



# **Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: 17 November 2015**

**Report of: Simon Eden, Lead Chief Executive Culture Creative Industries  
and the Built Environment Theme Panel**

**Subject: Culture creative industries and the built environment theme  
panel progress report**

## **SUMMARY**

The culture creative industries and built environment theme panel is currently working to deliver four strands of work:

- The promotion of high quality design in the built environment, this work is led by The PUSH Quality Place Practitioner's group.
- The development of the creative economy in South Hampshire, this work is steered by Creative Network South. The theme panel has recently agreed that in future the work of CNS should be led by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce.
- Promotion of the stewardship of the Historic Environment in the Portsmouth Harbour area. This work is led by the Portsmouth Harbour sustainable use of the Historic Environment Project Board.
- Additionally the panel is supporting the delivery of 3 Capital projects which have been part funded by PUSH.

This report summarises progress made in each of these four areas and updates members on future work planned in 2015/16.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. NOTE the achievements of the panel.
2. NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to contribute £5,000 PUSH revenue funding to support the Solent Design Awards in 2016. This funding will be used to attract sponsorship of around £15,000.
3. NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to contribute £5,000 PUSH revenue funding to facilitate the delivery of a joint work programme with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. This funding will help to leverage £40,000 working in partnership with Creatives United to provide business support and access to finance to growing creative businesses which have traded for over a year.
4. NOTE progress in taking forward the Portsmouth Harbour sustainable use of historic buildings project.
5. NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to continue to support PUSH work on the culture creative industries and built environment agenda and the agreement of the Joint Committee, to approve £5,000 PUSH revenue funding to secure coordination and further development of the projects established by the Panel.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding requests made in this report are additional budget to support the Panel's work programme for the year 2015/16 of £15,000 as summarised below:

- £5000 to support the 2016 Solent Design Awards
- £5000 to support joint work with the Chamber of Commerce to sustain and grow the activities of Creative Network South, and
- £5000 to support the coordination and development of the panels activities.

## **QUALITY PLACE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

1. The Theme panels work in relation to design in the built environment is led by The Quality Place Practitioner's group. The group was established by the themed panel in 2008 and is made up of the design lead officers from the PUSH partner Local Authorities.

2. The practitioner groups' priorities for 2015/16 are:

Theme 1. To build support for the PUSH design charter - The Charter was signed by Leaders of the PUSH authorities and Joint Committee in 2010. Support was re-affirmed by Joint Committee in 2014.

Theme 2. To promote the value of high standards of design in the Built Environment - This is to be achieved by engagement of officers from partner authorities in the activities of the practitioner group.

Theme 3. To develop an urban design information resource - This may involve the development of web based resources that can be shared by the partner Authorities.

Theme 4. Sharing and enhancing in house urban design skills - It is envisaged this will be achieved by partner Authorities sharing expertise.

Theme 5. Supporting the use of Design Review Panels - The practitioner group is working with the Hampshire Design Review Panel and Local Design Review Panels to promote greater use of the design review process.

Theme 6. Design training for Councillors and Officers - The practitioner group is working to identify examples of good practice among PUSH partner Authorities, so these can be utilised by other partner Authorities.

Theme 7. Preparation of Urban Design Guidance - The practitioner's group is in the process of reviewing the design guidance and model SPD developed on behalf of PUSH by Eastleigh Borough Council in 2010. Currently this work is focusing on gathering examples of good practice being implemented by PUSH Authorities.

Theme 8. Celebrating good practice - Historically PUSH has run a biannual design awards to celebrate best practice in urban design in South Hampshire.

## SOLENT DESIGN AWARDS 2016

3. It is proposed the fourth iteration of the Solent Design Awards should be run in 2016. The Awards will showcase good practice regarding design in the built environment in the Hampshire and South Hampshire areas.
4. In keeping with 2014 the likely budget for awards will be between £15k and £20K. It is anticipated that as in previous years the event will attract significant sponsorship however a budget of £5,000 is required to facilitate the attraction of sponsorship, and act as match funding which both secures PUSH ownership of the awards and assists in attracting additional funding contributions.
5. **Recommendation** – Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to NOTE the Joint Committee's budget approval of £5 000 to part fund the 2016 Solent design awards.

## CREATIVE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

6. The Centre for Cities anchoring growth report identified creative industries to be among the fastest growing sectors in the Solent Economy. Employment in the sector is believed to have more than doubled in the past 10 years and now exceeds 20,000 people. The sector is also important in terms of entrepreneurial activity. Business incubation rates in the creative sector in South Hampshire exceed national and regional averages. Hampshire Chamber of Commerce have reported that over 20% of enquiries to the Solent Growth Hub stem from creative businesses, this is significant activity from a sector that makes up approximately 5% of the local economy.
7. Creative Network South was established by the theme panel in 2012 as a sector led group with the aim of supporting the development of creative industries in South Hampshire. Membership of the network includes businesses; sector Support Agencies, the 4 South Hampshire Universities, and the PUSH Local Authorities.
8. In April 2015 the theme panel agreed that in future Creative Network South should be led by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, who will provide a more authentic business voice for the sector. The partnership with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce will also help ensure the integration of creative industries business support with the work of the Solent growth hub.
9. In the coming year the networks joint work programme with the Chamber includes -
  - Work with Solent University (Solent Creatives) to develop a new website for Creative Network South.

- The development of a creative industries business support channel within the Solent growth hub. The growth hub is managed by the chamber.
  - The development of a partnership with Creatives United to secure growth funding for creative businesses. Creatives United are a national brokerage organisation established by Arts Council England. Their primary focus is to provide creative businesses with over a year's trading experience with access to loan finance to support expansion. The partnership will provide a total support package of business advice, mentoring and support in accessing finance valued at £40 000. This will be made up of £20,000 cash and in kind support provided by local partners and £20,000 of specialist support provided by Creative United.
  - To work with Southampton Solent University to develop a funding application to the Arts Council England's creative growth fund. This funding application would consolidate the support provided by the growth hub, and the four universities to creative industries in the context of mainstream support provided by Solent LEP to SMEs.
10. **Recommendation** – The Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTE the approval made by the Joint Committee to contribute £5,000 additional funding for creative industry related work. This will support the joint work programme being established between Creative Network South and Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, and in particular the proposed partnership between CNS, Creatives United and Hampshire Chamber of Commerce (Please note this is additional to the small carry forward already agreed to finance in flight projects).

## **PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR SUSTAINABLE USE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS PROJECT**

11. The Portsmouth Harbour project to promote the sustainable use of historic buildings is now entering its second year. The project team is led by Dr Beverly Lucas, who has been seconded on a part time basis by Portsmouth City Council and is working with a team of officers with a range of conservation skills who have been allocated time to support the project by Historic England.
12. Partners on the project board include Portsmouth City Council, Gosport Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Fareham Borough Council, Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, Hampshire County Council and Historic England.
13. In 2014 a funding package of £120,000 was agreed between PUSH Historic England and the Project Board Partners to fund the delivery of the project, a further £500,000 of Historic England Grant funding has been made available to support the progression of projects identified by the project team which meet Heritage England funding criteria.

14. The project team is now working alongside local authority colleagues on a short list of identified projects with a view to supporting property owners and community organisation to develop sustainable long term uses for buildings
15. Identified projects include:
  - Battery No. 2 Stokes Bay Road - Gosport
  - Bury House - Gosport
  - Haslar Gunboat Yard: Guardrooms Gosport
  - Haslar Gunboat Sheds - Gosport
  - Former Haslar Royal Naval Hospital - Gosport
  - Priddys Hard (Ramparts) - Gosport
  - Beneficial School - Portsmouth
  - Point Battery - Portsmouth
  - Treadgolds Mill - Portsmouth
  - Mercheston Hall - Havant
16. A number of buildings have also been identified as requiring support from the project but work is on hold pending decisions by the MOD regarding the release of buildings. These buildings include:
  - Fort Blockhouse - Gosport
  - Submarine Escape Training Tower - Gosport
  - Royal Clarence Yard Retained Area - Gosport
  - No. 4, 5, 6 Dock Basin No 1 Portsmouth Dock Yard - Portsmouth
  - Block Mills Portsmouth Dockyard - Portsmouth
  - Former Royal Naval Academy - Portsmouth
17. It is envisaged the project will continue for its full three year term and no additional PUSH funding is required. (a small carry forward from existing budgets has however been agreed).

## **COORDINATION OF THE THEME PANEL**

18. The theme panel meets on a virtual basis twice a year. In addition to its work on the revenue projects described above the panel is also supporting 3 Capital Projects.
19. The Creative Industries Capital Project at the New Theatre Royal Portsmouth, this is now near completion. The Theatre is planning to re-open October 2015.
20. The Cell Block Creative Studios which are being delivered by the University of Portsmouth on a site within the boundaries of the Historic Dockyard Portsmouth. The Cell Block is due to open September 2015.
21. ARTches creative make sell Studios, Hot Walls Old, Portsmouth; the design stages of the project which were funded by PUSH have now been completed. The project is due to progress on site latter in the year.
22. There remains scope to develop work the panel is leading in areas such as tourism promotion, shared cultural development and place shaping, all of which will assist in achieving targets for economic growth.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

23. NOTE the achievements of the panel.
24. NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to contribute £5,000 PUSH revenue funding to support the Solent Design Awards in 2016. This funding will be used to attract sponsorship of around £15,000.
25. NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to contribute £5,000 PUSH revenue funding to facilitate the delivery of a joint work programme with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. This funding will help to leverage £40,000 working in partnership with Creatives United to provide business support and access to finance to growing creative businesses which have traded for over a year.
26. To NOTE progress in taking forward the Portsmouth Harbour sustainable use of historic buildings project.
27. To NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to continue to support PUSH work on the culture creative industries and built environment agenda and NOTE the agreement of the Joint Committee to APPROVE £5,000 PUSH revenue funding to secure coordination and further development of the projects established by the Panel.

**Background Papers:**  
**NONE**

**Reference Papers:**  
**NONE**

**Enquiries:**

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