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Building Britain's Future



Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Minister for the North East Nick Brown

North East citizens got the chance to put their questions directly to the Prime Minister Gordon Brown during his visit to the region this month.

During his time in the North East on 2 July, the Prime Minister visited the Alcan Smelting Plant in Lynemouth and later in the day, along with the Regional Minister, Nick Brown, he faced questioning on a range of issues from health to apprenticeships and wind turbines from an audience which included Evening Chronicle readers.

The evening event at the Discovery Museum, Newcastle, which was also attended by Government Office Regional Director, Jonathan Blackie, followed the launch of the Building Britain's Future campaign, this sets out the Government's plans for measures that will drive economic growth and create jobs.

The Prime Minister praised the North East as a potential centre for tomorrow's energy sources saying "The North East which pioneered so many inventions in the industrial revolution years can look forward to being in the lead in low carbon

technology." He went on to say "In this plan for Building Britain's Future we are determined to take forward the reforms of the last decade."

Following the visit, Regional Minister Nick Brown said "Improving public services is another key element of Building Britain's Future and includes a commitment to guarantee a sixth form, college or apprenticeship place to all school leavers. There are currently 27,000 under-25s looking for work

in the region. The Government is taking targeted action to ensure that no one is left out of the Labour Market."

The Draft Legislative Programme (DLP) contained within the document outlines the bills which the Government is consulting on with a view to legislation in the next Parliamentary session. There are 11 bills due, dealing with a range of subjects from the digital economy to financial services, energy and flooding amongst others.

The Regional Minister is keen to receive feedback on the Programme. To find out more about the DLP you can look on this web page www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture and if you have views on it please contact the Regional Minister lee.pope@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

A recording of the event is available to watch on the Chronicle website <http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-evening-chronicle/2009/07/03/chronicle-readers-put-gordon-brown-in-hotseat-72703-24066461/>



“Business as usual is not an option.”

Jonathan said regional organisations, including the Government Office for the North East (GONE) have produced a Climate Change Action Plan and a Climate Change Adaptation Study. The team of regional partners is now commissioning a new study to look at achieving economic growth whilst remaining within carbon targets, including potential for business growth through renewable energy.

Congratulating the young people on the project, Jonathan said

Youngsters lead way to green future

Government Office for the North East Regional Director Jonathan Blackie helped to celebrate the achievements of young people in meeting the challenge of climate change.

The Climate Change Schools Project is a unique educational programme, piloted in the North East over the last year. The project aims to put climate change at the heart of the national curriculum via a pioneering network of lead schools who build climate change understanding and positive action.

Over the last school year, 80 schools and at least 2,400 school students across the region participated in the project.

MEP Fiona Hall and Gateshead Council leader Mick Henry were among the guests at the celebration event at the Science Learning Centre North East, Pity Me, Co Durham. The day included presentations by Climate Change lead schools students, an exhibition gallery and highlight videos.

In his presentation, Jonathan Blackie painted a picture of the consequences for the world if climate change is not tackled. He told the audience that research shows that unless we start doing things differently, we will still be producing as much Greenhouse gas in 2050 in the North East as we are today.

“I’m impressed to hear about the things that you have been doing to help us build a better future for the citizens that you young people will become. This will be your region, your homes, jobs, communities.

“Climate change is a global issue, and the UK government is a world leader on measures to tackle the problem. However, on our own the government cannot beat climate change. We need young individuals like you to encourage as many people as possible to take action, at home, at schools and everywhere you can.

“Place the earth in your heart – we need to put the Earth in our heart, it’s our home.”

Suzanne, aged 13, Hartlepool

GONE is now looking at how to expand the work of the project into the Yorkshire and Humber Government Office area, working closely with the North East Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Schools (NESPASS).

The project has:

- one of only 100 worldwide electric Smart Cars charged by wind turbine.
- produced a Climate Change Schools Project book with contributions from 250 young people, and with a foreword by author Bill Bryson.

This publication is produced by the Communications team. To subscribe or unsubscribe email: general.enquiries@gone.gsi.gov.uk

Young People Rise to the Challenge with new Diploma

Jonathan Blackie with Mark Gray from Walbottle High



Jonathan Blackie, Regional Director of Government Office for the North East (GONE), is Public Services Diploma Employer Champion in the North East.

He said "The public sector is the largest employer in the region and, as such, has an interest in the education of our young people. The Diploma allows employers the opportunity to motivate and influence the learning of its future workforce.

We are delighted to host this event in GONE, with public sector partners, to tell schools, colleges, employers and young people about this new Diploma."

Young people visiting Government Office for the North East were surprised to find themselves at the centre of a 'major incident'.

The 14 students from Walbottle High and Excelsior Academy Newcastle, were here to find out about the new Diploma in Public Services. But to their surprise they were plunged into the middle of an emergency planning scenario which imagined a gas blast in Newcastle city centre full of Saturday shoppers.

The 15-year-olds worked with police and ambulance services and local authority and civil servants to practice how to respond to the emergency situation.

The scenario showed the students how a range of public sector organisations would come together to respond to a real life emergency. This day mirrors the regular practice sessions held by partners in the North East to prepare for emergencies.

The unusual task was part of a special event to introduce the students to the work of the public sector and to find out more about the new Diploma in Public Services. The qualification includes studying how the uniformed services, local and central government, the voluntary and health sectors work together to develop, maintain and protect our communities.

During the day the young people had the chance to talk to representatives from Government Office for the North East, Newcastle and Sunderland Councils and Northumbria Police.

The Diploma in Public Services is being delivered in selected schools and colleges in North Tyneside Gateshead and Sunderland from September 2010 and Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, and Newcastle in September 2011. All young people will be able to access the diploma from 2013. It has been designed in collaboration with a variety of public sector employers to ensure it is relevant to the sector.

A total of 17 Diplomas will be made available over the next four years, as part of the new Department for Children Schools and Families, 14 – 19 curriculum and qualifications framework. The aim is to provide a broader range of opportunities for young people allowing them to achieve their potential and develop the skills and knowledge required by employers.

Rowena Thomassin-Timms of the national Diploma Development Partnership for the Diploma in Public Services said, 'The event was brilliant. This is exactly what needs to happen to show young people the massive range of opportunities the public services can offer and how different services all work together on a daily basis. I was impressed with the commitment of the GONE and was delighted when the young people fed back on how useful the day had been.

To find out more about the Diploma in Public Services:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=53&pid=441&ctyp e=None&ptype=Contents>