

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 JANUARY 2026**

PC 504/26

UPDATE TO REVISED BIRD AWARE SOLENT STRATEGY

Report by: Jade Bowes, Policy Officer

Summary:

1. The New Forest National Park Authority is a member of the Bird Aware Solent Partnership and on [17 October 2024 at the full Authority meeting](#) the Authority agreed the adoption of the Revised Bird Aware Strategy, as previously endorsed by the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) on 30 September 2024.
2. There was an inadvertent administrative error which led to a minor inaccuracy in the wording of one of the recommendations of this paper across the South Hampshire authorities and this has now been addressed by the PfSH Joint Committee. This matter now needs to be considered by each of the local authorities covered by the Bird Aware Solent recreation mitigation strategy – hence this Planning Committee report.
3. This paper also seeks to allow a level of delegated authority to the governance body of Bird Aware Solent (currently PfSH, but this may change once the Mayoral Combined County Authority is established or when a Mayor is elected in 2028) to oversee any additional minor changes to the Bird Aware Strategy which are in accordance with the overall aims and objectives of the Bird Aware Partnership going forward.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Planning Committee:

- i) **PERMITS Appendix B of the [revised strategy](#) ('Further information relating to developer contribution levels') to be updated over time, as required by emerging guidance, caselaw and local circumstances, through delegated powers.**
- ii) **To support the efficient and timely implementation of the Bird Aware Strategy, it is recommended Planning Committee AGREES that authority be delegated to the Governance board for Bird Aware Solent to approve minor amendments to the Bird Aware Strategy. This delegation would apply to amendments that cover all or any of the following:**
 - a. **Are operational or technical in nature;**
 - b. **Do not materially alter the strategic direction or objectives of the Bird Aware Strategy;**
 - c. **Have been subject to appropriate consultation with relevant PfSH officers and Bird Aware partners; and**
 - d. **Are consistent with existing policy frameworks and funding arrangements.**

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The New Forest National Park Authority is an active member of the Bird Aware Partnership, with representation on the Steering Group. Governance of the Bird Aware Partnership is provided by the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Joint Committee, which the National Park Authority is also a represented on.

1.2 All Bird Aware local authority partners who are not members of PfSH (e.g. Chichester District Council) are invited to participate in PfSH meetings when matters related to Bird Aware Solent are discussed.

1.3 At its meeting on 29 September 2024, the PfSH Joint Committee considered a report submitted by the Bird Aware Solent Partnership Manager, which related to the '[Bird Aware Partnership Revised Strategy](#)' and recommended that members:

*PERMITS Appendix B **financial model** of the revised [Bird Aware Solent] strategy to be updated over time, as required by emerging guidance, caselaw and local circumstances - through delegated authority to the PfSH lead chief executive in consultation with the Chair of Joint Committee with any significant changes to be reported to the Joint Committee.*

1.4 However, at some point the original and correct version of the recommendation (as considered by PfSH chief executives ahead of the 30 September 2024 Joint Committee meeting) was inadvertently amended from the correct request which was as follows:

*PERMITS Appendix B of the **Revised Strategy** to be updated over time, as required by emerging guidance, caselaw and local circumstances - through delegated authority to the PfSH Lead Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Joint Committee with any significant changes will be reported to the Joint Committee.*

1.5 Although the wording is very similar the resolution is fundamentally different. What Joint Committee agreed to in September 2024 - and then was subsequently agreed by this Authority in October 2024 - was for amendment of the financial model (which was also approved within a separate point that it considered within the same report) - but what has been omitted from official record and minutes is agreement to Bird Aware Solent's ability to amend the text within Appendix B of the [Revised Strategy](#). This is the part which lists the different charging advice for more unusual types of dwellings (hotels, Houses in Multiple Occupations (HMOs), caravans etc). It is only now, with Bird Aware Solent proposing a change to the way HMOs are charged, that this error in the original PfSH report and the subsequent Authority report has been identified.

1.6 The matter has been investigated. It would appear that at some point between the report being considered presented to PfSH chief executives in early September 2024, and publication on the PfSH website for the Joint Committee meeting, an inadvertent formatting error took place. This error was then carried forward into later reports considered by individual local planning authorities relying on these recommendations.

1.7 At their meeting on 9 December 2025, PfSH Joint Committee approved the original recommendation and the New Forest National Park Authority's Planning Committee is now being asked to do likewise.

2. LOOKING FORWARD

2.1 In order for further minor amendments to the Bird Aware Strategy to be made in an efficient, and timely manner, we are now asking for the granting of delegated authority to the Bird Aware Governance body (currently the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee, but this may change once the Mayoral Combined County Authority is established or when a Mayor is elected in 2028) to approve changes that do not warrant formal consultation by each Partner organisation.

2.2 This would apply only to amendments which are operational or technical in nature, do not strategically alter the objectives or direction of the Partnership, have been consulted on appropriately with PfSH officers and are consistent with existing policy and funding arrangements. All partners who are not members of PfSH are routinely invited to participate in PfSH meetings when matters related to Bird Aware Solent are discussed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning Committee:

- i) **PERMITS Appendix B of the [revised strategy](#) ('Further information relating to developer contribution levels') to be updated over time, as required by emerging guidance, caselaw and local circumstances, through delegated powers.**
- ii) **To support the efficient and timely implementation of the Bird Aware Strategy, it is recommended Planning Committee AGREES that authority be delegated to the Governance board for Bird Aware Solent to approve minor amendments to the Bird Aware Strategy. This delegation would apply to amendments that cover all or any of the following:**
 - a. **Are operational or technical in nature;**
 - b. **Do not materially alter the strategic direction or objectives of the Bird Aware Strategy;**
 - c. **Have been subject to appropriate consultation with relevant PfSH officers and Bird Aware partners; and**
 - d. **Are consistent with existing policy frameworks and funding arrangements.**

Contact: Jade Bowes, Policy Officer
jade.bowes@newforestnpa.gov.uk, 01590 646658

Papers: Appendix A – [Bird Aware Solent Revised Strategy \(September 2024\)](#) – **available online only**

Previous papers: [NFNPA 696/24 – Bird Aware Solent Partnership Revised Strategy Report](#)
[Appendix 1 – Bird Aware Solent Revised Strategy](#)
[Appendix 2 – Bird Aware Solent Financial Model](#)

Equality Impact Assessment: The proposals are not considered to give rise to any impacts on people who share a protected characteristic. The revised Bird Aware Solent Mitigation Strategy plays a role in protecting the integrity of the Solent's designated sites. This report is seeking to correct an administrative error regarding Bird Aware Solent and does not have equality or diversity implications.

Resources: N/A