

Department for Transport

Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants (PPAD 9/99/49)

Progress Report - September 2003

0000691 03/10/03

Ross Silcock Part of Babbie Group
Horsley House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3TZ
Tel 0191 213 4900 Fax 0191 213 5177

Department for Transport
Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants
Progress Report – September 2003

Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	2
2.0	PROGRESS AGAINST CONTRACT	3
3.0	LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRESS	6
4.0	ISSUES AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES	8

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Babbie (Ross Silcock) was appointed on 05 February 2002 to act as Programme Management Consultant on the Home Zone Challenge being undertaken by the Department for Transport (DfT).

1.2 This report provides a summary of the work undertaken during the quarter ending 31st August 2003 in providing those services.

1.3 Following this introduction there is a review of the main activities during the period under each of the headings identified in the Inception Report. This is then followed by a review of the progress achieved by the local authorities participating in the scheme and the report concludes with a section identifying the issues raised this quarter and the main activities for the coming quarter.

**Department for Transport
Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants**

Progress Report – September 2003

2.0 Progress Against Contract

2.1 Meetings

2.1.1 The fifth progress meeting was held in the Newcastle office of Babtie Group on 13th June 2003. Notes of the meeting have been issued but no comments received from the Department.

2.2 Establish Local Authority Contacts

2.2.1 The Babtie team of regional contacts has maintained regular contact with their assigned authorities. A number of staff changes have occurred this quarter. Martin Battle has recently resigned. Dipa Patel will take over Martin's responsibilities for the London Boroughs. James Sephton is due to take a year's secondment and has passed his responsibilities for the Yorkshire & Humberside Authorities onto Amanda Calton. Finally, Susana Gozalo is now being supported by Pre Wedagama in the quarterly data analysis tasks.

2.2.2 From a review of the quarterly proformas submitted in June, a number of authorities were identified for a visit due to either a requirement for more information to be provided on the proformas or absence from the first round of Regional Meetings. The following Authorities were visited this quarter :

- Cheshire County Council
- Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
- Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
- Northumberland County Council
- South Tyneside Council
- Reading Borough Council

2.2.3 Due to absence from follow up Regional Meetings, individual meetings will shortly be arranged with the remaining authorities identified last quarter as follows :

- Darlington Borough Council
- East Sussex County Council – arranged for the beginning of October 2003
- London Borough of Kingston upon Thames

2.2.4 Follow up Regional Meetings held this quarter are as follows :

- Southern Authorities Regional Meeting 2 at Reigate (6th June 2003)
- Eastern Authorities Regional Meeting 2 at Peterborough (17th June 2003)
- London Boroughs Regional Meeting 2 at Camden (17th July 2003)
- North East Authorities Regional Meeting 3 at Gateshead (4th September 2003)

Department for Transport Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants

Progress Report – September 2003

2.2.5 Further Regional Meetings are planned as follows :

- South West Regional Meeting 3 at Scorrier (12th September)
- North West 1 Regional Meeting 2 at Bury (22nd September)
- North West 2 Regional Meeting 2 at Blackpool (23rd September)
- Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Meeting 3 at Kirklees (9th October)
- Midlands Regional Meeting 2 at Nottingham (22nd October)
- South Regional Meeting 3 at Portchester (30th October)
- London Boroughs Regional Meeting 3 at Greenwich (January 2004)

2.2.6 From the review of Updates submitted this quarter, most of the Authorities that have been identified for a visit during the coming quarter will shortly be attending a Regional Meeting. If they do not attend, they will be visited individually. In addition, the Authorities below have been identified for an individual visit this quarter :

- London Borough of Haringey
- London Borough of Kingston upon Thames

2.3 Website Set-up

2.3.1 The project website has now been fully established.

2.4 Website Maintenance

2.4.1 'Progress Update' information continues to be added to on a quarterly basis and an archive of updates maintained for each zone. Where information has been provided by a Local Authority, such as consultation leaflets and photos of events, these have been added to each scheme's section. A number of links to other websites have been added this quarter including DipTAC's 'Inclusive Projects', 'Living Spaces', 'Grant On Line' and the Children's Play Council's page on The Methley's Pilot report. In addition the links to the DfT's website have been updated.

2.5 Internal Reporting

2.5.1 This is the 31st 'report' so far produced. Reports in this sense also include the minutes of all meetings (other than those with individual Authorities). With the exception of the Inception Report, all these have been submitted in electronic format and include:

- Inception Report
- Minutes of Inception Meeting
- Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

Department for Transport Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants

Progress Report – September 2003

- Minutes of First Progress Meeting
- Financial Analysis May 2002
- Progress Report May 2002
- Minutes of Second Progress Meeting
- Progress Report August 2002
- Financial Analysis August 2002
- Progress Report November 2002
- Financial Analysis November 2002
- Minutes of Third Progress Meeting
- Progress Report March 2003
- Financial Analysis March 2003
- Minutes of South West Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of Eastern Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of London Boroughs Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of Southern Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of North East Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of North West 1 Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of North West 2 Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of Yorks & Humbs Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of Midlands Regional Meeting 1
- Minutes of Fourth Progress Meeting
- Progress Report June 2003
- Financial Report June 2003
- Minutes of Fifth Progress Meeting
- Minutes of Southern Authorities Regional Meeting 2
- Minutes of Eastern Authorities Regional Meeting 2
- Minutes of London Boroughs Regional Meeting 2

2.6 Conferences

2.6.1 The second project conference being organised by Social Research Associates, on our behalf, will be held at Leicester Racecourse on November 12th and 13th. The theme will be 'Scheme Design' and a mini 'Traffex' will be included in the programme. The video of Home Zone Development in the UK (sponsored by the Joseph Rowntree Trust) will be launched at the event. On the second day there will be the opportunity to visit a forerunner to Home Zones in Leicester and the Challenge scheme in Nottingham.

2.7 Publications

2.7.1 No publications have yet been identified or produced.

**Department for Transport
Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants**

Progress Report – September 2003

3.0 Local Authority Progress

3.1 Reporting has improved slightly in terms of returning forms this quarter and providing information on Progress and Difficulties. However, in a number of cases programme dates have not been updated. Of the 61 schemes :

- 50 Authorities submitted both their completed profomas by the return date of 22nd August 2003.
- Forms had not been received from the London Boroughs of Haringey and Kingston upon Thames by 5th September.
- Plymouth are no longer asked to return forms

3.2 Haringey and Kingston upon Thames will be visited during the coming quarter. A summary of all programme information received to date is attached on the accompanying Excel file.

3.3 Over the last quarter the majority of Authorities have continued to become more involved in the design aspects associated with their Home Zone schemes. The following Authorities have now started on site :

- Manchester
- Nottingham
- Camden
- Greenwich
- Peterborough
- Plymouth (complete)
- Silkmore, Staffordshire
- Suffolk
- Trafford

Department for Transport
Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants

Progress Report – September 2003

4.0 Issues and Future Activities

4.1 All the issues identified in the last quarter have been addressed and resolved where possible as follows :

- Northumberland has been visited this quarter due to concern over their progress. There have been a number of staff changes recently but the Authority was confident that they will soon be back on programme.
- Telford and Wrekin had requested that the Home Zone area should be reduced to cover only three streets instead of the original six, but still using the full Challenge Award. This raised concerns over the value that would be delivered. In discussions held with the authority on 02 May 2003 it became clear that the original zone is now part of a major redevelopment for the whole of the Woodside Estate. The reduced area will provide the pattern for the whole estate. This will result in a resultant 'scheme' benefiting over 6,000 residents. Regeneration partners are committed to £75 million to be spent over the next ten years. The modification was accepted in principle and a more detailed submission of the scope and impact of the changes awaited from Telford and Wrekin. This has now been received and accepted, however more detailed programme and costing information is still awaited.
- Gateshead new build Home Zone has encountered objections from the emergency services over the provision of access. Discussions have been held with the fire and ambulance services to try and resolve this. Initial requirements of a 3.8m clear carriageway in accordance with Building Regulations 2000 has been negotiated down to 3.6m and a revised design is awaited from the consultants. The local authority has also raised some concerns over the detailed design and extent of the Home Zone treatments verses use of 20mph treatments. This issue has now been resolved but issues still remain relating to parking enforcement and emergency services concerns. It is hoped that these will be resolved over the coming quarter.
- Newham now have a legal agreement in place to deal with the issue of whether they had the powers to undertake work within the proposed Home Zone as the majority of roads were indicated as being in private ownership.
- The Burnley scheme remains on hold whilst a Neighbourhood Strategy is consulted upon. This issue will be followed up at the upcoming Regional Meeting.

Department for Transport Home Zones Challenge Programme Consultants

Progress Report – September 2003

- Consultants are soon to be appointed to take forward the consultation aspects of the South Tyneside scheme. A detailed programme is being prepared and an Outline Planning Application has been submitted.

4.2 Issues arising and/or being addressed this quarter include :

- A number of Authorities are having to deal with a shortfall in funding.
- Some Authorities may need reminding that they must obtain the agreement of the Department before they change the size of the area to be treated.
- Authorities should send in plans once they have an agreed scheme.

4.3 All these issues will be addressed through the circulation of a Newsletter this quarter. The Newsletter will be a double sided colour A4 page and in addition to the above, will include a schedule of forthcoming Regional Meetings, Top Tips, a reminder about the need to return Audit Certificates by the end of the month and a request for 'Good News'.