



Minutes of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 23 October 2008
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Authority represented:

Councillors

Mrs Marjorie Harvey
Bruce Tennent (deputising for
David Goodall)
Leslie Keeble
Keith Evans
Gwen Blackett
Jill Baston
Ian Hibberd
Roger Huxstep

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Jill Baston be appointed Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2008/09.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Roger Huxstep be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2008/09.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Goodall, Eastleigh Borough Council and Mike Park, Portsmouth City Council.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 March 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pos-080320-m](#)).

Matter for Information

5. HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the PUSH Housing Theme Lead Officer, which outlined the PUSH Housing Strategy and the key work areas within the Housing Theme (attached - [pos-081023-bco](#)).

The Housing Theme Lead Officer was asked to expand on the percentages set out at the beginning of her presentation. The Housing Theme Lead Officer advised that homes may also be built on brown field sites.

The issue of building flats with open plan kitchens was raised. The Housing Theme Lead Officer advised that it may be possible to address this through planning policy. It was possible to promote family housing but modern designs often meant open plan living.

A question was asked about how older properties would be brought up to standard. The Housing Theme Lead Officer advised some local authorities had their stock transferred to housing associations, which mean there would be more funding to upgrade the properties. However, thought needed to be given as to how information could be shared and rolled out with housing association partners.

A question was asked about the key housing challenges and the "Cities First" approach. It was explained that in East Hampshire the southern parishes had been advised that they had to put sites forward. The PUSH Managing Director advised that the housing distribution had been built up by PUSH asking all of the local authorities what their urban capacity was for each area. Not all of them had brown field sites. Most East Hampshire sites were already coming forward or had green field sites.

Minute 5 contd.

It was suggested that if developers contribute more to roads and transportation, it may have a detrimental effect on Section 106 contributions. However, members were advised that S106 contributions would not be taken away but it was important to not to put developers off.

Large housing estates with no infrastructure were not good and it was important that the same mistakes were not made as in previous building developments. Members were advised that this was where master planning was important to ensure a joined up approach.

The Chief Executive of Southampton City Council reminded members that the issue of design and capacity to deliver what PUSH wanted to achieve was important. It was also important to remember that if PUSH did not exist, then the HCA would not think that South Hampshire was worth investing in. It was important for PUSH to work together with the HCA and think about the next 10 - 15 years to stop deprivation and make sure housing estates can share in regeneration.

It was AGREED that the PUSH Housing Strategy and key work areas within the Housing Theme be noted.

Matters for Information

6. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S HALF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report, by the PUSH Managing Director, which set out a brief summary of key developments including a brief overview of progress in the half-year up to 1 October 2008 (copy of report [pos-081023-r01-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

A member asked whether PUSH could get involved with the voluntary sector so that retired people could pass on their knowledge and skills to younger people and therefore boost employment in the PUSH area. The Managing Director advised that he was contacting the South Hampshire Voluntary Services Council to see if they could help.

A member asked, to what extent the managing Director thought that the Government would understand the proposed delivery of housing for the PUSH area. The Managing Director advised that he did not know but would find out during discussions with the Government about the MAA and the business plan. PUSH had already exceeded plans.

A member pointed out that smaller businesses could not afford to allow young employees to have day release to attend college to complete their skills. What could PUSH do to assist? The Chief Executive of Southampton City Council advised that there were schemes such as "train to gain" but had not received sufficient uptake from employers.

It was AGREED that the Managing Director's report be NOTED.

7. PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT 2008

The committee considered a joint report by the PUSH Managing Director and the Consultant appointed by PUSH to support the development and submission of the 2008 New Growth Point Submission (copy of report [pos-081023-r02-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

It was AGREED that the overall approach to the 2008 Programme of Development, as submitted in the report, be NOTED.

8. EMERGING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The committee considered a report by the PUSH Managing Director, which presented the guiding principles proposed to form the basis of the PUSH Performance Framework (copy of report [pos-081023-r03-sja](#) circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

A member asked how the data would be validated. The managing Director explained that it depended on which system would be used. There may be automatic checks or it may be done by the City Councils' performance teams.

A member requested that all PUSH Overview and Scrutiny members receive a hard copy of the PUSH Business plan.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the approach set out in the report be endorsed; and
- (b) the emerging Performance Framework be noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting be held in May 2009.

(The meeting started at 6:20pm and ended at 7:58pm).