

# LSP Assembly

## Getting Greener, Together – tackling our environmental challenges

July's Assembly meeting was dedicated to looking at our environmental commitments and discussing how to make a difference in the future. Scott Butterfield kicked things off, reminding delegates of the importance of the environment as a theme in the Sustainable Community Strategy. He also prompted the assembly to think about how the LSP might best tackle environmental issues throughout the course of its day-to-day work on all its priorities.

Scott was followed by Debbie King, Lancashire County Council's Principal Environment Officer, who covered the Local Area Agreement in detail. She noted that this includes commitments on cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, tackling fuel poverty, adapting to climate change, increasing recycling, improving cleanliness, and maintaining the variety of natural life (biodiversity) in Hyndburn.

But the real focus of the afternoon was the workshops organised around each of the commitments. Delegates split up into 6 groups to consider what Hyndburn was already doing, what we could do in the future, and how we could improve our performance. All the information discussed was recorded and will be passed to the Environment Group for consideration at its next meeting. You'll find some detail on what was discussed overleaf.

After the workshop, LSP Chair Peter Shaw concluded with some compelling words on the need to take the issue of the environment seriously, pledging that the momentum generated by this event would not be lost as recruitment for the new Partnerships Manager role gets underway.

### Abbreviations

**LSP** -Local Strategic Partnership  
**CSP**—Community Safety Partnership  
**Accross** - Accrington and Rossendale College  
**HBC**—Hyndburn Borough Council  
**VCFS**—Voluntary Community Faith Sector  
**LCC**—Lancashire County Council



### LSP Assembly

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#### Attendees

Peter Shaw, Scott Butterfield, Emma Kenyon, B Holden, David Joyce, Rob Grigorjevs, Simon Prideaux, Stephen Carlisle, Michael Woods, Barbara Sharples, Anne Hourican, John Lamb, Cllr Munsif Dad, Christine Fish, Ann Marie Foster, Karen Thompson, Damien Darcy, Cllr Peter Clarke, Tony Akrigg, Dave Allonbly, Vickie Rigg, Harry Ballantyne, Chris Lennox, Sue Sinclair, Steve Rigg

#### Apologies

David Welsby, Jobcentre Plus, Ellie Taylor, Paul Toman, Julian Hickinbotham, Phil Barwood, Fiona Goodfellow, Linda Grimshaw, Jane Ellis, Parvindah Sohal

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## NI 186—Per capital reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA

A lively and provocative discussion between the Council, College and Primary Care Trust looked at some of the practical actions we could take through the LSP. Better joining up of communication was a particular issue, with the possibility of joining together the various publicity campaigns on eco issues being suggested.

Partners discussed how environmental requirements could be included in new developments, and pointed to the investment of Tesco in an Energy Strategy for the new

Accrington store as an example of how this could work.

Other ideas, such as a loan fund for community organisations wanting to install eco-friendly energy generation systems and a knowledge-sharing “big emitters club” were also put forward and debated – along with the need for buy-in from partners across and outside the LSP.

The group agreed that some practical steps were needed to improve our approach. In particular, an

environmental champion was needed to promote the issue more effectively, and a resolution to the situation with the Environment Group was also needed.



## NI 187—Tackling Fuel Poverty

Fuel Poverty is defined as the percentage of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low and high energy efficiency rating.

Concern was raised at the high proportion of people who are fuel poor (those spending more than 10% of their income on fuel) and the recognition that not only people receiving benefits are affected. In addition a high percentage of unfit and energy inefficient properties are occupied by low income families and older people, and that this

contributes to ill-health.

It was acknowledged that a lot of work is being done via Homewise the local Home Improvement Agency and it was hoped that resources would continue to be made available.

Generally it was felt that more awareness/training sessions and links with other organisations were crucial in ensuring that everyone had access to the national/local grants and subsidies that are avail-

able. There is a need for accurate data, to target specific areas, and for legislation to protect vulnerable private tenants. The LSP must ensure working group action plans take account of the need for a more sustainable approach.



## NI 188—Planning to Adapt to Climate Change



Hyndburn achieved Level 0 last year and has made steps to currently achieve Level 1, against a target of Level 2. The achievement of this was clearly dependant on a comprehensive LCLIP - Local Climate Impacts Profile which is a comprehensive risk assessment.

A strong starting point for any assessment would be to perform a weather trawl, getting historical data for the past 5 years and looking at the impact that this placed on all the services as well as individual businesses. The need to raise awareness of the importance of this area was highlighted as imperative as many simple measures can be implemented to not only cope with extremities but also that can have a direct impact now.

The group felt that the LSP needs to offer greater guidance to partners on this issue and needs to develop either a complete action plan or a thorough climate strategy.

Use of the Carbon Trust as an advisory body was highlighted by Accross who recently underwent a thorough energy survey and are showing many ‘best practices’ in this area.

## NI 192—Household waste reused, recycled and composted

Hyndburn has made great strides in this area in recent years by developing a comprehensive recycling service. The council encourages waste reduction, recycling and composting through raising initiatives.

HBC is leading the country in the reduction of waste sent to landfill and offers additional services such as free bulky collection. Recent innovations include the “Neat Street” campaign, recycling facilities at schools, Whinney Hill to convert some methane gas to electricity and subsidized home composters.

The council is currently running a trial campaign targeting non-recyclers by letter and door knocking known offenders to help educate and encourage recycling.

There are also plans to educate children through the Private Finance Initiative.

The council is also looking at extending the recycling to other materials such as food waste.

Some suggestions for new projects



included working with supermarkets to reduce packaging and BOGOF items, recycling tyres by using them in playgrounds and encouraging the use of real nappies.



We need LCC to put pressure on their own buildings such as schools and libraries to recycle. There also needs to be a change in thought to develop a culture change developing a pride in the Community and greater advertising on available services.

## NI 195—Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)

This group really got to grips with the issues around partnership working on this area. The Council has made progress through the use of targeted initiatives and investment in new equipment, and is continuing to refine its approach through recycling sacks which fasten and Poo Buster equipment.

The main areas of improvement suggested were around better

partnership working and integration with other projects.

Registered Social Landlords, Elevate Housing Market Renewal, undertaking enforcement activity with the police, and the establishment of an environmental ambassador all featured on the list of suggestions. There is also the possibility of linking in with the Family Intervention Project.



## NI 197—Improved local Biodiversity

Giving people access to nature on their doorstep was the theme



which threaded through the discussions on biodiversity. Whilst this has not been in the spotlight as much as some of the other indicators, the Council has approved extra funding for sites in its ownership together with approval for the Woodnook Vale Local Nature Reserve. Our existing site – Foxhill Bank – is actively managed by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and

Prospects are making an “access to nature” bid.

A whole series of future improvements was identified, reflecting discussions in other groups around the involvement of the VCFS and the LSP itself.



## LSP Assembly

## The way forward – your views needed!

The workshop raised a number of questions on how the LSP should take forward environmental issues. One point raised was how progress should be driven on the LAA indicators, and how the environment should be considered throughout the LSP's other actions.

**Do you have any views on this not covered in the LSP workshop? If so, please email your thoughts to [info@hyndburnlsp.org.uk](mailto:info@hyndburnlsp.org.uk).** Maybe you think the Environment Group is too isolated and the issues should be considered by the Interactions Group; or maybe you think new partners need to be brought on board. Whatever your opinion, please let us know – these will be considered at the next Environment Group on 23/9/2009 where the outcome of the workshop will be turned into a formal action plan.

## ...and finally

### Scott Butterfield - Acting LSP Manager

Scott is leaving Hyndburn to take up a new role as Research and Intelligence Manager at Blackpool Council in September. He said: "I've enjoyed my time filling in as the LSP Manager, but the opportunity to join a newly-formed team in a unitary authority at a time of major change was too good to miss. It's been a pleasure working with you all and although I'm moving over to the Fylde Coast I'll no doubt see some of you around on one of my frequent visits back!"

Two new roles of Partnerships Manager and Principal Partnerships Officer covering both the LSP and the CSP will be recruited to in August.

### How to contact the LSP

[www.hyndburnlsp.org.uk](http://www.hyndburnlsp.org.uk)



Email : [info@hyndburnlsp.org.uk](mailto:info@hyndburnlsp.org.uk)

Tel : 01254 380983

Address: **Hyndburn Local Strategic Partnership, 20 Cannon Street, Accrington, BB5 1NL**

### Profile of Emma Kenyon- LSP Support Officer

A graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University, Emma has 15 years experience in Financial Sales and Management. She went on to run her own management consultancy business for 4 years working mainly in London, Manchester and also a spell in the Republic of Ireland. Returning to the Manchester area she then took on a franchise for a national estate agency based in Guildford who worked closely with Housing Associations on Shared Ownership Projects. Now in her second month in the role as LSP Support Officer Emma hopes to bring continuity and fresh ideas into the Hyndburn LSP.