

Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group

Action Note of meeting held on 23rd November 2010

1 Attending:	
Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service	John Salt, CW&C Unitary Manager
Groundwork Cheshire	Jane Staley (Chair)
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Team Leader Angela Davies, Performance Manager Helen De Lemos, Waste Strategy Manager Steve Kent, Director of Community and Environment Andrea Mageean, Partnerships Manager Jamie Matthews, Local Transport Plan Coordinator Georgina Patel, Senior Manager, Private Sector Housing Tim Pemberton, Asset and Risk Manager Helen Turner, Risk Manager
Environment Agency	Nicki Rushton, Inner Mersey Environment Management Team Leader
Apologies:	Jim Hughes, Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement, NHS Western Cheshire Cllr Lynn Riley, Portfolio Lead for Community & Environment, CWaC Lyn Raynor, Partnerships Officer (<i>Executive support</i>)
Visitors:	
2 Actions from last meeting: 21st September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Performance Update and Sustainable Community Strategy items were covered as part of the agenda. - The future of the Group was discussed under AOB.
3 LTP3 Consultation	<p>Jamie Matthews outlined the current phase of LTP consultation (Oct-Dec 2010). For full details follow the link below. The LTP combines a vision, which is what is currently being consulted, on with a 3 year delivery plan. Initial soundings were undertaken last year with priority issues around economic growth, climate change and road maintenance being identified. The current proposals focus on these three policy areas. Supporting priorities around safety, equality of opportunity and quality of life are also included. Current funding issues and uncertainty make it difficult to do much more than set out the aspirations for the next 15 years. For the current consultation questionnaires are being distributed widely and a series of focus groups being set up. The finalised Strategy and three year delivery plan will go to Council in February 2011.</p> <p>http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning/specialist_environmental_servs/climate_change-sustainability/low_carbon_communities_network.aspx</p>

	Action: Partners were encouraged to participate in the LPT Consultation
4 CWAC Private Sector Stock Conditions Survey/Affordable Warmth Strategy	<p>Georgina Patel circulated papers for this item.</p> <p>The Private Sector Stock Conditions Survey is a statutory requirement for the Council to undertake every 7 years (though recommended every 5 years). The current survey updates those of the old Cheshire Councils (Chester City Councils' being the most out of date – last undertaken in 2001). The combined report embraces 3000 dwellings across CWAC. Headline findings include that 21.3% of dwellings are non-decent (comparing favourably with a national average of 35.8%). The survey also highlighted the large number of properties on the borderline of non-decency, with a concentration of problems in Broxton, Ledsham, Willaston, Northwich and Shakerley. The Private Sector Housing Team is now promoting the support they can provide, and the group suggested that this could usefully be supported by the local press. The Team is also looking at strengthening links internally and with partners working with vulnerable groups to encourage referrals. Work is also being undertaken to target £8,000 on repairs to non-decent properties housing the most vulnerable.</p> <p>The Affordable Warmth Strategy 2010-2013 has been approved by the Executive. It provides a framework for joint working to address fuel poverty: in West Cheshire 35,000 households are estimated to be in fuel poverty. A Multi-agency Steering group has been set up involving a wide range of partners to monitor the delivery of the strategy. Key aims of the group are around increasing the number of energy efficient properties, reducing the number of households in fuel poverty and reducing the health impact of excess cold. Grant aide has been received to support this work and delivery agents are to be appointed as a single point of contact for coordinating activity.</p> <p>Action: Partners are to consider how they can support this activity.</p>
5 Performance Update	<p>Angela Davies told the group that the LAA performance is still being monitored quarterly, but that there are no issues to report.</p> <p>There is still some uncertainty around what will follow the LAA: whilst we are free from the National Indicator set, there are still a wide range of central government data requirements.</p>
6 Feedback from 18 November LSP Event	<p>Positive feedback had been received from this event, particularly the workshop sessions which had encouraged cross-partner discussions. The key message had been around the importance of localism to partnership working in the future.</p>
7 Risk Management	<p>This item was deferred.</p>
8 Any other business	<p>The future of this Group was discussed in the light of the changing context for partnership working: this includes less prescription for central government, less funding, more transparency and a shift from top down delivery to community driven delivery. Alongside this will be activity at the sub-national level through the LEPs. This suggests</p>

	<p>a need to refocus partnerships around problems/issues to be addressed.</p> <p>This Group in its current form is not fit for this new context – it will not continue to ‘add value’. However, it was recognised that there are two outstanding issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the importance of these meetings in bringing together teams from within CWaC: it was suggested that such meetings could be facilitated separately. - Outstanding issues from the Sustainable Community Strategy: a separate conversation needs to take place to identify how to take these forward. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The decision about the future of this group would be reported to Thematic Leads on 20th December - Internal CWaC officers would consider setting up a group to look at environmental sustainability issues. - Further discussions would take place about how to take forward SCS commitments, possibly through task and finish groups.
8 Future Meetings	<i>No longer relevant, though CWaC officers may wish to use the provisional date of 14th December to facilitate an internal meeting.</i>

Signed (Chair):

Date:

Link to LTP3 consultation:

[http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/transport and roads/plans and policies/local transport plan/local transport plan consultat.aspx](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/transport%20and%20roads/plans%20and%20policies/local%20transport%20plan/local%20transport%20plan%20consultat.aspx)