



Item 8

Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday 31 October 2017**

Report of: **Paddy May, PUSH Coordinator**

Subject: **PUSH Coordinator's Report**

SUMMARY

The Coordinator'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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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

1) Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership

The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership formed the 'Bird Aware Solent' branding last winter to create a more public facing identity to assist with public engagement initiatives. The inclusion of the word 'Solent' was a key decision in the design of the branding, as it focuses on the area the partnership works within. However, it is also possible to substitute the word 'Solent' for another geographical base. The Bird Aware branding has been well received locally and has attracted interest from several similar third party partnerships, all expressing an interest in it for their mitigation projects. These include Pagham Harbour, North Kent, Merseyside and Morecombe Bay.

Discussions with Natural England and the RSPB suggest that these and other third party mitigation schemes are looking to use a collective branding for their work, so that through increased geographical use, the reach of the brand will move from a regional awareness to national recognition. The benefits of this are seen as including a louder collective voice, more media exposure and economies of scale ensuring that mitigation measures are more effective. It is considered that if the Bird Aware brand is not made available, the other parties will seek an alternative collective message. This may mean in future that the Bird Aware branding sits in isolation from a national messaging campaign and is therefore less successful due to a lower profile.

The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership is keen to take the lead and share the Bird Aware branding to third parties who are willing to agree to a memorandum of understanding detailing terms and conditions. These will dictate the careful and appropriate use of it by partners, which will ensure that both the core values of the brand and the professionalism of its presentation are maintained at all times across all channels. It is also envisaged that these third parties will have to pay an annual sum to use the branding. This money will be allocated to fund any additional communications officer resources needed to deal with the third parties use of the brand. This means that we will stay fully resourced for our needs.

With these safeguards in place, the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership sought endorsement to allow the extension of the Bird Aware brand to third parties.

2) Local Housing Need Consultation

The Department for Communities and Local Government on 14th September 2017 published a consultation paper on a new approach to identifying Local Housing Need: *Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation proposals*. Consultation responses are required by 9th November 2017. Consultation on this new approach was referenced in the previous report to the Joint Committee on the Housing White Paper on 27th June 2017.

The consultation provides a number of proposals which are aiming to reform the planning system to increase the supply of new homes and the local authority capacity to manage growth.

Proposals include:

- a standard method for calculating local authorities' housing need
- how neighbourhood planning groups can have greater certainty on the level of housing need to plan for
- a statement of common ground to improve how local authorities work together to meet housing and other needs across boundaries
- making the use of viability assessments simpler, quicker and more transparent
- increased planning application fees in those areas where local planning authorities are delivering the homes their communities need

DCLG's proposed standard method consists of three components. The starting point is a demographic baseline, which is then modified to account for market signals (the price of homes). To ensure that the proposed housing need is as deliverable as possible, DCLG are also proposing a cap to limit any increase an authority may face when they review their plan. DCLG are suggesting that the projections of household growth (the annual average over a 10 year period) should be the demographic baseline for every local authority area using the most recent ONS projections. To take account of market signals DCLG are proposing that there should be an adjustment factor that takes account of affordability ratios (which compares the median house price in an area to the median earnings in an area). This means that in areas where houses are deemed "less" affordable the number of new homes needed will need to increase. DCLG are proposing a cap for any large increases. The paper makes clear that authorities can plan for more housing than the formula suggests.

The table below provides a breakdown of the housing need data in the PUSH area using this new approach. Further information and documents can be found on the [DCLG Website](#).

Please note the figures in the table have been obtained from the DCLG website and may not necessarily correlate with figures in PUSH documentation.

Local Authority	Indicative Assessment of Housing Need 2016-26	Current local housing need assessment based on most recent publically available document	Difference	Proportion of Local Authority land covered by Green Belt, National Parks, AONB* or sites of Special Scientific Interest (%)
East Hampshire	617	520-61	+ 76 (based on midpoint 541)	58
Eastleigh	715	630	+ 85	3
Fareham	531	420	+ 111	3
Gosport	238	335	- 97	4
Havant	463	450	+ 13	9
Isle of Wight	641	525	+ 116	50
New Forest	965	Not available	Not available	86
Portsmouth	835	740	+ 95	4
Southampton	942	1,115	- 173	2
Test Valley	569	450-590	+ 44 (based on midpoint 525)	14
Winchester	653	550	+ 1-3	41

NB: Based on dwellings per annum.

* Areas of Outstanding National Beauty

On behalf of the PUSH Planning Officer Group (POG) it was asked if POG should form a response, then consult the Joint Committee for their feedback and approval before submitting it to the DCLG.

3) Eastleigh Borough Council & Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace site

As part of the mitigation measures to support new houses, the Solent LEP agreed to fund the development of a number of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) sites. One of these was an Eastleigh scheme at Itchen Valley. Eastleigh have now decided not to pursue this scheme and so discussions will take place with the Solent LEP to see if we can agree an alternative replacement scheme.

4) Housing Infrastructure Fund Bids

PUSH was to ask at the Chief Executive Meeting on 15th September for responses regarding their Housing Infrastructure Fund bids. As the meeting was cancelled, these responses were asked for via email. So far we have received responses from:

Southampton: Will be developing two bids:

- **Marginal viability fund**: Townhill Park estate Regeneration programme. Planning permission secured for 670 homes, with community infrastructure (largely a village

green) required after 270 units. Bid for £3m to unlock delivery of the next 400 homes. Seeking 50% affordable homes.

- **Forward Funding:** Final details to be confirmed, but will include bid to relocate Red Funnel as part of the Royal Pier scheme, and as part of a broader programme to deliver a new urban city quarter – the CBD. There is planning permission. It will unlock 700 homes on the main site while building on existing public sector investment. Ask for this segment is in the region of £40m. Reviewing adding an ask for a further £25m to deliver early infrastructure for housing on the CBD. This would effectively be a new decked car park on existing surface parking, part of an overall plan to deliver 2,000 homes. Delivery in the funding streams timescales is a clear challenge.

Isle of Wight: not looking to submit any bids for the Housing Infrastructure fund although they will continue to look at this for future rounds.

Havant: no bids being made.

East Hampshire: no bids being made.

Hampshire: The report 'Strategic Transport Infrastructure and Capital Funding Opportunities' was agreed by HCC Cabinet. Cabinet agreed that they would write to the Secretary of State requesting that both Forward Funding Bids would be evaluated, not just Merrydown at Basingstoke (priority 1) but also the M27 scheme for Welbourne. ([Strategic Transport Infrastructure and Capital Funding Opportunities](#))

Test Valley: no bids being made

Portsmouth: Made a bid regarding City Centre Road. Bids for both the Marginal Viability fund and the Forward Funding scheme were taken forward.

Fareham: Made a bid regarding Junction 10 of the M27 through the Marginal Viability fund. If granted this will mean enough funding will have been collected overall.

5) Update from Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment

Dawn Baxendale has taken over as Lead Chief Executive for the panel.

A revised business plan for the panel will be discussed at the December Joint Committee. The business plan focuses on two streams of work:

- Creative Industry Development led by Creative Network South (CNS)
- Design in the Built Environment led by the Design Practitioner Group.

Creative Industry Development:

The Creative Network South (CNS) website is being redeveloped in anticipation of the launch of the new Solent Creative Industries Prospectus, which has been prepared in order to raise awareness of the contribution Creative and Digital Businesses make to the Solent Economy. CNS is also working with Mayflower 400 Digital Group and Artsworld to develop

proposals for an initiative to promote digital apprenticeship opportunities and with Southampton City Council to develop a Creative Industries specific business advice service.

Design in the Built Environment:

Eastleigh Borough Council has been commissioned to produce a series of design guidance bulletins, the first of which focuses on trees in housing developments.

Fundraising has begun for the 2018 Solent design awards. Nominations for the awards will open in summer 2018 and the presentations will take place November 2018.

6) Update from Energy and Green Economy

A detailed update for this area is attached as Appendix 1.

7) Update from Planning and Infrastructure

Air Quality Study

A number of PUSH authorities are currently working on the production of the Air Quality Study, led by David Hayward, Planning Policy Manager, Havant Borough Council. The study will assess baseline and future year traffic-related pollution on European ecology sites within and beyond the study area as a result of the proposed development and growth within the sub-region. The study will take into account strategic development locations and associated transport infrastructure, which may have implications for air quality. The final draft will be heard at a PUSH Planning Officer Group, scheduled in December.

Integrated Water Management Study (This item is on the agenda as a presentation)

Mark Barnett, principal consultant for Amec Foster Wheeler alongside David Bibby, Senior Planning Officer at Test Valley are currently at the final stages in producing the PUSH Integrated Water Management Study. This study aims to assess whether proposed housing growth to 2036 would have a significant impact on the water environment, particularly in the context of European nature conservation designations, as part of the evidence base for Local Plans. It considers the impacts on water resources, water quality, and for waste water treatment works and sewer network capacity. A final report is underway but has been delayed slightly by the addressing and resolving of questions asked by the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership

The SRMP's final Draft Definitive Strategy was broadcast for public consultation and the results are being collated and addressed. They will present to the next scheduled Joint Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

APPENDIX 1: Energy and Green Economy Update

Background Papers: [DCLG Consultation Proposals](#)

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact: Paddy May (PUSH Coordinator)
Tel. No. 023 9283 4020 E-mail: Paddy.may@portsmouthcc.gov.uk