



# **Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee**

**Date: 30 January 2012**

**Report of: Paul Ramshaw, Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy,  
Eastleigh Borough Council and Simon Eden, Lead Chief Executive,  
Quality Place Delivery Panel**

**Subject: Design in the Built Environment: Quality Places Guidance**

## **SUMMARY**

On 23 March 2010 the Joint Committee approved the work programme of the Quality Places Delivery Panel (QPDP). One of the recommendations of this report was that the Joint Committee agree to officers developing a template for Quality Place Design Guidance. This template would be made available to all PUSH authorities to use as the basis for their own Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The guidance has now been produced. This report seeks endorsement for the final version of the Guidance (Appendix A),

The Quality Places Guidance template forms part of the QPDP work programme. This work programme also includes:

- i) Evaluation of the most effective use of resources across PUSH;
- ii) Analysis of design quality across the PUSH sub-region;
- iii) Production of an Assessment Tool and Design Guidance;
- iv) Evaluation of current processes relating to design;
- v) A programme of design training;
- vi) Evaluation of the current system of Design Review; and
- vii) Delivery of a sub regional Design Awards event.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the PUSH Joint Committee:

1. **ENDORSE** the attached Quality Places Design Guidance Template 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.

## **INTRODUCTION**

2. The report of the Quality Places Delivery Panel to PUSH Joint Committee (23 March 2010) outlined the work of the Panel relating to design in the built environment and recommended that the Joint Committee note and endorse this work. It also recommended that the Joint Committee agree to officers developing a template for Quality Place Design Guidance. This template would be made available to all PUSH authorities to use as the basis for their own Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
3. This Design Guidance Template has now been produced by a group made up of design practitioners from all eleven PUSH authorities. This has been done in consultation with Members and senior officers from each authority. It has been discussed in some detail with the PUSH Planning Officers Group.
4. A peripatetic tour of all eleven authorities was undertaken earlier this year by Paul Ramshaw (Head of Regeneration & Planning Policy at Eastleigh Borough Council) who is leading this work stream and Paul Grover (CX of the Solent Centre for Architecture & Design) who has been engaged to deliver key elements of this work. This series of visits was designed to ensure comprehensive understanding of, and engagement with this work. The content and approval process for the Quality Places Guidance Template was discussed. Each authority will make their own arrangements for adapting the document to suit their own needs and progressing it through the SPD process.

### **Quality Places Design Guidance Template**

5. The research, development and illustration of the Template was undertaken by the Quality Places Practitioners Group – made up of PUSH authorities' design leads (and led by Eastleigh Borough Council). It will be offered as 'open source' material for individual authorities to develop further as locally appropriate. The Guidance, and so an SPD developed from it, is intended to be used as a practical tool for Development Control Officers to assess design quality in an objective way.
6. The Template builds on the Quality Places Objectives set out in the PUSH Quality Places Design Charter signed by the Leaders of every PUSH authority on 27 October 2010. It rehearses the proven social and economic benefits of good design practice as well as the environmental ones. The Template also sets out the contribution that investment in high quality, well designed buildings and spaces makes towards the broader PUSH objectives.
7. One aim of producing a template document collaboratively has been to make best use of available resources. This will save each authority a considerable amount of time and money in producing their own documents from scratch. This collaborative approach will also ensure that the individual design policy documents will have a level of consistency and quality that will send a clear message to potential developers across the PUSH sub-region about our shared commitment to good quality urban design.
8. The Template will not itself put any additional cost burdens on PUSH member authorities. Rather, it offers a framework within which each authority can develop its own SPD, and potentially offers a saving in preparatory work

necessary. It is, however, for each authority to decide how they wish to take account of the principles and approach it sets out.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

9. It is recommended that the PUSH Joint Committee ENDORSES the attached Quality Places Design Guidance Template 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.

### **Appendix A: [Quality Places Guidance](#)**

**Background Papers:** None

**Reference Papers:** PUSH Quality Places model supplementary planning document

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Paul Ramshaw, Eastleigh Borough Council

(Tel. No. 02380 688 132)

(e-mail: [pramshaw@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:pramshaw@eastleigh.gov.uk) )