



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 6 October 2011
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman)

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
 (Joint Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Keith House
Councillor Mark Hook
Councillor Ray Ellis
Councillor Tony Briggs
Councillor Martin Hatley
Councillor George Beckett

Authority Represented:

Fareham BC

Portsmouth CC

Eastleigh BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
Stuart Jarvis
Sandy Hopkins
David Williams
Alistair Neill
Roger Tetstall
Simon Eden

Authority Represented:

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

Co-opted Members

Anne-Marie Mountifield
Professor Debra Humphris
James Humphrys
Gary Jeffries

Organisation Represented:

PUSH Executive Director
Chairman of the ESB
Environment Agency
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Royston Smith, Southampton City Council and Ken Moon, East Hampshire District Council. An apology for absence was also received from Kevin Bourner, Homes and Communities Agency.

2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2011 (attached - [pic-110608-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Gary Jeffries from the Solent LEP and James Humphrys from the Environment Agency to their first meeting of PUSH.

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. PUSH's membership of the Southern England Local Partners (SELP):

SELP is a partnership of local authorities, universities and other public and private organisations that seek to ensure its members derive maximum benefit from representation in Brussels and accessing European funding. The service offers access to an established network of regional and Brussels based contacts, expertise and knowledge of EU funding and links to important events and the latest EU initiatives.

Membership of SELP would enhance and facilitate PUSH's ambition to secure external funding to support the economic development priorities for the sub-region.

The Chairman asked the Joint Committee to APPROVE that PUSH becomes a member of SELP and subscribes to their services. This will be funded via the revenue budget under the Economic Development Panel.

It was suggested and AGREED that this be reviewed after one year to see how useful it has been to PUSH.

2. Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) - Affordable Homes Programme 2011- 2015:

The HCA's Affordable Homes Programme 2011-15 (AHP) aims to increase the supply of new affordable homes in England. Housing supply, economic growth and jobs are intrinsically linked. Throughout 2011-15, £4.5bn will be available nationally for affordable housing through the Affordable Homes Programme and existing commitments from the previous National Affordable Housing Programme. The majority of the new programme will be made available as Affordable Rent, whereby rents for all new affordable homes will be at up to 80% market rent.

Housing Associations, or Registered Providers as they are now known, put forward bids for HCA resources in the spring 2011. The outcome of these bids is now known and the HCA has entered into four year (2011-2015) contracts with Registered Providers (RP's) within PUSH to provide an agreed number of homes at an agreed cost, taking into account the re-let of some homes at Affordable Rent. The HCA used information from the PUSH Annual Housing Monitoring Report and the Local Investment Plan to plan their investment in the Solent Area. As a result, an average of 1,000 to 1,100 homes per year will come forward with a total of £76.9M investment. This includes £47.6M being spent on the National Affordable Housing Programme and £29.3M on the Affordable Homes Programme.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate Services, Southampton City Council (Monitoring Officer To PUSH), which updated the Joint Committee following its decision on 11 January 2011 and recommended changes to the constitutional arrangements for PUSH as to the decisions reached by the relevant local authorities and the consequences of those decisions (copy of report - [pjc-111006-r03-mhe](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Committee was advised that the Isle of Wight Council had not as yet confirmed its decision on whether to join PUSH. Councillor Vernon-Jackson raised the possibility of the Leaders reviewing the representation on the LEP in terms of the Civic membership. The Chairman agreed and advised that, as this was a matter in relation to the Solent LEP, the Leaders of the Councils in South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight would need to convene separately to discuss this issue.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Joint Committee's recommendation in respect of revised constitutional arrangements for PUSH be revised to those, and only those, recommended in the report of 11 January 2011, namely:
 - i. that PUSH continues with revised membership from 1 April 2011;
 - ii. that it be noted that the New Forest District Council, having served notice have now left the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire;

- iii. that having considered what future arrangements should apply for the discharge of the functions under the Agreement the Joint Committee agree to continue joint arrangements further to a revised Joint Agreement attached at Appendix 1 from 1 April 2011;
 - iv. that dependent upon the Isle of Wight Council's decision to formally confirm its previous acceptance of the invitation to join PUSH, the Monitoring Office be given delegated authority to amend the Joint Agreement accordingly to reflect that decision;
 - v. that the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to fine tune the Joint Arrangement prior to it being entered into;
 - vi. that Southampton be appointed as Lead Authority for financial matters in accordance with the Joint Arrangement with effect from 1 April 2011;
 - vii. that the PUSH Executive Director be given delegated authority, following consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Committee to approve any other variations in services delivered to PUSH (such as HR and IT); and
- (b) the issue of the veto be the subject of further discussions at officer level between the relevant authorities, and thereafter, assuming a suitable proposal can be recommended, be discussed by the Leaders before a further proposal is brought forward to the Joint Committee.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee received 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 also 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-111006-r01-amm](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson declared a personal interest in this item as a Director of the Solent LEP.

The Chairman declared a personal interest in this item as a Director of the Solent LEP.

Councillor Hatley declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Panel.

The Executive Director drew the Committee's attention to Paragraph 11 of the report, which referred to the Regional Growth fund round 2 bidding process. She advised that a decision should be made on the bids by late October / early November and an update would be given at the next meeting. The Executive Director also advised that the HCA's guidance on the stewardship agreement

and development of the supporting business plan was still awaited and this would need to be considered at the next meeting.

In relation to the proposed consultation response for the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Councillor Beckett advised that the PUSH response to the Draft National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) Consultation should reflect the views of his Local Authority. He suggested that the PUSH response be circulated to all PUSH authorities for comment, prior to it being sent to the NPPF. This was AGREED.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the continued approach to providing executive support to the Solent LEP for 2011/12 be SUPPORTED;
2. the continued work on the newly designated Enterprise Zone at Daedalus be ENDORSED;
3. the continued work on the HCA stewardship agreement and supporting business plan for the portfolio of sites in the PUSH area be ENDORSED;
4. the preparation of a PUSH local business plan for the HCA sites (and individual delivery plans) be SUPPORTED and the Executive Director be AUTHORISED, following consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairmen of the Joint Committee and Chairman of the Economic Development Delivery Panel, to submit the business plan and supporting delivery plans to the HCA at the end of November 2011;
5. the preparation of a PUSH consultation response to the LGRR be SUPPORTED and the Executive Director be AUTHORISED, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Joint Committee to finalise the draft response in Appendix B for submission by 24 October 2011;
6. the preparation of a PUSH consultation response to the NPPF be SUPPORTED and the Executive Director be AUTHORISED; following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, to finalise a response for circulation to all PUSH authorities, for comment, prior to submission to NPPF by 17 October 2011;
7. the progress to date on the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan be NOTED and the preparation of a PUSH bid to DEFRA for resources to develop the LNP bid be SUPPORTED and the Executive Director be AUTHORISED, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, and the Chairman of the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Panel to finalise a response for submission by 31 October 2011; and
8. the matters for information, contained in Part B of the report be NOTED.

8. UPDATES FROM DELIVERY PANEL CHAIRMEN

The Committee received verbal updates from the Delivery Panel Chairmen as follows:

- Sustainability and Community Infrastructure:

Councillor Hatley advised that the Panel had met at the end of September. The Executive Director had attended to give an update on the work of the LEP. He also advised that the GI consultation had closed on 18 August with a 100% response. Further work on the delivery arrangements was being done but the Panel had taken suggestions on board, and this work would be progressed alongside the emerging NPPF. He also advised that following the submission of an expression of interest in July 2011, work had been undertaken to prepare a bid for funds to explore a PUSH Local Nature Partnership (LNP). It was noted that a Hampshire based bid will also be submitted and it was emphasised that both submissions should seek to complement one another and avoid duplication.

- Economic Development:

Councillor Briggs advised that the Panel was stimulating enterprise. It had agreed to work with the LEP to define its role and the Chairman of the Panel had held an initial meeting with the Chairman of the Solent LEP Board to discuss this area.

- External Funding:

Councillor House advised that the Panel was continuing to work on the TIF pilot, based in Portsmouth. It was also looking at funding models that are under development in Manchester and Kent, and advised that they may provide good practice that PUSH could consider. In addition, it was highlighted that there were unallocated funds still available under ERDF and all agreed it was important that ERDF funding was explored as a priority.

- Quality Places::

Councillor Vernon-Jackson advised that in September, the Panel held a joint workshop regarding the outcome of skills and learning to deliver cultural skills. The workshop was very good. There was a cultural infrastructure survey pilot funded by SEEDA, which would assist in developing a toolkit. Universities were looking at how the Panel and they could work on cultural industries. Councillor Vernon-Jackson advised that he had visited Portsmouth City Council's twin town in France. The PUSH Executive Director had also attended. Some of their projects had a PUSH dimension to them and there was an opportunity to work in partnership with Caen to access ERDF funding and there was also an opportunity to access support from the Normandy Office in Brussels.

9. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12

The Committee received a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director, which provided an update for the Joint Committee on progress to date against the approved revenue and capital programmes in the current financial year (copy of report - [pic-111006-r02-alo](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

The Executive Director drew members' attention to adjustments to the Capital Budget and asked the Committee to approve a redistribution of resources from the Eastleigh Riverside and SEEDA sites budgets to create a Programme line for development and infrastructure to the end of 2012/13. This reflected the increase in work in the HCA sites area and the newly designated Enterprise Zone.

The Executive Director advised that under Quality Places, there would be an adjustment for Southampton to support the cultural quarter, meaning that £300,000 would now be allocated for the Sea City project

The Executive Director also drew members' attention to the Creative Industries Project - Phase 2, which had originally been allocated funding to the University of Portsmouth. The scope and lead arrangements for the New Theatre Royal project had changed and this had become the new lead accountable body for this project. The Committee considered the information contained in Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the revised capital and revenue budgets for 2011/12, as set out in the report, and the spend for the year to date, be NOTED and the revision in the revenue budget, as detailed in tables 1 and 2 be APPROVED;
2. the change in job title relating to the Programme Manager currently identified with the Eastleigh Riverside project to 'Development and Infrastructure Manager' to reflect the broader responsibilities of the post holder be NOTED and as a consequence;
3. a virement of £60,000 from the Eastleigh Riverside capital budget (for 2011/12) and a virement of £60,000 from the SEEDA sites capital budget (for 2012/13) to a new separate budget for this post within the Economic Development theme area be APPROVED;
4. the change in scope of the Southampton Cultural Quarter project be NOTED and the re-distribution of the allocation identified for the North Guild element of the project to improve the quality of the Sea City element of the project be APPROVED;
5. the change in scope and lead arrangements for New Theatre Royal project be NOTED and the New Theatre Royal, as the new lead accountable body for this project APPROVED; and

6. authority be DELEGATED to the Executive Director, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee to apply appropriate conditions on the capital allocation for the New Theatre Royal Project, as previously specified.

10. SOLENT VALUE PROPOSITION AND INWARD INVESTMENT STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report on the work of the Inward Investment Board which sought endorsement for the work to date (copy of report - [pjc-111006-r04-bto](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the report be NOTED; and
2. the work of the Board and the lead operational role that it and the Inward Investment teams will assume in delivering the recently agreed MOU with the Solent LEP and UKTI be ENDORSED.

11. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD (ESB) ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received an update on the work of the Employment and Skills Board which sought endorsement for the publication of their first annual report (copy of report - [pjc-111060-r05-amm](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Councillor Vernon-Jackson left the meeting at 7:00pm and was not present for this item.

The Chairman of the ESB advised that Councillor Vernon-Jackson would be standing down as the Board member on behalf of PUSH. A decision would need to be made at the next meeting to appoint a new member. The Executive Director undertook to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the annual report, as contained in Appendix A to the report, be NOTED, and
2. the report be ENDORSED and APPROVED for publication.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7:10pm).

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