



# Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 23 June 2010

Report of: Anne-Marie Mountifield, PUSH Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

## SUMMARY

This report represents an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Joint Committee. The Executive 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

#### Employment and Skills Board

1. In January 2009, the Joint Committee approved the Terms of Reference for the PUSH Employment and Skills Board (ESB) and established a shadow board to take forward the implementation of the Multi Area Agreement Employment and Skills theme. One of the tasks of the Shadow Board was to establish an employer led PUSH ESB. This was formally established in November 2009 and at the first meeting the Terms of Reference were considered and a number of changes proposed. The revised Terms of Reference were approved by the Board at its second meeting in February 2010 and are attached in Appendix A of this report. The main changes proposed relate to the governance issues, and were made on the basis of preparing the ESB to become a specified body for co-ordinating and aligning resources and policy across the PUSH area, and delivery the adult employment and skills strategy. This is in line with the enabling measures agreed within the refresh of the MAA. In summary the changes proposed relate mainly to the following:
  - Membership and tenure;
  - Organisation;
  - Quoracy;
  - Decisions and Voting;
  - The Role of the Chairman;
  - The Role of Members of the Board;

- The Role of Ex-officio Observers; and
  - Declarations of Interest (to ensure transparency and openness in decision making).
2. As the original Terms of Reference were approved by the Joint Committee there is a need for the revision to be formally approved by the Joint Committee. Members should also note further revisions may be necessary as the self assessment process is undertaken to meet the criteria for securing devolution of powers for adult employment and skills.
  3. Therefore the Joint Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to **NOTE** the progress to date and **APPROVE** the revised Terms of Reference for the ESB, and to **DELEGATE** authority to the Executive Director of PUSH in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Committee and the Chairman of Economic Development Delivery Panel to approve future changes.

### **SEEDA/ SRP Contract 2008-2011**

4. PUSH receives funding from SEEDA to support its economic development activities. In 2008, SEEDA indicated that it would provide an annual sum of £165,000 for 3 years. In September 2008 and September 2009, the Joint Committee authorised Hampshire County Council, as lead authority, to sign an agreement with SEEDA to receive this funding in return for specific commitments towards the delivery of the sub regional partnership. PUSH has now received an amendment to the contract from SEEDA relating to the delivery milestones in 2010/11. The terms and conditions of the contract signed in 2008 remain in force and are currently unaltered. It is recommended that this amended agreement should be signed. Therefore the Joint Committee is asked to authorise Hampshire County Council to sign the amended schedule on behalf of PUSH.
5. Members should however note that as part of the public expenditure review there is an expectation that SEEDA will face significant budget reductions of at least 20% on their programme budget. Therefore we have been advised that given the scale of the savings sought, SEEDA cannot rule out, at this stage, renegotiating, delaying or scaling back on some projects to which we are already committed. They have given an undertaking to consult relevant partners on how they manage these reductions to minimise the damage to programmes and projects. I will keep Members informed of developments in this area.
6. The Joint Committee is therefore **RECOMMENDED** to **AUTHORISE** Hampshire County Council to sign the Amended Schedule to the contract with SEEDA on behalf of PUSH, subject to confirmation of the SEEDA budget position. .

### **PLUGGED- IN PLACES**

7. Plugged-In Places, launched on 19 November 2009, intends to create a critical mass of infrastructure in between 3 and 6 lead cities or regions in the UK. This will support the early market for electric vehicles that will be entering the UK market in the near future. The lessons learned from these cities or regions will

be used to inform the future development of a national recharging infrastructure.

8. Seed funding, worth up to £30 million, is intended to be made available to consortia in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland made of local authorities, businesses, electricity distributors and suppliers and other organisations. This funding will support installation of various types of recharging infrastructure on-street and in local authority, work, retail and leisure facility car parks.
9. The second round of Plugged-In Places funding was open to bids from new consortia, Hampshire County Council are leading a bid and have invited PUSH to become a core partner in the consortia. An expression of interest was submitted on 1 June and successful applicants will be invited to submit full applications by 30 September. The bid is aimed at increasing the demand for electric vehicles in the area as well as raising awareness of electric vehicle opportunities amongst both residents and business. This maybe affected by the current public expenditure review.
10. Therefore the Joint Committee is RECOMMENDED to:-
  - (a) NOTE the progress to date and APPROVE the proposal that PUSH becomes a core partner in the consortia; and
  - (b) DELEGATE authority to the Executive Director to finalise a contribution for the consortia bid on behalf of PUSH, in the event it is invited to make a submission of a full bid.

## **Part B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Multi Area Agreement Refresh**

7. The South Hampshire Agreement was been submitted in March 2010 for formal approval. PUSH received a response from DCLG on 5 April 2010 (see Appendix B), advising that it was not possible to formally conclude the revised agreement at this stage. However we have continued to liaise with officials in DCLG and Government colleagues to deliver on the commitments that were made during the negotiations and have progressed a number of areas including external funding and employment and skills. In addition as part of the MAA refresh an important agreement was signed on Thursday 18 March 2010 by Natural England, the Environment Agency, and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) and the Government Office for the South East. Further to this the Environment Agency have set up a new project called Solent Flood Risk 2026, which will adopt a new approach to reducing flood risk and achieving safe and sustainable development for the benefit of the local communities. A project board has been established with multi agency input and it will work together with other interested organisations to understand the challenges and priorities of all involved. In partnership it will look for opportunities to reduce flood risk and deliver the outcomes set out in our recently endorsed MOU with PUSH.

### **PUSH Communications Strategy**

8. Since the last meeting, further work has been undertaken to improve the consistency of communication with those members and officers who are not

specifically involved in PUSH activity. A second newsletter will be published for internal distribution across the Local Authority areas in PUSH. In addition the website has been refreshed to ensure that internal members and officers and external partners and other interest groups can access and be informed of the work of the Partnership. This was launched on 26 April 2010 and can be accessed at [www.push.gov.uk](http://www.push.gov.uk) .

### **Delivery Panel Update**

9. HOUSING AND PLANNING: Feasibility studies for the SDA North and North East of Hedge End are largely complete and will be published on the PUSH website, following review by the PUSH Housing and Planning Panel. The feasibility studies comprise a main report, detailing the range of issues that will affect deliverability of the SDA and site capacity. Separate consultancy studies (commissioned through the PUSH Housing and Planning Panel) informing this report include:
  - A landscape sensitivity study, produced by Land Use Consultants;
  - A biodiversity assessment, produced by Chris Blandford Associates; and
  - An energy options appraisal study, produced by Element Consulting.
10. Members may also wish to note that transport studies, examining the combined impacts of major developments in the sub-region and preferred mitigation strategies, have been commissioned by Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH) and were due to be reported to TfSH Joint Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> June and published on the TfSH website.
11. In addition, a sustainability appraisal for the Eastleigh BC core strategy is being undertaken by UE Associates on behalf of Eastleigh BC, which will include scoping and options testing of any SDA proposals. This is due to be published in conjunction with the core strategy. A screening report, required by the Habitat Regulations Assessment, has been subject to consultation with statutory bodies and will also form part of the evidence base for their core strategy.
12. The relevant local authorities (Eastleigh and Winchester councils) will make arrangements for reporting this work to their Members.

### **Core team staffing**

13. Since your last meeting in March 2010, I can advise that in partnership with Graduate Jobs South (GJS), PUSH has offered an opportunity for an intern to work with the core team. The internship will run for 20 weeks and the recruitment process is now complete. This has led to the successful appointment of Guy Campbell who started in post on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010, and is working with the Core team as an Analyst supporting the work on Economic Development and Communications.

### **Consultation responses**

14. Since the last Joint Committee meeting the Chairman has written in response to the following consultations:-

- A response to the Government consultation on Economic Prosperity Boards.

15. A copy of the response sent can be found on the PUSH website.

**Appendices:** A - [Employment & Skills Board Terms of Reference](#)

B - [DCLG Response](#)

**Background Papers:** For further information on this report please contact Anne Marie Mountifield, PUSH Executive Director.