



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

## Invitation for Expressions of Interest

### Government Office for the North East & Government Office for Yorkshire & the Humber Joint project to develop Local Authority best practice in Sustainable Schools Corporate Strategies

#### Background

We are keen to build on the success of the Northern Sustainable Schools Conference, which was held in York in February 2008. This event was organised by the three northern Government Offices and their respective regional Sustainable Schools partnerships. One of the important outcomes of the event was that a number of local authorities in the North East and Yorkshire and The Humber regions wanted to consider how best to develop a corporate approach, to achieve effective practice on Sustainable Schools' strategies and issues, at both intra and cross-authority levels.

#### Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are requested to be one of six 'pathfinder' Local Authorities across the North East (and Yorkshire and The Humber - 3 in each), until initially March 2010, to develop tailored local authority Corporate Strategies, which will serve to:

- Raise the profile of the Sustainable Schools and Sustainable Development agendas within LAs, across-directorates, and specifically as a school improvement tool;
- Highlight how Sustainable Schools' activities enable Local Authorities to meet wide ranging corporate targets, e.g. in Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and National Indicators (NIs), Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPAs), and (from April 2009) LA Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAAs);
- Ensure a coherent approach across all the LA services, stakeholders and partners who support schools and authorities on this complex agenda.

#### Expected project outcomes:

- Each local authority produces an individually tailored, cross-directorate/service Sustainable Schools Corporate Strategy, (clearly linked with existing Sustainable Communities' Strategies and Children & Young People's Plans), which will set out how the authority and its partners support schools to become sustainable schools;
- Each LA commits to develop a range of activities with their schools and with other partners (including a minimum of 2 meetings/year with schools);
- Each authority commits to showcase activities, and spread effective practice across as many local schools as possible. Also to disseminate good practice regionally as well as cross-regionally and nationally through contributing regular news stories (one per term) to the NE and Y&H Regional Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) websites and the new DCSF Sustainable Schools website;
- Each authority produces a minimum of three effective practice case studies, worked up with local authority and school partners, the third sector, (using community best practice wherever possible), to drive more effective LA practice on Sustainable Development;
- Each authority commits to establishing a local Sustainable Schools' network, developing a minimum of 5% of its schools using the S3 tool and planning tool to self evaluate and produce an action plan;
- Taking part in an interim joint regional seminar for participating local authorities in March '09
- The Sustainable Schools corporate strategies, associated case studies and evaluation of the pilot, will form part of a vibrant cross-regional Sustainable Development and Schools' Workshop Celebration event planned for February/March 2010.





## Funding & Support Available

Funded support for local authorities will be allocated on a pro-rata basis. For the duration of the project, DCSF/GO will commit £2,500 to those LAs with fewer than 150 schools, and £3,000 to those with more than 150 schools. The LA must match fund to a similar level.

Additionally, the three successful North East LAs will receive a £1000 one-off, 'pump priming', contribution from the Regional Healthy Schools Programme.

Support and professional development opportunities for LA staff and partners will be provided throughout the pilots by the respective regional coordinators of NESPSS and Y&H ESD Forum.

## Format of Applications

Expressions of interest should comprise no more than four sides of A4 and will be assessed on your response to the following issues:

### Corporate Strategy

- how this would be developed
- what links are already established, e.g. alignment with other emerging strategies in the authority

### Activities

- what sort of activities
- who would lead on this
- any links to existing work on sustainability/school improvement

### Schools

- approach to targeting schools – some or all
- existing school links and partnerships
- evidence of emerging new practice

Expressions of interest to be sent by post or by e-mail to:

North East Region	Yorkshire and The Humber Region
Carol Ashworth Children and Learners Directorate Government Office for the North East Citygate Gallowgate Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 4WH	Grant Dyson Children & Learners Directorate Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber Lateral 8 City Walk Leeds LS11 9AT

## Timetable

- Deadline: Friday 10th October
- Successful local authorities will be notified by Friday 31st October.
- North East LAs to invoice GONE for £1000 'pump priming' fund by November 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Authorities to invoice GO-NE or GOY&H for the funding by February 2009 and will need to evidence match funding contribution
- Interim Seminar for participating authorities March 09
- Final celebration information sharing event February March 2010.

