



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **19 March 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. Authority to Enter into a Contract on behalf of PUSH

PUSH has reached agreement with SEEDA in respect of a modest funding contribution in connection with two initiatives in the Quality Places Theme. This grant offer, of £15,000, requires Hampshire County Council (HCC), on behalf of PUSH, to sign a contractual agreement. The purpose of this report item is to seek authority for the County Council to do this.

The funding proposal is in two parts. The first (£10k) is to support a two-year post of 'Quality Places Delivery Manager', which is to be jointly funded by HCC and the SE Living Places Partnership (Arts Council, English Heritage, Museums Libraries & Archives Council, Tourism South East and Sport England). The SEEDA contribution will in be used over the two years 2009/10 to 2010/11, at £5k per annum. The post, in common with all PUSH staff, is formally on the HCC payroll, and is tasked with delivering objectives in the PUSH Cultural Strategy which was approved in January, and the Business Plan which is a separate item on the agenda for this meeting. The final £5k is to support an event to 'launch' the Cultural Strategy and discuss delivery of its objectives. This is planned to take place in early Summer.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee AUTHORISES the County Council 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.

2. Innovation and Growth Team (IGT) Project

Members may recall an item in the Managing Director's to the Joint Committee meeting in January, at which authority was sought for the County Council to sign a contract with SEEDA on behalf of PUSH in relation to the IGT project.

Following further discussions and legal consultation, it has subsequently been proposed that the best way to secure delivery of PUSH objectives in relation to innovation and growth is for PUSH to take on a performance monitoring and priority setting role in support of SEEDA, rather than become a contractual managing agent. This would secure PUSH influence on the project, whilst minimising the complexity of the contractual arrangement, and the potentially significant liabilities, which might otherwise be incurred. Therefore the contract is now likely to be a direct one between the IGT and SEEDA, with the PUSH role secured through provisions in this main contract. It is further suggested that this arrangement should be kept under review, and that PUSH may wish to reconsider the situation in the future, should circumstances change.

The Joint Committee is therefore **RECOMMENDED** to APPROVE the revised arrangement for PUSH engagement with SEEDA and the IGT, and to AUTHORISE any action required actions to implement this.

Part B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3. MAA Programme

At the previous two meetings of the Joint Committee, the refresh of the South Hampshire MAA has been discussed, and agreed. The original programme for the refresh envisaged a target date of late spring for concluding negotiations, but it is now apparent that the Government is unlikely to maintain this timetable. It is now thought that the earliest date for further MAA signing will be in the summer, and therefore Members are asked to note that the refresh of the South Hampshire Agreement will proceed on the basis of this revised programme. This is welcome as it allows more time for the complex discussions and negotiations that are likely to be required in the securing our MAA refresh priorities.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that this information be NOTED.

Background Papers: - None

For further information on this report please contact:- Stuart Jarvis, PUSH Managing Director (stuart.jarvis@push.gov.uk)