

City Centre Action Plan & Core Strategy Partial Review

Statement concerning the Duty to Cooperate

August 2013



Planning, Transport & Sustainability Division

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Southampton's City Centre Action Plan provides the detailed policy framework to guide new development in the city centre. The amount of new employment, residential, retail and leisure development is set out in the city's Core Strategy (adopted 2010), as is the location of a strategic site in the city centre - the Major Development Quarter. The Core Strategy reflects the level of development that has been agreed by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) within its non-statutory South Hampshire Strategy (updated in 2012). In a response to the national economic circumstances the Partial Review of the Core Strategy reduces office and retail targets across the city. The CCAP conforms with the Core Strategy and its partial review.
- 1.2 The city centre lies on the waterfront, at the confluence of the rivers Test and Itchen. Its suburbs spread out to the east, north and west of the city centre and as a result there are no other local authorities which abut the city centre.
- 1.3 Southampton City Council (the Council) is a member of the 3 key partnership groups in South Hampshire which address sub-regional planning matters: the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire; Transport for South Hampshire; and the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Joint Members Panel. The key outcomes of this sub-regional collaboration include a joint Minerals & Waste DPD, a non statutory sub-regional strategy (the South Hampshire Strategy), a joint Local Transport Plan, a Transport Delivery Plan and individual transport projects. The Council Leader is also a Director of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership which is focussing on determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. **This established sub-regional co-operation fulfils the major part of meeting the Council's duty to co-operate.**

2 Statutory requirements – the duty to co-operate

- 2.1 As the local planning authority responsible for preparing the City Centre Action Plan and the Core Strategy Partial Review, the Council is required to co-operate with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies in maximising the effectiveness with which we undertake the preparation of these development plan documents and the activities that support it, so far as relating to a strategic matter. This was introduced by s110 of the Localism Act 2011 which amended the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 by inserting a new section 33A. [s33A (1) and (3)]
- 2.2 A strategic matter is defined in the 2004 Act above as "*sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact*"

on at least two planning areas...”. This includes provision of strategic infrastructure. [S33A (4) (a)].

2.3 A PAS advice note explains that strategic planning more commonly refers to policies that address larger than local issues which cannot be dealt with by one local planning authority working alone. Reflecting the list set out in paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the PAS advice note identifies the following strategic priorities:

- the provision for new housing across a wider housing market area
- the provision of major retail, leisure, industrial and other economic development across a travel to work area
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, waste treatment, energy generation, telecommunications, water supply and water quality
- protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including townscape.
- the provision of health, security, and major community infrastructure facilities
- requirements for minerals extraction
- measures needed to address the causes and consequences of climate change, including managing flood risk and coastal change
- the provision of accommodation for gypsies & travellers

PAS website “A simple guide to strategic planning and the duty to cooperate”

2.4 In addition we are required to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with the specified organisations [s33A (2)(a)]. In doing this we must:

- Consider whether to enter into joint approaches and
- Consider whether to prepare joint local development documents [s33A (6) (a) and (b)].

2.5 In preparing the City Centre Action Plan and the Core Strategy Partial Review the Council has discharged its duty to cooperate by working with the following organisations:

Local Planning Authorities [s33A (1)]

Adjoining planning authorities:

- Eastleigh Borough Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- New Forest District Council
- Hampshire County Council (minerals planning authority)

Other PUSH Authorities:

- Portsmouth City Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Winchester City Council

- Fareham Borough Council
- East Hampshire District Council
- Havant Borough Council
- Isle of Wight Council

Prescribed organisations

The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, SI 767/2012 s4. (1) prescribes the following bodies for the purposes of section 33A (1) (c) of the Act:

- Environment Agency;
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as English Heritage)
- Natural England;
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes and Communities Agency
- NHS Southampton City Primary Care Trust (the NHS Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group as from April 2013)
- Office of Rail Regulation
- HCC (as adjacent highway authority)
- Highways Agency (as highway authority for the national road network)
- Marine Management Organisation.

The body prescribed for the purposes of section 33A (9) of the Act is:

- Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

- 2.6 The council must have regard to the Local Enterprise Partnership and also to the Local Nature Partnership in preparing local plans. Southampton is included in the area covered by Hants & Wight Local Nature Partnership. However the partnership has informed the Council (and the other local planning authorities in the area that it is unable to provide input to individual DPDs at this point in time.

3 Approach to co-operative working

- 3.1 The Council's adopted Local Development Scheme (2012) sets out that we will discharge our duty to co-operate as follows:
- Continued membership of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire to deliver sub-regional strategic spatial planning.
 - Close working with statutory undertakers and other specified consultees in the preparation of local plans, delivery of sub-regional infrastructure, addressing environmental issues and in determining significant planning applications.
 - Detailed ongoing discussions with adjoining authorities (including Eastleigh Borough Council, Test Valley Borough Council & New Forest District Council) on planning issues.

- Joint production of a Minerals and Waste Plan with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and New Forest National Park Authority.
- Close working with the sub-regional transport partnership – Transport for South Hampshire - particularly in preparing and delivering the sub–regional transport model; sub–regional smart ticketing and the legible cities project.

Key partnerships

- 3.2 The Council is a founder member of the **Partnership for South Hampshire (PUSH)**. This group of 10 local authorities has been working together since 2003 to agree a common approach to cross-boundary issues associated with the delivery of the significant growth identified in the South East Plan. The Partnership wrote the South Hampshire Strategy which became part of the South East Plan and which identified housing and employment floorspace targets across the sub-region. These targets, in turn, have influenced individual council's strategic plans (core strategies).
- 3.3 PUSH updated the South Hampshire Strategy in 2012. The revised Strategy was approved in October 2012 by the PUSH Joint Committee which comprises the Leaders of the ten local authorities within the Partnership. PUSH planners, chief executives and council leaders were involved in the analysis and policy formulation. In particular a workshop was held in October 2011 to discuss and agree housing and employment targets by district.
- 3.4 The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, in a statement within the South Hampshire Strategy 2012 welcomes its involvement in the production of the revised strategy and says that *“The PUSH document will also demonstrate to prospective business investors that the South Hampshire authorities have a clear and agreed planning strategy for the future of their area”*.
- 3.5 Transport for South Hampshire, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Homes & Communities Agency, Natural England and the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster were also involved in the preparation of the strategy. The other organisations covered by the duty to cooperate - Marine Management Organisation, Civil Aviation Authority, Office of Rail Regulation - were invited to participate in strategy preparation but did not take up the opportunity. See Appendix 1 of the South Hampshire Strategy for further information.
http://www.push.gov.uk/work/housing-and-planning/south_hampshire_strategy.htm
- 3.6 The Partnership also comments on the emerging development plan documents of its members to achieve consistency in plan making, particularly in the delivery of housing and employment targets. PUSH

Planning Officers Group is also currently investigating the possibility of having a sub- regional Community Infrastructure Levy to fund sub-regional infrastructure. Appendix A is a joint statement by the PUSH authorities, approved by the PUSH Housing & Planning Delivery Panel on 5 March 2013 explaining the regular, ongoing and successful collaboration on sub-regional planning matters and how this makes a significant contribution to complying with the Duty to Cooperate.

- 3.7 **The Hampshire Minerals & Waste Joint Members Panel** is a partnership of the local authorities with responsibility for minerals and waste planning in Hampshire. The authorities comprise Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, New Forest National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Authority. It was established over 10 years ago to produce and update as necessary a joint DPD for minerals and waste. The updated plan has recently undergone examination and has been found sound.
- 3.8 **Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSH)** was set up in 2007 and is a partnership of the highway authorities of Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, with the Isle of Wight Council joining in March 2013. The partnership aims to improve transport for the South Hampshire and Isle of Wight areas. It provides a mechanism through which solutions to cross-boundary transport issues can be identified, funding secured and projects delivered. Partners include public transport operators, Department for Transport, Highways Agency, Network Rail, and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. It has developed a powerful Sub-Regional Transport Model which is been used to model current travel movements and forecast future transport patterns across the sub region. TfSH works closely with PUSH to deliver the transport objectives of PUSH's plan to promote economic regeneration involving significant new development in the sub-region.
- 3.9 To identify and address potential cross-boundary strategic issues which affect the City Centre Action Plan or Core Strategy Partial Review the process adopted by the Council is to:
- a) Assess whether there are any potential strategic (cross-boundary) issues arising from the DPDs in preparation. This assessment takes into account technical evidence and comments raised through the initial consultation stages of the CCAP, as well as any concerns raised through the Core Strategy consultation stages that might be relevant to the city centre.
 - b) Have meetings at officer level with other local planning authorities and /or prescribed organisations to discuss the issue and the options to resolve it. Sub-regional strategic planning issues were discussed at the regular meetings of the PUSH Planning Officers Group, and more local cross – boundary issues were discussed at smaller meetings.

4 Summary of cooperation

	Issues & Options Consultation April 2007	Informal consultation 2010 - 2011	Preferred Approach consultation Feb 2012	Informal consultation 2012 - 2013	Proposed Submission consultation Summer 2013
Adjoining local planning authorities:					
■ Eastleigh Borough Council	R	L	L	M	
■ Test Valley Borough Council	R	L	L	M	
■ New Forest District Council	R	L	L	M	
■ New Forest National Park Authority			L	L	
■ Isle of Wight Council			L	L	
PUSH authorities			M	M	
Environment Agency	R	M	R	M	
English Heritage	R	M	R	L	
Natural England	L	M	R	M	
Civil Aviation Authority	L		L	L	
Homes & Communities Agency			L	L	
NHS Southampton Primary Care Trust (NHS Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group as from April 2013)	L	L	L	L	
Office of Rail Regulation			L	L	
Hampshire County Council (adjacent Highway Authority)	L	M	L		
Highways Agency	R	M	R	M	
Marine Management Organisation				L	
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership		M		L	

Key

M – meeting held

L – letter or email sent

R – response received

5 Strategic issues to be addressed

5.1 The key strategic priorities associated with significant new development in the city were addressed through the preparation and examination of the Core Strategy. There are, however, 6 strategic issues to be resolved through the CCAP which have arisen due to a subsequent review of the housing and employment targets for South Hampshire, and the need to look in more detail at the impact of significant new development within the city centre on transport infrastructure and protected nature conservation sites outside the city. The analysis of the PAS list of strategic matters and whether there are any strategic issues relevant to the City Centre Action Plan (CCAP) or Core Strategy Partial Review (CSPR) is set out below. The next section explains the outcomes of cooperation as regards the strategic issues identified.

Strategic matter	Which other LPA will be significantly affected?	Which prescribed orgs need to be involved	Comment	What is the nature of the strategic issue for the CCAP or CSPR?
The provision for new housing across a wider housing market area	PUSH authorities	HCA LEP	Housing targets for the CCAP were set out in the Core Strategy which conforms with the figures agreed by PUSH in the South Hampshire Strategy.	1. Predicted housing delivery across South Hampshire is less than the targets in the SE Plan. The amount and location of new housing should be reviewed.
The provision of major retail, leisure, industrial and other economic development across a travel to work area	PUSH authorities	LEP	Office targets for the CCAP were set out in the Core Strategy which conforms with the figures agreed by PUSH in the South Hampshire Strategy.	2. The office targets for the city centre and for elsewhere in South Hampshire are unlikely to be achievable in the plan period due to the economic recession. The amount and location of new offices should be reviewed.
	PUSH authorities	LEP	Retail targets for the CCAP were set out in the Core Strategy. It is important that the agreed sub-regional approach of a hierarchy of shopping centres is maintained.	3. The retail targets for the city centre are unlikely to be achievable in the plan period due to the economic recession. The amount of new retail floorspace in

Strategic matter	Which other LPA will be significantly affected?	Which prescribed orgs need to be involved	Comment	What is the nature of the strategic issue for the CCAP or CSCR?
				the city centre should be reviewed.
<p>The provision of infrastructure for transport, energy generation, telecommunications, water supply and water quality <i>For waste treatment see below</i></p>	<p>EBC TVBC HCC – highways</p>	<p>HA TFSH</p>	<p>These strategic matters were investigated at the Examination into the Core Strategy in 2009. There is a need to assess the transport infrastructure requirements arising from the proposed sub-regional development.</p>	<p>4. There is a need to assess whether improvements to motorway junctions are required as a result of the proposed sub-regional development, including the new development focussed on the city centre.</p> <p>5. With the reduction in office floorspace targets set out in the Core Strategy Partial Review there is a need to assess whether all 3 Park & Ride sites identified in the Core Strategy (2 in Eastleigh and 1 in Test Valley) are needed and deliverable within the plan period.</p>
<p>Protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including townscape.</p>	<p>PUSH authorities</p>	<p>NE</p>	<p>The additional homes to be built in the city (about 30% of which will be in the city centre) will generate additional demand for recreational trips.</p>	<p>6. The potential impact of increased recreational trips on the New Forest National Park, the South Downs National Park and protected nature conservation sites in, and adjacent to, Southampton Water must be assessed and mitigation undertaken as necessary.</p>
<p>The provision of health, security, and major community</p>	<p>None – as there are no outstanding</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>These strategic matters were investigated at the Examination into the Core Strategy in 2009, and there have been no significant</p>	<p>No strategic issues relevant to the CCAP.</p>

Strategic matter	Which other LPA will be significantly affected?	Which prescribed orgs need to be involved	Comment	What is the nature of the strategic issue for the CCAP or CSPR?
infrastructure facilities	strategic issues		changes in the circumstances for the city centre.	
Measures needed to address the causes and consequences of climate change, including managing flood risk and coastal change	None – as there are no outstanding strategic issues	None	<p>These strategic matters were investigated at the Examination into the Core Strategy in 2009, and there have been no significant changes in the circumstances for the city centre.</p> <p>Whilst not an outstanding strategic issue, flood risk is a significant issue for the city centre. As part of the evidence base for the CCAP the Council and Environment Agency jointly commissioned additional studies into managing flood risk.</p> <p>In 2008 it set up a Flood Board to co-ordinate flood risk management across agencies in Southampton with the aim of reducing the risk and consequences of flooding in the city. At present, the organisations invited to attend the Flood Board include Southampton City Council, Environment Agency, Southern Water, Associated British Ports and Network Rail.</p>	No strategic issues relevant to the CCAP.
Requirements for minerals extraction	None – as there are no	None	The planning guidance on minerals and waste is set out in the Hampshire Minerals	No strategic issues relevant to the CCAP

Strategic matter	Which other LPA will be significantly affected?	Which prescribed orgs need to be involved	Comment	What is the nature of the strategic issue for the CCAP or CSCR?
The provision of infrastructure for waste treatment,	outstanding strategic issues		& Waste Plan jointly prepared by the Hampshire Minerals Authorities. Strategic matters (including the future of the mineral wharves in the city centre) were addressed during the preparation and examination of this plan in 2012. The plan was found sound. The CCAP conforms with this DPD.	
The provision of accommodation for gypsies & travellers	None – as there are no outstanding strategic issues	None	It was established through the Core Strategy Examination that specific site allocations for gypsies and travellers are not appropriate in the city centre. The Core Strategy contains a criteria – based policy which will be applied if any planning applications come forward. A new needs assessment is being undertaken and any sites, if required, will be identified in the City Local Plan.	No strategic issues relevant to the CCAP

Key to tables in Section 5 and 6

Hampshire Minerals Authorities are: Southampton, Portsmouth, Hampshire, New Forest National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Authority
 PUSH – Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, see Appendix A for a list of members.
 LEP – Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

TfSH – Transport for South Hampshire - Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, with the Isle of Wight Council joining in March 2013
 EBC – Eastleigh Borough Council
 TVBC – Test Valley Borough Council
 NE – Natural England
 HA – Highways Agency
 HCC – Hampshire County Council.

6 Outcomes of cooperation

Strategic issues (See Section 5 above)	Who	How co-operation was achieved	Outcomes For details of the PUSH activity see Appendix 1
<p>1. Predicted housing delivery across South Hampshire is less than the targets in the SE Plan. Need to revisit the overall targets, based on the likely delivery by the districts</p>	<p>PUSH authorities HCA LEP</p>	<p>Regular meetings of PUSH Planning Officers Group (approx 4 per year)</p> <p>Special meetings of PUSH Chief executives and Council Leaders to agree housing figures across the sub-region. South Hampshire Strategy approved by PUSH Joint Committee</p> <p>All Duty to co-operate organisations were invited to participate in the formulation of the updated housing figures.</p>	<p><u>Shared evidence base</u> for the revised South Hampshire Strategy assessed the number of new units likely to be delivered. A jointly commissioned SMAA is currently being produced for South Hampshire to feed into a major review of the South Hampshire Strategy.</p> <p><u>Updated South Hampshire Strategy (2012)</u>. PUSH authorities agreed new housing targets for each district. Solent LEP Board endorsed the Strategy</p> <p>The city's SHLAA (2013) has demonstrated that the city has the necessary 5 year housing land supply together with 5% buffer. The city's housing targets are the same as those in the updated South Hampshire Strategy. The CCAP has made provision for the required level of new homes so there should be no impact on adjoining authorities.</p> <p>The targets for housing supply have been agreed by PUSH and so there is no predicted need for the city centre to increase housing provision to satisfy the need from other authorities.</p>
<p>2. The office targets for the city centre and for elsewhere in South Hampshire are unlikely to</p>	<p>PUSH authorities LEP</p>	<p>Regular meetings of PUSH Planning Officers Group.</p>	<p><u>Shared evidence base</u> for the revised South Hampshire Strategy commissioned by PUSH to update the economic forecasts.</p> <p><u>Updated South Hampshire Strategy (2012)</u>.</p>

Strategic issues (See Section 5 above)	Who	How co-operation was achieved	Outcomes For details of the PUSH activity see Appendix 1
<p>be achievable in the plan period due to the economic recession.</p>		<p>Special meetings of PUSH Chief executives and Council Leaders to agree employment figures across the sub-region. South Hampshire Strategy approved by PUSH Joint Committee</p> <p>All Duty to Co-operate organisations were invited to participate in the formulation of the updated employment figures.</p>	<p>PUSH authorities agreed new targets by district</p> <p>The Council has prepared a <u>Core Strategy Partial Review</u> to reduce the office targets for the city, reflecting the agreements in the South Hampshire Strategy. The majority of the new office floorspace will continue to be provided in the city centre. This review is being prepared alongside the CCAP and the reduced targets are reflected in the CCAP.</p>
<p>3. The retail targets for the city centre are unlikely to be achievable in the plan period due to the economic recession. The amount of new retail floorspace in the city centre should be reviewed.</p>		<p>Regular meetings of PUSH Planning Officers Group.</p> <p>South Hampshire Strategy approved by PUSH Joint Committee</p>	<p><u>Shared evidence base</u> commissioned jointly with Eastleigh Borough Council</p> <p><u>Updated South Hampshire Strategy (2012).</u> PUSH authorities agreed the “cities first” approach to retail uses and a hierarchy of retail centres.</p> <p>The Council has prepared a <u>Core Strategy Partial Review</u> which includes a reduction in the retail floorspace targets for the city.. The majority of the new retail floorspace will continue to be provided in the city centre. This review s being prepared alongside the CCAP and the reduced targets are reflected in the CCAP.</p>

Strategic issues (See Section 5 above)	Who	How co-operation was achieved	Outcomes For details of the PUSH activity see Appendix 1
4. There is a need to assess whether improvements to motorway junctions are required as a result of the proposed new development focussed on the city centre.	EBC TVBC HCC – highways HA TFSH	Meetings as required	The Council undertook transport modelling as part of the Core Strategy which demonstrated that with a reasonable modal shift additional car trips would be limited. The Council has commissioned a ‘baseline scenario’ run of the TfSH transport model, and will refine scenarios in conjunction with the Highways Agency.
5. With the reduction in office floorspace targets set out in the Core Strategy Partial Review there is a need to assess whether all 3 Park & Ride sites identified in the Core Strategy (2 in Eastleigh and 1 in Test Valley) are needed and deliverable within the plan period.	EBC TVBC HCC – highways HA TFSH	Meetings as required	See above. Agreed not to object to EBC LP policy to remove P&R sites. Agreed that TV would safeguard the site to the west of the city, pending further traffic modelling to demonstrate that it is required.
6. The potential impact of increased recreational trips on the New Forest National Park, the South Downs National Park and protected nature	PUSH authorities NE	Regular meetings of PUSH Planning Officers Group.	<u>Shared evidence base.</u> In 2011 the South Hampshire Authorities (separately from PUSH) commissioned the Solent Recreational Disturbance & Mitigation Study. Natural England was represented on the Steering group and has undertaken a peer review of the Stage 2 report. The final stage is currently underway which will identify possible mitigation actions to reduce disturbance to over-

Strategic issues (See Section 5 above)	Who	How co-operation was achieved	Outcomes For details of the PUSH activity see Appendix 1
<p>conservation sites in, and adjacent to, Southampton Water must be assessed and mitigation undertaken as necessary.</p>	<p>TVBC EBC</p>	<p>Meetings of a joint working party.</p>	<p>wintering shore birds.</p> <p>It is not expected that the mitigation measures will have a significant impact on the CCAP.</p> <p>In 2010 the Forestry Commission (the major landowner) was commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council to provide a detailed <u>feasibility study</u> for the creation of Lordswood Forest Park which straddles the boundaries of Southampton, Test Valley and Eastleigh. A joint working party involving officers from the 3 councils is currently considering the options.</p>



APPENDIX A

Approved by PUSH Housing & Planning Delivery Panel on 5 March 2013.

South Hampshire Authorities – Duty to Co-operate

Strategic spatial planning by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

The PUSH Local Planning Authorities consider that our regular, ongoing and successful collaboration on sub-regional planning matters makes a significant contribution to demonstrating the Duty to Co-operate in preparing Development Plan Documents as required by the Localism Act 2011. Jointly we commission the required evidence, consider the alternative methods of meeting the sub-regional development needs and then agree the best way forward.

Acting together the PUSH local authorities have:

- Generated the policy approach, and supporting evidence, that was taken forward in the statutory South East Plan.
- Recently updated this approach for South Hampshire as a non-statutory strategy, including commissioning studies to provide the robust evidence base.
- Developed a protocol to be applied when PUSH makes comments on individual local authorities development plan documents
- Produced non – statutory strategic policy guidance to influence the preparation of development plan documents.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This note provides the evidence of the long history of sub-regional co-operation between the South Hampshire local planning authorities. It has been prepared jointly by senior planners in the PUSH authorities and has been endorsed by the PUSH Housing & Planning Delivery Panel.

1.2 The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire is a strategic partnership and deals with genuinely strategic/sub-regional matters, where it can add value to the efforts of the individual partners. PUSH was formed in 2003 and initially comprised of the two unitary authorities, the county

council and four of the district councils. Membership expanded in 2004 to include all eleven councils that made up the area of South Hampshire in recognition of the value that can be gained in working collaboratively towards growing the local economy.

1.3 PUSH is governed by a Joint Committee comprising the Leaders of all the PUSH authorities. It is a formal joint committee established under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000. Themed Delivery Panels, which are each chaired by an elected Councillor who also sit on the Joint Committee, are responsible for overseeing work on individual topics. The Delivery Panels are for:

- i. Economic Development;
- ii. Housing and Planning;
- iii. Sustainability and Community Infrastructure;
- iv. Quality Places;
- v. External Funding and Resources.

1.4 A number of technical officer groups meet regularly to support the Panels. At present these include the:

- i. Planning Officers Group;
- ii. Economic Development Officers Group;
- iii. Housing Officers Group.

'Task and Finish' Groups have also been formed to address specific issues.

1.5 This note sets out the evidence for the following:

- i. Strategic plans prepared;
- ii. Delivery of the South Hampshire Strategy;
- iii. Non – statutory strategic policy guidance prepared;
- iv. Working with other organisations.

1.6 The individual members of PUSH are listed at the end of the document and the address of the PUSH website is also supplied.

2.0 Strategic plans prepared

South Hampshire Strategy - Input to South East Plan

2.1 The then South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) commissioned the County and City Councils to provide advice on sub-regional aspects of the draft statutory South East Plan. It was agreed this advice should be provided for the area of South Hampshire under the banner of PUSH. The advice that PUSH submitted to SEERA in December 2006 was underpinned by a robust evidence base and a spatial strategy that balanced economic growth, employment and

housing needs, infrastructure requirements and protection of the environment.

- 2.2 The PUSH strategy was incorporated in full into the submitted South East Plan and was subject to public examination by an independent Panel in 2007. The Panel recommended the strategy should be included, largely unchanged, so the approach in this South Hampshire Strategy was carried forward into the South East Plan, which was adopted in 2009. PUSH prepared a number of more detailed non statutory policy frameworks to support these documents.

South Hampshire Strategy updated 2012

- 2.3 *“The need to prepare an updated spatial strategy for the PUSH area [therefore] derives from the continued shared approach and commitment of PUSH local authorities to ensure a prosperous and sustainable South Hampshire for everyone that live and work here. The refreshed strategy provides an up-to-date and robust strategic framework for local plan preparation and other decision-making by PUSH authorities and their partners. It is based on, and will help implement, the PUSH Economic Development Strategy. It aims to provide for the Economic Development Strategy’s forecast employment floorspace and housebuilding requirements which are the most up-to-date assessment of development requirements across South Hampshire as a whole. In combination, the document’s policies and proposals will help maximise economic growth, help bring about a renaissance of Portsmouth, Southampton and other urban areas, and help ensure affordable family home and good quality jobs for all.”*
Extract from PUSH website, 2012

- 2.4 This updated and jointly prepared non statutory sub – regional framework will be used to guide the preparation of development plan documents in each of the PUSH local planning authority areas. The strategy addresses key strategic issues such as:

- i. The provision of new housing, employment and major retail floorspace;
- ii. The provision of transport and other infrastructure;
- iii. Green infrastructure;
- iv. Arts, culture and tourism;
- v. Environmental sustainability.

- 2.5 The strategy is founded on sound evidence including demographic and economic projections prepared by independent and nationally-respected forecasters. It takes account of the findings of a sustainability review and a Habitat Regulations review. Its policies were refined through discussions with the Solent LEP and with key statutory agencies, and the document includes a supporting statement from the Solent LEP Board. The Strategy was formally adopted by the PUSH Joint Committee, thus giving it status as a jointly-agreed strategy. The National Planning Policy Framework regards such jointly prepared

strategies as a way to demonstrate effective cross-boundary cooperation on strategic planning issues.

Shared evidence base

- 2.6 The following evidence has been prepared:
- i. Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2005 & 2006)
NB individual authorities prepare their own SHLAA;
 - ii. Economic Development Strategy updated 2010, together with supporting documents;
 - iii. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008).
- 2.7 Commissioned by the 11 PUSH planning authorities (separately from PUSH) to investigate the impact of development and associated recreational disturbance on wintering birds:
- i. Solent Disturbance & Mitigation project (in preparation).

3.0 Delivery of the South Hampshire Strategy

- 3.1 The PUSH planning authorities have developed a protocol for preparing and submitting comments on key draft Local Development Documents in order to ensure that PUSH objectives, priorities and aspirations are translated into policies and proposals in local planning documents.

4.0 Non – statutory strategic policy guidance prepared

- 4.1 Policy frameworks for guiding and supporting the development of Local Development Frameworks:
- i. Policy framework - The use of developer contributions to provide workforce training (2011);
 - ii. Policy framework for gaps (2008);
 - iii. Affordable housing policy framework (2008).

(Two additional frameworks were agreed in 2008 on employment floorspace and sustainability but these have now been superseded by the South Hampshire Strategy 2012).

- 4.2 Other strategies
- i. Energy and Climate Change strategy (2008);
 - ii. Sub – regional Housing Strategy (2007);
 - iii. Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009);
 - iv. Quality Places Design Charter;
 - v. Cultural Strategy (2008);
 - vi. South Hampshire Integrated Water Management Strategy (2009).

5.0 Working with other organisations

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

- 5.1 The Solent LEP's Board of Directors are drawn from key members of the business, education and local authority sectors. The LEP's vision: *"is to create an environment which will better facilitate growth and private sector investment in the Solent area, allow business to grow, become more profitable, greener and enable new businesses to form and prosper"*

Extract from Solent LEP website

The LEP aims to improve the co-ordination of private and public sector investment. Its 5 strategic priorities are: enterprise; infrastructure; inward investment; skills; and strategic sectors.

Visit: <http://www.solentlep.org.uk>

Transport for South Hampshire

- 5.2 Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH) comprises the 3 transport authorities in the area and is PUSH's partner in delivering economic and housing growth in the sub-region and leads on addressing existing and future transport requirements. It is the over-arching strategy, bidding and delivery agent for sub-regional transport projects, programmes, policies and strategic operational matters. The transport partnership has its own business plan which includes a number of key proposals on which TfSH will be working with PUSH in order to implement the South Hampshire vision.

Visit: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/tfsh>

Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission

- 5.3 Extract from the Natural England website:
"The Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission are working together under the 'Single Voice' programme to improve the services we jointly provide to local government including input to the planning system and other local decision making fora..... We have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with PUSH which summarises our key priorities and how we will work together on them. We provide better customer service by coordinating our efforts and resolving differences. We have developed and implemented a draft protocol for our interactions with PUSH and are developing it further to respond to planning consultations."

Visit: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/whatwedo/partnership/casestudies/push.aspx

6.0 Members of PUSH

East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council.

NB New Forest District Council withdrew from PUSH in April 2011.

Senior planning officers from each local authority meet regularly as the PUSH Planning Officers Group to develop strategic policy, consider the need for joint evidence and advise the Housing & Planning Delivery Panel which is comprised of Councillors.

For further information please visit the PUSH website

<http://www.push.gov.uk/index>