

CABINET

13 October 2004

PUSH (PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 894 – Hampshire Housing Supply Action Plan 2004 and Emerging South Hampshire Sub-Regional Strategy – 24 June 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members were informed at Cabinet on 24 June 2004 that work was progressing on a South Hampshire sub-regional study. This report updates Members on the Interim Report being submitted to SEERA (South East England Regional Assembly) by PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire). All of Winchester District is covered either through the PUSH Strategy (in the south) or through a paper being co-ordinated by the County Council on Advice on Planning Policies for Central Hampshire and the New Forest, which covers the remainder of the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the City Council continues to play an active part in PUSH.
- 2 That Cabinet endorses the general thrust of the PUSH report but reserves its position on the growth potential of any sites within Winchester District to promote economic regeneration of the Southampton and Portsmouth city regions until further information on the needs and potential of the Urban South Hampshire area are clearer. Cabinet agrees that housing growth cannot be planned for until the capacity of the communities to take additional growth has been adequately examined and consulted on and that the potential for economic growth and the needs for infrastructure investment are adequately addressed.
- 3 That it notes and endorses the comments already sent to PUSH by the Chief Executive and delegates to the Chief Executive any further comments in the light of amendments on the Interim Report received after the Cabinet meeting.

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NOTE FOR MEMBERS: At the time of writing this report the latest drafts of the PUSH submission to SEERA and the Central Hampshire Study were not available. They will be dispatched as soon as they are received.

DETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places considerable emphasis on a sub-regional approach to addressing strategic cross-boundary issues both within the region and with other regions. Where necessary and clearly justified, the South East Regional Plan will set out sub-regional policies and proposals to address a specific strategy policy deficit which cannot be dealt with either by individual or joint development plan documents or by other policies in the Plan. This is in line with the policy advice given in Planning Policy Statement 11 – Regional; Spatial Strategies. The draft South East Plan will be issued for consultation in January 2005. PUSH is not in the Council's Forward Plan as we have only just received the Interim Report for comment. In accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules, the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee has been notified.
- 1.2 In Autumn 2003 the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) commissioned a number of sub-regional studies from steering groups involving representatives from local authorities and from the voluntary and economic sectors. Each study group was asked, drawing primarily on existing or on-going work, to identify its area's key characteristics, the main cross boundary issues it faces and the broad choices for dealing with them. The study groups were also asked to advise on whether distinct sub-regional policies are required in the South East Plan and the extent of the sub-region to be covered.
- 1.3 The completed initial studies are available on the website: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk. The conclusions from the studies helped inform the Assembly's workshops held in May/ June 2004 to discuss sub-regional issues.
- 1.4 The Regional Assembly has identified nine sub-regional areas, including one for Urban South Hampshire, which it requested further work to be undertaken on by October 2004. In reaching its conclusions the Assembly took into account the findings of the sub-regional studies, advice from the strategic planning authorities, views expressed at the sub-regional workshops and written responses received in connection with the SEERA 'Spring Debates'.
- 1.5 The further work commissioned by the Regional Assembly in each of the 9 areas focuses on key sub-regional issues. It involves the development and appraisal of options for scales of change and patterns of development, advice on a preferred approach and the drafting of policies for dealing with issues that need specific

treatment at the sub-regional level. Policies are required to be in sufficient detail to provide a framework for the preparation of local development documents (the replacement to local plans/ development plans), local transport plans, community strategies and other relevant programmes, whilst maintaining scope for local discretion. It is intended that the further work required on the sub-regional strategy will be led by the 11 local authorities in PUSH. Much of the pressure to agree sub-regional strategies is derived from the emphasis coming from Government to deliver significant growth in the economy and housing numbers especially in the priority areas for economic regeneration and the issues being raised in the Government commissioned Kate Barker report on housing need and numbers.

2 Extent of the Sub-Region

2.1 The extent of the sub-region comprises:

- the whole of Southampton, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth and Havant;
- those parts of the waterside within the New Forest district not included within the New Forest National Park;
- the southern part of Test Valley Borough Council, south of the A3090 corridor including Romsey;
- that part of Winchester district south of the proposed National Park and east of the A3090 corridor but excluding the town centre of Winchester;
- that part of East Hampshire district south of the proposed National Park.

2.2 PUSH is a partnership of 11 authorities in south Hampshire who want to see the area become a world class city region in the south of England. They are committed to meeting the challenges of sustainable growth and seek to encourage Government to make the necessary infrastructure investments to ensure the area achieves a balance between housing and employment of the highest quality supported by infrastructure but with the least possible impact on Greenfield sites and high quality spaces between settlements. It supports investment in facilities, regeneration, services and skills.

2.3 The PUSH authorities are:

Strategic Authorities:

Hampshire CC

Portsmouth CC

Southampton CC

District Authorities:

Eastleigh BC

East Hampshire DC

Fareham BC

Gosport BC

Havant BC

New Forest DC

Test Valley BC

Winchester CC

2.4 Sub-regional policies will apply to the whole of the area in para 2.1 except where further work clearly justifies further sub-division.

3 Issues to be addressed

3.1 The overall issues to be addressed in the sub-regional study are: economy, employment, housing and regeneration over the next 20 – 30 years and their impact on the environment and communities at sub-regional level. The main issue is one of an economic development led approach leading to regeneration of urban areas and the development of sustainable communities.

3.2 It will also address the future roles of Southampton and Portsmouth within the South East and show how other primary settlements – Fareham, Eastleigh, Havant and Gosport - will support the two cities in their role.

3.3 The sub regional strategy will address:

- The broad amount of type and distribution of employment development to 2026;
- The broad amount of type and distribution of housing development to 2026;
- Locational criteria for sub-regionally significant developments and the broad location for such developments;
- Policies and mechanisms for maximising the potential for sustainable economic growth whilst reducing social inequalities;
- Measures required to build on the strengths of the area and to deal with the lack of skills in order to facilitate the regeneration of Southampton, Portsmouth and other urban areas;
- The infrastructure required to address existing deficiencies and support sustainable development, particularly that related to transport, water supply, and to education, health and other community infrastructure.

- 3.4 The main aim of the PUSH authorities is economic development and regeneration to support social needs, to tackle deprivation and secure social and economic inclusion; to construct affordable housing to meet local needs; to encourage economic growth; to encourage sustainable communities; to protect the quality of life of the area; to improve the cultural, leisure and environmental assets of South Hampshire; to invest in infrastructure; overall to ensure that the right balance is struck between economic growth, community regeneration, infrastructure and housing development. A key part of the sub-regional strategy is to encourage the sustainable growth of Portsmouth and Southampton.
- 3.5 The sub-regional plan will have sections on housing; the economy and infrastructure. The draft being submitted to SEERA is not intended to have details of the locations for any future growth but discussions over the last few months have revolved around models derived from: 1. growth inside and around the two cities; 2. development on the major development area type model (e.g. as at present at West of Waterlooville); or 3. smaller but more numerical and dispersed development throughout South Hampshire. Consensus seems to be building around the former two of those options as they are the most likely mechanism to deliver the infrastructure improvements that will be required to deliver significant levels of housing and economic growth.
- 3.6 The Chief Executive has sent some initial comments to PUSH supporting the general thrust of the work to date but recommending that:
- the sub-regional plan should not contain prescriptive housing numbers but rather a range of options from 6% growth above Regional Planning Guidance levels (the currently accepted housing numbers) to a maximum possible 40% growth but with a clear explanation of what delivering those levels of housing would entail. It is not suggested that we endorse the 'go for highest growth' model at this stage.
 - we need additional information on the capacity of the two cities to accommodate more growth at higher densities and through re-using brownfield sites and then a sequential test to look at accommodating any additional growth that may be required.
 - we need a realistic target of what our infrastructure needs are and what could be delivered in the timescale accepting what is possible in terms of encouraging a modal shift from private to public transport.
 - it is important that investment does not just take place in the two cities but that other communities including those in Winchester district are adequately planned for and invested in.

4 Delivery arrangements

- 4.1 SEERA need to know how PUSH will ensure that delivery arrangements are in place to deliver a sub-regional strategy. Until the sub-regional strategy is issued it would be premature to decide on the exact nature of a delivery mechanism but PUSH have discussed some initial principles which include:

- PUSH to retain responsibility for implementation once the SE Plan is finally agreed;

PUSH sees itself as:

- Co-ordinating the strategic development of South Hampshire;

- Managing major projects;
 - Co-ordinating communications between the South Hampshire authorities and regional and national agencies;
- 4.2 Once the sub-regional strategy is submitted to SEERA as a final draft at the end of the month, SEERA will examine it and consider incorporating it into the South East Plan due out on 17 January 2005. That Plan will have extensive public consultation including a possible leaflet to every household in the South East. It will be around 250 pages in length with possibly 60 pages on the nine sub-regional strategies.
- 4.3 The Regional Planning Board will consider the Plan on 8 November 2004 and again on 29 November 2004. Public consultation will take place from 17 January 2005 – 15 April 2005. The Assembly will reconsider the Plan in the light of views received and submit the Final South East Plan to the Secretary of State in the Autumn of 2005.
- 4.4 The contents are likely to be: Executive Summary , Challenges and Options, Context Strategy and Sustainability, Regional Policy Framework, Sub-Regional Policy Framework – this will include a section on the Urban South Hampshire work and will probably amount to about 5-6 pages out of 250 in total. The South East Plan will also contain an Implementation Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Statement of Public Involvement
- 4.5 Members should note that there will be adequate opportunities for public engagement in January, February, March and April next year and no agreements to detailed responses are being canvassed at this stage.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 The South East Plan will be the overarching document planning for development over the next 20 years. It is important that we maintain our involvement with PUSH so that our voice is heard and we can sensibly plan for any demands for growth in our district. The effects of the South East Plan will interface with many of the areas of service delivery at the City Council. Housing numbers for the District (to be published by SEERA) are likely to be issued in summer 2005 and there will be an additional opportunity for comment and debate at that time.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 Not known at this stage but will become clearer as the South East Plan is published early next year. It is likely to involve work on testing options for growth, urban capacity studies; economic appraisals and extensive consultation

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None

