



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 9 November 2010
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor	Seán Woodward (Chairman) Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor	Ray Ellis
Councillor	Patrick Burrige
Councillor	David Airey (deputising for Keith House)
Councillor	Mark Hook
Councillor	Ray Ellis
Councillor	Tony Briggs
Councillor	Edward Heron
Councillor	Royston Smith
Councillor	Martin Hatley
Councillor	Kelsie Learney

**Authority
Represented:**

Fareham BC
Portsmouth CC
Hampshire CC
East Hampshire BC
Eastleigh BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC
New Forest DC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

Alex Parmley (deputising for Bernie Topham)
Peter Grimwood
James Strachan (deputising for Andrew Smith)
Janet Rees (deputising for Sandy Hopkins)
Dave Yates
David Williams
Brad Roynon
Alistair Neill
Roger Tetstall
Simon Eden

Authority Represented:

Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC & East Hampshire DC
New Forest DC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Anne-Marie Mountifield

PUSH Executive Director

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

Body Represented:

Cathy Evans
Kathy Slack
Mike Dorgan
David Edwards
Professor Debra Humphris

Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
PUSH Business Group
Homes & Communities Agency
Chairman of the Employment & Skills Board

**For further information, please contact Democratic Services
at Fareham Borough Council Tel: 01329 236100
Democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from David Edwards, Homes and Communities Agency, Sandy Hopkins, Havant and East Hampshire District Councils, Ian Lycett, Gosport Borough Council, Andrew Smith, Hampshire County Council and Bernie Topham, Eastleigh Borough Council.

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

2. APPOINTMENT OF JOINT VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Joint Committee was invited to appoint joint Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal year 2010/11 and was reminded of the provisions of the agreement limiting who may be appointed in that capacity.

RESOLVED, that Councillor Royston Smith be appointed as joint Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2010/11.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DELIVERY PANEL MEMBERS

The Committee considered a report by the PUSH Executive Director, which focused on the proposed appointments for the Delivery Panels and Boards for the remainder of the Municipal year 2010/11 (copy of report pjc-101109-r06-amm circulated prior to the meeting and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the updated member and officer nominations, set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved, with a commitment to review the panel structure, alongside other governance matters, with the outcomes being reported back to the Joint Committee in 2011.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee meeting held on 14 September 2010 (pjc-100914-m) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Solent LEP was one of Twenty-four local enterprise partnerships proposals given the green light by Government on 28 October 2010, in a landmark move that will see local business and civic leaders working together to drive sustainable economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

Ministers announced the first wave of successful partnerships as part of a new plan for local economic growth, which sets out the Government's role in empowering locally driven growth, encouraging business investment and promoting economic development.

Having considered the Solent proposal Ministers confirmed that it sufficiently addresses the challenges facing our local economic area and that it demonstrates the importance of allowing the local area to determine its own economic development and drive private sector job growth.

They also declared the £1.4bn Regional Growth Fund open for business. The fund will support the creation of private sector jobs and will particularly support communities currently dependent on the public sector, helping them make the transition to private sector led growth and prosperity, and the deadline for the first round of applications is 21 January 2011

The announcements formed part of a White Paper on Local Growth published on the same day, which sets out the Government's new approach to rebalancing the economy and driving sustainable growth by focusing on three key themes:

- Shifting power to local communities and businesses - by establishing dynamic local enterprise partnerships of local business and civic leaders, operating within an area that makes economic sense, which can provide the vision, knowledge and strategic leadership to set local priorities and empower communities to fulfil their potential;
- Increasing confidence to invest – by creating the right conditions for growth through a consistent and efficient framework for investment, an effective planning framework and new incentives to make sure local communities benefit from development; and
- Focused investment – by tackling barriers to growth that the market will not address itself and supporting investment that will have a long term impact on growth.

The Leader sought approval for a Solent LEP Steering Group, comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, Councillor Pugh from the Isle of Wight Council and the two other Unitary Authority Leaders to be set up to work with business to bring the LEP shadow board into being as soon as possible followed by a full board by 1st April.

RESOLVED that a Solent LEP Steering Group, comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, Councillor Pugh from the Isle of Wight Council and the two other Unitary Authority Leaders to be set up to work with business to bring the LEP shadow board into being as soon as possible followed by a full board by 1st April.

(b) European Update

Early in October PUSH formally become members of Southern England Local Partners (SELP) and also applied to become members of Eurocities. The Eurocities AGM was held on 5 November 2010 and they considered the application. These two European organisations will now provide a PUSH wide service on the emerging issues in the EU and will also provide advance notice of funding opportunities. There are plans to hold a half day seminar early in 2011 to inform partners of the services available through SELP and Eurocities and details will be circulated once the arrangements have been finalised.

(c) The revised Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)

Portsmouth Water Company has recently published a revised Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) and is inviting comments. PUSH considers it an important strategic document and there is an intention to respond. The WRMP contains the proposals of the water company to ensure water supply and quality over the next 25 years, identifying preferred demand management and resource development measures. The closing date for responses to the plan is the 26th November. The Joint Committee is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director and Lead officers on the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel to prepare a response to be agreed with the Chair of the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel, and Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Joint Committee for submission by the closing date of 26 November 2010.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at the meeting.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EVIDENCE BASE AND STRATEGY REFRESH - FINAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive Lead for the Economic Development Delivery Panel and the PUSH Executive Director, which considered the outcome of the consultation process and the final version of the Economic Development Strategy was presented to the Joint Committee for consideration together with a suite of supporting information contained within the Economic Development Evidence Base; the Preferred Growth Scenario; the Headline Sustainability Appraisal; and Employment Sites & Premises Demand and Supply Analysis (copy of report pos-101109-r02-bto-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee also received a presentation from Stuart Hardisty of DTZ, which can be found on the PUSH website at www.push.gov.uk.

The Chairman advised that alongside the Solent LEP bid, an application to join PUSH had been received from the Isle of Wight Council. It was suggested that an additional recommendation be considered for the strategy to include the Isle of Wight.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the outcome of the consultation process and the summary of responses from the consultation and the business event attached to the report in Appendix A, be NOTED;
- (b) the baseline projections for the South Hampshire economy developed by Oxford Economics set out in the evidence base report, be APPROVED;
- (c) the preferred growth scenario be APPROVED as a realistic and ambitious alternative growth trajectory on the basis that it will provide PUSH with a robust basis on which to refocus its efforts and invest in activity that has the greatest potential to deliver sustainable economic growth in the sub region;
- (d) the Employment Sites & Premises Demand and Supply Analysis be APPROVED as a method to assess the future employment floorspace requirements; the availability of future land and floorspace supply that is likely to be available over the period 2006-2026, and the deliverability of sites to support the forecasted requirements to facilitate the ambitions for the South Hampshire sub-region as set out in the PUSH Economic Development Strategy and PUSH Preferred Scenario;
- (e) the Economic Development Strategy, be ADOPTED, and
- (f) the Isle of Wight be included in the Strategy.

7. NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL FROM PUSH

The Committee considered a report by the Solicitor to Southampton City Council (and Monitoring Officer to Push), which provided the Joint Committee, in accordance with the Joint Agreement / Constitution for PUSH, with an opportunity to start considering the implications of Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council's withdrawal from PUSH (copy of report pjc-101109-r01-mhe circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Councillor Heron advised that the New Forest District Council wished to reserve its position pending the progress of the Solent LEP. The bid had only partly included the New Forest area and this needed to be clarified. The Chairman advised that the original map submitted with the bid was correct but the software used by the Government only covered District areas. It had been clarified that the Solent LEP area covered the PUSH area and the Isle of Wight.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) it be NOTED that Hampshire County Council has given notice of their intention to withdraw from PUSH with effect from 31 March 2011;
- (b) it be NOTED that New Forest District Council has given conditional notice of their intention to withdraw from PUSH with effect from the same date;
- (c) it be NOTED that constitutionally the remaining local authorities must consider the constitutional implications and ramifications of this, and the Joint Committee is invited to express any preliminary views in the light of these matters;
- (d) it be NOTED that the Monitoring Officer to PUSH will bring forward, at a future date, a further and more detailed report setting out specific recommendations for a revised joint arrangement, taking account of these changes; and
- (e) The application from the Isle of Wight to join PUSH be NOTED.

8. UPDATES FORM DELIVERY PANEL CHAIRMEN

The Committee received the following verbal updates:-

1. Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel:

Councillor Martin Hatley advised that the Panel would respond to Portsmouth Water Company by the deadline, which was later this month. A stakeholder workshop would be held on 17 November 2010 to update members on the Solent Flood Risk project. Work on the forestry park study was also up to date. The Environment Agency and Natural England would also be visiting Test Valley Borough Council offices in Andover. Defra liked the idea of a number of authorities getting together to form a local economic partnership and it was good that this was a large enough group to allow officers of a high enough level to make the decisions. Councillor Hatley asked that if anyone had any comments to make on the white paper, please could they e-mail him so he could forward comments to Ministers.

2. Economic Development Delivery Panel:

Councillor Briggs advised that the Panel had met on 14 October. The theme for the meeting was physical development, and at the meeting, members considered the Employment Sites and Premises report produced by DTZ.

The Panel also received a number of presentations on the planned developments in Gosport, Southampton, Portsmouth and Eastleigh. It was clear that, although the recession had had some impact on the plans, there were a number of developments happening. The medium term outlook was very positive.

If many of the planned developments happened they would create a significant number of new jobs. The Panel was particularly keen to ensure that future training strategies and actions delivered the skills that would be required by these developments and that local people were skilled to take up future employment opportunities created by these developments.

The Committee was advised that at a previous meeting, the Panel had also reported on its planned work on Europe. The Chairman of the Delivery Panel was pleased to report that PUSH membership has been approved for both Eurocities and SELP (Southern England Local Partners). The membership of these two key organisations would enable PUSH and its partners to secure more European funding to support its work. Officers were planning a seminar in the New Year so that partners could be informed of the support available by these two organisations.

The Delivery Panel Chairman invited Mark Hook to update the Committee on the work of the Inward Investment Board, and Debra Humphris to update on the work of the Employment and Skills Board.

Councillor Hook advised that in the earlier presentation by DTZ, slide 12 referred to inward investment. The inward investment board had agreed its terms of reference to advise on the development of a single gateway service for South Hampshire. There were two inward investment areas: one was the Fareham Economic Development Forum which had been operating since 1992; and the other was in Southampton, which supported the surrounding District Councils. Work was underway to try and bring the two together and rebrand both areas. Work was also being undertaken on the Solent proposition in 4 key areas:

- Innovation and technology;
- Global innovation;
- Good quality of life ; and
- Marketing and design.

A business modal was also being developed to reduce reliance on the private sector.

The Chairman of the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) advised that the ESB had met twice. Meetings had been based on elements of the baseline information. An action plan had been put together and a member would be nominated to join the Board. A meeting with the Minister would be held in January 2011.

James Strachan, Hampshire County Council advised that a report would be prepared for the Committee outlining the consultation on Plan 3. The report would set out the transport implications arising from the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. He also confirmed that the Flooding Places finding was progressing.

Quality Places:

Councillor Vernon-Jackson advised that this work was promoting the profile of PUSH and provided an opportunity to sign the Design Charter. Copies of the Charter had been distributed at the meeting.

The Chairman asked for an update on SEEDA's assets and liabilities.

Cathy Slack advised that the decision would be taken by CLG and the Treasury. There was a possibility that the Government would look to sell off some of the site to raise revenue. SEEDA had recommended to the Government that it keeps its assets portfolio together. An action plan was needed for each asset so that SEEDA's plans could be pulled together. No conclusive decision had been made yet. Most of the assets were in South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Councillor Vernon-Jackson advised that he had met with the Minister, Vince Cable, regarding SEEDA's assets. Mr Cable had responded that overall, the assets held by SEEDA were outweighed by their liabilities. The most logical place to place the assets was in the LEP. Councillor Vernon-Jackson concluded by advising that there were issues in Tipner, with land assembly. And it would be useful if the land value was marginal on the basis of contamination. He suggested writing to Ministers, Vince Cable and Eric Pickles, to discuss the issues further.

The Chairman agreed that this was a productive way forward.

RESOLVED that the information provided above be noted.

9. 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-101109-r03-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the updated strategic Risk Register to the Business Plan for 2010/11 set out Appendix A to the report, be APPROVED.
- (b) the proposed recommendations below be ADOPTED in order to clarify the position on the equitable treatment of cash losses.
 - in the unlikely event of any default on its investments, the Joint Committee agrees to share any capital losses on pooled cash balances on a pro rata basis and that any losses on deposits specifically made on behalf of the Joint Committee should be borne in full. Such losses would then be shared between PUSH authorities

in line with their proportionate contributions as set out in the Joint Agreement;

- such investments must have been made in line with the current Hampshire County Council treasury policy; and
- Hampshire County Council is asked to inform PUSH of any changes to their investment policy.

(c) the matters for information, contained in Part B of the report, be NOTED.

10. PUSH PERFORMANCE MID-YEAR REPORT - 2010/11

The Committee considered a report by the Programme and Information Manager and the PUSH Executive Director, which provides an initial mid year summary of PUSH's performance for 2010/2011 against the previously agreed key strategic outcomes using an exception based approach as the basis for performance management (copy of report pjc-101109-r05-gig-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the latest performance information (for the mid 2010/2011 financial year) for the measures previously adopted by the Joint Committee, be NOTED; and
- (b) the need to develop a new performance framework, which focuses more on outcome base measures and delivery targets, to be locally determined, be NOTED.

11. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/11

The Committee considered a report by the Treasurer and the PUSH Executive Director, which updated expenditure against those agreed programmes (copy of report pjc-101109-r04-cwi-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Chairman advised that there was a need to make £250,000 available from the unspent reserves for the Solent LEP. There was a lot of work to be done and it was important that costs were identified now.

A member expressed concern about putting such a large amount of money aside without having details of how it would be spent and he advised that the Committee needed to be cautious not to be sent to be writing a blank cheque. He suggested that members be consulted via e-mail.

The Chairman advised that any provision of funds would be subject to consultation with him, as Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen. This would act as a suitable safeguard.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revised capital and revenue budgets for 2010/11, as set out in the report, following confirmation of the New Growth Point capital funding position, be NOTED;
- (b) the current performance against the capital and revenue programmes in the current year, be NOTED;
- (c) the Delivery Panels adopt a cautious approach to the use of currently uncommitted revenue funding, and that under spends against the 2010/11 revenue programme will not be carried over to 2011/12 without explicit Joint Committee approval, following the presentation of a strong case for any carry forward proposal;
- (d) under spends against the 2010/11 capital programme will not be carried over to 2011/12 without explicit Joint Committee approval, following the presentation of a strong case for any carry forward proposal;
- (e) it be AGREED that the 2009/10 remaining balance of £14,000 for the Renewable Energy Pilot project is no longer needed, and should be added to the uncommitted capital balance for reallocation to the new capital programme to be agreed at the January 2011 Joint Committee meeting;
- (f) a reduction in the capital allocation for Eastleigh Riverside to £439,000 it be AGREED and that the unallocated balance of £161,000 be added to the uncommitted capital balance for re-allocation to the new capital programme, to be agreed at the January 2011 Joint Committee meeting;
- (g) a further increase in the allocation for the Tipner Capital project of £97,000, taking the total allocation for 2010/11 to £457,000 it be AGREED;
- (h) the process for setting the budget and capital programme for new projects from the unallocated balance, set out in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report, be APPROVED; and
- (i) a sum of £250,000 be put aside from the unspent reserves to be used for the Solent LEP, subject to consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee.

The Chairman advised the Committee that this would be Brad Roynon, Chief executive of Southampton City Council's last meeting as he was retiring. He invited the Committee to join him in thanking Brad for his invaluable contribution to PUSH and wished him well for the future.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:17pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 11 January 2011 at 6:00pm**).*