



Minutes of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 29 July 2009
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor	Seán Woodward (Chairman)	Fareham BC
Councillor	Roy Perry (Vice-Chairman)	Hampshire CC
Councillor	Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chairman)	Portsmouth CC
Councillor	David Parkinson (deputising for Councillor Ferris Cowper)	East Hampshire DC
Councillor	David Airey (deputising for Councillor Keith House)	Eastleigh BC
Councillor	Peter Langdon (deputising for Councillor Mark Hook)	Gosport BC
Councillor	Tony Briggs	Havant BC
Councillor	Edward Heron	New Forest DC

Authority represented:

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham	Eastleigh BC
Peter Grimwood	Fareham BC
Ian Lycett	Gosport BC
Alison Quant	Hampshire CC
Sandy Hopkins	Havant BC
David Williams	Portsmouth CC
Brad Roynon	Southampton CC
Roger Tetstall	Test Valley BC
Steve Tilbury (deputising for Simon Eden)	Winchester CC
David Yates	New Forest DC

Authority represented:

Stuart Jarvis PUSH Managing Director

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Cathy Evans
Jay Hunt (deputising for Kathy Slack)

Body Represented:

GOSE
SEEDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ferris Cowper, East Hampshire District Council, Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council, Mark Hook, Gosport Borough Council, Cllr Alec Samuels, Southampton City Council Martin Hatley, Test Valley Borough Council and George Beckett, Winchester City Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from Daphne Gardner, East Hampshire District Council, Simon Eden, Winchester City Council, Kathy Slack, SEEDA, Caroline Williams, PUSH Business Group and David Edwards, HCA.

RESOLVED, that the relevant changes to the membership for this meeting be NOTED, as above.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee MEETINGS held on 19 May and 26 June 2009, be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-090519-m](#) and [pjc-090626-m](#), respectively).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) Future Jobs Fund Announcement.

The Chairman reminded members of a discussion at the last meeting, about a potential bid to the Government's Future Jobs Fund. He was pleased to announce that he had learned that the consortium bid submitted by PUSH, Hampshire and the IOW had been successful.

Funding of £5.85m had been secured to create 900 new jobs for long term unemployed young people living in the PUSH area. The majority of the new jobs (687) were within urban south Hampshire. A diverse range of new jobs, the majority of which were for environmental or community benefit, would begin to be available from October 2008 (advertised via Job Centre Plus (JCP) and last for at least 6 months. All jobs were for not less than 25 hours a week and must be paid at least the minimum wage. Support and supervision would be given to each new employee to ensure the opportunity was success, that training needs were fulfilled and that they were helped to find longer-term employment when the job comes to an end.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) was the accountable body and lead partner for the consortium bid. Officers from PUSH and HCC were currently having discussions on the contractual arrangements and

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financial processes that needed to be established to implement the proposal.

Angela Eagle, the Minister responsible at the Department of Work and Pensions had visited South Hampshire earlier in the day to announce the funding award, and the Chairman had attended the meeting on behalf of PUSH.

(b) PUSH Staffing Appointments

The Chairman advised that PUSH had now successfully completed its recruitment of the posts discussed at its meeting in March, and he invited members to join him in welcoming the new team. For those who were not able to attend the informal introduction session before the meeting, he introduced the new staff members as follows:-

Kishor Tailor	Economic Development Director	Starts in early August
Gloria Ighodaro	Programme and Information Manager	Starts on 1 October
Charles Freeman	Cultural Co-ordinator	in post
Selina Crocombe	SDA Project Feasibility Manager (Fareham SDA)	in post
Matthew James	SDA Project Feasibility Manager (N/NE Hedge End SDA)	in post
Jeff Channing	Programme Manager – Eastleigh Riverside	in Post
Tina Noble	PA to PUSH Managing Director (maternity Cover)	in Post

(c) HCA Single Conversation

The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting at lunchtime, at which the “Single Conversation pilot” with the HCA was initiated. The meeting was well attended with senior officers from all PUSH authorities present. This will clearly be an important process for PUSH, and it will be crucial for PUSH to actively engage with, and help to shape it to deliver its local priorities and objectives. The Chairman was sure PUSH would discuss this later as it is on the agenda for tonight's meeting as part of the Multi Area Agreement (MAA) report.

(d) Bus Rapid Transit Scheme (BRT)

The Chairman was pleased to advise that the BRT planning application had been approved earlier today by the County Council Regulation Committee, clearing the last major hurdle for delivery of this important transport scheme.

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(e) PUSH Managing Director

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Managing Director's secondment was coming to an early end. He was returning to Hampshire County Council but would still have some involvement with PUSH in his new role. The Chairman invited members to join him in thanking Mr Jarvis for all his hard work in taking the work of PUSH forward and wished him well for the future.

4. PRESENTATION BY OONA MUIRHEAD FROM SEEDA ON THE NEW ECO FOOTPRINT WEBSITE

The Committee received a presentation from Oona Muirhead on the new eco footprint website. The presentation covered the ambition and actions for change, the Leader's Board ambitions, the drivers for change, passing the Policy and regulatory tests and the costs to individuals/communities. The presentation also advised of the numbers of households in fuel poverty in England and the reasons for action. It set out the no-nonsense guide and gave examples of the analysis undertaken and the dashboard tool. The presentation also set out some examples of case studies and outlined the next steps in the process. The presentation ended with a request for a peer member and officer champion and suggested that the local authorities involved in PUSH should use the guide and give feedback to SEEDA so it could be improved.

RESOLVED, that the information set out in the presentation be NOTED.

Matters for Decision

5. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Treasurer, the Head of Finance from Hampshire County Council and the PUSH Managing Director, which summarised the current position on actual and committed expenditure against the agreed budgets, reports any variations from the forecast outturn, following approval of the final accounts for 2008/09 and forecasts activity, for the remainder of the financial year (copy of report [pjc-090729-r01-jpi-tni-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the revised capital and revenue budgets for 2009/10 be APPROVED;
2. the under spend in 2008/09 on the Eastleigh Riverside Programme Manager post be used within the Eastleigh Riverside project in 2009/10; and
3. the under spend in 2008/09 on the Spice Island Drainage project be transferred to the unallocated balance for 2009/10.

6. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which represented an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Joint Committee. The Managing Director's report provided an opportunity for issues, which were significant, but did not justify a full report in their own right, to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee for a decision or for information (copy of report [pjc-090729-r08-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Part A: MATTERS FOR A DECISION

(a) Push Office Accommodation:

The Chairman advised that the heads of terms were set out in a confidential annex to the report. If members wished to discuss the detail of the heads of terms, then that part of the meeting would have to be held in private, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that the Public and Press would need to be excluded from the meeting for that item, as the Committee would consider that it was not in the public interest to consider the matter in public, on the grounds that the discussion would involve the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. Subject to investigating the opportunity available at suggested alternative premises at Basepoint Business Centre in Gosport it was RESOLVED, that:-

1. the occupation of office premises at 54 High street, Fareham on the terms set out in the Confidential Annex to the report be APPROVED;
2. Fareham Borough Council be AUTHORISED to act on behalf of PUSH in negotiating and entering into the lease accordingly; and
3. authority be DELEGATED to the Managing Director to sign appropriate agreements with Fareham Borough Council relating to the occupation of the office premises at 54 High Street, Fareham and to make any other appropriate arrangements pursuant to the use of these premises as the PUSH office, in accordance with the proposals set out in the report and annex.

(b) South Hampshire Identity:

Members felt that this was an interesting and positive project, defining what South Hampshire was all about. During the debate, members concluded that South Hampshire needed a better sense of identity and the ability to clearly and consistently represent itself, not just locally, but regionally, nationally and internationally. A common understanding was required. However Members also felt that further thought was needed on the brief for the work, and that other options, including a more local approach through the PUSH Business Group, should be investigated and

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brought back to Members. Clear objectives were needed if the project was to be a success and value for money needed to be demonstrated.

RESOLVED, that more work be undertaken on the project brief and development of alternative options for taking the work forward, which should be evaluated and brought back to the Joint Committee before a final decision was taken on this project.

(c) Growth Fund Capital Grant Cut 2010/11:

The Managing Director circulated additional information at the meeting regarding the growth fund cuts and 'Kick-Start' housing programme announcements. Members felt that a robust response was required to the consultation and to the Secretary of State which should also be copied to the shadow spokespeople concerned.

RESOLVED, that authority be DELEGATED to the PUSH Managing Director to prepare and submit representations to the Secretary of State and the shadow spokespeople concerned, and a response to the consultation, when details are published, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

(d) Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Agreements:

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the Theme Lead Chief Executive for Economic Development and the PUSH Managing Director be AUTHORISED to sign the general confidentiality undertaking with DWP on behalf of PUSH; and
2. responsibility be DELEGATED to the Theme Lead Chief Executive for Economic Development to authorise relevant officers to sign DWP confidentiality agreements on behalf of PUSH, providing approval is given by their employing authorities.

Part B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) PUSH Staffing Appointments:

This matter had been discussed under item 3(b) above, Chairman's Announcements and it was RESOLVED, that the staffing appointments to the PUSH Core team be NOTED.

7. BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which presented the draft Action Plans for the PUSH Themes for approval by

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the Joint Committee to support the PUSH Business Plan 2009 (copy of report [pjc-090729-r09-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Managing Director advised that the Housing and Planning Theme Action Plan needed to be reviewed, and brought to the Joint Committee in September. In addition, the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Action Plan did not yet have full actions on the Community Infrastructure element incorporated. It was proposed that the outstanding elements of this Action Plan also be signed off in September.

Some members felt that the action plans did not incorporate much information about minority communities and migrant workers and no consideration appeared to have been given to their aspirations. Given that migrant workers contributed substantially to the economy of the area, this was a little concerning.

Members were advised that the actions plans were work in progress and members' comments would be taken on board. However, work was being carried out with minority groups and migrant workers at a local level.

With regard to reference to promoting Portsmouth Harbour and Solent as "the home of the Royal Navy", members advised that if training operations were indeed moved to Wales, as planned, this would undermine the Naval connection, impact seriously on both the personnel involved, and the wider community, and that a case should therefore be made by PUSH to resist the MOD's plans in this regard.

With regard to reference QPDP8, members suggested that the wording be changed to "development of a consistent approach to design within the built environment", as creating quality places through design applied to the whole area not just the urban parts.

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the Action Plans set out in the report be APPROVED, as a supplement to the 2009 PUSH Business Plan, to provide the basis for the Work Programme for 2009/10 for each Delivery Panel/Theme; and
2. the Housing and Planning Action Plan be reviewed in the light of the Government's recent Housing Funding announcements and reported to the Joint Committee in September, along with the outstanding elements of the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Action Plan.

8. SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY AND GROWTH - A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR PUSH

The Joint Committee received a presentation and report with recommendations, by the Economic Development Theme Lead, on a PUSH Skills Strategy for

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approval and adoption by the Joint Committee (copy of report [pjc-090729-r03-ama](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Joint Committee received a presentation from Anne-Marie Mountifield, Partnership Director for the Learning and Skills Council regarding the employability and skills strategy and action plan for PUSH. The presentation covered the vision, development of the strategy, to document layout, the skills challenges, the skills infrastructure and the next steps to implementing the strategy.

The Chairman asked if a Chairman had been appointed to the Employment and Skills Board. The Committee was advised that the Shadow Board was up and running but nominations were being sought from the business community.

Councillor Perry commented on the lack of information regarding migrant workers and the Partnership Director for the Learning and Skills Council undertook to make the data available to the Councillor.

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the Skills for Employability and Growth Strategy and action plan and the proposed strategic framework be APPROVED as a basis for identifying and implementing the actions required to deliver skills for employability and growth within the PUSH Business plan 2009-11 and the MAA targets; and
2. the requirement to review the strategy and action plan, in the light of the recession and changes in the wider economic context be AGREED.

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND PUSH EVIDENCE BASE

The Committee received a report and recommendations by the PUSH Managing Director, on the proposed approach to the refresh of the evidence base and economic strategy, as proposed in the PUSH Business Plan (copy of report [pjc-090729-r04-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the proposed approach to the review of the PUSH Economic Development Strategy and evidence base set out in the report be AGREED;
2. the Consultant's Study Brief set out at Appendix One and the Procurement proposal set out in the report (paragraph 6) be APPROVED as a basis for the engagement of Consultants;
3. the proposed partnership project with Centre for Cities, based on the proposal set out in Appendix Two of the Report be APPROVED; and

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4. authority be DELEGATED to the PUSH Managing Director to make the necessary contractual and other arrangements to implement the proposals set out in the report.

10. MULTI AREA AGREEMENT (MAA) REFRESH

The Committee received a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which updated members on progress with the MAA refresh, and recommended additional and/or revised outcomes for inclusion in the revised MAA as a basis for further negotiation with Whitehall (copy of report [pjc-090729-r05-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the proposed approach to the MAA Stocktake and Refresh be APPROVED as set out in the report;
2. the extension of the existing consultancy contract to support PUSH to complete the MAA refresh process be APPROVED, subject to matched funding being received from DCLG as a contribution to the costs of the contract extension; and
3. the revisions to the priority outcome areas set out in the report (Table One) be AGREED as the basis for negotiation of the MAA refresh.

11. PUSH RESPONSE TO DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 4: PLANNING FOR PROSPEROUS ECONOMIES

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Spatial Strategy and Research, Hampshire County Council, recommending a PUSH response to the Government consultation (copy of report [pjc-090729-r06-pda](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee was advised that the deadline for PUSH's response had been yesterday and that, given that no extension had been granted, the response had been submitted, pending the outcome of tonight's meeting.

RESOLVED, that the proposed PUSH response set out in the Appendix for submission to the Communities and Local Government department, be APPROVED.

12. PUSH SUSTAINABILITY POLICY FRAMEWORK - RESPONDING TO THE RECESSION

The Committee considered a report and recommendations by the Chief Executive, Havant Borough Council on a PUSH response to the Government consultation (copy of report [pjc-090729-r07-mta](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

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RESOLVED, that the approach set out in the report be ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED.

Matters for Information

13. THEME UPDATES

RESOLVED, that this item had been covered during the various items discussed throughout the meeting.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 8:17pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 15 September 2009 at 6:00pm**).*