

Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group

Date: 14th October 2009
Time: 10am-12pm
Venue: Committee Room 2A, County Hall

Attending: Cheshire West and Chester Council	Alison Amesbury, Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager (Representing Alan Slater & Jeremy Owens) Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Team Leader Helen De Lemos, Waste Strategy Manager Gill Rogerson, Performance Manager Cllr. Neil Ritchie, Environment Portfolio Holder Robbie Taylor, Partnership Manager
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service	John Salt, (Vice Chair), CW&C Unitary Manager
Groundwork Cheshire	Jane Staley, (Chair), Executive Director

Support Staff: Elaine Grant, Partnership Assistant

Apologies: Jim Hughes, NHS Western Cheshire, Steve Kent, Director of Environment, Cheshire West and Chester, Richard Turley, Head of Highways & Transportation, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies & Introductions	Jane Staley welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.
Item 2 Minutes and actions from the last meeting (8/9/2009))	The actions of the last meeting were listed to note progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Bulmer will present the Kirklees example (Item 6) • Mapping LAA outcome exercise - cross cutting projects, Robbie Taylor to review calendar regarding timescales • Area Based Grants will be discussed at the Thematic Leads Meeting • Peter Bulmer had circulated the Worcestershire plan on request. • NI191, regarding the suggestion that the new single Waste contract could be negotiated on the APB boundaries. This maybe unlikely, possible flexibility with contractor discussions. • Robbie Taylor to circulate the notes from the last LSP Thematic Leads Meeting to the Group. • Gill to request programme of work from directorates again

<p>Other information/ amendments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDF update would be given by Alison Amesbury at today's meeting. • The "Whatever it Takes" Initiative (Item 3 on today's agenda) • The Chester Environmental Forum had ceased to exist. A sub-regional Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Commission was being formed which may have the capacity to take groups on board. • The NI Delivery Plan Update (verbal) would be added to today's agenda. • NI186 group (not 186 group as mentioned in minutes) • Robbie reminded the Group that there would be a Joint Meeting with GONW next Monday, 19th October. • The next LSP meeting is on the 29th October.
<p>Item 3 "Whatever It Takes" initiative</p>	<p>John Salt gave the Group a brief overview of how the "Whatever It Takes" initiative had operated in the past. The main criticism of the initiative was that it hadn't left any sort of lasting legacy in the areas that it had concentrated on. A new image and name was currently being launched with the example of "Safer & Stronger (Name of Area), being the favoured suggestion. John thought there was a need to broaden the environmental sustainability agenda to the various communities and as Chairman of the Winsford & Rural East APB suggested that the Environmental Sustainability Group could steer the environmental agenda down to the Area Partnership Boards. An environment event within the five APB areas would shape the delivery of service. Three key themes of low carbon communities, accessibility and waste management were suggested.</p> <p>A discussion ensued around the events being tailored to the different APB's based on the area profile information and the possibility to focus events on, for example, particular problem streets (depending on the issue).</p> <p>John asked that some resources in the form of people/canvassers be identified for next year and highlighted the need to target the areas where the biggest difference could be made.</p> <p>Robbie drew the Groups attention to the Future Jobs Fund which might be worth exploring in terms of extra resources as this would give an opportunity to someone of a 6 month job rather than a placement. Peter also gave the example of the Community Champions as recruited by the Blacon Community Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest issue must be about leaving a legacy e.g. a type of Community Charter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The success of previous initiatives has been due to expertise, credibility and person to person contact. • Ensure resources are available • A contact for the community – suggestion of key word for the call centre when receiving calls before connection with the appropriate service • The information should be captured for the CAA as an example of community engagement and partnership working
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John, Helen & Peter to discuss a “green” “Whatever it Takes” initiative further.
Item 4 Developing the Sustainable Community Strategy	<p>Peter informed the Group that he had recently met with Andrea Mageean, (Partnership Manager) to discuss the next level of the Sustainability Community Strategy development. The Strategy will go to the next LSP meeting in October with a consultation being launched in November.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter to circulate the latest version of the questionnaire to the Group by email for comment • The ESTG Group to be regularly kept up to date with the latest developments on the SCS/LTP/LDF.
Item 5 The NI Delivery Plan Update (Verbal)	<p>NI154 & NI155 Alison reported to the Group that Government Office had offered a review on targets. It had been decided to review NI154 but NI155 would not be amended.</p> <p>NI191 & NI192 CW&C and CE are working together with WRAP to develop a workshop that will engage key partners and delivery organisations around waste prevention campaigns. The original plan had been to hold the event later this year but this has now been moved to January.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised NI154 target would be discussed at the next ESTG meeting. • Helen to talk to Cllr. Ritchie and Jane on how to take forward
Item 6 “Lessons Learnt from Kirklees”	<p>Peter showed the Group a presentation on the success of Kirklees Council on its low carbon action. This was followed by a presentation on “Actions Taken So Far & Work In Progress”.</p> <p>Peter listed the environmental work programmes currently being undertaken, one of which was the impacts of weather and the infrastructure breaking down due to extreme weather conditions.</p> <p>The Group discussed the effects of flooding locally and the need for a link to longer term planning and how to address the issue.</p>

	<p>There was also a need to get the message across to as many people as possible. The Group put forward suggestions on how to raise the profile of the environment issue: this could include events, presenting to each APB meeting, the LSP and the wider working of the Group.</p>
Action / Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group agreed the presentations were excellent and should be shown to a wider audience • Both presentations would be circulated to the ESTG by email. • A spotlight on “Environmental Sustainability Partnership” at LSP Meeting was suggested. • Jane to raise at Thematic Chairs meeting next Monday, 19th October
Item 7 Low Carbon Communities Challenge	<p>Peter reported that the Low Carbon Communities Challenge is a funding programme focusing on local communities. Overall 20 communities will benefit (one or two being in the North West). The Group watched a DVD filmed a month ago on Sustainable Blacon by Blacon Community Trust. They intend to submit a bid for £1/2 million into the LCCC fund, developing to £17million overall.</p> <p>It was agreed that the ESTG would support the bid. Suggestions included a letter of support from the LSP and also the bid being highlighted at the Thematic Leads meeting.</p>
Action / Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane to ask the LSP to write a letter of support for the bid • Peter to prepare a draft letter of support on behalf of the LSP
Item 8 Any Other Business	<p>LDF Update – draft issues and options by the 19th October and then a public consultation from the 11th November to 13th January. Lots of opportunity to feedback on-line. Results will give the more detailed preferred options for a further consultation next May.</p> <p>Recession Action Plan – The Business, Enterprise and Culture Group now had a draft table of actions to help prepare for recovery. The ESTG were asked for any support that they could give to move out of recession.</p> <p>Case Studies/Best Practise – to be picked up at next meeting of ESTG (Maybe considered at WRAP event?)</p> <p>GONW/LAA Leads Meeting (19th October) – this would cover update on delivery planning process, review and refresh for next year and performance update.</p>
Action/Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the ESTG to feed into LDF consultation as individuals rather than as a group due to the specific nature of comments • Draft table of actions from BEC to be circulated to the Group

Item 9. Future Meetings	The next meeting is due to take place on Monday, November 9th in Committee Room 1 at 10.00am.
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Signed (Chair):

Date: