



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 15 January 2009
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman)

Councillor Keith House
Councillor Ferris Cowper
Councillor Ken Thornber
Councillor Tony Briggs
Councillor Edward Heron
Councillor Hugh Mason (Deputising for Gerald
Vernon-Jackson)

Councillor Alec Samuels
Councillor Martin Hatley
Councillor George Beckett

Authority represented:

Fareham BC

Eastleigh BC
East Hampshire DC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC
New Forest DC
Portsmouth CC

Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham
Alan Davies
Will Godfrey
Ian Lycett
Andrew Smith
Sandy Hopkins
David Yates
David Williams
Brad Roynon
Steve Lees (Deputising for Roger
Tetstall)
Simon Eden

Authority represented:

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

Winchester CC

Stuart Jarvis

PUSH Managing Director

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Cathy Evans
Paul Lovejoy (Deputising for Kathy Slack)

Body Represented:

Government Office for the South East
South East England Development
Agency
South East England Regional Assembly
PUSH Business Group

Martin Tugwell
Caroline Williams

pjc-090115-m

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Portsmouth City Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from David Smith, Gosport Borough Council and Roger Tetstall, Test Valley Borough Council.

The Chairman reminded the Joint Committee that at its last meeting, it had agreed to invite a representative from the PUSH Business Group to join the Joint Committee, as a non-voting, co-opted member. He introduced Caroline Williams, and it was:-

RESOLVED, that Caroline Williams be co-opted to the PUSH Joint Committee as a non-voting member.

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 18 November 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-081118-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) Members of Parliament (MPs) Briefing:

A PUSH briefing had been set up for MPs representing constituencies in South Hampshire. This would take place at lunchtime on 27 February at the Civic Offices in Fareham. All PUSH Leaders and Chief Executives were invited to attend. The Chairman explained that it had been some time since the last briefing, and there were lots of issues on which it was important that the area's MPs were conversant with PUSH's ambitions and challenges and were able to support PUSH in Parliament and in its wider dealings with the Government and its agencies. The Chairman asked Leaders to urge their local MPs to attend;

(b) Visit to No.10 Downing Street:

Cllr Thornber, the Chairman and a number of senior officers, had attended a Multi Area Agreement (MAA) signing ceremony at 10 Downing Street on Monday, at which three further MAAs were signed off by the Prime Minister and senior Cabinet colleagues. The Prime Minister and colleagues also re-iterated their support for greater partnership working and more devolution to local Government, as set out in the SNR, of which MAAs remained a very important part;

(c) CABE Workshop:

The Chairman drew members' attention to an invitation they would be receiving shortly. It would come from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as Chairman of the Quality Places Delivery Panel, and invited Leaders and Chief Executives to take part in a 'Diagnostic Workshop' on 24/25 February 2009. The event was intended to set a shared policy framework for urban design across the sub-region.

The Chairman explained that the Joint Committee must adopt the highest standards of design in both new and existing communities, and Councillor Vernon-Jackson had asked him to encourage everyone to ensure they were represented at a senior level. That was, the Chairman understood, particularly important on the first day, when members would need to agree the broad policy direction and areas of consensus, to guide more detailed work. For further details, members were advised to contact Simon Eden; and

(d) PUSH 4 Safer Homes:

The Chairman was pleased to attend the launch of the PUSH 4 Safer Homes project yesterday. The project offered over £8million in grants and loans to ensure that people lived in warmer homes in the seven areas operating the PUSH 4 Safer Homes project (Southampton, East Hants, Fareham, New Forest, Havant, Test Valley and Winchester). Under the initiative, residents might qualify for a Home Improvement or Accessible Home Loan (an interest free loan secured on the property) or a Warm Home Grant to improve insulation or heating.

The Chairman explained that this was a very timely and important initiative, coming at this difficult time in the economic cycle, and also following the recent cold spell, which had highlighted the plight of those struggling to afford to keep their homes warm.

Matters for Decision:

4. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Managing Director, which 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-090115-r01-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Local Development Frameworks - Southampton Core Strategies:

RESOLVED, that the Managing Director be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman, to prepare and submit supporting representations on the Southampton Core Strategy.

Authority to Enter into Contracts on behalf of PUSH:

RESOLVED, that the County Council be authorised to enter into contracts on behalf of PUSH, in respect of the Advance Network Prototypes project, and the Innovation and Growth Team project, on the basis that any liabilities the County Council incurs, under the terms of these agreements, will be borne by the PUSH Partner Authorities, in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Agreement, and the County Council indemnified accordingly.

The Chairman advised that he would be changing the order of business on the agenda from this point.

5. PROSPEROUS PLACES (REVIEW OF SUB NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION)

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which set out the key proposals that potentially affect or are of most interest to PUSH and recommended that the immediate focus should be on the MAA refresh, but also proposed that further exploration be undertaken of the potential opportunities for PUSH arising from the SNR (copy of report [pjc-090115-r06-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) development of arrangements to maximise effective delivery of the South Hampshire Strategy and PUSH objectives be AGREED as top priorities for PUSH in considering, and responding to, the outcomes and potential opportunities set out in the Government's SNR proposals;
- (b) the MAA refresh be the initial focus for developing the relationships, and local delivery capacity between PUSH, its partners and the Government;
- (c) the necessary exploratory work, consultations and discussions with partners, SEEDA, GOSE and Whitehall Departments to enable the development of longer term proposals for improved delivery arrangements, be AUTHORISED; and
- (d) the organisation of a Leaders' workshop to consider the options and opportunities, before any further development beyond the MAA refresh is formally considered, be AGREED.

6. MULTI AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH

The Joint committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which recommended the proposed priority outcome areas for the MAA refresh (copy of report [pjc-090115-r05-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the proposed approach, and the priority outcome areas set out in the report, be APPROVED as the basis for negotiation of the MAA refresh; and
- (b) the preparation of a detailed MAA submission and the conducting of MAA negotiations with the Government, in line with the approach set out in the report, be AUTHORISED and DELEGATED to the Managing Director, following consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Chairmen and Lead Chief Executives of the relevant Delivery Panels, and the Chairman of the Programme Board.

7. THE SOUTH HAMPSHIRE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Lead on Skills and the Shadow Employment and Skills Board, which asked members to formally endorse the establishment of the South Hampshire Employment and Skills Board, to approve the draft terms of reference and to delegate authority to the PUSH Chairman, in consultation with the Chairman of the Business Group, to appoint an ESB Chairman (copy of report [pjc-090115-r07-kwa](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the establishment of the Employment and Skills Board be ENDORSED;
- (b) the terms of reference appended to the report be AGREED;
- (c) the Chairman of the Joint Committee be AUTHORISED to appoint a Chairman of the Employment and Skills Board, in consultation with the Chairman of the Business Group; and
- (d) that no formal request to seek status as a specified body under Section 24a of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 be undertaken without further approval of the Joint Committee.

8. A: CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Treasurer, which summarised the current position on actual and committed expenditure against the agreed budgets, as well as a forecast of activity for the remainder of the financial year (copy of report [pjc-090115-r03-sja-jpi-tni](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the progress achieved to date against the approved capital and revenue budgets for 2008/09 be NOTED;
- (b) the anticipated final outturn for the financial year 2008/09, and the consequent impact on 2009/10 be NOTED;

- (c) the proposed actions in relation to the treatment of the anticipated underspend on the Capital programme be APPROVED; specifically:-
- that the Reserve Fund, approved by the Joint Committee on 16 September 2008 be carried forward to add to the resources available for the 2009/10 Capital Programme;
 - that the expected underspend on Economic Development be carried forward to be spent as originally approved, subject to confirmation of the subsequent phases of the project;
 - that the expected underspend on Sustainability & Social Infrastructure be carried forward to be spent as originally approved; and
 - that an additional £425,000 be allocated for the Rowner Estate Renewal Project in 2008/9, subject to a satisfactory revised project appraisal; and that £425,000 be removed from the indicative allocation for the Rowner project and earmarked for the Somerstown Estate Regeneration Project in 2009/10, again subject to satisfactory revised project appraisal, and inclusion of the projects in the approved Capital Programme for 2009/10.
- (d) the proposed actions in relation to the treatment of the anticipated underspend on the Revenue programme be APPROVED; specifically:-
- that all underspends are rolled forward to 2009/10 for ongoing work on the projects as previously approved, except for £40,000 from Sustainability and Social Infrastructure and £100,000 from the Core Team budget, which can be re-allocated as part of the development of the revenue budget for 2009/10.

B: CAPITAL AND REVENUE INDICATIVE BUDGETS 2009/10 – 2010/11

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Treasurer, Head of Finance from Hampshire County Council and the PUSH Managing Director, which set the revenue and capital funding available to PUSH for its 2009/10 and 2010/11 programmes, and set indicative budgets for the Delivery Panels. It also set out the process by which those budgets are to be assessed and appraised, so that the Joint Committee can confirm the budget allocations at the March 2009 meeting (copy of report [pjc-090115-r02-sja-jpi-tni](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

1. the total anticipated funding available to PUSH in 2009/10 and 2010/11, together with additional resources brought forward from 2008/09 be NOTED;
2. the use of £384,000 of 2009/10 revenue funding to be set aside to provide additional resources for the 2010/11 financial year BE APPROVED;

3. the proposed local authority contributions to PUSH for the financial year 2009/10 and 2010/11 be APPROVED;
4. the indicative allocation of capital funding to Delivery Panels be NOTED;
5. the setting up of special meetings of the PUSH Capital Programme Board to appraise the capital projects submitted by the Delivery Panels, and review the apparent over-commitment of funds for 2010/11, for the Board to formulate an affordable proposed capital programme to be recommended to the Joint Committee in March 2009 be APPROVED; and
6. the provisional revenue base budgets for 2009/10 and 2010/11, and the provisional cash limit for 2009/10, be APPROVED for final confirmation in March 2009, subject to advice from the Delivery Panels on their deliberations on detailed programmes within the resources available to PUSH in 2009/10.

9. PUSH COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which sought to address communications issues and recommend a way forward through an interim Communications Strategy and Action Plan (copy of report [pjc-090115-r04-sja-mm](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the approach set out in the report be AGREED, and adopted as an interim Communication Strategy for PUSH;
- (b) the Action Plan set out at Annex 2 to the report be APPROVED as a basis for Communications Activity in the short and medium term; and
- (c) this area be kept under regular review, that the key messages and PUSH Vision should be considered at a future PUSH Leaders' and Chief Executives' workshop, and that progress on Communications be periodically reported to the Joint Committee in future.

10. PUSH INVOLVEMENT IN LDF PREPARATION

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Planning Theme Lead, which proposed the preparation of a Protocol, which would set out the detailed mechanics of the process of making comments on LDDs (copy of report [pjc-090115-r08-sro](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

It was agreed in discussion that the purpose of PUSH engagement with local LDFs was to support the planning authorities wherever possible. Where there is a prospect of an objection, it was agreed that the PUSH Managing Director would discuss this with the planning authority, with a view to negotiating a resolution, before any formal representation was made. It was generally agreed

that early discussion and engagement between neighbouring authorities across South Hampshire would assist in maintaining a positive and collaborative approach to development of LDFs.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) PUSH submits supporting representations, and if necessary objections, on key draft Local Development Documents (LDDs) prepared by local planning authorities within South Hampshire;
- (b) the Lead Chief Executive for Housing and Planning be AUTHORISED to approve a Protocol to guide this work in line with the Principles set out in paragraph 9 of the report and in consultation with the Housing and Planning Delivery Panel;
- (c) each PUSH authority be requested to include PUSH as a standing consultee for draft LDDs and to alert PUSH to any slippage in LDD progress; and
- (d) the Housing and Planning Delivery Panel be requested to track the progress in LDD preparation and to consider what support PUSH might provide to any key LDD which is slipping.

11. PUSH HOUSING MARKET STUDY

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Solutions, Southampton City Council, which explained the PUSH Housing Market Study provided a snapshot of the housing market in South Hampshire. Within the context of the current economic downturn, it indicated that there were a number of issues which would benefit from the development of a PUSH response (copy of report [pjc-090115-r09-bco](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

In the discussion the importance of maintaining a balanced supply of housing, and tackling the shortage of family housing in parts of the sub-region were highlighted.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the contents of the PUSH Housing Market Study be NOTED;
- (b) the publication of the PUSH Housing Market Study be APPROVED; and
- (c) the PUSH Housing and Planning Delivery Group should develop plans to respond to the issues identified in the report

12. INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – REPORT OF THE CONSULTANTS

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Planning Policy and Design Manager, Eastleigh Borough Council, on behalf of the PUSH Planning Officers

Group, which outlined the conclusions and recommendations made in the study and set out recommended PUSH actions (copy of report [pjic-090115-r10-twr](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The importance of careful management of rivers, and the need to work in partnership with the regulators and the water companies to deliver adequate water supplies and to protect the water environment were highlighted.

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the content of the Consultants Report be NOTED and its publication be AUTHORISED through the PUSH Website;
- (b) the suggested PUSH response and actions proposed in response to the consultants' recommendations, which are summarised in the report and set out in full in Appendix 1 of the report, addressing the following topic areas:-
 - Water Supply;
 - Waste Water Management;
 - Flood Risk Management; and
 - Planning and Water Management,

be ENDORSED.

13. PUSH DRAFT CULTURAL STRATEGY

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Lead Chief Executive, Quality Places Delivery Panel, which outlined the key themes identified by the Cultural Strategy and sought the agreement of the Joint Committee to those themes providing a basis for the next iteration of the Quality Places chapter of the business plan, and to assist identifying opportunities for the South Hampshire MAA to support cultural improvement (copy of report [pjic-090115-r11-sed](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that the seven themes identified in the report, namely:-

- *Developing Excellence*
- *Promoting Access for All*
- *Promoting Participation for All*
- *Advocacy*
- *Creating Quality Places*
- *Supporting the Creative and Cultural Economy*
- *Supporting the Visitor Economy*

be AGREED as a basis for PUSH's future work to improve the cultural offer across the sub-region.

The Chairman advised the Joint Committee that this would be Mr Davies' last meeting of PUSH as he was retiring in March 2009. Mr Davies had been Chief Executive Officer of Fareham Borough Council for 16 years. The Joint Committee joined the Chairman in thanking Mr Davies for his support and wished him well for the future.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:35pm).

(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on Thursday, 19 March 2009 at 6:00pm).