



Minutes of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 7 May 2009
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

		Authority represented:
Councillors	Jill Baston (Chairman)	Southampton CC
	Roger Huxstep (Vice-Chairman)	Winchester CC
	Mrs Marjorie Harvey	East Hampshire DC
	David Goodall	Eastleigh BC
	Leslie Keeble	Fareham BC
	Keith Evans	Hampshire CC
	Paul Vickers	New Forest DC
	Mike Park	Portsmouth CC
	Ian Hibberd	Test Valley BC
	Also Present:-	
Councillor:-	Dorothy Denston	East Hampshire DC
	Peter Grimwood	Chief Executive, Fareham BC
	Brad Roynon	Chief executive, Southampton CC
	Stuart Jarvis	PUSH Managing Director
	Julian Lomas	Almond Strategic Consulting Ltd.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gwen Blackett (Havant Borough Council) and Royston Smith (Southampton City Council).

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 October 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pos-081023-m](#)).

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee was advised that the Managing Director had held further meetings with representatives of the Voluntary Services sector recently. Discussions were continuing with South Hampshire Voluntary Services to consider holding an event which aimed to provide greater awareness of PUSH operations to encourage and better direct contact with the voluntary sector. . The Managing Director explained that PUSH had a very positive relationship with the voluntary sector and this needed to be nurtured.

Matters for Information

4. PUSH MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee received a report from the PUSH Managing Director, which advised that since the last meeting, a number of significant developments had taken place within PUSH. The report set out a brief summary of these key developments, including a brief overview of progress in the second half of the year up to 31 March 2009 (attached - [pos-090507-r01-sja](#)).

New Governance Arrangements:

The Managing Director advised that new governance arrangement shad been agreed by the PUSH Joint Committee, which formalised the role of the PUSH Business Group and established the Employment and Skills Board, as originally proposed in the Multi Area Agreement (MAA). The Governance report also contained terms of reference for the new Delivery Panels and the ESB, and invited political appointments to these bodies. The Delivery Panels were now chaired by a Joint Committee Member, whilst the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) would be chaired by a private sector business leader. A diagram of the new PUSH structure and list of appointments made by the Joint Committee was set out in Appendix A to the report.

Responding to the Sub-National Review of Economic Development:

The PUSH Managing Director advised that the Government had published a consultation document, 'Prosperous Places: taking forward the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration' (now generally referred to as

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the SNR). Over 500 responses had been received, which the Government had considered, prior to publishing its proposals for taking forward the SNR. In addition, the Government had written two letters to the RDA, County and Unitary Authority Chief Executives explaining their emerging policy in this area and outlining a process for taking forward their “city region” approach in two areas on a pilot basis in 2009/10.

He also advised that the PUSH Joint Committee had considered these developments and the SNR response, and this would need to inform PUSH thinking and development in the medium term. In the interim, work on the MAA refresh was seen as the best immediate prospect for securing improved delivery arrangements for PUSH. The Joint Committee, therefore, had agreed that authority be given to explore the opportunities and options arising from the SNR in more detail, with a Leaders' briefing/seminar to be arranged to discuss the position further in due course, with a clear focus on developing arrangements which maximise effectiveness of delivery of the South Hampshire strategy and the PUSH objectives.

MAA Refresh:

The PUSH Managing Director advised that the PUSH Joint Committee had resolved to concentrate efforts on adding a limited number of new outcomes to the MAA, focusing on established priority areas rather than a wholesale re-negotiation of existing targets, or major expansion of the scope of the MAA. He also updated members on the financial situation with regard to the current economic climate and capital funding. He also advised that he had been encouraged by discussions on a proposed memorandum of understanding on the natural environment between PUSH, National England and the Environment Agency, which also considered flood defence and coastal management. It was hoped that this would develop into an MAA outcome in the MAA refresh in due course.

Local Development Framework (LDF) Protocol:

The PUSH Managing Director advised that the PUSH Joint Committee had agreed a way forward to respond to LDFs. It was important for PUSH to support the core strategies and therefore, to put in representations in support of the Local Planning Authorities.

Councillor Vickers advised that the New Forest District Council had its public examination coming up in June 2009 and asked if there was a good tie up between the New Forest Core Strategy and PUSH's objectives as set out in the RSS?

The PUSH Managing Director advised that there was and that PUSH would support the New Forest District Council Plan at the Public Examination.

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External Funding:

The PUSH Managing Director explained that funding was a huge challenge for PUSH, and explained some of the initiatives being overseen by the External Funding and Resources Delivery panel which aimed to address this.

Core Team Staffing and Structure:

The PUSH Managing Director explained that there had been some changes in the staffing of PUSH and that interviews were about to take place to replace The Economic Development Director who had recently left, and for appointments to new temporary posts promoting and co-ordinating technical work on the SDAs and the Eastleigh RiverSide Strategic Employment Zone.

PUSH Organisation Development:

The PUSH Managing Director advised that in order to support the continued development of the Partnership, further Joint Committee/Scrutiny Committee briefings were planned for 2009/10. Some of these were likely to be joint events with TfSH. Details were being finalised, but it was likely that the programme would include events around future PUSH development to support delivery, Communications and promotion of South Hampshire for Inward Investors, plus technical seminars on issues such as Sustainable Energy provision. These events were also seen as a valuable forum for discussion on items of interest to PUSH members at an early stage in the process of developing a PUSH response or position. He also advised members of the Energy Seminar, which was taking place on 26 June 2009. Details would follow soon.

It was AGREED, that the Managing Director's Report be NOTED.

5. PUSH BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW 2009

The Committee considered a report, by the PUSH Managing Director, which presented the PUSH Business Plan, as approved by the Joint Committee in March, for consideration by this Overview and Scrutiny Committee (attached - [pos-090507-r02-sja](#)).

It was AGREED, that the PUSH Business Plan for 2009 be NOTED.

6. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2009/10 - 2010/11

The Committee considered a joint report by the PUSH Managing Director and the Treasurer and the Head of Finance, which set out the PUSH Revenue Budget, including allocations to each Theme/Delivery Panel and the PUSH Capital Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11, which were approved by the Joint Committee at its March meeting (attached - [pos-090507-r03-sja-tne-jpi](#)).

It was AGREED, that the PUSH Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11 be NOTED.

7. EMERGING PUSH PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/09

The Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which provided a summary of PUSH's performance in 2008/09 against the previously agreed key strategic outcomes using an exception based approach as the basis for performance management. The report also proposed the Performance Framework for 2009/10, and suggests a new reporting cycle (attached - [pos-090507-r04-sja](#)).

Julian Lomas of Almond Strategic Consulting Limited advised that due to the lack of information available it would be more effective to regard the May/June report as an interim one with the main Performance Report being prepared for the autumn meeting of this Committee, when more data would be available. The report would then also assist with the drafting of the new business plan and help to set the business plan priorities.

It was AGREED, that the performance results for the 2008/09 period be NOTED and that the Joint Committee be advised that the Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed new reporting arrangements.

Matter for Decision

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting be held on 3 November 2009.

(The meeting started at 6:15pm and ended at 8:05pm).