

Department for Transport

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

Progress Report – March 2004

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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 29th February 2004 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. The Appendix provides details of Local Authority progress and difficulties as included in their Progress Updates for this quarter.

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2.0 Progress Against Contract

2.1 Meetings

2.1.1 The seventh progress meeting was held in Babtie's offices in Pall Mall on 11th December 2003. Notes of the meeting have been issued.

2.2 Establish Local Authority Contacts

2.2.1 The Babtie team of regional contacts has maintained regular contact with their assigned authorities. There is a replacement team member this quarter. Amanda Calton has left the Babtie Group and her role as local contact for the Yorkshire & Humberside has been taken over by Peter Agnew.

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

- Wirral MBC
- Warrington BC
- East Sussex CC
- LB of Southwark
- Worcestershire CC
- Bury MBC
- Birmingham CC
- Telford & Wrekin Council
- Wiltshire CC

2.2.3 Regional Meetings held this quarter were as follows :

- South West Regional Meeting 4 at Exeter (15th December 2003)
- Eastern Regional Meeting 3 at Norwich (15th January 2004)
- London Boroughs Regional Meeting 3 at Greenwich (19th January 2004)
- Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Meeting 4 at Leeds (21st January 2004)
- North West 1 & 2 Regional Meeting 3 at St Helens (4th February 2004)

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2.2.4 Further meetings are planned as follows :

- North East Regional Meeting 4 at South Tyneside (12th March 2004)
- South West Regional Meeting 4 at Bath (19th March 2004)
- South Regional Meeting 4 at Abingdon (24th March 2004)
- Midlands Regional Meeting 3 at Staffordshire (28th April 2004)
- Eastern Regional Meeting 4 at Suffolk (4th May 2004)
- North West 1 Regional Meeting 4 at Rochdale (15th June 2004)
- North West 2 Regional Meeting 4 at Liverpool (16th June 2004)

2.3 Website Set-up

2.3.1 The project website has now been fully established.

2.4 Website Maintenance

2.4.1 The website was overhauled in January with new information added including photos of three schemes on site and three now complete. '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 Almost 50 'reports' have been 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.

2.6 Conferences

2.6.1 A meeting was held in February with Social Research Associates to discuss future events. It was agreed that an event should be held for Developers. This will be organised by Bactie Group and should be short, high profile and demonstrate the benefits to them of building Home Zones. Other events to be planned include two regional seminars based around a site visit, possibly one in the South and one in the North East.

2.7 Publications

2.7.1 A paper has been written for the ICE Journal which will be passed to the Department shortly for comment before issue in September.

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2.8 Resources

2.8.1 Bابتie Group has written to the Department to request approval for the addition of Peter Agnew to the team. Bابتie will write shortly to request the addition of Ewan Tait and to provide details of the rate review.

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3.0 Local Authority Progress

3.1 The quality of reporting has unfortunately deteriorated in terms of returning forms this quarter and providing information on programme dates. Of the 61 schemes :

- 35 Authorities submitted both their completed profomas by the return date of 27th February 2004.
- 52 Authorities had submitted both proformas by 3rd March.
- 5 Authorities had not submitted either form by 3rd March.
- Plymouth are no longer asked to return forms.

3.2 As the Challenge progresses into its' final year, four schemes (Plymouth, Suffolk, St Helens and Nottingham) are now complete. A number of Authorities, including Wiltshire (Westleigh), Camden, Greenwich, Kingston upon Thames, Peterborough and Trafford are finishing their schemes. The following Authorities have now started on site :

- Darlington
- Northumberland
- Kirklees
- Lancashire - Morecambe
- Liverpool
- Tameside
- Bolton
- Wolverhampton
- Hampshire
- Gateshead
- Manchester
- North Tyneside
- Wilmot Drive, Staffordshire
- Silkmore, Staffordshire
- Surrey

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

- Leeds
- Hull
- Blackpool
- Lancashire - Burnley
- Bury
- Rochdale

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- Wirral
- Cheshire
- Warrington
- Birmingham
- Wigan
- Worcestershire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Derby
- Norwich
- Bath (Peasedown)
- Bristol
- Devon
- Cornwall
- Wiltshire (College)
- Reading
- Oxfordshire
- East Sussex
- West Sussex
- Kent (Denton)
- Southwark
- Haringey
- Newham
- Bromley
- Luton
- Middlesbrough
- Southampton
- South Tyneside

3.4 The following Authorities are still consulting :

- North Lincolnshire
- Bath (Malvern Buildings)
- Kent (Dover)

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

- Derby (Visit)
- Burnley (Visit)
- East Sussex (Meet at upcoming Regional Meeting)
- Kent (Dover) (Meet at upcoming Regional Meeting)

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- Kent (Denton) (Meet at upcoming Regional Meeting)
- Leeds
- Middlesbrough (Meet at upcoming Regional Meeting)
- Warrington
- Wolverhampton (Visit)
- Birmingham
- London Borough of Haringey
- Telford & Wrekin (Visit)

3.6 The Authorities detailed below will be 'called in' to Marsham Street this quarter:

- North Lincolnshire
- Reading

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4.0 Issues and Future Activities

4.1 The following scheme issues identified last quarter have been addressed as follows:

- Despite attendance at numerous meetings, detailed programme and costing information is still awaited from Telford & Wrekin. A further meeting is scheduled for 23rd March and this will be advised as the deadline for receipt of this information.
- Despite threats of demolition, it would appear from the recent Regional Meeting that there is still the resolve to progress with the Burnley scheme. However it remains well behind schedule and hence a visit will be arranged this quarter.
- A revised plan was received from Bury and approved by the Department.
- Following the meeting with Reading where the Authority agreed to provide revised programme and financial information, information has still not been received and the Project Officer has now left the Authority. Telephone conversations with the Officer now involved along with proformas received this quarter do not shed any further light on the situation and hence the Authority will be 'called in' this coming quarter.
- Birmingham were visited during the previous quarter and have submitted proformas. However a letter and plans showing the proposed variations to the scheme are awaited. It is proposed that the Department write to the Authority reminding them of this requirement and setting them a deadline.
- Haringey have not submitted any proformas this quarter (they reported very little progress last quarter and did not submit a return the quarter before that). However they did report progress at the Regional Meeting and as the scheme is very small in size it is suggested that a letter is sent by the Department reminding them of their obligations as set out in the Offer Letter.
- North Lincolnshire have again not provided any updates this quarter. They will be called in to Marsham Street this coming quarter.
- Southwark were 'called in' this quarter and are making progress. They will be closely monitored this coming quarter.

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4.2 Issues arising this quarter are as follows :

- Though covered in the Finance Report, the level of actual invoicing is approximately £800,000 below that forecast this quarter. For this reason a number of Authorities who are under performing in this respect may be required to report monthly in the future.
- Following a meeting with Warrington it has become apparent that the resident led concept design resembles a traffic calming scheme and not a home zone. A statement of this view needs to be forwarded by the Department to the Authority shortly. This will allow the Authority to take a previous, more radical scheme back to the residents. The Authority has stated that it will need 50% support from a proportion of the area for the scheme to proceed. This may not be achieved and hence close monitoring of the situation will occur this coming quarter.
- It would appear from Kent's latest progress proforma for the Dover scheme that difficulties with the Fire Brigade and resident opposition have led to many problems which may be unresolvable. The Authority will be met with at the upcoming Regional Meeting.
- Gateshead have still not signed and returned the Offer Letter. They have also not submitted proformas this quarter. They will be met with at the upcoming Regional Meeting.
- Derby do not appear to be making any tangible progress and due to the size of their grant award, they will be visited this coming quarter.
- Over the coming six months a small number of Authorities may be in a position of not claiming their grant allocation. A strategy for re-allocating any surplus funds needs to be agreed as a matter of some urgency.

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

- Many Authorities are still having to deal with a shortfall in funding from other sources.
- Some Authorities still need reminding that they must obtain the agreement of the Department before they change the size of the area to be treated and that they should send in plans once they have an agreed scheme. It is suggested that the Department issue a letter to all Authorities reminding them of their obligations.

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