



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

Date: 19 November 2013

Report of: Gloria Ighodaro, Programme and Information Manager

Subject: PUSH Interim Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY

This report covers matters which are significant and merit reporting to the Joint Committee, but do not justify a full report in their own right. This report is in two parts: Part A deals with issues on which a decision is required, while Part B sets out matters for information.

Part A advises of the Joint Committee's decision to contribute a total of £10,000 per annum to the Solent Local Transport Body(LTB), commencing with a PUSH contribution for 2013/14 financial year. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also recommended to note the update on the emerging Solent Strategic Economic Plan and related matters including the Solent Local Growth Panel and approval in principle to identifying a shared staffing resource between PUSH and the Solent LEP to help formulate the Solent Growth Strategy and on this basis the delegated responsibility to the PUSH Chief Executive Lead following consultation with the PUSH Chairman and Vice Chairman to prepare a proposal agreeable to both parties for action accordingly.

Part B provides an update on the Solent Employment and Skills Board and the Draft Solent LEP European Structural Investment fund strategy which was submitted to Government on 7 October 2013 and available to download on the Solent LEP website. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will also receive an update on the 2011 census data for the PUSH area, which will be provided in the form of a presentation at this meeting by Hampshire County Council officers complemented also by a summary report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:

1. NOTE the joint committee's approval in principle to identify a shared staffing resource between PUSH and the Solent LEP to help formulate the Solent Growth Strategy and on this basis note the delegated responsibility to the PUSH Chief Executive Lead following consultation with the PUSH Chairman and Vice Chairman to prepare a proposal agreeable to both parties for action accordingly.
2. NOTE the approval of PUSH's Solent LTB contribution for financial year 2013/14 as part of the PUSH Budget Monitoring report due to be considered at this meeting.
3. NOTE the matters for information, contained in Part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

Solent Local Growth Strategy

1. Members of the Committee will recall from the last meeting an update on Growth Deals and the Government's commitment to create single local growth funding pots to support economic growth activities, giving greater roles and responsibilities to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). As a consequence, all LEPs are required to submit an initial draft of their multiyear growth plans (also referred to as Strategic Economic Plans - SEP) by mid December which, should aim to capture the economic ambitions and complementary programme of activities for the area. In response the Solent LEP held its initial consultation event on 12 September to help kick start discussions on priorities and sought views from a range of partners and sector businesses in the area. For the Solent SEP, it is envisaged that a pipeline of activities would be developed around housing, employment, skills and transport to support schemes that will help unlock the growth potential of the area. Activities under the emerging Portsmouth and Southampton City Deal will underpin the ambitions of the Growth Strategy for the Solent area to enable the two cities the opportunity to punch above their economic weight thereby benefitting the wider Solent region.
2. At Its last meeting, the Joint Committee was advised of a correspondence from the Solent LEP, inviting PUSH to appoint representatives onto its Solent Local Growth Panel. It was resolved at the meeting to nominate Councillor Seán Woodward from Fareham BC and Councillor Keith Mans from Hampshire County Council as PUSH representatives on the Solent Local Growth Panel. A PUSH Chief Executive Officer nominee is also required and will be determined by the PUSH Chief Executives Group in due course. Established by the Solent LEP, the primary remit of the Solent Local Growth Panel will be to help develop the multi year growth plan for the Solent area as well as monitoring the progress of key activities including the Growing Places Fund programme and the various Business support initiatives. In the initial phase of its work, the Panel will act as a steering group, providing expert advice to the Solent LEP Board.
3. The Solent LEP is keen to establish a joint working arrangement with PUSH in recognition of the benefits of sharing capacity and resources. Consequently both organisations are currently working towards establishing a shared working arrangement to help support the development of the Strategic Economic Plan. This would provide PUSH with the opportunity to work directly with the Solent LEP in shaping the emerging Plan thereby influence economic growth priorities for the area. It is intended therefore that a PUSH resource would be identified to co-locate with the LEP on a part time basis with the broad remit of co-ordinating matters related to housing, spatial planning and the provision of programme management expertise. To commence with exploring how this arrangement might work and the specific role and responsibilities of the shared staffing resource, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to NOTE the approval of this approach and the Joint Committee's decision at its September meeting to delegate responsibility to the PUSH Chief Executive Lead, the PUSH Chairman and Vice Chairman to work up a proposal agreeable to both organisations.

Solent Local Transport Body (LTB) Update

4. Further to the Government published Guidance on Growth Deals on 26 July; the Solent LTB acknowledged that all major local transport funding would now be devolved to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to support the Growth Deal Agenda. Under the new arrangement, funding for all local major transport schemes will form part of a devolved Single Local Growth Funding pot from 2015-16 to be managed by LEPs. Whilst government currently envisage a role for LTB's within the new funding and decision making regime, Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) will no longer receive funding directly from government and as such will be required to work in partnership with LEPs to ensure major transport schemes are considered as part of the wider ambitions of the Strategic Economic Plan for the area.
5. In recognition of the significant change to the funding and decision making landscape, members of the current Solent LTB concluded at its recent meeting in October to explore the potential of establishing an alternative single strategic transport interface, which would merge the strategic functions and activities of Transport for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (TfSHIOW) with the Solent LTB. Constituted by a Joint Agreement, *Solent Transport*, being the name of the new partnership, would also be responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF) programmes that are currently being delivered. The DfT would be notified of the partnership name in recognition that the governance arrangements have already been agreed with DfT through the Assurance Framework submitted in July. Membership of the *Solent Transport* would reflect and remain that of the current Solent LTB subject to Member organisations ratifying the re-establishment of the body through their own decision making processes. The objective and work programme for Solent transport will be set out in a Business Plan, which will eventually be published as and when it becomes available. The outcome of this new arrangement is expected to be resolved by January 2014.
6. At its June meeting, PUSH was afforded full (voting) membership of the Solent LTB, with Councillor Tony Briggs, as the appointed PUSH representative with support from myself, Gloria Ighodaro (currently acting as PUSH Interim Executive Lead). PUSH currently has one seat and one vote, and represents the PUSH membership. As a full voting Member therefore, PUSH is required to contribute its revenue subscription fee of £10,000 to the Solent LTB for this financial year towards the activities of the Solent LTB to date, similar to all the other Members who are also contributing the same funding amount. As a consequence, this Committee is recommended to NOTE PUSH's Solent LTB contribution for financial year 2013/14 as part of the PUSH Budget Monitoring report as approved at the September Joint Committee meeting.
7. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also recommended to NOTE the emerging ambition to establish a single strategic transport partnership to be named Solent Transport. Further update on this matter will be provided at the next meeting of this Committee.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Solent LEP European Structural & Investment Strategy for 2014-2020

8. Following the Government's publication of its EU Supplementary Guidance in July; all LEPs were required to work with local partners in preparation of their respective European Structural and Investment strategies for 2014-2020. A copy of the Supplementary Guidance is attached as Annex B to this report. As a starting point the Solent LEP held two workshops in July and September 2013 engaging with local partners to identify local strategic priorities and supporting programme of works for the Solent area that could be funded using the allocated European funding. Attended by approximately 150 delegates, the event highlighted a number of priority areas for inclusion in the Solent EU Investment Strategy. These priorities included employment and skills, support for small business and Social Inclusion (particularly focusing on economic challenges on the Isle of Wight). The second event held in September included discussions on the development of the emerging multi-year strategic economic plans.
9. In early October, the Solent LEP submitted its Draft European Structural & Investment Fund (SIF) Strategy for 2014-2020¹ to the UK Government for consideration. The draft strategy is the outcome which has resulted from extensive consultation led by the Solent LEP which began in the late spring 2013. A total of 192 organisations, large and small, actively participated. The draft plan sets out the Solent LEP's intention on how it will spend its provisional EU funding of €43.1 allocated to the Solent area, the rationale and proposed impact of investment. In doing so, the strategy which, will be used to underpin the areas Strategic Economic Plan seeks to apportion the areas provisional allocation against a number of high level priority areas. Split across two funding streams namely ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and ESF (European Social Fund), the Solent area's EU allocation aims to support the following thematic objectives of priority to the Solent area:
 - Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation
 - Enhancing the competitiveness's of small and medium enterprises
 - Supporting the shift towards a Low Carbon
 - Investing in Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning
 - Promoting Employment
 - Promoting Social inclusion and combating poverty

The ERDF element (the first three objectives listed above) will deliver a package of support for innovation and SME competitiveness and is forecast to support nearly 1,550 enterprises over the funding period, creating 3,700 jobs. The ESF in the period to 2020 seeks to unlock nearly 6,000 employer led skills / training interventions (mainly vocational and higher level) supporting over 15,000 unemployed people across a range of schemes designed to help them back into work. Whilst a good deal of emphasis in the Strategy is focused on innovation and higher level skills, the strategy aims to address the requirements of the wider labour market by promoting a spectrum of education, training and skills attainment to tackle social exclusion and worklessness. The strategy is therefore structured to support multiple pathways and progression routes to employment, apprenticeships and sector related training including pre-employment support.

¹ [Solent LEP EU Investment Strategy](#)

10. Similar to all LEPs, the Solent LEP is expected to receive initial feedback on its draft EUSIF plan from the Government's National Growth Board by mid November 2013. By end of January 2014, all LEPs are required to submit their final strategy for approval by February 2014. Spend of the area's 2014- 2020 EU funding allocation (to be confirmed in December 2013) is expected to commence by mid March 2014.

Solent Employment and Skills Board (ESB)

11. The ESB has convened two meetings this year and at its June meeting the two nominated PUSH Member representatives, Councillor Trevor Cartwright (Fareham Borough Council) and Councillor Matt Tucker (Southampton City Council) were formally invited to attend. The ESB are currently working on a number of initiatives to help get young people back into employment, one of which is the pre-apprenticeship scheme, which is progressing as planned. The programme was modelled on a successful scheme that has been operating in the Isle of Wight. Within the two cities of Southampton and Portsmouth to date, job placements for 19 young people have been created in various business environments including retail, business and administration. It is anticipated that 60 – 70 young people will be placed in pre-apprenticeship training by the end of the initiative. This programme has been modelled on the success of the Isle of Wight pre-apprenticeship programme, which has been running since January 2012, working with the four training providers on the Isle of Wight. In February 2013, 108 opportunities on the Island had been created. 81% of young people that have gone through the programme have progressed to an apprenticeship, employment or other education or training.
12. Other Solent ESB initiatives underway and progressing as planned include the Ford Redundancy Support Programme aimed at adding value and support to existing activities being led by Ford to support its employees and the supply chain affected by the closure. By setting up a ' Ford multi agency task force' the Solent LEP in partnership with PUSH has been working closely with key agencies in the area to ensure that individuals and supply chain business affected by the closure receive the necessary business support / access to training.
13. Following an open advert recruitment process, a new Chairman for the Solent ESB has now been appointed by the Solent LEP. Sarah McCarthy Fry is the Finance Director at GKN Aerospace, a major Isle of Wight employer. Sarah is well known in the Solent and for five years, she was Deputy Leader of Portsmouth City Council before becoming Portsmouth North MP during 2005-2010. She has considerable experience in employment and skills issues and this voluntary role will see Sarah charged with delivering the Solent's ambitious employment and skills agenda in collaboration with the public and private sector partners.

Census 2011 data

14. Hampshire County Council were approached in June to undertake an assessment of the 2011 census data to create an analysis 'pack', which provides data for each PUSH authority (or part thereof) and the PUSH area as a whole, in easy-to-assimilate graphs and tables. The County Council responded positively to this request and as a consequence, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive both a presentation at this meeting and a summary report capturing key information of significance to PUSH partners. The information presented will cover the recently extended PUSH boundary, which now mirrors that of the Solent LEP economic geography subsequent to New Forest District Council and Isle of Wight joining PUSH.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:

15. NOTE the joint committee's approval in principle to identify a shared staffing resource between PUSH and the Solent LEP to help formulate the Solent Growth Strategy and on this basis note the delegated responsibility to the PUSH Chief Executive Lead following consultation with the PUSH Chairman and Vice Chairman to prepare a proposal agreeable to both parties for action accordingly.
16. NOTE the approval of PUSH's Solent LTB contribution for financial year 2013/14 as part of the PUSH Budget Monitoring report due to be considered at this meeting.
17. NOTE the matters for information, contained in Part B of this report.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

The Solent LEP's Draft EU Structural & Investment Fund (SIF) Strategy for 2014-2020, published October 2013

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact: Gloria Ighodaro (Programme and Information Manager) Tel. No. 02392 688920

E-mail: gloria.ighodaro@push.gov.uk