



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 23 September 2014

**Report of: Adele Maher, Planning Policy & Urban Design Team Manager,
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Subject: Update on the progress of the PUSH Spatial Strategy 2016 - 2036

SUMMARY

At its March meeting, the Joint Committee authorised the appointment of a consultant to undertake the proposed programme of work for the new PUSH Spatial Strategy 2016-2036.

The new Spatial Strategy will update the existing South Hampshire Spatial Strategy 2012. It will take account of new information and changes to national planning policy including the LEP's Solent Economic Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It will also extend the Spatial Plan's timeframe taking it from 2026 to 2036, to provide support to emerging Local Plans in the PUSH area.

At its June meeting, the Joint Committee were informed that consultants GL Hearn had been appointed to lead this work and had begun the first phase of the project. The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a question raised by the PUSH Chairman at the June Joint Committee meeting on the status of the Spatial Strategy and to provide an update on the progress of this work.

RECOMMENDATION

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the PUSH Joint Committee NOTES the report and progress made to date.

THE SPATIAL STRATEGY STATUS

1. The Chairman of the Joint Committee asked officers to report on the weight the Planning Inspectorate can be expected to give to the Spatial Strategy when determining the soundness of Local Plans and decisions on planning applications and appeals.
2. The Planning Inspectorate's report on Havant Borough's Local Plan (Allocations) provides a response to this. The report received on 7 July 2014 shows that the Inspectorate attaches considerable weight to the PUSH Spatial Strategy, including the 2012 Strategy and the current work on a Spatial Strategy review.
3. In summary, it considers that the PUSH Spatial Strategy provides an appropriate basis for the authority's Local Plan development targets in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It also states that collaborative work through PUSH helps meet the authority's responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate.
4. The following section provides detail on the most relevant parts of the report. The Inspector's full report can be viewed on-line at <http://www.havant.gov.uk/report-examination-havant-borough-local-plan-allocations-pdf-13513kb>

A ROBUST STRATEGY FOR DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT

5. The Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) is a part two Local Plan. It delivers the growth targets set out in part one Local Plan (Core Strategy), which accords with the PUSH Spatial Strategy 2012. The Core Strategy was adopted in 2011 before the Publication of the NPPF.
6. It was argued by objectors at examination that the part two Local Plan (Allocations) should not progress and instead the authority should return and revise the original pre-NPPF targets in light of the NPPF's paragraph 47 requirement to meet 'the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area'.
7. Havant Borough Council made the case to the Planning Inspectorate that the Local Plan targets and those in the PUSH Spatial Strategy 2012 remained valid. It explained that work had begun on a PUSH Spatial Strategy review to consider whether the growth targets for the PUSH area and for the Borough were appropriate in light of the NPPF. The Council made reference to the PUSH Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SMHA) and PUSH Joint Committee reports, including the 25 March 2014 report that included the timetable for the review. Referring to this report, the Council's view was that the PUSH Spatial Strategy 2012 targets remained valid until replaced by the PUSH Spatial Strategy 2016-2036. The Planning Inspectorate accepted this.

8. In particular the Inspector's report (para 30)says:

'The Core Strategy was adopted in 2011 and therefore pre-dates the NPPF. Its housing target of 6,300 new dwellings in the plan period 2006 to 2026 was consistent with the Regional Strategy at the time, the South East Plan, which was revoked in March 2013. After the publication of the NPPF in March 2012 the PUSH authorities approved the South Hampshire Strategy (SHS), which provided a sub-regional basis for the local authorities housing requirements necessary to deliver the former PUSH Economic Growth Strategy. The Core Strategy housing target towards which the allocations in this Plan will contribute is consistent with the SHS and remains broadly accurate when tested against the "What Homes Where" toolkit. The PUSH authorities are preparing to undertake a review of the SHS to 2036, anticipating commencement in 2014 with a consultation draft to be made available in 2015.'

DUTY TO COOPERATE

9. Local authorities must demonstrate that the preparation of their Local Plan has met the NPPF's Duty to Cooperate. This requires plan-making authorities to collaborate with their neighbouring authorities on cross boundary issues such as strategic development, transport, housing need and the environment.

10. The Planning Inspectorate considered that Havant had met this requirement through its work with PUSH and made particular reference to work on the SHMA and the Spatial Strategy.

11. In particular the report (para 6)states:

'The Council has undertaken much of the preparatory work for the Plan in cooperation with neighbouring authorities through the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH). This partnership has worked to establish the sub regional basis for housing and economic development and in October 2012 produced the South Hampshire Strategy (SHS), a revised spatial strategy for the area. The PUSH authorities, together with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to help assess housing need through to 2036. This was published in March 2014 and will inform a forthcoming review of the PUSH Spatial Strategy'.

12. Other work through PUSH has assessed infrastructure needs and the Council has worked with Hampshire County Council (HCC), West Sussex County Council, the Environment Agency (EA), water authorities and neighbouring local authorities on cross boundary infrastructure such as waste water, transport and education. Matters such as flood risk, coastal change, shoreline management and climate change have been addressed through collaborative working with a range of bodies which include the EA, HCC, the Solent Coastal Partnership, Southern Water and local interest groups. The Council has also worked in collaboration with other Hampshire local authorities to assess the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and has co-operated with Natural England, the Isle

of Wight Local Nature Partnership and Chichester Harbour Conservancy in work to conserve the landscape and the natural environment.

13. The outcome of this report and its detail should give local authorities the confidence that the Spatial Strategy will be given due weight by Planning Inspectors when examining Local Plans and determining planning applications.

PROGRESS REPORT - EVIDENCE GATHERING UPDATE

14. Consultant GL Hearn was appointed in May 2014 to lead work on a review of the PUSH Spatial Strategy to 2036.
15. Stage 1 of the project is from June to September 2014 and is an Evidence Base Review. The purpose of this work is to ensure that the Spatial Strategy is underpinned by robust and up-to-date evidence and data.
16. There are considerable volumes of evidence in the PUSH area. It is important that this is fully utilised wherever possible to avoid unnecessary costs and duplication. It is however acknowledged that the timescales and methodology of some of the data may vary from place to place. It is also acknowledged that some pieces of strategic evidence such as the PUSH Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) were produced some time ago and it may be necessary to bring these up-to-date to take account of changing legislation and national policy.
17. GL Hearn is currently reviewing the existing evidence available in the PUSH area and has been liaising closely with the PUSH local authorities and partners such as the Solent LEP and Solent Transport, as part of this exercise. The review stage is expected to complete by the end of September 2014.
18. The evidence will provide a starting point for Stage 2. This stage of the project will run from October to December 2014 and will include testing to understand the infrastructure and investment required to support the initial broad development options presented. This option development process and testing will be supported by discussions with infrastructure providers, Solent LEP and Solent Transport amongst others.

WORK STREAMS

19. A Spatial Strategy Steering Group has been established to help support the consultants work on the Spatial Strategy. The officer steering group includes representatives, from the Solent LEP and Solent Transport, as well as representatives from PUSH Planning Officers Group.
20. The Group met with GL Hearn in May and July 2014 to help provide a steer on Stage 1 Evidence Gathering. To help facilitate this work the group has established a number of project work streams including: Employment; Marine Ports and Logistics; Housing; Transport; Environment and Infrastructure; and Flooding. The Group's next meeting is on 10 September with GL Hearn to discuss the initial outputs of the evidence base review.

JOINT WORKING

21. Partnership working with key organisations such as the Solent LEP, Solent Transport, EA, Solent Coastal Partnership and PUSH Planning Officers is critical to the successful progression of the Spatial Strategy 2036.
22. GL Hearn and the project officers are therefore closely liaising with these organisations, as part of their on-going work. These discussions will inform the options development.

NEXT STEPS

23. The overall timetable is as following:

May-Jun 14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An initial 8 week period to complete the Evidence Review
Jun-Sep 14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An estimated 4 month period to align and update the evidence base. There may be some unanticipated work here (depending on the results of the Evidence Review), but GLH are confident that this need not affect the overall timetable for options development.
Oct-Dec 14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core work to develop options and undertake initial testing.
Jan-Feb 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officer and member workshops and engagement with statutory consultees.
Mar-May 15:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purdah period is recognised in the programme.
June 2015:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional workshops (if required) to accommodate any changes amongst key members and sign off of the Options Appraisal document for public consultation.
Jul-Aug 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public consultation on the options.
Sep-Dec 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting the new Spatial Strategy.
Early 2016:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation on the Strategy, final amendments and adoption.

24. A progress report will be presented at the next Joint Committee meeting on 2 December 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

25. It is RECOMMENDED that the PUSH Joint Committee NOTE the report and progress made to date.

Background Papers:

Spatial Strategy Roll Forward and Final Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) report.

Reference Papers:

None

Enquiries:

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