Background to the Partnership

The ninth year of the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership has once again been very successful.

The Partnership continually seeks to understand and address the problems and issues relating to sustainable freight movement in the region, by providing an innovative action plan targeted at improving the efficiency, safety and sustainability of freight movement.

Throughout its existence since 2005, the Partnership’s quarterly meetings have been well attended, bringing together a range of organisations such as transport operators, industry representatives, local authorities, the Highways Agency, local universities and other stakeholder groups. The March 2014 meeting was attended by 25 people, a record for the Partnership.

Rail is vital to the movement of freight and the Partnership is proactive in bringing together the industry experts to discuss the opportunities in the North East.

There has been further emphasis this year on the Tyne and Wear Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). Tyne and Wear FORS has encouraged a number of operators to join the scheme to take advantage of the benefits that the scheme provides, including the successful Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) accredited workshops targeted at company management, as well as discounts on safety equipment.

A Safe Urban driving course (which is also DCPC accredited) was also delivered to assist HGV drivers in understanding the needs of vulnerable road users in shared road space on our highway network.

The safety of vulnerable road users is a key priority for the Partnership, who are developing an operator pack to raise awareness of the measures that operators can introduce to improve road safety for vulnerable road users. The current list of activities being undertaken by the Partnership can be found by visiting the website: www.tyneandwearfreight.info and clicking on the 2014-2015 Local Freight Development Plan.
**Truck Information Point (TIP)**

The TIP was installed in 2008 at Durham Roadchef Services Services on the A1, Junction 62. The touch-screen TIP is still operating successfully duplicating the web based version of the Partnership website, allowing access to a number of key resources.

Following the success of the Durham Services TIP it was decided to install another TIP in the drivers lounge on the King of Seaways ferry operating between Newcastle and Amsterdam. DFDS Seaways are monitoring the usage in order to make a decision as to whether to allow the TIP to access the ship’s broadband, allowing internet links for traffic and travel news. Periodic checks are made on the TIPs to ensure the information offered is accurate and up to date.

**Promotional DVD**

A free promotional DVD was first launched in 2009 and redesigned in 2010 to include German and Polish subtitles. The first batch of DVDs was well received, with many national organisations requesting a copy. The DVD is now available on the Partnership website:

**e-Newsletter**

A twice yearly e-newsletter provides information on progress was outlined in the Local Freight Development Plan. The newsletter in Year 9 was circulated to over 300 organisations who now receive the newsletter electronically.

If you would like to receive a copy please contact us, using the details at the end of the leaflet.

**Master Area Freight Map**

A suite of 25 PDF maps are available to download and print from the Partnership website. Development by the Partnership of an innovative mapping system has brought together the suite of maps including the ‘Area’, ‘Individual’, ‘Interactive’ and ‘Highways Restrictions’ maps into an all encompassing master area freight map. It allows drivers and operators to overlay the existing separate mapping systems onto one page, easing the user’s journey through the maps.

The map database is updated annually to maintain the accuracy of the company details and location changes within the maps. This year, the abnormal loads route map and the regional freight map have been updated to include current and accurate contacts details to assist the freight operator to get through to the most appropriate contact.

The next Rail Partner Group meeting will be held on November 18th, starting at 11am. The venue has not yet been decided, please keep checking the Partnership’s website for details.

**Website**

The website hosts all of the Partnership resources and is the main conduit through which the Partnership disseminates information to the haulage industry.

The Partnership’s website information is in three languages (English, German and Polish) and remains an important one stop shop providing freight related information for drivers and transport operators.

**Content includes:**

- Information on the progress of FORS;
- The master mapping system, detailing restrictions, individual business and distribution park locations, company names, contact details and exact location of each company premises;
- The latest freight related news (important news flashes);
- Real time traffic updates and webcams;
- Lorry parking and other freight related service details including loading and unloading solutions;
- Details of technology trials;
- News on forthcoming Partnership meetings and other events;
- Best Practice publications;
- A promotional film detailing the work of the Partnership;
- Multi-Modal Carbon Calculator;
- Rail Freight and
- Vulnerable Road Users

The website was regularly updated throughout the year and it is planned to be refreshed with a bright new look in 2014/2015.
Cities across the world experience similar issues with freight and the challenge of managing the movement of goods vehicles within urban conurbations.

Reducing fuel use (and therefore pollution), and ensuring freight movement is as safe as possible will result in benefits to companies, the general public and the environment.

FORS is an accredited membership scheme for businesses operating buses, coaches, vans and lorry fleets of all sizes. Free to join, it offers impartial, independent advice and guidance to motivate them to improve their lawfulness and environmental, social and economic performance.

In 2012 Tyne and Wear was the first region outside London to adopt FORS, entitling freight and fleet companies operating in the region to join, and enjoy all the same exclusive benefits and discounts available to their counterparts who deliver into London. This work continued through 2013 into 2014.

Once a company is registered on the FORS programme, the operator can progress from the entry Bronze standard to Silver and finally Gold. The benefits of the scheme are many and include:

- Recognising and rewarding quality – recognising those that meet our minimum standards relating to driver, vehicle and operational performance by rewarding them with bronze membership;
- Raising standards – to encourage companies to improve their operations and save money;
- FORS benchmarking – an online performance monitoring system that lets you monitor progress towards CO₂ reduction, incident prevention, and business efficiency targets;
- Training – free tailored training covering topics such as Safety, Fuel Efficiency and Urban Driving, most of which count towards driver CPC;
- Driver behaviour profiling services – how much do vehicle accidents and fuel usage cost your company?
- Fuel advice programme – practical tools and advice to help cut your costs;
- Driver licence check service – gives operators complete confidence that your drivers are on the road legally, while freeing up the time you spend checking drivers’ credentials;
- Regular industry updates – include the FORSight newsletter and regular bulletins to help you keep ahead of your competitors;
- Discounts – the scheme can pass on discounts to members due its robust procurement policy – discounts on training and equipment;
- Workshops – the funded DCPC accredited workshops are mainly targeted at the management of a transport operation sharing best practice on policies and procedures.

Freight on Rail

The Partnership remains committed to promoting the opportunities for rail freight usage and rail freight infrastructure within the North East.

Since 2011, we have held twice-yearly Rail Partner Group meetings with invited stakeholders from the rail freight industry and organisations with an interest in rail freight; these have included Network Rail, Rail Freight Group, FTA, DB Schenker, CILT, local port operators, the University of Newcastle and other interested bodies.

The Group has taken a particular interest in the proposals for restoring passenger services to the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line, whilst at the same time accommodating the existing freight use of the line as well as providing scope for increased freight demand.

Freight handling facilities are obviously of critical importance and it was agreed that a website map should be developed and maintained to identify the location and capability of existing rail freight terminals to aid transport operators in making an informed decision as to the feasibility of switching modes. This has resulted in the creation of the Multi-Modal Carbon Calculator, discussed later in the leaflet.

Sharing of Best Practice Information

A new web page on the Partnership’s website has been created to enable the dissemination of a number of Best Practice publications.

The material is transport operator focussed, giving insight and practical advice on how to achieve operational efficiencies and reduce fuel usage, and thus reduce emissions and costs. Subjects covered include:

- Fuel management;
- Performance management;
- Driver training;
- Change management;
- Modal shift;
- Vehicle specification; and
- Preventative maintenance.

The publications will help the Partnership meet its aims of improved operator engagement and enhancing operational efficiency to reduce emission levels.

Tyne and Wear Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS)

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- Discounts – the scheme can pass on discounts to members due its robust procurement policy – discounts on training and equipment;
- Workshops – the funded DCPC accredited workshops are mainly targeted at the management of a transport operation sharing best practice on policies and procedures.
Over Year 9 the number of operators registering onto the scheme has increased significantly to 69. Assessments for the Bronze standards have been carried out on 37 of FORS registered companies in Tyne and Wear (with a 100% pass rate).

Other companies have been re-assessed following a full year of being bronze accredited. We are delighted that Newcastle City Council’s own fleet has attained silver accreditation, so congratulations to them. To put this achievement in perspective, nationally there are 77 silver members.

The Partnership has increased its number of registrations over the past year - now more than 80 companies are registered, covering over 4,000 vehicles.

Year 9 has seen the Tyne and Wear Partnership offer a series of twenty four workshops over 12 days.

The feedback from those companies attending has been very positive with a number attending all of the workshops. Those attending the workshops, who are holders of the vocational licenses, have been accredited DCPC training and also increased their knowledge of policies and procedures.

FORS offers a suite of twelve funded workshops, and anyone attending 9 of the workshops is eligible to become a FORS practitioner. Thirteen companies have become FORS Practitioners through the Tyne and Wear FORS workshops.

### Safe Urban Driving

During 2013/14, the Partnership offered a Safe Urban Driving DCPC registered course to drivers whose companies were registered on the FORS scheme.

The course was delivered on the 3rd October 2013 and was designed to raise the HGV driver’s awareness of the vulnerable road user in shared road space.

The content of the course comprises a 3.5 hour classroom session which outlines potential hazards involving vulnerable road users, with the rest of the day comprising a practical cycling session on urban roads.

The feedback from the course has been very positive, both on the quality of the classroom training and especially the practical cycle training in the depot and on the road.

The Partnership is planning to offer further Safe Urban Driving Courses during 2014 in association with the Go Smarter to Work programme – please see [http://www.gosmarter.co.uk/work](http://www.gosmarter.co.uk/work) and watch out for publicity announcing the dates and venues of future courses.

### Multi Modal Carbon Calculator

The Multi Modal Carbon Calculator (MMCC) is a tool that provides a means of calculating the carbon emissions associated with transporting goods between two places in the UK via a variety of modes. It is unique to the Partnership and is housed on the Partnership’s website.

This year a cost element has been added that advises users, on the basis of the weight of the goods to be transported and the distance travelled, what types of goods are more likely to be economically viable via sustainable modes of transport.

### Longer Semi Trailers

A key research element of the Partnership programme in Year 9 has been the investigation of how the Longer Semi Trailers (LST) trial has affected operators that deliver in the North East.

By developing an electronic survey and undertaking a telephone consultation exercise we have spoke with a number of operators and developed a presentation detailing the impact of the trial. This will be delivered at the next Partnership meeting, to be held at Gateshead Civic Centre on 4th June 2014.

### The C-LIEGE Project

The Clean Last mile transport and logistics management for smart and Efficient local Governments in Europe (C-LIEGE) project was an exciting trans-European project that aimed to showcase good practice and provide a helping hand for all European cities striving to deliver cleaner and more sustainable urban freight transport.

An innovative set of integrated solutions and push-and-pull demand-oriented measures were tested at seven sites across Europe, including Newcastle. The Freight Partnership provided advice to Newcastle to help them outline to their European partners the best ways to establish Freight Quality Partnerships in their own cities. We also shared details of our good practice initiatives, such as FORS.

The project ended in November 2013 with a final Conference aimed at sharing the knowledge learnt with other towns and cities to help address the challenges and opportunities for sustainable freight movement across Europe.

### Urban Freight Conference

The University of Newcastle are holding a major conference on urban freight this summer, starting on the afternoon of 11th June and then all day on 12th June.

The Freight Partnership will be present and contribute to the conference which will be free to attend and will emphasise interactive knowledge exchange rather than platform presentations.

### Twitter

To be able to keep followers of the Tyne and Wear Partnership up to date and have instant information on the Partnership, we have set up a bespoke twitter account. All work undertaken by the Partnership, newsflashes and details of meetings, will be tweeted to promote the Partnership. Simply follow: [@TyneandWearFP](https://twitter.com/TyneandWearFP)

### Safety of Vulnerable Road Users

The ever increasing number of cyclists on our roads bring with it potential for conflict with other road users, particularly freight vehicles. Accidents involving cyclists and goods vehicles have become a major source of concern in London and, as cycling levels rise in this region, it is important to avoid similar problems arising here.

For this reason, the Partnership considers it important to develop a clear understanding of the hazards involved and the solutions to minimise potential accidents.
A webpage has been created to showcase the creation of a pack for use by operators, highlighting the issues associated with HGVs and cycle safety.

The operators pack is now available on the Partnership website providing a wealth of information for transport operators, including: driver top tips; procurement guide; key factsheet for operators; PowerPoint presentation for drivers; PowerPoint presentation for senior management; speaker notes for the driver briefing; speaker notes for the senior management briefing and a checklist on how to run a campaign.

A cyclist pack is now in preparation with details of Best Practice and top tips for cyclists when preparing to travel on the roads, especially in respect of sharing road space with larger vehicles. We are also considering holding an event bringing together freight operators and cyclists to enable them to share knowledge and experience from each other’s viewpoint.

The event will allow cyclists to view the road from an HGV cab and to understand the issues surrounding visibility from the confines of the driver’s seat.

Our December 2013 meeting was combined with a site visit to the Tyne and Wear UTMC facility at the University of Newcastle. This proved very successful and we would be happy to hold more meetings at alternative sites and combine these with a site visit if appropriate.

Please let us know if you have appropriate facilities to host the meeting on the following dates:

- 3rd September 2014
- 3rd December 2014
- 4th March 2015

To find out more information about the Partnership, or if you would like to get involved through attendance at meetings or events or simply receive our quarterly email newsletter, please contact:

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