



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Membership: Councillor Kennett (Chairman)

Councillors Munday (Vice-Chairman), Blades, Brent, Crellin, Gray, Keast, Milne, Moutray, Patrick, Sceal, Tindall, Turner and Weeks

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 5 July 2023

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Hurstwood Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road,
Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AX

The business to be transacted is set out below:

Steve Jordan
Chief Executive

27 June 2023

Contact Officer: Mark Gregory 02392 446232
Email: mark.gregory@easthants.gov.uk

Can Councillors Please Submit Any Detailed Technical Questions On The Items Included In This Agenda To The Contact Officer By 12 Noon On Monday, 3 July 2023

	Page
1 Apologies for Absence	
To receive any apologies for absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest.	
3 Review of Portsmouth Water Company's Plans for Havant	1 - 6

Thicket Reservoir

To discuss with representatives of Portsmouth Water Company their plans for the use of Havant Thicket Reservoir.

The format of the session will be

1. A short presentation by Portsmouth Water Company
2. A question and answer session based on pre submitted questions (supplementary questions are permitted)
3. The Committee to determine any follow up action.

4 Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report

7 - 14

To Recommend Council to note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 2022/23 Annual Report.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Internet

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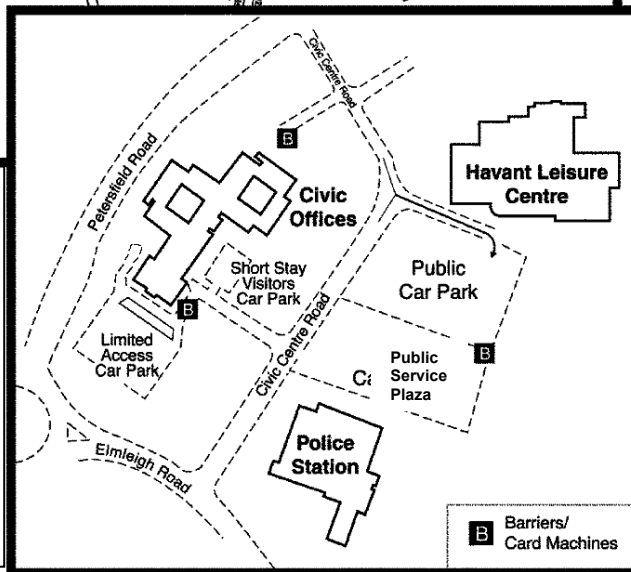
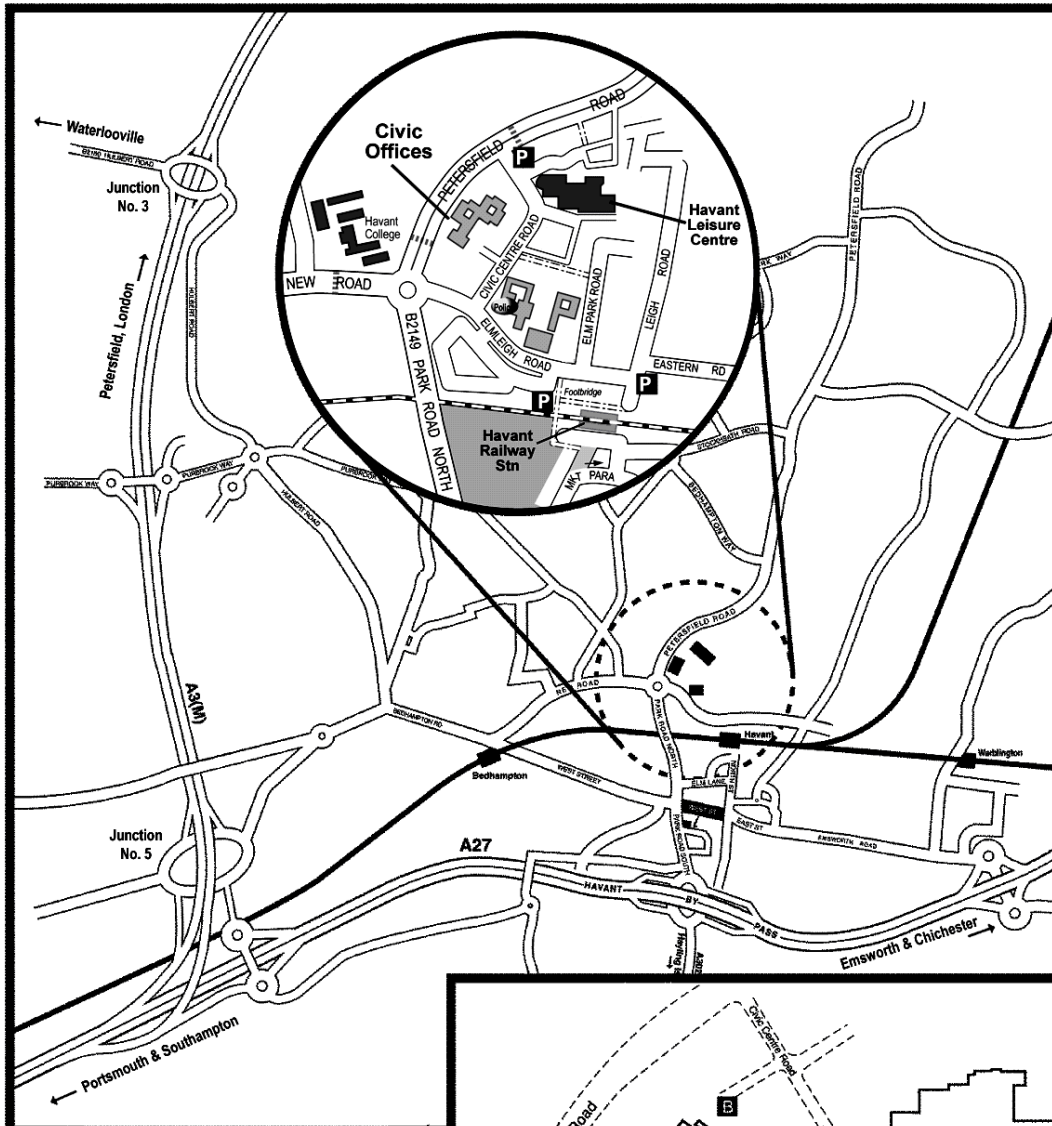
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Challenge Session with Portsmouth Water Company on the future Use of Havant Thicket Reservoir – 5 July 2023

	Question	Answer
1	When did Southern Water first raise with Portsmouth Water the potential for the Havant Thicket Reservoir to have recycled water pumped into it as part of the 'water mix'?	
2	I was for some time the HBC representative on the Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder's Committee, can I ask why at no time during these meetings was the possibility of water recycling discussed or even mentioned as a possibility. It was also not a part of the planning application for the reservoir?	
3	At the above meetings, much was made of non motorised water sports being allowed to take place on the reservoir. Residents were told this would in part make up for the inconvenience that the building works would cause. This is now not shown as possibility. Will there be access for water sports and leisure activities on the reservoir for local residents or not?	
4	Why the ancient woodland was felled? Why couldn't it have been kept, which could have meant a spit of land sticking out in the reservoir was retained, containing the ancient woodland?	

	Question	Answer
5	How has that loss of unique habitat been mitigated? New tree planting is not mitigation	
6	<p>Previously the residents were promised that non-motorised watercraft and other leisure activities were going to be allowed (on Havant Thicket Reservoir), but why are they now told instead that they were not allowed these leisure activities in the future?</p> <p>Please could Southern Water (and Portsmouth Water) explain why the promised water-based amenities are no longer part of the Havant Thicket proposal? We were originally assured the reservoir would provide a variety of water sports and other activities. Why is this no longer the case?</p>	<p>The level of recreation at the reservoir has been agreed with our Havant Thicket Stakeholder forum (which is made up of local community groups, councillors, schools and environmental organisations) after many years of discussions, surveys with local communities and learning from other reservoir sites and public parks. It is important to note that, while different activities were put forward as suggestions, we have never promised or committed to providing specific watersports.</p> <p>We have carefully considered a range of potential leisure activities at the reservoir site, including sailing and canoeing. As part of this process, we asked Planning Solutions Ltd, whose team are experts in developing and managing water-based visitor attractions, to review the visitor experience offer at the reservoir.</p> <p>All three scenarios scoped by Planning Solutions (Low, Medium and High activity levels) were tested extensively with our Havant Thicket Reservoir stakeholder forum. The overwhelming feedback we've received, both from written surveys and discussions with the local community, has been not to offer large-scale public water sports, including canoeing, at the reservoir. The forum members selected The 'Medium' level plan, with the proviso of providing scope for future expansion. This was because it would feel like a much busier place if</p>

	Question	Answer
		<p>there was a more intense water sport offer, attract more people and put greater strain on the environment, facilities and local communities.</p> <p>Currently a draft Recreation Strategy for the reservoir has been circulated to the stakeholder forum members. Their input will help to finalise the exact recreational provision we will offer at the reservoir when it is full and operational in 2029. This will include footpaths for walking, as well as routes for cycling and horse riding, facilities for bird watching, picnic and play areas and car parking.</p> <p>There will also be a visitor centre with a café, toilets and space for community and education activities.</p>
7	What percentage of Portsmouth Water customers have water meters? How does this compare with one year ago?	
8	What percentage of Portsmouth Water customers are on the Helping Hand Tariff? How does this compare with one year ago?	
9	What percentage of Portsmouth Water customers are on a payment break? How does this compare with one year ago?	
10	The Portsmouth Water web site references the Portsmouth Water 2025-2030 business plan several times. The only document I can find is the Interactive Vision Brochure. When can we see the due to be published Summer 2023?	
11	Portsmouth Water have an excellent local reputation. What are they doing to prevent	

	Question	Answer
	this being damaged by association with Southern Water?	
12	At present water from Bedhampton Springs is contaminated with nutrients which flow into the harbour. What is Portsmouth Water doing to combat this, will the reservoir have an impact and how would this change if Southern Water build the water recycling plant?	
13	How closely is Portsmouth Water's future coupled to that of Southern Water? If Portsmouth Water do not work with Southern Water on the reservoir, what would the future look like for Portsmouth Water? If Southern Water are refused permission to build an effluent processing facility in Havant how will this affect Portsmouth Water?	
14	Does Portsmouth Water have any concerns about Southern Water drilling boreholes in Bedhampton to investigate the areas where the water processing plant may go? Is there a risk that drilling will contaminate the aquifers?	
15	"We need to work with customers to help them reduce their water use. If we don't, they may become less clear on the link between their water and the environment it comes from and not support our efforts to	

	Question	Answer
	reduce leaks and save resources.” I applaud this ambition but how are you doing this?	
16	I understand that extracting from the lower reaches of a river (aka Last Weir Extraction) is much less damaging to the environment than the current practice of extracting from the upper reaches of a river. I also understand that Portsmouth Water is planning to look doing this. Can you confirm this and provide an update and timeline please. IS there any chance of this work being done in time to make effluent recycling unnecessary?	
17	What does Portsmouth Water feel about the speed with which Southern Water is working to impose effluent recycling on Havant?	
18	Commendably, Portsmouth Water acknowledge the need to make water affordable for all and also the importance of making everyone appreciate that it is a priceless asset. Could you explain how Portsmouth Water will achieve both these aims?	

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OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2022/23

Councillor David Keast

Chairman's Foreword



Councillor David Keast
Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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This was an interesting year, with getting to grips with the new management structure following the split with East Hampshire District Council and ensuring that the Council maintained its services and work programmes.

Attendance at committee meetings has averaged 70%. Membership of this committee demands much attention but gives Members the opportunity to help shape the decision-making process.

Setting the Work Plan for the committee began with input from the Cabinet leads in line with the Corporate Strategy and how it affected their portfolios. This resulted in a manageable work plan for the Committee with most of the work planned being completed. Four items have been deferred to 2023/24. Two of these items were proposed to be scrutinised by a working group, reporting to the O&S committee, and it is hoped they will be dealt with early in 2023/24.

I sincerely hope that Members and the public have found the scrutiny meetings, based on the reports presented and publicised, informative and helpful in understanding the aims of the Cabinet to enact the Corporate Strategy of Havant Borough Council.

A. Introduction

The Work Plan was constructed by the committee but through collaboration with Cabinet members and the Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committee members, ahead of the beginning of the municipal year and again, reviewed at the half year point.

The aim of the Work Plan was to ensure that the right topics / services were included. Also, to make sure that the portfolio holders were aware of the reasons why each topic / service was put on to the Work Plan, and to plan such that the anticipated outcomes of any scrutiny would be worthwhile, realistic and achievable.

The Work Plan has been treated as a 'live' document, and the Chairman of O&S committee has taken a flexible approach, based on the importance of topics coming from the Cabinet for pre-decision scrutiny, ongoing major strategic programmes and the available resource, particularly from the Democratic Services' teams.

Officers and Members have worked closely together to ensure the scrutiny process is transparent and meaningful, and able to put forward conclusions and recommendations to Cabinet. It has also been critical for the public to see the scrutiny process adding value not only to their understanding but also to the decision-making at the Council.

B. Scrutiny Main Achievements - 2022/23

The main achievements of Scrutiny during 2022/223 are set out below:

- All topics / services reviewed have been put through the scrutiny process by either Full Committee or Task & Finish Panels. This has proved very successful management of resources.
- All topics / services for the scrutiny process have been through a validation and prioritisation process; all topics selected have had focussed objectives.
- The outcomes of the reviews have directly influenced policy development: this approach is recommended for future years.
- Scrutiny has become truly 'Member led' in line with best practice.
- Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have maintained an effective structure for managing the function: good planning in preparation for meetings in public.
- All topics / services and their associated reports have been discussed in public.
- The willingness of Cabinet to enable the Committee to comment on proposed strategies and policies at an early stage has made the decision-making process more transparent and helped shape a more robust policy making process.

C. Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work undertaken 2022/23

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S) has had a busy year focusing on the work coming forward from the Cabinet, linked to the Corporate

Strategy, and Member-led reviews of certain policies. The following topics have been through the scrutiny process during the municipal year 2022/23:

- Task and Finish Panels:
 - Meridian Centre-ROI & future plans – to be completed 2023/24.
 - Council’s Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme – to be completed 2023/24.

- Follow Up Reviews:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discharge of Effluent into Langstone and Chichester Harbours - Challenge Session with Southern Water 	<p>Meeting Date(s) 20 January 2023</p>
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- Pre-Scrutiny Reviews:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senior Management Structure and Creation of Standalone Council Budget 2023/24 ○ The Future Information Computer Technology (ICT) Infrastructure and Security Provision Options Paper ○ Draft Budget for 2022/23 	<p>Meeting Date(s) 30 November 2022</p> <p>11 January 2023 November 2022</p> <p>2 February 2023</p>
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- Challenge Sessions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Development Strategy & Next Steps ○ UKSPF / LUF Bid and General Regeneration Update ○ Norse Service Delivery Plan Review 	<p>Meeting Date(s) 30 November 2022</p> <p>19 October 2022</p> <p>19 October 2022</p>
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- Quarterly Updates:
 - Regeneration Updates

- Items earmarked for Scrutiny and deferred to 2023/24:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, after consultation with the portfolio holders of services, identified the following topics for scrutiny, but time pressures and the availability of the relevant

officers, has meant these topics / services have had to be deferred to the next municipal year:

- The Meridian Centre – ROI and Future Plan – via a Working Group
- Review of the Council's Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme – via a Working Group
- Planning Enforcement – via a Challenge Session
- Future of Environmental Services
- via a challenge session

D. Consultation on Urgent Key Decisions

- The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was consulted on the following urgent key decisions in accordance with Standing Order 49:
 - Norse South-East Drivers and Loaders Remuneration

E. BACKGROUND

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Good scrutiny is an essential part of the Council's governance framework and is integral to decision making. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny committee fulfils the statutory responsibility placed on local authorities to review and scrutinise decisions and actions taken, and it plays a vital role in influencing services and shaping policies and plans which affect the corporate strategy and in turn, the borough's residents.

What is an Overview and Scrutiny Committee?

The Council's Constitution allows for one Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The terms of reference are approved by Council and are set out in the Constitution:

The Committee is made up of councillors proportionally represented from the different political parties. They consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman (must be from a minority party of the Council) plus twelve members.

The Committee is designed to support and enhance the decision-making process and aims to make a positive impact by supporting the development of policy, monitoring performance and making important recommendations that will lead to improvements in services and make best use of resource in everything the Council does.

How Does Scrutiny Work?

Matters that are of importance to local residents or business, or that are of strategic importance to deliver services in order to meet the Local Authority duty as required by law, are identified by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and form the work plan for the year ahead. The Committee can invite people to attend meetings or inquiry sessions to provide information, explain structures and situations and respond to questions. Committee meetings take place regularly, they are usually open for the public to attend, and they are broadcast on the Havant Borough Council website.

Methods of scrutiny, where members investigate a topic / service in depth, are either by Full Committee, Working Groups or Task & Finish Panels. These Panels are led by a member of the Panel and are supported by a Democratic Services officer. The reviews by a Panel take place over a set period of time and are scoped to ensure the right focus and evidence is gathered to inform a final report and recommendations. Panel Leads report progress and submit a final report to the Committee, which is then reviewed at a meeting of the committee in public.

What is Pre-Decision Scrutiny?

“Pre-decision scrutiny is also a vital part of a committee’s role. By commenting on and contributing to a decision before it is made, scrutiny committee are able to offer executives the benefit of their ability to focus on an issue in greater depth over a longer period of time”ⁱ

The O&S Committee is given an opportunity to scrutinise and comment on a proposal before a decision is made. The intention of this is for the scrutiny process to add value to the decision. It can also prompt further investigation into the reasons behind the proposals if the Committee feel that it is appropriate. The use of referrals is recommended, especially regarding controversial issues, to prevent decisions taken by the Cabinet being ‘called in’.

How Does Scrutiny Make a Difference?

By looking closely at a topic / service, Members gain an understanding of the facts, the issues arising and can proffer solutions to any challenge. Members can provide different perspectives on challenges and proposals leading to well-thought-out decisions.

Holding a matter up to scrutiny raises awareness



Helps to develop relationships between services, partners, Members, officers and the public

Shows us how we perform and why we do what we do

Invites people into the same space to hold an open and transparent discussion	Identifies and encourages good practice	Initiates 'the difficult conversation' between interested parties
Questions the issues, identifies barriers and consequences	Monitors and maintains oversight of issues that impact residents and businesses of Havant	Makes comments and recommendations to decision makers based on evidence gathered

F. Summary of work carried out by Overview & Scrutiny in 2022/23

	The Committee Activity	2022-23
	Number of formal meetings of the Committee, in public and broadcast	7
	Pre Scrutiny Reviews	3
	Challenge Sessions	3
	Quarterly Updates	2
	Number of Panel written reports considered	0
	External Partners at meetings	1
	Task & Finish Panels	2

	The Committee Activity	2022-23
	Call ins	0

ⁱ “Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee” – House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee December 2017