

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Total Environment

Progress Summary

June 2013

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Introduction

Defra and the Local Government Association (LGA) worked with local authorities and other local organisations to set up 11 pilots of a new 'Total Environment' (TE) approach in October 2010. The aim was to trial different, locally-designed initiatives for improved local partnership working in relation to the natural environment.

Since this pilot programme was established, partnership working is increasingly being seen by local organisations as an essential part of more efficient and more effective delivery. All the pilots demonstrated the benefits of local partnership activity. This short summary of progress to date with the TE pilots is intended to provide a resource for any other local organisations looking at partnership working options.

Defra and the LGA welcome the effort devoted by those involved with the 11 TE pilots and are grateful for the information provided to produce this summary. It is hoped that this summary of achievements and lessons learned will be of value to a wider audience.

Summary of 11 Pilots

Cumbria

The pilot explored opportunities generally for cooperation and coordination in local delivery of environmental services. TE helped with bringing together various local organisations. This fed in to the establishment of three Local Nature Partnerships and some Nature Improvement Areas, which have since been the driving force behind local partnership working. For more information: Paul Feehily Paul.feehily@cumbria.gov.uk .

Essex

The pilot focused on opportunities for biodiversity offsetting in Essex. Although TE did not leverage any additional support or resource, the output from the pilot was the development of an approach to biodiversity offsetting which has made a useful contribution to decision-making by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). For more information: Luke Bristow Luke.bristow@essex.gov.uk .

Hampshire

The pilot sought to rethink how government agencies, local government and the voluntary and community sector can build capacity and long term resilience. One result was a 4-week 'Skilled Up' pilot project which helped people who had either never worked, or had been out of work for up to ten years. The pilot showed it is possible to gain the

commitment of partners, including local community organisations, without any binding written agreement. In total 20 local organisations are now cooperating on TE in Hampshire. For more information: Linda Tartaglia-Kershaw linda.tartaglia-kershaw@hants.gov.uk.

Kirklees

With Natural England funding, the pilot explored shared mapping of Green Infrastructure and opportunities. It has established an intelligence sharing framework to better target resources at risk. Officers have come together for cross-organisational training. Although it has been difficult to find time and devote resources to the TE initiative the five West Yorkshire local authorities are proposing to work together more collaboratively on animal health and farm visits, which should strengthen work with partner agencies and reduce duplication. For more information: Margaret Durkin Margaret.durkin@kirklees.gov.uk .

Bristol

The pilot focused on the development and launch of the Green Volunteers programme and the Council, Environment Agency (EA) and Civil Service South West looking at their own employee environmental volunteer schemes. TE was useful as it fitted in well with Bristol Natural History Consortium's working at both local and national level, and with what NHC were doing at the time the pilot programme was being set up. TE also proved a useful framework for conversations with various local interests. For more information: Savita Custead Savita@bnhc.org.uk

Cheshire West and Chester

The pilot sought a collaborative approach to progressing Green Infrastructure outcomes at a local level. TE helped create a momentum for a more diverse partnership. For more information: Paul Nolan Paul.nolan@merseyforest.org.uk

Greater Manchester

The pilot focused on integrating environmental services into other place-based services. TE helped to bring partners together and specifically to move forward with EA on fly tipping. The TE brand was helpful to package things and get people involved. For more information: Adam Hackett adamhackett@oldham.gov.uk / Fiona McAdoo fionamcadoo@oldham.gov.uk

Hertfordshire

The pilot focused on collaborative working to establish a common Green Infrastructure framework for Hertfordshire and better networking with EA to explore joint working and resource pooling. TE has led them to look more closely at how they worked with the EA. For more information: Tony Bradford tonybradford@hertscc.gov.uk

Lincolnshire

The pilot sought to improve value for money and improve flood risk outcomes across the country. TE was valuable in getting people to think differently in terms of working, joining up financial and other resources. It helped as a catalyst to the EA looking at new ways for joining up use of their flood risk funds locally. This has led to a common works programme being achieved. The pilot is now at a consolidating stage. For more information: David Hickman davidhickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Suffolk

The pilot sought to examine new ways of managing flood and coastal risk management. However, in practice, TE did not add a great deal to existing processes nor galvanize action not already in train. For more information: Matt Hullis matthullis@suffolk.gov.uk and Jane Burch janeburch@suffolk.gov.uk

Worcestershire

The pilot focused on getting the Council and Defra agencies working together to better feed into the spatial planning system in respect to Green Infrastructure to avoid duplication/missed opportunities. Overall TE branding plus Ministerial push was helpful in getting Director level engagement at the outset. For more information: Emily Barker ebarker@worcestershire.gov.uk

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PB13962