

Media Release

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



24 September 2013

Isle of Wight Council (IOW) and New Forest District Council (NFDC)

Join PUSH

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) recently invited the IOW and NFDC to join PUSH and is today pleased to announce that both Councils have responded positively to becoming a PUSH member. This is great news for the sub region and PUSH (now represented by twelve local authorities) looks forward to taking forward its business priorities in collaboration with the two new PUSH Members.

PUSH was first established in 2003 to enable local authorities to work collaboratively to create a more prosperous, attractive and sustainable south Hampshire, which offers a better quality of life for all. Since then it has undertaken and maintained an impressive track record in research, policy formation, the delivery of projects and activities related to regeneration, estate renewal, community infrastructure, employment and skills and public realm schemes. This portfolio of activities also include previous investments to help unlock key infrastructure and development sites and has to date funded feasibility studies and planning applications for key Development sites in the sub region including Dunsbury Hill Farm, located in Havant.

Much of what PUSH does is nationally recognised as a model of good practice which is also enhanced by the strong partnership working with Government Departments and local partner agencies, all of whom continue to play an active role and have done so since the Partnership was first set up ten years ago. The outcome of today's news also means that PUSH's geographical boundary now mirrors that of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) economic boundary which will no doubt strengthen the relationship between both organisations to focus on priorities that complement each other for the benefit of residents and businesses who live, work, enjoy their leisure time and invest in the Solent area.

Councillor Seán Woodward, PUSH Chairman, States

'This is great news. The IOW and NFDC join a Partnership with a strong track record in policy formation and delivery and I am very pleased that both Councils are coming on board and look forward to working closely with them in the near future. PUSH recently reviewed its governance and business priorities to take account of the challenging and difficult economic and funding environment within which it now operates and I am confident that the increase in PUSH's membership will no doubt enhance the added value that the Partnership continues to bring through joint working. The Partnership will also benefit from enhanced expertise, capacity and resources towards delivering PUSH's revised work focus going forward.'

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Councillor Ian Stephen's, Leader of the Isle of Wight Council, States

'We look forward to joining colleagues from the unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton; Hampshire County Council and the district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester. The IOW council considers working with PUSH as making good business sense. Operationally we have worked with PUSH local authorities for many years and our becoming a formal member of PUSH only strengthens our resolve to ensure positive outcomes for our residents through partnership working.'

Councillor Barry Rickman, Leader of the New Forest District Council, States:

'New Forest already has a long history and good working relationship with PUSH and has previously been an active member of PUSH. During that time, our officers and Member portfolio holders have previously worked with PUSH officers on matters relating to housing and planning. The Council's decision to rejoin PUSH is a forward thinking one and we look forward to working with our PUSH colleagues building on the good work the partnership has achieved to date.'

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Notes for editors

PUSH

1. PUSH is a partnership of twelve local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton; Hampshire County Council and the district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Test Valley and Winchester. Following recent confirmation to join PUSH, the Isle of Wight Council and New Forest District Council are now members of PUSH.
2. PUSH in collaboration with local partners and government agencies continues 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. For more Information on this news item and about PUSH please visit the PUSH website at www.push.gov.uk

For further information

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