

Media Release

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



17 June 2011

PUSH makes good progress on community infrastructure initiatives

The Sub region is set to benefit from nearly 5km of new cycleway thanks to an exciting new scheme funded by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), Eastleigh Borough Council and other partners. The £250,000 scheme, which will provide an important cycle route from the borough's boundary at Weston Shore to The Quay at Hamble-le-Rice, is being delivered jointly by the funding partners along with Southampton City Council and Sustrans.

Work is underway on this missing link of the National Cycle Network Route 2 that will link Hamble Quay to Southampton City Centre via a route including Hamble Road, Royal Victoria Country Park and Victoria Road to the existing route that runs along the Weston Shore. The route is being delivered in four separate phases and when completed in 2012 will provide an important connection for cyclists between Southampton, Netley and Hamble-le-Rice. The first phase located within the Royal Victoria County Park is now complete and includes a widened shared use facility for pedestrians and cyclists and includes cycle parking.

Chairman of the PUSH Sustainability & Community Infrastructure Panel Cllr Martin Hatley said:

"PUSH and its partners are delighted to fund this scheme that will provide another important link in creating a south coast cycle route and also provide a vital route for local people to use between the centre of Southampton and the Netley and Hamble peninsulas. In addition, PUSH is also working jointly with the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of coastal flooding along the Solent, whilst at the same time promoting safe economic growth. This has resulted in an integrated partnership approach to flood risk management in Southampton, Portsmouth and Gosport".

Environment Agency Planning and Corporate Services Manager, Simon Moody said:

"By working in partnership with PUSH we now have a shared understanding of the flood defences that are required, when they will need to be built and how much they will cost. We have already given Portsmouth City Council £1million to start working on its schemes. We also understand the financial contributions required from local authorities to secure these defences to ensure sustainable economic growth and regeneration can continue. For example Portsmouth City Council is introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charge on developers which will collect an estimated £40 million to pay for their flood defences. These defences will not only protect new development but give extra protection to the 15,989 homes deemed at risk of flooding."

Chairman of PUSH, Councillor Seán Woodward, Said:

The National Cycle Network project and Flood Risk Management are just two of the many schemes that PUSH continue to fund and support for the benefit of residents living in the sub region. Through partnership working the exact route of the cycleway has been determined, land negotiations

Together shaping the future of South Hampshire

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undertaken, planning approvals granted, scheme feasibility design completed as well as securing some funding towards the project, through PUSH, Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and Section 106 Developer's Contributions. Protecting the sub region against flooding is a challenge identified within the PUSH Economic Development strategy – parts of Portsmouth, Southampton and Gosport have been identified as being at significant flood risk which makes flood risk mitigation a key priority both now and in the future". The Environment Agency continues to work in partnership with PUSH on flood risk management measures, including resistant and resilient building design, emergency planning and built defences for those areas at risk in the sub region.

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Notes to the Editor

PUSH

1. PUSH is a partnership of eleven local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight; 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
3. For more information regarding the National Cycle Network 2, please contact Eric Reed at Eastleigh Borough Council on 023 8068 8233.
4. For more information about Sustrans and the National Cycle Network please visit their website www.sustrans.org.uk.
5. For more information about partnership working between PUSH and Environment Agency on Flood risk management, please contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506**