



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

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

Members:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman)

Councillor Mark Hook
Councillor Roy Perry
Councillor Tony Briggs
Councillor Edward Heron
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor Alec Samuels
Councillor Martin Hatley

Authority represented:

Fareham BC

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

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
Alison Quant (deputising for Andrew Smith)
Sandy Hopkins
David Yates
David Williams
Roger Tetstall
Steve Tilbury (deputising for Simon Eden)

Authority represented:

Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC

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

Stuart Jarvis

PUSH Managing Director

Co-opted, Non-Voting Members

Howard Ewing (deputising for Cathy Evans)
Neil Pearce (deputising for Kathy Slack)

Caroline Williams

Body Represented:

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED, that Councillor Seán Woodward be appointed as Chairman of the Joint Committee for the Municipal year 2009/10.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Joint Committee was invited to appoint Vice-Chairmen for the Municipal year 2009/10 and was reminded of the provisions of the agreement limiting who may be appointed in that capacity.

RESOLVED, that Councillors Roy Perry and Gerald Vernon-Jackson be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee for the Municipal year 2009/10.

3. CO-OPTING OF NON-VOTING MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Cathy Evans: Government Office for the South East; and Kathy Slack: South East England Development Agency; and the PUSH Business Group be co-opted as non-voting members to the Joint Committee.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Beckett, Winchester City Council, Ferris Cowper, East Hampshire District Council, K House, Eastleigh Borough Council, Kathy Slack from SEEDA and Cathy Evans from the Government Office for the South East.

Apologies for absence were also received from Simon Eden, Winchester City Council, Brad Roynon, Southampton City Council and Andrew Smith, Hampshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the relevant changes to the membership for this meeting be NOTED, as above; and
- (ii) that the Committee's thanks be extended to Councillor K Thornber, Hampshire County Council and Martin Tugwell, formerly of SEERA, for their services to PUSH during their time as members of the Joint Committee.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee held on 19 March 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pjc-090319-m](#)).

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

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(a) Innovation and Growth Team (IGT).

Colleagues may recall the SEEDA sponsored IGT project, progress with which was reported to the meetings of this Joint Committee in January and March. The project will take the form of a contract between SEEDA and the individual teams providing the service in each part of the region, with additional provision in South Hampshire for PUSH to be consulted on priorities and performance, and for the service provider to be required to work to the PUSH Business Plan. The successful bidder for the project covering South Hampshire (Solent Innovation and Growth [SIGN]) has additionally requested a PUSH representation on their Board. It is considered that a senior level, operational link would support the IGT most effectively in this context. It was therefore proposed to ask the Lead Chief Executive responsible for Economic Development to take this role on, subject to the Committee's agreement.

The Joint Committee AGREED that the Lead Chief Executive responsible for Economic Development be asked to take the above role on.

(b) ERDF Bids

I am pleased to advise that PUSH is currently considering supporting European bids, under the latest ERDF round. The two projects, for which PUSH would be a strategic partner, rather than delivery agency, are:-

- a. A Renewable Energy Futures (REEF) Project with a number of partners, including Southampton and Portsmouth Universities, SEEDA, and Environbusiness South East, addressing renewable energy with a focus on marine. Total project value is estimated at £835,000, which requires 50% match funding. PUSH has agreed to contribute £5,000 from the PUSH Economic Development Budget by way of a grant to the pot of match funds; and
- b. Sustainable Business Support Grant Project to set up a scheme to offer 50% grants to businesses to implement business support advice they have received through environmental audits and other schemes. The scheme would aim to support 100 SMEs over 3 years with grants of £1,000-£3,000 each, with each recipient business matching the grant. The total project is estimated up to £800,000, where £400,000 will be from ERDF and £400,000 from match funding.

(c) Broadband Pilot Area Opportunity

BT is currently working on priorities for investment in "super-fast" broadband, with support and encouragement from Ministers. BT is keen to select priority areas within the South East, and is working with SEEDA to facilitate this process. As a Growth Area, and a Diamond for

6. (c) cont.

Investment and Growth, south Hampshire is considered to be a serious contender, particularly if PUSH lends its support to the process, simplifying the engagement process for BT and SEEDA. There is likely to be an expectation that areas wishing to go forward with early rollout will take a positive and supportive approach over issues such as planning application submissions or other permissions associated with additional street furniture such as wiring cabinets. The Chairman advised that if partner authorities were in support, he proposed to advise BT and SEEDA of PUSH's interest, and seek early progress on discussions with interested parties.

The Joint Committee confirmed its agreement to this proposal.

(d) TIF-ADZ Expression of Interest

A letter has been sent to all authorities in England inviting initial expressions of interest in participating in this pilot initiative to test a new potential funding arrangement, based on retention locally of new, non-domestic, tax revenues arising from accelerated development of areas. Expressions of interest must be received by 30 June. This is something PUSH has already begun to look at in connection with potential new MAA outcomes, and is also in the emerging work programme for the External Funding and Resources theme.

It was agreed that PUSH should pursue work on submitting an expression of interest, led by the External Funding and Resources Theme, with a report back on any potential bids to the special Joint Committee Meeting on 26 June. A copy of a letter from the Minister for Local Government headed 'Tax Incremental Funding/Accelerated Development Zones' was circulated to those present.

**(e) Experian Policy Insight – Spring 2009 Edition
“Pushing the boundaries: rethinking traditional geographies”**

The Chairman advised that this recent publication by Experian explored the role of functional geographies, highlighting the opportunities that they can provide for local communities, as well as the potential challenges of using them for policy making alongside more 'tried and tested' administrative boundaries. The report referred to PUSH in a number of places as an example of best practice. Copies had been forwarded to partners and to PUSH Chief Executives.

(f) Special Meeting on 26 June 2009

The Chairman reminded members about the special meeting of the Joint Committee on 26 June to sign off accounts. The District Audit lead officer would also be attending to make a short presentation on the audit process for PUSH, followed by the main item which would be the sign off of the

6. (f) cont.

PUSH accounts for 2008/09. On 15 September, the District Auditor would attend the scheduled Joint Committee Meeting to formally present his audit findings and certificate.

As part of his work on governance, he will wish to assure himself on the roles and responsibilities of the Joint Committee in terms of decision making and procedures, and he intends to do that through questions to Joint Committee members, probably arranged through informal discussions or meetings. It is not clear at this stage which members he will need to meet with, but this will be agreed with the District Auditor in due course.

Matters for Decision:

7. 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-090519-r01-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

(a) Proposed Minor Adjustments to the Boundary of the PUSH Area:

RESOLVED, that a clarification of the definition of the PUSH northern boundary to be coterminous with the approved South Downs National Park boundary be APPROVED.

(b) Joint Committee Co-opted Members:

RESOLVED, that:-

- (i) following the demise of the South East of England Regional Assembly, there is no longer a need for there to be any representation on the PUSH Joint Committee, but a representative of the Regional Officer Group be invited to attend the PUSH Operational Theme Leads Group;
- (ii) the Chairman be authorised to write to Martin Tugwell, on behalf of the Joint Committee, to thank him for his support to PUSH and invite him to attend the PUSH Programme Board (minute 4 above also refers); and
- (iii) the Regional Director of the Homes and Communities Agency be invited to sit on the PUSH Joint Committee as a non-voting, co-opted member.

(c) Governance Appointments

RESOLVED, that Councillor Perry be confirmed as the Chairman of the External Funding and Resources Delivery Panel, and as a Member

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representative on the PUSH Employment and Skills Board; and that Councillor Hook be confirmed as a member representative on the Economic Development Delivery Panel.

(d) New Forest National Park: Statutory Bodies Liaison Group

RESOLVED, that the proposal that the Managing Director represents PUSH on the New Forest Statutory Bodies Liaison Group be APPROVED.

8. MULTI AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which updated Members on progress, reported on the emerging national framework for MAA “stock-take” and “Refresh” processes, and sought approval where appropriate for further actions (copy of report [pjc-090519-r02-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

A copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government concerning the South Hampshire Multi-Area Agreement was circulated to those present. The PUSH Managing Director also updated Members on the outcome of recent meetings associated with the MAA refresh, and in particular the emerging proposition that PUSH would be seen as a ‘pathfinder’ for the stock-take and refresh process nationally.

RESOLVED, that the proposed approach, and the priority outcome areas set out in the report as the revised basis for negotiation of the MAA stock-take and refresh be APPROVED.

9. PUSH PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK AND REPORT

The Joint Committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which provided a summary of PUSH’s performance in 2008/09 against the previously agreed key strategic outcomes using an exception based approach as the basis for performance management. It also proposed the Performance Framework for 2009/10, and suggested a new reporting cycle (copy of report [pjc-090519-r03-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (i) the performance results for the 2008/09 period be NOTED; and
- (ii) the proposed performance framework for 2009/10, including revised reporting arrangements, recognising that further development work is needed in some areas, be AGREED.

(Councillor Perry requested that it be recorded that he noted (ii) above, but did not agree it)

10. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Treasurer, from Hampshire County Council and the PUSH Managing Director, which summarised the provisional outturn against the budget, in advance of the formal presentation of the Annual Accounts at the special meeting of the Joint Committee on 26 June 2009 (copy of report [pjc-090519-r04-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED, that:-

- (i) the anticipated final outturn for the financial year 2008/09 and the consequent impact on 2009/10 be NOTED;
- (ii) amendments to the carry forward approved at the Joint Committee on 19 March be incorporated into the revised budgets for 2009/10, and reported to the Joint Committee on 29 July 2009;
- (iii) the Transport for South Hampshire request to carry forward the underspend of £700,000 capital grant from PUSH into their budget for 2009/10, in respect of the deferred strategic access work for which the grant was originally made be APPROVED; and
- (iv) the audited Annual Accounts be presented to a special meeting of the Joint Committee on 26 June 2009.

Matter for Information:

11. PRESENTATION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SOUTH EAST PLAN PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

The Joint Committee received a presentation from David Williams, the Lead Chief Executive for Housing and Planning, on the Outcome of the South East Plan Proposed Modifications Consultation. Copies of the slides used in the presentation were circulated to those present.

RESOLVED that the information contained in the presentation be noted.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:12pm).

(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on Friday, 26 June 2009 at 2:00pm to sign off the accounts).