

REPORT OF THE
Cabinet
PART I

37. PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE AND TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUSINESS PLANS AND THE PROPOSED RATIFICATION OF SOLENT TRANSPORT

A. PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS PLAN (2013 - 2015)

1. At its meeting on 28 October 2013, the Cabinet received an update on the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire's (PUSH) Business Plan 2013-2015 and agreed to recommend to County Council that it be supported.

2. The County Council is a member of PUSH, a statutory Joint Committee composed of eleven local authorities in the South Hampshire and Solent area. Cllr Keith Mans is the County Council's representative. PUSH was set up to improve the economic performance of the South Hampshire area, which has lagged behind the South East average in recent years. Its role has necessarily changed since the introduction of Local Enterprise Partnerships, which have been given the lead responsibility for driving local economic growth by the Coalition Government, especially following the publication of *No Stone Unturned*, the review of economic growth strategy by Lord Heseltine. Growth funding will now increasingly be channelled through LEPs and, while PUSH is a member of the Solent LEP Board, it is increasingly focusing on a reduced strategic planning role.

3. Hampshire County Council is a partner of PUSH and as such it is required to formally consider the PUSH Business Plan each year. To withhold approval or fail to consider the Plan would constitutionally block PUSH's current activities, which are broadly supported by the County Council, and effectively entail its resignation from the partnership.

4. The full Cabinet report can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Update on the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Business Plan (2013 - 2015) (search item reference 5189)

B. TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUSINESS PLAN (2013 - 2015) AND THE PROPOSED RATIFICATION OF SOLENT TRANSPORT

1. At its meeting on 28 October 2013, the Cabinet received an update on the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Business Plan and agreed to recommend to County Council that it be supported.

2. TfSHIoW is a Joint Committee comprising the four highway and transport authorities in the Solent area. The County Council's representative is Councillor Seán Woodward. The County Council contributes £90,000 per annum to TfSHIoW, but in

recent years has received the benefit of significant Government capital funding secured through TfSHIoW as well as excellent access to officials at the Department for Transport. The TfSHIoW Business Plan, seeks to position the partnership to work within the rapidly changing policy and funding landscape, especially in relation to transport infrastructure funding.

3. Hampshire County Council is a partner in TfSHIoW and as such it is required to formally consider and approve their Business Plan each year. To withhold approval or fail to consider the TfSHIoW Business Plan would constitutionally block the partnership's activities, which are supported by the County Council, and effectively entail its resignation from the partnership.

4. On the 17 October 2013 TfSHIoW formally agreed to seek ratification from its member authorities for the establishment of Solent Transport via the replacement of the existing joint committees of TfSHIoW and the Solent Local Transport Board (LTB). This new body will have the advantage of bringing together the key public and private sector interests into a single partnership to further advance the planning, funding and delivery of strategic transport schemes in the Solent LEP area. Solent Transport will combine the work programmes of TfSHIoW and the LTB and also provide the LTB advice and responsibility for the Solent LEP area.

5. The full Cabinet report can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Update on Transport for South Hampshire & Isle of Wight Business Plan (2013 - 2015) and the proposed ratification of Solent Transport. (search item reference 5323)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the County Council:

- (a) Supports the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Business Plan.
- (b) Approves the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Business Plan.
- (c) Ratifies the proposed new Joint Committee, named 'Solent Transport', to replace the existing joint committees of TfSHIoW and the Solent Local Transport Board.