



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **7 May 2009**

Report of: **Stuart Jarvis, PUSH Managing Director**

Subject: **PUSH Business Plan Review 2009**

SUMMARY

PUSH is required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities, which in turn must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan. This report presents the PUSH Business Plan, as approved by the Joint Committee in March, for consideration by this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Business Plan will be forwarded in early May to individual Local Authority partners for their consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers and notes the PUSH Business Plan 2009.

Background

1. PUSH is required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities, which in turn must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan.
2. The 2009/10 Business Plan review has essentially been an exercise in focussing the document on delivery actions and priorities for the period 2009-11. Therefore the new Plan (attached) is an update and supplement to the more comprehensive original Business Plan, but supersedes the original Plan in respect of actions, commitments and priorities. The new Plan stands as a document in its own right, but does also need to be seen in the context of the original, and will also be supplemented by detailed theme based Action Plans (see paragraph 6 below).
3. The Business Plan review process began in early January, with (Almondree Consulting) commissioned to lead the process on behalf of the Core Team, and engage with PUSH colleagues and partners.

Proposals

4. The Business Plan follows the same broad style as the existing Plan with separate chapters on the four main PUSH themes, a section on Financing the Strategy, which also covers the work of the new External Funding and Resources Theme, and a Transport Chapter summarising the priorities and overall approach of the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee, which leads on sub-regional transport matters in South Hampshire, working alongside PUSH.
5. With the new Delivery Panel structure now agreed, and theme leads identified at both Member and Chief Executive level, it is expected that the Business Plan will become a more useful working document and a framework for the activity of each theme. Each Theme Lead had the opportunity to contribute to and to comment on the emerging draft Plan and to co-ordinate input from Theme partners. The Business Plan was developed alongside the emerging Budget and Capital Programme, which has strengthened the rigour of the prioritisation process and ensured that the new Business Plan and the budget are very closely aligned.
6. The draft Plan was also considered by the Programme Board, and the PUSH Chief Executives Group, and suggested changes arising from these discussions have been incorporated. The changes were largely presentational, with particular emphasis on the need to give more prominence to the impact of the recession on Performance Targets and progress against MAA outcomes, to better identify cross cutting links between projects and themes, and to secure greater engagement at the Delivery Panels, where more detailed Action Plans will be expected to be produced and agreed with detailed proposals and specific and attributed actions to deliver the Business Plan objectives. The Business Plan reflects the proposed Revenue Budget and recommended Capital Programme which will also be considered later on the agenda at this meeting.

7. The Joint Committee considered the Business Plan at its meeting on 19 March. After a wide ranging debate, The Joint Committee resolved to approve the Business Plan, including revisions to reflect the concerns of the Joint Committee, relating principally to the need for stronger statements about the impact of the recession and clear identification of those targets which could no longer be met in the short term. Authority to finalise the wording of the document was delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen; this final revised text is attached to this report for Members consideration. The document will now be reported back to individual PUSH Local Authority partners for sign off.
8. A more fundamental review of the Business Plan will take place in 2009/10, drawing upon the proposed review of the South Hampshire Economic Development Strategy and work associated with the early stages of evidence collection for the review of the RSS/RES. This will provide a firm evidence base upon which targets and priorities will be reviewed in the next iteration of the PUSH Business Plan.

Conclusion

9. The proposed Business Plan presents a focused and concise summary of the strategic priorities and actions for PUSH and partners. It is considered to be prudent to carry out a more fundamental review of the Business Plan in 2009/10, supported by an updated evidence base. In the meantime, the new Business Plan is considered to provide a robust and structured framework for developing the theme based action plans, for guiding PUSH activity, and as a foundation for the Performance Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and notes the PUSH Business Plan 2009.

Background Papers: A brighter future for South Hampshire: moving to delivery” - PUSH Business Plan 2008-11.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact:-

Stuart Jarvis (PUSH Managing Director)

Tel. No. 07736 792647

e-mail: stuart.jarvis@push.gov.uk