



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

Date: 11 July 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 Joint Committee for decision or for information. The report is divided into Parts A and B accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) NOTES Part A of this report, which covers; Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's third Annual Report for publication (see Appendix 1); the proposed minor modifications to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2 and the decision to grant delegated powers to the SRMP to issue statements related to SRMP matters on behalf of all partners; and
- (2) NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

27 June

Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership

It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTES the :-

- a) Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's third Annual Report for publication (see Appendix 1);
- b) proposed minor modifications to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2;
- c) decision to grant delegated powers to the SRMP to issue statements related to SRMP matters on behalf of all partners.

The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership has now produced its third Annual Report (see Appendix 1) which reviews progress made during the last financial year and sets out the plans for 2017/18. Progress during 2016-17 included:

- the drafting of the Definitive Strategy
- the development of Bird Aware - a public facing brand for the project and outreach materials in the form of a new website and leaflet to support the work undertaken by the rangers
- monitoring work to further help establish the effectiveness of the mitigation measures being used.

Plans for 2017/18 include public consultation on the Draft Definitive Strategy and the adoption of its final form. They also include initiatives targeted at responsible dog walking, seasonal monitoring and the further development of communications work. The Joint Committee is asked to endorse the Annual Report for publication

The Terms of Reference for the SRMP were in adopted in late 2014 after being endorsed by the PUSH Joint Committee on 2nd December 2014 and are attached in appendix 2. These need to be updated to reflect the way that the SRMP is actually working. Over time the format of the Project Group and Steering Group have changed slightly and the following proposed minor amendments to the Terms of Reference will allow these Groups to operate more efficiently.

1. Point 2.1 refers to the membership of the partnership. At the bottom of the list it is now proposed to add the wording 'Arun District Council, in a non-voting capacity'. This modification will reflect the agreement granted by PUSH at the Joint Committee meeting on 14th March that Arun District Council may attend in this capacity. The reason behind this decision is that they are the only member of the Pagham Harbour mitigation scheme not represented within the SRMP and there are perceived benefits from close liaison with them.
2. Point 4.2 refers to the Project Board being chaired by the PUSH lead officer on infrastructure planning. It is now proposed to modify this to 'The Chair will be elected annually from amongst the nominated representatives of the partner organisations'. This will more accurately reflect the way the Project Board has been operating.

The Project Board have developed an Interim Communications Strategy. Within that document, the authorities have delegated to the SRMP the authority to issue statements related to SRMP matters on their behalf. This includes a caveat that where a specific partner or locality is mentioned in a statement, relevant permissions will still be sought. Joint Committee are asked to endorse this approach.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

14 March

National Infrastructure Commission Response

Cllr Woodward submitted a response to the National Infrastructure Commission Call for Evidence consultation on behalf of PUSH. The response highlighted the successful role that PUSH has played in joint working to achieve growth and development in South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight but also emphasised the importance of further significant investment in infrastructure if the area is to achieve its potential. The draft response was shared with Leaders and the final version was amended to reflect the comments that were made. The National Infrastructure Commission have acknowledged the receipt of the response.

Update from Energy & Green Economy

a) Future South Update

The Board will be looking for a new Chair and Vice Chair following the retirement of Stewart Dunn and the promotion of Alex Parmley. The Chair position will be filled by a business leader to reflect the desire for business led low carbon economy and the Vice Chair will be from the Public Sector or Academia reflecting our triple helix organisation.

The Board lobbied successfully for low carbon to be included in the Industrial strategy and are also pleased to be invited in by the Solent LEP to discuss the Energy strategy for the Solent .

b) Greentech South and Energise Solent update

Our subsidiaries Greentech South and Energise Solent continue to develop projects.

- Greentech South has expanded its membership which now stands at 145 SMEs. The delay in funding through ESIF has meant a shift in focus for SMEs to Innovate UK and Horizon 2020 funds and we continue to support companies in their bids. The bid for Enterprise M3 funds was completed on Friday 17th and the team are now gearing up for the Solent ESIF low Carbon bids. Our invitation to join the International Cleantech Network has opened up funding opportunities for members from the EU with a COSME bid and district heating being the most promising.
- Energise Solent commissioned a district heating report and this is now being used in the EU bid that Greentech South are engaged in. In addition the team are meeting this Friday at EBC to formulate the response to the Solent Low Carbon ESIF call for renewable energy projects

Update from Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment

a) Creative Industries

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, working in partnership with the youth arts organisation Artsworks, have secured £74 000 of grants for the arts funding to support the continuation of the creative apprenticeship initiative established by PUSH in 2012 . Artsworks will also continue to build a network of creative sector employers wishing to engage in the work based learning agenda.

Creative Network South is preparing a creative industries prospectus which will be launched in the Spring; it is proposed that report on the creative industries in the Solent Area will be prepared for June Joint Committee.

b) Quality Place in the Built Environment

The Quality Place Practitioners have commissioned Eastleigh Borough Council to prepare a series of Design Bulletins which will act to refresh the PUSH design Guidance prepared in 2012 and illustrate how design principles have been applied to major developments in the PUSH area.

Update from Planning & Infrastructure

Following this Joint Committee and the discussion on priorities, a Planning Officers Group will be scheduled to agree a future work programme.

A number of PUSH authorities are working together to commission an Air Quality Study. This study will assess baseline and future year traffic-related pollution on European ecology sites within, and beyond, the study area as a result of the proposed development and growth within the sub-region. This will take into account strategic development locations and associated transport infrastructure which may have implications for air quality. The procurement of this study is being led by Havant Borough Council. The contract is expected to be awarded in April 2017 and the final report is due in October 2017.

Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation Response

Further to the discussion at the last Joint Committee, Cllr Woodward submitted a response to BEIS re the Industrial Strategy consultation. The response was broadly supportive but highlighted the need for national government (HMG) to co-ordinate their work around related areas of activity such as the National Infrastructure Commission and the Housing White Paper. It also specifically highlighted the need for HMG to consider funding proposals as a complete package rather than within government department silos.

The response flagged up the significant infrastructure deficit that exists in South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which is holding back economic growth in the area. The response also made the point that the premise within the Industrial Strategy that there was a need to rebalance the economy towards the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands Engine from London and the South East was flawed. This is because many parts of the South East are very different from London and that on many indicators the South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have more in common with some of our northern cities than they do with London. Finally the response

referenced that PUSH had agreed to prioritise support for the creative and digital sector and that this supports one of the Industrial Strategy priorities.

Housing White Paper Consultation Response

Further to the discussion at the last Joint Committee, Cllr Woodward submitted a response to CLG re the Housing White Paper consultation. The consultation response welcomed the White paper as an important step towards helping build the homes that the country needs and that this was in line with our ambitions detailed in the PUSH Spatial Position Statement. It also said that the White Paper could be more ambitious in terms of its proposed support to Local Authorities to help them provide the affordable homes that are needed (e.g. by improving borrowing freedom and keeping all of the right to buy receipts).

The response referenced that PUSH is well placed to support the need for coordinated Strategic Planning to deliver the aims of the Housing White Paper. The response welcomed a range of the White Paper proposed initiatives, subject to analysis of the final proposals, including the standardised approach to assessing housing need, the housing delivery test and the additional funding for planning through planning fees. The response highlighted the need for considerable investment in infrastructure if housing need is to be met. Finally the response reported back on the specific suggestions made at the last Joint Committee about site allocations, the levy/tax on undelivered houses, CPO on stalled sites at 66% of the market value and a delivery timeline bond.

27 June

Update from Energy & Green Economy

Support was given to the Solent LEP in submitting an application to BEIS for extra energy strategy funding. There is also active work with the Offshore Renewables Catapult to build capacity for the Solent supply chains. They are also exploring bidding to use ELENA funding to provide funding to develop more detailed district heating schemes. Finally they are part of a consortium looking to deliver sustainable wood fuel opportunities in partnership with the Forestry Commission.

Update from Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment

There is a report on the agenda on this area of work and it is proposed that the forward looking business plan comes to a future Joint Committee.

Update from Planning & Infrastructure

a) Priorities

Following the last Joint Committee and the agreement of priorities, a Planning Officers Group (POG) was held to talk about the future work programme. This was followed by a meeting between Cllr Woodward and Nick Tustian who is the lead Chief Executive for this work. A further meeting will be held with the POG to establish the scope of this work.

b) Air Quality Study

As reported to the last Joint Committee, a number of PUSH authorities are working together on an Air Quality Study which will assess baseline and future year traffic-related pollution on European ecology sites within, and beyond, the study area as a result of the proposed development and growth within the sub-region. The study will take into account strategic development locations and associated transport infrastructure which may have implications for air quality. The procurement of this study is being led by Havant Borough Council. The final report is due in October 2017 and will support local planning processes.

c) The South Hampshire Integrated Water Management Study

This study aims to assess whether proposed housing growth to 2036 would have a significant impact on the water environment, particularly in the context of European nature conservation designations, as part of the evidence base for Local Plans. It considers the impacts on water resources, water quality, and for waste water treatment works and sewer network capacity.

A draft report was prepared by the consultants Amec Foster Wheeler and was the subject of consultation with the PUSH Planning Officer's Group members and the project steering group (which includes Environment Agency, Natural England, Portsmouth Water and Southern Water) until 12 May. To inform this consultation, a presentation was also made to the PUSH Planning Officers' Meeting at the end of March. Taking account of the local authority, statutory body and water company comments received, the final report is expected to be completed shortly.

The findings and conclusions of the study will be the subject of report to a future Joint Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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APPENDIX 1: Interim Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy - Third Annual Report on Implementation

APPENDIX 2: SRMP Terms of Reference

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

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