

Councillor E Cartwright
Chairman
South East England Regional Housing Board
Berkeley House
Cross Lanes
Guildford
GU1 1UN

12 October 2007

Dear Councillor Cartwright

**Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
Bids for South East England Regional Housing Board Funding
for Private Sector Housing Renewal**

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) is submitting two linked bids for private sector renewal funding for 2008-11.

The combined value of the bids, £21.374m, will improve 2,610 homes across the sub-region, using PUSH's well-established partnership arrangements to deliver an effective and efficient three year programme.

PUSH's sub-regional housing strategy was approved by the Leaders and Chief Executives of PUSH authorities on 26 September 2007. One of its four key priorities is a commitment to improve the condition and management of existing housing stock and to make better use of it. The objectives of the proposed programme are fully consistent with PUSH's business plan, which integrates housing, planning and sustainability, to promote carefully managed economic growth.

At an early stage in developing a bid, authorities agreed to work as two PUSH sub-groups, in order to maximise the benefit of previous Regional Housing Board funding; to ensure that Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils can both act fully as sub-regional beacons of effective practice; to provide flexibility to meet contrasting local needs; and to ensure the programme is practical, achievable and innovative.

The first sub-group consists of four authorities that are members of the Southern Home Loans Partnership (SHLP): Portsmouth (lead partner), Eastleigh, Gosport and Chichester (which is strategically linked to the SHLP, although it is outside of the PUSH sub-region).

The second sub-group consists of the seven authorities that are not members of the SHLP: Southampton (lead partner), East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester.

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The programme has been designed to meet the following objectives:

1. To increase the proportion of vulnerable people living in decent private sector homes
2. To reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty
3. To develop and administer a range of financial assistance for home improvements that is targeted at vulnerable people and is affordable, fair, easy to understand and widely acceptable
4. To develop a sustainable programme, by leveraging in public and private resources, and by recycling capital by awarding repayable grants and loans
5. To build on our existing sub-regional strategic partnership, to share expertise and deliver a collaborative, efficient, innovative programme

In addition to the monitoring and evaluation arrangements detailed in each bid, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils will meet as the lead partners of each sub-group at least quarterly, to review progress and to share experiences, learning and effective practice. Progress will be reported to the PUSH housing theme group and to the Regional Housing Board.

The programme will help ensure that vulnerable private sector residents throughout the sub-region have access to assistance that can significantly improve their living conditions and opportunities.

As the lead partners for each sub-group, officers from Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils would be happy to meet you to present the bids and to clarify any aspect of the programme.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Seán Woodward
Chairman, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire