



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 15 September 2009
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor	Seán Woodward (Chairman)
Councillor	Roy Perry (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor	Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor	David Parkinson (deputising for Councillor Ferris Cowper)
Councillor	Keith House
Councillor	Peter Langdon (deputising for Councillor Mark Hook)
Councillor	Tony Briggs
Councillor	Edward Heron
Councillor	Alec Samuels
Councillor	Martin Hatley
Councillor	George Beckett

Authority represented:

Fareham BC
Hampshire CC
Portsmouth CC
East Hampshire DC
Eastleigh BC
Gosport BC
Havant BC
New Forest DC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
David Yates
Kathy Wadsworth (deputising for David Williams)
Brad Roynon
Roger Tetstall
Simon Eden
Sandy Hopkins

Authority represented:

Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Gosport BC
New Forest DC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC
Havant BC

Stuart Jarvis

PUSH Managing Director

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Cathy Evans
Jay Hunt (Deputising for Kathy Slack)
Caroline Williams
David Edwards

Body Represented:

GOSE
SEEDA
PUSH Business Group
Homes & Communities Agency

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ferris Cowper, East Hampshire District Council and Mark Hook, Gosport Borough Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from Daphne Gardner, East Hampshire District Council, David Williams, Portsmouth City Council, Andrew Smith, Hampshire County Council and Kathy Slack, SEEDA.

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 meeting held on 29 July 2009, be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-090729-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) Request to Support Southern Water Submission to OFWAT and PUSH's Response to the Draft OFWAT Periodic Review of Prices

The Chairman advised that OFWAT carried out a regular, periodic review of prices in respect of proposed water company charges, having given consideration to the water companies' proposals, and the views of the Environment Agency and Natural England. The investment proposals of the water companies were submitted earlier this year and OFWAT issued a Draft Determination in July 2009. They were now in final discussions with companies, the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate. OFWAT would be publishing its Final Determination on 26 November 2009, which would set the plan for 2010 – 2015 (AMP5) and associated price limits.

PUSH was likely to respond to the overall proposals, which would need to be submitted before the next Joint Committee, and had been formulating its overall response through the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Panel. There were conflicting positions on key questions between the Water Companies and the environmental regulators, such as the Environment Agency. It was therefore important for PUSH to carefully consider its overall response.

The Chairman understood from Southern Water that in its draft determination of prices (PR09) for the period 2010-15, OFWAT had excluded two investment schemes planned within the PUSH area at Woolston (Southampton) and Eastney (Portsmouth). These two schemes

were considered to be important parts of the overall infrastructure provision required to support development and growth in South Hampshire. PUSH had consistently campaigned for the need to recognise infrastructure requirements and for the Government to invest in its infrastructure. In relation to this particular matter, the Woolston works were considered to be vital to the realisation of the major regeneration planned for the former Vosper Thornycroft site adjoining the works, whilst the Eastney works formed part of the measures proposed to address flooding concerns and improve sewer capacity in Portsmouth, without which, significant development could not proceed.

The Chairman requested the Committee's agreement for a letter to go from him, as Chairman of PUSH, expressing its support for the Southern Water representations on the Woolston and Eastney schemes. As the consultation period expired before the next Joint Committee meeting, the Chairman also requested the Committee's agreement that the overall PUSH response would be delegated to the Theme Lead Chief Executive for Sustainability and Community Infrastructure, in consultation with him, the Vice Chairmen of PUSH, and the Chairman of the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel. A draft copy of the letter was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) a letter be sent from the Chairman of PUSH expressing its support for the Southern Water representations on the Woolston and Eastney schemes; and
- (b) the overall PUSH response be delegated to the Theme Lead Chief Executive for Sustainability and Community Infrastructure, in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen of PUSH and the Chairman of the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel.

(b) PUSH Staffing Appointments

The Chairman was pleased to advise that PUSH had successfully recruited a new Personal Assistant team to support the Managing Director, the Economic Development Director and Programme Manager, when she started in October. Sara Magerm and Ally Anderson had both joined the team in the last week or so, and they would provide full time office cover at the PUSH office, once the move to 54 High Street was completed, in the next few weeks. Tina Noble, the current Personal Assistant to the Managing Director, on secondment from the County Council, was returning to Winchester with the outgoing Managing Director.

(c) Bus Rapid Transit Scheme (BRT)

The Chairman reminded members that at the last meeting he had mentioned that the Bus rapid Transport planning application had been approved by the County Council's Regulation Committee, and that work was therefore soon to commence on this important transport scheme. He

was disappointed to advise the Committee that an objector had lodged an application for a Judicial Review of the planning consent, and obtained an injunction to prevent any further work in the meantime. The Chairman was sure that members would join him in re-stating PUSH's support for this scheme and its support for the County Council's efforts to get back on site to deliver the project, using the time limited funding provided by the Government through the Community Infrastructure Fund.

David Edwards from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) undertook to investigate how the HCA could assist with the funding arrangements needed to support the County Council's delivery of this project, in the event of the potential delays arising from the legal challenge.

Matters for Information

4. DISTRICT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Committee received a verbal presentation and a report, which was circulated at the meeting, from the District Auditor on the PUSH final accounts for 2008/09. A revised Statement of Accounts was also circulated at the meeting.

The District Auditor concluded that this was a favourable report and the Partnership had achieved positive results.

Some members were unhappy about the lateness in receiving the report, and were interested in the improvement recommendations it contained.

The Managing Director explained that this was the first time the Partnership's accounts had been formally audited and therefore there had been no established process in place. He also noted that while good progress had been made, he understood members' concerns and the need for more positive measures for improvement. An improvement plan would be prepared to address members' concerns and would be reported to the next Joint Committee.

The Principal Accountant, Hampshire County Council, advised that Appendix 2 of the District Auditor's report set out a draft letter of representations, which, if the Committee agreed, would be signed by the Treasurer.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revised Statement of Accounts be approved; and
- (b) the letter of representations, as set out in Appendix 2 of the District Auditor's report, be approved and signed by the Treasurer.

5. PRESENTATION ON CLEANTECH AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES AS A POTENTIAL GROWTH SECTOR

The Committee received a presentation from Michael Dorgan, Managing Director of EDP Consulting Engineers and Charles Burt, Managing Director of

The Olive Consultancy, on a proposal prepared for the PUSH Business Engagement Group.

Mr Dorgan outlined the proposal to develop a hub to support a cluster of Environmental Technology Sector (ETS) enterprises to create sustainable economic and employment growth and reduce CO₂ emissions, energy use, resource use and waste. This would include responding to the market and be delivered by business and the public sector. He outlined who would be consulted, e.g. PUSH, SEEDA etc, and explained the drivers, such as climate change and the current economic recession. Mr Dorgan also advised that there would be a strong emphasis on corporate and social responsibility. He advised on the criteria for the proposed hub and the cluster's physical location, and referred to Eastleigh Riverside SEZ as an example. He drew members' attention to the TBR report for PUSH Business Growth Sector in South Hampshire dated 3 March 2008, as a basis for considering ETS. Mr Dorgan concluded by explaining that the PUSH Business Engagement Group believed in the proposal and he hoped that PUSH would become involved in the proposal to take it forward.

Caroline Williams of the PUSH Business Group supported the proposal and advised that action was now needed to make things happen and develop this sector of the economy. The Business Group felt that it should be taken forward as the Group's first project. The Chief Executive of Eastleigh Borough Council advised that Southampton University was also looking at this project as they had world class expertise and intelligence in this area. Further work was needed on how best to move the project forward, which should be brokered through the PUSH Business Group, the Economic Development Panel and SEEDA.

The Chairman enquired about funding for the project. Mr Burt advised that European funding may be available in the future, but work was needed first to develop the proposal to enable a successful application to be submitted for European funding, noting that there was strong European support for this type of project at present.

The Chairman summed up by advising that PUSH would like to pursue the project, subject to further advice from the Economic Development Panel.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

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-090915-r01-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Part A: Matters for Decision

(a) SEEDA Contract:

PUSH had now received an amendment to the contract from SEEDA relating to the delivery milestones in 2009/10. The terms and conditions of the contract signed in 2008 remained in force and unaltered. It was recommended that this amended agreement should be signed. Therefore the Joint Committee was asked to authorise Hampshire County Council to sign the amended schedule on behalf of PUSH.

RESOLVED that Hampshire County Council be AUTHORISED to sign the Amended Schedule to the contract with SEEDA on behalf of PUSH.

(b) Government Consultation Documents: 'Policy Statement on Regional Strategies and Guidance on the establishment of Leaders' Boards':

The Committee was advised that the Government was consulting on a draft Policy Statement on Regional Strategies and on draft Guidance on the establishment of Leaders' Boards. Comments were invited by 30 October 2009.

RESOLVED that the Managing Director be AUTHORISED, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, to submit a PUSH response to the consultations, based on the views set out in the report.

(c) Strengthening Local Democracy: Government Consultation:

The Committee was advised that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to all Local Authority Chief Executives on 22 July launching a consultation on 'local democratic renewal'. Whilst the consultation document covered a number of areas, and individual authorities were responding directly, it was proposed that PUSH should respond on the specific issue of sub-regional arrangements. The deadline for comments was 2 October, and therefore it was proposed that a draft response be prepared by the PUSH Managing Director, in consultation with PUSH Chief Executives, with the final response signed off by the PUSH Chairman and Vice Chairmen.

RESOLVED that the Managing Director be AUTHORISED, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, to submit a PUSH response to this consultation in respect of the sub-regional issues.

(d) UK City of Culture 2013:

The Committee was advised that in July 2009 the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) opened a bidding process for cities interested in becoming UK city of culture 2013. The definition of city was very flexible and collaborations of Local Authorities across urban areas, such as city regions or areas with a clear identity to visitors were encouraged. In 2002

Inverness and the Highlands made an application to be European City of Culture. Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council were working together to develop an initial bid for South Hampshire and would be seeking to engage PUSH Partner Authorities in this process.

RESOLVED that the initiative to make an initial bid and to support further development of the bid, in partnership with the two cities through the work of the Quality Place delivery panel be SUPPORTED.

Part B: Matters for Information

(a) PUSH Website

The Committee was advised that work was now nearing completion on the new PUSH website, and that the switch over to the new site was planned to take place in mid September. The new site would provide significant increased functionality, as well as improved layout and content and greater ease of navigation for users. The dates would be confirmed shortly, and members and partners would be notified of the details at that time.

RESOLVED that the above information be NOTED.

(b) External Funding: Leaders' and Chief Executives' Workshop:

Members were reminded that PUSH had run a series of occasional workshops for Leaders and Chief Executives in respect of emerging work areas, to raise awareness and encourage discussion and early engagement with emerging issues. Following on from a previous event on the initial thinking on external funding challenges, which led to the establishment of the External Funding Theme and Delivery Panel, it was proposed to organise a further event on external funding. This workshop would be an opportunity for sharing the background work done to date by the External Funding Theme, covering areas such as potential funding sources, options for innovative delivery arrangements and the importance of investment planning. The workshop was also intended to provide an initial forum for discussion of the implications of the recession and the public funding outlook on current PUSH investment priorities and thinking, and to look in more detail at deliverability and realism within current plans, which could, in turn, inform the work on the Business Plan refresh, and the proposed Investment Strategy for South Hampshire.

It was considered that there was a unique opportunity for PUSH to work up ideas around funding and delivery as a proposition to put to an incoming Government in 2010, and the proposed workshop was intended to raise awareness of key themes and options to be worked through for further consideration. The PUSH Managing Director reported that potential dates for the workshop had not yet been identified, but it would probably take place in early November.

RESOLVED that the information above be NOTED.

7. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

The Joint Committee considered a report by the 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, and forecasts activity for the remainder of the financial year (copy of report [pjc-090915-r02-jpi](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the current budgetary position compared with the approved budgets for 2009/10, be NOTED.

8. BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The Joint Committee received a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which presented the outstanding draft Action Plans for the Housing and Planning and the Community Infrastructure Themes for approval by the Joint Committee to support the PUSH Business Plan 2009 (copy of report [pjc-090915-r04-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that 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 remaining Delivery Panels/Themes.

MATTER FOR INFORMATION

9. THEME UPDATES

There were no updates presented at the meeting.

MATTER FOR DECISION

10. PUSH INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received a report by the PUSH Managing Director and the Chairman of the Programme Board, the Chief Executive from Southampton City Council, recommending interim management arrangements for PUSH during the recruitment of a new Managing Director (copy of report [pjc-090915-r03-bro](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee was advised that should it wish to discuss the confidential annex to the report, the public and press would need to be excluded from the meeting.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the recruitment of a new PUSH Managing Director, as proposed, be AUTHORISED and the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, together with the Chairman of the Programme Board be appointed, to form a Final Selection Panel to make the appointment;

2. the proposed interim management arrangements set out in the report be APPROVED, and the placing of a contract with Julian Lomas of Almondree Strategic Consulting, as a single tender award be AUTHORISED, on the basis of the submitted proposal set out in the Confidential Annex to the report;
3. the County Council be AUTHORISED to act on behalf of PUSH in the appointment of a new Managing Director, and the procurement of interim management arrangements; and
4. authority be DELEGATED to the Chairman of the PUSH Programme Board, to make all the necessary arrangements for the recruitment of a new PUSH Managing Director and to establish the approved interim PUSH management arrangements.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:25pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 24 November 2009 at 6:00pm**).*