



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 15 January 2009

Report of: Stuart Jarvis, PUSH Managing Director

Subject: Managing Director's Report

SUMMARY

This report represents an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Joint Committee. The 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 A DECISION

1 Local Development Frameworks – Southampton Core Strategies

- a) A separate paper to be considered at this meeting sets out proposals for how PUSH engages with the preparation of Local Development Documents being produced by constituent authorities. In the meantime, Southampton City Council has now followed Test Valley Borough and New Forest District Councils by publishing the key document - called the 'Core Strategy' - for public consultation, prior to submitting the document for public examination (a type of public inquiry).
- b) The draft Southampton Core Strategy sets out the overall planning framework for the city to 2026. The Core Strategy identifies the strategic requirements for housing and employment land in accordance with the PUSH policy framework. A policy on tackling and adapting to climate change takes forward the PUSH sustainability policy framework endorsed by the Joint Committee in March 2008. The Core Strategy also acknowledges the need to work with neighbouring authorities to achieve a sub-regional approach to biodiversity through the Green Infrastructure Strategy for South Hampshire. In addition, the document includes proposals to work with neighbouring authorities in the delivery of a country park

at Lords Wood and the retention of strategic gaps. Further details including the allocation of sites will follow in subsequent Development Plan Documents.

- c) As previously reported, it is important for PUSH to have a voice at the various public examinations of South Hampshire LDFs, whether a particular document supports or challenges the sub-regional framework. The draft Core Strategy for Southampton raises no issues of concern for PUSH, so it is recommended that a general supporting representation be submitted, to maintain a formal PUSH interest in the process.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee authorises the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chairman, to prepare and submit supporting representations on the Southampton Core Strategy.

2 Authority to Enter into Contracts on behalf of PUSH

- a) Members may recall the Chairman's announcement from the November meeting concerning the successful application made by PUSH for the Advance Networks Prototypes project sponsored by the DIUS through the LSC. In order that the funding can now be drawn down, it is necessary that a formal contract is agreed and signed. PUSH itself cannot enter into such a contract and therefore would rely instead on Hampshire County Council, the financial lead authority for PUSH, to enter into the contract on its behalf.
- b) The Chairman also announced that PUSH was intending to bid to SEEDA for the establishment of an Innovation and Growth Team in this area, funded by SEEDA at a potential level of £1M pa over the life of the project. This bid has also been agreed in principle, and once again, in order to draw down funding, it is likely that a contract will be required with SEEDA. Whilst the detailed arrangements are yet to be finalised, it is felt prudent at this stage to seek the Joint Committee's approval for the County Council to be empowered to enter into a contract on behalf of PUSH. When final details are known, a further report will be made to the Joint Committee if there are any financial or governance implications which require further approval or consideration.
- c) Therefore the purpose of this item is to seek a formal resolution of the Joint Committee authorising the County Council to enter into these contracts on behalf of PUSH. The detailed provisions in respect of liabilities would be as set out in the Joint Agreement. The PUSH Financial Protocols are currently being reviewed to ensure there is proper authority secured for entering such contracts in the future, but in the meantime **it is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee authorises the County Council 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 .**

Part B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3 None.

Background Papers: - None

Reference Papers: - None

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