



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 19 March 2009
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman)

Councillor Keith House
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Mel Kendal (deputising for Ken Thornber)
Councillor David Gillett (deputising for Tony Briggs)
Councillor Edward Heron
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor Alec Samuels
Councillor Martin Hatley
Councillor George Beckett

Authority represented:

Fareham BC

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

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
James Strachan (deputising for Andrew Smith)
Sandy Hopkins
David Yates
David Williams
Brad Roynon
Roger Tetstall
Simon Eden

Authority represented:

Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC

Havant BC
New Forest DC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Stuart Jarvis

PUSH Managing Director

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Cathy Evans
Kathy Slack

Caroline Williams

Body Represented:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ferris Cowper, East Hampshire District Council, Ken Thornber, Hampshire County Council and Tony Briggs, Havant Borough Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from Andrew Smith, Hampshire County Council and Martin Tugwell, SEERA.

RESOLVED, that the relevant changes to the membership for this meeting be noted, as above.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee held on 15 January 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached [-pjc-090115-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) MP's Briefing:

The Chairman was pleased to advise that the PUSH MP's briefing took place in Fareham on 27 February. It was some time since the last briefing, and there was lots of interest from those MPs that attended in how PUSH was transforming into a delivery focused organisation, and some of the key challenges that this presented in terms of capital funding. The Chairman was also very pleased that John Denham was able to join the meeting, enabling a useful discussion and he thought it was fair to say, endorsement, of the PUSH approach on skills and training, and in particular, to PUSH's emerging Employment and Skills Board;

(b) Economic Development Director:

The Chairman advised that Dawn Baxendale, the PUSH Economic Development Director, had recently been appointed by Southampton City Council as Assistant Chief Executive. Dawn's role would be to lead on Economic Development and Regeneration for Southampton, so PUSH would continue to see her close involvement in the future. Dawn would take up her post with Southampton on 14 April, but would also continue to help finish off some key PUSH projects after that period. The Chairman asked the Joint Committee to join him in thanking Dawn for her work for PUSH, and wishing her well at Southampton.

Minute 3 cont.

(c) Energy Workshop:

At the Joint Committee meeting on 18 November 2008, when the Arup Energy Report was considered, it was agreed to hold a workshop for Joint Committee Members. Since that date, discussions had been held on a Hampshire Wide basis about tackling energy issues and climate change. It was now intended that Hampshire County Council would commission Arup to undertake a follow-on study to extend the work to cover the remainder of Hampshire. The work on preparing the Climate Change Strategy agreed by the Joint Committee could therefore now embrace the whole of Hampshire and the two cities, which, in the circumstances, seemed efficient and generally beneficial. It was, therefore, suggested, following an approach by the County Council, that the 3 Hampshire authorities not within PUSH and the Isle of Wight Council be invited to the workshop.

The intention was for the event to be half a day and the timing suggested was to be late June. Cllr Martin Hatley, as chair of the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel, had kindly agreed to chair the event; and

(d) HEFCCE Bid Letter:

The Chairman had been asked recently to provide a letter of endorsement on behalf of PUSH to an application for up to £4M of grant funding on behalf of a consortium of South Coast Universities. He was happy to oblige and hoped that the bid was successful. It was heartening to note the importance attached to PUSH endorsement by an increasing range of outside organisations and interests.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Vernon Jackson declared a personal interest in item 10 as he was Portsmouth City Council's appointee to the Theatre Royal, which is mentioned in the capital programme.

5. DEPUTATIONS

The Joint Committee received a deputation from Mr Stan Holden, who addressed members regarding opposition to the Strategic Development Area in the North / North East of Hedge End.

Mr Holden explained that his group was the Botley Parish Action Group, and together with the Durley and Curdrige Parishes Action Group, they were opposing the SDA N/NE of Hedge End. They thus covered both the Eastleigh and the Winchester sides of the SDA search area. They had, in the short time of their existence, made representations in the form of technical presentations or formal complaints to the Secretary of State, their MP, Chris Huhne, Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council, as well PUSH this

Minute 5 cont.

evening. These covered the concerns of the residents represented by the group and included some real anger about the lack of public consultation, as well as strong feelings about ecological, sustainability and infrastructure issues. Mr Holden advised that the Joint Committee should all have received 3 papers from the group. Two of these listed some good technical reasons for the SDA to be abandoned and the other showed some of the opponents to the SDA and extracts from their statements. Mr Holden advised the Joint Committee of what the group thought about the whole process, then he wished to pose some questions, to which the group and residents in general, deserved answers from PUSH.

The site of the SDA was not far off the worst that could be chosen in South Hampshire. It was naturally beautiful, rolling countryside with a major tributary to the Upper Hamble river. It supported an abundance of wild life, and was a much needed area for peoples' leisure pursuits. It carried high grade farmland and a golf course. In the process of choosing the site, no thought had been given to the feasibility of the development, and worse still, it was inconceivable for anyone to believe that it could be truly sustainable. In fact, the group had already expressed its concern over the Integrated Water Management study and the legitimate issues raised in that study, which seemed to have attracted a "develop regardless" stance from PUSH. Similar concerns pertained to the apparent dismissal of the Sustainability Appraisal and the Landscape Sensitivity work.

The group asked the meeting why it was that PUSH continued to promote this SDA when so many parties opposed it, and when so many technical issues undermined it?

Secondly, the group asked why PUSH was doing so little to challenge the government's ludicrous top down imposition for growth figures and housing allocation for the South East and South Hampshire in particular?

Thirdly, the group requested that PUSH formally adopts a motion to prepare a contingency for alternative housing to the SDA allocation, on the basis that the site was either agreed by the stakeholders to be in the wrong place, or that the feasibility was unproven, or that the development on this site was shown to be unsustainable.

Mr Holden thanked the Joint Committee for listening and advised that a copy of his statement could be obtained from him or from the group's website.

The Joint Committee thanked Mr Holden accordingly.

Matters for Decision:

6. 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 (copy of report [pjc-090319-r02-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and

Minute 6 cont.

appended to the signed minutes).

(a) Authority to Enter into a Contract on behalf of PUSH

RESOLVED, that the County Council be AUTHORISED to enter into a contract on behalf of PUSH, in respect of the £15,000 SEEDA grant towards the Quality Places Delivery Manager and Cultural Strategy Launch projects, 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.

(b) Innovation and Growth Team (IGT) Project

RESOLVED, that the revised arrangement for PUSH engagement with SEEDA and the IGT be APPROVED, and any action required to implement this be AUTHORISED.

Part B: MATTER FOR INFORMATION

(c) MAA Programme

RESOLVED, that the information be NOTED.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE 209/2010 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Senior Committee Administrator, Fareham Borough Council, which asked the Joint Committee to determine its schedule of meeting dates for the municipal year 2009/10 (copy of report [pjc-090319-r01-sco](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that the following schedule of meetings be APPROVED for the municipal year 2009/10:-

19 May 2009: (Annual Meeting to re-appoint members):

29 July 2009;

15 September 2009;

24 November 2009;

26 January 2010; and

23 March 2010.

8. PUSH BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which sought the Committee's approval for the 2009 Business Plan and authority to forward it to individual local authority partners for their consideration and approval (copy of report [pjc-090319-r03-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the proposed PUSH Business Plan 2009 be APPROVED and COMMENDED to the 11 partner Local Authorities for their approval; and
- (b) authority BE DELEGATED to the Managing Director to finalise the document, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, including authority to annotate those targets which were unlikely to be achieved in the light of the current economic climate, make appropriate minor amendments or editorial changes, and to incorporate any consequential amendments resulting from the consideration of the 2009/10 Budget and Capital Programme, due to be considered later on this agenda.

9. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Treasurer, Head of Finance from Hampshire County Council and the PUSH Managing Director, 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-090319-r04-jpi](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) 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 carry forward of £509,000 underspend on the capital programme into 2009/10 be APPROVED;
- (d) the carry forward of £548,000 underspend on the revenue budget into 2009/10 be APPROVED; and
- (e) it be NOTED that further variations before 31 March 2009 will be reported to the Joint Committee at outturn with appropriate recommendations.

10. REVENUE AND CAPITAL 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 sought the Joint Committee's confirmation of the Revenue Budget, including allocations to each Theme/Delivery Panel and recommended a Capital Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11 (copy of report [pjc-090319-r06-sja-jpi-tni](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (a) the total anticipated funding available to PUSH in 2009/10 and 2010/11 be NOTED;
- (b) the Revenue budgets for 2009/10 and 2010/11, as set out in the Report at Table 2, be APPROVED;
- (c) the proposed revenue grant for Transport for South Hampshire of £200,000 towards strategic access studies and development of the sub-regional evidence base BE APPROVED, and a further £50,000 for initial feasibility work on strategic access and traffic impact from potential major development sites in Gosport be APPROVED;
- (d) the recommended PUSH Capital Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11, as set in the report in Tables 4a – 4e, and summarised in Table 5, be APPROVED subject to the following projects where further approval is reserved:-
 - i. Eastleigh River Side in respect of land to be acquired solely for access purposes prior to finalisation of the access proposals (£849,000);
 - ii. Spice Island allocation for 2010/11 (£1,000,000); and

With the provision of a single programme allocation for Eastleigh River Side, with guideline project sub-allocations, as detailed in paragraph 16.

- (e) authority be DELEGATED to the Managing Director, following consultation with the Treasurer, to approve the release of the £849,000 reserved element of the Eastleigh River Side Capital allocation, following a request from the Project Board, and for the purpose of facilitating access to the area, when access proposals have been finalised and agreed by the appropriate authorities
- (f) the unallocated capital resources of £248,000 in 2009/10 and £2,956,000 in 2010/11, which are available for future allocation, be NOTED;
- (g) Authority be DELEGATED to the Managing Director, following consultation with the Treasurer, to apply appropriate conditions on the Revenue and Capital grants to Transport for South Hampshire, based on the 2008/09 arrangements; and

Minute 10 contd.

- (h) Authority be DELEGATED to the Managing Director, following consultation with the Treasurer, to approve variations between the Eastleigh River Side projects within the overall Programme Allocation, where the integrity of the original allocation is preserved.

11. FORD UPDATE

The Joint Committee considered a report by SEEDA, which outlined the inter-agency approach to responding to the significant redundancies arising at the Ford Transit van plant (copy of report [pjc-090319-r05-ksl](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Kathy Slack gave an update on the situation and advised that a large number of staff had put their names forward for the voluntary redundancy package and the majority of them may well be accepted. She would update the Joint Committee at a future meeting

RESOLVED, that the joint action being taken by partners to support workers in the automotive sector, be NOTED.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the Executive considers that it is not in the public interest to consider the matters in public on the grounds that they will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Private Session

13. STAFFING ISSUES

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director on staffing issues.

RESOLVED, that the recommendations set out in the [confidential paper](#) to the Joint Committee be APPROVED, subject to the amendment of the job titles to reflect the nature of the feasibility work to be undertaken..

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 8:10pm).

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