

The North East Freight Partnership

Delivering Safe, Sustainable
& Efficient Freight throughout
the North East of England

Partnership Newsletter

Spring 2016

The North East Freight Partnership continues to go from strength to strength. 2015 saw Northumberland and Durham join the Partnership and April sees the Partnership commence its twelfth year.

This newsletter has been produced to provide an update on the Partnership's activities.



Andy Mitchell of Elddis Transport holds his Driver of the Year Award outside the company's headquarters.



John Bourn, Chair of the North East Freight Partnership presents the Operator of the Year Award to AG Barr, represented by Steven Bird.

Freight Awards

The freight industry took centre stage when the Partnership handed out its second annual awards at the March meeting, held at the Port of Tyne headquarters. For the last two years we have presented awards to recognise freight operators and drivers who have made a significant contribution towards the Partnership's goal of promoting safe, efficient and sustainable freight movement.

Driver Andy Mitchell, who works for Elddis Transport, based in Leadgate, County Durham, was named Driver of the Year. Now in his seventies, Andy has worked for Elddis for nearly 45 years and continues to work three days a week as a Class 1 HGV driver. Over the years he has clocked up a distance of almost four and a half million miles and boasts an excellent safety record.

Nigel Cook managing director of family-run Elddis Transport, said: "Starting with my grandfather, Andy has worked for three generations of my family and his loyalty, work rate and ethic and his continued enthusiasm for the job are an example to us all."

AG Barr took the coveted title of Operator of the Year, reflecting their commitment to the Partnership. Colin Gransbury, Depot Manager at the company's Newcastle Branch, commented:

'Road safety is a vital part of our operations and driver training, as we strive to deliver a great distribution service to hundreds of retail customers in the North East. We are delighted to receive this award in recognition of the work we are undertaking with the Partnership which helps to make our roads safer for everyone'.



Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS)

FORS is an accredited membership scheme for businesses operating commercial vehicle fleets of all sizes. It offers impartial, independent advice and guidance to motivate them to improve their operation and environmental, social and economic performance.

The number of FORS accredited companies in the North East rose by 63% between March 2015 and January 2016. There are currently 129 depots in this region that are at least bronze accredited, operating a total of 4,225 vehicles.

The North East recently welcomed its first gold accredited FORS member in AFI Uplift, which has a depot in Wardley. They were joined by HSS Hire in Gateshead in March.

The Partnership continues to promote and support FORS in the region, providing advice and support as well as organising FORS Practitioner workshops for operators in this region. A free programme of workshops continues in 2016-17.



Vulnerable Road Users

In conjunction with the Go Smarter initiative, the Partnership has provided a number of Safe Urban Driving courses for North East-based HGV drivers during 2015-16. The courses included a practical element where drivers were trained on bicycles so they could experience first-hand a cyclist's perspective of the road.

Over 100 drivers have now been trained, which will contribute to a safer environment for all road users. Further courses will be delivered over the coming year.

Cycle Logistics in the North East

The Partnership continues to work with cycle logistics providers to encourage establishing an operation in the North East. Cycle logistics is the movement of goods via cargo bike or trike.

We are currently liaising with prospective customers to establish the required critical mass of goods.

Website & Social Media

The website continues to represent the main portal by which the activities of the Partnership are showcased. In addition, we are constantly updating our social media presence. We have a Twitter handle and have also created a Partnership Facebook group and LinkedIn group – please see the “Contact Us” box for the relevant details.

Please take a minute to visit our pages and follow us to receive updates on the activities of the Partnership and relevant news and information.

Rail Partner Group

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.

In 2015-16 we held meetings at the George Stephenson Railway Museum on North Tyneside and at AECOM's offices in Newcastle. Our next meeting is scheduled for the 17th May at Blyth Workspace, Quay Road, Blyth (postcode NE24 3AG).



Hexham HGV Parking Study

In February 2016 the Partnership undertook a survey into the nature of HGV Parking in and around Hexham to inform future plans for lorry parking provision in the area.

Further surveys will be undertaken, the results of which will be presented on at the next Partnership meeting and an associated report will be made available on the Partnership website.



Quarterly Meetings

As usual, the Partnership's quarterly meetings continue to be well attended – thanks to all those who have come along and contributed. We continue to identify interesting venues and speakers for the meetings.

The March meeting saw Port of Tyne hosting and included a fascinating explanation of the Port's history, operations and future plans. Our next meeting is scheduled for early June (see website for details). It would be great to see you there.

HGV Cycle Safety Technology Trial

The Partnership is running a series of trials as an ongoing commitment to improve cycle safety across the region. The trials aim to address the different types of HGV-Cycle safety technology available to determine what impact they may have on the safety of vulnerable road users.

This includes equipment such as side proximity sensors, blindspot cameras and RFID technology. The Partnership has agreed with suppliers to provide free equipment to road freight operators who wish to participate in the trial and learn more about how it works.

A number of organisations have already signed up to take part in the trial and we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved (see contact details below). The trial will run through to 2017.

In addition, a number of operators have also been involved in providing case studies exploring the impacts of using cycle safety technology. Case studies will be featured on the Partnership website soon, so watch this space!

Contact Us

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 email and newsletters, please contact:

Paul Davison

AECOM

Tel: 0161 927 8286

Email: paul.davison@aecom.com

John Bourn

North East Combined Authority

Tel: 0191 277 8972

Email: john.bourn@northeastca.gov.uk

<http://www.northeastfreightpartnership.info/>

LinkedIn: North East Freight Partnership

Twitter: @TyneandWearFP

Facebook: North East Freight Partnership

