

Department for Transport

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

Progress Report – June 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 31st May 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.

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2.0 Progress Against Contract

2.1 Meetings

2.1.1 The eighth progress meeting was held in Babtie's offices in Newcastle on 11th March 2004. 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 are no changes to the team this quarter.

2.2.2 From a review of the quarterly proformas submitted in March, 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 :

- Bolton MBC
- Warrington BC
- Bury MBC
- Lancashire CC – Burnley
- Reading BC
- Wolverhampton CC
- Telford & Wrekin Council

2.2.3 Regional Meetings held this quarter were as follows :

- North East Regional Meeting at South Tyneside (12th March 2004)
- South West Regional Meeting at Keynsham (19th March 2004)
- South Regional Meeting at Abingdon (24th March 2004)
- Midlands Regional Meeting at Stafford (28th April 2004)
- South West Regional Meeting at Bristol (26th May 2003)

2.2.4 Further meetings are planned as follows :

- North East Regional Meeting at Middlesbrough (8th June 2004)
- Eastern Regional Meeting in London (9th June 2004)
- North West 1 Regional Meeting at Rochdale (15th June 2004)
- North West 2 Regional Meeting at Liverpool (15th June 2004)
- London Boroughs Regional Meeting at Kingston (7th July 2004)

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- South Regional Meeting at West Sussex (21st July 2004)
- Midlands Regional Meeting at Telford (date in July to be confirmed)
- South West Regional Meeting at Plymouth (17th September 2004)
- Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Meeting at North Lincolnshire (date to be confirmed)

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 Over 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 further meeting was held with Social Research Associates (SRa) on 12th May 2004 to discuss the cost and format of the possible 'site' events in the North East and South of England, following concerns over their initial proposals. SRa were of the view that such events would not be possible without support funding and that an alternative approach would be to try and combine Home Zone information dissemination with work on other projects such as the Inner City Road Safety Demonstration Project and Dealing with Disadvantage Initiative (now known as Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative). This needs to be discussed further with DfT. If 'site' events are to be pursued, then they need to be tied in with other events (i.e. openings) of the schemes. This places timing largely in the hands of the respective authorities and discussions are continuing with likely schemes to identify possible dates. So far none have been confirmed. It was also agreed that an event should be held for Developers. This will be organised by Babtie Group and should be short, high profile and demonstrate the benefits to them of building Home Zones. Approval for independent funding for this event is still being sought.

2.7 Publications

2.7.1 A paper has been written for the ICE Journal, which has submitted for publication in September.

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2.8 Resources

2.8.1 Babbie Group has received confirmation from the Department of the addition of Peter Agnew and Ewan Tait to the team and of the rate review.

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3.0 Local Authority Progress

3.1 Of the 61 schemes :

- 39 Authorities submitted both their completed proformas by the return date of 28th May 2004.
- 5 Authorities still undertaking schemes had not submitted either form by 3rd June.
- In addition, Plymouth, Nottingham and Wiltshire (Westleigh) are no longer pressed to return forms.

3.2 As the Challenge progresses into its' final year, 8 schemes (Plymouth, Kingston upon Thames, Suffolk, St Helens, Wiltshire (Westleigh), Trafford, Peterborough and Nottingham) are now substantially complete. A number of Authorities, including Camden and Greenwich, are finishing their schemes. The following Authorities have now started on site :

- Blackpool
- Darlington
- Hampshire
- Gateshead
- Kirklees
- Kent - Gravesend
- Lancashire - Morecambe
- Liverpool
- Northumberland
- Manchester
- Middlesbrough
- North Tyneside
- Rochdale
- Wilmot Drive, Staffordshire
- Silkmore, Staffordshire
- Southampton
- Surrey
- Tameside
- Wolverhampton

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

- Bath (Peasedown)
- Birmingham
- Bolton
- Bristol

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- Bury
- Cheshire
- Cornwall
- Derby
- Devon
- East Sussex
- Hull
- Lancashire - Burnley
- Leeds
- LB of Southwark
- LB of Haringey
- LB of Newham
- LB of Bromley
- Luton
- Norwich
- North Lincolnshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- South Tyneside
- Telford & Wrekin
- Wiltshire (College)
- West Sussex
- Wirral
- Warrington
- Wigan
- Worcestershire

3.4 Unfortunately, as a result of public votes, the Bath (Malvern Buildings) and Kent (Dover) schemes will not be taken any further.

3.5 Due to lack of progress or other difficulties, those schemes identified in the next section will need close monitoring this coming quarter:

3.6 Progress and difficulties information taken from the Updates can be found in the Appendix. In addition the chart overleaf shows Local Authority progress as reported this quarter. The information is taken from the 'Programme' section of the Progress Update and is slightly different to the above information in a number of cases (the above information is considered to be more accurate). The green sections show which tasks the Authorities have begun or finished and the red shows those yet to be started or completed.

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Scheme Name	Local Authority	Progress Key Dates															
		Consultation Tasks		Draft Proposals		Final Proposals		Detailed Design		Tenders/ Works Orders		Traffic Regulation Orders		Construction		Monitoring	
		Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish		
Albert Avenue area,Peasedown,St John	Bath and North East Somerset Council																
Malvern Buildings, Bath	Bath and North East Somerset Council																
Pitts Farm, Erdington	Birmingham City Council																
Talbot and Brunswick area	Blackpool Borough Council																
Oldham's Estate area	Bolton MBC																
Southville	Bristol City Council																
Victoria Estate, Whitefield	Bury MC																
Egerton Street area, Chester	Cheshire County Council																
North Close Estate, Redruth	Cornwall County Council																
Pately Moor Crescent	Darlington Borough Council																
Normanton	Derby City Council																
Exeter, Wonford	Devon County Council																
Town Farm Estate, Hailsham	East Sussex County Council																
Tyne Park	Gateshead Council																
Castle Grove area, Porchester	Hampshire County Council																
Heathfield Avenue area, Dover	Kent County Council																
Northcourt Estate, Denton	Kent County Council																
Albany Street	Kingston-Upon-Hull City Council																
Moorside Estate, Dewsbury	Kirklees MC																
Burnley, South West area	Lancashire County Council																
Poulton area (Morecambe)	Lancashire County Council																
Littlemoor	Leeds City Council																
Grafton Street area	Liverpool City Council																
Lupton Street area	London Borough of Camden																
Rookery Gardens, St Mary Cray	London Borough of Bromley																
Deptford Green area	London Borough of Greenwich																
Linden Road N15	London Borough of Haringey																
Cavendish Road area	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames																
Cranberry Estate	London Borough of Newham																
Sutherland Square	London Borough of Southwark																
Lewsey Farm	Luton Borough Council																
Northmoor Phase 2	Manchester City Council																
Gresham area	Middlesbrough Council																
Cavell Road, Norwich	Norfolk County Council																
Crosby / Frodingham	North Lincolnshire County																
The Triangle, North Shields	North Tyneside Council																
Cowpen Quay, Blyth	Northumberland County Council																
Kennington Road area	Nottingham City Council																
Saxton Road, Abingdon	Oxfordshire County Council																
New England	Peterborough City Council																
Morice Town area	Plymouth City Council																
Kingsbridge Road	Reading Borough Council																
Wardleworth	Rochdale MC																
Cleadon Park estate	South Tyneside MBC																
Radcliffe Road Environs, Northam	Southampton City Council																
Bidston Avenue area	St Helens MBC																
Silkmore, Stafford	Staffordshire County Council																
Wilmot Drive, Newcastle under Lyme	Staffordshire County Council																
Cambridge Road area, Lowestoft	Suffolk County Council																
Nutley Lane area, Reigate	Surrey County Council																
Ashton West End	Tameside MBC																
West Woodside	Telford and Wrekin Council																
The Addison Crescent Estate	Trafford MBC																
Whitecross area	Warrington Borough Council																
North West Bognor Regis area	West Sussex County Council																
Browning Street area Westlight	Wigan Council																
College Community area, Trowbridge	Wiltshire County Council																
Westleigh, Warminster	Wiltshire County Council																
Dundonald Street, Methuen Street	Wirral																
Fordhouses area	Wolverhampton City Council																
Duke of Edinburgh Way, Malvern	Worcestershire County Council																

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4.0 Issues and Future Activities

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

- Detailed programme and costing information is still awaited from **Telford & Wrekin** although the scheme is progressing. A further meeting is scheduled for 8th June when the situation will be reviewed.
- Despite threats of demolition, there is still the resolve to progress with the **Burnley** scheme. A meeting was held this quarter as the scheme remains well behind schedule. This scheme must be monitored closely over the coming months.
- **Reading** were called in to Marsham Street this quarter. The Authority agreed to provide revised scheme layout, programme and financial information by 21st May. Information has still not been received. In addition the Authority has not provided any quarterly update information and should be contacted by the Department again this coming quarter.
- **Birmingham** have written to Babbie/Department for Transport outlining their plans to spend the Challenge allocation on housing works with a view to undertaking Home Zone works in the street at a later date. Their intention is to use the grant allocation solely to fund housing improvements. The appropriateness of this approach is currently being reviewed with the DfT but is not considered to be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.
- **Haringey** have submitted proformas this quarter (they did not report last quarter, reported very little progress the quarter before and did not submit a return the quarter before that) but with little progress reported. A letter was sent by the Department reminding them of their obligations as set out in the Offer Letter.
- **North Lincolnshire** were called in to Marsham Street during the last quarter. However the Authority responded with details of progress made. A meeting was not held but it was agreed that the Authority would report on a monthly basis. Despite this, no reports have yet been received and the Authority again have not submitted quarterly Updates this quarter.
- Following a meeting at which **Southwark** gave reassurances that progress and management would improve, no returns have again been forthcoming this quarter. Southwark will be asked to report monthly in future.

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- Following the concern that the resident led concept design for the **Warrington** scheme resembles a traffic calming scheme and not a home zone, a statement of this view was forwarded by the Department to the Authority. The Authority then took a previous, more radical scheme back to the residents and a vote was held. The Authority required a 50% response from a proportion of the area and 50% support for the scheme to proceed. This was achieved and further scheme details are awaited. If the scheme proceeds, it will not be complete until February 2005. Close monitoring of the situation needs to occur this coming quarter to ensure that progress is maintained. As the Auditor Certificate is still awaited no payments will be made to the Authority.
- Due to public opposition, the schemes planned for Malvern Buildings, **Bath** and Heathfield Avenue, **Dover** (to be confirmed following upcoming Committee Meeting) will not proceed.
- **Gateshead** has now signed an agreement with Wimpey and the Offer Letter which has been returned to the DfT.
- **Derby** do not appear to be making any tangible progress and were reminded of the need to inform the DfT of any scheme changes following a review of progress at the last Regional Meeting. To date no information (including quarterly updates) has been received. No further grant claims should be authorised until a revised scheme and programme have been approved.
- A strategy for re-allocating any surplus funds was put to the Department recently. However this will now no longer be possible.

4.2 Issues arising this quarter are as follows :

- Concerns are growing over the continued apathy within the **Cornwall** Scheme and whilst progress is said to be continuing, more frequent reporting would be advantageous.
- **Worcestershire** will be asked to report monthly due to slippage in programme and a lack of information.
- **East Sussex** are progressing with proposals for the Vega/Phoenix/Orion & Geering/Hollamby (new build) Avenues but the award is approved on the basis of 18 culs de sac being treated. This change needs to be formally submitted to the DfT before any further payments are authorised.

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- The Gravesham scheme in **Kent** has started on site. Unfortunately an optical cable has now been identified on Shamrock Avenue which was due to be treated next. This cable cannot be sunk or covered and will cost £70k to move. This will take 12 weeks. The residents of the third and final street, Thistle Avenue, are now very keen for their street to be treated but Kent CC do not have the budget to move the cable and treat Thistle Avenue.
- **Leeds** will be asked to report monthly due to variations in financial reporting and a general lack of progress.

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

- 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. Babbie will remind those who haven't submitted their plans of their obligations.