

REPORT TO:	Planning Policy Committee 28 November 2023
SUBJECT:	Update to Pagham Access Management and Monitoring Scheme
LEAD OFFICER:	Kevin Owen (Planning Policy & Conservation Manager)
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Martin Lury (Chair of Planning Policy Committee)
WARDS:	Aldwick, Bersted, Bognor, Pagham
<p>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: The recommendations support:-</p> <p>Supporting our environment to support us:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider climate change, sustainability, biodiversity and the environment in everything the council is responsible for and encourage its community and local businesses to do the same. • Protect and enhance our natural environment. • Regularly review progress toward Arun's Carbon Neutral Strategy (2022-30) as set out in the annual Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan. 	
<p>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: The proposals will help to enhance the quality of the natural and built environment, protect the district's natural and heritage assets and to promote economic growth in a sustainable manner, striking a balance between the need for development and the protection of scarce resources. Some of the relevant corporate actions to help achieve this include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement the Carbon Neutral Strategy and Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategies for the council and for the wider district through Planning Policy • Engage and incentivise businesses to commit to working practices which minimise their impact on the environment; • Ensure that climate change and sustainability is at the heart of all council services. 	
<p>FINANCIAL SUMMARY: The proposed update to the contributions required is based on the original Pagham Access Management and Monitoring scheme cost calculation methodology (which includes indexation) and will therefore, maintain the budget for delivery of the scheme in the long term.</p>	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the S.106 contribution for the costs of the 'Pagham (Harbour) Access Management and Monitoring Scheme'. The scheme aims to mitigate disturbance on habitat and wildlife from new development affecting Pagham Harbour. The S.106 contribution needs to be updated in line with the methodology for calculating the scheme costs.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Planning Policy Committee resolve to agree:

- i. The updated contribution of £938 for the Pagham Access Management and Monitoring Scheme commencing 29 November 2023 for new applications validated on and after this date;
- ii. The contribution be increased annually applying 1 April each financial year up to 2031 in accordance with the methodology set out in Appendix 1.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 The Pagham Access Management and Monitoring Scheme was set up in 2015 to regulate the impact of visitor numbers on Pagham Harbour arising from population household growth set out in the Adopted Arun Local Plan (2018). The scheme is supported by S.106 contributions which have not been updated for inflation. The S.106 contribution, therefore, needs periodic updating to ensure that scheme costs are being recouped.

4. DETAIL

4.1 The scheme was implemented in 2015 during the formulation of the Arun Local Plan to address the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Local Plan which concluded that proposed growth, taken in-combination with that of the Chichester Local Plan, was likely to result in impacts to Pagham Harbour from recreational disturbance.

4.2 The HRA identified the median distance within which visitors to the site travel, determining this to be 5km and so this distance is included in Buffer Zone B Policy ENV DM2 of the Local Plan. The Pagham Access Management and Monitoring Scheme operates within this buffer zone to implement this policy.

4.3 Since its start in 2015, for Arun, the scheme has collected £725,932 (up to 2022/23) and contributed towards the administration of the scheme, employment of rangers and publishing visitor guidance material. Further details of what actions have been delivered over the last reporting year can be found in Background Paper 2. Chichester District Council also contribute towards the scheme for the buffer zones impacted by recreational disturbance, falling within Chichester District.

4.4 The scheme contribution in 2017 (Background Paper 1) was set at £871. Indexation would increase this figure to £938 in 2023 and each future year figure is calculated up to 2031 (See Appendix 1). The components of the cost calculation made allowing for indexation include:-

- Initial cost of £55,000 based on 1.5 FTE wardens (RSPB), plus increasing of the budget for buying in dog initiatives work and monitoring from the (as per Bird Aware SRMP – i.e. Solent Recreation Mitigation Plan).

- 4.5 The methodology updates the scheme contribution each year on 1 April to reflect the applied/included indexation value going forward to ensure that the scheme cost is covered by future contributions (Appendix 1).

Conclusions

- 4.6 An updated contribution of £938 for the Pagham Access Management and Monitoring Scheme be secured for all applications validated on or after the 29 November 2023 for the remaining 23/24 financial year and updated annually applying on 1 April for each subsequent financial year, to maintain the budget for delivery of the scheme in the long term.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There have been no external consultations on this report as the contribution is based on a factual methodology previously agreed.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The option is not to update the contribution to allow for accumulated indexation since 2017 with the risk that this will increase the financial burden on the council of operating the scheme.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 7.1 The content of this report is simply taking account of the indexation built into the cost of scheme delivery and as such shall maintain the budget for the long-term delivery of the scheme.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. Implementing the recommendation will minimise the risk to Pagham Harbour habitats or species arising from increased recreational disturbance as a result of planned growth.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

- 9.1 The Pagham Harbour Access Management Contribution is secured through a Unilateral Undertaking given by the Developer to the council. Payment of the contribution is intended to mitigate the impact of the development and make it acceptable in planning terms in accordance with the Regulation 122 test.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 10.1 There are no human resource implications from this report, as the wardens are employed by RSPB as site managers. To date, there is agreement that no additional resource is needed beyond the 1.5FTE wardens originally agreed.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

- 11.1. No Health and Safety impacts have been identified in relation to the recommendations of this report.

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

- 12.1 There are no direct impacts resulting from this report on any Property & Estate Assets.

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

- 13.1 No adverse impacts on equality would result from this proposal. Improvements both to the physical and natural environment of Pagham Harbour are anticipated to improve health and wellbeing through ease of access to nature.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

- 14.1 The recommendation of this report will be positive as it maintains the protection of Pagham Harbour from visitor disturbance resulting from the planned growth, benefitting the habitat and protected species for which it is designated. The site also has public transport access and limited parking space, contributing to lowering emissions as a result.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 15.1. There will be no direct impact on crime and disorder arising from this report although it is anticipated that through regulation of visitor impacts and disturbance, crime and antisocial behaviour may be reduced.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

- 16.1 No human rights would be impacted by this proposal.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 17.1 There are no data protection or freedom of information resulting from the content of this report.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background Paper 1 – Cabinet Report dated 13 March 2017

<https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjm4n10536.pdf&ver=10466>

Background Paper 2 – Infrastructure Funding Statement Appendix 2

[Pagham Harbour and Medmerry Recreation Mitigation Strategy - community conservation ranger report \(arun.gov.uk\)](#)

