



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister
Creating sustainable communities

UPDATE

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Summit 2005 review; special pull-out section

Also in this issue:

Two new five-year plans

'Design for Manufacture' launched

Focus on...Beacon Community

Regeneration Partnership

Academy for Sustainable Communities



SUMMIT
2005
delivering sustainable
communities

Welcome to Update

by Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott

Welcome to the latest edition of *Update*.

Many of you will have attended our Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit between 31 January and 2 February in Manchester. Thanks to the hard work and professionalism of all who took part, the event was a great success and attended by over 2000 delegates.

The Summit showed that sustainable communities have a relevance at global, national, regional and local level. Delivering sustainable communities means putting people first and giving them opportunities to improve their quality of life. There's a real understanding that sustainable communities is not just a theory, but is grounded in practical reality across the country – like Grange Park in Blackpool, which won my Award for Sustainable Communities, or Wythenshawe where the Prime Minister and I launched a new community forum.

At the Summit, we launched our second five-year plan, "People, Places and Prosperity", to improve local governance and give people more power and resources to influence decisions in their community. And the English Partnerships' house showed how we can push down construction costs and make homes more affordable for people on low incomes. It was a real focus of attention in the exhibition, and will now become a new affordable family home in our new Millennium Community in Allerton Bywater. We reported back on a variety of programmes at the Summit – from the Northern Way to the State of the Cities research. The range of programmes and partners involved showed just how much work is now underway across the country to deliver places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.



John Prescott, MP
Deputy Prime Minister

Update is produced four times a year by the Sustainable Communities Group (SCG) which is part of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The purpose of *Update* is to provide an overview of news, progress and contact details on the programmes and priorities for delivering Sustainable Communities. If you have any information which you think may form the basis for an *Update* article, or you have suggestions for the publications section or for the events diary that you would like us to consider, please **contact the editor on 020 7944 3766 or email: update@odpm.gov.uk**

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Front cover photograph: Delegates visiting the exhibition at ODPM's Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, Manchester

ODPM launches two new five-year plans

Creating sustainable communities is at the heart of the Government's agenda to build a flourishing fair society based on opportunity and choice for everyone. To take this forward the Deputy Prime Minister has published two five-year plans, which together represent the next step in delivering the long-term vision in the £38 billion Sustainable Communities Plan.

Sustainable Communities: Homes for All, published on 24 January, focuses on one key requirement of a sustainable community: the opportunity of a decent home at a price people can afford.

But creating sustainable communities is about more than just housing.

Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity, launched on

31 January, sets out action to revitalise neighbourhoods, strengthen local leadership, and increase regional prosperity to create places in which people want to live and work.

'But creating sustainable communities is about more than just housing.'

Sustainable communities: Homes for All

'Homes for All' offers everyone – owner-occupiers, first time buyers, social tenants, key workers and people who rent – the opportunity of a decent home at a price they can afford.

It sets out how the Government will plan for growth in a responsible way: investing in four Growth Areas to deliver 1.1 million new homes in the wider South East by 2016; providing £40 million to support new areas in preparing for growth; extending the Density Direction to other areas of high housing demand in the South West and East of England; and a new Green Belt Direction to strengthen protection of the green belt.

The Government's £1.2 billion Market Renewal Programme is tackling the problems of low housing demand in the North and Midlands.

The Government is making £65 million available to tackle low demand in additional areas. And to help tackle homelessness, the plan sets an aim of halving numbers living in temporary accommodation by 2010.

The Government will help 80,000 people into home ownership by 2010, including through a new First Time Buyers initiative using vacant public land to offer homes on a "shared equity" basis; and a competition to build a quality home for £60,000.

To extend home ownership more widely, 'Homebuy' will enable up to 300,000 council and housing association

tenants to buy a share in their home. And there will be more choice for social tenants about where they live: through choice-based lettings and 'moveUK', a new service bringing together information about job and housing opportunities nationwide.



People, Places and Prosperity

'Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity' outlines the Government's ambitious plans to help people shape their communities to provide safe, clean and green environments and provide security, opportunity and choice for all.



Photo: Sheffield City Council

New homes at Norfolk Park, Sheffield

It is built on two key principles: putting people in control and giving them the tools to shape their future; and, acting at the right level, with good governance and strong leadership, to get services right.

The Government wants to see local people and communities driving improvements in their neighbourhoods, with a new 'Neighbourhoods Charter' giving a new menu of powers to neighbourhood bodies. This includes the ability to own their own assets and to trigger action when things are not right.

This will ensure that everyone gets the chance to become engaged in their community.

This is particularly important for the most deprived people, with over £2.5 billion being invested each year in practical work to transform the worst-off areas through Neighbourhood Renewal programmes. This supports the Government's aim to narrow the gap between the best and worst-off and to ensure that opportunity and choice are for all.

The new strategy for local government – 'local:vision' – will help shape a new role for local government, with strong local councils securing the excellent services that people want and providing leadership for their communities (see page 7).

The next five years will see a more ambitious roll-out of Local Area Agreements (LAAs), making it easier for local priorities to drive services. More mayors with greater powers to transform major cities will be a part of the agenda for better and more accountable local leadership.

With LAAs bringing focus to key local activities, decisions must be taken at the right level to join together action for the benefit of all. Using stronger regions to drive prosperity and bring together services, funding and plans will offer opportunities for all people to share in increased prosperity.

By putting local people in the driving seat and ensuring that local democracy and regional drive are flourishing, all over the country people's sense of belonging and pride in their community will be renewed and revitalised.



www.odpm.gov.uk/five-yearstrategy

First Time Buyers Initiative

House price rises have left many hardworking families, particularly first time buyers, unable to buy a home of their own. ODPM is taking action to address this issue in the longer term, recognising, however, that action needs to be taken now to help more people enjoy the benefits that home ownership brings.

The First Time Buyers Initiative (FTBi) was first announced by the Deputy Prime Minister in September 2004. It will be designed to give people a helping hand towards independent home ownership. Over the next five years

15,000 homes will be built on land from the public sector – or from other sources – and offered to buyers at an affordable price. Buyers will share in the benefits of increasing house prices and, over time, will be able to increase their share of ownership in most cases.

With the security and financial stability this will bring, buyers will find it much easier to move on to full ownership.

Half of the homes provided under the scheme will be made available to key workers, reinforcing the

Government's commitment to the success of our public services. The other half will be available more generally to those struggling to buy their first home. Final decisions on eligibility will take into account local needs and circumstances.

The scheme will operate alongside existing options for low-cost home ownership, giving people a *real* choice and catering for a wide range of circumstances.

For more information, email: firsttimebuyers@odpm.gov.uk

Local government settlement

For the third year running, this year's local government settlement provides an above inflation increase for all councils. Given this substantial investment, lower council tax increases are expected this year. Average council tax increases across England should be less than five per cent in 2005/06 – the Government has made it clear that it is prepared to take even tougher capping action than it did in 2004/05 if necessary.

For details see



www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0506/grant.htm

CPA report published

For the second year running single tier and county councils have made big strides in improving their performance. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Report, published by the Audit Commission in December, showed that 101 councils are now rated 'good' or 'excellent', giving them greater freedom from central government in how they deliver services and improvements for their local community. The Commission has been consulting on a new CPA framework for 2005 onwards.



The report is at www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Housing Act 2004 – how it could help you

Elsie lives in a third-floor flat with shared facilities. It's poorly managed, with badly fitting windows and old electrical wiring. Elsie has two children, Bob and Caroline. Bob rents a terraced house in disrepair in a low-demand area. Caroline wants to sell her house, but three abortive moves have cost her £2000 in wasted surveys. What's the Government doing to help Elsie, Bob and Caroline?

The answer is the Housing Act 2004. This year, Elsie's council will implement the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), which marks a change from the old fitness standard. The Council will be able to inspect properties such as Elsie's – especially the defects that are hazardous to health or safety – and will have an improved range of powers to get repairs carried out. Elsie's flat is in a house of multiple occupation (HMO). From next year, the landlord will need a licence and, as the licensee, will need to show they are a "fit and proper" person to manage the property, and the property has adequate facilities and equipment for the people living in it.

Bob's house is in an area of house price collapse and abandonment. His landlord tolerates anti-social behaviour among some of his tenants. The council will be able to use HHSRS to assess what repairs the landlord needs to get done and, from next year, will have the powers to designate the area for licensing and license Bob's house and others like it.

Help is also in the offing for Caroline. In 2007, home information packs will be introduced. They will bring together, at the start of the home buying and selling process, information (such as a home condition report) which, at present, is collected piecemeal in the weeks and months after an offer has been accepted. So, instead of having to commission separate surveys on different houses, she will have access to the reports commissioned by sellers before the homes are put on the market.

The Act will also help others, such as mobile home owners and Gypsies and Travellers.

For more information on the Housing Act and other key housing policy documents, see the Housing and Sustainable Communities section of the



ODPM website at: www.odpm.gov.uk/housing



HMOs such as these will benefit from HMO licensing and the HHSRS

Efficiency in social housing

Effective and efficient housing procurement is central to the Government's vision for everyone to have the opportunity of a decent, affordable home.

Investment in housing and creating sustainable communities has increased to £38 billion for 2003-08. However, land prices are rising and construction costs are increasing rapidly. It is vital to make the best use of available public money, and ODPM is committed to efficiency gains worth at least £835 million a year by 2007-08, to be reinvested in social housing.

ODPM is looking to social housing to identify and share best practice, and is putting in

place a series of initiatives to support the sector.

To help social landlords do more with money available for decent homes and capital works, ODPM will set up a network of local procurement consortia, to maximise efficiencies throughout the supply chain. A £33 million Efficiency Loan Fund has been established to help set up the consortia.

A range of innovative approaches is being piloted to deliver more efficient housing management and maintenance services. In particular, social landlords should invest more in planned maintenance, rather than expensive repairs.

A national collective purchasing agent, Procurement for Housing, was launched this year, offering savings through joint procurement of goods and services.

In addition, the Housing Corporation is changing the way funds are allocated to improve targeting and value for money in housing supply. There should also be more use of supply chain partnering, to generate efficiencies through the whole construction process.

 [www.odpm.gov.uk/
socialhousingefficiency](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/socialhousingefficiency)

The local government debate moves on

There has been a great deal of enthusiasm for the debate started last summer about how local government can best serve local communities over the next ten years.

Two key themes are being examined in depth – leadership and involvement at neighbourhood level. Next, the performance management framework and services will come under the spotlight.

Strong leadership is vital in building sustainable communities. This means making sound decisions and setting out a vision for the

community. The right people and organisations must be brought together to deliver what the community needs. Councillors could have a key role in leading their own neighbourhoods.

The focus is firmly on the needs and aspirations of the people local government is there to serve. The community should be given the opportunity and encouragement to participate in local democracy, helping to make decisions and shape local services.

Communities differ widely, so there will be no 'one size fits all'. However, a framework, building on what is working well already, could provide standards for action through a 'Neighbourhoods Charter'.

Discussion documents: *'Vibrant local leadership'* and *'Citizen engagement and public service: Why neighbourhoods matter'* are available at

 www.odpm.gov.uk

'Design for Manufacture' launched

The *Design for Manufacture* competition, launched by the Deputy Prime Minister at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, provides a showcase of how to build cost-effectively across a range of housing types without sacrificing quality. It aims to stimulate fresh thinking at a scale that will help the industry break out of the research and development cycle, facilitating the 'mainstreaming' of modern construction for volume developments in a way that others can follow.

It will invite organisations and partnerships to bid for the right to construct one or more new developments on specific

English Partnerships owned sites. The competition will look for some 30% of the housing units within the competition to be constructed for a target cost of £60k (the remainder will be larger and smaller units that should be built at an equivalent cost-efficiency).

A feature of the competition is that it will also provide an opportunity for public participation and debate about what the Homes for the 21st century should be like.

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The 'Abode' development in Harlow, Essex – winner of winners, Housing Design Awards 2004.

Homelessness announcement

In December, the Deputy Prime Minister announced a £150 million package of measures to give the homeless a better future.

This includes improving hostels for the homeless, spending more on preventing homelessness and supporting front line services such as help for women suffering domestic violence.

In recent years, progress has been made. For instance, there are fewer new homeless households and rough sleepers, as well as a

reduction in the use of bed and breakfast hotels for families with children for longer than six weeks. Also, the statutory protection for young people, care leavers and other vulnerable groups has been strengthened. However, there is still work to do. For example, the reduction in the number of people in shared accommodation, such as bed and breakfast, has been accompanied by an increase in the use of self-contained temporary accommodation.

'Homes for All', ODPM's new five-year Housing Strategy includes innovative ways to reduce the use of temporary accommodation and provide more settled homes for those in greatest need.

For more information

Email: homelessness@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

www.odpm.gov.uk/homelessness



Tackling arson

The effects of deliberate fires on neighbourhoods can be devastating – for example, school fires disrupt education and destroy precious schoolwork.

To tackle the problem, the Government set up the Arson Control Forum, which has jointly funded local projects with local partners. Research* showed that the number of deliberate fires in project areas fell by around 2% but increased by 27% where no action was taken – so the likelihood of arson in these areas fell by nearly 30%.

Clearing abandoned cars and setting up arson task forces have proved the most effective measures. These are now the priority for the Forum's current 'Implementation Fund', investing £9.3 million over the three years to March 2006.

Of the 66 local arson control partnerships currently being funded, a total of 53 are one of these two types of scheme. Other solutions include a regional fire-investigation team in the North East. Wherever possible, funded schemes focus on young people.



Abandoned cars such as this are a target for arsonists

As well as helping to meet the national target for reducing arson by 10% by March 2010, preventing deliberate fires also supports neighbourhood renewal projects and moves to tackle anti-social behaviour.

 www.arsoncontrolforum.gov.uk

* Evaluation of the Arson Control Forum's New Projects Initiative, ODPM:2004



Firefighters attending a burning vehicle

Focus on...

Beacon Community Regeneration Partnership, Falmouth

Interview with Grenville Chappel

This year Grenville was one of the judges for the 2004 DPM's Award, which was awarded to Blackpool's Grange Park Community Project at the Summit. Here he tells Update about the work of the Partnership and the impact of winning the Award in 2003 – so the people of Grange Park have some idea of what is in store for them this year.



New skateboard park, Falmouth



Beacon Community Resource Centre, Falmouth

Falmouth

Q1. Are there any particular problems for Falmouth?

Falmouth, like many other seaside towns around our coast, is visited by millions of people every year. They drive into town have a wonderful time and think they have visited heaven; not realising there are areas of that town where poverty and deprivation is rife. Employment is mainly seasonal and very low-paid, and the cost of living is high.

Q2. What are the strengths that Falmouth has to offer?

Falmouth is a wonderful place to live, low levels of crime, good weather, and great scenery, ideal if you are retired.

Work of the Partnership

Q3. What are the biggest challenges faced by your Partnership?

Our constant challenge is to fund the project. All funding is short-term and, therefore most of our time is taken up looking into future funding instead of serving the estate. The partnership considers that to survive on funding for evermore is totally unreasonable and is working on various projects to develop an income to support its work. This, of course, causes a problem in itself, as the ward is so deprived that any business we set up must work on a very low profit margin.

We have worked on the estate for almost ten years and our work has lowered crime, improved health, assisted the District Council, and affected education results, not to mention



creating sustainable communities

Grenville Chappel is the Project Co-ordinator of Beacon Community Regeneration Partnership in Falmouth, which won the Deputy Prime Minister's (DPM's) Award for Sustainable Communities in 2003.

revitalised a great community spirit. These are all the things that were and are still needed, but none of them pay the bills.

Q4. What do you consider to be the particular role of your Partnership (and the relative importance of other organisations) in addressing these challenges?

The partnership's role in the community is very simple: it is to enable tenants to be empowered in any way that will improve their quality of life. We work a truly bottom-up approach, tenants in control of their own lives and future. In the last year, I have had the pleasure of visiting many communities around the country, giving the "Beacon Presentation". Most tell me that they operate a bottom-up policy, but I find that most of this is only "lip service"!

Q5. How do you measure the Partnership's success (and ensure you remain responsive to the changing needs of the community)?

As we are tenant-led, working directly with the people that we serve, we know if we are succeeding; we live on the

estates that we help, and are in constant contact with the agencies that serve the estates. Needless to say, we carry out all the much used exercises such as 'Planning for Real' and surveys, but most of our feedback comes from living in the area and being directly involved, as they say, '24/7'. Our involvement is more to us than a 9 to 5 job.

Q6. What has been the impact of winning the Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities?

This award has made a small project deep in the south west known throughout the country, and it has enabled us to help others by telling them our story and letting them take from it anything that helps them. I believe that if you have a winning formula you must tell all – it may not work for them, but give them a chance.

Future

Q7. What is the next substantial milestone that the Partnership must deliver?

We must set up various businesses to at least start to make the partnership self sufficient. There has been a lot of funding available in the last few years but this will not last forever.

Q8. Are there any personal challenges for you?

The challenge has been getting this estate, where I was born, back on its feet.

I would like to see it made sustainable and, after that, who knows? It's a big world with a lot of challenges.

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Grenville Chappel with local residents in Falmouth

creating sustainable communities

Academy for Sustainable Communities



In his Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities, Sir John Egan recommended the establishment of a national skills centre to drive forward a new integrated approach to skills development. In response, ODPM is setting up the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC).

ASC will have a wide stakeholder map that will include people from national, regional and local government; educators; Sector Skills Councils; the property and finance sector; major employers; the community and voluntary sectors; and the media. It will develop close relationships with regional stakeholders to build on existing successful programmes and networks.

Its purpose is to inspire and enable people across different fields to work together in a coherent, farsighted approach to creating and renewing

communities. ASC's long-term goal is to ensure there are enough skilled and experienced people working together effectively towards creating and renewing communities.

Over the coming months, ASC will develop work programmes that contribute to:

- setting a new agenda;
- creating the right skill set; and
- engaging all parties.

Become part of it

Plans are currently being developed in collaboration with stakeholders, and details of programmes and priorities will become available over the coming months.

To register your interest in ASC, visit:

 www.ascskills.org.uk

Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Development'

The Government's commitment to achieving more sustainable development through the planning system is set out in Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1), *"Delivering Sustainable Development"*, published recently by ODPM.

PPS1 seeks to ensure a balanced, integrated consideration of environmental issues alongside the need for sustainable economic development and the creation of sustainable communities. It provides strong emphasis

on design and makes clear that good design is indivisible from good planning in delivering safe, inclusive and successful communities.

The Statement sets out a new policy approach to planning which brings together and integrates policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes that influence the nature of places and how they function. This is called 'spatial planning'.

PPS1 stresses the importance of ensuring all sectors of the

community are involved in developing the vision for the area, and are given the opportunity to participate fully in the preparation of plans and policies. An introductory guide for the public on the reformed planning system *Creating Better Places to Live* has been produced to inform communities about the new planning system. It is available on the ODPM website.

PPS1 can be purchased from The Stationery Office or viewed at

 www.odpm.gov.uk/planning



The Summit Exhibition in the G-MEX

The Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit 2005

Manchester's impressive G-MEX/MICC and Bridgewater Hall provided the setting for the Government's widely acclaimed Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, held from 31 January to 2 February 2005.

Around 2,000 delegates joined Ministers from across government and over 150 leading UK and international speakers in the largest event of its kind ever to be held in the UK. Two years on from the launch of the £38 billion Sustainable Communities Plan, and following on from the Urban Summit in 2002, the Summit brought together the key people who are delivering the plan to discuss achievements and what's still to be done. And speakers from the United States, Europe and elsewhere offered an insight into some of the latest thinking and good practice from around the world.

The Summit provided inspiring presentations, thought provoking plenaries, workshops and expert master-classes. There were also site visits, fringe events, an extensive exhibition and a summit dinner.

This section provides a flavour of the event and its emerging messages.

To find out more, see www.odpm.gov.uk/summit

Key themes of the Summit speeches

An international approach to sustainable communities

The wide range of renowned international speakers brought a unique global perspective to the Summit. They showed that the British concept of sustainable communities learns from, and takes forward, the American New Urbanism and European approaches to planning and regeneration.

Developing this important international theme, the Deputy Prime Minister announced a new Europe-wide approach to creating sustainable communities as a key part of the forthcoming UK presidency of the European Union. Mr Prescott said this would be particularly relevant to the new member states of Eastern Europe.

The idea received strong support from international partners. European Commissioner Danuta Hübner said "The UK has...lots of experience that the rest of the European Union can draw on." The Mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley, said the principles of sustainable communities work in his country too: "You don't tear down an old neighbourhood... What you do is build community anchors: schools, parks, libraries, fire stations", he said.

New Academy for Sustainable Communities

At the centre of this European initiative will be the UK's new Academy for Sustainable Communities, which Mr Prescott said will "join forces with the Congress for New Urbanism in the United States and other leading centres around the world", to become "an international centre of excellence in how to create sustainable communities".

The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister opening the Summit with Cllr Richard Leese and Nick Ross (left)



The Deputy Prime Minister with Richard Daley, Danuta Hübner and Summit Chairman Nick Ross (left)

Local people at heart of renewal

Another key theme of the Summit was that creating sustainable communities means giving people more power and resources to improve the places where they live.

Announcing ODPM's second Five Year Plan, 'People, Places and Prosperity,' the Deputy Prime Minister said he wants "to give people more say in the decisions that affect their lives." The new 'neighbourhoods charter' would help them influence improvements in local public services.

The Prime Minister called for "local people to be put in charge of local regeneration" at the opening reception to launch the Summit. The value of this has been shown in particular in our more disadvantaged communities. Lord Rooker reaffirmed the Government's aim to narrow the gap between the best and worst off areas during the launch of a new report on tackling disadvantage.

This was one of a number of publications launched at the Summit covering issues such as progress towards urban renaissance in our largest towns and the latest updates on the Northern Way and other inter-regional growth strategies.


More affordable housing

English Partnerships caused a stir with their new home built in the Summit exhibition. It showed how modern methods of construction could be used to drive down costs of construction to £60,000 or less.

The Deputy Prime Minister also used his keynote speech to call for more unused industrial land to be released for housing. And London Mayor Ken Livingstone said he aimed to work with ODPM and EP to double the 4000 affordable homes already planned under the London-Wide Initiative.

 www.odpm.gov.uk/summit

Key speeches and plenaries can be viewed via webstream at

 www.summittv.tv

The Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities 2004

This annual Award was presented by the Deputy Prime Minister at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit in Manchester on 1 February.

This year saw a bumper crop of 256 nominations – a substantial increase from last year, creating a difficult task for the panel of judges. However, after numerous site visits and three panel meetings, they were able to agree on the four finalists who best met specified criteria. Four other projects were also commended and an additional four panel 'favourites' were highlighted for strength in specific areas.

The four finalists were: Chatham Maritime and The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent; Grange Park Community Project, Blackpool; Joining Up Northumberland park, North London; and, Urban and Rural Renaissance Initiative, County Durham.

The Award ceremony at the Summit dinner was hosted by Kevin McCloud, TV Presenter of "Grand Designs". All finalists were received on stage by the Deputy Prime Minister and were given a certificate. Then the overall winner was announced – Grange Park Community Project, Blackpool. The winners were visibly absolutely delighted at the recognition for what their community had achieved.

Please read the enclosed brochure for full details of the Award. You are urged to seek ways of learning from these great examples of delivering sustainable communities.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Kevin McCloud (on his left) with the award winners



Zahid Hamid
Chief Executive,
Black Community Forum Ltd

"Slick and snazzy, suits and business cards. Cavernous industrial heritage enclosing intimate private conversations and 'deals'. A kaleidoscope of images and sounds and very professional presentations and exhibits. At times we were blitzed by 'heavyweights', stretched by intellect and humbled by real ordinary people. Manchester excelled as a host and the private sector was there in force (about time!). Black communities – marginal, jargon – central; highlight – the community award. Well done Blackpool!"



Alan Barber
CABE Space Commissioner

"CABE Space's packed fringe event gave a very positive answer to their seminar's title 'Parks and Squares, who cares?' Chicago do, judging by Mayor Daley's park pictures and emphasis on city beautification... The wasted acres of East Manchester, such a contrast to the vibrant city centre, show that the space for sustainable communities is all there but you have to undo the damage of 50 years of lousy British planning first".

Personal views

Feedback from delegates

Gideon Amos Director, Town &



"My highlight of the Summit was De Sir Peter Hall, TCPA President, for his communities. It was his inspiration th communities back in 2001.

We all have to recognise that certain to use development as an opportunity therefore welcome – but how can w

it in all regions? Solutions to the infrastructure logjam and a degree TCPA fringe meetings addressing these topics drew the crowds – eve

The Chancellor's view on Wednesday was clear "local communities s and discretion to innovate, respond to local conditions and meet spe arguments locally, often about the need for development at all as w for us to do then".

Dee Bingham Policy Manager, ENCAMS

"The message that stood out for me from the Summit was that com that affect their lives. I don't expect this to mean residents become e already regarding themselves as consumers of council services rather accessibility, responsiveness and openness. The new Freedom of Info a say in decisions. So in places where creating cleaner, safer, greener or councils, model bye-laws to tackle problems of anti-social behavior will be welcome news.

It was good to hear that the new national Academy for Sustainable in Leeds to connect up the professional disciplines and skills need communities. I think the challenge there will be balancing conver tangible qualities. 'Soft' skills like negotiation, communication, l just as important in achieving sustainable communities.

The Sustainable Communities Award part of the Conference The winners tackled cleanliness, community safety, educat spaces in what the judges described as a "model partne and the Grange Park Community Project".

of the Summit

& Country Planning Association

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's special award to Professor [Name] for his personal and almost lifelong commitment to sustainable development that led the TCPA to publish its programme for sustainable

ly environmentally, and probably socially, there is no alternative but to create a more sustainable country. The focus on delivery is to ensure that development meets the high standards we demand of the nation as a whole were needed – and two packed in the standing room was not enough!

should be equipped and empowered with maximum local flexibility to meet local needs." Delivery perhaps, depends most on winning the battle as about the high standards it must meet. Plenty of work

communities across the country will be given more say in local decisions not embroiled in every little detail of council business. But with people more than passive recipients, councils will need to gear up their information Act also creates a climate in which people will expect that communities is a priority, the announcements about incentives for and the sharing of good practice through 'how to' guides

Communities will be established to create sustainable communities with less bureaucracy. Listening and understanding will be an inspiration. Education, health, housing and green partnership" between Blackpool Council



Photo: Matt Wright

Tom Bloxham MBE
Chairman, Urban Splash

"Probably the best part of the Summit for me was the opportunity it offered in bringing so many important stakeholders together in one place at the same time... without the usual need to set up meetings. It was also impressive to have the Cabinet and Prime Minister present. For Urban Splash, the Summit provided the ideal platform for announcing progress on the New Islington Millennium Community in East Manchester, and for holding fringe events on issues that concern us. For Manchester as a whole, the Summit was a great opportunity to have so many people visit us and share their best practice".



Andrew Whitaker
National Planning Adviser,
The House Builders Federation (HBF)

"Whilst it was reassuring to see Government affirm its commitment to addressing Britain's serious – and worsening – housing crisis, what Britain's house builders need is hard evidence showing exactly how the Government is going to improve infrastructure in its housing growth areas... Unfortunately, the Summit concentrated on promoting the more ethereal concept of sustainable communities, rather than on the practical detail of their creation. No doubt the emphasis will be able to shift at future events, for which, given the positive buzz amongst delegates wanting to showcase their practical solutions, there are bound to be many opportunities in the near future".

Moving from vision to reality – the hard work starts now

There is no doubting the commitment of all stakeholders to the Sustainable Communities programme, yet the challenge they face is one of delivery – how best to make this vision reality? This is the key finding from the recent Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit pre-event survey, conducted in January by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The good news is that, while this issue is front-of mind for most stakeholders (a key challenge for 85 per cent of respondents), it is far from insurmountable. Delegates have identified three key factors which will determine how effectively delivery can be achieved – through improved definition of stakeholder roles and responsibilities; greater focus on skills and capacity; and commitment to joined-up thinking and integration of national, regional and local government, private sector and non-governmental organisations.

The head of PricewaterhouseCoopers' Sustainable Business Solutions practice, Geoff Lane, said that respondents wanted to see an improved definition of roles from now on, avoiding duplication and wasted resources. This underlines the need for the integration between the various communities of stakeholders involved.

The Sustainable Communities agenda is ambitious and without precedent and, as Geoff Lane stresses, the continuing shortfall of essential skills and resources should come as no surprise. "We've worked with a lot of people in this area, especially amongst local authorities. The commitment is definitely there, but the size of their day-to-day workload means they need help in focusing their contribution and honing their skills."



Summit delegates at the G-MEX

Fifty per cent of respondents identify improved communication as key to ensuring stakeholder engagement. Issues of education, awareness and changed perceptions are especially significant and 75 per cent of respondents expect ODPM to be the principal driver in bringing these about – setting strategic targets, facilitating stakeholder coordination and encouraging top-down and bottom-up sharing of best practice. Crucially, ODPM needs to ensure stakeholders and the general public are kept fully aware of the main successes of the Sustainable Communities programme.

Finally, 80 per cent of respondents expected attendance at the Summit to accelerate their contribution to this vision.

PricewaterhouseCoopers will conduct two follow-on surveys to track the impact of the Summit on perceptions, practice and delivery. The Survey results, along with a post Summit report will be published soon. Key speeches and plenaries can be viewed via webstream at www.summittv.tv. Pictures of the three day event can be seen at



www.odpm.gov.uk/summit.

Youth 'Summit Up'!

On the 31 January, ODPM hosted the Youth Summit Up event at the MICC in Manchester. Over 150 children and young people came together to give their views on a range of issues. The themes of the event were: having somewhere safe to play or hang around; feeling safe on the streets; and being consulted on issues that affect them.

Around 60 children and young people were involved in planning and delivering the event, which was designed to promote young people's involvement in creating sustainable communities. The ideas and suggestions from the day are now being fed back to ODPM to inform its work.

As part of this event, Young Firefighters, a fire service youth organisation from Agecroft fire station in Greater Manchester, were invited to take part in the planning. The young people attended a residential workshop in October to begin preparation for the event.

Cadets Stacey McLaren (14) and Gemma Petruzis (13), worked hard on ideas for how to decorate the main hall, and also suggested creating a calendar depicting ideas from young people on how to promote safer communities; the calendars were given out to everyone who attended on the day. Stacey and Gemma also designed a flyer which went out to youth organisations throughout the country to enable as many young people as possible to contribute.

The Young Firefighters also hosted a workshop at the conference designed to ask



Children and young people gave their views on a range of issues

young people what they think the Fire Service should do for the young and to promote safer communities. Two Young Firefighter junior instructors, who have been with the scheme for seven years, took the lead on this project. They ran an informative and fun workshop where they listened to a range of different views.

Four cadets also volunteered to host the workshop, James Bennet (19), Jolene Schofield (20), Kimberley Whittaker (14) and Rebecca Botham (15). They researched what other schemes the Fire Service operates, and organised the workshop on the day, which included seeking and recording the views of the young people who attended; one young delegate commented "I think that what you do with children is good and there should be more."

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020 7944 3112

Northern Way – progress report published at the Summit


In February last year, the Deputy Prime Minister invited the 3 northern Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to show how the North could use its assets to become more competitive and dynamic, and to narrow the £29 billion prosperity gap between it and the rest of the UK. The result of this was 'Moving Forward: The Northern Way', a long-term strategy that identified key areas to help accelerate the process of economic growth, launched in September by the Northern Way Steering Group.

The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the strategy, calling it "a milestone towards achieving sustainable communities in a stronger and more prosperous North of England". To kick start the strategy into practical action, he match-funded the RDAs' contribution to create a £100 million Northern Way Investment Fund. Additional Government announcements in December's Pre-Budget Report responded to further Northern Way challenges, by: creating nine

Pathways to Work Pilots in the North – three more than were sought in the Northern Way; rolling out the Employer Training Pilots, providing free and flexible training for low skilled adults; and increasing the role of regions in national decision-making, through a consultation on proposals for regional funding guidelines for transport, housing and economic development.

The Northern Way Steering Group published a progress report at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, which includes a more detailed response from the Government on how it is supporting the strategy. The Steering Group will publish a fully costed action plan in April this year.

For a copy of 'Moving Forward: The Northern Way' or the progress report, contact:
Susan Hanley, One North East,
Tel: 0191 229 6602,
email: susan.hanley@onenortheast.co.uk

 www.thenorthernway.co.uk

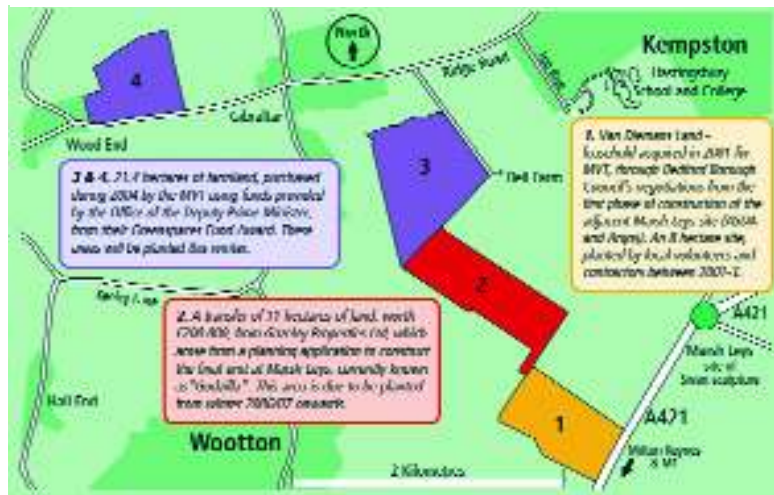
For more information on the
Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit see
www.odpm.gov.uk/summit

Sunset over the G-MEX, Manchester



Green spaces in the Growth Areas

The 61 square mile Forest of Marston Vale in Bedfordshire is due for extensive development over the next 20 years, as identified in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area. As a Charity, the Marston Vale Trust is well placed to identify strategic opportunities to deliver a varied green landscape and broker solutions with a range of partners.



Land secured to deliver Bedford's Green Gateway

In addition, it is working with the ODPM to ensure that housing growth is sensitive to the local landscape and creates an extensive green infrastructure. The Forest is a unique vehicle for the delivery of green infrastructure in the Vale. The Forest Team works with planners and developers to ensure that development is of high quality, delivers significant environmental benefit, creates a sense of ownership and makes real improvement to quality of life for those who live and work there.

In January 2004, the Forest was awarded £2.7 million from ODPM's Growth Area Green Spaces Fund. This will attract additional funding

from developers and industry increasing total investment to around £7 million.

Case study:
Bedford's Green Gateway

The Forest Team identified land for purchase to create a woodland corridor between the expanding communities of Bedford, Kempston and Wootton. Working with developers, Gazeley Properties Ltd, Bedford Borough Council's planning authority secured funding for the purchase of 27 acres of land for community woodland creation. The combination of public and private funding has resulted in the total purchase of 120 acres, to be known as Bedford's Green Gateway.



Public planting event at Buttons Ramsey, December 2004

In 2004, the Forest Team carried out extensive public consultation with the local community resulting in an agreed design for the new woodlands. Planting started in December, when 240 people planted 1600 trees.

By acquiring new sites for quality green infrastructure, the Forest Team has been able to attract further private funding from HSBC, Fresh and Wild Organic Food Stores Ltd, Emerald Acorn Ltd and Barclays.

Funding from ODPM's Growth Areas Green Spaces Fund has resulted in the Forest of Marston Vale securing three other sites for green infrastructure in the Marston Vale and will result in over 33,000 locally sourced, indigenous trees being planted this winter. The funding has attracted a total of £610,000 further funding from public and private partnerships to date.

Contact: Ian Foll
Tel: 01234 762610

GO-East

Planning for Growth

Government Offices (GOs) are responsible for implementing regional Sustainable Communities plans, and work with stakeholders to ensure delivery of both better housing and an efficient planning casework regime. They also work on regeneration and neighbourhood renewal in disadvantaged areas, and manage the European Regional Development Fund.

In the East of England, a region that faces significant challenges in meeting the needs of its growing communities, GO-East has a dedicated Growth Areas Team working with partners and key stakeholders to implement the proposals in ODPM's Communities Plan. The team focuses on growth and regeneration priority locations in the region, including Bedford, Luton/Dunstable, Peterborough, Harlow and the Thames Gateway.

Case study: Harlow Gateway

Built during the 1950s, Harlow is a first-generation New Town in need of physical, social and economic regeneration. Harlow has to grow to modernise and to fully exploit its prime location in the prosperous M11 corridor. One key objective is to transform its ageing town centre into a vibrant sub-regional centre.

The local authorities and GO-East have commissioned a range of studies covering transport, landscape and countryside, regeneration and investment, and master-planning. Together, these studies show how Harlow can be developed in sensitive and sustainable ways, achieving growth while simultaneously tackling regeneration challenges.

The Harlow Gateway is the most significant growth area capital scheme in the region, having received £10.85 million of funding. It will regenerate an area close to the town centre currently occupied by a disused dry ski slope and a run-down sports centre to provide 530 new homes, 30 per cent of which will be affordable. The project will also deliver a new community leisure centre, a one-stop health facility, and a science and technology centre.

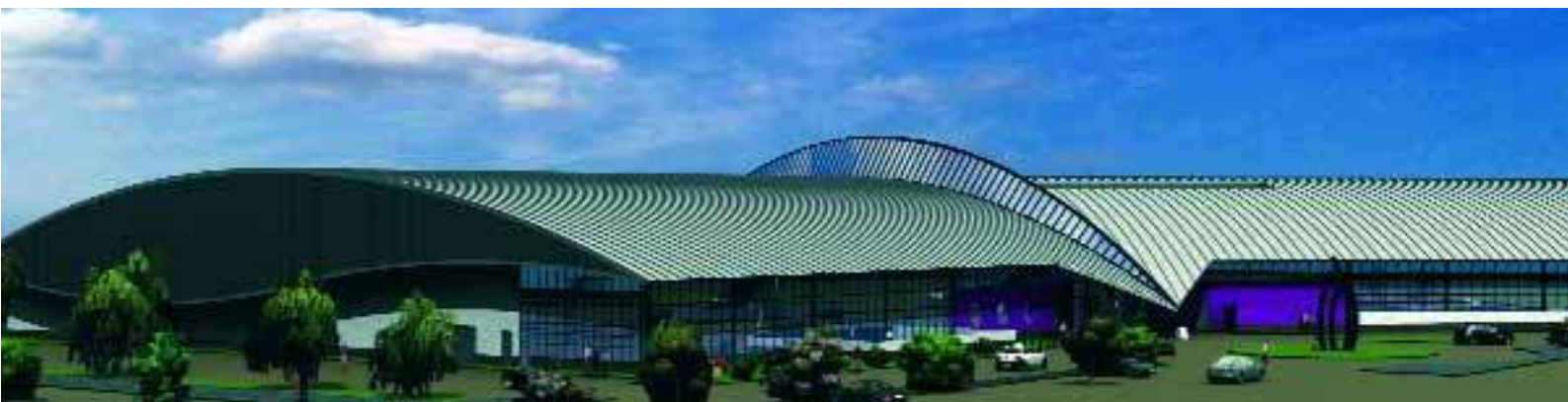
Significant progress has already been made on the Harlow Gateway scheme, and GO-East is continuing to work with its local partners on this and other regeneration projects in the region. Michael Hargreaves, head of the Growth Areas Team, said: "Our work is about transforming places and raising expectations, enabling these areas to realise their potential and provide the quality of life people deserve."

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The new community leisure centre, Harlow

Broad-based group puts case for housing supply



A broad-based group of social, business, and planning and design organisations came together in November at the Thames Gateway Forum Conference to outline its case for making housing more responsive to need and demand.

This followed the publication of Kate Barker's Independent Report on Housing Supply, commissioned by the Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister.

The group, consisting of members such as Shelter and Unison, believes that housing supply should be much more responsive to both need and demand. It aims to ensure that the issue is a national priority and that the agenda outlined in the Report is implemented in a way that is consistent with social, environmental and economic imperatives, and delivers well-designed, sustainable communities.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Shelter's Director, Adam Sampson said:

"There is a peculiar inconsistency about our approach to housing in the UK. While most people can see the damage the housing crisis is causing, proposals for new housing regularly run into the sand because of local opposition. The group ... has come together to promote a more constructive debate with the individuals or groups who are opposed to house-building."

 www.thamesgatewayforum.com
and
 www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
(for the Barker Review of Housing Supply)

'Our Cities are Back' Keith Hill visits Liverpool



ODPM Minister Keith Hill, with NewHeartlands Chief Executive Pauline Davies, at the Bootle building site

Urban Policy Minister Keith Hill visited Liverpool in December to see for himself how the city has been transformed in recent years.

Liverpool is one of eight 'core cities' identified by the Government as playing a vital part in the economic growth and prosperity of their surrounding regions.

The Minister saw construction work start on new houses for residents in Bootle, funded by NewHeartlands, the Government's Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder for Merseyside.

Along with Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield, Liverpool is helping to drive forward urban renaissance in the North and

the Midlands, as part of the Government's Northern Way growth strategy.

The visit also marked the launch of a major new report, 'Our Cities are Back', which sets out the next steps for building on existing success.

Keith Hill said: "This report shows that our cities have enormous potential to help create more prosperous regions and sustainable communities."

To find out more about core cities and the Northern Way, log on to

 www.odpm.gov.uk

housing market renewal

Constructing a better future in East Lancashire



By Max Steinberg, Chief Executive of Elevate East Lancashire

Elevate East Lancashire will have a huge impact on the construction industry in East Lancashire. With £68 million Housing Market Renewal (HMR) funds being invested in the first two years alone, there will be increased demand for skilled local labour, qualified contractors and suppliers.

To meet this demand, we have established the Constructing the Future project which enables local companies and employees to take advantage of the increasing opportunities in the construction sector.

I am committed to making sure the programme delivers local benefits. If Elevate is going to be truly transformational, it is vital that a good proportion of the HMR grant for East Lancashire stays in the local economy.

For Elevate, housing market renewal is about more than housing. It is also about the creation of new jobs and training programmes for local people and boosting the economy in East Lancashire during the next 15 years.

A study into the construction industry in East Lancashire revealed that the area has a shortage of qualified construction workers, particularly bricklayers and plasterers. It also found that over half the workforce had no qualifications – a situation that could restrict local companies' potential for growth.

New training courses, covering trades from bricklaying to solar panel installation, have been established and are full to capacity. Constructing the Future is also working with local construction firms to equip them with the skills and systems they will need to compete for contracts with Elevate and other regeneration projects, such as LIFT and the Building Schools for the Future programme.

At the heart of Elevate activity is a commitment to include local suppliers wherever possible and this will be extended to any housing developers from outside the area. They will be expected to use the local supply chain and employ local people.

We want to see local companies and local people winning Elevate contracts and jobs. Through Constructing the Future, we're giving them the support they need.

Max Steinberg

For more information on Constructing the Future, contact Kathleen Reagan Houghton. Email: kathleen.houghton@elevate-eastlancs.co.uk

 www.elevate-eastlancs.co.uk

By working with organisations such as the Lancashire Learning and Skills Council, local colleges, the Construction Industry Training Board and industry representatives, Elevate is tackling this problem head-on.



Construction work on homes in East Lancashire

Learning the lessons

Liverpool Housing Action Trust (HAT) is the largest of the six HATs set up under the 1988 Housing Act. By the end of its life – in September 2005 – the HAT will have spent over £250 million, raised private funding of over £80 million against its £145 million development and major repairs programme, and produced around 3,000 new or refurbished homes.

The logistics, complexity, and timescale of the programme, together with the sensitivity required in caring for and rehousing a predominantly elderly and frail resident profile, are similar to some of the challenges facing the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders.

So what are the main lessons the HAT can offer the Pathfinders?

1. **Quality of new and refurbished homes** is an important ingredient in encouraging people to move.
2. **Phased redevelopment** – where people wish to be rehoused in their local communities with their neighbours – is time-consuming and resource intensive. Be realistic in programming and timetables.
3. **Ensure key agencies** like the local authority planning, highways and solicitors' departments, and the gas, water and electricity utilities, **are fully geared up** for the task and work closely in partnership.
4. **Ensure there are sufficient staff** to help residents face to face with their concerns about rehousing – it is a most traumatic time for residents.
5. **Budget for adaptations** – they can transform an individual's ability to cope with their new, improved or existing home.
6. **Have a comprehensive support and removals service** – it will help to take away some of the stress and cost of rehousing and will keep the development programme rolling.
7. The HAT has used a **multi agency care team** of seconded social workers, occupational therapists and mental health workers to help support and move vulnerable residents. It has been highly successful and links the social care agenda directly into the regeneration process.
8. **Contractors can provide good practical advice** and help find ways around potential problems – involve them as early as possible.
9. **Capture and recycle increased value** from successful public sector projects to help sustain and complement wider neighbourhood regeneration.



Refurbished housing at Brompton House, Sefton Park, Liverpool

Many other lessons are emerging from the HAT's programme, and a team from the Regional Social and Economic Research Unit at Sheffield Hallam University is currently undertaking a detailed evaluation in order to highlight best practice.

 www.liverpoolhat.org.uk

cleaner, safer, greener

Parks flying the Green Flag

245 parks from across the country have been judged welcoming, safe, well maintained and valued places for locals and visitors alike, and will be flying Green Flags in 2005.

The Green Flag Award winners range from town centre parks and gardens to recreation grounds, country parks, nature reserves, woodlands, allotments and cemeteries. All of these sites have shown a commitment to sustainability and involvement of its local community.

Congratulating the winners, ODPM Minister, Phil Hope, said: "It's fantastic to see that there are more Green Flag Award winners than ever before. High quality parks and green spaces are central to the Government's commitment to cleaner, safer, greener communities and the Green Flag Award is the benchmark of the standard we want to see."




Funfair at Thornton Hough Village Green, The Wirral

Recently, the Minister also announced a number of operational and management changes to the Award scheme. These changes came as a result of the review completed during 2004 and the incorporation of the Award as one of the measures of success of Public Service Agreement 8 (PSA8) on Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities.

The review highlighted a number of areas where the scheme could be made more robust to deal with a growing number of applications.

Changes to the scheme will include a better supported judging process and streamlining of the application process. A Green Flag Award Board will also be established to give a real voice to all those involved in the scheme and to provide a forum for the scheme's continued evolution.

For full details of the changes to the Scheme and case studies of the winning parks visit

 www.greenflagawards.org.uk

Government blitz on nuisance vehicles

The recently released Nuisance Vehicles national strategy aims to tackle the growing problem of abandoned vehicles, which act as a magnet for crime, anti-social behaviour and arson.

The strategy will see the strengthening of measures aimed at tackling car abandonment by removing untaxed and unregistered vehicles from streets and public spaces.

Local authorities will gain greater powers to fine offenders, and the general public are being urged to dispose of vehicles responsibly.

For a copy of the strategy see

 www.cleansafergreener.gov.uk (Abandoned Vehicles section)



Abandoned vehicles such as this act as a magnet for crime

Rewarding communities for inspiring change

ODPM Minister Phil Hope announced the Albion Residents Group in Salford as the national winner of the 'Picture of Change' competition at ODPM's Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit in February.

ODPM, together with Groundwork and Barclay SiteSavers, ran the competition late last year to uncover England's most inspired transformation of a neighbourhood space. The aim was to reward local community groups that have made a significant effort to make their neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and greener – groups which have instilled a sense of pride into their local environments.

The competition received entries from 429 groups, with each describing how their communities have worked together to create better places to live and play. Prize money of over £15,000 was awarded to 27 regional winners so they can continue to enhance and maintain their community projects. The overall winner received additional prizes worth up to £5000.

The Albion Residents Group was chosen as the overall winner because their entry demonstrated good examples of:

- projects making the Albion Estate cleaner and greener, such as 'clean-up' and 'hanging basket' days;
- community involvement, from people of all ages across a variety of projects;
- local professional support; and
- a willingness to continue working to improve the area by strengthening the sense of community and encouraging local engagement.



ODPM Minister Phil Hope with members of the Albion Residents Group on the day of the announcement



A hanging basket day on the Albion Estate, Salford

The Group is currently working to develop a community garden for the estate. In addition to the garden, the Group is also planning to tackle the issue of graffiti on the estate by asking young people to create a mural in a known graffiti hot spot. The Albion Residents Group are making long-term plans to continue projects that will enhance their local environment and make their estate cleaner, safer and greener.

Initiatives such as these are good news for all communities. According to the English Allotments Survey, good quality local green spaces, such as allotments and community gardens, do improve the well-being and quality of life in local communities, as well as provide an important community resource.

All entries to the competition are available to view at www.cleansafergreener.gov.uk



Wardens make a difference

Neighbourhood wardens are well known for bringing communities together through sport and music events, day trips for pensioners, activities to reduce anti-social behaviour and by providing a friendly, reassuring presence and a point of contact linking people to local services. In this way, they make a significant contribution to creating sustainable communities, making a real difference to the quality of life in some of the most deprived communities. The examples here illustrate just a small part of the work wardens do on a daily basis.



Darren Williams,
a Community Warden in Hull

In Ipswich, wardens have signed a Service Level Agreement with Connexions to provide young people with the support, guidance and opportunities they need to help fulfil their potential in education, training and employment. The programme aims to:

- improve links between professionals and young people through work shadowing;
- help young people who have dropped out of education to return to it; and
- bring together people from different communities and locations to help break down prejudice and misunderstanding.

The programme also offers opportunities for personal development, through confidence building, communication skills, working as a team and encouraging young people to contribute to their communities through volunteering.

In Hull, wardens have worked with local schools to link their work on environmental issues to the educational curriculum. Within the first five months, 50 children had 'taken ownership' of the local environment and now use pollution monitoring

equipment as part of their work. The wardens also help promote and assist with the work of other local organisations through learning and leisure activities. They make a major contribution to running the youth club and football leagues, have established a video and reference book library, and have launched a successful bid for funding to set up a sports equipment loan scheme.

ODPM's Neighbourhood Management and Warden Team (NMWT) held their fifth Annual Warden Conference last autumn in Birmingham. Its theme of 'listening to young people' demonstrated the level of co-operation and integration that can be achieved when wardens and young people work together. NMWT worked alongside a team of young people, with the support of wardens and ODPM's Equality and Diversity Unit, to plan the event.

For more information on NMWT, visit www.neighbourhood.gov.uk



For enquiries regarding the work of the wardens, and young people's involvement in the Conference, contact: enquiries.nmwt@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Inclusive action for open spaces

Sensory Trust has been developing new approaches to inclusive environmental design, with funding from ODPM's Special Grants Programme, Lloyds TSB Foundation and Eden Project. As the grant period comes to an end, the Trust reflects on the key highlights of its work.

Inclusive design is a creative approach embracing diversity and seeking design solutions to benefit all people, regardless of age, gender, disability or background.

Poor public design can create barriers for disabled people, older people, children, ethnic communities and people on low incomes. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 makes it unlawful for service providers to discriminate against disabled people, and has a significant impact on open space design and management.

Some projects have involved community consultation to find out more about the barriers to access. For example, with Sheffield City Council, the Trust organised surveys with hospital patients to identify ways of encouraging wider use of their nearby park, and tied these into access plans.



Tours of the Eden Project were given as part of the Sense of Place conference

The Trust has been working with key organisations, including Eden Project, to develop ways of integrating inclusive approaches at all levels of an organisation – from policy to implementation – and developing a system for locating inclusive design within the wider framework of sustainable development.

Guidance is needed to help designers take on board inclusive approaches to their work. Initiatives include a toolkit to help managers plan design improvements, piloted with Sheffield City Council and Kent County Council. Training sessions for Green Flag Award judges have helped raise the profile of access issues in the scoring. Also, the Trust has been commissioned by English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund to write 'Easy Access to Historic Landscapes' and by the Countryside Agency to write 'Access to the Wider Countryside' (working title). Both publications are due for release in Spring 2005.

Inclusive design looks at everything that makes a place interesting and open to everyone. This was a theme for the Trust's 2004 international conference, 'A Sense of Place', which explored why so many outdoor spaces lack that certain something that makes people want to visit. The Trust believes the answer is partly the neglect of sensory experiences beyond the visual in the design of public space. Often the scents, sounds and ambience of a place give us our lasting impressions, but are sadly lacking in contemporary open space design. Motivation to visit a place is as important as making access improvements.

 www.sensorytrust.org.uk

Inclusive design is a creative approach embracing diversity and seeking design solutions to benefit all people, regardless of age, gender, disability or background.

Recent publications



Sustainable Communities: Homes for All

ISBN: 0 10 164242 3

ODPM

A five year plan offering everyone the opportunity of a decent home at a price they can afford (see article on page 3).

Available from: The Stationery Office (TSO), PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN, Tel: 0870 600 5522,

Email: book.orders@tso.co.uk,

Website: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

Price: £17.75 (or free to download at: www.odpm.gov.uk/fiveyearstrategy)



Realising the Potential of All Our Regions: the way forward

This document looks forward, identifying the areas in which action will have the greatest impact on regional economic performance – including employment and skills.

Available from: ODPM website: www.odpm.gov.uk/summit.

Hard copies available from ODPM Publications quoting product code: 04RDG02784/S,

Tel: 08701 226236,

Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Price: Free



Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity

ISBN: 0 10 164252 0

ODPM

This five year plan for people, places and prosperity shows how, working across the whole of Government, we will promote prosperity for all and help local people create communities they feel proud of (see article on page 4).

Available from: The Stationery Office (TSO), PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN, Tel: 0870 600 5522,

Email: book.orders@tso.co.uk,

Website: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

Price: £17.75 (or free to download at: www.odpm.gov.uk/fiveyearstrategy)



Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 215 Best Practice Guidance

Guidance to local planning authorities on the use of their power, under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to take steps requiring land (including buildings) to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area.

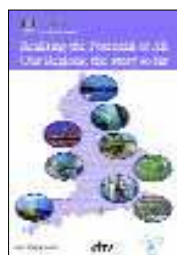
Available from: ODPM website: www.odpm.gov.uk/summit.

Hard copies available from ODPM Publications quoting product code: 04 PD 02843,

Tel: 08701 226236,

Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Price: Free



Realising the Potential of All Our Regions: the story so far

This document describes in detail the progress that Government, the RDAs and their partners are making in meeting their target to improve the economic performance of all the English regions and, in the long term, to reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions.

Available from: ODPM website:

www.odpm.gov.uk/summit.

Hard copies available from ODPM

Publications quoting product code:

04RDG02784/L,

Tel: 08701 226236,

Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Price: Free



State of the Cities: A Progress Report to the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit

ISBN: 1 85112 769 0

This progress report presents research findings on the economic, social and environmental performance of English urban areas. It is based on a preliminary analysis of the latest data, the first case studies and an initial review of the literature on the impact of policy on urban areas.

Available from: ODPM Publications,

Tel: 08701 226236,

Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Price: £14 (or free to download at:

www.odpm.gov.uk/summit)

creating sustainable communities



Delivering Sustainable Communities: The Role of Local Authorities in the Delivery of New Quality Housing

This booklet explains what the Government expects of local authorities in relation to housing delivery and, to a large extent, represents the local authority view of what constitutes good practice.

Available from: ODPM website:
www.odpm.gov.uk/summit.

Hard copies available from ODPM Publications quoting product code: 04SCDU02682,

Tel: 08701 226236,

Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Price: Free



Demystifying the Thames Gateway

The Thames Gateway Forum

This report brings clarity to some of the issues surrounding the regeneration of the Thames Gateway, and helps to identify the key players and stakeholders active in Thames Gateway regeneration.

Available from: The Thames Gateway Forum, Unit 5, The Caxton Centre, Porter's Wood, St Albans, Herts AL3 6XT

Website:
www.thamesgatewayforum.com

Price: £75

(discounts for multiple copies)



The Road to Renewal

ISBN: 1 85935 269 3

Ian Cole, Brendan Nevin

This report includes an account of the proposals for market renewal submitted by eight of the nine pathfinders, pointing out strengths and weaknesses, and including suggestions for the future development of the programme.

Available from: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York Publishing Services Ltd, 64 Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe, York YO31 7ZQ,

Tel: 01904 430033,

Fax: 01904 430868.

A free summary (reference D34) is available at: www.jrf.org.uk.

Price: £16.95 (or free to download at: www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop)



Planning Simplified – a guide for Councillors

ISBN: 1 903731 68 2

LGUI

An introduction to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for councillors, offering a practical look at local authority planning responsibilities, the councillor role in the planning system, and at specific issues of probity for councillors.

Available from: Central Books,
Tel: 0845 458 9910,

Email: mo@centralbooks.com,

Website: www.lgiu.gov.uk.

Price: £20.00 (£10.00 to LGIU affiliates) plus 20% p&p up to £10



Moving Forward: The Northern Way Action Plan – Progress Report

The Northern Way Steering Group

A report by the RDA-led and independently chaired Northern Way Steering Group on progress towards delivering its strategy 'Moving Forward: the Northern Way', published in September 2004.

Available from: The Northern Way website: www.thenorthernway.co.uk, or from Susan Hanley, One North East
Tel: 0191 229 6602

E-mail:

susan.hanley@onenortheast.co.uk

Price: Free



Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter

ODPM

This publication aims to offer new opportunities for people to help shape the local public services they receive, and to become more involved in the democratic life of their community.

Available from: ODPM website:
www.odpm.gov.uk.

Hard copies available from ODPM Publications quoting product code: 04LRGG02713

Tel: 08701 226236

Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Price: Free

Sustainable Communities Video. The ODPM video, *Sustainable Communities – where do you want to live?*, is still available to view on the ODPM website: www.odpm.gov.uk/communitiesplan. Copies are also available in VHS, DVD and CD-ROM formats from the ODPM distribution centre, Tel: 08701 226236, Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Events diary

Regeneration and Renewal

National Conference:

Rethinking Investment
in Regeneration

12 – 13 April 2005

Regeneration and Renewal's inaugural national conference will address how investment can successfully be used in deprived communities to transform people's lives.

Location: London

Organisers: Regeneration and Renewal magazine

Contact: Tel: 020 8267 4011

Website: www.regenerationannualconference.com

Fees: £42 – £749 plus VAT

Enabling Community Involvement in Regeneration

18 – 22 April 2005

A two day symposium featuring plenary sessions, workshops, a delegate dinner and a "Sharing Experience" study visit to Liverpool.

Location: Liverpool

Organisers: Comtechsa

Contact: Tel: 0151 707 4300

Website: www.comtechsa.org

Fees: £58.75 – £470

Funding regeneration

19 April 2005

This event will focus on opportunities available for new sources of funding and for developing a long term funding policy, presenting examples of successful regeneration funding in practice.

Location: London

Organisers: Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

Contact:

RTPI, Tel: 08451 209602

Website:

www.rtpi.org.uk/diary

Fees: £315 plus VAT

Generating jobs

10 May 2005

This conference looks at ways in which the economic development of deprived areas can be stimulated and the barriers that must be overcome, such as the skills and training deficit and scarce investment funding for infrastructure.

Location: London

Organisers: Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

Contact:

RTPI, Tel: 08451 209602

Website:

www.rtpi.org.uk/diary

Fees: £315 plus VAT

Chartered Institute of Housing Annual Conference and Exhibition

21 – 24 June 2005

This conference will examine the inter-relationship between people, places and performance and review the latest approaches adopted by individuals and housing organisations to build successful communities.

Location: Harrogate

Organisers:

Inside Communications
Public Sector Events

Contact: Tel: 024 76571111

Website:

www.cih-housing.co.uk

Fees: £175 – £575 plus VAT

Community Matters 60th Anniversary Conference and AGM

16 – 18 September 2005

A weekend of workshops, events and entertainment to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Federation of Community Organisations.

Location: Keele

Organisers:

Community Matters

Contact:

Community Matters

Tel: 020 7837 7887

Fees: tba

Development Trusts Association (DTA)

National Conference 2005

18 – 20 September 2005

Further information on the conference programme and how to book will be available in due course.

Location: Glasgow

Organisers: DTA

Contact: Fenella Watts

Tel: 08454 588336

Email: info@dta.org.uk,

Website: www.dta.org.uk

Fees: tba

The inclusion of an event or publication in *Update* does not imply any endorsement by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Update mailing list

Update is free of charge. To be added to the mailing list, please contact ODPM on 020 7944 3763 or email: update@odpm.gov.uk. Additional copies can be requested from ODPM Publications on 08701 226236.

An on-line version and back issues are available to view at: www.odpm.gov.uk/updatemag