

Q2 2009/10 Theme Overview (Half Year)

Partnership Theme:

How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?

Progress against outcomes and priorities is continuing well, with half-year milestones identified for 2009-10 met. Performance data is only available annually and/or with significant time delay for most of the environment NIs. Final figures for waste recycled & composted for 2008-09 have only very recently been verified by Waste Data Flow, putting performance for NI192 above target at 43.2% (2008-09 target: 42.25%) the reason for this is believed to be the borough wide roll out of kerb side collection in Ribble Valley, where the recycling rate has increased to 37.87% from 26.22% in 2007-08, and an increase in % waste recycled due to a reduction in total waste arisings, a national pattern being attributed to the economic downturn. Quarterly data for 2009-10 is not yet available so forecasts for this year are yet to be made.

District Councils have now completed the first survey (of 3) on street cleanliness (NI195) for 2009-10. Figures submitted by districts suggests improved performance on last year, however, sites surveyed are randomly selected and are affected by seasonal variation, therefore only the annual figure (a combination of the 3 surveys throughout the year) is a true reflection of performance. As this is only the second year of monitoring for NI195 following the changes in the grading methodology from BVPI199 performance trends are still emerging.

Following the award of funding from the Lancashire Partnership Board to support work on Biodiversity & NI197, two ecologists and a part-time technical/records officer have been appointed. They have begun monitoring of sites and engaging with land owners/managers, promoting appropriate management and production of management prescriptions. Initial focus for the team is the development of prescriptions for the roadside verge BHSs and for those owned by the County and district councils. 11 out of 12 districts have committed additional funding contributions for this year and a meeting is planned for districts in November to inform the further development of the Lancashire Natural Environment Service.

Despite the NI187 survey process for 2009-10 dominating many discussions this year, work on fuel poverty and reducing domestic CO₂ emissions (NI187 & NI186) is progressing well. Funding has been secured through National Energy Action (NEA) to work with Lancashire's Children's Trusts to promote integrated working to reduce child poverty and Lancashire County Council's Adult & Community Services secured funding to recruit four temporary Review, Assessment and Support Officers (RASOs) in Burnley & Pendle who, whilst undertaking social care reviews, will also identify householders experiencing fuel poverty, referring them on to receive further advice, support and access to grants. The establishment of this pilot in Burnley and Pendle will test the referral mechanism for measures to tackle fuel poverty, before a wider roll out across ACS and

engagement with PCTs.

The Climate Change Partnership has now agreed delivery mechanisms for carbon reduction measures on three levels – organisational commitment, thematic groups and processes (e.g. the Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group and refresh of the Local Transport Plan) and LSPs. Engagement with LSPs has been stepped up to encourage the development of local delivery plans. Climate Change Adaptation work is progressing well to achieve Level 2 by March 2010, this is despite very limited national guidance on how each level should be achieved. As a result, partners in Lancashire are still finding their way, using the group meetings to discuss the way forward and the actions needed to achieve the required level. Involvement of all partners working on NI188 is essential to ensure all learning and activity on adaptation is shared.

What are the prospects for the future?

NI187 is monitored using a sample survey of householders in each district. This follows standard methodology set out in national guidance. While the national methodology has some significant shortcomings, as previously reported, it was used last year to set the baseline. This year the survey will be repeated, with results reported in March 2010, to compare performance against the baseline year and monitor progress against LAA targets. Unfortunately one district (Rossendale) has decided to withdraw from the survey (citing lack of funds, flaws in the national methodology and that their own empirical data is superior). This will make monitoring of the county target in March very difficult, if not impossible. In turn the inability to monitor the target may jeopardise the claim for performance reward grant at the end of the LAA. Officers are currently looking at alternative ways to fund the survey in this district, though this clearly has implications for those districts that have already committed funding. The implications for reporting county performance and, if any, on claiming reward grant are also being investigated.

The concerns expressed over the methodology for NI187 have been reported to GONW as part of their review on the national indicator set and will also be fed in to the review on NI187 being conducted by National Energy Action (NEA) on behalf of the Department for Energy & Climate Change. The Energy Officers Group is, however, keen to compare survey results with actual data on number of installations and SAP improvements, where this information is held, and will be reporting this information in future performance reports alongside survey results.

A clear success of the environment theme this year has been the establishment of the Lancashire Natural Environment Service, without the LAA and support of the Lancashire Partnership Board this project would never have been initiated. With work now underway clear outcomes are expected to be reported in forthcoming performance reports, however the longer-term sustainability of the service is also a key priority and the Wildlife Trust will be leading on maintaining support from districts.

The selection of Climate Change as a 'Big Ticket Issue' by the Partnership Board has provided an added emphasis to the work of the Climate Change Partnership. The Partnership was already committed to updating the activity report published alongside the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy in April, so the BTI mapping process is quite timely. As the process evolves over the coming months we will begin to see some key recommendations emerge on how activity could be modified to improve performance, better use of resources and better outcomes for residents.

Concerns around capacity and the impact of potential budget cuts have been raised by a number of partners, across all delivery areas in the environment theme.



Innovation

The waste PFI facilities are due to come on line during the next 6 months and the focus of the Lancashire Waste Partnership will turn to integrating district services.



Funding has recently been secured from the CLASP (Climate Change Local Area Support Programme funded by NWIEP and NWDA) Local Partnerships Small Project Fund for the completion of an aerial thermal heat loss survey of buildings in urban & suburban Lancashire. The results will be mapped to postal address and overlaid with Mosaic socio-economic data, leading to a list of households to target for home energy efficiency advice. Follow-up will include a broad range of methods to identify best practice in converting the survey results into measures installed. The lessons learnt from carrying out the survey and data processing will be shared with the rest of the CLASP network. The work is being led by LCC in partnership with the district councils, Blackpool & Blackburn with Darwen and the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre.

The development of a climate change adaptation 'wizard' for Lancashire, supporting work on NI188, is an innovative approach being developed for services to assess climate risks and identify adaptation options. Based on UKCIP's adaptation wizard the Lancashire wizard is a toolkit which highlights how weather and climate change is already affecting our locality and services and includes information on forecasts, adaptation studies, identifying adaptation options and assessing risks. The wizard sits within Lancashire County Councils existing risk management framework and working through the toolkit will enable services to evaluate future vulnerabilities against current weather impacts to assist with the completion of risk assessments and the development of appropriate adaptation action plans. Following trialing of the toolkit it will be refined before being launched for use by other partners across Lancashire. This project has also secured a small amount of CLASP funding to support the development of the wizard.


Half Yearly 2009/10 - Theme Action Plan Update

Planned Actions Quarter 1 & 2	Delivered Actions Quarter 1 & 2	Risk RAG Rating
<p>NI 186 - Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy launched. • Quarterly meetings of Climate Change Partnership held. Thematic sub-groups identified. • Ongoing monitoring of actions outlined in the Supporting Actions document. • Begin assessing gaps in delivery to identify further long-term action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy launched on 16 April 2009 by the Minister of State for Communities and Local Government. • Quarterly meetings held and delivery framework agreed, thematic groups identified and partner roles clarified. • Process for monitoring actions is being developed to incorporate the TrACE tool recently published by the Energy Saving Trust. • LSPs and thematic groups are identifying gaps in delivery. 	
<p>NI 187 - Tackling Fuel Poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit & review district activity. • Identify gaps. • Consolidate county action plan. • Obtaining further buy-in and support from districts & LSPs for fuel poverty work. • Assess opportunities through new initiatives such as the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the 2009-10 NI187 survey process and securing buy in and funding where possible has been a priority for all LA's over the last 6 months. • Basic activity review completed and strategic overview of activity underway. Work to improve the reporting of Warm Front data has been initiated. • Links with other partners have been strengthened, for example through working with Central Lancs & North Lancs PCTs on Seasonal Excess Deaths, with LCC Adult & Community Services by supporting their recruitment of four review, assessment and support officers (RASOs) in Burnley & Pendle who, whilst undertaking social care reviews, will also identify householders experiencing fuel poverty, and funding has been secured to work with Lancashire's Children's Trusts to promote integrated working to reduce child poverty. 	

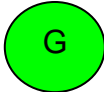
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

Planned Actions Quarter 1 & 2	Delivered Actions Quarter 1 & 2	Risk RAG Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to identify potential CESP areas has been completed and districts are now working with suppliers to assess and develop opportunities further. 	
<p>NI 188 - Adapting to Climate Change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange quarterly meetings of NI 188 Working Group. • Continue to raise awareness of adaptation with managers/services/general community through continued work on LCLIP and development of information. • Continue development of the LCLIP – LCC to continue to develop the weather impacts database and develop a template to enable Districts to feed in information. • Undertake assessment of UKCP09 climate projections and produce Lancashire Projections data. • LCC to begin to develop an adaptation wizard for services to assess adaptation options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of meetings planned. • Awareness raising is ongoing through attendance at meetings and presentations. • Initial LCLIP developed in 2008 has been brought up to date and will be kept timely through regular ongoing updates. • Initial assessment of UKCP09 projections completed, now awaiting training from UKCIP to complete more detailed assessments. • Development of adaptation wizard is underway. 	
<p>NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of the Lancashire Waste Partnership to take the recommended Waste Strategy forward for adoption by their Authority. • Continue to prioritise areas for action through the Officer Implementation Group (OIG). • Agree District specific action plans as appropriate. • Investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for the further development of Bulky Waste collection and re-use. • Roll out of new collection service by Chorley BC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Strategy adopted by a number of Partners, the remainder are in the process of adopting it. • OIG presented list of priority areas to the Lancashire Waste Partnership Board and these are now being taken forward. • District plans are being developed for the priority areas where being taken forward, e.g. for on-street recycling. • Feasibility study completed and action is moving forward on bulky waste collection. • Food waste pilots have been rolled out in Chorley & South Ribble 	

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<p>Continued monitoring of food waste pilots in Chorley and South Ribble to ensure adequate information available to inform service toolkit for Lancashire Authorities. Expansion of on-street recycling opportunities.</p>		
<p>NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each district working to their individual plans. • Looking to maximise resources. • Run a number of education and enforcement activities tailored to meet the needs of specific localities/neighbourhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to deliver against individual plans is ongoing, generally levels of performance are good and districts continue to deliver targeted service outcomes. • Districts are using intelligence-led service provision which makes the best use of the surveys to target resources more effectively. • Examples of targeted education & enforcement activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police/PCSOs training and authorisation to issue FPNs for littering and dog fouling. - Engaging Keep Britain Tidy to provide refresher training to staff. - Imaginative campaigns to raise awareness and promote responsible disposal of litter particularly around the disposal of cigarette butts and chewing gum. - Schools educational programme in West Lancs presented by Street Scene. 	

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<p>NI 197 Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up letter to district councils and LSPs to support delivery on the ground. Mechanism in place for drawing down funding. Recruitment process completed. Staff appointed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up letters distributed and follow up is ongoing. All districts except 1 have committed funding contributions for this year and follow up is ongoing to secure contributions for future years. Recruitment process has been completed and 2 ecologists and 1 part-time clerical/technical officer are in post. 	

	The planned action has been completed		The planned action has not been completed but the barriers to completion have been identified and sub-actions to overcome these have also been identified and steps taken to implement these sub-actions		The planned action has not been completed and either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barriers to completion have not been identified and/or Barriers have been identified but sub-actions to overcome these have not been identified and/or Sub-actions have been identified but steps have not been taken to implement these sub-actions
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