

## Environmental Sustainability Local Strategic Partnership Thematic Group

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
**Time:** 9.00am – 10.30am  
**Venue:** Committee Room 2A, County Hall

---

### Attending:

Cheshire West and Chester Council	<b>Peter Bulmer</b> , Climate Change Team Leader <b>Helen De Lemos</b> , Waste Strategy Manager <b>Cllr. Neil Ritchie</b> , Environment Portfolio Holder <b>Gill Rogerson</b> , Performance Manager <b>Alan Slater</b> , Head of Strategic Housing & Spatial Planning <b>Robbie Taylor</b> , Partnership Adviser
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service	<b>John Salt</b> , (Vice Chair), CW&C Unitary Manager
Groundwork Cheshire	<b>Jane Staley</b> , (Chair), Executive Director
NHS Western Cheshire	<b>Jim Hughes</b> , Director of Knowledge Management & Performance

**Support Staff:** Elaine Grant, Partnership Assistant

**Apologies:** Steve Kent, Director of Environment, Alison Amesbury, Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager, Ian Marshall, Specialist Environmental Services

<b>Item No.1 Welcome, Apologies &amp; Introductions</b>	Jane Staley (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies. Jane informed the ESTG that the order of the agenda for today's meeting would be slightly amended with item 4, the presentation and discussion on Delivery Plans, to be discussed first.
<b>Item No. 4 Presentation and discussion on Delivery Plans</b>	Jane highlighted to the group the importance of the LAA delivery plans when determining both the membership of and the impact that the ESTG would have. The Group would decide either to concentrate on or have separate task and finish groups for the delivery plans that would add value. <b>NI 154 - Net additional Homes provided</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 140,000 homes in the Cheshire West and Chester area against a population of 340,000.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The target of 1300 was low compared to the aspiration but this was because of the current market with planning applications stopped and house builders facing bankruptcy.</li> <li>• However, there was an opportunity to revisit the baseline with Government Office North West if the confidence in the market returned.</li> <li>• There was also a potential for 7,000 new homes on the riverfront at Ellesmere Port and a series of targets that would sustain smaller settlements and market towns.</li> <li>• The provision of more affordable homes had been endorsed by the Leader.</li> <li>• The task ahead was to continue in difficult market conditions, working closely with colleagues.</li> </ul> <p><b>NI 155 – Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The baseline was smaller for this NI as affordability is a national issue.</li> <li>• There is a current waiting list of 13,000 people.</li> <li>• The average house price in CW&amp;C was £180k - £190k</li> <li>• 215 affordable homes delivered in 08/09, 275 to be delivered in 09/10</li> <li>• Pipeline of 1500 homes in the next 3/4years</li> <li>• There was a need to double output in the next 2 years</li> <li>• The housing associations were concerned about the impact on their budgets.</li> </ul> <p>Alan concluded his report to the Group with the fact that the delivery plans were 50% below what they should be as the current climate was the most difficult the housing market had ever encountered. The key was to continue in difficult market conditions working closely with Steve Kent and colleagues.</p> <p><b>NI 191/192 – Household Waste – kg per household and % of recycled waste.</b></p> <p>Helen reported that the target for residual waste per household for 2010/11 had been reduced and the target for recycled waste had been increased.</p> <p>The new Chester collection contract is expected to achieve a significant increase in recycling and reduction in residual waste per head for the authority in 2009/10. The improved performance in 2010/11 will require major awareness work including targeted campaigns, work with community groups, volunteers and schools. Partnerships working with community groups such as Groundwork and the Furniture Forum as well as volunteers has played a key role in helping to raise waste performance in the past and is expected to continue to enable key messages to be delivered within</p>
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p><b>Action/Decision</b></p>	<p>communities in the future.</p> <p>Performance reporting relies on provision of auditable tonnage data from a wide range of contractors which can take up to 3 months. Work is ongoing to reduce this timescale. Historically we have reported on projected year end performance to avoid confusion due to seasonal variance. Development of an informal quarterly forecast profile is being explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly performance data could be provided informally for the ESTG. Performance to be compared with the same quarter for previous year where possible.</li> <li>• Following Alan’s comments about the proposed development at Ellesmere Port, it was recommended that Helen’s requirements around, for example, bin storage, could be applied/considered at the planning stage. Helen and Alan to liaise on this.</li> </ul> <p><b>NI 168 – Principal Roads where maintenance should be considered</b></p> <p><b>NI 169 – Non Principal classified roads where maintenance should be considered</b></p> <p>Gill reported back to the ESTG on the above delivery plans, stating that in both cases the targets were the same (3%). There was general network deterioration as only pot holes had been repaired rather than the whole road. Members were aware of these issues.</p> <p>The in year target could not be broken down as it is based on the network survey which is undertaken annually so there is only a Q4 target</p> <p>The measurable milestone/action was also the same for both of the NI’s, ie to submit the bid to Government to obtain the capital and produce a programme for the year ahead.</p> <p><b>NI 186 – Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Area</b></p> <p>Peter reported that the data had been supplied 2/3years later on from DEFRA and the targets which had been set pre LGR were challenging. The other key partners involved included Groundwork, Fire and Rescue, Police, University and home energy conservation groups.</p> <p>The biggest risks were making sure that the budget was there and resources available. The example of Kirklees was given where every property had been insulated but this had involved 10 years of lobbying.</p>
<p><b>Action/Decision</b></p>	

<p><b>Action/Decision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a lot of information held on the success of Kirklees that Peter would cascade to the Group.</li> <li>• The group agreed that some of the target for the NI's were not ambitious and perhaps not challenging enough. The more challenging task was where the funding would come from.</li> <li>• Suggested that colleagues in External Funding could be contacted regarding funding issues and the ESTG could instigate some sort of push.</li> </ul> <p>Following the presentation of the Delivery Plans, it was clear that certain NIs lent themselves to having a working group. Peter had already set up an initial meeting of appropriate delivery partners to look at NI 186 and it was agreed that this group should continue to meet, develop a robust action/activity plan and drive its delivery.</p> <p>It was further agreed that Helen would set up a similar group for NI 191/192, but this would not happen until the new waste contracts were up and running and she had more time.</p> <p>Alan should not need to set up a similar group for housing as this role should be fulfilled by the Cheshire Housing Alliance (this can be reviewed with time) and, as had been previously discussed, transport would "take care of itself".</p> <p>It was essential that Peter (climate change), Helen (waste), Alan (housing) and Richard (transport) fed back any barriers to delivery to the ESTG so that Jane could raise them at the LSP. It was equally important that successes and good news stories got fed into the LSP as the ESTG has to prove its worth.</p> <p>The Group confirmed to Jane that they were happy with the approach so far.</p> <p>The development of the new Local Development Framework and its simultaneous progress with the new Sustainable Community Strategy to be reported at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremy Owens to be invited to the next meeting via Alan Slater.</li> <li>• The sub-regional Single Equality Group would be useful to use as a sounding board to support the production of Equality Needs Impact Assessment for each delivery plan.</li> </ul> <p>The group discussed alternative ways of reporting delivery such as better "in year" targets, reporting on activities rather than targets, the difference between evidence and assurance and using the traffic light system on the delivery plans.</p>
<p><b>Item No. 2</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping exercise from Item 2 – still to be looked at,</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Actions from last meeting</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft constitution of the LSP would be going to the next LSP meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>• There had been a decision on the name for the LSP – “West Cheshire Together”, the branding and logo are being considered at the LSP meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> July.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item No.3 Feedback from LSP meeting</b></p>	<p>The last LSP Thematic Leads meeting had been held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June at County Hall. The Future Job Fund Bid had been an item on the agenda. The closing date for the submission of the bids was 30<sup>th</sup> June and the LSP had been asked to approve the bid via an e-mail message.</p> <p>The LSP (SCS) Stakeholder Workshop had taken place on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and the LSP Network Conference was due to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The network conference would be a wider event than the workshop and would look at the new Single Equality Act and links to the CAA. As well as the ongoing consultation to develop and refine the new SCS.</p>
<p><b>Item No. 5 Feedback/Comments on CAA – Self Assessment Report</b></p> <p><b>Action/Decision</b></p>	<p>Laurence Ainsworth, Senior Policy Manager gave a presentation at the LSP Thematic Leads Meeting on the Audit Commission: CAA emerging issues and local responses. The next steps were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The partners responses on Emerging Findings to be in by the end of June</li> <li>• LAA Performance information in July</li> <li>• Final self assessment to be published at the end of July</li> <li>• Further evidence submitted to Audit Commission in August</li> <li>• The Audit Commission will not receive any further evidence after the end of September</li> </ul> <p>The ESTG will be able to view the draft local area self evaluation for comments and feedback.</p>
<p><b>Item No. 6 Sustainable Community Strategy Progress</b></p>	<p>The workshop held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June had developed 17 suggested priorities. A draft document would be produced over the Summer/Autumn that would be extracted from the comments and suggestions made by a diverse range of people.</p> <p>The inaugural “West Cheshire Together” conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> July would be attended by an even broader range of partners and would set out the vision for the next ten years and set priorities and milestones. There would be key pieces of work that everyone would buy into.</p> <p>The next stage of the SCS would be the consultation process.</p>

<p><b>Item No. 7</b> <b>Area Partnership Boards Update</b></p>	<p>The update on the Area Partnership Boards had been included in the latest edition of the Partnership Bulletin with the latest information on the chairs that had been appointed.</p> <p>The three chairs appointed so far were Alison Roylance-White, Chris Rowbottom and Jon Betts with the remaining chairs to be in place by the end of July.</p> <p>There would be a Partnership Event planned for August 2009 in order to formulate a work plan and identify key partners.</p>
<p><b>Item No. 8</b> <b>Any Other Business</b></p>	<p>Robbie advised the Group that there is a national library of projects from across all localities which contribute to the delivery of each national performance indicator. Robbie had offered to research areas of responsibility to the Chairs of each Thematic Partnership.</p> <p>“Whatever It Takes “initiative – was an opportunity for the ESTG to hit areas of highest need being co-ordinated by the Fire service. John Salt will advise on forthcoming areas for action.</p> <p>More information was requested by Cllr. Neil Ritchie on the APB’s and how they feed into Thematic Groups and how the Thematic Groups feed into APB’s</p>
<p><b>9. Future Meetings</b></p>	<p>The next suggested date for a meeting in August was either the 10<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> of August providing Jeremy Owens and the majority of the members of the group are available. Otherwise a date will be set in September for the next meeting.</p>

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....