



# **Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee**

Date: **2 December 2014**

Report of: **Gloria Ighodaro**

Subject: **PUSH Executive Director's 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 Joint Committee:

1. NOTE the matters for decision in Part A and matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report; and
2. APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE a PUSH financial contribution of £100K from its revenue budget subject to receiving a Service Level Agreement from the LEP for considering at the Joint Committee.

## **PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION**

### **SOLENT LOCAL GROWTH FORUM**

1. Further to the Solent Local Deal Settlement announced by Government in July 2014, the Solent LEP continues to consult with PUSH on the underpinning LEP Governance arrangements. In September 2014, correspondence was received from the Solent LEP inviting PUSH to host the Solent Growth Forum (SGF), a key component of the Solent LEP governance structure. Anticipated to be formalised within a Joint Agreement arrangement, the forum would report recommendations / advice directly to the Solent LEP Board, bringing together all twelve PUSH local authorities and a broader membership including the community and voluntary sector and Trade Union. The PUSH Joint Committee is advised to note that there is a dedicated agenda item / report providing an update on the Solent LEP Local Growth Deal to be presented at this meeting. The Committee is advised to consider the recommendations made within the report which seeks for PUSH to formally endorse the offer to host the Solent Growth Forum. Our LEP colleagues represented here at this meeting will lead on this agenda item.

### **SOLENT INWARD INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

2. At its January meeting, the Joint Committee received an update on the Interim arrangements in place for Inward Investment towards which, PUSH has allocated a budget of £60K. PUSH has since been working jointly with the LEP to develop a long-term Inward Investment Strategy for the area, published in October 2014. A copy of the Strategy entitled: *Transforming Solent: Inward Investment Strategy* is attached as appendix A to this report and is available to download on the Solent LEP website. Inward Investment has been identified as one of the Solent LEP's six strategic priorities, in recognition of the strong links between foreign direct investment (FDI) and economic development. The Strategy is underpinned by ambitious targets to enable the Solent's share of UK Inward Investment. The Plan identifies five strategic pillars:
  - Development of a sustainable inward investment delivery vehicle for the Solent LEP area
  - Effective coordination of inward investment activity across the Solent LEP area
  - Carefully executed and targeted global promotion of the Solent LEP area
  - Successful engagement of prospective investors in the Solent LEP area
  - Retention, development and expansion of businesses located in the Solent LEP area
3. To enable the area to deliver on these priorities, the Solent LEP aims to work with partners to establish a long-term inward investment model that will help deliver the ambitions outlined in the Strategy. As a consequence, the Solent LEP have written to PUSH inviting PUSH local authorities to work in partnership and invest funding towards an integrated Inward Investment delivery model for the Solent LEP area. Having consulted with all PUSH local authorities and in particular, the PUSH Chief Executives, a total PUSH financial contribution of £100K was recommended for consideration / approval at this Committee. Subject to the proposed PUSH contribution being endorsed, additional contributions have

also been offered by Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Hampshire County Council resulting in a total collective cash contribution of £170,000 and in-kind contribution to the value of £70,000. Members are advised that a PUSH response will be submitted to the Solent LEP soon after this Joint Committee confirming the Committees decision / offer. This offer would complement funding from the Solent LEP and other funding sources, yet to be confirmed.

- The Joint Committee is recommended to APPROVE in principle, a PUSH financial contribution of £100K from its revenue budget subject to receiving a Service Level Agreement from the LEP for considering at the Joint Committee.

## PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

### SOLENT LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY

- Members may recall that Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) were established early in 2013 charged with allocating devolved funding to prioritised transport schemes for the period 2015-16 to 2018-19. 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). However, following the June 2013 Spending Review, LTB funding was diverted to form part of the £2 billion per annum Local Growth Fund (LGF) channelled through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). In the meantime, the Solent LTB had established an Assurance Framework as the basis for undertaking a detailed assessment process to prioritise transport schemes. These schemes were subsequently included within the Solent LEP Local Growth Deal submission, approved by Government through the Solent Local Growth Deal.
- From the outset, LTB Board members were advised that the Solent LTB was to perform a single role, that being to prioritise and allocate funding from a devolved local major transport schemes fund. To this end, the Solent LTB prioritised the following schemes included within the Solent Growth Deal.

Scheme Name	LGD Funding Request			Total Scheme
	Total cost	2015-16	2016-17	
Dunsbury Hill Farm Link Road, Havant	£4.540m	£4.540m	-	£8.480m
Station Quarter North, Southampton	£4.185m	£4.185m	-	£5.543m
The Hard Interchange, Portsmouth	£4.832m	£4.832m	-	£8.300m
A27 Improvement, Fareham	£4.958m	£0.565m	£4.393m	£6.611m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18.515m</b>	<b>£14.122m</b>	<b>£4.393m</b>	<b>£28.934m</b>

- In its letter dated 23 December 2013 on LTB Assurance Frameworks, the Department for Transport (DfT) advised that *"The Government does not have a view on the future role or indeed the continued existence, of LTBs within the new arrangement once the transition is complete"*. On this basis, the Solent LTB members agreed to close the Solent LTB, and delegate authority to the LTB Manager and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the close with DfT. The prioritised schemes listed above form part of the Solent Strategic Economic Plan and will be

funded through the Solent Local Deal, subject to finalisation of the Solent Local Growth Deal Funding Agreement with Government. It is expected that the Solent Growth Deal will be concluded in late October after which the Solent LEP expects to be in a position to commence contracting arrangements with the respective delivery bodies.

## **SOLENT LEP GOVERNANCE**

8. The Solent LEP continues to view PUSH as an important partner which has to date encouraged joint working through the LEP's governance arrangements. Earlier this year, PUSH was invited to nominate a Member representative onto the Solent Marine and Maritime Steering Group to which the PUSH Vice Chairman, Councillor Donna Jones, was appointed as the PUSH representative. More recently, PUSH has received further correspondences from the Solent LEP inviting PUSH to put forward further nominees to represent PUSH on the Solent Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board (SSLIB) and the Land, Property and Infrastructure Delivery Panel (LPIDP).
9. Two PUSH nominees were requested for the SSLIB and one nominee required for the Delivery Panel. Members are advised to note that the two PUSH nominees for the SSLIB are Councillor Keith House, Leader of Eastleigh Borough Council and Ian Lycett, Chief Executive at Gosport Borough Council. Councillor Ian Stephens, Leader of the Isle of Wight is the nominated representative for the LPIDP.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:

10. NOTE the matters for decision in Part A and matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.
11. APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE a PUSH financial contribution of £100K from its revenue budget subject to receiving a Service Level Agreement from the LEP for considering at the Joint Committee.

### **Background Papers:**

- Joint Committee 23 September 2014 - Item 8: PUSH Interim Executive Directors Report

### **Reference Papers:**

- Solent Local Growth Deal - published on 7 July: Solent LEP & PUSH website
- Transforming Solent: Solent Strategic Economic Plan 2014 – 2020, Final Submission 31 March 2014
- Transforming Solent: Inward Investment Strategy, October 2014

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact:

Gloria Ighodaro (PUSH Executive Director) Tel. No. 02392 688920

E-mail: [gloria.ighodaro@push.gov.uk](mailto:gloria.ighodaro@push.gov.uk)