



# **Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee**

Date: **2 February 2016**

Report of: **Gloria Ighodaro, PUSH Executive Director**

Subject: **PUSH Executive Director's Report**

## **SUMMARY**

The Executive Director's report provides an opportunity for issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report in their own right, to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:

1. **NOTES** the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

## **PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION**

There are no items for decision to report.

## **PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Spatial Strategy Review Update**

1. The PUSH Spatial Strategy will set out the overall need for development in South Hampshire to 2036, and propose a broad strategy to distribute that development to Councils, taking account of all relevant strategic planning factors. In 2014 GL Hearn were appointed to lead on this work, and with the PUSH Planning Officers and other key agencies have made substantial progress in evidence gathering and discussing the potential distribution of development.
2. By November 2015 the indications were that a distribution could be proposed to meet a high proportion of the objectively assessed need for new homes to 2036. However, whilst there was broad acceptance that the identification of projected need had been done in an objective manner and in accordance with the Government's prescribed approach, some important aspects of the distribution were still under discussion. Therefore it was agreed at the PUSH Joint Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> December to postpone public consultation on the draft Spatial Strategy to enable more work to be undertaken. The main focus of this work being to objectively assess all housing land supply options with the aim of closing or minimising the remaining gap between the objectively assessed need for new homes and its distribution across the area. In addition some further work on the rate of development and transport is to be undertaken.
3. Since November 2015, GL Hearn and the PUSH Planning Officers have agreed a common strategic approach to objectively assessing housing land supply, based on a two stage process. First, the Councils who have not yet met their own objectively assessed housing need will review their land supply options. This review has identified additional provision and has been examined by the PUSH Planning Officers and Chief Executives. Second, the Councils who have met their own objectively assessed housing need but are situated in a wider housing market area with unmet needs will re-examine their options (The National Planning Policy Framework and a number of Inspector's decisions from elsewhere indicate that to achieve a 'sound' Local Plan these Councils still need to work with neighbouring Councils to seek to meet overall objectively assessed housing need across the housing market area).The review is now in its second stage, with both sets of Councils reviewing their land supply positions. This will enable the overall position to be discussed by PUSH Planning Officers and Chief Executives, followed by a discussion with PUSH Leaders. The aim is for this to lead to the approval of a draft PUSH Spatial Strategy by the PUSH Joint Committee, at its meeting in June 2016, for public consultation in the summer of 2016.
4. A key priority of the review process is to ensure the area delivers on housing need within the context of sustainable economic growth. Therefore the approach adopted, as described above, is driven by PUSH's commitment to respond to and complement the growth and productivity ambitions identified in the Solent LEP's Strategic Economic Plan for the sub region. Environmental protection and creating liveable spaces, investment in skills, business support (in terms of start-ups and growth) and

infrastructure necessary unlock development; all remain vital material considerations and part of the evidence base shaping a Spatial Plan for the area. PUSH authorities will continue to work with key partners including the Solent LEP, Solent Transport, Government bodies and a wide range of interested parties towards agreeing a Plan that meets the needs of local residents and businesses across the Solent area.

## **Update on the Government's Devolution Agenda**

5. Central Government continues to engage with the 38 areas across the country that had submitted bids in September 2015 as the first step towards negotiating a devolution deal with Government. Since its submission, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIOW) proposition remains on Central Government's radar making the area a potential contender towards improving its growth potential. To date Government has concluded devolution deals predominantly with City Regions in the North of England including Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley, North East and West Yorkshire. Other areas that have secured a devolution deal with Government include Cornwall and the West Midlands. For more information on the specifics of these deals, please visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=devolution+deals>
6. The 15 local authorities, two local enterprise partnerships and two national park authorities continue to play a vital role in negotiating a HIOW devolution deal with Government. A recent event at Westminster provided an opportunity for MPs to hear more about the plans and speak to the partners involved. The Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's proposals focus around four key themes: boosting business and skills for work; accelerating housing delivery; investing in infrastructure; and transforming public services. Within these themes, projects will deliver on the government's productivity plan and rural productivity plan and ensure: more homes are built; more efficient local planning; further expansion of broadband; better mobile connectivity; improved transport connections; a more highly-skilled workforce with employers setting the skills agenda locally; higher employment and better wages. Partners remain committed to ensuring that the proposed asks / Offers result in a HIOW deal that secures better outcomes for local residents and businesses. Key areas for further work and negotiation with government include housing supply and delivery, infrastructure availability and funding, and requisite governance arrangements.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:

1. NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

### **Background Papers:**

- PUSH Spatial Strategy Review Update, Item 9; December 2015 Joint Committee
- PUSH Executive Director's report, Item 7; December 2015 Joint Committee

### **Enquiries:**

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