



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **26th November 2007**

Report of: **Richard Longman, PUSH Project Director**

Subject: **PUSH Business Plan: Progress Report**

SUMMARY

The Business Plan is the core document defining the activities PUSH will undertake to contribute towards delivery of the sub-regional strategy for South Hampshire. In conjunction with the Joint Agreement, it also determines the scope of the powers and functions exercised by the Joint Committee.

There are two main inputs into preparation of the Business Plan: an Economic Development Strategy, which is being developed with assistance from DTZ Peda; and the *Programme of Development* prepared for DCLG, which is the starting point for shaping those parts of the Plan dealing with delivery of key development and sustainable communities objectives.

The process of bringing these two strands together will take until late January, and the final draft Plan will be available in February. The Joint Committee will have an opportunity to comment on an interim draft at its meeting on 28th January, and debate the final draft at a special meeting proposed for mid-February.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Committee notes this progress report and timetable.

INTRODUCTION

1. The PUSH Joint Agreement identifies the Business Plan as the key document defining the scope and detail of activity that PUSH undertakes and the powers and functions exercised by the Joint Committee. Delivery of the South Hampshire Strategy is not the responsibility of PUSH alone: this is a responsibility shared by all South Hampshire local authorities and other agencies and partners operating in the sub-region. The Business Plan will set out the activities to be undertaken by PUSH partners on a collaborative basis and at a strategic level to contribute towards delivery of the sub-regional strategy. But the Business Plan will also map out how other activity complements PUSH activity.

THE WORK SO FAR

2. An initial draft of the Business Plan was prepared in early summer on the basis of inputs commissioned from PUSH authorities and officer working groups. This process was suspended in July to focus attention on preparing the *Programme of Development* required by DCLG as a condition of New Growth Point Partnership with Government. The *Programme* sets out how PUSH intends to deliver housing growth over its 20 year strategy period, including detail on the major schemes that will contribute over half of the proposed 80,000 new homes between 2006-26. The final *Programme of Development* was submitted to DCLG on 1st October.
3. The *Programme of Development* will form a major input into the Business Plan, but it is not the same thing and its focus is somewhat different. The *Programme of Development* was primarily about the contribution of new housing to our overall growth ambitions. But the South Hampshire Sub-Regional Strategy is about economic-led growth, to which housing growth is both a contributor and a consequence. It is therefore important to ensure that the economic development objectives of the strategy are given due emphasis and are visibly the starting point for the Business Plan.
4. When work on the Business Plan was suspended in July, the chapters relating to economic development had been drafted with input from all the PUSH Economic Development Sub-Groups. Some further development work has been carried out during the summer and early autumn, but this process has confirmed the need to ensure that interventions and programmes of development that are set out in the Business Plan are fully owned by all the agencies that will be responsible for delivery.

THE NEXT STEPS

5. To facilitate this process, PUSH has commissioned the consultants DTZ Piedad to draw together an economic development strategy for PUSH. Building on the earlier work, this will involve identifying the outcomes, targets and actions required from PUSH authorities and other key partners including SEEDA, Job Centre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and Business Links Wessex. Following consultation on themed proposals – covering skills, labour market / increasing economic activity, business support, enterprise and innovation,

inward investment and employment land – a high level workshop will take place in January with decision-makers from these bodies to secure agreement on the economic development strategy, the actions to implement the strategy and the funding streams to support implementation. This economic development strategy will then be incorporated as the economic development chapter(s) of the Business Plan.

6. In parallel, the remainder of the Business Plan – covering delivery of strategic development schemes, infrastructure, housing, sustainable communities objectives and partnership development and delivery arrangements – is being worked up on the foundations laid in the *Programme of Development*. The timetable broadly mirrors that of the economic development chapter, and there will be other parallels in terms of processes to secure the buy-in of partners to the actions set out in the Plan.
7. The financial implications of the Business Plan will be addressed within the document: wherever possible, actions will be costed, sources of funding identified and accountability for delivery attributed to a lead body. The budget implications will be presented to the Joint Committee with the draft Business Plan.

TIMETABLE

8. We are aiming to have a working draft of the Business Plan by the end of the calendar year, but this will necessarily be incomplete. This will be refined and combined with the outputs from the economic development workshop to produce a final draft by early February. It is proposed that an interim draft should be available to the Joint Committee for its meeting on 28th January. As noted on the agenda, it is proposed that an additional, 'extraordinary' Joint Committee meeting should be held in February to consider the final draft Business Plan as its sole or principal item of business.

CONCLUSIONS

9. The Business Plan is central to PUSH's work. It will define the activities of PUSH. Together with relevant elements of the Transport for South Hampshire Business Plan, it is proposed to form the basis for negotiating a Multi Area Agreement (the Communities Secretary Hazel Blears has announced that PUSH would be one of 13 areas to pilot the first 'wave' of MAAs to be concluded by June 2008). The Plan's preparation will need committed input from all PUSH authorities as a matter of the highest priority. The timetable is challenging but must be met both to inform partners' own planning and to enable us to keep on track with delivering the sub-regional strategy and negotiating the MAA.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That the Joint Committee notes this progress report and timetable.

Background Papers: -

Reference Papers: -

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact:-

Richard Longman, PUSH Project Director

T: 02380 833529

E: Richard.longman@southampton.gov.uk