



Minutes of the meeting of the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held Virtually on Thursday 8 April 2021 at 9.30 am

**Members Present:** Mr A Moss (Chairman), Mrs C Apel (Vice-Chairman), Mrs T Bangert, Mr G Barrett, Mr D Palmer, Mr C Page, Mr H Potter, Mrs C Purnell, Mrs S Sharp and Mr T Johnson

**Members not present:** Mr K Hughes and Mrs N Graves

**In attendance by invitation:**

**Officers present:** Mr T Ayling (Divisional Manager for Planning Policy), Ms P Bushby (Divisional Manager for Communities), Mr J Caines (Democratic Services Officer), Mr A Frost (Director of Planning and Environment), Mrs L Rudziak (Director of Housing and Communities) and Mr T Whitty (Divisional Manager for Development Management)

## 1 **Chairman's Announcements**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Norma Graves and Cllr Kevin Hughes. Cllr John-Henry Bowden (although not a member of the Committee) also gave apologies that he could not be present to ask his pre-submitted questions.

The Chairman requested Nominations of appointment of Vice-Chairman to the meeting in Cllr Kevin Hughes absence and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Clare Apel be appointed as Vice-chairman to the meeting.

The Chairman reminded Members that questions to third party representatives should be succinct and strategic, rather than focusing on location based concerns. Council Officers, Council Members and Officers from outside organisations were invited to introduce themselves.

## 2 **Urgent Items**

There were none.

## 3 **Declarations of Interests**

The Chairman asked members if there were any Declarations of Interest relating to matters on the agenda that had not been declared.

The following additional non-pecuniary interests were declared:

- Cllr Adrian Moss as a Member of Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Manhood Peninsular Partnership
- Cllr Graeme Barrett as a Member of Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Manhood Peninsular Partnership
- Cllr Carol Purnell as a Member of West Sussex County Council and Chairman of the Manhood Peninsular Partnership.

#### 4 Public Question Time

**The following question was submitted from Roy Seabrook:**

*Headroom established by MWH for Thornham WwTW for 2009/10, was 554 dwellings. Throughout the subsequent decade, it has been consistently estimated at 1,700 dwellings, despite the building of well over 1,000 dwellings during this period. The sole exception to this was the AMEC report (August 2018) for Chichester District Council giving the headroom as zero. During this decade, no significant updates to the Thornham WwTW have been undertaken. The definition of Dry Weather Flow and its use in calculating headroom needs to be examined in careful detail.*

*Please ask Southern Water to make available:-*

- 1) Both 10% and 20%iles of measured flow rates for the last three years.
- 2) Daily Flow rates for the last year.
- 3) The Environment Agency licence certificate together with any amendments relating to the use of 20%ile of flow rates.

*The following answer was provided from Southern Water:*

**1) Both 10% and 20%iles of measured flow rates for the last three years. Dry Weather Flow (DWF) Data for 2018 to 2020 is as follows (mcd – metres cubed per day):**

	Q80 (20%ile) mcd	Q90 (10%ile) mcd
2018	5680	5260
2019	5722	5221
2020	5888	5273

**The current permitted DWF for Thornham WWTW is 6565mcd.**

**2) Daily Flow rates for the last year.**

**We have not provided the daily flows rates for 2020. As part of our flow verification system daily flow data which does not meet validation criteria is not submitted as part of our annual return to the Environment Agency. Our experience has shown there where such data has been made publically available in the past it can be mis-interpreted.**

**The figures above are those submitted to the EA as part of our annual return as required by the relevant condition in the Environmental Permit / Consent for the site.**

**3) The Environment Agency licence certificate together with any amendments**

*relating to the use of 20%ile of flow rates.*

***A copy of the environmental permit / consent for Thornham WWTW was provided as an attachment. Using the page numbers as given in the PDF viewer menu page 10 states the consented DWF and pages 14, 15 and 16 cover the definition of DWF and flow measurement criteria.***

## **5 Water Capacity and Quality in the District**

The Chairman welcomed;

- Environment Agency: - Michael Turner, Environment Manager - Hannah Hyland, Planning Specialist
- Natural England: - Dr Louise Bardsley, Senior Adviser (Water Sector South East and Thames RBD) (available 9.30am – 10.15am)
- Southern Water: - Ian McAuley, Chief Executive Officer - Toby Willson, Director of Environment and Corporate Affairs - Chris Braham, Head of Asset Performance - Richard Bagwell, Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Sussex

Apologies were noted from OFWAT.

The Chairman advised the meeting that James Seymour, Area Manager for Natural England had been called away at short notice and also sent his apologies.

A total of 78 questions had been submitted to Southern Water, Natural England, the Environment Agency and OFWAT. Due the unavailability of OFWAT they had been invited to provide answers in writing.

Questions to Natural England were taken at the first part of the meeting. Due to the availability of time Nature England were asked to answer as many questions as possible before they needed to leave. Natural England confirmed all other questions would be answered in writing.

The Chairman thanked Louise Bardsley for attending.

The remaining questions were answered by representatives from Southern Water and The Environment Agency.

Cllr Sharp suggested recommendations as follows:

- The Committee recommends that Chichester District Council ensure the Local Plan takes proper account of nature-based solutions and we look into re-wilding opportunities.
- The Committee recommends that climate change adaptation must be at the forefront of Chichester District Councils' plans.
- The Committee recommends that Chichester District Council play their role to encourage and continue to facilitate conversations with all of our partners and landowners to ensure that we work together to face up to these waste water and climate change issues and reduce nitrates.

The recommendations were not seconded.

The Chairman offered to work with Cllr Sharp to ensure these proposals were presented to relevant officers and cabinet members for subsequent discussions.

The Chairman proposed the following recommendation:

We (the Committee) thank our partners for joining the meeting and providing answers to our questions and we would be grateful to receive written answers to all questions. We urge SW, EA and NE to work together in support of CDC in the matters raised at this meeting and at other meetings and to ensure that the Local Plan can be delivered in a timely manner.

The Committee were in agreement.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Committee thanks our partners for joining the meeting and providing answers to our questions and we would be grateful to receive written answers to all questions. We urge SW, EA and NE to work together in support of CDC in the matters raised at this meeting and at other meetings and to ensure that the Local Plan can be delivered in a timely manner.

### **Post Meeting Note:**

*Following the meeting the Chairman wrote to all the companies thanking them for attending.*

*Written responses to the questions have now been circulated to members. OFWAT responses still to be received.*

### **6 Late Items**

There were no late items.

The meeting ended at 1.20 pm

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CHAIRMAN

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Date: