



# **Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee**

Date: **26 January 2010**

Report of: **Julian Lomas, Interim Managing Director**

Subject: **Interim Managing Director's Update Report**

## **SUMMARY**

This report represents an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Joint Committee. The Interim Managing Director'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 a decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

### **Part A: MATTERS FOR DECISION**

#### **Rose Bowl Development**

1. The Joint Committee received a report on proposed development at The Rose Bowl in March 2008 from Simon Eden on behalf of the then Culture Theme Group. The report outlined proposals for a significant development at the ground which would enable them to host Test Match cricket and become one of the best cricket grounds in the country with the addition of additional seats and spectator facilities, improved access, high quality hotel and conference facilities, state of the art media centre and 18 hole golf course. Given the economic benefits of the proposed development and its fit with the PUSH strategy, the Committee resolved (subject to planning) to support the redevelopment and that PUSH officers should work with the Cricket Club to maximise sporting and economic benefits to the sub region from the development.
2. The development subsequently received planning permission from Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) and plans were moving forward well for the new facilities to be in place ready for the first Test Match in 2011. However, with the advent of the recession, lending from banks became more difficult and The Rose Bowl approached, as a last resort, Eastleigh Borough Council . EBC Councillors have given significant consideration to the proposal and, having carried out a large amount of due diligence, resolved in principle to invest approximately £32m in the development to enable the hotel and conference

facilities, including press and media facilities to be open in time for the 2011 cricket season. The Council recognises the economic importance of the redevelopment to the wider area and the benefits that it would bring in terms of jobs, reputation, profile and facilities. It is estimated that the redevelopment will create around 200 jobs and its economic impact will be up to £20m.

3. The Council recently received a Judicial Review from 3 rival hoteliers and has resolved to defend this at a Council meeting in December.
4. Given the Joint Committee's support for the scheme, it was felt that it would be helpful to provide an update on the current situation. Members are not asked to comment on the actions of EBC in investing in the scheme since that is rightly the decision of the Borough Council. However, it would be helpful for the Joint Committee to reaffirm their support for the redevelopment, given the benefits that the completed development would bring both to South Hampshire and the wider area both in terms of economic development and quality of life.
5. Therefore the Joint Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to REAFFIRM its support for the Rose Bowl Development, given the substantial economic development and quality of life benefits it will bring to South Hampshire

### **South East regional Selection Committee Enquiry**

6. The South East Regional Select Committee has called its second inquiry which will be into "Housing in the South East" (details are included in the press release attached at Appendix A. A draft PUSH representation to the Committee is attached at Appendix B for the Committee to approve. The closing date for submissions is 27 January 2010.
7. Therefore the Joint Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to APPROVE for submission to the South East Regional Select Committee the draft PUSH representations attached at Appendix B.

## **Part B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

### **New Executive Director**

8. As announced at the November Joint Committee meeting, Anne-Marie Mountifield has been appointed as the new PUSH Executive Director (re-titled from Managing Director) and will take up post on 1 February 2010. I will continue to support PUSH in a consultancy capacity (including a period of handover to Anne-Marie) for a period from 1 February.

### **Growth Fund Capital Allocation**

9. As expected, despite representations from PUSH, the department for Communities and Local Government announced a cut in PUSH's Capital allocation for 2010/11 over just over £4.1m leaving a provisional allocation of just over £5.3m. The impact of this cut is discussed elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

## **Consultation responses**

10. Since the last Joint Committee meeting the Chairman has written in response to the following consultations:
  - a) A response to Cllr Moira Gibson at the South East England Partnership Board to stress the importance that the boundaries of the PUSH area be use for sub-regional evidence gathering for South Hampshire rather than an area based on whole district authority areas only.
  - b) A supportive response to the consultation on the Gosport Core Strategy.
11. Copies of the responses sent can be found on the PUSH website

## **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact: Julian Lomas, Interim Managing Director ([PUSHMD@push.gov.uk](mailto:PUSHMD@push.gov.uk)).

**Appendix A:** [Housing in the South East - press release](#)

**Appendix B:** [Draft PUSH representation](#)