



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **23 September 2014**

Report of: **Gloria Ighodaro**

Subject: **PUSH Interim Executive Director's Report**

SUMMARY

The Interim 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 Information outlined in Part B of this report.

PART A: MATTERS FOR DECISION

The Joint Committee is advised to note that there are no items for decision.

PART B: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

SOLENT LOCAL GROWTH DEAL UPDATE

1. At its June meeting, the Joint Committee received a written and a verbal update on the *Solent Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2014-20 and Local Growth Deal* submitted to Government by the Solent LEP on 31 March 2014. The new Investment Plan for the area brings together local assets aimed at unlocking 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 consisting of private and public sector match funding. Accompanying the Solent SEP is a new plan to create a climate for sustainable growth in the marine and maritime industry in the Solent. Published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in April 2014, '*Transforming Solent: Marine and Maritime Supplement (2014-2020)*' identifies marine and maritime as the largest sector in the Solent region and establishes the route to reinvigorate its global reputation and competitiveness through integrated leadership, planning and new technologies.
2. On 7 July 2014, Government announced the Local Growth Deal settlement for all local enterprise partnerships. The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was successful in securing £124.8m towards delivering the Solent Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The Local Growth Deal will build on the success of the recent City Deal, focused on driving growth in Southampton and Portsmouth, with a broader package of interventions to cover the entire Solent area. Local Growth Deal Funds will be used to leverage additional investment from the private sector, developers and other local partners of £360m, resulting in a total investment package for the Solent valued at £484.8m. That investment will result in the creation of 5,000 new jobs, 10,000 new homes, 296,000sqm of employment floor space, 2,500 apprenticeships and 600 businesses supported.
3. The investment secured by the deal will focus on three key areas to deliver transformative growth:
 - **Enabling flagship sites for housing and employment** - A multi-year programme of infrastructure investment in Fareham and Gosport to support the development of a substantial new Community at Welborne, north of Fareham, with a planned 6,000 new homes, including a new "all moves" junction 10 of the M27. This will also improve access around the Gosport peninsula to support growth in the Enterprise Zone (Daedalus) and ultimately Gosport Waterfront, creating 3000 new jobs in the period to 2021 and unlocking 248,000sqm of floor space for businesses. In addition, the Deal will invest in a £14m transport package to support North Whiteley by providing a major new transport link to the existing highway access in the area which will

support the current community and enable 3,500 new homes and create 500 new jobs. Solent LEP will also be pioneering a new approach to working with local public sector land owners, with the Department for Transport and agencies in a joint Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board. The board will take a strategic approach to the release and disposal of land across the Solent area, and will support the joint planning and delivery of transport.

- **Enhancing transport connectivity across the area** - The Deal will invest in a package of transformational measures to support strategic developments, relieve congestion and reduce journey times across the Solent area. The deal will provide a £14.95m investment package to transform and modernise the Red Funnel terminals at East Cowes and Southampton, improving connectivity and removing capacity constraints. Moving the ferry terminals will release land to underpin the Southampton Royal Pier and in East Cowes regeneration schemes, which will include employment space and 550 new homes. In return, Red Funnel will invest £15m in refurbishment of the ferry fleet.
 - **Growing the skills base and supporting business growth** - The Deal includes a package of measures to enhance skill levels in the area to enable young people to take advantage of jobs in growing sectors, including marine, maritime and advanced manufacturing. Through the deal, the LEP will invest in upgrading existing college facilities, including a new Advanced Technology block, at Eastleigh College. This investment will increase the number of young people enrolling on science, technology, engineering and maths course by 10% year on year between 2014 and 2020. In addition, the LEP will create a new centre of excellence on the Isle of Wight focused on the growth area of composites. The Centre will be supported by the global engineering company, GKN and based alongside their high-tech facilities. The deal is also good news for the Solent's SME base, with £12m secured to continue the Solent LEPs successful Bridging the Gap funding programme for the next 6 years on a Solent-wide basis.
4. To support growth, the Solent area is expected in accordance with Government Guidance to strengthen its local governance arrangements, by creating a Forum, which will provide an important advisory and scrutiny role for the Solent LEP investment programmes and the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan. The Group will include amongst its membership all 12 local authorities of the LEP area, along with representation from higher education and colleges, business, trade unions, and government agencies (Highways Agency, Environment Agency and Network Rail). The Group be formalised with a joint agreement and will advise the Solent LEP Board directly.
 5. Work on the second iteration of the Local Growth Deal is underway. Over the coming weeks, the Solent LEP will be working closely with Government to understand the criteria, process and timetable for the second phase of the Growth deal. In advance of this, the Solent LEP has already commenced with engaging all PUSH Local authorities and has to date scheduled bi-lateral meeting with Leaders and Chief Executives from each of the 12 local authorities to discuss priorities and opportunities for consideration within the Solent Growth Deal. This approach was adopted for the first iteration and was well received by PUSH local authorities as a mechanism for establishing public sector involvement. PUSH continues to work closely with the LEP on matters related to governance including opportunities to share capacity and resources necessary to deliver the Solent Strategic Economic Plan.

SOLENT INWARD INVESTMENT

6. Inward Investment is one of the five Strategic Priorities for Solent LEP and is also a priority for PUSH. This recognises the importance of inward investment to attract new businesses and jobs to the sub region plus safeguarding and retaining existing skills, jobs and businesses. A MoU signed between the LEP and UKTI has resulted in greater profile for the Solent internationally particularly in the key sectors and has seen an increased number of inward investment enquiries.
7. The current operation of a 'single gateway' established in 2011 was always intended as an interim solution with the ultimate goal being the creation of an integrated public/private sector model. If the sub-region is to achieve a step change and to be truly competitive on a global stage we need to have a far greater profile and reach and this will require a delivery model with greater critical mass, impact and resources.
8. In January, the Joint Committee agreed a provisional budget of £60K to support the transitional arrangements towards establishing an integrated inward investment team for the Solent area. Phase 1 of the Interim arrangement process is the commissioning of a Consultant to help put in place the Interim arrangement. This appointment has now taken place and the work associated in developing a Solent wide Inward Investment Strategy, business Plan and implementation programme is well underway and is being co-ordinated by Solent LEP in partnership with PUSH. It is anticipated that a more comprehensive, business led Inward Investment model will be funded primarily from Growth Fund resources which is expected to become available in 2015/16. The aspiration of both PUSH local authorities and the LEP is to develop a sustainable and integrated inward investment model that offers, amongst other things, an integrated team in a single location, clear and targeted marketing and campaign strategy (including clear branding and business like image); strong links to relevant sector services with particular reference to the recommendations in the Marine and Maritime Strategy; agreed set of robust performance indicators related to jobs created and safeguarded, number of leads generated / converted and aftercare packages.
9. An update on how the Solent Inward Investment Commission is progressing will be brought to the December Joint Committee.

SOLENT DESIGN AWARDS 2014

10. PUSH is once again due to launch its third biennial Solent Design Awards ceremony and is currently seeking nominations for well-designed buildings, places or spaces across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which have inspired, excited or uplifted their communities. Sponsored by Bouygues and organised by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), the Award ceremony aim to encourage quality place-making schemes which create special places and spaces in which people want to live and work, and which add a special something to our ordinary daily lives.
11. As in previous years, the competition invites submissions in a number of categories by designers across Hampshire. There will be a Quality Places Award for the best scheme, a new Best Urban Design Award, sponsored by the Urban Design Group, and a People's Choice Award which will be chosen by the scheme voted top by the public.

12. Any building or development completed after 31st March 2012 is eligible and can be anything, from a public or commercial building to a housing development or street scene improvement scheme. These can be nominated by architects, contractors, clients or local authorities. Full details on how to enter the competition can found at www.solentdesignawards.org.uk and submissions must be received by 4.00 pm on 30th September. The shortlist will be published on 8th October, with the Public Vote beginning on 13th October and closing on the 3rd November, in time for the Grand Awards Ceremony on the Mary Rose on the 20th November. The Chairman of PUSH has been invited as keynote speaker.

PUSH WEBSITE REFRESH

13. The Joint Committee may recall its meeting in March 2014, at which the PUSH Chairman announced that the PUSH website would be refreshed to reflect the fact that the geographical coverage of PUSH is now coterminous with that of the Solent LEP. Furthermore, PUSH recognises the importance of ensuring that its activities complement and support the Solent LEP work programme on priorities related to planning, housing, infrastructure and inward Investment amongst other things.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee:

1. NOTE the matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

Background Papers:

- Joint Committee 24 June 2014 - Item 8: PUSH Interim Executive Directors Report
- Joint Committee 28 January 2014 - Item 11: Solent Inward Investment - Transitional Arrangements 2014/15

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: Marine and Maritime Supplement; Rear Admiral Rob Stevens, CB, March 2014

Enquiries:

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