

Media Release

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



21st June 2010

PUSH Employment and Skills Board appoint new leader

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), an organisation which promotes regeneration in region, has announced the appointment of a Chair to its private sector led Employment and Skills Board (ESB).

Professor Debra Humphris, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Education at the University of Southampton, was formally appointed by the chairman of PUSH, Councillor Seán Woodward.

The ESB was established to deliver sustained economic growth in south Hampshire by transforming employment services and 'upskilling' its workforce. Although there has been substantial progress in this area, the board aims to increase the proportion of its residents with the highest skills. Projections for the growth of the economy highlight the increasing importance of a highly skilled workforce. The ESB will work closely with employers in key sectors to ensure their needs are met.

PUSH Chairman, Councillor Seán Woodward, said: *"Professor Humphris brings to the Board a wealth of experience and will be a real asset to PUSH. As Professor of Health Care Development she has worked closely with a wide range of public and independent sector organisations to shape and redesign services in relation to policy drivers, to evolve workforce development and support education innovation.*

"A highly skilled workforce will underpin higher levels of productivity, and will make South Hampshire an 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."



Professor Debra Humphris

Professor Debra Humphris said: *"The Education and Skills Board has the potential to play a significant role in supporting employers in the region to define and source an appropriately skilled and vibrant workforce. I look forward to working with colleagues on the board to ensure we make a tangible and positive impact on the PUSH economy."*

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Ends

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

Notes to Editors

PUSH

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, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester.

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.

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Humphris – University of Southampton

Chris Allington – Oxford Innovations

Ian Booth - BAE

Chris Buckley – Lawton Communications

Huw Chapman – Pall Europe

Graham Ellis – Ellis Transport

Steve Grant – De Vere Hotels

John Walkerdine – Astrium

Cllr Roy Perry – Hampshire County Council

Junior Johnson – Job Centre Plus

Fiona Willmot – Skills Funding Agency

Kathy Slack – SEEDA

Anne-Marie Mountifield – Executive Director PUSH

Kathy Wadsworth – Local Authority representative

Together shaping the future of South Hampshire