

DECISION TAKER: CLLR JACKIE PORTER – CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND WELLBEING

TITLE: AUTHORITY TO SIGN PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE INITIAL 'STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND'

11 JANUARY 2021

Contact Officer: Adrian Fox Tel No: 01962 848278 Email: afox@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): SOUTHERN PARISHES OUTSIDE THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

DECISION:

That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk be authorised to sign the Partnership for South Hampshire's initial Statement of Common Ground (as approved by the PfSH Joint Committee on 30 September 2020) and future updates, on behalf of the City Council.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) agreed a draft framework for a Statement of Common Ground in October 2019 which committed the PfSH authorities to commission a series of joint evidence studies with a view to the future production of a new PfSH Joint Strategy. This would update the existing PfSH Spatial Position Statement agreed in 2016. The PfSH Joint Committee agreed an initial Statement of Common Ground at its meeting on 30 September 2020, including updates to the programme of evidence studies and housing needs for the area. This report seeks authority for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk to sign the initial Statement of Common Ground on behalf of the City Council and to be able to agree future updates to the SOCG.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. While the City Council is part of the Partnership for South Hampshire and the process of developing the SOCG, it has the option not to sign the initial SOCG. However, this would throw into question the rationale for the City Council remaining in PfSH. The SOCG and a subsequent Joint Statement is an effective way of showing that the Council has cooperated on cross-

boundary strategic planning matters, as it is required to do under the 'duty to cooperate'.

2. Even if the Council decided not to sign the SOCG, or to withdraw from PfSH, it would still have a statutory duty to work with its neighbouring authorities on cross-boundary issues. Therefore, remaining part of PfSH and agreeing the initial Statement of Common Ground was considered the best option in terms of being able to demonstrate at a local plan examination that the City Council has meet all of its requirements under the duty to cooperate, developing a coherent sub-regional planning strategy for South Hampshire and undertaking work that will be used in the development of the local plan in a cost effective way. Participation also provided the opportunity to engage in, and influence, the process.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

Not applicable.

APPROVED BY: **Councillor Jackie Porter**

DATE:**11/01/2021**

Councillor Jackie Porter – Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing