



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 8 June 2010
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Authority represented:

Councillors	David Goodall (Chairman)	Eastleigh BC
	Roger Huxstep (Vice-Chairman)	Winchester CC
Councillors	Mrs Dorothy Denston (deputising for Mrs Marjorie Harvey)	East Hampshire DC
	Keith Evans	Hampshire CC
	Gwen Blackett	Havant BC
	Paul Vickers	New Forest DC
	Mike Park	Portsmouth CC
	Adrian Vinson	Southampton CC
	Ian Hibberd	Test Valley BC

Also Present:-

Peter Grimwood	Chief Executive, Fareham BC
Bernie Topham	Chief Executive, Eastleigh BC
Anne-Marie Mountifield	PUSH Executive Director
Kishor Tailor	Economic Development Director
Chris Cobbold	DTZ

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Trevor Cartwright, Fareham Borough Council, John Bryant (deputy), Fareham Borough Council, and Mrs Marjorie Harvey, East Hampshire District Council.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the PUSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 May 2010, be confirmed and signed as a correct record (attached - [pos-100526-m](#)).

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised members of the Fire Evacuation procedures.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

5. Deputations

There were no deputations made at the meeting.

6. Emerging Economic Development Evidence Base and Strategy Refresh

The Committee received a progress update report and presentation from consultants on the emerging refreshed economic development evidence base arising from that research (copy of report [pos-100608-r01-hta](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

Chris Cobbold of DTZ, gave a presentation entitled "Shaping the Economic Future of the PUSH Area", which gave an update on progress as to where the economy was going over the next 10-15 years and outlined what had happened over the last five years in terms of the PUSH economy. The presentation also outlined employment growth and labour market engagement for the PUSH area. Mr Cobbold also advised that the recession had led to an increase in unemployment, not just in the PUSH area, but in the South East as a whole. He advised that there was still a skills deficit in higher level skills but there had been a more rapid growth in qualified population in the PUSH area than there had been in the South East. Mr Cobbold further advised that the mix of occupations in the PUSH area reflected the skills mix. In summary, Mr Cobbold explained that the PUSH area was not achieving its potential, although the number of people in the PUSH area with NVQ 2 qualifications had risen. There was still a performance gap with the South East and cities were underperforming.

Mr Cobbold went on to say that key sites and premises needed to be prioritised and new funding models would need to be considered, given the forecast changes in public expenditure budgets.

A copy of the presentation slides can be found at www.PUSH.gov.uk.

Some members felt that apprenticeships needed to be concentrated on more fully. The Economic Development Theme Lead advised that there had already been a lot of investment in apprenticeships in the PUSH area.

Members advised that the retail sector was labour intensive. Mr Cobbold advised that expenditure was now more restrained and the retail sector was not the same job generator that it had been in the past. The Economic Development Director advised that the survival rates of new businesses needed to be considered. The PUSH area was very good with the start up of new businesses but after approximately three years, businesses may have failed. Mr Cobbold advised that the reasons for this were often historic or cultural, for example in Portsmouth, there were areas dominated by large lifetime employers where individuals did not start their own businesses. However, in rural areas, this was not the case and more small businesses had been set up. A member stressed that the quality of new build housing also needed to be addressed by PUSH.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cobbold for attending the meeting.

It was AGREED that:-

1. the report be NOTED; and
2. members' comments, as listed above, be considered when the Economic Strategy is refreshed

3. Emerging PUSH Business Plan process for 2010-12

The Committee received a report on the process of updating the interim Business plan for 2010-12 to include the emerging delivery plans for the PUSH themes for approval by Joint Committee to support the Business Plan period covering 2010/11 (copy of report [pos-100608-r02-amm](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

The PUSH Executive Director explained that the Government's decision to cut the 2010/11 New Growth Fund had resulted in PUSH receiving some £4 million less than expected this financial year. This in turn had a major impact on PUSH's ability to resource its original business plan to its full potential. In addition, there was a current public expenditure review of spending proposals underway and there would be an emergency budget on 22 June 2010. This may have an impact on HCA funding, the New Growth fund capital fund and the revenue PUSH currently received from SEEDA to support the sub-regional partnership. It was therefore crucial that the revised 2010-12 Business Plan and its supplementary Action Plans reflected, as far as possible, the current and future fiscal position.

It was AGREED that:-

1. the approach to refreshing the business plan and the preparation of draft Theme Action Plans, be NOTED;
2. the draft theme Action Plans, set out in the report, be NOTED as a supplement to the 2010-12 PUSH Business Plan, to provide the basis for the Work Programme for 2010/11 for each Delivery Panel/Theme; and
3. it be NOTED that both the draft Delivery Plans and the emerging Business Plan may have consequential amendments arising from the current public expenditure review and forthcoming emergency budget due to take place on 22 June 2010.

(The meeting started at 6:15pm and ended at 8:00pm).

*(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 2 November 2010 at 6:15pm**).*