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11 September 2007

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Policy and Organisation Board
DATE: 19 September 2007
TIME: 6.00pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Gosport
Democratic Services contact: Chris Wrein

LINDA EDWARDS
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Mayor (Councillor Gill)(ex-officio)

Councillor Cully (Chairman)
Councillor Wright (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Burgess	Councillor Hook
Councillor Carter	Councillor Langdon
Councillor Chegwyn	Councillor Smith
Councillor Hicks	Councillor Taylor

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chair if members of the public are present)

**In the event of the fire alarm (continuous ringing) or controlled evacuation alarm (intermittent ringing) sounding, please leave the room immediately.
Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

- i. Members are requested to note that if any member wishes to speak at the Board meeting then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off for the duration of the meeting.

AGENDA

PART A ITEMS

RECOMMENDED
MINUTE FORMAT

1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any personal or personal and prejudicial interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 27 JUNE 2007

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Organisation Board held on 27 June 2007 (copy herewith).

4. DEPUTATIONS – STANDING ORDER 3.5

(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Monday, 17 September 2007. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes).

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 3.6

(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Monday, 17 September 2007).

6. CROSS REFERENCE FROM HOUSING BOARD 12 SEPTEMBER 2007

REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEISURE

PART II
Contact Officer:
Oona Hickson
Ext 5292

7. PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE –
ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE AND JOINT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To approve the establishment of a joint committee with East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County

PART II
Contact Officer:
Ian Lycett
Ext 5201

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Council, Havant District Council, New Forest District Council, Portsmouth City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council to promote a sub-regional strategy for sustainable economic growth in urban south Hampshire, covering in particular economic development, transport and other infrastructure. Creation of the Joint Committee will formalise the governance of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

8. APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07

This report sets out the main changes necessary to the draft Statement of Accounts following external audit and seeks approval of the Statement prior to publication.

PART II
Contact Officer:
John Norman
Ext 516

9. NATIONAL BUS SCHEME 2008 ONWARDS

The new England-wide national bus concession will be introduced in April 2008. It is a statutory scheme allowing free travel anywhere in the country after 9.30am. It is necessary to consider how the scheme should be implemented locally.

PART II
Contact Officer:
Julian Bowcher
Ext 5551

10. GOSPORT FERRY REPLACEMENT PONTOON – BUDGET FOR CONSULTANCY REPORT

The report advises the Board of the latest position in respect of the budget estimate for consultancy support for the design and procurement of the replacement ferry pontoon.

PART II
Contact Officer:
David Martin
Ext 5512

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS

which the Chairman determines should be considered, by reason of special circumstances, as a matter of urgency.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

To consider the following motion:

That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reason set out.

PART B ITEMS
FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item No.	Item	Paragraph no. of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act	
13.	BUS STATION	Paragraph 3 Reason: The item under discussion includes financial and business information relating to a third party which is not considered appropriate to be released to the public.	Part II Mark Pam Ext: 5563

**AN MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 27 JUNE 2007**

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (ex-officio); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (P); Councillors Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Langdon (P), Smith, Taylor (P) and Wright (P) .

It was reported that Councillor Ms Ballard had been nominated to attend this meeting in place of Councillor Smith.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillor Smith.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in the following agenda items. He remained in the meeting room throughout the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting on those items:

- Item no. 9: Asset Management Plan
- Item no. 11: Designated Public Places Order
- Item no. 14: Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme
- Item no. 15: Play Strategy

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 14 AND 29 MARCH AND 17 MAY 2007

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 14 and 29 March and 17 May 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

6. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART I

8. ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix A) concerning the above matter.

Members were advised that the policy had been approved by the Standards and Governance Committee on 23 April 2007; the Board being requested to recommend to Council the adoption of the Policy without amendment.

RECOMMENDED: That Council adopt the new Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy in line with best practice and the Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry – Use of Resources, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

9. NEW DELEGATIONS UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 2004

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Housing Board on 13 June 2007 (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix B) on new delegations under the Housing Act 2004.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the delegation of powers contained within the Housing Act 2004 to the relevant stated officers.

10. AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PART ONE, CHAPTER ONE OF THE HEALTH ACT 2006

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Community and Environment Board on 18 June 2007 (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix C) on the above matter.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) the delegations to the Environmental Services Manager be amended to include the power to authorise officers as required by Section 10(5) of the Health Act 2006;
- b) the appointment of the Environmental Services Manager, or the Head of Environmental Health in his absence, as the appropriate person to decide upon the cancellation of a Fixed Penalty Notice be approved; and
- c) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make all necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to Recommendations a) and b) above.

11. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix D), which presented the recommendations of the Inspector and the subsequent revision to the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to the Board for adoption.

RECOMMENDED: That the Statement of Community Involvement, as amended by the Inspector, be adopted as a Local Development Document.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix E), which requested the Board to consider the Asset Management Plan with a view to its approval and adoption. The Asset Management Plan had been reported to both the Standards and Governance and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the necessary amendments had been made following comments from Members.

RECOMMENDED: That the Asset Management Plan be approved for adoption by the Council.

PART II

13. BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL UPDATE AND ANNUAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Building Control which updated the Board on the progress and financial outturn of the Building Control Partnership in the year ending March 2006. Full details and information on the year 2006/2007 would be provided in a report later in this financial year. The report also requested confirmation of the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the current open ended legal agreement as previously agreed by the Board.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted and the Board's support for the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the existing Legal Agreement be confirmed.

14. DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Community Safety which requested Members to consider the making of a Designated Public Places Order to cover the Borough of Gosport.

Members were advised that there would be changes to the regulations governing the order and these would be covered in a report to Council when final approval was sought.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the principle of making a Designated Public Places Order to cover the Borough of Gosport be approved;
- b) the Head of Community Safety, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor, undertake the statutory consultation for the order; and
- c) the results of the statutory consultation be reported to a future Council meeting in order to decide whether or not to make the Designated Public Places Order.

15. BUDGET STRATEGY 2008/09

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which considered the strategy for the preparation of the 2008/09 General Fund budget in the light of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the budget process for 2008/09 be approved.

16. APPROVAL OF THE 2006/07 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which set out the background to the requirement for Members to approve the 2006/2007 Statement of Accounts, which was shortly to be made available for public inspection and audit, together with some brief notes on the Statement and outturn position.

Concerns were raised regarding increased expenditure within the Housing Revenue Account. The Borough Treasurer undertook to provide a report to the Chairman of the Housing Board on this matter.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 be received and approved;
- b) the revenue variances detailed in Appendix C of the report be noted;
- c) the capital programme slippage detailed in Appendix D of the report be noted; and
- d) the write offs approved under delegated authority at Appendix E of the report be noted.

17. LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INCENTIVE SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which considered how Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme grant monies should be applied.

RESOLVED: That the priorities contained in paragraph 2.2 of the Borough Treasurer's report for the application of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme grant be approved.

18. PLAY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval of the draft Play Strategy.

Officers involved in the preparation of the Strategy were thanked for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That the draft Play Strategy be approved.

19. FERRY PONTOON: PROGRESS ON REPLACEMENT FACILITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which advised Members of the status of the project to replace the existing pontoon.

RESOLVED: That the current status of the project be noted.

20. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which set out the background to the Council's banking arrangements and sought approval for officers to negotiate and engage consultants in order to obtain the most cost effective contract for the Council.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for officers to negotiate and engage consultants in order to obtain the most cost effective contract for the Council.

21. IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES AT BRIDGEMARY BOWLING CLUB, ROWNER CRICKET CLUB AND PRIVETT PARK TENNIS COURTS

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The special circumstances were created by the need to invite tenders and let contracts for work to be completed before the onset of winter.

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Community and Environment Board held on 18 June 2007 seeking approval of the virement of £70,000 of Developers' Contributions for improvements to the above facilities.

RESOLVED: That the virement of £70,000 of Developers' Contributions for improvements to facilities at Bridgemary Bowling Club, Rowner Cricket Club and Privett Park Tennis Courts be approved.

22. LGA/PCT/LA HEALTH MEETING

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The special circumstances were created by the need to ensure that the Board was updated as soon as possible following the LGA/PCT/LA Health meeting.

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated 13 June 2007 from Councillor Edgar to Group Leaders and Members of Save Haslar Task Force.

Policy and Organisation Board
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Councillor Edgar was invited to present his briefing note to the Board. He advised Members of the South East England Health Strategy and that a response to the Government Office for the South East containing comments was required from the Council. It was decided that the response on behalf of the Council should be delegated to the Environmental Services Manager in consultation with Councillor Edgar. Councillor Edgar undertook to arrange for a copy of the document to be placed in the Members' Room in order to give Members the opportunity to make comments if they so wished.

Members of the Board made a number of comments including:

- Large numbers of people were now being discharged from hospital into the community, putting pressure on County Council resources
- It had been announced that £250 million would be made available from health budgets for health and after care
- West Sussex and Brighton Primary Care Trusts had announced that they would be consulting with regard to their main hospital being located at either Chichester or Worthing

RESOLVED: That the Environmental Services Manager, in consultation with Councillor Edgar, be requested to respond to the Government Office for the South East with the Council's comments on the draft South East England Health Strategy.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

REFERENCE

**TO: POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD –
19 SEPTEMBER 2007**

FROM: HOUSING BOARD – 12 SEPTEMBER 2007

TITLE: REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEISURE

AUTHOR: HOUSING SERVICES MANAGER

Attached is a copy of the report that was considered by the Housing Board on the 12 September 2007 (Appendix 'B'), together with the Minute extract and Board Resolution (Appendix 'A').

RECOMMENDATION:

To follow

APPENDIX 'A'

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
HOUSING BOARD MEETING
12 SEPTEMBER 2007

Minute No.

REVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEISURE

To follow

APPENDIX B

Board/Committee:	HOUSING BOARD
Date of Meeting:	12 September 2007
Title:	REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEISURE
Author:	HOUSING SERVICES MANAGER/OH
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the progress that has been made in relation to the redevelopment of The Leisure at Cunningham Drive, Bridgemary. It reports on the consultations that have been taking place with a number of parties in relation to the realisation of a new scheme for the site. The report seeks a decision to transfer the land to Hermitage HA who would carry out the redevelopment of The Leisure.

Recommendation

That the Housing Board recommends to the P & O Board;

- a) That the land at the Leisure, excluding that occupied by the bungalows, be transferred to Hermitage Housing Association for no consideration, and on terms to be agreed.
- b) That the Housing Services Manager, in liaison with Ward Councillors continues working on the detailed proposals, including financial and development discussions, for the redevelopment of the Leisure Sheltered Housing Scheme
- c) The continuation of the rehousing and redevelopment proposals, noting the proposed time table and the expectation that a further report to Housing Board on this matter will be presented as matters progress.

1 Background

- 1.1 At the Housing Board meeting on 13 June 2007 a report from the Member Working Group, which had met during 2006 to consider the Council's Sheltered Housing Stock, was considered and its recommendations discussed and agreed. Members will recall that a major recommendation was to bring forward redevelopment proposals for 3 schemes, The Leisure, Rogers House and Agnew House, in conjunction with our Housing Association partners.

- 1.2 Hermitage Housing Association, now part of the Guinness Group, and one of our Housing Association partners had previously worked on a proposal for The Leisure which had not been successful in receiving financial support from the Department of Health. It was agreed with the Chairman of Housing that they and Parnell Design (architects of the original scheme) be approached again to work on a new proposal, this was mainly because it was felt that with a Housing Corporation bid round approaching this autumn it was important to develop a scheme with the potential of attracting Corporation funding.

Hermitage HA is a local housing provider who, as well as being one of our established partners, have significant experience in the management and provision of sheltered and frail elderly housing. One third of the stock that they own in Havant is accommodation for the elderly including a large scheme for the frail elderly on Hayling Island. Hermitage HA and Guinness also have a specialist care and support provider within their group which we have accessed to give further advice on design management and revenue issues in relation to this proposed scheme.

The new development would be owned by Hermitage HA as the grant to deliver the scheme would come from the Housing Corporation.

2 Report

- 2.1 Since the adoption of the Housing Board report and the decision to work up a bid for The Leisure a project team has met to develop plans for the new scheme, and to begin to resolve all the issues that arise with a proposal of this scale.
- 2.2 What is proposed is the rehousing of the existing tenants from the 24 bedsit scheme of which 15 bedsits are occupied. All existing residents have been consulted about the proposal so far, and their Housing requirements including any domiciliary care needs are now being collated. All existing residents will be sensitively decanted, and will be offered Home Loss and disturbance payments as compensation. All existing residents of The Leisure understand that they have the right to return to the new scheme should they so wish.

The bungalows surrounding the Leisure sheltered block are not directly affected by the redevelopment proposal and would remain within the ownership and management of the Council.

- 2.3 The proposed new scheme by Hermitage HA would involve the demolition of the existing scheme and the provision in its place of a 50 property development of one and two bedroom flats, all of which will be wheel chair accessible and four of which will be specifically adapted for wheelchair users. The scheme would include a

communal lounge and a separate resident's lounge, a dining room and a catering kitchen. Additional elements would include smaller rooms for resident's activities or treatments e.g. hairdressing, assisted bathing facilities, a laundry, reception and offices for scheme manager and staff as well as a guest room, and ancillary space for plant and buggy storage.

- 2.4 This will create a scheme capable of flexible use to provide a much wider range of facilities for use by older residents in the Gosport community. The proposal has been built on good practice from other areas of the country in relation to the development of "very sheltered housing" otherwise known as "extra care housing" and is a model which is supported by Hampshire County Council.

All of the 50 new flats would be available to rent from Hermitage HA by local older people with a range of housing and care needs.

Additionally there would be a service charge for the use of communal and other facilities.

- 2.5 Hampshire County Council (HCC) support is important to enable the delivery this scheme. HCC's supported housing expertise is represented on the project group for the scheme and the expectation is that HCC will provide some capital funding.

Hampshire County Council is seeking to establish a capital fund to develop, with other partners, at least 400 new very sheltered housing places across the county. The report seeking this approval is due to be considered by their Cabinet on 24 September 2007. Commitment to the revenue required for the development of very sheltered housing places has already been given in principle by the Hampshire Supporting People County Core Group in June 2007.

- 2.6 The financial contribution from Gosport Borough Council to the scheme would be the land that the new scheme will occupy. This is vital to the success of the scheme and its bid for Housing Corporation funding and is currently estimated to be worth between £700,000 and £800,000. This would be a similar to the redevelopment of the 'Orlit' and 'Steane' properties, whereby the land was transferred from the council with the new homes owned and managed by the Housing Association. Gosport Borough Council would be acting in an enabling capacity to provide new affordable homes for rent to older local people.

The total costs for the realisation of the scheme, including notional land and on costs, is currently £7.95m. Of this it is anticipated that £3.7m will be sought in grant from the Housing Corporation, £2.7m raised as a long term loan by Hermitage HA and the other capital costs supported by GBC in the form of land and HCC via a capital contribution.

- 2.7 There is a strong demand for affordable sheltered accommodation in Gosport with current demand far greater than available supply. The Best Value Sheltered Housing Review calculated that there will be a demand for an extra 400 units of sheltered accommodation to be met by 2011. Gosport currently has no very sheltered housing provision but demographic trends of the area indicate that there is an urgent need for this type of provision to be developed; this also assists in the funding case for such a scheme with both the Housing Corporation and HCC.
- 2.8 Typically, such a scheme will cater for a range of older persons needs and ensure that for as long as possible older citizens are able to live independently in good quality accommodation which is designed to allow for a variety of mobility and sensory impairments which may come with age. Schemes typically have a Warden and other care staff and also offer on-site facilities such as an optional cooked midday meal other activities include a social club and access to facilities that may be required including assisted bathing and hairdressing. Any housing care provided to the residents is via an individual housing care and support package. The Housing Care and Support package would be tendered under the standard Supporting People arrangements.
- 2.9 The timescale for the new scheme, once all the current residents have been sensitively rehoused and the existing building demolished is for it to take 18 months to build. It is therefore anticipated that the redevelopment would commence in 2008 and the new scheme would open in 2010.
- 2.10 In order to maximise the chances of obtaining Housing Corporation support the scheme will be submitted for planning approval shortly after detailed consultation with the residents of The Leisure, properties adjacent to the scheme, and the wider community. The Housing Corporation focus is on deliverable schemes, and schemes have little chance of funding if they are unlikely to receive planning approval. The costs of making the planning application which are considerable are being born by Hermitage HA and will be absorbed by them if the scheme is unsuccessful.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 The major risks to this scheme are securing planning permission and financial in terms of the grant required to realise the scheme. The scheme cannot proceed if either of these are not forthcoming. However, the partnership approach to the scheme delivery offers the best option for scheme realisation and the role of the Local Authority in supporting such an initiative is a major consideration when the Housing Corporation is considering funding opportunities.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The report describes the progress so far in developing proposals for the redevelopment of The Leisure sheltered scheme, and details the rehousing, consultation and redevelopment discussions that have taken place to date. The final detailed arrangements for the redevelopment are to be reported to a future Housing Board meeting.

Financial Services comments:	As outlined in the report. It is unlikely that an affordable solution could be developed involving retaining ownership of all of the units without significantly jeopardising the ability to achieve Decent Homes Standard with our housing stock.
Legal Services comments:	<p>The Recommendation made is to transfer the Council's land to the RSL Partners for a nil consideration. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988 (Local Authority Assistance for Privately Let Housing) and the General Consents issued by the Government under that Section, permit the Council to transfer the land for a nil consideration so long as such financial assistance to RSLs does not exceed £10m in any one year, and that certain conditions are met. A certificate from the Council's Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer or Chief Legal Officer shall be conclusive as to the amount of such assistance.</p> <p>The Borough Solicitor will ensure that the conditions referred to above are provided for in the documentation of Transfer.</p>
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Meeting the Decent Homes Standard is a key objective of the Housing Services SIP (Service Improvement Plan)
Corporate Plan:	Meets objectives in relation to the Strategic Priority of Prosperity by improving access to decent housing
Risk Assessment:	See paragraph 3.1
Background papers:	None
Appendices/Enclosures:	None
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Oona Hickson Head of Housing Strategy and Enabling

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

Board/Committee:	POLICY & ORGANISATION
Date of Meeting:	19 TH SEPTEMBER 2007
Title:	PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE – ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE AND JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Author:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To approve the establishment of a joint committee with East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Havant District Council, New Forest District Council, Portsmouth City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council to promote a sub-regional strategy for sustainable economic growth in urban south Hampshire, covering in particular economic development, transport and other infrastructure. Creation of the Joint Committee will formalise the governance of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

Recommendation

- i) The Board approves the establishment of a formal joint committee (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)) to replace the existing voluntary informal arrangements based on the terms of reference and broad structure described in this report, with approval of the detailed Memorandum of Understanding and other documents to be delegated to the Leader of the Council.
- ii) The Board approves the establishment of a joint overview and scrutiny committee to scrutinise the activities of the PUSH joint committee.

1 Background

- 1.1 The report proposes the establishment of a joint committee between East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Havant District Council, New Forest District Council, Portsmouth City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council to promote a sub-regional strategy for sustainable economic growth in urban south Hampshire. The strategy, which is incorporated into the draft South East Plan, centres on economic-led growth supported by the necessary transport and other infrastructure. In addition, the report proposes the establishment of a joint scrutiny committee to undertake scrutiny of the activities of the PUSH joint committee.

- 1.2 This report and the proposals set out in the report have been the subject of considerable discussion and liaison at officer level between the 11 authorities. This issue has also been the subject of discussion between Elected Members currently involved on the existing arrangements between the 11 authorities.
- 1.3 PUSH believe that by working together across administrative boundaries, all 11 authorities are in a stronger position to support the step changes needed to deliver the best future for the sub-region than by working individually. The authorities have agreed the broad location, phasing and investment needs relating to strategic developments.
- 1.4 PUSH is committed to promoting and facilitating a step change in the economic performance of the sub-region over the next 20 years, setting an ambitious target of 3.5% economic growth. This would make a significant contribution to the future economic well-being of the south-east region of the UK. To achieve this, investment will be principally in the development of the communities covered by PUSH by facilitating the enhancement and diversification of skills, enterprise and innovation, attracting new investment and creating 59,000 new jobs (net) by 2026.
- 1.5 This economic growth will be supported by the development of 80,000 new homes as part of new sustainable communities, with improved accessibility and enhanced facilities. Sustainability will be a key principle underpinning the developments, along with the promotion of affordable housing and sustainable public and private transport. This economically led growth will be dependent upon the timely provision of appropriate infrastructure, transport and water being paramount. PUSH is also committed to retain and enhance the outstanding environmental qualities of the sub-region and to promote the viability and attraction of the two city centres.

2 Governance

- 2.1 The current governance arrangements for PUSH are ad hoc, and were put in place by the representative authorities of the partnership. There is now general agreement that the loose and informal governance arrangements are no longer fit for purpose. PUSH acknowledges that it needs to have effective and proper governance arrangements, both to ensure that its decision-making is transparent and conducted in a more accountable way, but also so that monies that it holds are managed and distributed effectively.
- 2.2 With that in mind, PUSH has identified a two-stage process. The first is to codify the current governance arrangements and formalise them around a well-understood joint committee type arrangement. Secondly, PUSH will immediately start a review process that looks at future governance options which could, for example, include an

urban regeneration company or other models, drawing on experience from other Growth Areas.

- 2.3 At this stage, it is proposed to establish the following by way of a delivery body for PUSH:
- a) a strengthened executive constituted as a formal joint committee of the PUSH authorities with non-voting representation from others where appropriate;
 - b) an overview and scrutiny committee established with members from all of the representative PUSH authorities which will have the power to call in certain decisions of PUSH; and
 - c) the joint committee to be underpinned by a joint agreement to be signed between the representative PUSH authorities delineating how the financial, legal and other responsibilities associated with operating such a joint committee are to be managed.
- 2.4 There will, in addition, be a number of officer-led working groups around certain topics and themes which will be the engine room of the new arrangements and will be administered by senior officers from the representative authorities. These will also have involvement by stakeholders. Work on particular themes will be informed by advisory panels which will include appropriate member representation from constituent authorities.
- 2.5 Before a formal PUSH joint committee can be established, a resolution is required from each Council approving the terms of reference for the Committee and agreeing to its establishment. The arrangements are as follows:
- a) Constitution of the joint committee – proposed to be one Executive Member from each of the authorities (normally the Leader);
 - b) Name of the joint committee – proposed to be Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH);
 - c) Functions (Terms of Reference) of the joint committee –set out in Appendix A to this report;
 - d) Meetings and proceedings – decisions made on the basis of a majority vote provided Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council concur; power to make standing orders for procedures at meetings (including access to meetings and information supplementary to the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000), appointment of chair, quorum.
- 2.6 Following discussions between the constituent partner authorities of PUSH, it has been agreed to establish a joint overview and scrutiny

committee, not politically proportioned (provided the necessary resolution is passed in every local authority involved) with a view to enabling the joint scrutiny committee to scrutinise the activities of the joint committee of PUSH, and to call-in their decisions where appropriate. In certain circumstances, where a proposed decision is contrary to the approved business plan of PUSH, that decision may be referred back to all of the constituent local authorities in PUSH. In other cases the decision will be referred back, if the scrutiny committee chooses to do this, to the joint committee for their reconsideration, along with scrutiny's reservations or concerns.

- 2.7 The terms of reference for the proposed joint scrutiny committee are set out in Appendix B to this report.

3 Financial/Resource Implications

- 3.1 The Council will be required to continue to make an annual financial contribution to PUSH. This year the contribution is £6640.
- 3.2 Should the Council decide to withdraw from PUSH, we will be required to indemnify the remaining parties for any expenses reasonably incurred by them as a consequence of the withdrawal.
- 3.3 There is little doubt that the borough should benefit considerably from this Council's involvement in PUSH, particularly from opportunities in economic development, transport and infrastructure. Any financial investment by the Council should be viewed against these opportunities.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 The proposals set out in this report may be implemented by virtue of the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and associated secondary legislation under this.
- 4.2 In order to implement the arrangements set out in this report, a simple Memorandum of Understanding, together with the terms of reference for the joint committee are in the course of preparation and if this report is approved, they will be subject to detailed approval by the Leader of the Council.

5 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 There are no risks to this Council.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The establishment of a new joint committee, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, will enable the partner local authorities to address the considerable challenges in the areas of economic development

and infrastructure facing the region and sub-region. More robust governance arrangements will build upon and complement the good reputation already enjoyed by PUSH, and enable it as a body to move forwards, not just as a consultation mechanism, but also as a delivery vehicle.

Financial Services comments:	The annual contribution (currently £6,640) is provided for in the Council's budget.
Legal Services comments:	Contained within the report.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Nil.
Corporate Plan:	Membership of PUSH should assist this Council in the delivery of some of its corporate priorities.
Risk Assessment:	See Paragraph 5.0
Background papers:	Nil.
Appendices/Enclosures:	
Appendix 'A'	Terms Of Reference For Joint Committee Of Push
Appendix 'B'	Terms of Reference For Joint Overview And Scrutiny Committee Of Push Joint Committee
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Ian Lycett

APPENDIX A

GOVERNANCE, JOINT COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

PUSH - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUSH

GENERAL

- a. This is a joint committee of the Parties under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.
- b. The Parties have arranged for the discharge by the Joint Committee of such of the council's functions as are within the terms of reference (set out below).
- c. Certain functions are delegated by this Joint Committee within their terms of reference to officers.
- d. Where a function or matter within the Joint Committee's competence has been delegated, the Joint Committee may exercise that function/matter concurrently with the officer to whom it has been delegated.
- e. Each of the Parties shall have one representative upon the Joint Committee (normally though not necessarily the Leader of the Council).
- f. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote but to be effective must be supported by the representatives of Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council (if in attendance) to be effective.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To develop a strategic policy framework within which the Parties can each discharge their transportation, planning and economic development functions and other incidental or linked functions so as to achieve the Key Objectives.
2. To recommend the Annual Business Plan and budget to each Party and to implement the Approved Annual Business Plan in accordance with the approved budget.

3. Subject to paragraph 2 above, to discharge, on behalf of the Parties their functions (as set out in paragraph 9) where such arrangements:
 - Affect two or more of the Parties; and
 - Have been authorised by the Parties affected by being specifically referred to in the Approved Annual Business Plan.
4. To influence, advise and lobby government and other agencies, both nationally and internationally, where to do so is consistent with the Key Objectives.
5. To commission research into matters relevant to the Key Objectives.
6. To develop proposals for the future development of PUSH for consideration in the Draft Annual Business Plan).
7. To develop proposals on how the Parties can discharge their functions to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the PUSH area to achieve the Key Objectives
8. To carry out such other activities calculated to facilitate, or which are conducive or incidental to the discharge of the PUSH's functions in implementing the Annual Approved Business Plan
9. The relevant functions to be carried out by the joint committee shall be in accordance with the table set out overleaf

FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY THE PARTIES TO THE PUSH JOINT COMMITTEE

Table 1 sets out the functions delegated to the PUSH Joint Committee.

In exercising delegated functions, the Joint Committee operates according to certain key principles.

- *A commitment to partnership and joint working*

Successful delivery of the South Hampshire Sub-Regional Strategy depends upon effective and wholehearted collaboration between member authorities at both political and officer levels, and genuine partnership working with other sectors and agencies with an interest.

- *Subsidiarity*

Matters that are best done at individual local authority level should continue to be performed at that level. Conversely, matters that would more effectively be dealt with at a sub-regional level, or that may have impacts or require a response on a cross-boundary basis, should be led by PUSH.

- *Geographical limitations*

PUSH would have no jurisdiction or responsibilities outside of its boundaries, unless expressly agreed between PUSH and the relevant local authority or statutory agency.

- *Functional limitations*

PUSH will only do the things that authorities collectively agree that it should do. This needs to be applied flexibility to allow for innovation responsiveness and maximising opportunities.

- *Collective Responsibility*

The member authorities will be collectively responsible and mutually accountable for delivering PUSH's objectives, strategy and activities.

The business plan sets out the range of matters on which the Joint Committee has delegated authority to act and make decisions. These matters are ones that have cross-boundary implications, rather than affecting one authority alone. The Joint Committee has all necessary delegated functions to implement the approved business plan. Individual authorities retain the power to determine local issues affecting their area alone, as these would not be included in the approved business plan.

TABLE 1	
FUNCTION	SCOPE OF DELEGATION
<i>Generic Functions</i>	
Business Planning and Partnership Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, performance management, monitoring and evaluation of the PUSH business plan and its implementation • Ongoing monitoring of key indicators • Development, design and negotiation of longer-term delivery arrangements for the South Hampshire sub-regional strategy. • Engagement of other sectors and partners at the strategic level to support delivery of the business plan and PUSH strategy
Information, studies and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning (through individual lead authorities) studies, consultancy work, research and analysis to support strategy development and implementation • Providing public access to information about the sub-region
External Relations & Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being the voice and champion for South Hampshire in dealings with Government, other National or Regional bodies and Agencies and networks (e.g. South-East Diamonds for Investment and Growth) • Preparing responses to national and regional policy initiatives on behalf of the sub-region • Promoting public understanding and involvement in sub-regional issues, and of the work of PUSH and its partners through broadcast, internet and print media
Knowledge Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and facilitating training and best practice / knowledge transfer for officers, members and other sectors on matters relating to PUSH's work programme
Promoting delivery of infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of infrastructure needs and support in negotiating delivery and financing options • Monitoring delivery of infrastructure • Development of policy approaches and priorities for implementation of sub-regionally important infrastructure
External Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning, coordinating and administration of external funding bids and negotiations relating to sub-regional projects or programmes (e.g. New

TABLE 1	
FUNCTION	SCOPE OF DELEGATION
	<p>Growth Point project funding, EU funding on cross-boundary schemes, funding delegated or allocated from National or Regional Agencies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating inward investment into the sub-region and promoting inward investment opportunities
<i>Thematic Functions</i>	
Economic Development	<p>Economic stewardship and development activity benefiting the PUSH sub-region, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy development relating to strategically important employment sites having a cross-boundary impact • Promoting key sub-regional sites to avoid negative competition between authorities • Ensuring effective programme management of strategically important economic development and regeneration schemes • Facilitating support and capacity-building to individual authorities on smaller economic development schemes • Working with other agencies operating at sub-regional level on a range of topics • Preparation of reports to inform monitoring, policy development and business planning
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of consistent policy approaches, e.g. on Affordable Housing • Collaboration on relevant studies e.g. Housing Market Assessments • Collaboration on nomination rights to social housing on strategically important development sites • Development of a sub-regional housing strategy • Leading engagement with Housing Corporation/English Partnerships/Communities England on sub-regional strategic and resource allocation issues
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising the Regional Planning Body and Government on the Regional Spatial Strategy and national planning policies impacting upon the sub-region • Advising on local delivery frameworks (LDFs) and encouraging shared working where appropriate • Preparation of consistent policy approaches (e.g. affordable housing [as above], consultation,

TABLE 1

FUNCTION	SCOPE OF DELEGATION
	<p>sustainability) and consistent approaches to supplementary planning guidance (e.g. urban design)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting and encouraging shared working on the Appropriate Assessment of LDFs • Advising and supporting master-planning, development briefs and local development documents relating to strategically important sites promoting consistency of approach in the PUSH context • Automatic consultee on planning policies, proposals and applications relating to strategically important sites • Supporting development of consistent approaches to s.106 negotiations and the utilisation of developer contributions, particularly in relation to strategically important sites
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of sub-regional strategies, consistent policy approaches, guidance and standards • Collaboration on sub-regional projects, eg ESCo • Capacity-building on sustainability issues • Promoting sustainable waste management solutions across the sub-region
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing policy approaches and parameters for enhancing the cultural assets of the sub-region • Working with National and Regional Agencies to promote cultural opportunity across South Hampshire

**PUSH –
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
OF PUSH JOINT COMMITTEE**

GENERAL

- a. This is a joint committee of the Parties under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.
- b. The Parties have arranged for the discharge by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the PUSH Joint Committee such functions as are within the Panel's terms of reference (set out below).
- c. Certain functions are delegated by this Joint Committee within their terms of reference to officers.
- d. Where a function or matter within the Joint Committee's competence has been delegated, the Joint Committee may exercise that function / matter concurrently with the officer to whom it has been delegated.
- e. Call-in may be triggered by two or more Committee members giving due notice to the proper officer.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To scrutinise and call-in Joint Committee decisions.
2. To scrutinise in particular the PUSH Business Plan and its delivery. .
3. In respect of any call-in:
 - To review decisions made in accordance with the approved business plan and where they consider it appropriate, refer such decisions back to Joint Committee with comments for reconsideration;
 - To review decisions not made in accordance with the approved business plan where they may either refer such decisions back to Joint Committee with comments for reconsideration or refer the decision back to individual authorities.

GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

BOARD:	POLICY & ORGANISATION BOARD
DATE OF MEETING:	19 SEPTEMBER 2007
TITLE:	APPROVAL OF THE 2006/2007 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
AUTHOR:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & BOROUGH TREASURER
STATUS:	FOR APPROVAL

SUMMARY OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report sets out the main changes necessary to the draft Statement of Accounts following external audit and seeks approval of the Statement prior to publication.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to approve the revised Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2007.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend the approval of the resubmitted Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007 was approved by P&O Board on 27th June 2007.
- 2.2 It was noted in the accompanying report that any material changes following the external audit would be reported back to a future meeting and this report addresses that need.
- 2.3 Standards and Governance Committee will receive the report of the auditors on the Statement of Accounts on 13th September 2007.

3.0 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- 3.1 A copy of the Statement of Accounts will be sent to board members under separate cover. The main amendments contained therein are

3.2 Voluntary Reduction of Debt

Following advice from the Council's treasury management consultants and discussions with the Group Leaders, £3.7 million of capital receipts has been 'set-aside' to reduce the level of the Council's capital financing on the balance sheet, (the Capital Financing Requirement).

This will yield revenue savings of £148,000 in 2007/2008 by reducing the statutory charge to revenue (the Minimum Revenue Provision) for the repayment of capital debt. This is a temporary saving which will continue until capital funding is needed to progress the capital programme at which point further financing will be necessary through use of the Prudential Code for borrowing.

In recognition of the Council's intentions the capital programme will be revised during the budget process to include schemes for both the Priddy's Hard and Holbrook Recreation Centre redevelopments.

3.3 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 3.3.1 Following the end of the financial year, the Council's partnership contractor for repairs and maintenance identified further payments of £487,607 that were chargeable to 2006/2007. These represent the additional payments due in respect of work carried out in 2006/2007 that are payable to the contractor up to 31st March 2007.

The payments comprise both revenue (£320,488) and capital (£167,119) elements with respective financing from the HRA working balance and through unsupported borrowing.

- 3.3.2 The Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts payment to the government can be offset by allowances for administration and improvements on right to buy properties. A re-examination has reduced the allowances by £16,789.

- 3.3.3 An adjustment has also been necessary in respect of the final payment of £314,893 for the 2003/2004 subsidy which was paid to the ODPM in 2005/2006. This was partially financed by the creditor raised in 2004/2005 for £250,000 in anticipation of the (then unknown) future final payment. The resulting balance of £64,893 is chargeable to the HRA.

- 3.3.4 As a result of these adjustments the HRA balance has reduced from the originally reported £570,000 to £168,000. A strategy has been developed for incorporation in the 2007/2008 Revised and 2008/2009 Budgets to restore the HRA working balance to £600,000 by 31st March 2008 and approximately £750,000 by 31st March 2009 (the Council's target figure).

4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The above amendments follow the closure, reporting and subsequent detailed audit examination of final accounts. Officers attempt to continuously improve working practices and build on experience in this regard.
- 4.2 Publication of the Statement of Accounts by 30th September is a statutory requirement and requires approval by this Board.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report summarises the amendments to the Council's draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007 and recommends its approval by members..

Financial Implications:	As set out in the report and contained within the Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007.
Legal Implications:	The Council is required to publish the Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007 by 30 th September 2007.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	This report and the Statement of Accounts reflect both service improvement plans and the corporate plan.
Corporate Plan:	Ditto.
Risk Assessment:	Section 4 of the report
Background papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Final Accounts working papers▪ Mazars report to S&G on 13th September 2007
Appendices/Enclosures:	None
Report Author/Lead Officer	John Norman

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

Board/Committee:	POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
Date of Meeting:	19 SEPTEMBER 2007
Title:	NATIONAL BUS SCHEME 2008 ONWARDS
Author:	FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

The new England-wide national bus concession will be introduced in April 2008. It is a statutory scheme allowing free travel anywhere in the country after 9.30am. It is necessary to consider how the scheme should be implemented locally.

Recommendation

It is recommended that we support the new statutory minimum provisions of free travel anywhere in England after 9.30am.

1 Background

- 1.1 From 1 April 2006 free local travel in Hampshire has been available to residents age 60 and over and to certain categories of disabled people (i.e. the blind).

In Gosport we have allowed those eligible to travel at anytime of the day without restriction, in common with most other Hampshire districts.

- 1.2 With the introduction of a new England-wide scheme from 1 April 2008 a decision has to be made whether the Council wishes to support the statutory minimum provisions of the new scheme or to offer free travel at anytime.

2 Report

- 2.1 The new England-wide national bus pass is a statutory concession effective from 1 April 2008.

- 2.2 Discretionary concessions (including the issue of travel tokens) are covered by the Transport Act 1985 which allows local authorities to extend the scope of the national concession.

- 2.3 Currently in Gosport we extend the concession in two ways:-

1. Giving our residents a choice between a free bus pass or £40 of travel tokens.

2. By extending the national scheme from free travel in Hampshire after 9.30am to free travel anytime.

2.4 The cost of extending the scheme has to be met by the Council. The current scheme costs £409,000 in travel tokens and £496,000 in bus passes.

2.5 For administrative purposes, we are part of the Hampshire Countywide Scheme. The intention is to remain part of this Group and indications at this stage are that most authorities in Hampshire will be supporting the basic statutory scheme from 1 April 2008.

2.6 Operation of the Bus Token option is being considered by Scrutiny and is not affected by this report.

3 Risk Assessment

3.1 Although the Government has pledged additional money to fund the new England wide scheme to pay for the additional generated travel, it is unlikely this will fully meet the extra expenditure. It is therefore, likely that a significant additional increase on the Concessionary Travel budget will result in complying with the Statutory Scheme.

3.2 Should the scheme be extended to all day travel the affect on the budget will be even more pronounced particularly as Central Government will make no allowance within their grant contribution for this enhancement. Such an enhancement would therefore further increase the budgetary pressures facing this Council over the next three years.

4 Conclusion

4.1 The new countrywide travel scheme will be introduced on 1 April 2008.

4.2 The statutory scheme provides for all eligible persons to travel on local buses anywhere in England after 9.30am

4.3 Because of the financial risks involved in extending the scheme to all day travel, it is recommended that the Council support the statutory scheme only.

Financial Services comments:	It is not possible to accurately quantify the costs to Gosport of this new statutory scheme.
Legal Services comments:	Currently the Council has a discretion over certain elements of the concessionary travel scheme, but from April 2008 will be

	subject to a new statutory scheme. A choice will need to be made as to whether to support only the new scheme (which it will be obliged to do) or offer free travel at anytime outside of the scheme. In reaching this decision the Council must have regard to the need to set a robust, balanced budget.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Report helps achieve SIP action 'Review the Concessionary Travel Scheme' (FIN/P & A/001)
Corporate Plan:	Improved access and reduce congestion on the Gosport Peninsula.
Risk Assessment:	See paragraph 3
Background papers:	
Appendices/Enclosures:	None
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Julian Bowcher

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

Board/Committee:	POLICY & ORGANISATION BOARD
Date of meeting:	19 SEPTEMBER 2007
Title:	GOSPORT FERRY REPLACEMENT PONTOON – BUDGET FOR CONSULTANCY REPORT
Author:	LEISURE & CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER
Status:	For Decision

Purpose

The report advises the Board of the latest position in respect of the budget estimate for consultancy support for the design and procurement of the replacement ferry pontoon.

Recommendation

The Board is requested to approve the revised 2007/08 budget provision of £150,000 in respect of the consultancy support for the design and procurement of the replacement ferry pontoon

1. Background

- 1.1 The Board received a report in September 2006 for commencing the process of replacement of the ferry pontoon and, in doing so, appointed Atkins Limited as consulting engineers for the project.
- 1.2 The initial phase of this work was to produce outline designs and to identify the scope of the consultancy support required. Having completed the first phase, the project will now move into the phase to address detailed design, CDM Regulations monitoring, formal consultation, procurement and construction.
- 1.3 The Council does not have the specialist engineering resources in-house to fulfil a number of the elements of the project and therefore, it has been necessary to request the consultants to fulfil a number of extra tasks.
- 1.4 The capital programme budget contains a provision of £2.91m. It is proposed that this figure is increased by £40,000, in respect of consultancy costs to maintain the required rate of progress. The total budget including the profiling of expenditure between years will be revisited as part of the budget process for 2008/09.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The financial details relating to this report are explained in the main body of the report above.
- 2.2 The Borough Treasurer has indicated that the revision of the budget will need to be approved by this Board in order that the Capital Programme can reflect the updated projections.

3. Risk Implications

- 3.1 The Council has already allocated a budget for the initial phase of this project in the Capital Programme.
- 3.2 Members will be aware that Officers and Members are in negotiation with the County Council in respect of funding issues, although the outcome of those negotiations is yet to be completed.
- 3.3 As the Council does not have the specific expertise within its own in-house resources, the engagement of those resources from the appointed consulting engineers ensures that the Council is provided with the appropriate expertise in procuring the replacement pontoon.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The report provides updated information for Members in respect of the budget in the Capital Programme for the consulting engineering resources in support of the procurement of the replacement ferry pontoon.

Financial Services comments:	Contained in paragraphs 1.4 and 2.2
Legal Services comments:	The budget revision outlined in the Report will need to be approved by the Policy and Organisation Board.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	The action to replace the ferry pontoon is already in the Service Improvement Plan
Corporate Plan:	<p>The proposal meeting the Strategic Objectives for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Places to: Reduce congestion on the Gosport Peninsula Improve access for the Gosport Peninsula ii) Prosperity to: Improve promotion of tourism opportunities and iii) Pursuit of Excellence For enhanced customer service
Risk Assessment:	These are addressed in Section 3 of this report
Background papers:	None
Appendices/Enclosures:	None
Report author/Lead officer:	Leisure and Cultural Services Manager