



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **15 January 2009**

Report of: **Stuart Jarvis, Managing Director**

Subject: **Multi Area Agreement Refresh**

SUMMARY

At the previous meeting of this Committee, a report was approved setting out the background to the MAA refresh process and recommending an approach for PUSH to take. Initial consultation has now taken place with partners and other interested parties through the PUSH theme groups, and these deliberations have informed the proposed priority outcome areas for the MAA refresh, recommended to the Joint Committee in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Committee:-

1. APPROVES the proposed approach, and the priority outcome areas set out in the report as the basis for negotiation of the MAA refresh; and
2. AUTHORISES and DELEGATES the preparation of a detailed MAA submission and the conducting of MAA negotiations with the Government, in line with the approach set out in this report, 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.

Background

1. At the previous meeting of this Committee a report was considered setting out the background to the MAA refresh process and recommending an approach for PUSH to take. The Joint Committee resolved to focus on adding a limited number of new outcomes to the MAA, focusing on established priority areas rather than a wholesale re-negotiation of existing targets, or major expansion of the scope of the MAA.
2. Elsewhere on the agenda, there is an item on the sub national review (SNR) which is also relevant to the MAA refresh strategy. There is scope within the new sub-regional arrangements and provisions proposed by the Government to provide an alternative mechanism to the MAA for securing the long term objective of devolved and integrated “single pot” funding, and delegation of responsibilities to PUSH to deliver agreed outcomes. It is however very early in the process of the Government ‘s development of its proposals and there are no guarantees of any outcomes at this time. It is therefore considered that at this stage PUSH should continue to press ahead with focused strengthening and broadening of the South Hampshire MAA, along the lines agreed at the previous meeting. It is also considered that the existing less formalised MAA model should be maintained, rather than seek a change to the alternative “MAA with duties” or (“statutory” MAA) model also proposed by the Government in its response to the SNR.
3. There is still a requirement for significant development in a number of the existing MAA outcomes, and whilst the overall picture is reasonable, there are a number of missed milestones already. It is therefore considered that ambition must be related to resources and capacity to deliver in the approach to extending the MAA. It is intended that the Delivery Panels should be actively engaged in the process of developing MAA outcomes, but the timescales for the refresh process are not helpful in this regard, and it is therefore suggested that the Chairmen and Chief Executive Theme Leads should take a leading role for the relevant outcome areas.
4. Some consultation has now taken place with partners and other interested parties through the PUSH theme groups, and these deliberations have informed the recommendations put before the Joint Committee in this report. Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee is due to meet later in January to review the transport outcomes and therefore the proposals set out below reflect initial views from officers, and are subject to confirmation by the TfSH Joint Committee. The PUSH Joint Committee is asked to consider the proposed priority outcome areas set out below, with the caveat that the Transport outcome remains to be confirmed by TfSH.

PROPOSALS

5. Proposed Priority Outcome Areas:-

Outcome Area	Comment	Panel	Partners
Green Infrastructure/ Natural Environment	Possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Natural England and the Environment Agency – also potential funding/target changes at national level to secure delivery of Green infrastructure.	S&CI	Nat England/ Env Agency/ Defra.
Enterprise, Skills and Innovation	Potential further development of skills outcomes and scope to include new outcomes around ICT and new Innovation and Growth Team delivery, plus environmental technologies, and enhanced Higher Education and Commercial integration.	ED	SEEDA/ Universities/ Innovation & Growth Team
Public Transport	Possible MoU with Network Rail to secure shared objectives on supporting the delivery of transport investment and improvements to support growth. Also potential bus passenger benefit and bus procurement measures from development of bus based outcome within the MAA. TfSH Joint Committee to review priorities at January meeting.	TfSH JC ¹	Network Rail; Bus Operators
Priority Estate Regeneration	Possible MoU/Formal agreement with HCA re longer term funding and outcomes for regeneration of priority public housing areas (Rowner, Leigh Park, Somerstown, Thornhill and other priority estates in South Hampshire) tackling a range of issues in an integrated programme including skills and employability, housing conditions and redevelopment, community facilities, environment and social exclusion.	H&P	HCA/ CLG
External Funding/Better use of Assets.	Potentially significant measures to secure funding at sub-regional level, assisted development of an SPV Delivery vehicle (re Employ land) and exploration of a Sub Regional Investment Fund with Government backing. Potential also for Joint Investment Framework agreement with SEEDA (and HCA?) to secure agreed priorities and funding in medium term.	EF&R	Govt/ SEEDA

6. The MAA refresh process itself requires the preparation of a document to

¹ Transport for South Hampshire is a separate Joint Committee of the three highway authorities, which works with PUSH to formulate and secure delivery of strategic sub-regional transport solutions to support the growth strategy for South Hampshire.

outline additional outcomes and supporting evidence for such additions to the original agreement. The process is iterative in that detailed proposals are refined and shaped, along with any relevant targets, through detailed negotiations and discussion with partners and Government. At the previous meeting it was agreed to convene a small team to support the MAA development and negotiation process. It is proposed that responsibility for leading and overseeing the development of the MAA submission and the negotiations with Whitehall be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the PUSH Joint Committee and Programme Board Chairmen and the Chairmen and Chief Executive leads of the relevant Delivery Panels.

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Background Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact:-

Stuart Jarvis (PUSH Managing Director)

Tel. No. 07736 792647

e-mail: stuart.jarvis@push.gov.uk