



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

Date: 19 December 2017
Report of: Paddy May, PUSH Coordinator
Subject: PUSH Coordinator's Report

SUMMARY

The Coordinator's report provides an opportunity for issues which are significant, but do not justify a full report in their own right, to be brought to the attention of the Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee-

1. NOTES the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's proposed budget for 2018/19;
2. NOTES the development of a Business Case for the reallocation of £215k of LEP Growth Deal funding for SRMP proposed mitigation measures from the Itchen Valley Site to Hayling Island;
3. NOTES the reallocation of £4k from within the Energy and Green Economy Panel to develop a proposal in response to the Solent LEP Tender to develop and Energy Strategy for Solent area; and
4. NOTES The matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

There are no items for decision to report.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

1) Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership

Budget

The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's (SRMP) work is wholly funded by developer contributions. The amount which will be received in the future cannot be accurately predicted, so a judgement needs to be made annually on an appropriate budget for the coming year. Information collected quarterly related to developer contributions received and annual planning permission data helps inform the budget for each coming year.

Additionally, the SRMP Project Board maintains a financial reserve to cushion the peaks and troughs in development activity and thus money received by the Partnership, so if income is lower than outgoings in 2018/19, money from the reserves would be used to meet any shortfall.

The proposed budget for 2018/19 is £780k, which includes a £450k contribution to the in-perpetuity fund, leaving £330k for the implementation of mitigation measures. These measures include a team of 3 all year Rangers, further supported by 3 seasonal Rangers during the winter, a Communications Officer and the Partnership Manager.

The budget will also fund the vital monitoring surveys and data collection activities which, during winter 2018/19, will include car park counts, visitor surveys and disturbance monitoring. Furthermore, it provides for the development of targeted engagement activities with dog owners and walkers, as research shows that around 47% of all major disturbance incidences involve a dog off the lead.

The proposed budget for 2018/19 is therefore:

Table 1: Proposed 2018/19 budget

<i>Item</i>	<i>000s</i>
Rangers	190
Dog initiatives	20
Partnership coordination officer	30
Operating budget	10
Monitoring	30
Comms Officer	40
Comms operational budget	10
Sub-total	330
Contribution to in-perpetuity fund	450
Total budget	780

Growth Deal Funding

In 2015, the SRMP and PUSH with the support of Natural England, submitted a Business Case for Local Growth Deal funding. In response, the Solent LEP awarded around £1.3 million of Growth Deal funding towards four new/enhanced strategic greenspaces to provide for alternative recreational spaces away from the coast. These were at Alver Valley (Gosport), Manor Farm (Hamble), Horsea Island (Portsmouth), and Manor House Farm (Lower Test Valley).

In 2016, the decision was taken to not develop the Manor House Farm site for this purpose, and in spring 2017 the LEP agreed to reallocate the £375k of funding intended for this site to Shoreburs Greenway (Southampton) and Itchen Valley (Eastleigh).

Eastleigh Borough Council has subsequently confirmed that they no longer wish to develop Itchen Valley for the purpose it received the £225k LEP funding for. Following a call to SRMP Partners to submit proposals for potential suitable alternative projects, and subsequent discussions with Natural England, the SRMP is now intending to prepare a Business Case for the LEP to request the reallocation of these funds.

The Business Case will focus on a proposal by Havant Borough Council to develop a Brent Goose refuge at Hayling Island, allowing the Brent Geese a permanent site to feed and roost during the winter, and improved public viewing and interpretation of the species. Natural England have offered their support for this project, and initial discussions with the LEP about diverting resources to this proposal have been encouraging.

2) PUSH Website

The IT service currently hosting the PUSH website is being decommissioned in March 2018. The underlying infrastructure supporting the website is going end-of-life and the software supplier is also withdrawing support. Hampshire County Council IT have no plans to replace this infrastructure as it does not support core activity and it is felt small-scale web hosting is better served by the third party market.

PUSH is therefore required to make alternative hosting arrangements to migrate the website to a new location. The changeover will need to be completed by the March 2018 deadline. Discussions are taking place with Portsmouth City Council and there may be budgetary implications to develop the new website but the expectation is that the hosting and support can be within the existing budget paid to Hampshire County Council.

3) Update from Planning and Infrastructure

The current work being undertaken by the planning and infrastructure panel remains the same as that reported to the last Joint Committee meeting. The information below provides an update on this work.

Integrated Water Management Study (IWMS)

The IWMS is still within the final stage. The final report is still delayed slightly by the tackling of issues proposed by the Environment Agency and Natural England, which are currently being addressed. The expectation is that the IWMS will be completed in time for the next Joint Committee, 6th February 2018.

Air Quality Study

The final draft of the Air Quality study is due to be discussed at a PUSH Planning Officer Group meeting in January 2018. The expectation is that this study will be completed in time to be taken to the February Joint Committee meeting.

Green Infrastructure

Work is ongoing to prepare the Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan and it is envisaged that this will be presented to the next Joint Committee meeting.

CPRE Response

The Hampshire Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) produced a case study which was submitted to the TCPA Raynsford Review, called 'Planning is not working for communities in South Hampshire'. Upon inspection of this study, it was considered that the submission relayed incorrect and misleading information regarding PUSH and planning within the PUSH area. Councillor Woodward responded to the CPRE, on behalf of PUSH, and submitted a response to the Raynsford Review correcting the errors and providing an accurate picture of planning in the PUSH area.

Housing Need Consultation Response

At the last Joint Committee, approval was given to prepare a response to the DCLG 'Planning for the right homes in the right places' consultation. A draft response was prepared by the PUSH Planning Officers Group and was circulated to members of the Joint Committee for their comment and approval. The draft response was amended in light of comments received and Cllr Woodward submitted a response to the consultation on the 9th November 2017. A copy of this response is available on the PUSH website [here](#).

4) Update from Energy and Green Economy

The current work being undertaken by the Energy and Green Economy panel remains much of the same as received at the last Joint Committee meeting.

Further information upon the Hampshire Community Bank is attached as Appendix 1, and an item on the Hampshire Community Bank will be presented to the February Joint Committee Meeting

5) Update from Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment

There is an agenda item on the work of this panel on the agenda.

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Appendices: Appendix 1: Hampshire Community Bank Report

Background Papers: None

Enquiries:

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