

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

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
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.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
(i) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee notes the update as detailed in Appendix 1.

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
1. To enable the Committee to scrutinise the implementation of actions approved by Cabinet relating to the scrutiny inquiry.

<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>
2. None.

<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>
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.
4. The objectives of the Inquiry were: a. To identify the various different users and uses of the River Itchen in

	<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"> <li>• Strategic Management &amp; Partnership Working</li> <li>• A Healthy &amp; Resilient River</li> <li>• A Vibrant River</li> <li>• A Connected River</li> </ul>
6.	<p>The <a href="#">Executive's response</a> 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>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
8.	<p>All costs in the responses for which the Council would be responsible will be contained within existing budgets.</p>
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
9.	<p>None.</p>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
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>
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
11.	<p>None.</p>
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	<p>None.</p>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	
	<p>Yes</p>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	
	<p>All</p>

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Appendices**

1. Scrutiny inquiry recommendations – Implementation update

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1. None.

**Equality Impact Assessment**

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

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
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**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
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1.	Cabinet approved response to the River Itchen Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations – 17 October 2023 <a href="#">Appendix 1.pdf (southampton.gov.uk)</a>
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