



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 23 March 2010

Report of: David Williams (HCA) /Jeff Channing (PUSH)

Subject: The 'Single Conversation' with the Homes and Communities Agency

SUMMARY

At its January, meeting the Joint Committee received a report and a presentation on the Homes and Communities Agency's 'Single Conversation', the Local Investment Plan and Local Investment Agreement, and approved the proposed process of drawing up the Plan, including a workshop to brief the key partners. PUSH is one of three local authorities or groups of authorities in the South East piloting the Single Conversation with the HCA. A draft of the Local Investment Plan is attached setting out PUSH's strategy relating to the delivery of additional homes and improving communities. The Plan is still a *draft* which, it is proposed, should be finalised in the light of further consultation and the current work on PUSH's economic strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Committee is requested to:-

1. note the draft Local Investment Plan; and
2. delegate authority to the PUSH Executive Director, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, to consult on the draft Plan and to finalise the document in the light of consultation and the current work on PUSH's economic strategy.

Introduction

1. At its last meeting, the Joint Committee received a presentation from the South East Regional Director of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) about the 'Single Conversation' to be undertaken with local authorities and groups of authorities throughout England. PUSH is one of three areas in the South East piloting this approach, which involves the compilation of a Local Investment Plan by PUSH and, in due course, a Local Investment Agreement by the HCA. The Plan will help shape the Agreement and enable the HCA to align its funding with PUSH's objectives and priorities.
2. A draft of the Plan has been prepared by the Single Conversation working group and this is attached to this paper at Appendix A.

The draft Local Investment Plan

3. The Local Investment Plan is intended by the HCA to help identify the resource needs of PUSH in delivering its objectives relating to housing and communities over the period 2011-14. The draft document therefore sets out PUSH's aims, strategy, and housing priorities, and reviews the current state of the housing market.
4. The draft shows that HCA funding for South Hampshire in 2009-10 was provisionally £86.5m, principally support to affordable housing. It also supported key projects such as the Bus Rapid Transit project and Rowner regeneration.
5. The Plan has been drafted in the context of *current* PUSH policies, for example, the 'cities first' approach. It also takes account of developing policy where it has been agreed by the Joint Committee: it is, for example, consistent with the updated version of the MAA and with recent housing monitoring data (reported to the Committee at its last meeting) that pointed to the need to deliver more family housing in South Hampshire.
6. Before the Plan can be finalised, there is more work to be done on the deliverability of projects over the next three years. The final document will include an annexed list of housing projects put forward by each local planning or housing authority, that it is proposed should be undertaken by 2014-15. This list will enable the HCA to identify projects in the pipeline.
7. Work on the Local Investment Plan and PUSH's economic strategy are inter-related and will be taken forward in parallel.

Consultation

8. As the paper taken at the January meeting of the Committee indicated, the intention is to consult partners such as RSLs, developers and public agencies (eg the Environment Agency) before finalising the document. A workshop will be arranged that will provide the HCA with the opportunity to brief participants about the Single Conversation and to test assumptions about investment requirements and delivery. A Member from each PUSH authority will be invited to attend.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Joint Committee notes the *draft* Local Investment Plan; and
2. That it delegates authority to the PUSH Executive Director, in conjunction with the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen, to consult on the draft and to finalise the Plan in the light of the consultation and current work on the PUSH economic strategy.

Appendices: A - [Draft Local Investment Plan](#)

Background Papers: Single Conversation: further information, Local Investment Plan guidance prepared by the Homes and Communities Agency Jan 2010

Enquiries:

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