



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH EAST

Government Office

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Countdown to Copenhagen

Projections in Practice week 16 – 20 November



Rural, Environment, Climate
Change and Energy Team

Next month ministers and officials from 192 countries meet in Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Change conference to try and agree a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. As part of the countdown to Copenhagen the UK government has produced the UK Climate Projections 09, which gives an insight into changes that might happen if we don't reduce emissions.

In our region, Government Office for the North East, in conjunction with Defra and the UK Climates Impact Programme (UKCIP), has organised a series of events to help organisations and businesses understand the implications of climate change and help them plan for the future.

The Projections in Practice week of seminars, workshops and training sessions, from 16–20 November, will showcase the cutting edge science which allows us to find out what the climate will be like in our area over the next few decades.

As our Regional Director, Jonathan Blackie said: "Understanding climate change is vital to business continuity." And he feels that these Projections in Practice workshops will help organisations assess how their business might be affected by climate related issues such as flooding, storms or extreme temperature changes. "It means they can go back and look at their business continuity plans to make sure that they can cope with what might come their way and plan for a successful future, including taking advantage of some of the business opportunities that a changing climate may bring."

We are working with a range of partner organisations through ClimateNE, the North East Climate Change Partnership, to deliver this programme, which aims to equip delegates with the right training and guidance to be able to use the UK Climate Projections.

In Government Office the Rural, Environmental, Climate Change and Energy team (RECCE) is lead by John Heywood

The UK Climate Projections 09 are free and available to everyone you can book a place on this website www.bookwhen.com/climatefuturesnortheast

Organisations unable to attend the seminars can get further information from Government Office on 0191 202 3523 or at <http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk>. <http://www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk/en/>

Building Britain's Future phase 2

This autumn the government entered the second phase of its Building Britain's Future plan to drive economic recovery and create jobs.

Until early 2010 the campaign will focus on:

- Consumer rights – increasing fairness in finance and awareness of consumer rights
- Crime – putting communities in control of neighbourhood policing
- Education – increasing access to Sure Start childcare and family services
- Health – providing services based on need, not ability to pay
- Housing – investing and acting to support the recovery and meet the housing need
- Low carbon – leading to secure a global deal on climate change
- Youth jobs – calling employers to action to offer young people job and skills opportunities.

More information <http://www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture.aspx>

In the North East the Real Help Now campaign is continuing to direct people and businesses to the help available in the downturn. With 27,000 young people under 25 currently unemployed in the region, there is a co-ordinated effort by public and private sector partners to help young people back into work or training.

More information <http://www.realhelpnortheast.co.uk>

Building 
Britain's Future

North East Regional Grand Committee

For centuries, Parliament has been the place where politicians and Members of the House of Lords come together to discuss new laws.

A new piece of Parliamentary history was made here in the North East on 25th September at Middlesbrough Town Hall, with the first meeting of the Regional Grand Committee.

These Grand Committees bring together the MPs of the region to debate issues and to provide the elected members with an opportunity to put questions to Regional Minister Nick Brown MP on Government activity in the North East.

The meeting was chaired by Stockton North MP Frank Cook. Questions to the Regional Minister concerned issues related to pensioner poverty, regional policy and the A1 trunk road.

Questions were followed by a debate on how the region is tackling the recession. This was opened with a speech by Nick Brown MP.

Government Office for the North East was part of this ground breaking event. Liaising with the Committee Clerks in London and the hosts, Middlesbrough Council, our job was to ensure that the logistics were in place for the Regional

Minister and Government officials who were due to attend.

Government Office's key role was to support Nick Brown, in the debate and in response to the questions which had been tabled. The work for the latter involved teams with a 24 hour deadline to provide briefing. In addition the communications team organised regional media interviews with the minister in advance of the Committee.

Fourteen of the region's MPs took part in proceedings which are part of the new system of scrutiny in the English regions, involving the creation of the regional select and regional grand committees.

The event was well attended and attracted a significant amount of coverage in the regional media. A full transcript of the North East Grand Committee is available on the Parliament website at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmgeneral/neast/090925/9092501.htm>

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to lisa.mcclure@gone.gsi.gov.uk



Government Office for the North East has provided staff with cycling facilities since we moved to Citygate in 2004. Earlier this year we installed extra bike stands, showers and lockers to cope with the increase in the numbers of our staff cycling to work.

To offer employees a healthy and green option to get to and from work, Government and employers are promoting the Cycle to Work Guarantee. Cyclists help reduce the amount of traffic congestion on roads, and get the benefit of a healthier lifestyle.

Employers who sign up to the Guarantee commit to provide the following:

Government Office staff help launch the Department for Transport's Cycle to Work Guarantee scheme

By signing up to the new Cycle to Work Guarantee, public and private sector employers are committing to provide their staff with safe bike storage, changing facilities and access to the Government's tax break scheme – Cycle to Work – for new bikes and cycling equipment.

Evidence from employers already providing such support for their staff shows that it dramatically increases the proportion who cycle to work.

- Secure, safe, and accessible bike parking facilities for all staff who want them
- Good quality changing and locker facilities for all staff who want them
- Offsetting the cost of cycling equipment for staff and saving on tax through the Cycle to Work scheme
- Bike repair for cyclists on or near site
- Training, reward and incentive programmes to achieve targets for more cycling.

Government Office for the North East has a supply of Cycle to Work Guarantee packs for employers. They contain helpful guidance to employers who are considering introducing the scheme. If you would like one please contact martin.gibson@gone.gsi.gov.uk

For more information
<http://www.cycletoworkguarantee.org.uk/>

Visit of Chancellor for Regional Economic Council

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling paid a visit to Government Office for the North East last month to attend a meeting of the Northern Business Forum, accompanied by Minister for the North East, Nick Brown,

Working closely with Treasury, the Regional Minister's Private Office, the Northern Business Forum, Government Car Service and police, Government Office's Regional Parliamentary and Private Office, oversaw the detail of the visit.

This also included providing briefing and helping with media arrangements.

However even the most efficient organisation couldn't stop a genuine fire alarm taking place just prior to the Chancellor's arrival! A slight reworking of the programme meant that the meeting went ahead only slightly late.

The Chancellor went on to attend a meeting of the Regional Economic Committee at Gateshead Council.