



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 24 November 2009
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman)
Councillor Roy Perry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor David Parkinson
Councillor Keith House
Councillor Tony Briggs
Councillor Edward Heron
Councillor Alec Samuels
Councillor Martin Hatley

Authority represented:

Fareham BC
Hampshire CC

East Hampshire DC
Eastleigh BC
Havant BC
New Forest DC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC

Chief Executives:

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

Authority represented:

East Hampshire DC & Havant BC
Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Gosport BC
Portsmouth CC

Southampton CC

Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Julian Lomas

PUSH Interim Managing Director

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Cathy Evans
David Edwards

Body Represented:

GOSE
Homes & Communities Agency

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Hook, Gosport Borough Council, Gerald Vernon-Jackson Portsmouth City Council and George Beckett, Winchester City Council,

Apologies for absence were also received from Caroline Williams, Homes and Communities Agency, Andrew Smith, Hampshire County Council, Dave Yates, New Forest District Council and Jay Hunt, 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 15 September 2009, be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-090915-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made announcements about the following:-

- (a) he had written to FIFA in support of Portsmouth Football Club's bid to be a 2018 World Cup venue;
- (b) he had sent consultation responses to the Government on the Community Infrastructure Levy, and Strengthening Local Democracy and Policy Statement on Regional Strategies and Guidance on the establishment of Leaders' Boards;
- (c) he had sent a response to John Healy regarding the Growth Fund consultation and the proposal to cut £4.1m funding; and
- (d) A new PUSH Project Manager had been appointed. Anne-Marie Mountifield, currently the Partnership Director for the Learning and Skills Council would be joining the PUSH team in February 2010.

The Chairman also announced that he would be moving Item 10 up the agenda so that it could be considered after Item 6, the Interim Managing Director's report.

4. INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report, by the PUSH Interim Managing Director, which represented an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Joint Committee. The Interim Managing Director's report also provided 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 a decision or for information (copy of report [pjc-091124-r01-jlo](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

(a) Low Carbon Economic Area:

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the submission of an LCEA bid document by PUSH to Government in partnership with the Isle of Wight be APPROVED; and
- (b) work on the submission be DELEGATED to the Chief Executive lead for Economic Development and the PUSH Economic Development Director.

(e) Recruitment of new Managing Director:

This item had been addressed in minute 3(d) above.

(f) Portsmouth Naval Base

The Committee was advised that the Ministry of Defence had contacted Portsmouth City Council and Plymouth Council to request that they contribute to a study they wished to undertake to review the social and economic impacts on both cities in the case of any reductions to the scale of operations at the naval bases. They intended to commission Warwick University to undertake this work, using their economic forecasting model which is able to model "what if" scenarios.

The Committee was advised that any reductions in use of the naval base in Portsmouth would have significant consequences for the wider South Hampshire economy. Therefore PUSH had contributed £3,000 towards the costs of this work from the Economic Development Delivery Panel revenue budget allocations (matching Portsmouth City Council's contribution of £3,000). In making these contributions Portsmouth City Council and PUSH would gain some influence over the steering of the study and with Government departments.

(g) Refresh of South Hampshire evidence base and Economic Development Strategy

The Committee was advised that following agreement of the brief for this project by the Joint Committee meeting in July, a team of DTZ consulting and Oxford Economics (OE) had been appointed to undertake this work, alongside Centre for Cities (C4C) who would bring fresh and challenging thinking to this work.

The two projects would feed into, and off, each other and therefore a joint work programme had been developed (with particular attention paid to consultation arrangements) with joint steering arrangements. The conclusion of these projects would be the adoption of a new PUSH

Business Plan, most likely in early summer 2010.

To ensure members had good opportunities to be involved in this work, two members' and Chief Executives' workshops have been arranged; one for December 2009 and one for February 2010.

(h) Fareham Core Strategy

The Interim Managing Director explained that he had received a letter from the Chief Executive of Fareham Borough Council (FBC) regarding FBC's emerging proposals for the North of Fareham Strategic Development Area (SDA), seeking greater certainty on PUSH's likely representations in respect of the draft Core Strategy policies on the SDA. He intended to respond, proposing the establishment of a task and finish group of PUSH officers (drawn from the various delivery panels), to work with FBC officers, as appropriate, to develop recommendations to be proposed to the Joint Committee in due course. It was likely that this group would not be able to reach its recommendations in advance of the adoption, most likely in early summer 2010, of the new Economic Development Strategy and PUSH Business Plan referred to above.

(i) Core team staffing

The Interim Managing Director advised that since the last meeting in September, the following staffing changes had taken place within the PUSH team giving much needed capacity to ensure PUSH maintained and enhanced its reputation and, more importantly, its impact in the sub-region:-

- Stuart Jarvis had recently returned to the County Council as Environment Director and the recruitment of a new Managing Director was now underway. In the meantime, the Interim managing Director was working three days a week for PUSH. His PA was Sara Magern;
- Gloria Ighodaro had joined PUSH as the Programme and Information Manager. Ali Anderson was PA to both Gloria and Kishor Tailor (Economic Development Director); and
- Neil Tuck had left his post as Executive Assistant to join Southampton City Council in their sustainability and environment team.

(j) Consultation responses

This item had been addressed in minutes 3(b) and (c) above.

5. PUSH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The Joint Committee received a report, which advised that The Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for South Hampshire had been in preparation since

February 2009. The strategy was now in its final draft form and agreement was sought from the Joint Committee to undertaking a wide consultation exercise. This would involve partners who had taken part in a series of workshops to inform the development of the draft. In addition to the consultation, agreement was sought to begin discussions with delivery partners on the preparation of an implementation plan (copy of report [pjc-091124-r05-fca](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee also received a presentation from David Carman, Hampshire County Council, which defined what the green infrastructure was. The PPS12 defined it as "a network of multifunctional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities".

Mr Carman made it clear what the strategy was and was not intended to do. It provided a vision and a framework for the delivery of that over 20 years. It promoted connectivity and multifunctionality. It is intended to be adopted at a sub-regional level as SPD or DPD. PUSH had developed a sub-regional policy framework approach whereby each local authority addressed it in its own way in its own plans. This had a track record of success.

The strategy provided the framework for cross boundary working between local authorities and the different sectors involved in planning and delivery. It was supported by a model policy developed from the Inspector's version of the policy in the New Forest District Council core strategy.

It did not provide sub-regional targets or standards for Green Infrastructure. It was too diverse to create a standard. Each individual local authority determined its own standards and targets based on local constraints and opportunities. Evidence was not fully available on Habitat regulations, especially on disturbance but GI had a major role to play and this was recognised.

Mr Carman outlined the strategy, explained why the green infrastructure was needed, and where. He also outlined the multi functional benefits, the impact on the NHS and showed maps detailing the various elements of the strategy.

Mr Carman stressed that the strategy was a framework document, to be developed within each local authority in a way that coordinated across the sub-region as a whole. It set out some recommendations for the sorts of organisational structures that would support and enable delivery: (e.g. JAC, Trust or similar). He set out clearly the need for PUSH wide coordination, and suggested that it was no left to local authorities. A champion's role would be needed for resources.

The LDF was critical. The South East plan made it imperative that local authorities dealt with GI. He also outlined the role of partners and stressed that the strategy was not just for local authorities to consider. Many different sources of funding had been identified, from local grants to European, to commercial land management.

The implementation plan would follow. It would be drawn up with the other partners, to develop the detail of those projects that had been put forward. Mr Carman concluded by saying that the strategy was a dynamic document, to be updated as data rolled in.

The Chairman thanked Mr Carman for his presentation.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy be APPROVED and the consultation on it be AGREED with partners and other interested parties; and
- (b) the preparation of an implementation plan through preliminary meetings with key delivery partners, be COMMENCED.

6. MULTI AREA AGREEMENT STOCKTAKE AND REFRESH

The Committee received a report by the Interim managing Director, which presented to members the findings of the stocktake and updated members on progress and issues arising from discussion on the priority outcomes (copy of report [pjc-091124-r02-jlo](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee was advised that EU funding was available and that this would be worth pursuing. The Chairman suggested that the Chairman of the external Funding Delivery Panel should investigate this further.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the stocktake report and its key messages be RECEIVED and ACCEPTED; and
- (b) the progress update on discussions on the priority outcomes for inclusion in the refreshed MAA be NOTED.

7. PUSH PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which provided a summary of PUSH's performance for 2008/2009 against the previously agreed key strategic outcomes using an exception based approach as the basis for performance management (copy of report [pjc-091124-r03-jlo](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the latest performance information (for the 2008/2009 financial year) for the measures previously adopted by the Joint Committee be NOTED.

8. REVENUE AND CAPITAL 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 progress against the revenue and capital budgets, as set by the Joint Committee at the meeting in March 2009, and amended in July 2009. It highlights any areas of concern and indicated any actions proposed to ensure that is adhered to, and PUSH objectives achieved. The report also set out the proposed approach to setting the budget and programme for 2010/11 (copy of report [pjc-091124-r04-jlo-jpi](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the current 2009/10 revenue and capital budget position, together with the anticipated outturn for the year, be NOTED;
- (b) the delivery panels adopt a cautious approach to use of currently unallocated revenue funding and that underspends against the 2009/10 revenue programme will not be carried over to 2010/11 without explicit Joint Committee approval following presentation of a strong case for any proposed carry over;
- (c) underspends against the 2009/10 programme not be carried over to 2010/11 without explicit Joint Committee Approval following presentation of a strong case for any proposed carry over;
- (d) the 2009/10 allocations of £849,000 and £200,000 for the Eastleigh Riverside and Southampton Local Energy Network projects respectively, that are no longer needed, be added to the uncommitted capital balance to reduce the deficit, or for reallocation, in 2010/11;
- (e) an additional allocation in 2009/10 of £660,000 to the Southampton Estate Regeneration project, to be funded from under spending on other projects, be APPROVED in principle and the PUSH Interim Managing Director be AUTHORISED to release funds on receipt of a satisfactory project appraisal; and
- (f) the process for setting the budget and capital programme for 2010/11 set out at paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report, be APPROVED.

9. PUSH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Joint Committee received a report, which set out the proposed Improvement Plan to achieve these objectives, and attaches the final Annual Audit Letter issued by the District Auditor (copy of report [pjc-091124-r07-jlo-jpi](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Improvement Action Plan, attached as Appendix 1 be APPROVED; and
- (b) the Annual Audit Letter be NOTED.

10. PUSH FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS

The Committee received a report and recommendations on an updated set of PUSH financial protocols and interim financial management arrangements, pending the recruitment of a new full time managing Director (copy of report [pjc-091124-r08-jlo-jpi](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revised PUSH Finance Protocols, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be APPROVED; and
- (b) it be NOTED that the Chief Financial Officer has authority to make any further minor revisions to this Protocol as necessary.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:11pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 26 January 2010 at 6:00pm**).*