



# Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 7 July 2010

Report of: Anne Marie Mountifield, PUSH Executive Director

Subject: PUSH Business Plan Review

## SUMMARY

PUSH is required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities, which in turn must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan. In addition, it was agreed previously by the Joint Committee that the Business Plan itself be supplemented by a more detailed Action Plan for each of the PUSH delivery themes, which would be subject to the approval of the Joint Committee. These Action Plans were to be prepared in line with the provisions of the Business Plan and within the allocated budget for each theme, to be finalised in consultation with the Delivery Panels. This report seeks the Committees approval for the 2010-12 Business Plan and supporting theme action plans and authority to forward it to individual local authority partners for their consideration and approval.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Committee:-

1. APPROVES the proposed PUSH Business Plan 2010-12 and supporting theme action plans attached at Appendix 2, and commends it to the 11 partner Local Authorities for their approval; and
2. DELEGATES authority to the Executive Director to finalise the document, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, including authority to make appropriate amendments or editorial changes, and to incorporate any consequential amendments resulting from the consideration of the 2010/11 Budget and Capital Programme, and/or public expenditure and policy changes notified during the 2010/11 year.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. PUSH is required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities, which in turn must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan.
2. The 2010/11 Business Plan review has essentially been an exercise in prioritising delivery actions for the period 2010-12. The Plan (attached) will therefore be an update and supplement to the more comprehensive original Business Plan and Business Plan Review 2009-11, and will supersede the original Plans in respect of actions, commitments and priorities. It incorporates any significant strategy developments from the past and emphasises changes necessary as a consequence of the recession and current public expenditure review (see para 1.3 below) . The new Plan stands as a document in its own right, but for detail of the underlying strategies the reader needs to refer to the previous plans and other strategy documents. The new Plan is also supplemented by theme based Action Plans.
3. The Governments decision to cut the 2010/11 New Growth Fund will result in PUSH receiving at least £4 million less than expected this financial year. This in turn has had a major impact on PUSH's ability to resource its original business plan to its full potential. In addition there is a current public expenditure review of spending proposals underway and there was an emergency budget on 22 June 2010 and this is likely to have a further impact on both the New Growth fund capital and the revenue we currently receive from SEEDA to support the sub-regional partnership. It is crucial therefore that the revised 2010-12 Business Plan and its supplementary action plans reflect the current and future fiscal position. The revision of both the Business Plan and the theme action plans also creates an opportunity for PUSH to review and reflect on its short to medium term priorities within the context of the current economic climate thereby mitigating some of the potential impact that the recession will have on resource availability. Furthermore, the refresh of the economic evidence base work will serve to provide PUSH with a robust basis on which to refocus its efforts and invest in areas that have the greatest potential to deliver sustainable economic growth in the sub region.

## **PROPOSALS**

4. The Business Plan review process began in March 2010 with the Executive Director consulting with PUSH Theme Leads. The Business Plan follows the same broad style as the existing Plan with separate chapters on the four main PUSH themes, a section on Financing the Strategy, which also covers the work of the External Funding and Resources Theme, and a Transport Chapter summarising the priorities and overall approach of the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee, which leads on sub-regional transport matters in South Hampshire, working alongside PUSH. In anticipation of the severely constrained Government funding in the future to reduce public debt, the remit of the External Funding Panel is deemed even more crucial and as such is reflected in the business plan. The positive exploration between PUSH and HMT on new funding approaches is one of a few opportunities being explored by the External Funding Delivery Panel.

5. The revised 2010-12 Business Plan has been developed alongside the emerging Budget and Capital Programme, which has strengthened the rigour of the prioritisation process and has ensured that the revised Business Plan, the supporting theme action plans and the budget are very closely aligned. This is particularly important in the current climate, where there is an ongoing public expenditure review. A more fundamental review of the Business plan will take place, in 2011, supported by an updated evidence base and with a fuller understanding of the impact of the planned Government review of local government finance and the Coalition programme for government, which will include the abolition of regional spatial strategies and the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships.
6. The draft supporting action plans for the PUSH themes have been prepared by the Theme Leads and discussed with the host Delivery Panel. As a result of the Governments cut to the 2010 -11 Capital Growth Fund allocation coupled with the need for PUSH to take a more precautionary approach to allocating its spend, a more streamlined work programme for the coming year has been established. The action plans are set out in the Annexes to the Business Plan as follows:-  
  
Annex A Economic Development;  
Annex B Sustainability and Community Infrastructure;  
Annex C Housing and Planning;  
Annex D Quality Places;  
Annex E External Funding and Resources.
6. The Transport Chapter summarises the priorities and overall approach of the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee, which leads on sub-regional transport matters in South Hampshire, working alongside PUSH
7. The draft Plan and supplementary action plans have also been considered by the PUSH Chief Executives Group with the following suggested changes arising from those discussions having been incorporated:
  - Acknowledgement of the promotion of decentralisation by the new Coalition Government, which will give new powers to local councils, including the intention to return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils and the intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development.
  - Recognition that the Government is seeking to support the creation of local enterprise partnerships, that would enable the improved co-ordination of public and private investment in transport, housing, skills, regeneration and other areas of economic development.
  - The development of improved collaboration and connectivity between PUSH and key partners in business, universities, and other public sector organisations, delivering increased co-ordination in areas such as employment and skills, and inward investment.
8. Authority is sought for the Business Plan and supplementary Action plans to be finalised, including any minor amendments (e.g. to correct factual errors)

editorial issues such as inaccurate cross references, or changes consequent on later decisions on the budget/capital programme. The document will then be reported back to individual PUSH Local Authority partners for sign off.

## CONCLUSION

9. The proposed Business Plan 2010-12 presents a focused and concise summary of the strategic priorities and actions for PUSH and partners. It is considered to be essential that PUSH undertakes a more fundamental review of the Business Plan for 2011/12, supported by an updated evidence base and with a fuller understanding of the impact of the planned Government review of local government finance and the Coalition programme for government, which will include the abolition of regional spatial strategies and the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships. This work is scheduled to commence in Autumn 2010. In the meantime, the revised Business Plan 2010-12 is considered to provide a robust and structured framework for developing the theme based action plans, for guiding PUSH activity, and as a foundation for the Performance Framework. On this basis the Joint Committee is asked to approve the Business Plan and to commend it to the partner Local Authorities for their consideration and approval.

## RECOMMENDATION

10. That the Joint Committee:-
  - (a) APPROVES the proposed PUSH Business Plan 2010-12 and supporting theme action plans; and commends it to the 11 partner Local Authorities for their approval; and
  - (b) DELEGATES authority to the Executive Director to finalise the document, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, including authority to make appropriate minor amendments or editorial changes, and to incorporate any consequential amendments resulting from the consideration of the 2010/11 Budget and Capital Programme, and/or public expenditure and policy changes notified during the 2010/11 year.

**Background Papers:** “A brighter future for South Hampshire: moving to delivery” - PUSH Business Plan 2008-11.

“South Hampshire means business” – PUSH Business Plan 2009-11

**APPENDICES:** A - [Business Plan](#)  
2 - [Delivery Plans 2010/11](#)

### Enquiries:

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