

Department for Transport

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

Progress Report - December 2003

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

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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 30th November 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.

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2.0 Progress Against Contract

2.1 Meetings

2.1.1 The sixth progress meeting was held in Bury MBC's offices on 22nd September 2003. Notes of the meeting have been issued and agreed with the Department.

2.2 Establish Local Authority Contacts

2.2.1 The Babbie team of regional contacts has maintained regular contact with their assigned authorities. There is an addition to the team this quarter with Ewan Tait providing additional data analysis support.

2.2.2 From a review of the quarterly proformas submitted in September, 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 Regional Meetings. The following Authorities were visited this quarter :

- Darlington Borough Council
- Northumberland County Council
- North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
- East Sussex County Council
- London Borough of Kingston upon Thames

2.2.3 Regional Meetings held this quarter were 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)

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2.2.4 Further meetings are planned as follows :

- Worcestershire Meeting (8th December 2003)
- Bury Meeting (9th December 2003)
- South West Regional Meeting 4 at Exeter (15th December 2003)
- London Boroughs Regional Meeting 3 at Greenwich (January 2004)
- Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Meeting 4 at Leeds (21st January 2004)
- North West 1 & 2 Regional Meeting 3 at St Helens (4th February 2003)
- South Regional Meeting 4 at Abingdon (March 2004)
- Midlands Regional Meeting 3 at Staffordshire (April 2004)
- Eastern Regional Meeting 3 at Norwich (January 2004)
- North East Regional Meeting 4 at South Tyneside (January 2004)

2.2.5 The Authorities detailed below have been either identified for an individual visit or will be 'called in' to Marsham Street this quarter:

- London Borough of Haringey
- Birmingham City Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- Telford & Wrekin Council
- Burnley (Lancashire County Council)
- Wirral MBC
- Reading BC
- London Borough of Southwark

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.

2.5 Internal Reporting

2.5.1 This is the 40th '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:

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- Inception Report
- Minutes of Inception Meeting
- Minutes of Inaugural Meeting
- 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
- Progress Report September 2003
- Financial Report September 2003
- Minutes of Sixth Progress Meeting
- Minutes of South West Regional Meeting 3
- Minutes of North West 1 Regional Meeting 2
- Minutes of North West 2 Regional Meeting 2
- Minutes of Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Meeting 3
- Minutes of Midlands Regional Meeting 2
- Minutes of Southern Regional Meeting 2

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2.6 Conferences

2.6.1 The second project conference was held at Leicester Racecourse on November 12th and 13th (organised by Social Research Associates on our behalf). The theme was 'Scheme Design' and an exhibition was held by suppliers. Tony McNulty MP made the Keynote Speech and the video of Home Zone Development in the UK (sponsored by the Joseph Rowntree Trust) was launched. On the second day there was the opportunity to visit a forerunner to Home Zones in Leicester and the Challenge scheme in Nottingham. The conference was deemed to be a success and a report of the conference will soon appear on the website.

2.7 Publications

2.7.1 No publications have yet been identified or produced.

2.8 Resources

2.8.1 Babtie Group will shortly write to the Department to request approval for the addition of Ewan Tait to the team.

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3.0 Local Authority Progress

3.1 Of the 61 schemes :

- 44 Authorities submitted both their completed proformas by the return date of 28th November 2003.
- 57 Authorities had submitted both proformas by 12th December.
- Birmingham, Nottingham and North Lincolnshire had not submitted either form by 12th December (Nottingham and Worcestershire Project Managers have known leave commitments).
- Plymouth are no longer asked to return forms.

3.2 As the Challenge progresses past the half way stage, two schemes (Plymouth and Nottingham) are now complete and the following Authorities have now started on site :

- Gateshead
- Bolton
- Liverpool
- Surrey
- London Borough of Camden
- London Borough of Greenwich
- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- Manchester
- Peterborough
- Staffordshire (Silkmore)
- Staffordshire (Wilmot Drive)
- St Helens
- Suffolk
- Trafford
- Wiltshire (Westleigh)
- Wolverhampton (minor works)

3.3 The following Authorities are at the detailed design/tender stage :

- Darlington
- Devon
- Oxfordshire
- Bromley
- North Tyneside
- Hampshire

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- Middlesbrough
- Tameside
- Lancashire (Poulton)
- Blackpool
- Kent (Denton)
- Newham
- Northumberland
- Wirral
- Worcestershire
- Staffordshire (Wilmot Drive)
- Kirklees
- Hull
- Wiltshire (College)
- Derby
- Cornwall
- Kent (Dover)
- East Sussex

3.4 The following Authorities are still consulting :

- Bath & North East Somerset (Peasedown)
- Bath (Malvern Buildings)
- Bristol
- Norwich
- Southampton
- Bury
- Cheshire
- Warrington
- Rochdale
- Luton
- West Sussex
- South Tyneside
- Wigan
- Leeds

3.5 Due to lack of progress or other difficulties, the schemes being progressed by the following Authorities will need close monitoring:

- Reading
- Burnley
- Birmingham

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- London Borough of Haringey
- North Lincolnshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Southwark

4.0 Issues and Future Activities

4.1 The following scheme issues have been identified this quarter :

- Detailed programme and costing information is still awaited from Telford & Wrekin. As the scheme now appears to be being progressed by the Housing Department, it is important that renewed contact is made with the Authority, especially as consultation has yet to commence on this scheme and it is the largest scheme in the Challenge.
- Despite threats of demolition and the resolve to progress with the Burnley scheme, it remains behind schedule and hence a visit will be arranged this quarter.
- There has been some concern about the Bury scheme in terms of scheme feasibility and value for money. These will be addressed at the upcoming meeting with the Authority.
- Following the meeting with Reading where the Authority agreed to provide revised programme and financial information, no information has been received and it has been established that the Project Officer is leaving the Authority. Renewed contact will be made this coming quarter.
- Birmingham has failed to submit any updates this quarter. This combined with a change of personnel and a scheme led by the Housing Department, means it is important that the Authority be called in to Marsham Street this quarter as they have been visited twice previously.
- Haringey have reported very little progress this quarter and did not submit a return last quarter. It is suggested that the Authority be visited again or called in to Marsham Street this quarter.
- North Lincolnshire have not provided any updates this quarter. Close contact will be maintained.
- Southwark have failed to provide any information this quarter and will be visited.

4.2 In addition to the above, a number of Authorities will be closely monitored due to issues such as change of personnel and concerns over progress.

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4.3 General issues arising and/or being addressed this quarter include :

- Approximately one third of the 61 Authorities would appear to be still undertaking consultation on outline design. We are beginning to have serious concerns about the timescales involved in progressing these schemes and associated spend upto the February 2005 deadline. It may soon be necessary to review their inclusion in the scheme.
- Many Authorities are now having to deal with a shortfall in funding from other sources.
- 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 Despite the hope to address at least some of these issues through the circulation of a Newsletter during the previous quarter, this was not possible. It is now hoped that a new version will be issued in the New Year

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