

# NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2020, AT 10.00 AM*</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>SKYPE MEETING - ONLINE</b>
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:democratic@nfdc.gov.uk">democratic@nfdc.gov.uk</a> Matt Wisdom - 023 8028 5072</b>

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

\* Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
  - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes.

Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above no later than 12.00 noon on Friday 28 August 2020. This will allow the Council to provide public speakers with the necessary joining instructions for the Skype Meeting.

**Bob Jackson**  
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA  
[www.newforest.gov.uk](http://www.newforest.gov.uk)

**This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format**

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# AGENDA

## **Apologies**

### **1. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2020 as a correct record.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

**4. COVID-19 RECOVERY - REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

To receive a verbal update from the Leader of the Council and appropriate Portfolio Holders, on the progress of the four COVID-19 RECOVERY Task and Finish Groups.

**5. EMERGENCY BUDGET 2020/21 AND UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24 (Pages 5 - 22)**

**6. PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (Pages 23 - 28)**

**7. CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM CONSULTATION (Pages 29 - 32)**

**8. VISION FOR THE WATERSIDE (Pages 33 - 54)**

**9. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL - DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS - CONSULTATION RESPONSE (Pages 55 - 70)**

**10. MEETING DATES FOR 2021/2022**

To agree the following dates of meetings of the Cabinet (All Wednesdays starting at 10.00 a.m.)

2 June 2021	1 December 2021
7 July 2021	2 February 2022
4 August 2021	2 March 2022
1 September 2021	6 April 2022
6 October 2021	4 May 2022
3 November 2021	

## **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

### **Background**

This meeting is being held virtually with all participants accessing via Skype for Business.

A live stream will be available on YouTube to allow the press and public to view meetings in real time and can also be found at the relevant meeting page on the Council's website.

### **Principles for all meetings**

The Chairman will read out Ground Rules at the start of the meeting for the benefit of all participants. All normal procedures for meetings apply as far as practicable, as the new Government Regulations do not amend any of the Council's existing Standing Orders.

The Ground Rules for all virtual meetings will include, but are not limited to, the following:-

- All participants are reminded that virtual public meetings are being broadcast live on YouTube and will be available for repeated viewing. Please be mindful of your camera and microphone setup and the images and sounds that will be broadcast on public record.
- All participants are asked to mute their microphones when not speaking to reduce feedback and background noise. Please only unmute your microphone and speak when invited to do so by the Chairman.
- Councillors in attendance that have not indicated their wish to speak in advance of the meeting can make a request to speak during the meeting by typing "RTS" (Request to Speak) in the Skype chat facility. Requests will be managed by the Chairman with support from Democratic Services. The Skype chat facility should not be used for any other purpose.
- All participants should note that the chat facility can be viewed by all those in attendance.
- All participants are asked to refer to the report number and page number within the agenda and reports pack so that there is a clear understanding of what is being discussed at all times.

### **Voting**

When voting is required on a particular item, each councillor on the committee will be called to vote in turn by name, expressing their vote verbally. The outcome will be announced to the meeting. A recorded vote will not be reflected in the minutes of the meeting unless this is requested in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

By casting their vote, councillors do so in the acknowledgement that they were present for the duration of the item in question.

### **Technology**

If individuals experience technical issues, the meeting will continue providing that it is quorate and it is still practical to do so. The Chairman will adjourn the meeting if technical issues cause the meeting to be inquorate, the live stream technology fails, or continuing is not practical.

### **Public Participation**

Contact details to register to speak in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Procedures are on the front page of this agenda.

In order to speak at a virtual meeting, you must have the facility to join a Skype for Business Meeting. Joining instructions will be sent to registered speakers in advance of the meeting.

The Council will accept a written copy of a statement from registered speakers that do not wish to join a Skype Meeting, or are unable to. The statement will be read out at the meeting and should not exceed three minutes. Please use the contact details on the agenda front sheet for further information.

To:

**Councillors**

Diane Andrews  
Jill Cleary  
Michael Harris  
Edward Heron (Vice-  
Chairman)

**Councillors**

Jeremy Heron  
Alison Hoare  
Barry Rickman (Chairman)  
Mark Steele

CABINET – 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE, INVESTMENT &  
CORPORATE SERVICES / ALL

## **EMERGENCY BUDGET 2020/21 AND UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020/21 – 2023/24**

### **1. Recommendations**

Cabinet are asked to recommend to Council;

- a) that the 2020/21 Revised General Fund Budget totalling £20.117m as outlined within the report and Appendix 1 be approved;
- b) that the Revised MTFP: 2021/22 onwards, as outlined in the report and Appendix 2-4 be adopted;
- c) the Revised General Fund Capital Programme of £13.414m as set out in appendix 5 be approved;
- d) that the Actions Required as set out in the report, be progressed; and
- e) that the reporting timeline as set out in section 10 be agreed.

### **2. Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To set out the proposed Emergency Budget for 2020/21, consider the initial development of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 onwards and consider the factors that will influence its delivery and that of the annual budget strategy 2021/22.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Council has a legal requirement to set a fully funded balanced budget. In light of the financial implications that COVID-19 will have on the Council's budget for 2020/21 the production of an Emergency Budget is necessary. The impact will also extend over the Medium Term, and so a full refresh of the Medium Term Financial Plan is also necessary.
- 3.2 The Council's underlying financial strategy including cost reduction and the crystallisation of efficiencies from all services, supported latterly with the targeting of new and additional income generation will continue. However, it will need to be supplemented with more fundamental delivery reviews and a re-prioritisation of services to align the budget and ultimately the funding the Council has available to Corporate Plan Priorities.
- 3.3 Actions need to commence on the development of future years' budgets. To support this work it is necessary that an assessment is made of the likely financial scenario based upon latest available information. To help support the important work of Portfolio Holders and officers in developing future plans, the future outlook and the current uncertainties are set out within this report and a prudent forecast set out

through appendices 2-4.

- 3.4 The long awaited Fair Funding Review (FFR) and Business Rate Reset (BRR) are still not confirmed, however the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will be published in the Autumn which will undoubtedly set the context for the FFR and BRR.
- 3.5 The Medium Term Financial Plan has been populated using the most up to date information currently available covering the period to 2023/24. The effect of the Fair Funding Review and final design of the Business Rate Retention Scheme as outlined in 3.4, including the timing of the initial reset, and frequency thereafter of partial or full resets, and the ultimate proportion of rates to be retained by the District Council, has the potential to significantly amend the funding figures currently forecast.

#### **4. Revised MTFP: Emergency Budget 2020/21**

- 4.1 Due to the impact that Coronavirus has had on the Councils finances, a full and fundamental reset of the 2020/21 budget is required. The adjusted budget at Portfolio Level reflects the new expenditure pressures and income losses that are forecast to take effect to the end of the financial year, based a gradual 'return to normal' over the coming few months. The Portfolio budgets do not include an allowance for any detrimental impact as a result of any local lockdown or second wave of infection, however the residual contribution to reserves and the general fund balance reserve are still available should they be necessary. The Emergency Budget then includes the mitigations necessary to produce a re-balanced budget for 2020/21. At its core, the Emergency Budget will still have regard to the corporate priorities of the Council.

#### **4.2 Impact to Portfolio Budgets due to COVID-19 – including direct support funding**

Across the Portfolios total adjustments due to new COVID-19 related expenditure pressures (£1.305m) and unfunded income losses (£2.541m) total £3.846m. These can be seen at Portfolio level within Appendix 1, and supporting narrative for each Portfolio is provided below;

##### **4.2.1 Community Affairs Portfolio**

The Council was required to assist in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable as a result of the shielding measures introduced by the Government in March. The Council initially provided this service directly utilising Applemore Health & Leisure centre as a central resource point for dealing with food parcels, before onward delivery to individual households. In June, the Council entered into an agreement with the Lymington Basics Food bank to undertake this service at a set fee per food parcel.

In addition the Council set aside a sum of £25k to assist with the food banks and community groups that were actively involved in the joint effort to provide support to the most vulnerable, including those with changes in financial circumstances. A grant of £5k was received from Hampshire County Council in April to distribute funds across the District to support the Local Resilience Centres.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net increase in budget requirement of £75,000.**

#### 4.2.2 **Economic Development Portfolio**

The Economic Development Team have played a key role in relaying information out to Business regarding the Support Grant Schemes and have been supported in this task by administrative officers from with Planning.

The team have administered the Discretionary Grant Schemes including the required evidence checking of applications and have completed this task within existing resources.

**The net impact to the Portfolio Budget is £nil.**

#### 4.2.3 **Environment & Regulatory Services Portfolio**

Waste services required a re-prioritisation to ensure available resource was directed to the essential household waste and recycling collections and additional costs have been incurred in;

- the hiring of additional vehicles to ensure social distancing protocols have been adhered to,
- the purchase of essential PPE, including signage across the coast; and
- enhanced cleaning of the Public Conveniences, including revised opening protocols

Special collections stopped in March and recommenced in June, and Trade Waste customers continue to be offered collections as required. The garden waste service was temporarily suspended resulting in losses in income. Since the Garden Waste service resumed, take-up has increased, which will recuperate the earlier lost income. Charges for Beach Huts were also temporarily suspended following the lockdown announcement made on 23rd March.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net increase in budget requirement of £517,000.**

#### 4.2.4 **Finance, Corporate Services and Investment Portfolio**

The Revenues and Benefits department has dealt with unprecedented levels of changes in circumstances (Housing Benefits), Council Tax Reduction Support enquiries (including the administration of the £884k Hardship Fund) and the administration of the Business Support Grants. New burdens funding of £170,000 has been received in recognition of the additional work in this area.

In readiness for a re-opening of the Council offices, risk assessments have resulted in various adaptations being made to accommodation and information offices. This includes, for example, protective Perspex screens at front desks and one-way signage.

In July, the Council entered into a funding arrangement with Hampshire County Council as a result of the County Council receiving an allocation of The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies; a scheme for local authorities in England to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. The £134,000 NFDC scheme will take into account new Universal Credit claimants and align to Discretionary Housing Benefit and the Council Tax Reduction and Hardship schemes.

Due to anticipated reductions in pooled fund returns and a decrease in the base-rate to 0.1%, interest earnings for 2020/21 will be lower than originally budgeted.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net decrease in budget requirement of £55,000 (considering the new burdens funding received), plus lost interest earnings income of £500,000.**

**4.2.5 Housing Services Portfolio (General Fund)**

An increase in households and individuals presenting to the Council as a result of the Covid-19 situation has resulted in additional cost pressures for the Council through the sourcing of additional temporary accommodation. The need to find accommodation for those people finding themselves without a home at this time has been in line with Government guidance.

The Council has kept abreast of all funding opportunities for additional financial support in this area and has budgeted for additional specific funding of £100,000.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net increase in budget requirement of £436,000.**

**4.2.6 Leader & Corporate Affairs Portfolio**

An amount has been set aside within the Portfolio to provide financial support and resilience to individual Towns and Parishes within the District who find themselves in financial distress.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net increase in budget requirement of £100,000.**

**4.2.7 Leisure & Wellbeing Portfolio**

The closure of the Leisure Centres on 18<sup>th</sup> March has resulted in significant income losses occurring. As part mitigation, the majority of Leisure services' employees have been placed on Furlough during the time of closure. Income forecasts upon re-opening have been based on prudent expectations taking into account a phased approach including a reduced programme of classes. It is also expected to take some time before customer confidence returns in terms of mixing with others in a Leisure Centre environment.

The Council will fully utilise the income support scheme announced by the Government in early July. The reimbursement of irrecoverable income will be through quarterly claims and will need to take into account a 5% total deductible and take into account any other mitigating factors, for example the value of income received through the Furlough scheme. An allowance of £2.22M to be received through this scheme has been allowed for in the revised budget.

Dibden Golf Centre also closed temporarily and so the Council agreed to a waiver from its third-party operator equivalent to 12 week's rent.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net increase in budget requirement of £1,843,000.**

**4.2.8 Planning & Infrastructure Portfolio**

The most notable financial implication is down to the necessary cessation of charging in the Town and Village Car Parks, and the temporary closure and cessation of charging within the Amenity Car Parks. Amenity charging was re-introduced on 13th May, and parking clocks are available for purchase.



Planning income was also much reduced in April and May due to inactivity in the Housing Market.

As with Leisure & Wellbeing, it is anticipated that the income support scheme will be used to recover lost Sales, Fees and Charges income. An allowance of £620,000 to be received through this scheme has been allowed for in the revised budget.

**The impact to the Portfolio Budget is a net increase in budget requirement of £430,000.**

#### 4.3 Mitigations within Portfolio's

Identified mitigations to counter the increase in expenditure and lost irrecoverable income have been identified totalling £1.183m. Some of these items will be one-off to 2020/21, and others will be on-going and so will be fed into the MTFP.

##### 4.3.1 **Vacancy Control - £500,000**

With effect from 7 July 2020, the Council implemented a new Vacancy Control Procedure, with individual Business Cases requiring full agreement and sign off by the Service Manager, Executive Head and independent ratification from the Chief Finance Officer or Chief Executive. An allowance of £500,000 has been included within the revised budget for 2020/21. This saving has been allocated across the Portfolio's according to vacant posts already identified, with a balancing figure (to allow for additional posts as they come vacant during the remainder of the year) currently included within the Finance Portfolio.

##### 4.3.2 **Asset Maintenance and Replacement Programme Review - £200,000**

A review of the programme was undertaken in the context of the new meaning of an 'essential' scheme to 2020/21. Reductions in the programme have been made to the value of £200,000 to the General Fund.

##### 4.3.3 **COVID Budget Review - £483,000**

- Travel budgets have been reduced by £32,000 (a saving of 16%)
- The Training budget has been reset to the level more aligned to spend over the past few financial years (a reduction of £38,000)
- Operational Budgets at the Health & Leisure Centres have been reduced by £126,000 in the main to reflect lower expenditure during the period of closure
- New commercial property purchases made in 2020/21 with the additional net income of £139,000 now being included within the budget
- The Garden Waste Service has seen additional users join the scheme since it recommenced in April which will result in additional net income of £75,000
- The 2020 New Forest Show was cancelled, and so the annual budget of £15k is not required
- Other budget changes across the Portfolio's total £58,000

#### 4.4 Other Mitigations to provide a balanced budget – including central un-ringfenced funding support

##### 4.4.1 **Reserve Contributions - £1,245,000**

The original budget for 2020/21 retained £1.25m in the General Fund to provide the necessary budget should a pension fund deficit rematerialize in the 2022 actuarial review. £1.245m will be utilised to assist in the re-balancing of the 2020/21 budget

but the full annual budgeted sum of £1.25m will be left in the base budget within the forward looking Medium Term Financial Plan.

The original budget allowed for £1.062m to be placed into the Budget Equalisation Reserve to assist in producing a balanced budget over the Medium Term period. This contribution can be left alone within the make-up of the Emergency Budget and as outlined in 4.1, can be readily available to support any additional budgetary requirements in 2020/21 should that become necessary.

**4.4.2 Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) - £375,000**

The original budget allowed for a contribution of £375,000 from the General Fund to contribute towards the capital programme financing. This method of financing is not being retained with the revised budget.

**4.4.3 Interest Earnings - £270,000**

Earnings in 2019/20 exceeded the budget and the Council's diverse investment Portfolio should continue to yield a return of around 50% of the previous financial years' outturn.

**4.4.4 Public Sector Funding Support - £2,033,000**

The revised budget for 2020/21 will include tranche 2 and 3 of the Public Sector Funding Support Grants distributed by the Government, totalling £2.033M to this Council. Tranche 1 (£70,401) was utilised in 2019/20. When also taking into account the income support scheme and furlough claims, the total funding support received by this Council will total nearly £6M.

**4.4.5 Collection Funds - +£1,110,000**

The budgeted collection fund surpluses for Business Rates and Council Tax at £892,000 and £218,000 respectively have been removed from the budget to reflect anticipated lower collection levels.

4.5 The latest Pay Award bargaining has resulted in an offer put to the unions by the employee side of 2.75% for 2020/21. The Medium Term expectation was 2% annually. The budget for 2020/21 has been adjusted by £150,000, with this additional cost being spread across the Portfolio's accordingly.

4.6 The changes as outlined throughout section 4 above and as represented by appendix 1 result in the achievement of a balanced budget for 2020/21 and does not require use of the £3m General Budget Reserve.

**5. Summary of Proposals and Confirmation of Council Tax position for 2020/21**

5.1 The revised General Fund net budget requirement for 2020/21 will be £20.117m (appendix 1), an increase of £923,000 on the original 2020/21 budget requirement.

5.2 COVID-19 related Expenditure pressures of £1.305m and COVID-19 related income shortfalls of £2.541m (net of anticipated income support scheme funding) have been added to the Council's budget for 2020/21.

5.3 Mitigation Savings and Adjustments totalling £1.216m and Public Sector Support funding of £2.033m have been allowed for within the revised budget.

- 5.4 The reserve transfers allowed for within the original budget for 2020/21 have been revised resulting in a net transfer to reserves of £1,067m, as opposed to the originally budgeted £2.312m.
- 5.5 An additional cost of pay award at £150,000 has been included within the revised budget.
- 5.6 The originally budgeted collection fund surpluses for Business Rates and Council Tax at £892,000 and £218,000 respectively have been removed in anticipation of lower collection rates.
- 5.7 Band D Council Tax remains unchanged at £178.36 and the cost to be met by council taxpayers remains unchanged at £12,751,474.

## **6. Revised MTFP: 2021/22 to 2023/24**

- 6.1 It has been confirmed that the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will be published in the Autumn. The Chancellor has stated that the CSR will prioritise issues including levelling-up economic opportunity across all nations and regions, investing in infrastructure, innovation and people, and improving outcomes in public services. For New Forest District Council, the key outcome of the CSR will be the way in which the relative needs formula is devised, which will have a direct implication to the design of the new Business Rate Retention scheme and baseline reset. As the CSR has the potential to effect the funding sources of this Council so significantly, this MTFP is currently drawn over a 3 year period, as opposed to the usual 4.
- 6.2 The Councils updated MTFP will have to make some judgements on the speed of recovery, especially in key income generating areas like Leisure and Car Parking and will need to reflect on the service reviews, that are underway in order to make a significant contribution to the budget deficit over the Medium Term Period.
- 6.3 Fundamentally, the MTFP will have regard to the revised budget for 2020/21, but the base starting point will be the original budget for 2020/21.
- 6.4 Funding Assumptions over the Medium Term
  - 6.4.1 The February 2020 MTFP included the removal of £2.398m in business rate growth for 2021/22 and allowed instead for a relatively modest redistribution of £400,000; this will represent the worst-case scenario.
  - 6.4.2 The best-case scenario will be modelled on the Council retaining business rate growth above the baseline in 2021/22, albeit, the growth will need to be reduced due to anticipated lower levels of collection. An assumed level of £2m will be allowed for. It is then assumed the reset will take effect from 2022/23, so in effect, this becomes a one-year gain.
  - 6.4.3 In both the best and worst-case scenarios, an allowance will be made for no future new homes bonus and a reduction in Council Tax in 2021/22 due to increased numbers of households having been awarded Council Tax Reduction, which directly impacts on the tax base calculation.

BUSINESS RATE RETENTION FUNDING	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Revised			
	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
WORST-CASE BRR FORECAST	6,681	4,726	4,740	4,642
BEST-CASE BRR FORECAST	6,681	6,326	4,740	4,642
MID-CASE	6,681	5,526	4,740	4,642
RANGE BETWEEN WORST AND BEST-CASE	0	1,600	0	-0

6.4.4 As so much rests on the CSR and the reset of the Business Rate Retention scheme, the mid-case scenario has been used to feed into the MTFP (Appendix 2) at this stage.

#### 6.5 Recovery Assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan

6.5.1 The main area of financial pressure here is the recovery of income in the Health & Leisure Centres. Annual income levels pre covid-19 were forecast at £7m. The latest assumption as included in the emergency budget for 2020/21 is that income will total c£2m. It is also very likely that it will take some time for income to fully recover. Within the MTFP, full recovery will be achieved by the end of year 2 (for the start of year 3).

6.5.2 The worst-case scenario will be based on an overall recovery of 60% of pre covid-19 income levels, so an annual income target for 2021/22 of £4.2m, a 90% recovery for 2022/23, so an annual income target of £6.3m, with the full pre covid-19 income level restored for 2023/24.

6.5.3 The best-case scenario will be based on an overall recovery of 80% of pre covid-19 income levels, so an annual income target for 2021/22 of £5.6m, a 95% recovery for 2022/23, so an annual income target of £6.65m, with the full pre covid-19 income level restored for 2023/24.

WORST-CASE INCOME FORECAST: 60% Recovery Yr 1	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Revised			
	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
BEST-CASE INCOME FORECAST: 80% Recovery Yr 1	2,000	4,200	6,300	7,000
MID-CASE INCOME FORECAST	2,000	5,600	6,650	7,000
RANGE BETWEEN WORST AND BEST-CASE	0	4,900	6,475	7,000
	0	1,400	350	0

6.5.4 The Mid-case scenario has been used in drawing up the body of this initial MTFP.

For clarity of the figures, those in the table shown above represent the anticipated income budget required. The MTFP at appendix 3 shows the movement from the original budget (i.e. £7m base budget to move to an income of £4.9m results in an adjustment in the MTFP in the 2021/22 financial year of the difference @ £2.1m)

## 6.6 Budget Adjustments over the Medium Term

6.6.1 Increases in costs are expected to total c£2.175m over the next 3 year period, based on current activity and latest figures received. The assumptions include the following areas of pay and price increases;

- Annual Pay Award of 2.75% for 2021/22, and 2% per annum thereafter
- Incremental progression
- Fuel and Energy Cost Increases

All other increases to be absorbed within existing overall Portfolio budgets, except where they are agreed policy or strategy developments

6.6.2 The plan also includes assumptions as a result of decisions and reviews that have commenced in prior years, where work is currently underway or is scheduled to commence. These savings and income adjustments totalling £890,000 to 2021/22 include:

- 2020/21 ICT Strategy 18-22 expenditure (£604,000)
- 2020/21 one-off Community Grant awards (£98,000)
- Removal of a one-off scheme to invest in back-up power at ATC (£100,000)
- Removal of a one-off budget to transfer a Public Convenience to Totton and Eling Town Council (£50,000)
- Reinstatement of planning income shortfall (£38,000 to 2021/22, fully recovered by 2023/24)

6.6.3 The plan also includes assumptions as a result of on-going savings / income generations totalling £170,000 that now need adding to the base budget going forward;

- Commercial Property Income (£139,000)
- Residential Property Income (£20,000)
- Reduction in SLA with CAB (£11,000)

6.6.4 New Budget Requirements also exist over the period, including:

- The Hampshire County Council Waste Review, estimated to cost this Council £700,000 per annum from 2021/22
- An estimated loss in collection fund revenue from Business Rates and Council Tax, assumed at £250,000 for each year up to and including 2023/24

6.6.5 The mitigation measures introduced and identified during 2020/21 will need to continue over the medium term. This includes;

- the removal of £375,000 of Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay
- £500,000 identified through the vacancy control
- £350,000 identified through the budget review

## 7. **Forecast Budget Deficit and Actions Required**

### 7.1 Forecast Budget Deficit

7.1.1 The budget deficit outstanding, after allowing for the items as outlined through section 6 above, is £2.473m to 2023/24. There is a significant deficit forecast for 2021/22, predominately as a result of the income adjustment required in Health & Leisure, with the deficit reducing over the following 2 financial years. The annual budget deficits are represented by the following table:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total to 2023/24
Estimated Budget Deficit <b>Before</b> Council Tax Contribution (£'000)	3,019	-460	-86	2,473

7.1.2 The government currently allows for the maximum allowable Council Tax increases in all of their funding assumptions going forward. At the present time, this is the greater of £5 or 2.99% per annum. The revised deficits, **after** allowing for maximum allowable Council tax increases over the period (equivalent to c£360k PA, worth an additional £1.085m by year 3) are shown within the following table:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total to 2023/24
Estimated Budget Deficit <b>After</b> Council Tax Contribution (£'000)	2,660	-822	-450	1,388

7.1.3 To summarise, over the period covered by this Medium Term Financial Plan, assuming maximum allowable Council Tax increases are applied, the Council requires additional funding or income, or reduced expenditure, or most likely a combination of both, equating to £1.388m. There is a more immediate pressure to 2021/22 due to the scale of the forecast income losses as a result of the COVID-19 recovery.

## 7.2 Actions Required and Underway

7.2.1 The Council has been proactive in its approach to deal with the forecast deficits over the period. In order to ensure that planned and further savings and efficiencies are realised and income generation improved, reviews and strategy developments need to maintain momentum and be driven by EMT and Portfolio Holders, supported by member panels, task and finish groups and officers around the Council.

7.2.2 The reviews and strategies that are underway which are targeted with making a significant contribution to the forecast budget deficit include:

- Commercial / Residential Property – Officers are working on implementing the two approved strategies to invest in Commercial and Residential Property, with an outcome of both being the generation of new additional income, targeted at £1m once fully rolled out (£666,000 currently outstanding).
- Leisure Delivery Review – A task and finish group is currently considering alternative models of delivery for the Council's Health & Leisure Centres. The financial outcome of this review combined with the operational review is targeted at significantly reducing the annual subsidy on Health & Leisure.
- Reduced Leisure Centre Activity – to reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on business practice and less activity based on the reduced customer usage a full audit of all costs, including staffing will need to be undertaken

- Several other strategy developments are in early stages, including Waste and Parking. The outcome of these could also have a significant bearing on the figures as included within the MTFP.
  - Portfolio Holders are undertaking reviews of Fees and Charges in their respective service areas to ensure the fees as set are in line with the Council policy of maximising income where possible. Additional weight has been put on those services with income shortfalls as a result of COVID-19 to ensure the period of recovery for lost income is as short as possible.
    - Portfolio Holders will report back to September Overview and Scrutiny Panels on their progress
  - Portfolio Holder for Finance to conduct a review into NFDC owned assets to ensure their added value to the Council in achieving the aims and priorities as required by the Corporate Plan and the need to balance a budget over the Medium Term
- 7.3 The Council can utilise the accrued balance in the Budget Equalisation Reserve to assist in covering the budget shortfall in 2021/22, but that as a measure that buys time, and does not address the need to identify the remaining budget deficit of £1.388m.
- 7.4 Appendices 2-4 summarise in numbers the MTFP information covered in sections 6 and 7 within this report.

## 8. Capital Programme

- 8.1 The original Capital Programme for 2020/21 totalled £9.894m. This would have been supplemented ordinarily with the rephasing from 2019/20 (£3.061m). As a result of the Emergency Budget review for 2020/21, the programme has been reviewed and also now takes into account commercial and residential acquisitions made in 2020/21, and the Emergency Works required to Milford Sea wall at £1.5m (covered in detail within the Council agenda). The resultant revised Capital Programme budget for 2020/21 totals £13.414m. The projects now included in the proposed programme for 2020/21 and their financing is shown within Appendix 5.
- 8.2 Hardley Depot - £5.54m over 2 years  
 In August, the Cabinet adopted a recommendation put forward by the Finance & Resources Task and Finish group to proceed with this project to Invitation to Tender Stage, with the full Business Case including accurate tendered figures to act as the ultimate go / no-go decision to be made later in the financial year.
- 8.3 Smarter Working - £500,000  
 At a meeting of the Finance & resources Task and Finish group in August, an update was given on the return to ATC plan, which included some necessary accommodation changes to facilitate a phased return to the office and the longer term organisational strategy being developed, to include the new working arrangements based on a mix of home / office working for most office based employees.

The Smarter Working board will be re-established and will ratify use of the £500,000 budget included within the revised Capital Programme and receive updates on expenditure within this project. Up to £80,000 of this has already been earmarked for

the provision of ICT for elected members to ensure the effective carrying out of their democratic function, although it looks like the call on these funds will be significantly less than this pre-approved worst-case figure.

8.4 Public Convenience Modernisation Programme

At this stage, the modernisation programme is intended to be frozen in 2020/21, with a budget being re-instated for 2021/22. This 2020/21 freeze includes the funds for additional enhancements that were programmed for the Lymington Quay Public Convenience project, which was due to be subject to a separate Cabinet decision.

**9. The Housing Revenue Account**

9.1 The impact to the Housing Revenue Account budget as a result of COVID-19 has been fairly minimal. Planned and non-essential maintenance repairs were initially stopped but recommenced as soon as supply chains were re-established, and new safe working practises imbedded. This might result in some underspend in maintenance expenditure but efforts will be made with contractors to reinstate the planned programme over the remainder of the year.

9.2 Rent arrears have seen a marginal increase, but it is anticipated that these will be partially reversed once Universal Credit claims are processed. The rent recovery team continue to work closely with tenants who fall into arrears to understand the individual circumstances that lead to this occurrence. To date, the Council has used a 'soft' approach in terms of debt recovery, partly due to the unavailability of the courts, but also due to uniqueness of the current situation. The council will ultimately seek to recover all amounts due and will continue to work closely with third parties, such as the DWP to ensure this is the case.

9.3 At this stage, no budget variations are being proposed. Regular Financial Monitoring reporting will be re-established, which will include any necessary adjustments to the budget, including for example, the additional 0.75% pay award, and any implication to the maintenance budget as a result of the temporary cessation during the latter part of March into April.

**10. Reporting Timeline**

10.1 It is important that the Medium Term Financial Plan is continually updated based on new information. It must also support the ambition of the Council and remain driven by the objectives to be set out in the Corporate Plan. The organisation must be able to support both and must remain vigilant and susceptible to change. A timeline is set out below for Cabinet which supports the development of the MTFP, through to the final setting of the 2021/22 budget:

	<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>	<b>Report</b>
1.	November	Medium Term Financial Plan to 2024
2.	December	Setting the Council Tax Base
3.	February	MTFP to 2024 and setting of 2021/22 budget



## **11. Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Environmental Implications**

- 11.1 As a result of increased remote-working, journeys made by NFDC officers and Councillors have reduced, resulting in a positive effect to the Council's carbon footprint.

## **12. Portfolio Holder Comments**

- 12.1 Whilst the report looks to provide formal ratification of the 2020/21 revised general fund budget the focus moves to the longer-term impact on our Medium Term Financial Plan and how we address the legacy issues arising from COVID-19.

- 12.2 In the ever-changing landscape which is Local Government there can be few hard and fixed certainties and we are faced with a range of options for both our revenue and expenditure. Going forward within our MTFP we have based our assumptions on the mid-point within any spread thus taking a prudent approach to our forward planning.

Such an approach ensures two things; firstly and most importantly, we do not over extend the Councils finances as we go forward, and secondly, that we do not inhibit the Council so ensure that we continue to provide the vital support and services to our community. I feel we can be confident in adopting this position and this is in no small part through the historically sound financial management of this Council and the swift and decisive actions in repositioning our priorities in light of the pandemic all of which has helped us in maintaining our levels of reserves.

### **For Further Information Please Contact:**

Alan Bethune

Chief Financial Officer (S151)

Telephone: (023) 8028 5001

E-mail: [Alan.Bethune@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Alan.Bethune@nfdc.gov.uk)

## MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020-2024

## REVISED GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2020/21

	2020/21 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's
Budget		Expenditure Adjustment COVID	Income Adjustment COVID	Expenditure Adjustment MITIGATION	Income Adjustment MITIGATION	Total Adjustment	Updated Budget
<b>PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS</b>							
Community Affairs	1,497	80	-5	40		115	1,612
Economic Development	-11			-74		-74	-85
Environment and Regulatory Services	9,177	240	277	-84	-75	358	9,535
Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement	3,863	249		-232	-172	-155	3,708
Finance - New Burdens Funding			-170	0		-170	-170
Finance - Emergency Assistance Grant			-134	0		-134	-134
Housing Services	1,847	536		10		546	2,393
Housing Services - Accomodation Support Funding			-100	0		-100	-100
Leader and Corporate Affairs	68	100		0		100	168
Leisure and Wellbeing	1,403	100	5,063	-205		4,958	6,361
Leisure and Wellbeing - Income Support Scheme			-2,220	0		-2,220	-2,220
Leisure and Wellbeing - Furlough			-1,100	0		-1,100	-1,100
Planning and Infrastructure	1,361		1,050	-95		955	2,316
Planning and Infrastructure - Income Support Scheme			-620	0		-620	-620
	19,205	1,305	2,041	-640	-247	2,459	21,664
Reversal of Depreciation	-1,545			10		10	-1,535
Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Revenue Reserves	-256			-179		-179	-435
Contribution to Revenue Reserves	1,250			-1,245		-1,245	5
<b>NET PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>18,654</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>-2,054</b>	<b>-247</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>19,699</b>
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,181			-10	33	23	1,204
RCCO	375			-375		-375	0
Interest Earnings (Net)	-730		500		-270	230	-500
New Homes Bonus	-286					0	-286
<b>GENERAL FUND NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>19,194</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>-2,439</b>	<b>-484</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>20,117</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION</b>							
Budget Requirement	19,194	1,305	2,541	-2,439	-484	923	20,117
Less:							
Settlement Funding Assessment							
Revenue Support Grant	0					0	0
Business Rates Funding Target	-3,997					0	-3,997
	-3,997	0	0	0	0	0	-3,997
Covid Support Funding							
Public Sector Funding Support - Tranche 2			-1,783			-1,783	-1,783
Public Sector Funding Support - Tranche 3			-250			-250	-250
	0	0	-2,033	0	0	-2,033	-2,033
Locally Retained Business Rates	-2,398					0	-2,398
Budget Equalisation Reserve	1,062			0		0	1,062
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Business Rates	-892		892			892	0
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Council Tax	-218		218			218	0
Use of General Budget Reserve	0					0	0
<b>COUNCIL TAX</b>	<b>12,751</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>-2,439</b>	<b>-484</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,751</b>
<b>TAX BASE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES</b>	<b>71,492.90</b>						<b>71,492.90</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY</b>	<b>178.36</b>						<b>178.36</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE 31 MARCH</b>	<b>3,000</b>					0	<b>3,000</b>

## MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020-2024 - MID-CASE

	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Original	Revised			
	Budget	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
<b>FUNDING</b>					
Business Rates Baseline	3,997	3,997	4,077	4,158	4,242
- Business Rates Tariff Adjustment					
- Business Rates Retained Surplus	2,398	2,398			
- Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit(-) / Surplus	892				
Transition Grant / Business Rate Redistribution			1,200	400	400
Revenue Support Grant					
New Homes Bonus	286	286	249	182	0
Contribution to (-) Budget Equilisation Reserve	-1,062	-1,062			
<b>Total Government Determined Resources</b>	<b>6,511</b>	<b>5,619</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>4,740</b>	<b>4,642</b>
Council Tax					
Base from Previous Year	12,542	12,542	12,751	12,626	12,806
Change in Collection Fund Surplus	-2	-218			
Base Line Adjustment - Additional Properties	73	70	75	80	85
Base Line Adjustment - Additional CTR reducing the Tax Base			-200	100	100
Agreed Increase	357	357			
<b>Total Council Tax</b>	<b>12,970</b>	<b>12,751</b>	<b>12,626</b>	<b>12,806</b>	<b>12,991</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>19,481</b>	<b>18,370</b>	<b>18,152</b>	<b>17,546</b>	<b>17,633</b>
Cumulative Change from Original 2020/21		1,111	1,329	1,935	1,848
%age change		6%	7%	10%	9%

## MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020-2024 - MID-CASE

## SUMMARY OF BUDGET MOVEMENTS

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
<b>Baseline Funding 2020/21</b>	19,481	19,481	19,481
<b>Budget Requirement 2021/22</b>			
<b>Pay &amp; Price Increases</b>			
Pay Award (2%)	400	400	400
Pay Award (+0.75%)	300		
Increments	175	175	175
Prices (Utilities, Fuel & Maint.)	50	50	50
<b>Pay &amp; Price Increases</b>	925	625	625
<b>Cumulative Pay &amp; Price Increases</b>	925	1,550	2,175
<b>Budget adjustments relating to one-off items</b>			
Investment as outlined in ICT Strategy 18-22 (20/21)	-604		
Funding of One-off Community 'Construction Grants' (20/21)	-98		
Investment in back-up power contingency ATC	-100		
Transfer of Public Convenience to Totton & Eling TC	-50		
Planning Income Adjustment (based on 19/20)	-38	-100	-100
Pension Deficit Contribution			1,250
Pension Deficit Contribution to reserve			-1,250
	-890	-100	-100
<b>Ongoing Savings Analysis</b>			
Commercial Property Income	-139		
Residential Property Income	-20		
Reduction in community revenue grants / SLA's	-11		
	-170	0	0
<b>Cumulative effect of Adjustments and Savings</b>	-1,060	-1,160	-1,260
<b>New Budget Requirements</b>			
HCC T19; Waste Collection	700		
Collection Funds' Deficit	250		
Investment in an Electoral Review of the District		-15	
	950	-15	0
<b>COVID-19 Recovery</b>			
Health & Leisure Centre Income Recovery (Middle Ground)	2,100	-1,575	-525
Removal of RCCO	-375		
Vacancy Management	-500		
Budget Review	-350		
	875	-1,575	-525
<b>Cumulative effect of New Requirements and COVID Recovery</b>	1,825	235	-290
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	21,171	20,106	20,106
<b>Total Funding Available (as above)</b>	18,152	17,546	17,633
<b>Estimated Cumulative Surplus / Shortfall (-)</b>	<b>-3,019</b>	<b>-2,560</b>	<b>-2,473</b>

## COVID ADJUSTED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020-2024 - MID-CASE

## OPTIONS IDENTIFIED TO CLOSE BUDGET SHORTFALL

£5 Council Tax Increase 2021/22

£5 Council Tax Increase 2022/23

£5 Council Tax Increase 2023/24

**Cumulative Council Tax Increase**

Commercial / Residential Property Investment 2020/21

Commercial / Residential Property Investment 2021/22

Commercial / Residential Property Investment 2022/23

**Cumulative Property Investment Income****MTFP24 Savings In Progress**

In Progress: Leisure Delivery Review

In Progress: Boundary Review

**MTFP24 Potential....**

Potential: Business Rate Changes

Potential: Fair Funding Review

Potential: Waste Strategy

Potential: Parking Strategy

Potential: Triennial Pension Valuation 2022

**Annual Contribution to (-) / Use of Budget Equilisation Reserves****Estimated Cumulative Surplus / Shortfall (-)**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
	359	359	359
		362	362
			364
	<b>359</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>1,085</b>
	16	16	16
	400	400	400
		250	250
	<b>416</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>666</b>
	saving ?	saving ?	saving ?
			saving ?
	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?
	saving ?	saving ?	saving ?
		+/- ?	+/- ?
		+/- ?	+/- ?
			+/- ?
	<b>2,244</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>-0</b>	<b>-1,173</b>	<b>-722</b>

**Reserves Supporting the MTFP**

General Fund Balance

Budget Equilisation Reserve

3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2,837	593	593	593

## MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020-2024

## CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCING

	Portfolio	PROJECT REQUIREMENTS £					2020/21 PROJECT FINANCING £				
		2020/21 Original	Rephasing from 2019/20	2020/21 'Essential'	2021/22	2022/23	NFDC Resources / Loan	TBC	Better Care Fund	Grant	DC / CIL
Disabled Facilities Grants	HSG	1,200,000		1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000			1,200,000		
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (15-21)	ENV	1,495,000	249,000	1,495,000					1,495,000		
Hurst Spit	ENV		246,000								
Barton Drainage Test (19-21)	ENV	50,000	175,000	225,000					225,000		
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme	ENV	300,000	225,000		300,000	300,000					
Public Convenience Additional Enhancements	ENV/LEADERS	75,000			75,000						
Lymington Sea Wall	ENV	400,000									
Emergency Works - Milford Sea Wall				1,500,000			150,000	1,350,000			
New Depot Site	F,CS&I	3,000,000	540,000	2,000,000	3,540,000	2,000,000					
V&P; Replacement Programme	F,CS&I	1,682,000	87,000	1,490,000	2,000,000	1,490,000					
Smarter Working; Future Delivery	F,CS&I	500,000		500,000	500,000	500,000					
Commercial Property Acquisitoons	F,CS&I			3,000,000		3,000,000					
Residential Property Acquisitions	F,CS&I			1,500,000		1,500,000					
Open Space Schemes	P&I	292,000	528,000	155,000	200,000	200,000					155,000
Transport Schemes	P&I	265,000	327,000	150,000	175,000	175,000					150,000
Mitigation Schemes	P&I	635,000	684,000	199,000	500,000	500,000					199,000
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>		<b>9,894,000</b>	<b>3,061,000</b>	<b>13,414,000</b>	<b>8,490,000</b>	<b>3,875,000</b>	<b>8,640,000</b>	<b>1,350,000</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>1,720,000</b>	<b>504,000</b>
											<b>13,414,000</b>
LOAN FINANCED							<b>-4,790,000</b>				
RESIDUAL NFDC RESOURCES							<b>3,850,000</b>				

CABINET – 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING &  
INFRASTRUCTURE

## **PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet supports the work to prepare a Statement of Common Ground for the strategic planning of southern Hampshire to replace the 2016 Position Statement, acknowledging the benefits and potential risk of participating in work being undertaken by officers as part of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH).
- 1.2 That additional budget be identified to fund the Council's participation in the Partnership for South Hampshire to support the membership fee and the joint work on strategic planning matters.

### **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the context for this Council's participation in joint strategic planning work that is being undertaken through the Partnership for South Hampshire (previously the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire), and to explain the benefits and risks associated with this Council's involvement.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) was originally established in 2003 as a non-statutory grouping of local authorities working together collaboratively towards "growing the south Hampshire economy". Membership of the partnership has varied with New Forest District Council participating in the work of PUSH for the majority of the time it has existed. (There was a period in which NFDC withdrew from membership). Until recently only the Totton and the Waterside part of New Forest District was within the area covered by PUSH. In October 2019 a revised Joint Agreement was approved, revising the geographic area covered by the partnership, extending coverage to the whole of New Forest District, including the New Forest National Park, and changing the name of the partnership to the 'Partnership for South Hampshire' (PfSH), in recognition that the area covered was no longer just the more urbanised parts of southern Hampshire.

- 3.2 The partnership has worked on a number of non-statutory strategic planning documents for the area it covers, with an aim of agreeing a strategic approach to planning within the sub-region. The importance of local planning authorities working together to agree strategic planning frameworks for wider areas than individual local planning authority areas is embedded in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para.24 of the NPPF states:

"24. Local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries."

- 3.3 And para.26 states:

"26. Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot

be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.”

- 3.4 The south Hampshire partnership has produced a number of non-statutory documents to assist in planning and developing a vision for the area and help co-ordinate the preparation of individual local planning authorities' statutory development plan documents. Most recently a 'Spatial Position Statement' was completed in 2016, supported by wide ranging evidence-base. It set out the overall need for development to 2034 and proposes development targets for each Council. It has helped Councils meet their duty to co-operate but with the changes to the way housing need to be calculated this document can no longer be relied on. It replaced the earlier South Hampshire Strategy (2012) which looked to 2026. (Other joint work in the planning and infrastructure field has included producing a South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Implementation Plan.)
- 3.5 In preparing our Local Plan Review, this Council has had regard to the housing targets for the Totton and Waterside area set out in the 'Spatial Position Statement' of 2016. It is no coincidence that the housing targets set out in that document aligned with the provision for new development in Totton and the Waterside that we were able to make in our adopted Local Plan Review Part 1. Your officers have been actively involved in the technical work undertaken on behalf of the partnership to ensure consistency with the detailed work we have undertaken for our own plan area.
- 3.6 By participating in PfSH, the Council fulfils its duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities in southern Hampshire and ensures that the Council has a say in sub-regional planning for the area, particularly on cross-boundary issues, such as strategic infrastructure provision. It also provides an evidence base for future plan making.

#### **4. FUTURE WORK OF PfSH AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW FOREST DISTRICT**

- 4.1 As of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 we have an adopted Local Plan setting out our planning strategy for the district (outside the National Park) up to 2036. The New Forest National Park Authority also has an adopted Local Plan covering the same period. No other local planning authorities in southern Hampshire has an up-to-date adopted Local Plan covering the period to 2036.
- 4.2 Following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2018 and the changes to the way housing numbers are now calculated PfSH Joint Committee, a Committee made up of the Leader/Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive of each of the Partner authorities, agreed that the PfSH authorities could no longer rely on the Position Statement as being sufficient for each authority to meet their statutory Duty to Co-operate. With the revised NPPF requiring an authority's Local Plan to be based on effective joint working on cross boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with by a Statement of Common Ground work is now progressing on preparing the evidence base for a new Statement of Common Ground up to 2036.
- 4.3 This Council's and the National Park Authorities' now adopted Local Plans were prepared using the approach set out in the NPPF 2012. (This was acceptable – the plans are regarded as 'transition plans' commenced before changes to the NPPF in 2018.) This Council's Local Plan has addressed in full the housing need in its area as calculated using the approach required by NPPF 2012. This approach involved detailed studies undertaken in 2017 and up-dated in 2019 to produce a realistic assessment of objectively assessed needs within New Forest District, taking into account the most up to date data available. The Local Plan inspectors' report states:

“...we consider that the 2017 OAN Study was justified in moving away from the 2014 based SNHP to establish an alternative demographic starting point for the assessment of OAN based on the ten-year trend scenario. This would still see



significant population growth and net migration in the combined New Forest District area. Furthermore, we are satisfied that the 2019 OAN Update Report demonstrates that the 2017 OAN Study remains an appropriate basis to determine OAN for the New Forest District Council planning authority area.”

- 4.4 However, plans now being prepared will need to use a revised standardised approach to the assessment of ‘housing need’<sup>1</sup>. The effect of applying the current standardised approach is to significantly increase the estimates of housing ‘need’ for this area (and in the PfSH area in general). Therefore, as a starting point, the new PfSH strategic planning work will need to consider higher levels of housing building in the area than it did in the previous 2016 Position Statement – including for New Forest District.
- 4.5 To illustrate the issue with regard this district, the two adopted Local Plans covering New Forest District in combination plan to provide an average of 521 dwelling per year in the period to 2036. Under the Governments standard method of calculating housing ‘need’, this figure would increase significantly (by around 40%)<sup>2</sup>. Any review of the planning strategy of this area would be expected to be in the context of the revised standard way of calculating ‘objectively assessed need’. Future plans, including the work of PfSH, will need to consider how that unmet housing need will be addressed.
- 4.6 Technical work for the SOCG has commenced. This includes identifying potential ‘Strategic Development Opportunity Areas’ (SDOAs) for assessment. Areas within New Forest District, which we have already assessed and ruled out, will need to be considered once more, alongside similar opportunity areas across southern Hampshire.

## **5. BENEFITS AND RISKS**

### **5.1 The benefits of participating in the PfSH strategic planning work**

- 5.2 Participation in the strategic planning work for south Hampshire through PfSH, provides an opportunity to take a wider strategic look for the most appropriate and sustainable locations to accommodate growth in south Hampshire. The joint work on where development should take place means that locational decisions are not unnecessarily dictated by local authority administrative boundaries. The joint working provides the opportunity for more positive planning of the area. An agreed strategy could seek to redirect unmet needs arising from an area to less environmentally sensitive locations or to locations where greater economic benefits would arise. It could resolve the question of where any ‘unmet’ housing need arising from this area can best be addressed.
- 5.3 Participation in the work to agree a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the PfSH planning authorities shows that NFDC has worked co-operatively with other planning authorities and addressed the NPPF’s ‘duty to co-operate’ requirement. This is an important consideration for a Local Plan when it is examined following submission to the Secretary of State. During the Local Plan examination the Inspector asked NFDC officers to demonstrate how they were now working with adjoining authorities under the Duty to Co-operate, officers were able to describe the work that is underway through PfSH. Failure to meet this duty can result in a plan being found ‘unsound’. (There are examples of this nationally.)

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<sup>1</sup> This is a numerical calculation which is based on 2014 forecasts of population change, rates of household formation, and migration assumptions, together with affordability ratios from nationally published data sources.

<sup>2</sup> A revised ‘standard methodology’ for calculating ‘housing need’ is likely to be put in place by the Government in the next few months which will further increase ‘requirements’.

5.4 *The recently published consultation paper on major reforms of the English Planning System 'Planning for the Future'<sup>3</sup> set out the intention to put in place 'binding' requirement for planning authorities to meet the housing needs (as calculated by a set Government formula, designed to increase supply). The only way for planning authorities to agree an alternative strategic distribution of the requirement will be in the context of joint planning arrangements.*

## 5.5 **The risks from participating in the PfSH strategic planning work**

5.6 Unlike most other local planning authorities in south Hampshire, NFDC has an up-to-date adopted Local Plan, tested through the Examination process, covering the period to 2036. Future reviews of that Plan and its strategy will have to be done in the context of the relevant Government method of assessing housing need at that time. Any review of the district's recently adopted Local Plan will re-open questions about the appropriate level of housing being planned for in the district. There is likely to put pressure to plan for much higher levels of development than in the recently adopted Local Plan because of the Government's approach to assessing that need. While the joint work of the partnership provides an opportunity to address where any unmet housing needs arising from southern Hampshire cities and districts should be accommodated, there is a risk that the necessary agreement will not be reached, or that what is agreed by other parties is not acceptable to this Council. This is a risk for all authorities that are party to the work. From previous work, this Council is already aware of the inability or unwillingness of neighbouring planning authorities to assist this Council in accommodating housing needs that cannot be met within our planning area. (This was explored as part of work on the Local Plan Review Part One and led to the need to release land from the Green Belt within the District.)

5.7 There is a risk that the work of PfSH could put pressure on this area to undertake an early review of the Local Plan and to accommodate higher levels of housing, beyond the numbers now agreed in our recently adopted Local Plan. It could result in the need to allocate further land for development within the area, land which the Council itself has already rejected as suitable sites for development. Whilst this is a risk for this authority it is a risk for all participating authorities.

5.8 A risk of not participating in the PfSH work is that the duty to co-operate will be more difficult to fulfil, will not be fulfilled when the Council next reviews the Local Plan.

## 6. **CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 There are both benefits and some risk involved in participating in the preparation of the PfSH Statement of Common Ground. While early work being undertaken is of a technical nature, the agreement (or otherwise) of a Statement of Common Ground will be for the political decision-makers. To ensure the outcome of this work is acceptable of this Authority it is important that Members as well as your officers are fully engaged with and understand the potential implications of this work.

6.2 The risks of not being part of the joint spatial planning work of the Partnership for South Hampshire are significantly greater than those associated with continuing as part of the partnership. Active engagement of this Council (Members and officers) in this work will be important if positive outcomes are to be achieved.

## 7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 A budget already exists for PfSH membership. Additional budget needs to be set aside to fund full participation in the work of PfSH and its activities.

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<sup>3</sup> To be subject to a separate report.

7.2 Every effort will be made to offset the additional budget requirement of up to £50,000 within the Portfolio, but ultimately any additional budget requirement will be fed into the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning.

## **8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are none.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Potentially very significant environmental impacts across the district.

## **10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none.

## **11. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are none.

## **12. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

12.1 For the reasons set out within the report, and recognising that there are potential risks from engaging in this partnership working with fellow PfSH Authorities, but that these are outweighed by the potential benefits to our District and our residents from a wider strategic approach to spatial planning policy within the South Hampshire area, I support the recommendations.

### **For further information contact:**

Louise Evans  
Policy and Strategy Service Manager  
023 8028 5463  
Louise.evans@nfdc.gov.uk

### **Background Papers:**

Published documents

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## CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM CONSULTATION

### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

- (a) Notes the key elements and implications of Government consultation; and
- (b) Delegates authority to the Chief Planning Officer to respond to the consultation on Changes to the current Planning System in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure.

### 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the Government launched two consultations on proposed changes to the planning system.

The '**Planning for the Future**' White Paper on proposals to fundamentally reform the planning system; and

The '**Changes to the current planning system**' which is a consultation seeking views on a range of proposed changes to the current planning system including;

- 2.2 This report relates to the second consultation only. The consultation is an 8 week consultation which closes on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. There will be a separate report to the October Cabinet on the first consultation White Paper 'Planning for the Future' which proposes wide-ranging change to the planning system essentially replacing the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. The second consultation closes on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### 3. CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM

- 3.1 This consultation proposes specific changes in the short term to the current planning system to improve the effectiveness of the system in advance of the introduction of a new planning system. The four main proposals are:
- a. Changes to the standard method of assessing local housing need
  - b. Securing of First Homes sold at a discount to market price for first time buyers including key workers, through developer contributions in the short term
  - c. Temporarily lifting of small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing, to up to 40 or 50 units to support SME builders as the economy recovers from the impact of Covid 19
  - d. Extending the current Permission in Principle to major development so landowners and developers now have a fast route to secure the principle of development for housing sites without having to work up detailed plans first.

- 3.2 The changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need are technical in nature. They will not immediately affect NFDC due to the recent adoption of a Local Plan. The figure generated from the whole of the district is 782 dwellings per annum, compared to the previous standard method result of 729 dpa and the adopted Local Plan targets of 561 dpa (NFDC 521 dpa + NFNPA 40 dpa). Should the White Paper proposals be implemented, the standard method would be moderated where land supply is significantly constrained in a manner yet to be described.
- 3.3 First Homes: The government intend to set out in policy that a minimum of 25 per cent of all affordable housing units secured through developer contributions should be First Homes, targeting first time buyers. This will be a national threshold set out in planning policy. The minimum discount for First Homes should be 30% from market price which will be set by an independent registered valuer (higher discount rates could only be set by Local Plan review). The discount would apply in perpetuity. The Government proposes that, under the new system, a policy compliant planning application should seek to capture the same amount of value as would be captured under the local authority's up to date Local Plan policy.
- 3.4 The Government also proposes to make a change to affordable housing exception sites to specify that the affordable homes delivered should be First Homes for local, first-time buyers (this would not apply in the National Park area). There would be the flexibility in the policy to allow a small proportion of other affordable homes to be delivered on these sites where there is significant identified local need.
- 3.5 The consultation proposes that the government introduce an exemption from Community Infrastructure Levy for First Homes.
- 3.6 In line with government initiatives to support SME builders, and in light of Covid 19 to stimulate economic recovery with the particular focus on SMEs, the consultation proposes temporarily lifting the small sites threshold for affordable housing from 10 units to 40-50 units initially for 18 months. It is suggested that measures would be put in place to control the partitioning of larger sites to avoid affordable housing contributions.
- 3.7 Permission in Principle was introduced in 2017 as a new faster way of obtaining planning permission for housing led development. this is done by giving authorities the power to grant Permission in Principle on suitable sites allocated on registers of brownfield land. It is proposed to extend the current Permission in Principle to major developments. The existing restrictions in the Permission in Principle Regulations relating to EIA and Habitats requirements will remain, reflecting that fact that Permission in Principle is granted on the basis of limited technical information and there is not sufficient environmental information for these requirements to be accurately assessed at the point of decision.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Council makes a detailed, technical response' to the consultation. Preparation of the response is recommended to be delegated to the Chief Planning Officer in consultation with the Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder.

**5. FINANCIAL, CRIME & DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AND DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None in responding to the consultation, but potentially significant financial and environmental implications depending on how the proposed reforms are progressed.

**6. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 6.1 The report relates to the first of two consultations on changes to the planning system published by the Government. As set out in the report, a second paper will come to Cabinet at a later date on the 'Planning for the Future' consultation, which is concerned with an almost wholesale reform of the planning system, potentially sweeping aside planning safeguards that have protected the New Forest for over 60 years.
- 6.2 The consultation upon which this paper seeks authority for the Chief Planning Officer to submit a response on behalf of the Council deals with potential changes to the current planning system. Some of the proposals may be welcomed, such as those relating to 'First Homes'. However, at a time when housing affordability is a significant national issue and an acute local one in the New Forest, the proposals to increase the threshold for the provision of affordable housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings to 40 or 50 is inexplicable. There is no doubt that supporting economic growth should be a key priority in the recovery from the impacts of Covid-19, but this cannot be at the expense of providing affordable homes.

Claire Upton-Brown  
Chief Planning Officer  
023 8028 5409  
[Claire.upton-brown@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.upton-brown@nfdc.gov.uk)

Mark Williams  
Local Plan Lead – Planning Policy  
023 8028 5475  
[Mark.williams@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.williams@nfdc.gov.uk)

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## VISION FOR THE WATERSIDE

### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet :-

- (a) endorses the Vision for the Waterside document subject to the following amendments;
  - Add graduate retention to bullet 2 under Social and Community Outcomes section
  - Add Investment in arts, culture and heritage under Social and Community Outcomes section.
  
- (b) Delegates authority to the Chief Planning Officer to make minor amendments to the document, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Planning and Infrastructure, in response to any further amendments resulting from the County Council and the National Park Authority decision making process.

### 2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm to Cabinet the comments and recommendation of the Special Environment and Overview Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to consider the Vision for the Waterside document.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Given the significance of the Waterside and the level of development proposed in our Local Plan and the National Park Local Plan a public-private Steering Group was formed some three year ago between New Forest District Council, the National Park, the County Council, the Solent LEP and the major landowners: ABP, ExxonMobil, Solent Gateway, Barker Mill Estates and Fawley Waterside.
- 3.2 Whilst the Local Plan sets out the vision for growth across the Waterside it has been agreed within the Steering Group that there is a need for a high level document that all parties can be signatories to that sets out the shared vision of the opportunity across the whole of the Waterside.
- 3.3 A draft Vision document has now been prepared between officers of the District Council, the National Park and the County Council. It is intended that the document sets out a collective assessment of the cumulative impact of the development aspirations, and an understanding of the total infrastructure needed to support and enable the growth plans for the area, to be delivered in a way compatible with the shared vision. It is envisaged that this document, amongst other things, will be used to support bids most notably the bid currently being prepared by the County for improvements to the A326.

3.4 As the Local Plan is now adopted it is now the appropriate time to share the draft Vision document.

3.5 At a Special Environment and Overview Scrutiny Panel on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the draft document was considered. District councillors for the Waterside and the town and parish council were invited to speak at the Panel. A number of councillors addressed the Panel the following table provides a summary of the comments made.

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Heath roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well used – introduction of a 2 lane crossing is not good planning.</li> <li>More lanes at roundabouts will not help traffic</li> </ul>
Local concern about more traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport improvements need to be delivered before development happens</li> </ul>
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycling need serious promotion and dedicated routes</li> </ul>
Rushington roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major accident blackspot</li> <li>should have been upgraded as part of the Fawley application</li> </ul>
A326	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document supports funding bid</li> </ul>
The Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to include vision for all towns in the Waterside</li> <li>No input from town or parish councils</li> <li>Starts the ball rolling but nothing new in document</li> <li>Not something that the people of the Waterside would buy into</li> <li>Not specific enough</li> <li>Why not produce a real vision for the Waterside</li> </ul>
What is missing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference to graduate retention, education, well-being, town centres, arts, culture and heritage</li> <li>Need a review of what has worked in the past and what has not worked</li> <li>Need more cultural facilities within the area</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need funding for specific things that need to be identified</li> <li>Should have appointed a professional to write the bid</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of major employers has reduced within the Waterside and these have not been replaced</li> <li>Need to reference the need for local jobs for local people</li> </ul>

- 3.6 A number of the comments made were reflective of the fact that the document is purposely prepared as a high level document. The Panel were advised that there would be other more detailed strategies and documents that would be prepared to cover specific issues in the future.
- 3.7 Having considered the issues raised by the speakers the Panel confirmed that it endorsed the document, having reviewed the comments it does appear that there is no specific reference in the document to graduate retention, heritage, art and culture. It is therefore recommended to Cabinet that within the Social and Community Outcomes section within bullet 2 graduate retention is added and that an additional bullet is added stating; Investment in arts, culture and heritage.
- 3.8 The County Councillor and the National Park Authority will take the draft document through its own decision making process. There maybe further amendments to the document resulting from there consultations.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the Strategic Actions.

#### **5. CRIME & DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL, DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no crime and disorder, environmental or data protection issues arising directly from this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

#### **7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder supports the recommendations contained within the report.

#### **Further Information**

Claire Upton-Brown

[Claire.upton-brown@NFDC.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.upton-brown@NFDC.gov.uk)

Tel: 023 8028 5588

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DRAFT

# A Vision for the Waterside



## Contents

- Executive Summary
- The National Context
- A Shared Vision for the Waterside
- The Place
- Socio-Economic Profile
- The Growth Opportunity
- Economic Outcomes
- Environmental Outcomes
- Environmental Infrastructure
- Social and Community Outcomes
- Strategic Approach to Transport
- What We Need

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## Executive Summary

The Waterside is situated on the west side of Southampton Water and is the home to nationally significant infrastructure and industrial assets which play a critical role in the UK economy. We have ambitious plans to support the growth of our economy and provide much needed homes, but also to deliver this in a way that enhances the special environment of the area. We believe the Waterside has the potential to become a national exemplar for delivering growth in an environmentally sensitive area. Totton is the main town within the Waterside.

### The Growth Opportunity

- Fawley Refinery (ExxonMobil) – the UK’s largest refinery, representing 20% of UK capacity, with a major ongoing investment programme encompassing increased output of ultra-low sulphur diesel;
- Fawley Waterside – the former Power Station and one of the largest brownfield development sites in the South of England, with plans to deliver a new sustainable community and centre of marine and maritime innovation;
- Marchwood Military Port (Solent Gateway) – the UK’s only combined military and commercial port, with plans to deliver significant commercial space utilising existing on-site rail infrastructure and deep-water dock capacity;
- Port of Southampton expansion (ABP) – has proposals to develop a deep-water port providing extra capacity for the UK’s leading export port;
- New homes – offering development capacity for 5000 new homes

### What help do we need to make this happen?

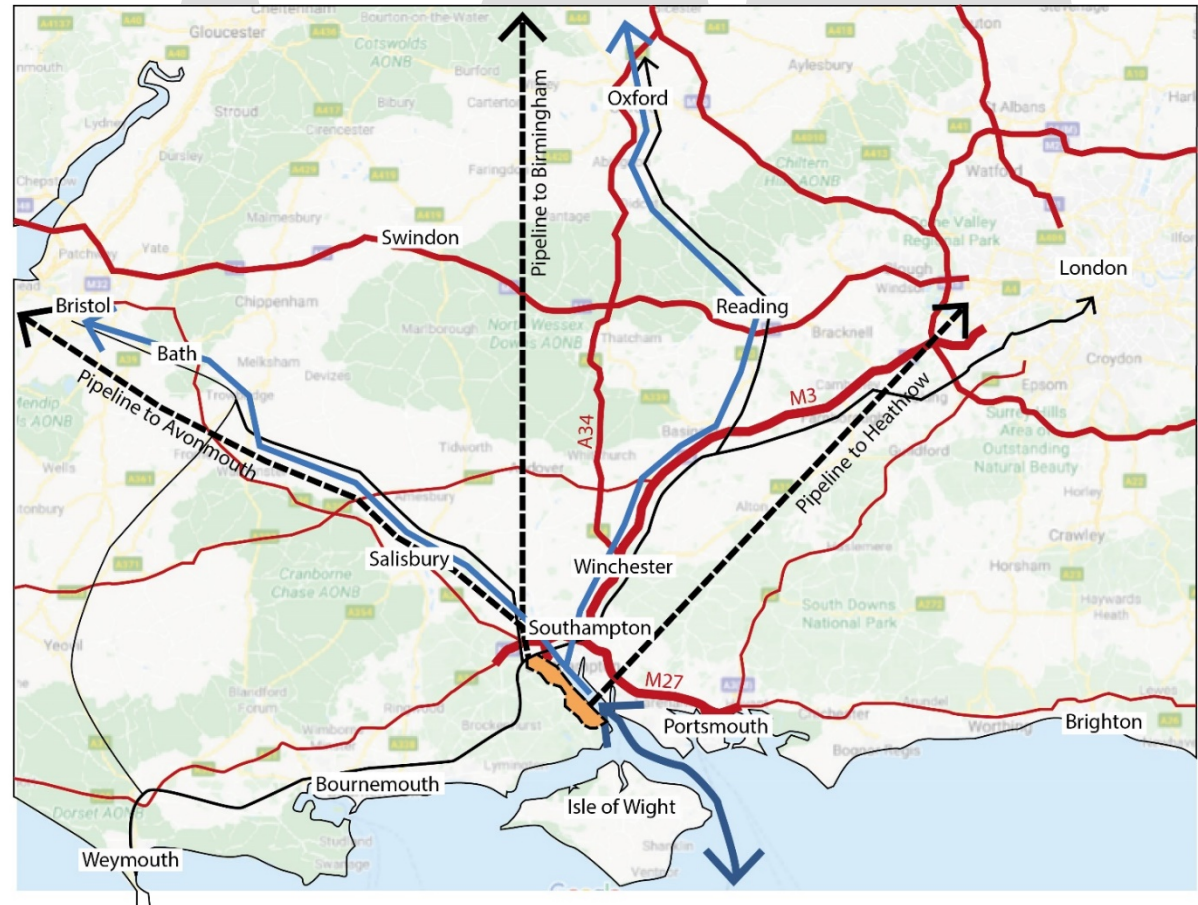
- Investment in the A326 to reduce congestion, improve journey time reliability and connectivity to the wider UK economy;
- Investment that enhances choice and the accessibility of public transport, cycling and walking routes;
- Investment in Environmental Infrastructure to support connectivity for people, places and nature

# The National Context

Situated on the west side of Southampton Water, and facing the Port of Southampton, the Waterside is the home to nationally significant infrastructure and industrial assets which play a critical role in the UK economy. The area sits between Southampton Water and the New Forest National Park. Totton and the Waterside gains access principally from the M27, with connectivity through to the M3 and A34, providing an important road link to the automotive sector in the West Midlands. The main distributor road within the Waterside is the A326.

Bournemouth and Southampton airports lie close to the Waterside, providing air connections to the UK and mainland European destinations. The Waterside is close to 5 universities including Russell Group Member, the University of Southampton.

The Port of Southampton is the UK's leading export port and plays a significant role in enabling significant vehicle exports, underpinning the UK automotive sector of the West Midlands and beyond.





Aside from the New Forest National Park, the area also benefits from a number of national and international nature conservation designations that include the New Forest SSSI, the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.

Southampton Water is a unique natural deep-water harbour, having a unique double tide which allows unrestricted access for the world's largest vessels.

The main landside operational area of the Port of Southampton is located within the City of Southampton, and the port operators Associated British Ports (ABP) owns a significant land holding within the Waterside

ABP concluded in its Draft Port of Southampton Masterplan (2016) that the Port of Southampton needs to expand within its land holdings on the Waterside.

The area is also home to ExxonMobil, owners and operators of the Fawley refinery, the largest refinery in the UK, representing around 20% of UK capacity. The refinery supplies fuel directly, via pipelines, critical international airports including Birmingham, Heathrow and Gatwick.

To the south of the refinery is the former Fawley Power Station, one of the largest brownfield regeneration opportunities in the south of England. The vision for Fawley Waterside is a new 'smart town', with 1500 new homes and deep-water access to enable the development of a centre of excellence in marine and maritime innovation.

Marchwood Military Port, the UK's only combined military and commercial port, is operated by Solent Gateway, is now being developed for more commercial uses, with an emerging masterplan for up to £400M of future investment. The site benefits from extensive developable land and existing rail and port connectivity.

Over 5000 homes will be built within the Waterside over the next 10 to 15 years.

## A Shared Vision for the Waterside

The whole of Totton and the Waterside falls within the administrative boundaries of the Hampshire County Council and the Solent LEP; the majority of the Totton and the Waterside area lies within the administrative boundary of the New Forest District Council, with the remaining part lying in the New Forest National Park Authority area.

A public-private consortium has been formed between the 3 statutory authorities, the Solent LEP and the major landowners: ABP, ExxonMobil, Solent Gateway, Barker Mill Estates and Fawley Waterside.

It is agreed that to achieve economic growth in an innovative way this internationally important and sensitive nature conservation area must be enhanced to create a flagship area where people, the economy and the environment thrives.

This document sets out our shared vision of the opportunity across the whole of Totton and the Waterside, our collective assessment of the cumulative impact of the development aspirations, and our understanding of the total infrastructure needed to support and enable the growth plans for the area, to be delivered in a way compatible with the shared vision.

This is a blueprint for how to deliver growth in an environmentally sensitive area.

To achieve economic growth in an innovative way that enhances this internationally important and sensitive nature conservation area creating a flagship area where people, the economy and the environment thrives.

## The Place

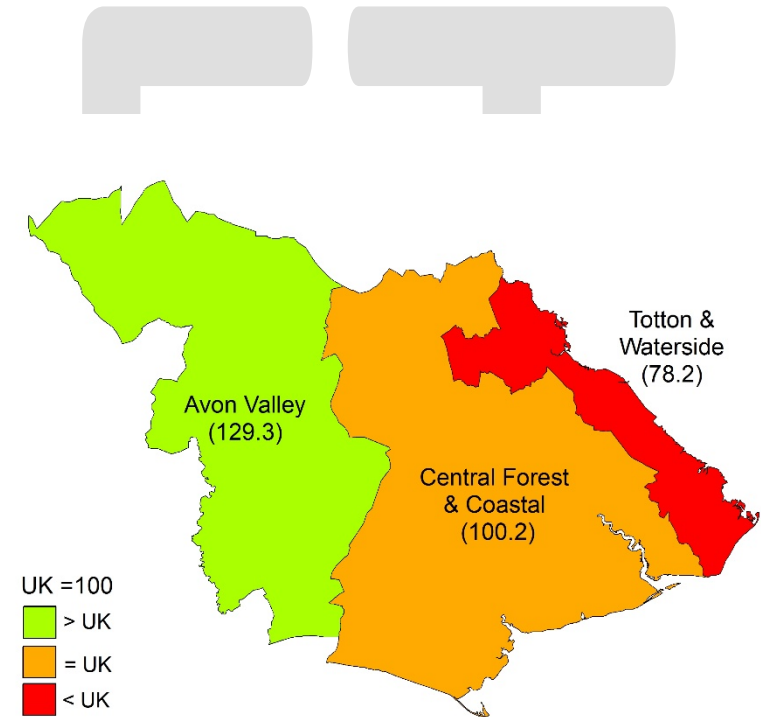
The Waterside is a unique area between two internationally protected nature conservation areas, Southampton Water and the highly protected landscape of the New Forest National Park. The most significant settlement is Totton; the communities of Marchwood, Hythe and Fawley also lie within this area, together with nationally significant infrastructure and industrial assets which include Marchwood Military Port, the Fawley Refinery and former Fawley Power Station site. The whole area provides a setting to the New Forest National Park. Key opportunities for environmental infrastructure have been identified through this vision, supporting anticipated development in the area and delivering environmental net gain. Physical infrastructure is also needed to ensure that the area can deliver sustainable growth and support the economy, both locally and nationally.

The A326 is the main strategic road that provides access to/from the M27, with a high level of outward and inward commute resulting in congestion at peak periods.



## Socio-Economic Profile

- Totton and the Waterside is the most urbanised, industrial and densely populated sub-area of the New Forest
- The levels of economic prosperity in Totton & the Waterside are over a fifth below the national average.
- Totton & Waterside has a skills gap, in terms of residents with degree or higher qualifications, with the UK average of almost 6%.
- Totton & Waterside has a large (5%) and increasing gap with the national average in terms of residents with higher-skilled occupations.
- In terms of commuting, Totton & the Waterside experiences a net outflow of people (7,200), with some 69% of commuting by car or van.
- The local economy is characterised by concentrations of manufacturing and distribution-related activities, with manufacturing primarily concentrated in lower value-added activities.
- Totton & Waterside and New Forest suffers from a low proportion of knowledge intensive employment. Sectors such as ICT and finance/insurance are significantly underrepresented in the area relative to the UK and Hampshire.
- In terms of sectors, the Waterside has, unsurprisingly, a high concentration of marine and maritime businesses, but with a trend of decline of the sector (around 6.9% per annum in employment terms between 2010 and 2016).



Economic prosperity in New Forest relative to UK average

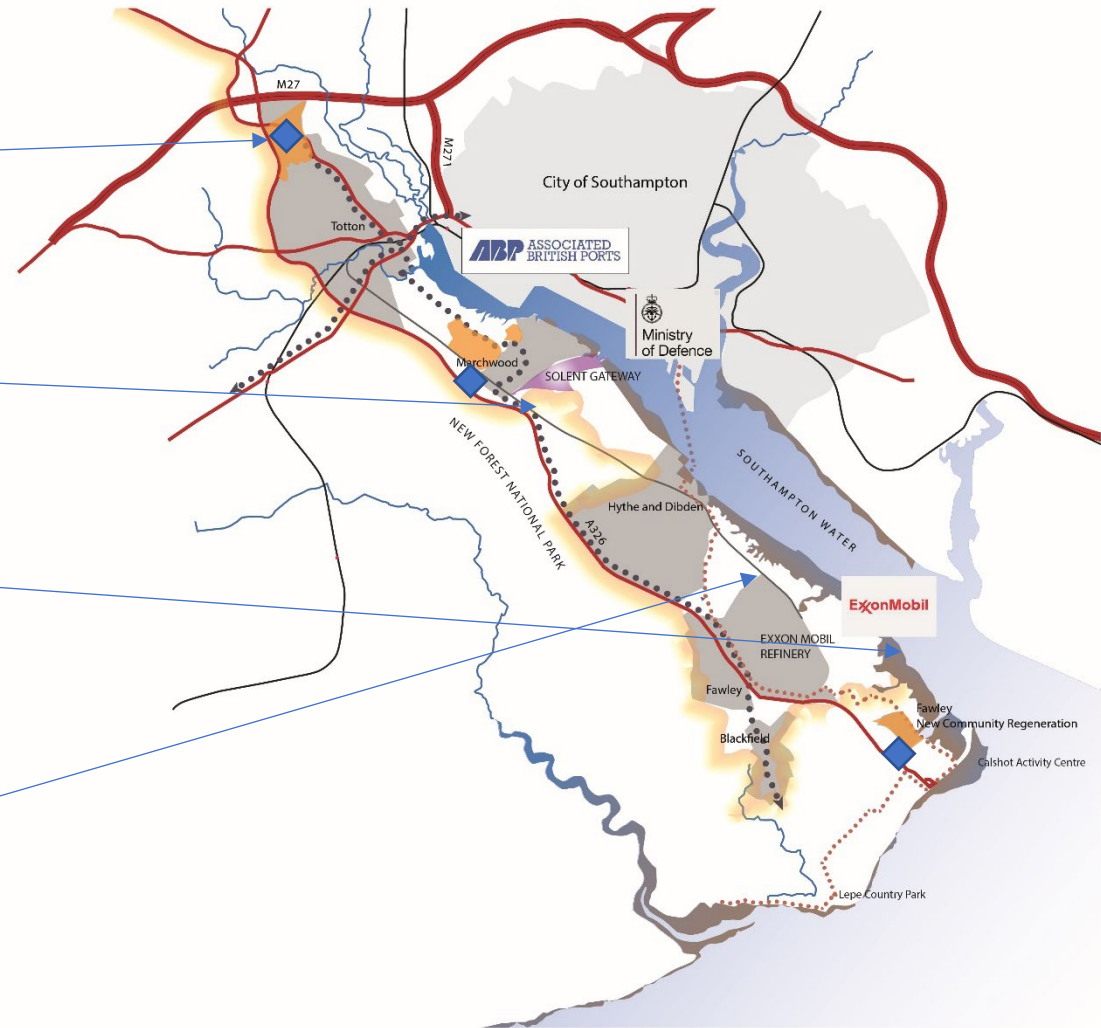
# The Growth Opportunity

The development aspirations for the New Forest District area have been confirmed in the Local Plan adopted in July 2020. The Plan demonstrates how some 5000 new homes creating 3 new communities and 18 hectares of employment land can be delivered within Totton and the Waterside.

The Plan references the use of Marchwood Port for commercial, economic and local employment, and notes the potential expansion of the Port of Southampton which could provide opportunity for significant economic growth within the area.

Together with the National Park's recently adopted Local Plan, the Plan promotes the regeneration of the former Fawley Power Station for a new mixed-use community of 1500 homes, 10 hectares of employment with deep water access.

The Waterside is also home to the Fawley Refinery, operated by ExxonMobil. This is the UK's largest refinery, representing 20% of the UK's refinery capacity. Significant investment is planned in the plant to shift to production of ultra-low sulphur diesel.



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## Economic Outcomes

The overall economic benefits that will be delivered from our growth plan are:

- up to 6,700 new jobs with a significant proportion in the Waterside area
- Up to £566M per annum increase in GVA
- Improve the quality of jobs within the area by creating more knowledge intense employment
- Create training and development opportunities through growth to upskill the local population
- Unlocking over £3bn of private sector investment in the area

Wider economic benefits associated with the growth plan along the Waterside includes;

- Improving UK energy security and the UK balance of payments
- Supporting global export sales for the UK automotive sector through the ABP proposed port expansion, safeguarding the UK's export competitiveness

Totton and the Waterside also offers the potential to strengthen the already prominent marine and maritime cluster in South Hampshire which is currently estimated to generate an economic value of £5.8bn GVA and support directly and indirectly around 152,000 jobs (source: CEBR).

This vision also sees the delivery of 5000 new homes in an area that has seen a low level of growth.

## Environmental Outcomes

Totton and the Waterside presents a unique opportunity to lead a national green recovery, embedding the principles set out in the Government's 25 year Environment Plan by delivering a World Class Economy in a World Class Environment. Our ambition is to increase environmental benefits by:

- Planning, designing and managing the environment as vital infrastructure
- Investing in Natural Capital
- Creating a connected green network
- Connecting the coast to the forest
- Creating healthy towns and villages
- Building strong communities and integrating the new with the old
- Building resilience and adaptivity to climate change
- Enhanced environmental benefits (environmental net gain)
- Connected ecological sites and species (nature recovery networks)
- Creating and enhancing community spaces and places
- Delivering coastal renaissance in Totton and Waterside village centres
- Improving cycling and walking and connections to Southampton
- Linking to Southampton's Green City Charter

# Environmental Infrastructure

## What is Environmental Infrastructure?

It is a network of natural features.

## Why is it important?

With limited space on the Waterside an Environmental Infrastructure approach allows us to make the best use of what we have now and what we need in the future.

## How are we going to harness the benefits of Green Infrastructure?

Protecting what we have now, connecting it to other Environmental Infrastructure and enhancing it to work better for all in the future.

## What will it be on the ground?

**Ecological Network Enhancement** – For example linking existing broadleaved woodlands with new hedgerows or linear woodland. To help connect the coast to the forest making use of existing Environmental Infrastructure and adding sites to create links or overcome existing barriers.

**Sustainable Transport Network** – Creating cycleways and improving footpaths to make it easier for people use travel without needing to drive.

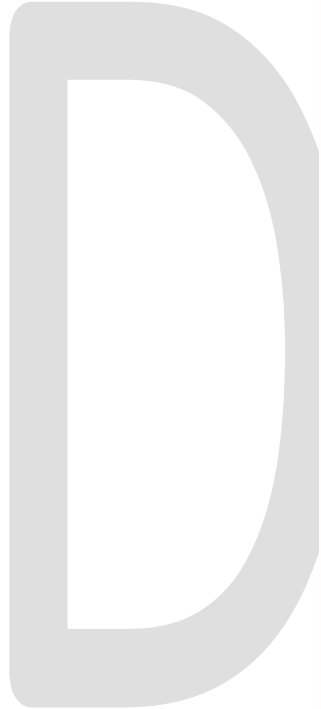
**Neighbourhood Green Infrastructure** – Improving existing parks and greenspaces to encourage use by all. Creating towns and villages that are:

- easy to walk around to encourage activity and increase use,
- good places to live with treelined streets which improve air quality, lower wind speed and provide shade;
- accessible to improve how people feel and engage the community through access to nature, streams and the coast; and
- multifunctional with spaces for sport, recreation and play.

**Water Management** – With more frequent storms we need to increase the amount of water that can be stored upstream by managing land to flood to protect homes and businesses downstream. We need to improve the quality of the water that flows into Southampton Water and the Solent by capturing nitrates and phosphates through mechanisms such as special wetlands.

**Land Management Opportunities** – Land can be managed in ways that have greater benefit for the economy, the environment and society. By working with landowners, we can change existing management practices to increase their benefits, for example gains for nature through connecting or buffering important sites.





Neighbourhood Green Infrastructure:  
Connectivity enhancements



Land Management Opportunities:  
To enhance the landscape, ecology and public enjoyment



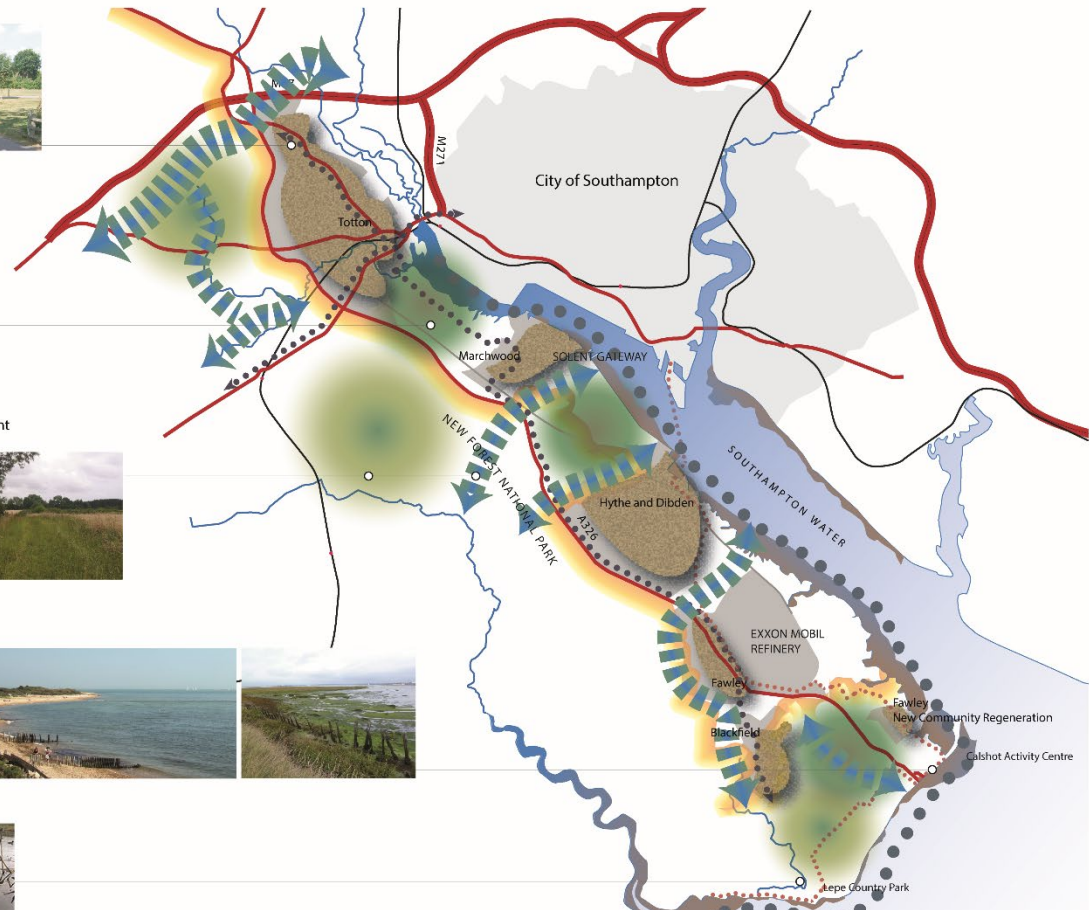
Land Management Opportunities:  
Ecological blue and green network enhancements



Coastal access opportunities



Land management Opportunities:  
Water management -  
Up stream catchment enhancements



# The Waterside Environmental Infrastructure Vision

DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT ENHANCES THIS UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

## Social and Community Outcomes

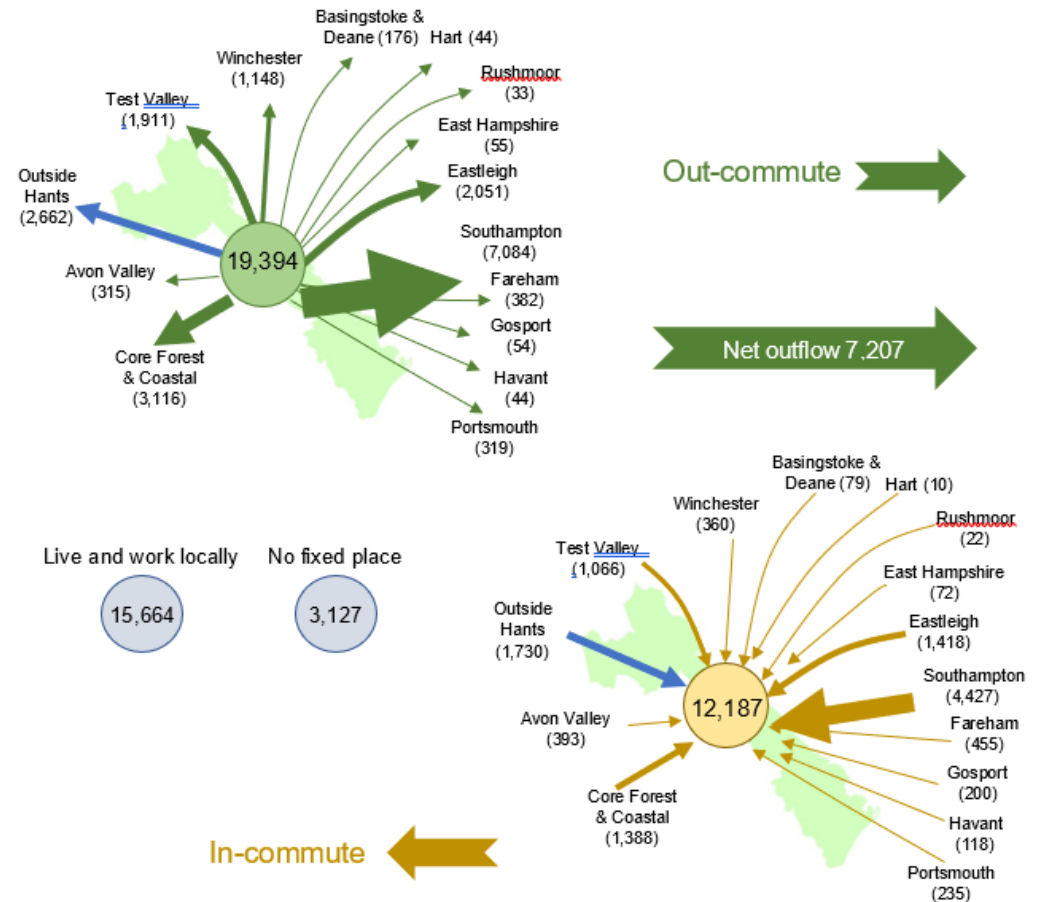
- Significant new knowledge-based employment opportunities
- Investing in skill and training opportunities - significant opportunities will be delivered from the proposed growth for creating training opportunities for local residents and upskilling the existing workforce
- Improving access to education and training - with better transport links across the Waterside and to education and training opportunities in Southampton
- Delivering a mix and range of housing and housing tenures providing a wider choice for local residents to meet their housing needs and attracting new households into the area
- Promoting health and wellbeing, through the investment in green infrastructure and improved walking and cycling, creating more resilient communities
- Improving accessibility and enjoyment of natural green space
- Reusing brownfield sites including the redevelopment of the former Fawley Power Station

# Strategic Approach to Transport

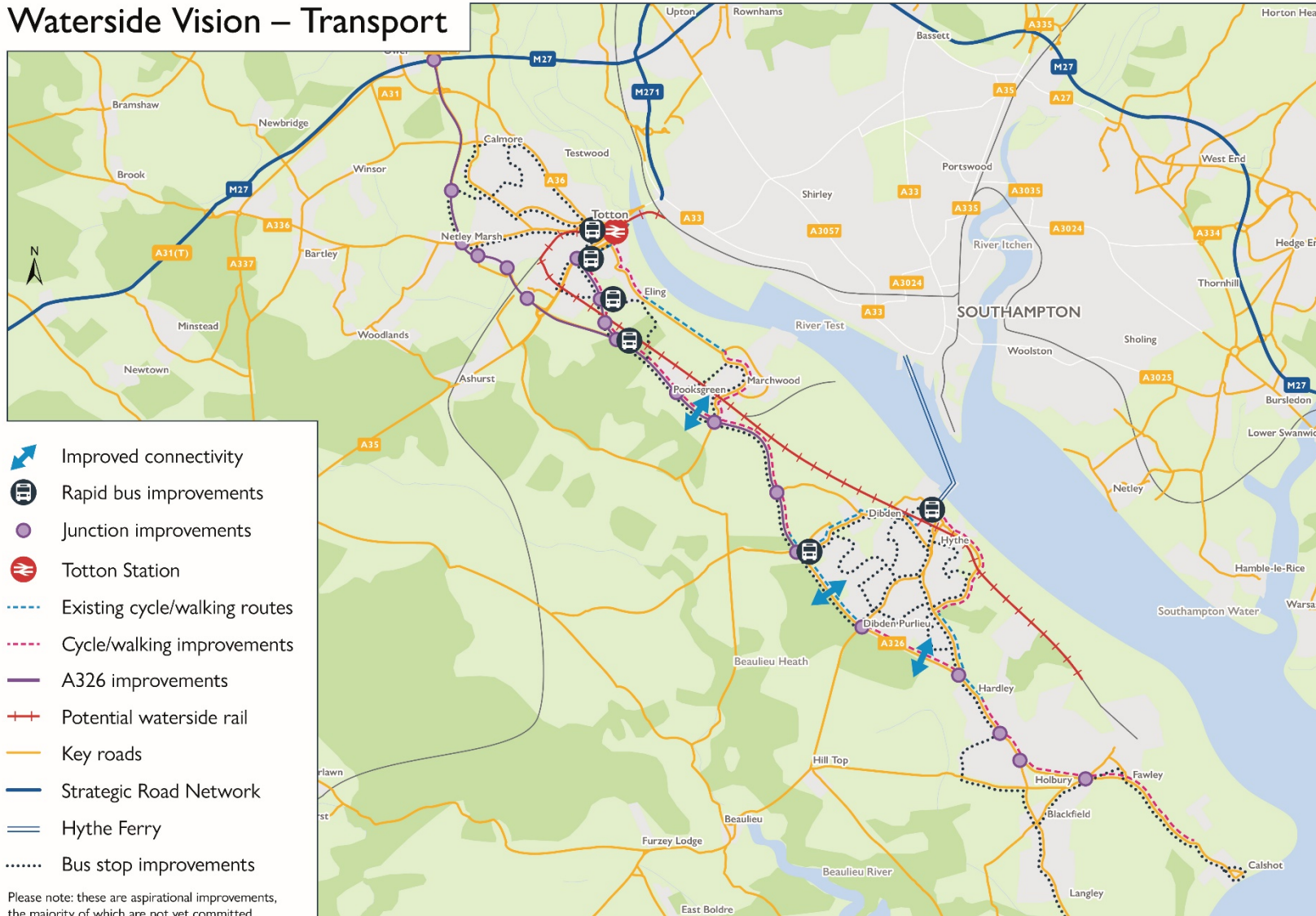
Our strategic approach to transport needs across the Waterside will encompass the following key objectives:

- To develop a fully integrated multimodal transport strategy to improve connectivity across the Waterside area and with the wider region
- To reduce dependence on the private car by enhancing choice and the accessibility of public transport, cycling and walking routes
- To ensure that all transport improvements account for the sensitive environment and habitats of the New Forest
- To provide a high quality cycling and walking corridor to and from Southampton and to and from Totton to Lepe.
- To enhance access between communities and to key destinations by reducing the barrier the A326 represents
- To reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability on the A326 by providing critical network resilience, especially for the existing national assets on the Waterside including the Fawley Refinery and Marchwood Military Port and also for the proposed growth in the capacity of the Port of Southampton
- To enhance the efficiency of multi-modal trade routes from the Waterside to the manufacturing regions of the Midlands and North.

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## Waterside Vision – Transport



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## What we need

- Investment in environmental infrastructure to support connectivity for people, places and nature
- Investment in the A326 transport corridor to reduce congestion and better connect the Waterside with the wider regional and national economy
- Investment in more sustainable alternatives to the car including cycling and walking, and exploring the future potential for re-instating passenger services on the Waterside railway line.
- Investment in 5G digital connectivity across the Waterside area, to enable greater adaptability and innovation in the local economy
- Improvements to Totton town centre to better fulfil its role as the key urban centre for the Waterside and its communities

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CABINET – 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

PORTFOLIO: LEADER AND  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS – CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Cabinet recommends to Full Council that:-

- (a) the attached “Electoral Review – LGBCE Draft Recommendations – Consultation Response” (Appendix 1) be approved and submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the Council’s official response to the LGBCE consultation; and
- (b) authority be delegated to the Executive Head of Governance and Housing, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make further editing changes, corrections and updates to the document prior to submission.

### **2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND DETAIL**

- 2.1 As part of the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) consultation on warding patterns for the Electoral Review of the District Council, the Council submitted a District wide pattern of proposed wards, agreed at the Council meeting on 24 February 2020. The proposal was based on a 49 councillor scheme, to ensure that all proposed wards had no greater than +/-10% variance from perfect electoral equality.
- 2.2 Including the Council’s District wide scheme, the LGBCE received a total of 51 consultation responses, including a number of localised responses from councillors, Town and Parish Councils, local residents and other interested parties. The District Council’s proposal was the only District wide scheme.
- 2.3 The LGBCE contacted the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive in April 2020 to confirm that, in light of the national situation regarding COVID-19, the LGBCE had decided to pause consultations temporarily, although internal preparations towards the publication of draft recommendations would continue. At its meeting in May 2020, the LGBCE considered all of the consultation responses including the Council’s District wide scheme and agreed draft recommendations.
- 2.4 On 30 June 2020, the LGBCE published the draft recommendations and launched the next stage of a formal public consultation, seeking views on these draft recommendations. This consultation ends on 7 September 2020. To ensure that the Council’s views are adequately represented when the LGBCE meets to develop the final scheme, the Council is invited to submit a formal response.
- 2.5 The Council should continue to have regard to the three statutory criteria applied by the LGBCE in responding to the draft recommendations:-
  - Electoral Equality
  - Community Interests and Identities
  - Effective and Convenient Local Government

### **3. LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The LGBCE draft recommendations are summarised as follows:-

- New Forest District should be represented by 48 councillors, 12 fewer than there are now.
- New Forest District should have 25 wards, nine fewer than there are now, comprising:-
  - Four three-councillor wards.
  - 15 two-councillor wards.
  - Six one-councillor wards.
- The boundaries of all wards should change.

3.2 The LGBCE examined the Council's proposals as part of the consultation on warding patterns and noted that it generally enables strong boundaries and secures good levels of electoral equality. However, Boldre Parish Council raised concerns about the proposals to transfer part of Boldre Parish to a ward within Lymington town, arguing that this did not reflect community identity. The Parish Council put forward alternative proposals for this area, reflective of an overall Council Size of 48. The LGBCE considered that the amendment provided a stronger warding pattern in this particular area whilst still facilitating good electoral equality across the rest of the District.

3.3 The tables and maps on pages 9-24 of the LGBCE report (see background papers) detail the draft recommendations for each area of the New Forest and how the proposed arrangements reflect the statutory criteria.

### **3. PROGRESS TO DATE**

3.1 On receipt of the notification from the LGBCE that it intended to launch its consultation on the draft recommendations, the Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group met to review the draft recommendations and agree an approach to consulting all councillors.

3.2 The Task and Finish Group agreed to issue a consultation questionnaire to all councillors, aligned to the "zones", representing the five clearly identifiable areas within the District that formed the basis of both the Council's proposals and the LGBCE draft recommendations, using the Town and Parish Councils as building blocks.

3.4 A total of 23 responses to the questionnaire were received. Of those responses 16 were wholly supportive of the draft ward boundaries for their local area, with some suggested amendments to the names of wards. A number of responses were received from the South East zone, proposing alternative warding patterns and names for the Hythe and Dibden Parish area.

3.5 The Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group met on 19 August 2020 to consider the outcome of the questionnaire consultation with councillors and invited local ward councillors to attend where proposed amendments had been made. The Group agreed to incorporate a number of proposed changes to ward names as part of the attached consultation response.

3.6 There are contrary views from local councillors in the Lymington and Pennington, Hythe and Dibden and Totton South areas on ward boundaries. Local councillors for Lymington and Pennington and Hythe and Dibden continue to consider alternative proposals, which if brought forward for consideration by the Council, would not have an impact on the viability of the overall District scheme. It is acknowledged that any alternative proposals in Totton South would have a significant impact on the viability of the overall District scheme.



#### **4. CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

- 4.1 For each of the proposed wards in the LGBCE draft recommendations, a response has been formulated by the Task and Finish Group, and where appropriate, alternative proposals outlined. Appendix 1 outlines these in detail as the Council's proposed response to the consultation.
- 4.2 Whilst there are alternative proposals in respect of the names of certain wards, it is not currently proposed that the ward boundaries are amended from the LGBCE draft recommendations as they largely enable strong boundaries and enhance Town and Parish identities.

#### **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the LGBCE will publish final recommendations on 1 December 2020, after which the necessary parliamentary orders will be laid and then made from late 2020 into 2021. The new electoral arrangements will be implemented from the May 2023 quadrennial district elections.

#### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The LGBCE will finalise recommendations for the New Forest, regardless of the responses made by the deadline. Therefore, whilst the Council could choose not to submit a response, it would not be in the Council's interest, as the final recommendations could be made without regard to the Council's views on the current draft recommendations.
- 6.2 Whilst the warding pattern in the draft recommendations differs from the Council's proposals in February 2020, the Task and Finish Group welcomes the LGBCE decision to relax the +/-10% tolerance for electoral equality in the Bransgore, Burley and Sopley ward to allow for a warding pattern that supports a Council Size of 48 and removes the proposal to split the parish of Boldre which enhances the overriding ambition of the Council to preserve and enhance the Town and Parish arrangements as part of the Electoral Review.
- 6.3 The Cabinet and Council may need to consider and determine alternative proposals for both the Lymington and Pennington area and the Hythe and Dibden area, should they come forward from local councillors, as identified at paragraph 3.6 of this report.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

#### **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

#### **10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 A successful Electoral Review of the District Council will bring about more representative democracy in the New Forest, as electoral inequality would have been addressed as far as possible as part of the review. Currently, six wards have greater

than +/- 10% of the average with one ward greater than +/- 20%. Just one ward within the LGBCE draft recommendations has a ratio greater than +/- 10%, which is Bransgore, Burley and Sopley at -11%. The Task and Finish Group welcome the avoidance of splitting a further Town or Parish to make the minor adjustment that would be required to bring all wards within +/- 10%.

## 11. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

11.1 I would like to thank the Members of the Task and Finish Group, alongside all Members of the Council for their contribution to the process. Whilst the proposals do not please everybody, this appears to be a sound consultation response. We now await the final recommendations in December 2020.

### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Electoral Review – LGBCE Draft Recommendations – Consultation Response

#### For further information contact:

Matt Wisdom  
Democratic Services Manager  
023 8028 5072  
[Matt.wisdom@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Matt.wisdom@nfdc.gov.uk)

Rebecca Drummond  
Service Manager - Elections and  
Business Improvement  
023 8028  
[Rebecca.drummond@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.drummond@nfdc.gov.uk)

#### Background Papers:

[Cabinet report – 5 June 2019](#)  
[Cabinet report – 2 October 2019](#)  
[Cabinet report – 19 February 2020](#)  
[NFDC webpage](#)  
[LGBCE webpage](#)  
Task and Finish Group documents

# **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW - LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS – CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

**September 2020**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 30 June 2020, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published draft recommendations as part of the Electoral Review of New Forest District. This follows an initial consultation on warding patterns from December 2019 – March 2020. The draft recommendations indicate that:-
- New Forest District should be represented by 48 councillors, 12 fewer than there are now.
  - New Forest District should have 25 wards, nine fewer than there are now, comprising:-
    - Four three-councillor wards.
    - 15 two-councillor wards.
    - Six one-councillor wards
  - The full report can be viewed at the following link:-  
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/new-forest>
- 1.2 The Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group, established in June 2019, has maintained a collaborative dialogue with the LGBCE throughout the Review, and having considered the LGBCE draft recommendations, has now developed the consultation response outlined within this report.
- 1.3 The response has been developed in accordance with the following three statutory criteria set by the LGBCE:-
- Electoral Equality
  - Community Interests and Identities
  - Effective and Convenient Local Government
- 1.4 The Council welcomes the LGBCE comment that the Council's proposed warding pattern from February 2020 generally enables strong boundaries and secures good levels of electoral equality.
- 1.5 All councillors were consulted with a questionnaire exercise before the Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group met to develop the consultation responses outlined within this report.
- 1.6 The responses are contained within the following five sections of this report, aligned to the areas in the LGBCE draft recommendations report:-
- Central
  - West
  - South West
  - North East
  - South East

## CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### 3. CENTRAL

3.1 The LG BCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre & Exbury & Lepe	1	3%
Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge	1	5%
Lymington Town	2	6%
Lyndhurst & Minstead	1	4%
Pennington	2	9%
Sway	1	-1%

#### 3.2 **Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre & Exbury & Lepe**

3.2.1 The Council welcomes the adjustment made in other areas of the District, alongside a proposed Council Size of 48, to accommodate a ward which does not split Boldre Parish. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries as it enables good electoral equality, strong boundaries and reflects local community identities and interests.

3.2.2 Having consulted local ward councillors, including comments from Boldre Parish Council, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Forest & Solent** to reflect the rural and coastal nature of the parishes it represents.

#### 3.3 **Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge**

3.3.1 Whilst this ward does not support a single ward for Brockenhurst as a self contained community as proposed by the Council, the parishes are neighbouring and it facilitates the warding pattern well in the remaining area. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

#### 3.4 **Lymington Town**

3.4.1 As highlighted at 3.2.1, the Council welcomes the adjustment made in other areas of the District, alongside a proposed Council Size of 48, to accommodate a ward which does not split Boldre Parish. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundary.

3.4.2 Having consulted local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Lymington** to reflect the two ward arrangements in the Lymington and Pennington Town Council area. The removal of the Buckland ward from the current arrangements removes the need for any distinction between the “town” centre of Lymington and other areas.

### 3.5 **Lyndhurst & Minstead**

3.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

### 3.6 **Pennington**

3.6.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for this ward, although the Eastern boundary is amended to facilitate an effective warding pattern from Lymington Town and the rural parishes further East. As the amendments are minor, the Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

### 3.7 **Sway**

3.7.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

## 4. **WEST**

4.1 The LG BCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Variance 2025</b>
Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	2	-11%
Downlands & Forest North	1	-1%
Ellingham & Ringwood North	2	5%
Fordingbridge	2	1%
Ringwood Town Central	2	1%

### 4.2 **Bransgore, Burley & Sopley**

4.2.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name, further supporting that the -11% has facilitated a more effective warding pattern across the District to support a Council Size of 48, without splitting a further Town or Parish.

### 4.3 **Downlands and Forest North**

4.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name and further comments that it provides an excellent level of electoral equality alongside common focus, character and issues faced between constituent parishes.



#### 4.4 **Ellingham & Ringwood North**

4.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries.

4.4.2 Having consulted local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Ringwood North & Ellingham** to reflect the larger area of Ringwood first in the ward name, and providing further consistency and effective and convenient local government in respect of the Hampshire County division of Ringwood.

#### 4.5 **Fordingbridge**

4.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries as a clear reflection of the collaborative and interactive work of the community within the ward.

4.5.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Fordingbridge, Godshill & Hyde** to reflect the three unique Town and Parish identities within the ward.

#### 4.6 **Ringwood Town Central**

4.6.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

### 5. **SOUTH WEST**

5.1 The LGBCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Variance 2025</b>
Ashley & New Milton North East	2	9%
Barton	2	4%
Milford & Hordle	3	0%
Milton	2	-6%
New Milton North West	1	5%

#### 5.2 **Ashley & New Milton North East**

5.2.1 Although differing from the Council's proposals, the Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries in reflecting local views that Ashley should not be split across wards.

5.2.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Ashley, Bashley and Fernhill**. Place names are of social importance locally and this amendment would take into consideration the well established place name heritage of Bashley and Fernhill.

### 5.3 **Barton**

5.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals, differing in the ward boundaries in the North East only. The Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries in maintaining the well established areas of Barton and Becton in a single ward.

5.3.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Barton & Becton**. Place names are of social importance locally and this amendment would take into consideration the well established place name heritage of both Barton on Sea and Becton Bunny.

### 5.4 **Milford & Hordle**

5.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

### 5.5 **Milton**

5.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals, differing in adjusting boundaries further south and using the railway line as a hard boundary in the north. The Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries and name, which strengthen the boundary and improve electoral equality and viability of the other wards in New Milton.

### 5.6 **New Milton North West**

5.6.1 Although differing from the Council's proposals, the Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries in reflecting local views and balancing the other proposed arrangements in New Milton. The boundary in the south is strong, using the railway line.

5.6.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Ballard**. Place names are of social importance locally and this amendment would take into consideration the well established place name heritage of Ballard and Ballard Lake.

## 6. **NORTH EAST**

6.1 The LGBCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Variance 2025</b>
Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	2	6%
Eling & Marchwood	2	6%
Totton Central	2	-2%
Totton North	3	-3%
Totton South	2	7%

## 6.2 **Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh**

6.2.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name as a clear reflection of the collaborative and interactive work of the community.

## 6.3 **Eling & Marchwood**

6.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries.

6.3.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Marchwood & Eling** to reflect the larger area of Marchwood first in the ward name.

## 6.4 **Totton Central**

6.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

## 6.5 **Totton North**

6.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

## 6.6 **Totton South**

6.6.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

## 7. **SOUTH EAST**

7.1 The LGBCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Variance 2025</b>
Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	3	-9%
Dibden & Hythe	3	-8%
Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	2	-7%
Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	2	-8%

**7.2 Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown**

7.2.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for this ward, with minor amendments to satisfy electoral equality for a Council Size of 48. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

**7.3 Dibden & Hythe**

7.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for this ward, with minor amendments to satisfy electoral equality for a Council Size of 48. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

**7.4 Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley**

7.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

**7.5 Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield**

7.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

## Summary

Ward Name – Draft Recommendations	Ward Name – Council Proposal (Bold & <i>Italic</i> where alternative is proposed)	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Variance from average %
Ashley & New Milton North East	<b>Ashley, Bashley &amp; Fernhill</b>	2	6,679	9%
Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	2	6,496	6%
Barton	<b>Barton &amp; Becton</b>	2	6,385	4%
Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre & Exbury & Lepe	<b>Forest &amp; Solent</b>	1	3,158	3%
Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	2	5,460	-11%
Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge	Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge	1	3,222	5%
Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	3	8,403	-9%
Dibden & Hythe	Dibden & Hythe	3	8,517	-8%
Downlands & Forest North	Downlands & Forest North	1	3,035	-1%
Eling & Marchwood	<b>Marchwood &amp; Eling</b>	2	6,543	6%
Ellingham & Ringwood North	<b>Ringwood North &amp; Ellingham</b>	2	6,430	5%
Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	2	5,701	-7%
Fordingbridge	<b>Fordingbridge, Godshill &amp; Hyde</b>	2	6,238	1%
Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	2	5,670	-8%
Lymington Town	<b>Lymington</b>	2	6,512	6%
Lyndhurst & Minstead	Lyndhurst & Minstead	1	3,212	4%
Milford & Hordle	Milford & Hordle	3	9,234	0%
Milton	Milton	2	5,799	-6%
New Milton North West	<b>Ballard</b>	1	3,222	5%
Pennington	Pennington	2	6,682	9%
Ringwood Town Central	Ringwood Town Central	2	6,458	5%
Sway	Sway	1	3,045	-1%
Totton Central	Totton Central	2	6,025	-2%
Totton North	Totton North	3	8,916	-3%
Totton South	Totton South	2	6,550	7%

