

Flood Risk Issues in South Hampshire

Notes of a meeting at Havant Civic Offices on Friday 14 November 2008

Those present

Stuart Jarvis	PUSH
Frank Campbell	Havant Borough Council / PUSH
Stuart Roberts	Hampshire County Council / PUSH
James Humphrys	Environment Agency
Jim Barker	Environment Agency
Howard Ewing	GOSE
Cathy Evans	GOSE
David Payne	SEERA
John Slater	Portsmouth CC
Mike Allgrove	Portsmouth CC
Bill Clark	Southampton CC

Introduction

The meeting was held to discuss the SE Plan MODS consultation response submitted by the EA which raised concerns about the scale of flood risk and the associated implications of the proposed spatial distribution for South Hampshire. This followed the exchange of draft statements on these issues between PUSH and the EA in October, prior to the SE Plan MODS consultation deadline.

The broad distribution proposed by PUSH, including the development within flood risk areas in the two cities, has been assessed at the sub-regional level using the sequential test. The EA objection to the housing distribution has been made on the basis that more detailed evidence, including application of the exceptions test, will be needed in due course. The agreement of all partners to undertake further work identified below will add significant clarity to the situation and there is a real likelihood that this could result in the EA withdrawing its objection. The EA reserves its final judgement on the figures for each Borough / District / City until further appraisal at a more detailed level has been satisfactorily completed.

The meeting considered the position from all points of view and reached the following conclusions.

Key Conclusions

1. A more detailed appraisal (in the form of a level 2 SFRA) will be carried out at an individual authority level as part of the Local Development Framework for each authority and will incorporate the information that will be produced in Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments which will define development allocations more accurately. This work will be carried out as soon as possible on a consistent basis across PUSH authorities in order to inform LDFs and will be supported by the EA and PUSH as appropriate.

2. A draft flood risk framework (formerly known as a protocol) has initially been prepared by Portsmouth and the EA to guide development design / implementation and flood defence solutions for the City as a means of dealing with windfall sites in defined regeneration areas until such time as the LDFs are in place. This will now be progressed in the context of the PUSH Multi Area Agreement, and taken forward as a matter of urgency on a PUSH wide basis as a means of managing these issues effectively between EA and the PUSH Authorities. The framework will describe more than an interpretation of PPS25 and provide a roadmap to be followed for successful and safe development in South Hampshire.
3. PUSH will retain an overview of this work at the more detailed level and if following the process outlined in 1 and 2 above it proves impossible to meet the current proposed distribution of housing in each authority, the resolution of this will be dealt with under the formal review processes of the South East Plan. In this respect future revisions of the South East Plan will be informed by the outcomes of the level 2 SFRA and other local work.
4. In dealing with the implications of development in areas at risk of flooding and particularly when trying to resolve problems of mitigation arising from improved flood defences, PUSH will ensure that it works collaboratively on a cross local authority boundary basis to identify appropriate solutions on a sub regional basis.
5. PUSH Authorities, supported by GOSE (as appropriate) will collaborate to align the timing and outcomes of their LDF work as far as possible to anticipate and deal effectively with the cross local authority boundary issues identified in 4 above.

18 November 2008