### HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### **Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
Date:	17 June 2021
Title:	Chichester and Langstone Harbours - Natural Capital Plan
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

**Contact name:** Simon Cramp

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### 1. The decision:

1.1 That the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability approves Hampshire County Council's support for a collaborative approach with Southern Water and other partners to develop a natural capital plan for Chichester and Langstone Harbours which will contribute to the County Council's climate change objectives.

### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council has long recognised that it has an important role in the planning and management of the Solent, helping to conserve its unique qualities, and meeting the challenges and pressures. In addition to climate change, rising sea levels and increased storminess, the coastal area also faces declining water quality in some areas, erosion of foreshores leaving cliffs and coastal defences increasingly exposed, 'coastal squeeze' as sealevels rise, increased pressure from recreational activities, commercial fisheries, and aggregate extraction.
- 2.2. The County Council appoints four of its elected Members to the Chichester Harbour Conservancy and, under the terms of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act, is required to pay 50% (the balance is payable by West Sussex County Council) of an annual precept. In 2020/21 that amounted to £201,000. The County Council also appoints one Member to the Langstone Harbour Board which is the statutory harbour authority for that area.
- 2.3. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, Hampshire County Council appoints two elected Members to the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (SRFCC) and pays an annual levy. In 2020/21, the levy to the SRFCC was £277,000. Among the SRFCC's key purposes is to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines.

2.4. Hampshire County Council's involvement in this initiative contributes to the Strategic Plan priorities, the Climate Change Strategy actions, and supports the recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry.

# 3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Non-participation in this initiative was considered, however, this was rejected because of Hampshire County Council's direct interest in the matters to be explored and the value of developing a collaborative approach that could potentially be applied to the benefit of other coastal areas.

## 4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None
- 5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.
- 6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.
- 7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
	17 June 2021
Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability Councillor Jan Warwick	