

REPORT OF THE  
Cabinet  
Partnership For Urban South  
Hampshire (PUSH)  
PART I

**187. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 25 July 2011, the Cabinet considered two reports from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment recommending to the County Council approval of the revised constitutional arrangements relating to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) and associated Business Plan. The two reports submitted to the Cabinet are attached at appendix A.

**188. CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

1. The part A report recommends to the County Council approval of the revised constitutional arrangements relating to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

2. The key revisions to the PUSH joint constitutional arrangements concern:

- (a) Representation - to reflect changes in the Membership following the departure of the New Forest District Council and the addition of the Isle of Wight Council
- (b) The removal of the power of veto from upper tier authorities; and
- (c) The apportionment of the financial contributions of the parties.

3. The part B report recommends to the County Council approval of the PUSH Business Plan.

4. At the meeting, Cabinet were advised that the proposed PUSH Business Plan takes into account the new PUSH Economic Development Strategy and recognises the reduced capacity for core PUSH activity and the emerging role of the Solent LEP. In particular it pointed towards a future for PUSH as a partnership focusing on strategy, planning and its role as an interface with central Government.

5. Cabinet acknowledged that 2011/12 was a transitional period for PUSH and therefore the Business Plan was supported at the time. However on the important issue of overall housing numbers and distribution, Cabinet recommends to the County Council that it reserves its position until the completion of the revised spatial strategy work recently commissioned by PUSH to allow a proper judgement to be made on the housing proposals based on the scale, distribution, deliverability and impact of this level of development.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the County Council:

- (a) supports and approves the following proposed amendments to the Joint Agreement made between the County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Isle of Wight, Test Valley and Winchester District/Borough Councils (together referred to as "the PUSH Authorities") to reflect the alterations in Membership and immediate consequential changes:-
- the inclusion of a clause relating to the funding of Capital Schemes, in that such schemes shall be managed and handled separately from the running costs and revenue expenditure of the Joint Committee;
  - the financial contributions of the parties shall, unless or until varied by the Joint Committee, be apportioned based on the proportions set out in the Joint Agreement;
  - in the event of an authority being appointed as Lead Authority by PUSH, the Lead Authority shall provide its own legal and financial advisor; and
  - each party shall be liable for and indemnify the other parties against any reasonable expense, liability, loss, claim or proceeding whatsoever arising in respect of personal injury to or death of any person, any damage to property real or personal, and/or as a direct result of wilful default or fraud of the indemnifying party in respect of its role in the activities of the joint Committee and/or under the Agreement and/or where acting as lead Authority.
- (b) does not support and agree the proposed changes in respect of the removal of the County Council and Unitary Councils power of 'veto'.
- (c) that authority be given to the Leader to finalise the detail of the joint constitutional arrangements, in consultation with the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment and the Chief Executive, on the basis set out in the report; and
- (d) that the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Business Plan be supported for 2011/12, but that the County Council reserves its position in respect of the proposed housing numbers pending consideration of the revised South Hampshire Spatial Strategy.