

Media Release

From the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire
www.push.gov.uk



16th December 2011

PUSH Launch's section 106 Guidance to help secure training and local employment

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), a partnership of local authorities working together to promote regeneration in the region, recently held an event on 15th December at the Rose Bowl, to launch its guidance on "Securing training and employment through section 106 agreements". The aim of the event was to show case successful projects in south Hampshire which have used section 106 agreements to support training and employment activities in local areas and also to ensure local authorities in the area are taking a common approach. The event attracted delegates from various professional disciplines within planning and economic development officers, councillors, partner agencies, private sector planners and developers. Key note speakers included Debra Humphris, Chair of PUSH Employment Skills Board and Pro Vice Chancellor of Southampton University and Roger Stone from the National Skills Academy for Construction.

As part of their planning development management function, local authorities can request contributions, either financial or in kind, through 'section 106' planning obligations, for measures directly related to a development. These agreements can include contributions to ensure that developments complement and benefit the local labour market and economy, by raising skills and enabling local people to compete for the jobs generated. Specific measures can include training, (pre-employment and vocational) apprenticeships, employment advice, interview guarantees, work placements, transport arrangements and childcare.

Host of the seminar, Chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), Councillor Seán Woodward said:

"A highly skilled workforce will underpin higher levels of productivity, making South Hampshire an even more attractive location for business investment. This will enable us to grow in a sustainable manner, without the need for employers to constantly have to recruit from outside the region and our existing residents able to capture the employment opportunities on their doorsteps. PUSH remains committed to the creation of local jobs for local people. The Employment and Skills Board has to date done an excellent job in developing this agenda. Section 106 agreements, also known as planning obligations, are agreements between developers and local planning authorities that are negotiated as part of a condition of planning consent. They can be powerful regeneration tools to deliver real benefits to local communities. The event featured the South Hampshire approach, giving real life examples of the way agreements have been used to raise local skills and create employment opportunities in the private sector"

Professor Debra Humphris, Chair of the PUSH Employment and Skills Board, Said:

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“The Employment and Skills Board continues to focus on the needs of the sub-regional economy and the skills of the resident workforce. Our aim is to achieve sustainable economic growth by developing and retaining the talents of local people to work within Solent economy. Raising the skills and employability of the local workforce is key to achieving the PUSH economic strategy. It will require the combined resources of agencies such as The Skills Funding Agency, Young People’s Learning Agency, Jobcentre Plus, as well as co-ordination by PUSH and input from employers to make the step-change necessary. Section 106 contributions can help to provide the level of resources that will be necessary to implement an ambitious programme of training and employment development.”

Ends

For further information on PUSH, please contact Gloria Ighodaro via email to gloria.ighodaro@push.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

- 1) PUSH is a partnership of eleven local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton; Hampshire County Council and district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Test Valley and Winchester.
- 2) PUSH in collaboration with local partners and government agencies continue to work to deliver sustainable, economic-led growth and regeneration to create a more prosperous, attractive and sustainable South Hampshire, which offers a better quality of life for all who live, work and spend their leisure time in the sub-region.

3) Employment and Skills Board members are as follows

Debra Humphris – University of Southampton
Chris Allington – Oxford Innovations
Cllr Tony Briggs – Havant Borough Council
Huw Chapman – Pall Europe
Jonathan Cheshire – Wheatsheaf
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council
Graham Ellis – Ellis Transport
Debby Gill – Jobcentre Plus
Eileen Gore – Jobcentre Plus
Steve Grant – De Vere Hotels
Stella Mbubaegbu – Highbury College
Anne-Marie Mountifield – PUSH / Solent LEP
Fiona Wilmott – Skills Funding Agency