

Media Release

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



25th January 2011

SKILLS SUMMIT

Following on from the Business Consultation event held in the summer of 2010 aimed at the business community, higher education and further education community in South Hampshire; the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) will hold a second event on 28th January 2011, specifically aimed at engaging the Higher Education / Further Education sector. This is one of the first major event to be hosted in the area since the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership was given the green light by Government in November 2010. It builds on the work that has taken place by PUSH to involve partners in planning the future growth of the sub region.

The event, organised by the PUSH Employment and Skills Board (ESB), aims to build on existing collaborative work between local businesses and civic leaders working together with the academic community to drive sustainable economic growth and create local jobs. Employment and skills and the ambition to increase the proportion of its residents with the highest skills is a key focus for this event.

Key note speaker includes the Minister of Universities and Science, David Willetts MP and Huw Chapman from the Business Sector who will help to launch the PUSH Economic Development Strategy, adopted in November 2010. The strategy sets out a vision for the future which includes a higher level of employment in the sub region and greater levels of participation amongst our work force so that the benefits of growth are open to our residents.

Councillor Seán Woodward, Chairman of PUSH, said:

“ PUSH is keen to ensure that the Economic Development Strategy is delivered in collaboration with our private sector partners and see an important role for the Employment and Skills Board(ESB) in driving forward the agreed priorities and actions which will help improve skills levels and deliver a more balanced and sustainable pattern of growth to ensure that local residents are equipped to take up the jobs created. We want to encourage businesses in our region to take an active role in shaping the future agenda in capturing and building on existing strengths as well as opportunities.”

Professor Debra Humphris, Chair of the PUSH ESB said:

“This event will see local businesses and civic leaders working together with the academic community to drive sustainable economic growth and create jobs in the area with a sharp focus on employment and skills.” Much progress has already been made since the establishment of the ESB. Examples of targeted activity include supporting skills shortage in the marine sector through the apprenticeship expansion pilot as well as the multi-agency responses to delivering more successful pathways back to employment through the future jobs fund. Much of the Board’s efforts will include strengthening local business partnerships between employers, Higher Education Institutions, Further Education and schools; promoting pathways of learning and graduate retention from our four Universities in the sub region.”

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For further information on PUSH, please contact the Executive Director, Anne-Marie Mountifield via email to Anne-Marie.Mountifield@push.gov.uk or the Economic Development Director via email to Kishor.tailor@push.gov.uk

Notes to the Editor

PUSH

1. PUSH is a partnership of eleven local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton; Hampshire County Council and the district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester. For information about the partnership, please visit the PUSH website: www.push.gov.uk

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.

2. For more information on the Economic Development Strategy and associated documents, please visit The link to the final reports on the PUSH website:

<http://www.push.gov.uk/work/economicdevelopment/economic-development-strategy.htm>