

# Partnership for South Hampshire Nutrient Mitigation Update

Updates on the development of nutrient mitigation options for South Hampshire

August 2021

## New mitigation sites continue to come forward

Subject to the completion of work on state aid compliance, it is anticipated that the Defra loan to support the purchase of further mitigation land by the HIWWT will enable completion of the purchase of the Nunwell Estate in early September.

The National Trust have also confirmed that, subject to final governance procedures, they will be bringing a site forward in the Test and Itchen catchment before the end of the year.

The SEPO has received a number of reports that Natural England discretionary advice service is unable to provide a view on particular mitigation schemes. The SEPO continues to work with Natural England on this issue and it is hoped that this will not result in significant delays at the point mitigation schemes are assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

## Isle of Wight Council publishes a position statement on nutrient neutrality

Isle of Wight Council have released a position statement '*Nitrogen Neutral Housing Development*' outlining its approach to nutrient neutrality. The position statement also sets out the approach to monitoring and enforcement of mitigation sites.

The statement can be found on the Isle of Wight Council website [here](#)

## Phosphorous mitigation may be required in some catchments in the Solent

PfSH colleagues have received the first indications from Natural England that the impact of phosphorous is causing the further detriment of protected sites - particularly in the Itchen in the first instance. The SEPO is working with the Environment Agency and Natural England to understand the evidence to support this position and the implications.

## Joint Committee endorses all SEPO recommendations at its meeting on 27 July

PfSH Joint Committee has endorsed all of the recommendations for local planning authorities outlined in the reported submitted to it for consideration - that local planning authorities:

- consider the purchase of nitrogen mitigation credits from mitigation suppliers specifically to meet the needs of minor development based on an individual authority's assessment of need
- purchase of credits is recommended on a combined catchment basis to ensure best market value is achieved
- use a standard suite of template legal agreements to reduce the legal costs to developers and to make the determination of application process more efficient

The full report can be found on the PfSH website [here](#)

For enquiries please contact:

**Simon Kennedy - Strategic Environmental Planning Officer:** [skennedy@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:skennedy@fareham.gov.uk)  
**Daniel Watts - Partnership for South Hampshire Co-ordinator:** [daniel.watts@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.watts@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)



## PfSH Planning Officers Group has agreed the SEPO's objectives to the end of 2021

The Planning Officers Group has agreed the objectives for the SEPO role to the end of this year, when Simon Kennedy's contract is due to end. Simon will be focussing on:



- progressing a strategic credit purchase scheme for those wishing to participate
- identifying future mitigation credit supply especially in catchments where supply is currently limited
- developing a protocol on monitoring and enforcement arrangements, to complement the s106 legal template
  - on enforcement, a template for agreements between local planning authorities - whether as purchasers of credits (either directly or by developers in their jurisdictions), as providers of credits, or as host authorities of private providers of credits
  - on monitoring, HBIC or other arrangements should be sufficient to meet Natural England evidential requirements. Requirements include, but are not limited to, ensuring that all credit suppliers are recorded on a register that indicates the total credits available and accounts for sold or reserved credits on an ongoing basis.
- preparing a PfSH position statement and recommendations to inform the approach to future nutrient mitigation solutions and the role and remit of various partners and stakeholders. Based on our lessons learned so far, the aim is to outline a framework for a more integrated and coordinated process that better supports green growth and economic recovery.

## Consultation Opportunities

There are a number of consultations taking place that may impact on work to achieve nutrient neutrality. Should local planning authorities wish to respond, the SEPO is happy to collate responses into a comprehensive joint response on behalf of all PfSH authorities. All responses to any of the following consultations must be received by the SEPO no later than **Friday 20 August**.

### Government's strategic priorities for Ofwat

The decisions taken by Ofwat can have significant impacts on customers and the environment, and it is the government's responsibility to set its strategic framework and policy priorities.

[Government strategic priorities for Ofwat](#)

### Review of the water industry national environment programme (WINEP)

The WINEP is the most important and substantial programme of environmental investment in England. For 2020 to 2025 it consists of £5.2 billion of asset improvements, investigations, monitoring and catchment interventions. It sets out how the water industry will contribute to improving the natural environment.

[Review of the water industry national environment programme](#)

### Review of the Habitat Regulations

DEFRA is considering potential changes to the habitat regulation assessment (HRA) process. This work will have a formal consultation period in 2022 through a proposed green paper. However, PfSH authorities have been given the opportunity to feed into this work at development stage.

DEFRA has requested that we provide information on ways in which it is felt that the HRA process does/does not work, as well as any suggested ways the process could be made more efficient.

Please feedback to Simon Kennedy directly, who will collate responses on behalf of PfSH

For enquiries please contact:

Simon Kennedy - Strategic Environmental Planning Officer: [skennedy@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:skennedy@fareham.gov.uk)  
Daniel Watts - Partnership for South Hampshire Co-ordinator: [daniel.watts@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.watts@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

