



Item 8

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

Date: **Wednesday, 26 May 2010**

Report of: **Anne-Marie Mountifield, PUSH Executive Director**

Subject: **Executive Director's Report**

SUMMARY

This report represents an additional method for PUSH business to be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Executive Director's report provides an overview of key PUSH developments since the Overview and Scrutiny meetings held in November 2009 and February 2010 and which are not covered in other items in this agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Director's report be CONSIDERED and NOTED.

Introduction

1. Since the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in November 2009 and February 2010 a number of significant developments have taken place. This report provides a brief summary of key developments not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

PUSH improvement Plan

2. At the meeting on 29 September 2009, the Joint Committee received the Annual Governance Report for 2008/09 from the District Auditors. The report noted that the business plan identified the main strategic risks for PUSH and recognised that these were monitored by officers. At its meeting on 3 November 2009, the Joint committee adopted the action plan submitted by the District Auditors, setting the specific improvement actions identified in the VFM section of the Annual Governance Report. Within this plan (R8) was the requirement for PUSH to ensure that there is regular reporting on risk management to the Joint Committee in the form of a strategic risk register, which is attached in Appendix A of this report. This strategic Risk Register is an update of the risk analysis included in the business plan adopted in March 2009 and was adopted by Joint Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2010.

PUSH Communications Strategy

3. In relation to internal communications, work has been undertaken to improve the consistency of communication with those members and officers who are not specifically involved in PUSH activity. As a result, from March 2010, a quarterly newsletter has been published for internal distribution across the Local Authority areas in PUSH. This should help to improve the understanding of the role, vision and objectives of PUSH within partner authorities and support officers and members to act as ambassadors for PUSH in their work with statutory, voluntary and private sector partners. In addition, the website has been refreshed to ensure that internal members and officers and external partners and other interest groups can access and be informed of the work of the Partnership. This was launched on 26 April 2010 and can be accessed at www.push.gov.uk.
4. There is still much to be done and achieve in order to enable effective internal and external communication for PUSH. This will demand a commitment from a communications professional, along with the support of the PUSH core team and the key officers and members involved in PUSH. In particular, targeted support is required to develop dialogue and dedicated communication channels with central government, civil servants, the business sector and where relevant key Agencies. Professional support is also required to deliver coverage of PUSH work. Therefore, the Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH) is to appoint a consultant to build on the Interim Communications strategy agreed in January 2009 to develop an over-arching communications strategy and to provide quotes for potential ongoing work that would support the effective delivery of the strategy, particularly in relation to the publication and distribution of press releases on behalf of the partnership, securing coverage in trade and local press.

Multi Area Agreement Refresh

5. At its meeting on 26 January 2010, the Joint Committee received a report on PUSH's proposals for the 'refreshed' MAA, and authorised the Managing Director, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Joint Committee and the Joint Committee members from Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council ("**the Children's Services Authorities**"), to conclude negotiations with Government on these proposals and enter into the South Hampshire Agreement (MAA). The discussions have now concluded and satisfactory agreement has been reached, and the South Hampshire Agreement has been submitted for formal approval.

Centre for Cities Report

6. At its July 2009 meeting, the Joint Committee approved the partnership project with Centre for Cities. This was subsequently reported to this Committee on 3 November 2009. Since then, the report has been completed and is [attached](#).
7. The research focused on the following questions:
 - How will the recession and worsening fiscal climate impact on the growth potential of current and potential key sectors based in Urban South Hampshire?
 - What specific actions can PUSH and its component authorities take to promote GVA growth, and increased productivity and employment, generally and in these sectors?
 - What key asks; should the PUSH sub-region make to the next Government to support the delivery of the Economic Development Strategy?
8. The report made specific recommendations to PUSH on a range of issues, including how to support key sectors in the economy. Building on the recovery, and in an environment where effectiveness and efficiency of public policy interventions will be key. The Centre for Cities recommendations for Economic Development have been taken into account and will inform the review and refresh of the Economic Development strategy and evidence base that underpins it.

Core team staffing

8. Since the committee's last meeting , the following staffing changes have taken place within the PUSH team:
 - I was appointed as the new Executive Director for PUSH and took up appointment on 1 February 2010. As a result Julian Lomas has completed his tenure as Interim Managing Director.
 - I can advise that in partnership with Graduate Jobs South (GJS), PUSH has offered an opportunity for an intern to work with the core team. The GJS Graduate Internship programme is a new funded scheme to offer graduates the chance to work in local businesses and gain valuable employability skills. The scheme is aimed at unemployed graduates, ideally from 2008 or 2009. Graduate Jobs South, the regional graduate retention initiative co-ordinate the scheme and the internship will run for 20 weeks. PUSH will receive £1,350 towards the intern's salary and GJS

advertised and short-listed the prospective candidates for us. The process resulted in the successful appointment of Guy Campbell who started in post on 19th April 2010, and is working with the Core team on data analysis.

Recommendation

That the Executive Director's report be CONSIDERED and NOTED.

Background Papers:

- PUSH Joint Committee 29 September 2009 – Item 6 – Annual Governance Report
- PUSH Joint Committee 24 November 2009 – Item 11 – PUSH Improvement Plan.
- PUSH Joint Committee 15 January 2009 – Item 8 – PUSH Communication Strategy
- PUSH Joint Committee 26 January 2010 – Item 9 – Multi Area Agreement Refresh

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Strategic Risk Register

Risk	Risk Status	Consequence	Actions / Response	Officer level risk Owner
<p>1. The impact of the economic downturn makes delivery of South East Plan / PUSH Business Plan by 2026 unrealistic.</p>	<p>Red</p>	<p>The economic downturn remains an issue, some targets were previously set (such as employment rate, sub regional GVA and housing supply targets) are now deemed to be unachievable as a result.</p>	<p>1. The refresh of the MAA and PUSH Business Plan coupled with the work on the Economic Development Evidence base and strategy will include a review of these targets, to include recommendations for future planning and target setting.</p> <p>2. PUSH is adapting its short term strategy and delivery focus to respond to those rapidly changing market conditions. In summary, PUSH is responding by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising projects that are not as sensitive to market fluctuations, such as estate renewal where a substantial proportion of the housing to be delivered is subsidised housing or projects that are public sector led and have funding commitments in place. • investing in enabling infrastructure such as early land assembly to take account of favourable market conditions or forward funding feasibility or design projects • where appropriate, at the sub regional level, investing in projects that protect the people of Hampshire from the effects of the recession, particularly through employment 	<p>PUSH Executive Director</p>

			<p>and skills projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing in innovative projects that offer value for money returns through land values, developer contributions or other forms of income generation. <p>3. PUSH in collaboration with HCA is in the process of developing a Local Investment plan (LIP) as part of the Single Conversation. It is anticipated that the LIP will provide added focus and direction to PUSH's medium to long term investment strategy thereby enhancing PUSH's chances of securing future Government funding to deliver on its strategic and priority development sites.</p>	
2. Change in Government/Government policy and the approach to regional governance and sub regional partnerships	Amber	Disruption / uncertainty on how funding and other decisions allocations will be made.	4. PUSH will continue to engage with Government at national and regional level to ensure that it kept informed of emerging progress and that it can have appropriate influence on decision makers. In particular, PUSH will seek to ensure that enabling measures in the MAA are honoured and use the MAA as a mechanism to maintain effective dialogue with Government and Regional Agencies.	PUSH Executive Director / CEO Theme leads
3. Inability to secure funding from other sources	Red	<p>Insufficient funding to deliver infrastructure interventions, social housing or other facilities to underpin or enable development will impact severely on PUSH's ability to deliver its sub regional growth agenda.</p> <p>The significant budget cut in New Growth funding has impacted on the delivery of</p>	<p>5. PUSH's External Funding Delivery Panel in collaboration with other key partners (such as TfSH, and EA) is fundamental to ensuring that funding opportunities continue to be explored to deliver large capital schemes. For example; private sector investment, Joint Venture opportunities / asset borrowing.</p> <p>6. PUSH will continue to work with partners with a</p>	PUSH Executive Director / CEO theme lead for External Funding Delivery Panel

		priority projects in 2010/11 capital programme. The Fiscal climate is such that further budget constraints are anticipated post general election for 2011/12 onwards.	range of funding programmes to spread the risk and develop innovative funding mechanisms. 7. The South Hampshire Agreement (MAA) dialogue on innovative funding mechanisms will be crucial to mitigating this particular risk.	
4. Economic Indicators, infrastructure or housing delivery require realignment	Amber	Various consequences including greater levels of inward migration, increasing economic disparities within the sub-region, more congestion, increased pressures on public services and over or under supply of housing leading to distorted housing market	8. PUSH will continuously monitor the sub region's performance across a wide range of indicators and respond appropriately using the processes and supporting implementation plans within the Business Plan to be informed by work on the Economic Development Evidence base and strategy	PUSH Executive Director
5. Poor collaboration from partners	Amber	Inability to realise some objectives or late delivery of some targets has been the primary issue. Joint working is necessary to enable: 1) translation of strategy into delivery and 2) alignment of efforts and resources.	9. Key to ensuring success in positive partnership engagement will be the use of the MAA as a tool to lever collaboration from Central Government and agencies. 10. Other local mechanisms such as the PUSH Governance structure, the Business Forum, the development of the Local Investment Plan and Employment and Skills Board will provide forums in which challenges can be resolved. 11. A communications Strategy is in the process of being developed. The strategy will establish a mechanism for the proactive delivery of key messages to a range of audiences, both externally with PUSH partners and Government / statutory Agencies both and internally within PUSH.	PUSH Executive Director