



PUSH

Internal Newsletter

March 2010

March 2010 - Issue 1

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from PUSH Chairman
- 2 Message from the Executive Director
- 2 The PUSH Team
- 2 Economic Development
- 3 Housing and Planning
- 3 External Funding
- 4 Quality Places
- 4 Sustainability and Community
Infrastructure

*"New PUSH Executive
Director appointed"*

Message from PUSH Chairman

Welcome to the first edition of the PUSH Internal Newsletter aimed at keeping you up to date with the latest news and progress of the PUSH work. You will recall at the November 2009 PUSH Joint Committee meeting, when I announced that Julian Lomas will no longer be fulfilling the role as PUSH Managing Director starting from February 2010. He will however, remain with PUSH on a consultancy basis continuing work on the MAA, economic development refresh and other strategic agendas. I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Julian for his exceptional contribution and hard work in driving the PUSH agenda forward.

Anne-Marie Mountifield has now been appointed as the new PUSH Executive Director (re-titled from Managing Director). She took up post on 1 February 2010. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Anne-Marie to her new role and hope that in the next few weeks, you will all have had the opportunity to meet her. Anne-Marie was previously the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Partnership Director for Urban South Hampshire, and the lead LSC Director for Infrastructure in the South East . She also Chaired the Skills policy group for the South East Diamond Authority areas and led the development of *'Skills for employability and growth' - a strategy and action plan for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), published 23 June 2008.*

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to this inaugural Newsletter which is full of news and information about the activities currently underway in PUSH. This month we are focusing on the work of the delivery panels and looking at forthcoming events. February has been a busy month and we are currently finalising a refresh of the Multi Area Agreement - For more information please visit the latest news section of the new PUSH website which will go live in April 2010: www.push.gov.uk

Also PUSH has been chosen as one of three areas in the South East to pilot the 'Single Conversation' with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The Single Conversation is a means of discussing local housing needs with local authorities and mapping out future investment requirements. The approach seeks to engage a range of partners involved in the delivery of better places – aligning homes, jobs and infrastructure – which plays to the strengths of PUSH as a partnership organisation whose principal aim is to promote the economic growth of South Hampshire.

PUSH and the HCA are currently in the process of drawing up a Local Investment Plan that sets out housing need in South Hampshire, our policy priorities, and how we are going to address the investment challenges. For more information on the Single Conversation agenda please visit:

<http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/singleconversation.htm>

Other events that are taking place in March are as follows:

- Business Southampton – Future Southampton, 16th March 2010
- Somerstown Regeneration Project, 10th March 2010 & 17th March 2010

Around the time you read this I will have completed my first month in my new role, and I have been busy meeting many of you. I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome and special thanks to Julian who has been extremely supportive during this initial period..

We would welcome your views on the newsletter and want to hear from you, whether you have an idea for an article, have a forthcoming event or other queries. Contact details for the PUSH team are overleaf.

The PUSH Team

The day-to-day operation of PUSH is managed by the PUSH Core Team. The team is headed by the PUSH Executive Director. Contact details for the team are as follows:

- Executive Director - anne-marie.mountifield@push.gov.uk
- PA to PUSH Executive Director - sara.magem@push.gov.uk
- Economic Development Director - kishor.tailor@push.gov.uk
- Programme and Information Manager – gloria.ighodaro@push.gov.uk
- PA to Economic Development Director and Programme and Information Manager - alexandra.anderson@push.gov.uk
- Quality Places Delivery Manager - CFreeman@winchester.gov.uk
- SDA Project Feasibility Manager (North Fareham) - scrocombe@fareham.gov.uk
- SDA Project Feasibility Manager (North/North East Hedge End) - matthew.james@eastleigh.gov.uk
- Eastleigh River Side Project Director (Jeff Channing) – riverside@eastleigh.gov.uk

Economic Development

PUSH's economic development ambitions continue to be the driver for ensuring that South Hampshire continues to build on its economic strengths whilst at the same time exploring opportunities. Key areas of work include: Employment and Skills; Employer engagement; Inward Investment; Review of the Economic evidence / strategy; the Solent innovation and Growth Network (SIGN) and the Multi area Agreement(MAA) work. To date, significant achievements have been made resulting in the following:

- The establishment of a private sector led Employment and Skills Board; chaired on an interim basis by Councillor George Beckett. Representatives includes: Higher Education, Retail, Job Centre Plus and Learning and Skills Funding Agency. The ESB private Sector Chair role is soon to be advertised.
- Improved employer engagement facilitated by PUSH and Hampshire Economic Partnership (HEP).
- PUSH wide inward investment service, Outputs to include the setting up of an Inward Investment Board and a Task and Finish Group
- Extensive consultation programme involving a wide range of partners on the review of the economic evidence based work to support the revision of the economic Strategy.
- Working to secure the ESB to become a specified body under section 24A of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, as part of the MAA 'ask' of Government
- Collaborate 2 innovate 2009 event held at Southampton's City Cruise Terminal, was well received by delegates.
- Quilley School of Engineering in Eastleigh, were winners of Best Presentation in last years PUSH Ahead Challenge.

For further information please contact PUSH's Economic Director, Kishor Tailor: Kishor.tailor@push.gov.uk

*“Private Sector led
Employment and Skills
Board”*



*Review of the economic evidence to
support the revision of the economic
strategy*

Housing and Planning

PUSH undertakes Annual Housing Market Monitoring Reports. This report monitors key indicators of the housing markets in South Hampshire and is the first of 3 annual reports due to be published. The indicators contained in this report will help inform PUSH and individual local authorities in developing policies in relation to housing and responding to market changes.

Planning permission for the Hinkler Parade estate regeneration has now been granted with demolition work commencing in March 2010. The redevelopment has attracted many partners to the project and funders including PUSH, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Thornhill plus You. Engagement with local people at the planning and design stages of the project has been key to ensuring that the scheme delivers the needs of the local community.

For more information please contact the Housing Theme Lead, Barbara Compton: Barbara.Compton@southampton.gov.uk

A study has been commissioned by the PUSH Housing and Planning Delivery Panel in conjunction with the Economic Development and Quality Places Panels. It will provide:-

- an audit of current hotel performance and development proposals
- an assessment of growth prospects, including conference tourism potential
- recommendations of how to secure and accommodate hotel development

A leading Consultant on Hotel Solutions has been engaged through Tourism South East. The study is due to be completed by May, with a presentation to senior PUSH Members and officers in early June. PUSH is also helping to pave the way for successful adoption of Local Development Documents (LDDs). Over recent years PUSH has compiled a series of Policy Frameworks and other documents to inform and support the preparation of LDDs. These are now proving their worth. Planning Inspectors who assessed the New Forest and Southampton Core Strategies placed considerable weight on the sub-regional context provided by PUSH and the content of the Policy Frameworks. The resulting Inspectors' reports enabled each authority to adopt its Core Strategy last December – the first in Hampshire!

For more information please contact the Planning Theme Lead, Stuart Roberts: stuart.roberts@hants.gov.uk

External Funding

The External Funding Delivery Panel has a challenging work programme to deliver in 2010/11 and has already started the ball rolling through a workshop held in Winchester for key members and senior officers setting the scene, challenges ahead, and some of the options on the table. Aims and objectives of the panel include:

- Developing a strategic Investment Plan for south Hampshire incorporating both PUSH & TfSH requirements
- To identify potential funding models to deliver key strategic priorities within the Strategic Investment Plan and make recommendations to the PUSH Joint Committee on strategic funding choices
- To build up a portfolio of "ready to go" projects within the Strategic Investment Plan utilizing appropriate funding options and report to the PUSH Joint Committee when projects have finance available

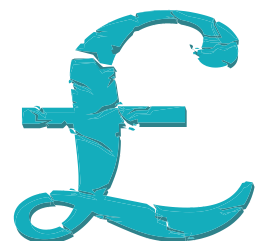
Work is continuing on refining our list of infrastructure investment needs, and turning this into a Strategic Investment Plan, as well as identifying possible pilot sites to test out some of the funding options that may become available. However, much remains uncertain about what funding options might become available after the general election.

In the meantime, the External Funding Panel is looking to procure the services of specialist financial advisors with a view to have consultants in place by the summer 2010.

For further information please contact Tom Niedrum: tom.niedrum@hants.gov.uk



"hotel needs assessment for South Hampshire"



Quality Places

One of PUSH's key aims is to create **quality places** – places which are well designed, have excellent leisure and sporting facilities, offer a range of cultural activities for all our citizens and are a magnet for visitors. This is the remit of our Quality Places Delivery Panel. Through the work of this Panel local councils in PUSH continue to work in partnership with SEEDA, Arts Council England, Sport England, Tourism South East, the Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment, the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council and English Heritage. Achievements to date include:

- **Work commissioned** to assess the need for cultural and sporting provisions to support new development in South Hampshire. In order to support this work the Panel has secured £60 000 from SEEDA to support a national pilot project to assess the sub regions needs for cultural infrastructure in a way which will inform spatial planning policy.
- **Secured £50,000 from SEEDA** to support work to develop the Solent as an access corridor for the 2012 Olympics
- **Portsmouth and Southampton have made a joint submission** to become the UK's City of Culture 2013.
- **Quality Design Guidance** seeks to introduce measures that ensure growth results in places where people want to live. The guidance will be available for individual authorities to adopt as a Supplementary Planning Document accompanied by an assessment tool that will enable developments to be rated against the principles set out in the guidance. Together, these will provide an invaluable quality control check and reference resource that will contribute towards a high standard of development across the PUSH Sub-region.
- **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)** - The Panel is working jointly with Hampshire County Council on the Havant Tranche of the BSF programme. The work will act as a demonstration Project and will inform the role of BSF in the county
- **The panel has agreed a £50,000 investment in CIBAS** (<http://www.port.ac.uk/research/cibas/>) to support creative industry business advice in Hampshire up to 2011. The panel is additionally **investing £25,000 in the Arts Organisation Aspace** (<http://www.aspacearts.org.uk/>) to support the development of creative workspace in south Hampshire, and will in conjunction with aspace commission a review of workspace provision.

For further information about the work of this Panel, please contact Charles Freeman - Cfreeman@winchester.gov.uk

Sustainability and Community Infrastructure

Maximising the potential of local green space is a critical environmental priority for PUSH. Consequently, PUSH has developed a Green infrastructure Strategy for South Hampshire which has undergone consultation with key partners including Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and a wide range of local nature conversation and Environment groups. PUSH will, in the near future, begin work with a wide range of partners to develop an implementation plan and begin to implement the strategy. Final strategy will be approved at the March Joint Committee. To download the document please visit <http://www.push.gov.uk/general/article.aspx?id=358>

The Panel has also supported a research undertaken by Radian Housing group and EA to investigate the potential for Water efficiency measures in existing residential property. For further information, please visit the website: www.southernwater.co.uk/meteringprogramme

For all new development, PUSH has developed a sustainability policy framework to ensure that the code for sustainable homes (code level 3) is applied to all new development and will progressively be increased to code level 6 by 2016. This policy will ensure that water efficiency measures are integrated into all new development. The policy framework is being introduced into core strategies of all PUSH local authorities. So far two authorities (Southampton and New Forest District Council) have this policy supported by Inspectors in the findings on the Examination In Public (EIP) of their core strategies.

Working also with the Environment Agency and the water companies to develop plans and strategies to address issues relating to the provision of infrastructure and flood risk and supporting an innovative project on sustainable urban drainage at the West of Waterlooville major development area.

For further information, please contact Frank Cambell frank.campbell@havant.goc.uk or Steve Lees SLees@TestVally.gov.uk

