

PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

Leaders' and Chief Executives' Panel

**Notes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 26 September 2007 at the Civic Offices,
Fareham**

Present:

Councillor Seán Woodward (Chairman) Alan Davies	Fareham Borough Council
Councillor Keith House Bernie Topham	Eastleigh Borough Council
Councillor Patrick Burridge Alistair Spiers	East Hampshire District Council
Councillor Shaun Cully Ian Lycett	Gosport Borough Council
Councillor Ken Thornber Peter Robertson	Hampshire County Council
Councillor David Gillett Sandy Hopkins	Havant Borough Council
Councillor Mel Kendal Graham Ashworth	New Forest District Council
David Williams	Portsmouth City Council
Councillor Alec Samuels Lorraine Brown	Southampton City Council
Councillor Martin Hatley Steve Lees	Test Valley Borough Council
Councillor George Beckett Simon Eden	Winchester City Council
Richard Longman	PUSH Project Director
Cathy Evans	GOSE
Kathy Slack	SEEDA
Observers	
Councillor Arthur Mandry	Fareham Borough Council
Councillor Royston Smith	Southampton City Council

Stuart Roberts	Hampshire County Council
Liz Kite	Southampton City Council
Frank Campbell	Havant Borough Council
Neil Tuck	PUSH Executive Assistant

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson from Portsmouth City Council, Stuart Jarvis from Hampshire County Council and Roger Tetstall from Test Valley Borough Council.

2. NOTES OF PUSH LEADERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES' PANEL

The notes of the PUSH Leaders' and Chief Executives' Panel meeting held on 23 July 2007 were received and confirmed.

3. PUSH GOVERNANCE

a) Progress Towards Concluding Joint Agreement – Paper LCX-0709-3

The Panel received a report which advised that before the proposed PUSH Joint Agreement could take effect all 11 of the Councils in the PUSH area had to vote on the proposal at their Council meetings. The Panel was advised that to date, 7 Councils had considered the proposal and had voted in favour. The remaining Council meetings were due to be held during October.

The first meeting of the proposed Joint Committee, scheduled for 26th November, would have to conduct certain formalities before any substantive business on the agenda. The draft agenda detailing these items, for information, was incorporated into the report. Each authority that was a party to the Joint Agreement was also required to nominate a representative and deputy to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was AGREED that:-

- a) Each Authority to make nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee where they had not already done so and subject to their Council's decision on the proposed Joint Committee; and
- b) the report be NOTED.

4. PUSH DEVELOPMENT

a) Work Programme Update - Paper LCX-0709-4a

The Panel received a report, which offered a brief summary of PUSH activity that was not highlighted under particular theme reports. The Panel was advised that there were two Ministerial visits in October and November 2007, which should help to raise the profile of PUSH.

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.

(4b contd.)

b) Business Plan and Programme of Development - Paper LCX-0709-4b

The Panel received a report and presentation on the Programme of Development being prepared for submission to DCLG. The Programme sets out the vision and rationale for growth, the proposed housing trajectory, and details of infrastructure projects to support growth. The draft also set out estimates of the overall infrastructure requirements to deliver the PUSH strategy, and identified a package of deliverable projects for consideration by DCLG as the basis for allocations of New Growth Point block funding for 2008-11.

The programme was also required to set out delivery arrangements. The draft proposed phased expansion of PUSH capacity to provide support to the delivery of strategically important sites and infrastructure, and to lead economic development across the sub-region to delivery business plan objectives. These proposals were set in the context of possible future governance arrangements, including the possibility that the PUSH Business Plan would be the basis for a Multi-Area Agreement.

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED and the draft Programme of Delivery for submission to the DCLG be APPROVED.

c) Proposals for Developing a PUSH Multi Area Agreement - Paper LCX-0709-4c

The Panel received a report, which explained that the Government Office for the South East had written inviting PUSH to consider whether it wished to be included in the first round of Multi Area Agreements (MAAs). This would be with a view to concluding a MAA by June 2008. Such an Agreement could be based on the emerging PUSH Business Plan. The report set out initial thinking, looking at how far existing processes could provide a basis for taking this work forward if the Panel was minded to do so.

It was AGREED that:-

- a) PUSH should work together to develop a MAA, with the aim of participating in the first round to be concluded by June 2008;
- b) That the PUSH Working Group should coordinate this work on behalf of PUSH, referring decisions to this Panel / the PUSH Joint Committee as appropriate; and
- c) The PUSH Chairman respond to GOSE on the above basis.

5. HOUSING

a) South Hampshire Sub-Regional Housing Strategy - Paper LCX-0709-5

The Panel received a report which explained that work in progress for the development of a Sub Regional Housing Strategy had been considered by the group on 23rd July 2007. This has been developed, following consultation with other PUSH working groups and key interested parties in the sub region. A final document had now been produced, which had an important role to play in lobbying and bidding for resources from the Regional Housing Board and Housing Corporation. The Strategy included reference to the Housing Green paper which was issued in July 2007.

It was AGREED that the Sub-Regional Housing Strategy be APPROVED.

6. PLANNING

(a) Apportionment of Provision for New Employment Floorspace in South Hampshire - Paper LCX-0707-6a

The Panel received a report which advised that the South East Plan required that provision be made for 2 million square metres of new employment floorspace in South Hampshire during the 20 years 2006 - 2026. The Plan also split this overall figure by employment type (offices, manufacturing, warehousing). There was a need to apportion these totals amongst individual PUSH authorities in order to enable the preparation of Local Development Documents. Moreover, there is a need for continuity of new floorspace supply throughout the 20 year Plan period if the PUSH economic growth targets were to be achieved.

The Panel was advised that there were some typographical errors in tables 2 and 3 of the report and revised information was presented verbally to the meeting. There was also a typographical error in table 7 of the report and a revised table was circulated to the Panel.

The PUSH planning and economic development officers had completed an interim apportionment and those interim figures were set out in Tables 6 and 7 of the report. There remained a need to explore the possibilities for transferring some sites between employment types and time periods in order to further improve the continuity of supply of new floorspace. Some wholly new sites for employment development needed to be identified later in the Plan period. The next step was for each authority to explore these matters and to report back to PUSH by 30 November 2007 in order that PUSH can finalise the apportionment process this winter. To assist that work, it was intended to commission a study of the types and locational requirements of the substantial forecast need for new warehousing space.

The Panel concurred on the need for further work and raised examples of apparent anomalies that needed investigation. The analysis needed to reflect input from business on the way spatial needs and business requirements are changing.

(6(a) Contd.)

It was AGREED that:-

- a) The progress made so far be NOTED;
- b) The interim apportionment figures set out in tables 6 and 7 of the report to the Panel be ENDORSED; and
- c) The proposed "way ahead" be ENDORSED.

(b) South East Plan Examination in Public - Paper LCX-0707-6b

The Panel was advised that the report of the Panel which conducted the Examination-in-Public (public inquiry) into the draft South East Plan was published at the end of August. A briefing note on the report drawing out the main points affecting South Hampshire was also presented to the Panel.

It was AGREED that:-

- a) the report be NOTED, and
- b) PUSH continues to develop the sub-regional strategy, taking into account the recommendations made by the Panel.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a) Economic Development Update - Paper LCX-0709-7

The Panel received a report which covered progress on input into the PUSH Business Plan by the economic development work stream, the PUSH Skills Strategy commissioned by the LSC, the South Hampshire Employment Zone (SHSEZ), the DTZ Performance Management and Evaluation Framework, the Portsmouth Naval Base Review decision and SEEDA's Sub-regional Partnership Review.

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Engagement with Key Service Providers - Paper LCX-0709-8

The Panel was advised that making growth sustainable would mean active engagement with all relevant agencies, particularly in relation to infrastructure planning. A start was made to this process in the context of preparing evidence to SEERA, for the draft South East Plan (and particularly the Implementation Plan) on "Critical Other Infrastructure", which was submitted in November 2006. A seminar was held on 12th September to resume dialogue with key service providers, and to pave the way for ongoing engagement and collaboration. The report summarised the key outcomes from that seminar.

(8a contd.)

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.

b) New Growth Point Projects Update - Paper LCX-0709-8b

The Panel received an update on PUSH's new growth point projects for capital and revenue schemes. There were 14 New Growth Point funded projects overseen by PUSH. Since the last meeting, good progress had been made. In particular:

- The Botley Road Bus Link Scheme had been reworked to become the Hedge End Transportation Package and the funding agreement had been signed off on the 3rd September.
- The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Draft final report has been received and was awaiting comments from the client authorities and stakeholder group;
- Green Infrastructure Strategy: The main research report has been produced and sent to the stakeholder group for consultation. Work has begun on the strategy itself.
- Access to Waterfront (Drivers Wharf and Royal Pier) studies: The funding agreement had been finalized and consultation and preliminary design work has been virtually completed on both parts.
- LDF Co-ordination and Policy Development: Scott Wilson consultants have been selected to run the programme of training events and these events will commence during October 2007 and run to April 2008.
- Skills Strategy: The project has been reworked into two phases, with the first phase joint-funded by the LSC. The invitation to tender has been issued and appointment of consultants is imminent.
- Tipner Regeneration Project: The funding agreement is in place and the project commences on 1st October.

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.

9. TRANSPORT

a) Transport for South Hampshire: Progress and Collaboration with PUSH - Paper LCX-0709-10

The Panel received a report, which provided an update on progress on the work of Transport for South Hampshire over the summer, outlined steps in hand to reorganise to facilitate closer working with PUSH on the strategic transport dimensions of the sub-regional strategy, and indicated some key milestones in the forward work programme.

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.

10. SUSTAINABILITY

a) Sustainability Group Update - Paper LCX-26 September 2007

The Panel received a report, which covered progress on input into the PUSH Business Plan by the Sustainability Group, including progress on Common Policy Approach to Sustainability, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for South Hampshire, a Feasibility Study on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supply and the GROW Project on Sustainability Policy and Procurement.

PUSH representatives would be meeting with the Environment Agency and Southern water to discuss the various issues and a report would be presented to the Panel in November 2007.

It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.

b) Verbal Report – DCLG/DEFRA Forum of Growth Related Water Issues

The Panel received a verbal update. The Forum had included presentations from Defra, Environment Agency, Ofwat, a water company and one of the Growth Area Local Delivery Vehicles. Defra referred to their report “Hidden Infrastructure” and forthcoming consultation on measures to reduce water consumption in areas of “water stress”, including compulsory metering. The EA signalled consideration being given to extending the Agency’s remit to include surface water, drains and sewers. There was strong encouragement for carrying out water cycle studies and strategic flood risk assessments, both of which are well advanced in PUSH.

11. Housing Green Paper – PUSH Response - Paper LCX-0709-11

The Panel was advised that the Government has published a Green Paper called ‘Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable’, on which it had invited comments by 15 October 2007. The Panel received a report, which summarised the Green Paper’s proposals and set out principles which it was suggested should be the main thrust of the PUSH response to the document. Those principles, together with comments from the meeting, would then be translated into the definitive PUSH response which will be signed-of by the PUSH Chairman for submission to the Government.

It was AGREED that the principles set out in the report to the Panel be endorsed as the basis for the PUSH response to the Housing Green Paper

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that a letter had been received describing the significant proposals for development of the Rose Bowl in Eastleigh. The development

(12 contd.)

included a four star hotel, and an 18 hole golf course. A decision on the planning application would be made by Hedge End local Committee but PUSH had been invited to comment on the proposals. The Solicitors acting on behalf of the planning application had asked if they could make a presentation to PUSH.

It would be important that PUSH did not act in any way that might prejudice the statutory planning process. It was AGREED that the Chairman should respond to the Solicitors on the basis that members of PUSH could be invited to attend a presentation on the proposals, for information, at the end of October 2007.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Panel was advised that the next meeting was due to be held on Monday, 26 November 2007 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham. The meetings for the remainder of the municipal year would be held on 28 January 2008 and 18 March 2008, respectively.

(The meeting commenced at 6:00pm and concluded at 7.50pm)