



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 30 January 2012
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

		Authority Represented
Councillor	Seán Woodward (Chairman)	Fareham
Councillor	Royston Smith (Joint Vice-Chairman)	Southampton
Councillor	Keith House	Eastleigh
Councillor	Ken Moon	East Hampshire
Councillor	Ray Ellis	Hampshire
Councillor	Tony Briggs	Havant
Councillor	Martin Hatley	Test Valley

Chief Executives:

	Authority Represented
Bernie Topham	Eastleigh
Peter Grimwood	Fareham
Ian Lycett	Gosport
Stuart Jarvis	Hampshire
Sandy Hopkins	Havant BC & East Hampshire
David Williams	Portsmouth
Alistair Neill	Southampton
Roger Tetstall	Test Valley
Simon Eden	Winchester

Co-opted Members

	Organisation Represented
Anne-Marie Mountifield	PUSH Executive Director
Professor Debra Humphris	Chairman of the Local Environment Agency
James Humphrys	

**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 (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Beckett, Winchester City Council, Mark Hook, Gosport Borough Council and Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Portsmouth City Council.

Apologies were also received from Doug Morrison and Gary Jeffries, Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2011 (attached - pjc-111206-m).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. Liverpool Cruise Terminal Update - Mike Penning Shipping Minister Announcement

The Chairman advised that the Joint Committee may recall that a consultation on the proposal from the DFT to withdraw the objection to a removal of a grant condition prohibiting turnaround operations at the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal (CLCT) was issued during the summer of 2011. PUSH considered the proposal from the DFT to remove the grant condition that precludes the use of the Liverpool cruise terminal for turnaround operations. This condition was set at the request of DFT in order to safeguard fair competition with other terminals that had not benefited from public subsidy. Liverpool cruise terminal had been built with over £20 million of public money and there was an explicit understanding that it would not be used for turnaround calls, since similar facilities in other ports had been funded on a commercial basis with private sector investment. Given the importance of the Ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, PUSH also advised that the DFT needed to consider the impact of such a proposal to its local economy and the impact on its regeneration plans for the cities and older urban areas.

The Department proposed to lift its objection to the removal of a grant condition that precludes use of the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal for turnaround (start or end of cruise) operations, in return for the phased repayment of £5.3 million of grants and again, PUSH responded by stating that it did not support such a proposition. In the light of the consultation, the DFT have advised that there are persuasive arguments that this level of repayment would be insufficient to reflect the adverse impact on competition with other ports. They intend shortly to seek independent advice on a more appropriate figure and they have also confirmed that turnaround operations would also require State Aid clearance from the European Commission.

2. Portsmouth Naval Base and BAE Systems

The Chairman stated that the Joint Committee may have been aware that there had been reports in circulation that BAE Systems were reviewing their Surface Ship building in the UK. BAE Systems has three locations for ship building; one in Portsmouth and two on the Clyde in Scotland, and they employ over 3,000 people in Portsmouth. It is understood that the review may include consideration of closing one of the facilities, and it is suggested that Portsmouth could be the facility that will close.

The defence sector is a major employer in the PUSH area, both within the armed forces, as well as its private sector supply chain. Portsmouth is home to almost two-thirds of the Royal Navy's surface ships, as well as fishery protection and training units. There is also associated housing for naval personnel and their families serving at the base and onboard Portsmouth based ships and significant private, as well public sector employment dependent on the naval base.

Minimisation of Portsmouth Naval Base could mean the relocation of the ship building and associated manufacturing. This would mean that many service personnel and civilians currently living within the sub-region would relocate to other areas of the UK (potentially Scotstoun or Govan in Scotland) and it would have knock on effects on the demand for the output of firms in the defence supply chain and on local household spending.

The people employed in these jobs live throughout the sub-region but the highest concentrations are in Portsmouth, Gosport and Fareham. In addition to those employed by the MoD, many of the jobs are in firms that form part of the local defence 'supply chain'. The Portsmouth Naval Base is at the heart of this supply chain with many small specialist suppliers working directly or indirectly for the Naval Base or BAE Systems.

It is important that PUSH seeks to actively support the retention of BAE Shipbuilding capacity in the Naval Base, for the good of the city of Portsmouth, the wider sub-region and to support the Advanced Manufacturing sector, which is a substantial contributor to the local economy through employment, value added (GDP), investment and R&D spending.

It is recognised that the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will need to play a leading role in working with central Government departments and the wider business community to gather support with a view to supporting the retention of this key employer in the area and the position of the Solent economy as the leading cluster for Advanced Manufacturing. It is proposed that PUSH works in partnership with the LEP to provide support and enabling resources to support communications and wider media related activity if needed.

It was RESOLVED that PUSH works in partnership with the LEP to provide support and enabling resources to support communications and wider media related activity if needed.

3. Unlocking Growth in Cities

The Coalition Government published *Unlocking Growth in Cities* in December 2011. It is seeking to work with different cities over the coming months to agree a series of tailored '*City Deals*' which will include options to give greater freedoms to invest in growth, drive infrastructure development and improve skills and job opportunities. It is not looking to dismantle national policy frameworks, but to negotiate licences exceptions, allowing cities to take on specific responsibilities and resources from central Government where they make the case that this would improve outcomes, increase efficiency and ultimately generate new growth.

The first wave of deals focused on the largest cities in England and the intention now is to negotiate city deals, which involve the wider city area. On 23 January 2012, the Cities Minister Greg Clark announced that he was seeking to take this forward. He is looking for areas to make a clear case for new powers, backed with evidence and a strong economic rationale. PUSH is well placed to consider this.

Members should also note that the Government has injected an additional £1 billion into the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). Given the critical role that cities must play in rebalancing the economy, the next round of the RGF will have a strong emphasis on these urban areas. Cities and wider city areas will be able to back their city deals with flexible programme bids to support a package of innovative projects and initiatives that harness growth opportunities across their economic area. As part of the deal-making process set out in the document, the Cities Policy Unit will work with cities and wider city areas to develop these bids and PUSH should consider responding to this.

It was RESOLVED that PUSH would respond to this invitation to work with the Cities policy unit on this area.

The Chairman concluded by advising that following the first meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee in the new municipal year 2012/13, Solent LEP 'P' (Local Authority) members should meet to review the membership of the Solent LEP.

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. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Joint 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 were significant, but did 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-120130-r01-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 during 2012/13, pending the outcome of the work undertaken by its funding task group to secure a self sustaining future, be SUPPORTED;
2. the Growing places submission attached at Appendix A to the report, be NOTED;
3. the publication of Unlocking Growth in cities by HM Government be NOTED; and the development of a proposition for the Joint Committee to consider at its next meeting in March 2012, be SUPPORTED;
4. the revised Terms of Reference for the ESB, be APPROVED and authority be DELEGATED to the Executive Director of PUSH, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Committee and the Chairman of Economic Development Delivery Panel, to approve future changes;
5. the Solent LEP and the PUSH ESB be SUPPORTED in the development of an outline proposal to secure growth and innovation funds to develop innovative skills solutions for the local area;
6. the Business Plan review and the development of an updated Business Plan to cover the period 2012-2014, be SUPPORTED; and
7. the matters for information, contained in Part B of this report, be NOTED.

Councillor Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council, joined the meeting at 6:20pm.

7. UPDATES FROM DELIVERY PANEL CHAIRMEN

The Joint Committee received a verbal update from the Quality Places Panel on projects that they had supported across the PUSH area.

8. PUSH CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12

The Joint Committee received a monitoring report on the Capital and Revenue Programme for 2011/12 and considered the Capital and Revenue forward budgets for 2012/13 (copy of report pcj-120130-r02-alo-amm circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the revised capital and revenue budgets for 2011/12, the spend for the year to date, and the forecast outturn for the year, as set out in the report,, be NOTED,
2. the indicative capital and revenue budgets for 2012/13, as set out in the report, be NOTED; and
3. a virement of £20,000 from 2012/13 revenue budgets to capital budgets towards funding the post of Programme and Information Manager up to 31 December 2012, be APPROVED.

9. PUSH INWARD INVESTMENT BOARD

The Joint Committee received a progress update on the work of the Board and considered a draft prospectus for Inward Investment for the period to 31 March 2013 (copy of report pjc-120130-r03-bto circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that:-

1. the report be NOTED;
2. the work of the Inward Investment Board to date be ENDORSED and the draft prospectus for Inward Investment for the period to 31 March 2013, as detailed in Appendix A, be AGREED;
3. Southampton City Council be appointed as the lead authority for the PUSH Inward Investment Team, as set out in the draft Prospectus, and
4. the Director of Economic Development of Southampton City Council be given delegated authority to take any other action necessary, pursuant to this report, including, but not limited to entering into any agreements on behalf of PUSH following consultation with the PUSH Chief Executive lead for Economic Development, the Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director and the Chairman of PUSH.

10. DESIGN IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: QUALITY PLACES GUIDANCE

The Joint Committee received an update on the development of Quality Places Design Guidance (copy of report pjc-120130-r04-pra circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that: the Quality Places Design Guidance Template be ENDORSED in order that it can provide individual authorities with a framework for the development of a Supplementary Planning Document, outlining principles of design as part of their Planning Framework.

11. HAMPSHIRE AND SOUTH HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

The Joint Committee considered the updated South Hampshire and Hampshire Cultural Infrastructure Audit (copy of report pjc-120130-r05-cfr circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Cultural Infrastructure Study be COMMENDED to PUSH authorities as a framework to inform the development of Local Planning Policy, and to inform decisions on infrastructure investment.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 6:35pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on **Monday, 26 March 2012 at 6:00pm**).*