

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL
SUBJECT:	PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON – EXPLORING GOOD PRACTICE
DATE OF DECISION:	2 MARCH 2023
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
In accordance with the inquiry plan, for the sixth meeting of the ‘Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Inquiry’ the Panel will be considering examples of good practice being employed to protect, preserve and promote urban rivers in the UK.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by the invited guests 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 sixth, and final evidence gathering meeting of the inquiry, the Panel will be considering examples where urban areas have sought to address the challenges that have been raised through the inquiry relating to protecting, preserving and promoting rivers.
4.	The following guests have been invited to the meeting to provide the Panel with examples of best practice and to outline different approaches that can be employed:

- **Debbie Leach - Chief Executive Officer at Thames21**

Thames21 developed from a partnership programme supported by Keep Britain Tidy, the Port of London Authority, the Environment Agency, Thames Water, British Waterways, The Corporation of London and 19 local authorities. The charity is now independent and is funded by a wide variety of charitable trusts, companies and public funding.

Thames21, like Wessex Rivers Trust, is a member of The Rivers Trust and acts as the voice for London's waterways, working with communities to improve rivers and canals for people and wildlife. Thames21 mobilises thousands of volunteers every year to clean and green the capital's 400 mile network of waterways.

Thames21 aims to transform neglected waterways into areas that everyone can use and enjoy, by using innovative and tailored community approaches. It has a growing and diverse programme of water improvement projects across London. These projects are outlined in the [Thames21 - 5 Year Plan](#)

- **Lindsay Pratt - Principal Planner, Development and Regeneration Services at Glasgow City Council**

The River Clyde extends from South Lanarkshire to the Firth of Clyde, and Glasgow is the largest conurbation within the river catchment area. In Glasgow the river is particularly urban in character and has a long history of being actively managed for industry. It is now facing significant change due to recent and proposed development, including investment through the City Deal Waterfront and West End programme.

The future evolution and development of the River Corridor is inseparable from the impacts of climate change on the river and the city, particularly the risk of increased flooding.

In 2020 Glasgow City Council published a Strategic Development Framework (SDF) that sets out a vision for the River Clyde Development Corridor for the next 30 years. It shows how the successful regeneration of the River Corridor will support a critical mass of people and activity, and create a well-connected, vibrant place. The SDF supports a variety of economic, environmental and social outcomes along the River Corridor, recognising the Clyde as the City's largest area of continuous open space, and the most significant element of the urban green and blue network in the City Region.

[River Clyde Development Corridor - Strategic Development Framework](#)

- **Karen McHugh - Solent Forum Manager**

The Solent coastline is around 241 miles long on the mainland between Selsey Bill and Hurst Spit, and includes Chichester, Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours, Southampton Water and the tidal extent of the main rivers, including the River Itchen.

The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area.

	<p>For thousands of years the Solent has fulfilled a vital role as a waterway for shipping, maritime trading, fishing and more recently recreation.</p> <p>Like other coastal zones in the UK, the Solent has a highly complex system of planning and management due to the different regulatory systems across the land-sea divide and the wide range of authorities and agencies involved. There is a correspondingly large number of plans, strategies and other initiatives around the Solent, produced by a range of organisations for different purposes and covering different areas and timescales.</p> <p>The Solent Forum was established in December 1992, in order to develop a greater understanding among the authorities and agencies involved in planning and management in the Solent area, and to assist and influence them in carrying out their functions. The Forum does not have any executive powers and its members have no voting rights.</p> <p>Solent Forum Infographic</p>
5.	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

Capital/Revenue/Property/Other

6. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

7. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

8. None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

10. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. None

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.	<u>Thames21 - 5 Year Plan</u>	
2.	<u>River Clyde Development Corridor - Strategic Development Framework</u>	