



Minutes of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 24 June 2014
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor	Seán Woodward
Councillor	Donna Jones
Councillor	Simon Letts
Councillor	Ferris Cowper
Councillor	David Airey
Councillor	Mark Hook
Councillor	Keith Mans
Councillor	Tony Briggs
Councillor	Victoria Weston
Councillor	Paul Vickers

Authority Represented:

Fareham BC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
East Hampshire DC
Eastleigh BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC
Winchester CC
New Forest DC

Chief Executives:

Nick Tustian
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
Stuart Jarvis (on behalf of Andrew Smith)
Tom Horwood
David Williams
Steve Lees
Simon Eden
Dave Yates

Authority Represented:

Eastleigh BC
Fareham BC
Gosport BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC & East Hampshire DC
Portsmouth CC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC
New Forest DC

Co-opted Members

Gloria Ighodaro
Kevin Bourner
James Humphrys
Anne-Marie Mountifield

Organisation Represented:

Partnership for Urban South
Hampshire
Homes & Communities Agency
Environment Agency
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

**For further information please contact Democratic Services at
Fareham Borough Council Tel: 01329 824594
democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk**

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Seán Woodward from Fareham Borough Council be elected Chairman for the 2014/15 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Donna Jones from Portsmouth City Council be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2014/15 municipal year

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith House, Eastleigh Borough Council (Councillor David Airey deputising), Councillor Michael Cheshire, Havant Borough Council (Councillor Tony Briggs deputising), Councillor Rob Humby, Winchester City Council (Councillor Victoria Weston deputising), and Councillor Martin Hatley, Test Valley Borough Council and Councillor Ian Stephens, Isle of Wight Council.

Apologies were also received from Sandy Hopkins, Havant Borough Council and East Hants District Council (Tom Horwood deputising), Roger Testall, Test Valley Borough Council (Steve Lees deputising) and John Metcalfe, Isle of Wight Council

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PUSH Joint Committee meeting held on 25th March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Council Leaders

The Chairman advised members that as a result of the last local elections there were three new council leaders in the PUSH area and he welcomed them:

Councillor Donna Jones	- new leader for Portsmouth City Council
Councillor Rob Humby	- new leader for Winchester City Council
Councillor Michael Cheshire	- new leader for Havant Borough Council (Councillor Tony Briggs will continue to be the PUSH representative for Havant Borough Council)

Nominee required for the Solent Employment and Skills Board

The Chairman announced that a new Member Nominee was required to represent PUSH on the Solent Employment and Skills Board to replace Cllr Mathew Tucker from Southampton City Council, who has now stepped down

from this role. The Solent ESB is led by the Solent LEP and is represented by both private and public sector, including PUSH, to address matters and deliver programmes related to employment and skills in the Solent area. The role of PUSH as a body of local authorities is therefore vital in delivering the skills programme that feature in both the Solent Strategic Economic Plan and the EU Structural & Investment Funds Strategy for 2014 – 2020. The agreed nominee would represent PUSH alongside Cllr Trevor Cartwright, Deputy Executive Leader & Executive Leader for Public Protection, Fareham Borough Council and the PUSH Interim Executive Director, Gloria Ighodaro. The Solent ESB Meetings are held 3 times a year and papers are sent out by the Solent LEP office.

It was agreed that the Chairman would be advised of any nominations.

PUSH Spatial Strategy Update

The Joint Committee was advised by the Chairman to note that the Spatial Strategy review work was now underway.

Transforming the Solent: A 2.8billion plan for growth

The Chairman advised that the Solent LEP submitted its Strategic Economic Plan for the area to Government on 31 March 2014.

The ambitious plan is the key to unlocking a Local Growth Deal for the region and 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 freedoms and flexibilities that together will deliver the vision. The plan is predominantly capital-led and contains a number of major employment sites, including the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus, as well as exciting proposals for five new skills centres, in partnership with Solent Colleges, Universities, Local Authorities and the private sector.

A decision on the plan is expected in July, with the first funds expected to go live in 2015. The Solent Strategic Economic Plan is available for download on both the PUSH and Solent LEP websites.

Solent LEP in contention for Assisted Area Status

Members were reminded by the Chairman that back in February of this year, the Solent LEP submitted an application to Government for assisted Status initially for the Isle of Wight as part of the stage one Government Consultation process and then subsequently Portsmouth Harbour in response to the Governments stage two consultation. The Solent LEP have received notification from BIS that the European Commission has approved the Government's submission for the 2014 – 2020 Assisted Area Status Map which includes both the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Harbour areas.

This positive news has the potential to encourage business growth in these key locations and will no doubt stimulate real economic boost for the Solent area. working with Government to ensure that the status can be secured in the final negotiation with the European Union. Plans to implement the new map into UK legislation are expected by July 2014.

Airport MD joins the board of the Solent LEP

The Chairman notified the Joint Committee that Dave Lees, Managing Director of Southampton Airport, had been elected to the board of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). He was chosen by a vote of the LEP's business members after responding to a call for Solent business leaders working in aerospace, aviation, high-end manufacturing, logistics, ports and key international gateways.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

8. UPDATES FROM DELIVERY PANEL CHAIRMEN

There were no updates from Delivery Panel Chairmen.

9. SOLENT LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Joint Committee received a verbal update on the Solent LEP from Anne Marie Mountifield, Chief Executive of Solent LEP.

Strategic Economic Plan

The final Plan was submitted on 31st March 2014.

Proposals within the Plan include Solent Business Growth, Solent Enterprise Zone, LTB Transport Majors and Cross-Solent Connectivity. The focus within the Plan is on activity which will take place during 2015/2016.

An announcement on the area's share of the £2 billion Growth Deal funding to all LEPs is expected by 22nd July.

A strong case can be made for funding within the Solent LEP area due to the location; links to London and a gateway to Europe.

A copy of the Strategic Economic Plan can be found on the Solent LEP website

- [http://solentlep.org.uk/uploads/documents/Solent Strategic Economic Plan.pdf](http://solentlep.org.uk/uploads/documents/Solent_Strategic_Economic_Plan.pdf)

European Structure Investment Funds

The current funding round is for 2014/2020. Local areas have developed their funding strategies.

EU funding of €45.813m has been allocated to the Solent area. 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 economy
- Investing in Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning
- Promoting Employment
- Promoting Social inclusion and combating poverty

A copy of the EU Structural & Investment Fund Strategy can be found on the Solent LEP website -

http://solentlep.org.uk/uploads/documents/Solent_EU_SIF_Strategy_-_19.05_2014_.pdf

Marine and Maritime Strategy

Following the publication of the Maritime Strategy, led by Rob Stevens', establishing a the National Composites Centre is a key priority area which is being taken forward. The National Composites Centre are working with the University of Southampton and University of Bristol, have been tasked by the Department of Business Innovation & Skills to undertake a feasibility study for a Solent Large Structures Composites Centre.

The proposed National Centre is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Solent area.

As part of the feasibility work, the Solent LEP has been asked by colleagues at the National Composites Centre to provide a brokerage role to coordinate the identification of suitable sites in the Solent area. A call for suggested sites to local authorities in the PUSH area has now been opened by the Solent LEP. Letters have been sent to all PUSH Chief Executives to put forward a site for consideration. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by 5pm on 26th June 2014.

Transport Schemes

Businesses, public sector organisations and residents across the Solent are being asked for their thoughts on projects that will unlock 1600 new jobs, over 2,200 new homes and 191,300 sqm of employment floor space.

The Solent LEP has today opened an invitation for comments on the Local Transport Body Major projects – four schemes have been identified as priorities to improve transport and, ultimately, boost the region's economy. These schemes are:

- A27 Station Roundabout and Gudge Heath Lane Junction Improvements in Fareham
- Dunsbury Hill Farm Link Road in Havant
- The Hard Interchange in Portsmouth
- Station Quarter North in Southampton

The projects would cost around £30m to undertake in the next two years and the Solent LEP will be allocated £19.2m Government funding for the projects as part of its Strategic Economic Plan. The remaining £10.65m of investment would be committed from local partners under the LEP's proposals.

General Fund Update

The Isle of Wight Expansion Fund has been established to support businesses that operate in the marine, maritime and advanced manufacturing sectors including those involved in composites engineering. Funding is available for private sector enterprises to start up new activities, expand or diversify. A total of £2.46 million is available to businesses either based on, or moving to, the Isle of Wight.

Both phases of the Bridging the Gap fund (Phase 1 - Portsmouth, Gosport and Havant and Phase 2 - Southampton, Isle of Wight and New Forest waterside) for new and established SMEs have now concluded. The Solent LEP has been successful in securing additional funds from Government to further extend the fund across the Solent LEP sub-region as a whole, with higher grant funding levels available. The new fund is currently under development and the Solent LEP expects to launch this in Summer 2014.

10. PUSH INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report by the Interim PUSH Executive Director which covered matters arising which are significant and merit reporting to the Joint Committee but did not justify a full report.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:

1. APPROVES the PUSH Business Plan for 2014/16 attached to the 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.

11. PUSH BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report on Capital & Revenue budget for 2013/14 and were asked to consider Capital and Revenue forward budgets for 2014/15.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:-

1. NOTES the outturn for the financial year 2013/14.
2. APPROVES the revised capital and revenue budgets for 2014/15 as set out in the report, including the proposed level of contributions from partner authorities.
3. APPROVES the Statement of Accounts for the 2013/14 financial year and the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1).
4. APPROVES Section 1 (Summary Accounting Statements) and Section 2 (Summary Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Return to the Audit Commission (Appendix 2).
5. NOTES that Section 3 of the Annual Return will be completed by the external auditor no later than 30 September 2014
6. NOTES that Section 4 of the Annual Return has been completed and matters raised actioned appropriately, and that the Annual Return will be reviewed again by the internal auditor no later than 30 June 2014.
7. DELEGATES authority to the PUSH Chief Executives Group to allocate the capital funding of £50K to a new project that meets the business priorities of PUSH for delivery in 2014/15.
8. APPROVES an absolute project start date by 31 August 2014 for the Portsmouth Arches Project, subsequent to which, the capital funding of £40K currently earmarked for the scheme will be re-allocated to support a new capital scheme.

12 SPATIAL STRATEGY REVIEW UPDATE

The Joint Committee received a report on the Spatial Strategy Review.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the report

**13 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI) IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK:
PROGRESS REPORT JUNE 2014**

The Joint Committee received a report on the Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES the report

(The meeting started at 6:00pm and ended at 7.05pm).

(NB: The next meeting of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee will be held on Tuesday 23 September 2014).