



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

*Minutes of a meeting held on 25 March 2014
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fareham*

Members:

Councillor	Seán Woodward
Councillor	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor	Simon Letts
Councillor	David Airey
Councillor	Keith Mans
Councillor	Tony Briggs
Councillor	Martin Hatley
Councillor	Rob Humby
Councillor	Ian Stephens

Authority Represented:

Fareham BC
Portsmouth CC
Southampton CC
Eastleigh BC
Hampshire CC
Havant BC
Test Valley BC
Winchester CC
Isle of Wight Council

Chief Executives:

Nick Tustian
Peter Grimwood
Ian Lycett
Stuart Jarvis (on behalf of Andrew Smith)
Tom Horwood
Kathy Wadsworth
Roger Tetstall
Steve Tilbury
John Metcalf (nominated Officer)
Dave Yates

Authority Represented:

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

Co-opted Members

Gary Jeffries

Organisation Represented:

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHANGES IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ferris Cowper – East Hants DC, Councillor Keith House – Eastleigh BC (Councillor David Airey deputising), Councillor Mark Hook – Gosport BC, Councillor Keith Wood – Winchester CC (Councillor Rob Humby deputising), Sandy Hopkins - Havant BC and East Hants BC (Tom Horwood deputising), David Williams – Portsmouth CC (Kathy Wadsworth deputising), Simon Eden – Winchester CC (Steve Tilbury deputising) and James Humphrys – Environment Agency.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PUSH Joint Committee meeting held on 28 January be confirmed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Nick Tustian, Chief Executive of Eastleigh Borough Council to his first PUSH Joint Committee.

Solent LTB Update

The Chairman reminded the Committee that at its meeting held in September 2013, they were advised that the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB) had agreed in principle to establish a single strategic transport interface, which would merge the strategic functions and activities of Transport for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (TfSHIOW) with the Solent LTB.

He confirmed that Solent Transport is now the new name for the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight partnership. The re-branding of the local authority partnership will make the area of operations clearer for residents, businesses and transport operators and better reflect the strategic transport work that will continue to take place in the Solent area.

The Chairman advised that to date the Partnership has helped secure funding to deliver projects such as the Bus Rapid Transport scheme in Fareham, The Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Better Bus Area Fund. Solent Transport will continue to work closely with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, Highways Agency, Network Rail, South Hampshire Bus Operators Association and other parties, to plan and deliver future improvements such as the links between Portsmouth and Southampton. The partnership includes the four statutory highway and transport authorities of Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Isle of Wight Council.

Cities Minister speaks at Solent Skills Summit

The Chairman advised the Committee that Greg Clark MP, Minister for Cities, provided the keynote address at the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Solent Skills Summit held on 11 March 2014.

The event saw the launch of the Solent Skills Strategy, which aims to tackle the Solent's skills challenges across four priority areas: developing world-class skills; transitions to employment; raising business investment in skills and developing a responsive skills and employment system.

Speakers from local businesses, further education colleges and over 100 attendees joined the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP in welcoming the new strategy at City College Southampton. The focus now shifts towards securing resource through the Growth Deal process with Government and delivering on the recommendations in the strategy.

The Chairman stated that following the event, Greg Clark MP said: "As the national economy recovers and we seek to create employment opportunities through initiatives such as City Deals and Growth Deals, it is going to be increasingly important to ensure that we have a skilled labour market in the UK that can take advantage of this growth. Many of these opportunities will require higher level skills and, increasingly, expertise in STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics] subjects, which makes it critically important that we address skills gaps in our workforce as soon as possible. Skills is therefore an issue right at the heart of local growth and I am delighted to see the Solent tackling this head on with the strategy they have published today."

The Solent Skills Strategy has now been published and is available for download at the Solent LEP website.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. UPDATES FROM DELIVERY PANEL CHAIRMEN

There were no updates from Delivery Panel Chairmen.

7. PUSH INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report from the PUSH Programme & Information Manager (acting up as Interim Executive Director) on matters that merit reporting to this Committee, but do not justify a full report in their own right.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:

1. AGREES to reinstate PUSH's SELP membership to a level 3 subscription, at a cost of £6.6K which would commence on 26 March 2014 until further notice;

2. APPROVES the recommendation to appoint Paul Nichols, 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; and
3. NOTES the Matters for Information outlined in Part B of this report.

8. PUSH BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Joint Committee received a report on the Capital & Revenue budget for 2013/14 and considered Capital and Revenue forward budgets for 2014/15.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:

1. NOTES the spend for the year to date and the forecast outturn for the year, as set out in the report;
2. APPROVES the proposed interim capital and revenue budgets for 2014/15 as set out in the report;
3. APPROVES a carry forward of £251K to 2014/15 for the following forecast revenue budget underspends in 2013/14:
 - Economic Development: £122K
 - Sustainability & Community Infrastructure Panel : £35K
 - Housing and Planning: £20K
 - Quality Places: £24K
 - LEP Contributions : £50K;
4. APPROVES a carry forward to 2014/15 of £580,000 for the following forecast capital budget under spends in 2013/14:
 - Hayling Island Access Trails: £20K
 - Portsmouth Creative Industries: £250K
 - Progression Studios: £50K
 - Portsmouth CC Arches: £40K
 - Cell Block Enterprise: £49K
 - Gosport Town Centre: £85K
 - Southampton Northern Quarter: £86K; and
5. NOTES that the forecast under spend to be carried forward from the 2013/14 budgets into 2014/15 are provisional, and may be subject to change when the final outturn position for 2013/14 is known.

9. SPATIAL STRATEGY REVIEW

The Joint Committee received a report which captures the draft specification, timetable and resource requirements for the Spatial Strategy Review.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee:

1. APPROVES authorisation in order for officers to appoint a consultant to undertake the proposed programme of work. The first phase will take place over the period April 2014 to March 2015 and will lead to the preparation of a draft Options Appraisal for consultation with the public and other interested parties, in close consultation with PUSH Leaders and the PUSH Planning Officers Group;
2. AGREES that PUSH authorities will not object to emerging Local Plans in the PUSH area on the basis of their housing numbers, where they are consistent with the PUSH Spatial Strategy 2012, whilst the new spatial strategy to 2036 is being prepared; and
3. AGREES to the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the agreement in (2) above, as suggested by the Planning Inspectorate.

10. SOLENT DISTURBANCE AND MITIGATION PROJECT (SDMP)

The Joint Committee received a report on the progress made to date in establishing an Interim arrangement towards securing a SDMP.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee NOTES and APPROVES:

1. The proposed approach set out in paragraphs 23-29 of the paper for taking forward the work of the Solent Disturbance Mitigation Project (SDMP) as below:
 - 23 The proposed interim approach comprises a number of elements, the details of the framework to be reported back to a future meeting of the committee
 - 24 Project Initiation Officer
 - Brief for post has been agreed and appointment made, managed by Portsmouth City Council the post will focus on developing the long term strategy
 - Funding for a period of 22 hours per week for 11 months has been secured
 - Funding for additional hours/extended period would be funded from the proposed developer contributions.
 - 25 Ranger project
 - Phased introduction dependent upon availability of funding, commencing with a full time post with additional posts subject to funding being available
 - Management of posts by Hampshire County Council Countryside Service
 - Job descriptions to be agreed (including remit for wider education role)
 - Geographic areas covered to be agreed, in principle concentrate resources in specific areas where visitor pressure having most impact on wildlife

- Operational budget
- 26 Monitoring
- Programme of monitoring to be agreed with NE
 - Annual reports to be prepared
- 27 Development contributions
- Scale £172 per dwelling, index linked
 - Development liable to contribute, exceptions be justified, area apply policy 5.6km zone
 - Contributions to be paid on commencement of development
 - Mechanisms for securing contributions to be determined locally within an overall framework
 - Pooling of contributions, one authority to hold the contributions
 - Process for release of funding to be agreed
- 28 Project Management
- Project board(membership to be agreed) to provide strategic lead and to receive regular (quarterly) reports and reporting to PUSH delivery panel
 - Officer Steering group, (membership to be agreed) to include non LPA representatives e.g.
 - Officer working group(membership to be agreed)
- 29 Period of interim proposals
- 2014-2017

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson expressed his concerns over the policy to apply Development Contributions to a 5.6km zone. It was agreed that his reservations be noted.

(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 24 June 2014).