



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **24 June 2014**

Report of: **Gloria Ighodaro**

Subject: **PUSH Interim 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. APPROVES the PUSH Business Plan for 2014/16 attached to this report as Appendix A.
2. APPROVES the recommendation to appoint Adele Maher, Planning Policy & Urban Design Team Leader, at Havant Borough Council, on a part-time secondment basis to manage and steer the delivery of the new PUSH spatial strategy at an operational level.
3. NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

PUSH Business Plan for 2014/16

1. At its meeting in January 2014, the Joint Committee approved the new PUSH organisational structure including the revised delivery themed titles and remits. The governance review was triggered by PUSH's response to the immediate impacts of policy changes as well as circumstances affecting the economic and funding landscape. Specifically, the role of PUSH in the strategic delivery of the Solent Strategic Economic Plan and the EU Structural & Investment Fund 2014- 2020 will be fundamental in the coming months. As a consequence, the new PUSH Business plan takes into account the need to continue to complement and work collaboratively with the Solent LEP. PUSH remains well represented on a number of jointly established Boards and Committees namely the Solent LEP Board, Solent Local Growth Panel, Solent Employment and Skills Board, Inward Investment Board, Future Solent and Solent Local Transport Board.
2. PUSH continues to perform an enabling role in the framework of economic development and sustainable growth in the Solent area in recognition that this remit firmly rests with the LEP. Much of the public sector funding opportunities for the area will be funnelled through the Solent LEP coupled with leverage from private sector to deliver private-sector led growth. The emphasis for PUSH as a whole has therefore started to return to policy, planning and strategy rather than delivery. Going forward therefore, PUSH aims to continue its role in facilitating joint delivery, democratic Leadership, simplifying interfaces and raising the profile of the Solent in partnership with the Solent LEP and other partners.
3. The Business Plan includes the capital projects to which PUSH is already committed and proposes a range of revenue projects. The revenue projects are wide ranging but also strike a balance between expenditure this year and keeping some of the carried forward money in reserve for future years. Notably the spatial planning review is a significant piece of work commencing in May 2014 and due to conclude in 2016 The review aims to address the Government requirement (in the 'duty to cooperate') to tackle planning issues on a pan-authority basis. Improved communications is also a priority for PUSH this year and therefore the Business Plan proposes a budget of £10,000 for that purpose. Proposed initiatives include an upgrading of the PUSH website and a PUSH intranet site to enable Delivery Panels to share information on cross cutting agenda.
4. The Joint Committee is recommended to NOTE and APPROVE the revised PUSH Business Plan for 2014/16 attached to this report as Appendix A.

PLANNING OFFICER SUPPORT

5. At its meeting in March, the Joint Committee agreed the recommendation to appoint Paul Nichols In support of this work, Head of Planning Transport and Sustainability at Southampton City Council, on a part-time secondment basis to manage and steer the delivery of the new spatial strategy at an operational level. Unfortunately, since this decision was made, PUSH received notification that Paul will be leaving Southampton City Council in mid-June 2014. As a consequence, the PUSH Chief Executives were advised to nominate a Planning Officer for their respective authority subsequent to which the nominated officer/s would be interviewed by the PUSH Interim Executive Director. The outcome of the process was a recommendation made to the PUSH Chief Executives Group to appoint Adele Maher, Planning Policy & Urban Design Team Leader, at Havant Borough Council, on a part-time secondment basis to manage and steer the delivery of the new spatial strategy at an operational level. As a consequence, it is anticipated that the sum of £50K which was set aside to fund this support agreed at the last Joint Committee meeting will be used to fund this work.
6. PUSH requires professional and technical support during the preparation of the new spatial strategy. Gloria Ighodaro (PUSH Interim Executive Director) will have overall programme management responsibility. However, the appointed consultants will require a professional Planning Client with expertise in strategic planning, to manage and steer the delivery of the new spatial strategy at an operational level.
7. APPROVE the recommendation to appoint Adele Maher, Planning Policy & Urban Design Team Leader, at Havant Borough Council, on a part-time secondment basis to manage and steer the delivery of the new PUSH spatial strategy at an operational level.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

SOLENT STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN (SEP) UPDATE

8. The Solent LEP submitted the area's Local Growth Plan to Government on 31st March 2014. The £2.8 billion investment strategy entitled '*Transforming Solent: Solent Strategic Economic Plan 2014-20*' brings together local assets to unlock resources which will be reinvested into growth including the Southampton and Portsmouth City Deal (a £953m investment plan). The investment strategy also includes the Solent LEP European Union Structural and Investment Fund Strategy – valued at £73.6m including private and public sector match funding. The Local Growth Deal element is a £1.88bn proposal which consists of a £103m of local public sector contributions, £1.44bn private sector leverage and a Government ask of £304m from the Local Growth Fund; of which £103m will be sought in 2015/16.
9. The Solent SEP is ambitious and focuses on projects that are transformational and will therefore deliver the greatest Gross Value Added (GVA). Key investment priorities include activities focussed on Skills, Priority sectors, Enterprise, Inward Investment and Infrastructure. The funding asks (predominantly capital funding) focusses on a number of priority projects which will help to unlock key housing and employment sites, support improved connectivity, address skills shortages and invest in the business base.
10. Developed through extensive consultation, the ambitious strategy will form the basis of the Solent's negotiation with Government in the coming months. The Plan combines high profile strategic flagship projects, a series of funding asks and a range of flexibilities that together will deliver the vision. At its heart, the plan is capital-led and contains a number of major employment sites, including the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus, as well as exciting proposals for 5 new skills centres, in partnership with Solent Colleges, Universities, Local Authorities and the private sector. It is expected that Government will make a Local Growth Fund offer to all LEPs and complete Growth Deal negotiations by July 2014.
11. In the period to 2020 the Solent Growth deal aims to:
 - Create an additional 17,500 new jobs
 - Unlock additional 635,000sq metres of new employment floor space with a focus on supporting growth in the marine, maritime and advanced manufacturing sectors'
 - Enable the delivery of 24,000 new homes
 - Support the creation of 10000 new small and medium sized enterprises
 - Lever in over £814m of private sector investment into the area
 - Unlock over £68m local investment from Further Education colleges and local authority partners
 - In the period 2015/16 and 2016/17, upgrade or renew 26,033 square metres (m²) of the Further Education College estate.
12. In relation to governance and decision making, the guidance on 'Growth Deals' states that "*effective political and financial accountability for the Local Growth Fund is essential, to ensure that public money is being spent with regularity, propriety and value for money*". Furthermore, LEP areas in

receipt of Local Growth Funds will be required by Government to work collaboratively on a cross local authority basis and where possible, to align and pool capacity, resources and plans to deliver the growth strategy for their respective area. The Solent LEP area starts from a position of strength in this regard and both PUSH and the Solent LEP continue to work jointly on matters related to Employment and Skills, Inward Investment, Infrastructure and spatial planning.

SOLENT DISTURBANCE AND MITIGATION PROJECT (SDMP)

13. Following the last Joint Committee on the 25th March 2014, work has progressed on a number of elements of the Interim SDMP Framework. Discussions on the governance of the project itself, ranger project and a monitoring programme are well underway and a new officer steering group has been established. At the time of drafting this update all of the PUSH authorities with one exception have put in place the necessary arrangements to seek contributions from development for the project. The principle and the scale of contributions being sought has been supported by an inspector in an appeal decision for a major housing site in Eastleigh.

RECOMMENDATION

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10. NOTES the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

- Transforming Solent: Solent Strategic Economic Plan 2014 – 2020, Final Submission 31 March 2014
- Transforming Solent: Marine and Maritime Supplement; Rear Admiral Rob Stevens, CB, March 2014
- Solent LEP European Union Structural and Investment Fund Strategy 2014-2020

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact: Gloria Ighodaro (PUSH Interim Executive Director) Tel. No. 02392 688920

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