



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

GO-East News

REPRESENTING CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE EAST OF ENGLAND

Issue 3: 2006

Placing culture at the heart of life in the East of England

Above: Dream Engine's Heliosphere, outside St Peter Mancroft Church, Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Norfolk.

Top right: Young 'mas' member showcasing beautiful artistry, Luton.

The new regional cultural strategy, 'A Better Life' was launched on 13 September at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

The strategy looks at how culture can contribute to the region's prosperity and embrace growth and regeneration, without compromising quality of life and the character of the region.

Brian Hackland, Regional Director of GO-East, said:

"A Better Life sets out the value, power and potential of culture – and a blueprint for achieving culturally rich communities across the East of England through strong partnership working."

The strategy was put together by Living East, the regional cultural consortium, on behalf of the cultural sector in the region.

It has been adopted by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) as a Premier League Strategy within the Integrated Regional Strategy, which is intended to improve the quality of life for everyone living or working in the region.

The new cultural strategy has four key themes to provide a focus for investment and decision-making over the next 10 -20 years.

- Embedding culture in growth and regeneration – to make the region a leading light for the UK
- Developing creativity – to become the creative workshop of the UK by offering the best opportunities to creative people and businesses
- Growing cultural tourism – to become recognised as a premier cultural tourism destination in England by 2020
- Capturing the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games – to maximise the positive impacts of the games in 2012.

Copies of the strategy and a summary leaflet are available from Living East.

For further information visit www.livingeast.org.uk contact lizhughes@livingeast.org.uk or call 01223 372957.



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Welcome to our third issue of GO-East News this year

Since our last edition, there have been significant developments at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) that will influence the role that we at Government Office will have in the region.

Following its formation in May, the new-look DCLG was officially launched on 2 October. Its overarching aim is working to deliver the themes of **community, opportunity and prosperity**.

Central to the creation of the new DCLG is a transformation programme, led by Director General for Transformation Alun Evans. The message from the Permanent Secretary, Peter Housden, is that DCLG want to draw in advice from both staff and stakeholder groups in shaping the direction of the department.

Working with place is at the centre of the DCLG agenda, and its key task will be to deliver a community cohesion programme with real edge, connecting the national and international dimensions of work on counter-terrorism and extremism with communities – the new structure within DCLG includes Joe Montgomery’s leadership on place, connecting with Mark Carroll’s on race and faith, and through to the Government Office Network – about energising local partners

to create safe, cohesive and prosperous communities

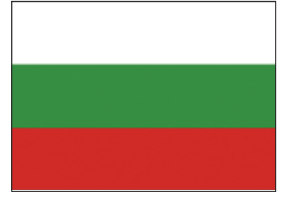
The new DCLG will strive for an intelligent approach to public sector reform and reshaping delivery chains to strip out complexity and cost, empowering partners in the right frameworks of incentives and accountability. The work on the performance framework in the forthcoming Local Government White Paper is just one example of how this work is already underway. We will provide updates on the Local Government White Paper in future editions of GO-East News.

In order to challenge the effectiveness of DCLG policies, and to be sure that we are using the most effective systems for delivery, there will be more effective use of data and evidence.

DCLG will strive to become recognised as a can-do, creative department offering a great service to stakeholders in both Whitehall and the region.

We here in GO-East will be doing all we can to help deliver this exciting agenda, and we believe that this approach offers opportunities to you, our partners, in building safe, cohesive and prosperous communities in the East of England.

Bulgarian Delegation Visits GO-East



Bulgarian officials meeting at GO-East

Twelve officials from the 'Management of EU Funds Directorate' in the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance paid a visit to GO-East on 23 August. The aim of the visit was to learn how the European Structural Fund Objective 2 Programme is

managed by the Government Office European Secretariat Team and to share experiences on the development of new structural fund programmes for the period 2007-13.

GO-East's management of the Objective 2 programme has been commended by the European Commission on a number of occasions and provided examples of best practice for partners in the region. Previously, GO-East has also hosted visits from new EU Member State officials from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania.

Andy Luff, GO-East Head of ERDF Programmes said "The visit was a

great success. Of particular interest was our work engaging key partners in delivery of the programmes and in the development of a new programme strategy for 2007-13. We look forward to being of further assistance to our new European Partners".

For more information contact our European Unit:

EuropeanTeam@goeast.gsi.gov.uk



working together for a better east of england

Local Area Agreements – How Refreshing!

Local Government

GO-East continues to work with partners across the region to negotiate new Local Area Agreements (LAAs) for Thurrock and Southend and to "refresh" the existing agreements with Peterborough, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Luton and Essex.

Some key messages:

- The refresh is an opportunity to evolve agreements, accounting for local or national changes. A summary of proposed changes is required based on a template provided.
- A number of additional funding streams are being pooled automatically from April 2007 and some additional mandatory outcomes need to be brought into all existing agreements.
- In addition to the business cases already submitted, business cases for any new enabling measures may also be submitted as part of the refresh.
- New outcomes and indicators need cover only the remaining period of the three year agreement.
- Ministerial approval is required for refreshed agreements. Submissions should be sent to GO-East by 5th January 2007. Delays may result in the first payment being made later than April.

For more information contact the GO-East LAA team on **01223 372535**, or email: **PPPGroup@goeast.gsi.gov.uk**

Young Climate Change



Switzerland was the destination of the fact-finding trip

Champions visit Switzerland

GO-East provides part-funding for a climate change co-ordinator for the East of England Climate Change partnership. Based at the East of England Development Agency, Matthew Chell helps the Partnership as it works across the public, private and voluntary sectors to build capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

To further help tackle climate change in the region, and to highlight specifically the issues for young people, the government has also appointed twelve-year-old Sarah Crudgington as the region's young climate change champion.

Sarah recently witnessed the effects of climate change on alpine glaciers by taking part in a 5-day fact-finding trip to Switzerland. Sarah and the 8 other regional Champions saw first-hand how far the Gurschen Glacier had retreated in recent years. In an effort to prevent further retreat, scientists have put a protective layer of foil over an area of the glacier measuring over 3000 square metres.

As part of their role, each of the Champions kept a weblog during their trip which can be found on the Climate Challenge website:

www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

For further information, please email:
resourceefficiency@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

Visit highlights the importance of Sustainable Farming and Food



As part of a programme of visits around the country Sir Don Curry, Chair of the Sustainable Food and Farming Delivery Group, visited the East of England on 26 and 27 September.

The visit was the second stop on a national tour by members of the national Delivery Group, who are meeting key stakeholders in each region and visiting farms and rural businesses to see examples of

good practice and how rural businesses can develop and evolve.

Sir Don Curry attended a dinner with high-level contacts in regional organisations including the recently-appointed Industry Champion, Marie Francis. Key topics discussed included current issues in the East of England and the way forward for sustainable farming in this region

One of Sir Don's aims is to encourage young farmers to

provide leadership for, and to champion, sustainable farming and food issues within the industry and to get them more involved. To facilitate this, young farmers from within the region were invited to a breakfast meeting, to feedback their perceptions and understanding of the industry.

If you would like to find out more about sustainable farming and food, please email:
ruralteam@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

For centuries, the Gypsy and Traveller life has involved living a country lifestyle. However, moving around the country and stopping at temporary Traveller sites has become more difficult since these sites have been closed down and the number of Gypsies and Travellers has increased.

The loss of some official sites has led to parts of the community camping illegally on private and public land. There has been a great deal of negative media coverage and conflicts have arisen with local communities. To add to this, traditional Traveller employment is on the decline – there are few opportunities for blacksmiths, farm labourers or crop harvesters, and as a result more Travellers are migrating towards cities where there is a lack of suitable accommodation.



Travellers have struggled to find appropriate sites

WE ALL NEED SOMEWHERE TO CALL HOME

It is now vital that the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities are addressed, and that provision is made for this through the plan-led system, as it is for all other communities. This will provide more certainty for Gypsies and Travellers -and for the settled community.

Since the **Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** revoked the duty on Local Authorities (LAs) to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers, there has been almost no public provision and a limited amount of private

provision. This has resulted in groups of Travellers settling on land that is deemed inappropriate.

Quite simply, in 1994, the Gypsy and Traveller community were told that they would have to provide for themselves – and they did – but nobody told them where this could be. To compound the problem, there was no further long or short-term public provision made to accommodate them.

Provisions in the **Housing Act 2004**, and amendments to section 8 of the **Housing Act 1985**, now give LAs a statutory requirement to assess the accommodation

needs of Gypsies and Travellers, as well as the needs of others. Amendments to the **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004** also require LAs to identify land fit for the purpose within their Local Development Frameworks.

These changes in legislation should mean that appropriate land is identified and, in the longer term, resolve the problems that Gypsies and Travellers have in getting planning permission for sites. It will hopefully increase public provision in line with the provision of accommodation for all other communities.

Launch of Private Sector Decent Homes Report

A report has recently been produced by GO-East Housing Team identifying regional progress towards meeting the government's Decent Homes target in the Private Sector. The report is a key piece of research, establishing for the first time a robust, evidence based-picture on the condition of Private Sector Housing occupied by vulnerable groups in the East of England.

GO-East Housing Team undertook this research in order to establish a baseline of the number of vulnerable households living in non-decent accommodation in the region, as, to date there has been little or no robust consistent local or regional data available on this. The report was based on information returned from a questionnaire that was compiled and sent out by the Housing Team to all 48 local authorities in the region. We received an excellent response

rate to the questionnaire, with 47 out of the 48 local authorities in the region returning the questionnaire.

GO-East Housing Team will be working with regional partners to take forward the findings from this report, and support the delivery of the PSA7 target. For more information email: Housing@goeast.gsi.gov.uk.

A full copy of the report can be viewed by visiting the GO-East website.

One Voice – Meeting the Membership

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) East of England team is now based at GO-East, and works in close partnership with voluntary and community sector organisations, local and regional government.

The team provides a point of contact between regional partners and stakeholders and CRE central legal, policy and funding.

In August, GO-East was pleased to welcome our partner organisation, One Voice, to our offices. One Voice provides non-judgemental, community-based support for women and young people from Gypsy and Traveller communities in East Anglia –with a focus on combating violent or abusive behaviour. The organisation faces unique challenges, and one of its founders, Shirley Barrett, came to GO-East with her colleagues and a group of young people to talk about them.

Children and young people involved with One Voice have an active say in the development of the organisation, and as part of this, they gave an extremely effective presentation to GO-East and CRE staff using role-play, poems and prose. The children celebrated the immense pride and love they have for families and tradition, but also highlighted the harsh realities of traveller life – how it feels to be verbally abused and stereotyped.

Shirley and her colleague Harriet outlined needs for funding and support. The work of One Voice work is almost unique – although they are working on establishing links with social service directorates and social care agencies. Women and young

Travellers may already feel reluctant and insecure about accessing mainstream services, and it can be even more difficult in an emergency, or following abuse.

One Voice can support Travellers at a time like this. The core members are trusted and respected by the community, and many of them are trained in dealing with issues surrounding domestic abuse. However, One Voice is limited in the work it can do as it is currently entirely run by volunteers. GO-East and the CRE are now discussing ways in which they could support this important work.

For more information contact James Doubleday, email: jdoubleday@cre.gov.uk
Tel. 01223 372565



John Stocker, National Compact Officer

Compact

working together better together

Strengthening partnerships with the Voluntary Sector

A Compact is a code of practice setting out the principles that statutory agencies and their voluntary and community partners will follow in their dealings with each other.

In 1998, a Compact was adopted containing undertakings agreed by government and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The appointment of the first National Compact Officer, John Stocker, heralds the movement of Compact into a new era.

John Stocker will be championing the full implementation of Compact at every level of government so that voluntary and community organisations can work in effective partnership with the broader public sector.

In the Region

GO-East has developed a **Regional Compact Action Plan**, a partnership between GO-East and regional VCS umbrella organisations – with COVER, MENTER and Rural Action East, as co-signatories. We want to expand the group by inviting other regional bodies to join, and we see it functioning as an important mechanism of support to regional VCS organisations.

Development of county and district Compact agreements continues across the region. For example:

- **Peterborough** has a dedicated Compact officer, Kim Longlands.

- **Southend** is coming to the end of a consultation period on codes of good practice, to follow the main Compact document, launched in July 2005.
- **Tendring** is consulting on a BME code of good practice to complement the main document and are holding a diversity event.

National Compact Week takes place between 1st and 8th of November. This is an annual awareness-raising week to highlight mainly how the Compact can help voluntary and community organisations in their relationships with central and local government.

GO-East helps to promote and support the application of the Compact (and its associated Codes of Good Practice) locally, particularly through Local Area Agreements (LAAs). LAAs must include a statement of how local people and the VCS are involved in the design and delivery of the LAA.

If you would like further information, please contact, GO-East's Compact lead: John Place, john.place@goeast.gsi.gov.uk Tel. 01223 372543.



GO-East, together with key regional partners, has developed a Regional Homelessness Action Plan which identifies key priorities for the region in tackling homelessness and activity for 2006/07.

East of England Launches Homelessness Action Plan

The Plan identifies key actions of regional importance to partners in the East of England and has a distinct role to play in helping the region focus on particular issues related to homelessness. It will complement the Homelessness Strategies produced by Local Authorities/ sub regions and provide added support to the development of the homelessness theme in the Regional Housing Strategy.

The delivery of the action plan will be taken forward by the newly formed Regional Homelessness Advisory Panel which emerged from consultation events held earlier this year. Other priorities raised during these consultations are due to be considered by the Regional Homelessness Advisory Panel at their next meeting.

You can view the Action Plan on the GO-East website. For more details email:

housing@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

Promoting partnerships in housing delivery

The recent DCLG paper “From Decent Homes to Sustainable Communities” was under discussion at a recent GO-East event.

Intended to address the challenges faced in the housing sector, the event attracted key stakeholders from across the region and beyond. GO-East was pleased to welcome local authority directors and heads of service, Registered Social Landlord directors, district and county councillors, private sector developers and the Local Government Information Unit to the event.

Tim Freathy, GO-East Deputy Director – Development & Infrastructure Group, chaired the event, and the speakers were Terrie Alafat, soon to be DCLG Director of Housing and Mick Sanders, chair of the Regional Housing Delivery Group (RHDG).

Terrie Alafat gave an introduction to the national picture and outlined the topics for discussion, then answered questions from the floor. Mick Sanders gave a review



Building homes in the region

of the new regional housing structure and work of the RHDG and how it will be targeting its work in the near future.

Delegates and colleagues at DCLG praised the work of the Housing Team in organising and hosting a very valuable event.

For copies of the presentation from the event or the findings in full, email:

housing.goeast@goeast.gsi.gov.uk



Transport schemes will aim to reduce congestion

This new funding will ensure that the region benefits from 25 planned local transport improvement schemes, including a major scheme for Ipswich town centre, helping to ease congestion and improve public transport.

This investment is in addition to approximately £150m per year, which DfT already provides to local authorities for smaller improvement schemes and highways capital maintenance

Regions given more say on Transport Schemes

Following advice from the region, the Department for Transport has allocated £1.04 billion for investment in major transport schemes in the East of England up to 2015/16.

in the region. Massive investment has also been provided separately for the region's rail network and motorways.

The government has given regions a say in making vital decisions about transport schemes that affect them. This has been the first opportunity for the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), local authority partners and other key

interests to come together and consider their transport programmes against the region's high level objectives. A realistic, prioritised and affordable programme of transport schemes has been approved for funding in the next three years.

For more information, email: **Transport.GOeast@goeast.gsi.gov.uk**

Delivering the Children and Learners agenda

Children and Young People



Chris Hilliard, Director, Children and Learners Group

A new Children and Learners Directorate within GO-East has been established so that we can meet Department for Education and Skills [DfES] expectations for providing leadership to the region on the children and learners' agenda.

On behalf of DfES, the Directorate is expected to perform four high level roles:

- Driving with Directors of Children's Services and other key partners implementation of strategic change and new policy direction.
- Ensuring effective management of programmes.
- Supporting performance improvement.
- Providing regional input to national policies and developing policy.

To this end the previous GO Learning Support and Regional Sure Start/Children's Fund Teams have been replaced by a number of

smaller, more strategically-focussed teams covering Every Child Matters Strategic Change, the Children and Young People's agenda, GO business systems and the Skills agenda, and residual Sure Start Children's Centre activity.

Three Children's Services Advisers have also joined the Directorate as well as advisors concerned with teenage pregnancy, the National Healthy Schools Programme, Local Safeguarding Children Boards and the Department of Health's Change for Children team.

For more information, email: **ChildrenandLearnersTeam@goeast.gsi.gov.uk**



Dr Paul Cosford

New Regional Director of Public Health

New Regional Director of Public Health for the East of England, Dr Paul Cosford, joined the Public Health group at GO-East in August.

Paul Cosford's major responsibilities include working on population health improvement, reducing health inequalities, health protection and emergency planning – in addition to professional leadership, clinical quality and patient safety. He leads on the public health function within the new Strategic Health Authority for the East of England and GO-East.

Of his role in the East of England, Paul says: "I'll be building on the

work being carried out as part of the Choosing Health White Paper. I'm looking forward to pushing ahead with initiatives to improve the health of people living and working in the region, and reducing health inequalities."

Paul firmly believes that health is not just about being ill, and that improvements to public health will only be achieved through the coordinated efforts of a range of organisations delivering public services. In particular, he sees Local

Area Agreements as one of the most important areas of partnership working – and as providing greater opportunities for people to live longer and healthier lives.

Paul Cosford was previously Director of Public Health for Northamptonshire Health Authority and later Medical Director and Director of Public Health for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority.



NHS East of England

On 1 July, the NHS East of England strategic health authority (SHA) was formally established as the local headquarters of the NHS. It is the largest of the ten SHAs created by the Government to manage the local NHS, serving a population of approximately 5.4 million.

NHS East of England covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, and is responsible for ensuring that the £6.5 billion spent on healthcare in the region delivers the best services and value-for-money for both patient and taxpayer.

Over the coming year the SHA will be working on certain priority areas as set down by the Department of Health:

- Making progress in reducing health inequalities by 10% by 2010.
- Ensuring that there is a maximum waiting time of two months from urgent referral to treatment, and one month from diagnosis to treatment for all cancers.
- Ensuring that by December 2008 no one waits more than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment.
- Achieving year-on-year reductions in MRSA levels.
- Ensuring that every hospital appointment will be booked for the convenience of the patient, and that every patient is offered a choice of at least four providers.
- Ensuring that by 2008 everyone referred to a Genito-Urinary Medicine clinic should be able to have an appointment within 48 hours.
- Achieving robust financial health.

In November Neil McKay will be joining the SHA as Chief Executive. Currently Chief Executive of Leeds University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Mr McKay has a wealth of experience and expertise in working with key NHS partners to drive forward improvements in healthcare provision.

The website of the NHS East of England is www.eoe.nhs.uk



Catch and Crush in Harlow and Southend

The illegal use of mini-motos was dealt a crushing blow with the arrival of two Home Office Ministers to the region on the 1st August. Launching the campaign, Home Office Ministers Joan Ryan and Baroness Andrews paid a visit to Harlow and Southend respectively, two of 27 areas in the country that have been given a total of £200,000 by the Respect Task Force to crack down on the misuse of mini-motos.

The two ministers were given the opportunity to speak to local partners and residents about the scale of the problem in their area and to take part in a 'public crushing' of seized mini-motos.

The nuisance caused by illegal use of mini-motos is of growing concern across the country. Reckless drivers of mini-motos who disrupt and damage communities can now receive points on their licence, face a driving ban, a fine or even have their vehicles crushed under the new guidance from the Respect Task Force.



Joan Ryan MP launching a crackdown on the misuse of mini-motos

To coincide with the enforcement campaign all police forces and Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships will receive a practical guide to help effectively tackle those who misuse mini-motos.



GO-East has part-funded the establishment of an Eastern Fraud Forum (EFF) which aims to promote fraud awareness and successful fraud prevention strategies across both the public and private sectors.

Tackling Fraud in the Region

Fraud costs the UK economy at least £14 billion every year. It affects all organisations no matter how large or small, and only by sharing best practice and ideas can we hope to counter the criminals.

EEF membership is open to all businesses and public sector organisations in the region. Members can participate in discounted training events designed to reduce fraud in the region, making the members better able to fight it.

The Forum has a website at www.easternfraudforum.co.uk

The 2005 Fraud Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament, will for the first time provide a legal definition of fraud and increase the range of measures to combat it.

The Eastern Fraud Forum (EFF) will be holding its inaugural conference in March 2007.

For more information, please contact our Regional Crime and Drugs team:

CRT@goeast.gsi.gov.uk
Tel. 01223 372715.

Further newsletters are also available from GO-East:

Education and Skills newsletter. Contact Dave Horan on 01223 372524. learningsupport@goeast.gsi.gov.uk
Community Safety and Regeneration newsletter "Outlook".

Contact Kerry Vinton on 01223 372674. kerry.vinton@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

European Funding newsletter – can be found on the European pages of the GO-East website.