



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 16 September 2008  
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

**Members:**

Councillor	Seán Woodward (Chairman)	Fareham BC
Councillor	Ken Thornber (Vice-Chairman)	Hampshire CC
Councillor	David Smith	Gosport BC
Councillor	Tony Briggs	Havant BC
Councillor	Maureen Holding (deputising for Mel Kendal)	New Forest DC
Councillor	Hugh Mason (deputising for Gerald Vernon-Jackson)	Portsmouth CC
Councillor	Alec Samuels	Southampton CC
Councillor	Martin Hatley	Test Valley BC
Councillor	George Beckett	Winchester CC

**Authority represented:**

**Chief Executives:**

Will Godfrey	East Hampshire DC
Alan Davies	Fareham BC
Mike Jeffery (deputising for Ian Lycett)	Gosport BC
Andrew Smith	Hampshire CC
Sandy Hopkins	Havant BC
Kathy Wadsworth (deputising for David Williams)	Portsmouth CC
Roger Tetstall	Test Valley BC
Brad Roynon	Southampton CC
Simon Eden	Winchester CC
Stuart Jarvis, PUSH Managing Director	PUSH Managing Director

**Authority represented:**

**Co-opted, Non-Voting Members**

**Body Represented:**

Cathy Evans	Government Office for the South East
Julia Pearson (deputising for Kathy Slack)	South East England Development Agency
Jorn Peters (deputising for Martin Tugwell).	South East England Regional Assembly

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ferris Cowper, East Hampshire District Council, Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council, Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Eastleigh Borough Council and Mel Kendal, New Forest District Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from Bernie Topham, Eastleigh Borough Council, Ian Lycett, Gosport Borough Council, David Williams, Portsmouth City Council, Kathy Slack, SEEDA and Martin Tugwell, SEERA.

The relevant changes to the membership for this meeting were noted as above.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee held on 12 June 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-080612-m](#)).

**3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) Economic Development Director:-

The Chairman introduced Dawn Baxendale and advised that she had been appointed as the PUSH Economic Development Director. The Committee was advised that Dawn would take up her post full time on 1 October 2008, on secondment from Havant Borough Council. In the meantime, Dawn would work one day per week for PUSH;

(b) Isle of Wight Involvement with PUSH on Economic Development:-

The Chairman explained the potential links with the Isle of Wight Council in respect of aspects of the PUSH agenda, most notably economic development, where issues such as marine industries had clear impacts on both sides of the Solent. As PUSH was also working in an evolving environment in terms of economic development delivery and engagement, with regional players, such as SEEDA, it seemed appropriate to provide a slightly more structured engagement between PUSH and the Isle of Wight Council on economic development matters. The Chairman proposed to invite the Isle of Wight Council to send a member to sit on the Economy Delivery Panel, when it had been set up. He also proposed to invite officers to attend relevant officer working groups.

RESOLVED, that the Isle of Wight Council be invited to send a member to the Economy Delivery Panel when it is established and to send officer representatives to participate in relevant working groups.

(3. contd).

(c) Governance Issues:-

The Chairman reminded everyone that he had sent a letter to all Leaders regarding Governance, a report on which is to be discussed at the next meeting. He had only received four responses and urged members to reply by the end of September. He reminded members that a Governance seminar was to be held soon.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **4. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the 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-080916-r08-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) pending approval by the Joint Committee of financial protocols and revised governance arrangements, approval be given for the Managing Director to authorise revenue expenditure, provided this is within approved budget allocations or project approvals, and has been certified as accurate and legitimate by the relevant commissioning officer;
- (b) PUSH joins the next phase of the Work Foundation's Ideopolis network, and that provision be made in the 2008/09 PUSH budget to fund the joining fee; and
- (c) the information set out in Part B of the report be noted.

#### **5. GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SOUTH EAST PLAN**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Planning Theme Lead on PUSH's response to the consultation on the Secretary of State's proposed modifications to the draft South East Plan (copy of report [pjc-080916-r05-sro](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee was advised that it should make strong objections to the following proposed changes by the Government to the South East Plan:-

- the housebuilding targets becoming minimal;
- the proposed deletion of the Gaps policy (PUSH should submit a revised list of South Hampshire Sub-regional Gaps);

(5. contd).

- Seek amendments to the approach to marine sites safeguarding;
- the proposed deletion of the region wide and South Hampshire-specific policies on 'Plan, Monitor, Manage' and deletion of the clause making development conditional on infrastructure provision; and
- the proposed deletion of the South Hampshire-specific Ecohomes / BREEAM building construction standards and renewable energy target.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the Government's endorsement of the South Hampshire development strategy, employment floorspace figures and housebuilding totals be welcomed;
- (b) strong objections/representations be made on the above, and other matters, on the basis as set out in the Appendix to the report;
- (c) the Government be informed of the conclusions arising from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; and
- (d) Leaders receive a copy of PUSH's response by the end of September, prior to it being sent to the Government.

## **6. PLANNING POLICY FOR GAPS**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Planning Theme Lead, which set out the development of a South Hampshire policy approach on Gaps to provide a consistent framework for LDF preparation (copy of report [pjc-080916-r07-sro](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the submission of a formal objection to the Government's proposed deletion from the South East Plan of Policy SH3 Sub-Regional Gaps be endorsed;
- (b) the refreshed list of Sub-regional Gaps in paragraph 11 of the report be endorsed; and
- (c) the 'Gaps Policy Framework' attached to the report be endorsed, in order to guide and support the preparation of Local Development Frameworks

## **7. PUSH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

The Joint committee considered a report by the Economic Development Theme Lead to adopt an Economic Development Strategy for South Hampshire

(7. contd).

amplifying the general approach set out in the Business Plan, and containing a detailed Delivery Plan (copy of report [pjc-080916-r01-bto](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that the Economic Development Strategy be adopted.

## **8. APPORTIONMENT OF PROVISION FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT FLOORSPACE**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Planning and Economic Development Theme Leads, which advised of the outcome of apportionment amongst individual PUSH authorities of the total South Hampshire employment floorspace requirements (copy of report [pjc-080916-r02-sro](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Gosport Borough Council advised the meeting that recent discussion with the Commander at HMS Sultan had provided clarity and more certainty about the future release of the site, and on this basis requested that the 'interim' floorspace figures for Gosport be re-installed as the final allocation.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the proposed final apportionment figures set out in tables 4 and 5 of the report, as amended in request of Gosport, be endorsed; and form the basis for the development of the policy framework; and
- (b) constituent PUSH authorities be called upon to make provision in their Local Development Documents for these amounts of new employment floorspace.

## **9. DELIVERABILITY OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREAS**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Managing Director on the outcomes of research commissioned to advise PUSH on steps required to secure delivery of the SDAs and considered recommendations on the PUSH response (copy of report [pjc-080916-r09-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that the PUSH responses to the consultant's recommendations set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed.

## **10. PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSION 2008**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Managing Director, which outlined the implications of revised grant arrangements for DCLG growth area funding and the refresh of the Programme of Development for submission on 1 October 2008 (copy of report [pjc-080916-r10-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

(10. contd).

Gosport Borough Council thanked the Managing Director and PUSH for their support in securing £2 million funding for the Rowner Project.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the overall approach for the 2008 Programme of Development as set out in the report, be approved;
- (b) the criteria for assessing and prioritising capital and revenue funding proposals as set out in paragraphs 7 and 10 of the report be approved;
- (c) the Managing Director, in consultation with the Programme Board, be given delegated authority to complete the Programme, including capital and revenue project bids, based on the criteria approved by the Joint Committee; and
- (d) the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, be given delegated authority to sign off the final 2008 Programme and to submit it to Government on behalf of PUSH.

## **11. PUSH CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Treasurer and the Managing Director, which set out the allocation of New Growth Point Capital Funds to projects, pursuant to the initial Capital Programme considered in July 2008 (copy of report [pjc-080916-r12-jpi](#) appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the Capital Programme for 2008/09 as set out in Appendix One of the report, including the additional proposals for further assembly of land for SHSEZ in 2009/10 be approved;
- (b) the award of a Capital Grant of £1.7M to Transport for South Hampshire, as part of the Capital Programme set out in Appendix One of the report, and the addition of M27 Junction 5 and Access to Strategic Sites projects in the indicative programme for 2009-11 be approved;
- (c) the indicative Programme for 2009-11, including cash limited allocations to the theme sub-groups for capital projects, be approved in principle, but the Joint Committee reserves final approval until the commitment of NGP funds to PUSH for 2009/10 and 2010/11 is known;
- (d) the Managing Director, in consultation with the PUSH Treasurer, be given delegated authority to finalise grant conditions for the approved projects to ensure that PUSH secures the outcomes anticipated for its investments, and that assets purchased or created with the use of PUSH

(11. contd).

funds are safeguarded in the event that the project does not proceed as planned; and

- (e) the PUSH Managing Director be given delegated authority to authorise expenditure against PUSH capital funds in accordance with the agreed project approvals and Capital Programme allocations.

## **12. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Sustainability Theme Lead, on the outcomes of research and proposals for future work relating to developing a green infrastructure strategy and on identifying and prioritising green infrastructure projects in which to invest (copy of report [pjc-080916-r03-fca](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the contents of the Research Report and Advice to PUSH report be noted;
- (b) the Research Report and Advice to PUSH report be placed on the PUSH website; and
- (c) the scope and means of delivery of the “Strategy for Green Infrastructure for South Hampshire” suggested in the report to the Committee be agreed.

## **13. SOLENT WATERFRONT STRATEGY**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Planning and economic Development Theme Leads on recommendations in SEEDA's Waterfront Strategy and how PUSH might assist with their implementation and the policy implications for PUSH (copy of report [pjc-080916-r06-sro](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Councillor Samuels supported Councillor Thornber's request that Hampshire County Council be involved in the consideration of the Port Masterplan, which Southampton Port is currently preparing.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the production of the Solent Waterfront Strategy, which has helpfully highlighted the economic importance of marine industries and provided valuable evidence to inform the preparation of Local Development Documents, be welcomed;
- (b) the opportunity to assist with implementation of many of the Strategy's recommendations be welcomed; and

(13. contd).

- (c) the proposed PUSH responses to the recommendations set out in Appendix 1 to the report to the Committee be endorsed;

#### **14. STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT - TESTING THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Sustainability Theme Lead on the outcomes of research commissioned on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (copy of report [pjc-080916-r11-fca](#) appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee was advised that paragraph 4.3 of the report had been amended and therefore a revised report was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the report and supporting appendices be confirmed as a satisfactory basis for testing the proposed spatial distribution for South Hampshire against the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- (b) it be accepted that the proposed spatial distribution for South Hampshire, as set out in the proposed modifications to the South East Plan, can be managed effectively against the risk of flooding, without the need for further redistribution of development;
- (c) PUSH Authorities continue to collaborate closely with the Environment Agency on the question of flood risk and, in particular, finalise and follow the requirements of the proposed Policy Protocol for managing flood risk in flood zones 2 and 3;
- (d) the conclusions in the report be referred to the Secretary of State as part of the PUSH response to the Proposed Modifications of the South East Plan; and
- (e) (a) to (d) above be accepted, with final sign off delegated to the Managing Director in consultation with the Chairman, provided final agreement can be reached with the Environment Agency along the lines set out in this report. If this does not prove possible, the matter is to be brought back to the Joint Committee.

#### **15. SOUTH EAST LIVING PLACES PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT FOR PUSH**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Culture and Quality of Place Theme Lead on the commitment to South Hampshire as a designated "Priority Place" for cultural development (copy of report [pjc-080916-r04-sed](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that the basis for PUSH working with the Living Places Partnership, through the Quality Places Theme Group, be agreed.

## 16. SEEDA CORE FUNDING

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Solicitor to the Council, Southampton City Council and the Managing Director, which advised that the approved PUSH Business Plan and Budget relied upon funding from SEEDA to support the core costs within the Economic Development theme. SEEDA had confirmed funding for which a contract had been drawn up with grant conditions attached for consideration by the Joint Committee ([pic-080916-r13-mhe](#) appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that

- (a) the SEEDA grant and associated conditions set out in the SEEDA contract attached to the report to the Committee, be agreed;
- (b) Hampshire County Council be authorised to take on responsibility as Lead Authority for the SEEDA contract attached to the report and, on behalf of PUSH, to enter into the contract with SEEDA in accordance with the terms of the Joint Committee Agreement and Constitution; and
- (c) the obligations set out in the SEEDA contract attached to the report, and the impact upon PUSH and the partner authorities, be noted.

*(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:46pm).*

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on Tuesday, 18 November 2008 at 6:00pm).*