

5th January 2009

Consultation begins on new Strategy for the Northwest

The **Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)** and **4NW, the Regional Leaders Board**, have this week begun a region-wide consultation programme to inform the development of the Northwest's new integrated Regional Strategy (RS2010).

The Strategy, which has been developed through a partnership between the NWDA and 4NW on behalf of the region, outlines proposed priorities for the Northwest's long-term development, including:

- Capitalising on the opportunities of moving to a low carbon economy and addressing climate change
- Building on the region's sources of international competitive advantage and regional distinctiveness
- Releasing the potential of the region's people and tackling poverty
- Ensuing the right housing and infrastructure for sustainable growth.

Robert Hough, Chairman of the NWDA, said:

"The development of RS2010 offers a unique opportunity to bring economic, environmental and social priorities together into a single vision for the region's development over the next 20 years. The start of consultation on draft 1 is a significant milestone in the development of this crucial strategy and, as the first region to reach this stage, demonstrates the Northwest once again leading the way."

Councillor Sir Richard Leese, Chairman of 4NW, the Regional Leaders Board, added:

"We have a strong tradition of working in partnership in the Northwest and we are confident that the new strategy will build on this to play a pivotal role in driving investment and development in the region. Our objective must be excellent quality of life for all – and that to do this we must become more prosperous, more equitable and a lot less carbon dependent so that by 2030 the Northwest is a better place to live, learn, work, visit and invest."

The Northwest is the first region to begin working on an integrated regional strategy, building on the learning gained in developing the Regional Economic Strategy, the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Housing Strategy. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 now makes it a statutory requirement for RDAs and Local Authority Leaders Boards to develop integrated regional strategies to promote sustainable economic growth and contribute to sustainable development in their regions.

A draft Part 1 consultation document has been prepared by the Agency and 4NW, in collaboration with partners from the private, public and third sectors. It has been informed by the development of a substantial evidence base, as well as the Principles and Issues consultation in 2009, which agreed the headline vision, outcomes and values on which RS2010 should be based.

RS2010 is being developed in two parts. The draft Part 1 outlines the high-level strategic framework. Part 2 and an Implementation Framework will set out the detailed policies and actions to deliver the strategic priorities. Following the consultation process, a revised Part 1 together with a draft Part 2 and Implementation Plan will then be prepared later this year, and subject to a formal 12 week statutory consultation in preparation for an Examination in Public.

NWDA Chairman Robert Hough added:

“Through the development of a strong evidence base, the Agency and 4NW have worked closely with the public and private sector to develop the first part of the framework and I would now urge as many people as possible to get involved in the consultation process to help shape the strategy. This is the region’s strategy and input from the region is absolutely crucial to its success.”

Consultation events in each of the five sub-regions will be taking place across the region during the consultation process. The document is available to download - <http://www.nwregionalstrategy.com/>

Ends

Note to Editors

4NW is the Regional Leaders Board for the Northwest of England. We place public, private and third sector stakeholders at the heart of decisions that shape the future of the Northwest, its people and places. 4NW has responsibility for housing, planning, transport and economic development.



4NW has a board of members including council leaders from each of the five sub-regions, Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester, along with seven representatives from the private, non-governmental sector such as Manchester Airport Group, North West Universities Association and the North West Trades Union Congress - people who are responsible for delivering the strategy proposals at local level in the Northwest.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and is responsible for:

- **Supporting business growth and encouraging investment**
- **Matching skills provision to employer needs**
- **Creating the conditions for economic growth**
- **Connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure**
- **Promoting the region's outstanding quality of life**

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