

Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group

Date: 8th January 2010
Time: 10am-12pm
Venue: Room 269c, County Hall

Attending: Cheshire West and Chester Council	Alison Amesbury, Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager Jon Amos, Policy Manager Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Team Leader Kevin Carrol, Network Manager Helen De Lemos, Waste Strategy Manager Gill Rogerson, Performance Manager Cllr. Neil Ritchie, Environment Portfolio Holder Robbie Taylor, Partnership Manager
NHS Western Cheshire	Jim Hughes, Director of Knowledge Management & Performance
Groundwork, Cheshire	Jane Staley, (Chair), Executive Director

Support Staff: Elaine Grant, Partnership Support

Apologies: Steve Kent, Director of Environment, CW&C, John Salt, CW&C Unitary Manager, Cheshire Fire & Rescue, Alan Slater, Head of Strategic Housing & Spatial Planning, CW&C.

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies & Introductions	Jane welcomed everybody to the meeting and apologies were noted.
Item 2 Minutes and actions from the last meeting (7 th December 2009)	The actions from the last meeting were updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 - the responses to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) consultation is an item on today's agenda. • Item 3 – Alan's report on NI's 154 &155 from the previous Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group (ESTG) meeting had been circulated electronically to the Group. • Jane had raised the NI154 update at the last Thematic Leads meeting. • Local Area Agreement (LAA) and National Indicators (NI's) – updates, on today's agenda. • Item 6 - the chair for the Groves , Whitby, Sutton & Manor Community Forum had been confirmed as being Cllr. Bob Crompton • Item 8 – Best Practise case studies, to be discussed at today's meeting
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 – It was noted that “The Love Food Hate Waste”

	<p>campaign also had connections with some of the other thematic partnerships e.g. Health & Well-being. Robbie to put the relevant people in contact with each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item6/7 – Jane/ Peter to discuss approach and support with Area Partnership Board's (APB's)/ Area Managers • Alison enquired about the indications and implications for the use of ABG (Area Based Grant) resources to support the work of the partnership. No discussions had taken place at the LSP or by Thematic Partnership Chairs as yet, concerning the use of ABG, which is un-ringfenced, to support LAA delivery projects for 2010/11. The Partnership will be updated on any relevant progress. <p>Jane to enquire at the next Thematic Leads meeting on Monday 18th January.</p>
<p>Item 3 LAA and current performance position report</p>	<p>Jon Amos had brought a summary report on the Local area Agreement Review and Comprehensive Area Agreement (CAA) for the Group to discuss and give feedback on the CAA process and consultation. The report contained questions that the Group were asked to consider, a summary of the Theme's LAA performance alongside the CAA results and the next steps of the LAA review and the CAA process.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed the following comments were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial information from the CAA had contained errors. However there had been plenty of opportunity to correct. • If the Green Flag relates to good practice, what is Green Flag material? • This is the first year that the PCT have been audited and it may be worthwhile keeping an eye on their projections. • The Audit Commission had commented on housing as a whole although there is an area of concern with the Ellesmere Port housing situation which is very close to being a red flag. <p>The Group acknowledged that housing did not sit comfortably within the ESTG with senior people from the housing trusts sitting on the Local Strategic Partnership and chairing some of the Area Partnership Boards. However, it was also proposed that the Ellesmere Port housing stock situation could potentially fit into the ESTG and that the Group should still continue to take an interest in housing. Jane informed the Group that this was now a time to reflect on the process and to get back to Jon with any comments that they may have. The next stage would involve demonstrating how the NI's have moved on.</p> <p>Gill then thanked the officers who had provided returns for the 1st April to 30th November period of the LAA delivery plans. Overall all</p>

	<p>plans were showing green with only NI154 showing amber. However, it was noted that the current status on some of the NI's is based on activities against milestones whilst on others it is actual information, e.g. the information on roads is indicative as this could not be confirmed until all the evidence is collected. Jane thanked the Group for being the first thematic group to get their reports in on time.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon to send an email to the Group with the link to the "One Place" website which will explain how to access the green flags within environmental sustainability for the whole of the UK and show the criteria for the awards. • The question of where housing should sit within the thematic groups could be agreed by the chairs and vice chairs of the partnership groups. • A flow chart was suggested to make the CAA process clearer and therefore easier to understand • Peter reported a need to move NI188 into the LAA. This would have to be rubber stamped by the ESTG, to then go forward to the LSP and then to the Audit Commission.
Item 4 LAA Annual Review	<p>Robbie reported that the first cut of the Local Area Agreement review would be completed by the end of January.</p> <p>Jon reported on the CAA timeline, they were meeting with the Audit Commission in March, with the self assessment to be completed by July, the final deadline for evidence in September and finalised by December.</p>
Action/Decision	<p>Peter to liaise with Robbie about the introduction of a new Local Indicator.</p>
Item 5 Responses to SCS/LDF/LTP	<p>The consultation period is due to end on the 13th January although there was still potential to feed in comments from the Group during February. The official launch would take place in March/April. Jane would be attending a meeting on the 19th January 2010 at Backford for the SCS working group – it was suggested that AA/HdL/KC/PB attend to feed in comments. As far as the ESTG was concerned, its role would be to take the SCS and set out the action plan that would deliver the ES elements of it.</p> <p>The Group felt that the SCS did not address all issues and as some of the themes were cross-cutting it may appear confusing to members of the public.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any further SCS feedback to be sent to Jane • A SCS meeting is due to take place on 19th January. Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, should be contacted if any members of the ESTG would like to attend.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation of the Local Transport Plan still required some focus from the Group.
Item 6 Second Homes Funding Project	<p>Jane briefed the group on the £10,000 funding that had become available to the Green Doctor project based in Winsford through the Second Homes taxation.</p> <p>The group discussed other forms of possible and existing funding which included, the Council's Budget Consultation, the Total Place (Ellesmere Port) and sub regional projects and council tax on empty properties.</p>
Action / Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane to confirm date when funding for the Green Doctor project will be received. Peter to contact Alison Armstrong (Local Strategic Partnership Director) about information on £30K (Connecting Communities) Funding suggested as a standing item under Any Other Business
Item 7 Best Practise/Case Studies	<p>There was a brief discussion on the Best Practice/Case Studies from other authorities by the Group.</p> <p>Peter and Helen also updated the ESTG on the 186 group and the Waste working group.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that a report from the 186 Group should be an item on a forthcoming ESTG agenda. It was further suggested that Helen could give an update on waste and the work with WRAP at the meeting after that.
Item 8 Any Other Business	<p>Sean Daley (Area Manager- Ellesmere Port) who had been expected to brief the Group on the "Total Place" project was not able to attend the meeting.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Commissioning Plan on Mental Health to be forwarded onto Peter by Robbie
Item 9 Future Meetings	<p>There are no further meetings set at the moment.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideal to meet before the Thematic Leads meetings but not on a Monday. Future meetings will be agreed on a monthly basis for the rest of the year.

Signed (Chair):

Date: