

CABINET

15 May 2008

PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS PLAN

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

Establishment of a Joint Committee: Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (CAB 1539)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the autumn of last year Council approved the Leader signing the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Agreement on the City Council's behalf. That Agreement commits Winchester to working with the other ten Councils that make up PUSH to deliver the South Hampshire Strategy for economic growth.

The detailed programme of action necessary to deliver the South Hampshire Strategy has been drawn together in the first PUSH Business Plan for 2008-11. This report outlines the content of the Business Plan and seeks member approval for our role in its delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Cabinet adopts the PUSH Business Plan as a basis for informing our own business planning and service delivery.
2. That the Leader of the Council be authorised to sign the PUSH Multi-Area Agreement.

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#### DETAIL:

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 PUSH has been an active partnership for some four years now. Over that period it has developed a robust strategy for improving economic growth across the sub-region. The Partnership has also responded to consultation on the South East Plan, and is currently charged with delivering 80,000 new homes by 2026 – with final Government decisions on housing numbers expected in July. In addition, PUSH has worked with Transport for South Hampshire (a sister body made up of the strategic transport authorities) to plan the transport infrastructure necessary to support sustainable housing and economic growth. More recently, member authorities have begun working together on matters as diverse as sustainability policies, affordable housing and culture.
- 1.2 The Partnership's ambition for sustainable economic growth will only be realised if the member authorities work together - and with others ranging from infrastructure providers and private companies to Government Departments – to implement an integrated programme of activity. The PUSH Business Plan is intended to map out that programme of activity and provide a basis for project managing the different strands of activity necessary to realise our ambitions.
- 1.3 PUSH is also attracting a growing amount of Government funding to support the delivery of economic growth and, to underpin that, the new communities envisaged in the draft South East Plan. As the Partnership becomes accountable for this significant spend, so the Business Plan will provide a framework for managing those budgets and ensuring that they are allocated to the correct priorities. It will also provide the PUSH partners with a sound basis for securing additional funding.
- 1.4 Finally, the Business Plan offers a basis for PUSH to be accountable to our own Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Government and other funders, and to local communities.

##### 2 The Business Plan

- 2.1 The Business Plan was approved by the PUSH Joint Committee in March, and it is now for member authorities to formally adopt it. The Plan, attached as Annex A is made up of nine chapters. Chapter 1 summarises the PUSH vision and the outcomes the Partnership seeks. At the core of the Plan are five chapters, with associated appendices, the latter setting out detailed action plans:
  - a) **Chapter 2** considers **economic development** and, at the plan's appendix 2, outlines the key projects and actions necessary to support our ambitions for economic growth. As with all chapters, it is underpinned by detailed research, much of which is available through the PUSH website ([www.push.gov.uk](http://www.push.gov.uk)).

- b) **Chapter 3** outlines the **transport infrastructure** required to support the level of economic and housing growth anticipated, with once again detailed actions planned in appendix 3.
  - c) **Chapter 4** recognises the importance of the **other infrastructure** necessary to build sustainable communities, be that water and sewage infrastructure or schools and hospitals. It also identifies important steps necessary to secure sustainable growth. Appendix 4 outlines planned actions.
  - d) **Chapter 5** sets out the **housing and planning** policies necessary to underpin the Partnerships ambitions, including the proposed housing allocations in response to the draft South East Plan. Appendix 5 sets out actions.
  - e) **Chapter 6** outlines the newest theme for PUSH, that of ensuring we create **quality places** which offer a high quality of life by incorporating culture into our planning and development. The emerging draft action plan is at appendix 6.
  - f) The Plan is completed by **Chapter 7** considering future **governance arrangements** for PUSH, which will continue to evolve over the coming months and years, **chapter 8** outlining how the deliver of the planned actions is to be **financed** (see section 5 below) and finally **chapter 9** considering **risk**.
- 2.2 The Business Plan as a whole remains work in progress, and that is certainly true for the individual appendices and the actions, projects and programmes they outline. Each continue to be informed by a range of studies (many of which are identified in the Plan), and the Partnership will keep the Plan under regular review.
- 2.3 Importantly, the Plan will provide the basis for a Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) between the partners, Government Departments and other key players such as SEEDA. That Agreement will tie down deliver targets, funding and the necessary commitments Government need to make to support delivery of the PUSH Strategy. It is recommended that the Leader be authorised to sign that MAA, provided he is content it is consistent with the agreed Business Plan.
- 3 Implications for Winchester
- 3.1 The City Council has been an active partner in PUSH for some time now. The commitments that the Business Plan makes, in so far as they affect the District, are already part of our strategic planning. For example, the programme of housing delivery the Plan entails in the Southern Parishes is at present subject to consideration as part of the LDF process, and our policies on affordable housing in the City Council's Housing Strategy are consistent with those being advocated by PUSH.
- 3.2 The emerging actions, projects and programmes in the Plan are, so far as is appropriate or necessary, consistent with our own business or strategic planning, and we will need to ensure that remains the case. Where there are potential clashes of interest or differences in aims, these will need to be resolved through the member-led mechanisms PUSH has put in place.
- 3.3 Members will note that there are a number of actions in the PUSH Business Plan which will not, at least for now, directly affect the Council. These are primarily

research or technical studies and other consultancy work which will, in due course, inform policies, planning and practice, and each will need to be debated fully by officers and Members from all the PUSH authorities.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#### 4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

4.1 Our Corporate Strategy is consistent with the PUSH vision and strategy in a number of ways, most notably in:

- a) supporting sustainable economic growth
- b) supporting the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of our communities
- c) protecting the natural environment and promoting sustainability
- d) recognising the role that culture plays in developing sustainable communities

#### 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The City Council makes a small contribution of £3,000 as a 'subscription' to PUSH, as do other partners pro-rata to population in the PUSH area. This has previously been approved by Members, and is drawn from Planning Delivery Grant. In addition, we contribute across all policy areas by way of officer time, recognising the importance of appropriate development in our area.

5.2 The bulk of the work programme outlined in the 2008-11 Business Plan is expected to be funded from non-local authority sources, notably Government Growth Point Funding and future financial support from the Regional Development Agency. Much of this is currently under negotiation, although support is already guaranteed for a number of projects or activities, and clearly delivery will depend on a successful conclusion to those discussions. PUSH intend to review the Plan in six months or so as funding streams become clearer.

5.3 There are no immediate additional financial implications for the Council. However, Members will wish to note that, over time, this Plan and its successors will influence some of the Council's spending plans, whether to support work on major housing development in the District, influence spend of developers contributions or affect our spending on services. This will need to be taken into account in our annual budget and business planning process.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

#### APPENDICES:

A Brighter Future for South Hampshire: Moving to Delivery - PUSH Business Plan 2008-11

Due to its size, the Appendix is attached for Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee only. A copy will be available in the Members' Library and on the Council's Website: [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk).