



**PfSH**

# **Business Plan**

**2019-20**

**July 2019**

# PfSH Business Plan: 2019-20

1. The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) operates in a changing environment. PfSH needs to work with a wide range of other agencies to help deliver sustainable growth in the South Hampshire area. Whilst a number of organisations now have prime responsibility for the policy agenda that historically was part of the remit of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), there is still an important influencing and engagement role for PfSH.
2. We have the prime responsibility collectively to deliver the housing that our communities need, but we have to do this in a sustainable way that helps protect our vitally important natural environment and recognises the role that we have collectively to deal with climate change issues. We also need to make sure that we balance the need to provide housing against the need for employment land and that we protect some of the unique assets of the area such as our valuable deep-water frontages. These support the role of the area as a world leader in the marine and maritime sector and the role our ports play in the global trading economy supporting the goals of the 2050 Maritime Strategy.
3. When we published our previous business plan, it was based on the assumption that the Government was going to approve the setting up of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the Solent area which would deliver a devolution deal for the Solent area. The Government decided not to take this forward at that time<sup>1</sup> and therefore there is no other mechanism to bring together authorities to work jointly to deliver our ambitions for the area. It is crucial that PfSH provides a mechanism to bring partners together to take forward sustainable regeneration and development in South Hampshire. PfSH brings together the leaders of all the local authorities in the area to have meaningful discussions on issues of strategic importance and enables collective decisions to be made on issues which benefit from joint working. With the new revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework, and the need to prepare Statements of Common Ground, it is more important than ever that PfSH helps drive forward this collective work.
4. The Government recently announced that the geography of the Solent LEP will change. The boundary of the Solent LEP now includes the whole of the New Forest District Council geography and none of Test Valley, Winchester or East Hampshire. This means that the geography of PfSH is now different to the LEP geography. Whilst this is not an issue in itself, the exact nature of what this means will need to be bed in and so this business plan has been prepared to cover a 12 month period. A medium term business plan will be prepared from the 2020 municipal year that

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<sup>1</sup> Dan Peters and Naomi Larsson, The Municipal Journal (25<sup>th</sup> April 2019) pg. 1. Devolution Minister Jake Berry admitted the Governments repeatedly-delayed devolution framework this will not be published until after Brexit. A Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said: 'The Government remains committed to setting out our approach to devolution and providing clarity for local areas. We will look to publish our approach as soon as possible'.

reflects the changing relationship with the new LEP geographies and the choice individual councils may make about their relationship with PfSH. It has already been decided that the whole of New Forest District Council is in the PfSH area and invites for PfSH membership have been issued to both the South Downs and the New Forest National Park Authorities. With the whole of New Forest in PfSH, and invites extended to the two national parks in the area, PfSH represents the whole of the South Hampshire area and not just the urban South Hampshire area. This explains the name change from PUSH to PfSH.

## **Vision and role of PfSH**

5. PUSH was formed to deliver regeneration of the core urban areas of the Solent, focused on the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. This was in response to economic underperformance; poor productivity; and poor infrastructure. The adjoining older urban areas are also very much at the heart of this urban renaissance strategy and PUSH believed that the strong functional and physical links between the core urban areas, towns and the semi-rural and rural hinterland had to form the basis for the proper planning of the Solent area.
6. PUSH pursued an economic regeneration/urban renaissance-driven strategy and this will remain the case for PfSH. PfSH believes that a balanced approach, with economic, social and environmental sustainability at its heart, is the responsible and appropriate way to plan for the future of South Hampshire with an inclusive and integrated spatial strategy delivering sustainable communities into the future. Clearly, aspects of this are now dependent on influencing, and informing, partner organisations such as the Solent LEP and Solent Transport.
7. PfSH accepts and embraces managed and sustainable growth as a policy instrument to help lift deprived communities and households out of poverty and deprivation, whilst providing a foundation for the long term security of the quality of life of all the people of the area. This is dependent on economic prosperity, adequate provision of, and access to, housing to provide strong, vibrant and healthy communities and protection of our natural assets.
8. The PUSH 2016 Spatial Position Statement was completed in line with the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was supported by a series of papers and evidence. It established and distributed the objectively assessed housing needs for PfSH authorities up until 2034, together with employment land to match projected economic growth across the South East. The need for new homes was influenced by PUSH's Objectively Assessed Housing Need Update (April 2016) which analyses demographic and migration trends to establish the overall need for new homes across South Hampshire. The Spatial Position Statement focused development on urban areas first, and is then distributed according to environmental, transport and other infrastructure factors. The 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 PUSH Joint Committee noted the completion and approved the 2016 Spatial Position Statement. Furthermore, it was for each PUSH authority to implement the Spatial

Position Statement through their respective Local Plan, as the local planning authority.

9. At the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 PUSH Joint Committee, following the publication of the 2018 NPPF and relevant Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), it was agreed that PfSH authorities should work together under the Duty to Co-operate to seek to produce a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG). This will have regard to the new standard methodology for identifying housing need within an area as well as the new Housing Delivery test. PfSH will work together to identify how these new requirements can be met collectively. In addition, the Joint Committee also gave authority for PUSH authorities to explore the production of an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) working alongside colleagues in the wider Hampshire area.
10. The key role for PUSH in the current sub-regional framework can now be summarised as follows:
  - Productivity and quality of life
  - Providing the planning and environmental policy input to a triumvirate of sub-regional leadership organisations alongside the Solent LEP and Solent Transport
  - Working together to form an evidence base to support Local Plan work
  - Encouraging conditional, managed growth through the adoption of a Plan, Monitor and Manage approach to land release and plan review, with development conditional on timely and adequate infrastructure provision;
  - Working with others to understand the infrastructure needed to support growth and to secure necessary and timely enhancements to infrastructure (covering transport, energy, flood protection, air quality, water supply and waste water treatment, social and community facilities, education and healthcare provision and green infrastructure) to support and enable new development and addressing existing infrastructure deficits;
  - Adopting an evidence base to support a strong policy protection for strategic gaps (possibly with green belt designation), designated nature conservation and protected landscapes, and areas of high quality built environment;
  - Achieving the highest environmental standards for new development particularly in terms of resource conservation and reduction of environmental impact, by the application of consistent standards and policy approaches in partner authorities' local development documents covering the PfSH area;
  - Working collectively to deal with climate change issues and make sure that the South Hampshire area is doing what it can help to help support this international agenda
  - Delivering enhancements to the green infrastructure and high quality design in the built environment to consolidate and improve the

environment and quality of life of the sub region and to promote urban renaissance;

- Promoting locally-led and democratically accountable leadership, management and delivery of the vision and spatial planning for the sub-region and securing the participation and engagement of communities, and which recognises the key role of the private sector in delivering growth.
- Working with partner agencies to lobby on behalf of the South Hampshire area and also to influence local agencies so that they help achieve the aims of PfSH.

## Priorities

11. In order to deliver this vision the overall priorities for PfSH are to:

- Provide democratic leadership for South Hampshire.
  - PfSH is a formal Joint Committee that allows for democratic debate on issues affecting the sub-region and democratic legitimacy to sub-regional decisions. It is complementary to the decision making of individual local authorities and provides input and collective decisions to issues that impact on the sub-region
- Ensuring sustainable development in South Hampshire
  - Delivering housing but protecting the unique characteristics of the area and ensuring that it remains an attractive place to live and work. PfSH is aware that there is a need to provide significant numbers of new houses in the area for our local communities but this has to be done in a way that is not detrimental to our environment now or in the future. PfSH provides the overall governance for Bird Aware Solent. Bird Aware Solent supports the recreational mitigation that is in place to support coastal housing development. PfSH also works with government agencies to ensure that our development meets environmental requirements and that other organisations such as utility companies do what they need to do
  - Delivering employment space and support specific sectors to increase productivity and support economic growth within the sub-region
  - Respond to climate change issues in a collective way
- Voice for South Hampshire
  - As previously explained PfSH is part of a triumvirate of key strategic organisations (with Solent LEP and Solent Transport) that manage the policy agenda in the sub-region. Collectively we need to work better together to lobby the Government, working with local MPs, to make

sure we obtain the funding that we need to meet our needs. There is a large infrastructure deficit in the South Hampshire area and we need to do more to understand the deficiencies and the impact that is having on growth and use the evidence to help get the funding that we need. Initiatives such as the Hampshire Housing Deal will help and PfSH can support the lobbying for this and similar initiatives, including through the provision of an appropriate evidence base. Collectively we have a stronger voice.

- Simplifying interfaces
  - PfSH brings together key organisations at both a political and managerial level. This aids joint working and also supports the plan making of PfSH member councils. PfSH also provide the mechanism for organisations to engage with the local democratic voice collectively in the sub-region. PfSH can simplify interfaces with, and for, other organisations and can therefore have more influence.
- 12. PfSH also provides a mechanism to link with bodies and policy initiatives outside of the PfSH geography but which are still relevant to PfSH. An example of this would be the Green Halo Partnership
- 13. These priorities are evidenced through the following objectives for PfSH for 2019-20:

## **Specific objectives and activity**

### ***Planning & Infrastructure***

Supporting sustainable housing development

- Duty to Cooperate / Statement of Common Ground
  - Procure / commission a Project Manager to drive forward the work associated with preparing the Statement of Common Ground
  - Agree the evidence base that will be required to support planned housing and employment growth development in South Hampshire
  - Commission the work required to produce this evidence base including looking at how to take forward the South Hampshire Green Belt policy initiative
  - Prepare the draft Statement of Common Ground
- Develop a mitigation strategy dealing with nitrates to ensure that development can continue in South Hampshire

## Infrastructure and resources

- Commission the work required to produce an Infrastructure Investment Plan for South Hampshire linking in with the work of HIPOG that is producing the Infrastructure Plan for the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- Where appropriate, support the development of the Hampshire Housing Deal with Government
- The Air Quality sub-group to investigate the production of an Air Quality SPD for the PUSH area and if necessary ensure the appropriate processes are in place for formal approval of the SPD
- The Water Quality Group to identify how to deal with the nitrate neutrality issue and if necessary accelerate the production of the Water Quality Strategy and potential strategic mitigation solutions

14. The February Joint Committee agreed an interim revenue allocation of £20,000 alongside any carry forward to support the Planning and Infrastructure work. In addition it has been agreed that the work on the Statement of Common Ground and Infrastructure Plan will be funded through direct contributions from individual authorities.

## *Culture, Creative Industries and the Built Environment*

- Creative business support
  - Extend the creative industries business support programme from the Southampton area so that it includes the Portsmouth area and use the agreed PUSH funding to bring in matched funding to develop the programme
  - Promote good quality urban design with the production of a series of design bulletins and hold a design awards, if necessary holding it in conjunction with an existing award ceremony
  - Support Creative Network South and other creative networks within the PfSH area
  - Engage with the Solent LEP to understand how PfSH can complement the LEPs activity in this area

15. The February Joint Committee agreed an interim revenue allocation of £33,000 alongside a carry forward of £10,000 to support this work and funding bids that will be made.

### *The Solent environment*

- Provide the overall governance for Bird Aware Solent including the approval of the new Service Level Agreement to provide the ranger service.
  - Approve the Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan and identify how to take forward the Strategic Green Infrastructure Proposals including how to fund them
  - Protect existing open space and habitats and recognise the role of assets beyond the boundary of PUSH (this links to the evidence base needed for the Statement of Common Ground including the work on the Green Belt). This includes building on the New Forest mitigation work underway (which involves 4 PfSH local authorities as well as the New Forest National Park Authority).
  - Engage with other agencies to understand how PfSH can support the Government's new 25 Year Environment Plan
  - Now that innovative energy storage projects have been shown to be aligned to the LEPs Energy Strategy see how best to take these projects forward and also see how else PfSH can support the Solent LEP's Energy Strategy
  - Investigate what the PfSH authorities can collectively do to address climate change issues and bring a report to Joint Committee to enable this to happen
  - Explore whether there is an appetite and capacity to develop an Energy Company for PfSH
16. To date the PfSH Joint Committee has not agreed any additional funding for this work. Some activity will be undertaken through work on the Planning and Infrastructure theme e.g. Green Belt, some through alternative resources e.g. Bird Aware and some through the contributions of individual local authorities e.g. climate change response. The Joint Committee had previously agreed to fund two innovative Energy Storage Projects (£30k in total) subject to their alignment with the LEPs Energy Strategy. This alignment has been confirmed. £10,000 has also been carried forward to support the Low Carbon Economy Project over the next two years.

### *Promoting the PUSH area*

- Work with other sub-regional bodies (for example the Solent LEP and Solent Transport) to develop a lobbying strategy for the South Hampshire area
- Lobby for the PfSH area to be able to access the replacement of EU funding to meet our specific needs (the UK Shared Prosperity Fund)
- Identify how PfSH can support the activity of other bodies such as Solent LEP for the LIS and Solent Transport
- Develop the role and effectiveness of the newly formed leaders group to shape and lobby for the sub regional agenda

17. This activity will be supported through existing resources and if necessary a proposal for funding will be developed as part of the Lobbying Strategy.

*Other activity*

- Review the PfSH Joint Agreement (with the recognition that the Current Joint Agreement is based on the link to the Solent Growth Forum which is changing). Look to see how the Joint Agreement can be modernised and made to be more in keeping with best practice in governance and how PfSH can interface with the new Solent Leaders' Forum
- Clarify funding and membership for PUSH given the changes to the NPPF and the LEP boundary
- Develop and agree a medium term business plan from 2020/21 - 2024/25
- Inform and input to the Local Industrial Strategy
- Seek to support the 2050 Maritime Strategy through land use policies

18. This activity will be supported through existing resources.