

Newcastle Partnership Innovation Group

Tuesday 1 September 2009 at 4.30 pm

Meeting to be held in Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne

Contact Officer: Steve Laws – Tel: 0191 211 5119

AGENDA

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1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Summary Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 20 July 2009	1 - 6
3. Matters Arising	
4. NI187 Tackling Fuel Poverty	7 - 14
Report by Kate Coulthard, Energy Officer	
Verbal update by Simon Johnson, Energy Services Manager and David Connor, Regeneration, Regional Director	
5. Performance Monitoring Report - First Quarter 2009/10	15 - 16
Report by Anne-Marie James, Environment and Regeneration Performance Improvement Consultant	
6. NI195a and c - Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness - Levels of Litter and Graffiti	
Verbal update by Rob Nichols, Head of Environmental Services	
7. NI167 - Congestion - Average Journey Time per mile during the Morning Peak	
Verbal Report by Gary MacDonald, Transport Policy Manager	
8. Other Wider Transport Issues	
Verbal Report by Gary MacDonald, Transport Policy Manager	

9. **Report on Phase 1 of Older Peoples Accommodation Strategy**

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting

10. **NI138 - Satisfaction of People over 65 with both home and neighbourhood (jointly with Wellbeing and Health Partnership)**

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting

11. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 12 October 2009 at 4.30pm.



ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

20 July 2009

Present

David Slater	Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration (Chair) (DS)
Councillor Wendy Taylor	Environment Theme Portfolio Holder (WT)
Mark Ellis	Newcastle City Council, Housing Policy (ME)
John Telfer	Community and Voluntary Sector (JT)
George Mansbridge	Newcastle City Council - SHPT (GM)
Anne Mulroy	BNG (AM)
Rob Nichols	Environment Theme Lead Officer (RN)
Ed Derrick	YHN (ED)
Andrew Waugh	Groundwork (AW)
Maurice Condie	BBMA (LSP Delivery Board) (MC)

In Attendance:

Martin Gollan	Newcastle CVS (MG)
David Long	Democratic Services, Newcastle City Council (DL)

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
1. Apologies for Absence	Councillor Bill Shepherd.	
2. Summary of Meeting Held 2 June 2009	AGREED	
3. Matters Arising	(a) Waste Minimisation Group: Metro	
	<p>Rob Nichols highlighted that different ways of working were being examined. Discussions were ongoing with Nexus and a report to the next meeting would be submitted.</p> <p>(b) ITA/Nexus Bus Strategy</p> <p>The meeting between Nexus and NCVS and relevant constituent community groups had yet to be arranged.</p>	RN

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
	On the Bus Strategy it was queried whether there would be ward by ward consultation.	
4. Housing Strategy Review	<p>The Committee thanked Geoff Matthews for producing this report and for his work for this Partnership. Geoff had now left the employment of the City Council and the Committee expressed their best wishes for his retirement.</p> <p>Mark Ellis presented the report and tabled an updated copy. He highlighted that this was a working document that was constantly changing and being updated. He explained the three strategic themes that have been agreed by Council officers and external partners. The Delivery Plan took on this thematic approach. This gave output and links to other strategies and have been developed through consultation. The flow chart that set out priorities was highlighted and a report would be submitted back on how the strategy would be delivered. Members commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whilst the report was well produced, it appeared wholly focussed on YHN, not on other providers that may have access to other sources of funding. It was suggested that this should be included in the report. More development could be achieved by having a more diverse policy. On this point it was highlighted that Newcastle Housing Partnership had more partners and would be involved in this document. ▪ There was a need to re-examine the situation relating to existing houses having a retro fit. The important issue was to bring existing homes up to a decent standard. ▪ Reference was made to older people issues being increased in priority from 10 to 2 and this also included people with disabilities. ED reminded the meeting that YHN managed the Council property and had to ensure this was carried out on a sound basis. YHN were now examining a number of new initiatives including low carbon emissions. ▪ Managing the Environment Impact should be strengthened. <p>AGREED – That:</p> <p>(a) the revised report be agreed;</p>	<p>ME</p> <p>ME</p>

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
	<p>(b) the Environmental Impact ambition be re-examined.</p> <p>(c) the situation related to existing stock be examined;</p> <p>(d) the work to be fully inclusive with other partners;</p> <p>(e) the relationship with providers other thanYHN to be strengthened.</p>	<p>ME/RN</p> <p>ME</p> <p>ME</p> <p>ME</p>
<p>5. LAA Target Delivery Plans</p>	<p>Rob Nichols presented the report regarding the consultation exercise on the LAA targets formal delivery plan. He highlighted that there had been limited feedback and this had been incorporated into the report. A further report would be submitted every six months, on top of the existing performance measures survey. The Chair thanked RN for carrying out this work and emphasised the need for a strongly functioning partnership. He highlighted that if any partners had any issues they wanted to discuss, these would be welcomed.</p> <p>AGREED – That</p> <p>(a) it be noted that the plans had been amended where necessary and formally signed off;</p> <p>(b) an update report on each of the plans be received by this Group on a six monthly basis to review progress being made;</p> <p>(c) RN be thanked for the work he has carried out.</p>	<p>RN</p>
<p>6. Partnership Sub-Structures</p>	<p>Rob Nichols introduced the report and gave details of the structure and work of the formalised sub-structures that had been established.</p> <p>During the course of the discussion the following points were made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Climate Change Partnership was working well but there was concern about lack of Councillor involvement in the other 2 sub groups on waste minimisation and quality of local environment. RN confirmed he would resolve this. ▪ There was a need for a Newcastle Transport Group as well as a Joint Transport Working Group. DS confirmed that this could be examined. 	<p>RN</p>

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Waste Sub-Group should be focussed on waste minimisation and this should be in the title. There were other suggestions that this Group should also include bio-diversity and softer areas including access/green spaces etc. On this point RN commented that the Group currently did not look at these areas but if partners desired, then the remit could be expanded into other areas including broader environmental issues. A position report should be brought back to this Group. ▪ DS highlighted that all of the groups were chaired by City Council representatives. He intended to review that situation in the Autumn and he therefore suggested that if any partners had any particular interest or views these should be forwarded to him. <p>AGREED – That</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the arrangements in place be noted and RN be thanked for his presentation; (b) the issues raised on Councillor involvement, Newcastle Transport Group, title of Waste Minimisation Group and Chairing of Sub-Groups and a report be submitted to the next meeting. 	<p>RN</p> <p>RN/DS</p>
<p>7. Update on Waste Strategy</p>	<p>Rob Nichols presented the report on behalf of Les Clark, who was leaving the employment of the City Council. The Strategy had been developed over a number of years and Executive had recently signed off the way forward with a long-term and short-term solution. The implications would be that the City Council would now have to identify sites and build a facility for disposing this type of waste.</p> <p>He highlighted that joint work with Gateshead MBC on the LDF programme was ongoing and this highlighted the sites that were available. The Waste Group was also running in parallel to the continual commitment to waste reduction. The next steps would include working towards waste recycling and minimisation targets and improvements for the recycling services to hard to reach homes; schools and community buildings. This Committee would be kept advised of progress.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:-</p>	

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was queried if discussions would be held with North Tyneside MBC about joint working. In response RN assured the Committee that North Tyneside MBC and other Tyne and Wear Councils were consulted on these issues. ▪ AW referred to commercial waste and queried if the NE1 Strategy was taken into consideration and could this be one of the focus areas. In response RN commented that this was being picked up and the Executive Member had spoken to the business community. He also gave details of 'The Brew' project. ▪ ED highlighted that 'hard to reach' homes was a crucial area for YHN and there were a number of issues that needed examining including chutes from high rise blocks. This also had implications for the retro funding scheme for housing. RN agreed that this part of the Strategy needed to be improved. <p>AGREED – That the update report be received and the Strategy be strengthened where necessary.</p>	RN
8. NI 187 - Tackling Fuel Poverty	<p>Rob Nichols introduced the report and commented that a representative from the Energy Centre was not able to be present at today's meeting. The report was the regular update and the targets had been achieved. A more detailed update would be submitted to the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the report be received and a report on targets and a quality update be submitted to the next meeting.</p>	
9. NI 158 – Percentage of Non-Decent Council Homes	<p>George Mansbridge gave a verbal report on statistics for non-decent Council homes. 15,990 homes now met the Decent Homes Standard. This was over 50% of the properties were decent homes, so it illustrated this was still on track.</p> <p>GM then gave details of customer satisfaction around Decent Homes. The internal target had been 85% and 90% had been achieved. The external target had been 95% and had achieved 97%.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated YHN and partners on this achievement and it was agreed that levels of decency homes would continue to be monitored.</p>	GM

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
<p>10. Climate Change Workstream – Engaging with the Industrial and Commercial Sectors</p>	<p>Rob Nichols gave a verbal report that highlighted that 37% of all emissions came from the industrial and commercial sector. He suggested that the partnership could be expanded to include colleagues from this sector. The approach would be twofold, ie reducing energy commitments and recognising climate change as an opportunity. He highlighted that Shell had recognised £30bn of opportunity in relation to climate change. Shell were also awarding a grant of £40,000 for innovative ideas by businesses. It was now important to get the message across to companies saying that business opportunities were there for reducing energy output. There was a genuine hope that the economy could benefit by using this route. Representatives from the Climate Change Partnership would be asked to act as ambassadors and in view of recent developments, including the Nissan announcement on car batteries it was suggested that the North East region be designated as a special status area.</p> <p>DS outlined a number of recent economic issues in the region that supported this designation. These included wind turbines, Nissan car batteries, the EAGA Group growth and other issues affecting 20 companies in the area. He highlighted the need to involve the Private Sector in the Group.</p> <p>Reference was made to a carbon trading scheme being trialled in the Manchester area. In this scheme businesses were encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and this could be offset against local projects. He suggested that this project be examined to see if it could be expanded into this region.</p> <p>AGREED – That the verbal report be received and further details of the Manchester Carbon Trading Scheme be sought.</p>	<p>RN</p>
<p>11. Date and Time of Next Meeting.</p>	<p>AGREED – That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 1 September 2009 at 4.30 pm.</p>	

NI187 Tackling Fuel Poverty

Update for Environment and Housing Delivery Partnership on 20/07/09

Background

Fuel poverty is the requirement to spend 10% or more of household income to maintain an adequate level of warmth. The Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy calls for the elimination of fuel poverty in all vulnerable households by 2010 and in all households by 2016. There is no upper level Government target.

NI187 measures progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income based benefits. Energy efficiency is measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 2005. The procedure calculates a number between 0 and 100 for every household, with 0 being very poor.

NI187a measures households claiming means tested benefits with a SAP of less than 35. NI187a should decrease over time to show progress.

NI187b measures households claiming means tested benefits where the SAP is greater than or equal to 65. NI187b should increase over time.

Method

DEFRA specified that NI187 should be based on data collected from a random sample survey of households inhabited by people claiming income based benefits, unless it could be demonstrated that more robust data was available. Newcastle City Council (NCC) proposed an alternative method to DEFRA (now DECC) using Newcastle Warm Zone (NWZ) data. This method was approved in April 2008. Information collected by NWZ includes SAP data, household income, benefits claimed and health conditions.

Target performance

Indicator	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
NI187a	2.21%	1.91%	1.88%	1.84%	1.76%	1.68%
NI187b	32.64%	32.94%	33.31%	33.02%	33.09%	33.16%

2008/09 Performance

Targets for both indicators were achieved. Status was green.

- NI187a – 86 properties successfully removed from SAP<35 (8 more than target)
- NI187b – 176 properties moved into SAP≥65 (98 more than target).

2008/09 Performance (continued)

	2007/08 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Outcome	2008/09 Status
Total NWZ records	64,291			
No. of households on MTB	26,116			
No. of households on MTB and SAP<35	577			
% of households on MTB and SAP<35	2.21%	1.91%	1.88%	Green
No. of households on MTB and SAP≥65	8,524			
% of households on MTB and SAP≥65	32.64%	32.94%	33.31%	Green

2009/10 Performance

Targets are:-

- NI187a – 22 properties for the year. (6 achieved in Q1)
- NI187b – target achieved.

	2008/09 Baseline	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Q1 Target	2009/10 Q1 Actual	2009/10 Q1 Status
Total NWZ records	71,056				
No. of households on MTB	27,639				
No. of households on MTB and SAP<35	530				
% of households on MTB and SAP<35	1.92%	1.84%	1.91%	1.90%	Green
No. of households on MTB and SAP≥65	9,369				
% of households on MTB and SAP≥65	33.90%	33.02%	33.02%	34.01%	Green

Critical individual actions required to deliver the target

Current interventions:-

- Installation of cavity wall insulation in all properties where this is possible (Newcastle Warm Zone)
- Installation of loft insulation to all properties where less than 100mm exists (NWZ)
- Installation of hot water tank jackets where required (NWZ)
- Installation of energy saving lamps (CFLs) – 4 given to every household assessed (NWZ)
- Heating system upgrades, covering installing/upgrading controls or boiler replacements. (via Warm Front referral, Health Through Warmth and/or NWZ hard ship funding)

Other required interventions:-

- Solid wall insulation

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Discussion paper – Tackling Fuel Poverty

Future role & governance of Newcastle's Affordable Warmth Steering Group

1. Purpose

The aim of this short discussion paper is to provide some background to the current role and governance of Newcastle's Affordable Warmth Steering Group (AWSG) and to suggest ways in which these can be amended to better reflect the revised and ongoing context in which it is operating.

2. Background

In 2001, Newcastle's AWSG was set up to tackle fuel poverty, with the aim of eradicating fuel poverty and securing affordable warmth for all homes in Newcastle. The Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy calls for the elimination of fuel poverty in all vulnerable households by 2010, and in all households by 2016.

The Affordable Warmth Strategy 'Warm Homes, Healthy Lives' was launched in March 2002 and updated in February 2005 with 'Accelerating to 2008'. In March 2007, the AWSG members re-identified their 'top 3' priorities for 2007/08. The last output was a joint outcomes report for 2007/08 in August 2008. The AWSG is currently attended by representatives from NCC (energy, strategic housing and welfare rights), Newcastle and North Tyneside Community Health (formerly Newcastle Primary Care Trust), Age Concern, National Energy Action (NEA), Moneywise, eaga, Newcastle Warm Zone, Health Through Warmth, Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre and the Quality of Life Partnership.

The AWSG has achieved a number of notable gains, offering some strategic vision and helping coordinate a range of actions to increase resources and greatly improve the overall delivery of measures to alleviate fuel poverty. However, the backdrop to the AWSG has significantly changed during that time, particularly over the last five years or so. Following the establishment of the Newcastle Warm Zone partnership in 2004 and its ongoing success (and that of other closely aligned projects such as Health Through Warmth), together with a number of other significant recent energy and fuel poverty related developments coordinated by NCC's Energy Centre, the context in which it operates has substantially altered.

As a result of this evolving wider context, it is considered that the role and governance of the AWSG should be reviewed and amended in order that it more effectively functions going forward.

3. Current role and governance of the AWSG

In recent years the role of the AWSG has changed, moving away from a 'steering group' function to more of a forum for information exchange. Although it still has a reasonably broad membership, the group is dominated (in terms of overall drive and end delivery) by NCC (Energy Centre), NWZ and Newcastle and North Tyneside Community Health (Health and Housing Specialist). In general terms, many of the attendees have been less senior (and hence less influential) members of their organisations than has been the case in the past. As a result, it is considered that the overall effectiveness and impact of the group has diminished, particularly regarding a wider group of member organisations being able or willing to take responsibility to drive forward effective partnership delivery.

The governance of the AWSG is also unclear – in effect relying on Newcastle City Council and a few of its core partner projects to provide some overall guidance and coordination. There is no formal reporting mechanism of the wider achievements of the AWSG, the group largely being dominated by the existing reporting mechanisms of the core members set out above. It does not fully reflect the more recent governance and reporting developments such as the increasingly important role of the Local Strategic Partnership and National Indicator 187 - tackling fuel poverty.

4. Suggested developments for the AWSG

On the understanding that the Environment and Housing Delivery Partnership (a sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership) will take a central role in providing holistic strategic leadership and oversight regarding progress towards alleviating fuel poverty in Newcastle, the AWSG should report into this Partnership.

A streamlined number of updated key objectives (restricted not just to the successful delivery of NI 187 but to wider fuel poverty issues) should be agreed with the Environment and Housing Delivery Partnership and the AWSG tasked with coordinating their effective and timely delivery. The AWSG would be required to provide a quarterly brief progress report to the Environment and Housing Delivery

Partnership and then act on any actions that may subsequently arise.

As such, it is suggested that the membership of the AWSG is reviewed, with each member agreeing (via an informal "Partnership Agreement") to commit the appropriate level of resources required to meet the revised objectives and to work in good faith in a collegiate manner towards achieving these. This would include providing a suitably senior representative together with willingness for that representative to take clear responsibility and accountability for agreed actions.

5. Way forward

It is recommended that the Environment and Housing Delivery Partnership note the suggested improvements to the governance arrangements for the AWSG. The detailed arrangements in terms of the membership, future role and governance of the group should be determined by senior representatives of the core partners of the AWSG as soon as practicable and an update will be provided to a future meeting of the Environment and Housing Delivery Partnership

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2009/10 Performance and Risk Report

Report by: Anne-Marie James, E&R Performance Improvement Consultant

1. Introduction

This report summarises performance against the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for 2009/10 quarter 1 (1 April – 30 June) for Environment, Housing and Transport indicators.

2. Summary of 2008/2009 Performance

No.	Description	09/10 Target	Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	Traffic Light	Comment
Environment						
NI 186	Per capita Carbon Dioxide emissions in the LA area	-10.72% 6.4 tonnes	Data for 08/09 will be available from Defra in September. Targets will be set once data has been received.			
NI 193	Percentage of municipal waste land filled	61%	66%	60.8%	Green	Performance is ahead of target for Q1.
NI 195a	Percentage of land and highways with unacceptable levels of litter	7%	N/A – Surveys are carried out within a 4 month period 3 times per year. First survey data will be available in Q2.			
NI 195c	Percentage of land and highways with unacceptable levels of graffiti	4%	N/A – Surveys are carried out within a 4 month period 3 times per year. First survey data will be available in Q2.			
Housing						
NI 138 (joint Adult Services)	Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood	N/A	N/A – Annual Survey. Data is gathered as part of the Place Survey and will be available in Q4.			
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	100	-23	51	Green	77 new build, 12 demolished and 14 lost through conversion/change of use. Performance is ahead of target for Q1.
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	150	22	4	Red	Performance is expected to improve during quarters 3 and 4 when major schemes are due completion.
NI 158	Percentage of non-decent council homes	25.25%	44.91%	45.81%	Amber	Performance is slightly off target for Q1. Within 2009/10 programme, 8% of homes are just receiving their first package and will not contribute to the decency figure until the second package is

						complete. A higher percentage of first packages were programmed for quarter one, second packages will be delivered in the latter quarters.
NI 187a	Percentage of households on income related benefits living in homes with low energy efficiency (SAP < 35)	1.84%	1.91%	1.9%	Green	Performance is on target for Q1.
NI 187b	Percentage of households on income based benefits living in homes with a high energy efficiency rating (SAP ≥65)	33.02%	33.02%	34.01%	Green	2009/10 year end target has already been achieved.
LAA L1 (Adult Services)	Number of households who considered themselves as homeless, who approached the local housing authority's housing advice service(s)	2000	500	573	Green	Performance is ahead of target for Q1
LAA L2	Vacant dwellings returned to occupation or demolished	150	40	71	Green	Performance is ahead of target for Q1. The year end targets are locked down as LAA targets. Performance is expected to be above target for 09/10.
Transport						
NI 167	Average journey time per mile on major routes during the morning peak	03:31	N/A – Annual Indicator. Indicator is calculated using average traffic speeds between September 2008 and August 2009. 08/09 Data will be available in November.			

3. Conclusion

Only 8 out of the 13 indicators required an update this quarter of which 2 were not on target. NI158 will at this stage only require closer monitoring. NI155 will require intervention if performance does not improve during quarter 2.