



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 12 June 2008
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor Ferris Cowper
Councillor Keith House
Councillor Seán Woodward
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Ken Thornber
Councillor Tony Briggs
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor Alec Samuels
Councillor George Beckett

Authority represented:

East Hampshire DC
Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

Will Godfrey
Bernie Topham
Alan Davies
Ian Lycett
Andrew Smith
Sandy Hopkins
Dave Yates
David Williams
Roger Tetstall
Lorraine Brown (deputising for Brad
Roynon)
Simon Eden

Authority represented:

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

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Cathy Evans
Kathy Slack
Martin Tugwell

Body Represented:

Government Office for the South East
South East England Development Agency
South East England Regional Assembly

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Seán Woodward be appointed as Chairman of the Joint Committee for the Municipal year 2008/09.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Joint Committee was invited to appoint Vice-Chairmen for the Municipal year 2008/09 and was reminded of the provisions of the agreement limiting who may be appointed in that capacity.

RESOLVED that Councillors Ken Thornber and Gerald Vernon-Jackson be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee for the Municipal year 2008/09.

3. CO-OPTING OF NON-VOTING MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the following non-voting members be co-opted to the Joint Committee:-

Cathy Evans: Government Office for the South East;

Kathy Slack: South East England Development Agency; and

Martin Tugwell: South East England Regional Assembly.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Brad Roynon and Councillor Mel Kendal.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee held on 18 March 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-080318-m.doc](#)).

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that a new Managing Director had been appointed for PUSH. Stuart Jarvis, who was the current lead officer for Transport for South Hampshire would be seconded until the end March 2011.

This would be Richard Longman's last meeting as project Director. The Chairman expressed PUSH's thanks for all the work he had done on producing the PUSH Business Plan and wished him well for the future.

Presentation

7. PRESENTATION

The Committee received a verbal presentation from Malcolm Le Bas of

Hampshire Economic Partnership, on the proposed Business Engagement Group. A copy of the presentation notes are appended to these minutes.

Matters for Decision

8. PUSH BUDGET 2008/09 AND INDICATIVE BUDGET 2009-11

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Finance Officer, which summarised the priorities for PUSH, was approved at the last Joint Committee, but did not set out a detailed budget for PUSH activities. The report set an initial budget allocation across the theme sub-groups (Delivery Panels) and covering the core PUSH organisational costs. It would be updated during the year as additional resources were secured and as Delivery Panels made allocations to prioritised projects. It would also form the basis for budget monitoring reports to future Joint Committee meetings (attached - [pjc-080612-r03-jpi](#)).

An additional recommendation was circulated at the meeting relating to the Lead Chief Executives of each theme group, or in default to the Chairman of the Working Group, for 2008/09, being given delegated authority to allocate resources to specific revenue funded projects, which delivered the objectives of the approved PUSH Business Plan, and within the overall budget allocations to each sub group.

It was proposed and duly seconded that any project greater than £250k would need to be agreed in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the PUSH Joint Committee.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the budget for 2008/09 and indicative budget for 2009-11, including cash limited allocations to the theme sub-groups for both revenue and capital projects be approved;
- (b) the Chairman of the Working Group be given delegated authority, as an interim measure for 2008/09, to approve project appraisals and confirm the release of funds for capital projects on behalf of, and in consultation with, the theme sub-groups and within the overall allocations to each sub-group;
- (c) the proposed framework for project appraisal and detailed allocation of resources to projects within the overall budget allocations be noted;
- (d) the Lead Chief Executives for each theme sub-group, or in default to the Chairman of the Working Group, as in interim measure for 2008/09, be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the PUSH Joint Committee, to allocate resources to specific revenue funded projects which deliver the objectives of the approved PUSH Business Plan, and within the overall budget allocations to each sub group; and

- (e) for any projects greater than £250k, the delegation referred to in minute 8(d) shall be exercised following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the PUSH Joint Committee

9. SOUTH HAMPSHIRE MULTI-AREA AGREEMENT (MMA) - PROGRESS REPORT

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Project Director, which provided an update on progress and outlined the remaining stages in the process to conclusion of the Multi-Area Agreement (MMA) (attached - [pjc-080612-r05-rlo](#)).

RESOLVED, that

- (a) the emerging draft Multi-Area Agreement, as consistent with the PUSH Business Plan, be endorsed;
- (b) authority be delegated to the Chairman of the PUSH Working Group, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, to finalise the negotiated text of the Multi-Area Agreement;
- (c) the process for finalising and signing off the Multi-Area Agreement be noted;
- (d) the Multi Area Agreement needs to recognise that in the current economic climate the purchasing power and investment of local authorities in the area could be significant; and
- (e) PUSH should make representations to the Government regarding the reverse subsidy paid by Local Authorities on the sale of council houses.

10. PUSH'S RESPONSE TO "PROSPEROUS PLACES: TAKING FORWARD THE REVIEW OF SUB-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION"

The Joint committee considered a report by the PUSH Project Director, which provided a summary of the key issues of PUSH's response to BERR's consultation on "Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration" (attached - [pjc-080612-r02-tle](#)).

Councillor Ken Thornber declared a personal interest in this item, being a former member of the Regional Development Board. Councillor Keith House declared a personal interest in this item, being a Board Member of SEEDA. Both remained in the meeting during the discussion.

The Chairman advised that the recommendation was to approve PUSH's response as set out in Appendix I to the report.

An amendment was proposed by the Leader of Hampshire County Council, that the last sentence in paragraph 7.1 of Appendix I to the report be deleted, as he

felt that “the duty to be discharged jointly by both county and district councils in two-tier areas was not a matter for PUSH to decide and he could not support the document as currently worded.

Various suggestions were put forward for the re-wording of the sentence; however, no agreement on any wording could be made at this point.

Given the advice in paragraph 8.3 of the Joint Agreement relating to PUSH, which states that:-

“Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote, but must include Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton, to be agreed”,

the Joint Committee agreed to a short adjournment of the meeting, once the rest of the business on the agenda had been concluded.

11. PROPOSALS FOR A MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

The Joint Committee considered a report, which set out proposals for monitoring 41 key economic, social and environmental indicators, which would then be used by PUSH to enable targeted additional interventions in the event that progress is not on trajectory (attached - [pjc-080612-r04-sro](#)).

RESOLVED, that the proposals for monitoring by PUSH set out in the report be approved.

Matters for Information

12. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Joint Committee considered a verbal report by the PUSH Project Director, regarding the process for establishing the Governance arrangements outlined in the PUSH Business Plan.

The Project Director explained that the Business Plan proposed an evolution of PUIISH working groups and delivery panels etc. He advised that any changes to the Governance Structure would affect the Multi-Area Agreement (MMA) and the Joint Agreement.

He proposed that shadow arrangements be put in place to take the PUSH Programme Board forward and a further report be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the Chairman of the Working Group, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, be authorised to set up “shadow arrangements for the Programme Board and Delivery Panels; and
- (b) the Chairman of the Working Group be requested to bring a full report on

governance to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

13. PUSH WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Joint Committee considered a report, which Invited members to endorse the proposed work programme for the year 2008/09, as attached at Appendix A and to note the details contained in the new Forward Plan. (attached - [pic-080612-r01-sco](#)).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Joint Committee's work programme, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be endorsed; and
- (b) the details of the Forward Plan, as set out at Appendix B to the report be noted.

14. ADJOURNEMENT OF MEETING

The Chairman proposed that the meeting be adjourned to consider the re-wording of Paragraph 7.1 of Appendix I to the report set out at Item 11 of the agenda.

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 7:24pm.

The meeting resumed at 7:40pm.

15. PUSH'S RESPONSE TO "PROSPEROUS PLACES: TAKING FORWARD THE REVIEW OF SUB-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION"

RESOLVED, that the PUSH response set out in Appendix I to the report, be approved, subject to the last sentence of Paragraph 7.1 of Appendix I to the report being deleted and replaced by the following:-

"without knowing what the Government will finally propose, it is agreed that PUSH members continue to co-operate on economic development matters".

(The meeting started at 6:05pm and ended at 7:42pm).

APPENDIX A

PUSH BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT GROUP

The creation of a true partnership of the private and public sector will create an energy and dynamism which will allow the PUSH area to be “world class”.

Business (including our Universities) can help identify the strategic actions which will need to be taken in order to deliver sustainable economic growth.

1. The **PUSH Business Group (“BG”)** will comprise:

- Senior Business representatives of
 - i. HEP
 - ii. Business Southampton
 - iii. Portsmouth Partnership/City Growth
 - iv. Solent Synergy
- Vice Chancellors of the Universities plus involvement of other senior managers as appropriate;
- A Business Representative on behalf of the Chambers
- A senior representative of Business Link;
- A number of experienced business people to be identified by the organisations above from the business community “across the patch”, if possible including some “new blood”!

Initial membership proposed shown on the annexed list.

2. **The Terms of Reference** of the BG are:

- To inform the PUSH authorities of barriers to growth and issues affecting economic activity
- To influence the determination of strategic options to deliver sustainable economic growth most effectively
- To consider and propose projects to implement and support the economic strategy
- To provide business oversight of and feedback in relation to the developing economic strategy
- To identify and develop opportunities for action.

Existing structures should be used wherever possible to avoid confusion and dilution of effort.

The PUSH structure and organisation will itself be evolving over time so the BG structure needs to be flexible and supportive.

3. It is essential that strategic thinking is done right “across the patch” and not pulled down to a local level – although delivery will be. The BG therefore needs to include representatives who can speak for the various sectors and sizes of businesses across the PUSH area.
4. The BG will propose the companies / business leaders to be involved in the **Task Groups** etc. who will feed back to the BG, and ensure that their activities and advice are complementary.
5. **The initial task** of the BG should be to work with the PUSH executive to provide the STRATEGIC HOW on how to achieve the PUSH overarching vision so that everyone can be clear on what needs to be done to achieve the PUSH objectives. If possible one or more short term projects should be developed to give the opportunity of some “quick wins”.
6. **The Directorate** will between them provide the executive support for the BG using the respective strengths of the three organisations.