



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

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

Members:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman)
Councillor Royston Smith (Joint Vice-
 Chairman)
Councillor David Airey (Deputising for
 Keith House)
Councillor Ken Moon
Councillor Ray Ellis
Councillor Tony Briggs
Councillor Martin Hatley
Councillor George Beckett

Authority Represented:

Fareham BC

Southampton CC

Eastleigh BC

East Hampshire DC

Hampshire CC

Havant BC

Test Valley BC

Winchester CC

Chief Executives:

Bernie Topham
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
Stuart Jarvis
Gill Kneller
Alistair Neill
Roger Tetstall
Simon Eden

Authority Represented:

Eastleigh BC

Fareham BC

Gosport BC

Hampshire CC

Havant BC & East Hampshire DC

Southampton CC

Test Valley BC

Winchester CC

Co-opted Members

Anne-Marie Mountifield
Professor Debra Humphris
Kevin Bournier

Organisation Represented:

PUSH Executive Director
Chairman of the ESB
Homes and 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 (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Hook, Gosport Borough Council, Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council and Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Portsmouth City Council.

Apologies were also received from received from Gary Jeffries, Solent Local Enterprise partnership and Simon Moody, Environment Agency.

2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2011 (attached - pjc-111006-m).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Autumn Statement 2011

This announced a wide-ranging package of reforms to build a stronger and more balanced economy and some of the key announcements may be of particular interest to PUSH Authorities. These include:-

- Increasing the **Regional Growth Fund** for England by £1 billion, and extending it into 2014-15 to provide ongoing support to grow the private sector in areas currently dependent on the public sector. An update will be provided for the next Joint Committee on 30 January 2012;
- An indicative £12.1 million '**Growing Places**' fund investment FOR THE Solent area to unblock stalled local infrastructure projects and stimulate further private sector investment. PUSH authorities have already been asked to contribute to the preparation of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire that the Solent LEP is required to submit by 20 December 2011; and
- Further actions to speed up the **planning and consenting regime** for infrastructure projects and review the planning appeals procedures in addition to the Government's wider planning reforms through the Localism Act 2011 and the publication of the draft National Planning Policy Framework. This will be reported on further as part of the Members spatial planning workshop scheduled for 18 January 2012.

(b) The Solent LEP and PUSH

Since the last Joint Committee, the Solent LEP Board had met twice and at the most recent meeting the Board sought clarification on the role of PUSH and considered the relationship between PUSH and the Solent LEP. The Board recognises that PUSH continues to provide a strong and well established vehicle for local authorities and other partners (including the LEP) to work together and collaborate on joint strategy and policy

development, and that it will continue to play a pivotal role in strategy development and enabling delivery.

As advised in the PUSH current Business Plan (2011-13), the advent of the Solent LEP invites a re-framing of the role of PUSH and attention to the relationship between it and the LEP. Whilst the current Government wishes to see a smaller public sector and the drive for growth emanating from the private sector, there are a number of critical roles for local authorities to play in supporting local economies. In a functional economic area such as the Solent, it is important that local authorities are able to do this in concert. PUSH will have an important ongoing role, including:

- Political leadership;
- Strategic land-use planning (e.g. to ensure a responsive supply of land for business growth and housing supply);
- Co-ordination across public agencies involved in regeneration, employment and skills;
- Creative use of assets to leverage funding and support growth;
- Strategic housing delivery including pooling and aligning funding streams to support this; and
- Supporting local infrastructure development.

In addition, the LEP is now considering in more detail a funding model to secure a more sustainable future for the organisation. It has established a funding sub-group to consider options for funding. In the interim, the Board has agreed to secure the current arrangements that are in place for executive support (through the PUSH Core team and delivery panels) as an interim solution, pending the outcome of the work emerging from the funding sub-group. Funding from the Start-up fund is available to secure the Executive support currently provided and the Executive lead to 31 October 2012. This will formalise the current arrangements pending LEP Board consideration and agreement of any proposals that emerge from the funding sub group.

(c) Hampshire Economic Partnership (HEP)

The Chairman explained that PUSH was advised on 1 December 2011 that the Hampshire Economic Partnership (HEP) had agreed to cease trading, with immediate effect, as a result of significant financial challenges it had been facing and changes in the economic development landscape.

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. PUSH INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT – 2011/12

The Committee received the bi-annual report on performance against key indicators and targets (copy of report pjc-111206-r01-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the latest performance information (for the mid 2011/2012 financial year) for the measures adopted by the Joint Committee in June 2011, be NOTED; and
2. the report also reflects analysis against the PUSH 2011/12 capital and revenue programme and achievements to date be NOTED.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee received a report by the PUSH Executive Director, which represented an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Joint Committee. The Executive Director's report also provided 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-111206-r02-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the continued approach to providing executive support to the Solent LEP for 2011/12 be SUPPORTED;
2. the Government mandate that has been given to the Solent LEP to lead economic development in the region be SUPPORTED and the critical role that PUSH plays in supporting the local economy by providing the key mechanism to co-ordinate Local Government and the wider public sector input to the LEP be ENDORSED;
3. the implementation plan for the designated Enterprise Zone at Daedalus be ENDORSED;
4. the appointment of Portsmouth City Council as the lead accountable body for the Growing Places fund be NOTED; and

5. the matters for information, contained in Part B of the report be NOTED.

8. PUSH CAPITAL AND REVENUE PROGRAMME

The Committee received a monitoring report on the Capital and Revenue Programme for 2011/2012 (copy of report pjc-111206-r03-alo circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

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 as detailed in tables 1, 2 and 3, be NOTED;
2. the current performance against the capital and revenue programmes in the current year, be NOTED;;
3. underspends against the 2011/12 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; and
4. the current support arrangements for the Solent LEP be continued through the PUSH Core team, the key panels and officers working on existing initiatives, such as the Enterprise Zone, and a further increase in the allocation for executive support of £20,000, taking the total allocation for 2012/13 to £30,000 be AGREED.

9. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ASSETS: STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY

The Committee received a presentation and a report, which provided an update of the work undertaken on the Committee's behalf to date in relation to the assets within the sub-regional area, previously held by the Regional Development Agency (SEEDA), and now transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) (copy of report pjc-111206-r04-mhe circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the work to date and the general direction of travel set out in the report be NOTED and ENDORSED;
2. Eastleigh Borough Council be appointed as the lead authority in relation to the above matter;
3. the Chief Executive of Eastleigh Borough Council be given delegated authority to enter into the Stewardship Agreement on behalf of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire following consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Executive Director and the Chairman of PUSH;

4. the Chief Executive of Eastleigh Borough Council, on behalf of PUSH, be given delegated authority to take any other action necessary to fulfil the requirements of the Stewardship Agreement and any other actions necessary to give effect to this report;
5. it be NOTED that reports will be brought back to the Joint Committee to update members on actions taken;
6. it be NOTED that individual local authorities with specific sites within their area will have direct one-to-one meetings with the HCA in relation to their proposals; and
7. it be NOTED that the Joint Committee has previously authorised expenditure on the stewardship arrangements which has been used to obtain professional legal and financial advice.

10. UPDATES FROM DELIVERY PANEL CHAIRMEN

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

- Quality Places:

Simon Eden advised that the work carried out by the Panel on Urban Design has been shortlisted for a National award. The outcome would be known in January 2012. The award had been sponsored by the National Urban Design Journal.

The Young Voices project would be coming to an end soon. . A meeting where young people could present their views and ideas to Civic Leaders had been organised for 12 December 2011 and invitations had gone out to all members of PUSH.

- Employment and Skills Board:

Professor Debra Humphris advised that the Board would meet next Thursday. A number of members had left the Board for a number of reasons and the board was now recruiting new members from the private sector. The Board has also revised its Terms of Reference.

- Sustainability and Community Infrastructure:

Councillor Hatley advised that that the Panel had supported the National Cycle Network. Eastleigh Borough Council and Hampshire County Council had made a presentation to the Panel to give a picture of where funding has been spent.

The Panel had also received a presentation on the Total Environment Project. The Interim Performance Report considered this elsewhere on the agenda and referred to emerging work that is being looked at in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL).

Councillor Hatley reminded members of his update at the last meeting when he advised of the Local Nature Partnership. The Panel's bid had been submitted and the outcome would not be known until the end of this month.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 6:55pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Monday, 30 January 2012 at 6:00pm**).*