

# Q1 2010/11 Theme Overview

## Partnership Theme: ENVIRONMENT

How well are the outcomes and improvements being delivered?

Performance data for 5 of the 6 environment NI's is reported annually and with significant time delay for NI186 - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (2008 data is expected in September). NI195 is reported three times a year; however the results of the first surveys are not due until the end of September so there is nothing to report at quarter 1.

However, performance against the theme's actions continues to progress well. Street cleanliness (NI195) action is ongoing, with districts working to their individual plans with emphasis placed on struggling areas. Likewise delivery on increasing recycling rates continues against the priorities identified in the Lancashire Waste Strategy, agreeing district specific action plans as appropriate. Final year end data for recycling rates (NI192) for 2009-10 is expected in November.

The Lancashire Climate Change Partnership has now agreed an increase in the carbon reduction target for the County from 30% to 34% by 2020 in line with national targets and a detailed analysis of Lancashire's current performance is given in the 2009-10 annual progress report: (<http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=3945&pageid=32023&e=e>). Action being taken by district LSPs, specific theme groups and individual organisations (to reduce their operational emissions) continues to deliver against climate change objectives and is also outlined in the report.

There are some key county-wide initiatives underway to deliver against climate change & fuel poverty objectives (NI186 & NI187). These include the *Big Ticket Issue* projects (the fuel poverty referral system and low cost insulation scheme) along with the county aerial thermal survey for targeting properties for reducing energy use and identifying fuel poor households. Area-based Affordable Warmth and/or Seasonal Excess Deaths strategies are being developed across Lancashire and the Energy Officers group is considering how actions consistently raised can be addressed county-wide.

The target for climate change adaptation work (NI188) is to meet Level 3 of the Climate Change adaptation matrix, the key requirement for this is the development of an adaptation action plan. It has been agreed by the Adaptation Working Group that each partner authority (working towards Level 3) will produce its own action plan in response to the risks identified which may affect its services and functions (identified to meet Level 2). It has also been agreed that each plan will be published by December, after which time the adaptation working group will consider how best to co-ordinate the individual plans into a Lancashire-wide plan.

The emphasis of the work to improve local Biodiversity (NI197) in this quartile has been to undertake the necessary field surveys and assessments during the short time windows dictated by individual habitat types. It is anticipated that this will remain the

emphasis over much of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile. Good progress is being made in contacting site owners and in seeking permissions for site surveys. 45 sites have been surveyed with 22 site prescriptions written during Quarter 1, the Team is now focusing on completing site surveys during the next quarter in order to fit as many sites as possible into the short survey season.

## What are the prospects for the future?

As highlighted in previous performance reports, concerns around capacity and budget efficiencies continue to be raised by a number of partners across all delivery areas. A number of issues specific to particular NIs have also been identified:

- There is uncertainty around the future of the Fuel Poverty postal survey, which provided the data for monitoring NI187. The NI was already under review by the Department for Energy & Climate Change (DECC) due to numerous concerns raised nationally over the quality and usefulness of the data returned, as yet no guidance has been received on the future of the survey and the Energy Officers Group will be discussing issues around the completion of the 2010-11 survey at their next meeting in August.
- As reported previously, securing the long-term sustainability of the Lancashire Natural Environment Service remains a key priority. The service has secured funding for 2 years, and is now nearing the end of the first. Whilst a key part of the project was to deliver against NI197 (Improving biodiversity) the Service delivers against a number of priorities such as monitoring changes in area of Biodiversity Action Plan habitat and fulfilling the need for Local Development Frameworks to be based upon up to date information.