



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 26 May 2010
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Councillors David Goodall
Gwen Blackett
Mike Park
Gerry Drake (deputising for
Adrian Vinson
Ian Hibberd
Roger Huxstep

Authority represented:

Eastleigh BC
Havant BC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC

Also Present:-

Anne-Marie Mountifield
Gloria Ighodaro

PUSH Executive Director
PUSH Programme & Information
Manager

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor David Goodall be elected as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Roger Huxstep be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Marjorie Harvey and Mrs Dorothy Denston (deputy), Trevor Cartwright, and John Bryant (deputy), Fareham Borough Council, Robert Forder, Gosport Borough Council, Paul Vickers and David Russell (deputy), New Forest District Council and Adrian Vinson, Southampton City Council.

An apology was also received from Mr Peter Grimwood, Chief Executive of Fareham Borough Council.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings of the PUSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 November 2009 and 15 February 2010, respectively, be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pos-091103-m](#) and [pos-100215-m](#)).

5. PUSH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee received a report from the PUSH Executive Director, which represented an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provided an overview of key PUSH developments since the Overview and Scrutiny meetings held in November 2009 and February 2010 and which were not covered in other items in the agenda (copy of report [pos-100526-r02-amm](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

There was a discussion about the quality of social housing which was being built. Test Valley advised that it had exceeded its target for the number of social houses built for this year. The PUSH Executive Director advised that the Centre for Cities report had looked at the quality of the housing stock.

A member asked for clarification regarding the risk register. The PUSH Executive Director advised that red meant that the risk was very high; amber meant that the risk was more of a watching brief and green meant that the risk was very low (rather than no risk at all). Members asked if a key could be added to the register for members' information.

The PUSH Executive Director advised that a new website had been launched, together with a newsletter, which reported progress on the delivery panels and the delivery that had taken place. Some members requested that hard copies of the newsletter be sent to them, as well as electronic versions.

A member asked if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a link on the website and the PUSH Executive Director agreed to check that this was available.

The PUSH Executive Director also advised that Guy Campbell, a graduate intern had been appointed to the PUSH Core Team recently.

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

6. EMERGING PUSH PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report, by the PUSH Programme and Information manager, which, provided an initial summary of PUSH's performance for 2009/2010 against the previously agreed key strategic outcomes using an exception based approach as the basis for performance management (copy of report [pos-100526-r03-amm-qig](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

A member advised that the old high rise style of homes used to be very spacious but this was no longer the case with new build. .

A member advised that the Somerstown project would be of a higher density by design.

The Chairman asked if Government's plans to give more control to Local Authorities meant that they could set their own planning rules. The rules needed to be defined (ie bedrooms needed to be of a certain size).

The PUSH Executive Director advised that the Joint Committee had received a presentation on quality of design at its last meeting and she undertook to refer the Committee's comments on quality of design to the Housing and Planning Delivery Panel.

A member asked how tenants were decanted in the Somerstown redevelopment project. The PUSH Executive Director suggested that the project leader could be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in the autumn to give an update.

A member asked if PUSH member authority planners could present rough figures for footprints of dwellings they had approved. This would allow a comparison within the PUSH authorities to be made. The PUSH Executive Director undertook to refer the Committee's comments to the Planning Officers' Group.

A member asked about existing empty homes and whether there were any plans to open them up. The PUSH Executive Director referred members to the draft HCA Local Investment Plan that was discussed at the last Joint Committee.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the latest performance information (for the 2009/10 financial year) against the measures previously adopted by the Joint Committee be NOTED;
- (b) the project leader for the Sommerstown project be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in the autumn to give an update; and
- (c) the Housing and Planning Delivery Panel and the PUSH Authorities' Planning Officers' Group be advised of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments, on quality of design, as set out above.

7. DRAFT FINAL OUTTURN FOR 2009/10 AND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2010/11 AND 2011/12

The Committee considered a report by the PUSH Executive Director, which summarised the provisional outturn against the budget for the financial year 2009/10, in advance of the formal presentation of the Statement of Accounts at the meeting of the Joint Committee on 23 June 2010. It also updated the approved budgets for 2010/11, to reflect the anticipated outturn for 2009/10, and to show the consequent impact on 2010/11 of underspends carried forward (copy of report [pos-100526-r04-amm](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes). The Committee was advised that the position for 2010/11 would be reviewed, taking into account the current public expenditure review of spending approvals and the outcome of the emergency budget on 22 June 2010.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the provisional outturn for the financial year 2009/10 be NOTED;
2. the Statement of Accounts 2009/10 be presented to the Joint Committee on 23 June 2010; and
3. the detailed revised budgets for 2010/11, taking into account the final outturn for 2009/10, be presented to the Joint Committee on 23 June 2010.

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/11

The Committee considered a report by the Committee Services Manager, Fareham Borough Council, which asked the Committee to determine its schedule of meeting dates for the municipal year 2010/11 (copy of report [pos-100526-r01-sco](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

The PUSH Executive Director advised that there were two crucial pieces of work that the Committee needed to consider before they were presented to the Joint Committee on 7 July 2010. These were the Economic Development Evidence Base and Strategy Refresh and the PUSH Business Plan. It was therefore important that a meeting of the Committee be held in June 2010.

RESOLVED that the following schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2010/11 be APPROVED:-

8 June 2010;

2 November 2010;

14 December 2010; and

1 March 2011 (Budget meeting)

(The meeting started at 6:15pm and ended at 8:08pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 8 June 2010 at 6:15pm**).*