We are delighted to announce that the facilitation of the Partnership for Year 9 (2013/2014) has been awarded to the previous incumbent AECOM.

This is the first newsletter for the 2013/14 programme year and has been developed to inform you of the projects to be delivered by the Partnership in Year 9. They include:

**Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS)**

The Partnership is now into its second year of delivering the FORS scheme in Tyne and Wear, aimed at businesses operating vans, lorries, coaches, buses, taxis and car fleets of all sizes. FORS offers impartial, independent advice and guidance to motivate operators to improve their lawfulness and environmental, social and economic performance. Bronze accreditation confirms that a company is compliant with the policies and procedures of the Operators Licence and also has policies in place that will help them work towards improved efficiency and performance.

Registrations to the scheme have already gained momentum.

Registrations can be completed in five minutes at www.fors-online.org.uk. Nine companies in the area are now Bronze accredited. The Partnership would like to thank those companies for their hard work in achieving this prestigious award. This sets the standard that we would like other operators to aspire to.

FORS bronze assessments are fully funded by the Partnership and this will continue in programme year 2013/14. Please apply as soon as possible to ensure you receive your audits at no cost to your organisation.

As FORS members you have access to a range of exclusive benefits and discounts that offer real competitive advantage. Full details of these benefits can be found on the FORS website www.fors-online.org.uk.
A major benefit of FORS is the JAUDP certified workshops (DCPC). These will be delivered in ten seven-hour workshop sessions by accredited trainers. They will commence in July 2013 and continue through to the end of March 2014. Please go to [http://www.tandwforsworkshops.eventbrite.co.uk/](http://www.tandwforsworkshops.eventbrite.co.uk/) to register your interest in attending the workshops which have attracted lots of positive feedback from operators who have already attended.

It is the aim of the Partnership to increase registrations to the scheme and this will be achieved by contacting eligible companies to discuss the options available to them and the benefits of joining the free scheme. For more information on the scheme please go to: Tyne and Wear FORS

Bronze accredited members will also be encouraged to progress to the Silver and Gold accreditation.

Mapping

The current suite of 25 maps hosted on the Partnership website are to be reviewed to maintain the accuracy of the information and locations displayed. A site visit will be carried out to ensure the accuracy of buildings and companies within each location.

The master area map will also be updated accordingly with the details gathered during the site visits. It is also the intention to review the abnormal loads route and highways restriction maps.

Rail Freight

The Rail Partner Group meets every six months with attendance still as strong as ever from organisations in the rail industry.

The Partnership will consult with local authorities to make FORS accreditation a contractual prerequisite in procurement systems, in line with practice in London. This will help businesses ensure that their suppliers are operating legally and as efficiently as possible.

Operators who deliver within or into the region and who are interested in taking advantage of this scheme, should visit [www.fors-online.org.uk](http://www.fors-online.org.uk) or contact Michael Page direct for further details.

Dont forget that audits and workshops are currently free!

The latest meeting was held at Newcastle Civic Centre on 24th June 2013 where discussions included the latest opportunities for the Ashington Blyth and Tyne line, with Port of Blyth requiring additional freight paths and Northumberland County Council aspiring to introduce a passenger service from Ashington to Newcastle. There is to be detailed discussions with all the stakeholders to derive the best options and cost which benefits both passenger and freight transport.

A recent announcement from Northumberland County Council is available at: [Ashington Blyth and Tyne Line](http://www.fors-online.org.uk).
The Partnership is still seeking to gather information on current and potential usage of rail freight in the region. A study carried out by the ORR will be published soon which will identify operators who use the differing modes of transport.

Safety of Vulnerable Road Users

The Partnership is producing a practical pack of information for transport operators and drivers to raise awareness of vulnerable road users and how to ensure safe operation whilst around them. The Operator pack will contain:

- Power Point presentations for senior managers to deliver to drivers on vulnerable road users
- A checklist on how to mount a vulnerable road user campaign
- Top tips for operators and drivers to follow
- A vehicle safety technology procurement guide

A pack for cyclists is also in development to hand out to the cycling trainers and cycling groups to ensure cyclists understand the issues involved when sharing the road with HGVs.

Impact of Longer Semi-trailers on Road Infrastructure

The DfT trial of longer semi-trailers is one year into a 10 year trial.

The Partnership will consult with the industry, trade associations and operators to understand the issues of access to delivery points and the impact on road and parking infrastructure.

It is known that the full allocation of 1,800 trailers has not been taken up and we will also discuss the reasons for the shortfall with the operators.

Multi-Modal Carbon Calculator (MMCC)

The updated MMCC tool has been demonstrated at various events and meetings, resulting in some very positive feedback and comments. It is easy to register for the tool, which is free to use on the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership website: www.tyneandwearfreight.info. The MMCC database will be updated to maintain the accuracy of the 193 Port and Rail facilities listed across the UK. All facilities will be contacted to ensure the current details are correct and to feedback any changes.

Promoting the Partnership

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
CILT ITS joint Maritime Event

An absorbing event was held on June 25th 2013 at Newcastle University’s Cassie Building. The day was well attended with speakers from Port of Tyne, PRB Associates, Hogia Systems, Commercial Boat Owners Association and Peel Ports.

A visit to the Port of Tyne was organised for the late afternoon. The delegates boarded a coach and were driven to the port where the Commercial Director of the port gave a commentary throughout the guided tour.

C-LIEGE

The C-LIEGE project is an exciting trans-European project that aims to showcase good practice and provide a helping hand for all European cities striving to deliver cleaner and more sustainable urban freight transport.

C-LIEGE stands for Clean Last mile transport and logistics management for smart and Efficient local Governments in Europe and is a 30-month project, starting in June 2011 and ending in December 2013. Following a detailed assessment of good practices from a range of European cities, the project aims to set out an integrated framework for energy efficient Urban Freight Transport (UFT) management and planning.

An innovative set of integrated solutions and push-and-pull demand-oriented measures are being tested and shared as part of pilot experiments at seven sites across Europe, including Newcastle. The other locations are Montana (Bulgaria), Szczecin (Poland), Leicester (United Kingdom), Stuttgart (Germany), Hal-Tarxien (Malta) and the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy.

The Freight Partnership have given advice to Newcastle so they can outline to their European partners the best way to establish Freight Quality Partnerships in their own cities. We are also sharing details of our good practice initiatives, such as FORS.

For more details about C-LIEGE, please contact Newcastle’s Project Manager, Gary MacDonald at Gary.MacDonald@newcastle.gov.uk or call on 0191 277 8971.
Get Involved

The Partnership undertakes a variety of projects every year and if you would like to get involved with the Partnership or simply share your ideas, you are welcome to come along to the next meeting which is scheduled for 3rd September 2013 at Sunderland Civic Centre. Reception is at 10:00 for teas and coffees, with a 10:30 start.

For more information please contact Michael Page by email on: michael.page@aecom.com or by Tel: 0191 224 6500.

Alternatively, you can contact John Bourn of the Tyne and Wear LTP Team by email at: john.bourn@newcastle.gov.uk or alternatively call John on Tel: 0191 277 8972.

The Partnership will be holding a further three quarterly meetings this programme year. They are scheduled for September 3rd 2013, December 4th 2013 and March 12th 2014.