillor Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services and Mel Creighton, Executive Director of Enabling Services were both present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed financial support for the transformation programme, levels of reserves and the rebuilding of the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED that, moving forward, the Committee agreed to consider Council finances at each meeting in which the performance of the Transformation Programme is scrutinised.

Agenda Item 9

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|---|--|--|---------------------------|
| DECISION-MAKER: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | | |
| SUBJECT: | FORWARD PLAN | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 22 AUGUST 2024 | | |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Enabling Services | |
| | Name: | Mel Creighton | Tel: 023 8083 3528 |
| | E-mail | Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | Name: | Mark Pirnie | Tel: 023 8083 3886 |
| | E-mail | Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| <p>Annex 1 attached to Appendix 1 of this report is not for publication by virtue of category 7A (obligation of confidentiality) of paragraph 10.4 of Southampton City Council’s (“the Council’s”) Access to Information Procedure Rules, as contained in the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>It is not in the public interest to disclose this information as the report contains confidential and commercially sensitive information in relation to one of the Council’s suppliers. It would prejudice the Council’s ability to operate in a commercial environment and obtain best value in contract negotiations and would prejudice the Council’s commercial relationships with third parties if they believed the Council would not honour obligations of confidentiality.</p> | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| <p>This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive to ensure that forthcoming decisions made by the Executive benefit local residents.</p> | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | | | |
| | (i) | That the Committee discuss the items listed in paragraph 3 of the report to highlight any matters which Members feel should be taken into account by the Executive when reaching a decision. | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | To enable Members to identify any matters which they feel Cabinet should take into account when reaching a decision. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 2. | None. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |

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| 3. | The Council's Forward Plan for Executive Decisions from 27 August 2024 has been published. The following issues were identified for discussion with the Decision Maker: | |
| | Portfolio | Decision |
| | Leader | Budget Matters |
| | | Requested By |
| | | Cllr Blackman |
| 4. | Briefing papers responding to the items identified by members of the Committee are appended to this report. Members are invited to use the papers to explore the issues with the decision maker. | |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | | |
| 5. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. | |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | | |
| 6. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. | |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | | |
| 7. | 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> | | |
| 8. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. | |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | | |
| 9. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. | |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | | |
| 10. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. | |
| KEY DECISION | | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | | None directly as a result of this report |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | | |
| Appendices | | |
| 1. | Briefing Paper – Budget Matters: Interim Transformation Partner | |
| Documents In Members' Rooms | | |
| 1. | None | |
| Equality Impact Assessment | | |

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|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out? | | Identified in Executive report |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out? | | Identified in Executive report |
| 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 | |

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Budget Matters – Interim Transformation Partner
DATE: 22 August 2024
RECIPIENT: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

This briefing summarises budget matters relating to the appointment of an interim transformation partner to support the successful implementation of the council's "adapt | grow | thrive" organisational transformation programme.

This proposed appointment is a key element in the organisational transformation of the Council in order to reach a position in which its General Revenue Fund budget is balanced in future years' without the need for Exceptional Financial Support from the government. This is a key component in enabling the Council to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

This appointment follows, and directly relates to, the completion of a diagnostic phase of work by the proposed interim transformation partner, Newton Europe.

It was intended from the outset that an implementation phase of the transformation programme would follow the diagnostic phase if that diagnostic phase was successful in identifying transformation activities and financial savings opportunities of sufficient scale and impact to support the commissioning of the second phase.

Annex 1 sets out the confidential and commercially sensitive terms relating to this report and the appointment of the interim transformation partner

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The Council undertook a process in the 2023/24 financial year to appoint a transformation partner to undertake a Diagnostic Phase (the "Diagnostic Phase"), primarily relating to the Wellbeing (Children & Learning) and Wellbeing & Housing areas of the Council. This process envisaged that the transformation partner could be appointed to undertake a subsequent Implementation Phase (the "Implementation Phase") at the sole discretion of the Council.
2. The route to market identified for this process was a further competition through the Crown Commercial Service RM6187 Management Consultancy Framework Three Agreement ("MCF3"). This framework includes a maximum framework price against which bidders provide their price to ensure best value is evidenced. Following the competitive process, the Council we received 2 bids and Newton Europe were identified

BRIEFING PAPER

through a Most Economically Advantageous Tender evaluation as the successful supplier.

3. Newton Europe was appointed in March 2024 to undertake the Diagnostic Phase as the result of an urgency decision by the (previous) Chief Executive taken under delegated powers on 22 December 2023.
4. This Diagnostic Phase was primarily focused on identifying the potential financial savings, associated benefits and process improvements that could be achieved across Children's Services and Adults Social Care through a subsequent Implementation Phase of transformation activity. The Diagnostic Phase has now been completed and has successfully achieved its aims and objectives.
5. Following the completion of this diagnostic phase, and other work carried out by all areas of the council, the full scope of the council's Transformation Programme, named "[adapt | grow | thrive](#)", was approved by Cabinet in July 2024. This report sets out that in order for the council to successfully deliver its transformation plan, external support would be required throughout the implementation phase of the programme.
6. Consideration of whether the Council wishes to proceed with Newton Europe as its main transformation partner for the full Implementation Phase, covering the period up until the end of the 2027/28 financial year, will be the subject to a further report to Council in September 2024.
7. The report in September 2024 will set out the full scope of work that would be undertaken by a lead Transformation Partner and other key considerations, including detail of the proposed commercial model, demonstration of value for money, and the accompanying assurance mechanisms that the council will use to manage any future commercial relationship.
8. In view of the Council's financial challenges, it is imperative that the Council ensures that all elements of the implementation of its transformation programme are commenced immediately to realise savings as early as possible. This therefore requires a period of interim transformation partner support until a decision on the full implementation phase can be taken. Approval is sought for an interim agreement with Newton Europe covering September and October 2024.
9. Approval of the interim arrangement set out in this report, along with the exempt appendix, in no way prejudices or pre-empts any future decision regarding the appointment of a transformation partner for the full implementation phase.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

10. The resource implications are contained in Annex 1 to this report.

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

- **Do not proceed with the implementation of transformation proposals.**
This option was rejected as it would result in the Council failing in its plan to become financially stable.
- **Undertake a procurement process to appoint an alternative transformation partner.**

BRIEFING PAPER

This option was rejected as the implementation phase of this element of the transformation programme was envisaged in the original procurement process and subsequent appointment of Newton Europe. The implementation phase directly relates to the diagnostic phase; the implementation phase has been designed by Newton Europe as a result of the diagnostic phase and, therefore, this appointment enables continuity and speed in proceeding with the implementation phase.

- **Proceed with the transformation proposals using only existing Council resources and/or temporary staff appointments.**

This option was rejected as the Council does not possess sufficient skills, knowledge and, crucially, capacity to implement the proposals itself without external assistance and support.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The risks associated with continuing to the full Implementation Phase will be contained in the full Council report in September 2024.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

1. Annex 1 – Confidential briefing containing financial and contract details

| | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Further Information Available From: | Name: | James Wills-Fleming – Transformation Director |
| | Tel: | 023 8083 2054 |
| | E-mail: | james.wills-fleming@southampton.gov.uk |

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| DECISION-MAKER: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE |
| SUBJECT: | PROTECTING, PRESERVING & PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON INQUIRY - PROGRESS UPDATE |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 22 AUGUST 2024 |
| REPORT OF: | COUNCILLOR JOHN SAVAGE CABINET MEMBER FOR GREEN CITY AND NET ZERO |

| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Resident Services | |
| | Name: | Debbie Ward | Tel: 023 8254 3351 |
| | E-mail: | Debbie.ward@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Director, Environment | |
| | Name: | Ian Collins | Tel: 023 8083 2089 |
| | E-mail: | ian.collins@southampton.gov.uk | |

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| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY |
| None |

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| BRIEF SUMMARY |
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This report sets out a requested update on the Executive’s response to the recommendations of the 2022/23 Scrutiny Inquiry Panel into protecting, preserving & promoting the River Itchen in Southampton.

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| RECOMMENDATIONS: |
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| | (i) | That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee notes the update as detailed in Appendix 1. |
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| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS |
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| 1. | To enable the Committee to scrutinise the implementation of actions approved by Cabinet relating to the scrutiny inquiry. |
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| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED |
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| 2. | None. |
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| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) |
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| 3. | In 2022/23 a Scrutiny Inquiry Panel was formed to identify opportunities to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen in Southampton, in partnership with stakeholders. |
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| 4. | The 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 |
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| | <p>Southampton and the challenges this presents.</p> <p>b. To understand existing plans and opportunities to address the identified challenges.</p> <p>c. To identify good practice being employed to protect, preserve and promote urban rivers elsewhere.</p> <p>d. To identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton to protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen.</p> |
| 5. | <p>The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel made 20 recommendations in total, structured according to the following ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Management & Partnership Working • A Healthy & Resilient River • A Vibrant River • A Connected River |
| 6. | <p>The Executive's response to each of these recommendations was considered on 17 October 2023, and Lead Executive Directors have assigned responsibilities to the relevant teams accordingly, to progress these alongside other service priorities and transformation programme activities. Service capacity is limited as these urgent activities are undertaken, which has affected progress in some areas.</p> |
| 7. | <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee have requested a progress update for review at their August 2024 meeting. This is set out at Appendix 1.</p> |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 8. | <p>All costs in the responses for which the Council would be responsible will be contained within existing budgets.</p> |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 9. | <p>None.</p> |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 10. | <p>The powers to undertake scrutiny inquiries are set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and the Health and Social Care Act 2001.</p> |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| 11. | <p>None.</p> |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 12. | <p>None.</p> |
| KEY DECISION? | |
| | <p>Yes</p> |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | |
| | <p>All</p> |

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. Scrutiny inquiry recommendations – Implementation update

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None.

Equality Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out. | No |
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out. | No |
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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) |
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| 1. | Cabinet approved response to the River Itchen Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations – 17 October 2023 Appendix 1.pdf (southampton.gov.uk) |
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Protecting, Preserving & Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton - Final Report Recommendations – August 2024 update

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead Executive Director</u> |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 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. <i>(Strategic Management and Partnership Working)</i> | Y | SCC supports the development of relationships between stakeholders to better understand issues and to determine collective solutions. There are a number of existing initiatives already underway e.g. the Environment Agency’s Preventing Plastic Pollution Project. SCC believes the best approach would be to participate in these and work to develop this into a broader initiative as recommended. Update August 2024: The Preventing Plastic Pollution Project was established following an EA funded study and workshop which took place in May 2023. A Steering Group comprising the EA, Evolved Research & Consulting (ERC), Crown Estate, Friends of Chessell Bay, Final Straw Foundation, Natural England, Oil Spill Response, Portsmouth Water, RYA, SCC, Solent Forum University of Southampton has met three times and has agreed an aim, vision and objectives. An action plan has been drafted and a grant application has been submitted to the Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) fund. The grant bid is being led by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and if successful, will provide funds to support the development and facilitation of the Partnership throughout this financial year (until March 2025), in addition to funding the development of a Plastics Data Hub for the Itchen, several specific actions to reduce plastic pollution and develop a theory of change and communication strategy to enable behaviour change in the catchment. | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 2 | Develop, through the Forum, a River Itchen vision and plan that sets clear objectives for the River Itchen in Southampton. <i>(Strategic Management and Partnership Working)</i> | Y | <p>Pending the outcome of the above (1), utilisation of existing plans and documents, such as the Local Plan Review and the Southampton City Council Biodiversity and GI Strategies, to set out a clear vision and objectives for the River Itchen.</p> <p>Update August 2024: The council adopted its Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy in January 2024. This framework will be used to help improve and increase the green and blue spaces across the city, playing its part in helping to halt the loss of habitat. SCC realises the importance of acting without delay; halting the decline and fragmentation of GI in the city needs to be addressed urgently. Making important changes now to how we deal with our natural environment will have lasting physical and mental health benefits for the city's population and make the city a more attractive place to live in, work in, and visit. This strategy, along with the related Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategies and the Public Realm Masterplan, outline the key ways in which we will work together with our partners to make improvements in the quality and extent of green and blue space across the city.</p> <p>Actions relating to the conservation of specific sites, habitats and species such as the River Itchen, will be set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The BAP will be drafted and undergo consultation during 2025, with a target date of the end of 2025 for a final version.</p> | Debbie Ward |
| 3 | Undertake regular monitoring and evaluation to underpin the plans objectives. <i>(Strategic Management and Partnership Working)</i> | Y | <p>As above (2).</p> <p>Update August 2024: A draft Green Infrastructure (GI) delivery plan has been developed. This delivery plan includes a range of actions intended to improve the quality of blue infrastructure such as the River Itchen. KPIs will be developed to enable implementation of the delivery plan to be monitored.</p> | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead Executive Director</u> |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 4 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(Strategic Management and Partnership Working)</i></p> | Y | <p>Southampton City Council was formerly a member of the Solent Forum and sat on the Steering Committee, but withdrew in 2017/18. We will review this and assess whether this offers SCC value-for-money in the current financial situation.</p> <p>Update August 2024: Southampton City Council is discussing membership and potential support with the Solent Forum. A further update will be provided as these discussions progress.</p> | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 5 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i></p> | Y | <p>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Strategies being developed by SCC are currently out for public consultation. Consultees are being specifically asked if the strategies deal adequately with the aquatic environment. Responses to the consultation will be used to revise the strategies and develop action plans to be implemented by the City Council and others.</p> <p>In practical terms, the SCC Ranger Service and ecologists will actively seek opportunities to restore and enhance biodiversity and habitats on land the City Council manages along the river. In undertaking such work, the council will work with in partnership with local communities, individuals and organisations.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Net Gain new burdens funding and Nutrient Neutrality Scheme are potential sources of funding for biodiversity improvements. However, SCC understands that the latter scheme is under review. The City Council will identify opportunities and develop projects suitable for these funding streams.</p> <p>Update August 2024:</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure (GI) and Biodiversity Strategies were adopted by SCC in January 2024. A draft GI delivery plan, which includes general actions designed to improve the quality of blue infrastructure, has been produced. Implementation will be achieved through a combination of existing resources, for example the Ranger Service and Tuesday volunteers, and new resources secured through grant bids.</p> <p>The Nutrient Neutrality scheme is still in operation although the new government has suggested there are likely to be changes. At present there are no suitable sites within Southampton however, there is a site in Eastleigh which should help to reduce nitrate levels in the Itchen.</p> <p>Mandatory BNG has commenced however, it is not clear at present what impact, or income, this could generate as none of the affected developments have reached the conditions discharge stage.</p> | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 6 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i></p> | Y | <p>The Environment Agency is the relevant enforcement agency and works with water companies to reduce pollution and tackle the areas of biggest concern like storm overflows. SCC would support enhanced monitoring of pollution events and will convey this to partners.</p> <p>Update August 2024: Southampton City Council has expressed its support for enhanced pollution monitoring to partners. Southern Water is currently upgrading its Beachbuoy system (link) and its pre-release version will be reviewed when it becomes available on 14/08/2024. This was originally promised to be available in May 2024.</p> | Debbie Ward |

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| 7 | <p>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. <i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i></p> | Y | <p>Inclusion of Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) is currently a planning requirement in all major development, with a Drainage Strategy required at planning submission stage. The Flood Risk Management Team review the Drainage Strategy supplied. The Government announced that Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will be enacted in 2024 ending the automatic right to connect into the public surface water sewer. This will make SCC both a Lead Local Flood Authority and a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB). The SAB will require SuDS in all development (minors and majors) where 1 or more dwelling, or construction covers more than 100sqm of ground. The SAB will be responsible for review, approval, verification and adoption of a SuDS implemented. This should increase the quality of SuDS achieved and improve water quantity reduction and improve water quality, biodiversity and amenity.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management are currently in development of a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in schools project, delivering SuDS (e.g. rain gardens, ponds, tree pits and green roofs) in 5 schools that are at risk of surface water flooding. Outputs of the scheme will include monitoring data on surface water flood risk reduction and standard designs that can be incorporated into future highway schemes. If successful additional funding sources could be explored to roll out the scheme at other schools.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management will continue to strengthen partnership working with Southern Water to actively encourage use of SuDS or other Natural Flood Management to 'slow the flow' - this will support improvement of water quality by filtering water, and reducing the volume of surface water entering the foul/combined sewer network therefore contributing to reduction of combined sewer overflows.</p> <p>Highways to examine opportunities to include SuDS and new gully technology to improve the quality of runoff from highways prior to entering the public surface water sewer, rivers or estuaries.</p> <p>Update August 2024:</p> | Nawaz Khan |
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| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| | | | SCC working on a partnership proposal with Southern Water on the delivery of storm water attenuation projects such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). This is in the early stage of scoping and workshops planned this summer. Final details on the partnership and delivery expected in 2025. | |
| 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. <i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i> | Y | <p>DEFRA is responsible for designating bathing water and anyone can apply for an area to be designated in this way. Advice on this process is available here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-apply-to-designate-or-de-designate/designate-a-bathing-water-guidance-on-how-to-apply</p> <p>A proposed designated bathing water must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a coastal or inland water • have at least 100 bathers a day during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September) • have toilet facilities bathers can use during the bathing season, within a short distance of up to about 500m from the site <p>Community groups must conduct a consultation before submitting their application, and Southampton City Council is a mandatory consultee. SCC commits to responding to such consultations in a timely manner.</p> <p>Whilst the council, in principle, is happy to support the potential for designated bathing waters at areas of the River Itchen it is recognised that as landowner the council will be responsible for public safety. Pending the designation proposal, the council would need to undertake its own investigations in order to determine how any such facility could be safely managed.</p> <p>Update August 2024: The Bathing Water Regulations and application guidance are currently being revised, and applications for bathing water designation will not be considered by DEFRA until this is undertaken. DEFRA expects to begin accepting applications again in spring 2025. SCC will monitor developments.</p> | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead Executive Director</u> |
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| 9 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i></p> | Y | <p>The City Council will discuss with Natural England and the Blue Marine the findings of The Solent Oyster Restoration Project and decide whether there are suitable locations within the River Itchen to re-introduce native oysters. If suitable locations are identified, funding from the Nutrient Neutrality Scheme will be sought if available.</p> <p>Environmental enhancements are proposed within the development of the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme as part of the requirement to meet Biodiversity Net Gain targets (note, the RIFAS is targeting 20% Biodiversity Net Gain as opposed to the standard 10% minimum). These enhancements may include use of oyster reefs where appropriate and viable.</p> <p>Update August 2024: No update is available at this time; this will be provided to a future OSMC meeting.</p> | Debbie Ward |
| 10 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i></p> | Y | <p>Such an initiative would best be developed through a representative group such as a River Itchen Forum.</p> <p>An initial step would be to establish whether similar schemes are already in operation elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>Update August 2024: At present, the focus of developing a representative group for the River Itchen is around the PPP Project which is looking at reducing plastic waste in the river. A steering group has been established and attention is now turning to building a wider partnership. A grant application aimed at securing funding to help build the partnership has been submitted to the Championing Coastal Coordination Fund.</p> | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 11 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Healthy & Resilient River)</i></p> | Y | <p>A natural capital assessment of the whole city would be useful to establish the value of benefits being delivered by the natural environment. Such benefits include climate change adaptation, commercial recreation (marinas) and health and wellbeing (informal recreation on and alongside the river). Such a study would need to be undertaken by a specialist consultant and would consequently need to be resourced. SCC will review this and assess whether this offers SCC value-for-money in the current financial situation.</p> <p>Update August 2024:</p> <p>The following actions have been included in the draft GI Delivery Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Natural Capital Register and Ecosystem Services List. • Undertake a Natural Capital Assessment • Create a Natural Capital Plan based on protecting current Ecosystem Services provision and creation of enhanced level of protection • Use results of Natural Capital Assessment to create business case to attract investment in GI (ie. cost of management/cost of extending and improving GI) • Funding to undertake the Natural Capital Assessment is still being sought. | Debbie Ward |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead Executive Director</u> |
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| 12 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Vibrant River)</i></p> | Y | <p>SCC views the development of a vibrant marine sector as a key goal and will work with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and city stakeholders to support this through the Solent Local Skills Improvement Plan and other partnership work.</p> <p>Update August 2024: No update is available at this time; this will be provided to a future OSMC meeting.</p> | Nawaz Khan |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 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. <i>(A Vibrant River)</i> | Y | <p>Itchen Riverside is an identified area for regeneration. Guided by the Renaissance Board updated to the masterplanning vision will be undertaken that will build on the existing 2013 City Centre Masterplan.</p> <p>Integrating and improving access to the waterfront is being considered within the development of the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (west bank River Itchen). This is likely to be improvements to the riverside walk leading to the Boardwalk (Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate) and the park at Crosshouse Hard (under the Itchen Bridge). Flood resilience to new development (and change of use) is considered and secured through planning policy.</p> <p>Update August 2024: Overseen by the Renaissance Board – Prior & Partners have been commissioned to undertake a comprehensive masterplan update for the city centre, with the Itchen Riverside identified as a priority area. Master planning work will complete this autumn for consideration to support future development ambitions.</p> | Nawaz Khan |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 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. <i>(A Vibrant River)</i> | Y | <p>Blue spaces are an importance part of SCC's Leisure mission. So, although we do not have capacity to undertake a 'Blue Space Strategy', we will incorporate blue spaces into the Leisure Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>The council's new Leisure Mission is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in Southampton through 'fit for purpose' leisure services and 'spaces' • To provide leisure services and 'spaces' which support physical activity, sport, play and recreation • To enable more leisure opportunities within the place of Southampton, with emphasis on (1) local communities developing, adapting and maintaining these opportunities to meet their needs and (2) securing financial sustainability <p>Update August 2024: No update is available at this time; this will be provided to a future OSMC meeting.</p> | Debbie Chase |
| 15 | To enable access to the water for watercraft, review the accessibility of the public hards on the River Itchen and ensure that they are well maintained and fit for purpose <i>(A Vibrant River)</i> | Y | <p>SCC maintains public slipways to ensure they remain in a safe and accessible condition: These are: Priory, Old Mill Quay, Belvedere Wharf, Cross House, Nuns Walk, Itchen Ferry, Victoria Road, Weston Shore</p> <p>Update August 2024: No update is available at this time; this will be provided to a future OSMC meeting.</p> | Nawaz Khan |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 16 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Vibrant River)</i></p> | Y | <p>SCC supports ABP's actions to date and will encourage further clearance to take place.</p> <p>Update August 2024:</p> <p>ABP continue to remove wrecks and abandoned vessels along the River Itchen. 30 wrecks or abandoned vessels have been removed so far in 2024. Work ongoing to remove the remaining vessels.</p> | Debbie Ward |
| 17 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Connected River)</i></p> | Y | <p>The River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme is ongoing, with current scheme progress including a period of ground investigations beginning in September 2023. The ground investigations will feed into the scheme alignment and design, as well as optioneering of public areas along the scheme extent. Optioneering will include a public area at Crosshouse car park which has been identified as a key space to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain and improved public waterside access. The optioneering process will include consultation with several internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Any new development that comes forward will also have a planning requirement for public riverfront access – similar to examples at Chapel Riverside. This will continue to be pursued through the planning process and linked to longer term future masterplanning activity.</p> <p>Update August 2024:</p> <p>Policy has been drafted to require new developments within the following areas to include public waterfront access: Mayflower Park/Town Quay, Ocean Village, Itchen Riverside (West), Centenary Quay and Weston Shore</p> | Nawaz Khan |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 18 | <p>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.</p> <p><i>(A Connected River)</i></p> | Y | <p>SCC, through its Planning functions, will continue to pursue Rights of Way breaches and failures to follow section 106 agreements.</p> <p>Update August 2024: Planning functions continue to be applied to monitor and enforce S106 agreements and rights of way breaches.</p> | Nawaz Khan (Strategic Planning/ Highways & Infrastructure) |

| # | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Accepted?</u> <u>(Y/N)</u> | <u>Draft Response / Associated Actions</u> | <u>Lead</u> <u>Executive</u> <u>Director</u> |
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| 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. <i>(A Connected River)</i> | Y | SCC is keen to promote the city's 'green' riverside areas and waterside footpaths and will consider how these can best be promoted. Update August 2024: No update is available at this time; this will be provided to a future OSMC meeting. | Debbie Ward/ Nawaz Khan |
| 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. <i>(A Connected River)</i> | Y | SCC has been working with local business and experts in this area to understand demand and feasibility. There is no funding currently available to progress this, but we will continue to liaise with Solent Transport, Solent Freeport and Government to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Update August 2024: No update is available at this time; this will be provided to a future OSMC meeting. | Nawaz Khan |

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| DECISION-MAKER: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | | |
| SUBJECT: | SCRUTINY INQUIRY 2024/25 - SHORTLIST | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 22 AUGUST 2024 | | |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Enabling Services | |
| | Name: | Mel Creighton | Tel: 023 8083 3528 |
| | E-mail | Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | Name: | Mark Pirnie | Tel: 023 8083 3886 |
| | E-mail | Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| N/A | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| This Committee is responsible for identifying the topic for the annual scrutiny inquiry. Following consultation, the Chair has identified a shortlist of potential subjects. The Committee are asked to consider the shortlisted subjects and identify a preferred topic for the 2024/25 inquiry. | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | | | |
| | (i) | That the Committee considers the shortlist of subjects for the 2024/25 scrutiny inquiry and identifies a preferred topic for which terms of reference can be developed for consideration at the October 2024 meeting of the Committee. | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | To enable the scrutiny inquiry to commence in November 2024. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 2. | A number of suggested topics have been rejected to enable a shortlist to be developed. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 3. | Each year the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertakes an inquiry that looks in detail at a specific issue with the objective of improving outcomes in Southampton. A list of completed inquiries can be accessed via - Completed inquiries (southampton.gov.uk) . | | |
| 4. | It is the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to determine the inquiry topic for the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to undertake, and to agree outline terms of reference for the inquiry. | | |
| 5. | In June a request was made to Group Leaders for suggestions for the 2024/25 scrutiny inquiry. | | |

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| 6. | From the suggestions submitted, the Chair, in consultation with the Scrutiny Manager, has developed a shortlist of topics from which the Committee are asked to identify a preferred subject. |
| 7. | Whilst the criteria employed is not prescriptive, in general it is recommended that the topic for an inquiry should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not be overtly political • Not be an issue that has been the subject of a previous scrutiny inquiry • Reflect an issue impacting on the city • Be something that the city can influence • Be linked to corporate objectives • Preferably be an issue that is beginning to attract national attention. |
| | Shortlist |
| 8. | The Committee are asked to select a preferred topic from the following suggestions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gambling harms b. Sustainable housing development (specific focus needs to be determined) |
| | Gambling harms |
| 9. | Gambling addiction is a growing problem nationally and Southampton is one of a few cities in the UK to have a gambling addiction clinic. It can have a devastating impact on individuals, families, communities and comes at a significant cost to public finances and services. |
| 10. | Good practice exists. A national review has been undertaken by Public Health England on gambling harms, and the LGA have produced a toolkit on tackling gambling harm via a whole council approach. This inquiry would represent an opportunity to learn from other areas and take a lead locally on this cross-cutting and growing issue. |
| 11. | The Director of Public Health has indicated that the service would support this inquiry and, reflecting concerns about the impact of gambling in Southampton, have commissioned background research that could inform the inquiry. |
| | Sustainable housing development |
| 12. | In recognition that the issue would require a more focused terms of reference to be deliverable, a number of possible aspects have been proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the district heating zoning (what is required to make that step change?) • Implementing higher housing density effectively as laid out in the local plan and described in some aspects of the master-planning process • Preventing flood risk / promoting sustainable drainage • Growing the city without running out of energy. |

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| 13. | <p>When determining the 2023/24 scrutiny inquiry the subject of making higher density living work in Southampton was proposed. The following information was provided by Cllr Bogle to advocate for the inquiry:</p> <p><i>'In relation to the Local Plan and housing targets and the experience/learnings to date of the city's large high-density developments, I think we have a chance to do high density living much better and think through what our ask is in terms of amenity space, access to public transport and sustainability considerations.</i></p> <p><i>It would be useful to get insights from areas that already have high density living in Southampton, including from ward cllrs, plus a better understanding of what is likely to be needed (from the Local Plan team) and ideas regarding best practice and identifying places where this has been done well in the UK and internationally.</i></p> <p><i>Whatever came out of an inquiry could inform the local plan process and also master plans for specific areas, and also help engage residents in areas where we need to deliver higher density living.'</i></p> |
| 14. | It is proposed that the Committee consider the options outlined above and decide upon a preferred topic. Following this, outline terms of reference for the preferred topic will be developed for consideration and approval at the 24 October 2024 meeting of this Committee. |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 15. | None. |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 16. | None. |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 17. | 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> | |
| 18. | None |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 19. | None |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 20. | None |
| KEY DECISION | |
| | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | |
| | None directly as a result of this report |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | None |

| | |
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| 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 |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| DECISION-MAKER: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | | |
| SUBJECT: | MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 22 AUGUST 2024 | | |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Enabling Services | |
| | Name: | Mel Creighton | Tel: 023 8083 3528 |
| | E-mail | Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | Name: | Mark Pirnie | Tel: 023 8083 3886 |
| | E-mail | Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| N/A | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings. | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | | | |
| | (i) | That the Committee considers the responses from the Executive to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback. | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | To assist the Committee in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 2. | None. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 3. | Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC). It also contains a summary of action taken by the Executive in response to the recommendations. | | |
| 4. | The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the OSMC confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Committee does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Committee accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the OSMC. | | |

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| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 5. | None. |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 6. | None. |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 7. | 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> | |
| 8. | None |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 9. | None. |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 10. | None |
| KEY DECISION | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | None directly as a result of this report |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 22 August 2024 |
| 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 |

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 22 August 2024

| Date | Portfolio | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| 11/07/24 | Leader | Transformation Update | 1) That a diagram identifying individual project timescales and programme interdependencies is shared with the Committee. | Requested information circulated to the Committee on 14/08/24 | Completed |

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