

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL
SUBJECT:	PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON – HOW CAN MORE PEOPLE ENJOY THE RIVER?
DATE OF DECISION:	16 FEBRUARY 2023
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Chief Executive	
	Name:	Mike Harris	Tel: 023 8083 2882
	E-mail	Mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

In accordance with the inquiry plan, for the fifth meeting of the ‘Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Inquiry’ the Panel will be considering how more people can enjoy the river, with a focus on public access to the waterfront and recreational activity on and in the river.
--

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| | (i) | The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by the invited guests, and contained within the attached appendices, and use the information provided as evidence in the review. |
|--|-----|---|

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | To enable the Panel to compile a file of evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the review process. |
|----|--|

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
--

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 2. | None. |
|----|-------|

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)
--

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3. | At the fifth meeting of the inquiry the Panel will be considering access to the waterfront and recreational use. Findings from the River Itchen Survey that was conducted prior to the inaugural inquiry meeting, identified that, when respondents were asked how they use the River Itchen in Southampton, using the River Itchen to travel along the riverbanks (78%) and participating in water sports on the river (44%) were the highest responses. |
|----|---|

4.	When asked what developments or improvements you would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton, more public access to the waterfront was raised by 63% of respondents, and more opportunities to participate in water sports was raised by 28%. Both of these were in the top 5 most popular responses.
5.	Finally, when asked what you enjoy most about the river, popular responses included walking/cycling/exercise/physical wellbeing activities, taking part in activity on the river and swimming.
	Public access to the waterfront
6.	To develop the Panel's understanding of issues associated with public access to the waterfront, Lindsay McCulloch, Southampton City Council's Natural Environment Manager, has been asked to deliver a brief presentation that provides a visual overview of access points, public open spaces, riverside paths, public hards, and areas where access may be forthcoming via development proposals.
7.	Graham Linecar, Group Secretary of the Southampton Common & Parks Protection Society (SCAPPS), has been asked to reflect on the importance of access to the river and aspirations for improved and extended riverside paths that offer additional opportunities to relax on the banks of the river.
	Celebrating community groups
8.	Whilst recognising the desire for more people to enjoy the River Itchen in Southampton we are keen to celebrate the affection that exists for the river and its environs from across the city. This can be demonstrated in the work of the various friends of groups that exist in close proximity to the River Itchen.
9.	Attached as Appendices 1-5 is feedback from a number of the friends of groups, information on events on and by the river, and information about community campaigns associated with the river.
10.	Mark Pirnie, Scrutiny Manager at Southampton City Council will outline the numerous beneficial activities that the friends of groups are involved in; showcase the various public events on and by the river; and, highlight some of the issues that the friends of groups have raised.
	Recreational use of the River Itchen in Southampton
11.	The River Itchen in Southampton is used for numerous water sports and other recreational activities. Attached as Appendices 6-15 is feedback from a number of groups, clubs and activity centres that are involved in activities on and in the river.
12.	James Hives, Club Support Manager at British Canoeing has been invited to provide an overview of the recreational use of the River Itchen in Southampton and to highlight some of the challenges and issues outlined in the appended feedback.
13.	Representatives from recreational groups, including anglers, have been encouraged to attend the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

14.	The invited guests will take questions from the Panel relating to the evidence provided. Copies of any presentations will be made available to the Panel.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
15.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
16.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
17.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
18.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
19.	None

KEY DECISION?	No
----------------------	----

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
------------------------------------	------

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Feedback from Friends of Itchen Navigation
2.	Feedback from Friends of Riverside Park
3.	Feedback from the Friends of Chessel Bay
4.	All Aboard Festival
5.	Respect the River Campaign
6.	Feedback from SWC and Woodmill Activity Centre
7.	Feedback from Coalporters Amateur Rowing Club
8.	Feedback from BTC Rowing Club
9.	Feedback from British Canoeing
10.	Feedback from Southampton Canoe Club
11.	Feedback from Southampton Sailing Club
12.	Feedback from St Denys Boat Club
13.	Feedback from 25 th Northam Sea Scouts
14.	Feedback from Kingfisher Swimmers
15.	Feedback from Woodmill Activity Centre volunteer

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	