

Media Release

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



28 June 2012

Publication of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Portsmouth Naval Base (2012)

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) working with the Solent LEP and Portsmouth University has commissioned a highly significant and independent report looking at the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Portsmouth Naval Base (2012). The report assesses the Dockyard's current economic impact and includes economic forecasts in three potential scenarios:

- Shipbuilding continues at its current level, and all aircraft carriers, destroyers and frigates are base-ported at Portsmouth.
- Shipbuilding at Portsmouth ceases, aircraft carriers, destroyers and frigates are base-ported and carry out all deep maintenance at Portsmouth.
- Reduction in shipbuilding occurs but no additional ships are moved to Portsmouth.

A key finding of the report is that the Portsmouth Naval Base overall generates annually an output of £1.68bn for the local economy and it supports nearly 20,000 jobs in the sub-region. The base itself provides employment for an estimated 11,900 people in the area, 60 per cent of whom are civilian employees working for a raft of defence dependant companies and directly for the MoD. Of these it is estimated that almost 77 per cent live within the local area. There are also a significant number of jobs associated with other defence companies and local Royal Naval and other MoD establishments. In addition, the base is also important to manufacturing, supporting nearly 7 per cent of all such employment in the Solent region.

The report shows how important the defence sector is to our area and it reinforces the importance of shipbuilding to the local economy and confirms that in the event that shipbuilding at Portsmouth ceases, it would result in a loss of nearly 4000 jobs in the local economy, including 1,300 jobs linked to the Portsmouth Naval Base. This shows very clearly that the impact of contraction at the Base would be felt across almost all sectors of the Solent. Equally it also affirms the importance of the Royal Navy and the surface ships fleet both to the City and the wider economy and the need to ensure that Portsmouth remains the home of the Royal Navy.

Chairman of PUSH, Councillor Seán Woodward, Said:

"We are delighted to have led the commission for this very important work. The completion of the report is very timely and it will help us in our campaign to secure the future of shipbuilding in Portsmouth and it confirms that this area is the premier global hub for defence and advanced manufacturing. The work also reinforces my long held view that the work of Portsmouth Naval Base lies at the heart of the South Hampshire economy. Within this the defence sector is a key and highly valuable economic asset that we must preserve and build upon."

The Leader of Portsmouth City Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson said:

"Portsmouth is the home of the Royal Navy. The UK has only ever built our advanced warships in the UK and this should continue. The UK can no longer bid to build some ship like tankers as we no longer have the technical know-how. Advanced warship design and construction is a strategic imperative for a country where over 90% of our imports come by sea. If these trade routes were cut we would have no food to eat, fuel for our cars or goods in the shops. There is a strategic need for advanced warship shipbuilding in the UK and the only other yards are in Scotland that may soon be an independent country."

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Notes to the Editor

PUSH

1. PUSH is a partnership of ten 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.
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. For more information, please visit www.push.gov.uk, where a full copy of the report and executive summary can be downloaded from the PUSH website from 9.30am on Friday 29th June 2012.

For further information

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