



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 14 September 2010
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

		Authority Represented:
Councillor	Seán Woodward (Chairman)	Fareham BC
Councillor	Roy Perry (Vice-Chairman)	Hampshire CC
Councillor	Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chairman)	Portsmouth CC
Councillor	Ken Moon (deputising for Patrick Burridge)	East Hampshire BC
Councillor	Keith House	Eastleigh BC
Councillor	Peter Langdon (deputising for Mark Hook)	Gosport BC
Councillor	Tony Briggs	Havant BC
Councillor	Edward Heron	New Forest DC
Councillor	Royston Smith	Southampton CC
Councillor	Martin Hatley	Test Valley BC
Councillor	Kelsie Learney	Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

	Authority Represented:
Bernie Topham	Eastleigh BC
Peter Grimwood	Fareham BC
Ian Lycett	Gosport BC
James Strachan (deputising for Andrew Smith)	Hampshire CC
Sandy Hopkins	Havant BC & East Hampshire DC
Kathy Wadsworth (deputising for David Williams)	Portsmouth CC
Brad Roynon	Southampton CC
Andy Ferrier (deputising for Roger Tetstall)	Test Valley BC
Simon Eden	Winchester CC
Anne-Marie Mountifield	PUSH Executive Director

**Co-opted, Non-Voting
Members 2010/11:**

	Body Represented:
Cathy Evans	Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
Kathy Slack	South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
Bruce Voss (deputising for David Edwards)	Homes & Communities Agency

**For further information, please contact Democratic Services
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Democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Patrick Burridge, East Hampshire District Council and Mark Hook, Gosport Borough Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from Mike Dorgan, Hampshire Economic Partnership, David Edwards Homes and Communities Agency, Andrew Smith, Hampshire County Council, Roger Tetstall, Test Valley Borough Council, and David Williams, Portsmouth City Council

RESOLVED that the relevant changes to the membership for this meeting be NOTED, as above.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee meeting held on 7 July 2010 (pjc-100707-m) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. Local Enterprise Partnerships:

The Chairman advised that as agreed at the last meeting, an expression of interest was developed in line with the requirements in the letter from the two Secretaries' of State, and submitted on 6 September 2010. The Chairman confirmed that this had been received and was under consideration, and that PUSH had been advised that the Government was keen to see partnerships remain proactive and maintain momentum. Over the coming weeks, Ministers would consider the proposals in detail, looking at how they would support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships, ahead of the publication of the White Paper on sub-national economic growth and the introduction of the Localism Bill.

2. SEEDA South East Skills priorities statement 2011/12 – Draft for consultation:

The Chairman advised that SEEDA had published a draft statement for consultation during late August 2010, with a closing date for the consultation of Friday 10 September 2010. The aim of the Statement was to provide a regional level overview of the skills required to support a reviving economy, which has more and better jobs in both existing and new industries. It also seeks to set out the skills priorities that require attention and response from providers and stakeholders.

Due to the very short timescale for this, it was not possible to present a draft response to the Joint Committee for consideration. However in these exceptional circumstances, and given the importance of employment and skills to the emerging Economic Development strategy, it was felt that

PUSH needed to respond to ensure that the final South East Priorities statement reflected the key skills priorities and challenges that needed to be addressed in the coming year. On this basis, a response had been submitted that had been considered by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the ESB, and approved by the Chairman of PUSH.

3. Local liaison between councils and the Environment Agency: Piloting a place-based budgeting approach:

The Chairman advised that the Local Government Association (LGA) LGA/Environment Agency (EA) had met recently at Board level. Among other things, it was agreed to look for a small number of locations where there was interest in developing new models of working with the EA.

The LGA and EA wished to identify best practice in local partnership working and were seeking expressions of interest from two Councils (one urban / metropolitan and a County Council) to explore and pilot innovative arrangements based on Total Place / place-based budgets¹. These arrangements, if found to be successful, could provide useful lessons for all Councils and inform future discussions on localism.

The pilots *could* build on these and/or include:-

- Joint delivery plans for a given outcome;
- Joint appointments;
- Joint procurement and efficiency, each side acting as agent for the other; and
- Improving the accountability of service delivery to local communities.

Building on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the EA had agreed to a co-location of one of their team at the PUSH office for a trial period up to December 2010 and there was now an opportunity to further the joint working under the auspices of this pilot. On this basis, PUSH should consider submitting an expression of interest. This was agreed.

4. Solent Design Awards:

The Chairman advised that the PUSH Quality Places Design Awards had been devised to complement the work of the Quality Places Delivery Panel and the awards would be presented at a ceremony in Winchester Guildhall on 27 October.

The Awards provide an opportunity to showcase and celebrate existing good practice across the South Hampshire area, as well as to encourage all new developments to aspire to high standards of design.

Nominations had been submitted for schemes across South Hampshire that were considered to have had a positive impact on their surrounding

¹ LGA (2010) *Place-based budgets – the future governance of local public services*. Available from: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=12294112>
pjc-100914-m

area, as well as themselves, meeting the highest design standard. As this was the inaugural awards, any scheme that was completed between April 2005 and 31 March 2010 was eligible. Submissions were invited from local authority officers and members, developers, architects, clients or members of the public. Entries were judged initially by a steering group, which produced a short list, and a panel of invited judges would, in the next month, visit all shortlisted projects and decide the winners of 2 of the judged categories: sustainability, and the overall winner. The remaining category winner would be the scheme which attracted the most votes from the public. Members of the public would be encouraged to vote for their favourite scheme on the awards website: www.solentdesignawards.org.uk.

The Shortlist:-

The Chairman advised that a total of 37 entries had been received. The final shortlist for all 3 Award Categories Sustainability, the Public Vote and the Overall winner was made up of the following 12 projects:-

1. London Road, Southampton;
2. Northam Homezone, Radcliffe Road, Northam;
3. The Point, Eastleigh;
4. Portsmouth University Library, Cambridge Road;
5. Aspex Gallery, Gunwharf Quays;
6. Wellstead Primary School, Hedge End;
7. Dennis Sciama Building, Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth;
8. Chapel Housing, Anderson Road, St Mary's;
9. Homewell, Havant;
10. Long Curtain and Nelson Trail landscaping, Old Portsmouth;
11. Admiralty Quarter, Queen Street Portsmouth; and
12. Flagstaff Green, Clarence Yard, Gosport.

5. Portsmouth Dockyard:

The Chairman advised that PUSH would need to consider the impact of potential expenditure cuts in the strategic defence review and the likely impact on key sectors, the Aircraft carrier contracts and the Dockyard. The Chairman was advised that SEEDA had previously led work on this area and they would send the relevant information to PUSH.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson declared a personal interest in Item 7 - PUSH Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring 2010/11 (please see minute 6 below).

5. PUSH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the PUSH Executive Director, which 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 (copy of report pjc-100914-r01-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

A member queried whether the recommendation should be consistent with previous recommendations in that any consultation should include the Vice-Chairmen of PUSH. The Chairman confirmed that he was happy with this suggestion.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Executive Director be AUTHORISED, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee and the Chairman of the ED Panel, to finalise a response on the draft Economic Assessment for Hampshire for submission by 15 October 2010;
- (b) the Executive Director be AUTHORISED, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee and the Chairman of the Employment and Skills Board (ESB), to finalise a response for the BIS consultation on *Skills for sustainable growth : A consultation on the future direction of skills policy*, for submission by 14 October 2010, at the latest; and
- (c) the matters for information contained in Part B of the report, be NOTED.

6. PUSH CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/11

The Committee considered a report by the Treasurer and the PUSH Executive Director, which updates the capital and revenue budgets that were approved by the Joint Committee in June and July 2010 (copy of report pjc-100914-r02-tni-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Councillor Vernon-Jackson declared a personal interest in recommendation 2 of the report as, while Dunsbury Hill Farm was in the Havant Borough Council area, it was owned by Portsmouth City Council. He remained in the meeting but did not take part in the debate or the decision.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revised capital and revenue budgets for 2010/11, as set out in the report, be APPROVED, following confirmation of the New Growth Point capital funding position;
- (b) expenditure in 2010/11 on the following capital project, be APPROVED;
 - Dunsbury Hill Farm - £350,000;
- (c) the withdrawal of the proposed funding for M27 Junction 5 phases 2 and 3, be APPROVED, as the conditions for the funding have not been met;
- (d) the reduction of the proposed award to the Tipner project from £992,000 to

£360,000, be APPROVED,

- (e) the proposed approach to the allocation of the remaining capital funds be APPROVED, and it be NOTED that proposals will be brought to the November meeting of the Joint Committee;
- (f) the current performance against the capital and revenue programmes in the current year be APPROVED;
- (g) the revised revenue funding position from SEEDA be NOTED; and
- (h) the allocation of core funding released by the additional resources from SEEDA to help fund the indicative programme for 2011/12, be APPROVED.

7. AUDITOR'S REPORT 2009/10

The Committee received a verbal presentation and a report, which was circulated at the meeting, from the District Auditor on the PUSH final accounts for 2009/10. A revised Statement of Accounts was also circulated at the meeting.

The Auditor outlined the structure of the report, advised of what she did and why and outlined the key messages. She also advised of what the Joint Committee was required to do. The Auditor advised that she did not identify any material risks when planning her work. The draft financial statements contained one material error relating to the Expenditure Account. There were two other errors which management had declined to correct because of their immaterial nature. A number of amendments were required to narrative items to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice.

With regard to the Value for Money Conclusion, the Auditor found that PUSH had proper arrangements in place for each of the criterion and an unqualified conclusion was given. The Auditor explained her audit fee for 2009/10 and confirmed that she had carried out the audit in accordance with the Audit Commission's policies on integrity, objectivity and independence.

The Auditor concluded by advising that PUSH needed to:-

- Consider the matters raised in the report before approving the financial statements;
- Take note of the adjustments to the financial statements which were set out in the report at Appendix 2;
- Agree to adjust the errors in the financial statements that had identified (a revised statement was circulated with the adjustment enacted) but that management had declined to amend, set out in Appendix 3, or set out the reasons for not doing so in the letter of representation; and
- Approve the letter of representation on behalf of the Committee before the Auditor's opinion and conclusion was issued, set out in Appendix 4.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revised Statement of Accounts be APPROVED; and
- (b) the letter of representations, as set out in Appendix 2 of the District Auditor's report, be APPROVED and signed by the Treasurer.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EVIDENCE BASE AND STRATEGY REFRESH

The Committee considered a report by the PUSH Executive Director, which included an update, on the refreshed Economic Development Evidence Base and proposed new strategy arising from that research (copy of report pjc-100914-r03-amm-hta circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the update on the development of the Economic Development Strategy and progress of the consultation be NOTED;
2. the update on development activity in South Hampshire during 2009/10 and the update report from DTZ on Employment sites and premises in South Hampshire be NOTED; and
3. the final Headline Sustainability Assessment be APPROVED as a basis for bringing a consideration of sustainability issues into the preparation of the Economic Development Strategy.

9. SOUTH HAMPSHIRE HOTELS FUTURE STUDY

The Committee considered a report by the PUSH Lead on Planning, which set out the findings of the study and asked members to decide on the PUSH response to its recommendations (copy of report pjc-100914-r05-sro circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Councillor Heron, New Forest District Council advised that he welcomed the report but he was unable to support the recommendations as the report did not appear to have considered the New Forest area.

The Chairman advised that recommendation (a) commended the study to PUSH authorities so that if they wished, they could use it as a framework when they were preparing their Local Development Documents. He suggested that the recommendation be reworded for clarification as follows:-

- (a) *COMMENDS the Hotel Study to PUSH authorities to use as a framework for the preparation of Local Development Documents, should they wish, and for other actions to assist/promote hotel development in their areas;*

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Hotel Study be COMMENDED to PUSH authorities to use as a framework for the preparation of Local Development Documents, should they wish and for other actions to assist/promote hotel development in their areas; and
- (b) the proposed responses to the study recommendations, set out in the appendix to the report be APPROVED.

10. DESIGN IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: QUALITY PLACE DESIGN CHARTER

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy, Eastleigh Borough Council and the Lead Chief Executive, Quality Place Delivery Panel, which seeks endorsement of the Charter in order that the final document can be formally signed by Leaders of Member Authorities and launched at the Solent Design Awards event on 27 October 2010 (copy of report pjc-100914-r06-pra-sed circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Quality Places Charter be ENDORSED in order that it can be signed by all members of PUSH and formally launched at the Solent Design Awards event on Wednesday 27 October.

The Chairman asked if any of the Delivery Panel Chairmen had any updates for the Committee.

Economic Development Delivery Panel:

Councillor Tony Briggs advised that the next meeting of the Delivery Panel would be held on 14 October 2010. The Panel would consider the detailed response to the consultation and the final Economic Development strategy, which would then come to the Joint Committee meeting in November. The Panel would also be looking at a draft high level implementation plan. He also advised that the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) were considering actions in relation to employment and skills issues at their forthcoming meeting on 16 September 2010.

Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel:

Councillor Martin Hatley advised that the panel welcomed the appointment of Phil Lomax as Green Infrastructure Co-ordinator and that Phil would be joining the Panel to support some of their work. He also advised the Joint Committee that he had been invited to join a working group which would be looking at the forthcoming Rural White Paper.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by reminding members that at the last meeting, the Chairman of the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) had attended. The Chairman asked the Joint Committee if it was happy to co-opt them as a member of the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) be co-opted onto the PUSH the Joint Committee.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:24pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 9 November 2010 at 6:00pm**).*