

Meeting summary

Hampshire Stakeholder Panel

March 8, 2018, 09:00 - 14:30		Petersfield WTW and innovation hub
SW Attendees:	Ian McAulay, Sam Underwood, Branwen Rhead, Paul Kent, Nick Price	
Panel Members in attendance:	Paul Nason, Environment Agency Graham Horton, Natural England Holger Schiller, New Forest National Park Authority Cllr Rob Humby, Hampshire County Council Dave Rumble, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Martijn Antheunisse, Wessex Chalk Stream and Rivers Trust	

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No.	Note:
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>To ensure attendees were able to talk freely and openly, any comments made during the meeting have not been attributed to individuals.</p> <p>A short welcome presentation provided an overview of the plan for the day and was followed by an introduction to the innovation hub by Fay Couceiro from the University of Portsmouth.</p>
2	<p>Review our plans for 2020-25 for Hampshire and seek views on our developing performance commitments</p> <p>Panel members were given an overview of the company's performance commitments for 2020-2025 and asked if anything was missing, could be improved or should be removed?</p> <p>Panel members were given sticky notes and asked to jot down ideas or feedback in three areas.</p> <p>The results were as follows:</p> <p>Is anything missing?</p> <p>"Net gain in biodiversity – more wildlife."</p> <p>"Could there be a measure that's meaningful for groundwater?"</p> <p>"How are you aligning with the 25-year environment plan?"</p> <p>Could anything be improved?</p> <p>"You should share these targets and ways of working with regulators. If holistic, then need to work them into regulators' restrictions and opportunities."</p> <p>"SSSI improvements for land Southern Water affects, not just owns."</p> <p>"Strong community engagement, partnerships and education."</p> <p>"Working with planning authorities."</p> <p>Could anything be removed?</p> <p>Nothing was suggested.</p>
1.1	
1.2	<p>In the subsequent discussion, the following feedback was noted:</p> <p>"Need to make sure these targets match up with the Water Framework Directive."</p> <p>"It would be a positive step to match the government's position with a performance commitment or ODI around delivering a net gain in biodiversity."</p> <p>"You could join up with Catchment First to create new areas of habitat near where people live."</p>

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“I welcome the efforts on partnership working – it’s about one voice coming together.”

2	Explore initiatives to transform how our business operates – focus on resource hubs
3.1	<p>Following a presentation on our plans to transform our wastewater treatment works into resource hubs, the panel was asked the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How could resource hubs help deliver your organisation’s objectives?- Can you identify any opportunities for partnership working?- Do you support our plans? <p>The following feedback and suggestions were noted:</p> <p>“You should also think of fuel cells as some of them work with biogas and have clean water as the an output. I can see a lot of synergies on wastewater sites for fuel cells.”</p> <p>“It seems like a smart use of your facilities. I’m not sure how we would work with it but we are supportive of your efforts to work with your communities and everything you are doing to make your business more sustainable – it’s the right thing to do.”</p> <p>“This relates back to partnership working – using the community approach to get the message over about what you are doing. It’s a really powerful tool.”</p> <p>“Are there any other utilities which are doing this already? Can we learn from them?”</p> <p>“As a member of the community, I agree. Waste recycling sites used to be nasty, smelly, dirty places but I love going there now. I live up the road from Portswood Wastewater Treatment Works – Southern Water are the smelly people down the road behind the big fences. If there are community give-backs like your community grants, that’s great but you need to explore other ways of connecting the community with what’s behind the fence because there’s then the platform to get messages across.”</p>
3	Review our plans to reduce plastics in the environment
4.1	<p>A short presentation detailed our plans to reduce plastics in the environment and our recently-published plastics policy. Panel members were asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How can we work with you to encourage customers to reduce, re-use and recycle plastics?- Would your organisation be willing to support our campaigns and approach? <p>Panel members commented:</p> <p>“Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are keen to join up and support, especially through catchment partnerships to focus on rivers and transitional coastal waters. The Trust can help bring messages to life.”</p> <p>“I am supportive of the policy. We need a joined-up approach. Central government needs to influence manufacturers to change the materials they use.”</p>

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“Transition community groups and volunteer network can use the campaign materials.”

“This co-ordinated approach is welcome. Can Southern Water help bring groups together?”

“There are a high proportion of foreign students at Southampton University who drink bottled water thinking the tap water isn’t safe to drink. Information for them would help reduce the consumption of bottled water.”

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4	Update on our approach for planning for growth in the region
	<p>Our plans for accommodating growth in the region prompted a discussion in which the following points were made by panel members:</p> <p>“Working with developers and district councils is great but we need to think about infrastructure for the whole of the South East, not just Hampshire.”</p> <p>“Is there an example of a levy on developers for protection of water sources in sensitive areas?”</p> <p>4.1 “In Dorset, in Poole Harbour, there’s a plan for nitrogen-neutral development. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire is looking at how it can go down the same route for the Solent where there’s too much nitrate in the water column.”</p> <p>“Why can’t there be a net gain? Why can’t big companies put back water cleaner?”</p> <p>“Water efficiency in new developments has got to be done at a policy level. We are doing it for biodiversity net gain – why can’t we do it for water efficiency as well? The Wildlife Trust could do this for water companies.”</p>
6	Review of our Water Resources Management Plan and Drought Plan for Hampshire
	<p>An overview of the Water Resources Management Plan and Drought Plan, with particular focus on schemes in Hampshire, prompted the following feedback from panel members:</p> <p>“I was a little bit surprised about the 50-year timeline – it’s very long. It’s good that you review it every five years and I’m sure that there’s an intermediate target with that.”</p> <p>“From Natural England’s perspective, we do appreciate the 50-year look ahead, it shows foresight. We’ve read your documents and think you have shown your working – it’s the right call.”</p> <p>6.1 “We fully support the long-term horizon.”</p> <p>“More collaborative working has got to be the way forward – how can we best use resources to make decisions in the round.”</p> <p>“I think it’s really good that you are looking at lots of ways of managing water and working with other companies. We have some concerns about desalination plants and the environmental impact of them and I’m not sure wider society understands these impacts like they do abstractions from rivers and our coastlines are designated as much as our rivers are.”</p>
7	<p>After the meeting formally concluded, Fay Couceiro gave a presentation on the range of studies and investigations under way at the University of Portsmouth’s innovation hub, followed by a tour of the labs.</p>
	<p>The date of the next meeting has not yet been arranged.</p>

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