

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL
SUBJECT:	PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON – THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE RIVER
DATE OF DECISION:	1 DECEMBER 2022
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Director of Legal and Business Services	
	Name:	Richard Ivory	Tel: 023 8083 2794
	E-mail	Richard.ivory@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 third meeting of the ‘Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Inquiry’ the Panel will be considering the following issues:

- The economic importance of the River Itchen, including:
 - Understanding the economic contribution the River Itchen makes to the Southampton economy
 - River Itchen - Future developments proposed / planned and how the developing local plan will shape this development
 - The potential for water taxis.

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 third meeting of the inquiry the Panel will be considering the economic importance of the River Itchen to Southampton’s economy. Findings from the
----	---

	<p>River Itchen Survey, that was conducted prior to the inaugural inquiry meeting and is attached as Appendix 1, identified that 17% of respondents considered increased use of the river to support economic growth to be an improvement that they would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton.</p>
4.	<p>To develop the Panel's understanding of the economic contribution the River Itchen currently makes to the Southampton economy, the following guests have been invited to the meeting:</p> <p>Steve Masters, Harbour Master - Port of Southampton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Masters is employed by Associated British Ports (ABP), the statutory harbour authority for the Port of Southampton which includes all of Southampton Water and the River Itchen up to Woodmill. The Harbour Master has been asked to provide an overview of ship movements on the tidal River Itchen and to outline ABPs approach to removing wrecks which was identified by 48% of respondents to the survey as being a development or improvement that they would you like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton. <p>Matthew Hill, Economic Development Operations Manager, Southampton City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Hill has been asked to provide a brief overview of the economic activity currently associated with the River Itchen in Southampton.
5.	<p>To develop the Panel's understanding of future developments proposed / planned by the River Itchen and how the developing local plan will shape this development, the following guests have been invited to the meeting:</p> <p>Graham Tuck, Planning Policy Group Leader and Amber Trueman, Strategic Planning Manager, Southampton City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham and Amber have been invited to deliver a presentation outlining how the proposals within the draft local plan will shape developments in and around the River Itchen. The draft local plan can be viewed via the following link: Southampton City Vision - documents library <p>Matthew Hill, Economic Development Operations Manager, Southampton City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Hill will update the Panel on the master planning for future development at one of the key waterfront areas identified for significant development, Itchen Riverside.
6.	<p>To develop the Panel's understanding of the potential for water taxis to operate on the River Itchen, the following guest has been invited to the meeting:</p> <p>Andy Tourell, Head of Sustainable Logistics, Ocean Infinity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across the UK a number of towns and cities have water taxis, buses or ferries. Andy Tourell will outline for the Panel a vision of water taxis connecting communities in Southampton utilising the River Itchen.
7.	<p>To contribute to the discussion the following representatives have been invited to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leigh-Sara Timberlake – Group CEO, Business South Group Ltd Gavin Hall - Chair of Planning & Transport Business Strategy Group, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce Tim Mayer – Sales and Marketing Director, MDL Marinas
8.	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

9. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

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

Other Legal Implications:

11. None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

12. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. Analysis of the River Itchen Survey

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.	Southampton City Vision Local Plan - Draft Plan with Options (southampton.gov.uk)