This leaflet outlines the main activities of the Partnership up to October 2014

This is the first newsletter for the 2014/15 Year 10 programme. It has been developed to inform you of the work already undertaken by the Partnership.

The 10th September quarterly meeting held at Gateshead Skills Academy at Team Valley was very successful and the meeting was followed by an interesting guided tour of the College’s impressive facilities.
Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS)

In this issue we talk about the: Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). Registrations to the scheme have increased, with 119 companies in the North East region now registered, comprising 4,300 vehicles. Registrations can be completed in five minutes at www.fors-online.org.uk.

Fifty companies in the area are now bronze accredited and three have successfully achieved the silver standard. The Partnership would like to thank those organisations for their hard work in achieving this prestigious award. This hopefully sets the standard that other operators would like to attain.

FORS bronze assessments are fully funded by the Partnership and this will continue in programme year 2014-15. 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 JAUPT certified Practitioner workshops which form part of the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC). The Partnership has delivered 20 workshops over the last year, with feedback from the attendees being excellent.

Year 10 2014-15 workshops are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30.09.2014</td>
<td>Managing work related road safety</td>
<td>Managing driver fitness and impairment</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.10.2014</td>
<td>Managing driver assessment and training</td>
<td>Post-collision procedures and analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>04.11.2014</td>
<td>Safe and efficient fleet management</td>
<td>Reducing fuel use and minimising environmental impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.11.2014</td>
<td>Minimising transport fines and charges</td>
<td>Monitoring and measuring road fleet performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.12.2014</td>
<td>Going for bronze</td>
<td>Developing road transport policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.01.2015</td>
<td>Managing work-related road safety</td>
<td>Managing driver fitness and impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.02.2015</td>
<td>Managing driver assessment and training</td>
<td>Post-collision procedures and analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.02.2015</td>
<td>Safe and efficient fleet management</td>
<td>Reducing fuel use and minimising environmental impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.03.2015</td>
<td>Minimising transport fines and charges</td>
<td>Monitoring and measuring road fleet performance</td>
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To register your interest in attending the workshops please go to: Tyne and Wear FORS Workshop registration.

TfL have introduced new terms and conditions regarding FORS standards in the updated version 3.

The new standards will be introduced from 13 October 2014 for all levels of accreditation, including bronze re-approval audits. However, operators registering with FORS from 9 July 2014 will be required to be audited against the revised standards. Here is a summary of the changes:
Bronze Audit

The bronze audit must be undertaken within 90 days of registration. If unsuccessful, any action points received must be resolved and carried out within 30 days of the initial audit.

Minors become majors at re-approval

When an auditor flags an issue as a minor non-compliance, if this issue is not satisfactorily addressed by the re-approval audit, the auditor will escalate the issue to a major non-compliance. This will result in failing the audit.

New vehicle safety features required

As part of the continual safety improvements to the FORS standards, new safeguards for vulnerable road users have been introduced at bronze level.

Maintaining the standard

To ensure the standards are maintained and give a level playing field for all of the fleet operators that have achieved FORS recognition, FORS will be taking a firm stance on those that fail to comply with the terms and conditions. Suspensions and terminations will be used more rigorously to ensure that vehicles displaying FORS signs meet the expected standards.

New route to accreditation

A Whole Fleet Accreditation (WFA) has been introduced which is available to national fleet operators with 16 or more operating centres seeking to gain accreditation by demonstrating widespread applicability of the FORS standard through an internal transport management system.

Operators who deliver within or into Tyne and Wear, who are interested in taking advantage of this scheme, should visit www.fors-online.org.uk or contact Michael Page direct for further details on:

Tel: 01912246512 or by email: michael.page@aecom.com

Don’t forget that audits and workshops are currently fully funded by the Partnership and TfL!
The Partnership has continued to offer the DCPC registered Safer Urban Driving course to drivers whose companies were registered on the FORS scheme. To date, there have been six courses delivered, which are 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 the practical cycle training in the depot and on the road.

The Partnership is offering further Safe Urban Driving Courses during 2014-15, 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.

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The current suite of 25 maps hosted on the Partnership website has been reviewed to maintain the accuracy of the information and locations displayed. Site visits to the locations were carried out to ensure the accuracy of buildings and companies within each location.

The master area map has been updated accordingly with the details gathered during the site visits.
The Rail Partner Group will be meeting on the 18th November 2014 to discuss the opportunities for rail freight in the north east.

The meeting venue is: Newcastle Rail Academy, William Street, Felling, Gateshead. NE10 0JP.

The North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership has commissioned a study into the business case for reinstating the Leamside line, a 21-mile route from Tursdale, County Durham, to Pelaw, near Gateshead.

Lynemouth Power station is leasing land from Harworth Estates to construct a new biomass power station adjacent to the existing power station, the lay down period is estimated to be 18 months - when commissioned the existing power station is to be decommissioned.

Impact of Longer Semi-trailers (LSTs) on Road

One of the tasks in the year 9 business plan was for the Partnership to consult with operators and industry trade representatives to understand the level of take up of the allocation of longer semi trailers and to identify the issues relating to the delivery points and infrastructure.

The DfT trial of longer semi-trailers has now been running for 12 months and a report has been published outlining the results of the data gathered throughout the trial year.

The report identifies that, at the end of 2013, nearly 600 LSTs were on the road – one third of the total allocation of about 1,800. DfT revised the allocation process in September 2013 and all the 1,800 quota was allocated to operators by the end of January 2014.

The evidence to date indicates that operating the LSTs on the trial so far has not led to an increase in casualty rates on public roads, when compared to the general operation of GB registered articulated HGVs. Whilst this is encouraging, it is too early to infer longer term conclusions about the safety of LSTs, as there are many factors associated with their operational practice that need to be taken into account.

The aim of the revised allocation process was to ensure that the original target of 1,800 LSTs (about 2% of the total GB semi-trailer fleet) running in the trial could be realised in 2014, and to meet demand from those in the industry who were ready to use the longer trailers.

Of the trailers known to be on the road, only about 20% are the shorter length category, up to 14.6m. The revised allocation process adopted by DfT in September 2013 acknowledged the greater interest in the longer 15.65m category and effectively removed the restriction on an allocation being fixed to one length category or the other.
The Partnership would like to acknowledge operators and drivers who have literally gone the extra mile to assist in making their operation more sustainable.

**Operator of the year award**

The purpose of this award is to recognise companies known to the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership who have excelled in their performance throughout the year and to go one step further than standard requirements.

**Driver of the year award**

The purpose of the Driver of the Year award is for the Tyne and Wear Partnership to show appreciation to a driver who has shown willingness to support their company with either appropriate suggestions or who shows positive attitude toward change.

**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

**Smart Urban Freight Conference**

Organised by Newrail, the University of Newcastle’s dedicated railway research centre, the Smart Urban Freight Conference 2014 took place on 11th and 12th June 2014.

This unique event brought together several European research projects and industry stakeholders to discuss the following common themes and topics:

- Urban Logistics & Transport Operators
- Low Emission Vehicle Technologies
- Policy Initiatives & Business Models
- Urban Logistics as a commercial opportunity

The Freight Partnership was represented at the Conference by John Bourn, from the Regional Transport Team, and by Michael Page, from AECOM. The Partnership’s display stand attracted considerable interest and delegates were able to take away the 2014 Partnership newsletter, hot off the presses, outlining the busy work programme for the current year. During the Conference proceedings, the Partnership was praised as an exemplar of successful collaborative working between the private and public sectors, with a joint interest in sustainable freight movement.
Cycling in the City

On Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October two days of cycling events were held in Newcastle. On the first day a cycle logistics workshop was held at the Cycle Hub on the Quayside to inform attendees of how to set up and run a cycle based delivery business. Attendees came from across the UK and Europe to take part, including a number from Tyne and Wear who were investigating the potential for a start up of a cycle cargo business in Newcastle.

The following day a Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) cycling event was held at the Great North Museum featuring speakers from Newcastle University, Transport for London, AECOM the European Cycle Logistics Federation and Outspoken Delivery. Subjects discussed included the effect of air pollution on cyclists, initiatives to improve road safety for cyclists and how a cycle based delivery system operates. The event was well received with over 50 delegates attending.

Get Involved

As you are receiving this newsletter you will likely be involved in some way with transportation, whether it is rail or road.

If you have any interesting information you would like to share with other organisations, why not use the power of the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership Newsletter.

It could be about your successes or anything else relevant to operations.

The Partnership undertakes a variety of projects every year, if you would like to get involved you are welcome to come along to the next meeting which is scheduled for 3rd December 2014 at:

North Tyneside Council,
Quadrant East,
Cobalt Business Park,
The Silverlink North,
NE27 0BY

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 6512.