



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

Date: **7 May 2009**

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

Subject: **Emerging PUSH Performance Report 2008/2009**

## **SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of PUSH's performance in 2008/09 against the previously agreed key strategic outcomes using an exception based approach as the basis for performance management. Secondly, this report proposes the Performance Framework for 2009/10, and suggests a new reporting cycle.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee:-

1. NOTES the performance results for the 2008/09 period; and
2. CONSIDERS and ADVISES the Joint Committee on the proposed performance framework for 2009/10, including revised reporting arrangements.

## INTRODUCTION

1. In November 2008, the PUSH Joint Committee agreed that performance monitoring and reporting would be conducted on an exception basis every 6 months to monitor progress in delivering against the outcomes specified in the PUSH Business Plan and to satisfy the reporting timescales and requirements of the South Hampshire Agreement (MAA). The Committee also asked for a significant reduction in the number of targets to be included in the performance framework to ensure the focus remains on strategic issues. This report and its [appendix](#) represent the latest iteration of the performance framework, taking into account the Joint Committee's previous decisions and, where possible, charts progress made to date against key indicators, where appropriate drawing attention to key achievements and/or concerns arising from the data.

## IMPACT OF THE RECESSION

2. Since agreeing its first Business Plan, and agreeing the MAA with ambitious economic targets, the economic recession has fundamentally affected the deliverability of a number of the targets included in the performance framework, particularly some of those in the MAA. PUSH remains committed to its long term economic and regeneration goals and to the delivery of the housing, infrastructure, facilities and services necessary to achieve them. However, PUSH is equally clear that the recession has put some of its short term targets at risk and made others unachievable. In agreeing the revised PUSH Business Plan for 2009-11, therefore, the Joint Committee ensured that those targets which are now considered unachievable or at risk as a result of the recession are clearly identified in the Plan: those targets are also highlighted in the appendix in line with the Business Plan.
3. Whilst it is clear that some targets will not now be met, revised targets cannot be set at this stage because of uncertainty over the length and depth of the recession. A revised economic evidence base needs to be developed as the economy emerges from recession. In the meantime the process and timescale for renegotiating MAA targets is not yet finalised. Revised targets will be developed once a thorough review of the evidence base has been completed later this year, and in respect of the MAA targets, through negotiation with government. This will need to take into account that severe short term impacts on delivery against targets and will require a recalibration of the delivery trajectory in the short term which will need to be recovered in later years if long term targets are to be achieved.
4. PUSH is therefore working with partners to concentrate efforts on laying sound foundations to enable this. In the meantime GOSE has indicated that a 'letter of comfort' will be provided by government to reassure partners that they won't be penalised for not achieving those targets directly affected by the recession. This does not mean that PUSH can be complacent about delivery in the short term. Rather the current challenging economic circumstances mean that we are strengthening our efforts to support the economy. In particular cases, such as the activities that have been undertaken to increase skills levels in the sub-region. These have served to mitigate against the inevitable and profound impact of the recession enabling employers to remain more competitive and better equipping those looking to secure employment.

5. While there is little hard comparative data available, reports from SEEDA would tend to suggest that impact of the recession on the economy South Hampshire is comparable to the rest SE region with perhaps a greater concern for coastal areas in respect of a weakening labour market.

### **EXCEPTION REPORTING**

6. In line with previous decisions this report draws attention to 'exceptions' to the expected/planned trajectory of delivery against agreed outcomes. These exceptions relate specifically to those targets that are marked red or amber and that are not assessed as being put at risk or being unachievable as a direct result of the recession.
7. In a number of outcome areas, targets and/or measures remain under development with partners and these are shaded grey in the appendix. Nonetheless, these outcomes have been retained pending development of targets/measures in recognition of their importance to the PUSH strategy. In some cases targets can only sensibly be measured on a longer-term basis than six-monthly and/or data is only collected on an annual or longer basis and these targets have been annotated in the appendix accordingly. In some cases partners have not been able to provide up to date data for this report. Whilst it is a source of disappointment that this situation has not been resolved since the interim report last October, we are currently developing a more robust, agreed process for data collection and collation to help ensure this does not happen again. It is also proposed to revise the reporting timetable, to ensure that the main, Performance Report is produced to better coincide with the greatest availability of performance data.
8. Worsening performance on the number of people gaining level 4 (degree level) qualifications is a concern. The LSC largely attributes this to an indirect impact of the recession. However it is considered more likely that a range of factors may be of influence here, and it is intended to investigate this matter further, and to keep the position under review.

### **PROPOSED PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FOR 2009/2010**

9. The suite of outcomes and, where possible, measures and targets to be monitored in 2009/10 is proposed in the appendix. Where appropriate and possible, targets will be revised in the light of the revised evidence based to be commissioned later this year and through MAA negotiations with Government. Those changes will be reported to Members, where possible, in the next six-monthly report and/or through a full review and three-year roll-forward of the Business Plan (2010-2013).

### **CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. The recession has had a profound effect on performance against previously agreed targets and this is reflected in much of the data in the appendix. PUSH has made a clear statement that it considers many its short term targets now to be at risk or unachievable. Work will shortly be commissioned to update the evidence base underpinning the South Hampshire Strategy and, from that work and through MAA negotiations, revised targets will be proposed and agreed. Despite the dramatic short term effect on performance as a result of the

recession, PUSH remains committed to its long term goals. To help ensure these remain achievable, PUSH has refocused its short term efforts and investment in areas that mitigate the impact of the recession and lay the foundations for improved performance as the economy emerges from recession and to ensure that South Hampshire is in a good position to take advantage of the upturn when it comes.

11. It is considered, on the basis of the performance data reviewed as part of the development of this report, that it would be more effective if the main performance report were to be produced later in the year, when all the data was available. It is therefore proposed that the full annual performance report should in future be produced for the autumn meeting of this Committee and the Scrutiny Committee, and that an interim report, using all the available data, should be prepared in future for the May meeting of both this and the Joint Committee.

That the Committee:-

1. NOTES the performance results for the 2008/09 period; and
2. CONSIDERS and ADVISES the Joint Committee on the proposed performance framework for 2009/10, including revised reporting arrangements.

**Background Papers: -**

**Reference Papers: - PUSH Performance 2008/2009 Appendix**

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact:- Stuart Jarvis, Managing Director of PUSH

Telephone: 07736792647

Email: [stuart.jarvis@push.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.jarvis@push.gov.uk)