

ITEM NO: A04

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	PUSH BUSINESS PLAN 2009-11		
DATE OF DECISION:	29 JUNE 2009		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) is required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities. In turn it must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan. This report represents the PUSH Business Plan, as approved by the Joint Committee in March, for consideration and approval by individual authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the PUSH Business Plan 2009-11 as a basis for the operations of the PUSH Joint Committee.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PUSH is required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities, which in turn must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan.
2. The 2009/10 Business Plan review has essentially been an exercise in focussing the document on delivery actions and priorities for the period 2009-11. Therefore the new Plan (Appendix 1) is an update and supplement to the more comprehensive original Business Plan, but supersedes the original Plan in respect of actions, commitments and priorities. The new Plan stands as a document in its own right, but does also need to be seen in the context of the original, and will also be supplemented by detailed theme based Action Plans.
3. The Business Plan review process began in early January, with Almondtree Consulting commissioned to lead the process on behalf of the PUSH Core Team, and engage with local authority colleagues and other partners.

CONSULTATION

4. The City Council's Legal, Finance and Property Departments.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None.

DETAIL

6. The Business Plan follows the same broad style as the existing Plan with separate chapters on the four main PUSH themes, a section on Financing the Strategy, which also covers the work of the new External Funding and Resources Theme, and a Transport Chapter summarising the priorities and overall approach of the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee, which leads on sub-regional transport matters in South Hampshire, working alongside PUSH.
7. With the new Delivery Panel structure now agreed, and theme leads identified at both Member and Chief Executive level, it is expected that the Business Plan will become a more useful working document and a framework for the activity of each theme. Each Theme Lead had the opportunity to contribute to and to comment on the emerging draft Plan and to co-ordinate input from Theme partners. The Business Plan was developed alongside the emerging Budget and Capital Programme, which has strengthened the rigour of the prioritisation process and ensured that the new Business Plan and the budget are very closely aligned.
8. Prior to consideration by the PUSH Joint Committee, the draft Plan was also considered by the PUSH (officer and partners) Programme Board, and the PUSH Chief Executives Group, with suggested changes arising from these discussions then incorporated into a revised draft plan. The changes were largely presentational, with particular emphasis on the need to give more prominence to the impact of the recession on Performance Targets and progress against MAA outcomes, to better identify cross cutting links between projects and themes, and to secure greater engagement at the Delivery Panels, where more detailed Action Plans will be expected to be produced and agreed with detailed proposals and specific and attributed actions to deliver the Business Plan objectives.
9. The Joint Committee considered the Business Plan at its meeting on 19th March. After a wide ranging debate, The Joint Committee resolved to approve the Business Plan, including revisions to reflect the concerns of the Joint Committee, relating principally to the need for stronger statements about the impact of the recession and clear identification of those targets which could no longer be met in the short term. Authority to finalise the wording of the document was delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairmen. This process has now been completed, and the final version of the Business Plan is attached to this report.
10. A more fundamental review of the Business Plan will take place in 2009/10, drawing upon the proposed review of the South Hampshire Economic Development Strategy and work associated with the early stages of evidence collection for the review of the RSS/RES. This will provide a firm evidence base upon which targets and priorities will be reviewed in the next iteration of the PUSH Business Plan.

11. The proposed Business Plan presents a focused and concise summary of the strategic priorities and actions for PUSH and partners. It is considered to be prudent to carry out a more fundamental review of the Business Plan in 2009/10, supported by an updated evidence base. In the meantime, the new Business Plan is considered to provide a robust and structured framework for developing the theme based action plans, for guiding PUSH activity, and as a foundation for the Performance Framework. It is therefore commended to the Committee for formal approval.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

12. The Report to the 19th March PUSH Joint Committee approved the Capital Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11. The projects directly applicable to the City Council are the Southampton Local Energy Network (£240,000 in 2009/10 and £200,000 in 2010/11) and Southampton Estate Regeneration (£790,000 in 2009/10 and £1,900,000 in 2010/11).

Revenue

13. The City Council makes a contribution as a 'subscription' to PUSH of £70,000 in 2009/10 and £72,000 in 2010/11. Other partners also make contributions which are pro-rata to the population of the PUSH areas. In addition, the City Council contributes across all policy areas by way of officer time, recognising the importance of securing appropriate developments and interventions.

Property

14. No immediate property implications are raised by this paper. However should such issues arise as the strategy develops they will be consulted via the appropriate corporate channels.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15. The PUSH Joint committee is a statutory joint committee established under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000. The Committee is underpinned by Joint Arrangements also approved by all the partner authorities which set out how the business plan shall be approved.

Other Legal Implications:

16. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. The new 2009-12 PUSH Business Plan is not currently one of the Council's Policy Framework documents. However, it is a major strategic document designed to ensure that local authorities and other agencies within the urban South Hampshire area are collectively engaged with, and benefit from, the delivery of the South East Plan and Regional Economic Strategy. The key aim of the PUSH Business Plan is to secure the delivery of sustainable economic growth in the sub region and its endorsement by partner authorities will therefore help to align the economic development, infrastructure, housing, transportation and cultural activities of individual local authorities to help

secure this objective. The PUSH Business Plan will inform the development of relevant City Council's key Policy Framework Plans as well as Local Development Documents, the Local Transport Plan, Housing Strategy and will be reflected in council's overall business planning arrangements.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

1.	PUSH Business Plan 2009-11
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at:

FORWARD PLAN No: ED03516 **KEY DECISION?** YES

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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