



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

Date: **13 September 2016**

Report of: **Gloria Ighodaro, PUSH Executive Director**

Subject: **PUSH Executive Director Report**

SUMMARY

The Executive Director'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 Joint Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

1. NOTES the 2016/18 PUSH Business Plan which includes activities to be delivered in 2016-17; and
2. NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

PUSH Business Plan for 2016/18

1. The updated PUSH Business Plan (2016/18) outlines the Partnership's Business priorities over the next 2 years. A copy of the revised Business Plan is attached as Annex A to this report. Unlike previous years, the significant shift in the policy, economic and fiscal landscape will require PUSH to take stock on how it moves forward as an organisation. The Governments Devolution agenda provides local authorities with the opportunity to secure a range of powers and responsibilities to boost economic growth. The emerging Solent Devolution Agreement would provide for the Solent Combined Authority, working with a directly elected mayor, control of new additional £30 million a year funding allocated over 30 years to help boost and support economic growth; including housing delivery, transport and other key infrastructure. The Combined Authority would also have powers and functions devolved from Central Government. This includes responsibility for a consolidated, devolved transport budget; responsibility for franchised bus services; responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads; and powers over strategic planning. The Solent Combined Authority would also have responsibility for the 19+Adult Education budget and contribute to the development of a new programme of employment support for harder-to-help claimants. Taken together, the devolutionary ambition of the Combined Authority would be focussed on raising productivity in the Solent economy, including up-skilling the local labour market.
2. The PUSH capital programme concluded in 2015/16 leveraging over £150m worth of additional investment from 2009/10 to 2014/15. Completed capital projects include the Hinkler estate renewal scheme in Southampton, Somerstown Regeneration scheme in Portsmouth, New Theatre Royal creative workspace scheme, Alver Valley Country Park Scheme and improvements to M27, junction 5. The current Business Plan therefore focuses entirely on revenue programme activities related policy formulation and development, feasibility studies and continuing to raise the profile of South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as a desirable destination to live, work and do business. Activities related to Spatial Planning, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Low Carbon economy agenda and creative industries remain a key priority for the financial year 2016/17. A new feasibility study has been budgeted for within the Plan which will complement the suite of evidence based studies supporting the PUSH Spatial Strategy. The Integrated Water Management Study (IWMS) will provide a robust evidence base to demonstrate that sufficient water infrastructure can be provided to support the areas economic growth ambitions whilst at the same time mitigate against any potential harm to the environment.
3. The PUSH Delivery Panels have made significant achievements to date notwithstanding the commitment, support and resources leveraged from both public and private sector to support PUSH activities. In the last 3 years, Energy and the Green Economy Delivery Panel have engaged with 65 SMEs across the Solent, many of these are internationally significant and provided loans to 13 small to medium sized enterprises ranging from £25,000 to £250,000 to support their Green technology business plans. A further 179 new high value jobs has been created in the Solent region to date with an average salary of £30,000 per job and it is expected that an additional 350 jobs will be created by the end of the Green Growth

Programme. Similarly, the PUSH Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment Delivery Panel has delivered a number of business incubation workspace projects including the Eastleigh Creative Hub, Cell Block, Arches project and others leveraging over £7m. Collectively, these schemes provide workspaces for over 100 businesses and hot desk provision for a further 50 businesses. The Panel has successfully delivered three bi-annual Solent Design Awards in partnership with Bouygues UK, the Universities, local authorities and other interested parties.

4. The work of the Planning and Infrastructure Delivery Panel remains focussed on policy formulation and development and has successfully delivered the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment refresh due to be considered for approval at this meeting. Other key achievements including the setting up and continued success of the Solent Recreation and Mitigation Partnership in partnership (SRMP) with Natural England, the two National Parks, the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and others. The SRMP has to date secured a total investment of £1.5m investment through round one of the Solent LEP's Local Growth Fund. The Spatial Strategy in particular has been the Panel's key piece of work for the past 2 years which will help to support Local Plans in delivering the area's housing requirements and help meet the Council's 'Duty to Co-operate'. The Strategy sets a vision to deliver “sustainable, economic-led growth and regeneration to create a more prosperous, attractive South Hampshire & Isle of Wight offering a better quality of life for everyone who lives, works and spends their leisure time here.”

5. The four key aims are:

- Sustainable economic growth – narrowing the gap with economic performance in the south east, promoting the cities as engines of growth and supporting the LEP's Solent Economic Plan;
- Bringing benefits to local people – ensuring residents benefit from economic growth, gaining access to jobs and affordable homes;
- Protecting our natural environment – our coast, rivers, countryside gaps, green links, national parks, and international / national / local nature conservation designations;
- A good place to live and work – maintaining distinctive settlements separated by countryside gaps, promoting a high quality of place, with good design and vibrant centres; a mix of homes, jobs and services; public transport; and green spaces.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Southern Waters Stakeholder Panel for Hampshire

5. In April 2016, the PUSH Chairman received a letter of correspondence from Southern Water inviting him to become a member of Southern Water's Stakeholder Panel for Hampshire and the Isle and Wight. Southern Water's current £3 billion business plan sets out six customer priorities and 26 customer promises to be delivered between now and 2020. The five year commitment includes a 25% reduction in sewer flooding to protect homes and businesses; reduction in 'serious pollution incidents' affecting local rivers and a reduction of 15 litres per person per day in average water usage. The Panel will play a vital role in shaping how Southern Water deliver water and waste water services in the South East. This vision aligns with PUSH's ambition to ensure that sufficient water infrastructure can be provided to deliver the emerging PUSH Spatial Strategy covering the period 2011 - 2036.
6. PUSH is currently working with the utility companies in the area, including Southern Water as well as Natural England and the Environment Agency to deliver an Integrated Water Management Study for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The study will assess the constraints and requirements that may arise from the potential housing growth on the water infrastructure as well as the environment. This Study is currently budgeted for within PUSH's new Business Plan - 2016/18.
7. The Joint Committee was advised to note that Councillor Keith Evans, Chairman of the PUSH Planning and Infrastructure Delivery Panel has been nominated to take on this role.

Solent LEP advises PUSH of emerging Growth Deal opportunities

8. The latest round of Growth Deals, announced by Government on 22 March, provides England's 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships with the opportunity to apply for a share of £1.8 billion to support projects in their areas. The Solent LEP has to date invited b businesses and local authorities in the Solent area to submit outline business cases to support the Solent LEP's Local Growth Deal bid to Government in July 2016. The money forms part of the government's £12 billion Local Growth Fund, which is already being used to support successful projects – chosen by communities themselves. The Solent LEP continues to seek local schemes that will help to unlock infrastructure to build more homes; boost skills and productivity and support businesses. In addition to the Local Growth Deal opportunity, other LEP funding opportunities include:
 - A £3m Innovation fund, with a minimum application threshold of £1m for spend in 2016/17. Expressions of Interest from organisations were invited by 3 June to bid into this fund.
 - As part of the Local Growth Deal the LEP have advised Colleges that there will be a request of government for a specific ring-fencing of funding within the Solent LEP's Local Growth Deal proposal for a skills and innovation programme fund. To date, the Cancer Immunology project at Southampton University came forward and successfully secured £4.5m of funding. Expressions of Interest that were prioritised through the Autumn 2015 call, by the LEP Board, have been

invited to come forward with **Full or Outline business cases by the 29th April 2016.** There were eight projects invited to come forward with proposals.

PUSH Green Infrastructure Update

9. The Joint Committee at its last meeting approved Hampshire County Council's offer to put forward an officer resource to lead on the PUSH Green Infrastructure agenda and act as the link to the Solent Recreation and Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) on behalf of PUSH. Delegated authority was also given to the PUSH Executive Director in collaboration with the PUSH Chairman; to agree the work programme that the officer will be required to undertake. Garry King, Project Manager and Strategic Policy Planner; has now taken on this remit and has since met with myself and the PUSH Planning officers Group to scope the programme of work required. In summary, both the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy and supporting implementation Plan adopted in 2010 and 2012 respectively will be refreshed to reflect current policies related to National Planning Policy Framework and economic growth ambitions of the area. A full update on the scope of work will be reported to the next Committee meeting in October.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

1. NOTES the 2016/18 PUSH Business Plan which includes activities to be delivered in 2016-17; and
2. NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

Background Papers:

- None

Reference Papers:

- PUSH Business Plan 2016/18, Item 6, Annex 1

Enquiries:

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